

Session Clerk:
Mr W. H. CHALMERS, C.A.,
"Lynton," 18 Dovecot Park.

Clerk to the Congregational Board:
Miss I. C. H. SIMMERS, M.A.
"Kilravock."

Treasurer:
Mr J. DAWSON MACFARLANE, C.A.
"Braefoot," 99 Main Street.

Proclamations Officer:
"Park View," Park Lane.

St. Fillan's Church News

MISSION AND SERVICE

That I spent, I had
That I gave, I have
That I kept, I lost.

A word about the Freewill Offering Scheme might be appropriate at this time as it is some years since members were asked to complete Promise Cards and, with the new currency established, it is proposed to issue these to members in the Autumn.

By its very nature Weekly Freewill Offering is a method that appeals to men and women of Christian Faith. Those who are not interested in the work of evangelism and Christian Service will naturally not be interested in it.

It has always been part of Stewardship teaching that our offering to God for his work should be "as God has prospered us." That means we give a PROPORTION of all we have and that our Christian giving rises or falls with our income. A reference to our F.W.O. records discloses how rare it is for a weekly contribution to be increased over a period of years. It must be emphasised, however, that the message is addressed specially to members who are earning. Those no longer drawing wages or salary will want to play their part, but it will naturally be a smaller one. It is for this reason the Stewardship Committee have decided to recommend to the Congregational Board that henceforth there should be an annual review of promises made.

Nearly 50% of our membership have adopted the Freewill Offering System, the majority of whom are contributing regularly with splendid generosity. Our aim must be to draw some of the other 250 members into the Scheme which is now generally accepted as the most effective method of financing the work of the Church. From Ghana a missionary nurse writes, "Some of you were asking how to give practical help as well as your prayers. I think the best is still in the form of money and the Church Offices in Edinburgh know of the most needy places."

The Weekly Freewill Offering envelope is something much more than a convenient method of bringing our offering to the Church. It is a sign and a symbol of a commitment to God that has been carefully considered and reasoned out. It is our share in the total mission of the Church through which we are able to feed the hungry, clothe the naked and heal the sick. It is our share in the work for which the Church exists — the spread of the Gospel.

R. S. ARTHUR
STEWARDSHIP PROMOTER.

YOUTH

Each of us is conscious of the tremendous pressures upon us of the secular world. The spiritual gets little chance to expand. Children suffer from these pressures more than anyone and there is a greater danger than ever today that our young folk may grow up without the moral values and the spiritual experience which we prize so highly. It is therefore incumbent upon us all to see that our children are not denied the influences of the Spirit. When one says 'our children,' one means the children of the congregation and the community. Whether we are parents or not, we have a duty laid upon us to play a part in bringing up the children we know in the Christian Way. A word from a friend often goes further than a word from a parent, and many a time just a word of enquiry or a word of encouragement has made all the difference between attendance and non-attendance, between regular and irregular attendance. By standing at baptism, we share in the parents' vows to seek with God's help to bring the child up in the Christian Way.

So far no one had discovered an adequate substitute for the traditional pattern of religious training — regular church attendance, Sunday School and Bible Class and of course the influence of

the home and the Christian example of neighbours. Each of these is important. Omit any one of them and the others suffer, as does the child. **Make sure you play your part as a Church member.** Bringing a child up in the Christian Way is a slow process. It is like a drip of water on a stone; it sometimes takes years before it begins to leave a mark: but when it does, it is a mark which cannot be rubbed out. It is there for ever.

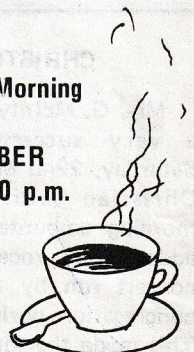
Sunday School commences after the summer holidays on September 12th. The Senior Sunday School for children from 8 to 13 years of age meets in the main hall. Mr. A. P. Elder is the Superintendent. The Primary Sunday School for those between 5 and 8 years of age meets in St. Colme's Hall (Upstairs). Miss I. C. Simmers is the leader. The nursery for children up to five is held in the small hall, on the right, under Miss Bald. All at 10 a.m.

The Bible Class has two sections. It meets as one for worship before those below and above fifteen separate for instruction under Mr. J. Anderson and the Minister. It commences at 12.30 p.m. in St. Colme's Hall on Sunday 19th September.

COFFEE MORNING

The ladies of the
WOMAN'S GUILD
will hold a Coffee Morning
at the Manse on
SAT 11th SEPTEMBER
10.30 a.m. till 12.30 p.m.

BRING AND BUY
Tickets 15p.



SUNDAY EVENINGS

During the coming winter all the evening services will be held in the Church, except those on the last Sunday of each month. It is hoped that this alteration will prevent the confusion which has often occurred when members were not sure where the evening service would be held.

On the last Sunday of each month the service will be held in St. Colme's Hall (upstairs). This will enable members to see the latest religious films, and also to take part in services of a less formal nature than those in St. Fillan's.

The following films and speakers have been arranged

26th September	"Bridge of Return." A Leprosy Mission Film.
31st October	
28th November	"Faith of a Few." A Film of the Church in West Pakistan.
26th December 1972	Christmas
30th January	Rev. N. J. Parkes, Senior Chaplain to the British Sailors Society.
27th February	"To-morrow will depend." Film of rural work in South India.
26th March	"Ongoing Vision." A Bible Society Film.
30th April	"Migrant Way." A Film on the work of Christain Aid.

During the earlier part of the winter the minister will preach a series of sermons on incidents in the life of St. Paul.

A KNIGHT'S PRAYER

My Lord, I am ready on the threshold of this new day to go forth armed with thy power, seeking adventure on the high road, to right wrong, to overcome evil, to suffer wounds and endure pain if need be, but in all things to serve thee bravely, faithfully, joyfully, that at the end of the day's labour, kneeling for thy blessing, thou mayest find no blot upon my shield.

Chester Cathedral.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Mrs. G. McIntyre and her committee ran a very successful Coffee Morning on Saturday, 22nd May in the Church Hall for Christian Aid. The total raised that morning amounted to £111. To that was added the proceeds of the two night's concert run by the young people of the congregation during April, which was £70. This made the total for Christian Aid Week £181.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It was encouraging that so many members and friends attended the Annual General Meeting of the congregation on Wednesday, 3rd March. Eleven members were required to fill the vacancies in the Congregational Board — six for the ensuing three years and five for one year. The five vacancies came about through the admission to the eldership of those who had previously been members of the Board. After a vote was taken the following were elected for three years.

Mrs. W. Hutchison and Miss Moir, Messrs. D. Crow, J. Eadie, K. Hodge and W. Miller.

and the following to fill the vacancies for one year:—

Mrs. A. Drummond, Mrs. J. C. Ford, Messrs. A. D. Lowe, G. M. Pollock and A. Smith.

As Treasurer, Mr. J. Dawson Macfarlane gave a Report which showed the finances of the congregation to be in a sound state. Other reports were given by the Stewardship Promoter, Mr. R. S. Arthur, and representatives of the various congregational organisations.

After tea a pleasant evening was spent in the usual way.

THE WOMAN'S GUILD

The Woman's Guild has decided to hold a Sale of Work in aid of Church Funds. The date chosen is Saturday, 27th November. The Sale will be opened by Mrs. F. A. Manders at 2.30 p.m. The Sale embraces the whole congregation and is always a very happy and "fellowship-promoting" occasion. Once again the men and Sunday School scholars have been asked to play a part and the success of the effort is assured.

The opening meeting of the Guild takes place on Tuesday, 5th October at 7.30 p.m., when Mr. Rutherford will be the speaker. He has chosen as his subject, 'Divine Humour.'

The Guild meets on three Tuesdays each month. On the first Tuesday it meets in the evening; on the second and fourth Tuesdays it meets in the afternoon at 2.30 p.m. During the afternoon meetings mothers take it in turn to look after the children. New members are very welcome.

Oct.	5th	"Divine Humour." Rev. D. W. Rutherford
	12th	"Forty Years as a Minister's Wife." Mrs. T. M. Paterson, Kirkcaldy
	26th	"Children's Panels." Mrs. A. Q. Morton, Culross
Nov.	2nd	"Package Tours." Rev. J. Johnston, Inverkeithing
	11th	"The Women of Kenya." Mrs. J. Wilkinson, Kenya

MONDAY EVENINGS

The Church Halls are open on Monday evenings for our members and the friends who worship with us. There are opportunities to play Badminton, Table Tennis, Billiards etc. and the inevitable cup of tea. Those within the fellowship of the church are free to drop in any evening. There is no membership. The halls are open for friendship and fellowship.

On the third Monday of each month sponsored films are screened, and in past winters many happy evenings have been spent in different parts of the world. Everyone is welcome. No charge is made except what is necessary to defray bookings and postage. The first film night is on Monday, 18th September when the following films will be shown:—

Seventeen Minutes Greenland
Hongkong and Taipei
Ferry Motel (Norwegian)

GROWING UP

On the occasion of their completing Sunday School and entering the Bible Class the following were presented with a Book Token by the Kirk Session:—

Elizabeth Hutchison,
Bobby Tevendale,
Yvonne Trotter,
Maureen Wilkie.

Presentation to Mrs. E. W. Kerr

For over twenty five years Mrs. Kerr has made herself responsible for organising the arrangement of the flowers in the Church on a Sunday. The congregation are very much in her debt for all the time and trouble she has taken in what has not always been an easy task. The Congregational Board decided to recognise this service. On relinquishing her duties Mrs. Kerr was presented with two small crystal vases to remind her of our thanks and affection.

Miss I. C. Simmers, Kilravock, The Glebe, has agreed to take over this work and organise a roster of those who wish to share in this service. She will be glad to have the names of additional members who wish to take a turn in either putting in their own flowers or of donating money to have them put in on a particular Sunday. There are still dates which have no name attached and Miss Simmers will be glad to hear from those who wish to share in a service which brings a great deal of pleasure to the worshippers and the visitors to the Church. Her telephone number is 386.

Tribute to Mr. R. Rendel Clarke, B.Sc.

Last Saturday, 6th March there passed from us one who played a significant part in the Church life of Aberdour — Mr. R. Rendel Clarke, B.Sc. He was one of our oldest elders, having been ordained in the days of the old St. Colme Church. He held many offices — Session Clerk, Presbytery Elder, Sunday School Superintendent, Editor of the News Letter and for many years organised the distribution of the Church Magazines.

In addition to his work for the Church, Mr. Clark took an active part in the life of the Community. He held office in the Ratepayer's Committee, in the Institute, in the Y.M.C.A. and in the British Legion, while he organised the local branch of the Royal National Lifeboat Institute for a number of years.

He had wide interests — geographical, historical and as a Naturalist he was often consulted and asked for his opinion.

With all he was a very humble and courteous man who endeared himself to all who knew him by his faithful Christian witness.

Our sympathy goes out to Mrs. Clarke and to his daughter, Mrs. Alexander, in their time of sorrow.

OUR CHURCH

In the February issue of the News Letter I described our church as it must have been in the years immediately prior to the Reformation. I suggested that structurally it may have looked very similar to what it does to-day, though at that time the gallery in the North Wall had not been constructed. The walls inside were plastered and decorated, and the chancel was obscured by the rood screen which was suspended from above.

With the Reformation certain alterations were almost certainly made. Ian Lindsay in his "The Scottish Parish Kirk" describes how the whole emphasis of the interior changed in the churches. "The Altar against the east wall which had previously been the essential feature of a Church had vanished and now for the celebration of Holy Communion only a table was required. This table was set in the midst of the people, thus the chancel was not necessary. The minister needed a pulpit from which to expound the Word and the position of the pulpit is determined only by the place which is best and most central for people to see and hear. Thus the pulpit was also among the people. In our long narrow kirks one or other of the ends was impracticable and so the pulpit came to be placed centrally on one of the side walls, generally the south, so that the preacher had light behind him, and could better study the

effect of his discourse on the people. That the pulpit was the important item of furniture is clear enough from the First Book of Discipline. It exhorts that Kirks be quickly repaired and arrangements made 'with such preparation within as appertaineth as well to the Majesty of the Word of God as unto the ease and commodity of the people.' This no doubt happened in Aberdour.

The gallery on the north wall was built in 1608, as can be seen from a small plaque near the door. It was built by the Phins of Whitehill, to whom there are quite a few references in the local history books. Had the pulpit not been on the south wall it is hardly likely that the Phins would have placed the gallery there. In the same century Lord Morton, the most powerful of the heritors built a similar gallery for his family on the west wall, where the pipes of the organ are sited now. Access to this gallery was by a door in the west wall of the side aisle leading through an opening into the gallery. Both those galleries had vaults below at ground level, and it was from the Morton vault that the coffin plates were taken and placed on the wall, when the church was restored earlier this century. It is possible that there may have been a third gallery at one period in front of the chancel, but this is by no means certain, for the locker on the north of the chancel bears the date 1670, and might indicate that at the time of the Episcopacy the chancel was brought into use again.

The belfry was erected or rebuilt in 1588. It may be that it was felt that the people needed to be reminded of the day and hour of service. There are indications that the people of the parish were not very good church-goers. In 1641 the Minutes of the Synod of Fife record "The deplorable estate of a great multitude of people, living in the midst of such a Reformed shyre as verie paganes because of the want of the benefit of the Word."

The parish concerned was Aberdour.

(to be continued)

D.W.R.

Do all the good you can,
By all the means you can,
In all the ways you can,
In all the places you can,
At all the times you can,
To all the people you can,
As long as ever you can.

John Wesley.

"Would any one of you fathers give his son a snake when he asks for fish? Or would you give him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? As bad as you are, you know how to give good things to your children. How much more, then, the Father in heaven will give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

T.E.V.



TWENTY YEARS AGO

1627 Bible

Through the kindness of Lord Moray the congregation in Aberdour has been presented with a Bible which belonged to his ancestor, James, IV Earl of Moray, who died in 1653. It is well bound in leather with the embossed crest of the family and is in a good state of preservation.

Income for 1950

To Collections:—

Church Door Collections	£251	19	9
Weekly Freewill Offerings	505	17	3
Special Collections	51	19	9
Donations	60	5	0
Per District Collectors	36	18	0
Assembly and other Funds	16	1	9
	£923	1	6

The Session having approved the suggestion that a second out-door afternoon service should be held during the months of July and August when no evening service takes place, it was agreed that the first of these services should be held in the ruined historic church of St. Bridget (St. Bride) on the shores of Dalgety Bay on the afternoon of Sunday, 8th July. Despite very heavy rain, which most unfortunately coincided with the time of the service, a quite large congregation assembled, a number availing themselves of the permission kindly granted to walk out by Donibristle Avenue. In the course of an interesting address Mr. Rutherford mentioned some of the historic events connected with the old church. The praise was led by Mr. Gillespie, assisted by members of the choir.

Printed by

DAVID WATT & SONS LTD, DUNFERMLINE.

CHRISTIAN AID

41 George IV Bridge,
Edinburgh, EH1, 1EL
25th June, 1971.

Dear Mr. Macfarlane,

India - Pakistan Relief Fund.

You really are so kind to others at St. Fillan's Church and are most certainly, in my opinion, the best Church that I know of in giving to all disasters, Christian Aid Week, Christmas, Harvest etc. - well done Aberdour.

Being a Fifer myself I am terribly encouraged by all your efforts.

This latest of £67-72 towards the India Pakistan Relief Fund is most generous, and along with your receipt I enclose information on what Christian Aid has done up to 16th June for this terrible situation.

My best wishes to you all,

Yours sincerely,

Jimmy Hodge.

Scottish Secretary - Christian Aid.

The Summer Outings

All the congregational outings were blessed with reasonably good weather. The Woman's Guild enjoyed a visit by 'bus to Largs. The Junior Sunday School Outing to the Kirkgate Park at Loch Leven was fortunate in having dry weather in a rather wet spell. The children enjoyed every moment of the afternoon, though the parents found it rather chilly. The Senior Sunday School went by 'Bus one evening to Falkland and on the way over to Leslie climbed the East Lomond (1,471 ft.), from which they had a splendid view of the surrounding countryside. The Members of the Bible Class chose the Nature Trail at Vane Farm on Loch Leven. Mr. Swan the Warden interested them in the wild life of the Reserve, and later the company followed the trail along the side of Dunmore, and gained a magnificent view of the loch and the Ochil Hills.

Tribute to Dr. Ronald Russell, Surg. Cdr. R.N. (Retd.)

Dr. Ronald Russell passed to rest on Sunday, 14th March after a trying illness, an illness which he faced with great courage.

Dr. and Mrs. Russell came to Aberdour during the war years, and made it their home during a large part of doctor's service in the Royal Navy. His work was widely known amongst the officers and men of the service, for besides his active service during the war, he served on many ships both at home and abroad.

On his retirement from the Royal Navy in 1955, with the rank of Surgeon Commander, he became a partner in a local practice and was beloved by his patients in this and the surrounding parishes. He retired in 1966.

Dr. Russell always took an active interest in the life of the village. He captained the Aberdour Golf Club.

He had a great love for the Church, which he joined in Aberdour, by profession of faith in 1950. In 1963 he was ordained an elder and was most conscientious in worship, in the performance of his duties and in his Christian witness.

To-day, we extend to Mrs. Russell and his daughters, Joy and Sheila, our sincere sympathy.

Deaths

17th February	Mrs. A. Crowe, Rossmere, 4 Manse Street
3rd March	Mr. C. Methven, 3 Murrell Terrace
6th March	Mr. R. R. Clarke, Whitehall, Shore Road
14th March	Dr. R. Russell, Harveyton, Main Street
16th March	Mrs. C. Mackay, Rose Cottage, Manse Street
30th April	Mr. W. Young, 8 Murrell Terrace
8th June	Mrs. I. C. G. Burchell, 108 Craiglea Terrace, Edinburgh
11th June	Mr. A. Buchan, 62 High Street
14th June	Miss I. Macqueen, 33 Hawkraig Road
26th July	Mrs. M. Beattie, Woodbine Cottage, Seaside Place

Baptism

6th June Remmert Douglas Oates Cameron

Marriages

6th March Stewart A. Oliphant and Kathleen A. Henderson
12th June Kenneth J. Dagger and Virginia J. Tucker
30th June Iain A. Watt and Lynne N. Livingston
10th July Michael A. Scott and Pamela A. Stuart
14th July David Watt and Dinah A. T. Main

Accessions (by Certificate)

Mr. and Mrs. R. Rennie, 28 Dovecot Park
Mr. and Mrs. B. Drever, 15 Inch Avenue
Mr. Wm. Henderson, Sunnyside, Manse Street
Mrs. Wm. McKay, 13 St. Colmes Crescent
Mrs. K. H. Miller, 1 Bellhouse Road