

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

850th ANNIVERSARY 850th

Our celebrations of the 850th anniversary of the earliest known date of our church began on the first Sunday of the year when the Moderator of the Presbytery of Dunfermline and Kinross, the Rev. R. P. Mackenzie, B.D., minister of St. Leonard's Church, Dunfermline, brought the good wishes of the Presbytery to the congregation for the year of commemoration. At the close of the service he dedicated the new pulpit copy of the New English Bible.

It was decided that to celebrate the occasion we should have a guest preacher each month. The arrangements for the special services are as follows:—

March 11th

The Rev. David M. G. Stalker, M.A., B.D., Lecturer in Biblical Studies at the University of Edinburgh. Mr. Stalker was minister of Aberdour and Dalgety from 1940 – 48 and is well known for his Old Testament Scholarship.

April 15th

The Rev. Lawrence Johnstone, minister of Kirkcowan. Mr. Johnstone's father, the Rev. Robert Johnstone, D.D., was responsible for the restoration of St. Fillan's Church in 1926. Mr. Johnstone spent his youth in the Manse at Aberdour.

May 20th

The Very Rev. Hugh O. Douglas, C.B.E., D.D., minister of St. Mary's Church, Dundee. Dr. Douglas was the Moderator of the General Assembly in 1970.

June 10th

The Very Rev. R. Leonard Small, O.B.E., D.D., minister of St. Cuthbert's Church, Edinburgh. Dr. Small was Moderator of the General Assembly in 1966.

June 17th

The Right Rev. the Moderator, the Rev. George T. H. Reid, M.C., D.D., minister of West of St. Andrews Church, Aberdeen.

July 15th

The Rev. George Lawrence, Ph.D., minister of the First Congregational Church, Burlington, Vermont. Dr. Lawrence was assistant in Aberdour and Dalgety in 1952 – 54 and has maintained a close interest in Aberdour since then.

Though the main celebrations are naturally of a religious nature, other events have been planned.

THANKSGIVING

In gratitude for your own good fortune you must render in return some sacrifice of your life for other life.

Albert Schweitzer.

THE SALE OF WORK

Few members believed that it was possible to add to the grand total achieved in November, 1971, but with so many willing workers and such generous gifts, the sum of £908 was raised. Thanks is expressed to the ladies of the Guild, the men of the Congregation, the teachers and the children of the Sunday School and all those who played a part in such a successful venture.

OUR THANKSGIVING

As explained in a letter sent to members and friends, the Congregational Board decided that our celebrations of the 850th anniversary should take the form of an Act of Thanksgiving. There are very few who are not aware of the privilege we enjoy, worshipping in St. Fillan's Church – 'The Miniature Cathedral' – so perfect aesthetically, and with such a sense of the Presence – to enter is to worship. What better thanksgiving could there be than to raise one pound for every year of its existence for those who have no church in the new housing areas of Scotland. We hope that this main aim of our celebrations will not be forgotten or overlooked in our efforts to pay for the re-seating of the Church, which is of course for our own comfort and pleasure.

OUR NEW CHAIRS

Many of those who worship Sunday by Sunday are not aware of the poor condition of the chairs upon which they sit. A few of the chairs have already been removed on account of extensive woodworm; others are affected; great numbers of them are missing spars and are nail sick. Our Property Committee has been aware of this for some years and has been concerned particularly about the spread of the woodworm. Each spring and autumn smoke bombs have been let off in the Church to reduce the chance of spread, but as recently as last year, worm was discovered at the back of the chancel stalls. Quite independantly of our 850th celebrations, this matter was brought up at the Congregational Board, so it was natural that it was thought that this was the time to take action and replace the existing chairs, as it was obviously an undertaking which could not be done bit by bit.

The Committee commissioned with the task of finding a suitable chair made the widest possible survey of the kind of chair

COFFEE MORNING

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

On Saturday, 12th May, 1973

from

10.30 – 12.30

in

the Church Hall

BRING AND BUY STALL

Tickets – 15p

AN EXHIBITION

which is being produced for churches such as our own, and which would meet current fire regulations. One chair seemed to stand out amongst the others. It had been given a Design Centre Award by the Council of Industrial Design, and has an original method of interlocking to produce rigid rows which will not 'snake.' It was felt that this chair would 'fit in' to architecture of St. Fillan's and that it would at the same time be a comfortable chair. The Committee was confirmed in its opinion by the fact that other churches of similar antiquity had chosen this chair — Canterbury Cathedral and York Minster, and that after six years of indecision, Washington Cathedral had ordered 3,000. Thought was given as to whether a padded seat was desirable, but it was felt that in a church which was open and unattended, this might prove a liability. The Committee on Artistic Questions approved of the design as being in every way suitable. The chairs will be of the same shade of medium oak as the pulpit and the communion table, and the total cost is £2,500. We have been able to save a considerable amount of money by placing our order before 31st December, 1972 and before the introduction of Value Added Tax. We plan to instal and dedicate the new chairs on Sunday, 3rd June, and it is hoped that by that time we shall have sufficient donations to pay for them. An opportunity will be given on the previous Sunday, 27th May, to bring any outstanding donations.

A COMMEMORATIVE ENVELOPE

Mr. William Miller has undertaken with Mr. David Blair to produce a Commemorative Envelope which will be on sale to members and friends, and it is hoped that they will in turn sell them to the philatally minded and others who will be interested to have them as souvenirs. This is a money-making venture. These will be posted at the beginning of June.

A SPONSORED WALK

Everyone connected with the congregation is being encouraged to take part in a sponsored walk in order to raise additional funds for our Thanksgiving Offering and to pay for the new chairs. The actual route has not been decided but it will be within the compass of all but the aged and the infirmed. — from the church down to the harbour and round by the Shore Road to the Church again. If you cannot walk yourself then there are young people who will be willing to do it for you — at so much a round. This will take place on Saturday, 19th May, and there is an opportunity here for everyone to take part. The Walk is being organised by Mr. R. S. STEWART, 'Dunvegan' The Glebe.

There is in private possession a number of articles, furniture, pictures, maps, manuscripts, etc., relating to the history of the Church and old Aberdour. It is hoped to bring some of these together and put them on display in the Church Hall on Saturday, 2nd June. Those members and friends who have such articles and are willing to lend them for the day are asked to get in touch with Miss C. MacLauchlan, Fern Cottage. Here again, further information will be given later.

A HISTORY OF THE CHURCH

It was thought that this Anniversary is an occasion which should be commemorated with a brochure which tells the story of the Church, and Mr. Rutherford has brought together what is known about the building from the earliest times. 'The Story of St. Fillan's Church' will be on sale at the time of the main celebrations.

RECITALS

Mr. Clifford Hughes is arranging two or three recitals in the Church. They will have as their theme the story of the Church in Aberdour. Music of the period will be linked with the history of the parish. These recitals will take place in mid-June and full details will be given later.

OUR CHURCH

What is now our Church Hall was built in 1789 — 90. We do not know whether worship actually commenced then or not, for we have discovered that the builder, a Mr. Wilson, had difficulty in getting payment for his work. Some of the Heritors were not very forthcoming.

A new minister came in 1796 — The Rev. Wm. Bryce, D.D. He was one of His Majesty's Chaplains in Ordinary, and was nominated by the Duke of Wellington to be one of the Deans of the Chapel Royal. He did not find the Manse in the Main Street any more comfortable than his predecessor, Robert Liston, and complained in a letter to Lady Morton that "he had passed another winter in the Manse and found it very uncomfortable and even prejudicial to his health." Things were evidently so bad that he offered to contribute £100 of his own money towards building a new Manse at Seaside in order to remove any objections which the other Heritors might have. A choice of sites was offered and the present one chosen and the Manse built in 1803. The specifications can still be seen. One of Dr. Bryce's daughters married the Rev. Wm. Ross, D.D., the

author of the local history 'Aberdour and Inchcolme.' Dr. Bryce retired in 1836 and died in 1841.

Dr. Bryce's ministry was followed by a succession of very short ministries, until the Rev. George Roddick came in 1857. He came from Thornton and remained in Aberdour until he died in 1894. He was followed by the Rev. William Gray who was one of the founders of the first golf course at Couston. He died just before the outbreak of the war in 1914.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The A.G.M. of the Congregation takes place in the Church Hall on Wednesday, 7th March at 7.30 p.m. Representatives of the various organisations will give reports.

Six members are due to be elected as members of the Congregational Board for the ensuing three years, and members are asked to come prepared to nominate members for those vacancies. Permission should be got from those one intends to nominate. It is important that the Congregational Board be as representative as possible of the whole congregation.

The following have completed their term of office:— Mrs. M. Brown, Miss A. Haldane, Mrs. J. C. Laidlaw, Mrs. D. Nelson, Mrs. W. G. Nicol and Mrs. W. Turnbull. They have all been regular in attendance and have given willing service.

Tea will be served after the Business and the remainder of the evening will be spent in an informal way.

All who worship with us are invited to be present, though only members may vote.

THE NEW HYMNARY

It is believed that the New Church Hymnary will be published this summer, and it was our intention to begin using it right away as our present hymn books were in a very tattered state. However, through the good offices of Mr. William Miller, a member of the Congregational Board, we have acquired sufficient hymn books in almost 'mint' condition to do us in the meantime. The Congregational Board decided that as we shall have extraordinary expenses this year in connection with our celebrations, we should delay the introduction of the new hymnary meantime. We thank Mr. Miller for his gift.

Jesus is God spelling himself out in language that man can understand.

S. D. Gordon.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

This is a question which many families are asking to-day and it is often very difficult to give an answer. It just seems to disappear. Many a housewife has complained, "I do not know what happens to it."

We in the Church family do know what happens to our money. Of our total income, roughly £3,000 is required for our own running expenses while £1,789 is given away to help other people. In addition to this sum, the Woman's Guild sent away £250, the Sunday School £153, the Sunday School Choir £80, the Bible Class £12, the Benevolent Fund £130 (divided between Shelter and Christian Aid). Collections were made in the village for the National Bible Society, the Royal Blind Asylum and School in Edinburgh, Phials were filled for the Leprosy Mission and the Christian Aid Coffee Morning raised £90. A total 'give-away' of over £2,650.

There follows a list of the organisations which have benefited by your generosity

The Aberdour Old Folds' Committee
Shelter (Scotland)
The Aged Christian Friend Society
Scottish Council for the Care of Spastics
The Muscular Distrophy Group
British Sailor's Society
Telephone Samaritans
Multiple Sclerosis Society
Five Marriage Guidance Society
The Royal Blind Asylum and School
Prevention of Cruelty to Children
Royal National Life Boat Institution
Aged and Infirm Minister's Fund
The Home Board
The Maintenance of the Ministry
Eventide Homes
Children's Homes
The Earl Haig Fund
Quarrier's Homes
Our New Neighbours - Asian Immigrants
Algrade School for the Mentally Handicapped
Approved Schools
Hostels for Young Men and Women
Adoption
Homes for Epileptics
Rehabilitation Centres and Hostels
National Church Extension
Foster Homes
Homes for Unmarried Mothers
Holidays for Irish Children
Strathconon Youth Centre
Christian Aid
Save the Children Fund
Caribbean Disaster Fund
Overseas Council -
Foreign Missions
Colonial & Continental Church
Jewish Mission
National Bible Society of Scotland
United Society for Christian Literature
The Leprosy Mission
Dr. Wilkinson - Kikuyu Hospital
Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society

Dr. Graham's Homes, Kalimpong
The Waldensian Church in Italy
Dalgety Church, Manse Fund
Cairns Church Cowdenbeath,
Restoration Fund.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE AWARDS

On Sunday, 28th January, the children who had been regular in their attendance at church throughout 1972 were presented with an award by the Kirk Session. They were:-

Eleanor Amos	Florence Lyon
Susan Chalmers	Helen Meiklejohn
Kenneth Chalmers	Calum Murray
Tracy Coston	Martin Murray
Patricia Coston	Jill Murray
Gabrielle Hodge	Amanda Palmer
Clare Hughes	Stephane Palmer
Richard Hughes	Philippa Palmer
Karen Hynd	Candida Palmer
Anne Hynd	Jean Rankin
Elaine Hynd	David Shepherd
Barbara Lowe	Robert Shepherd

STATISTICS

<i>Our Membership</i>	. . . . .	567
<i>Baptisms during 1972</i>	. . . . .	7
<i>Children in the Sunday School</i>	. . . . .	164
<i>Young People in the Bible Class</i>	. . . . .	37
<i>Uniformed Organisations</i>	. . . . .	106

ACCESSIONS - BY CERTIFICATE

Mr & Mrs J. Arthur,
29 Dovecot Park.
Mr & Mrs A. J. Hannay,
3 Hawkraig Road.
Mrs T. J. Oliphant,
Catherine Bank, High Street.
Mrs D. J. Hawkins,
17 Dovecot Park.
Mr & Mrs I. Smith,
2 Manse Place.
Mr & Mrs B. Brodie,
'Lynwood', 45 The Glebe.

DISJUNCTIONS

Mrs M. G. McDowall, Kinghorn
to Dundee.
Mrs D. Young, St. Colme Road,
Dalgety Bay, to Dalgety.
Mr & Mrs W. Ramsay, Scotstoun,
to Kinghorn
Mrs E. P. Goodall, Manse Place
to Cullen.
Mr T. Dunnett, Catherine Bank,
to Kirkcaldy.
Mrs G. Pascall, Burntisland
to Burntisland.

DEATHS

1972	
29th Aug.	Mrs A. Harris, 1 The Lea, Seaside Place.
10th Sept.	Mr J. Dryburgh, Cluine, 103 Main Street.
21st Sept.	Miss A. Scott, 83 Main Street.
30th Sept.	Mrs K. Craig, 1 Home Park.
24th Oct.	Mrs S. Smithyman, St. Margaret's, 50 Main Street.
31st Oct.	Mrs A. Campbell, 64 High Street.
21st Nov.	Mr G. McNair, 32 Humble Terrace.
28th Nov.	Mr J. Ford, 43 Humble Terrace.
1973	
14th Jan.	Dr. W. Howieson, 10 Dovecot Park.
5th Feb.	Mr W. McKay, 16 St. Colme Crescent.

BAPTISMS

1972	
20th Aug.	Corina Wilson
29th Oct.	Ghillian Mary Cameron
12th Nov.	Gillian Catherine Boyd Fergus
1973	
4th Feb.	Stuart John Rennie

MARRIAGES

	16th Sept.
16th Sept.	Michael G. McDowall to Marion L. M. Guild.
16th Dec.	David J. Hawkins to Helen H. Rolland.

FRIENDS OF ST. FILLAN'S

In order to make our 850th Anniversary Appeal as widely known as possible, we shall be glad to have the names and addresses of past members and friends of the congregation, who might wish to be associated with our effort. Names and addresses should be given to the Minister, or handed in at the Manse.

GOD'S WAY

When God wants a great work done in the world or a great wrong righted, he goes about it in a very unusual way. He doesn't stir up his earthquakes or send forth his thunderbolts. Instead, he has a helpless baby born perhaps in a simple home and of some obscure mother. And then God puts the idea into the mother's heart, and she puts it into the baby's mind. And then God waits.

ABSTRACT of INCOME and EXPENDITURE for Year to 31st December, 1972

1 – GENERAL FUND

1971		<u>INCOME</u>	1971		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
£1,057	Collections—			Allocation of Funds—	
2,134	Cash Collections	£1,082.35	£230	Assembly Funds—	
782	Weekly Freewill Offerings	2,438.74	78	Maintenance of Ministry Fund	£260.00
	Bonds of Annuity and			Aged & Infirm Ministers' Fund	99.05
	Income Tax Recovered	717.46		Mission & Service Fund	£1,019.27
264	Special Collections	251.21			
	Donations—			Less Contributed by	
	Woman's Guild £884.50 less			Congregational Organisations	240.00
	especially destined for Mission		718		
600	& Service Fund £180.00	£704.50	—	Holidays for Irish Children	779.27
52	Others	83.85			10.00
		788.35	£1,026		£1,148.32
	District Collections	3.00	538	Outside Organisations	489.77
8	Assembly Funds	19.27	£1,564		
£4,900		£5,300.38		Minister's Stipend (part of) and Expenses—	
	Coffee Morning & Sale of Work		1,225	Stipend	£1,225.00
117	for Christian Aid	117.40	179	Travelling Expenses	169.70
	Income from Trust Investments—				
161	For Stipend	£163.45	25	Pulpit Supply Fees	27.36
7	" Benevolent Fund	7.18	632	Salaries	658.00
40	" Assembly Funds	35.44		Upkeep of Church, Etc.	
13	" Sunday School	12.36	139	Rates, Insurance and Feuduty	£172.86
13	" Other Church Purposes	9.48	219	Heating, Lighting and Cleaning	295.30
		227.91			468.16
£5,251		£5,645.69	39	Repairs and Upkeep (other than to Fabric)	73.13
324	Balance brought forward	269.61	197	Printing, Stationery and Publications	258.84
				Miscellaneous—	
			14	Communion Expenses	£15.24
			61	Assembly, Synod and Presbytery Dues	65.55
			33	Telephone	35.54
			90	Sundry Expenses	70.94
					187.27
			100	Benevolent Fund	136.01
			13	Payments to Sunday School	12.36
				Donations to Other Congregations	
			200	Dalgety Parish Church	£100.00
			—	Cairns Church, Cowdenbeath	
				Restoration Fund	100.00
					200.00
			575	Transferred to Fabric Fund	300.00
			£5,305		£5,353.92
			270	Balance on Hand	561.38
£5,575		£5,915.30	£5,575		£5,915.30

2 – FABRIC FUND

1971		<u>INCOME</u>	1971		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>
£15	Donations	£—	£793	Repairs to Fabric	£519.72
64	Collections	77.01	2,683	Balance on Hand	2,696.31
7	Income from Trust Investment — for Repairs	6.96			
130	Interest	149.50			
575	Transferred from General Fund	300.00			
£791		£533.47			
2,685	Balance Brought forward	2,682.56			
£3,476		£3,216.03	£3,476		£3,216.03

3 – 850th ANNIVERSARY APPEAL FUND

<u>INCOME</u>		<u>EXPENDITURE</u>	
Contributions—		Printing and Stationery	£53.10
Specifically for Chairs	£49.00	Balance on Hand	42.43
General	46.53		
	95.53		
	£95.53		£95.53

NOTE: The foregoing financial statements are abstracts of the transactions and funds of the Congregational Board of St. Fillan's Church, Aberdour for the year to 31st December, 1972.

J. DAWSON MACFARLANE, C.A., *Treasurer.*
21st February, 1973 — Audited and found correct.

IAN M. STUART, F.C.I.I.
G. MALCOLM MURRAY, F.F.A. *Auditors.*