

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.

Organist:
Mr. R. WALKER, Dip. Mus. Ed. (R.S.A.M.)
26 Glenfield Road, Cowdenbeath.

Proclamations Officer:
Mr. R. C. LYON,
"Park View," Park Lane.

St. Fillan's Church News

850th ANNIVERSARY 850th

The main celebrations connected with our commemoration of the 850th anniversary of the earliest known date of our church have come and gone, and all that remains is for us to hand over to the National Church Extension Committee the Thanksgiving Gift of £850 — one pound for each year of the church's existence. This will be done, *d.v.*, at the morning service on Sunday, 16th December, when the Very Rev. Dr. R. Selby Wright, minister of the Church of the Cannongate, Edinburgh, (the Radio Padre) and the retiring Moderator of the General Assembly has promised to come and receive it. He is no stranger to St. Fillan's for during the war years he was stationed in the parish and often conducted worship in it.

Many of us were pessimists in so far as we doubted whether it was possible for us to raise such a sum of money in addition to the £2,500 required to re-seat the church, but 'naught venture, naught have,' and we have exceeded our target of £3,500 by more than £260. We have expenses naturally, but it may be that we shall be able to give away substantially more than £850.

The 850th Anniversary Committee appointed by the Congregational Board are to be congratulated on the undoubted success of all the special occasions. From time to time others in the congregation were co-opted to help with publicity and advertising, with box office and stage management, with envelope and ticket selling, with printing and script-writing and decor and design and floral art, with catering, stewarding, and portering, with correspondence and music making. There was no end to the skills required and to the willing help and co-operation which was given by members. One of the joyous things about the celebrations was that so many were able to play a part and create what really was a great occasion, for it was in a very real sense a congregational effort.

Commencing with the then Moderator of the Presbytery, The Rev. Robert MacKenzie of St. Leonard's Church Dunfermline, each of the visiting ministers led us to the central things of our Thanksgiving. It was a pleasure to have old friends come and speak of the church as they remembered it — the Rev. Andrew Ireland, the Rev. Dr. George Lawrence from the United States, the Rev. D. M. G. Stalker, the previous minister, and the Rev. Lawrence Johnstone, whose father restored the church; and also to have the privilege of having with us some of the best known figures in our church to-day — Dr. Hugh Douglas of St. Mary's, Dundee and Dr. Leonard Small, of St. Cuthbert's, Edinburgh. It was fitting that we should have the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Rev. Dr. George Reid, to be with us at the Sacrament. Afterwards a photograph was taken of the Kirk Session with him in the Church and it is one which will be treasured by many as a memento of a unique occasion in our Church's history. Besides those occupying the pulpit there has been a continual stream of old friends who have come back to Aberdour to worship with us on one of the special Sundays, amongst them three assistants, the Rev. Jim McKerron of Kingswells, Aberdeen, The Rev. James Strachan of Lonmay, and the Rev. Dr. A. Watts of the University of Manitoba.

A feature of the celebrations was the Barometer which was placed each Sunday at the entrance to the Churchyard. When only the bulb was filled at £500, it seemed impossible that it would ever rise to the top of the tube or overflow. The blue envelopes which had been issued in December in order to spread the load came in slowly, but gradually the column rose. A personal letter was sent to past members and friends of the congregation, at least to those whose addresses were known, and there was a most generous response which at the time of writing amounted to over

£600. It came from as far away as Vancouver, Honolulu, Persian Gulf, Australia and New Zealand. This was a most heartening indication of the place St. Fillan's Church holds in the hearts of those who have worshipped in it. The following was a typical reply:—

"Thank you for writing to us about the Act of Thanksgiving to celebrate the 850th Anniversary of St. Fillan's Church. We enclose a donation and would like to express our appreciation of what the church meant to us when we were in Aberdour and assure you of the affection with which we remember it."

The Sponsored Walk which took place on Saturday, 19th May was a great success and brought in the sum of £457. It was organised by Mr. R. S. Stewart and many people commented on the thoroughness with which everything was prepared. Permission was given by the Department of the Environment to walk through the grounds of Aberdour Castle. This made the walk, which was just over a mile in length, a very pleasant one — by way of Hawkcraig Road, Sailors' Well and the Shore Front up by Livingstone Lane and through the Castle and the Church Yard. It was a perfect day for walking. Some took it leisurely and did one round; others "shook" their sponsors by completing eighteen. All ages took part — from three to three score years and ten. Mrs. Ian Stuart organised the refreshments.

The Commemorative Envelope brought in the sum of £164. Mr. David Blair designed a very attractive envelope combining both the 850th Anniversary of the Church and also the 850th Anniversary of the founding of the Abbey of Inchcolm by Alexander I. They went like the proverbial 'hot cakes.' Some 2,000 were sold and posted on June 1st in a special Post Box which the Post Office erected for the day in front of the Church Hall. The special Date Stamp of the Church with the dates was designed by Mr. W. Millar, who

was also responsible for organising the printing and the distribution.

In beautiful lettering Mrs. D. Isles addressed one envelope to Her Majesty The Queen in this fashion:—

"The Minister, the Kirk Session and Members of St. Fillan's Church, Aberdour present their duty to Your Majesty on the occasion of the 850th Anniversary of the earliest known date of their Church."

Her Majesty's Secretary replied:—

"My dear Minister,

I am commanded by The Queen to thank you for your kind message of loyal greetings which you have sent on behalf of the Kirk Session and Members of St. Fillan's Church, on the occasion of the 850th Anniversary of the earliest known date of the Church and which Her Majesty much appreciated."

The Exhibition took place on Saturday, 2nd June in the Church Hall. It was difficult to find one word which would cover the wide range of articles which it was planned to have on show. The word which was chosen was 'objects d'art,' and it really was an exhibition of objects of art, of all sorts. There was the Gold Cup which is 180 years old, the communion vessels both silver and pewter, furniture, paintings of old Aberdour, silver, china, maps, documents, and curios of all kinds. Under the convenership of Miss R. McLauchlan all sorts of skills were brought together and the exhibition was beautifully staged and laid out. The only disappointment was that because of insurance problems it was impossible to keep the exhibition for more than a single day.

The following day at the Morning Service Mr. Rutherford dedicated the new chairs, which had been brought from Banbury in Oxfordshire earlier in the week. The opportunity had been taken while the church was empty to have the roof and the walls cleaned, and to have the floor sanded and given a protective surface. This had a wonderful effect in lightening the whole of the interior, and the comments were favourable. The men working on the roof reported that they could see no sign of woodworm and for this we are very glad. Some of the old chairs were purchased by the firm which supplied the new ones. It plans to treat them for woodworm, repair them and sell them at £1 each to a Youth Centre which has not the funds to buy new chairs. Over sixty of the chairs were so badly affected by the woodworm that they could not accept them, and one evening some of our children enjoyed a wonderful bonfire behind the Manse.

The afternoon of Sunday, 3rd June was sunny and peaceful — an ideal day for

crossing to the Island of Inchcolm. Some four hundred worshippers made the journey for the service commemorating the 850th Anniversary of the founding of the monastery by Alexander I. The Service was conducted by the Moderator of the Presbytery, the Rev. Frank Smith, minister of St. Paul's Church, Dunfermline; prayers were offered by Mr. Rutherford, the Lesson was read by Sir John McWilliam, the Lord Lieutenant of Fife, and the Sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr. Duncan Shaw, minister of Craigentenny, Edinburgh. Lord Doune, the owner of the island and the descendant of the commendators was invited to read another Scripture Lesson. He was unable to be present but sent his good wishes for the Commemoration. The offering at the service which was for National Church Extension amounted to over thirty pounds.

The Very Rev. Dr. Leonard Small was the preacher on the 10th June and in the evening Miss Helen McArthur and the Castalian Singers gave an exceptionally fine recital of Sacred Music. They were accompanied by our organist, Mr. Ronald Walker. This recital was a fine introduction to Musical Portrait of the Church in History, entitled 'The Life and Times of St. Fillan's Church.' This was compiled by one of our members, Mr. Clifford Hughes. Good attendances enjoyed a quite unique occasion and it received favourable press comment. One of the critics wrote:—

"This month I entered for the first time the beautiful St. Fillan's Church, Aberdour. The occasion was the Church's 850th Anniversary. I must confess to a feeling of shame on my arrival, that I had never been there before; that I had been so blind to one of the treasures on my own doorstep.

In its charming setting, overlooking the islands of the Forth, the evening sun gently touched its ancient stone, the miniature piece of Norman architecture caught my imagination. And there was a double pleasure in my first visit, it being the evening of the performance by the Castalian Singers, a musical portrait of the church through its long history.

The programme had been compiled by Clifford Hughes, well-known in Dunfermline, where he has appeared on several musical occasions. He combined the roles of narrator and singer with his customary ease of manner. Everyone present must have appreciated his historical account, which was admirably concise, yet gave the impression that it omitted nothing. Vocally Mr. Hughes was as good as ever, giving a performance that was assured and effortless, with the mellow quality which is so pleasing to the ear in a true tenor voice.

It was a widely varied programme, beginning with Mediaeval church music, and going on to old ballads, court dances, a lament by Mary Stuart, popular songs of later periods, and finally, a new anthem. The Anthem was composed by Peter Naylor, who had set to music the short verse on a tablet outside the church, addressed to pilgrims of a bygone age. I found the piece very striking, both in content and performance. The organ accompaniment for the Naylor Anthem was by Ronald Walker.

Shona MacLeod, Ruth Garden, and Geoffrey Davidson were the other singers, who made up the group with Clifford Hughes. Together they produced a lovely sound, entirely in keeping with the surroundings. It was interesting to hear Geoffrey Davidson's fine melancholy presentation of the ballad of Sir Patrick Spens. Mr. Davidson also provided a lute accompaniment for some of the songs. Shona MacLeod sang her solo pieces with grace and colour. She displayed another talent too, in the presentation of the poem, "Maggie Lauder," which was most entertaining. One particularly attractive moment in the evening was the singing of "Twa Bonnie Maidens," by Shona MacLeod and Ruth Garden, their voices blending delightfully.

Most of the pieces were edited and arranged by Kenneth Elliott, who was to have played the harpsichord in the performance. Unfortunately he was indisposed, but his place was very competently taken by Lindsay Sinclair. The harpsichord, loaned by Mr. William R. Thomas, was a fine one, and Miss Sinclair with the musicianship she always displays, brought from the instrument sounds which were richly satisfying. I enjoyed especially, the Estampie and the Pavane by Duncan Burnett."

Mr. and Mrs. Ian Stuart looked after the booking, Mr. R. Trotter, the advertising, Mr. Sinclair and Mr. Miller the stage management, and Mrs. Graham the floral art.

A thousand copies of the History compiled by Mr. Rutherford were printed with the idea that they might be available for newcomers and visitors for some years to come. To the time of writing over five hundred have been sold. They are available at the Church on a Sunday, and during the week in the Post Office and the Silver Sands Store.

The whole Commemoration was one on which we can look back with a great deal of pleasure, and, perhaps some pride.

YOUR BIBLE

*It is not enough to own a Bible;
we must read it.
It is not enough to read it; we
must let it speak to us.
It is not enough to let it speak to us;
we must believe it.
It is not enough to believe it;
we must live it.*

BAPTISMS

1973

24th Jun. John Bicket
8th Jul. Joanne Elizabeth Hopker

MARRIAGES

10th Mar. Andrew F. Cormie and
Diana S. Maxwell
25th Apr. Robin G. McEwan and
Sheena McIntyre
26th Apr. Derek W. Pringle and
Elizabeth C. Wallace
7th Jul. Alexander Waugh and
Mairi L. Nicol
11th Jul. Mitchell J. Brown and
Vivian F. G. Hart
14th Jul. Neil A. Barker and
Margaret E. Armit

DEATHS

21st Feb. Mr. H. Ruse,
47 Humbie Terrace
19th Mar. Mr. L. Sullivan,
34 Main Street
20th Mar. Mrs. W. B. Findlay,
Carrick,
Inverkeithing Road
23rd May Mrs. M. Dryburgh,
Rose Cottage,
2 Station Place
23rd May Mr. J. MacDonald,
Edinburgh
4th Jul. Mr. D. McEwan,
Lindisfarne,
Shore Front
9th Jul. Mr. P. MacGillivray
30th Jul. Mrs. G. McLaren,
112 Main Street
14th Aug. Mrs. D. Clark,
28 Murrell Road

I sought my soul,
But my soul I could not see.
I sought my God,
But my God eluded me.
I sought my brother,
And I found all three.

Anon.

ACCESSIONS - BY PROFESSION

Miss Vivian F. G. Hart,
1 Hawkcraig Road
Mr. Niall Macdonald,
The School House,
Hawkcraig Road

BY CERTIFICATE

Mr. N. Cameron,
5 Hawkcraig Road
Mr. D. E. Isles,
Braemar House, Station Road
Mr. A. Harris,
Watch House, The Glebe
Mrs. C. G. Phillips,
Watch House, The Glebe
Mr. and Mrs. J. Mitchell,
8 Pentland Court, Dalgety Bay
Mr. R. Mitchell,
8 Pentland Court, Dalgety Bay
Miss E. Mitchell,
8 Pentland Court, Dalgety Bay

DISJUNCTIONS

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Kennedy 18 Inch Av.
to Sheffield
Mrs. E. Machin, Wayside,
to Dalgety
Mrs. A. F. Cormie, Craigneuk
to Kinghorn
Mr. Alan Armit, Hawkcriag Rd.
to Edinburgh
Mrs. M. Jamieson, Whitestrand
to Edinburgh
Mrs. M. J. Brown, Hawkcraig Rd.
to Falkirk

SUMMER OUTINGS

All the congregational Outings were blessed with reasonably good weather. The Woman's Guild paid a visit to the Children's Village of the Algrade Organisation for the Mentally Handicapped. The ladies had previously heard of the excellent work being done there from Miss McRae, who had been one of the speakers at an evening meeting. Later they had tea in Gifford.

The Sunday School broke new ground with a very successful visit to Kinneil Park at Bo'ness. The lawn in front of the ruined mansion house proved an ideal spot for a picnic and a very happy afternoon was spent in the usual games. The older children went by 'bus to Falkland and climbed the East Lomond. It was a clear night and they enjoyed a fine view from the summit.

The Bible Class went the length of Perth and climbed Kinnoull Hill. Here again it was a fine summer evening, and the panoramic view extended all the way from the Firth to the Grampians.

HIS HANDS

**The hands of Christ
Seem very frail
For they were broken
By a nail.**

**But only they
Reach heaven at last
Whom these frail, broken
Hands hold fast.**

J. R. Moreland.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the congregation took place in St. Fillan's Hall on Wednesday, 7th March. The usual reports were given by representatives from the various organisations, and Mr. Macfarlane, our Treasurer gave his account of the financial state of the congregation.

The following members were elected to serve for three years on the Congregational Board:—

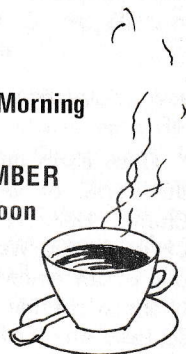
Mrs. M. Brown, Mrs. H. Hynd, Mrs. D. Nelson, Mrs. M. Turnbull, Mr. A. L. Wark, and Mrs. H. Wilson.

Tea was served by the ladies of the Woman's Guild and an opportunity was given for members to meet in an informal way.

COFFEE MORNING

The ladies of the
WOMAN'S GUILD
will hold a Coffee Morning
at the Manse on
SAT. 22nd SEPTEMBER
10.30 a.m. till 12 noon

BRING AND BUY
Tickets 15p



SUNDAY SCHOOLS AND BIBLE CLASS

The world in which we live does not have much time for the Christian Faith. It is clear that if it is to be passed on to those who come after us, it must be passed on either in the Christian home or in the family of the Church. It is not likely that either the Faith or the Christian values will be inculcated from any other source. In our time this gives new meaning to the vows we took at the baptism of our children, when we promised to "Surround the child with all the Holy influences in the home, and to ensure that the child enjoys the benefits of the instruction in the faith which is provided by the Church." We hope that members will not "miss out" on the first, which is probably the most important of all, and that they will take advantage of the instruction which is being provided by our congregation. It will be of lasting value to your child if he or she is encouraged to attend the appropriate course, and to attend regularly.

In the Sunday School, which meets at 10 a.m. the main age groupings are approximately 3 to 5 years of age in the small hall, 5 to 8 years in St. Colme's Hall (upstairs), and 8 to 13 years in the main hall. The opening day will be 16th September.

The Bible Class has two age groupings, viz. 13 to 15 and 15 to 18. Those two groups have a common act of worship before separating for instruction. They meet at 12.30 p.m. in St. Colme's Hall (upstairs.)

We do not restrict instruction to children of members, but gladly offer it free to any child or young person. It is our hope that having completed the courses from 3 to 18 years that young people will join the Class for those wishing to become members of the Church by profession of faith. These classes are held regularly each year by the minister.

Though Sunday School and Bible Class are run at different hours, they are both part of the one course of religious instruction, and children pass automatically from the one to the other. This year the following graduated to the Bible Class and at the closing service of the Sunday School in the church on Sunday, 24th June were presented by the Kirk Session with a Book Token to mark the occasion:—

Debbie Coates, Janette Eldred, Peter Hempseed, Elaine Hynd, Fiona Irvine, Hugh McKay, Velsha MacKay, Sharon McGowan, Simon Mackenzie, David Nelson, Heather Robertson.

For the first time for some years we are short of teachers for some of the classes and the minister would be glad to hear of those who are willing to undertake this important work for Christ and His Church.

WHAT GOES ON

- Sunday
- 10 a.m. The Sunday Schools in the Church Halls
- 11.15 a.m. Morning Worship
- 12.30 p.m. The Bible Classes in St. Colme's Hall
- 6.30 p.m. Evening Worship
- Monday
- 7.30 p.m. Open Night in the Hall for Members
An open Film Night (the third Monday of the month)
- Tuesday
- 2.30 p.m. The Woman's Guild in St. Colme's Hall (2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month)
- 7.30 p.m. On 1st Tuesday
- 5.30 p.m. The Brownie Guides
- 7.00 p.m. The Guides
- Wednesday
- 7.30 p.m. Bible Class Games Night
- Thursday
- 6.00 p.m. The Sunday School Choir
- 7.30 p.m. The Church Choir
- Friday
- 6.15 p.m. The Cub Scouts
- 7.30 p.m. The Scouts

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK

Once again our effort in Aberdour took the form of a Coffee Morning in the Church Hall. It was feared that because Christian Aid Week came in the middle of our 850th Anniversary Celebrations that it might affect the outcome, but this was not so, and the Coffee Morning on Saturday, 12th May realised the sum of £111, which was a slight increase on previous years. Mrs. McIntyre and her committee were very grateful for the generous response of the community to this worthy cause.

THE WOMAN'S GUILD

The opening meeting of the Woman's Guild takes place on Tuesday, 2nd October at 7.30 p.m., when Mr. Rutherford will be the speaker. He will give some impression of his visit this summer to East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

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. There is a creche, where mothers take turns at the afternoon meetings of taking care of the children.

New members are very welcome.

Oct. 2nd
Peeping through the Curtain, Rev. D. W. Rutherford.

Oct. 9th
The Effects of Television
Mr. Bruce Cannon, The Church of Scotland Press Officer.

Oct. 23rd
Scots Kirks in Europe
Mrs. W. Brown, Burntisland.

Nov. 6th
Edinburgh People's Palace Mission
Mr. Duncan, Warden.

PLEASE SUPPORT

THE COFFEE MORNING
to be held in the Manse
on

SATURDAY,
22nd SEPTEMBER

from
10.30 till 12 noon

Also a
BRING AND BUY STALL
