

Aberdour and Dalgety Parish Church.

No. 12

APRIL

1949

MINISTER:—The Revd. D. W. RUTHERFORD, M.C., B.D., The Manse, Aberdour.
ASSISTANT MINISTER:—Mr JACK RICHARDSON, B.D., The University, Edinburgh.

Session Clerk—Mr A. R. Milne, Station House.
Acting Clerk to the Congregational Board—Miss H. M. Somerville, Viewforth House, Seaside Place.
Treasurer—Mr C. J. Kerr, J.P., National Bank House.
Proclamations Officer—Mr H. Cecil Lyon, Park View, Park Lane.
Organists: Aberdour—Mr J. Gillespie, Ardene.
 Dalgety—Mrs Machin, Wayside, Aberdour.
Beadles: Aberdour—Mr Lawrence Moir, Sands Houses.
 Dalgety—Mr Harry Moyes, Chesters Cottage.

TIMES OF SERVICE.

Aberdour—In St. Fillan's Church and St. Colme's Church alternately, at 11 and 6.30. (A notice is put up each week outside the Parish Hall saying in which Church the Services are the following Sunday).

Dalgety—Every Sunday at 12.30.

THE MANSE.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

A first letter to a new congregation is always a difficult one to write. There is so much that one might say; and so little space in which to say it. I want first, however, to place on record an expression of our thanks to you all for the warm welcome which awaited us on our arrival in Aberdour. My wife and I were very much touched by it and also by your generosity. No congregation could have done more to make its Minister and his wife feel that they had been called to labour among them, and we are glad as the weeks pass to find that same welcome in each of the homes we have visited.

A congregation always has great hopes of a new minister. I trust these hopes will not be disappointed too much as (D.V.) the months and the years pass. But a minister has also great hopes of a new congregation, and mine for Aberdour and Dalgety are very simply stated. It is just that, building on the foundations which others have laid, the Church of Christ may occupy the central place in the life of the Parish. Our land suffers to-day because the Church has lost the influence she once had. As the Church loses her influence, so Christ is debarred the opportunity of speaking to men and women. And when Christ is not heard, immorality and corruption step forth boldly with nothing to fear. Our task is no easy one; but for myself, I see clearly that it begins with our young folk. They are the stones with which we must build, and I feel therefore, of all the work which I am called to do in the Parish, that this is the most important. It is a work which needs many helpers from the Cradle Roll upwards, but perhaps more than anything else the sympathy and the co-operation of the grown-ups. Your daily example and persuasive influence can do more than anything else to enable young people to become good Church members and regular attenders and so to become true followers of Jesus Christ.

May God's blessing be upon all our work here and may it be known in every home in the Parish.

Sincerely your Minister,

DAVID W. RUTHERFORD.

The following pulpit tribute was paid by Mr Rutherford to the late Mr Drysdale in Dalgety Church.

"This morning it falls to me to make fuller reference than was possible last Sunday to the passing from us of William Drysdale. It is difficult at any time to do full justice to the souls who journey on; but to-day it is particularly difficult for me, having such slight acquaintance with Mr Drysdale on two visits when he was nearing the end in suffering in hospital. But so many and so sympathetic have been the references made to him by his fellow-members that I feel that I can speak this morning, if not as one who knew him, then as one who knows about him.

William Drysdale was the senior elder of Dalgety congregation, having been appointed to the office of elder on the 25th January, 1920. Contrary to common belief he was never Session Clerk, but he was Church Treasurer from January, 1924, until the Union of the Churches in 1929.

At the time of his nomination it was a requirement of Church Law that the adjoining Kirk Session be advised of the nomination; in this case the Parish Church of Inverkeithing; who put it on record that "William Drysdale was a man of exemplary character, and that his whole walk and conversation were in keeping with the sacred office of Elder." That tribute was paid at the beginning of his period of service; but it was still as true at the end. It was an ideal which he carried through his whole life and by which he endeared himself to all sections of the community. He was of a retiring nature, and on that account played an unobtrusive role in the deliberations of the Session; but he discharged his duties with devotion, and his wise counsels will be missed by his fellow-elders. For many years he represented the congregation at the Presbytery as their Presbytery Elder. He was a loyal supporter of the ministers under whom he served; and one of them paying tribute to him said "He was a real Scotsman." That applied to him in the highest sense of the word. A true pillar of the Church he will be one who will be missed in the Church where he worshipped; and where for the long period of twenty-nine years he adorned the office of Elder and laboured in the service of his Master."

After the inevitable uncertainties of the period of the vacancy, during which the congregation were most fortunate in having the ministrations of the Revd. Charles Simmers, M.A., ably assisted by Mr Jack Richardson, B.D., under the able and tactful guidance of the Interim Moderator, the Revd. R. Dollar, B.D., the congregation have made a most happy, harmonious and unanimous choice of a successor to the Revd. D. M. G. Stalker, B.D., and we warmly welcome the Revd. D. W. Rutherford, M.C., B.D., to our midst. Already Mr and Mrs Rutherford have been in many of our homes, and the more we get to know them the more sure we are of that abiding place which they will take in our affections, and we wish them every happiness in their work and residence amongst us.

R. R. C.

BAPTISMS.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

29th January 1949—Donald MacKenzie Young, at Kilravock, The Glebe.
6th Feby. „ —Stewart Cameron Campbell, St. Fillan's.
6th March „ —Graham Walter Colin Collyer, Do.
6th March „ —Gretta Betty Christie, Do.
12th March „ —Alan Thomas Lough, Do.

MARRIAGES.

"What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."

2nd Feby. 1949—David Peggie, 5 Church Street, Inverkeithing, to Agnes Bethune Reid, East Loan, Falkland, at Dalgety.
31st March „ —William Aitchison Dunn to Ann Cameron Aitken, at St. Fillan's.

DEATHS.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."

5th Feby. 1949—John Drysdale, Home Park.
13th Feby. „ —John Spence, "Balbie."
28th Feby. „ —Mrs Kay, Morton Place.
5th March „ —William Drysdale, Hillend.