

Aberdour and Dalgety Parish Church.

No. 11

JANUARY

1949

INTERIM MODERATOR:—The Revd. ROBERT DOLLAR, M.A., B.D., The Abbey Manse, Dunfermline.

ASSISTANT MINISTER:—The Revd. JACK RICHARDSON, B.A., 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 Metcham, Catherine Bank, West End, 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 Kirk Session desire to remind the congregation of the following events:—

Tuesday, 8th February.—The Annual General Meeting of the congregation will be held in the Church Hall at 7.30 p.m. The meeting will be a business one only, and it is hoped there will be a good turn out of members.

Sunday, 13th February.—Holy Communion in St. Colme's Church at 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. A Thanksgiving Service will be held in the same church at 6.30 p.m.

Wednesday, 23rd February.—Induction of Revd. D. W. Rutherford, M.C., B.D., in St. Fillan's Church at 3 p.m.

In the evening at 7 p.m. there will be a Social in the Church Hall and a cordial invitation is extended to all members.

Sunday, 27th February.—Mr Rutherford will be introduced to the congregation in St. Colme's Church at 11 a.m. and in Dalgety Church at 12.30 p.m. He will preach in St. Colme's Church at 6.30 p.m.

We have accepted with regret the resignation of Mr Peggie, Organist, Dalgety, who is leaving the district. We record our appreciation of his services and will miss his genial presence.

Finally, it is with pleasure we include in this issue a letter from our Interim Moderator, the Revd. R. Dollar, B.D.

A. R. MILNE.

I have been asked by the Editor to write something for this magazine as your Interim Moderator, and I have pleasure in doing so, particularly as it will be non-recurring, for, as you know, it won't be long now before you have your own minister settled in your midst. It is the first time I have ever been an Interim Moderator. As you can imagine I have a full-time job as Minister of Dunfermline Abbey, and the Presbytery, recognising that, have been fairly considerate in not overburdening me with extra duties. But the person responsible for persuading me to take over the duties of Interim Moderator at Aberdour and Dalgety was your late minister, the Revd. D. M. G. Stalker. During his ministry I enjoyed eight years of ripening friendship with him, and the better I came to know him, the greater the regard I had for him. You had in Mr Stalker a minister of outstanding ability and who had a grand conception of his sacred calling. He has found a sphere now where his great gifts of intellect and character will have their fullest expression, and I am persuaded that a career of great importance lies before him. The day will come when you will have a measure of reflected glory in the fact that he was once your minister. I also had the privilege of knowing the Revd. Dr. Johnstone, a saintly gentleman, and one of the finest types of Parish Minister. You have been richly blessed. And, because of my intimate connection with the parish, it has fallen to me to be of some help to you in guiding you to choose a worthy successor to these gentlemen. I would not have assumed the duties of Interim Moderator had the pastoral work of the parish been my responsibility, but you were fortunate in having a retired minister living in Aberdour who was able and willing to undertake the necessary pastoral duties, and to help in the conduct of Divine Worship. We must all be deeply indebted to the Revd. Charles Simmers for the excellent service he has rendered. In these days of shortage of ministerial man-power, many retired ministers don't get the leisure they had hoped for, but it is good to know that they are still willing to serve the Church when necessary. Personally I don't know what I would have done in these last few years, had I not been able to rely on the help of the Revd. J. M. Webster, who has been unfailingly helpful.

And now my duties as Interim Moderator are nearly at an end. They have not been onerous and they have been pleasant. The Vacancy Committee you appointed tackled the mandate with zeal and diligence. Mr Inglis has proved a genial and competent chairman, while the Clerk, Mr Milne, has been the

soul of efficiency. We had remarkably few meetings, and they were all marked by a fine harmonious spirit. There never was a discordant note during any of our deliberations. Had I time to tell the full story, it would clearly be seen how they were providentially led to the decision they arrived at. A big number of applicants were reduced with amazing celerity to a short list of three, and I personally was perfectly satisfied that any one of them would have proved an acceptable minister for the Parish. But after they were all heard in St. Peter's, Inverkeithing—and we should be grateful for the facilities granted by the Revd. Mr Johnstone and his Kirk Session—it was evident that the prime favourite was the Revd. David W. Rutherford, M.C., B.D., Bridge Street Church, Alexandria. Consequently he received a unanimous request to preach before the congregation as sole nominee, and the outcome has been most satisfactory. The voting was very conclusive, 192 registering their approval, while not one vote was cast against his election. The call has been signed by nearly half the congregation and, in these days when the Presbytery has been seriously perturbed about the small proportion who take the trouble to sign the call, that is an indication of very hearty approval of the Vacancy Committee's choice. I am very happy in having some share in leading to such a harmonious settlement. Mr Rutherford comes to you with a wide and varied experience. He had a splendid academic career at St. Andrew's University, and he also excelled in sport. He served under the Colonial Committee with tea planters in Assam, and during the war he was a grand chaplain, and won a most meritorious M.C. He was inducted to Bridge Street Church, Alexandria, in 1939, where, apart from the time he was away serving, he has exercised a most successful ministry. This month he is being married to an Alexandria lady, and that is the reason why he is asking a change. I am fully persuaded that you have made a good choice, and that Mr Rutherford will maintain and extend the best traditions of your parish. When opportunity permits, give him a right royal welcome, and be faithful to the promise you have made in signing the call. Here it is: "We promise you all dutiful respect, encouragement, and obedience in the Lord, and we promise to contribute heartily, as the Lord shall enable us, towards the maintenance of the Christian ministry and the furtherance of the Gospel." I look forward to Mr Rutherford's ministry with high hopes, and my prayers for you all is that by your joint work and witness, the Kingdom of God may be extended in your lovely parish.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

A Children's Christmas play was produced by the teachers of the Aberdour Sunday School, several of whom took part in the performance along with the scholars, and the very satisfactory sum of £8 2s 6d (clear of expenses) was realised in aid of the Local Funds of the Sunday Schools.

This year the Sunday School collections available for allocation to others, amounted to £23 8s 0d, being Aberdour S.S. £14 18s 2d, and Dalgety S.S. £8 2s 6d (two years' collections). The money was allocated as follows:—Foreign Missions, £5 0s 8d; Santalia Mission, £5; Youth and Education, £2; Children's Missionaries, £2; Children's Church, £2; Children's Homes of C. of S., £2; The Mission to Lepers, £2; National Bible Society of Scotland, £3.

A cordial welcome is extended to Miss Long who has taken over the work in Dalgety Sunday School, and we look forward to close co-operation in the future, and wish Godspeed to Mr Peggie, who has, unavoidably, to give up the work after nine years of good service.

We also extend a warm welcome to Miss Anne Mackenzie, who has joined the staff of the Senior Section of Aberdour Sunday School, and have been

happy to have with us for a Sunday, Mr C. Alexander, home after his first voyage to New Zealand, as an engineer officer.

Mr Gillespie and his Junior Choir gave a successful rendering of the Christmas Cantata, "The Prince of Peace," in St. Fillan's Church on the evening of the Sunday before Christmas, which drew a good attendance.
R.R.C.

BAPTISMS.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

Oct. 17th, 1948—Colina Campbell Best in St. Fillan's.
Nov. 21st, 1948—William Robert Ewing in St. Colme's.
Dec. 25th, 1948—Mary Logan Keir in St. Fillan's.
Jan. 8th, 1949—Jemima E. C. S. Knox at "Kilravock," The Glebe.
Jan. 16th, 1949—Michael Andrew Anderson Do.
Jan. 22nd, 1949—James G. Hutton Do.

MARRIAGES.

"What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder."
Oct. 23rd, 1948—Douglas Wm. Gourlay to Patricia Drake Normand.
Dec. 25th, 1948—George Alexander Todd to Lucy Margaret Bishop or Wilson.

DEATHS.

"Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord."
Nov. 1st, 1948—John Duncan McLaren, Craigview, Aberdour.
Dec. 5th, 1948—Mrs Turnbull, High Street, Aberdour.
Dec. 7th, 1948—Mrs McLaren, Craigview, Aberdour.
Dec. 7th, 1948—Mrs Aitken, Belgrano, Aberdour.
Dec. 17th, 1948—Mrs Mitchell, Dryburgh House, Aberdour.