

Aberdour and Dalgety Parish Church.

No. 16

APRIL

1950

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, Ardmohr.

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.

Primary Sunday School—St. Colme's Church, 12.20 p.m.

Senior Sunday School—Alternating according to the Church in which the service is being held, at 12.20 p.m.

Dalgety Sunday School—Dalgety Church, 11.30 a.m.

Junior Bible Class—St. Fillan's Hall, 12.20 p.m.

The Young People's Fellowship—St. Fillan's Hall, 7.45 p.m.

Woman's Guild—St. Fillan's Hall on the second Tuesday of each month at 2.45 p.m., and on the fourth Tuesday at 7 p.m.

THE MANSE,
ABERDOUR.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

At a recent meeting of the Congregational Board it was decided that it was time we made a determined effort to extend our church. It was felt that if the work was to be properly carried on new buildings were required—more churches and new hall accommodation. With that end in view a Fête is being arranged through the kindness of Miss Cunningham in the grounds of Aberdour House on the 22nd of July.

I know you are saying that what I have said about our need of new buildings is ridiculous. Not one of our three churches is ever full, and as for our hall, it is only used by us on rare occasions. What possible need could there be for an extension?

Perhaps I should have written the word church with a capital "C," for the Church which we plan to extend is not one of those within our parishes, but the Church of Scotland of which we are all members. Through the movement of population into new housing areas, great communities have arisen, which are not blessed as we are with a place of worship. There are many Housing Schemes with five and ten thousand of a population and one with sixty thousand and yet with no convenient place of worship. What is even more serious is that there are no church buildings, no halls or even large rooms where a Sunday School, a Bible Class, or a Fellowship can meet—the activities of the Church above all others which help to keep our Scotland from being a pagan land. Unless churches and halls are built in these areas there is no reason to suppose that the development of our national life can be other than atheistic or at the very least indifferent to the claims of Christ.

As many who have recently gone into a new house know, it requires everything you have to furnish, and so you cannot expect the people going into the new housing areas to have the money to build their own churches and halls. Besides, these buildings ought to be there before the houses are occupied. It therefore falls to us to build them. The people of the housing areas will be indebted to us—deeply indebted; but then, we ourselves are indebted to the men who through eight centuries have built and restored our own Holy Places.

I cannot write more fully now of the work which has already been done and is yet to do, but I would ask every member to be in their places on Sunday morning, the 30th April, when the Reverend D. McArthur Chalmers, the minister of Carrick Knowe Church Extension Charge, will tell us of the urgent need for the "Church in the Midst."

The work as a whole requires one million pounds. Staggering, isn't? When divided out, however, over the congregations in Scotland the sum is not so formidable. It amounts for the parish of Aberdour and Dalgety to only £634—less than a pound per member. Of that we have already raised £170, but it leaves an indebtedness on our part of £464. It is that debt which the Congregational Board believes we can wipe out at the Fête in Aberdour House grounds on July 22nd, 1950.

We need your gifts, your help, and above all, your prayers for this venture for the extension of Christ's Church.

Yours sincerely,

DAVID W. RUTHERFORD.

Mr JACK RICHARDSON, B.D.

By the time this quarterly is in your hands Mr Richardson will have severed his official connection with us as assistant minister. I would take this opportunity therefore of thanking him in your name for all his labours in our midst. He came to us in October, 1948, and since then has been most energetic in his work amongst the youth of the congregation. At a party to be held on Friday, 14th April, the Young People's Fellowship, the teachers in the Sunday Schools, and the members of the Congregational Board will recognise his service in a tangible way; but I would now wish him success in his forthcoming examinations and God's blessing in all his endeavours for His Church.

Mr HENRY C. MARTIN, B.A.

On Sunday, 23rd April, we shall welcome Mr Martin as our new assistant minister. Mr Martin comes from Northern Ireland. He is at present studying in Edinburgh for a higher degree. The Presbyterian Church of Ireland is one which has always had the closest links with our own, and we look forward to Mr Martin's ministry among us. He is particularly interested in the young people, and we hope that he will soon make many friends among the members of the congregation.

CHURCH EXTENSION.

After the excellent explanation of the urgency of this question contained in the Minister's letter, it may seem superfluous to refer to it again, but having been asked, as Convener of the Congregational Committee, to write something on this subject I have much pleasure in complying with the request. To begin with, quite incontrovertibly, Scotland has too many churches—but in the wrong places; a sad relic of the days when the numerous branches of the Presbyterian church built, often almost side by side in cities, towns, and even villages. One's great regret is that many of these churches—some of far greater merit architecturally than funds available can possibly erect to-day—cannot, on account of prohibitive cost, be re-erected where they are required. Secondly, a newly-formed congregation cannot to-day build their own church or hall, but they do, often with surprising rapidity, raise funds for their own expenses and towards their Ministers' salaries. A year's residence in a church extension area, admittedly one very favourably circumstanced, and endowed with one of the most beautiful churches erected under the Church Extension Scheme, built just before the last cataclysm; and a more recent visit to other areas, when a member of Assembly at the close of the war, have convinced me how much a church and hall mean to a new housing area. They give it a soul, if one may use the metaphor, and become a centre of many beneficent activities, as well as fulfilling their primary purpose as places for the worship of God. Now we have an excellent and representative Committee, and every one of us should do our best to assist this great effort to reach our target, which, but for the equally urgent need of Foreign Missions, might have been more nearly attained by now. I hope all of us may be able to hear the Rev. D. McArthur Chalmers, who has done a great work at Carrick Knowe, on the 30th of April, and that we will all, by asking our friends to come as well as being present ourselves, and giving what we can in service or in kind, make the Fête, to be held by the very kind permission of Miss Cunningham in the pleasant grounds of Aberdour House on the 22nd of July, an overwhelming success.

R.R.C.

ST. BRIDE'S CHURCH, DALGETY.

To all of us who venerate the ancient ecclesiastical buildings of our country, and particularly of our own parish, it is a matter of satisfaction that the Ancient Monuments Commission have taken this old church under their care, and by clearing off encroaching vegetation, have at least arrested the process of decay. The Presbytery have sent a letter to the appropriate bodies expressing their appreciation and we trust that a stop may now be put to the vandalism which has caused much damage in recent years.

WOMAN'S GUILD.

The Guild has now finished until the autumn. We had a fine meeting on March 14th when neighbouring Guilds from North Queensferry, Inverkeithing, Rosyth and Burntisland visited us. The speaker was Mrs Coutts of the Home Board, who gave a fine address on the work of the Board. The collection was sent to the Women's Home Board Pensions Scheme. Members and friends are now looking forward to their outing on May 25th.

E. W. K.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S FELLOWSHIP.

Our attendance of thirty has been maintained through the opening months of the year, and we have continued our study of "What is Man?" It has led us to discussion of things at the very centre of the Christian faith—the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, the Ascension, the Holy Spirit, the Trinity and the Church; and we hope before we end our session to have found an answer to our question.

Our Dedication Service was held on 29th January in St. Fillan's Church when members of the Fellowship took part in the service. Mr Jack Bald conducted the service. Prayers were offered by Miss Margaret Kerr and Mr Gerald Doidge, while the lessons were read by Miss Norah Kirkham and Mr John Sinclair. The offering was uplifted by four of our members.

On Sunday, 26th March, we welcomed the members of the Y.P.F.'s of St. Peter's Church, Inverkeithing. The occasion was a debate on "Are Foreign Missions worth while?" After a spirited debate the motion was carried by 24 votes to 23.

It is now generally known in Aberdour that the Fellowship have adopted a little girl in one of the Church of Scotland Homes in Edinburgh. She is Morag Laird, and already many of the members have taken her out for the afternoon along with others in the Home. By adopting her, we have made ourselves responsible for her upkeep which amounts to £26 per annum. In order to raise that money we are producing two plays with a supporting programme on the evening of Friday, 28th April. Tickets are priced two shillings and three shillings. Children will be admitted at half-price to the two shillings seats. Someone will call at your door with tickets, and we hope that you will support this very worthy object.

On Friday, 14th April, we say good-bye to Mr Richardson, and at our party to be held on that date, we shall make a small presentation to him. We wish to take this opportunity of thanking him for all his kindness and good fellowship while we have been privileged to have him work amongst us.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS.

The Sunday Schools have continued to get satisfactory attendances and will resume on the Sunday after Easter with a Youth Service to be addressed by Mr J. Richardson, whose impending departure is a matter of regret to us as to the other young people's organisations. For our Annual Excursion hopes of going to Alva Glen or Kinross having been frustrated by the entire impossibility of getting sufficient bus transport on a Saturday afternoon, and enquiries regarding Dalmeny having given negative results, suitable arrangements have now been made at Kinghorn, where a large church hall is available in the event of rain, on the 17th of June. After a very successful session, the Junior Bible Class has now closed for the summer.

R.R.C.

BAPTISMS.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

- 5th February—Patricia Heather Lochtie, Murrell Road.
5th March —Joan Marianne Inglis, Belfast.
5th March —Elizabeth Anne Litster, Edinburgh.
5th March —Janet Chalmers Nicholson, Croftgarry Cottages.

MARRIAGE.

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

18th March—Albert Ward to Alice Mary Gibson.

DEATH.

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

5th March—Jessie Findlay, Orcadia Home, Burntisland.

ACCESSIONS.

- BY PROFESSION OF FAITH—Miss Margaret Feaks, Dalgety House.
Mrs Mechie, The Barns.
Mrs Parnell, The Four Lums.
Miss Chrissie Steel, The Four Lums.
Mr John Bald, Salisbury Villas.
Miss Elvira A. Cabrelli, Hollybank, West End.
Mr George M. Coleman, 29 Humble Terrace.
Mr Douglas Crow, Manse Street.
Mrs Margaret Currie, Petrie's Buildings.
Mr William A. Dunn, The Glebe.
Mr George E. Jeffery, Petrie's Buildings.
Mrs Patricia Jeffery, Petrie's Buildings.
Mr Robert H. Lochtie, Lily Place.
Mr Kenneth M. Millar, 16 David 1st Street, Kinghorn.
Mr John L. S. Sinclair, 83 High Street.
- BY CERTIFICATE—Mr and Mrs Henderson, Templeland.
Mr and Mrs McIntosh, Dalachy.
Mr and Mrs Melville, Parkend.
Mr and Mrs Stewart, Murrell Terrace.
Mr and Mrs A. Todd, The Barns Cottage.

DISJUNCTIONS.

Mrs R. H. Inglis, Lily Place to Belfast.