

ST. JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH, KIRKCALDY.

JANUARY, 1953.

No. 10.

MINISTER: Rev. F. A. SIMPSON, M.A., 21 Townsend Crescent. (Telephone 3821).
 SESSION CLERK AND CLERK TO BOARD: Mr EDGAR KIDD, 13 Balsusney Road.
 TREASURER: Mr JAMES KENNEDY, 74 Balsusney Road.
 KEEPER OF ROLL: Mr D. RUSSELL, 8 Salisbury Street.
 CONVENER OF SEAT LETTING: Mr A. J. WATT, 19 Winifred Street.
 EDITOR OF SUPPLEMENT: Mr ROBERT KEMP, 24 King Street.
 ORGANIST AND CHOIRMASTER: Mr CHARLES MOODIE, 8 Southerton Crescent.

Text: Hebrews I., verses 1 and 2—

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spoke in times past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son."

THE SUNDAY SERVICES AND THE SACRAMENTS

The Sunday Services are held at 11.15 a.m. and 6 p.m. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper is observed on the third Sunday of March, June and October, at 11.15 a.m. and 2.30 p.m.

The Sacrament of Baptism is dispensed on the second Sunday of each month, at the Morning Service.

The next Communicants' Class will meet on the first Sunday of February (1st), at 12.30 p.m.

The Communicants will be admitted to full membership of the Church on the second Sunday of March (8th), at the Evening Service.

FLOWERS ON THE COMMUNION TABLE

We offer our sincere thanks to the members and organisations of the Church who have kindly provided flowers for the Sundays throughout the year.

The new flower list is in the vestibule of the Church. Will any willing to provide flowers please put their names opposite the Sunday which may suit them.

Our thanks, too, are due to Mrs Watt and Mrs Gray and others who distribute the flowers after the Evening Service.

MINISTER'S LETTER

St. John's Manse,
Kirkcaldy, January, 1953.

MY DEAR FRIENDS,

A day or two of the new year have already come and gone, so that I can now look back upon the old year. How it has passed . . . quickly, busily, happily and, I hope, profitably. Yes, so far as St. John's is concerned, a great deal of good work has been done; members, friends, adherents have given generously of their time, their talents, their means. A fine spirit, too, prevails.

But don't let us remain content; don't let us rest upon our oars. Rather, let whatever degree of success has attended our labours spur us on to higher and nobler things.

Will you allow me, in these lines, to express sincere thanks to you all for your continued co-operation and encouragement. My wife and I do appreciate it. It's fine to see so many taking an interest and so many bearing a full share of the work—members of Session and of the Board, the Session Clerk, the Treasurer, the Roll-keeper, and Convener of Seat Letting; the leaders, assistants and secretaries of Sunday Schools, Bible Classes, Boys' Brigade, Life Boys, Girls' Association, Youth Fellowship, Woman's Guild, Men's Association, Work Party, Badminton Club, Guides, Brownies, Mothers' Meeting; visitors, distributors and collectors; the Organist and the Choir.

Let us pray God to bestow His spirit upon us, and to prosper our efforts to advance the Kingdom of His Son.

Yours very sincerely,

FREDERICK ANGUS SIMPSON.

YOUTH FELLOWSHIP

What is a Youth Fellowship? Yes, a crowd of young people from a Church meeting regularly every week. Where do they meet? In a Church hall, where every week hymns are sung and prayers said. Why do they meet? Evidently there is some doubt in the minds of people as to the answer to this question. Some say to meet other people of their own age and beliefs. Youth of the Church, what is your opinion? I think it should

be called a Christian Youth Fellowship to remind the members of the position and purpose they hold in the Church. We have a large membership now, but it is not quantity that counts, but quality. We must show ourselves to be Christians or our existence as a Church organisation is completely without point. Our yearly Nativity Play is not enough. Why can't we give evidence of more practical work among the congregation and everyone we come in contact with. I sincerely hope the members will take up the challenge, and I shall be pleased to receive their suggestions.

F. CARLOW (Secretary).

SPECIAL SERVICES

Since Dedication Sunday (21st September), a number of special Services have been held in the Church.

On Sunday, 14th December, at 2.30 p.m., the boys and girls of the Sunday Schools attended a Christmas Service in the Church. Over three hundred young people were present, along with many parents and friends. Mr Haig, Superintendent of the Senior Sunday School, read the Lesson. In the course of the service, all the pupils brought gifts of toys and money to the Chancel, where the gifts were received by the Minister and by Mr Haig, and by Mr Alec Rae (leader of the Junior Sunday School), by Mrs Elder (leader of the Primary), and by Miss Nicol (leader of the Beginners).

These gifts were later distributed between the Church of Scotland Social Service Homes for Children (in Edinburgh, the Kirkcaldy General Hospital, the Bridge of Weir Homes), and the Christmas Tree at Kirkcaldy Station.

On Sunday, 21st December, the Senior and Junior Choirs gave a recital of Christmas music at the Evening Service. The pieces chosen by Mr Moodie were very fitting for the occasion, and the singing was funeful and uplifting. Soloists were:—Mr Ross, Mrs Bell, and the Misses Margaret Grimshaw, Aileen Stevenson and Nancy Mitchell.

On Sunday, 28th December, the Youth Fellowship presented the Nativity Play, "The Light." The presentation of this play was characterised by reverence and devotion. The music, the beautiful Eastern costumes and the pale shades of light added much to the impressiveness of the scene. Thanks are due to Mr Charles Moodie, Organist; to Mr William Dingwall (producer), and to Mr Manson for the additional lighting.

Taking part were:—Chief Angel—Frances Carlow; Choir of Angels—Misses Sheena Young, Effie Cooper, Nan Finlay, Ruth Bell, Margaret Watson, Nan Matthew, Joyce Westwater, Nancy McDonald, Helen Wilson, Ena Page, Lillian Haig, Isobel Cairns, Barbara Nicolson, Ruby Main; Shepherds—Messrs Ronald McDonald, Garry Kidd, Andrew Martin; Kings—Messrs Neil Clark, Leslie Simpson, John Duncan; Joseph—John McDonald; Mary—Nita Simpson; Saddler—Alex. Rae; Wailing Widow—Ina Kennedy; Mother—Patricia Forrester; Leper—Jimmy Haig; Innkeeper—John Mackie.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PARTIES

The Sunday School Committee thank all who were mindful of the needs of the Sunday School pupils, at Christmas, and who contributed so generously to the cost of their parties. Each department of the Sunday School had its own party, and all were well-attended and most successful and enjoyable.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE CONGREGATION

This meeting falls to be held (as is customary) on the second Wednesday of February (11th). This will be an interesting and important meeting, at which reports of the finances of the Church and of the progress of the past year's work will be given.

ST. JOHN'S PARISH CHURCH, KIRKCALDY.

NEW MEMBERS (to October, 1952)

BY PROFESSION OF FAITH—

Mr and Mrs David Mitchell, 8 Kennedy Crescent.
 Mr and Mrs William Arthur, 92 Salisbury Street.
 Mr and Mrs James Wishart, 55 Salisbury Street.
 Mr and Mrs R. King, 3 Cleish Gardens.
 Mr Alan Campbell, 108 Winifred Street.
 Mr Thomas Mustard, 50 Alexandra Street.
 Mr John Gourlay, 64 East Smeaton Street.
 Mr David Kellock, 25 Victoria Road.
 Mrs Russell, 77 Dunearn Drive.
 Mrs Keith, 23 Nile Street.
 Mrs Cramb, 94 Harcourt Road.
 Mrs Clark, 40 Nelson Street.
 Miss Norma Taylor, 2 Bennochy Gardens.
 Miss Patricia Forrester, 7 Hendry Crescent.
 Miss Isobel Cairns, 51 Lawson Street.
 Miss Edna Low, 13 Kennedy Crescent.
 Miss Mary Low, 13 Kennedy Crescent.

BY CERTIFICATE, etc.—

Mrs Carlyle, 7 Clark Place.
 Mr and Mrs David Stuart, 78 Balfour Street.
 Mr James W. Husband, 22 Raeburn Crescent.
 Mrs Pringle, 69 Kennedy Crescent.
 Mrs Pearcey, 103 Winifred Street.
 Mr and Mrs David Brown, 105 Winifred Crescent.
 Mr and Mrs William Rigby, 88 Salisbury Street.
 Mr and Mrs James Allan, 53 Valley Gardens.
 Mr and Mrs E. Bease, 56 Viceroy Street.
 Mr Alex. C. Forrester, Braemount, Bennochy Road.
 Mr Robert Keith, 23 Nile Street.
 Mrs Janet Graham, 20 Forth Avenue North.
 Mrs D. Johnstone, 96 Kennedy Crescent.
 Mr and Mrs J. Murray, 83 King Street.
 Mr and Mrs D. Skinner, 58 Kennedy Crescent.
 Mrs Watt (sen.), 19 Winifred Street.
 Mrs Watson, 94 Strathkinnes Road.
 Mr and Mrs W. Walker, 31 Nile Street.
 Mr James Linton, 59 Kennedy Crescent.
 Mrs Alan Campbell, 108 Winifred Street.
 Mr and Mrs John Duncan, 50 Salisbury Street.
 Mr and Mrs John Ross, 62 Winifred Street.
 Mrs Gourlay, 294 High Street.
 Mr Pearcey, 103 Winifred Crescent.
 Mr Edward Clark, 40 Nelson Street.
 Mrs Nicholson, 21 Benarty Street.
 Mrs Snaddon, 2 Hendry Crescent.
 Mr and Mrs Adam, 2 Kennedy Crescent.
 Mr James Houston, 62 East Smeaton Street.
 Mrs Waddell, 119 East Smeaton Street.
 Miss Janet Kilgour, 44 Commercial Street.
 Mrs Walker, 28 Elgin Street.
 Mr Westwater, 44 King Street.

CHURCH REGISTER

BAPTISMS.

"Suffer the little children to come unto Me."

- 12/10/52—In the Church, Thomas David Cunningham, son of Mr and Mrs T. K. Cunningham, 12 Buchanan Street.
 12/10/52—In the Church, Marilyn Clark Livingstone Buchanan, daughter of Mr and Mrs J. L. Buchanan, 14 Nelson Street.
 26/10/52—In the Church, James Cowan Johnston, son of Mr and Mrs D. W. Johnston, 65 Kennedy Crescent.
 26/10/52—In the Church, Norma Alexander Johnston, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. W. Johnston, 65 Kennedy Crescent.
 7/11/52—At 225 Overton Road, Patricia Susan Swanston, daughter of Mr and Mrs Alexander Swanston, now at 68 Hill View Road, Edinburgh.
 9/11/52—In the Church, Isabella Bisset Condie Galloway, daughter of Mr and Mrs A. S. Galloway, 23 Benarty Street.
 25/11/52—At 138 Winifred Crescent, George Souness, son of Mr and Mrs C. C. Souness, 138 Winifred Crescent.
 4/1/53—In the Church, Iain Scott Hunter, son of Mr and Mrs J. C. Hunter, presently residing at 41 Harcourt Road, Kirkcaldy.

MARRIAGES.

"Whom God hath joined together let not man put asunder."

- 15/10/52—In the Strathearn Hotel, Kirkcaldy, James Thomson Warrender Scott, 27 Main Street, Methilhill, and Rachel Martin McConnell, 23 Charlotte Street, Kirkcaldy.
 3/12/52—In Anthony's Hotel, Kirkcaldy, Henry Morrison Stewart, 5 Roberts Street, Kirkcaldy, and Margaret Todd Cleghorn, 14 Patterson Street, Kirkcaldy.
 20/12/52—In the Church, Andrew Dall, 19 Veronica Crescent, Kirkcaldy, and Agnes Sharp, 46 Veronica Crescent, Kirkcaldy.

DEATHS.

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

- 6/10/52—George Marshall Lang, 82 Wilson Avenue.
 7/10/52—Mrs Bradford, 303 High Street.
 12/10/52—Alexander Graham, 15 Viewforth Street.
 7/11/52—Andrew Farr, 68 Balfour Street.
 24/12/52—David Williamson, "Mile End," Bennochy Road.

For some the past twelve months have been a time of anxiety, of loss, of sorrow. We assure them of our sympathy and we remember them in prayer.

SEAT RENTS AND SITTINGS

I take this opportunity to thank the District Collectors of Seat Rents. Theirs is not always an easy task, as they have sometimes to call more than once when folks are out. Still they carry on, and they like the work.

A word to all Church members:—It would be a great help if, when you change your address, you would inform the Minister, or the Elder of your District. It would also be a help to the District Collectors and myself.

To those who do not have sittings meantime, please do not let that keep you from attending, as there are always seats for you somewhere in the Church.

If only we had the Memorial Transept built, then I would be happy to show members to seats there. By our combined and sustained efforts, the Transept may not be too long in being part of our beautiful Church.

Thanking you all.

A. J. WATT.

THE INCOME OF THE CHURCH

With Special Reference to the Free Will Offering Scheme

Where does the greater proportion of the Church's income come from?

It comes from the Church offerings, Sunday by Sunday.

What is really the backbone of this income?

It is the Free Will Offering Scheme.

Are members and friends encouraged to enter the Scheme?

Yes, all who can are asked to enter the scheme, specially all who are in receipt of a regular income.

How does it work?

Mr X is supplied with a packet of envelopes (52 in all for the year). The envelopes begin at the beginning of April and run on to the end of March of the following year.

What does he do with them?

He returns an envelope each Sunday with his Church offering enclosed.

If he misses a Sunday at Church, what then?

When he returns he will have two envelopes to put in. If he misses two Sundays at Church he will have three envelopes to put in; and so on.

Does he have to state how much he will have to put into each envelope?

No! He will simply make up his own mind about that, bearing in mind that he should try to give as he has been prospered.

What are the advantages of this Scheme?

Well, it means *regularity* of giving, with the very good result that the Church's income is increased and steadied. Surely this is a great advantage, for salaries, heating, lighting, cleaning, repairs, replacements, insurances, etc., run on all the time.

And it means *privacy*. Even the person sitting next you in the pew does not know what you are giving. And it means, too, that if this Scheme is in a healthy condition, we can do away with constant appeals for money, retiring collections and the like.

By the way, what you enclose in your envelopes should cover the money needed for our own Church (St. John's), with a balance for the schemes of the Church of Scotland as a whole (missions, social service, etc.).

Is the Scheme already working well?

Yes, of course it is. Look at the figures under "Financial" and you will see.

The Scheme is about to be revised and brought up to date. The Elders have kindly agreed to assist with this as they go round their districts in a few weeks' time. If you are not already in the Scheme, will you come into it when the Elder visits you? If you have lapsed from the Scheme, will you take it up again and make a new beginning?

Please come into the Free Will Offering Scheme and make it a greater success than ever.

By the way, the offering at the Morning Service is taken up during the service. The offering at the Evening Service is received on the plate at the door as you enter.

FINANCIAL

CHURCH OFFERINGS—JULY TO DECEMBER, 1952.

	Ordinary.	Free Will Offering.	Total.
July	£12 10 11	£36 10 6	£49 1 5
August	15 0 3	56 14 9	71 15 0
September	25 2 11	67 3 6	92 6 5
October	35 11 2	72 0 2	107 11 4
November	27 6 8	58 13 6	86 0 2
December	29 4 3	47 8 4	76 12 7
	£144 16 2	£338 10 9	£483 6 11

TOTALS FOR YEAR 1952.

Ordinary	£302 1 8
Free Will	692 1 7
Total for Year	£994 3 3