

# The Northern Times

## AND WEEKLY JOURNAL FOR SUTHERLAND AND THE

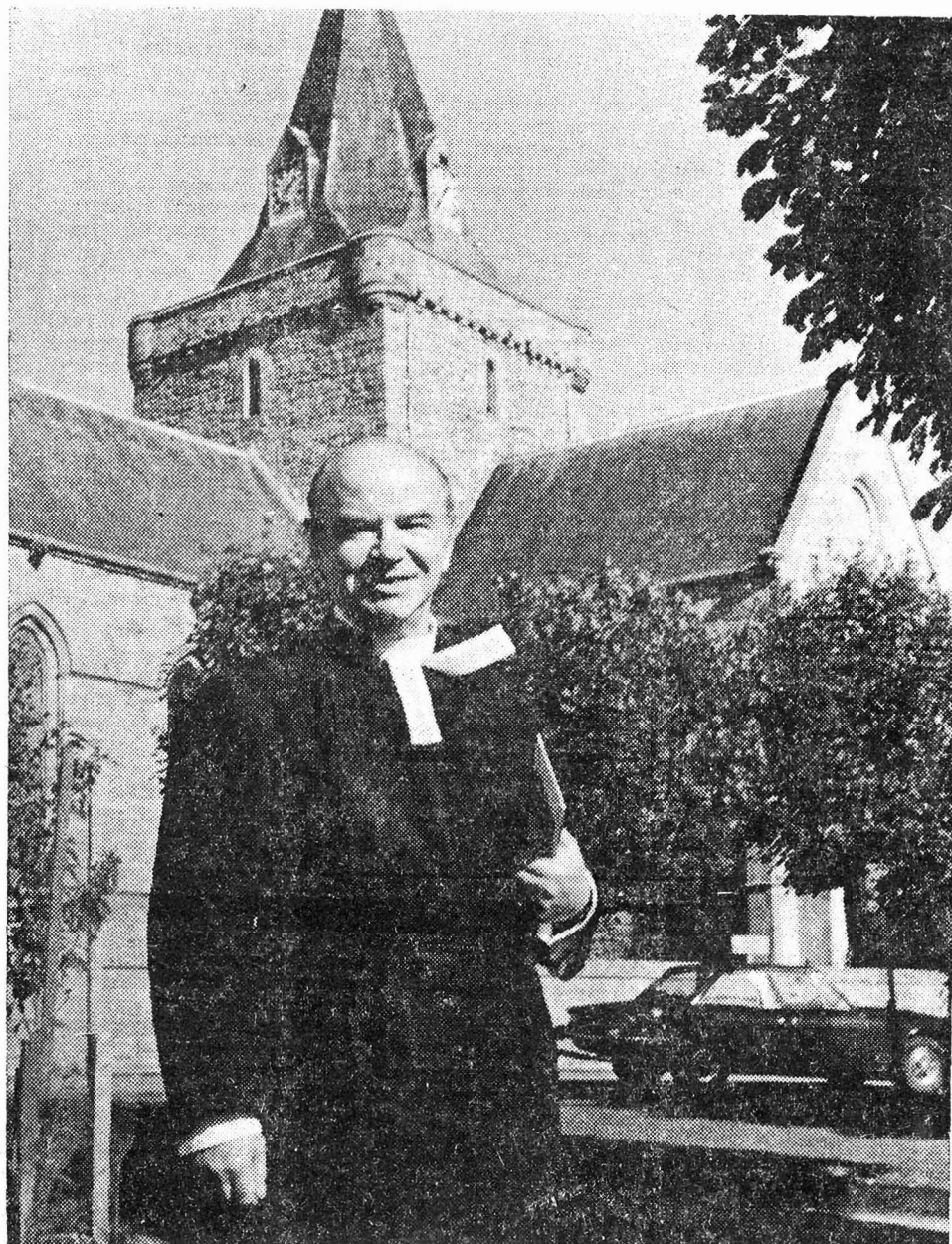
77th Year — No. 3966

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 1975

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### CATHEDRAL MINISTER OPTS FOR RURAL PARISH

Cathedrals have figured largely in the life of the Rev. Frederick H. Fulton. He held assistantships in Glasgow's 600-year-old Cathedral and in historic St Giles in Edinburgh before being inducted to Buchanan Parish Church, Dunbartonshire, in 1944.

For the past 17 years he has been minister of "this historic and homely sanctuary" of Dornoch Cathedral, to quote his own words. Now he is saying farewell to cathedrals, choosing to spend the closing years of his ministry in quiet Kinloch, in Perthshire.

Full report of his last service, Page 5.

## Council cash me with col

THE 12 members of Sutherland District Monday with the Bank of Scotland — (Golspie) Ltd., the public works contractor, to discuss the Council's financial position and the number of jobs available.

The meeting was originally at the Council's part to award them any contracts within the district. But the Council, meeting representatives on the implications of the

This followed a lively discussion in which Councillor Donald McBain, Lochinver, roundly attacked negotiated contracts, by which companies and local authorities get together over pre-set conditions.

"There should be an end to this horse-trading," said Mr McBain, a former county convener. "It went on with the old county council for 20 years or more, and we don't want to get on that merry-go-round again."

Sutherland's presently employ about 180 workers, mainly in the county, but they have just completed six housing contracts around Inverness. Last week they made six of their staff redundant — four women office workers and two men. There had been other pay-offs earlier. In January, the work-force numbered close on 400.

Mr D. H. Darke was ap-

pointed managing director of the newly-titled Alexander Sutherland (Golspie) Ltd., the Official Receiver, at the beginning of this year, to complete the contracts of the former Alexander Sutherland Ltd., Golspie. Mr Steven Henderson, Aberdeen, became company chairman.

#### OFFICIALS

Both Mr Henderson and Darke, who is meantime staying at his home in Sutherland, will attend Monday's meeting of the District Council, which the principal official chief executive Mr D. Martin, and finance director Mr A. J. Shale — will also be present. Mr George Durr, technical services and housing director, will also be called since it is he who specialises in building contracts.

Mr Henderson, from his office in Aberdeen, earlier

## NORTH COAST PINTA COST FOUR DENCE MORE

# Tribute to Dornoch Cathedral minister

Warm and affectionate tributes were paid to the Rev. Frederick H. Fulton and his wife by members of the congregation at Dornoch Cathedral last Sunday morning when he preached his farewell sermon after 17 years of service there.

He is moving to a rural parish, the united charge of Clunie, Lethendy and Kinloch in the Perthshire Presbytery of Meikle. He will live at the Manse of Kinloch, two miles from Blairgowrie — "and only eight miles off the A9, where I hope you will drop in on us," he told the congregation.

In his address, he paid tribute to his deacons and elders during his ministry at Dornoch for their loyalty and service to the Church, to the congregation for their devotion and their support, and to his Kirk Session for the able discharge of their duties.

And he added: "As I told the Presbytery at the time of my translation call, I know I shall be leaving part of my heart in Dornoch, among some of the kindest and best people you could hope to find in this world."

The large congregation was visibly moved by their minister's farewell, especially when he told them that the session clerk, Mr Hugh Steele and his wife would be supporting him at his induction in Clunie Church on October 8, with all their good wishes.

At the end of the morning service, Mr Steele invited the minister, his wife and one of their two sons, Mr William Fulton, who is an architect in Edinburgh, to sit in the centre of the cathedral.

Mr Steele said that little did he know, when he accepted the position of session clerk two years ago, that he would be faced, with his session, with the problem of finding a man to replace Mr Fulton, in whom they had such high regard. He had been a friend and counsellor to them all, in success and sorrow, and his ministry of 17 years had been dis-

tinguished by the fact that he had never lost his temper, never at any time showed lack of control, though no doubt there were occasions on which this might have happened with a lesser man.

## HANDSOME

Miss Mary Graham, one of the longest serving church members, was asked to present a handsome cheque and a colour television set to Mr Fulton on behalf of the congregation. She, too, paid high tribute to their departing minister.

Mrs J. Munro made a similar presentation to Mrs Fulton of a beautiful sheepskin rug.

Then, on behalf of the Woman's Guild, Miss Ruby Munro and Mrs Una Mackenzie gave Mrs Fulton an automatic electric kettle and other gifts.

Mrs Fulton, in a charming reply, said the kettle would be for brewing tea for any of the congregation who dropped in to see them in Perthshire.

Mr Fulton thanked the congregation for their generosity

and said: "We always thought that colour TV was not for us, only black and white. It was always pleasant to catch a glimpse of it in other people's houses, but we never dreamed we would have one of our very own in the manse. We are quite overwhelmed by your goodness."

## PHOTOGRAPH

Later, in the vestry, the Kirk Session presented their minister with an inscribed photograph of the Cathedral interior, taken and framed by Mr David Sim, Brora.

The Rev. J. L. Goskirk, Laig, will be the interim moderator until a new minister is chosen at Dornoch.

On Tuesday, Mrs Fulton was invited by the Cathedral's Young Wives Club to meet them at the playgroup, where she received a presentation of a cut glass dish on their behalf from their president. Mrs Elizabeth Broadhead, who spoke of the high regard in which they held her.

Almost thirty of the young wives were present.



## KIRK SESSION WITH MR & MRS FULTON

In Dornoch Cathedral after Sunday morning service, the Rev. Frederick Fulton, with his wife and Kirk Session and the congregation's gifts. Left to right — Mr W. May, Mr J. Fortune, Mr Tom Robertson, Mr John McKinley, Mr J. Mitchell, session clerk Mr Hugh Steele, Mr G. Mackie and Mr G. Goskirk.

# MAJOR NEISH QUILS PIPING

Efforts to persuade Mr Alex Neish to remain with Dornoch Pipe Band to celebrate its 50th anniversary next year seem doomed to failure. Mr Neish, who started with the band as a piper in 1933 and became a full member in 1936, has decided to retire. His last appearance was in the miniature tattoo an end of season parade in The Square on the 13th.

"I feel I should make room for younger men coming up," he said this week. "It's time I retired." He was pipe-major from 1950 to 1953.

Mr Neish, a member of the famed 5th Seaforths, was commissioned in 1938 and attained the rank of major with "C" Company. He served with the regiment throughout the war and is extremely well-known and popular in the North.

He has been treasurer of Dornoch Free Church for 30 years and lives at 4 Macdonald Road, Dornoch.

Aged 64, he retired in 1971 after 42 years' service with Sutherland County Council in a wide variety of roles.

# Burn is blocked by sandbar

Environmental health director, Mr Fred Hayward, had meetings this week with Mr William Ashplant, president of Dornoch Business and Trades Association, and Dr John Macleod, whose home and surgery are situated at the side of the town burn, about the condition of the stream.

Complaints from people in the town have so far met with little sympathy from officials, who say the town's entire sewerage system is at fault and should have been corrected years ago.

But the man who initially made the complaint — and could answer for the old town council, ex-Provost Harry Clunie — has been on holiday while the battle of the burn has been raging.

Dr Macleod says that samples he has taken from the burn for analysis show that the water is undrinkable, with a high bacterial content. And, in the summer children have been playing in the pools created by the burn on the beach. (See his letter, Page 2).

At the district council meeting this week, Mr Hayward told the council that the samples Dr Macleod had tested

were to drinking water standards — “and nobody drinks from a burn that runs through a town.”

Mr Hayward admitted to some slight concern about the condition of the burn, where blood from the slaughterhouse had been seen to be running at times.

“The real problem,” he said, “is that the town's sewer becomes overloaded in summer and, after a heavy rainfall, discharges into the burn. The effluent gathers on the beach because it is blocked from running seawards by a sandbar.

“This has to be cleared about twice a year.

“The answer is not to pipe the burn — but to get regional aid to improve the entire sewer system, which the old Dornoch Town Council never succeeded in doing.

“And there are some who are more concerned about their golf balls getting dirty falling into the burn than in improving the sewer system.

“I would most certainly think it is the Region's responsibility to clear the sandbank. And a new scheme for Dornoch's sewerage has been put forward to the Scottish Development Department for approval.”