



The Church Under The Cross

A Chronicle of
The Parish Church
of
St. David's Knightswood
Glasgow

1929 – 1999

By

David Inglis

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My wife Moira and sons Jonathan, Andrew, Matthew and Ben, who have had to put up with me over the last two years.

Any errors of fact, omission or misinterpretations are solely attributable to the author!

Foreword

It is an honour to introduce this history of the first seventy years of St. David's Knightswood. David Inglis has done us all a service by unearthing the details to remind us of the labours and ideals of those who have helped build up the congregation.

This is a humbling book.

It describes the way in which many people - members and ministers - have worked hard at serving Jesus Christ in Knightswood over the last seventy years. Some of their efforts were given in quiet faithfulness, some with courageous innovation, but all the efforts worthy of record were made out of a wholehearted willingness which humbles us as we seek to follow and build on their foundation.

It humbles us to grasp how our small part fits in to the unfolding plan of our wise and loving God, who has inspired so many able and imaginative people, throughout the social and political upheavals of these decades.

This is an informative book.

In it you will find familiar names which will provoke a knowing smile or a tear of thankfulness from many of you. Here you will find the origin of many of our congregational organisations and habits, the origins of which we might have forgotten!

This is a challenging book.

It reminds us that the life of St. David's has never been static nor routine. There have been constant innovations and changes, all in the interests of enhancing our worship, witnessing to Jesus Christ and glorifying God in a way relevant to the times and the people of the parish. We learn here of ventures begun, adapted, stopped (when they had served their day) and of innovations made then improved on. We read of office-bearers and leaders who have been trying to continually 'improve their serve', learning to be better disciples of their master, through worship, study and much prayer.

We are challenged to follow them in continually reforming our church life and finding new ways to relate to our rapidly changing parish with the unchanging Good News of God's grace.

May this book inspire us all to see what can be achieved by Christ through the prayerful offering of every heart and hand in worship, witness and service.

Rev. Graham M. Thain
humbly and prayerfully
Minister of St. David's Knightswood

January 2000

Chapter 1

Knightswood West
and
the building of the
new church

Peace be to this house, and all who worship therein

Peace be to those that enter, and to those who

Go out therefrom

Peace be to those that love it, and that love the

Name of Jesus Christ our Lord

1929 –1939

A short history of the Parish

The post Great War years were significant for much of Scotland's population. New housing was being built in all of the cities and large towns, turning areas of rural landscape and former industrial sites into town suburbs during the inter-war decades.

The story of St. David's Knightswood is very much bound up with the district it has served over the years, most of the housing stock in lower Knightswood being built for the Glasgow Corporation between 1926 and 1931. The Parish was also to include high rise flats in later years built to replace prefabricated homes (referred to as prefabs). Glasgow Corporation bought the farmland, sprinkled with exhausted iron and coal workings, from the Summerlee Iron Company of Coatbridge in 1921.

An 1886 map shows the area as a typical country estate with the mansion house and home farm situated at Knightswood Cross. Leased to the Company, the estate was yielding iron-ore and coal. In 1901, Summerlee bought the estate and by this time the ravages of industry were apparent. Coal bings and blaes heaps were commonplace; miners' rows stood uncomfortably close to the Fever (Knightswood) Hospital. A brick-works was situated in the area of Warden Road, this was old Knightswood with the 'Red Town' standing opposite the hospital entrance. It was formerly part of the lands of Drumry owned by the Crawford family from 1529 to 1887. West of Pikeman Road, the lands of Elderslie, on which the church stands, were open fields flanked by the woods of Jordanhill and Scotstoun House, their bareness only relieved by the Bankhead Plantation which stretched from Kirkton Crescent to Loanfoot Avenue. St. David's is believed to have been built on part of Bankhead golf course, which originally had 18 holes. There were farmlands in the vicinity such as Third Part, Bankhead, and Muttonhole belonging to the Stirlings and Coubroughs. The family of Archibald Speirs, the greatest of the "tobacco lords", owned the lands of Elderslie. This was in the County of Renfrew and remained so until the boundary changes of 1912. (Boundaries changed several times to accommodate the building of new housing and as late as 1928 rates for houses in parts of Knightswood were paid to Renfrew

County Council in Paisley.) The Talbot area was formerly owned by J.W. Oswald of Scotstoun Estate, while a branch of the Crawford family owned the Wykeham area from 1561 to 1750 and later by Dr. Archibald Smith, the famous astronomer.

The ruins of a Druid temple at Drumry and the remains of Antonine's Roman Wall to the north show the parish at the frontier in the struggle between civilisation and paganism in the early Christian centuries. There is little doubt that the names Knightswood, Temple and Jordanhill were originally lands gifted to the Crusader Orders – the Knights of St. John and the Knights' Templar (later called Hospitallers). Names from Sir Walter Scott's "Tales of the Crusaders" were given to some of our streets, e.g. Athelstane Road, Talisman Road, Kestrel Road.

A school (1848) (known as Oswald's School) and a church (1854) built by the Free Church of Scotland, stood in Knightswood Road (Hillhead) and served the community during Knightswood's years as a mining village. The church is shown on photographs of the area at the beginning of the century. It was later demolished and rebuilt as Jordanhill Parish Church in Woodend Drive.

After the 1914-18 war, Glasgow's civic leaders commissioned plans for a large housing scheme to be built west of Anniesland Toll. The layout, designed on garden-suburb principles, was approved in 1921, the same year as the estate was purchased. The first phase (1,132 houses) was begun North East of Great Western Road in 1923, and opened by the Prime Minister Mr. Stanley Baldwin on 1st October, 1925, and the second phase (nearly 5,000 houses) in the 'lower Knightswood' area, built between 1926 and 1931. The last phase, on the far west edge, was not completed until the 1940's.

Knightswood West

The year 1929 was one of change for the first residents of the parish. An important union had taken place in October of the two great churches - the United Free and the Church of Scotland. The first Moderator of this United Church was the Rev. Dr. John White, CH, DD, LLD, (1867-1951) of the Barony Church, Glasgow, who began a great crusade to set up a church in the midst of every large housing area in Scotland. This was no mean task. Three and a half million of a population of five million were to be rehoused. It was estimated that there were about 30,000 people living in upper and lower Knightswood, now Glasgow's largest housing estate. The area of the Parish, known as Knightswood West, received Dr. White's immediate attention and the church (which opened in the halls on 7th December) was the third Church Extension to be built after the Union of 1929 under the National Church Extension Scheme. St. Margaret's Church at Knightswood Cross has a history going back to the beginning of the first houses built in that part of the district. Its hall was opened and dedicated by Dr. White in December 1925. Dr. White was Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland as well as being Moderator of the Union Assembly in 1929. The Presbytery of Dumbarton had sanctioned the construction of the hall. In September 1929 plans by Sir Robert Lorimer were passed for the building of St. Margaret's Church which was opened on 2nd April 1932 by the Very Rev. Dr. John White.

In 1929, in Loanfoot Avenue, the suite of halls, which were gifted by the Presbytery of Glasgow, was estimated to have cost £6,500. Who then were the men and women of this new church, known for nearly seven years as Knightswood West?

For the first seven months an Interim Moderator (the Rev. A.M. Gentles of St. Stephen's West) assisted the new congregation, along with a group of officer-bearers invited from neighbouring churches. Mr. William Neill Moir's name stands out during these early days. He was to become the church's first Session Clerk, a position he was to hold for 21 years. According to Mr. Moir "the first steps towards building the church halls in Loanfoot Avenue were taken by the United Free Church in 1929".

Five weeks prior to the opening of the church, meetings were held of the provisional Kirk Session and Deacons' Court. These were not held in the church but at 8 Wykeham Road, Scotstounhill, home of Mr. Gentles (and for many years the manse of the formerly named Scotstoun East Church). On 1st November, an Interim Clerk to the Court and an Interim Treasurer were appointed. Incidentally, the Deacons' Court was to be known as the Congregational Board from June 1930 following the General Assembly's conferring status on the congregation as a fixed charge. Preliminary arrangements for the opening of the new building were discussed. A special Dedicatory Service was to be held on Saturday 7th December at 4 p.m. with the Rev. Dr. John White present, as well as the Rev. William L. Fordyce, MA, who had been appointed Minister of the Charge. Handbills were to be printed for the occasion and distributed by members of the Boys Brigade from Whiteinch Gordon Park Church. A direction board was placed at the corner of Loanfoot and Lincoln Avenues. At the close of worship, tea would be served and an opportunity given for the 'audience' to see round the building. Later in the meeting, Mr. Peter Aitken was appointed as Church Officer, and consideration was given to various meetings such as the Boys' Brigade, Girl Guides, Band of Hope and Christian Endeavour, which would be held throughout the year.

The Deacons' Court met one week later to discuss the formation of a Sabbath School and church choir. Two hundred Psalm and new hymnary books were to be ordered. The Assembly Praise Committee had gifted a harmonium and Mr. Jackson, the Interim Clerk, agreed to play at the Sabbath Services until an appointment could be made.

The Opening

On 5th December, two days before the Dedicatory Service, the Deacons' Court met for the first time in the church. The congregation was to enter by the West door, the platform party by the East door. Mr. Gentles would preside and Mr. Fordyce lead the prayer of intercession. The handbill shows the hymns as Psalm 100 (*All people that on earth do dwell*), Hymn 236 (*We love the place O God*), Hymn 209 (*City of God how broad and far*), Hymn 253 (*Here, when thy people seek thy face*), and Paraphrase 2 (*Our vows, our prayers, we now present*). Dr. White would give the sermon and dedicate the church to the Glory of God. On Sunday 8th December, the morning service was conducted by the Rev. Principal Wm. Clow, DD, Trinity College, Glasgow, and the evening service

conducted by Knightswood West's own minister, Mr. Fordyce. The services were reported to be 'helpful and inspiring and well attended'.

The first year

The new building was not without its teething problems. Mr. W. McNab, from the firm of architects Gardner McLean, was still visiting the church after the opening services, as was the Corporation's Master of Works who would be calling at the premises until the work on the buildings could be passed by the Corporation. Water was coming in at the windows above the sliding doors in the corridor and at the south side of the small hall. Porous bricks were thought to be the cause. There was flooding in the lavatories and in the space below the platforms.

The first communion service was held on Sunday 16th March 1930 with a preparatory service on the proceeding Wednesday. In May 1930, the Synod of Clydesdale confirmed the Congregation as a fixed charge and in the following month the first Kirk Session (14 Elders) and first Congregational Board (15 members) were elected, ordained and inducted. Mr. Wm. Moir became Session Clerk and Mr. Archibald McLean became the first Clerk to the Board. Two members (Mr. McArthur and Mr. Stenhouse) of the Interim Session became members of the new Kirk Session.

These were innovative and challenging times for the new church. The new Kirk Session set about dividing the parish into districts. Furnishings and other items were donated or borrowed so that services could be held with efficiency. Chairs were bought through a grant from the Church Extension Committee (a result of Dr. White's great crusade). One of the tables supplied was used as a Communion Table. A pulpit and baptismal font were gifted. Collection trays and a Communion Cup were borrowed from neighbouring churches. A Bring and Buy Sale was organised for February 1930 to raise funds for the new church.

On Saturday 14th June the Sunday School went on a picnic to West Drumchapel Farm, Drumchapel. The spiritual life of the congregation of the new area of Knightswood was already taking shape and establishing itself within these first months.

Finance was dealt with by a weekly freewill offering scheme, except for seat rents which were collected in separate envelopes and paid quarterly at the rate of 6/- per member per annum (a practice which ended in the mid 1950's). By the end of December 1930, the membership stood at 482.

The growth of the Congregation

The Rev. W.L. Fordyce arrived at Knightswood West from Copland Road, Glasgow, having been released from his charge there in November 1929 to be the first minister. He had previously served in Western Australia and Bell Street, Dundee. He had a kindly and friendly nature and took a deep interest in the welfare of the families under his care. In the nine years of his ministry he witnessed a steady growth of the new congregation which by 1938 numbered nearly one thousand. In 1931 a manse was found, and purchased the following year for £950. This was at 121 Norse Road and was to serve subsequent ministers and their families for over 40 years.

Both halls (the large one serving as the church) were fully occupied in the early years. An orchestra was granted the use of the large hall for rehearsals, and the Knightswood West Players were allowed to practice on Monday evenings. Various non-church organisations requested the use of the halls, such as the Knightswood Brass Band, and a number of local choirs. All of this was in addition to the regular daily life of the church with its own organisations and meetings. Within a year of the church's opening, both the eldership and membership of the Congregational Board were increased in number.

Problems arose with the harmonium during the first year, and a new one was bought from Messrs. Wm. Thomson for £45 in December 1931. In April of the following year, Mr. Russell became the church's first professional organist and choirmaster at £30 per annum. He was selected on an audition basis when all the applicants were heard by Mr. Moir, the Session Clerk, the choir, and members of the Kirk Session. Two pianos were bought, one new, the other second-hand. These were to be subject to many repairs and replacements over the years, mainly due to misuse or poor quality.

In 1932 a survey of the parish showed that there were 2,431 homes with over seven and a half thousand people living in them. More elders were appointed and consideration was given to the publishing of a monthly magazine. The first issue

of the 'Monthly Leaflet' appeared in September 1934. The joint editors were the Minister and Alex Sutherland (one of the first Clerks to the Board) Mr. Peter Weir became Editor in 1948.

One year after the opening of Knightswood West, the architects and contractors were relieved of their responsibilities for the building. In the winter of 1932/3 there were still problems with water penetration. In March 1933 a scheme for the building of the present church was presented to the Board and Session members. (A report from the Presbytery Extension Committee had been received as early as 1930). A Congregational meeting was convened to appoint a Property Committee, which would have the full care of the church and manse property as well as the furnishings of the church.

Knightswood West was taking its first steps towards the building of its much anticipated church in Boreland Drive, which at the time was merely a flat piece of ground behind the church halls. The Woman's Guild held a Grand Sale of Work in March 1933, the proceeds going to the Church Manse and Building Fund. Within two years, a Church Building Fund had been set up and the Presbytery had recommended the appointment of an architect (the same as for the halls) who would be authorised to proceed with the plans. Mr. Moir hoped to be able to display a copy of the plans as soon as possible 'for the information of the members'. It was known that the bulk of the cost would be met under the National Church Extension Scheme, with the congregation making up the shortfall.

In April 1935, the following recommendations were given to the Kirk session for consideration:

- i. The issuing of a leaflet dealing with church attendance
- ii. The taking of a census
- iii. The appointment of an assistant to Mr. Fordyce
- iv. The introduction of more musical items in church services.

There was no doubt that the congregation of Knightswood West was going from strength to strength.

St. David's-in-the-West, Cromwell Street

As the new church in the new area of lower Knightswood grew and became consolidated, a very different chapter was being written in the Minute Books of St. David's-in-the-West, close to St. George's Cross. A short history of that

congregation is given in Chapter 8. Since the departure of their last minister at the end of 1935, meetings were held between the Presbytery's Sub-Committee on Readjustment and the Deacons' Court and Kirk Session. Due to a drop in membership and a subsequent loss of income, no vacancy was to be called. The congregation was to be dissolved in May 1936.

On the 14th April an important event was to further the course of Knightswood West's history. At a meeting of the Kirk Session, 'the Clerk (Mr. Moir) submitted a report of the last meeting of the Presbytery. He referred to the dissolution of the congregation of St. David's-in-the-West and that all moveable property (including the organ) was to be given to some new church on condition that the said church adopted the name of St. David's. It was agreed that the Clerk should make enquiries into the possibility of Knightswood West benefiting from this offer.'

St. David's already had a proud history going back as far as 1720 on the site of the Ramshorn Church, and it was in accordance with the wishes of its remaining congregation that the offer be made to the Presbytery. Cromwell Street's loss was to be Knightswood West's gain.

After further negotiations with the Presbytery and consultation with the congregation, the name of St. David's was assumed by August 1936 (the first Minutes refer to the name from this date). Arrangements were made for the moveable property to be transferred to Knightswood. Members of the Kirk Session had already unofficially visited St. David's-in-the-West on Friday 15th May (10 days before closure) to look at the property, especially the organ. Mr. Russell, the organist at Knightswood, reported 'that he had tested the organ at St. David's-in-the-West and expressed the opinion that as a congregation we would be well advised to accept it.' Fund raising for the dismantling and rebuilding of the instrument was remitted to the Church Building Committee. Further details of the organ are to be found in Chapter 7.

The War Memorial Communion Table and Baptismal Font were taken to the manse in Norse Road for storage. One interesting item of inheritance from Cromwell Street was the Stewart Bequest. This was a legacy of £3,000 given to the Free St. David's Congregation as far back as 1872 by a member of the church. £50 was to be given annually. By January 1937 the bequest stood at £1,000 and

was to contribute regularly to the income of the Knightswood congregation until 1960.

The Building of the New Church

A Church Building Committee was formed in 1933. By December of that year, the numbers on the Communion Roll had more than doubled to 945 members. That number was to exceed 1,000 by the end of 1936. The church halls must have been bursting at the seams! The time was right for the construction of the new church. Under the Church Extension Scheme, Knightswood West was to be one of ten churches to be built. On the 1st and 2nd of May 1936, the first of two bazaars was held. The Peoples Friend novelist Agnes C. Mitchell and the Marquis of Douglas and Clydesdale, MP, opened the event.

At the Kirk Session meeting of 17th August 1936, a report from the architect was read in which he stated that there was nothing definite to report. It was following a visit from a Business Deputation from the Presbytery in January 1937 that things started to move. This meeting involved two Kirkintilloch ministers, the Rev. D. McMath and the Rev. J.M. Hamilton, who had come to 'help and encourage our work.' Incidentally, Mr. Hamilton was minister of St. David's Memorial Church of Scotland (from 1935 to 1943). The Kirkintilloch St. David's has its own history extending back to 1834, taking its name from David Gemmill, a local benefactor.

A 'Recall to Religion' Campaign was held in 1937 in conjunction with other churches. Further events were organised to raise money for the Building and Organ Funds. In March 1938 the plans of the church were ready to go before the Dean of Guild for approval and the following month the Kirk Session met to discuss the arrangements for the sod cutting ceremony proposed for Thursday 19th May which was duly carried out by Mr. G.W. Macfarlane, Honorary Treasurer of the Church Extension Fund. A Social was held afterwards.

A month later the Kirk Session met again to make plans for the Memorial Stone Laying Ceremony to be held on 16th September. On that day, members gathered for a service attended by the Moderator of the Glasgow Presbytery, the Convenor of the Assembly's Home Mission and Church Extension Committee, and other

ministers, including Mr. Fordyce. A collection was taken in aid of the Building Fund during which the hymn (to 'Wareham') 'This stone to Thee in faith we lay' was sung. The Rt. Hon. Sir John Gilmour, DSO, MP, Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly, and former Secretary of State for Scotland, officially laid the stone (situated beneath the front west window). A statement was read out giving a history of the church from 1929. This was to be enclosed in a casket, also containing drawings of the church, a copy of the Glasgow Herald, coins of the Realm, and an Order of Service for the laying of the memorial stone. The statement also listed the names of the Architect, Clerk of Works and the various contractors who would be carrying out the building of the church. A social gathering was held after the ceremony at which the Very Rev. Dr. John White (to whom the early congregation owed so much) gave an address.

In October 1938, Mr. Fordyce left St. David's to become minister at Lundie and Fowlis near Dundee. It was thanks largely to Mr. Fordyce that the congregation was strong both in numbers and in spirit. His name will always be associated with the pioneering work he faithfully undertook. The Rev. A. Dawson became Interim Moderator, and the Rev. James Muir appointed as *locum tenens*. On Thursday, 20th April 1939, the Rev. John Warnock, BD, was inducted to St. David's. A Welcome Social was held the following evening.

When Mr. Warnock (born 1908) was interviewed for this book at his home in Peebles (September 1998) he recalled hearing the news of the sinking of the Titanic in 1912, when as a small boy at Garrion Farm near Wishaw, his father came out into a field to tell of the terrible news. From Glasgow University and Trinity College, Mr. Warnock became Assistant Minister at Paisley Abbey before taking his first charge at John Knox Church, Stewarton in Ayrshire in 1934.

The Church Building Committee met in April to arrange for the small hall to be put at the disposal of the organ builders for the storage of organ parts during their work in August and September of that year.

On Friday 5th and Saturday 6th May 1939, the second Grand Bazaar was held in aid of the Church Building and Organ Fund. The late Miss Bessie Stivens remembered the tremendous bustle in the halls with all the various organisations and clubs being responsible for a stall. Most memorable was the fruit stall run by

Miss Lily Rose, who worked in a local fruit shop, which was festooned with bananas hanging on every available space.

With the threat of war looming, the date for the opening of the church (28th September) was postponed to Saturday 21st October. By then, war had been declared, and the congregation set about making last minute preparations for the Opening. Additional hymn books were ordered, as was one ton of riddled charcoal for the boiler. The pews, however, ordered from the Bennett Furnishing C. Ltd. at a cost of £578.4.8d, had not been delivered. The form seats from the halls had to be moved into the church in time for the opening.

The Opening of the New Church

Just before 2.30 p.m. on Saturday, 21st October 1939, members of the Presbytery assembled in the hall and proceeded 'in due order' into the church to take their places. The choir followed them. At this point, the doors were closed at two minutes prior to the hour the service was to begin. The Moderator of the General Assembly, the Right Rev. Archibald Main, DD, D.Litt, proceeded with the Officiating Ministers (Reverends Blair, Dawson, Fordyce, Warnock and Harrowes) to the main door of the church.

Knocking on the door, the Moderator said, "Open to me the gates of righteousness. I will go into them, and I will praise the Lord". Mr. Wm. Stenhouse (Roll-keeper and one of the senior elders) opened the door from within with the words: "In token that this building has been erected for the Church of Scotland, I deliver to you the keys thereof, and pray you now to dedicate it to the worship of Almighty God." The Moderator responded "In the name of the Church of Scotland we accept the keys, in token of the trust committed to us. We are ready to proceed to the Dedication." Passing within the inner door of the church, the Moderator paused and said:

"Peace be to this house, and all who worship therein.

Peace be to those that enter, and to those who go out therefrom.

Peace be to those that love it, and that love the Name of Jesus Christ our Lord."

The Service of Dedication began with the singing of Psalm 100, the rebuilt organ (played by Mr. George Dryden of Broomhill Church) being heard for the first time. During the singing, the Moderator and other ministers and Presbytery

officials proceeded to their places, the keys being placed on the Communion Table. After a prayer, two readings (the first read by Mr. Fordyce, the first minister) and two hymns (the second of which was 'Come, Holy Ghost our souls inspire), the church was dedicated by the Moderator with the Congregation standing. This was followed by the singing of the hymn 'The Church's one foundation' and by a sermon, the uplifting of the offering (dedicated by Mr. Warnock) and a final hymn.

In the November monthly leaflet, Mr. Warnock wrote of the months of waiting and working 'and in spite of the heartrending fact that we met under the dark cloud of war, our hopes and dreams concerning the new place of public worship had at long last been realised. The new church, an imposing structure, stood ready to be set apart for the worship of Almighty God.' It is interesting to know from the monthly leaflet that some members of the former congregation of St. David's-in-the-West (closed three years previously) had attended the Service of Dedication.

The total cost of the church was £8,787. The National Church Extension Committee paid £7,014, while the congregation made up the difference of £1,753.

On Sunday, 22nd October, the services were conducted by the Rev. Principal W. Fulton, DD, LLD, Trinity College, Glasgow, and the Rev. H.W. Harrowes, DD, Senior Clerk to the Presbytery of Glasgow. Thanks were expressed to the Church Extension Committee and to the Rev. Dr. John White.



Rev W. L. FORDYCE, M.A.
1929 - 1938.



Rev J. WARNOCK, B.D.
1939 - 1946



Rev T. R. ROBERTSON, B.D.
1947 - 1955



Rev A. G. GUNN, B.A.
1956 - 1961

Chapter 2

The War Years

*For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee,
so that we may boldly say, the Lord is my helper,
and I will not fear what men shall do unto me.*

Hebrews 13: 5, 6

St. David's second minister, the Rev. John Warnock, BD, who celebrated his 91st birthday on 3rd May, 1999, is remembered as the man who steered the congregation through the difficult years of the Second World War. At its height, no fewer than 236 members were on active service (mid 1943) and between 300 and 400 evacuated.

In September 1939, barely after war was announced, the Board discussed the blackout arrangements and in November the Woman's Guild requested donations of wool and Christmas boxes for the young men serving in HM Forces. A Comforts Committee, with Mrs. Barbara Warnock as Secretary, set about raising money to send parcels to 'our folk in the forces'. It was a much-needed link between men and women in the Services and the congregation of St. David's. In October 1940 Mr. J. Fleming Lamb, the organist of Dunblane Cathedral gave an organ recital, to raise money for the fund. Social events (At Homes) were held, and plays performed by the Dramatic Club. The Band of Hope was also active in putting on concerts. Miss Stivens is remembered for her work in sending out parcels, letters and (in later years) postal orders. Bibles were given to returning members at the end of the war. All gifts were gratefully acknowledged. The Comforts Fund was wound up in 1961, the year after the ending of National Service

The activities of the organisations were severely limited during the war, not only due to the increase in members leaving for War Service, but also to restrictions on the use of the halls. The Home Guard was granted the use of the large hall on certain days during the winter. Lectures were held on fire watching and both the ARP and Glasgow Corporation sent letters to the Board about the possible billeting of war refugees.

In 1940, evacuees from Sark and Alderney in the Channel Islands arrived in Glasgow. The Germans had landed on the Channel Islands on the 1st of July, and Churchill had announced by wireless that all communications would be cut off. They were to stay for four to six weeks. Men were accommodated at the hall of Scotstoun East Church, while the women and children were granted the use of the halls of St. David's, except for a disabled man who (with his wife) was allowed the use of the vestry. Members of the Woman's Guild invited the islanders into

their homes. Concerts were put on by the Musical Society in conjunction with the church choir and Miss Margaret McAdam acted as Supervisor of the halls during the weeks that the evacuees remained at St. David's. Many of our own children, meanwhile, were evacuated to Prestwick. Glasgow must have seemed a strange choice to the people of Sark and Alderney, as it was by no means safe from enemy action as was seen from the blitz the following year. For nine hours between 9 p.m. and 6 am on the 13th-14th March 1941, Knightswood was to experience its blackest night. Bankhead School, which was being used as a first aid post, fire station and ARP centre, was hit by a 'lateral' bomb dropped by parachute onto the school's playground. 47 people were killed. A St. David's member, Alex Sutherland, who had escaped unscathed from the basement of the building, raised the alert. The lateral bomb was designed to create as much damage as possible at ground level. St. David's and some surrounding houses were damaged in the raid and many other homes were destroyed. Miss Stevens, who had been on ARP duty at Bankhead School earlier in the day (13th), remembered families moving from their shattered homes in Clydebank and Yoker via Alderman Road to areas of safety away from the river. 647 civilians were killed that night and 1680 injured.

Mr. Warnock recalls having visited the Millar family at 73 Friarscourt Avenue shortly after a raid. He had cycled to see them, the bicycle being his only means of transport. He arrived to find the family in a state of distress as they had just learned of the death of their son, a member of the Pioneer corps, who had been visiting a friend in a Manchester hospital when a bomb had struck the building. Mrs. Millar went over to a drawer and produced a photograph of the young man and handed it to the minister. "I want you to have this, Mr. Warnock," she said. Later that day, following a further raid on the area, Mr. Warnock heard that the Millar's house had suffered a direct hit. Fortunately the family had taken refuge in their partially built Anderson shelter in the garden, and was unharmed. The Sutherland family was also rendered homeless around the same time. Mr. Warnock arranged for members of his previous congregation at Stewarton, Ayrshire, to look after the two families.

An account of the War Years would not be complete without reference to John Hannah, and certainly St. David's BB Company's most famous member. As a member of the 83 Squadron RAF, John was the squadron's highest award-winner and also the youngest ever recipient of the Victoria Cross for aerial operations.

From Bankhead, and Victoria Drive Schools he had joined the RAF in 1939. On 15th September 1940, Sergeant Hannah, aged only 18, was a wireless operator on a Hampden bomber attacking enemy barges in Antwerp Harbour. His aircraft was badly damaged by enemy action, causing a serious fire through the bomb compartment situated just behind the pilot. John Hannah, given the opportunity to escape, decided to remain and tackle the blaze. He did so amongst exploding rounds of ammunition; the heat was so intense that some of the aluminium fabric of the plane melted. His success in tackling the blaze enabled his pilot to fly the battered plane safely back to base. He was honoured by being given the Freedom of his home City of Glasgow and his adopted City of Leicester. Sadly, however, in 1946 he died from tuberculosis, exacerbated by his war wounds. He is survived by his wife and three daughters. His brother, Jim, is an elder and long-standing member of St. David's.

In Knightswood, air raid warnings were common. A large shelter, capable of accommodating 150 people, was in use at the junction of Lincoln Avenue and Kestrel Road. Ladies from St. David's helped with the Church of Scotland Canteen Huts in George Square.

In March 1941, following the bombing of the area of the church on 13th/14th of that month, the Congregational Board met to discuss 'what should be done in regard to the property damaged in recent enemy action'. Windows had been shattered and the main door, together with the surrounding brickwork and gate pillars, was damaged. The greatest damage to the church, and particularly the halls, was the roof. The architect was brought in to examine all the roofs, and a claim sent to the War Damage Committee of the Church of Scotland. As was the custom at Congregational meetings (now called Stated Annual Meetings), the members present stood while the names of the deceased were read out. This must have been a difficult time for the folk in Knightswood.

In September 1944, Mr. Warnock reported that the Kirk Session had decided to hold a service in the church the day following the official intimation of the end of hostilities. At the Congregational meeting on 14th January 1945 hope was expressed 'that our men and women folk now serving in the forces might be back home and taking their places in the fellowship of St. David's.

A VE Day service was held on Sunday 9th May. Following the surrender of German troops in May 1945, the Home Guard, ARP and Civil Defence removed their equipment from the halls. In September a 'Welcome Home' Social was organised for those returning from the Services. At the Congregational Meeting of February 1946, after the singing of the 23rd Psalm, it was remarked that it was 'a pleasure to have some of our service members back with us again'. Blackout curtains were taken down and bibles given to relatives of 'those who had made the supreme sacrifice'. Further socials were held on April 6th and October 4th with a Thanksgiving Service on the 5th October.

In May 1949, four years after the War, a War Memorial was proposed. The Kirk Session inaugurated a special fund for this purpose. It was decided that, in addition to an engraved oak plaque bearing the names of the fallen, money raised should be used to purchase chimes for the tower as well as a deaf aid system for use at church services. In November 1950, the equipment was installed and the War Memorial unveiled.

The original chimes were operated from the 'chimes room' adjoining the office, and consisted of electrical apparatus which caused small tubular bells to be struck by a beater. The sound from this was picked up by a microphone, fed into an amplifier and transmitted by wires to loudspeakers situated in the tower. Gramophone records (and later cassette tapes) of bell music, were also used. It was a pity that the tower had not been designed to accommodate a 'real' church bell. The subject of the chimes ceased to be mentioned in the Minute Books after 1984. In 1982 the War Memorial was cleaned as part of the refurbishment of the vestibule.

Bankhead School made use of the church halls for classrooms following the extensive bomb damage of 1941. St. David's has had strong links with the school since these early years, and at the Farewell Social for the Rev. Howard Taylor in September 1998, the head teacher paid tribute to Mr. Taylor's work as chaplain to the school.

Other neighbouring churches united with St. David's to embrace the war situation. United services were held with the Congregational Church during July and August in the early war years. The Holy Week Services were held in St. Margaret's Church in 1940 and in the Baptist Church in 1942.

The first Preparatory Service to be held in the new church took place in June 1940 and was conducted by the minister of Temple Church, the Rev. McNab. A Rally was held in October of that year followed by a Week of Witness consisting of rallies for school children. Mr. Fordyce took the 1940 Anniversary Services and at the corresponding 1941 services the preacher was the Rev. E. Sherwood Gunson, MA, who had been minister of St. David's Ramshorn in Ingram Street from 1907-1914 (Mr. Gunson had written a book entitled 'The Story of the Ramshorn Churchyard').

Afternoon (2.30) services continued because of the blackout arrangements. Dr. White made his first visit to the newly completed church on 12th December 1943 when he conducted the Anniversary Service.

Towards the end of the war the uniformed organisations flourished. The Empire Youth Sunday on 21st May 1944 was well attended, and at the BB Inspection that year six boys were presented with the King's Badge.

833 members attended the March Communion Services in 1945 which was a record for St. David's. Membership at the time was over 1,500.

“The Bells in this Church are erected to the Glory of God
and in Loving
Memory of those from this congregation who made the
supreme sacrifice
in the Second World War 1939 – 45.”

William J. Anderson	Alexander McNair
Ian M. Cameron	Matthew Mair
Hugh H. Falconer	William H. Millar
Roy W.T. Galbraith	Malcolm Muir
William Graham	John Osborne
John L. Irvine	Henry S. Paterson
Alexander Lamb	George Richard
William G. Lamont	William Russell
Donald McCallum	Alexander Semple
Thomas M. McCleary	William Taylor
John W. MacDonald	Gordon Thomson
John F. MacGowan	Thomas G. Tobias
William McMillan	William L. Watson

The Bells together with the deaf aid and loudspeaker equipment were
dedicated as St. David's War memorial on Sunday 12 November 1950.

Chapter 3

Practical Matters

*Except the Lord build the house,
they labour in vain that build it.*

Psalm 127: 1

A detailed list of repairs and improvements throughout the 70 years of St. David's would fill a large book. Not surprisingly, discussions about roofs and heating have dominated much of the Board Meetings.

Even before the church itself was built, it is clear that the halls were inadequately heated. Members of the congregation looked forward to the day when a new combined heating system would serve both the new church and the halls. They had to wait until 1951!

The new church was draughty from the outset. In the first winter (1939-40), Mr. Rodger, the church officer, was asked to kindle the fire in the boiler 24 hours earlier than he had been in the habit of doing! A wooden screen for the back of the church was suggested as early as 1941, but not installed until 1952. Perhaps it is not surprising that, due to St. David's considerable involvement with war matters, many such projects were postponed. The heating was extended into the halls by October 1951 and into the Vestry, Session Room and Board Room during the following year. When it became known that the parish area was to become 'smoke-controlled', estimates were obtained (1964 and 1966) for conversion to oil. The solid fuel system struggled on during the winter of 1967-68 with Mr. Davidson and Mr. Salt (Church Officer) literally hand-feeding the boiler on Saturday nights, until the Board approved an offer from Fuel Economy Ltd to convert to oil. Work was carried out during the following summer and surplus coal distributed to local pensioners. The system has given a fair service since then and has benefited from an automatic control fitted in 1976, upgraded in 1989. A large extractor fan, noted for its noise and unreliability, was in use until the 1960's. It was designed to circulate fresh air from a vent in the tower. Although still in situ, the fan was disconnected around 1970.

There are dozens of references to the roof in the Board Minute Books. The damage caused by the 1941 bombing raids received much attention. Problems with flat roofs, especially those over the organ and above the connecting area between the church and halls, were discussed at length. The organ suffered from water penetration on no less than five occasions. Sometimes roof repairs were carried out by voluntary labour, although contractors were mainly employed. Following unsuccessful repairs to the church roof in the late 1980's, a survey was carried out and a major rebuilding programme planned.

This consisted of a three-phase plan (church, link buildings and halls). The final phase was completed in time for the induction of the Rev. Graham Thain in May 1999. With the replacement of all the flat roofs by pitch roofs, the external appearance of St. David's has altered, much to its improvement. Even the tower's near flat roof now has a pitch leaded canopy. I think we are all glad that we don't have to decorate the church with plastic buckets on rainy Sundays as we did a decade ago!

Starting with the installation of the manse telephone in 1937, the list of improvements to property, be it church or manse, is vast and needs only a brief summary here.

The paths were cemented in 1945 and the area outside the hall vestibule slabbed in 1960. In June 1946, during Mr. Warnock's ministry, the carved stone of the Burning Bush (Nec Tamen Consumeatur) was installed above the church doorway. In 1957, new chancel curtains and a cross were purchased by the Congregational Board. The Woman's Guild gifted flower vases for the chancel in that year and an illuminated cross for the tower was fitted. Mr. Harry Templeman and his team dedicatedly tended the church grounds during the 1960's. The Brownies used to plant bulbs each year and the Tree Lovers' Society (under Alex Mair) regularly donated bulbs to the church. Mr. Hugh Aitken (who also worked with Mr. Templeman) is now the Grounds Convenor and his work, together with his small but faithful team of helpers, is greatly appreciated.

In 1957, following the death of the first minister, the Rev. W.L. Fordyce, MA (1929-1938), stained glass memorial windows (designed and executed by G. Maile & Son Ltd, London) were 'erected by the congregation, organisations and friends to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of our First Minister'. The left window depicts Christ as 'The Good Shepherd', while the right window shows 'Our Lord in the act of blessing little children'. Both windows are surmounted with the Cross and Crown to symbolise the suffering of Christ. The windows were unveiled by Mrs. Anne Fordyce, widow of William L. Fordyce, at a Dedication Service on Sunday, 26th May 1957. The service was conducted by the minister, Rev. Arthur Gunn, BA, assisted by the Rev. John Warnock and Rev. Thomas R. Robertson (the second and third ministers of St. David's).

Both halls underwent a series of development. The stage of the large hall was reconstructed in 1958, the floor of the hall repaired and storage accommodation was built at the rear. It was painted in 1973 and 1980, and had the ceiling lowered in July 1984. The small hall had already had the ceiling lowered in 1976 with its platform partitioned. Both halls were rewired in that year.

During Dr. Thomson's time, the subject was raised of extending the halls to provide more accommodation. Several plans, including extensive alterations to the Board Room, Ladies Room and toilets were put forward. After much discussion it was decided only to change the entrance to the ladies toilet. The Ladies Room is now a general room (some times called the committee room) which also used to accommodate the creche on a Sunday morning.

In the church, a centre aisle carpet was fitted in 1963. This carpet, together with pew cushioning (supplied between 1965 and 1970), was a gift from the Men's Club. New lighting and wiring was installed in 1966. A loop system, praise board lights and lectern were gifted by members of the congregation for use in the church. The loop system was upgraded in 1988. Money raised from a Flower Festival in 1973 provided a carpet for the chancel.

Elsewhere, the boiler-house was modernised in 1974. Ten years later, the front vestibule was completely refurbished. Bookcases and a rounded table, designed by Mr. Alex Graham, were built and installed. Following vandalism to the property in 1967, sadly still a fact of life today, metal grids were fitted to windows on the vestry and alley ways, and barbed wire put round the rone pipes. A committee of church members looked after the manse at 121 Norse Road, Scotstoun. This involved routine maintenance and redecoration (especially during a vacancy). A new heating system was installed prior to the area becoming smokeless. In 1967, the Presbytery recommended that a seven-room house was desirable for a minister and his family. During the vacancy of 1973, 60 Southbrae Drive, Jordanhill, was purchased and made ready for Rev. Sandy Gunn. Improvements have included re-wiring, stone cleaning and re-tiling of the roof.

St. David's was fortunate that as one of the first church extension churches to be built after the Union of 1929, the design and quality of the building work were of a high standard. This was not always the case in many churches built in the post-

war years. These were often of a poorer quality due to limited funding. St. David's church and halls are currently B listed.

At no time since their construction has more work been carried out to the buildings than during the last 11 years. The person responsible for overseeing the re-roofing of the church and halls has been Mr. Neil Robertson. Before becoming Clerk to the Board in 1993, Neil was Convenor of the Church Buildings Committee. Over many years he has attended to countless tasks from leaking roofs to dealing with contractors, often in difficult circumstances. He has been a patient and loyal worker. The congregation owes much to Neil's service.

Chapter 4

The Post-War Years

*I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace,
which is able to build you up, and to give you an
inheritance among all them which are sanctified.*

Act 20: 32

From 1944 the afternoon services were changed to 6.30 p.m. in the evening. Due to the enormous pressure on the minister during the war years, an Assistant, the Rev. Henry J. French, was appointed to St. David's in September 1945. Mr. Warnock remembers him as a tall red headed young man who visited the members in the parish with zeal and energy. A Council of Organisations was set up in this year to oversee the work of the church organisations. Its President was Mrs. W.S. Gray and Vice President Miss E. Stivens.

In June 1946, the stone carving of the burning bush, *Nec Tamen Consumebatur*, was placed above the front door of the church. The Monthly Leaflet of September 1946 describes the work as being 'beautifully executed by a skilled craftsman'.

Mr. and Mrs. Warnock left St. David's to go to Moat Park Church in Biggar in September 1946. Records show that Mr. Warnock baptised 256 children, married 284 couples and conducted 245 funeral services during his 7 years in St. David's.

The Rev. George Sutherland from Belhaven Church was engaged by the Presbytery to be Interim Moderator, and the Rev. T.R. Robertson, Chaplain to the RAF, appointed as Locum Tenens. Mr. Warnock's years of ministry in Knightswood have not been forgotten by many in the congregation who remember him, and his interest in the affairs of St. David's today is still keen. Mr. Warnock retired in 1975. He receives the Newsletter each month at his home in Peebles.

A number of gifts were presented to the church at the close of the war. A lectern and Bible (dated 1944) were gifted by the nephews of Mrs. Elizabeth Aitken and dedicated in March 1945; a pedestal for the lectern was dedicated in January 1946 and Mr. D. Smith provided a pulpit light that year.

The Rev. Thomas R. Robertson, BD, became the sole nominee and was inducted to St. David's on the 27th February 1947. A Social was held the following evening. Mr. Robertson remained as minister for 9 years, during which time he had the difficult task of ministering to a congregation that had just experienced the events and inevitable tragedies of war. With a membership of 1652

(December 1946) he set about re-building the social as well as the spiritual side of the church. He started a Young Worshippers League in 1947, a Junior and Senior Youth Club (linked to the four Sunday Bible Classes) and a Men's Club.

A special service for personnel returning from the Forces was held on 5th October 1947 and in the following month the first of a series of elders' district socials took place.

Mr. Robertson, who is now in his nineties and living in Kirkcudbright, remembers his early ministry at St. David's, and in a letter written by him in October 1999, he says "In view of the increasing population of the parish, the Kirk Session decided (1) to extend the number of elders to 60, (2) to undertake a Mission of Friendship to the parish. At a Congregational Conference, Rev Tom Allan gave a fascinating account of the successful visitation of his North Kelvinside Parish with the help of an outside team of Christian workers. It was however felt that in our more homogeneous and intimate type of community a mission might be equally successful if carried out by our own members who would be known to those visited. Accordingly, in October 1948 120 St. David's members visited the 3,563 homes of our parish – i.e. 14,000 people – making a survey of their religious affiliation and welcoming them to their parish church or to the church of their choice. Our visitors were everywhere well received, and within a year 106 persons joined St. David's while survey cards were forwarded to the other churches in which parishioners expressed an interest. Due to the growth in population in the surrounding areas Garscube-Netherton Church Extension charge was opened in 1950, followed two years later by St. Matthews Yoker."

The Rev. John Warnock preached at the March communion in 1948 and a record number of members (1013) came to hear him. (This record was broken on several other occasions, notably 1223 in March 1959.) Mr. Peter Weir succeeded Mr. Alex Sutherland as Editor of the Monthly Leaflet.

Dr. White was invited to preach at the Anniversary Service on 5th December. He told the assembled members that 'it was a real joy to be in the heart of such an alive congregation and to meet with the minister and your splendid Kirk Session'. A Foreign Mission Exhibition was held in April 1949, and in this year also the Old People's Welfare Committee was formed. This group was particularly active in the late 1950s when Lady Visitors (Secretary Mrs. Kay McDougall) visited older folk, and in the 1960s when much work was done by Mr. Norman Buchanan

and Mr. Gray (see later chapter). The Senior Members Committee of today has its roots in these earlier committees.

Much discussion took place in 1949 about the question of a war memorial. A committee was formed and voted for a combination of bells and a memorial plaque (described in the War Years Chapter). The option of fitting stained glass windows was ruled out. As the tower was not designed to have a traditional swing bell, various devices were examined. In May 1950, Messrs. Biggars demonstrated both tubular and electronic bells. The Kirk Session decided to order the former type, consisting of bells, microphones, speakers, turntable with pick-up and deaf aid equipment, for the sum of £500. The Board Room was partitioned to create the 'chimes room' (a name, which has stuck many years after the chimes, became disused). The oak plaque bore the names of the casualties of St. David's members. The memorial was dedicated on Sunday 12th November 1950.

The Rev. T.R. Robertson also recalls three other important events which took place in 1950: 1) the Glasgow Churches Commando Campaign in which St. David's took part; 2) a joint visitation of the parish by St. David's and Knightswood Congregational Church which promoted interdenominational fellowship in the service of the community and 3) the celebration of St. David's 21st Anniversary. This began with a Radio Broadcast of the morning church service on Sunday the 26th November conducted by the minister. Incorporated in the service was a recorded message to St. Margaret's and St. David's by the very Rev. Dr. John White, then 89 years of age. Mr. Fordyce, the first minister, preached on the Anniversary Sunday (3rd December) and a social was held on the Monday with the Rev. T.R. Robertson presiding. Mr. Fordyce and Mr. Warnock took part in this gathering during which a presentation was made to Mr. W. Neill Moir who was retiring as Session Clerk, a position he had held for all 21 years of the church's existence. Mr. Moir was a great temperance propagandist. His son (also William Neill) was active in Knightswood West's Sabbath School at the opening of the church in 1929, and became a minister in Aberdeen and Perth. His grandson, Ian, was installed as Moderator of the Glasgow Presbytery in 1999.

A Thanksgiving Service was held in connection with the Festival of Britain in the Vogue Cinema on Sunday 13th May 1951. Rallies became a regular feature of church life - held annually in October with an Overseas Rally each April. A

memorial service was held on Sunday 10th February 1952 following the death of King George VI.

In 1953 an evening service was introduced on Communion Sundays so that young people could attend. Mr. Robertson started a midweek service for prayer and bible study in this year. Both services were successful and the evening communion service became permanent. The mid-week service was renamed St. David's Bible School by the Rev. Arthur Gunn in 1956 (a prayer meeting was held prior to the main meeting from 1958). The Tuesday evening meeting is now known as the Bible Hour and is devoted to study, prayer and debate.

On Tuesday 2nd June 1953 over 230 tickets were sold for members and friends to watch the Coronation on T.V. Television sets were hired from Hutchisons in Crow Road and tickets were sold at 6d and 2/-. Members of the Woman's Guild organised a social for the evening of the great event.

At a meeting of the Kirk Session in September, the elders were asked to adjourn to the church where the layout for 'a suitable seat and desk for the Assistant Minister' was to be studied. This was eventually made by the Bennett Furnishing Company (who had also provided the rear screen for the church) and paid for by the Woman's Guild. The Assistant's chair and desk (known as the small pulpit) were dedicated in June 1954. The first assistant to use it was the Rev. Donald Ross (1953-54).

The year 1954, like 1999, was a year of celebrations. St. David's had reached its silver jubilee year. Members were saddened to hear of the death at the age of 75 of the first minister Mr. Fordyce. He had written to Mr. Anderson the Session Clerk only two days before his death 'gratefully accepting' the invitation to take part in the celebrations. Mr. Fordyce had been ordained in 1908 and had retired (although still actively working in a Dundee church) in 1949. A memorial service was held in St. David's on 11th April 1954, and on 25th May 1957 two beautiful stained glass windows were dedicated to his memory and unveiled by his widow.

Events for the 25th anniversary year included district socials, a congregational rally with an address by the Moderator of the General Assembly, and special services on the Sunday closest to the Anniversary in December. A booklet entitled 'A Record of 25 years' was published, giving a brief history of the church and outlining the main events of the year. An overflow was expected at the

December communion. Mr. Warnock was the preacher and the total for the three communion services was 1104. Extra communion trays and plates were borrowed from Yoker Church.

Two things dominated 1955: the visit by Billy Graham (now Dr. Billy Graham) to the Kelvin Hall, Glasgow, and the departure only two months later of the Rev. T.R. Robertson to Kilmarnock. Plans for the All Scotland Crusade had been made during the previous year. Bookings were applied for and Mr. Graham's deputy Dr. Grady Wilson preached in St. David's at the evening service on the opening day of the Crusade in February. A list was made of the members who would become counsellors. When an enquiry (new profession of faith) was received, a delegated sponsor was responsible for that person for one year. The minister acted as an adviser on the Crusade's Interdenominational Prayer Committee which involved conducting lunch hour services of prayer in a city church during the crusade. He was also the Crusade's missionary to Galashiels during the two weeks when the services in the Kelvin Hall were relayed to forty-eight towns in Scotland. It was a time of great spiritual blessing in many parts of the country. To quote Mr. Robertson (in the 1979 Jubilee Brochure) 'In St. David's something was happening. A large number of persons made a public commitment of their lives to the Lord Jesus Christ'. One hundred and twenty two people did so in the Kelvin Hall and another 22 in church on the Sunday before the June communion when 37 new members joined by profession of faith and a further 19 by transferral.

Mr. Robertson was inducted to the Old High Church, Kilmarnock on Wednesday 29th June. A farewell social had been held at St. David's the previous week. Mr. Frank Anderson, the Session Clerk said that 'no church had been better served than us in the last 9 years.' Mr. Robertson left Kilmarnock in 1967 and became minister of Broughton and Skirling (linked) retiring from there to Kirkcudbright in 1976. Like Mr. Warnock, he was a frequent visitor to St. David's and still retains a deep interest in its affairs.

The Rev. John C. Cockburn of Jordanhill Church became Interim Moderator during the vacancy, and the Rev. William Heron agreed to be Locum Tenens. The Rev. Harry Thomson, who was student assistant in 1955, arranged to stay on as Assistant (until 1959) and was joined by the Rev. Roy Tuton. A vacancy committee of 25 members was formed.

The Rev. Arthur G. Gunn, BA of Abbey Church, North Berwick, was announced as sole nominee in January 1956, and invited to preach. He was inducted to St. David's on 8th March after being unanimously elected to the charge. Mr. Gunn was a New Zealander.

One of his first tasks was to visit the parish (over a 3 year period). The Monthly Leaflet format was changed and its contents increased. It was renamed the 'News'. Issue No. 1 appeared in September 1956. One of Mr. Gunn's innovations was to precede the 6.30 evening service with directed prayer at 6.10 and community hymn singing at 6.20. Sometimes films were shown at the service. The tradition of informal hymn singing carried on for a further 25 years. The present practice of singing the Joseph Lees setting of the Lord's Prayer dates from Mr. Gunn's ministry. The church held its first weekend conference to Netherhall in Largs, in 1956.

The Rev. Eric Alexander commenced his ministry at this point in the church's history. He was engaged as a Probationer for one year in 1957 but ended up staying for four! He was inducted to Loudoun East Church Newmilns in September 1962. Mr. Alexander did much to encourage the youth of St. David's and acted as *Locum Tenens* during the vacancy in 1961. He retired from St. George's Tron, Glasgow in 1998.

In 1957 Mr. Gunn compiled a list of Lady Visitors who would visit the sick and elderly members in the parish. This was the Lady Visitors Welfare Committee with Mrs. Kay McDougall as Secretary. 72 homes were visited. A 'Knightswood Crusade' was held from October 28th to November 30th. This began with a conference at Netherhall followed by missions to both the organisations and the parish directed by the Rev. D.P. Thomson, MA and 200 workers helped in visiting homes. Three Youth Rallies were held and each Friday at 5 p.m. the 'Happy Hour Club' had its meetings (see chapter on the Sunday School). The Crusade also contained film services and preaching services. A cutting from a November newspaper (in the possession of the Rev. Robin Brough) shows a picture of the church with a large banner and illuminated cross on the tower.

The idea of an illuminated cross came from Mr. Gunn in September 1957. Improvements to the chancel in that year included a gold cross and tapestry

curtain, four flower vases from the Women's Guild (dedicated on 9th June) and the Fordyce Memorial Windows (dedicated on 26th May). The practice of seat rents was phased out in this year.

Following the success of the Crusade, a follow up was planned by the Kirk Session. St. David's received many new members (its highest ever membership was 1976 at 31st December 1958). The children's Happy Hour Club continued, and a series of social meetings ('at homes') was planned for March and November 1958. John Balchin joined as student assistant and Mr. T. Struthers was appointed as Outreach Convenor. All districts were to be visited by elders. A bookstall was introduced by Mr. Alexander.

1959, the 30th Anniversary Year, was another busy year for the folk of St. David's. There were now 67 districts, 59 elders and 60 members of the Congregational Board. Further socials were held, and an Appeal launched to clear a deficit in the church's finances. More than 100 members participated in the fourth conference held at Netherhall. As an experiment, invitation cards were placed at the end of the pews for non-members, and adopted from 1960. Mr. Gunn introduced Guest Services and a Sunday Fellowship at 8 pm. Each 'News' contained a sermon written by Mr. Gunn.

As a result of the work of the Lady Visitors for the older folk of the congregation, social meetings were held. A Foreign Mission Rally was held in March 1960, and on June 5th the morning service was broadcast (9.45-10.30) on the Scottish Home Service.

On Sunday 28th August the Rev. Arthur Gunn announced to the Session that he had received and accepted a call to become minister of a church in Manurewa in the South Auckland Presbytery, New Zealand. St. David's was fortunate in having a strong team of assistant ministers at this time - Revs. Eric Alexander, John Balchin and David Innes (who had joined in 1960). The Rev. Eric Alexander was appointed as senior assistant and acted as Locum Tenens during the vacancy. Mrs Gunn's health delayed the family's departure from Glasgow until February 1961. The Rev. Dr. Harry Thompson, BD PhD of Anniesland Cross Church served as Interim Moderator.

Chapter 5

The life and work
of the church

*I will make thy name to be remembered in all generations:
therefore shall the people praise thee for ever and ever.*

Psalm 45: 17

During the week prior to the opening of the church in 1929, consideration was given to the forming organisations such as the Boys' Brigade, Girl Guides, Band of Hope and Christian Endeavour. On the Monday following the very first services of worship, a meeting was held 'of all willing to give their help in forming a Sabbath School, Church Choir and other meetings'. Most of these organisations, such as the Woman's Guild, had their origins from early 1930, but a number, including the Men's Club and Youth Club, did not commence until 1947, due no doubt to the rising number of members in the post war years. The Ladies Club began in 1956 and in 1971 a decision was made to form an evening branch of the Woman's Guild. The Band of Hope, a temperance organisation meeting during the church's early years, was recalled by the late Bessie Stevens, as a group of church folk who provided entertainment including short film shows.

The Sunday School, Bible Classes and Youth Fellowship

The early 'Sabbath School' is reported to have had about 400 scholars. In the early months of 1930 essential equipment such as hymn books, collection boxes, roll books and chairs were acquired, together with teaching material - 'Little Tots' for primary children and 'Greatheart' for the juniors and seniors. The teaching staff (with Mr. J. Irvine as Superintendent) wasted no time in organising a picnic. This was to "West Drumchapel Farm", on 14th June. Later that year a Bible Class was started by the minister, the Rev. W.L. Fordyce, and a Junior Bible Class for under 16s by Mr. Leslie. A Junior Choir was formed under the guidance of Mr. Robertson.

Annual meetings of the Sunday School Council helped to set the pattern for the following years: parties and socials for both children and teachers, examinations (Partick and Hillhead Sunday School Union), flower services with Prize-giving each June, parents' evenings and socials. An Organisations' sale of work for the Manse and Building Fund involved children and teachers of the Sunday School and Senior Bible Class. The children sold 'soaps and washing day requisites'.

Picnics were an annual event up to and including 1940 (the 1931 trip to Cardross was cancelled due to bad weather), and resumed in 1948. Shortage of railway rolling stock ruled out picnics for 1946 and 1947. Outings have continued on an annual basis ever since.

The Young Worshippers League began in 1934 (restarted after a lapse in 1947 and again in 1963 and 1970). A Mr. Currie made a bell for the school in 1935.

Also in 1935 a Dramatic Club for teachers was formed. A badminton and social club had been planned by the teaching staff in 1933 but the Congregational Board could not find a suitable time in the week for it – hardly surprising when, as the church itself had not yet been built, the entire life of Knightswood West Church (as it was then known) was crammed into the two halls! A bus run for teachers, the first of many, was organised to the Three Lochs in 1938.

1939 was a year of mixed emotions for St. David's. The anticipation, hard work and joy at the opening of the new church building in October were mingled with the threat and eventual reality of a Second World War. In May, the children and staff helped at the confectionery stall of the Grand Bazaar (the second of two for the Church Building and Organ Fund). By October, emergency arrangements were in place for the Sunday School and Bible Classes. Many children were evacuated, mainly to Prestwick, and the new minister, Rev. J. Warnock, was anxious that the Sunday School Council 'keep in touch with our children evacuated by sending them the monthly magazine'. This was the Newsletter of the 1930s known as the Monthly Leaflet. Even as the new church opened on Saturday 21st October, 66 St. David's children were staying in Prestwick to where Mr. and Mrs. Lawson, the Junior Bible Class and Primary leaders respectively, had also moved. As well as receiving the Monthly Leaflet, the evacuated children were sent letters and cards from St. David's and were encouraged by the Lawsons to attend a local church.

In Knightswood, in spite of the difficulties that the war situation presented, arrangements for classes were made (about 12 in a combined department), Christmas parties were held, and even a picnic to Milton of Campsie was arranged for May 1940. An unusual situation occurred that year when women and children evacuees from the Channel Islands were accommodated for some weeks in the church halls. Volunteers, led by Miss McAdam, were brought together to entertain the islanders, all of whom must have felt very strange in their new environment.

The number of teachers on active service resulted in an understandable shortage of staff in the junior and senior schools over the next few years, although the

number of children began to increase. By 1945, the Council noted that the number of scholars was now almost up to pre-war standard and that the number of teachers was also increasing. In November that year the number of pupils was 520 (all departments) with 79 teachers. (This rose to an incredible 634 pupils and 119 teachers by December 1949, the highest on record). Lack of space meant that the Senior Sunday School used the church. At the cessation of hostilities, Mr. Warnock thanked the members of the Sunday School for their loyalty and devotion during the war years.

A new junior choir had been formed in 1944 and rehearsed on Monday evenings under the direction of Mrs. Dalrymple. An earlier junior choir existed in 1930. The choir gave its first (Minuted) concert in 1946 and performed regularly throughout the years. In 1951 a primary section girls' choir was started and both choirs took part in the annual Youth Praise Festival organised by the Glasgow Presbytery. The junior choir (31 strong in 1951) was later taken over by Mr. Watt, a member of the church choir, and continued to take part in Youth Praise Festivals throughout most of the 1950s. In 1958 and 1960 the choir gave a choral service in church conducted by Mr. Watt, and in 1966 took part in the St. David's Christmas Praise Festival conducted by Miss Sheena Kelly. A new Sunday School choir was started in 1968 by Miss Lily Murray and Miss Kelly, and took third place in the Annual Festival (Glasgow Presbytery) in 1970.

Other post-war music making came in the form of visits from other church or Christian choirs such as the Kirkintilloch Junior Choir in 1946, and the Glasgow Music Makers Society.

As members of St. David's and their families strove to return to as 'normal' a way of life as they could after the war, the Sunday School Council set about organising a full year by year range of activities, encouraged by the new minister, the Rev. T.R. Robertson.

With 634 scholars in 1949, the Sunday School was divided into four Departments: Beginners, Primary, Junior and Senior. There were 119 teachers. Mr. Robertson recently recalled that 'a rule was made that new teachers were required to attend a Training Class, which was provided. When we were given an Assistant we were able to hold our annual weekend conference for the teachers, with a skeleton staff left to cope!' Conferences were held at the Methodist

Conference Centre in Upper Kirn, Tighnabruich and Alloa'. Mr. Robertson also praised the great encouragement and support given in these post war years by parents to ensure that their children and young folk were given the benefit of Christian instruction and fellowship.

During rationing, an application was sent to the Food Office for permits for the Christmas Party. Promotional Services were held at the end of each session when many of the children move on to a new department.

In 1949 the Bible Class entered into partnership with a former student assistant William C. Nelson (1947-48 at St. David's) who had gone to Santalia, India, as a missionary. For many years the Sunday School and Bible Class sent money from weekly offerings to Santalia.

The 1949 picnic to Torrance involved 900 trippers (300 adults and 600 juveniles). Catering was provided by Mr. Thomas Tunnock and a special train left Scotstounhill at 2.15 p.m. A field was booked, together with a local hall in case of poor weather. The purvey consisted of a paper bag probably containing a pie, a cake and some fruit. Milk from a local farm or dairy was supplied, with tea for adults – a huge number of cups and glasses must have been required! A marquee was put up in the field for the sale of sweets, etc.

It is interesting that so many of the picnic destinations such as Torrance, Milton of Campsie, Killearn and Kilmacolm, no longer have railway lines to them. It is thought that charabancs were used for the first (1930) picnic to Drumchapel. Double decker buses were used from the 1960s (4 were needed for the picnic to Rhu in 1966). Scotstounhill or Scotstoun West were the normal stations for departure (Glasgow Corporation arranged for trams to be used for the picnic to Linn Park in 1938) and it was customary for the BB pipe band to accompany the trippers from the church to the station.

Following the death of Mr. James Paul (Superintendent 1940-1949) a memorial prize (a bible) was awarded annually to 'the scholar most likely to turn out a good Sunday School teacher, and one who would follow in Mr. Paul's footsteps'. A test (including an essay) had to be sat. The prize continued until 1973 when Mr. Paul's widow left to live in Canada.

In 1951, two Sunday School scholars planted a tree in the Festival Avenue of trees in Archerhill Road following the Festival of Britain. A new Intermediate Department was started for 8 year olds, bringing the number of departments to five (Beginners, Primary, Intermediate, Junior and Senior) as well as Junior and Senior Bible Classes and Youth Fellowship. In 1955 a branch of the Christian Endeavour was incorporated into the Youth Fellowship by Mr. George Alison, and held meetings throughout the summer.

Following the huge success of the All Scotland Crusade led by Billy Graham in the Spring of 1955, Messrs George Alison and James Salt began open-air services in Knightswood Park (later known as the Sunday School in the Park). These proved to be very popular during the months of July and August. A report in the 1963 Newsletter showed that 460 children and 260 adults had attended over 12 Sundays. In 1967 this number had increased to over 1,000 children and 450 adults over 11 Sundays. Mr. Alison resigned in 1970, after 15 years of Sunday School in the Park, and his place was taken by his son Mr. William Alison, a member of Knightswood Baptist Church. Others taking part included John More, Alan Ford and Tom Landels. Meetings were discontinued after 1974.

In 1957, following a crusade for new members led by Rev. Arthur Gunn, a new group known as the Happy Hour Club was started. At its first meeting 400 children attended. The Rev. Eric Alexander, the Assistant Minister, was involved from the beginning of the Club. Numbers dwindled in the early 1960s to around 30. After a lapse it restarted in 1968 with its last meeting held in 1974. Leaders included Margaret Lees, Tom Barr and James Salt.

The Rev. William Barclay, DD, was the guest speaker at the Sunday School's Parents Evening in 1958. In the following year the Rev. Arthur Gunn started a Sunday Fellowship where film material was used followed by study. This was an attempt by the minister to prevent young people being lost from the church. The Rev. John Balchin led this fellowship.

The Youth Fellowship was active in regularly visiting Mainsholm, an eventide home, participating in a short service of hymns and talk with the elderly residents. A short service was also held on Sunday afternoons in Knightswood Hospital. Mainsholm and Knightswood Hospital became regular venues over the years. 1958 saw the beginning of a number of annual conferences held at Wiston Lodge,

near Biggar. In the first year, 45 young people attended, led by Eric Alexander and Harry Thomson.

Six teachers were presented with bibles in 1960 'for giving more than 20 years devoted service to the teaching of our children' – they were Mr. J Frame, Miss M. Thyne, Miss E. Duncan, Miss B. Stivens, Miss E. Settle and Mrs. A. McGregor. In July of the same year, the Youth Fellowship went on a Swiss Tour led by the Rev. Arthur Gunn.

Despite a general decrease in numbers in the 1960s, recognised then as a national trend, the programme of yearly activities continued. A new Christian Endeavour group was started in 1961. A play was performed at a social evening by the Endeavours. In 1962, some of St. David's Youth Fellowship members formed part of the SU Children Seaside Mission team at Elie led by the student assistant Rev. David Innes. Similar seaside missions were held in Montrose (Leslie Barr 1964), Portmahomack (1964) and Montrose (1971). The drama group of the Bible and Youth Fellowship presented "Behold your King" in March 1963.

The Pi Club had its first meeting in 1965 and ran for eight very successful years. Robin Brough reported to the Kirk Session in September 1965 that 234 membership cards had been sold. The club met during the summer holidays and was initially run in conjunction with Knightswood Congregational Church. Tom Barr and William Brown were the first members of the controlling committee. Both churches were used for the different sections (primary, senior, publicity and catering). An advertising banner was placed on the church tower. A press reception was held, and a series of letters about the club appeared in the Glasgow Herald. A traffic policeman was employed to ensure the safe passage of children across Alderman Road! The themes of Noah and Jonah were adapted for the younger groups – a 3ft model of a mountain being made by Stewart McKie of the Congregational Church. A display night was held for parents to see the work of the Club. In 1966, a night café (later called the Teenage Café) was arranged where over 100 young folk came, some testifying to their new-found faith. This was intended as a follow up to the activities of the Pi Club, adult viewpoint meetings being a similar way in which young adults could share their new Christian experiences.

The ministry of the Rev. Dr. J.G.SS Thomson (1961-1973) was remarkable for the witness of so many young people, seven of whom became ministers. Others entered into different forms of Christian service. The Pi Club undoubtedly played a part in this witness. Leaders included Robin Brough, Retta Hamilton, Elizabeth Smith, Marion Morrison, Nora McGinley, Norman Buchanan, John Wilson and Margaret Provan. The Pi Club's early success was followed by a decline during its last years.

In 1974 the new minister, Rev. A. Gunn, organised a 'think tank' meeting on youth work. From this a number of summer specials were organised. The first one attracted 130 young people. They were held in August prior to the beginning of the school term and were aimed mainly at primary school children. The leaders included Ruth Rankin, Joyce Porter, Elizabeth Hart and Douglas Rough. The summer Sunday School today probably has its origins in these summer specials (although a summer Sunday School was in operation in 1973). The Kirk Session in 1980 called for 'an informal meeting of younger children in the summer months, while parents attended morning worship'.

Mrs. A. McGregor, Mr. George Speed, Miss Isobel Rodger and Miss Marjorie Paterson all retired from the Sunday School staff in 1964 after many years' service. Bibles were presented to Mrs. Dalrymple and Mr. Lawson for over 20 years work with children. 1965 saw the retiral of Miss Betty Duncan, who had 'begun as a monitor from the school's very first inception, then in the Primary Department as a teacher before becoming Primary Leader'. Mr. James Frame resigned as Superintendent in 1966, a position he had held since 1949. He had given 29 years faithful service to the Sunday School. Mr. Alexander Lawson (junior) succeeded him.

Sunday afternoon services in Knightswood Hospital (1967) continued with a 'gospel pop group' (described thus by the Evening Citizen), led by John More and John Wilson from the Youth Fellowship.

Scripture Union Sunday School material continued to be used throughout the 1970s. In 1972 the then Superintendent Douglas Barr gave details of staff training, rallies and a forthcoming parents' evening. In the annual Bible Contest that year St. David's came 18th out of 333 Sunday Schools from all over Britain (65th out of 668 schools the following year). The After 8 Group was formed in

1972, so called because it met after the evening service! This group was a replacement for the Senior Bible Class and topical moral issues, such as marriage, drugs and alcoholism, were discussed along with bible teaching. The After 8's were led over the years by Ann Speirs and Paul Webb-Sears, John and Elizabeth Wilson, John and Linda More, Ian Bulloch, Ruth Rankin, Ian McQueen, Douglas Rough, Neil Buchanan, Joyce Porter, Fiona Carmichael, Robert McLean and Tom Landels. Student Assistants, especially Mr. McQuarrie, also helped during their time at St. David's. The After 8 group continued until 1984.

In 1976 the Junior and Senior Schools were combined into one department meeting at 12.00 under the leadership of Margaret Brough, who was Morag Campbell's successor as Superintendent. New times were experimented with in 1978 and 1984.

The Sunday School performed items from 'Joseph and his Amazing Technicoloured Dreamcoat' on Sunday 4th June 1978 in the large hall prior to the Annual Prizegiving. David and Moira Inglis were responsible for the music with Archie Leese as artistic director (this was performed again in 1981).

The 1980s saw plans for summer outreach to young people. A Youth Committee, with John Newbigging as Convenor, was set up in 1985. St. David's also took part in a Youth Activities Exhibition held in Knightswood Community Centre in September 1986. The following year, Shaw Anderson was elected as St. David's linksman representative with the Scottish Youth Assembly. With numbers throughout the 1980s ranging from 79 (Sunday School) in 1980 to 47 in 1989; Bible Class 41 to 10 and Youth Fellowship to 11, a reflection of the nation-wide trend away from Christian commitment was apparent. Church membership was also down by 103 in the same period. Thanks to the dedicated team of teachers under Margaret Brough, Stuart Dallas and Eileen Clark, the Sunday School remained vigorous in spirit throughout the decade. Staff from this time included David Carmichael, Stewart Steel, John McKinnon, Murray Thomson and Kenneth Higgins (YF), Jan Brough (Junior Bible Class), Gordon Inglis, James and Elaine Hain (Senior Department), Morag Campbell, Morag Liddell, Norma Kelly (Primary Department) and Helen Knox (Beginners).

The naturally ageing population of Knightswood almost certainly contributed to the decline in numbers in the Sunday School during the 1970s and 1980s.

Membership stabilised during the 1990s helped by new families moving into the area and it is hoped that numbers will show an increase in the years ahead. The Sunday School also suffered a slight setback in 1990 when the church was re-roofed and services had to be held in the large hall. Classes were held on Sunday afternoons.

From 1993 until the end of his ministry in St. David's in 1998, the Rev. Howard Taylor took the Youth Fellowship meetings in the manse after the evening service. Mrs. Taylor succeeded Biba Kaniaha and Janice Landels as Bible Class Leaders. In the summer of 1994, John McKinnon (a St. David's boy who had been appointed as Scripture Union Evangelist in Scotland) led a holiday club for children entitled 'The Light Factory'. This was so successful that another club was organised in 1995, The 'Body Builders' in which 120 children (60 with no church connection) attended.

In 1995, the first of two Youth Workers came to St. David's, each for one year. Roselea Rivire, (who came under the auspices of Careforce from the Philippines), became quickly involved with the work of the Sunday School, Youth Fellowship, Youth Club and the Guides, under the guidance of Norma Kelly (Superintendent) and Colin McGilvray (Youth Elder). She was energetic and enthusiastic, and proved popular with the young people. In 1997 Catriona Paton also proved a popular choice, bringing with her a musical gift (as a trumpet player), and demonstrating a strong faith and commitment to her work amongst the young people.

In 1997, two members of the Youth Fellowship (Nina Halliday and Catriona Bell) organised events to raise money for the Street Children of Brazil under the name of 'Release the Power' Mission Scotland. A Christian rock band attached to the 7.45 club for young Christians, regularly visited the church. This is a group of musicians, including some members of St. David's, who meet outwith the church premises.

In 1998 Alan and Judith Clark opened their home for a number of Youth Fellowship meetings. Eileen Clark similarly provided a meeting place during the vacancy after the Rev. Howard Taylor left for Edinburgh. Dr. Gordon Inglis is at present the leader of the Youth Fellowship meetings. In 1998 Colin McGilvray

became a Sunday School Children's Ministry Adviser for the Presbytery of Glasgow.

The Sunday School has had 12 dedicated Superintendents in 70 years, the longest serving being Mr. James Frame at 17 years (1949-1966). With Mrs Norma Kelly (superintendent and leader of the Primary Department) and her team of teachers, Helen Knox (Leader of the Beginners), Nina Halliday (Beginners), Margaret Mathieson, Margaret Darroch and Fiona Gallacher (Primary) and Mr. Colin McGilvray (Seniors), the Sunday School is in good hands and ready to face the year 2000 and beyond in its work of presenting Jesus Christ to children and young people.

The Boys' Brigade

The 237th Company was officially enrolled in September 1929, prior to the date (8th December) when Knightswood West Church was officially opened. Mr. Edward McLeod, who became Captain in 1942, led the Company for the first months until the first Captain, Francis E. Cameron, was appointed. In the 21st Anniversary Souvenir Programme of 1950, Mr. Cameron described the first Annual Inspection (May 1930) as having 32 boys on parade, more than doubling a year later when 72 boys 'provided the whole programme except the pipe band'. Within four and a half years most of the sports and camp equipment had been obtained. Funds were raised to buy band equipment. The band was dedicated on Sunday 2nd June 1935 (having been employed for the 6th Inspection).

In January 1930, the Life Boy Company was formed under the leadership of Mr. J.B. Weir, Scotstoun District Chairman, with 20 boys. The team was officially enrolled in March, and leadership handed over to Mr. G. St. Clair for a short time until the first Leader, Margaret Abernethy (1930-1935) was appointed.

From 32 boys in 1931, the BB Company grew steadily until the limited capacity of the halls, which also served as the church (till 1939) was severely stretched. In 1932 both the BB and the Girl guides were using additional accommodation at Bankhead School. This was regularly used throughout the 1930s and 1940s. There is a record of the wooden school (recently demolished) in Kirkton Avenue, being used for BB meetings in 1943. The numbers grew to 170 before the war.

Mr. Cameron retired from the Company in 1934. Mr. Jim Campbell, one of the boys who served under him, remembered Mr. Cameron as 'dedicated, dynamic, disciplined, strict but always fair, a man respected by all, a man of deep personal Christian commitment'. He became Honorary Captain and was still active with the 237th at the 1950 'Coming of Age' Inspection.

The uniform of cap, belt and haversack, was proudly worn in these early days. David Carmichael (now Rev.), writing as Officer in Charge of the Company and Senior Sections in 1979 for the 50th anniversary Booklet, wrote: "I am sure many will remember the old 'pill-box' with a measure of affection as well as frustration. Present members of staff recall the agony of having an officer discovering white on the 'box' as well as the hoops, then having to suffer the barbed comments of a rather unhappy NCO. However, I am sure all members remember the uniform's good points, the 'pill-box' made a handy rubbish collector and the belt was always useful for taking the tops off bottles!"

The 1936 Inspection was presented 'out of doors' at Bankhead School, and in the following year seven members gained their King's Badge. St. David's member, John Halliday, was in the Life Boys and BB in the years before the War. (The Halliday Cup was presented to the 237th Company by his mother). He joined the Life Boys in 1935 and the BB in 1938 where he became a Sergeant and Drum Major, then Lieutenant from 1948-50. Also in the Company and serving as a Warrant Officer, was John Rees (a Life Boy in 1930) who was to become Captain of the Company from 1951-54. It is interesting to see from the 1938-39 syllabus that there were ten squads in the Company.

Who would have known that a boy in number 4 squad by the name of John Hannah, was to become a national hero. An account of John's act of heroism while serving in the RAF in 1940 at the age of 18, is given in the chapter entitled The War Years.

The first mention made of a BB Bible Class was in 1939. In the November Monthly Leaflet of that year the Captain, Mr. Arthur Williamson, wrote that 'the 237th BB and Life Boys are now meeting on alternate Saturday afternoons at 2.30 in the large hall. Will parents whose boys have not been evacuated please make this fact known to them and send them along on Saturday afternoons'. This announcement was made only weeks after the opening of the new church with the

first parade there on Sunday 12th November (National Day of Remembrance). Britain was now at war, and many of these young boys who first stood proudly to attention in 1929 must have found themselves ten years later wearing the uniform of the British Armed Forces.

In 1943, John Halliday was a Drum Major in charge of the Glasgow Battalion Massed Pipe Bands at the Football International Hampden Park. A District Parade was held on Sunday 12th March 1944 comprising 66 Officers and Boys Brigades of the District. Six King's Badges were awarded that year. In 1945 a hut for weekend trips, was bought at East Kilbride. There is no record of the hut being used!

At the end of the war an Ex-members Association Football Section was formed (1946-1955). In 1948 the 237th participated at the District Sports at Scotstoun. A camp was held at Crail and a Company Concert given in December for camp funds. The Life Boys went on a day's outing to Balloch in May. New colours were presented in that year, and also in 1950 (gifted by the Men's Club).

Membership in 1949 stood at BB 112, Life Boys 69 (numbers became fewer in subsequent years). A syllabus for the year shows such activities as BB Bible Class meetings at 9.45 on Sunday mornings, badge work, Battalion competitions, Company Concert (Cinderella), a dance, party, film show and parents' night, as well as visits to Pinkston Power Station, the City Chambers, and a rifle range. There was a BB Football League, and cricket was played at the University Fields, Garscadden. The Company took part in the Scotstoun District Swimming Gala.

Camps (see appendix) were a two-yearly event. The Congregational Board was frequently asked for permission to use 12 kettles and a harmonium for a forthcoming camp, such as the 1950 excursion to Newbiggin-by-the-Sea in Northumberland. This was the year of the 21st Inspection, held in St. Andrew's Halls on Friday 28th April, also comprising many ex-members, with Lord Inverclyde as Inspecting Officer. Both the Halliday and John Rodger Cups were presented. A Thanksgiving Service was held in the church the following Sunday.

In 1954 there was a special service for the BB celebrations marking the Centenary of the Founder W.A. Smith (born 1854). Colour Sergeant D. Mackay and Sergeant Eric Grieve represented the 237th at the International BB Camp which marked the Centenary. In 1954 there was also the Semi-Jubilee Inspection and

Parade of Ex-Members. This, like the 21st Inspection, was held in the St. Andrew's Halls. A Thanksgiving Service and social evening in St. David's followed it.

A debate was held by the Kirk Session in 1957 as to whether Company flags should be paraded along with Queen's Colours, and also as to the number of Sundays on which the colours and flags should be used. It was decided that all flags should be used on Armistice and Empire Sundays. This year also saw the death of the Company's founder Captain, Mr. Cameron.

The Minister, Rev. Arthur Gunn, was anxious about the number of young people being lost from the church, especially those who through age were leaving the uniformed organisations. In 1959, he met with the senior boys being discharged, and in the following year arranged to have a separate class for them. This was independent of the BB Bible Class, its purpose being to make the 237 'a feeder for the church'.

The 1960s were marked by the outstanding Captaincy of James H. Brown (now Rev. James Brown of Helensburgh Park Church). Mr. Brown served as Captain from 1962-1972 and is remembered by David Carmichael (now Rev. David Carmichael of Lesmahagow) as a man who had tremendous influence on the staff and boys who served under him. It was noted in 1963 that thanks to Captain Brown, more boys were now attending morning worship. The Company now consisted of 37 boys with 4 Lieutenants, 3 Warrant Officers, and 4 Staff Sergeants. There were 21 Life Boys. A 'disturbing matter' was brought to the attention of the Kirk Session in 1964 when tickets for a BB function promoting the Shake, Twist and Hitch Hike, were put on sale. The tickets were subsequently reprinted. A jumble sale was held that year for funds to buy a trampoline.

A number of changes were implemented in 1965. The Company was divided into two groups: Senior Section (age 16 and over) with Mr. Tevendale, and Company Section (age 11-15) with Mr. McCulloch. Norman Barr succeeded Robin Brough as Leader in Charge of the Life Boys. The Life Boys were effectively disbanded in 1966 and renamed the Junior Section; thus groups became Junior Section and Company Section. A new forage cap replaced the pill-box hats. These changes were made as a result of the Staines Report.

In 1967 a 'Shipped Halfpenny Campaign' was held when the boys collected halfpennies and when 5/- worth was gathered, they bought tea, sugar and jam and distributed these gifts to older folk in the district. The idea came from a lady who had donated 3/- worth of halfpennies and had declared that 'these ships were on a voyage of happiness'. This was followed in 1968 by a 'mile of pennies' campaign. The Boys Brigade and the Girl Guides arranged to parade on alternate months in 1968. The Robert Eagleton Cup was donated by Mr. Eagleton's widow for the best all round boy in the Junior Section.

Captain Brown called for an organisation for boys in the 5-7 age group. As a result, the Shipmates were formed in 1968, a prototype for the Victors which were established about five years later. The Victors met on Thursday evenings in 1973 with visits arranged to local places of interest.

In 1970, Bryan Turnbull was appointed Officer in Charge of the Junior Section. In 1972 the Company Section won the Scotstoun District Bible Quiz and the Junior Section winning the choir festival and sports. The following year, Kenneth Calman, a former member and officer of the Company was made a Professor of Medicine, University of Glasgow, eventually being appointed Chief Medical Officer for Scotland, and then becoming the Chief Medical Officer of the UK. He received his Knighthood in 1998 and was installed as Principal of Durham University in 1998.

In 1975 an extension was built for the vaulting box by Mr. Alex Graham (Officer in Charge of the Senior Section) and Mr. Danny Anderson. A 'transport and crash' mat was bought the same year.

1979 was St. David's Golden Jubilee and the Rev. Sandy Gunn and the Kirk Session arranged a year's programme of church events. On Saturday 12th May, the BB held its 50th Anniversary Inspection in Clydebank Town Hall with the Junior and Company Sections on parade. The Inspecting Officer was Professor Kenneth Calman and the ADC Mr. Edward McLeod (Founder and Captain 1942-47). An Anniversary Service and Parade of Ex-Members was held in the church the following day.

In 1981 Kenneth Buchanan and Andrew Carmichael succeeded Dr. Gordon Inglis in the Company Section and Mrs. Kay Turnbull retired after 12 years in the Junior Section.

The Boys' Brigade Centenary Celebrations were held in 1983, culminating in a special meeting on Tuesday 4th October.

From 1987 the Junior and Company Sections arranged to meet on Friday evenings, with the Victors meeting on Thursday evenings at 6 o'clock. Gordon Inglis resumed leadership of the Company Section Also in 1987, Bryan Turnbull (Captain of the 237th from 1977) was congratulated on becoming the longest serving officer in the Company's history: 22 years as an officer – 15 of these as Leader in Charge of the Junior Section and 11 as Captain of the Senior Section.

Numbers in the Company Section stabilised to about 12 in the 1990s, with an increase in the Junior Section from 20 in 1993 to 25 in 1998. With Captain Bryan Turnbull, Gordon Inglis and Kenneth Buchanan as dedicated leaders of the boys for so many years, the 237th Company is in very good hands. In the words again of David Carmichael in the 1979 Jubilee Programme: 'What better way to end our time of looking back, than to thank God for our past and for continuing Christian witness of the 237th. Thank God for the 237th'.

The Girl Guides

In August 1930, the first BB Captain, Mr. Francis Cameron, raised the question at a meeting of the Kirk Session of providing an organisation for girls between the ages of 12 and 16. The Moderator (Mr. Fordyce, the first minister) and the Session agreed to the formation of a 'controlled' company of Girl Guides and Brownies.

From 1931-37 a Girls' Association also met in the new church and all the youth organisations met once a month for a church service. As with the Boys Brigade, the difficulties of accommodating so many different meetings within the church halls meant that Bankhead School had to be used.

The 275th Guide Company and 275th Brownie Pack were formed in 1930 and registered with the Girl Guide Association in 1931. In 1948 there were 60 Brownies as a result of which a second Brownie Pack (275thA) was opened in 1949. There were 63 Girl Guides and a further Company (275thA) was formed in 1952.

Miss G. Farrell was the first Brown Owl assisted by Miss M. McGowan as Tawny Owl of the 275th Brownie Pack. Miss E. Stevens took over the Pack in 1947 until 1966. Both Brown Owls were ably assisted through the years by a large number of Tawny Owls, including M. Dougan, E. Nicol, K. Dickson, B. McIver, J. Smith and J. Cuthbert, Helen Dunn (now McLean).

The first Girl Guide Captain in 1931 was Miss I. McLellan until 1935 when Miss D. Campbell took over, assisted by a number of Lieutenants.

In 1949 Miss E. Nicol became Brown Owl of the 275thA Brownie Pack. Miss E. Patrick took over as Captain of the 275thA Company in 1952.

In 1933 a Ranger Company was formed with Miss Short as Captain. On Sunday 23rd April of that year the Girl Guide Colours were dedicated at a special service in the church.

Concerts were put on by the Brownies during the early years and action songs and short plays were performed under the direction of Miss Stevens and Miss McGowan. Pantomimes and plays staged after the war years up to 1967, included Goldilocks and the Three Bears, Hansel and Gretel, the Snow Queen, A Prince for Cinderella, Alice in Wonderland, Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs and Cinderella. They were usually held in December each year. Many ex-Brownies will recall the intensive rehearsals held each winter, often in Miss Stevens' house. A highlight of every pantomime was the appropriate scenery designed and painted each year by Mr. George Blair ably assisted by Mr. D. Harvey.

The Ranger Company ceased to meet during the war years. It is not clear when meetings restarted but mention is made of the Company in 1948 when a Thinking Day Service was held together with a District Parade when 350 Brownies, Guides and Rangers took part. In 1968, a District Ranger Unit was opened in Knightswood School. Miss Margaret Brough became the Ranger Guider assisted

by Miss Ann McLean and Miss Carol Whyte, all members of St. David's, and over the succeeding years a large number of 15-18 year old girls from St. David's were members of this Unit.

The Brownies and Girl Guides celebrated their 21st Anniversary by holding a large display in Partick Burgh Halls.

In 1981, the Brownies and Guides celebrated 50 years of Guiding in St. David's, by holding a most successful open day followed on the Sunday by a special service in the church. To celebrate their 50 years, members of the Guide Company along with their Guiders, Jan Brough, Cathie Gillies and Helen Knox camped at Blacklands Farm, East Grinstead and visited the sights of London, including a conducted tour of the Houses of Parliament by the local MP, Donald Dewar, now, of course, First Minister of the Scottish Parliament.

From 1974 onwards the Brownies and Guides have been fortunate in the leadership of Jan Brough, Janice Landels, Cathy Gillies, Helen Knox, June McMahon, Pauline Hughes, Wilma Gilfillan, Morag McIntosh, Sylvia Main, Irene and Lynn Moir, Ann Leonard, Laura Anderson, Morag Beaton, Morag McLean, Irene Edgar, Pauline McHugh, and Jennifer Morrison, to name but a few.

In 1980 Jan Brough was appointed The Guide Association's Camp Consultant for Scotland. Cathie Gillies served a term of appointment as Camp Adviser for the City of Glasgow. Jan was appointed Deputy Scottish Training Adviser from 1990-1995 and served on many National training related committees. Margaret Brough was appointed County Commissioner for the City of Glasgow from 1987 to 1994 and also as Deputy Scottish Chief Commissioner from 1993 to 1997. Jan and Margaret were presented with the Guide Association's Laurel Award for Exceptional Service in 1995 and 1997 respectively. Janice Landels served as Arts Adviser for the City of Glasgow from 1994 until 1999. In 1999 Janice became the Public Relations Adviser and chairs the corporate affairs subcommittee of the newly structured Guide Association Scottish Executive. The Rainbows, Brownies and Guides of St. David's have benefited greatly from their leaders' commitment to the Guide Association both in Glasgow and Scotland.

Brownie Pack Holidays and Camps have played a large part in the programmes of the Brownies and the Guides. Brownie Pack Holidays have been held at Netherurd and Gartocharn and camps at Gartocharn, Eaglesfield, Bettyburn, Auchengillan and Netherurd.

Over the years, Guides from St. David's have represented Scotland at international camps - Margaret Phair at a World Camp in Denmark in 1957 and Carol Caddie at a UK camp in Windsor. In recent years Kirsty Beveridge travelled to Nepal, Rhona Campbell to Austria, and Nicola Docherty to Sweden. St. David's Guide Leaders also had their share of travelling abroad with Cathie Gillies representing Scotland in Denmark and Jan Brough chosen to lead a party of eight girls from all over the U.K. at a large international gathering in Rotorua, New Zealand in 1982.

In the early 80's, one Pack and One Company were suspended due to lack of girls. About this time under the umbrella of the Sunday School week-night meetings were held for girls between the ages of 5 and 7. The girls were called Buttercups and were led by Dorothy Aitken and Jean Robertson. In 1987 the Guide Association introduced a new section called Rainbow Guides for this age group and a few years later St. David's Buttercups became Rainbows with Pamela Whitenett and Jackie McDonald as Rainbow Guiders.

In addition to camps and other exciting activities, 52 girls gained the Queen's Guide Badge, the highest award in the Guide Section. The first Queen's Badge in St. David's was gained by Marjory Black in 1948 and the last Queen's Badge before it was taken out of the Guide Section into the Ranger/Adult Section, was awarded to Rhona Campbell in 1984. Carol Whyte and Irene Edgar gained their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards and many girls also gained their Patrol Camp Permits. In 1996 a patrol from the company won through to the semi-finals of the Scottish Guide Cookery Competition and also won first prize for their log book and recipes.

The Rainbows, Brownies and Guides continue to have fun on a Tuesday evening.

Youth Club and other youth activities

Although a youth club was not formed until 1947, youth activities outwith the Boys Brigade and the Girl Guides abounded during the early years.

In 1930, a large number of people were joining the Band of Hope during the great temperance movement of the time. Entertainment, including film shows, was held in the halls. In this year also a Knightswood Troop of Boy Scouts applied for affiliation with the congregation. Although the troop did not meet within the church halls, they were allowed to parade on certain Sundays. A football club was also affiliated to the church that year and was suspended in 1937. The Scout colours were dedicated in 1933. There is no record of Scouting in St. David's beyond this date.

The Girls' Association (referred to in the section on the Girl Guides) gifted a communion outfit and cabinet to the congregation. It was dedicated on Sunday 6th September 1931. The Girls' Association was disbanded in 1937.

Monthly services were held for the youth organisations in 1931 and a 'Sports Service' held annually during the pre-war years.

In 1939 a 'Girls Fellowship' was meeting in the small hall. This was not a St. David's organisation but one recognised by the Government Youth Scheme during the war, where young women were trained for essential service on the home front. Meetings were subsequently held at the school gymnasium in Kirkton Avenue and at the first aid post at the Boulevard. The Fellowship was wound up in 1947. Empire Youth Sundays became a feature of St. David's life from the mid 1940s.

In 1945 a Council of Organisations was set up to oversee the youth work of the church. A 'Youth Cabinet' superseded this in 1956 (following the induction of the Rev. Arthur Gunn).

The idea of forming a Youth Club was made during the ministry of the Rev. John Warnock but not realised until October 1947, by which time the Rev. T.R. Robertson had become St. David's new minister. The Kirk Session felt that

'something had to be provided for young people on Saturday evenings'. The club comprised two sections: a senior youth club (meeting in fact on a Wednesday) and a junior/intermediate club (meeting on a Saturday). The first leaders were Miss M. Thyne, Martin Munro and Gordon Drew.

By 1949 the Youth Club had 292 members, mostly in the junior section. Among the activities were a Drama Festival, nursing course and a parents' evening. A syllabus for the year shows that sails, rambles, cycle and bus runs were the order of day. In 1950 the club was visited by the Rev. William Barclay whose address was 'The Youth of Today'.

In the 1950s members of the youth club went on continental trips. 20 went to Dinard in France in 1953 and further excursions were held at Pertisau in Austria (1954) and Nice on the French Riviera in 1956. Other trips were organised within the U.K. Wiston Lodge, near Biggar, was used on a regular basis for conferences and weekends for young people.

With a membership of 145 in 1955, some incidents of rowdiness caused the youth club to be closed for a short time, then re-opened on a new basis. Those rejoining had to attend arts and crafts classes, and there was an increase in supervision. In 1956, the new minister, Rev. Arthur Gunn, formed a Youth Cabinet comprising all the youth leaders. The youth club was terminated and in its place was formed the Bible Class and Youth Fellowship recreation club. This new club attracted fewer members (75 in 1956, 36 in 1958) in spite of record numbers of people on the congregational roll during this period.

A special rally was held for all youth on Empire Youth Sunday in 1957, and in 1959 mention is made of a Saturday night club run by the Rev. John Balchin and Rev. Eric Alexander.

Youth Club membership settled to around 60 members during the 1960s. A barbeque was held at Glen Fruin in 1961. In 1963, the minister Rev. J.G.S.S. Thomson organised an evangelistic mission (11-24th November) and two years later 30 students from the Inter-Varsity Fellowship camped in the church halls and conducted a fortnight's campaign with special reference to youth, including a popular teenage cafe each evening. The Pi Club, (referred to in the section on the Sunday School), was held from 1965 to 1973. Also in 1965, 40 young people

went on a trip to Larbert accompanied by Leslie Barr and the Rev & Mrs Balchin. A Youth Rally was held in 1969.

Some disruption at youth club meetings caused the club to be closed for several weeks later that year. Following an agreement by the then leader John More and the Kirk Session, a 'closed' (members only) club was held for a trial period. By March 1970 the club was reopened, although a similar situation developed in 1971. In 1973 the youth club closed completely due to 'rowdiness and indiscipline' and was only opened again in February 1974 when membership cards were issued and a register kept of all names and addresses. Under the leadership of Kenneth Buchanan, a rota of young adults was drawn up to act as assistants.

The subject of youth work was of great concern to the Rev. Sandy Gunn when he came to St. David's. In November 1974 he organised a 'think tank' meeting where the work of all youth organisations was reviewed. He was particularly anxious that young people in these organisations should attend Sunday School or church services. Norman Cruickshank was appointed as Adviser on Youth Matters.

In 1975 a monthly young mothers' group started. A guitar group began meeting each Wednesday, and the numbers in youth organisations began to increase, although there was a shortage of leaders. A girls group was started by Mrs. Ford and Mrs. Cowie. Elders were asked to visit the different organisations (one pair to each) and report twice yearly (November and March) to the Kirk Session. In recent years, however, many of the leaders are members of the Session and this arrangement therefore has not been necessary. A Youth Rally was held on Sunday 24th October 1976. Young people came to St. David's from neighbouring churches and the service was led by David Eaglesham and David Morrison.

As already referred to under the Sunday School, the summer specials of 1976 and 1977 were a development of the Pi Club one of the successes of the preceding 11 years.

The youth club continued to meet during the 1980s with a membership ranging from 90 in 1980 to 50 in 1987 when the club was suspended due to lack of leaders. The leaders at this time included Shaw Anderson, Mark Gibb, Tom

Landels and Bryan Turnbull (who had been appointed in 1985 as an elder with special responsibility for youth).

A further Youth Rally was held on Sunday 25th October 1981 and in the following year plans were made for summer outreach to young folk where there would be a weekend of meetings with invited speakers, and a barbecue on the last night. A 'summer break' service was held in June 1983 with an outing for the young people.

A Badminton Club, which had been run by Stewart Dallas in the 1970s, continued to meet with Jim Stirling and Gordon Inglis as leaders in the mid 1980s. The club continues to meet in 1999 under the leadership of James Hain.

A Youth Committee was formed in 1985 under the chairmanship of John Newbigging to help co-ordinate the youth work in St. David's at a time when, as in recent times, there was a shortage of leaders. St. David's contributed to a Youth Activities Exhibition in Knightswood Community Centre in September 1986. Shaw Anderson was appointed as St. David's Billy Graham Livelink Co-ordinator representative the following year. A football team was officially recognised as a church organisation in the same way as the team of 1940. The football team withdrew from the Strathclyde Evangelical league due to a failure of sufficient numbers attending church regularly.

By November 1988 there was concern at the number of young people being lost from the church and its organisations. The suggestion of employing a youth leader to lead the youth club was raised at a meeting of the Kirk Session. The Youth Committee was asked to look into the matter. As a result, Shaw Anderson was appointed as Youth Leader. A young adults group began to meet from 1990 but it was not until 1992 that the question of re-starting the youth club (which had by then been closed for four years) was fully discussed. It finally opened in 1994 on a fortnightly basis and received a sum of £350 from the Outreach Committee for essential equipment. Membership in 1999 is about 25 and is run on an occasional basis.

In 1995, Roselea Riviere, a youth worker from an organisation called Careforce was appointed for one year, followed by Catriona Paton (see reference under the section on the Sunday School). Both girls were involved in all aspects of youth

work, including the Sunday evening youth group which was also led by Colin McGilvray.

In 1997 Margaret Brough became the Youth Co-ordinator for a three year term. In 1998 guidelines for the teaching, welfare and safety of young people on church premises were implemented by the Church of Scotland and as a result the Kirk Session appointed Margaret Brough as its Child Protection Officer.

With many new families moving into Knightswood, the youth organisations face new challenges. It is hoped that the faithful band of leaders who have worked so hard over the years will be joined by other new and younger men and women who will continue to fulfil St. David's crucial role in the community it strives to serve.

Women's Organisations

The Woman's Guild

At a meeting of the Interim Kirk Session in December 1929 it was agreed that ladies of the Guild would be allocated a Monday evening for their meetings. This was the beginning of the Woman's Guild with Mrs. W.L. Fordyce, wife of the first minister, as President.

With the building of the church proposed for the late 1930s (the congregation was using the two halls for worship and all meetings), the ladies wasted no time in organising fund raising events. As early as 15th February 1930, a Bring and Buy Sale was held. This was opened by Mrs. McCredie, the Lady Provost of Glasgow. A small orchestra provided music. Taking part were Mr. Fordyce and the Rev. Andrew Gentles who was the Interim Moderator. A further sale was held the following year entitled Sale of Work and 'Ye Housewives Fayre'. This also involved all the church organisations, and was held on Saturday 19th December. The six stalls (named after the days of the week) were run by the Sunday School (Monday), Men's Guild (Tuesday), Girls Association and Senior Bible Class (Wednesday), Girl Guides and Brownies (Thursday), Boys Brigade (Friday), and the Choir (Saturday). The tea room was run by the Woman's Guild.

A public meeting was held in January 1931 under the auspices of the Woman's Guild, when a special address was given by the Rt. Rev. A.N. Bogle, DD, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Members of the Guild organised a Grand Concert for the 27th January (when the speaker was Bill Paterson of Airdrie Football Club) and a further Grand Sale of Work in March 1933 for the church manse and building fund.

Two Grande Bazaars were held prior to the building of the church. £1,753 was needed from the congregation (the bulk coming from the Church Extension Fund), including money to dismantle and reconstruct the pipe organ from St. Davids-in-the-West Church. The first was held on the 1st and 2nd of May 1936 opened by the novelist Agnes C. Mitchell from the People's Friend (Friday) and the Marquis of Clydesdale, MP (Saturday). The second was held on the 5th and 6th of May 1939, while the church was being constructed. The Bazaars are remembered as being large-scale events with many stalls, the fruit and vegetable stall being supplied by Lily Rose who had a local shop.

The opening of the new church coincided with the outbreak of war. Meetings were held in afternoons during the blackout. The Rev. John Warnock (second minister of St. David's who led the congregation during these difficult years) remembers the work of the Woman's Guild at that time. Ladies took people (including evacuees from the Channel Islands who were sleeping in the church halls) into their own homes and cared for them.

A programme of church activities for 1948 shows the Guild as meeting on Tuesday evenings, with a work party where ladies knitted and made articles. By 1949, membership stood at 150. This increased to 194 in 1956. Outings became popular, one being organised to Arran in 1952.

The Assistant's chair and desk (small pulpit) was paid for by the Woman's Guild in 1954 (dedicated in June of that year). 1955 saw the retiral of Mrs. Wylie from the Guild. She had been a member since its inception and Secretary for 13 years.

In 1957 the Woman's Guild gifted four beautiful brass flower vases for use in the chancel of the church.

Outings from the late 1960s included Lochgilphead (1968), Campeltown (1969), Arran (1970), Biggar, Galashiels and Moffat with previous ministers T.R. Robertson and J. Warnock and their wives (1971), Dunoon (1972), Crieff (1974),

Sanquhar and Ayrshire (1975), Largs, Ayr and Dunblane Cathedral (1976), Moffat and Loch Lomond (1977), St. Andrews and Loch Katrine (1978), Ayr and Hopetoun House (1979), Dunoon, Moffat and Peebles (1980 and Hawick (1982). A syllabus was arranged each year by the Guild's secretaries (Miss Rose, Mrs. Brough, Mrs Sloan, Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Watson, Miss Robertson, Mrs Bain, Miss Duncan, Mrs. McDougall, Mrs McIntyre, to name but a few).

In 1971 a decision was taken to form an Evening Branch of the Woman's Guild, following discussions with the minister, Dr. J.G.S.S. Thomson. Meetings would be held fortnightly on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 8 p.m. The first gathering was arranged for the 13th of October and the new organisation had its own President and Committee (as provided in the Constitution of the Woman's Guild). Mrs. Thomson agreed to be President for one year (she had declined an invitation to be President of the Afternoon Branch in 1969).

St. David's now had two branches of the Woman's Guild and a Ladies Club - quite an unusual situation for any church. Membership for the long established afternoon branch remained loyal at 80 in 1971 (rising to 125 in 1981) and for the evening branch 29 in 1971 (rising to 48 in 1982). The Ladies Club started with 23 members in 1956 and grew to 82 in 1985. Membership in 1998 was Woman's Guild afternoon branch 43, evening branch 20 and Ladies Club 25.

The new evening branch had its first outing to North Berwick in 1972. Unfortunately the coach broke down on the way! This was followed by trips to the Hansel Village and Ayr (1973 and repeated in 1981), Symington and Peebles (1975), St. Andrews (1979) Inveraray (1980), Crieff (1984), Inveraray and Paisley Abbey (1985), Erskine and Ayr (1986) and Balmore and Peebles (1987).

The two branches of the Woman's Guild and the Ladies Club jointly decorated the church for Harvest Thanksgiving in 1973 and this became a regular part of the ladies' work each October.

A typical syllabus for the Afternoon Woman's Guild in the 1980s included visits by a number of speakers, a Daffodil (or Spring) Tea, a Dedication Service in October, Delegate's Days (when the various delegates from the Guild reported on the annual meetings held in the Assembly Halls, Edinburgh each April), Social Responsibility Day, Overseas and Home Mission meetings, One Day Committee

afternoons, outings, ladies singing and a Women's World Day of Prayer. Both branches of the Guild had visits from former ministers and assistants. The Rev. A.M. Grimstone (assistant to the Rev.T.R. Robertson from 1948-49) visited the afternoon branch in 1975. The following year Rev. Roy Tuton (assistant to the Rev. T.R. Robertson) visited the evening branch. The Rev. Ian Fisher (assistant to Dr. J.G.S.S. Thomson from 1963-64) followed in 1977. In 1981 the afternoon Guild was visited by the Rev. John Warnock who shared his memories of St. David's and his ministry in Biggar with the aid of slides. Mr. Warnock made a return visit as recently as 1992.

The afternoon Guild gifted a communion cloth to the church in 1979 for the 50th Anniversary of St. David's and in that year Mrs. Halliday talked about her 50 years in the Woman's Guild. In 1980 the evening branch had a visit from singers of Pollokshields Parish Church whose minister the Rev. Harry Thomson had been a St. David's boy and student assistant in the late 1950s.

Two of the ladies organisations had anniversaries in 1981. The Ladies Club celebrated 25 years and the evening branch of the Woman's Guild its 10th birthday, with an address by Rev. Sandy Gunn, the minister. This branch had an interesting talk in 1982 by the Rev. James Brown of Park Church Helensburgh (another St. David's boy who had also been a student assistant in 1975). His subject was 'The view from Daisy Hill' (the hill at the corner of Archerhill Road and Lincoln Avenue!). Mr. Brown based his talk on the changes, which had taken place at that place during his lifetime. In 1983 the afternoon branch invited the much-loved new parish assistant, the Rev. Alex Ritchie to talk about his chaplaincy work at Glasgow University.

In addition to regular activities, the ladies produced and provided many items for the needy; for example matinee jackets and parcels of bandages, which were sent to Ekwendeni Hospital, Malawi. Sacks of tinfoil and stamps were collected for charities and garments for the RSSPCC, the Lodging House Mission and other Church of Scotland areas of need.

The Rev. Sandy Gunn left for Aberfeldy in 1986. His mother was Hon. President of the afternoon branch, while he himself was Hon. President of the evening branch. His wife, Ruth, was an active member of the Guild. They were sorely missed.

The Rev. Howard Taylor and his wife Eleanor were guest speakers at the evening Guild in 1987. Dr. Gordon Inglis gave a talk on evolution and creation. In this year also, the Church of Scotland Woman's Guild celebrated its centenary, with the special meetings being held in the City Hall and the City Chambers.

The Woman's Guild has undergone a name change in recent years together with alterations to its Constitution. It is now known as 'The Guild'. In spite of a name change, the Aims of the Guild remain the same as always.

The Ladies Club

The Rev. Arthur Gunn became St. David's fourth minister in March 1956 and in that year a group of young wives began to meet in the manse in Norse Road with Mrs. Gunn. This was the beginning of the Young Wives Group, now known as the Ladies Club. Until 1962 the group was also known as the Young Wives Club, becoming the Young Ladies Club that year (to cater for unmarried ladies) and finally became the Ladies Club in 1965. Mrs. Anne Murray remembers sitting with the other young wives beside the draughty bay window of the front room of the manse! The syllabus for the 1956-57 session assured the ladies of 'a warm welcome in the manse lounge'! Membership in the first year was 23. The Young Wives Group was officially formed in October 1957 and recognised by the Glasgow North West Presbyterial Council.

Activities during that first year included floral arranging, accident prevention in the home and a demonstration of dressmaking by the Singer Sewing Machine Company. Visits were arranged by Corporation Homecraft demonstrators. Mrs. H. McCartney spoke on child welfare during the 1960-61 session. Over the years, talks were given by student assistants, including Revs. D. Innes, I. Fisher, J. Balchin, Dr. Goodheir, G. Sim, S. Clipston, A. Ritchie, E. Robertson and Mr. Denholm. Other speakers included Dr. and Mrs. JGSS Thomson, Rev. Sandy Gunn, Rev. J. Currie, Mr. S. Moore, Mr. Donald Dewar, MP, Mr. J. McKinnon, Mrs. A. Parsonage (Glasgow Humane Society) and the Rev. S. Haward from Knightswood Congregational Church. Films by British Railways and MacBraynes were also shown and a number of 'Any Questions' Panel games were organised.

Theatre visits were a popular part of the Club's syllabus. A visit to the Metropole, Kings or Pavilion theatres were usually preceded by a meal at Miss Rombachs, the Grand Hotel or the Trocadera. Musical evenings were provided by Miss W. Cunningham, Irene Black and her father, the Clydebank Lyric Choir and David Simpson with the choir of Fairfield Church. In 1974, the Rev. Henry Cook (Congregational Church) sang for the Ladies Club and the Rev. Douglas Lindsay organised a concert with his musical colleagues.

Outings were arranged to the Kelvingrove Art Galleries, Aberfoyle, the SSEB in Kilbowie Road, the Regent Flour Mills, Pollok House, the People's Palace, Hasties Farm, the MacFarlane Lang biscuit factory, the Mitchell Library, Newspaper offices, Findlay Clarks and Rouken Glen Garden Centres, Iona, Cardross and Moffat.

Recreational evenings in conjunction with the Men's Club were popular occasions, the ladies being served tea and home baking by the men and their wives.

The Ladies Club celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a Society Evening on 20th October 1997. Membership during the 1960s and 1970s had increased steadily reaching a record of 82 in 1985. In 1999 there are approximately 60 members.

Young Women's Group

As with the formation of the Ladies Club in 1956, a need was felt for an organisation for the younger women of the congregation in the mid-1990s. In 1997, the Young Women's Group was formed and its first President was Mrs. Barbara Henderson. The opening meeting was held on 4th September. Activities for the first year included a glass painting demonstration, a crime prevention talk and a Christmas night out (10-pin bowling). In the 1998-99 year there was a talk on Old Glasgow, a craft morning and a demonstration of cooking by wok. The President for 1999-2000 is Helen Knox. Events include a fund-raising evening, line dancing and a visit to the Kings Theatre. A prayer rota has been arranged for the first months of the new millennium.

The ladies' organisations have contributed greatly to the building and care of the church, the welfare of those suffering from the effects of war and many different kinds of service to the congregation. Meetings have been a time of fellowship, learning and fun.

May the work of the ladies' organisations continue.

The Men's Club

As with the Youth Club, the Men's Club was started by the Rev. T.R. Robertson in 1947. Provision for social activities for men in St. David's from 1931 until after the war existed in the form of a Men's Guild which initially met on alternate Wednesday evenings during winter. The Guild was discontinued only a year later (1932) but a 1935 programme of a 'Grand Concert Lecture' by Mr. A. Allan Beveridge has been found which shows that the Guild were the organisers. In 1941, the social life of St. David's was at a low ebb. This was the year of the Blitzkrieg. The Men's Guild reformed under the new name of 'Men's Social Committee'. One of the first things they did was to form an orchestra. Its double bass player was Mr. Eddie Copeland. In December 1945 the men invited the Singers Factory Mixed Choir to St. David's to give a concert in aid of the Welcome Home Fund for members of the congregation returning from active service.

The Men's Social Committee co-existed with the new Men's Club for over three years. Its aims were mainly cultural and the orchestra continued to rehearse and play together for two hours each week until the end of 1950 when the organisation was finally wound up.

The first meeting of the Men's Club was held on Monday 13th October 1947. Its aims were recreational as well as cultural. Subscriptions of 2/6d were payable per session. By 1949 there were 55 members. This number rose to 74 in 1955 and remained about the same until the early 1970s.

Activities in the church halls were augmented by visits to places of interest. A 1953 Syllabus shows visits to Yoker Power Station, Babcock and Wilcox, and the premises of the Glasgow Herald and Daily Express. A steamer outing was held in

the following year. In 1956 activities within the halls included a sports night, social and quiz.

Monday evenings in recent years have been centred more on sports such as carpet bowling. A choir, accompanied by Miss Sheena Kelly, has performed at concerts put on by the club, often featuring the three J's (with apologies to the 3 tenors!): John Newbigging, John McGhie and Jim Calder. Visits from neighbouring choirs have also been a feature of these concerts, the Clydebank Male Voice Choir being a recent treat.

Although fewer in number, the Men's Club continues to meet in a spirit of friendliness and enthusiasm.



Rev J.G.S.S. THOMSON M.A., B.D.,
B.A.(Oxon), Ph.D.(Edin)
1961 - 1973



Rev A.M. GUNN M.A., B.D.
1973 - 1986



Rev H.G. TAYLOR B.Sc., B.D., M.Th.
1986 - 1998



Rev G.M. THAIN LLB, B.D.
1999 - present

Chapter 6

Recent Times

*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today
and for ever.*

Hebrews 13: 8

On Sunday 20th August 1961, a special meeting was held by the Kirk Session at which the Vacancy Committee nominated and proposed James G.S.S. Thomson, MA BD BA(Oxon) PhD(Edin), minister without charge, to the congregation. Dr. Thomson was invited to preach at both the morning and evening services on 3rd September. He was inducted on Thursday 12th October and a social held on the following evening. The Rev. Donald Davidson of St. Andrew's Church, Edinburgh, led the morning introductory service on Sunday 15th October. The new minister took the evening service.

The following eleven and a half years were to see a remarkable ministry in which a depth of scholarship and solid biblical teaching were to become the trademarks of Dr. Thomson's work in the parish. He had spent eight years as a missionary in North Africa before studying for the ministry at Edinburgh and Oxford Universities. An Arabic scholar he was awarded his PhD for a thesis on "The Anthropology of the Koran". For six years he was on the staff of the Hebrew Department in New College, Edinburgh, and before coming to Glasgow, he was Professor of Old Testament in Columbia Seminary, Decatur, Georgia. Dr. Thomson was also a writer, and his book "The Praying Christ" was on sale at the bookstall run by Mr. Roy Hart. One of his first proposals was 'to go into all the homes of the congregation'. It was known that where the prefabs were coming down, new flats were to be built. This was to be a new challenge for St. David's. The Presbytery proposed that a new church should be built in the area of the flats (Lincoln Avenue) but this was never realised.

During Dr. Thomson's first year, a weekend conference and Bible exhibition was held. A lay leadership course was begun at the manse, initially with 20 members. From February 1962, the 'News' was renamed the 'Newsletter'. In September of that year the Rev. Eric J. Alexander was inducted to Loudoun East Church in Newmilns. Prayer 'cells' (house groups) were introduced in 1963, and in September of that year a weekend 'House Party' was held at Gean House near Alloa. A special evangelistic mission was organised for 11th-24th November, the church being floodlit for the occasion. This was led by the Rev. Sydney Callaghan of Belfast. A survey of the parish was carried out and in 1964 the new flats were visited for the first time. 'At Homes' were held in the halls for those who had expressed an interest in attending St. David's. More flats were to be built at Kirkton Avenue (the first visitation to them was in 1967). The Kirk Session

wrote to the Presbytery about the provision of a new church to serve the increasing population of the existing parish.

A crèche was formed in 1964 for morning services, and a summer church school was planned for 1965. This was the Pi Club (1965-73) which is described in another chapter. The December 1965 Anniversary Services were led by the Rev. T.R. Robertson. A project entitled 'Feed the Minds' was organised by several local churches and St. David's was host to another bible exhibition.

Accommodation for the Sunday School was becoming a problem in the mid 1960s. In December 1964 there were 264 scholars, with a further 20 in the Bible Class and 30 in the Youth Fellowship. As has been seen in a previous chapter, various schemes for providing improved accommodation were discussed at both Session and Board level. In 1965 a Five Year Plan was launched by the Treasurer, Mr. Roy Hart, CA, in an attempt to meet rising costs for fabric maintenance as well as financial obligations to the Presbytery.

Following the success of the first Pi Club, Robin Brough organised an Evangelism Reception for November. 30 students of the Inter Varsity Fellowship camped in the church halls and conducted a two-week campaign with special reference to youth, including a popular Teenage Cafe each evening.

Following on from the work of the Lady Visitors Welfare Committee during the Rev. Arthur Gunn's ministry, a visiting committee to the sick and elderly was formed with Mr. John Gray as Convenor assisted by Norman Buchanan (who had become an elder in 1960), Mrs. Davidson and Mrs. Kay McDougall. Over the following years, special annual services were held, as well as car runs and other outings. There were 400 sick and elderly members on record in 1966. Many homes were visited regularly by the members of this committee. Mr. Buchanan became Chairman in 1971 (when it was known as the Senior Members Committee) with Mr. Medlow as Secretary and Treasurer. In more recent years it has been chaired by Mr. Medlow, Mr. J. Hanna, Mr. Tom Wallace (from 1984) and currently by Mr. J. Pollock.

The Rev. Harry Thomson was inducted to Pollokshields Kenmure Church in September 1965, followed by a remarkable succession of young St. David's members who had given their lives to Christ, during the ministries of Rev. Arthur

Gunn and Dr. Thomson: Robin Brough (1966), Leslie Barr (1967), David Speed (1969), John Moore (1970), Alan Ford (1972), and Jim Brown (1975). Douglas Lindsay, David Carmichael, Norman Cruickshank, Stewart Steel and Neil Buchanan followed during the ministries of the Rev. Sandy Gunn and Rev. Howard Taylor.

In addition, Margaret Lees trained at the Bible Training Institute in 1963, and nurse Rosemary McPherson went to Missionary College. In 1970 Harold McCartney trained as a Lay Missionary and subsequently worked in Nitshill and Castlemilk. Ian and Janice Bulloch went to Ethiopia with the Sudan Interior Mission in 1974. The work of the Holy Spirit was very much alive in St. David's at a time when church membership on a national scale was facing a slow decline.

Dr. Thomson was concerned about the spiritual life of the church at all levels and the Kirk Session was no exception. In 1966 an Elders' Weekend, the first of many, was held at Alloa. This took the form of a training course. Piersland House in Troon became a popular choice of venue in subsequent years. The Rev. John Balchin, who had been with St. David's since 1958, left for New Zealand in 1966.

On Saturday 25th February 1967, St. David's was selected by the Evening Citizen as the 'Kirk of the Week' with the headline 'where a warm welcome is assured'. The article was mainly centred on the considerable achievement of the time. One of the activities mentioned was a monthly prayer meeting from 10 pm to 1 a.m. This was a year when much visiting was done, particularly to the new flats in Kirkton Avenue. A parish survey (using a questionnaire) was also carried out. The Kirk Session numbered 85 elders and there were 40 on the Congregational Board. Under a new constitution all elders were automatically made Board members. Also in 1967 a Billy Graham Campaign was relayed to Green's Playhouse and arrangements made for members to attend. Testimonies from those who had received the Word at the Campaigns were heard at services in June. During the summer, two morning services (9.30 and 11.00) were held in addition to the 7.00 evening service.

1968 saw the launch of the Boreland Friendship Club, formerly known as the Old People's Welfare Committee. Its convenors have been Mrs. Margaret Reid (start) and Mrs. Anne Murray (current). The year also saw a new style of newsletter following the purchase of a new duplicator (operated by Miss Roomes). All

previous newsletters had been printed. The cheaper cost of producing in-house meant that its size and contents could be increased.

Long Service Certificates were presented on Sunday 16th January 1969 to John Stivens (39 years), James Kennedy (39 years), Thomas Campbell, James Coull and Peter Seaton. Other long serving elders at this time included James Frame (33 years) and Mr. Dunlop.

With Tom Barr as Convenor of the Parish Visitation Committee, the whole parish, with the exception of the flats which had only recently been visited, received visits during the year from over 130 visitors. 2,373 homes were called on, resulting in an increase in membership (by about 25 people). Dr. Thomson re-introduced visitor cards for the pews in this year.

Much good work was done by St. David's members during Dr. Thomson's ministry. Mrs. Kay McDougall worked tirelessly for the needy. Knightswood Hospital was visited every Sunday afternoon and Mainsholm Eventide Home received visits each Friday evening by a group of young people led by Harold McCartney and subsequently Alan Cowie and Robert McLean.

In 1970 Miss Lily Rose gifted a new PA system to the church in memory of her father and two pulpit chairs were gifted by Mrs. Halliday. All were dedicated in 1971. A pulpit exchange took place during 1970 when Mr. Warnock returned to St. David's and Dr. Thomson went to Biggar. A Founder's social had been organised for that weekend and Mrs. Fordyce (widow of the first minister) was invited. A November Fayre, opened by the singer Moira Anderson (her husband Stewart MacDonald and his family were members of St. David's), raised £1,139.

The Rev. T.R. Robertson was guest preacher at the annual service for senior members in 1970, the Rev. Arthur Gunn taking the same service the following year.

The Organisations Committee was wound up in 1971 following the resignation of Mr. George Alison after many years' service. Mr. Frame continued to visit each organisation and gave a twice-yearly report to the Kirk Session. Subsequently leaders were invited to report directly to the Kirk Session, then later, pairs of elders were asked to visit each organisation. Interestingly, in 1999 the senior

leaders of all the organisations are members of the Kirk Session and are free to talk at Session meetings.

Deeds of Covenant (formerly known as Bonds of Annuity) were introduced around this time. Miss Elizabeth Russell was the first convenor and was succeeded by Mr. Colin Campbell in 1971. Mrs. B. Gray was Flower Convenor until 1978 when Miss Stivens took over. Mr. Peter Weir succeeded Mr. St. Clair as Roll-keeper in 1971. In this year also an anonymous donor gifted a new set of pulpit falls. The Foreign Mission Committee (with Mr. G. Alison as Convenor) continued to send collection boxes to St. David's members.

A committee was formed in 1971 to deal with poor attendance at church services. Mr. Robert McLean reported that the 66 districts (with 72 elders) were to be reduced to 55, each with its own elder and lady visitor. An outreach committee was formed and further house fellowship groups set up. Dr. Thomson outlined the 'obligations of each elder'.

A question of appointing lady Board members to uplift the offering from the back rows of the church (due to a shortage of male Board members) was debated by the Congregational Board in November 1971 and referred to Kirk Session for further discussion. At a vote in February 1972, the eldership was split by 22 votes to 13 on the motion 'that ladies should be appointed to assist with the uplifting of the collection at the rear of the church'. It was a pity that bad feeling had entered the Courts of the church.

The colours of the uniformed organisations were permanently displayed in the church from the end of 1972. In September, a Flower Festival organised by Miss Bessie Stivens, raised enough money to provide carpeting for the chancel. A Tuesday coffee morning was run by Miss Lily Rose. This was subsequently moved to a Thursday morning and is now organised by Mr. and Mrs. John Newbigging.

On Sunday 25th February 1973, Dr. Thomson told the Kirk Session that he had been selected as Sole Nominee for the Charge of Wigtown Parish Church. He was inducted there on 13th June. In the June Newsletter, Mr. Hart, the Session Clerk, paid tribute to Dr. Thomson: 'His had been a scholarly, biblical ministry, fruitful in the lives of many. Perhaps the most apparent result had been the seven young men who in these eleven and a half years had responded to the call of the

Ministry, and the others who had entered for Christian service at home and overseas.’

The Rev. Tom Dick from Scotstoun East Church became Interim Moderator. Students Douglas Lindsay, Jim Brown and Alan Ford were of great help during the vacancy. The Rev. Tom Robertson took the June communion services, while the Rev. J.S. Hall attended to pastoral duties. A Vacancy Committee of 25 was appointed.

Anonymous gifts were presented to the church in the form of a portable lectern and lights for the praise boards.

In September a house in Southbrae Drive was looked at as a possible new manse. The Presbytery had for some time recommended the provision of a 7-roomed house for a minister and his family. The manse at 121 Norse Road had served five St. David’s ministers from 1931. 60 Southbrae Drive was purchased for £17,500.

The Rev. Alexander MacLean Gunn, MA, BD of Wick St. Andrew’s and Thrumster was invited to preach as Sole Nominee on 14th October. Mr. Gunn had spent his early years in Edinburgh before moving, after his father’s death, to Beaully. He completed his secondary education at Dingwall Academy then returned to Edinburgh to study for his degrees for the ministry. He became an Assistant at Elgin before accepting the call to Wick. Mr. Gunn (who was universally known as Sandy) was inducted to St. David’s on Thursday 6th December 1973 (St. David’s 44th Anniversary week). The induction service was followed by a social. The introductory services were conducted on Sunday 9th December by Professor J. Stewart (morning) and the new minister (evening). Mr. Gunn took the chair as Moderator of the Kirk Session prior to the Preparatory Service on Thursday 13th only one week after his induction. The Session Clerk commented that ‘Despite the short time Mr. Gunn had been with us he was already very much at home amongst us in St. David’s’. Mr. Gunn (the second Rev. A. Gunn to occupy the pulpit) was welcomed as Chairman of the Congregational Board on 19th December. At the Annual Stated Meeting on 20th February 1974 he said that he was happy to be in a church with a great tradition of Christian life. His immediate concern was the great housing upheaval (the much remembered modernisation of homes within the parish) and what he and the

members of Session and Board could do in practical terms, especially for older members.

Tape recordings for housebound members were introduced early in 1974. These consisted of prayers, some music and a short message. They were a source of comfort to many people throughout Mr. Gunn's ministry at St. David's. The Bible School, started by the Rev.T.R. Robertson in 1953, remained a permanent feature of the church's spiritual life and Mr. Gunn encouraged its growth.

A Social Evening for elders and their wives, was held in April. A training conference led by Rev. Eric Alexander was held for elders in September in Renfield Church. David Simpson became organist and choirmaster in March.

Long Service Certificates were presented to Tom Barr (35 years) and James Frame (38 years) at the conference. John (Pop) Stevens had completed 60 full years as an elder in the Church of Scotland on 14th September and a letter and certificate were presented to him from the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

During Mr. Gunn's first year all the flats in the parish were visited. Leaflets were also handed out to new residents in the district. Mrs. Parratt resigned as Editor of the Newsletter and her place taken by Miss Marie Stirratt. Hand drawn sketches by young John McKinnon and Mrs. Little appeared on the cover and in the Children's Corner page. The typing was done by Miss Isabel Gardner and Mrs. Johnstone.

By the end of the year the number on the roll had increased. Mr. Gunn was proving to be a popular minister and there was no doubting his hard work within the parish. Concern was often expressed that he would overwork. The Outreach Committee (with Mr. Joe Porter as Convenor) decided to visit one third of the parish each year. By October 1975, there were 7 new members. A Holy Week Foreign Mission Rally was held on an annual basis. A collection of halfpennies for the leaking church roof was organised.

The 9.30 morning service was discontinued after eight years.

Mrs. Sarah Robertson became the efficient and popular church cleaner at the end of 1975 and retired in 1999 after 24 years service.

Retirals of two previous St. David's ministers occurred within a short time of one another: Rev. J. Warnock retired to Craighendran in 1975 and the Rev. T.R. Robertson retired to Kirkcudbright in 1976. Both returned to St. David's to conduct services.

Mr. Norman Buchanan became Session Clerk in 1977 and demitted office after 12 years as Senior Members Convenor. He was succeeded by James Medlow. Mr. J. Hanna took over in 1980. Three guest services were conducted by Mr. Buchanan that year.

In 1978 prayer meetings were held prior to the Preparatory Services, and a late night prayer meeting held after the Tuesday evening Bible Hour. Miss Sheena Kelly succeeded Miss Stirratt as Editor of the Newsletter.

In September St. David's adopted Dr. and Mrs. Knowles as part of the Church of Scotland's Missionary Partnership Plan. The Knowles were engaged in medical and missionary work in Malawi at the Ekwendeni Hospital. Ron and Edith Dewhurst were also St. David's Missionary Partners in the Argentine. Their book 'God's Charioteers' written in the 1960s tells of their journeys and adventures with their Bible van. Mrs. Edith Dewhurst (nee Harrison) has missionary associations going back to 1959. The Knowles, Dewhursts and Karen Anderson (who has been in Israel during the 1990s) keep in regular contact with St. David's.

1979 was St. David's Jubilee year. Plans had been made well in advance. The choir gave a concert in September followed by a social. The main events were an Anniversary Dinner held in the banqueting hall of the City Chambers on 1st November, special services throughout the rest of that month, and the publication of a booklet giving details about St. David's as well as a short history of the church and parish. The dinner was a great success. The guest speakers at the dinner were Dr. Andrew Herron, Clerk to Glasgow Presbytery and the Rev. H. Cook. Mr. Warnock and Mr. Robertson attended. Jubilee services were conducted by the Rev. Eric Alexander (4th November), Rev. A. Gunn and D.S. Carmichael (11th November), Rev. T.R. Robertson and Rev. J. Warnock (18th November), and the Rev. George Philip from Sandyford Henderson Church (then Moderator of the Presbytery of Glasgow) at the Preparatory Service on Thursday

22nd November. The Communion and Thanksgiving Services were led by the Minister on Sunday 29th November.

Sadly, Mr. John Stivens did not live to take part in the celebrations for the church in which he had been a founder member half a century before. He had been an elder of the Church of Scotland since 1914. At the Kirk Session meeting in March 1979 thanks were given to God for a life of 92 years, 65 of which had been devoted to service in the work of the Lord as an elder. 'Pop' Stivens was nursed devotedly by his daughter Bessie during his last years. St. David's lost two more of its longest serving members that year - Mr. James Frame (43 years) and Mr. James Kennedy (47 years) who had only in November received certificates from the Rev. George Philip at the Preparatory Service. Other members to receive certificates at the service were W.A.D. Brown (30), J. Dickinson (31), G. Gordon (31) and S. Miller (41). Tom Barr (40), James Coull (50) and Peter Seaton (53) had already received certificates.

On a happier note, Mr. Gunn married Ruth Rankin on Friday 19th January 1979 and their daughter Anne was born on 19th November.

Mrs. Addison gifted a blue velvet cloth for the communion table in memory of her sister Mrs. Dallas.

The Rev. John Hamilton on his retiral as Minister of Yoker Old Parish Church, a position he had held for many years, joined St. David's in 1980. Mr. Hamilton, together with his wife Gwyneth, took a full part in the life of the congregation.

The Knightswood Council of Churches was set up in 1980 involving the reformed churches in the district. Tom Landels was the first St. David's elder to represent the congregation and Miss Sheena Kelly attended as a member of the Board. The service of dedication was held on Sunday 17th January 1981. St. David's hosted the united service on Palm Sunday that year. The Good Friday service was held in Knightswood Congregational Church. Throughout the years joint services have been held on a three-monthly basis.

In 1981, fortnightly house group meetings were held in the Lincoln Avenue flats led by the Rev. G. Sim, Student Assistant. An average attendance of 10 made this a worthwhile venture. Luis Palau, the South American evangelist, visited

Glasgow and a committee of elders was formed to arrange for members to attend the meetings to be held in the Kelvin Hall. George McKay continued as Mission Convenor (for a total of 11 years). Miss Eileen Clark received the MBE in recognition of her 25 years with the Scripture Union and 40 years working with girls' camps. A second Flower Festival was held on 28th and 29th August.

In April 1983, the Rev. Alex Ritchie, MB, BD, retired as Chaplain to Glasgow University and joined St. David's as a pastoral assistant. Mr. Ritchie was warmly accepted by the congregation and remained until his (second) retirement in 1996. He was born on Sanday Island in the Orkneys and spent his childhood in Northumberland where his father was an ordained minister. His first ambition was to be a professional church musician and he did indeed, even after ordination to the ministry, play the organ in well known cathedrals and churches. He began his ministry as an assistant in St. Machar's Cathedral, Aberdeen, and then moved to his first charge in St. George's Road, Glasgow. There he met Isa McCondie who became his wife. He moved to Helensburgh St. Columba and then to full time chaplaincy work in the Queen Victoria School, Dunblane. His later service to Glasgow University as chaplain was very distinguished. Mr. Ritchie was welcomed at the April Kirk Session meeting and in June it was minuted that his work in the congregation and parish was much appreciated. The parish now had many elderly and housebound members, some of whom had lived in the area since the houses were built. The need for regular home and hospital visitation was great. Mr. Ritchie, aged 66 when he came to us, walked for miles round the streets of lower Knightswood visiting the sick and elderly. Miss Stevens recalled the first minister of Knightswood West as the 'walking minister'. Mr. Fordyce had no other transport (Mr. Warnock had a bike). Even in his retirement in 1940 from a Dundee church he worked with the Adamson Trust connected with the old city Parish Church of Dundee. This involved him in preaching every Sunday in one or other of the four churches together with week day visitations of sick and elderly people in the city tenements. The parallel with Alex Ritchie more than 30 years later is quite striking; neither could simply retire.

Parish visitation continued under the leadership of Mr. Porter and his team. The Rev. Arthur Gunn preached on Sunday 19th June 1983. Mr. Tom Clark received a long service award for 36 years as an elder. Two guest services were held in 1984.

An elders' training course was held at St. Ninian's Centre, Crieff in 1985. Mr. Tom Wallace (Convenor, Senior Members Committee) organised a bus to bring the aged and infirm members to church on Sunday mornings.

On Sunday 22nd December, prior to the morning service, Mr. Gunn announced to the Session that he had received a call to be minister in the Parish of Aberfeldy, Amulree and Strathban. The Session Clerk, Mr. Norman Buchanan, expressed deep sorrow and regret. Few people will forget the shocked reaction of the congregation at the close of the service. Mr. Gunn had worked tirelessly for St. David's. His mother is remembered for her work as Honorary President of the Woman's Guild. Mr. Gunn's Farewell and Presentation were held on the 19th February 1986. He was inducted to Aberfeldy on Wednesday 5th March. Mr. Gunn was greatly missed by all those who had known him during his 12 years at St. David's.

As in 1973 when the manse was bought, repairs and redecoration were necessary to make the house ready for a new minister. The kitchen and bathroom were modernised. During the vacancy, the Rev. John Jolly agreed to become Interim Moderator. The church was also fortunate in having the services of Mr. Ritchie during this time. A vacancy Committee was appointed.

St. David's was about to have another outstanding minister. The Rev. Howard G. Taylor, BSc, BD, MTh, was inducted on Thursday 25th September 1986. A buffet tea and welcome social was held after the service. Introductory services were held on Sunday 28th with the Rev. David Torrance at 11 am and Mr. Taylor at 7 p.m. Mr. Taylor's 12 year ministry was marked by a clear expository preaching style. The scriptures were opened to the congregation in a scholarly but always interesting way. With an interest in the ultimate question raised by science, he brought a new vision to the teaching of God's Word. He was a family man and his wife Eleanor and his sons Douglas, Keith and Ian were quickly adopted by the St. David's folk.

Mr. Taylor was welcomed by the Kirk Session at the October meeting, and set out his order of priorities for visiting members of the congregation. One of the first things he did was to introduce tea and coffee in the large hall after each service. He even served as Tea Convenor himself! Aileen Buchan took over from Mrs. McDougall as St. David's representative on the Knightswood Council of

Churches in 1987. Arrangements were made for the ladies organisations to decorate the chancel for Harvest on a permanent basis. Mr. Somerville, a local baker, always provided a beautiful loaf with an elaborate crust.

Torch Fellowship meetings were held on the fourth Saturday of each month for those who were blind or partially sighted. A Coffee Group was set up on a fortnightly basis for mothers with young children.

During Mr. Taylor's first year a trip to the Holy Land was organised. Mr. Joe Porter died and Mr. John Newbigging succeeded him as Outreach Convenor. An elders weekend was arranged for St. Ninians Crieff..

St. David's lost two more of its much respected workers in 1988: Duncan Crawford and Harry Templeman. Mr. Crawford had been Church Treasurer since 1972 and had managed the financial affairs of the church with great efficiency. Mr. Templeman had worked for many years with the church grounds committee and had been Property Convenor before becoming Church Officer in 1983. He was a humble and loyal servant of the Lord. Miss Ethel Lindsay became the first female Treasurer and Mark Gibb was appointed as part-time Church Officer.

The subject of lady elders was raised at the November 1988 Session meeting, and at a vote it was agreed to ordain women to the eldership in St. David's. The Church of Scotland now had a policy of allowing women to become elders. The first lady elders, Mrs. Newbigging, Mrs. McGhie and Miss Lindsay were admitted and ordained on Sunday 8th September 1991.

Mr. Taylor attended by invitation a National Prayer Breakfast in Washington DC in February 1989 at which many important religious and political leaders were present, including President Bush. Billy Graham again visited Glasgow that year. Shaw Anderson was appointed as St. David's representative for the Mission 89 Crusade. Rallies were also held in Celtic Park in 1991. Seventeen enquiries were made to St. David's. Rick Marshall, an assistant of Billy Graham spoke at a special rally in the church during the summer of that year.

1989 was St. David's 60th Anniversary year. Special events included a Gift Day.

Mr. Taylor became Chairman of the Knightswood Council of Churches, a position he held until 1992.

Glasgow's reign as City of Culture took place in 1990. St. David's contribution was a variety concert staged by members of the congregation and friends under the heading of 'Spirit of the City' on Saturday 5th May.

The church building was closed for several months for major roof repairs and not re-opened again until Sunday 28th April 1991 when a service of re-dedication was conducted by the Rev. Robert Carmont, Moderator of the Presbytery of Glasgow. During these months the large hall (with a seating capacity of only 275) was used for public worship, in the same way as Knightswood West had done 60 years before. Chairs had to be set out each Saturday morning and the hall cleared after the evening service. The Sunday School met on Sunday afternoons from 2 to 3.

Mr. Taylor organised a second trip to the Holy Land in 1990. Mr. Martyn Jones (from Bishopbriggs Kenmure Church) became an elder in St. David's and served for six years as Deputy Session Clerk. A Young Adults group was started in this year and met each Sunday after the evening service.

A Stewardship Campaign replaced the annual parish visitation in 1991. The third St. David's Flower Festival took place from 29th-31st August. It was again organised by Miss Stivens and her committee and was advertised as 'Flowers in Praise'. Long Service Certificates were presented to Mr. John Newbigging and Mr. Peter Weir for 40 years' service. Mr. Weir's association with St. David's goes back further than that. He was editor of the Monthly Leaflet in 1948.

A Neighbours Sunday was held in 1992, the idea of the organist David Simpson. Members were encouraged to invite their next door neighbours to a special service. Sunday afternoon services in Knightswood Hospital continued with John Newbigging and Sheena Kelly until the hospital closed in 1998. (It was originally built as a Fever Hospital in 1877 and the buildings were finally demolished during the summer of 1999).

The Rev. John Warnock, although retired in 1975, was still active in the work of the church. St. David's sent their best wishes to him for 60 years in the ministry. Mr. Warnock is 91 at the time of writing.

Assistants to Mr. Taylor included the Rev. N. McKinnon and the Rev. G. Kennedy. The Rev. Winston Kawale from Malawi was Assistant from 1987 to 1988. He was at St. David's during a particularly cold winter. Members of the church were amused to see him playing in the snow like a child. He had never seen snow before! Howard Taylor had been a missionary preacher as well as a teacher in Malawi, before going to Kirn and Innellan as minister. Many friends and colleagues from Africa came to St. David's services, often staying with the Taylors at the manse.

Members of St. David's were saddened to hear of the death of the Session Clerk, Norman Buchanan in July 1992. Mr. Taylor paid tribute to him at the September meeting of the Kirk Session. Mr. Buchanan had served as Deputy Clerk from 1971 before becoming Session Clerk in 1977. From the early 1960s he had been actively involved in the Senior Members Committee, and served as President of the Choir. He loved music and his distinctive bass voice was a great asset to the church choir. It was appropriate that a new music cabinet was purchased in his memory.

Mr. Robert McLean, who had been deputy Session Clerk from 1977, succeeded Mr. Norman Buchanan as Session Clerk.

A new Outreach Committee was formed in 1993 comprising Martyn Jones, Tom Landels and Shaw Anderson. Mr. Taylor took study leave to go to Cambridge and write his book 'Christ in a Pluralist Society'. His other writings include "In Christ all things hold together" co-author with Rev. J. Stein (1984), 'Faith and Understanding' (1990) and 'Israel: the People of God' (1991). The Rev. John Jolly and Rev. Alex Ritchie conducted the services during Mr. Taylor's absence.

James and Elaine Hain became Editors of the Newsletter in 1993 succeeding Sheena Kelly who had been editor since 1978. Congratulations were expressed to Mr. Ritchie who celebrated 50 years in the ministry. The Presbytery sent a St. David's former member, the Rev. Douglas Lindsay from Eaglesham Church, to conduct the quinquennial visitation of 1994. An elders' conference was held at

Crieff later that year. In 1995 Mr. Tom Landels took over from Mr. John Newbigging as Outreach Convenor (parish visitation). Much work was done in revising the lists of names and addresses of people in the parish by checking the electoral register in Knightswood library. Visitors were sent out in pairs and called at all the homes where there was no known church connection. Names of interested people were given to district elders or leaders of organisations, such as the Sunday School or BB. A lot of hard work was done by Mr. Porter, Mr. Newbigging and Mr. Landels over the years. Following a theft of many of the visitation records, a new system of leaflet distribution (mailshots) was introduced in 1998.

Mrs. Elaine Hain and Mrs. Ellen Fleming have both served as Prayer Secretaries in recent years. In September 1995 Miss Eileen Clark organised a family weekend to Biggar.

The Music Group put on a concert in October to raise funds for a new sound system.

At the end of March 1996, Mr. Ritchie retired from his duties at St. David's after 13 years of service to the congregation. In April he joined the Kirk Session. Sadly he died on 30th December aged 79. Mr. Ritchie's funeral service was held in St. David's on Saturday 4th January 1997.

Mr. Bill Denholm joined St. David's as part-time pastoral assistant during the summer of 1996. At the September meeting of the Kirk Session it was noted that his work was 'widely appreciated'. Mr. Denholm stayed with St. David's until April 1999. During this time he visited and befriended many sick and elderly people in their homes, in hospital or nursing homes. He took part in church services and regularly conducted funeral services. Mr. Denholm is now Pastoral Assistant at the Charlotte Baptist Chapel in Edinburgh. Dr. G. Chalmers was invited to address the Kirk Session on 2nd October 1996. His message to the elders was one of encouragement. The first Alpha course was held in 1996 and repeated during the following years.

In this year also St. David's got its own web-site and very soon many messages and enquiries were coming in from different parts of the world. This facility was the idea of the Deputy Session Clerk, Dr. Gordon Inglis. The web-site is currently

one of the foremost in the Glasgow Presbytery. Information is updated regularly by Dr. Inglis. This brings St. David's very much into the 21st century.

Long Service Certificates were presented on Sunday 16th March 1997 to James Watters (42), Angus McDonald (38), James Hanna (38), John McGhie (35), George McKay (34) and Robert McLean (32). Dr. Gordon Inglis succeeded Martyn Jones as Deputy Session Clerk. Mr. Alex Graham and Mr. John P. Weir will receive their certificates early in the year 2000.

The church buildings suffered from vandalism during 1997 when many windows were smashed and the garden hut and inlet pipe to the central heating boiler set on fire.

In February 1998, a special service was held for young couples whose children had been baptised within recent years. Couples who had recently been married at St. David's were also invited. This was an imaginative attempt to encourage younger adults to come to church. Mr. Taylor and Mr. Denholm visited prospective couples prior to the service. In March, a group from the Session was established to follow up on the 'Young Couples' service.

In 1998, the Kirk Session numbered 51 (41 men and 10 women) and the Congregational Board 80 (all the elders plus 29 elected members of the congregation). Plans were made for the re-roofing of the church halls. Work did not start until early 1999.

On Sunday 2nd August 1998, Mr. Taylor announced that he had accepted a call to be Chaplain of Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh. The congregation was sad to hear of Mr. Taylor's decision, but knew that he would be ideally suited to work among students and academics. A Farewell Social was held after the evening service on Sunday 20th September. Mr. Taylor began working immediately at Heriot-Watt. On 31st January 1999 at the 33rd Anniversary Service of the Heriot-Watt University in Currie Kirk (in whose parish the campus lies) Mr. Taylor was formally introduced as Chaplain by Professor John Archer, the Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University.

Members of the congregation were saddened to hear of the death of the Rev. Arthur Gunn on 16th November 1998 in Auckland, New Zealand.

Following Mr. Taylor's departure, a vacancy committee of 19 members was elected. The Rev. Gordon Matthew from Scotstoun Church was appointed as Interim Moderator, and for over seven months the congregation enjoyed a selection of familiar faces in the pulpit: the Rev. Roy Tuton (one time assistant to the Rev. Arthur Gunn), the Rev. George Philip (friend of the congregation) and the Rev. John Jolly (one time Interim Moderator and locum during Mr. Taylor's study leave). Mr. Ted Herbert, lecturer of Old Testament at the Glasgow Bible College took the service on 11th April, which was also Mr. Denholm's last service at St. David's.

A great deal of work was carried out during the vacancy by Mr. Robert McLean, Session Clerk. In addition to organising eight months of pulpit supply (sometimes taking an occasional service himself), he attended to a host of other duties including communion arrangements and leading the Bible Hour. He oversaw improvements to the vacant manse during this time, and carried out major renovations himself, (such as plumbing work and the removal of a fireplace). Over many years (Mr. McLean became an elder in 1964), Bob has worked faithfully for the congregation of St. David's, carrying on a tradition that has gone before him to the earliest days of the church's history. Much of his work has been in the 'background' and he has undertaken this willingly in service to our Lord and to the church he clearly loves.

The Rev. Graham Thain, LLB, BD, was elected as Sole Nominee, and inducted to St. David's on Tuesday 15th May, 1999. Mr. Thain, a native of Elgin, was formerly minister of Polmont Old Church. An Induction Social was held after the service. Introductory services were held on Sunday 30th May with the Rev. William B. Whyte, BD, St. Ninian's Nairn at 11 am and Mr. Thain at 6.30.

Much work is done, often unseen, on a regular basis by groups or individuals. On Sundays a creche is run by a team of ladies organised by Isobel Higgins. Jean Kellas runs a well-stocked bookstall. Cashiers, led by Jan Brough (Treasurer from January 1999) count the money from the offerings after each morning service. The grounds continue to be tended by Hugh Aitken and his helpers. A Flower Committee (previously run by Mrs. Gray and then Miss Bessie Stivens) is now organised by Mrs. Betty McPherson. Flowers are bought, arranged and distributed Sunday by Sunday. James Hain runs an 'Operation Mars Bar' collection for the

homeless as well as producing the Newsletter nine times in the year. He is helped by a team of ladies who collate and fold the pages. Mrs. Irene Campbell is in charge of the distribution of both the Newsletter and Life and Work and Colin her husband is the Deed of Covenant Convenor.

A Mission Committee, chaired by Mr. Robert McLean, attends to both home and overseas missionary work. Mission and leprosy boxes are collected by Mrs. May Porter and Miss Sheena McDougall. Much work, particularly correspondence with missionary partners, has been undertaken by Morag Campbell over many years. Kenneth Higgins is St. David's representative for Tear Fund. Scripture Union Bible Notes are distributed quarterly by Mrs. May Rankin. Mrs. Janice Landels is responsible for the Health and Safety regulations in the kitchen and halls and organises food for events such as the farewell and induction socials. Mr. Jim Pollock is Convenor of the Senior Members Committee. As well as organising an annual outing, Jim and a team of car drivers bring elderly members of the congregation to church each Sunday.

A 'Walk Through the Bible' experience was organised by Tom Landels early in 1999. Much work is carried out for St. David's by Tom who is the Property Convenor, often assisted by Bryan Turnbull.

A weekly intimation and prayer sheet has been introduced since the induction of Mr. Thain. It is compiled by the minister and session clerk and is produced by Mr. James Hain.

All of this and much more is quietly and regularly undertaken by members of the congregation, over and above the work of the minister, elders, office bearers and leaders of organisations.

1999, St. David's 70th Anniversary Year, began with a Prayer Breakfast in January led by Bill Denholm and John McKinnon of Scripture Union (formerly a St. David's member). A church walk, finishing with a barbecue at Eileen Clark's home, was held in the spring. The fourth Flower Festival (Seventy Years in His Service) was held from the 26-28th August. Each decade of the church's history was beautifully depicted with imaginative flower arrangements.

Sadly Miss Bessie Stivens, who was Convenor of the Flower Festival, died only days before the event. Bessie was about 14 years old when the church halls in Loanfoot Avenue were built. Her life, like that of her father, epitomised the true spirit of St. David's. They grew together in Christ. Bessie's life was the church, and all she did was in God's service. As a tangible memorial of St. David's 70th Anniversary and a thanksgiving for Bessie's faithful service, particularly with the fabric of the church, four oak chancel chairs were purchased. They were dedicated at the November Communion Service.

Further events for the Anniversary Year included a sponsored walk for the Street Children of Brazil (September), a Youth Night and an Organ Recital (both in October). On Saturday 13th November a successful Church Dinner was held. The speaker was Mr. Bill Gilvear. During the evening old films of church events were shown and photographs and other memorabilia were displayed.

Anniversary Services were held on Sunday 5th December when the preachers were the Rev. Eric Alexander (former Assistant Minister) and the Rev. David Clark, from Scripture Union. Tea and birthday cake was served in the hall after each service.

Miss Cathie Gillies was appointed Church Officer in November following the death of Mark Gibbs. The Rev. Douglas Lindsay, former St. David's boy and now minister of Eaglesham Old and Carswell Parish Church, conducted the quinquennial visitation in October and preached at a morning service.

Although St. David's new minister, Graham Thain, has only been with the church for a few months, it has been clear from the start that his ministry was going to be one of great quality. His direct and sincere style of preaching has had a positive impact on the congregation. An elders' retreat was arranged by him and held at Gartmore House on Saturday 20th November. It is hoped that a pastoral assistant to Mr. Thain will be appointed in the near future.

1999 ended with a party in the church hall organised by the hard-working committee (led by Eileen Clark) who had overseen the different events through the year. At 11.30 p.m. the minister conducted the Millennium Moment Service, when the New Year was welcomed in by about 80 members of the St. David's family, during a time of quiet worship.

Chapter 7

Music in St. David's

Praise ye the Lord. Praise God in his sanctuary:

Praise him in the firmament of his power.

*Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to
his excellent greatness.*

Praise him with the sound of the trumpet:

Praise him with the psaltery and harp.

*Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with
stringed instruments and organs.*

*Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the
high sounding cymbals.*

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord.

Praise ye the Lord.

Psalm 150

The Organ

Henry Hilsdon of Glasgow was the builder of the pipe organ at St. David's Parish Church, Knightswood. It dates from 1913 and has two manuals and pedals, 10 speaking stops, 5 couplers and composition pedals for Great and Swell departments.

The organ was built for St. David's United Free Church in Cromwell Street and donated, along with the communion table, baptismal font and other items, in 1936 prior to the building of our church three years later.

As the instrument was built for the previous St. David's Church, it may be of interest to give a brief history of its time there and to begin with a short background of the years prior to its construction.

At a meeting of the Kirk Session of Free St. David's in the Assembly Rooms, Ingram Street on 15th June 1843 (immediately following the Disruption), Mr. Fergus was appointed Precentor (at £15 per annum) and a committee was formed to confer with him "to the Improvement of the Psalmody". These were the days when instrumental music, as in the Free Church of today, was forbidden. Indeed, even the playing of band music in London's parks on the Lord's Day was severely criticised and the Deacon's Court (Congregational Board) "agreed to memorialise Her Majesty the Queen against all such performance, on that day, as being a violation of the Law of the Sabbath".

The singing of Psalms and anthems was approved, however, but it was not until 1865 that a choir was mentioned in the Minute Books. Music books and pew cushions were obtained that year, and in 1874 the Free Church Hymn Book was bought for congregation and choir use. In addition to Mr. Fergus, a paid female Leader of praise was appointed to assist the choir.

1883 was the official date in which organs and harmoniums could be used in Free Church worship, but it was not until two years after that date that a harmonium was purchased (at £45). Mr. IC Murray was appointed as Precentor and Harmoniumist at £20 per annum, and the services of the female leader dispensed with. The first piano was purchased in 1898 for use in the church hall. The

question of obtaining a more substantial harmonium or small organ was raised at a meeting in 1907, but it was not until 1911 that the possibility of installing a pipe organ was given serious consideration.

Plans for the organ

Andrew Carnegie (1835-1919), the Dunfermline born multimillionaire is perhaps best known for his generous funding of public libraries and institutions for performing arts, science and teaching. Although he lived in New York, much of his wealth came overseas to his native Scotland. It is known that he was a lover of organ music. An organist was engaged to play to him each day at his home while he bathed and dressed. It became known in Scotland that funding for organs in churches was available from the Carnegie Corporation of New York, founded in 1911. He funded no less than 7,689 church organs.

At the meeting of the Deacons Court on 4th September 1911, it was proposed that a committee be set up to “consider carefully the question of having an organ, Carnegie-aided, erected in the Church”. The sum of £400-£500 was seen as sufficient for the total cost of the organ, a large sum of money for those days. An application was duly sent to the Carnegie Corporation. The response came early in the New Year (1912): St. David’s U.F. had to raise half of the total cost by themselves. The organ committee proposed at the March meeting that an instrument “of medium power at a moderate cost” be built at a cost of about £400, paid in instalments. A Mr. McKay objected and moved that “we get no pipe organ, but that we get a new harmonium”. Several members voted with him but the motion was roundly defeated. The proposal “that steps be taken to procure a pipe organ” was carried. St. David’s was to get its organ.

During the following months a campaign was underway to raise funds by subscription from members of the congregation.

At the meeting of the Deacons Court on 25th September, 1912, it was announced that Mr. A.M. Henderson, organist of Westbourne U.F. Church (also organist to the University of Glasgow and author of ‘An Introduction to Bach’ and other publications for organists) would be willing to draw up the organ specifications, superintend the building of the organ and give an opening recital, all for a fee of 8 guineas! The Carnegie Corporation had just confirmed that it would provide the

last half of the cost of the organ, now estimated to cost £500. The unhappy Mr. McKay proposed that the trust fund should be refused.

By this time, three leading organ builders had been approached for estimates: Andrew Watt of Glasgow (£400) for an instrument of 11 stops and pedals; Norman and Beard (£430) for an organ of 8 stops and pedals and Henry Hilsdon of the Glasgow Organ Works (£450) for an organ of 10 stops and pedals. (Wm. Hill and Son and Norman and Beard Ltd. were to rebuild the organ in Knightswood in 1939.)

By the end of the year, Hilsdon's estimate had been accepted. The organ was to be built at the organ works in Dorset Street, close to the St. Andrew's Halls. Some of the specifications were altered prior to the construction. St. David's U.F. was getting ready to receive its new organ.

1913: The year of construction

In order for the organ to be built in the church in Cromwell Street, a number of alterations had to be made to the interior of the building. There was much discussion about the position of the console. The church had no electricity. The Corporation's offer to supply electric power to the organ for £60 was turned down. The Court decided in favour of a water engine to supply wind for the organ. This required some necessary plumbing work in the church. In addition to this, the pulpit had to be moved and the choir platform altered. This hydraulic method of providing wind consisted of a separate water supply from the street connected to a water meter (hired at £1.14/- a year) measuring 9,600 gallons of water at pressure, which operated an engine (supplied by Barr of Glasgow) capable of operating feeders to the main reservoir.

Construction in the church was scheduled for the summer of 1913 and the Minister, Rev. Robert Lendrum, announced the closure of the church for six weeks during July and August. There was some consternation when the organ builders had not arrived by the Fair Fortnight due to delays at the organ works. On the 8th of August, Hilsdon wrote to say that he was now building the organ in the church and that he would be finished by the end of the month, and that he now expected the first payment of £225.

September 1913: The opening and dedication of the organ

The organ specification at September 1913 was as follows:

Great Organ	Swell Organ	Pedal Organ
Open Diapason 8	Open Diapason 8	Bourdon 16
Dulciana 8	Gemshorn 4	Bass Flute 8
Claribel 8	Lieblich Gedacht 8	
Harmonic Flute 4	Viol D'orchestre 8	
	Oboe 8 (Tenor C)	Super Octave
	Horn 8	Sub Octave
		Sw Sub Oct to Gt
		Sw super Oct to Gt
2 Composition Pedals to the Great		Sw to Gt
2 Composition Pedals to the Swell		Sw to Pedal
Balanced Swell Pedal		Gt to Pedal
Hydraulic Blower	Manuals 61 notes	Pedals 30 notes

The dedication of the organ was held on Sunday, 14th September 1913. On Friday the 19th at 8 p.m. the opening recital was held. Mr. A.M. Henderson played a varied programme; central to which were excerpts from the Messiah by Handel, with Miss Isabel Wilkie as soloist. He finished with an organ arrangement of the great Hallelujah Chorus. In the Glasgow Herald of Saturday 20th September: "A recital was given last evening on the new organ erected by Mr. H. Hilsdon, Glasgow Organ Works, in St. David's United Free Church, Cromwell Street, Glasgow. The instrument consists of two manuals and pedals, and is equipped with a finely varied selection of stops, as well as the usual couplers and accessories. The scope and quality of the organ were effectively displayed last evening by A.M. Henderson (organist to the University) with a well-chosen group of pieces. Solos were sung by Miss Isabel Wilkie."

Unlike the position of the organ today, the instrument in Cromwell Street was visible to the congregation, the display pipes being 'mounted on a case of yellow pine finished to match up with existing woodwork'. The painting of these pipes (probably to a gold colour) was discussed at a meeting in 1926 but not executed.

When the contract ran out in 1917, Andrew Watt and Son took over the tuning until the closure of the church in 1936.

With Britain at war in 1914, Mr. Henderson returned to St. David's U.F. to give a recital in aid of the Belgian War Relief Fund in September of that year. Recitals by St. David's organists were held on a number of occasions. It is minuted that non-members of the congregation who wished to practice on the organ were asked to pay towards the amount of water used (about 6d per hour!).

The organ goes West to Knightswood

In 1929, following the Union of the United Free Church and the Church of Scotland, the church in Cromwell Street became known as St. David's-in-the-West (Church of Scotland). Sadly, its membership declined during the 1930's and its financial position became serious. It was forced to close in May 1936.

Meanwhile in Knightswood the new halls, opened for public worship on 8th December 1929, were in need of an instrument for the new congregation. The Presbytery gifted a 'Mason and Hamelin' (second hand) harmonium and a piano was hired. The organ developed problems within the first year and had to be replaced by a new one in 1931, supplied by Wm Thomson and Sons.

In April 1936, the Session Clerk Mr. W. Neill Moir submitted a report of the last meeting of the Presbytery referring to the dissolution of the congregation of St. David's-in-the-West. All moveable property, including the organ, was to be given to some new church on condition 'that the said church adopted the name of St. David's. It was agreed that the Clerk make enquiries into the possibility of Knightswood West (as the church had been known) benefiting from this offer'.

Mr. Moir duly responded to the Presbytery's offer and it was agreed that members of the Session would visit Cromwell Street on an evening prior to closure of the church to see the property including the organ. Mr. Russell, the Knightswood organist, later reported that he had tested the organ in St. David's-in-the-West and expressed the opinion 'that as a congregation we would be well advised to accept it'. Negotiations followed between the Presbytery and the Assembly Home Mission Committee, and in January 1937 the organ was insured prior to being dismantled and stored by Hill, Norman and Beard, whose estimate of £218.10s

had been accepted for the task of reconstruction in the new church in Boreland Drive. The Treasurer, Mr. Dan Stewart, who was a Railway Manager, arranged for part of the organ to be stored in a vacant room in Whiteinch (Victoria Park) Railway Station.

An organ fund was set up to raise this amount and a bazaar held in May 1937 (which was also to cover additional building costs of £350 of the church). Mr. Russell left and an advertisement was placed for an organist with experience on both an American and pipe organ. Mr. Wilson Baird was appointed in February 1938.

The year 1939 saw the reconstruction of the organ in St. David's Knightswood (so named from August 1936). The largest parts – reservoirs, chests and swell box – were put in place prior to the building of the surrounding brickwork. The whole instrument was enclosed in a chamber with two openings (chancel and east transept) for sound to egress. The electrical contractor installed wiring, and the small hall was put at the disposal of the organ builders during August and September for the storage of organ parts. There are 628 pipes in the organ, which would have been stored in wooden crates. Considerable space would have been needed.

The Church was opened on Saturday October 21st 1939. The guest organist was Mr. George Dryden, LRAM, ARCM, of Broomhill Church. The opening praise was Psalm 100. Mr. Dryden gave a short recital at the close of the service. The organist at the two Sunday services on the following day was Mr. W. Hyslop Mundell, FRCO, LRAM, ARCM, HON RCM, of Kilmacolm. He performed a few pieces at the close of the afternoon service. In the Monthly Leaflet of October 1939, Mr. Warnock, the minister, spoke of 'how the newly installed organ was heard to great advantage as it accompanied the praise at these opening services'.

As early as the first winter of 1939-40, complaints were made about cold draughts in the chancel. How little things have changed! Mr. Blossom, the local tuner from Hill, Norman and Beard, suggested that an electric heater be placed inside the organ chamber. This was experimented with on a number of occasions over the years, mainly to combat dampness. The problem of draughts seems to have been alleviated in the early 1950's by the extension of the heating system into the halls. This necessitated a large pipe being led through the organ chamber.

In January 1940, thanks were expressed to Mr. Thomson and Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy for the gift of a mirror for the organist's use. Other aesthetic improvements included the fitting of gold-coloured mesh on the panel screens in September 1957 and the building of a small cupboard for the organist in March 1973.

Early in 1940, the organ builders undertook to tune and regulate the organ on a quarterly basis for a fee of 5 guineas. This included the making of emergency calls and for providing replacements of small parts. The contract with Hill, Norman and Beard continued until the closure of the firm in 1998.

Mr. Baird (first organist on the pipe organ) requested the fitting of a 'principal stop' in January 1948. The Board decided to take no action in the matter. Interestingly a principal stop was fitted in January 1994, 46 years after Mr. Baird's request! This replaced the Dulciana on the Great Organ. In December 1997, a Fifteenth stop replaced the Harmonic Flute on a trial basis. The specification for the organ today (compared with 1913) is:

Great Organ	Swell Organ	Pedal Organ
Open Diapason 8	Open Diapason 8	Bourdon 16
Principal 4	Gemshorn 4	Bass Flute 8
Fifteenth 2	Lieblich Gedacht 8	
Claribel 8	Viol D'Orchestre 8	
	Oboe (Tenor C) 8	Super Octave
	Horn 8	Sub Octave
		Sw Sub Oct to Gt
		Sw Super Oct to Gt
		Sw to Gt
2 Composition Pedals to the Great		Sw to Pedal
2 Composition Pedals to the Swell		Gt to Pedal
Balanced Swell Pedal		
Electric Blower. Wind pressure 4"		
Tubular Pneumatic throughout		

The fitting of the two new stops has given the organ more brilliance in its upper register. This has helped it to speak out from the confines of the organ chamber and take more of a lead (with the choir's help) in the congregational singing.

The problems with the organ should not be dwelt upon. Concern was expressed as early as 1940 about the position of a water tank in the chamber. This overflowed in 1978 causing damage to the organ. The instrument has had three major overhauls since 1939, each following repairs to the roof over the chamber.

The first of these was in 1956. Mr. Hepburn, the organist at the time having reported faults with the organ. The cost of the overhaul was £170. In 1962, St. David's was faced with a bill for £600 for major repairs to the organ following a lengthy repair to the roof. A temporary organ, by Compton (electric) was hired for eight weeks while the work was carried out.

In 1985 the organ was surveyed following serious damage due to water penetration at various times. The roof over the chamber had had to be repaired on several occasions from 1974 and in addition to the damage from the water tank, there was a break-in in 1981 when some pipes were damaged. Mr. Ritchie, the Assistant Minister and relief organist to Mr. Simpson (organist), took an interest in the organ and consulted with his friend, the Glasgow University organist, Stewart Campbell, as well as two former St. David's organists, Mr. Hepburn (1949-62) and Mr. Galbraith (1963-67) as to what should be done. Hill, Norman and Beard's subsequent survey indicated that a major overhaul was necessary. This third overhaul cost £8,698 and was completed by the Spring of 1986.

Following the re-roofing of the church in 1990-91, the organ suffered more water damage. Mr. Tomlinson, the tuner, made it playable in April 1991, but problems arose when the heating was turned on later in the year. Lack of humidity from overheating caused seams and joints to open, resulting in leakage of wind and subsequent faults in the action. This has now been brought under control with the sealing of leaking joints, the cutting of two ventilation holes in the chamber (to cut down heat and introduce a little natural humidity from the outside air) and the placing of buckets of water in the chamber to increase humidity.

The organ is now relatively trouble-free and it is hoped that the overhaul of 1986 will stand it in good stead for years to come. Although 86 years old, there is no reason why it should not last as many years again given regular maintenance. An Organ Fund was set up a few years ago for future repairs.

Organists and Musical Events 1913 – 1999

St. David's, Cromwell Street

1913 – 1920	Mr. Hopkins as organist. 14.9.13. Dedication of organ 19.9.13. Opening Recital by A.M. Henderson, LRAM, ARCM. 02.9.14. Recital by Mr. Henderson for Belgian War Refugees.
1921 - 1928	Miss Mary Miller as organist. October 1926. Recital by Miss Miller February 1927. Recital by Miss Miller
1928 - 1930	Mr. Robert Symington as organist. 18.12.29. Short Recital at Induction Service
1930-1936	Miss May MacIntosh as organist. September 1930. Recital by Miss MacIntosh.

St. David's Knightswood

1929 – 1931	Mr. Jackson as harmoniumist
1931 - 1932	Mr. WM Moir, Jnr. as harmoniumist with Mr. JS Paterson as choir leader
1932 – 1937	Mr. Russell, ALCM, as harmoniumist. First Professional appointment` 1932, 1934 'The Morn of Glory' 1933 Mozart '12 th Mass' 1935 Mendelssohn 'Hymn of Praise'
1938 – 1949	Mr. W. Wilson Baird as harmoniumist and first organist. 1938 and 1947 'Messiah' 21.10.39. Opening of St. David's Knightswood - Guest organist Mr. George Dryden. 22.10.39. Mr. W. Hyslop Mundell as Guest organist. 26.10.40. Recital by Mr. Lamb of Dunblane Cathedral (with soloists) in aid of Comforts Fund for Serving Members. 1943 Mendelssohn 'Come let us Sing' 1945 Maunders 'Bethlehem' 1946, 1947 Stainer's 'Crucifixion' 1947 Recital by Howard Babanou at 'Welcome Home'
1949-1962	Mr. Hepburn as organist. 14.11.50 Recital by Mr. Hepburn with T. McCone, Bass 4.12.50. Recital by Mr. Hepburn at the Coming of Age celebrations. Junior Choir conducted by Miss Dalrymple (until 1951). 12.11.50 Broadcast Service. December 1950, 1951 and 1955. Performances of Handel's Messiah with Guest organist and soloists.

	<p>1953 'Merry England' 6.12.54. Short recital at Congregational Rally. Items from choir. 1954, 1955, 1960 'Morn of Glory' 1955, 1957 'Crucifixion' 1955, 1960 'Messiah' 1956, 1957, 1958 Presentation of Eric Thiman's Cantata 'The Last Supper'. 1957 Overseas Broadcast 5.6.60. BBC Radio Broadcast of Service.</p>
1962 – 1963	Mr. Calderhead as organist.
1963 – 1967	<p>Mr. Galbraith as organist. 11.3.65. Evening of sacred music and recital by John A. Bell Organ recitals for choir funds, including (1966) Ronald H. Walker 1966 Excerpts from the Messiah</p>
1967 – 1968	Mr. Magnus Matthews, LGSM, ARCO, AMus LCM, ARCM, as organist
1968 – 1970	<p>Mr. Fredericks as organist. 1969 'Crucifixion' conducted by Mr. Fredericks with Mr. Baird on organ. 1970 'Last Supper' Thiman</p>
1970-1973	Mr. George Forrester. LTCL. AMus, TCL, as organist
1974 – 1996	<p>Mr. David Simpson as organist. 1975 'The Great Light' – Finlay Lyon 1976 'The Manger Cradle' 18.2.87. Organ recital by Mr. Fleming at Stated Annual Meeting with choir and solo items. 1989 Glasgow University Chapel Choir led an evening service with Stewart Campbell, organist.</p>
1996 -	<p>Mr. David H. Inglis, Dip Mus Ed, DRSAM, ARCM as organist. Miss Kelly as Choir leader. 16.10.99 Organ recital by Mr. Inglis</p>

The church choir

Thursday evening choir practice was being held as long ago as the beginning of 1930 (for both junior and senior choirs, although the junior choir is not mentioned again until 1944 - see chapter on the Sunday School). Mr. Jackson, a member of the interim Kirk Session, was the first choir leader until the Psalmody Committee, with John Stivens as Convenor, agreed to appoint Mr. William Moir, Jnr (son of the Session Clerk) as organist with Mr. J.S. Paterson as leader.

The first professional organist (harmoniumist, as there was no organ until the church was built in 1939) was appointed in 1932. This was Mr. R. Russell, ALCM, and he was to be at Knightswood West for 5 years. During this time the choir increased to 45 members (in 1933) and performed such works as 'The Morn of Glory' by A.L. Peace, and music by Mozart and Mendelssohn. The choir's first (non sacred) concert was held in April 1933 and was thereafter held annually up to the outbreak of war in 1939. Bus runs were organised, popular destinations being Helensburgh, Largs, Troon and Arrochar. One of the features of the bus runs (apart from a visit to a tea-room) was a sports event consisting of a 3-legged race, skipping rope competition and a race for ladies and gents with prizes! A Christmas chocolate club was formed to help raise funds for music and other expenses. This involved the sale of sweatmeats (to the choir's profit) manufactured at the local Birrell's factory.

The choir sang anthems and new hymns, and sometimes a member would be asked to sing a solo. Choirs and concert parties were occasionally invited by the Knightswood West Church Musical Association, as the choir committee had become known, such as the Renfrew Male Voice Choir, the Clydebank Male Voice Choir, the Rockets Concert Party and the Imperial Scots Concert Party. On Sunday 28th June 1936, Mr. Russell told the choir that 'our new church would be presented with a pipe organ from St. David's-in-the-West subject of course to the approval of our congregation'. The choir and musical association joined with the other organisations in raising the amount needed to dismantle and rebuild the organ. They participated at the two Grande Bazaars (which also raised money for the Church Building Fund).

Mr. Russell left in December 1937 and was succeeded in March 1938 by Mr. Walter Wilson Baird. Mr. Baird was St. David's organist (first on the pipe organ)

for 11 years, and remained a member of St. David's until 1981. The choir visited Schaw Home in Bearsden on a number of occasions, as well as East Campbell Street Mission and the Drygate Street Home (Lodging House Mission) during Mr. Baird's time as organist, and performed Handel's "Messiah" and Stainer's "Crucifixion". On Sunday 8th April 1945, Mr. McCulloch (member and former president of the choir) proposed that "if Mr. Baird was willing we might meet for a short practice on Thursday 12th April and rehearse "Land of Hope and Glory" to be sung at the service at the cessation of hostilities with Europe".

The choir went to Cranstons Tea Room and the Alhambra Theatre on an evening in 1946. (Theatre trips for choir members were also popular in the 1960s). Organ recitals were given in 1940 and 1947. 1947 also saw the resumption of the choir's annual concert with guest soloists, elocutionist and accompanist. Outings too continued, after the war, to Callander, Dunoon and Dunblane Cathedral. The musical life of St. David's flourished during these years. In addition to the choir, which had 30 members, there was a successful junior choir, trained by Mrs. Dalrymple, and a church orchestra (Men's Social Committee).

Mr. Baird was presented with a gift from the choir at a social evening in March 1949 to mark the end of his term as organist and choirmaster. His daughter, Ann, is currently a member of the Chorus of Scottish Opera.

Mr. David Hepburn came to St. David's from Partick Anderson Church later in 1949 and was the organist for 13 years. Forthcoming anthems were listed in the 'Leaflet' (Newsletter of the time). On Sunday 26th November 1950, the morning service was broadcast as a beginning to the Glasgow Churches Campaign. Mr. Hepburn composed some music for the War Memorial Service that year. A Grand Variety Concert was put on for the Benevolent Fund on 2nd January 1952. The choir visited Baxter House in 1954 and 1955. Bus trips were organised to Girvan, Edinburgh, Dunblane and the Trossachs. Further radio broadcasts were made in 1957 (an overseas programme also featuring soloists from the choir included one of the basses, Mr. Watt, a lifelong member of the choir). In 1960 the choir members joined with other choirs to form the 1,000 strong "All Scotland Crusade" Choir and Gospel Radio Fellowship Choir, performing at the St. Andrew's Halls.

During the session of 1955-56, 27 anthems were performed, 9 of them new to the choir. This increased to 40 during the next session. Membership stood at around 22. Cushioning for the choir stalls was not provided until 1957. The Rev. Arthur Gunn introduced community hymn singing at evening services during this year, and this became something of a St. David's tradition, continuing until 1981. The choir also sang a regular Introit, the first verse of the hymn "God reveals His Presence". In 1958, St. David's had a musical visit from "The Moody Chorale" from Chicago who were on a European Tour. In 1960 the Kilbowie Choir combined with St. David's Chorus for a performance. A new Introit (from Habakkuk 2:20) was introduced in that year.

An informal gathering was held on Friday 29th June 1962 at which a presentation was made to Mr. Hepburn who had served St. David's faithfully and efficiently as Organist and Choirmaster. He was succeeded by Mr. John Calderhead, a music graduate who only stayed for one year and then went on to pursue a successful career in Dundee.

Mr. Ian Galbraith became the new organist from 1963-1967. Mr. Ronald retired as choir president in 1965 after 15 years in that position. Part of Handel's Messiah was performed at Easter 1966 and the choir joined with the junior choir (under the leadership of Miss Sheena Kelly) at Christmas that year to lead the Christmas Praise service. Monthly introits and anthems were performed, and the choir held an annual social evening as well as outings to Balmaha, the Edinburgh Tattoo and nights to the theatre. Organ recitals were held in conjunction with items from the choir. Mr. Galbraith went to St. Brides Helensburgh in 1967. He is currently organist at Kelvinside Hillhead Church.

The years 1967-70 saw a succession of short-term appointments: Mr. Magnus Matthews (1967-68) a highly qualified musician who unfortunately suffered from poor health; Mr. Greg Fredericks (1968-70) from Sandyford Henderson Memorial Church. Mr. Fredericks also trained the choir of the Bible Training Institute; Mr. George Forrester (1970-73) from Clydebank West Church.

St. David's were fortunate in securing the appointment of Mr. David Simpson in March 1974 from Fairfield Church Govan, an organist of some 20 years experience. Mr. Simpson remained as organist and choirmaster for 22 years, retiring in 1996, and now frequently acts as relief organist during holiday periods.

Like Mr. Baird, Mr. David Simpson remains a faithful member of St. David's after his retirement as organist in 1996. His appointment closely followed that of the Rev. Sandy Gunn and both men worked together at a time when CH3 was in its infancy. Many favourite hymns excluded from the new hymnary were collected and bound in a separate booklet which was used by the congregation for many years.

In 1974 and 1975 the Victoria Senior Choir of Shettleston and Tollcross was invited to the church for a service of Songs of Praise. Choir items as well as solos, duets and quartets were directed by Eva Johnston with David Simpson at the organ. CH3 was introduced to the choir and congregation in 1978. In the following year Miss Elizabeth Duncan was presented at a jubilee concert with a certificate and gifts 'in recognition of 50 years service in the church choir'. Miss Duncan had also been a founder leader of the Sunday School.

The 1980s and 1990s saw the introduction of Junior Praise and Mission Praise. Traditional and modern praise has co-existed for many years at St. David's. The Praise Group was formed and flourished during the early ministry of the Rev. Howard Taylor.

A 'Year of Culture' concert was held in the hall in 1990 during Glasgow's reign as City of Culture. A feature of the choir's activities during Mr. Simpson's later years as choirmaster was the Songs of Praise. These were occasional evening services where the choir of the Congregational Church joined with the St. David's choir to lead the praise and sing anthems at services held in either of the two churches. These were very successful occasions. For many years the choir was involved with the Service of Lessons and Carols held on the Sunday prior to Christmas. In 1992 the congregation and choir were saddened by the death of Norman Buchanan, bass singer and choir president for many years. A music cabinet was purchased in his memory.

Following Mr. Simpson's retirement, a small committee was set up to consider arrangements for a replacement organist. This committee recommended that the duties of organist and choir leader be separated and in the first instance an advertisement was placed for an organist. Mr. David Inglis (a member of the congregation and District Elder) was appointed to this post in October, 1996. Miss Sheena Kelly agreed to accept the post of choir leader.

The choir (12 members) continues to lead the praise at services and is heard regularly in its own right on such occasions as the Induction of the Rev. Graham Thain in May 1999.

The Music Group

Mrs. Kay Turnbull started a Praise Group during the ministry of Rev. Howard Taylor. The group consists of accordion (or keyboard) played by Mrs. Turnbull, guitars (James and Elaine Hain, Marjory Kariaha, Fiona Anderson and Laura Leith) and double bass or piano (David Inglis).

The group is popular with the congregation and takes part during morning worship. Evening services have been held on several occasions with modern hymns accompanied by the Praise Group and readings and prayers taken by younger members of the congregation. A concert in October 1995 raised money for equipment. Regular donations have enabled stands and other equipment to be purchased. Doreen Couper of Milngavie gifted a double bass to St. David's.

The Praise Group complements the choir by its use of modern material which is often syncopated and therefore unsuitable for organ accompaniment.

Chapter 8

From The Ramshorn

To

Cromwell Street

*'Behaud, I lay in Zion a cunye-stane,
The wale o them aa,
An verra praicious;
An him at lippens on hit
Will ne'er be pitten til shame.'*

*See, I lay a stone in Zion,
a chosen and precious cornerstone,
and the one who trusts in him
will never be put to shame*

1 Peter 2: 6

(Translation in Scots by William Laughton Lorimer whose uncle, the Rev. J.G. Lorimer, DD, was Minister of St. David's (Ramshorn) at the time of The Disruption in 1843).

As far back as 1700 there were over 15,000 people living in Glasgow, mostly concentrated around the area of the present High Street. There were few churches at this time: the Cathedral, Tron, Barony, (at that time part of the Cathedral crypt, Laigh Kirk, later known as the Tron Kirk in Argyle Street and now the Tron Theatre), Old Blackfriars, the Outer High (part of the Cathedral) and the Wynd Church (later transferred to St. Andrew's Church). As the population grew, the need for churches became greater. Around this time a congregation formed, arguably the first St David's congregation, and met alongside worshippers at the Laigh (Tron) Kirk in Argyle Street. They resolved to build their own church and in 1718 the Town Council managed to purchase the ground. This was in fact part of a garden belonging to Hutcheson's Hospital in the Cow Loan (part of which was called Canon Street) and now known as Ingram Street. The following years (1719-20) saw the formation of the churchyard (first burial 1719, last burial 1903) and building of the church (completed in 1724). The first minister was John Anderson, tutor to the Duke of Argyll, who is remembered by a large stone fixed to the wall of the present building in Ingram Street. His grandson, a distinguished physicist (who inspired James Watt to improvise steam power), bequeathed funds (after his death in 1796) for the founding of Anderson's University. This eventually grew into the University of Strathclyde.

The graveyard of the first church on this site can still be visited today. From the top of Candleriggs, the gate to the right of the 1824 church (since 1992, the Ramshorn Theatre owned by Strathclyde University) leads into a beautifully maintained cemetery. The stones are either fixed to the boundary wall or laid flat on the ground and commemorate many of the merchants who lived and worked in this area at that time. This was the prosperous West End of Glasgow, extending only as far as Queen Street (known as the Back Cow Loan). The land to the west and north was pastoral and hilly, hence names like Cow Loan (Ingram Street) and Cowcaddens. In Georgian times the Ramshorn Kirkyard was THE place to be buried.

The first church was not known as St. David's. It was known as the North-West Parish or Ramshorn after the name of the immediate area on which it was built. John Anderson was succeeded by John Maclaurin, then in 1756 by Robert Findlay, 1783 by Archibald Bonar and 1785 by Alexander Ranken. In 1820 John

MacDonald, born in the Ramshorn parish, immigrated (aged 5) to Kingston. He was later to become Canada's first Prime Minister.

St. David's Ramshorn

A century after the opening of the church, expensive repairs were needed. Plans were discussed to build a new church. The Town Superintendent, James Cleland, subsequently hijacked and altered the drawings, adding a crypt and changing the staircase. The original pulpit stood just inside the South door so any latecomers were exposed to the full view of the seated congregation! The new church, with Ranken still as minister, was opened on 17th January 1824 and was called St David's Church (or the Ramshorn Kirk as it was locally known).

The name of St David's was not taken from King David of the Bible but in fact from King David I of Scotland who was a great benefactor of the church. He reigned from 1124 to 1153 and was canonised by the Roman Church. He gave away the best of the crown lands in his zeal for the church and founded many abbeys and bishoprics.

Ranken was succeeded in 1827 by David Welsh, who was later to become Moderator of the General Assembly in 1842, the year prior to the Disruption. It was he who as retiring Moderator in 1843, had to read out the grievances of the Evangelical ministers at the General Assembly in St Andrew's Church, Edinburgh. (By this time, Dr Welsh was Professor of Ecclesiastical History at the University of Edinburgh). Welsh left St. David's church in 1832 and from this point the story is dominated by the first of two great ministers who were each to serve their congregation for more than 30 years.

The Disruption

John Gordon Lorimer (1808-68) was uncle of William Laughton Lorimer who translated the New Testament into Scots. J G Lorimer was only 28 when he became minister of St. David's. His early years of ministry there saw a great conflict between the Church and State. Since 1707 (Anglo Scottish Parliamentary Union) the Church and State were on good terms, leaving Presbyterianism to

make a deep mark on the Scots. Although the Church imposed social discipline and provided for the poor, it was run by so-called moderates, men of polite learning who supported the religious and political status quo. Many of these ministers were in effect appointed to their parishes by lay patrons, contrary to Presbyterian principle. In order to change things, an evangelical party sprang up, intent on reviving Calvinist orthodoxy, biblical teaching, together with a fresh version of the Church's traditional social role. This conflict between the Established Church, with an increasing number of Evangelicals, and the State resulted eventually in the 'Disruption' of 18th May 1843 when Dr Welsh declared to the huge crowd 'There has been an infringement on the Constitution of the Church and infringements so great that we cannot constitute its General Assembly' (Welsh was referring to attacks on the Kirk by the Parliament at Westminster). Led by Dr. Thomas Chalmers and Dr. Welsh, more than 400 ministers walked through the waiting crowd down Hanover Street and Dundas Street to Cannonmills. There at the Tanfield Hall over 450 signed a Deed of Demission.

This was a major turning point in the fortunes of St. David's. Lorimer was faced with leaving the splendid new Ramshorn Kirk, his manse and stipend, and taking as many of his congregation as would go with him. It is a tribute to him that he did all this. The Free Church of Scotland was born and Lorimer was the first minister of the Free St David's as it was to be known. Incidentally, the Ramshorn Kirk continued to be known as St David's Ramshorn (Church of Scotland) until as late as 1953 when the Barony church closed and the name Barony Ramshorn was used until the closure of the church in 1983. The Rev Gordon Paton DD succeeded Lorimer there in 1843.

St. David's Moves West

On leaving the Ramshorn Church, Lorimer and his congregation were granted the use of an adjoining hall in Ingram Street, known as the Assembly Rooms. The old Kirk Session Minute Book of the period shows that at a meeting there on 15th June 1843, an Act of Demission, separating Free St David's from the Established Church, was signed by 10 Elders and 4 Deacons. A Precentor and Church Officer was appointed. Meanwhile a new church, one of the first of the Free Churches to be built in Glasgow, was being erected in North Frederick Street (also known as Dempster Street) and completed in 1844. The

building is described as 'plain but comfortable' and must have contrasted sharply with the relatively new and splendid Ramshorn Church. An Industrial School was added. This seems to have been fee-paying girls school. Incidentally, two Communion cups and a goblet used at St David's, Knightswood, bear the inscription: 'Presented to Free St David's Church by the Ladies of the Congregation at the First Communion in Commemoration with the Free Church of Scotland. Glasgow 26th October 1843'. Communion tokens in our possession bear the date 18th May 1843.

The Free Church's Sustentation Fund provided the finance for the building of the church in North Frederick Street, the minister's stipend and manse. Dr. Thomas Chalmers had set this up. Each member of the new church was asked to give a penny per week. Further money was raised by appeals overseas. There were a number of references to Dr. Lorimer in the Rev. Thomas Brown's book "Annals of the Disruption" 1884. 'The district chosen for the new church was popularly known as 'Botany Bay' in which the carelessness and obduracy of the people were appalling'. Into that locality they threw a band of office bearers and Christian workers, and Dr. Lorimer, writing in 1846, describes the prospects of the undertaking as 'full of promise'. "I have no hesitation" he wrote "in stating that the Disruption has had a most beneficial effect on the minds of many of my flock, and especially among the young".

Glasgow in the mid-1800s was expanding rapidly in all directions, most notably to the West. The area around North Frederick Street was at the heart of much development as the population moved out to make way for large commercial buildings, a hotel and major railway station (Queen Street) as well as buildings which were to become part of the Technical College (Strathclyde - Andersons! - University). Dr Lorimer, his Kirk Session and Deacons Court (Congregational Board) became anxious at the loss of membership 'through death and removal of valued members.'

A church in West Regent Street (Free St George's) was already preparing to move West (to Elderslie Street) and in 1864 the congregation, after negotiations between the relevant Office Bearers, moved into the vacant church. This was situated close to Renfield Street and proved to be an unfortunate choice. Two years after the move to West Regent Street, dry rot was found in the building and after repairs the church went into debt for the first time. In 1868 Dr Lorimer died,

and was succeeded by Dr R. Riach Thom. More misfortune lay just around the corner. The Glasgow City and District Railway, a subsidiary of the North British Railway, was engaged in building a new line from College Station (now High Street) underground to a new low-level station at Queen Street and west to Charing Cross before breaking out of the tunnel at Stobcross. According to John Thomas (in the North British Railway Vol. 2) 'In burrowing under the city, the engineers encountered running sand, boulder clay, a mixture of boulder clay and rock, sandstone, solid rock, soft mud and shale. Cut and cover methods were used where practicable; elsewhere the tunnels were excavated from shafts sunk from the surface'. Free St David's in West Regent Street (1883-4) was sitting directly above the proposed tunnel at the foot of Blythswood Hill.

By this time the School of Industry had closed, Dr Thom had left St David's, and his place was taken by the Rev John Burnett, the second of the two ministers who was to lead the congregation out of great difficulty. The Minute Secretary at the Deacon's Court Meeting of 5th May 1884 records 'rents in the walls of the church following their (the Underground Railway's) tunnelling operations.' An architect was called to inspect and report.

The result of the architect's report, which was made on behalf of both Free St David's and the Secretary of the Glasgow City and District Railway Company, Mr Henry Lamond, was that action was pending in the Court of Session against the Railway Company. The property was valued at £5,000 and the congregation moved to St Vincent Street UP Church for July and August of that year before finding accommodation at the Assembly Rooms in Bath Street. The bell ringer's services were dispensed with and all moveable property taken out of West Regent Street Church. It was found that the bell was too difficult to remove from the tower. As a result of the Court action, St David's was awarded £5,000. The church now had a real opportunity to move out of the city into the relatively new West End.

Cromwell Street

Members of the Court (Congregation Board) were delegated to inspect a number of suitable sites for the new St David's Church, and in the early part of 1885 a site was bought in Cromwell Street at St George's Cross for a sum of £1540. In this year also a harmonium was bought for the church. This was the

first time that a musical instrument had been used in the Free Church, all psalm and hymn singing being led by a Precentor and Choir sometimes led by a female paid singer. A pipe organ was not to be discussed at meeting of the Court for another 26 years.

In 1885 a corrugated iron church was temporarily erected on a piece of the newly acquired ground and served as a place of worship for nearly seven years while the new church was being built. Messrs Baldie and Tennant were employed as architects in 1889 and a recommendation was made that the church should be built of Ballochmyle stone. At a ceremony on 7th March 1891 at 3pm the memorial stone was laid containing a casket inside which was a "descriptive sketch of St David's since its formation in 1720 to the present year."

A year later on 11th March 1892 the new church was opened. The preacher was the distinguished Dr Whyte from St George's in Edinburgh. Dr Thom, the previous minister, was invited to preach on the 'forenoon and evening Sabbath services.'

In 1884, Mr Burnett presented a Mr Donald MacPherson with an 'address' which was a booklet depicting the 50 years in which Mr MacPherson had served the church since its beginnings as a Free Church. This booklet contained illustrations from photographs taken of the churches in North Frederick Street, West Regent Street and the church in Cromwell Street. These photographs together with a detailed history of St David's from its beginnings in 1720 formed the basis of a book entitled "After Many Years: The History of Free St David's Church, Glasgow" by Rev John Burnett, MA, BD in 1898. A framed montage of these photographs is in the possession of St David's, Knightswood.

The new church was not without its problems. There was a fire in a building at the back of the Session Room, which caused damage to the property. In 1900, there were objections when it was proposed to build a public house close to St David's. One of the objectives was the "proximity of living stables employing many cabmen and stallmen who will have a new source of temptation brought near them." The licence was refused.

Also in 1900, a change of name came to Free St David's when Mr Burnett reported that the Union of the Free Church of Scotland and the United

Presbyterian Church was consummated on 31st October. The church was to be known as St David's United Free Church.

Mr Burnett celebrated his semi-jubilee in 1903 and, in spite of poor health, continued to minister to his congregation until 1907. In that year, the Rev Robert Lendrum MA, was appointed as his successor. Mr Burnett remained associated with St David's long after his retirement.

In 1911 an application was sent to the Carnegie Corporation of New York for funding for a pipe organ. On 14th September 1913 the organ was opened and dedicated. One year later, an organ recital was given in aid of the Belgian War Relief Fund. Britain was now at war, and some references were made to it in the Minute Books. In 1915, a house was found for a Belgian family of refugees and entertainment was organised for soldiers in the district. Over the next two years there were collections for Serbian and Armenian relief funds and for prisoners of war. A Motion was proposed that there should be insurance against enemy aircraft. After the ending of the War, a Victory Tea was held in March 1919. In November 1920 an order was placed with Messrs Logan and Company, Holland Street, for a War Memorial Communion Table.

Mr Lendrum became a Doctor of Divinity in 1919 and left St David's in 1922, in which year the Rev Alexander MacInnes MA was inducted.

The Final Years

At this point in the story of the former St David's Church, we move on to the end of that decade. 1929 was a significant year, not only for a brand new church in the new and expanding Knightswood in particular. The Church of Scotland in 1929 was gaining fresh ground in the building of new churches in many of the housing developments built after the First World War in all Scottish cities and large towns. It also grew in strength from its union that year with the United Free Church. St David's was directly affected by this change. Alexander MacInnes died in early 1929 and the church became part of the Glasgow Presbytery of the Church of Scotland. It had to endure one more change of name: St David's-in-the-West, to differentiate it from the existing St David's (Ramshorn) Church in Ingram Street. Meanwhile at 8 Wykeham Road, Scotstounhill on Friday 1st November both the Interim Kirk Session and the Interim Deacon's

Court of Knightswood West Church met with their Interim Moderator to appoint senior Office Bearers and to plan the opening of their new church in Loanfoot Avenue for early in December. Our own history had begun.

It is interesting that as the new church in Knightswood grew and flourished in the first half of the 1930's, St David's-in-the-West went into decline.

On 18th December 1929 the Rev Andrew Martin was welcomed at an Induction and Social Meeting and preached at his Introductory Service on the following Sabbath. Mr Martin was the first Church of Scotland minister since the Disruption and was sadly to be the last in the church's history.

Less than a year later at a meeting of the Deacon's Court, the Treasurer announced that the finances were giving cause for concern. Problems were arising "out of continued decreased of the collections." In 1932 Mr Martin took a reduction in his salary "in view of severe depression." These were difficult times for the whole country and other churches in the city must have had very similar problems.

In April 1934 a deputation from the Presbytery visited the Finance Committee in connection with the £30 deficit in the Central Fund. Mr Martin thanked his congregation for their efforts in what had been a difficult year (1933). By the end of 1935 he was called to a new charge. The Court expressed their regret at his leaving and in reply Mr Martin said that his ministry at St David's had been an exceedingly happy one and that it was with a feeling of anguish that he was leaving.

No new minister was called by the Presbytery to St David's-in-the-West and the Rev F J Maclaughlin, as Interim Moderator, took the opportunity on 30th January 1936 of talking to the Office Bearers regarding the future of the congregation. "The Presbytery," he said, "would now want to investigate the situation," and he thought it would be a very wise policy "if we prepared ourselves for the visit we would receive from the committee." This committee was in fact the Presbytery's Sub Committee on Readjustment; there was no doubting the fact that St David's was to close, but first the congregation had to be consulted and on 20th February, the Court, with Rev Maclaughlin as Chairman, met with representatives of the congregation. The position of the church was outlined, several courses of action

were put to them and they were asked to give these their serious thought in view of the negotiations which would be taking place shortly.

The Congregational Roll was continuing to show a decrease in numbers with only 292 at the beginning of February 1936. This must have been a very sad time for the members who for many years had been associated with St David's. Only four more meetings of the Court took place. The first was on 27th February with members of the Readjustment Committee. Their chairman asked for the views of the St David's members "as the Presbytery considered some method of re-adjustment in our district very advisable". In reply, Mr Speirs the Session Clerk proposed that the church be transferred to one of the new areas and he felt sure that the Office Bearers would be open to negotiate along these lines. He added that in view of the history of the church and the fact that in about seven years time it would be celebrating its centenary, it was the feeling of the Office Bearers that the name of St David's might be perpetuated in this way. Mr Fraser, the former Treasurer rose with great regret to support Mr Speirs and gave a most interesting account of the history of the church. He concluded by saying that he would be very loathe to see the name of St David's dropped out from the Glasgow Presbytery. At a vote, Mr Speirs' motion was carried unanimously.

On 11th March the congregation was given the chance to meet with the Readjustment Committee. Mr Speirs put forward the motion that:

- 1) Request be made to the Presbytery to dissolve the congregation

- 2) That the property and funds of St David's-in-the-West be offered to the Home Mission Committee of the Church of Scotland to be realised and applied to the erection of a new church under the National Church Extension Scheme (within the Glasgow or neighbouring Presbytery).

One of the conditions attached to the motion was that the new church should bear the name of St David's and that it should receive the records, the Communion Table, Communion Plate, Font etc, so that the history and tradition of the congregation would be preserved within the Church of Scotland.

After a meeting on 9th April the organist and Church Officer were given notice.

At the final meeting of the Deacons Court on 7th May, 216 years after the formation of John Anderson's first congregation in the North West Parish in Ingram Street, an announcement was made that Mr Speirs, the Session Clerk, had received a communication from the Clerk of Knightswood West Church, Mr William Neil Moir, requesting permission to adopt the name of St David's-in-the-West. Mr Fraser proposed that a social evening be arranged before the closure. Mr Maclaughlin, the Interim Moderator, took the opportunity of addressing the Office Bearers on the position in which they found themselves. He explained to them how desirable it was that they should carry on their work for the church and expressed the hope that they would take up membership again without delay. The meeting was closed with prayer.

This was the last entry in the Deacons Court Minute Book.

On Friday 15th May St David's received an unofficial visit from some session members of Knightswood West Church to see the property, including the organ which had become part of the negotiations. The social evening was held on Friday 22nd, the last services took place on Sunday 24th.

By August 1936 the church in Knightswood had assumed the name of St David's-in-the-West, immediately shortened to St David's.

In January and February of 1937 the organ was dismantled and moved out of the vacant church together with the furnishings. The organ was stored, and the Communion Table and Font taken to the manse in Norse Road. The church building in Cromwell Street was used as a Building Works for many years. It was demolished in the early 1980's. New flats now occupy the site.

Appendices

Assistant Ministers, Student Assistants, Members in full-time Service

Session Clerks, Deputy Session Clerks, Treasurers, Clerks to the Board and Roll-keepers

Church Officers

Sunday School Superintendents

Brown Owls, Girl Guide Captains; and Rainbow Guiders

Boys' Brigade Captains, Leaders in Charge of Life Boys and Victors

Youth Club Leaders

Council of Organisations

Presidents of Woman's Guild Branches, Ladies Club, Young Women's Group

Presidents of Men's Club

Presidents of Choir

Sunday School Picnics, Boy's Brigade Camps

Membership Statistics

Assistant Ministers (A) and Student Assistants (SA)

1945 – 1946	Rev. HJ French	To Springfield Bishopbriggs, deceased	
1947 – 1948	Rev. WC Nelson	To Pokhuria, Santalia then Calcutta, deceased	SA
1948 – 1949	RevAF Grimstone	To Stamperland, Parkhead, retired	SA
1949 – 1951	Rev. A.J. Aitken	To St. Mark's Kirkconnel, Tollcross, retired	SA/A
1949 – 1952	Rev. J. Vass	To Foulis Wester Crieff and Drumchapel, retired	SA
1951 – 1952	Rev.Dr AGoodheir	To Tiree, deceased	SA
1953	Rev. DM Ross	To Innerleithen, Burnside, Industrial Chaplain, retired	A
1955 – 1959	Rev. H Thomson	To Lochgoilhead & Kilmorick, Pollokshields, deceased	SA/A
1955 - 1957	Rev. R Tuton	To Glengarry, Shettleston Old, retired	SA
1957 – 1961	Rev. EJ Alexander	To Newmilns, St. George's Tron, retired	A
1958 – 1966	Rev. J Balchin	To Papakura New Zealand, retired	A
1960 – 1962	Rev. DJ Innes	To Portmahomack, Melbourne Australia	A
1962 – 1963	Rev. FR Hurst	To Colonsay, Lochinver	A
1963 – 1964	Rev. I Fisher	To Cathkin Fernhill, deceased	A
1965 – 1966	Rev. TA Bertram	To Findochty, Portnockie	A
1966 – 1967	Rev. A Ramsay	To Mackintosh Memorial Fort William	A
1966 – 1967	Rev. R Brough	To Wishart St Andrews Tranent, Brucefield Church, Whitburn	SA
1967 – 1968	Rev. L Barr	To Dennistoun Rutherford, Kinross, retired	SA
1967 – 1968	Rev. D Speed	To Islay, Aberfoyle, Shettleston Old	SA
1967 – 1968	Rev. J Dunn	To Coatbridge, retired	A
1968 - 1969	Rev. R Sloan	To Invergordon, Perth, Crathie and Braemar	A
1969 – 1970	Rev. A Stewart	To RAF in Germany, Forres, retired	SA
1970 – 1971	Rev. J More	To RE Teacher in Leslie, Fife	SA
1971 – 1972	Rev. B Ross	To Bellshill	A
1972 – 1973	Rev. J Linkens	To Holytown, Northern Ireland, retired	A
1973,1975-76	Rev. A Ford	To Glen Mavis, NewMonklands	SA
1974 – 1975	Rev. C Caskie	To Penilee, Carnoustie	SA
1975 – 1976	Rev. D McQuarrie	To Yoker Old, Fort William	SA
1975 – 1976	Rev. J Brown	To Helensburgh Park	SA
1976 – 1977	Rev. M Edwards	To Army Chaplaincy, Assoc.Govan Old	SA
1977 - 1978	Rev. J Proctor	To Colston Milton, Cambridge	SA
1978 – 1979	Rev. J Lamb	Stirling, Belfast	SA
1979 – 1980	Rev. J Seath	To Lumphanan & Kincardine O'Neill, Motherwell, retired	SA
1980 – 1981	Rev. G Sim	To Shetland	SA
1981 – 1982	Rev. S Clipston	To Galashiels	SA
1986 – 1987	Rev. I Thom	To Pitsligo linked with Sandhaven	SA
1987 – 1988	Rev. W Kawale	To Malawi	SA
1988 – 1989	Rev. N McKinnon	To Coll and Tiree, Inverness	SA
1989 – 1990	Rev. M Dutch	To Locum, Pollokshields	SA
1992 – 1993	Rev. T Moran	To Barrhead	SA
1995 - 1996	Rev. E. Robertson	To Bannockburn	SA
1991 – 1992	Rev. G Kennedy	To New Cumnock	SA
1992 – 1993	Rev. T. Moran	To Barrhead	SA
1995 – 1996	Rev. E. Robertson	To Bannockburn	SA

Pastoral Assistants

1983-96 Rev. L.A. Ritchie, MA, BD

1996-99 Mr. W. Denholm

Members in the Ministry other than those who were Assistant Ministers or Student Assistants

Hector McMillan Ordained 1964
Hamilton North

Jack Brown Ordained 1977
Prestwick, St. Aidan's Galashiels

Douglas Lindsay Ordained 1978
Partick South
Now at Eaglesham Old and Carswell

David Carmichael Ordained 1982
Lesmahagow

Norman Cruickshank Ordained 1983
Overton West Kilbride

John Wilson Ordained 1985
Innerleithen linked with Traquair linked
with Walkerburn

Neil Buchanan Ordained 1991
Portobello Old and Windsor Place

Stewart Steele Ordained 1992
Renfrew Trinity

Missionary Partners

Ron and Edith Dewhurst From 1959 in Argentina

Dr. And Mrs. Knowles From 1978-1992 Ekwendeni Hospital, Malawi

Karen Anderson From 1992 Tabeetha School, Joppa, Israel

Former Members and adherents in full-time missionary work and other Christian service

- 1963 Margaret Lees, Bible Training Institute
Rosemary McPherson to Missionary College
- 1969 Harold McCartney
Ian Galbraith (former organist)
Appointed Lay Readers in the Church of Scotland
- 1970 Harold McCartney trained as a Lay Missionary with the Home Board, later mission work in Nitshill and Castlemilk
- 1971 Ruth Gunn (nee Rankin) trained at Bible Training Institute
- 1974 Ian and Janice Bulloch to Ethiopia with the Sudan Interior Mission
- 1978 Anne MacDonald trained as a Church of Scotland Deaconess and in 1979 appointed as Deaconess in Faifley
- 1970s Dr. Hazel Buchan (nee Smart) Medical Missionary in Botswana
- 1968 Norman Barr, Accountant with London City Mission
- 1980 Robert McLean appointed Lay Reader in the Church of Scotland
- 1981 Eileen Clark, awarded MBE in recognition of more than 25 years' work with the Scripture Union
- 1990s John McKinnon, Evangelist, Scripture Union Scotland
- 1999 Elaine Hain, Secretary, International Christian College

Session Clerks

1929	J. Murray (Int)
1930	W.N. Moir
1951	W.D. Stenhouse
1952	F.M. Anderson
1958	A.G. Davidson
1961	A.M. Whyte
1966	W. Little
1972	R.J.M. Hart
1977	N. Buchanan
1991	R. McLean

Deputy Session Clerks

1950	W.D. Stenhouse
1951	A.G. Davidson
1958	A.M. Whyte
1961	W. Little
1966	C. Roomes
1967	J. Hanna
1971	N. Buchanan
1977	R. McLean
1991	M. Jones
1997	G. Inglis

Treasurers

1931	J.S. Paterson and W. Nelson
1932	D. Stewart
1945	W.S. Gray
1957	R. Crawford
1958	F.M. Anderson
1964	R.J.M. Hart
1972	D. Crawford
1988	E. Lindsay
1999	J. Brough

Clerks to the Congregational Board

1929	Jackson (Int)
1930	AG. McLean, A. Sutherland
1945	F.M. Anderson
1946	W.L. Sutherst
1961	J. Dunn (Chairman G Brown)
1970	R. Jenkins
1973	R. McLean
1977	H. Aitken
1980	J. Watters
1993	N. Robertson

Roll-Keepers

W.D. Stenhouse
R. Crawford
J. Gardiner
G. St. Clair
P. Weir

Church Officers

1929	Mr. Aitken	1954	Mr. Brodie
1933	Mr. Bradshaw	1955	Mr. Salt
	Mr. Rodger	1969	Mr. McKinnon
1942	Mr. Wilson	1976	Mr. Fairclough (part-time)
1944	Mr. Lee	1978	Mr. Buchanan/Mr.Little
1946	Mr. Mackie	1980	Mr. Fairclough
1947	Mr. Rodger	1983	Mr. Templeman
1950	Mr. Gibson	1988	Mr. Gibb (part-time)
1951	Mr. Lindsay	1999	Miss Gillies (part-time)
1952	Mr. Gibson		

Church Cleaners

1975-1999	Mrs. Sarah Robertson
1999	Mrs. B. Stobo

Sunday School Superintendents

1930	Mr. J. Frame	1966	Mr. A. Lawson
1934	Mr. H. Robertson	1970	Mr. D. Barr
1940	Mr. J. Paul		
1949	Mr. J. Frame	1972	Mr. K. Henderson

1973 Miss M. Campbell
1977 Miss M. Brough
1984 Mr. S. Dallas

1987 Miss E. Clark
1999 Mrs. N. Kelly

Girl Guide Captains

275th Company

1931 C. Watt
1935 D. Campbell
1944 J. Campbell
1947 M. Mitchell
1952 H. Greenhill
1955 M. Baillie
1960 H. Hunter
1968 J. Landels (nee Reid)
Company suspended 1982

275th A Company

1952 E. Patrick
1958 M. Brooke
1959 J. Nichol
1965 J. Brough

Brownie Owls

275th Pack

1931 G. Farrell
1945 E. Stivens
1965 C. Paul
1966 M. Orr

One Pack suspended

275thA Pack

1948 E. Nicol
1958 E. McIver
1959 J. Paterson
1960 H. Dunn
1963 I. Brown
1964 W. Blair
1980 A. Leonard
1991 C. Gillies

Rainbow Guides

1994 P. Whitenett
1997 M. Brough

Buttercups (before Rainbows)

D. Aitken
J. Robertson

Boys Brigade Captains

1930 F.E. Cameron
1934 W.G. Paul
1935 J.A. McKerral
1939 A.R. Williamson
1942 E. McLeod
1946 J.S. Hanna
1947 J. Rodger
1951 J.W. Rees

1954 J. Duff
1958 J.W. Rees
1961 D. Gibb
1962 J.H. Brown
1972 J. Wilson
1973 W. Devine
1977 B. Turnbull

Life Boys

1930 G. St. Clair
M. Abernethy
1935 W. Lyle

Victors

1973 Miss B. Main, J. McKinney
1976 R. McIntyre
1980 Miss M. McGrouther

1938	J. Campbell	1985	Miss F. Stewart
1939	Miss Kemp	1996	Mrs. J. Bunting
	Miss Corney		
1945	Mr. J. Rodger		
1949	Mr. K. Paterson		
1954	R. Monroe		
1956	K. Paterson		
1958	A. Richard		
1961	R. Brough		
1966	N. Barr		
1968	I. Bulloch		
1970	B. Turnbull		

Youth Club Leaders

1947	Miss M. Thyne, M. Munro, G. Drew (jointly)
1954	R. Nichol and Rev. D.M. Ross
1959	Rev. J. Balchin and Rev. E. Alexander
1968	L. Barr and J. More
1971	D. Carmichael and B. Ross (student assistants)
1972	K. Miller and K. Buchanan
1975	K. Buchanan and Miss S. Main. Youth Adviser: N. Cruickshank
1976	N. Buchanan
1980	J. Fairclough, A. Carmichael, Miss V. McNish
1982	S. Anderson, M. Gibb
1987	B. Turnbull, T. Landels, S. Anderson
1989	S. Anderson with Youth Leader
1994	S. Anderson with Youth Workers Roselea Rivire (1995) and Catriona Paton (1997), also C. McGilvray, B. Turnbull and T. Landels

Council of Organisations

1945	W.S. Gray
1954	W.R. Smith
1956	Youth Cabinet (Rev. Arthur Gunn)
till 1971	G. Alison

Presidents

Woman's Guild

1930	Mrs. W.L. Fordyce
1939	Mrs. J. Warnock
1947	Mrs. T.R. Robertson
1956	Mrs. A. Petrie
1958	Mrs. A.G. Davidson
1963	Mrs. A. McGregor
1966	Mrs. L. Davidson
1970	Mrs. E. Watson (Hon. President Mr. Lawson)
1974	Mrs. M. Wallace (Hon. Pres. Mrs. K. Gunn)
1976	Mrs. K. McDougall
1981	Mrs. Chapman and Miss M. Lindley
1984	Mrs. J. Bain
1990	Mrs. A. McGhie
1993	Mrs. J. Cadden
1996	Mrs. A. McGhie
1999	Mrs. A. McGhie

Woman's Guild Evening Branch

1971	Mrs. J.G.S.S. Thomson
1972	Miss E. Settle
1976	Mrs. U. Finlayson
1979	Mrs. S. Smith
1982	Mrs. H. McLean
1985	Mrs. C. Dallas
1987	Miss M. Campbell
1988	Mrs H. McLean
1993	Miss E. Settle
1996	Mrs U. Finlayson
1998	Mrs H. McLean

Ladies Club

1956	Mrs. AG Gunn	1969	Mrs. J. Cowan
1957	Mrs. AG Gunn	1970	Mrs. D. Aitken
1958	Mrs. AG Gunn	1971	Mrs. A. Murray
1959	Mrs. AG Gunn	1972	Mrs. E. Roomes
1960	Mrs. AG Gunn	1973	Mrs. E. McPherson
1961	Mrs. C. Balchin	1974	Miss Duncan
1962	Mrs. C. Balchin	1975	Mrs. M. Turnbull
1963	Mrs. E. Hart	1976	Mrs. McMahan
1964	Mrs. F. Hamilton	1977	Mrs. E Roomes
1965	Mrs. A. Higgins	1978	Mrs. I Balfour
1966	Mrs. M. Turnbull	1979	Mrs. M Reid
1967	Mrs. E. Roomes	1980	Mrs. C. Orr
1968	Mrs. A. Livingstone	1981	Mrs. E. McPherson

1982	Mrs. D. Aitken	1991	Mrs. M. Newbigging
1983	Mrs. A. Higgins	1992	Mrs. J. Pate
1984	Mrs. N. McGinley	1993	Mrs. T. McLeod
1985	Mrs. E. McPherson	1994	Mrs. E. McPherson
1986	Mrs. M. Newbinning	1995	Mrs S. MacKillop
1987	Mrs. M. Sutherland	1996	Mrs R. Brown
1988	Mrs. A. Muego	1997	Mrs E. McPherson
1989	Mrs. M. Campbell	1998	Mrs T. McLeod
1990	Mrs. N. Cameron	1999	Mrs. J. Beveridge

Young Women's Group

1997	Mrs B Henderson
1999	Miss H Knox

Men's Club

1947	JH Brownlie	1973	J. Herman
1948	JH Brownlie	1974	C. Roomes
1949	JH Brownlie	1975	G. St. Clair
1950	WA Taylor	1976	T. Clark
1951	J. Bryers	1977	C. Roomes
1952	J. Dunn	1978	C. Roomes
1953	D. Leitch	1979	J. Stirling
1954	D. Harvey	1980	T. Wallace
1955	WR Smith	1981	A. Johnstone
1956	J. Dunn	1982	JJ McGhie
1957	AM Whyte	1983	T. Wallace
1958	H. Livingston	1984	T. Wallace
1959	J. Herdman	1985	G, McKay
1960	GC Reid	1986	J. Newbigging
1961	H. Livingston	1987	WT Mair
1962	J. Medlow	1988	C. Park
1963	T. Barr	1989	A. Pate
1964	GB Brown	1990	J. Calder
1965	R. Graham	1991	W. Mair
1966	J. Gray	1992	J. Newbigging
1967	J. Medlow	1993	C. McGilvray
1968	C. Roomes	1994	J. Calder
1969	J. Morton	1995	J. Newbigging
1970	L. Wiltshire	1996	B. Dibble
1971	J. Herdman	1997	J. Calder
1972	J. Herdman		

Choir

1930	Hon. Pres. Rev. W.L. Fordyce
1932	Mr. Russell
1934	Mr. J.S. Paterson
1934	Mrs. W.H. McCormick
1936	Mr. R.D. Hyndman
1937	Mr. A. McQueen
1938	Mr. R. McCulloch
1939	Mr. Watt (Hon. Pres. Rev. J. Warnock)
1940	Mr. Thyne
1944	Mr. Brownlie
1945	Mr. A. Muir
1947	Mr. Coull (Hon. Pres. Rev. T.R. Robertson)
1950	Mr. Ronald
1966	Mrs. McKenzie
1973	Mr. N. Buchanan (or earlier)

Sunday School Picnics

1930	Drumchapel	1959	Rhu
1931	Football Ground	1960	Strathaven
1932	Cardross	1961	Rhu
1933	Bothwell	1962	Kilsyth
1934	Kilmardinny	1963	Kirkintilloch
1935	Kilmardinny	1964	Kilsyth
1936	Milngavie	1965	Gourock
1937	Busby	1966	Rhu
1938	Linn Park	1967	Blantyre
1939	Craigendoran	1968	Killearn
1940	Milton of Campsie	1969	Dumbarton
1941- 1944	No outings	1970	Dumbarton
1945	Dawsholm (Beginners)	1971	Balloch
1946	Balloch (Beginners)	1972	Dumbarton
1947	Local field	1973	Killearn
1948	Blantyre	1974	Pollock Estate
	Balloch (Beginners)	1975	Pollok Estate
1949	Torrance	1976	Linn Park
1950	Helsburgh	1977	Ruchill Park (Beginners and Primary Departments)
1951	Killearn		Loch Lomond Bear Park (Seniors)
1952	Cardross		Magnum Centre (Junior Bible Class)
1953	Kilmacolm		
1954	Lenzie		
1955	Lenzie		
1956	Lenzie	1978	Balloch Park (Beginners)
1957	Strathaven	1978	Garelochhead (Primary and Seniors)
1958	Kirkintilloch		
1958	Alexandria	1979	Helensburgh (Primary)

	Barshaw Park (Beginners)	1987	Blantyre
	Alva Glen (Seniors)		Outdoor Centre, Arran – residential weekend for Seniors
1980	Louden Estate		
1981	Pollok Estate (Seniors)	1988	Blantyre
	St. David’s Hall – due to rain (Primary)	1989	Levensgrove Park, Dumbarton
1982	Balloch		
1983	Blantyre	1990	Levensgrove Park, Dumbarton
	Magnum Centre (Junior Bible Class)	1991	Blackshaw Farm Park
1984	Levensgrove Park, Dumbarton	1992	Blackshaw Farm Park
1985	Barshaw Park	1993	Kelburn Country Park
	Butlins, Ayr (Junior Bible Class)	1994	Kelburn Country Park
	Barshaw Park	1995, 1996, 1997, 1998 and 1999	Blackshaw Farm Park

Boys’ Brigade Camps

		1964	Dunbar
1948	Crail (LB Balloch)	1966	Stonehaven
1949	North Berwick	1968	Anstruther
1950	Newbiggin-by-Sea	1970	Girvan
1952	Dunbar	1972	Prestatyn
1954	Stonehaven	1975	Belgium
1956	Nairn	1978	Warham
1958	Montrose	1980	Scarborough
1960	No camp	1985	Scarborough
1962	No camp	1996	Alton Towers

Former Members and Adherents who became well known in their chosen professions

John Hannah, VC (RAF)

Mr. Kenneth Paterson, Director of Finance, Strathclyde Regional Council

Sir Kenneth Calman, Chief Medical Officer and Principal of Durham University

Alan Rough, Footballer, Partick Thistle and goal-keeper for Scotland

David Eaglesham, General Secretary, Secondary Teachers Association

Membership Statistics

1930	479	1965	1,656
1931	725	1966	1,517
1932	889	1967	1,486
1933	945	1968	1,433
1934	939	1969	1,378
1935	964	1970	1,312
1936	1,003	1971	1,215
1937	1,036	1972	1,176
1938	998	1973	1,128
1939	1,046	1974	1,142
1940	1,094	1975	1,103
1941	1,201	1976	1,118
1942	1,269	1977	1,108
1943	1,390	1978	1,142
1944	1,517	1979	1,148
1945	1,622	1980	1,110
1946	1,652	1981	1,119
1947	1,734	1982	1,086
1948	1,858	1983	1,101
1949	1,932	1984	1,094
1950	1,960	1985	1,080
1951	1,935	1986	1,065
1952	1,875	1987	1,042
1953	1,877	1988	1,043
1954	1,867	1989	1,007
1955	1,865	1990	996
1956	1,818	1991	986
1957	1,853	1992	969
1958	1,976	1993	936
1959	1,960	1994	910
1960	1,840	1995	894
1961	1,812	1996	884
1962	1,760	1997	851
1963	1,661	1998	828
1964	1,680	1999	799

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