

HAGGS PARISH CHURCH

1840 — 1965



125th Anniversary Brochure and Programme of Celebrations



A Message from the Present Minister, The Rev. JACK ROBERTSON, J.P.

I trust that, for the older members, this brochure will bring back many memories and that for the younger members it will be an inspiration. It seeks to mark the 125 years of the existence of Haggs Parish Church; it makes no claim to be either comprehensive or complete. The names of many members who now serve God in the Church Triumphant do not appear, but their good works are ever around us and their memory is enshrined in the hearts of those who knew them.

Our Prayer at this time is that this, our place of worship, may continue to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Here may the strong renew their strength, the weak and the poor find succour, and the friendless friendship. Here may the tempted find power, and the sorrowing new hope. May those who fear find new courage and those who doubt have their faith confirmed.

I trust that our Anniversary Celebrations will be a time of great joy and blessing for all.

GREETINGS FROM THE REV. WM. M. MECHIE

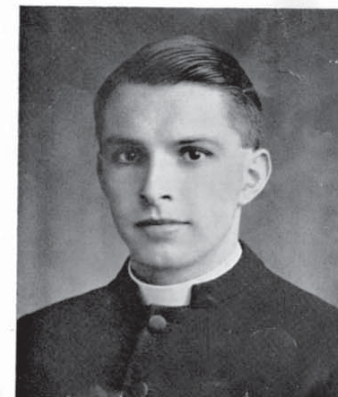
PARISH MINISTER OF HAGGS, 1950-1962

It is a very great privilege to send a message of greeting to the Congregation of Haggs on the 125th Anniversary.

Greetings for a birthday approaching, or over the three-figure mark are often tinged with regret and one is tempted to look back with longing to the outstanding events and characters of the past, but with a live and living group of the family of God's people this is not so.

The purpose of celebrating an anniversary is to remind ourselves of the Mighty Acts of Grace accomplished by the use of earthen vessels and to catch a vision of the Kingdom which encourages and beckons us on.

May God's richest blessing continue to rest on both Minister and people.





THE ELDERS WITH DATES OF ORDINATION

	ANDREW DENNISTOUN	1915		
ROBERT G. MILLER	1927	J. FRASER RALSTON	1949	NEIL McLACHLAN
DONALD MACLACHLAN ...	1935	JOHN McARTHUR	1949	THOMAS CONNELL
PETER DUFF	1943	ROBERT V. MACKAY	1954	PETER LECKIE
CHARLES M. BRUCE	1947	MILLER TAYLOR	1955	THOMAS MUIR
WILLIAM ANDERSON	1947	ARCHIBALD FLEMING	1955	JOHN BROWNLIE
		GEORGE KIRK	1958	

ANDREW DENNISTOUN, the Father of the Kirk Session, is the holder of the General Assembly's Long Service Certificate.

ROBERT MILLER, now our second elder in seniority, served this Court of the Church for 25 years as Session Clerk.

DONALD MACLACHLAN has given his life to serving the youth of the Church. He is at present Sunday School Superintendent, Captain of Boys' Brigade and Leader in Charge of Life Boys.

Programme of Anniversary Celebrations

PLANNING COMMITTEE:

PETER LECKIE (Convener) CHARLES M. BRUCE JOHN McARTHUR THOMAS CONNELL

WHITSUNDAY, 6th JUNE, 1965

INAUGURAL SERVICES

11.15 a.m.—DIVINE WORSHIP. The Rev. JAMES L. DOW, M.A.
Minister of Augustine-Cartsburn Church, Greenock

6.00 p.m.—FAMILY SERVICE OF EVENING WORSHIP
Conducted by the Parish Minister

Preacher: The Rev. J. CHALMERS GRANT, B.D.
Minister of Dunblane Cathedral.

SUNDAY, 13th JUNE, 1965

11.15 a.m.—SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

The Rev. Dr. WM. M. GRANT, B.D.,
Minister of West Church, Falkirk.

AND

The Rev. JACK ROBERTSON, J.P.

6 p.m.—CLOSING SERVICE
SACRAMENT OF HOLY COMMUNION
TO WHICH ALL ARE INVITED.

The Rev. COLIN R. M. BELL, M.A.,
Minister of Allan Church, Bannockburn.

AND

The Rev. JACK ROBERTSON, J.P.

TUESDAY, 8th JUNE, 1965

ANNIVERSARY SOCIAL EVENING

in

7.30 p.m. — COMMUNITY CENTRE, BANKNOCK — 7.30 p.m.

Speakers expected:—The Rev. WM. M. MECHIE, The Rev. R. G. LAWRIE, M.A., The Rev. PETER BARROW, B.D.,
and Ministers from Neighbouring Parishes.

FRIDAY, 11th JUNE, 1965

FINAL GATHERING OF WORKERS IN HAGGS PARISH CHURCH HALL
IN PREPARATION FOR "CARNIVAL DAY."

SATURDAY, 12th JUNE, 1965

CARNIVAL DAY

Sponsored by Social Committee—Convener, Dr. IAIN M. MACLEAN

Procession of children leaves BANKNOCK at 1.30 p.m.

Queen of the Fair, 1963 EVELYN DAVIES
Queen of the Fair, 1964 ELIZABETH MACLACHLAN
Carnival Queen, 1965 ... DUX GIRL OF LONGCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL
(By kind permission of Headmaster).



We Love the place, O God,
Wherein Thine Honour dwells;
The joy of Thine abode,
All earthly joy excels.

It is the House of Prayer,
Wherein the servants meet;
And Thou, O Lord, art there,
Thy chosen flock to greet.

**MEN WHO SERVED GOD IN THIS PLACE AS MINISTERS OF WORD
AND SACRAMENT**

COLIN McCULLOCH	1841	ALEXANDER McGREGOR ..	1865	ALEXANDER ROBERTSON	1877
JOHN YOUNG	1844	WILLIAM HUNTER	1866	ROBT. DREW McKENZIE ...	1919
JOHN ANDERSON	1857	ALEXANDER GUTHRIE ...	1872	JOHN SHEDDEN	1922
THOMAS LOGAN	1860	WILLIAM GALL	1875	JOHN JACKSON	1925
		WILLIAM M. MECHIE	1950		

“How then shall they call on Him on whom they have not believed?
And how shall they believe in Him of whom they have not heard?
And how shall they hear without a preacher?”

—Romans 10: 14.

NOTES FROM THE RECORDS

By R. V. MACKAY, M.A., B.Sc., F.E.I.S.

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On the 23rd of April, 1839, a petition from Wm. Forbes, Esq., of Callendar, and the Rev. John Dempster, Minister of the Parish of Denny, was presented to the Presbytery of Stirling in regard to the erection of a Church and parish “quoad spiritualia” at Hags. This Reverend Court took it into serious consideration of the 12th September of the same year and agreed that the project was highly expedient. Action followed swiftly, for on the 29th of October plans and estimates for building and furnishing the church were laid before them, and only nine months later—on the 19th July, 1840—the new church was duly opened.

The first minister, the Reverend Colin McCulloch, was ordained and settled on 14th January, 1841, and was supported by a Kirk Session of four elders of Denny Parish who were resident in the district, allocated to the new church. These were Messrs. Robert Sneddon, John Gray, John Cousland and David Shaw, and of these the name of John Cousland appears regularly in the minutes until 1879. A Session Clerk was also appointed in the person of Mr. Alexander Ure, teacher in Hags Church School.

In the years that followed, the new church established itself as an active and watchful unit, taking its due share in the movements and interests of the day. For example, deputations were sent to meetings of protest against the carrying of mail and passengers on the Dundee to Arbroath railway on Sundays and later on the Glasgow and Edinburgh line.

The most notable step was the establishment in 1875 of the Church and Parish of Hags “quoad sacra.” By this act it was completely disjoined from the Parish of Denny and given equal status. The Court of Tiends arranged endowments to give an annual income of £102 19s 2d to provide a stipend of £100 and to pay the feu-duty. The Deed of Disjunction and Erection contains some interesting information. There were 235 communicants, and the average income for the previous five years was £48 18s 3d from seat rents and £36 17s 3d from offerings. The value of the church buildings—church and manse—was put at £1,972, and the annual cost of maintenance £4 10s 0d.

Probably the most notable ministry was that of the Rev. Alexander Robertson. He was ordained in 1877 and continued very actively till his death in January, 1919. During this period the number of communicant members rose steadily to 509 and the number of participants in the Communion Services rose from 170 to 270.

In 1881, a petition from members of the congregation asking that instrumental music be introduced into the church services was refused owing to lack of funds. In 1889, however, Mr. A. H. Boyle, of Banknock House, offered to instal an American organ at his own expense if the Session would accept it. Thirteen members of the congregation expressed objections, but it appears that the offer was accepted after reference to the Presbyters.

In the early inter-war years there seems to have been an upsurge of interest in the church, and a roll of 628 and Communion attendances of 330 were recorded. Later, however, the roll appears to have fallen as low as 400 and attendances at Communion to less than 200. This was during the difficult period of the war years and at a time when the whole Church had fallen on lean times. It is heartening to note that in this parish, as in the rest of the country, there has been a renewal of interest and enthusiasm, with the roll now standing at 600 and a communion attendance of over 400 last year.

When the church was built it was described as having seating for 680 people. It has not been possible to trace the modifications that have been made since then, but it would seem likely that the pulpit was originally central in the north wall, with pews on each side of a central raised sanctuary. The present layout, however, was firmly established in 1928 when the Communion Table and, a year later, the elders' chairs, were dedicated. A pipe organ was installed at that time, too, and gave yeoman service till 1963 when it had to be scrapped owing to the ravages of woodworm.

And so we now have a seemly church in sound stone walls built 125 years ago. The internal plan is plain but pleasing, dominated by the gilt cross overlooking the sanctuary platform. It is a church that has been cherished and cared for throughout its history and expresses beautifully the character of the congregation it serves

IN THE CHURCH'S SERVICE, 1965

Organist: Mr. JOHN McARTHUR.

Church Officer: JAMES STEWART.

Senior Sunday School: DONALD MACLACHLAN.

Junior Sunday School: WILLIAM ANDERSON.

Primary Sunday School: HELEN ERSKINE.

Beginners: Miss E. SHEARER, Mrs. JEAN TAYLOR.

Young Worshippers' League: Miss MARGARET DAWSON.

Woman's Guild President: Mrs. ROBERTSON.

Youth Fellowship President: DAVID CONNELL.

Boys' Brigade and Life Boys: DONALD MACLACHLAN.

Girls' Guildry Leader-in-Charge: ETHEL McCOMBE.

Young Brothers: ANN PALMER and Mrs. MACLEAN.

CONGREGATIONAL BOARD, 1965

THE ELDERS, together with the following:—

Mrs. NIMMO, Mrs. GALLACHER, Miss DAWSON, Mrs. MORTIMER, Miss ERSKINE,
Mrs. HOGGAN.

JAMES OWENS, JAMES JENKINS, WILLIAM OWENS, STUART SWAN,
JAMES SOMMERVILLE (Convener of Property), MALCOLM SHEARER,
Councillor ALEX. McKECHNIE, J.P.; Dr. IAIN M. MACLEAN.

MESSAGES OF CONGRATULATION

From WILLIAM GRINDLAY, ordained Elder in Haggs, 1907:—

I wish Haggs Parish Church the continued success which at present it enjoys.

From The Very Rev. Dr. NEVILE DAVIDSON, Minister of Glasgow Cathedral:—

Best wishes for every blessing and a very successful week.

From the Rev. TOM SCOTT, J.P., Minister of Bonnybridge Parish Church:—

Whitsuntide, 1965. May your week be blessed by the power of the Spirit.

From the Rev. R. G. LAWRIE, M.A., Minister of Denny Old Parish Church:—

Rejoicing in your celebration.

With God's blessing may all seek the good of His house.

Haggs Parish Church — TO-DAY . . .



With this picture of our Church to-day we send warmest greetings from the whole congregation to our many friends outwith the Parish and outwith Scotland. Your prayers and interest are a constant encouragement to us.

Our warmest greetings go out also to our members who, through age or illness, cannot join with us in the celebrations. You will be specially remembered in our prayers and thoughts as we worship.

Haggs Parish Church — TO-MORROW

NOT THE PAST — BUT TO THE FUTURE,
SHALL WE, WHOSE HEARTS ARE YOUNG
GRAPPLE OURSELVES TO NEW ENDEAVOUR,
THOUGH BY THE PAST WE'LL MEASURE,
BY TRUTH AND ERROR, WHAT THE PAST TAUGHT,
AND GUIDE TO BETTER THOUGHT
INTO THE STURDY FABRIC OF TO-MORROW;
BUILD A NEW PLACE, WE TRUST,
A FAITH TO RAISE MEN FROM THE DUST,
STABLISH ON FIRMER GROUND
HIS LOVE THE WHOLE WORLD ROUND.