

St Serf's Parish Church  
At  
Lochgelly and Benarty



One Church  
Two Buildings  
One Congregation

## ST SERF'S PARISH CHURCH

### Acknowledgements

I wish to thank the folks who loaned material<sup>1</sup> for the production of these albums.

To all who helped with photographs and articles.

To The Central Fife Times for past copies of the paper, and Lochgelly Library staff for pointing me in the direction of the reference books<sup>2</sup> required in the search for information.

Population figures change according to where information is researched<sup>3</sup>.

*Margaret Morgan*  
*June 2007*

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<sup>1</sup> Mr J Robertson, Mr & Mrs McManus.

<sup>2</sup> Books referred to are by: Rev David Jamie, Alexander Westwater, Edward Henderson and Miss Mason.

<sup>3</sup> Census records show population of Lochgelly in 1800 as 600 and in 1854 as 1000.  
Church records can include people from other areas.



# Macainsh Parish Church 1857—2005

## **A Short History of Macainsh Church**

**In 1843, 400 ministers withdrew from the Church of Scotland. Macainsh Free Church came from that disruption.**

**As early as 1849 the Free Presbytery began by holding Sunday Evening Services in the village school at a cost of one shilling per session. A probationer was appointed to attend to the spiritual needs of the district. This covered the parishes of Auchterderran, Ballingry and part of Beath.**

**In 1855 Mr P Macainsh began work at the Methil Station<sup>1</sup> On application from Lochgelly it was agreed to transfer him to the Station there. A deputation from Lochgelly requested presbytery to support their application to the next General Assembly to be sanctioned as a ministerial charge. This was duly agreed providing the congregation could satisfy the sustentation<sup>2</sup> fund and that their contributions would not be less than £100.**

**Plans were laid before presbytery in 1856 for a new church. The building in the gothic style would seat 500. The ordination of Rev Macainsh took place in the Iron Company's School in 1856. On the same day the foundation stone was laid.**

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<sup>1</sup> Methil Station - building where services took place

<sup>2</sup> Sustentation - support and sustain financially



The church is sited on land gifted by the Earl of Zetland. The land is on the Lumphinnans Estate, at the east boundary of Ballingry parish, the ground is approximately 7/8 of an acre.

The church was opened for worship by Dr Hetheringham, Professor of Church History on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1857. Rev Macainsh preached in the afternoon. The collection amounted to £22.14s. The congregation having contributed £40. earlier in the week to make the church debt free.

The need for further seating led to the gallery being added in 1881. A small hall was built in 1884 followed by a larger hall in 1906. The sum of £4.13s.8d remained in credit, from the money collected by fundraising.

The Macainsh congregation was, and is working class and democratic in all its ways. It has exercised a profound influence for good in the community. Rev Macainsh worked tirelessly both in his church and surrounding districts. For years before retiring from active ministry he engaged student assistants, paying their salaries from his own pocket.

Mr James Kinnell who had acted as Precentor from 1857 announced his retiral in 1886. His successor Mr D Low received a salary of £12 per annum. 1901 saw the question of introducing music to the church raised. The congregation voted 122 in favour and 46 against. Mr T Wilson was appointed to the post of organist and choirmaster.

The roll of members in 1915 was 586.

In 1929 with the union of the established church, this saw the name changed to Macainsh Church.

After the Great War a new pulpit with memorial panels was installed. A second memorial was erected after

World War 11. In 1945 two stained glass windows were gifted by Mrs J Clark in memory of her father and grandfather who had both played prominent parts in the history of Macainsh Church. Her grandfather Thomas Dick, attended the first session meeting of the church.

In 1965 the pews were replaced with pews gifted from West Coates Church in Edinburgh.

The decades since the war has seen the church upgraded in different areas, small hall, toilets, kitchen, large hall and corridor, all work carried out by volunteer labour.

The last minister and first woman to be appointed in the church history Rev MaryAnn Rennie was inducted under the terms of terminable tenure in 1998. At a meeting of The Five Boards Group a proposal to invite congregations to suspend their right to call a minister in favour of a Team Ministry which would serve the parishes<sup>3</sup> was agreed in 2002. A presbytery decision to proceed with a union in 2002, saw the name change to St Serf's Parish Church in 2005.

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<sup>3</sup> The parishes were Macainsh, St Andrews, Lochcraig and Ballingry\*. Information taken from a Five Boards Group Team ministry Minute.

**Macainsh Church Lochgelly  
1857 to 2002**

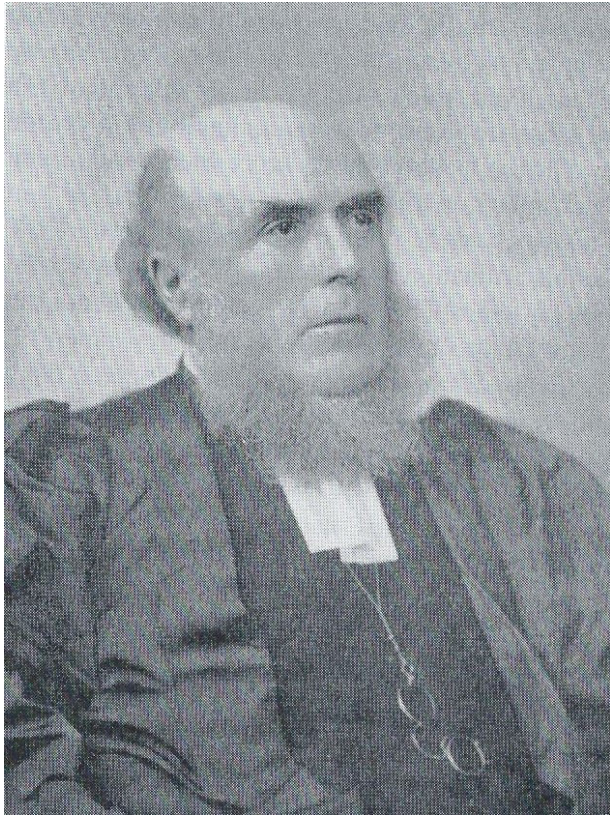
<b>Rev P Macainsh</b>	<b>1856</b>	<b>Ret 1892</b>
<b>Rev D Brown MA</b>	<b>1892</b>	<b>Died 1916</b>
<b>Rev W MacLeod BD PhD</b>	<b>1916</b>	<b>Trans 1922</b>
<b>Rev H Law MA</b>	<b>1922</b>	<b>Trans 1927</b>
<b>Rev J D Brown MA</b>	<b>1928</b>	<b>Trans 1936</b>
<b>Rev JD McLellan MA</b>	<b>1936</b> <b>(War service)</b>	<b>Dem 1941</b>
<b>Rev N R MacLean BD</b>	<b>1942</b>	<b>Trans 1947</b>
<b>Rev G P Steel MA</b>	<b>1947</b> <b>(Result of an accident)</b>	<b>Died 1947</b>
<b>Rev D W Ross BD</b>	<b>1948</b>	<b>Trans 1953</b>
<b>Rev G B Macallan</b>	<b>1954</b>	<b>Trans 1961</b>
<b>Rev N R Macaskill</b>	<b>1962</b>	<b>Trans 1991</b>
<b>Rev J W Knox</b>	<b>1992</b>	<b>Ret 1997</b>
<b>Rev MA Rennie BD MTh</b>	<b>1998</b>	<b>Trans 2002</b>

MACAINSH CHURCH FOUNDED 1857

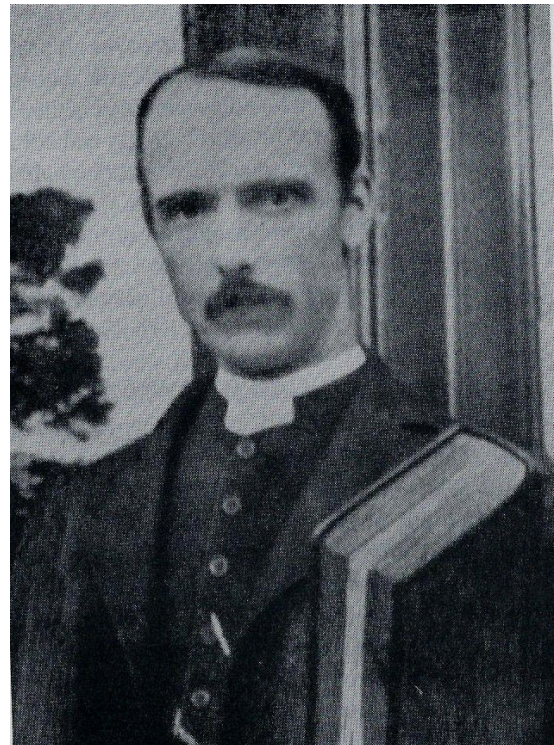


MACAINSH CHURCH INTERIOR





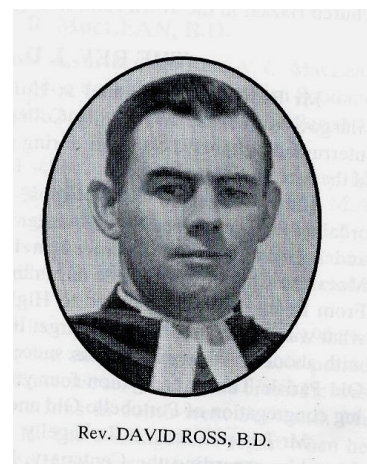
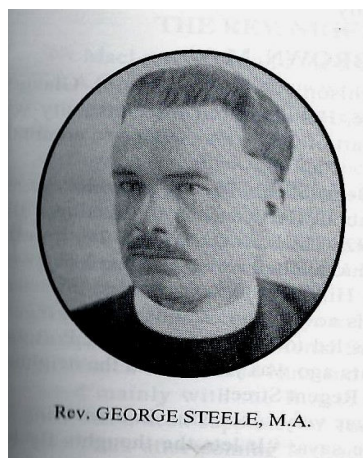
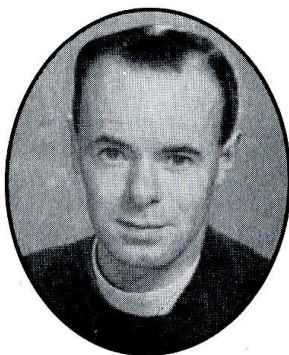
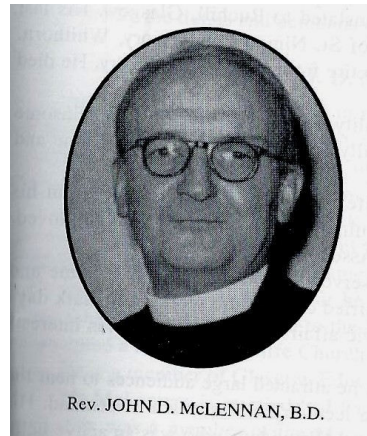
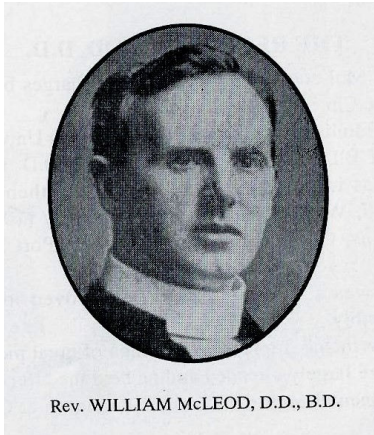
REV P MACAINSH from 1855-1891

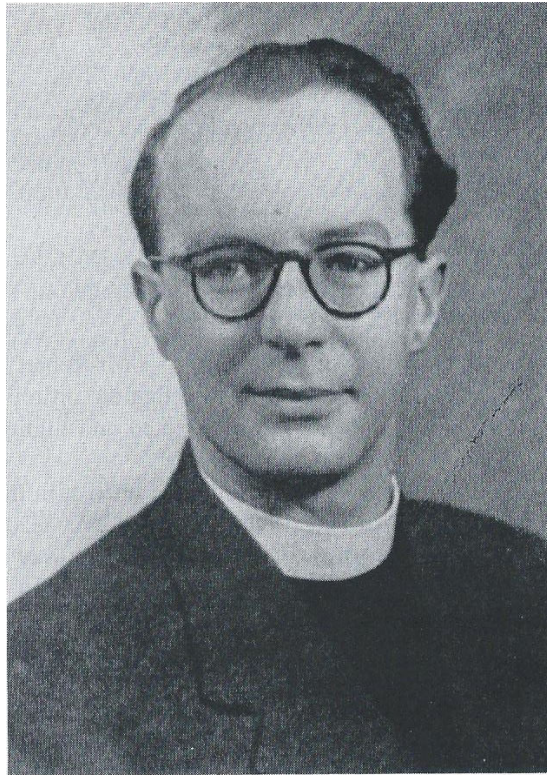


REV D BROWN M.A.



## FORMER MACAINSH MINISTERS





REV G B MACALLAN  
1954 –1961

Rev. GERALD B. MACALLAN

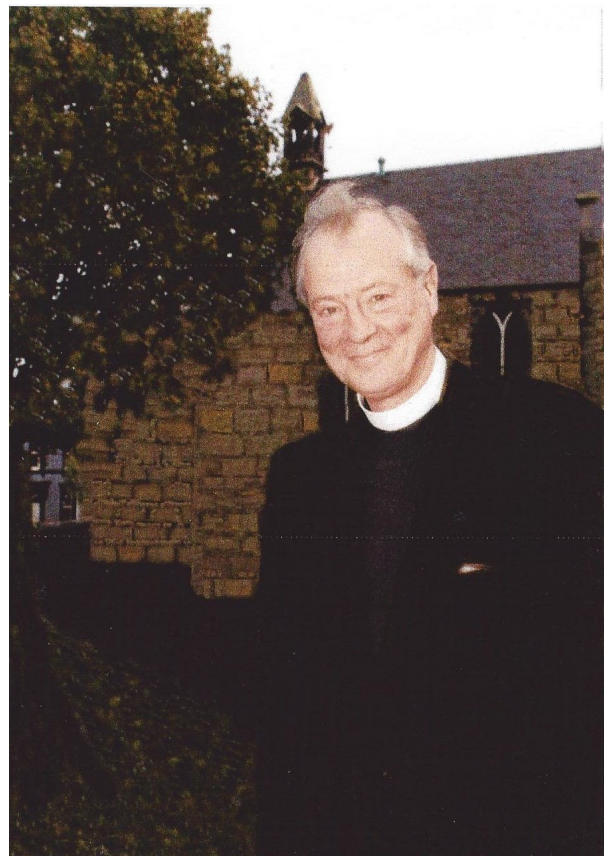


REVS D ROSS,G B MACALLAN,N R MCLEAN, J D MCLELLAN &J D BROWN  
MACAINSH CHURCH CENTENARY 1957





REV N R MACASKILL  
1962 –1991



REV J W KNOX  
1992 –1997



REV M A RENNIE  
1998 –2002



CALUM JAMES RENNIE first baby born to the minister  
of Macainsh Church June 2000





MACAINSH CHURCH LARGE HALL BUILT 1906



MACAINSH CHURCH MANSE



LARGE AND SMALL HALLS







INTERIOR MACAINSH CHURCH







MACAINSH CHURCH  
PULPIT AND BAPTISMAL FONT





THE CLARK MEMORIAL WINDOWS

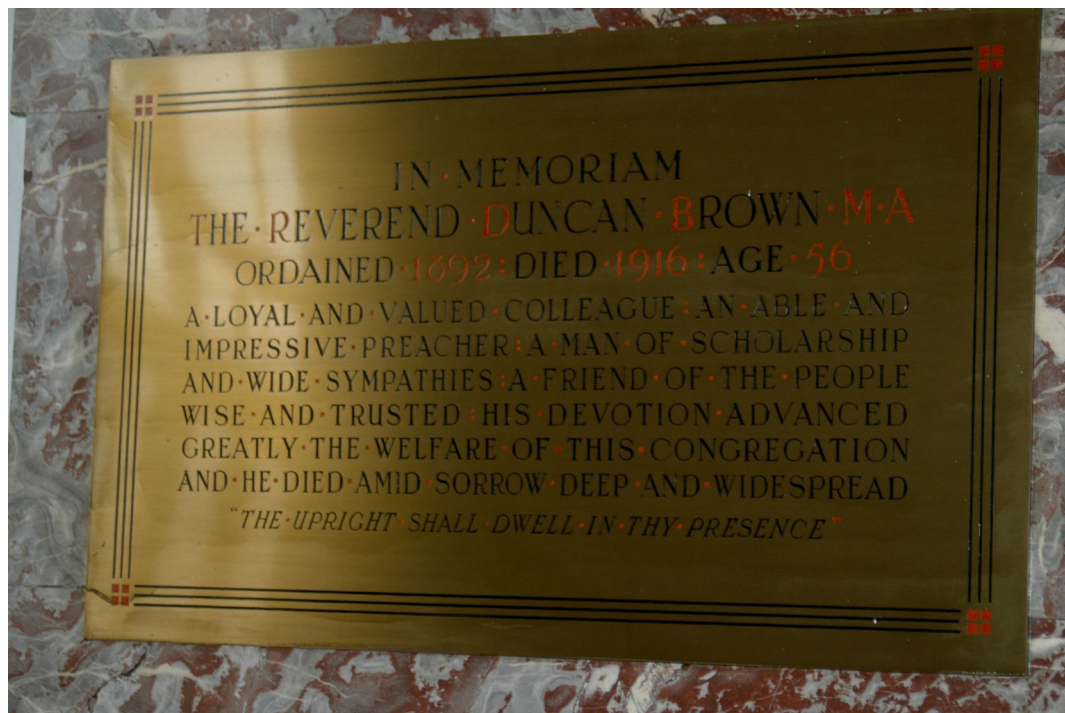


WAR MEMORIAL 1939 –1945











MACAINSH PEWTER DATED 1857



ALMS DISH  
PRESENTED BY WOMANS GUILD  
50TH ANNIVERSARY





Back Row — J. Mathewson, W. Ritchie, J. Christie, W. Scott, D. Pollock, R. Lawson, A. Laing, A. Keddie  
 Middle Row — G. Logan, D. Yule, R. Lumsden, J. M. Mitchell, R. Gray, H. Pollock, J. Swan, A. McMillan, D. Kerr, A. Davidson,  
 G. Kerr, D. Gerrard, J. McLean (Jun.), D. Seaton, J. Baxter, R. McMurray  
 Front Row — R. Baxter, A. King, R. Swan, J. McIntosh (Clerk to Deacons' Court), Rev. G. B. Macallan, A. Cooper (Session Clerk),  
 J. McLean (Treasurer), D. Smith, R. Blair (Presbytery Representative)  
 Inset — T. McLean (Died 13th February, 1957) and A. Malvenan. David Stein absent through illness

# CENTENARY YEAR SESSION REV G B MACALLAN



CENTENARY PLAQUE 1957





MACAINSH SESSION REV J W KNOX



MACAINSH SESSION  
REV M A RENNIE



SUNDAY SCHOOL



MILLENIUM CELEBRATIONS  
BURYING TIME CAPSULE





Alexander Westwater J.P.

AUTHOR OF  
Lochgelly Macainsh Church of Scotland  
Centenary Book 1857-1957





# St Andrews Parish Church 1856—2002

## **A Short History Of St Andrew's Church**

**In the early nineteenth century Lochgelly was a village with a population of \*800 mostly weavers and farm workers. It was situated in the Parishes of Auchterderran and Ballingry.**

**Church members had to be fit and loyal, as they had to walk to the Parish Church of Auchterderran and Ballingry to worship God.**

**In 1850 the Parish Minister of Auchterderran spoke to his session about the need for a Church for the people of Lochgelly. The population was now growing with the introduction of ironstone mining and small coal pits.**

**A small committee chaired by Andrew Landale, Manager of Lochgelly Iron Company was formed to raise funds and to supervise the building of such a church.**

**By 1853 £90 had been collected.**

**In 1854 an application was made to the Home Mission for a grant towards the building.**

**The new building was completed in 1855. The builder was James Robertson. It is thought that volunteer labour may have been used. The new building seated 600 and was situated at the bottom of High Street the main thoroughfare of the village.**

The first minister was ordained in 1856.

Kirkcaldy Presbytery noted, Lochgelly Church is now free of debt. They now have a handsome church, which cost £1100 to build.

An elder Andrew Landale put forward in 1867 a draft deed seeking full parish status for Lochgelly.

1868 saw the formalities completed and the new Parish of Lochgelly was formed by disjunction from Auchterderran and Ballingry in the Presbyteries of Kirkcaldy and Kinross. Boundaries were minutely described and Trustees appointed. A committee had drawn up a scale of seat rents. It was then known as Lochgelly Parish Church.

Lochgelly became a burgh in 1879, with boundaries based on parish boundaries.

In the census of 1911 the population was now 14,304. Church membership stood at 468. With adherents the number could swell to 600. That was the seating capacity of the church. Plans of 1913 were set in motion to have the church enlarged and rebuilt. Dr Chalmers was engaged to produce the plans for a beautiful building, with chancel, gallery and side aisles added and seating plans for 800. Work started in 1915.

The Pipe Organ installed in 1902 was re-sited.

A Large Stained Glass Window believed to be the work of Gordon Webster was gifted by the Reid Family and installed at this time also.

In 1929 at the Union of the Church of Scotland and the United Free Church of Scotland the church was renamed St Andrew's and the Parish shared.

By 1930 the membership had risen to nearly 1000. It then waned.

After the World War in 1946 a screen was built incorporating a group of memorial windows at the back of the church. Several pews were removed to create a spacious vestibule.

Following the death of Rev J Tennant in 1985 a beautiful memorial stained glass window representing St Andrew replaced a window at the foot of the gallery stairs.

The church continued to be an integral part of the life of Lochgelly although numbers were declining<sup>1</sup>

Rev R Duncan retired in 2000.

Following a pilot scheme of two years, a decision was taken by the three churches to proceed to a union. The concept of this new beginning was two buildings, one church, one congregation.

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<sup>1</sup>These facts are from a publication by Mr J Robertson

\* Population figures may vary from church to church depending on how they dealt with their records.

**St Andrews Church Lochgelly  
1856 to 2002**

<b>Rev A Wilson</b>	<b>1856</b>	<b>CHAPEL-AT-EASE</b>
<b>Rev W Mair DD</b>	<b>1861</b>	<b>1865</b>
<b>Rev M Reid DD</b>	<b>1865</b>	<b>1868</b>
<b>Rev T Dewar</b>	<b>1868</b>	<b>1912</b>
<b>Rev D F Clark DD</b>	<b>1913</b>	<b>Trans 1918</b>
<b>Rev R N Paton BD</b>	<b>1918</b>	<b>Trans 1934</b>
<b>Rev W R Sanderson BA</b>	<b>1935</b>	<b>Trans 1939</b>
<b>Rev C Jones MA</b>	<b>1939</b>	<b>Trans 1948</b>
<b>Rev F M Musk BA</b>	<b>1948</b>	<b>Trans 1961</b>
<b>Rev W C Bruce</b>	<b>1962</b>	<b>Trans 1968</b>
<b>Rev J M Tennant</b>	<b>1968</b>	<b>Died 1985</b>
<b>Rev K G Russell</b>	<b>1986</b>	<b>Assoc 1988</b>
<b>Rev R F Duncan MTh</b>	<b>1990</b>	<b>Ret 2000</b>

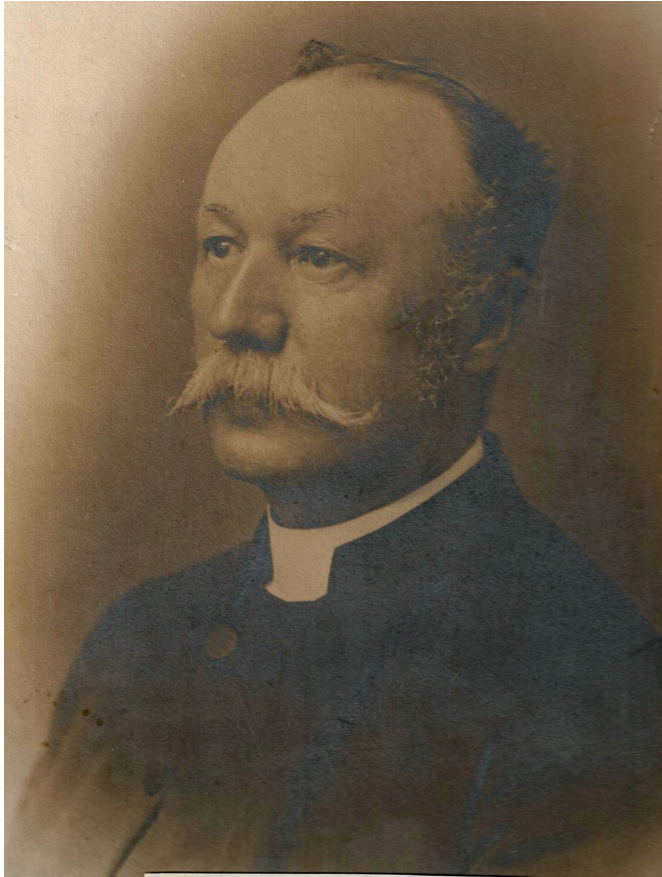


REV D MAIR D.D.  
1861 – 1865

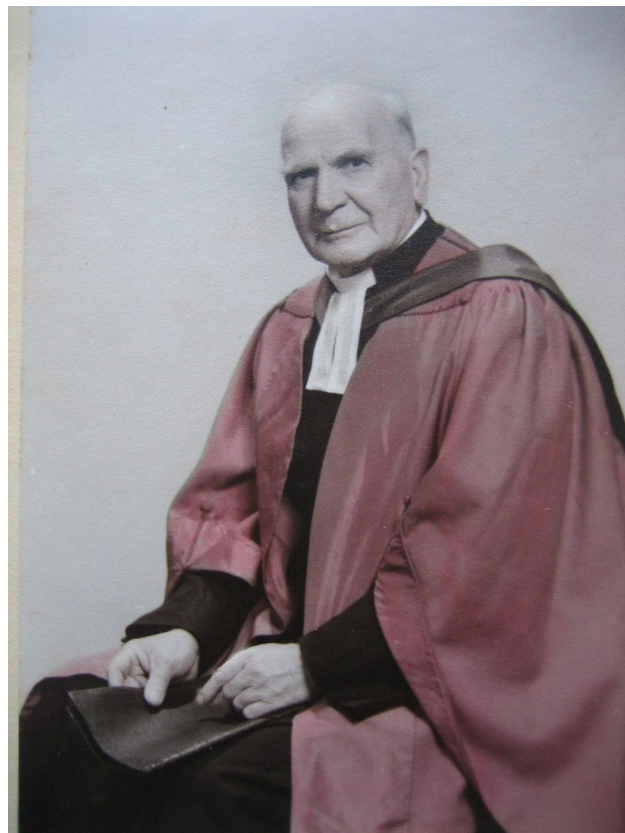


REV M REID D.D.  
1865 – 1868





REV T DEWAR  
1869 - 1912



REV F CLARK D.D.  
1913 - 1918





REV N R PATON  
1918 – 1934



REV R SANDERSON  
1934 – 1939



REV C JONES 1939 –1948



REV F MUSK 1948 – 1961



REV W BRUCE  
1962 – 1968



REV J TENNANT  
1968 – 1985





REV F RUSSELL  
1986 – 1988



REV R DUNCAN  
1990– 2000



ST ANDREWS CHANCEL AND AISLE







INTERIOR  
ST ANDREWS CHURCH





VESTIBULE ST ANDREWS CHURCH







REV J TENNANT MEMORIAL WINDOW

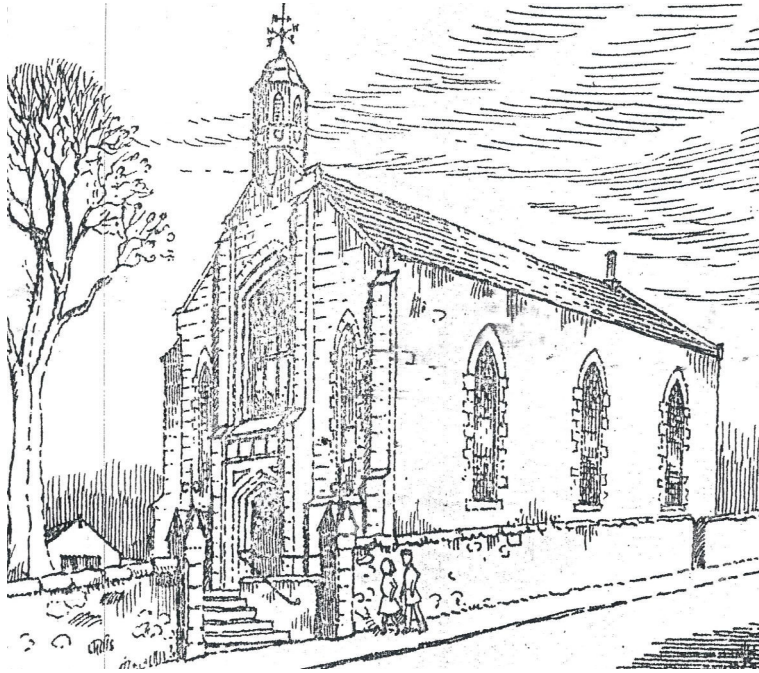




ST ANDREWS SESSIONS







From a drawing

# Churchmount Parish Church 1767—1980



## **A Short History Of Churchmount Church**

**Presbyterianism was restored as the religion of Scotland in 1678. An associate synod was founded in 1734 at Gairney Bridge. Their ideal was freedom, energy, mission and working with the poor. This was the original Secession Church. This church eventually splitting into several groups;- the Burghers and anti Burghers, the Auld Lights and New Lights and the Relief Kirk.**

**It was on 23<sup>rd</sup> August 1763 while Lochgelly was still a very small village (100 years later it still only had a population of 650)<sup>1</sup> that people in Ballingry, Beath and Auchterderran petitioned the Burgher Presbytery of Dunfermline for the supply of sermon (i.e. church services). A new congregation was formed in Lochgelly as the most central place and a Burgher Secession Kirk was built in Mid Street in 1764. The first Minister was ordained and inducted in 1767.**

**In 1822 all the splinter groups came together as the United Presbyterian Church. They were known as the UP's. The UP Church was built in 1864 in Church Street, at a cost of £1000.00. The old church was disposed of and became a "Music Hall".**

**On 28<sup>th</sup> July 1869 Rev James Brown was inducted and introduced to the new church and manse. This coincided with the expansion of the population and mining industry.**

**At the close of 1890 membership stood at 293.**

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<sup>1</sup> Population figures may vary from church to church depending on how their records were kept.

Rev Brown took part in evangelistic work in Cowdenbeath and helped develop a congregation there. A brick church was able to be built, and was opened on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1884. This church was later called Cairns Church.

In 1929 with the union of the established church, the UP Church became Churchmount Church sharing the work of the Parish in Lochgelly.

Churchmount Church consisted of a Church, manse and two halls. They shared with the congregation of Macainsh the mission work in the James Brown Memorial Hall<sup>2</sup>.

From 1929 a further six ministers served the church and congregation.

The decision to close Churchmount Church was taken by The Synod of Fife in April 1980 following a recommendation by Presbytery.

The congregation of Churchmount Church was dissolved 31st May 1980, following the retirement of Rev F Stewart. The members deciding to worship at St Andrew's Church and Macainsh Church.

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<sup>2</sup> Facts have been taken from Alexander Westminster's book Lochgelly.



**Churchmount Church Lochgelly  
1767 to 1980**

<b>Rev George Wilson</b>	<b>1767</b>	<b>Died 1773</b>
<b>Rev David Greig</b>	<b>1773</b>	<b>Died 1823</b>
<b>Rev Joseph Scott</b>	<b>1824</b>	<b>Susp 1833</b>
<b>Rev William Reid</b>	<b>1833</b>	<b>Ret 1868</b>
<b>Rev James Brown MA</b>	<b>1869</b>	<b>Died 1908</b>
<b>Rev Thomas Brown MA</b>	<b>1909</b>	<b>Trans 1916</b>
<b>Rev David Aitken MA BD</b>	<b>1916</b>	<b>Dem 1947</b>
<b>Rev Alistair McTavish MA</b>	<b>1947</b>	<b>Trans 1952</b>
<b>Rev Donald Mackay</b>	<b>1953</b>	<b>Trans 1957</b>
<b>Rev John N Buchanan</b>	<b>1959</b>	<b>Term 1960</b>
<b>Rev Kenneth Ross</b>	<b>1960</b>	<b>Trans 1961</b>
<b>Rev Finlay J Stewart</b>	<b>1962</b>	<b>Ret 1979</b>



Interior  
of  
Churchmount Church



Communion Table and Flower Stands  
Were located in  
Christ's Kirk in Glenrothes





REV D AITKEN



REV & MRS F STEWART



CHURCHMOUNT CHURCH COMMUNION TOKENS



Ballingry Parish Church  
1424—1998



## **A Short History of Ballingry Church.**

**The Parish of Ballingry consisted of two small portions of land in the north west of Fife. Navitie to the north, Lumphinnans to the south, Rosewell to the east and Benarty to the west. The name Ballingry is thought to come from the word Ba-al. The word means the place of worship of the King. Balan-rhi in Celtic however translates as the dwelling place of the King.**

**In 1160 the Parish of Ballingry and Auchterderran belonged to the Barony of Lochore. A church was built in the area to attend to the needs of the people.**

**In 1561 Peter Watson was sent to minister to the people of Ballingry. However Alexander Wardlaw had been attending to the congregation in an unqualified position. He did not approve of the new minister. He hindered and interfered in every aspect of church life from weddings, to christenings and burials. It was so bad Alexander Wardlaw was taken to the Court of Session and ordered to make public satisfaction under pain of excommunication<sup>1</sup>.**

**Rev Jamie obtained most facts from old Kirk Session Records, fourteen volumes in various sizes were discovered. These minutes go back to 1669. It is believed that Ballingry is one of the oldest Parishes in Scotland.**

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<sup>1</sup> The references used are from a publication by Rev D. Jamie BD and A Parish Alphabet by Edward Henderson FSA Scotland.

The only relic left from the original church is the belfry. The church bell was a gift from the first Sir John Malcolm. High on the bell side, facing west is inscribed "Malcolme of Lochore 1658". On the rim is inscribed, "Blessed are they whom these Ballingry chimes summon to the sacred worship of Christ".

The Presbytery of Ballingry, Auchterderran and Kinglassie in 1678 made a formal visit and found the Old Kirk not in good repair. The Kirk has stood on the same site but is smaller. The east wall and the north wall are in exactly the place as before but are longer and broader than before.

In 1706 it is noted that roof repairs are required. 20 Slaits could be purchased for 10s. In 1707 there are frequent reports of putting in glasse.

A mort cloth purchased in 1717 cost £177 (Scots Pounds), to defray costs a special charge was made for it's use. Usually 5s was paid. This fee remained the same until 1819. 1724 reads of a conspicuous place in the church. There stood a pillory, of which there is no further mention.

Cannon balls were found when Loch Ore was drained in 1792.

Two cannon balls assumed to come from the loch were removed from the church gates during the renovations of 1966.

The present church was built in 1821, 320 worshippers were able to be seated.

Alterations in 1876 saw widening of seats costing £130. The seating was now 287. A little vestry was made for the elder who stood at the collection plate.

A manse was built in 1678. The main portion of the house was built in the time of Rev Cuthbert 1851-57 He laid out the grounds and gardens.

Numbers in the parish were as follows;-

1755	464	1821	287
1793	220	1831	372
1801	277	1889	185

Four Communion Cups were gifted to Ballingry Church by James Betson of Cluniecraig. Two cups are dated 1678 and two dated 1685. The cups are solid silver and are engraved with the Arms of the Donor.

In 1669 the Minister of Ballingry was paid a sum not exceeding 300 merks.

One merk = 13s 4d. Twenty shillings = £1.

One Scots Pound = 1.5 merks.

The beadle had an annual retaining fee of £4.10s (Scots Pounds), he received other payments for duties, for example 1s for digging a grave.

The smith was equally important. He mended the bell, saw to the locks and gates, made nails to hold together the tables



put up for communion as well as the communion tokens needed to attend church. His fee was 6s.

The Minister of Ballingry was paid a salary of £209.14s.10d per year in 1837.

Communion tokens bearing letters RBM and dated 1773 were discovered in 1864. This was assumed to be in the time of the Minister Robert Balfour.

The name Benarty came into being in 1866 when William Briggs changed the land called East Blair to Benarty.

New communion tokens were commissioned to be made in lead. These were pressed out of lead sheets and became unpopular as they were very sharp. They were discarded in 1882.

During the renovations of 1966 workmen found a sculptured stone in the wall bearing a cross in low relief. Expert opinion states it is from the 10<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> century<sup>1</sup>.

A further eight ministers were inducted to Ballingry Church. The last minister Rev Sharon Colvin left in 1998.

A union with Lochcraig Church took place in 2001. After a vote by all sessions involved in the pilot scheme, the church became St Serf's Parish Church in 2005.

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<sup>1</sup> The references used are from a publication by Rev D Jamie BD and A Parish Alphabet by Edward Henderson FSA Scotland.

# Ballingry Church 1424-1998

## 1424 TO 1584

William de Mastretoun	1424	Rector
John de Mastretoun	1424	Son of William
John Tyry	1478	
Walter Beaton		Parson Brother of Archdeacon of Lothian
James Wardlaw	1512	Rector
Alex Wardlaw	1536	Rector Nephew of Archdeacon of Lothian Nephew of James Wardlaw
Sir Andrew Syme	1539	Vicar Pensioner
Sir James Stanes	1549	Vicar Pensioner 1573
Peter Watson	1561	1567
Alexander Wardlaw	1567	Exhorter <sup>1</sup> 1574
Alexander Wardlaw	1574	1580
William Braidfute	1580	1584

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<sup>1</sup>Exhorter someone who urges people on

**Ballingry Church  
1424-1998**

**1595 TO 1912**

<b>David Anderson</b>	<b>1595</b> <b>Lost an arm at the Kirk door</b>	
<b>Robert Bruce</b>	<b>1640</b>	<b>1647</b>
<b>James Martin</b>	<b>1669</b>	<b>Died 1684</b>
<b>Henry Malcolm</b>	<b>1684</b>	<b>1701</b> <b>Died 1727</b>
<b>Andrew Wardroper</b>	<b>1702</b>	<b>Died 1717</b>
<b>Robert Balfour</b>	<b>1717</b>	<b>Died 1773</b>
<b>Thomas Hardy</b>	<b>1774</b>	<b>Left 1784</b>
<b>James Lawrie</b>	<b>1785</b>	<b>Died 1788</b>
<b>Thomas Scott</b>	<b>1788</b>	<b>1801</b>
<b>James Wallace</b>	<b>1802</b>	<b>1806</b>
<b>James Greig</b>	<b>1807</b>	<b>1850</b>
<b>James Cuthbert</b>	<b>1851</b>	<b>1857</b>
<b>James Pennel</b>	<b>1857</b>	<b>1882</b>
<b>Rev David Jamie</b>	<b>1882</b>	<b>Died 1912</b>



**Ballingry Church  
1424-1998**

**1912 TO 1998**

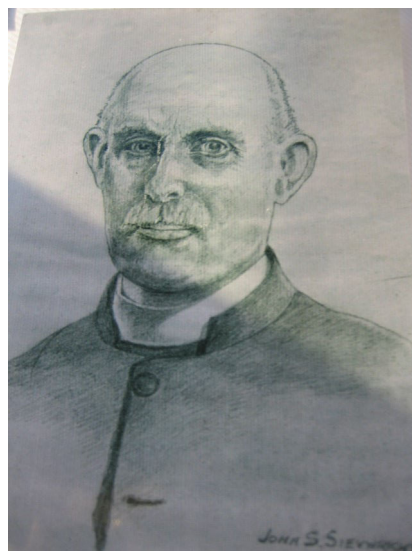
<b>Rev William McDermid</b>	<b>1912</b>	<b>1924</b>
<b>Rev George Scanlon</b>	<b>1924</b>	<b>1927</b>
<b>Rev J.S. Sieviewright</b>	<b>1928</b>	<b>1958</b>
<b>Rev Peter Brown</b>	<b>1959</b>	<b>1964</b>
<b>Rev Duncan Clark</b>	<b>1965</b>	<b>1970</b>
<b>Rev William Gray</b>	<b>1971</b>	<b>1976</b>
<b>Rev William Ritchie</b>	<b>1977</b>	<b>1984</b>
<b>Rev Sharon Colvin</b>	<b>1985</b>	<b>1998</b>

BALLINGRY CHURCH  
VIEW FROM ROAD  
INTERNAL VIEW AFTER RENOVATIONS.





SIEVEWRIGHT MEMORIAL WINDOW circa 1958



REV SIEVEWRIGHT  
Self Portrait





BALLINGRY CHURCH PRE 1966



BALLINGRY CHURCH INTERIOR  
Pre 1966



INTERIOR BENARTY CHURCH  
PRE JANUARY 2006



INTERIOR BENARTY CHURCH  
AUGUST 2006





COMMUNION SILVER (BALLINGRY) 1678



COMMUNION TOKEN (BALLINGRY) 1864





COMMUNION CLOTH BALLINGRY  
1673



MORT CLOTH BALLINGRY  
1673



BENARTY CHURCH FONT 2006

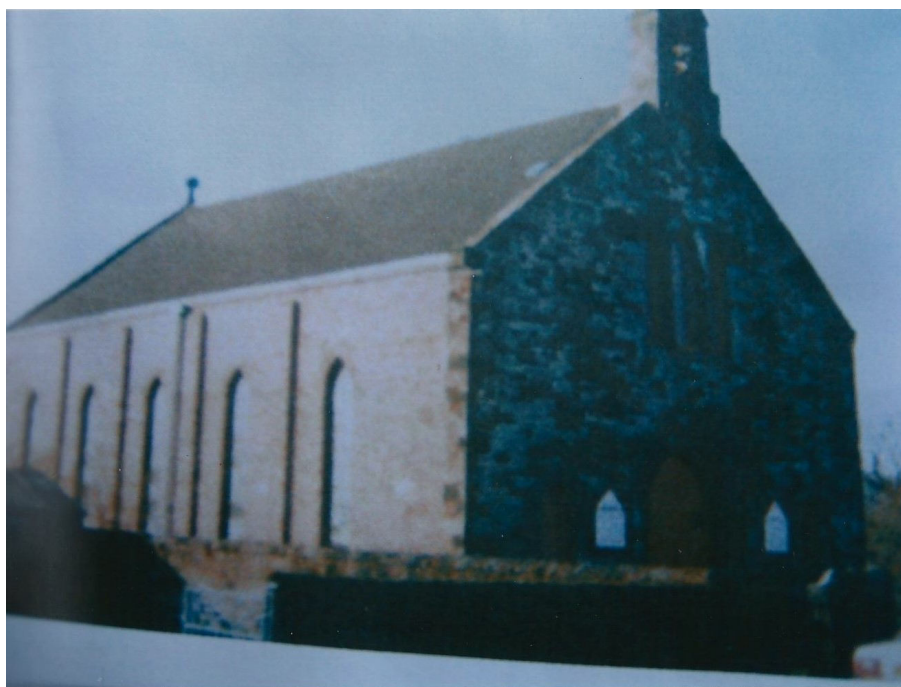


BENARTY CHURCH  
COMMUNION TABLE 2006



LAST SESSION BENARTY CHURCH  
BEFORE UNION IN 2005





Lochcraig Parish Church  
1893—1999

## **A Short History of Lochcraig Church**

**Before the union of 1929 the church was known as Glencraig and Lochore United Free Church. The foundation stone was laid by John Wilson Esq. M.P. Chairman of The Wilson's and Clyde Coal Company on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1903.**

**Coal had been mined in the area for hundreds of years. First by the Romans then by an early French community. The heritors<sup>1</sup> had promised to build a school but could not agree where this should be built. Instead a school was built by angry parents at Flockhouse. This caused much rivalry. On one occasion the school door was nailed shut by the Laird - one of the heritors called Sir Malcolm of Lochore.**

**This building became in time the church meeting place until the new church was built in 1904.**

**The records show that from the time of his induction in 1893 Rev C Mason of the United Free Church at Portmoak also undertook spiritual duties for the care and support of people residing in the Lochore district. Worshipping in the Flockhouse Mission Hall. He was assisted by lay missionaries sent by the Central Home Mission Committee. On the occasions of the Sacraments at Flockhouse he was assisted by elders from Portmoak Church. In addition to this work there was a Sunday School and Sunday evening meetings.**

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<sup>1</sup> Heritors the Heirs.

Rev Mason travelled from Portmoak nearly every day or night of the week, sometimes by pony and trap but more often by bicycle. Such arrangements could not go on indefinitely.

The Presbytery, possibly foreseeing the union of Balgeddie and Portmoak Churches meant that Rev Mason could carry out full time duties at Glencraig and Lochore.

Permission for the necessary funds to be collected for a building of a manse at Glencraig was given.

In September 1908 Rev Mason was recognised by the Presbytery as minister of the church, and the congregation became a separate charge.

The manse was built and completed free of debt at a cost of over £900. Donations were received from the local coal companies and proceeds from the sale of Portmoak manse. There was a handsome donation of £100 from Sir John Wilson, who also gave the site free.

In 1912 it was agreed to fit a bell and belfry to the church. Fundraising for hall, vestry and kitchen was slowly gathered in.

Rev Mason died on 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 1925 after a short illness. He did not see the result of all the efforts.

Following the death of Rev Mason a memorial tablet was erected in the church and unveiled by Mrs Mason, 4<sup>th</sup> October 1929.



The memorial tablet text chosen by the people of the district read "He being dead yet speaketh". The Presbytery report says "His real memorial is in the hearts he comforted, in the spirits he cheered, in the houses that were brightened by his presence, and in the lives through his ministry and influence were won through the power of Satan unto God."

During this difficult time for the church Rev D Aitken from Lochgelly (Churchmount) always a true friend of the congregation, came to their assistance and piloted them through this trying period.

Rev F E Smith became the minister in 1925. With his guidance a final effort in aid of the hall fund was made. A bazaar opened by the popular authoress Annie S Swan was very successful.

The hall was dedicated on 13<sup>th</sup> October 1926. The architect, Mr W McLeod presented Mrs Mason with a silver key.

Extracts taken from a minute state: At GlenCraig and Lochore UF Church 28<sup>th</sup> June 1929, the consideration of a name for the church in view of the approaching Union with the Church of Scotland was deferred.

August 8<sup>th</sup> 1929, the court resolved that the name of the church after the union should be Lochcraig Church. The name coming from both villages.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Facts have been taken from Miss Mason's book Lochore and from documents loaned by Mr & Mrs McManus

A further nine ministers were inducted to the charge of Lochcraig Church.

Rev J Todd demitted his charge on 30<sup>th</sup> November 1999.

A decision was taken by Presbytery to close Lochcraig Church in 2000.

The congregation united with Ballingry to become Ballingry and Lochcraig Church.

**Lochcraig Church Glencraig  
1893 to 1999**

<b>Rev Charles Mason</b>	<b>1893 (Free church of Portmoak) 1908 (Glencraig &amp; Lochore Church)</b>	
<b>Rev F E Smith BD</b>	<b>1925</b>	<b>1927</b>
<b>Rev John Macrae MA</b>	<b>1927</b>	<b>Trans 1931</b>
<b>Rev Alexander Hutchison</b>	<b>1931</b>	<b>Trans 1937</b>
<b>Rev Harry S Watson</b>	<b>1937</b>	<b>Trans 1946</b>
<b>Rev George McMorris M.A.</b>	<b>1947</b>	<b>Trans 1950</b>
<b>Rev W M S Morris</b>	<b>1950</b>	<b>Trans 1957</b>
<b>Rev Andrew M Douglas</b>	<b>1957</b>	<b>Trans 1963</b>
<b>Rev Andrew Shaw</b>	<b>1964</b>	<b>Trans 1972</b>
<b>Rev James H Wallace</b>	<b>1973</b>	<b>Trans 1983</b>
<b>Rev James Todd BD CPS</b>	<b>1984</b>	<b>Dem 1999</b>





LOHCRAIG CHURCH 1904



LOHCRAIG MANSE 1908



REV F.E.SMITH  
1925 -1927



REV C.MASON  
1893 - 1908





REV J. MACRAE.  
1927 - 1931

LOCHCRAIG CHURCH SESSION







LOHCRAIG CHURCH  
PRESENTATION



LOHCRAIG CHURCH  
SESSION



LOHCRAIG COMMUNION PLATE

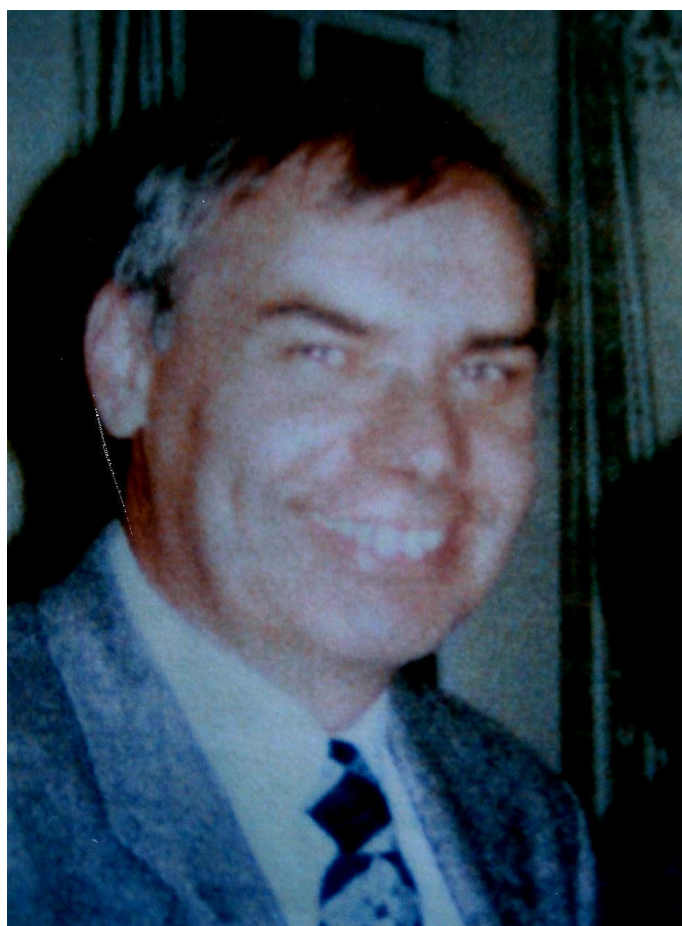


MESSERS, A IRELAND, D BUTTERS, W MORRIS, A DOUGLAS, D RUTHERFORD.  
FIVE LOHCRAIG MINISTERS





MEMBERS OF THE LAST SESSION  
LOHCRAIG CHURCH



REV J. TODD.  
1984 -1999





CROSS  
made from salvaged glass from Lochcraig church windows

SILVER KEY presented by MISS MASON  
1926

