

A Brief History of
St Anne's
Scottish Episcopal Church
Coupar Angus





Scottish Episcopal services have been held continuously in Coupar Angus since disestablishment in 1689. A church was erected in Gray Street in 1746, sold in about 1780 and replaced by a property in Reid's Close belonging to the Keithick family. In 1790, Mr Nairn, the Laird of Drumkilbo, was one of the leading lights. Thereafter the rector of Meigle, the Rev David Moir ministered to the Episcopalians over the area of Alyth, Blairgowrie and Coupar Angus as well as his own parish. He was succeeded by the Rev'd John Torry who around 1824 began to hold services in Gray Street and later in premises in Reid's Close where there was an Episcopalian schoolroom.



In 1846 several leading members of the congregation including Collinswood of Keithlick and Hugo Murray of Lintrose, decided it was time to build a church of their own. They set about finding a site and working hard to fund the project. Contributions were obtained countrywide, notably from William Ewart Gladstone and the Dowager Queen Adelaide, widow of William IV as well as archbishops and bishops of our Communion in Scotland, England and Ireland.

The church was designed by William Hay [1818 - 1888] from Peterhead. His intended career was as a joiner but he broke his leg at work and studied architecture during his convalescence. He moved to Edinburgh in 1844 to work as an assistant to John Henderson [1804-62] who had already designed Glenalmond College and St Mary's Church in Dunblane.

Hay's design for St Anne's shows Henderson's influence and is the only church in the diocese designed by him for in 1846 he moved in order to work for G. G. Scott, the London architect, whose huge output included the cathedrals in Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow. A year later Hay moved to Canada where he supervised the building of Scott's design for St John's Cathedral in Newfoundland.

St Anne's was built in 1847 and consecrated in 1848.

William Hay received £12/13/0d for his design. With certain modifications the building proceeded according to his plans but the tower and spire were never completed. Only the first steps of the spiral staircase of the tower were built doubtless because of financial constraints. The steps can be seen in the storage cupboard off the passage between the church and the vestry.

It is interesting to note the speed with which the actual building work proceeded. At a meeting on 11th May 1847 offers of tenders were accepted.

Mason work - £325 Wright work - £175

Slater and Plumber - £57 Plaster work - £6/13/0d

The original estimate was around £500 but it ended up costing almost double!



Chancel tiles from 1871

The Interior.

Inside the church is a plaque in memory of St Anne's chief founders.

The church was closed for refurbishment in 1871. The Guardian reported that *'the building has been beautified by laying a chancel with encaustic tiles, the work having been performed by Mr G H Potts of Edinburgh. The congregation at that time has also obtained a purely toned organ of seven stops with two octaves of pedals and three compositional pedals.'* This instrument was built several years before by William Bruce of Edinburgh and has been re-erected with some additions by Mr Frederick Halt the organist of St John's Edinburgh. However in 1887 **the present pipe organ by Harrison and Harrison** of Durham was installed and a vestry was added.



Twelve years later during the incumbency of Rev'd Robert Richie it was reported 'a pleasing feature of the forenoon service was the dedication of **two, carved, pine stalls** and a



polished **brass lectern** with oak

base and top. The stalls were made under the direction of Mr Speir of Culdees Castle. M.R. Cox of London supplied the lectern. These are handsome additions to the furniture of this little church and are the gifts of Mr W D Menzies and other members of the Hallyburton family.'

At the jubilee in 1897, the townspeople presented the handsome **oak pulpit** in memory of the Very Rev'd John Torry who was the incumbent of Coupar Angus for fifty-five years [1822-79] and from 1838 was Dean of the diocese. He died in 1879 and is buried in Coupar Angus.

Mr David Reid of Elmsley donated **the stone altar and footpace**. Later Miss Mary Mitchell gifted the **litany desk(s)** in memory of her brother Henry who was a vestryman for six years. It was made locally in Austrian Oak with massive side panels with the centre filled with open carved perpendicular gothic tracery.

James Carmichael of Arthurstone, as a thanksgiving offering in memory of his daughter's confirmation, gave **the alms basin**. It is of beaten and engraved brass and richly jewelled.

A carved relief panel of the Last Supper, originally installed as a reredos is now on the pulpit wall. Believed to have originated in Spain in the late 16th or early 17th century, it is in the manner of Andres de Araos. An ornamental 19th century frame has in German, Christ's words at the Last Supper.



The Church Windows.

There are five stained glass windows installed in 1890 in memory of the Graham-Menzies family of Hallyburton. A further two small stained glass windows in the chancel commemorate Canon A Clark-Barnacle who died in 1951 after 22 years at St Anne's and another two that were installed in memory of General Sir Basil Hill.

The [liturgical] east window was in place at the consecration of the church and the Scottish Magazine described it thus: *'Over the altar is a triple window filled with stained glass by Charles Edmund Clutterbuck in the medallion style exhibiting a variety of scripture subjects. This on the whole is a good specimen of art; but the groundwork is too brilliant and elaborate and tends to withdraw attention from the important subjects on the medallions. The colouring is beautiful and the whole does great credit to the artist.'* Clutterbuck [1806-1861] worked in London as a miniaturist but then in 1836 he began to design stained glass. His earliest known work is at the chapel in the Charterhouse in London EC1 of 1844, the school attended by John Wesley from the age of ten.

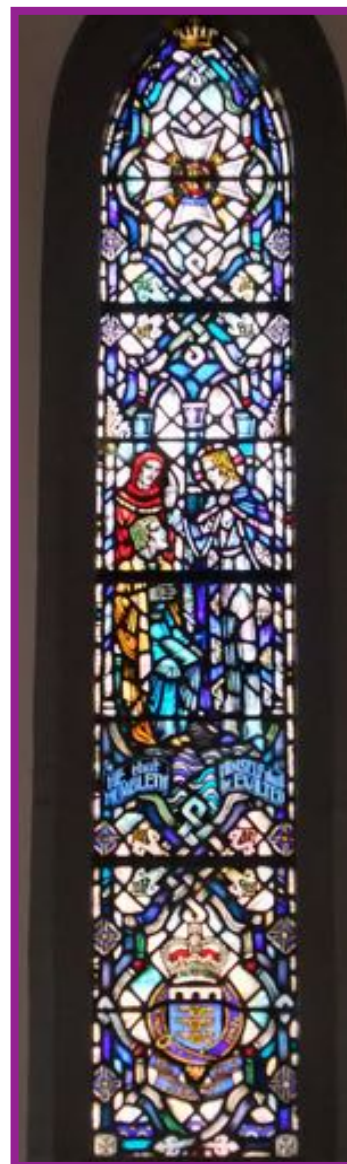


If you look very carefully and compare the depictions of Christ on these windows you might notice what Margaret Lye* saw as a 'mistake!' However she did not reveal what it actually was! Have you any ideas?"

The nave side windows of 1890 depict the Beatitudes and were designed by Clayton and Bell.

On the west side of the chancel there is a window made between 1954-5 of St Anne and St Margaret by Leslie Russell who was born in Edinburgh and took his DA at Edinburgh College of Art. In 1922 at only twenty-eight he was appointed Head of Design at the Art College section of the Dundee Institute of Technology in Bell Street. He had a studio overlooking the court within the college. After 1945 he had a Polish assistant who cut and fired glass. He never married and after retiring in 1960 died of cancer five years later in Dundee Royal Infirmary. His work can be seen as far afield as Lusaka and Orleans in France. The former Free McCheyne Church at 328 Perth Road had a window as have St Mary's, St Paul's and St John's in Dundee. Other examples of his work are found in churches all over Scotland.

The north windows of 1962 with scenes from Job are by Gordon MacWhirter Webster. [1908-1987] He received his training at the Glasgow School of Art and by working with Douglas Hamilton in the firm of Stephen Adam and Co in Glasgow. Gordon is depicted in a window of 1911 in New Kilpatrick parish church Bearsden as an angelic figure complete with angel wings! In 1929 he assumed direct control of the firm running a highly successful business, which produced a large number of very fine windows. He retired in 1980.



Since the early days of the Rev David Moir, the rectors of St Anne's have been:

Dean J Torry 1822-79

Rev Robert Richie 1880-1887

Rev E Sugden 1887-1901

Rev Dr F W Sutton 1901-1902

Rev Forrest Bell 1902-1914

Rev H Boys 1914-1918

Rev S Deuchar 1919-1927

Canon A Clark-Barnacle 1929-1951

Rev N M Gordon-Kerr 1952-1954

Rev W M Girdwood 1954-67

Rev C Glennie 1963- 1973

Rev A Conn 1973-1979

Rev D Roberts 1979-1984

Rev A Gray 1985- 1990

Rev H Petzch 1990-1991

Rev Kenny Rathband 1991- 2018



The Alms Basin

Acknowledgements.

This pamphlet was written as a result of St Anne's involvement in Perth and Kinross Heritage Trust Doors Open Event in September 2019. It hopes to provide visitors to the church with a brief history of the church and its furnishings.

The information has been drawn from a variety of informal papers, published extracts and documents but mainly from 'A Guide to Episcopal Churches in the Diocese of St. Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane.' by Margaret Lye.*



Saint Margaret of Scotland