

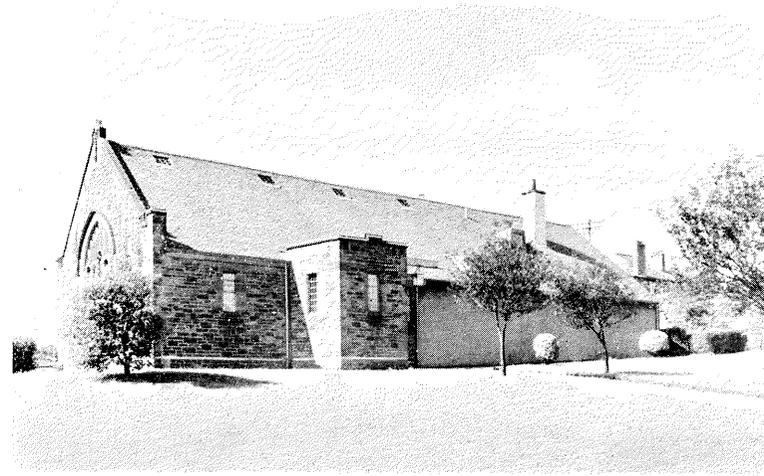
**Cathcart
Baptist
Church**

**Semi-Jubilee
1923 = 1948**

CATHCART BAPTIST CHURCH

MERRYLEA ROAD

GLASGOW, S.3



FOUNDED 2ND SEPTEMBER 1923

1948

Minister

REV. GEORGE M. HARDIE, M.A., B.D.

Deacons

WM. L. McASLAN (Secretary)

JAMES HART (Treasurer)

FRED J. CARPENTER (Financial Secretary)

JAMES S. NOBLE (Sunday School Superintendent)

R. H. BREMNER

TOM BROWN

ROBERT FRAME

NEIL McVICAR

WM. ROBERTSON

JOSEPH A. SMITH

Honorary Deacons

R. F. BEVERIDGE

JAMES McNICOLL

Organist and Choirmaster

A. BRUCE SCOTLAND

Church Officer

JOHN TODD

FOREWORD

To assess the spiritual heritage of many years is no easy task, nor is an attempt to describe that heritage any easier. The record of any Church is a record of the movement of the Spirit of God, and that is inscrutable. It is also a record of spiritual service, collective and individual, and where so many are involved for so long, so much can never be told. Appreciation and gratitude, however, are always possible and are specially in harmony with the spirit and purpose of a Semi-Jubilee occasion. This commemorative brochure, therefore, is sent forth in humble and grateful acknowledgment of the goodness of God, and as a proud and loving tribute to those who laid foundations by those who are resolved to build on them.

G. M. HARDIE.

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THESE TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

IN the *Glasgow Herald* of September 3rd 1923, there appeared the following information :—“A Baptist Church is being formed in Cathcart under the auspices of the Baptist Union of Scotland and the Glasgow Baptist Association. Preliminary services were begun yesterday in the Couper Institute. At both forenoon and evening diets of worship there were congregations composed for the most part of families. The Rev. Thomas Stewart, M.A., Superintendent of the Baptist Union, has agreed to be responsible for the services until the beginning of the New Year.”

Planning for the new Church had taken place a long time before, the idea, in fact, having been constantly in the mind of the late Rev. John MacLean of Victoria Place. Mr MacLean had watched the growth of Cathcart from a small village of a few hundred inhabitants to a suburb of considerable size, and was insistent in his claim that the new district should have its Baptist witness. The Union and the Association were in sympathy with such a project, but it was not until the Spring of 1922 that a definite proposal for an Extension Movement at Cathcart was approved and a small Committee appointed to consider details.

The late Mr Alexander Young, a former President of the Union, was a member of the Committee and did valuable missionary work, and on September 2nd 1923, what previously had been only a dream became a fact. In the lesser hall of the Couper Institute, under the chairmanship of the late Rev. Thomas Stewart, forty-five men and women signified their willingness to form a Church, and on November 29th they sealed their promise by signing the minute book. A facsimile of their signatures is reproduced elsewhere in this brochure. The new venture was launched at last, and the record of the past twenty-five years has abundantly justified the faith of that hour.

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Among the founder members were friends from Marshall Street, Edinburgh, Adelaide Place, Dennistoun, Leven, Queen's Park, Rutherglen and Victoria Place, and these included Mr John A. S. MacLean, son of the Rev. John MacLean, and Mr George I. Young, son of Mr Alexander Young. At this meeting the following gentlemen were appointed to act as Office-bearers and Stewards :—Messrs George I. Young, Secretary ; Alexander McAslan, Treasurer ; John A. S. MacLean, Alexander MacFarlane, James McNicoll and Douglas Montgomery, while at the first meeting of the Stewards' Committee the following were added :—Messrs William R. Andrew, Thomas Ballantyne, Fred J. Carpenter, Findlay Cunningham, James I. Leask and William L. McAslan. The primary duty of the Stewards' Committee was to draft a Constitution, and this was submitted and approved on November 29th 1923, and is the Constitution still in use. On Sunday, December 16th 1923, the new Church celebrated the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the late Rev. George Yuille presiding at the Table, and the late Mr Alexander McAslan and Mr James McNicoll being the stewards on duty.

The Rev. Thomas Stewart, to whose inspiration and wise leadership the Church owes so much, was loaned by the Union until January 31st 1924, the intention being that the late Rev. T. W. Lister should succeed him in the pastorate. Mr Stewart, however, had so won the confidence of the members, and Mrs Stewart, a lady of choice spirit, that of the women, that a memorial requesting the continuation of the arrangement for another year was submitted to the Union. This was agreed to and Mr Stewart served the Church until May 1926.

It soon became evident that the Couper Institute was unsuitable for public worship, and enquiries were immediately made with regard to a site for Church premises. It was intended that the Church should serve the Newlands district, where extensive building operations were contemplated ; and the present site, offered at a generous annual rent by Nether Pollock Ltd., was chosen. It was the unanimous desire that the new Church should be worthy of the Cause, and plans submitted by Messrs Fleming & Black, architects of ecclesiastical repute, were approved. The cost of building both Church and Halls, however,

was beyond the capacity of the limited membership, and, after modification, the present premises were erected at a cost of £4,500, the Union helping by generously contributing £2,000, the balance remaining in the Twentieth Century Fund. The task of raising the necessary £2,500 was undertaken in no light spirit, for building costs were rising from month to month, and the post-war prosperity was disappearing. Courage, however, was equal to the occasion, and from a first Sale of Work in March 1925 £500 was handed to the Treasurer, while, from a more ambitious effort in the McLellan Galleries in 1929 the net income was £1,280. For this remarkable success thanks are due in no small measure to the magnificent help given by nearly all the Churches in the Glasgow Baptist Association. With the completion of building operations a happy and expectant company assembled on Saturday, October 24th 1925, when the late Mr Alexander Young performed the opening ceremony, the services on the following day being conducted by Mr Stewart, who had been the inspiring leader of the new Cause. A new era had opened, and, not without some regret, the Couper Institute, for so long the spiritual home of the congregation, was abandoned for the lovely building which is now occupied, and which represented so much labour and sacrifice to that little band of faithful enthusiasts. The ministry of the Rev. Thomas Stewart is remembered with a deep sense of gratitude and thankfulness. Mr Stewart was shrewd in judgment, wise in counsel, and happily tolerant of enthusiastic indiscretions. Above all, he possessed the gift of inspiring leaders, and the memory of his service is enhanced by the years. Under his guidance the activities of the Church were gradually expanded, labours in which he was loyally supported, first by Mr George I. Young, and later by Mr John A. S. MacLean, as Secretary ; and, as Treasurer, by Mr Alexander McAslan, who also assumed responsibility for the Sunday School and Bible Class. On week-nights valuable work was commenced and carried on through the agencies of a branch of the Girls' Auxiliary, under the gracious leadership of Mrs D. McDonald ; a Company of The Boys' Life Brigade—later incorporated in The Boys' Brigade—under the Captaincy of Mr George Leask ; and a Junior Society of Christian Endeavour.



REV. ALEXANDER CLARK
1926-29



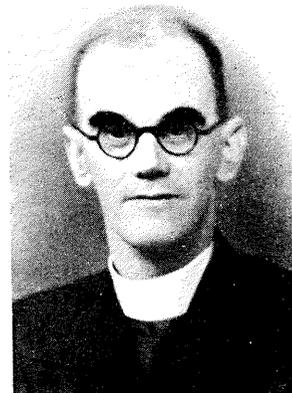
REV. D. J. M. MACIVER, M.A.
1931-33



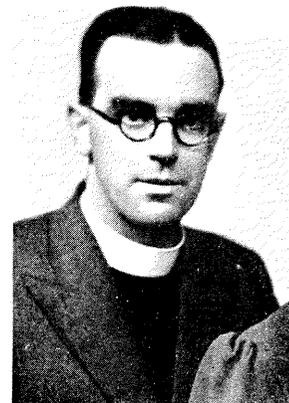
MR J. B. SALMOND
Secretary 1930-38



MR J. S. NOBLE
Treasurer 1930-43



REV. J. S. ANDREWS
1934-37



REV. J. STANLEY ANDREWS, M.A.
1938-42



MR J. A. SMITH
Assistant Secretary 1941-44



MR J. TWEEDIE
Treasurer 1943-47

MARKING THE MILESTONES

REV. ALEXANDER CLARK, 1926-1929

With the congregation established in its new premises the appointment of a full-time Minister became imperative. It was agreed that a man of mature experience should be looked for, and, with the magnanimous co-operation of the Union, the Rev. Alexander Clark was called to the pastorate and inducted on May 9th 1926. It is worthy of record that Mr Clark was not asked to preach in the normal way, nor was any deputation appointed to hear him. He was called in virtue of his record of service, both to his previous churches and to the Denomination as a whole. It was no easy task which Mr Clark undertook, but he accepted the challenge and entered into the work with consecrated vigour and enthusiasm, qualities which were to take him later to the Presidential chair. At the Induction, and at the Social Meeting which followed it, the Church was filled to capacity, a tribute not only to Cathcart, but to the high regard in which the Baptists of Glasgow held its minister. During Mr Clark's ministry the membership was substantially increased, and as a result of the Grand Bazaar in 1929, to which reference has already been made, the debt on the Church building was reduced to £540, although a fresh debt had been incurred by the purchase of a Manse. Mention must also be made of Mrs Clark, destined like her husband to be a future National President of the Women's Auxiliary. Mrs Clark was a worthy helpmate, and her brief stay in the Manse is still a cherished memory.

REV. D. J. M. MACIVER, M.A., 1931-1933

Mr Clark's departure to Dunfermline was a grievous loss to the Church, and, more especially, in view of the testing days which lay ahead. The effects of the industrial depression were beginning to be felt, and while it was hoped that progress would continue, the prevailing circumstances compelled the Church to call a younger man, and the Rev. D. J. M. MacIver, M.A., a graduate of the College, was inducted on 11th January 1931. It was a heavy responsibility for a young man setting out on the work of the ministry, and one which would have

taxed the ingenuity of a minister of riper years. The burden of the depression pressed heavily on the Church, and thus early in its brief history it passed through a difficult and trying period. Mr MacIver, however, brought to his task the energy and optimism of young manhood, and it is a tribute to his devotion and zeal that the various organisations functioned with unabated vigour during these testing years. In 1933 he received and accepted a call to the South, and left for Oswaldtwistle, Lancashire, and, once again, the Church was faced with a vacancy.

REV. J. S. ANDREWS, 1934-1937

During the vacancy which ensued, the Church was admirably served by the late Rev. Joseph Burns, who acted as Moderator; and under his guidance a call was extended to the late Rev. J. S. Andrews, a choice which the years proved to be singularly happy. Mr Andrews began his ministry on 30th September 1934 under more favourable auspices, for the shadows of depression were passing, and, saintly in life and character, he soon won the confidence of the members and friends of the Church, and, exercising a fine influence in the community, he was instrumental in leading many into the Saviour's Kingdom. Mrs Andrews, who happily is still with us, was a gracious lady of the Manse and carried on the work among the women with remarkable success. Tragedy, however, was impending, and when Mr Andrews was at the noontide of his power, the Church was stunned when it received word of his "home call." With Mrs Andrews he had attended the wedding of their son, the Rev. J. Stanley Andrews, M.A., to Miss Hope Conway, on June 23rd 1937. On his return home he appeared to be in his usual health, but during the night he passed away with startling suddenness. The Church was completely filled at the funeral service, and in the congregation, dumb with the shock of loss, scarcely an eye was dry.

REV. J. STANLEY ANDREWS, M.A., 1938-1942

It is not the lot of many men to perpetuate the work of a beloved father, but to the Rev. J. Stanley Andrews, M.A., that honour was given. A familiar figure in the Church, his gifts were known and admired, and when the call went out to him he responded at once; and on February 6th 1938, he was inducted to the pastorate and preached from the pulpit which his father had filled. Four years of happy

ORIGINAL MEMBERS

Present at the inaugural Meeting on 2nd September 1923,
and still in membership



MRS J. ADAIR (*Inset*) (Inset) MRS A. LEASK

Back Row—
F. J. CARPENTER W. L. McASLAN J. McNICOLL

Front Row—
MRS F. J. CARPENTER, MRS J. McASLAN, REV. G. M. HARDIE (Minister)
MRS A. MacFARLANE, MRS J. McNICOLL

DEACONS 1948



Inset *Inset* *Inset*
R. F. BEVERIDGE (*Hon. Deacon*) F. J. CARPENTER WM. ROBERTSON

Back Row—
ROBT. FRAME R. H. BREMNER T. BROWN N. McVICAR

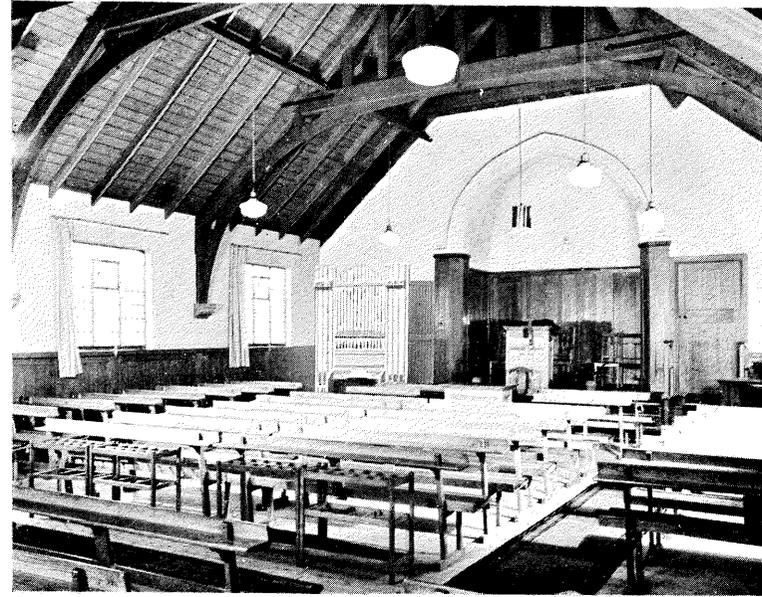
Front Row—
J. S. NOBLE J. HART J. McNICOLL W. L. McASLAN J. A. SMITH
(*Treasurer*) (*Hon. Deacon*) (*Secretary*)

ministry followed, with particular emphasis on the young life of the Church. Mr Andrews set himself to influence a band of healthy and loyal youth, an enterprise in which he was splendidly supported by his young wife. But the second World War was already taking its toll of the Church. All the young men and women of service age, some sixty in all, were either absent in the Forces or engaged on work of national importance; and, for this reason, the various activities of the Church were carried on with ever-increasing difficulty. A call from the Thomas Coats Memorial Church brought the ministry to an end in December 1942, and Mr Andrews left, with the goodwill of the Church, to fill this responsible charge in the historic town of Paisley.

REV. G. M. HARDIE, M.A., B.D., 1943

The vacancy which followed was one of peculiar difficulty. With so many absent on service, and with the older members preoccupied with National service, one after another of the organisations had, temporarily, to close down. Happily, among the members was the Rev. W. C. Charteris, O.B.E., M.C., who readily undertook the duties of Moderator. The Church was in this state of suspended activity and depleted active membership when the Rev. G. M. Hardie, M.A., B.D., accepted a call to the pastorate, and commenced his ministry on June 6th 1943. How well he and Mrs Hardie have succeeded in their task only those who have worked closely with them can know. The Church has suffered severely from the aftermath of war, the majority of the young people who departed for service having found homes in other parts, no fewer than fifty-three members having left the city. But the Church goes on, and a new generation is slowly taking their place. Nor has the Church been lacking in activity, for much has been attempted and much done. The debt on the Manse has been finally liquidated; the organisations which were in abeyance during the war have been resuscitated and a new venture in the shape of a Men's Association inaugurated; the Church, through the unflagging efforts of the women ably organised by Mrs Hardie, and the sacrifice of the members, has honoured its responsibilities to the Union in years which have been far from normal; and now, to mark this twenty-fifth anniversary, it is dedicating a Memorial Organ to the service of God in honour of those of the Church who made the supreme sacrifice in the stress and conflict of war.

CHURCH INTERIOR



Church Interior showing
MEMORIAL PIPE ORGAN

on which the names of the following, who gave their lives in the service of their Country, are engraved:—

KITTY MILLER (Mrs)	. . .	Air Raid Victim
DONALD F. ADAIR	. . .	Royal Artillery
WILLIAM ARCHIBALD	. . .	Royal Air Force
ANDREW EAGLESHAM	. . .	Royal Navy
ROBERT C. GRAHAM	. . .	Royal Air Force
JOHN E. WALTON	. . .	Royal Air Force
FREDERICK WHITE	. . .	Royal Artillery

“ At the going down of the sun, and in the morning, we will remember them.”



REV. GEORGE M. HARDIE, M.A., B.D.

OUR PRESENT MINISTER

Our present Minister, the Rev. George M. Hardie, M.A., B.D., came to us in 1943 after fourteen years' experience in Wishaw and a previous first pastorate of three years in Peebles. His "lot in life" has therefore been cast, so far, twixt Tweed, and Clyde, and Cart!

A native of Kirkintilloch, he heard the call of God early in life, but only after combatant and costly service in World War I did he have opportunity to prepare himself for the work of the Ministry. This he did, as he does everything—thoroughly, taking two full courses of training, and graduating in Arts and Divinity at Glasgow and Edinburgh Universities. In both faculties he earned distinction, particularly in his B.D. course, for he was either prizeman or in a leading place in every subject. This explains, in part at least—for he has other more important qualifications—why Mr Hardie is a Lecturer in the Baptist Theological College of Scotland, and the Convener of the Ministerial Recognition Committee of the Baptist Union of Scotland.

Both as man and minister, the subject of this curtailed cameo has gained the respect of a wide circle of friends. His manliness and humanity make him a welcome guest in many an honoured company. A typical Scottish reserve keeps him free of all fussiness, for he is the personification of the prophet's phrase: "In quietness and confidence shall be your strength." To be fulsome or flattering is quite foreign to his nature. As a preacher he is warmly evangelical; his cultured evangelism is of the variety which warms the hearts of hearers without offending their heads. An omniverous reader and diligent Bible student, his "breaking of the Bread of Life" is invariably set in a wealth of worthy illustration from the best sources.

In Mrs Hardie our Minister has a true helpmate, one whose gifts of leadership had recent recognition in her national presidency of our Women's Auxiliary to the Baptist Union. Her light shines with equal effect both at home and in public, and she could never be other than "fervent in spirit, serving the Lord."

May the great Head of the Church lay liberally to their hands as Mr and Mrs Hardie continue to serve in our midst and in the wider circles where they are so acceptable.

EPILOGUE

ALTHOUGH the history of the Church is still in process of being written, it can be affirmed that the venture in extension, initiated on that memorable day in 1923, has more than justified the faith of those who sponsored it. Notwithstanding the impact of difficult years, the Church is now securely established, and, in addition to bearing a virile and effective witness in its immediate locality, it is exercising a steadily increasing influence in the larger life of the Denomination. Mrs Hardie has been National President of the Women's Auxiliary, and continues to serve as Schedule Secretary ; Rev. Cyril Squires, M.A., a son of the church, is an honoured member of the Home Ministry ; Mrs A. Speed, Miss Charlotte Jamieson, and the Rev. F. Norris Carpenter, M.A., B.D., captivated by the vision of the far horizons, have taken the Gospel to the ends of the earth ; Mr W. L. McAslan is a Past-President of the Glasgow Baptist Association ; while, at the time of writing, Mr Tom Brown, a member of the Diaconate, is President-Elect. Nor have its ministers been lacking in the larger outlook. As members of Council and Conveners of Committees they have contributed to the administrative side of the Denominational life, while, in more recent times, Mr Clark and Mr Hardie have rendered notable service in the fields of finance and ministerial training, the former as Chief Commissioner of the Thirty-Thousand Guineas Fund, and the latter as Lecturer in Old Testament Theology in the Baptist Theological College of Scotland.

Not all the hopes of the pioneers, however, have come to fruition, and a temple for the worship of God has still to be built, a project which, in view of the present limited resources of the nation, must be the responsible task of later years. But the Church is in good heart, strong in faith, and alive to the dignity of its God-given task ; and as the disrupting effects of the World War recede, and life becomes more normal, its prospects are set fair. The district in which it occupies

a strategic situation has been requisitioned for building purposes, and, with the completion of this enterprise and the influx of a large new community, the scope of its activities will be widened immeasurably, and an opportunity afforded for aggressive evangelism.

And so, while this brief, imperfect record must end, the story still goes on. Of the works of faith and labours of love of a quarter of a century the chronicle, inevitably, cannot tell ; but, recorded by another Hand in another Book, all will be known at last. And meanwhile, having entered into a glorious inheritance, the Church is not ungrateful ; nor in materialistic and challenging days will it be found to be wanting. With the passing of the years changes will come, generation will succeed generation, and the old will give place to the new. But Christ is the same, and in His grace and power, the present generation will uphold the fine tradition of love and loyalty which has marked the past, and which has been committed to it as a sacred spiritual trust.

SPECIAL SERVICES

SUNDAY, 5th SEPTEMBER 1948

11.0 a.m.
REV. F. TOWNLEY LORD, D.D., London.
Dedication of Memorial Organ.

3.0 p.m. CHILDREN'S SERVICE.

6.30 p.m.
REV. F. TOWNLEY LORD, D.D., London.
Organist—MR T. PATERSON, L.R.A.M.,
A.R.C.O.

SUNDAY, 12th SEPTEMBER 1948

11.0 a.m.
REV. R. GUY RAMSAY, M.A.
President-Elect, Baptist Union of Scotland.

6.30 p.m. SERVICE OF PRAISE
Choirmaster—MR R. FRAME
Organist—MR A. BRUCE SCOTLAND.

MONDAY, 6th SEPTEMBER 1948

8.0 p.m. ORGAN RECITAL
MR T. PATERSON, L.R.A.M., A.R.C.O.

TUESDAY, 7th SEPTEMBER 1948

8.0 p.m. UNITED WOMEN'S RALLY
Speaker—MRS J. D. CRAIG, M.A.
President, Women's Auxiliary.

WEDNESDAY, 8th SEPTEMBER 1948

7.30 p.m. CONGREGATIONAL SOCIAL
Speakers :
MR TOM CURR, M.B.E., J.P.
President, Baptist Union of Scotland.
REV. ALEXANDER CLARK, Motherwell
REV. D. J. M. MACIVER, M.A., Accrington
REV. STANLEY ANDREWS, M.A., Paisley

THURSDAY, 9th SEPTEMBER 1948

8.0 p.m. UNITED CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR RALLY
Speakers :
REV. J. G. HALDANE, M.A.
President, Christian Endeavour Union of Great
Britain and Ireland.
MR J. MCKEAN
President, Scottish National Christian Endeavour
Union.

