

CATHCART BAPTIST CHURCH

1923 - 1998



**CELEBRATING SEVENTY-FIVE YEARS
OF WITNESS AND SERVICE**

FOREWORD

Unlike my brother who turned down the study of history because he saw no future in it, I enjoy the study of history.

I remember a teenage fascination with the British social and economic history of the 18th to 20th centuries. In my BD studies I was excited to study the history of the early Church, of the Reformers and religious and ecclesiastical movements from the 18th century onwards. It confirmed the truth expressed in Ecclesiastes - that 'there is nothing new under the sun', and the wisdom of George Santanay who declared 'Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to fulfil it'.

Often Biblical history is redefined as His Story - the story of God's dealings with His creation. There is a sense in which I would want to recognise all of history as His Story, yet in a Church history that label becomes peculiarly appropriate.

There are dangers involved in studying history - and particularly, I suspect, in writing history. There is the danger of venerating the past - viewing distant events through the rose-coloured spectacles of nostalgia, carefully editing out the struggles and disagreements, and presenting revered personalities in a favourable light - 'we must not speak ill of the dead!'. Objectivity in history writing is an elusive quality - everything we read is influenced by the experiences and preferences of the author or chronicler. Always we must read between the lines.

As individuals we must ensure that we do not become locked in a particular period of our own personal history. For some, the formative becomes the normative, as we find ourselves stuck in the time warp of a significant period of blessing, assuming this should be the norm for others when, in fact, society, the Church and indeed the Spirit have moved on to new things. There is also a danger, of rejecting or dismissing the past, arrogantly assuming that it has no lessons to teach us.

I trust as you read this volume which chronicles the first 75 years of Cathcart Baptist Church, you will fall into neither the trap of veneration nor the trap of rejection. I trust you will see God's hand at work in the past and in the present, that you will be able to recognise His Story and will be ready to move on as active participants in the next chapter.

As my participation in the history of Cathcart Baptist Church as pastor draws to a close, it is my prayer and my sincere hope that the future for the Church will be bright and overflowing with encouragement. As some - including the prime mover of this project, Neil McVicar - can look back as active participants over much of the full seventy five years; so I can look back over thirteen and a half very happy and productive years. I trust that for Cathcart Baptist Church the best of His Story is yet to be!

John S. Smith
Minister 1985-1998

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Acknowledgments

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We gratefully acknowledge the following archive sources from which the early historical details and statistical information has been extracted: Glasgow Herald and Evening Citizen microfilm, Mitchell Library, Glasgow; minutes and records of the Baptist Union of Scotland; minute books of Cathcart Baptist Church; booklets published at the time of the 25th and 50th Anniversaries of the Church in 1948 and 1973.

Illustrations come from the anniversary booklets, from photographs supplied by members, and from the camera of our resident photographer, Crawford Wilson.

Finally, 'in house' publication has been made possible by the availability of equipment and technical skills within the congregation.

96 Merrylee Road, Cathcart

November 1998

INTRODUCTION

Perhaps, as you pick up this booklet, you will say to yourself, 'Oh, another nostalgic looking back to the better days!' or perhaps you will reiterate the words of Thomas Carlyle, the Scottish literary critic, historian and writer, when he referred to history as 'that great dust heap'. We sincerely hope that this will not be your reaction as you skim over the pages, or perhaps even take time to ponder the words and actions of those whose vision and concerns became a reality, the fruit of which we share and enjoy today in Cathcart Baptist Church.

In scanning the Glasgow newspapers, especially the Glasgow Herald, of the 1920s - the era and decade in which our Church was founded - it is quite interesting to note the space given to news of the Churches, to religious conferences and subjects local and national. Such as reference to a Campaign by approximately 50 students and lay people and to a Church Congress in Plymouth. There was a regular column entitled 'The Churches'. So different to the situation today when, apart from the adverts about Church services in some local newspaper, the main newspapers and other media usually report on matters which could only be referred to as scandal.

FOUNDATION AND GROWTH, 1923-1948

The Beginning

At the beginning of the 20th century Glasgow, like many other cities and areas of our land, was beginning to extend its boundaries and there was an increase in the population. With the influx of more people into Glasgow the districts of Cathcart, Mosspark and Knightswood began to expand. New housing estates were being built in these areas. The Glasgow Association of Baptist Churches became aware of the real possibilities for Baptist witness in these enlarged districts. It is therefore not surprising to read in the Glasgow Herald dated 3rd September 1923 the following paragraph.

Baptist Church for Cathcart

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 the forenoon and evening diets of worship there were congregations composed mostly of families. The Rev. Thomas Stewart, MA, Superintendent of the Baptist Union has agreed to be responsible for the services until the beginning of the new year. In October a Sunday School will be opened and it is hoped that in two or three months the Church will formally be constituted. After the New Year the work will be undertaken by the Rev. T.W. Lister, St. Albans, near London, formerly of Dennistoun, Glasgow. It is intended in a short time to look out for a site for a permanent Church.

On 15 December 1923 the Evening Citizen listed the following details under "Tomorrow's Church Services"

CATHCART BAPTIST CHURCH Couper Institute (Lesser Hall)

**11 a.m. Formation of Church and First
Communion Service**

Rev. George Yuille and Rev. T. Stewart MA

**6.30 p.m. Rev. Thomas Stewart MA
"The Cult of Comfort"**

Social Meeting Monday 24th December

It is also interesting to note in the same paper and on the same date, that the Right Rev. E.T.S. Reid D.D., Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway wrote :-

"What a tremendous difference it would make if we one and all resolved that from this day onwards Jesus Christ should be allowed to take into His hands, the direction of our homes, and that we should look to Him to help us in our difficulties, to comfort us in our sorrows, and to hallow all our pleasures."

On 17 December 1923, the Glasgow Herald said:-

Baptist Church at Cathcart

A Baptist Church is being formed in Cathcart, where services have been held since September. The first Communion which marks the beginning was celebrated yesterday forenoon when the Rev. George Yuille, formerly of Stirling, and ex-secretary of the Baptist Union of Scotland and the Rev. Thomas Stewart who has charge of the congregation at present, conducted the services. The Church begins with a substantial membership, and a Sunday School has also been started. The services are meantime being conducted in the Couper Institute. A site for a Church has been secured from Nether Pollok (Limited) in Merrylee Road, and it is hoped that before long steps will be taken to erect the building.

Long before the above actions were being taken, others had been thinking and praying as they witnessed the growth of the population of the once small village of Cathcart. One of these was the Rev. John MacLean of Victoria Place, who was insistent that this new developing area should have a Baptist witness. Another stalwart was Mr. Alexander Young, who had been President of the Baptist Union of Scotland in 1905-1906. He had done great missionary work in the area and was a member of the Committee appointed to turn this dream into a reality.

Meeting in the Lesser Hall of the Couper Institute on 3 September 1923, 45 men and women signified their willingness to form a Baptist Church. On 29 November 1923 this intention was ratified by those present by signing the Minute Book which is still in the possession of the Church.

The first office-bearers appointed by the Church were:-

Mr. George I. Young (son of Alexander Young)	Secretary
Mr. Alexander McAslan	Treasurer
Mr. John A. S. MacLean (son of Rev. John MacLean)	Steward
Mr. Alexander McFarlane	Steward
Mr. James McNicoll	Steward
Mr. Douglas Montgomery	Steward

After a short period the Secretary, Mr. Young, resigned because of business commitments and Mr. John A.S. MacLean was appointed in his place.

Additional Stewards added at their first meeting were: Messrs. William R. Andrew, Thomas Ballantyne, Fred J. Carpenter, Finlay Cunningham, James J. Leask, and William L. McAslan.

The primary duty of the stewards was to draft a Constitution which was presented to and approved by the meeting on 29 November 1923 referred to above. The Constitution remained unchanged until March 1997 when it was amended to allow the election of lady deacons.



Rev. Thomas Stewart
Interim Minister 1923-26



Mr. Alexander Young



Rev. John MacLean



Mr. John A.S. MacLean
Secretary 1923-1930



Mr. Alexander McAslan
Treasurer 1923-1930

THE ORIGINAL CONSTITUTION

On 29th. November 1923 forty-five men and women in humble dependence upon Divine grace, formed themselves into a Christian Church to be called the CATHCART BAPTIST CHURCH, on the following basis:-

- (1) That the doctrine of the Church shall be evangelical; declaring that Jesus Christ the Eternal Son of God, is the one Saviour, and that Salvation is open to all men through faith in His name.
- (2) That the membership of the Church shall be open only to such as profess their personal faith in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, to the satisfaction of the Church.
- (3) That the Christian ordinances or sacraments are Baptism and the Lord's Supper. Baptism is, and can only be, the baptism of believers by immersion (see Mat. 28, 18-20, and Rom. 6). The Communion of the Lord's Supper is the highest act of worship and shall be open to any Christian desiring to participate. Should any member absent himself or herself from Communion for a period of six months without giving a satisfactory reason, when waited on, his or her membership may be declared by the Church to have ceased.
- (4) That the government of the Church shall be Congregational - the Church recognising that Jesus Christ is the supreme Head of the Church, and believing in His presence, undertakes to manage its own affairs according to His Word and the practice of the Apostles as these are given in the New Testament which is, and ought to be, the final rule of faith and practice for all Christians.
- (5) That the office-bearers of the Church shall consist of the Pastor (or Pastors) and not less than nine deacons, two of whom shall act as Secretary and Treasurer. No one shall be eligible for the office of Pastor or Deacon unless he is a baptised believer.
- (6) That an Annual Business Meeting shall be held at which the Treasurer shall submit a statement duly audited, of the Church finances. It shall be in the power of the office-bearers to call a meeting of the Church to deal with ordinary matters at any time on one Sunday's notice; but in matters of unusual expenditure or concerning election of a Pastor or office-bearers two Sundays' notice shall be necessary. Members desiring to introduce new business at any Church meeting must give notice to the office-bearers through the Secretary, in writing, a week before the meeting.
- (7) That the members by joining the Church shall come under obligation to attend regularly upon the public means of grace; to contribute systematically, as the Lord has prospered them, towards the support of His cause; to engage in some form of Christian work in connection with the Church; to maintain the spirit of Christian love and unity; and "to adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things."
- (8) That no alteration be made in this Constitution except by a vote of two-thirds of the Members present at a Church Meeting called for the purpose by special intimation from the pulpit on two preceding Sabbaths.

Following a Business Meeting on 20 February 1924, the discussion on an item of business entitled the 'Prolongation of the Services of the Rev. Thos. Stewart MA as temporary Pastor' was minuted as follows. "Arising out of a memorial submitted by the Church to the Council of the Baptist Union of Scotland on 26th December 1923 a communication was received from the Union intimating that a decision had been arrived at, whereby the Rev. Thos. Stewart would continue at Cathcart Church for a period of twelve months as from 1st. Feby 1924. The Church through its Secretary returned thanks to the Union for the consideration shown. The meeting through Mr. Andrew expressed to Mr. Stewart its continued loyalty and gratitude at this arrangement. As the foregoing cancelled the arrangement previously made by the Baptist Union whereby the Rev. T.W. Lister was to assume the pastorate of the Church, the Stewards at a business meeting, considered it incumbent upon the Church, as an act of courtesy, to communicate with Mr. Lister and Mr. W.R. Andrew did so expressing appreciation of the good work done by Mr. Lister in the Baptist cause."

What were the first meetings of the Church really like? In the first Church Minute Book the happenings at two functions are recorded.

"On 24th, December 1923 a social meeting was held for social intercourse in the small hall of the Couper Institute. About 80 people were present. The chair was occupied by Rev. Thos. Stewart and Mr. Alex. Young was the speaker. In his address Mr. Young remarked that what attracted him most of all during the evening was the homeliness throughout and everything pointed to the new Church being a great success. A very pleasant evening was spent by everyone and the meeting concluded with prayer."

"On Wednesday 26 December 1923 a Sabbath School's children's party was held in the small hall of the Couper Institute. Rev. Thos. Stewart presided. It was well represented by the children of the congregation. The children themselves contributed to the programme. Games were played. Mr. MacLean the Secretary of the Sabbath School spoke a few words to the children pointing out to them that the object of this first gathering was to bring the children together and to extend this feeling of friendship to as many more in the district. Each child received off the Christmas Tree a gift and all also received a box of sweets and an apple. Mr. MacLean and Mr. Ballantyne and others seemed not to spare their energies during the evening which made the gathering a huge success."

Building of the Church

Planning for a Church building started without delay. A minute dated 4 January 1924 states: "Discussion took place regarding the building of the halls or the Church first, and latterly it was left for Mr. McAslan and Mr. Young after finding out the probable cost of same, to go into the financial part of it and report."

At a business meeting of the Church on 19 March 1924, a resolution for the building of Church premises was adopted unanimously as follows: "That we proceed with the building of the Church Hall and offices including the Church Officer's house of two rooms and kitchen and empowering the architects Messrs Millar and Black to advertise for tenders for the various works".

The congregation was eventually able to move from having the services in the Couper Institute to the newly built Church in Merrylee Road. The official dedication of the new building took place on Saturday 24 October 1925 and the opening services were held on Sunday 26 October. Some of the then prominent Baptists shared in the proceedings. The first full-time minister was Rev. Alexander Clark who was inducted on 9 May 1926. At the Welcome Social on the 11 May our present oldest member, Rev. Cecil Woodyatt (now 98), attended as Minister of the Mossspark Church having previously taken services in the Couper Institute.

The Evening Citizen of 3 April 1926 records:

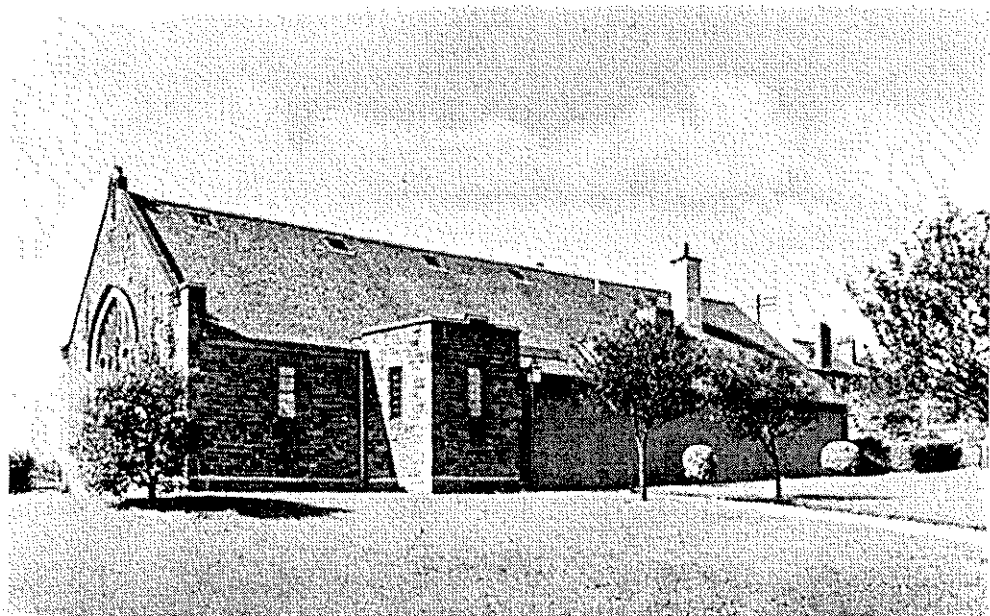
The Baptist Church at Cathcart was founded two and a-half years ago as the first step towards the extension movement of the Baptist Union of Scotland and the Glasgow Baptist Association. For a time the services were held in the Couper Institute, but in November last premises, erected at a cost of £4500, on an excellent site in Merrylee Road, were opened, with accommodation for 320 people. The Church is meant to serve not only Cathcart, but the adjacent districts of Langside, Newlands, Giffnock and Clarkston. At present there is a membership of about 70. A feature of Mr. Clark's ministry at Cambridge Street has been his organising ability, whereby more than 1500 homes in the locality were visited regularly, and if he pursues the same policy at Cathcart it is believed there will soon be considerable progress.

Couper Institute Clarkston Road

Used for worship, 1923-1925



Cathcart Baptist Church, 1926



Church Life

During the 1920s and 1930s the Church began to develop and the membership increased. The minutes of the Deacons' Meetings in 1927 record proposals for the preparation of the work during the coming winter.

15 August: "The Pastor suggested that, with the Anniversary Services, a week of Prayer for the Winter's Work should be inaugurated, commencing on Tuesday 20th. Sept. and continuing until Friday 23rd. Sept."

12 September - "Mr. Clark suggested that the Church ought to recognise the appointment of new workers to the Church organisations and he suggested a special Dedication service to be held each year on a Sunday morning at the forenoon service."

One of the most remarkable periods in these early days was during the ministry of the Rev. Joseph S. Andrews (1934-1937), which lasted only about three years due to his sudden death. It was during this period in November 1935 that an Evangelistic Campaign was held for a week by students from the Scottish Baptist College, resulting in a number of conversions and an increase in membership.

From the early years until the outbreak of the 1939-45 War there were a number of activities catering for all ages, including Sunday School, the Minister's Bible Class and uniformed organisations for the young such as Life Boys, Boy's Brigade and Girls Guildry. Adults found opportunities for fellowship and service in organisations such as the Men's Association, Women's Meeting, Girls Auxiliary, Choir and the mid-week Prayer and Bible Study. During the war years, many of the usual activities were of a low key but most carried on in a limited way. Before, during and after the war, Christian Endeavour proved to be an effective gathering for the training and encouragement of young Christians and in helping others to commit themselves to Jesus Christ. The Annual CE Weekend was a popular event in the Church calendar, attended by many from our own Church and also from other Churches in the Glasgow area. During this weekend, which was organised and led by members of the CE Society, a Guest Preacher was invited to speak. The older young people had a regular meeting point at 'The Round Table' held after the evening service on Sundays.

In his annual report to the Church on 23 September 1936, the Secretary stated that outstanding events had been the Special Students' Campaign in November when 22 persons (mostly young people) had professed conversion, and the launching of the Debt Extinction Fund in March. During the year 34 names had been added to the Church roll, including 18 by Baptism, and there had been a net increase of 29. Since the settlement of Mr. Andrews two years previously, 72 names had been added to the Church roll with a net increase of 61. The present membership was 149.

Gleanings from the Semi-Jubilee Booklet, 1948

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, 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..... During Mr. Clark's ministry the membership was substantially increased....."



Rev. Duncan J. M. MacIver, M.A., 1931-1933



"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 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."

Rev. Joseph S. Andrews, 1934-1937



"During the vacancy which ensued (after the departure of Mr. MacIver) 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..... 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 Rev. J. Stanley Andrews, MA that honour was given. A familiar figure in the Church, his gifts were known and admired, and when the call went 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 ministry followed, with particular emphasis on the young life of the Church."



Rev. George M. Hardie, M.A., B.D., 1943-1949.



"The vacancy which followed (the resignation of Rev. J. Stanley Andrews) was one of peculiar difficulty. With so many absent on service, and with the older members preoccupied with National (sic) service, one after another of the organisations had, temporarily, to close down. Happily, among the members was Rev. W. C. Charteris, O.B.E., M.C., who readily undertook the duties of Moderator. The Church was in a state of suspended activity and depleted active membership when Rev. G. M. Hardie, M.A., B.D., accepted a call to the pastorate, and commenced his ministry on June 6th 1943..... 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....."

Members' Reflections

Some of our present members are able to share their recollections of the latter part of these years.

A reflection on the ministry of Rev. Joseph S. and Rev. J. Stanley Andrews by *Maribel Leask*

The Rev. Joseph S. Andrews came to Cathcart in 1934 with his wife, son Stanley and daughter Nan. Nan was organist and Choir leader for a good number of years. Mr. Andrews was gracious, courteous, and a gentleman; a gifted preacher with a real burden for the unsaved. Many came to know the Lord during his ministry. A feature of his ministry was the 'after meeting' held often after the evening service for praise and prayer. As a congregation we all benefited spiritually from his teaching and guidance. He constantly warned and advised us on the many pitfalls in daily life. Two things he detested, gossip and tale bearing. He was a fatherly figure and easy to talk to. There seemed to surround him an aura of peace. Many people came to him for comfort and guidance – not only his Church people. He was an excellent pastor and visitor. He was greatly loved and respected, not only in the Church but in the Cathcart area. The nearby shops in Clarkston Road closed for the time of his funeral. He died very suddenly in 1937 two days after Stanley's marriage. It was a very happy ministry and he was missed by all.

Rev. Stanley Andrews became our minister in 1938. He was married to Hope Conway, daughter of a Baptist minister. It was a bit awkward at first, 'he had been one of us', and now he was our minister and spiritual leader. We had known him as Stanley and now it had to be Mr. Andrews (by order of the Deacons' Court!) We got used to it.

He was a very cheery, go ahead, enthusiastic person. He preached the Gospel in a very forceful and dynamic manner. An elder member was heard to remark that he preached with great gusto. A number came to know the Lord during his ministry also. Like his father he was an excellent pastor, visitor and friend; very popular with young and old alike. He was interested in everybody and everything. It was said by many that he made each person feel special. He was particularly interested in the young and their spiritual welfare. Many had cause to be grateful for his love, kindness and friendliness. He left our Church in 1942 to become minister of the Coats Memorial Church in Paisley.

A reflection on the ministry of Rev. George M. Hardie by *Neil McVicar*

After a short period of vacancy following of the departure of Rev. Stanley Andrews, Mr. Hardie came to us from the Wishaw Baptist Church. Those who were attending the Church at this time soon realised that we had a servant of God of academic ability and a man of great faith. He had trained at the Scottish Baptist College and was prize man in all his classes. Dr Scott, Secretary of the Scottish Baptist Union said of him "Mr. Hardie has never departed in his preaching and teaching from the fundamental truths of our faith, he preaches a full Gospel." He was a man of meticulous preparation. He did not leave things to the last minute but had his sermons ready some months in advance! He had a very gracious personality, was an excellent teacher and expositor of God's Word. He was also a caring pastor as well as an efficient administrator. In all his Church activities he was ably supported by his wife. Due to an injury he received in the 1914-1918 war he could only use one arm when he baptised candidates. No one was in any danger as he seemed to have remarkable strength in his good arm! Mr. Hardie was very much involved in the affairs of the Baptist Union and the Baptist College. There was much sorrow, but no surprise, when he accepted the invitation of the Baptist Union Assembly to become the General Secretary of the Scottish Baptist Union. When he left it was our loss but a great gain for the Baptist Churches in Scotland.

25 Years On

In 1948, to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary a memorial pipe organ was dedicated to the service of God and in honour of those of the Church who made the supreme sacrifice in the stress and conflict of the 1939-45 War. The following names were engraved on the memorial plaque:

Kitty Millar (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

Present at the celebrations in 1948 were a number of those who had been at the inaugural meeting on 2 September 1923 and were still in membership.



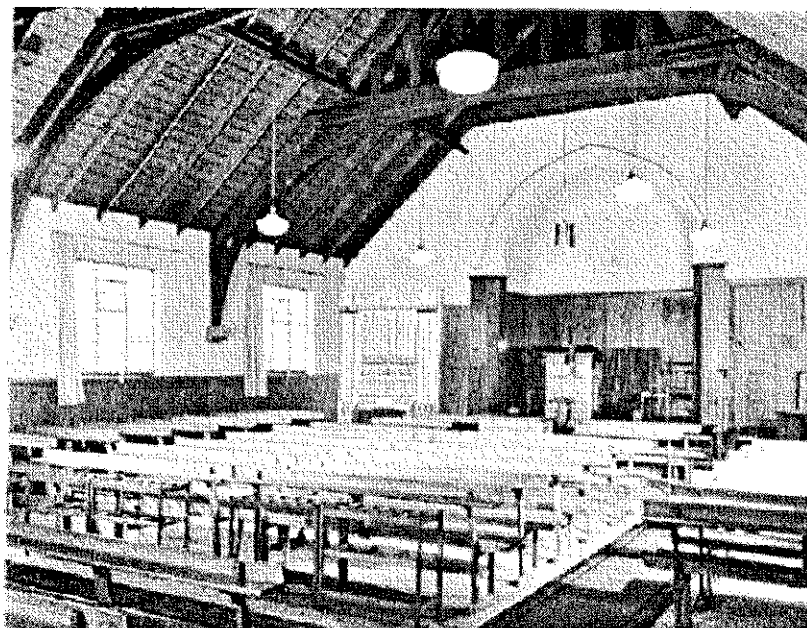
Insert (left) Mrs J. Adair

Insert (right) Mrs A. Leask

Back Row (left to right)
F.J. Carpenter W.L. McAslan J. McNicoll

Front Row (left to right)
Mrs F.J. Carpenter Mrs J. McAslan
Rev. G.M. Hardie (Minister in 1948)
Mrs A. MacFarlane Mrs J. McNicoll

The building used for worship from 1926 showing the Memorial Organ



Deacons of the Church in 1948



Inset: R.F. Beveridge (Hon. Deacon) F.J. Carpenter Wm. Robertson
 Back Row: R. 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)

THE MIDDLE YEARS, 1948-1973

During this period the original building was added to and altered to meet changing circumstances and needs. The major changes were the addition, in 1955, of a hall and later of the "Jubilee" extension.

The hall provided accommodation for the use of the various organisations and a much needed transept which could be opened up to give additional seating during Sunday services. Through the expert services and generosity of the builder Mr. Stewart, whose wife Edna is still in membership, a good hall was available at a cost of approximately £4,000. To mark the 50th Anniversary in 1973 the Jubilee Hall and extended vestibule and cloakroom accommodation were opened at an approximate cost of £11,000, making very necessary extra space available.

Rev. Kingsley G. Rendell, MA, 1951-1957

After the departure of Rev. G.M. Hardie, MA, BD to be General Secretary of the Baptist Union of Scotland, the vacancy committee considered a number of possible ministers for the pastorate. As time went on it became obvious that God was leading us, not to an individual who was already in a pastorate, but to a student in his final year of studies at the Scottish Baptist College. Accordingly the Church invited Mr. Kingsley G. Rendell to become Student Pastor for a year with the option to review the situation at the end of that period. At the end of the year the Church was convinced that God was leading it to invite Mr. Rendell as Pastor, and a unanimous invitation was extended to him to become the minister of the Church. The years that followed confirmed that the Church had indeed interpreted the Lord's leading aright. It was during this ministry that the membership reached its peak at 312. Unfortunately it has to be noted that after Mr. Rendell left the Church the membership dropped and so far has not reached that high figure.



Mr. Rendell's expository preaching, his friendly and enthusiastic spirit and his pastoral concern were greatly blessed of the Lord and appreciated by the congregation. For a number of years a feature of the witness of the Church was an Open-Air meeting held after the evening service, initially at the corner of Clarkston Road and Merrylee Road and oft, later, in the back-greens of Craig Road. Most nights they had good reception and hearing. The minutes of the Annual General Meeting on 27th October 1954 state that three decisions had been recorded as a result of the Open-Air meetings. Good news indeed!

Reflections on the ministry of Rev. Kingsley G. Rendell by Irene Anderson

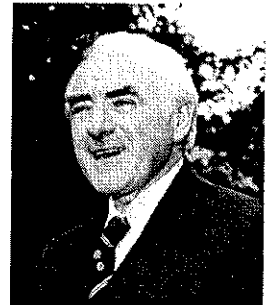
The Rev. Kingsley G. Rendell served in the Fleet Air Arm during Word War II. On demobilisation he studied at Glasgow University for a second MA degree, having previously graduated from Durham University. After graduation he was ordained and inducted as minister of Cathcart Baptist Church where he remained until 1957. On Sundays when preaching he always wore a gown, but never a dog-collar. During this time the Merrylee Scheme was built and Mr. Rendell, with some of the deacons and young people of the Church, began a systematic visitation of the houses as soon as they were

occupied. It was at this time that the Church membership reached a peak of over 300 members plus adherents with a very large Sunday School. Two double-decker buses were required to take the children on the annual Sunday School outing!

Mr. Rendell was a gifted preacher and an excellent teacher, especially at the Wednesday evening Bible Studies. His wife Margaret was a great support to him. Their only son Charles was born in 1952. On leaving Cathcart, Mr. Rendell taught at the Grass Royal School in Yeovil, preaching in the Sherbourne Church in a voluntary capacity. Latterly he and Margaret returned to Maybole which was Margaret's home town. He was very involved in the Maybole Church and the Ayrshire Baptist Association, and was a welcome guest preacher at Cathcart on a number of occasions. On 11 November 1997 he went home to be with his Lord whom he loved and served faithfully.

Rev. Ronald Armstrong, 1958-1965

Rev. Ronald Armstrong, who trained for the ministry at Spurgeon's College, came to Cathcart Baptist Church from being minister of the Tyndale Baptist Church, Reading. Mr. Armstrong commenced his ministry on Sunday 2 February 1958. During this period a visitation of the district was undertaken when about 4,000 homes were visited. Open-Air meetings were held in Linn Park. Some administrative matters such as the procedure for electing deacons were thoroughly revised. Arrangements were made to have relay services from the 1959 Keswick Convention in the Church. During Mr. Armstrong's ministry an Evangelistic Campaign was held for two weeks conducted by Rev. Dennis Patterson and Rev. Eric Westwood of the 'Come Back to God' Campaign. Attendances during the campaign fluctuated between 50 and 90. As well having meetings for adults there were also special gatherings for children. Visits were also made to local schools and to the Christian Worker's Fellowship in Weir's works.



Memories of my ministry at Cathcart by Rev. Ronald Armstrong

We arrived at the Largie Road manse in mid-January 1958. Next day it snowed and all the household goods left outside the back door had turned to anonymous snowy lumps! Soon afterwards young Duncan was sent to the shop for some chocolate biscuits. When he got home one biscuit was missing. He tried to blame "they Catholic laddies". However he had chocolate round his lips and the wrapping paper in his pocket. Sin started early in our family.

We remember open air services in Linn Park; the Billy Graham Crusade at Kelvin Hall; the rain drowning my voice as it drummed heavily on the Church roof; hearing of the death of President Kennedy just as we set out on house-to-house visitation; services at the old people's home and at Mearnskirk Hospital; my operation at 'the Vicky'; meeting a young Sunday School teacher during the 'Keep Cathcart Dry' campaign against pubs (that man is now Sir Teddy Taylor M.P.); welcoming Neil and Marjorie McVicar home for furlough; Peter Barber preaching at Cathcart Anniversary and proclaiming 'Christianity is Christ'; elderly folk being carried out of the service when it got too hot on Summer evenings; the birth of our two sons, Martin and Andrew.

Some years ago, Jack Reid gave me a copy of a video on to which he had transferred some of his movie films. It brings back lots of memories, people and faces, as 'the saints go marching in'. They were happy years for us and we did see days of blessing at CBC. God bless you all. We pray for each of the Churches where I was minister, and Cathcart is on that list! Greetings and good wishes from Rita and myself.

Reflections on the ministry of Rev. Ronald Armstrong by *Robert McNair*

Ron Armstrong was inducted to the pastorate of Cathcart Baptist Church on Saturday 15 January 1958, the service being conducted by the Rev. Dr. Frederick Cawley, then Principal Emeritus of Spurgeon's College, London. Previously Ron had spent seven and a half years at Reading Baptist Church.

Ron was born in Musselburgh and educated locally. He began his working life in a stockbrokers' office in Edinburgh before commencing his theological training at the Scottish Congregational College. On becoming a Baptist he was then accepted at Spurgeon's College and from there went to the Church at Reading. Ron could be said to be a very 'sensitive' and a Godly pastor, a real family man who came to us with two young children and his wife Rita who was an able support to him. While at Cathcart two other children were born. During his ministry with us Ron and Rita experienced fairly serious health problems and Ron lost his younger brother in an air crash while flying with the RAF Red Arrows Squadron.

After over seven years at Cathcart, Ron left us to be inducted to the Pastorate of Dorking Baptist Church on 19 May 1965. In 1982 when he was appointed BMS representative in Scotland, he and Rita again became members for a number of years. Now in retirement 'down south', Ron still keeps in touch with us and his Scottish roots through his letters and articles in the Scottish Baptist Magazine. It is also good to remember that Ron officiated at the induction service of our present minister John Smith, chairing the Induction Service and social on Saturday 22 June 1985 and speaking on Sunday 23 June.

Rev. Bert J. Allsopp, 1966-1975



Rev. B.J. Allsopp was inducted as minister on 5 February 1966. Mr. Allsopp previously was minister of the Hill Park, Haverfordwest Church, in Wales. It was during this ministry that the Church celebrated its Jubilee and many things were done in an effective and meaningful way to celebrate the last 50 years. There was the Bible School about which the then Secretary of the Church makes the following comment. "The standard of teaching was high and both scholars and staff felt a happy family atmosphere throughout. The average weekly attendance was just over 50". Elsewhere in his report he says "let me again pay tribute to Rev. & Mrs. Allsopp for their gracious manner of life amongst us as they seek to lead us in spiritual things." This was a ministry which was indeed gracious, Bible-centred and effective.

Reflections on the ministry of Rev. Bert J. Allsopp by *George Calder*

Following the vacancy left by Rev. Ronald Armstrong in 1965, the Church went further afield in its search for a Minister and was led eventually to the Principality of Wales. When the Vacancy Committee approached Rev. B. J. Allsopp, who at that time was minister of the Church at Haverfordwest, he agreed to come and preach in Cathcart. The Church was unanimous in calling him to the pastorate. Mr. Allsopp was very keen in the support of Christian Endeavour which at that time was active in the Church. He was at one time President of the British Convention of CE.

During his time in Cathcart he introduced the Church to the All-Age Bible School which at that time was becoming popular in many of our Baptist Churches. This necessitated more accommodation for the various age groups involved (crèche, primary, intermediate and adult). It was therefore in 1973 as part of the Jubilee celebrations that the Jubilee Hall, cloakrooms and toilets were completed.

Mr. Allsopp's coming to Cathcart enriched the congregation by his faithful ministry as preacher and pastor. He was supported very ably by his wife. Although they had no children of their own the

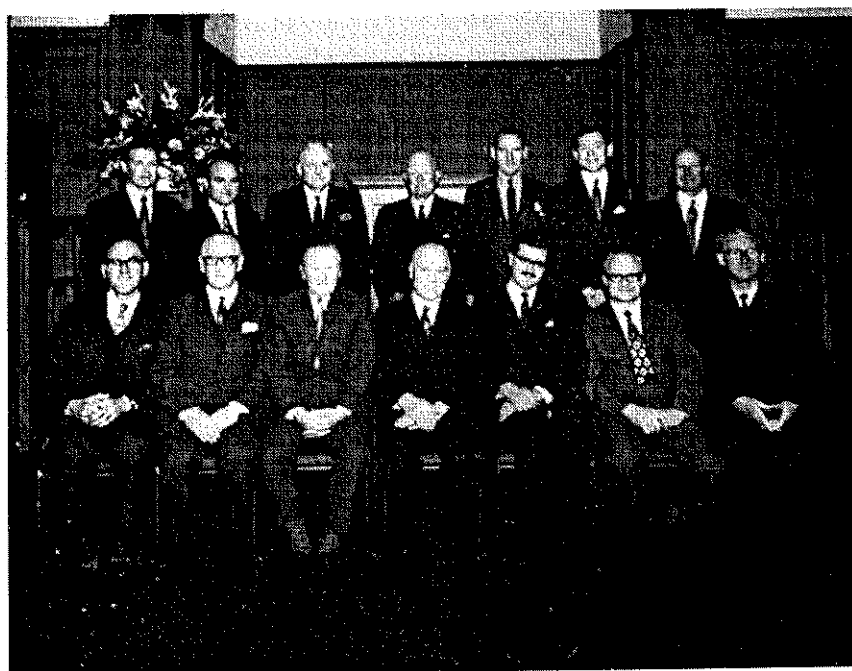
Allsopps took a keen interest in the children connected to the Church. Mrs Allsopp herself was able to accompany her husband in his regular visitation of members and friends of the congregation who were either sick or housebound. An innovation of Mr. Allsopp's ministry was that his wife accompanied him each Sunday at the Church door at the end of each service. After nine years of faithful ministry Mr. Allsopp decided to retire, partly due to ill-health, and returned to Wales.

Church Life

The activities of the Church and the members throughout these 'middle years' included participation in joint ventures such as the Campaign of Simultaneous Evangelism in 1969-71 initiated by the Baptist Union of Scotland. There was also a 'New Life' campaign held from 8-15 May 1969 with Mr. & Mrs. Idris Davies.

For a number of years a group from the Church held services and assisted in hospital visitation at Mearns Kirk Hospital. Visitations on a regular basis took place to neighbouring Residential Homes for Senior Citizens and a number of members helped in the establishing of the Baptist work at Castlemilk and at East Kilbride.

Deacons of the Church in 1973



Seated: I. Mitchell J. Cameron R. McNair B.J. Allsopp (Minister)
J. Beattie, R. Mackie, D. Cairney
Standing: G. Clarkson G. Calder J. Hogg J. Burrows A. Mitchell
R. Buchanan J. Reid

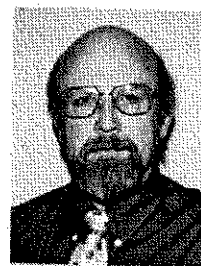
A PERIOD OF CHANGE, 1973-1998

During the 1970s the characteristics of Church life and witness throughout Britain began to change. New emphases were being introduced and encouraged. Whilst Cathcart Baptist Church has always been evangelical and evangelistic, the ways of expressing this began to change following new initiatives and trends both outside and inside the Church. Long established organisations forming part of national structures gave way to activities more suited to the particular needs of the fellowship whilst, at the same time, the Church as a whole sought a greater involvement with national and international bodies. Our use of the premises and styles of worship changed. Exploration of new ways of evangelising and of making contact with our community resulted in the development of the concept of 'bridge building' ministries and the establishment of activities which at the same time attracted the interest of some of our neighbours and gave opportunity to present the gospel.

Rev. Chris J. Brown, BA, BD, 1976-1983

Many of the changes which we have seen in Cathcart had their beginnings during the ministry of Rev. Chris Brown, who was inducted to the pastorate on 30 October 1976. From 1973 to 1976 Mr. Brown had been minister of Keiss and Scarferry Churches in northern Scotland.

A Church Conference which was held soon after Mr. Brown's arrival seemed to be very worthwhile and there were frank and revealing discussions on a number of important matters affecting the life and witness of the Church. Decisions were made and acted upon, including matters such as integral communion and taping of services for the sick. It was also recognised that there was a growing awareness of the needs of others within and without the fellowship and a willingness to meet those needs. During this period the Bible School reverted to the old name of Sunday School and only catered for the 3-12 years of age group. It was arranged that the 12-15 age group would now meet separately.



1982/83 was the year of another crusade - the Way of Life Crusade at Bellahouston. Again a fair number of our members participated in Dick Saunders' wettest Crusade ever. The weather did not dampen the enthusiasm, however, and many found the Saviour. Chris Brown's excellent Biblical teaching Sunday by Sunday was greatly appreciated as was his pastoral care and counsel.

Memories of my ministry at Cathcart Baptist Church by Rev. Chris J. Brown

Probably the most terrifying form of life on this planet is the Baptist Church vacancy committee. At the induction service when I began serving in Cathcart, the then secretary, John Beattie, reported that the vacancy committee had a list of requirements for a future minister. The list was almost endless and I remember that sense of complete inadequacy. Then John said: 'Then the Holy Spirit stepped in!'. What followed was a period of nearly seven years when Moira and I began to feel deeply at

home in the Church. For me it was twice as long as I had lived anywhere in my life. We remain very grateful for the friendships formed during that time. Cathcart proved to be the kind of Church that accepts people for what they are.

So many thoughts crowd my mind when thinking about these years. Two features of our ministry together as a Church come into focus especially. One is the seeds of a counselling service, which was enabled through the way the Church facilitated my going on the first of what was to prove a long line of training events in the area. Christians all over the country now have a diversity of approaches but all agree that we owe it to God and to people created in His image to have a high standard in this task. The other area of attention, as I reflect, is the part we played as a Church in the Luis Palau evangelistic crusade. Typically, together we committed ourselves to over three years of preparation and training in order to make something happen that did not directly benefit us as a Church numerically, but equipped us all in all kinds of ways, the results of which are surely going on to this day. However, the ongoing ministry of teaching and preaching is the main aspect of our period of work together. Someone I know often says: "The congregation preaches more than half the sermon in any service".

The fact that Cathcart was such a wonderfully listening fellowship made preaching always a special privilege, and such a tolerant Church too, putting up with a minister who, in a Baptismal service wanted to explain very briefly what believers' baptism was, said: "We haven't got a lot of time, so we will just dip into it."

Reflection on the ministry of Rev. Chris J. Brown by *Harry Graham*

Chris Brown came to Cathcart having nearly completed his probationary period of ministry at the Keiss and Scarferry Baptist Churches. He was gifted in teaching and the Church received an excellent teaching ministry each Sunday and also in our mid-week meetings. During his period at Cathcart we had the visit of Luis Palau to Glasgow and Lanarkshire, with a major five week crusade in 1981. Chris Brown was Chairman of the Counselling Committee for this major crusade. Apart from the crusade meetings in the Kelvin Hall, the Luis Palau team held a series of Christian Counselling classes. The team saw that this ministry was meeting a need among Christian people. This area of ministry appealed to Chris Brown who played a major part in bringing it into discussion with the Baptist Union of Scotland. Another knock-on effect from the crusade was the beginning of house groups in the Church. Part of the reason for starting ministry of this form was the recognition that new Christians may feel more comfortable in a smaller group.

We had deacons' away days during Chris Brown's ministry. One of the results from these retreats was the re-structuring of the deacons' court. A number of sub-groups were formed for various functions and it was the sub-group which would go into the details of their function and report back to the full court, who would be responsible for making any decisions arising from the sub-group reports.

Moir and the children were well received by the Church and Moir made her own quiet contribution to the work and life of the Church and was a great support to Chris. Visits to the manse were always very pleasant as their hospitality was always very warm. When Chris left us to go to Pitlochry Baptist Church he saw the extension of his interests being met through the Church and the Atholl Baptist Centre.

Milestones and Developments

Scotreach 1985

This national evangelistic initiative of the Baptist Union of Scotland came in the middle of the last 25 year period and coincided with the start the ministry of Rev. John Smith. It was a key event in the life

of the Church, not only because of the two periods of mission, in June with Billy Strachan of Capernwray Hall and November with Ian Leitch, but also because of the community survey and needs assessment which led to the development of a programme geared to meet these needs. The possibilities of this approach were highlighted by a bonfire and fireworks display on 5 November at which over 200 local people crowded into the grounds. Many of the activities referred to in the following pages arose out of this strategy.

Baptist Youth World Conference

The 11th Baptist Youth World Conference in the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre in July 1988 also had a profound influence on the life of the Church, not only in the lives of the young people who were among the 7,500 international delegates and who entered a new phase of Christian discipleship, but also on the lives of those who hosted overseas guests, stewarded and assisted in other ways with the organisation. This event sowed the seeds of a new freedom in worship which was to be developed through involvement in March for Jesus and Spring Harvest.

Use of the Church Premises

The original multi-purpose 1926 building served for Sunday worship and for all mid-week activities. Plans to add a 'proper' Church building on the ground out towards the road and turn the original building into the main hall were never realised. After the present main hall was built in 1948, the original building came to be regarded as the Sanctuary, and its use was restricted to Sunday and other occasional services with all other activities being confined to the halls. In response to the needs of the new style of outreach activities, particularly those for young people, this area was again opened up for multipurpose use during the week. Although this was seen to be necessary in the changing circumstances, it do not please everyone.

In the 1990s the Church flat was no longer occupied by a resident caretaker, and became available to meet the accommodation demands imposed by the increasing numbers in Sunday School and Springboard Bible Class.

Development Project - Phase One

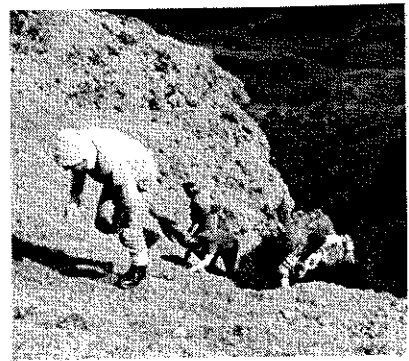
Arising out of the perceived need to present a positive image to visitors attending our activities, the objective of this project was to make the Church premises welcoming, comfortable and contemporary, and ultimately to provide more accommodation and facilities.

Although the premises had been extended on two occasions and the heating system upgraded, there had been no fundamental alteration to the original building from the time of its construction. By the end of the 1980s the roof was leaking in several places, areas of the floor were warped and irregular and the original wooden benches were uncomfortable, shabby and much repaired. Phase One was launched at the end of 1989, completed in November 1991, and the £63,000 cost fully paid by the end of 1994. It included re-roofing of the original building, replacing the benches with individual, upholstered seats, redesigning the pulpit area to provide an open, full width platform on two levels, carpeting, curtains and a new sound system.

Ladies & Gentlemen

The increasing age of the membership of the Women's Auxiliary and the difficulty in finding office-bearers resulted in its replacement for a short period by the Women's Fellowship, organised by one of the (male) deacons, and then by Ladies at Eight, a monthly outreach supper club with attendances of between 50 and 80 ladies. Recently it has been judged appropriate to discontinue this activity because of falling numbers, the demands of time on our ladies and the development of other evangelistic opportunities.

Man Alive!, which succeeded the Men's Association, is a programme of occasional activities to encourage friendship within the Church and with men who are not otherwise involved. Some recent activities which have been enjoyed include a visit to Strathclyde Police HQ, Ten-Pin Bowling, a Burns Night and walking.



Music & Worship

Throughout much of this period the Ladies' Choir was prominent in the life of the Church. Under Anne Clarkson it rendered great service in the Church and beyond with its music and expertise being much appreciated. For a number of years it formed the basis of an augmented choir which produced a musical for a guest service before Christmas. A young people's musical group functioned for several years under the name of 'Signoverhead'.

In 1985, rather than undergoing a costly overhaul, the War Memorial Organ was replaced by a two-manual Allen digital organ. This was funded by a 'Special Projects Fund', which also supported the purchase of our present manse during a period of vacancy. Understandably there was some controversy about this, as there were those in the congregation who had a personal interest in the organ because a family member's name was inscribed on the memorial plaque and others had a sentimental attachment to it. However, the new instrument is capable of producing sounds of a range and quality far superior to those of the then ageing pipe organ.

A Roland electric piano now complements the new organ, and along with the minister's guitar these instruments provide the accompaniment at morning services. Singing in the evening is led by a praise band with guitars, drums and keyboard.

Forms of worship have changed over recent years. Traditional hymns are still sung alongside newer worship songs. A greater emphasis on congregational participation has brought to light the abilities and spiritual gifts of a number in the congregation as they have shared in the services.

The Church Family

Twenty five years is a long time in the life of a Church. Less than forty percent of the present members were associated with the Church at the time of the Jubilee in 1973. The shape of the family as a whole has also changed, particularly as the past ten years have seen the influx of a number of families with children and a good number of new arrivals for the crèche and the newly formed Mothers and Toddlers group. During the same period, and in contrast to earlier years, young people have tended to remain within the fellowship as they have matured, rather than leaving to worship elsewhere or, sadly, sometimes nowhere.

A highlight of the early part of this period was an annual dinner, prepared and served by the Men's Association. More recently our sense of family and togetherness has, perhaps, been most fully expressed as we share together in a family meal, incorporating communion, after the morning service on Easter Sunday morning and on other special occasions.

Evangelistic Activities

During the period a number of evangelistic events have been arranged by the Church, which has also participated in regional and national evangelistic opportunities. Occasional guest or seeker services

have been held, including those at Christmas and Easter, with particular invitations being extended to those with whom the Church is in regular contact through the outreach programme.

In 1989 the Church took the initiative in calling together a group from the South Side Churches to organise two local venues for Live Links from the Billy Graham Mission at Earls Court. Despite disappointment that there were no referrals of enquiries to Cathcart, the Church participated in Mission Scotland in 1992 with members counselling, stewarding and singing in the choir.

In 1990 a team, led by the minister, took part in a transatlantic partnership mission in the Baptist Church in Endicott, New York State, and, on the same partnership basis, a team of four young couples from First Baptist Church, Atlanta shared with us in two weeks of mission in and around Cathcart.

From 1989 the Church has been identified with 'There is Hope', joining with other Churches to pray for revival and to distribute a high quality broadsheet around the doors in the period before Easter. This led on to the use of the videos of the film 'Jesus' by making copies available for home viewing followed by the opportunity of meeting for questions and discussion. More recently the Alpha Course has given the opportunity to introduce the gospel to a goodly number of people, some of whom have come to a personal faith in Jesus Christ.

On 10 June 1998 the Glasgow Herald carried these words: "A Glasgow Church plans to screen all Scotland's games live on giant screens charging £1 per person per game. Rev. John Smith of Cathcart Baptist Church on Merrylee Road said, 'We aim to offer a safe, family environment in which children and parents can enjoy the big game atmosphere together'." The reference was to the 1998 Football World Cup and although, at the instigation of Christians in Sport, many Churches throughout the UK were taking this opportunity of opening their doors to the widest possible public, it was the screening of the event in Cathcart which caught the attention of the press and of national television.

Missionary Support

Over the years the Church has maintained a strong interest in overseas missions with prayer and financial support being concentrated on the Baptist Missionary Society and other agencies with which a member of the fellowship might be working at any particular time. This interest is encouraged and co-ordinated by the Missionary Council which seeks to keep before the congregation the need for a global perspective in all that we do.

Members currently engaged in full-time work elsewhere are:

Ian & Alison Campbell - Eastern Europe with Messianic Servant Ministries (Glasgow based)
Charles & Sandra Dick - Marseilles, France with Arab World Ministries
David & Ulla Fewster - Bangkok, Thailand with Creative Ministries
Murray Hanvey - Albania with BMS 28:19 Action Team

Our BMS World Mission Link partners are:
Dave & Cath Meikle - Brazil

Regular monthly missionary meetings have largely given way to 'spots' in the Sunday Services and to special events such as a recent International Students' Night and a Global Village presentation. Other events have focused on areas in which we have a particular interest. Over the past 25 years contact with workers overseas has been transformed with the development of satellite telephone communication and e-mail. These allow us to share the most up to date information and on a number of occasions we have enjoyed 'live-links' into our services. Our understanding and support for our missionary partners has been enhanced as a result of pastoral visits by the minister to Marseilles and Thailand, and, more recently, as part of his presidential duties with the Baptist Union of Scotland, to BMS missionaries in Nepal.

Youth Work

Over the years many young people have passed through the Church, although the numbers at any one time have varied greatly. Following the influx of families with children over the past ten years there has emerged a growing, active group under a number of capable leaders. In March 1996 we were able to welcome Gena Wilson under the American Southern Baptist Journeyman scheme as a part-time youth worker, with the rest of her time being committed to administration for the Mission. Whilst taking a lead in the existing activities including Springboard Bible Class, Youth Fellowship and Youth Club, Gena has been able to spend time with the young people on a one-to-one basis, and in discipleship classes camps and leisure activities. We have rejoiced to see the group growing in numbers and in maturity as many have committed their lives to Christ and been baptised, and more recently as they have become involved in sharing the gospel with their peers. They participate in the programme of the Youth for Christ 24:7 team based in Newton Mearns and two members of this team assist at our Youth Club. During the recent summer, Street Invaders, a training and mission partnership with a visiting Canadian group, led to contact with many local young people.



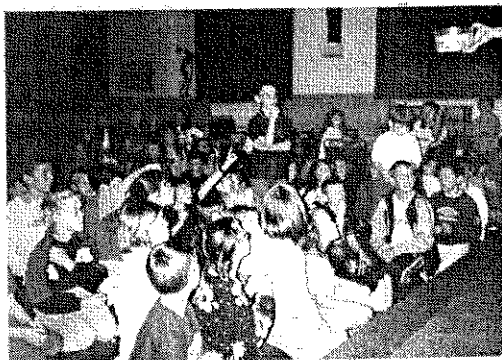
Her two years as a Journeyman completed, Gena is continuing with us for a further two years, initially part-time, but shortly to become full-time, with the Church having taken on the larger part of the responsibility for her support.

Children

In the late 1970s the Church abandoned an All-age Christian Education Programme and reverted to Sunday School as the principle means of teaching children. After a numerically lean period numbers have risen over the past year until up to 40 children leave for their classes during the course of the morning service.

Adventurers, a club for primary school children, is one of the outreach activities which grew out of the Scotreach Missions in 1985. Subsequently, provision was made for the older children in the age-group in a separate club called In Scene.

Holiday clubs have long been part of the life of the Church. In the 1980s, although programmes and



personnel were good, numbers were frustratingly few. However, we have now developed the pattern of a lively Holiday Club with a regular clientele who return each year. There can be as many as 80

children attending and participating in a high quality contemporary programme. They have been a television crew in 'On Fire' and news reporters in 'Chattabox'. They have 'Gone Bananas' with a simulated flight experience to a tropical island and most recently they have been 'Storykeepers'.

Because of the increasing number of families attending the Church and its activities, and because of the Dunblane tragedy and the increasing incidence of child abuse, over the past year the Church has prepared a Children's Policy which will guide the development and conduct of our children's activities.

Community Service

Throughout most of his ministry Rev. John Smith has had good opportunities to contribute to the life of Holmlea Primary and Kingspark Secondary Schools. The long-term involvement with senior citizens in Merrylee Lodge and the former Scott House has continued. Representation on the Newlands & Auldhouse Community Council has been sporadic as the majority of our members live outside its area. A number of members have been active in Victim Support and other agencies whilst some have taken part in sponsored events in support of various causes.

A lunch club for Senior Citizens functioned for a few years in the 1970s and now a Senior Citizens club is one of the outreach activities which has been in place since Scotreach. Up to 45 of the 56 members on the register meet weekly for a varied programme which is enjoyed and appreciated. A number join in the outings and for the last two years some have enjoyed a week's holiday together.



Communications

Increasing use has been made of modern methods of communication. Tape recording of services for those unable to attend on a Sunday started during the ministry of Chris Brown and a library of tapes of recent services is still maintained. There are also video recordings of many of the important events in the life of the Church. The sound system was replaced in 1977 and again in 1991 when a loop for the hard of hearing, a sound mixer and radiomicrophones were installed.

Worship songs are displayed on an overhead projector which is used regularly by the minister for sermon headings and illustrations. A video projector and large screen purchased in 1995 have been extensively used, particularly for multimedia presentations during seeker orientated services. The scope of these presentations has been greatly increased by the recent gift of a new, state of the art, projector along with a laptop computer.

Pastoral Care and Leadership

The fundamental structures by which the Church conducts its affairs in accordance with its congregational style of government have remained unchanged over the years. However the ways in which the deacons appointed under these structures exercise their leadership have developed.

In the late 1980s it was acknowledged that not every person appointed as a deacon will have pastoral gifting. Rather than continue to allocate a number of the members to each of the deacons for pastoral care, specific individuals were recognised as pastoral deacons to have oversight within what were then the house group areas. A team of pastoral visitors was appointed with a view to visiting the elderly on a regular basis, and the pastor continued to be involved in issue-related visits. More recently one of the deacons has been appointed as pastoral co-ordinator. He meets regularly with the pastor and a team of pastoral visitors drawn from the wider membership. In 1997 the newly constituted fellowship groups undertook a level of pastoral care for those within their areas.

As other gifts amongst the deacons were recognised, the number of sub-groups reporting to the deacons was increased. These groups, many of which include members not serving as deacons, include the following: Ministries Group, Evangelistic Committee, Missionary Council, Worship Committee, Administration Group and Property Group.

The amendment of the constitution in 1997 to allow the appointment of ladies to the diaconate brought a new dimension to the leadership and was almost universally welcomed. The subsequent appointment of Elizabeth Hanvey as the first lady deacon was an historic event.

Church Outings and Recreation

On a number of occasions Church friends and families go for hikes, climbs or just not too energetic walks around Glasgow or further afield. These events are enjoyable and much appreciated by those who participate.



Fellowship Groups and Prayer

During preparations for the Luis Palau Crusade in 1981, groups met for prayer and Bible study in the homes of members. Following the crusade House Groups became part of the regular programme for the Wednesday evening Prayer Meetings. Although many found these to be beneficial a move to

adopt them as the norm was unpopular with some and for many years the pattern was of House Groups and a Church-based meeting on alternate weeks.

In 1997, following a consultation process involving all the members, Fellowship Groups replaced the House Groups. These meet three times a month with one combined meeting in the Church and a meeting with a missionary emphasis on every fifth Wednesday. Whereas the House Groups all followed the same studies, each Fellowship Group is free to follow its own programme of study and other activities and can, if it wishes, vary the time of meeting. All members are assigned to one of the three groups which are encouraged to take a caring interest in all those assigned to it, including those who do not attend.

Over the years different periods during the week have been set aside to meet in order to seek God's will and purpose and His enabling power and grace. Unfortunately the number who do meet for prayer has usually been quite small.

Outside Agencies

The Church has continued to support and participate in the work of the Baptist Union of Scotland. A number of members have served on the Council of the Union and on its various committees.

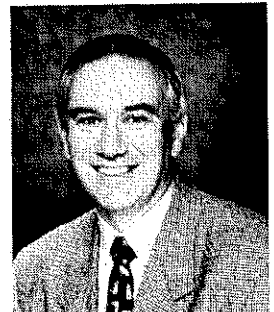
For the past ten years we have identified with Evangelical Alliance, indicating a concern to influence the nation with Christian values and the desire to stand in fellowship with evangelical Christians of all persuasions.

REJOICING IN THE PRESENT

The past has gone and for much in these years we can, and do, praise God and give thanks for His faithfulness. We also give thanks for the dedication of many individuals down through the past 75 years. The world of the 1990s is so different from that of the 1920s and 1930s. Methods of transport and travel have changed, the way in which we present and communicate the Gospel is very different, music is revolutionised and hymns have become songs! Many Churches have replaced the central pulpit or reading desk with the overhead projector. In many places non-denominational fellowship groups and house Churches have replaced the more formal denominational Church. For Church services there is a choice of 'traditional' or 'charismatic' or even a mixture! Like most things that change, some things are for the better, others may not be so. As we think of the many ways in which God has blessed Cathcart Baptist Church throughout these changing years we can rejoice in the present and look to the challenge of the future.

Rev. John S. Smith, BSc, BD, 1985-98

Our present minister Rev. John S. Smith hails from Liverpool. He initially worshipped with his parents and brother in an independent Methodist Church. He had his first experience of Baptist church life when studying Ecological Sciences in Edinburgh. During a holiday job in a Christian Endeavour Holiday Home, John met a young Scottish lass named Margaret Bathgate and was wise enough to marry her. They have two grown-up children, Gordon and Kirsty, who have been active in the life and witness of the Church.



After graduating, John found employment in the Planning Department of Clackmannan County Council and gained a qualification in town planning. Along with Margaret he attended Dalkeith Baptist Church, and after gaining a London University BD degree by distance learning, he was appointed Assistant Pastor in the Church. Not only did Dalkeith recognise John's spiritual gifts but the Church at Cathcart also did so when it called him to be their minister in 1985.

John was a member of the Local Arrangements Committee for the Baptist Youth World Conference in 1988, serving as chairman of the Halls and Transportation Committee. He also served on the Assembly Arrangements Committee of the Baptist Union of Scotland for 7 years, during 5 of which he sat as chairman. In 1997 he was installed as President of the Baptist Union of Scotland, taking as his theme for the year the motto of his 'local' Football Club, Everton, 'Only the Best is Good Enough', and applying it to our service for Christ.

For a number of years he has been a member of the Executive Council of Evangelical Alliance, Scotland and Evangelical Alliance, UK and he will be leaving Cathcart at the end of 1998 to take up a position on the management team of EA UK as Director of the Department of Church Life.

To See Ourselves.....

Reflections on my time working in Cathcart Baptist Church by Gena Wilson

It is rather difficult when reflecting on my time at Cathcart to articulate my feelings and views and experiences on working at Cathcart Baptist Church. Something always gets lost in the translation of real life experiences into simple words. The first and foremost thought probably is the fact that work has always held a bit of a 'putting forth effort' feeling with me. I haven't viewed my time at Cathcart as working. It has seemed more to me as a way of life... a part of life... an opportunity to serve God. The reward has far outweighed any effort that I might have put forth in the last two and a half years. Being placed in a position where God uses you to impact the people around you people you truly love and care for is not work in my eyes.



As I continue to reflect another thought rises to the surface of my mind. The feeling of family that I have grown accustomed to during my time at Cathcart is definitely worth noting. It was the immediate feeling of being a part of this Cathcart family and experiencing the 'open arms' welcome, which made my life transition so smooth and easy. After a few months I forgot what life was like before having 'you guys' enter into it.

Finally, one of the great highlights of my time here has got to be each time I observe a teenager drawing a little bit closer to God. I am so appreciative and thankful for the position I am in right now in the life of Cathcart Baptist. I have a front row seat in the lives of these students. It is a responsibility and blessing that I don't take lightly. And I'm excited and thrilled that it's a ministry this Church doesn't take lightly, either.

Is our Church a supporting Church?

That question was put to those serving overseas

Charles & Sandra Dick - Charles replies: My ties with Cathcart Baptist Church go back to within two years of my conversion. Thus, to call Cathcart a supporting Church means much more to me than the cheque that shows up on our mission support accounts. Finding direction as a young(er) man was difficult. In this, the Church's support was priceless. Through one of the members of the Church, I was introduced to SU beach missions. Later, support was the minister's phone call when he asked me to pray about going to work at the Radio School of the Bible. Chris Brown knew that I was seeking God's will and helped me to find it. The result? I am here in Marseilles.

Support has also shown itself in other ways: certain ladies who never forget the girls' birthdays have revealed to me the unimagined depth of their caring; others, whom I barely knew before I left, proved to be the faithful ones in writing and no doubt praying. In addition there have been post cards, phone calls and now we have e-mail cdick@easynet.fr I am sure more communication will happen.

Are you interested in what is going on? I remember John's pastoral visit. Often people come through Marseilles and take an hour to visit the office and learn of the work. John stunned us by taking seven days to question and listen to people in the office, plus a day with Dr. Bill downtown at a bookstall. John KNOWS what to do. Cathcart a supporting Church? Yes you are; keep it up. Warm greetings to everyone in the Church. Praise is a soul in flower (Thomas Watson).

David & Ulla Fewster - Ulla replies: On your 75th anniversary we wish God's continued and abundant blessings on you. The whole Church has been very kind and supportive. We have found that support and interest growing as the years have gone by until the present time when we have felt more blessed by the Church than ever before. As a Church and as individuals you are generous in your giving, and we know we have your prayer backing also.

When we went back to the Far East in June 1975, my friend Irene Anderson paid me a special visit at 23 Cairngorm Road. She gave me a lovely Scottish brooch which I am still proud to wear, and she told me she would pray for us and she would write. Over the years she has faithfully represented you all, although some others of you have also written from time to time, especially David Blenkinson who has written very faithfully over many years.

Ian Grant is serving as one of our Creative Ministries' trustees, John Beattie is our Trust Treasurer, and the Rev. John Smith is on our Creative Ministries' Council of Reference. I can't enumerate the many other people in the Church who are precious to us, and who have remembered us in various ways from time to time. IF THERE EVER WERE A CHURCH THAT IS BEHIND US, IT IS CATHCART BAPTIST CHURCH! We can see the Lord Jesus in you all, and we praise Him.

David & Cath Meikle: Greetings to all at Cathcart Baptist Church – a supporting Church with a heart for Mission. We are really privileged to have CBC as one of our Link Churches. We thank God that CBC has a missionary vision and yet together we have still much to learn and to understand about the task of mission. We can truthfully say that CBC is perhaps one of our best Link Churches – very supportive of our work and interested in us as a family and the ministry that we seek to have in Brazil. We in Brazil are engaged in mission as you are in Scotland. Generally speaking we face similar difficulties – unhappy people around us, many who are unemployed, some having real financial difficulties. Yet we constantly remind ourselves that in mission we have not only to look outward but also upward to Jesus who is our inspiration and the One whose love we want to share with others. In pastor John Smith we have an added blessing in that he cares for us as a family. We thank God for his interest and prayers. We too pray for him that he may enjoy good health and experience power and encouragement in his ministry at CBC and elsewhere.

With the modern facility of e-mail we have much quicker access to share and receive prayer requests. We apologise for not making greater use of this speedy method of communication. Our e-mail address, for those who wish to make contact in this way, is pastor@opus.com.br.

We have a burden for the work here in Brazil and also in Scotland. Please pray for the changing situation in Brazil and the implementation of the recommendations made by the joint consultation of BMS and the Baptist Unions of Brazil. The need in Brazil is great but like in many other situations resources are limited. Pray with us that the necessary resources will become available, that the weaker Churches will be strengthened, and that we continue to reach out to many others with the Gospel.

Thank you CBC for your continued interest and support and together may we be those who have a vision and a heart for mission and seek the extension of His kingdom.

Scottish Baptist College Placements - Reflections

Over the years we have welcomed a number of students from the Scottish Baptist College for a six-week placement working with our minister and congregation and sharing in our services. In most recent years we have had Robert Voysey and Pat MacDonald. They each share with us a 'Reflection' on their time at Cathcart.

Robert Voysey: January 1995 saw me arrive at Cathcart for a six-week placement which concluded with a sermon to be evaluated by the ministerial recognition committee. During that

time I attended and took part in numerous Church activities covering all ages from the children's club to the senior citizen's club, and just about everything in between.

For me this was a great time of learning I still remember the warm welcome that was given to me on my first Sunday, and the many friendships that were built up over the time. It was also a time of confirmation of God's call on my life. I arrived there seeking God's will about applying for ministerial recognition or if God had other plans. As a result of being involved in the various activities, and talking with the Rev. John Smith, and some of the members this call was confirmed to me.

For these and many other reasons Cathcart Baptist Church will always be special to me, and I am grateful to the Church for my time there and their willingness to encourage me there. As a student this was a time of 'hands on' experience which has helped me prepare and settle into my own ministry here in Linwood Baptist Church.

On behalf of all of us here in Linwood let me assure you of our continued prayers for you as the Church celebrates 75 years of service, and trust that God will continue to richly bless you in the future. Thank you for your prayers and support.

Pat McDonald: During my third year at the Scottish Baptist College I had the privilege of completing a six-week placement at Cathcart Baptist Church under the close supervision and care of the Rev. John Smith. It was an anxious time as the date for commencing my time at Cathcart drew ever closer. I'm not sure why I was anxious, possibly because this was my first 'Church' placement as a Baptist Student. But any anxieties or fears that I arrived with soon dispersed when I met those from the fellowship. They were quick to try and put me at ease and offered lots of encouragement and support. One of the things that I enjoyed most was the opportunity to visit folks in their own homes where I soon became partial to the home cooking that was on offer! The close times of fellowship and times of sharing in prayer remain with me even now.

One of the great opportunities to challenge my own thinking was the issue of 'Women in Ministry/Church' and people were very helpful when I circulated questionnaires on this matter. The results proved interesting and extremely helpful in the completion of my placement project. I expected some antagonism as I sought to look further at this issue but there was none. The folks of the fellowship showed real sensitivity in this area and appreciated the different view points which I tried to express.

John tried very hard to keep me busy – or maybe it was to keep me out of mischief! He proved to be a very good 'teacher' and we spent some very valuable time together discussing various aspects of the Church's work. Having someone to 'shadow' you is not easy – even if it is a real learning tool – but John bore up well. Maybe he had some more grey hairs to prove it too! This placement gave me a better opportunity to learn much and I really want to thank all those who took me into their hearts and made me feel so welcome and at home. It was not only a time of learning and reflection but a time of much blessing and the making of many new friends. I pray that as the fellowship celebrates 75 years together that God will richly bless you in all that you seek to do for his Church and the community that He has placed you in.

Why were you attracted to Cathcart Baptist Church?

This question was asked of four families and they each responded in their own way.

The Davison family: We used to live in Anniesland and were involved in an evangelical Church of Scotland in the west end. We moved to Muirend at the end of 1988, two weeks after our twins were born. It was too far to travel in the long term, and we weren't part of the local Christian community. We felt that this would be even more of a disadvantage for our four children as they grew. For over a year we went to our usual Church on Sunday mornings, and one of us visited local Churches in the evenings. We liked Cathcart Baptist Church a lot, and

finally made the break from our old Church on Christmas Day 1990 after a replacement Sunday School teacher had at last been found for Andrew. Several important factors influenced our decision:

- ♦ Proximity to home. We could become part of the local Christian community, and our children could easily invite friends along and make friends they could see between Sundays
- ♦ The people were friendly and came to talk to us right at the start. This was not always the case in other churches!
- ♦ Children were catered for in week-night and Sunday activities. We were impressed by the Youth Fellowship and its programme as we looked forward to our children growing up.
- ♦ The preaching was good and we liked the systematic study system that we were used to.
- ♦ The congregation was not too large. We felt we wouldn't get lost in it and might be able to contribute something.
- ♦ We liked the idea of discussing Biblical themes in small housegroups (as they were called then), and the chance that this offered to get to know other Christians outside church services.

The Ferguson family: Time to move on – where will we go? We were looking for a church where our children would have friends who lived in the area and attended the same school. We decided to try Cathcart first as we already had two friends who worshipped there. We received a warm welcome and felt a sense of God's presence. The Church had been praying for families so we decided to stay for a while and look for God's guidance. Soon after our arrival more families came to worship at Cathcart, we had become involved in various activities and we never got round to trying anywhere else. We felt 'at home'.

The Mathers family: Seven years ago as a family we felt it was time for us to move on and look for a new church. Having come from a quieter service we really appreciated the music that was playing when we visited Cathcart Baptist for the first time. Our priority was our family and we really enjoyed the Christmas celebrations. There was a lot of emphasis placed on the children and we felt as a family we could grow and learn more of the love of God. We feel there was freedom within the Church. We liked the teaching and style of worship. Looking back we feel God has moved us all on and we have seen three of our children baptised. We are grateful for the way He brought us to Cathcart. Being involved with the life of the Church has helped make new friendships. We feel our family is well provided for and we look forward to serving God here. As He moves Cathcart Baptist forward we look to Him to guide our further steps at Cathcart.

The Stuart family: It was in the summer of 1992 that the Stuart family, Isobel, Paul and Suzanne (aged 2) made their way to Cathcart Baptist Church. We had been attending a Church elsewhere in Glasgow but felt the need to move. We knew of Cathcart from friends who attended there and were aware of its good reputation. From the first visit, we seemed to instinctively know that Cathcart was the right place for us to be. The atmosphere during the services was worshipful and relaxed. But in particular, we were impressed by the standard of preaching which was both challenging and stimulating and it did not take us long to make the step of attending on a regular basis and joining the membership formally.

What do some of our young people think of Cathcart Baptist Church ?

Emma Fullarton: Coming from a congregation of 30 people, to me Cathcart Baptist was BIG. Mind you I was about two feet shorter then. Over my nine years at the Church I think Cathcart B.C. has no fixed, or should I say, static, identity. (Although getting rid of the pews was a big step forward!). I am really pleased to say that I belong to a Church that adapts to address needs and has a steady stream of newcomers. Praise God, we have an alive Church, a variety of different types and ages of people and yet we are all part of one Church.

Scott L. Hanvey: As a youth member of Cathcart Baptist Church there are certain qualities about our worship which makes it extremely enjoyable. I have found that as an instrumentalist myself, music in Church is an excellent way to worship God and I have felt God's presence in a

very real way during these times. I think there are a couple of reasons why so many have found Cathcart to be a great place to worship God through music. Firstly the diversity of both instruments and music, catering for all tastes and therefore allowing for a greater freedom of self-expression. There is also a relaxed atmosphere, again allowing people to come before God and to worship Him as they like.

I have also found prayer to be a stronghold of the worship in Church, and indeed outside of Church. Members are regularly in intercession and in fact every Tuesday for the last few months there has been early morning prayer meetings under my very own roof. Furthermore, on Friday mornings at the Church and when the Youth Fellowship meet on Sunday evenings people are meeting to pray.

I feel, however, the most evident and most important way that people of Cathcart can worship God is through their lives. Their very being is a sacrifice to God as they continually strive for Christlikeness and witness to His grace and goodness.

Mark Hardy: When I first arrived at Cathcart Baptist Church I didn't quite know what to expect. On my first few visits I felt quite awkward as I didn't know any other young folk and I didn't know many of the songs that were being sung. Now that I have been attending our Church for almost six years I really enjoy worshipping as we sing a wide variety of songs such as old hymns and old and new praise and worship songs. I have to admit that I personally prefer the more modern songs, but I appreciate that other people may have other tastes and enjoy the older hymns and songs more. We also have a good youth group of about 20 students and I enjoy worshipping with them in YF as much as I do in the services. We have a few good young musicians who as well as helping us to worship they also perform in the Church band. I have never been to a Church where I enjoy the worship so much.

Maria Pexton: I first walked into Cathcart Baptist Church in the Spring of 1992. We had recently moved back to Glasgow and were looking round for a Church. After the first time there I felt that this was a Church in which I wanted to settle. I liked the size of the Church, not small, but not so big that it would take ages to get involved. I enjoyed the worship, and liked the messages. Very quickly I was made welcome and involved in the life of the Church. I felt then and continue to feel that it is the right place for me. It encourages me that recently several newcomers (not involved in Church), have come to the services and been blessed by the worship and the teaching. That is what I want to see, and why I am glad to be a member of Cathcart Baptist Church.

What does our community know about us or think of us ?

Our roving reporter called on ten homes on Merrylee Road, Glasserton Place, Glasserton Road, Burrelton Road, and Cherrybank Road and enquired as to what they knew of Cathcart Baptist Church. The answers received were not too encouraging!

- ♦ Most knew nothing about the Church some having lived in the area for many years.
- ♦ One who has lived near the Church for 60 years plus knew the Revs. Andrews and some of the members then, but knows nothing of the Church now.
- ♦ Three were not aware of what our Church did but they themselves attend Merrylee Parish Church.
- ♦ Another, ten years in the district, attended St. Gabriel's R.C. Church but had no knowledge of what we do or of our activities.
- ♦ Others felt the Church seemed to be active and much was going on.
- ♦ Another home felt the Church did a lot for young people and had a good reputation in the area.
- ♦ One householder expressed the opinion that the Church advertised its activities well.

Speaking generally our reporter was very disappointed by the lack of awareness of the community of the presence of a Baptist Church which has been in the district for 75 years! Is this something that should engage our attention?

Some Reminiscences

John Beattie has been an office-bearer of the Church for 34 years and has been at the hub of its thinking, planning and ministry for so long that we are sure has something to share. We asked him to comment on these years and he writes:

As I try to comment on the changes I have seen over my 40 years in membership at Cathcart, with most of them involved as a deacon and therefore privy to the reasoning behind the various changes, I find that, like the writer to the Hebrews, "Time would fail me". Things have changed or evolved, if a Christian is allowed to use that word, in very many ways.

Ministry: During the period I have enjoyed the ministry of men, all I believe called by God and bringing their individual and specific gifts to meet the needs of the Church at different periods in our history – or is it part of His Story as we so often say ?

Ron Armstrong with his zeal for evangelism and his desire to motivate members with his humorous phrases like 'too many Christians marching to Zion with their feet up on the mantelpiece'.

Bert Allsopp with his strong emphasis on Christian principles in opposition to the permissive society of his day.

Chris Brown with his caring, teaching ministry.

John Smith with his concern that the Church should evangelise in contemporary ways and be open to trends in worship and Church government.

Innovation: The Church has always been at the forefront of modern methods, using slides, film, overhead projector and video. Our Church newsletter and printed intimation sheet were introduced at an early date.

Structure: For some time now the introduction of sub-groups of the Deacons' Court (some with non-deacons in their membership) have aided the administration, decision making and government of the Church. In particular we no longer use the 'volunteer' or 'availability' methods of staffing organisations. In recent years one disappointing feature has been that members appear less willing to express their views at Business Meetings. The recent decision to allow ladies to stand as Deacons has allowed the ladies another avenue of service.

The Past: Over the years the emphasis has been developed that the Church is for the outsider. Is this really true? The Church, of course, is not a pile of bricks, however cleverly put together, but living stones bound together by the chief corner stone and commissioned by the One who came to build His Church to reach out into all the world. Quite a few members have been called into full time service at home and abroad.

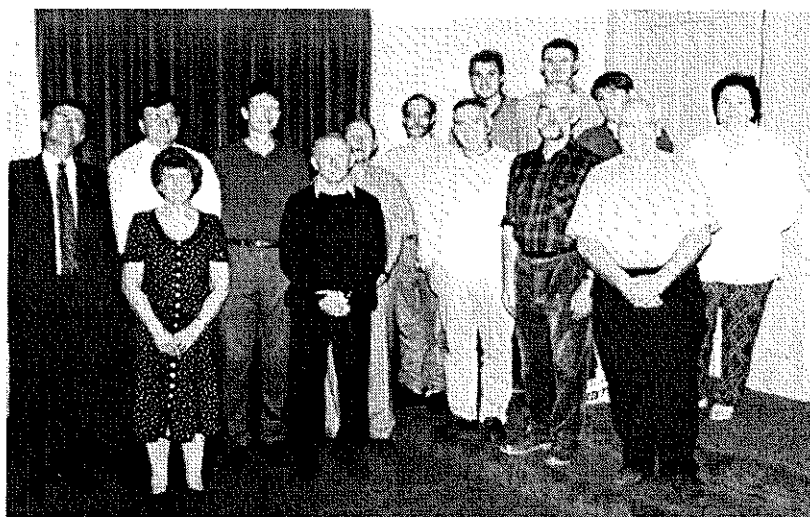
The Future: The future, to be worthwhile, must continue to be part of His Story. I remember on one occasion when discussing the possible influx of a large number of young people dressed in jeans (of all things) the comment was made, 'It won't be too long before they are just like us'. Obviously a most undesirable attitude – and possibly one of the reasons we did not receive the large influx of young people at that time! While we appear to have got beyond the 'dress' thing I feel the danger of seeking conformity still exists, although in a different form. Personally I feel we need to be cautious in conforming to contemporary patterns of worship etc.

Over the years, we have welcomed 'professional' help with evangelistic missions and more recently with our Youth Work through Gena and the YFC 24:7 team, and this has been excellent. We must ensure, however, as future strategies are planned so that the involvement of our present and future members of all ages is encouraged as God gifts us for service in Cathcart Baptist Church, or with its support if He calls some to serve outwith the Fellowship. We are, after all, saved to serve and must never grow weary in our service. No one is past their 'use by' date!

Cathcart Baptist Church at worship - October 1998



The Deacons in 1998



Left to right:

Ken Forrest, Paul Stuart, Elizabeth Hanvey, Andrew Davison (Secretary),
Allistaire Ferguson, George Clarkson, Chris Hardy, Mark Pexton,
John Smith (Minister), Fraser Hanvey, David Blenkinson,
Gena Wilson (Youth Leader), Ian Grant (Treasurer), Christine Mathers

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

As well as setting down a short history of Cathcart Baptist Church, the aim in these pages has been to express appreciation of the vision, dedication and united effort of men and women who sought and received God's inspiration and help to fulfil their calling as disciples of Jesus Christ.

In 1923, a group of people had a vision for a growing district of Glasgow, and set about ensuring that the residents would have the opportunity to learn of the Saviour. We do well in these days to remember that it is the same faithful God who worked then as works now, and that those of us who build now do so on a foundation laid in obedience by many others over three-quarters of a century.

While we can reflect with thanksgiving on times that are gone, even long gone, we cannot and should not limit our thinking to the past. We too have to have our 'dream' or vision for this age. In the present day we are discovering new means to communicate our faith and fresh ways to make it a living reality in an ever-changing world. We will have successes and failures, just like those who came before us. Whatever our experiences, we should remember that practical perfection is an aspiration, not a requirement, and that whatever our perceptions, God is ultimately in the success business.

As we look to the future, we hope that our worship will not be confined to the times when we gather together but will become a whole lifestyle in which everything we do in word or deed will be done in the name of Jesus Christ. As a Church, we need to strive to make our message and witness relevant. We need to examine ourselves and find the answers to many questions. Is our Church going to look back or look forwards? Are we going to look out or continue to look in? We need to recognise the opportunities that God sends and grasp them boldly, creatively, wholeheartedly, prayerfully. We need to explore relevant ways of creating avenues of communication that will ensure reliable bridges are built between the Church and the non-attending public. Sadly, it seems that we sometimes unintentionally build brick walls. We need to reject the defeatism which just accepts things as they are because they have always been this way, and develop the divine discontent which, in the life and strength of Jesus Christ, enables us to battle to change them.

At the end of 1998, Cathcart Baptist Church is looking ahead in several ways: to God's choice of a new pastor, to enhancement of our vision, to further development of our facilities and to the new millennium. One thing is for sure - our task of proclaiming the good news by life, word and deed is unfinished business. We should continue to recognise that participation in this unfinished business is the responsibility of us all, not just the pastor or enthusiastic Church member. We should accept the fact that, whatever our individual gifts and limitations, God has chosen each and every one of us 'for such a time as this'. Let us look ahead with confidence, believing with those who went before that 'we do not know what the future holds, but we do know who holds the future'.

Membership, Ministries and Administration

The Membership of the church has fluctuated over the years as the following five-yearly statistics indicate:-

1923	45	1943	215	1963	229	1983	145
1928	112	1948	158	1968	203	1988	125
1933	91	1953	211	1973	181	1993	147
1948	171	1958	285	1978	151	1998	149

OUR MINISTERS

Rev. Thomas Stewart, MA	1923 - 1926
Rev. Alexander Clark	1926 - 1929
Rev. Duncan. J. M. McIve, MA	1931 - 1933
Rev. Joseph S. Andrews	1934 - 1937
Rev. J. Stanley Andrews, MA	1938 - 1942
Rev. George. M. Hardie, MA, BD	1943 - 1949
Rev. Kingsley G. Rendell, MA	1951 - 1957
Rev. Ronald Armstrong	1958 - 1965
Rev. Bert. J. Allsopp	1966 - 1975
Rev. Chris. J. Brown, BA, BD	1976 - 1983
Rev. John S. Smith, BSc, BD	1985 - 1998

OUR TREASURERS

Mr. Alexander McAslan	1923 - 1930
Mr. James S. Noble	1930 - 1943
Mr. James Tweedie	1943 - 1947
Mr. James Harri	1947 - 1951
Mr. Robert Young	1951 - 1957
Mr. Arnold Mitchell	1957 - 1968
Mr. John Beattie	1968 - 1971
Mr. Jos Straughton	1971 - 1973
Mr. Robert McNair	1973 - 1989
Mr. Ian Grant	1989 -

OUR SECRETARIES

Mr. George Young	- A few months in 1923
Mr. John A. S. MacLean	1923 - 1930
Mr. James B. Salmon	1930 - 1938
Mr. W. L. McAslan	1939 - 1949
Mr. James I. Leask	1949 - 1959
Mr. David Cairney	1959 - 1965
Mr. John Beattie	1965 - 1968
Mr. David Cairney	1968 - 1971
Mr. John Beattie	1971 - 1988
Mr. Andrew Davison	1988 -

OUR MANSES

First	25 Kilmailing Road, Cathcart
Second	110 Merrylee Road, Newlands
Third	20 Largie Road, Newlands
Present	24 Holmhead Road, Cathcart

PRESENT DAY ACTIVITIES

Sunday	11.00 a.m.	Family Service with Communion, Crèche, Sunday School, Springboard Bible Class
	6.30 p.m.	Evening Service
	7.45 p.m.	Youth Fellowship
Monday	6.30 p.m.	Adventurers and In Scene for Primary School Children
Tuesday	7.00 a.m.	Prayer Time
	10.00 a.m.	Mothers and Toddlers Group
Wednesday	2.00 p.m.	Senior Citizens Club
	7.45 p.m.	Fellowship Groups
Friday	7.00 p.m.	Youth Club