

Church of Scotland -- Presbytery of Orkney

Dedication and Opening Service

of the

Moncur Memorial Church
Stronsay



Wednesday, 11th May, 1955, at 1 p.m.

MONCUR MEMORIAL CHURCH,
STRONSAY

Dedication Service

Officiating Ministers

Rt. Rev. E. D. JARVIS, D.D.,
Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

Rev. V. C. POGUE, B.D.,
Moderator of the Presbytery of Orkney.

Rev. D. A. WILLIAMS, B.D.,
Clerk of the Presbytery of Orkney.

Rev. E. P. G. FOX,
Minister of the Church and Parish of Stronsay.

Also taking part:

Mrs. JARVIS,
President of the Woman's Guild of the Church of Scotland.

Mrs. FOX,
President, Stronsay Woman's Guild,

and

SHERIFF PRAIN,
representing the Trustees of the estate of the late Alexander Moncur,

Order of Service

The Congregation being assembled, the doors shall be closed two minutes before the appointed time. The Moderator of the General Assembly and the Moderator of the Presbytery with the other members of Presbytery present shall proceed to the main door of the Church. The congregation shall wait in silence.

Knocking at the door the Moderator of the General Assembly shall say:

OPEN to me the gates of righteousness: I will go into them, and I will praise the Lord.

The door shall then be opened from within by representatives of the Congregation. The Clerk of the Presbytery shall deliver the keys of the Church to the Moderator of the General Assembly saying:

IN token that this building has been erected for the Church of Scotland, I deliver to you the keys thereof, and pray you now to dedicate it to the worship of Almighty God.

The Moderator shall answer:

IN the name of the Church of Scotland we accept the keys, in token of the trust committed to us. We are ready to proceed to the Dedication.

Passing within the inner door of the Church, the Moderator shall pause and say:

PEACE be to this House, and all who worship therein. Peace be to those that enter, and to those that go out therefrom. Peace be to those that love it, and that love the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Moderators and others shall then go to their respective places. The Moderator shall lay the keys on the Holy Table. The first part of the service shall be conducted by the Clerk of the Presbytery.

Call to worship.

Then shall be sung PSALM 100. Tune: Old Hundredth.

ALL people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell.
Come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;
Without our aid he did us make:
We are his flock, he doth us feed,
And for his sheep he doth us take.

O enter then his gates with praise,
Approach with joy his courts unto:
Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good,
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood
And shall from age to age endure.

Call to Prayer.

PRAYERS

The Scripture Lessons shall be read by the Minister of the Parish.

OLD TESTAMENT LESSON: I. Kings, chap. 8, vv. 22-23 and 27-30.

and

NEW TESTAMENT LESSONS: Ephesians, chap. 2, vv. 13-22.

St. John, chap. 4, vv. 19-24.

Then shall be sung PSALM 24, vv. 7-10. Tune: St. George's, Edinburgh.

YE gates, lift up your heads on high;
Ye doors that last for aye,
Be lifted up, that so the King
Of glory enter may.

But who of glory is the King?
The mighty Lord is this;
Ev'n that same Lord, that great in might
And strong in battle is.

Ye gates, lift up your heads; ye doors,
Doors that do last for aye,
Be lifted up, that so the King
Of glory enter may.

But who is he that is the King
Of glory? who is this?
The Lord of hosts, and none but he,
The King of glory is.

THE SERMON by the Moderator of the General Assembly, concluding with an Ascription of Praise in these words following:

NOW unto Him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us; unto Him be glory in the Church by Christ Jesus, throughout all ages, world without end. *Amen.*

Then shall be sung HYMN 183, vv. 1-3, 5, and 7.

SPIRIT Divine, attend our prayers,
And make this house Thy home;
Descend with all Thy gracious powers;
O come, great Spirit, come!

Come as the Light: to us reveal
Our emptiness and woe;
And lead us in those paths of life
Where all the righteous go.

Come as the Fire: and purge our hearts
Like sacrificial flame;
Let our whole soul an offering be
To our Redeemer's name.

Come as the Dove: and spread Thy wings,
The wings of peaceful love;
And let Thy Church on earth become
Blest as the Church above.

Spirit Divine, attend our prayers;
Make a lost world Thy home;
Descend with all Thy gracious powers;
O come, great Spirit, come!

The Moderator of the Presbytery shall then say:

BELOVED brethren, this House, which has been built for the honour and worship of Almighty God, we shall now solemnly dedicate unto the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, one living and true God, to whom be glory and majesty, dominion and power, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

All standing, the Moderator of Presbytery shall continue:

IN the name of the Lord Jesus Christ we do this.

To the glory of God the Father, who has called us by His grace:
To the glory of the Son, who loves us and gave Himself for us:
And to the glory of the Holy Spirit, who illumines and sanctifies us:

We dedicate this House.

All shall respond: AMEN.

FOR the worship of God in praise and prayer:

For the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, crucified, risen, and exalted:
For the celebration of the Holy Sacraments of His grace:

We dedicate this House.

All shall respond: AMEN.

FOR the giving of comfort to all who mourn:

Of strength to all who are tempted:

Of light to all who seek the way:

We dedicate this House.

All shall respond: AMEN.

FOR the hallowing of family life:

For the teaching and guiding of the young:

For the upbuilding of all who believe and the perfecting of the saints:

We dedicate this House.

All shall respond: AMEN.

FOR the increase of righteousness:

For the spread of the spirit of love:

And for the extension of the Kingdom of God:

We dedicate this House.

All shall respond: AMEN.

The whole Congregation shall say with the Moderator:

AND now, as a people within the household of God:

In the unity of the faith:

In the communion of saints:

In love and goodwill to all:

In gratitude for the gift of this House to be an habitation of God through the Spirit:

We dedicate ourselves anew to the worship of God and the service
of His Kingdom :

In the name of the Father
and of the Son
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

*There shall then follow PRAYERS OF DEDICATION by the Moderator of
the General Assembly, ending with the Lord's Prayer.*

*All still standing the Moderator of the General Assembly shall declare the
Church dedicated to the service of Almighty God, saying:*

IN the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, I do now
declare this House to be set apart from all profane and common uses, and
to be consecrated to the worship and service of Almighty God: to whom be
glory and majesty, dominion and power, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

DEDICATION OF CHANCEL WINDOW

*All still standing, Mrs. Fox and Mrs. Jarvis shall go to the stained-glass window
and Mrs. Fox shall ask Mrs. Jarvis to unveil and dedicate the window, saying:*

IN the name of the Woman's Guild of Stronsay Church I ask you to unveil
and dedicate this window.

Mrs. Jarvis shall reply saying:

OUR help is in the name of the Lord who made heaven and earth.
He hath made everything beautiful in its time.

Honour and majesty are before Him: strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.

Forasmuch as God has put it into the hearts of the Woman's Guild of the
Congregation of Stronsay to adorn and beautify this House it is meet and right
that we should now dedicate this window to the glory of God who is the source
of all beauty and loveliness.

Here the window shall be unveiled.

In the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ and to the glory of God I dedicate
this window.

PRAYERS OF DEDICATION by the Moderator of Presbytery.

DEDICATION OF MEMORIAL TABLET

The Moderators with the representative of the Alexander Moncur Trustees shall proceed to the West Wall of the Church for the dedication of the Memorial Tablet.

The representative of the Trustees shall unveil the Memorial and say:

IN the name of the Alexander Moncur Trustees I ask you to dedicate this Memorial to the Glory of God and in memory of Alexander Moncur.

The Moderator of the General Assembly shall pronounce the words of dedication:

IN the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ I dedicate this Memorial to the glory of God and in memory of His Servant, Alexander Moncur, through whose generous benefaction commemorating his grandfather Rev. James Mudie and his mother Eliza Moncur, this Church has been built, and this day consecrated to the worship of Almighty God.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF DEDICATION by the Moderator of the General Assembly.

The two Moderators and the representative of the Trustees shall return to their places. Then the Moderator of the General Assembly shall deliver the keys of the Church to the Minister, who shall come forward to receive them, and say:

THE keys of this Church, now dedicated to the worship and service of Almighty God, I deliver to you for safe keeping in token of your office as Minister of Word and Sacrament in this parish.

The Minister, Rev. E. P. G. Fox, shall reply:

AS the Minister of Word and Sacrament in this parish and in token thereof I accept the keys of this Church for safe keeping.

All shall be seated.

Then shall be sung PSALM 72, vv. 17-19. Tune: Effingham.

HIS name for ever shall endure;
last like the sun it shall:
Men shall be bless'd in him, and bless'd
all nations shall him call.

Now blessed the Lord our God,
the God of Israel,
For he alone doth wondrous works,
in glory that excel.

And blessed be his glorious name
to all eternity:
The whole earth let his glory fill.
Amen, so let it be.

THE OFFERINGS shall be received, and laid on the Holy Table.

PRAYERS by the Moderator of the Presbytery.

Then shall be sung PSALM 122, vv. 6-9. Tune: Harrington.

PRAY that Jerusalem may have
peace and felicity:
Let them that love thee and thy peace
have still prosperity.

Therefore I wish that peace may still
within thy walls remain,
And ever may thy palaces
prosperity retain.

Now, for my friends' and brethren's sakes,
Peace be in thee, I'll say,
And for the house of God our Lord,
I'll seek thy good alway.

THE BENEDICTION by the Moderator of the General Assembly.

CHORAL AMEN

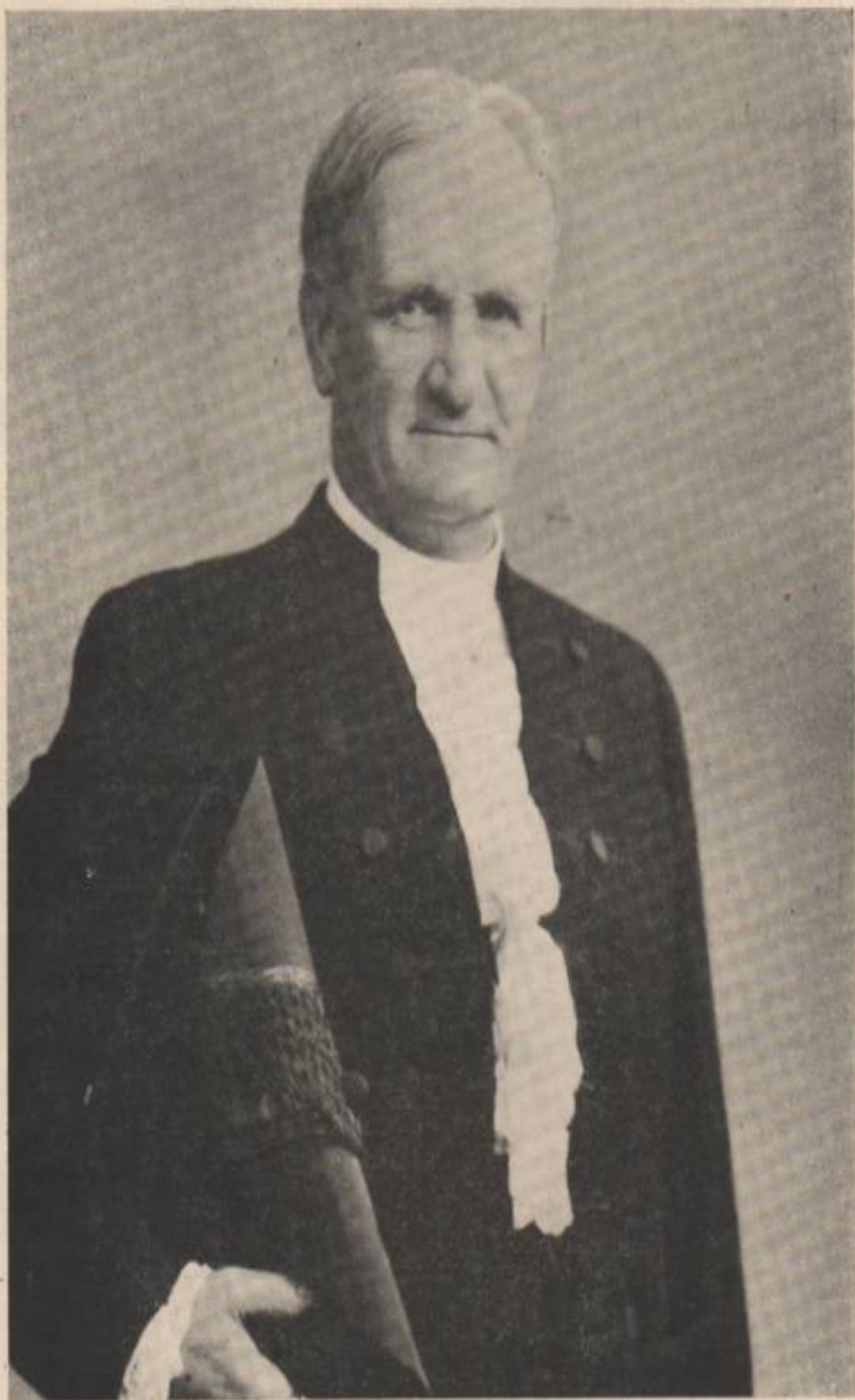
After a pause the Congregation shall stand and sing HYMN 16 while the officiating Ministers and those with them withdraw.

PRAISE the Lord, His glories show,
Hallelujah!
Saints within His courts below,
Hallelujah!
Angels round His throne above,
Hallelujah!
All that see and share His love,
Hallelujah!

Earth to heaven, and heaven to earth,
Tell His wonders, sing His worth;
Age to age and shore to shore,
Praise Him, praise Him evermore!

Praise the Lord, His mercies trace;
Praise His providence and grace,
All that He for man hath done,
All He sends us through His Son.

Strings and voices, hands and hearts,
In the concert bear your parts;
All that breathe, your Lord adore,
Praise Him, praise Him evermore!



*Rt. Rev. E. D. JARVIS, D.D.,
Moderator of the General Assembly*

Moncur Memorial Church

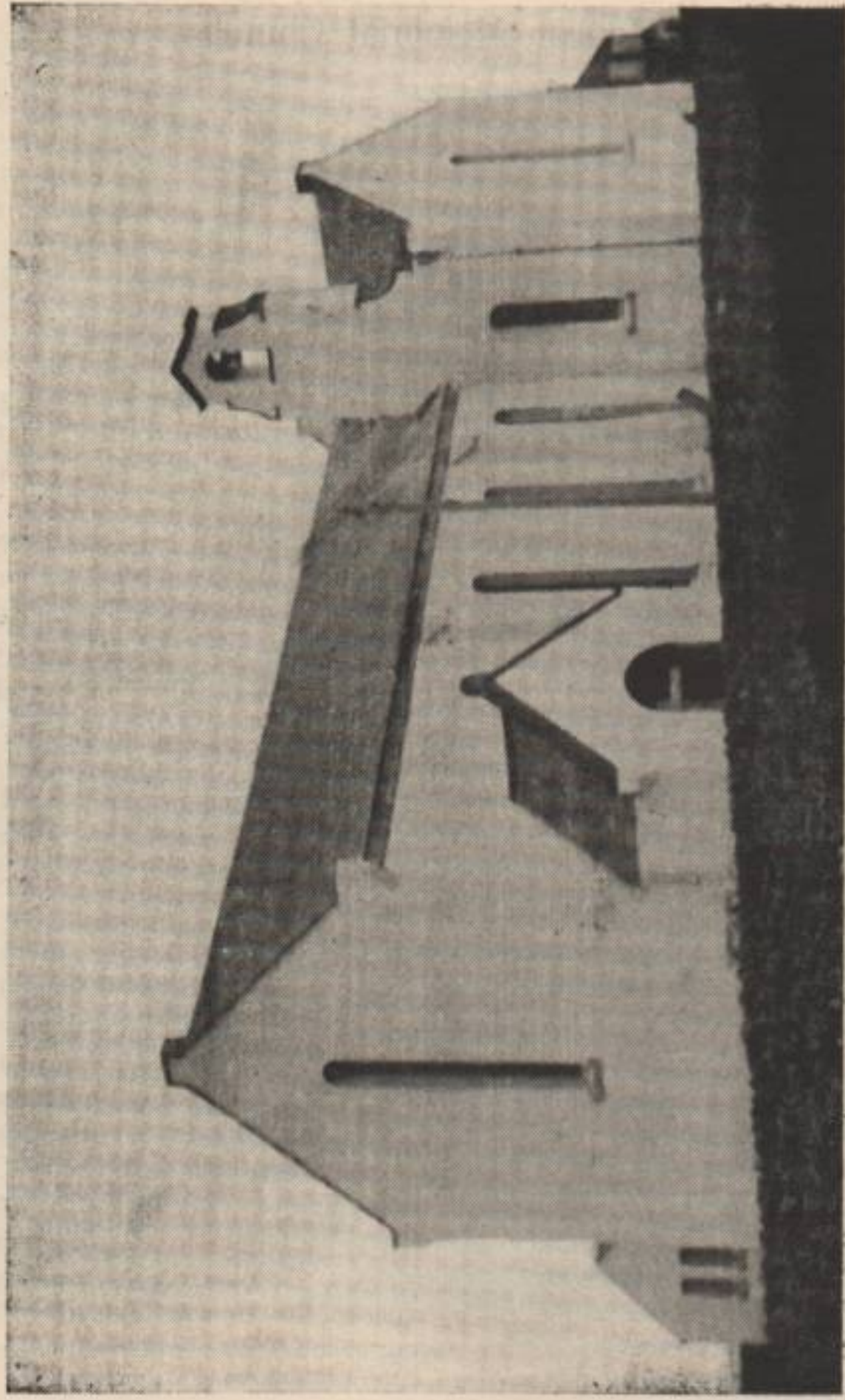
THE Moncur Memorial Church owes its inception to a legacy from the late Alexander Moncur of Dundee. He was born in 1868 and his life was passed in Dundee where he was a partner in the firm of Alexander Moncur and Son, Jute Manufacturers. For some little time prior to his death, which occurred at the end of 1944, illness prevented him from taking an active share in the business activities of the firm. His principal interest outside his business affairs lay in music, particularly organ music. Though he performed at the organ himself, he never did so in public. Mr. Moncur was unmarried.

Mr. Moncur had a connection with Stronsay through his maternal grandfather, Rev. James Mudie, who was minister of the United Presbyterian Congregation in Stronsay from 1825 to 1860, and of his mother who had known Stronsay as a little girl. In memory of them he left a sum of money to build and equip a church on the island of Stronsay. The Presbytery of Orkney has been very intimately connected with the building of the church as, under the terms of Mr Moncur's will, the legacy was left to the Presbytery. In consequence the Presbytery are the Trustees of the Moncur Memorial Church.

A Memorial Tablet has been placed on the West Wall of the church immediately below the single window in that wall and visible to all as they enter by the main doorway. It bears the inscription: "To the glory of God and in memory of Alexander Moncur, born 21st February, 1868—died 29th December, 1944, by whose generous benefaction commemorating his grandfather, Rev. James Mudie, and his mother, Eliza Moncur, this church was built. Dedicated 11th May, 1955."

The new church is the successor of all the various places of worship built at different times in the course of the centuries on the island. Happily the days are now over when secession and disruption created more than one congregation in Orkney parishes. Shortly after the Union of the Church of Scotland and the United Free Church of Scotland in 1929 the two congregations in Stronsay united to form one congregation of the Church of Scotland in that island. It was then decided to worship in what had formerly been the United Presbyterian church—a building erected towards the close of the ministry of Rev. James Mudie. Into that union there was brought from the various Christian traditions of the past a rich and glorious heritage of worship and witness. With the dedication and opening of the Moncur Memorial Church the congregation of Stronsay are proceeding to add a new chapter to the heritage of the past.

MONCUR MEMORIAL CHURCH



Architect: Leslie Grahame MacDougall, R.S.A., F.R.I.B.A., P.R.I.A.S.

Architectural Design of the Church

PERHAPS the best way to describe the church is to say that it is founded on the traditional style of building in Orkney, i.e., with laminated stone, which is so common, for the walls, with timber truss for the roof, and slates of the local type. The latter came from a quarry in Caithness while the stone for the walls was quarried in Stronsay itself. A blue whinstone was used in the building of the walls with a dressing of red sandstone at their base and for the base of the pulpit.

All old Orkney buildings have a peculiar feature which is to be found practically nowhere else and which has been incorporated into the design of the Moncur Memorial Church, viz.—the roof is at a pitch of exactly 45 degrees. The chief element that went to the making of the design was the 12th century Church of St. Magnus on the island of Egilsay (now a ruin, but fairly complete except for its roof, which was removed last century). This might be described as an extremely simple Norse variation of Romanesque. However, this cannot be considered a fully accurate description as both St. Magnus Church, Egilsay, and the Moncur Memorial Church also owe their building form to the straightforward simple use of the one and only building material to hand, viz., the Orkney laminated stone. Thus from the architectural point of view it did not really matter whether the century was the 12th or the 20th—the use of local building material tended to produce identical or nearly identical results in both centuries.

As for the general design of the Moncur Memorial Church itself, the plan is a straightforward cruciform one, which, of course, St. Magnus Church, Egilsay, is not. The former is therefore an advance on the earlier design. In the Nave the windows, and also those in the Transepts, are plain circle-headed ones, while the floor is laid with wood blocks. The timber roof of both Nave and Chancel is of the open king post type. The main entrance door to the church is at the west end of the south wall of the Nave. The eastern end of the long Nave is flanked by the two Transepts (reached through the arches). The north Transept leads into the hall and the vestry. Through a simple circle-headed arch is the Chancel which is higher than the Nave to give a feeling of dignity and uplift. The steps leading up to, and the floor of, the Chancel are laid with flag-stone quarried in Sandwick. Two clerestory windows give light in the Chancel from each side, while the long, narrow window in stained-glass in the east wall of the Chancel increases, within the small compass available (for the church is not a large one), the apparent loftiness of the building.

The original intention was to expose the stone-work both outside and inside, but for various reasons it was decided to abandon this, and to harl the building without and rough plaster within. Such finishes, besides giving an exceedingly pleasing appearance, are in themselves the time-honoured method of completing buildings—practically all Scots buildings in mediaeval times being harled without. The length of the Nave is 66 feet with a width of 24 feet. The corresponding dimensions of the Chancel are 30 feet and 15½ feet, while the walls are 24 feet high.

The Moncur Memorial Church was designed by an Edinburgh architect, Mr. Leslie Grahame MacDougall. It was built by an Orkney contractor, Mr. E. R. M. Firth, who employed a number of Stronsay workmen, while the plumber work and plaster work were done by Messrs. John Rendall and Andrew Tait, both of Kirkwall, respectively. The laying of the wood block floor—a specialist job—was carried out by a Glasgow firm, Messrs. A. M. MacDougall and Son, Ltd.

In the early days of the work much valuable help and advice were given by Mr. Eunson, Clerk of Works to the Orkney Education Committee, until it became possible to appoint a Clerk of Works for the job. The Presbytery gratefully acknowledges the willing assistance rendered by Mr. Eunson. Mr. F. Campbell of Kirkwall very ably served in the capacity of Clerk of Works until illness compelled him to resign when he was succeeded by Mr. D. Fotheringham. To these three who served the Presbytery in a technical capacity, to all who laboured to see that the church was completed, to the Rev. and Mrs. E. P. G. Fox who provided hospitality for the Architect and the Presbytery Clerk on many occasions, and to the Alexander Moncur Trustees for their interest and co-operation, the Presbytery would take this opportunity of expressing its sincere and cordial thanks.

CHANCEL WINDOW

The Chancel Window, bearing the inscription, "I am the Good Shepherd," is the gift of the Stronsay Woman's Guild. The design shows the figure of Christ as the Good Shepherd carrying a lamb on His shoulder. He is standing on stony ground, and round His feet a thorn is growing from among the stones. At the bottom are words from Isaiah, chapter 53, verse 4—"Surely he hath borne our griefs." At the top of the window, breaking into the blue background, is the symbol of the Cross.

The window was designed by two Edinburgh artists—Miss Margaret Chilton, A.R.C.A., London, R.W.A., and Miss Marjorie Kemp, Diploma, Glasgow School of Art.

Symbolic Carvings on Furnishings

ON the furnishings, which were supplied by Messrs. Whytock and Reid, Edinburgh, there are a number of Christian Motifs. These symbolic carvings are not new but have been in use throughout the history of the Christian Church from very early times.

COMMUNION TABLE. The central feature here is the symbolic lamb or Agnus Dei or Lamb of God. The Lamb is the earliest symbol of our Lord's Passion. It is the symbol of sacrifice. Early Christians, also, loved to dwell on the kindness and gentleness of the Saviour as typified by this figure.

MINISTER'S CHAIR. The motif on the Chair is the Cross with the symbol of the Trinity in the middle. This symbol is formed by the interlacing of three portions of circles and is frequently met with in Celtic Crosses.

PULPIT. On the front panel of the pulpit is the symbol of the Burning Bush. It is the symbolical emblem of the Church of Scotland and of Presbyterianism generally. On the two flanking panels are the symbols of corn and grapes which represent Bread and Wine.

BAPTISMAL FONT. The figure of the Dove on the lectern is symbolical of the Holy Spirit. From the 6th century the Holy Spirit was almost exclusively represented under the form of a Dove. In representations of the Baptism of our Lord at Jordan the Dove is shown in the act of descending upon Him with outstretched wings, a beam of light issuing from its beak and falling upon the Saviour.

LECTERN. The Lectern bears the sacred monogram which is formed from the first two letters of the Greek word from Christ—XPISTOS. The earliest monograms found on the tombs in the catacombs of Rome are formed by the interlacing of those two letters X and P.

Acknowledgment of Gifts

THE Presbytery desires to place on record its appreciation of the many gifts that have been received by the Kirk Session of Stronsay for the Moncur Memorial Church and expresses its sincere and grateful thanks to all the donors of gifts, and to all those who have intimated to the Minister, Rev. E. P. G. Fox, promises of assistance for furnishings not yet selected.

OFFICE-BEARERS



Back Row (left to right)—D. Chalmers, P. Fotheringham, S. Cooper, J. Shearer, D. Fotheringham, W. Cooper, P. Chalmers, J. Maxwell, and A. Williamson.
Front Row (left to right)—S. Maxwell, J. Miller, J. Chalmers, W. Work, E. P. G. Fox, J. Drever, R. Stevenson, and I. Houston.



A Note by Rev. E. P. G. Fox

WHEN a person is privileged to be the first minister in a newly-built church there must be a spiritual experience similar to that which he experiences at his induction to his first charge. On that occasion he wishes to leave behind the past, the toil and sweat put into the preparation for such a great and momentous day. With grateful thanksgiving to God he eagerly awaits His marching orders into the unknown future in His service. Then comes the first Call to his first parish. He knows he has to uphold the glorious tradition of former ministers in the parish who, like himself, were called there to do the Master's work.

This is my first charge and I follow the glorious tradition of many fine and noble ministers. I also hold the privileged and honoured position of being the first minister to officiate in the Moncur Memorial Church. I feel that my experience is unique.

I should like to leave behind the past with all the difficulties, hardships and worries which accompanied the construction and completion of the new building. Yet I must record my warmest appreciation of the excellent co-operation and assistance received from Rev. D. A. Williams, B.D., Clerk to the Presbytery of Orkney, and from my faithful Kirk Session, Congregational Board, Congregation, Woman's Guild, and friends in and out of Stronsay. With the help of Almighty God and the prayerful support of His followers let us go forward to this Act of Dedication, not only of the Moncur Memorial Church, but also of ourselves, in the knowledge that "We took sweet counsel together, and walked unto the house of God in company."

Office-bearers of Stronsay Church

REV. EDWARD P. G. FOX *Minister*

KIRK SESSION

MR. J. DREVER, M.A., Schoolhouse,
Session Clerk and Organist

MR. W. WORK, Holland,
Treasurer and Clerk of Congregational Board

MR. D. CHALMERS, Bankhouse,
Treasurer to Home and Foreign Missions

MR. J. CHALMERS, Lodge

MR. J. COOPER, Odness

MR. S. COOPER, Midgarth

MR. J. MILLER, Millbank

MR. J. SHEARER, Ryburn

MR. W. SPENCE, Airy

MR. R. STEVENSON, Bu'

MR. A. WILLIAMSON, Castlehill

MEMBERS OF CONGREGATIONAL BOARD

MR. J. CHALMERS, Housebay

MR. P. CHALMERS, Eastbank

MR. W. COOPER, Millfield

MR. W. COOPER, Cleat

MR. P. FOTHERINGHAME, Hazelbank

MR. D. FOTHERINGHAME, Hescombe

MR. I. HOURSTON, Mount Pleasant

MR. W. MAXWELL, Sunnyside

MR. S. MAXWELL, Dale.

MR. J. MAXWELL, Olivebank

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MRS. CHALMERS, Northcliffe, *Deputy Organist.*

MR. J. MOODIE, Daisybank, *Church Officer*

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WOMAN'S GUILD

MRS. E. P. G. FOX, The Manse, *President*

MRS. CROY, Smiddy, *Vice-President*

MRS. SINCLAIR, Millfield, *Secretary*

MISS SHEARER, Park Cottage, *Treasurer*

List of Gifts

CHANCEL WINDOW	Stronsay Woman's Guild
PULPIT HYMN BOOK AND PSALTER	Stronsay Sunday School
VASES	Badminton Club
PULPIT FALL	Anonymous
BIBLE MARKER	Anonymous
PULPIT BIBLE	Anonymous
PRAISE BOARD AND CARDS	Anonymous
OFFERING BAGS	Anonymous
COMMUNION TABLE LECTERN	Anonymous
CHURCH BELL	Anonymous
CARPETS	Anonymous
PSALTER FOR ORGAN	Anonymous
CABINET FOR COMMUNION VESSELS	Anonymous
LECTERN BIBLE	Anonymous
VISITORS' BOOK	Anonymous
DONATIONS TOWARDS NEW ORGAN	Anonymous
VISITORS' HYMN BOOKS	Anonymous

Also GIFTS OF MONEY and Promises of Assistance for Furnishings
not yet selected.