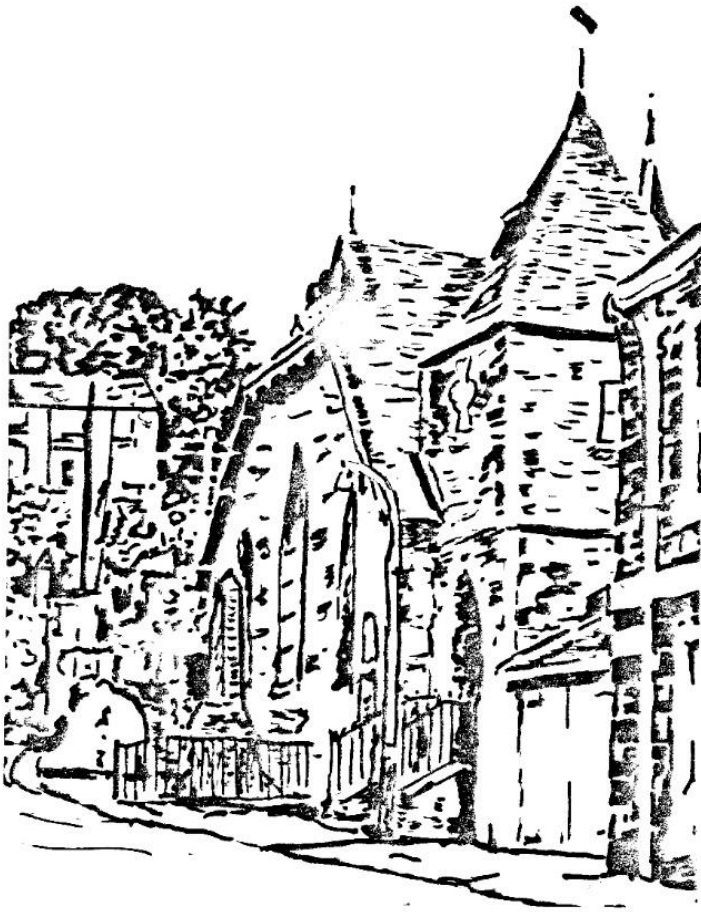
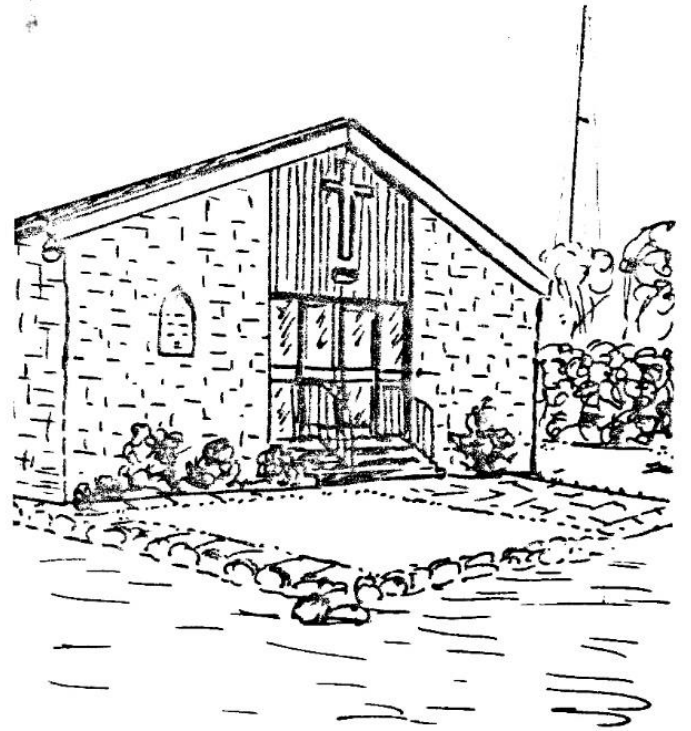


North Queensferry Church



1878

1978



NORTH QUEENSFERRY CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Centenary Issue

NEWSLETTER

June 1978

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EDITORIAL

For the first time the Church's Newsletter is being distributed around the whole village. There are arguments for and against this, but in view of the Centenary Celebrations and the Summer Fete at the end of June, how better than this to let everyone know what is going on? We are very conscious of the support given by the whole village - members and non-members alike and this is very encouraging.

It is hoped that a magazine of some form can be distributed on a fairly regular basis in the same way. The Church is, or should be an integral part of the community, particularly in a small village like North Queensferry. It is intended that the proposed magazine will reflect this principle by being a means of communication for the village as a whole and therefore put the Church and its activities in context with everything else that is going on.

In this issue we are concentrating on the Centenary and the Summer Fete. By the time this newsletter is distributed the village Gala will just about be over so there is little that can be said. If the same effort is applied this year as was put in last year it should be a very worthwhile event - and by all accounts a greater effort is being applied.

The Church's Summer Fete is taking place on 24th June and very shortly Church Members will be selling Tea Tickets from door to door. Full details of the whole event are given elsewhere in this Newsletter. One special item is the sale of Notelets to commemorate the Centenary. These have been specially produced and depict the old Church built in 1878. These will be sold at 40p for a packet of 10 including envelopes.

Come along and join us on the 24th June at 2.00 p.m.

The actual Centenary occurs on 14th July. In view of the holiday season, this will be partially celebrated on 25th June at the Communion Service and later on in September with a service of re-dedication and a social. Full details will be circulated closer to the time.

'THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH IN NORTH QUEENSFERRY'

by Peter Dean

The Centenary that we celebrate this year marks only a small portion of the Christian history of this village, which may well have originated with the Culdee Missionaries in the Dark Ages. A milestone in the religious history of the village occurred in 1079 when Queen Margaret landed near the village on her way to seek refuge in Dunfermline. After her marriage with Malcolm Canmore she was active in the social, temporal and spiritual affairs of her adoptive country. As far as this village is concerned, the establishment here of a free ferry service across the Forth and of dwellings on both sides of the Forth in order that pilgrims and the poor might find refreshment and lodgings, are amongst her most important achievements. Queen Margaret was made a saint in 1250 and, incidentally, has left this village its beautiful name.

The earliest reference to the Chapel of North Queensferry, whose ruins stand in the centre of the village to the east of the main street, follows Bannockburn (1314) when Robert the Bruce granted it to Dunfermline Abbey. The wording of the Grant implies that even then it had been standing for a long time. The Chapel was dedicated to St James, patron saint of travellers, which was appropriate for a ferry village through which thousands of travellers passed. One traveller, James IV of Scotland made offerings at the Chapel on two occasions.

Robert the Bruce's gift was made for the safety of his own soul and those of his ancestors and successors. It had several conditions -

1. The monks were to provide two Chaplains to celebrate Divine Service in the Chapel for all time.
2. They were to repair the Chapel and keep it up at their own expense.
3. They were to provide it with a chalice, vestments, books and other usual and necessary ornaments.

In 1479 the office of Chaplain was established anew by the Abbot of Dunfermline which indicates a discontinuity. The new Chaplain was Sir David Storey who was instructed to reside

continually at and dwell in the Manse of the Chapel and not to undertake any other office or cure. Later, in 1533, Sir John Brown is mentioned as Vicar of North Queensferry Chapel.

At some stage the Chapel went out of use as a place of worship - whether at the Reformation when the property belonging to Dunfermline Abbey, including the Queensferry Passage, fell into lay hands, or earlier in 1547 when the village was burned to the ground by an expedition of English troops under Sir John Luttrell, is unknown. Certainly by the time Cromwell's troops captured the North Queensferry peninsular in preparation for the Battle of Inverkeithing (1651) the Chapel would have been defunct. Well before this time, the sailors and the ferrymen of the village had established their own loft in St Peter's Church, Inverkeithing, where they and their wives and families sat for worship. Thus in the three or four hundred years preceding the building of the Free Church, the village had no official place of worship. Worship nevertheless continued. For instance, in the mid 19th century, the building now known as the Albert Hotel, was used for some time as a prayer meeting house.

Without Kirk records relating specifically to the village, the full story is difficult to piece together. In the 17th century the village was evidently a minor centre of rebellion against the religious repression of the Stuarts. Field conventicles were held near here and several villagers, including one James Henderson, village innkeeper, were fined for attending them. At about this time the Chapel grounds were converted into a burial ground and administered by the Sailors Society. One gravestone reads -

'Heir we lay at anker
With manie in our fleet
In hopes to way at the last day
Our Admiral Christ to meet.'

The records of the Sailors Society for the 19th century still exist, giving a complete record of the burials in the village down to this century. The record between February 1879 and October 1880 (9 entries) is composed entirely of children under the age of seven, a reminder of how life has changed in the short space of one hundred years.

A MESSAGE FROM THE REVEREND HAROLD J.G. TROUP (1963 - 1970)

Greetings to you all from Sheelagh and Harold Troup and warmest congratulations on your 100th Birthday.

Going through that pile of newsletters I realised how difficult it was going to be to condense into a few words my memories of those years. But I did join you at the start of another phase of the Christian Church in North Queensferry as I was invited by the Kirk Session, prior to my induction, to join you for the dedication of the new Church by the Rev. Douglas Beck.

1963 was a memorable year in the whole life of the Church of Scotland, and I had the privilege of representing you in Iona Cathedral for the 1400th Anniversary of the landing of Saint Columba. I quote from the North Queensferry Newsletter: 'Two things were foremost in the purpose of St Columba. First he used Iona for spiritual discipline and the preparation of his soul for action. And second he went out from Iona to bring the people for Scotland to Christ'. Two great priorities for us all as Members of Christ's Church today - PRAYER AND EVANGELISM.

Other unique events took place in those first two years. 1964 saw the opening of the Forth Road Bridge and our Radio Songs of Praise conducted by the Rev. A.D. Stirling and the choirs of North and South Queensferry and Inverkeithing. Then came the closing of the ferry service and our Service on board the QUEEN MARGARET, one of the last ferry boats to cross the Forth. It was a most moving and historic occasion with the band from HMS CALEDONIA and joined by a great company from South Queensferry. In the middle of the Forth, between the two great bridges, and surrounded by innumerable pleasure boats, we worshipped God.

In October 1965, Presbytery approved our plans for a new Hall. By January 1966 £1,015 had been raised in the village. The foundations were laid in May, it was erected in June and then painted by members of the Congregation. I dedicated the Hall on 11th September and after singing the 100th Psalm the words of the Declaration were given: 'Dearly beloved in the Lord, God our heavenly Father having of His Grace brought to completion this our work of preparing a Hall for the honour of His Holy

Name, that herein our people and our children might be brought close to God, that Praise and Prayer might be reverently offered to His gracious Majesty, that the youth of this Parish might together sense the challenge of service, we are met to dedicate this Hall and to set it apart in solemn manner to the greater glory of Almighty God'. By March 1968 the total cost of the Hall had been paid.

Mostly, I remember the great Services and most solemn and dignified Communion Seasons with you, and the most warm hearted friendship and support of the Elders and Members. We did a lot together. But most of all I thank you for the privilege of having fellowship with you at the deepest possible spiritual level and for that I shall be eternally grateful. I pray to God for you all; for the start of the next 100 years, that in the words of St Paul, 'You will be blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ'.

Harold J.G. Troup

....AND FROM THE REVERAND ALEXANDER STRICKLAND (1971 - 1976)

'I am very happy indeed to be allowed the opportunity of sending you my best wishes on the occasion of the Centenary of North Queensferry Church. I look back with many pleasant memories as Minister of the 'Ferry Church. A first charge usually has a special place in the affections of a Minister, and this was certainly the case with me. You showed real kindness to me and my family and I remember the warm welcome given when calling at your homes.

A Centenary is indeed a great event. It is a time for looking back and remembering all the things that have happened in the days gone by and a time for thanking God that the Church has borne faithful witness over the years. I am sure that many of you will recall with gratitude all the faithful individuals who have given loyal and devoted service to Christ's Church, and who have set an example which we are proud to inherit and follow. Of course, it is also a time to look to the future. I hear that North Queensferry is beginning to expand and this should auger well for the future of the Church in the Village

William Carey, the Missionary who took the Gospel to India, once preached a sermon from Isaiah 54, and one sentence from it has often been quoted: 'Expect great things from God; attempt great things for God'. If that advice is followed the future will be of great blessing and benefit to many in North Queensferry and, of course, will be for the good of your Church. I wish you and your Minister well on your Centenary and pray that God will prosper the work and witness of your Church in the days to come.

Allow me to finish on a more personal note. Since coming to the Isle of Arran, we have been very pleased to meet some of our friends from North Queensferry. It was good seeing them, and if any of you are ever coming over to Arran we would be delighted to see you.

So then, congratulations on your 100th birthday, and may you have cause for thankfulness and rejoicing as you celebrate this great event.

kindest regards to you all,

Alexander Strickland'

THE REVERAND WILLIAM G.G. BAIRD WRITES.....

Dear Friends,

The Centenary milestone in the life of our Church is a moment for especial thanks for all the blessings the Lord has given through His Church in the past 100 years to the people of North Queensferry. Such a moment is a fitting time to look back as well as forward to see how greatly the life and work of the Church has been sustained by the Lord throughout these years and to recognise that though all else in the world around us may have changed in the course of a century, that which is constructed by the builder and maker who is God endures for all time; that the true Church is not a building but the company of people who have recognised what God has done in love for all men in Jesus' Mission of redemption by way of

Calvary's Cross.....and by His grace have believed in Him, accepting Jesus as a personal Saviour and Lord.

How many souls have come through the portals of His House to know His saving grace we shall never know until we are gathered 'on the other side'. Some will have come first as little children led by a parent's faithful hand; others only later in life through a word spoken by some loving friend. But how wonderfully the harvest has been growing year by year.

How much the Lord's House has meant to all who have worshipped therein down the years, again we cannot tell; but we know that in coming into the Lord's presence there is always a blessing in the peace that stills the heart and mind, and the promise in the Lord's words of His healing balm, of beauty for ashes and the oil of joy for mourning.

In the blessing of the Lord's House the greatest joy comes in knowing He is ever waiting to receive us and to extend to each of His children a royal welcome. May you be able to experience this blessing and so share fully the joy of the Centenary.

CHURCH NEWS

JUNIOR CHURCH

The current session finished on Sunday 4th June with a Family Service and Prizegiving. Following a request from a number of parents, facilities are being provided for Children to be looked after during the Summer break. Church Services will follow the same procedure with the Minister giving a Children's Address and the children leaving after the second hymn.

OFFERINGS

	<u>1978</u>	<u>1977</u>
May 7th	£ 21.28	£ 14.77
14th	30.82	13.47
21st	23.55	14.11
28th	25.84	18.99
	<u>£101.49</u>	<u>£ 61.34</u>

ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO

From 'The Dunfermline Saturday Press', 20th July 1878.

'FREE CHURCH OPENED FOR DIVINE WORSHIP IN NORTH QUEENSFERRY'

This article ran to almost 24 column inches! Would a similar event receive such coverage today? It starts -

'The want of a place of worship has long been felt in Queensferry, and to those who had the wish to be regular attenders on the service of the sanctuary, the need was doubly felt. Inverkeithing, where the nearest place of worship is, is two miles from it, and on a stormy wet day, to go that distance to Church was out of the question..... With the addition of the railway to the village, and being in close proximity to Dunfermline, it was thought that many would take advantage of Queensferry as a summer resort, and the Free Church Presbytery of Dunfermline then took up the matter of providing religious ordinances for the people,.....'

It seems a Hotel Hall was used supported by a grant from the Home Mission Fund and then a scheme for erecting a Church was drawn up by a Rev. Mr Shiach. This fell through. Following this a voluntary subscription fund was started. The article continues

'These sums along with a number of smaller gifts, raised the building fund up to between £400 and £500. The amount of interest thus manifested in the scheme made the Presbyterial Committee feel justified in setting 'the ball a-rolling';...'

The Church was built in three months. We then find a full description of the building.

'The Church, which in every way harmonises with the locality in which it is situated, is in design a simple adaptation of the Gothic style of architecture, and is situated at the entrance to the village on a commanding site overlooking the sea. The front elevation presents a gable with a central mullioned window, having the lights finished with elliptical heads metred into a circular frame. On either side of the

window a smaller single light is placed, corresponding in style with the principal aperture. The entrance door, which, along with the minister's room, is situated to the right of the front of the building, is surmounted by an elliptical head, and the whole front is finished in fine-dressed freestone. The windows throughout the design are finished with freestone dressings, while the walls have been built of whin rubble. The north and south elevations are plain, but neat and substantial, and are lighted by single windows with cusped lintels. The roof is highly pitched, and crowned with a belfry turret..... The interior of the building..... is seated for about 230 persons, the seats being fixtures with bound backs made of yellow pine. A platform has been erected for the Minister, and the walls are wainscoted five feet high'.

The Church was opened on 14th July 1878 and there were two services - morning and afternoon.

'The Church in the forenoon was filled and the Rev. Dr Begg chose as his text Ephesians v. 2 - 'Walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sweet smelling savour'.

In the afternoon the Rev. J.M. Allan chose for his text Psalm xlviii.2 - 'Beautiful for situation, the joy of the whole earth is Mount Zion'.

The collections, which were in aid of the building fund, were very liberal - no less than £41 11s.6d. being received at the forenoon services'.

The article actually includes the concluding words of both preachers in their sermons. Although, unfortunately too long for this Newsletter one statement stands out -

'That mighty structure.....would one day crumble into dust; but the truth taught there..... would last when structures such as that, and this mighty earth itself, had passed away for ever from their view'.

Anyone wishing to see the whole article should contact the editor.

SUMMER FETE - SATURDAY 24TH JUNE 1978

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS

- 10.00 a.m. Coffee Morning in the Marquee in the field.
2.00 p.m. Opening by Rev. Douglas Aitken, Moderator of the
Presbytery of Dunfermline and Senior Producer of
the BBC's Department of Religious Broadcasting.
The opening will include a ceremonial tree planting
and the cutting of the Centenary Cake.
2.30 p.m. Judging of the Cookery Competition (see page 12)
by Mrs Aitken and Mrs Baird.
4.00 p.m. Close.

There will be all the usual events plus one or two additions -

Cake and Candy - White Elephant - Garden Produce and Plants
Provisions - Games - Pony Rides - Guess the cake's weight.

Teas will be served throughout the whole afternoon from 2.00 p.m.

The stalls will be set up on the Friday evening from 6.30 p.m.
and on the Saturday morning from 9.30 a.m. Volunteers to
help will be most welcome.

In the event of it raining, the out-door events will be held
in a marquee which will be erected in the field. This will
also be used for a COFFEE MORNING from 10.a.m. until 12.00 a.m.

Anyone with items for the stalls who are unable to get to the
Church at the times stated should contact Paul Davies,
4 Inchcolm Drive (Inverkeithing 5837) who will make arrangements
for such items to be collected.

REMEMBER we are CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY of the FREE CHURCH
in NORTH QUEENSFERRY - lets make it an EVENT to REMEMBER by
making it a HUGE SUCCESS.

Last year we raised about £250.

Can we make it £300 this year?

SUMMER FETE - COOKERY COMPETITION

VICTORIA SANDWICH

This is the recipe used by last year's winner. Many people have difficulty in making a good Victoria Sandwich. This is a relatively simple recipe so it is a good opportunity for everyone to have a go!

In the words of a Radio Personality who shall be nameless -
'This is what you do.....'.

Using two large eggs in their shells as weights,
weigh equal quantities of each ingredient: -

Margarine Caster Sugar
Self-raising flour (Add a pinch of Salt)

Have ready greased and floured two $6\frac{1}{2}$ to 7 inch tins,

See that the margarine is soft but not oily. Warm the eggs for a few minutes. Cream the fat and the sugar until light and fluffy. This should only take a minute or two if the margarine is soft. Add one whole egg and about one whole tablespoon of sieved flour. Beat in lightly. Repeat this procedure with the other egg. Beat in the rest of the flour lightly and quickly until mixture is smooth. Divide mixture into two tins. Spread the mixture over the two tins with a pallet knife. Bake at 375° to 400° for about twenty minutes.

RULES

1. All entries must be made according to the above recipe.
2. Cakes may be filled with any suitable filling (butter icing, cream, jam etc.) but must be otherwise undecorated.
3. Entries must be brought to the Church by 2.00 p.m. on the day of the fete, as judging will be taking place at 2.30 p.m.
4. All entries must be accompanied by a sealed envelope containing the name and address of the entrant.