

M095 Restoration of St Michael's Church, Linlithgow

Introduction

This major late medieval church was subdivided and fitted with galleries for Presbyterian worship after the Reformation. Between 1894 and 1896, John Honeyman & Keppie removed the galleries and the dividing wall, reinstated the chancel arch, and restored the building to its medieval form.

Authorship: There is good evidence that John Honeyman was in charge of the 1894–6 restoration. Mackintosh knew the church and made a number of sketches of it. He may have had some involvement in its restoration as a junior member of John Honeyman & Keppie's office, but there is no documentary evidence for this.

Alternative names: St Michael's Parish Church.

Cost from job book: £806 1s 6d ¹

Cost from other sources: In July 1894, it was reported that '[t]o restore the entire fabric to something like its original grace and beauty would entail a cost of fully £7000; but the committee entrusted with the matter have been able to raise only £3000'. ² However, according to an account published in 1905, about £7300 had been raised before work commenced. ³

Status: Standing building

Current use: Church (2014)

Listing category: A

Historic Scotland/HB Number: 37499

RCAHMS Site Number: NT07NW 14.00

Grid reference: NT 00235 77284

Chronology

1894

6 May: Church closed for restoration. ¹

1895

June: Restoration in progress 'for the past twelve months'. ² Services conducted in the partially restored church on Sunday 16 June. ³

November: Church has been 'fitted up with temporary pulpit, benches and chairs', but restoration is still incomplete due to lack of funds. No work has yet been done on the tower or 'triforia'. ⁴

1896

January: Pulpit, made by John Taylor & Son, erected, the gift of J. Millar Richard of Clarendon. ⁵

August: Carved oak communion table installed. ⁶

24 October: Church formally reopened on completion of restoration. ⁷

1897

June: John Honeyman, during a visit to Linlithgow by the Edinburgh Architectural Association, 'showed on drawings the proposed additional work'. ⁸

1898

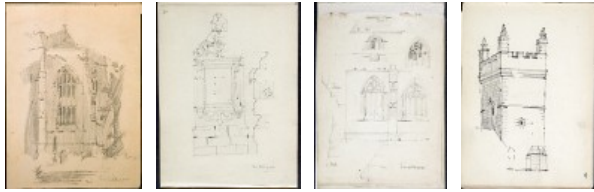
July: Measured drawings of St Michael's by Donald M. Stoddart awarded silver medal in National Competition for Schools of Art. ⁹

September: Decayed mullions of W. window replaced. ¹⁰

Description

There is ample evidence that John Honeyman took personal charge of this project. In the history of St Michael's written by John Ferguson, minister at the time, he is described as the architect 'under whose guidance the committee carried through the restoration', and in this capacity he conducted groups from the Edinburgh Architectural Association and the Glasgow Archaeological Society around the completed building. ¹

Mackintosh knew St Michael's church (Linlithgow is easily reached by train from Glasgow) and he made a number of sketches of it. ²



They are undated, but are unlikely to have been done in connection with the 1894–6 restoration. Rather, they are evidence of Mackintosh's interest in early Scottish architecture and his habit of recording historic buildings in rapid but carefully observed drawings. He may have had some involvement in the work at St Michael's as a junior member of John Honeyman & Keppie's office, but there is no documentary evidence for this.

In 1898, Donald M. Stoddart, an assistant in the office, entered measured drawings of St Michael's in the National Competition for Schools of Art, for which he was awarded a silver medal. ³

People

Clients:

- St Michael's Church, Linlithgow

Contractors:

- W. H. Dinsmore
- Hutcheson & Grant
- E. C. Morgan & Son
- Alex Muir & Sons

Other:

- Donald M. Stoddart

Job Book

The job books of Honeyman & Keppie (later Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh) are now held by The Hunterian, University of Glasgow and include four volumes related to the Mackintosh period. The books were used by the firm to keep a project-by-project, day-by-day record of contractors, suppliers and expenditure. The name of a project and/or client is usually at the top of the left-hand page, followed by information about tradesmen who tendered. The name of the measurer (quantity surveyor) is usually at the top of the right-hand page, followed by information about payments to contractors and suppliers. All of the data for M095 is entered in the tables below.

Page numbering is not consistent in the job books. Sometimes a single number refers to a double-page spread and sometimes each page is individually numbered. Here, each image of a double-page spread is identified by the number given at the top of the left-hand page. (Images of all of the pages from the four job books can be found at [Browse Job Books](#), [Visit Book and Cash Book](#).)

The following information about M095 has been extracted from the job books:



Job book: 53059
Page: 254

Measurer: W. H. Dinsmore

Tenders:

Contractor	Type	Address	Date	Value	Accepted
------------	------	---------	------	-------	----------

Alex Muir & Sons	mason ?	no data in job book	1894	£195 0s 0d ¹	yes
E. C. Morgan & Son	mason ?	no data in job book	1894	£1159 1s 2d ²	no data in job book
McKenzie & Moncur	heating	no data in job book	1894	£333 0s 0d	yes
John Gibson	pulpit	no data in job book	1894	£150 0s 0d	no
Hutcheson & Grant	pulpit	no data in job book	1894	£165 0s 0d	no
Taylor	pulpit	no data in job book	1894	£185 0s 0d	yes

Payments (trades):

Name	Type	Payment out sum
Alex Muir & Sons	mason ?	Payment date: 13 July 1894 £196 4s 3d ³
E. C. Morgan & Son	mason ?	Payment date: no data in job book no data in job book
McKenzie & Moncur	heating	Payment date: 6 December 1895 £343 2s 9d
John Taylor & Son	pulpit	Payment date: no data in job book no data in job book

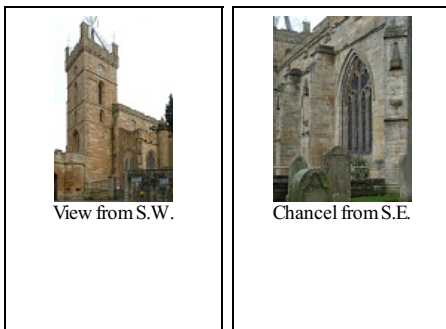
Payments (suppliers):

Name	Service	Payment date	Payment sum
Hutcheson & Grant	no data in job book	19 February 1896	£139 14s 6d
Hutcheson & Grant	Table	24 August 1896	£37 10s 0d
Hutcheson & Grant	Font	11 March 1896	£50 0s 0d

Measurer fee payment: £39 10s 0d (26 January 1896)

Documents

Images



Bibliography

Published

- John Ferguson, *Ecclesia Antiqua, or, the History of an Ancient Church (St Michael's, Linlithgow) with an Account of its Chapels, Chantries and Endowments*, Edinburgh and London: Oliver & Boyd, 1905, pp. 121–9.

Notes:

1: The job-book entry does not record any payments to E. C. Morgan & Son, although they appear to have been the principal contractors.

2: *Aberdeen Journal*, 7 July 1894, p. 4.

3: John Ferguson, *Ecclesia Antiqua, or, the History of an Ancient Church (St Michael's, Linlithgow) with an Account of its Chapels, Chantries and*

Endowments, Edinburgh and London: Oliver & Boyd, 1905, pp. 122–3.

4: John Ferguson, *Ecclesia Antiqua, or, the History of an Ancient Church (St Michael's, Linlithgow) with an Account of its Chapels, Chantries and Endowments*, Edinburgh and London: Oliver & Boyd, 1905, p. 127.

5: *Dundee Courier*, 13 June 1895, p. 3.

6: *Aberdeen Journal*, 18 June 1895, p. 5.

7: *Glasgow Herald*, 8 November 1895, p. 9.

8: *Glasgow Herald*, 14 January 1896, p. 7; *British Architect*, 10 January, 1896, p. 34.

9: *Aberdeen Journal*, 25 August 1896, p. 5.

10: John Ferguson, *Ecclesia Antiqua, or, the History of an Ancient Church (St Michael's, Linlithgow) with an Account of its Chapels, Chantries and Endowments*, Edinburgh and London: Oliver & Boyd, 1905, p. 127.

11: *British Architect*, 47, 25 June 1897, p. 451.

12: *British Architect*, 50, 29 July 1898, p. 74.

13: *British Architect*, 50, 30 September 1898, p. 237.

14: John Ferguson, *Ecclesia Antiqua, or, the History of an Ancient Church (St Michael's, Linlithgow) with an Account of its Chapels, Chantries and Endowments*, Edinburgh and London: Oliver & Boyd, 1905, p. 126; *British Architect*, 25 June 1897, p. 451, and 10 September 1897, p. 193.

15: Dublin: National Library of Ireland, PD 2011 TX, pp. 17, 24, 26; Dublin: National Library of Ireland, PD 2009 TX, p. 45.

16: *British Architect*, 50, 29 July 1898, p. 74.

17: For 'Clearing & removing partition'.

18: Comprises £658 13s 9d for 'vestry & channels vestry', £150 7s 5d for 'channels', £325 0s 0d for 'chancel arch' and £25 0s 0d for 'repairing pier'.

19: For 'Clearing & removing partition'. Includes £1 4s 3d for 'pointing and cement taken by Murray'.

Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning

Led by The Hunterian, University of Glasgow, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council; with additional support from The Monument Trust, The Pilgrim Trust, and the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art; and collaborative input from Historic Scotland and the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland.



© copyright 2014

[Contact us](#)