

M167 Additions and alterations to Old Gourock Church

Introduction

John Honeyman & Keppie extended the chancel, added porches to the N. and S. elevations, constructed new boundary walls, erected wrought-iron railings, and rearranged the internal layout of the church halls. In addition they provided several items of furniture, No drawings for the building work or furniture survive.

Authorship: The church furniture has been attributed to Mackintosh. ¹ The design of the wrought-iron railings may also be his work.

Alternative names: Gourock Established Church; Old Gourock Parish Church; Royal, Old Gourock and Ashton Parish Church; Old Gourock and Ashton Parish Church.

Cost from job book: £2316 15s 7½d

Cost from other sources: 'close on £2,500' ²

Status: Standing building

Current name: Old Gourock & Ashton Parish Church

Current use: Church (2014)

Listing category: B: Listed as 'Royal, Old Gourock and Ashton Parish Church with boundary walls, gatepiers and railings'

Historic Scotland/HB Number: 34021

RCAHMS Site Number: NS27NW 119

Grid reference: NS 24280 77522

Chronology

1832

27 May: Church opens. ¹

1872

Gourock Parish Church is established. A hall and vestry are built. ²

1873

An organ installed. ³

1898

The decision is taken to enlarge the church. An appeal to the congregation seeks to raise £1200 for the building work. The amount raised totals £1700. ⁴

1899

February: Contractor tenders submitted. ⁵

July: Building work begins. ⁶

1900

22 April: Church reopens following completion of the additions and alterations. ⁷

November: Latest payments to contractors. ⁸

1925

New church furniture installed. ⁹

1929

October: Gourock Parish Church is renamed Old Gourock Church. Its stained glass and oak furnishings are noted. ¹⁰

Late 1930s

A small square hall is added at N.W. to commemorate a minister who died while climbing Mont Blanc. ¹¹

1998

Separate hall added to N. of church. This date can be seen inside a round moulding on its E. elevation. ¹²

c. 2008

Kitchen remodelled. ¹³

2011

Internal alterations to halls to improve accessibility. ¹⁴

Description

John Honeyman & Keppie additions and alterations to the exterior of the church were modest. Later alterations to the interior of the halls have removed any trace of their work. There is strong stylistic evidence to suggest that Mackintosh designed the church furniture, and the exterior railings. How John Honeyman & Keppie came to be commissioned is not known. No drawings for the work survive.

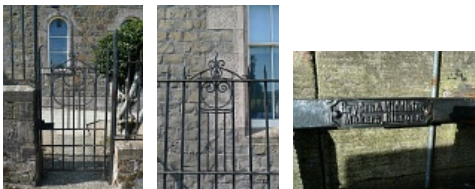
Exterior

In 1898, the original church of 1832, with its Gothic battlemented E. front, was extended W. by a bay with a hipped roof to accommodate an additional 200 worshippers. ¹ In the W. wall of this extension a small rectangular chancel with a hipped roof was built and porches were added N. and S. at the point of extension. The new bay and chancel follow the masonry style of the church: yellow-brown and grey sandstone laid in Aberdeen-bond with smooth pink ashlar dressings and eaves cornice. The porches are coursed yellow-brown rubble. The colour of the extension is very close to the stone of the original building and the job-book entry notes that some building materials, presumably from the demolished W. wall, were reused by contractors. The exterior corners of the extended church and the chancel have smooth pink ashlar quoins. The round-arched windows on the ground floor of the church, the bipartite windows above, the two round-arched windows in the chancel and the openings of the porches are all elegantly dressed in smooth pink ashlar sandstone.



A group of single-storey subsidiary halls immediately W of the church is accessed internally via a door from the chancel. The masonry here follows the pattern of the church. The attached square hall at the N.W. of this group was added after 1938.

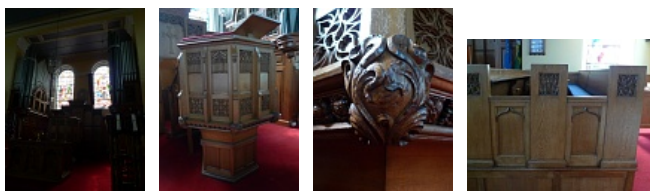
The rubble boundary wall and wrought-iron railings are part of John Honeyman & Keppie's work. The railings by Bryden & Middleton remain *in situ*; a narrow plaque on the S. entrance gate gives the makers' names. Bryden & Middleton provided wrought-iron work for the practice's near-contemporary jobs: Redlands at Bridge of Weir, and the Daily Record building. The design incorporates variations on a motif which includes a lyre form, vertical spars and tulip-like forms.



Interior

Inside, the original organ cases were repositioned along the two short sides of the raised chancel. The new octagonal pulpit carved in a mix of Gothic and Art Nouveau, was placed centrally in front of the chancel – as one might expect in a Presbyterian church. New but more modest choir stalls were placed on either side on the raised area. According to the job-book entry, the pulpit, choir stalls, communion table and rail were all made by Hutcheson & Grant, while other, unspecified items of furniture were made by Francis Smith. The rail does not survive and the present (2011) communion table and other items of furniture were introduced in the 1920s.

The church furniture is almost certainly Mackintosh's work. Its style is similar to near-contemporary work by Mackintosh at Belhaven Church, for which drawings survive, and slightly later work at Bridge of Allan Parish Church. A drawing of an unidentified Gothic church screen previously linked with Gourock Parish Church is more probably related to Mackintosh's work at Belhaven Church. The choir screen there has details similar to those in this drawing. ²



The interiors of the single-storey buildings have been reorganised and modernised on several occasions. No trace remains of John Honeyman & Keppie's work.

Other

The cost of the building work at the church was estimated at £2500. In its report on the reopening of the church in April 1900, the *Greenock Telegraph* noted that £1700 was raised in subscriptions during 1899 and that the 'remaining £800 will likely be met by grants from the various trusts connected with the Church of Scotland'.³

People

Clients:

- Gourock Parish Church

Contractors:

- Robert Aitken
- Bryden & Middleton
- James Cormack & Sons Ltd
- W. H. Dinsmore
- Foster & Andrews
- Fyfe & Allan
- Galbraith & Winton
- J. & W. Guthrie & Andrew Wells
- Hutcheson & Grant
- James McCue
- McGeoch & Co.
- Thomas Melvin & Sons
- Ojax Ventilator Co.
- David Philips & Son
- A. & J. Scott
- Francis Smith
- William Steel
- Rudolph A. Stoffert
- William Steel Tarbet

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 M167 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 M167 has been extracted from the job books:



Job book: 53061
Page: 183



Job book: 53061
Page: 185

Client: Gourock Parish Church

Measurer: W. H. Dinsmore

Tenders:

Contractor	Type	Address	Date	Value	Accepted
William Steel	mason	10 Jamaica Street, Greenock	February 1899	£594 15s 1½d ¹	yes ()
R. Aitkenhead & Son	mason	37 Trafalgar Street, Greenock	February 1899	£632 0s 0d ²	no
Thomas Kirkwood	mason	8 Jamaica Street, Greenock	February 1899	£752 0s 0d	no
J. & R. Kirk	mason	5 Campbell Street, Greenock	February 1899	£752 15s 4d	no
E. C. Morgan & Son	mason	Elderslie Street, Glasgow	February 1899	£792 0s 0d	no
Hutcheson & Grant	mason	Pitt Street, Glasgow	February 1899	£720 0s 0d	no
Thomas Brown	mason	Rottenrow	February 1899	£720 7s 4d	no
James Agnew	wright	32 Crawford Street, Greenock	February 1899	£399 8s 6½d ³	no
Alex Stevenson	wright	48 Wellington Street, Greenock	February 1899	£429 0s 0d	no
William Steel Tarbet	wright	11 Bath Street, Gourock	February 1899	£394 7s 6d ⁴	yes ()
David Tweddle	wright	6 John Street, Gourock	February 1899	£506 0s 0d	no
E. C. Morgan & Son	wright	Elderslie Street, Glasgow	February 1899	£449 10s 0d	no
Hutcheson & Grant	wright	Pitt Street, Glasgow	February 1899	£430 0s 0d	no
Thomas Brown	wright	Rottenrow, Glasgow	February 1899	£519 0s 0d	no
George W. L. Stevenson	slater	86 Albert Road, Gourock	February 1899	£59 0s 0d	no
George H. Russell	slater	32 Kempock Street, Gourock	February 1899	£56 4s 8d ⁵	no
John A. Callender	slater	3 John Street, Gourock	February 1899	£64 6s 8d	no
David Philips & Son	slater	Tobago Street, Greenock	February 1899	£56 0s 0d	yes ()
William McOwat & Son	slater	Glasgow	February 1899	£59 0s 0d	no
Michael Slaven	plasterer	29 Hopeton Street, Gourock	February 1899	£68 10s 1d ⁶	no
Quintin Tannock	plasterer	5 Sir Michael Street, Greenock	February 1899	£97 2s 10d	no
James McCreadie	plasterer	Jamaica Lane, Greenock	February 1899	£98 1s 1d	no
James McCue	plasterer	78 Wellington Street, Greenock	February 1899	£87 1s 10d ⁷	yes ()
George Rome & Co.	plasterer	no data in job book	February 1899	no data in job book	no
A. Fairgrieve & Sons	plumber	Kempock Street, Gourock	February 1899	£158 16s 0d	no

Matthew Sharp	plumber	Kempock Street, Gourock	February 1899	£165 18s 9d	no
Crawford & Kerr	plumber	6 Bogle Street, Greenock	February 1899	£164 17 4½d	no
Duncan & Sharp	plumber	Ladyburn, Greenock	February 1899	no data in job book	no
Brown & Young	plumber	no data in job book	February 1899	£166 0s 0d	no
Fyfe & Allan	plumber	no data in job book	February 1899	£138 0s 0d	yes (no data in job book)
George Adam	wrought iron	Finnieston Stret	February 1899	£79 15s 0d	no
Bryden & Middleton	wrought iron	no data in job book	February 1899	£61 11s 10d	yes (no data in job book)
James Allan senior & Son	wrought iron	no data in job book	February 1899	no data in job book	no
P. & R. Fleming	wrought iron	no data in job book	February 1899	£68 17s 0d	no
Bladen & Co.	wrought iron	no data in job book	February 1899	£77 9s 0d	no
William Steel Tarbet	glazier	no data in job book	22 November 1899	£43 7s 10d	yes (no data in job book)
James Cormack & Sons Ltd	heating	no data in job book	22 November 1899	£50 13s 6d	yes (no data in job book)
Hutcheson & Grant	pulpit, communion table & rail	no data in job book	14 December 1899	£111 10s 0d	yes (no data in job book)

Payments (trades):

Name	Type	Payment out sum	Measurer fee payments
William Steel	mason	First installment: 20 September 1899 Final installment: 9 November 1900 £535 15s 8d ⁸	£8 15s 0d ⁹
William Steel Tarbet	wright	First installment: 21 November 1899 Final installment: 14 November 1900 £623 11s 5d ¹⁰	£10 19s 0d ¹¹
David Philips & Son	slater	First installment: 20 January 1900 Final installment: 14 November 1900 £50 3s 5d ¹²	£1 2s 0d ¹³
James McCue	plasterer	First installment: 26 May 1900 Final installment: 13 November 1900 £114 7s 2d	£2 0s 0d ¹⁴
Fyfe & Allan	plumber	First installment: 19 December 1899 Final installment: 14 November 1900 £201 3s 0d ¹⁵	£4 3s 0d ¹⁶
Bryden & Middleton	wrought iron	Payment date: 14 September 1900 £67 2s 7½d ¹⁷	
Hutcheson & Grant	pulpit, communion table & rail	Payment date: 29 May 1900 £155 0s 0d ¹⁸	
James Cormack & Sons Ltd	heating	Payment date: 14 September 1900 £76 0s 0d	

Payments (suppliers):

Name	Service	Payment date	Payment sum
J. & W. Guthrie & Andrew Wells	'repairing & refitting standard glass'.	19 December 1900	£25 10s 0d
A. & J. Scott	painting	8 January 1901	£124 0s 0d

McGeoch & Co.	'gasoliers etc'	8 January 1901	£64 0s 0d
Robert Aitken	inspector	16 December 1899	£13 6s 0d
Galbraith & Winton	'taking down & refitting tablet'.	22 March [1901?]	£5 10s 0d
Thomas Melvin & Sons	'taking down engine'	26 June 1900	13s 6d
Thomas Melvin & Sons	'repairing & re-erecting engine'.	26 June 1900	£24 10s 0d
Foster & Andrews	'taking down & rebuilding organ'.	29 June 1900	£57 10s 0d
Ojax Ventilator Co.	ventilators	10 July 1900	£13 12s 6d
Rudolph A. Stoffert	'Steel beam & frame[?] boarding at Heating Chamber'.	14 September 1900	£4 10s 0d
Robert Aitken	inspector	14 September 1900	£15 13s 6d
Francis Smith	furnishings	14 September 1900	£85 2s 0d

Measurer fee payment: £60 5s 0d (26 December 1900)

Documents

Images



Bibliography

Published

- Roger Billcliffe, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh: The Complete Furniture, Furniture Drawings and Interior Designs*, Moffat, Dumfriesshire: Cameron & Hollis, 4th edn, 2009, p. 77
- Colin Milne, *The Story of Gourock 1858–1958*, downloaded version provided by McLean Museum & Art Gallery, Greenock, 2009, p. 7

Unpublished

- 'Gourock. Reopening of Parish Church', *Greenock Telegraph & Clyde Shipping Gazette*, 21 April 1900

Notes:

1: Roger Billcliffe, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh: The Complete Furniture, Furniture Drawings and Interior Designs*, Moffat, Dumfriesshire: Cameron & Hollis, 4th edn, 2009, p. 77.

2: 'Gourock. Reopening of Parish Church', *Greenock Telegraph & Clyde Shipping Gazette*, 21 April 1900.

3: Colin Milne, *The Story of Gourock 1858–1958*, downloaded version provided by McLean Museum & Art Gallery, Greenock, 2009, pp. 6–7.

- 4: Colin Milne, *The Story of Gourock 1858–1958*, downloaded version provided by McLean Museum & Art Gallery, Greenock, 2009, p. 7.
- 5: Plaque on the organ case gives this date along with makers' names.
- 6: Colin Milne, *The Story of Gourock 1858–1958*, downloaded version provided by McLean Museum & Art Gallery, Greenock, 2009, p. 7.
- 7: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53061, p. 183; p. 185.
- 8: *Greenock Telegraph & Clyde Shipping Gazette*, 21 April 1900.
- 9: *Greenock Telegraph & Clyde Shipping Gazette*, 21 April 1900.
- 10: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53061, pp. 184, 186.
- 11: 'Gourock Old Parish Church', *Dictionary of Scottish Architects, 1840–1980*, www.scottisharchitects.org.uk [accessed 6 May 2011].
- 12: Colin Milne, *The Story of Gourock 1858–1958*, downloaded version provided by McLean Museum & Art Gallery, Greenock, 2009, p. 7.
- 13: Information supplied during visit on 4 May 2011. A plaque in the hall records the dedication.
- 14: Information supplied during visit on 4 May 2011.
- 15: Information supplied during visit on 4 May 2011.
- 16: Information supplied during visit on 4 May 2011.
- 17: Historic Scotland, listing building report 34021, www.historic-scotland.gov.uk [accessed 30 August 2012]; 'Gourock Reopening of Parish Church', *Greenock Telegraph & Clyde Shipping Gazette*, 21 April 1900.
- 18: Roger Billcliffe, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh: The Complete Furniture, Furniture Drawings and Interior Designs*, Moffat, Dumfriesshire: Cameron & Hollis, 4th edn, 2009, p. 77; The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: GLAHA 52332.
- 19: 'Gourock Reopening of Parish Church', *Greenock Telegraph & Clyde Shipping Gazette*, 21 April 1900.
- 20: £590 0s 0d entered below.
- 21: £631 11s 0d entered above.
- 22: £399 2s 2d entered above.
- 23: £391 16s 0d entered below.
- 24: £56 14s 8d entered above.
- 25: £98 2s 2d entered above.
- 26: £86 1s 4d entered below.
- 27: 'By value of old material £40 4s 5½d'.
- 28: ½ measurer's fee.
- 29: 'By value of old material £2 0s 0d'.
- 30: ½ measurer's fee.
- 31: 'By value of old material £13 0s 0d'.
- 32: ½ measurer's fee.
- 33: ½ measurer's fee.
- 34: 'Credit for old material £34 6s 10d'.
- 35: ½ measurer's fee.
- 36: 'including stair to Heating Chamber.'
- 37: 'including choir stall'.

Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning

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