

# M269 Alterations to St Philip's United Free Church, Portobello

## Introduction

Built to a Gothic Revival design by John Honeyman, St Philip's opened in 1877. In 1904–6, Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh designed a chancel to house a new organ, but their plans were rejected on grounds of cost. They carried out a cheaper scheme instead, the organ being placed at the N. end of the nave.

**Authorship:** It is clear from the minutes of the Deacons' Court of St Philip's that Mackintosh was the partner in charge of the organ scheme, and that he was responsible for the organ case. Photographs taken before its removal in the 1960s show an unremarkable Gothic design, with none of the individuality that Mackintosh had brought to the fittings at Bridge of Allan church two years earlier.

**Alternative names:** Portobello Free Church.

**Alternative addresses:** 14 Abercorn Terrace

**Cost from job book:** £264 8s 0d

**Cost from other sources:** 'the organ ... cost just under £750, and the total expense, including alterations and the shifting of the pulpit, was over £1,300'<sup>1</sup>

**Status:** Standing building

**Current name:** St Philip's Church, Joppa

**Current use:** Church (2014)

**Listing category:** B

**Historic Scotland/HB Number:** 26724

**RCAHMS Site Number:** NT37SW 309

**Grid reference:** NT 31237 73573

## Chronology

### 1877

7 October: Opened as Portobello Free Church.<sup>1</sup>

### 1885

May: Pulpit installed, designed by John Honeyman.<sup>2</sup>

### 1900

Portobello Free Church becomes St Philip's United Free Church, following union of the Free Church and United Presbyterian Church.<sup>3</sup>

### 1901

27 August: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh receive payment of £18 5s 0d for unspecified work at the church.<sup>4</sup>

### 1904

5 April: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh have been consulted about a scheme for a new organ.<sup>5</sup>

3 May: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh are to be instructed to prepare working plans.<sup>6</sup>

### 1906

5 June: Deacons' Court of St Philip's decides not to proceed with Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh's scheme for a chancel to house the organ, because at £1900 it is too costly.<sup>7</sup>

18 June: Deacons' Court decides to place the organ 'on the platform behind the pulpit'. Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh will still be employed as architects.

30 July: Mackintosh to attend a site visit to discuss the design of the organ case, and prepare plans for the 'power room'. <sup>9</sup>

## 1907

21 September: Deadline for installation of organ. <sup>10</sup>

October: New organ dedicated. <sup>11</sup>

5 November: Sale of old organ authorised. <sup>12</sup>

## 1961–2

Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh organ removed. <sup>13</sup>

## Description

Built originally as Portobello Free Church, St Philip's was designed by John Honeyman and opened in 1877. <sup>1</sup> It is an ambitious Gothic Revival building in the Decorated style, with nave and aisles and a S.E. tower and spire. Following the union of the Free Church and United Presbyterian Church in 1900, it was renamed St Philip's United Free Church. It later became St Philip's, Joppa.

In 1904, Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh were consulted about the installation of an organ. <sup>2</sup> They prepared plans for a new chancel to accommodate the instrument, but eventually in 1906 the Deacons' Court decided not to proceed with this costly scheme. <sup>3</sup> Instead, they took the advice of Mr Lee Ashton (organist of St Paul's, York Place, Edinburgh), who suggested installing the organ within the existing church, 'on the platform behind the pulpit'. <sup>4</sup> Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh were retained as architects for the new scheme, which involved moving to one side the carved stone pulpit added to the church by Honeyman in 1885. <sup>5</sup> The deadline for completion was 21 September 1907, and the new organ must have been in use by 5 November, when the Deacon's Court authorised the sale of the redundant old instrument. <sup>6</sup>

Mackintosh was evidently responsible for the organ project. In July 1906, the Deacons' Court minutes speak of a site meeting with the organ builder (W. J. Burton of Winchester) and Mackintosh, 'for the purpose of consulting and arranging with them as to the disposition of the brackets, the grouping of pipes and the design of the organ case to be prepared by Mr Mackintosh with a view to preserving the amenity of the church'. They record Mackintosh being instructed to 'prepare plans for the necessary power room', and the organ committee being authorised to 'dispose of [i.e. deal with] Mr Mackintosh's design for the organ case'. <sup>7</sup> Much of Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh's job-book entry is written in Mackintosh's hand, which tends to confirm that he was the partner in charge. <sup>8</sup>

The organ was removed from the church in 1961–2. <sup>9</sup> No drawings for the case have come to light, but photographs suggest it was an unremarkable example of Gothic Revival woodwork, with none of the individuality that Mackintosh had brought to the fittings at Bridge of Allan church two years earlier. It is possible that the unadventurous design was based on an earlier one by Honeyman (a payment of £18 5s 0d for unspecified work in connection with the church is recorded in the firm's cash book in 1901). <sup>10</sup>



The building was gutted by fire in December 1998. Restoration was nearing completion in August 2001, and the church is now back in use (2014). <sup>11</sup>

## People

### Clients:

- St Philip's United Free Church

### Contractors:

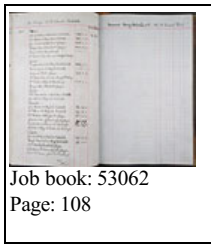
- John Craig
- William Finlay & Co.
- Henry Herbertson & Co.
- John Smith & Son
- James Young

## Job Book

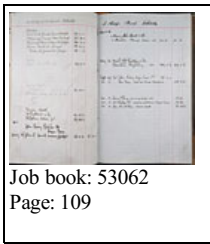
The job books of Honeyman & Keppie (later Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh) are now held by The Hunterian, University of Glasgow and include four volumes related to the Mackintosh period. The books were used by the firm to keep a project-by-project, day-by-day record of contractors, suppliers and expenditure. 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 M269 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 M269 has been extracted from the job books:



Job book: 53062  
Page: 108



Job book: 53062  
Page: 109

**Client:** St Philip's United Free Church

**Measurer:** Henry Herbertson & Co.

**Tenders:**

Contractor	Type	Address	Date	Value	Accepted
John Smith & Son	mason	17 Bath Street, Portobello	1906	£72 15s 0d <sup>1</sup>	yes
John Howden	mason	18 Tower Street, Portobello	1906	£786 0s 0d	no
John Kirkwood	mason	Hope Street, Glasgow	1906	£925 0s 0d	no
Morgan & Sons	mason	Elderslie Street, Glasgow	1906	£803 14s 9d	no
Bisset & Sons	mason	Musselburgh	1906	'returned'	no
William Beattie & Sons	mason	Fountain Bridge Road, Edinburgh	1906	no data in job book	no
Douglas & Smart	joiner	222 High Street, Portobello	1906	£853 0s 0d	no
Brown & Grieve	joiner	258 High Street, Portobello	1906	'returned'	no
James Grant	joiner	Pitt Street, Glasgow	1906	£707 7s 4d	no
William Beattie & Sons	joiner	Fountain Bridge Road, Edinburgh	1906	no data in job book	no
William Dickson	joiner	59 High Street, Musselburgh	1906	£858 0s 0d	no
Morgan & Sons	joiner	Elderslie Street, Glasgow	1906	no data in job book	no
Robert Edward & Son	painter	11 Bath Street, Portobello	1906	no data in job book	no
John White	painter	157 High Street, Portobello	1906	no data in job book	no
John Maxton	plumber	155 High Street, Portobello	1906	£56 18s 0d	no
William Hume	plumber	260 High Street, Portobello	1906	£63 10s 0d	no
William Anderson	plumber	Wellington Street, Glasgow	1906	£57 0s 0d	no
Johnstone & Son	plumber	off Cambridge Street, Glasgow	1906	£60 0s 0d	no
Proctor & Son	plumber	23 Church Street, Edinburgh	1906	£52 10s 0d	no
Robertson & Hogg	plumber	31 Nicolson Street, Edinburgh	1906	no data in job book	no
John Smith & Sons	slater	17 Bath Street, Portobello	1906	£45 17s 9d	no
Hogg & Marshall	slater	245 High Street, Portobello	1906	£35 0s 0d	no
A. & D. Mackay	slater	Oswald Street, Glasgow	1906	no data in job book	no
J. Anderson	slater	Parliamentary Road, Glasgow	1906	no data in job book	no
A. & P. McEwan	slater	Grove Street, Musselburgh	1906	no data in job book	no
Robert Dick	plasterer	Windsor Terrace, Portobello	1906	£39 0s 0d	no
P. F. Cavanagh	plasterer	Deanpark Meuse, Edinburgh	1906	£32 18s 0d	no
McGilvray & Ferris	plasterer	West Regent Street, Glasgow	1906	£48 14s 0d	no
Forbes	plasterer	Bath Street, Glasgow	1906	£58 12s 4d	no
Forbes	plasterer	West Graham Street, Glasgow	1906	£56 1s 6d	no

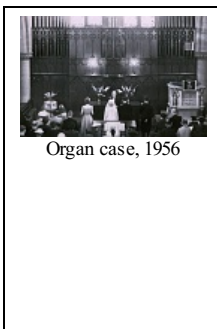
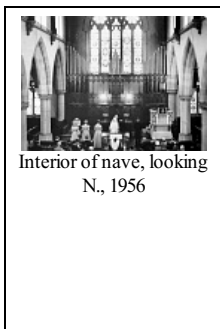
James Cormack & Co.	heating	no data in job book	1906	£24 17s 6d <sup>2</sup>	no
Findlay & Co.	electric lighting	Edinburgh	1906	£37 18s 0d <sup>3</sup>	no
Robertson & Hogg	electric lighting	1 Chambers Street, Edinburgh	1906	no data in job book	no
McCulloch & Co.	glazier	no data in job book	1906	£41 15s 6d	no
Stephen Adam jnr.	glazier	no data in job book	1906	£57 18s 2d	no
John Craig	organ case	Paterson Street	1907	no data in job book	yes
James Young	moving pulpit	no data in job book	19 January 1906	£15 0s 0d	yes
John Smith & Son	mason	no data in job book	13 December [1906]	£72 15s 0d <sup>4</sup>	yes
William Finlay & Co.	electric lighting	no data in job book	30 May [1907]	£44 0s 6d	yes

#### Payments (trades):

Name	Type	Payment out sum
John Craig	organ case & pulpit book board	<b>First installment:</b> 25 September [1907] <b>Final installment:</b> 4 November [1907] £102 2s 6d
James Young	removing pulpit etc.	<b>Payment date:</b> 4 November [1907] £17 15s 0d
William Finlay & Co.	electric installation, lamps & main	<b>Payment date:</b> 4 November [1907] £45 12s 0d
John Smith & Son	mason work	<b>Payment date:</b> 4 November [1907] £98 18s 8d

## Documents

## Images



## Bibliography

### Published

- W. Allan Maclean, *St Philip's, Joppa: The Parish and the Church*, Edinburgh: St Philip's Joppa Parish Church, 1976
- John Gifford, Colin McWilliam, David M. Walker and Christopher Wilson, *Buildings of Scotland: Edinburgh*, London: Penguin, 1984, p. 652

### Notes:

**1:** W. Allan Maclean, *St Philip's, Joppa: The Parish and the Church*, Edinburgh: St Philip's Joppa Parish Church, 1976, p. 61.

**2:** W. Allan Maclean, *St Philip's, Joppa: The Parish and the Church*, Edinburgh: St Philip's Joppa Parish Church, 1976, p. 53.

**3:** W. Allan Maclean, *St Philip's, Joppa: The Parish and the Church*, Edinburgh: St Philip's Joppa Parish Church, 1976, p. 57; John Gifford, Colin McWilliam, David M. Walker and Christopher Wilson, *Buildings of Scotland: Edinburgh*, London: Penguin, 1984, p. 652.

- 4: W. Allan Maclean, *St Philip's, Joppa: The Parish and the Church*, Edinburgh: St Philip's Joppa Parish Church, 1976, p. 60.
- 5: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh / Keppie Henderson cash book, 1889–1917, GLAHA 53079, p. 67.
- 6: Edinburgh, National Archives of Scotland: St Philip's, Portobello, Deacons' Court minutes, CH3/957/4, 5 April 1904.
- 7: Edinburgh, National Archives of Scotland: St Philip's, Portobello, Deacons' Court minutes, CH3/957/4, 3 May 1904.
- 8: Edinburgh, National Archives of Scotland: St Philip's, Portobello, Deacons' Court minutes, CH3/957/4, 5 June 1906.
- 9: Edinburgh, National Archives of Scotland: St Philip's, Portobello, Deacons' Court minutes, CH3/957/4, 18 June 1906.
- 10: Edinburgh, National Archives of Scotland: St Philip's, Portobello, Deacons' Court minutes, CH3/957/4, 30 July 1906.
- 11: Edinburgh, National Archives of Scotland: St Philip's, Portobello, Deacons' Court minutes, CH3/957/4, 2 July 1907.
- 12: W. Allan Maclean, *St Philip's, Joppa: The Parish and the Church*, Edinburgh: St Philip's Joppa Parish Church, 1976, p. 61.
- 13: Edinburgh, National Archives of Scotland: St Philip's, Portobello, Deacons' Court minutes, CH3/957/4, 5 November 1907.
- 14: W. Allan Maclean, *St Philip's, Joppa: The Parish and the Church*, Edinburgh: St Philip's Joppa Parish Church, 1976, p. 74.
- 15: W. Allan Maclean, *St Philip's, Joppa: The Parish and the Church*, Edinburgh: St Philip's Joppa Parish Church, 1976, pp. 52–3.
- 16: Edinburgh, National Archives of Scotland: St Philip's, Portobello, Deacons' Court minutes, CH3/957/4, 5 April 1904.
- 17: Edinburgh, National Archives of Scotland: St Philip's, Portobello, Deacons' Court minutes, CH3/957/4, 12 July 1904 and 5 June 1906.
- 18: Edinburgh, National Archives of Scotland: St Philip's, Portobello, Deacons' Court minutes, CH3/957/4, 18 June 1906.
- 19: Edinburgh, National Archives of Scotland: St Philip's, Portobello, Deacons' Court minutes, CH3/957/4, 18 June 1906; W. Allan Maclean, *St Philip's, Joppa: The Parish and the Church*, Edinburgh: St Philip's Joppa Parish Church, 1976, p. 61.
- 20: Edinburgh, National Archives of Scotland: St Philip's, Portobello, Deacons' Court minutes, CH3/957/4, 2 July 1907 and 5 November 1907.
- 21: Edinburgh, National Archives of Scotland: St Philip's, Portobello, Deacons' Court minutes, CH3/957/4, 30 July 1906.
- 22: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53062, p. 108.
- 23: W. Allan Maclean, *St Philip's, Joppa: The Parish and the Church*, Edinburgh: St Philip's Joppa Parish Church, 1976, p. 74.
- 24: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh / Keppie Henderson cash book, 1889–1917, GLAHA 53079, p. 67. According to W. Allan Maclean (*St Philip's, Joppa: The Parish and the Church*, Edinburgh: St Philip's Joppa Parish Church, 1976, p. 61) the plans for the organ were made by Honeyman, but Maclean may have inferred this from the 1904 Deacons' Court minutes, which refer to the architects as 'Messrs Honeyman & Co.'
- 25: St Philip's, Joppa: <http://stphilipslab.fraser-rennie.co.uk> [accessed 25 February 2001].
- 26: This figure is a revised tender for the organ chamber only. John Smith & Sons original tender was £749.
- 27: 'probable'.
- 28: 'probable'.
- 29: 'slump sum est.'

## Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning

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