

ABBOTSHALL CHURCH

1650

2024



THE CHURCH AND PARISH **OF ABBOTSHALL**

Dedication

This book is dedicated to all those of the congregations of Abbotshall who for over 360 years have lovingly laboured to continue the worship in this Church.

Introduction

There is much that has been written about Abbotshall Church and Parish and its social history, but what better excuse than the 360th anniversary of the establishment of the parish to step back and try to review our history.

Over the years, we of the congregation of Abbotshall have been entertained by the extracts for the session minutes of Abbotshall and historic records of Kirkcaldy used by our retired minister Bryan Tomlinson in his sermons and addresses. These began to sew the seeds of this book along with the reading of the book published to mark the 325th anniversary of the Parish (Abbotshall Church and Parish – J.B. Smith). A special thanks to the late Graham Garvie who proof read the first draft of this book.

This new book covers some of the same ground first established in that publication by Mr Smith but as he did I have consulted a large number of publications and established my own thoughts. A debt must be paid to all those previous authors, especially those members of the congregation who have meticulously kept the congregational records over the years and provide the insight to the social changes over the years and those of my peers who I have consulted during my writings.

Parts of this archive of data are within the Kirkcaldy Library, with the parish records being held within the Scottish Archives in Edinburgh and the University of Edinburgh. In addition material has researched within Dunfermline Library, National Archives, National Portrait Gallery, Statistical Accounts held by University of Edinburgh and the Internet.

This has not been designed as a historical record and as such records and events are not set down in any strict chronological order.

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and the churches established by missions from Abbotshall

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Abbotshall celebrates 300 years

Abbotshall celebrates 325 years

Abbotshall celebrates 350 years

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Organisations who have met in the Church Halls

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Extracts from the Press

Notable people of Abbotshall and Kirkcaldy

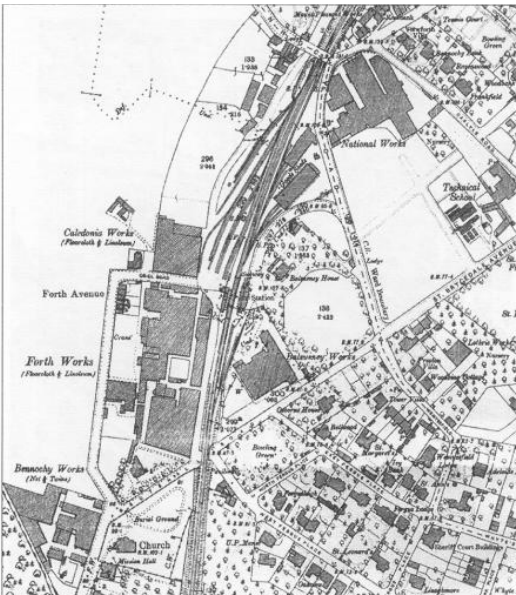
Picture Gallery

A brief description of the Parish of Abbotshall

The parish church and graveyard no longer sits on a small hillock north-east of Linkstoun, on the road from Linkstoun to Chapel village, but sits surrounded by the expanded burgh of Kirkcaldy.



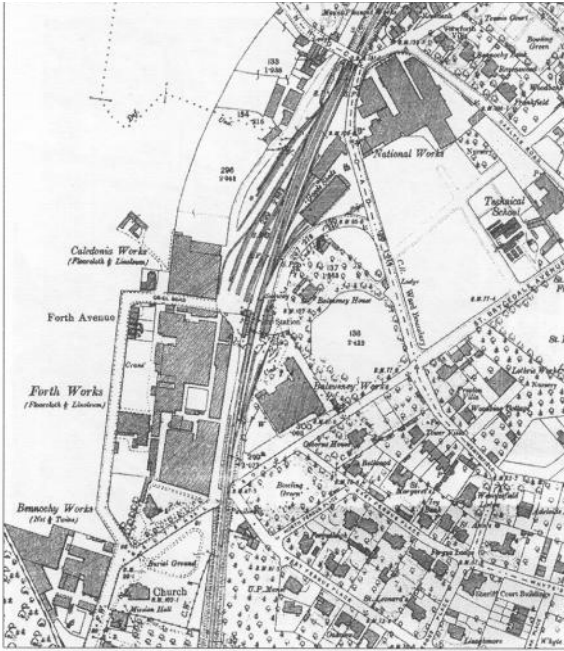
By the 1790's a new community, Newton of Abbotshall had been established. This brought together weavers and their families of about seven hundred weavers. The main street, now called Nicol Street was the main road from The East of Linktoun to the church.



By the late 1800's as well as housing to the south of the church, two industrial complexes and their housing were now on the North of the church. A linen mill owned by the Lockhart family and the Linoleum Works of Barry, Ostler and Shepherd, one two major linoleum works within Kirkcaldy.

This was the age of industrialisation and with it came the railway. This was built to meet the need of moving of output from the factories of Kirkcaldy and the station and goods yard were built in the gap between Abbotshall parish and Kirkcaldy adjacent to the linoleum

factories. The railway line, now forming the boundary of the churchyard and limiting the future expansion of the graveyard.



Today we see another change. The church no longer has the dominant industrial buildings to the north, there are flats where once the linen mill stood, the linoleum factory has been demolished with only its main office and canteen/social facilities, now converted into a hotel, remain. Some of the land has been used for light industrial use and the College of Nursing takes up a large plot in Forth Avenue. As with the factories the yard adjacent to the railway no longer has a bustle unless you call the daily movement of

cars as they park or drop and collect the commuters from Edinburgh.

Ministry

Parish Of Abbotshall

1650 - 1664	Patrick Wemyss
1664 - 1664	Alexander Fraser
1664 - 1679	Robert Forrest
1685 - 1691	John Bowes
1692 - 1697	Alexander Fraser
1699 - 1710	Patrick Mellville
1710 - 1742	Thomas Nairn
1742 - 1756	George Gibb
1758 - 1768	Alexander Spears
1769 - 1809	George Shaw
1810 - 1825	William Anderson
1826 - 1839	John Murray
1839 - 1843	Alexander Oswald Laird
1843 - 1847	Robert Gillan
1847 - 1857	John Duncan
1865 - 1911	Bruce Beveridge Begg
1911 - 1949	John Mercer Hunter
1949 - 1979	Magnus William Cooper
1980 - 2003	Bryan Tomlinson
2024-2017	Rosemary Frew
2018 -2023-	Justin Taylor

Raith

In 1875 Abbotshall began to hold Mission Services in Linktown of Abbotshall. The Session Minutes record that a Mr. Wm Harley **Davidson** of Glasgow be appointed missionary in Linktown at £ 100 per annum. An existing church building was purchased through Abbotshall Heritor Ronald Ferguson of Raith. This building was purchased from the congregation of the Abbotshall Free Church for £ 500, after their move to a site at the end of Kirkcaldy High Street, and within easy walk of Linktown. (see Abbotsrood Parish)

In 1884 the parish of Raith was established by disjunction from Abbotshall as recorded in the Session Minutes of 12th May 1875.

In 1964 after Kirkcaldy Presbytery reassessed the ministry within the West of Kirkcaldy it was recommended that Abbotshall and Raith congregations reunite.

1884 - 1888	Thomas Scott
1888 - 1927	David L Francis
1927 - 1951	William Conway
1951 -	John S. Fraser
- 1964	George Ayre



Adjoining Parishes prior to 1929

Bethelfield (Now Linktown)

In 1736 a congregation of an 'Associate Session' was formed within Linktown, without a preacher but with an occasional supply from Kirkcaldy Presbytery. In 1739 the church got a new impetus as Mr. Nairn seceded from ministry at Abbotshall and joined with the new congregation and by 1742 had built a church near the gate of the present building. The 1740's were a troubled time for the church within Scotland with splits over doctrine and its interpretation; this led to other splits within the Bethelfield congregation. By 1747 Bethelfield remained within the Church of Scotland. A new congregation was formed under Rev. David Wilson, meeting initially in a maltbarn near the foot of the Path, then building a church at the top of the Path which became the

Dunnikier Free Church. Reformers then appeared from these congregations setting up new congregations, which did not stand the test of time.

Abbotsrood

The 1840's were a troubled time within Scottish Church history and movements and changes of congregations occurred.

In 1843 Alex O. Lairde, a minister along with seven elders who left the Parish church of Abbotshall formed the Abbotshall Free Church. Meeting initially in a weaving factory they purchased a property from Mr James Brodie setting up the Links Free Church. As the congregation grew they moved to a site at the edge of Kirkcaldy High Street renamed themselves the Abbothall Free Church.

The congregation re-joined the Church of Scotland renamed Abbotsrood, but as Kirkcaldy expanded were again on the move to Hayfield Road Kirkcaldy.

In 1964 with the review of congregations in Kirkcaldy of ministry, the congregation joined with Dunnikier Church.

1843 - Alex O. Lairde

Short Biographies of the Ministers of Abbotshall

Taken from the Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticanae

- 1662 PATRICK WEMYSS M.A.

Born - 1622

Died - November 1667 aged 45

son of Henry Wemyss of Foodie.

Educated - St. Andrew's University; M.A. (1643)

Called to Abbotshall - 17th March

Admitted to Abbotshall - 4th November, 1650.

Deprived of living - by Act of Parliament, 11th June, and Decree of Privy Council of 1st October, 1662.

He had purchased the lands of East Conland in 1660, and those of Gladney (Ceres-Fife) in 1664 and died in the latter place in November, 1667, aged about 45 years.

He married -

(1) 2nd September, 1654, Elizabeth (died 5th April, 1662), eldest surviving daughter of George Hamilton, minister of Pittenweem, and had Harry born 25th Feb 1656, George, Eupham born 19th Oct 1657

(2) 26th January, 1666, Janet Durie of Parish of Burntisland. (Lamont's Diary)

1664 - 1664 ALEXANDER FRASER M.A.

Born - 1638

Died - between 6th April and 6th September, 1697, aged about 59 years

brother of Robert Fraser, advocate

Educated - Aberdeen University M.A. (1648).

Called - 1664

Admitted - 13th June 1664

Schoolmaster of Cruden before calling

Left - translated to Daviot and Dunlichty in the district of Garioch, Aberdeenshire, 31st August, 1664;

Married - Anna Pearson.

He returned to Abbotshall in 1692.

1664 – 1685 ROBERT FORREST, M.A.

Born - 1634

Died - June, 1679, aged about 45 years

Educated -Glasgow University M.A. (1654)

Called -

Ordained - on or before 6th August 1664 (translated)

Licensed - Presbytery of Stirling on 26th May, 1659 admitted to Dollar on 3rd January, 1660

Married - Marion, daughter of Sir John Rollo of Bannockburn.

1685 JOHN BOWES M.A.

Born -

Died -

Educated - Marischal College, Aberdeen

Called -

Ordained - before 7th October, 1685.

Deposed - 15th October, accused of neglecting the Catechism of the Westminster Assembly and using that set forth by the Diocesan Synod of Edinburgh;

Reopened - 7th April, 1693. By that time moving to another charge.

1692 - 1699 ALEXANDER FRASER, M.A.

see above 1664

Called - 23rd December, 1691 translated from Daviot and Dunlichty

Ordained- 5th January, 1692

1699 - 1710 PATRICK MELVILLE M.A.

Born -

Died - 12th January and 22nd February, 1710

Educated -

Called - August 1699. Chaplain to the Laird of Raith.

Ordained - 29th September, 1699

Licensed - Presbytery of Kirkcaldy on 28th October, 1697.

Married - Elizabeth, daughter of Daniel Ross, Writer, Edinburgh, April 1701

1710 – 1742 THOMAS NAIRNE M.A.

Born - about 1680, son of Samuel Nairne, minister of Errol, Carse of Gowrie, Perthshire,

Died - February 1764 aged about 84 years

Educated - St. Andrews University; M.A. (19th July, 1702);

Called - 26th June, 1710

Ordained - 17th September, 1710

Licensed - Presbytery of Cupar on 27th September, 1708

Joined the Associate Presbytery on 12th **October, 1737** **deposed by the General Assembly on 15th May, 1740**. For the reasons of "Differing from his Associate brethren about an Act for renewing our Covenants," he seceded from them on 3rd February, 1743, and with John McMillan, formerly of ?Balrnaghie (a parish in Kirkcudbrightshire) , founded the Reformed Presbytery on 1st August, 1743.

He petitioned the General Assembly to be again received into the Church, acknowledging his error, and was first, after discipline, admitted as a member, and afterwards restored to the ministry on 5th June, 1758.

Married - Janet Ramsay 14th August 1712

Children - Samuel baptised 8th July 1713

16th October 1715 Margaret (married John Cunningham of Pitarth) baptised [Order] Jean baptised 5th April 1724

er, Kirkcaldy) Helen, Mary (married 8th June, 1752 James Meldrum, Writ- baptised 23rd July 1727

John baptised 21st April 1735

1742 - 1756 GEORGE GIBB M.A.

Died - died on 8th February, 1756

Educated - St. Andrews University M.A. (8th May, 1723).

Called - 17th March, 1742

Ordained - 8th July, 1742

Married - Margaret (23rd April, 1750, she died 11 th January, 1799)

daughter of David Stewart, Edinburgh.

He was schoolmaster of Leslie prior to his calling

1758 - 1768 ALEXANDER SPEARS M.A.

Ordained - 1st March, 1758 (presented by Major William Arnot , November, 1757)

Translated from Abbotshall to Kirkcaldy Church on 28th June, 1768.

1769 - 1809 GEORGE SHAW M.A.

Born 1737

Died on 13th January, 1809

Educated - St. Andrews University, M.A. 1759

Called - 18th October 1768 (presented by William Ferguson of Raith)

Ordained - 27th April, 1769.

Married - Margaret Watt, (16th December, 1772; she died 13th January, 1823, aged 81 years)

1810 – 1825 WILLIAM ANDERSON M.A.

Born - 1774.

Died - 25th August, 1825

Called - was presented by William Ferguson of Raith on 5th November, 1809

Ordained on 1st August, 1810

Licensed – Presbytery of Kirkcaldy, 5th November, 1794

Married - Catherine Christian Whyte, (13th December, 1810; she died in Edinburgh, 14th March, 1851) Delete .

1826 – 1839 JOHN MURRAY M.A.

Called - 1825 . presented by Robert Ferguson of Raith

Ordained - 30th March, 1826,

Translated - Morton parish of Langholm, in Eskdale, Dumfries-shire, on 4th April, 1839.

1839 - 1843 ALEXANDER OSWALD LAIRD M.A.

Born - 24th October, 1808, son of Hugh Laird, P.D., minister of Portmoak, Kinross-shire

Died - 20th May, 1843

Educated - Edinburgh University

Licensed - Presbytery of Kirkcaldy on 15th September, 1830.

Ordained - 19th September, 1839

Licensed - on 5th June and ordained to Ardoch, parish of Muthill, Perthshire, on 23rd July, 1833

He joined the Free Church in 1843 and became minister of Abbotshall Free Church, High Street, Kirkcaldy.

On 9th February, 1848, he was translated to St. John's Free Church, Dundee, but was restored to the established Church in 1883.

Children - Emily Christine (died Mentone, France, 20th January 1937)

1843 - 1847 ROBERT GILLAN M.A.

Called - 1843

Ordained - 7th September, 1843,

Translated - St. John's Parish, Glasgow, on 25th February, 1847.

1847 - 1857 JOHN BLAIKIE M.A.

son of Thomas Blaikie, general merchant, and Margaret Turnbull.

Died - 26th July, 1858 Edinburgh

Called - 1847 presented by Robert Ferguson of Raith

Ordained - 14th October, 1847

Licensed - Presbytery of Edinburgh

Married - Helen (29th October, 1850; she died 23rd May, 1880),
daughter of David Bett, merchant, Leith.

1857 JOHN DUNCAN M.A.

Ordained - assistant and successor 4th June, 1857.

Translated to St. Michael's, Dumfries, 30th June, 1865.

1865 – 1911 BRUCE BEVERIDGE BEGG M.A.

Born - 24th June, 1837, Kinross

fourth son of Robert Begg, schoolmaster, Kinross, and
Grace Beveridge, and grand-nephew of Robert Burns.

Died - 27th August, 1923.

Educated - Kinross Parish School and University of Glas-
gow; B.A. (1858), M.A. (1859) D.O. (Glasgow, 1896)

Called - 1865

Ordained - Abbotshall on 28th September, 1865

Licensed - Presbytery of Glasgow in 1863

1863-64 - assistant at St. David's, Glasgow

1864-65 - The Tron, Edinburgh

Married - Magdalene (13th December, 1871; died 8th February 1928)

youngest daughter of Andrew Currie, of Glassmount, Kinghorn,

Children - Robert Burns, born 30th March, 1874

Elizabeth Fiskin, born 16th October, 1875

Grace Beveridge, born 18th- August, 1877

(married William James Somerville Miller, minister of West
Coates, Edinburgh)

Andrew Currie, banker, London; captain and adjutant, Black Watch,
born 13th October, 1879, killed in action,
30th January, 1916.



1911 – 1949 JOHN MERCER HUNTER M.A. O.B.E.

Born - 9th December, 1880 Ayr, son of John Hunter and Margaret Murray

Died -

Educated - Newton-upon-Ayr Academy, Ayr Academy and University of Glasgow; M.A. (1905), B.D. (1908)., D.D. (St. Andrews, 25th June, 1948)

Called -

Ordained - (assistant and successor) at Abbotshall on 6th December, 1911

Translated - 23rd February, 1949 to Legerwood Parish, western Berwickshire

Licensed - Presbytery of Ayr on 6th May, 1908, and became assistant at St. Mungo's, Glasgow, and Peebles

1914 - 1918 captain and chaplain to the forces in European War. Attached to Black Watch, and mentioned in Dispatches.

Married - Frances Margaret, (5th June, 1913), daughter of Thomas Martin, D.O., minister of Peebles 3 Children .



1949 – 1979 MAGNUS WILLIAM COOPER, M.A.

Born - 21st July, 1914, Leith

Son of Magnus Cooper and Margaret Sutherland.

Educated - Leith, David Kilpatrick School 1919-26,
Academy 1926-32

University of Edinburgh and New College 1932-9,

Licensed - Presbytery of Edinburgh, 6th April, 1939

1940-1 Assistant Glasgow St. Paul's Provanmill

1941-43 War Service with Church of Scotland in Middle East

Ordained - 3rd January, 1944

Called - November 1949

Ordained - (Abbotshall) - 9th November 1949

Called - November 1949

Married - Christina Jean (3rd September, 1944) born 14th October, 1923 Daughter of George H. Ross and Margaret Amott

1 Child



1980 – 2003 BRYAN LOUGHLIN TOMLINSON, T.D.

Born - 26 January 1939

University of Glasgow T.D.

Called - April 1980

Ordained - (Abbotshall) - 24th April 1980

Licensed - Presbytery of Paisley 1968

1968-69 Assistant Johnstone St Andrew's

1969-80 Old Cumnock Crichton West Ayrshire

1973-96 Chaplain TA

Married - Three Children -



2004– 2017 Rosemary Frew M.D.

Born - Clarkston Glasgow

University of Edinburgh MD.

Probation Markinch Parish

1995–2004 Largo & Newburn with Largo

2004–2017 Abbotshall

Translated 2017 Melrose Parish

Marries two children



2018-2023 Justin Taylor M.D.

Born - South Africa

University of Edinburgh MD.

2014 Youth Worker Wardie Parish Church, Edinburgh

2016 Assistant Inverleith then Greyfriars, Edinburgh

Called - 2016

Ordained - (Abbotshall) - 2018

Translated 2023 St Andrew's in the Grange, Guernsey

Licensed - Presbytery of Kirkcaldy,

Married - Two Children



Beadles

1845 - 1881	William Birrell
1881 - 1898	Alex Philip
1898 - 1945	James Knox
1945 -	Alfred McMillan

The beadles above stayed in the house now part of the church halls.

George Brown

Alex McLean

James Knox was appointed Church Officer and Sexton of Abbotshall in 1889 and continued as such until 1945. In 1912 the Session Minutes notes that his salary was increased to £26 per year. During his tenure he improved the burial records and produced a number of wall plaques, such as the record of those who fought in the Great War and the Baptismal Roll.

Organists

1872 -	Mr J. G. Pearson
1889 -	Mr. William Musgrove
1918	Herbert Westerbury
1918 - 1943	John Hunter
1943 - 1945	Isa Clark
Jan - Dec 1946	Torrance
1947 - 1956	Tom Galloway
1956 - 1963	Charles Anderson
1963 - 1994	Duncan McIntryre
1994 -	Richard Michael

Herbert Westerbury composed music dedicated to Sir Ronald Munro-Ferguson and Rev. J.M. Hunter.

John Hunter F,C.R.O. was blind and composed pieces of music which was include in a carol song sheet published by the National Institute for the Blind

Music in Abbotshall

Since the introduction of an organ in 1872 music has formed an important part of the life and worship of Abbotshall.

In 1872 the Session of Abbotshall decided to introduce the first organ to accompany worship. This was not universally accepted by Presbytery as can be seen in the extract from the Fife Free Press of 1872.

In 18xx the Session decided to extend the building and install the current Rushworth and Draper organ. It was also decided to pay not just the organist but also a male and female member of the choir,

Since then the choir has been an important part of the life of the church.



In addition over the years we have choir concerts, visiting choirs, visiting orchestras, groups and soloists.



Buildings of Abbotshall

Church

Over the centuries there has been much change at Abbotshall with the main part of the current building dating from it's rebuilding in 1788. No distinct record appears of where the inhabitants of this parish first assembled for public worship, but it was probably in some place connected with the old mansion-house of Abbotshall or perhaps some other hall in the Linktown of Abbotshall.

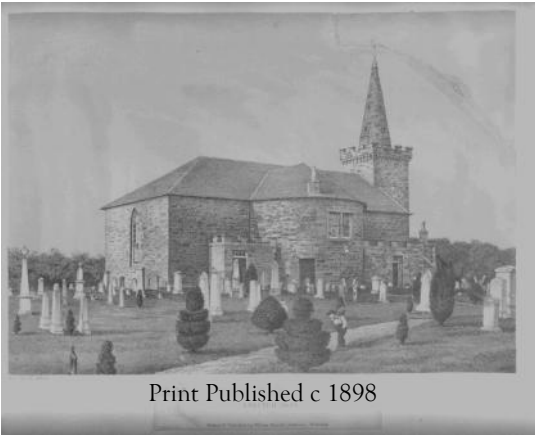
The original church on this site was built in 1674, 24 years after the institution of the church. This can be seen on the date stone on the tower. In 1710 galleries were erected by the society of Weavers and the society of Hammermen 'for the accommodation of their member in attendance of public worship'. The societies of Tailors and Shoemakers had sittings allocated to them in the Hammermen's loft. A third loft or gallery was added for the seating of the Heritors.



In 1787 the main part of the original rectangular church was demolished because it was too small for the increasing congregation, and a new church erected on the site and joined to the old tower during the years 1787 and 1788. The old incorporations of Weavers and of Hammermen re-built their lofts in the church in 1788, using some of the material from the original lofts. The cost of rebuilding is recorded in the Weavers' papers in Kirkcaldy Library and was the sum of £ 63.

The building at this time had its entrances to the north, away from the sea, one specifically for the Heritors to access their gallery. This gallery has assumed the name of the Raith Gallery after the estate of the Church's main Heritor.

The building was built following the traditional Scottish Presbyterian model. It has been extended and the interior forms the shape of a cross. The church occupies the highest point on the site and surrounded by its graveyard. Its approach is up two paths through the graveyard from the adjoining streets.



The church is constructed mainly of squared and snecked rubble with ashlar quoins and amggins and has a slate roof.

Over the years modifications have been made to the church and with these the main entrance to the church has changed. By 1898 in the above picture the south wing, with the organ loft and the two side entrances had been added, while access

to the Raith Gallery was through the door just left of the centre.

With the renovations in 1975 a complete re-arrangement of both the entrance and the interior of the church was undertaken. The two side entrances were converted to a session room on the north-east of the building and toilets and vestry on the north-west.

Documented Construction Events and persons involved with the construction

Build/Construction	1674 to 1679	Date stone of 1674 on the tower
Rebuild	1788	Church was rebuilt
Additions	1883	Stone mullions added, two new windows added to the West gable, the agreement to install the two Stained glass windows at both sides of the pulpit
Addition	1898	Wings added
Alteration	1975	Church as we see it today
Original landowner	Sir Andrew Ramsay	Owner of Abbotshall Estate and Heritor of Abbotshall Church
Architect	John Murray	1898 responsible for 1899 change
Architect	Walker & Pride	1975 responsible for 1975 changes

Description of the Current Building



Within the traditional shape of the church there were three galleries. The central or Raith gallery, facing the pulpit and communion table, was originally reserved for the Lairds of the Novar estate and its staff. This gallery had its own fireplace to keep the occupants warm. The west gallery was known as the

Weavers Gallery, named after the Weaver's Society who sponsored its building. The third gallery was built by the Hammernens Society.

In the days when these galleries were built the heating in the church was coal fires, one in the centre of the church and one in the Raith gallery. The central fire had a chimney, which was discreetly hidden from the outside shape of the church by being vented through the bell tower. The remains of this heating, the chimney, is still hidden above the modern false ceiling and in the bell tower. This was later modified by the addition of fires on the South wall of the church.

Lighting was originally by candle light, but with the building of the Bennoch Works a gas pipe was laid from their boiler house to allow the introduction of Gas lighting to the church.

There are six Stained glass windows which have been gifted to the church. The other windows have stained glass in their surrounds.



Prior to 1974 the church was laid out with the traditional doored pews, forming three sides the square cross shaped interior of the church.

The current interior of the church was extensively modernised in 1974. The sanctuary is now separated from main entrance with an etched glass screen. These etchings depicting the symbols of the church, the alpha and the omega, the dove with the leaves after the flood and the cross on each of the doors. The downstairs pews are laid out in a crescent facing the communion table and pulpit, as is the three-part gallery (now tiered).

Under the choir range there is a crypt entered from outside the church. The crypt was created by infilling the walls of lower organ chancel as it had been built on pillars to allow access to the burial plots in the graveyard at this point. There are still some headstones within the walls of the crypt.

The crypt, though not having a great head height, has been furnished and was used as a crèche during services.

With the modernisation of the church a new pulpit and choir range was built. The organ range and console was also refurbished to match the light oak used in the modernisation.

Organ

The current Organ is the second installed in Abbotshall.

The first Organ

On 19th September 1870 the Session asked the congregation to vote on a proposal to install and use a harmonium at congregational worship. The resulted in the Psalmody Committee purchasing the first organ. This organ was the first in the Presbytery and was not without some controversy

This was built by Frederick Holt of Edinburgh. The organ was first used on 6th September 1872 with two public performances by Vocalists, Miss Thomson and Mr. Sanderson and Organists, Mr Holt the Organ Builder and Mr James Pearson Abbotshall organist.

Details of the first Organ are found in the Appendix of published press articles including a Reverie not applauding the installation of the organ but suggesting it was influence by the Catholic church.

The Second Organ

The current Binn's Organ was built by James Jepson Binns of Leeds and the first public performance was on 29th March 1899. This organ was number 236 produced by the Binns factory.

To accommodate this organ the 1899 extension of the Church was undertaken at a total cost of £ 10,000, including the organ.

This extension (choir loft) was built out over the graveyard. The original build of this extension was on pillars to allow access to the burial lairs, which had no recorded use for over 60 years in 1890.

The latest organ refurbishment was carried out in 2001. At this time a total refurbishment was undertaken by Rushworth and Dreaper of Liverpool.

After the refurbishment the organ was rededicated in December 2001, in memory of Duncan MacIntyre organist, choir master and elder.

The plaque has the following dedication :

Rededication to the Glory of God in December 2001
And in Lasting Memory of
DUNCAN MACINTYRE DIP MUS Ed RSAMD
Organist and Choirmaster 1963 - 1994

Details of the Organ

Organ Maker J.J Binns Date Built - c 1876

Refurbished - 2001 Rushworth and Draper

Console:

Swell to Great
Swell to Pedal
Swell Octave to Great
Swell Suboctave to Great
Swell Octave
Swell Suboctave
Great to Pedal

	Key action	Stop action	Compass low	Compass high	Notes Enclosed
Pedal	TP				
Great	TP				
Swell	TP				
Department		Stop name			Pitch
Pedal		1 Harmonic Bass	32		
		2 Open Diapason		16	
		3 Sub Bass		16	
		4 Flute Bass		8	
		5 Octave Diapason		8	
Department		Stop name			Pitch
Great		6 Bourdon		16	
		7 Open Diapason 1		8	
		8 Open Diapason 2		8	
		9 Dulciana		8	
		10 Lieblich Gedact		8	
		11 Principal		4	
		12 Harmonic Flute		4	
		13 Fifteenth		2	
		14 Trumpet		8	
Department		Stop name			Pitch
Swell		15 Geigen Principal		8	
		16 Rohr Flute		8	
		17 Vox Humana		8	
		18 Celeste		8	
		19 Viol d'Orchestre		8	
		20 Salicet		4	
		21 Harmonics		III	
		22 Cornopean		8	
		23 Oboe		8	
		24 Tremulant			

Blowing: Hydraulic, electric

4 thumb pistons to each manual

4, 4 toe pedals

Bell and Bell tower

Externally the tower is of two stages with a crenellated parapet and spire above. The spire is conical and of ashlar with oval openings, now covered, which reduce in size toward the top. The spire is surmounted by a ball and cross finial.

Within the bell tower is a single bell. This bell was cast on London by in 1832 .

Traditionally the bell was tolled by the beadle to call parishioners to worship. This tradition is still carried on and on Sunday and special occasions, such as a marriage,

The lower tower consists of two joined spaces. These rooms act as a choir and a marriage retiring room. They have leaded windows in both parts.

The upper tower did have a number of levels but over the years these has been reduced to three, the tower room, then two upper levels both accessed by long single ladders.

The upper tower room is entered from the West staircase and is the only one windowed room. In the spire the openings are open to the elements to allow the sound of the bell and smoke from the open fires to exit through a chimney to leave the tower.

The bell is rung from the tower room.

The of the tower has original wood work with the door still having its original lock and key.

Memorials of the church.

The Church of Scotland does not have a tradition of the patrons being buried within the church. Pre-reformation there were several burial lairs within the church. These were removed during one of the restorations of the church and the grave stones flat on the ground outside the session room are believed to be the stones from these. There are several commemorative plaques on the walls of the church.

West wing



Marble plaque to the memory of Rev Bruce Beveridge Begg DD minister of Abbotshall from 1865 to 1911.

Brass **Plaque** dedicated to Captain & Adjt 1/7 Black Watch RH

Andrew Currie Begg, the son of the Rev Bruce Begg, who was killed in action at the battle for High Wood's near Bazantin le Petit in the Somme, part of the battle of the Somme which raged from 14th July to 15th September 1916 during World War I,



Choir range

Four memorials commemorate the war dead of the parishes of Abbotshall and Raith.

Three are brass plates and the fourth is the east choir window bearing the inscription of six Raith Parish men lost in the Second World War.

In addition there are two individual memorials to First World War casualties, one to David George Methven and the other to Andrew Currie Begg both of whose names are incorporated in the main Abbotshall First World War plaque.

First World War 1914 - 1918

Abbotshall Church Memorial

This war memorial sits on the front east wall of the choir and is the most decorated brass plate with a saltire at its top centre with symbols of the church on either side. The acronym *in hoc signo* to the left and alpha/omega to the right.

To the Glory of God

In memory of those who Gave their lives in the great war

MCMXIV-MCMXIX

Thomas Allan	James Herbert Lockhart
George Barrie	David Shanks Meldrum
George Barrons	Henry Meldrum
Andrew Currie Begg	Archd McIntosh Mellville
James Black	David George Methven
Charles Brown	David Michie
James Whyte Couper	John Miller
Roger A. Couper	Andrew Moncur
John Davidson	Henry Moyes
Henry Fowler	Charles McGregor
Andrew Fraser	Samuel McMahan
William Fraser	Walker McMahan
Robert Fyfe	Thomas Paterson
Andrew Gibson	Peter Paton
Andrew Gourlay	James Paterson
William Graham	James Turner Proudfoot
John Graham	Robert Ramsay
David Henderson	Thomas Robb
John Ireland	Hardie Simpson
Robert Jack	Alexander Speed
Alexander Kennedy	Charles Lamb Stewart
John Kennedy	Adam Thomson
William Laing	Spiers Torrance
Harry Lawrence	Robert Wilson
James Lawson	William Wright



Raith Parish Church memorial with the inscription

Erected by the Congregation of Raith Parish Church
 To the Glory of God and in Loving memory of
 our brave men, who during the European War 1914-19
 passed out of our sight by the path of duty and self sacrifice

Leicut	W.P. Francis	R.S.	Pte	Wm. Henderson	R.H.
	Jas. Wallace	Canadians	Gunner	Chas. Henderson	
	R.C.A				
Coppl	Alex Dewar	A&S.H	Pte	Wm. Hutchison	
	A.&S.H.				
	John Anderson	R.H.		And. Jack	R.H.
	P.T. Westwood	R.H.		Wm. Jarvis	R.H.
Pte	Wm. Baxter	A&S.H.	Stoker	Geo Kidd	R.N.
	Alex. Bayne	R.S.	Pte	Geo. Latto	C.H.
	Alex. Bogie	R.S.		And. Lawson	
	K.O.S.B.				
	George Brown	A.S.C.M.T.		John McPherson	
	K.O.S.B.				
	Jas. Buchanan	K.O.S.B.		Wm. McDowall	
	K.O.S.B.				
	Geo. Buchanan	C.H.		Robt. Ramsay	R.H.
Stoker	Jas. Colville	R.N.		Jas. Stark	R.H.
Pte	And. Elshender	H.L.I.		John Scott	C.H.
	Arch. George	S.M.		Geo. Stevenson	Lab. Btn.
	Jas Maccart	R.S.F. Trans			



Abbotshall Parish 1939 – 1945

- A brass plaque with the inscription

To the Glory of GOD
and in grateful memory
of the men of this church
who gave their lives in
1939 the world war 1945

Ernest Biggar	David Kinnell
John B.M. Brown	John B. Mitchell
Ronald Dawson	J.A. Neilson
Andrew Foote	James C. Robertson
George E Valentine	

Raith Window is inscribed

“be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life”

1939 – 45

Edward H Baldie

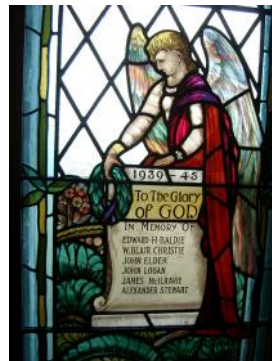
W. Blair Christie

John Elder

John Logan

James McIlravie

Alexander Stewart



East wing

Memorial plaque inscribed with the crest of the Seaforth Highlanders and carrying the following dedication

In memory of David George Methven Captain 2nd Battalion Seaforth Highlanders
Killed in action at Frelingheim 0th Oct 1914 only son of
The Late James Methven and of Mrs Methven, Wemyss Park

Memorial to Rev. **Magnus William Cooper**

Raith Gallery

Plaque to the memory of Viscount Novar the last heritor of the parish.

“To the Memory of Viscount Novar KT PC GC MC
Laird of Raith Chief Heritor and Elder of the Parish
Born 6th March 1860 passed away 30th March 1934
after a distinguished career at home and overseas
beloved of all who knew him”

Vestibule

On the left hand side of the vestibule is the plaque gifted to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the establishment of the church.

Whosoe'er Thou art that interest this ancient house of god built nigh 300 years ago for the people of the parish of Abbotshall & by the word of God's ministers and the faithful worship of His people for many generations, consecrated for the praise and glory of God, The Father, Christ the Saviour, through the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, the comforter - Leave it not without a prayer of thankfulness to God that - through His love and goodness touching the hearts of men of piety & wisdom & wealth in troubled times - it is permitted to thee, in direct communion with all who have gone before, so to worship in quietness and in peace - and pray, moreover, that the Servant of Christ & and those who bear the vessels of the Lord in this our day & generation, may be worthy followers of the men of old, in sincerity of worship, in purity of doctrine & in integrity of life, so that, by precept & example the Kingdom of God may be furthered & strengthened in this corner of the Vineyard of the Lord.

It is marked on the bottom edge J.M.M 1918 J Knox

Windows of the Church

There are 6 full stained glass sets of windows depicting texts from the bible within the church; the Spring and Summer windows in the Raith Gallery were produced by James Ballantine of Edinburgh and it assumed that this was the artist who produced all three of the main stained glass windows, west, east and Raith.

West wing

The left (east) window of the pair depicts the text -
'I am the good shepherd'

and is inscribed and dedicated to the memory of
'James Edmonstoune Aytoun and his wife Mary
Peter and their family'

[James Ayton is recorded in the Parochial Directory of 1861 as living in Newton of Abbotshall as a Gentleman of independent means. His family also ran Messers R & A Aytoun at Abbotshall Mills, makers and suppliers of Tow and Jute, Sail and Rope Twines]



the right (west) window of the pair depicts the text -

' come unto me all thee that labour and are heavy laden and I will give thee rest' and is inscribed and dedicated to the memory of 'G L and E R Boglily and R C and C L Balweary'

[George Lewis farmed at Boglily Farm; by 1861 he had died and his wife was recorded as running the farm in the 1861 Parochial Directory. The Carstairs family ran various businesses from Balwearie at this time.]

East Wing

there is a pair of stained glass windows again by James Ballantine of Edinburgh. These depict the garden the morning after the burial of Jesus where the women meet the 'gardener' the two texts are -

‘He is not here he is risen as I said’ and
‘I ascend unto my father and to my God and your God’

and dedicated and inscribed on the east part

‘In memory of David Methven Born 4th August 1798 died
17th June 1864 and Janet his wife born 10th October 1804
died 16th July 1866’

and on the west part

‘Robert Davidson of Wester Bogie died 25th January 1882
and Lucy Thomas his wife died 13th Dec 1881’

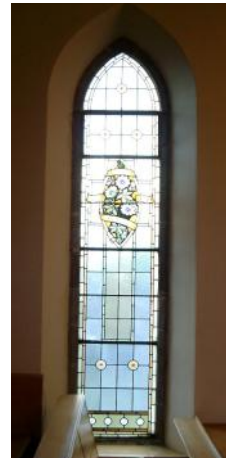
[David Methven was a member of the Methven Family
who were based in Linktown of Abbotshall. David is
recorded as a merchant Supplying China, Glass, Stone
Ware and Rags in the 1861 Parochial Directory.

Robert Davidson is recorded as the farmer at Wester
Bogie



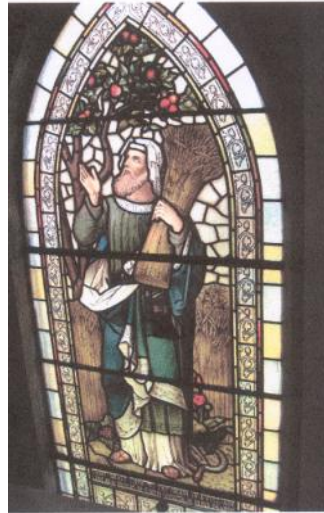
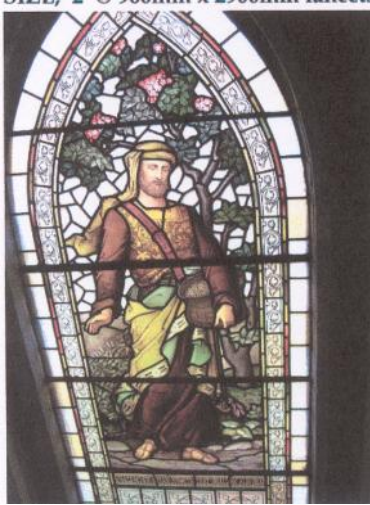
Choir range 3 separate windows

Rear of choir behind the organ loft - A circular Lamb of God (really only visible
in its entirety from the Raith gallery or from within the organ gallery)



Raith Gallery

A pair of windows on the north of the church, depicting Spring and Harvest, with two texts from the scriptures. These windows were moved during the refurbishment of the church in the 1970's and extended to fit the new window recesses. This was done by extending the outer bandings round the original windows in a sympathetic style .



Inscription on the Left (Spring) window -

‘Whatsoever a man soweth that shall he also reap’

Inscription on the Right (Autumn) window -

‘Thou shalt come unto the grave in a full age like a stock of corn cometh in his season’

The windows are inscribed and dedicated to the

‘memory of David Aitken born 1806 died 26th Nov 1884 and Isobella Marion St Enhouse his wife born 1806 died March 25th 1887’

[David Aitken was a farmer at Torbain & Tough in the 1861 Parochial Directory]

Vestibule

In addition to the stained glass windows the vestibule entry to the to the sanctuary is glazed and the windows etched. Both doors have the cross, the next pair of windows have the symbols of alpha and omega, first and last,



Furnishings of the Church

With the union of the congregations of Abbotshall and Raith the Session agreed that the Communion Table, chairs and Lectern of Raith should be used in the joint charge.

The Communion table bears the inscription “This do in remembrance of me”
The set of three chairs consist of a larger armed chair with a celtic cross carved at the centre, the other two are smaller, have no arms and have an oil lamp carved at their centre.

The large brass eagle lectern is dedicated to

“Thomas Christie
who died August 6th 1943 aged 53
for 20 years session clerk of this church”

There is in addition a small lectern on the communion table, which is dedicated

“To the Glory of God and in grateful remembrance of
Ann Maud Lockhart
who gave 40 years faithful service in the Parish of Abbotshall
Died 3rd December 1925”



The font was donated in 1899 when the organ loft extension was added. The font contains the original silver baptismal bowl of Abbotshall Church.

The Communion Plate and other Plate of Abbotshall

Background of the Church of Scotland record of communion Plate

Within the earliest known records of communion cups, which was written round about the middle of the seventeenth century, particulars of receipts and disbursements disclose that a church “thesaurer” (treasurer) was appointed yearly, usually during January. The treasurer then demitting office, in his submitted inventory of money, documents, etc., in his charge, itemised the communion plate belonging to the Kirk Session, and for which the newly entered treasurer acknowledged receipt.

Today, we recognise that cups, such as those of the year 1717, possessed by Abbotshall Kirk Session and congregation, are historic cups of no common value.

So long as the Church confined to the clergy the cup of blessing- as it designated by St. Paul - small chalice cups alone were used. The effect of the Reformation changed this and all believers were admitted to partake of the Sacrament of the Supper in the manner appointed by our Lord; and in token of this, the Scottish Reformers directed “large silver cups” to be provided for sacramental use.

Communion; a Historic Description

In the early days of Abbotshall Church, as in days within the memory of many of our older members, preparation for communion caused manifold duties to be performed by Session and by congregation. Elders were appointed to wait on the collections which were made at the Kirk style, or within a collection house nearby the kirk style. Other elders were appointed to serve at the tables within the church.

At that time the communion was held on two Sundays following each other, and in connection with each of these there were three week-day services. Generally a tent was erected in the church yard, and from its services communicants proceeded to the tables in relays. The minister bore the costs of furnishing the elements to the communion. "From the collection the expenses were met of erecting and taking down the tables and forms; of providing ale and bread for the servers at communion, of washing the communion cloths and erecting and keeping in good repair the "gang brod that held to communion wye "a broad walk which led from the tent to the church door".

The collection was also recognised as poor folk's money.

There was also an elder at every service throughout the year, week-days and Sundays, "waiting to help to collect with ane other ordinary man, in respect that it is reported that the vulgar sort of people without authority distributts the collections to several persuns who attend at the porch and style neidlesslie."

Before each communion, the people were examined by the minister at the several preparatory diets.

Three attendances at those diets or services were exacted before a person could communicate. Two attendances did not suffice. Intimation of the last opportunity to attend for examination was publicly made by the beadle and by the ringing of the bell. From time to time it was judged fit to delay the administration of the sacrament to a more convenient time, because "not so many had received tikkets (tokens) as would fill ane table, with the prayer that the Lord should make them more willing to partake of that ordinance".

Metal tokens used as tickets were in general use for well over two hundred years within the church..

In the early days of Abbotshall there was no seating within the ground floor of the church and Communion brought keen competition for particular floor spaces, before the galleries were built, first choice fell to the principal heritors. Thereafter the heritors were seated away from the greater part of the congregation”

It is recorded that bids of up to fifty pounds Scots was made and paid by successful parties.

Communion Plate

Down through the years of the past three centuries the Parish Church of Abbotshall became possessed of handsome communion cups and plate, some



Six large wine chalices (silver)

the oldest pair are each inscribed: "Kirk Session of Abbotshall, 1717., R.I., Castle., E.P., M." These are hallmarked and can be traced as having been made in Edinburgh by Robert Ingles, a deacon of the Edinburgh Goldsmiths in 1691 and 1701.

The second pair appear to be of equal age, carrying the same stamp impressions.

One cup is inscribed: "Gifted be A. K. and M. B. to the Kirk Session of Abbotshall".

The second cup is inscribed: "Gifted be Andrew Kenidie and Marg. Bruce to the Kirk Session of Abbotshall".

The third pair of cups each bear the inscription: "Gifted to the Kirk Session of Abbotshall by William Roy Spears, one of the members, in loving memory of Margaret Isabella Roy, his wife, who died 17th July, 1879".

The date "6th November, 1892" is inscribed on the stems.

Small wine chalice

A small wine cup (pewter silver electroplated) inscribed "Raith Parish 1890"

This cup was made in the 1880's in Birmingham by Alfred Browett & Co.

Two wine flagons (silver)

One bears the inscription: "To the Kirk Session of Abbotshall from John Peter Aytoun, in memory of his wife Eliza Inglis Anderson, born 14th November, 1830, died 8th April, 1855." "April, 1886."

The other flagon is inscribed: "In memory of David Aitken, Esquire, Chapel, for upwards of 39 years an elder in this church. Presented to the Kirk Session and Congregation Abbotshall Parish Church, April, 1886."

One bread salver (silver)

The silver bread salver has a scroll design on rim. In centre is the following inscription :-" Abbotshall Parish Church. To the Glory of God and in memory of Frederick Heggie, who, for 48 years, was an elder. To the Parish and Congregation this plate is dedicated as a thank offering for peace, July, 1919. L.W. and J.H.W."

Two bread plates (pewter)

The pewter bread plates bear the following inscription on each of the upper rims: A.S. Session 1749. On the reverse or under side of the first plate a crown supported by palm leaves on a floral design with the name Ballantyne. On the reverse side of the second plate, though not so legible, are two stamped impressions of St. Andrews and Cross (oval) and the name John Gray. The other four stamp impressions are very worn

Two pewter flagons

One has the inscription
"KIRK SES^SION ABBOTSHALL
1790"

The other is inscribed
"KIRK SESSHON ABBOTSHALL
1770"



There are five other plates, three still in common use in the Church.

The first pair are still placed on the communion table for reception of collections. The plates are of brass with fruit designs in centre.

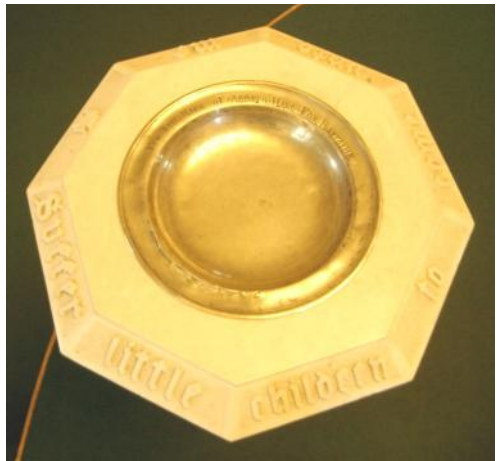
One is inscribed on the rim: "Honour the Lord with the first fruits of all thine increase." Dated 1890.

The other is inscribed: "GVE. VOV. VIL. ENTER. AT. CHRISTIS. DURE. INCLINE. VI. EIR. VNTO. VE. PURE." Dated 1890.

Baptismal plate

It is inscribed: "For the Kirk of
Abbats' Hall. For Bapztirne".

It carries no date or stamp impressions but has been attributed to the late **seventeenth** or early eighteenth century. It is mounted in a marble font bearing the inscription "Suffer little children to come unto me".



Individual cups serving set

During the year 1950, the congregation expressed its desire to adopt individual cups, but the Session was compelled to intimate that they were unable to meet present day costs.

Very soon afterwards, however, one of our members, Mrs McKenzie, of Ederline Lodge, came forward offering to provide the funds of an Individual Communion Set in memory of her mother, Mrs Methven of Wemyss Park, Wemyssfield, Kirkcaldy, a stalwart member of this church.

The Kirk Session gratefully accepted Mrs McKenzie's gracious offer on behalf of the congregation, and at the Preparatory Service of October, 1950, the minister received the new cups from Mrs McKenzie and dedicated them to the Glory of God and in memory of Mrs Methven.

Halls

The halls are outwith the graveyard at one entrance to the grounds.

The original mission hall and sextants house was built in 1881 (see date stone on sextant house) at the corner of Abbotshall Road and Cloanden Place.

The first change to the halls was the house was joined to the hall and converted to other uses. Today this section now forms the toilet and kitchen wing of the halls complex.

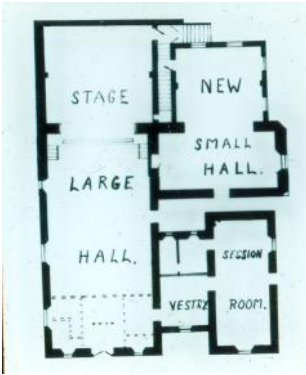
Over the years the halls have been added to and this can be seen from the mix of architecture and to strengthen the original structure of the main hall tension bar have been added.

The original main hall has been extended to incorporate a stage and storage basement. This is used for a wide range of activities Sunday School, Boys Scouts, Guides and Brownies, plays, concerts, shows and a wide range of both secular and non-secular activities.

A 'new' extension was built in the 1950's, the Kennedy Hall, which as with the larger main hall is for the activities within the halls.



Sketch from c 1911



The halls have been refurbished a number of times within the 50 years with extensive renovations for the 325'th anniversary and the 1993 to meet the changing needs of the congregation. This refurbishment still continues today.

Documented Construction Events and persons involved with the construction

Build/Construction	1881	Date stone on the beadles house
Alteration	1957	
Alteration	1958	Kennedy Hall
Alteration	1980	Entrance and new toilets
William Little & Son beadle's house	1881	Original Architect responsible for hall an
Miss Milne	1957	Benefactor enabling renovations
Mr James Grove	1957	
Mrs Kennedy	1958	Benefactor enabling Kennedy Hall and extension to be carried out.
Alteration	1993	Formation of New Fire Exit to main hall, chair store, refurbishment of Kitchen, Upgrading of toilets, addition of disabled toilet and access.

Manse

Today the minister lives in the third recorded manse of Abbotshall.

The first manse was built in Milton Road (24) in 1772. The building now forms part of the Abbey Hotel. The entrance gates to the grounds stood on the corner of Milton Road and Nicol Street.

Until the manse was built, the clergy had a £5 allowance for housing.

As part of the minister's stipend a parcel of the land or glebe was provided to supplement the minister's income. Abbotshall had 6 ½ acres of land extending over an area which now is covered by James Grove – William Street, and this produced an income of approx. £30. This added to the teind (tythes) equal to 100 merk Scots was the stipend for the minister. As late as 1992 it appears that Abbotshall still had rights to this land through the title deeds in land sold in 1874 and 1876 to a Thomas Hunter. This land adjacent to the Potteries owned by David Methven and Sons was to be used for a Joiners workshop and Yard.

In 1810 with the induction of Mr William Anderson, "an awkward addition of two rooms" was made to this manse and, the records show that "all at an expense! fully equal to the half of what it would have cost to build a substantial new house. Even so, the house was ever in need of repair".

The OS map of 1894 details the manse and its garden but by that date part of the glebe of Abbotshall was already built over and the houses in Glebe Street are shown on that map. Also by that date Milton Road was occupied by housing and the West School had been built along with the bowling green opposite. The bowling green and Milton Villa just north of the school grounds was the limit of the buildings in Milton Road.

The second Manse was 17 West Albert Road and was occupied from about 1885.

The current manse used by the ministers of Abbotshall was the Manse of Raith Parish Church, in Milton Road. At the time of the re-union of Abbotshall and Raith Churches it was agreed to sell the Abbotshall Manse and re-furbish and modernise the Manse of Raith with that becoming the new Abbotshall Manse.

Abbotshall Manse (Milton Road Kirkcaldy) (Formerly the Manse of Raith Parish Church)

The manse is a large detached building set in its own grounds with large gardens to the front and rear and dates from about 1895.

The manse was erected in memory of John Forrester. The following inscription can be seen above on the upper inscription above the front door – “Raith Manse Erected to the beloved memory of John Forrester DSI 1895 Gnattia”.



Original Architects Sketch

Church Yard of Abbotshall

The graveyard surround the church and is enclosed by a stone boundary wall. The tradition in Abbotshall graveyard is that the heritors, farming, business family's acquired large plots round the perimeter walls and enclosed those with boundaries. There are a number of notable graves including 'Pet' Marjory and Commonwealth war graves.

During the 1800's there was a problem with grave robbing for use in medical schools (Burke and Hare).

Abbotshall Burial Watch

Rapid advances were made in the study of anatomy during the 17th and 18th centuries, and the procuring of dead bodies, in Great Britain, for anatomical purposes was, until 1832, a circumstance which created the 'heinous crime' of body-snatching. That period was the hey-day of body-snatchers.

In 1678, a man named Shaw were hanged in Edinburgh. He was buried in Greyfriars Church. Next morning it was discovered that the body was missing. This state of affairs continued into the middle of the early 19th century. After battle of Waterloo the growing advance of scientific knowledge led to a series of such crimes and to the resurrectionist scare. Some Scottish churchyards still have the remains of watch-houses for those whose duty it was to protect the 'tenants of the tomb'.

The Abbotshall burial watch began on 17th February, 1819.

In June of that year, George Campbell and others were charged with 'violating the sepulchres of the dead'.

The accounts and minutes of the Abbotshall Burial Watch describe this organisation. Disbursements describe purchase of coals and candles, a broom, and two muskets and bayonets for £2 15s 6d. General supervision of the Churchyard was assumed by the Society.

There is a list of 844 names divided into districts (eleven in number), including West Bridge, Bankhead of Raith, Chapel and Sauchenbush. At the outset, a regular watch was held every night in the churchyard by four of the district inhabitants. The first chairman of the Watch was a Mr Robert Stocks. All males attending the church between 16 and 60 years of age were enrolled. The rules of the Watch condemned practice firing of the muskets in the churchyard. Meetings of the Watch were held in the church, or Links Meal Hall, located a little to the west of Methven Road.

In September, 1826, there was a proposal regarding a grant of ground by Mr Robert Ferguson, Raith, to build a new watch-house on the North Wall, opposite the new burying ground. Apparently this was done at a cost of £16 9s. 10d. (To relate it to our current view of the churchyard, it stood to the rear of the churchyard along the line of the railway. At the time it was built the main entrance gate was opposite Whyte Mellville Road, to the south-east of the graveyard.)

In January, 1829, it was resolved that the most efficient way of protecting the burial ground was a large stone with a frame of iron around the coffin, and that this was by far the most secure. These were found to be too expensive, and so the night watch continued. No doubt the watching ceased on the more general use of mortsafes. It is also documented that for a period of time there was an Abbotshall Mortsafe Association, and this probably succeeded the Watch.

The watch-house built in 1826 was demolished about 1900 years ago and a sexton's tool-shed built in its place alongside the railway embankment. At the time the Session minutes record the old watch-house as being in 'a most ruinous condition' stood nearby to the church-yard gate opposite Whyte Melville Road.

Care of the Churchyard

During the first quarter of the 19th century a great change had taken place in Scotland with religious feeling, applying equally to both 'gentle and simple', and, at the same time, a much greater attention began to be paid to cemeteries as depositories of the mortal remains of those who had departed.

Little effort had been made for the embellishment and adornment of our church-yards. It had been the tradition that, if tolerably secured by fences, enough had been done.

The English and Welsh practices of planting flowers, keeping the turf smooth and dressed over the graves of friends, was quite unknown. Such attention one hundred years ago would have been thought by the stern Presbyterians as somewhat savouring of superstition.

The account given by Sir Walter Scott, in "Guy Mannering," of an Edinburgh burial-place, was universally applicable to Scottish sepulchres. He wrote: "This was a square enclosure in the Greyfriars Churchyard, guarded on one side by a veteran angel without a nose, and having only one wing, who had the merit of having maintained his post for a century, while his comrade cherub, who stood sentinel on the corresponding pedestal, lay a broken trunk, among the hemlock, burdock and nettles which grew in gigantic luxuriance around the walls of the mausoleum."

As a result of the unprotected state of churchyards there were many stories in circulation of timid and excited individuals who had experiences among the tombs of the village, especially the open graves into which many a drunk fell.

History and Church Affairs

History – Abbotshall

In the beginning ('The Presyterie Book of Kirkcaldie')

It is recorded in "The Presbyterie Booke of Kirkcaldie " that on October 17, 1649, Sir John Wemyss of Bogie, in his own name and in name and behalf of William, Earl of Dalhousie, George, Lord Melville of Monymeale as his commissioun for that effect, did cleir and beare desire that the Presbytery wold appoynt some to visit the landward of Kirkcaldy and give judgment whidder ane other Kirk should be built. Or not which they should be readie to doe upon declaration of the Presbyteries judgement of the necessitie of seperatione of the landward from the present Kirk of Kirkcaldie and Commodiousness of the place where the Kirk sould be built."

The Presbytery were very glad of the motion and ordained Messrs John Moncrief, Fred Carmichael, John Chalmer and James Wilsone to visit the bounds of the landward and report their decision as to the necessity of a separation from the Kirk of Kirkcaldy, and also what would be the fittest place for the stance of the kirk intended to be built.

By October 30 of the same year, the brethren appointed, as aforesaid, reported to the Presbytery, at its meeting in Dysart. "The wilk day William, Erle of Dalhousie, Georg, Lord Melvill and Sir John Wemys of Bogie compeering, desired that the Presbyterie wold appoint a day for the resaving off Mr. Patrick Weyms Minister at the new erected Kirk. The Bretheren appoyntes Monday next the 4 of November for that purpose"

It was agreed that a church should be built in the landward for a distinct congregation, particularly as some places in the parish of Kinghorn were distant from the parish kirk thereof four miles, and maybe accommodated within the kirk at a distance of less than a mile or thereby. The places particularly referred to were then known as Tough Easter and Wester. St. Ninian's Chapel also desired to become a part of the new intended congregation.

This was how the Church of Abbotshall, and eventually the Parish of Abbotshall, was established and built within the then Abbotshall Estate, owned by Sir Andrew Ramsay, who had acquired the estate from the Scots of Abbotshall and Balwearie, about the year 1650. Sir Andrew Ramsay was appointed one of the heritors of the new church.

1st Minister ('The Presyterie Book of Kirkcaldie')

Patrick Wemyss, described as son of the Laird of Foodie, was inducted as first minister of the newly erected Kirk of Abbotshall in the year 1650.

He was a cadet of the house of Wemyss. In Lamont's Diary, 1810, there is this entry: 1664-" About this tyme, Mr Patrick Wemyss, Fodie's brother, and leate minister of Abersaa, bought the lands of Gladney, in Fyffe (Ceres. Cupar) from Thomas Glover." Janet Weems, daughter of the former minister of Abbotshall, sold Gladney estate and mansion, in 1685, to William Robertson. At Dysart, on October 31, 1649 (Kirkcaldy Presbytery Records), the Presbytery decided a new church should be erected to the landward of Kirkcaldy parish and humbly recommended the same to the Commissioners of Parliament.

The paraphrase of the Presbytery Records describes the selection of as candidate, the trials, ordination and induction of Abbotshall's first minister.

Dysert, March 6, 1650.-Compeired the Laird of Bogie (Sir John Wemyss), desyreing the Presbyterie that they wold be pleased to writt letter to the Presbyterie of Cuper and another to Mr Patrick Wemyss that he may be appoynted to the Presbyterie to come and preache in Kirkcaldie at the earnest desyre of the heretors of the new erected Kirk of Kirkcaldie on March 17, that they upon thair heiring of him, may give a call whereto the Presbyterie accorded and appoynted one of thair number to goe to Cuper for that effect. Mr James Wilson is appoynted to meitt with the heretors of the new kirk to heir Mr Patrik Weyms preache and to moderate thair meitting for giving him a call.

Kirkcaldie, March 17.-The whilk day the heretors and others of the parishe of the new erected kirk of Kirkcaldie having hard Mr Patrik Weyms preach and have mett together, Mr James Wilson being with them were so weill satisfied with the said Mr Patrik that they did concurr and unanimouslie agree to call him to be thair minister and elected some of thair number to represent the same to the Presbyterie to desyre thair concurrence in goeing along with them to prosecute the calling of the said Mr Patrik. The said Sr. John Weyms in the name of the heretors did declaire the unanimous consent in thair resolutions to call Mr. Patrik Weyms to be thair minister .

Kirkcaldie, October 30-The whilk day William Erle of Dalhousie, John Lord Melville and Sr. John Weyms of Bogie compeiring desyred **that the** Presbyterie wold appoynt a day for resaving of Mr. Patrik Weyms, minister at the new erected kirk. The brethren appoynts Monday next the 4 of November (1650) for his admission to Abbotshall and Mr. Kenneth Logie to preach thair the said day.

Abbotshall, November 4 (1650)-The whilk day the brethren being mett for resaving of Mr. Patrik Weyms minister of the new erected kirk **?viz** Mr. Kenneth Logie, Moderator, who preached the said day and had **for text** Jeremie 3, IS-Mr. James Symeson, George Nairne, Josue Meldrome, John Chalmer, Thomas Melville, Robert Bruce, Thomas Blak, resaved the said Mr. Patrik minister. Kirkcaldie, December IS-The whilk day Ruleing elders present for the new erected kirk Harie Weyms, for Burntisland Magnus Autpim for Auchtertule James Symson.

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The minister, in any community, was always recognised as a very important person. As a rule he belonged to one of the wealthier families.

The majority of ministers were sons of country lairds. They appeared to be ably assisted by a large number of elders- "faithful delators " of all scandal, witchcraft and superstition in the parish.

At the instigation of James VI, an Act of Scottish Parliament ordained that ministers should dress in "priest-grey" colour.

The average stipend of a minister did not, at least during the 17th century, exceed £30, while the salary of a schoolmaster was considered good at £6. While 6d. per day was considered a good wage for labourers.

The Induction of Dr Bruce Bevrige Begg

In comparison to the lengthy introduction of our first minister by 1865 the appointment of a minister was less lengthy

It was not only met with the ordination of a the minister but with a social occasion. This was recorded by the Fifeshire Advertiser in October 1865 and is included in the section Extracts from the Press,

The Induction of Rev John Mercer Hunter

The induction of Rev J Mercer Hunter in 1911 was still at the height of a very large congregation and the three press reports in the Extracts from the Press section records the large celebration which occurred.

The Weavers Loft (one of the upper galleries of the church)

Imported and homespun linen was without doubt one of the very early trades in Scotland. Dutch, German and French craftsmen were brought over to teach what they knew, and leave their traces in the descriptive names of the linen trade.

The rise and increase of the weavers of Linktown of Abbotshall to date from the 16th Century.

Kirkcaldy Burgh Records mention weavers in Linktown, "a town of a single street and many wynds", "when Scott of Abbotshall was superior, and which Sir Andrew Ramsay found there during the Protectorate". He "erected a corporation of weavers in 1664."

In Kirkcaldy Museum and Library there books with reference to the Linktown Trades and Social History and these have been used for parts of this research.

The most important detail is the date of incorporation of the Society in 1644 - "Baron of Abotshall " who "obliged every person before he could occupy that craft in the town (Linktown and Abbotshall) to enter into and become subject unto the laws of the said corporation"

The funds of the Society grew and in 1710 the weavers "erected a loft in the westend of Abbotshall Kirk for accommodating their members in their attendance at public worship." (*1)

In 1741, it appears that the old incorporation was broken up, and "the box and pertinencies roused".

Those members wishing the Society to continue purchased the Assets of the Society .

The cash of the old Society was equally divided, but the Loft in the Kirk was retained with every member retaining a right to occupy. This occupancy appears to be a kind of bond which held what remained of the Society together, for, seven years, after that time it was resolved to revive the Society - "considering the situation of the poor, and the damage the loft might sustain for want of proper managers".

The names of these continuers who purchased the box books and papers , including David and James Williamson , whose family's possibly continued in the weaving trade until its decline in the 20th Century.

The membership of the 1748 Society for 4d. a year, was, however, supplemented by" a small sum arising from the seats in the loft assett unto strangers". (asset meaning let)

The moneys obtained enabled the Society to grant a small supply to the poor and needy, to widows, and to such members as distress either in person or family rendered objects of the Society's sympathy. Old age and funeral benefit was added in 1796.

The historian of the Links Weavers tells us that Abbotshall Kirk was rebuilt in the year 1788.

At this date the Society re-erected a gallery " for its members at a cost of £63. The records show that "Some seats were assett unto strangers."

This gallery was situated on the west or tower wall of the Church. In the minutes there are several instances of non-attendance at burials and it became necessary to modify the rule; but it remained obligatory on members to attend burials of members or their families when these were in Abbotshall Churchyard.

But the trouble continued and on 14th October, 1780, John Heggie was fined a bottle of ale for non-attendance at a burial. The minute records that he would not submit.

In 1787 and the years immediately following, we hear much of the proposed new loft or gallery in Abbotshall Kirk, which is spoken of as "the intended new kirk" on 26th February, 1787. The Weavers

History viewed through the Session Minutes

The Session Minutes of Abbotshall make interesting reading, although we are missing 1700-1799 a turbulent time in Scottish history.

From 1650 to the late 1800's the management of the church was divided in two -

The Session responsible for the spiritual and physical needs of the congregation

The Heritor's responsible for the upkeep of the physical building.

The majority of the congregation were involved in the trades of the Links, mainly weaving, pottery, agriculture and fishing.

As the Session was responsible for the spiritual and physical needs of the congregation the majority of the minutes until the late 1800's record the activities of the Session ensuring the adherence of the congregation to worshiping. This included Sunday patrols on the Links with results of "court" proceedings recorded in the minutes with fines and /or the sitting in public gaze under the pulpit at public service - the usual "crimes" being drunkenness or debauchery, especially those caught on the Sabbath.

Scant reference is given to events outside the Parish, the passing of Monarchs except the mention of a special Service of celebration. Notable pieces of true historical information is the recording of Roudheads billeted in the Links and the Witch trials in Kirkcaldy.

After the late 1800's the minutes show the changes of responsibility of the Session recording the introduction of the organ; the extension of the church to accommodate the 2nd organ; the celebrations of history; WWI and WW11.

As Kirkcaldy expanded so did the Parish of Abbotshall to include not just the Links but area out to Kinghorn and north to Chapel.

In the early 1900's with full responsibility for the life of the church the Session minutes now record the appointment of ministers; organists; the management of the graveyard; the building and extension of the halls.

The Anniversaries of the establishment of the Church do not appear to have been celebrated until the 1950's

Abbotshall Celebrates 300 years through the Session Minutes

In 1950 the congregation worked together. Interests were reviewed, enthusiasm developed and new members attracted.

Special Events during the year



A Garden Fete in Raith Estate



A Pageant held in the church telling the story of Abbotshall and Christianity in Scotland under the direction of Miss Rachel Francis daughter of Rev. Francis of Raith Church.

A new quarterly magazine called “The Echo” kept members up-to-date with all that was happening.

A new kind of evening service was experimented with at a later hour called the Close of Day Service.

The church was redecorated and lighting renewed.

The halls were decorated and new seating introduced.

New individual Communion sets were gifted. At the end of the year the congregation finished with a special Radio Broadcast

Abbotshall celebrates 325 Years

In 1975 marked the end of the restoration work on the Church and the culmination of the fund raising of £25,000 for the work.

The Anniversary was marked in various ways

Special first-day cover envelopes contain a short potted history were sold.

Displays of pictures, historical details, memorabilia and floral art etc.

Rev Dr Andrew Hunter former Moderator preached at an October service.

In December a special evening service was conducted using an 1650 format.

A booklet was produced giving historical details of the Church and Parish of Abbotshall.

The choir produced a Souvenir Record of favourite Hymns.

Abbotshall celebrates 350 Years

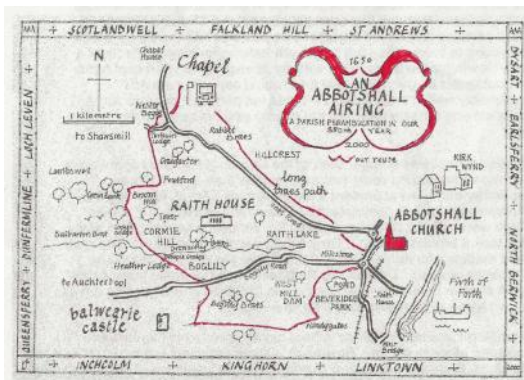
On 5th November a service of Celebration was held with Rev Professor Whyte preaching a Service of Rededication.

The Service also included a cake baked and decorated for the day. During the Service children of the Creche and Young Church rushed forward with candles for the cake which were lit and blown out. The children then adjourned to decorate the halls for a birthday celebration at which the cake was consumed.

An exhibition was held in the halls of the history of the church, its organisations and hall users.

A tea towel was designed by I Finlayson and sold.

Amongst other activities in the year a walk was held which followed the parish boundary,



Abbotshall Parish included in the Statistical Accounts of Scotland 1791—1845 written by our Ministers

1791

It is said that an Abbot of Dunfermline built a summer-house near the place where the church of Abbot. Hall now stands, and called it the Hall of the Abbot. Abbot's Hall is in the county and Synod of Fife, and presbytery of Kirkcaldy. Its form is very irregular, being intersected in several places by the neighbouring parishes. In the broadest and longest corners it may be about 2. miles each way.

It is bounded by Kirkcaldy on the E. Kinghorn and Auchtertool on the W. Auchterderran on the N. and the Firth of Forth on the S. .The general appearance of the country is very pleasant; it is flat for about near half a mile north of the coast; from thence rises into pretty high grounds, or beautiful banks sloping gently. The air. Is dry and healthy. The soil. immediately by the town is light and sandy, but very fertile, especially in showery summers. It can scarcely be hurt by rain, but easily by drought. As it rises northwards, it is deeper and stronger, but thin and cold on the north skirts. The extent or sea-coast is about half a mile, lying along the west side of the Bay of Kirkcaldy. It is very flat and sandy, but exceedingly pleasant; most of the towns and villages on the coast are pleasantly situated.- The lands of Abbot's Hall. which belong to Mr Ferguson of Raith, abound in coal of different seams, it is said, from 3, 5 and even 14 feet. Part of the crop-coal only was wrought about 40 years ago.

Population:- The ancient extent of the population is not easily traced, but was much less than at present. The return to Dr Webster, about 4 years ago, was only 1348 souls. In 1791, the total population is 2136; males 1061, females 1075. The number of inhabitants in the town is 1, 660, in the country 476. The annual average of births is 50, of death; 44, of marriages 22. Under 10 years of age there are 249 males, 239 females; only a few persons are between 80 and 90. There are 6 heritors, 2. of whom reside. Farmers 25, their families are about 200; 8 principal manufacturers, besides a few smaller ones; apprentices 50; seamen about 10 or 12; male household-servants 63; female 60; merchants 12. The great bulk of the inhabitants are tradesmen, being wholly employed in manufacturers. Families of gentry 3; 1 in the town and 1 in the country. One minister of the Established Church, and a person who preaches to a small Cameronian meeting. The number' of the Established Church 1338, or Seceders 798. Within these 20 years, the population of the town is increased between 300 and 400; but the country part of the parish is decreased above 100. The increase of the former is owing to the manufacturers, and the decrease of the latter to a coal-work being entirely given 1 pit and, or 8 farms being taken into one.

Batchelors 27, married men 187. widowers 20, widows 87. At an average, each marriage produces 3 children.

Agriculture.-Extensive plantations have been for several years, and are still carrying on by Mr Ferguson of Raith. There being in this parish about 143 acres occupied by plantations. little or none of. these grounds are arable, and are so steep that they are fit for nothing else. The number of horses, cows, cattle and young beasts may be about 1250. The acres in the parish are about 3165.

In corn 530, in turnip and cabbage 85, in potatoes 84, in wheat 85, in barley 250, in pease 176, in sown grass 164, in common pasturage 1278, for feeding cattle 300, in summer fallow 70. Oats, and peas are grown from the beginning of March to the middle of April; barley from the beginning of May to, near the end of it; wheat. in September and October and turnip from the middle of July, &c. They reap sometimes in the end of August, and the beginning of September. The parish imports articles of provision. The valued rent of this parish is £.798 :9:9. The real rent may be about £. 3165. The arable land near the town is about £. 3, 10 s. the acre. Best pasture upwards of £.2, 10 s. On the north skirts of the parish, some as low as 5 s. the acre. In general, the size of farms is from, 200 to near 300 acres. The rent about £. 2.00. There may be a few smaller. The number of farms is decreasing considerably, owing to their being larger. Except the land immediately by the town, the parish is wholly enclosed, and the farmers are so much convinced of the advantage thereof, that they do not think. they would be able to pay their advanced rent, if it were not so. There are 50 ploughs, of which the one half is the old Scotch plough, improved by being made lighter, and the other half the English plough made by Small, or after his construction. There are also 50 carts. the country part of the parish and 20 more in the town; .3 carriages, 1 of which is a coach, and the other 2 four wheeled chaises.

Stipend. School, Poor, Ec. - The stipend, except 100 merk in money, being paid in victual, varies. with the prices. It is 46 bolls of barley, 34 of meal, and 36 of oats; but taken at the latest valuation, of £. 100 Scots the chaldar, including the manse and glebe, which is 6.½ acre, may be about £. 80. Mr Ferguson of Raith is patron. A new, larger more elegant church was built 4 years ago, in the same place where the old stood. The first manse in this parish was built in the 1772, the minister having till then only an allowance of £. 5 for a house. - The salary of the parochial school is about £. 7 ; perquisites arising from baptisms and proclamations about £. 5 ; from the session and at the communion £ 2; £.5 for teaching poor scholars, being the interest of £.100, mortified about 30 years ago, by a Mr Dundas, who lived at Raith. The number of scholars at an average is about 60. There may be 2 or 3 small private schools in the town. There are 6 poor on the roll, and several others supplied according as their needs requires. The annual amount of the contributions is for their relief, arising from the collections at the church, the interest of money, &c. is about £. 50; and the parish is well able to supply its own poor, were they not oppressed with vagrants from almost every quarter, especially from the North, going to and from the Infirmary at Edinburgh.

Prices Wages &c. - The prices of provisions are near double what they were 30 and 40 years ago. Beef. mutton. veal. lamb. and pork, &c.. are 4½d. and .5 d. the pound, according to the different seasons. all Troy or heavy weight. Pigs 4 s. geese 2s. 6d. .ducks 8d. each, chickens 6 d. and 8d. the pair, butter 9 d. cheese, such as is commonly sold 3 d. the pound, all heavy weight; wheat and barley at 1 s. Sterling below the Mid-Lothian fairs &c. Day-Labourers get 1 s. carpenters, masons &c. get 1 s. 6 d. tailors when they work out, 6 d. and their meat; but they mostly work in their own house., at so much the piece. The only fuel is coal, price paid on the spot 6 d. the load, weighing 22 stone.

On different coal-hills the weight is different, and so are the prices. Some within half a mile, 2 and 3 miles &c. Such are frugal and attentive seem to live comfortably in their situation, and bring up large families in general. Their children cost them little, and as soon they can do any thing, are employed in manufactures; their wages are exceeding good, and double of what they were formerly. The wages of male-servant are £.6 and £. 7, of female £ 2, 10s. and £. 3 a-year. There are but about 8 livery-servants, and their wages vary from £.10 to £. 20, &c. according to their stations &c.

Miscellaneous Observations – In general, the people are of the middle size. The greatest height which any have attained, is about 6 feet 2 inches. They are very much disposed to industry. – In the town are 3 principal manufactures, under the name of Checks and Bedtikes. These employ between 200 and 300 looms in the parish, and great number in the parishes around. Two of these have each an extensive bleachfield near by, where they whiten their own yam. Besides there, are a few who do a little in the same branches. There are besides a cotton manufacture of the name of the Spinning Jeanies, the heavy parts of which are driven by a horse-engine. These employ near 200 hands, several of whom are children, &c.

Other buildings are perfectly erected for the same, &c. The roads are tolerably good. There are only 2. small Bridges, which separate the parish from the neighbouring one on the west, both in good case and lately repaired, made and kept by the county. The statute-labour is exacted partly in kind and partly in money.-

Though the harvest was late in 1782, and the weather very unfavourable, so that the prices rose much above what they used to be, yet it was not so severely felt in this part of the country as in some others owing partly to the dryness of the situation, and to a considerable quantity of corn being imported straight from the Baltic into the harbour of Kirkcaldy, &c. The poor had very liberal supplies. Mr Ferguson gave £.50 to be distributed among them, and the session, at the desire of the heritors lifted £.40. and disposed of it to the same purpose over and above their ordinary distribution.-There are 4 brewers in the town. They keep decent houses, and good company. But there are several that are commonly called Tapsters, because they sell ale to these brewers, that are nuisances to society. – Within these 20 years, about 100 new houses have been built in the town. About the one half of these are now on new foundations, and the other on old ones, made much larger and better; and in the country part of the parish are upwards of 20. Some still employ cottagers, and others do not, preferring hired servants to them, and consequently differ in their sentiments concerning the effects.

1. - TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

The whole of Abbotshall, with the exception of three farms, Easter and Wester Touch, belonging to Kinghorn, and Wester Bogie to Dysart, was disjoined from the parish of Kirkaldy in the year 1650

Name - The newly erected parish was called Abbotshall, a name obviously derived from the circumstance of one of the abbots of Dwtfe'IDline having built a house here, in which he occasionally resided. The situation of the house, or hall of the abbot as it was styled, was about a quarter of a mile due west from the present church, and near at the centre of the Raith gardens, or what are still sometimes called the Abbotshall gardens. A fine yew tree which grew in front and which has already stood the blast of centuries, will probably long serve to mark out to the inquirer the spot on which the mansion of the abbot was placed. (

Boundaries ~ Extent - The parish being a good deal intersected by other parishes, is of an irregular shape; but its greatest length, from the coast to the north-west, is not less than 4 miles, and its breadth, which varies much at different points, may average 2. It is bounded on the north-east by Kirkaldy; on the south-east by the Frith of Forth; on the south-west by the parish of Kinghorn; and on the north-west by that of Auchterderran. The parish of Auchtertool touches it on the west.

Topographical Appearance - Along the coast, the grounds are flat and level to the distance of more than half a-mile from the sea, when they begin to rise into fine sloping banks, with occasional interruptions, for the distance of three miles; afterwards they gradually descend till they reach the extremity of the parish.

Soil, &c. - The soil, as may be expected, is different in different parts; but on the average is greatly superior to that of most parishes in Fife. Near the sea shore, it is free and healthy, - being very generally the soil arising from decomposed whin or trap rock, and is particularly favourable for raising crops of barley and turnips. Further back, and where the grounds begin to ascend, the soil is richer and stronger, being for the most part of a clayey or dark loamy substance, and well adapted for wheat, beans, and other heavy crops. Towards the extreme points, and furthest from the coast the soil is, for the most part, of a cold tilly bottom, and consequently less productive. It is very susceptible, however, of improvement, and is in the immediate vicinity of coal and lime, though less favoured in regard to other kinds of manure than the rest of the parish.

The climate throughout the whole is good, and no diseases of an epidemic nature can be said to prevail. To this, the washing of our shores by the Forth twice every four and twenty hours doubtless contributes, as well as the many dry and inviting walks on all hands within reach of the inhabitants. At present the parish furnishes no very remarkable instances of longevity but there are 123 persons who have outlived three score years and ten, - of whom 24 are upwards of eighty, and 2 upwards of ninety. The most prevalent winds are the westerly, and the quantity of rain which falls is 33 inches, a larger quantity than usual,

31 inches (according to Sir John Sinclair) being the average that falls in the course of the year throughout Scotland.

Hydrography - There is no stream or water of any consequence running through or connected with this parish. The steamlet flowing from Loch Gelly, in the parish of Auchterderran, and which afterwards falls into the water of Oar in the same parish, touches it for a little distance on the north-west, as does the Tiel on the south-west, and both waters are useful in turning the different mills which are situated on them. The small brook that runs from Camilla Loch, in the parish of Auchtertool, also bends its course through this parish, where it joins the Tiel previous to its falling into the sea at the west bridge. In its way, the Camilla stream serves as the principal feeder to that beautiful and picturesque sheet or water known by the name of the Raith Lake. This lake, which is situated in the heart of the Raith pleasure-grounds, and at the base of the hill on which the mansion-house is placed, was planned by the present proprietor in the year 1811-12, and is one of the finest artificial constructions of the kind that is anywhere to be seen. It is somewhat of an oval form, about a mile in length, and at certain points almost a quarter of a mile in breadth. The extent of ground it covers is not less than twenty-one acres, and the water is at some places twenty-five deep. It was originally an extensive hollow, as if scooped out, in some measure, for the purpose, by the hand of nature; - and by filling it up at some places, and deepening and extending it at others, the work was in a short time completed; a sluice is left at the centre, by which the lake can be filled or emptied at pleasure. The whole is finished in a masterly and ingenious manner, and the expense was very inconsiderable, considering the surface it covers, and the quantity of water it contains. The lake abounds in a variety of fishes such as trout, perch, tamel, and eel. There are several pleasure boats on it belonging to the family, and the angler may find abundance of amusement. It is graced by some beautiful white swans, which may now and then be seen floating majestically along, and wild ducks are flying about in various directions. On every side, the lake is surrounded with delightful walks, - which, as well as the other walks about Raith, are, through the liberality of the proprietor, at all times accessible to the more respectable portion of the community. To strangers and others, who, during the summer and autumn months, come from different quarters of the country to view the fine scenery and highly decorated grounds of Raith, the lake is a principal object of attraction and admiration.

Geology and Mineralogy - The greater part of this parish in common with the district around Kirkaldy, is composed of rocks of the two great formations, that of the carboniferous limestone and the coal strata, with an intermixture of trap rock. The carboniferous limestone is well displayed in the quarry of Innertiel, which, although not in Abbots hall, deserves notice in this place, as affording the best section of that strata which runs through the parish. In that quarry, the carboniferous limestone is in thick beds, with interposed seams of dark-coloured calcareous shale. The limestone is quite full of enriched remains; and many of the rarer portions of encrinites. The bases, fingers, and even the bodies in a pretty perfect state, may be extracted from the loose shale. Trochelmiths shewing great variety and delicacy in their markings are also abundant. The following species of encrinites (following the nomenclature of Miller) -

were met with, after a careful search in the shale, by a scientific friend of the writer of this Account who lately resided for a short time in the parish. – *Cyathocrinites planus*, *C. tuberculatus*, *C. rugosus*. *C. quinquangularis*, *Platycrinites laevis*, *P. rugosus*, *Poteriocrinites tenuis*, and *Rhodocrinites*. Of all these *Cyatocrinites tuberculatus*, which Miller states to be rare in England, was the most common. There is, in the limestone, also abundance of *Orthoceratites* and *Terebratulites*, and a variety of other shells. The Chapel quarry, which is the principal one of the kind in this parish, is of limestone of the same formation, and exhibits large encrinal columns, sometimes an inch and a-half in diameter, and *Orthoceratites* nearly two feet long. Some rare forms of calcareous spar are also to be met with in cavities in the limestone. The carboniferous limestone is much interrupted and disturbed by trap rocks, which rise here and there to the surface. Upon it, rest the coal strata which run through this district and which contain valuable seams of coal. Amid this variety of fossils, freestone is so to be met with, and is used for the common purposes of building. For the better sort of houses, however, and the more ornamental parts of buildings, the Collelo stone, or some other of a similar kind, is generally preferred. Coal being profitably worked by some of the proprietors in the immediate neighbourhood, there are no pits open at present in this parish. The inhabitants, however, are well supplied with that article of fuel, and at an easy rate. The nearest colliery is that at the back of the town of Kirkaldy, belonging to Sir John Oswald, where the price of coal is 7 s. 7 d. per ton of 21 cwt. At the colliery of Dysart, belonging to the Earl of Roslyn, the price is 7 s; and at the colliery of Cluny, belonging to Mr Ferguson of Raith, the price is 6s. 5d. The Cluny coal, though the most distant, is generally preferred. The price of lime at the different quarries is from 2 s. 4 d. per boll old corn firlot, and the quantity sold annually is very considerable.

Botany - The only plants that may be called rare are *Campanula rapunculoides*, *Listera ovata* and *Drosera rotundifolia*. The first of these is to be found on the farm of Balwearie, the others on the land of Torbain. The trees most commonly to be met with are, the oak, beech, sycamore, chesnut, spruce, ash, walnut, elm, larch, Scotch fir &c. all of which thrive well except the larch, which seems impatient of the soil, and soon becomes chaffed, and sometimes even rotten at the heart, against its thirteenth year. In the Raith plantations, all these kinds of trees and many more are to be seen in great beauty and perfection. Immediately in front of the mansion-house, there is a fine beech, which measures in circumference 14 feet; on the north side of the house, there are two chestnuts likewise of large size and dimensions. The girth of the one is 11 ½ feet, and of the other 9 1/2. A hawthorn, which stands on the east side of the garden, is well worthy of notice, being of great age size, and beauty. Near the same place, and about twenty yards from the approach, is to be seen what is considered the purest purple beech in the county. Evergreens of every variety thrive well about Raith particularly the Portugal laurels, many of which form fine trees of 5 feet in girth of bole and upwards. The whole of the plantations there, are under a good system of management, both as to pruning and thinning, and the thinning's, though seldom large, are readily purchased for the excellent quality of the timber.

II Civil History

Antiquities - The antiquities of the parish are few and easily told. On Cormie Hill, or that eminence on which the Raith Tower stands, there have been found, at different places, several rude stone coffins, similar to what have been found in other parts of Scotland. Some urns have also been dug up containing human bones. On the part where the Tower stands, there was a small artificial mound, on removing which it evidently appeared to have been a burnt mould and many fragments of deers-horns were found in it. From several appearances, this hill is supposed to have been in former days a military station, or at all events a place of national rendezvous.

The ruins of the tower of Balwearie, anciently the property of the famous wizard, Sir Michael Scott, are still preserved. From what remains, it must have been originally of great strength and of considerable importance. The walls measure in thickness six feet and a half, and the dimensions within walls are thirty feet. It is reasonably supposed to have been a square. All that is now preserved is the east wall, which is entire, and part of the north and south walls. The lower part of it has been arched and it was probably used as a defence for cattle. In these more peaceable times, it is used for feeding cattle, which purpose it is made to answer well. The height of this tower or castle could not be less than from fifty to sixty feet. On the roof of the building, according to tradition, the white-haired and venerable sage was accustomed to sit, observing the face of the heavens, and conversing with the stars.

Eminent Men - Sir Michael Scott was born at Belwearie,(3) according to the most accredited accounts, near the beginning of the thirteenth century, and from his earliest youth, discovered a remarkable thirst for knowledge. After receiving such scanty rudiments of education as his native country at that time afforded, he went into England, where, at the University of Oxford, he devoted himself with deep application to the study of philosophy. Completing his studies at Oxford, he repaired, according to the fashion of the age in which he lived, to the University of Paris, where he prosecuted with so much ardour the study of mathematics as to acquire for himself the name of "Michael the mathematician". Nor did he, in the midst of these avocations, neglect the study of the sacred letters and divinity; but gaining in these branches a high reputation, he received the degree of Doctor in Theology. With these learned distinctions, Michael Scott determined on farther travels. and visited many other countries and universities. Amongst these, he first sought the far-famed College of Padua, where such appears to have been the impression created by his talents, that his essays were no longer, as in France, confined within the walls of a university. His fame became noised abroad, and he began to publish to the world those predictions of future events, which were remembered in later times with awe and reverence in Italy (4). From Italy, Michael Scott, still unwearied in the pursuit of knowledge, made his way into Spain. where, at the University of Toledo, he had the best opportunity of cultivating the occult sciences, under the patronage of the Emperor Frederick the Second. Having perfected himself in the study of alchemy, he turned his thoughts to the study of medicine, and for this purpose went into Germany, where he resided for several years previous to his return to his native country. He arrived in Scotland just at that critical juncture when the nation was plunged into grief by the death of Alexander the Third; and along with Sir David Wemyss was appointed to proceed to Norway to bring home the Young Queen, the result of which expedition is well known.

This is the last occasion in which the name of Sir Michael Scott appears to be mentioned. Of his death nothing is recorded, but he must have died soon after his return from Norway, and in extreme old age. It is a curious fact, that in his native parish, there are fewer stories current amongst the people about this extraordinary character, and his name is less frequently mentioned than in most other parts of Scotland .

From the time of Michael Scott, there does not appear to have been any character of note connected with Abbotshall, till the year 1588, when we find Thomas Scott, (6) a Lord of Session, under the title of Lord Abbotshall. In the year 1671, we find Sir Andrew Ramsay mentioned as a Lord of Session, under the same

title. Sir Andrew continued to hold the office of a Judge till 1674, during which time he was twice Provost of Edinburgh. It was while he filled the civic chair in the year 1667, that Charles the Second (by whom he was probably knighted) ordered that the Provost of Edinburgh should take the same precedence as the Mayor of London, and that no other Provost should assume the title of " My Lord ". Sir Andrew died, and was buried at Abbotshall in 1688. (7) In the year 1690, we find George Melville of Raith mentioned as one of the Peers of Scotland, under the title of Lord Melville, Lord Raith, Monymenal and Balwearie, Viscount Kirkcaldy, and Earl of Melville. The family and titles are now merged in that of Leven, and the estate of Raith soon after passed into the hands of the present family.

This parish had the honour of giving birth to William Adam, who arrived at the greatest eminence as an architect, which the limited opportunities at that time afforded by his native country would permit. Hopetoun House and the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, the one a splendid, the other a plain structure, are specimens of his abilities. William Adam, it need hardly be mentioned, was the father of Robert and James Adam, still more distinguished for their genius in architecture, and who reared that splendid monument of their taste and names, "The Adelphi". The family is now represented by the Honourable William Adam, late Chief-Commissioner of the Jury Court.

It would be improper to omit, that that distinguished soldier and patriot, Sir Ronald C. Ferguson, is a native of this place. He was born at Raith, the seat of his family, in the year 1771.

Land-owners - These are five in number, and two of these have their principal residences here. Raith, anciently the seat and possession of the Earls of Melville, now the property of Robert Ferguson. Esq. M. P. is, by far the most considerable estate in the parish, being more than equal in value and extent to all the rest of the parish together. The mansion-house was originally built in the year 1694, by Lord Raith, Treasurer Depute, and must have been at that time a substantial good house. Its length is 72 feet, and its breadth 40. To the original house were added two wings, during the time of the late Mr Ferguson, which made the accommodation very complete, and such as became the mansion-house of so fine an estate as Raith. A few years ago, the present proprietor attached to the front of the house a fine Ionic portico, which gives to the whole a light and elegant appearance. In the interior of the house, what principally claims attention is the library, which contains a well chosen assortment of books, both ancient and modern, and a cabinet of minerals which, for richness and extent, is surpassed by few private collections of the sort in the kingdom.

The situation of the house is noble and commanding, and the extent of plantations and pleasure grounds which surround it is very considerable. Near the summit of the hill on which the mansion-house is seated, and perhaps 400 feet above the level of the sea, stands the tower, which is a square building, with an inside stair of 54 feet in length. From the top of this tower so extensive is the view, than not less than parts of fourteen, some say sixteen, different counties can be distinctly pointed out in a clear day.

In the near vicinity of Raith, and a little further up the country, stands the mansion-house of Wester Bogie, the property of Miss Thomson, only child of the late James Thomson, Esq. of Wester Bogie. The house of Bogie is modern, and was built after a design by Mr Gillespie Graham, in the form of a castle. The plan of building is well suited to the situation, which is high, and surrounded with some fine old trees. The extent of ground is limited; but, for its size, Bogie is considered one of the most desirable properties in the county.

III - POPULATION.

Population in 1755	1348
1791	2136
1821	3267
1831	4206

Number of inhabitants residing in town is
in villages
in the country
Number of persons under 15 years of age
between 15 and 30
30 and 50
50 and 70
Upwards of 70
Of unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers, upwards of 50
Of women, maids and widows above 45
Of families in the parish
Average number of children to each family
The number of inhabited houses is
Of houses uninhabited or now building
Of insane persons
Of blind
Of deaf and dumb

The following table gives a pretty accurate division of the inhabitants according to their respective occupations in life.

Proprietors residing occasionally,; non-residing,3
Proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards in other parishes, but residing here
Number of wholesale merchants and capitalists
Of clergy, and other professional men
Of farmers
Of cottars
Of farm-servants
Men employed in manufactures or making machinery ; masters
workmen
Weavers; heads of families, 206; apprentices and journeymen, 288
Men employed in retail, trade, or in handicraft, masters
workmen
Labourers, not agricultural
Miners
fishers
Male-servants above 20, 17; do. under 20, 2
Female servants
Weavers looms in the parish
Of those not working

In manners, the inhabitants of the parish are civil and discreet, and their external deportment is decent and respectful. They are inquisitive and fond of knowledge, and reading occupies a considerable portion of their leisure time. What relates to politics and religion chiefly engages their attention, in this way, they are fond of speculation in the one, and of controversy in the other. (9) Notwithstanding, they are good and peaceable subjects and live together in friendly and Christian intercourse.

IV INDUSTRY.

Agriculture -

The number of Scots acres in the parish, 3166
 Under tillage, 2631
 Under wood, 636

They are thus divided :

	Acres	Roods	Falls	
Mr Ferguson of Raith has in culture	1444	0	0	In wo
Sir J Oswald	447	1	35	
J W Mellville of Bennoch	202	0	7	
J A Thomsos of Charleton	379	0	0	
Miss Thomson of Bogie	159	0	0	
	2631	2	2	

Rent of Land - The land rents are different in different parts.

On the coast and about the town L 5, and even £. 6 per acre are nothing uncommon to pay for land. Further back, and a little way up the country, the rent may be from £.2, 10 s. to £ 3 per acre, and in the more remote parts, the land rents are as low as £. 1 10 s. and £. 1. The average of the whole may be £. 2, 10 s. The valued rental of the parish is L. 798, 99. 9d. The real rental may be about £. 7500.

Husbandry - The rotation of crops generally practised is summer fallow or potatoes, after which comes wheat then beans drilled and hoed, or grass pastured two years, or the first year hay, and the second pasture. Grain is generally succeeded by a crop of oats. the rotation, however, necessarily varies according to the circumstances and the taste of the grower; but, with a very few exceptions, the alternate cultivation of leguminous and culmiferous crops is strictly adhered to; and so superior, indeed, is this method to crowing to that anciently used, of taking successive corn crops, until poverty and weeds had gained full possession of the soil, that one would imagine that nothing but the most imperative necessity or the worst motives should induce a farmer to depart from it. In the immediate vicinity to the town, summer fallow is now little practised and potatoes generally come instead (10), - a crop which always meets with a constant and ready demand. Turnips, too, are very frequently substituted for beans,- after which, uniformly follows a crop of barley. Throughout the whole of this parish agricultural operations are carried on with spirit and assiduity, and nowhere during the last forty years has the face of the country undergone a greater change.

The farmers are, generally speaking, men of capital and skill, and there is no tried improvement in modern farming which has not been adopted and pursued with success. The situation of the parish is favourable for agricultural improvement and enterprise. The populous community of Kirkcaldy, with its weekly markets, makes a ready demand for all kinds of farm produce, and there is no part of the parish distant from coal and lime. To those near the towns, the stables and streets afford a regular supply of dung at a moderate expense; and sea-weed is occasionally to be had for the trouble of collecting and driving. But if the farmers in this parish are thus favoured in regard to situation, they are no less so in regard to their respective landlords, who are men of liberality and discernment, and afford every encouragement to honest and persevering industry. The farms are all of that size which is favourable to improvement, and the leases are uniformly of nineteen years duration. (11) The dwelling-houses and offices are likewise good, and for the most part new, and the fields are all well enclosed and subdivided with stone walls or hedges. There are no sheep bred in this parish, and none to be seen in it except a few scores kept in the enclosures about Raith and belonging to Mr. Ferguson. They are of the Cheviot breed, and seem to thrive well on the fine pasture on which they are fed. There are also but few black cattle reared in this parish, - the land being too valuable to be kept long in pasture. - Those preferred are of the Fife breed, which, in their pure state, are known by their black colour, length and fineness of their horns, shortness of their legs and beautiful symmetry. The pure Fife breed, however, is seldom met with, and the cattle reared in this parish are for the most part a mixture of the Fife and Angus or Ayrshire. The amount of bestial at present in the parish is as follows: horses of all ages, 114; milk cows, 104; black cattle, 203; calves, 90; pigs, 81.

Manufactures - The staple manufacture of this place is that of bed-ticks; to which, of late years, has been added a species of coarse half-white linen called Dowlas, both for home and export trade. Linen checks for foreign consumption have fallen into decay, from the greater cheapness of a similar fabric now made from cotton in other places. There is one manufactory for sail-canvas; one bleachfield for whitening and preparing linen yarns, - a branch of trade that has of late years entirely superseded the use of hand-wheels, which were formerly so common in this and all other districts of Fife, and which gave employment both to the older and younger members of families. The introduction of machinery into this branch of manufacture has not only materially increased the quantity, but has considerably diminished the expence of labour, it being produced at about two-thirds less than when spun by the hand labour. There is one factory, worked by a steam engine, for weaving a thin sheeting from linen yam. It is considered to be well conducted, and is the only one of the kind in the county. The low rate of weaving by the hand is probably the cause why this branch of enterprise has not been more generally adopted. A brick and tile work of considerable extent has been very long established in this parish. At the same place, a pottery for making brown earthen-ware is carried on. A coal gas-work, for the purpose of supplying the town of Kirkcaldy, Linktown of Abbotsball, &c. with gas, was erected in this parish, about two years ago. The quality of gas is considered good, and the quantity used throughout the year may average 5000 feet each night. The work is capable of affording a much greater supply; but as yet gas has not been introduced as a general light for dwelling,

houses, - being principally used for the lighting up of streets, public works and shops. There are a variety of mills which go by water, and are employed for making flour, barley meal, ect. At one of these, not less than from 10,000 to 16,000 bolls annually are made. There is also one mill which goes by water for grinding flint, and belongs to the same gentleman that has the pottery. Brewing was formerly carried on to some extent, but now there are only two breweries in the parish, which manufacture nothing stronger than small beer. This is certainly to be regretted, as good malt liquor is a more wholesome beverage than whisky, which is now so common, and the cause of so much wretchedness and crime. The high price of wheaten bread gave rise, number of years, ago to the establishment of two Societies, by which the inhabitants might be supplied with that important article of life at a cheaper rate than by the regular bakers. In so far as the cheapness of the bread is concerned, these societies have answered the purpose intended; but if it be the case, as some allege, that they have been the means of depreciating the quality of bread throughout the community (the regular trader being unable to compete on equal terms with a joint stock company), it is not so evident how far they ought to be encouraged or whether in one way they have not done as much harm as they have done good in another. There is also a meal Society on a similar plan, which is of advantage to the public by affording a ready supply of meal at all times, and generally at a reasonable price. In the conducting of the different public works in this parish there is nothing particular claiming to be noticed. The usual hours of labour at all of them are ten, excepting the spinning-mills, where twelve hours are common. All the people employed at the different works receive a fair remuneration for their labour, and, if careful, live comfortably, and frequently rear large families. The wages of certain operatives, however, have of late years been much reduced. An ordinary weaver, for instance, on the best paid fabrics will not receive above an average of 8 s. per week for his own labour. None of the public works here are considered prejudicial to the health of those employed in them; the linen manufacture in all its branches being more wholesome than that of cotton, from the absence of any artificial heat or damp. Although it cannot be denied that the congregating together of so many young people of both sexes at spinning-mills and other public works, naturally tends to a corruption and depravity of morals, yet it can hardly be said that the morals of those so employed are worse than the morals of the aggregate number of others in the same grade of society in the parish. This may be owing to the steady-principle of the gentlemen of whom the works belong and the good discipline introduced by them into all the different departments of the business. The increase of commerce and manufactures in this parish and neighbourhood gave rise, in the year 11825, to a Society known by the name of the Kirkaldy Chamber of Commerce, - the intention of which was to unite the influence of the merchants and manufactures, and thus render them more useful to the communities to which they belong. It is managed by a committee of directors; and some of the leading members belong to this place.

V - PEROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Villages - The principal town or village in the parish is what is called the Linktown, which is situated on the west side of the bay of Kirkaldy, from which it is only separated by the intervening beach. The Linktown has only one street, which is about three quarters of a mile long, and forms a continuation on the west to the principal street of the town of Kirkaldy. It is a burgh of regality, and governed by a baron-bailie, appointed by Mr Ferguson of Raith, who is superior or the whole.

The street and the lanes of Linktown are narrow, and the original houses are mostly low and uncomfortable. Many of the houses, however, have been rebuilt, and many new ones erected; all of them, in point of convenience and accommodation, far exceeding the old ones. Some of the principal manufacturers in the parish reside in Linktown, and, according to their success in business, it must prosper or decline. About the centre of the town and at a proper distance from the street stands the mansion-house of John Pratt Esq. of Glentarkie, surrounded with its fine garden and shrubberies, and which is at once a credit and an ornament to the parish.

There are a few very good shops in this part of the parish, and more of an inferior description, which supply the inhabitants with the necessities and conveniences of life. Two annual fairs of old standing are still held here, one on the third Friday of April, and the other on the third Friday of October. The spring fair was formerly principally kept up by the sale of linseed ; and the autumn fair by the sale of black.cattle. Both fairs are now on the decline, and the principal commodity at each of them is shoes, which are frequently brought from a considerable distances and sold at very low prices. In the Linktown, there is a jail or rather a lock-up-house, to which the baron-bailie has the power of consigning offenders. It is in bad repair and little used.

The flourishing condition of trade and consequent increase of inhabitants induced the late Mr Ferguson of Raith, about the year 1790, to feu property for building on a regular plan a street running nearly at right angles with the east end of Linktown, in the direction of the parish church. This line of buildings, which has never been completed, is known by the name of New Towa, and contains about 780 inhabitants, of whom, with the exception of a few respectable families, almost all are operative weavers. Here are situated the spinning-mills of Mr James Aytoun, a gentleman of much enterprise and usefulness in the place. At Mr Aytoun's mills, not less than 120 individuals are constantly and regularly employed. There are besides the Linktown and New Town, several villages in the country district of the parish, of minor note, containing in an about 197 souls.

Means of Commination - To all parts of the parish Kirkaldy is the post-town. It may also be said to be the principal market-place, where all the necessaries and many of the luxuries of life may be had of the best description, and on reasonable terms. Throughout the whole of the parish, there is an easy communication by good roads, which are always kept in good repair. The turnpike roads may be about twelve miles in different directions, and the statute labour roads about two. There are three bridges in the parish.; one of them lately

built, and the other two in tolerable condition, besides several small arches of less consequence. In addition to the ordinary carriages which frequent the different roads, there are three four-horse coaches which run daily through our streets from Edinburgh to Dundee, and four coaches of the same description from Dundee to Edinburgh; a two-horse coach from the east of Fife to Edinburgh and back again; and a two-horse coach which runs from Glasgow to Kirkcaldy, and from Kirkcaldy to Glasgow, every lawful day alternately.

Ecclesiastical State - It does not distinctly appear where the inhabitants of this parish first assembled for public worship; but it was probably in some place connected with the old mansion-house of Abbotshall. The date of the last church, which was the only one previous to the present, is 1674, twenty-four years after Abbotshall became a separate parish. The present church was built in the year 1788, and on the same spot on which the former stood. It is a substantial and comfortable edifice, though now too small for the increased population. The situation of the church, which is of an eminence at the back of the town, is very pretty, though not very convenient for the bulk of the inhabitants. It is nevertheless well attended and the congregation is very respectable. The average number of communicants is nearly 700. There are no free sittings. The Laird of Raith is patron by a charter granted by the Crown so far back as the time of Charles II. The manse was built in the year 1772, and is the ant that was in the parish. Till that time, the clergyman had an allowance of only L. 5 for a house. An awkward addition of two good rooms was made to the manse, at the induction of the last incumbent, now upwards of twenty years ago, at an expense fully equal to the half of what it would have cost to build a substantial new house. The house has ever since been in need of repair of some kind or other. An addition was made to the offices attached to the manse, in the course or last spring, which renders them very comfortable. The stipend annexed to the cure by decree of the Court of Teinds in 1811, is 100 bolls, 2 firloths, 2 pecks, 3 lippies of barley; 88 bolls, 2 firloths, 2 pecks, 3 lippies of meal; 96 bolls of oats and such a further quantity of victual, half meal, half barley, as shall be equal to 100 merks Scots money, together with L. 100 Scots money for communion elements. The stipend awarded by the Court has never been realized owing to a deficiency of teind, and the clergyman has never been paid more than a sum equal to 13 1/2 chalders, out of which he has to defray the expense of communion elements, a sum totally inadequate to the nature of the situation and the great population of the parish. The glebe consists of 61 1/2 acres, and is worth about L 80 Sterling per annum although it has sometimes been let for more. Besides the Established Church, there is one dissenting or Seceding chapel, now in connection with the United Associate Synod. The congregation belonging to it was originally formed for the reception of Mr Thomas Nairne to be their pastor, who, we have already mentioned, was deposed from being minister of Abbotshall in 1740, in consequence of espousing the principles of the old dissenters, relative to the existing civil government. Mr. Nairne afterwards withdrew from the communion of the Seceders, and joined the Reformed Presbytery. He at length deserted their communion, and returned to the fellowship of the Established Church after making humiliating confessions to the presbytery of Kirkcaldy, and submitting to their admonitions

In 1881 the old house belonging to this congregation was razed to the ground, and a commodious new one built near the same spot. The minister's salary is L 125 per annum, besides a good house and garden. His salary is paid from the seat rents, &c. Till lately, there existed a remnant of that old sect of Christians, the Cameronians, or Mountailliers as they were sometimes termed. The house or rather barn in which they assembled is now occupied by a handful of individuals, who call themselves Chriatians; but what their particular tenets are, the writer of this account has not been able to learn. They have no stated pastor, and are irregularly supplied with sermon by itinerant preachers of various descriptions. There are some Baptists and Independents. and also a few Episcopalians who have their places of worship at Kirkaldy. A very few individuals attend a Relief meeting at Dysart, and it is believed there are two or three individuals of the Roman Catholic persuasion, natives of the sister isle.

The only general parochial society for religious purposes is what is designated "The Abbotshall Bible Society", the sole object of which is the raising of a fund for the circulation of the Scriptures. It is managed by a committee chosen from amongst various classes of Christians, who adopt whatever measures they consider best calculated to promote the object of the society. An annual sermon is preached for the benefit of its funds, alternately in the parish church and dissenting meeting-house, which, together with the other stated contributions, may bring about £10 or £15 per annum.

Poor and Parochial Funds - The number of poor in this parish is very considerable. Abbotshall proceeds upon the good old plan of supporting the poor, so far as is practicable in so populous a parish, and exhibits a proof of the excellency of the system. The funds are made up of the collections at the church doors, - rents of a few pews in the church belonging to the session, - and a small annual contribution made by the heritors. The whole disbursements to the poor do not, on an average, exceed L 130 per annum. There are at present 12 ordinary poor on the Session roll, and 7 extraordinary, - all of whom are supplied weekly according to their several necessities. In addition to each of these weekly allowances, each of the poor on the session roll receives twice in the year, a certain sum to assist in paying house rent and providing coals. Several others who have not as yet been admitted to the roll, receive occasional assistance. Many more are prevented from becoming burdens on the parish, by the liberality of the Raith family, to whom the poor of this parish are under many obligations. The distributions are managed by the kirk-session without any expense to the fund, except a small pittance to the session-clerk. The minister has always acted as treasurer, without fee or reward. The whole disbursements are examined, every year, at a meeting composed jointly of heritors and minister, - a practice which is satisfactory to all parties, and by which any subject which seems to be of importance to the interests of the parish can be considered with advantage and effect. There are only two or three poor belonging to the parish that beg within its bounds. These are supplied with badges by a society, which was formed about a year ago, for the purpose of preventing vagrant begging, which the inhabitants of this parish formerly felt as a great nuisance. Were a society of this nature formed in every parish, and none allowed to beg but those poor belonging to it; the real objects of charity would be much better profited for than they generally are, and much idleness and worthlessness prevented.

Education - The total number of schools in the parish is 6, -which may be attended at an average, by 500 children. The parochial school has generally attending it from 150 to 200, and sometimes upwards. The branches therein taught are Latin, French, mathematics, arithmetic, navigation, English reading and

writing. The school master's salary is the maximum, and he has £ 5. more for teaching a limited number of poor children. This sum is the interest of £. 100, which was bequeathed for the purpose by a Mrs Dundas, who once resided at Raith. At the other schools, the more common branches of education are almost solely

taught, and the fees for these branches are perhaps a little less than at the parish school. At one of the schools, which is entirely a charity school the branches taught are specified by the will of the donor. The number of the children (100), as well as their ages (from six to fifteen,) - are also prescribed. Sunday schools have been for a considerable time established both in the town and country part of the parish; institutions that have become the more necessary since the introduction of spinning mills, which engage children before they have been properly educated, and which constantly occupy their time throughout the week. the people in general are alive to the benefits of education, and, with a few exceptions, give their children an education according to their respective circumstances. It may be remarked, that amongst all classes here, as well, indeed, as in the whole of this neighbourhood, classical education is much less an object of attention than formerly. This evidently arises from the mercantile spirit of the people, which leads them too little to value any acquisition, but as it connects itself immediately with pounds, shillings, and pence. The consequence is, that from this community there are comparatively very few young men sent to the university, or destined for any of the learned professions. Last winter there was only one young man from this parish attending a university, and seldom at any time is there more than two or three.

Literature - There are no public libraries in this parish, except one of an inferior description. At Kirkaldy, however, there is a good subscription library, a circulating library, and mechanics' library, all of which are open to the inhabitants of Abbotshall, on the same terms as to the inhabitants of Kirkaldy. To Kirkaldy the inhabitants of this parish are likewise indebted for a public reading room, which is well supplied with the newspapers of the day together with the army, navy, and commercial lists, &c. &c.

Inns - The number of licensed alehouses in the parish is nearly 30, a number by far too large and which certainly ought to be reduced. Restraint, too, ought to be put upon them as to the hours during which they ought to be kept open. The justices have power to do both. The steady exertion of these powers is what is wanting.

MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS

It is obvious to the most cursory observers that since the last Statistical Account was published, this parish has made great progress, in agriculture, commerce and all those various improvements connected with them. The consequence is that wealth is much more generally diffused, and all classes enjoy in a greater degree than formerly the comforts and conveniences of life. What must ever be best calculated to promote

vagaries of life. What must ever be best calculated to promote the happiness -of the labouring classes is, to improve their morals, and to found their virtue on its true basis, religion, not on metaphysical speculation, or the nice formed theories of state policy, but on the grand, solid, and substantial principles of Christianity. This will be found in the end not only the best means of promoting the individual happiness of the people, but the true secret of good government, - the surest bulwark of the state.

Revised April 1836.

P. S. - Even since the above was written, it is necessary to state that the parish has undergone many important alterations. Trade has increased considerably, and so has the population. The number of poor has in consequence increased, and of course the expenditure in behalf of the poor. The congregation, which met in the place of worship formerly belonging to the Cameronians is now dispersed and the house converted into a warehouse for flax. A new church in connection with the Establishment is in the course of erection, to supply the surplus population of this and the neighbouring parish of Kinghorn.

Notes (these have been moved to the end of the publication)

- 1 This disjunction originated in an application made to the presbytery by several of the heritors of the landward district of Kirkcaldy, in consequence of the great extent of the parish, and, distance of a considerable part of it from the church, - praying that they would appoint some of their number to visit that part of the parish, and report whether or not another church should be built. The records of presbytery bear that they willingly received this application and appointed certain of their number to visit the bounds of the said landward district, and to report their judgement of the necessity of separating it from the other part of the parish; also what was the fittest place where a new church should be built, in the event of their opinion being favourable to the disjunction. It also appears from the records of presbytery, of date October 31st 1649, that this visitation was made, and that a report was given in favourable to the wishes of the petitioners. The consequence was, that the presbytery recommended to the Commissioners of Parliament for Surrenders and Tithes that a disjunction should take place, which the commissioners authorised, and the whole was completed the following year.
- 2 At what time the lands of Abbotsshall ceased to be the property of the Abbey of Dunfermline, we are not aware, but it appears probable that they were disposed of about the same time (the year 1450), that the town of Kirkcaldy and lands in the immediate neighbourhood were despoiled by the commendatory and convent to the bailies an community of Kirkcaldy. Be that, however, as it may, it is certain that Abbotsshall was for a great length of time the property of the Scotts of Balwearie, and that afterwards it became the property of the Ramsays (of Abbotsshall), who sold it to the ancestors of the present proprietor, Mr Freguson of Raith. Sir Robert Sibbald, in his History of Fife, which was published near the beginning of the last century,

speaks of the mansion-house of Abbotshall - at that time "a large and fine new house", which house must have been built by the then proprietor, Mr Andrew Ramsay, and the remains of which were standing not more than forty years ago on the same spot, there is reason to believe, on which the original house or hall of the abbot stood.

3 Balwearie, according to Sibbald was in the possession of the family of Scott for at least 500 years. To the same family belonged also Scotcraig and many other lands in the country. The family of Scott of Balwearie is said to be now represented by Scott of Ancrum.

4 Vellani, a historian who wrote long after the reputed prophet was gathered to his fathers, records a prediction of Michael Scott's, which he declares had been rigidly fulfilled; and Dante has given him, in his character of a magician, a conspicuous place in his Inferno.

"Quels altro che ne flanchi e cosi pocp	"That other, so spare in the flanks,
Michele Scoto fu, che veramente	was Michael Scott, who assuredly
Delle magiche frode seppe Il gioco"	knew the game of magic frauds"
Dante, Inferno, Cento XX line 115	(tr John D. Sinclair)

5 Sir Walter Scott tells us, in a note to the Lay of the Last Minstrel, in which romantic poem the name of the magician is embalmed, that amongst the peasantry in the South of Scotland, any work of labour of antiquity is described either to the agency of Auld Michael, of Sir William Wallace or the Devil.

6 This Scott was doubtless a descendant of Sir Michael Scott. Abbotshall. Sibbald mentions as "anciently the possession of the Scott of Balwearie". Both Balwearie and Abbotshall have long since formed part of the Raith estate, and are now of course the property of Robert Ferguson Esq. Of Raith.

7 Sir Andrew Ramsay seems to have purchased Abbotshall from the Scotts. Mr Andres Ramsay, father of Sir Andrew, and one of the ministers of Edinburgh, is noticed as having died at his son's house at Abbotshall in the year 1659; thus intimating, as it were, that Sir Andrew was the first of the name to whom Abbotshall belonged. Sir Andrew was succeeded in Abbotshall, according to Sibbald, by his "nevoy Mr Andrew Ramsay, and a grandson of the Laird of Whitstoun in the Mearns".

8. Bogie was formerly the property of Sir James Weymss of Bogie

9. Within these few years several controversial writings on religious topics have been given to the world from this parish, exhibiting powers of composition not to be expected from persons in the situations of their authors. It is certainly to be regretted, however, for themselves and their families, that a love of idle and useless disputation should call off the attention of individuals from their honest and lawful vocations.

- 10 The profit arising in the neighbourhood of the town is very great; - L. 12, L. 16, L. 20, and sometimes even L. 24 per acre have been received for potatoes, before they have been dug.
- 11 To this the fields in the neighbourhood of the town form the exception, - which are frequently parcelled out for the convenience of persons residing in the town, who wish to cultivate only a few acres, and are generally let from year to year without any lease or written agreement.
- 12 The following is a list of the different clergymen who have successively filled the cure at Abbotshall. with the dates of their admission. &c. so far as can be ascertained from the imperfect registers of presbytery and kirk-session. The first found on record is Mr Patrick Wemyss, who was ordained November 4, 1650. He was son of Laird of Foodie. Mr Wemyss became a landed proprietor, after which he seems to have abandoned the ministry. The next mentioned is Mr Robert Forrest in 1664. Mr John Bowes was disposed from the ministry of Abbotshall, on the 15th October 1691, for heterodoxy in opposing the Assembly's Catechism. Mr Alexander Fraser was admitted 5th January 1692, and seem to have died in 1709. Mr Thomas Nairne was admitted 7th September 1710, and was deposed in 1740, for adhering to the secession, which was begun by Erskine and Moncreiff. Mr George Gib was admitted 1742, and died 1756. Mr Alexander Speirs was admitted March 1758, an was translated to Kirkcaldy in 1768, Mr . George Shaw was admitted 1769, and died January 1809, Mr William Anderson was admitted August 1810, and died August 25th 1825. The present incumbent was admitted in the end of March 1826.
- 13 This charity was bequeath by the late Robert Philp Esq of Edenshead, who left his whole fortune, equal to not less than L. 70,000 or L 80,000 Sterling, for the purpose of educating a certain number of children in the parishes of Kirkaldy, Dysart, Abbotshall and Kinghorn. The schools in each district are under the management of a committee appointed by the inhabitants from amongst themselves, and the whole are subject to control and direction of a set of governors in Kirkaldy, some of whom are chosen for life, and others, like the local managers, chosen biennially. Besides the education which the children at these different schools receive, which is simply English reading, writing and arithmetic, they are furnished from the funds with books, paper, pen , ink, and slates for that purpose. They are more over provided with clothing their continuance at school; on leaving school they receive a sum between L. 2 and L. 5, or whatever more the fund will afford, the better to enable them to begin the world. Of the advantages to be derived by the different parishes from this large and benevolent bequest, it is impossible yet to speak with any precision. The schools have been established little more than a year, and all that can be said is that the funds are managed with fidelity and economy, - that zealous and efficient teachers have been appointed, and that the children are well taught in those branches which they are allowed by the will of the donor to learn. A few years more will probably tell whether these institutions have not been the means of introducing into the different

parishes in which they are established a number of poor families, who will obtain a legal claim to be supported by other funds besides those appropriated for educating and clothing their starving children "Where the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together"

1901

A coast parish, S. Fifeshire, containing the Linktown or southern suburb of KIRKOALDY (incorporated with that burgh in 1876), and bounded W, NW, and N by Auchterderran, E by Kirkcaldy and for 1 mile

by the Firth of Forth, S by Kinghorn, and SW by AuchtertooL Irregular in outline, it has a varying length from E to W of 7 furlongs and 3B miles, an extreme breadth from N to S of 3 miles, and an area of 4189 acres, of which nearly 60 are foreshore and 25 water. Two detached portions of this parish (respectively 27 acres and 4 acres in extent), which were wholly surrounded by the parish of Kirkcaldy, were in 1891 transferred to that parish by the Boundary Commissioners.

The surface, low and level near the coast, rises gently, westward and north-westward, to 283 feet beyond Balwearle, 400 near Raith House, 399 near Chapel, 500 near Torbain, and beyond Lambswell, in the furthest west. Streams there are none of any size, only Tiel Burn and another, feeding the beautiful lake before Raith House, which was formed in 1812.

The rocks are partly eruptive, partly belong to the Limestone Carboniferous system; and sandstone and limestone, the latter abounding in fossils, are quarried extensively, but no coal has been recently worked. The soil towards the shore is fertile, though light, growing good turnips and barley; further inland is mostly dark or clay loam, well adapted for wheat and beans and other heavy crops; and farther still is chiefly of inferior quality, on a cold, tilly subsoil About four-fifths of the whole area are in tillage, and one-sixth more is under wood.

Balwearie Tower is the principal antiquity, only a large yew tree marking the site of the hall or pleasance of the abbots of Dunfermline, 1: mile W of the church, from which the parish received its name. Raith Hill, too, crowned by a conspicuous square ! tower, has yielded some ancient urns and rude stone coffins. William Adam, architect (flo. 1728), and (General Sir Ronald C. Fe ~ n (:1773-1841), were natives, the Fergusons having held the RAith estate since 1707, and the Melvilles before them since 1296, and earlier. Raith House, 13/4 mile W of Kirkcaldy, is a good old mansion, originally built by George, first Earl of Melville, in 1694, with modern portico and wings, and with finely-wooded grounds and park.

The present proprietor owns 7135 acres in the shire, valued at £13,919 (minerals, £1582) per annum; and Mr Davidson of Bogie House, a castellated mansion 22 miles WNW of the town, owns 398 acres, valued at £817. Five other proprietors hold each an annual value of £500, and upward, 15 of between £100 and £500, 12 of from £50 to £100, and 65 of from £20 to £50.

In the presbtery of Kirkcaldy and synod of Fife, Abbotshall was disjoined from Kirkcaldy in 1620. but has itself given off a southern portion to the quoad sacra parish of Inverteil; its minister's income is £313. The parish church (rebuilt 1788; 825 sittings) stands 1/2 mile W of Kirkcaldy, and there is also a. Free church, whilst a public school at Chapel village, 22 miles NW, with accommodation for 149 children, had (1891) an average attendance of 86, and a grant of £67, 13s.

Valuation (1891) £5794, 19s. 5d., (1892) £5706, 19s. 8d.

Total pop. (1821) 3267, (1851) 5030, (1871) 5785, 674 of them
in landward portion, (1881) 643

In 1901 the account was no longer written by th minister and the detail of agriculture, manufacturing, education communication would now be found under Kirkcaldy.

KIRKCALDY DISTRICT 1950

	<u>Parishes Population</u>		
	1841	1931	1951
Kirkcaldyand Dysart --	12,866	46,019	50,518
Auchtertool ----	530	683	558
Burntisland ----	2,210	5,809	5,883
Kinghorn ----	2,935	2,708	2,888
Markinch ----	5,965	8,477	8,845
Leslie -----	3,625	3,983	3,765

It can be said with some satisfaction that it is the happier aspects of the industrial revolution which are visible in Kirkcaldy District. Economic wellbeing is not confined to the large burgh of Kirkcaldy alone. The Leslie-Markinch area and the town of Burntisland are thriving communities in their own right, with the former particularly wellbalanced. Kirkcaldy, the largest and, on the whole, the most important town in the county, naturally dominates the area to a marked extent.

Workers and shoppers, seekers after entertainment and professional advice, are all attracted to the town in large numbers from far and wide. But this is a town which has for long striven to provide something beyond the more garish of urban attractions. A familiar recitation in this part of Scotland proclaims

'I ken by the smell, the next stop's Kirkcaldy,' and certainly the pervading odour associated with the manufacture of linoleum is most apparent. Yet more than that impresses even the most casual visitor to the town. There is an air of brisk purpose, and soon comes the realisation that the ideas which have created successful businesses have also entered into the management of other features of the town's life.

Voluntary organisations, it will be seen, are numerous and imaginatively conducted in Kirkcaldy. Perhaps it is for this reason that the surrounding towns have retained far more vitality in their individual communal lives than is sometimes the case with satellites.

Nor are the people housed in the depressing and ugly environment that is often the accompaniment of industrial activity, for, although slums and overcrowding do still exist, they are mercifully few. The towns in the district have all grown steadily throughout the last hundred years, some of them very appreciably, but never at a pace which threw an intolerable strain on existing resources. Kirkcaldy itself is spacious and has its admirable parks and beach; Burntisland, essentially the home of heavy industry, is at the same time a popular holiday resort; Kinghorn is well on the way to developing into a notable residential place; and Markinch and Leslie have an almost drowsy charm of appearance that is the more delightful in that it is not a sign of decay.

New pits in the area and the expansion of established industries are likely to support a steadily increasing population in the coming decades. There seems no reason to doubt that this process will bring advantages both to the incomers and to the existing communities.

THE PARISH OF KIRKCALDY AND DYSART

At the time of the New Statistical Account, Kirkcaldy parish was a mere strip of coastal land, but even then it was a place of considerable importance, containing a Royal Burgh which was inferior in size only to Dunfermline in Fife. On either side of it were neighbours little, if at all, less in importance - Dysart, also with its Royal Burgh, on the east, and Abbotshall, disjoined from it in the seventeenth century and containing the flourishing Linktown, on the west. All three thrive and grew during the course of the century, and in 1901 they were joined together, along with a small area of Kinghorn, to form one single parish, having an area of some 15 square miles.

In 1901, Abbotshall had a population of nearly 8,000, Dysart more than 16,000, and Kirkcaldy more than 14,000, a total of over 38,000. In 1951, the combined population of the parish was over 50,000, making it the second most populous in the county. It held within its boundaries the largest and most important town-the large burgh of the same name-whose population (49,037) was nearly 98% of the parish total.

Growth of the Town.

The name 'Kirkcaldy' has never been clearly explained. The suggestion that it derives from the Culdees' once having had a place of worship there, is not now accepted, and the most popular current view is that it means 'the town of the well-sheltered harbour'. Like the parish, the burgh in its present form is the result of a union, but in this case at a much later date, and, before it took place, natural growth had been abetted by boundary extensions to embrace neighbouring communities. The most important of these took place in 1876, when the boundaries were extended to take in Linktown in the parish of Abbotshall, Inveriel in the parish of Kinghorn, and the districts of Pathhead, Sinclairtown and Gallatown in the parish of Dysart.

These were once quite separate communities and could not, according to the old guild rights, trade in Kirkcaldy, but, as they and their larger neighbour grew, they had gradually become one town, with

a population in 1881 of 23,315. Then, in 1930, came the amalgamation with the old and contiguous Royal Burgh of Dysart. The valuations of the burghs at three periods give an indication of the development that has taken place.

	Kirkcaldy	Dysart
1855-56 -	£23,536 11 4	£11,992 7 9
1892-93 -	£103,247 1 4	£43,659 10 9
1947-48 -	£464,684 13 0	

Another extension took place in 1938, while Boreland was included in the burghel area in the following year. The districts of Linktown, Pathhead, Sinclairtown and Gallatown are now quite absorbed into the life of Kirkcaldy, but Dysart and Boreland still continue to have a strong, separate, community feeling. Dysart always did, of course, possess its own industries, its own harbour, its own traditions and customs, but part of the explanation undoubtedly lies in the fact that modern Dysart is a one-industry town (and that industry coal-mining) and that it is clearly separated from Kirkcaldy by the railway line. In the near future, it is understood, the Town Council will make application for a Provisional Order to extend the boundaries further. This extension will include the village of Chapel and Muttonhall Farm.

The modern town has been built up from the one street that ran from Bridgeton and Morningside in Inveriel, through Linktown and Kirkcaldy, and on to Pathhead, Sinclairtown and Gallatown a distance of fully four miles. From the High Street, several wynds and streets ran towards the sea, and a number to the north. A few ran parallel to the main thoroughfare, one of them Hill Street, famous for its Grammar School, where the famous Adam brothers, the architects, were educated, and where Thomas Carlyle was a schoolmaster from 1816 to 1818. From about the middle of the nineteenth century to the outbreak of war in 1914, the appearance of the place altered very considerably.

The cobbled streets disappeared, giving place to causeway setts and later to asphalt; gas and electricity displaced the oil-lamp, and the health of the locality was looked to by the provision of hospitals, and proper water, drainage and sanitation systems; the foreshore was greatly improved by the erection of a sea-wall; the building of the Victoria Viaduct between Kirkcaldy and Pathhead (begun in 1899 and completed in 1902) formed a valuable addition to the town's main thoroughfare; the provision of parks and open spaces contributed greatly to the people's well-being; and culture and art were given a worthy place. At the same time, many factories were erected, house-building proceeded apace, and the town, which formerly lay to the south of the railway line, began to encroach on the lands of Bennoch and Dunnikier. Gradually, the appellation 'The Lang Toun' tended to become less applicable, though, even to-day, its length in relation to its breadth is noteworthy. The bulk of the town is comparatively modern property, most of the old fringing on High Street and Links Street. The former still retains its pre-eminence as the main shopping and business centre, and possesses one of the highest traffic densities in the county.

Over the years, Kirkcaldy has acquired a collection, such as few other towns in Scotland can match, of public buildings and extensive parks, many of them through the generosity of individual citizens. Until 1860, the town had lacked a public hall, but from then on, for almost forty years, the Corn Exchange was open for a variety of functions. In 1884, a hall was built in Pathhead by public subscription and handed over to the Town Council, while, in the following year, Normand Hall in Dysart, erected by Mrs. James Normand to the memory of her husband, was handed over to the Magistrates to be held for the good of the community. Then, in 1890, Provost Michael Beveridge bequeathed to the town the sum of £50,000 to be

expended on a 'Public Park, Hall and Library. The Beveridge Park of 97 acres was opened in 1892, and is to-day the most important centre of outdoor recreation for a large section of the community, with its lake, playing fields, tree-lined walks and so on. Some time before his death, Provost Beveridge had inaugurated a fund to raise a memorial to Adam Smith, and, this fund being incorporated in his gift, the Adam Smith and

Beveridge Halls (with Public Library) were opened in 1899 by Andrew Carnegie. The opening of Gallatown Park in 1924 provided an open space for the third ward, and, in 1929, came the greatly appreciated gift of Ravenscraig Park from Sir Michael Nairn. That same year, he presented a triangular piece of ground at the Black Paling, to be used by the community for recreational purposes. Sir Michael, the second Baronet, has continued the benevolent work of his father, Sir M. B. Nairn. Among his other notable benefactions are the addition of a large extension to the hospital, the gift of St. Serf's Tower, and, along with his uncle, Mr. John Nairn, a large share in the cost of equipping and furnishing the new premises acquired in 1927 by the Fife and Kinross Society for the Blind.

One of the finest acquisitions by the town in recent years was the purchase of Dunnikier Park (12 acres) in 1945 as a 'fourth lung' for the citizens.

On leaving Kirkcaldy Station, the traveller steps right into the beautiful War Memorial of Balsusney, opened in 1925. To complete the Memorial, Mr. John Nairn gifted a Museum and Art Gallery, extending it in 1926 to house a new Public Library. This was opened in 1928. The Museum and Art Gallery is considered to rank among the finest provincial ones of its kind in Britain. Three rooms are devoted to the Museum Collection -Natural History, Archeology, and Arts and Crafts. In the Art Gallery, one room contains a collection of modern water colours, two hold paintings by McTaggart and Peploe, and four show various aspects of Scottish art, made up of loans from private owners and from the Scottish Modern Arts Association, and of pictures belonging to the town. Many pictures have been gifted to the town and many notable exhibitions held.

Amongst local libraries, the earliest was the Kirkcaldy Subscription Library, formed in 1800. In 1875, it had 180 subscribers, and it is recorded that in those days it surpassed all other collections in the county except that of the University of St. Andrews. It was closed in 1934. There was a 'Trades Library' started in Dysart in 1824, and others in connection with Mechanics' Institutes were established in Kirkcaldy (1825) and Dysart (1849). There have also been in existence Pathhead and Gallatown Subscription Libraries, two with private circulation's (the oldest dating back to 1827), and the Library of the People's Club and Institute (which had 3,000 volumes in 1875). In 1896, the Town Council began a Branch Library in Pathhead, and, in 1901, the Beveridge Library was opened, continuing in use till it was transferred to the new building on the War Memorial site. Sinclairtown Library was opened in 1935. In the main and branch libraries to-day, there is a stock of 60,000 volumes, the number of readers being 14,000.

During the war years, a Citizens' Advice Bureau was set up in the Library and is still carried on. An Information Centre was also established for the purpose of disseminating information about the various offices in the burgh and the services they provide. Fife County Library, started in Blairhill School, Dysart, now has its main premises in Kirkcaldy.

Since the middle of the nineteenth century, three theatres have opened and closed in the town, one building remaining as a cinema. To-day, there are five cinemas and an ice-rink, while theatrical performances are commonly held in the Adam Smith Hall. One other building must be mentioned, namely the 'Bell Coffee House', the opening of which as a Working Man's Refreshment and Reading Room in 1854 was regarded as quite an event in the history of the town. The Provost referred 'to the opening of an establishment where intemperance would have no place and from which many good things would be supplied and at very moderate rates'.

The Provision of Services.

The population of Kirkcaldy reached its present level in a series of regular and fairly easy stages. All the separate parts of both parish and burgh have shown a rise during every single decennial period since the first census was taken, but never was the increase of such magnitude as to throw an impossible strain on the resources of the community.

Accordingly, the development of public services could take place in an orderly fashion, keeping pace with growing demands, until to-day the town is efficiently served in every way.

The present water-supply dates back to the 1860s, when the problem first began to appear a serious one, and a Water Commission was formed to consider the various sources of supply in the neighbourhood. A survey of the Lothrie catchment area near Leslie was undertaken in 1865, and, after much acrimonious discussion, the site was adopted. The Local Act of 1867 gave powers for the creation of the Kirkcaldy and Dysart Water Commission, and for the construction of Ballo and Drumain Reservoirs, which were completed in 1870 at a cost of £23,300. Further powers to utilise the Lothrie source were obtained in 1881, under which Harperlees Reservoir was constructed at a cost of £34,000, and two further reservoirs, Holl and Arnot, were begun in 1896. It says much for the foresight of Provost Swan and his colleagues that Kirkcaldy, unlike so many places, has had its needs satisfied ever since. That was only one of the many schemes for the improvement of the burgh introduced by Patrick Don Swan, friend of Carlyle and Provost

for 30 years. His provostship has been claimed as one of the most brilliant periods in the town's history.

Other services have been developed equally fully. Until they were taken over by the State, in 1948 and 1949 respectively, both electricity and gas were under municipal control. The private gas undertaking was taken over by the Town Council in 1911, and Kirkcaldy manufactured its own electricity from 1902. The generation of electricity ceased entirely in March 1946, and the Corporation thereupon took a bulk supply from the Central Electricity Board. The years 1932 and 1938 saw the building of a modern abattoir and fire station respectively, while, during the war, two civic restaurants were opened, one of which still remains. In 1935, ground was acquired at Wemyssfield to replace the old Town House which, built in 1827, was then sold. Modern transport services began with the opening of the railway in 1847. It is perhaps unfortunate that it was Thornton and not Kirkcaldy which developed as a junction, and that no direct rail link with Dunfermline has proved possible, but the station is a major stopping place for main line traffic between Edinburgh and Dundee, and trains are frequent. There are also stations at Sinclairtown and Dysart, for local passenger and goods traffic. From 1903 onwards, the town had a tramway system which eventually linked

it with Leven, but the trams were finally superseded by the buses in 1931. From their earliest days, buses have run from Kirkcaldy to every part of the county, and now even further afield, so that this form of transport allows of easy movement in any direction. In addition, there is a town service operated for the Corporation by Messrs. W. Alexander & Sons Ltd., which covers eight different routes at frequent intervals, apart from special workers' services.

In 1870, Kirkcaldy, Pathhead and Dysart obtained telegraphic communication, and, in 1877, there were experiments with the telephone between Kirkcaldy and Pathhead, the first firm to install it, E. Sang & Sons, doing so in 1880. In 1925 automatic telephones were installed. A parcels post was inaugurated in 1883.

Medical facilities have increased steadily. The Cottage Hospital, later known as The Kirkcaldy Hospital, for surgical and medical work was gifted by Mr. (later Sir) M. B. Nairn in 1890. For 58 years this hospital was maintained in an excellent fashion by voluntary subscriptions. An Infectious Diseases Hospital, which then included a Sanatorium, was opened in 1899, while a Maternity Hospital has supplemented, since 1935, the Home previously in use. In that same year a Child Welfare Clinic was opened at Sinclairtown. The John Hunter Hospital, for the use of poor people (not being paupers), was opened in 1936. The town now has 16 medical practitioners, 7 district nurses, 9 welfare nurses, 11 dentists, as well as a number of masseurs and chiropodists. A Queen's Nurses' Home was gifted by Lady Nairn of Rankeilour in 1914.

Kirkcaldy can claim a special interest in the subject of vaccination. It is recorded that, at different times about the turn of the century, two well-known townsmen, named Robertson and Wilkie, suffered imprisonment because of their strong objections to the Vaccination Law, and that the uncle of the latter,

M.P. for Dundee, raised the question of the 'Conscience Clause for Scotland' and succeeded in getting it passed. It was a burgess of Kirkcaldy, too, the late Mr. Westwood, who in 1947 presented a Bill which repealed the Vaccination Acts.

In the field of education, Kirkcaldy benefited greatly under the will of Robert Philp of Edenshead, a linen manufacturer in the town, who, in 1820, left £75,000, the interest on which was to be used for the education of children. Under the Philp Trust three schools were set upon Kirkcaldy, Linktown and Pathhead, and many local youths have looked back with gratitude on the work of this great venture. In 1854 it was said: "The only institution of importance for which, in modern times, Kirkcaldy was distinguished was Philp's Institution, and although it was not faultless, yet it had proved the means of conferring the blessing of education upon a large class of children who would otherwise have been neglected". At various periods a number of other schools existed, amongst which mention may be made of the Pathhead and Sinclairtown Subscription School, dating back to 1793, of Ragged and Industrial Schools in Gallatown and Kirkcaldy, of the 'Adventure School' in Pathhead, and of a commercial academy. In 1863, Mr. Sherriff, of considerable local renown, was holding evening classes for the special benefit of the working-classes.

When responsibility passed to School Boards in 1873, we find that Kirkcaldy School Board had fifteen schools with 2,200 pupils, and Dysart School Board had eight schools with 1,550 pupils. Since then a great deal of building and extension has been undertaken, including such things as the opening of three 'Half-time' schools, the erection of a Technical School, the opening of a large school medical clinic, and the transformation of Sinclairtown Old School into a Trades School. In 1929, the mansion house of Eastbank was purchased by Fife Education Authority, and is now used as a special school for handicapped children. To-day, there are twelve schools and one nursery school in the burgh, and the number of pupils in attendance stands at nearly 7,500. There is also an Occupational Centre which caters for about a dozen handicapped children. Pride of place

must be given to Kirkcaldy High (formerly Burgh) School, which goes back considerably further than 1843, when the first of the present buildings was erected.

In 1893, Mr. M. B. Nairn gifted to the town the present main building, erected on the site of the old one at a cost of £10,000. The Kirkcaldy Technical School is attached to the building, and a small part of it is also used for the training of pre-apprentice students, and those on day-release from their employment. The High School owes a particular debt to John Lockhart, who held the office of Rector for 33 years, and, by his zeal and service, made the school an outstanding one. One of his achievements was the starting of the first evening continuation classes in 1841. Since 1919, Kirkcaldy has been the headquarters for education in Fife, the Director and his staff occupying offices in Wemyssfield.

Present-day Kirkcaldy can thus lay claim to a very efficient battery of environmental services. In this, as in other aspects of life to be touched on later, the drive and enterprise of many individual citizens have been conspicuous, but no small measure of credit is due to the untiring efforts of the men who have served in municipal affairs-as Burgh Trustees, Police Commissioners and Town Councillors. Since the days of the bestowal of the franchise in 1832, sentiment in Kirkcaldy has tended towards the left in both national and local politics. The first Labour M.P. for the area was returned to Westminster in 1921, after a long spell of representation by the Liberal Party, and Labour has held the seat, with two short interruptions, ever since. Particularly during the last twenty years, politics have come to figure prominently in local government, and, in 1949, the Town Council, elected in four wards, was composed of 17 Moderate and 13 Labour members. In the immediate post-war period, Kirkcaldy was virtually unique amongst the burghs of industrial Fife in not being controlled by Labour. Labour's first councillor, David Mackinnon, a cloth worker, had been elected in 1907, and, even earlier, in 1876, James Michie, an iron-moulder, had taken his place as the first 'working man' councillor.

Between the time of the New Statistical Account and the present, 13 gentlemen have been made Honorary Burgesses of the burgh, the list beginning with Richard Cobden in 1843 and ending with Sir Michael Nairn and Joseph Westwood in 1946. During the Boer War, the Freedom of the Burgh was bestowed for eminent services on 14 soldiers, one of whom, Private Robert A. Dunsire, held the Victoria Cross.

As a large burgh under the 1929 Act, Kirkcaldy has been responsible for the control of most of its own affairs, but in the last few years a number have slipped from its grasp. The fire brigade and the police force have been merged in County Council undertakings, electricity and gas have passed to the State, and a number of health and welfare matters have become a national concern. These considerable changes must undoubtedly have their repercussions on the community, and it is to be hoped that they do not stultify the fine civic spirit which, collectively, has done so much to develop the town into a well-balanced community. Of course, new responsibilities have been placed on the Town Council through such things as the Town and Country Planning (Scotland) Act 1947, the Children's Act 1948, and, by no means least, the important part it is called upon to play in the housing programme.

the Children's Act 1948, and, by no means least, the important part it is called upon to play in the housing programme.

As in other places, housing has been a major concern of the Town Council since the end of the First World War. At that time, the housing situation was precarious and the shortage acute. Straightaway, under the 1919 Act, nearly 200 houses were built by the Corporation, and, in the whole period up to April 1949, the total reached 4,212, private enterprise contributing approximately a further 600. Even so, the demand for houses was far from satisfied. The burgh M.O.H., referring to the Registrar General's Report for 1936, suggested that something existed in Kirkcaldy which (a) prevented or discouraged couples from marrying, and (b) prevented or discouraged those married from having an average family, and added: 'I do not

think it is an economic factor, but I strongly suspect that a contributory cause is the housing shortage.' In 1942, a Town Planning Survey Report was issued by the Burgh Engineer, in which he commented on the fact that the town's birth rate and marriage rate were both much lower than in most Scottish burghs, and that the number of large families was also less. (Another interesting point, incidentally, was the relatively large proportion of marriages in which one of the parties had been previously wed.) The problem has certainly not yet been solved, but great progress has been made, and the average of 3.5 persons per house in Kirkcaldy is below the Scottish figure of 3.7. That this has helped to bring about the great decline in the infant mortality rate that has taken place here, as elsewhere, can hardly be doubted. At the beginning of the

century, over 100 children out of every 1,000 died under the age of one year, but by 1944 the figure had been reduced to 44, and in 1948 it stood at 35.

In the development of housing, land was fairly plentiful for a long time, and houses were spread out, which made easier the provision of amenities, and was a factor making for health.

With the extension of mining, ground liable to subsidence will have to be avoided, so that denser building may result, and some of the older parts of the town may be used to accommodate high blocks of flats. Like other local authorities in the post-war period, Kirkcaldy has had to accept its share of non-traditional, factory-made, houses, and this is regretted, especially on fine sites like the Smeaton one. To try to improve the sites on which non-traditional houses have been erected, the Town Council has allocated the sum of £2 per house for tree planting, while plots of spare land in these areas have been beautified by the Parks Superintendent with variegated bushes and flowers. For convenience, streets have been named after groups of trees, rivers, hills, etc., which helps to define the areas. Each of these acts as a self-contained unit, with its own provision for shopping, play-grounds, and so on. With the opening up of new coal-pits, Kirkcaldy expects to have to accommodate in coming years a considerable influx of miners from the West of Scotland, as well as workers for other industries which may be attracted to the district. Already 300 houses have been erected, specially for miners, at Sauchenbush, and a development-forecast has been prepared showing the need for a further 6, 130 houses over a period of 15-20 years.

The population of the town is expected to increase to between 60,000 and 65,000, and it seems inevitable that Kirkcaldy will enhance its already significant regional importance and attain the virtual status of a city.

The Local Economy.

The importance of a soundly based economy in a town of the size of Kirkcaldy (and even more in one likely to hold 60,000 inhabitants in the none too distant future) needs no stressing. New industries may follow the influx of population, but it is essential that the present industrial structure should be capable of playing a major part in the absorbing of new workers. Fortunately, as has been made clear in a previous chapter, there are plenty of encouraging features about it; the main firms show a very satisfactory size and range, and the whole area is a particularly well-balanced one.

Nor is this a recent development, for a glance back into history reveals that Kirkcaldy, and its neighbours, have long possessed an unusually varied, and generally thriving, assortment of industries. Throughout much of the nineteenth century, the chief industry of Kirkcaldy comprised the spinning of flax and the weaving of linen, but there were also several important branches of engineering—iron- and brass-founding, boiler-making and machine-making—as well as breweries, distilleries, tanneries and cooperages, and manufacturers of such varied articles as chemicals, nails, tobacco, salt, rope and twine, and oil and tallow. Shipbuilding yards operated sporadically in both Kirkcaldy and Dysart, while potteries and brick and tile works were to be found in Gallatown and Linktown. An extensive trade in corn and meal was carried on, and, until the second half of the century, whaling ships plied regularly from the harbour. As the century ran its course, mining became a largescale employer, while linoleum gradually showed signs of the position of preeminence it was later to occupy.

The introduction of new inventions and ideas, and the incidence of two major wars, have brought changes to many old-established businesses, and some of the industries mentioned above have disappeared completely. New ones have sprung up and taken their place alongside those of the old ones which have continued to figure in the local economy, albeit in a very changed form sometimes. Probably none has altered more than the ancient textile manufacturing, in which the numbers engaged at the beginning of the nineteenth century reached nearly 5,000, but are now less than a third of that.

The advent of steam and the power-loom saw the disappearance of the hand-loom from the wynds of the town, and the growth of factories, in which were woven blue linen, heavy twilled sheetings, ticks, checks and 'Kirkcaldy Stripe'. Some 60 years ago, there were seventeen of these factories in Kirkcaldy and Dysart; to-day, when linen has been very largely replaced by other fabrics, there remain eight, engaged in the manufacture of cotton ducks, flax canvases, dowlas, ticks, and household textiles. The trade has experienced many trials and vicissitudes in the past hundred years, but there is a good demand for the medium and heavy type of article presently made in the town.

Over the years, allied branches of the textile industry have disappeared much more completely than the weaving side. In 1872, there were ten flax-spinning mills in Kirkcaldy and Dysart, employing 1,680 hands, but 17 years later the number of mills had fallen to five, and now only one remains, employing 250. The three old-established bleachfields that then existed have likewise been reduced to one - at Denburn. Only two firms, out of the many dyers who practised their calling in the days when the town was famed for its blue-striped shirtings, have survived the changes of trade. A carpet factory in Dysart has been developed within the last twenty years, and an old-established firm of chair-web manufacturers is still active in

Linktown.

Coal is said to have been worked in the vicinity for more than five centuries, and this ancient industry, too, has under-gone changes. Kirkcaldy's two pits, the 'Pannie' and 'Lina', are both closed; and deserted is Dysart harbour, from which in former days a large trade was carried on with the Continent, the annual shipments reaching as high as 85,000 tons. Dysart, however, still has three pits, the 'Lady Blanche', the 'Frances', and the 'Randolph', though the first-named is not at present in production. Large extensions are taking place at the 'Frances', and this, together with the new pit at Rothes situated within the parish boundary, and later perhaps with the projected new pit at Seafield, will increase considerably the amount of coal won in the vicinity of the town.

Engineering has continued to hold a prominent place in the Kirkcaldy economy, and is now represented by three large firms of general engineers, a forge, three iron- and two brass-foundries. Furniture making, saw-milling, malting, flour milling, soft drinks manufacture, motor-body building, lithography and printing, and rope and twine manufacture are also undertaken on a considerable scale, and contribute greatly to the variety of the local scene. The main source of industrial employment to-day in Kirkcaldy, however, is the two world-famous linoleum firms of Michael Nairn & Co. Ltd., and Barry, Ostlere & Shepherd Ltd. The story of the origins and progress of this industry is a stirring and heroic one, and has been dealt with fairly fully in a previous chapter. It will suffice to say that these firms have given steady employment through the years to a great many people, and brought Kirkcaldy to the forefront as one of the main centres of linoleum manufacture in the world. Recent years have seen many restrictions on the importation of raw materials, but it is visualised that, when imports are again unfettered, a very large trade will be done in the excellent products of the two firms.

Apart altogether from its industrial importance, Kirkcaldy ranks with Dunfermline, St. Andrews and Cupar as a leading commercial and shopping centre. Most insurance, friendly and building societies which operate in the county have their local headquarters here, while all the Scottish Joint Stock banks are represented. A branch of the Bank of Scotland was opened as early as 1785, and had been joined by three others at the time of the New Statistical Account. The Kirkcaldy and District Savings Bank was begun in 1838, and now its

branches serve a . number of towns all over Fife. Shopping facilities have grown enormously, and very few branches of retailing are not represented in the town-private traders facing competition from a strong Co-operative movement and an unusually large number of multiple firms, though the very large departmental store is not so far in evidence. The first self-propelled vehicle made its appearance in Kirkcaldy in 1897, less than a year after their use on public roads had become legal. To-day, the town is the main centre in the county for the sale and servicing of motor cars and accessories, while it also contains large bus and road haulage depots. One notable local shortcoming is the meagre hotel accommodation. Only twelve hotels, with fewer than 200 bedrooms, exist to cater for the many people who may wish to spend some time in the town, either as holiday-makers or for business purposes. Cafes and restaurants were likewise scanty for a long time, but a number of new ones have been opened in recent years.

Harbours

No trace survives at Dysart harbour of its erstwhile bustling activity, but Kirkcaldy remains a port of some consequence, though overshadowed by Methil and Burntisland. The Kirkcaldy, Leith and Glasgow Steam Packet Co. was established in 1808 and operated vessels between the three ports, and, later, the London and Kirkcaldy Shipping Co. had weekly sailings to London. To-day, there are still regular sailings to London, Hull and Newcastle. The main imports are cork, woodflour, cement, whiting, feeding stuffs, linseed oil, chemicals and papermaking materials; exports comprise linoleum, paper, malt, grain, textiles and rugs.

During the First World War, the dock was taken over by the American Navy, and more or less closed to shipping, a skeleton service being maintained with London; but, in the recent war, all the regular services were preserved, though with some difficulty, while, from 1942 to 1948, there was a considerable coastal traffic in seed potatoes, moved under the direction of the Ministry of Food. A considerable increase in the present large shipments of building materials passing through the port is anticipated, in view of the building of the new town of Glenrothes, and the expansion of the mining industry. Within the period 1905 to 1948, the harbour has shown a profit in only six years, on account of the heavy debt charges, which will continue, assuming no further capital expenditure arises, until 1979. But for the annual sums required to meet debt liquidation and loan interest, the harbour would be self-supporting. Up to May 1947, a total of £146,281 had been advanced from rates to meet harbour losses, power to repay to rates out of future profits being contained in Section 114 of the Kirkcaldy Act, 1939. The best year for imports, from a tonnage as well as an income point of view, was 1938, when they totalled 112,446 tons; for exports, it was 1914, with a total of 83,202 tons. The revenue of the harbour for the year 1905 was £3,445 as compared with £13,751 in 1948.

Kirkcaldy emerges from the foregoing paragraphs as very fortunate in the nature of its economy. There is a notably great variety of employment opportunities, for men and women, old and young alike; and inevitably workers are drawn from a wide area.

The relative importance of the main industries can be seen from the following table:

Numbers engaged	Industries
2000 +	Linoleum, Distribution.
1000-2000	Textiles, Mining, Transport, Building.
500-1000	Engineering, Woodworking, National and Local Government Service.
	Food and Drink, Printing and Publishing, Motor Vehicles.

Linoleum, distribution, textiles and transport are all large female-employing industries. Most linoleum workers work a five-and-a-half day week of 47 hours, textile workers a five-day one of 45 hours; in both industries, wages have more than doubled in the past fifteen years, and holidays with pay have been granted.

A number of welfare schemes are in operation, including those of the Co-operative Societies, W. Alexander & Sons Ltd., and the very extensive ones of the linoleum firms, while one linen concern has lately set up a hostel for volunteer workers from Germany. In the past, the hand-loom weavers and nail-makers in Pathhead, and the pottery workers in Linktown and Gallatown, had their different craft societies, but after about the middle of last century these gradually merged into the modern Trade Union. The present Kirkcaldy Trades Council was reconstituted in 1928, after having been originally formed in 1912. Its purpose was to band together the Unions then in existence in the fight for better conditions of labour; and it was likewise formed for the purpose of forming in the district branches of Unions which at that time were not in Kirkcaldy, so as to attempt to organise effectively the whole of the workers of the district, irrespective of the various industries in which they were engaged'. In 1949, there were in Kirkcaldy and district 37 Trade Union branches, representing 6,250 members. On the employers' side, there are three local Associations, and a Chamber of Commerce. Throughout the years of their existence, local Unions have done much to bring management and workers together, and the remarkable absence of strikes is a pointer to the very good industrial relations that exist.

Religious Life.

The ecclesiastical history of Kirkcaldy in the period since the publication of the New Statistical Account is a striking and vigorous one. In 1837 there were parish churches in Kirkcaldy, Dysart, Sinclairtown and Abbotshall, and other places of worship for Baptists, Original Burghers, Episcopalians, Original Seceders and United Seceders. The citizens, zealous for religion in those early days, entered into the controversies of the times with some energy and purpose, and at the Disruption there was great dissension in the burgh. The bulk of the people sympathised with the evangelical viewpoint of their ministers, and, on that memorable day in 1843 when the minister left Kirkcaldy Parish Church and proceeded to set up a Free Church, he is said to have taken with him fully two-thirds of the membership, including most of the notable personalities. These were days of ruptured friendships, but, as time went on, the spirit of unity and charity manifested itself once again.

By 1877, the places of worship had increased to six Established, six Free and two United Presbyterian churches, together with an Episcopalian, an Independent, an Evangelical Union, a Roman Catholic and three Baptist Chapels.

About that time, a comparative statement of the three largest denominations showed the following:

	Church of Scotland	Free Church	U.P. Church
Year	1874	1878	1878
Members	4,461.	3,019	2,404

In 1881, a census was taken of attendance at 25 churches, and it was found that 43% of the members were present on that particular day. Calculating according to the burghal population, it showed an attendance of barely 25 %. To-day, there are 34 churches in the burgh, comprising 19 congregations of the Church of Scotland, 2 of the Church of Christ, 2 Baptist, 2 Episcopalian, 3 Roman Catholic, and one each of Congregationalists, Evangelical Union Congregationalists, Free Churchmen, United Free Churchmen, Original Seceders, and Methodists. There is also the Salvation Army, which came to Kirkcaldy in 1883, the Sinclairtown branch being set up three years later. For their meetings, the Town Council let the Corn Exchange to the Army, who were not well received in those early days, and sometimes met violent treatment from a band of youths called 'The Roughs'. But these days have passed, and the Army continues its noble work. Other bodies doing good work under the inspiration of the churches are the Y.M.C.A., the Brotherhood (Pleasant Sunday Afternoon) Movement, and an institution known as the Kirkcaldy Bible-

woman's Mission. This Mission, formed in 1875, and then called Kirkcaldy Female Mission, was encouraged and directed by the ministers of the town. Much has been accomplished through door-to-door visitation by a Biblewoman, carrying the Gospel into the homes of the people, and caring for sick, frail and lonely folk. After the First World War, the Church sponsored enthusiastically the formation of a Kirkcaldy Mutual Service Association, which did splendid work for many years; and many other societies and organisations could be instanced in whose formation the Church played a part.

Throughout the years, the various religious bodies have certainly given faithful service to the community. The work of the Sabbath Schools has been a valuable one, and other organisations for youth, temperance, home and foreign missions, etc., have been conducted by devoted men and women. In more recent times, youth clubs and fellowships have been started in many congregations and are playing a not inconsiderable

part in the education and training of young people. About the end of last century a report on the 'Religious Condition of the People' was presented to the Established Assembly by one parish minister. In it he declared that he accomplished his parochial visitations 'by dividing the parish, which contained a large proportion of the poverty of the town, into sections, of which he assigned the charge for visiting purposes to individual workers drawn from the congregation, while he met the people himself at cottage-meetings in each section.

For a population such as was found in the poorer parts of his parish, he considered a weekly visit necessary, such visitations to be not merely or even mainly by the minister, but rather by Christian laymen who should make friends of these poor people, and patiently help and guide them till they were able to enter the Church. At present they were so poor, and clothed and housed in such a condition, in many cases also so addicted to intemperance, that it was a sheer impossibility to get them out to a church'. Parochial visitation in this spirit has been kept up till the present time, and such work has called for great perseverance and patience on the part of ministers and laymen alike.

It has been in the nature of a missionary effort-to get people to become members of a church, to get children to attend the Sunday School, and generally to give guidance and help in religious and other matters.

The repercussions of two wars have undoubtedly affected church attendance, and, at least in part through the neglect of the people for the ordinances of worship, a certain laxity in living may have crept in. The want of religion, and religious training, is apparent to those who sit in Juvenile Courts. Nevertheless there are hopeful signs, at home and abroad, not the least important of these being the readiness of the ministers to give themselves, on occasion at some cost, to all good work outwith the claims of their pastoral duties.

Recreational and Social Activities.

In the middle of the nineteenth century, fast days were held twice a year in Kirkcaldy, when shops were closed, all business suspended, and services held in most of the churches. We are told that the workers grumbled at the loss of a day's wages, and, by 1877, it was said that 'it was no use attempting to disguise the fact that fast days in Scotland were a farce'. They became more and more of a holiday, and the year 1884 saw the discontinuance of them. Also discontinued is the Philpers' Procession, which was taken part in annually by the children of Philp's Schools on the founder's birthday; but one even, more ancient custom is still carried on at Ravenscraig, on the first day of the year. This is the game of rolling an iron ball towards a round hole cut in the ground. If the ball enters the hole, it is 'kyled'. Bets are taken on the shots and the familiar cry of a century ago was: 'A bawbee she kyles'- now 'A penny she kyles.' For many years, the cannon ball used was lent from the Museum each New Year's Day. Three famous and largely attended fairs or markets were long held in different parts of the town. The Pathhead and Gallatown ones have died out, but the famous Links Market remains. It is chronicled that a weekly market was started in 1304, and in the following year a fair was permitted. Horse racing took place on the sands at least as early as 1665, and, in 1672, an Act of Parliament granted the then proprietor of Abbotshall power to hold a weekly market and two fairs annually. The autumn fair in Linktown has long since been discontinued, but that in the spring still carries on, and is looked forward to by young and old. The Links Market, as it is called, continues for three days, and attracts thousands of people each year.

To-day, the town's five cinemas and the ice rink, with provision for ice-hockey and dancing, are important centres of entertainment for the people. Sporting clubs are also numerous and popular. There has long been an enthusiastic interest in the game of football, and, by the late nineteenth century, there were four prominent local teams, of which Raith Rovers survives to this day as an important senior club. There are also many juvenile leagues in existence for youths between 16 and 20 years of age. Other sports actively represented in the town are cricket (the first club was formed in 1856), rugby, swimming, lawn tennis, rifle shooting, men's and women's hockey, badminton, and table tennis. There are also seven private and two public bowling-greens, and a golf-course at Balwearie.

The social life of the community has been enriched by a very large number of other voluntary organisations, some of them with a very long history, existing for a variety of purposes. Among those of a recreational nature, the oldest are probably the Ornithological Society, started in 1858, and the Horticultural Society, which began in the following year and held its first show in 1878. In 1872, the Association for the promotion of Fine Arts was formed, and ten years later the Naturalists' Society came into existence, having as its object 'the study of natural sciences by the collection of specimens, by reading of communications, by lectures and excursions, and to encourage and promote the formation of a Public Museum in Kirkcaldy'.

The Photographic Society (1898) sprang up as a branch of this Society. Under music and drama, mention may be made of The Musical Society, founded in 1866, later changing its name to the Choral Union, the Amateur Orchestral Society (1875), Dramatic Company (1883), Amateur Operatic Society (1907), and the Gilbert and Sullivan Society, started in 1939 and resuscitated in 1949.

Of the many instrumental bands that have flourished in the past hundred years, the outstanding one was the Trades Band, which, started in 1873, brought Kirkcaldy to the forefront of the brass band world by its successes at contests. To-day, there are three brass and two pipe bands in the burgh.

The Chamber of Commerce was instituted in 1825, and has more members to-day than ever in its long history, while more recent institutions are the Rotary, with its women's section - The Inner Wheel, and the Business and Professional Women's Club, and The Townswomen's Guild.

To-day, there are three Masonic Lodges in the town, and five Friendly and Benefit Societies - Rechabites, Shepherds, Gardeners, Foresters, and Sons of Scotland-with a total membership of between 3,000 and 4,000. Co-operative Societies date from about the middle of the nineteenth century, the Dysart Society being instituted in 1846, and those of Kirkcaldy and Sinclairtown following a few years later. In 1948, the old Pathhead and Sinclairtown Society became the Kirkcaldy and District Co-operative Society Ltd.

Among other organisations, with the dates of the oldest of them, are the Bible Society (1813), Scottish Coast Mission (1852), Colportage Mission, Linktown and Bridgeton Mission, S.S.P.C.C., Charity Organisation Society, Total Abstinence Society (1837), British Women's Temperance Association,

Links Mutual Improvement Society (1833), Gallatown Mutual Improvement Association, Gallatown Young Men's Mutual Improvement Association, Queen Victoria Nursing Association (in both Kirkcaldy and Dysart), and St. Andrew's Ambulance Association. Although, of course, no branch of the W.R.I. exists in the burgh, it holds the headquarters of the Fife Federation and is the scene of many important rallies. A Lifeboat Saturday Committee was set up in 1897 to raise funds for the lifeboat, but ceased to function in 1911, when a branch of the R.N.L.I. was formed. In 1856, educational meetings were held in Rose Street Chapel under the Edinburgh Institution for Deaf and Dumb, and, in 1880, the Kirkcaldy and District

Deaf and Dumb Association was formed. A new Institute was gifted in 1926, and the name and status of the Association was altered to 'The Fife Mission to Deaf and Dumb' in 1945. The Fife Society for the Blind, though it only assumed its present name in 1932, goes back to 1864. The British Red Cross Society (Fife Branch) has had its headquarters in Kirkcaldy since its inception in 1910. From that year till 1914, its primary work lay in raising detachments in the county, and in giving instruction to members in first aid, home nursing, cooking, etc., while, in the war years, it raised money to send an ambulance to the front.

During the recent war, the Society organised a wonderful service in the P.O.W. Fund. Large sums of money were contributed to the Fund, hospital supplies of all sorts were dispatched to places overseas and reception stations at home, and much helpful work was done in the making of inquiries for missing and injured men. Now the Society is specially busy with the welfare of ex-service cases, diversional therapy, and the training of members in Red Cross work. It is responsible for the diversional handicrafts of ex-service patients in Glenlomond Sanatorium and Victoria Hospital, Kirkcaldy. Two mobile physio-therapy units are also operated in Fife, entirely by the Society. In passing, mention may be made here of one interesting charitable bequest. In 1876, a Miss Russell gifted to the town the sum of £100, the interest on which was to be used to give ten aged spinsters ten shillings each on Christmas Day. One of the conditions of the bequest was that the presentation was to be in public, and that each recipient would repeat three times 'Peace on earth, goodwill towards men'. This condition was departed from in time, and the Provost undertook to hand over a cake of shortbread to the recipients with the words inscribed.

When the Volunteer movement was mooted in Scotland, the citizens of Kirkcaldy were not backward, and a native of the town, Robert Brownlie, is said to have been the first volunteer in the country. In 1860, a public meeting was called for the purpose of enrolment, and three corps immediately came into being, while Dysart had a fourth, and a fifth was set up in 1901. In 1949, there were five Territorial units in the town-cavalry, infantry, artillery, signallers and W.R.A.C.- while the headquarters of the Fife Territorial and

Auxiliary Forces Association have been situated here since 1913. The recent war called forth, as did the first, a great amount of voluntary service. In addition to the Defence Services, and the Red Cross Society, the years 1939-45 saw in operation a Joint Polish Appeal for Refugees and Soldiers, Work Parties, War

Charities Committee, Hospital Charities Committee and Citizens' Advice Bureau. The Second World War has been an outstanding factor in modern life, and the effects are still apparent in a greater seriousness among the people, and in a greater strenuousness in the struggle for existence.

Not the least important and interesting of the many voluntary, movements the town has known are those connected with youth. About 90 years ago, a remarkable organisation sprang up in Kirkcaldy, the forerunner in many ways of The Boys' Brigade. In 1860, an ex-superintendent of police, named John

Thomson started a Company called 'Juvenile Volunteers', into which he enrolled about 130 boys between the ages of 10 and 15. The uniform adopted consisted of trousers, with a yellow stripe, close-buttoned jacket, with standing collar, and a forage cap, with an orange-coloured band. The first parade was held on the sands, the Provost granted the use of the Corn Exchange for drill purposes, and Colonel Ferguson, M.P., of Raith, promised to secure two cannon for the Company. The Fifeshire Advertiser of that time maintained: 'That this "petit" corps is the first of its kind ever formed in Scotland-no small honour to the Lang Toun.' Later, there were formed Union of Morning Associations in Kirkcaldy and Dysart, and the Kirkcaldy Provincial Council of the Church of Scotland Young Men's Guilds.

The boys working in the floorcloth factories in the early days were known as 'tier boys', and, about 1885, a Working Lads' Club was provided for them, to be followed by a Working Lads' Institute, which was opened in 1888 with a membership of 400. Its constitution stated that: 'The objects shall be to promote the religious, moral, and mutual welfare of working lads, and to provide facilities for that purpose, and for their amusement and recreation. The whole work shall be carried on upon Christian principles, and be quite unsectarian.'

The Young Men's Christian Association came into being in Kirkcaldy in 1886. A building fund was shortly started to secure their own headquarters, and generous subscriptions were forthcoming, including a sum of £800 which became available on the death of Provost Swan, and was handed over with the proviso that the new building should be called the 'Swan Memorial'. Sir M. B. Nairn gave the site, and the building was opened in 1895, at a cost of £3,500, all subscribed. In the early days, the Sabbath Morning Fellowship Meeting and the Literary Society Meeting were features of the work, while the programme has included lectures during the winter months, gymnastic classes, harriers, football, billiards, and social evenings. In 1909, a boys' department was opened. During the two wars, the Y.M.C.A. did useful service in providing a canteen and recreation room for the troops, while a mobile canteen was also in use. The local churches supplied workers, who took turns in serving meals, etc., and the fine spirit of helpfulness seen in the Swan Memorial in those days was most impressive.

The Y. W.C.A. Girls' Club has been in existence for 33 years under the same leadership. The present premises, built on a site donated on the Esplanade, were opened in 1931 with a debt of no more than £1,000, as a result of the strenuous efforts of many friends. Originally, classes were carried on in handicrafts, first aid, sick nursing, etc., and educational facilities were also provided. Now the ramifications are still greater. The adult section includes a Mothers' Association, and many groups for education and instruction; the youth section covers concerts, a Sunday evening rendezvous, gymnastics, etc.; the juvenile section has crafts, a play centre, and a Girl Guide Company; the canteen provides lunches; and there is a small hostel and nursery school. The membership, 500 in 1917, now stands at over 1,250.

Kirkcaldy Boys' Club was founded in 1926. The members of the Rotary Club became interested in this project, and, through their efforts and the generosity of a number of citizens, a building costing £1,000 was purchased, with a large gymnasium, lofty hall with ante-room, spray baths, and kitchen. The activities of the Club comprise football, cricket, harriers and indoor recreation and, on the educational side, there are a debating society and a choir, while summer camps are also promoted. In 1933, the Club was visited by the then Prince of Wales. For a short period at the start of the war, the Y.M.C.A. made use of the premises as a canteen for Polish troops, but the Club was resuscitated in 1940, and, to-day, the membership stands at 100. Uniformed organisations are very popular, and include Army Cadets, Sea Cadets, A.T.C., G.T.C., Guides, Brownies, Rangers, Sea Rangers, and Junior British Red Cross. In 1948, the Kirkcaldy and District Local Association of Boy Scouts comprised 11 groups, with a membership of 284 scouts and 272 cubs. The Boys' Brigade has always had a particularly strong attraction for local boys. First started in 1888, there were originally three Companies. In 1948, there was one Company (the 4th) of nine platoons, stretching from the Links to Gallatown, an arrangement which has made the Company the largest in the United Kingdom, with a membership of 430 officers and boys, apart from the Life Boys with a strength of 500. The Company's second captain, Major J. L. Stocks, killed at the Battle of the Somme in 1916, bequeathed to the Company his fortune of £25,000, and Victoria Halls as their headquarters. Major Stocks was intensely interested in all the youth movements of the town, and it was he who was responsible for bringing the late Lord Baden-Powell on a visit to the town in 1910

In 1948, the total number of young people connected with youth organisations in the town was given as follows:

	Boys	Girls
Uniformed pre-Service (14-18 years)	294	35
Uniformed (8-18 years)	1,593	910
Clubs (22 in number) (14-18 years)	722	611
	2,609	1,556

The number of organisations has grown considerably in recent years, and there are now more than ever before. Kirkcaldy became the headquarters of Fife Youth Council, when it was formed in 1941.

Conclusion.

To-day, Kirkcaldy is in possession of a worthy heritage. The devotion of countless men and women has found expression in the unification of the burgh, in the slow but steady progress towards a clean and healthy town, in its beautifying with parks and open spaces, in the faithful teaching in the early Philp and 'Adventure' Schools, in the untiring voluntary efforts which set up societies and associations for the amelioration of suffering and for cultural improvement. In part because of the extent to which it has grown, in part because of the underlying soundness of its economy, in part because of the notable endeavours of individual citizens, the burgh has a richness and variety of life, and an influence, which probably no other town in Fife can approach. It has been shown to be a focal point for commercial and shopping purposes, while the local Employment Exchange accounts for nearly one in five of the county's insured workers.

Furthermore, Kirkcaldy houses not only the educational headquarters of the county but also many other important representative branches of County Council administration, including a Sheriff Court. People flock from an extensive surrounding area to sample the many forms of entertainment the town can offer, while a considerable number of county-wide voluntary organisations have their main local centres here.

Cupar apart, it has the longest and most notable record of newspaper production in the county, and its several weeklies have a wide circulation. The oldest publication appears to have been the Fife Journal, which was started in Kirkcaldy in 1833, but soon removed to Cupar. Five years later, however, saw the origin of the Fife Advertiser, which still carries on, as do the Fife Free Press (1871), the Kirkcaldy Times (1876), and the Kirkcaldy Mail (1885). Amongst those that have gone out of existence are the Fife Circular, The Independent and the Kirkcaldy Guardian.

And yet, despite the many virile and healthy aspects of the town's life and its ever increasing population, there has been a steady drain by net migration that is actually rather above the average for Scottish large burghs and roughly four times the rate experienced in Dunfermline. Between 1871 and 1931, the numerical loss was just over 2,200, but the total of men and women who left their native town permanently must have been many times that number, in view of the appreciable immigration that has taken place over the same period. That Kirkcaldy should send out its sons and daughters to all parts of the world is perhaps not a bad thing, provided it is not because of a lack of opportunities at home. The town now looks to the future, confident in its ability to provide adequately in every way for its own natural increase of population, and for the many newcomers that are likely to be drawn to the area.

The Landward Area.

Thornton quoad sacra parish, which lies partly in the parish of Kirkcaldy and Dysart, is dealt with below. When it is excluded, the remainder of the landward population is found to be very thinly scattered on the estates and farms, and in the tiny hamlet of Chapel. There is good farming soil in the parish and all the main crops are grown, including sugar-beet. The last twenty years have seen a great increase in the number of dairy cows carried, at the expense of beef cattle. This has been partly because of the ready market for the sale of milk, and partly, as elsewhere, because of the recent war.

There are nearly 40 farm units in the parish, seven of them connected with the Raith Estate, while, at **Boreland**, there is a colony of small-holdings and market gardeners.

One of the most favourable aspects of Kirkcaldy's situation has been the possession of a hinterland comprising the luxuriously wooded policies of Raith, Dunnikier, and Dysart. For many years, the townspeople enjoyed ready access, willingly granted by the late Lord Novar, to the 'Paradise of Scotland' as Raith was called, and many fetes, sports, and other gatherings were held within the precincts of the estate. Lord and Lady Novar rendered great service to the nation, the former as a Member of Parliament and Governor-General of Australia, and the latter particularly in connexion with the Red Cross Society and Nursing Associations. The townspeople benefited equally by privileges granted by Colonel Oswald of Dunnikier, and by Sir Michael Nairn while resident in Dysart House.

ABBOTSHALL, a **parish**, in the district of Kirkcaldy, county of Fife; containing Linktown and Newtown, and the village of Chapel. This place derived its name from its having been the residence of the abbots of Dunfermline. The present church, which occupies the site of the ancient edifice, was built in 1788, and is adapted for a congregation of 825 persons. An additional church, in connexion with the Establishment, has just been erected for the accommodation of the surplus population of this and the adjoining parish of Kinghorn; and there are places of worship for members of the **Free Church** and **United Associate Synod**.

This parish was separated from the parish of Kirkcaldy in 1650. The name of Abbotshall is derived from the circumstance of one of the abbots of Dunfermline having built a house here. The parish is mostly rural with 2631 of its 3166 acres under tillage and another 535 acres in wood. Little livestock is raised. There are a few mills in the parish. The population of the parish in 1755 was 1348, in 1791 was 2136, and in 1831 was 4206. The principal town or village is Linktown. A church was built in 1674 and the present church in 1788 (a new church is in the course of erection to supply this parish and the neighbouring parish of Kinghorn). Besides the Established Church, there is one dissenting or Seceding chapel now in connection with the United Associate Synod. There were Cameronians in the parish and there are some Baptists, Independents, and Episcopalians. A very few individuals attend a Relief meeting at Dysart and it is believed there are two or three individuals of the Roman Catholic persuasion, natives of the sister isle [Ireland]. There are six schools in the parish (one parochial) attended by an average of 500 children. There is no library in the parish but there is one in Kirkcaldy.

The above is an extract of the account written in April 1836 by the Rev. J Murray .

Organisations established in Abbotshall

Abbotshall ministers encouraged innovation and the introduction of groups within the church.

Our **Sunday School and chreche** were established soon after their introduction to the Church of Scotland.



The **Women's Guild** was the first in Kirkcaldy Presbytery, from this a **Young Mothers' Group**, an Arts and Craft Group, a Fellowship was established.

Various entertainment groups have been run including **drama and a Pantomime Group** providing entertainment for the congregation.



For our young people as well as **Sunday School** a **Teenage Discussion Group** was run and a **Youth Fellowship** was formed.



Our halls also hosted the **Abbotshall Platoon of the Boys Brigade** and the **16th Kirkcaldy Girl Guides**

The halls were the Social hub for the church hosting our own church social events and used as a resource for other community activities.

Extracts from the Press

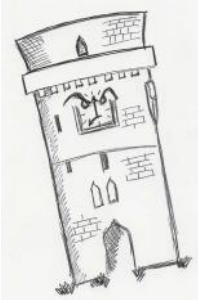
Fife Free Press 21 September 1872

Abbotshall – The New Organ

A REVERIE.

It is now verging on the Keystone of night's black arch." I had been listening to the new organ in the Abbotshall Parish Church, and now when every sound has ceased and the entranced auditory be taken themselves to their respective places of abode, dairying with them, it is to be hoped, part of the stereotyped benediction, I take a seat on an-old head-stone in the churchyard, and fall into a reverie, when suddenly the lights re-appear in the church windows, the organ peals out a startling volume of sounds. The church doors slowly opening, I observe a venerable looking personage standing in the pulpit; he has a mantle or cloak; covered with curious and cunningly wrought devices thrown around him; his waist is encircled by a belt glittering with precious stones, and depending from his girdle is an immense key ; his feet are covered with sandals; on his head he wears an Abbot's mitre, and in his right hand he carries a crozier, on the pulpit board in front of him I observe a bell, a candle, and large book, and as I gaze the pews are being rapidly tilled by a motely looking congregation.

I am thrown into state of alarm and consternation by two loud reports like the discharge of a park of artillery; the ground heaves and undulates as if shaken by an earthquake; the cause of this is soon apparent. The steeple of the Abbotshall Church has slid down from its airy perch, and is now standing beside me, while another steeple, which on inspection I find belongs to the Parish Church of Kirkcaldy, takes up a place alongside as its vis-a-vis, and after passing a few compliments with each other in a subdued whisper, I overhear the following colloquy :-



Abbotshall Steeple—These are stirring times Brother Kirkcaldy. What changes we both have seen in our position of high dignitaries the church since our venerable friend the Abbot (pointing to the aged man in the pulpit) gave us his blessing.

Kirkcaldy Steeple—Speak for yourself, and in the singular number if you please. No Pope, Abbot, or Priest, ever blessed me, and what is more, never shall!

Abbotshall Steeple—Don't get angry, Brother, I will retract, and simply say am blessed.

Kirkcaldy Steeple—If you make use of such profane or vulgar language, I must decline continuing this conversation. We occupy a very high position in society, and ought to keep up our dignity, but listen to the sound of that organ and tell me what it portends? Why Sir, it tells us the invader is amongst us. As it peals forth the first note of the war cry of the man of sin, it informs us that the grand old blue banner of the covenant is being trailed in the dust, while the black flag of Papacy is flung out to the stirring breeze, and hearken to their chant—

Free be it flung, for we are loath
Its silken folds should feed the moth.

I tell you, Sir, we are on the verge of a gigantic revolution.

Abbotshall Steeple (laughing heartily)—Nonsense, my dear brother; personally I am much delighted at the introduction of instrumental music into the worship the Sanctuary, although at the same time I would not press it.

Kirkcaldy Steeple—And are you equally well pleased with the idea of crosses and crucifixes, of altars and incense, of vestments a la mode and high masses to order Don't shake your vane in that incredulous fashion. We have very quietly allowed the insertion of the thin edge of the wedge, and you may be sure it will speedily be driven home by this infidel generation, and in Kirkcaldy too—Kirkcaldy that was amongst the first to sign Solemn League," and sealed it with the blood of 480 of her bravest sons at the battle of Kilsyth !

Abbotshall Steeple—Don't get sentimental or sensational—there is only a step between the sublime and the ridiculous. You have called up phantom army out of an over imaginative brain, and begun to shout, fight these Philistines!" Now, I think it is quite time enough for us to cry out when we are hit.

Kirkcaldy Steeple—Miserable sophistry of the pure Jesuitical stamp! I tell you this timeserving and time-killing spirit of the age has so disgusted me that I never again can appear at the head of our National Church. How could I Sunday after Sunday ring out, "Come to Church! come to Church!" when the glorious temple is very little else than a den of thieves? No, sir, I say farewell to Kirkcaldy for ever, and I think, if you have the least spark of right feeling or self-respect, you will do likewise While he was yet speaking, the Abbotshall Steeple had noiselessly ascended to its place at the end of the Church, and immediately a bell tolled out "the wee short 'oor ayont the twal." All at once the organ ceased, the Abbot and congregation vanished out sight, as did also the Kirkcaldy Steeple; the lights waxing dimmer and dimmer, flickered and then went out; and I arose from my seat stiff and sore, marvelling exceedingly at what I had seen and heard.

I have no doubt some of your readers will call this a dream, but I have proof to the contrary. I have in my possession the Abbot's mitre, with this inscription in its crown-lining—"The Abbot of Dunfermline and in the band around the mitre I found the half of a first-class railway return ticket marked 'Kirkcaldy to Dunfermline First Class, N.B.R' and if this is not conclusive, let the reader hasten to the Parish Church, and see if the steeple has kept its word or not.



If these are not proof positive, they at least in some degree are circumstantial evidence of a very powerful character.

In conclusion, I may state that I have sent a copy of this to another paper in case you should not think fit to insert it in the Fife Free Press: but from a well-known liberality of mind, I fancy you will attend to this and oblige as would be

Special Correspondent

Fife Free Press September 1872

Instrumental Music in Churches

(to the Editor Fife Free Press)

Sir,-

Much has been said and I doubt much more will be said on the above question. It seems pretty plain that preaching and praying have little effect on hearts of the people, for they are so cold that resort must be had to instruments or machines to the praise of God with - at least if it is true what the Rev .B.B. Begg said to his congregation, as recorded in your paper of Saturday last. I wish to notice some of the remarks that fell from the gentleman's lips on that occasion. To use his own words he said - "The preaching they (the congregation) only have to sit and hear . . . Even in the praise all the sheer which are form of service allows to them is to listen and to follow but in the praise the have it all to themselves". Now, this admission of his has proved that they are not a church of Christ.

There are no idlers in the Lord's vineyard, all who have the abilities minister as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. Not so with Rev. Begg's congregation They have only to sit and listen and follow; and this is only when the machine began to grate forth a solemn sound that they are allowed to take apart in any of the service at all. Is that not lording it over God's heritage.

if I understand the Rev. Mr. Begg alright, the instrument was got as a help, such aid being calculated to help men better to praise God. If that is true would not he who loves man so passionately have made it known to him in his last will and testament. Further, did not He who made the sparrow and the lark make the one to praise Him equally as well as the other even if the song of the one doesn't not please us so well as to the other. What sometimes pleases us does not please the Almighty. His thoughts are not as earth thoughts and His ways are not as our ways. But in these degenerate days we must have paid ministry, a paid leader of the psalmody and it is now not uncommon that the choir. And now since we have got the organ the organists must be paid as a consequence and I doubt not to that before long the people will have to be paid for going to the Kirk. And, if we do not get a ten-stringed instrument introduced we may get a four stringed instrument introduced and in the course of time brass and other instruments. And, according to the Rev. Mr. Begg's argument, all these are instruments as well as the human voice and hand - and by carrying his logic a little further so is the foot now.

Mr Editor, in conclusion, let me tell you that I for one will not be surprised although the people will be found tripping it on the "light fantastic toe" to the streams of the delightful and solemn-sounding instruments which are calculated to draw out the most devout and solemn feelings of our hearts, some day soon. But what will the Master of the house say when He come soon when he comes - "My house shall be called the house of prayer, but ye have made it a ball-room". I now thus warn all in love to look with a strict eye after these seemingly pleasing interventions; or in other words, to take care of little errors, and not let them creep in the big ones will take care of themselves.

I am etc

reporter

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reporter

INDUCTION OF THE REV. BRUCE B. BEGG TO ABBOTSHALL

The introduction of the REV. Mr Bruce Beveridge Begg, formerly assistant to the Rev. Dr Hunter, of the Tron Church, Edinburgh, and who was lately ordained as minister of the Church and Parish of Abbotshall, took place on Sunday last week.

The Rev. Mr Nicholson, of the Tron Church, preached in the forenoon; and there was a large attendance of the congregation – the patron, Colonel Ferguson, of Raith and Novar, also being present. Mr Nicolson chose as the subject of his discourse – “We preach Christ crucified;” and, in closing his sermon said it was because they preached Christ Crucified that he was there to introduce them to his young friend who had been set over them to minister to them in the Lord. They had invited him to come and minister to them; they had invited him to come and preach to them God’s own truth; and, knowing his office and attainments, and believing that he would minister to them faithfully both in public and in private, and that he would preach to them “Christ crucified,” he (Mr Nicholson) did most heartily congratulate the congregation of Abbotshall in their having him set over them in the Lord. You, my Christian friends, he continued, will give him your sympathy; you, my Christian friends, will bear with his inexperience; you, my Christian friends, will support him with your prayers; and so will be preach to you the Word of Life; so will he preach to you “Christ crucified;” and if any of you mourn this will comfort you; if any of you are weak this will strengthen you; if any of you are tired this will make you more than conquerors; and, beholding the Glory of God as in a glass, you will be changed to the same image from glory to glory. But, my young friend, when I congratulate you, I would not forget that every minister is a saviour of life unto life, or death unto death. God forbid that the ministry of my young friend should prove the saviour of death unto death to any of you. After a few further remarks, which were more particularly addressed to the congregation, Mr Nicolson concluded by expressing, as his earnest prayer, that they and their children might be blessed in Christ Jesus through the instrumentality of him who had now been set over them in the Lord.

In the afternoon, the church was crowded to excess to hear Mr Begg’s “maiden” discourse as minister of Abbotshall.

Fife Free Press 9th December 1911

ABBOTSHALL PARISH CHURCH

ORDINATION OF REV. J. MERCER HUNTER B.D.

The Rev J. Mercer Hunter, B.D. formerly assistant to Rev. Dr Martin Hunter, Peebles Parish Church, and who has been called to the pastorate and successor to the Rev. Dr Begg was ordained by the Presbytery on Wednesday afternoon. The church was crowded in every part. Rev John Ruggan, Burntisland, preached an able discourse from Mathew iv, 1 and 10 verses.

Rev. D. Macfarline Wilson, Thornton, delivered powerful addresses to the minister and congregation.

ORDINATION DINNER

After the ordination service, a dinner was held in the Station Hotel. Provost the Right Hon. R. C. Munro Ferguson, LL.D., M.P. presides over a large and representative company.

Fife Free Press 1911 Welcome to Dr Hunter

WELCOME TO THE NEW MINISTER

Dear youthfu' learned stranger, as a freend,
You're welcome to the shrine o' Abbotssha';
Tho' faur an' near 'mong Scotland's kirks we gleaned,
Ere we in unity gae you the cau'
To guide an' lead us a' in Holy ways,
Accordin' as the law Devine portrays.

We've heard it said, wise men cam' frae the East,
But yet it humbly non mum be conferred,
Tht 'mong oor country's great men. No' the least
First saw the licht o' day ower o' the West;
An' as the air inspirin' on them blew
Sea may it no' hae a' times pass you.

East here you may nea waur o' a tip
For sometimes you micht think folk kind o' queer,
An' no ower ready wi a freendly grip,
But yet 'boot that you need na muckle fear;
As its the fashion here, I must just add,
When onything is guid, its nae sae bad.

Your wark an' duty is a nibble kind,
But plenty room you'll hae to saw the seed;
An' if to sping some hasna been destined,
It may at least some hungry raven feed;
Sae never be dooncast, or hertless get.
You'll meet some feend whaure'er you turn your fit.

The same auld path that you are here to tread,
Has worthily been trodden aft before
By worthy men, ay. Livin' yet an' dead,
Wha' oftimes has been weary an' footsore;
Yet happy thochys o' duty nobly done
Was soothin' balm for each an' every one.

As yet you wear the garb o' youthful life,
Weel fittin' for a langsome road to gang,
Wi' cultured mental sight to see o'er Fife,
As faur's you saw in Ayr whaur ye belang;
An' as you preach an' teach an' stap about,
The best an' shortest cuts you'll shune find oot.

Your cleric brithers a' baith young an' auld,
As in the past will shurely yet agree,
Tho' no a' in your corner o' the fauld,
To tread the path wi' you in harmony,
An' hasten on the time when party strife
Will cease to be in a' religious life.

An' as ilk week we fill the quaint auld pews,
Whaur sat oor auld forefathers, lang awa,
Wha's memories livin' yet held to diffuse
A hallowed sacredness frae wa' to wa',
We'll sing wi' you the same auld saums o' praise,
Tho' time has changed the style in mony ways.

An' as cor thochts this day may wander back
To when your predecessor burst in bloom,
To snod an' beautify the very track,
Whuar time has opened up for you the room;
May we in you that spirit ever trace
Which decked his life, an' mingled wit wi' grace.

An' as the auld time poopet noo ye fill
An' fain wud try oor earthly thochts to lift,
To realms abune wi'a' po'er an' skill
An' wisdom o' your cultured mental gift,
You will yet learn its history to know
Wi' your pride as likely "time will show"

Noo, reverend freend wi' hope an' promise fu'
May these few simple rhymmin' lines convey
A warm welcome frae us a' to you,
Wi' wishes that you'll langtime preach an' pray,
An' roond the Saviour's feet aye closer draw
The life o' auld historic Abbotsha'.

G. Blaik

Kirkcaldy 6th December 1911

Fife Free Press 8 September 1883

RAITH CHURCH.

This new church, which has been in course of erection for some time past, will be opened to-morrow for public worship, when the congregation, of which the Rev, Thomas Scott, M.A., B.D., is the pastor, will begin a new epoch in their history. As our readers are

aware the new church occupies the site of the old Free Church of Abbotshall, which, after being vacated for sometime by the latter congregation, was acquired in 1875 in the interests of the Established Church by the minister and Kirk-session of Abbotahall. The first minister was the Rev. Mr. Anderson, who was ordained in 1877, and who is now the pastor of Pultneytown, Wick. He was succeeded in July, 1878, by the Rev. Mr. Scott, under who's able ministry the congregation has continued to make steady progress, and has now reached a point from which it maybe expected to make a fresh and vigorous start.

Notable people of Abbotshall and Kirkcaldy

Lairds of Raith (Ferguson Family and Heritors of Abbotshall)

The Fergusons of Raith are of good standing in the county of Fife, and have possessed the estate from which they derive their designation since the death of the first Earl of Melville to whom it belonged, at the beginning of the eighteenth century William Ferguson of Raith, the first proprietor, married Jane, daughter of Ranald Crawford, Esq. of Restalrig, and sister of Margaret, Countess of Dumfries, and was succeeded by his eldest son, Robert Ferguson of Raith.



ROBERT Ferguson, Esq. of Raith, M.P. , was born in 1767, and died at London in the 3d Dec. 1840, and was consequently in his seventy-third year. He was the eldest of a family of three sons and one daughter, of whom General Sir Ronald Ferguson, M.P. for Nottingham After university he spent much of his early life in Europe.

On his return to Scotland he was sent to Parliament as member for the county of Fife in 1806, and from this period we may date the commencement of Mr Ferguson's public career. His parliamentary services were not continuous, but he was successively returned for the Kirkcaldy Burghs at the elections of 1831, 1832, and 1837. In 1835 he represented the county of East Lothian as a matter of expediency, during the Peel administration of that period.



Sir RONALD Ferguson of Raith, M.P., G.C.B.-This gallant and highly distinguished officer, who was born at Raith House in 1773, entered the army at an early age as ensign in the 53d Foot, and served his country in almost every quarter of the globe. He raised a company at his own expense in 1793, and rapidly rose through the gradations of rank. He was engaged in the Portuguese campaign in 1808. And distinguished himself at the battle of Vimiera, where the Highland brigade under his command succeeded in cutting off all communication between General Pollicinic's division and the remainder of the French army.

Sir Ronald retired from active service in consequence of ill health, and afterwards for many years represented the Kirkcaldy district of burghs in Parliament. In 1810 he retired from the representation of that district, and was elected for Nottingham, for which town he continued to sit till his death.

He was a supporter of Whig principles, and much respected and beloved by all who enjoyed his acquaintance. Sir Ronald married Jane, daughter of Sir Hector Munro, Bart. of Novar, and dying 10th April 1841, aged sixty-eight, was succeeded by his son.

ROBERT Ferguson, Esq. of Raith, J.P., and D.L., lately member for the Kirkcaldy burghs, which he resigned in 1862, when Roger Sinclair Aytoun, Esq. of Inchdairnie, was elected in his place. Mr Ferguson was late lieutenant-colonel-commandant of the 79th Highlanders. He was born in 1802; married, in, 1859, Emma, daughter of the late James Henry Mandeville, of Merton, in Surrey, and has a son and heir, born in 1860.

Sir Ronald and Lady Helen Munro-Ferguson

Sir Ronald was Provost of Kirkcaldy, M.P., Governor-General of Australia and Secretary of State for Scotland.

Lady Helen was instrumental in setting up the Red Cross in Australia during her husband's tenure as Governor-General

Architects



William Adam was born in Linktown of Abbotshall, and was baptised on 24 October 1689.¹ He was the only surviving child of John Adam (d. c. 1710), a mason, and Helen Cranstoun, daughter of William Cranstoun, 3rd Lord Cranstoun. Adam probably attended the grammar school in Kirkcaldy until 1704, when he turned 15, and thereafter learned the craft of masonry. By 1717 Adam was a fully qualified member of the Kirkcaldy masons' guild,¹ and before 1720 he travelled to France and the Low Countries, visiting country

houses and viewing the canal at Ostend. In 1714, Adam entered into a partnership with William Robertson of Gladney to set up a brickworks at Linktown. The venture was successful, and Adam and manufactured Dutch pantiles. On 30 May 1716, Adam married Robertson's daughter Mary, and the couple moved into his home, Gladney House, at Abbotshall.

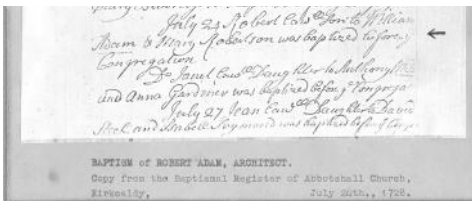
Adam was firmly established as a successful architect with numerous ongoing business concerns, including coal mining, salt panning, quarrying and agricultural improvements, although in that year occurred the death of his partner and father-in-law William

Robertson.



(Gladney House: This once fine 17th century mansion, standing in an alley entered from Bute Wynd, is at present occupied as a lodging house and was demolition with other slum property in Bute Wynd. This house was the residence of the architect William Adam and the birthplace of his more famous architect sons, Robert and James Adam.)

Robert Adam was born on 3 July 1728 at Gladney House, the second son of



Mary Robertson (1699–1761), the daughter of William Robertson of Gladney, and architect William Adam. As a child he was noted as having a "feeble constitution".



From 1734 at the age of six Adam attended the Royal High School, Edinburgh until he was 15. Robert Adam is renowned for his fine buildings, both public and private, in classical style throughout Britain. In Edinburgh his works include Register House, the north side of Charlotte Square, and Edinburgh University Old College. The magnificent Hopetoun House, at Queensferry, has been described as Scotland's greatest Adam mansion. Adam regularly worked in conjunction with his architect brothers, John, James and William. They were responsible for much Georgian development in London, particularly town housing that took the form of elegant terraces. Robert became architect to George III, and with James designed a number of important mansions in different parts of the country. Robert Adam is buried in Westminster Abbey.

Poetess

Marjorie Fleming (15 January 1803 – 19 December 1811)

(also known as **Pet Marjory**) was a Scottish child writer and poet.

She gained appreciation from Robert Louis Stevenson, Leslie Stephen
Born on 15 January 1803, Marjorie was the third child of the Kirkcaldy accountant James Fleming (died c. 1840) and his wife Isabella. Her uncle Thomas Fleming was minister of Kirkcaldy parish church.

Her mother's relations were acquainted in Edinburgh with the young Walter Scott. Marjorie spent most of her sixth, seventh and eighth years in Edinburgh under the tutelage of a cousin, Isabella Keith, who was about 17.

Marjorie returned to Kirkcaldy in July 1811, but wrote on 1 September in a letter to Isabella Keith, "We are surrounded with measles at present on every side." She herself contracted measles in November and apparently recovered, but then died, of what was described as "water on the head" and is now considered to have been meningitis, on 19 December 1811. She was a month short of her ninth birthday.

The monument marking her grave, south of the Abbotshall Church, was erected in 1930. It was designed by Pilkington Jackson



Industrialist

Lockhart family

Linen Mill Proprietors.

One of their mills was opposite our church hall and provided gas to light and heat the church.

James Shepherd, John Barry , Harold Osborne

Linoleum manufacturers

