

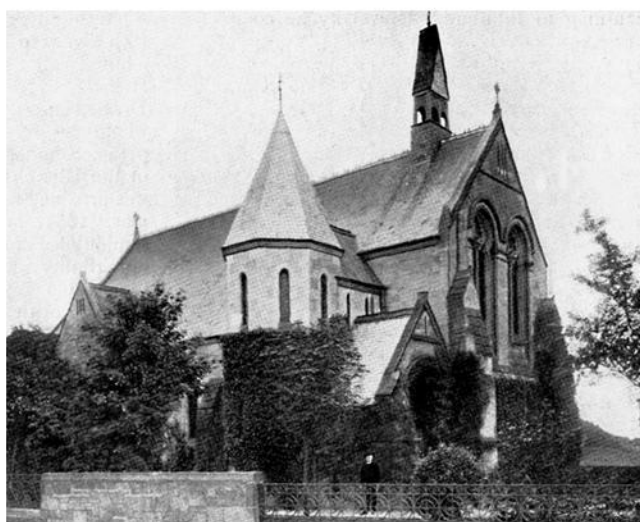
# *The Quarterly Special Issue*

## **THE 125<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF QUARTER PARISH CHURCH 1884-2009**

The Parish Church in the village of Quarter has been more than an architectural landmark in the area. It has reflected the life of the inhabitants of Quarter for 125 years. Miners, farmers, businessmen and scholars have all left their mark on the life of the church, and the church has left its mark on them. This is seen by the many families who have had many generations in the membership of the church.

As the people and church of Quarter celebrate the past, they also look to a future which will hold the same values, stability and spiritual vitality which was such an intrinsic part of the life of Quarter in days gone by.

In this special issue of the Quarterly we look again at some of the wonderful people and occurrences that have made Quarter Parish Church and its mission in this community something worth celebrating.



The Church 100 years ago

and



today in 2009

Quarter Parish Church, was built in 1884, using local stone from the nearby quarry and opened for public worship at the end of that year. It is now a listed building. The parish was a portion of the original parish of Hamilton and religious services were previously conducted in the Old Work's School, which dates from 1857. The parish was formally erected and endowed in 1901. The church, which was built to the Gothic designs of Mr. J.B.Wilson of Glasgow, cost £2300. Providing seats for 420 persons, the original church had a fine chancel arch of dressed stone behind the pulpit. The pulpit itself was richly panelled and the communion table and chair were beautifully made in pitch pine. There was also a fine font of Caen stone, the gift of a friend of the church. Vestry, session house and hall made the accommodation complete and was lit by electricity. The exterior of the church was noted for the beautiful way in which the grounds were laid out with trees and shrubs and also for the roses, honeysuckle and jasmine, which adorned the walls. Adjoining the church is the manse, which was built in 1903 by the same architect.

Over the years, with the decline of the coal industry, the population fell and a linkage was formed with Hamilton South Church in 1956 with the Rev Joseph Hardie as Minister. In 1982 a fire destroyed much of the Quarter Church, but due to the determination of the congregation, villagers and farmers, the church was rebuilt and rededicated in December 1984 in time for its centenary that month. The beautifully carved chancel furniture came from St. Brides Church, Helensburgh. In the Quarter Church magazine of June 1982 the Rev Ben Johnstone wrote.

“A whole spectrum of emotions filled our minds as we watched the fire literally roar through the roof on April 28th. The community as a whole was grieved at the loss of the church and as news of the fire spread out beyond Quarter, friends from far and near phoned or wrote to express their concern. What a strength and support it is in the midst of adversity to know that we are at the centre of many folks’ thoughts and prayers. Be assured that this is the case in Quarter”.

Now surrounded by a more residential village, the Church sends out a warm and friendly welcome with a variety of activities in a growing community.

## The Succession of Ministers in Quarter

1862 Archibald Connel McPhail To Beith Oct 1870  
 1871 Charles West MacKenzie To Durisdeer May 1872  
 1872 James Archibald Campbell To Shetland Sept 1881  
 1881 George Blair

The Parish of Quarter was disjoined from Hamilton,  
 12 July 1901.

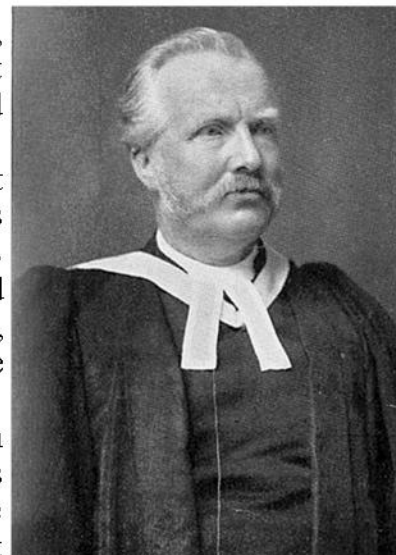
1915 T. M. B. Paterson  
 1920 J. Murray Ingles  
 1924 Harkness Graham  
 1932 Samuel Stewart  
 1946 Harold H. Mark

1952 William Alexander Joseph Gardiner  
 Retired April 1955 Died 1959  
 1955 Joseph Hardie 1964

Linked 30th September 1956 with Hamilton South,  
 1964 D. L. Stoddart To Newtonmore March 1975

1975 Ben Johnstone translated 1992  
 1992 Billy Burnside translated 1993  
 1994 Fraser Turner translated 2002  
 2004 George MacDonald

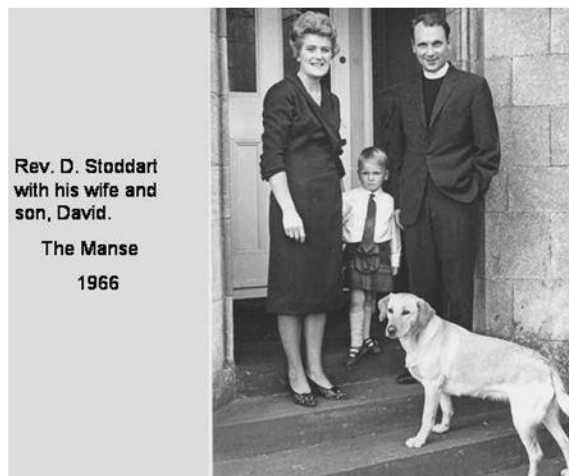
The Rev George Blair, M.A. was the first Minister of Quarter and was a native of Dalkeith. He was ordained at Quarter at Christmas 1881. During his ministry the church had been built and endowed, along with the manse being built in 1903. Mr. Blair delighted in spending a portion of his time in the expansive garden. At the great railway disaster in 1899 Mr Blair was present from first to last and was a great help to the community at the time. Mrs. Blair was held in great affection by the villagers of Quarter. She was a native of Kirkconnel in Nithsdale and is descended from a noted covenanters' family called Laing who inhabited Blagannoch for 400 years. She was a great-granddaughter of the "Patriarch of the Desert" Robert Laing of Glenmuirshaw.



Inside and outside the Quarter Parish Church and Manse



In 1924 the Rev T.F. Harkness Graham, B.D. was inducted to the charge of Quarter from Cadzow Parish Church.



Rev. D. Stoddart with his wife and son, David.  
 The Manse  
 1966

On leaving school *David Stoddart* joined the RAF where he served as a wireless and radar fitter. When he was called to be a minister he studied at Trinity College, Glasgow. He was a well-loved minister in Quarter and in Hamilton South from 1964. He moved to Newtonmore and Laggan in March 1975, and then retired to Anstruther where he died earlier this year.

## Quarter Parish Church Guild



In 1975 *Rev Ben Johnstone* as a young man had a ministry focussed on the young. In his first year a number of the congregation, mostly young people from Quarter and South attended the 'Jesus Alive 1975' mission campaign in Motherwell Civic Centre. Over the years a number of children's missions called 'Seromps' (meaning serious romps) were held. Each of these missions attracted more than 100 children between the ages of 3 and 15 who played games and listened to a Bible message. These were very busy but encouraging times. Mr Johnstone was committed not only to the mission and preaching but also the teaching of the Word and he initiated and led a very successful Bible Study Group for both churches. In 1989 Rev. Johnstone translated to Mallaig and the Small Isles where he was a member of the crew of the local lifeboat. He is presently minister at Strath and Sleat Parish, Broadford, Isle of Skye.

In 1990 the church welcomed *Rev. Billy Burnside* as its minister. Soon after the ordination and induction he married the Rev. Alison Hannah, whom he had met while at university and the couple set up home in Quarter Manse. He felt strongly that as a church, family members should be doing 'ordinary' things together such as dances, concerts and social evenings. Fit members were also introduced to the rigors and pleasures of hill walking. Rev. Burnside decided to leave the ministry in 1993 and became a religious education teacher. He now teaches at Lochaber High School, Fort William, and Alison is Minister in the local church at Ballachulish where they now live with their two children.

In 1994 the *Rev Fraser Turner* was called to the Church. His methodical Biblical teaching, outreach initiatives and innovative worship plans were much appreciated. Mrs Turner shared her husband's convictions and in 1994 started a Ladies Bible Study group in the Manse which continued until the Turners moved on in 2002 and which was a great blessing to the women who attended. Rev. Turner translated to Kiltarlity linked with Kirkhill, Inverness-shire in 2002 and retired last year.

In 2004 *Rev George MacDonald*, a South African with Scots heritage, was inducted to the charge. With a focus on community outreach and involvement, George and Monica have had a growing involvement with the community in Quarter. The annual charity Garden Party on the glebe has become a regular feature of life and 2009 will see the sixth such fundraiser being held.



The Quarter Parish Church Woman's Guild was formed as a natural progression from the Knitting Circle formed during World War Two to knit for the troops. Affiliation to the Church of Scotland took place on 3rd February 1948 and fifty years later a "Jubilee Dinner" was held on 3rd February 1998 at the Silvertrees Hotel in Bothwell.

## Friends of Quarter Parish Church



The McGregor's at Church in the time of Rev David Stoddart

Norma and Colin Boston Garden Party 2005



Taken about 1925 at Burnbrae Farm From left to right: - Back Row; James Kirkland, Robert Kirkland, Margaret Kirkland, Robert Frame. Front Row; Robert Kirkland Sen, Annie Kirkland, Margaret Kirkland Sen.





*A SAD SIGHT AFTER THE FIRE 1982*

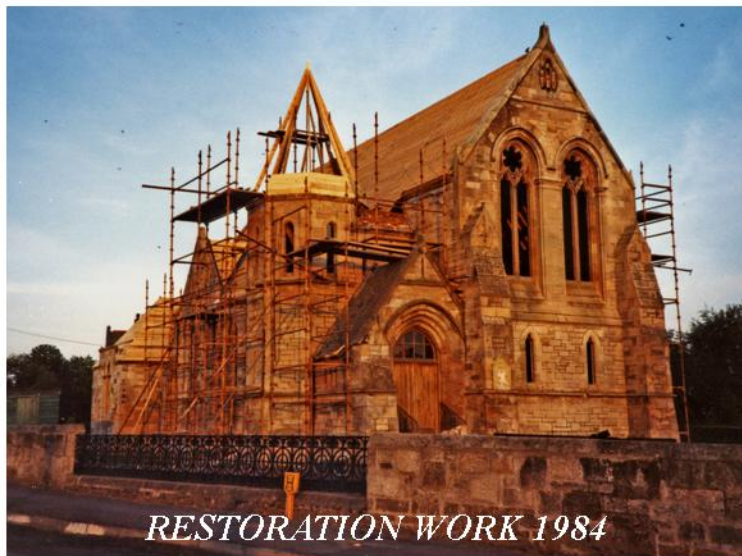
***Does the face ring a bell?***



John Baird, Harry Harris, and the late Tom Willan after the fire in 1982.



John and Harry at the church in 2009.



*RESTORATION WORK 1984*



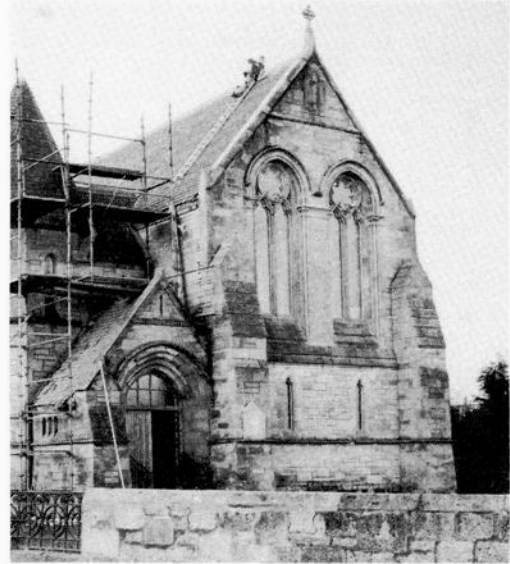
Guy Kirkland, Bert Anderson And Rev Ben Johnstone at The Service Of Rededication.

QUARTER PARISH CHURCH

***Service of Opening  
and Rededication***

**Sunday, December 16th, at 2 p.m.**

*(after the fire of Wednesday, 28th April, 1982)*



Rev. James T. McNay  
Moderator of the Hamilton Presbytery.  
Rev. Ben Johnstone  
Minister of Quarter Church.  
Mr Robert Anderson, Session Clerk.

*Guest Preacher:*  
Rev. Eric J. Alexander,  
St. George's Tron Church, Glasgow.

***Events Planned  
for the  
Quarter Parish Church 125 Celebrations:***

**Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September 10am-12pm  
Toddler's Event at School**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 10am-12pm, 6pm-9pm  
Floral Displays and  
"Call Back the Past" Exhibition**

**Friday 4<sup>th</sup> September 7pm  
Civic Reception at SLC Banqueting Hall**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> September  
Vintage Vehicle Parade and Community  
Tea Party.  
Unveiling of Miner's Memorial.**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> September 11am  
Celebration Worship Service led by  
Former moderator of General Assembly**

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September 11am- 3pm  
Craft Fayre and Tea Room at Church**