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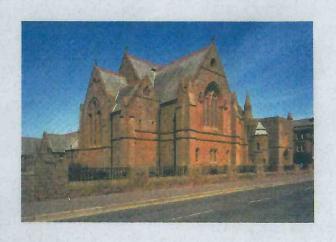
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The Treasures of the Sanctuary



by Bob Gemmell



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

any friends and colleagues have been of assistance in compiling this book. To all who have helped - my most sincere thanks.

Many sources of information have been used and are listed below. Some of these sources are now out of print and again I would acknowledge the help given by my friends - particularly the late George Kerr for his help in finding some of the now more obscure sources.

SOURCES

Troon and Dundonald Revd. J Kirkwood McKie and Drennan Kilmarnock 1875 Old Troon and District Ian M MacIntosh George Outram and Co. Kilmarnock 1969

TOPC Publications
Troon Parish Church War Memorial. 1919
75 Years Ago. 1968
150th Anniversary Celebrations. 1973
Troon Old Parish Church. Its Churches and
Ministers During the First 150 Years. 1973

INTRODUCTION

he building in which you are now standing was dedicated as a place of public worship on 26th December 1895.

The Church itself is an example of Gothic architecture of the 12th Century, built to the designs of Mr. H J Blanc. The plan of the Church is of cruciform outline and the main measurements are as follows. Nave 88ft. by 36ft. Trancept 31ft. by 19ft. Chancel 26ft. by 16ft. The total height of the gable from the ground to the top of the finial is 70ft. The steeple, never completed, was planned to be 180ft. high. At the time of the Dedication Service the local paper summed the building up thus -" looked at from any point of view, either in the interior or outside, the Church is a thing of beauty, and barring accident should be a joy for centuries to the people of the district.

Since the time of the Dedication Service many people have lavished the building with all sorts of beautiful ornaments and it was considered that after 100 years some attempt should be made to allow people of the present day to more fully appreciate these "Treasures of the Sanctuary".

Some of the background of the various provenances is from recorded sources and some is of a rather more apocryphal nature but none the less interesting.



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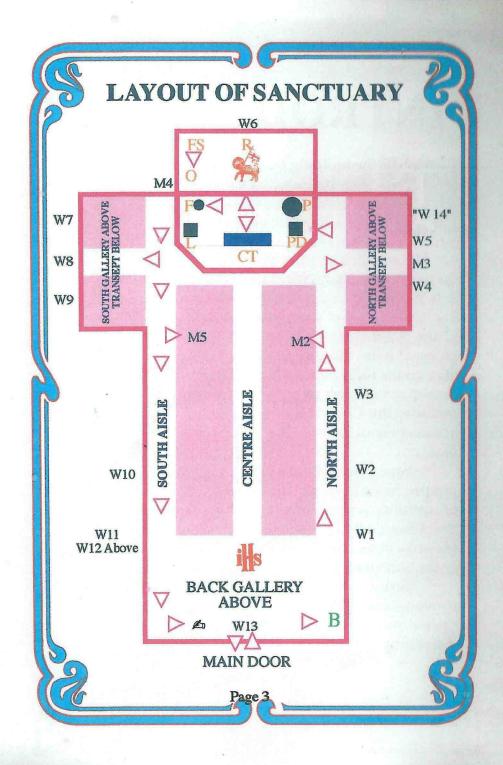
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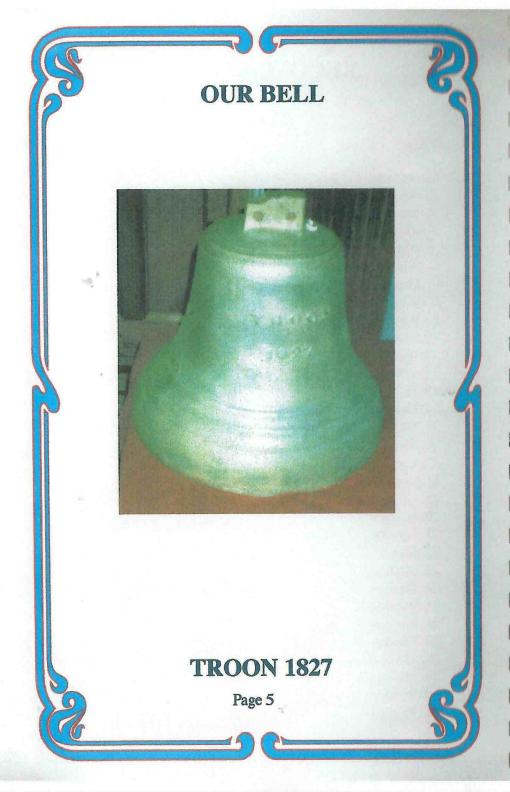
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ur bell which is situated in the steeple of the "New Church" of 1838 is a representative of a long line of such instruments used over many centuries to call the Faithful to Worship.

This bell of cast brass is marked 'Troon 1827' and started its life in an open belltower connected with a Church building formerly situated behind Barassie Street in close proximity to the Troon

Swimming Pool.

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When the "New Church" (our present Church Hall) was opened in 1838 the bell was installed in the tower and steeple of the Church. In this position it called our former members and some of us to worship, firstly rung by hand and then by electric power until 1990. (Some would say it recently lacked clarity of tone. Was this a casting fault or pigeons?)

At this time faults developed in the support structure and it was decided to remove the bell to a safer place in the church vestibule (as in our

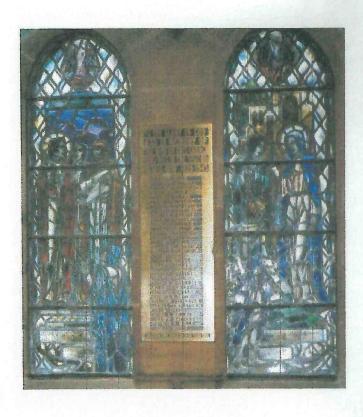
photograph).

More recently the bell has been replaced in its original site and with the aid of some more modern technology rings out again for services on Sunday











his window is situated in the North Aisle of the Nave at the East end as you enter the Aisle door. The Window is in two lights. The left hand light suggesting the hope of immortality depicts Christ confounding the Jews in the Temple at Jerusalem. It is based on the words of the promise "He that heareth my word and believeth on Him that sent me, hath everlasting life and shall not come into ondemnation; but is passed from death to life". (John 5.24) In the apex of the window is the Pelican - Symbol of Sacrifice.

The right hand light suggesting the Faith of the Soldier depicts the Roman Centurion kneeling before Christ. It is based on the words "I have not found so great faith, no, not in all Israel". (Luke 7.9) In the apex of this light is the Phoenix - Symbol of Resurrection.

The window was designed and installed as a result of generous donations from the Congregation and others. It is the work of Gordon M. Webster - Artist in Ecclesiastical Glass.

Between the two lights is a bronze plaque on which are inscribed the names of those from the Congregation who gave their lives in the Second World War.



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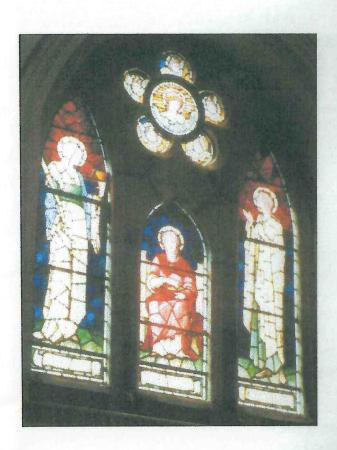
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" And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three;



but the greatest of these is charity."

WINDOW No. 12 FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY

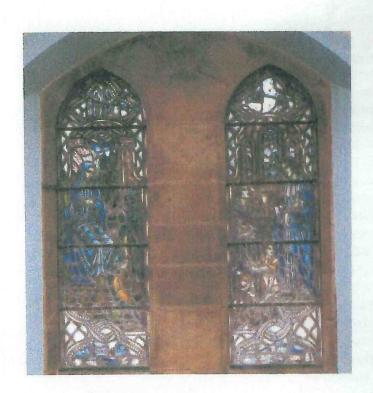
ur sanctuary has been described as a "miniature Gothic cathedral". Certainly much of the architecture gives that impression and, except in the orientation of the building many similarities to Mediaeval churches can be seen. However, the window which you can see on the left of the clerestory above the South Aisle does not conform to the regirements of that form of architecture. In architecture a clerestory is "any fenestrated wall of a room that is carried higher than the surrounding roofs to light the interior space". Usually such windows or 'fenestrations' are made from clear or traslucent glass similar to the other windows in that location. Why then is this one different?

The story goes that a former member and great benefactor of our congregation, Adam Wood, sat in one of the pews in the back gallery on Sunday mornings and was annoyed by the blinding rays of the sun coming through the clear window then installed. A practical man,he made a generous gift of money to have the present beautiful window procured and inserted.

The three vertical lights show representations of "Faith, Hope and Charity"(1 Corinthians 13) being looked over by angels in the 'cinquefoil' light in the apex.



"THE WATER OF LIFE"



"THE CUP OF COLD WATER"

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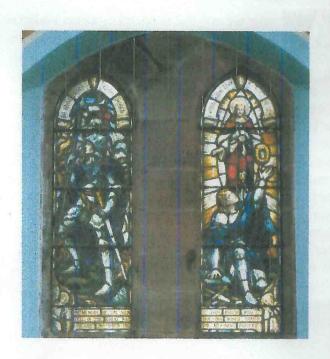
WINDOW No. 2 LEITH MEMORIAL WINDOW

gain we see the work of Gordon Webster and again this Window is in two lights. The left hand light shows Christ at the Well with the Samaritan Woman and in the apex is a small scene depicting the baptism of Jesus. At the bottom of the window the words "The Water of Life"and part of the dedication inscription. The right hand light depicts another scene from the life of Jesus possibly the Child Jesus in the Temple being offered a cup. There is also a landscape captured in the three light window in the background. Above this scene is a (damaged) picture of a mountain stream and in the bottom of the window the words "The Cup of Cold Water" with the remainder of the dedication inscription. The full dedication inscription reads:- "To the Glory of

God and in Memory of Mary McTaggart beloved wife of William Leith".



"Be thou Faithful unto Death"



"I will give thee a crown of life"

WINDOW NO. 3 TROON PARISH CHURCH WAR MEMORIAL WORLD WAR 1

ike the neighbouring World War II window this was designed and installed as a result of generous donations from thr Parish Church Congregation and others.

Again the window is in two lights, the left hand light shows a close helmeted knight in full plate armour, armed with lance and broadsword ready for battle. The pennon of St. George flies in the background and the scroll making the arch in the apex of the light is inscribed "Be thou faithful unto death."

The right hand light depicts the same knight now dead with his broken sword at his feet meeting the ascended Lord Jesus who is offering him the Crown of Life. The scroll in this light reads "I will give you a crown of life."

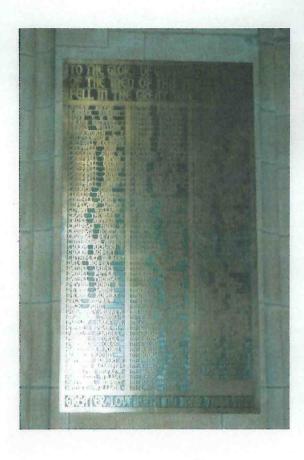
Below these pictures, between two angels is another scroll with the words "In memory of the men of this parish who fell in the Great War 1914 - 1918 whose names are inscribed on the adjoining tablet.

NOTE: The tablet referred to is on the inside face of the large pillar just to your left as you proceed up the North Aisle.



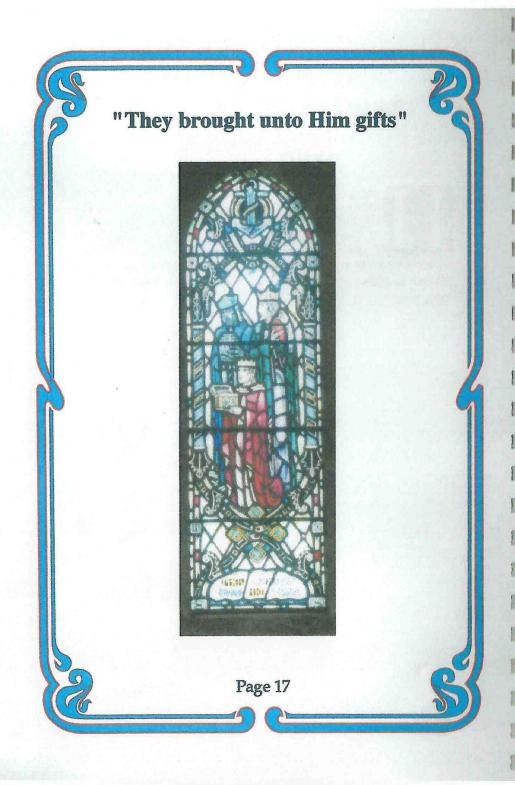


"Greater love hath no man than this."



MEMORIAL NO. 2 TROON PARISH CHURCH WAR MEMORIAL WORLD WAR I

eaded by the words "Tothe Glory of God and in memory of the men of this Parish who fell in the Great War. 1914 - 1918."this tablet lists 160 names of local men who lost their lives as a result of World War I. The memorial can probably be best seen from the Centre Aisle but viewed close - up all the names can be clearly seen. (See also the adjoining Window No.3)



WINDOW NO.4 WILLIAMS MEMORIAL WINDOW (R. H. LIGHT)

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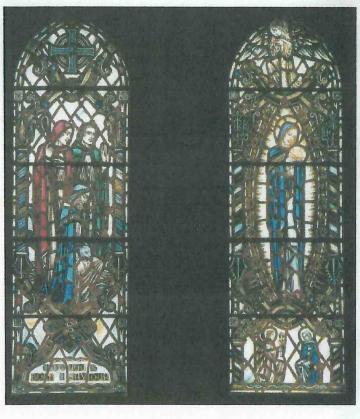
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art of a three light window this shows the visit of the Wise Men to the stable in Bethelemen. The Magi are shown carrying their gifts of Gold, Frankinsence and Myrrh with an Anchor of Hope in the apex and the inscription "They brought unto Him gifts" in the base

hese windows, again by Gordon Webster, were installed during the ministry of the late Rev'd. allan young. The date beside the artist's name is 1955 and the adjoining Memorial confirms this date.

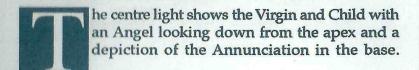
"Unto you is born a Saviour."



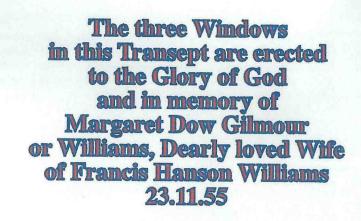
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WINDOW NO. 5 WILLIAMS MEMORIAL WINDOW (L.H. and Centre Lights)

wo lights show other parts of the Christmas story. The left hand light depicts the Shepherds with their Lamb and in the apex is a formy cross with a disc of the sun behind, the inscription reads "Unto you is born a Saviour."







MEMORIAL NO. 3 THE WILLIAMS MEMORIAL PLAQUE

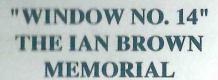


hown opposite is the wording on the plaque accompanying the three windows. The memorial was installed in 1955 and dedicated on 23rd November of that year.





"...we will go into the house of the Lord."



his back - lit panel was donated in 2004 by Miss Irene Brown in Memory of her brother Ian Brown. The panel is in the position of a former window now bricked up as a result of the building, in 1934 of the Committee Rooms and

adjacent corridor linking the sanctuary with the Main Hall (The

former 1837 church).

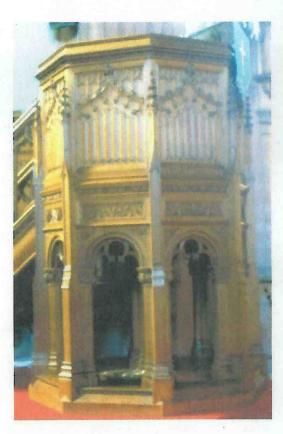
The panel shows an Angel encouraging butterflies, the symbols of birth, life and death, to emerge from the "Burning Bush". The music depicted on the Scroll reminds us that Ian was for many years a member of the Choir and the notes shown comprise the opening bars of "Highland Cathedral". This particular tune was chosen to indicate Ian's highland roots.

The panel was designed by Mr. Ronnie Russell - a Troon

artist and designer.



"Go ye into all the world,



and preach the gospel to every creature."

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he Pulpit in our church and the accompanying Communion Table were manufactured by Wyllie and Lochead Ltd., Glasgow. The intricate carving on both items gives great credit to the woodcarver and is worth close inspection.

In Gothic architecture, the pulpit shoold be placed at the north side of the chancel and that is where it is! However, our s is a Reformed Church and does not have its chancelin the East (as in the Gothic style) of the building - so the pulpit is possibly not

in the "right" place.

In 9th Century churches two reading desks (ambos) were used - the one which developed into the present day pulpit was used for reading from the Gospels and the other for reading from the Epistles. At that time it was not customary to read from the Old Testament which was of Jewish/Hebrew origin and reading its contents was suppressed.











hese two pieces of furniture were donated by the Christina Littlejohn family. Up to the end of the 1960's the desk was used for its intended purpose by the incumbent - The Rev'd. Allan Young but it is not usedpresently in that way.

The tapestry of the kneeling stool was worked by Peter Welsh a much loved former Elder and generous benefactor of our church.

The Offering Plate is of bronze with a clever Celtic vine pattern around the quadrants of the rim, separated by four bosses containing the Dove of the Holy Spirit, the IHS(First three letters of Jesus name in Greek), the Paschal Lamb and the Alpha & Omega.

The central boss contains the inscription

"The Kirk of Troon, 1895."



"Here is the Lamb of God -



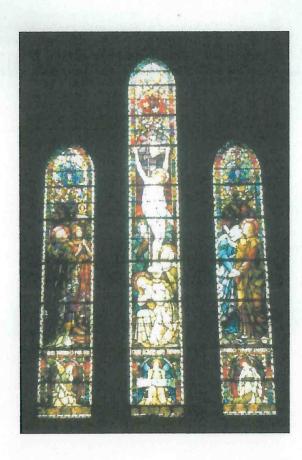
-who takes away the sin of the world.."

THE CHANCEL PAVEMENT

he Chancel pavementis a portrayal of the Paschal Lamb and, enclosed in its geometric bordering, it reflects the pavement in the Vestibule.

Originally, this is the lamb eaten by the Jews at the first Passover (Exodus 12:1 - 28), and identified with Christ by St. Paul 'For our paschal lamb Christ, has been sacrificed for us' (1 Corinthians 5:7

"Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews."



Page C 1

WINDOW NO. 6 THE CRUCIFIXION WINDOW

ere from a palette of magnificent colours is the Crucifixion scene. In three lights the Chancel Window is almost twenty three feet (6.75M) high. The central panel shows our Lord on the Cross with Mary of Magdala and Mary of

Bethany together with a Roman soldier at the base. Above lesus' head is the scroll (titulus) on which Pontius Pilate had the inscription - "Jesus of Nazareth King of the Jews" written in Latin, Greek and Aramaic so that all who passed

by could understand who the victim was.

The right hand panel shows Mary the Mother of Jesus and a Disciple - probably John - and in the foreground

the hammer and nails of the executioners.

The left hand panel shows the Centurion and in the foreground a figure who has been over the years identified as Joseph of Arimathea or St. Andrew the Patron Saint of Scotland.

In each of the arches at the top of the panels are bunches of grapes on vines recalling the story of the "True Vine" and at the base of the windows are three small Angels the one in the centre panel holding a scroll with the words "It is Finished".

The words of Isaiah Ch. 53:5-"He was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities"

separate the scene from the lower panels.

At the bottom of the window is the inscription - "To the Glory of God. In memory of the Rev'd. James Fleming, first Minister of this Parish, born Jan. 7th 1792, died Octr. 25th 1888, and of Janet Hamilton, his wife, born Jan. 7th 1811, died June 9th, 1864. Erected by their daughters Jane and Rebecca 1895."

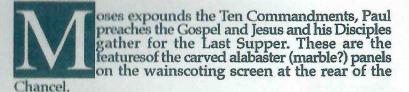


"Take, eat: this is my body."



"This is my blood of the new testament which is shed for many."





The Chancel was dedicated in 1905 and this screen was in place at that time. Until the late nineteen nineties the Communion Table was situated in front of the reredos when not in use but alterations made at that time mean that the layout incorporating the "apron" allow the table to remain in its place all the time.

The Paschal Lamb appears again in the small square panel at the bottom of the carvings. This reflecting that on the pavement.





"Christ is made the sure foundation..."



THE FOUNDATION STONE

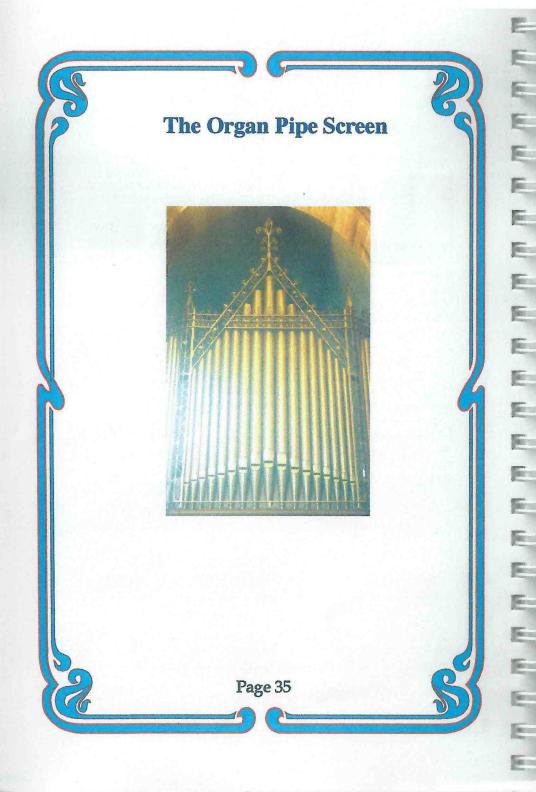
ust to the left of the Reredos in the corner of the Chancel can be seen the Foundation Stone of the Sanctuary. The Stone was laid "mid storm and rain" on 28th October 1893 by the (then) Duke and Duchess of Portland. After the

laying of the stone the Duchess scattered corn, wine and oil over it. In two halves the Stone weighs one ton (1000Kg). About thirty articles are contained in a glass jar inside, which include copies of the addresses delivered that day, a listof office bearers, photographs of the Minister and Senior Elder, a description of the new church, a photograph of the old church, newspapers, church magazines and coins. The Mallet, Level and Square used by the Duke of Portland in setting the Stone, were made from a piece of oak taken from a "pawl" which was used at the pier end of the Harbour in the old days and was probably used to assist in warping sailing ships in and out of the harbour entrance.

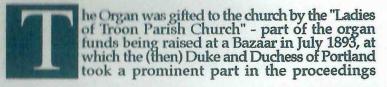
NOTE: Mention of sailing ships reminds us that the original meeting place of this congregation was a sail loft above the rope works previously situated near where Portland Terrace now stands....all this in 1823!











The Organ was installed by the Hill Company in 1895 and subsequently rebuilt by their successor company - Hill, Norman and Beard in 1965.

"....But bright Cecilia raised the wonder higher When to to her organ vocal breath was given.

An angel heard and straight appeared mistaking Earth for Heaven."

This qotation from John Dryden's 'Ode in Honour of St. Cecilia's Day"allows us to sonsider the magnificence of this instrument which is played each Sunday to allow us to compose our thoughts about the Divine...... and with the help of the Choir, leads us in our praise.



"This is my body which is given for you;



this do in remembrance of me."

THE COMMUNION TABLE

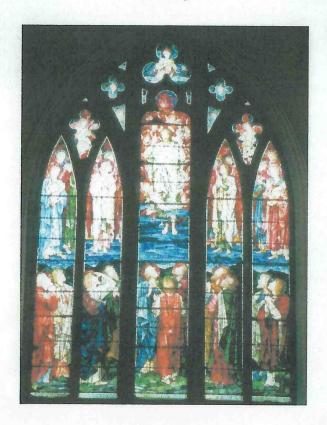
he Communion Table, like the Pulpit, was the work of Messrs. Wyllie Lochead of Glasgow. The use of semi - circular arches and the exquisite carving reflect the workmanship of that Company in the late 19th Century. The table itself is another example of the high quality of all the furnishings in the Sanctuary.

The three chairs which match the table are used by the Minister, Session Clerk and Senior elder during Services of Holy Communion at variou times in the year.

The photograph shows a part of the table together with a display the Communion vessels some of which are no longer in general use. Taken from a card used in the 1990's for church public relatios purposes.



"And it came to pass, while he blessed them,...



...he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven."

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WINDOW NO. 13 JAMES AND AGNES WOOD MEMORIAL WINDOW

erhaps the greatest jewel among our treasures this window, which depicts the Ascension of the risen Christ into Heaven, is a memorial to the parents of one of our greatest benefactors in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Adam Wood, the Duke of Portland's right hand man in Troon at the end of the 19th century is mainly remembered as the benefactor in whose estate monies were provided for the rooms and halls joining this Sanctuary to the Main Hall the former

Sanctuary.

Troon at the end of the 19th century was an industrial centre and the town's motto 'Industria Ditat" bears this out. The company producing this magnificent window, Morris and Co., was founded by the famous Medievalist and Socialist - William Morris. Close examination shos many of the trademarks of the man in the foliage patterns and in the small children's faces seen in the blade leaves. the figures represent the eleven Disciples present at the event and on the higher plane, the risen Christ with saints and angels all accompanied by a Medieval orchestra. The figures have a distinctly Burne - Jones look and are probably modelled on that artist's originals. Sir Edward Coley Burne - Jones was a member of the Pre - Raphaelite Brotherhood with Morris and Rossetti and collaborated with Morris and Co. in many of their stained glass window designs.

The legend below the window reads:-

"To the Glory of God in memory of James Wood and Agnes Morton their beloved parents and of their departed brothers and sisters. Erected by Margaret and Adam Wood 1903."

" But they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength:.. "



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"...they shall mount up with wings as eagles;..."



ur lectern was donated by Janet Carstairs in 1895 - "To the Glory of God - Gifted to Troon Kirk."

Originally such lecterns were book stands with ornamental pedestals not unlike

for supporting the huge miaaals used in Pre - Reformation services. In those days the books were supported on the outstretched wings of eagles, griffins or pelicans. The earliest documented eagle lectern was made in AD 965 - considerably before ours!

The lectern is made of brass and the eagle is mounted on an orb with a horizontal band showing oak leaves and acorns. The ornamental pillar is mounted on a highly decorated tripod supported by recumbent lions. A small platform with a brass banister is also supplied for the reader to stand on.





" And the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove...."



Thou art my beloved Son; in thee I am well pleased

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THE BAPTISMAL FONT

gift of the Dickie family our font is of white marble carved to replicate the shape and decoration of the pulpit, It stands on a black marble plinth and contains a brass basin with an image of a dove to remind us of the descent of the Holy Spirit at the time of Jesus' Baptism by John in the Jordan.

The inscription around the font reminds us of the words of Jesus at a later stage in his career - as reported by St. Matthew - "Suffer the little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of heaven."





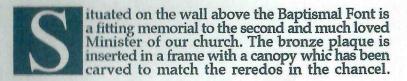


"Well done:....

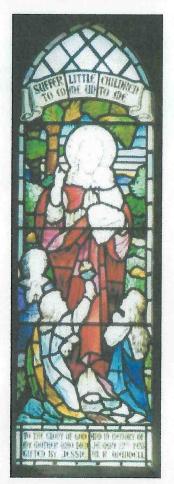


....thou good and faithful servant:..."

THE REV'D. ROBERT SMITH MEMORIAL



"Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not:



for of such is the kingdom of God."

WINDOW NO.7 WADDELL MEMORIAL WINDOW

very colourful window showing Jesus blessing children gathered around his feet. The background is in the form of a well presented landscape of fields and trees.

A scroll at the top of the light contains

A scroll at the top of the light contains the words "suffer little children to come to me." and being the window nearest the Baptismal Font has been a well

chosen and appropriate verse.

The window was gifted in memory of Jessie W. R. Waddell who died 22nd January 1928. These details are given on the panel at the bottom of the window.



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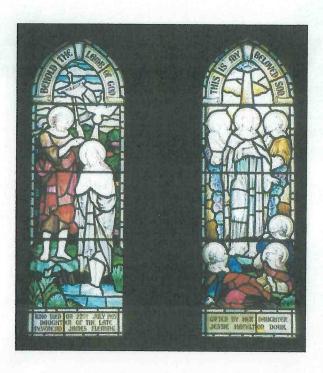
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"Behold the lamb of God"



"This is my beloved Son"

WINDOW NO. 8 THE ISABELLA WILSON TAYLOR MEMORIAL (SEE ALSO WINDOW NO. 9)

ike Window No. 7 the two windows in three lights of this memorial are very colourful and again depict scenes from the life of Jesus The left hand light shows the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist with a depiction of the Holy Ghost in the form of a dove and the reed cross with attached scroll. The Latin "Ecce Agnus Dei" are often inscribed in this Scroll and aretranslated for us in the scroll at the top of the light - "Behold the Lamb of God."

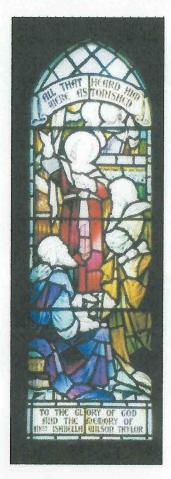
The right hand light shows the Transfiguration scene with Jesus conversing with Moses and Elijah. A group of awakening Disciples are shown at the bottom of the scene and the scroll at the top gives the quotation "This is my beloved Son."

The legend at the base of this window should be read in conjunction with that on Window No. 9





"All that heard him were astonished...



...at his understanding and answers."

WINDOW NO. 9 THE ISABELLA WILSON TAYLOR MEMORIAL (SEE ALSO WINDOW NO.8

indow 9, shows another scene from the life of Jesus. This time it is the boy Jesus in discussion with the Priests and Doctors of law from the Gospel according to Luke. The scroll at the top of the light quotes from St. Luke 2:47.

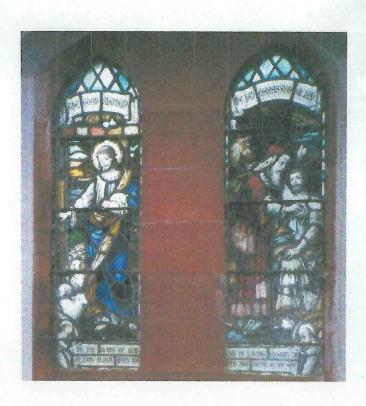
In the picture Jesus is addressing two venerable looking Priests and near the top can be seen other people outside the building - perhaps Mary and Joseph coming in search of the missing boy.

The legend at the base of this window should be read in conjunction with that on Window No. 8

"To the Glory of God and in Memory of Mrs. Isabella Wilson Taylor who died 22nd July 1921 Daughter of the late Reverend James Fleming. Gifted by her daughter Jessie Hamilton Dow."



"The Good Shepherd."



"He had compassion on him."

WINDOW NO. 10 THE DOCTOR JOHN SLOAN MEMORIAL

wo fairly well known passages from the Gospels are portrayed in this window. The left hand light shows the risen Christ and some sheep reminding us of the passage in John's Gospel beginning at Chapter 10 v. 11 when Our lord describes himself as "The Good Shepherd." The right hand light shows the scene from the Parable of Luke's Gospel in Chapter 10. starting at V. 30 and often referred to as the parable of the good Samaritan.

Reading these passages shows that this is a most appropriate memorial for a physician working as a general practitioner. (Which was presumably the profession of the late Dr. Sloan!)

The legend reads "To the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Dr. John Sloan. Born 1849 - Died 1918. Gifted by his wife."

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself,...



...and take up his cross, and follow me."

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MEMORIAL NO. 5 THE SILVER CROSS

his beautifully designed and executed memorial is based on a Latin Cross or crux immisa which is in the form of a long vertical intersected by a shorter horizontal about two thirds of the way up.

The memorial is the work of Alan Fulton a manufacturing jeweller and sometime member of our congregation who carried out the work on behalf of our Woman's Guild during the centenary of the Blanc church. Along with the enlargement of the chancel apron this was during the ministry of the Rev'd. Calum O'Donnell.

The legend on the associated plaque reads:-Presented by The Woman's Guild to Troon Old on their Centenary Year - 1895 - 1995"



THE BOYS' BRIGADE
1st. Troon Company
Kings Colour (Retired)
(MacKay Family Gift)
Company Colour (Retired)
(Bain Gift)
BB Centenary Plaque

16

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SCOUTS
31st. Ayrshire (Loans) Scout Group
(Parents' Group Gift)

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION
Troon Branch Colour

THE ROYAL NATIONAL LIFEBOAT INSTITUTION
Troon Branch
(Gifted by a donor wishing to remain anonymous)

THE BOYS' BRIGADE

1st. Troon Company
Queen's Colour
(Gifted by a donor wishing to remain anonymous)
Company Colour
(Taylor Gift)

THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION Queen's Colour - Troon Branch

THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT ASSOCIATION Local Branch Colour

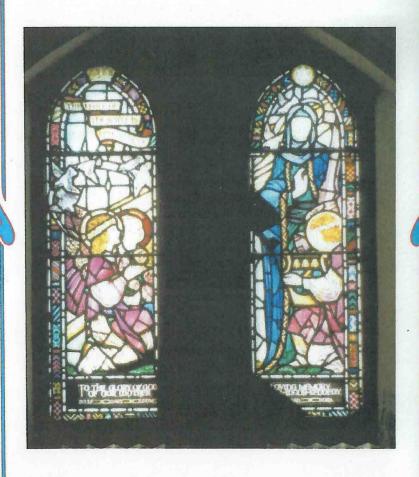
THE BRITISH LEGION
Troon Branch Colour
(Below Gallery adjacent to Williams Memorial Windows)

THE STANDARDS of LOCAL ORGANISATIONS

roon has many local voluntary organisations and the Ministers of our church are often Chaplains to these organisations. The list opposite starts just above the Silver Cross and follows a clockwise direction around the galleries. Where known the Donor's names are given, in brackets, below the titles.



"The fruit of the Spirit is Love, Joy, Peace"



WINDOW NO. 11 ISABELLA INGLIS KENNEDY MEMORIAL WINDOW

ere we have in a two light window two very engaging pictures. On the left a scene of children looking to the right, perhaps at the woman in the right hand light, and above them in the apex of the light a royal crown. Facing them on the right hand light is a child playing on a lyre at the feet of the woman. In the apex of this light is a six pointed star.

A scroll in the left hand light contains the words of the quotation from Galations 5: 22 which appears opposite.

The legend reads:-

To the glory of God and in loving memory of our mother Isabella Inglis Kennedy

Belle - Mary - Louis - Lester - Jean - Dora



The Vestibule



The IHS Monogram



What Might have been!

THE CHURCH VESTIBULE

his is where you came in to start your tour. You will see that the floor is a mosaic in the same style as the Chancel Pavement and the design this time consists of three roundels containing the alpha and omega with a monogram IHS at the door leading to the central aisle of the church. This latter monogram can be read both on entry to the church and on exit from it. The significance of the alpha and omega can thus be understood.

There is also a permanent display of photographs of past Ministers on the outside wall and a few others of various events in the history of the congregation and the building on the facing screen. Among the latter is a sketch of what the architect had hoped the building would look like when complete. - the steeple was, however, never completed.

On a table in the vestibule you will also find a Visitors' Book - please feel free to fill in your name and other details.

Finally, we hope you enjoyed your visit and perhaps we can look forward to seeing you or your friends again at some future date.

The Ministers of Troon Old

1823 - 1887 James Fleming

1887 - 1937 Robert Smith

1934 - 1942 James, L. Cotter

1943 - 1953 Ronald H. G. Budge

1954 - 1973 Allan Young

1973 - 1989 John G. Webster

1989 - 1997 Callum T. O'Donnell

1998 - Pres Alastair H. Symington



TROON OLD PARISH CHURCH

Serving the people of Troon from 1895 to the present day our sanctuary is indeed a treasure chest of of all the arts and crafts both ancient and modern. Truly a "joy to the people of the district".

