

M107 Halls at Perth Free West Church

Introduction

John Honeyman & Keppie added large and small halls, a vestry, a kitchen and lavatories to the W. of John Honeyman's early Gothic-style church of 1871. ¹

Authorship: There are annotations in Mackintosh's hand on the drawings submitted to the Perth Dean of Guild Court.

Alternative names: St Matthew's Church.

Cost from job book: £2528 4s 10¼d

Status: Standing building

Current use: Church (2014)

Grid reference: NO 12057 23569

Chronology

1871

23 November: Perth Free West Church, designed by John Honeyman, opens for worship. ¹

1895

5 February: The minutes of the church's Deacons' Court reports the proposal to build a new hall 'in conjunction with erection of an organ and the repainting and decoration of the church'. ²

July: Date on drawings submitted to Perth Dean of Guild Court. ³

15 August: The Master of Works grants approval on behalf of Perth Dean of Guild Court. ⁴

1896

3 September: New buildings dedicated. ⁵

1897

9 February: Majority of contractors paid. ⁶

1965

Amalgamation of the congregations of the Free West Church with Bridgend, Middle and Wilson churches. The church is renamed St Matthew's. ⁷

1967–8

Major alterations to church and halls to update facilities and to incorporate stained glass and war memorials from the three other churches. ⁸

Description

Twenty-five years after John Honeyman designed Perth Free West Church, John Honeyman & Keppie returned to design a set of halls. These extend W. behind the church to Watergate, a lane running parallel with Tay Street on which the church stands. Though plain, the new buildings were favourably described by the *Perthshire Critic*: 'the congregation and their esteemed pastor, the Reverend Gordon Clark, are to be warmly congratulated on the successful completion of their great and comprehensive scheme of building, for there are few churches north of the Tweed which can claim to be so splendidly equipped in every detail.' ¹

Drawings

Of the drawings submitted to Perth Dean of Guild Court in August 1895, only four sheets survive. ² These are a block plan; a floor plan; a S. elevation and sections; and a roof plan and N. and W. elevations. It appears that at least two draughtsmen prepared the drawings. Mackintosh seems to have drawn the two

sheets of sections and elevations: his distinctive handwriting is on the sheet showing the S. elevation and sections, and the skilful draughtsmanship and careful layout and colouring of both drawings are characteristic of him.

The plans show a large, rectangular hall for 466 persons with its long W. side on Watergate. S. of this, along a very narrow lane or vennel, is a smaller and lower Session hall; and to its N., between the large hall and the church, are a vestry, a 'men's room', a 'ladies' room', a kitchen and lavatories. Corridors connect the halls to the church and there is a stepped entrance at the N.

Exterior

Like the church, the Watergate elevation of the large hall is of pink sandstone, snecked, with yellow dressings. It has a cornice and quoins and five bipartite mullioned-and-transomed windows. The existing (2012) wooden frames and glass appear to have been renewed. In the short gable ends are two large, round-headed windows, of which the S. one is blocked. The roof has three ventilators, probably original, and its E. side is partly glazed. There are hopper-heads dated 1895.



The Session hall is of the same materials and has windows with Decorated Gothic tracery. It has been divided into two smaller halls.



Interior

The sectional drawings show both halls with open timber roofs. The trusses are simpler than the contemporary ones with decorative king posts at St Paul's Mission Hall and Martyrs School.

Since 1965, a suspended ceiling has been fitted in the large hall, concealing the trusses, and a stage has been constructed, resulting in the blocked S. window. Both halls have wood panelling to chair-rail height, and the doors to the Session hall have Jacobean-style strap mouldings.



People

Clients:

- Perth Free West Church

Contractors:

- C. Alexander
- Thomas Brown
- James Buchan
- William Campbell
- P. & R. Fleming
- John Frazer
- A. Johnstone & Son
- Duncan McGregor
- E. C. Morgan & Son
- John Peebles
- Stalker & Boyd

Job Book

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

expenditure. The name of a project and/or client is usually at the top of the left-hand page, followed by information about tradesmen who tendered. The name of the measurer (quantity surveyor) is usually at the top of the right-hand page, followed by information about payments to contractors and suppliers. All of the data for M107 is entered in the tables below.

Page numbering is not consistent in the job books. Sometimes a single number refers to a double-page spread and sometimes each page is individually numbered. Here, each image of a double-page spread is identified by the number given at the top of the left-hand page. (Images of all of the pages from the four job books can be found at [Browse Job Books, Visit Book and Cash Book.](#))

The following information about M107 has been extracted from the job books:



Job book: 53061
Page: 13



Job book: 53061
Page: 15

Client: Perth Free West Church

Measurer: William Campbell

Measurer address: Perth

Tenders:

Contractor	Type	Address	Date	Value	Accepted
R. Broad & Son	mason	Perth	no data in job book	£1449 0s 0d ¹	no
Alex. Beveridge	mason	Perth	no data in job book	£1520 0s 0d ²	no
Frazer & Martin	mason	no data in job book	no data in job book	£1520 10s 6d ³	no
William Morrison	mason	no data in job book	no data in job book	£1658 18s 10d	no
Robert Goodall	mason	no data in job book	no data in job book	£1299 9s 6d	no
E. C. Morgan & Son	mason	Glasgow	no data in job book	£1136 9s 0d	yes (no data in job book)
Hutcheson & Grant	mason	no data in job book	no data in job book	£1160 0s 0d	no
W. & C. Duncan	mason	no data in job book	no data in job book	£1151 7s 0d	no
James Jack	joiner	no data in job book	no data in job book	£558 0s 0d	no
James Hay & Son	joiner	no data in job book	no data in job book	£478 0s 0d	no
A. Johnstone & Son	joiner	19 Cow Vennel, Perth	no data in job book	£484 0s 0d	yes (no data in job book)
William McQuibban	joiner	Bridgend, Perth	no data in job book	£571 0s 0d	no
Charles Law	plasterer	no data in job book	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
John Peebles	plasterer	no data in job book	no data in job book	£41 17s 8½d	yes (no data in job book)
Peter Reid	slater	no data in job book	no data in job book	£87 14s 0d	no

James Buchan	slater	King Street	no data in job book	£66 10s 7d	yes (no data in job book)
Joseph Bell	slater	no data in job book	no data in job book	£90 0s 0d	no data in job book
William Frew & Son	plumber	no data in job book	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
James McNish	plumber	no data in job book	no data in job book	£98 9s 8d	no
John Frazer	plumber	no data in job book	no data in job book	£120 12s 4d	yes (no data in job book)
McCulloch & Co.	glazier	no data in job book	no data in job book	£49 18s 4d	no
C. & J. Malloch	glazier	no data in job book	no data in job book	£44 6s 10d	no
John Peebles	glazier	Perth	no data in job book	£41 17s 8½d ⁴	no
G. R. Douglas & Son	glazier	no data in job book	no data in job book	£41 8s 0d	no
C. Alexander	glazier	no data in job book	no data in job book	£34 18s 0d	yes (no data in job book)
John Frazer	heating	Watergate, Perth	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
Boyd & Sons	heating	Paisley	no data in job book	£68 11s 10d	no
McKenzie & Moncur	heating	no data in job book	no data in job book	£81 2s 1d	no
James Boyd & Sons	heating	no data in job book	no data in job book	no data in job book	no
Duncan McGregor	heating	Kinnoull Street, Perth	no data in job book	£67 8s 2d	yes (no data in job book)
Cormack & Sons	heating	no data in job book	no data in job book	£76 14s 3½d	no
George Muirhead & Sons	painting of church	no data in job book	3 April	£143 7s 6d	no
R. Dow & Sons	painting of church	no data in job book	3 April	£157 15s 9d	no
Stalker & Boyd	painting of church	no data in job book	3 April	£138 16s d	yes (no data in job book)
G. R. Douglas & Son	painting of church	no data in job book	3 April	£167 13s 11½d	no

Payments (trades):

Name	Type	Payment out sum
E. C. Morgan & Son	mason	Payment date: 9 February 1897 £1242 17s 2d ⁵
A. Johnstone & Son	joiner	Payment date: 9 February 1897 £543 1s 5¼d
John Peebles	plasterer	Payment date: 9 February 1897 £94 16s 1½d
James Buchan	slater	Payment date: 9 February 1897 £66 13s 10d

John Frazer	plumber	Payment date: 9 February 1897 £176 12s 6d ⁶
C. Alexander	glazier	Payment date: 9 February 1897 £35 18s 6d
Duncan McGregor	heating	Payment date: 9 February 1897 £82 1s 8d
Stalker & Boyd	painter	Payment date: 9 February 1897 £233 8s 1½d ⁷

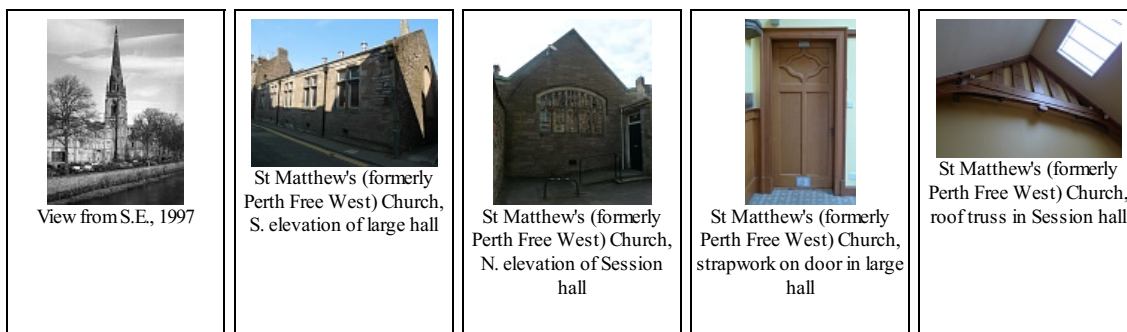
Payments (suppliers):

Name	Service	Payment date	Payment sum
Thomas Brown	ventilators	28 July 1896	£19 12s 6d
P. & R. Fleming	iron door	9 February 1897	£7 0s 0d

Measurer fee payment: £56 3s 0d (15 February 1897)

Documents

Images



Bibliography

Published

- John Gifford, *Buildings of Scotland: Perth and Kinross*, New Haven, CT and London: Yale University Press, 2007, pp. 587–8
- David Stark, *Charles Rennie Mackintosh and Co.*, Catrine, Ayrshire: Stenlake Publishing, 2004, pp. 54–7
- *St Matthew's Church, Perth: A Century of Worship and Service, 1871–1971*, Privately printed, 1971

Notes:

1: *St Matthew's Church, Perth: A Century of Worship and Service, 1871–1971*, privately printed, 1971, p. 3; John Gifford, *Buildings of Scotland: Perth and Kinross*, New Haven, CT and London: Yale University Press, 2007, pp. 587–8.

2: *St Matthew's Church, Perth: A Century of Worship and Service, 1871–1971*, Privately printed, 1971, p. 3.

3: *St Matthew's Church, Perth: A Century of Worship and Service, 1871–1971*, Privately printed, 1971, p. 3.

4: Perth & Kinross Council Archives: Dean of Guild Court plans, DGP/1895/52a–d.

5: See stamp on drawings. Perth & Kinross Council Archives: Dean of Guild Court plans, DGP/1895/52a–d.

6: *St Matthew's Church, Perth: A Century of Worship and Service, 1871–1971*, Privately printed, 1971, p. 4.

7: The Hunterian, University of Glasgow: John Honeyman & Keppie / Honeyman, Keppie & Mackintosh job book, GLAHA 53061, pp. 14, 16.

8: *St Matthew's Church, Perth: A Century of Worship and Service, 1871–1971*, Privately printed, 1971, p. 5.

9: *St Matthew's Church, Perth: A Century of Worship and Service, 1871–1971*, Privately printed, 1971, p. 5.

10: *Perthshire Critic*, 29 August 1896, quoted in *St Matthew's Church, Perth: A Century of Worship and Service, 1871–1971*, Self-published pamphlet, 1971, p. 4.

11: Perth & Kinross Council Archives: Dean of Guild Court plans, DGP/1895/52a–d.

12: Alternative tender of £1165 0s 0d entered above.

13: Alternative tender of £1250 0s 0d entered above.

14: Alternative tender of £1244 0s 0d entered above.

15: [something about plaster].

16: Includes payment to jobbing account.

17: 'including gasfittings'.

18: For painter work in church and hall.

Mackintosh Architecture: Context, Making and Meaning

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