

CHAPTER FOUR

THE KIRK SESSION

There are **Church Session records** for **Kintore** dating as far back as **1713**, but most of these would have been sent to a central archive in Edinburgh as custom dictated. We are, however, fortunate that one set of records remains in the care of the parish. This may not have been entirely secure or legal, but for some reason the then session must have decided not to send them to the capital. They date from the late 19th and early 20th centuries and provide an intriguing and detailed insight into the character and work of **Kintore's Kirk Session**.

In 1891 the Kirk Session was led by its Minister or "Moderator", the **Reverend John Craig Smith**. There were many fewer Elders than today, only 11 plus the **Session Clerk, Robert Duncan**. Their names are listed in order of ordination. **John Morrison** and **James Harvey** became Elders in 1868, **Alexander Shepherd** and **John Annand** in 1872, and **Charles Wilson, George Durno, James Brown, Joseph Will, William Anderson, Alexander Roger** and **Robert Hutchison** were ordained in 1883.

The session records were, of course, written in manuscript by the Session Clerk and fortunately all the Clerks at the time seem to have had copperplate, legible script (something which was not always the case!) We find not only a note of the business of the Session, but also a complete weekly list of the texts of all the **sermons** preached by Reverend Smith. At the beginning of this set of records it would appear that the Session met every two months or so, and before the building of the Church Vestry and original hall they generally met in the Manse.

In the late 19th century there was still a very strong emphasis on the Kirk Session's role in upholding morality within the parish. This function became extremely important at the time of the Reformation and continued to dominate session business throughout Scotland. The Kirk relied quite heavily on fines from sinners for its support of the poor in the parish; widows, orphans, the sick and the elderly. **Punishable sins** included drunkenness, **failure to observe the Sabbath** or attend church, and sexual immorality. As the century progressed, the Kirk's attitude became less harsh and more forgiving. So-called sinners were no longer placed in the jogs or publicly humiliated on the "**stool of repentance**" in front of the congregation. But they still had to appear before the Session, confess their sins and be absolved before they could attend **Holy Communion** again.

Kintore's Session seems to have had to deal mainly with sexual misdemeanours, particularly with couples who had indulged in sexual relations before marriage or with young women who had given birth to illegitimate children. With the first type of sin, absolution was easy. The couple confessed, got married and became respectable parishioners.

"Compeared – William Hay and his wife, residing at Townhead, Kintore, confessing they had been guilty of ante-nuptial fornication, and craving to be dealt with in regard to said sin, they were admonished by the Moderator and restored to church privileges."

Kintore Session Records. 6 August 1892.

For young women left to bear children out of wedlock, things were often more difficult. Kintore was a mainly agricultural parish, and many farm labourers changed farms or even parish at the term dates in spring and autumn. So it was quite easy for a young father to be to dodge away from his responsibilities by becoming hired or “fee’d” elsewhere.

A young hotel servant called Maggie Mearns was lucky in that her child’s father owned up to his fathering of her baby:-

“Compeared – Maggie Mearns, residing at Arms Hotel Kintore (sic) confessing she had brought forth a child in uncleanness about four months ago, and charging as the father thereof Alexander Fraser Womblehill Kintore and producing at the same time an extract of the Registration of the birth of said child bearing on the face of it the name of Alexander Fraser as the father thereof – the Kirk Session being satisfied with such evidence of his guilt agreed to take her on discipline – she was accordingly admonished and restored to Church privileges.”

Kintore Session Records. 6 August 1892.

Alexander Fraser was also disciplined – four months later.

“Compeared also Alexander Fraser Womblehill with reference to the accusation brought against him in August last by Maggie Mearns residing at Arms Hotel Kintore – professing penitence for his sin and craving to be taken on discipline thereanent with which request the Session agreed.”

Kintore Session Records. 3 December 1892.

Mary Law was not so fortunate as Maggie Mearns.

“Compeared – Mary Law recently residing at Womblehill Kintore confessing she had brought forth a child in uncleanness about four years ago and charging as the father thereof John Sim residing in Aberdeen. Having no evidence to furnish as to the truth of her accusation against him she was dismissed under censure and ordered to return on the first Saturday of April ensuing.”

Kintore Session Records. 4 February 1893.

Being an outcast from church and therefore the local community was very serious for Mary, but it is hard to understand why she waited till her child was four years old to make an accusation against his father, confess and ask forgiveness. There is no record of Mary Law’s return to the Session in April as requested or indeed at the next meeting in June, so it is likely she remained without church privileges for some time. Being a farm servant, she probably moved to another parish. Two other young women confessed their illegitimate motherhood at that April Session meeting. Both Jemima Morrison of East Leylodge and Sophia Cruickshank of North Leylodge were both able to produce evidence of the paternity of their offspring and were therefore absolved of their sin by the Session and Reverend Smith. It is interesting to observe that there was a fairly high rate of illegitimacy in Kintore at that time (on average one or two confessions at each Session meeting) and there is no reason to suppose it was any more immoral than most rural parishes. So despite so-called “Victorian values”, the late 19th century had its share of unwanted pregnancies.

The Kirk Session obviously dealt with many issues other than public morality but at the beginning of the available records such matters definitely dominated the Session Agendas. The emphasis gradually changed and as the elders entered the 20th century there were fewer references to the personal and private behaviour of their parishioners, and much more to financial, personnel and administrative matters. The records also become less parochial and we find more references to events both national and, later, international.

On a local level the records take us through several changes of office-bearer. On 3 May, 1896, Reverend Smith preached his final sermon (with texts from the Gospel of St. Mark and 1st Corinthians.) At the Session Meeting of 6 June, it was decided to set up a committee to decide **a tribute to the late Reverend John Craig Smith**, and so his last illness and death must have been relatively sudden. Reverend Black of Inverurie took over as Interim Moderator. An extract from the tribute is as follows.

“Mr Smith ably and with much acceptance ministered in the parish of Kintore for twenty three years. His pulpit ministrations were of a high order and gave evidence of wide reading, devout meditation and careful preparation. His pastoral visits won for him the esteem and affection of all classes – his frankness and humour having special charm and attraction for the young by whom he was greatly beloved. ----- His presence will long be missed by his attached parishioners who will cherish happy and endearing recollections of him.”

Kintore Session Records. 18 June 1896.

Members of the congregation voted for a committee to appoint a new minister and 19 members were elected to the committee, including two women, **Margaret and Jane Wishart**. This was surely quite progressive in days before women had the right to vote for parliament. This congregational committee appointed **Reverend Thomas Ogilvie Duncan MA** with a clear majority of votes. At his ordination;-

“the church was completely filled many of other denominations being present. During the service the Public School and the shops in the burgh were closed. The Reverend Marshall B. Lang BD, Minister of Meldrum preached and presided. ----- As the congregation retired they had the opportunity to welcome their new minister. The Presbytery and Friends afterward dined together in the Public Hall. In the evening a service was held in the church, the building was crowded. The new minister was presented with a pulpit robe and cassock and also new Pulpit Bible, Psalm and Hymn books. The Reverend Mr Black, Moderator of Session during the Vacancy was presented with a silver salver. The whole day’s proceedings were most harmonious and enthusiastic throughout.”

Kintore Session Records. 27 October 1896.

The ordination of a new minister was the most important event a rural parish like Kintore was likely to experience and it is obvious that they enjoyed the occasion and did all they could to show a warm welcome to the Reverend Duncan.

On April 26 1897 the parish **precentor, Robert Hutchison** tendered his resignation. He had led worship in the village for the past seventeen and a half years. The Church of Scotland traditionally had unaccompanied singing led by a precentor, but now Mr Hutchison was due to be replaced by an **organ**, introduced on 20 June 1897 to celebrate **Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee**. There followed the fairly lengthy process of appointing the parish's first organist. All members of the church were entitled to vote for this organist and choirmaster. Each candidate was "auditioned" by playing at a morning service over a period of four weeks in August.

"The counting of the votes was then proceeded with and the result was found to be as follows-

<i>Mr Grant. New Pitsligo</i>	<i>60</i>
<i>Mr Morton. Aberdeen</i>	<i>47</i>
<i>Mr Wilken. Aberdeen</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>Mr Hay. Aberdeen</i>	<i>3"</i>

Mr Grant was appointed to the office of Organist and Choirmaster in Kintore Parish Church "

Kintore Session Records. 6 September 1897.

The unfortunate Mr Hay auditioned the week after the successful Mr Grant. The contrast in their ability must have been too obvious!

The minutes of the December 4th Session meeting read as follows;-

*"The Kirk Session wish to place on record their deep sense of the loss they have sustained through the death of their aged and much respected Session clerk, **Mr Robert Duncan**. For work most faithfully done. For an upright Christian bearing the name of Mr Duncan will long be warmly cherished by others. They sincerely mourn his departure and extend their sympathy to those members of his family left behind."*
Kintore Session records. 4 December, 1897.

Mr Duncan was replaced as Session Clerk by **Mr Alexander Roger, Elder, Ashgrove**.

Church and Session life continued under new Minister, Session Clerk and Organist. Dates of Communion were fixed for the last Sundays in April and October, just as until quite recently. In February 1898, it was decided to survey the ground to the front and end of the Church with a view to building a vestry. **Mr Annand, the Treasurer**, announced that the church was supporting various Church of Scotland schemes including donations to the Mission for Converting Jews (£1.12.9) and the Aged and Infirm Ministers Fund (19.11) as well as donating £11.11.4 to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary. The kirk had an overdraft of £8.4.8 despite receiving £42.17.11 in ordinary collections during 1897.

On 23 April 1898 a new Elder, **Mr James Singer, Uppermill**, was welcomed to the Session of Kintore. He had previously been ordained an Elder in Newhills. He was soon to become Kintore's representative at the Presbytery. At the same service of worship that day, nine young communicants were admitted to membership of the church.

In the meantime Mr Grant of New Pitsligo did not survive long as organist and was replaced by **Mr McLean** of Aberdeen after another congregational vote, winning by 130 votes to the 73 gained by his only competitor, a Mr Lawson. He was threatening to resign in February the following year, but was persuaded to stay on. Why was the post of organist at Kintore so difficult? Was it a malfunctioning organ? Or perhaps an awkward choir? Mr McLean eventually left in May 1899 to take up a post in Dublin.

On 6 August 1898, it was decided to borrow the money necessary for the building of the new hall/vestry from the North of Scotland Bank Limited at Kintore and various tradesmen had their estimates accepted. Minister and Elders agreed to act as security for the loan. The building progressed at a very fast rate and by December the Session was appointing a committee to oversee the furnishing of the building. This committee consisted of the Minister, Session Clerk, Treasurer and one other Elder, **Mr Brown**.

On 3 June 1899, bags were introduced into the church for taking up the collection. This meant that only three elders were needed to officiate at each weekly service. Their names were to be placed on a card in the vestibule.

In October 1899, the vestry project was complete and the debt paid off.

“The Kirk Session desire to put on record their deep sense of gratification at the successful issue of their deliberations in connection with the providing of a Hall and Vestry for the Parish Church. Although the scheme was inaugurated by the members of the Kirk Session they are fully aware that but for the cordial support they received from members of the congregation and others little could have been done to accomplish the task on which they had set their minds. It was a source of much pleasure to them to see the unanimity and harmony with which all sections of the community worked together to clear off the debt incurred. -----Especially do they desire to express their warmest thanks to the ladies who organised the bazaar and carried it through with so conspicuous success. And now that the work is over and the building free of debt their earnest prayer is that it may for many years to come aid in the carrying on of the Lord's work among the people of the parish.”

Kintore Session Records. 7 October 1899.

They would be gratified to know that this Hall and Vestry still gave good service as the church entered a new millennium.

In 1900 the church lost two elders. **Mr Robert Hutchison**, the teacher at Leylodge School, left the parish in June and in October the Session paid tribute to **Charles Wilson of Braeside** who had died at the age of 59 years, leaving a widow and son. The Church Officer, **Mr William Watt** retired and was replaced by his son-in-law, **William Taylor**. His salary was to be £4.10/- per annum plus 1/- for every fire he had to light during the winter.

In 1901 we find references to the national stage on the death of Queen Victoria who had been monarch for almost 64 years.

“It was moved by Mr Will and seconded by Mr Annand that out of respect to the memory of the late Queen Victoria the Kirk Session adjourn until this day week.”
Kintore Session Records. 2 February 1901

“The Kirk session gratefully records its gratitude at her loyalty and devotion to the Church of Scotland by her adherence to the forms of Presbyterian worship while residing in Scotland. She showed an example of Christian charity and Christian devotion that the church will not soon forget.”

Kintore Session Records. 9 February 1901.

In March 1901, the parish lost yet another church organist on the resignation of Mr D.B. McHardy. Three candidates were auditioned as before and the successful applicant was **Mr Murray** who commenced his contract on 23 June 1901. Soon afterwards a **Mr MacBeth** was paid 35 shillings to tune the organ! It was also to be provided with a waterproof cover. But this did not stop Mr Murray from resigning as organist in October 1902. Perhaps understandably the Session decided to defer making a new appointment!

The regular business of the Session continued. New communicants were admitted yearly and others transferred into the parish on a fairly regular basis. Each year the parish elected elders to attend the Presbytery and the parish was represented at the General Assembly. The Accounts did not vary much from year to year, although the parish was urged to increase its regular donations to official Church of Scotland causes. The **Woman’s Guild** paid off the debt incurred by the purchase of new lamps for the church from Shirras Laing. There was still a small overdraft. There were still cases of fornication, lapsed membership and illegitimacy to be heard but not so many of them, the exception being October 1904 when no less than seven cases of sexual immorality were heard and absolved.

In February 1903, the Session members attended the funeral of the **Free Kirk Minister John Galloway** and sent their sympathy to his widow. Mr Galloway had been Free Kirk minister for 36 years. There seems to have been close fellowship and good relations between the two churches at this time. In fact in 1905 the parish church offered shelter to the members of the Free Church while their building was being repaired.

In June 1904 Kintore appointed its first lady organist, **Miss Middleton of Balbithan**. Would she be more faithful to the cause than all her male predecessors?

In October 1904, the church was offered a very special and rare gift. **Miss Mary Rait**, late of the Brae, Kintore, wrote to the Session and offered them the exciting donation of an original **1561 Reformation Bible** which they accepted with alacrity.

In September 1905 **seven new elders** were proposed for ordination after a congregational election, namely William Brown, Gauch-hills, John Cormack, Darra Cottage, James Morrison, Braeside, Robert Mennie, North Leylodge, Alex Greig,

Little Boghead, Lewis Barrack, Cairn-hall and William Davidson, Rosemount Cottage. Subsequently, Alex Greig and Robert Mennie declined the office and so only five were actually ordained.

At the Session Meeting of 29 January 1910 Mr Ogilvie Duncan announced that he would be leaving Kintore to take up a charge at Whitburn

“and cordially thanked the Members of the Session for their uniform kindness and forbearance towards him and expressed his heartfelt regret at parting from them. Mr Anderson said they all regretted the departure of their Moderator who had presided over their deliberations for 13 years.”

Kintore Session Records. 29 January 1910.

A committee of 25 including several elders and eight women was appointed to fill the vacancy. Reverend Downie of Kemnay took over as Interim Moderator. The **Reverend John Maclagan**, Assistant Minister at St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh was elected as new Minister with a majority of 70 congregational votes.

“Mr Anderson in the name of the Session extended a very warm welcome to the new Moderator and Mr Maclagan thanked them and through them the congregation for the unfailing kindness shown him since his appointment and expressed the hope that he might long continue to have their sympathy and support.”

Kintore Session Records. 8 October 1910.

Early in 1911 the session recorded the sudden death of another elder, **Lewis Barrack** and paid tribute to him. This was followed in April by the death of **Alexander Roger**, long serving Elder and Session Clerk.

“He was a man of strong personality who nevertheless had endeared himself to all by his warm and kindly nature.”

Kintore Session Records. 29 April 1911.

On a lighter note, the Session was able to congratulate Reverend Maclagan on his marriage. In July 1911 **Mr John McPetrie**, 17 Smithfield, was appointed the new Clerk to the Session. Already ordained an elder elsewhere, Mr McPetrie became a Kintore Elder and full member of the Session in September 1912.

It was also during 1911 that the Session started to discuss the necessity of improving and repairing the church but it was not until August 1913 that the first fundraising event for this, a bazaar, was to be held.

In October 1913 the Kirk had an interesting donation to its fund for the relief of the poor.

“Dear Sir,

I beg to enclose a postal order for 12/- being a fine of 4/- each imposed on three accused of a contravention of the “Game (Scotland) Act 1832” in the parish of Kintore, which falls in terms of the said act, to be applied towards the poor of said parish.

Yours truly

James G. Murray

Per Sheriff Clerk."

Kintore Session Records. 25 October 1913

At the same meeting the Session agreed to install **electric lighting** in the church. (Kintore village was lucky enough to have had electricity installed before most of its North –East neighbours, including Inverurie.)

Parish life and the work of the Session continued peacefully for another year or so. In April 1914, 14 young communicants were admitted and **Mr William Davidson** was appointed Kintore's representative elder at Presbytery and Synod. But in October 1914 we find the first reference to the war which had broken out in August.

"Mr Maclagan said he wished to ask the Session if they would be agreeable to a house to house collection amongst the members of the Congregation on behalf of the War Fund. The Session unanimously agreed."

Kintore Session Records. 24 October 1914.

The sum of £27.16.11. was collected which the Minister thought "most satisfactory". At the Session meeting of 6 February it was agreed to bring Communion forward a month to allow the **Church Improvement** scheme to start.

In March a special meeting of the Session was called.

"Mr Maclagan said he had called the meeting for the purpose of asking the Kirk Session for leave of absence for one year or for the duration of the war. He had been appointed Second Lieutenant in the 157 (City of Aberdeen) Brigade of the Royal Field Artillery. He had been thinking of joining His Majesty's Forces for a long time. During the early part of the war he had applied for a chaplaincy, but that had not come his way, and in the circumstances he thought it was only his duty to enlist as a combatant, and he trusted the session would see their way to let him go."

Kintore Session Records. 15 March 1915.

The Session "with mixed feelings" unanimously granted his request, expressing "their approbation at his gallant conduct" and wishing him "God speed and a speedy return." Mr Maclagan did eventually return safely, but sadly the war lasted much longer than the year he initially expected and requested. Millions of young men from Britain, Europe, the British Empire, and the rest of the world perished or were grievously injured in the bloodiest human conflict which had ever taken place. The war did not end until 11 November 1918 and affected the lives of many Kintore families, the names of whose sons are commemorated at the Church gate.

Reverend Downie of Kemnay was appointed to act as Interim Moderator during Mr Maclagan's absence and the pulpit was to be filled by various guest preachers.

That spring the Church also lost another Elder on the death of **Mr James Morrison of Castle Farm** who had served as an elder for 47 years with "great zeal and fidelity". It also lost another organist with the resignation of **Miss Middleton** who had served for 11 years, thus beating all previous records by a long way! It was decided not to appoint another organist in the meantime because of the church improvement

programme, and to ask **Miss Mitchell**, the Free Kirk organist, to fill the breach temporarily.

During the time when the church would be out of action, the session had originally requested and received permission for services to be held in the Public Hall. But a more suitable offer came in the shape of an offer from the Minister of the Free Church, **Reverend McPherson**, saying that his church could be used at two in the afternoon. The Session was glad to accept this offer. But Mr Annand, the local banker and Church treasurer had to report a steady fall in church offerings, probably due to both the war and the disruption caused by the building work. The overdraft was increasing and money might have to be taken from the improvement fund to cover this. In October the Session was sorry to receive news of the death of **Miss Smith** who had faithfully served both the **Sabbath School** and the **Guild** for many years.

The Church was re-opened after improvement on 14 November 1915 and in January 1916 a new organist was appointed after the usual series of "auditions". The successful applicant was a **Mr Moir** of Erskine Street, Aberdeen who obtained 73 votes from the congregation.

On 27 March, 1916 the Session extended Mr Maclagan's leave of absence and agreed that **Reverend Barr of Kinellar** would undertake the work of Kintore parish as well as his own on Sundays. Meanwhile **Reverend Black of Inverurie** had taken over as Interim Moderator of the Session, and the Ladies of the Guild had sent the old Communion linen to the Military hospital. Later that year the Session paid tribute after the death of long-standing elder, **Mr James Brown of Ivy Bank**.

By September 1916 the session was desperately trying to get a resident acting minister but were told by Professor Paterson in Edinburgh that it would be impossible to appoint anyone for anything other than a short period. The parish was certainly missing its minister and Mr Barr and Mr Black had to continue their double duties. Kintore's bad luck with organists continued, and Mr Moir was called up for military duties under the Conscription Act. Miss Gauld of Inverurie who had come second in the auditions was asked to take his place and receive the £20 annual salary until Mr Moir's return.

In January 1917, Mr. McPetrie resigned as Session Clerk because he was moving to Fordoun. Mr William Brown of Ivy Bank took his place until the appointment of James Coutts as new permanent Clerk to the Session in 1918.

On 9 December 1918 the Session passed the following minute:-

"The Kirk session desire to place on Record an Expression of the people's gratitude to Almighty God for the blessings of victory and peace, which he has given to the cause of freedom, humanity, truth, justice and righteousness.-----It is with pride and thankfulness that we record that our minister the Reverend John Maclagan, early in the war volunteered his services as a combatant, and took his place along with his parishioners, exposing himself to the same risks and dangers. We are grateful that he has been brought safely through it all. "

Kintore Session Records, 19 December 1918

Reverend Maclagan returned to his flock soon afterwards, and Mr Moir, the Organist, was demobilised in March 1919. That same month, **Mr Annand** was forced by ill-health to resign as Treasurer after 47 years service. Minister and Session presented him with a reading lamp.

In May, 1919, a **Memorial service** was held for all local men who had given their lives in the war. It was attended by the Parish and Town Councils, the local detachment of the Territorial Force, the Voluntary Aid Detachment Nurses, the National Independent Order of Oddfellows and the Royal Ancient Kintore Lodge of Freemasons.

At the end of 1919, **Reverend Maclagan** announced that he was moving to a charge in Glasgow, and so once again the parish was to suffer some upheaval. He was succeeded in March the following year by **Mr John Fraser**. It was his first charge and he took up office in June 1920.

By this time the Session meeting minutes had gradually become much shorter. They no longer contained references to discipline, and tended to relate mainly to matters in connection with communion, election and deployment of elders, changes to the Communion Roll and the annual accounts.

In May 1921 a representative of the session was invited to Reverend Fraser's wedding and Mr Anderson was chosen. In September a system of collection by envelope was introduced but the new organist, **Mr Coutts**, was being taken to task for **the poor quality of the Service of Praise in the church**. He attempted to blame **the choir** for this and so was called to a special meeting of the Session. Mr Coutts then resigned! There was only one applicant for the post and so **Mr Norman Pirie** of Kintore was appointed organist in October, 1921.

Throughout the 1920s there are references to **co-operation and joint services** being held between the **Parish Church and the United Free Church**, for example an alternating of morning and evening services, or joint worship when either minister was on holiday. In June 1928 Reverend Fraser decided to move to a charge in Dunfermline and before a successor was appointed it was decided to give the congregation the chance to vote on the very serious issue of amalgamating with the United Free Church. **Reverend Keltie of Kennay** was appointed Interim Moderator.

“The Moderator submitted the Articles of Union with the United Free Congregation as drawn up by the Committee from both Presbyteries. The Session unanimously approves of the Articles, which, being afterwards submitted, is also approved by the Congregation.”

Kintore Session Records, 1 October, 1928.

In November the **Amalgamation was approved by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland** and usual procedures were to be conducted for the election of a Minister to both congregations. On 26 February, 1929, Reverend Alexander Clark, the sole nominee, was appointed Minister of the newly united church by 272 votes for to seven against. For reasons not made clear or even mentioned in the records, Reverend Alexander does not seem to have taken up the position he was to be offered and eventually in July 1929-

“Reverend Frank Robertson was inducted into the charge of the United Congregation of this parish.”

Kintore Session Records, 2 August 1929.

At the same meeting it was recorded that Miss Annand of Bank House had donated two oak chairs to the Church in memory of her late father who had served for so long as Kirk Treasurer.

By this time the Sessions of the two churches had been meeting together for some months, but the official union of the two congregations, East and West, took place as of **3 December 1929**. Reverend McPherson of the West Congregation (the old Free Church) became “Senior Minister” of the Joint Congregation and his church became Kintore Church Hall. (This seems to have meant the virtual retirement of Mr McPherson) Newly appointed Reverend Robertson of the East or Parish Church became “Junior Minister” of the United Congregation. Finances of the new Church were to be in the hands of a **Congregational Board** composed of the Ministers, Kirk Session (which included the West Church Deacons) and nine other elected congregation members. The East Manse (now Goose Croft House) was to become the Parish Manse and was currently being upgraded. The United Congregation would keep the revenue from the West Manse and the West Church Communion table was being gifted to Monymusk. The Senior Minister was to receive a stipend of £45 per annum in lieu of occupancy of the West Manse. The Junior Minister, who would appear to have been the one actually performing the work of the parish, was to receive **a stipend of at least £400 per annum**, plus the use of manse (free of rates and taxes) and the glebe. The congregation would be free to change the articles of union at any time as long as it had the approval of the Presbytery.

And so another chapter in the life of the Parish Church ended, and with it the records to which we have ready access.

