

CHAPTER NINE

THE KIRK SINCE THE SECOND WORLD WAR

Since the Second World War Kintore has had a number of ministers. We have already heard a great deal about **Reverend John McFadden** who was minister at an interesting time for Kintore. He was present when the **Lord Lyon** granted the Burgh its Coat of Arms, when the extension to the school was opened and when the stained glass windows were installed in the church. He was also the last minister to reside in the old manse. His successor **Reverend John Price**, who came to Kintore in 1965, lived in what was then known as **Gordondale** (previously Maryfield) but which is familiar to us as the Manse. Mr Price deeply regretted not living in the large, superior **Goose Croft House**, that was now owned by Professor Peter and former Councillor Mrs Priscilla Ramsey. Although the new manse was roomy by modern standards, it was seen as too small by Mr Price, but was considered a more economic and practical size by those who had to pay for its upkeep. They were extremely grateful to the Gordon family for gifting it to the church.

In 1968 Reverend Price and the Session had to deal with a real crisis and he made a dramatic appeal to his flock.

“EMERGENCY CALL

If we want a church in the middle of the parish then this concerns us. If the present building is left as it is for a year or more then we are likely to be meeting in the kirk yard beside the roofless remains of Kintore parish church. Recent inspection shows that the slates have completely perished.----- The sneck harling has rotted and can be picked off the walls easily, but don't tell the children that! The interior of the church-----is dingy and stained and the paintwork is flaking off the ceiling. Not a bright picture and one that must be immediately remedied.”

Kintore Parish Church Magazine. April 1968.

Fortunately the late treasurer, **Mr R.J. Davidson**, had built up the Fabric Fund to a total of £2000. The work was likely to cost £3000 and so Reverend Price suggested that everyone in the congregation give up one day's income to pay for the shortfall. This was to be done in one or two instalments in special envelopes distributed with the magazine. Presumably the congregation responded well to the appeal because

“It was resolved to vacate the Church as from 14 September, 1969 to enable structural alterations to be carried out and this vacation should last till the end of October.

The Kirk Session and members of the Congregational Board would meet after worship next Sunday to discuss with the architect his final plans for the Church alterations.”

Kintore Session Records, 24 August 1969.

The architect's plans must have been met with approval because at the next Session meeting the following decisions were made.

“As a result of the alterations it was considered to be desirable that a party of women under the guidance of the Board would be found to dust and clean the Church as it would be too big a job for the Beadle.

The Church would be re-dedicated on Wednesday, 29th October at an evening service when an invitation would be extended to the Presbytery of the Garioch to attend and assist.”

Kintore Session Records, 5 October 1969.

Unfortunately the Church was not ready on time and the service of re-dedication was not held until Sunday, 9 November 1969. **Reverend Alan Main**, Moderator of the Presbytery of Garioch (who was later to become Moderator of the General Assembly) was to be invited to take part. At the December Session meeting, Mr Dinnie, the treasurer, asked **Mr Duncan, the Fabric Convener**, to give him all outstanding bills for the renovations so that he could prepare the annual financial statement to put before Board and Session.

Sadly Reverend Price did not have many years in which to enjoy his newly refurbished church. He passed away in September 1972, having attended his last Session meeting on 25 June of that year. He was only fifty-one. An appeal for a memorial to him was launched in October 1972 and the following tribute was placed in the Session Records.

“ One of his principal achievements at Kintore was the initiation and completion of a £3000 facelift scheme for the church carried out in 1969. This stands as a monument to his practical skill and knowledge, his drive and his enthusiasm which stimulated his people to the completion of this vital task.

He was greatly loved by all the people of Kintore and as a humble and devoted servant of Christ he gave himself unstintingly in the service of his Master.”

Kintore Session Records, 22 October 1972.

Mr Price bequeathed his embroidered stole to the Kirk Session to be worn by his successors. His memorial was to be a new Pulpit Bible and a fund to supply bibles to all new communicants. The Bible has been replaced for regular worship by the new version of the scriptures, but it still stands open on the lectern by the south wall.

As a whole the parish has often been complemented for its generosity. In 1975, when **Reverend Eric Hudson** was minister, the **Christian Giving Campaign** was particularly successful.

“This fine effort has been the means of raising the Christian liberality of the congregation from around £3,500 to £10,000 per annum.”

Cuthbert Graham, “Press and Journal” 14th February 1976.

Part of the increased money, largely raised by deeds of covenant, was earmarked for the repair of the organ, which took place in 1979. Treasurer at the time of both appeals was **Mr John Dinnie** of Lismore who still served faithfully as Treasurer in 2000. Session Clerk in 1968 had been the headmaster of the school, **Mr James Glennie**, while another schoolmaster, **Mr William Airlie**, soon to be Provost, was the church Roll Keeper. When Mr Glennie left the district in 1970, he was succeeded

as Clerk by **Mr John C Rennie** of Wester Fintray who served until January 1975 when he was replaced in turn by **Mr Robin Dyer**.

The same "Press and Journal" article as above also mentioned that the Burgh Council, "*swept away by local government reorganisation*", had gifted its **Coat of Arms** to the church and that the shield had been installed under the chancel window. It is still there today. Also rescued from the Town House after the demise of the Town Council was the **old church bell**. It now hangs from the south wall behind the pulpit.

Also during Mr Hudson's time at the Church, the Woman's Guild donated the **Pulpit Falls** we still use today. The Session first heard about plans for these in March 1974. They were designed and made at Glasgow College of Art and later exhibited in Hereford Cathedral in the summer of 1976. They were later supplemented by a new **Millenium Fall**, donated anonymously, and dedicated in January, 2000. There was also a donation of Millenium markers for the Lectern Bibles in January 2000. These were gifted by the family of Mr Ian Black, a former elder, in his memory.

In March 1977, it was proposed that women be invited to become elders for the first time in Kintore. However none of the four ladies proposed seems to have taken up the offer and the records do not indicate why. Four new male elders, Messrs Ross, Sim, Strachan and Wight were ordained without female company on 30 November 1977. Also in 1977, Mr Robin Dyer left the area and was replaced as Session Clerk by **Mr Alex McCubbin**.

Reverend Hudson was replaced in September 1978 by **Reverend Gerald Macallan** who has the honour of having a new street in Kintore named after him. In November at that year it was noted in the Session Records that

"there was no barrier in Kintore Church to women playing a full part as Board members and Elders. These and other views would be conveyed back to Gordon Presbytery"

Kintore Session Records, 30 November 1978.

However it was not until Sunday 8 June 1980 that **Kintore's first two women elders, Mrs R Cowie and Mrs U Price** were inducted and offered the right hand of fellowship, along with four male colleagues.

By this time, Session Records were mainly concerned with issues of membership, duties of elders and the visiting of the growing number of organisations, including the recently set up Boys' Brigade. However we also find mention of the sale of most of the remaining Glebe in 1979, and the growth of population in the village following construction of the new housing estates. **Mr Fred Cowie** who had beaten all existing records for his service as Church Organist, announced his forthcoming resignation in October 1980 and was replaced by **Mrs Mary Burnett** who still shares the duty today, although she only agreed to fill the post for a year in the first instance! In 1980 the church also set up a **Hunger Market** after **Harvest Thanksgiving**, and it raised £143 for famine relief.

In March 1981 a memorial service was held in the Church for former minister the **Reverend Professor John McFadden** who had recently died. His ashes were then interred privately in the burial ground and refreshments were served afterwards for his family and the congregation. Around the same time **Mr Bert Anderson** resigned as Roll Keeper and was replaced by **Mr Jim Robb**.

Christian Aid was going from strength to strength at this time, and 1981 saw a vastly enlarged programme including a thrift shop, a sponsored organ recital, a Superstar competition at the pleasure park and a house to house collection. Mr Lessel Rennie intimated that collections would go for the benefit of tea planters in Sri Lanka. Money raised showed a 50% improvement on the previous year's collections.

In 1982 the Church welcomed as student attachment its first woman in that role. Mrs Jean Stewart “ *is a mature student and has a wide and varied experience of Church affairs.* ”
Kintore SessionRecords, 17 October 1982.

The pattern of the seasons and the church year continued throughout the 1980s, with special arrangements for Communion, Holy Week, Harvest Thanksgiving and a wider range of Christmas services; but the Session was aware that it could not become complacent about membership.

“Professor Horne reported on the findings of the Campaign Committee. There was a need for a revision of the Roll and the provision of new elders’ books. -----Non-communicants of which there are a considerable number should be placed on a Supplementary Roll if they did not respond to an invitation to participate more freely in Church affairs. There is a need for a parish visitation and this should be high on the list of future activities. The need was also identified for a refresher course for elders.”
Kintore Session records, 15 February 1983.

In the summer of that year Reverend Macallan introduced children's services before the main service and reported that these had been well attended during the months of July and August.

In August 1984 the Session approved the borrowing of £15,000 from the General Trustees of the Central Fabric Fund for the building of **new Church Halls**. These were completed the following year under the supervision of **Mr Edward Strachan**, the Fabric Convener.

On 27 August 1991, Mr Macallan announced that he wished to retire on his 65th birthday, which would fall on the 10 March 1992. He was minister of Kintore for over 13 years and was replaced by **Reverend Alan Greig**, who had previously been working in Zambia. The electoral roll for the vacancy consisted of 867 people, and the Interim Moderator was Reverend Caie of Kinellar Parish. Reverend Alan Greig was inducted on 16th July 1992. The following is an extract from the minute of Gordon Presbytery.

“Presbytery met in hunc effectum at Kintore on 16 July, 1992 and was constituted with prayer by the Moderator, pro term, the Reverend Roderick Macdonald. -----
Presbytery proceeded to the Church where the Reverend Euan Glen conducted worship, the Clerk read the narrative and preamble, and the Moderator did, by prayer, induct the Reverend Alan Greig to the pastoral charge of Kintore.”