

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE CHURCH IN FORGAN PARISH,

TO COMMEMORATE THE 850TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
FOUNDING OF A CHURCH IN FORGAN.

WRITTEN BY THE MINISTER, THE REV. A. P. BOGIE, M.A.

I AM INDEBTED TO MESSRS., D.C. THOMSON,
PRINTERS, DUNDEE FOR ALLOWING ME TO QUOTE FROM J.S.
NEISH'S BOOK HISTORY OF NEWPORT AND THE PARISH OF
FORGAN, ALSO TO PROFESSOR GORDON DONALDSON D.LITT.
PROFESSOR OF SCOTTISH HISTORY IN EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY
FOR TWO QUOTES FROM HIS BOOK "THIRDS OF BENEFICES,"
AND ALSO TO IAN B. COWAN PH.D., TREASURER OF THE
SCOTTISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY, FOR QUOTATIONS USED FROM
HIS BOOK, AND MISS ANNIE DUNLOP'S O.B.E., LL.D., D.LIT
CALLED "CALENDAR OF SCOTTISH SUPPLICATIONS TO ROME
1428-1432."

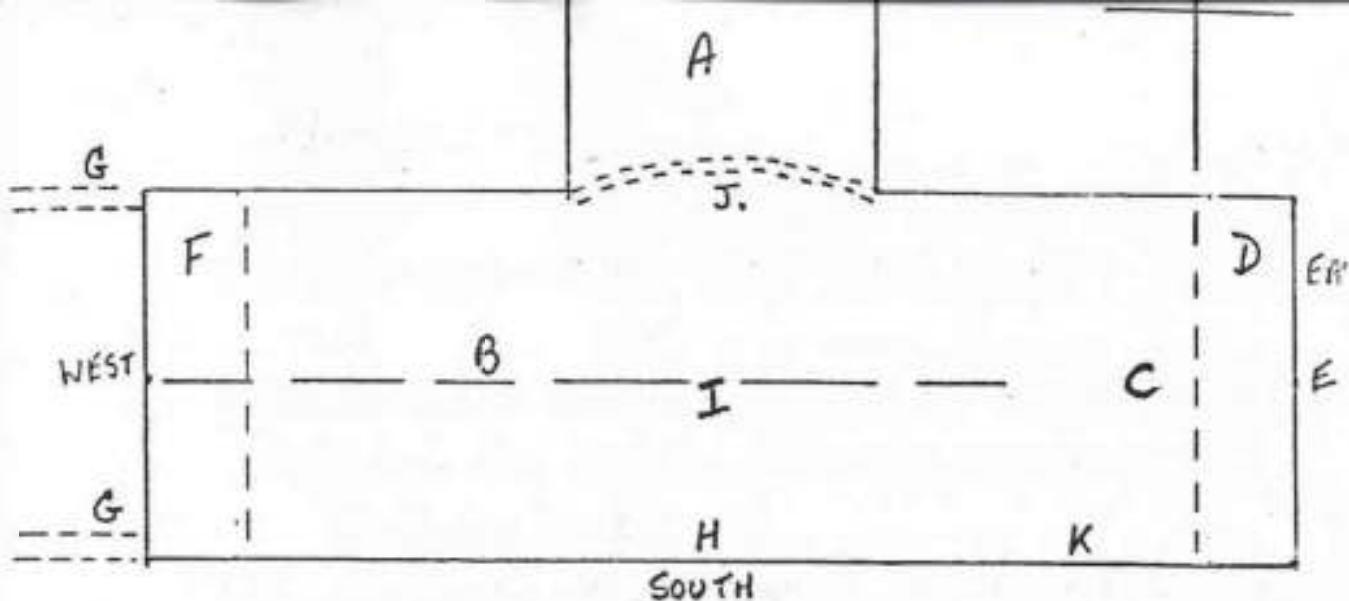
I AM INDEBTED TO FORGAN KIRK SESSION WHO
SUGGESTED I SHOULD WRITE THIS ACCOUNT. I HOPE THIS
EFFORT WILL ENLIGHTEN AND PLEASE YOU. MUCH, MUCH
MORE CAN BE WRITTEN ABOUT THE OLD PARISH BUT AS THIS
IS A SHORT HISTORY, I RESTRICTED IT TO THE CHURCH
IN FORGAN PARISH. THE MONEY RECEIVED FROM THE SA
OF EACH COPY WILL GO TO HELP OUR PRESENT REPAIRS
TO CHURCH AND MANSE.

A. P. BOGIE.

A HISTORY OF THE CHURCH IN FORGAN 1124-1974

DATES TO NOTE.

- 1124 FOUNDING OF ST FILLAN'S CHURCH AT KIRKTON, FORGAN
- 1150 KING DAVID I GRANTED THIS CHURCH WITH ITS TITHES TO THE PRIORY OF ST ANDREWS. THIS CHARTER WAS LATER CONFIRMED BY KING MALCOLM IV (1153-1165).
- 1400-1500 APPLICATIONS BY VICARS TO THE POPE FOR THE VICARAGE OF FORGAN.
- 1560 THE REFORMATION IN SCOTLAND - THE CHANGE FROM ROMAN CATHOLIC WORSHIP TO THE PRESBYTERIAN FORM OF WORSHIP AND CHURCH GOVERNMENT.
- 1560-1600 THE CHURCH FOUNDED IN 1124 WAS BUILT UP AND REPAIRED.
- 1650 SEATING IN CHURCHES FOR ALL MEMBERS WAS BEING INTRODUCED.
- 1652 TWO COMMUNION CUPS OF PURE SILVER, MINTED IN THE DUNDEE MINT WERE GIFTED BY THE MINISTER ALEXANDER WEDDERBURN TO FORGAN CHURCH AND ARE STILL USED.
- 1770 EXTENSIVE REPAIRS WERE CARRIED OUT, AND BUILDING OF THE NORTHERN AISLE, OR LAIRD'S GALLERY, IN CHURCH AT KIRKTON, FORGAN.
- 1800 FORGAN CHURCH, KIRKTON, RE-SEATED.
- 1803 NEW MANSE BUILT ON PRESENT SITE. PRESENT MANSE NOW 170 YEARS OLD (1973).
- 1841 FORGAN CHURCH, KIRKTON WAS DISUSED, AND NEW PRESENT CHURCH WAS BUILT ON PRESENT SITE.
- 1843 THE DISRUPTION. THE REV. CHARLES HAIRN, MINISTER AT FORGAN, LEFT FORGAN CHURCH, AND FOUNDED FREE CHURCH OF ST FILLAN'S, NEWPORT-ON-TAY (1843). PRESENT ST FILLAN'S CHURCH BUILT IN 1868.
- 1924 800TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF A CHURCH IN FORGAN PARISH.
- 1929 RE-UNION OF THE CHURCHES - PARISH AND FREE CHURCHES.
- 1969-70 CENTRAL AND NORTH FIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY PRESERVED THE OLD CHURCH OF ST. FILLAN'S, KIRKTON, FORGAN.
- 1973 REPAIRS TO PRESENT FORGAN CHURCH - REMOVAL OF HARLING.
- 1974 CELEBRATION OF 800TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE OLD CHURCH AT KIRKTON, FORGAN
TH AUGUST 1973, OLD CHURCH LISTED AS OF SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST
SEE ANNUAL LTD.



A. LAIRD'S GALLERY OR NORTH AISLE.

B. THE NAVE

C. THE CHANCEL

D. BOATMEN'S LOFT OR GALLERY

E. EAST WINDOW

F. FARMER'S LOFT OR GALLERY

G. G. OLD FOUNDATIONS DUG UP IN 1972

H. PULPIT

I. COMMUNION TABLE

J. WELL PRESERVED ARCH.

K. SLAB TO MRS CATHERINE TRAIL 1578

LENGTH OF CHURCH 67' 4"

BREADTH OF CHURCH 19' 5"

LENGTH OF NORTH AISLE 17' 5"

BREADTH OF NORTH AISLE 16' 2"

4

NOTICE :—

- (1) NO WINDOWS IN NORTH WALL OF NAVE AND CHANCEL.
- (2) DOOR AND WINDOW IN NORTH AISLE, FIREPLACES (BELOW AND ABOVE), AN RUMBY, PEEP-HOLE, ARCH IN NORTH AISLE.
- (3) IN SOUTH WALL, 2 DOORS, ONE NEAR WEST (BLOCKED), AND ONE DOOR AT EAST END, AND THREE WINDOWS.
- (4) TWO WINDOWS IN WEST GABLE, ONE BELOW, ONE ABOVE.
- (5) ONE WINDOW IN EAST GABLE WITH SMALL WINDOW ABOVE TO BOATMEN'S LOFT.
- (6) EVIDENCE OF AN OUTER STAIRWAY TO DOOR TO LAIRD'S GALLERY.
- (7) DOOR AND WINDOW IN NORTH WEST WALL OF NORTH AISLE.
- (8) THE SLAB IN THE CHANCEL (C) IS IN MEMORY OF MRS CATHERINE TRAIL, WIFE OF WILLIAM RAMSAY, LAIRD OF SCOTSCRAIG. IT BEARS THE DATE 1578.

THE HISTORY OF THE CHURCH IN FORGAN PARISH.

FORGENUDE, FORGROMDE, FORGROND, FORSUND, ARE SOME SPELLINGS USED IN THE PAST FOR FORGAN; THE PARISH WAS ALSO CALLED ST. FILLANS, AND ONCE ADHENACHTEN. WHEN KING DAVID I. CAME TO THE THRONE IN 1124 HIS POLICY WAS TO FOUND CHURCHES AND GRANT THEM LAND AND LATER GIVE THESE CHURCHES (PARISH) AND THE TITHES OF THEIR REVENUES, BY CHARTER, TO SOME LOCAL OR DISTANT, ABBEY, PRIORY, OR CATHEDRAL. AND IT IS ONLY IN HIS CHARTER THAT WE FIRST HEAR OF MANY A PARISH CHURCH. IN 1124, KING DAVID I. HAD A CHURCH BUILT AT KIRKTON, FORGAN, DEDICATED TO ST. FILLAN, AND GRANTED THE CHURCH, LAND. FOR THERE IS EVIDENCE THAT ABOUT 1150, DAVID I. GRANTED ST. FILLAN'S CHURCH, KIRKTON, FORGAN WITH A FULL MENSAL TOFT (A GRAZING HILLOCK FOR ANIMALS) TO THE PRIORY OF ST ANDREWS. THIS GIFT WAS LATER CONFIRMED TO THE PRIORY BY A CHARTER OF MALCOLM IV'S, WHO ADDED HALF A CARACUTE OF LAND, CALLED CHINGOTHE. NEAR THE END OF THE 12TH CENTURY, ALAN DE LASCELLS, SON OF ALAN AND JULIAN, GRANTED TO THE PRIORY, THE MOTHER CHURCH OF HIS LAND, ADHENACHTEN, AND A CARACUTE OF LAND. THIS WAS MERELY CONFIRMING THE CHARTERS OF THE TWO KINGS PLUS HIS OWN GIFT OF LAND TO THE PRIORY. ADHENACHTEN IS NOW NAUGHTON. THE PATRON SAINT WAS ST. FILLAN, BUT ST. ANDREW WAS SUBSTITUTED BEFORE 1154-9. THE RUINS OF THE OLD 1124 CHURCH ARE SITUATED IN THE CHURCHYARD AT KIRKTON. BESIDES THE CHAPEL OF ADHENACHTEN THERE WAS A CHAPEL OF ST. THOMAS AT "SEA MYNES OF INVERDOVAT." NINEWELLS, IN THE EAST PART OF THE PARISH MAY INDICATE THAT THERE WAS A CHAPEL DEDICATED TO THE NINE MAIDENS. [REGISTER: PRIORY OF ST. ANDREWS. REGISTER; GREAT SEAL.]

AN ABBEY, PRIORY, OR CATHEDRAL HAD ANYTHING FROM 16 TO 36 SUCH PARISH CHURCHES GRANTED TO IT, AND, ONLY TOO OFTEN, THE ABBEY, PRIORY, OR CATHEDRAL TOOK FOR ITS OWN USE A DISPROPORTIONATE SHARE OF THE REVENUES GIVEN BY THE PARISH CHURCHES, AND LEFT VERY LITTLE MONEY TO PAY THE VICARS, OR CANONS WHICH IT WAS OBLIGED TO ASSIGN TO WORK THE PARISH CHURCHES, AND LEFT VERY LITTLE MONEY FOR THE UPHOLDING OF THOSE COUNTRY PARISH CHURCHES.

THE VICAR, OR CANON, WOULD CELEBRATE MASS EACH DAY IN ST. FILLAN'S CHURCH, KIRKTON, FORGAN, AND HE WOULD ADMINISTER THE SACRAMENTS. THIS LACK OF FUNDS TO REPAIR PARISH CHURCHES FOUND MANY SUCH CHURCHES IN NEAR RUIN JUST BEFORE THE REFORMATION (1560), AND OFTEN THE REFORMERS WERE BLAMED FOR DESTROYING CHURCHES WHICH NEGLECT, AND LACK OF FUNDS, HAD ALL BUT DESTROYED.

THE PLACE NAMES IN FORGAN PARISH ARE ARRESTING AND TESTIFY TO THE WORK OF THE MEDIAEVAL, ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH - NAMES SUCH AS FRIARTON, KIRKTON BARNES, PRIOR INCH, VICARSFORD - BUT NOT ST. FORT, WHICH IS A CORRUPTION OF SANFORD, OR SANDFORD. THE PARISH EXTENDED FROM SCOTSCRAIG TO NAUGHTON.

THE OLD CHURCH AT KIRKTON PRESENTS MANY PROBLEMS REGARDING ITS ARCHITECTURE. THE RUINS WE DUG UP IN 1972 ADJOINING THE WEST GABLE OF THE CHURCH, WERE THESE THE RUINS OF NAUGHTON CHAPEL? FOR WE ARE TOLD THAT NAUGHTON CHAPEL ADJOINED ST. FILLAN'S CHURCH, KIRKTON, FORGAN. AND IF NOT, WERE THEY THE BASE OF A TOWER? OR A VESTRY? THESE ARE VERY TEASING QUESTIONS! OR WAS THE 1124, OBLONG, PLAIN, CHURCH LONGER ORIGINALLY THAN THE PRESENT RUIN BY SOME 15 FEET WEST OF THE PRESENT WEST GABLE? OR WAS THE ORIGINAL CHURCH SHORTENED BY 15 FEET AT THE REFORMATION? THERE HAS BEEN SO MUCH ALTERATION DONE TO THE ORIGINAL 1124 CHURCH! WHY, FOR EXAMPLE, DOES THERE SEEM TO HAVE BEEN, IN THE ORIGINAL CHURCH, A SOUTH WALL ONE FOOT IN FROM THE PRESENT SOUTH WALL? BUT ALL THESE PROBLEMS JUST MAKE THE OLD CHURCH AT KIRKTON ALL THE MORE INTERESTING AND LIKEABLE!

BETWEEN THE YEARS 1200-1500, FORGAN CHURCH (KIRKTON) WAS MUCH SOUGHT AFTER BY VICARS WHO PETITIONED THE POPE FOR THE VICARAGE. FOR EXAMPLE:- 6TH AUGUST 1429, LAURENCE PYOT, PRIEST, ST. ANDREW'S DIOCESE, B.A. - THAT POPE WOULD PROVIDE HIM TO PERPETUAL VICARAGE OF PARISH CHURCH OF

FORGENUDE, SAID DIOCESE (10 STERLING), VOID BY DEATH OUTWITH ROMAN COURT OF JOHN HUNTER, LAST POSSESSOR, OR VOID IN WHATEVER WAY; NOTWITHSTANDING THAT HE IS LITIGATING ANENT PERPETUAL VICARAGE OF PARISH CHURCH OF LANGFORGUND, SAID DIOCESE (20 MARKS STERLING).

IN THE THIRDS OF BENEFICES, THE FOLLOWING THIRDS ARE ALLOTTED TO FORGAN - VICARAGE OF FORGOUNDER £ 6-13-4, AND IN THE ACCOUNTS OF COLLECTORS OF THIRDS OF BENEFICES, IT SAYS - VICARAGES OF LATHRISK AND FORGUND (MR THOMAS MUTHVEN, FACTOR FOR DAVID, HIS BROTHER) 1565.

THE EXTENSIVE PARISH OF FORGAN COULD BE DIVIDED INTO A LANDWARD AREA WITH IT'S FARMING, AND A RIVERSIDE AREA WITH IT'S FISHING, FERRING AND HORSE-HIRING. IT IS INTERESTING TO NOTE THAT THERE WERE FOUR FERRIES ACROSS THE TAY, NAMELY FERRY-PORT-ON-CRAIG TO BROUGHTY, NEWPORT TO DUNDEE, WOODHAVEN TO DUNDEE, AND BALMERINO TO DUNDEE. BALMERINO, OR BALMIRNY, MEANS MARY'S TOWN, OR MURRAY'S TOWN. MANY NOTABLES WERE FERRIED ACROSS THE TAY, CHURCH DIGNITARIES, MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS, DR. SAM. JOHNSON, AND JAMIE ROSEWELL, ROB ROY, AND, NO DOUBT MANY MEMBERS OF THE ROYAL HOUSE OF STEWART WHO USED FIFE AS THEIR HAPPY HUNTING GROUND WHILE STAYING AT FALKLAND PALACE.

THERE ARE THREE STAGES IN THE HISTORY OF ST. FILLAN'S CHURCH, KIRKTON, FORGAN : - (1) 1124-1560, (2) 1560-1841, (3) 1841-1974.

(1) 1124-1560.

AS I HAVE ALREADY INDICATED, THE OLD CHURCH IN KIRKTON WAS FOUNDED BY KING DAVID I, AND GIVEN BY ROYAL CHARTER TO THE PRIORY OF ST. ANDREWS. THIS LATER CONFIRMED BY KING MALCOLM IV AND BY ALAN DE LASCELLES. THE VICARS MUST HAVE ENDURED UNDER SEVERAL FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, THEY CELEBRATED MASS DAILY AND ADMINISTERED THE SACRAMENTS.

THE OLD CHURCH AT KIRKTON, WITH ITS TITHES - AND PROBABLY MORE - GOING TO HELP TO BUILD UP THE PRIORY OF ST. ANDREWS, AND LATER THE CATHEDRAL OF ST. ANDREWS, WAS CERTAINLY PLAYING ITS PART IN THE CHURCH LIFE OF THAT TIME. AND THE VICAR, OR CANON, IN ADDITION TO HIS DAILY AND EXTRA SERVICES, HAD A VERY LARGE PARISH TO ATTEND TO, IN WHICH HE WOULD BE EXPECTED TO BE PRIEST, TEACHER, COUNSELLOR, JUDGE AND FRIEND. AND LATTERLY, ITS PEACE AND TRANQUILLITY MUST HAVE BEEN DISTURBED BY THE TURPULENT NOBILITY, AND THE COMMON FOLK, AS THEY TRANSFERRED THEIR ALLEGIANCE TO THE REFORMATION CAUSE - READING THE BANNED BIBLES WHICH HAD BEEN SHUGGLED IN BY SHIPS FROM EUROPE AND LANDED AT LEITH, DUNDEE OR THE FIFE PORTS, LISTENING TO REFORMED PREACHERS, AND PARTAKING OF COMMUNION IN BREAD AND WINE ALSO FORBIDDEN. THE VICARAGE WOULD BE NO SIGHT WITH CARDINAL BEATON LIVING LIKE A KING IN HIS CASTLE AT ST. ANDREWS ONLY NINE MILES AWAY !

(2) 1560 - 1841

THE CHURCH AT KIRKTON IN THE YEAR 1560 WOULD PROBABLY BE IN MUCH NEED OF REPAIR AND ALTERATION, AND THAT WOULD BE THE FIRST JOB AND RESPONSIBILITY OF THE LOCAL LARDS AND HERITORS. THERE WAS NO SETTLED MINISTER IN THE NOW REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT KIRKTON, AND THE CONGREGATION HAD ONLY AN EXHORTER OR READER. NOR WAS THERE ANY REVENUE, TILL THE QUESTION OF THE THIRDS OF BENEFICES WAS SETTLED. BEFORE THE REFORMATION (1560) THE CHURCH OF ROME POSSESSED PROBABLY HALF THE LAND IN SCOTLAND. AT THE REFORMATION THIS SHOULD HAVE FALLEN TO THE REFORMED CHURCH OF SCOTLAND. ALAS, IT DID NOT ! FOR MOST OF THE CHURCH LANDS HAD GOT INTO THE HANDS OF POWERFUL FAMILIES, ONE OF WHOSE NUMBER WAS PROBABLY AN ABBOT, CARDINAL, PRIOR OR BISHOP, OR THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY WAS SOMETIMES THE SECULAR HEAD OF THE CATHEDRAL AND ALL ITS LANDS. THE LAND HAD GRADUALLY BEEN TRANSFERRED SOME TIME BEFORE THE REFORMATION

FROM THE CHURCHMAN TO THE LAYMEN. THE NEW REFORMED CHURCH WAS TOO WEAK TO CHALLENGE SUCH POWERFUL FAMILIES AS THE GORDONS, LOVATS, KENNEDYS AND BEATONS. AND SO, LAND WHICH SHOULD HAVE BENEFITED THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND REMAIN IN THE HANDS OF POWERFUL ROMAN CATHOLIC FAMILIES. FURTHER, SOME OF THE NOBILITY AND LAIRDS WHO SUPPORTED THE REFORMATION STOOD TO GAIN MUCH LAND AND WEALTH BY THEIR NEW ALLEGIANCE. THE NEW REFORMED CHURCH WAS IMPOVERISHED AT A TIME WHEN IT NEEDED MONEY MOST FOR JOHN KNOX'S GREAT WORK OF BUILDING A CHURCH IN EVERY PARISH, A SCHOOL IN EVERY PARISH, MONEY FOR EDUCATION AND SENDING YOUTH TO UNIVERSITIES, AND MONEY FOR POOR RELIEF. THE NEW CHURCH OF SCOTLAND'S CROWNING ACT OF MERCY WAS TO ALLOW ROMAN CATHOLIC PRELATES AND PRIESTS TO DRAW THEIR STIPENDS UNTIL THEY DIED ! AND THE NEW CHURCH WAS IN DESPERATE NEED OF MONEY ! JUST HOW KIND CAN INSTITUTIONS AND PEOPLE GET ? IT WAS NOT UNTIL ABOUT 1590 THAT FORGAN CHURCH (KIRKTON) HAD A SETTLED MINISTER WHO STAYED ANY LENGTH OF TIME.

By 1770 THE Post-Reformation CHURCH AT KIRKTON UNDERWENT A THOROUGH REPAIR, AND I THINK IT WAS ABOUT THIS TIME THAT THE NORTH AISLE, OR LAIRD'S GALLERY WAS ADDED; THUS CONVERTING THE OLD, PLAIN, OBLONG CHURCH INTO A T-SHAPED CHURCH, VERY COMMON IN SCOTLAND.

GENERALLY SPEAKING, BEFORE 1650, THERE WAS NO SEATING IN CHURCHES AS WE UNDERSTAND SEATING TODAY. ANY SEATS ERECTED BEFORE THIS DATE WERE DONE BY INDIVIDUALS, OR BY CORPORATE BODIES LIKE GUILDS, OR TRADES, OR TOWN COUNCILS. THE ORDINARY PEOPLE BROUGHT THEIR STOOLS, OR JUST STOOD THROUGH A SERVICE OF 2½ HOURS DURATION. THEY STOOD ON THE HARD-BAKED GROUND PERHAPS WITH THEIR DOGS AT THEIR FEET. AFTER 1650, THE IDEA OF SEATING FOR ALL BEGAN TO CATCH ON, AND, BY 1800 FORGAN CHURCH (KIRKTON) HAD BEEN RE-SEATED !

ABOUT 1800 THE BOATMEN FROM WATERSIDE (SOUTH BANK OF THE TAY) BUILT, AT THEIR OWN EXPENSE, A GALLERY OR LOFT AT THE EAST GABLE OF THE CHURCH AND IT WAS KNOWN AS THE BOATMEN'S LOFT, OF WHICH LOFT, I HAVE TWO PANELS IN MY MANSO. AT THE WEST GABLE THERE WAS ANOTHER LOFT CALLED THE FARMER'S LOFT. ABOUT 1770, THE LAIRD BUILT HIMSELF THE NORTH AISLE, WITH A GALLERY, AND SEATING ACCOMODATION UNDER THE GALLERY. THE LAIRD'S LOFT WAS REACHED BY AN OUTSIDE STAIR, EVIDENCE OF WHICH STILL REMAINS. THE UNDER-GALLERY WAS REACHED BY A DOOR IN THE NORTH-WEST PART OF THE NORTH AISLE. THERE WAS A FIREPLACE BELOW AND ABOVE AND THE LAIRD HAD A LITTLE ROOM UPSTAIRS TO WHICH HE AND HIS FAMILY RETIRED TO EAT A LUNCH BETWEFN THE LONG MORNING AND AFTERNOON SERVICES. THERE'S A PEEP-HOLE, THROUGH WHICH THE LAIRD AND HIS FAMILY COULD BE SEEN APPROACHING THE CHURCH, AND THUS THE MINISTER COULD BE TIMIDOUSLY NOTIFIED THAT THE LAIRD WAS ON HIS WAY. AND THERE IS A LITTLE HUMGRY, NEAR THE PEEP-HOLE FOR THE LAIRD'S PERSONAL BELONGINGS.

WE STILL USE (1973) TWO OF THE COMMUNION CUPS WHICH WERE USED IN THE OLD KIRKTON CHURCH, CUPS BEARING THE DATE 1652, AND INSCRIBED "FORGAN PAROSCHE, A. W. M.", THAT IS, ALEXANDER WEDDERBURN, MINISTER. THEY HAVE THE HALL-MARK OF PURE SILVER, AND A POT OF LILLIES, WITH THE INITIALS R.C. AND, ON EITHER SIDE THE EMBLEM OF THE VIRGIN MARY, AS SEEN IN THE CITY ARMS OF DUNDEE, SHOWING THAT THE CUPS HAD BEEN MINTED IN THE DUNDEE MINT!

THE MINISTERS BETWEEN 1560 - 1841 WOULD HAVE TWO VERY LONG SERVICES MORNING AND AFTERNOON, EACH SERVICE LASTING 2 OR 2½ HOURS, EACH SUNDAY, WHICH MOST MEMBERS WOULD ATTEND. A SERMON THEN LASTED AT LEAST ONE HOUR TO 1½ HOURS AND WAS RECEIVED AS THE MAIN PART OF THE SERVICE. MINISTERS VISITED THEIR CONGREGATIONS REGULARLY, CATECHISING THE YOUNG WHO WERE ABOUT TO JOIN THE CHURCH.

PEOPLE IN THOSE DAYS READ THEIR BIBLES, AND THE SERMON INCLUDED MUCH BIBLICAL QUOTATION, REFERENCE, AND EXPLANATION. THE CLERGY DID ALL IN THEIR POWER TO PROMOTE EDUCATION BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC, AND ALSO TO PROMOTE THE READING OF GOOD BOOKS. THEY WOULD GO ROUND THE PARISH, ON FOOT, OR HORSEBACK OR PONY AND GIG. THE HERITORS WERE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE UPKEEP OF CHURCH AND MANSE AND THE MINISTER'S SALARY CAME FROM TEINDS — LANDOWNERS AND TENANTS PAID SO MUCH YEARLY TO THE CHURCH. FROM ABOUT 1800 THE MINISTERS HAD A GLEBE TO HELP THEIR STIPENDS.

THE KIRK SESSION RECORDS LODGED IN THE REGISTER HOUSE EDINBURGH DATE FROM 1695 FOR BAPTISMS AND 1719 FOR MARRIAGES. THE KIRK THEN, AND NOW, WAS INTERESTED IN WELFARE AT HOME AND ABROAD. ACCORDING TO THE KIRK SESSION'S RECORDS MONEY HAS BEEN COLLECTED ON ONE OCCASION, FOR THE REPAIR OF THE HARBOUR AT EYEMOUTH (BERWICKSHIRE), ANOTHER COLLECTION WENT TO HELP THE REPAIR OF A BRIDGE AT BERVIE, YET ANOTHER COLLECTION WAS SENT ABROAD TO HELP CAPTIVES TAKEN BY THE MOORS. BUT CHARITY ALSO BEGAN AT HOME, MONEY BEING GIVEN TO HELP "ANE PUIR MAN AT THE KIRK DOOR"; "A NEW TESTAMENT FOR A PUIR WOMAN"; A PAIR OF SHOES FOR A CHURCH MEMBER!

(3) 1841-1973.

IN 1837 A YOUNG ASSISTANT MINISTER FROM CUPAR PARISH CHURCH, CHARLES NAIRN, BY NAME WAS INDUCTED TO FORGAN CHURCH (KIRKTON) AS MINISTER. HE PETITIONED THE HERITORS TO BUILD A NEW CHURCH WHICH WOULD BE MORE CENTRAL FOR THE PARISHIONERS. AND SO, A PIECE OF GROUND WAS OBTAINED FROM ST. FORT ESTATE, AND OUR PRESENT CHURCH OF FORGAN WAS BUILT IN 1841 — A CRUCIFORM CHURCH, GEORGIAN IN ARCHITECTURE, AND IN FURNISHING.

IT WAS COMPLETED DURING THE STORM OVER THE
INTRUSION CONTROVERSY WHICH LED TO THE DISRUPTION
WHEN NEARLY HALF THE MINISTERS, ELDERS AND CONGREGAT
OF THE PARISH CHURCHES LEFT THE CHURCH TO BECOME
THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND. IN SHORT, IT WAS A
PROTEST AGAINST THE LAIRD HAVING THE SOLE RIGHT TO
APPOINT A MINISTER TO THE PARISH, INSTEAD OF THE
CONGREGATION CHOOSING IT'S OWN MINISTER. THE REV.
CHARLES NAIRN WAS ONE OF THE MINISTERS WHO WALK
OUT, TAKING WITH HIM 4 ELDERS AND ABOUT HALF THE
CONGREGATION OF FORGAN. HE FOUNDED A TEMPORARY CHUR
ON THE SITE OF THE PRESENT ST. FILLANS CHURCH, NEWPO
ON-TAY, WHICH CHURCH INCLUDED A SCHOOL FOR FREE CH
CHILDREN. THAT WAS IN 1843. TWENTYFIVE YEARS LATER
THE TEMPORARY CHURCH WAS REPLACED BY THE FINE MOD
CHURCH OF TODAY WITH IT'S VERY GRACEFUL SPIRE.

THE OLD CHURCH AT KIRKTON, AFTER A PUBLIC
AUCTION, WHEN IT'S GLASS, WOOD, SLATES, STONES AND METAL
WERE SOLD, WAS ALLOWED TO FALL INTO RUIN TO BECOME
THE HAUNT OF WILD BIRDS, AND NIGHTLY HOOTING OWLS.

By 1871, NEWPORT WAS GROWING RAPIDLY AND IT
FELT NECESSARY TO BUILD A CHURCH THERE FOR THE PEOPLE
AND SO, THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS WAS ERECTED. IT WA
CALLED AFTER THE ANCIENT CHAPEL OF ST. THOMAS OF TH
SEA-MYLNFS WHICH STOOD NEAR THIS SITE. THE REV. DR.
THOMSON OF FORGAN DEDICATED THE CHURCH OF ST. THOMAS
AND PREACHED THE SERMON, AND, VERY UNDERSTANDINGLY,
GAVE THE FORGAN CONGREGATION A HOLIDAY THAT SUNDAY.
THE REV. MR. FRASER WAS APPOINTED THE FIRST MINISTER
OF ST. THOMAS'S. IN 1887 HE RECEIVED HIS D.D.
ST. THOMAS'S CELEBRATED IT'S CENTENARY IN 1971 AND MAY IT
GO ON TO SERVE THE PEOPLE OF NEWPORT, AT LEAST AS LONG
AS THE OLD CHURCH AT KIRKTON SERVED THE PEOPLE OF

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FORGAN PARISH - FROM SCOTSCRAIG TO NAUGHTON.

IN 1871 THE REV. DR. THOMSON OFFERED PRAYER AT THE FOUNDATION CEREMONY OF THE TAY BRIDGE ON SATURDAY 22ND JULY. THE YEAR 1929 SAW THE UNION OF THE CHURCHES BETWEEN PARISH CHURCHES AND FREE CHURCHES OF SCOTLAND GENERALLY. THE OLD FORGAN PARISH IS NOW DIVIDED INTO 5 PARISHES BEING SERVED BY FIVE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND CHURCHES, BALMERINO, WORMIT PARISH CHURCH, ST. THOMAS'S, ST. FILLANS (NEWPORT) AND FORGAN.

MEANWHILE, THE OLD ST. FILLAN'S CHURCH, KIRKTON, FORGAN "THE MOTHER OF FOUR OF THEM", LAY DERELICT. BUT IN 1969-70 THE CENTRAL AND NORTH FIFE PRESERVATION SOCIETY REMOVED THE IVY FROM THE OLD CHURCH AND POINTED THE STONEWORK AND SHOWED US AGAIN A T-SHAPED CHURCH - THE ORIGINAL OBLONG AND NORTH AISLE AND VERY WELL PRESERVED ARCH. IT IS MY HOPE THAT ONE DAY IT MAY BE RE-ROOFED, AND AMIDST THE PEACE AND BEAUTY OF THE COUNTRYSIDE, THE WORD OF GOD MAY AGAIN BE PREACHED THERE AND THE SACRAMENTS ADMINISTERED TO A GENERATION THAT NEEDS PEACE AND HEALING AND ABOVE ALL, WHOLENESS! WHO KNOWS, WHO CAN TELL?

MUCH STRANGER THINGS HAVE HAPPENED!

1561 LIST OF READERS, EXHORTERS AND MINISTERS 1954

- MAR. 1561-2 DAVID FILL, EXHORTER AT THE PARISH OF NEWTHOUSES, CALLED ST. FILLAN'S KIRK.
- JAN. 18TH 1565-6 JOHN FLAGEAR. CANON OF ST ANDREW'S PRIORY, READER.
- FEB. 1571 & JULY 1573 JOHN SMYT. READER
- 12TH. SEPT 1573 DAVID METHVEN, VICAR, DEMITTED OFFICE OR DEPARTED BEFORE 12TH. SEPT. 1573.
- 12TH. SEPT 1573 ANDREW BENNETT, READER, PRESENTED TO VICARAGE VACANCY BY REMOVAL OF DAVID MASON.
- 21ST MAY 1589 WILLIAM BALFOUR, M.A. PRESENTED TO VICARAGE VACANCY BY DMISSION OF JAMES TULLIS.
- 25TH SEPT. 1590 ROBERT BUCHANAN, M.A. PRESENTED TO VICARAGE
- 2ND SEPT 1599 WILLIAM MARCH, M.A. REGENT IN ST. LEONARD'S COLLEGE, ST ANDREWS FOR 13 YEARS.
PRESENTED TO THE VICARAGE BY KING JAMES VI 29TH JUNE 1599. ADMITTED 2ND SEPT. 1
DIED IN 1606 AGED 49.
- 28TH MAY 1606 DAVID LINDSAY, M.A. TRANSLATED FROM 2nd CHARGE ST. ANDREWS TO THE VICARAGE BY KING JAMES VI 28TH MAY 1606. TRANSFERRED TO 2nd CHARGE OF SOUTH LEITH 30TH JULY 1609.
- 20TH JUNE 1609 SIMEON DURIE M.A. TRANSLATED FROM FERR PORT-ON-CRAIG, PRESENTED TO THE VICARAGE BY KING JAMES VI 20TH JUNE 1609. TRANSFERRED TO ARBROATH IN 1628.
- 24TH MAY 1628 HENRY SCRIMGEOUR, M.A. (ST ANDREWS 1617/18)
PRESENTED BY CHARLES I 24TH MAY 1627. DEPARTED BEFORE 26TH AUGUST 1639.
1640. DAVID FORRET, M.A. TRANSLATED FROM DUNDEE ADMITTED IN 1640. TRANSLATED TO KILCONEAU 27TH MAY 1646.

- 10TH FEB. 1647. ALEXANDER WEDDERBURN M.A., PRESENTED
TO VICARAGE OCTOBER 1646, ADMITTED
10TH FEB. 1647. SUSPENDED 5TH APRIL 16
AND DEPARTED 6TH APRIL 1665.
- 20TH AUG. 1665 JOHN ALEXANDER M.A. (ST. ANDREWS 14/7/16)
HAD CERTIFICATE FOR LICENSE FROM
PRESBYTERY RETTIE, AUG. 1664 AND FOR ORDINING
20TH JULY AND WAS ADMITTED 20TH AUG 1665
DIED 1674 AGED 34.
- 12TH AUG 1674 WILLIAM SCOTT M.A. (ST. ANDREWS 14/7/16)
ADMITTED 12TH AUG. 1674, DIED 2ND AUG 1
AGED 35.
- 16TH JAN. 1678 ALEXANDER SHARP, SOMETIME A MINISTER IN
IRELAND, ADMITTED 16TH JAN. 1678.
TRANSLATED TO BOURTIE IN 1678.
- 25TH SEPT. 1678 JAMES STEACHAN M.A. REGENT IN OLD COLLEGE
ST. ANDREWS. ADMITTED 25TH SEPTEMBER 16
DEPRIVED BY THE PRIVY COUNCIL 29/8/16
FOR NOT READING THE PROCLAMATION OF THE ESTATE
- 1679 ? JAMES RHYMER REGENT AT OLD COLLEGE,
ST. ANDREWS PRIOR TO 1676. TRANSLATED
FROM FORGAN TO ST. ANDREWS BEFORE 27TH
NOV. 1689.
1690. HUGH KEMP. ADMITTED IN 1690, WAS
APPOINTED PRESBYTERY CLERK ON 18/4/16
TRANSLATED TO DUNFERMLINE 1ST MAY 1701.
- 29TH JULY 1702 JAMES HAIRNE M.A. CALLED 29TH JULY 1702
ORDAINED 2ND FEB. 1703, TRANSLATED TO
ANSTRUTHER, EASTER 7TH AUGUST 1717.
- 22ND JAN 1716 JAMES RUSSELL M.A. (ST. ANDREWS 10/5/1703)
LICENSED BY PRESBYTERY 21ST NOV. 1715,
CALLED 22ND JAN. 1716, ORDAINED 20/7/17
DIED 1728.

- 22ND. JAN. 1729 JOHN GELLATLY. CALLED 22/1/1729.
 ORDAINED 24TH APRIL 1729, TRANSLATED TO
 3RD CHARGE DUNDEE 18TH JULY 1745.
- 15TH. JULY 1746 WILLIAM BEAT, SCHOOLMASTER AT KILCONAH
 LICENSED BY PRESBYTERY OF ST. ANDREWS
 29TH. OCT. 1740 CALLED 15TH. JULY 1746 A
 ORDAINED 25TH SEPTEMBER 1746.
 TRANSLATED TO KILKENNY 5TH NOVEMBER 1761
- 7TH. MAY 1761. JAMES BURN, BORN 1734. LICENSED BY
 PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCALDY, 29TH DEC. 1757
 PRESENTED TO KILCONAHAR 6TH. APRIL 1759
 BUT NOT SETTLED. ORDAINED BY THE PRESBYT
 CLASSES OF NEWCASTLE. MINISTER OF
 CASTLEGARTH MEETING HOUSE 10TH. DEC. 1761
 PRESENTED BY GEORGE III 23RD JANUARY
 AND ADMITTED 7TH MAY. DIED 22/2/180
- 30TH. APRIL 1800 ALEXANDER MAULE D.D., EDUCATED AT UNI
 OF ST. ANDREWS. LICENSED BY PRESBYTERY
 OF DUNDEE 5/12/1787. PRESENTED BY GEO
 III 30/4/1800, ORDAINED 24/3/1801 D.D.
 (ST. ANDREWS 1/5/1824).
 DIED UNMARRIED 28/7/1835.
- 3RD FEB. 1836 CHARLES NAIRN. BORN 7TH JULY 1803.
 EDUCATED AT ROYAL HIGH SCHOOL AND UNIVERSITY OF
 EDINBURGH, LICENSED BY DUNELANE PRESBYTERY
 4/8/1826, ASSISTANT AT CUPAR PARISH CHURCH.
 PRESENTED BY KING GEORGE IV 22/9/1836; ORDNED
 3/2/1836, LEFT FORSEN CHURCH AND JOINED AN
 ERECT FREE CHURCH, ST. TULLIAN'S, NEWPORT IN
 1843. WENT TO MADIRA AS FREE CHURCH
 MISSIONARY. ADMITTED TO ST. DAVID'S FREE CHURCH
 DUNDEE. DIED 17TH MARCH 1873.

ST. SEPT. 1843. DAVID THOMSON, D.D. BORN DUNS 20/10
FATHER WAS CLASSICS MASTER AT AYR ACADEMY,
EDUCATED AT AYR ACADEMY AND UNIVERSITY OF ST ANDREWS
M.A. 1826. LICENSED BY PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS
AUGUST 1841, ASSISTANT TO PROFESSOR JAMES HUNTER
LOGIC CLASS AND COLLEGE CHURCH; AFTERWARDS ASSIST
TO PRINCIPAL HALDANE IN THE PARISH CHURCH OF
ST. ANDREWS. PRESENTED BY QUEEN VICTORIA 12TH JULY 1
ORDAINED 21ST SEPTEMBER 1843. D.D. ST ANDREWS 1883.
DIED 28TH MAY 1884.

18TH DEC. 1884. THOMAS MARTIN M.A. B.D., TRANSLATED
FROM ST. STEPHEN'S PERTH AND ADMITTED TO FORGAN
18TH DECEMBER 1884. TRANSLATED TO CRAMOND 23RD
APRIL 1890. ELECTED MODERATOR OF THE GENERAL
ASSEMBLY 18TH MAY 1920. HIS SON HUGH FORGAN MARTIN
WAS RECTOR OF DOLLAR ACADEMY.

12TH FEB. 1891. THOMAS MUNN, BORN GLASGOW 13TH MAY 185
M.A. GLASGOW UNIVERSITY 1885. ORDAINED 12TH FEB. 18
AND ADMITTED TO FORGAN. RESIGNED 24TH NOVEMBER
MR & MRS MUNN WERE GREAT BENEFACTORS TO FORGAN
CHURCH, MANSE, AND PARISH.

13TH APRIL 1921. HUGH FULTON FRAME, M.A. BORN BELLSHILL
24TH MAY 1893. EDUCATED AT HAMILTON ACADEMY AND
UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW. LICENSED BY PRESBYTERY OF
GLASGOW 30TH JUNE 1920. ORDAINED 13TH APRIL 1921
AND ADMITTED TO FORGAN. CALLED TO LESMAHAGOW
PARISH CHURCH IN 1942.

1942. JOHN MACDOUGALL M.A. MINISTER AT BONHILL PT
IN INVERNESS-SHIRE. CALLED TO FORGAN IN 1942.
RETIRED IN 1953.

1954. ALBERT PENMAN BOGIE, M.A. BORN 28TH
AUGUST 1914. EDUCATED AT PRESTONPANS PUBLIC SCI
AND PRESTON LODGE, M.A. EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.
LICENSED BY PRESBYTERY OF HADDINGTON AND DUNBAR
1939. MINISTER AT REAY, CAITHNESS 1945-54.
CALLED TO FORGAN 12TH AUGUST 1954.

ADDENDA

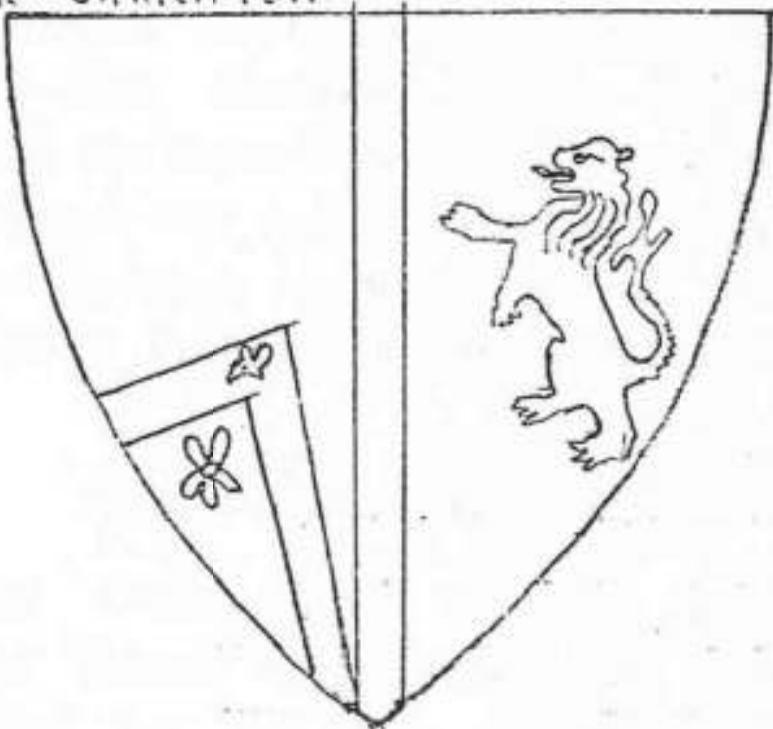
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(a) KIRKTON HOUSE

HOME OF THE BALFOURS, GILLESPIES AND OTHER
LATTERLY USED AS MANSE TILL 1803.

THIS IS A RUIN STANDING WITHIN 90 YARDS
OF THE OLD CHURCH OF FORGAN. NOTHING REMAINS EXCEPT
THE NORTH WALL WITH PART OF THE RETURN WALLS, ALL
THICKLY COVERED WITH IVY. THE HOUSE WHICH DATES FROM
THE 16TH CENTURY, HAS BEEN THREE-STORYED AND OBLONG
IN PLAN, LYING EAST AND WEST AND HAVING A CIRCULAR
TOWER, CONTAINING CHAMBERS, PROJECTING FROM THE NORTH-
WEST ANGLE; BEHIND IT, HAS BEEN A COURT-YARD, ENTERED
THROUGH A SEMI-CIRCULAR ARCHWAY, WHICH IS STILL TO BE
SEEN ON THE NORTH. THE ENTRANCE TO THE HOUSE IS
CENTRED IN THE NORTH WALL. THE ONLY SURVIVING FEATURE
OF INTEREST ARE A FEW FIRE-PLACE SURROUNDS - SOME N
EARLIER THAN THE 18TH CENTURY - AND A GUN-LOOP SET
IN THE WESTERN RE-ENTRANT ANGLE BESIDE THE TOWER.
THE LINTEL OF THE HALL FIRE-PLACE HAS BEEN REMOVED
AND REBUILT INTO THE GABLE OF THE BARN OF THE
ADJACENT FARM AT KIRKTON BRAINS. IT IS 9'6" IN LENGTH
AND IS MOULDED WITH A FILLETED ANGLE-ROLL. IN THE
CENTRE IS A PAINTL CONTAINING A SHIELD FLANKED BY
THE INITIALS D.B. FOR DAVID BALFOUR, AND C.C
FOR HIS WIFE CATHERINE CURICHTON WITH THE DATE 1:

THE SHIELD IS PARSED PER PALE: DEXTER, ON A CHEVRON AN OTTER'S HEAD ERASED AND IN BASE A CINQUE FOIL, FOR BALFOUR, SINISTER, A LION RAMPANT FOR CHrichton.



D.B 1585 CC

(b) THE NEWPORT CHURCHES.

THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH.

MR JUST BROKE AWAY FROM THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND AND JOINED THE TABERNACLE IN DUNDEE. IN 1801 A CONGREGATION WAS FORMED IN NEWPORT CONSISTING OF 16 MEMBERS. MR. TAYLOR BECAME THEIR PASTOR ON 5TH JANUARY 1803. HE OPENED A DAY SCHOOL TO AUGMENT HIS STIPEND. HE RESIGNED HIS CHARGE AND EMIGRATED TO AMERICA. THIS WAS THE BEGINNING OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN NEWPORT. MR. JUST ONE OF THE CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH MEMBERS THEREAFTER BECAME THEIR MINISTER IN 1806 WITH A CONGREGATION OF 25 MEMBERS. THE PRESENT CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH IN KILNBURN WAS OPENED IN 1869 (APRIL 23RD). THE REV. DR. THOMSON SPOKE AT THE EVENING SOCIAL.

WITH THE GROWTH OF THE BURGH, CHURCHES MULTIPLIED, ST. THOMAS CHURCH OF SCOTLAND WAS BUILT IN 1871; TRINITY CHURCH (UNITED PRESBYTERIAN) IN 1881; ST. MARY'S (SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL) IN 1887; AND ST. FILLAN'S (ROMAN CATHOLIC) IN 1893. IN 1895 WORMIT THE PRESENT WEST HALL FOR THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND, AND THE PRESENT WORMIT PARISH CHURCH FOR THE UNITED FREE CHURCH IN 1901.

(C) THE LENG MEMORIAL CHAPEL

THE CHURCH ON THE HILL IN VICARS FORD CEMETERY NOT FORGAN PARISH CHURCH, AS SO MANY VISITORS THINK, BUT THE LENG MEMORIAL CHAPEL BUILT BY THE LENG FAMILY. THERE IS A SMALL ENDOWMENT AMOUNTING TO A CAPITAL SUM OF ABOUT £300, ADMINISTERED BY FIFE COUNTY COUNCIL TO PROVIDE FOR THE UPKEEP OF THIS CHAPEL.

(D) COPY OF LETTER SENT BY COUNTY CLERK.

BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST

"NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE BUILDING KNOWN AS FORGAN PARISH KIRK SITUATED IN THE PARISH OF FORGAN, COUNTY OF FIFE, HAS BEEN INCLUDED IN THE LIST OF BUILDINGS OF SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST IN THAT AREA COMPILED BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE UNDER SECTION 28 OF THE TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (SCOTLAND) ACT 1947 ON THE 8TH DAY OF AUGUST 1973."

AUTHOR'S COMMENT. IT IS FITTING THAT FORGAN OLD CHURCH FOUNDED BY DAVID I SHOULD BE LISTED BY THE PRESENT QUEEN'S SECRETARY OF STATE AS OF SPECIAL ARCHITECTURAL OR HISTORIC INTEREST.

THE WHEEL HAS INDEED COME FULL CIRCLE!