KILWINNING ABBEY

List 3

Founded by Richard de Morville c.1162 on the site of a church built by the Irish St Wynnin, C6. Most striking part of the scanty remains is the south transept gable with its three lancets; also extant are the doorway into the east cloister walk, the chapter house entrance and part of the west front. Refs: Ecc Arch, ii, 73-86. A.

Richardson, 31-32.

At the Tironensian abbey of Kilwinning, [the east processional door] has capitals of simple waterleaf character, but there is one which is devoid of any leaf form and shows a picture of two persons grouped together. This carving unfortunately is badly weathered but in its particular period in Scotland it seems unique and reminiscent of Norman work. The two shaft bases on the east side are decorated on the upper part of their flattened torus or lower member. One shows a lobed fringing and the other the curving stem and leaf ornament to be noted on Norman string courses.

John Hay

One can appreciate the ruins only with reference to the plans of the original, but anonymous, master masons. The abbey was certainly one of the finest of Scotland's ecclesiastical buildings, and unusual in its design. Its nave and transepts, nearly 100 feet across, transept to transept, were broader than Paisley Abbey or Glasgow Cathedral - broader even than our largest medieval church building, the Cathedral of St Andrews. It was not especially long, being about 225', of which almost exactly half was taken up by the nave. The Abbey was cross shaped with the head of the cross, or chancel, lying, in conventional manner, to the east. What makes it unique among Scottish abbeys is that it had twin towers at the western end which did not rise in the normal fashion from the mass of the terminal buildings, but rose alongside the church, as independent units, opening into the church by great arches 20' high. In consequence of this structurally abnormality, amounting almost to weakness, the towers had to be built on massive piers, which are larger than the ones supporting the main tower of Westminster Abbey. One of the towers, that to the south-west, was destroyed very early in its history. The other remained until 1814, though standing as a gaunt ruin since 1809, when it was struck by lightning. It appears to have been roofed differently at different periods. A very excellent engraving in the Edinburgh Magazine of 1802 shows a well proportioned tapering spire on top of the tower, probably added by the Earl of Eglinton's orders just over 10 years before.

The most prominent feature of the early Abbey would be the central tower over the crossing. Only traces of the foundation remain today, but this tower must have been very large, considering that the western towers were certainly well over 100' in height, if not 'seven score feet', as Pont reckoned in 1608. The transepts were about 90' high. These had aisles to the east, where they joined the small chancel, on the approximate foundation of the present church. When serious damage took place to the west end of the Abbey, probably in the C13 and C14, the west front was brought back about 30' and a new west gable built, reducing the nave to 110 feet in length. The south aisle of the nave opened out to the cloisters. They were probably enclosed in the east by the Chapter House, library and dormitories, in the south by the refectory and kitchens, and in the west by guestrooms.

It must sadly be admitted that above ground there is very little [left of this elaborate construction], particularly when one realises that the tower, the most conspicuous landmark in Kilwinning is not a relic of the Abbey. Indeed the only considerable ruin is the celebrated gable of the south transept. This is an excellent example of C13 architecture. It has three tall lancet windows, stepped at the base, surmounted by a rose window and, in the peak of the arch, a small narrow round-headed window. Running west from the gable is the ruined south wall of the nave. At the junction of nave and south transept is the beautiful arched doorway leading into the cloisters. It is unusually fine, since doorways of this quality were normally built only for the great west doors. It is excellent in its proportion, with an arch of four orders, and considerable variety in detail. The columns carrying the arch have different capitals, the most noteworthy being that nearest on the left as one enters from the south. It bears a representation of two human figures, said to be Adam and Eve.

South of the gable, and separated from it by a stype, are the remains of the chapter house, c.38' by 20'. The doorway and two windows, of the same style as the gable, are still nearly complete. The arch of the south transept aisle is also complete and is a very fine example of the pointed Early English. It invites comparison with the tower arch at the south west corner of the nave, which also stands unbroken. The tower arch is 20' high, and with the base of the ruined massive pier adjoining, all that remains of the original south west tower.

Apart from the transept gable the largest piece of masonry still standing is the west gable which runs from the tower arch to the base of the modern tower. This is not the original west terminal of the Abbey, which must have been demolished in the troubled days of the Wars of Independence. The later gable is not in keeping. It is probably C14, very plain built, as much for defence as for the worship of God. Its main features are a window, narrow pointed and 16' high, and a doorway, c.7' high and 4½' across. Both are plain and unadorned, and out of key with similar features in the rest of the Abbey. This is almost certainly proof of hurried construction in a warring period, because the west gable and its great door and windows are so often the chief glory of the medieval Abbey.

West — [Kelso]. The plan is cruciform with a central tower to which is added a western transept with a high tower over it, a scheme which goes back to the Carolingian cathedrals of the Rhineland and is found nowhere else in Scotland, except at Kilwinning, another Tironensian house. This particular order, created by reforming Benedictines in 1109, is hardly represented at all in the rest of Britain but here, owing to the special patronage of David I, it established four large abbeys and two priories. Like the Cistercians, who were also austere, rigourous, valuing the discipline of manual work, their architecture is marked by a certain simplicity and has powerful formal qualities.

[Kilwinning] has excellent refined early Gothic work - a south transept with lancet windows and chapels, and a chapter house of considerable distinction.

Service, Memorables, 198 — "In the early morning of August 2, in '14, the auld steeple fell, and the remnant that was left was blawn up wi' poother afterhin'."

AA 11.8.1814 — Major part of old steeple fell 2.8.1814.

AA, Th 13.12.1838, 4a — Recent gifts to Ayr's Mechanics Museum include 'curiously carved oaken pannels, once forming a part of the old Abbey of Kilwinning', gifted by A Allan.

BA 22.8.1879 — Has detail drawings.

Sc N&Q ser3 vol8	August 1930 [p.158] Notes from Italian State Archives, Rome. [Ref: 1870 xx v]. William Abbot of Kilwinning pays as common services 22 florins 11 shillings 4 pence, 29 October 1444.
	TOWER
List 2	Gothic Revival tower erected 1815 on the site of a medieval one. 1782 **Chapman & Mears** bell. Refs: Hay, 173,194,249. B.
Lee Ker	The steeple was built 1815-1816 to plans of **David Hamilton**, Glasgow, architect.
BoS Architects Biogs	1814, **David Hamilton**.
Clouston	Bell came from Tarbolton. There is also a bell of unknown date recast by **Wilson** of Glasgow in 1864 and 1912.
AA 1.9.1814	Conts - new steeple, 100' high, 24' square at base and 21'6" square at top.
Edin Even Courant, 3.9.1814	New steeple to be built: "an elegant new one, in the ancient style".
AA 21.1.1815	The masonic plate in the tower says: Architect David Hamilton; Mason John Connell.
AA 4.4.1816	We hear that the mason work of the beautiful Gothic tower, which was begun to be built at Kilwinning about this time last year, is now completed. Tho' inferior in size and grandeur to the ancient tower, it has an elegance and lightness of appearance much superior to it - Mr **Connell**, the contractor, a native of the parish, deserves every commendation for the able and fair manner in which he has executed the work.
sv, 9.11.2006	High in the tower is a signature: WMcC Painter 1816.
AA 25.11.1819	Builder: **John Connel**.
KWP 30.4.1859	On Monday a new bell - cast in Mr **Hendrie**'s foundry - was put up in the tower.
AA, Th 21.1.1864, 1a	Heritors are to meet on 28.1.1864 to receive a report on the cracked bell in the tower.
KWP 26.3.1864, 3e	New bell - **John C Wilson**, Glasgow - hung recently, replacing that, now cracked, put up about five years ago.
ASH, Sa 26.3.1864, 3f	New bell by **John C Wilson** first rung last Saturday. 16 cwt.
ASH, Sa 5.7.1873, 1a	Contractors wanted for pointing and repairs to Kilwinning Tower.
sv, 9.11.2006.	The visitor centre at the foot, between tower and mother lodge, formally opened 17 March 1995.
	CLOCK
sv, 9.11.2006	**James Blair**, 1816.
	FRAGMENTS
Miller, Castles ..., 1885	Fragments from Kilwinning Abbey incorporated in Stables at Eglinton, built c.1785. [qv].
Ness, Landmarkis	Am arched gateway at Townhead of Dalgarven is said to have come from the abbey.
ACC, Roads C 4.6.1951	A sculptured stone in the care of the County Surveyor 'for some years since its recovery from an old property in Main Street, Kilwinning' to be given to Kilwinning BC 'on view of its local interest as a relic of Kilwinning Abbey.'
	ARCHAEOLOGY
Kennedy, Kilwinning , illus.35	The ruins were partly cleared and excavated in 1878 by William Galloway, architect, at the expense of John McGavin.
Ness, Landmarkis	Excavations in 1875-8 (William Galloway), 1950, and 1961-4
JASK, 1/4, March 1969	1962. Excavation in 1962 south of the abbey church has revealed parts of the foundation of the cloister arcade, and a section of the footings of the C12/C13 south range. The abbey church itself was excavated and planned by William Galloway in 1878. Although there is little promise of anything more than wall foundations these discoveries exceed

expectations, for in the area all medieval levels have been removed by disturbance in the secular occupation of the site which continued until recent years."

JASK, 1/4, March 1969 — 1963. Excavation in the area of the monastic buildings revealed further details of the south range, largely reduced to its foundations. Excavation within the abbey church revealed the sill wall for the nave arcade, and gave further evidence that the nave and west end of the abbey church 9for which an ambitious extension was planned in the late c13) were never completed.

PAPINGO

n.r. — Peter Muir, b Kilwinning c.1809, d Edinburgh 1886, was bowmaker to the Royal Company of Archers. Son of William Muir, joiner (spo: Lillias Service), he was apprenticed to his uncle David, and subsequently appointed to the post with the Archers. Moved to Edinburgh, retired in 1878 and died in 1886. Married to Catherine Allison (1806 Kilwinning - 1891 Edinburgh).

CHURCHES

ANTI-BURGHER CHURCH, later O.S. [1]
AANHS, 5, p126 — 1758.
Scott, Annals .. OS Church, 1886, p.373-377
Photocopy herewith. Church erected in the Green of Kilwinning in 1759

ANTI-BURGHER CHURCH, later O.S. [2]
Scott, Annals, as above — Present church built 1825 on site of former.

ANTI-BURGHER MANSE
Scott, Annals, as above — Acquired c.1861.

APOSTOLIC CHURCH
VR 1956/57 — Hall and house, 17 Abbeygreen.

BRIDGE CHURCH
AP, F 31.8.2012 — Founded in 1987 by Bernie and Nan McLaughlin. Independent, multi-cultural, multi0-generational and non-denominational. In 2012 seeking to take over, and convert to church, the former Cornrigg pub, Kincaidston, Ayr.

CHRISTIAN BRETHREN
Ness, Landmarkis — Bridgend Mission; 1902
VR 1956/57 — Hall, 10 Bridgend

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
McNaughton — Founded 1844, joined EU 1845. Church, Woodwynd, March 1850.
Ness, Landmarkis — Congregational Church, 1850
VR 1956/57 — Church and Hall, 27 Woodwynd

ERSKINE CHURCH [UP], Garden Square Lane
Kennedy, Kilwinning, ill.21 — 1838, refurbished in 1884 with a bequest of John McGavin
List 4 — 1838. Pedimented open bellcote flanked by ancones; gable finials. Pleasant restored interior hall with gallery. C.
ASH, F 1.6.1883, 5a — [UP] Reopened last Sunday, after improvements made possible by £300 legacy of late John McGavin. Reseated, pulpit enlarged, and 2 new stained glass windows on north side i.m.o. McGavin, gifted by his

	sisters Mrs Harvie and the Misses McGavin. Bell gifted by Alexander Harvie, Glasgow, and "belfry has also been erected at his expense."
AA 31.5.1883	[UP]. Reopened last Sunday after interior improvements, including 2 stained glass windows in memory of the late John McGavin.
KS 2.6.1883	[UP]. Reopened last Sunday. Reseated; pulpit enlarged. 2 painted memorial windows have been presented in memory of John McGavin, behind pulpit. A bell has also been presented and will probably be erected this week. Belfry has also just been added.

ERSKINE HALL

VR 1956/57	Garden Square.

UP (?ERSKINE) MANSE

ASH Sa 22.10.1864, 5c	Site off Howgate, between FC and Established manses, has been acquired. Prsently in hands of contractors. **Robert Baillie**, Glasgow, is architect. [NB, no other ref found to a R Baillie, Glasgow - is R Baldie meant??]
VR 1956/57	21 Howgate

EVANGELISTIC MISSION HALL, Vaults Lane

ACC Planning, A322	October 1948. Mission Hall, Vaults Lane, for Evangelistic Mission. (timber, ref, notes to A3784). REFUSED.
ACC Planning, A3784	July 1951. Brick Mission Hall, VL, for Evangelistic Mission. Withdrawn.
ACC Planning, A5329	November 1952. Brick Mission Hall, VL, for Evangelistic Mission.
ASH, F 1.10.1954, 6b	Opened 25th September 1954. Plans of Mr **Hamilton**. "The frontage of the edifice gives a vivid example of Gothic architecture which no doubt enhances the amenities of Abbot Housing Scheme and at the same time is a credit to the foresight of the architect."

FREE CHURCH (1: became TEMPERANCE HALL, and then ORANGE LODGE), 11 Kyleswell Street

JASK v1 n6 June 1970	The first Free Church on Kyleswell Street and Almswall Road was built in 1845-46, **James Ramsay**, Kilwinning, mason. It is now an Orange Lodge.
Ewing	1846, replaced in 1861
KH 28.2.1845	Site procured, and mason contratced. It will be a 'very neat little building'.
AA 15.1.1846	Formally opened last Sunday
ASH, Sa 8.9.1860, 3a	Built in 1845.
AA, 4.4.1861, 8a	Old Free Church for sale.
AA 19.12.1861	Temperance Hall was formally opened last Friday in the old Free Church.
JASK 1/3, November 1968	After being a Temperance Hall it became a cinema, and is now the Orange Hall.

FREE CHURCH (2: MANSEFIELD), Howgate

Lee Ker	1859, **Boucher & Cousland**, Glasgow.
JASK, v1 n6 June 1970	Begun in November 1859 and opened in 1861. **Boucher & Cousland**, Glasgow, architects.
ASH, Sa 10.12.1859, 3d	New Free Church proposed, on a site in Howgate Street, opposite the Commercial Bank.
ASH, Sa 8.9.1860, 3a	Foundation stone laid last week.
AA, 13.9.1860	Foundation stone laid last Thursday. Chaste. Gothic.
KWP 15.9.1860	Foundation stone laid 6.9.1860. "Chaste and handsome Gothic structure ... on an elevated and commanding site".

KWP, 28.9.1861 — Formally opened 26.9.1861. **Boucher & Cousland**, Glasgow, architects. Mason: --- **Armour**, Irvine. Joiner: --- **Love**, Beith. For additional details see ref. Concentric pews. £2000. 'Close by the Alms Wa' and overlooking the Howgate'.

ASH, Sa 28.9.1861, 2f — Formally opened Th 26.9.1861. Corbels of Knox and Calvin. Geometric Gothic, 80' by 50', of 6 bays, with a 100' tower.

AA 3.10.1861 — Formally opened last Thursday.

AA 1.6.1882: KS 3.6.1882 — Reopened last Sunday after being closed for 2 months for structural alterations

PULPIT

Church Art Today Exhibition, Glasgow 1990

1975 Pulpit Fall, Pulpit Back Panel and 3 sets of bible markers, by Hannah Frew Paterson.

FREE CHURCH MANSE, Almswall Road

Ewing — 1848

JASK, v.1 n.6 June 1970 — Replaced, on the same site, by a 7A bungalow built in 1969.

MANSEFIELD TRINITY CHURCH

Ayrshire Doors Open Day 2001 Leaflet

Striking circular church topped with a clear dome. Opened 23 March 2001 - the first to be opened in the new millennium. Unique features with latest sound and video technology.

sv, 12 November 2006 — Architects are **James F Stephen Architects**, Glamis.

ORIGINAL SECESSION CHURCH

VR 1956/57 — Church 34, and Hall 35 Abbeygreen.

ORIGINAL SECESSION MANSE

VR 1956/57 — 31 Almswall Road

PARISH [ABBEY] CHURCH

List [P/BL/5/AR: September 1963] 1

1775; some additions. Eglinton Loft has canopy supported on three slender Corinthian columns ... Refs: Hay, 173,194,249. B.

nr — Double tiered gallery, cf Montrose and the now lost Edinburgh St Cuthberts and Musselburgh.

Hay, 194 — Has a C18 loft of some interest. cf Kirkmichael and Kirkoswald.

Lee Ker — The contract [to build the church] was entered into in 1773, and the contractors agreed that the work would be completed by 1st July 1774. The contractors were **John Garland**, mason, and **John Armour**, wright, both in Kilwinning. **John Swan**, Kilmaurs, was the architect. [It] was to stand where the old church formerly stood. The baric was to be 70' long and 46' wide within the walls; to have a pavilion roof, and the builders were "to preserve the same figure of ashlar on the outside of the walls as was in the walls of the old church". The builders were to take down "the whole of the remaining old walls of the old church", and also to take down three old arches on the north side of the church and other two arches upon the southwest corner thereof. [Contractors' names confirmed by Dick Folder 25].

ASH, Sa 11.10.1873, 5e — Re-opened last Sunday after painting and reseating for past three months - also new windows.

WS 29.8.1890 — Reopened last Sunday.

PULPIT

Lee Ker — On 6th August 1867 a new pulpit was erected, the front part of which still exists (1900). It was designed by **Robert Gardner**, then of Weirstone.

STAINED GLASS

AA 21.8.1890 — A beautiful stained glass window has been erected by the Earl of Eglinton as a memorial to Sophie, Countess of Eglinton, who died in 1886.

A 19.6.1903 — A stained glass window in memory of the Rev W Lee Ker was unveiled on Saturday afternoon in Kilwinning Parish Church. The window, which has for its subject, *St Paul preaching on Mars Hill*, is the work of Messrs **Stephen Adam & Son**, 121 Bath Street, Glasgow. Its treatment is broad and effective, and the colour is rich and pure in clear and translucent harmonies of choice glass.

John Hay — The memorial window to the Rev. Archibald Hunter was designed by **Gordon Webster** in 1951.

OTHER FITTINGS

AA 15.8.1872 — Last Thursday a bust of Rev Archibald Campbell was presented. The artist is **Clark Stanton**, Esq., Edinburgh. [It was exhibit 648 at RSA, 1872]

KIRKYARD

List 1 — .... Graveyard of some interest.

AA, Th 1.8.1861, 1b — Heritors to meet F 9.8.1861 to discuss a new Approach to the Churchyard.

GATEWAY

AA 13.7.1893 — The old Masonic Lodge is being pulled down - built in 1779. In its place is to be put up a fine Gateway leading to the Parish Church and a wall with ornamental railings between the main street and the churchyard.

PARISH CHURCH HALLS, Vaults Lane

Ness, Landmarkis — 19th August 1912

AA 22.8.1912 — Formally opened last Monday; **J & J Armour**, architects.

MANSE

Lee Ker — Built 1887-1888 to plans of **John Armour, junior**, of Irvine.

AA, 7.4.1887 — Irvine Presbytery - plans of proposed Manse, Kilwinning, submitted.

AA 12.5.1887 — Resolved to proceed with erection; **John Armour & Son**, masons, Irvine.

ASH, F 15.4.1887, 1a — Contractors for new Manse, Dalry Road. **John Armour, junior**, Irvine, architect.

AA 16.8.1888 — Final cost was £2255, £20 under estimate.

RC CHURCH [1]

Shaw — First church 1872

RC CHURCH [2: ST WININ'S], St Winnin's Lane.

Shaw — More commodious building, 1937.

J Kennedy — Dedicated 31.1.1937.

B., 31.7.1936 236 — To be built, 1936. **Thomas Cordiner**, Glasgow, architect.

PRESBYTERY

ACC Planning, A6567 — October 1953. Presbytery, St Winning's. **Black & Shapley**.

U.P. CHURCH — See ERSKINE

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