OLD CHURCH, The Cross

List 8 [Old List, P/BL/5/AR, 1963, 1]

Gable end of late C16 church; square headed doorway with roll mould. 2 round headed windows in crowstepped gable end, with clock above and crowning small bellcote, with 1743 Maxwell bell. Now converted to mausoleum. Graveyard contains early C18 tombstones and square vault with blocked bolection-moulded doorway. Ref: Hay, 1957, 248. B.

Brief History of Trinity, nd, typescript. Copy herewith.

About the time of the Reformation a new church was built, being cruciform in design. This in later years was extended and a new belfry erected; the bell, still there, having been gifted by Hugh Montgomerie of Hessilhead.

AANHS, 5, 260 — 1593. Aisle extended 1754

Clouston — Bell is 1614, re-founded in 1734. Robert Maxwell & Co., Edinburgh.

KWP 9.7.1864, 8b — [Old Churchyard not now being used, and to be planted up.]

AA 17.2.1898 — The Auld Kirk at the Cross ... has been undergoing renovation .. expense of Mrs Cochran Patrick.

ANTIBURGHER CHURCH

AANHS, 5, 127 — Erected 1760.

Beith Trinity, 1 — Moved to Mitchell Street in 1816: see ‘Our Lady’.

BETHANY HALL

SAC, ACC, County Council 27.2.1962

Feu Charter, over former Backburn School, to Beith Bethany Hall Christian Brethren.

E U CHURCH, Kings Road/Bellman Close

McNaughton — Founded 1861, joined E.U. 1862

ASH, Sa 24.10.1863, 4a — To be built on site near head of new road. **John Muir**, Townhead, Beith, is to be mason; **Smith & Logan** to be joiners - Mr (Robert?) Smith is also the architect.

ASH, Sa 26.11.1864, 5c — Opened Sunday last. **Robert Smith**, architect and joiner.

AA 1.12.1864/KS 3.12.1864 — Opened 20 November 1864.

ACC Planning, B181 — June 1956. Kitchen addition, for E U Congregational Church.

E.U. MANSE, 13 Barrmill Road

VR 1945/46, and 1953/54 — So listed.

FREE CHURCH (1)

GUA DC/1/1216 — Handbill inviting contractors’ tenders, 24 August 1843.

GUA DC/1/1217 — Handbill re foundation stone laying, 6 October 1843.

GUA DC/1/1218 — Handbill re opening, 28 March 1844.

AA 25.5.1882 — Beith Free Church, with 2 adjoining small properties, has been sold privately to the Dr Livingstone Lodge of Good Templars for £425. Erection of the new church is being rapidly proceeded with.

FREE CHURCH (2)

ASH, Sa 20.2.1875, 1a — Contractors wanted for Free Church. Plans with D S Love, writer, Beith.

[Is this an unbuilt plan, or alterations to FC1]

See TRINITY

HAMILFIELD FREE CHURCH, Wilson Street

See TRINITY CoS.

HIGH CHURCH, Kirk Road

List 42 [Old List 2] — 1807-1810 with later additions. T-plan Gothic church with tall 5-stage tower at north. Snecked and stugged ashlar. Wide gabled entrance front with central door under ogival head, with flanking buttresses linked by blind arcading. All windows 2 or 3 lights with geometric tracery. Battlemented parapets and gables. Tower with paired louvred belfry openings in 5th stage; above; panelled angle finials linked by latticed parapet. 1596 carved wooden panel inside. Octagonal gatepiers with quatrefoil decoration and ball finials. Built by masons **John Connel** and **William Harvie**. Ref: Hay, 1957, 248. NSA, V, 598-99. HR/767/16.

Edin Even Courant, 29.11.1802 — Tenders wanted for building a new church on a new site, to be 70' by 54' over walls. "The plan of this church is taken from that of Lasswade".

Groome — Rebuilt 1807-1810, £2790.

AA, Th 25.12.1806, 1a — Contractors wanted for a new church. Plans with William Dunn, writer in Beith.

Clouston — 1809 Mears & Son, London, bell, recast in 1909 by Wilson, Glasgow.

AA 10.4.1884 — The repairs rendered necessary by the storm in January, and desirable extensions, are to be proceeded with at a cost of £1000.

AA 24.7.1884 — At a heritors meeting on the 23rd, Mr **Railton**, Kilmarnock, was present and explained plans in connection with the repairs.

AA 21.5.1885 — Reopened last Sunday after being closed since the disastrous storms of December 1883 and January 1884, since when it has been repaired and extended. Cost c.£3000.

AA 8.4.1886 — Organ introduced last Friday: Harrison & Harrison, Durham. The case, which is in the Gothic style, was designed and built by Mr John Pollock, Victoria Works, Beith.

visit, nd — Building began March 1807. F.o. 9.8.1810. Cost £2455. Cylindrical stones from Trearne, dem 1954, incorporated in gate pillars. 4 stained glass windows: A Rev Woodburn †1961, Gordon Webster 1962. B War Memorial, Gordon Webster, 1950. C Ralston Patrick, G Maile, 1929. D Mary Stewart, †1946, Gordon Webster 1947.
Various tablets &c: that to Captain Alexander Wilson, † Kyber Pass, 1842, is by Fillans, London. Font, stalls, &c., 1896. Font bowl 1853, cover 1948. Lectern and pulpit, both 1928, by George McKechnie, of Beithcraft. Organ 1885, Harrison and Harrison, with case designed and built by John Pollock, Victoria Works, Beith. 1596 shield in front of gallery, originally from Giffen Gallery in Old Kirk of Beith. Stained glass in gallery, 2 roundels, Gordon Webster.

STAINED GLASS

BS, Sa 21.9.1929 — Stained glass window unveiled last Sunday to late Mr & Mrs Ralston-Patrick. 3 light window, designed by **Maile & Co**., London.

Reid, BS, 109-110 — Rev Woodburn window unveiled November 1962 [BS 24.11.1962].

PARISH CHURCH HALL

AA 23.3.1899 — Formally opened on Monday. Architect, John Snodgrass.

TT, F 24.3.1899, 3cd — Church halls added to parish church dedicated last Monday. Gothic. Freestone. Seats 600, 74' by 36', with a gallery. Plans of late Robert Snodgrass, Beith, carried out by his son, John Snodgrass.

MANSE, 1 Glebe Road

List 22 — Built in 1797. 2 storeys and attic, 3 bays, L-plan manse. Painted, lined stucco. Central panelled door with projecting pilastered porch. Plinth,

angle and window margins, eaves course, moulded eaves cornice. 2 piended dormers. Straight skews, end stacks, slate roof. Original building with narrow extension at rear with wallhead gable. Later rear wing at right angles cuts across gable. B. HR/767/16: Cost £400. Builder: James Findlater.

ACC, PHSC 1.9.1931 — BBL. Alterations to manse, Beith Kirk Session.

INDEPENDENT CHAPEL

McNaughton — 1839, to 1842.

MAINS MISSION HALL, Mains Avenue

ACC Planning, B1619 — August 1957. Mission Hall, Beith, for Matthew Lockhart

OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL SUCCOUR [RC] CHURCH, Mitchell Street

List 55 [Old List 3] — Formerly UP/UF Church. LC19 with the date 1816 on inserted datestone. Simple First Pointed Gothic church incorporating tower at SE angle, rising to octagonal steeple. Rock faced, snecked rubble with ashlar dressings. Buttressed south elevation with central door recessed under pointed arch; tall triple lancets above. Gablehead cross. 6-bay hall with lancets. Tall open lancets with pointed hoodmoulds and gargoyles in 4th stage of tower. Groome, I, 138. CS.

Shaw — 1922, "small but lovely oak-panelled church."

Beith Trinity, 1 — Anti-burghers established in Beith in 1761, with a church in New Street. This church built 1816, and Mitchell Street named for its minister, Andrew Mitchell.

AA 6.7.1893 — Mitchell Street UP Church "which has been newly built over, is to be opened today ... memorial stone will be laid."

ASH, F 7.7.1893, 5cd — Mitchell St Church formally opened yesterday. **W H Howie & H D Walton**, Glasgow, architects; **John Keanie**, Lochwinnoch, mason.

Beith Trinity, 1 — Rebuilt in 1910.

Beith Trinity, 1 — Became a Roman Catholic church (Our Lady's) in 1921.

McTaggart, Kilbirnie — Formally opened 28th May 1922.

GO 17.12.1954 — Renovated. It was originally a Protestant church.

PAROCHIAL HALL

ACC Planning, B1531 — July 1957. Parochial Hall, for Rev Thomas Kelly.

TRINITY CoS, Wilson Street

List 65 — Originally Hamilfield Free. 1883. Simple gabled Gothic church, square plan with projecting lower eastern aisle. Slender 4-stage tower and spire at SW. South elevation with gabled setback buttress at right, rising to pinnacle. Central recessed door with narrow side lights, all under pointed hoodmoulds. Y-traceried triple light window above with hood mould; small blind quatrefoil in gable, with gable head cross. Tower with square 1st stage, rising to octagon; pointed, louvred belfry openings in 4th stage; facetted stone spire with finial. Interior gutted by fire in 1917. Ref: Groome,2nd ed, 1895, I, 138. CS.

Site Visit — 220298.

cf ASH Sa 22.9.1877, 5d — Free Church, Beith. A site was acquired, plans agreed and estimates got about two years ago (i.e. c.1875), but construction delayed due to lack of money. The new church is now 'about to be erected'.

AA 25.5.1882 — Erection of the new [Free] church is being rapidly proceeded with.

AA 31.8.1882 — On Saturday 26th the memorial stone of the new Free Church at Beith was laid. Neat Gothic structure at the NE of the town. It is rapidly approaching completion. Exteriorly, the chief feature is a graceful octagonal tower, circa 80' high, at the left side of the principal

elevation. The plans were prepared by Mr **R[obert] Baldie**, architect, Glasgow.

AA 5.7.1883 — Opened last Thursday. John C Wilson & Co bell.

BI 27/324 March 1917 — Recently badly damaged by fire. Photo, per ASH.

AA 18.1.1917 — Burned Wednesday p.m. last week. 33 years old. Early English. Cost £3000.

Beith Trinity, 2-4 — Agreement to unite Hamilfield, Head Street and Mitchell Street congregations as one congregation, Beith U.F. Church.

AA 21.2.1924. KS, Sa 23.2.1924, 3b — Agreed to proceed with the erection of new UF church on site of Hamilfield Church, burnt during War. Plans of Fryers and Penman, Largs using old spire and as much as possible of old walls. c.£11,500.

CO3/12/4/22 20.3.1924 — Church and Hall; **Fryers & Penman**, Largs.

Letter of Fiona Ross, Feb 98 — ASH F29.1.1926: Formally opened 20.1.1926. **Fryers & Penman**, Largs, architects. In the building of the new church full advantage has been taken of the remains of the comparatively modern and substantially built church which occupied the same site. The side walls, frontage and spire have been strengthened and renovated, a transept and chancel have been added. ... A hall to seat 350, with kitchen and ante-room, has been built. There are two spacious entrance halls with three cloak-rooms, a minister's room and a large session house.

ORGAN

Beith Trinity, 13 — **William Hill & Son and Norman & Beard Ltd**, London and Glasgow, 1937.

The Organ Tuner, no.6, (2013) — Restored 1997 by Michael Macdonald.

STAINED GLASS

Site Visit 220298 — Walter Williamson, †1909, Guthrie & Wells. In transept, n side, 3 lights.

Site Visit 220298 — World War I. Chancel, 3 lights. nd.

Letter of Fiona Ross, Feb 98 — WWI window designed and executed by **John C Hall & Co**., Glasgow, and installed at same time as church was reconstructed. Sacrifice, Victory & Regeneration.

Beith Trinity, 19 — War Memorial window unveiled 24 January 1926.

Site Visit 220298 — World War II. Transept, south side, 1 light. nd.

FITTINGS

ASH F 29.1.1926 — [per Fiona Ross's letter]. Mr **James MacNeill** designed the pulpit and interior fittings and furnishings of the chancel and all are perfect examples of Beith design and crafsmanship.

Beith Trinity, 11-17 — Details

TRINITY MANSE, 3 Roebank Road

History of Trinty, nd, typescript. Copy herewith: — Original Manse demolished in 1955, and new Manse built on same site

ACC Planning, A8321 — March 1955. Manse, RR; James Houston, for Trinity Church.

UF [ex UP] CHURCH [Former], Head Street

List 41 [Old List 4] — 1st Beith BB. 1784. Classical rectangular church. Painted render. 4 tall round-arched keystoned windows on south elevation, with 2 storey projecting central, pedimented porch. Pilastered entrance with narrow side loghts under shallow segmental arched head. Upper part of porch with outer pilasters supported on broad band course, enclosing central pilastered, round arched, blind window. Piended slate roof. Modern addition to west. Square gate piers with domed caps, delicate fleur de lis patterned ironwork to graveyard, which contains some interesting late C18 and C19 monuments. B

AANHS,5, 128	Relief Church erected 1784.
GM 20.3.1783	Contractors advert.
AA 30.3.1865	Reopened last Sunday after internal alterations and additions: new seats, pulpit, &c. Architect: Mr Snodgrass, builder, Beith.
Beith Trinity, 2	Various uses since 1917, including dance hall, Orange Lodge, &c.
History of Trinity, nd, typescript. Copy herewith:	
	In 1926 became headquarters of Orange Lodge, then for a number of years was a picture house, then a factory, and is now BB headquarters.
ACC, PC 8.4.1952, 89-90	W Thomson (396 Shields Road, Glasgow() wants to convert the former Orange Hall into a cinema.
ACC Planning, A4628	April 1952. Alterations to Orange Hall to form cinema, for William Thomson.
ACC Planning, A4766	May 1952. Emergency Stair, Car Park, for Beith Cinema Co.
ACC, PLC 7.7.1952	Licence granted under 1909 Act. To be known as Embassy Cinema.
ACC Planning, A5252	October 1952. Car Park, for Beith Cinema Co.

UF CHURCH [Former], Mitchell Street See RC CHURCH.

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