Pre-Reformation (and technically in St Quivox Parish)

DALMILLING GILBERTINE FRIARY
Brian Golding, Gilbert of Sempringham and the Gilbertine order c.1130 – c.1300. Oxford, Clarendon, 1995
PHOTOCOPIES herewith
G W S Barrow, The Gilbertine House at Dalmilling, in Collections of the AANHS, 2nd ser., vol 4, 1955-7, 50-67

Post-Reformation

ANTI-BURGHER CHURCH, George Street
See MORRISON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

APOSTOLIC CHURCH, 1 Green Street

Dean of Guild Court 103/18	1953, Charles Forrest.
AA, Th 20.8.1953, 8b	Formally opened last Saturday. Sectional hut covered with plaster and roughcast.

BETHEL MISSION, Green Street

AA 13.5.1920	Tablet to William C Gray unveiled last Saturday. Marble, with side panels and bust. Work of **William Petrie**, Glasgow.
nr	Now a printer's workshop: James Mathison.

BETHEL MISSION, Lindsay Street

Dean of Guild Court 149/66	1963, ---.

BURGHER CHURCH
see E.U. CHURCH, Wallace Street

CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE, 125 Prestwick Road

AP 6.9.1935	Formally opened last Saturday.

CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH See INDEPENDENT CHAPEL

DALMILLING PARISH CHURCH, Thornyflat Road

AA, Th 10.9.1953, 9abc	Report of dedication, 1953. The design by **Cowie and Torry** was approved in October 1949. The foundation stone was laid 2nd July 1952.
Dean of Guild Court 99/24	1951, **William Cowie & Torry**.
AA, Th 10.7.1952, 6cd	[St Quivox Church]. Foundation stone laid Wednesday last week (2.7.1952). Architect: **F Torry**, of **William Cowie & Torry**.
AA, Th 9.7.1953, 6b	To be dedicated Wednesday 2nd September 1953.
AA, Th 3.9.1953, 1a	Dedicated last night
Scottish Churches	Opened 2.9.1953. **Cowie & Torry**, architects. [nr: Cost £18,939]
Dean of Guild Court 224/49	1973, extension: **Cowie Torry & Partners**.

Rev JOHN WHITE PLAQUE

AP, F 6.11.1953, 12f	Unveiled last Sunday (1st Nov 1953)

former DARLINGTON PLACE U.P. CHURCH, Main Street [now **BORDERLINE THEATRE**]

AP, Th 20.10.1960, 8ab	Has some notes - on the occasion of the centenary of the building, on the history of this church.
AA 10.3.1859	Wallace Street UP Congregation have bought a site, at the junction of Darlington Road and Main Street, including the Railway Tavern. Building will commence shortly after Whitsunday.
ASH, Sa 12.3.1859, 3b	[As AA 10.3.1859]. Church is to cost c.£2000, and will seat 900.
ASH, Sa 19.3.1859, 3a	Architects to be **Clark** [*sic*] **& Bell**, Glasgow.
AA 11.8.1859	Foundation stone laid last Monday week.
List 183A	**Clarke & Bell**, architects, 1860. Rectangular church with gabled elevations and turretted SE angle. On corner site with hall and offices at rear. extended 1897. Wide central gable entrance with gabled porch. Paired doors with dividing trumeau and cusped decoration above set in shafted and moulded

recess. Flanking lancet oanels. 5-light stepped lancet window above. 3 central lights with Y-tracery, cusped heads and quatrefoils. Clasped corner buttresses with splayed bases and truncated pinnacles. Recessed 2-light gallery stair window at right. Angled turret stair at left corbelled above ground. Plain and fish-scale slate roof with finial. S elevation with tall gabled bays flanking 3 inner gabletted bays. At ground, squat 3-light windows in outer bays, 2-lights to inner tall traceried gallery windows. S facing triple lancet hall window. Interior much altered. Note: converted to theatre 1986-1988. Refs: AA 30.8.1860. DoG 7/19, plans for alterations, 1897, by John Arthur.

Groome — 1860.

AA 30.8.1860 — Opened last Sunday. Modern Gothic. **Clarke & Bell**, Glasgow. Three circular windows at the west end have stained glass by **Hugh Bogle & Co**., Gordon Street, Glasgow, designed and executed by **William Kier**, a native of Ayr.

Henry & Grant's New Guide, c1869/1870, p.15

.. the present commodious structure ... was erected a few years ago, from designs by Messrs **Clarke & Bell,** Glasgow.

AA 16.9.1875; ASH, Sa 18.9.1875, 5d

Re-opened last Sunday after alterations - new hexagonal Gothic pulpit - **Clarke & Bell**, Glasgow. Pulpit executed by **William Alexander & Sons**.

AA, (Engineers' Letter Books) — 26.2.1897 letter of John Eaglesham to **John Arthur** re water pressure in mains at Darlington UP Church. [Presumably in connection with a water supply to new organ].

AA 19.5.1898 — To be re-opened on Sunday. new organ (**Brindley & Foster**, Sheffield) and connected alterations.

AA 26.5.1898 — Redecoration, new organ chamber, &c., under direction of Mr **John Arthur**, Ayr and Glasgow, architect.

DARLINGTON NEW CHURCH

AP, F 21.1.1949, 9cd — Induction, Wed 19.1.1949, of Alexander Hutchison as minister, Darlington New Church (a union of Darlington Place and Wallacetown South). Reception in Young's Tea-rooms, Sandgate. Hall in John Street.

THEATRE

nr — 1986, conversion to theatre. **James Wetton Brown**, architect.

WAR MEMORIAL

AA 24.2.1821 — War Memorial dedicated last Sunday. Stone, alabaster and marble. Design: **A N Paterson & Stoddart**, Glasgow, architects, and execution by **Galbraith & Winton**, Glasgow.

EBENEZER HALL, Tam's Brig

AP, F 28.1.1949, 7ef — Ref

AP, F 23.3.2012, 8 [1987] — 25 Years Ago. Christian Brethren who meet in the Ebenezer Hall at Tam's Brig have been told to quit their premises. They have met in the hall for 80 years, and in the 1940s bought it for £525, as well as paying ground rent to BRB. But the present owner of the ground, Monica White, first increased the ground rent from £100 to £350, and now wants the hall vacated.

EPISCOPAL CHAPEL

Shaw, HT, 29 — At foot of Content Street, and opened 3rd June 1832

AO, Tu 15.5.1832, 4c — "It will be gratifying to those who have been long contemplating the probability of an Episcopal Chapel being established here, to find that a temporary one has been procured, as lately advertised, which, though small is extremely comfortable, and as the clergyman, we understand, who is to officiate does so under the immediate sanction of the Bishop of the Diocese, it is to be hoped this plan for forming a congregation will be attended with that success which it merits, and that it will be only a preliminary step to the erection of a more commodious chapel, for which purpose, we likewise understand, there have already been received some handsome and ample promises of support".

AA, Th 18.7.1839, 4b — In reporting presentation to Archibald Duncan, Church of Scotland missionary in Wallacetown, refers to 'opening of the house, lately occupied by the Episcopalians, as Mr Duncan's preaching station'.

E.U. CHURCH, Wallace Street

Scott (in Ayr: Churches file) says that this was second church - "The first church was built in 1770. After the lapse of 30 years, however, the building was taken down, and the site, along with some adjacent ground was converted into a place of sepulture, where are interred many of the original members of the congregation and their relatives".

List 334 1799/1800. Plain square building, harled and whitewashed with piended slated roof, forestair at gable enclosed. Notes: Originally Burgher Meetinghouse, becoming UP Church in 1858. Ref: Dunlop. Shown on 1818 Wood map. CS. [When listed it was Jehovah's Witnesses Hall]

AA, Th 31.8.1809, 4c Ref to Mr Shaw's Meeting House.

AA 11.8.1859 Report on F.Stone laying, Darlington, says that the land for this church was bought on 1st January 1799.

AA 8.3.1860 UP Church in Wallace Street to be sold.

AA 23.8.1860 Darlington Road UP Church is to be opened next Sunday - 60 years after the Wallace Street church which it replaces was opened.

ASH, Sa 13.5.1865, 5b Last Sunday EU Church took possession of a new place of worship, the old Burgher Church in Wallace Street.

McNaughton Wallace Street congregation founded 1844, joined E.U. 1845. Acquired former Burgher Church (of 1860) in 1865. Joined U.P. in 1898, left in 1900, and rejoined Congregational Union in 1905

AA 11.9.1890 Hall behind church f.o. last Tuesday.

AA 6.5.1897 Reopened on Sunday after ... renovation, under the direction of Mr **William Kerr**, architect, Ayr. Building was gutted out, leaving only the structural part of the gallery, roof, plaster on walls and ceiling. New floor, new seating, platform pulpit, additions to gallery fronts. New windows in south wall behind pulpit. New porch. Wrought iron gate.

nr Demolished, for Gateway (now Asda), 1986-1987.

WAR MEMORIAL

AA 1.11.1923 Wallace St EU Church. War Memorial dedicated last Sunday. H McLachlan. Sicilian marble tablet on outside wall.

ANNUAL MEETINGS

AP, F 28.1.1949, 7b M 17.1.1949. Charles Campbell, pastor.

FREE CHURCH, George Street [former REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH]

List 119 dated 1832. Simple 2-storey rectangle, broad 3-window pediment-gabled front of painted coursers, architraved windows, those at ground floor level with cornice, pedimented double doorpiece with anta order, square panel in pediment. Rubble built 2-window flanks. Slated roofs. Railed front area with square piers. B.

Ewing Built as Reformed Presbyterian Church, joining UF in 1876.

Couper, 1925, 54-55 Built and opened in 1832. Joined Free Church in 1876. In 1904 Congregation, then called Martyrs, joined with St Johns UF.

Notes from Doors Open Day, 1991 (in Ayr: Churches A4 file)

In 1900 when UP and FC merged, those members of this congregation who adhered to Free Church met in the Wallace Tower, until 1907 when this building was allocated to Free Church by Royal Commissioners.

AA 31.5.1832 R.P. Meeting House, George Street, formally opened last Sunday. **Davidson**, wright.

AO, Tu 5.6.1832, 4c R.P. Church, John Street, formally opened Su 27.5.1832. "The building is neat, and in a centrical place, and reflects credit on the builders".

HALL

Dean of Guild, 52/37 1931, **William McClelland**, Ayr, architect.

B 10.7.1931 Halls proposed.

GOOD SHEPHERD CATHEDRAL, Dalmilling Road

New The diocese of Galloway was revived in 1878 and based on Dumfries, where the pro-cathedral was burnt down in 1962. However, the bishop's throne had been moved to Ayr the previous year, to an oridnary brick church built in 1955 in the suburb beyond the racecourse. The architect was **John Torry**. What defines a cathedral is the bishop's throne within it and one cannot alwasy have soaring arches and rich woodwork. Long, low and unambitious, with standard metal windows and a low tower capped by a chimney-like turret, it is

reminiscent of post-1945 schools in style. To the north-east are domestic buildings: to the east a somewhat later hall which is much more distinguished. The inner west vestibule (at the geographical E end) leads on the left to the wood screened baptistery with green marble font, by three doors to nave and aisles, and on the right to the gallery stair. The main structural system comprises very low brick arches and seatless aisles, wide plastered ceiling, and white-lined transept and quire arches, the later in a mock-Tudor shape. The bishop's throne on the north side of the quire has a curiously angular mitre-like canopy, light and varnished like the remainder of the woodwork.

BI 62/732	March 1951	New Catholic Church: **Cowie & Torry**.
Dean of Guild Court 107/81		December 1951 plans by **William Cowie & Torry**, approved in July 1954. [See also GO 13.8.1954]
Dean of Guild Court 110/31		December 1954 plans for PRIEST'S HOUSE approved in March 1955.
AP, F 24.6.1955, 13cd		Foundation Stone to be laid next Wednesday. **John F Torry**, architect (of William Cowie & Torry). Accrington facing bricks.
AP, F 1.7.1955, 12bc		Foundation stone laid 29 June 1955. To be opened in about 18 months time.
AA, Th 7.7.1955, 14ab		Foundation stone laid last week. **John Torry**, architect. [Photographs on p.13]
BI 67/785	August 1955	Tenders have been accepted. Cowie & Torry, architects.
AA 5.1.1956, 20x		Foundation stone laid 29.6.1855.
nr		Opened September 1957. To be officially inaugurated as a cathedral on 17 June 1962.
GO 16.7.1965		Organ installed. Partly from St Peters, Cowcaddens, partly new to suit surroundings.
AP 4.10.1985		Dedication 29.9.1985 after refurbishment. New altar and marble lectern, originally in St Robert Bellarmine, Glasgow; 6 stained glass windows, 4 from Our Lady & St Margaret, Kinning Park, and 2 (St Ninian - St Luke) commissioned from a studio in Irvine. Presidential Chairs and Bishop's Throne from a Lanarkshire firm. [Kinning Park windows were in storage at St Robert Bellarmine: subjects Evangelists and Good Shepherd].

GOSPEL HALL, James Street

AP, F 28.1.1949, 7ef	Ref

INDEPENDENT CHAPEL, River Street

Sasine History	1805-1813 Robert Haldane; 1813-1815, Alexander McLean, pastor; 1815-1880, Trustees; 1880- , Congregational Union.
McNaughton	Tabernacle. River Street, 1805; enlarged 1836; dissolved 1878.
AA, Th 23.4.1840, 4b	6th AGM of Ayr Religious Tract Society held here 21.4.1840.
AA, Th 15.9.1881, 4b	Ayr YMCA meeting in the River Street Hall. Here?
AA 29.8.1887	Acquired by Darlington Place Congregation and replaced by their RIVER STREET HALL.

JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES KINGDOM HALL, Wallace Street

See E U CHURCH, Wallace Street.

LOCHSIDE CHURCH, Lochside Road

Andrew	1935: Re-opened in 1981 after closure, renewal and conversion.
A 23.3.1934	Halls, Lochside Road, for Church of Scotland. **William Cowie**, architect.
AP 4.5.1934	Foundation stone laid last Wednesday.
AP 26.10.1934	Formally opened last Saturday. **William Cowie**, architect.
AP 15.3.1940	Dedicated yesterday. **William Cowie**, architect.
SRC, 1.4.1980	Leased by SRC from Church of Scotland for 60 years at £5 p.a. SRC will spend c.£20,000 on upgrading and alterations.
SRC, 26.11.1981	Lochside Community Centre project nearing completion.

MISSION HALL (CHILDREN'S), 6 Limond's Wynd

ATC, Works Committee 7.8.1935 (Minutes 1934-1935, p.235)

Proposed conversion of condemned houses at 6 Limonds Wynd into a Sunday School Mission Hall.

ACC, GPSC 20.3.1952, 12 — Miss M Simpson, Prestwick, wants a site at Mainholm to erect a wooden children's mission hall, to replace one at Limond's Wynd, which has been disposed of, there being no children there.

MISSION HALL (CHILDREN'S), Mainholm

ACC, GPSC 20.3.1952, 12 — Miss M Simpson, Prestwick, wants a site at Mainholm to erect a wooden children's mission hall, to replace one at Limond's Wynd, which has been disposed of, there being no children there.

former **MORRISON CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH**, George Street. [Built as ANTI-BURGHER CHURCH]

List 119A — Late c18, with additions and internal alterations, **J A Morris**, 1901. 2-storey rectangle, painted ashlar plinth, harled, piended slated roof. S front has advanced, pedimented centre section with pair of tall round-headed windows, later plaster panel between gives name to church. To left and right single rectangular windows at ground floor and gallery levels. two storey addition to W, 1901, set back and entered from S, harled with ashlar doorpiece, round-headed with blind tympanum, simple art nouveau detailing, narrow rectangular window to left, round-headed window further set back above. Contemporary railings and gates to George Street, similarly detailed.
East front to Limond's Wynd, two windows at gallery level. Addition to North, 1901, single storey, flat-roofed, harled passage, giving access to gallery at W end, entered from Limond's Wynd, very simple art nouveau detailing. Downpipes, renewed 1901?, have scrolled clamps. Note: original Anti-Burgher Church. Empty in 1978. Ref: DoG, 1901.

AAHNS, 5, 127 — Anti-Burgher Church at Wallacetown erected in 1770.

AA, Th 6.3.1828, 4b — Last Sunday Rev Mr Gunn, Glasgow, preached three times in Ayr, on behalf of the Glasgow Missionary Society. Collections of £5 10s in Newton Church; £10 9s in Relief Church (Mr Renwick) and £5 17s in Secession Church (Mr Schaw), a total of £21 16s.

McNaughton — Congregation formed in 1897, met in Volunteer Hall, Newmarket Street. Moved to former O.S. Church, George Street, 1901.

AA 11.4.1901 — Letter to Ayr TC from **J K Hunter** re certain alterations and improvements of Morison Congregational Church, Limonds Wynd/George Street.

Dean of Guild, xx/xxx — Warrant granted 31.5.1901.

AA 28.11.1901 — Dedicated last Friday.

Dean of Guild, 42/91 — 1925, internal alterations, **William McClelland**.

MEN'S INSTITUTE

AA 7.9.1911 — Men's Institute in Limond's Wynd, in connection with Morison Congregational Church, formally opened yesterday. At back of church - single storey building fronting Limond's Wynd; 600 seat hall, billiard room, reading room, &c. William McClelland, architect.

NEW PRESTWICK BAPTIST CHURCH

AA 3.5.1900 — Foundation stone laid last Saturday.

AA 18.4.1901 — Opened last Sunday. Brick roughcast. **William Kerr**, architect.

AP, F 25.2.1949, 7ef — 27.2.1949, Diamond Jubilee celebrations.

HALL

Dean of Guild Court 92/39 — 1949, **Harry S McNair**. "The proposed hall is to be reconstructed from one of the sectional government huts at present at Doonfoot Camp, Ayr. 7 sections of the hut will be used for the main hall, and the remaining 4 sections will be reconstructed to form a lean-to adjunct to the hall.

AP 4.11.1949 — Hall to be formally opened on 5.11.1949.

HALL (2)

Dean of Guild Court 130/164 — 1960, **Andrew Ballantyne**, Ayr.

NEWTON FREE CHURCH (1)

AA 27.7.1843 — Foundation stone laid last Tuesday.

AA 14.12.1843 — To be opened 24.12.1843. Architect: Mr **Clark**.

NEWTON FREE CHURCH (2) — See NEWTON PARISH CHURCH (2)

NEWTON FREE CHURCH MANSE, 42 Prestwick Road

Ewing — 1850.
Anon, Newton, 21 — Sold in 1962, for £3301.

NEWTON PARISH CHURCH (1)

AA 11.6.1868 [1776] — Foundation stone laid 3.7.1776, by Patrick Douglas of Garallan.
AA, Th 6.3.1828, 4b — Last Sunday Rev Mr Gunn, Glasgow, preached three times in Ayr, on behalf of the Glasgow Missionary Society. Collections of £5 10s in Newton Church; £10 9s in Relief Church (Mr Renwick) and £5 17s in Secession Church (Mr Schaw), a total of £21 16s.
AA 16.1.1868 — Newton Parish Church formally reopened last Sunday after internal alterations and repairs. **William Alexander & Sons**, architects.
Dean of Guild 23/52 — 1910, additions, **J & H V Eaglesham**.
AA 1.12.1910 — Organ dedicated last Sunday: **R S Vincent & Co**., Sunderland.
Anon, Newton [1960] — Has, on p.10, internal photograph, with high testered pulpit. Taken 1960.
Anon, Newton, 21 — Sold for demolition, to Ayr Town Council, in 1965, for £21,250.
nr — In process of demolition, September 1967.

WAR MEMORIAL

AP 3.9.1921 — Unveiled last Sunday. Cast bronze enclosed by a surround of Pavenazzo marble, in the lower part of which is a lead wall safe, with bronze open grill, containing roll of honour. Bronzes modelled by **Holmes & Jackson**, Glasgow: grill by **Reid & Co**., Ayr, and marble by **Galbraith & Winton**, Glasgow. Design: **James A Morris**.

[is this now in Newton Parish Church 2?]

NEWTON PARISH CHURCH (2) — Former NEWTON FREE CHURCH (2)
AA 9.5.1861, 7f — Foundation stone laid 1.5.1861.
KWP 7.9.1861 5d — In course of erection. **Clarke & Bell**, Glasgow, architects.
AA 8.5.1862: KWP 10.5.1862 — Formally opened last Sunday. Plan of Mr **William Clarke**, Glasgow. Gothic. Front elevation: large window, central porch flanked by cusped arches. Wings, an octagon belfry tower with niches at base, light lanthorn arched at the top, and a second, buttressed and pinnacled wing. Wheel window above pulpit.
AA 12.1.1899 — Reopened after renovation and improvement.
Anon, Newton UF — Following the Free/UP union of 1900, the House of Lords decided that the building belonged to the Free Church (Continuing), and the congregation was evicted in 1905, only regaining possession in June 1907.
Dean of Guild Court 167/86 — 1965, alterations to church: **J & J A Carrick**.
AA 3.6.1920 — Newton UF Church. War Memorial tablet unveiled last Sunday.
AA 11.9.1924 — Newton UF Church. Organ unveiled last Sunday. **Norman & Beard & Hill & Son**, London.
AA, F 9.1.1925, 9a — Newton UF Church. Reopened last Sunday after repainting and redecoration. "The building, equipped with its new organ and renovated by a pleasing scheme of decoration, is one of the most handsome in town, the scheme of decoration and fine workmanship displayed reflecting great credit on the contractor, Mr **H D McGregor**, decorator, Fort Street, who expeditiously carried out the work. The pulpit and choir area have been reconstructed, and with the new organ fitment, form a pleasing feature of the handsome building. This work was carried out by Mr **Quintin Clark**, joiner, Main Street, and has given entire satisfaction. The electric wiring for the motor and other electric lighting equipment was in the competent hands of Messrs **Wilson, Dickson & Co**."
Anon, Newton, 11 — Internal photograph of c.1960.
Anon, Newton, 21 — Union of congregations of Newton Old (the original parish church) and Newton New (the 1861 former Free Church) was effected 4.7.1962.
Anon, Newton, 21 — 1967 refurbishment and repairs: [**J & J A] Carrick**, Ayr, architect.

ORGAN

Anon, Newton, 14 — Enlarged in 1962, using parts of organs from this chruch and the former parish church.

HALL

nr — Dated 1971.
Anon, Newton, 21 — Built in 1971 at a cost of c£55,000. Contractor: Muir.
Anon, Newton, 21 — Pitched roofs added 1979-1986 by voluntary labour.

NEWTON PARISH MANSE (1)

AA, Th 15.5.1851, 1f — Furniture sale, Th 5.6.1851.

NEWTON PARISH MANSE (2), Prestwick Road

Anon, Newton, 21 — Built in 1890, and (in 2000) for sale.

NEWTON PARISH MANSE (3)

Anon, Newton, 21 — 9 Nursery Grove, Ayr, acquired in 2000 for £132,500.

NEWTON PARISH MISSION HALL, New Road

ASH, Sa 13.6.1868, 5abc — Foundation stone laid 5.6.1868. Plain, Gothic. Architect and joiner: **Alexander**; builder: **Armour**, Irvine. [Also in AA 11.6.1868]

AA 1.10.1868 — Now completed. Lies between Peebles Street and New Road.

ASH, Sa 19.12.1868, 5a — Opened last Sunday.

Anon, Newton, 21 — Sold in 1970 to Kennedy's of Tam's Brig for £7500.

ORIGINAL SECESSION CHURCH

AA 23.9.1875 — Reopened last Sunday after repairs.

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH [1]

Dunlop (Fowler & Strathearn McNab) 133-134

The RP Church in Ayr - successors of those who did not accept the Revolution Settlement of 1690, and known variously as Cameronians, Society Men and Macmillanites - had been attached to the (134) Kilmarnock Reformed Presbyterian congregation till 1830, though separate supply had been granted two years earlier. They had been worshipping in Content Street till 1832, when they moved into the church they had built at the junction of George Street and John Street.

Dunlop (Fowler & Strathearn McNab) 136

[The Episcopalians in Ayr leased premises in Content Street vacated by RPs, before moving in 1839 to their new church in Ayr]

AA, Th 18.7.1839, 4b — Report of presentation to Archibald Duncan, Church of Scotland missionary in Wallacetown, refers to 'the opening of the house, lately occupied by the Episcopalians, as Mr Duncan's preaching station'.

REFORMED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH [2]

See FREE CHURCH

RIVER STREET HALL, River Street

AA 29.8.1887 — The Independent Chapel in River Street has been purchased by the Darlington Place UP Church, and new and commodious premises are in course of erection for carrying on the mission work of the congregation.

AA 19.4.1888 — Opened last Sunday. Early English. Designs of the late **James Jardine**, architect, and carried out under direction of **John Mercer**.

Gilmour, 16 — Brethren "Opening Conference" on 24th May 1947 in River Street Halls.

AA, Th 18.12.1952, 19c — used c1947-1952 by Christian Brethren. [See Riverside Hall]

RIVERSIDE HALL (former WALLACETOWN FREE CHURCH), John Street

Fowler & Strathearn McNab (in Dunlop), 133

Became a full.charge in 1854, developing from a mission in the Limond's Wynd Wooden Kirk. Large withdrawal 1889 to form Ayr St Andrews. Became St Johns UF and , after 1929, Wallacetown South. United with Darlington Place in 1948 and Wallacetown South became church halls for the united congregation

AA 6.12.1855 — The new Free Church in John Street is currently in course of erection. Unfortunately, the south gable fell down last Friday.

AA 7.2.1856 — There was a further collapse, of the front gable, during the severe storm last night.

AA, Th 23.1.1890, 5d — 'About thirty years ago the building of the Wallacetown Free Church was commenced, but when the masonry was all but completed the end gable nearest the river fell with a terrific crash. ... The gable was afterwards re-erected on a somewhat diminished scale.'

[At this point the building plan appears to have been abandoned, and then cf:]

AA 10.2.1859 — Discussion within Wallacetown FC congregation whether to build new church on the John Street site, or on a different site.

AA 28.7.1859 — Foundation stone laid last Monday.

AA 12.4.1860 — Wallacetown FC, John Street, formally opened last Sunday. The description is taken from the "Scottish Guardian". On slope towards river - session house, &c., under pulpit end. Very plain. **Campbell Douglas**, Glasgow, architect.

AA 29.4.1875 — WFC. Reopened last Sunday after alterations - new ceiling, new platform, pulpit, &c.

WALLACETOWN SOUTH
DARLINGTON NEW

AP, F 21.1.1949, 9cd — Wed 19.1.149, Alexander Hutchison inducted to new congregation, Darlington New, being a union of Darlington Place and Wallacetown South.

AA, Th 1.5.1952, 8a — For sale: former Wallacetown South Church, John Street.

Gilmour, 16 — Purchased for £6000, "and from then until the end of the year underwent a typically "Brethren makeover"! This "involved the dismantling of the pulpit and pews, the construction of a completely new platform with baptismal tank and adjacent anterooms, the making of new seats –out of the original pews – and the making of cloakrooms, toilets and kitchen."

AA, Th 18.12.1952, 19c — Christian Brethren last Sunday took formal possession of the VICTORIA HALL (ex Wallacetown South Church). For over 50 years they had a Victoria Hall in Main Street, and for the past 5 years have been based in the River Street Halls.

AP, F 19.12.1952, 8 — Picture of interior of former Wallacetown South Church, which re-opened on Sunday as the VICTORIA HALL of the Christian Brethren.

Gilmour, 16 — Officially opened on Sunday 14th December 1952, and renamed Victoria Hall (this had been the name of the Brethren premises behind the Co-op in Main Street)

Gilmour, 26 — The halls had not been part of the 1952 purchase and "had been more or less unused since its occupation by the Civil Defence." C.1971, taken on lease at £100, and subsequently bought "for a very modest sum".

Gilmour, 28 — Renovation and improvement, and re-launched 12th December 1976 as RIVERSIDE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

HALL

AP, F 21.1.1949, 9cd — Ref to Hall, John Street.

ST JAMES NORTH NEWTON, Prestwick Road

AA 21.12.1883 — A need is seen for an extension to Wallacetown Church and for 2 new Established Churches, 1 north of the river and 1 south.

AA 5.7.1883 — Church at Newton. Plans: Early English.

Darley Hay — 1883, Church and Manse; John Murdoch.

AA 28.5.1885 — The new church in the vicinity of Tam's Brig was opened on Sunday last. Red freestone. Gothic of the C13. Over the entrance door are three handsome windows filled with simple tracery and a circular wheel window above, and the gable terminates in a triangular diapered panel surmounted by handsome cross gablets. On the left of the church there is a square bell tower rising to a height of 70', and terminating with an embrasured parapet. c£3500. It was built from plans prepared by Mr **John Murdoch** IA.

AP 11.11.1949 — Last Sunday plaque to WW2 fallen unveiled. Design by **Pilkington Jackson**.

AA, Th 15.7.1954, 8a — Re-opened last Sunday (11th) after extensive redecoration, including fluorescent lights and a tiles floor.

FITTINGS

AP, F 4.4.1947, 8f — New COMMUNION TABLE and 3 CHAIRS, the gift of late Allan Stevenson, Lansdowne Road, dedicated last Sunday.

HALL

Dean of Guild Court 57/3 — January 1933, hall: Alexander Mair.

AP 8.9.1933 — Hall formally opened last Wednesday. Architect: **Alexander Mair**, who has already completed similar work at Prestwick North and Prestwick St Cuthberts.

GATES

AP 11.11.1949 — Last Sunday Gates and Railings were dedicated as a War Memorial. Design and construction by **James Thomson & Sons**, Arthur Street, Ayr.

former **ST JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH**, James Street

AA 16.2.1893 — Site secured for a Mission Hall and Church of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

AA 16.3.1893 — Messrs **Morris & Hunter** are now completing plans for the hall, which is to face James Street.

AA 7.12.1893 — Opened last Thursday. it measures 42' by 26' inside and is lighted by a 3-light window in the gable towards the street and by roof lights. Externally the only noticeable feature at present is the gable to the street with its 3-light window treated in a late Gothic style.

ABJ 5.4.1916, per BoS — St Johns Wallacetown: **James A Morris**.

Dean of Guild Court 58/25 — 1933 Church, **James Carrick**.

AP 31.3.1933 — Church plans passed at Dean of Guild Court last Friday. Ballochmyle stone. **James Carrick**. architect. [BOS gives refs B 30.9.1932 and 14.4.1933 and A 7.4.1933.]

AP 14.7.1933 — Foundation stone laid last Thursday.

AP 2.11.1934 — Formally opened last Saturday.

AA, Th 3.6.1954, 6c — To close. Last service will be 27th June 1954. Began as a mission hall in 1894, and money for development as a church was gifted in 1918 by Miss Barbara Craig, but the church wasn't built until 1934.

Dean of Guild Court 117/20 — 1957, alterations to form club for Railway Staff Association: **M G Maycock**, BR, Glasgow.

Dean of Guild Court 130/161 — 1960 addition: **M G Maycock**.

AA, Th 23.10.1975, 1bc — Has been Railway Club about 18 years. Club have now finished paying back loan from British Railways Board.

LECTERN

AA 10.6.1920 — War Memorial lectern unveiled last Sunday. Work of **Jones & Willis**, Birmingham. Of rare design and executed in polished brass.

ST MARGARET'S R C CHURCH, John Street

CATHOLICISM IN AYR

B6/36/10, 1796/24 — 1796 Petition to Ayr TC from Kirk Session anent the large number of Irish vagrants in Ayr. 'And indeed within these few days past there is actually come to the town (we suppose by their advice) a Popish priest, who lodges in Anderson's the trucker, and is said to be giving them absolution, and it is even said by some of themselves that he or some other is to remain here, and that they mean to erect or rent a mass house for public worship'.

BUILDING

List 173 — 1826. Gothic, originally simple 3-bay plus narrow front bay rectangle; transepts and segmentally apsed sanctuary, **D Sturrock**, 1893. Painted ashlar 'nave and aisles' gable front, crocketted and ogee-hoodmoulded 4-centre arched doorpiece with 3-light window over between octagonal crenellated buttresses, 2-light 'aisle' windows, all with sculptured head dripstones; pierced parapet and cross at central part of gable, raking crenellation at aisles diagonal angle buttress, rubble flanks with painted ashlar buttresses, 4-centre arched windows with Y-tracery. Slated roof. Refs: BoS, Hay 156 and 248. B.

Macaulay — Although Rickman had a stated preference for Decorated "as the perfection of the English mode", it did not find such favour in Scotland where the Perpendicular came into vogue. It seems to have been introduced into church design by Gillespie Graham with his Catholic chapels of 1813 and 1814 in Edinburgh and Glasgow. The influence of these buildings, already referred to, was prodigious. In Aberdeen there is St Andrew's Episcopal chapel (now the cathedral) of 1816 which was Simpson's first ecclesiastical commission. Of imported Craigleith sandstone it is a copy of St Andrews in Glasgow. A very late imitation, in 1836, is the Cathlic cathedral in Dundee, with the Catholic St Margaret's in Ayr of nine years before being a somewhat naive version but with stone crowns on the buttresses.

Hay — 1827. In detail this hall-and-frontispiece chuch resembles the work of Gillespie Graham and may have owed something to his 1816 St Andrews Glasgow, or a sketch design by him.

Groome — 1827. £1900.

Sas Minute 2486 of January 1825 — Trustees for Erecting the Catholic Chapel near Ayr sesied in 2R 30F (=110F), Content Street, on Disp by Trust estate of John Smith.

AC 4.2.1825 — "handsome Chapel and Parsonage". &c., to be built.

AA 11.5.1826 — Foundation stone laid yesterday. Gothic. the form is an oblong square upwards of 80' in length and nearly 50' in width, the altar and vestries extending beyond the main body. The height from the level of the base to the ceiling will be nearly 30'. the structure altogether will strongly resemble the English chapel lately erected in Glasgow, the chief difference lying in some alterations as to the turrets; and from what we have seen of the elevation and model, it will be a neat and an elegant erection and form a considerable ornament to that part of the town. The architect is Mr **James Dempster** of Greenock - an artist of some promise - and the contractor, Mr **Robert McGachin**, is known for his industry and attention.

AA 31.5.1827 — To be formally opened 10.6.1827.

AA, 6.9.1827 — Consecrated Sunday last.

KWP, Sa 13.5.1865, 4f — Memorial Tombstone and marble tablet in church erected last week to memory of Rev William Thomson, †2.6.1859. Both work of J Douglas, Kyle Street, Ayr, carver.

Henry & Grant's New Guide, c1869/1870, p.15

"The Roman Catholic Chapel, in John Street, was erected in 1827, a plain but not ungraceful edifice. Its original priest was the late Rev William Thomson, whose memory is still warmly cherished for his benevolence, and for the kindly interest he ever took in the poor of his flock. The present priest is the Rev Mr Bourke".

AA 20.12.1877 — This church which has recently been going through a process of enlargement and adornment was reopened on Sunday last. ... The additions to the building consist of two small side chapels forming transepts which have been thrown out from the body of the church; the one, dedicated to the Sacred Heart .., having a prevailing tone of a rosy tint dispersed with roses and with a rich crimson shade, while the ceiling is a vellum with roses and sacred monograms. The opposite chapel, dedicated to the Blessed virgin, is of a prevailing lavender or bluish tone, with lilies on its walls, and a shade in tints of grey and blue, with gold points, a lily scroll, and monograms on the ceiling. In the chapels are carved oak altars, and reredoses with emblazoned statues from Munich, the oak work being beautifully relieved and defined with gilding. Stained glass appropriate to the dedication of these chapels fills the rose windows iin their gables above the reredoses. The baptistery is adorned with a stained glass window in two compartments, in one of which is represented the baptism of Our Lord by St John the Baptist; and in the other the Lord discoursing with Nicodemus on the necessity of baptism.

The walls of the church have been handsomely adorned with harmonious shades of colour, and the cornices are very elegant. The side windows have been re-glazed in tinted glass. The floor of the nave has been laid in a cheerful looking pattern of tiles, and the old-fashioned pews have been cleared away to make way for low, open seats. A very handsome aok pulpit has been erected near the chancel rails, and two confessionals are placed below the gallery, which has been modified and improved. The various designs for these works have been made by Mr **Goldie (Goldie & Child)**, architect, of Kensington, London, and they have been carried out under the superintendence of Mr **Mercer**, CE, Ayr, and the contractors for the different branches of the work have been - mason work, Dean-of-Guild **Hunter**, Ayr; Joiner work, Messrs **Meikle & Sons**, Ayr; Painting and Decoration, Mr **Hodkinson**, church decorator; Tiling, Messrs **Craven & Dunhill**, Shropshire; side altars, Mr **Rewcastle**, Ayr; holy water fonts, Mr **Boyd**, Ayr.

ORGAN

AA 29.2.1872 — To be opened on 10.3.1872.

ASH, Sa 9.3.1872, 5a — New organ in use since late 1871 to be formally opened on Sunday. **Connacher**, Huddersfield, builders.

AA 14.3.1872 — Organ by **Conacher**, Huddersfield.

BELL

AA 19.7.1894 — A new Bell has been presented bt Miss Boyle ... in memory of her brother. It was rung for the first time on Sunday.

HALL

nr — 1986 alterations by **Charles Toner**.

HOUSE

B6/22/1, Police Commissioners, Plans Cttee 24.4.1879
Submitted and approved: St Margarets Chapel House, John Street.

CEMETERY

AA 11.5.1865 — Monument in cemetery at rear, and marble plaque in church, both to late Revd William Thomson, †1859 - design and execution: **John Douglas**, Kyle Street.

U.F. CHURCH, Kirkholm Avenue

Dean of Guild Court 49/14 — 1930, church: **James Pollock**.

AP 8.8.1930 — Formally opened last Sunday.

VICTORIA HALL, Main Street

AA, Th 18.12.1952, 19c — For over 50 years (i.e. c.1897-1947) the Christian Brethren had a Victoria Hall in Main Street.

VICTORIA HALL — See RIVERSIDE HALL

WALLACETOWN FREE CHURCH — See RIVERSIDE HALL

WALLACETOWN PARISH CHURCH, John Street

List 174 — **John Kay**, dated 1834. Similar hand to St Margaret's RC Church. Tudor-Gothic T-plan, angles of nave and transept filled out by later additions, renovated 1950. nave and aisles ashlar gable front, tall octagonal buttresses with crenellated tops framing 4-centre arched door and centre 3-light window, "aisle" windows 2-light, diagonal angle buttresses; 2 window rubble-built transept fronts also with diagonal buttresses. Windows plain-splayed and square headed throughout, plain gothic tracery within. Nave flanks and gables crenellated, transepts crenellated on flank only. Slated roof. Original octagonal piers and dwarf walls of railings remain, railings themselves replaced. Refs: Hay, 248: Wm Baird, 60 Years of Church Life in Ayr. B.

Groome — 1834-1836

Anon, Wallacetown, 9 — **William Kay**, architect; **Parker & Robb**, masons; **Thomas King**, joiner. Total cost was c.£1800.

William Baird — A chapel in St Quivox parish [was needed] to serve the growing quarter of Wallacetown in that parish. On 1.4.1834 a meeting was told by Revd Stair McQuhae that the population was 4195 (940 families) of whom 2335 (519 families) professed attachment to the Church of Scotland, while 1269 (382) never entered any place of worship. [At a meeting on 19.5.1834] it was resolved to proceed with the erection of a chapel to contain 850 sittings. Having secured a suitable site ... in John Street, a building in the Gothic style (was) erected, at a cost of £1800, from designs by Mr **John Kay**. [It] was opened ... on 13.3.1836.

AO, Tu 8.4.1834, 4ab — A subscription is in progress for the erection of a Chapel of Ease at Wallacetown.

AO 23.9.1834 — Foundation stone last last Saturday week.

AA 10.3.1836 — Wallacetown & Content Church to be opened 13.3.1836.

Henry & Grant's New Guide, c1869/1870, p14
.. a handsome edifice situated at the head of John Street, erected in 1835 ...

AA 18.9.1873 — Re-opened last Sunday after repairs. Alterations to pulpit, and to recess behind.

AA 15.1.1885 — Extension - offers accepted from various tradesmen, including, for mason work, Dean-of-Guild Andrew Hunter

AA 1.4.1886 — The fine hall, newly added to the church, is not quite ready for occupation.

AA 26.8.1886 — Mission Hall to be opened on Sunday

AA 8.10.1903 — Re-opened last Sunday after a thorough overhaul. Organ: **Ingram & Co**., Edinburgh, London & Hereford. Considerable structural changes, internally and externally. Windows renewed. Pulpit area altered. Architect in charge: **J K Hunter**.

BI 46/546 September 1935 — Session House, &c., for Wallacetown North Church, approved by Dean of Guild Court.

AP 2.12.1949 — The distinctive towers of Wallacetown North Church, which rise high above the older township of Ayr, may soon be shortened almost to the level of the housetops. Preliminary examination has revealed that the mullions, or pillar-like supports for the top crown, have badly decayed. The architect in charge of

the restoration work, ... Mr **Duncan McCulloch**, thinks that once the scaffolding is erected around the towers, earlier fears for their future will be borne out. To reconstruct the mullions would be an expensive job. In any case, the building is constructed from Craigie stone taken from quarries no longer worked. ... The front of the building is a modest reproduction of St Augustine's Gateway, Canterbury.

AA, Th 10.12.1953, 16a — Will be reopened next Wednesday after repairs and alterations.

AP, F 18.12.1953, 12cd — Re-dedicated on Wednesday after 7 years of restoration and beautifying.

Nr — To close c August 2009.

AP, F 30.9.2011 — To be dedicated as SALVATION ARMY on Sunday, 2.10.2011.

AP, F 11.5.1912, 4 — £500,000 upgrade approved. Architects Lawrence McPherson Associates.

STAINED GLASS

Honey draft — records 2 windows, either side of pulpit. Adoration of the Shepherds/Dove, and Jesus with Peter/Jesus with the woman at the well. No date, artist, &c. Gifted by (1) D E Hill and (2) H S Hill.

MEMORIALS

AA 1.10.1908 — Memorial tablet to rev George J C Scott unveiled last Sunday: bronze tablet, with bas-relief medallion, fixed on an oak plate. Designed and executed by the **Bromsgrove Guild**, Worcestershire.

AA 24.6.1920 — War Memorial tablet unveiled last Sunday.

HALLS

AP — Hall extension formally opened 18 September 1976

WALLACETOWN SOUTH — See RIVERSIDE HALL

WOODEN KIRK MISSION HALL, Limonds Wynd

(1)

AA, Th 24.3.1881, 4e — Working Men's Reading Room. A Reading-room has been established in connection with the Working Men's Christian Union in the Wooden Kirk, Wallacetown. The Reading-room will be open, free to all working men, each evening from a quarter after seven till a quarter to ten o'clock. Arrangements have been made for a supply of daily papers; but contributions of periodicals, illustrated papers, newspapers, books, &c., after their owners have used them, will be thankfully received. This is a way in which, at little sacrifice, a great boon may be conferred. Presents of magazines, &c., may be sent to the secretary, Mr William Savage, Elba Street.

AA, Th 29.9.1881, 4f — Series of free entertainments given last week by Ayr Working Men's Christian Union, in the Wooden Kirk, as a counter attraction to the amusements provided during race week. Dissolving views: Wallace Allan, with recitation by Mr Connell. Music, Williamson Bros, and concertina solo by David Pettigrew. Mr Miller, from Glasgow. Humourous pieces from W W Beveridge. A solo, Miss Murdoch. Song, Alex Godfrey. Remarks from John Anderson, the missionary. '… a series of very agreeable meetings, which the poorer people evidently enjoyed, and for whom they were especially intended.'

AA, Th 27.10.1881, 4e — Meeting, last Friday, in Wooden Kirk, to hear addresses about Mr Noble's Blue Ribbon Temperance Army in London. "Quite crowded by the usual frequenters of the place' Chaired by Wm McClelland, and addressed by Miss White, Glasgow; Councillor Simpson, Glasgow; Mr Muir, Glasgow. Agreed to form a branch here, and 100 enrolled on the spot. The Blue Ribbon Army is a gospel temperance society 'which has done most effective work throughout the country.'

AA, Th 3.11.1881, 4d — British Women's Temperance Association and Prayer Union. Social of Ayr Branch, last night, in the Wooden Kirk. Chair, Rev Mr McCrie. Tea (Bowden, Ayr Coffee House). Addresses by chair, by W W Beveridge, by Duncan, by John Anderson. Music provided by Mr Knox Williamson's choir.

AA, Th 15.12.1881, 4d — FAREWELL TEA MEETING.

(2)

AA 3.3.1898 — Ayr Wooden Kirk Mission to build Mission Hall in Wallacetown - plans of Mr McClelland, architect.

AA 20.10.1898 — Formally opened Monday last. Gothic, on east side of Limond's Wynd near Cross Street end. Architect: William McClelland. Brick front. A

battlemented parapet over entrance doors with “Wooden Kirk Mission 1898 AD”, sculptor James Douglas. Sketch.

Dundee Courier, Tu 30.4.1901, 5g (BNA)

Ayr Wooden Kirk Mission get £100, through will of William Houldsworth, ironmaster, Glasgow.

Edinburgh Evening News, F 17.6.1932, 11c (BNA)

Ayr Wooden Kirk Mission get £200, through will of Roderick George Brown, Ayr. [85, of 15 Bellevue Crescent, and head of firm of Robert Forrest & Co., grocers and wine and spirit merchants]. Brown claimed a Tibetan princess among his ancestors.

Anon, Newton, 21 — Sold for demolition in 1968.

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