

These Five and Twenty Years



A History of West Kirby United Reformed Church

Foreword to 'These Five & Twenty Years'.

The work of the then Presbyterian Church in West Kirby began in 1882 with a desire to see the Gospel preached and heard in the up and coming township of West Kirby. What followed was a time of prayerful and enthusiastic growth, rooted in the personal faith of a relatively small group of people determined to let people hear of the atoning work of Jesus.

These pages contain extracts from records which were put together to mark the Silver Jubilee of the formation of the congregation. What is obvious is how outward looking and evangelical in approach this church was. I was struck by the sentences on page 17: "From the beginning, the Evangelistic side of the Gospel Message has been emphasised. Definite conversion has been sought." That lays a sound foundation for a church, and a spiritual legacy which we are still benefitting from.

After an initial period of rapid expansion (resulting in 3 extensions to the building in the space of just over 8 years), members of the church were also instrumental in the setting up of a Children's Convalescent Home, supported the 'Church Plants' at Saughall Massie, Greasby, Meols, Birkett Road Mission, Upton and Heswall, as well as a Temperance Mission. At the same time, there was considerable interest in supporting mission work in Bangladesh, China, the Hebrides, Madras; and a desire to see missionaries sent out from the church.

Above all, there was an awareness that the work of the church was for the glory of God. As we think of these things 130 years after the Church was founded, may we, too, have an awareness that the reasons for our existence as a congregation remain the same; to see people saved through Christ for the glory of God. May we be as outward looking - and as distinctive.

Soli Deo Gloria.

Brian Clarke. May 2012.



A desire was expressed by some of the Members who attended the Silver Jubilee Meeting of the Church, that the Proceedings that on that occasion, together with a Short Sketch of the History of our Congregation, might be preserved as a remembrance amongst us.

This Booklet is offered to the Members and Friends of the Congregation for their kind acceptance.

THESE FIVE AND TWENTY YEARS

1882-1907

***"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain
that build it."—Ps. 127 vs 1***

The first entry in our Session Minute Book is as follows:—"On the 13th February, 1882, a Memorial, signed by twenty-three persons interested in the building of a Preaching Station at West Kirby, was laid on the table of the Liverpool Presbytery by the Rev. James Muir, of Egremont. After hearing the statements of Mr. Muir, Dr. McAfee, of West Kirby, was asked as one of the signatories to support the Memorial and explain the requirements and object of the movement. Several members of Presbytery followed with words of cordial commendation, and the Presbytery agreed to record their great satisfaction at the interest shown by the Memorialists in seeking to promote the conduct of services according to the forms of the Presbyterian Church of England at West Kirby, and commit the matter to the Church Extension Committee with instructions to co-operate with the Memorialists, and cordially recommend this new effort to the sympathy and help of the friends of the Church."

The Memorial alluded to in the Minute is here given :—

We, the subscribers, from our interest in and intimate acquaintance with the growing district of Hoylake and West Kirby, and from our knowledge of the numerous visitors, Presbyterian and others, who frequent this healthful spot during the summer months, are strongly of opinion that it affords a very favourable opportunity for the opening of a station in connection with the Presbyterian Church of England.

Within the past few years West Kirby alone (which we think the most eligible site for the erection of the proposed station) has increased threefold, and is likely to go on increasing in the coming years. Hoylake, also, is rapidly growing in population and in attractiveness to summer visitors, while the supply of Gospel ordinances in the West Kirby section of the district is not equal to the necessities of the case. We, therefore, seek your counsel and encouragement in this proposal, which is made on behalf, not only of the many Presbyterian families who visit the shore of the Dee in summer, but also of the spiritual interests of the permanent residents in these parts.

Signed,

A. S. HANNAY
T. S. HANNAY
JOHN GRAHAM JR
HENRY D BRANDRETH
THOMAS ROBERTS
A. STEWART
S.G. SINCLAIR
ALEX H. WHYT
A. GUTHRIE
JOHN PATTERSON
J. H. ANGUS

THOMAS MATHESON
FRANCIS MUIR
ALEXANDER BROWN
J. GOULD
FRED CROWTHER
JAMES CULLEN
W. P. SINCLAIR
Wm. McAFEE M.D.
ALEX BALFOUR
JAMES B. FORTUNE
JAMES A. FRASER

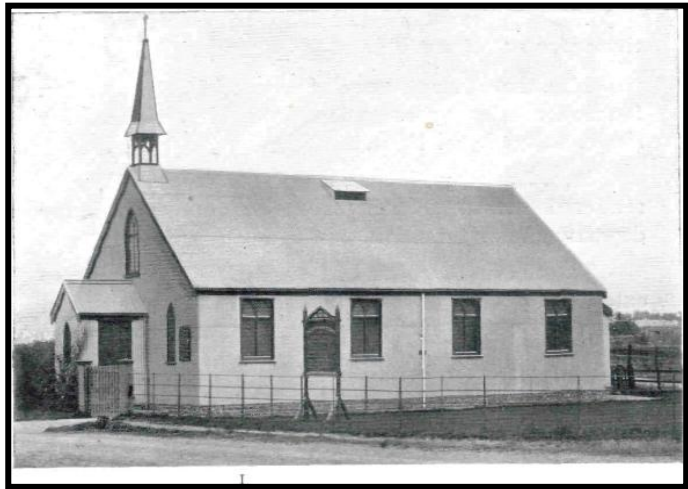
Of these Memorialists, there was only one West Kirby resident. The population of the township was then about 1,200 in the summer season.

A committee was immediately afterwards formed, consisting of Messrs. A. Brown, A. Hannay, T. S. Hannay, John Graham, Junr., W. D. Forde, J. M. Hay, Dr. McAfee and the Rev. James Muir (Convener).

Communications were made with Lord Stanley of Alderley's agent to secure a site, and plans and estimates were provided by Mr. Hay for an iron structure to accommodate 250 persons.

Sites in Riversdale Road (north side) and Lingdale Road (north-east corner, next to main road) were discussed, but ultimately 1,800 yards of land (present site) were acquired on a lease of 99 years.

The Iron Church was opened on the fourth Sabbath in May by the Rev. John Watson, M.A., of Sefton Park. The Morning and Evening Services were crowded, and collections of £141 were taken during the day. In addition to this, £404 had been reported in subscriptions to this date, making a total of £545.



Iron Church, West Kirby

During the succeeding weeks the Rev. James Towers, the Rev. R. Lundie, the Rev. James Muir, the Rev. Dr. Symington, the Rev. Bryce Muir, the Rev. S. R. Macphail (of Liverpool Presbytery), the Rev. Dr. Simpson (of Derby), the Rev. J. Rennie (of Glasgow), the Rev. W. Rigby Murray (of Manchester) and the Rev. Dr. Chalmers (London) supplied the pulpit.

Application was made to the June Presbytery for permission to dispense the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper. This was granted, and the Rev. Dr. Simpson, of Derby, officiated on the second Sabbath in July. Children's Services were begun at 3 o'clock on Sunday afternoons, and a weeknight Service on Thursdays at 8 o'clock.

After payment of the building and furnishing, there was a balance in hand of £39 12s. 4d. Mrs. Crowther generously presented a Communion Service to the congregation, and Mrs. Steele, her sister, a Baptismal Font. Mrs. Anthony Hannay and Mrs. Thomas Hannay rendered valued help in these early days in many departments of the work.

The Services, which had originally been meant to extend only during the summer months, were continued throughout the winter, and the attendances were most gratifying.

A collection had been taken for the Hoylake Children's Convalescent Home, in August, amounting to £21 12s.

1883.—On 26th March, the first meeting of worshippers and friends was held in the Church, at which the desire was expressed for an Interim Session. The morning attendances averaged about 100, and in the evening about 120 were present, during the winter months. The collections covered all expenses of supply of pulpit. During the summer a collection for Foreign Missions amounting to £20 7s. was made, and, for the Hoylake Convalescent Home, £17 1s.

At this time there was much temperance work going on in the district, under the auspices of the Blue Ribbon movement. During the winter, 1882-3, meetings begun in the Primitive Methodist Chapel, West Kirby, had extended to Hoylake, Meols, Moreton, Greasby and Irby. More than 1,000 pledges had been taken, and the district was deeply affected spiritually. Many conversions of workers, who remain steadfast to this day, took place.

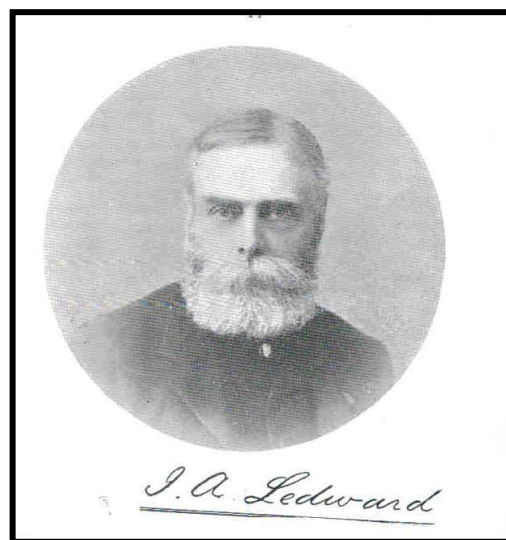
An iron structure, to be used as a cocoa-room for West Kirby, and in which religious meetings and a reading-room were established, was constructed by the late Mr. J. A. Ledward, and managed by other adherents of our congregation. This little building was a centre of much spiritual activity, and, although it was conducted on undenominational lines, our worshippers gave and received much help in association with the work. The structure was removed to the Docks Station, where it is now used in connection with the Railway Mission, and the Christian Institute, opened in 1892, occupies its site.

In this same year, an Evangelisation Society for the district was formed. Meetings were conducted at Birkett Road, the Sail-room (Hoylake), Greasby and Irby. A series of Evangelistic Services, conducted by the late Mr. Thomas Lydiatt and others, was held in the Church in the early part of the year.

From the beginning of our work there was a markedly Evangelistic interest. Unfermented wine was early introduced at our Communion Services, and this led to its adoption in our three Branch Churches afterwards. All the seats were free and unappropriated; the offerings made weekly being our main source of revenue.

In 1884 a desire was expressed by the worshippers that a pastor should be appointed; this was carefully considered, and it was thought advisable at this early stage to adopt a six months' location. The Rev. Forrest Young spent the following winter amongst us with much acceptance.

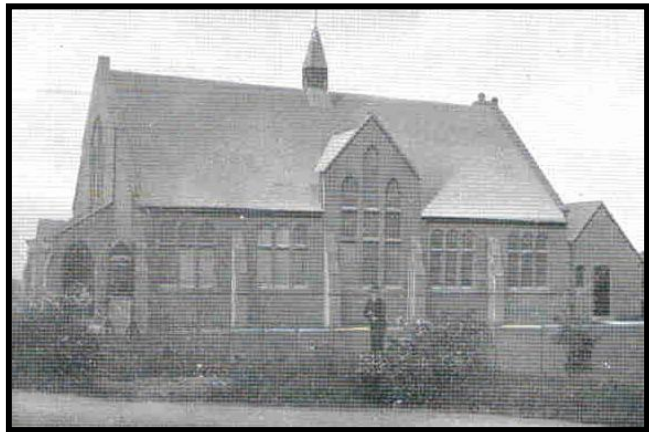
1885.—Hitherto we had been placed under the spiritual charge of the Egremont Session, with the Rev. Dr. Muir as Moderator. On 1st July a local session consisting of the late Mr. J. A. Ledward and Dr. McAfee was appointed. Mr. Ledward remained in office till his death in 1893. Few young causes have had the advantage of such a wise, generous, spiritually



mindful elder, and much of our success in the early years of our work was due to his unwearied interest and readiness, by God's Grace, to render all possible help.

The Rev. P. M. Kirkland, who had preached during the month of May, entered upon a six months' location from 6th September. The congregation of the Church had been effected in March, and on April 14th a Congregational Committee of Management was formed. The necessity for increased accommodation had occupied the attention of the Committee, and the deepened interest in the work during the winter necessitated the provision of a larger building. Mr. Kirkland's appointment was attended with much blessing. A Bible Class was held by him.

1886.—The present Lecture Hall was built at a cost of £1,690, including laying out of grounds and furnishing. At this time a Literary Society under the control of the 'Session (which afterwards became the West Kirby Literary Society) was commenced in the cocoa rooms. These were also an active centre for Prayer Meetings, Evangelistic and Temperance Work.



Lecture Hall, West Kirby

1887.—The Children's Convalescent Home was built at West Kirby, a work with which many of our members were closely identified, and in which the congregation have always taken considerable interest. We have had an annual collection in our Church from the first year of its existence on behalf of this admirable Institution. The scholars of our Sunday School have for many years supported a cot, and one of our members has endowed another, so that our congregation, through its officers, has access to three cots. We hope the interest in this good work will never flag. The Home has been a succourer of many, and a most natural outflow for the gifts of our people, related as it is to us by its position and history.

On February 7th, a Congregational Meeting was held, at which it was decided to take steps to elect a Minister. Mr. Kirkland was unanimously selected, and on February 24th a meeting of Presbytery was held in West Kirby, at which the call of the congregation was received and declared to be unanimous.

March 31st, Presbytery again met in the Church, when the Rev. P. M. Kirkland was ordained to the office of Minister. The Service was presided over by the Rev. Robert Duff, M.A., who preached. The Rev. Dr. Muir, as Moderator, gave a statement of the steps which had led to the present proceedings. After ordination by the laying on of hands, the Rev. Bryce Muir delivered the charge to the Minister and congregation.

April 10th (Easter Sunday), the opening Services in the Lecture Hall were conducted by the Rev. Dr. Muir. After the Morning Service about seventy Communicants partook of the Lord's Supper.

The Rev. Dr. Muir gave invaluable help at the beginning of our Church life, and has taken a most friendly interest in our progress.

On May 3rd it was arranged that the Lord's-Supper be dispensed monthly, alternately at Morning and Evening Service, and the Sabbath Morning Prayer Meeting was instituted. During this month Evangelistic Services were conducted by Mr. J. M. Scroggie and Mr. Lydiatt.

In June it was decided to open a Sunday School, to take the place of the Children's Services held hitherto. Mr. R. B. Annesley was appointed Superintendent by the Session. This work he continued during his residence in West Kirby, for five years, with great success. In 1888 Mr. Scroggie conducted another Mission.

1889.—The Iron Church which had been used as a Sunday School from the opening of the Lecture Hall was removed in halves to Greasby and Meols. Our membership had increased to 119, while the Lecture Hall was inadequate to hold our audiences. The Session was increased by the addition of Messrs. James Taylor, James H. Knight, and John L. Morice on 11th September.

In all departments of the work there was increased interest and growth. A deputation of Synod, consisting of The Rev. Mr. Cowan, of Nottingham, and Sir George B. Bruce, visited the Church, and addressed the congregation, on 31st October. They expressed great pleasure at the vigour of our young congregation, and especially commended our interest in Local Missions.

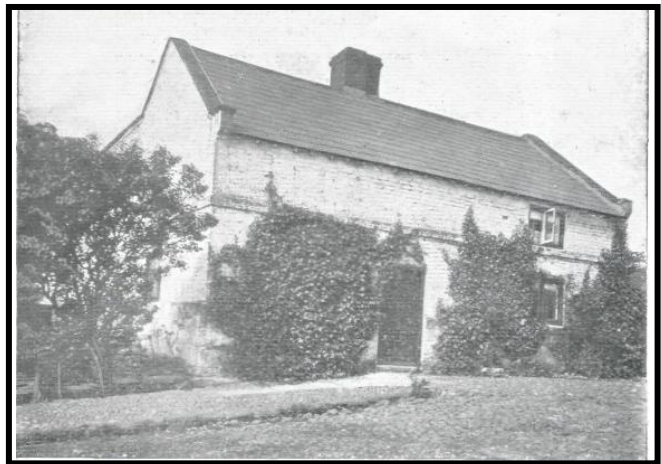
The present Church building was commenced. This had necessitated the removal of the iron building, now required at Meols and Greasby owing to the success of the work at these stations carried on by the Evangelisation Committee, which now consisted exclusively of members of our congregation, and employed an Evangelist, Mr. Martin. Mr. Crowther generously took the superintendence and general responsibility of the Mission at Saughall Massie. The Friday afternoon meeting for Bible Study was begun.



*West Kirby
Presbyterian Church*

1890.—The new Church was opened on Thursday, 3rd April, by the Rev. Dr. Munro Gibson. The cost, including furnishing, was £3,632. On April 16th, the Session took over the work of the Evangelisation Committee, subject to the approval of the congregation, which was obtained on 22nd April. Saughall Massie, Greasby, Meols and Birkett Road were adopted, and Mr. Robert J. Stevenson was appointed Evangelist at Greasby. The Sunday evening Prayer Meeting was established.

1891.—On May 5th Mr. Kirkland married Miss Catherine Ackerley, daughter of the late Mr. Benjamin Ackerley, of Liverpool. By this event the congregation secured a most enthusiastic and devoted worker, whose zeal has made itself felt in every department of our church life, and whose wide knowledge and practical help in home and foreign mission work have been freely given to the Church.



Saughall Massie (Photo by Miss Parker)

During this year a scheme of monthly payments to the Church Building Fund was adopted. The work in the villages was prosecuted with vigour. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was established in the Meols and Greasby Branch Churches. The Band of Hope became part of our congregation's work. A Temperance Mission was also conducted by Mr. George Blacklock at the Tynwald Hall under the Session's direction.

Mr. Annesley having removed from the district, Mr. S. Quilliam was appointed Sunday School Superintendent.



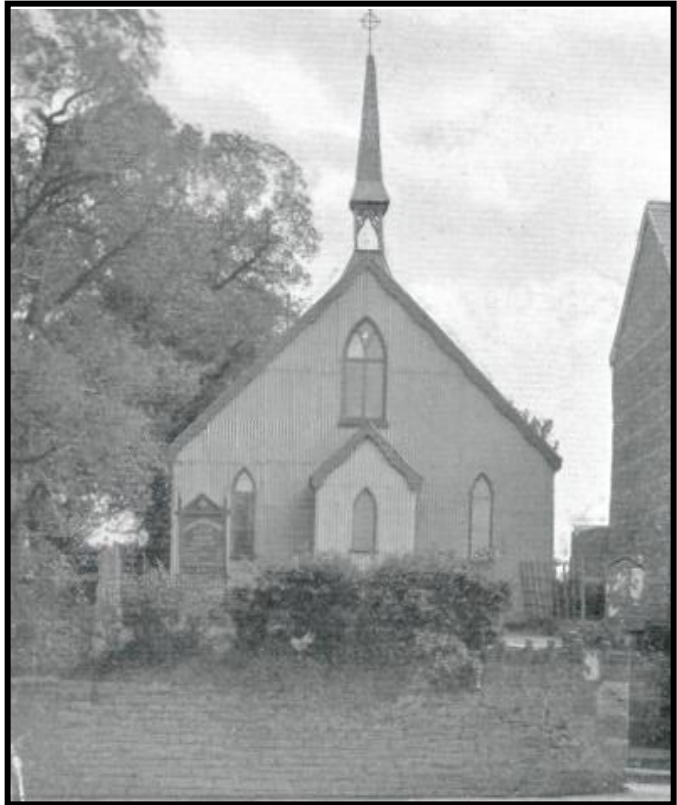
Birkett Road Mission Room (Photo by Miss Parker)

A fortnight's Mission was held in November by Mr. J. Butler, of the London Evangelisation Society. The Women's Missionary Association was formed on Friday, 20th November.

1892.—The Christian Institute was opened by the Lord Mayor of Liverpool on 26th May. Mr J.A. Ledward having bestowed the site occupied by the cocoa rooms, and having given other financial aid. The work carried on there has been upon undenominational lines. Many of our members have the members of other religious communions in the district in prosecuting the various social and religious agencies established there.

Mr. Quilliam resigned the post of Superintendent of the Sunday School upon removing to Liverpool and Mr. J. L. Morice was appointed to his place. We have been singularly happy in all these appointments, and we are thankful for all the good by our Superintendents and teachers in our Sunday School.

The Rev. J. J. Muir, of Waterloo, at of the Session, came and delivered an address in the Lecture Hall on Christian Endeavour, towards the end of this year.



Greasby Branch Church (Photo by Miss Parker)

At this time the Christian Endeavour Society was begun, on which the late Miss Ackerley bestowed much care, and her influence in maintaining its spiritual tone remains with us. Miss Ackerley also gave valued help as a teacher in our Sunday School and as Treasurer, with Mrs. Kirkland, of our Local Missions.

1893—A Sale of Work was held at at the home of Mrs. Duranty, for our Church Building. At this time there was also a deepened interest in Foreign Missions, and pecuniary help was sent to Rampore Boalia, to enable a Missionary to be sent there. The Temperance Society was started. Services were begun in Mrs. Hannay's Mission Room at Upton.

1894. — The Church was decorated, and the Mission Stations showed signs of spiritual quickening. Mr. Marples and Mr. T. P. Bell were appointed to the Eldership in February. Fourteen persons from Meols Mission petitioned for membership. First communion at Meols, on Tuesday, July 3rd. Mr. Wm. Lea was this year appointed Honorary Choirmaster.



Interior, West Kirby (Photo by J.W.Prince)

1895.—A Sale of Work was held in the Christian Institute to remove a small debt on the Church, and to provide funds for local Mission work. It was opened by the Rev. Dr. Watson on April 16th, and continued for two days. Meetings in a cottage at Heswall commenced. These were afterwards transferred to a hall, and Services on Sunday were conducted at the request of those attending.

1896.—Land was obtained, and an iron Church was erected at Heswall at a cost of £660. The financial responsibility was undertaken by a small Sub-Committee of the Session.

The opening Services were conducted on Sunday, 26th July, in the morning by Dr. McAfee, in the evening by the Rev. John Towert, B.D., and on Monday evening by the Rev. P. M. Kirkland.

A loan of £500 was provided, free of interest, by a lady in Heswall, and the Session agreed to pay off their indebtedness of this amount, by arrangement with the donor, to the current expenses account of the Heswall Church.



Heswall Presbyterian Church

1897.—Mr. Kirkland having completed ten years' ministry to the congregation on the 23rd March, an Illuminated Address and presentation of £100 were given by the congregation.

A Sale of Work, realising £112, was held at Heswall for the work there. New Class-rooms for our Church were contemplated, but these were deferred.

The Rev. Andrew Fallen was appointed, in October, to superintend the work at Greasby, and to conduct Services at Upton.

1898.—Heswall Branch Church was transferred the care of the Liverpool Presbytery as a Preaching Station. The site for a Church at Upton was purchased by the friends there in February. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was dispensed, and the Rev. James Smith was appointed to Upton. A membership was formed as a Branch Church.

There was increased activity in our local Mission field during this and the following years. The late Mr. Stephen Williamson, M.P., gave generous financial help to, and took a deep interest in, this sphere, especially Heswall. Mr. and Mrs. Williams, at Upton, gave invaluable aid.

Special Evangelistic Services were held at other Stations, and much religious interest was invoked. At the Synod held at Liverpool, Mr Kirkland promised to supply £100 a year for three years towards the work at Rampore Boalia. The Church entered heartily into this condition.

1899-Upton was raised to the position of a sanctioned charge.

The Rev. James Smith was inducted on May 2nd. A Session for Upton was established.

On August 9th the Rev. J. Mackintosh, M.A., was ordained to the pastoral oversight of Heswall. The organ was introduced to this Church at a cost of £547.



Upton Presbyterian Church (photo by Miss Parker)

1901-(February).—Mr. Taylor, Mr. Miller, Mr. Lee and Dr. Leggate were appointed to the Eldership. The Evangelistic work throughout the district had special attention this year. Various Missions were held at the Stations. On 5th June a Committee of Presbytery visited the Congregation, and gave a most satisfactory report of the Church life and work to the Presbytery of Liverpool.

1902.—Land was taken for a Church at Meols, in February. In April a testimonial was presented to Mr. William Lea, who had rendered many years of devoted service to the Church, as member of committee and choir leader, and was now leaving the district. The Manse Fund was opened and electric light was installed in the Church buildings at a cost of £124. The Rev. Dr. Clark, founder of the Christian Endeavour movement, held a meeting in the Church on 14th May.

"1903.—Junior Christian Endeavour Society formed.

1904.—The Manse was purchased at a cost of -£1250. Meols Church Lecture Hall was built. The Mission Room at Milton Road was taken over by the Session. The Debating Society was commenced early in the Autumn, and an adult Temperance Society was formed on 16th December.

1905- Meols Church was opened on Tuesday, 7th March, by the Rev. William Watson, M.A., of Cloughton.



Meols Branch Church (photo by Miss Parker)

Mr. Rowntree, who had charge of Greasby Branch Church for four years, retired, and Mr. Wm. Rogers was appointed to his place. Several Missions were held in West Kirby during the year. Many of our members gave their aid to this work, which was attended with blessing to our congregation.

1906.—The Rev. A. P. Adamson was appointed Assistant - Minister with charge of Meols Branch Church, and a local Committee was formed. Considerable expansion has been taking place in the work of the Sunday School, necessitating increased classroom accommodation, which was provided at the north side of the Lecture Hall.

Mr. Williams resigned the post of Honorary Organist, and Mr. R. Aughton was appointed Choirmaster and Organist.

Our congregation from its commencement has been under great obligations to the members of the Choir and to the leaders of our praise. Miss Florence Hill, Miss Florence Fulton, Miss Adamson, Mrs. Ockleshaw, Mr. Wm. Lea, Mr. Washington, Mr. Williams and Mr. Arthur Lilwall have rendered signal service.

In November, a Sale of Work, opened by John Lea, Esq., J.P., Liverpool, and Mrs. Stephen Williamson, was held to defray the debts on the Manse and New Class-rooms, by which over £1,000 was realised.

1907.—March 27th, the Session resolved to ask the Presbytery of Liverpool to request Synod to give the Presbytery authority to raise the work at Meols to the status of a congregation when the Presbytery may see fit. At its April meeting the Presbytery agreed to do so, and the Synod, at its meetings in London in May, granted the request of the Presbytery.

A Supplementary Sale of Work was held in the Lecture Hall on Tuesday and Wednesday, 9th and 10th of April, when the sum of £223 was realised towards the liquidation of the debt still remaining on the Manse, etc.

A Social Meeting was held in the Lecture Hall on Wednesday evening, 17th April, of which the following report has been supplied :—

A particularly enjoyable meeting was held in the Lecture Hall of the above Church on Wednesday evening, 17th April, the occasion being the Silver Jubilee of the Congregation. A very large number of the members and friends of the congregation met for a Social Evening at the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. Kirkland. The Hall was beautifully decorated with spring flowers, and during the evening musical items were rendered by Miss Carlyle, Miss Pickering, Mr Grant McAfee, and the Choir, under the able leadership of Mr Aughton.

Mr. T. P. Bell in a racy speech presented Dr. Leggate, who, after eight years connection with the Church and its work, has left for Liverpool, with a handsome case of Surgical Instruments. Dr. Leggate, in thanking the congregation for their gift, said that the years which he had spent in West Kirby were years of great happiness, and he would always remember with pleasure the friend he had made there. His experience here had been the best preparation possible for his work in Liverpool.

After refreshments had been served, the Rev. P. M. Kirkland said:—My dear friends, while our Silver Jubilee brings gladness to us, it also brings pensive thoughts. For we cannot but remember that the Great Reaper has cut down many who were with the Church at its commencement, and has left few of those who rejoiced at the formation of the Church, to join in the Jubilee joy. Tonight our

memory recalls the late Mr. J. A. Ledward, the most loveable of men, Mr. Thomas Roberts, one of the most gracious and courteous of men, and Mr. J. H. Knight, one of the truest and most faithful. And many other workers have been taken away, among them Mrs. McAfee, who was one of the sweetest of the sweet singers whom we have had, and Mrs. Duranty, whose noble character we all admired. But there is gratitude in our hearts that they were given unto this Church for Christ's service, and that they served Him so well.

It is a joy to us this evening that we have still with us one who has been an office bearer here since the work was begun; one who is held in the highest esteem by us all. I need hardly say that I refer to our friend Dr McAfee. When the work was about to be started in West Kirby Dr. Muir, of Egremont, had the matter put into his hands by the Liverpool Presbytery, and one day, almost immediately afterward; he met the Rev. Patrick White in Liverpool, and mentioned that there was some thought of beginning Services at West Kirby. " Well, said Mr. White, " a young Irish doctor has gone down to West Kirby to settle there; get him and the success of the work is assured." A day or two thereafter Dr. Muir met with our friend in, I believe, the Dee Temperance Hotel. The young Irish doctor was secured, and for quarter of a century the work has prospered and advanced without any interruption. I hold in my hand tonight a letter from Mr. Mill, of the Grange, West Kirby, in which, after expressing regret at his inability, owing to the state of his health, to be present at this Social Meeting, he expresses in his own clear and business-like way our thoughts regarding the work done by Dr. McAfee. He says, " As I cannot be with you, may Mrs. Mills and I be permitted to join with all the good friends present in wishing our dear friend Dr. McAfee continued health and happiness ?

In all these years of Church work, God has prospered the work of his hands. He has been an inspiration to others, and a pattern to all, in devoted, loving and unselfish service in every good cause." These words are true. There has not been any part of the work of this house but has been greatly helped by Dr. McAfee. What he has been to myself, as Minister of this Church, no words can tell. I dare not trust myself to speak of that. In sorrow and in joy he has been my friend, and when the burden has been heavy and the strain severe, he has been a strong brother who has lightened the load. Sometimes in our Teachers' Preparation Class on Friday evenings, when we have had a specially good passage for our Sunday School lesson, the remark has been made, "It will be easy to speak on that portion, for it is a fine, rich subject". That is what I feel about this subject tonight.

But I know that it would be distasteful to our friend, if I were to express all the kind things which we feel and would like to say. Yet this I must say, that as the Silver Jubilee of the congregation drew near, it was felt that it was a fitting occasion in which to express our appreciation of his long and faithful services to our Church. This Illuminated Address was prepared for his acceptance. It is as nearly as possible a perfect specimen of the illuminator's art. It contains four views of our Churches. First of all there is the little Iron Church, with its many sacred memories; then there is the second Church, which is now this Lecture Hall in which we are met, and in which some of the richest blessing in the experience of the congregation has been received; and then there is the picture of the present

Church, with a beautiful view also of the interior. The Address is true. It was subjected, if I may so say, to the criticism of an "Anti-flattery" Committee, and it expresses only the absolute truth. Dr. McAfee, in asking you to accept this Album, permit me to read its contents. They are as follow:—

To William McAfee, Esq., M.D.

Dear Sir,

On the occasion of the Silver Jubilee of our Church, we take the liberty of asking your acceptance of this token of our "esteem and Christian affection. You have been intimately associated with the congregation from the time of its formation in 1882. You have been Chairman of the Committee of Management during the twenty-five years which have elapsed since the Presbytery of Liverpool inaugurated the work, and in that capacity you have rendered services the value of which it is impossible fully to estimate. You have been an Elder in the Church since the formation of the Session, and you have, by your zeal, your wise counsel and generosity, greatly aided in the development of the congregation and of its Evangelistic agencies in the townships around West Kirby.

All the departments of the Church's work have felt the inspiration of your life and spirit, and you have been the friend of every movement which has had for its object the highest welfare of the neighbourhood. We gladly embrace this opportunity of expressing our sincere admiration of your high-toned Christian character, and our heartfelt appreciation of your twenty-five years of rare devotion to Christ and His Church. We desire to record our gratitude to God for all that He has enabled you to do for His Glory, and our prayer is that His rich blessing may rest upon you, with all the loved ones of your heart and home, and that for many years to come you may be spared in health and strength to advance His Kingdom in our midst.

Signed on behalf of the congregation,

P. M. KIRKLAND, Minister.

T. P. BELL, Session Clerk.

J. L. MORICE, Superintendent of Sunday School

A. G. GRANT, Secretary of Committee. 17th April, 1907.

In addition, we have also to ask you to accept this Bowl, the work of a modern "Demetrius" the silversmith. It was purchased with the overflow of gifts sent in beyond what was required for the Address, and it indicates the overflow of our good wishes for you, and when, some day, it is filled with roses, and their perfume permeate the atmosphere of your drawing-room, let their fragrance remind you of us, and assure you of our lasting love. The Inscription on the Rose Bowl is :—

"Presented, with an Address, to William McAfee, Esq., M.D. as a token of the high esteem in which he is held by the Members and Adherents of the Presbyterian Church of England, West Kirby, and as a grateful recognition of twenty-five years of devoted and faithful service in the interests of the Church.—WEST KIRBY 17th April, 1907.

Permit me now to ask your acceptance of these tokens of our high appreciation of your character, and of the work you have done for Christ's Kingdom during these five-and-twenty years.

Dr. McAfee, in reply, spoke as follows:—

Mr. Kirkland and dear friends,

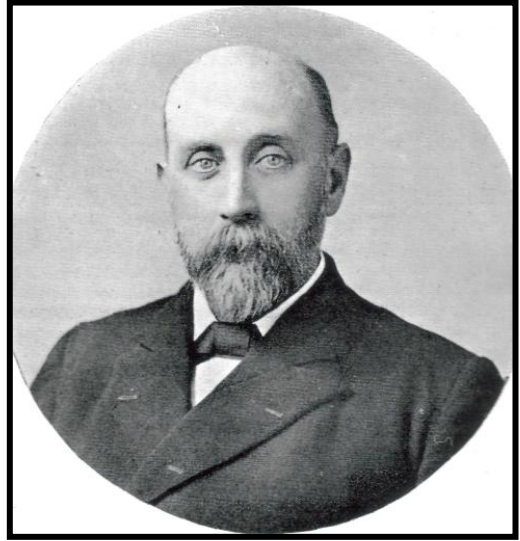
This is indeed a surprise; you have kept your secret well. I thought I knew everything that was going on in this Church, but I now see that I do not. Even since I came on this platform I asked Mr. Kirkland what was our programme for the evening, and he told me some of it, but he did not let me know of this. Well, at any rate, your silence has released me from the difficulty of attempting to reply in anything like measured language to the beautiful address you have presented, to thank you for all you have done, and for the generous estimate you have formed of my poor services.

It would be affectation on my part to deny that I have given a considerable portion of time and interest to the affairs of this congregation, but it could not have been otherwise, it seems to me, and what I have done has borne its reward a hundred-fold in my own life. In God's providence I was, as you have heard, brought here at a certain time, and by your kind confidence I was appointed to the Eldership and to the Management Committee. The opportunities you have put to my hand have enabled me to do, with others, some things for which you have not stinted your praise.

To have been identified in the Eldership with such men as John Ledward, James Taylor, Edward Marples, and James Knight, was a great privilege and inspiration. The afterglow of their lives is upon us to-night, and we feel the influence of their presence amongst us. Many others of whom we think, have gone to join the great family of the Redeemed in Heaven—who have helped as in our work. Let me assure you that these most beautiful tokens of your esteem will be prized, not only by me, but by the members of my family, of whom, I may say, that I only hope their Church surroundings, in years to come, will be as happy and as helpful as I have found mine to be here. I thank you most sincerely for your great kindness.

After a *resume* of the work of the Congregation from its inception had been given, the meeting closed with the Benediction.

In looking back upon the history of our congregation, there are several outstanding features which deserve special notice. Our desire as a congregation has been to avoid undue prominence to distinctive denominational teaching. The Atonement of our Lord Jesus Christ as our only hope of salvation, with the necessity for a life of obedience in the power of the Spirit, springing from the knowledge of God's Love to the world, and faith in His Son as our Redeemer, has been the message from our pulpit. This has enabled Christians of many communions to unite in our worship and service, and our Session has embraced members of the Episcopalian, Wesleyan, Baptist and Congregational Churches, working in perfect harmony and with mutual benefit.



Yours Sincerely
William McAfee

While this has been effected, a loyal co-operation with the general schemes of the Presbyterian Church of England has not been withheld. From the beginning, the Evangelistic side of the Gospel Message has been emphasised. Definite conversion has been sought.

Aggressive temperance work has been recognised as a necessity to the healthy spiritual life of the congregation in the existing state of society. The Services have been maintained by the freewill offerings of the worshippers. There are no pew rents.

The claims of the Foreign Mission field have been kept before our worshippers. The Annual Social Meeting to which Mr. and Mrs. Kirkland invite the congregation in the interest of our Foreign Missions, has always been a means of maintaining our enthusiasm in this good work. About one hundred collecting boxes are distributed in our homes.

Possibly our congregation is unique in the number of small Mission Stations attached to it in our immediate neighbourhood, in proportion to our own material strength. This work has had a perennial influence for good upon all departments of our congregational life. With small beginnings, a steady progressive testimony has been effected. We can trace the Guiding Hand of God in our short history, and acknowledge His Gracious forbearance with all our failings.

It has been impossible within the compass in this short sketch to give details of our various agencies and to acknowledge all the valued help so cheerful given by

our workers. In many cases the experience gained here has prepared them for other fields of service. Messages of praise to God come back to us for refreshing, and encouragement found during sojourn among us. Our Pastor has given twenty-two years of strenuous labour, bestowing his best of head and heart upon us. We hope he has many years happy service yet before him.

As a people we have been kept in peace and blessed with prosperity. For His mercies we thank God and look for further guidance. We shall fall far short of our duty as a congregation if we rest satisfied with past expansion and forget the Master's call that His message should reach the uttermost parts of the earth. Considering our work as a small base operations ought we not to conduct our warfare widely afield? ***"There is that scattereth and yet increaseth."*** We may expect some of the sons and daughters of our congregation to represent us in the Mission field with a return wave of blessing to our own Church life.

At present our Sunday School supports an orphan of the Madras Tamil Mission. Also a school at Swatow, China. Our Christian Endeavourer contribute to the Sua Bue Mission. Mrs. Kirkland's Bible Class supports a cot in the Hospital at Naogoan, Bengal, and provides the salary for a Biblewoman at Amoy, China. Last year £17 was contributed to the salary of new Missionary at Rampore Boalia, Bengal. The Women's Missionary Prayer Meeting supports an orphan at Pundita Ramabai's Home; and our members contribute to Dr. Paton's Mission to the Hebrides, in addition to the collections and contents of the Missionary boxes, for our Presbyterian Missions.

The Foreign Mission Work of our denomination has been greatly owned, and the Committee are at present embarrassed by its success. Men and money are urgently required to meet the situation. There is an earnest call to prayer and effort, to which may our Heavenly Father give us grace to respond.

"Whoso is wise and will observe these things, even they shall understand the loving kindness of the Lord." Ps. 107, 43.

"Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy Name, give glory." Ps. 115, 1

HYMN composed by the Rev. P. M. Kirkland. Sung at Morning and Evening Services on Anniversary Day, 26th May, 1907:—

"Hitherto hath the Lord helped us."

*FATHER! Thou from day to day
Hast been with us on our way:
Days of trial Thou hast sent:
Weeks and months of sweet content —
In a song of jubilee,
Praise and thanks we bring to Thee.*

*In Thy house from year to year,
Thou hast helped Thy people here:
Waiting hearts Thy truth hath blessed:
Christ hath been their Peace and Rest,
And in villages around,
Souls have Thy salvation found.*

*Some are gone who served Thee well;
In Thy presence now they dwell:
Lost a while to human sight,
We shall meet in realms of light;
And in higher service still,
Love to do Thy holy will.*

*Often we have erred and failed:
Oft, for fear, our hearts have quailed :
Yet, again Thy pardon came,
And we conquered in Thy name—
When we sought to see Thy face,
Times of strain, were times of grace.*

*Now, anew, our lives we yield :
Be our Strength, and be our Shield :
Few our years or many, we
Consecrate them unto Thee—
Though for Christ we suffer loss,
May we glory in the Cross.—AMEN.*

MAY 1882—MAY 1907

Wells—Church Praise, 304

SERVICES

ON LORD'S DAY

PRAYER MEETING	In Class Room	10:15am
PUBLIC WORSHIP: Morning		11:00am
PUBLIC WORSHIP: Evening		6:30pm
MENS BIBLE CLASS	Gallery of Church	2:45pm
WOMEN'S BIBLE CLASS	Choir Transept of church	3:00pm
SUNDAY SCHOOL	Lecture Hall	3:00pm
S. S. TEACHERS' MONTHLY PRAYER MEETING	Third Sunday in the Month	4:00pm
PRaise AND PRAYER MEETING	In Church at close of Evening Service	

ON MONDAY

MOTHERS' MEETING	16 Birkett Road and at Milton Road Mission Church	2:30PM
YOUNG PEOPLES' SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN ENDEAVOUR	In the Class Room	8:00pm
WOMEN'S BIBLE CLASS	16 Birkett Road	8:00pm

ON TUESDAY

MEN'S TOTAL ABSTINENCE SOCIETY	Lecture Hall (Fortnightly)	8:00pm
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ON WEDNESDAY

JUNIOR C.E. SOCIETY	In Class room	6:15pm
SERVICE	Lecture Hall	7:30pm
CHOIR PRACTICE	At the close of Wednesday Service	8:30pm

ON THURSDAY

GOSPEL MEETING	16 Birkett Road and at Milton Road Mission Church	8:00pm
DEBATING SOCIETY	In Class Room	8:00pm

ON FRIDAY

CLASS FOR BIBLE STUDY	First and Third Friday in Class Room	3:00pm
BAND OF HOPE	Alternate Fridays during the Winter in Lecture Hall	7:00pm
WOMEN'S MISSIONARY ASSOCIATION PRAYER MEETING	Second Friday in each Month	3:00pm
MEN'S PRAYER MEETING	16 Birkett Road	8:00pm
SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS PREPARATION CLASS	The Manse	8:15pm

The Ordinance of the Lord's Supper is observed on the First Sabbath of the Month, Morning and Evening alternately-January in the Morning.

The Ordinance of Baptism is administered on the Second Sabbath of the Month at the Morning Service.

A Sermon to Young Men is preached on the Third Sabbath of the Month, at the Evening Service.

ALL SEATS FREE

The Church is supported entirely by Offerings on the Lord's Day.

MINISTER:

The Rev. P. M. KIRKLAND, The Manse, Lingdale Road, West Kirby.

ELDERS:

DR. WILLIAM MCAFEE	"Cooleen," West Kirby.
MR JOHN L. MORICE	13, Dunraven Road, West Kirby.
MR THOMAS BELL	7, North Road, West Kirby.
MR THOMAS LEE	"Springbank", Westbourne Road, West Kirby
MR WILLIAM TAYLOR	"Sunnymede," Hilbre Road, West Kirby.
DR JOHN BOND	"The Kraal," Hosscote Park, West Kirby.
MR HENRY PORTER	"The Hawthorns," Caldby Road, West Kirby.
MR HATTLEY HAY	"Seafield," Birkenhead Road, Meols, Hoylake.

Committee of Management:

DR MCAFEE (Chairman)	Messrs A. G. GRANT (Secretary)	T. P. BELL (Treasurer)
WILLIAM RAE	E. THOMAS	W. ROUGHTON
T. A. MORICE	J. WASHINGTON	T. ROBINSON
Dr BROWN	HENRY PORTER	C. F. ELIAS

Sunday School Superintendent:

MR JOHN L. MORICE, 13 Dunraven Road, West Kirby.

Senior Clerk and Church Treasurer

MR T. BELL, 7, North Road, West Kirby.

Church Secretary

Mr A.G. GRANT, 9 Riversdale Road, West Kirby.

Christian Endeavour Society:

Corresponding Secretary	Mr E. S. HEBRON, Banks Avenue, Meols.
Recording Secretary	Mr G. WEBSTER, "Elm Grove," Hoylake

Women's Missionary Association Secretary:

Mrs Bond, "The Kraal," Hosscote Park, West Kirby.

Sunday School Secretary and Treasurer:

MR. JOHN L. TUDOR, "Green Lawn," Lingdale Road, West Kirby.

Band of Hope Secretary:

Mr A. G. GRANT, 9, Riversdale Road, West Kirby.

Mens' Total Abstinence Secretaries:

Mr A. G. GRANT, 9, Riversdale Road, West Kirby.
Mr CHARLES ELIAS, 11 Dunraven Road, West Kirby.

Local Missions Financial Secretary:

Mrs KIRKLAND, "The Manse," Lingdale Road, West Kirby.

Organist and Choirmaster:

Mr. RICHARD AUGHTON, 50, Ferndale Road, West Kirby.

Church Officer:

Mr BENJAMIN JOHNSTONE, 11 Grove Road, West Kirby.

Branch Church, Meols: Rev. A. P. ADAMSON, Minister in Charge
Branch Church, Greasby: Mr W. M. ROGERS, Evangelist.