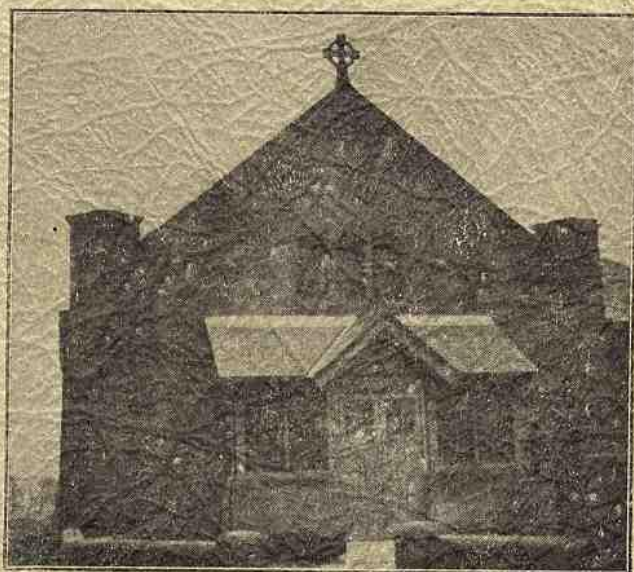


BARRHEAD METHODIST CHURCH

Jubilee Celebrations

January, 16th, 17th and 19th, 1954



Souvenir Handbook

1904 - 1954

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BARRHEAD METHODIST CHURCH

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McNicol, Miss Driver, Miss Boag.

GREETINGS from the President of the Methodist Conference
The Rev. Donald O. Soper, 'M.A., Ph.D.



I am so glad to send you a message on the occasion of your Jubilee, more particularly because it is a Jubilee of the Church.

There are many loyalties which we try to keep to-day but the best of all is the loyalty of the Christian Church.

May your greatest days still be in front of you.

God bless you all.

Greetings

from the Chairman
of the Methodist
Synod in Scotland.



It was my pleasure in 1928 to become your Superintendent Minister and welcome you into the Paisley Mission Circuit. My relationships with you from that time have been of the happiest nature and it has been a great joy to me to renew my contacts with you during the past seven years. I am very glad that all being well I shall be in Scotland when you celebrate your Jubilee. My wife and I send all our congratulations and affectionate good wishes.

Among your former ministers have been men of outstanding scholarship and distinction. A large number of very fine men and women who were a strength to your church have been called to higher service but their influence abides. Others are rising up to accept responsibility and continue the Christian witness in this our day. You are fortunate in having the leadership of a gifted and wholly devoted minister in the hey-day of his strength.

As I grow older, I value more than ever our Christian tradition and inheritance and thank God for the great privilege of having a place in the Church of His Beloved Son. Christ outlives all the futile substitutes for Him. Let us respond fully to all He constantly offers to us and would still make possible in our characters and lives. Let us dedicate the years that remain to eager worship and loving service in His Church and Kingdom.

May your Jubilee bring you to increased faith and wider love and send you forward into the future with great hope and increasing enthusiasm.

CÉCIL D. EADES.

The Spirit of Jubilee

"Man's little works, strewn on the sands of time, sparkle like cut jewels in the beatitude of God's countenance."

— Robert Bridges.

The keynote of our Jubilee will be joy in thanksgiving. The occasion compels an affectionate remembrance of the small group of men and women who, some 60 or more years ago, discovered a new life in the experience of God's grace and gathered themselves into a Methodist Society. We can understand with what love and faith they built their first Church and then gave themselves to the task of erecting the pre-



sent buildings. What love and sacrifice and faith was gathered into their work. The place was the "House of God" wherein they found fellowship in worship and service and rejoiced that they were called to do a "little work" for God. In the celebration of the Jubilee we bless God for His continued blessing on their love and faith and service. For 50 years the work has prospered under the blessing of God. This thanksgiving for those who established our tradition, and handed down the heritage of faith, will be very personal for many of our people, for among the leaders and members of the Church to-day are children and grandchildren of those men and women of humble faith.

For all of us the ground of thanksgiving will be personal. The "wee kirk"—as it has been affectionately called—symbolises for us the spiritual home in which we have grown into the knowledge and love of God and been made sure of the things that belong to our salvation. We remember the ministry of the Church to us in times of personal need; we remember the richness of fellowship and friendship we have found; we remember the joy we have known in Christian service. Our thanksgiving will truly be from our hearts and we will thank God for the circumstance which led us into this company of Christian people.

Thanksgiving to God, however, can only find its proper expression in renewed dedication. Ours is a goodly heritage. We enter into the faith and sacrifice and service of former generations. In our Jubilee thanksgiving we know that we are compassed about by a great crowd of witnesses, for the Church of Christ is one, in heaven and on earth, and in that mighty communion of saints we know that they who once laboured here share our rejoicing in God's blessing on the "little work" done and being done for Him. May our sincere prayer be that the merciful and gracious God who called and sustained them will inspire us with the knowledge of His will and sustain us in the service of His Redeeming purpose for our world. May our consecration be:

"Our strength, Thy grace; our rule, Thy word;
Our end, the glory of the Lord."

THE HISTORY OF METHODISM IN BARRHEAD

In the Jubilee year of our present Church it is with a sense of thankfulness to God that we turn back the recorded minutes of the last half-century—and even further in the recollections of some of our oldest members—and discover afresh the zeal and piety of the pioneers of the Methodist cause in the town and district of Barrhead.

The first beginnings of Methodism in the district was at Hurlet Cross Roads in the year 1880. The meeting place was at the end of a row of houses belonging to the local chemical works, near the present smithy, and together with a meeting place at Pollokshaws was under the care and guidance of the Paisley St. James Street Primitive Methodist Society. Local preachers came from the St. James Street Church every Sunday to conduct the services at Hurlet and Pollokshaws. The love of God was surely in the hearts of the preachers for only by walking were they able to reach the places of appointment. A local preacher who was keenly interested in the small company which met at Hurlet was Mr. Tom Robinson, proprietor of the local chemical works, and he regularly conducted the services there. He was a member of the St. James Street Church, and the Primitive Methodist Conference honoured him by calling him to occupy the office of Vice-President.

We cannot be certain whether any people from Barrhead worshipped with the company at the Hurlet and later decided to begin a Methodist Church in the town, or if it was the evangelistic zeal of the members of St. James Street Church which decided a cause should be started in Barrhead, following the good response of the people of Barrhead to the open-air meetings which were held every month by the members from Hurlet, but we do know that the first Methodist congregation in Barrhead met in the year 1884 in a small hall at the back of Messrs. Paterson Bros. Ironmongers' shop in the Main Street, entry to the hall

being through the pen at the side of the shop. At first, the services were conducted by local preachers from St. James Street Primitive Methodist Church, Paisley, but after a few months the congregation decided to be linked with St. John's Wesleyan Methodist Church, Glasgow, and local preachers from that Church came out every Sunday to conduct the worship. As the congregation began to increase in number (about 50 people were attending the services each Sunday), it was decided to hold the services in Barrhead Public Hall, now known as the Westbourne Hall, and shortly afterwards the congregation moved to the Templars' Hall in Robertson Street. It was then that Mr. E. J. Quintrell, a lay pastor, was appointed to minister to the Society.

In the year 1888, the congregation decided to acquire a building of their own. From the recorded minutes, we find that the first meeting of the Sub Committee drawn from the General Building Committee, which was empowered at a Congregational Meeting of the Barrhead Wesleyan Methodist Church to make the necessary arrangements for the erection of an Iron Church in Barrhead, was held in Grahamstone Cottage (belonging to the Carmichael family), on 24th January, 1889, at 8 p.m. Mr. E. J. Quintrell, the preacher over the congregation, presided, and the following members of the Sub Committee were present: David Carmichael, Andrew Carmichael, Thomas Kennedy, James MacCredie, James Gray, James Marshall, Matthew Turnbull, John Elackhurst, and J. Stark Carmichael, secretary. To the younger members of our congregation these names will be more or less unknown but to the older members they will bring back a flood of memories of associations and and happenings of the past. At this meeting, it was unanimously agreed, subject to the approval of the congregation, that the offer of James Lee, of Manchester, to erect an Iron Church be accepted. At an adjourned meeting held on 28th January, 1889, in Grahamstone Cottage, the secretary stated that he had been requested by the Rev. W. J. Dawson, Superintendent Minister of St. John's Wesleyan Methodist Circuit, Glasgow, to ask the Committee to postpone entering into any final and binding arrangements as regards the proposed Church until the St. John's Committee had considered the proposed question of affiliation of the Barrhead Society with that of St. John's Circuit, Glasgow. The secretary further intimated that negotiations were being carried on with a view of affiliation, and a committee comprising members of St. John's Quarter Board were to meet and confer with a deputation from the Barrhead Society on Friday, 1st February. This request was acceded to. A meeting in connection with the General Building Committee of the Barrhead Church was held on Monday, 4th February, when it was stated that the St. John's Committee, with a view to expediate generally the proposed erection of some permanent structure for the local congregation, had appointed three of their members, Alexander Brown, Noah Smith, and John Calder, Senior Circuit Steward, as representatives of their Society on the local Building Committee. The Barrhead congregation appointed the following as their representatives:—E. J. Quintrell, preacher over the congregation; David Carmichael, Andrew Carmichael, James Marshall, John Donald, Thomas Kennedy, Matthew Turnbull, James MacColl, John Blackhurst, and J. Stark Carmichael, secretary. On 5th February the first meeting of the combined Building Committee

approved that the contract for the erection of an Iron Church and Halls be placed in the hands of Mr. James Lee, Manchester, with the directive that the building should be able to seat 200. Various sites for the erection of the Iron Church were suggested. Feus at George Street, Henry Street, Water Road, two feus at the entrance to West Arthurlie Bleach Works, and at Chapel Street, were mentioned at probable sites, but finally on 25th April, 1889, at a meeting presided over by the Rev. William Kelson, who had succeeded Mr. Quintrell, it was decided that the site in Henry Street was the most suitable. Messrs. J. & W. Aitken, Brickbuilders, Glasgow, built the foundation walls of the Iron Church; Messrs. Keith, Blacksmiths, Barrhead, supplied and fitted an ornate iron railing with two gates; Mr. H. Leggat, Builder, Barrhead, supplied and put in position eight stone steps at the entrance doors of the Church. The opening services at the Iron Church took place on the last Saturday and Sunday of July, 1889. The first Trustees of the Church were:—Rev. W. J. Dawson, Superintendent of the Circuit; M. F. Thompson, W. Anderson, A. Brown, John Calder, all of Glasgow, the Barrhead members were, A. Carmichael, J. Stark Carmichael, D. Carmichael, W. Brown, R. Allan, T. Kennedy, J. C. Marshall, Hugh Mackellar, R. Docherty, M. Turnbull. The following appointments were made, Secretary, J. Stark Carmichael; Treasurer, J. C. Marshall; Chapel Stewards, A. Carmichael and M. Turnbull. In December, 1890, the first harmonium was purchased and in January, 1891, Mr. R. Allan was appointed the first Church Officer and held this office until his death in 1926. Owing to the itinerant ministry of our Church we have a change of minister every few years. To succeed the Rev. William Kelson as minister at the Iron Church came the Revv. J. A. Dixon, T. J. Hillary, William Bruce, Percy J. Grubb, S. B. Gregory, and Cecil M. Weeks.

Early in 1900, the Trustees were informed that the site in which the church had been built had been bought by the Glasgow and South Western Railway Company with a view to establishing a Central Goods Depot and that the tenancy would end on Whitsunday, 1903. The railway company later agreed that the congregation should have the use of the Church until Whitsunday, 1904. After several meetings, it was decided to build a new church to seat 250, with a hall, separated by a folding screen, to seat 125, at an estimated cost of £1,450. In December, 1902, a new Church Trust was formed with the following members, "who accepted office as trustees of the new church about to be erected on a plot of land in Cross Arthurlie Street, Barrhead, comprised in a feu contract to be granted by Sir Henry William Ramsay Fairfax Lucy, Baronet of Maxton, in the County of Roxburgh"—Thomas Kennedy, Robert Allan, Matthew Turnbull, Archibald C. J. Taylor, Hugh Moore, Robert MacDonald, Daniel McGrath, James Birtwell, William Y. Allan, Gavin M. Donald, all of Barrhead, and Rev. George Hammond, Superintendent of the Circuit, Baillie Alex. Brown, Peter Stoker, Thomas A. Hayward, David A. Liddell, all of Glasgow. The treasurer appointed was Baillie Alex. Brown, and the secretary, Rev. Cecil M. Weeks. The architect for the new church was Mr. A. Carruthers, of Messrs. Burnet, Boston and Carruthers, of Glasgow; the mason work was carried out by Hugh Houston, Barrhead; the slating and plaster work by Wm. Graydon,

Barrhead ; joiner work by Joseph Bell, Barrhead ; plumber work by D. McCallum, Barrhead ; and the blacksmith work, by Peter Hamilton, Barrhead. It was also decided to purchase a new harmonium for the Church and that a belltrey should not be built as it would have no advantage to the appearance of the Church. The Memorial Stone in the North-West corner of the Church was laid on Saturday, 20th June 1903, by Col. R. King, Leverholme. A suitable copy of Telford's Life of Wesley was presented to Col. King, to mark the occasion. Beneath the stone was placed copies of the "Barrhead News," "Glasgow Herald and Record," "Methodist Recorder," and a list of trustees, church officials, etc. The new church was formally opened on Saturday, 16th January, 1904, by the wife of one of the Circuit officials, Mrs. Mary Jack Brown Darlington, who received a presentation key in recognition of her services. Mrs. Darlington died in September of the same year and her husband, George Darlington, erected a tablet in the north-east wall in the inside of the church, and the Cross over the facade of the church, in affectionate memory of his wife. The opening services on the Sunday conducted by the Rev. Cecil M. Weeks, were well attended, for we find that the subscriptions and collections for the first week-end amounted to £48 16s. 11d. Needless to say great work was put into various efforts by the members of the congregation to raise money for the building of the new Church and we find it recorded that after all expenses (they amounted to £1,763) were paid the sum of £203 2s. 3d. remained in hand and it was felt to be a cause of great thankfulness that so large a sum remained for investment. New Church Hymn Books were obtained for the opening services and it is interesting to read that the old hymn books were handed over to the Girvan Church in reply to a request received by the Trustees. On the 10th August, 1906, the first wedding in the new church took place and the ceremony was conducted by the Rev. Wilbert F. Howard (who later became President of the Methodist Conference and for many years was Principal at Handsworth College, Birmingham), who had succeeded Mr. Weeks as minister of the church. The bride and bridegroom were Mr. and Mrs. Dugald Allan, and they were presented with a copy of the Methodist Hymn Book in recognition of the occasion.

The Revv. Joseph Bonsall and S. Ernest Coley, succeeded Mr. Howard. It was during Mr. Coley's ministry that the Brotherhood meetings were held in the Church on Sunday afternoons. There was an average attendance of 200 at these meetings and the singing was led by an orchestra composed of the members. Many men in the town will remember the very many pleasant Sunday afternoons spent in the Brotherhood. The Revv. Frank Ellis, Joseph Coombs, F. N. Wilson and Cecil H. Rose, M.A. followed and during Mr. Rose's ministry we find it stated in the minutes that in March, 1923, the trustees at Barrhead were in favour of the Union of Methodist Churches in Britain—which union was affected in 1932. It was also during Mr. Rose's ministry that the Freewill Envelope System was introduced. The Revv. Ernest Brown and Harold J. Rigby, B.A., succeeded Mr. Rose and during Mr. Rigby's ministry, in January, 1928, electric lighting was installed in the church.

In September, 1928, the Barrhead Church was transferred from the St. John's Methodist Circuit to Paisley Mission Circuit, the superintendent at Paisley Central Hall at that time being Rev. Cecil D. Eades, the present beloved Chairman of the Methodist Synod in Scotland. Owing to death and removal to other districts it was necessary to form a new Church Trust in July, 1929, and the names of the new Trustees will be familiar to most of the present members of the Church. They were:—Rev. Cecil D. Eades, Superintendent of the Circuit; John Hawley, David Galloway, William Campbell, all of Paisley, and Thomas McKechnie, Joseph Goddard, Dugald Allan, William Boag, Thomas Lawn, William Y. Allan, Alex. Davison, Daniel McGeachie, all of Barrhead, and Alex. Brown, Peter Stoker, T. A. Hayward, all of Glasgow. The treasurer appointed was Mr. Wm. Campbell, and the secretary, Mr. Joseph Goddard. To succeed Mr. Rigby came the Rev. Albert Harvey, and he was followed by the Revv. Wilfred Shepherd, Laurence D. Jefford, Philip S. Watson, M.A. (now Principal of Handsworth College, Birmingham), Edward C. Baguley, Arthur Candeland, M.A. and our present minister, Edwin J. Turner.

During Mr. Baguley's ministry, additional furnishings to the church were acquired. In 1945, the organ in the Westbourne Hall was gifted to the Trustees by the Arthurlie Church of Scotland, Barrhead, the cost of erecting the organ in the Church being borne by the late Mrs. Annie Brown, who was a loyal member of the Methodist Church at Barrhead for many years. Sunday, 16th September, 1945, was the occasion of the opening and dedication of the organ. The opening ceremony was performed by Mrs. J. Turnbull and took place during the morning service. Mr. Thos. Boyd of the Methodist Central Hall, Paisley, was the organist. In 1946, an oak communion table, font, and chairs were placed in the church and dedicated to memory of members of the church who had given their lives in the 1939-45 war. For some time it had been felt that in addition to the Sunday School, some further activity was required for the young people of the church and in January, 1947, a company of the Girls' Life Brigade was formed.

Throughout the years: in the Church Services, Sunday School, and Week-day Meetings, the Word of God has been proclaimed; each minister and layman giving his own particular witness to his Lord and Saviour, but all possessed with the realisation that the love of God should be made known to the people of Barrhead. We are grateful to God that the Methodist Church in this town has shared with the churches of other denominations in seeking to extend the Kingdom of God in Barrhead.

We would like indeed to mention by name the great number of men and women who have been pillars of strength in the work of this Society, but in case we should be accused of flattery, even in the smallest praise, especially of some of our contemporary members, we will leave to the person entrusted with the writing of the history of the Church in the Centenary Year the tribute to the deep devotion, affection and sacrifices made by these stalwarts. We can best honour them by dedicating our lives, as they did, to the advancement of Christ's Kingdom in Barrhead.

We are happy to record and do give thanks to God, that of the small company who met in the tiny hall in the Main Street, two are

still in our ranks, namely, Mrs. M. Thomson, and her brother, Mr. Dugald Allan. It is to Mr. Allan we are indebted for reminding us of the early beginnings of Methodism in this town and district, and for his long years of service as trustee (he was appointed Chapel Steward as far back as 1905), and as Church Officer.

Finally, we pray that, as in the past, the work of God in this Church will be blessed as we go forward to our Centenary and that the people of Barrhead will have cause to thank God for the witness of the Methodist Church in the town.

W.R.

We record our grateful thanks to Mr. William Reid for the compilation of this history. The task has demanded much research among old Trust Minute Books and documents—and in the memories of the older members! The task has been more difficult by reason of the fact that Leaders' Minute Books for former years have not been accessible to him. The work has been done with painstaking thoroughness and characteristic efficiency. We congratulate him on the production of this history and acknowledge our indebtedness.

MINISTERS WHO HAVE SERVED THE METHODIST CHURCH IN BARRHEAD

- 1888 —Pastor Quintrell.
- 1888-91—Rev. W. Kelsall.
- 1891-93—Rev. Albert J. Dixon.
- 1893-95—Rev. T. J. Hillary.
- 1895-98—Rev. Wm. Bruce.
- 1898-1900—Rev. Percy J. Grubb.
- 1900-2 —Rev. S. B. Gregory, B.A.
- 1902-5 —Rev. Cecil M. Weeks.
- 1905-7 —Rev. Wilbert F. Howard, M.A. D.D., F.B.A.
- 1907-8 —Rev. Joseph Bonsall.
- 1908-11—Rev. S. Ernest Coley, M.A., B.D.
- 1911-14—Rev. Frank Ellis.
- 1914-18—Rev. Joseph Coombs.
- 1919-20—Rev. Albert Hutchinson.
- 1920-21—Rev. F. N. Wilson.
- Pastor Wood.
- 1921-24—Rev. Cecil H. Rose, M.A., B.A.
- 1924-27—Rev. Ernest Brown.
- 1927-30—Rev. Harold J. Rigby, B.A.
- 1930-33—Rev. Albert Harvey.
- 1933-36—Rev. Wilfred Shepherd.
- 1936-39—Rev. Laurence D. Jefferd.
- 1939-44—Rev. Philip S. Watson, M.A., B.D.
- 1944-49—Rev. Edward C. Baguley, B.A.
- 1949-53—Rev. Arthur Candeland, M.A., B.A.
- 1953 —Rev. Edwin J. Turner.

Greetings from former Ministers

Rev. S. ERNEST COLEY

Memories of Barrhead? They are all happy, thank God. The sometimes crowded evening services, the Brotherhood we started, the Fellowship, and supper afterwards with Miss Dalziel. How happy I was in my "digs" and in the friendship of Methodist, Presbyterian and E.U. friends! I often meet Philip Watson and we always talk Barrhead! I'm 71 now but preaching most Sundays all over the Midlands. God bless you all!

Rev. FRANK ELLIS

The memory of Barrhead is as pleasant to me as sunshine in December. The braes, the names, the faces, and the voices of the folk I knew are still as vivid as the pictures on my study walls. The affection lavished upon me has been as spikenard to me through the years. I am grateful to God that I was sent to Barrhead, and I still pray for the church of my first love, and send my heartfelt good wishes.

Rev. JOSEPH COOMBS

It is a joy to me to send greetings to the friends in the "wee kirk" (as it was called in my days) on the happy occasion of their Jubilee. After more than 35 years, my wife and I still easily recall the stalwarts of our time—The Allans, Macdonalds, Galloways, McGeachies, Marshalls, Donalds, McMillans, Duguids, Lawns, Ovens, and numerous others—and we have never forgotten their loyalty and kindness. May their present and future successors give the same fine service, and may the cause at Barrhead increasingly grow and flourish in all good works.

Rev. CECIL H. ROSE

It is a real joy to join in the greetings and good wishes that will come from many places and many friends on this great occasion. Barrhead Methodist Church has made a rich contribution to the life of the town and neighbourhood in the men and women who have been inspired and trained in its worship and fellowship. Many still greater things lie ahead.

Rev. ALBERT HARVEY

It is a privilege to send cordial greetings and good wishes to the present minister, members and congregation of the "wee kirk." There were difficulties in 1930-33, due to the industrial depression, but I recall the courage, loyalty and sacrificial giving of the members with thankfulness. We greatly value the experience gained also the friendships formed at Barrhead and follow your progress with prayerful interest.

Rev. WILFRED SHEPHERD

Warmest congratulations to the "wee kirk" on attaining its Jubilee.

I recall with gratitude your love and loyalty during my ministry in Barrhead. In your church is a fragment of vital Methodism, with its evangelical faith, devotion and service. With others scattered far and wide I am ever mindful of quickening experiences during Barrhead days; and pray God's blessing on you in the years ahead as in the past.

Rev. LAURENCE D. JEFFERD

It seems, historically, as if our Ministry in Barrhead is half a life time away. Since then the war has come. But the few years which have intervened have not taken away our memories of our happy days there. I was recently reading a copy of the "Messenger" which told of some of the doings. There were all sorts of things in which we were interested. Some of the old friends have passed over, but we do not forget those days which stamped Scotland upon our hearts. We pray that the work will continue and prove a rich blessing to many.

Rev. PHILIP S. WATSON

The memory of our time at the "wee kirk" grows more precious to us with the passing of the years. It was a time of war, when there was much of difficulty and tragedy for everyone; but God's grace was sufficient, as always, and we proved again and again His goodness and mercy. We shall be with you in spirit, thinking with thankfulness of all our dear friends there (some of them whose faces are no longer seen) and praying that you will have a truly joyful Jubilee and ever-increasing blessing in the years ahead. God be with you all.

Rev. E. C. BAGULEY

Greetings to the "wee kirk" on its Jubilee! Very warm greetings and good wishes to the members and friends of the Church in this happy celebration. For fifty years Barrhead has been blessed by the witness of the "kirk by the burn"; may the next fifty years of your history eclipse the former in richness, in blessing and in the triumphs of God's grace.

Rev. A. CANDELAND

Congratulations to the "wee kirk" on its fiftieth anniversary! As the most recent of your former ministers, I still remember vividly our struggles together to preserve it and make it prosper. To have to struggle is not a bad thing, for it has called forth the best from you and welded you into a closer fellowship. Therefore you can and will—begin your second half-century in good spirit and with high hopes. Further, the best of all is "God is with us."

John McPherson

M.P.S., F.S.A.O.

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PROGRAMME

SATURDAY, 16th JANUARY :

GRAND CONCERT

A Grand Concert will be given by the members of the

PAISLEY MALE VOICE CHOIR

(Conductor : Farquhar MacDonald)

Ticket : 2/6.

Commence at 7.0 p.m.

SUNDAY, 17th JANUARY :

THANGSGIVING SERVICES

DIVINE WORSHIP will be conducted at

11 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. by

Rev. WILFRED SHEPHERD (Leicester)

TUESDAY, 19th JANUARY :

JUBILEE RALLY

at 7.30 p.m.

Chairman : H. Skuce, Esq. (Newton Mearns)

Speakers :

Revv. Cecil D. Eades and Wilfred Shepherd

Musical Items :

Annie Tait, Mina Forrest, James Sinclair, John Hannah

We deeply regret that we have not been able to install the Organ Blower and the New Lighting and have the church redecorated before the Jubilee Celebrations. The expenditure of £550 for the new roof last year drained the Church Fund of the reserve which might have been used for this purpose. Our hope is that the gifts received at the Jubilee will enable us to undertake the work.

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