

JAMESTOWN  
PARISH CHURCH

1869 – 1934

BY THE

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The history of any congregation is always interesting, if not to the general public, at least to the members of the congregation concerned and to those who have connections with it. Thus, while the history of Jamestown Parish Church may be similar in many respects to the history of many another congregation, the details of its development will undoubtedly awaken and vibrate the chords of memory in the minds of many who have shared in its worship and life.



***Jamestown Church and Hall***

The village of Jamestown is a comparatively modern one dating back to the period of industrial development in the Vale of Leven. Originally the name of the hamlet (as it was then) was Damhead, there being a mill dam in the vicinity, but the origin of the name Jamestown is obscure. The only information which I have been able to glean is that a number of the early owners of houses which were erected appear to have had the Christian name of James, and that in this way the name came into being.

The present parish, however, includes the village of Balloch, the name of which is much older. It is thought that the word Balloch is derived from the Gaelic *bealach*, a ford. This is a feasible suggestion as there was for many years a ford across the Leven at this point which was used by drovers. In Sir Walter Scott's "Rob Roy" mention is made of the ferry at Balloch to which place Rob Roy directed the worthy Bailie Nicol Jarvie. "Aweel, kinsman," replied the Highlander, "Ye ken our fashion. Foster the guest that comes, further him that maun gang. But ye cannot return by Drymen. I must set ye on Loch Lomond, and boat ye doon to the Ferry o' Balloch." Balloch has many historical associations with the Earls of Lennox, with Sir William Wallace, King Robert Bruce and many another, but that is outside our province meantime.

At the beginning of the nineteenth century Jamestown was a little hamlet with a row of houses situated on the main road near the mill dam and one or two small cottages.

On the east side, several hundred yards from the main road, there appear to have been two groups of thatched houses, one group called Birniehall and the other Ruchet Moss. These have long since disappeared but the name of Ruchet or Ricket Moss still survives. At the Moss there was for a time a small independent or "adventure" school, with a few pupils in attendance. In Balloch there were dwelling houses at Dalvait and Knowhead. Bankhead came into existence some time later. Nearer the present main road in Balloch there were one or two small houses and a group of low roofed thatched houses known as Inverlochy. In the present Drymen Road there were three small cottages. The names of two of these have survived, Port Royal and Blackhousland. At Hill of Haldane, (the name of which is derived from the Haldanes of Gleneagles who owned the land hereabouts) there were a few dwellings including a joiners shop, the "smiddy" and the grain mill.

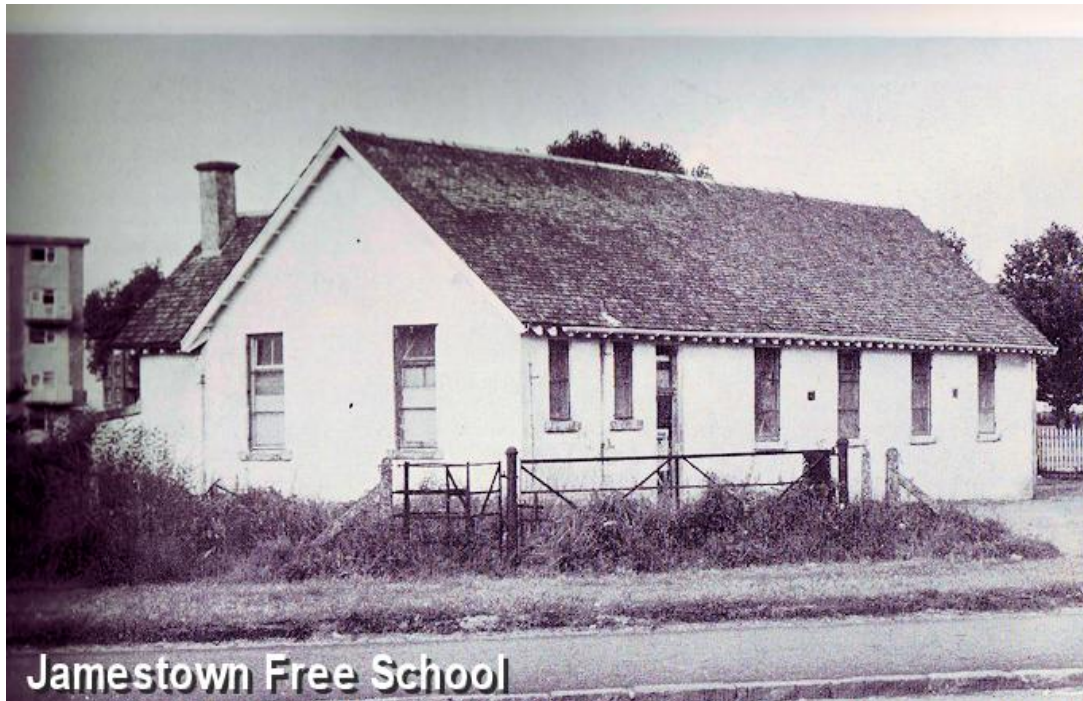


***Jamestown dam and houses***

The principal industry in Jamestown (and for that matter in the Vale of Leven) has always been the bleaching, dyeing and printing of fabrics, bleaching being the first industry to be established. Levenbank Works were built by Messrs Watson and Arthur about 1784, and work was commenced there on a small scale. Earlier than this, in 1772, Milton Works were built by Messrs Todd and Shortridge, but I imagine that Todd's "wee field" is beyond the recollection of the oldest inhabitant, the name alone having survived.

For a time Levenbank Works were operated by Messrs John Stuart and Coy., but in 1845 they were purchased by Mr Archibald Orr Ewing who founded the company which bore his name for many years. In 1850 Milton Works and lands were also purchased by Mr Orr Ewing from Mr John Todd.

The New Statistical Account records that in 1840 there were employed in Levenbank Works 149 men, 50 women and 52 children under 12 years of age. It appears, however, that sometime later there was a stoppage of work in the district and that many left the district. With the purchase of the works by Mr Archibald Orr Ewing a remarkable revival in trade set in and immediately there was an influx into the place. By the year 1859 the number employed in Levenbank Works had increased to a considerable extent.



The parochial school about the year 1840 was a two storey building situated opposite the mill dam, the school master being one Patrick McNeil. Previous to this there appears to have been a parochial school in Drymen Road, Balloch. While the school in Jamestown was in existence an independent school opened at Knowhead, probably in opposition. After the Disruption of 1843 a Free School came into being and continued until December 1873, when it was merged with the parochial school. The present Jamestown School or (at least the oldest part of it) was opened about 1864.

While education was not compulsory until the passing of the Act of 1872, I understand that the number attending school in 1864 was 120 pupils and this in spite of the fact that children were employed in the works at seven years of age. With the passing of the Act of 1872, education was made compulsory between the ages of five and thirteen, but children were allowed to work for part of the day and in this way the "half time" system came into being. It came to an end in this district about 1891 or 1892.

The Parish Church for the whole district was Bonhill, and to it worshippers came from all parts, including Jamestown, Balloch and Ballaghan. For many years one of the ministers of Bonhill Parish Church, Rev. William Gregor, chose to live in Jamestown at the Mill of Balloch in preference to the manse.

The development of the Turkey Red industry by Messrs Archibald Orr Ewing & Coy, made the village a busy place and it was then found expedient to build houses in Jamestown for the convenience of workers in Levenbank Works. Accordingly, in 1859, a terrace of houses was built by the firm adjacent to the Forth and Clyde Railway, which had been built in 1856. This row of houses was known as Levenbank Terrace, and since is often designated the "old terrace" to distinguish it from the remaining part of the terrace which was erected a few years later. At Mill of Haldane another row of houses, Haldane Terrace was built by the same firm for the convenience of their employees. The erection of these houses marks a definite stage in the development of the village.

In other directions the Vale of Leven district was growing, but although a Quoad Sacra church had been erected in Alexandria to meet requirements there, the church at Bonhill still remained too small for the increasing population.

In 1867 the question of accommodation in the parish church at Bonhill was raised at a meeting of Kirk Session. The relevant part of the minute reads as follows: - "The Session proceeded to consider the need for additional church accommodation for the parish. At present the Parish Church is insufficient adequately to accommodate those already connected with it, there being a communion roll of about 1050, while the sittings in the church are only about 1160. The Session in consequence have for several years been under the disagreeable necessity of refusing the very many applications for sittings made to them by persons desirous of worshipping in the Parish Church, and the Minister in his visitations has not felt himself at liberty to ask those who are not attending on ordinances to come to a church already overcrowded."

The minute goes on to speak of the steadily increasing population of the parish and states that an addition of upwards of 500 is expected because of the number of new dwellings in course of erection. It was agreed to ask the heritors at their first meeting to provide "such increase of church accommodation as may be considered most expedient."

The Rev. John Alison, minister at Bonhill, duly appeared at the heritors' meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> June 1867, in support of the resolution of the Kirk Session. He made the statement that "a large proportion of the parishioners to whom he had spoken on the subject were of the opinion that it was not desirable that the additional accommodation prayed for should be provided by an enlargement of the present church, but rather by the erection of a separate place of worship in a different part of the Parish, and that in consequence of a rapidly increasing population in that vicinity, Jamestown was generally considered the most suitable situation for the purpose."

After discussion the heritors came to the decision that they as a body were not legally liable to provide any additional accommodation and that this would require to be done by voluntary effort. As the ground in connection with the parochial school at Jamestown was greatly in excess of what was required, the heritors agreed to grant a portion of it as a site for a place of worship.

At a later meeting of Kirk Session, held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 1867, the decision of the heritors was communicated to the members. Thereupon the Session appointed the Rev. John Alison and Messrs John Orr Ewing, Rennie, McAlister, and Wilson to co-operate with the representatives of the heritors, namely Messrs Smollett, Archibald Orr Ewing, Murray and A.J.D. Brown, and to take the necessary steps towards the securing of a site and erection of a church at Jamestown. No time was lost, for the Committee met three days later in the Parochial School House, Jamestown, and made the choice of the south-west corner of the ground connected with the school "as most suitable as a site for the church proposed to be erected."

At this meeting it was also resolved that a sub-committee consisting of Messrs Smollett, Archibald Orr Ewing, Murray and the Rev. John Alison "should visit Blantyre Parish Church, which had been highly recommended as combining sufficient accommodation and handsome style at a moderate cost." If satisfied, a plan was to be prepared with such modification of it as they might think expedient. This visit was duly carried out and a plan, with certain modifications, was prepared by Messrs Clarke and Bell, the architects of Blantyre Parish Church. This plan, with the

exception of a few minor points, was approved by the parent committee, the Jamestown Church Committee, on 2<sup>nd</sup> September, 1867.

Meanwhile the work of raising the necessary funds for the erection of the church was commenced and by July 1868, £1,850 had been received, a very gratifying sum. The building was expected to cost roughly £2,500, so that only a sum of £750 was left to be raised. Ultimately the church cost £2,900, and the enlargement in 1883 cost a further £1,900.

The boundaries of the parish were fixed as follows: - On the west, the River Leven and Loch Lomond; on the south, Napierston Road; on the east and north, the parish of Kilmarnock. The boundaries of the parish are the same to-day, with this exception that Milton Terrace is now technically in the parish of Bonhill North. This change was effected after the Union of the Churches in 1929.

It was arranged that the foundation-stone of the church be laid with Masonic honours in addition to the religious ceremony, and on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1868, this was duly accomplished. The Rev. John Alison, the minister at Bonhill, conducted the religious ceremony, while R.W.M. Ross of Dumbarton, in the absence of P.G.M. Alexander Smollett through illness, carried through the Masonic ceremony.

A glass jar was deposited in the cavity of the foundation-stone, and in it were placed the following articles:- A copy of the "Glasgow Herald", containing an account of the laying of the foundation-stone of Glasgow University; the "Daily Mail and Dumbarton Herald"; the "Missionary Record" of the Church of Scotland; the "Illustrated London News"; abstract Accounts of Bonhill Parochial Board; the Statistical Account of the Parish of Bonhill; and an account of the proceedings in connection with the erection of the church. Along with these papers and documents there was placed a specimen of the Turkey Red manufacture of Levenbank Works.

About this time a number of gifts for the new church were intimated. Mr Archibald Orr Ewing offered to present one of the Stained-Glass Lancet Windows, and Mr A.J. Dennistoun-Brown of Balloch Castle offered to present the other. A Stained-Glass Wheel Window was at the same time gifted by Mr Alexander Smollett of Bonhill. These windows were afterwards selected and placed into position. Mr Archibald Orr Ewing also offered to present a Bell, estimated to weigh 12 cwts. In addition he offered the gift of a harmonium but after discussion it was agreed not to introduce such an instrument in the meantime.

Various other matters, particularly the proposed constitution of the new church, were dealt with at succeeding meetings of the Jamestown Church Committee. In the raising of funds for the new church, Mr James Murray, factor of Strathleven, had acted as Treasurer. It was now also agreed that under the new constitution that Mr A Orr-Ewing be appointed as Preses and Mr Murray as Secretary and Treasurer.

On Sunday, 15<sup>th</sup> August 1869, the church was opened. The morning service was conducted by Rev John Alison of Bonhill Parish, who had taken such a warm interest in this scheme of church extension. The afternoon service was conducted by Rev James MacGregor of the Tron Parish, Edinburgh (afterwards minister of St Cuthbert's, Edinburgh and Moderator of the General Assembly in 1891). A service was also held in the evening.

Although a church building had now been erected, Jamestown Church was not yet constituted as a separate charge, but was in the position of a Chapel-of-Ease. Not until a sum of money had been raised for endowment and a manse prepared for, was

the church erected into a separate charge, or parish Quoad Sacra. This took place in 1873, during the ministry of the Rev J McGavin Boyd.

In the meantime it was necessary to take steps for the appointment of a minister and after enquiries had been made of the list of candidates, the choice fell upon the Rev Daniel Wight M.A., assistant in Bonhill Parish, and he was duly appointed, the appointment being sustained by the Presbytery at their meeting in November, 1869.

The detailed list of subscriptions which is given in the minutes of the Jamestown Church Committee shows that many subscriptions came from residents in the district who were not afterwards members of the congregation. Apparently the cause of church extension had made some appeal to them. Other donors became members of the church when the congregation began to be formed. Among those who took a very practical interest in the new church were Mr Archibald Orr Ewing (afterwards Sir Archibald Orr Ewing Bart, Member of Parliament for Dumbartonshire), Mr Alexander Smollett of Bonhill, Sir James Lumsden of Arden, and Mr A.J. Dennistoun-Brown of Balloch Castle. The formal opening of the church gave others an opportunity to subscribe and on that day the collection amounted to £67 16s 8d.

Once the life of the congregation had begun an endeavour was made to clear off the existing debt, and district collections were made with this in view. The response was very hearty from all classes and a sum of £300 was collected in this way. In a short space of time the church was soon free of debt as far as the actual building was concerned.

The Rev Daniel Wright remained in charge of the newly-formed congregation for a little over a year. Short though his ministry was he appears to have given good service and his ministrations were appreciated by his congregation. He was called to Bellahouston Parish Church, Glasgow, which had only recently had been erected into a separate charge and parish. There he laboured till his death on 31<sup>st</sup> December 1885. Arrangements were made to fill the vacancy in Jamestown and at a meeting held on 6<sup>th</sup> February 1871, it was unanimously agreed to appoint Rev J. McGavin Boyd, assistant in St Enoch's, Glasgow, to be minister.

Apparently the antipathy to instrumental music in church had passed away, for at the beginning of Mr Boyd's ministry the offer of the gift of a harmonium by Mr A Orr Ewing was accepted by the managers of the church. Mr William White, who had acted as precentor since 1869, assumed duty as organist and was allowed to take the harmonium to his house for two months to practice on it.

The next question which faced the management of the church was that of endowing it to the standard demanded by the General Assembly. It was estimated that a sum of £3,600 would be required for endowment purposes and for the erection of a manse. Of this sum the Endowment Committee of the Church of Scotland had agreed to provide £1,500 which left £2,100 to be raised. With his customary generosity Mr Archibald Orr Ewing agreed to give £250 a year for 4 years, that is £1,000 in all. This was later changed, the full sum being given in one donation to help forward the scheme.

A previous bequest of £200 (the Rankin Bequest) which had been inadvertently handed over for endowment instead of building purposes now came in very useful and reduced the sum to be raised to £900. This was in May 1872. By December of the same year the necessary money had been raised. The small congregation was again assisted in their efforts through the generous giving of many friends, including

Messrs Alexander Smollett, A. Orr Ewing, John Orr Ewing, George Young, E.J. Jones and Sir James Lumsden.

It was now agreed that Mr Boyd be authorised to write to the endowment Committee of the Church of Scotland stating that the congregation was now in a position for endowment. There still remained the question of the provision of a manse. Through the generosity of Mrs Ewing of Strathleven and Mr H.E. Crum Ewing a site was granted adjacent to Milton Farm. The architect appointed to prepare plans for this building was Mr John McLeod of Dumbarton and the cost was estimated at £1,053. This sum was exceeded, however, the final cost being about £1,330. Mr Archibald Orr Ewing again came to the rescue with a further donation of £100 which was later increased by a further sum of £28 5s 9d, to wipe off the remaining debt on the manse.

Now that the necessary endowment had been raised and a manse was being provided, there remained no further obstacle to prevent the church being given the full status of a separate charge. Accordingly Jamestown Church was formally disjoined from Bonhill Parish and erected into a separate church and parish, Quoad Sacra.

The minute is in the following terms: "Jamestown Church and district having been disjoined from the parish of Bonhill and having been erected into a church and parish, Quoad Sacra, by decree of the Court of Teinds dated 19<sup>th</sup> March 1873, the Presbytery of Dumbarton appointed the Rev William Kidd, minister of Alexandria and the Rev D.J. Ferguson, minister of Bonhill to act as Assessors along with Rev John McGavin Boyd, minister of Jamestown, in the formation of a Kirk Session for the new parish.

The aforesaid clergymen, having met with the elders who were formerly ordained as elders in Bonhill Parish in connection with the Chapel of Jamestown, constituted the Session and admitted the following gentlemen members thereof, viz., James Munro, James Anderson, Chester McDonald, Robert Young and Joseph McCallum. Joseph McCallum was elected Session Clerk."

To begin with, services had been held in the church in the forenoon and once a month in the evening. With the growth of the congregation, two services were held on Sundays, at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m., but in April 1875 this was changed to morning and evening services. In later years it became customary to change the evening service to an afternoon service in the summer-time, but for many years now the hours of 11.30 a.m. and 6.30 p.m. have been the regular hours of meeting for worship. It is also interesting to note that a Fast Day was usually held on the Thursday before the celebration of the Lord's Supper. This practice was discontinued in 1887 and a Preparatory Service instituted on the Friday preceding Communion.

From the commencement of the Church's life there had always been a Sunday School which had met in Jamestown Parochial School. For a number of years Mr Chester McDonald was Superintendent but in 1887 he was succeeded in office by Mr Joseph McCallum, who presided over the activities of the Sunday School for the record period of 43 years. Previous to this, in 1881, the privilege of meeting in the Parochial school was withdrawn.

The Sunday School then continued its meetings in the Church until the erection of the Church Hall 3 years later. At Ballaghan, about a mile from the Church, a Sunday School was commenced about the year 1879 and for a time met in the room of one of the cottages there. In later years a small garage was converted into a meeting-place. In addition to the Sunday School a monthly prayer meeting was instituted and



continued to meet until 1931 when the greater part of the people in the hamlet were transferred to Bonhill when their dwellings were condemned by the authorities as unsuitable.

During the ministry of the Rev. J. McGavin Boyd there was little outward alteration in the structure of the parish. Mr Boyd proved to be a diligent pastor and according to all reports, an eloquent preacher. Under his ministry the life and work of the congregation was fully maintained and the membership increased. It was now apparent to all that the erecting of a Church at Jamestown was a wise and necessary step, for only in this way was it possible to provide adequately for the spiritual needs of the village.

In July 1876 the Rev. Mr Boyd was translated to the parish of New Monkland, after having laboured in Jamestown for 5 years. His ministry in New Monkland extended over a period of 38 years until his death on 27<sup>th</sup> March 1914. After his death his son-in-law, Mr G.W. Chisholm, published a volume of his sermons.

With regard to the vacancy in Jamestown steps were immediately taken to appoint a successor and on 26<sup>th</sup> December 1876 the Rev. Daniel J Miller, assistant in St Stephen's Church, Glasgow was ordained as minister of the parish.



A Wedding Scene taken Behind the Tenements in Jamestown in the 1890's with the Minister of Jamestown Parish Kirk, Rev. Daniel J Miller in attendance.

It cannot be said that Mr Miller came to an easy task. Although a church and a manse had been built the congregation was still in its infancy, with no precedents to guide or traditions to build upon. It was essential a spirit of loyalty to the church be fostered, and to this task Mr Miller gave himself wholeheartedly, proving himself to be a faithful servant of Christ.

Hitherto there had been many requirements for the new church which necessitated many demands upon the members, but the response had generally been most gratifying. Fortunately the interest of certain notable personalities in the district was maintained in the congregation and in its life and work. Otherwise the burden of maintaining church property and of making adequate provision for the upkeep of

religious ordinances would have proved a heavy one for the congregation, since the majority of the members were working people who were subsisting on a wage-level which, though constant, was by no means high. Trade conditions, however, were generally fairly satisfactory and unemployment was never of long duration.

In 1879 another block of houses known as Milton Terrace was erected by Messrs A Orr Ewing & Co for their employees, and as a result the population of the village was further increased. It was now considered by many that the original church was a little too small for the requirements of the village. Accordingly on the 14<sup>th</sup> December 1881 a resolution was passed at a joint meeting of Managers and the Kirk Session "that it would be desirable that an addition should be made to the church" and a committee was appointed to enquire into ways and means of effecting this enlargement.



The Jamestown tram passing Milton Terrace

At the same meeting it was stated that particularly in the interests of the Sunday School a Church Hall would prove a great asset, and with his accustomed liberality, Mr Archibald Orr Ewing intimated that if suitable ground could be obtained he would be at the expense of erecting a building for this purpose. At a subsequent meeting Mr Ewing stated that he was willing to subscribe half of the amount required for the extension of the church building. Mr John McLeod, architect, Dumbarton was therefore instructed to proceed with both of these schemes.

The necessary alterations were carried out on the church building and on the first Sunday of March 1883 the enlarged church was opened, special services marking the occasion. In all a sum of approximately £1,900 was spent on this scheme of extension, the result being that the church was now able to accommodate nearly 1,000 people. Before the church was opened intimation was made of the gift of a new harmonium, donated by Mr E.J. Jones of Dalmonach. Additional linen covers for use at Communion were also presented by Mr Andrew Maxwell, draper, Bonhill who had already gifted the linen covers hitherto in use.

In May of 1883 Mr Miller was granted four months leave of absence by the Presbytery of Dumbarton owing to illness. The Rev William Simpson, Bonhill, was

appointed Interim Moderator. By October Mr Miller's health had so far improved that he was able to resume his duties. For the remaining 42 years of his ministry he was blessed with good health and was scarcely ever absent from his duties.

In the meantime deliberations relative to the proposed Church Hall continued. At first there was some difficulty regarding a site. It was felt by some that if it was placed too near the church the architectural appearance of that building might be injured. Accordingly a proposal was made that the new hall be built where Arthurston House presently stands. Ultimately it was agreed to erect the hall on ground adjacent to the Church. On the 29<sup>th</sup> February 1884 the new hall buildings were formally opened by Archibald Orr Ewing Esq. MP, and the Deed of Gift handed over by him to the Kirk Session and Managers.

Towards the end of 1884 a bazaar was held for church purposes and a sum of £591 was realised. Of this sum £286 was applied to wipe off the debt consequent upon the enlarging of the Church. The remaining £205 was lodged in the bank to commence an Organ fund, with a view to the installation of a Pipe Organ. For about fifteen months no further progress was made with this scheme, but on 6<sup>th</sup> April 1886 Mr Miller intimated that Mr E.J. Jones of Dalmonach had promised £100 for this purpose and that Sir Archibald Orr Ewing had promised an equal amount.

Having now over £400 on hand this project was now well advanced and a committee was therefore formed to make enquiries as to the cost of a suitable instrument. This committee was at a later meeting augmented by a number of ladies and gentlemen from the congregation. The result of enquiries was that the offer of Messrs Connacher, Huddersfield, to supply a three-manual instrument at a cost of £550 was approved and accepted. The installation of the organ was completed by November 1887. It was a beautifully-toned instrument and was in constant use until February, 1933, when the apse containing it was destroyed by fire.

Thus within the space of 18 years a Church had been built and enlarged, a Church Hall had been erected and a Pipe Organ installed. In all this work one of the chief promoters had been Mr (afterwards Sir) Archibald Orr Ewing, who in addition to his services gave liberally to all these schemes. Sir Archibald died in 1893 and fitting tribute was paid to his life and labours at a joint meeting of Session and Managers. The tribute is as follows: "Sir Archibald has been connected with the parish from the very first, interesting himself in all manners pertaining to its welfare, and rejoicing in its prosperity. The Church owes its creation and subsequently its extension largely to his great liberality and throughout the whole of its history he has been its principal and most active trustee, regularly presiding at the annual business meetings."

So far as Jamestown was concerned there was no further erection of houses, but in 1900 Messrs A Orr Ewing & Co built another block of houses in Balloch, the property being designated Charles Terrace. At a later date two terraces of dwelling houses were erected by the Vale of Leven Co-operative Society adjacent to Charles Terrace. Apart from these houses the only other dwellings which have been built in the parish have been a number of villas and semi-detached villas opposite the Loch Lomond Park in Drymen Road.

Practically speaking the parish has not extended to any great extent since 1914 and the population has changed very little. In 1921 there was a population of 2,389 this figure being practically unchanged for fully thirty years. Before that, in 1881, the population was 2,925, apparently the highest in the history of the parish. In the census of 1891 it appears that there were 74 persons speaking Gaelic and English and one person who spoke Gaelic only, but in later years the number speaking Gaelic decreased considerably.

For the most part the records of the Kirk Session and Management are confined almost solely to matters pertaining to the life and welfare of the congregation. It is only occasionally that events of wider significance are commented upon. The death of Queen Victoria in 1901 was one such event, and the Session record the great loss sustained by the nation and give thanks to God "for a life that has been so blessed to the nation, to the Empire and to the world, gratefully remembering her noble Christian character and her appreciation of and attachment to, the Church of Scotland."

A later minute reveals that on the occasion of the coronation of King Edward and Queen Alexandra in 1902 divine service was held in the Church. Another event, recorded in the year 1905, was the 400th anniversary of the birth of John Knox, the reformer.

Until the year 1914 the ordinary routine of church life was pursued along the usual lines. Then, like a bolt from the blue, comes the intimation of the outbreak of war and the commandeering of the Church Hall for the purpose of billeting soldiers. The enlistments during the war years appear to have been fairly large for a small parish and no fewer than 34 members and adherents of the congregation made the supreme sacrifice. In view of the Government Lighting Restrictions Act the evening service was discontinued for two months in February, 1916, and in September of the same year it was found advisable to substitute an afternoon service in place of the usual evening service, owing to the continuation of these restrictions.

In 1915 Balloch Castle and estate which are situated in the parish, was purchased from the Dennistoun-Brown family who had for many years taken a deep interest in the life of the congregation. In memory of their parents the Misses Dennistoun-Brown gifted to the congregation a beautiful Communion Table and the Kirk Session, in returning thanks for this handsome addition to the furnishings of the Church, made acknowledgement of "the good work they have done and the great interest which they have shown in the welfare of the people."

For many years the Misses Dennistoun-Brown held a Sunday School in the castle for those on the estate and others near at hand, and also instituted classes for sewing and handicrafts. In many other directions, particularly in their efforts on behalf of missionary work they evinced a real and helpful interest in the work of Christ's Church.

At the conclusion of the war, the members of the congregation and parishioners who had been on active service, were welcomed home at a social meeting held in the Church. Those who returned came back to find many changes in industrial conditions. For a number of years there was a period of steady emigration, particularly to Canada and America but even this did not solve the unemployment problem. The melancholy fact soon became evident that post-war conditions were presenting their own peculiar industrial and social problems. In memory of the fallen a mural tablet was placed in the vestibule of the Church bearing the names of the thirty-four members and adherents of the congregation who had fallen in action.

For many years there had been a Woman's Association or Work Party which assisted the various schemes of the Church. During the war the work of this association was principally on behalf of sailors and soldiers on service. After the cessation of hostilities a branch of the Woman's Guild was formed on the initiative of Miss Dennistoun-Brown, and later a Junior Woman's Guild for younger members came into being. Both of these organisations have given splendid service on behalf

of the congregation and also in promoting the home and foreign mission enterprise of the Church of Scotland.

The Young Man's Guild in Jamestown was formed in 1884, three years after the launching of the scheme by Dr Charteris and the branch has continued actively in the service of the Church since its inception. The original office-bearers were: Rev D. J. Miller and Mr Robert Brown, Hon Presidents; Mr Joseph McCallum, Vice-President; Mr Charles Aiken, Secretary; and Mr S D Angel, Treasurer.

It is interesting to note that Mr Angel is now a minister of the Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. Among the speakers during the first session was Mr Archibald Orr Ewing, who afterwards became a missionary in China. He was a nephew of Sir Archibald Orr Ewing MP. The Guild has been a training ground for service in the Church and not a few of its members have become office-bearers.

In January 1925 the congregation suffered a great loss in the death of Rev. Daniel J. Miller, minister of the parish. For the long period of 48 years Mr Miller gave himself faithfully to the work of Christ's Church as pastor and preacher. In visitation he was indefatigable, and his conscientiousness to duty earned him the esteem and respect of his members and parishioners and of others outside the bounds of the parish.

Many of the former helpers and supporters of the Church had passed away during his ministry and towards its close it was evident that the congregation must in future rely chiefly on its own efforts in the promotion of any schemes connected with the Church. This was realised and has brought forth the support and co-operation of many loyal members.

To complete this short sketch of the history of the congregation and bring it up to date, one or two details must suffice. On 29<sup>th</sup> May 1925 the writer was ordained and inducted to this charge and parish. Since 1925 there have been a few developments, particularly in the organisation of the congregation. A company of the Boys Brigade was formed in 1925 and a few years later a junior Branch of that organisation, the Life Boys, was commenced.

In 1932 attention was directed to the girls of the congregation and a company of the Girls Guildry was formed. In addition, facilities for recreation, for both men and women, have been given in the Church Hall. On the evening of Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February 1933 the apse of the Church, containing the Pipe Organ installed in 1887, was badly damaged by fire caused by a defective chimney. The damage amounted to about £2,000, this including the value of the organ which was almost completely ruined.

The work of restoration was immediately begun and by September of the same year the Church was ready again for worship. The re-opening services were conducted by the Rev Professor Archibald Main D.D., D. Litt., Glasgow University, and the Minister. A month later the new Pipe Organ was ready for use and was dedicated by the Minister at the commencement of public worship. Although a sum of about £250 had to be provided in addition to the provision made by insurance, the Church was again free of debt by February 1934.

While it is impossible fully to gauge spiritual influence for "the spirit bloweth where it listeth" we know that to many the very stones of the Church are dear. It is for them a place of hallowed memories where they may "touch and handle things unseen".

In 65 years of congregational life there have been many changes in the church and parish, in social and industrial life, and in the personnel of the congregation, but with gratitude to God we remember that many things abide and that Jesus Christ whom He has sent is the same yesterday, to-day and for ever.



***Dr MacGregor surrounded by the Church elders 1934***

The people in the photos are as follows, left to right:

Back Row: W Scobie, R J McKinnon, AG Donald, GH Buckland, W McMillan, J McDonald

Front Row: A M Paul, R R McGregor, Rev M B MacGregor, J Hogg and J Gilchrist

## APPENDIX

### MINISTERS

Rev Daniel Wright	Ordained 1869 to Jamestown Chapel-of-Ease Translated to Bellahouston Parish Church Glasgow 1870
Rev J McGavin Boyd	Ordained to Chapel-of-Ease 1871 Admitted as first Minister of Jamestown in April 1873 Translated to New Monkland in July 1876
Rev Daniel J Miller	Ordained 20 <sup>th</sup> December 1876 Died 23 <sup>rd</sup> January 1925
Rev Malcolm B MacGregor	Ordained 29 <sup>th</sup> May 1925

### SESSION CLERKS

Joseph McCallum	1873-1878
George Drever	1878-1886
Joseph McCallum	1886-1887
Alex McLaren	1887-1922
John McColl	1923-1931
R. E. McGregor	1931

### TREASURERS

James Murray	1869-71
Secretary and Treasurer to Jamestown Church Committee	
Thomas Cunningham	1871-1883
Joseph McCallum	1883-1886
John Menzies	1886-1891
John Miller	1891-1931
James McFarlane	1931

### ELDERS (with date of ordination or induction)

James Munro	April 1873	James Gellatly	5 <sup>th</sup> Feb 1899
James Anderson	Do	James Masterton	Do
Chester M. McDonald	Do	Arch McCallum	Do
Robert Young	Do	William Watters	Do
Joseph McCallum	Do	Duncan Tilly	28 <sup>th</sup> March 1909
Duncan McFarlane	28 <sup>th</sup> Feb 1875	Archibald Paul	Do
James Paul	20 <sup>th</sup> June 1875	George McLachlan	Do
George Drever	Do	George Taylor	29 <sup>th</sup> March 1914
James Stuart	Do	Alexander Bryan	Do
Thomas McLean	21 <sup>st</sup> March 1880	Peter Jackson	Do
Andrew Adam	Do	John Gilchrist	11 <sup>th</sup> April 1920
James McLean	Do	Archd McKay	Do
Robert Brown	30 <sup>th</sup> Dec 1883	Hugh C Brown	23 <sup>rd</sup> April 1922
James Orr	Do	John Chisholm	Do
David Neilson	Do	John McColl	Do
Andrew McLaren	Do	James McDonald	Do
John Barclay	13 <sup>th</sup> March 1887	Peter McCormack	30 <sup>th</sup> April 1926
Mathew Burdon	Do	Geo H Buckland	Do
William McKenzie	29 <sup>th</sup> March 1891	William Longmore	Do
James Thompson	Do	William McMillan	Do
John Hogg	16 <sup>th</sup> Feb 1896	William Scobie	Do
John Dowall	Do	A. G. Donald	10 <sup>th</sup> October 1950
Thomas Wilson	Do	R.E. McGregor	Do
		R.J. McKinnon	Do