



Year Book 2008

Free Church of Scotland

www.freechurch.org

15 North Bank Street, The Mound, Edinburgh, EH1 2LS

Tel: 0131 226 5286 Fax: 0131 220 0597

Email: offices@freechurchofscotland.org.uk

Office Opening Hours

Monday to Thursday: 8.45 am - 4.45 pm

Friday: 8.45 am - 4 pm

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Historical Introduction

The Free Church of Scotland is a Presbyterian Church adhering in its worship and doctrine to the position adopted by the Church of Scotland at the Reformation. Its divergence from the Church of Scotland dates from the Disruption of 1843 when, under the leadership of Dr Thomas Chalmers, the Evangelical Party in the Church of Scotland as by Law Established, withdrew from the Establishment to form the Church of Scotland, Free.

The immediate cause of the Disruption was the insistence by the civil courts that the Established Church had to ordain men to the parish ministry irrespective of their acceptability to the parishioners. The Evangelical Party regarded this as an intolerable interference in the spiritual liberties of the church and so they withdrew from the Established Church to form the Free Church. The Disruption was not intended to be a disruption, or division, of the Church. Rather it was to be a severing of the link that bound the Church to the State. However, since the Church was not of one mind regarding the proposed action, the Church itself was split. The Established Church remained; and the Free Church, claiming to be the same church as that which it had left, a church adhering to the same Confession of Faith, loyal to the same principles and differing only inasmuch as in the discharge of its spiritual functions it was to be subservient to no other authority than the will of God as understood by the collective mind of the Church, came into being.

The Established Church and the Free Church were not the only Presbyterian Churches in nineteenth century Scotland. In the eighteenth century there had been more than one secession from the Church of Scotland, giving rise to the formation of several groupings with distinctive confessional standpoints. In the late nineteenth century a movement to unite the splintered Presbyterian Churches in Scotland was begun. Not surprisingly, given the different, not to say opposing, nature of the confessional formularies of the various churches, union was found to be possible only on the basis of compromise - an agreement to adopt a confession of faith sufficiently vague and elastic as to allow those holding different views to subscribe to it with good conscience. When the Free Church was confronted with this dilemma, a minority took the view that the doctrines which were being treated as open questions were so vital to the faith that the duty of Christian unity had to yield to the higher duty of fidelity to the truth. The consequence was that when the great majority of the Free Church entered the Union of 1900 to form the United Free Church of Scotland (and, in 1929, to reunite with the Church of Scotland) a small minority elected to continue the Free Church of Scotland. The adherents of this 'constitutionalist' party, as it was termed, were to be found mainly, although not exclusively, in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.

Today the Free Church of Scotland, although much reduced in size, maintains in continuity with the Church of 1843 the system of doctrine and the form of worship adopted by the Church of Scotland at the Reformation. The singing of the Scottish Metrical Psalms unaccompanied by instrumental music is, perhaps, the most distinctive feature of its liturgy, but the chief emphasis of its worship is still to be found in the centrality of the pulpit and the proclamation of a free and sovereign salvation.

General Information

Office Staff

Chief Administrative Officer - Mr Rod Morrison | *Finance Manager* - Mr Jonathan Innes
Cashier - Miss Lisa Wightman | *Gift Aid Administrator* - Mrs DaySpring MacLeod | *PA to CAO* - Mrs Sharon Fraser | *Receptionist* - Miss Emma Adams | *Property Officer* - Mr John Scoales | *Communications Officer* - Mrs Catherine Pearson | *International Missions Board Secretary* - Mr Calum Ferguson | *National Youth Work Co-ordinator* - Mrs Donna Matheson

Board of Trustees

Chairman

Mr J M Fraser, Free Church Manse, Camault Muir, Kiltarlity, Inverness-shire, IV4 7JH

Secretary

Mr Rod Morrison

Trustees

Mr Neil Campbell | Mr Iain Gillies | Mr David Jones | Rev Donald Angus MacDonald | Rev James Maciver | Mr Iain Kenneth Macleod | Rev Neil MacMillan | Dr Allan MacPherson | Dr John Duncan Morrison | Rev Dr John Stuart Ross

Law Agents

Simpson & Marwick, WS, Edinburgh

Auditors

Scott-Moncrieff, CA, Edinburgh

Bookshop

Based at The Mound, the bookshop is managed by Rev Charles Douglas.

Contact

Tel: 0131 718 4141. Email: bookshop@freechurchofscotland.org.uk

Hours

Monday to Friday - 9 am to 1 pm, 1.30 pm to 5 pm

Church Magazines

The Monthly Record (Official Magazine)

Editor - Rev David Robertson, 14 Shamrock Street, Dundee, DD4 7AQ. Tel: 01382 861401
Office: 01382 525021. Mobile: 07825 748 752. Email: david.robertson@freechurch.org

The Instructor (Children's Magazine)

Editor - Mrs Irene Howat, Free Church Manse, Kilberry Road, Tarbert, Argyll, PA29 6XX
Tel: 01880 820134

From the Frontiers (Missionary Magazine)

Editors - Charles & Daphne Douglas, 28 Learmonth Crescent, Edinburgh, EH4 1DE
Daytime Tel: 0131 718 4141. Evening Tel: 0131 343 2099. Email: prayertopics@btinternet.com

Free (Teen Magazine)

Editor - Mrs Chris Nicolson, Shalom, Main Street, Castletown, Caithness, KW14 8TP
Tel: 01847 821608. Email: free@freechurch.org

Free Church Youth Camps

Camps Supervisor

Mr Ross A R Finlay, 122 Culduthel Park, Inverness, IV2 4RZ
Tel: 01463 241765. Email: rmrfinlay@btopenworld.com

Camps Administrator

Miss Mhairi MacKintosh
Smithton-Culloden Free Church, Murray Road, Smithton, Inverness, IV2 7YU
Tel: 01463 790 977. Email: mhairi@freechurchofscotland.org.uk

Child Protection

All of our congregations comply with Child Protection guidelines. Please contact the Free Church Offices for contact details of Child Protection Co-ordinators.

Finance

Cheques for the Church should be made payable to *Free Church of Scotland* and should be addressed to *The Chief Administrative Officer*.

Legacies

A form of words which could be incorporated into a Will when a person wishes to leave money to the Church is as follows:

"I give..... to the Free Church of Scotland, Charity No SC012925, for its general charitable purposes and I declare that the receipt of the Chief Admin Officer or other proper officer of the Free Church of Scotland, for the time being shall be a full and sufficient discharge for my executors."

Church Courts

The Free Church of Scotland is Presbyterian in Church government and is ruled by presbyteries (ministers and elders) meeting in Kirk Session, Presbytery, Synod and General Assembly.

General Assembly

This is the highest court of the Church and it meets annually in May. It is made up of one third of the ministers of the Church, with a corresponding number of elders, appointed as commissioners to the Assembly by their local Presbyteries.

Synod

The Synod comprises the ministers and elders of, if possible, at least three Presbyteries. It is a court of review and appeal which normally meets once a year, prior to the General Assembly.

Presbytery

The minister and one representative elder from each congregation in a designated area form the local Presbytery.

Kirk Session

This is the body consisting of the minister and the elders that has the oversight of the local congregation.

The Free Church of Scotland has six Presbyteries. Each Presbytery has a Clerk who is responsible for the maintenance of records and correspondence. The General Assembly has a Principal Clerk and an Assistant Clerk.

Clerks to Committees of Assembly

Principal Clerk of Assembly

Rev James MacIver, Free Church Manse, Garrabost, Point, Isle of Lewis, HS2 0PW
Tel/Fax: 01851 870207. Email: principal.clerk@freechurch.org

Assistant Clerk of Assembly

Rev Angus J Howat, Free Church Manse, Kilberry Road, Tarbert, Argyll, PA29 6XX
Tel: 01880 821140. Email: ajhowat@aol.com.

Assembly Arrangements

Rev James MacIver (as above). Email: clerk.aa@freechurch.org

Church Extension

Rev Ian Allan, Free Church Manse, 7 Carboostmore, Carboost, Isle of Skye, IV47 8ST
Tel: 01478 640427. Mobile: 07918 888671. Email: ianallan1948@yahoo.com

College Board

Miss Anne MacLeod, Free Church College, The Mound, Edinburgh EH1 2LS
Tel: 0131 226 5286. Email: amacleod@freescotcoll.ac.uk

Communications

Miss Mary Gillies, 29 Sunnyside, Culloden Moor, Inverness, IV2 5ES
Tel: 01463 790558. Email: mm.gillies@saqnet.co.uk

Ecumenical Relations

Rev James MacIver (see page 7). Email: clerk.er@freechurch.org

International Missions Board

Mr Calum Ferguson, Free Church Offices, The Mound, Edinburgh EH1 2LS
Tel: 0131 226 5286. Email: calum@freechurchofscotland.org.uk

Nominations

Rev James MacIver (see page 7). Email: clerk.nom@freechurch.org

Psalmody

Rev John M MacPherson, 7 Guardwell Crescent, Edinburgh, EH17 7JA
Tel: 0131 672 2413. Email: johnmmacpherson@btinternet.com

Public Questions

Mr Evan G Macdonald, 38 Essex Drive, Glasgow, G14 9NA
Tel: 0141 959 2385. Email: evan.m@ntlworld.com

Sustentation and Ministry

Rev Angus J Howat (see page 7)

Training of the Ministry

Rev Kenneth A MacLeod, Free Church Manse, Millbank Road, Thurso, Caithness, KW14 8PS
Tel: 01857 890322. Email: kenny@kirktons.freeserve.co.uk

Youth

Miss Sandra Bain, Moorside, Tore, Muir-of-Ord, Ross-shire, IV6 7RY
Tel: 01463 811273. Email: sbtore@aol.com

Synod Clerks

Northern Synod

Rev Douglas MacKeddie, Free Church Manse, Maryburgh, Ross-shire, IV7 8DP
Tel: 01349 861281. Email: douglas@mackeddie.wanadoo.co.uk

Southern Synod

Mr Norman Smith, 48 Crofthead Road, Ayr, KA7 3ND
Tel: 01292 267740. Email: norman.ayr@tiscali.co.uk

Western Synod

Rev Donald MacDonald, 19 East Street, Sandwick, Stornoway, Isle of Lewis, HS2 0AG
Tel: 01851 704307. Email: don.macdonald@tiscali.co.uk

Free Church College

www.freescotcoll.ac.uk

The Free Church College is situated in the centre of Edinburgh, sharing the Mound Buildings with the Free Church Offices. It operates under the oversight of the College Board, appointed by the General Assembly. The mission of the College is to promote reverent and rigorous Christian scholarship; to provide training for ministers, missionaries, evangelists and RE teachers; and to offer part-time learning opportunities for lay-preachers, elders and others interested in theology and biblical studies. The core programme is validated by the University of Glasgow and leads to the award of the *Bachelor of Theology* degree. The College is open to students of all denominations. For further information contact the College Secretary.

Address

Free Church College, The Mound, Edinburgh EH1 2LS
Tel: 0131 226 5286

Principal

Rev Donald Macleod MA, 84 Craiglea Drive, Edinburgh EH10 5PH
Email: dmacleod@freescotcoll.ac.uk

Old Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology

Rev John L Mackay, MA, MLitt, BD, 26 Bonaly Gardens, Edinburgh EH13 OEX
Tel: 0131 441 4281. Email: jlmackay@freescotcoll.ac.uk

New Testament Language, Exegesis and Theology

Rev John A MacLeod, MA, BD, 6 Langfauld Gardens, Bathgate, West Lothian EH48 2DX
Tel: 01506 633796. Email: jamacleod@freescotcoll.ac.uk

Systematic Theology

Rev Donald Macleod, MA, 84 Craiglea Drive, Edinburgh EH10 5PH
Email: dmacleod@freescotcoll.ac.uk

Practical Theology

Rev Donald M MacDonald, FRCS Ed, 6 Craiglockhart Grove, Edinburgh EH14 1ET
Tel: 0131 455 8777. Email: dmmacdonald@freescotcoll.ac.uk

Church History and Church Principles

Rev John R McIntosh, BA, BD, M Litt, PhD, 9 Galachlawside, Edinburgh, EH10 7JG
Tel: 0131 445 7744. Email: jrmcintosh@freescotcoll.ac.uk

College Secretary

Miss Anne I MacLeod. Email: amacleod@freescotcoll.ac.uk

College Officer

Mr John Scoales. Email: john@freechurchofscotland.org.uk