

Source – Tayport Parish Church Sesquicentennial Celebration Order of Service 1993

QUEEN STREET CHURCH

Queen Street Church came with the disruption of 1843, when the Minister and some 500 communicants left the Established Church to form a Congregation of the Free Church of Scotland amid scenes of great fervour. They had no Church or Manse and little visible money, but undeterred, they launched out. They planned to build a Church of wood and the Minister had a site, but with more encouragement from the Committee of Elders in Edinburgh and the offer of stone from the quarry above the village by the Laird of Scotsraig, they decided on a stone and lime building. They accepted a plan and specifications from Mr Just in Newport, advertised in the Fife Sentinel for offers, and Mr Just's offer being the lower by £50, accepted his offer.

The Foundation Stone was laid on Tuesday 6th June 1843, in the presence of a large gathering, after an address by the Rev. Wm. Nicolson, the Minister, and the singing of verses 18 and 19 of Psalm 51. The stone was quarried and wheeled down by carts and wheel barrows largely voluntary labour by members of the congregation. The erection of the building proceeded so rapidly that, at meeting of the Deacons' Court on 2nd October, 1843, it authorised Mr David Mills to procure the necessary furnishings and candles for lighting the pulpit and the Church at the opening of the Church on Sabbath first (8th October, 1843). Up to this time, the congregation had been worshipping first in the shed at the old harbour and then in the School, which had been granted for that purpose. At this time, the Minute of the Deacons' Court stated that persons adhering to the cause, both young and old, were computed to

be about 1,100 and the average attendance at Address public worship to be about 700. The total subscriptions at this time to the Building Fund amounted to £129 9s 9d, and the value of free labour and carriages was computed to be of the value of about £12.

It is of interest to learn the names of those who served as a Working Committee, who were largely responsible for all that had taken place.

They comprised: — Rev. Wm. Nicolson, Convener. Elders: Messrs David Mills, James Baird, Alex. Christie and John Ireland. Others : Messrs David Mitchell, David Kiddie (baker), James Robb, John White (weaver), Robert Ritchie (weaver), Walter Rollo (sawyer), James Ferguson (shipmaster), David Address Scott (weaver), James Simpson, James Cook (shipmaster) and James Laing (grocer) who acted as Treasurer.

At a meeting on the 13th November, 1843, the Deacons' Court made the following appointments for the ensuing half year: Alexander Kiddie to have the charge of opening and shutting the Church and keeping it clean and generally to take charge thereof, and James Baird to have the special office of carrying the Pulpit Bible and attending the Minister, the latter office being one to which the Minister and Kirk Session have the sole right of appointing, and they already having appointed the said James Baird.

The Manse was not built until 1845, when it was erected at a cost of £360 3s.