

CRAMOND KIRK ARCHITECTURE TIMELINE

142 AD Archaeological evidence suggests that Romans first settled in Cramond in the early 140s AD. The fort was centred on the site of Cramond Kirk. It was abandoned after about 30 years.

208 AD Excavations also show that Romans reused the outpost in 208 AD to 212 AD

6th Century A Christian community converted the headquarters building (Principia) of the Roman Fort as their first place of worship.

The **Mediaeval** church building was laid out east to west and dedicated to St Columba and there were two altars at the east end of the church where the organ is today. One altar was dedicated to the Virgin Mary and the other to St Columba who brought Christianity to Scotland in the 6th century.

Today the only surviving parts of this church are the 15th century tower (although the tower parapet was not added until 1811) and a small fragment of the chancel converted into a burial vault.

1560 After the Reformation in Scotland (1560) the church was adapted to suit the needs of the Presbyterian form of worship. The altars were replaced by a Communion Table.

1619 The tower bell, cast in 1619, was installed. Made in the Netherlands the inscription on the bell reads: *MICAEL BURGERHUYS FECIT ME 1619 SOLI DEO GLORIA* which translates from Latin to *MICAEL BURGERHUYS MADE ME 1619 GLORY TO GOD ALONE*. The bell is still rung before services.

1649 A Manse was built. Very little is known as the Kirk's records were never retrieved after Cromwell's invasion. There is a private record of the Heritors paying for repairs in 1683.

1651 In 1651 Oliver Cromwell invaded Scotland (during the War of the Three Kingdoms 1639-53) and his soldiers stole the bell which was taken to Leith Fort. Kirk records show that "after much solicitation employed and interest made!" Cromwell's General Monck agreed to return the bell in **1658**.

1656 By 1656 the mediaeval church was in a ruinous state and was almost totally rebuilt.

1701 Church alterations – south aisle was widened. South aisle was lengthened to form the Barnton burial vault.

1745 & 1770 In 1745 Rev Gilbert Hamilton (minister at Cramond Kirk 1737-1772) rebuilt the 1649 Manse from its foundations. He was allowed £38 6s 8d to do so. It contained a study, living room, two bedrooms and kitchen. There was also a stable and carriage house behind the Manse. Rev Hamilton had three daughters. In 1770 the Manse was extended to provide a new living room and two additional bedrooms (one being in the attic).

1811 Castellated entrance porch, castellated upper section of tower and extension of the south aisle to the west added by **ROBERT BURN**.

1828 Major remodelling by Edinburgh architect **WILLIAM BURN**.

1843 ROBERT BELL "contracted to make more changes".

1851 & 1868 DAVID BRYCE reconfigured the layout of the interior of the church.

1857 Manse extension. Rev William Colvin (minister at Cramond Kirk 1843-1877) lived in the Manse with his wife, 8 children (2 more born after 1857), a faithful nurse, gardeners, the beadle, housemaid and cook. Rev Colvin enlisted architect **DAVID BRYCE** to draw up plans for an extension to the Manse – the south wing.

1871 Proposal to install a harmonium was approved. This was the first musical instrument for the Kirk.

1911-1912 Reconstruction and enlargement of the church. In a letter (March 1911) of appeal from Rev G G Stott (minister of Cramond Kirk 1910-1943) and James F MacKay, Convener of the Congregational Committee, it was pointed out that "The present sittings are inadequate and uncomfortable... church can hardly be said to be in a sanitary condition...internally it is dilapidated, damp, and dismal... the roof is partly decayed". It required to be repaired, enlarged and reseated. On 26 March 1911, after a Communion Service, the church was closed for rebuilding and the congregation worshipped in the Church Hall, then in Davidsons Mains. The Architect for the rebuild was **JAMES MATHER**, a member of the Kirk, who donated his services. The Heritors employed consulting architect, **DAVID McCARTHY**, at their own cost to examine and approve the working plans, specifications and contracts.

The whole church was renewed with the exception of the tower and vaults. The walls of what are now the transept and chancel were raised two feet higher at the sides and rebuilt in parts. The north aisle was widened and extended to form a three-bay nave with gallery above. The south aisle was heightened to create a chancel. The pitch-pine hammer-beam roof was constructed. Most of the fine oak and pine furnishings were installed. New font (sculpted by H S Gamley, The Studio, Hope Lane). New pulpit, stair & carved panel and Communion Table (made in oak by carver and designer, J S Gibson, Easter Dalry Works). The base of the pulpit is of Barnton stone (Barnton Park Quarry was reopened to get the stone). Organ chamber created to house a new Norman and Beard pipe organ. New window openings inserted – all windows were of plain glass. New main entrance incorporated the initials of the main contractor and the architect (James Mather) and the year 1911 were detailed on the buttress to the right. The chiselled lintel proclaimed *NISI DOMINUS FRUSTRA* which translates from Latin to *WITHOUT GOD ALL IS IN VAIN*.

After less than a year, worship recommenced in Cramond Kirk. There was a re-opening and dedication service on 4th February 1912. On completion the church building was insured for £5,500. At the turn of the century the church could seat a congregation of 583. In 1912 architect, James Mather, gave a seating capacity of 754.

1914 In April "strong desire was expressed on behalf of Cramond Parish that a mortuary should be provided for the parish" – sanitary inspector was instructed to make a report. In August an arrangement made with the Heritors of Cramond Parish for the erection of a mortuary in Cramond Churchyard was approved.

C1914 & C1919 The three windows at the back of the Barnton Gallery were made by Morris & Co to designs by Edward Burne-Jones. They are in memory of William Robert Reid (d 1919), owner of Lauriston Castle, and his brother-in-law, William Davidson Barton (d 1911). According to Kirk Session minutes (June 1914) Mrs Reid requested permission from the Heritors to place stained glass window in the South Gable in memory of her brother, William. William Barton was a member of the Congregational Committee for the 1911-12 rebuild but must have died shortly after this appointment. William and Margaret Reid and William Barton are all buried in Cramond Kirkyard.

1921 On 22 January 1921 the font moved position from in front of the proposed new Memorial window. The First World War Memorial, dedicated in October 1921, consists of a window designed by Oscar Paterson, a memorial plaque and a mosaic. 105 men from the Parish died in WW1 and a further 12 names were added after WWII.

1924 Kirk Session Minutes, 20 March 1924, record the introduction of Electric Light in the Kirk and the Manse. It also included an Electric Motor for the organ. The organ blower was thus redundant!

1930 The painted glass windows under the North Gallery depict four saints. The windows are replicas by Alex Ballantyne of Anglican Art. They had been gifted to Rev Andrew Wallace Williamson, minister of St Cuthbert's Edinburgh, shortly after his marriage to Elizabeth in Cramond Kirk in 1888. The windows were installed in his manse. Rev Williamson died in 1926 and Elizabeth gifted the windows to Cramond Kirk in celebration of 38 years of happy marriage.

1930 The stained glass windows in the East and West aisles were gifted in memory of Robert Millar Wilson of Inveralmond House (now demolished). He was managing director of Wilson & Clyde Coal Company. He died in 1928 aged 65 and is buried in Cramond Kirkyard.

1932 Alterations and improvements were made to the Offering House. Messrs Gerard, Trotter & Bell carried out the work. The cost of £368 inclusive of £30 architect's fee. "Members of the congregation should be invited to subscribe to the cost of the edifice."

1939 Below the Dalmeny Gallery, to the left of the Tower Door entrance, the window, made by Alexander Strachan, is in memory of Jessie Louisa Colvin who died in 1938 aged 84. Jessie was the youngest daughter of Rev Walter Colvin, minister of the Kirk from 1834-1877. She is buried in Cramond Kirkyard.

1939 The War Memorial window was removed for protection against possible aerial attack.

1944 The window below the Dalmeny Gallery, to the right of the Tower Door entrance, is in memory of Dr George Gordon Stott. He was minister of Cramond Kirk during its restoration (1911-12). He served from 1910 to 1943.

1946 The War Memorial window was restored.

1955 The Session House was built to the design of architect **HARRY WYLIE**. A garden party, to raise funds, was held in The Manse grounds on Saturday 17th July 1954. £1,048 was raised.

1963 In September a new £40,000 church hall was dedicated less than a year after the announcement of an appeal for money. 90% of the cost had been raised.

1991 In October builders taking down the old mortuary out-house, stone by stone, dug up remains, including skull fragments. These proved to be mediaeval. The stones were used to build a toilet (accessible toilet owned by CEC) to blend in with the Kirk.

1998 The Norman and Beard pipe organ of 1911 was replaced with a Wyvern digital organ. The organ pipes are dummies and hide the 45 speakers and 6 passive radiators for the 18 channels of sound in the digital organ. The organ consists of three manuals (great, swell and choir) and pedals, together operating four sound modules containing 256 tone generators.

2000 The Halls were extended to include the Millennium Room and Gathering Space. The original hall was refurbished. These were all completed in 2000.

2003 The chapel below the Cramond Gallery was created. Tom Gray, an elder of the Kirk, designed the furniture for the small chapel. Ben Dawson built the furniture. The chapel is used for a prayer service on Sunday mornings as well as for some weddings and baptisms.

2014 The Offering House became the Little Gatehouse Gallery.

2020 The Halls were upgraded. Insulation of loft and walls, double glazed windows, toilets upgraded, kitchens got retrofits and lighting and colours to meet Alzheimer's guidelines.

Continual considerations:

- for the needs of the church and hall users
- to maintain our responsibilities as an Eco Congregation.

James Mather's **PLAN OF CHURCH AND GALLERIES** 1911

