

Armadale Methodist Church

150th Anniverary 1865 - 2015



Minister	Revd. Hilda Warwick
Superintendant	Revd. Dr. Mark Jason
District Chair	Revd. Dr. David Easton

**“PRAISE HIM FOR ALL THAT IS PAST AND
TRUST HIM FOR ALL THAT IS TO COME”**

Ministers who have been in pastoral charge at Armadale since 1865:

1865	William G. Beardmore
1867	Thomas Rogers
1868	Jabez Chambers
1869	W. Wheatley Smith
1871	James Fletcher
1875	Ullric H. Allan
1876	Joseph Bacon
1878	Samuel Hickmans
1881	George H. Chambers
1884	Edward Bowman
1886	Thomas W. Beck
1889	Arthur Reeve
1891	Sidney Harris
1893	Walter Mawer
1887	E. Sayer Ellis M.C.
1898	William Henry Bunting
1901	Frederick A. Keyworth
1902	A. Umphray Moffatt
1903	George H. Bamford
1904	H. Proctor Robertson B.D.
1906	J. Parton Milum B.Sc. Ph.D.
1907	G. Arnold Standfast B.A.
1908	William Ackroyd
1909	Henry C. Veale
1912	Robert E. Newton
1915	George W. Curtis

1916	Sister Maude Gent
1918	Pastor Hugo J.Raddon
1921	S. Ogden Schfield
1922	Cecil H. G. Carter
1923	Stanley T. Stratford
1924	Archibald J. Scruby
1925	Leonard Harrison
1926	Arthur Truswell
1927	T. Eric Parr
1929	Harold G. Johnson
1930	Archibald Smeaton
1932	W. George Griffiths
1933	Donald R. Dugard
1934	Leslie M. Thompson
1935	Frederick A. Smith
1937	Eugene W. Rushforth
1939	James H. W. Ingham
1942	Alexander Mirrilees
1943	Arthur S. Valle M.A.
1945	J. Douglas Wood
1947	Richard M. Davison
1948	T. Stanley Clayton
1950	Neville Stewart B.Sc
1951	Ralph Waggett B.A.
1952	Cyril L. Payne
1954	Norman Berryman
1957	George W. Cloke B.D.
1961	Ian G. Cramb

1966	A. Robinson
1967	Tom Stuckey
1970	Kenneth Thornton
1975	Paul Taylor
1976	H.C.C. Lannigan
1981	W. Jamieson
1983	R. J. Withington
1990	J.Trotter
1992	Gordon James
1996	Sue Patterson
2003	Sister Judith Ireland
2007	David Archer
2014	Hilda Warwick

Ministerial Greetings

It is my privilege as the superintendent of the circuit to greet the congregation of Armadale Methodist Church on the occasion of its 150th Anniversary.

All who share in this celebration also share in this special historical occasion that celebrates 150 years of worship and witness by this congregation here in the centre of Armadale and I trust that its significance is not overlooked : we cannot but be mindful of God's faithful and constancy over the years. As a circuit we share in the joy of our church at Armadale and what we are feeling on this occasion is best expressed in the words of a well-loved hymn (StF 67 : *This, this is the God we adore*):

We'll praise him for all that is past, and trust him for all that is to come

Than you all who have shown interest and support by being present at this event, and to all who have been a part of this congregation in some way or other over the years.

My hope is that for all who are associated with this church the 150th anniversary will not just be an end in itself but the beginning in a new stage in the journey of a small but sincere faith community, a going forward with a maturity and confidence which comes only by the grace of God.

Mark Jason

Superintendent Minister

First I want to say a huge thank you for the welcome I received from Armadale Methodist Church as we enter together a new phase of ministry.

Looking back at the faithful lives of many who have made this journey possible , I standd with others in gratitude as we celebrate all that has gone before.

In times of change I also look forward to the new thing that I beleivve God wants us to do. In our lives as disciples we now find ourselves in times of great challenge. However, in this very place I want to invite people to share the hope that wionshipse have in a God who makes all things new.

A God who heals places of brokenness , be that in relationships, or just places of sadness that we find ourselves through life's struggles. A God who works through our faith as small as a mustard seed. I would ask you to join with me in the next leg of the journey, that together we can enter into times of fruitfulness.

Thank you for all that help us in small ways, that enable us to continue. Please know that in every way you are welcome. We would love to share your journey even as you share ours .

Every Blessing

Rev Hilda Warwick

Methodist Minister

Armadale

In 1995 I was appointed superintendent of the Falkirk Wallacestone and Stirling Circuit. It was my first appointment in Scotland and I was still settling in to this fresh responsibility when we heard that the Airdie and Armadale circuit was closing. Armadale church was continuing, and we were asked if we would have it in our circuit. The usual matters of practicality and finance were considered: preachers from Stirling would have a twenty five mile trip each way to get to Armadale to lead worship, for example. However, in all the years since I've only heard preachers say how pleased they are to be appointed there – it seems that we are all glad that Armadale joined us to create the Central Scotland Circuit. The Armadale folk are warm, welcoming and appreciative, and when I was chairing meetings I always felt that if there was a way in which they could help the circuit they would do it. Loyal circuit members, they have struggled to find their assessment quarter by quarter – they are mostly people of small incomes. Their weekly gifts for the City Mission in Edinburgh and regular services at the Bield sheltered housing home show their concern for others, as does their permission for local organisations to use the hall. Co-operation with and from the Parish Church at various events is another sign of their friendliness.

In spite of all this they remain humble – just glad to make life better for others where they can. As well as regular maintenance some structural repairs to the building and modernisation of the sound system, church heating and toilets have been done on recent years, a sign of concern for the convenience (and safety) of the church for all who use it. When I am appointed at Armadale my wife and I are welcomed as long lost friends and with genuine concern for our health. Leaving the church afterwards the members offer sincere appreciation (a precious encouragement for preachers!) on the occasions when we have been visitors at sales or other events that include food there has always been someone who makes sure we are well (over ?!) fed.

It has been a pleasure to know the church at Armadale for these eighteen years or so – the real church, the people, not just the building. As we celebrate this 150 year milestone we can thank God for all that they people have been led to do for each other and for their neighbours in Armadale and in the circuits. We are ageing; getting older and we do not know what the future holds, but the Lord who has led the way for the members at Armadale for so many years is not going to stop doing so now!

His blessing be upon the church to-day and through whatever lies ahead.

Rev Bill Seymour

Christine and I have good memories of our first appointment where our two eldest children were born. Martin is now 47 and Matthew 45. Those were the days of Tom Davies and discussion about the new church hall. Mrs Ross and Chrissie Hudson were our occasional baby sitters. William Ball was one of the Stewards of the old Circuit. He once remarked that one day I would become President of the Methodist Conference. I never dreamt such a thing would happen. We were delighted to be able to come to your 125th celebrations and are thrilled to know you are now celebrating a further 25 years of witness.

Armadale Methodist Church has truly come of age and I am proud to have been one of its many probationers. We both send our warmest greetings as you celebrate your 150th Anniversary. May God's spirit continue to guide and bless you in the coming years.

Rev. Tom and Christine Stuckey

I am sorry but I can't share in your 150th anniversary celebrations in person, but be assured that you are in my thoughts and prayers. I count it a priveledge to have celebrated your 149th anniversary with you but, even more, I thank God for the years when I was able to celebrate with you God's loving presence. We recalled the generous love in our worship and especially when we broke bread a the Lord's table. You shared that generous love in the care you shared with each other, as well as the care you offered to your community, both as a church, and as individuals.

Indeed, you are part of a long line of Jesus' friends in Armadale, who have shown what good things happen when we let God reign in our hearts and minds. So I hope that your 150th anniversary will prove to be a time when you praise God for all that is past, and trust Him for all that is to come.

Rev. D Archer

Former Minister & Super Intendent.

I count it a privilege and pleasure to be asked to add my congratulations to your 150th anniversary. What an achievement for you all – and I was only there for two years.

I learned a lot at both Ardrie and Armadale, and have lots of happy memories of the wonderful people I met and shared fellowship with. I recall when we first came to Armadale the very warm welcome that awaited us, followed by the biggest supper I ever saw, and this continued for every event that was organised.

One of the highlights for me was the starting of T.W.I.G. We had great discussion on what our ladies' meeting was called, and as we were a branch of the church, T.W.I.G. was very appropriate for our gathering. We held a variety of meetings and one stands out in my mind "the exercise class". When we were asked to put our arms under our "axters" - I didn't know where mine were! But I have never forgotten since. We had lots of fun, and often went out on sightseeing trips.

Armadale will always remain very special to me, and my late husband would have been thrilled to know of your progress and witness in the area.

May the Lord continue to bless each and every one of you, and we give God the glory for 150 years of continued praise, prayer, and fellowship in Armadale.

Norma Trotter

Widow of the late Rev. J. Trotter

Congratulations on your 150th anniversary. I have many memories of the time when I was on the plan as an "accredited preacher". I have shared with you times of joy as well as sorrow.

I always felt at home in your wee church, whether in the pulpit, or sitting in one of the pews which came from the Kirk in which I was nurtured.

Many thanks for your friendship and fellowship and long may they continue.

Jean S.G. Notman

Friend and past preacher

MRS ENA GRAY

When Ernie Storie was called up to serve in the RAF during the second world war, he asked Ena Hudson, aged 13, to take his place as organist until he returned.

Her first Sunday playing was 16 February 1942.

Ena was a pupil of Mrs Cunningham who taught piano and who played the organ at the East Parish Church. Ena filled in for Ernie and whenever she could she would sit at Mrs Cunningham's side and observed her expertise while she played.

However, sadly Ernie's plane was shot down in Burma and he never came home from the war. Ena would carry on playing until a permanent organist was found.

She recalls Mr Gracie, a stalwart of the church telling her, "Now Miss Ena, you are not the organist until you have received a letter from the leader's meeting". Seventy three years later Ena is still playing the organ and is still awaiting that letter !

She remembers playing while from the corner of her eye watching Miss Hannah Davies, herself a music teacher shaking her hymn book in time with the music and woe betide Ena if she didn't keep up with Miss Davies' timing.

Playing in the early days was difficult during the winter months as the church was heated by coal fire and her hands were cold so she knitted fingerless gloves to wear.

When Ena and Bill were married Dallas Walker played the organ at their wedding.

Ena played for morning and evening services each week for many years having a break only when she was pregnant and very occasionally did Ena and Bill go on holiday such was her sense of duty.

Ena has gone through three organs at Armdale. The first was a pedal organ the second was electric and the present instrument is thirty six years old.

Being a church organist also means being required to play the piano at church events such as socials, concerts, and accompanying the Brownies during their parent's nights and playing for the Boy's Brigade as they marched. Part of her repertoire for this was the tune "Colonel Bogie" and as the boys marched around the hall they whistled along. A worried captain warned the boys before going off to a Battalion competition "Don't whistle when Mrs Gray plays".

Ena's favourite hymn is "Be still for the presence of the Lord the Holy one is here"

Ena is a remarkable lady with a special talent that she has used to serve her Lord for most of her life. Her dedication is an example to us all and she is very dear to us all at the church.

A History of Armadale Methodist Church

The Methodist Church in East Main Street is well known to the people of Armadale and has occupied its site since 1865, but its story began more than 150 years ago.

Following several visits John Wesley made in Scotland, starting in 1751, the Methodist societies formed, spreading throughout Central Scotland. Typical of Methodism throughout the world, ordinary working men brought their faith with them, in this case miners from Slamannan. Presumably, these early Methodists in Armadale met in someone's house like the early Christians. By 1862, the work had developed sufficiently to be officially recognised and Armadale became part of the Edinburgh circuit, with a Home Missions Minister responsible for it. Hopes of a Church building were raised. It was at this point that an Episcopalian lady, Mrs Honeyman-Gillespie, took an interest and the present church was given by her. The actual opening date is not known, but the foundation stone was laid on Tuesday 2nd May, 1865, when the Reverend George Hobson presented Mrs Honeyman-Gillespie with a silver trowel and ebony mallet in gratitude.

Many years ago when the church was previously in the same circuit as Wallacestone, ministers and local preachers walked the eight miles to take services and then walk back again.

The membership has fluctuated over the years from a point in the 1960's where if 60% of our members attended at the same service it would have been impossible to seat them all.

However, there was also a point in the 1890's when the membership dwindled to seven (7) and there was talk of closing the church, and indeed two stewards set out together to walk to Wallacestone to hand over the keys - stopped on the way to rest and started to pray together – came back and re-opened the church.

For many years, it was felt that a hall was needed to carry on social events, and in 1921, that want was met when Mr Tom W. Davis had a wooden hut erected in memory of his father, about which time the church had much needed kitchen and toilet facilities built. It was replaced by the present hall and committee room etc in 1972, through grants from the Joseph Rank benevolent fund, the Methodist Church, and church fundraising efforts.

Activities and organisations in past years included: Band of Hope, Wesley Guild, Women's Meeting, Young Wife's Club, Football Team, Junoir Guild, Youth Club, Youth Fellowship, Sunday School, Boy's Brigade, Brownies, and Girl Guides.

Over the years, various gifts have been given to the church, often as memorials, i.e. a baptismal font, a pulpit, a pulpit fall, an electric blown reed organ, a lectern and fall, a bookcase, a pulpit bible, pew bibles, service books, and communion cloths – all beautifying the church.

It would be impossible in the space allowed to mention all the worth yet humble folk who served the church so well in past years, and left behind an example to follow, but one name stands out at the epitome of Methodism in Armadale, and that is Jimmy Gracie. He was known the length and breadth of Armadale, and loved and respected by all.

When the East Church closed in 1973, the methodist church was the grateful recipient of their communion table, chairs, and pews, all of which greatly enhanced the interior. A few years ago, the church was rewired, replastered, and redecorated, and new windows were fitted. As with most churches, it is a constant struggle to maintain the buildings to a wind and water tight standard. A feat achieved by our property stewards backed up by the bakers, tea makers, knitters, and general fundraisers.

This tells something of the story of our church. As we “Praise Him for all that has passed, and trust Him for all that is to come”.

1865 in Armadale and beyond

Council Minutes

9th January – The Burgh

Commissioners held their meeting in the Subscription school house

Rates fixed at 9d in the £1. Collector of Rates to get £20 per annum plus 5% commission.

Vote taken re supply water to private properties.

14.6 householders of Armadale held their first election.

A second pond to be constructed to increase water supply.

10.7. Public notices to be displayed regarding rate arrears.

31.7. Warrents for unpaid rates to go out.

£2 allowed to convey water from McKinlays ground to middle of Gillespie Street.

21.9. £60 maximum to be spent on filter and tank to improve water.

26.9. Approval given by owner Mr. Turner and neighbouring tennants Mr. Harris re piece of land for water tank 39' x 50' south side of Mount Pleasant.

9.10. Contracts awarded for tank.

4.12. £100 extra to be borrowed for tank.

In Wider World

Queen Victoria on the throne

Earl Russell – Prime Minister

Pope Pius IX

Alexander II Tsar of Russia

Leopold II – king of Belgium

Abraham Lincoln assassinated

Alice in Wonderland published by Charles Dodgson (Lewis Carroll)

U.S. inventor Thaddeus Lowe builds a compression ice maker.

SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING
SUNDAY 24th MAY 2015

Guest preacher: Rev. Robert Morton

Order of Service

Call to Worship : *“Come, now is the time to worship”* Wesley Singers

Hymn 470 Lord, for the years Your love has kept and guided

Prayer & Lord's Prayer

Responsive Psalm 122 (StF 831)

HYMN 475 O God of Bethel by whose hand

Epistle Acts 2 : 1 – 12

Offering

Prayers of Intercession

Hymn 690 The Church's one foundation is Jesus Christ her Lord

Wesley Singers : Give me the faith which can remove

O Thou who camest from above

Gospel Ephesians 2 : 13 – 22

SERMON

HYMN 418 We have a gospel to proclaim

Blessing

ANNIVERSARY LUNCH MENU

Starter - Vegetable soup with crusty roll and butter

Chef's pate with onion chutney on a bed of mixed salad

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Main course - Roast beef with yorkshire pudding in a rich gravy

Breast of chicken stuffed with a soft cheese with a creamy sauce

Beetroot tartlet ( v )

All main meals served with vegetables and baby potatoes

Dessert – Cheese and Crackers

Cake

Tea or Coffee



## **The Week's Events**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 7pm

“Praise and pictures”

Sing along and Scottish films

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 7pm

Grand Concert

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> May 11am

150<sup>th</sup> anniversary thanksgiving service  
with lunch at 1pm

The hall will be open throughout the week to view the display of old photographs, memorabilia, etc.