

OTHER CHURCHES IN CATRINE

THE UNITED SECESSION CHURCH

(Later: The United Presbyterian Church)

The 1891 Census states that in its early days the population of Catrine "...contained a goodly sprinkling of Dissenters...some of whom travelled to Cumnock to the Whig Kirk at Rigg, near Auchinleck; but a much larger number went to the Secession Church at Mauchline. The saintly Mr Walker, minister there, becoming frail and not able to attend to all his flock, this (ie.1835) was thought to be a suitable time to take steps to have a church in Catrine".

An application for a site near the centre of the village was made to the Catrine Cotton Works Company, but this was refused by the then resident proprietor who said that: "He could not favour dissent." A meeting of subscribers was held on 16th June 1835 when it was decided to approach Mr Claud Alexander of Ballochmyle with a request for ground. Mr Alexander duly granted them a site at the nominal sum of sixpence per fall. (A fall was equal to one square perch – about 30.25 square yards.)

Another meeting of subscribers on 12th April 1836 authorised obtaining a loan of up to £350 to cover the cost of erecting a building on the site at the foot of Cowan Brae (i.e. at the corner where the present day Mauchline Road joins Ballochmyle Street). James Ingram of St.Germain Street, father of the eminent architect Robert Samson Ingram of Kilmarnock, was appointed to draw out plans. A proposal was approved to place a bottle containing the County newspaper in the foundation.

On 16th January 1837 a meeting of those members of the United Associate Congregation of Mauchline living in Catrine, raised a petition to be granted certificates of disjunction and congregated under the inspection of the United Associate Presbytery of Kilmarnock. The petition was duly granted by the Kirk Session of Mauchline on 6th February with certificates signed by William Lambie, Session Clerk.

In April 1837... "Mr Thomas preached in Mr Greenshields' large room preparatory to forming the members of the United Secession Church residing in Catrine into a congregation in connection with the United Associate Synod...109 were enrolled...and were exhorted to look out from among themselves, men of honest report to be appointed to the office of the Eldership...(signed by James Young, Session Clerk)." On 24th April it was proposed that the first sermon in the new church should be given on the third Sabbath of June. A general meeting of the congregation agreed that the church be formally opened on the date proposed; and Thomas McGill, Robert Wright and James Young were elected Elders. The church was so far completed on Sunday 18th June 1837, with only cotton cloth for the windows, when the opening services were conducted by the Rev. Hamilton McGill, then of Duke Street, Kilmarnock; he being a native of Catrine and with his father in attendance. On 7th August 1837 Robert Jamie was appointed Precentor to lead the praise at a salary of £2.12s. (£2.60) per annum. At the same meeting a proposal was received from Kilmarnock (Fulton's Lane and Clerk's Lane, Fenwick,

Kilmaurs and Cumnock for a union of Secession and Relief Churches. The proposal for union came to fruition in 1847 with the formation of the United Presbyterian Church.

The following jottings are taken from Kirk Session and Board of Management minutes:

18 Sep 1837: Preachers to receive one Guinea (105p) per service.
A need for candle-sockets expressed.

21 Nov 1837: James Young appointed Presbytery Elder.

01 Feb 1838: Stipend offered for "Call" to be £100 (including sacramental expenses).
Church Officer to receive £1 half-yearly.

10 Apr 1838: Call to Mr John Young.

01 May 1838: Call in obeince (sic)

11 Jun 1838: Annual Business Meeting – John McKinna appointed Preses (i.e. president or chairman), with Wm Clark, James Young, Robert Wright, William Crawford, Thomas Miller, Robert Dalgleish, J.Goudie and John Frazer as Managers; James Begg, Treasurer; Andrew Young, Clerk; Wm Crawford, Seat-letter; Wm Bryson and Wm Lindsay, Auditors.

03 Jul 1838: First Minister, Mr John Young ... "to be introduced to his flock on the fourth Sabbath of August 1838". Commission to be sent to the Presbytery of Kilmarnock which meets at Air (sic) on Tuesday 7th August 1838.

22 Aug 1838: Mr Young ill – Ordination postponed until 12th September. Mr Young to be presented with a suit of clothes.

03 Sep 1838: Mr McMurtrie will provide a dinner for Presbytery in a very superior manner at four shillings (20p) per head (including drinks). Mr Barclay, Catrine Works Manager will be invited to "sit dinner".

12 Sep 1838: John Young ordained as Pastor (i.e. have pastoral superintendence) of the United Secession Congregation of Catrine.

01 Oct 1838: Sacrament to be dispensed on the last Sabbath of November – tokens, communion cups etc. to be provided.

04 Oct 1838 ...agreed to have four cups, two flagons and 500 oval-shaped tokens for Saturday 11th November.

23 Oct 1838: James Lindsay of Sorn, John Goudie, Andrew Young, William Bryson and John McKinna elected Elders – they were ordained on 24th November.

- 04 Dec 1838: Sacrament of Holy Communion to be dispensed quarterly.
- 11 Dec 1838: Two bread trays, six pairs of snuffers and two snuffer trays to be purchased.
- 08 Jan 1839: William Young, tinsmith, to be admonished by the Kirk Session “for absenting himself from his family for a whole night”.
- 20 Jan 1839: James Henderson refused membership because of his “lamentable ignorance of Christian doctrine”. (James was eventually admitted in March of the same year.)
- 21 Feb 1839: Applicant for admission, George McBride, had to be spoken to for “drinking ardent spirits to excess”. (William promised to abstain in future and was admitted in May.)
- 09 Apr 1839: Kirk Session to have a fund for ecclesiastical and charitable purposes from afternoon collections.
- 29 Mar 1840: Mary Ferguson’s name removed from roll... “intimated that she had adopted the proffession (sic) of a Baptist”.
- 10 Nov 1840: Mary McCallum appeared – acknowledged that she was guilty of fornication. “proffessed (sic) sorrow for her sin”.
James Young, weaver, appeared...having purchased property which he knew did not belong to the person from whom the purchase was made...
in opposition to the spirit of the law on property, and inconsistently with the Christian character – to be admonished in Church.
- 15 Dec 1840: Mrs Morrison suspended from the special privileges of the Church for “some very improper language”.
- 02 Feb 1841: Robert Fleming acknowledged himself to have been guilty of the sin of fornication with Euphenia Stevenson – professed his sorrow.
Appeared John McKinna (Jr) – guilty of the same sin with *****.
Mary McCallum presented a certificate from Alexander Parker (Jr) – acknowledged himself to be the father of her child and expressed a desire to get the child baptised.
Catherine Wilson was guilty of fornication with Alex Wilson.
- 09 Mar 1841: A motion was carried in favour of union with the Relief Church. (This union resulted in the formation of the United Presbyterian Church in 1847.)
- 07 Dec 1841: A committee was formed to confer with the Rev. Wm.Hutchison of Catrine Chapel of Ease...on continuing the union for prayer.

(Gaps exist in the minutes of the Board of Management from June 1840 until July 1842 and in the Kirk Session minutes from August 1842 until May 1844.)

- July 1842: Illness noted of Rev. John Young – Mr James Begg stood in during Mr Young's absence.
- 10 Apr 1843: Demission of Mr Young imminent owing to his continued ill-health.
- 28 Aug 1843: Mr Clyde and Mr Taffrey to preach for the vacancy.
- 29 Nov 1843: Stipend of £90 per annum offered to fill the vacancy.
- 11 Feb 1844: Use of Church granted for a meeting on Wednesday and Session meeting on Saturday to "our brethren of the Free Church". (This was as a result of the 1843 Disruption when three-quarters of the members and adherents, led by the Rev. Wm.Hutchison, left the Established Church. They continued to use the Chapel of Ease for some time but were eventually forced out and had to look for other places in which to meet and worship.)
- 26 Feb 1844: The Free Church congregation, having been expelled from their place of worship, were granted the use of the Church.
- May 1844: Preparations in hand for the ordination of Mr Miller and for a soirée to welcome him.
- 09 Oct 1844: James Hamilton cited for not attending Divine Ordinance for a considerable time – his excuse: "inability to procure clothes". James Young, recently discharged from his duties as Clerk, was replaced by William Bryan.
- 26 Nov 1844: Mention made of "a Joint Committee of the United Associates and Relief Synods on the proposed union of the Churches".
- Feb 1844: Demission of Mr Miller.
Free Church completed. (This building is now Catrine Congregational Church.)
- 25 Feb 1845: Gas lighting proposed for the Church.
- 10 Apr 1845: Discussion took place on a communication received from the Glasgow Emancipation Society that the Session express their "utter and unqualified detestation and abhorrence of slavery".
- 03 Jun 1845: Proposed to have... "the Sacrament dispensed in the summer season on the third Sabbath in June as members...availed themselves of visiting

friends at a distance, the Works being stopt (sic) on Saturday preceding and Monday succeeding the second Sabbath”.

04 Aug 1845: Agnes McBride made application to be taken under discipline for the sin of fornication – to be rebuked before the Church.

(There follows a gap of just over three years in the Session minutes)

04 Nov 1845: Retiral of R.Jamie, Precentor.

13 Jul 1846: Lengthy recommendations of Board of Management anent spiritual state of the congregation and also the financial state of the Church. (There was a hint of some discord.)

Aug 1847: Death noted of John McKinna, Preses of the Board – Robert Wright appointed as his successor.

(Minutes are now in the name of the United Presbyterian Church, formed in 1847.)

28 Dec 1848: Action to be taken against apathetic members.

18 Jul 1849: Kirk Session met in the house of the Rev. Thomas Bowman.

09 Nov 1849: 18th November to be observed as a day of thanksgiving for the decrease of cholera in the country and also for the abundant harvest.

05 Feb 1850: Matthew Morrison, Wm.Davidson, Mary Goldie, Anne Jamie and Jane Young were “charged with the sin of uncleanness” – in the case of the last named: “aggravated by the sin of intemperance”.

12 Mar 1850: The Rev. Thomas Bowman was called at a stipend of £70 per annum. The call was sustained and accepted on 8th May 1850.

17 Dec 1851: James McKinna and Ann Davidson were charged that they had been guilty of the sin of fornication. (This case eventually went to Presbytery and dragged on until 1854.)

22 Dec 1851: Compeared Ann Davidson who “acknowledged she had illicit intercourse with James McKinna and that it was by him that she was pregnant, not having had carnal connection with any other individual”.
Compeared James McKinna who “acknowledged imprudence...but denied she was, or could be, pregnant by him”. Since the answers were utterly irreconcilable, the case was referred to Presbytery.

13 Apr 1852: ‘Penny-a-week’ fund renewed.

- 09 Aug 1852: Church affected by flooding because of the overflowing of the “Shillisbride (sic) Burn”. (The burn in question is variously known as the “Burn o’Need” or the “Wealth o’Waters Burn” and locally as the “Paddockburn”. The name given in the minutes is obviously derived from ‘Shellies Bridge’ which carries the Mauchline Road over the burn.)
- 27 Sep 1852: Resignation of Precentor received.
- 11 Oct 1852: Thomas Lees put forward as a candidate for the position of Precentor at a salary of £2.12s (£2.60) per annum (plus two collections, if granted).
- 23 Mar 1853: Lucy McKnight’s name erased from roll for failing to appear to answer a charge of fornication.
- 14 Apr 1853: Ann Davidson’s statements to the Session and to the Civil Court in her paternity suit were completely contradictory. She appealed to the Presbytery of Kilmarnock meeting on the second Tuesday of June.
- 27 Apr 1853: Dr Faulds refused to give evidence for Ann Davidson to Catrine Kirk Session. A few days later both he and William Ramsay agreed to do so at Mauchline.
- 15 Dec 1853: William Davidson, an Elder for four years, has been repeatedly absent from the Session and has not communicated (i.e. received communion) since June 1852. He is now leaving the congregation with seat rents in arrears.
- 20 Dec 1853: James McKinna rebuked and restored but Ann Davidson still protesting.
- 26 Dec 1853: Proposed that stoves be purchased to heat the Church at a cost of £12.10s (£12.50).
- 96 Apr 1854: Ann Davidson again appeals to Presbytery.
- 10 Apr 1854: Moderator and Session Clerk appointed to represent the Session in the Presbytery’s hearing of Ann Davidson’s case on 18th April.
- 18 May 1854: Compeared Ann Davidson who acquiesced in the decision of Presbytery and was taken in discipline for the sin of fornication.
- 30 May 1854: James Hamilton, Church Officer, was questioned regarding a written statement he had given to Ann Davidson that a meeting of Session had been held on the first Monday of 1852 when no such meeting had taken place.

- 26 Jun 1854: James Hamilton failed to give any statement.
- 29 Jun 1854: Compeared James Hamilton who acknowledged his error and subscribed a statement to that effect.
- 22 May 1855: Compeared James McGeachan and his wife who having acknowledged themselves guilty of ante-nuptial fornication and professed their sorrow for said sin; the Kirk Session agreed to take them under discipline with a view to their restoration.
- 29 Dec 1856: James McKinna replaced John Young as Treasurer.
- 25 Jun 1858: Thomas Aitken, farmer, Holm Farm...charge of perjury committed before Civil Court, Cumnock in March 1858 – as a result, his adversary Mr Fleming is absenting himself from Church.
- 15 Nov 1858: Mr and Mrs Fleming struck off for non-attendance at Ordinances.
- 19 Oct 1858: Wood-flooring and better heating suggested for the Church.
- 01 Oct 1860: New vestry and new windows proposed.
- 09 Oct 1860: Compeared Andrew Hamilton and wife who confessed ante-nuptial fornication and were ordered to be rebuked in Church on the following Sabbath.
- 11 Mar 1862: Mr Malcolm, Missionary at Darnconner – moved to Falkirk area – had his application for Certificate of Removal refused, ‘his character being utterly inconsistent with his religious profession’.
- 07 Oct 1862: Precentor Thomas Lees leaving to join Catrine Free Church.
- 10 Nov 1862: James Campbell McKie appointed Precentor at a salary, still to be agreed, of seven or eight pounds per year.
- 13 Jan 1863: Hymn Book to be adopted for praise in June and also, ‘alteration of our mode of worship by standing in singing and kneeling or reclining on book-board during prayer...liberty of judgement being allowed’.
- April 1864: Hugh Seaton appointed Treasurer following on the death of James McKinna.
- 05 Apr 1864: Alex Hinds acting as Preses for Robert Wright.
- 18 Apr 1864: Manse proposed at a cost of £600.

- 09 May 1864: Site of manse to be at Cowan Place, adjacent to the Church. (It is now called 'Knockkrioch'.)
- 29 May 1864: Margaret McMillan cited for fornication – to be restored after rebuke in Church on 5th June.
- 31 May 1864: Stone for manse to be obtained from Haughyett Quarry.
- Feb 1865: Death of Session Clerk and Preses Robert Wright.
- 04 Apr 1865: John Young, tinsmith, and wife expressed sorrow for ante-nuptial fornication and desired to be admitted – admonished and child's baptism agreed.
- 02 May 1865: Tribute paid to the late Robert Wright – only three members of Session left; William Hamilton, John Hunter and James McNeillie.
- 08 May 1865: Alex Hinds appointed as Session Clerk pro tem.
- May 1865: Manse occupied.
- 18 May 1865: Elders elect: James Wilson and Andrew Goldie; and on 24th May, Alex Armour.
- 26 Jun 1865: Andrew Goldie appointed Session Clerk.
- 14 Aug 1865: Andrew Stevenson and wife cited for ante-nuptial fornication.
- 09 Oct 1865: Thomas McKinnal “ “ “ “ “ “ “ “ .
- 24 Dec 1865: Mrs Orr admitted by certificate but her husband, James Orr reported to be, 'a fugitive from discipline' at Fenwick and under suspension.
- April 1866: Report of illness of Rev. T.Bowman.
- 13 May 1866: Owing to the state of his health after seventeen years in Catrine, the Rev. Thomas Bowman is laying his demission on the table at the Kilmarnock Presbytery. (A press report of the U.P.Presbytery of Kilmarnock meeting of Tuesday 12th June 1866 on the demission are in the Kirk Session minutes.)
- 17 Jun 1866: Church preached vacant by the Rev. Mr McInnes of Ayr.
- 30 Jul 1866: 'Poor Money' amounting to £3.11s.9d handed over to Presbytery Elder William Hannah by Mr Bowman. Congregation consists of 150 members plus twenty adherent seat-holders.
- 13 Aug 1866: Andrew Goldie appointed Interim Preses.

- 27 Oct 1866: The Rev. Wm Hutton of Cumnock appointed Interim Moderator.
Robert Thomson and wife cited for ante-nuptial fornication.
- 24 Oct 1866: Unanimous call to Mr James Copland of Glasgow, signed by 140 members and 25 adherents.
- 14 Jan 1867: Andrew Goldie confirmed as Preses at Annual Business Meeting.
- 26 Feb 1867: Ordination of the Rev. James Copland – 500 attended evening soir e.
- 06 Sep 1867: Rumours circulating in village prejudicial to the moral character of James Hamilton, Church Officer – cited to appear before the Session.
- 07 Sep 1867: James Hamilton appeared and denied the rumours, but was suspended from office pending investigation.
- 17 Sep 1867: Compeared James Hamilton who admitted being in Ballochmyle Woods with Abigail Hare, but denied having intercourse.
- 10 Feb 1868: Stipend raised to £150, the congregation’s share being £80. (This implies that the charge was short of finance and was aid-receiving.)
- 22Feb 1868: Precentor Mr Pettigrew’s duties set out.
- 25 May 1868: Mrs Bryan in possession of a Certificate of Transference from Sorn, but under discipline for ante-nuptial fornication which William Bryan, her husband, admitted.
- 11 Jun 1868: Fast Day.
- 18 Jan 1868: Proposal to use the U.P. Hymn Book.
Mr Copland given leave to visit Canada.
- 11 Jun 1870: The Rev. Henry Reid of Irvine on duty as Interim Moderator.
- July 1870: The Dalgleish Fund – at Catrine Manse...legacy of £100 – ‘interest to be expended annually by the Minister and Kirk Session, for the time being, in assisting the poor widows who, along with their families, regularly attend Divine Ordinances in said Church; the Minister and Kirk Session having power to dispose of the surplus interest, if any, as they may see best for the interest of the said congregation.
- 17 Dec1870: Presbytery intimated a call to the Rev. James Copland to go to Leeds, but the call was not accepted.

- 23 Feb 1871: Annual Business Meeting of the congregation with the Rev. Jas. Copland in the Chair. James Wilson was appointed Preses. It was reported that the membership of the Church was 181, most of whom were working-class and females mostly employed in the Cotton Works which were in recession. There was little work for young men in the district. In addition it was said that many families were 'by for work'.
- 09 Apr 1871: Mrs McCrorie, Marion Hamilton and Jane McKinna confessed to the sin of fornication.
- 13 Apr 1871: The above Mrs McC etc. were 'absolved from the scandal of fornication'. (The original word used: 'sin' was deleted and replaced by 'scandal'.)
- 17 Apr 1871: Good Templars granted the use of the Church on Mauchline Race night. (After the building was no longer used as a place of worship, it became known as 'the Temple' by local people and where it was situated was known as the 'Temple Corner'. In the 1930s it was still being used as a Masonic Temple.)
- 30 Jul 1871: Adherent and wife, Mr and Mrs W. Hendry disciplined for ante-nuptial fornication.
- 19 Feb 1872: Annual Business Meeting – President James Wilson, Treasurer Alex Hinds, Secretary John Hunter – Precentor David Pettigrew's salary now £10. £3 annual donation received from Colonel Claud Alexander for the poor.
- 01 Apr 1872: Resignation of Precentor David Pettigrew – Hugh McKay appointed in his place at a salary of £8 per year.
- 03 Apr 1872: Beadle Mr Hamilton granted an increase of ten shillings (50p).
- 10 Nov 1872: Mr and Mrs James McIntyre of Mid Montgarswood admitted. (I remember Mid Montgarswood as a ruin on the old Sorn – Mauchline road which no longer exists.)
- 23 Feb 1873: John McMillan and wife, Williamina Lapraik – discipline exercised at the close of forenoon worship for ante-nuptial fornication. (New forms of procedure for discipline were mentioned.)
- 14 Apr 1873: Private baptism agreed for the infant child of John McMillan of Henryston.
- 10 Jun 1873: Hugh McKay resigned as Precentor and was replaced in August by Alex Manson.

- 24 Jan 1874: Church aims to become self-supporting in 1874.
- 08 Feb 1874: John Caldwell (Jr) cited for ante-nuptial fornication. Discipline was exercised in the vestry and he was restored to the privileges of the Church.
- 27 Jan 1875: Self-supporting aim achieved during 1874 so that support received from the Home Mission Fund was dispensed with for the first time. It was proposed to renew the pulpit owing to dry-rot. Noted that the brick wall between the Church and the Free Church Manse had collapsed.
- 15 Mar 1875: Mrs John Mackay, widow, cited for the sin of fornication. She was disciplined and restored and private baptism for her child agreed.
- 31 Jan 1876: Baptismal font presented by members of the Church.
- 19 Feb 1876: Mrs Thompson suspended pending investigation of rumours about her.
- 21 Feb 1876: Rumours about Mrs T. were that she was, '...in the habit of taking drink to excess...and had left her children and village without saying where she was going and without permission from Mr and Mrs Hinds with whom she was staying.
- 28 Feb 1876: Mrs T. cited but did not appear at the Session so was suspended.
A suggestion from Synod anent Sunday School that a children's address of around ten minutes should be introduced was agreed. Agreed also that a Baptismal Roll should be started.
- 16 Jan 1877: Hugh Anderson (Jr), who had left Catrine Free Church under a charge of drunkenness, admitted it and was admonished and accepted and baptism of his child agreed.
- 19 Jan 1877: The following people were thanked for delivery of coal to the poor: James Miller of Grassmylees (sic); Wm Mitchell of Montgarswood; George Templeton of Willoxton and Hugh Ewing of Catrine Brewery.
- 17 Aug 1877: Concern was expressed about the state of the Church owing to some up-keep being neglected – noted that the duties of the Church Officer had never been laid down, so the situation was clarified and his salary raised to £7 per annum. It was also decided that members without sittings should be asked to show why they should be exempt from U.P.Church Law.
- 26 Nov 1877: Agnes Hyslop. Being desirous of joining the Church, was admonished for the sin of fornication and was duly admitted.

- 21 Jan 1878: Annual Business Meeting – James Young appointed Secretary and Church Officer’s salary increased to £7.10s (£7.50), to be paid at Whitsunday and Martinmas.
- 27 Mar 1878: William Reid elected Church Officer.
- 09 Dec 1878: William Young, tinsmith, confessed fornication and was disciplined according to the Rules of Procedure, after which he was received into the Church.
- 13 Jan 1879: Trustees of the Wilson Bequest seeking aid in deciding on site for a hall to serve the people of the village.
- 16 Jul 1879: Andrew Wilson and wife, Margaret Kennedy, compeared for being guilty of the sin of fornication which they confessed. They were duly rebuked and absolved and given the Right Hand of Fellowship.
- 23 Nov 1879: Rumours about William Young, tinsmith, resulted in his being suspended and barred from occupying choir-seat.
- 26 Jan 1880: Annual Business Meeting – concern expressed on deterioration in the financial position of the Church.
Manse to have gravitational water supply instead of river water.
- 22 Feb 1880: Position of Wm Young unsatisfactory.
- 01 Mar 1880: William Young confessed fornication.
- 15 Mar 1880: “ “ rebuked and restored.
- 10 Jun 1880: “ “ reported gone to America – suspended sine die.
- 01 Feb 1881: Alexander Goldie appointed Preses for Mr Wilson; with Hugh Morton as Treasurer and James Young as Secretary.
- 19 Jun 1881: John Anderson, President of Ayrshire Christian Union, granted evening use of the Church.
- 05 Jul 1881: Mr and Mrs Draffen cited for ante-nuptial fornication – were rebuked, restored and baptism of child agreed.
- 10 Apr 1882: Mr and Mrs Wm Hamilton (-----ditto-----).
- 16 Sep 1882: Death reported of the Rev. Thomas Bowman, Minister at Catrine for seventeen years.
- 22 Jan 1883: The £30 per annum, previously given to Mr Bowman to be added to stipend plus £2.10s., making £160 in all plus £15 for communion

expenses. Alex Goldie, Preses, presented with a watch on his leaving the district – Andrew Goldie was elected in his place.

07 Sep 1883: Mention made of lower wages being paid to the workers in the Cotton mills. As a result of this and unemployment, some members were moving to Newmilns and other places in search of work.

29 Oct 1883: Cotton Works Manager James Morton of Ayrbank and Major Hugh Ewing of Riverside Cottages joining Wilson Hall Trustees.

07 Jan 1884: James McNeillie appointed Treasurer on the retiral of Hugh Morton. £3 annual donation for the poor received from Major General Claud Alexander.

06 Oct 1884: William Reid retires as Church Officer.

29 Oct 1884: Hugh Hamilton elected Church Officer.

14 Jan 1885: Seat rents to be discontinued for a trial period of one year and finance raised by Church Door Collections only – An average collection of £4.5s. (£4.25) will be required.

06 Jan 1886: Trial finance system continued for another year.

18 Jan 1886: William Gilmour appointed Treasurer. Major General Sir Claud Alexander congratulated on his Baronetcy.

27 Jun 1887: Special service to celebrate the Church's Golden Jubilee with worship led by Principal Dr Cairns.

17 Jan 1888: James Buchanan appointed Secretary.

Dec 1888: The Barclay Bequest – A legacy under the will for the late Miss Barclay provides funds to be used for religious purposes under the supervision of the Session.

29 Jan 1890: William Young, Druggist, appointed Treasurer.

June 1890: Organ dedicated.

28 Jan 1891: Preses – Hugh Morton.

(A gap occurs in the minutes until 1896. During the intervening years there were continuing financial problems and falling membership.)

10 Jun 1896: Death noted of Hugh Hamilton, Church Officer – Alex Brown (Jr) of St Cuthbert Street was appointed in his place.

- 05 Mar 1897: Estimates sought for the provision of central heating in the Church.
- 1897 – 1898: Annual Business Meetings and Management Committee meetings held in the Cotton Works Schoolroom. (This was the building later known as the Armoury which contained a small-bore rifle range.)
- 01 Oct 1898: Church Hymnary to be introduced on the first Sabbath in 1899.
- 25 Jan 1899: Annual Business Meeting – John Faulds, President; James Buchanan, Secretary; W.B.Young, Treasurer.
- 07 Jan 1900: Mr Copland, Minister, in ill- health.
- 15 Jan 1900: Annual Business Meeting – Hugh Morton, President; Alex Faulds, Treasurer; James Buchanan, Secretary. Managers: Joseph Bain, Robert Crawford, George Seaton, Alex Brown, David Manson, George Clark and Alex Young. Auditors: John McCall and Andrew Cook.
- 18 Jun 1900: Presbytery deputation under Dr Whitelaw of Kilmarnock, also the Rev. Wilson Baird of Mauchline and Mr Blackwood of Muirkirk to consider the resignation of Mr Copland because of his continuing ill-health. Mr Copland's resignation was accepted with sorrow and Dr Wilson Baird was appointed Interim Moderator.
- 1900: Mr Copland was succeeded by the Rev. Henry B. Williamson BD.

The United Presbyterian Church and the Free Church came together to form the United Free Church of Scotland. The U.P.Church in Catrine became the West United Free Church while the Catrine Free Church became the St Cuthbert United Free Church. Eventually the two congregations were united to form the Catrine United Free Church and the former U.P. building was no longer used as a regular place of worship. It was used as a Masonic Temple for several years and also for some time by the Catrine Brethren Assembly until both of these organisations moved in the 1930s to the Ballochmyle Hall at Chapelbrae. When the United Free Church rejoined the Church of Scotland in 1929 the building became the Gordon Memorial Church hall; and in 1955 it became the church hall for Catrine Parish Church formed by the union of the High Kirk and the Gordon Memorial Church of Scotland.

CATRINE FREE CHURCH

The Free Church in Catrine was born out of the Disruption of 1843 when 190 clergy walked out of the General Assembly in Edinburgh and set up the Free Church Assembly with Thomas Chalmers as Moderator. The dispute was chiefly over patronage which the moderates in the Established Church were content to accept, but they were opposed by the rising evangelicals of the late 18th and early 19th centuries. At that time, the population of Catrine was under the pastoral care of the Parish Minister at Sorn; but his associate at Catrine Chapel of Ease, the Rev. William Hutchison, joined the dissidents and, along with a third of the congregation, left the Church of Scotland. A Sustenance (sic) Fund, based on a levy of one penny per week from each member, enabled the young Church to survive. The Free Church Congregation continued to use the Chapel of Ease until they were eventually forced out early in 1844 after which they were granted the use of the United Secession Church at Cowan Brae until their own building was completed in 1845 in Ballochmyle Street. (It is now Catrine Congregational Church.) The Building Committee responsible for the erection of the new church consisted of: John, James and Robert Barclay; William Neven (sic), Solomon Gillies, James Cowan, Thomas Russell, Thomas Duffus, John Patrick, James Smith, James and Alex McMaster, George Wilson, John McCreadie, and William Lees with Claud Alexander of Ballochmyle as an honorary member. James Duncan, Hugh Anderson, Andrew McClymont and Duncan Macklam contracted for the mason work, building at the rate of 45 shillings per rood, (1 rood = ¼ acre = 1210 square yards), with the addition of fourpence per foot for hewing; the slater work by Hugh Miller at £3.6s.6d. per rood; plasterwork by John Campbell at 4½ pence per yard; Andrew Cowan for the joiner-work: area of the church £290, galleries £216. Mr Claud Alexander granted a site of forty falls of ground at the rate of one penny per fall. (40 falls = 1210 square yards) Mr Alexander laid the foundation stone on 25th April, and the building was completed and opened for worship in 1845. The Rev. John Macgowan was ordained on 25th November 1844 and a manse was provided in Ballochmyle Street, adjacent to the United Secession Church in 1851. (In 1955 it became the Parish Church Manse, but was later sold.) Mr Macgowan died on 7th March 1874 and was succeeded by the Rev. Aeneas Cameron Gordon MA who was ordained on 22nd April 1875. At that time, the Precentor was Adam Begg and the Church Officer was Hugh Gemmell.

(The following notes are from the Kirk Session Minutes)

11 May 1875: Compeared Martha Keenan requesting the Session to certify as to her conduct previous to the birth of her illegitimate child.

02 Jul 1875: The above Martha Keenan...paternity was proved and she was restored.

20 Jul 1875: Present Elders: James Cook, Allan Gibson (Sr) and James McGhie.
Elders Elect: Archibald Thomson, Alex McMaster and Wm Graham.
Deacons Elect: Hugh Urquhart, James Gibson, Andrew Struthers,
Andrew Cowan, George Reid and George Cook.

The new Elders and Deacons were ordained on 8th August 1875.

- 10 Aug 1875: Alex McMaster was appointed Session Clerk.
- 14 Dec 1875: Jane Hodge (or Reid)...guilty of ante-nuptial fornication.
- 13 Jan 1876: Compeared above named together with Thomas Reid who confessing themselves guilty, after solemn admonition, were absolved from the scandal and restored to Church privilege.
- 05 Jun 1876: Confession of fornication by Jane Barton and Mary Porter. Hugh Anderson and Wm Thomson suspended for drunkenness.
- 12 Oct 1876: Susan Sloan...guilty of fornication and non-attendance.
(In November 1877 the number on the roll was 341: by March 1878 it had fallen to 333)
- 07 May 1878: New deacons proposed: Robert Dickie, Andrew Lees, Andrew McCarlie, Robert Boyd and David Graham. Alex Hannah, Alex Stewart, Thomas Kerr and Robert Urquhart were also proposed, but declined.
- 04 Jun 1878: William Thomson suspended.
- 15 Dec 1879: Compeared for ante-nuptial fornication - James Laurie and Helen Young.
- 06 Apr 1880: “ “ “ “ - Robert Cook and Eliz.Haining.
- 01 Apr 1881: “ “ “ “ - John Reid and Agnes Girvan.
- 21 Sep 1882: New Deacons – Wm Hastie, Wm Murray and Robert Urquhart.
- 18 Jan 1883: Compeared for ante-nuptial fornication - Robert and Elizabeth Armour.
- 05 Jun 1883: “ “ “ “ - Mr and Mrs Hugh Cross.
- 15 Jun 1884: Church re-opened after extensive repairs at a cost of £640. The architect was James Morton.
- 28 Jul 1884: William Tannock and Christina Blain Tannock, also John Brown Tannock and Jeannie Blain Tannock were all cited for ante-nuptial fornication.
- 07 Oct 1884: All of the above were unwilling to submit to the discipline of the Session – baptism of children refused.
- 18 Nov 1884: Compeared Mr and Mrs David Murray for ante-nuptial fornication.
- 07 Jun 1886: John Kemp, having been suspended for fornication with Jessie Bell, admitted being the father of her child and was restored.
- 06 Nov 1886: ...baptism of the above Jessie Bell's child granted.

- 11 Mar 1887: Compeared Jean Marlow having had a child fathered by Thomas Ferguson of Glasgow.
- 09Jun 1887: A legacy of £250 bequeathed to the Session from the estate of Miss Janet Barclay.
- 07 Nov 1887: Compeared for ante-nuptial fornication –Wm Buchanan and Eliz.Black Buchanan.
- 26 Dec 1887: “ “ “ “ - John and Jessie Kemp.
- 02 Feb 1888: “ “ “ “ - William and Grace Reid.
- 31 Mar 1888: “ “ “ “ - Thomas Nimmo and Catherine Manson or Nimmo, also John Gillies and Margaret McKnight or Gillies.
- 12 Apr 1888: Compeared Rozanna Black for fornication with Wm Scott Mason of Ayr; also Jeannie McBride with James Hodge of Galston.
Practice of standing for singing of praise adopted.
- 14 Nov 1888: At the Free Church Session House...the Session resolved to invest the trust fund set up under the late Janet Barclay’s bequest for the benefit of the congregation for religious purposes under the supervision of the Session. (The Barclay Bequest).
- 30 Apr 1889: Compeared John Howie for fornication with Margaret McLeod of Greenhead , New Cumnock.
- 24 May 1889: Barclay legacy used to reduce the Bond on the Wood Street property. (The said property, now demolished, stood at the corner at the west end of Wood Street near the Royal Bank, and housed the Free Church School. Latterly it was the place of worship of the local Brethren Assembly.)
- 05 Jun 1889: Jane Urquhart, inter alia (?), admitted to Church.
- (In October 1889, gas lighting was installed in the Church and other repairs carried out at a cost of £79.)
- 15 Nov 1889: Compeared Mr and Mrs George Climie and also Helen Young and Edwin Hill, Seaman, for ante-nuptial fornication.
- 13 Jun 1890: Compeared S.Macdonald, Policeman at Darnconner, and his wife for ante-nuptial fornication.
- 12 Apr 1891: Ordination of new Elders – Wm Hastie, Robert Black, Robert Wilson and Charles Hendrie; and new Deacons – Robert Reid, James McKerracher, Alex Gillies and George Nimmo.

29 Jun 1891: Compeared Jane Marlow for fornication with Samuel Scobie, Miner.
28 Nov 1892: “ Eliz.Anderson “ “ “ Michael McClusky.
23 Jan 1893: “ Robert Armour for adultery. This case went to Presbytery.

31 May 1893: Observance of Summer Fast Day as a day of worship discontinued. It had been celebrated on the Thursday before the third Sabbath in June, the latter being the date of Holy Communion.

12 Dec 1893: Compared Wm Pitt and Agnes Goldie or Pitt for ante-nuptial fornication.

15 Feb 1894: After some dissent, it was agreed to introduce the Free Church Hymnal. There had always been a strong tradition for using only the Psalter for praise throughout much of Scotland, especially in the Free Churches.

05 Oct 1897: Francis Chisholm admitted as a new communicant. (Mr Chisholm was one of the few former Free Church and Gordon Memorial Church Elders who continued as a member of the Kirk Session of Catrine Parish Church on the union of the Catrine Churches in 1955. He served as Presbytery Elder for some years. He was well known as a local joiner; he died on 25th January 1976 at the age of ninety-three.)

05 Jun 1899: Agnes Urquhart admitted as a new communicant.

In 1900, the Free and United Presbyterian Churches came together to form the United Free Church of Scotland – Catrine Free Church became St Cuthbert’s United Free Church and the former U.P.Church was renamed the West United Free Church; the latter soon closed and the united congregations formed the St Cuthbert West United Free Church.

(The following notes and extracts are taken from the minutes of the Kirk Session of the St Cuthbert West United Free Church of Catrine)

27 May 1901: On this date the Session met in the United Free Church Mission Hall which was the former Free Church School or Woodside School in Wood Street.

07 Sep 1902: Ordination of new Elder James McKerracher and Deacons Archibald Cook, John Reid and James Struthers.

31 Mar 1903: Compeared George Steven and Maggie Weir, his wife, for ante-nuptial fornication. (It is interesting to note that the practice of haling those indulging in pre-marital intercourse to appear before the Kirk Session continued into the 20th century.)

04 Jun 1903: Offer of harmonium for use in the Church received from A.M.Brown of Gryffe Castle, Bridge of Weir. (Mr Brown was a senior partner of James Finlay and Company, owners of Catrine Cotton Works and Bleachworks.

He was a generous benefactor to the village; best known for providing the A.M.Brown Institute in 1898.)

- 29 Oct 1903: Introduction of Church Hymnary agreed.
- 11 Oct 1908: Ordination of new elders: A.D.M.Cook, John Whitefield and James Struthers.
- 21 Oct 1908: Tribute paid to Hugh M.Pollock, Cotton Works Manager. (A memorial plaque to Mr Pollock was set in the stonework of the east wall of the Mill yard, facing up St Germain Street. After the closure of the Twist Mill in the centre of the village, the building was destroyed by fire and the walls were demolished.)
- 09 Feb 1909: Ordination of Deacons: John Hendrie, previously an Elder at Greenock; Wm Buchanan, Robert Corran, Andrew Dawson and John Urquhart.
- 28 Feb 1909: Ordination of Elder Robert Reid and Deacon John Love, both of whom had been unable to attend on 9th February because of illness.
- 13 Jul 1911: Wm Allardyce and wife, Mary Armour, cited for ante-nuptial fornication.
- 24 Dec 1911: Tribute to the late Archibald Thomson, Draper.
- 04 Dec 1913: Ordination of new Elder Wm Allardyce and Deacons: Francis Chisholm, Wm Nimmo, Robert Marlow, Alex Gillies, Wm Reid and Wm Crawford. James and Annie Goodlet or Bine cited for ante-nuptial fornication.
- 15 Feb 1915: Allan Reid, Trooper in the Yeomanry, and his wife Agnes McCarlie cited for ante-nuptial fornication. (This was the last recorded case of this type – it also concludes the notes from the United Free Church which rejoined the Church of Scotland in 1929.)

CATRINE GORDON MEMORIAL CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

In 1929 the St Cuthbert West United Free Church became the Gordon Memorial Church of Scotland – named in memory of the Rev Aeneas T. Gordon – and Catrine Parish Church was renamed Catrine High Kirk; sharing the pastoral care of the parish. between them.

. The following notes are taken from the Kirk Session minutes of the of the Gordon Memorial Church – Minister; Rev.J.W.Ogilvy MA

27 Jan 1939: Church Roll contains 290 names, an increase of twelve over the previous year. By the following year it had fallen to 254.

Sep 1939: On the outbreak of the Second World War, the Church Hall was taken over by the County Authority for A.R.P.(Air Raid Precautions). It was also used for some time as a school for children evacuated from Glasgow.

Jun 1942: The Hall was requisitioned by the Military Authorities, but the Army only required to occupy the first floor.

Apr 1944: Metal railings to be removed from church properties by order of the Ministry of Works to aid the war effort. This order was rescinded in November of the same year – in many places where the order was carried out, the metal was never used, probably owing to its unsuitability for other uses.

Sep 1946: Mr Ogilvy demitted the Charge and was succeeded by the Rev.H.R.Taylor - Mr Ogilvy died in May 1961.

1948: Noted that there was an intention to build a Roman Catholic Church adjacent to the Gordon Memorial Church on ground behind the house formerly occupied by Dr David Sloan: the house itself to become the R.C.Presbytery.

Dec 1948: George Beveridge succeeds John Hunter Faulds as Organist.

Mar 1949: Church Roll now stands at 282.

Oct 1950: Francis Chisholm succeeds A.D.M.Cook as Session Clerk and Hunter Faulds succeeds Francis Chisholm on Congregational Board.

Nov 1952: George Beveridge resigns as Organist.

Jun 1953: Demission of the Rev.H.R.Taylor. The Rev. Charles Johnston of the Auchinleck Peden Church was appointed Interim Moderator.

01 Aug 1954: The Rev. J.Heron now Interim Moderator – (an unenviable post, as there

existed a feeling of great antagonism, especially among the members of the Gordon Memorial Church, over the proposal to unite the two congregations in Catrine into one Parish Church, with the expressed possibility of many members seceding from the Church of Scotland; given the history of dissention in the village over several generations.)

09 Sep 1954: 'owing to the Congregation having voted in favour of the union of the Free Church with the Church of Scotland in 1929, our Church property now belongs to the Church of Scotland.' (This meant that, in the event of their seceding, they would be left without Church, Manse or Hall – which is exactly what happened. In spite of this, the majority, understandably, decided to leave the Church of Scotland and went on to join the Congregational Evangelical Union.)

23 Feb 1955: Final Annual General Meeting of the Gordon Memorial Church.

FREE, UNITED FREE AND GORDON MEMORIAL CHURCH MINISTERS

William Hutchison	1843 – 1844	(formerly Minister of the Chapel of Ease)
John Macgowan	1844 – 1874	(died)
Aeneas Cameron Gordon	1875 –	
William Grant	1918 – 1924	
Alexander Reid	1924 – 1927	
John Fullarton	1928 – 1933	
J.N.Ogilvy MA.	1935 – Sep 1946	(died May 1961)
H.R.Taylor	1947 – Jun 1953	
Vacant	1953 – 1955	

THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

The village of Catrine did not have a Roman Catholic Church of its own in Catrine until 1960 with the opening of St Joseph's. Before then, the community was served by the R.C. Mission which served the area around Cumnock; and later by Our Lady of Lourdes and St Patrick at Birnieknowe, near Auchinleck, and eventually by a new Chapel and Hall at Auchinleck.

The first post-Reformation visit of a Roman Catholic Priest to this part of Ayrshire did not occur until the 1840s following on the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1833 which granted civil liberties to those of the Roman Catholic Faith. Demands for labour in the construction of railways; the iron industry at Lugar and Muirkirk, and the expansion of the mining industry all led to an influx of Irish workers, many of whom were escaping from the potato famine. The iron industry also attracted a fair number of experienced workers from Spain.

Around 1850 the area around Cumnock was established as a separate mission and its first resident priest was Mr William McCabe who lived at Caponacre and was responsible for an area which stretched from Thornhill to Mauchline and from Ochiltree to Muirkirk. Father McCabe died in 1852, having been assisted by Father McDonald during his period of illness. He was succeeded by Father T. Wallace, an Irish Priest, ordained in 1838. Father Wallace also stayed at Caponacre, but eventually moved to Barrhill Road in Cumnock. The miners' rows at The Common, Glenlogan, Cronberry, Darnconner and Ballochmyle all had a sizeable R.C. population which merited a Mass Centre outwith Cumnock. Before this could be accomplished, Father Wallace died and was succeeded by Father O'Dwyer. A site at Birnieknowe was made available by Lady Boswell of Auchinleck House and a Church and Presbytery designed. The buildings were completed in 1867 and the Parish of Our Lady of Lourdes and St Patrick was established. Father O'Dwyer died in 1873 after which the Parish was in the care of Father John McGinnis until the arrival of Father Patrick Wright in 1874. A Roman Catholic School was created at Birnieknowe in 1878. Birnieknowe was not as isolated as one might think; it was within walking distance of most of the miners' rows, and was only a few hundred yards from the railway station at Commodityke which was easily accessible from Auchinleck, Lugar and Cronberry which all had stations. Father Wright retired because of ill-health in 1881 and was succeeded by the Rev. John Augustine O'Neill. In 1883 Father O'Neill was replaced by Father Murphy. By 1889 Father Hickey had come to Birnieknowe to which Father O'Neill returned in 1893. Canon O'Neill left in 1908 and was succeeded by Father Joseph Hogan with Father Murphy as Curate. Canon Hogan was succeeded in 1918 by Father Vignoles with Father Letters as Curate.

During the inter-war years of the 1920s and 30s, the R.C. population was augmented by immigrant families from Eastern Europe, especially from countries like Poland and Lithuania, as well as from Ireland. It was around this time that a Mass Centre was set up in Catrine and the children had the opportunity of attending the school at Birnieknowe which was now more accessible with the development of public road transport. Canon

Vignoles had to retire through ill-health in 1930 after which Father Scanlon was welcomed to the parish by Father Martin Doyle. Eminent in the work of the Parish in those days was Mr James Taylor who lived in Ayrbank in Catrine's Ballochmyle Street and who was the General Manager at the Cotton Works. Father Doyle left in 1936 and was followed by Father Joseph Maxwell. With the rehousing in the 1930s and the gradual shift of population from the rows to Auchinleck, it was decided to have a hall erected at the top of Auchinleck's Sorn Road. During the Second World War, Father Maxwell travelled to Catrine and offered Mass in the A.M.Brown Institute, using an altar set up by Mr John Nicol who lived nearby – Mr Nicol also acted as Altar Server. Father Maxwell also travelled to Catrine once a month for the Sacrament of Confession in the house of Mr James Taylor.

After the Second World War, in 1947, Bishop Mellon announced that Catrine was to become a Parish. Catrine now had its own Mass Centre using converted army huts situated behind the house which was later to become the St Joseph's Presbytery – the said house is in Ballochmyle Street adjacent to the present Congregational Church and was the house, known as 'Mansfield', formerly occupied by Dr David Sloan – it had been bought by Mr James Taylor and gifted to the people of Catrine. The army huts were gifted by a Mr Crowley of Ayr – Mr Crowley was father of the late Father Crowley and of the present Canon Crowley. Father Maxwell left in 1950 and was succeeded by Father Matthew Littleton who in turn was transferred to Kilmarnock St Joseph's in 1953 and was succeeded by the Rev. Michael Rynn with Father Lynch as Curate. By the end of the 1950s it was becoming evident that Church activities were being increasingly centred on Auchinleck; so it was inevitable that Birnieknowe would be abandoned in favour of a new Church of Our Lady of Lourdes and St Patrick's which was completed in June of 1963. Nothing remains now at 'the Birnie' with the exception of the poignant memorial to Sister Laurienne, one of the Sisters of St Joseph of Cluny, who came to the new convent in 1885 to be in charge of the school. Sister Laurienne became so hard of hearing that she was relieved of her school duties and spent her time visiting the sick and poor in the community. It was while she was performing this task that she was knocked down and killed by some railway wagons. Her memorial, a Celtic Cross of red sandstone, bears the inscription, 'At the distance of eight feet in front of this spot the Reverend Sister Laurienne was accidentally killed on the seventh of August 1888'.

The Catrine Parish, in the meantime, continued to worship in its temporary accommodation at Mansfield until 1960 when the new Church was completed; and in May of that year Bishop McGhee blessed and concelebrated Mass with the Church being dedicated to St Joseph, the Patron Saint of Workers and Protector of the Universal Church. The Parish Priest at that time was Father O'Gorman who had come to Catrine from Annan in the late 1950s. The Church continued to thrive and was the centre of family life with a choir under Jim Hannah, the Legion of Mary, Women's Guild and Young Men's Society all involved. Over the years the Parish has been served by Father O'Gorman, Father Oxley from Waterside, Father McGread, Father C. Matthews and the present Canon J. Flannery. Father Matthews left Catrine for Millport in January 1982 and was succeeded by Father John Flannery who had been ordained a Priest in 1948 and

came to Catrine in 1982 since when he has been elevated to the Cathedral Chapter of Canons; as was Father Matthews at the same time. The great event of 1982 was the visit to Scotland of Pope John Paul in June of that year when the young folk of the parish attended the Youth Rally at Murrayfield in Edinburgh; and a bus load of parishioners went to Bellahouston Park in Glasgow for a day of joy and praise. In 1993 a Parish Committee was formed to help maintain the fabric of the Church.

On Sunday 29th October 2000, the Church celebrated its 40th anniversary when the occasion was shared by Bishop Maurice Taylor of the Diocese of Dumfries and Galloway and Cardinal Thomas Winning, Archbishop of Glasgow and Leader of the Roman Catholic Church in Scotland also present were local clergymen of other denominations together with George Foulkes MP and Cathy Jamieson MSP. Sadly Cardinal Winning died on Sunday 17th June 2001 after suffering a series of heart attacks. The Cardinal had been allowed home just a few days earlier from the Victoria Infirmary in Glasgow. On Monday 25th June, after Requiem Mass, he was laid to rest in the crypt of St Andrews Roman Catholic Cathedral.

THE CONGREGATIONAL EVANGELICAL UNION CHURCH IN CATRINE

At the time of the 1843 Disruption, some dissenters from the Established Church of Scotland did not ally themselves with the newly formed Free Church but opted for the Congregationalists.. In Catrine they built their Church at Chapelbrae where it now stands derelict, a red-brick shell and roofless, adjacent to the old Gasworks which is now a vehicle repair shop.

Catrine E.U.Church Ministers: 1843 – 1926

Rev. R.Hunter	1845 – 1849(?)
Student Henry Melville	1846(?)
Rev. Geo.Anderson	1849 – 1852
Rev. Wm Anderson	1852 – 1854
Rev. R.Hunter	1854 – 1858
Rev. J.Reid	1858 – 1860

Rev. John Miller	1860 – 1861
Rev. James Foote	1863 – 1867
Rev. D.Greenhill	1869 – 1874
Rev. J.Craig	1875 – 1884
Rev. R.Russell	1884 – 1891
Rev. James Hamilton	1894 – 1905
Rev. John N.McGauley	1905 – 1910
Rev Geo.A.E.Walker	1912 – 1913
Rev. Charles Lynch	1914 – 1915
Rev. John McGauley	1919 – 1921
Rev. Henry Donald	1921 – 1922
Rev. Gordon McLachlan	1922 – 1926

The original Congregational ‘ceased to meet’ in 1926; but after the forced union of the Gordon Memorial Church with Catrine High Kirk in 1955, it was revived by those who were opposed to joining the newly formed Catrine Parish Church congregation. They were, however, without a place of worship as their Church together with manse and hall had passed to the ownership of the Church of Scotland when the United Free Church rejoined it in 1929. At first they met for worship in the A.M.Brown Institute, but in 1960 the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland sold them the former Gordon Memorial Church for the nominal sum of £850 with the proviso that, if at a future date they no longer required it, it would be offered in the first instance to the Church of Scotland. The building was re-dedicated as a place of worship on 30th May 1960. In 1989 the Congregational Union of Scotland, to whom the property had been deponed, transferred it to the Trustees of Catrine Congregational Church for no consideration. The Church of Scotland had no objection to the transfer as it no longer had any interest in the property. It was at that time that most of the Congregationalists had agreed to join up with the United Reformed , but the Catrine members decided to retain their independence and in 1994 affiliated with the Congregational Federation which is based in Nottingham.

Ministers and Pastors of Catrine Congregational Church

Rev. C.A.Innes	1956 – 1960	
Rev. John G.McIlvean MA	1961 – 1973	(retired to Cumnock – d.5Feb 1996)
Dan Dewar	1974 – 1979	(retired to Kilwinning)
Ralph Owens	1979 – 1983	
Rev. Stephen Mills	1983 – 1984	
Miss Peggy Borkhardt	1984 – 1988	(Cong. Union College)
Miss Delia O’Halloran	1988 – 1989	(“ “ “)
David Savage	1989 – 1996	

The Church has been without a settled Minister or Pastor since 1996 – its pastoral duties are now being supervised by the Rev. Thomas Gordon.

It finally closed down after worship on Sunday 27th January 2002.