

The Re-construction of the Church

1949

"On 19th July a small but interesting gathering of members viewed the plans for the re-construction of the Church. It was evident that much thought and care had gone to produce the scheme and all credit should be given to the Architect and Committee for their work and concern for the congregational resources.

What we do now will fix the pattern and atmosphere of Presbyterian worship in Sheffield for an unknown length of time. In this the Church appears to override all other elements in importance. May our decision be one that neither we nor our successors could regret."

E. G. Mackie.

Re-construction Fund Appeal

1950

"The Appeal has now been launched, the Elders and Deacons are visiting Members and Adherents for the purpose of explaining points which may not be clear and already quite a number of contributions have been sent to the Appeal Treasurer.

We are encouraged by this prompt response and are most grateful for the contributions received. One of our Members has made a very substantial direct contribution, others have covenanted for substantial amounts. If we could only continue as we have started we should have no difficulty in achieving our target quickly - whether we do so depends upon us all.

Please give generously and covenant if you possibly can as by this means the Fund receives substantially more than the actual donation. Let us all show our earnest desire to have the Church re-built with the minimum of delay, by replying quickly to the Appeal letter indicating the method chosen for giving."

C. Muirhead. Appeal Secretary.

Re-building commenced

1951 June

Manse Notes

1951 Oct

"We are on a Threshold year of our congregation's history. Approximately, one year hence we hope we shall be worshipping in our new re-constructed Church. It takes no imagination to see that occasion as a great milestone in our congregation's life, and during the present year we shall, no doubt, make preparations to celebrate that day in a suitable fashion. For some time past we have addressed ourselves to the financial considerations involved in such a time and of our members and adherents, we can say

that on the whole that matter has been attended to with courage and a generous spirit and very considerable zeal.

However, no church was ever built and maintained with money alone. Preparations for our new church building must extend to every department of our life and work. One of the dangers of a congregation very much involved in raising money, is that it should equate success in this direction with the success of the church. We shall not be little the meaning of any gift, large or small, or the thought and prayer behind it. We receive every gift with thanks, and the same thanks whether the gift is large or small. We dedicate it to the work of the Kingdom of Our Lord. We understand that a gift willingly offered, is always part of the giver. Nevertheless we do not forget that that declaration of the Word of God and the receiving of the Word and the proclamation of the Evangel throughout the world are the central matters of the church and should be an urgent call to us all.

We cannot afford to forget the missionary work of our church or our Christian witness with other communions or the social implications of the Gospel simply because we are engaged in raising a large sum of money for our local needs. We are a church not a sect or a club interested in balancing our accounts only. We are a Church attending to things that are holy and the guardians and apostles of the one Faith. We are concerned with far horizons of the Church's work, but also with things that are near. We will attend to these and not leave the other undone.

Our Children's Church, its teaching, the number of teachers available etc., ought to be important matters for us. The Choir and every attempt made to improve the praise service of the church should concern us and if we have any talents in this direction, we should willingly place them at the disposal of the Church. Our congregation's witness in every direction should be of supreme importance to all our people all the time. Our 'Threshold' year will be a poor business if only a few of our people are "on active service" in the church."

C. McCurdy