



OBITUARIES

THOMAS HENRY KEIR MA DD

died 12th March 1994

A son of the Manse, he was born at Lauder 1907 and educated at Dumfries Academy, Edinburgh University and New College. He was a student missionary with the United Church of Canada 1928. Ordained and inducted Perth Bridgend 1930. Translated Broughty Ferry St Luke's 1936 and Aberdeen Holburn West 1943. Inducted Melrose St Cuthbert's 1950. Retired to Comrie 1972. Published *Faith and Response* 1947 and the *Word in Worship* 1962. President 1966-1968. An accomplished Organist, with a gifted musical ear, he became Convenor of the Revision Committee that produced CH3, which he saw as "not a revision but a new conception in modern hymn-books".

His interests were not confined to the study. He was an informed and vocal supporter of Scottish Nationalism and an enthusiast for rugby, particularly the Melrose Sevens.

Through it all Tom Keir was a man of courtesy, kindness and humour. To him faith and life were as one, and he saw his service and love of God as a part of the service and love of the whole Church on earth and in heaven. The Church on earth certainly has good cause to be grateful to God for the life and legacy of this distinguished minister.

WILLIAM JAMES ROSS MA

died 15th May 1994

Born Inverness 1916. A graduate of St Andrews University, assistant to Dr Charles G Guthrie at Paisley Abbey 1941-44. Ordained and inducted by



Paisley Presbytery to Elderslie East 1944. Translated Bonnybridge 1953, translated and inducted Dunbarney 31st August 1960, and retired 1981 to Carnoustie. He played a full part in the life of Perth Presbytery, serving twice as Interim Moderator at Arngask, and working as Chaplain to Bridge of Earn Hospital. Punctilious Secretary for 25 years from 1955 until 1980, his reign included preparation for the Centenary celebrations, and administration of the Centenary Lecture. He supported a procession of 12 Presidents, who all valued and depended completely on his dedication and efficiency. Many admired the common sense and strong Christian character of this quiet man who always seemed surprised by the regard in which he was held.

PETER WRIGHT
died 2nd August 1994

MICHAEL CHIBBETT
died 14th October 1994

When Michael Chibbett became Organist at Greyfriars Tolbooth and Highland Kirk in 1984, he had already been a founder of the Georgian Concert Society and an able administrator of the Scottish Baroque Ensemble. He quickly became known throughout Scotland on his appointment as Organ Advisor to the Committee on Artistic Matters, discussing with Kirk Sessions how their instruments could be repaired or salvaged or improved. He was a man with demanding standards and had the great gift of helping others to think on a bigger scale and to achieve higher standards than they thought possible.

In the voluminous notes he made from what he read, Michael copied out from the writing of Berthold Brecht the epitaph that he most coveted. It reads, "He made suggestions, and we accepted them". It is an epitaph he certainly earned. In his tragically shortened life he contributed more, and made more



suggestions, than a great many people who are given twice his length of years; and for the suggestions we accepted here we owe him an enormous debt. He was the right man in the right place at the right time; and the inscription he asked to have placed at the top of the organ - Let everything that has breath praise the Lord - will be a reminder of the faith which was so central to his thinking. With his father and sister and aunt we grieve for the life cut short, the work not finished, the potential not yet realised; but we give thanks as well, deep thanks, for the life that's been, the work that was accomplished, and that constant reaching up towards the unattainable which made this good and brave friend's contribution such a precious one.

PETER DAVIDSON
died 20th January 1995

Born Stirling 1918, on leaving school he was employed by F. Johnston, who printed and published the Falkirk Herald. Following war service with the Royal Engineers in Egypt and Palestine (1939-45), he studied at Edinburgh University and New College. Ordained and inducted Fauldhouse Crofthead 1950. Awarded the Alexander Whyte Theological Literary Prize 1953. Translated Dumfries Linculden 31st January 1957, and to Aberdeen Ferryhill North 10th March 1960. Following retirement in 1983, he lived in Montrose, bravely struggling with Parkinson's Disease. At the time of the Barnhill Workshop his wife wrote sending not only his kind regards, but also his apology for the delay in replying - he had been in hospital !

JAMES YOUNG FINLAYSON MA BD Dip Ed
died 4th March 1995

Born 1915, educated at Govan High School and Glasgow University. For the first two years of Divinity student assistant at St Kenneth's in Govan. Ordained



and inducted Kilbirnie West 1940, he served as Army Chaplain with R.A.Ch.D. Translated Shotts Erskine 1948. Demitted 30th September 1963 to train as Religious Instructor in schools. Minister - associate at Glasgow Cathedral 1987. He moved south and was latterly living in Sheffield. He still kept a keen interest in Scottish affairs, retaining his long-standing membership of this Society until his dying day, and taking a fresh interest in new ventures like the Society of Friends of Govan Old (founded 1990)

ALASTAIR KENNETH CRANMER ROBERTSON MA BD PhD

died 17th April 1995

Born Dunfermline 1916, educated Edinburgh Royal High School and Edinburgh University. Graduated BD with Distinction in Systematic Theology, Cunningham, Fellow 1941. Assistant to Dr Foster Franklin at Corstorphine Old, Edinburgh 1941-42. First charge Macintosh Memorial in Fort William. Translated to Langton and Polworth in 1950. It was there he produced his learned thesis on *The Revival of Church Worship in the Church of Scotland*. Secretary of The Scottish Church Society 1955-67. On 7th February 1964, translated to Coatbridge Trinity, and to Fort William Duncansburgh 25th October 1966. Convenor of the General Assembly's Committee on Public Worship and Aids to Devotion, President 1976-1978. Retiring in 1981, he stayed on in the Lochaber he so loved. 'The Marriage Service', *Liturgical Review VII*, May 1977, and 'The Individual Cup; its use at Holy Communion', *Liturgical Review VIII*, November 1978.



DONALD FARQUHAR MACLEOD MacDONALD CBE MA LLB

died 26th April 1995

Born 1915, licensed by Glasgow Presbytery 1942, assistant Cathcart Old 1946-48. Ordained and inducted Glasford 1948. Demitted 30th September 1972 on taking up appointment as Principal Clerk of the General Assembly. He retired in 1985, living in Hamilton, where had been Presbytery Clerk (1964-72), and before that assistant Presbytery Clerk (1951-64). He edited the sixth edition of *Practice and Procedure in the Church of Scotland* (1976) and Volume 10 of *Fasti Ecclesiae Scoticae* (1981).

