

Description of a proposed Stone Celtic Cross for St Columba's Church, Blackhall.

THE Bronze Tablet commemorating the ministry of The Rev. WM. B. STEVENSON, D.D., first minister, 1900-1912, is to be re-erected on the interior wall facing the main entrance to the Church, where it can be easily read, an impossibility in its present position.

It is proposed that a Cross would occupy the central position of the apse and memorialise the name and work of St Columba, 521-597 A.D., who first brought Christianity to these shores at Iona in 563 A.D. St Columba's, Blackhall, has already a link with Iona in that two small sculptured stones from the monastery of Iona are incorporated in the fabric of the building at Blackhall. The proposed Cross would be in the Celtic tradition, being similar in outline to the Cross of St Martin at Iona, one of the 360 crosses which surrounded the monastery there. It would be of stone, from base to summit twelve feet six inches high, and would stand clear of the masonry of the apse. There would be seven Celtic incised panels, decorated in colour and gold, the central one of which would represent the Saint and would be 40 inches high by 15 inches wide. A full sized model in colour has been prepared, and will be exhibited in its actual position in the Church from Thursday 10th October to Saturday 12th October, for the purpose of enabling the Session, the Congregational Board, and the Church members to form some conception of its effect if and when it is erected in stone. Suggestions from all worshippers will be gladly received, so that if and when the Cross is actually completed it may minister to the deepening of the spiritual life of the congregation.

It may be pointed out that this proposal is only part of a greater scheme for beautifying the Church, for which a guild of craft workers is envisaged, in which many members of the congregation would find much happiness in service. The Pulpit Fall already completed is being followed by a somewhat similar Lectern Fall, which is being embroidered by a lady member of the congregation, and will be in place by early October. As nothing is too good for the House of God, offers have already been received of scrap gold ornaments which will be turned into gold leaf for the decoration of the Cross. Offers of help from those who are willing to spend and be spent in beautifying the Church are a practical means of service, apart from the monetary help to pay for the necessary materials needed.

On Friday, 11th October, at 7 p.m., there will be an informal meeting in the Church of all interested in the proposed Guild, when plans can be made for its formation and work.

*by H. J. Kyle
Dec. 30 557*

BLACKHALL PARISH CHURCH (ST COLUMBA'S) SUPPLEMENT

parents, so that all our young men and women of seventeen years or over, who are not yet confirmed, may join the class which will begin in October. Joining the class does not mean that they are committed to become members. It means that they make a serious effort to understand what is involved in being a member of the Church. Would those who intend to join the class (which will meet once a week, on Sundays), please let me have their names before the end of this month? Of course there are bound to be individual cases of people who cannot attend the main Confirmation Class, and, in such cases, special arrangements will be made.

Children's Service.—There will be a Children's Service in the Church on Sunday, 22nd September, and, so far as possible, once a month throughout the year. The 'Children's Sermon' at Morning Service on Sundays will be dropped. I hope this is not too great a disappointment to those who like a sugary morsel with their main spiritual meal. My reasons for dropping the 'Children's Sermon' are:—

(1) It destroys the ordered dignity which ought to pervade our principal weekly act of worship.

(2) A Sermon is not a suitable medium for teaching little children.

(3) I am no good at it.

I am sorry if you think No. 3 is the real reason, and the others are mere rationalisations.

In the monthly Children's Service the children themselves will take a large part; of course the parents, and all others who are interested, will be very welcome.

Pulpit Fall.—The Church has been considerably enriched by the gift of a Pulpit Fall from Mr Henry T. Wyse, 1 Craigleith Grove. The inscription on the back of the Fall reads:—

'To the glory of God and in loving memory of Isabella Wyse, 1873-1938, this Pulpit Fall was sewn by her daughter Helann Wannop, and designed and gifted by her husband Henry T. Wyse, Sept. 1946.'

The Kirk Session, on behalf of the congregation, have accepted this gift with very sincere thanks to Mr Wyse and his daughter. A Fall for the lectern, in a corresponding pattern, has also been designed by Mr Wyse, and is being worked out at present by a lady member of the congregation. It has always been a favourite idea of mine, that the sanctuary should be made lovely by the work of the worshippers themselves, and I believe the Falls for the pulpit and lectern are the beginning of what may be a constant part of the life of our congregation. We have a very lovely Church, and it should be our aim to weave into its fabric more and more 'a pattern of heavenly things.'

COMMUNION ROLL

Since our July list was published Mr and Mrs James Erskine, 33 House o' Hill Avenue, have been re-admitted to our Fellowship, and we extend to them our best wishes.

CHURCH SERVICES

The Evening Service at 6.30 p.m. will be resumed on Sunday 8th September.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS AND BIBLE CLASSES

All Departments will resume on Sunday 6th October, as follows:—

Junior Department (8 to 11 years) in the Hall at 11 a.m.

Senior Department (12 to 14 years) in the Hall at 12.15 p.m.

Junior Bible Class (15 to 16 years) in the Hall at 12.15 p.m.

Beginners Department (up to 5 years) in the Choir Room at 2.30 p.m.

Primary Department (5 to 8 years) in the Hall at 2.30 p.m.

Senior Bible Class. To be announced later.

Unfortunately, Miss Stalker is unable to take charge of the Primary Department as was previously announced. Mrs Wishart, the wife of our Session Clerk, has been persuaded to assume this most important post, and we are most grateful to her, recognising, as we do, the heavy sacrifices which the duties demand. We appreciate highly her devotion and her readiness to assist in a time of difficulty.

The Junior Department will be in the charge of Mr W. Law, who has been prevailed upon to remain on the Staff for at least another year.

Parents are asked to note very carefully these revised arrangements; these may call for some domestic adjustment here and there, and it is hoped that parents will appreciate our difficulties and assist as far as possible. There is, meantime, no alternative, if the needs of the children are to be met adequately.

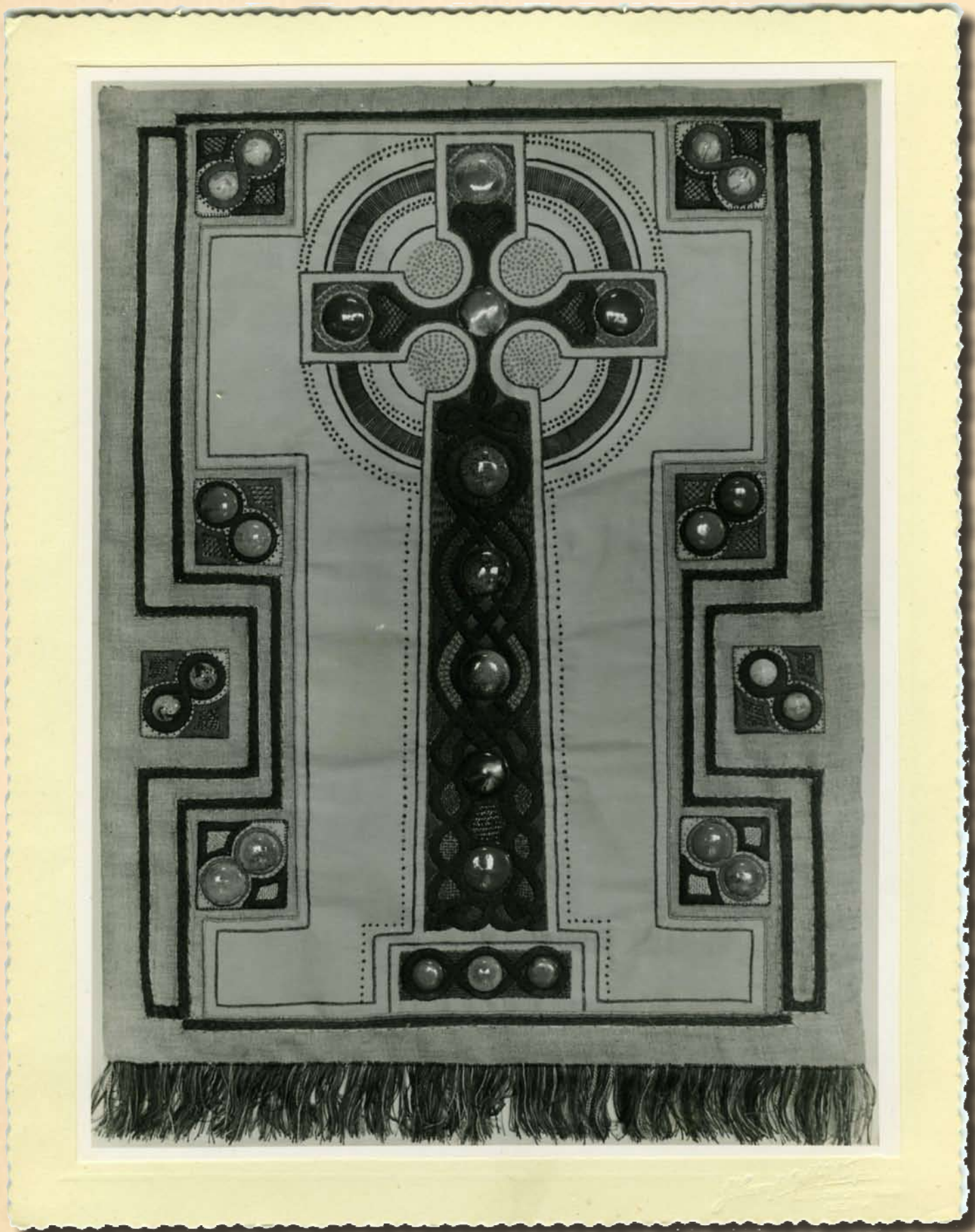
There will be a special Children's Service in Church on the afternoon of Sunday, 22nd September at three o'clock.

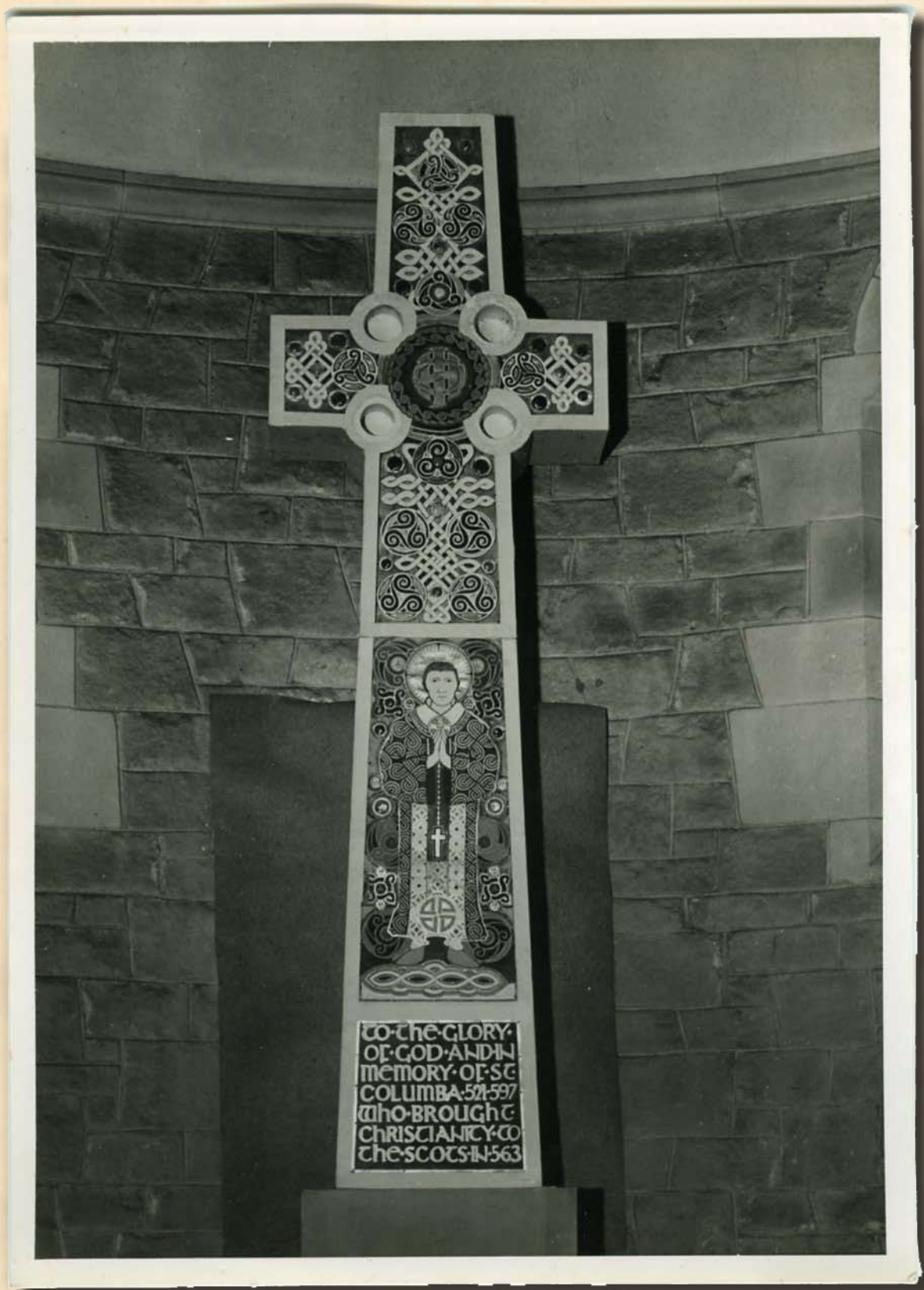
Harvest Thanksgiving Service will be held in Church on Sunday, 13th October at 11 a.m. Our gifts will be sent, as formerly, to the Eventide Home, Ferry Road, to the Sick Children's Hospital, and to the Deaconess of the Charteris Memorial Church for distribution in the Pleasance. Sunday Schools will not meet that day. W. W.

CHURCH HALL

Mr N. S. Whitson, Convener of the Church Hall, requests the Secretaries of the various Church Organisations to advise him as soon as possible regarding their winter programmes, and so enable him to deal with the Hall allocations.

Mr Whitson's address and telephone number are given in this month's Supplement under the section dealing with Church office-bearers.





TO THE GLORY
OF GOD AND IN
MEMORY OF ST
COLUMBA 521-597
WHO BROUGHT
CHRISTIANITY TO
THE SCOTS IN 563

