

St Andrew's United Reformed Church

St Andrew's United Reformed Church sits at the corner of Marlborough Road, Wellfield Road and Pen-y-lan Road. It holds a special interest to us as it is where our Society holds its monthly meetings.



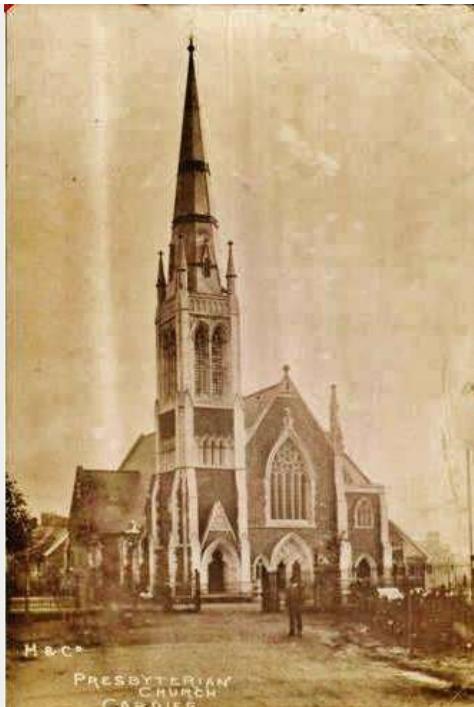
A fundraising campaign is underway at [St Andrew's Church](#) to raise funds for urgently needed roof repairs. A booklet outlining the church history is available from the church for £2 with proceeds going towards church funds.

The following article is taken from our Society Project Newsletter, Vol 2 No 4, published in Autumn 1984. It has been supplemented with additional pictures, newspaper articles and links to other pages:-

ST ANDREW'S UNITED REFORMED CHURCH formerly ROATH PARK PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

The Presbyterian Church of England – local background

It was in 1864 that the Presbyterian Church of England first obtained a footing in Cardiff, the meetings being held in the Cardiff Arms Rooms. On October 5th, 1866 the building in Windsor Place was opened for public worship, when the Rev. Dr Guthrie of Edinburgh and the Rev. Dr James Hamilton preached. But it was to the Rev. J.D. Watters, M.A., that the prosperity of the church is mainly due. After a brilliant University career he was ordained minister of Windsor Place in October, 1881, and, under his influence, the church became one of the most influential in the town. In 1887, a mission was opened under the auspices of the church in Harriet Street, Cathays, and in 1893 a splendid block of buildings for work among the young was erected in Windsor Place. As soon as the debt was cleared, the way was left open to found a new cause at Pen-y-lan.



Early view of the church – from within Roath Park – note the railings

The New Roath Park Church

Many of the following notes are derived from an excellent little booklet published in 1947 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the church. It was kindly lent to me by one of their members, Mrs M.S.Newton, for the purpose of extracting information for this Newsletter and it covers the period from the foundation in 1897 until 1947. I regret that the subsequent history of the church is not immediately available but the present Interim Moderator, Allen Powell, who is a history graduate, intends to make some enquiries and will make the results available to the Society.

Architecture

The church stands on the corner of Pen-y-lan Road and Marlborough Road facing the junction of Wellfield Road and Ninian Road. Its fine 150 feet spire with its corner spirelets and its three horizontal bands of Red Mansfield stone is the tallest of any non-conformist church in Cardiff.



Roath Park Presbyterian Church c.1910

The building was completed in 1900 to the plans of E.H. Fawckner, of W.G. Habershon and Fawckner, who were, incidentally, architects of the Park Hotel, Cardiff (1885). Habershon, who was Lord Tredegar's architect, had the honour of having a street in Splott named after him. The doorway, like most of the external stone, is in need of a good clean to exhibit to its best advantage its traceried arch and decorated panels. It is a copy of the 13th century west door of Tintern Abbey and the great window above is a copy of the transept windows in Melrose Abbey in Scotland. Some may discern the hint of an apparent theological incongruity in copying architectural features from two great Roman Catholic Abbeys destroyed by the Reformers.

The interior gives an immediate impression of spaciousness. The sheer expanse and rich colour of the matching woodwork of the seating, the massive balcony, the roof and the organ case is almost overwhelming. The organ, which cost £800, and was opened on 19th September 1900 at a special service conducted by the Rev. Dr. George Hanson, of Marylebone Church, London, is a masterpiece of Messrs Harrison and Harrison.



The various foundation stones laid at Roath Park Presbyterian Church

The times and the locality

In the 1890's, Wellfield Road had not been built. Lord Tredegar was proposing to open up the Pen-y-lan area for house building. Pen-y-lan Hill, from the Taff Vale Railway bridge near Ty Gwyn Road, was a narrow country lane with high hedges. The same was true of the present Cyncoed Road, on which, when they came into use, motor cars had difficulty in passing one other. The upper part of what is now Waterloo Road was a narrow footpath straggling up from the old bridge (demolished October 1985) between wire fences through allotments to the top of the hill.

First steps

As already mentioned, the initiative for founding a new church in the area came from the Presbyterian Church of England at Windsor Place. That church was flourishing. Although their church had been enlarged, it was still inadequate. It was clear, in the words of a contemporary record that "if Presbyterianism was to grow in Cardiff it could only be done by starting a new cause."

The architect having been engaged, and a site having already been chosen, with "sufficient space for the church hall, class rooms, manse and caretaker 's house," in addition to the space for the future church itself, a meeting of 41 interested persons was held at Windsor Place Church on 10th February 1896, presided over by the pastor, the Rev. J.Douglas Watters. They had to seek the official sanction of the Presbytery of Bristol for the opening of a new cause. Meanwhile they ordered specifications to be prepared for a hall and class rooms and appointed a strong Building Committee of 23 members chaired by the pastor.

Historical Summary

1893 & 1894

During the year 1893 the lesson and members of the Presbyterian Church under Rev. Dr. Parker, a take steps to build a new Presbyterian Church in the neighbourhood of Roath Park. A new district was opening up there and many houses were being erected and many of the congregation were going there to reside. An application was made to the Society of Gt. Trades for a site but for two years no definite reply was given to the application, until it has been more definitely agreed to open the Pen-y-lan estate. The church at Windsor Place was meanwhile engaged in enlarging the buildings there, & could not face the cost of erecting a new church. But when the enlarged church was opened in November 1893 and all the fittings were taken, it was evident that of Presbyterianism was to grow in Cardiff & work only be done by starting a new church, & it was again resolved to proceed with the new church. In 1895 the agents of Mrs. Fredericks submitted that they were prepared to give a site and a committee consisting of Rev. J. D. Watters, Rev. Dr. Jones & Dr. Samuel were appointed to carry on the negotiations. At first it was thought desirable to secure a site in Albany Road, but ultimately a plot at the corner of Butefield & Penylan Roads was chosen.

Dr. Fairbairn authorized
let to a suitable plot about
named Pen-y-lan sufficient
space for Church, Hall
Parsonage, Manse and
Baptistery. Butefield & Roath
Roads not have a parish road
beyond this. No Committee could take the
site & the Ministry of the Church informed
the action and at the same time requested Mr.
Tuckey, Anderson & Mathews to be the
architects of the proposed building, and to prepare
draft plans. These plans were revised by
the sub-committee and were further approved
by the church in Nov. 1895. A letter dated
January 1896. Signed the
Rev. J. D. Watters
John Evans
James Davies
and the members recommended
John Jones
H. W. Phillips to be treasurer.

J. Douglas Watters
10th February 1896

The very early church history recorded in 1896. Note the sketch in the top right hand corner – there was then a road joining Marlborough Road and Penylan Road to the east of the church.

A pioneer of the cause.

The Rev. J. Douglas Watters, M.A., who guided so ably the planning and development of the new church did not live long enough to see the fruition of his work. He died on September 5th, 1898, at the age of 47. He had rendered yeoman service to the University College, Cardiff, from its foundation and had taken a leading part in establishing the Faculty of Theology, to which he acted as Honorary Secretary up to the time of his death.

Membership The first membership roll of the new congregation shows that practically all of the 60 names were transfers from Windsor Place and transfers continued for several years.



A group of Elders of Windsor Place, led by Sir John Gunn and Mr James Manuel fulfilled the duties of a Kirk Session until the new congregation was in a position to elect its own. In the first minutes appear the names of those who were to become prominent in the affairs of the new church:-

[W.W.Pettigrew](#) (Parks Superintendent), [William McKenzie](#) (Chief Constable of Cardiff), William Young, the fruit and potato merchant of Oldwell", Pen-y-lan, T.B. and W.E.Leitch of Cressy Road, James Strachan of Pen-y-lan, and others.

The Hall

The memorial stone of the new Hall was laid by Lord Windsor on 24th March, 1897; and the Hall itself was opened, free of debt, on 5th September in the same year. The opening service in the Hall, which had a narrow platform with small preaching desk, was taken by the Rev. J.Douglas Watters on 5th September, 1897.

NEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH AT CARDIFF.

This afternoon Lord Windsor is to lay the memorial-stone of the new Presbyterian Church at Roath Park, Cardiff, at half-past three o'clock. This church is an offshoot of the Presbyterian Church in Windsor-place, under the care of the Rev. J. D. Watters. Four years ago this church was greatly enlarged, but was immediately found to be inadequate for the number of worshippers, and steps were taken to form a new cause. An excellent site has been obtained from Lord Tredegar, just at the entrance to the park at Penylan-road. At present only the church hall and class-rooms are being built, but the larger edifice will be commenced at a very early date.



Three days later, the congregation received official recognition by the Presbytery "raising the cause to the status of a sanctioned charge."

The congregation had made up its mind on a pastor, and, on 27th January, 1898, the Rev. W.E.Shaw (from St Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Swansea) was inducted to the Pastoral Charge.

Attendances were so good at the first services that the seating accommodation in the Hall soon became inadequate, making it necessary to press on with the erection of the Church.

Church building

Two foundation stones of the Church were laid on 12 April, 1899 by Lord Tredegar and Henry Robson of London who for many years was in charge of the Synod 's Church Extension work. Already half of the contract price of over £8,000 had been subscribed or promised, personal guarantees had been signed for £5,000, and the provision of 800-900 sittings did not seem too rash an undertaking. Another memorial stone records "Builder: Jas. Allan. Erected 1900".

NEW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH FOR CARDIFF.

Laying the Foundation Stones.

Memorial stones of the Presbyterian Church of England, Roath Park, Cardiff, were laid this afternoon at 3.30 by the Right Hon. Lord Tredegar and Mr Henry Robson, a leading Presbyterian from London. The church stands on a commanding site at the junction of Penylan-road and Marlborough-road, and facing the entrance to Roath Park. The church consists of nave, with transepts and chancel, with porches and a commodious vestibule. The internal length is 125 feet, the width of nave 47 feet, and in transepts 62 feet. There will be an open timber roof of ornamental design in pitch pine, the height being 42 feet. The seating and all other woodwork will be in pitch pine. The chief external feature will be the tower and spire 150 feet high. The central doorway is a copy of Tintern Abbey doorway, while the five-light traceried window above recalls the south transept window of Melrose Abbey. The church is designed in the decorated style of Gothic, and is being built of Newbridge polished stone, with bathstone dressings. The church will accommodate between 800 and 900, 700 in nave and transepts and about 140 in a small western gallery. The choir and organ will be raised above the level of the nave. The organ will be a very fine instrument, built by Messrs Harrison and Harrison, Durham, at a cost of £1,083. At the rear of the church there is provided a suite of fine rooms, comprising vestry, session room, manager's room, and choir room. The architects are Messrs Habershon, Hawelet, and Groves, Newport and Cardiff, and the committee have been fortunate in securing as contractor Mr James Allan, Cardiff, who is carrying out the work in first-rate style. The total cost of the existing buildings—church hall and classrooms, amounting to £2,300—has been already paid. The cost of the church, including organ and furnishing, will be between £9,000 and £10,000. Towards this amount over £4,000 has been already subscribed and promised. When completed the church will undoubtedly be one of the most up-to-date church buildings in Cardiff.

South Wales Echo – 12th April 1899

Dedication of the Church

On Wednesday, 20th June 1900, the Rev. John Watson, D.D., of Sefton Park Church, Liverpool, the Moderator of Synod for that year conducted the Dedication Service. He was at the height of his fame, preacher, but as "Ian Maclare", author of several popular stories.

The First Session had been appointed on the previous Sunday, 17th June, 1900 by the induction of Mr James Manuel, and the ordination and induction of Messrs Thomas Burns, Albert Gardner, David Ireland, W.W.Pettigrew and William McKenzie (Session Clerk).

The initial membership of 60 had risen to 79 in January 1898, and, five months later, to 119. The trend continued thus:

1900 – 150, 1905 – 276, 1910 – 341, 1913 – 367

Mr Shaw 's pastorate lasted from January, 1898 to December 1907 when he went to a church in St Leonards-on-sea, where he remained until 1922 after which he was in retirement until his death in 1937. The Rev Lewis Robertson, M.A., Minister of Windsor Place Church acted as interim-moderator until the congregation's new choice, the Rev J. Reynolds McLean, from Park Terrace Church, Gateshead, was inducted to the pastoral charge on 30th April, 1908.



Caption on postcard: Star Chart Champions Roath Park Presbyterian Church 1906. (Left is Rev Shaw.)

A disastrous fire destroyed the Windsor Place Church on 20th February, 1910 and the Roath Park Church gave what assistance they could to their mother church. They had to come to the rescue in May, 1910 to house the meetings of the Annual Synod (later called the "General Assembly") of the Presbyterian Church of England, which had been planned to be held in Cardiff.

The year 1913 was the peak year for membership; the number 367 was never exceeded; and in fact, in the next period, a slow but steady decline set in. Church membership is not the same thing as church attendance; and the peak of average church attendance had probably come a few years before 1913, as indicated by the concern being shown by the office-bearers at that time. Attendances fell sadly below the accommodation for 800 – 900 people. The gallery itself had been built to provide seating for about 200 people.

During the first World War, J.R. McClean, because of his heavy national commitments, called in the help of D.T. Davies and J. Reid Howatt. The latter, a retired minister, but vigorous in his old age, served from December 1916 to January 1918. McClean resigned from the pastorate in September, 1917 and died with tragic suddenness in July, 1921.

The Sunday School

Mr Davies, who later became pastor of Forest Hill Church, London, acted as assistant pastor from June 1915 to January 1916, when he accepted a call to Manchester. It was he who re-modelled the Sunday School to help stem the rapid decline in numbers, setting up a "Primary Department", leading to a new concept of Sunday School work with regular training classes for teachers and grading of pupils. The new approach was successful. The drift was arrested and the school gained a reputation in Cardiff and beyond for efficiency.

Scouts and Guides

Which is the oldest Scout Troop in Cardiff? Both St Martin's, Albany Road and St Andrew's claim the honour. Somebody should investigate and adjudicate. The history of the Boy Scout movement in Cardiff, as far as I know, has yet to be written. Our Society holds some information about the early

Scout Movement at St Martin's. This will be referred to when we produce some notes on that Church. Meanwhile, the Jubilee Booklet of the Roath Park Presbyterian Church does not specify dates. It merely records that the period of the First World War saw the establishment of the Scout movement at Roath Park.

The Inter-War Period, 1918-1939

The main part of the period between the wars was bridged by three short ministries, those of the Revs. J. Macara Gardner, M.A. , John R.Coates, M.A., and ELL. Allen, M.A., Ph.D., D.D.

Mr Gardner came in January, 1918 and left in June, 1922 to take up a pastorate at Palmers Green London.

Mr Coates's ministry lasted from September, 1923 till January, 1928, when he was appointed Professor of Old Testament Studies on the central staff of the Selly Oak College, Birmingham, where he continued until 1945.

Dr Allen, who succeeded him in September, 1928, left in November 1931 to take up the pastorate of the Presbyterian Church in Kowloon in Hong Kong, and later became lecturer in theology at King's College, Newcastle (University of Durham).

At the time of the Jubilee Booklet (1947) the Rev. Sydney J. Haggis, M.A., had been with the church since October 1932. The decline in membership, after a sharp rise and fall in the mid twenties, was arrested about half way between the two wars. Since then, for about twenty years, it remained about the 200 mark.

The Second World War, 1939 – 1945

Despite war damage in the vicinity, including houses in Pen-y-lan Road, the church buildings, almost miraculously, escaped all serious damage from enemy bombers.

One of the most outstanding activities during the war was the setting up and running of the Canteen for service-men. It was a co-operative enterprise with members of the nearby Roath Park Methodist Church. Here, men and woman in uniform from the U.K., all parts of the Commonwealth and the United States and other countries were welcomed with refreshments and hospitality. The number of those helped frequently reached as many as 500 to 600 in one evening.



Roath Park in WWII with barrage balloon and church in background

In 1944, the Roath Park Christian Forum was formed, a war-time prayer meeting of the five local Free Churches.

When it became part of the United Free Church movement, the elders had to consider re-naming the church so as to avoid confusion with chapels of other denominational origin bearing the name "Roath Park". The name chosen was "St Andrew's" – an appropriate name for an English Presbyterian Church in Wales whose congregation, like that of its mother church in Windsor Place included so many Cardiff Scots. And with a minister by the name of "Haggis", is it any wonder that Cardiffians came to call it, rather affectionately, the "Scottish Presbyterian Church"

MINISTERS 1898 to 1947

1898-1907: W.E.Shaw

1908- 1917: J. Reynolds McClean

1918-1922: John R. Coates

1928-1931: E.L.Allen

1932 : Sydney J. Haggis

Additional information:

There is a [War Memorial](#) inside the church on the front wall remembering five members who lost their lives in World War I.



A Little Bit of Church History – 1912

In 1912, the then church minister J. Reynolds McLean wrote the following pamphlet to church members in as a plea to remove the remaining building debt:

**Presbyterian Church of England, Roath Park, Cardiff.
1st October 1912
A Little Bit of Church History.**

THE story of the founding and development of Roath Park Presbyterian Church of England is one of the most creditable in the annals of our denomination. It is a record of faith, enterprise and good works, and those who took part in the initial stages have good reason to look back with pride on their labours. It was in 1895 that some of the members of Windsor Place Church, together with other Presbyterians living in the Park district, secured the site on which the Church now stands, but it was not till March 24, 1897, that the Earl of Plymouth laid the foundation stone of the Hall, the only portion of the premises it was thought necessary to build for some years. Services were held for the first time on Sunday, September 5, of the same year, the Rev. J. D. Watters, M.A., officiating.

From the day of the Opening services it was seen that the founders were fully justified in their conviction that a new Church was required in the district, for the Sunday services were exceedingly well attended, the membership grew apace and a sincere enthusiasm marked the efforts of those associated with the new charge.

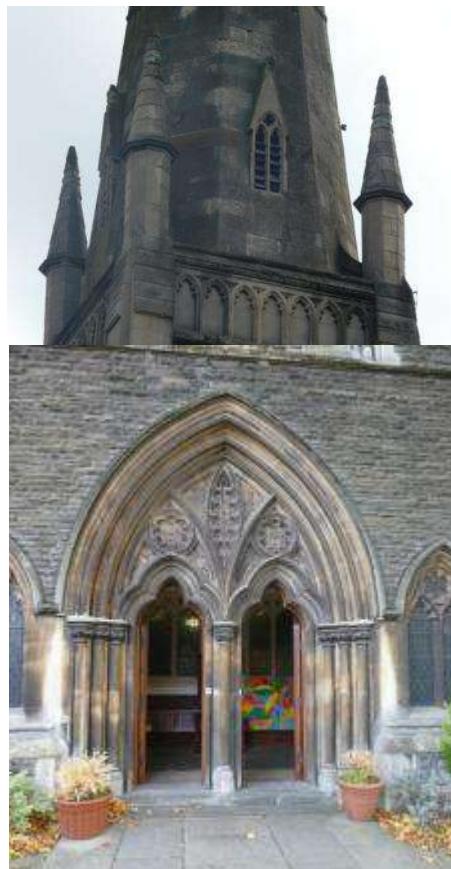
In February, 1898, the Rev. W. E. Shaw was inducted as the first minister, and with his coming and earnest endeavours, a still greater impetus was given to the work, success attending every enterprise. It was not long until the Hall was crowded to the doors, and the imperative need of beginning to build the Church itself, was recognised by all. After the preliminary arrangements had been completed, the foundation stones were laid on the 12th April, 1899, by Lord Tredegar and Sir Henry Robson, J.P.

The Church was completed and formally dedicated to the worship of the Most High God on Sunday, 20th June, 1900, the special preacher being the Rev. John Watson, D.D. The Church is an ornament to the City and, in every way, worthy of our Presbyterian Church of England.

In 1908 the Rev. W. E. Shaw removed to St. Leonards-on-Sea, and the present minister, the Rev J Reynolds McLean, was inducted;

The cost of the whole premises, including Church, Hall and class-rooms, vestry, furnishings organ, etc., together with alterations and additions that were afterwards found to be necessary, was not far short of £14,000, which does not include nearly £1,000 paid in interest on overdrafts. Those who have a knowledge of ecclesiastical architecture agree that, considering the quality of the work and the accommodation provided, this expenditure was very reasonable indeed, we have insured the premises for £15,000.

The congregation, assisted by many kindly friends in other Churches, has done most nobly in the endeavour to grapple with this large outlay and it speaks volumes for the energy, enthusiasm and generosity of all concerned that, at the present time, only some £1,100 remain to be paid.



But, it is felt that this debt is a serious encumbrance and a heavy burden and should be removed without any delay.

We are encouraged to make one great last effort towards this end by the generosity of our elder, Mr. J. Manuel, J.P., who has helped with large sums again and again: he promises to give the last £200, provided the congregation make a united attempt at once to meet the overdraft. we, therefore, appeal, in terms of the enclosed circular for the sum of £900.

Will you kindly help ? And, if necessary, will you make some personal sacrifice for this object? Any sum, however small, will be acceptable, but we hope your sympathy will dictate the largest possible amount, so that by the end of June, 1913, we may be able to announce that our Church is entirely free from debt.

We cannot hope to raise all the money within the bounds of our own membership, so we trust interested and generous friends will come to our assistance, that the work of God and His Church may be strengthened and advanced.

REYNOLDS McLEAN, Minister. Greenaleigh, Tydraw Road, Cardiff.

Church Officials.

Session Clerk: Mr. W. McKENZIE.

Deacons Court Clerk: Mr. J. ALLISON.

Treasurer: Mr W YOUNG.

Secretary Church Extinction Fund:

Mr. G. A. BERTALOT. 9, Princes Street, Cardiff.

J Reynolds McLean

James Reynolds McLean was born in Belfast and was minister at Roath Park Presbyterian Church between 1908 and 1917. Whist a church minister he became an army recruiting officer and rose rapidly through the ranks eventually becoming recruiting British Army recruiting officer for Ireland. He died in 1921. The following articles tell something of his career:



CAPTAIN THE REV. REYNOLDS McLEAN
(of Roath Park Presbyterian Church), who has worked hard at the Recruiting Headquarters, Cardiff, ever since the outbreak of the war.
[Welsh Pictorial]

April 5th 1915 – Western Mail (?)

CAPTAIN J. R. McLEAN'S NEW POST.

Our London correspondent is informed that Captain the Rev. J. Reynolds McLean, formerly of Cardiff, has received an important appointment from the War Office, namely, the control of the recruiting offices in the Northern Command, extending from Lincolnshire to Berwick-on-Tweed.

COLONEL F. C. MERVICK'S NEW POST

McLean gets moved to Northern England, 1915

COLONEL J. R. MCLEAN.

MAY DIRECT RECRUITING IN IRELAND.

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.
LONDON, Sunday Night.

There is a report to-day that Col. J. Reynolds McLean, described as one of the discoverers of the war, will probably be appointed Director of Recruiting in Ireland. He has just vacated the position of Assistant Director of National Service, and although the report of his new appointment is premature, a hint of what is in the air is afforded by the department's bulletin, in which reference is made to the great loss the department has suffered through Col. McLean's retirement owing to the War Office demanding his entire services. The War Office is the authority proposed by the Legislature to deal with recruiting in Ireland, and it would not be surprising, therefore, to hear of the colonel's appointment with increased status having regard to the services he has rendered to recruiting, notably since he joined the staff of Sir Auckland Geddes. The probability is that he will have charge of any voluntary recruiting campaign in Ireland which may precede the application of conscription. When the National Service department was set up he became War Inspector General of Recruiting, and visited every region throughout the country, perfecting the machinery and discovering all the weak points in the organisation. Everybody knows that before the war he was minister of the Roath Park Presbyterian Church, Cardiff.

27th May 1918 – Western Mail

Apparently the Irish Nationalists have no present inclination of returning to Westminster. The reason is not far to seek. If they re-appear they must make it their first duty to raise the whole question of the Sinn Fein conspiracy, and just now they have no desire to take up the cudgels for that greatly discredited section of Irishmen. It is no secret that the Irish Secretary is particularly anxious to have an opportunity to speak in defence of the Government policy. He felt on taking his seat in the House this week after his re-election that such a statement could not properly be made in the absence of the Nationalists, and so postponed his pronouncement. Meanwhile the Government has found it necessary this week to give much thought to the Irish situation. There was a rumour to-night that the Order in Council to enforce conscription was in course of preparation. Of this there is no confirmation. On the contrary, the opinion is expressed in official circles that the Government will certainly give Ireland an opportunity of voluntarily recruiting before enforcing conscription. In this connection it now seems to be settled that Col. J. Reynolds McLean will be the Director of Recruiting in Ireland, as the *Western Mail* anticipated a few days ago.

1st June 1918 – Western Mail

COL. REYNOLDS McLEAN.

FUNERAL OF A MINISTER AND Patriot.

Military honours were accorded the funeral of Col. the Rev. James Reynolds McLean, C.B.E., formerly minister of Roath Park Presbyterian Church, which took place at Cardiff Cemetery on Thursday.

The body was borne on a gun-carriage from the residence in Tydraw-road, Roath Park, to the Presbyterian Church. The coffin, on which rested the deceased officer's cap and belt and a floral tribute from the widow, was draped with the Union Jack. A firing party of men from the depot of the Welch Regiment, in charge of Lieut. Lewis, marched in front of the cortège with arms reversed.

At the church an impressive service was conducted by the Rev. Mr. Gardner, assisted by the Rev. Mr. Robertson, late of Windsor-place Church, who paid a tribute to Col. McLean's excellent work as a minister and soldier.

As the cortège left the church the military party gave the general salute, whilst at the graveside a volley was fired and the "Last Post" sounded.

The chief mourners were:—Mr. Douglas Reynolds McLean (son), Messrs. J. G. McLean, William McLean, and Hamilton L. McLean (brothers), Lieut.-col. W. G. Shieles (brother-in-law), Miss Doreen McLean (daughter), Miss McLean (sister), and Mrs. Richard Care. Others present included Capt. H. L. Ferrier, Sir James German, Capt. G. H. Buchanan, Dr. S. Wallace, Dr. W. Taylor, Messrs. H. A. Cottle, E. W. Cottle, B. Leitch, James Miles, Ellison Walker, H. Collins, E. Wasnom, T. Wallace, Samuel Fisher, J.P. (representing King Edward VII. Hospital), and W. McKenzie (formerly chief-constable of Cardiff). There were a large number of beautiful floral tributes.

Obituary 1921

AN APPRECIATION.

By EX-SERVICE.

Col. J. Reynolds McLean was one of the great personalities that Cardiff produced during the war. For many years he was pastor of the church from which on Thursday his body was carried on a gun-carriage to its last resting-place. To the church he gave the best years of his life. A preacher of outstanding quality, his broad outlook, his rich tolerance, his sympathetic understanding made him a host of real friends among all classes in and about the city. To many he proved himself a sure friend in time of trouble, a wise counsellor, ever unostentatious in his good actions.

The war disclosed in him the qualities of a true patriot. He saw his duty clearly. He offered his services and flung himself whole-heartedly into recruiting, assisting at the local recruiting office in High-street.

His talent, ability, and capacity for organisation were early recognised by the War Office. He was ordered to London, and his advancement was meteoric. The war period placed a new standard on human values—the standard of capacity for service to the mother country in the hour of need. Incapacity, despite rank or influence, received scant courtesy. Capacity, wherever it was found, was put in authority. Men on the field of battle, obscure, unknown, by sheer grit and a latent unsuspected power that the moment developed, rose from the ranks to high commands.

In the sphere of national service Col. McLean's inherent genius for big scale organisation became evident. Reluctant to accept advancement, he was, nevertheless, forced to high position by an authority that brooked no refusal when it discovered the capacity it needed. Men with wealth and rank and length of service and influence to help them stood aside for the Cardiff parson, whose only passport to high command was carried behind his broad and furrowed forehead.

Despising reward and honour, he was ever content to work quietly and strenuously behind the scenes, utterly selfless, thinking only of his country in her extremity, ever avoiding the showy and the popular. Possessed of wide vision, an extraordinary capacity for hard, unremitting work, and a burning enthusiasm that carried other men with him, he combined this with a personality so lovable that it disarmed jealousy. Among the higher ranks he was welcomed. He needed no support of purse or influence—they recognised him for what he was, a broad-minded, Christian officer and a gentleman—in short, a white man.

He has gone to his rest. His reward is in the satisfaction of a duty nobly done and a shrine in the hearts of many a one whom he has helped.

Detailed description on [Church Architecture](#) :

CADW describe St Andrew's URC Church as follows and categorises it as a Grade II* listed building:

HISTORY: Built 1899-1901 by Habershon, Fawcett & Groves, architects, for the English Presbyterians, at a cost of £11,000. It was designed to seat 700 with a further 140 in the W gallery.

EXTERIOR: Early Decorated style chapel, its exterior strongly resembling a parish church with lofty nave, NW tower and spire, shallow transepts, lower and narrower chancel (housing an organ), and hall and Sunday School on the S and E sides. Of coursed rock-faced Pennant sandstone, Bath stone dressings, and slate roof behind coped gables.

The asymmetrical W front has flanking stair towers to the gallery, of which the S is 2 stages while the N is taller and carries the lofty spire. The W doorway is modelled on the W door of Tintern Abbey. Two doorways are set within an outer arch, which has 3 orders of nook shafts, foliage capitals and moulded arch. The doorways have a single central shaft and cusped heads, while the tympanum of the outer arch has blind tracery incorporating cusped circles against a diaper-work back surface. Each doorway has double doors with vertical ribs. The doorway is flanked by 2-light windows with impost bands carried over as a hood mould, and foundation stones below the sills. The 5-light W window, said to have been modelled on a window in Melrose Abbey, has a sill band and crocketed ogee gable, with hood and head stops. An angle buttress to the R side has a gabled cap with blind arcading, and polygonal pinnacle. On the R (S) side is a 2-stage stair tower, with angle buttresses, and hipped roof behind a plain parapet incorporating blind arcading to the abutment with the main chapel. Its W doorway has a pointed arch with continuous moulding, double doors with vertical ribs, above which is a 3-light landing window with sill band. On the S side of the tower is a cusped light with hood and foliage stop, above which is a 3-light landing window with sill band.

The N side of the W front has a 3-stage tower, incorporating gallery stairs, with a tall parapet spire. It has angle buttresses with gabled offset to the lower stage. A projecting doorway is under a gabled hood. It has 3 orders of shafts with foliage capitals, a finely moulded arch with cusped inner order, and double ribbed doors. A hood mould has foliage stops. A cusped roundel beneath the apex has radiating blind tracery. The N side has a 2-light window with hood mould and impost band, above which is a small cusped light with hood mould lighting the stair. The middle stage has a sill band, and each face has a 5-bay arcade with shafts and foliage capitals to cusped arches. The outer bays are blind, the 3 inner bays have narrow lancet windows. The buttresses have gabled offsets to this stage. The tall bell stage has 2 2-light windows with ringed shafts and foliage capitals, and louvres, inset with raked sills. Diaper work is over the windows and then the parapet has blind arcading and coping. The buttresses are crowned by broad polygonal pinnacles with spirelets. The octagonal parapet spire has 2-light lucarnes in the cardinal directions. Red sandstone bands incorporate small roundels and string course with gabled hoods.



Top of the spire at St Andrew's URC church, Roath

The N side, facing Marlborough Road, is 4 buttressed bays with 3-light windows, of which the 2nd from the W end is beneath a gable, with impost band. The shallow N transept has a 5-light window and angle buttresses. Beyond it is a further bay with 3-light window. Set back against the E return wall of the nave is a polygonal porch with ribbed door in a moulded surround and lintel, and cusped lights in the side facets. The N side of the chancel has a single cusped light, and a rose window to the E wall is above a hipped-roof projection with canted mullioned bay windows.

The S side of the main chapel has 3-light windows similar to the N, while the S transept window is only glazed in the tracery lights. There is a short link from the transept to the hall and Sunday school on the S side of the chapel. The hall W elevation has angle buttresses, doorways R and L with ribbed doors under pointed arches with glazed quatrefoils to the tympana. Above each doorway are 3 stepped lights. In the centre is a projecting polygonal bay with 2-light windows, parapet with moulded cornice and red sandstone coping. Above it are shallow buttresses framing triple cusped and transomed windows lighting the gallery, with small window above. The S wall has a cusped lancet at the W end, then 5 cusped lancets grouped together further R. The 1½ storey Sunday school projects on the SE side of the hall. Its W elevation has a pointed doorway to the L with ribbed door under a shouldered lintel and glazed cusped light in the tympanum. To its R are 3 pairs of cusped lights and 2 gabled 3-light roof dormers with timber-framed gables. The faceted S wall has 3-light windows with cusped lights while the E side has two similar 2-light windows and 3 roof dormers similar to the W side. The E side of the hall has an added hipped lean-to below triple cusped lights. The S side of the chancel has a hipped outshut housing vestry and additional school rooms.

INTERIOR: The entrance vestibule has 2 2-light Tudor Gothic glazed screens opposite the entrance. Double panelled half-lit doors are R and L of the screen, with similar doors in the side walls which lead to the stairs. The open-well stairs have open arcaded balustrades. The lofty and spacious interior of the main chapel has a 6-bay hammerbeam roof, which has a wider bay opposite the transepts, and has cusping to the upper sides of the brackets and arched braces, crown posts and a boarded underside. Transverse arches with openwork spandrels are between the hammerbeams. The transepts have 2-centred arches with one order of ringed nook shafts and foliage capitals, while the transept

windows have hood moulds with foliage stops. The S transept window is blind below the transom. The chancel arch has 3 orders of ringed shafts with foliage capitals, 2-centred arch and hood mould with crowned heads to the stops. A W gallery is supported on 2 cast iron columns with foliage capitals, cast by Walter Macfarlane & Co of Glasgow. The gallery front has blind cusped arcading.

The main pews have moulded ends. Choir stalls have poppy heads and moulded backs. The polygonal pulpit has 2 segmental-headed panels in each facet. The organ has blind arcaded panelling below the pipes. The hall has a 5-bay roof with diagonal braces on corbelled brackets. A reredos is partly concealed behind an inserted stage, and comprises a 2-centred arch with foliage stops. A W gallery has a panelled front incorporating open ironwork panels. A separate room is beneath the gallery with porches to the outer sides.

REFS: Newman, John, *The Buildings of Wales: Glamorgan*, 1995, p 303.

REASONS: Listed grade II* for its outstanding architectural contribution to the E end of the Roath Park district, with an especially fine spire, a well-preserved and spacious interior, the whole retaining its original character.