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The St Mary's Heritage Project

St Mary's Episcopal Church, at the time of its opening, 1871.

SOURCE:

Glasgow Herald, Friday November 10, 1871: OPENING OF ST MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH.

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The church thus happily opened is situated at Holyrood Crescent, in the Great Western Road, and promises when completed to be one of the fine ecclesiastical edifices in the city. It is estimated to cost about £20,000, and already about £10,000 have been provided towards that amount. So far as the work has yet gone, the outlay has been about £15,000. The church was designed by Mr Gilbert Scott, of London, and the architecture is Gothic, of the period of the fourteenth century.

The church consists of a nave, 100 feet by 30, north and south aisles and transepts, chancel and chancel aisles. Externally, the walls are of rubble, faced with Lanark stone in courses. At the south-east corner a massive tower has been carried up to a height of 40 feet, and this it is proposed eventually to crown with a spire 200 feet high, in which will be placed a peal of bells; but this portion of the work has been deferred in the meantime. The principal entrance is from the west, through a very handsome doorway. Internally, the building is a fine specimen of church architecture. The nave is separated from the aisles by arcadings, consisting of six arches with enriched moulded cases, shafts, and capitals; while bold and lofty arches separate the chancel and the transepts from the nave. The pillars are of a beautiful white [Bath] stone which possesses the very desirable quality of hardening with exposure to the atmosphere, and retaining at the same time its purity of colour. The walls are in rough plaster, and the whole is covered by a high-pitched timber roof, open, save at the intersection of the nave, chancel and transept, where there is wood-groining. The side-walls are pierced by a number of two-light windows, and in the chancel aisle there is a handsome tri-light window. A fine stained-glass window, by Messrs Clayton & Bell, of London, has been inserted in the central compartment; and there are other two stained-glass windows in the church - one in the chancel aisle, the other in the south aisle of the nave. The window first mentioned has been procured by subscription; but the other two are gifts to the church - the one by Mr Angus Turner, and the other by Mrs Spens, and it is anticipated that other members of the communion will emulate their example. The internal fittings are strictly in harmony with the architecture of the church. A very chaste and beautiful reredos has been supplied by Messrs Farmer & Brindley, of London. It is of Caen Stone, with marble shafts, the cross being white marble inlaid with mosaic, on a background of alabaster. The nave and aisles are seated with open pews in polished pine, the chancel stalls being in oak, and two fine oak screens separate the chancel and the north chancel aisle. The organ, which has been supplied by Messrs Hill, of London, occupies the south chancel aisle, and presents two fronts - one to the chancel, the other to the aisle. It contains three complete manuals and a pedal organ. The great organ contains all ten stops; the swell organ, eleven stops; the choir organ, six; and the pedal organ, four stops.

At night the church is lighted by means of a string of lights carried along immediately under the clerestory windows, while corona lights depend (sic) from the nave and transepts, and the chancel is lighted by two magnificent standard lights.

The contractor for the work was Mr John Thomson of Peterborough; Mr Conradi was clerk of works; and the contractor was represented by Messrs Bradford, Frisby, and Pepper. The seats for the nave were fitted up by Messrs James Lamb & Sons, Glasgow and Greenock; the gasfittings by Messrs Potter & Son; and the heating and ventilating apparatus by Messrs Coombe & Son, Glasgow.