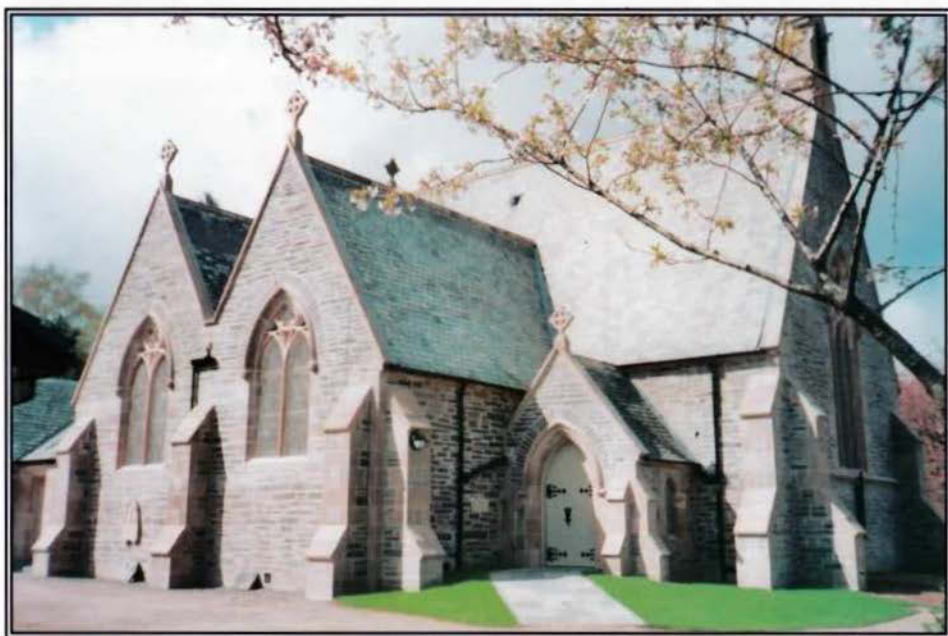


ST. MODAN'S CHURCH



GUIDEBOOK

Welcome to our church!

The word, Rosneath, derived from the Gaelic "Rosnevet", means "headland of the sanctuary". From very early times there has been a Christian Church on the Peninsula. The present Parish Church of Rosneath, erected to plans prepared by David Cousin, a well-known church architect, was opened for public worship on Sunday 11th September 1853. Owing to its popularity the South Transept was added in 1862 and the North Transept in 1873. It was named after Modan at the centenary in 1953, emphasising its Celtic connection. It received its present name, Rosneath St.Modan's Parish Church, by decree of the Session on 14th June 1982 prior to the linkage with Craigrownie Church.



Rosneath St.Modan's Parish Church

St.Modan

Details of our saint are sketchy. He features in the Aberdeen Breviary (1509-10), one of the first books to be printed in Scotland. Here his feast day is given as 4th February where he is described as,

"the venerated and most religious father of many monks",

who, after he had converted many unbelievers in Argyll, settled again in the west coast of Scotland, not far from Dumbarton and the Gareloch where,

"he fell asleep in the Lord, in the place where the parochial church of Rosneath stands dedicated to his honour: his most sacred relics rest and are profoundly venerated in a chapel in the cemetery of the said church"

Several hundred yards upstream from the old church is believed to be the site of St.Modan's Well and Modan is reputed to have died near the old church around 700AD. His name is also associated with churches at Benderloch, Glendaruel, Stirling and Falkirk. In 1880, a tombstone was found four feet below the ground in the old graveyard. This was bolted to the wall, but then brought into the present church for protection in 1920. In 1997 it was moved forward to its present position so that the back carvings are visible. There is good reason to believe this is the actual gravestone of Modan.

A full portrait of St.Modan can be found in "Rosneath Papers" by Rev.William Meiklejohn.M.A (1982)

Previous Churches at Rosneath

St.Modan's original church at Rosneath would have been a wattle and mud construction. It was reputed to be one of the oldest churches in Scotland.

Prior to 1648, Rosneath and Cardross were the two major parishes in this area, administered from Paisley Abbey. Together with these two churches were three Chapels of Ease - St.Bride's in Glenfruin, Kirkmichael in Helensburgh and St.Michael's at Faslane, the ruins of which can still be seen in the Faslane graveyard.

There is evidence of a second church built around the 12th century. The date of foundation is uncertain but the earliest notice occurs before 1199. Part of the crypt remains under three concrete slabs to the south west of the old ruin. Under these lies a flight of stone steps and an iron gate. Lady Elizabeth Clough Taylor of Camsail House, a daughter of George, 8th Duke of Argyll, was interred here in 1897.

In the sixteenth century, a third church was built with gable and belfry. It was cruciform in shape and the ornate belfry was added in 1610 to house the Burgerhuis Bell. The church is described:

" as cruciform in shape with a row of stone images round the pulpit. There was an ornamental bowl for holy water on open side of the entrance door. On the right hand side of the door were 5 or 6 joughs, iron manacles for detaining wrong doers by the neck."

This church was deemed to be too elaborate after the Reformation and the then minister, Dr George Drummond, persuaded the Duke of Argyll to pull down the old structure which was dedicated to the Virgin Mary. This occurred in 1780 and was replaced by the resulting fourth church on the site, the ruins of which can be seen today. Despite incorporating the gable end and belfry it was a very plain structure, known by the Duke of Argyll as "The Barn". Marks of the Duke's Gallery can be seen in the wall. It is described thus,

"The seats were of rough deals and the floor was long only of earth while a gallery ran round three sides of the interior. The pulpit stood between the two windows next to the manse. The walls of the building were plain and whitewashed and grew green through damp and mould. When the sacrament was dispensed there was one long table running down the passage from door to door, the ministers and elders occupying one end "

This fourth church remained in use until 1853 when the then minister Dr. Robert Story was instrumental in having built the present structure on a new site further down the Clachan.

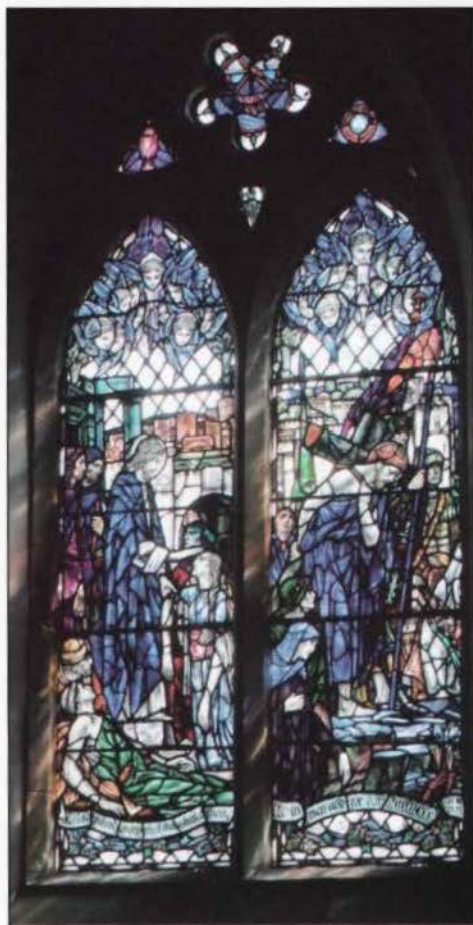
A Tour round the present Church

The Nave

People have been worshipping in this building since its opening in 1853. Look at the **Bronze Shield** to the right of the entrance door on which is inscribed the names of the ministers of the church, as far as can be ascertained, since Modan brought Christianity to the Rosneath Peninsula about 600AD. This was presented in 1907 by Mr Turnbull of Aitkenshaw. Those on the list since the first Dr. Story have led the worship in this building. The list of ministers of Rosneath Church will be found at the end of this Guide.

The South Transept

If you walk half way up the aisle and turn left to face the south transept your attention will be drawn to the two beautiful **stained glass windows** made by the renowned Glasgow artist, Douglas Strachan, early in the twentieth century. Both show scenes from the life of Christ. On the left we see an illustration of the text:



The Lorne Campbell Window

*"And with his hands he healed them"
and Christ carrying his cross,
"For us men and for our salvation".*

This window was dedicated to Mr Lorne Campbell of Peaton, an elder in this church, and presented by his widow. He and his wife walked from Peaton House and back every Sunday, a distance of some eight miles over the moors. Mr Campbell was factor to the Duke of Argyll when he and Princess Louise were resident at Rosneath Castle. It immediately emphasises the strong Campbell and rural connections which have been characteristic of this area throughout its history. Directly below this window was the Argyll pew regularly occupied by the Duke and Duchess when they were resident at Rosneath. The Duke's signature scrawled on the pew has been preserved.

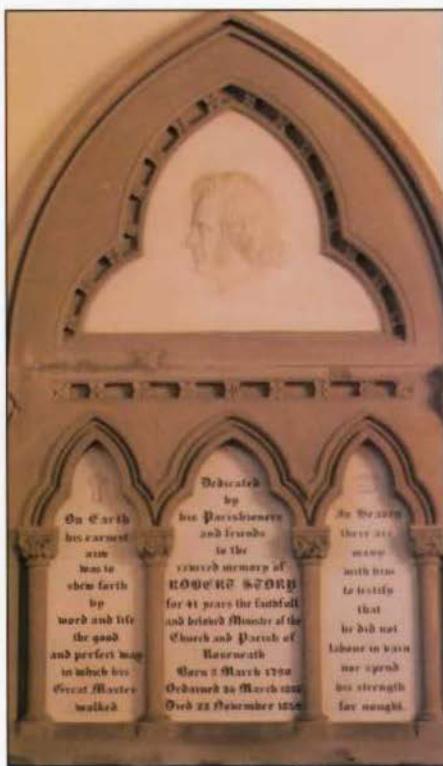
The second window, on the right was installed in memory of Dr Robert Herbert Story, minister from 1860 to 1887. It was dedicated on 24th October 1908 having been donated by his friends throughout the Church of Scotland. Robert Story was a well loved and forward looking minister

who left to become Professor of Ecclesiastical History and ultimately became Principal of Glasgow University. The theme of the window is appropriately,

"Zeal for thy house has eaten me up"



R.H.Story Memorial Window

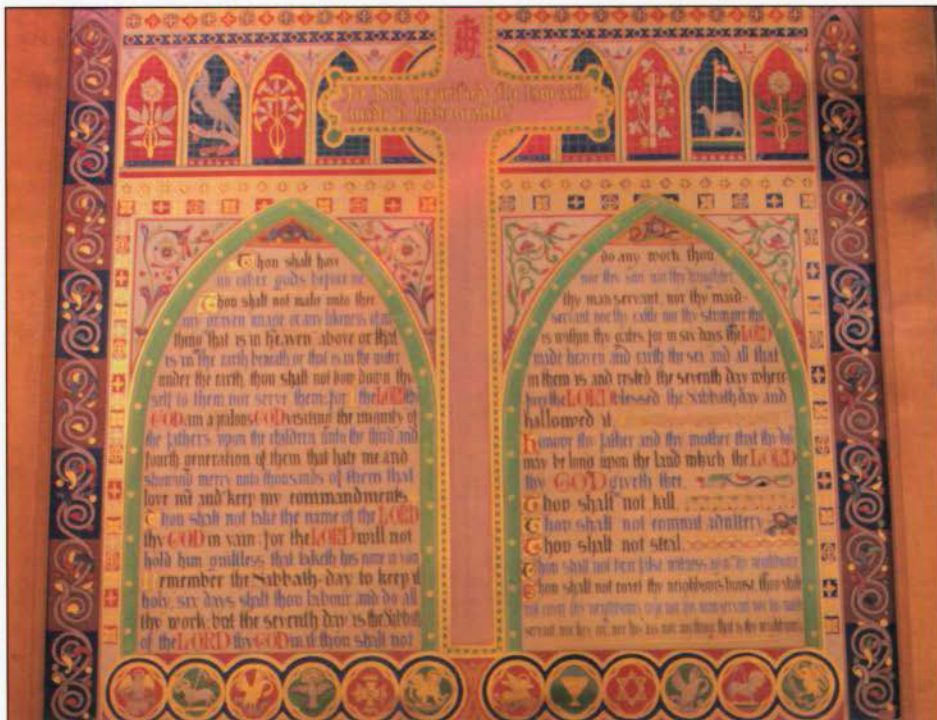


Robert Story Memorial Sculpture

This is illustrated by temple scenes of Christ ejecting the moneychangers from the holy place and then shows him teaching the people in their place. At the apex of the window is the burning bush – emblem of the Church of Scotland.

Throughout Dr.Story's years at Rosneath, church and manse were centres of social and theological debate in Scotland and many renowned intellectuals visited here. Adjacent is the **Robert Story Memorial Sculpture** the work of William Brodie, RSA, and erected in 1861 to honour his father whose inspiration and determination led to the building

of this church which replaced the building surrounded by the old graveyard further up The Clachan. Dr.Story's grave can be seen close to the wall in the Old Graveyard.



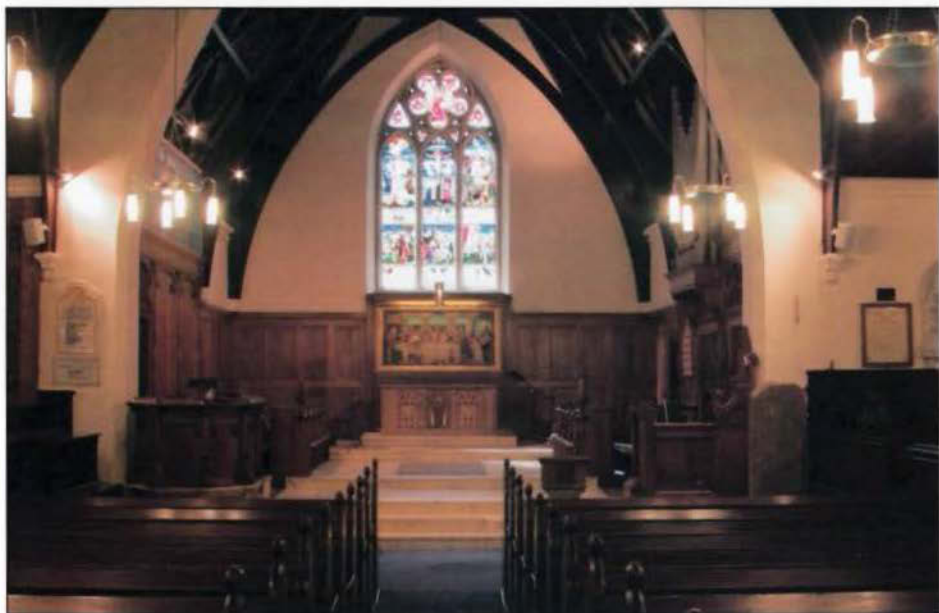
The Illuminated Panel

The Illuminated Panel, surrounded by a highly decorative border of ecclesiastical symbols and listing the Ten Commandments, on the side wall, was a gift from the Dowager Duchess of Argyll in 1915 in memory of her husband and son, the eighth and ninth Dukes. It is by the artist, W. Muirhead, RSA, and replaces an earlier one which was situated behind the communion table in the church before the 1894 renovations when it was irrevocably damaged.

The Chancel

The oak pulpit with its fine carving was gifted by Mr and Mrs David Donaldson of Cochno, in memory of their three children Kathleen, David and Robert. At its base is **The Lintel Stone** which belonged to the old

castle of Rosneath. It is carved with the Argyll family motto "ne /obliviscaris" and bears the monogram A.V.C – M.D of Archibald Victor Campbell and his wife Margaret Douglas. Archibald was first and only Marquis of Argyll. The date is 1624.



The Chancel

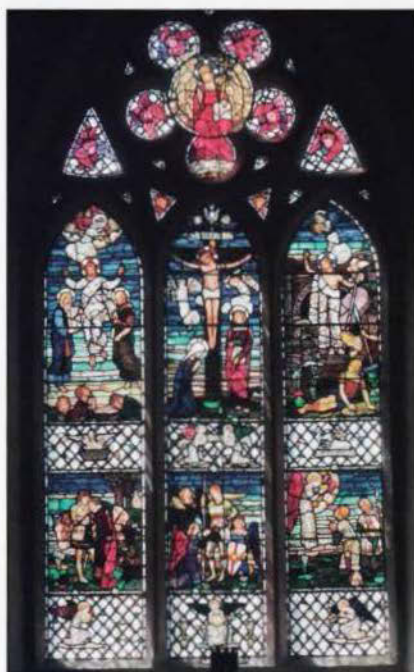
Standing at the chancel steps we look back to the large and beautiful **Window**, on the east wall gifted to the church in memory of the Rev. John McLeod Campbell. This window was installed in 1873 by the Glasgow stained glass artists, Clayton and Bell "as a gift of his friends in record of their love and reverence." It is to the credit of Dr.Story and the parish of Rosneath that Dr.McLeod Campbell was made welcome here when shunned by the church at large and driven out of his parish at Rhu for the publication of his book, "The Nature of the Atonement ", and the preaching of his belief that salvation and the atoning love of Christ were freely available for all and not just a certain elect. The central window shows Christ suffering in the Garden of Gethsemane and the outer two depict the texts,

"I am the Bread of Life" and "Behold I stand at the door and knock".

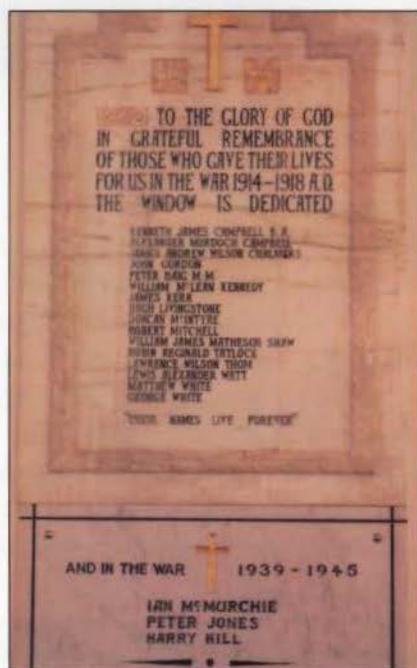
These themes are a most suitable memorial to a minister who risked everything for his belief in the universal love of God. Dr. McLeod Campbell made his home at Achnashie, Clynder, and became a member of St. Modan's where he sat in the front seat of the south transept. He is buried in the old graveyard.

The Small Window, alongside also by Clayton and Bell, and showing Christ walking on the water, was placed in memory of his son, Captain McLeod Campbell, who was drowned at sea in 1888 and whose grave can be seen close to his father's.

Turning round towards the communion table we view the **War Memorial Window** erected in 1921 by the artist Stephen Adams whose work is much admired in some of the Glasgow City churches. The window was funded by a gift of one hundred guineas from Princess Louise, in order to obviate the need for a sale of work, and the rest was raised spontaneously. It was dedicated on 18th December 1921 by the then Moderator of the General Assembly. The following description comes from a local press report of that occasion.



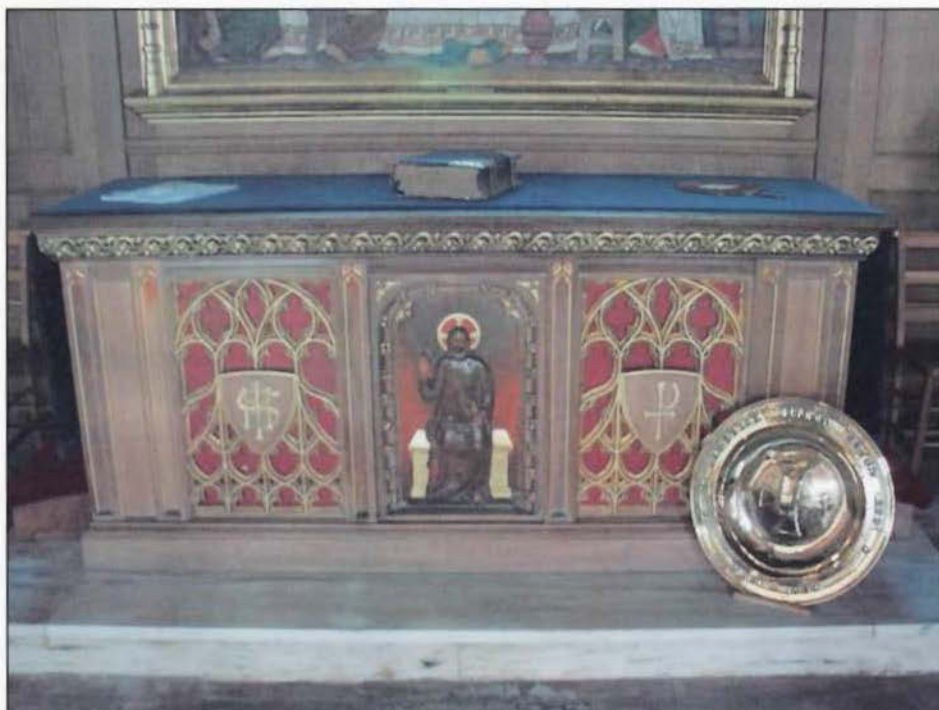
The War Memorial Window



The Marble Tablet

The subject is "The Glory of Sacrifice" and this theme can be traced throughout the window. Our Lord's Transfiguration, his Crucifixion, and his resurrection are beautifully depicted in the three centre lights. The transfiguration scene, the subject of the left hand light, teaches the lesson, that without the cross, the Saviour could not have attained His victory. The centre light shows our Lord upon the cross. Mary and John are seen on either side. The serpent, the symbol of evil entwines itself around the foot of the cross. Two white robed angels hover in the background, while above, the Dove is upraised; symbol of divine recognition of Christ's holiness. The right hand light depicts Christ rising by sheer spirituality out of the tomb. Death could not hold Him. Two soldiers, who keep guard, shade their eyes before the searching light of His purity. The risen Christ, all victorious, is the theme of the small circular light, which crowns the whole window, and which sums up the thought of this upper section: - "He endured the Cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." But as this window has been erected to commemorate the sacrifice of our brave brothers of this parish, who laid down their lives in the Great War in Christ's cause - for righteousness, freedom and brotherhood - it is only fitting that the example of their sacrifice and its reward should be given appropriate expression, and this we find in the lower panels. In the left hand light a young mail-clad knight bids farewell to his mother; behind him stands his horse patiently waiting, and in the background, through the trees, looms his home. The central panel depicts a young knight preparing for the fight. Angels are seen in the act of putting on his armour. One holds his spear, another his shield, while another buckles on his belt. "Put on the whole armour of God" is the lesson. The right hand panel illustrates the text - "Be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." A young soldier kneels by the side of his dying comrade, before whom an angel appears, holding in her hand the crown of life. In the small section which divide the lower and upper panels there is on the left, the Pelican, and on the right the Lamb - symbols of sacrifice.

Wreathes are laid below this window each Remembrance Sunday and the names of those from the area who lost their lives in the two World Wars are recalled on the **Marble Tablet** by the chancel step. Another example of Stephen Adam's work can be seen in the Memorial chapel (accessible through the door behind the pulpit).



The Communion Table

Below this window stands the **Communion Table** placed in the church in 1896 by members of the congregation as a memorial to a devoted elder, John Mclean, who died in the USA while visiting his son. The central panel shows the Lord Jesus holding the Communion Cup. The table was enlarged and embellished by the Reverend Alexander Grant and his brothers and sisters in memory of their mother who died in January 1933. The Reverend Grant also gave the large chair standing nearby in memory of his wife, Agnes Brydon MacKendrick who died in 1925.

Until 1984, when they were acquired by the National Museum of Antiquities and the Huntley house Museum, Rosneath possessed **The Mossman Cups** two of the oldest communion cups of Scottish silver in existence. They were the work of John Mossman, a member of a celebrated family of Edinburgh goldsmiths, in the sixteenth century and were made in 1585, as is evidenced by the fact they bear his stamp both as a goldsmith and as the Deacon Convenor of the Goldsmiths of Edinburgh, an office he held that year.



The Reredos

Behind the Communion Table is **The Reredos**. This painted wooden carving is an original work of art showing the moment Christ blesses the bread at the Last Supper, unusually with Christ seated at the end of the table. Several of the disciples can be identified – Andrew with his arms folded like the saltire, Judas with the money bag and having spilt the salt (a symbol of bad luck) is already buckling his sandal and unable to meet his Master's eye, and Thomas questioning as usual with an upturned finger. It is fun to try and identify some of the others. This work was designed by Meredith Williams, carved from two planks of oak in low relief by John Sime and painted by Thomas Good. The artist also designed the frieze at the National War Memorial in Edinburgh Castle. The Reredos was installed in 1931 as Princess Louise's personal tribute to her husband and father-in-law the 9th and 8th Dukes of Argyll and was dedicated at a private service on 8th October by Rev.A.B.Grant.

The Brass Alms Plate standing by the communion table was presented by Mrs Hilda Warr in memory of her husband, Alfred.

The Chair behind the communion table was given by the Kirk Session in memory of the Session Clerk, William Calderwood, who died 24th September 2003. Willie was a lifelong member of the church, an elder for

over thirty years and session clerk for twenty-two of them. The chair was dedicated by the Rev.Malcolm Wright at the re-opening of the church on May 23rd 2004.

The wooden **Flower Stands** which flank the communion table were presented in 1966 by Mrs Fletcher of Ferry Inn cottage in memory of her mother and sister. These are always in use as week by week dedicated arrangers make sure the beauty of the church is enhanced with flowers. The church has also played host to several Flower Festivals.

The **Chancel Light** with cross was gifted by Rev.A.B.Grant in memory of his father Colonel A.B.Grant.



Queen Victoria's Bible

Also nearby is **Queen Victoria's Bible**. This Bible had been Queen Victoria's gift to her daughter Princess Louise, who placed it in the church in thanks for the coffin of Duke of Argyll resting in the church overnight on its way to the Argyll Burial Ground at Kilmun, May 10th 1912. It was always placed on the Communion Table until 2001 when security demands meant it had to be encased in an adjacent spot. The casing for the bible was the gift of Mrs Margaret Taylor. The pedestal on which it stands was designed and created by Mr Timothy Beilby.

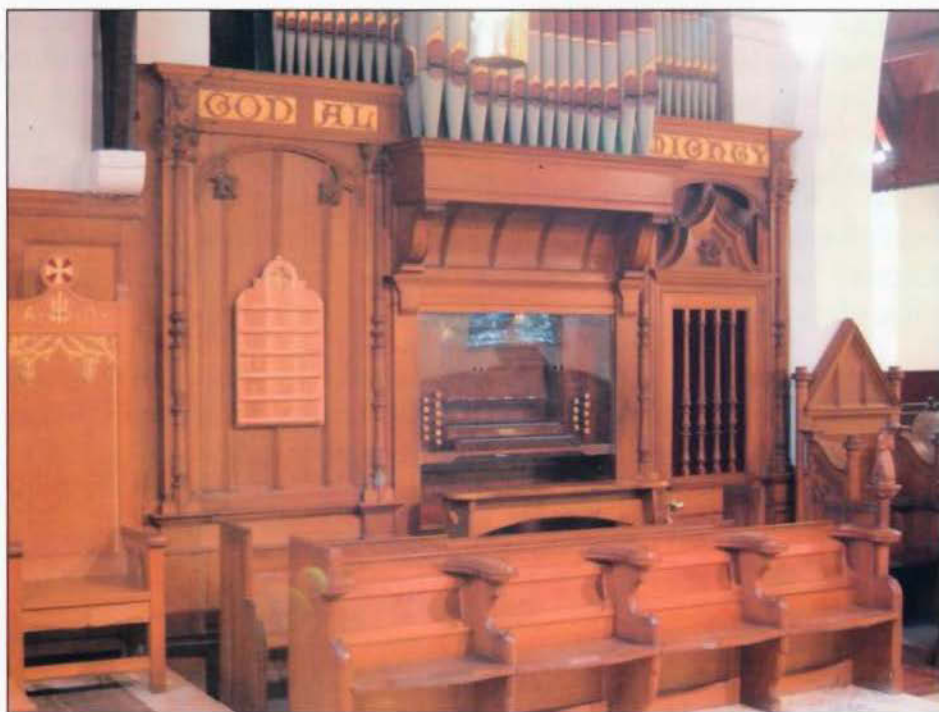
During the 1894 renovation the oak panelling and choir stalls together with the font, pulpit, lectern and prayer desk were put in place. The work was funded by a very major church bazaar a three day event in Helensburgh - and also by substantial gifts from members of the congregation.

A **small brass tablet** on one of the choir stalls commemorates the service rendered to the church by Mr Daniel Irving who was a member of the choir for seventy years.

Beside the minister's prayer desk is **The Beast** - a pulpit stone- one of three or four on which rested the high and very ornate pulpit of the Celtic church, dating well before the Reformation in Scotland and therefore is very ancient. In the mid to later part of the twentieth century it was unearthed in the grounds of Kildarden House nearby and rested on the hearth of the drawing room there until the death of Mr Neil Rutherford in July 1998 when it was brought into the church for his funeral service and has remained there since, as he had himself requested.



The Beast

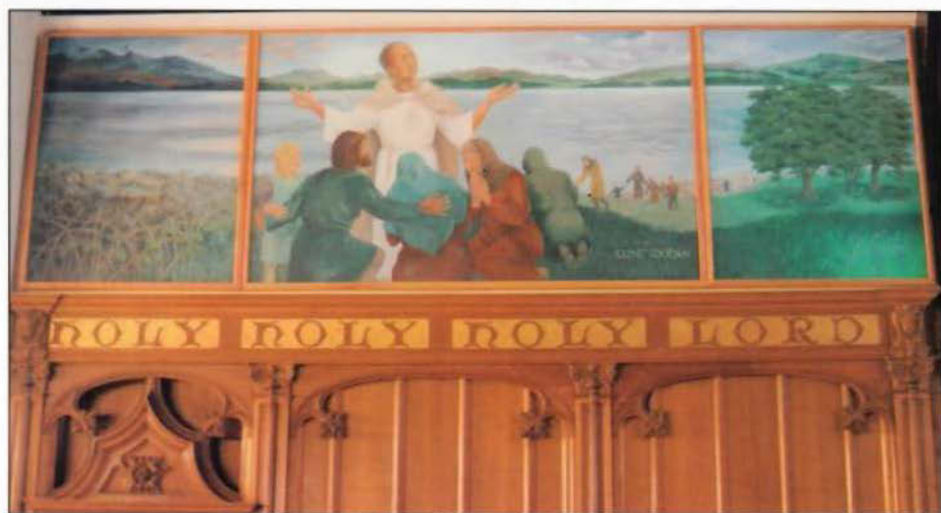


The Organ

The Organ, a tracker action pipe organ by Messrs Hill of London, was commissioned on June 1st 1873 and is the first pipe organ to have been installed in a church in the presbytery of Dumbarton. The organ was extended and moved to its present site in 1894. Work has been carried out on it over the years and it remains in an excellent state. In 1975 it was taken out so that the building could be treated for dry rot and it was found to be in excellent condition needing only a clean and no repairs or alterations. It still remains a major force in Sunday worship.

Music has always played a major part in worship in Rosneath. There are records of people travelling long distances to hear the organ in the early years of the twentieth century. There was a well-established Music Group in the 1980s and after the linkage, a youth orchestra with members from both Rosneath and Craigrownie, gave concerts and played at special services.

In the chancel floor there is a large **Bronze Memorial to Alfred Warr** who was minister of Rosneath for almost thirty years and during whose ministry the church was extensively renovated. It was donated by his family.



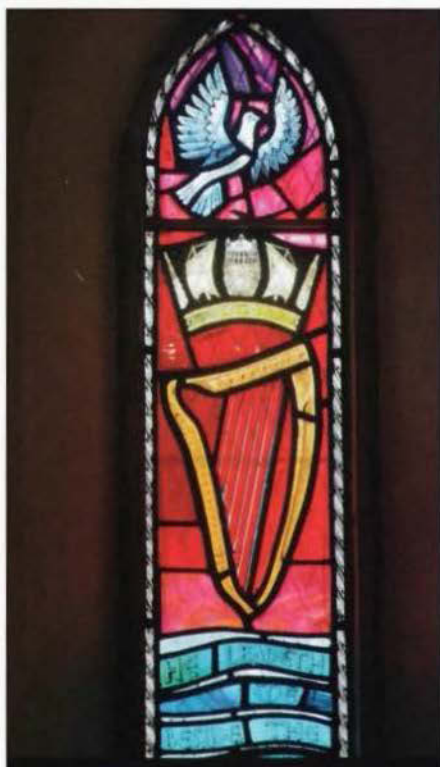
The Arnott Mural

Above the choir stalls is **The Arnott Mural** depicting St.Modan forming a Christian Community on the shores of the Gareloch. It was a gift of the late Merricks Arnott who wished to place a memorial to his wife, Eileen Jean Arnott, in each of the churches in which he had served as minister. He saw the mural completed to his satisfaction in the studio of Mary R. Ainsworth, but unfortunately he died before it was dedicated at a service to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Friends of St.Modan's Society in September 1995. The artist advised,

"The mural is actually painted in acrylic paint, not oil, speed of drying was a consideration and it is wipeable with care"

In the north wall by the communion table is a **Memorial Window** created by Cear McCartney. This unexpected gem is the most recent addition to the glass and was gifted by Mrs Margaret Taylor and installed in 1996 in memory of her husband, Hugh Taylor. It celebrates the contribution made by Mr Taylor to the music and worship of St.Modan's.

The principal motif of the design is the crowned harp and a quotation from Ps.23, *"He leadeth me beside the still waters"* to symbolise the psalms of King David.The harp used was depicted on St.Moyne's shrine in Ireland. The crown is based on the naval crown on the heraldic achievement of HMS Hawkins, a cruiser on which Mr H.Taylor served during the Second World War.



Memorial window



St.Modan's Stone

The rope border, another naval reference derived from the Hawkins achievement symbolises hope and security in the Lord.

The dove serves as a triple symbol;

- 1) The Holy Spirit – paraclete and creative spirit.
- 2) St.Columba - whose follower, Modan, founded the first kirk on the shore of the Gareloch.
- 3) The bird is known as God's first musician.

The Brass Lectern situated at the chancel steps commemorates the long connection with the church of the Misses Isabella and Eliza Campbell of Glengair and is the work of Jockel and Son of Edinburgh. It was regilded in 2001 by the family of the late James and Isa Vernal, in memory of their parents, who had served the church in various roles over many years. The curtain which hangs over the door of the chapel and new offering bags were also gifted by the Vernal family at this time. The pulpit falls and Book Marks were donated by the Guild to mark the third millennium.

They and the matching Communion Table cloth, which was donated anonymously at this point, are the work of Mrs Jean Yuille, a member of the congregation.

Nearby is **The Baptismal Font**. It was presented by Dr and Mrs Carnachan of Laurel Lodge, Clynder in memory of their three sons, one of whom, Gordon, was drowned in the Gareloch off Gullybridge in August 1884.

St.Modan's Stone There seems little doubt that it dates from the seventh century and marked the place of Modan's grave. The stone was missing for many centuries but found in 1880 four feet below the surface in the old graveyard to the west of the ruined church. It was erected on its east window but was brought into the present church by Mrs de Bois MacLaren, for protection in 1925. In 1996 it was moved forward from its position against the wall by Stirling Stone to make it free standing. The mirror and lighting were installed so that the posterior of the stone could be viewed. The cost of the entire work was met by the Brady Family as a memorial to the late Frank Brady, a local resident.

The stone is described in *"Early Christian Monuments of Scotland."* Joseph Anderson and J. Romilly Allen

It is a cross-slab of indurated claystone, 5 feet 10 inches high by 1 foot 8 inches wide by 6 inches thick, sculptured on four faces thus –

Front – In the middle and extending full length of the slab, is a cross ornamented (in the centre of the head) with a single spiral, and (on the arms and shaft) with an irregular six-cord plait having double beaded bands.

Back – in the middle, and extending nearly to the bottom of the slab, is a cross standing on a rectangular base. The cross is unornamented.

The background of the cross is divided into four panels containing (1) on the left of the top arm, a square key-pattern; (2) on the right of the top arm, sculpture defaced; (3) on the left of the shaft interlaced-work; and (4) on the right of the shaft, interlaced work.

The North Transept

Nearby in the north transept you will see **The Burgerhuis Bell** The casting is very smooth with an attractive decoration above the inscription which reads *Ian burgerhuis me fecit 1610.soli dei Gloria*. It was ordered in response to the 1561 Buke of Discipline where John Knox urged

"that every Church must have a bell to convocat the people together"

In obedience, the congregation at Rosneath obtained this first Post-Reformation bell in Dunbartonshire. The ornate belfry on the old church was erected in 1610 to house the Burgerhuis Bell. It was removed from the 1780 church to the present one in 1853 and in 1907 was replaced by the bell currently in use. It was made in 1610 by Ian Burgerhuis of Holland (Zeeland, Dutch province Middle burg), who supplied 34 bells to Scottish churches in early 17th century and is one of the earliest post-Reformation church bells in Scotland. This bell rang out over the Gareloch noting the highpoints of alarms and celebrations for over 300 years. It reputedly called the locals to the Duke of Argyll's cause in the Jacobite Rebellion of 1715. The metal finally became too thin at the point of contact. We read in the session minute of August 11th 1907:



The Burgerhuis Bell

"The Old Church Bell which had done duty for 300 years rang out its last call to service on Sunday the 16th June and on the 30th of the same month the new Bell gave its first summons. In the course of his sermon Rev. Alfred Warr dedicated it " to the service of God".

It is believed that this is the source of the bell mentioned by Sir Walter Scott in his novel, "Heart of Midlothian".

The two windows in the north transept represent the ancient and modern in this splendid collection of stained glass.

On the left is **The Oliphant Window** the first window to be installed in the church in 1862, the artist being A.Maitland. Originally it was located behind the communion table but was moved in 1920 to make way for the War Memorial Window. The window was gifted by Mrs Oliphant a renowned Victorian authoress who was a frequent visitor to Rosneath Manse and whose husband was an elder of the church. It is dedicated to the memory of her daughter Margaret, who died while holidaying in Rome. The theme of the window is Jesus the Lamb of God and the three sections show Jesus with little children, Jesus - "*the lamb being slain*" in the crucifixion, and Jesus as the Good Shepherd - "*Jesus shall gather the lambs with his arms*"



The Oliphant window



The McLaren window

The last window, **The McLaren Window**, is by the eminent stained glass worker, Gordon Webster, and was installed in May 1976 as a gift from Miss Doris de Bois McLaren. Its theme is Jesus' call to the fishermen, Peter and Andrew. The Scout badge at the apex of the window gives a clue to its history. It commemorates Mr. William McLaren, a regular worshipper at Rosneath who bequeathed his estate, Gilwell Park, to his friend Lord Baden-Powell for use as a residential training centre for the Scouting movement. The colours of the 1st Rosneath Boy Scouts and Girl Guides on the Peninsula are laid up close by. These were presented in 1913 and 1928 by HRH Princess Louise. The Colours were dedicated in the church and carried with pride over many years. On special occasions, such as District Parades, the Minister and congregation would warmly welcome around 250 Cubs, Scouts, Brownies and Guides to the morning service in the church.

The Memorial Chapel

In 1957, during the ministry of Rev. George Stevenson, the spacious Session House was transformed and renamed **The Memorial Chapel**.

It has accommodation for about 50 worshippers. The communion table was the gift of John Bain and nearly all the chairs were donated by the congregation in memory of loved ones. In October 1975 the Session ruled that no further chairs should be donated due to lack of further space.

The cross on the communion table, modelled on St. Modan's tombstone was presented by the Very Rev. Charles L. Warr and Mrs Warr. In June 1958 Mr and Mrs Neil Rutherford gifted two eighteenth century Silver Communion Cups, one to Rosneath and the other to Rhu Church, on the understanding that if either church were closed its cup would be handed over to the remaining church.

Also donated at this point was a two-panel Draught Screen designed and sewn by Miss Janet Neaves of Helensburgh. One panel shows Modan preaching the Gospel on the shore of the Gareloch, above which, in Gaelic lettering, there is the phrase, "Let God be praised"; and on the other panel there is a Viking warship, recalling the fact that the West coast of Scotland was frequently invaded by Norsemen. The ravens are symbolic of war and the lettering is in Runic Script. The Two communion Bread Plates were gifted in 1967 in memory of Mr Lubin Duthie.

The furnishing of the chapel was completed by the gift of a stained glass window, the work of Mr.Charles E.Stewart of Glasgow. The window depicting the Wise Men presenting their gifts to the infant Jesus was donated by Mrs Turnbull in memory of her husband, Stuart Kinderley Turnbull, and daughter, Christian. The Wooden Cross in the Vestry was made to order in Jamaica for the Reverend Dr.John W. Kilpatrick MA BD Ph.D (1911 – 1967) who, on his return from a ministry of eight years at Kingston (Jamaica) was Minister at Garelochhead and Clerk of the Presbytery of Dumbarton. On his retirement, he and Mrs Kilpatrick came to live at Grove Cottage, Clynder. The cross is constructed in three different woods, the little cross in the centre being of candlewood. The cross was presented to this church by his widow, Mrs Jean Kilpatrick, at Easter 1999. Also in the vestry is a small brass replica of the Lord's Supper which was found on the Vestry doorstep carefully wrapped in protective towelling early one Sunday morning

This completes the tour of the interior of Rosneath St.Modan's.

Outside

A journey round the outside shows the newly restored architecture of this unusual country church. On the south wall is a memorial stone of John Sinclair, the original beadle and church officer who was *"an honest man, a faithful friend and a true servitor"*. A short walk up to the old graveyard provides yet more interest. Every stone has a story to tell which throws light on this little - known part of the country.

The Role of the Society of Friends of St.Modan

The Society of the Friends of St.Modan's was founded in 1970 to provide a focus for church members, local friends and people who had moved away from the area and yet wanted to maintain their interest. Its aims were: -

- 1 To unite all those who hold this church in esteem and wish to participate in its preservation, upkeep and enhancement.
- 2.To build and sustain a Fabric Fund for the Church buildings.
- 3.To promote a fuller appreciation of the Church's history, influence and present situation.

These have been more than met over the years. Annually members receive a letter from the Chairman bring them up to date. In return for a donation (minimum still £1 but usually very much more by the member's choice) each member receives a printed card showing a feature of our church in colour on the front with inside a brief description from the current minister. These are treasured by members and there are some who can produce a full set through from 1970 to the present day.

During these thirty years the Friends have contributed well over £40,000 to the fabric of the church including a major contribution to the 2004 restoration, supported by national bodies, local business and the congregation, which aims to bring our A listed church back to its former glory. Looking round the church today the Friends can be thanked for many major repairs. During 1970, their first year, they made a large contribution to the preservation of the organ chamber. They came to the rescue in 1970 when three of the stone crosses blew off the roof, then again in 1990 when the same crosses sustained further damage. Alas, like so many other churches, we are not immune to vandalism and it was the Friends who paid up in 1979 when the windows were broken in the Memorial Chapel and the vestry and they also provided funding for protective screening for the stained glass in 1992. Their major £8000 contribution towards the dry rot in 1998 was impressive evidence to major funding bodies that local interest in our church warranted considerable national backing.

But the Friends have done much more than keep the roof on the building! There was the re-positioning of the north Transept door in 1981 and the provision of the substantial notice board at the gate. This has become a real feature of village life situated by the bus stop and a reminder that there has been a Christian presence in this place ever since Modan arrived in the *Sixth Century AD*. Then there are the interior enhancements such as the cherry velour curtain and pew cushions that comforted the congregation during the 1990s.

The Friends have also taken their educational role very seriously. As early as 1973, during the year of the 120th anniversary of the present church building, they staged "Around and About Rosneath Display of the Treasures of the Peninsula". Some of the valuable items from the church were displayed and much information provided by means of slides, talks,

pictures and cartoons. Afterwards there was tea at the Manse which became a regular event in the life of the Society. The Friends also produced a comprehensive leaflet to explain the Meredith Williams carved reredos, a copy of which can be found on the Communion Table. They were also involved in bringing new people into the church by their support of the Flower Festival in 1978. Further publications include the leaflet on "Noteworthy Features in the Church " and the commitment to keep the Rev.William Meiklejohn's books "St.Modan's Church, Rosneath 1766-1978." and "Rosneath Papers." in print.

And how has all this been achieved? -with tremendous support from the current ministers and Kirk Session and the chairmanship of Dr.Trotter for the first years and then of Miss Betty Mackay until her untimely death in 1996. Tremendous continuity and a wealth of knowledge are provided by the current honorary Vice-President, Mr William Cowan who looked after the funds and membership meticulously for almost twenty years. Then, in addition to the annual subscriptions, funds have been raised by the relentless fund-raising so characteristic of our church as a whole. In 1973 St.Modan's received a visit from the choir of Helensburgh Old and St.Andrew's Parish Church with a wonderfully varied programme. The Fiddlers from Bearsden have been visiting biennially since 1986 and have a loyal following in the village and beyond. 1993 saw a visit from the Dunblane Cathedral Handbell Ringers and the opening of Kildarden Garden firstly under the ownership of Mr Neil Rutherford, a traditional now happily being continued by present owners Mr and Mrs James Rowe, which has meant that people have come from far and wide at Rhododendron time to enjoy the fabulous collection and refresh themselves with tea provided by the Friends in the Church Hall afterwards.

Thus from small beginnings the Society of Friends of St.Modan has done much to ensure that the church is able to maintain its unbroken record of Sunday by Sunday worship by its continuous interest and support of the fabric of the building.

The Ministers at Rosneath

There is no doubt that St.Modan must have been a hard act to follow and the names of many of his successors have been lost over the centuries.

However the Rev. William Meiklejohn carried out a detailed research which will be found in Rosneath Papers. Below is a brief summary of some of his findings and those of James Vernal at a later date.

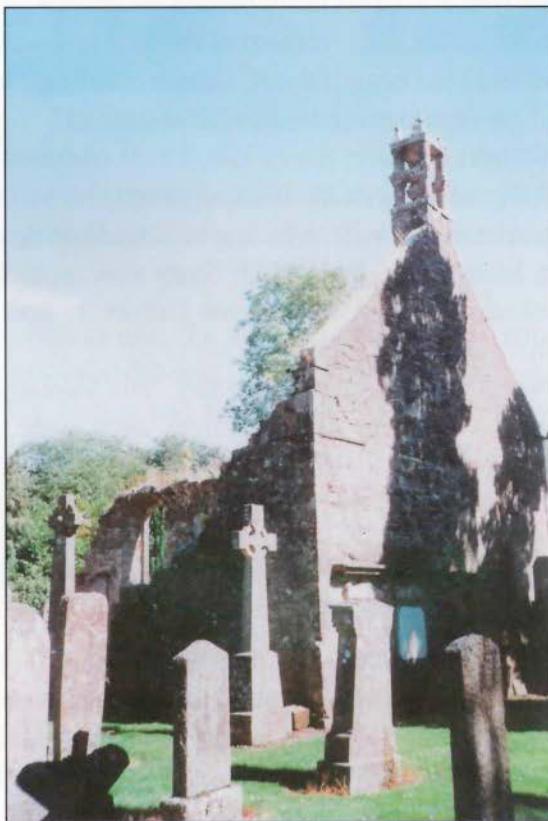
- (C)700 **Modan**, founder of the first church.
1199 **Michael Gilmodyne**
1225 **Richard Small** – Rector
1485 **William - - Chaplain**, Dumbarton Writs.
1515 **Sir John Clerk** - Curate
1545 **John Sclaiter** – Dean of Vicarage, Parsonage, Glebe and House
1565 **Malcolm Steinson** – who had a stipend of 40 Lib (Scots pound?)
1566 **David Colquhoun** - Minister, Dumbarton Writs.
1601 **George McGleis**.
1618 **George Lindsay**
1646 The great influence of Cardross and Rosneath was finally diminished by the splitting of the parish to form that of Rhu. This caused the resignation of the then Minister, **Ewan Cameron**.
1650 **Ninian Campbell** – died 1657.
1663 **A. Gattie** – ejected on account of non-conformity to Episcopacy
1665 **Alexander Cameron** - removed to Balfron,
1682 the Minister, **James Gardiner, (or Gordon)** was obviously a man of principle for he was libelled before Presbytery and ejected for refusing to pray for King William and Queen Mary. Died in 1694
1689 **Robert Campbell** ejected from Rye, Ireland but re-instated in 1690 and left.
1690 **Duncan Campbell** – died in 1707
1709 **Neill Campbell** from Kilmalie, Lochaber was appointed. He left for Renfrew in 1716 and became Principal of Glasgow University in 1728. He was only the first of many Rosneath ministers to achieve high academic distinction.
1719 **Daniel Maclaurin** also from Kilmalie . His name became familiar through his nephew Colin who was a celebrated Mathematician. There were 26 Gaelic families in the parish at this point.
1722 **James Anderson**. He was the father of John who was born in the Old Manse, now Heather Cottage situated opposite the old graveyard further up the Clachan from the present church. John Anderson, Professor of Natural Philosophy, was founder of the

Anderson Institute which today is the oldest foundation of Strathclyde University.

1745 **Matthew Stewart** becomes minister. But history knows him better as a university mathematician at Edinburgh University, who published several well-known theorems. He is reputed to have taught Sir Walter Scott, the well-known novelist.

1748 Less illustrious was **Alexander Duncanson** who was forced to resign in 1763 on the charge of misapplying the poor fund.

1764 **John Kennedy** who died in 1765 and is buried in the churchyard.



The former Church in the old graveyard

1766 saw the appointment of **Dr George Drummond.DD.** In Tales of the Gareloch we read:

Dr Drummond seemed well suited to such a parish as Rosneath. With his jolly easygoing ways, he entered into all the merrymaking, which took place, and these were by no means rare.

Dr Drummond was responsible for the rebuilding of the church in 1780 and he died in 1819 in the 82nd year of his life and 53rd of his ministry. He was described as,

"A gentlemen of high respectability, deep erudition and eminent worth".

His grave can be seen in the old churchyard close to the old church ruin. During his declining years Dr Drummond was assisted by the young **Dr Robert Story** who was finally appointed minister in 1819. In many ways Dr Story is the father of the present church. He was responsible for the building of the new large Victorian Manse (now the private house, Easter Garth) behind the church. He also did much to reform the rather dour worship of the time and was responsible for commissioning the beautiful new church building. Dr Story is buried in the old graveyard close to the manse wall.

1860 **Doctor Robert Herbert Story DD, LL.D** who was born at Rosneath. An account of the life and ministry is well documented in several works by his wife, which give a fascinating account of Victorian Manse life. In 1887 Dr Story was appointed to the Chair of Ecclesiastical History at Glasgow University and where he ultimately became Principal.

1887 **Alfred Warr MA** succeeded Dr Story. His Ministry lasted until 1916 during which time major changes were made to the church. The close proximity of HRH Princess Louise, Duchess of Argyll at Rosneath Castle had a major influence on the church. This time is well documented by his son Dr Charles Warr, in the account, "Alfred Warr of Rosneath," and also in his autobiographical work, "The Glimmering Landscape"

1916 **Alexander Brown Grant MA,BD** was appointed. The long ministry of AB Grant took the congregation through the years of the First World War. Its aftermath and decline in industrial Glasgow led to a decrease in river traffic and hence the influence of Rosneath. Thus the character of the Church began to change.

1939 **Cameron Dunwoodie Ph.D.** ministered from 1939 until 1956 taking the congregation through the years of the Second World War.

1956 **George M Stevenson MA**

1963 **Dr Merricks Arnott.**

1972 **William Meiklejohn. MA**

1979 **T.Forrest Smith**

On the translation of the Rev.T.Forrest Smith to another Charge, the parish of Rosneath was linked with its daughter congregation, Craigrownie (Cove and Kilcreggan). The presbytery service to mark the linking of the two congregations was held in St.Modan's in 1984, and the service to mark the induction of the first minister of the linked Charge was held in Craigrownie Church later that same year.

1984 **Malcolm Wright, L.T.H** served the linked Charge from 1984 until his retirement in June 2003, taking the church into the twenty first century and the point of its restoration.

The 2000 Millennium Restoration

Like any other building, the church dating from 1853 has required continuous maintenance, culminating in the massive restoration project completed in 2004.

Some ten years prior to this, the almost inevitable dry rot was discovered and extensive remedial work was undertaken. The congregation, with some help from funding bodies and the Friends, raised a magnificent £34 000 which left the building rot-free and wind- and water-tight. However, being "A"- listed, it had to be restored to as nearly the original as possible and consultation began to enable this to happen. Archie Richmond of Richmond Architects was appointed. Plans were drawn up and the design team chosen. The main contractors – Hunter and Clark Ltd. – were selected.

The cost of such an enterprise was very considerable so there followed another intensive period of fund raising. Successful applications were made to the Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland and Listed Places of Worship. Other funding bodies also helped. But it was the enthusiasm and dedication of the congregation and Friends of St. Modan's Society that saw the project through to completion. At the outset, Malcolm Wright made it plain that we were embarking on a monumental challenge but one which he was sure could be met. He encouraged us to have fun while doing so – and the diversity of fund raising events ensured that this was the case. By the time St. Modan's was ready for re-dedication on Sunday, May 23rd, 2004, the roof had been repaired with slates which

complemented and blended in with the originals, the walls had been pointed with appropriate material to allow the stone to "breathe", new ironwork and the woodwork had been painted and a landscaped entrance ramp built to replace the steps. Many of the stained glass windows had been removed, cleaned and returned to their places, the stonework having been secured. The walls had been plastered and painted in a light colour sympathetic with the existing beautiful wood and carvings. New light fittings enhanced the upgraded lighting and the heating system had been thoroughly overhauled. Traces of stencilling were found in the roof of the chancel and this was restored. Wall plaques which had been absent during the years of repair and renewal were re-hung and a gift of money was used to purchase pew cushions to match the new carpet and the pulpit falls which were presented at the Millennium.

While anxious to restore St. Modan's Church for the present, the congregation always had the vision to ensure that the unbroken Christian presence on its site would continue into the future.



The 2000 Millennium Restoration
(exterior)



The 2000 Millennium Restoration
(interior)

Acknowledgements

The Church Handbooks

- 1) "St.Modan's Church ,Rosneath" by Rev.William Meiklejohn MA
This gives a very much more detailed history, description and background to the church and can be purchased through the Minister or the Friends of St.Modan Society.
- 2) "Rosneath Papers" by Rev.William Meiklejohn MA
This gives a detailed survey of St.Modan and other areas of the church's history.
Out of print but some copies are available for reference at the church.
- 3) "A short Guide to St.Modan's Church, Rosneath" by Dr John Trotter.
Available for reference in the church.

Books on local history which are available in Helensburgh Reference Library

"Annals of Garelochside"by WC Maughan	1897
"The Book of Dumbartonshire"	1879
"John Smith and Tales of the Gareloch" by MB Paul Bryce	1893
"Rosneath, Past and Present" by WC Maughan	
"Mrs Story, Early and Later Reminiscences" by JL Story	1911
"Principal Story" by his daughters.	
"The Glimmering Landscape" by Charles L. Warr	1960

The Royal Commission on Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland.



PRODUCED BY
LOMONDPRINT LTD
Tel: 01389 758311