

## Parish (Established) Church Timeline

**9th century** *Old kirk dedicated to Ninian*

**1116** *Bishopric of Glasgow founded, whereby Stonehouse continued under the diocese of Glasgow*

**1267** *'Sir Roger, the rector'*

*Earliest recorded association with the church in Stonehouse.*

**1298** *Hugh de Burgo*

*In September, 1298, Edward I made appointments to certain churches in Scotland. 'The King to John de Langeton his Chancellor. Commands... Similar in favour of Hugh de Burgo clerk, to the vacant church of Stonehouse in the diocese of Glasgow'*

**1319** *Unnamed Cleric*

*King Edward II presented persons to several churches in Scotland, and among these was 'Stanhouis', in the diocese of Glasgow*

**1368** *Archibald, Earl of Douglas erected Bothwell Church into a Collegiate Church and mortified the teinds of Stonehouse (Hessildene and Kittymuir) for the upkeep of the three prebendaries in his Collegiate Church. Thereafter, Stonehouse Church would sink to the level of a vicarage, served by vicars supplied from Bothwell, few of the names of which have been preserved. The lands for these vicars lay between the village and the Avon.*

**1557** *Mathew Sandilands*

*Matthew Sandilands was 'notar and curate Stanehouse' in 1557 and earlier. In October of that year he took part in a marriage ceremony of a peculiar nature (when a marriage pall or 'cair claith' was used) whereby Claud Hamilton, son of John and Elizabeth Hamilton was legitimated.*

**1560** William Taylor (*prebendary*) and Robert Hamilton (*prebendary*) William Taylor (*Tailzifer*) held the prebend of Stonehouse in 1560 producing £30 13s. 4d., which he paid a substitute £16 to officiate for him in the Collegiate Church of Bothwell. Robert Hamilton held the prebend of Hezildeane, and the rectory of Torrance.

**1560** Year of the Reformation. Scotland was divided into five districts over which were placed superintendents to look after the spiritual interests of the people. John Willock was appointed to Glasgow and the West district. A number of parishes were combined and placed under the charge of a minister; and under him a class of probationer styled readers, one being appointed to each parish to read common prayer and scriptures until such times as a suitable minister could be found.

**1560** William Hamilton  
*First reader in the parish*

**1561** Vicarage given up by the provost of Bothwell

**1565** Sir Thomas Wilson

*Sir Thomas Wilson was Vicar of Stonehouse in 1565 and 'with consent of the provost and prebendaries of the Collegiate Church of Bothwell, who were patrons of the said vicarage', he rented out the vicarage lands to John Hamilton of Brumhill.*

**1565** Thomas Neilsoun

*In February 1565-6 he was styled perpetual vicar. 'The King and Queen confirm D. Thome Neilsoun as perpetual vicar of the parish church of Stonehouse with consent of John Hamilton prepositus (provost) of the Church of Bothwell'.*

**1571** John Rankine

*Reader*

**1574** Alexander Hamilton

*Translated to Strathaven in 1576 as first ordained protestant minister, later taking up ministry of Glassford in 1580*

**1579** Andrew Hamilton

*Reader previously officiating in Dalsersf and later returning to Dalsersf*

**1585** Rev. Robert Darroch

*First ordained protestant minister in Stonehouse Parish, later translated to Kilbride in 1586*

**1586** Rev. Archibald Normand (b. 1563 d. 1644)

*Translated to Strathaven around 1589. In 1587 Sir James Hamilton of Crawfordjohn had to ask pardon for striking Rev. Normand.*

**1591** Rev. Andrew Law (d. c1639)

*Translated to Glassford in 1593, he was possibly related to Margaret Law (buried Stonehouse Graveyard 1678) the wife of John Nisbet (Covenanter)*

**1593** Rev. Luke Stirling

**1595** Rev. Alexander Thomson (m. Anna Duncan, d. c1641)  
*Ministered until c1630 holding prebendary of Hezildene, within the collegiate of Bothwell Church*

**1625** Rev. James Johnston (m. Helen Hamilton, d. c1659)

*Assistant to Rev. Thomson in 1625, translating to Monkland in 1626 before returning in 1630*

**1652** Rev. Thomas Charteris (b. c1626, m. Anna Hamilton, d. 1656) *Translated to Kilbride in 1654*

**1656** Rev. John Oliphant (1st m. Jean Campbell, d. 1698)

*Deprived of living by Acts of Glasgow 1662, when more than 400 Church of Scotland ministers were cast out of their charges for conscience sake*

**1685** Rev. Angus Macintosh

**1687** Rev. John Oliphant (2nd m. Jean Hamilton in 1694)

*Translated to Carluke in 1691 and later to Carstairs in 1693*

**1696** Rev. Archibald Foyer (b. c1668, m. Agnes Goodlet (b. 1668, d. 1734) d. 1710) *Buried in old kirk cemetery*

**1713** Rev. John Scott (b. 1683, m. Ann Sommerville (d. 1774), d. 1759) *Buried in old kirk cemetery*

**1734** *Restoration work carried out on Old Kirk*

**1756** Robert Watson appointed “beddal, grave-maker and kirk-officer”

**1760** Rev. James Muir(ore)head (b. 1732, d. 1800)  
*First minister in the new kirk, he wrote statistical account of village in 1790*

**1761** Manse built at Glebe replacing older building, later upgraded in 1781, 1806, 1816 and 1905.

**1772** New Kirk built in New Street accommodating 600 people, at a cost of £450. An article from the Hamilton Advertiser in 1895 suggests the building was erected sometime between 1760-1771. The bell was removed from the belfry in 1929 and held by Mr MacLeod until 1943 when it was removed to Dundee. The old church subsequently became a hosiery factory, S. A. headquarters and meal mill.

**1790** Statistical Account states there are around 140 dissenters in total, of which 4 families are Cameronians, 5 families-Antiburghers, 21 families-Presbytery or Relief and 5 families are Burghers

**1801** Rev. William Stark (b. 1772)  
*Formerly minister in Airdrie, later translated to Dirleton in 1805*

**1806** Rev. Daniel Wilkie (b. 1781, d. 1838)  
*Originator of the first Stonehouse Auxiliary Bible Society in 1813. Translated to Yester in 1821, thence to New Greyfriars in 1829 where he was later laid to rest.*

**1822** Rev. Hugh Dewar (from Fenwick, b. 1794, m. Jessie Henderson 1822, d. 1861) *Buried in old kirk cemetery*

**1836** Statistical Account by Rev. Hugh Dewar states 360 families attend the established church and around 120 families are dissenters or seceders

**1861** Rev. James Dunn (from Doune, b. 1821, d. 1887)  
*Buried in old kirk cemetery*

**1866** Stonehouse Auxiliary Bible Society formed

**1887** Rev. James Wyper Wilson (d.1925)  
*Last minister of the Old Parish Church in New Street*

**1893** *Girls' Brigade formed*

**1894** *Stonehouse Boys' Brigade formed. The Boys' Brigade was founded by William Alexander from Thurso in 1883, making the Stonehouse company among the oldest in the country.*

**1896** *Memorial stone laid for new church in Vicars Road by Major-General Lockhart*

**1897** *Parish Church officially opened*

**1922** *Installation of pipe organ, donated by the congregation in memory of those who gave their lives in the Great War*

**1926** *Rev. Thomas McCaughan*

*Resigned in 1935 due to ill health*

**1929** *Union of the Churches. The kirk session agreed in recognition of the event to rename the Parish Church as St.Ninian's Parish Church of Scotland, Stonehouse. Church bell was removed from Old Parish Church in New Street.*

**1934** *Installation of electric lights completed*

**1935** *Rev. Hugh R. Munro*

*Received call from Bo'ness as an assistant to Rev.*

*McCaughan before becoming his successor. He received a call from another church in 1943.*

**1944** *Rev. George K. Wood*

*Received call from New Galloway. Accepted call from another church in 1946 to facilitate the union of St.Ninian's and Hamilton Memorial Church.*

**1946** *Union of Hamilton Memorial Church and St. Ninian's Parish Church. United charge renamed Stonehouse Church of Scotland. United Guild of Stonehouse Church of Scotland formed.*

**1947** *Rev. Robert C. Pollock*

*Served as Army Chaplain during war. Accepted call to St.Andrew's, Falkirk in 1951*

**1951** *Rev. W.A.J. Gardiner*

*Served as Interim Moderator until new minister appointed*

**1952** Rev. William R.F. McGhie (d. 1968)  
*Served as Army Chaplain during war. Accepted call for missionary work in Jamaica in 1957. Undertook research project of tracing the history of the church in Stonehouse from 1560 to 1956.*

**1954** *Boys' Brigade re-established after lapse of nearly half a century*

**1955** *New hall opened incorporating stained glass windows from Hamilton Memorial Church*

**1956** Rev. W.A.J. Gardiner  
*Served as Interim Moderator until new minister appointed*

**1956** *Parish Church Woman's Guild formed*

**1957** Rev. Alexander Gemmell (d.1984)  
*Appointed Clerk to the Presbytery of Hamilton in 1980*

**1958** *'Mens' Club' formed, meeting in Adult Education Centre in Green Street*

**1959** *Young Woman's Fellowship formed*

**1960** *400th anniversary of Reformation*

**1961** *Opening ceremony of new church gates*

**1962** *AGM of congregation agreed renaming of church as St.Ninian's Parish Church*

**1970** *New small hall opened, dedicated to Rev. Alexander Gemmell. The armorial bearings of Hamilton of Raploch, who resided at Patrickholm incorporated into the vestibule, gifted by Mrs Euphemia Hamilton of Crofthead farm. (formerly embedded above the entrance door to Patrickholm House)*

**1971** *Twelve hundredth anniversary of dedication of the Parish to St. Ninian*

**1981** Rev. C. Raymond Vincent  
*Retired in 1992 to New Galloway*

**1992** Rev. Tom Nelson

**1996** *Centenary Year in which three services were screened by Scottish Television*

**2002** Rev. Tom Nelson receives call to Netherlee Church,  
Glasgow

**2003** Rev. Paul George Reid Grant