

# The Cumberland News, March 5, 1918. ST. ANDREW'S, GRETNA DEDICATION CEREMONY

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The second stage in the scheme of the church development for the new township of Gretna was reached on Saturday afternoon, when the new Presbyterian Church was dedicated. The Episcopal Church at the North end of the Central Avenue was consecrated a short time ago, and in a very short time the township will also be provided with a Roman Catholic Church. Towards each of these three churches the Government have voted £4,000.

The Presbyterian Church, which was used for the first time on Saturday, is situated at the junction of the Central Avenue and Loanwath Road, in the centre of the new township and on a slight eminence giving a commanding view of the upper reaches of the Solway, backed by the plains around Carlisle, with the Cumberland Mountains in the background. Mr Courtenay M. Crickmer, F.R.I.B.A., Gretna, furnished the design, which has been skilfully carried out by Messrs Sykes and Sons, contractors, Essex Street, London. Without the furniture, the building has cost £5,377, towards which, as stated, the Government make a grant of £4,000. To supplement this grant over £2,000 has been provided out of the funds of the Church of Scotland and of the United Free Church of Scotland, for the members of both of which persuasions the new building will be used jointly. In a sense the church is therefore at present unique. It is symbolic of a union of Churches, and it is stated that it will soon be followed by the erection of another on similar lines in Rosyth.

The new building at Gretna has been named St. Andrew's Church. It is very simply designed as a war building, depending for effect on broad dignified treatment. It is built throughout of brick. The Nave, which is 35 feet wide by 86 feet long, is divided from narrow passage aisles by six circular archways. At the end of the chancel is a circular apse. In addition there are two transepts, organ space, vestry, etc. Over the West entrance is a gallery. The ceiling is plastered with slightly enriched beams. There is seating accommodation for about 580 persons. Outside the walls are roughcast, with a pan tile roof and a massive tower. It is hoped at some future date to raise funds to

provide a bell and a pipe organ. A heating apparatus has been installed by Messrs Mackenzie and Moncur, Edinburgh, and the interior is lighted by electricity. Mr W. Denholm has been clerk of works during the period of construction.

There was a large congregation at Saturday's dedication service, which was conducted by the Right Rev. Dr D. McKichan, LL.D., Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Free Church of Scotland, assisted by the Rev. Dr Thomas Martin, convener of the Church of Scotland Home Mission Committee, and attended by the members of the Presbytery of Annan and of the United Free Presbytery of Annandale, with the Rev. David Mackie of Partick, Glasgow, the latter being for the present the Presbyterian minister in charge at Gretna Township.

The hymns sung were "The Churches one Foundation" and "Christ made the sure Foundation" and as the anthem the choir, with Miss Sedgewick as organist, gave an effective rendering of "O how amiable are Thy dwellings."

In a discourse the Moderator of the United Free Church of Scotland said that the quest of all ages had been after a living God. The grotesque image worshipped by the Hindu seemed to make God real to the Hindu mind, but it was Jesus Christ that made God real to us. There were times in the experience of men and nations when God seemed, as it were, to disappear. At this time of stress how often had we heard men say they had lost their hold on God? And how often had we ourselves not also felt as if God had gone out of our experience and that we were living terribly alone? It was Jesus Christ who suffered and died and rose triumphant over death and sin who made God real to us and enabled us to cling to Him even in our darkest hours. Was it not with this hope and assurance that we were able to hear with patience the trials that were eating into the life of our nation? The present age had seen self-sacrifice on a scale such as had never been witnessed before. They were in a tove which had been created by this war, everything around reminded them that we were a nation at war-and what thoughts came to them when they contemplated these things? Did they not call up before their mind's the vision of our noble youth eager to join in the struggle for the right, the true and the pure, who did not count their lives dear to themselves, who listened to the nations call and heard in that call the call of God? In the days in which we lived human nature had gained in true nobility, and we were prouder of it when we saw so much self-sacrifice and service. The service closed with the singing of the National Anthem.