

# Ancient Bible discovered in Annan

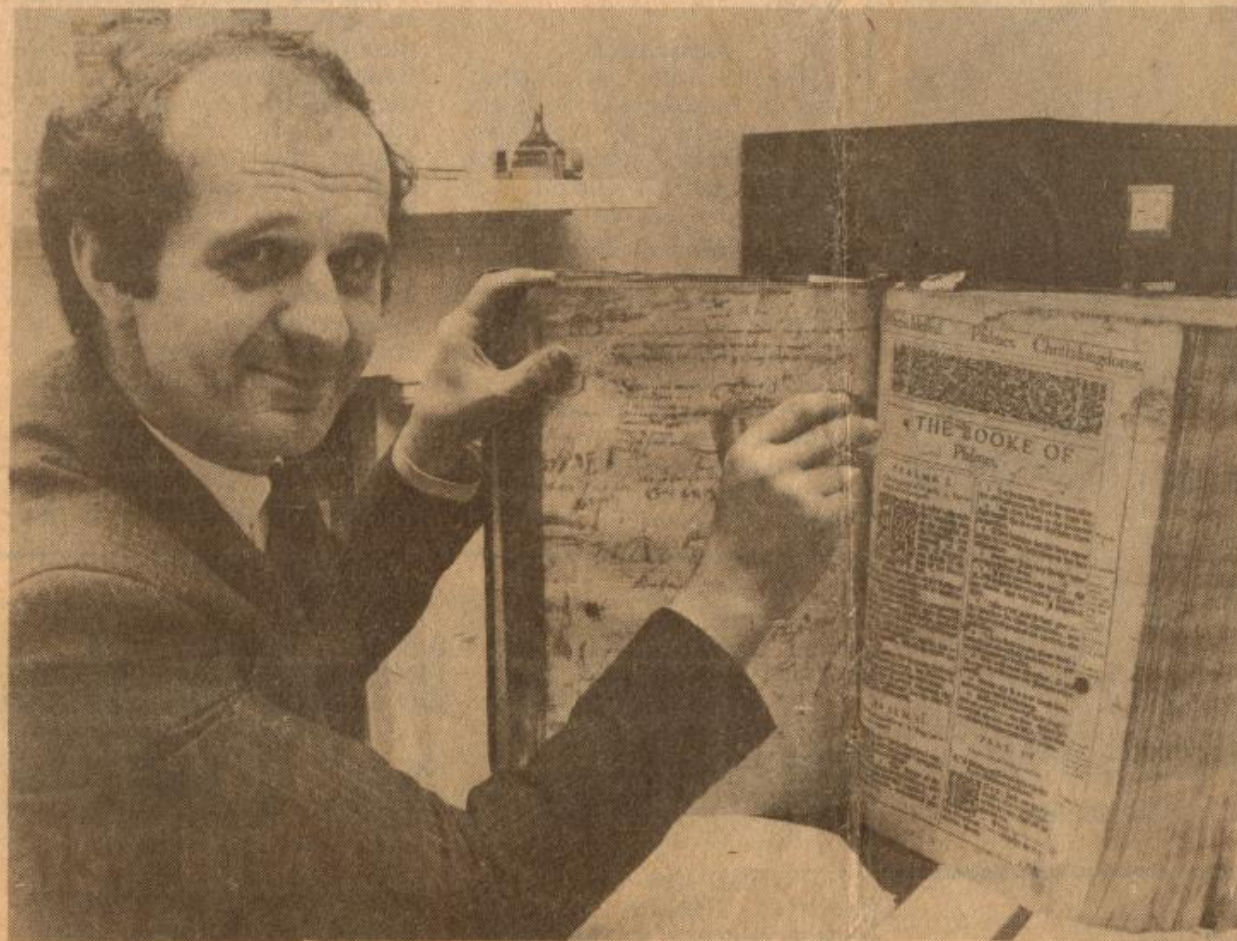
Gretna Old Parish Church minister the Rev. C.B. Haston was told this week that local solicitor Mr. Ronald Anderson had found a very rare and valuable bible belonging to the Church.

The Bible is dated 1611, which makes it over three hundred and fifty years old, and it will be of considerable interest to church historians. Mr. Anderson came across the Bible while he and his colleagues were clearing out a store on the premises of Murray Little and Knox at Annan. The bible is marked on the binder and a number of pages that it was gifted to "Gretna Kirk" in 1611.

The firm intend to present the bible to Gretna Church. It is a King James Bible and was published in 1611 and was gifted to the Church by Lord Stormont, Cockpool. Church records from Gretna Church dating from the early 1700's would suggest that Stormont Hall in Gretna would more than likely be named after the same family of Stormonts from this area who originally presented the bible.

The first recorded English edition of the Bible (noted in the British Museum catalogue) was in the mid-16th Century, a hundred years or so previous to the one gifted to Gretna Church.

The Minister of Gretna Church at the time the Bible was presented was the Rev.



Mr. R. Anderson and the 1611 Bible.

David Wood, M.A., who like most Ministers at that time would be paid by the landowners, who were the Stormont family.

The Minister of Gretna Old Parish Church, the Rev. Bryan Haston, said yesterday

that the Bible was quite a find. "Our Church has a very long history, and if this Bible does indeed date back to 1611 it will be of great interest to the Congregation." He added: "A lot has happened during this period, and I am sure we would hear some fascinating

stories if only the pages could talk". Mr. Haston explained that the Church already had communion Pewter dating back to 1711, and books and papers from as far back as 1730. The Bible would become the oldest relic in the Church's collection.