

In 1894 the Reverend Dr. Robert Wright, minister in Heriot 1844-1846, gave £100 to the Kirk session to endow two prizes to the Parish School of Heriot, one for the best general scholar and one for the scholar with the best and most intelligent knowledge of the Holy Scriptures. Midlothian Education Trust took over the Wright Bequest Fund in 1938.

The Engraving "For Christ's Crown and Covenant" was purchased in 1901 and was hung in the Vestry where it still remains. There is a brass plaque on the wall opposite the church door in memory of Mrs Wright (Bessie Wood) "Who gave herself to mission work in China and received an Early Crown. Chao-Chow-Fu. June 15th 1912." and placed there by her friends in Heriot, Her father Mr. William Wood, farmer at Corsehope, gifted an oak communion table in 1928 to the church, in memory of his daughter, Bessie. It was carved by John Linton, the village joiner, whose wife was a sister of Bessie. The railing in front of the pulpit platform was removed to accommodate the table and re-erected on the north side of the platform.

The minister from 1928-1936 was the Rev. Dr. Harry Smith who made a great effort to raise money and help put the church on a more sound basis. A large and regularly attending congregation was established and his love of music was conveyed to the people of Heriot. He re-opened the Sunday school in 1928 and there was also a Sunday school at Falahill which had been in existence in 1923. This took place in two railway carriages in a siding between the A7 and the railway beside the Skew Bridge. Sunday school picnics were held at Borthwick Hall with the help and encouragement of Mrs Macfie. Children were transported from Falahill and outlying farms by horses and carts, and a great time was had by all. Records of there being a Sunday school in Heriot are noted in 1939, 1953 when the average attendance was 25 and 1955 when a Sunday school picnic was arranged — but this time the children travelled by bus. Rev. H. Smith died in 1942 aged 76 years and is buried in the churchyard.

The Rev. J. Wilson Muggoch was minister 1936-1956. He died in 1962 aged 82 years. During this period there are frequent references to repairs and improvement to the heating system, no doubt the good Parishioners of Heriot appreciated their comforts! In 1945 the Kirk session agreed unanimously that it was inadvisable that women should be eligible for the Eldership. This is no longer the case, although there have been no lady elders to date. In 1958 the Woman's Guild was started by Mrs Pirie, wife of the Rev. James Pirie who was minister from 1957-1962. He was the last minister to live in Heriot Manse as it was sold. Heriot and Borthwick Churches were linked, and a new Manse built near Middleton in 1964.

The first mention found of a meeting in Heriot Manse was in October 1731 and there are records of another Manse being built in 1794. Kirk session meetings over the years usually took place in the Manse. Many repairs seem to

have been necessary and in 1862 the building of the new Manse, now Heriot Water, was decided. This is thought to have been built adjacent to the original Manse as the building on the west side of the new Manse dates back to the 1700s. In 1959 there were great problems with the erosion of the river bank near the Manse. The General Trustees financed the work to rectify this and a decision was made to sell the Manse and repay the Trustees.

The Rev. J. Blair Gillon was joint minister of Heriot and Borthwick churches from 1964-1980 and occupied the Manse at Middleton. During this time he was contacted twice by people who had come into possession of a wooden plate with a brass ring inscribed "The Bell Tree, 1855, Heriot Church." They were both returned to the church, one from England and one from a lady in Edinburgh and can be seen at the front of the church. At one time the Church Bell hung on a tree near the gates inside the churchyard. It is rumoured that the tree blew down around 1855 and the Bell was stolen and dropped in a pool in the Heriot Water. No one was able to lift it out as "the devil had a hold of the clapper." The Bell Wood which was planted between Borthwick Hall and Carcant on the Corsehope side was supposed to have been near the position where the Bell sunk. It has now been cut down but its bell shape can still be seen. The two collection ladles, in regular use, are engraved "The Bell Tree, Borthwick Hall, 1857" but it is not certain if these are made from the same tree as the plates. There is also a brass plate which stands in front of the communion table which Mr. Gillon obtained from St. Margarets church in the Pleasance when it closed down. The three chairs behind the communion table were gifted by the widow and son of Mr. Thomas A. Mathieson of Shoestanes Farm. He was an Elder of the church from 1935-1961. The Hymn Board was presented by Mr. John Methven, Kilcouter in grateful appreciation of his long association with Heriot Parish Church. The two lamps at the front of the church were originally oil lamps but were converted to electricity rather than being replaced. The Silver Communion cups date back to 1724 and are still in use along with two more recent silver plates. A lidded pewter jug dates from 1738 and a pewter dish 1824 are in safe keeping. The present organ was presented on 6th November 1966 by John Linton M.M. In 1980 the link was split with Borthwick church and today the minister of Stow church the Rev. Charles Duncan also cares for the Parish Church of Heriot.