

FALKIRK ARCHIVES

Records of Churches

Falkirk Baptist Church finding aid

Falkirk Baptist Church was formed around 1807-1808. The congregation had its origins in the Congregational congregation which built Bank St Church in 1802. The Baptist congregation emerged following the adoption of Baptist views by James and Robert Haldane who led the evangelical revival in Scotland. Two other Baptist congregations also emerged in the early 19th century, known as Scotch Baptist congregations, and they merged into one congregation in 1826. The Scotch Baptist congregation met in Callendar Riggs from 1842. The congregation then split in 1865, when a new building was opened in the Howgate, re-united in 1868, using the Howgate chapel, and then split again, with one congregation using Wilson's Hall and the other using the Howgate chapel. The Howgate chapel closed in 1870. The Wilson's Hall congregation grew and became the main congregation in Falkirk. In 1869 the congregation joined the Baptist Union of Scotland. The original Baptist congregation meanwhile first met in Kirk Wynd, and then moved to the former Congregational Church in Bank Street in 1835. (The Congregational congregation had closed in 1833). By 1880 all the Baptists in Falkirk were united in one congregation. In 1885 a church was built in Melville Street. In the 1890s under the pastorate of the Rev Alex Paterson the congregation built a new church and hall at the corner of Orchard St and Weir St, opened in 1897.

<i>Reference Code</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Brief Description</i>
A927.2/1	1883-1905	Treasurers accounts and related papers
A927.2/2	1896-1899	Scroll accounts
A927.2/3	1898-1904	Annual reports
A927.2/4	1897	Orders of services and newscuttings relating to the opening of Falkirk Baptist Church
A927.2/5	Early 20th Century	Two pages extracted from unknown publication, entitled "Falkirk Baptist Church Bazaar". p43 : contains history of church and photo of James Towers; p.77-78 has photos of Mr J Towers and Mr Thos Scott, ironmongery stall