

# BARCLAY VIEWFORTH CHURCH

## Fact Sheet

### Historical Background

- ⌘ Built during the period 1862-1864.
- ⌘ First service of public worship 29 December 1864
- ⌘ Called Barclay Church after Miss Mary Barclay who left £10,000 in her will for the erection of a Free Church.
- ⌘ It should be noted the streets Barclay Place and Barclay Terrace derive their names from the church and not the other way round.
- ⌘ Architect – Frederick Thomas Pilkington, 1832-1899.
- ⌘ First minister - Rev James Hood Wilson who remained at Barclay until his death in 1906.

### The Organ

- ⌘ Original organ installed in 1896; rebuilt and enlarged in 1906, restored in 1967. The bellows to provide the air for the organ are behind the first gallery. Extensive repairs undertaken in 2013.

### The Roof Paintings

- ⌘ Painted by James Clark.

### The Pillar Hall

- ⌘ So called because of its pillars which support the first balcony
- ⌘ Originally used for the Sunday School with glass partitions along the back of the church which could slide down so that the Sunday School could join in the first part of the service.
- ⌘ Beside the Pillar Hall is the church vestibule – the illuminated section of stained glass is from Bruntsfield Church in memory of a former organist, George Short, who was organist for 60 years
- ⌘ The Bible in the glass case is known as the ‘Vinegar Bible’ because of the misprint referring to the Parable of the Vineyard as the Parable of the Vinegar.

## Seating Capacity

- Ⓟ Originally the church seated 1200 people.
- Ⓟ As well as the two remaining balconies, there were originally two small balconies to the right and left of the second balcony, but they were removed when they became unsafe.
- Ⓟ There was also an overflow space in the organ loft just behind the first balcony – the wooden panels along the back of the balcony slide down into the walls.

## The Congregation

- Ⓟ The congregation which worships in the building today is an amalgamation of five congregations.
- Ⓟ In 1965 the congregations of Barclay and Bruntsfield Churches united to form one congregation in this building which then became called Barclay–Bruntsfield Church.
- Ⓟ In 1980 Chalmers–Lauriston Church united with Barclay–Bruntsfield at which time the name reverted to Barclay Church.
- Ⓟ In August 2009 the congregation of Viewforth Church united with that of Barclay Church when the name became Barclay Viewforth.

## *'Towards 2000'*

- Ⓟ In 1998 the church was renovated to adapt it to better suit the needs of the congregation in the 21st century. The architects who drew up the plans were Messrs Gray Marshall & Associates of Edinburgh.



**BARCLAY  
VIEWFORTH**

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