

The bell last rang in the 1980s (at the latest) when there was a failure in the axle from which it swung. The present-day porch was added in the 1960s.

Kirkapoll Church also has an upper gallery supported on iron pillars. The pulpit we see today at the north-west wall was installed in 1893. On the ground floor, the seating on either side of the pulpit and the long centre pew at the rear are what remains of the original seating. The seating in the gallery is original.

The remainder of the 19th century on Tiree bore witness to three remarkable ministers.

Both churches were built during the incumbency of the Reverend Neil MacLean (1784-1859). MacLean came to Tiree in 1815 and served as minister here for almost 45 years. He and his wife Isabella endured hardship and repeated family tragedies with stoicism (three of their children pre-deceased them, two in adulthood). A keen musician and sailor, MacLean was a valued contributor to the Gaelic magazine *An Teachdaire Gàidhealach* and wrote the entry for the Parish of Tiree and Coll in the New Statistical Account of Scotland (1845).



The Reverend Neil MacLean.

The Reverend John Gregorson Campbell.



John Gregorson Campbell (1836-1891) became minister of the Parish of Tyree and Coll in 1861. His appointment by the 8th Duke of Argyll was opposed by the parishioners of Tiree who favoured an ordained missionary named McAlpine who had been on the island for some time. Unable to resolve the matter, the Presbytery of Mull referred the case to the General Assembly and in June 1861 Gregorson Campbell's appointment was confirmed.

He was an avid researcher in the field of folklore and many of the books he wrote while serving as parish minister are still in print and remain highly regarded.

*In person Campbell was tall and fair, with deep blue eyes full of life and vivacity. He was noted at once for the kindness of his manner, and for the shrewd causticity of his wit. The portrait ... is taken from the only available photograph, and represents him in middle life.* ALFRED NUTT

The Reverend Hector MacKinnon.

Hector MacKinnon (1866-1913), minister of the parish from 1892 to 1894, was a native of Tiree. From early childhood he lived at Lodge Farm, Kirkapoll. He was the first minister to be appointed directly by the parishioners of Tiree following the abolition of the Church Patronage Act (1874). After leaving Tiree, MacKinnon held positions in Stornaway, Campbeltown and Shettleston, establishing a reputation as a remarkable preacher and humanitarian. The 'Spurgeon of the North' died in Glasgow of pneumonia at the age of 47.



*He was a beloved pastor. He was the friend of every Highlander. He was a co-worker with every minister, and had given personal service and help to not a few. But to see the grimy collier, the toiling foundry worker, the common labourer and the street loafer, with their women-folk and their children, stand to attention, reverently salute the passing bier, and with subdued and sorrowful mien whisper to one another their thoughts and feelings - that was the most eloquent testimony that this man had touched the hearts of the common people.*

FROM 'HECTOR MACKINNON, A MEMOIR'