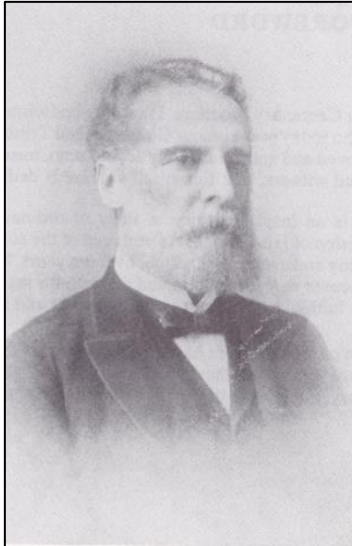


Mr William Hay Kirkaldy, founding Elder and Session Clerk



Without the enthusiasm of Mr William Hay Kirkaldy it is possible that Trinity would never have been founded and without his energy and thoroughness the infant church might never have developed. William Hay Kirkaldy was born at Shadwell in 1825. He married Jane Willis in 1852 and they set up home at Chrysell Road, Lambeth (near The Oval) and here their six children grew up. For a while the family attended the 'Scotch church' in London Wall.

Mr Kirkaldy, described as a 'shipbroker', was a founder and then an Elder and staunch supporter of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Clapham. In about 1880 the family moved to 'St Abbs', Worple Road (the house still stands, much altered behind trees at the corner of Tabor Grove). In the 1881 census there were eight family members and a servant living there.

It seems that the Kirkaldys continued to travel to Clapham each Sunday but in 1883 came the suggestion of a new Presbyterian church in Wimbledon. Mr Kirkaldy backed this idea from the very start and was soon appointed its first Session Clerk, a position he was to hold until his death.

In addition it was Mr Kirkaldy who suggested early on that a Trinity Sunday School should be formed, and he became Trinity's first Sunday School Superintendent, again holding the position until shortly before his death.

Mr Kirkaldy died as Senior Elder at Trinity on 29 December 1903 and he is buried in Gap Road cemetery, as is Jane his wife and also other members of his family. A plaque (which is difficult to read) in his memory can be seen on the wall of the church near the High School side transept door.