



# Mackintosh Furniture Appeal 2018

To secure Mackintosh's Chancel Furniture  
for Mackintosh Queen's Cross

**M** MACKINTOSH  
150

CHARLES  
RENNIE  
MACKINTOSH  
SOCIETY™

Dear Member

We are asking for your support in this once in a lifetime opportunity to secure the future of Mackintosh's Communion Table and Alms Dishes for Queen's Cross.

These pieces were designed by Mackintosh as part of the overall architectural and artistic scheme for Queen's Cross and have been in place since the building was completed in 1899. Their integral role in the design for the building is without question - and in this special year, there is an opportunity to secure these items in perpetuity through their purchase by the Society.

As intimated in the previous Journal, we had been made aware of the desire of the local church parish to move towards a sale of the items and now negotiations are at an advanced stage. With your support we can finally ensure that the Communion Table and the Alms Dishes remain in their rightful home in Mackintosh Queen's Cross.

Our target is to raise £50,000 towards the purchase of the furniture. All donations will go direct to this cause. We hope that we can raise a substantial sum by this year's AGM weekend in June.

The Society continues to fundraise to secure the long-term future of the building and the Society's extensive advocacy role. However this opportunity to purchase the furniture is immediate and important, and we require your support.

The enclosed form shows the various ways you can donate to this 'once in 150 years' appeal. If the Society is able to secure these important Mackintosh items then there can be no better way to celebrate Mackintosh 150, and mark another milestone in the achievements of the Members of the CRM Society in protecting Mackintosh's heritage for future generations.

With your support we can secure these items for the future.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stuart Robertson', written in a cursive style.

**Stuart Robertson**  
Director

The CRM Society needs your help to secure these important items for Queen's Cross

### **Background**

The CRM Society has at its core the mission to be “The Charity that protects, preserves and promotes the Mackintosh Heritage for the enjoyment of future generations”. Central to this mission have been the Society's care for and commitment to Queen's Cross. In 1977 the Society stepped in to secure its future at a time when this was uncertain and the building was already falling into disrepair. Under the stewardship of the CRM Society, major refurbishment and maintenance projects have helped to make the building accessible to new audiences and have placed an emphasis on safeguarding the fabric and the integrity of Mackintosh's original designs for the building and contents.

Throughout this time, the Parish of Ruchill has retained the legal ownership of Mackintosh's Chancel furniture for Queen's Cross following the amalgamation of the Parishes of Queen's Cross and Ruchill in the 1970's, with the furniture on loan to the Society and remaining in place at Queen's Cross. Over the years the Parish has intimated that they may look to sell these items. We have now reached this point and negotiations are well advanced.

With the help of Members and friends, we hope to permanently secure these important items, in their intended positions at Queen's Cross in time for Mackintosh's 150th birthday this summer.



Statements of significance:-

Mackintosh's handling of the Chancel was innovative. Instead of a central pulpit, this role is given to the chancel containing the Communion Table. It is set apart, raised on steps and enclosed behind a low wall, by a lofty arch and 'rood beam'. The important role of the chancel table to the architecture is confirmed by its inclusion in Mackintosh's original plan. The alms dishes form part of Mackintosh's overall architectural decorative scheme, of stylised plant and bird form; their bird and bee motifs can be read as referencing St Matthew's parable of the sower.

*Pamela Robertson, Emerita Professor of Mackintosh Studies*

Queen's Cross Church represents the first opportunity that Mackintosh had to design furniture fully integrated with his design for a building. This concept of the total work of art, architecture integrated with interior decoration and furnishings, became a cornerstone of Mackintosh's design philosophy and cemented his European reputation. The items he designed for the church are not numerous but together they play a vital role in this integration of furniture and architecture, linking imagery in the stone sculpture with decorative motifs in the wooden furniture.

*Roger Billcliffe, author of Charles Rennie Mackintosh: The Complete Furniture, Furniture Drawings and Interior Designs*



### **CRM Society**

#### **Mackintosh Queen's Cross**

870 Garscube Road, Glasgow G20 7EL

+44 (0)141 946 6600

info@crmsociety.com

[www.crmsociety.com](http://www.crmsociety.com)

[www.mackintosh.org.uk](http://www.mackintosh.org.uk)

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