

Acc.4901
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Inventory

Acc.4901

Rev Dr Charles Laing Warr

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Papers of Charles Laing Warr, minister of St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh (1892-1969)

Charles Laing Warr was educated at Glasgow Academy and the universities of Edinburgh and Glasgow, receiving his MA from Edinburgh in 1914. In August of that year he was commissioned to the 9th Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. He experienced a spiritual experience as he lay dangerously wounded at Ypres in May 1915, which promoted him to take divinity classes at Glasgow when he was invalided out of the war at the age of 23. He became assistant minister at Glasgow 1917-18 and minister of St Paul's, Greenock 1918-26. In 1926 he was appointed minister of St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh. In the same year he was also appointed dean of the Chapel Royal and of the Order of the Thistle. He held both offices until his death. Also in 1926, despite there being no vacancies, he was appointed an extra chaplain to King George V and in 1936 became his chaplain. He was later chaplain to Kings Edward VIII and George VI and Queen Elizabeth II. He was also chaplain to the Royal Company of Archers, the Order of St John of Jerusalem, the Royal Scottish Academy, the Convention of Royal Burghs of Scotland, the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, and the Merchant Company of Edinburgh. He also held the directorships of the Royal Edinburgh Hospital for Sick Children and the Princess Margaret Rose Hospital for Crippled Children. During the Second World War he was convener of the Church of Scotland committee on huts and canteens. He was convener of the Home Mission Committee and joint convener of the National Church Extension Committee. He was a trustee of the National Library of Scotland and of Iona Cathedral. Warr also spent time writing books, the first of which *The Unseen Host* (1916) became a bestseller. In 1962 he retired from St Giles' Cathedral and joined the Canongate Kirk. He married Christian Lawson Aitken (Ruby) in 1918. She died in 1961. They had no children. He died in Edinburgh, 14 June 1969.

See also Acc.1228 for certificates, invitations and photographs 1927-1957 and Acc.7566 for correspondence, mainly with Rev. Dr Harry Whitley

Presented 1969.

1. Letters to Charles Warr from various correspondents 1887 – 1929 (and a number undated)
2. Letters of and to Charles Warr, 1930-39
3. Letters of and to Charles Warr, 1940-49
4. Letters of and to Charles Warr, 1950-59