



Inventory

Acc.7566

Rev Dr Charles Laing Warr

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Letters 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 was ordained before the end of the war. He was 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 also chaplain to Kings Edward VIII and George VI and to Queen Elizabeth II. He was also chaplain to HM Body Guard for Scotland (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 also 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 4901 for correspondence, diaries and scrapbooks

Presented 1980.

1. Letters 1943–1975, mainly from the year 1969 concerning the death of Charles Warr.
2. Letters (copies and originals) 1953-6 mainly between Charles Warr and the Rev Dr Harry Whitley concerning St Giles' Cathedral and their duties there.
3. Letters (copies and originals) 1957-9 mainly between Charles Warr and the Rev Dr Harry Whitley concerning St Giles' Cathedral.
4. Letters (copies and originals) 1960-2 mainly between Charles Warr and the Rev Dr Harry Whitley concerning St Giles' Cathedral.

Also a personal statement from Rev Whitley regarding the role of the minister and dean of St Giles (the problems he and Charles Warr faced).

5. Letters (copies and originals) 1955-68 mainly between Charles Warr and the Rev Dr Harry Whitley.

Also a proposed agreement between Dr Warr and Dr Whitley regarding their respective spheres of duty.

6. Papers (mainly letters) of Rev Ronald Selby Wright concerning a memorial service for Sir Edward Appleton, Principal and Vice-Chancellor of Edinburgh University.