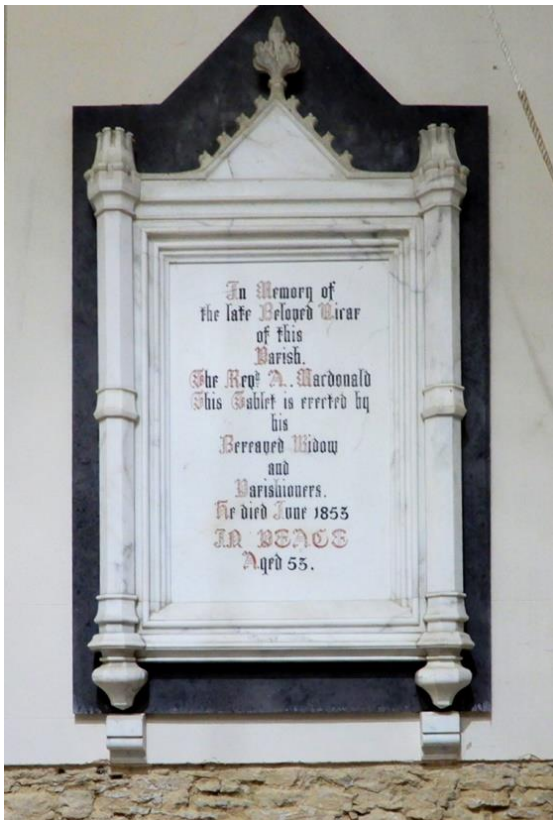


REVEREND ALEXANDER MACDONALD 1831



Reverend Alexander Macdonald died in 1853 and there is an impressive monument to him which is now in the West Tower of St Andrew's. He was vicar of Cotterstock from 1831 when he was presented by the Earl of Westmorland whose family owned the estate. He achieved a B.D. from Queens College, Cambridge in 1834 four years after arriving in Cotterstock.

He married Rachel, a widow, but she died in 1847 aged 53; the burial register records the death of Flora Macdonald in 1835 aged just two years. In 1848 he married Louisa in Weldon.

Reverend Macdonald established a school at the vicarage and in the 1841 census it has 27 pupils and 3 maids. In the 1851 census he is living with Louisa and a groom and cook so the school must have closed.

This is how the vicarage looks today →



Reverend Macdonald left his entire estate to his wife Louisa. In his will he said *"I bequeath and dispose to and in favour of my dear wife Louisa Macdonald all and sundry my messuages, land and heritages situate in Duncannon's Court in Falkirk or elsewhere in Scotland and also I give bequeath and dispose to and in favour of my said wife Louisa Macdonald the executors administrators and assigns absolutely all my shares in the Glasgow Banking Company, the Glasgow Gas Company and the Suburban Gas Company and all other of my personal estate in Scotland."* In September 1853 there was a two day auction to clear all the furniture and other effects from the vicarage.

The newspaper article of the time advertises the contents which included bedroom, drawing and dining room furniture, books, glass, china and earthenware. There were also brewing and dairy utensils and sweet-ale casks. Louisa also inherited a four wheel carriage and a "useful" pony. He also left her £1850 which equates to over a quarter of million pounds today.

Louisa survived him, as a very wealthy lady, for a number of years and died in 1875 aged 65 years. According to the burial records she is at rest in St Andrew's churchyard.