

**WELCOME - BIENVENUE - WILLKOMMEN -
BIENVENIDOS – BENVENUTI**

DUNDEE PARISH CHURCH (ST. MARY'S)



We invite you to accept this leaflet as a souvenir of your visit and hope that the information provided within will help you to appreciate a few of the most interesting features of the Church

See back cover for times of Sunday services

DUNDEE PARISH CHURCH (ST. MARY'S)

Welcome to St. Mary's, the Parish Church of Dundee which in 1990 celebrated the 800th anniversary of its founding by David, Earl of Huntingdon who was brother of King William the Lion. He founded it in thanksgiving for his safe arrival home from the Third Crusade – a journey which involved him in storm and near shipwreck.

Entering from the South door in the Nethergate you pass through the outer vestibule and will see a plaque listing all the known Vicars and Ministers. Beyond is a panelled area, the Huntingdon Aisle, which commemorates the founder David, Earl of Huntingdon and is dedicated as a memorial to the Very Rev. Dr. Hugh O. Douglas who was Minister here from 1951 to 1977.

Two recently acquired stained glass features (both charged with symbolism) adorn the Huntingdon Aisle. On the south side of the Aisle is a stained glass window donated by the Guildry Incorporation of Dundee whose standard is laid up beside it. On the north side of the Aisle is another stained glass window – a gift from the High School of Dundee, the history of which has been closely associated with St. Mary's. In a glass case on the west wall of the Aisle lies the Church Book of Remembrance containing the names of members and friends who have died.

Looking now towards the front of the Church you will see the great east window depicting the twelve Apostles which was created by Sir Edward Burne-Jones and William Morris to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria in 1897. The carved oak screen behind the pulpit was gifted by the Women's Guild in memory of Dr. John H. Duncan, Minister from 1937 to 1951.

The colours laid up in the sanctuary are (in order from the right) those of the 2nd Battalion Scots Guards, the 24th Company of the Boys' Brigade, the Guidon of the Fife and Forfar Yeomanry/Scottish Horse (T.A.) and the 4th/5th Battalion of the Black Watch (T.A.).

To the left of the carved screen is the War Memorial to the men of the 4th (City of Dundee) Battalion, the Black Watch. The bronze plate folds down to reveal the names of 917 men engraved on metal plates.

On the right of the pulpit and against the east wall is a reading desk made from wood which originally formed part of the pulpit of the High Church of Dundee before 1688. Further right is a window showing the Nativity and the Flight into Egypt. Directly above in the South Gallery is a section of a window showing a crown, hammer and scissors – emblems of some of the old incorporated trades of Dundee.

Four stained glass windows are featured in the south wall of the Church under the South Gallery. These depict the “Baptism of Christ”, the “Good Samaritan”, the “Transfiguration” and “Gethsemane”. On the south wall is a memorial dedicated to the Seamen and Women who gave their lives for country and freedom in the Great War 1914 – 1919.

On the left of the pulpit and on the east wall is a window depicting St. Columba and St. Cecilia

Turning now to the stained glass windows on the north wall we see “The Resurrection” and “Faith, Hope and Charity”, the latter gifted in memory of Dr. Archibald Watson, Minister from 1862 to 1882. The theme is continued in the North Gallery – the fish, swallow and pelican symbolising the Three Christian Virtues. Higher still in the clerestory Enoch and Abraham are both portrayed.

Again on the north wall we see two commemorative plaques just before the door which leads to the Vestry. On the far side of that door is a modern window showing St. Ninian (the first Christian missionary to come to Scotland), the Virgin (to whom the Church is dedicated) and David, Earl of Huntingdon (in the role of a Crusader). This window is a memorial to two former Ministers, Dr. Adam W. Fergusson and Dr. Alfred E. Warr.

The organ is situated in the Organ Gallery towards the West end of the Church. It displays the saltire of St. Andrew and the olive wreath of victory surmounted by the Martyr’s Crown. Immediately below is the Civic Pew occupied by the City Council in Civic Services and on the back of the Lord Provost’s seat is the coat of arms of the City of Dundee, namely the lilies of St. Mary symbolising the link between the City and its Parish Church. Below this is the Burning Bush, the emblem of the Church of Scotland. Those three emblems represent the Nation, City and Church.

Our Past:

1190 - Founded by David, Earl of Huntingdon as one building (where the three Churches locally referred to as “the City Churches” now stand)

1303 – Destroyed by Edward I, the “Hammer of the Scots”

1645 – Destroyed by the Marquis of Montrose

1651 – Cromwell’s troops under General Monk used part of the building as a stable

1841 - Fire ravaged the buildings and only the Tower of St. Mary (or the Old Steeple) survived intact. After 1841 three Churches were created under one roof:-

West end – the Church now known as the Steeple Church

Centre – formerly known as the South Church, thereafter as the Slessor Centre and now incorporated within the Steeple Church

East end – the East Church of the Parish Church of St. Mary.

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 11.15 a.m. every Sunday

HOLY COMMUNION

is celebrated on:-

the last Sunday in February,

Easter Day,

Whitsun (usually in late May)

the last Sunday in August,

the fourth Sunday in October

ALL ARE WELCOME