



WELCOME TO THE PARISH CHURCH OF HOLY TRINITY.

**We are a live congregation of the Church of Scotland,
but our roots go back to the 12th century.**

As you look around the building, think of the many thousands of people who have worshipped God here.

If you would like someone to pray for a need, please use the prayer request book near the font. The church guardian on duty will be happy to help you.

The original site of the parish church, which dated from 1140, was east of the cathedral, above the harbour, but in 1410 Sir William Lindsay of Byres gave six rigs (180 ft) of land in South Street to the citizens for the building of a new church in the centre of the city. There was originally a churchyard round the building, extending to the centre of South Street and filling Church Square on the west.

You are at the west end of the church. Stand with your back to the **WEST DOORS** and look eastwards. You can see the church as it was built in 1412. It was then a plain rectangle with a chancel of three bays and a nave of six bays, pillared as now, with possibly a small aisle projecting to the south and a sacristy and vestry on the north side.

The original dimensions were 161 ft from east to west and 127 ft across the transepts, the height from floor to ceiling is 38 ft and the seating capacity around 1900.

In 1799 this medieval church was almost demolished and a larger building, with galleries, erected. A picture of the interior, which was used until 1906, can be seen in the collection of prints near the organ.

Restoration of the building to the original 15th century plan was carried out in 1907-1909. Dr. Patrick Macdonald Playfair, 'Minister of the First Charge' from 1899 to 1924, set in train plans for the restoration of the church, which was brought to completion in 1909. The architect was Mr McGregor Chambers, who had 'always wanted to build a cathedral'. He incorporated into the design some features from cathedrals elsewhere in Britain.

The only portions of the 15th century building are the **TOWER**, part of the west wall and most of the pillars. *(You will notice that one or two of the pillars are of 20th century construction.)*

The **TOWER** was used for a long time as the city jail; today it contains the **BELLS**. In 1926 fifteen bells were installed in memory of Dr. Playfair. Further bells were added in 1938, 1962, and 1998 to give a carillon of 27 bells, now the third largest in Scotland. The city curfew is rung on one of the bells, every week night at 8pm. The Holy Trinity Carillon is housed in the tower and sometimes sounds out over St. Andrews before church services.

The **WEST WINDOW** was a gift by the women of the congregation in 1914, and is a good example of the work of the famous stained glass artist, Douglas Strachan. The subject is 'Woman'. The window is described in detail elsewhere.

The **FONT**, under the tower, commemorates Dr. A.K.H. Boyd, minister of the first charge 1865-99, preacher and writer, who by his books and wide personal friendships helped to popularise St. Andrews. Under the carved canopy are figures of the Good Shepherd,

St Luke, The Church Triumphant, St. John, St. Andrew, St. Matthew, The Church Militant and St Mark.

On the north wall, are a number of Strachan windows including two at the north-east corner. The flanking lights of the Good King's window were almost his last works, completed just before his death in 1950. The thirteen Douglas Strachan windows, created between 1910 and 1950, are the most comprehensive range of his work in any single building.

The small door on the left leads to the Crèche room and the Sunday School. These are also used as Prayer Rooms.

The walls of the north **PLAYFAIR AISLE** bear memorials to the scientist Lord Playfair of St Andrews (1819-1898) and his family, one of whom was minister of Holy Trinity at the time that his brother was provost. The large windows in this aisle are by James Powell. They illustrate the ancient canticle 'Benedicite Omnia Opera'. There are seven old testament characters 'Servants of the Lord' and 'Holy and humble men of heart'. In this window there are also scenes from the natural world; 'Lightning and clouds', 'Seas and floods', 'Fowls of the air' and 'Beasts and cattle'. These are surmounted by a band of 'Angels of the Lord'.

The **PULPIT** is another memorial to Dr. Boyd. The base is of Iona marble and the pillars and panels of the upper part are onyx and alabaster. The shields bear the initials of those ministers of the church who had, up to that time, been moderators of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland; there were ten in all, the first being Robert Pond in 1570 and the last to date Dr. Boyd himself in 1891.

The **CHANCEL** is paved with Iona marble. On the right and left sides looking towards the communion table and the minister's stalls are the seats which were reserved for for the Town Council and the University. On either side of the table are the seats for the Kirk session. The minister's stalls are carved with the four symbols of the gospels, the lion, the man, the bull and the eagle, and four angel figures holding books. On the north stall is a Dove representing Peace and a Torch representing light, and on the south a Trumpet and the Word of the Spirit.

The mirror allows you to look at the ceiling bosses, which are described in more detail elsewhere.

The **ORGAN** is a magnificent three-manual instrument built by Harrison and Harrison of Durham in 1966, and is arguably the finest church organ in the east of Scotland north of Edinburgh. Among the instrument's many attributes is the unique 'Bobby Jones Bombarde', a division of fanfare trumpets (4-ft, 8-ft and 16-ft, played from the Choir) and a Pedal 32-ft Contra. The Bombarde was gifted by Mrs Mary Jones in memory of her husband, the golfer, Robert Tyre Jones. The organ plays a major part in the music of church services, and especially so in the large civic services, including those on Remembrance Sunday and St Andrew's Day, the annual Golf Service and the University Carol Service.

Due to its fine acoustics, Holy Trinity is an important venue for organ recitals and also plays a significant role in choral and instrumental concerts, some given by visiting choirs. This organ also has an educational role and is used in the St Andrews University 'Church

Music' diploma course, in the annual week-long St Andrews University Organ Summer School, and in the teaching of organ students (including the Holy Trinity Organ Scholar). The organ also plays its part in the education of the five Holy Trinity Choral Scholars, supported by the Friends of Holy Trinity as part of their commitment to education. The restoration and upgrading of the organ was completed in 2011.

The PICTURE GALLERY contains prints and photographs covering the history of the church since 1412. Of particular interest are the pictures of the church as it was in 1900 and the partially demolished church taken during the period 1907-09.

Moving on and to the right, you are in the area which has been redesigned to give room for the congregation to relax between services and where small children can play.

The theme of the **EAST WINDOW**, a masterpiece of modern stained glass, is the Te Deum. The lancet lights, twenty feet high, are divided into three horizontal tiers showing from bottom to top 'The Worshippers on Earth', 'The Prophets, Martyrs and Apostles' and 'The Angels and Archangels'.

The next window, also by Strachan, depicts six of Jesus' miracles.

You now come to the **HUNTER MEMORIAL AISLE**. This was not part of the original ground plan, but was built to compensate for the loss of galleries during the restoration of 1909. The decoration of the aisle shows scenes from the Life of Christ; The Nativity, The Baptism, Gethsemane and The Crucifixion. These windows are by Louis Davis, whose early death cut short a career of distinction. The carving on the pillars and corbels of this aisle is particularly rich; one pillar has representations of the parts of the 'Armour of God' and the bosses of the ceiling bear representations of eighteen names given to Jesus in scripture.

After the Second World War, the war memorial shrine with its silver **BOOK OF REMEMBRANCE** was added and the aisle provided with its beautiful screen, porch and furnishings, all of which are memorials to worshippers and friends of the church.

The pews were removed from this aisle in order to allow for more flexible use and it is now used for the contemporary worship service, session meetings, the playgroup and and healing services. The gardens outside the Hunter Memorial Aisle display 15 Queen Elizabeth II Rose bushes, planted by the congregation in June 2012 to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Contrasting with the new are two of the medieval choir stalls dating from about 1500. On the stalls are carved the names of James IV and Gavin Dunbar, Archdeacon of St Andrews 1503-1518. Also here is the Stool of Repentance on which confessions were made by the guilty and sentences passed.

The **SHARP AISLE** contains the tomb and monument to Archbishop Sharp (1618-1679) who was murdered near St Andrews by the covenanters. The monument is Dutch work and the iron railing is contemporary. They were erected in 1681 by his son, Sir William Sharp of Scotsraig. The Bishop of Edinburgh, John Paterson, preached the sermon at his funeral; and Andrew Bruce, Bishop of Dunkeld, composed the inscription on the tomb.

The large window in the Sharp Aisle designed by Reginald Hallward shows, in the first three lights from left to right, the Resurrection, and in the last three, the Ascension. Ten inset medallions introduce subjects that bring out the principle of the Resurrection and

Ascension and the reconciling of Earth and Heaven.

On the west wall of the aisle is the 1914-1918 War Memorial; the fallen in the First World War are also remembered in the eighteen stained glass windows of the **CLERESTORY** which depict the badges of the twelve Scottish infantry regiments, the Royal Navy, the Royal Artillery, Royal Engineers, Royal Air Force and the Royal Army Medical Corps. These windows are by Alexander Strachan, brother of Douglas Strachan.

As you leave the church, notice the memorial on the west wall to the golfer, Tom Morris, who was an elder in this church. There are also changing items and displays showing the life of the Holy Trinity congregation today.

You will leave, as you came in, by the **JOHN KNOX PORCH**, which commemorates the great reformer. Knox preached his first sermon in public in this church in 1547 and it may have been here that he preached his last but one. It was in this church, and not in the cathedral, that he preached on 11th June 1559 on Jesus' ejection of the buyers and sellers from the temple and thus inaugurated the Reformation acts and proceedings in Scotland.

The inscription on the porch reads: *'In this town and church began God first calling to the dignity of the preacher'*. Knox said farewell to St Andrews on 17th August 1572, three months before his death.

The porch of the ancient church occupied the same site and had above it a chamber in which the duty priest of the week had his lodging and in which meetings of the clergy were held. James VI stood in this porch on 11th July 1617 when visiting his old kingdom in Scotland, and received a Latin address of welcome made in the name of the University by the rector, Mr Andrew Bruce.

As you leave the churchyard you may see, in the spring, the Calvary and St Andrews crosses outlined in crocuses in the lawn. The roses in front of the entrance to the church were planted and gifted by the Rotary Club of St Andrews Kilrymont in 2004 to commemorate the centenary of the Rotary worldwide. As you go out the right hand side of the Knox Porch you will notice there is a bench in the memory of the Rev Charles Armour, a minister here from 1947-2001. He retired in 2001 after serving for 54 years, the longest serving minister in the Church of Scotland.

Also, on the left hand side there is a bench in memory of Harry Eagle, church officer 1961-2004. As you pass through the archway there is a lantern, refurbished in 2011 in memory of Mr Maurice Wilson, a faithful elder and deputy church officer.

There is one service held on Sunday. Morning Worship, a more traditional service meets at 11.15am and is followed by refreshments served at the back of the church.

Thank you for visiting Holy Trinity church
Please keep in touch by visiting our web-site www.holyt.co.uk
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