

Dunfermline Abbey, Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland
Burial Site of the body of King Robert the Bruce
Built on the Site of a Medieval Benedictine Abbey
Site Dates to King Mael Coluim mac Donnchada (Malcolm Canmore)
Burial Site of Saint Margaret of Scotland wife of Malcolm

Dunfermline Abbey is a Church of Scotland Parish Church located in Dunfermline, Fife, Scotland.

The church occupies the site of the ancient chancel and transepts of a large medieval Benedictine abbey, which was sacked in 1560 during the Scottish Reformation and permitted to fall into disrepair.

Part of the old abbey church continued in use at that time and some parts of the abbey infrastructure still remain to this day. Dunfermline Abbey is one of Scotland's most important cultural sites.

The Benedictine Abbey of the Holy Trinity and St Margaret, was founded in 1128 by King David I of Scotland, but the monastic establishment was based on an earlier foundation dating back to the reign of King Máel Coluim mac Donnchada (i.e. "Malcolm III" or "Malcolm Canmore", r. 1058–93) and his queen.

At its head was an abbot, the first incumbent being Geoffrey of Canterbury, former prior of Christ Church, Canterbury, the Kent monastery that probably supplied Dunfermline's first monks. At the peak of its power it controlled four burghs, three courts of regality and a large portfolio of lands from Moray in the north down into Berwickshire.[2]

In the decades after its foundation the abbey was the recipient of considerable endowments, as seen from the dedication of 26 altars donated by individual benefactors and guilds and it was an important centre of pilgrimage after Dunfermline became a centre for the cult of St Margaret (Malcolm's wife and David's mother), from whom the monastery later claimed foundation and for which an earlier foundation charter was fabricated.[3]

The foundations of the earliest church (the Church of the Holy Trinity) are under the present superb Romanesque nave built in the 12th century.

During the winter of 1303 the court of Edward I of England was held in the abbey, and on his departure next year most of the buildings were burned.[3]

Famous Births, Marriages, & Burials

Saint Margaret of Scotland was buried here in 1093; on 19 June 1250 following her Canonization her remains were disinterred and placed in a reliquary at the high altar. Her husband Malcolm's remains were also disinterred, and buried next to Margaret.

Duncan II of Scotland 1094

Edgar of Scotland was buried here in 1107

Both Alexander I of Scotland 1124, and his queen Sybilla de Normandy 1122, were buried here

David I of Scotland was buried here (1153) along with his queen Maud, Countess of Huntingdon (1130)

Malcolm IV of Scotland was buried here in 1165

Alexander III of Scotland (1286), was buried here, with his first wife Margaret of England (1275) and their sons David of Scotland (1281) and Alexander of Scotland (1284)

Elizabeth de Burgh, wife of Robert I of Scotland, was buried here in 1327

Robert the Bruce was buried, in 1329, in the choir, now the site of the present parish church. Bruce's heart rests in Melrose, but his bones lie in Dunfermline Abbey, where (after the discovery of the skeleton in 1818) they were reinterred with fitting pomp below the pulpit of the New church.

In 1891 the pulpit was moved back and a monumental brass inserted in the floor to indicate the royal vault.

Matilda of Scotland, daughter of Robert I of Scotland, was buried here in 1353
Anabella Drummond, wife of Robert III and mother of James I was buried here in 1401

Robert Stewart, Duke of Albany was buried here in 1420

Birthplace, in 1600, of Charles I, the last British monarch born in Scotland.

William Schaw, Master of Work to the Crown of Scotland, was buried here in 1602: his tomb can still be seen.

David Lindsay, 1st Lord Balcarres, son of John Lindsay of Balcarres, Lord Menmuir and father of Alexander Lindsay, 1st Earl of Balcarres, was married here in 1611

Bishop James Bruce

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dunfermline_Abbey