

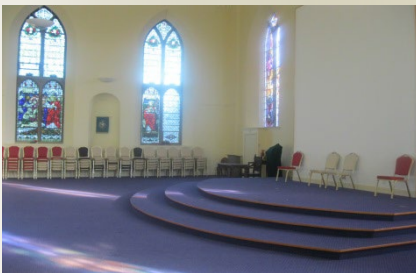
The Beauty of Stained Glass

Kirkcaldy Old Kirk has a wonderful collection of stained glass artistry which lights up the auditorium:

1. Sir Edward Burne-Jones designed the figures depicted in our earliest windows which have been declared “perhaps the finest in situ”. William Morris was responsible for the completion of the pattern and installation.
2. A colourful set of windows on either side of the church, showing Jesus in scenes of his earthly life, by Gascoigne of Nottingham. Donated by John Hunter after whom Hunter Street is named.
3. John Clark’s brilliant windows replaced those damaged by fire in 1986 so they have a Biblical fire theme running through them: the burning bush and Pentecost.
4. Crear McCartney’s window is the latest one in the Old Kirk, installed in 1994 as part of our 750th Anniversary celebrations.

What else should I know?

We are fully accessible on the ground floor to the auditorium, meeting-room and toilets. There is an induction loop and full audio-visual facilities. The Old Kirk can seat 350 – 400.



Kirkcaldy Old Kirk

Kirk Wynd, Kirkcaldy, KY1 1EH
Phone: 01592 265499

www.kirkcaldyoldkirktrust.org.uk



Kirkcaldy Old Kirk

*Visit Kirkcaldy's heritage in
the community*

Kirkcaldy Old Kirk Trust-
*maintaining Kirkcaldy's heritage for the
community*

incorporated in Scotland with registered no. 387208

Reg. office: 12 Hendry Rd, Kirkcaldy KY2 5JJ

Reg. Charity SC042128



Kirkcaldy Old Kirk

is the oldest building in continuous use in Kirkcaldy. It was consecrated in 1244 to St. Patrick and St. Brisse (St. Bryce) although there existed a Celtic church here before.

The tower is 15th century and still contains the 16th century bell, which has been recast several times. Visitors can climb to the parapet (at their own risk) with a church guide and enjoy the fine views over the River Forth and out to sea.

An historic graveyard

Kirkcaldy's story can be told from the Old Kirk and its surrounding graveyard. From earliest beginnings in the sheltered harbour at the East Burn to the development of trade worldwide, the "Lang Toun" has a history of seafaring and trade.

Ships and anchors abound in gravestone memorials, and we even have a depiction of a shipwreck among them, with two little figures clinging mournfully to each other on an upturned boat! Trade brought prosperity and the mediaeval church had "lafts" or galleries for each trades organisation e.g. Shoemakers Stair.

In 1613 George Gillespie was born at the Old Kirk Manse and grew up to be a leading light in Scotland's Reformation history. After writing the Westminster Confession of Faith, he became Moderator of the Church of Scotland in 1648 before succumbing to tuberculosis aged 35, and dying in his native town, where he is buried under the Kirk.



Another famous Langtonian is Adam Smith, "Father of Economics", who was baptised in the Old Kirk as an infant.

When the Kirk needed repair, the local landowners, or "Heritors" were responsible and in 1807 a

new church was built on to the existing tower when the old church became too dilapidated.

Trade brought raw materials and markets and Kirkcaldy's industry prospered: salt, coal, linen, rope, pottery and the invention of linoleum by Michael Nairn for which the town became famous "with the queer-like smell"! Michael Nairn's grave is a simple stone marked by Kirkcaldy Civic Society in the Old Kirkyard.

The earliest grave memorial recorded dates from 1522 and the latest burial was 1972. There are 29 Provosts buried in the graveyard, from the 17th century onwards, when the Kirk and town were closely related in local government and town life. Each newly-elected Town Council used to attend the dedication service of the "Kirkin' o' the Council" with its own town crest on the special hymn-books.



Visits by Groups

We welcome visitors interested in any of the periods of Kirkcaldy's history and can show you round, with illustrations from our own archive material.

In July and August we open the Kirk to the public on Fridays and Saturdays or by arrangement.

Genealogy

We have some old records and a full database of all the gravestones in the churchyard individually recorded, which visitors can search online or in the Kirk.

Community Venue for hire

The beautiful setting and fine acoustics of the Kirk auditorium make it a popular hire for concerts, rehearsals, business and community events, conferences, weddings and meetings.

We have a concert piano and a beautiful pipe organ both available for musicians.

The Kirk is fully equipped with audio-visual and recording facilities, wifi, and stage lighting.

Please contact the office at 01592 265499 for our current rates.

Volunteer with us

We have opportunities for volunteering in a range of ways- garden maintenance, visitor guide, office worker. Please ask for more details.

Contact us

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