

# Ferryport-on-Craig – Site Summaries



Our Lady Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church, Tayport. (B. Rhodes)

## **Sacred Landscape Project**

**St Mary's College, University of St Andrews**

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## Ferryport-on-Craig – Places of Worship – Past and Present

### Ferryport-on-Craig Parish Church / Tayport Old Parish Church / Tayport Auld Kirk

**Denomination:** Church of Scotland

**Period:** Early Modern, Late Modern

**Current Place of Worship?** No

Ferryport-on-Craig is the old name for Tayport – the name changed in the nineteenth century under influence from the railways. During the Middle Ages Ferryport-on-Craig was probably part of the parish of Leuchars. In 1606 James VI and I authorised the creation of a new parish at Ferryport-on-Craig and work began on the church. However, most of the structure that survives today dates from late eighteenth and early nineteenth-century rebuildings of the parish church. In the 1830s it was said that the parish church could accommodate between 800 and 900 people. Tayport Auld Kirk closed for regular worship in 1978 following amalgamation with the nearby Church of Scotland congregation on Queen Street. It remained empty for some time, before becoming used as an exhibition and concert venue.

#### Sources

Glasgow University, Fife Place-name Data, entry for 'Ferryport-on-Craig': <https://fife-placenames.glasgow.ac.uk/placename/?id=2771> [Accessed February 2024].

W. Nicolson, 'Parish of Ferryport-on-Craig', *New Statistical Account* (1845), vol. 9, p. 86.

Tayport Auld Kirk Website: <https://tayportauldkirk.org.uk/> [Accessed February 2024].

Tayport Heritage Website: <https://tayportheritage.com/trail-guide/board-23/#:~:text=The%20Auld%20Kirk%20%26%20Graveyard&text=The%20date%201607%20date%20stone,further%20rebuilding%20work%20in%201825> [Accessed February 2024].



Tayport Auld Kirk. (B.Rhodes)

# Our Lady Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church, Tayport

**Denomination:** Roman Catholic

**Period:** Late Modern

**Current Place of Worship?** Yes

The Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady Star of the Sea opened in 1939. The building was designed by the notable architect Reginald Fairlie – a committed Catholic who had been born in Fife. Fairlie designed many significant buildings of the mid-twentieth century, including the National Library of Scotland. The statue of the Virgin which is located above the entrance to Our Lady Star of the Sea was made by Hew Lorimer – a friend and collaborator of Fairlie's. Our Lady Star of the Sea is now linked with St Fillan's Church in Newport-on-Tay. As of 2024, both churches remain places of worship.

## Sources

Historic Environment Scotland, Canmore entry for 'Tayport, 37 Queen Street, St Mary Star Of The Sea Roman Catholic Church': <http://canmore.org.uk/site/100863> [Accessed February 2024].

St Fillan's and Our Lady Star of the Sea Website: <https://stfillans.org/history-of-st-fillans/> [Accessed February 2024].



Our Lady Star of the Sea Roman Catholic Church, Tayport. (B. Rhodes)

# St Margaret of Scotland Episcopal Church, Tayport

**Denomination:** Episcopal

**Period:** Late Modern

**Current Place of Worship?** Yes

Tayport Episcopal Church was established in the 1890s. The church is dedicated to St Margaret of Scotland and was designed by Major Thomas Martin Cappon, who worked on a number of churches in North-East Fife. The church has a late nineteenth-century reed organ, which was imported from America. As of 2024, St Margaret's remains a place of worship.

## Sources

Historic Environment Scotland, Canmore entry for 'Tayport, Queen Street, Episcopal Church':

<http://canmore.org.uk/site/100862> [Accessed February 2024].

Scotland's Churches Trust, entry for 'St Margaret of Scotland, Tayport':

<https://www.scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk/church/st-margaret-of-scotland-tayport/> [Accessed February 2024].

St Margaret of Scotland Episcopal Church Website: <https://stmargarettayport.org/> [Accessed February 2024].



St Margaret of Scotland Episcopal Church. (B. Rhodes)

# Tayport Parish Church, Queen Street / Tayport Free Church / Ferryport-on-Craig Free Church

**Denomination:** Free Church / United Free Church / Church of Scotland

**Period:** Late Modern

**Current Place of Worship?** Yes

Tayport Parish Church on Queen Street was built in the 1840s for a Free Church congregation. It has an impressive Victorian Gothic frontage. Following the union of the United Free Church with the established church in 1929, the congregation became part of the Church of Scotland. In 1978 the congregation of Tayport Auld Kirk and the church on Queen Street amalgamated. The former Free Church site on Queen Street became the parish church for Tayport. In the twenty-first century Tayport Parish Church united with St Athernase Church in Leuchars. As of 2023, it is still an active place of worship.

## Sources

Leuchars and Tayport Church Website: <https://leucharsandtayportchurch.co.uk/> [Accessed February 2024].

Places of Worship Scotland, entry for Tayport Free-UF Parish Church': <https://powis.scot/sites/tayport-free-uf-parish-church-7801/> [Accessed February 2024].

Scotland's Churches Trust, entry for 'Tayport Parish Church':

<https://www.scotlandschurchestrust.org.uk/church/tayport-parish-church/> [Accessed February 2024].



Tayport Parish Church. (B. Rhodes)

## Tayport United Free Church, King Street

**Denomination:** Associate Congregation / Free Church / United Free Church

**Period:** Late Modern

**Current Place of Worship?** Yes

The origins of the United Free Church on King Street go back into the nineteenth century. Work began on a church on this site in the 1840s, although there have been significant changes to the building in the succeeding 180 years. It remains a place of worship and as of 2024 is home to Tayport's United Free Church congregation.

### Sources

United Free Church of Scotland Website, entry for 'Tayport': <https://www.ufcos.org.uk/congregations/tayport/> [Accessed February 2024].

Places of Worship Scotland, entry for 'United Free Church of Scotland, Tayport':

<https://powis.scot/sites/united-free-church-of-scotland-10450/> [Accessed February 2024].



Tayport United Free Church. (B. Rhodes)

## United Secession Church, Castle Street, Tayport

**Denomination:** United Secession / United Presbyterian Church

**Period:** Late Modern

**Current Place of Worship?** No

There was formerly a United Presbyterian Church on Castle Street. The church building is clearly marked on the 1850s Ordnance Survey map of Fife. The *New Statistical Account* (compiled in the 1830s) remarks on the presence of “a small dissenting meeting-house...in connection with the United Secession”. In the early nineteenth century the congregation had on average about 50 members. It has not been possible to ascertain the date at which the church closed.

### Sources

Ordnance Survey map of Fife (1855), National Library of Scotland Website: <https://maps.nls.uk/view/75530800> [Accessed February 2024].

W. Nicolson, ‘Parish of Ferryport-on-Craig’, *New Statistical Account* (1845), vol. 9, p. 86.



Site of the United Presbyterian Church on the 1855 Ordnance Survey map of Fife. (Source: National Library of Scotland)