

St Monans – Site Summaries



St Monans Parish Church, 2023. (B. Rhodes)

Sacred Landscape Project

St Mary's College, University of St Andrews

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St Monans – Places of Worship – Past and Present

Abercrombie Church

Denomination: Roman Catholic, Church of Scotland

Period: High Medieval, Late Medieval, Early Modern

Current Place of Worship? No

The former parish church of Abercrombie is first recorded around 1160. During the Middle Ages both Dunfermline Abbey and Culross Abbey had rights regarding Abercrombie, and the parish church was at times a focus for disputes between the two monasteries. Abercrombie survived the Reformation. However, in the 1640s St Monans became the main parish church. Abercrombie Parish Church was abandoned soon after and gradually fell into ruin.

Sources

Corpus of Scottish Medieval Parish Churches, entry for ‘Crombie / Abercrombie Parish Church’: <https://arts-st-andrews.ac.uk/corpusofscottishchurches/site.php?id=157486> [Accessed February 2024].

Historic Environment Scotland, Canmore entry for ‘Abercrombie Church And Churchyard’:

<https://canmore.org.uk/site/34195/abercrombie-church-and-churchyard> [Accessed February 2024].



St Monans and Abercrombie [Abircroy] on J. Blaeu's map of Eastern Fife, 1654. (National Library of Scotland)

Braehead Evangelical Church, St Monans

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

Period: Late Modern

Current Place of Worship? Yes

Braehead Church was built in the 1870s. It originally housed a Free Church Congregation. Following the union of the United Free Church and the Church of Scotland in 1929, the church became known as St Monans Braehead. Church of Scotland services continued at Braehead until 1939. In 1947 the Church of Scotland sold the site. As of 2023, the building was occupied by a congregation affiliated to the Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches.

Sources

Fellowship of Independent Evangelical Churches, entry for 'Braehead Evangelical Church':

<https://fiec.org.uk/churches/braehead-evangelical-church> [Accessed February 2024].

University of St Andrews, Records of St Monans Free Church, United Free Church, Braehead, CH3/1067.



Braehead Church, 2023. (B. Rhodes)

Gospel Hall, St Monans

Denomination: Evangelical

Period: Late Modern

Current Place of Worship? Yes

Gospel Hall in St Monans was built in the 1950s. However, the evangelical congregation that worship at Gospel Hall have had a presence in St Monans since the 1920s. As of 2024 it remains a place of worship.

Sources

St Monans Gospel Hall Website: <http://stmonansgospelhall.net/history.html> [Accessed February 2024].



Gospel Hall, St Monans, 2023. (B. Rhodes)

St Monans Parish Church / Dominican Friary

Denomination: Roman Catholic, Church of Scotland

Period: High Medieval, Late Medieval, Early Modern, Late Modern

Current Place of Worship? Yes

St Monans Parish Church has a lengthy history of Christian worship. The site may have been a place of pilgrimage long before the construction of the current church during the High Middle Ages. In the 1360s King David II had a fragment of an arrow miraculously removed whilst on pilgrimage to St Monans. In gratitude for his healing, David extensively endowed the church. In the late fifteenth century a community of Dominican friars was established at St Monans Church. However, in the early sixteenth century the St Monans friary was suppressed and its property transferred to the Dominican convent in St Andrews. The church at St Monans survived the Reformation and in 1649 became a parish church. The building underwent major renovation in the nineteenth century. Following the pandemic of 2020 the congregation of St Monans Parish Church has mainly worshipped in their church hall and, as of 2024, the future of the medieval building is uncertain.

Sources

Historic Environment Scotland, Canmore entry for 'St Monance, Braehead, St Monance Parish Church And War Memorial': <http://canmore.org.uk/site/34204> [Accessed February 2024].

Bess Rhodes, *Riches and Reform: Ecclesiastical Wealth in St Andrews, c. 1520-1580* (2019).

Simon Taylor and Gilbert Markus, *The Place-Names of Fife* (2009), vol. 3, pp. 544-549.



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Church Hall, Station Road, St Monans

Denomination: Church of Scotland

Period: Late Modern

Current Place of Worship? Yes

During the early 2020s the Church of Scotland congregation at St Monans made the decision to worship at their church hall, rather than using the harder to access medieval church building. As of 2024, the church hall on Station Road is the main Church of Scotland place of worship in the village.

Sources

St Monans Church of Scotland website: <https://www.stmonanschurch.org.uk/> [Accessed February 2024].



St Monans Parish Church Hall, 2023. (B. Rhodes)