

THE CHURCH of SCOTLAND

ERROL PARISH CHURCH of SCOTLAND

Registered Scottish Charity Number SC015895



A Short History for Visitors to Errol Church

The second-largest settlement in the Carse of Gowrie, Errol lies on the Firth of Tay, 10 miles (16 km) east of Perth and 10 miles (16 km) west of Dundee.

The Church Records show that there has been a Christian Church in the Carse of Gowrie for perhaps as long as 1500 years and from the year 1210 we have records of the many priests and ministers who served here. *[see the list hanging in the Ochil Room]* Over these years the church has existed in many forms and denominations from the original Celtic Church to the Roman Church and a variety of Presbyterian Churches. These various congregations used different buildings, some of which still exist as ruins, or are now being used as houses or workshops.

Succeeding an earlier Parish Church in the old grave-yard, the present building, built by James Gillespie Graham in 1831-33 and modelled on a design of the English Norman Churches, is known locally as the 'Cathedral of the Carse'. The square tower dominates the skyline from many miles away. The Church was built by a Mr. George Page, his offer for the work being £3,819 but he claimed to have lost money over the contract!

Architectural features include a fine stained glass window depicting scenes from the life of Christ *[can you spot the 'mistake' in it?]*, a richly carved oak pulpit – an exact replica of that of Iona Abbey, a 'handsome' organ and a clock in the tower installed in 1902 in memory of a former minister.

In 1934, mainly through the generosity of General Heriot Maitland of Errol Park, the organ was electrified and electric light installed in the church. In 2010 a complete renovation of the organ was carried out at a cost of £40,000. The building had in the past been lit by candles, then oil lamps, and then by gas.

The Records of this Church are the oldest in Scotland, going back to 1553, and are held in New Register House, Edinburgh. New Register House is situated in Princes Street, Edinburgh EH1 3YT and full details of the facilities available can be found on www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

Note the Memorial Stone set in the east wall, a lasting tribute to those from the Parish who gave their lives in the First World War and above it the stained glass window remembering those who died during the Second World War. The banners hanging in the Church together with the Pulpit Fall have all been made by members of the congregation over the past few years.

On Sunday, 11th September 2022 a Rose Garden was dedicated in the church grounds in remembrance of those in our Parish who died during the Covid Epidemic when Funeral Services could not be held in the Church.

In the church grounds you will see a Memorial Stone gifted to our community by Russia in remembrance of, and gratitude from, those who stayed in Errol as they trained during World War2 at Errol Airfield.

Helpful books if you wish to learn more about our Parish are:

‘Errol: Its Legends, Lands and People’ by Lawrence Melville, first published in October 1935 by Thomas Hunter & Sons Ltd.

‘The Fair Land of Gowrie’ by Lawrence Melville, first published in 1939 by William Culross & Son Ltd, Coupar Angus.

**You are most welcome to take photographs during your visit.
Before you leave please do sign the Visitor’s Book on the table in
the vestibule beside the main door.**

ERROL PARISH CHURCH

INTERIM MODERATOR

REV. ANNE REDPATH, MA, G.DIP, THEOL

**Since 2023 Errol Church has been linked with our
neighbouring congregation of
St. Madoes and Kinfauns
and the two congregations work
closely together.**

Errol Parish Church is part of the Church of Scotland and seeks to serve the whole community. Sunday morning worship takes place at 11 am, and there are crèche facilities every Sunday. Visitors, of all faiths, or of none, are most welcome to join with us in our worship.