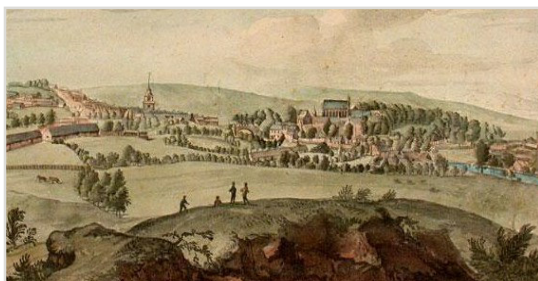




Detail from Pont  
Map 33 showing the  
town and abbey in  
1590s

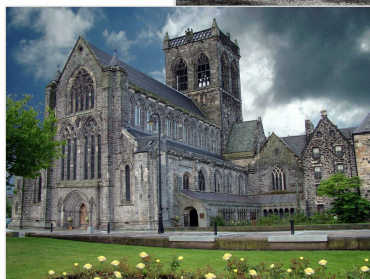
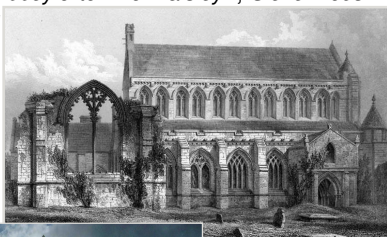
<http://maps.nls.uk/pont/places/paisley.html>



"Prospect of the Abbey & town of Paisley", Slezer 1693

Renfrewshire Council

The Abbey in  
1840s



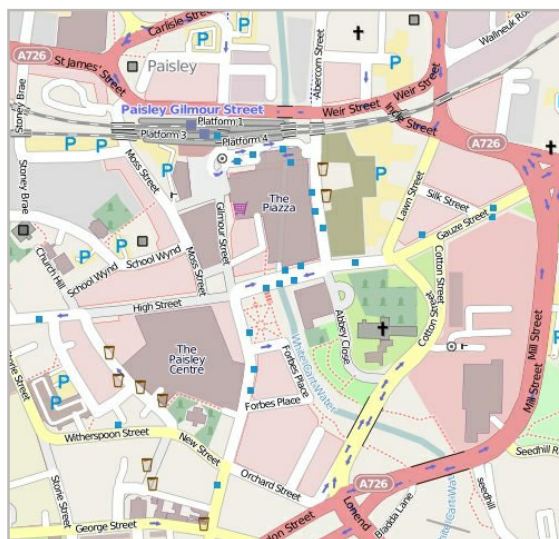
The Abbey today



## Directions to Paisley Abbey, PA1 1JG

*Enter the Abbey by the cloister  
entrance, opposite the Town Hall in  
Abbey Close*

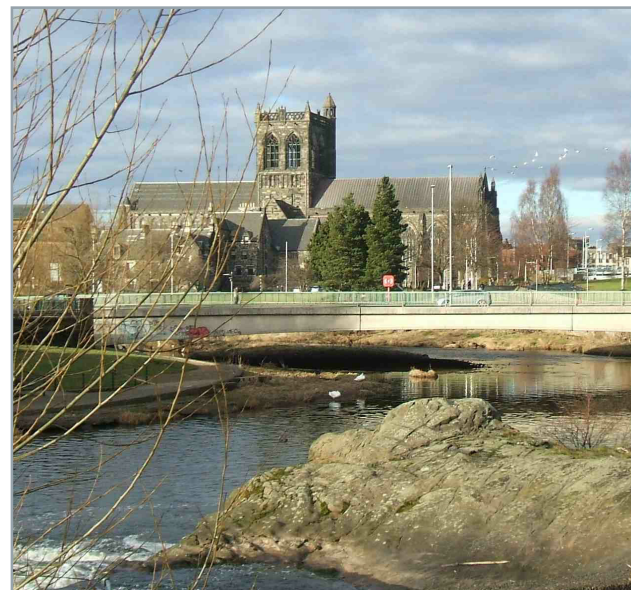
- the Abbey is a 5 minute walk from Paisley Gilmour Street rail station
- buses from Glasgow and other centres stop 100 metres from the Abbey
- there are clear signs for the Abbey on the M8 (Junction 27)
- free long stay parking is available close by at Renfrewshire Council Buildings' car park in Cotton Street to the east of the Abbey.
- at time of printing, street parking is free in the Town Centre on Saturdays



Any queries please contact  
**Paisley Abbey Office** 0141 889 7654  
[info@paisleyabbey.org.uk](mailto:info@paisleyabbey.org.uk)  
or  
Renfrewshire Local History Forum  
[www.rlhf.info](http://www.rlhf.info)

# PAISLEY ABBEY 850 CONFERENCE

*Saturday  
7 September 2013*



*in  
Paisley Abbey*



RENFREWSHIRE  
LOCAL HISTORY FORUM  
RLHF

Paisley Abbey (Church of Scotland) – Registered Charity No. SCO07633

**Paisley Abbey 850 Conference is part of a year long series of events to celebrate the 850<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of the Abbey.**

Saturday 14 September is Doors Open Day in Paisley and the theme will be *Paisley Abbey*

**Some key dates**

- 1163** Charter signed at Fotheringay, Northamptonshire for Walter Fitzalan, Steward of Scotland, to establish a Priory at Paisley. Thirteen monks came from the Cluniac Priory at Much Wenlock in Shropshire where Walter also held lands.
- 1219** Priory raised to an Abbey by the Pope.
- 1406** Robert III buried (grandson of Walter Stewart & Marjorie Bruce) in the Abbey.
- 1485** Great wall built by Abbot Schaw.
- 1488** Abbot granted charter to establish a burgh of Barony with a regular market and the right to trade various goods.
- 1525** Last Abbot, John Hamilton, appointed.
- 1550s** The tower collapsed onto the choir.
- 1553** Lord Claud Hamilton (son of James, Earl of Arran) appointed commendator and later Lord Paisley. He developed the Place of Paisley.
- 1560** Following the Reformation the nave of the Abbey became the parish church of Paisley and the surrounding area.
- 1653** The Abbey and its lands were sold to the Earls of Dundonald and there was further development of the Place.
- 1764** The Lordship of Paisley re-acquired by the Earl of Abercorn.
- 1782** Rev. Dr. Boog becomes minister and saved Abbey from demolition.
- 1818** Rev. Patrick Brewster appointed to the 'Second Charge'.
- 1879** Medieval Abbey Drain discovered.
- 1913** Design by Macgregor Chalmers for the choir and tower.
- 1928** Restoration of the choir and tower completed.

**PROGRAMME**

09.15 - 10.00 COFFEE & REGISTRATION

Chairman **Derek Alexander** (NTS)

10.00 Welcome & Introduction

**Gilbert Márkus** (University of Glasgow)

*Paisley, the Stewarts, and the Use of Saints*

**Prof. Richard Oram** (University of Stirling)

*The Abbey, its Estate and the Changing Face of the Land*

10 minute BREAK

**Alan Steel** (Local Historian)

*Patrons, Troublemakers and Angry Abbots*

**Tom Addyman** (Simpson & Brown)

*The Archaeology of the Cloister and the Place of Paisley – a new investigation and analysis*

**13.00 - 14.00 LUNCH**

14.00 Introduction

**Prof. Charles McKean** (University of Dundee)

*The Modernising of Paisley 1750-1820 - the use of the Abbey lands and the formation of the new town*

**David Roberts** (Local Historian)

*Fighting the Good Fight: The Life and Times of the Reverend Patrick Brewster - charismatic People's Champion or bigoted self-important windbag?*

**Rev. Tom Davidson Kelly**

*An Edwardian Scots Medieval Architect – Macgregor Chalmers and the 20<sup>th</sup> Century Choir Restoration*

Summary and conclusion

16.10 CLOSE

**BOOKING FORM**

**Paisley Abbey 850 Conference**

I wish to book the following places for the conference on Saturday 7 Sep. 2013.

....place(s) at £25 with picnic lunch = £.....

.....vegetarian option

....place(s) at £20 without lunch \* = £.....

I enclose a cheque payable to

**Paisley Abbey 850** for £.....

Name (s).....

Organisation.....

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

Phone.....

Email.....

Please send (to arrive by 30 August 2013)

**BOOKING FORM**

**CHEQUE**

**STAMPED ADDRESSED ENVELOPE** or email address (if you require **confirmation of booking**) to:

**Paisley Abbey 850 Conference**

**Paisley Abbey**

**Abbey Close**

**Paisley**

**PA1 1JG**

\* Includes coffee/tea at lunchtime