

## TIME CHART FOR ST NICHOLAS

| DATE                 | EVENTS IN ST NICHOLAS & ABERDEEN  | EVENTS IN & BEYOND SCOTLAND  |
|----------------------|---|--|
| 4 <sup>th</sup> Cent |   | Nicholas is Bishop of Myra.  |
| c.563                |   | Columba arrives in Iona from Ireland.  |
| Before 600?          | Arrival of Columban mission at Old Aberdeen (Machar).   |  |
| 1066                 |   | Norman Conquest of England.  |
| c.1100               | Earliest evidence of a building on this site.   |  |
| 1124                 | Aberdeen accommodates David and his court on occasion, and he may have issued Aberdeen's first charter as a burgh.                  | David I succeeds his brother Alexander as King of Scots. A policy of 'Normanisation' is vigorously pursued.                  |
| 1153                 | Town of 'Apardion' sacked in a Norse raid.  |  |
| 1157                 | First written evidence of the Church of St Nicholas (in a bull of Pope Adrian IV).  |  |
| c.1179               | Oldest surviving royal charter granted to Aberdeen by King William the Lion (1265-1214).  |  |
| c.1200               | The earliest parts of St Nicholas surviving above ground (north transept and doors to West Kirk) probably date to around this time. |  |
| 1277                 | Altar of St John the Evangelist founded by Richard the Mason, earliest recorded Alderman (Provost) of the Burgh.                    |  |
| 1306-1329            |   | The reign of Robert I ('The Bruce') as King of Scots.  |
| 1314                 |   | Battle of Bannockburn.   |
| 1349-1350            |   | The Black Death (bubonic and pneumonic) reaches Scotland.  |
| 1351                 | William De Leith provides two great bells, Laurence and Mary.   |  |
| 1356                 | William De Leith provides for the extension of the south transept by 16 feet and there founds the altar of SS Laurence and Ninian.  |  |
| c.1382               |   | John Wyclif and a small group of scholars make the first translation of the Bible into a still recognisable form of English. |

|                |   |   |
|----------------|---|---|
| 1411           | Provost Davidson killed at the Battle of Harlaw and buried in the north transept where his (supposed) effigy lies.  | Johannes Gutenberg sets up the first printing press. First printed work, the Gutenberg Bible.   |
| 1440s          | Local import and export taxes being levied for building work at the Kirk. Work may have begun on St Mary's Chapel to which the first clear reference is in 1445.          |   |
| c.1450<br>1455 |   |   |
| 1457           | Death of Sir Alexander Irvine of Drum whose effigy, with his wife's, lies in the SE corner of Drum's Aisle.   |   |
| 1477           | Bishop Thomas Spens, as Parson (or Rector) of St Nicholas, devotes the second teind to further the rebuilding and enlargement of the choir.                               |   |
| 1498           | Rebuilding sufficiently advanced to enable Bishop Elphinstone to carry out the Act of Dedication.   |   |
| 1508           | A set of 34 canopied choir stalls installed by John Fendour, who also worked at King's College.   |   |
| 1513           |   | James IV killed at the Battle of Flodden.   |
| 1517           |   | Martin Luther sets out 95 theological propositions, effectively initiating the Reformation movement.  |
| 1547           |   | George Wishart is burned as a heretic in St Andrews and shortly afterwards Cardinal Beaton is assassinated. With the accession of Edward VI in England reformed views make further headway there. |
| 1559           | On the news of the advance of a body of cleansers, silverwork and other moveables placed in the hands of the Town Council.  | John Knox returns to Scotland. By a sermon in the Kirk of Perth, Knox triggers a campaign to cleanse churches of 'monuments of idolatry'.   |
| 1560           |   | Legislation is passed by Parliament in Edinburgh abolishing the authority of the Pope in Scotland.  |
| 1562           | Kirk Session elected and convened for first time.   |   |
| 1567           |   | Mary abdicates in favour of her son, James VI. In the following year she flees to England where she is later imprisoned.  |
| 1574           | The Regent Morton visits the Kirk and orders removal and sale of the organs and relocation of choir stalls and screens where they will accommodate those hearing sermons. |   |

1587

Elizabeth signs Mary's death warrant and she is executed at Fotheringay.

1596

Carved timber-work remaining in position removed and stone dividing wall erected to create 'preaching church' in former choir – called New Kirk till mid 18th century. The nave was the Old Kirk.

1603

After the death of Queen Elizabeth of England, James VI of Scotland leaves Edinburgh to live in London.

1605

The General Assembly meets in St Nicholas.

The 'Authorised' or 'King James' version of the Bible is published.

1611

1633

William Guild, minister of the Kirk, buys Trinity Monastery for the Incorporated Trades.

1640

The ministers of Aberdeen, having declined to sign the National Covenant, are deposed by the General Assembly.

King Charles I is executed at Whitehall.

1649

Charles II crowned at Scone as King of Scots.

1651

Charles II returns from exile.

1660

Andrew Cant resigns (or is deposed).

1686

The Town Council acquires the hangings embroidered under the supervision of Mary Jameson for the adornment of their 'loft'.

James II, having fled to France, is held to have abdicated.

1688

1695

New ministers of Presbyterian sympathies appointed.

The Scots Parliament agrees to a Treaty of Union with England. The English Parliament likewise agrees to the Treaty of Union.

1707

Drum's Aisle refitted for the greater convenience of the meetings of the Synod and Presbytery.

1732

The Council judges the Old Church to be unsafe and closes it.

1741

The Council invites James Gibbs to provide plans. Sufficient funds for building not available.

'Bonnie Prince Charles' lands in Scotland.

1745

Both Jacobites and Hanoverians occupy Aberdeen for a time and it is thought that the former appropriate church silver to pay their troops.

Culloden

1746

|                  |   |  |
|------------------|---|--|
| <b>1751</b>      | Work begins on the building.  |  |
| <b>1755</b>      | (Nov.) The rebuilt nave is opened.  |  |
| <b>1828</b>      | The single parish of St Nicholas is divided into six parishes, each with a single minister.   |  |
| <b>1829</b>      | Pillared church-yard Screen built at Union Street.  |  |
| <b>1837</b>      | The old East Church is demolished and a new church erected on the old foundations.  | <b>The reign of Queen Victoria begins.</b>   |
| <b>1843</b>      | The ministers of all six city parishes align themselves with the Disruption and demit their charges.  | <b>The Disruption of the Church of Scotland.</b>   |
| <b>1845</b>      |   | <b>Growth of urban population, industrialisation and the Disruption ... Parliament passes Poor Law (Amendment) Act.</b>                              |
| <b>1874</b>      | Large new gas chandelier in East Church overheats and the roof catches fire during a choir practice. The East Church is restored and a new steeple built. |  |
| <b>1876</b>      | East Church re-opened.  |  |
| <b>1880</b>      | Pipe organ installed in West Church.  |  |
| <b>1882</b>      | The Guild of St Margaret founded in the East Church.  |  |
| <b>1884</b>      | First stained glass window installed in West Church.  |  |
| <b>1887</b>      | Pipe organ installed in East Church.  | <b>Jubilee of Queen Victoria.</b>  |
|                  | After a prolonged period of dispute a carillon of 36 fixed bells is installed.  |  |
| <b>1898</b>      | St Mary's Chapel is restored and reopened in the course of celebration of 450th anniversary of dedication of the Kirk.                                    |  |
| <b>1910</b>      |   | <b>Great Missionary Conference held in Edinburgh.</b>  |
| <b>1914-1918</b> |   | <b>The Great War</b>   |
| <b>1929</b>      |   | <b>Church re-union bringing together much the largest part of the Disruption Free Church and of earlier secessions, with the Established Church.</b> |
| <b>1935</b>      | A chapel created in the West Church in memory of Professor Henry Cowan.   |  |
| <b>1936</b>      | Extensive alterations are made to the East Church.  |  |

|           |   |  |
|-----------|---|--|
| 1937      | A new vestry is built for the West Church.  | The Second World War   |
| 1939-1945 |   | Queen Elizabeth succeeds to the throne.  |
| 1952      |   |  |
| 1954      | North & Trinity Church re-united with the East Church.  |  |
| 1964      |   | North Sea Oil exploration authorised by Act of Parliament and first well opened        |
| 1980      | East and West congregations unite.  |  |
| 1987      | Walker Room created.  |  |
| 1988      |   | The worst oil-related North Sea disaster claims 167 lives at the Piper Alpha platform. |
| 1990      | The oil industry provides furnishings and a stained glass window to establish St John's chapel in Collison's Aisle (North transept).  |  |
| 1995      | St Nicholas Congregational Church leave their building in Belmont Street to come to the Kirk.   |  |
| 1998      | The two congregations enter into a covenant committing them to seek union.  |  |
| 2000      |   | The Scottish Congregational Church unites with the United Reformed Church in the UK.   |
| 2002      | The congregations of the Kirk of St Nicholas and of St Nicholas United Reformed Church join to form 'The Kirk of St Nicholas Uniting'.  |  |
| 2006      | Where major developments are to take place on historic sites, current national legislation imposes on the developer (in this case and at this time, the Church) the responsibility for undertaking thorough archaeological investigations. Accordingly there takes place here a 'dig' of major national and international significance. |  |