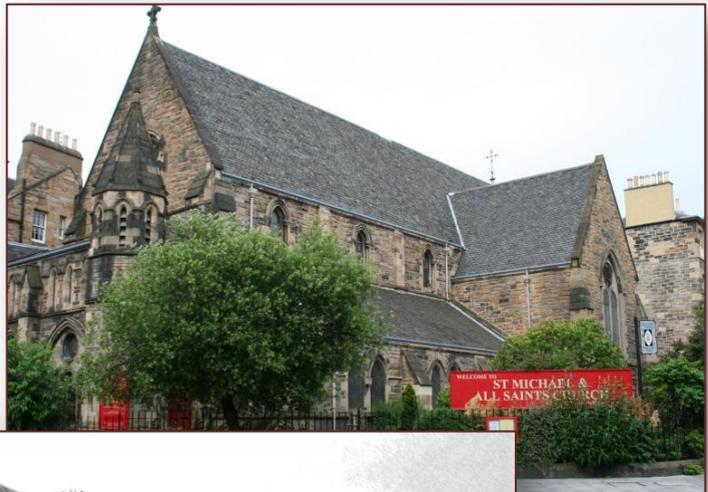




**A guide to  
St Michael and All Saints Church  
Edinburgh**







## **History of St Michael and All Saints**

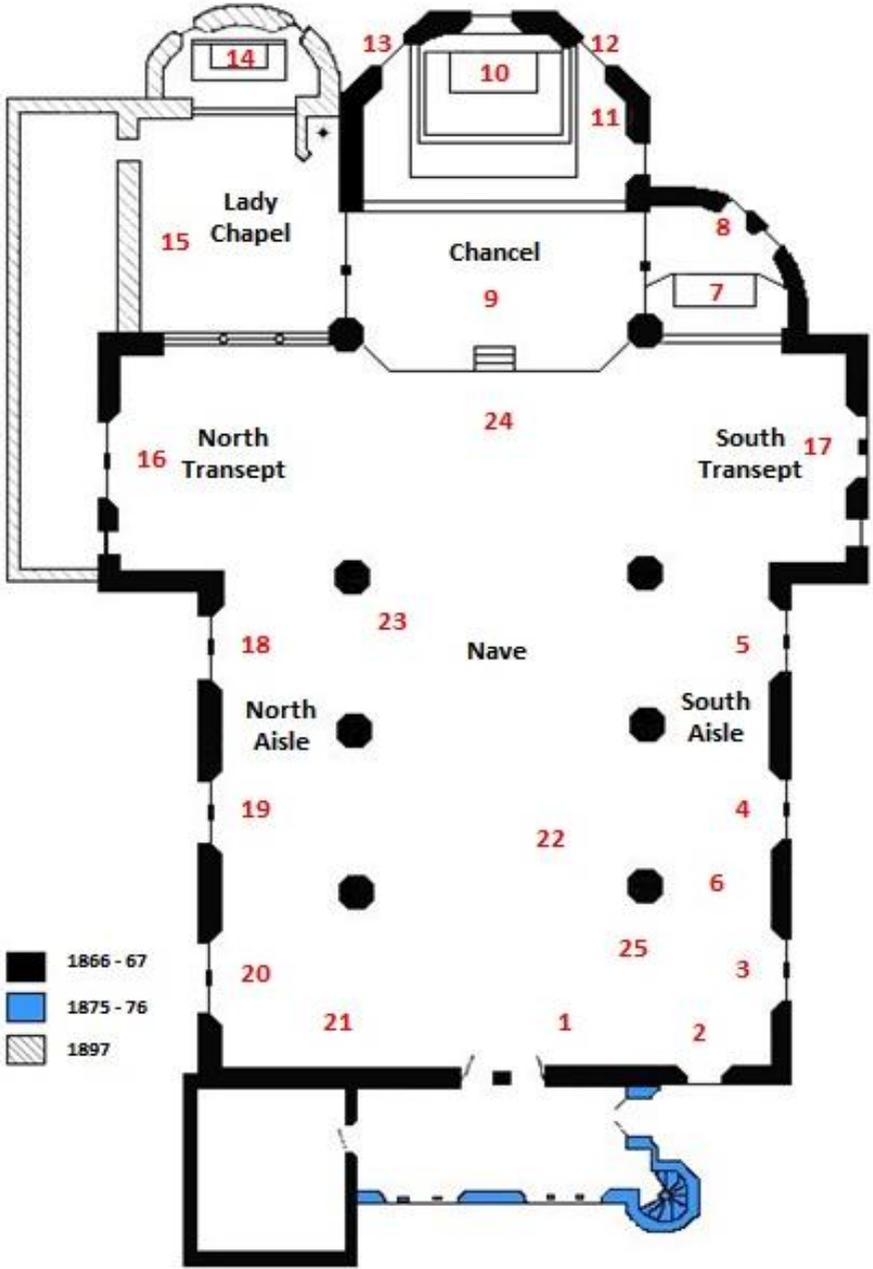
For nearly a century this church was known as All Saints'. Its present unusual dedication dates only from 1965 when St Michael's Church in Hill Square was closed and the members of its congregation joined that of All Saints', bringing with them the name of St Michael's and some of the furnishings from that church.

The All Saints' congregation was first formed in 1853 when St John's Church, Princes Street, established a mission school in Earl Grey Street on the site of the present Methodist Central Hall. Part of that school building was used for worship on Sundays but it was soon found that a proper church was required (worshippers at St John's were not very comfortable with the idea that inhabitants of what was then the slum area of Portsburgh to whom the mission school catered should attend St John's itself.)

The present church was begun in 1866 to a design by R. Rowand Anderson (later responsible for the Scottish National Portrait Gallery and the McEwan Hall in Edinburgh) and opened the next year. What was built in 1866-7 consisted of the present nave and aisles, the transepts, chancel and what is now the St Michael's Chapel on the south of the chancel. A large steeple was intended to be built at the south west corner but it was not begun because of lack of money. The west end of the church was therefore finished in rather temporary fashion.

In 1875-76 the west end was finished to a new design (again by Anderson) with the addition of the narthex with a west gallery above. By this time hopes of raising money for a steeple had vanished and instead, the south west turret was built which contains the stair to the gallery and, at the top, the church bell.

In 1897 the church was extended by the construction of the Lady Chapel with an organ loft above the north side of the chancel. Anderson was yet again the architect but here he worked in Romanesque style rather than in the early Gothic of the rest of the church.



## A Brief Tour of the Church

On entering the Church we turn to the right and see the stone Font, (1) in its traditional place at the west end (the entrance to the church symbolising baptism as the entry into the Church.) This is of 1867.

### South Aisle

Stained Glass: The window in the west wall of this aisle (2) has stained glass of 1897 by J. Ninian Comper, depicting St Drostan. In the south wall, the two west windows, perhaps by the firm of O'Connor, were installed c.1870 and both show comparable events of the Old and New Testaments.



The first (3) depicts the Temptation of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and the Temptation of Our Lord in the Wilderness. The second (4) shows Abraham preparing to sacrifice Isaac, and Our Lord

carrying his cross on the way to Calvary.

The third window on this wall (5) is of 1892 and by Comper. It again has an Old/New Testament comparison, one light showing Ruth caring for Naomi and the other St John caring for Our Lady.

Stations of the Cross (6) on the walls of this aisle and of the north aisle were given to All Saints in 1913. They are copies of designs by Klein and painted on zinc.

### **St Michael's Chapel**

This chapel to the south of the chancel now contains the altar and altarpiece which used to be in the Lady Chapel of St Michael's Church.

The Altarpiece (7) is 1901, designed by Hamilton More Nisbett and executed by John Gibson with painted work by G & H Potts. The side niches contain carved and painted wooden reliefs of the annunciation, Visitation, Nativity of Our Lord, and the Virgin Mary as



Queen of Heaven. In the centre is an ivory figure of Our Lord on the Cross. The side leaves are folded during Passiontide when statues and icons are traditionally veiled. The Victorian Stained Glass windows (8) show St John and Our Lord at the Last Supper, and the Calling of St Peter.

### **Chancel**

In the floor is set a large brass cross, (9) placed there c.1910 as a Memorial to Canon Alexander Drimmie Murdoch, the founder and first Rector of All Saints' Church.

## Sanctuary

The marble High Altar was made in 1921 for St Michael's church and rebuilt here in 1965. It contains relics of St Catherine of Sienna and St Francis of Sales.

The very tall painted and gilded wooden Reredos (10) above was made for All Saints' Church in 1889 by C.E. Kempe. In the painted panels are shown saints (including St Gregory the Great and St Jerome) and thurible-swinging angels, all honouring the Virgin and Child depicted by a carved statue flanked by carved figures of shepherds. The gilded figures of angels at the top were carved at Oberammergau and erected in 1893.

The erection of this reredos entailed the blocking of the original east window (its line can still be seen).

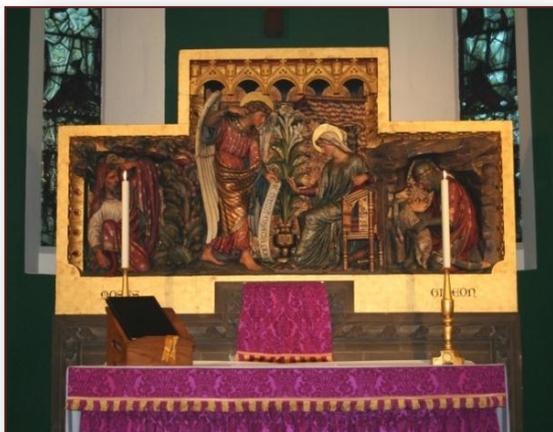


The Stained Glass from this window was moved to a new window inserted on the south side of the chancel. (11) This shows the Crucifixion and it, together with the two windows showing angels (12) and (13) which originally flanked it, were installed when the church was opened in 1867. They are the work of William Wailes, of Newcastle.



### Lady Chapel

In this chapel is now the Altarpiece (14) of carved and painted limestone which stood originally over the high altar of All Saints' and was re-erected here in 1897. It was designed by William Burges (architect of Cardiff castle and Castell Coch) and shows the Annunciation in the centre with the figures



of Moses and Gideon at the ends. The Stained Glass (15) is of the early and mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century.

### North and South Transepts

Each transept has one huge window filled with Stained Glass by Clayton & Bell in the 1870s. The window in the north transept (16) shows scenes from the life of Our Lady and the infancy of Our Lord (the Annunciation, Visitation, Nativity, and Presentation at the Temple.) The window in the south transept (17) depicts Our Lord's burial and Resurrection and shows him in glory at the top.

### North Aisle

**Stained Glass:** The first window we come to in this aisle (18) is of c.1870 and shows Rebecca at the Well, and Our Lord and the Samaritan Woman at the Well.



The next window (19) is by Clayton & Bell but its two lights are of different dates. One, showing the Risen Lord appearing to St Mary Magdalene, was put up in 1890, the other, showing the Women at the Empty Tomb, was not installed until 1913. The west window (20) was installed c.1920 and is by Walter E. Tower of the firm of C. E. Kempe and Co. It shows St Andrew (patron saint of Scotland) and St Margaret of Scotland worshipping the Virgin and Child.

Against the west wall are placed an oak Altar and Reredos (21) which were presented to All Saints' church and originally placed in the south chapel but moved here to make way for the altar and altarpiece from St Michael's Church.

### **Nave**

The Pews (22) are those provided in the 1860s, of simple bench type with sloping backs (supposedly for comfort).

The Pulpit (23) came from St Michael's to which it had been given by the Earl of Kinnoull. It is Spanish, of the 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> century, with carved allegorical figures (Hope, Justice etc) at the corners.





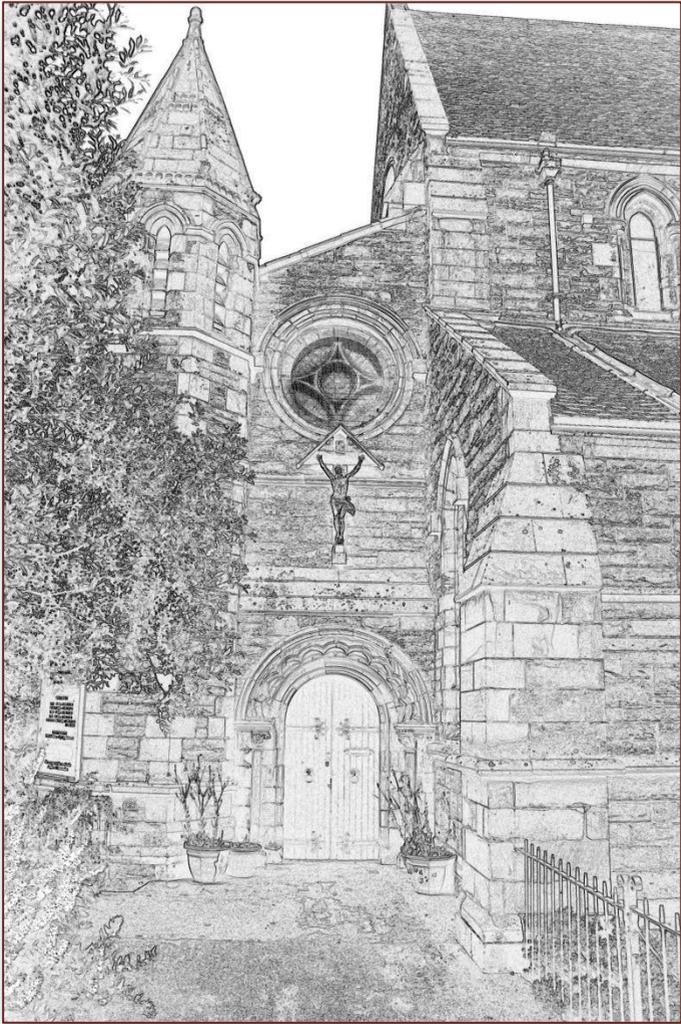
The Hanging Rood (24) showing Christ as the Eternal High Priest, was erected in 1938 as a memorial to Canon George Holmes (Rector of All Saints', 1907-37.) It was designed by Sir Matthew Ochterlony and carved by Thomas Good with painting executed by H.J. Lintott.

**Stained Glass:** The west clear-story window on the south side (25) contains glass depicting St Joan of Arc. It was executed in 1917 by Amy Dalyell with the help of the distinguished stained glass artist, Alexander Strachan.

### **Before you leave**

If you have time, please take a few minutes to say a prayer for the souls of those who built this beautiful church and for those who, week by week, worship here. We'd be very happy if you would join us at Mass on Sunday or at any of the weekday services. Service times can be found in the Pew Sheet or on the Website.

<http://www.stmichaelandallsaints.org>



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