

## ABOUT CATHEDRAL SQUARE

Cathedral Square is the historic centre of Dunblane. This charming location provides the perfect setting for exploring the antiquity of the town.



**GOLDEN POST BOX**  
A popular spot to have your picture taken, next to our Olympic post box dedicated to Dunblane's famous son, Andy Murray.

**CATHEDRAL**  
Dating back to the 12th Century, this is one of Scotland's few surviving medieval churches.

**Dunblane Museum**  
View a unique collection of artefacts, paintings, prints and photographs about the Cathedral and Dunblane.

**Leighton Library**  
The oldest purpose-built library in Scotland houses a fascinating collection of books dating back from 1504.

**OLD CHURCHES HOUSE HOTEL**  
Immersed in history, Old Churches House Hotel is home to the Chapel. Formerly Scotland's eccumenical centre, Old Churches House Hotel is now a small hotel and brasserie, sympathetically restored in respect of its history.



www.OldChurchesHouse.com

## VISITING THE CHAPEL



The Chapel at  
Old Churches House Hotel  
Cathedral Square,  
Dunblane FK15 0AU  
Web: [www.oldchurcheshouse.com](http://www.oldchurcheshouse.com)  
Email: [stay@oldchurcheshouse.com](mailto:stay@oldchurcheshouse.com)  
Tel: 01788 820653



## BRASSERIE AND GARDEN TERRACE

Brasserie and Garden Terrace serving snacks, lunch, dinner, teas and coffee, open from 9.30am, Monday to Saturday. Special brasserie menu available on Sundays.



www.OldChurchesHouse.com



# THE CHAPEL

AT OLD CHURCHES HOUSE HOTEL

## SCOTLAND'S SECRET CHAPEL



- Open Daily 10am-4pm
- Free Admission
- Visitors Welcome
- Brasserie and Garden Terrace
- Scotland's Eccumenical History
- The History of the Chapel

www.OldChurchesHouse.com

## UNCOVERING THE SECRET CHAPEL...



## THE CHAPEL AT OLD CHURCHES HOUSE HOTEL

The Chapel at Old Churches House was uncovered in 1967 during the restoration of the buildings which became Scottish Churches House, now Old Churches House Hotel.

In 1924 a row of 18th century benedict cottages on Kirk Street were sent for demolition in order to erect a war memorial. The 'Friends of Dublinne Cathedral' successfully contested the decision in favour of creating an ecumenical conference centre. Soon after, restoration began and in March 1960, Mr Ian Fraser was appointed as House Warden.

In July 1960, Scottish Churches House was blessed by the World Council of Churches, who visited Dublinne to unveil the Oikoumene sign, which is still visible today at the gable end of the house.

Following this, a team of volunteers, consisting of representatives from 11 nations and 15 denominations, began renovating the grounds of Scottish Churches House. As vast amounts of mud and ivy were cleared, the volunteers stumbled across a stone wall with a door, leading to the marvellous discovery of the Chapel.



## THE HISTORY OF THE CHAPEL

We are not certain of the Chapel's original purpose. However, the architecture provides many astounding clues that point towards it being a 13th Century place of worship.

After uncovering the Chapel, the team of volunteers quickly began referring to their discovery as 'the Chapel' and constructed a cross on the platform outside, which is still visible today. One of the most religiously iconic findings was made by a water diver, called in to tackle the tanking. Upon checking the water flow, he found a body buried underneath the table after. The burial was in an east-west direction, as favoured ecclesiastically, providing a clear indication that the Chapel had been an ancient place of worship.

Other significant clues were small cupboards located at the back of the Chapel deemed too shallow for use except as shrines that would hold communion vessels, bibles or prayer books and a well at the left hand side of the Chapel. The well would have been inadequate for household use but a small bowl could have been lowered down to get water to add to wine. The window was also deemed to be ecclesiastical in character rather than being for household use.

Architect Eric Stevenson was commissioned to devise an architectural plan for furnishing the Chapel, making it an accessible and comfortable place for personal prayer or common worship. He took every aspect into consideration, even opting to use pottery for communion vessels rather than silver as it was a less valuable material and hence the Chapel could remain open at all times. The Chapel quickly established itself within the Scottish community as a place of prayer and worship. Scottish Churches House was used by many Church groups, secular organisations and individuals for retreats, conferences, courses and holidays, for which the Chapel played a central and attached role.

## THE CHAPEL TODAY



Scottish Churches House closed in 2011. It was bought by a local businessman and reopened as Old Churches House Hotel in July 2013 after undergoing a sympathetic refurbishment that brought it back to life.

The final part of the restoration was the Chapel, which officially opened in July 2014.

Steeped in history, the rounded stone ceiling set with stary lights, beautiful solid stone walls, a standing cross and circular wooden benches, make this a unique and endearing place to visit.

In 2013 an exquisite lort was kindly gifted to the Chapel by Reverend Margaret Sleeth at Seirkirk Parish Church and has since been used at several christenings.



Today, the Chapel's rich history is on display for visitors from near and far, including Ingeborg of the Queens visit in 1987 and a unique spinning wheel gifted by Pope John Paul II in 1982.

The Chapel is now in a condition where people can once again use it for what it was intended, with several weddings, blessings and christenings having taken place with many more to come.