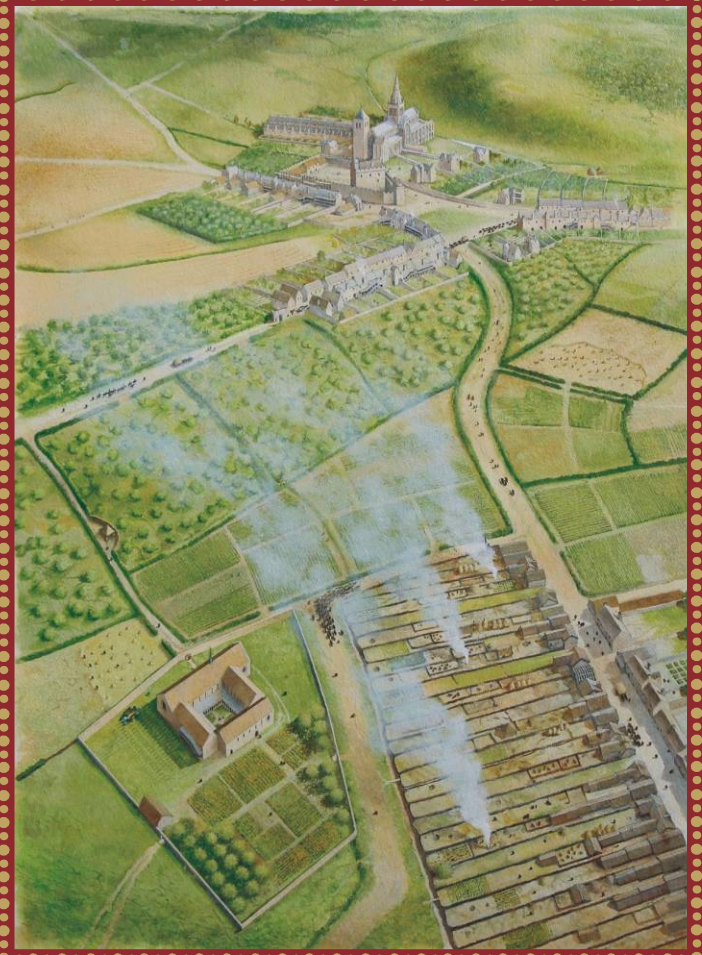


Glasgow City Council

medieval city map

Glasgow's Medieval City development between 1150 and 1550



Medieval High Street c.1520. Illustration by David Simon

Medieval City Map trail is situated on the eastern side of the City Centre.

The trail begins with West Port which is situated approximately 10 minutes walk from Central Station along Argyle Street. The trail ends at Glasgow Cathedral, the approximate trail time is 1 hours 30 minutes.



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SCRAN
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www.glasgow.gov.uk
www.seeglasgow.com

Medieval Glasgow from its beginnings in 1119 with the building of the Cathedral on the site of St Kentigern's first church, to becoming the seat of an archbishopric in 1492 has stirred considerable interest. Glasgow's Medieval ecclesiastical centre had an important economic impact on the development of the town. When a charter was issued by William the Lion, between 1175 and 1178, giving Glasgow the status of burgh, the rights it endowed to the burgesses of the city to own land, to trade and hold an annual fair led to the expansion of the town towards the Cathedral. Glasgow by the 15th century had become a thriving town second only to St Andrew's in ecclesiastical importance.

The medieval landscape of buildings such as the Bishops Castle and the College, which dominated the High Street for hundreds of years, now lie hidden beneath Glasgow's Victorian architecture and new developments. I hope that this map will give you a glimpse of this splendid medieval legacy and that it will encourage you to experience for yourselves this aspect of Glasgow's archaeological past.

1 West Port - western entrance to the medieval burgh.
Standing at the head of Argyle Street looking down the Trongate, you are now at the final location of the Westport. To the right is Stockwell Street, in 1547 this street would have been known as Stockwellgait which led directly to the bridge over the Clyde.

The west port had various locations throughout its history, but in the medieval period lay at the junction of Old Wynd and the Trongate. By 1588, the port had been moved west to the junction of Stockwell Street and the Trongate. The reason for this change of site was as the council minutes for the year 1588 points out, 'calling to mind how necessary, profitable and comlie it will be for the decoration of the town for the transport of the west port, presentlie ruinous and to be repaired of new, to the Stockwellheid and sua to incluid the haill rew and housis betwixt and thair within the town'. The position of the 15th century ports, became obsolete as the burgh expanded and the social, economic and political position of the burgh changed. The improvement in public health and the advances in medicine led to a clearer understanding of disease. The expansion of trade, within Britain, Europe and the world, brought about change in the burgh's administration. Ports were no longer needed to control disease, to help keep the town secure and the volume of trade into the town by the 18th century brought about improvement and widening of the streets.

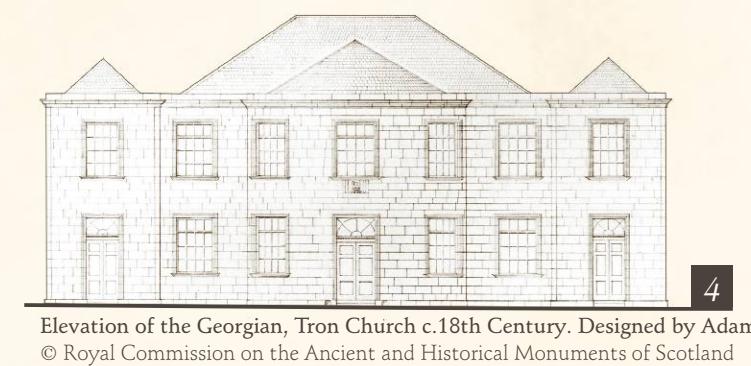


2 New Vennel
Walking along the Trongate, on the right hand side between Mitchell Amusements and McDonalds the bakers, ran the 16th century New Vennel. The vennel (or alley) gave the townspeople of the burgh access to the Brigait or Bridgegate. Even in the 15th and 16th centuries the Brigait was a lively place full of tenements, taverns, small shops all jostling for space, where the townspeople could learn news from the ships coming into the Clyde and where goods would be brought in from abroad.



3 Trongate
Walking from the site of the New Vennel, along Trongate. The name of the street takes its origins from the town's iron or wooden weighing beam, which was once situated in this street. To the south side of St Thene's Gate, or 'Tron Gait', lay the first location of this large weighing mechanism. A charter of 1490, granted the right of the burgh to have this public weighing beam, which served to regulate duty on traders in terms of measures and weights. The site of the beam was located in various places along the Trongate but situated near to the Glasgow Cross and its marketplace.

4 Tron Kirk
Coming along Trongate, on the right we can see the Tron Kirk Steeple. The Tron Kirk was originally situated behind this steeple but today, only the steeple survives. In 1592, the Town council repossessed the Church of St Mary, and built the Tron Kirk. It was to become Glasgow's second parish church after 1599. The origin of the church's name, derives from its closeness to the Tron or public weighing beam, and became known as the Tron Church or Laigh (Low) Church (as opposed to the High church which was the other name the cathedral). Unfortunately, no known record of the style of building exists but we do know that by this period, extensive re-building of the church had taken place.



Elevation of the Georgian, Tron Church c.18th Century. Designed by Adam © Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland



5 Tron Kirk Steeple
The Tron Kirk Steeple, situated in front of the Tron Kirk and fronting onto the Trongate. The steeple was added to the church in c1593, and rebuilt in 1636. It was set away from the main church, which was probably the reason it survived the fire that destroyed the main church in 1793. James Adam, the London architect, rebuilt the church after the fire. The surviving frontage of the Tron Kirk Steeple juts out today into the street, however in the 16th century, the line of the medieval street would have been here. The Improvement Act of 1870, had led to the clearing of the south side of the street, by the Tron Kirk Steeple, thus widening the road.



6 Collegiate Church of St Mary of Loreto and St Anne
To the left of the Tron Kirk steeple, looking right, down King Street, sat the site of the pre-Reformation Collegiate Church of St Mary and St Anne.



The site of the Collegiate Church of St Mary of Loreto & St Anne c.1977 © RCAHMS

7& 8 Tolbooth and Steeple
Continue along the Trongate, you will come to Glasgow Cross, where the Trongate, High Street, Saltmarket, and the Gallowgate meets - this was the area of the weekly marketplace. The 17th century Tolbooth Steeple is situated to the left. Originally the steeple would have had a large tolbooth attached to it, but this was removed in 1921.

Little information is available about the earliest of Glasgow's tolbooths, which lay at the northwest corner of the modern High Street and Trongate. A 12th century burgh may well have been expected to have a centre of civil administration, but until 1454 there are no surviving records of its early medieval history. In 1578, the city's treasury accounts, describes payment, 'gevin to the maister of work and debur sit he him upon the biggin of the fair work of the tolbuith and settin up of the bell'. Other records in the same year mention 'gevin David Kay for the pryce of the knob', 'buithis' (shops) in the street and repairs to the Tolbooth's great oak and iron door. The Tolbooth was evidently a substantial building but by the early 17th century had become 'ruinous' and the Town council decided to rebuild it. The condition of the building at this time can be seen by the establishment of a further prison, the 'Leicht tolbuith', at the northern end of the town. In 1626, the new Tolbooth was built, it was a very impressive stone building five storeys high.



Tolbooth and Steeple, Glasgow City Council(Museums)Photo Library

Daniel Defoe
with small windows, which looked onto the Trongate. It was described as being 66 foot long (20.12 metres) and 24 feet wide (7.47 metres) deep. Daniel Defoe describes the building, as ornate and beautifully carved with Rose and Thistles, "it hath a stately staircase ascending to the Town councils hall, a dean guilds hall, majestraits rooms, collector of the excise of the town's rooms, these rooms are all vaulted rooms appointed for common prisoners".

The Tolbooth was not just used as an administrative centre but as a prison for those accused of crimes. The prisoners would have been led to their rooms by a narrow turnpike stair in the Tolbooth steeple. The steeple, which survives today, would have stood at the east of the building. The seven story steeple is capped with a turreted parapet and beautifully engraved with a crown and spirelet. The prisoners would have been kept on the top floor. Several alterations and major additions to the tolbooth took place in the succeeding centuries until its demolition of all parts but the steeple in 1921.



9 Saltmarket
Standing at Glasgow Cross, looking right down Saltmarket, we can see what was known in the 13th century as the high street. Evidence suggests it was already crowded with buildings by 1285. You can see in the distance to the right, a grand building in the classical style - this is the High Court. The 13th century medieval high street would have stretched only from Glasgow Cross to the High Court.

South of the Cross, the Saltmarket extended to the Brigait or Bridgegate (the road to the bridge). Since the twelfth century, Glasgow had been evolving into almost two towns; in the north of the town lay the ecclesiastical centre, while in the south around the Cross and the Saltmarket, Glasgow's mercantile centre expanded. The town had received Burgh status in 1175, this gave certain trading rights to the townspeople, allowing them to hold an annual fair and a weekly market. Before this any trading would have been carried out near to the cathedral, which relied on custom from Pilgrims visiting the cathedral. The commercial medieval centre of the town was however to develop along the Saltmarket, Trongate, Gallowgate and the High Street.

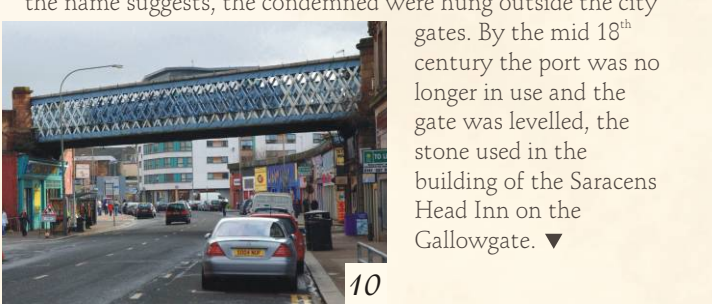
As the burgh grew, by the 16th century many markets had developed away from the central, weekly market, - fruit and vegetables at the Gallowgate, the flesh market, the meal market, the fish market at the West lort, the grass market, the sour milk market at the Gallowgate Bridge.

From the late 12th century, after Burgh status had been granted, the development of the town had been planned and laid out. Burgage plots had developed along the main streets, these were strips of land rented out to the important middle class burgesses of the town, who had houses fronting onto the main streets. Booths or early shops, were situated on the lower halves of these houses with living accommodation above. Behind these frontages, along narrow vennels or wynds, lay other houses and buildings, which housed the craftsmen of the town. There were many crafts that grew with the rising prosperity of the town, this reflected the town's importance and the skills of the craftsmen. Incorporation of the crafts came in the 16th century and their rising importance and influence on the development of the town, can be seen as these guilds were able to license and set standards within their own trades. Tanners, skinner, fullers, waulkers, weavers and fleshers are among the trades that grew up within the burgh. The candle makers of the burgh were moved to what we know of today as Candleriggs, which in the 17th century was set outside the main area of the burgh. They were blamed for causing several great fires in the town. In 1632, a third of the town had been destroyed, by the fire, eighty clothes which ran between the houses were destroyed and over one thousand families made homeless. Until late in the medieval period, the majority of the houses and cottages were made of wood and thatch, contrasting with the mainly stone built ecclesiastical centre of the burgh.



10 East Port and the Gallowgate
Standing at Glasgow Cross, looking across the street and down to the left is the Gallowgate. Along this road lay the East Port and further still the Gallows.

Little is known of the early east port which stood on the westbank of the Molendinar on the road called Gallowgate. By the mid 17th century as the town grew the port was moved further east. It was called 'Eist Barras Yett', or (east barred gate). The port had a large stone archway, with heavy nail studded oak doors, offering the townspeople some security at night and in case of invasion. Port doors were locked at night and keys given to the bailiffs. The port lay next to the place where, as the name suggests, the condemned were hung outside the city gates. By the mid 18th century the port was no longer in use and the gate was levelled, the stone used in the building of the Saracens Head Inn on the Gallowgate.



Wooden House, Saltmarket watercolour by Thomas Fairbairn Glasgow City Council(Museums)Photo Library



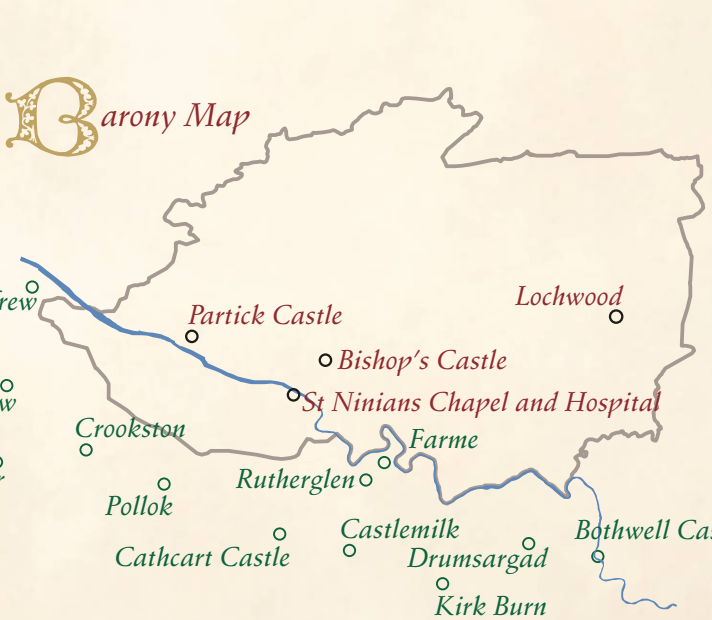
Sketch Plan of The City of Glasgow c.1547 taken from town records. Map dated 1894.

The medieval town had many ports throughout its history, here are a few;

Stable Green Port to the north by the cathedral and the bishops stables, where the Royal Infirmary is now situated. Before the Reformation, protection of the ecclesiastical centre was improved by a new port called the Kirk Port, which gave admission to the Cathedral precinct and the Bishop's Castle.

In 1574 Greyfriars Port, to the west, accessed through Buns Wynd (now Nicholas Street), and Rottenrow lort, also on the east side of the town, were locked due to an outbreak of the plague.

To the south of the town lay the Bridgegate or Brigait port. The date of the construction of this important port is unclear but archaeologists believe it was there from at least the 13th century. The port lay at the head of Bishop Rae's bridge over the Clyde and let goods and traffic in from the north bank of the Clyde. By the 17th century a toll house, lay near to the port leaving dues on traffic into the burgh. Near to the Brigait lay, the goose dubs, in medieval terminology this meant 'goose puddles' and was the area where the town's geese were kept.



- Key to Medieval Map Sites**
- 1 West Port
 - 2 New Vennel
 - 3 Trongate
 - 4 Tron Kirk
 - 5 Tron Kirk Steeple
 - 6 Collegiate Church of St Mary of Loreto and St Anne
 - 7 & 8 Tolbooth and Steeple
 - 9 Saltmarket
 - 10 East Port and the Gallowgate
 - 11 Chapel of Little St Mungo or St Kentigern
 - 12 Black Friars' Wynd
 - 13 Dominican Friary
 - 14 Grammar School
 - 15 Grey Friars' Wynd
 - 16 Franciscan Friary
 - 17 The College or University of Glasgow
 - 18 Molendinar Burn
 - 19 Old Pedagogy and Rottenrow
 - 20 Castle Street
 - 21 & 22 Provand's Lordship and St Nicholas Hospital
 - 23 Blackadders Hospital
 - 24 Bishop's Castle
 - 25 The Cathedral's New Burying Ground
 - 26 Glasgow Cathedral

Barony Map
This map shows us the outline of the Barony of Glasgow in the early 16th century. Within the boundary line the Bishops palaces are featured: far right the Bishops Estate with the Bishop's Palace at Lochwood, far left the Bishops residence in Partick and centre, within the burgh of Glasgow, the Bishops Castle. Also highlighted are St Ninians Chapel and Leper Hospital, in an area we know today as the Gorbals and surrounding the outside of the Barony, we can see castles or fortifications of the noblemen.

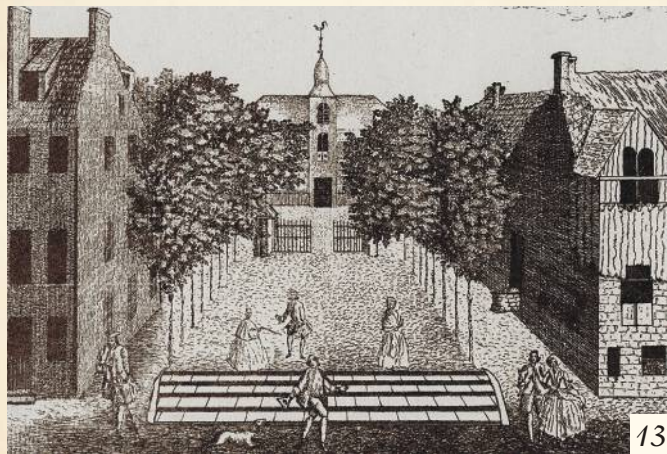
11 Chapel of Little St Mungo or St Kentigern

Along the Gallowgate, about 250 metres beyond the east port, lay the Little Chapel of St Mungo. It no longer exists but records show us something of the nature of its history.

The Chapel of Little St Mungo or St Kentigern was endowed in 1500, by David Cunningham Archdeacon of Argyle, at his own expense and situated outside the town. The church was to the east of the burgh, on the Gallowgate near St Kentigern's trees and probably acted as a chapel of ease for pilgrims and visitors to the burgh. The diocese records of 1504 show that Cunningham while acting on behalf of Archbishop Blackader, instructed John Gibson Master of Work to 'disperse monies', for small things about the Church of Little St Mungo. The site of the chapel and its enclosing burial ground is mentioned in records dated May 1593, when Donal Cuonyninghame of Aikenbar sold the chapel to the town council. The records describe the church as 'the chapel and hows callit St Mungo's chaplanrie with kirk yaird', 'lyand on the east side of the toune of Glasgow beyong the Gallowgate betwixt the lands of dohill on the north and the high street on the east parts'. The property was acquired for the use as 'ane hospital for the puir, to be foundit by the said provost, bailies and council' but the scheme was apparently abandoned and in 1600 the Town council had ordered the timber, stone and trees of the little chapel, to be used in the repair of the Iron Kirk. The remainder of the chapel was cleared in 1754, when the Saracen's Head Inn was built on the site.

12 Black Friars' Wynd

Coming along High Street, you will come to Blackfriars Street. Opposite the entrance on the other side of the road, is the Andrew Ure Hall. This is where the medieval Black Friars' Wynd, led to the Black Friars site over 500 years ago.



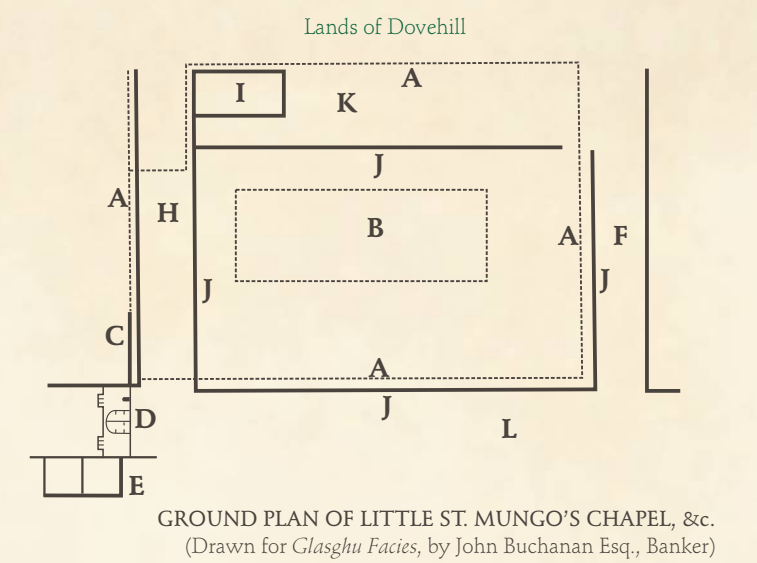
Dominican Friary and Black Friars' Wynd, c.18th century
Glasgow City Libraries(Mitchell Library)

13 Dominican Friary

The house of the Dominican Black Friars in Glasgow was established by the Bishop and chapter of Glasgow Cathedral at a date prior to 1246. A papal bull of that year mentions the building of the church and other buildings by the 'Friars Preachers of Glasgow'. The Dominicans came to Glasgow, to preach to the people of the town and were named Black Friars, because of the colour of their robes. Their vows of poverty and renunciation of all worldly goods, became less strictly adhered to by the 16th century as the friary possessed considerable lands through endowments given to them by wealthy landowners.

The friary was given a large amount of land to the east of the High Street to set about building their church and house and in 1304 Bishop Robert Wishart granted the friars access to the meadow well, which brought water to their friary. By 1487, we can see a church or chapel associated with the order, set back a little from the frontage onto the High Street. By 1557 ten friars were resident in the order, by 1560 however the order had been broken up and the brothers dispersed during times of trouble and danger'. A view of the church in 1693 illustrates an oblong buttressed building with Gothic windows, a steeply pitched roof and a tower crowned with a spire. The Black Friars' Kirk passed from the university to the Town Council in 1635 after the new College buildings were complete, and at this time was detailed as 'alogidder ruinous and decayit'.

Seal of Bishop Wishart
Glasgow City Libraries(Mitchell Library)



GROUND PLAN OF LITTLE ST. MUNGO'S CHAPEL, 8th century.
(Drawn for Glaschu Facies, by John Buchanan Esq., Banker)

A.A.A.A. Dotted Lines. Supposed Line of Church-Yard Dyke
B. Little St. Mungo's Chapel, surrounded by Burying Ground
C. A small Piece of Wall remaining in a Close.
D. East Port, taken down by Provost Cochrane in 1749.
E. Old Houses (No. 162 Gallowgate), against which the South end of the port rested.
F. The North end of the Port, joined the South end of the Kirk-Yard Dyke, and where Dovehill was opened the West part of the old Dyke was allowed to remain until House were Built along its line
G. Saracen's Lane or Brass Bell Lane. An ancient Thoroughfare to the North, - supposed to be the Priests' Road to the Cathedral, amplified when the Saracen Head Inn was Built, as a private Entry to the Stables. This Road went along the East side of the old Kirk-Yard Dyke.
H. Great Dovehill. The West side of this Old Kirk-Yard. This was the Carriage Entry to the Ball Room, 8th, Marked.
I. Ball Room of the Saracen's Head Inn.
J.J.J.J. Indicate the Area occupied by the Saracen's Head Inn built within the ancient Kirk-Yard, and partly on the Site of the Chapel. The Frontage to the Road or Gallowgate was 100 feet.
K. Court Yard of the Inn.
L. Gallowgate to Camlachie



Grammar School, c.1650
Glasgow City Libraries(Mitchell Library)



14 Grammar School

Coming up High Street, you will come across Ingram Street. In medieval times you would have just passed the entrance to the Grammar School Wynd. This lane would have taken you, at an angle up to the original grammar school situated on the west side of the High Street.

Teaching of the young had primarily rested on the shoulders of the medieval church, aimed mostly at those entering the church service. By 1460 the town council had become more instrumental in the education of its citizens, the magistrates and council were appointed 'patrons' and 'governors' to the newly gifted tenement and lands by Simon Dalgleish, which were to become the grammar school. Before the Reformation the master of the grammar school was a priest but in 1508 the town authorities asserted their right to have other masters come into the school.

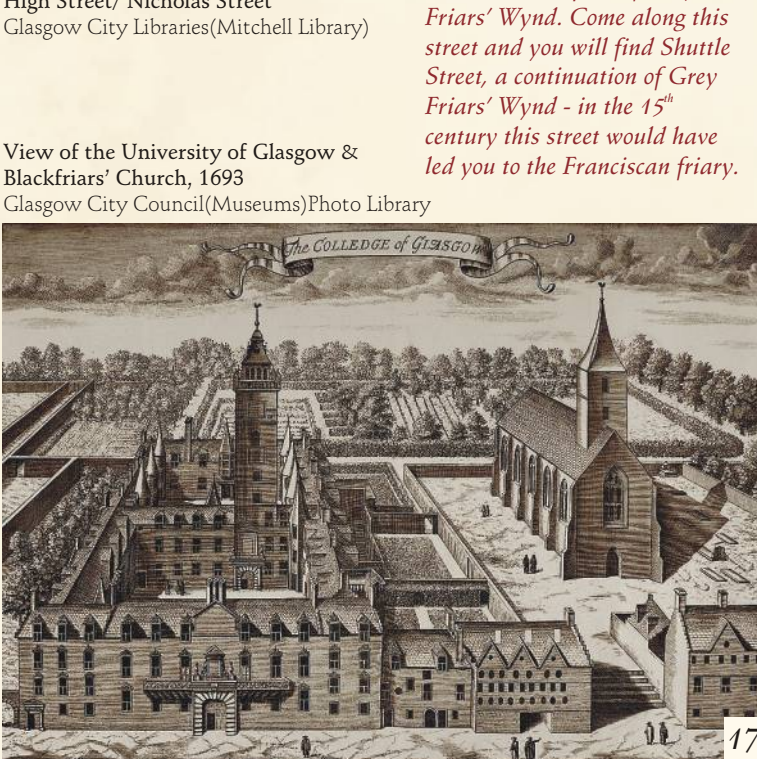
In 1600, the grammar school had fallen into an 'alogidder ruinous', state and was partially reconstructed using stones from an almshouse. By 1656, the school was thriving and was rebuilt with a steeple and school bell. In 1600, the schoolmaster had only one assistant, by 1663 he had two! In this period other schools existed throughout Glasgow, a 'sang schule', which later turned into a school for elementary education and was known variously as a 'Scottish' school, an 'inglis' school, 'New Kirk scole' and 'Trongate scole'. By the late 17th century many schools existed in Glasgow, seven men and nine women were permitted to teach in the schools, teaching writing, English, French, manners, dancing and fencing.



The poet Thomas Campbell's house
High Street/ Nicholas Street
Glasgow City Libraries(Mitchell Library)



View of the University of Glasgow & Blackfriars' Church, 1693
Glasgow City Council(Museums)Photo Library



View of the University of Glasgow & Blackfriars' Church, 1693
Glasgow City Council(Museums)Photo Library

16 Franciscan Friary

To the rear of the west of the high street, on the lands of Craignaught and Ramshorn, lay the Grey Friars friary. It was nearly two and a half centuries after the first arrival in Britain of the Franciscans, followers of St Francis of Assisi, that their friary was established in Glasgow. The order had established themselves between 1475-1479, on a site granted by Bishop Laing. Their house and yard (or orchard) which may well have been fed, by the Deanside burn, brought water to the friary. The Grey Friars, who came to Glasgow, were observants who adhered strictly to their vows of poverty, dedicating their friary church to the Blessed Virgin Mary on 8th August 1477. Over the next eighty years, the Franciscans played a vital role in the ecclesiastical life of the burgh, helping the sick and poor. However very little is known about the order, until the time of the Reformation, when the friary is thought to have been ransacked in 1559 by troops under the Duke of Chatelherault and the Earl of Argyll. The Friary Chronicle Records tell us that Jeremy Russell, one of the friars, was burnt as a heretic in the same year. By the late 1560's we know that the Grey Friars' Kirk and friary buildings were still in good repair. By the late 16th century, the Grey Friars' house and yard had passed by charter from the church, to the Town Council, then after several other changes in ownership by 1705, came into the possession of the Incorporation of Gardeners, 'all and hailt the great yard or orchard and stone wall surrounding'.

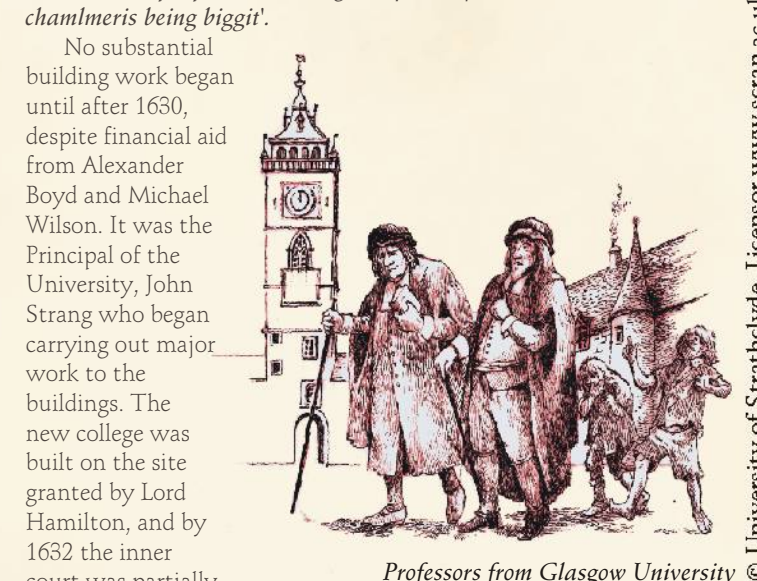
In 2003, the site of the Grey Friars was excavated by archaeologists, peeling away the layers of history to get to the core of this prestigious medieval building. The excavation was carried out before the new City Science project was built on the site, and a number of intriguing objects were found; stained glass, window lintels and a number of burials, set within the cloister of the friary. No one can be sure exactly who the twelve men and seven women were, perhaps friars or benefactors of the friary, but to be buried within the friary, shows us that these individuals were closely linked to the order. The skeletons found were re-interred in the Southern Necropolis in the Gorbals, with due ceremony, on the 18th March 2005.

Site of Franciscan Friary - aerial image, June 2005



15 Grey Friars' Wynd

Coming along High Street, you will come to a small cobbled street, today known as Nicholas Street. On the corner of the street is an impressive red sandstone building designed by William Forrest Salmon for the British Linen Bank. The building lies on the corner of High Street and the line of the medieval street which would also have been part of Grey Friars' Wynd. Come along this street and you will find Shuttle Street, a continuation of Grey Friars' Wynd - in the 15th century this street would have led you to the Franciscan friary.



View of the University of Glasgow & Blackfriars' Church, 1693
Glasgow City Council(Museums)Photo Library

No substantial building work began until after 1680, despite financial aid from Alexander Boyd and Michael Wilson. It was the Principal of the University, John Strang who began carrying out major work to the buildings. The new college was built on the site granted by Lord Hamilton, and by 1632 the inner court was partially finished and a large orchard planted. Twenty five years later the frontage onto the high street was particularly impressive, being completed in the Scottish Renaissance style and designed by the architect John Clerk. The facade was three storeys high, with heavily decorated dormers, panels, balconies and coats of arms. By 1660 accommodation for the principal and professor of divinity was built on the land granted by Arthurie and for the next two hundred years the buildings were extended. In 1804 William Stark completed a new building in the Roman Doric style to house William Hunter's ethnographic collections, which today can be seen at the Hunterian museum which is still attached to Glasgow university. In 1860 the university was moved to its present location in Gilmorehill.

18 Molendinar

Continuing north along High Street, you will come across Duke Street running across the High Street. Looking right down Duke Street, we can locate the last place where the Molendinar burn can be seen.

The Molendinar burn was central to the development of the early medieval town, up until the 17th century the burn was an essential water supply to the townspeople encouraging trade and commerce. Mills were situated along the Molendinar, the textile and craft industries used the water sources in the preparation of their goods and the town grew up around the burn. The growth of the town eastwards was prevented as the need for a good water supply was essential to the life of the burgh. Today the Molendinar has been absorbed into the landscape, and can only just be seen along Duke Street.

Etching of the Molendinar by Robert Paul
c.18th Century, GCL(Mitchell Library)



Hydraulic Pumping Station
High Street/ Rottenrow
Glasgow City Libraries(Mitchell Library)

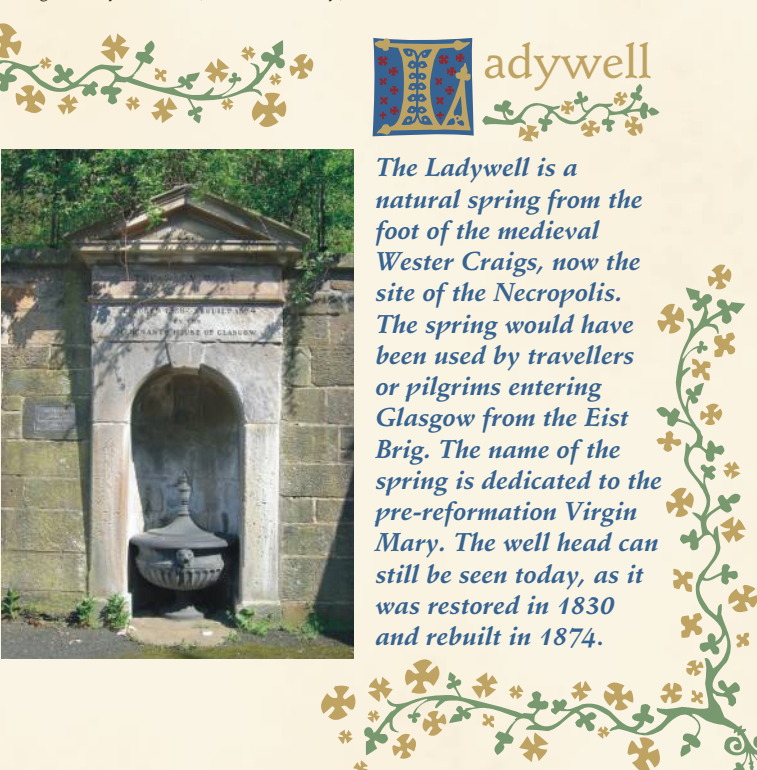


19 Old Pedagogy and Rottenrow

Continuing along High Street, you will begin to climb up a slight incline. As you come up the hill called the Bell of the Brae, imagine this sloping hill being 14 foot higher in the medieval period than it is today. Approaching a crossroads, the little road to the right was called the Drygate and to the left was Rottenrow. Rottenrow or Ratounraw - running east across the High Street, is one of the oldest streets in Glasgow. On the south side of the street, stood the site of the 'Auld Pedagogy', founded in around 1457. The building appears to have been rented out by the University of Glasgow to hold its arts faculty, paid for out of the town's common purse. The site came to be known as the Pedagogium or Auld Pedagogy taken from the Greek paedagogia, thus giving the building its unusual name. The history of this building is largely unknown, due to the levelling of the archaeological remains carried out in the 19th century. However we do know that the building probably had a steeply pitched roof, two storeys and had accommodation for students and a common hall for university classes. Along Rottenrow, at this time many fine buildings existed which were used as manses and were built for the visiting clergy. After the College transferred to the High Street in the late 15th century, we do know that the 'pedagogy' became the property of John Layng, Parson of Luss, in the 16th century who held it as a manse and orchard. Today the Pedagogy is no longer there but it stood at the south side of the street, where the red stone buildings that house the student residences are today.



Ruins of the Old Pedagogy, c.1830
Glasgow City Libraries(Mitchell Library)



20 Castle Street

As you pass Rottenrow, the street continues as Castle Street and ends what we know today as the High Street. Castle Street was in existence from the time of the Bishop's Castle, the castle was eventually removed and the street widened in around 1778.

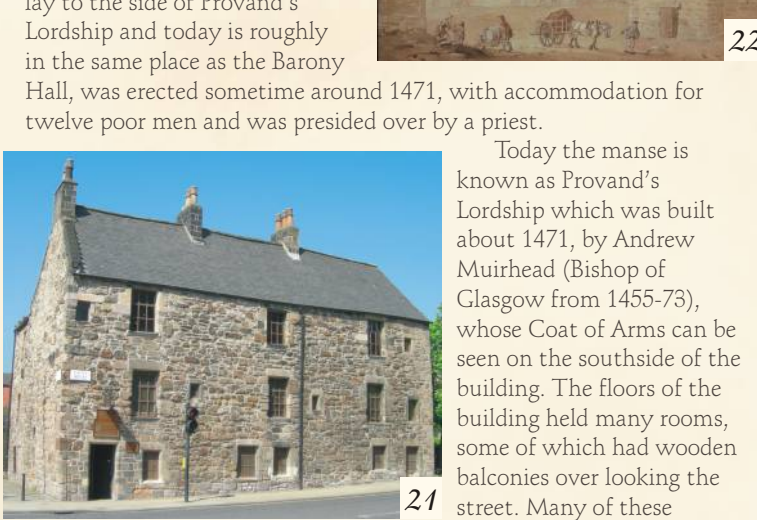
Old Houses in Castle Street, opposite the cathedral, 1843
by William Simpson, Glasgow City Council(Museums)Photo Library



21 & 22 Provand's Lordship and St Nicholas Hospital

Continuing along Castle Street, you will come upon the gable end of the 15th century Provand's Lordship, this is Glasgow's second oldest building from the medieval period and is situated across the square from the cathedral.

The upper town of Glasgow was dominated by buildings associated with the Cathedral, which reflected the power of the Bishops. The building's name derives from its use as the manse belonging to the clergy of Barlanark or Provand, but it is believed to have been built as a manse for the hospital of St Nicholas. The hospital, which lay to the side of Provand's Lordship and today is roughly in the same place as the Barony Hall, was erected sometime around 1471, with accommodation for twelve poor men and was presided over by a priest.



Bishop's Castle by Hugh William Williams, 1812
shows St Nicholas' Hospital (centre)
Glasgow City Council(Museums)Photo Library

Today the manse is known as Provand's Lordship which was built about 1471, by Andrew Muirhead (Bishop of Glasgow from 1455-75), whose Coat of Arms can be seen on the southside of the building. The floors of the building held many rooms, some of which had wooden balconies over looking the street. Many of these manses would have been richly furnished with splendid furniture, ornaments and tapestries. The original entrance on the west, was through an extensive garden, leading to a three storey building, with a central stairway.

Today we can see the re-establishment of the medieval 'physik' garden, once planted with medicinal and culinary herbs at the back of the building. This garden also features a number of stone heads called the Tontine Faces. The story of these faces begins in the 18th century, when these strange shapes were carved as keystones on the newly built town hall. Unfortunately the faces were lost in the 19th century, until 1995 when most were found and rehoused in the garden. Mary Queen of Scots is said to have stayed in Provand's Lordship in the 16th century, to be near to her husband Darnley who was suffering from the pox and lay in a nearby cottage. It is in Provand's Lordship that it is said that Mary wrote the 'Casket letters', thus implicating herself by revealing her affair with her supporter Lord Bothwell and incriminating herself in her husband's death in Kirk O'Field, in Edinburgh shortly after their visit to Glasgow.

Mary, Queen of Scots, as a young woman
Copy of a painting by Corntonischi
Glasgow City Council(Museums)Photo Library

Engraving representing a view of the Bishop's Castle from the south-west before the reformation
Glasgow City Council(Museums)Photo Library

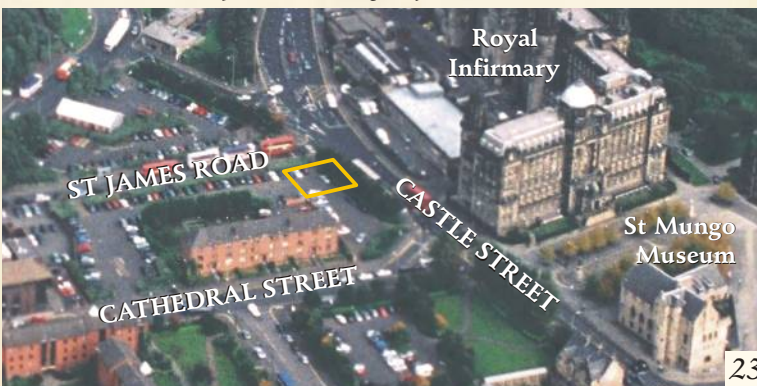
23 Blackadder Hospital

Still standing at Provand's Lordship, looking further up on the left of Castle Street, at the junction of St James Road, on the site of a car park, opposite the Royal Infirmary, lay in medieval times, the Blackadder Hospital.

The Blackadder hospital was founded in 1524 by Roland Blackader, sub dean of Glasgow Cathedral and nephew of Robert Blackader, the first Archbishop of Glasgow. The hospital 'for the support of the poor and indigent coming into the city', lay to the north of the Stable Green Port on the corner of Dobbies Loan and was to have six beds with a keeper appointed by the master of the hospital. The hospital seems to have had few comforts, and those, such as they were, included two large bowls, one for gruel and one to wash the feet of the poor.

The hospital continued even after the Reformation because of its charitable status. The town council appointed Sir William Crawford as keeper in 1589 and described the hospital with 'sex stand beddis of aik sufficient', 'hospital sufficient i ruif, tymmer, skelait and waterfast'. By 1605, the crafts of Glasgow had acquired the property through Thomas Cloggie, but the hospital had become 'rwynt and decayit'. The proposal of the crafts to restore the hospital for use of poor craftsmen, didn't come about, preferring the site of the Parson of Mowbattles Manse to build the new hospital which adjoined the hospital of St Nicholas. By 1610 Blackadder Hospital had been fued out.

Site of Blackadder Hospital - aerial image, April 2002



24 Bishop's Castle

On the right of Castle Street within the cathedral precinct on the site of St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art, lay the medieval Bishop's Castle.

Life in the medieval town revolved around the church and it is not surprising that the bishop, the most important man in the town, had a magnificent castle overlooking Glasgow. When Glasgow became an Archbishopric in 1492, the bishop's court was given the responsibility for the affairs of Argyll, Dunblane, Dunkeld and Galloway. With this responsibility came wealth and status, reflected in the additions to the castle in the 16th century.

The Bishop's Castle was a further attempt at securing the ecclesiastical part of the northern end of the town. The site lay on the main thoroughfare into the town and was built as a protective retreat. The first castle was built of earth and timber and was surrounded by a circular ditch and bridge. The castle was certainly in existence in the 12th century, as recent archaeological excavations have revealed, a tree which formed part of the timber castle dating to the spring of 1191 was taken from the site. Records show us that in 1300, the castle of Glasgow was placed under an English garrison to support Anthony Bec, nominated to the bishopric by Edward I. In the absence of any



Engraving representing a view of the Bishop's Castle from the south-west before the reformation
Glasgow City Council(Museums)Photo Library

other castle in early Glasgow, we can assume that the Bishop's Castle was the site overrun by the English. In the fifteenth century, the early castle was demolished and replaced by more modern stone buildings. Bishop Cameron was responsible for the construction of a great tower, sometime around 1438, which held vaulted kitchens, a great hall and various other chambers. Archbishop Beaton built a separate tower at the southern corner of the castle complex between 1511 and 1516. By 1522, the castle was enclosed by a 4.5 metre (15 ft) high wall and by around 1526 further works had been carried out by Archbishop Dunbar who added a gatehouse on the east of the castle complex.

The castle had been attacked in 1516 by the Mures of Caldwell, it was garrisoned against the Earl of Arran by the pro-English Earl of Lennox. During the Reformation it was occupied by French troops and in 1568 besieged by the Earl of Argyll. In 1561, the castle of Glasgow was described as 'the principal mansion and duelling place of the bishop thereof', but the Reformation had left the castle derelict and by early 17th century, the fabric was apparently out of repair. Beaton's tower was used as a prison at this time. In the Glasgow journal published in 1742, the castle, house and gardens were offered on a seventy year lease, with the provision that the tenant could take away stones from the ruin to build other houses.

Today the site of the Bishop's splendid castle has been occupied by St Mungo Museum of Religious Life and Art.

25 The Cathedral's New Burying Ground

The burial ground to the north of the cathedral is the site of the hall and residences of the Cathedral office bearers known as the Vicars Choral and the Vicars Close, before the Reformation.

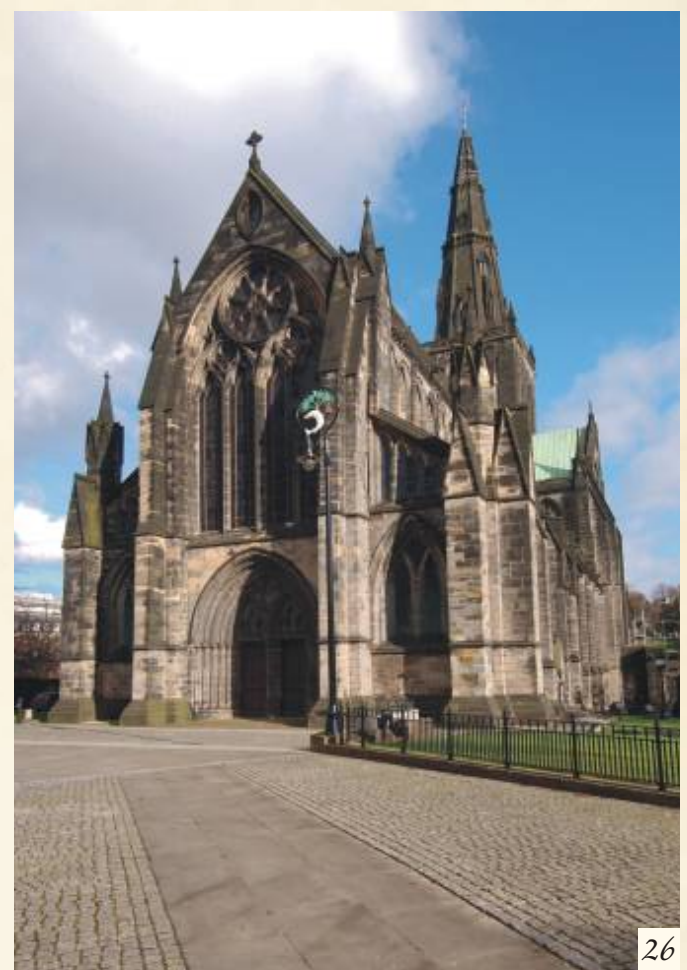
Vicars Choral Stone, commemorating the patronage of Bishop Andrew Muirhead
Glasgow City Council(Museums)Photo Library



No.26 Glasgow Cathedral

Now standing in Cathedral Square, the Cathedral is unmissable and sits with the Necropolis to the east.

The first church at Glasgow on the site of the cathedral may have been founded by Saint Kentigern, also known as St Mungo, at the place where Saint Ninian had consecrated a cemetery and St Fergus was reputed to have been buried. Associations with these early Celtic saints of the 6th and 7th centuries cannot now be substantiated but we do know that a church was founded in Glasgow in 1136 on this site, blessed in the presence of David I. The original church building on the site may well have been a simple church built from timber, however as the importance of St Kentigern grew as a cult figure, more pilgrims were attracted to the site. As visitors flocked to the church, with them grew a large religious community, who built many buildings which served the needs



Glasgow Cathedral, by Robert Paul, c.18th century
Glasgow City Libraries(Mitchell Library)

of the pilgrims and clerics. The 12th century cathedral would have been built from stone and development of the site as a cathedral continued throughout the next century, firstly with the choir and crypt which was designed to hold St Kentigern's tomb, then the nave or public part of the church. The great church we see today, largely dates from the 13th century. Building work slowed down during the Wars of Independence. Bishop Wishart (1271-1361), was accused of diverting timber intended for the cathedral to make siege engines, to fight the English army of Edward I. Works did not fully begin again until sometime in the late 14th century.

By the fifteenth century Glasgow had developed into a large and important religious centre, becoming an archbishopric by 1492 and eventually developing second only to St Andrews in importance. The dominance of the centre can be seen, by the building of at least 32 prebendary manses, each with a manse in the area of the cathedral, some two stories high, others with wooden balconies, turrets and large gardens - 'these churches, bound to give attendance at the cathedral during a considerable part of the year, must always have suitable residences'.

Around 1406, the cathedral was struck by lightning, which necessitated repair work throughout the first half of the 1400s. Between 1483 and 1508, Glasgow's first archbishop, Robert Blackader completed the southern aisle, today it is known as the 'Blackadder', aisle. The archbishop added vaulting and set about adding fine touches to the interior of the cathedral, providing furnishings for the altars which were being endowed into the 16th century. Some of these altars and their chaplains were supported by the Craft Guilds of the city. St Eloy was supported by the hammermen and the altar of St Ninian by the cordinars or leathersworkers.

his completes our tour. The Provand's Lordship, Glasgow Cathedral and St Mungo Museum of Religion and Art are open to the public, providing refreshments and facilities.

Glasgow Cathedral, by Robert Paul, c.18th century
Glasgow City Libraries(Mitchell Library)

