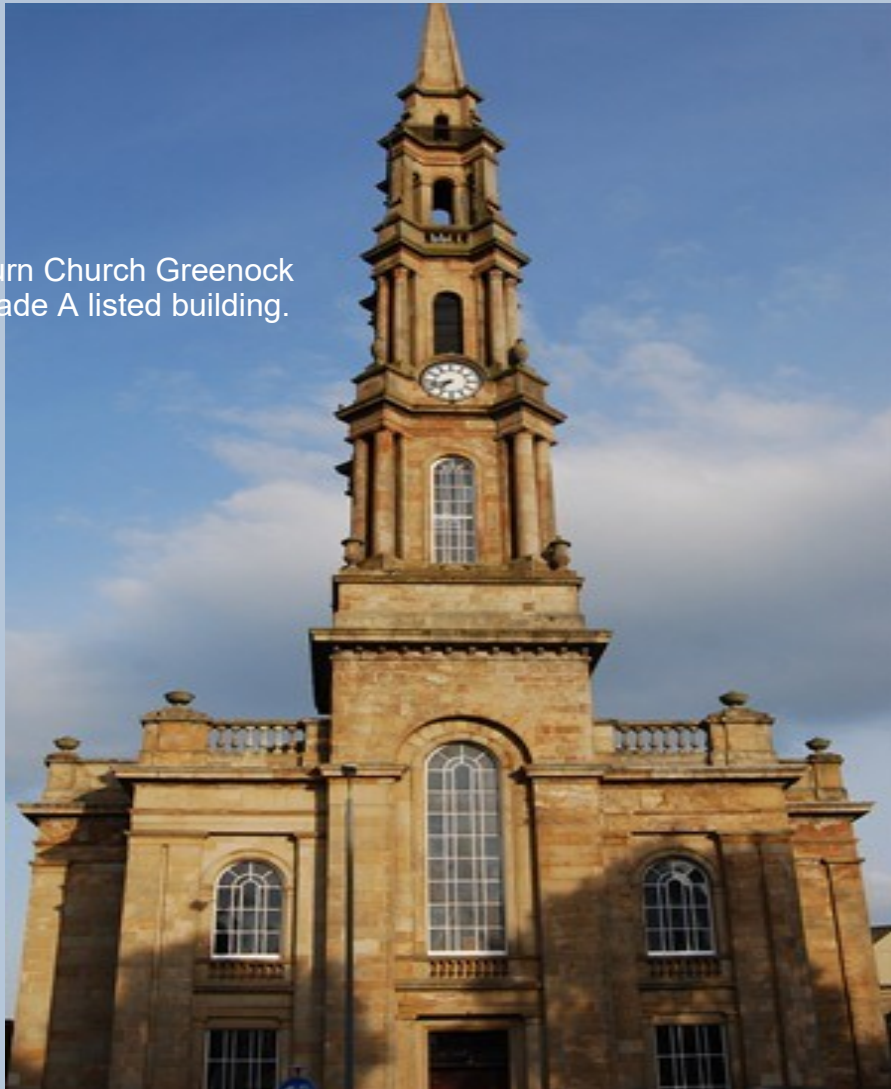


Greenock

Westburn

Church of Scotland, Nelson Street, Greenock

Westburn Church Greenock
is a Grade A listed building.



Originally built in a simple, classical style without a steeple in 1841 by David Cousin, architect.

Over the years the church has been known by several different names - the West Kirk, the Old Kirk, St Luke's and now Westburn.

The building is still used as a place of worship. Its halls and meeting rooms provide a valuable local resource for a variety of church and community groups.



The architect [David Cousin](#) of the Edinburgh firm of Cousin and Gale won the competition to design and build what was then the West Kirk. Opened in 1841, the church was originally a simple, square building. Cousin was also responsible for designing the steeple, which has five stages with Ionic and Corinthian coupled angle columns. This was added in 1854. The minister at the time was the Rev Dr James Melville [McCulloch](#) who sponsored the steeple. Miss Francis Ann Wood, sister of Sir Gabriel Wood ([Mariners Home](#)) gifted the clock to the church in 1856. It is still known as "McCulloch's Clock".

In 1911/12 the firm [Honeyman, Keppie](#) & McIntosh were responsible for adding the rounded chancel area and the refurbishment of the church interior. The building could accommodate 1400 worshippers.

The Organ

Built by [Binns](#) of Leeds and installed in 1912. It is a two manual pipe organ.

It was renovated in 1974 by [Rushworth and Dreaper](#), a well known Liverpool company.



Over the years the West Kirk was joined by the congregations of other churches (Gaelic Parish, St Mark's Greenbank and St George's North) who brought with them the important items from their original buildings. This accounts for the large number of communion tables and chairs, lecterns and baptismal fonts in the church.

Other important items brought from those churches were their memorials to the war dead and these can be viewed around the building.

Stained Glass Windows

There are three panels in the chancel area and were completed in 1919. The windows were designed by the renowned Scottish stained glass artist [Douglas Strachan](#) and described by the Greenock Telegraph in 1919 as "undoubtedly the finest works of art in the district". The colours are wonderfully vibrant especially the reds, blues and purples. Each panel depicts a Biblical scene.

The north (left) window is a picture of Miriam leading the Israelite women across the Red Sea (*Exodus 15:20-21*).

Gifted by Helen Dunn in memory of her husband, James Shannon (d1903) and their sons, James (d1913) and Samuel (d1919).



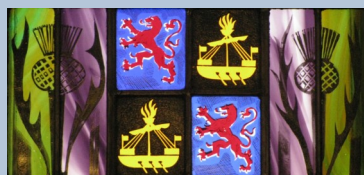
The central window depicts the Magi and shepherds presenting their gifts to the baby Jesus (*Matthew 2:1-12 and Luke 2:8-20*).

It is dedicated to the memory of John Haddock (1845 - 1904) and erected by his brother Peter and sister Janet in 1916.



The south (right) window shows the prophetess Deborah with Barak and spearmen. (*Judges, Chapters 4 and 5*).

This window is to the memory of those belonging to the church who fell in the Great War (1914-1915).



The stained glass window on the north wall is dedicated to the glory of God and in memory of Kenneth MacNair Fullarton MacDougall (1926-1955) and was given by his father. The window is a fabulous example of modern stained glass with wonderful colours and symbolism both Christian and Scottish. Look out for the MacDougall coat of arms, thistles, fish and doves surrounding St Andrew.

Timeline

1839 - 1841	West Kirk built designed by David Cousin of Edinburgh firm Cousin & Gale
1854	Steeple added Sponsored by Rev Dr James Melville McCulloch
1856	Clock gifted by Miss Francis Ann Wood
1911 - 1912	Chancel added and interior refurbished by John Keppie of the firm Honeyman, Keppie & Macintosh
1919	Stained Glass windows completed Designed by Douglas Strachan
1927 - 1928	Stonework restored
1966	West Kirk and Gaelic Parish united to become Old Kirk
1987	Old Kirk and St Mark's Greenbank united to become St Luke's
2006	St Luke's and St George's North united to become Westburn

For information about the **Church of Scotland** visit the website [here](#).

Our website contains much more information about our church along with lots of photographs of our beautiful building. You can also check out our weekly order of service. Our church magazine is available to read online.

www.greenockwestburn.org.uk



Did you spot the cheeky cherubs
in the chancel?



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