

PORTLAND PARISH CHURCH

'Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares'.
[Hebrews 13.2]

WELCOME TO PORTLAND PARISH CHURCH!

The present building was opened in April 1914, being the third to house this particular congregation. Of the two previous buildings nothing now remains but photographs and a model of the previous church can be shown on request

The architectural practice of H. E. Clifford & Lunan was chosen to design the building in Perpendicular Gothic style using white sandstone as the building medium, a beautiful but wrong choice due to the location and climatic condition of the site. Interior woodwork is white American oak throughout and complements the white natural stone interior.

Walking up the main centre aisle your attention is immediately drawn to the Memorial Window (A), a riot of colour on a sunny day. This window was donated in 1921 by Mr Stephens of Stephens-Linthouse, the Glasgow shipbuilders, the design attributed to Sidney Meteyard, known as "The last of the Pre-Raphaelites".

The Organ (B) is located to the left of the Memorial Window in the chancel and is a very fine Harrison and Harrison, rebuilt by them in 1961 with electro-pneumatic action, electronic action recently fitted in 2010. The cost of the original organ of 1914 was subsidised by the Andrew Carnegie Organ Trust by £400, half the cost!

The floor of the chancel is paved in Iona marble mosaic and must surely be one of the last such works before the quarries on the island were worked out.

The Pulpit (C) and the Font (D) are both carved from Auchenheath stone, a particularly white form of sandstone. The pulpit front has Alpha and Omega (the beginning and the end) and the Greek form of Christ carved on the front face.

The Font (D) has a fish carved into the stone, an early Christian symbol and the lead bowl insert was made by the Birmingham Craft Studio in 1913, a studio similar in design output to that of the famous William Morris Studio at Merton Abbey.

The Lectern (E) in carved oak was anonymously donated as a memorial to the lives lost in the Second World War.

Please feel free to wander, meditate and admire this beautiful sanctuary.
The church is staffed by volunteer members of the congregation and they will be only too pleased to answer any questions you may have about the church.
Thank You. We hope you have enjoyed your visit.

