**A BRIEF HISTORY OF ABDIE CHURCH**

**THE OLD KIRK** which is down the lane from the present church was consecrated on 5th September 1242 by the Bishop of St. Andrews, being dedicated to St. Magridin (or Macgidrin) who is thought to be St. Adrian who was murdered by the Danes on 9th May 875. The Denmylne Aisle was added on the north side in 1611 by Sir Robert Balfour, who was subsequently killed in a duel with his neighbour Sir James Makgill of Lindores.

It is understood that the Church of Auld Lindors, probably of Culdee origin, was previously at the site of the Old Kirk. When the Charter for Lindores Abbey was granted in 1178, the monks transferred the older name of Lindors to the new building, and thereafter called their mother church Abdie (or Abden) to designate ‘the lands pertaining to the Abbey of God.’ The former name Lindors may be from a Gaelic word meaning ‘church by the water.’

The Old Kirk being in need of repair in 1824, the heritors employed an architect, who reported that the roof, walls etc. were in such an unsafe state that repair, if practical, would be a very imprudent waste of money. The Old Kirk was used for the last time on 11th November 1827, following which the heritors sold ‘by public roup’ the roof, seats, and windows! Since the 1930s the Old Kirk has been a listed monument.

**THE PARISH CHURCH**, being built in 1827 using William Burn as architect, has been described as:

‘A plain rectangle, expressed in round-arch style, complements tower belfry which displays unusual Italianate tendencies.’

The only item to be transferred from the Old Kirk was the bell (recast in 1671). The new church contained accommodation for over 400 persons, and curiously it is noted that the seats were not allocated by the Sheriff until May 1829.

From 1644 to 1839 Abdie had ten ministers. Then the Rev. John Duncan was ordained in June 1839 to be minister for over sixty years, followed by the Rev. Alexander Allison, ordained in December 1897 to be minister until 1945. The Rev. W. Finlayson Young, who many of the congregation will remember well, was minister from 1945 until 1953, after which he continued to worship at the church for several decades.

In 1923 the church interior was renovated to provide comfortable seating throughout, and to rebuild the gallery, the interior having been described beforehand as bare and cheerless! More recently in the 1980s the church interior was further improved, at which time the Church Hall was added.

Inside our church there are three stained glass windows:

1. In memory of John Cameron, parochial schoolmaster for 38 years, installed in 1900;
2. In memory of Mrs. Mary Maitland, widow of Admiral Maitland of Lindores, installed in 1912;
3. Parish War Memorial, installed in 1920.

More recently, the vestibule has been fitted with the War Memorial windows from Dunbog Church, previously in storage since that church’s closure, and with a memorial window to Mrs Charmay Maitland, installed in 2007.

**ABDIE AND DUNBOG PARISHES** became a united charge from December 1965, with Dunbog Church closing in 1983 when the parishes became linked with that of Newburgh. In 2018 Abdie & Dunbog were united with the parish of Newburgh, under the new name of Lindores.