



St Mungo's Heritage Trail

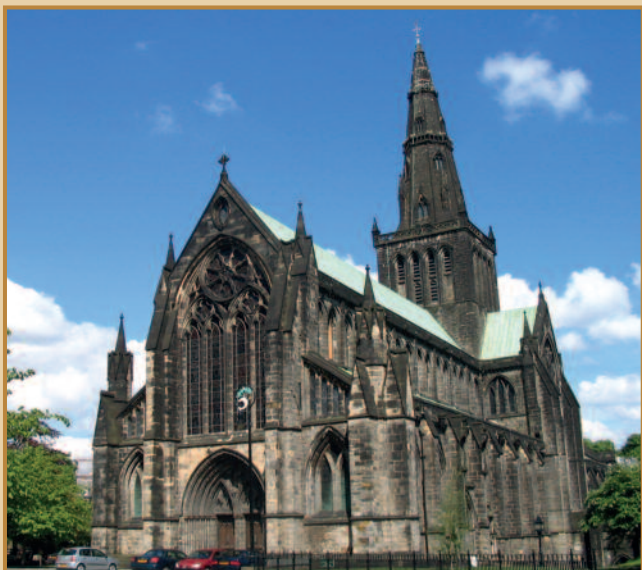




St Mungo's Trail

Mediaeval Glasgow Trust welcomes you to follow this trail as pilgrim, visitor, tourist, cyclist, bus tours or walkers. Find these places and return to Glasgow Cathedral and reflect how our city grew from the monastic settlement of the 6th century where St Mungo died.

The first Christian community in Glasgow was established on the site which became Glasgow Cathedral. The Christian King of Strathclyde, Rydderach Hael, procured the consecration of Mungo as Bishop, and he was given his own estate in which to establish a religious and educational community. He established his Christian church beside the Molendinar Burn, a tributary of the Clyde, on the site of what is now Glasgow Cathedral. This early Christian settlement became so important in the Christian world that St Columba came to visit St Mungo. The Cathedral was dedicated by Bishop John (1136) in the presence of King David 1. Bishop Jocelin rededicated the Cathedral (1197) and the City became a Bishop's burgh. Glasgow was recognised as a centre of pilgrimage.



St Mungo settled in Glasgow following exile from Culross where his miraculous powers had aroused jealousy amongst his monastic brothers.

Mungo is also said to have preached the sermon containing the words “Lord, let Glasgow flourish by the preaching of his word.” This was abbreviated to “Let Glasgow Flourish” and was adopted as the city’s motto.

Legend has it that St Mungo performed four miracles, commemorated on the City of Glasgow’s Coat of Arms, depicting a tree with a bird perched on its branches and a salmon and bell on either side



Glasgow Coat of Arms



The Banqueting Room in Glasgow City Chambers displays a painting by Alexander Roche portraying the story of the fish and the ring.



St Mungo returns the ring to Queen Languoreth. Painting by Alexander Roche.

When Mungo died he was buried in his own church. Visit his tomb in the crypt of Glasgow Cathedral.

Each year in January, Glasgow celebrates the St Mungo Festival. The *Vita Kentigerni* was commissioned by Bishop Jocelin in 1175 and extracts are used in the Festival to revive the civic memory in song, dance and music.

The Medieval Burgh of Glasgow

In the medieval period, the area around the Cathedral precinct contained the houses of canons and choral vicars and, from the 15th century, the Bishop's Castle, an imposing tower house.

It was under the protection of the Cathedral and its clergy that the medieval burgh of Glasgow grew up. By the 1170s there was a market near the Cathedral. However, by the 13th century the focus of the burgh had moved closer to the River Clyde.



Franciscan Friary, 1520 reproduced courtesy of David Simon

Story of the Life of St Mungo

Mungo was born in Culross on the north shore of the Firth of Forth in the 6th Century. He was the son of Urien, Prince of Cumbria, and Thenue, daughter of King Loth of Lothian. St Serf, who ran a monastery and school not only looked after Thenue but decided to bring up her child. He named the boy Kentigern, meaning 'High Lord' but St Serf was very fond of him and gave him the nickname Mungo, meaning "dear one".

Mungo was educated and trained as a priest in the Christian monastery at Culross under St Serf and became his favourite pupil which led him to being



disliked by the other boys. Eventually his unpopularity became too much for him and after finishing his training went to the house of a holy man named Fergus at Kernach (Carnock near Stirling). He found Fergus on his death bed. Fergus's dying wish was that his body should be placed on a cart drawn by two untamed bulls and Mungo was to follow the bulls and bury Fergus where they stopped. They travelled west for some thirty miles before they arrived at a charming glen, with a great grey rock on one side and a beautiful burn beneath. This is where Fergus was buried and St Mungo built his cell here. Mungo referred to this spot as 'Glasgu' or the beloved green place. This became Glasgow and the church developed into Glasgow Cathedral.

Early Glasgow grew from this monastic settlement in the upper town. Bishop Jocelin established the fair and protected the trades and merchants, who lived and worked in the lower town centred around Glasgow Cross.

Legends

The legend of St. Mungo depicted on the Glasgow Coat of Arms consists of:

*Here's the Tree that never grew
Here's the Bird that never flew
Here's the Bell that never rang
Here's the Fish that never swam*



Crest on the floor of the City Chambers, Glasgow

Here's the Tree that never grew

The tree is now depicted as an oak but it started in the legend as a hazel branch. As a boy in the monastery, Mungo was left in charge of the holy fire in the refectory all night to make sure that it would not go out. He fell asleep and some of the other boys, being envious of him, put out the fire. When he awoke and found what had happened he broke off some frozen branches from a hazel tree and caused them to burst into flames by praying over them.

Here's the Bird that never flew

St Serf had a pet robin and one day some of Mungo's fellow pupils caught it and killed it and proposed to put the blame on St Mungo. However, he took the bird in his palm, commanded it to return to life and immediately it sat up and sang.

Here's the Bell that never rang

The bell may have been given to St Mungo by the Pope but there is no definite information as to how he obtained it. By the fifteenth century St Mungo's hand bell had become a notable Glasgow symbol. The fate of the original bell is unknown although it was known still to exist in 1578. A replacement was purchased by the Town Magistrates in 1641 and this bell is still in the People's Palace Museum.

Here's the Fish that never swam

The fish with the ring in its mouth is a salmon and the ring was a present from Hydderch Hael, King of Cadzow, to his Queen, Languoreth. The Queen gave the ring to a knight and the King, suspecting intrigue, took it from him while the knight slept during a hunting party and threw it into the River Clyde. On returning home the King demanded the ring and threatened Languoreth with death if she could not produce it. The Queen appealed to the knight, who of course, could not help. She then confessed to St Mungo who sent one of his monks to fish in the river, instructing him to bring back the first fish caught. This was done and St Mungo extracted the ring from its mouth.



St Mungo's Travels

Mungo went south, first into the southern part of Rheged, which is now Cumbria, where there are many churches dedicated to him. He also spent time in Stobo parish near Peebles. There is a stained glass window in Stobo Kirk depicting him baptising Merlin by the River Tweed. He was exiled in Wales during wars in Strathclyde and settled in Llanelwy where he founded a monastery. When King Rydderch called Mungo to return, Mungo dedicated his disciple Asaph to be Abbot and left the place now called St Asaph.



Stobo Kirk, stained-glass window

The Icon of St Kentigern

This icon of St Kentigern on the front cover is the first Russian image of the saint. It was painted in 2008 by the

Moscow icon-painter Margarita Proskurova who is a graduate from the school of Icon-Painting at the Moscow Academy of Theology.

She made the icons for several ruined Moscow churches after their recent restoration, (such as the churches of St Vladimir at Starye Sady and of St Elizabeth at the Ivanov monastery).

The icon was consecrated on 8 November 2008 in the Russian Orthodox congregation in Glasgow, which carries the name of St Kentigern.

The icon is painted in 'ancient-Russian style', based on the style of the Moscow icon-painters of the 15th and 16th centuries, which is notable for vivid jubilant colours. At the same time the individuality of the subject shows through. The icon is painted in tempera on wood using natural dyes.



Icon reproduced courtesy of Stuart Campbell and Svetlana Zvereva



Traprain Law

First occupied as long ago as the Bronze Age, Traprain Law is a volcanic hill, rising to 221m, which dominates the landscape around Haddington in East Lothian. A footpath leads the visitor around the hill's main features.

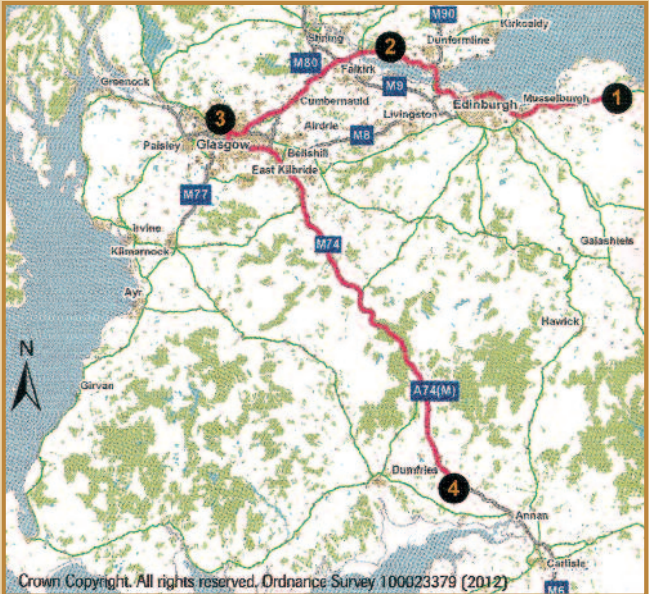
According to the Life of St Mungo, the saint's mother, Theneu, a princess who lived in the 6th century, was tied to a chariot and launched from the summit of the hill as punishment for adultery. She miraculously survived, and was cast adrift in a small boat on the River Forth, eventually coming ashore at Culross.



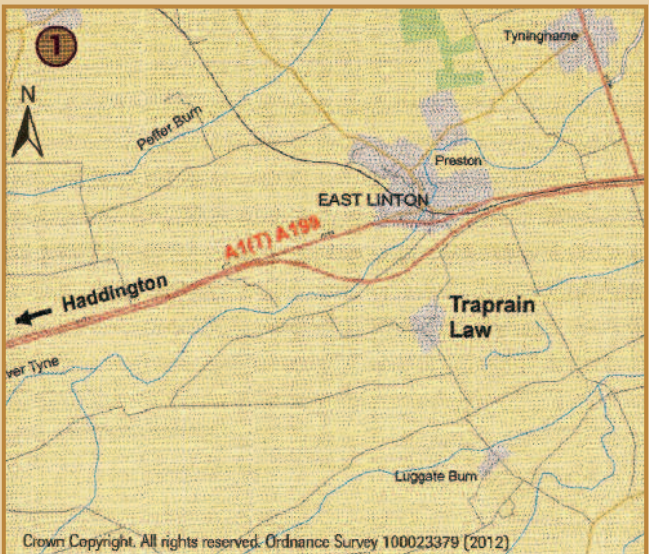
Traprain Law

Located 6 km (3.7 miles) east of Haddington. Traprain Law sits south of the A1 near East Linton, East Lothian.
www.visiteastlothian.org

For details of accommodation and other facilities in Haddington visit:
www.visitscotland.com/accommodation



St Mungo's Trail map



Traprain map

Travel directions

Bus – Local services

Rail – The nearest station is Drem, for travel information

www.Traveline.info

Car – Travel east on the A1 from Haddington for around 3.5 miles



Culross

The Abbey Church stands above the village of Culross and was founded by Malcolm, Earl of Fife. It was a Cistercian Abbey, built around 1218, on the site of an early monastery of St Serf. On the beach is the site of Mungo's birthplace and across the road lies the ruin of a medieval church, built by Archbishop Robert Blackadder in 1503.

At Culross, Mungo is said to have been brought up in the care of St Serf. This is traditionally the place where one of the miracles associated with St Mungo is said to have taken place; St Serf's pet robin being brought back to life by the saint after it had been killed by his fellow monks.



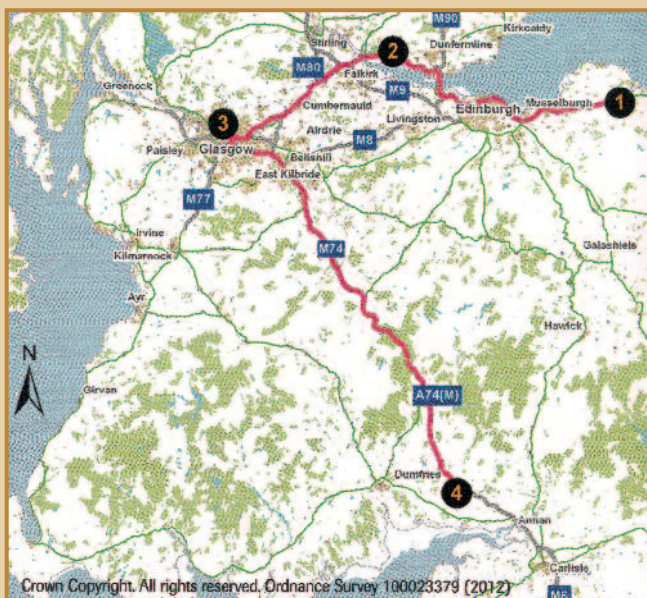
Culross Abbey Church of St Mary. Courtesy of Heritage Environment Scotland

Take time to visit the delightful tearoom at the Abbey.

The town of Culross is a Royal Burgh in Fife which is located 9.6km (6 miles) west of Dunfermline. Originally the town served as a port on the Firth of Forth.

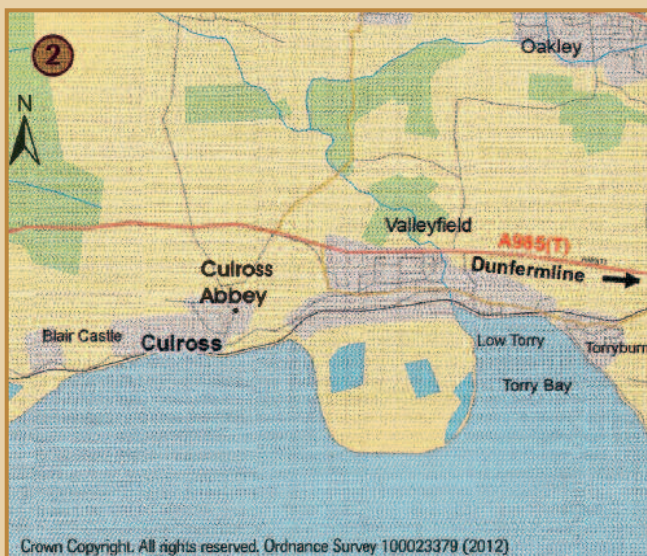
www.fifedirect.org.uk

For details of accommodation and facilities in Culross visit **www.visitscotland.com/accommodation**



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St Mungo's Trail map



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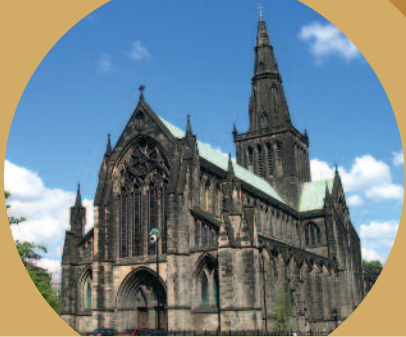
Culross map

Travel directions

Bus – Local services

Rail – The nearest station is Dunfermline Train Station, for travel information www.Traveline.info

Car – Travel west on the A985 from Dunfermline. Culross is sign-posted B9037.



Glasgow

Glasgow Cathedral is the finest building in Scotland to survive from the 13th century. The cathedral is traditionally believed to stand on the site of a monastery founded by St Mungo. It seems likely that Mungo became bishop of a diocese corresponding with the area covered by the historic kingdom of Strathclyde.

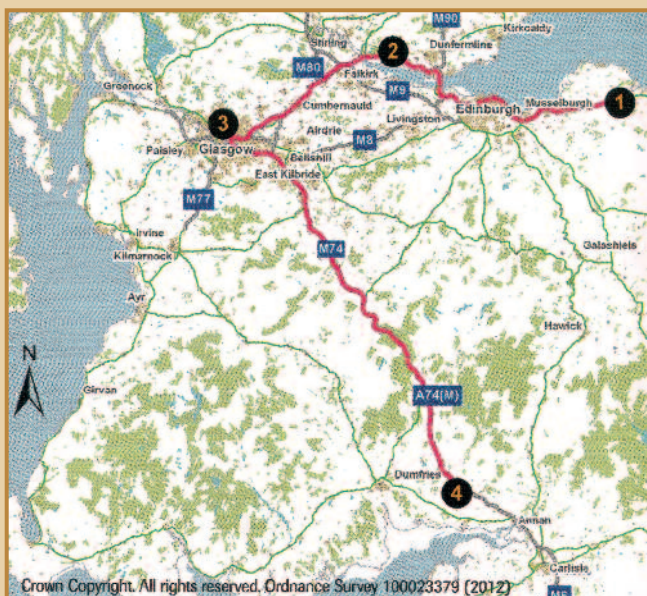
The saint's body was the cathedral's most precious asset; the layout of the eastern end of the cathedral reflects the desire to create a magnificent setting for the saint's shrine. The cathedral continues to welcome many visitors to St Mungo's tomb, which forms the centrepiece of the crypt in the lower church. A copy of Bishop Jocelin's Life of St Mungo, written in the 12th century, is displayed nearby.



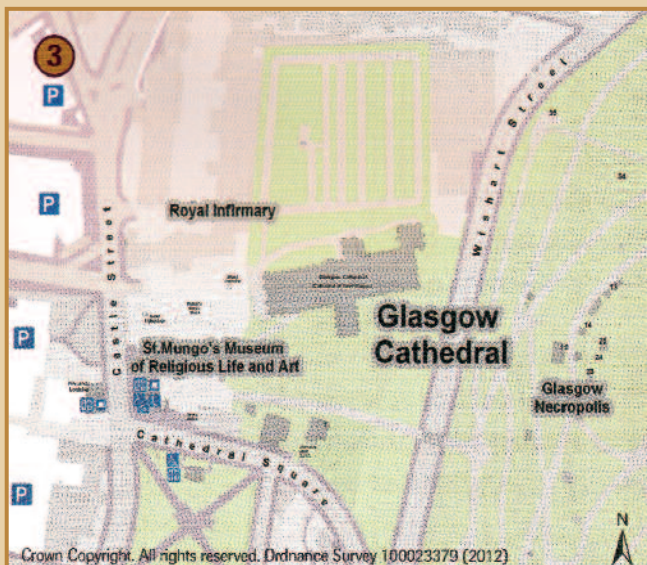
Glasgow Cathedral.

Glasgow Cathedral is located in Cathedral Precinct just a short walk from Glasgow city centre. Also located here is the Saint Mungo Museum which has a café and toilets. www.glasgow.gov.uk

For details of accommodation and facilities in Glasgow visit www.visitscotland.com/accommodation



St Mungo's Trail map



Glasgow map

Travel directions

Bus – Various routes

Rail – Services provided by Scotrail to Queen St Station and Central Station

Car – Exit M8 Junction 15.

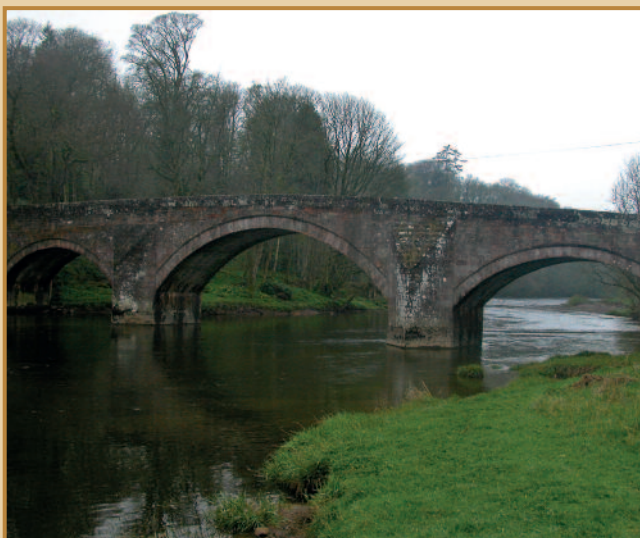
Car parking provided at Cathedral Square



Hoddom

Hoddom has an enduring tradition linking it with St Mungo. Archaeological evidence suggests activity at Hoddom as early as the 6th century. According to Bishop Jocelin's Life of St Mungo, it was at Hoddom that Rydderach, ruler of Strathclyde, met with Mungo on his return from exile in Wales in 581.

Other accounts claim that St Mungo came to the Dumfries and Galloway region from Glasgow and as bishop founded a church and monastery at Hoddom. Excavations suggest that Hoddom was the site of an important monastery. The site at Hoddom is believed to have continued as an ecclesiastical centre until at least the 12th century.



Hoddom Bridge. Courtesy of Heritage Environment Scotland

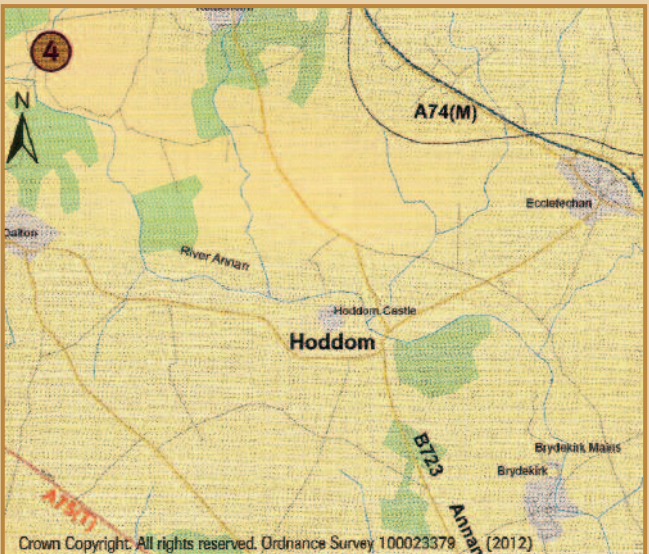
Close to Hoddam Bridge is the site of St Kentigern's Field where a footpath leads to medieval ruins of the church and graveyard. It is just a short journey from Annan on the B723 Lockerbie Road.

www.dumgal.gov.uk

For details of accommodation and facilities in Annan visit **www.visitscotland.com/accommodation**



St Mungo's Trail map



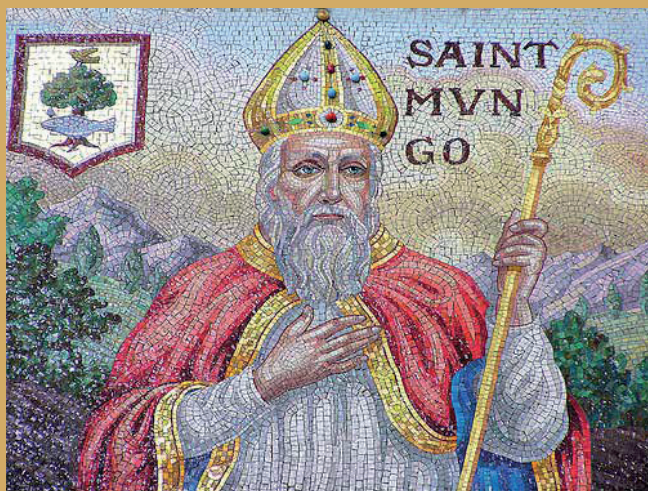
Hoddom map

Travel directions

Bus – Local services

Rail – The nearest station is Annan Train Station, for travel information www.Traveline.info

Car – Exit Junction 19, M74, to Ecclefechan then west onto B725 for Hoddom



Now return to Glasgow and visit Glasgow Cathedral to reflect on the impact this 6th century monk has made on Glasgow and Scotland.

Learn more about the Festival of St Mungo

www.mediaevalglasgow.org

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 [@stmungofestival](https://twitter.com/stmungofestival)



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References

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