



# INCH ABBEY

Ulster-Scots Translation

## ÄNCH ABBEY

Tha Coontie Doon

### Tha Stellin

Quhit the caa it gies wut o tha wye Änch bes an islann, wi tha Quoile wattèr tae tha sooth an a moss tae tha noarth mairchin it. Ye owergae tha moss wi a causey, an syne tha oncum loanin thae tha fore thenoo. Tha islann is feckit o a raa o laich, roondit glacial hälls ye caa drumlins an tha abbey ligs in tha bole aqueesht twa o tha hälls. It bes fornent tha wattèr, athin a bagle's gowl o Doonpetèrick Cathedèral an tha muckle Boorach o Doon in tha moss athort tha Quoile. Tha stellin oan tha islann med siccar o gye an dern gates an thenoo it hauds till a mint o tha lown an scowth tha Cistercians wus leukin, awa frae tha faird an fashes o leevin day an dailie.

### Tha Kirk Afore tha Normans

The caa'd tha islann Inis Cumhscaigh langsyne, an thar wus aptly a kirk ur monasterie thonner bae 800 Y.G.; MoBíu o Inis Cumhscaigh kythed at 22 Julaai in tha towmond leet o saunts scrievit in aboot 800. We ken near naethin ava anent this airlie steidin bot we'll can wicelike jalouse a clachan o wud kirks, flaucht-wrocht an theekit cells an ither biggins, gairdens, orchards an fairm lann. In 1001 Kilclief an Änch wus reivit wi Vikings an monie a yin wus gruppit an twinit. Änch, thegither wi ither kirks in tha airt, wus reivit agane in 11 an 49. We dinnae ken quhit-like tha ind-wallin wus in tha mids o tha 12t centurie, whar monastic gates o leevin haudit, ur jist a kirk, ur nae mair nor a kirk-airtit haudin. It leuks leck, bot, thar wus a kirk hereawa quhaniver tha Anglo-Normans inbrakkit Ulstèr in 11 an 77.

### Tha Cistercian Abbey

Frae tha inbrack oot we ken mair anent tha historie o tha stellin. Throch a tid o tulyie in Lecale, John de Courcy tynit tha abbey at Erenagh, sooth o Doonpetèrick, an takkin tha rue he stellit a Cistercian abbey at Änch in 11 an 80 ur, gaein bae ither wittins, 11 an 87 tae 8. Tha Cistercians (Whyte Monks) follaed a ticht, mennit Benedictine-steidit wisin, stellit in Fraunce in tha hinnèr-enn o tha 11t centurie an inbrocht tae Airlann wi St Malachie. Mellifont (11 an 42) wus tha furst Airisch steidin an it daed mither hoose tae monie ither, takkin in Newrie (11 an 53), bot incummers frae a noarth Bräisch abbey, Furness in Lancashire, indwalt Änch, forbye Greeba (stellit wi John de Courcy's guidwife). Stellit fur a by-ordnar Anglo-Norman steidin in maunit aist Ulstèr, Änch stappit a howff o Inglis infittan an in 13 an 80 the steekit Airisch boadies oot frae türnin intrants. Tha abbey wus brunt in 14 an 04, aiblins tha inlat fur makkin an inlaik i' tha bouk o tha kirk. Tha monastic gate o leevin inlaikit in 15 an 42 an tha haudin wus in tha aucht o a wheen o boadies afore it cum tae a redment

wi tha Perceval faimlie. Pictèrs frae tha nineteen centurie kythes tha wrack wi a huil o rampin ivie an richt happit ower wi tummelt redd. Tha Perceval Maxwell yins mintit at replenishment, bot the pit tha wrack intae Lede Tent in 19 an 10, an frae thon a rowth o reddin an hainin haes gat daen. The hae owertaen a bägger platch takkin in maist o tha medieval howff in 19 an 80.

## Tha Abbey Biggins

Tha kirk ligs tae tha noarth o tha cloistèr an thar's ootlann biggins tae tha sooth-aist an sooth-wast. Tha wastrèn pairts o tha kirk an tha hale cloistèr is sair wrackit an oor refeckin pictèrs kythes quhiwey tha biggins might hae leuked frae tha wast in aboot 1300. Tha alley o tha nave(1) o tha croass-feckit kirk wus biggit in five apenins, bot tha pend steidins is wrackit laich doon an is pairt soartit wi concrete. In Cistercian kirks tha nave wus yaised wi lay brithers, at daed tha laborin an tha fairmin fur tha abbey bot wur stieve haudit sindèrt frae tha monks.

Tha ower cumin (2) an tha furst apenin o tha nave wus fu o tha wud staws o tha monks' bann at tha affset, an tha chauncel ur presbytèrie (3) wus hauden ahin tha hann fur tha sarvin priests. In tha sooth waa ye hae thie-fauld sedilia, habs fur clargie, an a piscina fur dichtin tha bouls fur tha diet o warschip, aa sakeless pykit stane an replenisht wi concrete, tha like o tha feck o tha makkins o tha chauncel. In tha noarth waa fornent it ye hae twa boles, tha bægger yin aiblins a lair. Tha heich altàr stuid agane tha aist waa, gien licht wi tha lang thie-fauld aist launcet wundaes an perrs o launcets tae tha noarth an sooth. Aisie remairkt in tha waas is squarr open putlog bores, an ordnar swatch o medieval biggins, at wus yaised fur haudin stailin palls fur biggin an fennin.

In tha 15t centurie the reckt tha kirk wus ower muckle tae be hantie an an airt a hantle wee-er wus feckit wi biggin a waa furtæ sindèr aff tha trànsects an tha furst apenin o tha nave, redelins instead o wud haps at wusnae sae stieve. Yin swatch o this replenishin at wud tak yer ee is tha wye the hae yaised a 13t-centurie dorr ower agane in tha new wast waa (4), aiblins flittit frae quhit tha wast enn wus at tha affset an aisit wi a stainchel fur mair siccarness in a kittle tid.

Tha noarth trànsect (5) haed twa chaipels, ilk'ane stane pendit wi a sing'l aist wundae an wee aumrie tae tha richt-hann o quhaur tha altàr stuid. Tha arr o tha chaipel riggin is shire oan tha chauncel waa. A dorr apent tae tha noarth fræ tha trànsect, aiblins tae tha monks' kirkyaird, an a pirlin sterr in a neb at tha noarth-wast neuk wisit tae waa trances, bawks ower tha chaipels an aiblins a tooer in tha mids. In this trànsect ye'll can fin masons' kenspeckles (pictèrt), by-ordnar mairks at medieval masons yaised furtæ mint thair darg.

Tha sooth trànsect (6) is tha neibor o't but mair wrackit, apenin sooth intae a wee vestriè (7) quhaur cloots an reikin fur tha diet o warschip wus pit by. Tha cloistèr, at wus ingaed at tha affset fræ tha kirk's sooth alley, wus a dern airt, booracht roon wi happit pads, wi reenges o biggins tae tha aist an sooth. Tha pendit pads is tint an tha nixt biggins is inlaikit tae laigh foonds, bot nixt tha vestriè we'll can jube a wee chaptèr hoose (8) fur reglar gaitherins o tha monks, a narra muckle ruim (9) quhaur the wur lat hae a compluther, an a lang day-chaummer (10) fur inbye daeins. Abune this aist reenge wus tha monks' dormitòrie wi an aisement at its sooth enn. In tha sooth reenge ye hae tha lave o tha frater ur refectòrie (11) an scullerie (12).

Fur ordnar a Cistercian abbey wud hae haed a wast reenge fur tha lay brithers, bot at Änch thar's just a merch waa. Aiblins thar wus biggins fur tha lay brithers itherquhaur, ur aiblins tha haudin layout cums fræ a tid quhan the didnae yaise lay brithers onie mair.

Sooth-aist o tha aist reenge is a lang biggin (13) wi an auven at its sooth enn, aiblins an ospittle fur tha tent o seek brithers. Wast o tha scullerie is a waal an bake-hoose (14) wi twa auvens, an mair tae tha sooth a laigh richtang'lar stellin wi its ingang nixt tha wattèr.

The hae gaithert a muckle menyie o swack coweit stane ower decades o hainin, takkin in pairts o tint wundaes, dorrs an tha cloistèr pend. Tha mooldins tae tha fore yit an tha swack stanes mints at e'en gin tha biggin stairstit in tha hinnèr-enn o tha 12t centurie, it haudit itsel weel intae tha 13t.

## Tha Howff

Tha merches o a monastic howff fur ordnar wus a waa, palin-stabs, baukin ur dyke, boorachin roon ootbiggins, gairdens, fiels an bastes, forbye tha kirk an cloistèr. Ower affen this boorach is tint an Änch is by-ordnar fur acause it haes near aa its medieval marin hale. Gin tha veesitòr haes tha tid furtae speel tha cheeks o tha bole he'll can 'reenge tha mairches' an hae tha guid o a feck o braw sichts. Frae tha wattèr tae tha sooth-aist tha trèe-happit baukin an dyke rins up tha brae nixt tha pairish kirkyaird. A weethin aist o tha kirkyaird the thraw doon tha brae, mairchin wi tha yaird, syne thraw agane sooth nixt tha pad tae tha abbey. Wi tha baukin an dyke rinnin agane tha wast enn o tha kirk, the thraw wast up tha brae, syne rin sidelins alang tha brae throch a wheen o thraws in wisin an beck tae tha wattèr, takkin in a lang forebreist alang tha broo. Photie-cairds taen frae tha lift mints at tha mairch afore tha Normans taen in an e'en bägger airt, eikin intae tha fiels noarth an noarth-wast ayont tha kirkyaird.

### **Tha Parish Kirkyaird**

Änch parish kirkyaird, fornent tha caur-pairk, is stellit roon aboot tha mids athin tha boorach afore tha Normans. It leuks leck a kirk wus tae tha fore oan this steidin quhaniver tha abbey wus stellit in tha 11 an 80s an the haudit tae yaisin it. Cistercians steekit lay fowk oot o thair kirks, bot affen the aisit a chaipel fur thaim at tha boun o tha howff, an a chaipel at Änch wus wechtit sindèrt frae tha abbey in tha 13 an 06 cess scrow. Tha stellin wus tynit in 17 an 30, quhaniver a new Änch parish kirk wus biggit in Ballynacraig toonlann. Prents frae tha fore-enn o tha 19t-centurie kythes a wrackit kirk in tha kirkyaird, riven sindèrie wi tha centurie weerin oan.

**Mair Raidini** An Archaeological Survey of County Down (Croon Buik-Ootset Oaffis, 19 an 66), 279-82; Gwynn, A. an Hadcock, R. N., Medieval Religious Houses: Ireland (19 an 70); Hamlin, A., in Ulster J. Archaeol. 41 (19 an 78).

**Ither kirk-airtit** stellins athin a bagle's gowl frae Änch taks in Doonpetèrick Cathedèral, Lochinislann Kirks, Struell Waals, Saul an Raholp.

**Ingang** 3/4 mile noarth-wast o Doonpetèrick (gräd nummer J477455), wun tae wi thrawin wast aff tha A7 Bifawst gate an alang tha loanin tae tha caur-pairk at tha stellin.