

ST CONAN'S MIREK - LOCH AWE

Built by Walter Douglas Campbell, younger brother of the first Lord Blythswood, for his mother and sister Helen. The original church was started in 1881 and completed in 1886. He then decided to extend the church and began the new work in 1907 and devoted the rest of his life to this - he died in 1914. The work was carried on after the First World War by his sister Helen until she died in 1927: thereafter it was finally completed by the Trustees.

Part of the arcading in the church and some of the stonework in the body of the church came from the pre-Reformation Church of Inchinnan Parish Church which was the family church of the Blythswoods. Also there are two "Mort-safes" - the iron grids used to protect graves from body snatchers; these also came from Inchinnan Church. Within the church is the Chapel of St Conval, also connected to Inchinnan as the place where St. Conval was reputed to have landed in Scotland, having set sail from Ireland. The tombs of Walter Douglas Campbell and his sister Helen lie below this chapel.

The other chapel of St Bride's, contains the tomb of the fourth Lord Blythswood. The Church is still used for public worship.

Saint Connel is the Patron SAINT of Inchinnan from a very early date. Both Loch Awe and Inchinnan are in Saint Conan's parish. (possibly Connel & Conval are the same?)

*[Handwritten scribbles and notes on the right margin, including the word "AD" and some illegible characters.]*