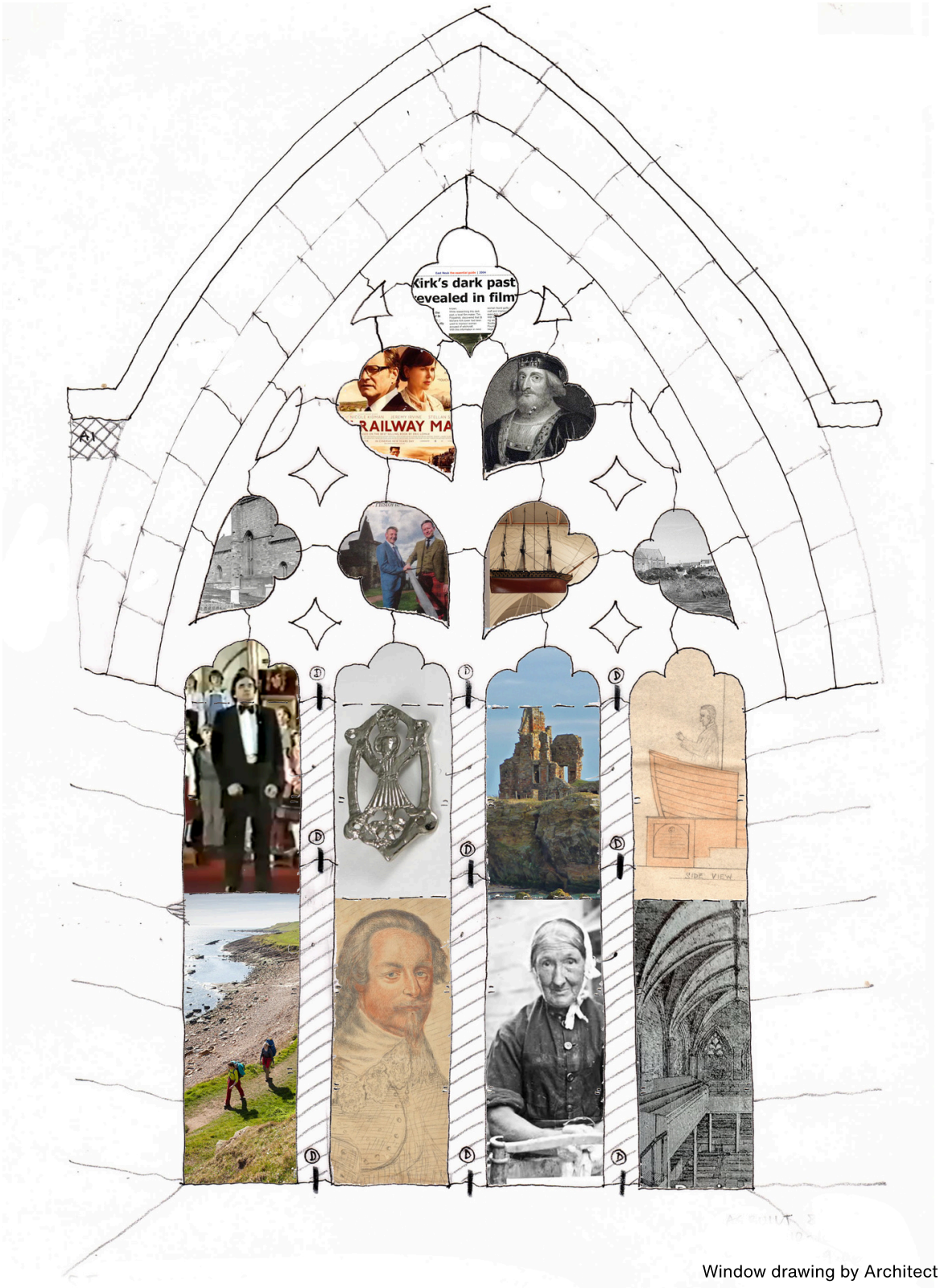
PROJECT OVERVIEW

November 2026

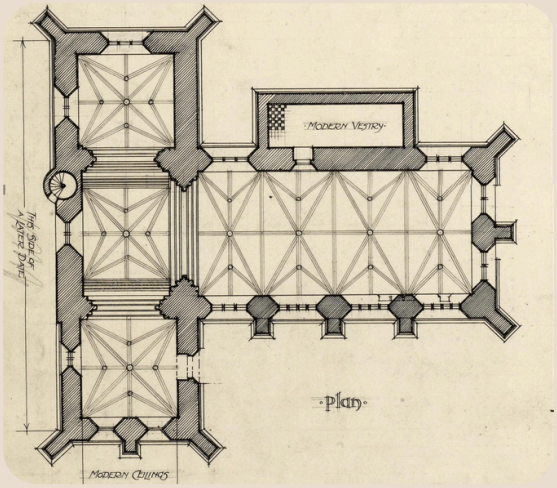
Watch our short YouTube film click here!



Window drawing by Architect Steve Newsom

St Monans Auld Kirk: The Journey so Far

1365



- The Kirk was commissioned by King David II after he reportedly survived a near-death experience in the vicinity of an earlier shrine to St Monan.
- It became a key stop on Fife's east coast pilgrimage route, and was established as a Dominican Friary from 1471.

2022

- It served as the local Parish Church until 2022, when the Church of Scotland announced its closure and their intention to list it for sale.
- Following this news, six local residents with strong ties to the Kirk formed a working group, St Monans Auld Kirk Enterprise (SMAKE), with the purpose of securing the future of the Auld Kirk for the benefit of the community.





2023

Fife Historic Buildings Trust
Making heritage live

AHF Transforming Heritage

- Fife Historic Buildings Trust (FHBT) began to lend support via funding from the Architectural Heritage Fund (AHF), producing an initial Viability Study.
- This working relationship is still going strong, 3.5 years later!

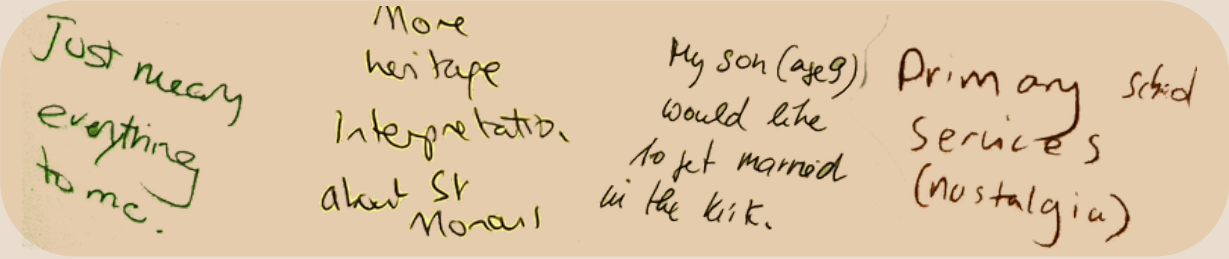




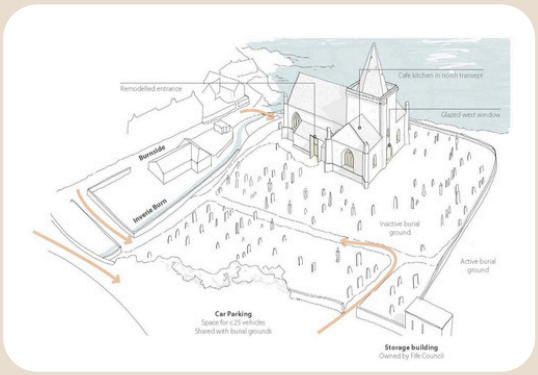


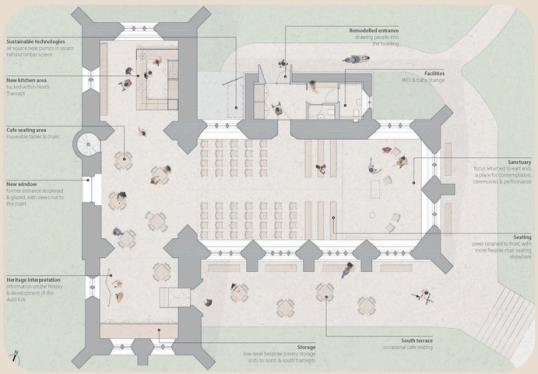
- In summer 2023, three drop-in events were held in the Kirk, which welcomed over 300 people and encouraged them to contribute their ideas for its future.

- The building's significance to the community was immediately apparent, and a vision for a community - run hub, special events and heritage venue emerged.



Examples of comments left by members of the public during consulation events





- In late 2023 we successfully applied to the Scottish Land Fund (SLF) for Stage 1 Feasibility work to undertake a Business Plan, Condition Survey, Conservation Statement, initial Architectural Designs and Valuation.

Scottish Land Fund
Ionmhas Fearainn na h-Alba
Delivered by THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND
HIE Highlands and Islands Enterprise
Funded by Scottish Government Riaghaltas na h-Alba gov.scot

2024

- In August 2024, SMAKE was incorporated as a charitable company by guarantee.
  - Company No: SC819917
  - Charity No. SC054002

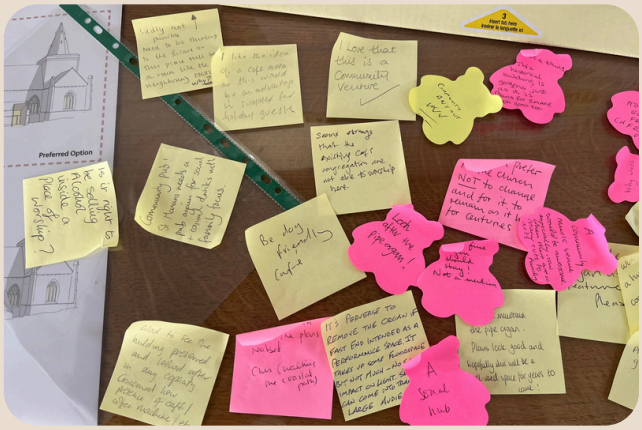


- In November, our Chair Pete was invited to delivery a presentation at the Paisley National Churches Trust conference, sharing our journey so far.

- Two other SMAKE directors presented online workshop talks via the Heritage Network, continuing our open approach to peer learning.



2025







- In early 2025 we were awarded funding to purchase the Kirk following a Stage 2 application to the Scottish Land Fund. On the 8th of December, the purchase of the Kirk was finalised, and SMAKE received the keys!

- We also received the fanatstic news that our Heritage Fund Development Phase application was approved.

- The first official post-purchase SMAKE event held in the Auld Kirk was the traditional Christmas Eve Watchnight Service, which attracted over 150 members of the community.

- Our paid membership offer attracted over 220 members in a few short months.





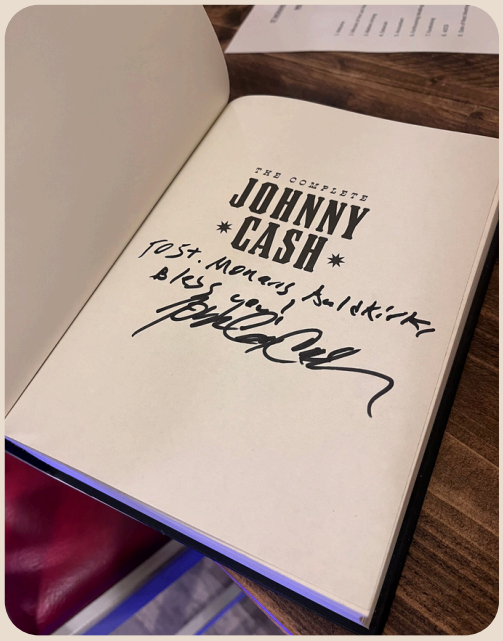
2026

- In early 2026, SMAKE held their first AGM in the Auld Kirk, which was well attended by the community.

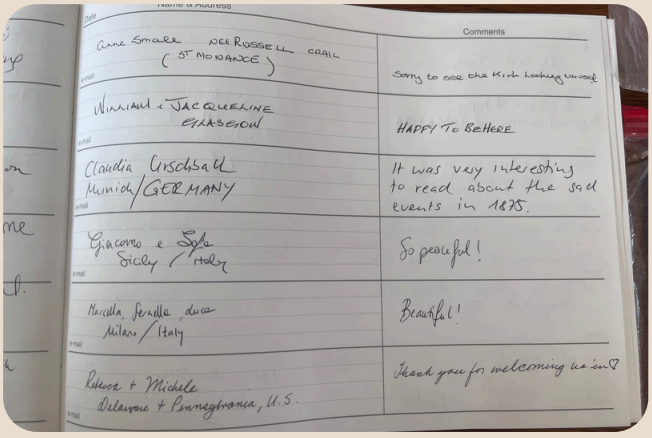
- Following 3 years of closure, the Kirk could now be opened by volunteers on a daily basis, though the access and facilities are severely limited.

- Word of the purchase spread to the Johnny Cash Foundation, who sent SMAKE an encouraging package. Cash's 1981 Christmas concert in the Kirk is remembered by many villagers.

- With the doors open daily, the visitor books are filling up with lovely comments, by visitors from all four corners of the world!



Cam aboot wi help fae | Made possible with
Heritage Fund











- 2026 Summer events included the village Sea Queen festival, a market weekend at the Bowhouse, the Arts Festival and Doors Open Day.

- The daughter of Marjory, one of SMAKE's directors, was married in the Kirk - the first wedding under this new community ownership. 5 further weddings were welcomed over the summer.

- Our Heritage Fund - supported Development Phase successfully ran from April to October 2026, setting us up to continue to project delivery in 2027.

- This video tells more about the Kirk and our story.



