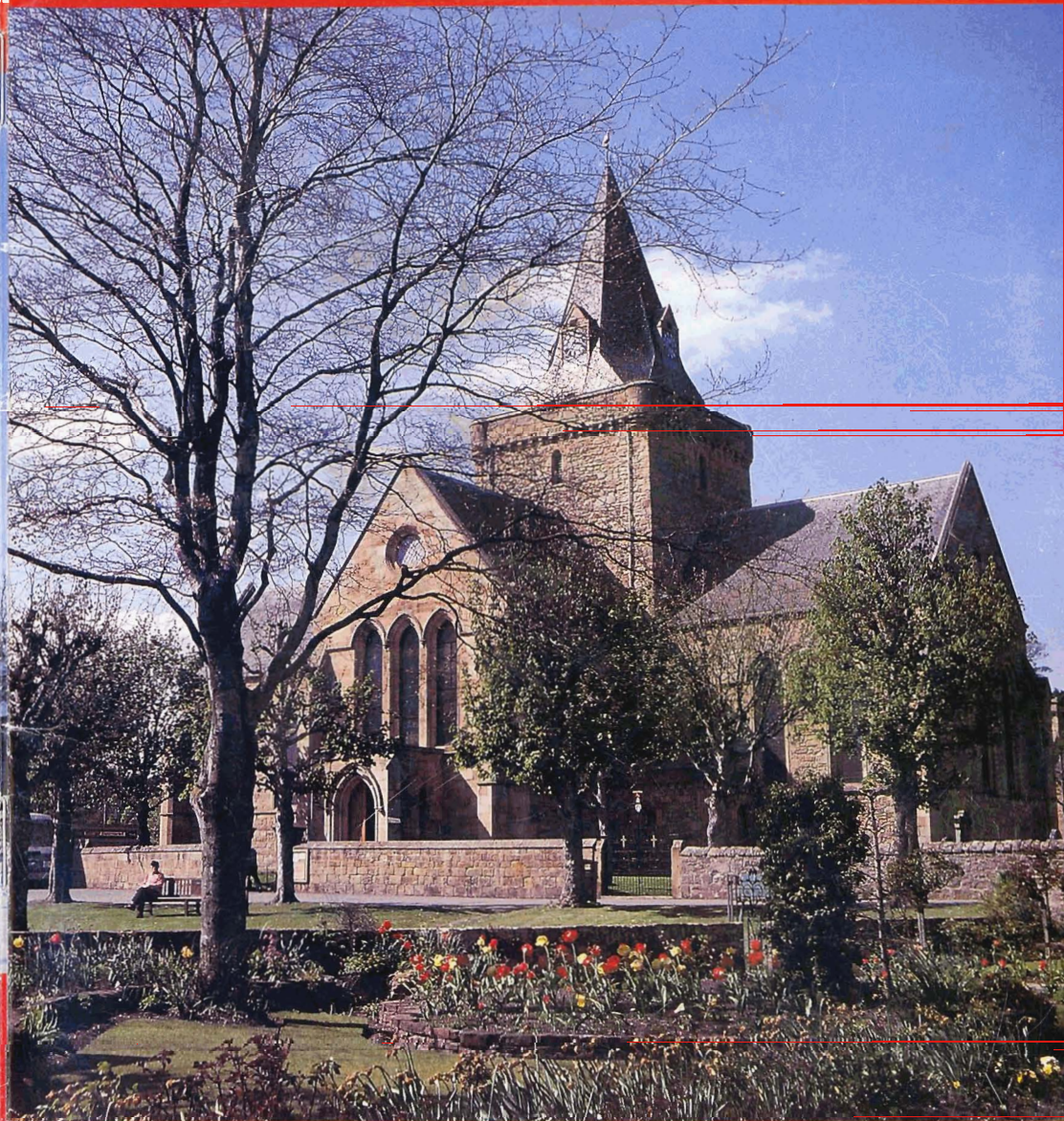
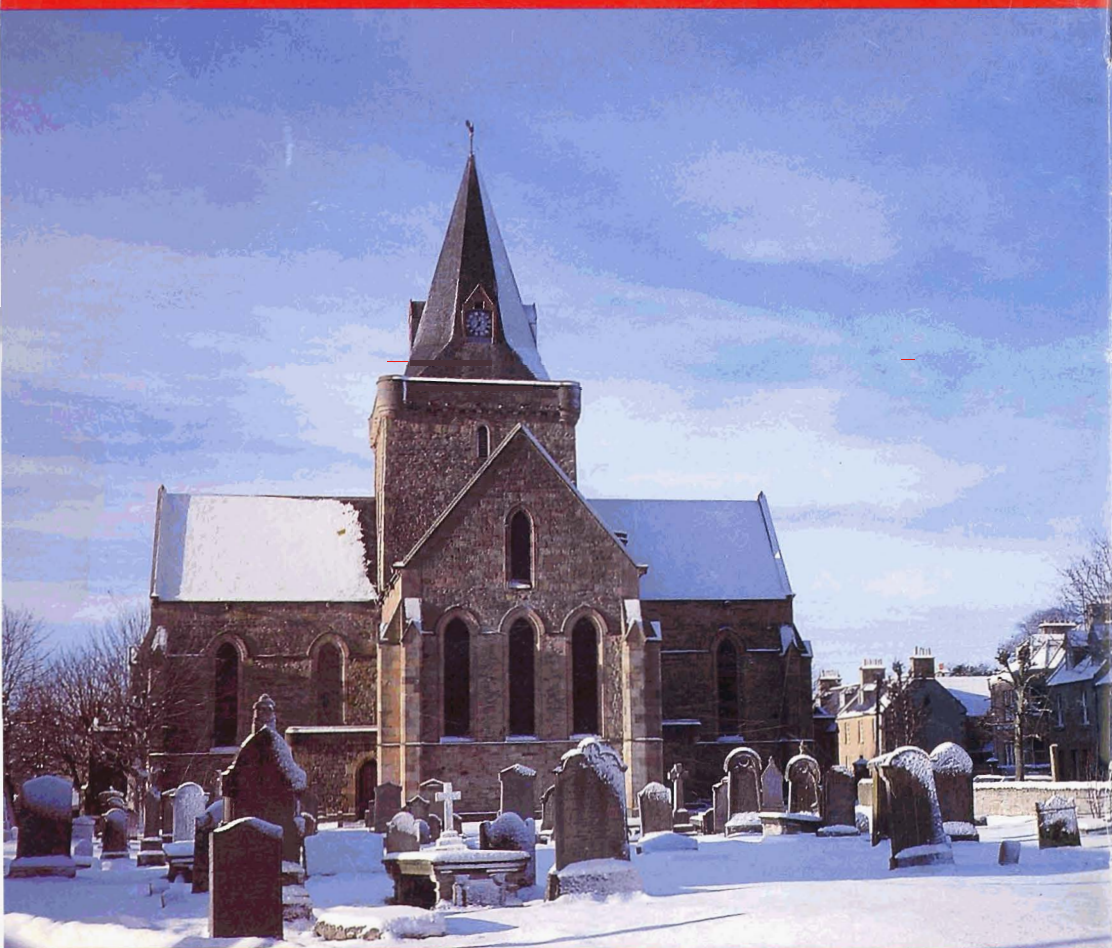


CLIFF & JEAN REDDIN
HIGHFIELD
SKELBO MUIR
DORNOCH SUTHERLAND
IV25 3QH
01862 810012

DORNOCH CATHEDRAL



SUTHERLAND

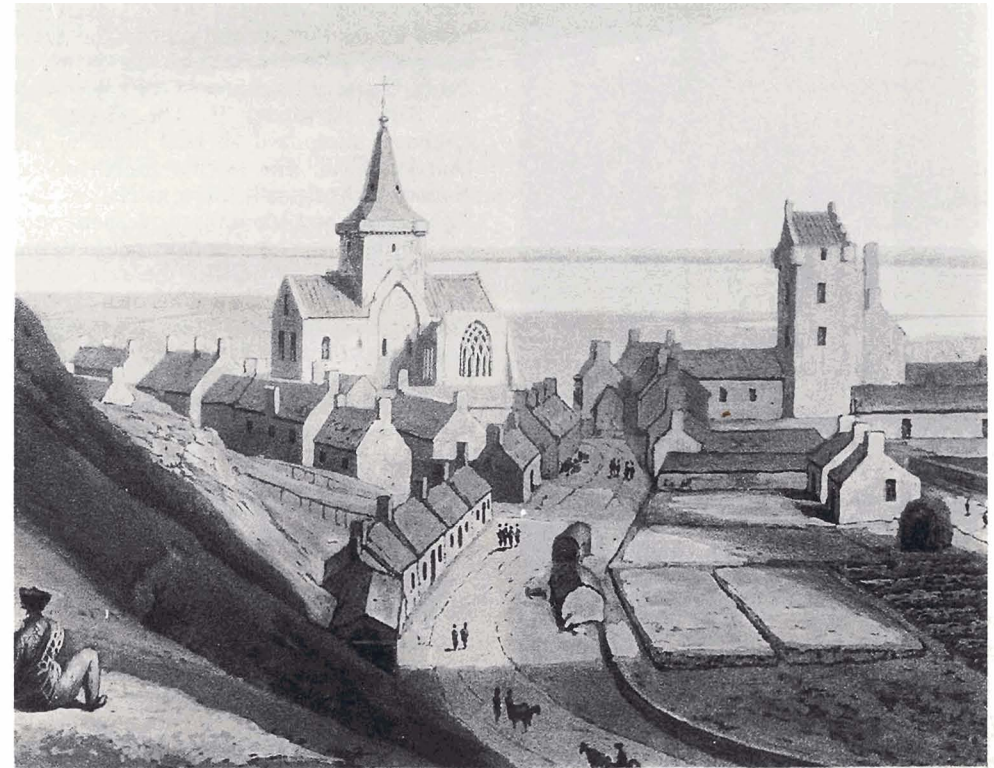


DORNOCH CATHEDRAL

GLORY OF THE NORTH

by the Rev. James A. Simpson

'The house that is to be built for the Lord must be exceedingly magnificent.' *1 Chronicles 22 v 5.*



W. Daniell's engraving of Dornoch (c. 1821)

Opposite: the Nave. Front Cover: the Cathedral in Spring. Back Cover: the Cathedral in Winter.

INTRODUCTION

This short guide has been produced to mark 750 years of worship and service. It has been prepared to give visitors information about the Cathedral's long and chequered history, and to show how this is reflected in its present structure.

Early in the 13th century Bishop Gilbert de Moravia selected Dornoch as the site of the principal church of the Diocese of Caithness. In doing so he may well have been influenced by the fact that for several hundred years the

Dornoch area had already been under the influence of the Church. Some scholars believe that from as early as the 6th century, Dornoch had been a centre of religious influence and the site of a Culdee community.

In the Register of the Abbey of Dunfermline there is a letter written in 1140 by David I addressed to the Earls of Orkney and Caithness, praying that 'for love of him' they would protect the monks at Dornoch from injury and shame.



A selection of the 750th anniversary tapestries.

Wine coolers

The pair of wine coolers are part of the plate of the 1st Battalion the Seaforth Highlanders and were presented to the Cathedral by the family of the late Brigadier Rawstorne, Lord Lieutenant of Sutherland from 1950-62.

Tapestries

The tapestries in the choir pews and elders' seats depict the birds and wild flowers of Sutherland. The cushions on the communion table chairs depict a Bishop's mitre and a burning bush, the symbol of the Church of Scotland. They are a reminder of the two periods in the Cathedral's history – the episcopal and presbyterian eras. The cushion in the pulpit depicts the open Bible, the symbol of Protestantism.

In 1778 Dr. Bethune complained that the Cathedral was 'so vastly spacious, lofty and irregular as greatly to exceed the utmost exertion of the human voice'. To overcome this problem a new sound amplification system was installed in 1977.

An abiding witness

Dornoch Cathedral, despite its troubled history, is still a fine church, chiefly owing to the beautiful proportions with which St. Gilbert endowed it. For seven hundred and fifty years it has withstood the ravages of time, an abiding witness to the glory of God and to the permanence of things spiritual amid the transience of all things earthly.

The best time to visit the Cathedral is without doubt on a Sunday when its walls resound with the praise of God. Come and join us sometime.

The production of this booklet, to coincide with the Cathedral's 750th celebrations was made possible by the generosity of Denis Lovell, and the willingness of Anne Baxter, Professor Michael Book, Ian Bremner, Taylor Bullock, Philip Downie, James Scott and William Skinner to make the photographs and sketches available.
Published by Pilgrim Press Ltd., Derby.
Printed in Great Britain.
ISBN 0 900 594 91 8
© Pilgrim Press Ltd. 1989.

