

## Abbey Walk

This walk follows the green line on the map above. It's easy to follow if you look out for the buildings and places highlighted. 

The **Cross** was Paisley's trading centre, next to the Tolbooth where the town's weights and measures were kept. The **War Memorial** statue, designed by A Meredith Williams, represents a crusader and four First World War soldiers.

In 1894, William Dunn, a Paisley MP, gifted money for **Dunn Square** as a quiet space and a site for statues of the town's great men – and Queen Victoria!

**Gauze Street, Cotton Street and Silk Street** all take their names from the town's successful textile industry.


If you're feeling energetic, walk along **Gauze Street** and visit **St Mirin's Cathedral (10)**, the town's 1930s Roman Catholic cathedral. You can enter by the side door, but please be quiet as there may be people praying.

The people of Paisley had been trying to collect money for a **Town Hall (2)** when George A Clark died in 1873, leaving money to the town for that purpose. The Clark family contributed the rest and all the public's money was paid back.

The statues in **Abbey Close** are of Paisley's weaver-poets, Robert Tannahill and Alexander Wilson. Wilson became the 'father of American ornithology', recording the country's birdlife. You can find out more about Wilson at **Sma' Shot Cottages (7)** on **Shuttle Street**.



King Robert III (1337-1406) and Marjory, Robert the Bruce's daughter, are amongst those buried in **Paisley Abbey (1)**

Follow the red line to explore the riverside area which will add half an hour to your walk. Or continue on the Abbey Walk. 

Stand on the grass opposite the Abbey. You are near the site of the Abbey's Great Drain which has provided archaeologists with amazing evidence of what the monks ate and how they lived. On display in the Abbey sacristy are some of the artefacts found.

Follow the **White Cart Water** upstream to the **Hammills**. You may want to use the underpass to cross **Mill Street**.

One of Paisley's few remaining historic industries – a tannery – still operates in the buildings to your left.

Near here was the site of Paisley's first settlement and **St Mirin's** church. **St Mirin**, a missionary monk, came from Ireland to convert the people of the west of Scotland.

The **Clarks** built their **Seedhill Mills** here at the **Hammills** – the **Domestic Finishing Mill** is towering above you. The river was used in the bleaching and cleaning processes in the thread-mills.

Well-known Paisley sculptor, **Alexander Stoddart**, created the sculpture in the garden in memory of **Alexander Wilson**, weaver-poet and ornithologist.

Walk back along the same path to the **Abbey Bridge**. 

Cross the **Abbey Bridge** on **Bridge Street** and walk down the other side of the river.

On **Abbey Bridge**, look down at the **White Cart Water**. It's exciting to see swans on it after years of industrial pollution.

Look across to the corner of **Gordon Street**. The **Art Nouveau St Matthews Church** was designed by **W D McLennan**, a Paisley-born architect. You can find out more in the *Architectural Guide* available at the **TIC**.

The **corks** – the middlemen who sold on the weavers' finished shawls – had their warehouses in **Forbes Place**, the street to the left. Weavers collected their yarn and patterns from there and were paid when they returned with the finished cloth.

Walk up **Forbes Place** and turn left into **Causeyside Street**.

**Scottish Enterprise Renfrewshire's** building, **27 Causeyside Street**, used to be the Co-operative department store and has a great example of a Paisley tiled close (passage) in its main entrance.

Take a look inside the Art Deco style **Russell Institute** on the corner of **Causeyside Street** and **New Street**. **Miss Russell** didn't want to waste money on a statue to commemorate her brothers, so she built this clinic for mothers and young children in 1927. It's still used today.

At the **Sma' Shot Cottages (7)** on **Shuttle Street** you can compare the differences a century made in the way Paisley people lived and worked.

**Paisley Arts Centre (6)** is in what was the **Laigh Kirk (Low Church)**, built in 1736-8. One of its ministers, the Reverend **John Witherspoon**, became the Principal of **Princeton University** and the only clergyman to sign the **American Declaration of Independence** in 1776.



To complete the circle, turn right at the top of **New Street** into the **High Street** then back to the **Cross**.

**W D McLennan** also designed the **Bull Inn** on **New Street** in 1901.



Dunn Square

