

## Five into One – Albert Square Church



Albert Square Church was originally the Gaelic Chapel, created to meet the needs of the Gaelic-speaking Highlanders who had migrated to Dundee in the latter half of the eighteenth century. The congregation was formed in 1790, worshipping in a former Methodist chapel in Long Wynd. At the Disruption, the Gaelic congregation joined the Free Church.

After great fundraising efforts, a new Gaelic Church was built at the north end of South Tay Street (to become eventually the Cinerama picture

theatre), but continuing financial difficulties made it necessary to vacate the new building and return to Long Wynd. In 1846, the Tay Street Church was sold to St. John's (Cross) congregation, recently displaced from the city churches after the fire in 1841. St. John's remained there until the new church in Blackness Avenue was opened in 1914.

In 1855, the Gaelic congregation moved to Albert Square to occupy an old Secession chapel. In 1866, they bought the whole site and erected a new church, which was opened in 1869. Henceforth the Gaelic Church was known as Albert Square Church.

The last Gaelic-speaking minister was the Rev. George R. Macphail, who served for 44 years before retiring in 1931. He was followed by the Rev. Robert W. Mathieson, who left in 1934 in a response to a call from St. Andrew's Church of Scotland, Clacutta. He in turn was followed by a Dundonian, the Rev. Frederick C. Anderson and thereafter in 1950 by a New Zealander, the Rev. John H. Combes, who held a short term ministry until 1955 when steps were taken to unite Albert Square with the now vacant St. George's.

[Location on Google Maps](#)