Saints and Stones

Some churches in Pictland were founded by people who either already were or became Saints. However, our modern view of a Saint and what prevailed in Pictish times is different. The local clergyman was sometimes referred to as Saint. Many more churches were dedicated to existing, well known, Saints.

The following are locations where there are Pictish Stones (mainly Class 2) having associations with Saints. Site numbers, in the format e.g. NO64SW 3 are from The Pictish Symbol Stones of Scotland Edited by Iain Fraser published by RCAHMS.

St Boniface – church at Tealing NO43NW 9. Boniface - 672 to 754 seemingly founded 150 churches in NE Scotland; the one at Tealing was dedicated to St Peter.

St Braoch – church at Inchbrayock NO75NW 2. Information about the church and the Saint is at:- https://angusfolklore.blogspot.com/2019/10/inchbrayock-holy-island-of-montrose.html?m=1

St Bride – dedication of Advie NJ13SW 2 old church; found in burial ground of old church – built into current church wall - Class 1 - P-M only.

St Drostan – appointed abbot of Deer Abbey by St Columba. A Stone was reported as standing at the Abbey at NJ94NE 5 in the mid-1800s - currently no trace. From old sketches arguably Class 2 - P-M and Christian but not included in “Shared Space” Investigations.

St Fergus 8th century - Dyce NJ81NE 8.

St Fillan – Struan NN86NW 3.

St Finnan died 661 – Migvie NJ40NW 2 dedicated to St Finnan.

St Martin 4th century – Balluderon (St Martin’s Stone) NO33NE 2 – St Martin was a Roman soldier who became the Bishop of Tours in 371. 11 Nov is Martinmas. St Columba erected a church in Ireland to St Martin. There is a St Martin’s cross on Iona. Ulbster ND34SW 28.01 Stone may have been at St Martin’s chapel.

St Medan (male and female versions but different time periods) – Kingoldrum NO54NW 3.

St Moluag / Lugg / Moloc died 592 – Rhynie, Old Church NJ42NE 30, perhaps Alyth NO224NW 14 and several others.

St Nathalan (Nachalan or Nachlan or Neachtan) bishop of Tullich died 678. Tullich NO39NE 2. Celtic chapel established by Nathalan, church held by Knights Templar then Hospitallers – built a fort round the church in 13C.

St Ninian – chapel of that name at Navidale ND01NW 23 but Ninian is usually associated with Southern Scots.
St Orland – Cossans NO45SW 4 – isolated in low lying fields.

St Palladius - Fordoun, Auchenblae NO77NW 3.2 - first Christian missionary to Scotland (?) - preceded St Patrick around mid-400s.

St Regulus (St Rule) – association with former parish church at Monifieth NO43SE 25.

St Tredwell - Kintradwell NC90NW 15 – near Cinn Trolla broch with chapel and saint associations. Story of eyes and Nechtan (references to Papa Westray, Orkneys).

St Vigean – church at St Vigeans NO64SW 3 (Latin Vigeanus was St Feichin of Irish origin died 664).