

**Connections and the Church in Late Norse Scotland: a conference to commemorate the 800th anniversary of the murder of Bishop Adam of Caithness**

Organised by Tom Fairfax (University of Nottingham) and Dr Caitlin Ellis (Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies)

Hosted online by the Centre for the Study of the Viking Age, University of Nottingham.

**Dates:** Saturday 17th September 2022

**Time:** 10:00-16:00

**Blurb:**

In September 1222, Bishop Adam of Caithness was murdered by a group of resentful Caithness landholders. During his lifetime, Adam travelled from northern England to Melrose in Scotland, to Caithness, and to the papal curia on behalf of the Scottish kings. News of Adam's death spread across Europe, and accounts of Adam's murder can be found in texts from Iceland, Scotland, England, Ireland, and Rome. Bishop Adam's life, and the tales of his burning, show the interconnected nature of Late Norse Scotland. Though the Viking Age is known for its connectivity, the period after it saw links between Scotland and Scandinavia grow in new ways, while the development of the Caithness bishopric inspired new ties between northern Scotland and more southerly areas. This conference, 800 years on from Adam's murder, will explore the Late Norse world in which Adam lived and died, from literary, historical, and archaeological perspectives. In doing so, it will demonstrate the range of influences in northern Scotland at this time, placing it at the centre of a dynamic and interconnected political, cultural, and ecclesiastical milieu.

**Sign-up:** <https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/english/events/events/2021-2022/bishop-of-caithness.aspx>

**Twitter:** @BishopAdam800 and the hashtag #BishopAdam800

<b>Conference Programme</b>	
<b>10:00-10:15</b>	Introduction and Housekeeping
<b>10:15-11:15</b>	<p><b><u>Session 1: Martyrs and Near-Martyrs: Remembering Burnings and Bishops</u></b></p> <p>Tom Fairfax (University of Nottingham), ‘People still have those injuries in their memories’: The burning of Bishop Adam, 800 years on’</p> <p>Jesse Harrington (University College Cork), ‘A burning (best not revisited: Remembering and forgetting the York succession dispute of 1140–54 in Aelred’s <i>On the Battle of the Standard</i>’</p>
<b>11:15-11:30</b>	BREAK
<b>11:30-12:30</b>	<p><b><u>Session 2: Kings and the Northern Earldoms</u></b></p> <p>Harriet Clark (University of Nottingham), ‘Ruling Orkney, Ruling Norway: the relationship between Orcadian jarls and Norwegian kings’</p> <p>Neil McGuigan (University of St Andrews), ‘The Scottish monarchy and the province of Cat’</p>
<b>12:30-13:30</b>	LUNCH
<b>13:30-14:30</b>	<p><b><u>Session 3: The Legacy of St Magnús: Hagiography and Pilgrimage</u></b></p> <p>Haki Antonsson (University College London), ‘The Hagiography of St Magnús of Orkney, Revisited’</p> <p>Sarah Jane Gibbon (University of Highlands and Islands), ‘With a good boat under me’: connecting with the Cult of St Magnus’</p>
<b>14:30-14:45</b>	BREAK
<b>14:45-15:45</b>	<p><b><u>Session 4: Churches and Monasteries in Late Norse Scotland</u></b></p> <p>Rosemary Power (NUI Galway), ‘That holy island’: monastic Iona and the late Norse world’</p> <p>Richard Oram (University of Stirling), ‘In Remotest Parts: the Organisation of the See of Caithness in the Early Thirteenth Century’</p>
<b>15:45-16:00</b>	Concluding Remarks and Thanks