

St. Andrew's Parish Church

Inverurie



Parish Profile May 2018

Vacancy Information

We are delighted that you are taking time to read more about St. Andrew's Parish Church in Inverurie. We hope that this profile gives you an insight of our parish and congregation.

We would gladly welcome informal/formal enquiries, an informal visit or provide you with any further information.

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Introduction



St Andrew's Parish Church in Inverurie is part of the Church of Scotland. It was founded in the 9th century. In 1573, 13 years after the first General Assembly of the Kirk of Scotland, Inverurie received its first Minister. At the union of the United Free Church and The Church of Scotland in 1929 the 'Auld Kirk' of Inverurie was renamed as 'The South Parish Church'. In 1953 it adopted the name 'St Andrew's Parish Church'.

St Andrew's Church was constructed on its present site and first opened for worship on 14th August 1842.

The Church has been renovated a few times over the intervening years, with a major upgrade in 1964/65. This renovation removed the side galleries and created a new Chancel.

In 2010 substantial renovation works were carried out creating a new chapel and office. In addition to the Church, there is an old chapel, a new chapel, office and two halls. There is also a large car park to the rear of the premises.



Photos of St Andrew's church (left to right)

- 1: View to chancel*
- 2: Chapel of St Appolinaris*
- 3: Pulpit*
- 4: Communion Table*
- 5: Main body of the church from the chancel*
- 6: Font*
- 7: Boys Brigade notice board in the hall*
- 8: Tapestry made during the renovations hanging in the church*
- 9: New floor design after the renovations*

Inverurie

Inverurie is a market town located at the centre of Aberdeenshire and is known locally as the “Heart of the Garioch”. It sits between the Rivers Don and Ury and is 16 miles north-west of Aberdeen. It is well served both by road (A96), rail and the nearest airport is Aberdeen Airport (about 11 miles).



Inverurie and surrounding area

Inverurie is a thriving town with a population of around 26,000 (and is still growing). It has many shops (both general high street and small independent), businesses and services. There is a monthly farmers market and various local events held throughout the year.

Agriculture still plays a large role in the economy. Thainstone Mart on the outskirts of the town is the biggest livestock market in Scotland (and even had its own TV programme!). Inverurie has a variety of industrial parks and a large retail park.



Aerial view of mart and Business Park

Inverurie has continued to grow over the years and has a large commuter population. It is the “fastest growing town in Great Britain”. It is served by four primary schools (one newly built 2017) and a special needs school (St. Andrew’s School). It is served by Inverurie Community Hospital with a new state of the art Health and Care Hub due to open summer 2018. Work has started to build a new academy and swimming pool and plans are well underway to expand the local sports centre facilities.



Inverurie, Market Place

There are a number of parks and green areas and plenty of places to walk. It is close to Bennachie (local hill range) and within 5 minutes' drive you are right in the heart of the countryside. Hill walking, fishing, water sports, castles, beaches and distilleries are all close by.



Surrounding countryside and views of Bennachie

Inverurie has many clubs and organisations for the whole community and caters for a wide and diverse demand and taste. Inverurie Loco Works football team are based at Harlaw Park and are in the Highland League. Inverurie also has thriving cricket and rugby clubs based at Kellands Park. There are three bowling centres (indoor and outdoor) and a golf club. There are many opportunities to access clubs and societies throughout the town.

For children of all ages, many opportunities exist to support both sport and hobbies alike. There are Scouts, Girl Guides, Boys Brigade, local junior football and junior rugby teams, swimming clubs, and many other opportunities through school based and independent and local organisations.



Inverurie War Memorial and Town Hall, High Street and River Don

More information is readily available at the following websites:-

- [http://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/statistics for mission/parish profiles/331972.pdf](http://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/statistics%20for%20mission/parish%20profiles/331972.pdf)
- <https://www.visitscotland.com/info/towns-villages/inverurie-p237991>
- <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Inverurie>
- <http://www.aberdeenshire.gov.uk/search?search=inverurie>

St. Andrew's Today

St. Andrew's has been in the care of an Interim Minister following the sad and untimely death of our previous Minister, Rev. T.G. Longmuir, in August 2014 while in service.

We were fortunate to have the late Rev. Jim Davies as our Interim Minister for a time working closely within the parish and congregation. With his leadership, and support of Presbytery of Gordon, the Church is now stable and in good heart.

Currently the Rev. Sheila Craggs is our Interim Moderator. Sheila is a retired Minister from the neighbouring town of Ellon. Sheila has much endeared herself to the congregation over the past 2 years she has been with us.



Scarecrows outside St Andrew's Church during the festivities

A sense of community is important to us, members and wider community alike. St. Andrew's has on their roll approximately 900 members, with currently mainly an elderly albeit enthusiastic regular weekly congregation.

The children's group is continually expanding, testimony to the dedication of the St. Andrew's leadership team.

St. Andrew's regularly organises and is host venue to a large variety of social events large and small and sees itself as an integral part of the community.

We look forward to the next part of our journey – the appointment of a new Minister who will take us forward to a successful future.

Our Vision for St. Andrew's

- Varied styles of worship, prayer and music, both traditional and more contemporary;
- Continue close links with other churches in our area;
- Attract young people and families;
- Develop more outreach in the community and contact with all age groups;
- Attract back our lapsed members.



Bible

Our Minister

- Be friendly, a good listener, enthusiastic, able to reach young and old and to be competent in administration and finance;
- He/she should be a team leader, a good delegator, willing to take feedback and accommodate differing viewpoints;
- Lead in pastoral care and visit those in the congregation who would appreciate personal contact with the Minister.

Church Life

St. Andrew's Church is currently administered in accordance with the terms of the Church of Scotland's Model Deed of Constitution, but we are considering a change to a Unitary Constitution.

Kirk Session

We have 32 members of the Kirk Session. The Session business covers pastoral, Ministerial and Presbytery work. It meets formally every two months and ad-hoc as required. The Session Clerk is currently Ken Tuach.

Board

The Congregational Board contains all the elders plus a further three members. The Congregational Board considers the roll, finance, fabric and social committee matters. The Board meets approximately every two months. The Clerk to the Board is Joyce Lawson.

Both meetings are usually held in the Chapel of Appolinaris.



Chapel of St Appolinaris

Worship

Weekly Worship

Sunday services are at 10:00 a.m. in the main Church.

After our renovations, we have a small chapel at the entrance to the Church, dedicated to St Appolinaris, and on occasion this is used for some worship.

There is also the old chapel, which is used for services on occasion, weddings and funerals as required.



Chapel set out for a meeting, some of the congregation and Lectern

We have a modern sound system. The service is recorded weekly and distributed within the community including through St. Andrew's website.

There are hymn books (CH4) provided for the service and a printed order of service weekly. There is also the option of large print in both cases. The church has the option of the use of screens which are used, especially for larger services.

On Sunday mornings we have 60 to 70 people in the congregation. Most attending are in an older age profile, though we would like to welcome more of our younger members and non-members to attend.

We have an active rota within the congregation for welcoming door duty, offering collection, readers, sound duty and beadle. Each week a member of the congregation reads a passage from the Bible as part of the service. On some occasions throughout the year, the congregation play a greater role in organising and delivering the services.



Chancel

On the first Sunday of each month the children from the time out group attend and contribute to the service.

We also have teas after the service with a different group organising each week. These get togethers are very popular and help to promote fellowship.

There are always lovely flower displays in the Church gifted by the congregation (flower rota). These are then distributed within the parish after the service.

Communion

We have three communion services throughout the year: April and September being carded communions and third communion which is held in June is non-carded.



St Andrew's from the pulpit

Worship in the Community

We have special services throughout the year, some of which are shared with the other Church of Scotland churches in Inverurie, the West Church, and IDCT (Inverurie and District Churches Together) churches. IDCT also share Easter and Holy Week Services

Currently we unite with the West Church (Church of Scotland) for United Summer Services in July and August. Generally holding a month's services in each church.

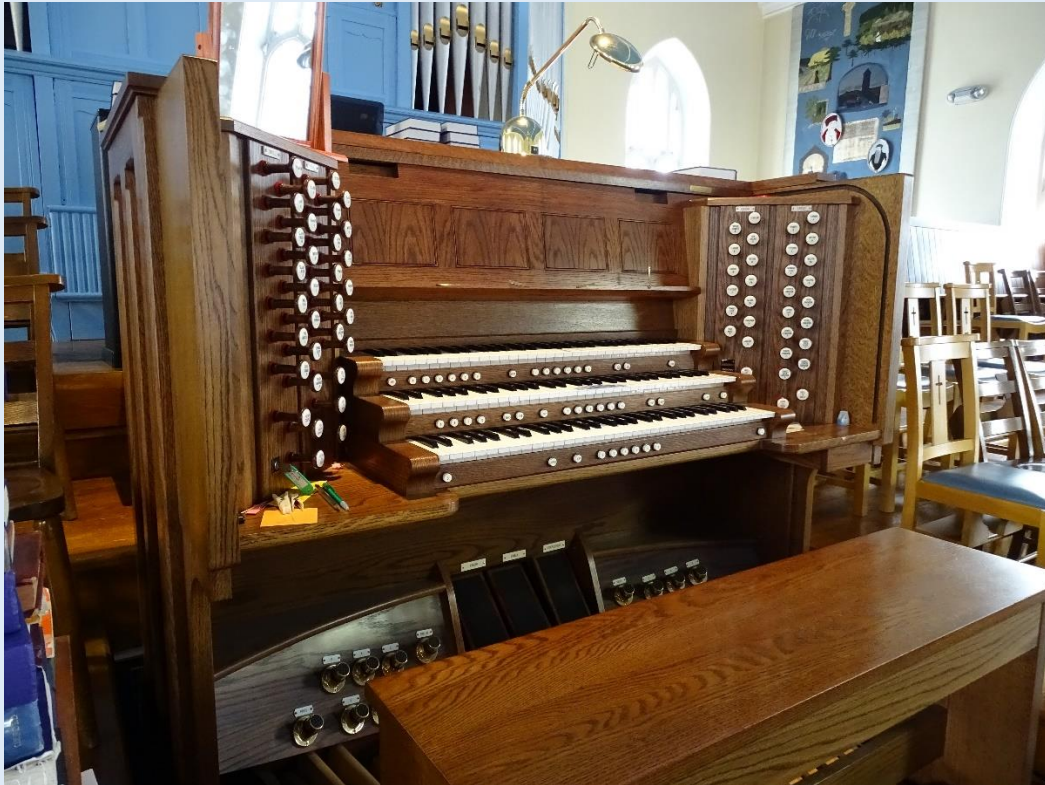
Christmas Christingle Service (organised through IDCT) are held in St. Andrew's Church. The Watchnight Services are held either in St. Andrew's Church or the West Church. On Christmas Day, St. Andrew's and the West Church have again united, however we also hold independent services.



Nativity figures during Christmas service within St Andrew's Church

Music

Currently we have a small but enthusiastic choir who meet regularly and are a wonderful asset during the Sunday service; joining in with the hymns during worship as well as performing solo. We would hope to expand the choir, as music has always played an important part of St. Andrew's Church life.



Church Organ

Time Out Group

A children's group called Time-Out meets on the first Sunday of each month. There is a dedicated group of leaders and equally enthusiastic children.

This group is for Nursery and Primary age children. This session includes singing, a Church or bible based story, "The Feast" and various activities.

They usually join the Church service for the last 20 minutes or so. Here they generally participate in the service and tell us what they have been learning.

The group is growing in number and popularity.



Church Related Organisations

Flower Arrangers

Our flower convener is Eileen Robertson who with a team of volunteers organises weekly flowers in the Church and at other events throughout the year. This team decorates the Church weekly, and flowers are distributed, mainly to the sick and bereaved, and for other significant events after the services. These are most appreciated by the recipients (these flowers are, on the whole donated by members of the congregation). Special floral art workshops are organised throughout the year by the Flower Convener.



Flower displays around the church

Boys' Brigade

St Andrew's has hosted the 1st Inverurie Boy's Brigade since 1974 when the then Minister asked three Elders to form a Company. The Anchor and Junior Sections meet in the Halls on Monday nights with the Company and Senior Boys meeting on Friday nights throughout School Terms.

The Boys take part in lots of activities on these evenings and are included in Church Services on occasions. They also have a good record in Battalion competitions and take part in summer camps, sometimes jointly with other Companies and in the past with Scouts. We presently have five boys proceeding to achieving their Queen's Badge and we follow the ethos of the "advancement of Christ's Kingdom among Boys".

Monthly Magazine

Our magazine, called The Saltire, is printed each month and delivered or emailed to every household on St Andrew's roll, as well as to neighbouring churches and other interested parties. The magazine is an important tool in our communications.



Saltire is also available at www.standrewschurchinverurie.org.uk

Administration

The Church office is situated off the vestibule and our Administrator works from 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. during week days. This is a vital hub in Church life ensuring close communications with the community.

Fellowship

Fellowship is important in St. Andrew's Church.

There is an active social committee who have organised a number of events on a small and large scale. For example, summer BBQ; fund raising teas and meals including Victorian Tea, Daffodil Tea, Strawberry Tea, Steak Supper, Queen's Birthday Tea; and concerts.



Daffodil tea held in the chapel

St. Andrew's aims to be at the heart of the community and these events are well supported by both members and non-members alike. We feel that this is an important part of Church life.

A special committee had been formed to celebrate the 175th Anniversary of the present Church building in 2017. This involved considerable work from the committee which was made up of both church members and the wider community.

St. Andrew's in Church Community

St Andrew's has close contact and a good working relationship with other churches and organisations nearby. These include:-

- Inverurie and District Churches Together (IDCT)
- The West Church (Church of Scotland)
- The Presbytery of Gordon
- Outreach including Christian Aid; Foodbank; Social Activities; Special Collections; Care Homes.
- The Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG)
- The Garioch Community Church



New floor, designed during the renovation work

Other Organisations

Premises are rented out to organisations on a regular basis. This has provided a much needed income source. Hall users include:-

- Meeting facilities for various clubs.
- Playgroup
- Keep Fit classes.
- Guides and Rainbows.
- Choir and Band.
- Guide Dog Training
- Other churches using our facilities, i.e. The Redeemed Christian Church of God (the RCCG) and the Garioch Community Church.
- Council and National Elections.



St Andrew's carpark, chapel and old hall

175th Anniversary Year

Extracts from an article published in the monthly magazine on the events surrounding the 175th. Anniversary of St. Andrew's Church

“WOW! What a wonderful year we have had celebrating the 175th anniversary of the present church building. The first event was Stainer's "Crucifixion" held on April 9th with professional soloists and choir conducted by Brian Smith, our former organist. On May 20th, Brian was once more at St. Andrew's when he played the piano for The Military Wives' Choir from Kinloss to a packed church. Again, this concert was a huge "hit" with the 300 + people in the audience.

On June 17th over 100 guests enjoyed the most successful Strawberry Tea ever held at St Andrew's, and on August 4th the church welcomed a group from Ghana (under the auspices of the AIYF) who gave a superb programme of singing, dancing and storytelling. Audience participation was encouraged and it was great to see folk join in with the fun.

On Sunday 13th August a special anniversary service was held to celebrate the very first act of worship held in the newly completed building on August 14, 1842.

Sheila Craggs conducted the service and the hymns, played beautifully by our organist, Ian Milne, were sung with enthusiasm by the 180+ congregation; and the anthem from the choir was appropriate and greatly appreciated.

Then came the Big Floral and Scarecrow Weekend - Friday 29th September – Sunday 1st October! How do I begin to describe the impact made not only on our church but throughout Inverurie and District? People came from near and far to admire the gorgeous floral decorations which were created by Eileen Robertson and her fantastic "flower" ladies. The 71 scarecrows which festooned the town of Inverurie were due to the hard work of Teams Naysmith and Robertson (PLUS husbands!) who encouraged churches, businesses, schools, individuals and other willing partners to be involved in a project which truly caught the imagination of the community.



Photos from the flower festival: inside St Andrew's church and scarecrows

A Memorabilia Corner, organised by committee member Alison, proved tremendously popular with people chatting about "Old Inverurie" and the good old days! There was also a display of our fine church silver carefully arranged and presented by Ralph and Jenny Green. Throughout the weekend a variety of musicians played in the Old Chapel whilst people enjoyed their coffees, lunches and afternoon teas. The final event of this magnificent weekend was a terrific performance by the Inverurie Rock Choir.

Then came a very different concert on October 28th, the Peterhead and Moray Male Voice Gospel Choirs, but equally enjoyable and much appreciated - beautifully sung choral pieces, duets and solos.

On November 11th another very successful Soup and Sweet Lunch (including Craft Fair) was held and this event also gave us the opportunity to sell tickets for our Grand Finale Concert on December 10th.

Grand Finale is the correct term to describe our ultimate BLOCKBUSTER Concert! Rosie Milne's irrepressible flair for cajoling groups/artistes/and soloist to take part meant that people were treated to an evening of great music, drama and fun. We are indebted to the Inverurie Concert Band for their terrific rendition of Peter and the Wolf with Stuart Watson as an excellent narrator; to the Mitchell School of Drama for their hilarious skits which had folk laughing their heads off; to Pieces of Eight (part of the all -male Granite City Chorus) for their wonderful harmony (a Capella/barbershop style); to Inverurie Choral Society, under the direction of Moira Hunter and pianist, Anna Geddes, for their beautifully chosen pieces, all sung with great musicality; and last, but by no means least, to Valerie Chapman, soprano, for her solos and for closing this memorable concert with the hauntingly beautiful "O Holy Night". I am sure everyone will carry the memory, for a very long time, of Valerie singing this final song within the candlelit chancel of our beloved church.

I must devote a paragraph to Pat Wink and her team of helpers who catered for all of the above events. Their contribution deserves the highest praise: the organisation, the generous donations, the baking, cooking, setting out - I could go on and on and still not thank them enough! St. Andrew's is rightly known, far and wide, for its delicious food and this is all due to our marvellous catering ladies.

Of course, these events would not have been a success if you, our loyal audience, had not turned up, month after month, to support us. Without YOU, there would have been no celebration!

Finally, as Convener of the 175th Anniversary Committee, I have to say what a privilege it has been to work with such a dedicated group. From start to finish everyone gave freely of their talents, time and money to make the year's programme such a resounding success.

Fabric

The Church

In 2010 substantial renovation works were carried out costing £487,000. A new Chapel (dedicated to St. Appolinaris) and Church Office were created underneath the existing balcony. The new Chapel has windows into the Church and services can be heard via speakers in the Chapel. This facility may also be used on Sundays as a crèche and for meetings (Session, Board etc.) at other times.

A new boiler was fitted and extensive rewiring took place.



Organ

The existing pipe organ, which was failing and beyond repair, was replaced, leaving the original organ pipes as a feature on the rear wall. We now have an excellent electronic organ.

At the last Presbytery inspection, there were no issues identified.

The Manse

The Manse has recently undergone some refurbishment and redecoration, including a new fitted kitchen and family bathroom. Accommodation comprises, large lounge with patio doors leading to the rear garden, kitchen, utility room, 5 bedrooms, shower room and family bathroom which is fitted with both a bath and separate shower cubicle.

There are 2 attic rooms one of which was previously used as the Church office and one as a large meeting room. The property is double glazed with gas central heating throughout. Detached double garage with tarred driveway providing off-street parking for several cars.

A full schedule is available on request.



Manse – from the street, indoors, attic room and garden

Finance

Our income has remained fairly constant over the last three financial years and we are on target to paying off our interest bearing loans taken from the Church of Scotland for the latest refurbishments. Income is split about half from offerings and half from use of facilities. Members of the congregation give generously of their finances in addition to time and support of Church events.

Currently we are looking for a new finance convener and looking to set up a small finance sub-group to support them in their ongoing work. These rolls are fully supported by the Session and our administrator.

In 2017, we raised a considerable amount of money as part of our 175th year celebrations. We have been fortunate to use some of this in renovating the manse kitchen and bathrooms.

Opportunities and Challenges

St. Andrew's Parish Church has been without a permanent Minister for some time now. We have been lead well through difficult times and are now in a strong position to welcome a new Minister.

This vacancy offers a challenging and exciting opportunity for any Minister. St. Andrew's sits in the heart of Inverurie and wishes to remain a large active part of the community.

We would like to see the congregation grow once again and welcome new ideas and vitality. We see the involvement of families in the Church as a major priority and ongoing support to our children's group. We fully support developing this as a congregation.

Outreach into the community and pastoral care especially to those unable to come to Church is equally important to St. Andrew's. Inverurie has a strong community ethos and a Minister at the heart of this would be desirable.

St. Andrew's has an enthusiastic congregation with many talents. It is well supported by Board, Session, the congregation and the wider community. We would like to explore bringing our communities into the life of the Church and help us develop our individual and collective relationship with God.

We are looking for a dynamic, motivated and enthusiastic Minister who can join us on the next chapter of our journey.

St. Andrew's welcomes your interest in our Church and would be happy to provide further information on request

Formal applications should be sent to: Mrs Jackie Reith

Email: standrews@btinternet.com

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St Andrew's during the flower festival