

STRATHBOGIE DRUMBLADE PARISH CHURCH HUNTLY

PARISH PROFILE



SC000534

W

We are a **WARM**, **WELCOMING** congregation who following the retirement of our Minister of 23 years now seek a new minister who **WILL** lead us with **WISDOM** to further **WITNESS** within the community of Huntly and Drumblade. We hope to call a minister who will ultimately **WORK** and guide both congregations in our planned deferred union with our neighbours at Huntly Cairnie Glass Church, following the demission or retirement of their Minister.

E

At Strathbogie Drumblade we **ENDEAVOUR** to make **EVERYONE** feel welcome and at home in our Church, and to feel they are part of our Church Family. We offer an **EXCEPTIONAL** and **ECO EFFICIENT** modern manse.

L

LOVE is at the very heart of our faith and we would **LOVE** to appoint someone with a cheerful disposition who can minister to us with **LOVE**, assured of our **LOVE** in return, and **LEAD** us with **LEARNING** and **LAUGHTER** in worship and our pastoral work within the town.

C

Sharing **CHRIST** with the **COMMUNITY** is very important to us, and we strive to make a difference with our weekly Friendship **CLUB** and monthly **CARE** Home Services. We hope to **CONTINUE** and expand on our established **CONNECTIONS** with both schools in the town, and with our friends in the RC and Scottish Episcopal Churches.

O

It is vital that **OUR** worship is as **OPEN** and inclusive as possible, where the word of God is preached in a way that shows the relevance of scripture today. This, in turn, will help us face, adapt to and embrace the challenges of modern life, both socially and within the Church of Scotland.

M

We strive to live out the Five **MARKS** of **MISSION** through the various aspects of our faith life, our work within the community, and our response to national, human and global issues. We are aware we need to rebuild our Christian Nurture Programme.

E

Despite the setbacks and challenges we have faced over the last five years of our vacancy we have remained **ENTHUSIASTIC** and look forward to calling a minister who can **ENCOURAGE** and motivate us to spread God's word and share his love within the town.

OUR MISSION STATEMENT at Strathbogie Drumblade

We are a worship centred community called to preach Christ by loving God, loving one another, and loving our neighbours near and far.



Strathbogie Drumblade Church, Huntly.
Scottish Church SC03024

GUILD COFFEE & BUTTERY MORNING

Central of Scotland
Guild



Saturday 25th March 2023
9.45 – 11.45 am
Stewart's Hall Huntly
Adults £2.50 / Child £1
Sales Table & Bric-a-Brac Stall



OUR CONGREGATION

Strathbogie Drumblade congregation was formed in 2008 by the union of Strathbogie and Drumblade Kirks, which had previously been linked since 1975.

We have a congregational roll of 344 members, plus 3 adherents. Like a great many churches, most of our congregation are elderly. We have been very lucky to have had the same Locum Minister since our last minister retired in 2018. She is now also our Interim Moderator and has worked tirelessly, and with great enthusiasm and empathy in both those roles, despite only being part-time. Last year she conducted 26 funerals, 10 of whom were for members and 16 parish funerals where either a next of kin was a member or there was some other connection. Over the past 5 years there have been 11 baptisms. There has only been 1 wedding of two young people who also joined the Church by confirmation of faith, but there are 2 weddings and a baptism already in the calendar for next year.

We have an active Kirk Session of 24 Elders.

OUR GUILD

Our Guild is quite missionary and moving to an afternoon meeting time has grown the Guild three-fold, with 31 men and women attending their opening meeting this session. The group is ecumenical, with members from Huntly Cairnie Glass Church, the Episcopal Church and the Catholic Church.



PASTORAL CARE and OUTREACH

Pastoral Care is overseen by the minister, elders, and other suitably gifted church members. In Huntly we have two local care homes, and our minister conducts a short monthly service in each, assisted by a group from the congregation.

The Friendship Club which started in 2023 run by volunteers from the congregation, meets one afternoon a week for a cuppa, a chat and optional board games while providing a warm space for anyone of any age in the community.



An invitation is extended to everyone to come through for a tea and biscuits after the service each week in the hall.

The Flower Committee provide, arrange and deliver 4 bunches of Sunday Church flowers to those in need of a small boost, or as a "thank you", whichever is appropriate.

CHURCH AND COMMUNITY

We have one act of worship each Sunday at 10.30am and celebrate a short act of Communion on the first Sunday of each month, with two full communion services in May and November. The Primary and Secondary Schools in the town hold their Christmas Service at Strathbogie Drumblade with some of the children helping to devise and lead the service. We would like to reconnect with Drumblade Primary School. We always host a family Christmas Eve Service, and for the last few years we have held an All-Saints Service for the

bereaved. It has been our custom to hold an ecumenical Maundy Thursday Service during Holy Week. The practice of sharing the summer services with our neighbours at Huntly Cairnie Glass is a well established one, usually with 4 Sundays at Strathbogie Drumblade followed by 4 Sundays at Huntly Cairnie Glass. We take our turn to host the annual World day of Prayer with the Huntly Cairnie Glass, Catholic and Episcopalian congregations, and always have a contingent of members who participate in the services each year.

We join with HCG and the Episcopal Church annually for the Remembrance Service, and we hold a short wreath laying service at the Drumblade Memorial. We also share hosting the Thinking Day Service, to which both the Guiding and Scouting Movements come. We regularly have retiring offerings for Emergency Appeals, and have run very successful fundraising Coffee Mornings and Ceilidhs, supporting our own funds and specific charities locally and further afield.

STAFFING

Our church officer is employed part time by the church and plays a vital role not just on Sundays, but also with funerals and other services, and ensures the buildings are well maintained and secure.

CHURCH, MANSE and HALLS

Our Church building is well maintained and is in need of no urgent attention. To the west of the sanctuary we have a good sized Session Room, Toilet, Vestry and Creche Room (with its own toilet). Our Church Hall is adjacent to the east of the sanctuary and is equipped with a modern kitchen and disabled toilet. The whole Church is entirely wheelchair friendly. The Church hall is available for use by external organisations subject to agreement of the Kirk Session.

Currently it is used weekly by a local Art Group and by a Choir who practice there. Again this year the Choir will hold a Christmas Concert in our Sanctuary. We recently hosted and served teas for a pop up concert by The Aberdeen Saxophone Orchestra who hope to return next year.



The Manse is a modern detached 4 bedroomed house built in 2010 on a small estate on the edge of the town close to the Tesco Supermarket. It has 3 reception rooms, a large study, kitchen, utility room, 2 bath/shower rooms and a cloakroom/toilet. There is a manageable garden mostly laid to grass.



COMMUNITY PROFILE

Huntly is a large family town which lies in the heart of Aberdeenshire on the main A96 route between Aberdeen and Inverness. The centre of the town is currently being redeveloped with several community buy outs. There is a tremendous health and social care structure within the town, provided by local government, charities and voluntary agencies including Huntly Development Trust, Deveron Art's Projects and Gordon Rural Action.

It has excellent rail and bus links to both cities and beyond. The town has a population of over 4,400. Strathbogie Parish also covers the surrounding rural area of Drumblade.

The town has primary and secondary schools, a health centre, library, swimming pool with fitness suite, 18-hole golf course, outdoor bowling club, football and rugby and cricket clubs. Fishing on the River Deveron is also very popular. Huntly has a large Caravan park which attracts a number of visitors and tourists to the town as we are well placed to explore a number of National Trust properties and distilleries on the 'Whisky Trail'.

There are many clubs within the town e.g. Rotary, Probus, Over 55's, Jazzercise, Toddler Groups etc and weekly coffee mornings held in the Stewarts Hall every Saturday for different charities and organisations are always well supported.

Huntly Castle is the Seat of the Gordon's who were gifted the lands of Strathbogie by King Robert the Bruce, when Sir Adam Gordon was rewarded for his loyalties after Bannockburn in 1314. The history of Huntly Castle is both blood thirsty and romantic, its architecture is exceptional. Historic Scotland are responsible for maintaining the Castle and welcome visitors and tourists daily all year round.

There are amazing walks around Huntly including the Battlehill, Bahill and Bin Forest. Lovely tranquil views of Huntly & surrounding areas can be found from the top of the Clashmach.

In Huntly there are a variety of clubs for our young folk including: Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts.



BASIS OF REVIEWABLE CHARGE

By decision of the Presbytery of the North East and Northern Isles, permission is granted to the congregation of STRATHBOGIE DRUMBLADE SC000534 to call a minister on a Basis of Reviewable Charge in terms of Act VII 2003, section 12 (2) (a), and that on the following conditions:

- 1) The Presbytery shall review the appointment FIVE years from the date of induction of the minister, or when the minister at Huntly Cairnie Glass demits, or at the request of the Kirk Session, whichever is sooner.
- 2) At the review, the Presbytery shall consider with the Kirk Session:
 - a) Evidence of successful working towards a Union;
 - b) Evidence of the development and implementation of the Five Marks of Mission; and
 - c) such other matters as may be relevant by that time.
- 3) Following such review, the Presbytery shall take a further decision on the future arrangements for ministry to the congregation and parish of HUNTLY STRATHBOGIE DRUMBLADE SC000534 recognising that one of the options available to it is the termination of the tenure of the charge on giving the minister six months' notice in writing.

The minister shall be free to seek to demit or to be translated as in the ordinary case of any minister inducted to a charge, provided that, if this Reviewable Charge is his or her first charge, the Presbytery hereby agree that these conditions constitute exceptional circumstances in terms of Section 4 of Act VIII 2003, and will accordingly issue the necessary Certificate if he or she seeks to be translated within 5 years.