

Aberlour Parish Church Parish Profile



Aberlour Church



Craigellachie Church



View of the River Spey



Scottish Charity Number: SC001336

Contents

Vision 3

Introduction to the Parish 3
Aberlour and Craigellachie area profiles

The Congregation..... 5
Children and young people, Kirk Session

Worship 7
Other worship opportunities, World Day of Prayer, Pastoral Care, Statistics

Other Fellowship Opportunities 9
Walking Group, Aberlour Church Choir and Friends, Guild

Church Publications 10
Kirk News, Aberlour Parish Website, Facebook, Sunday Supplement

Property 11
Aberlour Church, Craigellachie Church, The Manse, The Glebe

Other Projects Supported by our Congregation 15

Finance 16

Vision

Focus on Parish Ministry, building up the faith of the church congregation of all ages, equipping us to live lives which support and encourage one another in faith and reach out to others in love.

Being in vacancy led the Kirk Session to re-evaluate our vision and focus. We agreed the above statement and we look forward to the future with our new Minister. One of the ways we will assess progress is by means of more regular and enthusiastic attendance at Sunday services.

Introduction to the Parish

Aberlour Parish Church of Scotland, in the Presbytery of Moray, is seeking a minister on an unrestricted call, due to the translation of the previous minister in January 2018. The parish of Aberlour encompasses the villages of Aberlour and Craigellachie, plus the rural communities of Glenallachie, Benrinnes, Edinville and surrounding areas. Both Aberlour and Craigellachie are situated on the A95 approximately 15 miles to the south of Elgin in the picturesque Spey Valley. Aberdeen and Inverness are equidistant at about 55 miles away.

The main industries in the area are whisky distilling, shortbread production, farming, haulage and tourism. However, many of the local population work in Elgin and surrounding towns.

There are primary schools at both Aberlour and Craigellachie and there is a secondary school in Aberlour, which also accommodates the local Community Centre, Swimming Pool and Gym. There are also nearby sports facilities including tennis courts, lawn bowling green and football pitches.

Aberlour area profile

The full name of the village is Charlestown of Aberlour and it takes its name from the Lour Burn, a tributary of the River Spey. Aberlour has a very attractive square in front of the parish church. The village has a wide selection of shops and services including: cottage hospital with a minor injuries unit, health centre, residential care home, dental practice, pharmacy, funeral director, fire station, post office and filling station.

The former railway station now houses the Speyside Visitor Centre and Station Tearoom next to the Alice Littler Park on the bank of the River Spey, which are managed by the Community Association and staffed by volunteers. The park offers picnic areas, play equipment and the opportunity to sit and relax while watching local wildlife on the river bank. There is also a suspension footbridge across the Spey at the southern end of the Littler Park.

The population of Aberlour was 972 at the last census in 2011 and is now estimated to be nearer 1,200.

Craigellachie area profile

The name Craigellachie derives from the Gaelic (Creag Eileachaidh) meaning “Rocky Hill”, due to the cliff on which most of the village sits. Located at the confluence of the rivers Spey and Fiddich the village can be dated back to at least 1750, when there was a ferry across the River Spey. This was replaced in 1814 by the world-famous Telford bridge.

The 2011 census records the population of Craigellachie as 536 and the community has a small selection of shops and services.

The two villages are linked by the Speyside Way which runs from Aviemore to Buckie, with a spur heading to Dufftown and the Isla Way. There is an active Village Council which is responsible for facilities including the Village Hall, football pitch, tennis courts and pavilion.

The Congregation

Aberlour Parish is one congregation under a Unitary Constitution with two places of worship two miles apart: Aberlour Parish Church and Craigellachie Church. Sunday worship is held at Craigellachie at 9.45 am and at Aberlour at 11.15 am.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated on the last Sundays of February, May, August and November and all age services are held occasionally.

The communion roll currently stands at 205 members with 10 adherents. Average Sunday attendance is between 40-50 at Aberlour and 18-25 at Craigellachie. The majority of the congregation are over 50 years young! During the past five years, we estimate that approximately 20 new participants have joined the congregation.

Children and young people

Sunday School for children aged 4+, meets in Aberlour Church at 11.15 am and after the Children's address they go to the adjacent tearoom for activities. Sunday School was re-established in 2017 and has steadily grown in numbers since, with eight youngsters aged 4-13 attending.

Crèche facilities are available in both churches and the congregation welcomes families to all services.

Holiday Club for all primary aged children is held each year, alternating between Aberlour Church and Craigellachie Village Hall. The team is 'home grown' and we encourage our young people from Sunday School to be involved as young leaders. We use Scripture Union's holiday club material.



Holiday Club in Aberlour Church 2016

Messy Church is temporarily on hold, but it is hoped that we will be able to recommence this activity in the near future.

Local Schools There are primary schools in both Aberlour and Craigellachie. Speyside High School in Aberlour has approximately 430 students on its roll. It has the largest school catchment area in the UK covering Tomintoul, Dufftown, Glenlivet, Glenrines, Knockando and Rothes. Over 75% of pupils travel to and from Speyside High by school bus. Both primary schools use our churches for events and are very much part of our church family. Our ministers have been warmly welcomed into the schools on a regular basis. Along with other local churches, the minister has been involved in assemblies at the High School and has provided pastoral care to pupils. We would like to build links with the teenagers in our communities and would encourage the continuation of the minister's engagement with the schools.

Kirk Session

There are currently 13 members serving on the Kirk Session, made up of 12 women and one man all of whom are aged over 45 years. Two new elders were ordained in November 2016. We currently have a Finance and Property sub-committee.

Worship

Sunday worship uses mainly CH4, occasionally using Mission Praise, Junior Praise and Songs of God's People. Aberlour Church uses the church laptop and PowerPoint software to project the hymn words on to a large screen and both churches have hearing loop systems.

Worship usually follows the traditional Church of Scotland style with members of the congregation taking part in Sunday Services, including announcing intimations, reading from the bible and are happy to assist the Minister in any other way.

Special services take place during Holy Week, Christmas, Thinking Day, Remembrance Sunday, Guild Week, Christian Aid Week, Holiday Club, Harvest and at Pentecost. Along with other local churches, Aberlour Parish Church also provides services and pastoral care at the local residential home on a regular basis.



Pentecost celebrations in Aberlour Church 2017

A member of the congregation provides voluntary beadle cover at Aberlour and there is also a rota of volunteers who welcome worshippers, provide teas etc. In Craigellachie there is a rota of volunteers who provide cover for all beadle duties.

Refreshments are available after each service in Aberlour Church, and on the first Sunday of the month in Craigellachie Church. The congregations appreciate the opportunity to chat over a cup of tea and these informal get togethers are an important part of our fellowship.

Other Worship Opportunities

- **Prayer Group** – a small prayer group meets each Wednesday morning in Aberlour Church.
- **Bible Study Group** - led in recent years by our minister and/or members of congregation.
- **Lent Study Group** - led in recent years by our minister.
- **Enquirers' Group** - as required.

World Day of Prayer

Aberlour and Craigellachie churches participate in the World Day of Prayer and host the annual worship on a rota basis with St Margaret's Episcopal Church and St Mary's RC Church.

Pastoral Care

Church members provide informal pastoral care in their communities and neighbourhoods. We also strive to keep the minister informed of anyone who may need pastoral support.

Statistics

In 2017 there were 18 funerals, 3 baptisms, and 5 weddings.

Full parish statistics can be viewed on the Church of Scotland website.

Other Fellowship Opportunities

Walking group

The Walking Group undertakes a variety of routes on the second Saturday of each month. Walks are normally 4-8 miles in length, over a variety of terrain. Everyone is made very welcome and it is well supported across the neighbouring communities.



Aberlour Church Choir and Friends

The choir is made up of singers from neighbouring churches and communities and presents regular concerts. It is a friendly and inclusive group who make a wonderful joyful noise!



The Choir and Roger Jones' 'Barnabas' production 2017

Guild

The Guild has an enthusiastic membership and supports church activities and fundraising for the church and for Guild nominated projects. The meetings take place on the second Thursday of each month, 2pm-4pm in Aberlour Church during September to March. The group enjoys a varied syllabus of speakers, activities and visits.

Church Publications

Kirk News

A quarterly magazine is produced, collated and distributed by volunteers from the church and community. It is delivered free of charge to every household in the parish (currently 1020 copies printed). It contains both church and community news and is self-financing, with any surplus income donated to the church and nominated charities.

Aberlour Parish Church Website

There is an informative Aberlour Parish Church website which is updated by a volunteer. <https://aberlourparishchurch.org.uk/>

Facebook

We also have a Facebook page, which is regularly updated by volunteers. <https://www.facebook.com/AberlourParishChurch>

Sunday Supplement

This is produced weekly by a volunteer for distribution at both services and by email; includes order of service, intimations, prayer points and bible readings for the forthcoming week.

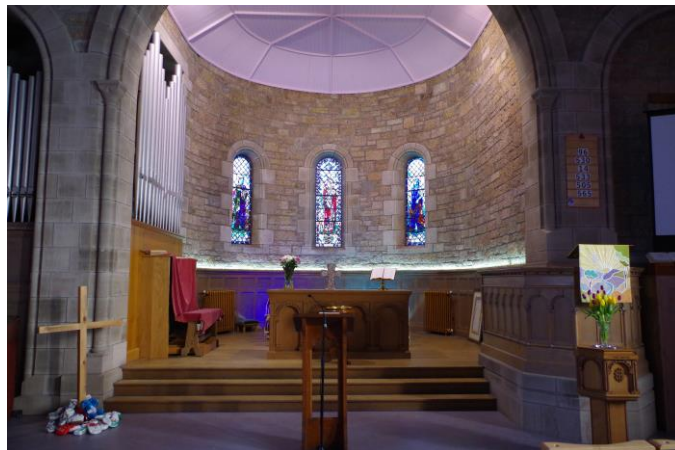
Property

Aberlour Church



Extensive refurbishment of the church took place in 2012. The removal of pews and provision of chairs delivered a venue suitable for worship and a variety of other uses including concerts; coffee mornings; catered events; film shows; Scottish Opera performances; cabaret and social evenings; workshops; friendship

groups; and meetings etc. The church also has a well-equipped kitchen; toilets, including disabled facilities; vestry/small meeting area; Traidcraft sales area.



The entrance vestibule provides easy access for all to the main worship area, as well as access to the balcony. Aberlour Church can seat 250 and the building is in excellent condition.

The Aberlour Church organ is a two manual pipe organ with pedals and is tuned annually. Rebuilt in 1992 by Sandy Edmonstone, it is held in very high regard by many notable organists who have relished the opportunity to play the organ during concerts.

Craigellachie Church



Craigellachie Church was originally a school before becoming a mission church and has had several extensions complementing the original building. The church has a main worship area with pulpit and pews, a vestry, two toilets (including disabled facilities), a meeting hall and small kitchen. Craigellachie Church can seat 90 comfortably and services in Craigellachie are accompanied by a clavinova.

The Manse



Front entrance to Manse

The manse is in Aberlour. It is a bungalow built in 1979 which was completely refurbished in 2009, standing in its own grounds with a beautiful view over the village. Although opposite Speyside High School, it is remarkably quiet as the majority of pupils (over 75%) are bussed to and from school.

The accommodation consists of three bedrooms (one ensuite), study, box room (with a window), sitting room with open fire, large kitchen, dining room, utility room, bathroom and an additional separate toilet. The loft is partially floored and there is a double garage, shed and log store. The manse has gas central heating and is double glazed. Redecoration etc. will be discussed with the new Minister on appointment.



Kitchen



Garden area to side of Manse



Master bedroom



Bathroom



Dining Room



Study

The Glebe

The Aberlour Parish Church glebe land is currently leased to a local small holder and generates a small income.

Other Projects Supported by our Congregation

Moray Presbytery's new mission partner is Fiona Kendall who works with refugees in Italy.



There is a small **Christian Aid** committee, including members from our congregation and from the Episcopal and R.C. congregations, who organise door-to-door collections, quiz sheets, Souper Lunches, sponsored walks plus church services. In 2018 a total of £2,638.69 was contributed during Christian Aid week.

Aberlour Village is a certified **Fairtrade Town** and Aberlour Parish Church also has Fairtrade status. Both Aberlour and Craigellachie churches have popular Traidcraft stalls run by members of the congregation and Fairtrade products are used in both churches. The church is also part of the Aberlour Fairtrade Town Steering Group which hosts a Fairtrade event annually.



Retiring offerings from our quarterly Communion Services support the following:

- Mercy Ships
- Feed the Minds
- Street Pastors
- Step by Step in Moray

We also support the following charities throughout the year:

- Moray Food Bank
- World Mission Stamp Appeal

Finance

The financial situation for Aberlour Parish is as follows:

2016	Deficit £2,418	M&M contribution £29,842
2017	Surplus £144,001	M&M contribution £29,480

At the end of 2017, a significant legacy was gifted to Aberlour Parish Church in the sum of just under £207,000. As a result, the Kirk Session agreed to proceed with repointing works of Aberlour Parish Church.