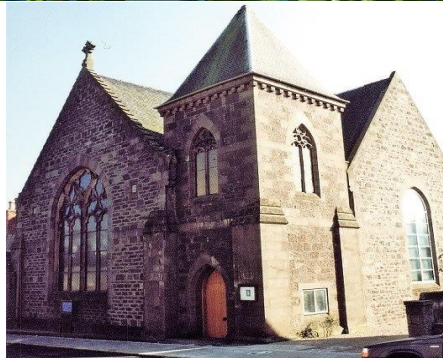


STONEHAVEN CARRONSIDE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND



Scottish Charity Number SC013165

NEW CHARGE NEW NAME NEW OPPORTUNITIES!

We believe that there is tremendous potential in the newly united charge, which offers our incoming minister unique opportunities and challenges in preaching the word of God, in sharing the pastoral work and in providing leadership in our spiritual growth and outreach in the Stonehaven area.

A vacancy is an opportunity to take stock of how we collectively respond to the Call of God in our area. It was against this background that the kirk sessions of our two parishes of Stonehaven Dunnottar and Stonehaven South considered how to develop – both with a view to finding a new minister, but also of providing a base for a refocussed mission and ministry in our locality.

The decision was to further the integration of our two parishes sharing a minister to being one parish, fully united in all we do, allowing us to provide ministry more suited to the different age groups and circumstances experienced within Stonehaven. The name chosen for the new charge is Stonehaven: Carronside Church of Scotland.

Through the years of the linkage, close friendships and working practices across the two parishes developed to the extent that it is now difficult to see the join; this meant that moving from a linkage to a union was relatively straightforward, as much of the preliminary work had already been done.

We believe that a future as one will allow us to do more in the community.

There is still much to do as we forge ourselves into a single entity with a new identity making the most of all our strengths and assets.

Stonehaven Carronside Church of Scotland does not yet have its own history but we firmly believe it has a future. This is an exciting opportunity for a minister to lead us in this development as one parish, fully integrated in all we do, allowing us to provide ministry more suited to the different age groups and circumstances experienced within Stonehaven.

We hope that you will decide that this opportunity is for you

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WHERE ARE WE LOCATED?

In the picturesque harbour town of Stonehaven which lies on the main road and rail routes, fifteen miles south of Aberdeen with easy access to Aberdeen Airport and which attracts many visitors.



So, what is Stonehaven known for? The town has maintained its own very distinctive character and charm with, among other things, a range of housing, good schools, a medical centre and a community hospital, some of the region's top eateries, independent shops, a monthly farmer's market, an annual Feelin' market and annual Harbour Festival to name but a few!

There is a golf course, tennis courts, an indoor bowling rink and green, a leisure centre and an open-air swimming pool - Yes that's right, we have a heated open -air swimming pool in the north-east of Scotland, open from May to September. And it's hugely popular.

What else?

Stonehaven Beach with a walk along the beachfront taking in all the stunning views of the sea and ending at the harbour in the Old Town with the Tolbooth museum, a notable building on the quayside which has a fascinating history as a former courthouse.

The world-famous Fireballs at Hogmanay when the High Street comes alive with crowds watching volunteers walking down the High Street swinging huge balls of fire around and around at the ends of chains before finally throwing them into the harbour.

Dunnottar Woods which offer dog walkers, families and walkers many paths and routes through this magnificent woodland.

The dramatic, ruined Dunnottar Castle, one of the finest in Scotland, which is perched on high cliffs jutting out into the waves two miles to the south of the town.

And of course, Stonehaven is famous as the home of the inventors of the Motorcar tyre and the deep-fried Mars Bar!

MISSION AND PURPOSE

We have three focus areas:

- what we are doing within the walls of our church buildings to develop as an outward looking community of faith as we worship together.
- what we are doing to care for, support and encourage the members of the congregation in their homes, schools, places of work and leisure.
- what we are doing to share the love of God in the wider community.

Our focus areas are a blend of looking after those already 'within the walls' and reaching out to serve the people of our town, our parish, and our community.

Reaching out to people where they are to offer practical help, emotional support, care and friendship - whatever they need.

As well as what we do ourselves, we co-operate as far as possible with other congregations, groups and individuals.

Key on-going priorities for us are:

- ✚ being a church where all feel welcome, have a sense of belonging and want to participate
- ✚ encouraging children and young families to be involved in the life of the church
- ✚ providing activities and support for the elderly
- ✚ supporting existing carers and care groups
- ✚ befriending lonely or isolated individuals
- ✚ raising the church's profile in the town

OUR CONGREGATION

At the time of union, the roll of Carronside Church was 736 and includes families whose connection with the Church goes back for generations,

It also includes families from all parts of the UK and beyond who have settled in Stonehaven as part of the migration caused by the advent of North Sea oil, and who are described by these original families as 'inabootcomers', even though these recent arrivals have been in Stonehaven, for over 40 years.

There are 23 elders including 5 pastoral elders in Stonehaven Carronside Church.

We run a bus each Sunday to enable those without access to transport to attend morning worship. A member of the duty rota team is allocated to the bus to welcome and assist those who travel.

Since the Union, there is a new magazine for Stonehaven Carronside Church entitled

connections

This is produced 9 times a year and is delivered, as happened with the magazines it replaces, to the homes of all members of Stonehaven Carronside Church.

Additional housing has been and is continuing to be built at the southern end of Stonehaven. As part of our outreach we deliver the Christmas and summer editions of the magazine to each home in these areas, which continues the outreach from the previous magazines.

The services at Dunnottar Church are recorded and made available to the elderly and housebound.

The church supports a variety of internal and external activities to complement the communion and fellowship of the congregation and engage with the community at large.

There is a warm, friendly welcome at the church door every Sunday for regulars and visitors alike.

WORSHIP LIFE

SUNDAY WORSHIP

There is a weekly Sunday service which alternates between the two churches, first and third Sundays at the South and second and fourth at Dunnottar. When there is a 5th Sunday in the month, the service is an all-age service held in St. Bridget's hall. Our young people attend each Sunday during term time and usually lead worship twice a year, in June and at Christmas.

In accordance with the remits from the 2019 General Assembly, all Presbyteries are reviewing the use of all buildings to update their Presbytery Plans in 2020. Stonehaven Carronside is part of that review. The services are held at 10.30am. Tea and coffee are provided at the end of each service to provide a fellowship opportunity in an informal setting for those attending the services.

A member of the Communications Team is responsible for producing the weekly order of service in accordance with the information provided by the Worship Leader.

COMMUNION

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated on four Sundays throughout the year.

REMEMBRANCE

Currently the annual service of remembrance is celebrated alternately in the Church of St James the Great, Episcopal Church and in South Church.

FLOWER MINISTRY

Members volunteer to donate flowers each Sunday. These are displayed in the church for morning worship and are distributed after the service. Recipients are nominated by members of the congregation.

WORSHIP TEAM

Preparation, planning and the leading of worship is supported by a very active Worship group along with the Interim Moderator and our Locum Minister.

4 members of the Worship group have been appointed by Presbytery as Local Preachers. We organise rotas for preachers and organists and communicate with the Granite City Brass band, which plays for special services at Harvest and Advent.

CARE HOMES

In addition to the church services, there are weekly services in the care homes in Stonehaven, organised on a rota basis by the Stonehaven churches.

MUSIC

We have a regular organist for the services at Dunnottar and guest organists/pianists on a rota for the services at South. We have an enthusiastic choir, which is happy to sing introits/anthems and is supportive of the congregation, presenting hymns which are new to the congregation.

Through the printed Order of Service, songs and hymns which are not in CH4 at Dunnottar or in Mission Praise at the South can be included.

HOLY WEEK

During Holy Week, the Stonehaven Churches have continued to share ecumenical evening services, centred in one location, recently this has been St. Bridget's Hall Church. Communion and the Tenebrae service being particularly well attended.

EASTER SUNDAY

On Easter Sunday, Stonehaven's early morning open-air service at the harbour is open to all and is followed by a popular fellowship breakfast at St. Bridget's hall. It is led by worship leaders from several congregations.

HARVEST

Harvest services alternate between the two churches and include an annual visit from Granite City Brass.

In the afternoon of Harvest Sunday, there is a short service (followed by tea and homebakes!) for the housebound and elderly held in St. Bridget's with additional transport and support organised.

CHRISTMAS

Prior to Christmas, an augmented choir presents a service of 9 Lessons and Carols to which the whole community of Stonehaven is invited.

Christmas Eve brings with it a very well attended early evening Christingle service and later a Watchnight service. These alternate between the two churches.

There is a short family service on Christmas Day.

During Advent there is a quiet service of remembrance for the bereaved.

BIBLE APPRECIATION GROUP

The Bible Appreciation Group meets monthly to read and discuss passages from the Bible.

PRAYER GROUP

The Prayer group is currently composed of nine people. The aim of the group is to share in praying for individuals and families whenever they are asked to pray and for people and situations where they see the need for prayer. The members pray not only for people in our local community but for anyone, anywhere.

On the fourth Sunday in the month, there is the opportunity to meet for prayer in the Upper Room at Dunnottar Church before the service for members of the prayer group or anyone who wishes to pray.

Are you the person we are looking for to lead us and challenge us to enhance our worship to help us develop as an outward looking community of faith?

THE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY

WORK WITH THE WIDER COMMUNITY

Stonehaven Carronside Church organises activities which are not restricted to church members and attract people in the community to participate.

In St. Bridget's there is a weekly Friendship coffee morning and a monthly lunch club organised by a team of church members and open to anyone to attend. This provides a service to the community in providing a place to socialise at minimal cost.

There are also weekly badminton and indoor bowling sessions and a monthly rainbow whist drive.

As St. Bridget's and the South Church and hall are in the heart of the community, the facilities are used daily by a wide variety of groups and individuals from outside the church on a rental basis. This brings the Community into contact with the church through the use of our facilities.

The South Church hall is used by Slimming World, Ballroom dancing, Drama Classes for adults and children and for children's parties and other social celebrations, e.g. on Christmas Day for a family meal and get together. As well as community groups using the hall facilities, there is a very enthusiastic craft group who meet weekly, sharing their talents and skills.

In St. Bridget's, Dunnottar School holds its end of term performances and serves its Burns lunch for older members of the community.

St. Bridget's is in regular use most Saturdays for coffee mornings such as RNLI, Scouts, Friends of the Open Air Pool and the Kilwhang Ringers.

During the annual Folk Festival in July it is used for Folk Festival concerts and it is used on Hogmanay by the Fireball committee for briefing the Fireball swingers and providing a well placed venue from which to go out to take part in the annual ceremony.

It is used by Hanover Court Sheltered Housing for their Community meetings, by Aberdeenshire Council for training meetings and as a Polling Station when required.

On a weekly basis, it is used by various activity groups including the Kilwhang Ringers, a local handbell ringing group, Tai Chi, Circle Dancing, Jazzercise, Rainbows and Stonehaven Swimming Club training.

BELL RINGERS, WHIST, BADMINTON, BOWLING, EARTH HOUR, EASTER BREAKFAST, CRAFT GROUP, GUILD, FRIENDSHIP COFFEE GROUP, BIBLE APPRECIATION GROUP, MONTHLY LUNCH CLUB



A FEW PHOTOS OF MEMBERS AND FRIENDS INVOLVED IN OUR ACTIVITIES



THE CHURCH IN THE COMMUNITY

WORK WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE – ‘KIDS @ CARRONSIDE’

The children and young people of our churches are the future of the newly formed Stonehaven Carronside Church of Scotland.



The children are actively encouraged to be included and involved during the Sunday services by way of the children's talk and they take part in important celebrations in the Christian calendar i.e. Harvest, Christmas, Mothering Sunday, Easter, Prize Giving and the Celebration service in June.

The children, from pre-school to primary 7, meet during term time from the beginning of September to June and although small in numbers, are a very enthusiastic group of youngsters who enjoy contributing to worship. Lessons are based on the lectionary-based resource called Roots, offering materials to support weekly worship and learning of the whole Church community.



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Over the years social events such as beetle drives, family quizzes, games afternoons,



ceilidhs and Easter Extravaganza events have been organised.

These social events are enjoyed by both the young and older members of both congregations who enjoy coming together for fun, food and fellowship. These afternoons/evenings are also a way of outreach to non-church families in our local community.





Families have enjoyed successful events such as the Family picnic/fun afternoon and the 'Welcome Back' barbecue in May and September respectively. The 'Welcome Back' barbecue in early September brings families together after the summer break. The children are also invited to participate in congregational activities such as coffee mornings and church social events



LOCAL SCHOOLS

We have strong links with Dunnottar Primary School in Stonehaven. Throughout the year, pupils from Dunnottar School use St. Bridget's Hall for plays and concerts and other sundry events such as a Burns celebration event. Our Kilwhang Ringers have participated in a music workshop with the pupils from Dunnottar School.

Currently, there is no Scripture Union Group at Dunnottar School but we are hopeful that this group will restart in the future having run previously for ten consecutive years. At present, we are in the process of restarting a SU Group at the local Secondary School. It is encouraging to know that there is always a warm welcome for Church people to take assemblies at Dunnottar School and we have volunteers who help out with this task. End of Term/Year services are held at both churches – usually in winter at the South Church and in summer at Dunnottar Church.

*"Children are a gift from the Lord"
Psalm 127 verse 3*

**Are you the person we are looking for to lead us
and challenge us to develop what we do in the wider
community to reach out and serve the people of our
town, our parish and our community?**

WORLD MISSION

The World Mission team is small in size but big in its ambitions. Our primary focus is helping raise funds for the India Village Ministries as our missionary project. To date we have helped provide bikes for the pastors, sewing machines and training for the women of the villages, provide schooling for the children and accommodation for the boys and girls. They help the elderly now with meals served on banana leaves – big saving on washing up! We usually have a visit from Dr Suresh Verumlapalli, the orphanage director, at some point every year and he brings updates and videos to let us see how the ministry is developing.

The Thursday Friendship Coffee group sponsor 2 children in the IVM Orphanage in the Indian state of Andhra Pradesh. We also run a bookstall at the Thursday coffee morning, 'Pick what you want and pay what you want' which brings in a few pounds each week. We have been saving our change in 'Wee Hooses' (money boxes) for many years now. In December 2010, Stonehaven South Church began to sponsor a child living in Nairobi, Kenya through the charity 'Compassion'. The children from Kids' Praise wrote regularly to Lucy telling her about their church, their families, hobbies, where they stay etc. and always look forward to receiving a reply from Lucy.

The Coffee Group also takes part in Macmillan's annual fundraising event, the World's Biggest Coffee Morning in September each year.

We support the work of Christian Aid in May each year when the main Christian Aid week takes place.

October and November is the time for filling shoeboxes with presents for the Blythswood Trust's annual appeal. Generally, around 100 boxes are donated.

Closer to home but still part of Mission, our local Christmas Giving Tree Appeal links with the Salvation Army to supply gifts to local families.

Throughout the year, there are boxes in the Church and St. Bridget's for donations of groceries, toiletries and clothing for the Aberdeen Cyrenians who support the homeless and disadvantaged in the City and the local area.

Retiring collections from the Communion and other services are directed to these and other needy causes throughout the year as circumstances dictate.



Are you the person we are looking for to lead us and challenge us to develop our ambitions to provide practical support for those in need wherever they may be?

A BRIEF HISTORY OF DUNNOTTAR CHURCH

The earliest recorded church in this area was St. Bridget's Chapel said to have been situated in Dunnottar Gardens in the 5th Century.

Sir William Keith, the Earl Marischal, decided in 1394 to fortify Dunnottar Rock on which a chapel and graveyard were sited, incurring the wrath of the Vatican and excommunication. He promised to build a new church on the mainland, where the present church now stands. This was rebuilt in 1593 and again 200 years later in 1790, costing £419.00. This was incorporated in the present grand building in 1903. The new building has a magnificent hammer beam roof, a 3 manual pipe organ and beautiful stained glass windows. The restructuring in 1903 cost a massive £2150!

Our latest improvement to the church includes a conversion of the back balcony to an Upper meeting room with a glass wall overlooking the main church, toilets, a vestry and larger vestibule.

Adjacent to the main building stands the Marischal Aisle, burial place of the Keiths, used for occasional weddings.

Dunnottar is a truly magnificent building, in excellent condition.



ST. BRIDGET'S HALL CHURCH AND OFFICE

Situated in the centre of Stonehaven, originally the church serving the fisher folk of the Old Town, it is now a hall for church organisations – the Kilwhang Ringers, badminton, bowling, a weekly coffee cafe, a monthly lunch club, and a monthly whist afternoon and it is hired out to the wider community such as the Heritage Society, Tai Chi, coffee mornings, dance classes and Dunnottar school activities. Aberdeenshire Council also utilise it as a polling station and for training purposes.

It has a curtained stage, spotlights and a sound system together with an electrically operated projection screen. There are toilets, a fully equipped kitchen and a small office/meeting room with photocopier and computer facilities.

An All Age church service is held there on the fifth Sunday in the month.



A BRIEF HISTORY OF SOUTH CHURCH

Stonehaven South church building, strategically placed at the heart of Stonehaven, was erected as a result of the commitment and generosity of the people of Stonehaven.

Dating from 1869 the current building was constructed on the original church footprint from the 1830s before being extended to include a hall in 1895 on land adjacent to the church, purchased by Mr William Mowat.

From 1990, Stonehaven South linked with the parish church of Kinneff, a village several miles south of Stonehaven, until the redrawing of parish boundaries.

Between 2013 and 2019 we grew as a community in a linkage with Stonehaven Dunnottar and remain an accessible and positive feature of our expanding community.



SOUTH CHURCH HALL AND CONSERVATORY

A large hall is linked to the church by an ample foyer, giving access to a vestry/choir room, fully equipped kitchen, cloakroom area, conservatory, toilets and office. With a light and bright conservatory being situated off the hall, this provides additional flexible accommodation, making it attractive for church and community groups of all sizes.

As the church and hall are in the heart of the community, our hall facilities are used daily by a wide variety of groups and individuals from outside the church. Throughout the year, it is the venue for church coffee mornings and social events organised by the Fundraising group. It accommodates Sunday morning coffee and fellowship after the service.



ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT

There is a secretary who currently provides administrative assistance one morning a week. She works from the church office in St. Bridget's.

The Church officer is responsible for ensuring that the church is ready for the services there - opening and closing the building and ensuring the heating is on at the appropriate time. The Church Officer is on duty at weddings and funerals.

A Treasurer, who is not a member, is employed to deal with the financial matters of Stonehaven Carronside Church. She is supported by two Assistant Treasurers who deal with Free Will Offerings and Gift Aid.

Cleaners are employed for St. Bridget's, Dunnottar Church and South Church.

The Property Convenor is responsible to the Kirk Session for the maintenance and improvement of all Church buildings and is supported by the Property Committee.

He is also responsible for lets of St. Bridget's Hall-Church, which is available for hire for ecclesiastical activities and for appropriate commercial events. These lets bring community organisations and their members into our Church premises. We hold Public Entertainment Licences for the Church and St. Bridget's to enable their use for public performances.

A member of the congregation acts as South church hall lets secretary. These lets are for church, community, charitable organisations, schools and appropriate commercial events as approved by Session.

One of the Pastoral Elders deals with matters relating to HR.

In Stonehaven Carronside Church, the Roll Keeper is responsible for maintaining the Communion Roll. The Roll Keeper is supported by Elders and members who advise changes of status and information on members.

FINANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

There is a record of much generosity in our church. For over 15 years, an autumn Gift Day continued annually with great success at South Church.

Prior to the Union, both churches raised funds very successfully through biannual sales and coffee mornings as well as occasional evening social events.

The first Stonehaven Carronside Sale and coffee morning was held in August 2019 and was a great success as was the Christmas Craft Fair and Coffee morning in November 2019.

The last Stewardship campaigns were held a number of years ago.

Funds for fabric purposes are held on the congregation's behalf by the General Trustees.

The Ministries and Mission Contributions for Stonehaven Carronside Church 2020 are £60,335.

A copy of the full accounts of each church is available on request.

THE MANSE

The current manse is a modern bungalow built in 1979.

Built on one floor, it comprises a vestibule with WC, central hall, large lounge with picture window and feature fireplace, study, dining room, fully fitted kitchen, laundry with rear door, corridor to fitted bathroom, master bedroom with en-suite facilities and three further bedrooms.

It is equipped with central heating and recently replaced double glazed windows.

It is set in a large secluded garden, which contains a large garage with electricity.

The Manse is situated a short walk from Dunnottar Church and adjoins the remaining area of the glebe. It is situated approximately one mile from the town centre.



SO WHAT NEXT?

We believe that the newly united charge offers our incoming minister unique, exciting opportunities and challenges in leading us in this development, as one parish, fully integrated in what we do.

Opportunities and challenges to:

- ✚ Preach the word of God in a sincere, engaging and dynamic way to reach all age groups in our church family.**
- ✚ Lead and share in pastoral work in the new parish.**
- ✚ Provide leadership in our church's spiritual growth and outreach.**
- ✚ Engage with and become involved in spreading the Gospel in the wider community of Stonehaven.**

We hope that after reading this profile, you will decide that this is the opportunity for you!

If you consider that God may be calling you to be the minister of Stonehaven Carronside Church of Scotland, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

If you wish further information, informal enquiries can be made in confidence to the Convenor of the Nominating Committee or the Interim Moderator.

You can visit our website:

www.carronsidechurch.net

Application can be made by means of a CV and a covering letter to the Clerk to the Nominating Committee.

Contact details are on the following page.

CONTACTS

CONVENOR OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

DONALD McRAE

email

moira.mcrae@talktalk.net

telephone

(01569) 762 896

CLERK TO THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

MOIRA McRAE

email

moira.mcrae@talktalk.net

telephone

(01569) 762 896

INTERIM MODERATOR

DAVID GALBRAITH

email

david.galbraith@churchofscotland.org.uk

telephone

07914 265 412