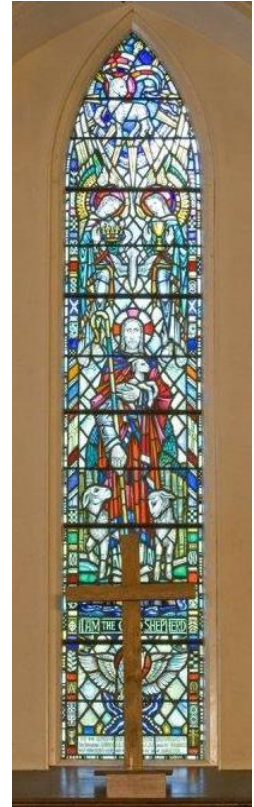


# MID DEESIDE PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND PARISH PROFILE 2018



Scottish Charity No SC012967

## Contents

We Are Mid Deeside.....	4
Reason for vacancy.....	4
Our Call .....	4
Our Parish.....	5
Are We the Right Congregation for You? .....	8
Flexible Use of the Sanctuary .....	9
Local Church Review .....	10
Congregational Life .....	10
Worship .....	10
Audio-visual system .....	10
Communion.....	11
Special Services throughout the year include: .....	11
Music and Praise in Our Worship .....	11
Our Membership.....	12
Our Young People .....	12
The Guild.....	13
Prayer Group.....	13
House Groups and Adult Study .....	13
Gardening Gang.....	13
Communication .....	13
Charity Shop .....	14
Fairtrade .....	14
Malawi .....	15
Christian Aid.....	15

Pastoral Care .....	15
Involvement with the Community.....	16
Foodbank.....	16
Baptisms, weddings & funerals .....	18
Our Organisational Structure, Stewardship and Finance .....	18
Organisation .....	18
Staffing .....	19
Stewardship.....	19
Finance .....	19
Contacts.....	19
Appendix 1 - History of the Congregation .....	21
Appendix 2 - Finances.....	22
Appendix 3 - Buildings .....	24
Appendix 4 – Parish Population Data.....	26

## **We Are Mid Deeside**

**OUR VISION:** To be a Church that reaches out in love and service to all in our Parish and beyond; a Church which encourages and enables everyone to contribute and to participate in its Christian life and worship.

**OUR MISSION:** “**To know Christ and to make Him known**”. As God’s people, we want to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, make His name and love known as widely as possible, and to serve the community in which God has placed us.

### **Reason for vacancy**

In September 2017 our then Minister, the Rev. Alec Wark, retired, having served our parish for five years. The Presbytery of Kincardine and Deeside has given us permission to call a new minister with unrestricted tenure and we hope to appoint someone to lead us forward in our vision for the future. The Kirk Session has decided to depart from historic and current practice in the Church of Scotland in order to consider applications from ministers in civil partnerships and same sex marriages.

### **Our Call**

We seek, under the guidance of the Holy Spirit, an energetic minister who will work with us, teaching, supporting and guiding us; a minister who will nurture our faith and understanding of our role so that we **become stronger disciples** in our everyday lives.

We seek a minister who will help lead us to a greater understanding of our God, through deepening our knowledge of Jesus Christ. Through worship, study and teaching, we want to **follow His example** more closely and be guided by His message and spirit-filled ministry.

We want to **express the love of God** in all that we do whether it be in the way we relate to one another, or the way we serve and engage with our local and wider community.

We are hoping that you might share our vision and be the right minister for us, and that we might be the right congregation for you!

## Our Parish

Mid Deeside Parish lies in Royal Deeside, one of the most beautiful areas of Scotland, on the doorstep of the Cairngorms National Park (see map 1). It includes the three picturesque villages of Kincardine O'Neil, Lumphanan and Torphins which lie within three miles of each other (see Map 2). The centre of the parish is located approximately 25 miles from Aberdeen, 8 miles east of Aboyne and 8 miles west of Banchory.



Map 1. North East Scotland



Map 2. Mid Deeside Parish

Kincardine O'Neil is the oldest village on Deeside and is a conservation area. It was a key staging post on one of the main old Scottish droving roads.



Lumphanan is another historic settlement and the place where Malcolm Canmore slew Macbeth in 1057 during a battle at the nearby Peel Ring.

Torphins is a younger village formed around 1750, and expanded with the arrival of the former Deeside rail line.

All three villages rely on the traditional local industries of farming, forestry and tourism along with a healthy influx of families connected to the North Sea oil and gas industry. They are within easy commuting distance of Aberdeen, which is around 25-miles away.

The natural beauty of the area has also made it a popular destination for both holidaymakers and for people to retire to. There has been a steady population growth and the community prides itself on the easy integration of all its residents. As a result, there is an excellent mix of people of all ages and from all walks of life within the parish community. The population at the 2011 census was 3,656 and the chart in Appendix 4 shows the age profile at that time.

The area is well served by educational establishments including state and private nurseries, a primary school in each village and secondary schools in nearby Aboyne and Banchory. The primary school populations in the parish at the end of December 2017 were Kincardine O'Neil (31), Lumphanan (66), Torphins (170).

There is a large health and resource centre in Torphins, a cottage hospital in Aboyne and a general hospital complex in Aberdeen. There are also two care homes within the parish and a residential home for the elderly.

Our Parish is well served with shopping facilities including grocery shops, post offices, hair and beauty salons, gift shops and a petrol station. There are supermarkets and additional shops and businesses in Aboyne and Banchory.

The area offers extensive opportunities for both indoor and outdoor recreation.

The religious affiliation returns at the 2011 census indicated that almost 50% of the population in the parish considered themselves to be of the Christian faith. (see Appendix 4)



**OUR HOME**



**OUR BACKYARD**

## **Are We the Right Congregation for You?**

We have a committed and united Kirk Session and have been able to move forward with many positive changes in recent years as well as continuing with our ongoing work to achieve our vision. We have found that some new initiatives work quite well, some very well and other initiatives fail, but we have learnt to be comfortable in acknowledging setbacks, learn the lessons and move on.

**We seek a minister to encourage and guide us in this work, to teach us and to lead us in worship that nurtures and equips us.**

We are a church in which a good deal goes on quietly behind the scenes. We like to have fun and enjoy each other's company but there is perhaps, at times, a reticence among our congregation to "broadcast" the vision and faith that anchors our service.

**We accept that we are not perfect and aspire to call a minister who can understand our imperfections; who can help us build confidence, develop our talents and who is committed to having a strong leadership involvement in our community.**

We have a congregation whose age range tends towards the over fifties. We have a youth ministry catering for children up to age 14 and have committed leaders running these groups. We are conscious of the need to develop activities for older teenagers and the need to become a church that is also more relevant to younger adults.

**We seek a minister who will support and help develop our youth ministry.**

We are particularly conscious that there are only a few people in our active congregation in their late twenties, thirties and forties. We are trying to reach out to such people in our community and attract them to God's church. We see many 'touch points' but little further meaningful contact.

**We seek a minister who will help us meet the challenges of becoming a church that is attractive, relevant to all age groups, but particularly to those under 50.**

Our church reflects the rural community in which we live, with its richness and diversity. Some people find that they can reach out to God through a more traditional approach; others have more progressive leanings. Many worshippers can relate to both.

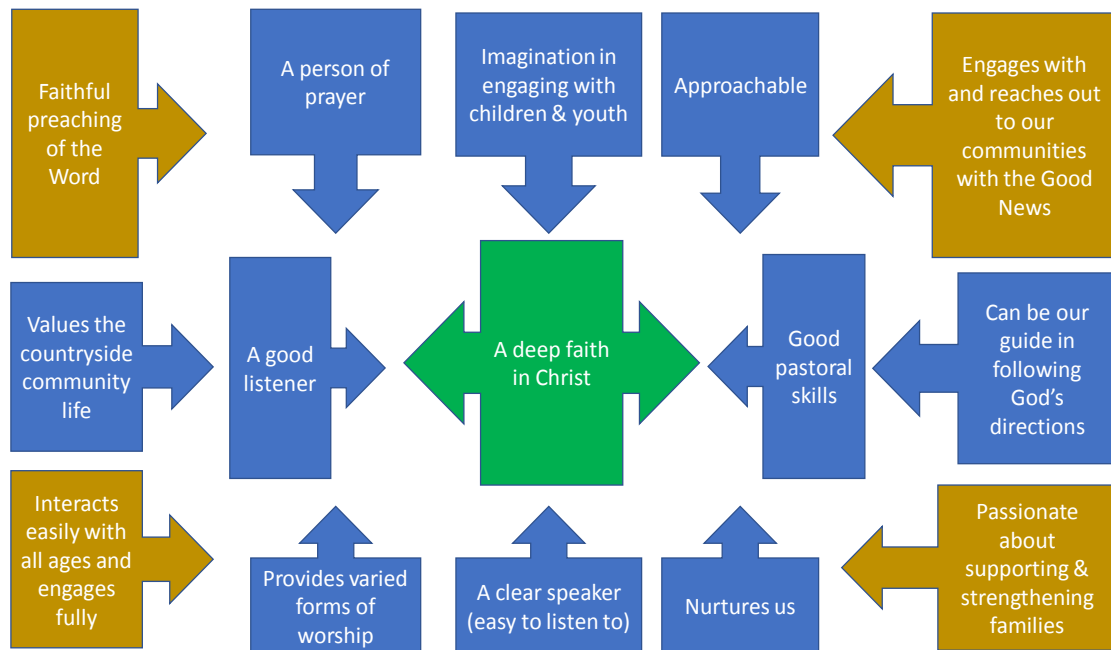
**We seek a minister who will relate to all the members of our congregation and who is at home with both traditional and contemporary praise.**

We know many of the qualities we would like our minister to have, and yet we also need to be open to the unexpected. We do not know what God wants for us. We call with faith and do not know who will answer! However, we do want a pastor who will relate to a wide range of people; a teacher and preacher whose thinking is rooted in scripture but earthed in the realities of life, someone who will support us in developing our faith and the practical expression of this.

**We are calling someone of strong faith, big heart and integrity, and hopefully with a good sense of humour.**



Recently, our Kirk Session highlighted these 15 attributes as desirable in our next Minister:



We hope that, as a congregation, we have some of these qualities too!



Flexible Use of the Sanctuary

## **Local Church Review**

The most recent Presbytery visitation was in May 2016 and an encouraging report was given, however Presbytery encouraged Mid Deeside: to assess the effectiveness of its current strategies for evangelism, discipleship and spiritual formation, particularly for children and young people, and to seek new ways to follow Jesus' command to make disciples, and to make ministry to children, young people, and young households a priority, and to encourage intergenerational interaction.

## **Looking Forward**

In late October 2017 our Kirk Session met in conference to discuss Mid Deeside's ministry: what we were doing well, the gaps/missed opportunities and where, in the future, we should prioritise our energies and resources. It was agreed that going forward, the top four areas of focus should be:

- Youth & young children
- Pastoral care
- Finding more effective worship and contact opportunities in Kincardine O'Neil and Lumphanan
- Building a more prayer-based church.

## **Congregational Life**

### **Worship**

Sunday morning services are held at Mid Deeside Church, Torphins. Sunday evening services used to take place in Kincardine O'Neil and Lumphanan on alternate months, but these were not well supported and have been suspended during the vacancy.

Average attendance at Sunday morning worship is between 50 and 70, with much larger attendance at special services.

Our worship services are a good balance of traditional and contemporary praise, with frequent participation from members of the congregation. Hymns are normally taken from "Complete Mission Praise" but our AV system allows great flexibility over choice of praise. Hymn books and printed orders of service are made available but words are also displayed on several screens for all to see.

A Worship Support Team was set up primarily to support the minister in implementing worship arrangements, particularly for special services.

We have a very industrious Banner Group who regularly make new banners to help decorate our church and reflect the church seasons.

### **Audio-visual system**

To convey God's message clearly, and to enable multiple uses of our renovated and

developed church buildings, a high priority was given to achieving a flexible and capable audio-visual system. A key aim was to enable variable use of the main Sanctuary space, with worship focus and seating arrangements being adjustable and served by appropriate visual displays. To that end we have a five-screen array which can be turned to serve north and west facing worship, and a complementary sound system which follows each focus.

Use of radio microphones means we are not constrained in the locations which presenters or preachers may choose to present from. A second system in the main meeting room, Lochnagar, can link to the Sanctuary or present standalone visuals and sound on a large LCD screen and speaker system. Services can be recorded and we have recently started to upload sermons to our website.

## **Communion**

We currently celebrate communion in the Spring and Autumn, at morning and evening services, with occasional informal communions. Communion services are also held twice a year in the two nursing homes in the parish and home communion is offered to housebound members. We would like to explore the possibility of more regular Family Communion Services in the future.

## **Special Services throughout the year include:**

- Easter on the Hill – a daybreak service on the hill in the centre of our parish for the early risers among us followed by some very welcome bacon rolls.



- Open Air Praise – an outdoor summer service which takes place in August, usually on the day following Torphins Gala, with the support of our friends from the Granite City Brass Band. A morning of enthusiastic singing and stirring music is heard across the village and enjoyed by many.
- Christian Aid Week - We begin Christian Aid week with members of the congregation leading the Sunday morning service, followed by a soup lunch.
- Our Easter, Harvest and Christmas Services generally include dramas/singing by our young people – much enjoyed by them and the congregation.
- World Day of Prayer – an annual service led by the Guild.

## **Music and Praise in Our Worship**

The 12-strong choir, led by our church organist/musical director, enjoy contributing

to worship and singing at special services. There are no auditions! The choir was established to facilitate the introduction of new hymns/worship songs to the congregation. We consider ourselves very fortunate to have a good Abbott and Smith pipe organ, although this is in need of repair and the musical director has been making good use of a digital piano which was recently donated by a member of the congregation.

We also have a praise band, which practices regularly, it brings an appreciated lively style to our worship. Both the choir and praise band are led by our musical director, a very accomplished musician.

## **Our Membership**

There are currently around 570 communicant members on the Mid Deeside Church roll. However, we estimate that only approximately 200 to 250 currently take an active part in the life of the congregation through attending worship services, financial giving or supporting fund raising and other congregational events. The table below shows recent years' figures for the roll.

The Kirk Session has started to address the sensitive issue of non-participating members and will be developing an action plan to tackle this. We see this as a positive opportunity to inform and remind the wider congregation about the vows that were taken when they joined the church and also to seek the views of those we rarely see on what they want to give to and get from their church membership.

	2014	2015	2016	2017
Roll at 1st January	670	647	617	594
Admitted	-	-	-	10
Removed	(23)	(30)	(23)	(33)
Roll at 31st December	647	617	594	571

## **Our Young People**

We believe our children and young people are very important to the church of today and are key to the church of tomorrow.

Our youth ministry team has been working on new material and our vision is to have a vibrant Youth Ministry. Our values are to be Christ centred, friendly, fun and nurturing. Our challenges are forging links with schools, pre-schools and youth organisations. We also desire to engage and develop connections with young families.

We set up and support a well attended Youth Club which was formed two years ago and meets twice a month during the school term. The support is given by three elders who attend the meetings and covering of expenses although the programme has little overt Christian interaction.

Our Sunday School is known as "Rocking Stones". We have a small number of children varying from age 5 upwards. This year we are engaging with them and others using the Year of Young People 2018 initiative.

During term time we hold a weekly fun “Music Box” session for babies and children under 5 accompanied by a parent or carer – a lively half hour of music making followed by healthy snacks for children and time for a chat over tea/coffee for their carers.

## **The Guild**

Mid Deeside Guild enjoys an enthusiastic membership of between 25-30 from all parts of the parish, who actively support the church, both locally and worldwide. Meetings follow a varied programme of theme-based activities, sometimes involving visitors from other local Guild groups.



## **Prayer Group**

This group enjoys a time of prayer and fellowship normally before worship on Sunday mornings. A book for prayer requests is available in the church foyer and is well used for targeting prayers.

## **House Groups and Adult Study**

At present we have a small library in the church for all to use and enjoy. Our house groups, of which there are currently two, meet in members’ homes, one weekly and one monthly. A variety of materials are used for study purposes and both groups enjoy strong fellowship and discipleship. Our challenge is for more house groups to form in the future in support of our pastoral care initiatives.

We are not currently running any enquiry classes but now have leaders who have volunteered to run these.

## **Gardening Gang**

A 10-strong gardening team enjoy maintaining the grounds at our properties in Torphins and Lumphanan, combining weeding and pruning with much laughter and discussion.



## **Communication**

Our church newsletter is issued three times a year to all member households and to all the homes in our three villages – Kincardine O’Neil, Lumphanan and Torphins. It

aims to give a picture of regular Mid Deeside Church activities.

As an active church, lots of things happen between issues of the newsletter. So, on a fortnightly basis, for the church family, we issue a Keep in Touch email (known as KIT). Available on an opt-in basis, KIT keeps folk right up to date with church news. Non-computer users in the parish are matched up with “KIT buddies” who deliver paper copies of KIT to them. The current KIT circulation is over 130.

KIT contains news on all aspects of our church life –worship services, church events and church groups, news about members of our church family and notification of future events. KIT is not put on the Church Website as it often contains church family news that it would not be appropriate to broadcast to the Web.

We see our website, [www.middeesidechurch.org.uk](http://www.middeesidechurch.org.uk). as an important means of communication in the life of a modern church.

## **Charity Shop**

In May 2014 we took over the lease of the former baker’s shop on Torphins high street and opened the aptly named ‘Bread of Life’ Charity Shop six weeks later. This has been a great success story and we are delighted with the support the shop receives from the congregation and the community both as volunteers and through donations of quality goods to sell.

The purpose of the shop is to promote the charitable, community, outreach and mission work of the church within the Mid Deeside parish boundary. The net surplus made from trading is allocated to local charities, community groups/clubs, good causes and to the mission/outreach work of the church. Written requests for grants are encouraged twice yearly and the volunteers meet together to make recommendations which are then approved or adjusted by the Kirk Session. The Shop is run by a management team who meet monthly.

There are more than 50 volunteers involved in the shop who sort through the donations, prepare the window display and the display of goods in the shop, pricing and sometimes researching goods, as well as serving the customers. Since opening, the shop has raised £16,300 for church funds and distributed £35,900 to a variety of recipients within the parish including the three local primary schools, various children’s sports clubs, the Torphins Medical Centre, many local clubs/groups and an individual who required specialist care equipment.

## **Fairtrade**

We are a Fairtrade church and have a Traidcraft stall in church as well as at special events. Annual sales are £3,000-£4,000 and the surpluses from trading are usually donated in support of Traidcraft projects.



**Fairtrade**

## **Malawi**

Since 2010 our congregation has supported a small Malawi maternity charity "Chimwemwe Mu'berek" (Joyful Motherhood) by knitting woollen baby clothes. Family, friends and the wider community also donate handmade garments and these are posted out to Malawi via a Post Office box number in Lilongwe. Postage costs are high and are financed by fundraising and donations. E-mails are received from the charity and occasionally photographs of the mothers, babies and nurses. They express appreciation for our help in protecting vulnerable babies from the extremely cold nights in Malawi.

Joyful Motherhood is part of the 'African Mothers Health Initiative America'.

## **Christian Aid**

The congregation supports Christian Aid and raises funds through organising events, quizzes, etc. rather than door-to-door collections.

## **Pastoral Care**

Our Pastoral Care co-ordinating team is a mixed group that is growing and evolving to serve the diverse needs of our wide community. We are looking to move away from the previous Elder-led service to a more community service model.

A key principle is that we seek to ensure a safe place for those accessing support and care combined with maintaining the safety of those giving service to the community. A second principle is that of confidentiality, which underpins all our activities. We are undergoing training shortly to help us move forward in setting our main aims and objectives for the new larger team.

The congregation provide opportunities for worship once a month in both nursing homes in our parish. Elderly people say how much they appreciate these services. Our locum minister and the Pastoral Care co-ordinating team make hospital, care home and other visits, as and when needed. These are currently in addition to the pastoral care offered by our elders within their districts.

Each week someone in the church or community who has had a difficult time or is celebrating a special occasion receives the flowers which have decorated the church at Sunday worship.

Monthly soup lunches, games afternoons and inter-generational knitting club are organised by church members and take place in the new extension, as does our annual "Holiday at Home" for seniors (five consecutive afternoon sessions of activity, entertainment and socialising).

## **Involvement with the Community**

Many of our members are actively involved in a wide range of community groups. Through these links our church is closely woven into the fabric of community life.

Our buildings are currently used regularly by many different organisations including:

- Torphins Playgroup (5 days a week)
- A monthly Friendship Club for the over 55's run by two of our elders
- Lumphanan SWI, Bridge Club, Mahjong, Citizens Advice Bureau,
- Kettlercise, Yoga, T'ai Chi, Pilates, Running Club,
- Notes from Torphins (a 60 strong singing group)
- There are also numerous one-off users e.g. birthday parties, Christmas market and craft fairs.

We are keen to encourage wider use of our buildings by community organisations. For the past two years we have organised a Christmas Tree Festival and this was supported by local businesses, schools, clubs, and church groups with 42 trees exhibited last year making our Sanctuary a most attractive setting at Christmas.

The three local Primary schools are open to dialogue with the church and the children from Torphins hold their end of term assemblies in the church.

A variety of fundraising events are held throughout the year both for our own church and for other charities. These include soup and sweet lunches, fetes, quiz nights, table-top sales and annual kirk sales supplemented with collections at special services. These events not only boost our finances and those of the charities we support but raise awareness of the church and encourage the involvement of the wider community.

## **Foodbank**

We support the Banchory based Trussell Trust foodbank throughout the year through contributions to our foodbox in the church. The 2017 Christmas Tree Festival also included a very well supported Foodbank Tree.





Rocking Stones at work

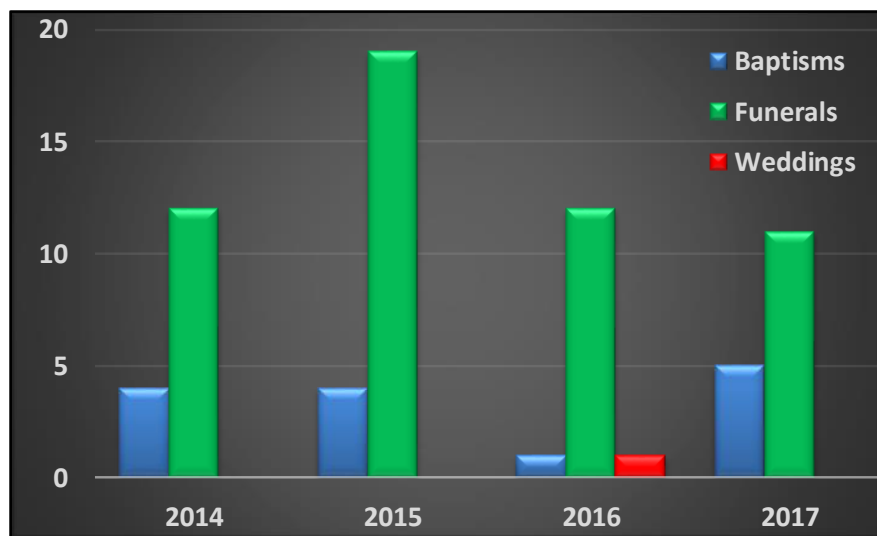


Guild tea in Lochnagar Room in the Extension



Enjoying the church Fun Day Sale

## Baptisms, weddings & funerals



## Our Organisational Structure, Stewardship and Finance

### Organisation

We are organised under a Unitary Constitution and a team structure which allows us to worship and work with greater flexibility and creativity. This structure makes it much easier for the congregation and wider parish to have a fuller and focused involvement in the life of our Church. It also helps us align 'talents' with 'tasks' that need done.

Our Kirk Session currently meets monthly and comprises 39 elders, with an almost equal balance of men (18) and women (21), aged from 40's to 80's. Elders share pastoral duties and most who are able are allocated a visiting district.

Our **Safeguarding Panel** which ensures we prevent harm and abuse of children and vulnerable adults reports directly to the Kirk Session and its work is discussed at every meeting. We endeavour to process the applications of all those in the church who are carrying out regulated work, to ensure they are PVG cleared quickly and securely.

The teams put in place by the Kirk Session to focus on the different aspects of our ministry are as follows:

- **Steering Group:** An overseeing group consisting of the minister, team leaders and office bearers to ensure that the work of the teams is co-ordinated and information shared.
- **Worship Support Team:** Primarily to provide practical support and lend assistance to our minister.

- **Youth Ministry Team:** Engaging with young people within the church and providing support and encouragement to those among us who are working in our youth ministry.
- **Communications Team:** Finding ways to ensure that our membership and wider community know what we are doing.
- **Pastoral Care Co-ordination:** Responsible for trying to make sure our members are looked after, especially in times and situations of need.
- **Financial Stewardship Team:** Handling all financially related matters and ensuring that the church has sufficient funds to meet all its commitments.
- **Facilities Team:** Looks after all our facilities and grounds, oversees lettings, repairs, ensuring all Health & Safety standards, data protection, copyright, and other legal requirements are met.

The Kirk Session has also set up two ad-hoc committees to investigate specific subjects and report back with recommendations:

- **Development Group:** consider the development and future use of properties such as the Manse, MDC Hall in Lumphanan and Ha'berry (bungalow adjacent to the church grounds).
- **Five Year Planning Group:** develop the ideas generated at the most recent Session conference and work these and other initiatives into an implementation plan.

## **Staffing**

Mid Deeside has only one member of staff, our cleaner. Our organist is self-employed. All other tasks, including church officer duties, are undertaken by members of the congregation on a voluntary basis.

## **Stewardship**

The stewardship of money was our focus in May 2017 when we ran a 'Giving for Growth' programme with the support of the Church of Scotland's stewardship team. The programme elicited 170 written responses, 27 new Gift Aid declarations, 31 new bank standing orders and an annualised increase in regular giving of over £17,000 (35% increase on prior year).

## **Finance**

We have a strong income base and a reasonable amount of reserves. Appendix 2 summarises and comments on our income, expenditure and capital resources.

## **Contacts**

Informal enquiries can be made to the Interim Moderator:

Rev Tony Stephen  
Tel: 07866 704738  
Email: [tony@banchorywestchurch.com](mailto:tony@banchorywestchurch.com)

Applications and recommendations should be submitted to the Clerk to the Nominating Committee:

Alison Orren  
Village Farmhouse  
Beltie Road  
Torphins  
AB31 4JT

Tel: 013398 82912  
Email: [alison.macorren89@gmail.com](mailto:alison.macorren89@gmail.com)

## **Appendix 1 - History of the Congregation**

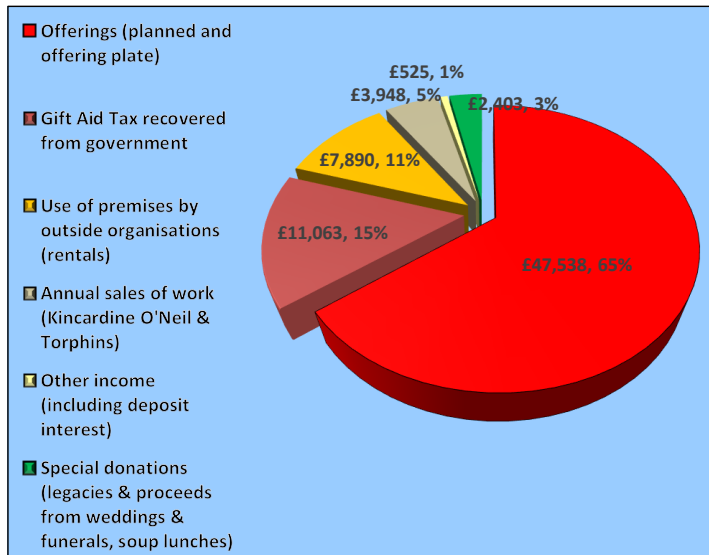
Mid Deeside Church is a united charge of the former congregations of Kincardine O'Neil, Lumphanan and Torphins. The parish as it is now, was formed in 2002 around the three picturesque villages of Kincardine O'Neil, Lumphanan and Torphins which lie within three miles of each other.

In 1980 the congregations of Kincardine O'Neil and Lumphanan were linked. Increasing costs, falling numbers and a shortage of ordained ministers led to the union of Kincardine O'Neil, Lumphanan and Torphins as the Mid Deeside Church. At that time the united congregation had 11 separate buildings.

In 2005 the congregation decided to make Torphins the main centre of Sunday morning worship. Over the years, usage of the buildings in Kincardine O'Neil and Lumphanan reduced and the congregation took the difficult decisions to dispose of the Kincardine O'Neil and Lumphanan church buildings along with other properties. The net sale proceeds of £710,000 were invested in the Mid Deeside Church Extension and Sanctuary refurbishment project.

## Appendix 2 – Finances

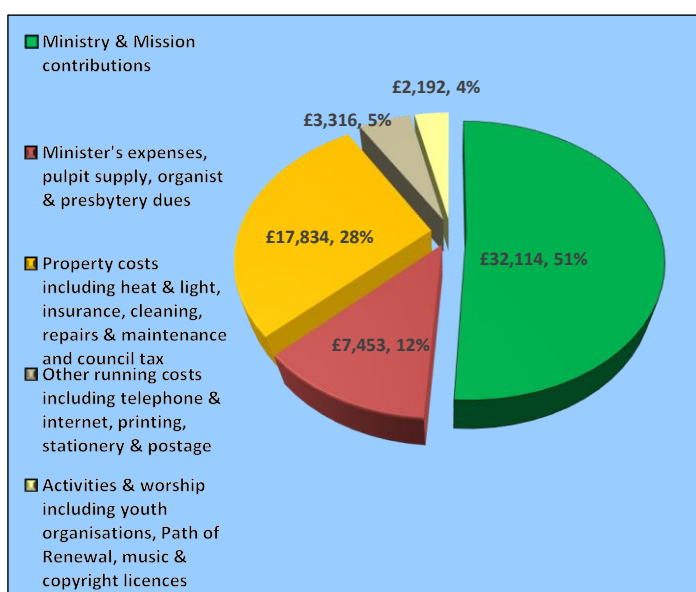
Mid Deeside now has a strong income base with its gross income in 2017 through the General Fund being **£73,367**.



There are approximately 190 members who are known to donate regularly and 85% have signed Gift Aid forms. This is a significant improvement on prior years following a successful stewardship programme in May 2017.

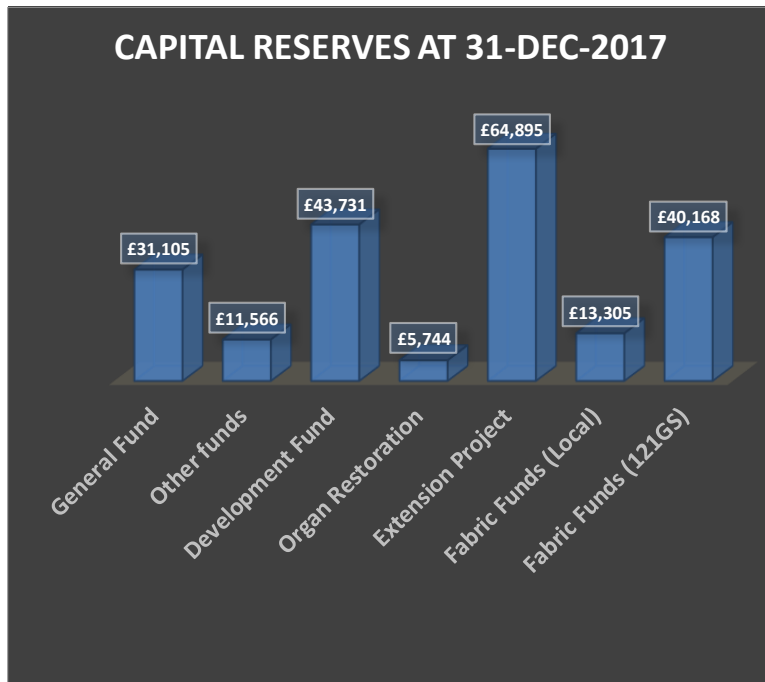
Rental income from community use of premises helps cover property costs and the congregation also organises sales/fetes in Torphins and Kincardine O'Neil. This fund raising is supplemented by ad-hoc events such as 'soup & sweet lunches', quizzes and auctions.

Mid Deeside's total expenditure in 2017 was **£62,909** which meant that there was a surplus of **£10,458** on the General Fund.



Ministry costs which included a £44,985 contribution to the Ministries & Mission Fund benefited from a credit totalling £9,838 from endowment income & glebe rents and a £3,033 vacancy allowance.

Capital resources are currently in good shape and the market value of the congregation's funds at 31 December 2017 was **£210,514**.



The **General Fund** balance was over £30,000 at the end of December 2017 and the Kirk Session has decided to transfer £10,000 to the locally held Fabric Fund.

The **Development Fund** stands at £43,731. This has been set aside for development (i.e. improvement) of church buildings, their interiors, fixtures and multi-media equipment.

There are currently insufficient funds available in the **Organ Fund** to make the necessary repairs and this needs to be addressed by the Kirk Session.

The final payments to the main contractor for the **Extension Project** and other related costs have still to be made, so that Fund will be run down during 2018.

**Fabric funds** are at reasonable levels but would be quickly extinguished if there were any major repairs and the Kirk Session is keen to bolster these when it can.

## Appendix 3 - Buildings

We subscribe to the view that “the church is not a building, the church is the people”. We recognise, however, that our buildings are an important aspect of the dynamics of church life.

### Church and Extension

The original church building was designed by Aberdeen architect J. Russell Mackenzie and built in 1874-5. This Category B listed building is the main centre for worship in the parish. In August 2016 a special service of Celebration and Thanksgiving marked the opening of our £1 million Extension and Sanctuary refurbishment. The Extension provides three new meeting rooms of varying sizes. The Sanctuary has been completely refurbished including replacement flooring, carpeting, seating and a flexible layout with new Audio-Visual systems. An underfloor heating system has been installed throughout the building.

### The Halls

As mentioned above, the new extension to the church includes the addition of three new meeting rooms each named after local landmarks in Deeside; Lochnagar, Morven and Clachnaben. All of these rooms are used by the congregation and rented to various community groups on a regular basis. There is also a vestry, office, kitchen, toilets and ample storage cupboards & closets.

Separate, but adjacent to, the church is a bungalow “**Ha’berry**” which is rented to a children’s nursery/playgroup.

In the village of Lumphanan we have **MDC Hall Lumphanan** which is used every Monday during term time for Music Box. a fun music session for babies and young children and their carers, The hall is also available for community use, though currently the only regular user is the Lumphanan Scottish Women’s Institute who meet there monthly.

Until the vacancy, evening services were held here on the third Sunday of alternate months (alternating with evening services using Christ Church, the Episcopal Church in Kincardine O’Neil).

### Manse

The congregation is currently marketing the manse for sale and, if successful, we would replace it with a more modern home in the parish which should be easier to run and maintain.

The current manse is a four-bedroom house in Torphins. This is a distinguished two-story granite building in good condition, with a large garden, set in the church grounds and within easy walking distance of the shops and the primary school. The lower floor consists of a kitchen, study, dining room, lounge and toilet with wash hand basin. On the landing between floors is a bathroom with shower cubicle and separate bath. On the upper floor are four large bedrooms. The property has full oil central heating and double-glazing, along with a garage and a number of outhouses.





**Glebe land at former Lumphanan St. Finan's Church**

This land is presently leased to a local farmer. There is potential for limited residential development.

**Glebe land at Kincardine O'Neil**

The glebes consist of three separate plots of land, all of which are leased to a local farmer. One of the plots is included in the Local Development Plan for future housing development. When the conditions are suitable and the necessary approvals obtained, the intention is that these this glebe will be marketed for sale. No decision has been taken on the future of the other two glebes.

## Appendix 4 – Parish Population Data

