

THE ISLA DEVERON GROUP & GORDON CHAPEL PROFILE

The Isla Deveron Group & Gordon Chapel

The Isla Deveron group is made up of three churches: St. Marnan's, Aberchirder, Christ Church, Huntly and Holy Trinity, Keith and is linked with Gordon Chapel, which is in the town of Fochabers. These churches are within the United Diocese of Moray, Ross and Caithness (which also includes Sutherland and Inverness-shire). The Bishop is the Right Reverend Mark Strange. There are seven Dioceses in the Province of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Our Vision

The vision of the Isla Deveron Group is to be a church with a presence in the community for the community. To be an open, inclusive welcoming worshipping community for all.

Gordon Chapel: 'Our vision is to start with prayer. To have a core team for pastoral work, encouragement and going out to people to take the Gospel. To understand and respond to the needs of our communities. To have an online presence.'

Ministry over the past 3 years

For the past three years the Isla Deveron Group has been a training parish for a stipendiary curate. It has been a pioneering and innovative way of offering a curacy in the Diocese and the model has been adopted by other Dioceses in the Province.

The ministry of the curate has brought a wide and varied time for the group.

The worship is predominantly Eucharistic with the use of the 1982 Liturgy. The nature of the churches geographically means that worship is led by both Priest and Lay ministers. The use of both Reserved Sacrament and Services of the Word are used by Lay Ministers.

There are a number of Occasional Offices, including Baptism (which is held during a Sunday service), Confirmation, Marriage and Funerals all of which use the Rites of the Scottish Episcopal Church.

There was a House for Duty Priest at Gordon Chapel for three years who retired due to ill health in 2015.

The past three years has seen the churches working towards the next stage in their ministry provision. This presents this new opportunity of Isla Deveron Group and Gordon Chapel which is in line with the Diocesan Mission and Ministry Board strategy.

Our Patterns of Worship

The current pattern of worship is as below in the table:-

	1 st Sunday of the month	2 nd Sunday of the month	3 rd Sunday of the month	4 th Sunday of the month	5 th Sunday of the month
St. Marnan's Aberchirder	9am				Where there is a 5 th Sunday there is a Joint Service rotating around the churches <i>usually</i> at 11.00am
Christ Church, Huntly	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am	10.30am	
Holy Trinity, Keith	11.30am	11.30am	11.30am	11.30am	
Gordon Chapel	10am 6.30pm Evensong	10am	10am	10am	

There are weekday services in Christ Church, Huntly on Tuesday at 10.30am and in Gordon Chapel on the first Wednesday of each month at 2.30pm (with afternoon tea to follow).

For Christmas, Holy Week and Easter services are organised to ensure that all churches have a service. So for example during Holy Week a service has been held at 12noon each day in Christ Church, Huntly with the services in Keith being at 7pm for the Ecumenical service, which rotates around each of the churches acting as the Host church. At Christmas, there has been a service in Huntly at 9.30pm on Christmas Eve, 11.30pm in Keith and then a Family Service in Aberchirder at 10.30am.

The Rectory

The Rectory for the Isla Deveron Group and Gordon Chapel is located in Keith. It is situated next door to Holy Trinity and is on Seafield Avenue.

It is a Victorian House built around 1800's. Accommodation includes: Downstairs-Living Room, Dining Room/ Study, Kitchen, toilet, small storage cupboard with boiler. Upstairs-Master Bedroom, Second Bedroom, Third Bedroom, Bathroom (with shower over bath), small box room/ storage.

There is a large private garden to the rear of the property, laid mainly to lawn.

To the rear of the Rectory is the small church hall, which is due to be re-wired July 2016.

Collaboration with other Churches

There are a number of ways in which the churches have linked with other churches in the towns. In Keith the churches come together for Christmas Events, such as the Rotary Carol Service; Remembrance Sunday Parade and Service; and Holy Week is an Ecumenical witness. All of the churches are jointly part of the School Chaplaincy Team in the Keith Primary School (with the exception of the Roman Catholic church, because there is a RC primary school), and all of the churches are part of the Chaplaincy Team at Keith Grammar School.

In Huntly, the church is looking at ways of developing ecumenical working, to include work with young people and local schools. In 2016 a Palm Sunday Procession from the Square included representatives from all of the local churches in Huntly.

In Aberchirder the main focus of working with other churches is through the work with the local Primary School.

In Fochabers there is a commitment to working with the other churches and the monthly Evensong in Gordon Chapel draws people from across the churches. Other events happen across the churches in the town and it is anticipated that developing links with the schools will continue.

Finance

The finance of the Isla Deveron Group has been to sustain the required amount for the Stipend of the Curate along with the Ministry Grant that is provided by the Diocese. All other commitments along with payment of Quota are made annually.

A Stewardship campaign was held January 2015, culminating in a Gift Day at Pentecost in May 2015. It is anticipated that a Stewardship Campaign be held every other year, with the next one due in January 2017.

The finances of Gordon Chapel has been to sustain the annual commitments along with full payment of quota. As part of the new link with Isla Deveron Group there will be joint responsibility for contributions to the stipend.

The Vestry

The Vestry for the Isla Deveron Group is a Joint Vestry with shared responsibilities for Finance and all aspects of the running of the Vestry and the churches. There are 4 members each from Christ Church, Huntly and Holy Trinity, Keith (including Lay Representatives) and 2 members from St. Marnan's, Aberchirder. There is the support of a Vestry Secretary and a Minute Secretary (both ex officio) and the role of Treasurer is in the process of being out-sourced.

Gordon Chapel have their own Vestry, which consists of five elected members plus a Lay Representative, a Priest's Warden, a People's Warden and is supported by a Vestry Secretary and Treasurer (both ex officio).

Website and Communications

Over the past three years there has been a Website developed for Isla Deveron Group, which is regularly updated and can be viewed at- www.isladeveronchurches.org

Social Media presence is on Face Book with regular updates and interaction and can be viewed here- <https://www.facebook.com/IslaDeveronSEC>

A weekly E-newsletter is circulated via a database of email addressed with details of weekly information of What's On in and around the churches and communities- to view a copy of one visit the Face Book page

A weekly Church and Information Sheet (Pew Sheet) is produced for the three churches, which includes details of readings for the services the Sunday Psalm and the notices for the week, along side inclusion of the Diocesan Cycle of Prayer.

A bi-monthly Magazine- 'The Way' is produced with a number of regular contributors and some, one off, invited articles. Around 80 copies are printed and distributed.

The Curate has for the past two years been writing a monthly column for the local papers, and contributed to the Revving Up Programme on Keith Community Radio.

Gordon Chapel have currently has their own website www.gordonchapel.org.uk
A Magazine is produced by the Friends of Gordon Chapel and a weekly Pew Sheet is produced.

Combined Activities

There are a number of events throughout the year where the churches come together both socially and for fundraising. The move over the last three years has been to organise Joint Fundraising events. A number of concerts have been held, along with the traditional Coffee Mornings and Soup and Sweet Events, as well as Ceilidhs and Harvest Suppers etc. All of the churches are either Fairtrade Churches or in the process of becoming Fair Trade as well as applying for Eco-Congregation status.

St. Marnan's, Aberchirder



The Congregation

The Congregation of St. Marnan's consists of around 2-6 people, increasing to around 45 at main festivals- the main festivals of the year gather a larger congregation than that of regular Sunday's, due to the nature of the locality and the congregation members

The Building

The entry on the Listed Buildings register details the following information: -
The church was built around 1824-6 and was one of the first churches to be rebuilt after the 1745 and the reformation and penal law period, *in Scotland/ NE of Scotland?*
The hall which is in the grounds of the church was originally built as a school in 1877, is now used as a hall.

The church and the hall are located at the end of Main Street, and overlooks Aberchirder and the surrounding area. It is on the edge of Cleanhill Woods. The Hall is used by a number of community groups, such as the Playgroup and Toddler Group and Sure Start on a weekly basis.

The Town of Aberchirder

The population of Aberchirder is 1180, as of 2014. The village of Aberchirder was founded in 1764 by Alexander Gordon, the 5th laird of Auchintoul. Until 1823 its official name was, in fact, Foggielohan after a small farm community on the site of which it was built. As a planned community, the village was built on a grid pattern around a central square

The Community

There is a small community of local shops, library and pubs in Aberchirder. There is also a local Primary School which has approx. 180 children

Our Activities

One of the main activities in Aberchirder is the link with the primary school and the role of chaplaincy there. As well as offering fortnightly assemblies we have been involved in providing pastoral support weekly in the form of 'Breathing Spaces' which provides a talking space for individuals and is facilitated by activities from craft/ art/ games/ baking etc.

Christ Church, Huntly

The congregation

The main purpose of our church is the worship of Almighty God. We have a faithful and enthusiast congregation of 12 – 20 members for Sunday Eucharist, with larger numbers at special events and festivals. There are approximately 40 on the roll. Since the restoration project started in 2013 we have seen an increase in interest in the Church with a number of new people attending the services. When Sarah arrived an additional Eucharist was started on Tuesday morning and there has been a wider range of services.

Our building



In 1849, a piece of land was acquired from the Gordon Estates, and there, for £800 an Episcopal Church was built and dedicated as Christ Church. The architect was Thomas Mackenzie. It has an attractive simple nave and chancel, tall narrow lancets and octagonal spirelet; is harled with freestone dressings including corbel course, global skewputs and bellcote. Now classified grade B listed, Christ Church is within the Conservation Area of Huntly and complements the other fine

buildings in this historic town.

Following the discovery of dry rot at Christ Church in 2013, a full structural review was carried out. A comprehensive examination of the building by a conservation architect identified what urgent and essential work was necessary for the future of the building.

The congregation and the Vestry prepared a plan for the future role of the Church and its place within the community of Huntly. In summary, after 164 years as a much loved centre of worship, the Church was clearly in need of overdue fabric repairs and restoration, and the development of additional facilities - a toilet and small kitchen - to enable it to undertake the envisioned enhanced role.

There were three main strands in the restoration and development project.

1. A detailed costed report on the work required on the building. A total of approximately £250000 was required.
2. A coordinated approach to fund raising. Before commencing the project, the main funding was in place.
3. Detailed and wide discussions within the congregation and Vestry and with community organisations about possible future roles for the Church.

Full details of the project and the fundraising are contained in the booklet prepared for the Opening and Rededication of the Church in February 2016. Generous grants from The Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Environment Scotland and a number of Charities along with the full support of the congregation and the local community enabled the project to go ahead.

Although all the main work is now complete, further work on improving the heating and the layout of the garden is still to be undertaken. Work on the interior of the church has still to be planned and costed.

The Town of Huntly

Huntly, a town in the north East of Scotland has a population of 4500. Originally known as Strathbogie, it was closely linked to the Gordon Family. As a market town, it serves a substantial local area and is an active community. It has an impressive castle and is situated on the banks of the Deveron. There is a primary and a secondary school – The Gordon Schools. The writer George Macdonald and the musician Ronal Center came from Huntly.

The community

There are two Churches of Scotland and a Roman Catholic Church. There are close links at the individual level with members of the different Christian groups. It is an active and diverse community and there are a number of social and cultural organisations.

One of the main groups is Deveron Arts which has been active in Huntly and district since 1995. It is a contemporary arts organisation, describing itself as supporting the theme “the town is the venue” rather than having formal arts centre. It arranges special events, exhibitions, artists in residence and many collaborative activities

Activities

It was agreed that the main aim of the congregation was to “raise awareness of Christ Church in the local community.” As well as remaining a place of regular worship, it is intended to expand its use by the wider community, allowing the Church to be involved in Huntly’s ever increasing reputation as a “Creative Place.” As a venue seating up to 70 with good acoustics, it fits in extremely well into the overall provision within Huntly. A programme of enhanced worship and Church based activities will be complemented by events related to the Huntly community. This will include working to develop the venue as a site for meetings, concerts, exhibitions, small events, group use and a wide range of activities. It also will provide opportunities for musical events such as chamber music and organ recitals.

Starting in 2013 we started to expand and develop our range of activities. And with the complete building we now have the Church open every Wednesday morning, with a varied programme and a monthly talk. Occasional special concerts and organ recitals are arranged.

Close working relationships have been established with Deveron Arts, the Huntly and District Development Trust and other community organisations.

Thus there are three strands to the activities;

Those organised by the church,

Those arranged in collaboration with other local organisations and

The use of the building by outside groups,



Holy Trinity, Keith

The Congregation

The congregation of Holy Trinity consist of around 15-25 people, with approx. 45 on the role. The age demographic is mixed with a majority of the congregation being of retirement age and over. Our active congregation, in common with the other churches in the Isla Deveron group and the other established churches within Keith, is

predominately of retirement age. We warmly welcome families with younger children and hope that once renovations to the meeting hall, at the rear of the rectory, are finished we can provide Sunday school.

The Building

Holy Trinity can trace its continuous existence since the Revolution of 1688 when the priest was the Reverend James Thornton, and known to be “a strong Episcopalian”.

On 7 November 1689 he was ‘deprived of his benefice’. Ministry to the faithful continued in a number of locations by many faithful priests over the ensuing years.

It was in 1779 that Episcopalianism again found a home in Keith, when a simple two-roomed cottage in Bridge Street, New Keith, was used as a meeting house. In 1807 a small chapel was opened in Keith, although it was not consecrated until 1832.

In 1878 a Church Fund was opened and by 1882 the foundation stone of the present church was laid on the site next to the Rectory in Seafield Avenue. We also have a unique link with the American Episcopal Church in that, in the Sanctuary is the actual chair, the “Seabury Chair”, on which Bishop Robert Kilgour (Bishop of Aberdeen, 1768-86) sat when consecrating Bishop Samuel Seabury as the first Bishop of the American Episcopal Church.

The Town

Keith is a small town in the Moray Council area in NE Scotland, situated on the A96, half way between Aberdeen and Inverness.

The oldest part of the town dates back to 1180, developing around the old ‘brig’ over the River Isla. It is said that two grieving parents built it as a permanent memorial to their child who drown crossing the river. Today, Keith has two distinct parts, Keith, which is the main commercial centre and Fife Keith, which was originally a separate town built in competition

by the Earl of Fife but which having proved to be less economically vibrant, was eventually joined to form one homogeneous settlement separated now only by the river.

Keith has a population of a little under 5000 and enjoys a number of local amenities including a small hospital and health centre, police station, library, community centre with swimming pool, post office and even its own radio station. A long established whisky town, it has also added beer brewing to its mix of industries, which includes farming, engineering and retail. There is a great range of independent shops available, with butchers, bakers, a deli, ladies fashions, pharmacies, newsagents, furniture, flooring, framing, electrical, arts and crafts with much more in the mix.

The town has three schools; 2 primary, one of which is RC and a Grammar school. There are also several smaller village schools in the outlying area. Further education is offered in Elgin, (18 miles away) at a number of colleges and the Highlands University.

Keith has become a centre for arts and culture, being the first place in Scotland to be bestowed the title 'Scots Toun' and with an annual Traditional Music and Song Association Festival, which celebrated its 40th year in 2015.

We have good transport links; by car and rail, Aberdeen and Inverness are within commuter distance and there is a reliable bus service joining the towns along the A96.

Our Activities

A proportion of the storage space in the church itself and in the crypt underneath is used for the Keith Storehouse. This is part of the network of food banks in Moray and parcels are made up for clients within the Keith area. The Vestry fully supports the food bank and the congregation regularly donates to it.

There is a close unity of the churches in Keith, particularly concerning youth work. Ministers from the 3 churches regularly take part in school assemblies, Thinking Day, End of term Services and Remembrance Parades.



Gordon Chapel, Fochabers

The Congregation

We have between 26-30 in the congregation on a Sunday, with a number of other people worshipping at Gordon Chapel throughout the year as local events bring them to Fochabers.

The Building

Gordon Chapel is an unusual church building. The church was built above what began life as a school.

What was the school now houses the Parish Room and a 2- bedroom flat which is currently on a short term tenancy agreement.

The Stained Glass windows in the Chapel were designed by Edward Burne-Jones and made by William Morris and Co. The church was completely renovated within the last ten years and the windows restored.

The Town of Fochabers

Fochabers is located in a conservation area, close to the River Spey, hills and the sea are a short drive away.

There are lots of activities, a Heritage Centre, walking groups, annual gala and the Famous Spey Fest.

The well-known Baxter's is just roughly half mile down the road.

The Community

There is a Primary school and Secondary school in Fochabers and a further Primary School at Mosstodloch, which is the adjacent community. A good bus service operates along the A96 and there are rail connections at both Keith and Elgin.

Fochabers is a thriving Moray community, with a number of independent local shops, a small supermarket and its own Medical Centre.

Our Activities

Gordon Chapel is a Fairtrade Church and runs the local fairtrade stall.

We have good local Ecumenical links, sharing in Bible studies, Christian Aid, World Day of Prayer and Carol Services. There are concerts which are organized by the Friends of Gordon Chapel. There is a book club which meets in the homes of those in the group.

**Scottish Episcopal Church
United Diocese of Moray, Ross & Caithness
Isla Deveron Group & Gordon Chapel**

Priest in Charge Profile

We are seeking a Priest in Charge, female or male, who is inspiring, prayerful, theologically stimulating, and in touch with contemporary church debates whilst still respecting more traditional approaches.

You will be familiar with and appreciate the Scottish Episcopal Church. We want our new Priest in Charge to be comfortable with our present liturgies and forms of service with regard to both the scope and the musical content. However, he or she should be able and willing to look at ways of developing patterns of worship with us.

We regard the involvement of families and the development of the young church as important. We would like our Priest in Charge to have an interest in supporting and developing this, as well as caring for the needs of all ages within the congregation. She or he should be happy to encourage outreach into the local community and society at large both in terms of our Christian commitment and our social concerns.

We would like our Priest in Charge to have the following skills and experience:

- The ability to lead, develop and empower the Ministry Team
- To encourage and support the Vestry and congregation, working with them in consensual decision making
- The ability to listen, motivate, and initiate action, and handle conflict
- A sensitive leadership style with good communication and delegation skills
- An aptitude for preaching and teaching
- The ability to manage our church

We would like our Priest in Charge to:

- Be both guide and companion, encouraging and developing the gifts of the congregation in their own ministry
- Be caring and compassionate, as well as having an inclusive and accepting attitude; able to relate to those with doubts as well as those with certainty in their faith
- Have the desire to explore music as part of worship
- Have an interest in fostering ecumenical links and inter faith dialogue
- Have the vision and energy to develop the wider use of all church premises and inspire the congregation to use them as a spiritual resource and community facility
- Spiritually, be living his or her own faith, both celebrating the certainties as well as grappling with any doubts and questions
- Be in touch with his, or her, own feelings and be able to express them appropriately.
- Have a sense of humour!

We hope our new Priest in Charge will create a balance between maintaining our present aims and achievements, and nurturing and developing a vision for the future.

A full driving license is essential for this post.

Any offer is conditional upon the receipt of a full PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) certificate

Closing Date: 15th August 2016

Please send your CV and letter of application to:

The Bishop's Office
c/o The Diocesan Office
9-11 Kenneth Street
Inverness
IV3 5NR
office@moray.anglican.org