

## Parish Profile

## Our History

Within the Parish the 2 Church buildings date back to the late 18<sup>th</sup> and mid 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, but of greater significance has been the Christian presence and worship in this place going back long before our current places of worship were built.

This rich Christian faith has served people here, giving a strong inspiration for both the present as well as future times. The founder of the Scotch College in Melbourne, Australia, had his own and family origins here.

History is to us something that can be valued where we can appreciate those who have left us a Christian legacy in our community and an opportunity to build on this for the future.

## Congregation & Friends

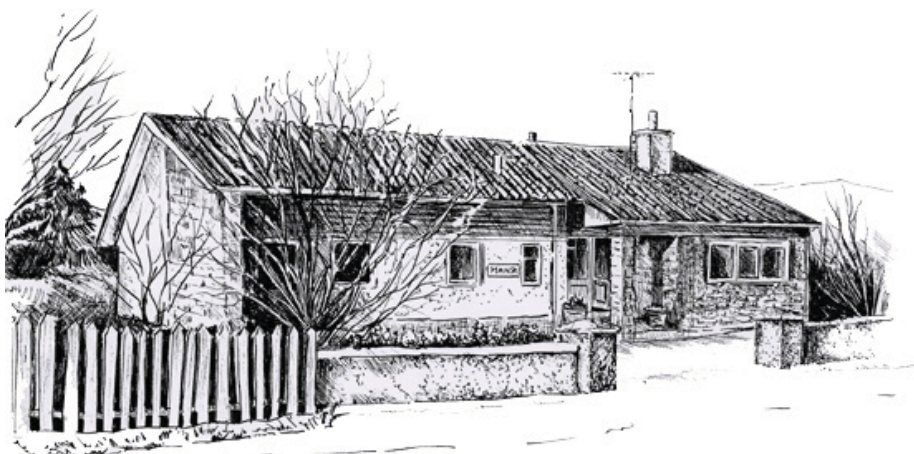
We have a total Church Membership of 300, with a number of adherents. Friends who have moved from the area also keep in touch. We come together as one congregation but using 2 church buildings which are 7 miles apart.

## Mission

Our vision is that “We aim to be a strong Christian witness to all in this community as a worshipping, caring, welcoming church in the strength of God, The Father, Son and Holy Spirit”, and that we share in this task together as part of our Christian journey.

## Manse

A modern detached house is situated in the centre of our parish. It has 3 bedrooms, Sitting Room, Dining Room, Study, Kitchen, Shower Room and separate W.C.. There is a manageable area of garden ground to the front and rear.



THE MANSE MUIR OF FOWLIS

V. Sparks 4/2002

## Church Services

We currently have a service in both of our Church buildings for 3 weeks of each month with a joint family service on the fourth Sunday. Special services alternate between both buildings, with a number of services also having been held in the Cushnie & Craigievar Community Halls. During July and August summer services are held alternately for 4 weeks in each of the churches, with a particular focus on an early family service.



## Kirk Session

We have a joint Kirk Session and Board of 17 members that meets regularly with additional meeting times if required for particular discussion. The members of the Session have also taken part in a number of "away days", where the focus has been on church developments.



## Congregational Organisations

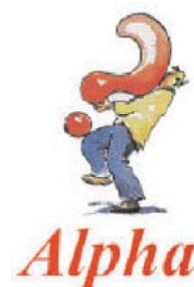
We have an active Mission Committee that has been seeking ways in which we can build closer links between the Church and our local community. As part of this we most recently had a successful “Open House” event to which all living in the community were invited. This involved the making of a DVD in which members and friends spoke openly about what the church means to them and their hopes for the future.

We also have the following:

- The Evergreens
- The Guild
- Bible Study Group
- Social Committee
- Puppet Group
- Hand Bell Ringers
- A Fair Trade stall at Cushnie Games



ALPHA has been running very well in the Alford area for the last 5 years, where individuals have both discovered their Christian faith and for others where they have renewed and refreshed their Christian commitment and journey.



We have also undertaken a whole church member visitation following the “Christian Commitment Programme”. This was supported by the Kirk Session with several members actively involved in the programme as well as others in our church family.

## Sunday School

Our Sunday School varies in numbers participating where the children have to rely on parents to provide transport. We have successfully involved our younger people in family services and other church events. This is an area where we wish to reach out further, recognising that this represents the church of the future.

For over 3 years we have had a very active summer holiday club based at the Craigievar Hall. This has brought in both young people and adults from the community to take part in a Christian based Drama.

New babies and their parents are regularly welcomed into our church family, with encouragement to maintain this commitment as the children grow up.

## Newsletter

An excellent quarterly Newsletter is produced for all Church members and adherents, with additional copies being given to other non-church members. We also exchange copies of Newsletters with other churches, sharing between us our ideas and good news.



## Relationship with other Churches

As part of a parish grouping of 5 churches, we are developing our links and enjoying fellowship at different worship events as well as sharing our vision and hopes for the future in our Christian community.

There is also a weekly ecumenical prayer group that meets at the Episcopal Church in Alford. The Focus at this is "Prayer for our World in Crisis". This group has been meeting since the attacks on the Twin Towers in New York.

Christian Aid is also fully supported within the parish grouping and we have strong links both with current and former overseas mission partners.



**Cushnie & Tough Parish Church**  
Unrestricted Call  
"in the hub of the rural wheel"

Our vision is to be recognised by our members, congregation, community and other churches by our welcome - a traditional church, without walls, that is alive, vibrant and well attended.  
We wish to be seen as the first resort for our parish - are YOU the person to walk with us?

Scottish Charity No  
SCO 30817

Have a chat with our Interim Moderator:  
Rev. Brian Dingwall, Upper Donside Manse, The Square, Lumsden, Aberdeenshire  
tel: (01464) 861 757, mob: (07927) 906 143, email: briandingwall@tiscali.co.uk

To obtain a parish profile or apply, contact:  
Julie Diab, 14 Stewart Crescent, Alford, Aberdeenshire, AB33 8UF  
tel: (019755) 63801, email: juliediab@aol.com  
[www.cushnie-tough.co.uk](http://www.cushnie-tough.co.uk)

## Schools

There are 2 primary schools in the parish at Tough & Craigievar. Secondary education is provided at Alford Academy with transport provided for children coming from the outlying areas. There is Council run pre-school nursery, and also private provision.

## Health Care

In Alford there is a Medical Centre with 3 G.P's, a Nurse and also a Dentist. Out of hours service is provided by G Docs. Hospital provision is based in Aberdeen but with additional treatment areas at Huntly & Inverurie.

## Recreation

We are located close to the Cairngorms National Park and have many outdoor and sporting opportunities both locally and nearby. There are a number of museums, galleries, craft organisations, historic castles, houses and gardens in the area.



## Shopping

There are a variety of shops in Alford including banking and post office services with larger supermarkets at Huntly, Inverurie, Westhill and Aberdeen.

## Public Transport

There is a regular bus service from Alford into Aberdeen with links also to other areas in the region. Rail travel is from Insch and Inverurie giving links to Inverness and further North or to Aberdeen and the South. There is an Airport at Dyce on the outskirts of Aberdeen.

Alford Community Transport is available for travel into Hospital and other medical appointments.

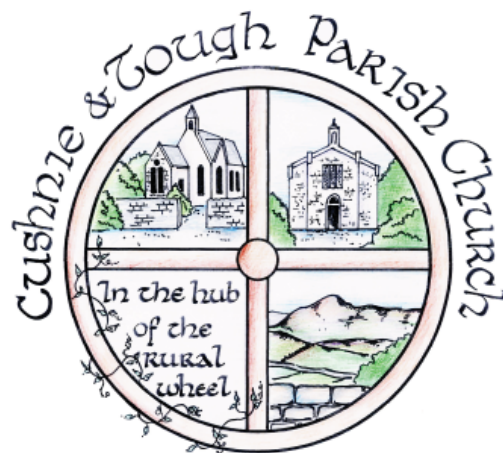
## Finance

Our financial position is now quite good, with an increasing number of people contributing through Gift Aid. Regular fund raising events also take place. The level of income has dropped slightly versus the annual expenditure which has shown an increase.



## The Future

As a Parish Church, we are excited by our continued Christian Journey, aware of some of the challenges that we face for the future. We are greatly encouraged that we are now able to call a Minister without restriction of tenure, and that we have moved from a position of possible closure to one in which we can continue to develop a strong Christian witness in our beautiful rural community. We seek a new Minister who can inspire us in this, encouraging and nurturing our spiritual growth.



[www.cushnie-tough.co.uk](http://www.cushnie-tough.co.uk)  
e. [welcome@cushnie-tough.co.uk](mailto:welcome@cushnie-tough.co.uk)