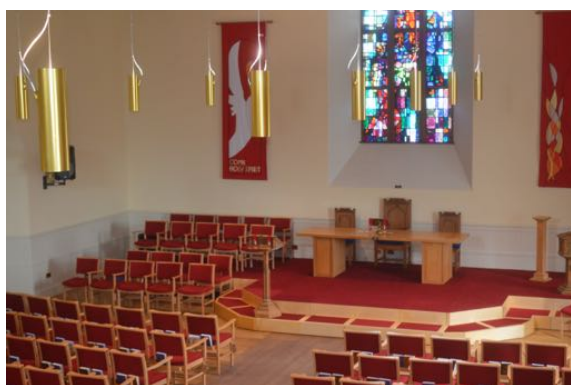


ELLON PARISH

CHURCH OF SCOTLAND



Parish information
for the position of Associate Minister



The Church of Scotland



Welcome

Thank you for taking the time to enquire and read about our church here in Ellon. In this short introduction you'll find out about Ellon Parish Church: who we are, a little of our story and some of how we are organised. You'll also find out about the developments that have taken place recently and where we are looking to develop in the future. There's also some more information about the Associate Minister post: what we're thinking of in terms of this post and how to find out more about it and apply if you're interested. If the post is not for you but you think you know someone who might be interested then please pass on the information to them.

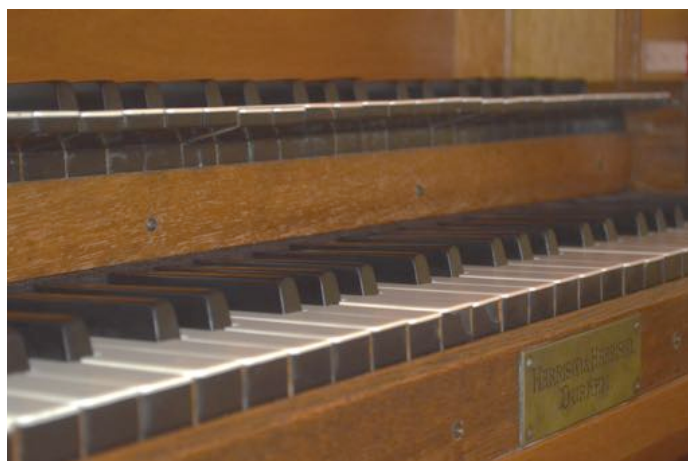
We are currently looking for an Associate Minister to be part of the leadership and life of Ellon Parish Church. He or she will work as part of a small, but strong and motivated Ministry Team, comprised of the Parish Minister, Associate Minister, Director of Music and two part-time parish workers (one of which post is currently vacant). The team works alongside our Core Groups, Kirk Session and Congregational Board. The job description gives a more in depth picture of the shape of the post, nevertheless we are keen to recruit the right person more so than advertise a specific project. The successful candidate's gifts and skills will help shape the focus of the post.

The Associate Minister

Worship

Ellon Parish Church building underwent a major refurbishment in 2009 and it now has chairs instead of pews, which allows for different layouts for worship and events.

Our times of worship are mainly on a Sunday with each having a different emphasis, or different elements which make them unique. We follow a sermon series structure which helps us to understand the relevance of God's Word today. The series tend to last for six weeks and can incorporate some elements of the liturgical calendar such as Advent, Lent, Pentecost, Easter etc. The services in Ellon are





recorded and a video is distributed to those who may have missed worship for one reason or another or those who are housebound. This is an area that could be further developed.

10AM ELLON WORSHIP SERVICE is the main service with a congregation of around 120 people. The style is a blend of hymns taken from the church hymnary fourth edition, children's songs from the likes of Fischy Music, Vineyard's Great Big God, Nick and Becky Drake amongst others, and more contemporary praise. The praise is chosen by the Minister (or person who is leading the service) in consultation with the Director of Music and based on the Bible readings and theme for the particular week. The praise is led by our Director of Music and the choir, there is also a Church Band, and a Praise Band colloquially known as the *Triple 'A's*. All these elements are used to great effect to enhance the worship and to lift our praise to God. The congregation are encouraged to be part of leading worship as far as possible. Each week the Bible readings are read by a congregation member, as is the Bible Story aimed primarily at our young people and also the Prayers for Others. Occasionally elders or congregation members have taken whole services and preached. Our worship continues in fellowship at the back of the church at the close of the service with tea, coffee and butteries (a local delicacy).

11:15AM SLAINS WORSHIP SERVICE takes place on the first and third Sundays of the month. Until a couple of years ago these took place in Slains Kirk, but since the church building was closed for health and safety reasons the services have taken place in Collieston Community Centre. There is a regular attendance of around 30 at these services. The praise is led by one of a rota of musicians, and a member of the worship core group begins the service until the minister arrives from taking worship at Ellon.

CONNECT takes place on the first and third Sundays of the month at 7pm. It is a relaxed worship service with a contemporary feel including video and discussion. Filter coffee, tea and home bakes are served before and during. Contemporary worship is led by the *Triple 'A's'*





REFLECTION takes place every other Wednesday evening from 7:15pm to 8:15pm in Ellon Parish Church. It is a new expression of worship focussed on reflection with individual prayer, places to listen to God and to think about and pray for the world and the community and an opportunity to ask for individual prayer.

Communion is served twice a year at 10am, 11:15am and at 'Connect.'

Prayer is central to our lives as Christians and so this is reflected in the opportunities there are for prayer in the church. Alongside the prayer in our services there is an opportunity to come together as a church family to pray during Friday Morning Prayers which is an informal relaxed prayer gathering at 7:15am in the church which involves some worship, some liturgy and praying together. We have explored prayer as a church through a sermon series on prayer last year, as well as running the Prayer Course earlier this year. There is certainly more that could be developed in this area but we are beginning to explore the possibilities of this.



How We're Organised

Ellon Parish Church is a model constitution and the Kirk Session and Board meet on alternate months. However, a number of years ago the church became a *Contract Church* which meant that a number of *Core Groups* were formed. The Core Groups are active and essential to the running of the church and carrying out its mission. We currently have Worship, Education, Pastoral Care, Mission, Flowers and Communications.

The Core Groups are made up of elders and non elders. We also have a Leadership Team which consists of the Core Group Convenors, the key office bearers and the minister. Each Core Group currently has its own remit which they work to.

The organisational structure of the church is something that is in the very early stages of development. The Leadership Team has begun discussing this but it is an area that we would anticipate the whole of the Ministry Team, including the Associate Minister, to be involved in.



Children and Young People

CHILDREN ON SUNDAYS Children are an essential part of our church family. The service at 10am in Ellon begins with a time of all ages worshipping together. Every Sunday there is a Bible Story (we are working through "The Lion First Bible") after that there is a song appropriate for that age group before the children go with their leaders into their different groups to explore the story further. For pre-school there is *Twinkle Stars* and for P1 – P7 we have *Star Squad*.

YOUTH *GsundaY* is our youth group that meets on a Sunday evening and have their own programme. They periodically attend *Connect* and have an annual retreat. This is headed up by our Parish Worker: Children and Families Development.

BABIES AND TODDLERS Alongside the Sunday activities we have *Cardboard Café*: a weekly toddler group that is utilised widely by the community. We currently have an average of 80 people attending weekly.

ACTIVITY DAYS In addition to this we periodically run *Activity Days* for primary aged children, which involve music, crafts, games, memory verses all focussed on a Biblical theme. These have run at Christmas, Easter and school in-service days.





As with many other churches we have few children involved with the life of the church, so this is an area of continued development. A small group recently worked through the “Learn: How Will Our Children Have Faith?” resource developed by the Church of Scotland. A number of ideas were explored which will be written up and developed into a concrete plan.

Other Organisations and Groups

BOYS’ BRIGADE and GIRLS’ BRIGADE are linked to Ellon Parish Church and have traditionally been strong. The Boys’ Brigade may currently be the largest company in Scotland.

Twice monthly we hold NEARLY NEW SALES which provide opportunities for fellowship, alongside raising a good amount of funds for the church.

The Pastoral Care Core Group runs COFFEE AND CHAT AND COFFEE AND CRAFT once a month to help support those who may feel a sense of isolation.

“ON THE SQUARE” ELLON PARISH CHURCH COFFEE SHOP: Run as a separate company, the “On the Square” Coffee Shop is a major project developed by Ellon Parish Church. It has run mainly staffed by volunteers, successfully for the past 20 years. Although it does employ a full time manager and three part-time paid staff. It is one way Ellon Parish Church engages with the community and offers fellowship to those volunteers who help and those who visit.



The Kirk Centre

The Kirk Centre was redeveloped in 1996. The Kirk office, contained within the building, is run by a paid administrator, Monday-Friday 9-2.30pm.

There are two large halls downstairs, the St Ternan's Hall and the Slains Hall, where Cardboard Café meets once a week.

In addition there are a number of rooms on the upper floor. One is used by GsundaY as their room, and has been decorated by them.

The Tipperty Room which has recently been redecorated is used for smaller meetings, Ministry Team Meetings and can be hired out for family meetings or counselling sessions.

The Forvie Room is slightly bigger and is used for various meetings, the Upper Room is larger still. It is currently used for council meetings, Kirk Session meetings, the local art group and various others.

Finally the Logie Buchan Room is shared office space between the Parish Workers, Associate Minister and the Gordon Presbytery Youth Facilitator.





Within the Presbytery Plan Ellon Parish Church should be served by a Parish Minister, Associate Minister and two part-time Parish Workers, all centrally funded, but in reality this team has not been fully staffed for over a decade. Therefore, it has been difficult to develop much of the work needed to grow the church sustainably. The appointment of an Associate Minister is key to growing the church and reaching out to our community, whilst recognising the need to balance this with keeping intact all that is currently good about the church.



Recent developments have included Friday Morning Prayers, The Prayer Course, Reflection, Cardboard Café, Activity Days, Connect and Lent 20:20:20 (which was a series of reflections held for 20 mornings and 20 evenings over Lent 2016.)

The church is currently working through *Future Focus* facilitated by Rob Rawson (Mission and Discipleship Worker, East). The Kirk Session are additionally due to hold their first Kirk Session Conference in recent years on 8th October to explore our vision as a church following the outcomes of *Future Focus*.

In addition, a pilot of the Alpha Course is to be run in the Autumn with a view to running the course in Winter / Spring 2017.

Furthermore, we have been offered a third share of an Ordained Local Minister (OLM) along with the other two churches in the parish grouping (Belhelvie and Foveran). The Ministry Team, Leadership Team and Kirk Session will explore further how best to utilise his services.





About the Parish of Ellon

According to the 2011 census and the Statistics for Mission document produced by the Church of Scotland the parish of Ellon has a population of 12,322, of which 1400 are church members. The parish includes the large town of Ellon and the surrounding rural area, which includes smaller communities such as Collieston, Tipperty, parts of Ythanbank and Auchnagatt.

Ellon is situated on the River Ythan on the A90, 16 miles north of Aberdeen and 18 miles south of Peterhead. Originally a small market town, Ellon has expanded rapidly since the 1970s with the discovery of oil and continues to experience pressure of growth. It has a thriving local community and is popular with commuters wishing to work in Aberdeen but living outwith the city.





Ellon Parish Church building is located close to the centre of Ellon, opposite the War Memorial and tucked in behind private housing. Across the square is the Kirk Centre which incorporates the Church Halls, Coffee Shop and Church Office.

Slains Church building on the outskirts of the small former fishing village of Collieston was united with the nearby Parish of Ellon in 1972. Collieston lies just north of the Sands of Forvie Nature Reserve and has a school and a Community Hall.

The Parish of Ellon boasts five primary schools which feed into Ellon Academy, which currently has a roll of about 1200 students; however, due to on-going residential development in the area, that figure is expected to rise. A new Ellon Academy building was built and opened in 2015.

Every sport and taste is catered for within the area as Ellon has its own sports centre, community centre, swimming pool and all-weather playing pitches. Some of the best golf courses in the world can be found in the North East, as well as a choice of East coast beaches allowing for miles of coastal walking.



More
Information

For more information, including how to apply please go to our website at
www.ellonparishchurch.co.uk

or contact the Parish Minister,
Rev Alastair Bruce on 01358 723787 or abruce@churchofscotland.org.uk

