

Oldmachar Church of Scotland Parish Profile



Church Vision Statement

To become a Christ-like community in this place, who honour God, worship Jesus, and go out in the power of the Spirit to make disciples and share the Father's love.

Who We Are

We are a vibrant church, with the gospel at the heart of what we believe and how we act. We take scripture seriously as the foundation of our worship, in our lives together and in our engagement with the community around and beyond us.

We are committed to strong biblical teaching and Spirit-led, contemporary sung worship. We are also committed to teamwork, desiring to release people in their God-given gifts.

Under the guidance of the Kirk Session, different teams take responsibility for preaching, leading sung worship, teaching our children and young people, providing a crèche for the youngest children, providing the technical expertise to operate the sound desk and making CD and DVD recordings of weekly worship. There are strong links with other churches in the area.



I love the people, the fellowship and the worship in Oldmachar Church

Public Worship

Services are held every Sunday morning at 10.30a.m. Communion services are celebrated on the first Sunday of every month. Elder-led praise and prayer services are currently held on Sunday evenings at 6.30p.m. Our church building is equipped with the necessary technology to project the words of worship songs on-screen and to co-ordinate and balance the sound from the worship band. Services are recorded on CD and DVD and made available free of charge, to the congregation for their own devotion and as gifts for un-churched friends.



Typical weekly activities

Sunday 10.30am: Worship service, with children's programmes for pre- school children (JAM), primary school children (X-Treme), secondary school pupils (Step Up) and crèche for those under three years old.

Sunday 6.30pm:	Praise and Prayer Worship service led by the Elders
Tuesday 9.30am:	Kids & Co (parents and toddlers)
Tuesday 6.30pm:	Rock Solid for P6 and P7 children
Thursday 7pm:	Worship Band Practice
Friday 9.30am – 12noon:	Friday Café open to the community
Saturday 10am – 12 noon:	Compassion Brunches (six-weekly)

A number of organisations hire rooms in the building at different times during the week.

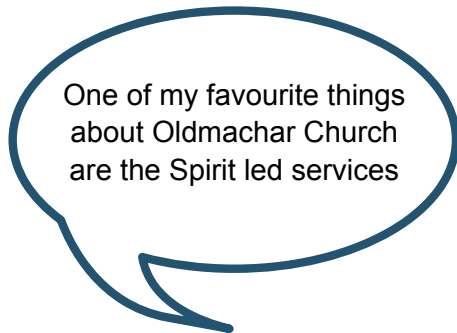


The Congregation

The vision of Oldmachar church is to be a Christ-like community in this place, who honour God, worship Jesus, and go out in the power of the Spirit to make disciples and share the Father's love.

Oldmachar has a membership of around 240, including adherents. Approximately 50 – 60 people attend church on a Sunday morning. The congregation is relaxed, friendly and hospitable. Many church members are actively engaged in church activities and in the community around us as well as in society and the world through their employment.

A stewardship campaign, "A Season of Giving" has started, with a current focus on the giving of money.



The Preaching Team

Five members of the Kirk Session currently comprise the preaching team. The diverse styles of preaching provide the congregation with a well-rounded interpretation of the Gospel within an evangelical framework.



The Worship Team

A team of around 10 able musicians is led on a rota basis by three worship leaders. Music is contemporary, lively and Spirit-led.

Compassion Team

Our Compassion Team involves itself with ministry to older people living in care homes, and sheltered housing in the parish and with those who have a disability. Beyond our own parish, the Compassion Team ministers through involvement with several organisations such as Christian Aid and Tearfund, as well as supporting the work of Child Care International, a charity run in Vietnam by one of our members. Individual members with an interest in particular compassion groups, are encouraged to participate in six-weekly Saturday morning brunches as a way of raising awareness of these organisations within and beyond our congregation. We have an emerging interest in disability issues that we wish develop further in our church life.

Children and Young People

During Sunday morning worship, a team co-ordinated by an elder, leads our children and young people. The crèche ministers to children under three; JAM ministers to children from Nursery to P1, Xtreme ministers to children in P2 to P6 and Step Up ministers to young people in P7 – S3. In addition, joint events for primary aged children have been organised with other Bridge of Don churches. These include a ceramics party and a Christmas party. The leaders are now planning for future joint events to be held.


Recently, the Kirk Session agreed that a family service would be held monthly to ensure our children and young people play a more participative role in the life of the church.

In addition to the Sunday clubs, there is a co-ordinated Schools' Chaplaincy with other churches across the Bridge of Don, ministering to two secondary schools and seven primary schools. We would like to see this aspect of our lives together at Oldmachar strengthened.

We have a well-developed pre-school ministry open to the community; 'Kids and Co' takes place weekly and is well attended by young parents and their children living locally.

Rock Solid is a lively group that ministers mid-week to children who are in the upper stages of primary school.

In the past, outreach to young people has been a particular feature of this church and we would like to see renewed vigour in this area.



I love the Community spirit
and the togetherness

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care is under review at this time. Hospitality and friendship are the hallmarks of our pastoral approach. The Kirk Session has recently agreed a new strategy to guide our practice. Some of the key areas for development are communication, more opportunities for prayer and support for pastoral carers.

We encourage members of the congregation to attend Network Groups during the week, where support for and friendship towards each other is central. We are currently exploring ways by which we might encourage more people to attend small groups.



The Parish

Oldmachar Church is located in Bridge of Don, which is a mainly residential suburb situated to the north of Aberdeen. The population of Bridge of Don is approximately 27,000, with just over half living in over 5,000 homes within the parish boundary of Oldmachar. There are plans to build 7,000 new houses in the area in the next few years. We would wish to be ready to minister to the new residents.

Most of the housing in the area has been built within the last 30 years and therefore the area has 'matured'. Some people will have bought their homes early on in the development of the suburb and they are now in late middle age (or older) with their children grown up; there are couples with children now at primary or secondary school and also younger couples who are yet to start their families, as well as single people. Therefore, along with the sheltered housing complexes and care homes, the whole age range is represented within our parish.

Aberdeen is known as the oil capital of Europe and many people come to live in the city from other parts of the world. The congregation welcomes those from abroad during their stay in Aberdeen, knowing itself blessed by their presence.

The University of Aberdeen has a highly regarded School of Divinity with which Oldmachar has strong connections. A number of post-graduate students from around the world choose Oldmachar as their church for the time that they are studying here, with a smaller number remaining as permanent members.

The following community and other facilities are located within the parish:

- five primary schools
- a secondary school
- two sheltered housing complexes
- two care homes
- a community centre
- a doctors' surgery
- a dental practice
- two large supermarkets with a range of smaller shops attached
- several carry-out restaurants, hairdressers and a private health club

The Bridge of Don Churches

God has united the hearts and minds of the ministers/pastors of the churches in Bridge of Don, to see meaningful, practical expressions of unity in Christ. The pastors meet fortnightly to pray, encourage one another and develop a united ministry. The churches with which Oldmachar has developed strong collaborative bonds are:

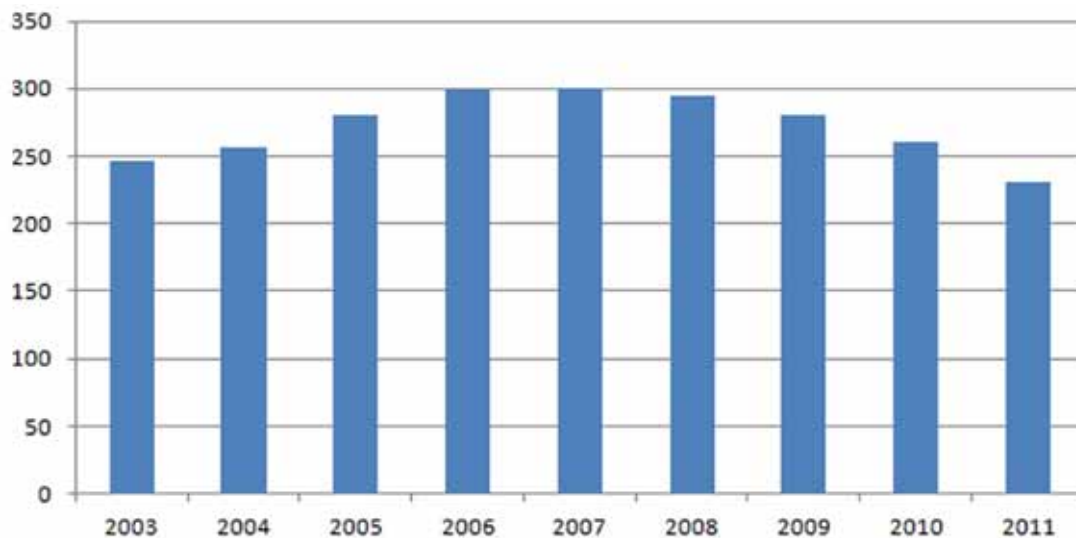
- Bridge of Don Baptist Church
- St Columba's Church of Scotland
- St Columba's Roman Catholic Church
- Oasis Christian Fellowship

Facts and figures

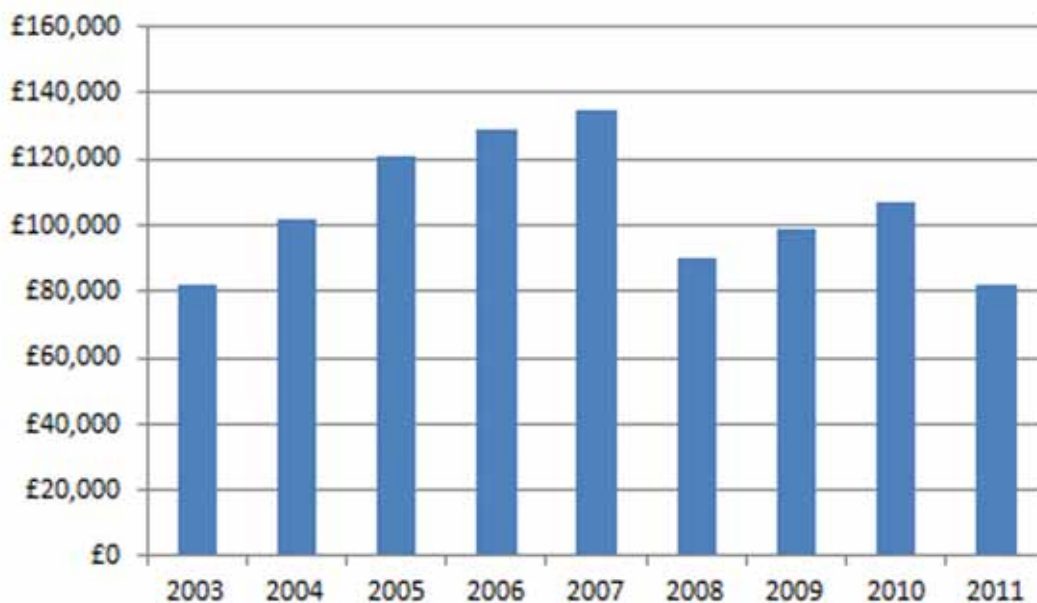
The graphs below, show the figures for membership and for income through giving, over recent years. The membership figures given here include only those on the membership roll and not adherents.

The accounts for the year that ended on 31st December 2011 will be inspected by the independent examiner during February 2012.

Membership



Income



*The accounts for 2011 are still subject to confirmation by the independent examiner

Our History

In 1991, a small group of people, mainly members from St Columba's Parish Church, started holding regular weekly services in one of the local primary schools. The purpose of this was to plant a new church in the Bridge of Don, which was then an area of rapidly increasing population, due to the number of new houses being built.

With a desire to reach out to the community, the church met initially in local schools, before moving to the new church building in 1998. The church centre comprises a sanctuary with seating that can be arranged in a variety of ways, or removed altogether, a large multi-purpose hall, a kitchen, well-equipped permanent crèche, and several smaller rooms upstairs and downstairs that are suitable for group use. The toilet facilities include a separate toilet for the use of disabled people. There is a Ministry office upstairs. Downstairs, beside the main entrance, there is the church office, used by the church secretary, who works for 3 hours each morning Monday to Friday.

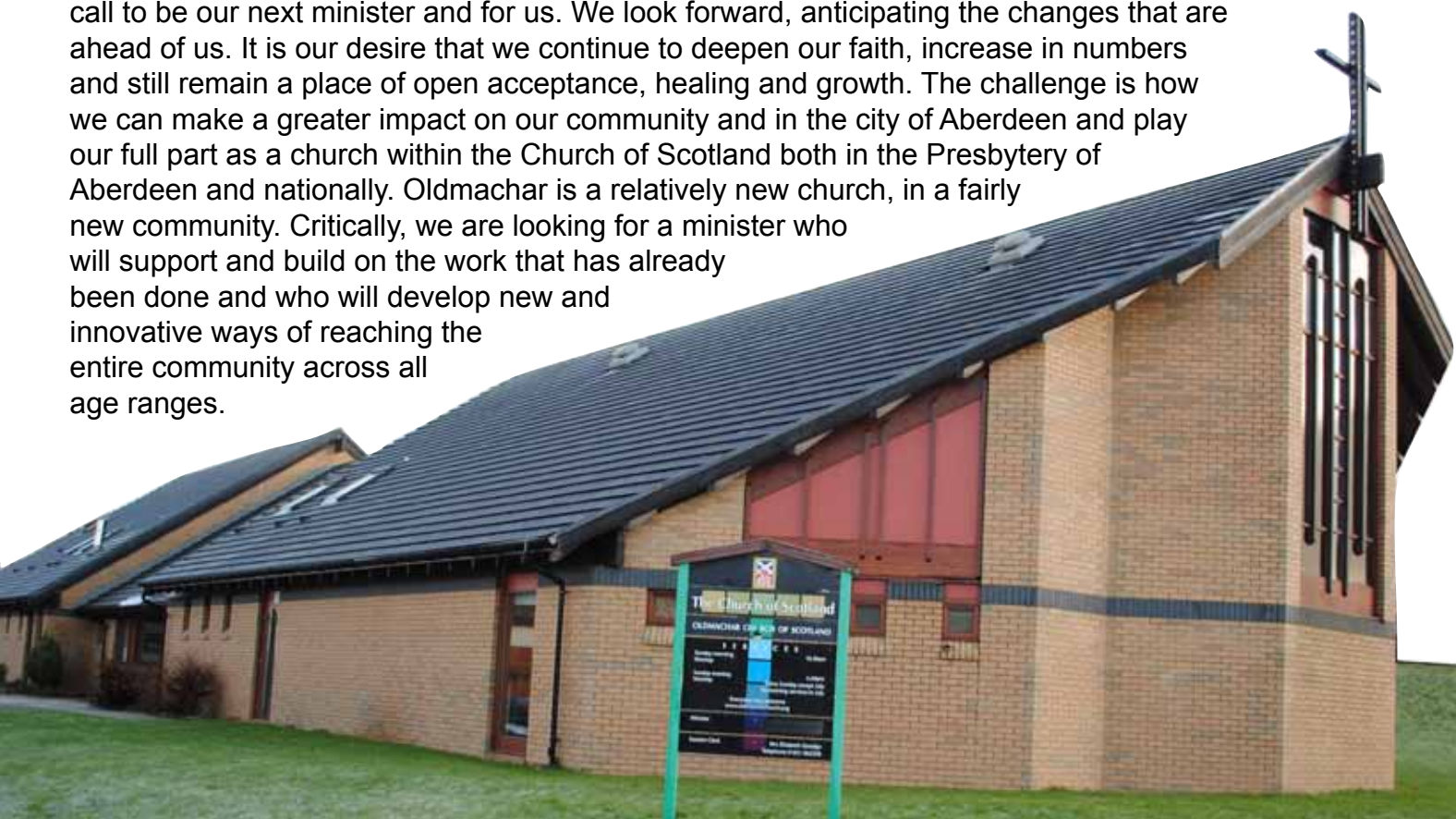
Since its inception, the church has had three ministers, two under New Charge Development and one when full status was reached.

During the transition from New Charge to full status, a new Kirk Session was formed. Currently there are 11 elders who try to give a positive lead to the church as well as sharing the oversight of our various teams.

Looking forward

We are seeking a person who will work with us to put the church at the centre of the community. With love as the key, we are looking for someone who can guide and lead us to deeper discipleship. The minister will be a good all-rounder, able to preach the Word in ways that both challenge and encourage. She/He will be an able communicator, an enthusiastic enabler who can work with diverse teams, helping them to develop their God-given gifts.

This promises to be an exciting and challenging time both for the person who responds to God's call to be our next minister and for us. We look forward, anticipating the changes that are ahead of us. It is our desire that we continue to deepen our faith, increase in numbers and still remain a place of open acceptance, healing and growth. The challenge is how we can make a greater impact on our community and in the city of Aberdeen and play our full part as a church within the Church of Scotland both in the Presbytery of Aberdeen and nationally. Oldmachar is a relatively new church, in a fairly new community. Critically, we are looking for a minister who will support and build on the work that has already been done and who will develop new and innovative ways of reaching the entire community across all age ranges.



The Manse

As can be seen from the map, the manse is within reasonable walking distance of the church building. It is in close vicinity to the other local facilities mentioned above. The house itself, like the rest of the community was built within the last 30 years, so is fairly new. With six bedrooms, this family manse is very spacious and also includes a conservatory and decking in the back garden.



Enquiries

Enquiries should be made to the Clerk to the Nominating Committee, to whom applications should also be submitted. Applications should consist of a covering letter, full cv and the names and contact details of two referees.

Clerk to the Nominating Committee
Mrs Elizabeth Goodge
Hillbrae Farm
Newmachar
Aberdeen
AB210UN

Tel: 01651 862358 / 07950 271303
Email: liz@hillbrae.co.uk

Informal enquiries and recommendations, may be made to the Interim Moderator:
Rev Louis Kinsey
151 Jesmond Avenue
Bridge of Don
Aberdeen
AB22 8UG

Tel: 01224 705337 / 07787 145918
Email: louis.kinsey@gmail.com

Please do also have a look at the church's website: www.oldmacharchurch.org