

Dornoch Firth 
Church of Scotland

Parish Profile

(7-year reviewable tenure in a congregation that has agreed to 'depart'.)

www.dornochfirthcofs.org



Could this be where God is calling you?

OUR VISION

Imagine starting a journey with a newly united Parish, eager to start a new way forward in our Church with Christ at its heart. The combined congregations seek to love one another, care for one another and learn God's plan for us together. We seek leadership and guidance on this exciting journey. We know that God will guide us to work together in Christ, filled with the word of God and transformed by the Gospel of God in all areas of life now and for generations to come.

Our church serves Ardgay, Bonar Bridge, Croick, Dornoch and Edderton and the surrounding communities, with our main hub Church being Dornoch Cathedral building. We are all committed to Jesus Christ and our Community locally and globally.





Our prayer tree

Our Mission

- ❖ We are called to be a loving, welcoming family celebrating the way of Jesus – loving God, loving one another and loving our neighbours, as ourselves.
- ❖ We are to be where people encounter God in a deep and personal way.
- ❖ We are to be where all people feel welcomed, valued and connected.
- ❖ We wish to enable people to grow into Christians who reflect the practices and priorities of Jesus.
- ❖ We are to be a congregation which blesses our local communities by responding to practical needs.
- ❖ We want to reach out beyond our walls and seek to connect people with Jesus Christ both locally and beyond.
- ❖ We seek to include and involve all ages and cultures and embrace change, meeting challenges as a team while understanding different opinions.

We are committed to the five marks of mission



What are we looking for from a minister?

Out of 68 respondents identifying areas as being important for a new minister, the following were seen as priorities:

52

Preaching & communication

45

Pastoral care

29

Leadership & management

23

Mission & Outreach

21

Teamwork & Collaboration

The Kirk Session's priorities are listed below:



Leadership

Someone who can lead a newly united congregation and help it to grow in the towns and villages



Preaching

Someone who can communicate the gospel message clearly so that all can hear and understand



Pastoral Care

Someone who can easily get alongside people and support them when the going gets tough



Financial Awareness

Someone who has financial awareness and who can inspire people to liberal stewardship



Encouraging Faith

Someone committed to the five marks of mission and has some experience of delivering them



Team Building

Someone who can harness, develop and utilise the gifting of young and old in the church

Parish Summary & Snapshot

The Parish is combined to serve the previous parishes of Dornoch Cathedral, Kincardine, Croick and Edderton Church of Scotland and Creich Church of Scotland. Though Covid interfered with much of Church life, we continued to worship and gather online as best we could. Regular contact was made with those in our districts throughout the pandemic. As we came out of lockdown the new Presbytery Plan was formed and, with the previous minister from Dornoch Cathedral being called to another charge, the three former parishes were united on the 1st January 2024 and became Dornoch Firth Church of Scotland. We are currently served by a part time Locum Minister.



Population

4000

1900 live in Dornoch
(The population more than
doubles in the summer.)



Membership

300

100+ attend on Sundays.



Eldership

24

16 women & 8 men (60-84)



Committees

6

Pastoral; Finance; Property;
Worship; Mission; Social;
World/Climate



Schools

5

4 primaries & 1 secondary



Medical Facilities

4

2 care homes (Dornoch)
1 hospital (Migdale)
1 daycare centre (Bonar)



Brownies



Women's Group



Youth Band



Theatre Group



Boys Brigade



The Guild

All Age Activities...

Our outreach activities reach all ages and the images on this page provide some examples of the breadth of our all-age activities.

Children's and Youth Outreach

For many years, our Boys Brigade company and the Brownies have been reaching young people and a Girl's Brigade company has recently started. Our youth band and youth theatre provide high energy events and we have good relationships with the primary schools and with Dornoch Academy.

Activities for all ages

Our Natter and Nosh that we host is very popular with older members of the community. We have a Guild, a Cathedral Choir, and our women's group is well supported by women from all age groups.

Financial Position

Since the three congregations of Creich, Dornoch Cathedral and Kincardine, Croick and Edderton were united to form Dornoch Firth Church of Scotland on 1 January 2024 the only information available on OSCR's website is from the financial returns of Dornoch Cathedral and the consolidated position will only become clear after the 2024 annual return is posted.

It is, therefore, difficult currently to provide a complete picture of the financial situation, however, the new congregation has significant restricted funds which are available for fabric purposes in the consolidated fabric fund. The recent sale of the Ardgay manse will increase these funds even further.

The challenge facing the congregation is that the gap between general expenditure and general income is widening with increasing costs of heating and insurance outstripping regular donations. To address this a fundraising committee has been set up and they have started to implement a plan that is aimed at reducing the gap and increasing regular general giving.



The Parish Area...

The new extended parish covers the Dornoch Firth and includes the former parishes of Creich (Bonar Bridge), Kincardine (Ardgay), Croick and Edderton.

This map is purely indicative and not an accurate reflection of the parish boundaries. It does, however, show the main villages where churches are or were located within the former congregations until new parish maps are drawn up by the central church office.



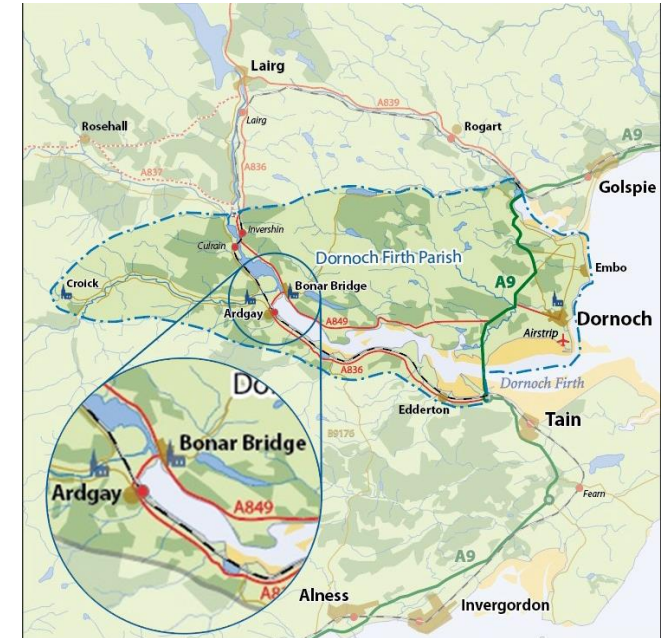
Parish Ministry and Outreach



The Cathedral has just celebrated 800 years since St Gilbert moved the seat of the diocese from Halkirk to Dornoch, which is now the hub church in the new parish which covers all of the Dornoch Firth.



The West Church Hall is within walking distance of the Cathedral. It was modernised and refurbished in 2015. It is where our all-age outreach activities take place in Dornoch and where services are held in the winter.



The possibility of setting up a village hub is being explored but right now our focus is on developing regular worship services that will meet the needs of the Ardgay, Bonar Bridge, and Edderton communities.

The Manse

The manse is situated at the entrance to Springfield Estate on the east side of Dornoch on the road to Embo/Loch Fleet. This modern two-story property was built to Church of Scotland specifications in 2018 and consists of ...

Ground Floor

Kitchen with dining room

Sun lounge and utility room

2 rooms –living room & study

Toilet / cloakroom

Upper Floor

2 ensuite bedrooms

2 other bedrooms

Bathroom with bath & shower

Air-source heating (wet-rad radiators)

There is a large garage and a spacious garden. The property is close to the local schools, shops, Royal Dornoch Golf Club, and the beach.

The manse is situated at 1 Allan Gardens, Dornoch and a more detailed outline of the property is available on request.



Live in an area of outstanding natural beauty ...

"The Dornoch Firth exhibits a surprising variety of landscapes, with dramatic contrasts to east and west.

To the east there is expansiveness where offshore views lead out to sea and a limitless horizon.

To the west there is a sinuous firth and a sense of enclosure, where inland views are bounded by opposing shores against a backcloth of hills."

Scottish Natural Heritage.



Support, Resources and Projects

As a united church we are committed to supporting our minister in very practical ways and helping to lighten the load.

We believe that there is a lot of talent and potential within the congregation that can be harnessed to support the outreach activities of the church.

We are ready and willing. We just need a leader who can help take us forward.



Supportive worship and pastoral teams

Our worship team has been gaining confidence in leading services and our pastoral team seeks to support those in need across the parish.



Seeds of Growth funding is being sought

The concept of a support worker to the villages is mentioned in the presbytery plan and a proposal for Seeds of Growth funding is being considered.



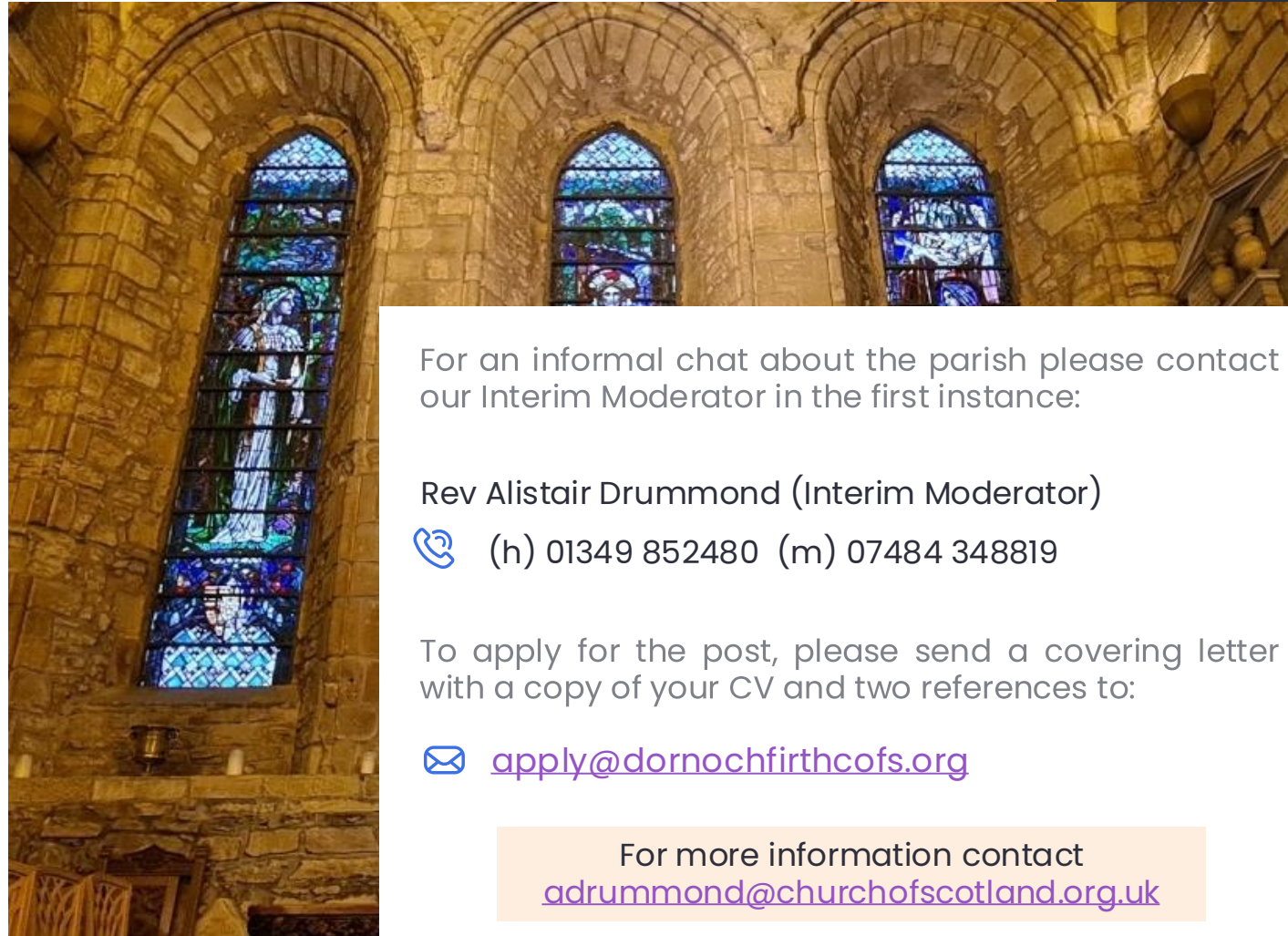
Ideas for a village hub are being developed

We are exploring options for a ministry outreach centre in the villages, but we want input from our new minister before we finalise any plans.

Find out more ...

We are excited to hear from you and ready to assist with any inquiries or requests you may have.

Please feel free to get in touch with us through any of the following contact methods:



For an informal chat about the parish please contact our Interim Moderator in the first instance:

Rev Alistair Drummond (Interim Moderator)

 (h) 01349 852480 (m) 07484 348819

To apply for the post, please send a covering letter with a copy of your CV and two references to:

 apply@dornochfirthcofs.org

For more information contact
adrummond@churchofscotland.org.uk