



Parish Profile

OUR VISION



GOD



WORSHIPPING



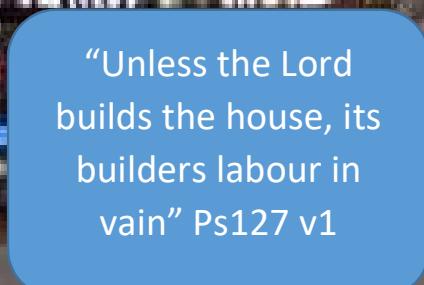
EACH  
OTHER



SERVING  
REACHING



THE  
WORLD



"Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain" Ps127 v1



DINGWALL CASTLE STREET  
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

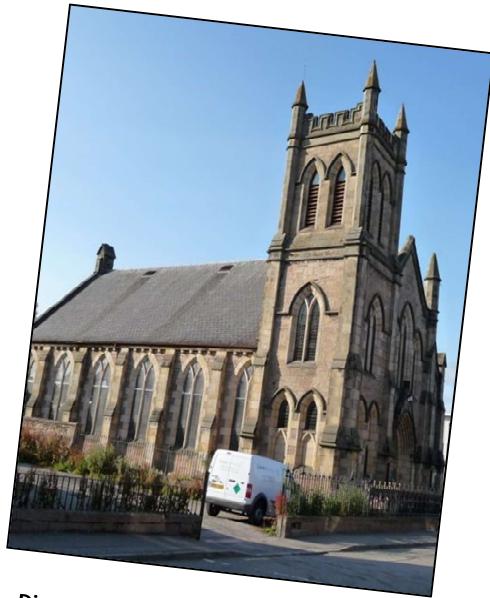
Charity no. : SC01167

Ca

# DINGWALL CASTLE STREET CHURCH OF SCOTLAND Parish Profile

## Dingwall Castle St. Church of Scotland . . .

Castle St. Church (<https://castlestreetchurch.org>) lies in the heart of the old royal burgh of Dingwall, adjacent to the High Street. Originally the old county town of Ross & Cromarty, Dingwall serves a wide hinterland including the Black Isle and extending north and west to Ullapool, Gairloch and Lochcarron.



1. Dingwall Castle St. Church

## OUR VISION

### Our vision . . .

We, as a congregation, have a deep desire to share the Gospel with those around us and to work harmoniously with the other denominations located in Dingwall and the local area. A strong pastoral concern underlies much of what we do but we fully recognise the need to build and improve on that. In terms of looking forward, the Kirk Session and the Congregation are in the process of purchasing an area of land adjoining the Hall with a view to securing the land for future development by the church.

### What we believe . . .

Since its inception in 1909, the Castle St. Church congregation has been blessed by evangelical preaching of the Word of God as found in both the Old and New Testaments. While holding to the reformed traditions of the Church of Scotland and also to those of the Church Universal, we are open to the challenges of today, seeking to witness for the Gospel within our community and further afield under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. The Kirk Session unanimously agreed not to depart from the established practice of the Church of Scotland in relation to human sexuality.

## WORSHIPPING GOD

### Our Services . . .

We have two services every Sunday. Our **Morning Service** is at 11.00am and has, including children, up to 90 worshippers. The Crèche and Children's Church are held during the latter part of the service through in the Session Room and Hall respectively. Coffee is served after the service to which all are welcome. The **Evening Service** is at 6.30pm and is presently held in the Hall with around 20 people attending. The New International Version of the Bible is generally used in worship and our praise is selected from the Psalms, Mission Praise and Church Hymnary. While books are available, the praise is projected on to the wall both in the church and

in the hall. Morning services are recorded and distributed to the house-bound. There are two stated Communions, one in February and the other in September.

Our **Meeting for Prayer and Bible Study** is on a Thursday evening, except on the first of the month when there is a joint prayer meeting with the Free Church. On the second Thursday, the meeting takes the form of house groups.

A **Ladies Bible Study** is also held on a Friday afternoon twice per month.

#### **The Children's Church . . .**

As mentioned above, **Children's Church** meets through in the Hall and joins together for a Bible Story, simple discussion and a prayer. Towards the end, the children can take part in a game or simple craft. The **Crèche** meets in the Session Room for various activities – songs, games and stories. Volunteers run both on a rota basis. The Church is fully compliant with all Safeguarding requirements and all volunteers have been disclosure checked. Two safeguarding coordinators are in place with one responsible for the on-going checks.

## **SERVING EACH OTHER**

#### **Outreach & Evangelism within our community . . .**

We are committed, with both our sister Church of Scotland, St. Clements, and the other churches in the town, to witness for Christ in the community. We have a monthly joint prayer meeting and two shared communion services with the Free Church. For several years now, the Scottish Northern Convention, an interdenominational event of teaching and fellowship, has used our premises over the last week of September and draws people from a wide area ([www.freewebs.com/strathred/](http://www.freewebs.com/strathred/)).

**Coffee Mornings** are run on the first Tuesday of the month in the Church Hall and are well-attended by locals and visitors to the town.

Seven years ago a new venture was established - **The Well**. It meets every Wednesday morning in the Session Room and provides a ‘drop-in’ service. The group of volunteers give a friendly welcome, a listening ear and prayer (if desired). The work and witness of **The Well** has proved very successful as a means of outreach.

**Castle Street Guild** - open to both men and women - has been part of the church's spiritual life for many years. The present Guild has hosted a variety of speakers involved in different areas of work and service. The Guild meets regularly between September and April each year.

**Castle St. Crafters** meet two Friday afternoons in the month and encourages participants to develop their craft skills.

A Toddler group, **Top Tots**, meets on a Wednesday morning and is open to children and carers. It is well attended and, at times, has had 20 children. The format includes free play, toys and games. There is a healthy snack for the children and tea, coffee, etc. for the adults.

There is also a link with the town's *Youth Kafe* through the congregational participation of one of our elders.

**Messy Church** is run once or twice a term and is open to the wider Community. It has proved to be a very popular event with high attendances. It involves games, crafts, a Christianity based story and food. Parents are encouraged to stay so that they might join in the activities and get to know the adults running the event.

**Monkey Club**, for primary age children, was run by youth volunteers from the church and community. It has been a very informal event consisting of games, crafts and food.

**Mainly music** is run on a Monday morning to serve our community through the provision of quality programmes including interactive songs and rhymes. This venture for pre-school children has been going for about a year. At present, most of the parents/carers/children have no other church connection, but we value the contact and friendships formed.



## REACHING THE WORLD

### **Missionary Outreach . . .**

Support for mission work throughout the world has always had an important place in our congregational outreach. In the past, the Church supported the work of the Christian Medical Mission in Ludhiana, in Punjab. More recently, we had links with Zomba Theological College in Malawi and, from 2009 to 2012, with Balaka CCAP.

Today, we give both financially and prayerfully to two missionaries in South Africa, where work is on-going to establish good librarian practice in theological colleges across the African continent. There is also support for future work in Pakistan.

**Blythswood Care** is a local charity devoted to Christian care both at home and abroad. As with other local churches, the congregation supports it through on-going food donations towards the needs of local food banks and each year, we give towards the '**Blythswood Shoebox Appeal**'. Financial contributions are also made to its work in

Romania. Congregational support is also given to *Barnabas*, an organisation which acts on behalf of the persecuted church worldwide.

## CONSTITUTION

### Our Constitution . . .

Within the last three years the Congregation, a member of Ross Presbytery, changed to a Unitary Constitution. The Kirk Session and a number of Committees are now responsible for taking forward the work and witness of the congregation. Committees include Mission, Outreach & Evangelism, Children & Youth, Stewardship (incl. Finance & Property), Social & Hospitality and Media & Communication. A Convenor heads up each committee and a member of Session is present to help where necessary and report back to the Kirk Session.

## PROPERTY

### Property . . .

Built in 1909 by the United Free Church congregation, the church lies adjacent to the High Street. The main building consists of the sanctuary (seating capacity >200), session room and vestry and remain much as when originally constructed. A new hall was built in 1990 and provides additional flexible space with a seating capacity for 100. Four years ago, a decision was taken to install toilet facilities at the front of the church. Unfortunately, dry rot was discovered at that time in the church tower. These works proved costly, but the outcome has been of great benefit, in no small way attributable to the resilience of our members and adherents.



4. The Sanctuary

The Manse is situated in a quiet residential street, Achany Road, less than three minutes walk from the Church. It is a stone-built detached house set in a spacious

garden. The property has gas central heating, recently installed wood-burning stove and is double-glazed throughout. It has three public rooms, a large kitchen, utility room and toilet on the groundfloor. Upstairs is the family bathroom, six bedrooms, and a floored attic. The building was refurbished in 2005 with an on-going programme of redecoration agreed each year.

All buildings (Church, Hall and Manse) are in good repair and are regularly inspected.

## ABOUT DINGWALL

### About Dingwall . . .

Dingwall's population is approaching 6000 and supports a vibrant Polish and East European community. A number of Syrian refugees have also recently settled in the town and some members of the congregation are much involved with helping them.

Educational facilities are excellent. There is a large Primary School with a roll of around 400; and Dingwall Academy with a roll of over 1000 provides secondary education. Gaelic Medium education is available in both. The Highland Deaf Education Service, based in Dingwall Primary, is renowned for the very high standard of care and teaching it provides in both the Primary and in the Academy. British sign language, as a subject, is strongly encouraged for all pupils. There is also a school for children with special educational needs. The University of the Highlands & Islands (UHI) has its theological campus in Dingwall with which our church has strong links ([www.htc.uhi.ac.uk](http://www.htc.uhi.ac.uk)).

The town offers a fine variety of shops from a large Tesco and Lidl to a furniture store, hardware and Building supplier, quality butchers, bakers, bookshops, cafes and much more. The area is served by two medical practices – Dingwall Health Centre ([www.dingwallmedicalgroup.co.uk](http://www.dingwallmedicalgroup.co.uk) and the Strathpeffer Medical Practice [www.strathpeffermedicalcentre.co.uk](http://www.strathpeffermedicalcentre.co.uk)) – and the Ross Memorial cottage hospital ([www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/.../RossMemorialHospital.aspx](http://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/.../RossMemorialHospital.aspx)). The main teaching hospital is Raigmore and is located in Inverness. There are two opticians and three dental practices. Just to the south of the town lies Dingwall Mart which brings farmers in from far and wide ([www.dingwallmart.co.uk](http://www.dingwallmart.co.uk)).

Transport links are good with both regular bus and train services to Inverness 13 miles to the south east and also road/rail links north to Wick/ Thurso and west to Kyle of Lochalsh. Inverness Airport is within easy reach with flights to the Islands and to London. The A9 trunk road lies close to the town.



5 Most recent Messy Church BBQ

## FURTHER INFORMATION

**Further Information . . .**

For further information regarding activities and information about our congregation,  
please feel free to contact:

Clerk to the Nominating Committee: Mrs Fiona Brown on Tel. no. 01349 877065

or

Interim Moderator: Rev. K. D. Macleod on Tel. no. 01349 852273

**Location . . .**

[Dingwall IV15 9HU](#)