

# EAST, OLD AND INVERARITY PARISH



# East, Old and Inverarity Parish

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# Welcome

Following the departure of the Minister at Forfar East Old and Inverarity Parish (EOI), the Presbytery of Perth has granted the congregation permission to call a minister. The call is for a 7-year reviewable tenure.

Our Kirk Session has voted to 'depart' from the Church's traditional position regarding ministers in civil partnerships or same sex marriages. Applications from ministers in such relationships will therefore be considered.

This profile has been compiled to present a comprehensive view of EOI Parish. We hope this provides you with the necessary information to apply for this charge.



## Our Invitation

We invite you to consider leading us as we continue our journey of faith together. While we value formality and tradition, we are also eager to explore new types of worship. We are an open, welcoming, and inclusive congregation, with a deep desire for everyone to feel a sense of belonging before believing. Our members appreciate being spiritually challenged, and value a message that resonates in today's complex world. At the heart of our communities, we strive to be places where everyone can grow in their relationship with God and with each other. If this sounds like the kind of ministry you are called to, we would love to welcome you into our church family.

## Our Vision

The vision for East, Old and Inverarity is based on the 5 marks of mission, originally developed in 2010 during the previous East and Old vacancy. This was reviewed in 2024 with members from both East and Old, and Inverarity, and the additional 6th statement recognises our union. We seek a minister who will help us to:

- Provide a variety of worshipping styles for all ages.
- Use our team of paid and voluntary workers to ensure effective organisation
- Show God's love to the community and the wider world.
- Create a warm fellowship to welcome all.
- Enable all our members to grow in their faith.
- Work together as a united charge of East, Old and Inverarity.

# History of the Charge

The charge of East, Old and Inverarity was established in late October 2023, when East and Old Church, in the centre of the county town of Forfar, came together with Inverarity Church, a rural church within a community from the surrounding farmland to form one congregation. In the year past year we have focused on working together and forming a strong united congregation and Kirk Session within two worship centres and with very distinct identities, giving any prospective minister the best of both worlds.



East, Old & Inverarity have a communion roll of 522, with attendance at East & Old averaging around 80 worshippers. Following the national restructuring of the church, we have recently seen new worshippers join us. Most of the congregation are in the over 60 age group and we are acutely aware of this. There have been 20 baptisms in the past 5 years. Between January 2019 and December 2023, there were 109 members' deaths and 45 parish deaths for which our previous minister conducted funerals. In 2024 our locum has conducted funerals for 29 members and 6 in the parish.

The East and Old building has a modern sanctuary with many multi-use facilities, encouraging outreach within the community.

At Inverarity, the church and hall are adjacent and increasingly used by the community.

We are very keen to attract young families to join us and would like this to be a priority for our new minister. We also want to reach out to people who have recently moved to our area.

At Inverarity we regularly attract a congregation of around 30, of whom many are young families and there is a thriving Sunday school. The age range is between 2 and 80 plus.

The charge operates on a unitary constitution and is run by one Kirk Session, who act as trustees and ratify all decisions made by our committees. We have 42 elders, comprising the previous kirk sessions from both East and Old and Inverarity, the most recent were ordained in December 2023. Nine of our elders are under 60 (some significantly) and the gender balance is 28 women and 14 men.

Elders and members of the congregation are part of teams which contribute to the efficient working of our very busy charge. We work together and build on the strengths of each individual church member.



# Forfar and Inverarity

Forfar is known as the home of the bridie, a meat-filled pastry invented to feed hungry farmers in the fields, and the town plays a central role in the county of Angus. It is the economic and administrative hub of the region, enjoying all the facilities you would expect of a community with around 17,000 residents. There is a variety of industries within the town including textiles, engineering and more.

Housing is expanding around the town and there are many newcomers as a result of immigration from abroad and those from urban areas keen to enjoy a more relaxed pace of life in pleasant surroundings since the pandemic. Whilst seen as a semi-rural community, Forfar has very good links to all of Scotland's major cities, the central belt and airports.

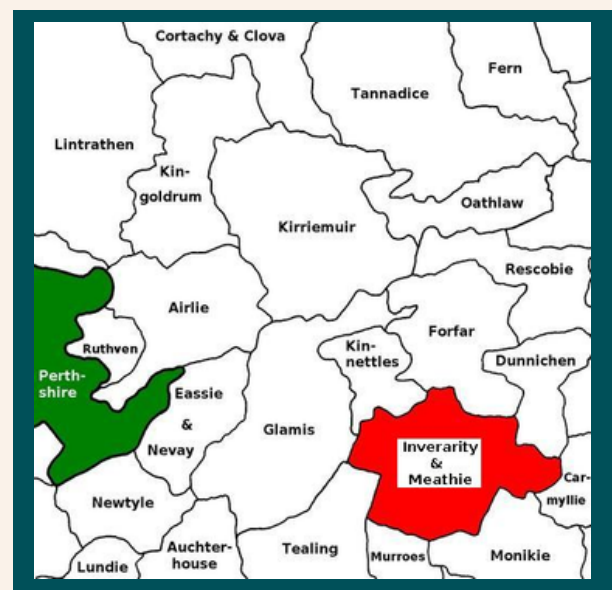
As the traditional market town of the area, Forfar retains a good number of traditional shops including quality family-owned bakers, fishmongers and butchers.

Forfar enjoys a modern community campus which is home to the local high school, with a swimming pool, gym and outdoor sports facilities used by the entire community. There are 3 modern primary schools and many cafes and restaurants. Further leisure facilities include a golf course, ice rink and sports centre, while Forfar has a semi-professional football team. There is sheltered housing along with several nursing homes and day care centres for the elderly and vulnerable. 3 GP practices and Whitehills Healthcare and Community Care Centre and hospice serve the town.

For a map showing the area covered by the Parish Boundary, see [Appendix A-Parish Boundary](#).



Inverarity serves the old parish areas of Inverarity and Kinnettles. It is bisected by the A90 trunk road and sits 4 miles south of Forfar. Although farming is at the heart of the area, most dwellings are occupied by non-farming folk. Farmland is a mixture of tenanted and owned. The tenanted land is on the Fotheringham Estate, for centuries owned by the Fotheringham family, who built the current church. There are hamlets at Whigstreet, Gateside and Kirkton of Kinnettles close to Douglastown.



# The Work of the Church

## Our Team Structure

**Worship:** supports the Minister with worship services, leads worship during our monthly breakfast services and the main services in the absence of the minister, deliver an online mid-week reflection on a rota basis on our social media channels and deliver care home services.

**Property:** maintains all church owned property and has overseen sale of previously owned land and property and project managed the extensive renovation work carried out at East & Old between 2016 and 2019. Our old manse has recently been sold.

**Finance:** oversees the work of the treasurer and ensures good stewardship of church funds.

**Media:** involved in all aspects of media and communications work including managing the website, Facebook pages and Youtube channel, editing and printing our quarterly magazine, Inspire, producing tickets and posters for events and preparing presentations and the order of service for projection during worship.

**Social:** organise all kinds of social events for fellowship and fundraising and support other groups with hospitality

**Community:** our biggest team, is an umbrella group for all the smaller teams involved in all missional work within the church, including local, national and international communities. These include: our green team, work with local families, international partners, our charity shop, youth work, education and advocacy for charities and social issues.

**Pastoral:** visiting the elderly, sick and housebound, providing small gifts at Christmas and running initiatives such as our Music Café for dementia sufferers.

# Our Missional Work

Our biggest church team is our Community Team who work in various sub-groups on all aspects of missional work within the church and in the local and international community.

We have a passion for the environment and caring for God's creation is of fundamental importance to us.

We are holders of Eco-Congregation Scotland Bronze and Silver Awards and are currently working to achieve our Gold award which we hope to achieve soon. There are no other Church of Scotland churches within the Perth Presbytery area who hold a Gold Award yet so we are keen to achieve this.

We have a small but very active green team which leads on all our eco efforts and sits within the communities team. For more information on the work of our Green Team, please see [Green team here](#).



'Smalls for all' charity appeal

For the past 10 years we have run a charity shop, which not only helps with promoting sustainability and the reusing of goods but has created a supportive community all of its own, where church members, members of the community and the lonely regularly visit not only for goods but for a friendly chat and support.

The charity shop is run entirely by volunteers and the money we make is put back into the church to help with missional work within our local community.

The Community Team also oversee our work with our partners in the international community and regularly fundraise and raise awareness of local, national and international issues.

We hold many social events to fundraise for and to raise awareness of social justice and humanitarian issues which include coffee mornings, special worship services, quiz nights etc.

We strongly believe in helping others less fortunate than ourselves and as well as regular activities we run special campaigns.

# Fellowship and Mission in our Church

We see fellowship and missional work as fundamental aspects of our church life, and we carry out a variety of activities to promote this. This includes support for the minister and their family, as well as the church family and the local community. Please see [Appendix B-Fellowship & Mission Activities](#) for further details of our extensive missional and fellowship activities.

## Worship Life

There are normally 2 services on a Sunday morning, one at Inverarity at 9.45 and one at 11.15 at East and Old. The Sunday School meet at the Inverarity service before moving to the hall.

In the spring and summer months, a monthly informal breakfast style service is held at 9.30 in East and Old. This is led by the worship team.

Our worship style is formal but welcoming and contemporary, at times bible-based and at others linked to problems in society and world issues.

Many of our members have a deep but quiet faith and appreciate being spiritually challenged. We find it important to make the bible scripture applicable to our daily lives and accessible to those with a strong, established faith as well as those new to church life.

We are always open to new styles of worship and have tried many new ideas in the past. We really appreciate the praise element of worship and would like to see this developed further with a new minister bringing in more modern praise opportunities.

We offer an A5 printed order of service with notices on the back. Data projection is used in both churches for the order of service, illustrations, video clips and at East and Old, for the hymn lyrics. Hymn books are used at Inverarity. We mainly use CH4 but have used Mission Praise, Junior Praise, Songs of God's People and Fischy Music. Our choir uses a variety of music resources.

Both churches use modern traditional styled Viscount organs, with a regular organist and choirmaster at East & Old and a rota of 3 organists at Inverarity. We would love to have input from more modern instruments.

We also post weekly midweek reflections on our social media channels, which are faith based but more informal in style and cover a variety of topics, from the anecdotal to the educational to the missional. These are delivered on a rota basis by 7 members of our very active worship team.





We are fortunate to have an elder who is trained in conducting funeral services and helps the minister at busy times or covering holidays.

Special Services that we hold throughout the year are:

- Maundy Thursday (East and Old)
- Good Friday (both)
- Spring Service (Inverarity)
- Prize Giving Service for Sunday School (Inverarity)
- Monthly breakfast style services in the spring and summer (East and Old)
- Harvest Thanksgiving (both)
- The Guild Dedication
- Holy Communion (both)
- Remembrance Sunday (both)
- Boy's Brigade Dedication (East and Old)
- Kids, Carols and Cakes (Inverarity)
- Nativity (both)
- Christingle (East and Old)

# Pastoral Work

We have a small pastoral care committee made up of elders and members of the congregation who visit people in their homes or care homes as needs arise.

All elders visit their own districts 2-4 times per year to distribute invitations to the communion services, and to deliver the church magazine – Inspire. In some instances, members of the congregation deliver the magazine.

There are 5 care homes in the area, and we work with other churches in Forfar (Forfar Action of Churches Together - FACT) to take services within these homes on a rota basis. The minister, or members of the worship team take the services.

Previous ministers have also undertaken care home and hospital visitations in the past.

## Care in the Community

We have a church entertainment group, Accord, which goes out to care homes, Guild groups, and other community groups. They are always in demand within the community, particularly at Christmas.

Our elders and members of the congregation are very supportive of the church family and formed close bonds with the minister/ their family. We see them as friends as well as the minister and family.

There are 3 groups which meet weekly in East and Old as part of our mission work and pastoral care.

The Wee Blether, for anyone in the congregation, or the local community to come and have tea, coffee biscuits and a chat in the warmth. This arose out of the Heat Hub which started after lockdown and is a valuable facility for vulnerable and lonely people in our community.

The Cosy Corner, where anyone can come for a soup and sandwich lunch, tea and biscuits and company for those who are lonely or live on their own.

The Music Café: we run a well-known Music Café for people with dementia and also those with learning difficulties and their carers. People come to sing hymns and popular songs, and to have a chat over tea and biscuits. Birthdays of those who attend are celebrated.



# Christian Education

## Sunday School

Unfortunately, the young people who attended worship on Sundays at East and Old have drifted away since covid-times and we have no longer have an active Sunday School. This is something we'd like to change and encourage the many, many children and young people who attend our various groups and activities in the church to come with their families to worship.

However, Inverarity has a thriving Sunday school with many young families joining worship. Children between the ages of 2 and 12 can attend Sunday school every Sunday of the year. There are currently 12 children on the roll.



The children join the congregation for the first 15 minutes then go to the hall for bible stories, crafts and drawing. They regularly lead the Lord's Prayer in the service.

Prizegiving is held annually and there is an annual picnic and nativity service.

Inverarity Sunday School is actively involved in fundraising. They raise money annually for WaterAid and currently fund a pony at the local Riding for the Disabled, to which they have close links.

During the school holidays they hold fun days. These days are informal but include crafting, games and looking at nature.

## Other Youth Work

The church employs a part-time family worker to work with local families in the community and carry out some missional work. There is a Baby and carer group on a Friday and a toddler group on a Monday. These have been running for several years and are really important part of our missional work. An after-school Lego Club run by our Family Worker takes place on a Wednesday.



The church has strong links with a local (private) playgroup which is run from the church, and they work with our Green Team to grow vegetables in the church garden. Our minister visits them regularly and links with the team are good.

Our family worker currently visits the two parish primary schools, where the minister is chaplain, Strathmore Primary (Forfar) and Inverarity Primary, helping out in classes.



# Youth Organisations

There has been a Boys Brigade company at East and Old since 1946. Recently a local Girl's Association linked with our church and meet alongside the Boys Brigade.



# Strathmore Primary School

Our minister visited Strathmore Primary every week for assemblies and to work with the classes. The church gives out annual awards for religious education at the school prizegiving services.

# Inverarity Primary School

This is a small but well resourced rural primary school with composite classes. The minister attends the school and they regularly use the church for assemblies and other larger gatherings such as plays.

Another primary school in Forfar outwith our Parish has been keen to work with East and Old, and children there have been for several tours of the church and worked with members of the congregation on various aspects of their religious education.

The links with our Primary Schools are very strong built up over several years by our previous Ministers.

# Inverarity Kids' Club

We have recently started a kids club after school at Inverarity in conjunction with parents from the school. This provides an affordable and safe child-care environment for local children and helps with socialisation, in a rural area where children can become isolated from their friends. It is an important part of our mission plan for Inverarity.



## Adult Education

There are bible study and prayer groups in East and Old, which have fallen in numbers due to the ageing congregation and we'd like to see these groups reinvigorated.

## Ecumenical Context

There is a wide variety of predominantly Christian denominations in the Forfar area, including another large Church of Scotland church grouping, with a team ministry, as well as a Roman Catholic Church, a Community Church and the Scottish Episcopal Church. The three Church of Scotland ministers meet monthly. We have good links with the Community Church and join them for the latest Alpha course being run in the town.

## Remembrance

There is a Forfar town Remembrance worship service for all involved in the parade and local dignitaries each year, held in one of the local churches on a rota basis. East and Old take part in that. There is also a whole Forfar town service of Remembrance in the town centre and all the local clergy participate.

Short services are held at the Kinnettles and Inverarity war memorials followed by a service in the church.

## Leprosy Mission

FACT carry out fundraising and advocacy for Leprosy Mission, and East, Old and Inverarity always host the annual coffee morning and work with members from other churches across town.

## FACT

East, Old and Inverarity (EOI) are members of Forfar Action for Churches Together (FACT) a local ecumenical grouping. FACT has not been very active over recent years following Covid-19 and the restructuring of local churches due to reforms within the national church, but it is now up and running again and we at EOI are active members within that.

There are joint services in the town centre at Remembrance, at Forfar Loch on Easter Sunday and the Big Sing carol service at Christmas. There are also joint bible study sessions for Lent and Advent.

EOI always participate in the annual Big Sing carol service for Christian Aid at Christmas, usually held at another church in the town, but in 2024 we were the hosts.





# World Church

## Twinning with Zuglo Church, Budapest

We have a long-standing and very strong church twinning with Zuglo Reformed Church in Budapest, Hungary and have been recognised by Church of Scotland as an example of good practice in church twinning. You can see more [here](#).

We try to visit each others' churches on alternate years and EOI members have been across to Hungary a total of 4 times over recent years, with our Hungarian partners visiting us at EOI 4 times also.



We have a theme for each visit and try to learn from each other as much as possible. For example, we have learned about children and youth work and music from our partners and they have learned about environmental matters and community mission from us.

We also write and share news regularly and contribute to each others' church magazine and pray for one another during worship.

We have held joint bible studies, both during visits and via video call during covid. We also continued our links via video call during covid when we couldn't visit in person. We discuss theological matters, share our viewpoints and learn about different traditions within our churches.

Very strong friendships have been formed between the members of each church and we have supported each other during difficult times.

# Links with Dubendorf & Schwerzenbach Churches in Zurich

## Zwingly tour 2018

Our church has formed an informal partnership with the united churches of Dubendorf and Schwerzenbach on the outskirts of Zurich. This came about through our ministers meeting at a church conference and us being invited to a celebration of the anniversary of the Swiss reformer Ulrich Zwingli, which took place in 2018. Since then, groups of members have visited Scotland and Switzerland twice each. Our Swiss partners came most recently in July 2024 when we shared with them our church and local community and the organisation and finance of our church. They shared with us advice on a successful union between a town and rural church.



## Visitors from General Assembly

Every year our minister invites guests from the world church to stay after the general assembly and we welcome them to morning worship and show them around the area. We have welcomed visitors from many places including Malawi, Nepal, USA, Canada, Taiwan and Ghana.

# Church, Halls & Manse

## Church and Halls

East and Old building dates back to 1790 when the current building was built, although the steeple was added later, and belongs to the burgh of Forfar and is maintained by the local council. The mother church of Forfar was Restenneth Priory some 2 miles east of the town. However, there has been a church chapel on this site since 1241. In 1591 when Restenneth fell into disrepair the current town site became the church for Forfar.

Full of history, the interior of East & Old church building is modern, light and bright. We carried out major renovations to the church over 2 phases from 2016, with the latter phase being complete in 2019, at a cost of £1.2 million, paid for by the consolidation of our assets including 2 church halls and land as well as a huge amount of fundraising and good stewardship carried out over many years. This included completely reworking the space to make it fit for 21st century worship, with flexible seating and a balcony area in our sanctuary, and several multi-purpose spaces for community, missional and social activity. We have state of the art audio-visual equipment throughout the building, modern heating and lighting.

During the renovations, the layout of our sanctuary was turned 90° and a new chancel area created, with the striking cross being the focal point. A new mezzanine area was created and a first floor added across the building to allow more space for community use, and a lift was installed for access. We have created a wonderful modern space while retaining the key historical features of our church, including 5 beautiful stained-glass windows which attract much attention.

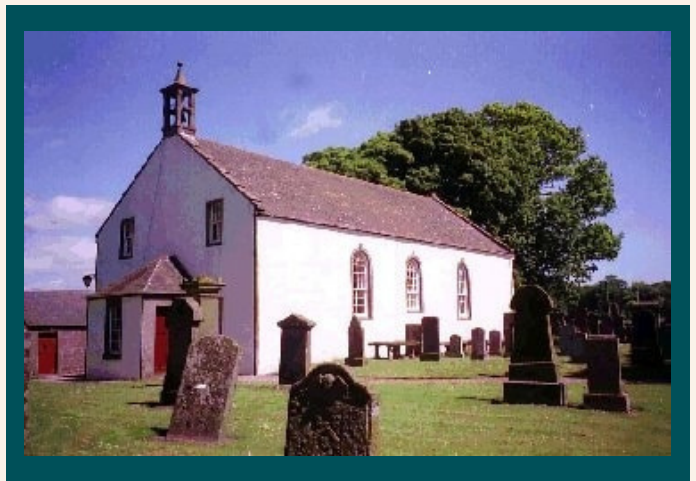
In contrast, the current Inverarity church building is the quintessential country church which is warm and inviting. Dating back to 1754 it was built by the Fotheringham family, who owned the estate on which the church sits. The Fotheringham family still worship with us today. There were several previous church sites in the area going back to the ancient times of St Buite then St Monance.





It has a traditional layout with pews and a pulpit above the chancel area. We have recently installed audio-visual equipment in the sanctuary which has proved to be a great asset during Sunday worship and for film projection. Our hall which sits a few steps away, is modern and equipped with a kitchen and toilet facilities.

The church buildings are used for a variety of community and missional activity including the monthly Souper Fridays, services for the local school and outreach work.



In the East and Old building, we have a variety of social, activity and meeting spaces for community use and the church building is used every day of the week for most of the day. Aside from use by the church for meetings, missional and social events, worship and faith related activity there are regular and occasional community lets daily, across all of our spaces which provide us with a good source of income to allow us to carry out our missional work. For details of regular lets, please see [Appendix C - Income Streams](#)

In Inverarity, our church and hall are let regularly by different groups in the community. This includes a men's club every week, the community council and dance classes. The hall is used as a polling place during elections.

## The Manse

East, Old and Inverarity manse is a modern build, detached villa over 2 floors, which was acquired by the charge in December 2024. Previously tenanted, upstairs it has 4 bedrooms, the large master bedroom has an ensuite and there is a 'Jack and Jill' bathroom adjoining 2 of the 3 further bedrooms. There is ample storage in all bedrooms. The house is fully double glazed and has gas central heating. Downstairs there is a large open plan kitchen-living area ideal for family life, along with a conservatory, dining room, formal lounge and cloakroom. There is a double garage adjacent to the house.

The house is situated in a corner plot in a quiet residential area of the town and has a manageable, good sized garden to the side and rear. To find out more about our manse, please see [Appendix D - Church Properties](#)



# Further Information

## Staffing

The church currently employs 7 staff in a variety of roles. We have:

- A treasurer & administrator
- A youth and family worker
- A cleaner based at East & Old
- A church secretary and roll keeper
- 2 organists who are paid
- A kid's club leader and cleaner at Inverarity

All work on a part-time basis, across the two sites to support the everyday running of our very busy church. They are currently line-managed by the team leaders of the relevant team their work pertains to, but this could be something our new minister would want to assume responsibility for if they wish.

## Web links for further information

Church website - <https://www.thebigkirk.co.uk>

Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/thebigkirk>

Family Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/thebabyblether/>

Charity Shop Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/bigkirkshop/>

Youtube channel - <https://www.youtube.com/@eastandoldparishchurch7277>