

# ***INVERNESS: MIDMILLS CHURCH***

Church of Scotland Charity No. SC018159



## **OUR VISION:**

***To make the presence and love of Jesus Christ known and felt in our community.***

## **PARISH PROFILE**



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# MIDMILLS CHURCH, INVERNESS

## THE CALL...

We're a new city Church, part of [The Church of Scotland](#). Will you be our first minister?



If you're reading this, you're already moved by a sense of God's call. So are we. You'll already be considering challenges... opportunities... So are we. You'll have discovered churches with heritage and an interesting past. Maybe like ours. Churches with ideas and vision for the future... churches which have signed onto everything from the Five Marks of Mission (we have), to being Eco-churches (we are), to Stewardship projects... and churches which haven't yet, but recognise their need. So why Midmills?

Our need is clear. We've heard God's call – and so we've united, after two years of working increasingly together, getting to know each other's strengths and weaknesses, sometimes making mistakes, and working on the inevitable points of tension or concern. Two substantial and well-resourced congregations, close to the centre of Inverness; now united, expectant, with a growing sense of mission in an extended parish in one of the UK's fastest-growing cities; within a new Presbytery that positively encourages new and innovative ministry while respecting its historic Christian heritage. Our logo uses Christ's own words (John 14:2) set beside images of his – and our – life, from birth to beyond death. And our question to you is simple. ***Is this now the place for you?***

Midmills Church came into being on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 – a union between Inverness: Crown and Inverness: Old High St. Stephen's. There's a new sense of purpose. It's taken around four years for us to get here. The original plan to unite was proposed by the legacy Presbytery of Inverness, but following the formation of [Clèir Eilean Ì](#) – the Church of Scotland in the Highlands and Hebrides – there came new impetus, and so here we are.

In the following pages, you'll get an outline of our journey, which is increasingly shaped round the Five Marks of Mission; how engaged we're becoming; how we're learning to join our resources and talents in mission and ministry; and how we believe Christ is leading us forward. Could his leadership now be through your experience, talents, aspirations, and heart for the Gospel?

We're not going to present you with endless statistics, or long lists of what we've done separately and, now, are doing together. Nor will we distract you with page after page of fascinating facts about Inverness or the Highlands. If you're seriously interested in becoming our minister, you'll check all that stuff out anyway. But you will find all the links and starters you need in these pages. You'll get a picture of us doing many things. You'll hopefully begin to catch our vision of what we're seeking to become in Christ. And, of course, you'll also find the right people to contact... **We've started our journey together. Will you help lead us, in Christ, over the next chapter of our story?**

## WHO WE ARE:

We're now one church. The united congregations of Inverness Crown, and Inverness Old High St. Stephen's. Our new website is under development at: [Midmills Church – Charity number SC 018159](#). On Facebook: [Midmills Church | Inverness | Facebook](#).

This link will set the scene – it's our first Sunday together in worship: [Midmills Church First Sunday service 11am 4th January 2026](#). This was a Communion Service, and the ministers leading it are both members of the united congregation: Rev Doug McRoberts, who's retired, was the first Moderator of *Clèir Eilean Ì*, up to June 2025, while Rev James Bissett was appointed Presbytery Clerk in February 2026. The congregation's leadership team also includes a lay reader who is our designated volunteer Pastoral Lead, and we also have an OLM. So we expect to maintain and develop our ministry and mission during this initial period of vacancy – but we're looking for a minister who will take us all forward in new ways.

It's a big ask. With a revised roll of around 500, split about 80/20 between members and adherents, we're numerically one of the largest Church of Scotland charges in the Highlands. Our heritage includes Inverness Old High Church – the oldest church in the city, now sold to a heritage group – and the congregations based in buildings on the hill overlooking the city centre. St. Stephen's is the former local parish church. Crown is the former Free Church in the same community, and it's this larger building complex where our worship and congregational life is now centred. There are already church activities here on every day and evening of the week – and many community-based ones as well – and our two Sunday services include informal family worship, and formal traditional worship patterns and practice.



Double baptism celebration at 9.30...

Midmills in the snow...

Christmas Carols...

...and the last Sunday service at St. Stephen's.



## Five Marks of Mission:

1: Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom...

### WORSHIP AT MIDMILLS:

We're looking for a minister who will continue to lead us in our worship, Bible and prayer journey – and who understands how music (of *all* kinds – from a choir and a bespoke 3-manual Makin organ to piano or electric guitar!) can enhance our Sundays together. But that's just part of the story...

#### 9.30 ALL-AGE WORSHIP:

This is the service our young families – with aunts, uncles, grans and grandads – mostly come to. Attendance is growing, and is regularly around 50.

With the congregation gathering round tables, and plenty of activities for children, these services are usually led by members of a dedicated group. The music is provided by everything **except** the organ, and usually includes hand-held percussion instruments throughout the church – so it's informal! The base material we're currently using is Roots: see <https://www.rootsontheweb.com/>.



This service has grown through the work of Young Crown (*see page 6*), and is at the heart of our ministry with young families. Many families who now worship with us first encountered us through the Toddler Group, which continues to welcome new little ones. On Communion Sundays, communion is shared with the children at this service.

The 9.30 services are not livestreamed – but our Midmills Family **WhatsApp Group** is very lively! We're now wondering about starting a midweek family service – *could this be for you?*



## 11.00 WORSHIP:

This is our more formal, traditional service: music is led mainly, but not exclusively, on the organ; seating for the 140+ attenders is arranged in rows; the choir will often add to worship with an anthem or introit; preaching is currently from the pulpit. But the minister or worship leader usually conducts the rest of the service from the large, open chancel area, and our AV and comprehensive lighting systems are available to enhance the overall experience of worshipping together.



Praise is regularly centred on CH4, but also includes songs and hymns from many other sources – particularly modern ones. This service is livestreamed and then archived on YouTube: [\(3\) Midmills Church - YouTube](#). Communion is celebrated four times a year, and there are of course all the additional special services you would expect at Easter, Christmas, Harvest etc. Volunteer groups also lead services at local Care Homes: **Kingsmills**, **Isobel Fraser**, and until recently at **Southside**.



ARE YOU the one to lead us in developing our worship from what you've seen here?



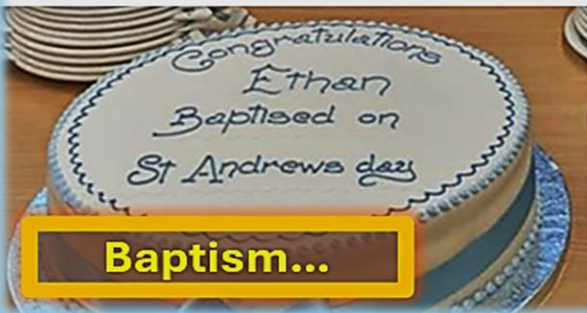
## Five Marks of Mission:

2: Teach, baptise, and nurture new believers...

**Bible study...**



**Baptism...**



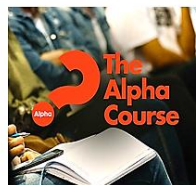
**Sharing bread in Nazareth...**



**Weekly Bible Studies** in the church centre, and a weekly **Prayer Group**, are supplemented by house study groups. **Alpha Courses**, and worship leaders' courses organised through the Presbytery, serve to help people grow in faith, as do fortnightly **missional Acorn sessions**. Our services have a consistent teaching element to them. We nurture our faithful through retreat days, and with special events in season. Easter, for example, may include a **Tenebrae** service, a **Vigil**, and an open-air **Easter Morning Sunrise Service** – literally at dawn, in the peace of the Ness Islands. Christmas events include a **Starry Night walk** – the kids love it! – followed by carols and mince pies. Two of our members have jointly led Holy Land visits with McCabe's Pilgrimages, including one mainly composed of Midmills members.

Our **Boys' Brigade** is 3<sup>rd</sup> Inverness Company – Anchor Boys, Juniors, and Company Sections. The recent long-serving Captain, Gary McAra, is also one of our 9.30am service leaders.

**Sweaty Church** is an afternoon activity for kids every 6 weeks during school term. There's a bible theme, team games and then food.



On the next page, you'll read more about our children's, youth, and family work...





**Young Crown** (SC045802) was a separate organisation, set up in 2015 at the instigation of Crown Kirk Session. It operated over ten years with a full-time youth worker, and expanded into working within both Crown Primary School and Millburn Academy, while also developing work within what is now our Church Centre. This included Little Crowns, the toddlers group. The youth worker for much of this time shared in leading worship, and was directly involved in all other aspects of integrating and developing the work. Covid changed the shape of much of this – but Midmills Church is now reaping the rewards of foundations laid, as you will see on other pages. There is no Sunday School – the 9.30 service has a strong thread of teaching, where children are with their parents. Young Crown has done its job; its resources – and responsibility for future children’s, youth and family work – are now with Midmills. We are determined to continue to build on this, not least because the new parish now includes both **Raigmore Estate** and **Raigmore Primary School**, and so we expect our new minister will be able to work with a children’s and families’ worker, fully funded through Midmills. Exciting prospects!



**SNAC: Saturday Night At Church.** Jesus loved eating and sharing time with his friends. So do we! It’s another version of Messy Church, currently on the first Saturday of each month...

We also believe in inter-generation fellowship. The picture above right was taken at a Boys’ Brigade and Guild Quiz Night. Much of this work is a key part of “Belonging before believing.” But much of it is also nurturing of believers of all ages and stages – **we’re looking for a minister who can lead this mission...**

Ministry Through Flowers is a key part of our pastoral care work, and we have enjoyed some Retreat Days where we gather in smaller groups to reflect on how our spiritual and practical Christian lives can develop together...



**WORLD MISSION:**

Our now-united churches have, between them, supported a number of different Mission Partners over recent years, as well as overseas mission projects. An example: Project RSVP (*Respond with Socks, Vests & Pyjamas!*) saw a large consignment of these being shipped to Bethlehem for Christmas: they were for young children at the Al Shurooq School for Blind Children, which a number of our members had visited on pilgrimage.

Our Guild actively supports the main Guild Projects...

...and our twinning with North Street United Church in Kingston, Jamaica, includes prayer and liturgy exchanges; we also support individual student scholarships there.



**LOCAL MISSION:**

A group is currently looking at opportunities to grow our missional work using the St Stephen's Church buildings, recognising that Clèir Eilean Ì will need to be convinced of a sound missional and financial case. This decision may well have been taken before our new minister is appointed – the Presbytery Mission Plan calls for a decision before the end of 2026 – but our zeal for mission within Inverness is strong. Events – church and community – continue in the hall on a daily basis until such time as the future of the building is decided. See also Page 11 for other possibilities...

**ARE YOU the one to lead us into a new major mission project, at home or abroad, which we believe will also help bind us together in this new union?**



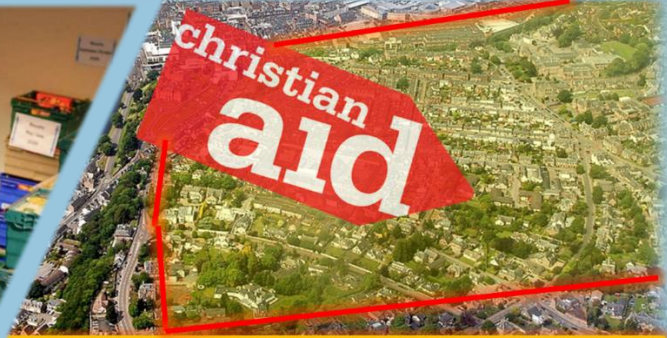
### Five Marks of Mission:

3: Respond to human need by loving service...

## WHERE WE'RE INVOLVED:

**LAUNCHPAD: getting you going... SC021448**

**LAUNCHPAD** is our own separate community charity, which seeks to help people who've been unemployed for six months or more, with grants to help restart life. Anything from tools, to interview suits, to seedcorn funding, to adult learning courses...



Every district, every street, every door...



From foodbanks to blood banks: we'll help where we can...

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:** we give with focus – and try to help the whole community to focus on giving wherever there is need. Christian Aid Week is a major logistics operation in our extended parish!

**AT THE CENTRE** each week you'll find community– as well as church–based activities every day. See *Page 15* for more details. Friendship Club, along with our Olive Grove Café, are good examples of encouraging folk to eat together in our Church centre. We share facilities with Crown Primary School & Nursery, and believe that this – like many of our other activities – can and should offer local mission possibilities. **Is this something that you feel called to engage with?**



*Clockwise from top left:* The Olive Grove Café; First Aid Training; Wedding Exhibition; Friendship Club.

**DEVELOPING MISSION?** Our parish includes the major hospital complex at Raigmore with its own chaplaincy team... but also now a large part of the Longman Industrial Estate (industrial chaplaincy?)... and there's also Beechwood House, the Crossreach rehabilitation centre...



**ARE YOU** the one to lead us in breaking new mission ground?

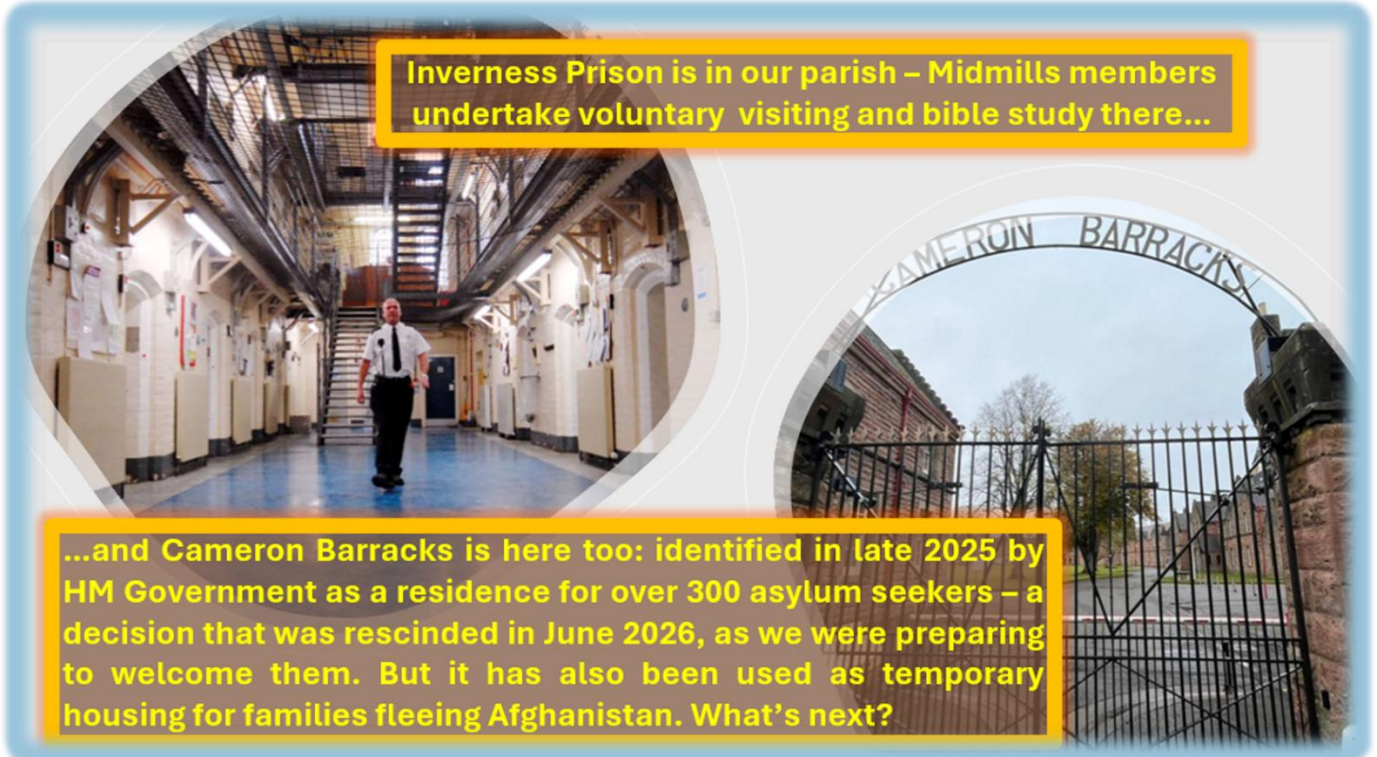


**Five Marks of Mission:**

**4: Seek transformation, challenge violence, and pursue peace and reconciliation...**

**WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO:**

We're seeking to engage as Jesus said: on the streets and in prayer, finding ways to feed, clothe and uphold the hungry, the sick, the disadvantaged, those at the margins of society – and to do so without fear or favour. Is this also your call?



**Inverness Prison is in our parish – Midmills members undertake voluntary visiting and bible study there...**

**...and Cameron Barracks is here too: identified in late 2025 by HM Government as a residence for over 300 asylum seekers – a decision that was rescinded in June 2026, as we were preparing to welcome them. But it has also been used as temporary housing for families fleeing Afghanistan. What's next?**



**Inverness Street Pastors – trained and commissioned in our church...**

**Our members include street pastors and prayer supporters.**

**We support Café 1668 in the city centre – a social enterprise cafe providing a free meal three times per week as well as a larder for those who may have no means of cooking for themselves...**

**The Café works alongside the Community Justice Partnership in facilitating a safe place for individuals involved in the criminal justice environment.**



## Five Marks of Mission:

5: Safeguard creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth...

### WHAT WE'RE DOING:

One of the first actions taken by the new united Kirk Session was to form a **Care for the Planet Team**, to explore initiatives. Like **Reduce, Re-use, Recycle**: the three “Rs” of waste minimization. We're already a Fair-Trade Church. Our Property Team is planning a work programme to insulate our main building attic spaces to the highest sustainable standards possible, and to fit solar panels. We are currently also considering heat pumps and/or electric heating. The building work to be undertaken will, of course, be completed to the highest environmental and energy standards.



*High-efficiency LED lighting... in our sanctuary, enhancing worship... and in our future plans...*

We've highlighted elsewhere how much we enjoy eating and meeting together, across a range of activities – for example, the refreshments served between our two Sunday services, and then again after the second one. So our purchasing and catering policy is to seek sustainable products, where possible from accredited suppliers. We were initially encouraged to think and act like this by Rev Judith Macleod, a former Eco-Congregation Scotland Co-ordinator who was a member here, before accepting a call to full-time ministry. As she puts it: ***“This is something that is part of who we are as Christians. If you look at the Five Marks of Mission the environmental stuff really underpins everything. How we care for the world around us, how we bring justice to people – all these things are very interlinked, interwoven. The hope is in God, in Christ, the idea that everything will be made new eventually.”***



## WHERE WE ARE:

At the corner of Midmills Road and Kingsmills Road, IV2 3JT, our church, office and café are centred in a 125-year-old church building. We're about halfway through a major redevelopment project (launched as "20-20") on this worship and community centre. We hope our new minister will catch the vision we have of urban worship, mission, and community for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.



The exterior of the building – originally a large Free Church – doesn't yet reflect the major changes taking place inside, but it soon will. We plan a modern glass-fronted entrance, reception, office and café area.

**INVERNESS**, the capital of the Highlands – pop 65,000 and rapidly rising – is one of Europe's fastest-growing cities. It was voted "Happiest Place to Live in the UK" in the 2024 Accor Survey. Its Christian heritage goes right back to St. Columba; its skyline is dominated by church spires; and Midmills is just two minutes' walk from the city centre. The highlighted area shows the spread of much of our parish, which also includes a significant part of the Longman Industrial Estate:



We're next door to Crown Primary School, and our parish includes local shops, doctors, dentists, vets and Raigmore Hospital, the main Highland NHS centre. One of the city's six secondary schools, Millburn Academy, is also in our parish, as is Raigmore Primary. Significant residential property developments in the area are still expanding. Quick access to the A9 provides the opportunity to travel easily to the many areas of magnificent scenery and outdoor leisure pursuits. The airport is a 20-minute drive, the station is a five-minute walk from our worship centre, and connections are easily made for worldwide travel.

## WHERE YOU'LL LIVE, WORK AND WORSHIP:

THE MANSE: 24 Damfield Road, Inverness IV2 3HU...



- See Appendix 3 for more information about the manse, with pictures and locating map...

### THE CHURCH CENTRE:

Our sanctuary can sit 100 people for a meal (maybe Passover?!) or provide toddlers with a great play space. It has a full digital and streaming AV suite. Our upstairs hall (which also seats 100) is a natural gathering place for both church and wider community; it has its own kitchen, and full support facilities.



In a unique arrangement with Highland Council, our building now houses Crown Primary School's Nursery – this was built into the first phase of our redevelopment, and shares a catering-standard kitchen with us. This serves the Sanctuary and our Cafe. The school itself is next door, and we have access to its car parking and playing field facilities by arrangement. Our own hall suite – the subject of major recent refurbishment – is upstairs, but also accessed by a large lift, installed by the Council as part of the arrangement. It has its own kitchen, toilets and shower room – and its own digital AV suite.

## THE FUTURE:

We're looking to make our centre more obviously open and welcome. The next phase of our plans will bring the first major outward-looking transformation, which could look like this: an open, welcoming frontage, with a reception area, a restyled Olive Grove Café, modern facilities, church office, and easy access for all to our multi-purpose large sanctuary. Outline planning permission has been granted and we're now discussing options...



## OUR ASPIRATIONS:

Our call is to move forward, using the **Five Marks of Mission** as a guide. We aim to:

- Explore additional and new forms of worship.
- Attract and encourage families and others into the way of Jesus with imagination.
- Encourage and involve the rising generation to grow into leadership roles in our largely ageing congregation.
- Increase participation in Prayer, Bible Studies and House Groups.
- Develop pastoral and mission links with the Raigmore Housing Estate, now reallocated to our parish as part of the Presbytery Mission Plan.
- Renew and strengthen our existing pastoral programme.
- Rebuild a caring, Christian relationship with staff and pupils of Crown Primary School beyond our sharing of buildings – and with Millburn Academy.

Above all we seek the empowerment of the Holy Spirit in every aspect of our life. We need a minister who is an inspiring preacher facilitating meaningful worship, providing leadership to a lively, committed congregation and able to relate well and live the Good News with people of all ages.

May we be renewed by God's grace as we are called out to be his people in Midmills.

## A TYPICAL WEEK IN MIDMILLS:

*\* Community / leased activities marked in red. The rest are all Midmills Church activities.*

This is far from comprehensive, but designed to give a feel for what life here is like. As this Profile was written, regular activities were continuing in both sets of buildings – two churches with connected hall suites – although this may well change even before our new minister is appointed (see pages 4 & 9).

**SUNDAY:** Services at 9.30 and 11.00; refreshments after both. After the service, flowers are prepared for delivery to those in our prayers. Afternoon – a volunteer group leads one of the care home services.

**MONDAY:** **Daily Breakfast Club** meets 7.45. **Pilates** classes in the morning. First Toddlers' Group of the week. There's also a daily after-school club – **Crown Corner Club**. In the evening, the Church Band meets for practice – this involves people from other churches and none, too.

**TUESDAY:** Bible Study group meets in the sanctuary in the morning; it starts with refreshments at 10.30, and gets down to study at 11.00. There are other study house groups during Lent. In the evening, the Guild meets – worship, a talk or presentation, and news of Partner Projects. This is also the evening for **Rainbows, Brownies and Guides**.

**WEDNESDAY:** Toddlers Group again this morning, in Midmills Centre. Alongside it, the Olive Grove Café is open, from 10.00-3.00. Along the road, the Bee Crafty group. In the evening, there's **Country Dancing**.

**THURSDAY:** Toddlers and Olive Grove again... there's also **Zumba**, and the **Perfect Harmony Choir**. In the evening, our own Church Choir meets to practise for worship services and other musical events.

**FRIDAY:** At 12.00, the Prayer Group meets, to pray for those on our congregational prayer list, and for wider Church and world needs; people are encouraged also to join in wherever they are. In the afternoon, Friendship Club – for senior citizens in (and outside!) the congregation. In the evening, the Boys' Brigade; Anchor Boys, Juniors and Company Section.

**SATURDAY:** **Inverness Street Pastors training session**. SNAC (Saturday Night At Church) from 5.00 to 7.00. A mix of Christian video, discussion and music, eating themed meals as families gather round large tables, and games for the kids. Started as outreach to our young families, it's now become a big event for a wider group of friends in the community. Or this week there might be Sweaty Church, or Board Games & Pickleball for 11–18-year-olds...

**DURING THE WEEK:** the pastoral work will have quietly continued: minister, elders and others visiting, visits also to care homes, hospitals and hospice, and to Inverness Prison. Our various mission and project groups will have continued their work. Some examples: **Launchpad** provides grants in kind to the unemployed over 18s, to help make life a little better... **Inverness Foodbank** needs are routinely gathered and delivered... **Christian Aid Week** sees a major leafletting and fundraising programme co-ordinated by our team... **Special Events** are organised by volunteer teams – like the Wedding Exhibition you may have noticed in one of our picture sets... **Lent & Advent online reflections** may be recorded... **Quiet Days and Retreats** are occasionally organised... **Open Doors** weeks – particularly during school holidays – have our volunteer hosts welcoming all visitors.

## LIFE AT MIDMILLS:



***From toddlers to moderators – everyone can make friends...***

A Friendship Club for the over-50s; Toddler Groups for the under 4s (with mums, dads and grans!); and a church life that enjoys welcoming visitors of all kinds.



***Celebrate from wedding anniversaries to Burns Night.***



## MUSIC AT MIDMILLS:



Midmills is a centre for musical activity – not just in worship, but for the wider community. Our Community Choir is over 80-strong, and grew out of a church choir. We're aiming to start a new Praise Band. And our worship features a wide variety of music styles...



These are all used regularly in our worship – but not, usually, at the same time!

## KEY INFORMATION:

### CONSTITUTION, KIRK SESSION, etc:

Midmills has adopted the Unitary Constitution. On page 21, you will find the Basis of Union under which we united. The Kirk Session currently numbers 44 (57% female, 43% male). Just four are under 60, 13 aged 60-70, 16 aged 70-80, and 11 over 80. This is a clear concern for us, and it no longer reflects the make-up of the active congregation, particularly the young families joining in 9.30 worship, SNAC, and other activities. The Session Clerk Bob Forrest, and Deputy Session Clerk Christine Mackenzie, were both Session Clerks of our uniting congregations. Regular meetings are held six times a year. The Kirk Session has decided to depart from the church's traditional historic position in relation to same-sex marriage in the appointment of our first minister. We welcome enquiries and applications from all qualified Church of Scotland candidates.

### CHURCH OFFICE & STAFF:

Our administrators, Fiona and Pat, between them co-ordinate our activities. There is provision for a paid Children & Families Worker (*see page 6*). Others paid for their service include our Choir Director, contracted organists, part-time caretaker and a cleaner.

### FINANCE:

The annual income and budget of this newly-united charge is well into six figures – the Giving to Grow figure alone for the two uniting congregations is in excess of £115,000. Funds held already total over £600,000, and expected income from the sale of at least one manse, and from the sale of the Old High Church building, will further boost funds available for ministry, mission and our redevelopment project. Although the current Mission Plan also assumes the sale of the St. Stephen's church building, Presbytery has confirmed its willingness to consider retention of this building if a genuine missional case for it is established by the end of 2026. That decision may well have been taken before our new minister arrives.

### PRESBYTERY MISSION PLAN:

This extract from the PMP confirms membership and finance details from 2024, together with progress towards the union, enacted on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 and confirmed at a Presbytery service on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

[PMP-Composite-Plan-Sept-11th-2024.pdf](#) (Page 18 on the Plan)

20 – Inverness: Crown in union with Old High St Stephens								
	Charge and Roll (adherents)	Gross Pop.	GtG (2024)	Current status	Status by end 2025	Interim steps	Future staffing (national)	Local staffing
33	Crown 451 (394)	2442	£48,900	UT Douglas Robertson	One Charge	Basis of Parish Grouping to Dec 2025 going before Ks and Congregations. Unite thereafter. Allow united charge to make the missional case for building choices against costs by Q4 2026 at the latest – thereafter those listed B will be disposed of regardless	RT – FTMWS	
	Old High St Stephens 192 (45)	5426	£51,412	V				
<b>Notes</b> A vote for the Basis of Union worked out by the Kirk Sessions of both charges was rejected at congregational vote in 2023. Both charges are working on a Parish Grouping to continue drawing them together, with a view to still uniting. The Parish Grouping will run until December 2025, on the understanding that a new vote for union can take place at any time. *Building release dates have been altered to reflect this easing of the timescale.					<b>Designation</b>	<b>Buildings</b>	<b>Release date</b>	<b>Further details</b>
					A	Crown Church		
					B	St Stephens Church	Q4 2026*	
					B	Old High Hall	Q4 2026	
					B	Old High Church	Currently under offer	

CofS STATISTICS FOR MISSION: Note – based on Census 2011: OHSS [372140.pdf](#); Crown [372141.pdf](#)

## BASIS OF UNION:

As agreed by Presbytery



SC001424

### BASIS OF UNION AND FORMATION OF MIDMILLS PARISH

The congregations of Old High St Stephen's Church of Scotland, Inverness (SC035073) and Crown Church, Inverness (Church of Scotland) (SC018159) Churches shall be united on 1<sup>st</sup> January 2026 or from a date to be determined by Presbytery, and that on the following terms and conditions:

- 1. Name:** The name of the united charge shall be Midmills Parish Church, Inverness, Church of Scotland (SC018159).
- 2. Property and Funds:** The property and funds belonging to or held on behalf of both Inverness Old High St Stephen's and Inverness Crown congregations shall belong to or be held on behalf of the united charge/congregation and any transference necessary shall be duly effected.
- 3. Places of worship:** The church at present used and occupied by the congregation of Inverness Crown shall be the place of worship of the united charge. The church at present used by the congregation of Inverness Old High St Stephen's shall be reviewed in **2026** in accordance with the Presbytery Mission Plan. The decision of Presbytery shall be binding on all parties. Following that review, any building not being retained shall be sold, let or otherwise disposed of subject to the titles on which it is held, subject to the approval of the Presbytery and, if necessary, the General Trustees or the General Assembly. The free proceeds of any such sale or let shall: (a) if falling within the scope of the Church of Scotland General Trustees (Properties, Funds and Endowments) Act (Act 5 2024), be credited to the benefit of the congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund; or (b) if not falling within the scope of the said Act, be held, and applied for fabric purposes in connection with the properties of the congregation.
- 4. Manse:** Upon review by Presbytery, the manse of the congregations of either Inverness Crown or Inverness Old High St Stephen's shall either serve as the manse of the united charge, or else shall be sold to enable another property to be purchased which will then serve as the said manse. The free proceeds of any such sale or let shall: (a) if falling within the scope of the Church of Scotland General Trustees (Properties, Funds and Endowments) Act (Act 5, 2024), be credited to the benefit of the congregation in the Consolidated Fabric Fund; or (b) if not falling within the scope of the said Act, be held and applied for fabric purposes in connection with the properties of the congregation.
- 5. Territorial Responsibility:** The bounds to be served by the united congregation shall be those as the Presbytery shall determine. The parish boundaries will incorporate Inverness Crown Church boundaries and some of the Inverness Old High St Stephen's parish, with the addition of the Raigmore and the east side of the northern Longman estate.
- 6. Kirk Session:** The elders of both Kirk Sessions shall form with the minister the Kirk Session of the united charge.
- 7. Congregational Management:** The temporal affairs of the united congregation shall be administered by the Kirk Session in terms of the Unitary Constitution, the Delegation of Assembly being authorised to issue the appropriate Deed of Constitution to the said congregation.
- 8. Ministerial Support:** Following the demission of *The Rev Douglas R Robertson* (currently minister at Inverness Crown) 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 and therefore both charges being vacant, the united charge shall proceed to the appointment of a minister in terms of the Call, Election and Appointment of Ministers of Word and Sacrament Act (Act 11, 2025). The minister shall be called on the basis of a seven-year Reviewable Charge in terms of section 9.1.1 of the Presbytery Mission Plan Act (Act 8, 2021).
- 9. Power to Adjust:** While the articles and terms shall form the Basis of Union for the two congregations now uniting, the united charge shall be free, like other congregations, to adjust arrangements under the authority of Presbytery as need may arise.

## CONTACTS:

For more information, or to express an interest in this vacancy, please contact:

**Interim Moderator:** Rev Aileen Binner [abinner@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:abinner@churchofscotland.org.uk) 07718768305

**Clerk to the Nominating Committee:** Jane Smith [vacancy@midmillschurch.co.uk](mailto:vacancy@midmillschurch.co.uk) 07771631092

## KEY LINKS:

[Midmills Church – Charity number SC 018159](#)

[Midmills Church | Inverness | Facebook](#)

[Midmills Newsletter Apr 2026 Final.pdf - Google Drive](#)

[Midmills Church First Sunday service 11am 4th January 2026](#)

[PMP-Composite-Plan-Sept-11th-2024.pdf](#) (Page 18 on the Plan)

[Clèir Eilean Ì](#) (Presbytery)

[About Us - Cairn Movement](#)

[ACORN Faith | Facebook](#)

## HISTORIC INFORMATION:

For historical insight, these links will take you to the Facebook pages of our two former congregations:

[Crown Church, Inverness | Facebook](#); [Old High St Stephen's Church, Inverness | Facebook](#)

Their websites: [Crown Church of Scotland](#);

[Old High St. Stephen's, Inverness – Welcome to Old High St Stephen's Church, Inverness](#);

And the final newsletters of each congregation (December 2025):

<https://www.crown-church.co.uk/Publisher/File.aspx?ID=390845>;

[OHSS Newsletter Dec 2025 Final.pdf - Google Drive](#)

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:

Café 1668: [Cafe 1668 | Highland Community Justice Partnership](#)

Inverness Street Pastors: [Home - Inverness](#)

“Happiest Place to Live”: [Inverness Announced as Happiest Place to Live | Invest Highland](#)

**A place for you**

## **MIDMILLS CHURCH MISSION PLAN**

Background: Two key steps we took shortly after uniting as Midmills Church were:

- The Kirk Session formed task groups addressing all parts of our church life, working within the Five Marks of Mission. There are eight: Worship and Discipleship, Pastoral Care, Outreach, Communications, Care for the Planet, Youth and Families, Finance, and Property. Each of the eight groups has a leader, and – working collaboratively as our Mission Planning team – they undertook to develop our Mission Plan.
- We planned and scheduled a full-day congregational conference to bring together members, adherents, and our task groups in a workshop/worship formula to draw together our Mission Plan. Rev Alan McWilliam of the Cairn Movement led the day: their vision is: *Faith-filled partnership working that releases the whole people of God for the whole mission of God* [About Us - Cairn Movement](#). Afterwards, our task group conveners met to agree our Vision and Mission Plan. This is the result...

### **OUR VISION:**

**To make the presence and love of Jesus Christ known and felt in our community.**

#### **1. To Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.**

- Offer varied worship services, styles and times in different venues in person and online.
- Encourage the formation of a praise band and continue to support our choir.
- Share faith through conversation, appropriate teaching and personal testimony.
- Build on relationships with all ages and keep looking for new opportunities to encourage belonging.
- Work with churches which already have a presence in the Raigmore area to assess current needs for mission to all ages in this our new parish area.
- Install boxes in the garden area and in suitable sites in our parish, for prayer requests and questions.
- Improve our use of technology to support the delivery of our worship services.
- Develop our website and social media presence and our notice boards and signage to improve our communication with our members and the wider community.
- Adapt our approaches to communication to support those with specific needs such as hearing or sight impairment, neurodiversity.
- Reach out to young people through School Chaplaincies, SU, Millburn Academy ‘Hot Chocolate.’
- Ensure our buildings are well maintained, easily accessible and create a warm and welcoming space for all.
- Develop ecumenical work through Inverness Churches Together.

## 2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.

- Appoint a full-time Youth and Families Worker who will with volunteer help create and develop pathways to faith for young people and their families.
- Actively nurture resilience and growth for mission by encouraging regular bible reading and prayers and through our Bible Study and Lent Groups and other courses.
- Encourage and nurture enquirers with short courses of appropriate study.
- Provide free resources such as New Testaments and 'short' Bibles, prayer cards.
- Provide a library of resources for all, but particularly including resources for young families, to help in answering their children's questions, thus helping the families to grow in faith.
- Nurture and encourage young people who are moving on to secondary school with opportunities in church.
- Encourage those unable to attend church regularly to pray for the growth of mission, with written prayers provided if required.
- Assist pastoral care volunteers to progress from "friendly chatting" to "active pastoral listening" through appropriate training.
- Develop new information leaflets for visitors to the Church and enquirers.

## 3. To respond to human need by loving service

- Review pastoral care and how visits are carried out, with whom and by whom, and offer training where appropriate.
- Enhance monthly 'prayers by ensuring members designated "housebound" on the list are all kept in touch using a visitor rota.
- Develop a consistent 'Ministry of Hope' following funerals and other painful lifetime events, letting God's grace heal our confusion.
- Create a 'Local support directory.'
- Support our outreach activities, particularly Toddlers and SNAC, and encourage the formation of new groups where a need is identified.
- Provide fellowship opportunities, for example the Guild, Friendship Group, Walking Group.
- Support partner organisations catering for identified needs, for example Foodbank, Café 1668, Launchpad, Street Pastors.
- Continue support and sharing fellowship with North Street Church, Kingston, Jamaica.
- Help the minister when appointed find ways to stay connected to younger people and pioneer links to local youth activities, clubs and sports.

## 4. To transform unjust structures of society, challenge violence of every kind, and pursue peace and reconciliation

- Develop our communication links with local charities and other organisations supporting those who are marginalised in our community, and overseas. e.g. Christian Aid.
- Support organisations who support victims of poverty/abuse/isolation.
- Support charities including educating and informing members on topical issues and needs.
- Provide an 'Advocacy of care' by assisting parishioners who are struggling (within health or social systems) to move forward in their lives.

## 5. Strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

- Reduce carbon emissions by improving insulation, installing solar panels and research to determine the best heating.
- 'Reduce, re-use and recycle' will be promoted amongst church groups, and groups using our premises, and widely shared on our notice boards.
- As an 'Eco Congregation' we will work to regularly promote our care for the planet in varied ways.
- Integrate an 'Ecology of Care' into parish life by launching a monthly "walk and talk" group to local green spaces to aid fellowship and mental wellbeing.
- Educate and inform young people about the need to care for creation through relevant projects.
- Reduce our use of unnecessary, as adjudged, paper-based communication.

## **MIDMILLS CHURCH FINANCIAL SUMMARY**

### **INCOME**

Offerings	£110,000
Hall Rentals	£95,000
Investment Income	£15,000

### **OUTGOINGS**

Giving to Grow	£115,425
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### **FUNDS HELD FOR BENEFIT OF CONGREGATION**

Consolidated Fabric Fund	£73,148
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Deposit Fund	£97,170
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Growth Fund	£140,798
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Income Fund	£305,490
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***Note: The above figures represent the current financial position, and do not include income from the sale of the Old High Church building – now completed.***

***There will be at least one more building sale – the former Crown Manse; final decisions on the possible use, or sale, of St Stephen’s Church building, and of the Old High Hall in the urban centre of Inverness, have still to be taken, and are under active consideration by Midmills Church prior to seeking agreement/approval from Presbytery.***



**APPENDIX 3:**

**MIDMILLS MANSE: 24 Damfield Road, Inverness IV2 3HU**

The manse is a 4-bedroom bungalow with a large garden and single garage in the Kingsmills area. Work being undertaken includes new heating and insulation systems using heat pump technology, together with extensive redecoration and upgrading of facilities. It sits within walking distance of Midmills Church Centre, in the catchment areas for both Crown Primary School and Millburn Academy.



