



**Banffshire East
Church of Scotland
@Macduff and Whitehills**

Parish Profile

www.banffshireeastcofs.org.uk

A sunset over a body of water. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange and yellow glow that reflects on the water's surface. To the right, a lighthouse is silhouetted against the sky. To the left, a pier or breakwater structure is visible. The sky is filled with soft, dark clouds.

Mission Statement

We are dedicated and committed to work for our communities and to follow the teachings and examples of Jesus Christ. It is our aim that the church will be a central pivot within the area, to build on previous work and grow to meet the needs of the community. It will remain faithful to the Word of God and be welcoming for those seeking to learn more about our faith.

Introduction and History of Charge

Welcome to Banffshire East. Thank you for looking at our profile.

Banffshire East Church is a new charge which combines two existing churches, in line with the Presbytery Plan. These are the former Macduff Parish Church and Whitehills Parish Church. The two churches have worked together, over the years, to support the local community and schools. This new charge covers both rural and fishing communities in the northeast of Scotland. The manse for this charge will be in Macduff and details of this are provided below. The charge sits on the coast with beautiful views over the Moray Firth. There are three primary schools within the parish and one large secondary school, Banff Academy, which has an open and strong connection to the church.

Banffshire East Church operates a unitary constitution with a large kirk session made up of 28 elders to support the new minister. This includes specific roles such as session clerk, assistant session clerk, finance committee with treasurer, property committee with convener, safeguarding officer, and

health and safety advisor. There are various activities, in each of the areas, which are be listed below. Banffshire East Church has been allocated an additional 0.5 FTE to the ministerial team with the details of the role yet to be decided. The current Presbytery Plan involves Banff Parish Church joining the union at some point in the future.

We are looking for a minister who is enthusiastic and will help us to develop relevant approaches to worship, both traditional and contemporary, and provide pastoral care. The minister will be someone who not only wants to grow in their own faith but help us to deepen our faith and share our gifts to serve God and our community. The minister will lead the church in a Bible-centred ministry and in outreach to the local community. Members seek to work with the minister to use their God-given gifts and talents in the life of the congregation. Our prayer is that, as well as providing leadership, the minister will work with the church to support and guide members and build up the church family, equipping us for mission and service.



Macduff Church and Town Cross



St Brandon Centre, Whitehills

Church Profile

Our Community



Macduff Harbour

Macduff is essentially a residential area with most employment coming from boat building, fishing, farming, and the service sector. Macduff has a population of approximately 4,000. The area has all the necessary amenities with plenty of social opportunities. The main industries are centred around the harbour with steel boat building and maintenance at Macduff Shipyards.



Tarlair Swimming Pool and Cafe

Tourism brings a steady flow of visitors to the area to take advantage of the amazing natural environment and attractions such as Macduff Marine Aquarium. There are good local recreational facilities to meet the needs of all ages. These include water sports, surfing, walking, golf, fishing, swimming,

sailing, bowls and pétanque. A major community and sports centre has been constructed in Macduff. There is also a thriving Men's Shed.



Macduff Primary School

Macduff Primary School enjoys a good reputation and has a current role of approximately 400 pupils. The primary school has a strong connection with the church, including a weekly lunch club (Junior Jaffa) for children in Primary 1-3, who want to know more about the bible and its teachings. In response to the cost-of-living crisis, a joint initiative between the school and church was started on Monday afternoons during winter. The hall is available as a drop in space with teas and coffees served by older pupils and church members.

Whitehills and its surrounding area, including the newly built village of Ladysbridge, has a population of approximately 1846. This fishing village, 3 miles from the county town of Banff, and four miles from Macduff, was voted Community Village of the Year (Scotland) 2001. It is a friendly place with a good community spirit. Housing here is a mixture of private and council properties. In addition there are sheltered and very sheltered housing complexes nearby.



The Approach to Whitehills

There is an excellent Primary School in the village, and Secondary pupils attend Banff Academy, to which transport is available. In the village there is a mini supermarket which houses the post office and a small restaurant. There is a very well stocked fishmonger, chip shop, hotel, two restaurants, two hairdressers, charity shop and library. There is also the highly regarded pleasure park of Blackpots down on the sea front, for the surrounding community and the nearby caravan site.

The bus service between Aberdeen and Elgin runs hourly during the day with slight variations to times in the evenings.

Church Life

Worship, Fellowship and Outreach

Two Sunday services are held; 10 am in Macduff and 11.30 am in Whitehills. In Macduff the congregation averages 90, with an established and growing Junior Church. In the past few years, attendance at Whitehills has reduced but there is still a real commitment from the members and a need for this service to continue. In both venues the church organ provides the main source of music



Whitehills Marina

The once busy fishing harbour was decommissioned in 2000, and it is now a progressive Marina with 200 visiting yachts estimated annually. Some small boats still fish for shellfish daily. The Rowing Club attracts both male and female crew members. There is a well-attended indoor Bowling Club on Wednesday afternoons, and various other activities in the village hall. The Caravan Park at Blackpots is open from Easter till the end of October. The Boyndie Visitor Centre with its Restaurant, Gift Shop and Garden Centre is a popular place to visit, with pleasant walks to the Wind Farm.

and there is a praise band in Macduff with talented musicians of various ages. The service from Macduff is live-streamed and recorded and people can access this if they are unable to attend in person. We have a variety of ages attending our church and we have many activities to provide experiences for everyone.

Tea and coffee are served after the 10 am service in Macduff and the congregation and visitors are encouraged to stay behind for informal fellowship. An information loop is used to provide the congregation with information and activities over the next week. The church has a website and a Facebook page to provide information, and these are also useful resources. (Please see links below). The Church has an active Facebook presence with over 1,000 followers. As well as communicating information about the activities of the congregation, regular posts also share favourite Christian songs and other activities of interest to the church and community.

The Church Magazine

The Anchor and The Compass provides information and is distributed throughout the community as part of the church's mission.

Chaplaincy

The minister serves as Chaplain at Macduff Primary School where there are opportunities to take regular assemblies as well as being involved in the wider life of the school. There are also opportunities for chaplaincy at Banff Academy, working alongside ministers from other churches in the area. Regular services are also held at Dounemount Care Home in Macduff and Banff Care Home where some of our members reside.

There is a midweek bible study/prayer meeting at Macduff and technology has been used to ensure that everyone has access to this.

Communion is held twice a year. At Easter Service an additional early morning service is held in the open air near the cross in Macduff followed by breakfast in the church extension. A new Easteringle service was started in 2024 on Easter afternoon. This proved very attractive to parents and children.

Harvest Thanksgiving – This is a specific service where the congregation and the community join to give thanks for the harvest of land and sea.



Harvest Thanksgiving

Christmas



Our congregation supports the local Social Work department by arranging a gift service which provides toys and toiletries to those in need within our community.

We also have a Christingle service where children are encouraged to take part, and this is well supported by the wider community as well as members of the congregation, and recently a successful Christmas Cracker outreach event was held at the new Ladysbridge village.

There is an annual Watch Night Service held in the parish on Christmas Eve where the collection is gifted to local charities. Macduff Primary School holds its annual Christmas assembly in the church and this is very well attended by parents and members of the congregation.



Christingle

Uniformed organisations



Dedication Service

An annual dedication service takes place in September, a remembrance service in November, and a Thinking Day service in February.

Church Life - Pastoral care

Pastoral care is important within the church and a specific group of volunteers is involved in visiting members of the congregation to provide additional support. They work in

conjunction with the minister and ensure that any needs are identified and reported. Christmas gifts are distributed to all our elderly members.

Church Life – Organisations and Events

Members of the congregation are active in leading and supporting a range of activities that serve both the needs of the congregation and act as an outreach to the community. These include:

Coffee Corner

This meets on alternating Thursdays from 10:00 to 11:30 in the church hall in Macduff when tea, coffee and cakes are served. On average, 70 people attend, including many people outwith the congregation.



The Shoppie



In Whitehills a long-running successful venture is The Shoppie, one of our church's charity ventures. It allows members of the community to donate items which can be re-sold within the community to help to promote recycling and reduce waste. The money raised goes towards church funds.

Junior Church

On Sundays at Macduff, a team of people looks after and teaches children who attend the church service. This covers all ages from babies to teenagers and takes place after the children's address, in the rooms adjacent to the church.

All Stars



This long-established Parent and Toddler group meets in the church hall, Macduff on a Tuesday afternoon, providing opportunities for people in the community.

Junior Jaffa



This is a club run weekly by members of the congregation in Macduff Primary School, aimed at those in the early years of school.

Jaffa and J+ Clubs



These are activity evenings on a Friday in Macduff Church Hall. They attract a wide range of children, mainly from families who do not attend church. A specific group of volunteers provides activities for fun and for developing skills and there are, on average, 100 children attending.



Uniformed organisations

The Scouts and Guides have close links with the church and attend three times a year for parade services. Ranger Guides hold their meetings in the church hall at Macduff.

Social Events

These are varied events such as a Scot's Night in January, Carols and Lessons in

December. They are well attended by members of the congregation and community. Quiz nights and other social events are also organised to raise funds for various purposes as required.

Coffee Mornings and Soup and Sweet events are held on a regular basis and are very successful as fund-raising events. They also provide part of our outreach within the community.

Church Life – Wider Support

Our church has had longstanding connections with several organisations and has a special relationship with Ekwendeni Mission in Malawi. It also meets Presbytery and Church of Scotland dues and supports Christian

Aid, Tear Fund and other organisations. Special services and events are held throughout the year where guest speakers can provide information and updates to the congregation.

Buildings

Macduff Church

The church building in Macduff commands a fine view over the Harbour. Near the Macduff Church building stands the town cross and an anchor which provide a symbolic reminder of what is at the centre of the congregation – Jesus Christ crucified and risen who, through the gospel, gives people an anchor in life.



Macduff Church

As the church building once guided boats into the harbour, it is the hope and

prayer of the congregation that the church may continue to guide people in their lives.

A suite of rooms off the main church building in Macduff, including a kitchen, is used regularly by the Junior Church and many other activities. The building was refurbished in 2005 to mark its 200th anniversary. The roof was completely replaced in 2015. This involved expenditure of over £150,000 which was raised by donations and grants from the Church of Scotland, Government Roof Repair Fund and other bodies. The church has up-to-date IT equipment which has facilities to live-stream and record services. The church is well maintained and is in very good repair and decoration.

Macduff Church Hall

The Church Hall is in the centre of Macduff and was completely refurbished in 2019 and equipped with modern ICT equipment. As well as a large hall, there is also a smaller meeting room and a modern kitchen. The hall is well used throughout the week by organisations within the church and also by the local community.



Macduff Church Hall

Macduff Church Cottage

Sited beside the church building this was originally home for the Beadle. Since 2020, the local Citizen's Advice Bureau has used it as a base for supporting the community.



The Church Cottage Macduff

The St. Brandon Centre

Formerly the Whitehills Church Hall, The St. Brandon Centre is now the place of worship for Whitehills.



The St Brandon Centre

The Church, which is situated across the street, has been deemed excess to requirements and is closed.

The St. Brandon Centre consists of a hall, suite of rooms on the first floor with a stage, lighting, PA sound system and musical instruments suitable for a Praise Band. The fully equipped kitchen is used for Coffee Mornings, Soup & Sweet lunches, etc. St. Brandon's is used frequently by church organisations and the community and is an important meeting point for village life.

Banffshire East Manse



Banffshire East Manse

The manse was built in 2013. It is located in a quiet, well-established street in Macduff within easy walking distance of the church building, hall, shops and Macduff Primary School. It is a two-storey building and the downstairs accommodation consists of three public rooms, a modern kitchen and a cloakroom. Upstairs there are four bedrooms (two en-suite) and a family bathroom. Outside there is a large garage and gardens of a manageable size to the front and rear.

Informal Visit

We appreciate that you may wish to make an informal visit to the area before you consider making an application. We would be pleased to show you and your family the area, the churches and the manse. This can be arranged as a confidential visit if required.



Whitehills

Social Media for Banffshire East Church of Scotland

Facebook:

facebook.com/MacduffParishChurch

You Tube:

@MacduffChurch

The YouTube channel contains links to all the services that have been streamed from Macduff.

Website:

www.banffshireeastcofs.org.uk.org.uk

Additional Information

Further information on the two locations in this charge can be found in the following links:

www.visitabdn.com/plan-your-trip/towns-villages/macduff/

www.macduff-aquarium.org.uk/

www.undiscoveredscotland.co.uk/whitehills/whitehills/

www.whitehillsharbour.co.uk/

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