

Inveravon Church

Denomination; *Church of Scotland.*

Status; *Parish Church. Presbytery of Tomintoul, Glenlivet and Inveravon.*

Visited by; *Bruce Lindsay.*

Date of visit; *3 May 2017.*



I visited Inveravon Church (located on a small road off the A95, a little south of Aberlour) on a beautiful summer's day. Whilst enjoying a walk in the grounds, I spoke with pleasant lady who lives in the old manse, adjacent to the Church. She told me there has been a church on the site since the twelfth century. It is possible, but not proven, that missionaries from Iona established a chapel here in the early seventh century.

The present church was built in 1806, replacing an earlier building going back to 1108. Four Pictish symbol stones are on permanent display in the porch. Three were reputedly found when the old church was demolished having been used as foundation stones. The fourth stone was discovered in the churchyard. The presence of Pictish symbol stones indicates a settlement was here well before the first church.



The interior of the Church is relatively simple and restrained. The sanctuary is at the west end and there is a gallery at the east end with a vestibule area below. The sanctuary is raised up from the nave by a step and there is a simple, wooden communion table, lectern and font. A short, octagonal pulpit is placed in the south-west corner of the church. There are plain wooden pews in the nave which is divided by a wide aisle. The original layout placed the pulpit at the centre of the long wall with galleries at both east and west ends. On the day I visited, the windows cast a beautiful, soft, light on the walls and woodwork.

In the well maintained churchyard there are many gravestones; it was interesting to read the inscriptions and to discover something of the lives and occupations of past members of the community. A stone mausoleum, built in 1829, commemorates the members of the Macpherson-Grant family who live at nearby Ballindalloch castle.