

Cove Church of Scotland

Dear Friends in Cove

I wanted to write and inform you about what is happening with Cove Church of Scotland in light of the council's new policy regarding educational lets in the area. After 14 years meeting on a Sunday morning at Loirston School hall, our let was turned down at very short notice. Through the intervention of Andy Finlayson we did get a 2 month extension until the end of September, but it does look like we will have to move our venue to Loirston Annexe, and we would like to express our thanks to the new management committee at the annexe for their help and the welcome they have extended to us.

From Sunday 7th October 2012 we will worship from 10.15am at the annexe until further notice. We hope that this new arrangement will work well and help to forge good relationships between the church and local community groups who both have the local community's best interests at heart.

Our heart and our way is to work with those in authority, and to pray for their well being and for wisdom for them as they govern; but we do feel we need to appeal this decision not primarily for us, as we may not return to Loirston school anyway, but for the sake of the community still having access to lets in Loirston and Charleston at the weekend. We have no academy in our area and now no bus connection to Kincorth, so it seems unreasonable to us to have such limited

midweek lets in Charleston and Loirston Schools. It would seem good to us to have Loirston's status as a community school returned to it at this time of limited resources. We are concerned that the ever decreasing community space and activities in Cove is squeezing the life out of our community.

Our desire as a church is to love and serve our local community, which we admit is sometimes more aspirational than actual due to our own lack of resources, but as we grow we want to assure you that our prayer and desire together with other community groups is to see a vibrant and strong community that looks out for one another and serves the needs of our city. At the moment we do this through things like mainly music, Blue Horizon and Street Pastors (as well as me being Lead Chaplain for Grampian Police) but we long to do so much more.

Finally I want to thank folks in the community that have expressed support and concern for us in the last few weeks. It is much appreciated and encourages us greatly.

This comes with my very best wishes to all who live and work in Cove.

David Swan

[Minister of Cove Church of Scotland]

