

Church of the Holy Spirit : St Fillans

The stone built and slate roofed Listed Category C(S) Building was constructed in 1856 as a place of worship by the United Free Church of Scotland. It later became known as the **Church of the Holy Spirit** after it was taken on by the Scottish Episcopal Church in 1936 when it ceased being used as a place of worship by the Church of Scotland.



It was run as an adjunct to St Serf's Church, Comrie, as a "Mission Church" to serve the established needs of the local Episcopal Church congregation established in 1889, and holiday makers visiting the area.

It continued to be used as a place of worship until its sale in 1989 and subsequent conversion to self-catering holiday accommodation - now known as **Bluestone Church** reflecting the stone it is built with. The funds raised by the sale of the Church helped fund the construction of a Community room extension to Serf's Church in 1991.

Prior to the Church of the Holy Spirit becoming available, worship was conducted in a timber and corrugated iron clad building known as **Christ Church** behind what is now the Achray Hotel on the old lane behind the main street.



The Church of the Holy Spirit was dedicated by Edward Reid, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld & Dunblane on Whit Tuesday 1937 with the Rev Herbert Stuart MA, of St Serf's Comrie, being confirmed as Rector to the new Charge.

Newspaper reports at the time reveal this was a grand occasion with the Bishop being attended by his Chaplain, representatives of the clergy of the Diocese, and Diocesan Officials, proceeding in a fully robed procession from Christ Church to the "new" Church where they were formally received by Members of the Vestry and the local congregation outside at the door of the Church.

It is reported that after the service of Dedication the assembled party adjourned to the Drummond Arms Hotel for a celebratory lunch.

The Church was not connected to the electricity supply and consequently regular services at The Church of the Holy Spirit were mainly conducted over the summer months. Over the years it attracted some notable visitors – including apparently Queen Juliana of The Netherlands, and the American actress, Kathryn Hepburn who both took their holidays in St. Fillans.



The Altar set seen in the photograph of the interior of the church is now in use at Serf's, and the framed tapestry on the wall is now displayed in the St Fillans Room at St Serf's.

1867 Ordnance Survey Map



1898 Updated Ordnance Survey Map



1989 Watercolour of the Church of the Holy Spirit

