



Area : Garioch

Parish : Midmar

Kirkyard : Midmar old Parish Kirk.

N.G.R. : NJ 699 065

S.A.M. :

Listing Category : Kirk and Yard Cat. C.

Boundary wall and gate piers : There are no gates or piers to the old kirk and there are many places where the boundary wall, built of large field stones, has fallen down.

The Old Kirk : The old kirk was built in 1677, though today it is a neglected roofless ruin. Dedicated to St. Nidan, the long and low rubble built kirk, with the stump of a bellcote on the W. gable and a highly unusual quadripartite E. gable window, is in a deplorable state of decay.

There are many cracks in the gables and walls with trees growing from the wall-heads. The entire structure must be re-pointed urgently.

This kirk is particularly fascinating with regard to the multitude of blocked up and oddly placed window openings and the entire composition being of a curiously charming domestic scale. The kirk is sub-divided into three enclosures for the Mansfield, Kebbaly and Sterrit-Duff families.

Tombstones : There are 22 recumbent tombstones of which 5 are particularly well decorated, with over one hundred upright tombstones from the 16th - century onwards. There are a great number of well designed and interesting memorials though many are in a terrible state of disruption, vandalism and neglect. This yard is the resting place of George Bell,



master mason of Midmar, and he is commemorated by a stone cairn erected by the Deeside Field Club.

Conservation Digest : Very Urgent.

The kirk and yard are in a deplorable state of decay with the kirk requiring urgent remedial attention throughout to remove the trees and weeds prior to being stabilised. (See flaws listed above.)

There are many tombstones of good quality that are terribly neglected and need urgent individual attention.

The boundary wall needs to be rebuilt in places. The Motte in the adjacent field, coupled with the kirk, form a medieval focus in the Garioch.

Interpretative Potential : High.

Once the very urgent works are carried out to preserve the entire yard and the charming kirk, with many good architectural details, the site would be of tremendous interpretative potential.

It is regrettable that the kirk has been allowed to fall into such a neglected condition.

Access issues : The kirk is situated close to a main road though is screened by a thicket of trees. The kirk is reached by crossing a precarious track over a stream. There is no provision for parking cars.

Date of visit : 07/07/98.