

Ferintosh

Parish Church



Ferintosh Focus

Church Newsletter

June 2014

Serving the communities of Canon Bridge & Maryburgh
www.ferintoshparishchurch.org.uk



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As always, we welcome any comments, questions or suggestions about the newsletter. Submissions are now invited for the next edition of the Focus - these can be made to members of the editorial team, or sent by email to strathdrynie@fiscali.co.uk

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25



Contents

For this edition of the focus we're celebrating our community. Each of us is part of a community – Church, local, national and international. Community exists when people have something in common and it is such a joyful thing to be united with other people around our Lord Jesus Christ. We come from different places, backgrounds, experiences and personalities but our Church community transcends all that and allows us to work together.

Are you part of that community? Are there those you know who could benefit from the support, encouragement and passion of a Godly community? Pray about your role in this community and how you can serve God's people near and far.

Look out for the "Congregation Contributions" in this edition, and have a think about submitting some for the next issue.

Congregation Contribution

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Minister's Message

"Opening homes and hearts." this was the heading to one of the articles in Life and Work this month, referring to the Commonwealth Games and the Church. It is a very inspiring article and shows how twelve major denominations and more than thirty ministries are taking part in many different ways from offering refreshments, toilets and places to rest, to entertainment. It also highlights how many Christians have opened their homes to athletes' families.



During the Games, Street Pastors will work along-side Games Pastors. There is a project to raise awareness of human trafficking and there will be mission teams to engage with people. Some 750,000 copies of the '**penny gospel**' will be distributed and children's holiday clubs will be running as well as Youth for Christ cafés. This is only a small list but highlights some of the work of Christ in our communities.

John tells us, '**We proclaim to you what we have seen and heard, so that you also may have fellowship with us...**' (1 John 1:3) For those who have tickets and are going to the Games, give our grateful thanks to those who will be spreading God's Word through their actions, and indeed while you are there I am sure you could too. For those of us at home who may not be feeling part of the Games, we can join with the thousands of Christians in prayer each day giving thanks for the opportunities that our Lord sends our way. Also, why not open your **homes and hearts** to friends, Christians or not, and share in that same fellowship as you watch the Games on TV.

With every blessing,
Andy

A reminder from the minister that if anyone is ill or in **hospital** could you please inform him as he may not have heard this through the grapevine.

This is particularly important if someone is in either Ross Memorial or Invergordon Hospital as there is no procedure in place there for informing ministers. Raigmore will contact the minister, but only if they have been specifically asked to do so by the patient. However, if that individual is unable to do so at the time of admission, this then often gets overlooked.

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Our Church Community

The Guild has had another successful year. It is in recess until the autumn. However, the members are planning two trips in the very near future.

Our visit to Cameron House, a Care Home for those suffering from dementia run by CrossReach in Inverness, will take place on Monday 23rd June. The theme for this visit is "Holidays". The residents and Guild members really enjoy these visits.

The following Monday, 30th June, some members are travelling by Megabus to Perth to meet up with our Guild Link members from Port Glasgow. We are hoping for a good day perhaps including a visit to Scone or maybe Branklyn Gardens. It will be great just to meet up with our new friends. All transport costs - 50p!

A few of the highlights of our year were - Munlochy Animal Aid with Iona Nocol which was quite an eye-opener; Christmas afternoon with Dingwall Primary School Choir because some visitors joined us that afternoon thus helping to highlight our theme "a fellowship to build"; the Panel Evening with questions around our Guild Discussion Topic "finding the right way"; and, of course, the Pot Luck Supper!

We have added one or two members to our group this session and we continue to have the support of one male member.

Please consider over the summer coming along to our meetings. You would be given a very warm welcome.



The **Pastoral Care Team** is a small group of volunteers who provide transport for those who need to attend appointments either in Dingwall or Raigmore, Inverness. Residents in Care Home are also visited periodically and people who are housebound receive occasional visits too.

If you feel you might like to help out this Team, even if only on an occasional basis, please contact either the Minister or the coordinator, Janette Steele.

We know everyone is not able to physically help out but the Team need your continuous prayers so that God's loving kindness can be shown to those who need help.



Many thanks to all who contributed to the **Smarties appeal**. The excellent sum of £594.44 has been raised for church funds.

A retiring offering recently in aid of **Child Survival in Malawi** raised the sum of £175.40.

There will be a chance to deliver used stamps in support of the **World Mission Council** used stamp appeal early in September, so please look out any stamps you may have in the next two months.

The appeal this year is in support of a shelter for women who are victims of domestic violence run by the Greek Evangelical Church.

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Congregation Contribution

Are you sitting comfortably?!

Since the installation of the chairs and luxury of an attractive fitted carpet in the church, I am one who is indeed sitting comfortably.

Yes, I find having a choice of three different aisles from which to access seating, a bonus. Not to mention the chance to vary the choice of seating each week. Also an opportunity to be more sociable, and as I tend to be rather a late comer on Sunday mornings, it can be something of a lottery as to where I might find a vacant seat, which adds to the 'flavour' of the occasion.

From one very satisfied member of the congregation (name & address supplied, if you haven't already guessed!).



TOM YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT I GOT FRONT ROW SEATING AGAIN OH MY GOODNESS RUN UP HERE NOW I'LL SAVE IT WHILE I CAN

This year Christian Aid week through door to door collections, donations through envelopes and a soup lunch, organised through Ferintosh Church, raised the grand total of £2,071.13.

18 Collectors from Ferintosh Church of Scotland, Maryburgh Free Church and Dingwall Episcopal Church helped by giving generously of their time to call at houses in Conon Bridge, Maryburgh and Loch Ussie to help raise money during this year's Christian Aid Week focusing on the human cost of conflict in some of the toughest places in the world.



Christian Aid works to tackle the causes, not just the consequences, of conflict.

Date for your diary - Tuesday 26 August 2 - 4 p.m. Lochcarron Church, Lochcarron
An afternoon to hear stories from recent trips to Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories from Christian Aid, the Church of Scotland and the Scottish Episcopal Church with prayers for peace.

I would again like to thank all the volunteers who gave their time so willingly in May.

Joan MacKenzie

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A Gospel Based Community

Read Luke Chapter 17 & 18

Luke 17:1-19

Consider and reflect upon what these three passages teach us about how we should live our lives of faith.

1. How we should never do anything that might cause others to sin.
2. Why forgiveness should be part and parcel of our daily life – and why we should never refuse to forgive those who wrong us - in any way.
3. How we should strive to have real and genuine faith and not simply 'go through the motions'.
4. Why we should always be humble and remember that we are called to serve God - just as He came to serve us through the giving of Christ.

Luke 17:20-37

Reflect on what we learn here about the Kingdom of God.

1. That the coming of the Kingdom was a much discussed topic among the Jews.
2. How the Pharisees failed to see that in Jesus the Kingdom was upon them.
3. That the disciples had apparently accepted this truth and were now ready for further teaching on the Second Coming, which would be visible for all to see and be in no doubt of.

Luke 18:1-14

Reflect on what these two parables teach us.

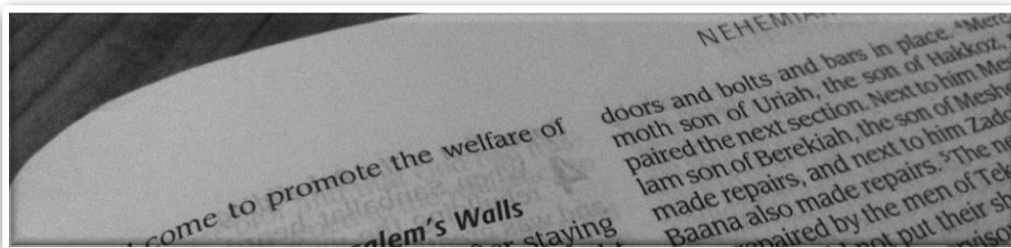
Here Jesus pinpoints the two most important aspects of prayer.

- Practice constant contact with God - Here the judge does not 'represent' God - it is meant to show how much more infinitely superior God's character is to that of human beings.
- Humble yourself before God - A person's attitude when he/she comes before God in prayer is all important

Luke 18:15-34

Finally, consider the purpose of these two portions of Scripture?

Is it simply to contrast the difference in attitude between a child and a man who seems determined to hold on to his earthly possessions – or is there more to it?



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Heart & Soul 2014

Celebrating the life of the Church

 The Church of Scotland

Heart and Soul took place this year on May 18th. It is difficult to know how to describe this event, which is held each year on the Sunday during the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. It is a worship experience, an educational afternoon, an exchange of ideas, a showcase for the Church and related organisations, an outreach to the many people who just happen upon Heart and Soul while enjoying an afternoon out in Edinburgh's Princes Street gardens.

For me this year it was a place of meeting. First of all I met our Minister, who was attending the Assembly and had come along to see what was happening. Then I met Carol Finlay, our former Mission partner, who is now Twinning and Local Development Secretary with the World Mission Council. The World Mission Council had a huge blow-up globe of the world outside their tent, with packs of hand-shaped stickers for people to write their prayers for different parts of the world, so of course I had to write one to stick on Cameroon. They had also organised visitors to the Assembly from different parts of the world to speak for a few minutes about their countries and their Churches, and I listened to a Minister from Pakistan speak about the difficulties Christians face there where they are a small minority in a mainly muslim country and face much persecution.

At this point I finally heard my mobile phone ring – Ian White's music had obscured it until then. So I met my sister, the one planned meeting of the day. She had come with a group from her Church in Monifieth in Angus, to enjoy the day this year, having been busy last year manning their stand. First we had some welcome warming soup from the Souper Sunday tent, where another old friend Marjorie Clark of the Church of Scotland HIV/Aids Programme was among the cooks. Then we went together to St Cuthbert's Church at the

West End of the gardens, to hear the Presbyterian Church of East Africa's London Choir. They not only performed songs in English, Swahili and some local languages, but challenged us to join in. It was inspirational, and I was sorry I had not been able to meet the African friends I had invited to join me for the afternoon: one had forgotten and was working, another was unwell. They would have enjoyed the performance.



Walking back along between the rows of stands set out by congregations from Shetland to Europe and by organisations as diverse as the Church of Scotland Guild, Tearfund and National Ethical Investment Week, the first person we met was Rev Doug McRoberts, who had been our mother's minister in Keith but is now minister of St Andrews Church in Malta. St Andrews had a stand focussing above all on their ministry to the many asylum seekers and economic migrants who are literally washed up on the shores of the island (or rescued from its waters). This is one of the projects the Church of Scotland Guild is supporting at the moment. I

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bought a booklet written by a Nigerian, Kingsley Meekness, about his decision to leave his homeland, his journey through the desert, a war zone and across the water, and the new life he has found in Malta. It is harrowing, incredible, inspiring in equal measure. Ask me if you would like to borrow it.

Then my sister called to a lady from the stand of Orwell and Portmoak Church (Kinross and Milnathort) – the Church of the man who was to have been Moderator but became ill and could not take up the office. Barbara challenged me to say who she was, but had to tell me she was Pat Eadie, who had been a teacher in our Secondary School and Guide captain when my sister was a Guide.

I had spied a stand named Lenzie Churches, so I asked whether one Rev Dan Carmichael of Lenzie Union Church was by any chance around. He was, and we had a happy reunion in the Ministries Council tent where he, as a member of that Council, was helping with the programme. Dan told me that Matthew was also at Heart and Soul, helping at the Boys Brigade tent, but I did not want to embarrass him by turning up there, since he would surely not have known who I was after all these years, so I contented myself with hearing that everyone was doing well. Anna had just celebrated her birthday, her 13th I believe. Hard to believe as she was scarcely more than a baby when the family left Ferintosh for Lenzie!

Our last meeting was with the congregation of Liberton Parish Church in Edinburgh, where we

had worshipped with our grandmother when she lived there in the 1950s – 70s. We did not know any of the representatives of the present congregation, but enjoyed a few quiet, reflective moments in their "tent of lament", which included candles of hope, a healing tree and a pile of question stones.

The afternoon ended when everyone who was present met at the central bandstand for closing worship – so many that we had to sit on the shallow steps, from which I had some difficulty getting to my feet to join in the hymns! Prior to the worship the new Moderator presented Moderator's medals to groups and individuals who had won them for various achievements. At the end, we were sent on our way with this blessing:

"May God our Creator, whose hands brought all things into being and which even now sustain our world, fill you with all joy and peace, as you trust in him.

May God the Son, whose hands flung stars into space, and which were stretched out on a cruel cross, uphold you and those you love, as you follow him.

May God the Spirit, whose hands break down barriers, uniting us in loving fellowship across the whole world, inspire and enthuse you, as you are filled by him.

Go from here to stretch out your hands in love in every community across the nation and beyond. Be the heart and soul until we meet again"

Janet Winchester

The appeal for bed linen and towels for the children's ward at **Ekwendeni Hospital** during Lent was extremely successful. The donations collected up to the open day on 13th April filled about 10 large boxes. Those who came along on that day enjoyed talks from Dr Kitty Campbell, a retired local GP who has worked at Ekwendeni Hospital, and Bob and Jan Baxter of Alba Aid, who had recently visited Ekwendeni. It was Bob and Jan who had suggested that we collect these items for the children's ward, having become aware that supplies were low. After that time, partly in response to articles in the Conon Craic, the Maryburgh Roundabout and the Ross-shire Journal another 9 boxes were filled. One lady came all the way from Cromarty with her donation and Margaret Liddell collected the contents of two houses from a friend in Nairn! The items should now be with the Raven Trust and may already be on the way to Malawi. Many thanks to all involved.

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CROSSREACH

providing a caring future

As explained in last edition of Focus, it was stated that this Social Care Arm of the Church of Scotland works in three main areas.

- 1 Adult Care Services
- 2 Children and Family services
- 3 Services to Older People

Again as stated in the last edition, this Social Care on our behalf has been in place since 1869. It employs over 2000 staff in more than 70 services covering the length and breadth of Scotland.

Children and Family Services

Positive Change through Positive Partnerships

The past year has seen a major change in the organisation of this section. As an initial pilot, the more traditional schools for children in care, along with the homes providing breaks to children with disability at the Mallard came together with a number of community services, including Perth Prison Visitor Centre, Daisy Chain, the Tom Allan Centre, CrossReach Counselling Moray, Sunflower Garden, Simpson House Counselling & Recovery, Simpson House Training and the Postnatal Depression Services in Edinburgh and Glasgow. The pilot aimed to help this diverse group learn from each other, understand how to work better together and ensure children and families turning to them for help were getting the best support possible.

Our Children and Family Section also has the largest number of projects within CrossReach funded entirely by charitable and trust activities. We remain indebted to the huge numbers of volunteers, students and partners who support our services in a variety of ways, donating time, energy, expertise and money to help us build the future of Scotland through investing in its children.

"The world of tomorrow will inherit the children of today. Whether nations grow and prosper will depend heavily on the survival, health, education and protection of their citizens, particularly the youngest." (UNICEF)

Look out for **CrossReach Commonwealth Baton** going around the facilities in the run up to the Games. Look out too for **CrossReach Week**, the third, from 2nd – 9th November.



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Church in the Community

The Annual General Meeting of the **Conon Bridge Amenities Association** shall be held at Ben Wyvis Primary School on Monday 22nd September 2014 at 7.30 p.m.



Do you want housing on the Conon Bridge playing fields?
Do you want the car park turned into a road?
No? Then please come along to the AGM on September 22nd.

There was a massive turnout at the meeting on 25th November 2013 and a good turnout on 20th January 2014 when the Amenities Association was re-awoken. That was a great start; however, we are not yet out of the woods.

Despite the petition and the huge number of individual letters of protest sent to the Council, the plan to annexe, develop and build houses on the land that is not theirs; land that belongs to the Association; land held for the benefit of "the community in Conon Bridge and surrounding district"; the green space at the centre of the village - is still part of the Highland Council's Inner Moray Firth Development Plan!

To ensure that the Association is able to fight on behalf of Conon, we have to ensure that we act in Accordance with our constitution; and that means the AGM has to be quorate. We also intend to propose amendments to the constitution at that time. We anticipate that the proposed amendments will be available for consideration for about a month before the AGM.

We look forward to seeing as many of the congregation as possible.

R W Urquhart
Chair

The Adult Conon Bridge and Maryburgh **Community Choir** begins again on Wednesday 27th of August at a new time of 7.30pm. Hope to see lots of new and returning faces! This is a relaxed, informal choir singing a range of music from Scottish songs to well-loved Musicals to Abba! No singing experience necessary.

Come along and have some fun singing with the community! For further information see Miranda.

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You may recall that in the last edition of the Focus we featured a number of areas in the Church which seek to find those who can offer their **time or talents** as an act of **stewardship**. After highlighting a number of these areas in Church, members of the congregation were invited to offer their time or talents to meet the many needs and opportunities that exist within our Church family and wider community.

Below is a list of those who can be contacted to find out more information about these different areas.

Congregational Board	Mrs Janet Murray (01349) 864024
Communication	Mr John Smith (01349) 865915 strathdrynie@tiscali.co.uk
Creative	Mrs Jeannette Cameron (01463) 870416
Crossreach	Mrs Janette Steele (01349) 861591 jintys@btinternet.com
Financial	Mr James Bremner (01349) 861412 jim.bremner@tiscali.co.uk
Guild	Ms Janet Winchester (01349) 865308 CJW49@hotmail.co.uk
Pastoral	Mrs Janette Steele (01349) 861591 jintys@btinternet.com
Practical	Mrs Janet Murray (01349) 864024
(Maintenance)	Mr Tom Thomas (01349) 861942
Social	Mrs Janet Murray (01349) 864024
World Mission	Ms Janet Winchester (01349) 865308 CJW49@hotmail.co.uk
(Christian Aid)	Mrs Joan Mackenzie 07733 19 66 33 jmackenzie10@btinternet.com
Worship	Mr Fred McCreddie (01349) 862171 fred.mccreadie@tesco.net
(Music)	Mrs Doreen Suckling (01349) 830120
Youth Activities	Mr Tommy McGregor (01349) 866181 tommccgregor@talktalk.net

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Community for all ages

Our busy **Sunday Club** term has ended with a Fun Night on the theme of the Commonwealth Games held in the church hall for the children and their families. We had eight games including Discus, Shotput, Bowls, Netball, and Long Jump. There were four teams of four competing with each other and the clock. The Conon Winners team won overall with Russel, Ellen, Andrew and Darcey getting a medal. The other teams called Bubblegum the Cats and the Winners also did very well and we all had lots of fun. Very good individual efforts by Fraser for the Long Jump, Isla in Netball, Russel in Darts and Jeanette in Discus. Thank you to all the helpers in Sunday Club and FYF, and for the donations of baking for our refreshments at half time!



On 13th August we are going on a trip with the children to the Police station in Inverness. We will be at the church car park at 12.30pm. We will learn more about the different roles the Police have and what we can do to help our community.

Sunday Club and FYF starts back after the holidays on Sunday 24th August.

Congregation Contribution

Come to the Saviour, make no delay,
Here in His Word He's shown us the way:
Here in our midst he's standing today,
Tenderly saying: Come!

Joyful, joyful will the meeting be,
When from sin our hearts are pure and free,
And we shall gather, Saviour, with Thee,
In our eternal home

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The Church's Finances in 2013

The Church's Stated Annual Meeting was held on Wednesday, 26th March and amongst other matters heard the Treasurer, Jim Bremner, give his report on the Church's finances for the year ended 31st December 2013. He reported that –

The income generated by offerings in 2013 (*which excluded this year the proceeds of the Gift Day, these were attributed to the costs of the removal of the asbestos under the church floor*) amounted to **£46,157**. This is **£4,083** higher than last year.

Other Ordinary General Income (which includes the investment income, donations from Weddings and Funerals and income for the use of the Hall, etc.) also showed a small increase of **£590** from that of 2012.

Ordinary General Income for 2013 was, in total, higher than in 2012 by **£4,673**.

The Church's Expenditure in 2013 amounted to **£61,160**. This was again higher than in the previous year by **£5,147**.

In 2012, our Church's General Fund ended the year with a deficit of **£10,059**. The deficit which resulted in 2013 proved to be even worse at **£10,534**. It will be appreciated that unless there is a general improvement in the weekly/monthly offerings or a decrease in expenditure (which is continually being examined), it is likely that the deficit in 2014 will be even more substantial. As an immediate starting point, the Treasurer again emphasised that many more of the Congregation could and should sign up to the Gift Aid Scheme through which the Church would receive an additional 25% of those participants' offerings at no extra cost to themselves – indeed they could personally benefit taxwise!

Although normal repairs and maintenance costs of the Church buildings are met from the Church's General Fund, a separate Fabric Fund exists to meet any necessary major repairs and improvements required. The major expenditure in 2013 related to the removal of asbestos underneath the floor of the church and the consequent refurbishment. The total cost of the asbestos removal and the other associated costs amounted to **£53,028**. Grants amounting to **£22,000** were received towards the cost and the balance was raised by the congregation through a gift day and a variety of ingenious fund raising projects by members of the congregation.

In closing, Mr Bremner thanked those members of the congregation who had already increased their level of giving through the Freewill Offering and Gift Aid Schemes and the Open Plate and especially those who made their offering through the Church's Monthly Bank Standing Order Scheme. Hopefully other members of the congregation will wish to increase their offering or change their method of giving and to do so, they are invited to contact Mr. Bremner (in confidence) at 01349 861412.

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MAKE IT EASY ON YOURSELF!

A growing number of the Congregation is making their offering to the Church by way of a monthly Banker's Standing Order.

This method of giving is safe, trouble-free and totally confidential. The method is

- **safe** – in that no coins, notes or cheques are involved. The Order is simply an instruction to the donor's Bank to transfer a fixed monthly sum (determined by the giver) from his or her Bank Account to the Church's.
- **trouble-free** – particularly for those who give by way of freewill offering envelopes, it saves looking out the relevant weekly envelope, finding the correct change or notes to put into it and remembering to put it in the plate! It also helps those who open the envelopes and record the weekly collections, and the method is
- **confidential** – in that the giver's name appears in the Church's monthly Bank Statement and is seen only by the Treasurer.

If you would like to make your Church offering by means of a Standing Order (and it is hoped that many more will want to) please get in touch with the Church Treasurer (Jim Bremner) at 01349 861412. He will provide you with the necessary form and details.

The Social Calendar

FLOWER FESTIVAL:

There is to be a **Flower Festival** in the church on Friday 15th, Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th August 2014 with the theme "Flowers in Praise".

The church will be open as follows:

Friday and Saturday: 11am-4pm with teas available in the hall.

Sunday: 1pm - 4pm. (No teas).

This event will conclude with a "Songs of Praise" Service at 6.30pm after which tea will be served in the hall.

It is anticipated that this will be a well supported event so lots of baking will be required for the teas. Volunteers will also be needed to act as stewards, as well as serving teas, washing dishes and a host of behind the scenes jobs. If you think you can help with this event, in any way, please add your name to the list which will appear in the church soon or contact Isabel MacDonald (861767) or Janet Murray (864024). Intimations and posters etc will publicise this.

CONON GALA:

We have been asked to provide teas at the **Conon Gala** on Saturday 23rd August. We will receive the proceeds from this for church funds. Once again, donations of baking and help will be appreciated and a list for names of volunteers etc. will be put in the church nearer the event. I appreciate that people are always being asked for their help at events but this is the only way that they can take place. It also gives us the opportunity to work in and with the local communities, which can only be beneficial to the church. Thanks to all who help in any way to make the social events the success they are. As well as providing a time for fellowship together these events also bring in much needed funds for the church. Thank you one and all!

Janet Murray, Social Convener

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Ferintosh Parish Church meets at 11am and 6.30pm each Sunday.

Our friendly and welcoming congregation is made up of those from Canon Bridge, Maryburgh and the surrounding area. Creche (for those of pre-school age), Sunday Club and FYF meet during the morning service. Tea and coffee are served in the Church Hall at the close of worship.

You are invited to join us and we pray that you will experience a real sense of God's blessing during your time with us.

Church Flowers

July Organiser – Mrs E Blackburn

6 th	Mrs H Drummond
13 th	Mr T Thomas
20 th	Mrs I Munro
27 th	Mrs E Blackburn

May Organiser – Mrs J MacKenzie

3 rd	Mrs C Parry
10 th	Muriel MacKay
17 th	Mrs J Cameron
24 th	Mrs J Cameron
31 st	Mrs A McKee

September Organiser – Mrs J Cameron

7 th	Mrs Wallace
14 th	Mrs D Fraser
21 st	Mrs W Leggett
28 th	Harvest Thanksgiving

Church Welcome

	Door	Count
July	J. Murray R. MacKay	J. Cameron
August	E. Neilson J. Steele	M. MacKenzie
September	A. MacKay J. Winchester	R. Urquhart

Church Register

Funerals

7 April 2014	Rev'd. David Simpson
15 May 2014	Mrs. Mary MacBeath
16 May 2014	Mr. William Dawson Munro Fraser
26 May 2014	Mr. Ian Spence
27 May 2014	Mrs. Linda Holroyd

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on towards love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25