

Ferintosh

Parish Church



Ferintosh Focus

Church Newsletter

September 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@gmail.com

*"In the same way, let your **light** shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16*



Contents

It's been a busy summer for the Church community and this edition of the Focus features a number of photos from our congregation. It's wonderful to capture moments and memories in this way and share them with others. Showcasing how our Church community cares for one another and others in the world is one of the ways we can glorify God:

*"In the same way, let your **light** shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven."*

Matthew 5:16 (NIV)

Although the summer may be over, there is endless opportunity to let your light glorify God in the next few months. Take all the chances God gives you – from the smallest cup of tea with a neighbour to working as a national Church body to serve others. It would be lovely to feature more photos of our Church community in the next Focus.

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Minister's Message

Over the past few months you may have seen a few people take up new challenges and become more involved in different things within our fellowship. For example, this past month we have had someone new on door duty, welcoming worshippers into our fellowship. (Thank you Pat!) These are all people who responded to our recent Stewardship Campaign and I would like to thank them all. I know they will all be blessed by the new tasks they have taken on and hopefully this will encourage others to seek to serve God in His church in a new way.



Paul tells us that, **'to each one of us grace has been given as Christ apportioned it....to prepare God's people for works of service...'** (Ephesians 2:7 and 2:12) We have all been given our fair share of gifts and talents and are called by God to use them in His name, and should not be afraid to do so, whether young or old. Indeed even now, it's not too late. If there is anything you feel you might be able to help with or become more involved in, please just let me know or speak to one of our Elders.

I am delighted to say that over the coming weeks we will be welcoming into our fellowship here someone who has heard God's call to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament and who has taken up that call. Mrs. Heidi Hercus is in the second year of her studies at the Theological College in Dingwall and will be joining us as she serves God. Heidi's placement will be for six months and I know that we will make Heidi feel very welcome and look forward to her taking part in the life and worship of our church.

In 1 Cor. 3:9 we read, **'we are God's fellow workers...'** so let us **all** be workers for God by serving Him in any way we can, to the glory and honour of His name.

With every blessing,
Andy



Remembrance Sunday this year falls on the 9th of November and as in recent years we will have our Act of Remembrance at 11.00am at the War Memorial in Conon Bridge. To enable this to happen, those who wish to join in this would meet at the War Memorial for 10.50am. After the Act of Remembrance we would then proceed to the church for our Service of Remembrance. More details of this will of course follow in the weekly intimations sheet closer to the time.

*"In the same way, let your **light** shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16*



Let your light shine before others

(Matthew 5:16)

The Guild has begun its session with its first meeting for 2014-15 having a talk from Rev A Graham on the Discussion Topic for this time "Let's talk about.... how to share".

The programme as usual is varied and there should be themes to suit many tastes. The theme this session is the final of "Whose we are and whom we serve" - "a world to serve". Do come along to the meetings, details are in the Order of Service two weeks before each meeting. Even if you can't manage all, do come along to any meeting which you think would be of interest to you.

The meetings are held on the first Monday of the month and are sometimes in the evening and at others in the afternoon.

The Annual Meeting of the National Guild was held in Dundee's Caird Hall on Saturday 6th September. Three ladies from Ferintosh attended for the day.

It is so inspiring to hear and be part of the singing of approximately 2000 people from all over the country and from abroad.

The speakers in the morning were Rt Rev John P Chalmers, Moderator of the General Assembly and Rev Dr Margaret Fowler a parish minister in Jamaica. Both were so interesting. John spoke of his hope that, in a society in which so many are friendless and lonely, he will be able to encourage people to find faith, friendship and the Spirit of Christ in the community of the local church. Margaret is an expert on human trafficking and social justice. "We make life best, not by what we have but by what we give to the vulnerable."

Afternoon it was the turn of John Lowrie Morrison (Jolomo), a hugely popular landscape artist. He spoke about Christianity's relationship with art in the light of the 4th commandment. Throughout the day, Brightons Parish Church Praise Group sang to us and encouraged us to join with them. Very uplifting!

This is the second year totals of the projects being supported by the Guild over the years 2012-2015

Comfort Rwanda	<i>Building a better Rwanda</i>	£77,662.86
CrossReach	<i>Heart for Art</i>	£115,811.50
Mary's Meals	<i>Making a difference in Liberia</i>	£89,663.86
Ministries Council (priority Areas)	<i>Passage from India</i>	£66,758.79
Scottish Churches Housing Action	<i>Julius Project</i>	£81,924.68
World Mission Council	<i>Out of Africa into Malta</i>	£79,480.38
	Total	£511,302.07

Again, this total is quite staggering for only ⅓ of the way through the time! We can by working together make a difference.

*"In the same way, let your **light** shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16*





At the recent Stewardship campaign on "Time and Talents", it was gratifying to receive a couple of offers of help in the **Pastoral Care team**. This was so encouraging to the existing members and their talents have already been put to use. Thank you to those who volunteered this time and to those who have been dedicated volunteers over the thirteen years we have been in existence.

We realise that not everyone is able to take on the tasks such as driving or home visiting. However, the Team can do nothing without the prayerful backing of the congregation. Please continue to pray for the Team Members as they seek to serve the Lord in these ways.

Flower Festival 15th – 17th August 2014



After weeks of preparation and planning, flowers ordered and greenery collected a group of enthusiastic Flower Arrangers descended on the Church to depict the theme of 'Flowers in Praise'. Fourteen Hymns and the Doxology had been chosen. All the ladies produced amazing window displays and pedestals with much thought and imagination given to each. At the end of a busy day the Church was transformed and ready for the opening the next day. Thanks to Pat Gillanders who performed the official opening of the Flower Festival.

The Festival was well attended over the weekend and the displays were much admired by the visitors.

Sincere thanks to all the flower arrangers, bakers, tearoom helpers, stewards and everyone who assisted in moving the chairs. Thanks also to Doreen for her beautiful playing of the organ.

The Festival concluded with a Sunday evening Songs of Praise service. A fitting end to a weekend of friendship and worship.

The fantastic sum of £1400 was raised.



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Summer Fete

Despite the disappointing weather on the morning of Saturday 28th June, the church hall and grounds soon became a hive of activity as gazebos were erected, bunting was attached to the church railings, goods were dispersed to the various stalls and tables set up and prepared for teas. It was good to hear the chat and banter of those who came along to help throughout the day and of course all those who came along for a bargain or two and a "fine piece" to enjoy with their tea.



Thank you to everyone who supported this event in any way, whether by donating goods to sell, "goodies" to eat, time or finances, or indeed all of these, to help support the church. Your support was greatly appreciated and a good time seemed to be had by all!

*"In the same way, let your **light** shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16*



Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path

(Psalm 119:105)

Bible Study - Daniel

Background Information :

Before the eventual fall of Jerusalem in 586 BC, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had already laid siege to the city and on at least two occasions, had taken captives with him back to Babylon. The early captives tended to be men of importance and influence within the city, along with some of the most beautiful women. The aim here was to demonstrate his dominance and also to deprive Jerusalem of some of its finest citizens. Daniel was among that first group of captives taken around 605 BC, the year in which Nebuchadnezzar came to power and swept through all of Palestine.

Daniel was born during the time of King Josiah and of the prophet Jeremiah, who between them did so much to try to turn the people back to God. Josiah, however was killed in battle against the Egyptians in 609BC and the prophet Jeremiah suffered under the people, who would not listen to him, choosing instead to return to their evil ways. Daniel was born into a noble family, hence the reason that he was taken captive, however, because of his background he, and three others, was given a course of instruction for service as scribes and officials in the royal court. Daniel himself is believed to have written this book around 536 BC and the book is essentially split into two parts. The first part, chapters 1-6, essentially deal with Daniel's life whilst the remainder of the book focuses on Daniel's visions.

Read Daniel 1

What can he learn from and about Daniel himself in this opening chapter?

- Despite his new surroundings and new position, Daniel refused to compromise his beliefs.
- There was little he could do about the new names they had been given, or the fact that they had been selected for this training, but they could remain true to God in what they ate?
- He showed great courage in taking this stand.
- He also showed great wisdom in the way he convinced the chief eunuch to accommodate his beliefs.
- Above all, however, he showed great faith and obedience to God

Read Daniel 2:14-49

What can we learn from Daniel's behaviour in these verses?

- Daniel was at a crisis point but did not shrink back in fear or dismay?
- Instead he prayed to God for guidance and inspiration, believing without doubt that God would answer.
- He immediately gives thanks to God for his answered prayer.
- In verse 24 we see him think of others as well as himself – he could have used this knowledge to save only himself and his friends – but he interceded on behalf of others.

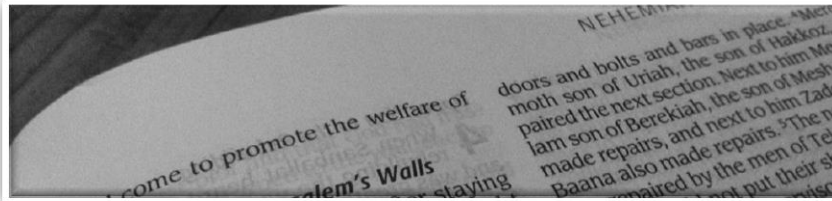
*"In the same way, let your **light** shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven." Matthew 5:16*



- He acknowledges before the King that it was God who gave him the vision – giving God the glory and honour that was his. Because of this, the King himself later gave glory to God.
- He also acknowledged the role of his friends in all of this.

If we continue and read through the whole of Daniel, what do we learn?

- God is always in control.
- We need to persevere in our faith when we face difficult times.
- God can use us all, no matter our circumstances – indeed God has a purpose for all of us.
- If we are obedient, loyal and faithful to God – He will be more so to us.

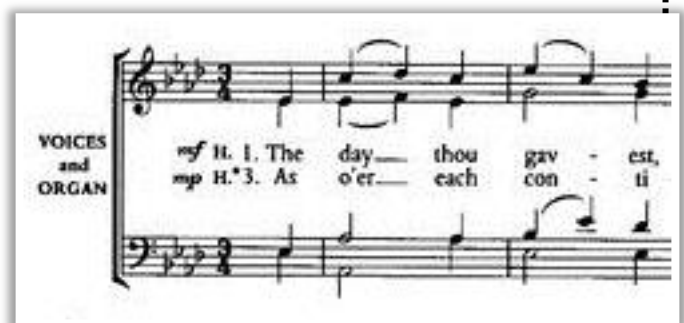


An update from the Organ Stool

Your favourite hymns or those with a special memory attached

Very many thanks to those of you who have enabled me to play one of your special hymns before the morning service - it is my pleasure, so do keep them coming! I have been asked to play many hymns and am gradually winding my way through them. By now I guess you must have realised that I have got an OTT sense of humour (which I sincerely try to keep under control), but there is one hymn in particular which proves to be a bit problematic. You see, you may well think that I am having a joke at the beginning of the day if I were to play it - yes, that is it, "The Day Thou Gavest Lord is ended". As hymns requested are for morning services and as this specific request has come from those of you who do not usually attend in the evening, I have given thought as to when I can suitably play it. Therefore, as this hymn is used at The Cenotaph Service on Remembrance Sunday I will do the same.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to bringing a little pleasure in recalling memories of days past and your favourites, too.



Ferintosh Church Choir

We can still put in more seats if you would like to join us.

We would all welcome you with open arms - now starting rehearsing for Christmas. Our next rehearsal is on Sunday, October 12.

No auditions or awkward forms to fill in - or joining fee!! Just "come and join us" as the well-worn phrase goes".

Doreen Suckling



CrossReach Focus

The story of CrossReach is a story of rebuilt relationships, of lives transformed to the extent that people in recovery are giving back through the Recovery Volunteers Training Programme. It's a story where people throughout Scotland are supported to unlock their potential, and make their own decisions personalised support. It's a story of challenge in a changing and demanding environment but one of resilience as the dedicated staff provide high quality support and award winning services. It's a story of successful partnerships and of funding which is enabling us to contribute to the improved health and wellbeing of people in Scotland. It's a story of celebration of the support provided not only by staff but by volunteers, who for the first time have been recognised in a Volunteer of the Year Award.

The Services to Older People

CrossReach has many years of experience in providing care and support to Older People in Christ's name. The staff work alongside people to develop a personal plan which enables each individual to live life the way they choose, with the appropriate level of support. This support is delivered in a variety of ways including residential care, dementia care, day care, respite care, community based care and support and also through creative arts.

Last summer saw a group of volunteers from Crown Church in Inverness help residents at Cameron House makeover their garden. The residents decided on the flowers and colour schemes choosing plants like mint and lavender, inspired by gardens they had created in previous years.



The **Ladies Bible Study** group meets every Wednesday in the autumn/winter months and began again on 17th September. We meet in the small Church Hall at 1.30pm for approximately an hour.

This is an informal meeting where we study the Word of God using various study guides to help. The relevant passages are read at home and consideration to some pertinent questions are thought about and then we bring our findings or thoughts or puzzlements to the group where we are able to talk about our studies and take note of each person's ideas and different slant on things. It makes for great fellowship and support.

We'd love to have more ladies join us. If you could manage just on the occasional time, that would be great too. Do give it your prayerful consideration.

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I have made you a light for the Gentiles

(Acts 13:47)

Mission and Outreach Committee

The Chaplain of **Ekwendeni Hospital**, Rev Joshua Nyangulu paid a short visit to Ross Presbytery recently. On Thursday 11th September he spoke to representatives of the congregations in the Presbytery at a meeting in Roskeen Church. After giving an outline of the work of the hospital, he spoke of his work as chaplain, one of three full time hospital chaplains in the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian. Rev Nyangulu is responsible for morning devotions at the hospital – at 7.30am each day. On three mornings each week he leads the devotions in the area of the Outpatient Department where patients wait to be seen. On the other days a team of volunteers leads devotions on the different in-patient wards. Most of the rest of the chaplain's time is devoted to counselling both patients and staff members – at any time of the day or night! When he can, he goes out with the hospital's outreach teams to the surrounding villages, especially the HIV/AIDS team, but his schedule does not always allow him to travel at the same time as the teams, so he would welcome a vehicle, so that he could travel independently to the villages. The Presbytery World Mission Committee is looking into ways of assisting with this need. The Church of Scotland World Mission Council has recently donated an ambulance to the hospital, using money received in legacies.

A number of short video clips, featuring the wide range of work being done in Ekwendeni, is available here at the following website address: <http://www.theraventrust.org/ekwendeni-mission-video-shorts/>



Many thanks for all those who donated used stamps for the **World Mission Council used stamp appeal**. A good number of stamps, including two complete collections, was recently handed over to the dealer. The money raised this year will go to support a shelter for victims of domestic violence set up by the Greek Evangelical Church. Please keep collecting stamps, trimmed with a half inch margin if possible, and separated into UK and foreign. These can be placed in the box in the annexe in Church, or handed to any member.

The **Community Choir** has started up again, with a good number of kent and new faces at the first meeting. The choir looks forward to singing old favourites and some new pieces over the months to come: songs from the shows, Scots songs, Christmas songs, etc. Thanks are due to Miranda Neall and to Mr and Mrs Graham for their hard work in ensuring this popular activity runs smoothly.

The Committee is hoping to arrange several different events over the next few months. Details will be published in the weekly Order of Service sheets, and in the next Ferintosh Focus.

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Child Survival in Malawi (Scotland) Scottish Charity No. SC 035943

It was with great sadness that the trustees of this charity, at their meeting on 4th February this year, agreed to implement the winding up of the trust by 2015.

Four main reasons led them to this decision.

- The steady decline in donations since 2008. In 2013 donations just 49% of those in 2008. Fewer donors too.
- Some projects had ceased operating. Some have become independent; some no longer require the "seed donations"; others had administrative difficulties; no new projects were being identified.
- Similar charities have grown up and making contact with congregations, schools and other non-governmental organisations in Malawi.
- The Trustees are ageing and finding it difficult to maintain the high level of involvement required.

"Over the 21 years that it has existed, Child Survival in Malawi (Scotland) has never been a major player amongst those providing assistance to Malawi's orphans and vulnerable children, but we believe it has played a significant and responsible role in helping many of those in Malawi who have undertaken this crucial work.

Over the last ten years, £333,000 has been sent to 33 projects in Malawi. During that period, expenses were just 3.4% of our income.

We are proud of what we have been able to achieve and deeply grateful for the support which you have given through us to the projects we have been able to assist.

Please accept our thanks for all that you have done to make it possible."

Ferintosh Parish Church has been a long-time supporter of this charity, beginning with the children in Sunday School raising money to help children whose parents had died of AIDS and then spilling over into the congregation as a whole as the members saw this great need in Malawi.

On behalf of the charity, I thank you all for the support you have given over these many years.

Janette Steele



The Adult Canon Bridge and Maryburgh Community Choir continues to meet in Ferintosh Parish Church Hall on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm. This is a relaxed, informal choir singing a range of music from Scottish songs to well-loved Musicals to Abba! No singing experience necessary. So if you enjoy singing, why not come along and have some fun singing with the community!



Beach tales hit small screen

BY DAVID HEPBURN
david.hepburn@kirkcaldyherald.co.uk
@Kirkcaldy_Herald

A minister's wife has seen the characters she dreamed up during beach walks turned into an animated television series.

'Lily's Driftwood Bay', about a girl who lives on an island, launched on top children's television channel Nick Junior recently.

It was the culmination of a story that started seven years before for Joanne Carmichael, who lives in Lenzie with husband Reverend Dan Carmichael - the minister at Lenzie Union Church.

Inspiration came when the couple bought a bolt hole "not much bigger than a beach hut" on the Isle of Arran.

The mum-of-two said: "After months of filling my pockets with beach treasures, one day I sat on the sand and start-

ed to create first characters, and then trees, flowers, cakes, props and scenery from the beautiful wave-washed pottery, sea glass, driftwood and other more weird and wonderful beach finds.

"I plucked up the courage to sell them as pictures - first at Lenzie Primary PTA Craft Fayre and then Scottish Art Galleries."

But the characters were destined to break out from Joanne's pictures, with Belfast television company Sixteen South snapping up the idea and hiring some of the best-known voices in the business to bring them to life.

Joanne said: "I've watched as my idea of a wee girl Lily - who lived in a beach hut and who would rush down to the waves each day to see which new treasure had been washed ashore - has developed into Lily's Driftwood Bay with such amazing voices as Peter Mullan, Jane Horrocks and Stephen Fry.

"I've been working with them and a talented team of over 100 people as Creative consultant over the last few years as they've developed it and brought it all to life.

"It's still very hard to believe it all started on Arran's beaches and Lenzie Primary PTA craft stall!"

And now Joanne is hoping to give something back to the island that inspired her - joining forces with the Community of Arran Seabed Trust (COAST) to campaign for cleaner beaches and seas around Arran.

She explained: "I have always regarded Arran's treasures washed ashore as a 'gift from the sea' for me as an artist, but I have been acutely aware all along that whilst to me the salvage is 'sea treasure,' for seabirds and marine life, they can prove to be deadly.

"I am delighted to be able to give something back to Arran, the beautiful Island where it all began."



BEACH COMBER: Joanne was inspired by trips to Arran.

The congregation at Ferintosh would like to extend their congratulations to Joanne and family. Rev Dan Carmichael was the minister at Ferintosh from 1994-2003.

Article from the Kirkcaldy Herald.

The following was posted on a Canon Bridge Facebook Page on September 15th 2014 by Mary-Jo Mackenzie from the USA.



Hello. I understand that my great-grandfather, Roderick Mackenzie, may have been the first minister of Ferintosh Parish Church. Last October I visited Scotland for the first time, with limited information about my genealogy, but did see his grave in Fodderty drive through the area. I wish I'd known more then, and would have loved to have visited your community. It is so beautiful there. I hope to return. I live in Port Townsend, Washington, USA. If anyone has historical information regarding Roderick Mackenzie or his children's children, etc, I would love to hear from you. It would be a thrill to find living relatives who still live in Scotland. Enjoyed your facebook page and photos.

Mary Jo Mackenzie

<https://www.facebook.com/maryjo.mackenzie>

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Walk as children of Light

(Ephesians 5:8)

During the summer holiday **Sunday Club** and FYF had a visit to the Inverness Police Headquarters. We were shown round the many different areas including the prison cells, the street camera room, the evidence store, the interview room, community police and more. We asked lots of questions and at the end the police officer showed us all the things he carries on his uniform and in his kit bag. It was a very interesting visit and we all learned something new about the police in our community.

At Sunday Club we are doing Samson, Jonah, David and Daniel running up to Harvest. After the October Holiday we are going to try a different routine. We will have our meeting in the hall first then we will come into Church towards the end of the service, instead of the beginning.



Hi, this session at **FYF** we welcomed Alexzander and Andrew into the group. We have started using new material called SUBstance from Scripture Union. The module that we are currently doing is called I AM WHO I AM. This focuses on the life and times of Moses and the persecution of the Israelites, through this we have been looking at the persecution of people today in countries such as Gaza, Syria and Ukraine. We discuss situations in these countries and pray for the people affected using our prayer time and prayer tree.

These events are particularly strong in our minds as today is World Peace Day. We have been inspired by the Moderator to create 'Doves of Peace' to hang over our prayer tree to remind us to continue to pray for World peace.

Alexzander, Andrew, Fraser, Katie, Lara, Saffy and Victoria.

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Our Church's Finances

On Saturday, 13th September the Church held a Gift Day for its General Fund. In recent years the income from the annual Gift Days was required to meet some very substantial expenditures on the fabric of the Church through its separate Fabric Fund and as a consequence none of the money so generously given was attributed to the General Fund. The 2014 Gift Day letter explained how the General Fund had suffered as a result of this and as a result the Board had been required to sell some of the Church's investments.

To date a sum of **£5,400** has been raised from the Gift Day for 2014 and the members of the Congregational Board thank all who contributed so generously.

In 2013 our expenditure exceeded our income in no less than nine of the twelve months and regrettably it looks as if similar deficits will arise in 2014.

During the past few years, the General Fund has ended the financial year in deficit. In 2013 the deficit amounted to **£10,656** and this year 2014, despite the generous income from the Gift Day, it would appear that another deficit in the region of **£6,000** will arise.

This unhappy situation can only be improved by either reducing our expenditure (which the Board is earnestly trying to do) and/or increasing our income. As our main source of income comes from the Congregational Offerings, the Board encourages all to consider reviewing their offerings and, if taxpayers, to sign a Gift Aid Declaration enabling the Church to claim an additional twenty five percent from HM Revenue and Customs, at no additional cost to the giver.

The Social Calendar

River Café: The River Café takes place in the church hall from 2pm-3.30pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month during school term time. Forthcoming dates are:

8th October12th November10th December

Soup Lunches: Once again we plan to run these on the 1st Friday of the month throughout the Autumn/Winter. We meet in the church hall at 12md for a short time of devotions. This is followed by a choice of home-made soups, tea and biscuits and a chance to chat, after which we usually have a guest speaker. Forthcoming dates are:

3rd October7th November5th December

"Down Memory Lane": Following the success of the Variety Evening we held in March of this year, we plan to hold another evening of entertainment in the church, followed by a light supper in the hall. The date is Friday 14th November and further details will be available nearer the time.

Janet Murray,
Social Convener



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

October Organiser – Mrs J Cameron

5 th	Mrs A Mackay
12 th	Sadie MacKenzie
19 th	Anne MacInnes
26 th	Gael McCallum

November Organiser – Mrs E Glashan

2 nd	Mrs E Glashan
9 th	Mrs P Gillanders
16 th	Mrs M Graham
23 rd	Miss M MacKenzie
30 th	Mrs I MacDonald

December Organiser – Mrs J Cameron

7 th	Mrs P Gillanders
14 th	N/A
21 st	N/A
28 th	N/A

Church Welcome

	Door	Count
October	J. Cameron C. Parry	I. Millar
November	H. Fraser S. Telfer	I. MacDonald
December	J. Bremner J. Fraser	J. Murray

Church Register

Funerals

29 July 2014	Mr. Donald Alexander Ross
4 September 2014	Mrs. Elsie Ann MacKenzie

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