

Ferintosh

Parish Church



Ferintosh Focus

Church Newsletter

September 2015

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



Church Contact Information

Minister: Rev'd Andrew F. Graham

Ferintosh Manse, Leanaig Road, Conon Bridge IV7 8BE

Tel. 01349 861275

Session Clerk: Mr Fred McCreadie

7 Castle Gardens, Dingwall, IV15 9HY

Tel. 01349 862171

Clerk to Congregational Board: Mrs Janet Murray

The Cottages, Easter Kinkell, Conon Bridge IV7 8HY

Tel. 01349 864024

Treasurer: Mr Jim Bremner

Strathmore, Gairloch Crescent, Conon Bridge IV7 8BQ

Tel. 01349 861412

Freewill Offering / Gift Aid: Mrs Isabel MacKenzie

Tel. 01349 864387

Roll Keeper / Order of Service / Website: Mr John Smith

The Finches, Strathdrynie, Dingwall IV15 9UJ

Tel. 01349 865915

Newsletter Committee: Miss Emma Smith, Mrs Janette Steele, Mr Hugh Steele

Pastoral Care Team: Mrs Janette Steele

17 Muirden Road, Maryburgh IV7 8EJ

Tel. 01349 861591

Guild Contact: Mrs Janette Steele

17 Muirden Road, Maryburgh IV7 8EJ

Tel. 01349 861591

Sunday Club: Mr Tommy McGregor

102 Birch Drive, Maryburgh IV7 8ES

Tel 01349 866181

Ferintosh Youth Fellowship: Mr Tommy McGregor

102 Birch Drive, Maryburgh IV7 8ES

Tel 01349 866181

Child Protection: Mr Hugh Fraser

Achnasoul, Muir Of Ord, IV6 7XA

Tel. 01997 433384

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

This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters. 1 John 3:16



Contents

This edition of the Focus demonstrates the passion the members of our congregation and community have to help other people, be it close to home or further afield. The Guild have released figures showing the money raised over the last few years and it's magnificent to see that Ferintosh has played a real part in this. There are updates from CrossReach, Alba Aid, Blythswood and the next project that Ferintosh Guild has chosen to support.

An often quoted verse of the Bible in support of contributing time and money to charitable causes is 1 John 3:17 which reads *"If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?"* We know and understand that part of our work to serve God is to serve one another. The verse immediately preceding this reminds us of the greatest act of service that has been unbelievably given to each of us: *"This is how we know what love is: Jesus Christ laid down his life for us. And we ought to lay down our lives for our brothers and sisters."*

As we are reminded of Jesus' great charity to us even when we were least deserving, let us continue to support these truly deserving causes.

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Minister's Message

Over my summer holidays I managed to do some more work on my family tree. It's something I started many years ago but don't often get the time to continue my research, so this summer I decided to pick it up again and got the chance to go to the National Records Office. I think it's important that we know where we came from and the hardships and achievements of the people from our past.



At the Canon Gala last week Tony Innes had a wonderful display of images of Canon and it's people from the past. As I looked at those old photos in the Church hall, I wondered how many of the people in those images still lived in the village and how many of them had moved away. Life takes us down many paths but we always remember the place we were brought up, as childhood memories never leave us.

This week we have seen many Syrians coming from their home country looking for refuge and to begin a new life in Europe because of war in their own land. I wonder what memories they will have of their homes and how many of them will one day want to return to their own country, perhaps to research their family trees.

No matter where we come from or what our background may be the Bible tells us that we are all God's children, created in His image, male and female, and wherever life may take us, for whatever reason, God will always be with us – indeed more than that, ***'I know that plans I have for you,' declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future...'*** (Jer.29:11).

With every blessing,
Andy

The **Ladies Bible Study Group** has resumed again after a short summer break. We meet every Wednesday in the small Church Hall at 1.30pm for an hour approximately. We try to study God's Word using different study guides to help us. At present, we are continuing to look at Evangelism and the part we could play in spreading the Good News to others.

The group is very friendly and informal. The passages are read prior to coming along and sometimes re-read in the group. There are questions supplied which guide our thoughts to the relevance to us but we find the discussions are wide-ranging and listening to others perspective is so rewarding.

There is always room for more to come along to join even if it can be only occasionally. Please pray and consider coming to participate. You don't have to speak because listening can be so valuable too.

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Church Activities

The discussion topic "working through conflict" began the meetings of the **Guild** for this coming session. The Guild's three-year theme is Be Bold, Be Strong! With 2015/16 being "Go in Peace". It was lovely to get back together again with such a lovely group. You'd enjoy yourself if came along. Honestly!

Our programme is very varied and all are welcome to come along for any meeting that you think would be to your interests. Remember - no age restrictions and no gender ones either! The meetings are held in the Church Hall on the first Monday of the month - sometimes they are afternoon meetings and at other times evening. The Order of Service will let you know the time.

This year's Annual Gathering (please note the new title!) of the National Guild was held in the Caird Hall, Dundee on Saturday 5th September. As last year, three ladies from Ferintosh Guild attended.

The morning speakers were Rt Rev Dr Angus Morrison, Moderator of the General Assembly and Rev John McMahon, Head of Spiritual and Pastoral Care at West London Mental Health Trust. Dr Morrison was heading off to Balmoral immediately after speaking to us to spend the weekend with other important people!

Rev McMahon is based at the well-known Broadmoor Hospital, one of only four high-secure hospitals in the UK.

In the afternoon we heard from three ladies, one being Kay Keith retiring National Convenor, who had been in Nigeria to join the celebrations around the life of Mary Slessor. Whilst it was harrowing to hear of the treatment twins used to receive before Mary's arrival, it was wonderful to see many groups of twins celebrating her life now.

The singing both in the morning and afternoon was led by the General Secretary of the Guild, Iain Whyte (no not that one!) and Eilidh Marks the Development Officer. Eilidh really entered into the Guild brand with a dress made of material covered in the Logo (not from tea towels as we first thought), red shoes and a red guitar.



The 2012 – 2015 Projects have now come to an end and the magnificent total over these three years is a staggering £775,076.90. We thank the whole congregation and community for supporting our efforts here locally to be part of this magnificent whole. Together with the £802,000 which the Guild has handed over to the Church during these three years, it makes a mind-boggling sum, don't you think?

The new projects are underway and, at Ferintosh, we have decided to support "Breaking the Cycle" this session, which you can read about on page 7.

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The **Pastoral Care Team** continues to help those who require it. In the main, it is transport to appointments that makes most calls on our Team but we continue to visit people in their own home and in Care Homes.

The service that we provide is much appreciated by the folk who use it and the members are happy to be showing the kind hands of Jesus to our community.

We ask that you keep praying for the Team as it undertakes these duties in Christ's name and for the glory of God.

Janette Steele

On behalf of our **Knitting and Crochet Group**, thank you to all who have donated wool, also for the kind comments on some examples of completed items at the Mini Craft Show. As this is on going, I am happy to accept further donations at any time. (Box in Church Annex)

I am also willing to accept any items that can be added to Blythwood Shoe Boxes. We meet in November to check and make up boxes in Maryburgh Free Church Hall. For suitable items, please see page 8 of this Focus.

Thank you again for your support.

Liz Glashan (861532)

It is proposed to have a **Day of Prayer and Reflection** in the Church on Saturday 28th November.

The Church will be open between 10am and 3.30pm for personal prayer, spoken or unspoken.

There will be opportunities for group prayer in the annex on the hour, every hour whilst the Church is open.

We realise there are many concerns which may be on your heart. We would like to reflect these if at all possible. Therefore, please let Irene Munro, Isabel Mackenzie or Janette Steele know of your wider concerns. There will also be a box at the rear of the Church if you'd rather place your ideas for prayer in that.

The topics chosen for this occasion will be in the Order of Service prior to the Prayer Day. There will be information on these topics available in the sanctuary on the day.

Janette Steele



Breaking the Cycle

Your support can help to empower women and girls in Kenya to fight the horrendous practice of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), so they can stay in school and reach their God-given potential. Your actions and prayers will be able help girls like Bridget, "I want to stay in school, I do not want to be forced to marry or have children. I am going to become a great lawyer and work on laws to combat FGM."

According to the World Health Organisation (WHO) over 125 million girls and women across 29 countries, including Scotland, alive today, have been cut. FGM is the partial or total removal of the external genitalia for non-medical reasons. Seen as a rite of passage, it is carried out on girls of 12 years; sometimes younger. It can lead to severe problems and even death. Survivors tend to drop out of school, are married off and give birth, all before 16.

In the Kuria district of Kenya, where Feed the Minds works, complex cultural and social reasons make FGM hard to combat. Nevertheless, we are committed to promoting a culture of change to ensure every girl can choose her own future and to stop the innocent becoming victims. We do this by engaging the whole community in activities that raise awareness, share knowledge and drive positive social action.



Health education



Livelihoods



Civic education



Peace building



Practical theological education

Feed the Minds is an ecumenical Christian charity founded in 1964 that works in partnership with grassroots partners to deliver education projects that empower communities to combat poverty and injustices across the Global South.

Find out more about Feed the Minds at feedtheminds.org.



"The project made a significant difference to my life. It provided me with respect. I can now read. And my involvement with soap production lifted me from extreme poverty."

Sijaona Shomari,
Democratic Republic of Congo

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Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal

Last winter the Blythswood Shoebox Appeal resulted in 106,000 boxes being delivered to people in eight east European countries and in Pakistan. This year the organisation has set a target of 120,000.

Filled with everyday items such as a bar of soap, a pair of socks and a notebook, the boxes give practical help to people deprived of basic necessities. But it's the emotional impact which Blythswood's partners in Europe identify as being most significant.

"It is not going to solve the problem of poverty," says Adrian Popa, who has pioneered educational and relief programmes in his native region of Banat, western Romania. "It is simply a gift that provides joy and happiness. And if that means a toothbrush and shampoo and extra stuff that would make someone's face light up at the end of the day I think it's incredible. It's surprising that someone far away from you cares and would send you a present."

**Blythswood Care**

31 August at 12:18 ·

HOMELESS FORMER NURSE SURPRISED THAT SOMEONE CARES

Zina was one of eighty homeless people in Chisinau, Moldova, who received Blythswood shoeboxes last year. The hats and scarves were immediately useful to them on the streets of Moldova's capital city where average low temperatures in the month of December are minus 4C. And Zina and her companions were glad of the food, too, which Blythswood's partners bring them once a week throughout the winter. For 25 years Zina worked as a nurse in a hospital. But when she lost her job, her life fell apart. She started drinking and soon became homeless. Dumitru Sevastian is one of those who deliver boxes and aid funded by Blythswood Care. He says: "Zina was surprised that someone cares about her when even her own relatives had abandoned her."

Woolly hats and scarves were immediately useful to Zina and other homeless people in Chisinau

www.shoeboxappeal.org



CHECKLIST 2015

Please tick items included and firmly secure this list on your shoebox lid.

SUGGESTED ITEMS (ALL ITEMS MUST BE NEW):

Please do try to include the following items highlighted in the top box.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toothbrush and Toothpaste | <input type="checkbox"/> Small doll/toy
For girls children's box |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hat/scarf,gloves
(or substitute one of them for a warm jumper) | <input type="checkbox"/> Sweets (No chocolate or any other food) 'Best Before' date March 2016 No loose sweets, lollies or undated bags of sweets. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soap | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toy car
For boys children's box | |

Toiletries (NO TALCUM POWDER)

- ☐ Shampoo
- ☐ Face cloth/ Moist wipes
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Moisturising Cream
- ☐ Comb/Brush
- ☐ Sanitary Products
- ☐ Shaving foam/Razors

Clothes

- ☐ Underwear Socks/Tights

Miscellaneous

- ☐ New Make-up
- ☐ Sewing Equipment

- ☐ Household Candles
- ☐ Screwdrivers/Pliers
- ☐ Kitchen Utensils

Stationery

- ☐ Pens/Pencils/Sharpener
- ☐ Notepads/Colouring books
- ☐ Rulers/Rubbers

Other Items

(T-shirts/Pyjamas/Jumpers/ Shirts) etc

- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐

A spokesperson from Blythswood will be at the Soup Lunch on Friday 2nd October to speak to us about the Shoe Box appeal. Come along and join us!

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CROSSREACH

providing a caring future

The mission statement for **CrossReach** is

"In Christ's name we seek to retain and regain the highest quality of life which each individual is capable of experiencing at any given time."

This is work done throughout Scotland on our behalf - members and adherents of the Church of Scotland.

CrossReach delivers services from the cradle to the grave. Beginning with support for new mothers experiencing difficulties due to Postnatal Depression right through to care of the elderly in Care Homes, some of which are especially for those living with dementia, CrossReach staff and volunteers work with dedication and commitment to live up to the Mission statement.

We receive a free Prayer Diary (PDF version at www.crossreach.org.uk) three times a year and CrossReachNews. If you'd like to order a copy, please let Janette Steele know and we can add your name to the list. There are sometimes spares left over and can be picked up at the back of the Church.

Duncan Evans is a 93-year-old resident at CrossReach's Balmedie House care home who had a younger brother aged 90 living in Canada. They hadn't seen each other for many years. Growing up they both played the violin and on a Sunday evening they would entertain their family. Despite a 7-hour time difference, using Skype on the resident's new "Silver Surfers" computer, Duncan and his brother were able to face each other, tuck their violins under their chins and play music together once again. You could see a tear run down their faces as they began to play together. This was a special moment as a few weeks later Duncan's brother died. Those few precious minutes they spent together would never have happened without technology.



Recently, on his 93rd birthday, Duncan had a party in the home and was joined on Skype by his daughter Jean who lives in Brunei, SE Asia. She also plays the fiddle and sings and they shared a few songs via the video connection.

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Alba Aid

To friends in Ferintosh,

This year's collection of books was a wonderful reflection of your continued thoughtful care and concern for our projects. Thank you very much.

Some of the items will go to the Theological College at Ekwendeni, while the remainder will help some schools in a new area to start libraries.

Gift, the teacher who was instrumental with the Lakeshore Schools project, has been transferred to a different zone, and we were delighted to learn that almost immediately he introduced his superiors to the encouragement to both staff and pupils and improved academic achievement that the library centres had achieved.



At the moment we know of 3 primary schools newly engaged (there were 13 in the previous programme!) and we thought you would be pleased to feel that you have been so helpful to them. It is very encouraging to us that he has taken on this task.

Your boxes left Scotland early in August on a container, and may arrive while Bob is in Malawi in October.

In the meantime we hope that you will see the joy on the faces of both staff and pupils when the first items arrived at their school.



On their behalf please accept our warmest thanks.

Bob & Jan Baxter (Alba Aid)

20th August 2015

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Bible Study - Joseph

There is much intrigue surrounding Joseph. The Scripture found in Genesis 50:20 virtually sums up Joseph's life. Joseph was most probably not the rightful heir to the Abrahamic Blessing (refer to Psalm 78:67). This is because of the strong argument for recognising that God's will for Jacob was actually Leah, and not Rachel. Yet, despite this, Joseph knew that God could take man's errors and turn them into things that God could weave back into His will purpose.

Joseph's Upbringing

The name Joseph means **may God add** (Gen. 30:24). He was the much awaited firstborn son of Jacob and Rachel (Gen. 30:25).

Based on Genesis 37:3, how did Jacob feel about Joseph?

The irony of how Jacob treated his sons is found in his favouritism toward Joseph, when he himself was not the favoured son of his own father (Isaac). This style of parenting led to deep animosity from Joseph's brothers toward him (Gen. 37:4), which also probably led to the perfect will of God being deviated from again. To accentuate the serious divide between Joseph and his ten brothers, Jacob made him a special coat which became a blatant public display of his favouritism. We can reasonably assume that Joseph grew up feeling superior to his brothers because of his father's treatment of him, and no doubt let them know about it as well.

Joseph's Dreams

Joseph is most famous for his dreams: both his and those he interpreted.

What was the gist of Joseph's first dream, and why did his brothers react so? (Gen. 37:5)

Was it reasonable for Joseph to share his dreams with his family?

Were Joseph's dreams fulfilled and could they have been fulfilled if he hadn't shared his dreams?

Joseph's Character

Joseph's prophetic dreams were somewhat grandiose, although it's something of an ironic Scriptural principle that God only promotes those who are demoted. (See Luke 14:8-11, James 4:10) However, demotion does come in two varieties, self-induced or divinely induced.

How does Psalm 105:17-19 indicate that Joseph was demoted, and by whom?

Character strength is *continuing to do the right thing for the right reason even when things aren't going right*. This was certainly the case with Joseph. When he was betrayed by his brothers, he was eventually sold into Potiphar's house (Gen. 39:1). Not only was he tested by his trials, but he was also tested by his success. (Gen. 39:7). Character is not only tested by failure or set-backs, but it is also tested by success. Joseph obviously learned to do the right thing during his stay in Pharaoh's jail. He was 17 when his brothers sold him into slavery. We are not told how long he served Potiphar – but it is believed to have been for about three years, since Potiphar had time to observe that he was being blessed because of Joseph's management, and he would have noticed that it wasn't merely a good season in one year. If this is the case, and we know he became Prime Minister at the age of 30 (Gen. 41:46), he therefore spent at least 10 years being humbled in prison.

What lessons can we learn from the life of Joseph and apply to our lives?

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Update from the Organ Bench

Whilst I was away from the Organ Bench...

Oh yes! My thoughts were with you all every Sunday I was away! Oh yes! You all do me such a power of good with your happy smiles each Sunday when I do get a chance to trot round and grab a handshake – you know, a quick handshake, smile and passing word or two do a power of good. Thanks for that!

Oh yes! Then there's the thoughts going through the mind of this organist - **"I do hope that I have got the correct numbers, tune and the right number of verses"**. Oh yes! You know full well when I don't get some of these correct! Whoops! She's lost it!

And now a VERY BIG "OH YES!" Doug and I would thank you all so very much for your interest regarding Doug whilst he was incapacitated. He is now so much better and we both have such a great deal to be thankful for and especially to you all for your thoughts and prayers on our behalf.

Oh yes! During the time I was away from Church reminded me of the fact that I have always said that Church attendance isn't necessary to being a Christian. With experience, I must now add a caveat to that statement - "But Church attendance does help one build up a fellowship with like thinking friends who are with and for you in all eventualities of life." May it ever be so!

Oh yes! I will stop here, otherwise I could be chided for "sermonising" – and that would never do!

Now I am back on the Organ Bench...

It is such a privilege to play to the honour of The One Above and one that I most certainly do not take lightly.

I thank you for passing on to me requests for hymns you would like to be played before the morning service. They are still coming in and please do continue. If it's a special piece of music; I will try to hunt it down!

Of course, I could not but thank THE CHOIR for their continued support and amazing quickness of learning music for special occasions. Naturally, we would love to see the addition of some new members and it goes without saying really that we have all really tried to "persuade" members of the congregation to walk choir-wards. Think about it, please? Your congregational singing is excellent so there is no excuse to say that you can't sing – AND the chairs the choir use are comfortable, too!

I am sorry to have taken up so much printing space this time (Editorial Staff), but I felt the first part really did need to be said this time. My apologies and I will most certainly keep it short in future.

Yours in His Service - Doreen



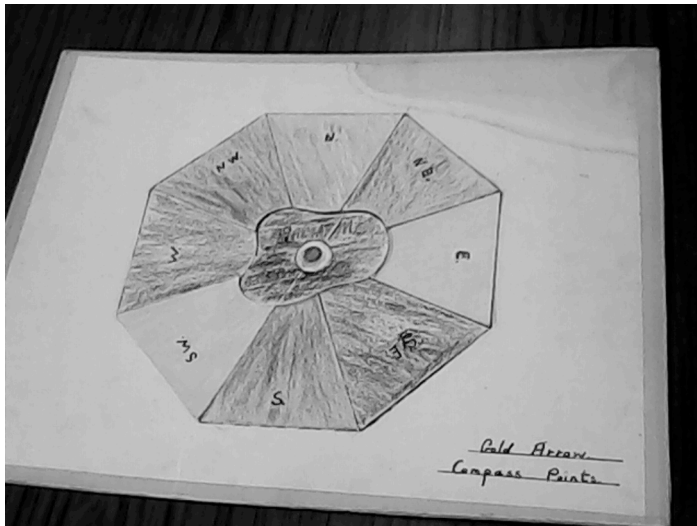
Sunday Club & Youth Fellowship

Sunday Club

After our summer holiday break Sunday Club is back and we have been learning about the Parables of the Sower and the Lost Sheep. We scattered seeds, pressed some flowers to use later to make bookmarks and played a compass game to learn how to find our way. We watched a video on the tablet about the Prodigal Son and played a relay game with dressing up in fine clothes, jewels and pumping up a balloon to celebrate the return of the son.

We are planning, with FYF, to do a fundraising teas event for the girl we support in Guatemala. This will be after Church on Sunday 29th November and everyone is welcome. Any contributions of home baking will be much appreciated on the day.

Sunday Club will take a break on 11th & 18th October during the school holidays.



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Ferintosh Youth Fellowship (FYF)

We hope you have all had a good summer, we have now been back at FYF for 3 weeks, and we are going to be looking at the Christians role in the world today. Just to keep you up to date, we have started a weekly blog on the Church website, so why not have a look at it?

This session we have had a new arrival, Regan. But sadly, Victoria has moved away and is now at college in Perth. We wish her good luck in the future.

We look forward to the rest of the session and remember to check out the website for all our weekly updates.

Saffy, Alexander, Regan, Lara and Andrew



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Social Calendar and Dates for your Diary

RIVER CAFE: This takes place in the Church hall on the second Wednesday of the month from 2pm-3.30pm and gives the opportunity to meet up with friends (or even make new ones) while enjoying some tea/coffee and home baking. We look forward to welcoming you there. Thanks to everyone who already supports this venture in any way. If you feel you can provide some home baking on an occasional basis, please contact Janet Murray.

Future Dates: Wednesdays 14th October: 11th November: 9th December.

SOUP LUNCHESES: Once again we plan to hold the soup lunches in the Church hall, on the 1st Friday of the month, during Autumn/Winter starting at 12noon. Following a short time of devotions, some delicious home-made soups and tea and biscuits are served. There is no set charge for this event but donations are made towards the work of the Church. We look forward to you joining us.

Forthcoming Lunch Dates:

- Friday 2nd October 2015: Adrienne Dempster from Blythswood will speak about the Shoe Boxes Appeal and how people can participate in this.
- Friday 6th November: Mick Hilton from the Scottish War Blinded will be our speaker. Mick is a former soldier who worked in Afghanistan and this should be a most interesting talk.
- Friday 4th December: Christmas in Different Parts of the World.

Musical Evening with the Miriam Singers

There is to be a Musical Evening in the Church on Friday 20th November at 7pm and this will be followed by a light supper in the Church Hall. Entry will be by donation with proceeds going to the Church. This should be a most enjoyable event and we hope you can join us.

Sunday Teas

Thanks go to everyone who helps with this important part of our Sunday Worship. If you feel you can help out on an occasional basis, please add your name to the list in the Church hall. It is easier and more helpful if you can work with another person, so why not ask a friend to join you? Many thanks.

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. Crèche (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

4 th	Mrs A MacKay
11 th	Sadie MacKenzie
18 th	Anne McInnes
25 th	Gael McCallum

November Organiser – Mrs E Glashan

1 st	Mrs E Glashan
8 th	Mrs P Gillanders
15 th	Mrs M Graham
22 nd	Miss M MacKenzie
29 th	Mrs I MacDonald

December Organiser – Mrs J Cameron

6 th	Mrs P Gillanders
13 th	N/A
20 th	N/A
27 th	N/A

Church Welcome

Door Count

October P. Kilgore M. MacKenzie
I. MacKenzie

November E. Blackburn C. Parry
I. MacDonald

December J. Steele I. MacDonald
J. Murray

Church Register

Funerals

17 June 2015 Mr. William James Gardiner
6 August 2015 Mr. James Calder