

FORTINGALL, GLENLYON, KENMORE AND LAWERS  
PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

***PARISH PROFILE***



*Kenmore Church sitting in the village of Kenmore*



*Kenmore Church in autumn*



*Fortingall Church*



*Glenlyon Church at Innerwick.*

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## **Welcome to the Parish Profile for Fortingall, Glenlyon, Kenmore and Lawers.**

Our parish sits in the heart of Scotland in a landscape of outstanding natural beauty where the lochs, rivers and mountains are much admired by visitors and locals alike.

Although our geographical situation may be regarded as remote, we tend to think we are equally accessible from, and to, all other parts of the country.

There are primary schools in Kenmore and Glenlyon and a six year comprehensive school in nearby Aberfeldy. While there are local shops within the parish, the principal shopping centre is Aberfeldy. The town also provides: a health centre, dentist's surgery, a facility for the care of the elderly and an Abbeyfield Home. The nearest hospital is in Perth but we are fortunate in having a local team of 1<sup>st</sup> responders as well as an air ambulance based in Perth. In the town centre, the Birks cinema, which opened six years ago, has proved to be a great asset to the local area.

As may be expected where tourism has supplanted agriculture and forestry as the main industry, there are many hotels and restaurants in the local area. The church does benefit from the influx of visitors during the main tourist season and at Christmas, when they are made most welcome at our services.

Like many rural areas in Scotland, there has been a major social change over the past 30 years. Many houses have been bought as retiral properties or second homes and, as a result of inflated prices, younger families find it difficult to stay in the area.

However, what lies ahead must be faced with optimism and changes accepted for even the Church's role has also changed and will continue to change. The future stretches ahead of us full of uncertainties except for the sure and certain knowledge that God will always be with us. And so we look forward to welcoming a new minister to lead us in the years to come.

## **Introduction to the Vacancy.**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of May 2019, the previously linked parishes of Fortingall & Glenlyon and Kenmore & Lawers were united in a service at Kenmore Church at which the congregation adopted the Unitary Constitution.

Therefore, what was once four parishes and four churches is now a single charge with one minister and one kirk session. Regular services are held at Fortingall and Kenmore. Lawers Church has been sold and Glenlyon Church now has only occasional services.

On the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2019, after 20 years of faithful service, our minister, the Rev. Anne Brennan, demitted her charge.

Now, Presbytery has granted permission to call a full-time minister to the united charge on a 5 year reviewable tenure.

## Historical Details

The church at Kenmore was founded in 1579 and the present building was the result of rebuilding in 1779. It is of cruciform structure with a square bell and clock tower at the east end.

The interior of Kenmore Church with its high ceilings, organ gallery and beautiful stained and etched glass windows is particularly impressive.



*A view from the pulpit*



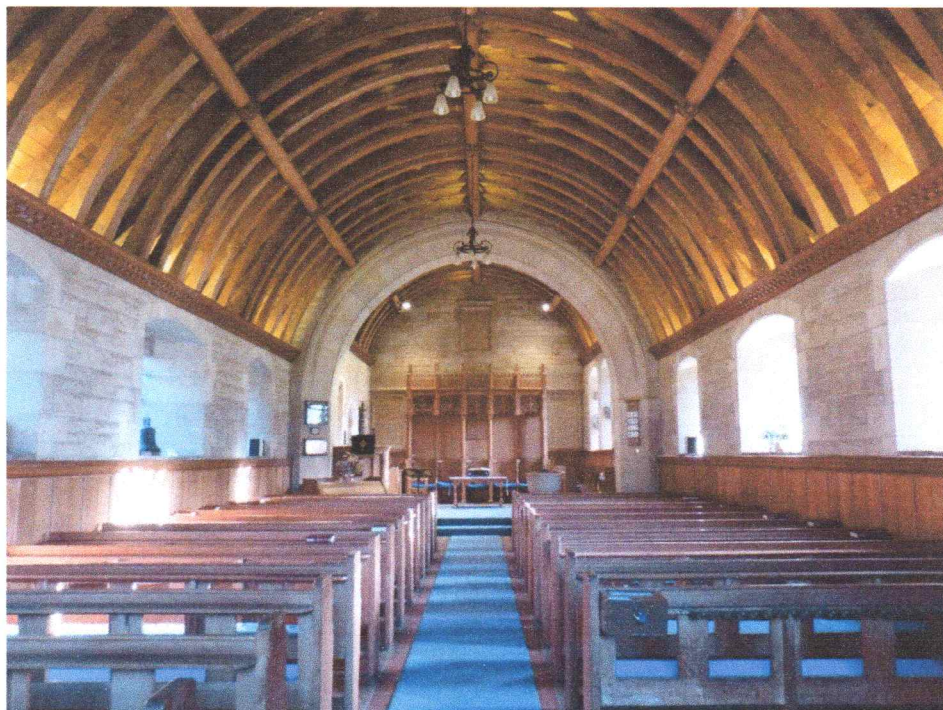
*View from pews to front of church showing the organ loft*

At Fortingall there has been a Christian presence for almost 1400 years – since the time of the ancient Celtic Church.

The present kirk, which dates from 1902, replaced an existing building which was in a poor state of repair.



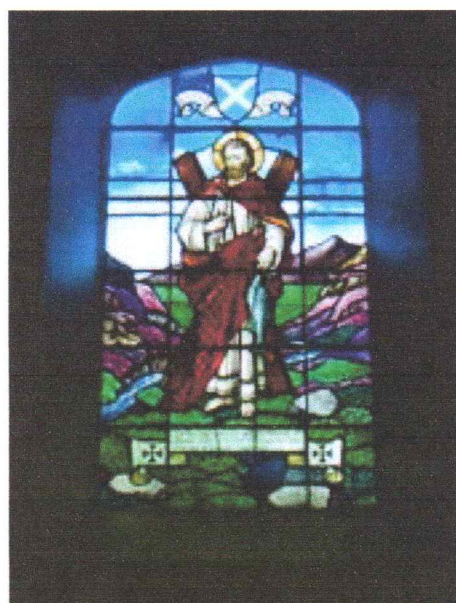
Inside, the walls are sandstone with oak panelling while the roof is of hand-worked oak timbers in an open barrel-vault.



Glenlyon Church dates to 1828 and is a relatively simple building designed by Thomas Telford. It sits well in Innerwick at the centre of the Glen.



There is a beautiful stained glass window depicting St. Andrew standing on heathery slopes in a landscape not unlike Glenlyon itself.



*Please see [Taylyonchurches.org.uk](http://Taylyonchurches.org.uk) for further details.*

## Our Congregation.



*Photograph taken at a Joint Morning Worship at Fortingall Kirk on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2020*

Today, we number 104 on our electoral register and around 50 worship between our two Sunday services. However, numbers are boosted during the tourist season and visitors receive a warm welcome to our services - as well as a cup of tea/coffee and a time of fellowship after the service.

There is a happy atmosphere of cooperation between the two parts of the charge as was demonstrated when Kenmore Church was closed during the recent repairs and their congregation joined Fortingall for services.



The Unitary Constitution was adopted in 2019 and there are 14 elders ( 9 male and 5 female ) who are Trustees under OSCR regulations. In addition, we have a Congregational Treasurer, an Assistant Treasurer and a Fabric Convener.



*A Session Meeting in Kenmore Hotel*

Prior to her demission, the Rev. Anne Brennan had the foresight to organise the Kirk Session into a number of teams: Administration, Worship, Finance, Fabric, Outreach (inc. Parish Newsletter), Heritage and Safeguarding. These can include both elders and non-elders. This arrangement is proving a good way of harnessing the talents and energies of a larger pool of people within the parish.

A thriving Guild continues to meet under the banner of the “Tay and Lyon Churches Guild”. About 20-30 members, both male and female, meet monthly from September-March (exc. January) in the Kenmore Hotel and guest speakers are invited.

## **Worship and Spiritual Life.**

The current pattern of worship is two services on a Sunday morning: 10.15am at Fortingall and 11.30am at Kenmore.

This usually allows the minister to enjoy a short time of fellowship between services – and the all-important cup of tea !

It was decided that the fortnightly Sunday services in Glenlyon at 9.15am should be discontinued and be replaced by “occasional” services.

On about five “ordinary” Sundays each year we have Joint Services in one of the churches at 11am. While most services are fairly traditional, these Joint Services are more relaxed and have in the past made use of audio visual materials.

Traditional communion services are held twice a year in both Fortingall and Kenmore. In addition, the Easter Joint Service at Kenmore is a communion service. The minister has also held short communion services at request from housebound members or those in residential care.

There are a number of extra services throughout the year such as those during Holy Week and Christmas. During Lent, there is a weekly “Lent Lunch” part of which is given over to a time of reflection.

Music at services is provided via organ or keyboard. Unfortunately, our regular organist of many years standing has had to step down for health reasons but is hoping to return to duty when fully recovered. In the meantime, we are very fortunate to be able to call upon two volunteer organists from within the ranks of the Kirk Session.

Generally, CH4 is used at services with occasional supplementation from other sources e.g. Mission Praise. In such cases, the hymns are usually printed on the order of service for that day.

There have, in the past, been a few times when worship has been led by members of the Kirk Session. Now, the Worship Team has taken on such duties under the guidance of the Interim Moderator.

## **Pastoral Care.**

Pastoral care is provided in a number of ways in the congregation and the Outreach Team is actively reviewing this aspect.

The Church Newsletter, which contains contact details for the minister and key members of session, is hand-delivered to all households in the parish.

Elders in our close-knit community are able to keep the minister informed of any situation in the parish which might warrant a visit. In addition, a lot of support is given informally by elders.

The Manse Family is also supported by the Kirk Session and congregation and one elder has a particular remit in this regard.

## **Ecumenical Context.**

We are long-standing members of the local Presbytery Partnership and have helped to run and fund Activity Days and various conferences.

While there are no churches of other denominations within the bounds of the parish, we work together with the Scottish Episcopal Church in the Partnership and with other denominations in the organisation of the World Day of Prayer.

## **Christian Education.**

A weekly Bible Study group met in the manse, under the tutorship of the minister, making use of books and DVDs during their meetings. Several individuals use Bible Reading Notes to assist them in their personal devotions.

Throughout the year, various events are organised to encourage members in their discipleship and growth in faith. The Lent Lunch, for example, uses a variety of materials (including pots of home-made soup !). During Holy Week, on Maundy Thursday, there is a Fellowship Meal.

Unfortunately, there is no Sunday School in either Kenmore or Fortingall. Neither are there any youth organisations. Several sessions of Messy Church have been held in the past but this proved very labour intensive for very small numbers and could not be sustained when families either moved away or their children grew up past the point of participating.

For many years, monthly Saturday Club along with Holiday Club were held but falling primary school rolls have made these no longer viable. However, there are teenagers within the parish who are involved in the “Breathe Project” in Aberfeldy.

The minister has been active in the role of Chaplain to the primary schools in the parish and there is a good relationship between the Church and the respective head teachers. This work is currently being covered and developed by elders in the Outreach Team. In addition, any children attending church services are catered for as much as possible and the Christingles Service in Kenmore is usually very well-attended.

## **Buildings.**



Just over twenty years ago, the old Georgian manse at Kenmore was sold and a new four-bedroom manse, which has few maintenance problems, was built. This has oil-fired central heating, a multi-fuel stove in the living room and a fully fitted kitchen. A garage and small front and back garden are provided. There is a superb view over the east end of Loch Tay and the church at Kenmore.

There are no church halls, but this is not a difficulty for the congregation as there are other venues which can be utilised as and when necessary: the Reading Room, School Hall and Sports Pavilion in Kenmore and the Molteno Hall in Fortingall can all be used.

Session Meetings are held in the comfort of the Kenmore Hotel.

The three church buildings are listed and well-maintained. Kenmore Church is undergoing extensive repairs as a result of dry rot. Glenlyon Church has recently received a substantial donation towards developing a display in the church depicting the historic background of the area. This will be a specific project for the Heritage team.

## **Glebe Land**

Both Fortingall and Kenmore have glebe land and these are let to local estates on restricted agricultural tenancies.

# APPENDIX 1

Local Church Review  
June 2019

## **Report on visit to the Charge of Fortingall, Glenlyon, Kenmore & Lawers,**

The Rev. Fraser Penny (Convener), Mrs. Christine McNicoll and Mrs. Ann Bryce met with the Kirk Session of the newly united charge of Fortingall, Glenlyon, Kenmore & Lawers on June 25<sup>th</sup>. 2019. Prior to this meeting the convener had met separately with the minister, the Rev. Anne Brennan. The Convener opened the meeting with prayer.

There are two major changes this year in the life of the parishes:

- A union between the two parts of the former linkage was effected by the Presbytery on May 28<sup>th</sup>. in a service at Kenmore. Up to that point Fortingall & Glenlyon were linked with Kenmore & Lawers. This change, while not a radical shift, does require alterations in the way matters are organised locally and it will result in a reduced administrative burden for the Kirk Session and minister. Weekly services continue to be held in Fortingall and Kenmore churches with occasional services at Glenlyon. The congregations are to be commended for embracing this sensible rationalisation.
- The imminent retirement of the minister of 20 years, which will happen on September 1<sup>st</sup>. 2019. Warm tribute was paid to Anne's ministry at the last Presbytery meeting, sentiments which were expressed in our meeting with the office-bearers. She will be greatly missed in the parish.

### **General situation**

The meeting began with elders being asked to highlight the main concerns facing the charge and the issues raised reflected those mentioned by Anne Brennan earlier.

**Housing:** There has been a major social change in this area over the past 20 or 30 years which has led to many houses being bought up for the tourist market. There are now many 'second homes' and Air BnB properties. Indeed, much of the property in Kenmore is now used in this way. In some cases, those who have second homes are regular visitors at weekends and contribute to the life of the congregation. Visitors (regular and sporadic) have a positive impact on the life of congregation but there are obvious drawbacks in terms of the ministry and mission of the congregation. Fewer people are in the area permanently and because of inflated property prices, younger families can find it very difficult to stay in the area.

The change in school rolls bears out the problem. Twenty years ago, the school roll in Kenmore was in the 60s, now it is in the 20s. The church throughout Scotland has issues with attracting children and young people but obviously such a shift in population makes the problem much more acute for parishes like this.

Church rolls have, correspondingly, fallen from about 140 in Kenmore and 70 in Fortingall and Glenlyon in the late 1990s to around 50 in each prior to the Union. However, that does not tell the whole story because while rolls have fallen there is a significant number of people who attend worship and take part in the life of the congregations who are not on the roll. This may be for several reasons:

- that they are not yet living full-time in the area and may do one day.
- that they have moved into the area and come from different traditions of the Church.
- Or it may simply reflect a trend nationally where people are less likely to commit to full membership of a congregation (and other groups) but are willing to be involved. This does cause problems in trying to recruit new leadership. If people do not become members they can't be ordained as elders.

**Employment:** Tourism is now the main industry in the area whereas a few decades ago farming and forestry would have been the main source of employment. Many of the people working in hotels and related businesses come from abroad, many of whom live outside the parish and come into the parish only to work. It is therefore difficult to make any meaningful contact with them. Brexit could mean a significant, but as yet unknown, change in this regard.

**Congregational life:** The congregations get on well together and there is a happy atmosphere of cooperation and goodwill between the two parts of the charge, reflected in the Kirk Session meeting with the visiting team. Extensive repairs have recently been carried out at Kenmore, because of dry rot and this was described as a blessing in disguise because the congregation was taken in by Fortingall and worshipped there for a while which meant they got to know each other better prior to the union!

### **Kirk Session Structure**

Because the union is very recent there has only been one Kirk Session meeting of the united charge so several organisational aspects have to be harmonised and a new structure given time to bed in. At the union the congregation adopted the Unitary Constitution and the Session has set up some working groups – Worship, Fabric and Finance.

### **Worship**

The pattern of worship had been fortnightly at Glenlyon at 9.15am, and weekly at 10.15 in Fortingall and 11.30 at Kenmore. On about 5 Sundays a year joint services are held in one of the churches at 11am; these services have been important in the transition from linkage to union. Numbers at Glenlyon are very small and, rather than have a fortnightly 9.15am service, it has been agreed to try services at 5pm on the last Sunday of the month over the summer, then review the matter.

There are a number of extra services through the year such as Holy Week and Christmas and while, mostly, services follow a traditional form other forms of worship are used on many occasions, including the use of AV equipment.

During Lent there is a weekly ‘Lent Lunch’, part of which is a time of reflection.

There is a Worship Group which so far has not met but elders have been involved in taking occasional services to cover the minister’s holidays etc. and it is hoped this could be developed. There is some interest in attending a course through Edinburgh University on worship leading but there is a feeling that training for worship leaders (through the Presbytery for example) would be beneficial.

Children are catered for as much as possible when present and the congregation has tried ‘Messy Church’ for a few sessions. This was successful but very labour intensive and given the small numbers could not be maintained. It just takes a couple of families to move away or grew up past the point of participating to make it unviable. In the past, family evening services were held and a Saturday Club as well as Holiday Clubs were organised. All these have been badly affected by falling school rolls. The minister is to be commended for her commitment her work in local schools.

Kenmore still issues Communion Cards though Fortingall doesn’t and a new system is not in place yet. As in other parishes, the numbers attending on Communion Sundays don’t vary much from regular Sunday services, reflecting a change in the way Communion is viewed.

### **Pastoral Care**



A unified system of Pastoral Care has not yet been agreed. Prior to the union Kenmore operated a traditional district style with elders covering a number of homes to visit and distribute the newsletter. Fortingall does not have formal districts (although elders do have lists of homes where they distribute newsletters) and because it is a small congregation a lot of support is given informally; elders tend to know of needs where they exist.

There are 16 elders and 2 office bearers who are not elders and this is considered sufficient to cover duties at the moment.

### **Christian Education**

Various events are organised to encourage members in their discipleship and growth in faith. The Lent lunch uses a variety of materials and during Holy Week, on Maundy Thursday, there is a Fellowship Meal.

A weekly Bible Study group meets in the Manse and uses materials such as DVDs and books. At Fortingall there is a Prayer Request box and these requests are prayed for by one elder. Several individuals use Bible Reading notes in their personal devotions.

### **Congregational Life**

A thriving Guild continues to meet under the banner of 'Tay and Lyon Churches Guild' encompassing the whole charge. About 20 members meet monthly from September to March (though not January) and they run a summer fund-raising event.

A quilting group has been led by the minister and for the last 9 years or so a quilt and craft exhibition has been organised in Kenmore Church over the summer, providing a chance to celebrate creation and creativity.

There is also an occasional Music Group and Walking Group

### **Data Protection and PVG**

A Data Protection policy is in place and there are coordinators for both Data Protection and Safeguarding. The Presbytery's Safeguarding trainer has visited and most elders have now undertaken the prescribed training course.

### **Finance**

Financially, the congregation is reasonably healthy, managing to meet its commitments. The merging of the accounts has not been completed and cannot be finalized until OSCR verifies the name of the newly united charge.

Although a union, it is hoped to keep separate restricted funds for each of the buildings. In recent years the major financial challenge was raising money for the remedial work at Kenmore Church which is, by and large, completed.

### **Fabric**

One or two minor things are still outstanding on the work at Kenmore but the buildings are all well maintained. A Presbytery Survey was carried out recently and any required works will be attended to.

The congregation has three church buildings, all of which are open to the public and many positive comments are made about them. Doors Open Day brought in a significant number of visitors.

There are no church halls which is not a difficulty for the congregation. The Reading Room in Kenmore and the Molteno Hall in Fortingall are hired as and when required.

There is a well maintained, modern Manse.

### **Other Issues**

This visit took place after the General Assembly of 2019 so the visiting team took the opportunity to ask the office bearers about their views on larger Presbyteries and where they saw their own future. (To the west the parish bounds with Stirling Presbytery.) Current relations with the Presbytery are good and the congregation now has two Presbytery elders. There is a concern that the personal relationship may be lost in a larger structure and that an urban area could swamp the more rural areas.

However, given that readjustment is going to happen, the office-bearers were of the view that their more natural orientation was towards Aberfeldy, the A9 and then down to Perth, rather than west and south towards Stirling.

The visiting team was encouraged to meet with a Kirk Session which is evidently harmonious and happy, which works well as a team and has embraced union as they seek to meet the challenges of their area.

The minister and elders are to be commended for the work they do in an area which has changed radically over recent years, presenting particular challenges for mission and ministry. Further change will be inevitable with the retirement of their minister but over a 20 year ministry a good core of loyal and committed people has been developed and we wish them well in the future.

# APPENDIX 2

## Summary of Accounts to 31 December 2019

FORTINGALL, GLENLYON, KENMORE AND LAWERS CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Receipts and payments account

for the year ended 31st December 2019

	Unrest	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
	note	funds	funds		
		<u>2019</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>
		£	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>					
Donations	9	53 160		53 160	
Activities for generating funds		5 327		5 327	
Bank and Deposit Income		613	230	843	
Receipts from investments		4 100	52	4 152	
Transfer of Funds from General Trustees CoS		50 000	5 033	55 033	
Transfer to General		30 338		30 338	
Sale of Investments		94 133	8 383	102 516	
DCMS			15 067	15 067	
Scottish Charities			5 000	5 000	
<b>Total receipts</b>		<u>237 671</u>	<u>33 765</u>	<u>271 436</u>	<u>386 942</u>

<b>Payments</b>					
Cost of generating funds		291		291	
Charitable activities	4	125 836		125 836	
Purchase of Investments		94 130	8 378	102 508	
Transfer to General			30 338	30 338	
Transfer of Funds to General Trustees CoS		5 033	50 000	55 033	
<b>Total payments</b>		<u>225 290</u>	<u>88 716</u>	<u>314 006</u>	<u>295 475</u>

<b>Excess of receipts (payments) for the year</b>		<u>12 381</u>	<u>(54 951)</u>	<u>(42 570)</u>	<u>91 467</u>
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Statement of balances  
at 31st December 2019

	Unrestricted	Restricted	Total	
	funds	funds		
	<u>2 019</u>	<u>2 019</u>	<u>2 019</u>	<u>2 018</u>
	£	£	£	£
Bank and cash balances brought forward	124 846	107 052	231 898	140 431
movement in the year				
excess of receipts (payments) for the year	12 381	(54 951)	(42 570)	91 467
carried forward	<u>137 227</u>	<u>52 101</u>	<u>189 328</u>	<u>231 898</u>

Investments at cost	5	<u>95 055</u>	<u>8 378</u>	<u>103 433</u>	<u>54 624</u>
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Assets		<u>232 282</u>	<u>60 479</u>	<u>292 761</u>	<u>286 522</u>
Current market value of investments £112,465					

Third Party Collections

Collected in 2018 and paid in 2019	840
Collected in 2019 and paid in 2019	1192
Collected in 2019 and paid in 2020	1 000

The accounts were approved by the Kirk Session on 20th February 2020  
for and on behalf of the Kirk Session

Olive Munro  
Treasurer and Office Bearer

