



The Parish Profile for Inverness Trinity Church

Introduction

The charge is vacant due to the retirement of Rev A. Murray in April 2018 after fourteen years in post.

There is central funding for a full-time Young Person and Family Worker however the position is vacant at the moment.

History

Inverness Trinity Church came into being on 11th May 1977 through the union of three congregations – Queen Street Church, Merkinch St Mark's and St Mark's. The Church serves the Merkinch parish of Inverness part of which is an Urban Priority Area.

The population of the parish has a wide range of nationalities and cultures and at the last census 12% of the population said English was not the first language spoken at home

The church has only been served by two ministers since the union and decided in April 2018 to not depart from historic current practice in terms of ordination, induction or appointment of a minister.

The original building has undergone a number of alterations and extensions and now consists of the Church, a Vestry, choir room, the "Old" hall, kitchen, the "New" hall, office/meeting room, storage areas and toilets. There is also ample car parking.

The Mission Statement is to be a welcoming fellowship, proclaiming in worship the gospel of Jesus Christ, ready to serve with compassion the needs of the community.

The Communion roll is 185 members with 164 adherents. The reason for the large number of adherents is the Highland attitude of not being “good enough” to become full members.

The average weekly attendance is 70 to 100.

While the average age of the congregation is over 50, the age profile of the parish is lower and we see this as an opportunity for mission.

Trinity Church moved to a unitary constitution in June 2017.

There are 22 Elders in the Kirk Session and the average age of the Kirk Session is over 50. There are 14 male and 8 female Elders. The last Elders were admitted to the Session in June 2012.

There are Fabric, Fundraising, Finance and Pastoral Care teams.

Trinity has an active Guild and Ladies Social Group who meet regularly.

The current Young Person and Family Worker began in March 2016 and has initiated various new projects. As part of an ongoing work to connect church and community, many new relationships have been established. Sadly he has moved on to a full time post with the Church at 121 George Street.

Trinity enjoys unrestricted access to all the schools on a pre-arranged basis. Many of the schools now request our worker to come in at Christmas, Easter and other occasions.

A Film Club has been established with ‘Go For It’ funding and is seen as a long term project to help connection with the community.

A Father and Toddler group was trialled successfully, but is currently on hold.

Worship

Services are held on Sundays at 11:00 in a formal, reformed style. Communion is celebrated four times within the year with no involvement of children. There is a Thanksgiving Service at 18:30 on Communion Sundays.

Special Services are held for Easter, Harvest Thanksgiving, Remembrance Sunday, Youth Enrolment, Guild Dedication, Watch Night and Family Services before Christmas.

Children and parents from both Merkinch and Central Primary Schools attend services in the Church at Christmas, Easter and before the summer break.

There have recently been approximately 3 baptisms per year and an average of 15 funerals a year for the last 7 years.



The order of service is printed. A rota of volunteers provides music via a Hymnal and project the hymns, Bible readings, pictures and videos through a multi-media system. Hymns are mainly taken from CH4 and the Bible readings from the Good News Bible and are read by the Kirk Session, members and adherents of the congregation. There is a small choir but no organist.

The Session has regularly taken the service and the Guild organise an annual Carol Service.

A Hearing Loop system is in use and services are taped for the housebound.

Refreshments are provided in the hall following the services except during July and August.

Christian Education

There is a KidZone and Creche facility when required depending on who attends the services.

There is a long history of Boys' and Girls' Brigade within the Church. The Boys' Brigade will soon celebrate their 110th anniversary and the Girls' Brigade have recently celebrated their 60th anniversary.

Members attend regularly during the school year and cover spiritual, physical, educational and service topics. There are also young people taking part in the Queens' Badge and Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

There is a small library of Christian books available in the Church.

Pastoral Care

The Church is informed by word of mouth or email of anyone who is unwell or in hospital. Regular visits are made to people who have requested pastoral care.

There is a rota to provide flowers to decorate the Sanctuary then these are delivered to nominated people by a rota of volunteers.

The Elders also visit their districts quarterly and distribute the Church magazines.

Trinity has its own minibus donated by the Merkinch Community Centre. Its primary use is to ferry members of the Congregation to and from Church each Sunday. It is also used by various groups within the Church and other Churches and organisations for a donation towards its upkeep. There is a weekly rota of volunteer drivers.

Requests for Prayers for Healing are received via email contact and our Facebook page.

The Facebook page is regularly updated with Bible readings, short verses and information about Church events.

Members of the Church regularly support Blythswood with donations to the Highland Foodbank.

Stewardship and Finance

The Church's Ministry and Minister Contribution is £42,898 for 2018. The latest annual accounts are published on the [OSCR website](#) under Inverness Trinity Church of Scotland, SC015432.

Fundraising

We hold regular fundraising events including a Spring Coffee Morning, Summer Fayre and a Christmas Bazaar. These events are well supported by the Church and local community.

Fabric

The Fabric Team consists of willing volunteers who maintain the Church, Halls and Manse. Their skills have saved vast amounts of money.

How we engage with the world church

Trinity Church is a Fairtrade congregation and runs a monthly Fairtrade table.

Offerings from Palm Sunday, Harvest Thanksgiving and the Watchnight Service are donated to different charities and we support Christian Aid with an annual collection.

The Guild support the Highland Malawi Trust, the Highlands Support Refugees Group and fundraise for various projects including overseas work.

Environmental Audit

A new boiler was recently installed and extra insulation fitted to the Halls. The Carbon footprint is recorded by regular meter readings.

As an Eco congregation, we collect and recycle cans and encourage the parish to recycle metal items.

Staffing

The Church Officer duties are done by members of the Kirk Session by rota and there is a cleaner for the Church and Halls.

A full-time Young Person and Family Worker is funded by the Church of Scotland.

A team of volunteers cover the office.

Community Profile

The Merkinch is a peninsula on the north-west side of Inverness, bounded on the west by the Caledonian Canal with the Moray Firth to the north and the river Ness to the east.

The area known as South Kessock has a diverse set of wildlife habitats with a wide variety of plants and animals and as such was designated as a local nature reserve in November 2007. Merkinch Local Nature Reserve is the 50th local nature reserve in Scotland and is the only one in the Highlands. The Reserve consists of tidal pools, which are partially connected to the sea, open grassland and wooded areas. Habitats include salt marsh, fresh water marsh with reed beds, bog, scrub and wooded embankments.

- There are four Primary Schools within the parish bounds, Merkinch and Central as well as St Joseph's Roman Catholic and Bishop Eden's which is connected to the Episcopal Church. There is one secondary school which is Inverness High School.
Merkinch Primary School is undergoing major development which provides opportunities. There are four Nurseries within the area which may be incorporated in the new development.
- There is a very active Community Centre within the Parish at Merkinch Community Centre.
- There are no care / nursing homes but there are sheltered housing schemes at Lower Kessock Street and Queen Mother House at Balnacraig Road.

- Merkinch Enterprise is a Technology Centre providing Websites, Training, Scanning and computer technology and training.
- The local newsletter, Merkinch News and Views, is published monthly with a circulation of around 2,000.
- Grant Street Park is home to Clachnacuddin Football Club
- The Bike Shed has a Coffee Shop for the Merkinch catchment Area and is available for usage by other user Groups, e.g. Walking and Knitting
- Merkinch Partnership help people, elderly and young, with problems such as Universal credit, funding applications, and there is a work club. They also try to assist young people into training.
- The Welfare Hall has recently been renovated
- For the Right Reasons is run by Rev. Richard Burkitt to help people quit drug and alcohol addiction
- Teas are served at weekends in the old Ferry Point office which also has old photographs of the area.

Ecumenical Context

There are other churches within the Parish:

- St Michaels' and All Angels Episcopalian Church which has recently developed close links with Trinity
- Reformed Baptist Church, Telford Road
- Inverness Christian Fellowship who meet at the Community Centre.
- Celt Street Evangelical Church
- St Mary's Roman Catholic Church
- Methodist Church, Huntly Street

Manse



Originally built in 1867 Trinity Manse is a traditional detached two storey dwelling house on Kenneth Street within walking distance of the Church having the benefit of surrounding garden grounds, off street parking and detached single car garage.

The property has 2 reception rooms, dining room, and office in the main building, with kitchen, utility room and downstairs toilet and shower room in a single storey extension.

There are 4 bedrooms and the family bathroom on the first floor.

The property has gas fired central heating with radiators each of which is fitted with a thermostatic valve

Use of Halls

Facilities



There are two halls in Trinity Church which are available for church business and approved community use.

Both halls are approximately the same area, around badminton court size. The Old Hall has the higher roof which accommodates Bouncy Castles if required. The floor consists of untreated wooden boards and the

walls are timber lined to about shoulder height. Heating is by wall mounted radiators. The New Hall ceiling height is about 12 feet high and contains radiant panels for heating. The wooden floor is treated and care is taken to ensure the condition is not adversely affected by any user. Walls are painted concrete block.



Management

The replacement of the main hall access door lock in Summer 2017 necessitated the issue of new keys to those requiring them. The keys are unable to be copied without the proper code which is held in the church safe. Keys were issued and signed for and a record is kept, on file, normally in the church office.

Lettings are made in the following order of priority: Church business, Church organisations, community users, external business and other uses e.g. music exams and children's parties. With the exception of Children's parties where there has not been a previous let reference is made to the Session Clerk and the Minister. Bookings are entered into the Church Calendar showing the hall required, the function, the times, the user and the user's contact details.

Hall Users – Trinity Church, members or adherents

After Church Teas	Palm Sunday Lunch
Boys' Brigade	Safeguarding Training
Church Meetings	Session Meetings
Film Club	Team leaders' meetings
Fund Raising Events	Trinity Ladies Social Group
Girls' Brigade	
Guild	Fencing
Harvest Lunch	Fuchsia Society
Holiday Club	Whist

Hall Users – Third Parties

AA Meeting	Key Community Support
Banff Boys Brigade	Language Classes LGOWIT
British Legion	Merkinch Arts
Collaboration for change	Merkinch Council fun day
Country Dancing	Merkinch Partnership
Dance class and dance	Merkinch Theatre Group
Fitness Class	Mini Movers
Fraser School of Highland Dancing	Music Exams
Funeral Reception	Scotland Sings
Habits over diets	Scottish Dance
Highland 3rd Sector	Signpost
Highland Swing	Singing Concert
Highland Youth Arts	St Michaels Church
Inverness Art Society	Tea Dances
Inverness Branch Royal British Legion Scotland	University of the Third Age
Inverness Community Partnership	Wedding
Keep Fit	Wevolution

Web Links

Congregational website – <http://trinityinverness.org.uk/>

Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/groups/532866030069398/>

Church of Scotland Census Data –
http://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/statistics_for_mission/parish_profiles/372148.pdf

All enquiries regarding the vacancy should be directed to the interim moderator Rev Fraser Turner on 01463 794004 or email fraseratq@yahoo.co.uk