

# CHURCH OF SCOTLAND



CONTIN PARISH CHURCH  
SCO 11987

A PROFILE OF THE PARISH

2011

# **CHURCH OF SCOTLAND CONTIN PARISH SCO 11987**

## **A PROFILE OF THE PARISH**

### **SITUATION:**

The Parish of Contin is situated in a beautiful area of Mid Ross. Physically it is a very large parish of approximately 300 square miles set in the valleys of the Rivers Blackwater, Bran, Meig and Conon. In the valley of the Blackwater, it extends to Aultguish - 20 miles; in the valley of the Bran, to Achnasheen - 20 miles; to Strathconon in the valley of the Meig - 20 miles, while Contin itself stands near the confluence of the Blackwater and Conon rivers.

### **POPULATION:**

The population of the parish is around 1,500, the majority of whom would claim allegiance to the Church of Scotland. Members and adherents number 92. Other denominations include Free Church, Free Presbyterian, Roman Catholic, Episcopalian and Jehovah's Witnesses.



**LOCH BEINNACHARAIN, SCARDROY,  
STRATHCONON**

## **EMPLOYMENT:**

Agriculture was originally the main occupation, followed in the mid-20th Century by Hydro-electricity and Forestry - all of which have declined so that many people now find work outwith the parish. Road communications are mostly excellent - from Contin to Dingwall - 7 miles, Inverness, 18 miles. There are railway stations at Inverness, Dingwall, Garve and Achnasheen and an airport 6 miles beyond Inverness off the A96 Aberdeen road. An excellent bus service runs every hour from Contin to Dingwall and Inverness.

## **THE VILLAGE OF CONTIN:**

There are two hotels in the village catering for the tourist trade, a local garage and filling station, and a thriving shop.

## **EDUCATION:**

Our greatest loss in recent years has been the closure of Contin primary school - pupils must now travel by bus to Strathpeffer. Garve & Strathconon each have their own primary schools. Pupils living in Achnasheen must now travel to Kinlochewe. All secondary pupils attend Dingwall Academy, which has a role of approximately 1,000.

The loss of the school in Contin has severely affected contact with children in the village for church activities. However, ministerial visits to the schools at Strathconon and Garve have enabled us to maintain a continuing link with the children there.

## **RECREATION:**

Within the area there are opportunities for many activities - hill-walking, mountaineering, off-road cycling and fishing. Contin Church is situated on an island and has fishing rights to the river there. Contin, Strathconon & Garve & Achnasheen all have thriving community councils each with their own centre.

## **HOSPITALS:**

The main hospital - Raigmore, is situated in Inverness and there is a cottage hospital in Dingwall. There are health centres in both Strathpeffer and Dingwall. There is a nursing home in Dingwall and three residential homes in the nearby area.

## **THE CHURCHES: FINANCE AND FABRIC:**

The parish finances are excellent, although we are an aid-receiving charge. Both churches are in excellent repair both inside and out and have electronic organs - the one in Contin havng been purchased in 2008.

## A HISTORY OF THE CHURCHES:

Contin was the site of the original Celtic church around 690 A.D. Other Parliamentary churches were built in Strathconon (which is now closed), and at Kinlochluichart. While Contin remains the largest settlement, there are other villages of some size i.e. Garve (7 miles from Contin) and Achnasheen (20 miles from Contin). Part of the hamlet of Jamestown 2 miles to the east of Contin was also included in the parish. With the linkage with Strathpeffer and Fodderty Church, the boundary now extends to Fodderty which is two miles East of Strathpeffer.



CONTIN CHURCH



LOCHLUICHART  
CHURCH



STRATHCONON HALL

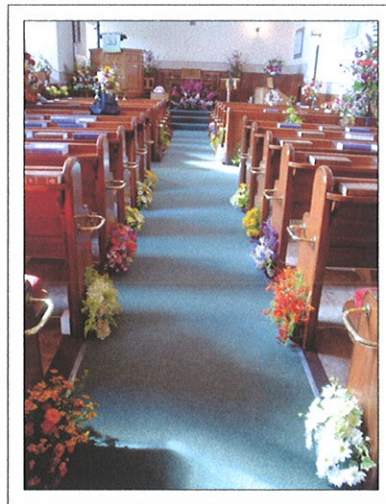
## **THE SESSION, OUTREACH AND PASTORAL CARE:**

The Session comprises of 12 members.

We hold an annual Flower Festival which has become a highlight of the church social calendar, together with a Sale of Work held in Garve Village Hall.

Donations to various charities (eg Christian Aid) are always very well supported.

Although we do not have a Sunday School, the children of the parish have enjoyed visits by the Minister to Strathconon and Strathgarve Primary Schools, and we would hope that this would continue.



**CONTIN CHURCH FLOWER FESTIVAL**

## **THE FUTURE AND OUR AIMS:**

As to the future, we would pray that our expanded parish flourishes . We would also wish to see the congregation attract the younger generation. As a church we consider it our distinct call and duty to make God's love known to the people.



**LOCH ACHILTY, CONTIN**