

Parish Profile

Fodderty and Strathpeffer Parish Church

(www.strathpefferchurchofscotland.org)

linked with the parish of Contin

"We seek to be a caring and lively Church, contributing to the life of the whole community, as we share our faith in the Lordship of Jesus Christ" Vision Statement

Strathpeffer (pop. 1,469 at the 2001 census).

We have a lot to be thankful for.....



- ❖ An attractive hilly village 20 minutes drive North-west of Inverness, 4 miles from the Cromarty Firth and the market town of Dingwall. The village expanded in Victorian times after the local spring waters were discovered to have special curative powers. It rapidly became a fashionable spa resort - the most northerly spa in Europe. Every year, our Victorian history is celebrated by a

Victorian Market, with stallholders in appropriate costume raising funds for local causes.

- ❖ There are several large hotels remaining from these times catering for many tourists annually. Fodderty is the name of the community of houses and farms some half



mile distant, which formed the main parish pre-Victorian times.



- ❖ Communication links are good. The nearest railway station is in Dingwall, with the mainline hub in Inverness. The airport is half and hour's drive away.



- ❖ An excellent primary school built in 2000 has drawn in a good number of young families to the area, which complements the number of retired people attracted to the area. There is a healthy mix of ages in the village. It is hoped that our new minister will continue to develop a close relationship with the local

school. Dingwall Academy (moved to new buildings in 2010) has a good reputation, both academically and socially. There is a vibrant Community Centre attached to the primary school offering courses for all ages, gym etc.

- ❖ The village has several shops (a pharmacy, craft shops, a Belgian chocolatière, a hairdresser and a small supermarket.) The Highland Museum of Childhood is located at the restored Victorian Railway Station. There are several coffee shops and a couple of restaurants.



- ❖ The Strathpeffer Golf Course, described by Peter Allis as ‘a jewel in the heart of the Highlands’, is a spectacular and sometimes humbling 18 hole course.



- ❖ Strathpeffer has its own Pipe Band and hosts a traditional Highland Games every year.
- ❖ Many challenging mountain biking trails are easily accessible from the village. There are also numerous walking routes around the area.

- ❖ Excellent medical services, with an established practice in new buildings in the village, a cottage hospital in Dingwall, and Raigmore Hospital in Inverness.
- ❖ There are two Care Homes in the parish: one in the village; the other two miles away.

- ❖ Employment is mainly agriculture, tourism, the public sector and the service industry.
- ❖ Housing is a mixture of privately owned, housing authority and Highland Council.
- ❖ Strathpeffer is a centre for the arts, thanks mainly to the Strathpeffer Pavilion, restored in



2004, which attracts a wide range of concerts (Scottish Chamber Orchestra, The Proclaimers, Capercaillie and Kaiser Chiefs), dance (Scottish Ballet), opera (Scottish Opera), ceilidhs and plays. The church is often asked to take

weddings as a result of the Pavilion being a popular Highland wedding venue.

“We think Strathpeffer is a great place to be. Yes, there are challenges, but there’s lots going on locally and we’d like the church to be at the centre of more of them.”

The Church and the Church Hall buildings



B listed, with side aisles, this is a building of solid integrity, in an imposing position at the top of the village.

Generally in a good state of repair, with an ongoing maintenance programme overseen by the Fabric Committee, our challenge this year has been to raise £10,000 for new lighting in the church, replacing an out of date, impractical and inefficient system. We are confident that this money will be raised, and have just launched our appeal and fundraising efforts.

The Hall is used for the Sunday Club and by a couple of local associations for their weekly and quarterly meetings (the nearby Community Centre is now a more popular venue). Monthly soup lunches and after-church teas are also periodically held in the Hall.



The manse is situated in Contin a couple of miles away. It sits adjacent to the main road and faces south west. Built in the mid '80s it comprises a spacious SW facing sitting room with open fire, a modern fitted dining kitchen, 4 double bedrooms, 2 bath /shower rooms and a study. There is an integral garage and full central heating. Mains electricity and water. The property is in excellent condition and the garden has many fruit trees and bushes.

The Church as People



- ❖ Sunday Service, with our small choir, is held at 10am, with Sunday Club for primary aged children running concurrently in the Hall, and Youth Cafe for teenagers in the Community Centre.
- ❖ There are 16 Elders and the Congregational Board is made up of these, plus 10 others.



	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Members	141	135	128	123	127
Baptisms	4	4	2	9	5
Marriages	8	9	10	4	6
Funerals	4	8	9	5	7

❖ Communion is currently celebrated four times a year (January, Easter, June and October).

❖ The Sunday Club, with an average of 15 children, follows the 'Roots' curriculum. The Youth Cafe meets with an average of 12 teenagers every Sunday. Once a year, for the last couple of years, they have enjoyed a week away with their leaders at the Altnacriche Scripture Union Centre outside Aviemore.



❖ In the Presbytery of Ross, our World Mission link is with Ekwendeni in Malawi. We are in the process of being 'twinned' with Ekwendeni Hospital which covers quite a number of associated services.

What sort of minister would
we like to have?



*young
at heart*

cheerful

*Someone who
relates the sermon
to everyday life to
keep it interesting*

helpful

*Enthusiastic
and fun*

*Nice, and
wise*

*....not boring, and
relates to Grannys,
Grandpas, Mums,
Dads and children*

We asked our Sunday Club and Youth Cafe what their hopes were. *"We want to see continued growth in our Church, especially in the involvement of our young people-----building on the good work done by our youth leaders in recent years.*

- ❖ Fabric Committee
- ❖ Finance Committee
- ❖ Worship and Education Committee
- ❖ Pastoral Care group
- ❖ Publication Group
- ❖ Flower Group
- ❖ Fund raising



“Our church reflects the rural community in which we live, with its richness and diversity. Some people find that they can reach out to God through a more traditional approach: others have more progressive leanings. Many worshippers can relate to both. We seek a minister who will relate to all the members of the congregation and who is at home with both traditional and contemporary praise.”

We have good and happy relationships with the two other churches in Strathpeffer: the Free Church, and especially, the Episcopalian Church of St Anne’s. We join with St Anne’s for the Service of Remembrance in November and both congregations try to support each other at fund-raising events.

“We know many of the qualities we would like our minister to have, and yet we also need to be open to the unexpected. We do not know what God wants for us. We call and do not know who will answer! We do hope, however, that whoever comes to us will be someone who will relate to a wide range of people: a teacher and leader whose thinking is rooted in the scripture but earthed in the realities of life, someone who will support us in developing our faith and the expression of this. We are calling someone of strong faith, big heart and integrity, and hopefully a good sense of humour.

We hope that, as a congregation, we have these qualities too.

“We are not perfect, and we do not expect this of you!”