

## Parish Profile

### Fodderty and Strathpeffer Parish Church

([www.strathpefferchurchofscotland.org](http://www.strathpefferchurchofscotland.org))

linked with the parish of Contin (May 2011)

*“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. 1,109 at the 2011 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.

- ❖ 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 Inverness airport is forty-five minutes' 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 village. There is therefore a healthy mix of ages. 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, social functions, exhibitions etc.

- ❖ The village has several small shops (a pharmacy, craft shops, 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 located throughout the Village.



- ❖ 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. The Pipe Band, during the summer months, plays on Saturday evenings in the Village Square and also there is a display of Highland dancing.
- ❖ Many challenging mountain biking trails are easily accessible from the village. The, very popular, Strathpuffer 24 hour cycling

challenge takes place annually. 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 sometimes 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 Linkage with the Parish of Contin**

The formal linkage took place in May 2011, and we have all been trying hard to make the logistics of two parishes and three churches work to everyone’s satisfaction. Contin Parish has two churches, each with its own character and history. We began in May 2011 by implementing the Presbytery plan of three church services, running in quick succession every Sunday, but despite the admirable efforts of our enthusiastic locum with support from Elders and various Worship Groups, we have decided to modify this into a more realistic and workable weekly rota. Our new minister will take a service in Strathpeffer every Sunday and alternate services in Contin and Lochluichart . This is considered to be fair to all three congregations.....and the minister!

The Contin Parish Profile can be found using this link:

[www.contin.org.uk/community:church](http://www.contin.org.uk/community:church)

## 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, one of our challenges was that in 2011 to raise £10,000 for new lighting in the church, replacing an out of date, impractical and inefficient system. The new lighting system has now been successfully fitted and we are all delighted with the result.

The Hall is used for the Sunday Club, the Youth Café group 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 Hall was extensively refurbished two years ago.



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. Triple and double glazing is on hand along with interior decoration. 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. The Youth Cafe for teenagers meet in the Church Hall on Sunday evenings.

❖ There are 17 Elders and the Congregational Board is made up of these, plus 13 others.

❖ We are now in a sound financial position, raising sufficient finances to cover our expenses and still supporting other Christian charities and good causes. We have a very active and enthusiastic fundraising group who organise various functions throughout the year, incorporating an essential social aspect.



❖ We have an active Women's Fellowship Group involving ladies from all three churches in the linkage meeting on first Tuesday of each month. Also Bible study meet on second and fourth Tuesday of each month.

	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016		
<b>Members</b>	<b>111</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>104</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>92</b>		
<b>Adherents</b>	<b>93</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>79</b>		
<b>Baptisms</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>		
<b>Marriages</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>		
<b>Funerals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>		

- ❖ Communion is currently celebrated four times a year (January, Easter, June and October).
- ❖ The Sunday Club, with an average of 19 children, uses Scripture Union resources along with materials from other sources. The Youth Cafe meets with an average of 12 teenagers every Sunday.



Our congregation, though committed and enthusiastic, has dwindled in recent years and we would welcome a minister who can reach out to and influence the wider community and help us to draw people back into our Church.

- ❖ In the Presbytery of Ross, our World Mission link is with Ekwendeni in Malawi. We are now established as Twinning with Ekwendeni Hospital which covers quite a number of associated services.

What sort of minister would we like to have?



*cheerful*

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

*young at heart*

*helpful*

*Enthusiastic and fun*

*Nice, and wise*

*...not boring, and relates to Grannies, 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
- ❖ 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 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!”*