

## **STRATHKINNESS PARISH CHURCH PROFILE 2011**

### **Welcome**

Strathkinness Church has a reputation for being a welcoming place. We are hosts to the school and to the Youth Club. We offer our premises to the Friendship Club and to other village activities. Often there are holidaymakers and we sometimes share services with our Hope Park partners. A few worshipers come from other denominations and villagers, whether members or not, show much good will in supporting us. In fact, there is a saying here that they will do anything for us except actually come in large numbers on a Sunday morning.

### **A Bit of History**

Strathkinness was once part of St. Andrews Parish and its parish church sent preachers to conduct services. It also established a school in 1647 but its first minister was not ordained until 1860 and the church was replaced by the present building in 1864. Following the Disruption, the Free Church had a large following in the village and remained separate until 1935 when a long serving parish minister died.

In modern times, decline in membership and in the availability of ministers, led to Strathkinness church being linked with Dairsie and Kemback in one ministry. In 1993 Strathkinness church hall needed to be replaced and with a considerable local effort and assistance from certain charities, a new hall was built in 1995 at a cost of £100,000. When the Rev. Alexander Strickland retired in 2005 the triple linkage was broken up leaving Strathkinness to seek a linkage with a St. Andrews church. This was achieved with Hope Park Church. Strathkinness benefited from having a more settled ministry and there has been more contact, sharing and joint activities in which Hope Park officers and congregation have been most helpful and generous. Strathkinness was able to host Hope Park members at services in 2010 when their church was being renovated and this was appreciated.

### **Strathkinness**

Strathkinness is some 3 miles west of St. Andrews. At the 2001 census the population was 893 and there has been a little new building since then. In the past its work was quarrying, weaving, agriculture and haulage. Farming, haulage and car repair remain and there is one Post Office and shop. There is also a pub. The Primary School has some 71 pupils in 3 composite classes. The village hall, in what was formerly the United Free Church, is well used. There was a field in the middle of the village on which work has started to build some 32 houses

### **Church Organisation and Administration**

Strathkinness church is administered by a Kirk Session and Congregational Board. The Kirk Session has 13 elders and occasionally has joint meetings with the Management Group of Hope Park Church.

The members of the Congregational Board are the elders and 4 others. They principally look after the money and the property. The Board have recently installed a new electronic organ.

The church accounts for the year 2012 can be read in full at [www.strathkirk.com/Church\\_Accounts\\_2012.pdf](http://www.strathkirk.com/Church_Accounts_2012.pdf). In brief, the accounts show that with members' contributions, fund raising, Gift Day donations and rent from the use of the church hall, the finances are sufficient to enable the church to operate effectively. There are areas of concern in that membership is reducing and contributions come from a relatively small number of people. Also, the Manse Fund is gradually being used for property purposes and now stands at about £30,000

The church inaugurated a monthly news magazine called *Kirk & Community* It contains news and information that provides a service for all the village activities.



*A fund raising event in the church hall*

### **Communion and Other Services**

Sunday services are usually at 11.45am. When there is a joint service with Hope Park & Martyrs it is at 11.00 am.

There is a communion service in February and October when elders visit their Districts and give invitations to attend. There are also communion services at Easter and Advent and on Maundy Thursday we unite with Hope Park church. We also unite with St Andrews churches on the first Sunday of the year and on Easter morning.

### **Membership**

At the present time the membership roll has just over 100 names. Regular attendances at worship number no more than 25 with perhaps 45 at a Communion Service but on any one Sunday, attendances might not reach 20.

At the moment, the principal church posts are filled but it is becoming more difficult to find successors. One example would be the replacement of the organist who travels from Buckie to be with us.

### **Activities and Organisations**

Though Sunday School, Guild, Young peoples' groups and Young Women's' Group have all operated in recent years there are now insufficient numbers of the appropriate ages to continue as church organisations but members do take part in village activities though they also suffer from lack of interest and the Women's' Rural Institute had to close recently.

There is a Friendship Club which meets in the church hall for older people who may not be church members but little village interest is shown in expanding its numbers. From time to time there is a tea or even lunch event after a worship service and the hall is used for Open Group activities. The church, mostly directly through the minister, has close ties with the Primary School who use the church for end of term services and other events

Members of Strathkinness church assist in the café that operates in Hope Park Church.

The church hall has a basement which the Kirk Session allocated for the establishment of a Youth Club. The hall is used by the community for a ladies group, keep fit and dancing

classes and also for a mothers and toddlers group. The income is a necessary part of the church finances.

### **Church Building**

The church is a sound stone building of 198 square meters on the ground floor with a balcony of 56 square meters. There are wooden pews and oil fired central heating in the church and gas heating in the hall. There is an electronic organ and a small vestibule. The hall has a vestry.



The elders and core members of the church are neither complacent nor inactive who believe that under the minister's leadership the church has offered innovative services, activities and premises of good quality and they have been widely publicised. They will continue to strive to attract participants and try to discover new ways forward under the leadership of its new minister. He is the Rev. Allan McCafferty who became minister of Hope Park and Strathkinness in 2011.