

Inverkeithing Parish Church



Linked with



North Queensferry Parish Church

Within Forth Churches Group

Parish Profile

We are the linked charge of Inverkeithing Parish Church and North Queensferry Church. Following assessment under the Presbytery Plan Review our churches have been given permission to call a minister on an unrestricted tenure basis within the grouping.

(Presbytery of Dunfermline)

Inverkeithing Parish Church



Our Aim

“To encourage and enable members of Inverkeithing Parish Church to grow in faith and service by becoming involved in church life and to encourage members, collectively and individually, to bring others to a living faith in our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Local Information

History

St Peter's and St John's Parish Churches united on the 5th November 2006 to form Inverkeithing Parish Church. This union was completed very amicably following a period of deferred union during which joint plans were discussed and agreed.

St Erat a follower of St Ninian first brought Christianity to Inverkeithing around 700 A.D. The first church would have been a small clay building replaced in Norman times by a stone church. The pillars of the present church survived the Norman period. The Church was dedicated to St Peter in 1244 and the tower was added in the 14th century. The present church is a Victorian building on a Gothic base, on a Norman foundation.

St John's was established in 1752 as a secession church and became a parish church within the Church of Scotland in 1929. During its 258 year history a church hall was added to the building followed by a Church Officers flat above the hall.

Following the union in 2006 the congregation took the decision to refurbish the St Peters building to become the main place of worship and to retain the St John's Church hall and flat. To assist in this development the hall building for the St Peters Church was sold and there remain plans to also sell the St John's Church building.

On 24th April this year the newly refurbished Inverkeithing Parish Church opened its doors for the first time. The building now comprises of a worship area with soft seating while retaining many of the original features. To the rear of the building we have a small hall, a good sized meeting room, servery, ladies and gents toilets and an accessible toilet.

We continue to benefit from the use of the large hall which is situated a short walk away.

We have worked hard as a united congregation and trust that God will guide us as we look forward to the future.

Geography

The Royal Burgh of Inverkeithing is built on the side of a hill extending from the M90 motorway on the west, to the east of the town where a green field site separates the town from its neighbours of Hillend and Dalgety Bay. To the south is North Queensferry and to the north the fast developing Dunfermline east area. We currently have a population of around 5,700 with planning permission for around 400 new houses in the next ten years.

There is excellent access to the central belt of Scotland including Edinburgh and Glasgow due to the motorway network with good rail and bus links. The bus link includes a direct service to Edinburgh Airport.

Within the town there is a recently renovated Civic Centre which also houses the library and council offices. The high school also has a community wing providing indoor and outdoor sports facilities and a swimming pool.

Worship

Sunday morning worship is held at North Queensferry commencing at 10am and Inverkeithing at 11.30am.

With the opening of the refurbished Church in Inverkeithing we have installed a good quality sound system and are putting in place projectors for Power Point.

Inverkeithing use CH4, short form Mission Praise and our own compiled Songs of Praise to incorporate a range of worship songs.

To provide the music our organist uses an organ and keyboard. Occasionally guitar and other instruments supplement the music.

Our participation in the Church service, under the guidance of the minister, includes people doing the Bible readings, the involvement of JAM who lead prayers and the involvement of the worship group.

There are four formal Communion services during the year of which two are card Communions and two are all-age Communions. We also have several informal Communions following morning worship throughout the year.

We are delighted that the Children's Church and JAM participate in the occasional family services held throughout the year, and particularly enjoy their involvement at Christmas.

Our Leadership and Our Congregation

Eldership

We presently have 34 elders of which 30 are active. As well as carrying out their session duties including visiting members in their districts at least twice every year, the elders are all involved in the work groups set up under the Unitary Constitution.

Unitary Constitution

Under the leadership and guidance of our previous minister we took the decision to move from the Model Constitution to the Unitary Constitution.

This was seen as the way forward to encourage everyone attending our church to become more involved by using their gifts and skills in a more effective way. The following work groups were set up.

Children & Young People

To ensure that all safeguards are in place and that the youth and children's groups are well resourced.

Communication & Administration

To ensure that communication within the church is open and clear and to undertake necessary administration tasks effectively.

Fabric (Property)

To maintain the Church and hall premises and the manse in good order.

Finance & Stewardship

To assist the treasurer in carrying out the financial affairs of the Church.

Pastoral Care

To provide friendship and support for those who are housebound, in hospital or in need.

Social Activities & Fundraising

To organise fundraising events including the Highland Games Tea Tent and the Autumn Fair plus arranging social get togethers throughout the year.

Worship & World Mission

Under the leadership of our previous minister this group was involved in leading worship including: prayers; children's talks, praise and keeping people informed about mission at home and abroad.

Outreach

This group remained as part of the remit of session and is an area we are seeking to develop.

Congregation

At present we have 341 members on our roll, together with 13 adherents.

Our attendance on a Sunday is between 80 and 110.

Although we have in general an ageing congregation, we are delighted that there are a good number of children and teenagers who come along regularly on a Sunday morning.

We are an active congregation with many people being involved in all aspects of our Church life.

Church Groups

Children's Church

The Children's Church is for children of all ages up to the end of primary seven. There are three leaders who use the "On the Way" material as their teaching resource. At present there are 22 children on the register. A rota of helpers assist the leaders on a weekly basis.

Extra activities each year include the summer picnic, visit to the pantomime and children's Christmas party.

During the summer months volunteers run the Summer Sunday Fun Club, providing a varied programme of learning and activities.

J.A.M. (Jesus and Me)

J.A.M. is a group of young people of high school age and beyond. Past members who have gone on to University still come back to join us at holiday times.

We meet on Sunday morning and share in worship for 15/20 minutes before we leave together with the Children's Church and go to our own "space".

Whilst we have a prepared lesson or craft activity, we allow the young people time to discuss topical issues which may be of concern to them.

We also go on outings and occasionally have pizza nights/BBQs.

At present we have fifteen members but we always have room for more!

Walking Group

The group meets once a month on a Saturday leaving at 9.30am from outside the church. The distance walked normally varies from five to seven miles.

The Fellowship

The ladies meet once a fortnight from September to April in the church. They have various speakers and a few fun nights and occasional outings.

At present the group have 30 members and anyone wishing to join would be made most welcome.

Bible Study

This is a joint Inverkeithing and North Queensferry group led by group members meeting together fortnightly from September to May in the small meeting room within the church at Inverkeithing.

Choir

The choir has 14 members who meet to practice on Thursday nights, and assist in leading the congregational singing on Sunday mornings. The choir enjoy the occasions when they are invited to sing a choir piece during Sunday worship.

Sonic Saturday

This is an outreach children's club for those aged 3 – 14 in our communities, which meets in the Church Hall on the last Saturday of the month during term time.

The children enjoy an active and fun filled programme with games, songs, Bible stories, drama and craft.

For some children this is their first experience of church so we have 8 - 10 leaders each Saturday, which allows us to spend time sharing with and getting to know each child.



Inverkeithing Parish Church Hall & Flat

Rainbows, Brownies & Guides

We have a well established Guiding movement with good numbers of girls attending each of the groups, all of which meet in the church hall.

While not affiliated to the church all of the leaders are active church members and we look on the groups as being part of our church family.

In recent years the annual "Thinking Day " service has taken place in the church on a Sunday morning. The leaders and girls have taken a full part in the service.

Boy's Brigade

The BB Company in Inverkeithing is entering its 125th year and is the oldest Company in the Dunfermline and District Battalion.

The Company strength has declined in past years but is now on the increase with vibrant Anchor Boy and Junior Sections.

The Company Section, although small in numbers, is well attended and did have 2 Queen's Badges awarded at the recent Display."

Our Church in Our Community

Inverkeithing Parish Church is one of four churches within our community. There is also a Baptist Church, Catholic Church and an Episcopal Church.

We have a good relationship with the other churches in particular the Baptist Church with whom we have shared in worship around Easter and Remembrance Sunday.

The Naval Association from Rosyth are involved in the annual Remembrance Sunday service and recently celebrated their 150th anniversary at the church during Sunday morning worship.

We have a nursery and primary school in the town and pastoral care has been shared between the ministers at Inverkeithing Parish Church and the Baptist Church. There is also a secondary school on the same campus with a catchment area that includes Hillend, Dalgety Bay and Aberdour. The ministers in the Forth Churches grouping share the pastoral care of the high school as a team ministry.

There is a large sheltered housing complex in the town centre. We have held services including Communion services and hold our Saturday morning coffee morning once a month in their lounge for those who are less able to attend the church.

Some former residents of Inverkeithing now reside in the nursing home in Dalgety Bay. Services are held in the home and are led on rotation by the Churches in the Forth Churches Grouping.

We hold coffee mornings at the Church on Tuesday and Saturday mornings which are open to everyone in our community.

In the summer we support the Inverkeithing Highland Games by organising and running a tea tent.

For the past two years we have run a holiday club during the October school holidays. Last year this was enjoyed by 50 local children.

In the autumn we hold an annual Fair which is well supported by people in the community.

We support Christian Aid as one of our main charitable efforts throughout the year and organise a door to door collection in the town. We also support the annual Forth Road Bridge cross.

Our Financial Position

Both Inverkeithing Parish Church of Scotland and North Queensferry Parish Church of Scotland are self-supporting congregations and are financially sound at this time.

The congregations are generous givers, both with regular offerings and also when a special appeal is made. In Inverkeithing Church there is a hard working fund raising group who organise a number of events during the year and North Queensferry Church also have several annual fund raising events.

Both congregations also generously support charities throughout the year, some on a regular basis and others when a need is identified either through a special offering or by fund raising.

Forth Churches Grouping

The Forth Churches Parish Grouping was set up in 2004 and includes the Church of Scotland Parishes of North Queensferry, Inverkeithing, Dalgety Bay and Aberdour St. Fillans.

As well as the ministers there is a Parish Assistant and also a Reader attached to the grouping. The ministerial group meets regularly to support one another.

Forth Churches has a Pastoral Care Group, led by the Parish Assistant which provides support, training and resources for use by pastoral visitors and elders.

A successful initiative has been "The Connexion" (www.theconnexion.org.uk) a youth forum.

During Holy Week and Advent joint evening services are held throughout Forth Churches. These bring together a number of worship styles and approaches, using the gifts of members of the various congregations.

Looking Forward

As a church we are looking to live out “Our Aim” and to be God’s living presence in our community. We continue to be open to God’s guidance and to the changes that this will bring.

Reaching out to the community

As our church building has now been re-developed we are seeking to find ways to open our premises in a welcoming way to the people of Inverkeithing. We recognise that we also need to find out God’s will for us as we reach out from our church into the community in which we live.

Christian Education

We recognise that as a church family we are continually learning together and that God has many new things to teach us. We are looking to be open and to grow in Christian faith together.

Kirk Session

The permission to call a minister unrestricted within the Forth Churches Group also contained a recommendation from the Presbytery Review Committee that the Kirk Sessions of both churches should consider a union rather than the current linkage but retaining two places of worship on a Sunday with a future ministry.

Manse

The manse is situated in a modern development in Dunfermline about two miles from Inverkeithing.



Front view

The property consists on the ground floor of two large public rooms, an up-to-date kitchen/breakfast room with patio doors leading into a well appointed garden. There is also a downstairs toilet and an integrated double garage.

Upstairs there is an ensuite master bedroom, three further bedrooms and a family bathroom.



Rear view

The property benefits from gas central heating throughout.

There are shops, primary schools and a leisure centre within easy walking distance.