

North Queensferry Parish Church



History and Geography

There has been a Christian presence here since the Middle Ages and a ruined Chapel lies near the pier. Our present Church and hall were built at the top of the village of North Queensferry in the 1960s, replacing the (now demolished) former Free Church in the older part of the village. It can seat almost 100 people and is the only Church in the village.

North Queensferry is bounded on three sides by the Firth of Forth and hosts the Forth Road and Rail Bridges. Although now essentially a dormitory village of some 1,100, whose people commute elsewhere to work, it is very conscious of its historical links to the ferry and bridges. There is also an active community centre, built by the residents in 1992. Many of our members are involved in a wide variety of community activities.

Our Congregation and Community

The congregation in North Queensferry is small but active and very diverse, along with a regular stream of visiting worshippers. Sunday morning worship commences at 10 am. Many visitors have remarked on the warmth of the welcome which they receive.

Elders and other members of the congregation take an active pastoral role in the village, carrying out visits, delivering flowers to the elderly, housebound, or distressed of the community (not simply the congregation) and generally demonstrating a care for others. We have enjoyed taking an active role in weekly worship. Lay involvement includes a group willing, if required, to support preachers in prayers, readings and praise choices. We have an electronic organ available for worship, along with the considerable talents of our organist. Children and grown-ups occasionally provide percussion assistance. We currently use CH4 and Mission Praise.

Our Church is in a robust financial state, thanks both to congregational generosity and the assistance of the Inverkeithing treasurer, who currently serves both congregations. The building has been kept in good repair and has lately had improvements to the access for the physically impaired, as well as a complete re-fit of heating and lighting.

Other fundraising activities, which also perform a valuable role in outreach, include Sales of Work twice a year and other special events from time to time. As well as raising funds for our own local work and other locally connected causes, we have given long standing support to Chegoria Hospital in Kenya.

Youth and other activities

Our most recent work of outreach has been to seek to establish a “twinning” arrangement with the Presbyterian Church at Hohoe in the Volta Region of Ghana. A group of the congregation have been active in carrying this idea forward and have been joined by the Head Teacher of our excellent local

Primary School, which is also seeking to be involved in this development and have already planned a study project in this connection.

We host a village “coffee and chat” morning every second week, aimed at the wider community. Not infrequently this includes a visit from some of the school children, led by a teacher.

In our role of encouraging our younger children into the life of the Church, we have “Sunday Funday”. They come to the first part of the morning service, but are led through to the hall after the first two hymns, prayer, children’s address and offering have taken place. On suitable occasions, they are brought back in to join the congregation for some important event. Our numbers of children are small and do fluctuate somewhat, but our leaders put much effort into encouraging the children and also have good links with the school.

The prayer and spiritual life of the church is central to everything we do. A Prayer Group meets in the Church every second Tuesday, alternating with the joint Bible Study Group with Inverkeithing. They carry out a range of prayer activities, mainly requests for intercessions, giving thanks and seeking God’s guidance in the whole life of our Church and the wider world.