

**URRAY AND KILCHRIST  
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND**



West church

**MUIR OF ORD, ROSS-SHIRE  
Presbytery of Ross  
HIGHLAND**



East church

**PARISH PROFILE**



**Mission Statement**

Our purpose is to bring glory to God through Jesus Christ by committing ourselves to regular worship, prayer and bible study. We offer a warm welcome to all and aim to reach out to each other, our community and the world with the love of Christ

Registered Scottish Charity SC 009902

Congregational Reference No. 392220

## INTRODUCTION

Urray and Kilchrist Church became vacant on 7th December 2018, when the Reverend Scott Polworth LLB, BD was called to serve at Kinmylies Church, Inverness. Urray and Kilchrist was Scott's first charge, in which he faithfully served for nine years. To replace him, we seek an enthusiastic, evangelical Minister to work jointly with the congregation to promote the growth of the church. He/She should relate to and inspire all ages, guide us in our spiritual journey according to sound Biblical principles and lead us forward in God's work in the local community and the wider world.

## PARISH AND LOCATION

The parish runs north from the Inverness boundary near Beaully village to Brahan (of Brahan Seer fame) on the north side of the River Conon and west from the edge of the Black Isle to beyond Marybank village (a populated area of some 5 x 7 miles. The population is concentrated in the villages of Muir of Ord (pop. about 2800) and Marybank (Pop. about 400). Another 2000 persons are scattered throughout the parish. Kilchrist is from the Gaelic, meaning "Church of Christ". Urray means "fort on a projecting place".



The East Church, Muir of Ord

The East Church is a substantial red sandstone structure that celebrated its 100 year anniversary in 2011. With its tripartite windows and single bell tower, it is a significant landmark in the heart of the population. Adjacent to it is the large hall used daily by church and community groups.



East Church Hall  
(Coffee at the Kirk)

This generously proportioned hall is a magnet for some 14 community groups and 12 church organisations (2018). The hall has been substantially upgraded with the use of eco funding from several sources that reduced its carbon footprint by 50%. The congregation holds an eco award for its care of creation and is a member of Eco Congregation Scotland.



West Church, Urray

## THE WEST CHURCH, URRAY

This ancient masonry structure, dating back to 1780, is a category C listed building and is much favoured for weddings, with couples coming from far and near. This church has been described by architects as one of the most beautiful churches in Scotland. The church buildings are all kept in an excellent state of repair by the Congregational Board.



West Church Interior

(looking towards pulpit in corner)

## MUIR OF ORD

Muir of Ord is situated on the western edge of the Black Isle, a picturesque promontory which juts out between the relatively clean waters of the Moray and Cromarty Firths and is noted for its rich, productive soil.

The village is, and always has been, a natural meeting place. A stone lying close to the 18th hole of the golf course marks the spot where a horse market was regularly held. Livestock dealers from far and wide descended on "The Muir" to trade and barter, before the mart eventually moved to Dingwall, shortly before the First World War.

The Black Isle Agricultural Show, one of the largest in Scotland, is held annually in Muir of Ord in August. The Presbytery of Ross intend to occupy a stall this coming year at the Show along similar lines to that of Heart and Soul at the General Assembly in Princes Street

Gardens.

An industrial estate located on the outskirts of the village provides employment for many, although this has not escaped the job cuts associated with the current economic situation and the closure of the massive fabrication yards at Nigg and Ardersier.

Muir of Ord enjoys the best of both worlds: on the one hand, an idyllic rural setting, and on the other, a location only twelve miles from Inverness, with all the sporting, cultural and shopping amenities and job opportunities of a major city. Inverness is one of the fastest growing cities in Europe at present. From Muir of Ord, the airport is approximately 30 minutes away by car, while the rail link provides some fifteen services daily to the north, south, east and west. There are fifteen bus runs each day to Dingwall and Inverness.

The character of the village has remained remarkably unchanged over the years although large housing estates built and being built have given it something of a dormitory element. The church has benefitted to a small extent by the ingress of new residents.

## THE MANSE

The present manse is for sale and we are currently seeking to buy a suitable property to replace it.

## CONSTITUTION

Urray and Kilchrist operates under the Model Deed Constitution. Information and a copy of the deed may be found at the Church of Scotland website using this link [https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/office\\_bearers/formation\\_of\\_the\\_kirk/constitutions\\_of\\_the\\_kirk](https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/office_bearers/formation_of_the_kirk/constitutions_of_the_kirk)

## THE KIRK SESSION

The Kirk Session has a total membership of 14 active elders (not including the Minister) comprising 7 women and 7 men. All elders

including the Session Clerk have a district and so share pastoral duties with the minister. The Kirk Session meets depending on business, but on average four times a year. It also meets twice a year to open and close the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Once a year it meets at a retreat away from the churches. Two elders are invited to represent the Kirk Session at Presbytery. At present only one elder has accepted the invitation.

### CONGREGATIONAL BOARD

The Board consists of 17 members, all the elders plus three elected members plus the Minister who does not normally take the chair. The elders are elected for life. Elected communicant members retire after three years but can, and are generally, re-elected. The Board meets about every three months depending on business, and at the Stated Annual Meeting in March.

### MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the congregation at December 2018 is as follows:

Communicants: 81

Adherents: 61

Average number attending services are: West Church (1st and 3rd Sundays) = 50, East Church (2nd, 4th and 5th. Sundays) = 70, attending communion (May and November) = 55 and attending Easter communion = 40. Age and health issues prevents some members from attending church. Home communion is available. Our latest Scottish Church Census listed the following which was taken during a baptismal service which did enhance the attendance numbers slightly from a routine Sunday service:

Age 4 and under = 8, 5-12 = 6, 12-15 = 0, 16-24 = 2, 25-34 = 15, 35-44 = 10, 45-54 = 7, 55-64 = 12, 65-74 = 19, 75-84 = 14, 85 and over = 5.

### WORSHIP

Services are held as follows:

1st and 3rd Sundays of the month in Urray West Church at 11 am and in the East Church hall at 6.30 pm.

2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays in the East Church at 11.00 am which are followed by tea and fellowship in the Church hall.

The format is traditional, with members of the congregation helping with lesson reading each week, and with Intercessory Prayer as requested by the Minister.

In the East Church a projector and screen are used as interactive support for the services by displaying a welcome message, hymns, readings etc.

Worship in both Churches is supported by an organist.

Both churches have equipment installed to record the services. The recordings are transferred onto pen drives which are distributed to those who are unable to attend Church and who can then listen to the service using the speakers which the Church has provided them with.

Sunday Club meets every Sunday in the East Church hall. However, numbers are presently low, in line with the other churches in the Presbytery.

A creche is provided and staffed by a willing list of helpers all holding PVG certificates.

Messy Church meets once a month with some 50 children and adults regularly attending for Bible stories, crafts and singing and finishing with food and fellowship.



Messy Church Summer Sports



### Messy Church

A youth group for Primary 7 and Secondary 1 and 2 children is held weekly during term time, the running of the group is shared jointly with the Free Church of Scotland in Muir of Ord. Encouraging young people to graduate from the hall to church is now an on-going challenge for all churches.

The JC Club as mentioned in the Appendix is in recess for 2019 but it is hoped to re-start it in the future.

Two adult prayer and Bible study groups meet on Thursday morning and Thursday evening.

### OTHER GENERAL INFORMATION

A most popular initiative that has been running for a number of years is “Coffee at the Kirk”. It takes place every Friday morning throughout the year and gathers both church and unchurched friends for good fellowship, home baking and the “crack”. Donations of up to £100 per week are taken for a great range of charities decided by those who meet. Around 30—40 adults, young mothers and children regularly attend.



### Coffee at the Kirk

We have a good relationship with the local Free Church. We meet for monthly congregational services of praise and fellowship; we plan together for village outreaches such as Christmas and Easter outdoor services and the men’s monthly Saturday morning prayer breakfasts. We also have at least one prayer triplet house-group.

School assemblies are shared with the Free Church minister at Tarradale Primary and at Marybank Primary schools. Short services are held monthly at the local Care Home when a few members of the congregation share with the minister or conduct the services when the minister has other commitments.

Elders visit their districts to exercise their pastoral concern and, at the two communion seasons, hand out communion cards. The new housing sites are also visited in order to seek out new worshippers but this is not as fruitful as desired except for existing members who have moved house within the parish.

A Church magazine is produced 3 times a year with various reports and articles submitted by the congregation.

We have a church library to encourage spiritual reading.

As part of our wider Christian engagement, sharing, caring and fellowship, our ladies’ and gents’ toilets have been “twinned” with toilets in Pakistan (ladies’) and the Democratic Republic of Congo (mens’) through Tearfund as part of the water and sanitation initiative; we hold occasional soup lunches in response to charitable requests, or simply for fellowship; Coffee at the Kirk sponsors a secret child; the Sunday School also sponsors a child.

An E-link with a small Protestant church in Mende, France has been established.

## Mende Church



## Youth Outreach

Once a year or so People with a Mission's Ministry (PWAMM), the Christian Outreach Mission from Perth, is invited by the church to come for a week and spread the Gospel to the parish and district. One of the big attractions is the challenger bus that visits Primary Schools and church groups in the area. Our hall is used by the group as a base and as a canteen. Local members of the church accommodate the PWAMM staff in their homes.



## Challenger Bus

The team works with both the Free Church and Church of Scotland in Muir of Ord to take the Gospel to the community, with around 30 kids coming along to the kids club each evening as well as a number of teens. The bus contains electronic equipment, videos and the like. At the local Tarradale Primary School some 150 children and teachers visited the bus.



Children Watch Christian Video in Bus

## LEGAL

Urray and Kilchrist Church of Scotland complies with all disability discrimination, health and safety and food and hygiene and GDPR legislation.

Urray and Kilchrist is fully compliant with the Church of Scotland PVG Safeguarding Service. We have a duty to ensure a Safe Church for all. This means protecting children and adults at risk. Our Coordinator ensures that recruitment is safe; that training is current; that all documents are attested by 121 and Ross Presbytery; that there is constant liaison with all groups, the Kirk Session and the Child Protection Panel.

## STATISTICAL AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION

This is available in the appendix, which also includes a SWOT analysis.

Additional Information:

Urray and Kilchrist ECS-PowerPoint

(gives details of our Eco-congregation work)

East Church Anniversary-PowerPoint

(gives 100 year summary of the East Church)

Informal enquiries can be made to the Interim Moderator, Mr James Maxwell, Fearn Abbey and Nigg, Cliff Cottage, Fearn, Ross-shire IV20 1XP;

Tele. 01862 871883;

E-mail: [jimmymaxwell62@gmail.com](mailto:jimmymaxwell62@gmail.com).

A printed or electronic copy of the Parish Profile is available from the Clerk to the Nominating Committee, Mrs Angela Mair, Lilac Cottage, Drynie Park, Muir of Ord, IV6 7RP;

Tele. 01463 871998;

E-mail: [mair.lilac@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mair.lilac@hotmail.co.uk)

FACEBOOK page: Urray and Kilchrist Church of Scotland, Muir of Ord

Website: [www.muirofordcofs.co.uk](http://www.muirofordcofs.co.uk)