

# Tain Parish Church Parish Profile



Presbytery of Ross

Unrestricted Call



A Charity Registered in Scotland No. SCO 12425



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## Vision of the Church of Scotland

'The vision of the Church of Scotland is to be a church which seeks to inspire the people of Scotland and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ through enthusiastic, worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving communities.'

## Introduction

The Royal Burgh of Tain sits on the southern shore of the Dornoch Firth in Easter Ross. The year 1066 is a date often given as that of the original founding by Malcolm Canmore. The town's creation was due to its being the birthplace of St Duthac whose bones were returned here to become the centre of pilgrimage for hundreds of years. The present building is the fourth one to be the Parish Church and was built in 1892 by the locally acclaimed Architect Andrew Maitland. The Church stands on Queen Street, just off the main thoroughfare of Tain, 35 miles north of Inverness on the A9 trunk road.

Tain Parish Church is in the Presbytery of Ross along with 21 congregations spread across the old County of Ross. Presbytery meets on the first Tuesday of most months in Dingwall Castle Street Church.

Tain Parish Church fell vacant at the end of August 2009 following the retirement of our Minister, Rev. Douglas Horne after over 32 years of faithful service as Preacher, Teacher and Pastor. He has left us in good heart with an active Kirk Session and Congregational Board and a committed membership. We seek a Minister who will build on his work and preach the true Word of God.

## Location and Parish

Tain has a population of around 3500. Many are employed by Highland Council or work for local businesses or travel into Inverness to work. The surrounding land supports a healthy farming community. Close to the Church is Tain's High Street with numerous well established family businesses. The town also has two supermarkets.

The town's secondary school Tain Royal Academy is fed by five primary schools, two of which are in the town. Nursery and pre-nursery education are also well catered for in Tain.

The well resourced Health Centre consists of two group practices along with nursing services and is nearby the Church.

Communication by rail and road is easy during the year with few weather problems. There are regular bus services to Inverness, 35 miles from Tain, where all the major stores are available.

Raigmore Hospital in Inverness is the main Hospital for the area with the Minister making regular visits.

Rose Garden  
High Street  
Tain



## Congregational Life

Services are held on Sundays at 11.00am and 6.30pm with typically 200-250 attending worship in the morning and 35-40 in the evening, with extra visitors during the summer months. The Children's Church and J.J.'s attend the first part of the morning service before returning to the Church Hall after the children's address from the Minister; a crèche is available for the congregation within the Church building. Strong Bible based teaching is an important and integral part of each service.

Communion is held on the fourth Sunday of January, April, June and September in both morning and evening services with a Preparatory Service on the Friday evening before communion. The current number of communicant members is 140.

Home Communion is offered immediately after the morning service to housebound members when the Minister is assisted by elders, there are approximately seven home communions involved.

## The Manse

The Manse is a well maintained one and a half-storey detached villa situated at the end of a cul-de-sac in a quiet residential area some 5 minutes walk from the Church. The Manse was built in the late 1960's and has been regularly maintained and upgraded. There is an attached brick garage and a small easily managed front and back garden with one outbuilding at the rear of the property.



Tain Parish Church Manse



Manse Front Garden

Accommodation on the ground floor consists of one public room, dining room, study room, double bedroom, kitchen and bathroom. The stairway from the large hall leads to the first floor with a shower room, two double bedrooms, one with a small room attached.

Double glazed windows were recently installed, as well as new fascia boards and down pipes. Oil central heating was upgraded last year to a very efficient standard.

## Worship

Tain Parish Church is a congregation of the Church of Scotland. We are a fellowship of believing people who worship the one true, living God - Father, Son and Holy Spirit, who confess Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and seek to serve Him in the world and walk in His Ways.

At the centre of the congregation's life is the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ - the message of God's love and forgiveness and promise of a new life to those who put their trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord. Since God has made known this good news of a full and free salvation in the Bible, his inspired and infallible, living and life-giving word, the preaching of the biblical message and its relevance to our day is central to our worship.

We believe that God hears and answers the prayers of His believing people and therefore we meet regularly to pray for His work at home and abroad and for those within the congregation and community with special needs. We see this as a vital part of our life and witness.

## Meetings

Lord's Day: 11:00am Morning Worship  
Children's Church  
Youth Group

6:30pm Evening Service

We meet in the church hall on the first Sunday evening of each month for informal Worship and Fellowship.

Tuesday: 2:30pm The Guild

Wednesday: 7:30pm Mid-week Fellowship  
for Bible Study & Prayer

On the first Wednesday of each month there is a United Prayer meeting with other local churches over the year (excluding three summer months).

### Communion:

On the 4th Sunday in January, April, June and September

## Membership

Believers become communicant members of the Church either by Profession of Faith or by means of a Certificate of Transfer from the Church where they already have membership. In the case of those wishing to become communicant members for the first time, a period of instruction in the basic beliefs of the Christian Church would precede their taking the Vows of Church Membership before the congregation at the Preparatory Service, which is held on the Friday prior to Communion.

## Kirk Session

The Kirk Session currently consists of 12 men who meet as required throughout the year. Elders share pastoral duties, with each allocated a district within the Parish.

## Congregational Board

The Congregational Board has 24 members (currently 15 men and 9 women) with the Minister as Chairman. Members of the Board are elected by the Congregation at the Stated Annual Meeting in March. The Board meets about six or seven times in the year to deal with the Congregation's business affairs. Non-elders on the Board also keep in touch with adherents of the Church. There are currently 115 people on the Roll of Adherents.

## Children's Church and J.J.'s

Children's Church and the J.J.'s Young Teen Group is led by five teachers who meet in the Church Hall during the morning service after participating in the early part of the Church Service. Twenty five children regularly attend, they are a committed group who also take part in the family services of the Church with music and vocal items. All their offerings, amounting to quite a substantial sum, is distributed annually to mission work chosen by the group.

## The Guild

The Guild meets on Tuesday afternoons in the Church Hall from October to March and has a varied programme of Guest Speakers and musical activities, all Christian centred, with a regular attendance of around 20 members.

## Organists & Choir

The Services are fairly traditional with organ music and a small choir leading singing with Psalms and Hymns from CH3 and Mission Praise and three organists on a rota basis.

## Finance & Stewardship

Tain Parish Church Congregation is self supporting, the Treasurer is assisted by the Gift Aid Convenor.

A copy of the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2008 is available on request.

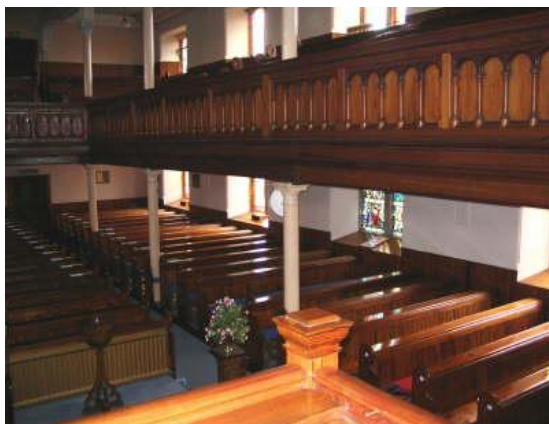
The financial state is healthy, members maintain a good level of giving, responding generously to any special appeals and fund-raising events.

The Congregation continues to meet its full commitment to the National Church and donates regularly to missionaries and external causes from retiring offerings given on Communion Sundays. The Congregation has also given generously to support the Highland Theological College in Dingwall, which is now part of the University of Highlands & Islands (UHI) and has benefited from staff Ministers preaching in the Church.

## The Church Building

The fabric of Tain Parish Church buildings is overseen by a small group under the Leadership of the Property Convener. The Church underwent extensive exterior renovation in recent times, partly funded by Historic Scotland with a large contribution from the Congregation. The building's exterior is in excellent condition for the foreseeable future. The interior has some minor decoration issues to be dealt with. The Church is fitted with PA and induction loop system and C.D. recording equipment is located at the front of the Church.





View from pulpit showing right side of Church and gallery

View from pulpit of central pews and gallery



Magnificent stained glass windows and organ pipes behind pulpit.

## The Church Hall

The Church Halls are located behind the Church with a tarmac vehicular access. Major internal refurbishment of the halls was completed in early 2009 and induction loop system installed.

There are three separate halls within the building all at ground level and of different sizes with disabled access, toilet facilities and a well equipped modern kitchen.

The halls are in regular use by the congregation with two Children's Church groups on Sunday morning during morning service, a mid-week bible study fellowship and The Guild. On the first Sunday evening of each month informal congregational worship is held in the Hall followed by social tea and biscuits.





Main Church Hall



Second Church Hall



Church Hall Kitchen

## Outreach

Tain Parish Church takes a positive interest in the work of Tain & District Youth Café YMCA International Movement via the YMCA method of the Wholeness of approach of Body, Mind and Spirit which is well attended by secondary school pupils from the area.

The Minister is involved in visits to the local primary schools for assemblies and these schools also use the Parish Church for Schools' Christmas Service.

The Minister makes visits to sick and housebound members and to those in hospital, especially Raigmore Hospital in Inverness and other Care Homes in the area.

Offerings at certain seasons are given for needful causes. Blythswood receives the Harvest Thanksgiving offering for its work at home and overseas, donations from the Remembrance Service to the Earl Haig Fund and donations from the Watch Night Carol Service on Christmas Eve to Tear Fund.

The Church halls are used by several groups including a Pre-Nursery Group, Arthritis Care, Country Dancers, and a Gardening Club on a session rental basis at the discretion of the Congregational Board.

A 'Monthly Record' Newsletter is produced by the Minister for circulation and contains a letter from the Minister, pastoral information, monthly financial details and advance notice of church activities.

There are good links with other Churches in the town with a joint Prayer Meeting and Bible Study held on the first Wednesday of each month, excluding summer months, with the Free Church of Scotland and the Associated Presbyterian Church meeting in turn in each others Church and sharing lead roles.

## Mission

The Church Services are recorded on C.D. and distributed to house bound members as requested on a weekly basis with copies available to the Congregation when required.

Tain Parish Church maintains links with mission workers in the Philippines and Tanzania - we also kept contact with a Missionary who served for many years in Kenya, now retired, and living in Tain sharing fellowship with us.

Over the past 25 years the congregation has given prayer support and some financial donations to two missionary families in Tanzania and the Philippines. Both families have parents living in Tain who are members of Tain Parish Church and we have been privileged to hear of the missionary work they are involved in on their return visits to Tain.

## Tain Parish Church of Scotland

### Who to Contact

Informal enquiries can be made to the Interim Moderator:

Rev. Rob Jones  
Church of Scotland Manse  
Rosskeen Parish Church  
Perrins Road,  
Alness, Ross-shire, IV17 0SX

Tel No. 01349 882265  
e-mail: [rob2jones@btinternet.com](mailto:rob2jones@btinternet.com)

Applications and recommendations to be submitted to the Clerk to the Nominating Committee:

Mrs Irene Lawson  
5 Knockbreck Avenue  
Tain, Ross-shire, IV19 1LY

Tel. No. 01862 892975  
e-mail: [irene\\_culnald@yahoo.com](mailto:irene_culnald@yahoo.com)

Church website: [www.tainparishchurch.org](http://www.tainparishchurch.org)