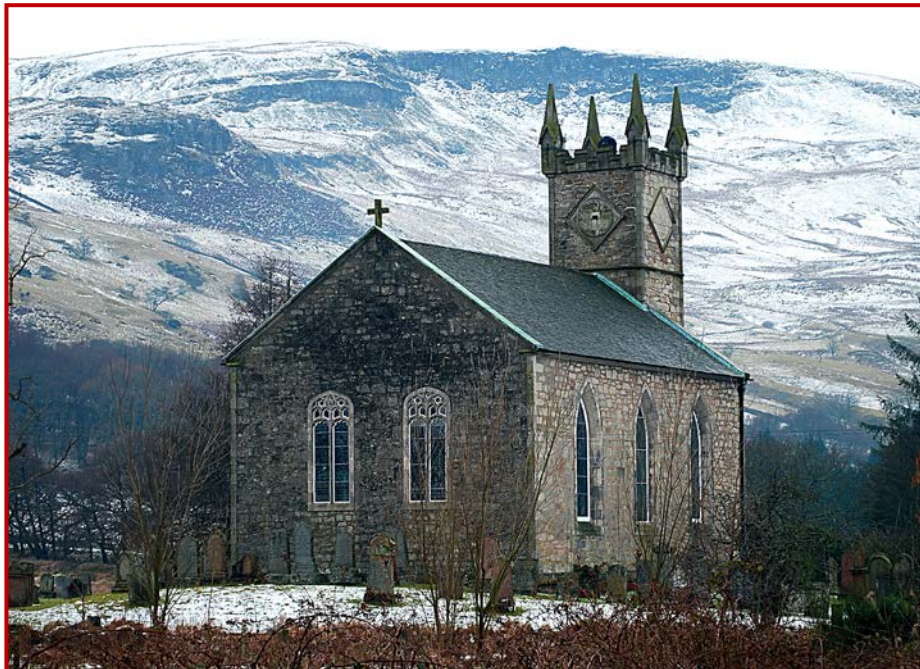




Balfroon Church

linked with

Fintry Kirk



Two Churches

One Vision

Balfron & Fintry Church of Scotland

Our Vision

Our vision is to be a fellowship of people,

- faithful to Christ's teaching,
- learning to trust God and one another,
- where all are welcome.

Our desire is to be a caring and compassionate church at the heart of the communities we serve, working to gain their support.

We want to be a vibrant church characterised by warmth, friendship, love and joy where people's gifts are valued.

Background

In 1993 Balfron was linked to Fintry after the retiral of both ministers.

Following the translation of our previous minister in 2011, Interim Ministry was applied for through Presbytery and granted. The aim of the Interim Ministry has been to help the congregations find the way ahead after an unsettled period of time.

With both Churches now “united in purpose”, “ready to move on”, and with “joy and laughter in the congregations”, Stirling Presbytery gave permission on February 14th 2013 to call a minister without restriction.

This has been a successful period in the life of both congregations.

Interim Moderator

Rev. Iain M. Goring

7 Station Road, Balfron, G63 0SX.

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Mobile; 07762 254 1540

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Balfron Church

History

Balfron Church has been a Christian site since 1303 when it was first mentioned in historical records. The present church buildings were rebuilt in 1832. The modern church halls were built in 1996 and these are used every day for congregational and community activities.

Both the halls and the manse are well maintained. Balfron is the home for the manse of the linked congregation.

Kirk Session and Congregational Board

There are currently 19 elders and 9 elected board members.

Roll and attendance

There are currently 148 members on the Communion Roll and 63 on the Supplementary Roll. There are usually between 80 and 90 at Sunday service.

There is a Praise Band every month and a monthly All-Age Service. At Easter and Christmas, worship invitation cards are sent to the whole parish.

We have a Sunday Club with around 20 children.

Service Times

Morning Service 11.15 am.

Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of the month from September to June except for the month that has Holy Week when it is on Good Friday. There is no Communion Service in October and January. Easter Communion services are held during Holy Week.

Joint services are held with Fintry during July.

The minister is school chaplain to Balfron Primary School and Balfron High School.

On alternate years the minister takes the Christmas Watch Night Service at Fintry Church.

We have established ecumenical links with the Baptist Church and Roman Catholic Church in the village.

We have a pipe organ, use Ch4 Hymnary, Mission Praise and read from the New International Bible. There is a Flower Rota and a Rota to read the lesson.

Groups

The Session has formed 4 small groups; (elders and members) to work on the priority areas of:

Worship; Sunday services and Special Events.

Communication; Keeping everyone informed through our church magazine and website.

Pastoral Care; Visiting and supporting our members.

Youth Work; From crèche to teenagers.

Organisations

The Guild

The Guild is about invitation, encouragement, commitment and fellowship which leads to providing opportunities for continuing growth in Christian faith through worship, prayer and action.

Worship is an essential ingredient in all our meeting and activities. Prayer underpins everything – and is a means of involving those members who cannot be active in other ways.

Action means living out the faith through raising money for project work, exploration of the discussion topics and local involvement of groups and individual members in various aspects of Christian service.

The Lunch Club

The club meets every Thursday during term time in the Church Rooms where a two course lunch is served. We welcome everyone from the very young to the not so very young.

The Craft Group

The group meets on a monthly basis and produces Teddies for Tragedies, gloves, scarves and hats for the Blythswood Shoebox Appeal, baby hats for the Royal Hospital for Sick Children in Glasgow and Save the Children, knee rugs for the elderly and anything else where there is a need.

Prayer Group

The group meets every Tuesday in the Church Rooms.

House Groups

Three House Groups meet regularly for Bible Study and discussion of faith issues.

Choir

The Church Choir and Community Singers regularly give special concerts.

Wednesday Club

A club for senior citizens to meet in the village hall for fellowship and entertainment.

CoSY Café

Teenagers meet in the Church Rooms every Friday during term time to hang out, make friends and have a lot of fun.

Eco-Congregation

Balfron Church registered as an Eco-Congregation in December 2005 and we gained our first award in June 2007. We are a Fair Trade Church, and members led the movement to make Balfron a Fair Trade village.

Finance

The church is financially sound and all commitments are met from offerings and a Gift Day. Gift Aid is also used.



Interior of Balfron Church

Fintry Kirk

With a parish population of around 600, Fintry Kirk is situated in the Clachan of Fintry and lies to the east of Fintry village. The present church, built in 1823 and surrounded by an ancient graveyard, replaces a former building dating from 1642. A new cemetery is now located on the outskirts of the village.

In 1992 the congregation raised £32,000 in six weeks to build a custom built Session House in the Kirk grounds. It is used regularly by the congregation, Sunday School, Kirk Session, Congregational Board, The Guild, Mothers and Toddlers Group and for social coffee gatherings after Sunday Service. Both buildings are well maintained.

Church Services

Sunday morning at 9.30am.

On alternate years the Christmas Eve Watch Night Service is taken by the Minister and the Session Clerk

We have a Wyvern organ, use CH4 Hymnary, Mission Praise and read from the new International Version Bible.

There are 35 members of our Flower Rota who ensure there is an arrangement of fresh flowers every Sunday morning in church, and a rota of 26 members to read the Lesson.

Sunday School

Currently we have up to 9 children in the Sunday School. They meet on a Sunday morning in the Church then leave for their own activities after the singing of the second hymn. The Minister is also Chaplain to Fintry Primary School.

Communion

The first Sunday in March, June, September and December.

Roll and attendance

There are currently 126 on the Church Roll, 5 of whom are Adherents. Normally 30 to 40 members attend Sunday Service, more on special occasions.

Kirk Session and Congregational Board

The Kirk session has 16 elders who are joined on the Congregational Board by 4 additional members of the church.

The recent ordination of six new elders has strengthened the Session and the outreach work of the church in the community.

Organisations

The Guild

We have a very active Guild with 23 members and all the meetings are open to everyone. During the summer we hold monthly Afternoon Teas in the Session House giving us the opportunity to welcome visitors and locals into the church. We also hold an Easter Breakfast.

The Guild supports the Blythwood Shoe Box Appeal, which last Christmas sent 196 boxes overseas, Strathcarron Hospice, Preshal, and other Guild projects.

Our Christmas Tree Festival with 14 trees decorated by village organisations brought over 100 members of the community to a Carol Service in the Church and raised more than £600 for Strathcarron Hospice.

The Guild meets on the first Monday of the month in the Session House.



Fintry Kirk Session House (Built in 1992)

Fintry Under – 5s

The local Mothers and Toddlers group meet in the Session House on Wednesday mornings.

Finance

Like many churches, finance is challenging but Fintry Kirk meets its financial commitments and Gift Aid is used.

Newsletter

A Church Newsletter is produced monthly and distributed to every house in the village

All services and church events are advertised weekly in the local paper. Every home is leafleted at Christmas and Easter. The Church has a good relationship with Fintry Primary School.

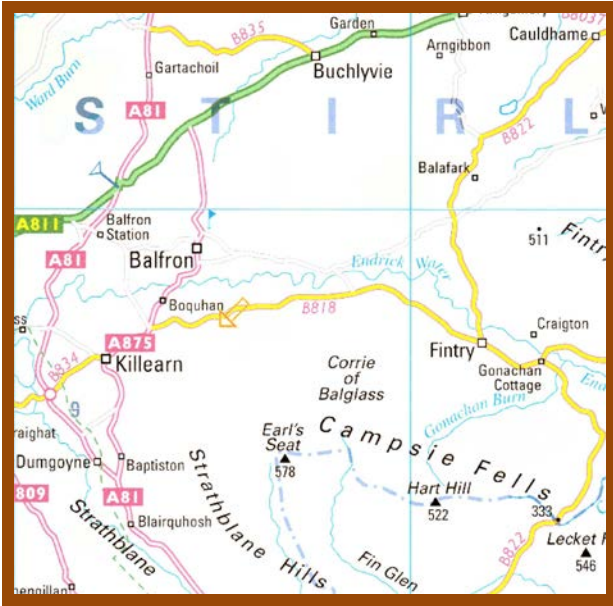
Linkage

Our linkage with Balfron is active and healthy and we enjoy sharing services during the month of July and supporting each other when special events are held. We also meet together for Holy Week. We always enjoy coming together and would like to do so more often.



Fintry Kirk Memorial Window
(on right)

Location



Balforn is 20 miles north of Glasgow and 20 miles west of Stirling. It has an excellent Primary School and High School. There is regular public transport to both Stirling and Glasgow. A local shopping centre for the area, it has a custom built NHS clinic and pharmacy. Hospital facilities are at Glasgow and the Royal Forth Valley Hospital at Larbert.

Fintry is 6 miles south east of Balforn on the B818. The village is 18 miles from Stirling (via the B822 and A811) and 18 miles from Glasgow (via the B822). There is no public transport to or from Fintry but there is Fintry DRT (Direct Responsive Transport) run by the council and provides a "taxi service" (free to Bus Pass holders) within the Fintry, Balforn, Killearn and Kippen area.

Website

Full information about our congregations can be found on our websites at:-

www.balfronchurch.org.uk

www.fintrykirk.btck.co.uk

Local Services

Links to information on matters of local interest can be found on our websites.

The Manse

Built in 1929 The Manse at 7 Station Road, Balforn is a traditional detached family home. On the ground floor there is a living room, lounge, study, breakfast room, kitchen and utility room.

The Manse has gas fired central heating throughout and upstairs there are four bedrooms and a family bathroom.

There is a brick built garage and the garden which surrounds the Manse has southerly views over Balforn to the Campsie Fells.



Applications with CV to:

Mrs Meg Duckworth

Dundarroch

Fintry

Stirlingshire

G63 0YH

Email:- milnemeg@btinternet.com