

## PARISH PROFILE

### CREICH, FLISK AND KILMANY LINKED WITH MONIMAIL

This linked charge consists of two parishes – Creich, Flisk and Kilmany parish and Monimail parish. The two parishes were linked 22 years ago. The two parishes share the same Mission Statement:

***“To bring the people of our Parish to Jesus Christ and to make them welcome in the fellowship of his family, to provide the atmosphere and resources to learn more about him, to enable them to use their own skills in our Church, and to serve others in the wider community, in order to glorify God.”***

#### The churches of the charge

There are three attractive and historic churches within the linked parishes:

##### *Creich Church*

Built in 1832, in a prominent situation close to the village of Luthrie, this church with its square tower and beautiful stained glass windows is very well maintained and much admired by visitors.



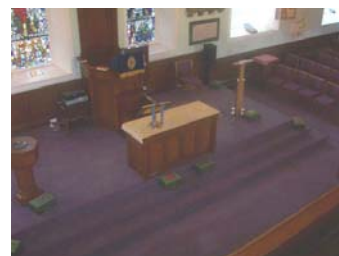
##### *Kilmany church*

Dating from 1786 this, the oldest of the churches in the charge is a white-walled church which is located on an elevated position in Kilmany village. The Rev. Thomas Chalmers ministered here between 1803 and 1815.



##### *Monimail church*

The present church building is located half-way between Letham and Monimail, and is a little over 200 years old. It is a T-plan building made of the local whinstone. Inside, a semi-octagonal gallery is supported on columns facing the pulpit on the long south wall. Recent internal renovations have created an open and flexible focal area in the church, which can be put to a variety of uses. For example, a very successful flower festival was held in the church in 2004, helping raise funds for the church.



## **The Church communities, organisations and activities**

Two services are conducted on a Sunday, with worship being at 10.00 a.m. in one parish and 11.30 a.m. in the other. At Monimail the service starts at 10.00 a.m. in odd-numbered years and 11.30 a.m. in even-numbered years, and vice versa in Creich, Flisk and Kilmany. All-age worship services have been held at both churches on a monthly basis. A formal Holy Communion sacrament is celebrated bi-annually. Visitors are made especially welcome at the services of both congregations.

A jointly run Christian Club meets on a Monday and serves the young people of both parishes. This meets in a hut at the rear of the church at Monimail. An afternoon club, meeting in Luthrie and Letham halls alternately every fortnight, has proved very popular, and serves as a social meeting point for all the community. A speaker or entertainer is arranged for most meetings.

During the last incumbency, worship groups were formed in each parish and they conducted all-age worship on the first Sunday of alternate months. A joint drama group was also formed and this assisted in all-age worship and performed an annual pantomime.

An occasional joint choir, led by a local musician and assisted by the two regular organists, has met on special occasions.

### *Creich, Flisk and Kilmany*

There is a membership of 130, with a supplementary roll of 40 and 6 adherents. There are 9 elders and 9 board members.

In addition to the joint activities noted above, a crèche is available at Sunday services. The Guild, with a membership of 18, meeting monthly October – April, plays an active part in church life. Fellowship lunches and strawberry teas feature among other activities. Members from Monimail are welcomed by the CFK Guild. Church magazines and newsletters are distributed regularly.

### *Monimail*

Currently church membership consists of 120 on the communion roll and 52 on a supplementary roll. 28 children are involved in the life of the church. The constitution is *quoad sacra*, there being 16 elders and a further 9 Congregational Board members.

In addition to the joint activities a crèche is available at Sunday services and a prayer group meets occasionally in parishioners' houses. A 24-page parish magazine is produced bi-annually and distributed to members.



## The two Parishes



### Creich, Flisk and Kilmany Parish

Creich, Flisk and Kilmany is an amalgamation of five parishes covering approximately 50 square miles between the River Tay to the north and the county town of Cupar to the south. The majority of the land is high quality farmland but the North Fife hills, a low linear volcanic outcrop, bisect the area. Within the five parishes there are five hamlets: Logie, Kilmany, Rathillet, Luthrie and Brunton, of varying size but averaging approximately 20 houses each, and there are a number of farms and isolated dwellings. Creich and Kilmany Churches, each used on alternate Sundays, now serve this rural area (population approximately 775). Both Luthrie and Rathillet have village halls, which are well used by community and church groups, many on a regular basis. The primary schools at Rathillet and Luthrie are presently among the smallest in the area, but provide a precious focus in the lives of their communities.

### Monimail Parish

The parish of Monimail is set to the west of Cupar, having an area of approximately 20 square miles and a population of 319 (2001 census). The parish consists of the hamlets of Monimail, Fernie and Bow of Fife, the village of Letham and the surrounding countryside. Monimail, Fernie, and Bow of Fife are small hamlets consisting of up to 12 dwellings each. The village of Letham comprises some 60 dwellings and the parish includes a number of farms and small estates. The village's primary school currently has 39 pupils, drawn from Letham, the neighbouring parish of Collessie and the surrounding area. Letham has a village hall, which is well used by the community and the church, for example in the staging of Christmas pantomimes, concerts given by a local singing group, a fund-raising auction of promises and a Saturday informal family communion service.



### Local Setting

#### *Geography*

The two parishes are situated in the beautiful fertile farmland and rolling landscape of North-east Fife, 5-10 miles from the historic county town of Cupar. Agriculture retains some of its historical importance in the local economy, but most working people of these parishes now commute – to Dundee (10 miles), Edinburgh (45 miles), Perth (25 miles) or the more local Fife towns of Cupar, Glenrothes, Kirkcaldy and St. Andrews.

### *Transport*

The charges are linked by the A92 Dundee-Kirkcaldy-Edinburgh trunk road and there are regular local and express bus services to Cupar, Dundee and Edinburgh, and a train service to Edinburgh and Dundee from the nearby stations at Cupar and Ladybank.

### *Education*

Education is provided for the youngest members of the charge in the primary schools at Creich (in the village of Luthrie), Rathillet and Letham, and secondary schooling is provided in Bell-Baxter High School, Cupar. There are also fee-paying schools in St. Andrews and Dundee. Local colleges for further education are located in Fife (Elmwood College in Cupar and Adam Smith College in Glenrothes/Kirkcaldy), Dundee and Perth, while St. Andrews, Dundee and Abertay (Dundee) provide university education.

### *Entertainment and sport*

Dundee has all the facilities of a small city including a renowned Repertory theatre, and the Rothes Halls in Glenrothes is a venue for touring shows and artists. The Byre Theatre in St. Andrews also offers a varied and interesting programme. Cinemas are located in St Andrews and Dundee with a lounge cinema club meeting monthly in Cupar, and visiting orchestras play in Dundee and St Andrews. Good opportunities exist around the local area for golf (of course!), swimming, walking (hill and coastal), fishing and much more besides.

### *Retail*

Cupar provides for the majority of regular retail requirements and has a range of local, individually owned shops and some more major stores, including three supermarkets (Co-op, Lidl and Tesco). St. Andrews, Dundee, Perth, Glenrothes and Kirkcaldy provide additional choice locally.

### *Health*

Two large medical practices are located at the Health Centre adjoining a cottage hospital in Cupar, with other medical practices in Ladybank and Auchtermuchty. Excellent larger hospitals at Dundee, Kirkcaldy and Dunfermline are all within easy reach.

### **The Manse**

The manse of the linked congregations is an attractive, large, traditional but manageable Georgian stone building on the edge of the picturesque hamlet of Brunton. It has been well maintained and features, on the ground floor, a sitting room, dining room, kitchen, study, boiler room, utility pantry and toilet. On the upper floor there are four bedrooms and a bathroom with shower with two further rooms on a top floor. Outbuildings comprise a garage and two stores. A large walled garden in grass can be used for social functions.



### **Foundations, Opportunities and Challenges**

The foundation of our churches is a long-standing and faithful core of members who love the church. At the same time, one strength of the churches is that the full membership has a rich diversity in background and in matters temporal and spiritual. Our hope is that our next minister will respect and nurture the core membership, especially with regard to Sunday worship, whilst embracing and developing the potential of the wider congregation in an inclusive way. For example the previous incumbent introduced a number of initiatives, such as a prayer group, worship groups, family services, a drama group, an

afternoon club and informal Saturday communion services. It is to be hoped that developments such as these will be supported or built upon by our new minister and further initiatives made.

We recognize that the Church in Scotland (in common with Christianity throughout Europe) faces the challenge of increasing secularisation and a consequent decline in church membership. To meet this challenge will require a minister with imagination and a willingness to reach out into the local communities to address the spiritual needs of the people where they are. A particular area of need is the nurturing of young folk in the parishes, though it must be said that the number of school children in the combined parishes presently is not large. A combined (primary school age) Christian club which meets on a Monday has a membership of between 10 and 12. The good work done here must be fully supported and encouraged. There are a number of pre-school families in the area with potential to be addressed.

CFK and Monimail form part of a local area group of churches within St. Andrews' Presbytery. Our new minister should be willing to support and encourage the sharing of resources and facilities within the local area group, to enable activities which might otherwise not be feasible in isolation. In addition, it would be good if the Kirk's "Church Without Walls" initiative was to be developed in the parishes in an appropriate manner.