

+The Kyle of Sutherland Churches+



The Parish from the Struie viewpoint

The Kyle of Sutherland Churches would like to thank you for taking time to investigate what we have to offer and we hope that this profile enables you to gain insight into the life and work of our congregations.

OSCR KCE SC016877, Creich SC003840, Rosehall SC017558

+The Kyle of Sutherland Churches+

Kincardine, Croick and Edderton Linked with Creich Linked with Rosehall

The charge became vacant on the translation of the Minister to another charge in February 2018 and has permission to call on an 'Unrestricted' basis. Creich and Rosehall were linked in 1973. The parishes of Kincardine, Croick and Edderton were united in 1976. They all came together in 2007 to form the charge given the informal title of "The Kyle of Sutherland Churches".

The Kyle of Sutherland Churches are situated in an area of outstanding natural beauty mostly only one hour's drive from the Highland city of Inverness with its easy road, air and train links to many places throughout the UK and beyond.

Each of the parishes has a mix of old and new blood of all ages and its own individual identity. There is a strong sense of community the length and breadth of the Kyle and a very active community life for residents to enjoy.

As witnesses of God in our Parish we look forward, with our new minister, to continuing our pattern of worship and also to seek out new ways of encouraging those who do not take part in our fellowship to join us.

In particular we intend to develop activities and complementary, progressive styles of worship with young people and families so as to nurture everyone on their faith journey.

We propose to develop our programme of pastoral care to engage more widely with the local community.

We will work with our minister with energy, enthusiasm and faith to ensure good communication so that we are recognised as a warm, friendly and sympathetic group guided by the Holy Spirit. Music and Bible study are important to us.

We will continue to use the individual strengths and talents of us all to the best effect and to further the work of the wider Church.

We seek someone who is energetic and hardworking with whom we will maintain our congregations' life and who will help us develop plans for the future which will encourage us to grow and engage with those who do not presently come to church, especially young people and families.

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'Our purpose is to encourage the people of the Kyle of Sutherland in the love and worship of God through following the teachings of His Son Jesus Christ. We endeavour to express our Love of God by caring for each other and by reaching out to those we meet in our daily lives.'

+Community Life+

The charge is essentially a rural one, the major land use being farming and forestry with various sporting activities such as fishing, stalking and shooting. There is a well-known whisky distillery in Edderton and a small quarry near Ardgay. Many people earn their living from the land, service industries and tourism. Outreach to the community has included special services such as Lambing and Fishing in the appropriate seasons to recognise the work of our residents.

Close to each other are a modern medical centre, a day care facility (the Bradbury Centre) and a community hospital. The Church of Scotland has Oversteps, a care home for the elderly in Dornoch, where there is also The Meadows, a privately run home. There are primary schools in Ardgay, Bonar Bridge, Edderton and Rosehall which feed into Tain Academy, Dornoch Academy and Golspie High School. Previous ministers have visited the primary schools regularly and we would wish such visits to continue.

We have seen major local projects over the last years. The Bradbury Centre, mentioned above, was a project set up and funded by the community with application for grants, donations and fundraising events. It was built in Bonar Bridge to provide day care and lunch club facilities for the over 60's of the Kyle of Sutherland area. Although run by a charity, Social Services in all the parishes use it for assessed day care, laundry etc. There are plans for major upgrading of the facilities. A group of volunteers regularly hold short services of worship there.

The recently set up Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust is working innovatively and has helped to rebuild the Shin Falls Visitor Centre, maintain the Post Office and is involved with provision of affordable housing, offering energy efficiency support as well as running a programme of Keep Active Together events. It is currently looking at improving provision for dementia sufferers.

A third excellent community project, "The Kyle of Sutherland Hub", has been developed between Ardgay and Bonar offering gym facilities, a soft play area, a cafe and many activities including a youth club with sections for various ages. This is only a few minutes' walk from the manse in Ardgay.

Tain, about 12 miles away, has a selection of supermarkets and shops. There is a bus service which connects with services to Inverness and the South. Ardgay train station is on the direct line to Inverness, approximately 40 miles away.

The Post Office in Bonar Bridge provides most banking while mobile banking services are provided by The Royal Bank of Scotland and The Bank of Scotland.

The area offers many excellent opportunities for outdoor activities such as walking, mountain biking, hill walking and climbing. Bonar Bridge has a renowned 9 hole golf course and Royal Dornoch is only 15 miles away.

Each parish has a village hall which is well used by the residents for a variety of activities.

While it is now an independent charity, the congregations support the Dornoch Firth Group which was initially set up by members of the Church of Scotland churches in the area to respond to needs in East Sutherland. It identifies and creates strategies and opportunities for the development of life skills and social interaction, especially for those more vulnerable or less able. Activities at the moment include a lunch club, social club and cookery club for adults with special needs and a cookery club for secondary pupils with special needs. The establishment of a Men's Shed is underway at Oversteps.

At present worship services are held regularly in the churches of the four main villages with occasional joint services. Currently Croick is used once per month April to September. Kincardine (Ardgay) and Edderton have joint services.

The Church buildings are all well maintained and cared for. There are Readers and others who help with the practical challenges of offering regular worship and pastoral care in all parts of the linked parishes.

Elders and others visit regularly and inform the minister of those requiring a visit. A small prayer group meets regularly and include prayer for those for whom prayer has been requested.

Lent studies have taken place regularly and members support special events run by Presbytery and the Councils of the Church. There is an interdenominational Bible study group which meets in Bonar Bridge.

Recently, regular contact with the Scottish Episcopal Church has seen the development of monthly informal services held in the Hub as well as the invitation to participate in their Eucharist services held in various places in the area.

Several members of our congregations join with the Free Church on occasion.

Across the linkage, special collections at such services as Christmas are given to a variety of aid organisations. We support the Blythswood Shoe Box appeal, World Mission through their postage stamp collection, the Salvation Army through the Soup Pot project and the Scottish Bible Society. We also support Alba Aid who work in Malawi and Romania. Locally the Highland Food Bank is supported at Harvest and other times and the Cameo (Come And Meet Each Other) sale raises money for several northern charities.

All congregations meet their yearly Ministry and Mission contribution.

A Reader is attached to the charge. He is used regularly when two worship leaders are required to cover services. Several others, including retired Ministers, are also available

to help. An Auxiliary Minister and an OLM reside within the charge and, although at present their duties are mainly outwith this area, they take an active role in the church life and are happy to help when needed.

We have regular organists available.

Each member of the linkage has a session clerk.

The Dornoch Firth Group employs two part-time workers.

The manse is in Ardgay. It is a substantial stone building dating from 1910 with a main outlook facing east providing a marvellous, uninterrupted view down the Dornoch Firth. The ground floor: two public rooms, hall, study, cloakroom, kitchen, utility and a small conservatory overlooking the rear garden. The first floor has four bedrooms, bathroom and a good sized linen cupboard. There is a floored-in attic with access via retractable steps. The driveway has ample parking and a garage. The garden is principally lawn and shrubs, so easy to maintain. The manse has recently undergone some renovation to install a downstairs shower room and new kitchen units.



Views from the Manse

+Our Churches+

+Kincardine, Croick and Edderton

Kincardine Church, just outside the village of Ardgay, has a separate hall and good parking facilities. Edderton Church was renovated several years ago and has a meeting room, kitchen, toilet and minister's room upstairs in what was the gallery. Kincardine and Edderton congregations worship together weekly. The usual time of the service is 11am.

Croick Church was built in 1827 and is a "Parliamentary Church" which has connections with the Clearances. It is used once per month at 3pm in the summer for worship although it attracts many visitors as it is always open.

+Creich

The church, which is in a prominent position in the middle of the village of Bonar Bridge, has a small parking area, public parking alongside and a portacabin to the side for meetings. It is used every Sunday except for the occasional joint services. Services are held at 10.30am in winter and 11.30am in the summer.

+Rosehall

The church is situated beside the A837 and has a lovely glass paneled balcony room for meetings. It is used every Sunday except for the occasional joint services. Services are at noon in the winter and 10am in the summer.

+Kyle of Sutherland Churches+



+The Parishes+

+Kincardine, Croick and Edderton

Kincardine is the name originally given to the Parish and includes the small village of Ardgay on the southern border of Sutherland. Edderton is another small village about 10 miles east of Ardgay. Both villages are situated on the A836 off the main A9 road from Inverness to Wick. Croick is an isolated farming community 10 miles west of Ardgay along Strathcarron with Culrain further north from Ardgay on the Kyle of Sutherland. Kincardine and Edderton were originally separate parishes both dating from the mid-1500's. Croick became "quoad sacra" in its own right in 1846 based in a Parliamentary church built there in 1827. The union between Kincardine and Croick took place in 1947 with Edderton being added in 1976.

The population of this parish is 979 in total including children. The membership is 34 with 36 adherents, 7 elders and 3 congregational Board members.



+Kincardine Church, Ardgay

The building currently used in Ardgay was originally built by the United Free Church in 1909 and after the UF re-joined the Church of Scotland in 1929 there were two charges until 1947, Kincardine East and Kincardine West. The West church was closed in 1955 and is now a Heritage Centre in the care of the Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society.

There has been Christian worship in Edderton since Pictish and Viking times. There is an unusual stone with a Celtic Cross and carvings on one side and a Roman Cross on



the other. This stands in the graveyard around the interesting pre-reformation church, "Edderton Old Church", in the care of a local trust. It is open twice a month in the summer and occasional services take place there. There is a "Preaching Ark" sitting close beside it which is used for a special service each year, usually around Pentecost.

The church building used currently was built in 1842. It went through troubled times as a result of the Disruption until after the reunion with the United Free church just before WW2, becoming the place of worship of the united congregations. It was renovated in 1962 with a vestry added on the east side. The enclosure of the gallery conserves heat, improves the acoustics and provides space for rooms upstairs.

The school has approximately 18 children up to the age of eleven when they then move on to the Academy in Tain. There is a "kids" breakfast club and after school activities for children whose parents are working.

The village hall is a modern building with an electrical sound system in the main hall, plus flood lights. Various events are held including an annual Drama presentation by the village youngsters and some adults. There are from time to time visiting 'artists'/musical evenings, as well as a gardening group which meets monthly.

+Croick Church

Built in 1827 to plans provided by Thomas Telford it retains the original long Communion table round which the Communicants sit on benches. There are many visitors each year who come to see the window on which it is claimed the folk who were evicted from Glen Calvie in 1845 scratched their names while sheltering in the surrounding graveyard. For the Communion Service in August we encourage those who can to "pilgrimage" the last mile to the church.



+Creich

Creich Church, in Bonar Bridge, is a category C listed building and was built on land gifted by Andrew Carnegie in 1913. However, historical records show that people have worshipped in the Parish from 1585 and it is noted that in 1790 there was a "clay cottage" beside the old Kirk where a preacher stayed. Old and young then walked to services from all corners of the Parish: Invershin in the West, Sleastry at the back of Bonar, Ospisdale in

the East and a bus brought worshippers from Edderton across the narrows of the Kyle near Midfearn. We are proud of the stained glass windows, some of which reflect our Carnegie connection.

Our Sunday services are attended regularly by a congregation of 25 to 30 who, with the 6 supportive elders, would wish to grow and develop under the leadership of our new minister. The growing congregation is a cross section of all ages who are friendly, enthusiastic and enjoy fellowship after the services. They take on work in the garden, small repairs and improvements and join rotas for flowers, welcoming and cleaning. We have a small Sunday School, a Cameo (Come And Meet Each Other) group who work for the charities we support and special events such as flower festivals, songs of praise and sales of work are prepared and attended with enthusiasm. We have a digital projector and screen for use in worship or special events. An interdenominational Bible study group meets regularly.

The village, while small, has a renowned 9 hole golf course on hand and there are several other leisure and cultural groups. Good shops in the main street include a general store with bakery, a butcher, craft shop, an ironmonger and a Post Office which serve both the village and the outlying rural area. A dispensing chemist, modern health centre and a day care centre for the elderly, together with Migdale hospital offer a range of medical services. There is a bistro and a coffee shop. The Bonar Bridge Community Hall www.bonarbridgecommunityhall.org.uk is well run by a local committee and offers badminton, indoor bowls, whist, Pilates, and a music group as well as Guides, Brownies and Rainbow Guides. There are popular Food and Film nights and a Food Stop once or twice weekly encourages healthy eating as well as social inclusion. Google our primary school to see what this small but vibrant village school gets up to.

Bonar Bridge is the centre of a friendly and welcoming community in which the minister and family can be involved in a wide variety of activities if they wish.



✝ Creich
Church and
Bonar Bridge
Community

+Rosehall

Rosehall lies on the western fringes of the parish. It boasts a rich heritage of crofting, trout and salmon fishing on its famous rivers and benefits from community-run trails through the forestry.

The church has a strong core membership of worshippers who are involved in the weekly running of the church, taking turns reading at the services and being actively involved in the general maintenance and housekeeping of the building. At our earlier summer services, a shorter service has been led once a month by our elders, followed by coffee and home bakes with a chance to catch up on all the goings-on in the community. The Friends of Rosehall Church of Scotland raise funds for the church at a bi-annual sale of work. Other highlights they arrange over the year include the magnificent flower festival, 'open church' drop-in days on Saturdays through part of the summer, fund-raising bbq's, and the very special 'Carols by Candlelight' watchnight service on Christmas Eve. Achness hotel is another focal point of the parish, offering superb food and very comfortable accommodation. It is popular with fishers and hillwalkers, holds regular fund-raising quiz nights as well as informal 'Turn up and Play' music nights on Wednesday evenings. The long-established and ever popular Four Seasons Club, which is linked to Age Concern, meets here monthly for lunch, organises various trips throughout the year and an annual sale.

Although numbers remain relatively small, Rosehall Primary School continues to gain an excellent reputation for producing alert, confident and happy children who will then go on to attend secondary school at either Golspie, Dornoch or Tain. At present there are nineteen pupils with one full-time teacher and a variety of supporting staff. There is a strong link to the local church with the minister being invited to visit on a regular basis. A highlight of Christmas in recent years has been the children's nativity play there. Pupils will often link up with a local countryside expert for nature walks on the myriad of local trails to learn more about the birds and animals to be found in the area, along with basic outdoor survival skills of cooking and shelter-building.

Along with ceilidhs, tea dances and sales of work, the village hall is the meeting place for the popular weekly Youth Club as well as for the SWI. It is also a popular venue for theatre and music touring companies.

There is also a local historical society, badminton and a music and arts group. An annual Rosehall information sheet is produced to give to new residents and the information is put on the village website: <http://www.spanglefish.com/rosehallcommunityday> All residents are encouraged to belong to the village email list for ease of distribution of local information about events.



Rosehall Church and Community



+In Summary+

The Kyle of Sutherland Churches look forward to a new future together. We see lots of challenges and lots of potential ahead and are eager to set out on this new stage in our Christian journey with someone who shares our passion and vision for ministry to the people of our area.

There has been a strong Christian presence in this part of Scotland for many centuries and the privilege of carrying that work and witness forward in the 21st century is one we relish. We want to play our part in helping our communities find meaningful ways of serving and worshipping the one, true and living God.

Any prospective applicant can look forward to a busy community in a beautiful area of Scotland with rivers, hills and coast nearby. Golf, fishing, hillwalking and climbing are on the doorstep. For those interested in history there is a lot to discover and local societies have interesting archives. It is a perfect area for a newly ordained minister, a single person who enjoys the outdoors or merely quietness for reflection, but it is also a grand place to bring a family.

+Contacts+

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Depute Clerk:	Mrs Jeani Hunter (Creich)	8 Grant Crescent, Dornoch, IV25 3TF 01862 810 544 nielsenhunter@btinternet.com

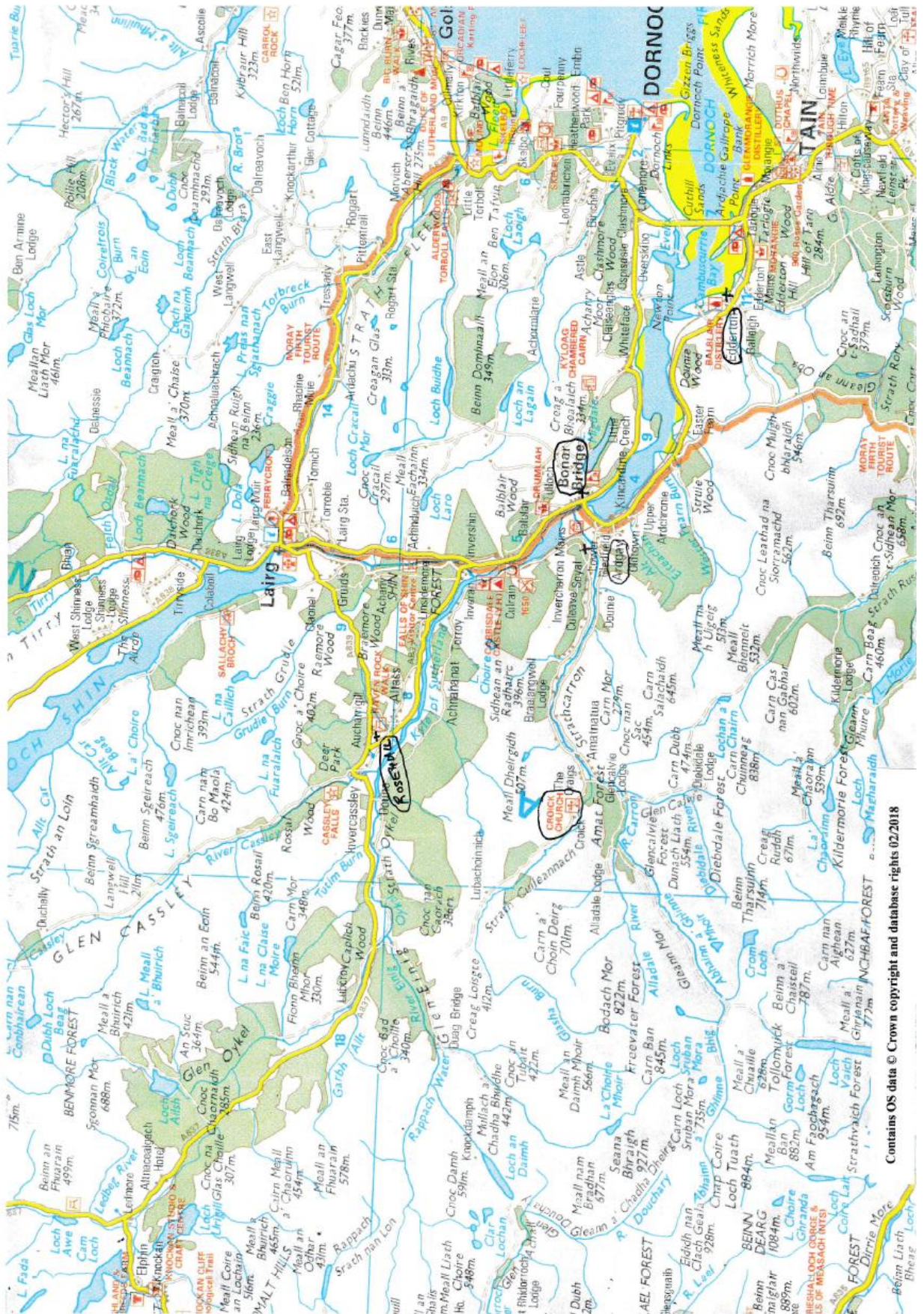
+Statistics+

	Members	Adherents	Elders	Population
Kincardine, Croick and Edderton	34	36	7	979
Creich	30	68	6	836
Rosehall	21	10	3	238

+Weblinks+

Church of Scotland Statistics for Mission	www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/stats_for_mission
Local Primary Schools	https://www.highland.gov.uk/school-list Gledfield Primary (Ardgay); www.gledfieldps.wordpress.com/ Bonar Bridge; www.bonarbridgeprimary.wordpress.com/ Rosehall; www.rosehallprimary.wordpress.com/
Local Secondary Schools	Dornoch Academy; https://dornochacademy.com/ Tain Royal Academy; http://www.tainroyalacademy.org.uk/ Golspie High School; http://golspiehigh.schools.uk.com/
Ardgay Community Council news-letter	www.ardgayanddistrictcommunitycouncil.org.uk
Ardgay Public Hall	www.facebook.com/ArdgayPublicHall
Bradbury Centre	www.bradburycentre.co.uk/
Bonar Bridge Community Hall	www.bonarbridgecommunityhall.org.uk
Edderton Community Website	www.edderton.com
Edderton Old Church Trust	www.spanglefish.com/eddertonoldkirk/
Croick Church	www.croickchurch.com/
Rosehall	www.spanglefish.com/rosehallcommunityday
Dornoch Firth Group	www.dfgcommunity.com/
Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust	www.kyleofsutherlanddevelopmenttrust.org
Kyle of Sutherland Hub	https://www.facebook.com/koshltd/
Kyle of Sutherland Heritage Society	www.kyle-of-sutherland-heritage.org.uk/
Bonar Bridge / Ardgay Golf Club	www.bonarbridgegolf.co.uk
Royal Dornoch Golf Club	www.royaldornoch.com
Visit Dornoch	https://www.visitdornoch.com/
Heart of Sutherland Tourism	http://www.heartofsutherland.co.uk/
NC500 Road Trip	https://www.northcoast500.com/

+Local Area Map+



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+Photos & Snapst+ (Surrounding Areas)

