

**VERSION 3.0  
MAY 2023**

**PRESBYTERY MISSION PLAN  
PERTH PRESBYTERY  
DUNKELD & MEIGLE AREA**



A PLAN FOR DUNKELD AND MEIGLE

## DOCUMENT PURPOSE

The following Plan was produced by the Dunkeld & Meigle sub-group of Perth Presbytery and approved by Perth Presbytery on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2023.

It builds on the work of Dunkeld & Meigle's Presbytery Planning Committee from 2021-2022. It incorporates comments from Kirk Sessions and other interested parties following consultation during March and April of 2023.

## THE GOSPEL FOR ALL

*In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.*

Plan is too dry a word. This is about a song, a story, a love. A Gospel.

This is about the one who said he would be lifted up and draw all people to himself. Who said "I am" for he is human and also God.

It is about the one who was cradled in Bethlehem, killed on Good Friday, rose on Easter morning.

To live in him is to drink water in the wilderness, to see a light in the darkness, to drink the best of wine and the finest of bread. It is to know ourselves forgiven, beloved, healed and made new.

This is about the Spirit, which birthed a community.

A family we did not choose for ourselves.

A body in which we are one.

Those with whom we meet to sing, to pray, to work, to listen to the Gospel, to receive the Sacraments.

We are sent by the Father, as the Son was sent.

We are blessed to be a blessing, as was Abraham.

To proclaim with the Easter women "the tomb is empty, he is alive."

To be all things to all people,

for the sake of the Gospel.

We are sent to make disciples

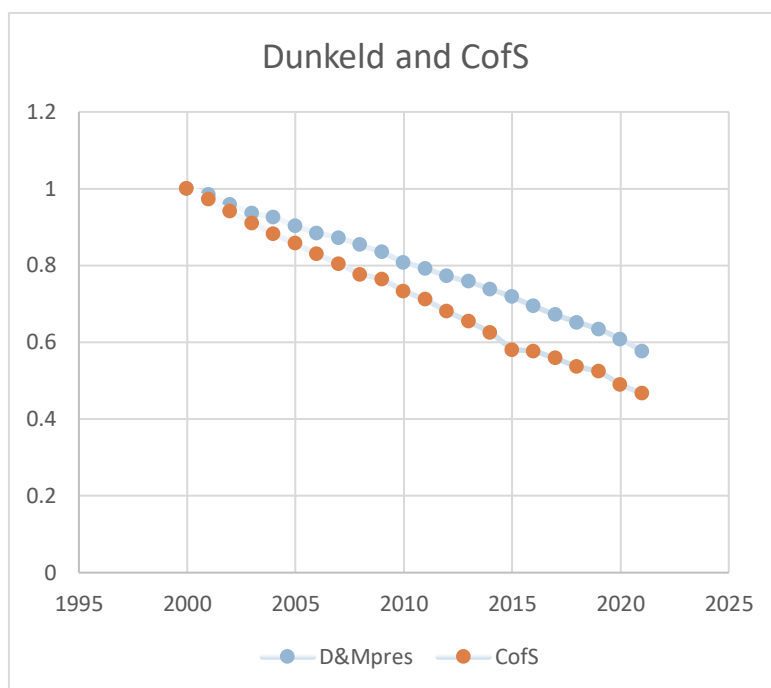
To baptise in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

And he will always be with us, to the end of the age.

## BACKGROUND

The churches of the Dunkeld & Meigle Presbytery Area have experienced the same numerical decline as the Church of Scotland, and indeed all mainline<sup>1</sup> Churches in English-speaking secularised countries since the mid-1950s. Church attendance and membership are no longer the expected norms of society, the people of Scotland now ascribe to a diversity of religious beliefs (including “None”) and their image of the Church is of a respected institution, but one which no longer speaks to their own values and aspirations for their lives.

The graph below shows the relative memberships of the Church of Scotland, and the congregations in the former Dunkeld & Meigle Presbytery:

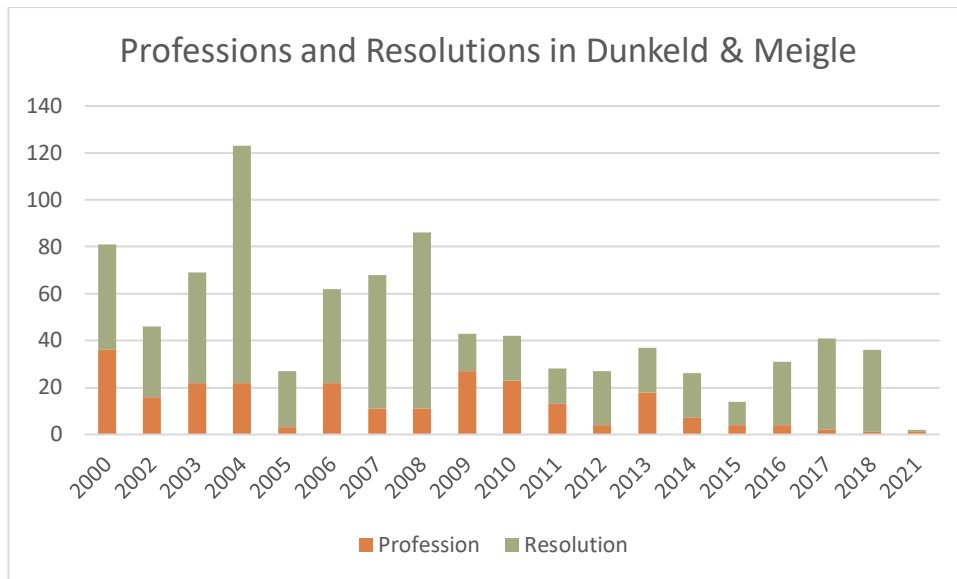


Between 2000 and 2021, membership of Dunkeld and Meigle Presbytery declined from 6,375 to 3,679 (a decline of 42%). Over the same period, Church of Scotland membership overall declined from 607,714 to 283,600 (a decline of 53%).

The graph below shows the number of new members (either through Profession of Faith, or resolution of the Kirk Session) across Dunkeld & Meigle from the same period.

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<sup>1</sup> Though originating in the United States, the term “mainline” is used more generally to describe those Protestant denominations which have a strong sense of national presence and describe themselves as theologically and culturally “broad”. These usually include Anglican, Presbyterian, Methodist and some Baptist denominations.



The statistics below show a significant decline in the number of new members through Profession of Faith since 2013. The Covid pandemic is the reason for the absence of numbers for 2019-2020, but the 2021 number also indicates a significant fall off in new membership since the ending of lockdowns.

Mainline Churches such as the Church of Scotland, have particularly struggled to grow in this new secular context. This may be attributed to a number of factors

- Reliance on committee-based leadership structures often stifles or fails to protect innovation and risk
- The cultural reticence of many congregational members means that faith sharing is difficult
- Deepening spiritual identity has been difficult in a theologically diverse denomination
- Established congregational cultures mean that belonging is difficult for those who do not come from a Church background
- Young people in particular have a preference for worship which is higher in energy, and in which they have a sense of ownership and belonging. This sits at odds with their experience of worship in many of our congregations (including those which have strong youth work).

It is the intention of this Plan to concentrate on the cultural factors named above in fulfilling the mission of churches in this area. Structural changes may well be important, but these are almost insignificant in comparison to cultural factors. It is these cultural factors which must be addressed first in any Presbytery Mission Plan – indeed addressing structural factors prior to cultural factors may indeed exacerbate the underlying cultural problem.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Church Leadership writer, Tod Bolsinger, expresses this in the language of technical and adaptive challenges, he has noted that “attempting to apply a technical fix to an adaptive problem not only fails to address the adaptive problem, it actually makes it worse.”

## PURPOSE

The overall purpose of this Plan may be described as “enabling deep cultural change in all our congregations, such that these congregations are better equipped to fulfil their mission within their local communities”, or more simply

*“to see local churches equipped for local mission.”*

What is the local mission to which we are called? We propose the following (which expand on the Five Marks of Mission cited in the Presbytery Mission Planning Act).<sup>3</sup>

1. To glorify God (revealed as Father, Son and Spirit, or Creator, Redeemer and Friend) in worship and prayer
2. To proclaim the Christian Faith
3. To celebrate the sacraments as signs of the new creation
4. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers
5. To respond to human need by loving service
6. To transform unjust structures of society, to prophetically challenge violence, poverty and injustice, to stand with the marginalised
7. To seek to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth

The proclamation of the Christian Faith, and the teaching, baptism and nurturing new believers are particularly linked to Church growth and it is these which shall be emphasised in this Plan. The Church of England report “From Anecdote to Evidence”<sup>4</sup> points to the following factors in Church growth

- Good leadership
- Clear mission and purpose
- Willingness to self-reflect, to change and adapt according to context
- Involvement of lay members<sup>5</sup>
- Being intentional in prioritising growth
- Being intentional in chosen style of worship
- Being intentional in nurturing disciples – especially across all ages.

We must note the obvious feature that every congregation, and every ministry in our area, is different. We cannot force all to conform to the same pattern – this would be to ignore the gifts of our God-given diversity, and fail to see the flourishing which is being sought here. Rather we must build on the gifts, the *charisms*, we have each been given for the benefit of the whole body.

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<sup>3</sup> This is based on the work of Rev Dr Liam Fraser, Convener of the Church of Scotland’s Theological Forum, (Liam Jerrold Fraser, *Mission in Contemporary Scotland*”, Edinburgh: St. Andrew’s Press, 220.

<sup>4</sup> Published in 2014, and based on research between 2011 and 2013, this remains one of the most thorough and depthful reports on Church growth in a mainline denomination.

<sup>5</sup> The term “lay” does not readily apply in a Church of Scotland context, since elders are ordained. Here we would translate the term to mean “all those not ordained to the recognised ministries of the Church of Scotland”, with the “Recognised Ministries” being Full-time Ministry of Word and Sacrament, Ordained Local Ministry, the Diaconate and the Readership.

Finally, we also note that this requires the planting of new Christian communities, with new gifts, best able to connect with all the people of our Presbytery area. This will be developed during the development of this Plan, in particular through conversation with Perth.

### THE WAY AHEAD

The aspirations above speak of the kind of change we might like to see in our Presbytery area.

How might we plan to see such change?

The short answer is that we can't.

The first reason that we can't is that, after 50 years of decline, we are now a much smaller, less well resourced and, if we are honest, less confident group of churches than 50 years ago. If the well-resourced, multi-generational and confident Church of the 1960s and 1970s was unable to change its patterns of growth, what chance have we?

The second reason is that this kind of growth cannot be planned. There are not levers we can pull to bring the renewal we seek. What we need is a movement of God's Holy Spirit, and as Jesus taught us, this is unpredictable – the Spirit blows where it wills (John 3:8). Ultimately, mission belongs to God and not to us. We will seek to follow where God is leading.<sup>6</sup>

In short, this Plan is written in weakness, in powerlessness, but also with hope. For it does not ultimately depend on us, it depends on God. This is not written as a trite phrase. It is written out of the exhaustion of our churches after decades of secularism, the challenge of Covid, and, if we are honest, the challenges of a Presbytery mission planning process which has been unsettling for all involved. And yet, still we hope. It is those who walked in darkness who saw a great light.

Though feeling powerless, this is not a counsel of passivity and resignation. We propose the following over the next two years:

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| <b>Pray</b> | Almost all great moves of God, from Acts to the great revivals in Scotland came about through prayer. We will commit to pray and seek to grow our networks of prayer. In prayer we shall see the movement of the Holy Spirit amongst us (Luke 11:13). |
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<sup>6</sup> In this we will be aware of thinking around the *Missio Dei* – it is not the Church which is has a mission, it is the God of mission who has a Church.

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|----------------------|---|
|                      | <p>We have already begun steps to broaden our prayer networks and encourage each other to pray.</p> <p><i>Priority for first 3 months.</i></p>  |
| <p><b>Build</b></p>  | <p>This means finding members of our Presbytery who have a gifting and calling to help communities change and shape their culture. There is much experience in this amongst our elders and other Church members. There is also experience in the wider Church.</p> <p>These teams will meet with congregations to help discern where God is leading and commit to change.</p> <p><i>Form team months 3-6 and then ongoing</i></p>   |
| <p><b>Deepen</b></p> | <p>We will seek to deepen our identity – particularly in our understanding of ourselves as those who are “in Christ”, the teachings of Jesus and of the scriptures. One possibility is that congregations identify scriptural verses, images or stories which speak to them at this point in their journey.</p> <p>We will also seek to understand our gifts, our charisms – both as individuals and as congregations. As we do this, this document will be revised, so that congregations might increasingly recognise their gifts, their challenges and their calling.</p> <p><i>Year 1</i></p> |
| <p><b>Share</b></p>  | <p>We shall seek to share the gospel. We have not found this easy and we must find and share with each other ways of doing this. Approaches such as the Acorn Course, Alpha, Missional Communities may be employed. We suspect we will have to adopt and adapt many of our own approaches. As was noted in “Anecdote to Evidence”, growing churches are those which are intentional about growth. How we do this is yet to be discovered.</p> <p><i>Year 2</i></p>  |
| <p><b>Local</b></p>  | <p>We shall continue to grow roots in our local communities. In the New Testament, the Church is known either as the “Church of Christ” or the Church of a particular place. Though we have historically struggled with a number of areas mentioned here, commitment to local is something we do relatively well and we</p>   |

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
|                 | <p>must build on this strength. Mission shall continue to be contextual.</p>  |
| <b>Together</b> | <p>We shall do this together. This means greater co-operation amongst ministers, elders and members, especially within the new Presbytery of Perth. It means building up our teams of worship leaders (building on work done in other Presbyteries), it means congregational gathering and building the team which will lead this work.</p> <p><i>Regular Gatherings</i></p>  |
| <b>Review</b>   | <p>We shall assess ourselves and seek outside insight in understanding how we have changed over two years, and in particular how we have moved towards the kinds of growth and change mentioned above.</p> <p>This reflection will be honest, it is hoped it will be encouraging but also force us to face the challenges we most avoid or cannot see.</p> <p>In particular we shall seek a robust review (as part of the Presbytery Mission Planning process) after two years. In this we shall be accountable to the wider Perth Presbytery, and the Faith Nurture Forum.</p> <p><i>End of Year 2</i></p> |

Some structural changes will happen in the first two years – principally the readjustments required to ensure vacancies can be enacted, and on occasions where congregations express a desire to move forward with structural change. However, the first emphasis will be on the cultural changes outlined in this section of our Plan.

### LAMENTING LOSS

The losses described in this Plan are uneven. Some sacred sites are to be lost, or face the potential of loss. Neighbouring churches are to be kept.

It is vital that we look after each other in this.

It is vital that the loss must be acknowledged – there is no such thing as “just a building”. People have given of themselves to church communities, in many cases their whole family has for many generations. These are places where faith was born, marriages celebrated, funerals conducted.



When one part of the body is weeping, the whole body weeps – otherwise we are not a body.

Grieving, listening, seeking new alternatives, being prepared to change the Plan if new wisdom comes to light – all of this will be part of the road ahead.

## IMAGINATIVE POSSIBILITIES

### **Fresh Expressions**

The soon to be launched “Seeds for Growth” fund is intended to stimulate the creation of new worshipping communities. The churches of the area would be keen to explore possibilities. These included:

- Fresh Expression amongst the farming community – learning from the Ayr initiative
- Young People’s Church – possibly in Aberfeldy, Dunkeld or Blairgowrie
- Fresh Expression amongst new housing – learning from the Presbytery of South West Scotland and Lothian – particularly in Blairgowrie
- Church of Many Languages – hosting a Church community in particular for those who come from Eastern Europe to work here. Links with Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches would be important.

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### **A Church of all Ages**

A continuously repeated theme in the commentary below (particularly in the sections relating to “Challenges”) regard the need to connect with young people – both people of school age and people of younger working age. This is one of the biggest challenges facing the whole of the Church of Scotland. Even in congregations with longstanding youth work, it has not been easy to integrate this with other parts of the congregation’s life, particularly with worship on a Sunday morning.

This challenge requires deep humility, recognising where authority and control must be given up, and which parts of our life must be allowed to die so that others might live. It is probably true to say that whilst many young people will have had positive experiences of Church based work, they would not say that Church is something over which they have strong ownership or a place in which they experience a strong sense of belonging. We also know many stories of younger people struggling to feel that they belong within our congregations.

It may be that Fresh Expressions of Church (as outlined above) enable us to address this challenge.

### **Church Online**

During the Covid pandemic, the online worship offered by churches in this area were amongst the most popular in the Church of Scotland. It would be good to think how this might be built on, particularly in conversation with Sanctuary First and Dalziel St Andrew’s in Motherwell who have done much in this area. To be done to a high standard, such

initiative would require intensive commitment, investment and resource. The landscapes of this area do lend themselves to developing this form of worship.

### **Pilgrimage**

A number of our members have expressed a desire to develop pilgrimage routes across our area. Areas such as Glenlyon, Dunkeld, Logierait and Tenandry would be particularly suitable – these have strong associations with the Celtic Church. There would also be possible links with congregations in the Stirling area of Perth Presbytery. These offer opportunities to use our buildings as places of spiritual sanctuary and retreat, to build on our Celtic heritage and to connect with people from many different backgrounds, including those outside our presbytery area, and indeed outside of Scotland.

During the development of this plan, the idea of recovering pilgrimage within our area has been the source of increased excitement and imagination. There are also a number of external agencies and funding bodies who may be approached for support. We would plan to form a Pilgrimage Development group in the early stages of this mission plan.

### **PRINCIPLES FOR STRUCTURAL CHANGE**

The following principles will be applied when proposing and implementing structural change.

#### **WELL SUPPORTED MINISTRIES**

The ministry allocation plan in the following section supports the move from 11.3 to 6.5 FTE ministries in the Presbytery by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025.

Alongside the support for ministries outlined by the Faith Nurture Forum (e.g. pastoral supervision, proper Manse provision), the Presbytery will also work with congregations to seek additional administrative and pastoral support for those in ministry. This will be vital with the larger parishes being envisaged in the allocation plan. We shall be working with congregations to ensure the provision of this support.

#### **WELL TRAINED WORSHIP TEAMS**

There are already worship training programs within the Presbytery. One course currently running contains 12 members. We shall seek to develop these, build on the work done in other parts of the Presbytery and other presbyteries, and ensure that those in worship teams feel fully supported in their role. The development of individuals in their gifts in their work can be one of the most rewarding parts of the work we do. Developing our team of worship leaders will be essential to the Plan. Having a number of relatively small congregations is very useful, as it gives trainee worship leaders and preachers an opportunity to grow in a less intimidating environment.

## LOCAL MISSION THROUGH LOCALLY BASED CONGREGATIONS & INTERGENERATIONAL SPACES

In our discussions regarding the Plan, much has been said regarding the willingness of existing members to move to a new Church building. People attend a particular Church building for a number of reasons – historic, liturgical, friendships, theological as well as locale.

However, with regard to mission, the relationship between the non-Church going members of a community and their local Church building is particularly important. It is our experience that older working age and retired adults seeking to engage with Christian faith are drawn to local church buildings. There are many such people in our communities, with whom we are called to share our faith. Local buildings are a vital part of this.

For younger people (especially young children) and younger working age adults, provision of flexible child-friendly facilities is much more important.

We also note the Scottish Government planning principle of the “20 minute neighbourhood” which envisions neighbourhoods where all major facilities are within 20 minute walking distance. We would seek to support this principle – partly out of enriching the life of our neighbourhoods and also through the environmental mark of mission.

Therefore, a combination of local church buildings, and more developed child-friendly spaces in some of our buildings will be important to facilitate mission.

## WELL EQUIPPED SPACES

The AMBA and minimum requirement exercises have been incredibly useful in our planning. These have shown us where significant improvements need to be made. In particular the following principles apply:

- All church buildings must be properly accessible to all
- All church buildings must be structurally sound
- All congregations should have suitably skilled and able teams to manage their properties
- All congregations should have adequate finance for the maintenance and development of their buildings.

## FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

At present the charges in the Presbytery area contribute £475,000 to Giving to Grow. If the full complement of 6.5FTE ministries were in place, on 2023 Giving to Grow figures, this would broadly equate to

- Ministries within the Presbytery - £325,000
- Ministries elsewhere - £81,506
- Shared Activities £161,987

In other words, the Presbytery area contributes approximately £81,000 to ministry elsewhere. This is something that the Presbytery would be very keen to maintain. There is a relationship between the retention of buildings for worship and our ability to contribute

to the ministry of the whole Church. We believe it is irresponsible not to consider this when proposing structural changes, and hope that the changes outlined here would allow us to continue to contribute to ministry elsewhere in the Church of Scotland.

#### LINKAGES AND UNIONS

There has been much discussion regarding the relative merits of Linkages and Unions. In our context we believe that each arrangement has the following advantages and disadvantages:

##### Advantages of Union

- Potentially fewer meetings requiring ministerial attendance (provided minister not required to attend local sub-committees, or these are held in one central location), and no need to duplicate the same discussion at separate Kirk Sessions
- Potentially fewer officer bearers required to manage finance and property
- A sense of commitment to being together
- Potentially easier to attract applications during vacancy.
- Potentially more suited to urban areas where the boundaries between geographical communities are more blurred<sup>7</sup>.

##### Advantages of linkage

- Potentially fewer meetings (compared to some unions where the minister attends main Kirk Session and local area sub-groups, also fewer meetings if not having to resolve tensions in an unhappy Union)
- Office bearers must take responsibility for their own congregation
- Congregations have more freedom to develop their own identity, especially with respect to mission
- Less work required to integrate diverse congregations and ability to concentrate on mission
- Easier to reconfigure
- Some ministers love a linkage (just as some prefer marathons, others prefer triathlons)
- Potentially more suited to rural areas where geographical communities have a distinct sense of identity.

We note that Faith Nurture Forum have expressed a preference for unions and we have reflected this in our Plan (and are happy to discuss the rationale where this is not the case). If a linkage is failing to attract candidates, the option for union can be explored during the vacancy and the Presbytery would be very willing to do this.

We also know this is a current topic of study leave research (with a focus on Shetland) – we look forward to building on this research when it becomes available.

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<sup>7</sup> This is not to suggest that urban areas do not contain distinct communities, but to claim that this effect is more pronounced in rural areas.

## AREA PLANNING

Our proposal is to divide our geographically large area into three smaller areas, these being:

- A West Highland Perthshire
- B Central Highland Perthshire – the A9 Corridor
- C Eastern Perthshire

Two Full Time Equivalent Ministries will be allocated to each area.

The remaining 0.5 is planned for use in an area not easily fitting in to the other three. Note that in the format below “&” or “,” indicates a union, and a new line indicates a linkage.

### **Ordained Local Ministers**

The Presbytery area is gifted with a number of exceptional Ordained Local Ministers. It is not an overstatement to say we could not have existed as a Presbytery without their ministry in recent years. The plans below do not state where OLM ministry will be best placed, this will be reviewed during the life of the Plan.

At present there are Ordained Local Ministers working in Blair Atholl & Struan, Braes of Rannoch, Foss & Rannoch; and Fortingall, Glenlyon, Kenmore and Lawers. It is envisaged that in the near term these arrangements shall be retained, with a view to discussion with the individuals themselves and their respective congregations.

Given the importance of OLMs in the life of the Presbytery area, recruitment of future OLMs must be a priority.

### **Readers**

The Presbytery has been served by a number of Readers, whose ministry has been vital in the worship of our congregations. Their vital role will continue in the arrangement below. Given the need for a large number of worshipping communities, and the gifting in worship of a number of members, recruitment of Readers is vital to our plan. Support of existing Readers is also a key priority.

### **Building Considerations**

In the following allocation, buildings are categorised with the following meanings:

A – Envisaged for continued use at present, regular reviews to assess status (particularly at end of year 2)

B – Further consideration required. The Presbytery Mission Plan Act refers to closure within 5 years, but further conversations with the General Trustees on these buildings will take place. Annual review gives the possibility of a move to A status. Some buildings will have to be sold within 5 years, but many require further discussion. Assurances are also given that consideration of essential work will be possible. The Presbytery also gives assurance that it will not give permission for work which does not contribute to the long term plans for a building.

The following position from the General Trustees is regarded as a good framework for future review:

*“Building categorisations are an unavoidable part of Mission Planning, however, there is some flexibility built into the act, through the Annual Reviews. If the circumstances surrounding a church or hall change significantly, for example a church becomes more viable due to a swelling in congregation numbers or gains access to new resources, and this can be demonstrated at the Annual Review and evidenced, then there is no reason why a building could not be recategorised.”.*

## AREA A - WEST HIGHLAND PERTSHIRE

CHARGE A1      ABERFELDY,  
                         DULL & WEEM,  
                         GRANTULLY, LOGIERAIT & STRATHTAY (GLS),  
                         TENANDRY  
MINISTRY      1.0 FTE

### **History**

The diverse linkage (also containing two unions) of the first three congregations named here has been in existence for five years and is developing its mission. More recent links with Tenandry mean that linkage here is a natural step. Note that though more financially costly than Guardianship, Tenandry have so appreciated the strength of this relationship that they wish to continue.

A number of cross-linkage activities include an anti-poverty initiative (which has given thousands of pounds worth to those experiencing poverty), a community newsletter, youth work, a new members group (with potentially 20 new members) and much co-operation during the Covid pandemic.

### **Future**

The proposal is to bring Tenandry into this linkage. This builds on the already successful guardianship arrangement.

### **Gifts**

Aberfeldy is home to a vibrant and entrepreneurial congregation. They host Breathe (a youth work project), Christians against Poverty and an environmental home heating initiative. Their church and halls are much used by the community. Recent work amongst young children and their carers, including Messy Church, has shown much potential.

Dull & Weem have superb local connections, including amongst the farming community. The beautiful sanctuary is excellent for hosting concerts as well as worship. Their community car park is much appreciated by the outdoor community (plans are also in place for expansion to host the congregation). Their garden is a sacred space.

Grantully, Logierait and Strathtay (GLS) are a brilliantly diverse community with strong relationships in Strathtay, Grandtully, Logierait, Ballinluig and beyond. Their fundraising efforts and wise stewardship have led to a strong financial position. There are also strong ecumenical links with the local Episcopalian congregation, St Andrews. Recent development of links with local young people from some very committed members, also show great promise.

A recent “Exploring Faith and Membership Course” has seen a significant number attending from all the linkage Churches.

Tenandry is like a unique gem, in a stunning location. The congregation has a strong sense of identity rooted in the Scottish theological tradition. They make their holiday cottage available exclusively to Crossreach staff, at cost. This would be a superb location for a pilgrimage site.

As a whole, there has been great co-operation across the linkage, including monthly worship. Gifted leaders, including superb administrative and pastoral support, have ensured the success of the linkage. It is hoped to expand the co-operation of the current Guardianship with Tenandry, into large flourishing linkage.

Logierait and Tenandry in particular have particularly strong historic links and would be ideally situated for the development of a pilgrimage route. Ideas for this have continued to evolve during the development of this plan, and there is some degree of excitement regarding the possibilities in this area.

### **Challenges**

The continued challenge is for growth in faith amongst those who do not go to Church. A Fresh Expression would be viable and potentially necessary for younger people.

For Aberfeldy there is the challenge of integrating their young people’s work, and also reaching into all parts of the town. For Weem the challenge is of growing their connections with the farming community and those in the wider community who prefer more traditional worship.

For GLS, the challenges also lie in ensuring their church sanctuaries are fully accessible and equipped with modern facilities. Continued good relationships with the General Trustees will be vital to this. Accessibility a particular challenge in Logierait (and to a more limited degree in Strathtay). In Strathtay, access to a fresh water supply is the cause of current investigation. Increased community use is an aim in both of these buildings. The congregation has begun to develop detailed plans for upgrade of all its current facilities.

Tenandry is a smaller congregation, and sustainability of congregational life, prophetic witness and sharing of faith will be aspects of future reviews.

## Proposed Buildings Categorisation

| Building  |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Aberfeldy</b>  | A<br>Good condition, high AMBA score, community use   |
| <b>Weem</b>   | A<br>Good condition, community use, offers diversity of worship   |
| <b>Strathtay Sanctuary</b>  | A – further discussions required regarding access to water<br>Considerations of accessibility and water supply.   |
| <b>Strathtay Hall<br/>(John Kyd Hall)</b>   | A – further discussions required regarding access to water<br>Considerations of accessibility and other local options.<br>Year 1 Review   |
| <b>Logierait</b>  | B - further discussions with Council regarding access (Logierait sits within a Council owned graveyard).<br><br>Accessibility considerations, possible work to create flexible space at the rear of building.<br><br>There is considerable excitement around the possibilities for Logierait and these shall be developed over the first two years of the plan.<br><br>Year 1 and Year 2 review |
| <p>It is the intention of Presbytery to retain a regular worshipping presence in both Logierait and Strathtay – this ensuring mission in the Ballinluig/Logierait and Grandtully/Strathtay ends of the parish. There will be ongoing discussions and review with congregations, Kirk Sessions, Presbytery and the General Trustees as part of the Presbytery Mission Planning annual review process. The Session and Board of GLS are very committed to developing proposals for both Logierait and Strathtay, with the long-term objective of seeing both sets of buildings upgraded and retained.</p> |   |
| <b>Tenandry</b>   | A – continued assessment regarding finance and people.<br>Possible relationship with pilgrimage.<br>Year 2 review looking for congregational growth   |



CHARGE A2      FORTINGALL, GLENLYON, KENMORE & LAWERS,  
FOSS & RANNOCH & BRAES OF RANNOCH

MINISTRY      1.0 FTE

### **History**

Fortingall and Kenmore are both iconic buildings in this much visited tourist area. Since Covid lock-down, Sunday services have been held alternately in the two buildings. Although they are 6 miles apart, they have traditionally drawn their congregations from different areas in what is geographically a very large parish.

Fortingall church is well-built with high quality materials and should continue to be relatively easy and inexpensive to maintain. The challenge here is improvement of facilities, and good recent work has established means of achieving this, with sufficient local funds available for such work.

Kenmore church is a focal point in the village. It is popular for weddings and is also the largest building in the area for holding funerals. Funerals and weddings will fill, or nearly fill, the church several times in a year.

Glenlyon is always open and is visited by many tourists. It is now only used for occasional services, but when these are held, they are well-attended. About 100 people (including about 30 children) from the glen (residents and visitors) turned out for the Christmas Eve service in 2022, and about 40 were at the harvest service. This indicates that the church has a future as a 'Festival's Church', holding perhaps 4 services through the year. Money was gifted for the provision of story-boards to be positioned inside the church, telling the history of the glen, and the text for these is almost complete. The best future for the building may be to transfer ownership to a community-owned Trust, making it available for the occasional services and other community gatherings. (In the absence of a community hall, the church is the only sizeable meeting-place in the glen.)

The churches for the parishes of Foss and Rannoch and Braes of Rannoch lie at opposite ends of Loch Rannoch about 12 miles apart (and therefore a 24-mile round trip on winding roads). The parishes extend for several miles beyond both churches. Foss and Rannoch is the more populated parish, with the Old Church building and the congregation based in the village of Kinloch Rannoch. Braes, although sparsely populated, enjoys its own distinctive mission community and the fear (in fact almost certainty) is that the loss of its place of worship would have a devastating effect on the local community. These congregations have been linked for many years.

The recent union of Fortingall, Glenlyon, Kenmore and Lawers (FGKL) has been strengthened through a much-loved ministry and more recently excellent ministry through an OLM. Similarly, the highly committed and loved ministry of another OLM has been essential in Foss & Rannoch and Braes of Rannoch.

## **Future**

The plan is to unite Foss and Rannoch with Braes of Rannoch and then to link with the recent union of Fortingall, Glenlyon, Kenmore & Lawers.

This would mean severing the existing linkage between the Rannoch churches and Blair Atholl and Struan.

One FTE minister based at Kenmore would cover the linked charges.

## **Gifts**

The FGKL congregation have an active Guild. One of the elders is regularly assisting in the schools at Kenmore and Glenlyon, and school end-of-term services in Kenmore church have recently been restarted since Covid. A recent "Come to Church Sunday" was remarkably successful.

Folk who are part of the Rannoch and FGKL congregations are known and recognised as such in these small communities. Their caring for others with their individual needs is a key, but often unsung, aspect of mission – in this they embody Jesus' command to be salt and light. Congregational members have a strong involvement in existing community groups, where bringing a Christian perspective is also very important.

Pre-Covid, there was significant input to Kinloch Rannoch Primary School and contact, now with a new headteacher, has recently been re-established with plans for Easter.

## **Challenges**

The biggest challenge for all these congregations is reaching out to those who do not currently attend Church, and providing places for the exploration of, and growth in faith.

Since 2016, a considerable amount has been spent on repairing dry rot damage in Kenmore. The Session very much hopes that this problem has now been addressed, with sufficient restricted funds available to cover outstanding work (mainly to ensure the building remains wind and watertight).

The village of Kenmore is undergoing a major transformation following the acquisition of Taymouth Castle, Kenmore Hotel and a number of other properties, by a US group who are developing a high-class resort. This will have a major impact on the working and visiting population of the area. Until this can be assessed, it would be sensible to retain the church. There may be scope for sharing the building with other denominations. For instance, the village has in the past had a number of workers from Eastern Europe. Also, having had considerable financial support from the community for the refurbishment, calling an immediate halt to the work is likely to have a negative effect on mission.

The challenge is to get nominal members and adherents to attend regularly, and to involve others, particularly under 50's.

## Proposed Buildings Categorisation

| Building  |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Fortingall Church</b>  | <p>A</p> <p>The main shortcomings are the lack of an accessible toilet and a basic kitchen. The congregation have identified a means of doing this and hope to carry this out in the near future.</p>  |
| <b>Kenmore Church</b>   | <p>B</p> <p>Some outstanding work is still required to complete the dry-rot repair and prevent a return.</p> <p>Kenmore is a community which is witnessing huge changes, and the congregation will continue to be alert to the missional challenges and opportunities this presents. It is proposed that this be thoroughly explored over the next year with presbytery, the General Trustees, the local community and businesses (see Future section above).</p> <p>There are also possibilities of hosting worshipping communities from the hospitality industry, including those from Eastern Europe.</p> |
| <b>Glenlyon Church</b>  | <p>B</p> <p>There may be a future for this building as a 'Festival's Church' under ownership of a community trust, so it should be retained while this option is explored.</p>   |
| <b>Braes of Rannoch Church</b>  | <p>B</p> <p>There are no plans for change in the near-term, but discussions regarding future possibilities with the General Trustees will be welcome.</p>  |
| <p>It is intention of Presbytery to retain a regular worshipping presence in Kenmore, Glenlyon, Braes of Rannoch, regardless of ownership of buildings, and possibly through at least one Fresh Expression of Church.</p> |  |
| <b>The Old Church of Rannoch</b>  | <p>A</p> <p>The strong financial position of Foss &amp; Rannoch will allow development of the Church building.</p>   |

## AREA B - CENTRAL HIGHLAND PERTSHIRE – THE A9 CORRIDOR

Charge B1 Pitlochry, Blair Atholl & Struan

MINISTRY 1.0 FTE

### History

**Pitlochry** and **Blair Atholl** are 7 miles apart but are very distinct communities. While Blair Atholl is undoubtedly a rural community, Pitlochry is a strong tourist destination with many hotels, guest houses and the Festival Theatre. There is a small local hospital and a large Care Home.

The congregation are warm and welcoming to locals and visitors alike.

There are also many people who retire to the area, many of whom contribute time and talents to the church. Strong ecumenical links exist with the local Baptist, Episcopal and Roman Catholic congregations.

Many years ago, as a result of unions, **Pitlochry Church of Scotland** reduced its places of worship to one. The congregation is considering ways to adapt the sanctuary area to enhance worship and encourage wider use of the building. (See below.)

The congregation has a tradition of being outward looking both in the use of its buildings by Crossreach and in awareness of the world church and support of development work. There is a good team of worship leaders who frequently take services and conduct worship in a local Care Home.

**Blair Atholl**, with its history relating to Blair Castle and, consequently, its attraction for tourists has been the centre point for a large rural hinterland stretching north to Drumochter and westwards to Trinafour. Formerly part of this area was served by Struan Church which has been closed and sold within the last decade.

### Future

The very different nature of Blair Atholl and Pitlochry mean that a linkage is seen as the preferable option. This will be pursued in the short term. Year 2 review will establish whether other options will be explored.

This would mean severing the existing linkage between the Rannoch churches and Blair Atholl and Struan.

One FTE minister based at Pitlochry would cover the linked charges.

### Gifts

**Blair Atholl** is a friendly and welcoming congregation. Many who do pulpit supply at present comment on this. There is strong support of the local community both in the involvement of church folk in various organisations and events, and through individual caring for those in need.

A number of years ago **Pitlochry Church** developed their halls, adjacent to the church, into the Tryst. The facilities are used by Crossreach for day care, taking older people from the surrounding area of North Perthshire. There are also widely used by community groups. The church building itself is in good condition and provides a welcoming place for locals and the many tourists who come to the area.

The congregation has a keen sense of engaging with the community, most recently through the 'Warm Spaces' initiative.

### Challenges

A significant challenge for **Blair Atholl** is to connect with younger people in the area. The biggest challenge facing **Pitlochry** is engaging with younger people. There are good connections with the local school and with other congregations in the town. Chaplaincy has been shared and joint initiatives engaged in to develop mission to families and young people.

### Proposed Buildings Categorisation

| Building                        |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| <b>Blair Atholl Church</b>      | A<br>Upgrade to existing facilities as required with exploration of use of available space for meeting rooms. More flexible use of the sanctuary area could also be investigated.  |
| <b>Blair Atholl Church Hall</b> | B<br>Possible conversations with community.  |
| <b>Pitlochry Church</b>         | A<br>Church is in good condition with good facilities. The congregation had plans to modify the interior to allow for more flexible use in worship but these have been delayed until the appointment of a new minister and the planning process is complete. |
| <b>Pitlochry Church Halls</b>   | A<br>'The Tryst' is adjacent to the church building and provides a gathering area after worship and spaces which are   |

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Building</b> |   |
|                 | extensively used during the week by church, community and Crossreach. |

CHARGE B2      DUNKELD, AMULREE, CAPUTH & CLUNIE  
 MINISTRY      1.0 FTE

**History**

Dunkeld's history stretches right back to origins of Christianity in this part of Scotland. Missionaries from Iona settled on the banks of the Tay in the late 6th century and established a monastic settlement. From that, grew the first Cathedral built in the 9th. Century at the behest of Kenneth McAlpine and the present Cathedral building (the Choir part now used as the Parish Church) is 13th Century.

The Cathedral attracts around 80,000 visitors a year who, as well as being drawn by the beauty of the setting and its history, are also drawn by the spiritual atmosphere of the place.

Caputh is equidistant between Kinclaven and Dunkeld. The plan would be to break Caputh and Clunie's linkage with Kinclaven and united Caputh with Dunkeld. Clunie Church – on account of condition and lower numbers in attendance - is recommended for closure.

**Future**

The plan is to create a new union with one or two centres of worship.

One FTE minister based at Dunkeld would cover the united charge.

**Gifts**

The connections with St. Columba make Dunkeld a natural place to be part of the pilgrim routes being developed and the congregation currently has a small group looking at ways that can be developed.

There is a natural draw for visitors and tourists which leads to opportunities for mission.

There are plans within the congregation to provide short guided walks around the grounds and building, using QR codes to help people pause, reflect and pray.

The Columban heritage gives much to build on in connection with locals and visitors. It also offers a wonderful setting for worship in a variety of styles.

The Cathedral provides a strong focal point for the local community and is frequently used for concerts as diverse as Dougie McLean and the Dunedin Consort.

### Challenges

Inevitably there are challenges connected to a Medieval building. The current situation is that Historic Environment Scotland has ownership of the ruined nave and the grounds while the choir part of the building and Chapterhouse are vested in the General Trustees. This is a good arrangement for the congregation as it relieves it of the need to maintain the extensive grounds and look after a ruin.

There is a problem, currently, with some of the stone work of the Choir but the Kirk Session is looking at a programme of repairs to rectify this.

The congregation faces similar challenges to other parishes in Scotland but has recently gone through a forward planning exercise and has produced a 5 year Plan for its own life and ministry. The presbytery is very supportive of this plan (which includes attention to mission, discipleship, worship, working with young people and buildings). The congregation itself is carrying out a very robust review of buildings options and these will be shared with the General Trustees as they developed and the best decisions for the future mission of the Church will be adopted.

### Proposed Buildings Categorisation

| Building                            |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <p><b>Dunkeld Cathedral</b></p>     | <p>A</p> <p>The Cathedral is central to the life of the community and the congregation. The Kirk Session is currently working on ways to engage more with visitors who come - both as a means of mission and also for potential financial support.</p> <p>It is one of the most iconic settings of any church building in Scotland with as long a story as any congregation in Scotland, stretching back to the 6th Century.</p> <p>This provides a unique opportunity for mission and spiritual development of both locals and visitors.</p> <p>The current challenge (which the congregation is looking at) is to find an environmentally friendly heating system which would enable the use of the building all year round.</p> <p>It is a building which has significance far beyond the immediate parish.</p> |
| <p><b>Little Dunkeld Church</b></p> | <p>B</p> <p>The current arrangement is that the congregation worships in Little Dunkeld Kirk from the middle of November to Palm Sunday and then moves back to the Cathedral.</p>  |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Building</b>   | <p>This arrangement has worked well since the two united 50 years ago and it would need to continue until the Cathedral can be used all year round. The church is surrounded by the cemetery still in use.</p> <p>The building is well maintained and minor modifications were carried out about 20 years ago after an appeal was granted to keep it.</p> <p>There are no simple answers to the building's issues. Little Dunkeld provides a good space next to the local primary school and is used for an after school club as well as occasional school services. The congregation is currently considering options of either retaining the Kirk and developing it into multi-purpose hall space or renovating the Duchess Anne.</p>                            |
| <b>Duchess Anne Hall</b>  | <p><b>B</b></p> <p>The Duchess Anne has a varied history but was bought by the congregation about 50 years ago as hall space. It is a short walk from the Cathedral and therefore can be used for events during and after worship.</p> <p>It is ideally placed, in the centre of Dunkeld and a short walk from the Cathedral with vehicular access to the door. However, it is in need of renovation and the Kirk Session had plans to do this prior to Covid but these plans have been put on hold.</p> <p>It is well used by congregational and community groups with potential for greater use if facilities were upgraded.</p> <p>The Kirk Session is currently getting valuations and estimates for renovations so that an informed decision can be made.</p> |
| <p>It is the intention of Presbytery to make a choice between the retention of Little Dunkeld Church or the Duchess Anne Hall. The presbytery is very clear that at least one of these will be retained and a case may be made for keeping both. Future discussions will take place following the congregation's own review of buildings options.</p> |  |
| <b>Amulree Church</b>   | <p><b>A</b></p> <p>Amulree Kirk is 10 miles from Dunkeld and is used for worship once a month. There is a strong identity with the</p>   |



|                      |  |
|----------------------|--|
| <b>Building</b>      |  |
|                      | <p>area of Strathbraan and it serves an area stretching up to Glen Quaich. The farthest point of the parish is 17 miles from Dunkeld.</p> <p>Again, the building is on a proposed pilgrim route in an area which already attracts many walkers. There is great potential for development of the building into a space which could be used for both worship and hospitality.</p>  |
| <b>Caputh Church</b> | <p>B</p> <p>Caputh lies 5 miles east of Dunkeld. For the size of community the building is quite large, but a beautiful sanctuary with good hall space attached to it.</p> <p>The congregation has struggled to reach pre-covid levels again and there would be general acceptance of a union rather than a linkage with Dunkeld.</p> <p>The congregation has dealt with quite a few fabric issues in recent years but needs to enter discussions with the Presbytery about the building's future.</p> |
| <b>Clunie Church</b> | <p>B</p> <p>Pre-Covid, Clunie church was used once a month, instead of Caputh.</p> <p>While in a beautiful setting, it is lacking in facilities and easy access. The proposal is that this building should be closed.</p>  |

## AREA C - EASTERN PERTHSHIRE

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| CHARGE C1 | ALYTH<br>RATTRAY, KIRKMICHAEL, STRALLOCH & GLENSHEE |
| MINISTRY  | 1.0 FTE   |

### History

After the Barony Church closed down, the High Kirk became **Alyth Parish Church** and has sought to be a good Parish church through various different Ministries.

More recently the pandemic took its toll on various aspects of church life, but again people rose splendidly to the challenge and Sunday by Sunday worship is offered to God, and hopefully Alyth Church is still able to fulfil at least some of the functions of a Parish church, which of course include a great commitment to mission.

**Kirkmichael Church**, thought to be built on the site of a medieval kirk, St Michael's, recorded in 1189, was consecrated in 1791. Further up the glen Straloch (1896-1982) was originally a mission church from Moulin Parish. Over at **Glenshee** there was originally a chapel of ease, current church being built in 1831. Further down the glen were Cray Church (1844-1982) and Persie Church (1785-1954). There were UF churches in Kirkmichael (Duff Memorial) and Netherton, which united with Kirkmichael in 1930. The charge of **Kirkmichael, Straloch and Glenshee** came into being in 1978.

**Rattray Church** (1821) with its fine Italianate tower was a single charge until 1998 when it linked with Kirkmichael, Straloch and Glenshee. There was a UF church in Rattray, for which Rattray Church was responsible and which was sold very recently.

### Future

The plan is to create a new union between Kirkmichael, Straloch & Glenshee and Rattray, and a new linkage between the new united congregation and Alyth.

One FTE minister based at Alyth would cover the united and linked charges.

### Gifts

**Rattray Church** has a loyal congregation who appreciate being part of a smaller worshipping community with perhaps a more rural church feel, enhanced by its close connection with **Kirkmichael, Straloch and Glenshee**. Visitors often comment on the warmth of welcome they receive. It has fine stained glass windows and good acoustic properties, making it useful for concerts from time to time. Of course what matters is the church family, who are committed to their faith and who work hard to maintain their church life. Members go into the local primary school for Messy Church and we have enjoyed the presence of those children and their parents at special services. The church building is usually used for end of term services by the local school and nursery, with a combined roll of around 300 children. Almost all the regular members of the Church also

belong to the local community. The strong numbers attending worship is a testament to the great appreciation of the current ministry, and is to be encouraged. Rattray Church is only practicable community space available within the community of Rattray.

**Kirkmichael Church** (13 miles from Rattray) is active in the area through the Session House. It has a very capable employee who organises talks, activities for all age groups, art competitions at the local school, craft days, newsletters, use of computers for visitors and locals alike, and local information emailed to subscribers. Recently it has started warm room days. It also organises volunteer drivers to take locals to the doctors' surgery in Blairgowrie. The Session House is a vital service for the area. The Session House is used each Sunday for worship for a small but committed group. There is church contact with the village school.

**Alyth** are very indebted to the folks before them for all their work and witness and having the vision and foresight to put in things like the disabled ramp and facilities which have been such an asset in their time.

They are blessed by having wonderful people who serve their Lord God by giving of their time and skills "for love not money". The present minister is thankful to have such brilliant folk in all the official positions in the Church and many others who contribute so much to its life and outreach. The generosity of members and other people is never to be taken for granted and they give thanks for it.

A large number of church members involve themselves in a huge variety of wider community activities. Alyth is well known for its great community spirit and it's a lovely gift that the church through its giving and its people are very involved in it.

The Kirk Session is realistic. And sadly, accepts that they will have to join up with someone else and so is open to the changes that lie ahead. Though rather daunted by the size of any new parish, they look forward to whatever is decided and to new friends to be made and worship shared with.

### **Challenges**

**Rattray** has grown in size due to the huge number of new houses, presenting a challenge to the new inhabitants, who are often not churchgoers.

Whilst they have contact with primary school children, teenagers are more difficult to reach. This is of course not a problem unique to Rattray. However there is much encouragement that weekly Messy Church sessions are held in the primary school immediately after school, with about a dozen children from mid-primary age attending.

Rattray also has significant areas of poverty. Congregation members are always willing to donate and make up substantial hampers at Christmas which are distributed by the Social Work department through contact with EFACTS, the local ecumenical group of churches.

The Rattray Church sanctuary is ideally situation, but not currently useable as a flexible community space, and this will be explored in the near future.

**Kirkmichael** faces the usual challenges of reaching children, teenagers, and the frankly not interested, though there will be disappointment at the loss of the church building after the collapse of the ceiling.

The congregations at **Kirkmichael, Straloch & Glenshee** are obviously not happy that their churches should close but are willing to accept this and appreciate that as small congregations, no longer able to meet their financial obligations, there has to be change. Members are very glad the Session House would continue to operate under the proposals and hope to see worship continue in the building though probably less often than at present. Members are realistic about the situation, rather than enthusiastic, and will do their best to make the proposals work.

### **Response to proposed Union with Alyth**

The proposal to link/unite with Alyth has met with general approval from the congregation who accept that times have changed and so change must come about. It would be a well-balanced, congenial linkage/union, joined of course by the folk from Kirkmichael and Glenshee.

**Alyth** Parish Church shares much the same challenges as every other church does with honourable exceptions! They are fewer than they were, older than they were, poorer than they were, and the Choir and Sunday School and Guild have not yet recovered from the pandemic.

On top of these things they face the challenge of making the Christian faith relevant to a secular Western population.

But their belief is that Christ is still as important to our times as to people in every age. And that the Church can play a very useful role "when the chips are down" and in the good times too. And that there is so much good that the Church can do...and fun to be had in doing it!

Whatever exact plan they will be asked to fit into, and although they know that "the butter will be spread thinner," they have stated that they will rise to any challenge with Christ's help.

### **Proposed Buildings Categorisation**

| <b>Building</b>                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Alyth Church &amp; Halls</b> | A<br>A major fire in the 1970s was turned into a great opportunity to rebuild the interior of the building as a |

|                                  |   |
|----------------------------------|---|
| <b>Building</b>                  |   |
|                                  | more modern church appropriate to new and changing times.   |
| <b>Glenshee Church</b>           | B<br>The electrical wiring in Glenshee Church is substandard and not safe for use.  |
| <b>Kirkmichael Church</b>        | B<br>Kirkmichael Church is not in use at present due to the collapse of the ceiling.  |
| <b>Kirkmichael Session House</b> | A<br>Two storey building in very good order with lavatories, good lighting and heating and a small kitchen. It is well used and much appreciated by the villagers. It is used for Sunday worship.<br><br>Increased signage would enable the congregation to bear witness to their ongoing worshipping presence within the community.                                      |
| <b>Ratray Church</b>             | A<br>Beautiful church from 1821, with its tower a landmark in Ratray.<br><br>Work is required to improve thermal insulation and remove previous boiler house.<br><br>Given that the Sanctuary is now effectively the only community space in the Ratray community, work is required to ensure the flexibility of this, so that it might be more open to community groups. |

Dialogue will also be opened with the Isla Parishes congregation, located in the legacy Angus Presbytery. Their building, which has undergone extensive modernisation, is located at Kilry, approximately 15 miles south east of Glenshee. With the closure of buildings at Kirkmichael and Glenshee, this congregation is ideally suited to serve the rural Glens.

CHARGE C2      BLAIRGOWRIE AND BENDOCHY

MINISTRY      1.0 FTE

## **History**

### **Blairgowrie**

Blairgowrie is considered to be the fastest growing town in Perthshire and the largest outside Perth. Although many people retire to this area, younger families still contribute significantly to the population.

The town has a High School, Primary School and, in addition a Roman Catholic Primary School. There are five retirement homes, which is a reflection of the age profile in the town.

Although many working people travel to Perth, Dundee and further afield there are fairly large employers in the town such as Castle Water, Health service, Care Work, Graham Environmental Services, as well the agricultural and tourism industry. The church is aware of the need to develop outreach and mission with these groups and their families. Several hundred new houses have recently been built and there are plans for this to be increased. Two new Supermarkets were opened a short time ago.

A recent holiday club was extremely successful in sharing faith and building relationships with local young people and their families.

Up until fairly recently the minister was assisted by a part-time associate minister locally funded. That minister retired and a replacement has not yet been found.

**Bendochy** is a committed, friendly congregation with a beautiful building and very accessible hall. They are very strong relationships and the challenge is to share this sense of Christian family with those in the wider community.

## **Future**

The plan is to create a new union of Blairgowrie and Bendochy, with the Bendochy Church and Hall to be sold.

The Kirk Session of Blairgowrie are very committed to exploring new ideas (some of them very radical) to enable them to engage with the people of their town. A Fresh Expression should also be explored within the town.

One FTE minister based at Blairgowrie would cover the united and linked charges.

## **Gifts**

Due in no small measure to the efforts of the group known as EPACTS (East Perthshire Action for Churches Together) Blairgowrie has enjoyed strong ecumenical links with the Roman Catholic Church, the Scottish Episcopal Church, and the Methodist Church. This group encourages the various churches to work together to advance the Kingdom of God

and present a common understanding in the community of the churches' faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, often through shared worship.

Blairgowrie Parish Church is blessed with an enthusiastic group of leaders working since the pandemic towards re-charging organisations such as the Guild, Sunday School, Messy Church, Boys' Brigade as well as the Craft Group and Social Club.

Weekly Prayer Groups and Bible Fellowship continue to be well supported.

Boys' Brigade numbers dropped during the pandemic, but work continues to reverse that trend. This organisation has always been seen as a vital part of outreach, especially as parents and families who are not normally seen in church appear at any events and services.

### Challenges

The biggest challenge in **Blairgowrie** will be to engage with the many new members of the town's population, especially young people.

Pastoral Care is being reinvigorated due to an enthusiastic team – this is vital given the age profile, as was an up to date website.

There are ambitious plans to provide Audio Visual facilities. The current facilities are functional but require much improvement. The presence of this facility became appreciated during the pandemic. It is considered that this service will provide an opportunity for further outreach and wider mission.

In **Bendochy** Church, the challenge is long term sustainability with a smaller congregation, however the Kirk Session are very committed to exploring possibilities for growth.

### Proposed Buildings Categorisation

| Building                        |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| <b>Blairgowrie Church</b>       | <p>A</p> <p>The church building has stood for almost 120 years and includes sanctuary, meeting rooms, and kitchen, all maintained to a high standard. Upgrading of the accommodation continues.</p>   |
| <b>Blairgowrie Church Halls</b> | <p>A</p> <p>The church halls adjoin the Sanctuary and have had considerable improvement carried out, particularly to the roof.</p> <p>The suite of halls is in constant use, used almost daily not just by church groups, but also community organisations such as art groups, line dancing, Vision PK (Charity Group</p> |

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| <b>Building</b> |   |
|                 | supporting Visually Impaired and their carers offering social and support meetings, Blairgowrie Quilters and many others including birthday parties and lunches for Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Parking has been mentioned as an issue, and the congregation are well aware of this.  |
| <b>Bendochy</b> | <p>B</p> <p>Bendochy Church sits alone in an idyllic agricultural setting beside the River Isla between Coupar Angus and Blairgowrie. Scattered houses predominate Bendochy Parish, which has no villages, schools, shops or industry.</p> <p>Despite it receiving a low AMBA mark, the church is in excellent state of repair, with oil fired central heating and a new excellent electric organ. The Church is 700 years old, pre-dates Coupar Angus Abbey and was the original Parish Church of Coupar Angus.</p> <p>The close-by church hall, also known as 'the Coach House', is well maintained with a kitchen and toilet. The hall is used for Session meetings, coffee after church and outside charitable groups.</p> <p>The Session fully supports the Five Marks of Mission and, are eager to promote them in the wider communities around Bendochy.</p> |

CHARGE C3      COUPAR ANGUS AND KINCLAVEN

MINISTRY      0.5 FTE

### History

**The Abbey Church** is a listed building constructed in 1865 on the site of a former Abbey dating from the 12<sup>th</sup> Century and destroyed in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century. The site plan includes a small field (the “Glebe Field”) adjacent to the church which contains medieval graves, yet to be excavated. The field is currently leased for grazing and a proposal for future development of it includes establishing a car park for those attending church. A modern Session House was added in the 1960s and the original wooden pews fitted on the ground floor and under-gallery were removed in 2011 to provide a large, versatile, multi-purpose, open area for worship and church activities. At the same time, kitchen facilities were re-equipped and expanded.



In 2019 the under-gallery was restructured to provide a café area, 'The Abbey Gateway', with its own tea and coffee making facilities. This area is used after the Sunday service and is available for meetings and for hire by outside organisations. It is also used for 'Friendly Fridays', a monthly opportunity for people to meet informally for tea/coffee, fellowship and a chat.

In recent years, Coupar Angus Abbey has been linked with Bendochy.

**Kinclaven Church**, dating from 1848, stands on a site where there has been a Christian place of worship for many centuries, serving the agricultural communities in the area. More recently, Kinclaven has been linked with Bendochy and, since 1989, Caputh and Clunie.

Both congregations have been accustomed to the cooperation required from operating in linkages and recognise the differences between the small-town aspect of Coupar Angus and the rural aspect of Kinclaven.

### **Future**

The plan is to create a new union/linkage between Coupar Angus and Kinclaven. This linkage would be covered by a 0.5 FTE minister.

A linkage would recognise the different identities of the two congregations, while encouraging cooperation. The status of the relationship would be kept under review.

### **Gifts**

#### **Coupar Angus**

The church at Coupar Angus is a flexible space, carpeted and with comfortable chairs for the congregation and participants in other activities.

The church is used for Sunday worship and for Kirk Session meetings.

Other uses, prior to the pandemic and gradually restarting, include the church used weekly by the Children's Ministry Team and by the local Brownies and Guides.

In addition, the church has been used for occasional events such as the Spring Snowdrop Festival, Summer, Autumn and Christmas Fayres, Bible studies, Prayer Group meetings and 'Friendly Fridays'.

Many of these activities are now resuming for example, tea and coffee has begun after worship on a Sunday morning and their monthly outreach, 'Friendly Friday', has restarted, to which all members of the community are invited for tea/coffee/cakes and bakes in a drop-in session lasting up to three hours. In preparation for resuming 'Friendly Fridays' some of their Elders have recently completed the Food Handling and Hygiene course organised by the Church of Scotland.

It is hoped to start youth work again soon, despite having lost some volunteers during the pandemic and having a restricted number of current members available to run the groups. As a result, alternative ways they can do this are being explored, for example, Messy Church and running a summer Holiday Club.

Members of the congregation are actively involved with the Coupar Angus 'Pride of Place' (PoP) group and one of their Elders is the current Chair. The group is committed to improving their environment by developing flower beds in the local park, providing flower displays around the town, clearing litter and overgrown areas in the town and its environs. These activities demonstrate the desire and willingness of the congregation to reach out and be part of the community in which they find themselves.

### **Kinclaven**

Kinclaven serves a rural area of natural beauty, with opportunities to attract tourism visitors as well as people moving into the area as new houses are built in the communities around the church.

The church, with a scenic setting, has been popular for weddings, with a close proximity to local hotels for reception purposes.

While Kinclaven is a spread-out rural community, the congregation has been joined, in recent years, by people from other areas, including Burrelton, Blairgowrie, Murthly and Stanley to form a faithful worshipping community, who take the idea of mission back to their own locales. The worshipping congregation regularly numbers between thirty and forty.

Kinclaven has, among its members, a group of people able and willing to form a worship team to provide pulpit supply and pastoral care services for the congregation and community.

### **Challenges**

There is a need and challenge for encouragement of mission in Coupar Angus where there is a degree of 'mixed' economy.

Coupar Angus has areas where the residents find life difficult through low levels of income. The congregation has been involved in initiatives to help alleviate the effects such as foodbanks.

In Kinclaven, the challenge is to identify and support the community in which the congregation is situated, so that needs can be highlighted, and support provided. Both congregations are faced with ageing members and the task of growth - attracting people into their fellowship from the surrounding community, who do not normally attend church services. This will mean new approaches to worship, while retaining the people who have supported the church for many years.

The congregations will be wholehearted in support for the minister, which will be essential in this new linkage.

It is proposed that this linkage will be covered by a 0.5 full-time-equivalent minister, and it is appreciated that this may not suit everyone who may consider applying for this position. The vacancy position will be kept under review. If the post is filled quickly, everyone will be grateful. If there are no applications, or the process seems to be taking a long time, a review will take place as to how ministry should be deployed in these communities.

### Proposed Buildings Categorisation

| Building                                |  |
|---|--|
| <p><b>Coupar Angus Abbey</b></p>        | <p>A</p> <p>Coupar Angus Abbey church is in good condition, with many facilities in terms of kitchen, toilets, meeting rooms and a café area. Audio/visual equipment is installed to provide resources for worship and the other activities which take place in the building. Seating is by individual comfortable chairs, making the space suitable for a variety of types of events and gatherings</p>   |
| <p><b>Kinclaven Church and Hall</b></p> | <p>A with Year 2 Review</p> <p>Kinclaven church is a comfortable space for worship services and other events, with seating in pews and a good heating system. Audio/visual equipment is installed to provide screens and sound for worship and other types of presentation.</p> <p>The Kirk Session is currently examining the possibilities for improving access into and around the church building and is seeking professional advice in this regard. The congregation has substantial unrestricted reserves and funds held on its behalf by the General Trustees to enable these works to be funded.</p> <p>The Hall is in sound condition and is capable of acting as a venue for the activities of the congregation - and the wider community, if necessary.</p> |

CHARGE C4      ARDLER, GLAMIS, KETTINS, MEIGLE & NEWTYLE  
MINISTRY      1.0 FTE

The commentary here relates to the congregations of Ardler, Kettins and Meigle. For mission planning relating to Newtyle and Glamis, please refer to the Mission Plan of the former Angus Presbytery.

### **History**

Set in the Strathmore Valley in Perthshire, they are one congregation with two historic places of worship which lie at the heart of our villages of Ardler, Kettins and Meigle. Both young and old gather each week for services at the churches in Kettins and Meigle, with children invited to participate in Sunday School.

The congregations have been vacant since 2021.

### **Future**

The plan is to create a new union with multiple centres of worship.

This charge crosses the boundary of the former Angus and Dunkeld & Meigle Presbyteries, and the new enlarged Perth Presbytery creates new possibilities.

Discussions here will involve congregations and the minister of Newtyle (all other congregations are currently vacant).

To enable a flourishing ministry, the following will require to be in place:

- Strong admin support for the minister (ideally, paid assistance)
- Developing worship teams, which is already ongoing
- Skilled and energised property and finance teams, able to operate with a degree of independence, but appropriate involvement of minister and governance by Kirk Session.

-

### **Gifts**

These are well-knitted together rural communities, with close fellowship between them. The agricultural heritage of the area plays a large part of this.

The congregations and their buildings form a focal point of their communities.

There are strong Guilds and communities have strong Community Councils.

Vibrant services (often employing traditional forms) are highlighted as a strong part of church life.

The buildings have a strong aesthetic which complements the sense of worship.

Congregations have a strong financial base, which gives opportunities of development and investment in the future.

**Challenges**

These relate to ageing congregations. People in communities are very supportive of the church, and the challenge is to develop this into deeper discipleship and belonging.

The congregations will work together to find a more concise name for the new charge.

**Proposed Buildings Categorisation**

| Building                       |   |
|--------------------------------|---|
| <b>Meigle Church</b>           | <p>A – Year 2 Review</p> <p>This is in good condition. There would be good scope for conversations with the General Trustees as to future development which would enhance mission and worship.</p>                |
| <b>Kettins Church and Hall</b> | <p>A – Year 2 Review</p> <p>Kettins Church does not have water supply. Conversations as to the value of this (or of continuing to rely on the hall) would be welcome.</p> <p>Facilities in the hall are good.</p> |

It is the intention of Presbytery to retain a regular worshipping presence in Kettins, Meigle, Newtyle and Glamis.

There is good local financial resource and leadership to enable the upgrade of existing buildings. Presbytery will work with the congregations and General Trustees to ensure the best provision for local mission.

## SUMMARY OF CHANGES

| Charge | Members | CofS Pop | Congregation                                 | FTE | Start Status  | End Status   | Buildings   |
|--------|---------|----------|--|-----|---|--|---|
| A1     | 150     | 1,986    | Aberfeldy                                    | 1   | Unrestricted. Aberfeldy<br>Linked with Dull & Weem,<br>linked with Grantully,<br>Logierait & Strathtay, linked<br>with Tenandry | Unrestricted.<br>Aberfeldy Linked<br>with Dull & Weem,<br>linked with<br>Grantully, Logierait<br>& Strathtay,linked<br>with Tenandry | Aberfeldy Church & Halls - A  |
|        | 122     | 421      | Dull and Weem                                |     |   |  | Weem Church & Hall - A  |
|        | 127     | 1,178    | Grantully, Logierait<br>and Strathtay        |     |   |  | Strathtay Church & Hall – A<br>Logierait Church – B<br>(Year 1 and 2 review)          |
|        | 34      | 264      | Tenandry                                     |     | Guardianship  |  | Tenandry Church – A   |
| A2     | 17      | 117      | Braes of Rannoch                             | 1   | Vacant, Linked with Blair<br>Atholl & Struan and Foss &<br>Rannoch  | Union with Braes of<br>Rannoch, Linkage<br>with Fortingall,<br>Glenlyon, Kenmore<br>& Lawers   | Braes of Rannoch Church –<br>B<br>Support and advice sought<br>from General Trustees  |
|        | 93      | 880      | Fortingall,<br>Glenlyon, Kenmore<br>& Lawers |     | Vacant  | Linkage with Braes<br>of Rannoch and Foss<br>& Rannoch,  | Fortingall Church – A<br>Kenmore Church – B<br>(Year 1 Review)<br>Glenlyon Church – B |
|        | 76      | 508      | Foss and Rannoch                             |     | Vacant, Linked with Braes of<br>Rannoch and Foss &<br>Rannoch   | Union with Braes of<br>Rannoch, Linkage<br>with Fortingall,<br>Glenlyon, Kenmore<br>& Lawers   | The Old Church of Rannoch<br>- A  |

| Charge | Members | CofS Pop | Congregation                       | FTE | Start Status   | End Status  | Buildings  |
|--------|---------|----------|------------------------------------|-----|--|---|--|
| B1     | 97      | 767      | Blair Atholl and Struan            | 1   | Vacant, Linked with Braes of Rannoch and Foss & Rannoch    | Linkage with Pitlochry (Year 2 Review)                          | Blair Atholl Church – A<br>Blair Atholl Church Hall – B  |
|        | 292     | 3,055    | Pitlochry                          |     | Vacant   | Linkage with Blair Atholl & Struan (Year 2 Review)              | Pitlochry Church – A<br>Pitlochry Hall & Tryst – A   |
| B2     | 123     | 2,017    | Caputh and Clunie                  | 1   | Vacant Linked with Kinclaven.                              | Union with Dunkeld  | Caputh Church – B<br>Clunie Church – B   |
|        | 299     | 2,182    | Dunkeld                            |     | Unrestricted   | Union with Caputh & Clunie                                      | Dunkeld Cathedral – A<br>Little Dunkeld Church – B<br>Duchess Anne Halls – B<br>Amulree Church – A |
| C1     | 597     | 3,054    | Alyth                              | 1   | Unrestricted   | Linkage with Kirkmichael, Straloch & Glenshee and Rattray       | Alyth Church & Halls – A   |
|        | 66      | 971      | Kirkmichael, Straloch and Glenshee |     | Unrestricted. Linked with Rattray                          | Union with Rattray, Linkage with Alyth                          | Glenshee Church – B<br>Kirkmichael Church – B<br>Kirkmichael Session House – A                     |
|        | 244     | 3,279    | Rattray                            |     | Unrestricted. Linked with Kirkmichael, Straloch & Glenshee | Union with Kirkmichael, Straloch & Glenshee, Linkage with Alyth | Rattray Church – A   |

| Charge       | Members | CofS Pop | Congregation                | FTE                        | Start Status  | End Status  | Buildings   |
|--------------|---------|----------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|---|---|---|
| C2           | 69      | 67       | Bendochy                    | 1                          | Unrestricted. Bendochy Linked with Coupar Angus Abbey | Union with Blairgowrie  | Bendochy Church – B   |
|              | 757     | 6,346    | Blairgowrie                 |                            | Unrestricted  | Union with Bendochy   | Blairgowrie Church - A<br>Blairgowrie Church Halls - A            |
| C3           | 243     | 2,328    | Coupar Angus Abbey          | 0.5                        | Unrestricted. Bendochy Linked with Coupar Angus Abbey | Union with Kinclaven  | Coupar Angus Abbey - A  |
|              | 120     | 346      | Kinclaven                   |                            | Vacant. Linked with Caputh & Clunie.                  | Union with Coupar Angus   | Kinclaven Church and Hall – A                                     |
| C4           | 350     | 1,627    | Ardler, Kettins and Newtyle | (1 with Angus)             | Vacant  | Union with Eassie, Newtyle & Nevay, Glamis, Kinnetles   | Meigle Church – A<br>Kettins Church and Hall – A<br>Year 2 Review |
| <b>Total</b> |         |          |                             | <b>6.5 (+1 with Angus)</b> |   | <b>New Unions - 6<br/>Recent Unions - 1<br/>New Linkages (including New Union) – 2<br/>New Linkages – 2 (Year 2 Review)</b> | <b>A – 20<br/>B - 12</b>  |



## FINANCIAL SUMMARY

| Congregation                                  | Congregation<br>Income 2020 | Congregation<br>Income 2021 | 2023<br>Giving to<br>Grow | Total Fabric<br>Costs 2021* | Unrestricted<br>Reserves<br>2021 | Restricted<br>Fabric<br>Reserves<br>2021 | Consolidated<br>Fabric Fund<br>2021 |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Aberfeldy</b>                              | 43,888                      | 51,646                      | 28,411                    | 15,185                      | 118,209                          | -  | -                                   |
| <b>Dull and Weem</b>                          | 30,157                      | 39,394                      | 21,671                    | 15,868**                    | 51,373                           | 23,162                                   | -                                   |
| <b>Grantully, Logierait and<br/>Strathtay</b> | 43,918                      | 51,453                      | 28,305                    | 7,565                       | 229,883                          | 89,974                                   | 116,739                             |
| <b>Alyth</b>                                  | 58,697                      | 58,229                      | 34,938                    | 10,116                      | 35,067                           | -  | 49,436                              |
| <b>Bendochy</b>                               | 24,108                      | 21,892                      | 13,135                    | 4,699                       | 209,132                          | -  | 55,574                              |
| <b>Coupar Angus Abbey</b>                     | 34,587                      | 38,999                      | 23,400                    | 14,308                      | 20,383                           | 25,006                                   | 19,778                              |
| <b>Blair Atholl and Struan</b>                | 31,573                      | 33,909                      | 20,346                    | 8,691                       | 46,846                           | 50,490                                   | 96,227                              |
| <b>Braes of Rannoch</b>                       | 6,943                       | 7,648                       | 4,589                     | 4,473                       | 42,418                           | -  | 8,390                               |
| <b>Foss and Rannoch</b>                       | 13,551                      | 12,306                      | 7,384                     | 2,161                       | 40,244                           | -  | 451,894                             |
| <b>Blaigowrie</b>                             | 111,535                     | 119,214                     | 67,912                    | 38,936                      | 191,267                          | -  | 35,049                              |
| <b>Dunkeld Parish Church</b>                  | 94,805                      | 115,025                     | 66,028                    | 39,683                      | -                                | 419,278                                  | 101,114                             |
| <b>Kirkmichael Straloch and<br/>Glenshee</b>  | 13,881                      | 18,275                      | 10,965                    | 22,762                      | 15,727                           | -  | 16,647                              |
| <b>Rattray</b>                                | 28,864                      | 28,529                      | 17,117                    | 6,485                       | 46,327                           | -  | -                                   |
| <b>Kinclaven</b>                              | 21,167                      | 21,976                      | 13,186                    | 5,596                       | 211,332                          | -  | 69,408                              |
| <b>Caputh &amp; Clunie</b>                    | 29,453                      | 34,954                      | 20,972                    | 7,522                       | 1,306                            | 21,181                                   | 57,165                              |
| <b>Pitlochry</b>                              | 65,762                      | 56,538                      | 33,923                    | 20,994                      | 188,682                          | -  | 31,981                              |
| <b>Tenandry</b>                               | 19,941                      | 25,706                      | 15,134                    | 8,766                       | 84,274                           | -  | 15,203                              |

| Congregation   | Congregation<br>Income 2020 | Congregation<br>Income 2021 | 2023<br>Giving to<br>Grow | Total Fabric<br>Costs 2021* | Unrestricted<br>Reserves<br>2021 | Restricted<br>Fabric<br>Reserves<br>2021 | Consolidated<br>Fabric Fund<br>2021 |
|--|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Ardler, Kettins &amp; Meigle</b>                  | 33,902                      | 33,107                      | 19,865                    | 12,365                      | 163,387                          | 40,202                                   | 490,010                             |
| <b>Fortingall, Glenlyon, Kenmore<br/>and Lawyers</b> | 32,622                      | 46,263                      | 27,758                    | 27,547                      | 156,809                          | 199,707                                  | 52,871                              |
|  | <b>739,354</b>              | <b>815,063</b>              | <b>475,039</b>            | <b>273,722</b>              | <b>1,852,666</b>                 | <b>449,722</b>                           | <b>1,852,260</b>                    |
|  |                             |                             |                           |                             |                                  |  | <b>4,154,648</b>                    |

\*Fabric costs include repair, major works, cleaning, heat and light, insurance, manse costs, Council Tax.

\*\* Weem had dry rot repairs which were later recovered through insurance.

