



PARISH PROFILE



INNERLEITHEN TRAQUAIR WALKERBURN

PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

Scottish Charity no. SC001100



Tall oaks from acorns grow



*Will you be our Minister who will help us
to grow to carry out God's work?*



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Executive Summary

The Parish of Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn is situated in the picturesque Tweed Valley between Peebles and Galashiels in the Scottish Borders. We are an active, welcoming and motivated congregation and we are delighted to have been given permission to call a new minister on a seven-year, reviewable tenure to lead and support us in our Mission Statement: “Working Together in Christ”.

In 2018, a unitary constitution was adopted and the Parish is served by one Kirk Session and various teams including Fabric & Finance, Fellowship & Care and Path of Renewal Mission & Outreach. Sunday worship is arranged in a rota based in Innerleithen Church, Traquair Kirk and Walkerburn Village Hall. The current membership is 300 with around 20 adherents.

We have been a “Path of Renewal” Parish since 2016 which has resulted in a strong, thriving partnership with Thondwe in Malawi. Other local outreach includes Tweeddale Youth Action, an Edinburgh homeless project, Scottish Borders Family Centre and Peeblesshire Foodbank.

Our financial situation is healthy with a net surplus in recent years and the congregation able to meet its wider financial responsibilities. We are well supported by teams of volunteers who support our worship, pastoral, social and fundraising activities.

The four-bedroomed manse is modern, substantial and is situated in a sought-after area of Innerleithen. It has been well-maintained with a new kitchen and bathroom planned in consultation with the new minister. The area is well-served by good schools with St Ronan’s Primary in Innerleithen and Peebles High and a medical centre in Innerleithen. There is a wide variety of music, amateur operatic, sports and other community activities throughout the year.

Our New Minister

We invite you to read this profile to give you a flavour of the people, the resources, the surroundings, and the potential there is to further develop God's work in this area. We have been given permission to call a Minister on a seven-year reviewable tenure.

Thank you for taking the time to consider the vacancy in Innerleithen Traquair Walkerburn Parish Church of Scotland.

Having reflected on the make-up of our congregation, the people we serve and those we hope to reach; our new minister will have a range of qualities.

We are looking for a minister:

- with a passion and a commitment to proclaiming the Gospel having a deep desire to see people grow in their faith and their commitment to Jesus as Lord;
- who is plain speaking and able to proclaim the message of the Gospel in a forthright and relevant way to modern life in the 21st century;
- who is a people person able to relate with folks of all ages and, while a leader, is also a team player;
- who will develop appropriate outreach strategies to engage with those currently outside the church, encouraging children and young families into our fellowship.

We believe it is vital that our new minister:

- is involved in our local communities and schools;
- continues to develop and support our pastoral care;
- is committed to developing innovative styles of worshipping which will be attractive and appropriate for young people;
- encourages and develops the talents and skills of our congregation and leads our church forward in the coming years.



MISSION STATEMENT

'WORKING TOGETHER IN CHRIST'

We seek to ***'Work Together in Christ'*** within our Church family, our communities and the world beyond.

INTRODUCTION

Background

The Parish of Innerleithen Traquair and Walkerburn is situated about 30 miles south of Edinburgh in the picturesque valley of the River Tweed between Peebles and Galashiels. It is a largely rural community centred around the small town of Innerleithen and the villages of Walkerburn, Traquair and Cardrona. Until the year 2000 there were three linked parishes; Innerleithen,



Traquair and Walkerburn. The three separate parishes then united to form the Parish of Innerleithen Traquair and Walkerburn. On 1st January 2018 we adopted a unitary constitution and have one Kirk Session. The parish population is around 5,000, with just under 3,000 living in Innerleithen.

Our minister retired in July 2018 which coincided with Presbytery putting ministerial vacancies on hold pending approval of the Presbytery Plan. We have now been given permission to call a new minister on a seven year reviewable tenure. During the vacancy the needs of the congregation have been met by our Locum Minister and Interim Moderator. Our Locum Minister is well known to the congregation, having worked as Pastoral Assistant for ITW 'Path of Renewal' project prior to being appointed Locum.

The settlements in the Parish initially grew around agriculture, tweed and woollen mills. Although the mills have now gone the area continues to thrive as an attractive place to live, with spectacular scenery and varied leisure activities.



There are good bus transport links along the east-west route to Galashiels/Carlisle/Berwick upon Tweed. There is a direct bus service to Edinburgh from Innerleithen as well as train on the recently opened Waverley line via Galashiels to Edinburgh and beyond. The majority of local employment is in

the service sector, whilst others choose to commute for employment.

History

Innerleithen was originally a small rural village which developed in the 18th century, first as a textile centre and secondly as a celebrated spa with its mineral springs. There is now a very small amount of knitwear produced in the town.

Traquair is a farming community (population around 380) centred around a scattered village but with roots that go far back in history to when the area was hunting ground for Kings of Scotland. There has been a place of worship at Traquair for over 900 years.

Walkerburn (population around 650) was a 'new town' in the 19th century with houses built around the textile mills to cater for the workers and their families after the mill opened in 1855. The mill is now closed with the buildings converted into small industrial units.

Cardrona, a new village in the parish, has been created in the last twenty years and there are around 1500 residents, the majority of whom commute to work in Edinburgh. Several of the residents have become members and travel to either Innerleithen or Traquair for worship.

WORSHIP AND PASTORAL CARE

Innerleithen, Traquair & Walkerburn

Sunday worship is held in Innerleithen Church, Traquair Kirk and Walkerburn Public Hall as follows:

- Joint Service in Innerleithen on the first Sunday in the month at 10.30am
- Remaining Sundays in the month service in Innerleithen at 11.30am
- Second and fourth Sundays, service at Traquair at 10am
- Third and fifth Sundays, service in Walkerburn Village Hall at 10am
- During July & August there is one service at 10.30am rotating between the three locations

Refreshments are served before or after all Sunday worship services and in the winter months a 'church lunch' follows the joint service on the first Sunday in Innerleithen.

In addition to the above, a short service 'Breakfast, Song & Story' is held in Innerleithen Church on the first Sunday of the month and in the six Summer Sundays. 'Breakfast, Song & Story' is conducted by an Elder.

In 2019 an inaugural service of 'Lives to Remember' was held in Innerleithen at the beginning of December for those who had been bereaved providing an opportunity for folks to come together. The service was well-attended and those who came to the service included families and individuals who don't normally attend regular worship.



St Ronan's Care Home & Mercer Court, Innerleithen

Regular worship services and communion are also provided at St Ronan's Care Home and Mercer Court Sheltered housing complex in Innerleithen. The former is led by an Elder.

Cardrona Village

Once a year a family Christingle service is held in Cardrona Village Hall and year on year this is well attended by families with young children.

Worship style

At Sunday worship we sing from CH4 or Mission Praise accompanied by an organist. When our organist retired in December 2019, a rota of organists was established and this is working well each Sunday. Duty Teams welcome all to worship. An Order of Service is printed which includes information on Congregational meetings and activities.

Innerleithen Church and Traquair Kirk have a sound system along with multimedia systems to enhance worship. PowerPoint is also used at Walkerburn Hall via a laptop and screen. Formal communion is celebrated three times a year in February, June and October. Informal communion is held at the minister's discretion.

Elders participate in and on occasion conduct Sunday services. Elders are also responsible for organising monthly worship on Sunday afternoon at St Ronan's Care Home, Innerleithen. Elders have pastoral responsibility for a district within the Parish. The Locum Minister visits Borders General Hospital and Hay Lodge Community Hospital, Peebles. Elders are encouraged to let the minister know when they or family members have been admitted to hospital.

The Minister is Chaplain to the two primary schools in the Parish. Children visit the Church for services at Christmas and Easter.



St Ronan's Primary School in Innerleithen Church with Rev Sara Embleton

Other Churches in the Parish and nearby

Other churches within the parish are St Andrew's Scottish Episcopal and St James Roman Catholic, both situated in Innerleithen. The Parish is within the Presbytery of Melrose and Peebles. Adjacent Church of Scotland charges are Caddonfoot linked with Trinity Galashiels. In Peebles - St Andrew's Leckie Memorial linked with Lyne and Manor; and, Peebles Old Parish linked with Eddleston.



Looking along Innerleithen High Street

CHURCH BUILDINGS

Innerleithen Church & Traquair Kirk



There are currently two church buildings and a modern manse. In 2005 because of rising costs, it was decided to sell both the Church in Walkerburn and the Church Hall in Innerleithen. The monies accrued, grants obtained and a huge fundraising initiative, allowed the completion of extensive repairs and alterations to Innerleithen Church, as well as refurbishment in Traquair Kirk. The building at Innerleithen now incorporates a welcoming Sanctuary with flexible seating, Hall of Friendship meeting space, meeting room, catering kitchen and disabled toilets. As well as the building being used for Sunday worship, it is used almost daily, mainly by members of the community.



Manse



The Manse is a substantial 4 bedroom family home set on a good size corner plot in a sought after area of Innerleithen. The property is in excellent condition with gas central heating and double glazing, good sized gardens, large driveway and garage. On the ground floor: large fitted kitchen, dining room, living room with windows facing the front and patio doors to the rear, study, utility room, large storage cupboard and downstairs toilet. On the first floor: family bathroom, master bedroom with fitted wardrobes and en suite shower room, two further double bedrooms with fitted wardrobes and a single bedroom with fitted wardrobe. The manse is currently let to a private tenant. The Kirk Session has agreed to install a new kitchen and upgrade the family bathroom with the new minister being involved in this.

Organisations using church premises

Royal Voluntary Service in the Hall of Friendship, Innerleithen Church, three days per week, providing lunch, fun, fellowship and transport to and from the church for elderly folk in the community.



Volunteers from the Rotary Club cook Christmas lunch for RVS folks in Hall of Friendship

A **Craft Group** for pensioners is held fortnightly on Tuesday afternoon in the Hall of Friendship. This is free to all senior citizens and is run under the auspices of the local authority.

Tea & Chat on Thursday mornings in the Hall of Friendship, Innerleithen Church and is a time for folks to catch up and have a blether. Refreshments and home baking are provided by a team of volunteers.

Countdown Club meets on Wednesday morning fortnightly in the small meeting room.

Innerleithen Guild meets fortnightly on Monday afternoon in the Hall of Friendship.

Melrose & Peebles Presbytery hold their meetings and occasional conferences in the Sanctuary in Innerleithen Church.

Concerts have been held in Innerleithen Church by Innerleithen Music Festival held annually, local choirs and St Ronan's Silver Band.

OUTREACH

In 2016 our congregation was chosen to be a Path of Renewal Church and this has resulted in outreach below.

Innerleithen Walkerburn, Traquair & Thondwe Community Partnership (Malawi)

One World Two Communities

The Thondwe Partnership was established in 2016 to promote mutual learning, development and friendship through partnership working. Funds are raised through donations and fund-raising events.

Partnerships include:

- Thondwe regional nurse together with St Ronan's Health Centre, Innerleithen
- No.1 Blantyre Road Café together with No.1 Café Innerleithen
- Thondwe CCAP church together with ITW Church of Scotland
- Number Six Hair Design (Innerleithen and Thondwe)
- IWT Rotary Club together with District 1020

Initiatives from 2016 to 2019 included:

- Funding of library block and staff room at Thondwe school. (IWT Rotary)
- Use of local labour, skills and materials from Thondwe community for above
- Refurbishment of houses for four teachers and their families
- St Ronan's school pupils invited to meet First Lady of Malawi in their visit to Scotland
- Church garden acquired by Thondwe and ITW churches and managed by the community which yielded sufficient harvest to provide 30/40 vulnerable families with maize during the 'hunger months'

- 'Days for Girls' which is an ongoing community project sewing reusable sanitary products for girls in Malawi (Innerleithen and Thondwe)



Group photo of participants in the chick4grannys project 2020

Initiatives in 2020 include:

- **chicks4grannys**- following an Easter appeal we had 3 people from the community come forward to sponsor 6 grannies who were each going to receive 5 vaccinated hens, a hen house, a cockerel for breeding purposes and training. After the first month in May the hens provided 132 eggs which will significantly improve the income and nourishment of the grannies and their dependents. The sponsors receive a monthly progress report.
- **Pay it Forward**-Six families have been given female goats as part of another exciting new programme called Pay it Forward. The goats should be pregnant and are expected to deliver their kids at the end of July. The first six families understand that the offspring will be given to the next group of families who have already been selected, so making the most of the first gift.
- **Church Sewing Group**-The Rotary club provided funding which was matched by the church to provide work for the women's sewing group

and 200 masks and 150 aprons for the local clinic and key workers. A hand-over ceremony was arranged on Saturday 20th June 2020.



Granny Dorothy

The success of this partnership approach has been recognised elsewhere and is being commended as a model for similar initiatives.

Tweeddale Youth Action (TYA) Group

Links have been developed with the TYA based in Peebles and Innerleithen. Over the last three years the 'Food Punks' have cooked and served an evening meal and quiz with around £1,000 being raised for youth group funds. The aim of the group is to purchase the building they currently rent, in order for them to have a permanent base locally. Some TYA members were tasked to design a small piece of sculpture that echoed the ancient stone known as the Runic Cross displayed in the old Session Room in Innerleithen Church. This piece of sculpture is now on display in Innerleithen Church.

St Catharine's Edinburgh

We have links with St Catharine's, Edinburgh. This is a homeless project run by Sister Aelred. Each year we collect good quality clothing for men and in

December, scarves, hats and gloves, which are transported to Edinburgh and distributed via St Catharine's.

Scottish Borders Family Centre

Our Gift Service is held on the first Sunday of December in Innerleithen when the congregation are asked to bring gifts for children. These are delivered to the Family Centre based in Galashiels and distributed by them to families who have been referred by the Social Work Department of Scottish Borders Council.

Peeblesshire Foodbank

We have a collection point for foodstuffs and other items in Innerleithen Church and keep the congregation advised of any shortages by publishing these in intimations. We have also made donations to the Foodbank by special collection.

Support for others

Over the past year ITW Parish Church supported: Church of Scotland HIV/AIDS project; Zomba – Midwife; Poppy Scotland; St Ronan's Silver Band; Peeblesshire Foodbank; Peebles Youth Trust, Mary's Meals, Scottish Borders Family Centre and Christian Aid.

The two Guilds also hold coffee mornings which support both church funds and nominated Guild project.

CHURCH ORGANISATIONS & STATISTICS

Statistics

There are 300 members as well as around 20 adherents. On average 70 attend services at Innerleithen, 25 at Traquair and 20 at Walkerburn. Some 100 contribute regularly through the weekly free will offering scheme or by standing order and some 70 have signed a Gift Aid declaration. The financial position of the congregation is sound. Over the past few years there has been a net surplus and each year the congregation meets its contribution to the wider work of the Church.

ITW Kirk Session

The Church adheres to the Unitary Constitution, adopted on 1st January 2018. The Kirk Session meets six times a year. The Safeguarding laws are strictly observed and a Safeguarding Co-ordinator and Safeguarding Committee are in place. There are 24 members of the Session. As well as pastoral matters, the Kirk Session receives reports from:

- Fabric & Finance Team
- Fellowship & Care Team
- Path of Renewal Mission & Outreach Team
- Presbytery Meetings from Elder representative

Church Prayer Group - which meets monthly in Innerleithen Church.

Fellowship and Care Team visit housebound elderly and make follow up bereavement visits. At Christmas cards are sent to those bereaved during the year.

Innerleithen and Walkerburn Guilds - meet over the winter months in Innerleithen Church fortnightly and Walkerburn Hall monthly.

Flower Group – deliver flowers on a Sunday to the sick and the housebound or as a means of saying thank you or to celebrate joyful events.

Catering Group – provide refreshments before or after worship, monthly church lunches and at other social events.



A few members of the catering group in the church kitchen

Church Magazine ‘New Horizon’ – is published quarterly and issued to every member on the Church Roll and uploaded to the ITW Facebook and website.

Administrative support – at present there is a member of the congregation who works a total of three hours per week.

Harnessing New Technology

In 2018 the Scottish Government set up the South of Scotland Economic Partnership – SOSEP the precursor to the present South of Scotland Enterprise Agency -SOSEA.

SOSEA has allocated £6.6m of funding to Borders College and Dumfries & Galloway College to work in partnership on a proposed ‘Digital Hub and Spoke Network’.

What is being built is a state-of-the-art network of Videoconferencing Rooms located in current College locations (hubs) and new external sites (spokes) including schools, charities, and businesses all across the South of Scotland. These Hubs and Spokes are designed to allow learners to access courses provided by College Lecturers and Trainers from a far wider range of locations.

In order to serve our local community’s young, and not so young, Learners, our church building at Innerleithen is in the process of being setup as a Digital Spoke. This has involved installing an Internet connection and Wi-Fi system in the building and installing into our Meeting Room,

- A large high definition digital display board,

- enterprise quality video cameras,
- room microphone and soundbar setup for high quality video and connectivity for laptops to screen share content.



To further move the Church into the digital age, the Kirk Session applied for, and received, a rebate of £3,500 on the church's Ministry and Mission contribution in order to install an enterprise quality Video Camera in the main church space of the Innerleithen building which, in conjunction with the audio system already in place, will allow live transmission of services, concerts and other gatherings to the congregation and wider community in their own homes.

This equipment will also allow Presbytery, which meets in our church building, to transmit its proceedings across the parishes which make up the Presbytery.

OUR COMMUNITIES

Local Communities

There are many activities happening throughout the year. In the third week in July the St Ronan's Border Games is one of the highlights in Innerleithen. The 'Games' have been running for 120 years and are centred around St Ronan (the Dux Boy of the local primary school) who legend has it 'cleiked' and rid Innerleithen of the Devil in the 8th century. This unique week long family celebrations starts on the Sunday with a Kirkin'



Ceremony in Innerleithen Church, attended by all the principals and concludes with an athletics meetings (reputedly the oldest meeting of its kind in Scotland, having commenced in 1827) on Saturday afternoon followed, in the evening, by a bonfire and fireworks on Caerlee Hill above the town. Walkerburn also have 'Festival Week' at the end of June each year with a Church service at the start of their family week.

Music

There are strong musical associations in the Parish with thriving Pipe and Silver Bands in Innerleithen. Both encourage youngsters to learn and perform by having dedicated youth sections. On occasion, the Silver Band leads worship in Innerleithen Church and also plays at local festivals and at the Carol Service following the switch on of Innerleithen's Christmas lights.



Innerleithen Amateur Operatic Society puts on an annual production – recent shows include ‘Sister Act’, ‘Fiddler on the Roof’, ‘My Fair Lady’. The Company has around 40 active members. There are similar numbers in the youth group (Kids Innerleithen Youth Theatre - KIYT - encouraging all aspects of stagecraft).

Still on the musical front, not only is there a choir called The Cheyne Gang, catering for folks with breathing difficulties (30+ members), but also The Traquair Choir (40+ members). Some residents travel to Peebles to sing with InChorus - another community choir.



There is an annual Music Festival with events held across various locations in the town, including Innerleithen Church, which is the main venue for workshops and concerts.



Sport

Innerleithen has a lovely nine-hole golf course, tennis courts, bowling green as well as two football teams. However, the emerging sport in the area is mountain biking and hundreds of enthusiasts come from all over to take advantage of the world-class Red Bull Mountain Biking Run on the edge of Innerleithen.



Walkerburn is much smaller but still boasts a rugby team, a bowling green and pétanque team.

Schools

Both Innerleithen and Walkerburn have one primary school in each community with a shared headship. Both schools provide education for Nursery to Primary 7. After primary school, children attend Peebles High School which is 6 miles away and takes in pupils from all of Peeblesshire. The minister is a regular visitor in both primary schools in the role of school chaplain. In Innerleithen the Primary 1 to Primary 7 pupils attend a Christmas and Easter service in the church, weather permitting. When the weather is bad the service is held in the school.

Health Services

St Ronan's Health Centre, Innerleithen provides primary health care. The practice includes GPs and District Nurses. Secondary health care is provided by the Borders General Hospital, Melrose (located approx. 17 miles from Innerleithen). The nearest dental practices are in Peebles and Galashiels.

Borders Crematorium

A recently constructed crematorium is located just off the A6091 near Melrose.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Thank you for reading the ITW Parish Profile. We would be very pleased to hear from you if you have an interest in finding out more about what God is doing here in Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn.

The Minister will be appointed on a 7-year reviewable tenure in accordance with the Melrose and Peebles Presbytery Plan.

Contacts

For informal enquiries please contact:

Interim Moderator and Convener of the Nominating Committee:

Revd Dr A Miller Milloy

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+44(0)7710-574606

or

Vice-Convener of the Nominating Committee:

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To submit an application and CV please contact:

Clerk to the Nominating Committee and Session Clerk:

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Website: www.itwcos.org (currently awaiting development)



Innerleithen Traquair and Walkerburn Parish Church

Scottish Charity No. SC001100