

Urquhart & Glenmoriston Parish Profile





**Through Worship, Prayer and Service, our purpose is
to give new life and hope in Jesus within our
fellowship and the community.**

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Last updated: December 2025

URQUHART & GLENMORISTON PARISH CHURCH



DRUMNADROCHIT



GLEN AFFRIC

INTRODUCTION

Urquhart & Glenmoriston is a large parish in one of the most beautiful parts of Scotland.

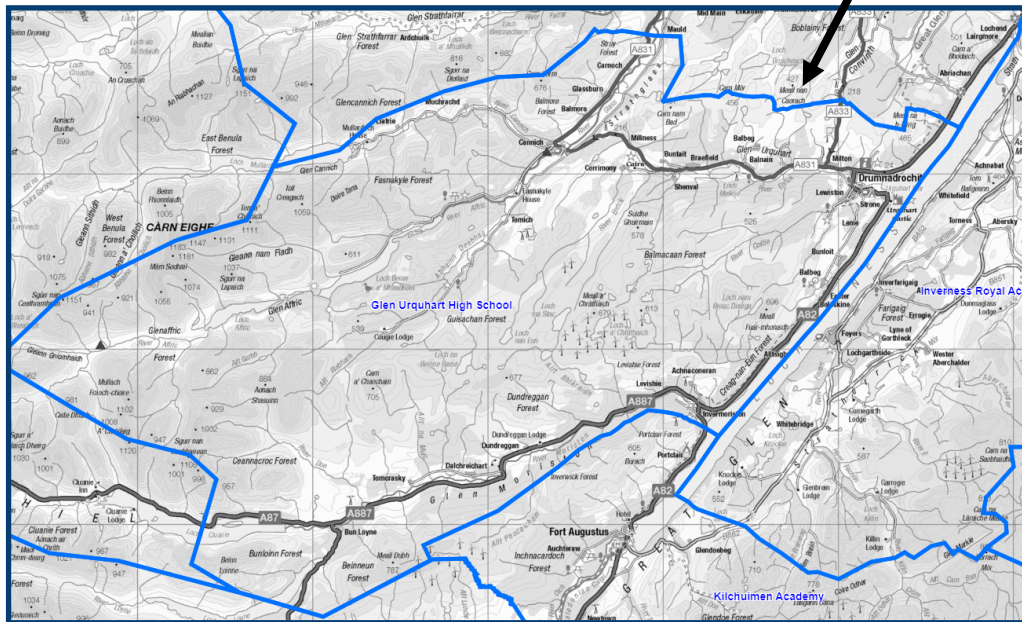
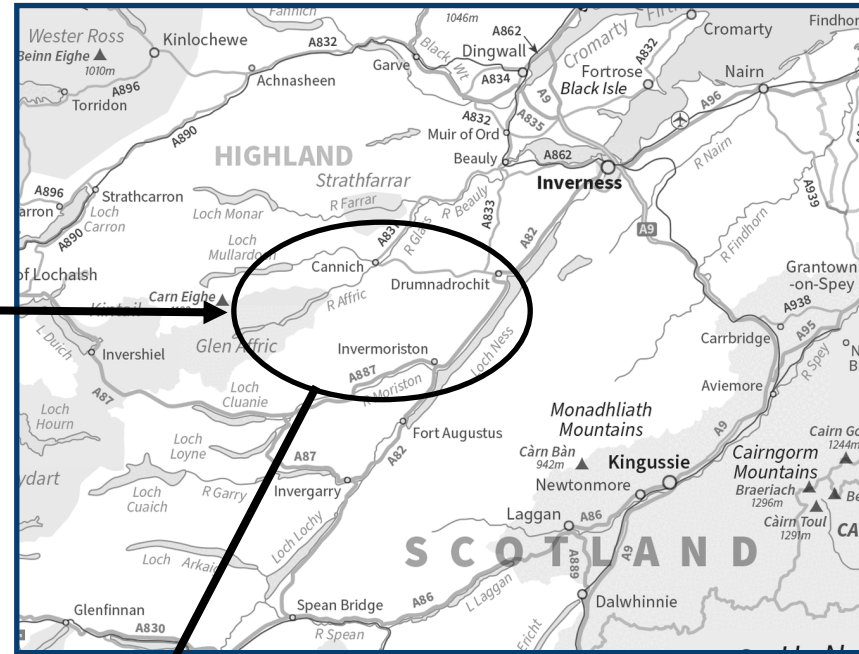
On the east is Drumnadrochit and the famous Loch Ness, to the west is the stunning Glen Affric, 14 miles north is Inverness and south is Invermoriston and Glen Moriston.

We are a growing community, both in numbers but also in our aspirations to ensure that this community is a great place to live, work and play.

Our last minister retired in 2023 and we have been blessed to be ministered by a retired minister who lives in the parish as well as elders and visiting ministers.

We are looking for a minister who will work with us to strengthen and inspire our work and witness, someone who will enjoy working collaboratively in a community full of potential.

Our congregation has received Presbytery permission to call a full time minister of Work and Sacrament under a seven year tenure, with the view that the parish will unite or link with Fort Augustus linked with Glengarry upon retirement of their present minister.



The parish boundary closely matches that of Glen Urquhart High School.

URQUHART & GLENMORISTON PARISH CHURCH



PARISH CHURCH

Through Worship, Prayer and Service, our purpose is to give new life and hope in Jesus within our fellowship and the community.

Urquhart & Glenmoriston Parish Church's vision is to engage with our wider community, build the church through outreach and share the relevance of the Christian faith to contemporary society.



STAINED GLASS WINDOW

Mission Context

We envisage engaging with our growing community, working with other community groups to address some of the challenges of providing worship to visitors and how we can all respond to environmental issues.

URQUHART & GLENMORISTON PARISH CHURCH



SUNDAY SERVICE



CHURCH CAMPUS

OUR CONGREGATION

As with many congregations in Scotland our number is small and ageing but we are steadfast and loyal. We have thrived on strong biblical ministry with much focus on prayer, although attendance at our weekly prayer meetings could be better. We have an active pastoral care team who visit members of the congregation and community. We have strong links with the other churches in the community and well maintained buildings that are used by a variety of groups.

The Communion Roll currently comprises 64 Members and 19 Adherents, with a number of others associated with the congregation.

Weekly attendance at worship fluctuates between 40 – 60, with larger congregations at Christmas, Easter, Remembrance and special services.

The age profile of the congregation is largely 50+, though we are encouraged by a number of children engaging with Sunday Club. We have been pleased to welcome new members this year, along with others who have renewed their commitment during the vacancy.

We are fortunate to have a full church campus, church, manse and hall, centrally located in the village of Drumnadrochit.

URQUHART & GLENMORISTON PARISH CHURCH



OUR KIRK SESSION



OUR CHURCH

The Kirk Session & Board

Our Kirk Session has five Elders, the most recent ordained in February. The Session regularly reviews the matter of new Elders. One Elder is the Safe-guarding Coordinator.

The Congregational Board has five members and the five elders.

There are no subcommittees of either court.

Local Church Review

The last church review was held in April 2019. The Nominating Committee sees the appointment of a new minister as an opportunity to continue this process and help lead us along the path God has set out for us.

Constitution

At present the congregation works with the Model Constitution with a Kirk Session and a Congregational Board, we will transition to the Unitary Constitution in the near future.

Our congregation has not departed from the Church's traditional position in respect of Ministers in civil partnership & same sex marriages.

URQUHART & GLENMORISTON PARISH CHURCH



LOCH NESS



FELLOWSHIP

WHO ARE WE LOOKING FOR?

Our parish is a large and rural one, with a growing population. Residents are employed in a mix of sectors including health/care, tourism, retail and agriculture. There is a growing number of people who work from home.

The parish is made up of a number of small settlements, the main ones being Drumnadrochit, Balnain, Corrimony, Cannich, Tomich and Invermoriston. The main settlement of Drumnadrochit is 14 miles from Inverness, the capital of the Highlands.

Would you enjoy living in and becoming part of our community?

We are looking for an enthusiastic and energetic minister who is a "people person", someone who could take on a leading role in growing and developing our congregation, with emphasis on all ages including children and young people.

What can we offer you?

Friendship, fellowship and support. Commitment to work together to sustain and grow our community using our faith, talents and experiences.

A willingness to adapt and to embrace new ways of worship which relate and appeal to the whole community.

We are hoping the appointment of the new minister will help us define where we are as a congregation and the direction of travel.

URQUHART & GLENMORISTON PARISH CHURCH



PARISH CHURCH



CHURCH HALL

HISTORY OF OUR PARISH

The Parish Church of Urquhart and Glenmoriston opened in its current location at Kilmore in October 1838. The building can seat several hundred and is the largest venue in the parish.

After the Free Church split in 1900 most of the congregation moved to the United Free Church and this necessitated the construction of a further church building in the community. The church at Kilmichael was completed in 1911 and after the 1929 Union both churches remained in use till 1987 when the decision was made to centre worship at the church at Kilmore. In 1992 the congregations of Glen Urquhart and Glenmoriston united and the church became known as the parish church of Urquhart and Glenmoriston.

A generous donation of land adjacent to the church enabled the construction of the church hall in 1992 and the manse in 1997.

URQUHART & GLENMORISTON PARISH CHURCH



HOLY WEEK



COMMUNION

WORSHIP LIFE

The Sunday family service at 10.30am has a mixture of praise styles, but an emphasis on the faithful preaching of God's Word.

The main focus of congregational worship is "to equip his people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up" [Ephesians 4:12], through Bible-based teaching, praise and prayer. At present the Locum Minister plans and prepares the worship, but members are involved in leading prayers, reading the lessons, and by taking parts in special services. "Drumbeat" is a weekly printed bulletin which carries the Order of Service, notices and intimations. Words of hymns are displayed on screens and appropriate videos and images are projected as required. The services are live-streamed on YouTube and CD copies made for members who can't attend church.

Music

The church possesses an organ and keyboard and is set up for other instruments should musicians be available. We presently have one organist, and with the media available to us, praise is sourced from a wide variety of Christian resources, and the congregation is regularly invited to submit requests to be included in the services.

Communion

There are three stated Communion services each year (February, June, November) with informal Communion services at New Year, Easter and Harvest.

URQUHART & GLENMORISTON PARISH CHURCH



MARRIAGES



CHURCH FLOWERS

Special services are arranged for Christmas, Holy Week, and Remembrance Sunday when the three local churches gather at the Parish Church. Over the past two years we have held a Christmas Tree Festival during the second weekend in advent, where local groups and schools have decorated a trees and the community has visited the church to see the trees.

We have a **pastoral care team** who visit members of the congregation as well as people within our community who may benefit from a visit. An annual service has been held for the recently bereaved in the past, and we would hope to revive this soon. Our present locum minister visits hospitals and care homes as required and is supported by the elders in all his commitments. Our hope is that a new minister will see the pastoral care development potential that this rapidly growing community provides.

Church flowers are delivered each week to members of the congregation or parish.

In the last 30 months there have been three **weddings** and one **baptism**.

Funerals offer a valuable opportunity for pastoral care to both the congregation and the parish. These number around 10 – 12 annually. Services may be held in the church and/or at the premises of Undertakers or at the Crematorium in Inverness. Interments may take place in the graveyard adjoining the church or at other graveyards in the district. The church building is also used by other denominations for larger funerals.

URQUHART & GLENMORISTON PARISH CHURCH



SUNDAY CLUB



BRIGHT SPARKS

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

A weekly **Sunday Club** for children is led by dedicated volunteers, but fluctuating numbers demands resourcefulness and adaptability.

The local **Scripture Union** group, which includes many from the congregation, and the other churches in Glenurquhart, organise a termly set of four sessions on Friday afternoons for school-age children, attracting around 10 – 20 youngsters for crafts, games and Bible teaching. These Bright Sparks sessions are led by 'Out of the Box', an Inverness-based Christian arts charity. This group hosted a summer holiday club in 2024 and 2025. The group also supports Scripture Union groups in local schools.

A thriving **Brownie Guides Pack** meets weekly in the Church Hall, and a pre-school toddlers group meets twice weekly: we endeavour to grow contacts with them both. The **Boys' Brigade** meets locally during school-terms with two groups; juniors (8-11 yrs) and company (11 - 14 yrs), both led by members of the Free Church.

Christian education for adults is conducted through the teaching programme of the Sunday services, and through occasional series as required. "Christianity Explored" has been used in the past.

Glenmen is a group of Christian men from all denominations in Glen Urquhart who meet regularly throughout the year to undertake Bible study and have informal fellowship over tea/coffee. At each meeting, there is a short presentation by a guest speaker covering a wide variety of topics.

URQUHART & GLENMORISTON PARISH CHURCH



ADOPT A CHILD



SHOEBOXES

WORLD CHURCH

The congregation values links with a number of missionaries and has very close links with Adopt-A-Child; an international Christian charity working in Albania and Guatemala which has its UK office in Inverness. Members of the congregation work for the charity, and they and others have made visits to those countries.

Our Sunday Club sponsors a child in Guatemala and the children enjoy sending and receiving letters.

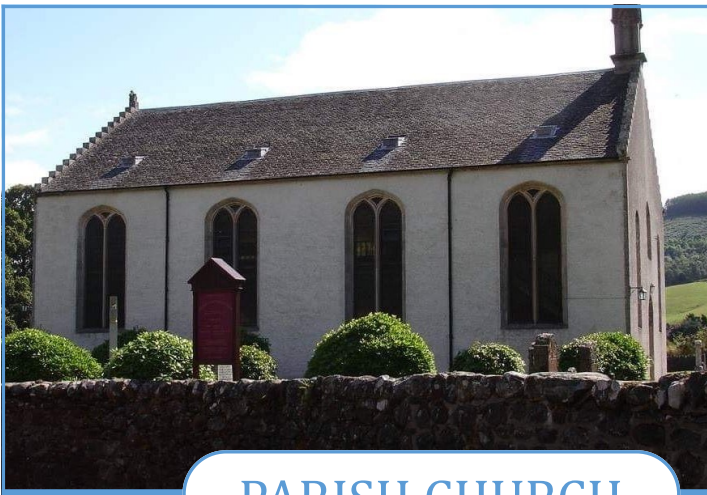
Through the Open House Group, the work of the Blythswood Charity is actively supported through sending 100 shoeboxes for Christmas gifts in 2024 and 2025.

Christian Aid and Tear Fund are supported through themed services and other events.

URQUHART & GLENMORISTON PARISH CHURCH



GALLERY VIEW



PARISH CHURCH

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

Extract from Urquhart and Glenmoriston Congregational Accounts for year ended 31st December 2024:

	General Funds	Designated Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
Closing Fund Balances	16367	15313	31680	30981

STAFFING

The congregation is served by the Session Clerk, a Clerk to the Board, and several willing and dedicated volunteers. At present, a Treasurer is employed from outwith the congregation.

Since July 2023 a retired resident minister has acted as Locum and Interim Moderator, ensuring a measure of continuity at a time of transition.

URQUHART & GLENMORISTON PARISH CHURCH



PRAISE ON THE GREEN



LOCH NESS MINSTER

URQUHART & GLENMORISTON CHURCHES TOGETHER

We are blessed to have good relationships with the two other denominational churches within the parish: Loch Ness Free Church of Scotland and St Ninian's Episcopal Church.

Monthly joint services are held in Balnain and Invermoriston. In the winter the Invermoriston service takes place in the Millennium Hall, and in the summer on the shores of Loch Ness, courtesy of local landowners.

Extra services are arranged for Easter and Christmas.

All three churches unite at the Parish Church for the Remembrance Day service.

As a congregation we are keen to explore more opportunities for increasing what we already do together.

Members from all Christian denominations come together for joint activities such as the monthly Community Lunch, Glenmen, the House Group and the local Scripture Union group.

URQUHART & GLENMORISTON PARISH CHURCH



URQUHART CASTLE



SHINTY

OUR COMMUNITIES

Our Parish is spread geographically over an area which includes three community council areas:

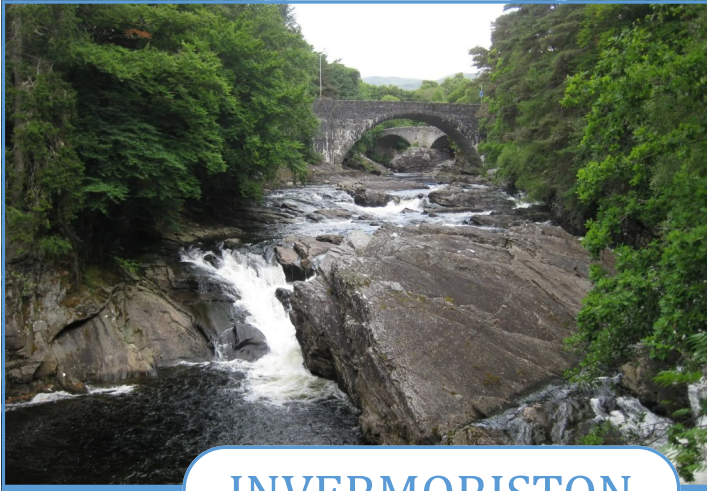
- Glen Urquhart – fully contained within the Parish
- Strathglass – partially contained within the Parish
- Fort Augustus and Glenmoriston – partially contained within the Parish, (the Glenmoriston part)

Glen Urquhart is a vibrant community with a real community spirit and home to around 2,100 residents. The main settlement is Drumnadrochit which is 14 miles from Inverness and is a popular tourism destination.

The Church is centrally located, close to the village hall (which is undergoing major transformation), a GP surgery, a pharmacy and post office, small supermarket and a number of cafes and restaurants. There are a number of sporting interests including shinty, football, bowls and many other groups. There are wonderful walks and cycle trails in the area and many places of interest including Urquhart Castle and Glen Affric. There is a smaller village hall in Balnain.

There is a 6 year High School in Drumnadrochit servicing Drumnadrochit, Balnain, Cannich and Invermoriston. Primary Schools are in Drumnadrochit, Balnain and Cannich, and a childcare centre in Drumnadrochit. We also have a Day Care Centre for the elderly in the village.

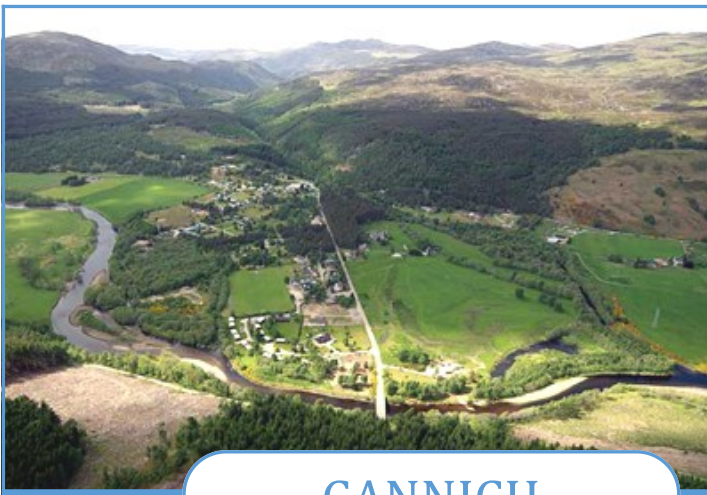
URQUHART & GLENMORISTON PARISH CHURCH



INVERMORISTON

Glenmoriston stretches some 16 miles west from Loch Ness, with a present population of around 300. There is a vigorous community life centred around halls at Invermoriston and Dalchreichart; there is a hotel and a community-owned shop in Invermoriston. The glen is home to various hydro-power stations, wind farms, a salmon-hatchery, and the Dundreggan Rewilding Visitor Centre. Farming, forestry and tourism are important to the glen, with the main route to Skye passing along its length.

Having once had a rich Christian heritage, both the Free Church and the Church of Scotland churches have been closed for over 30 years. The Parish of Glenmoriston was united with Urquhart in 1992. We would like to build stronger connections with this part of our parish.

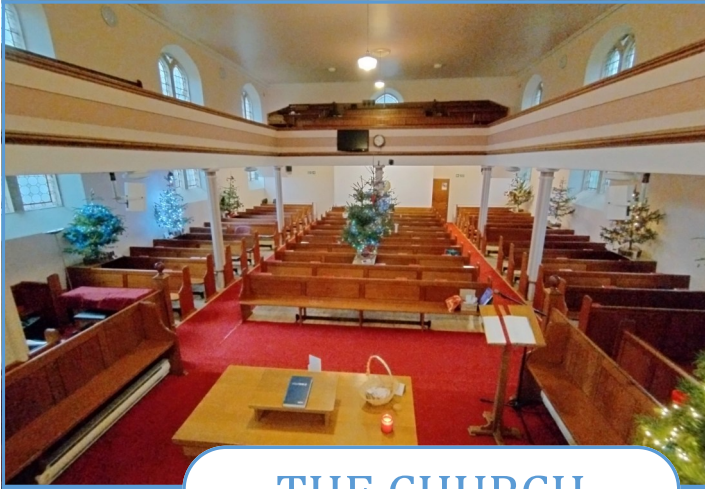


CANNICH

Cannich is the main settlement in Strathglass, about 26 miles west of Inverness and 10 miles west of Drumnadrochit. It is the gateway to the beautiful Glen Affric and home to Strathglass Shinty Club. Cannich has a camping and caravan park, a chalet park, village store and several B&B's. There is a village Hall here and a primary school which feeds the Glen Urquhart High School.

Whilst Cannich is not technically in our parish, following the closure of the church in the village, we have a members and adherents resident there.

URQUHART & GLENMORISTON PARISH CHURCH



THE CHURCH



CHURCH HALL

PROPERTIES

The Parish Church is a galleried building accommodating 400 and is the largest venue in the district. It is filled to capacity when used for services for the local schools. One of the biggest costs to the Parish is the cost of heating the building, the current heating is under pew electric heaters. A survey has recently been carried out by Business Energy Scotland, their report has given us suggestions for improvements which can be made to the fabric and energy efficiency of the building in order to reduce its running costs.

A modern **Church Hall** built around 30 years ago, stands in its own grounds adjacent to the church with a path linking the two sites. The hall grounds have a good-sized car park. There is disabled access to the hall. The hall is in good condition and well maintained.

The building consists of one main hall which can be divided into two separate areas with a sliding screen. There are three small rooms off the main hall, a small well-equipped kitchen, an additional room off the entrance hall and toilets (gents, ladies and disabled).

The hall is well used by a variety of church and community groups, Brownies, Toddlers', Open House, Community Lunch group, Glenmen, Midweek Prayer Meeting and Local Farmers Market. During the refurbishment of the village hall even more groups are using our hall.

We often have coffee mornings and soup lunches to raise funds for various Christian charities e.g. Christian Aid, SU, Adopt-a-Child. Many of these events are run jointly with the other Churches in the community which helps to strengthen the strong bonds between us.

URQUHART & GLENMORISTON PARISH CHURCH



COFFEE & CHAT

PROPERTIES (cont'd)

Every Sunday after the Church service, we serve teas, coffees and soft drinks which is well attended by our Church family giving us the opportunity to build on and develop existing friendships and is also an opportunity to warmly welcome the many visitors who attend our Church services.

The Church and hall are kept clean through a rota of valued and willing volunteers from the congregation.



THE MANSE

The manse was constructed in 1997 and is a modern building located next to the church hall with its own private drive access. The Manse has five bedrooms, two bathrooms, lounge, dining room, library, large kitchen and utility room. It has a garden which is laid mainly to lawn with two sheds and a double garage. It is heated by oil central heating and has solar panels for generating energy.

URQUHART & GLENMORISTON PARISH CHURCH



FIND OUT MORE

For an informal chat and to find out more about us, please contact our interim moderator:

Rev Dr Adrian Varwell

adrian.varwell@btinternet.com

HOW TO APPLY

Please send any application with CV and covering letter to the Nominating Committee Clerk:

Graham Fraser

Email: vacancyclerk@lochnesschurch.org

For more information

Urquhart & Glenmoriston Parish Church

Website: www.lochnesschurch.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LochNessChurch>



www.churchofscotland.org.uk (Statistics for Mission page)

www.gurca.co.uk

www.glenurquhartcommunitycouncil.org.uk/

URQUHART & GLENMORISTON PARISH CHURCH



OUR MANSE



URQUHART & GLENMORISTON PARISH CHURCH



THE STUDY

