

Introduction



Kiltarlity linked with Kirkhill is in the Presbytery of Inverness.

On the south side of the Beauly Firth the village of Kirkhill lies on the north side of the A862. Its neighbour Kiltarlity lies about four miles further on, nearer Beauly, on the south side of the A862 off the A833.

Both villages are within 10 miles of the outskirts of Inverness.

These two parishes are rural in nature with farming and some forestry, crofts, a winery and a variety of other small industries.

The two churches are in the villages of Kiltarlity and Kirkhill, but the parishes also encompass smaller hamlets such as Bunchrew, Lentrane, Inchmore, Foxhole, Loaneckheim, Cabrich etc. Bunchrew is only 4 miles from Inverness.



Kiltarlity parish is bounded on the north and west by the Parish of Kilmorack and Erchless (centred on Beauly and Cannich), on the east by its linked parish of Kirkhill and on the south by the Parish of Urquhart and Glenmoriston (along Loch Ness, centred on Drumnadrochit). All four parishes are within the bounds of the Presbytery of Inverness.

Kirkhill parish stretches from Bunchrew to Kirkhill. On the east, Inverness Kinmylies is its neighbouring parish. The village of Kirkhill has benefited from the growth of Inverness as people realise the advantages of living in a rural environment but yet within a few miles of a city.

Both Kiltarlity and Kirkhill have local primary schools. Charleston Academy in Kinmylies is the nearest Secondary School. There is a good bus service and there is also a railway station at Beauly. The Highland Theological College resides in the nearby town of Dingwall.



A modern manse for the linked parishes is situated beside Kirkhill Church just off the main road through the village in a relatively secluded setting.

The rural nature of the area coupled with the friendliness of the people and a virtually crime free environment have made both parishes attractive places to live. As one of the fastest growing communities within the Highlands there is much that appeals to locals and visitors alike.

Our Churches

Kiltarlity

Kiltarlity is named after the Church of St. Talorgain or Talarican. Granted by John Bisset to his newly founded hospital of Rathven, the church of Kiltarlity was confirmed to the uses of the hospital in 1226. In the following year the church was recognised as lying within the diocese of Moray. The patronage thereafter remained annexed to Rathven, its revenues being utilised with those of the hospital and its other annexes to found a prebend of Aberdeen Cathedral in 1445.





The parish of Kiltarlity was much smaller than that of Convinth, and included the lands of Eskadale, Fanellan, Culburnie. The medieval kirk of Kiltarlity, the ruins of which still exist, lay on the south bank of the River Beauly, just below the Falls of Ess (now the site of a hydro-electric power station), and close by the medieval kirk of Kilmorack, which stood on a bluff on the north side of the river above the same falls.

The present parish kirk of Kiltarlity & Convinth is at Tomnacross (Kiltarlity), formerly in Convinth parish.

Kiltarlity and Convinth parishes were united c.1500 (Fasti 468), and the parish today is usually referred to simply as Kiltarlity.

Former Ministers of Kiltarlity

Kiltarlity and Glen Convinth (or, Conveth) were united about 1500

1561 George Hay	1823 Colin Fraser
1574 Robert Makrudder (or Macgregor)	1855 David Ross
1576 John Wright	1892 Archibald MacDonald (East)
1592 Donald Dow Fraser	1921 Donald MacDonald (West)
1618 William Fraser	1932 Rev John Macara(East,united 1938)
1667 Hugh Fraser	1943 Rev Donald John MacDougall
1716 Patrick Nicolson	1966 Rev Robert (Robin) M Gilmour
1761 Malcolm Nicolson	1982 Rev Campbell MacKinnon
1792 John Fraser	2002 Rev Fraser K Turner
1800 Patrick Grant	2007 Vacant
1808 Ronald Bayne	

Kirkhill

The parish of Kirkhill, in Moray, Scotland, was formerly called Wardlaw, because the garrison of Lovat were accustomed to keep watch or ward on the law or hill.

Wardlaw church stood originally at Dunballoch (NH524449). Early in the 13th century it was transferred to a hillock then called Balcabrac, which was the Ward-law or Watch-hill for the Lovats.

The site of this church was abandoned in 1790, and is marked by the Lovat Mausoleum (Fasti 471). It was dedicated to St Mary, and the hill on which Wardlaw kirk was built is known as Cnoc Mhuire (Fasti 471).

Wardlaw was united with Farnway to form the parish of Kirkhill in 1618 (Wardlaw MS, Introduction, xv; also Fasti 471, which gives the date of the union as 14 July 1618; there is nothing in APS about this union, while Rev. James Fraser states that the union occurred in 1614 (Wardlaw MS, 186)).

The parish kirk of the new united parish remained on the Ward Law, moving in 1790 from its medieval site to its present site nearby.

The parish church of St Mary, Farnua (Farnaway, Fearnaie), stood at Kirkton, Bunchrew, where there are still some remains of the churchyard. This graveyard was originally much larger than the present enclosure and many skeletons have been found over the years beyond the wall. There is a fragment of the old church incorporated into the present wall - possibly part of the old east gable.

Former Ministers of Kirkhill

At the Union of Wardlaw and Farnua 14th July 1618 The name Kirkhill was given to the parish

1574 Donald Dow Fraser (or Donald Dow Macintaggart)	1848 Ewan MacKenzie
1580 William Dow Fraser	1889 Charles Donald Bentinick
1606 Bartholomew Robertson	1907 Peter MacGregor
1611 John Houston	1912 Neil MacLellan
1661 James Fraser	1917 Kenneth McLean
1717 Robert Thomson	1943 Hugh Mackinnon
1770 George Mark	1946 Donald Macdonald
1773 Alexander Fraser	1954 Alexander Fraser
1802 Donald Fraser	1967 John Ross Maclean
1837 Alexander Fraser	1975 Colin Mackenzie
1843 Alexander McNaughton	1982 Campbell Mackinnon
	2002 Fraser Turner

Church Services

Sunday Morning worship is held at Kirkhill church at 10.30am and thereafter at Kiltarlity Church at 12noon.

Communion: There are two Communion Sundays in each church.

- Kiltarlity: First Sunday of March and October, with a Preparatory Service on Thursday evening at 7.30pm.
- Kirkhill: Second Sunday of May and the third Sunday of November, with a Preparatory Service on Friday evening at 7.30pm. There is a Thanksgiving Service in the evening of these two Communion Sundays at 6.30pm .

Every Easter Sunday there is a joint service with Communion; this alternates between the two churches. In 2008 it will be at Kirkhill at 10.30am. In 2009 it will be at Kiltarlity at 12noon.

Remembrance Sunday: worship starts at Kirkhill at 10.00am with a short service at

the War Memorial at 11.00am. Worship at Kiltarlity is at the usual time of 12 noon with a short service at their War Memorial in the village at 1.30pm.

Christmas Eve: There is a Watch-night service at both churches at 11.30. The Minister conducts one, the elders the other alternate years.

Church Organisations

The Guild: meetings are held in Kirkhill Church from October to March on the second Wednesday of the month.



The Sunday School: both churches have small but healthy Sunday Schools. The children join the congregation for the early part of the service and then depart for their own activities.

Tomnacross Church Club: this Kiltarlity group is for ages 12 upwards and attends Church also, before going out for their own activities.

Alpha: there has been a strong Alpha group meeting at Kirkhill this year to the benefit of both churches.



Church Website

A Joint Church Website has recently been established and is under even further development. The address is www.kiltarlityandkirkhill.org.uk

The Presbytery of Inverness web site also contains a link to this website. Its address is www.invernesspresbytery.co.uk

Electoral Roll

There are sixty people on the electoral roll, compiled for the vacancy, on both the Kiltarlity and Kirkhill Church electoral rolls. Of these, recently, six new members had been added to the Kirkhill Roll and two at Kiltarlity with more it is hoped to follow.

Parish Statistics

The population of Kiltarlity parish is 1200 approximately and for Kirkhill 1600 approximately.

Primary School Rolls 2007
Kirkhill Primary – 157 children
and 39 in the Nursery (ages 3 &4)
Tomnacross Primary (Kiltarlity)
90 children with 28 in Nursery.

Primary School Rolls 2008
Kirkhill Primary - 158
and 35 in the Nursery (ages 3 &4)
Tomnacross Primary (Kiltarlity)
90 children with 28 in the Nursery.

Church Statistics

Church membership - Communicants Roll:

Kiltarlity 2007 – 35 2008 – 36 plus Supplementary Roll 5 Adherents Roll 25

Kirkhill 2007 – 60 2008 – 67 Adherents Roll 12

Number of Baptisms	2007: Kiltarlity 2 Kirkhill 1 2008: Kiltarlity 7 Kirkhill 3
Number of Weddings	2007: Kiltarlity 1 Kirkhill 2 2008: Kiltarlity 3 Kirkhill 4
Number of Funerals	2007: Kiltarlity 3 Kirkhill 2 2008: Kiltarlity 4 Kirkhill 3

Community Life

Both Villages have Community Centres. Both are relatively new. Both villages still have a Post Office, though this may shortly change.

There is a shinty pitch at Kiltarlity and a tennis court and football pitch at Kirkhill.

A number of other recreational opportunities are available in both villages.

To list what is known:

Lovat Shinty Club, Scouts, Cubs and beavers, Badminton, Senior Citizens Club, Highland Dancing, Bowling, SWRI, Playgroup, Community Council etc.
Golfing and fishing are also available locally as are coastal and forest walks.



Church Constitution:

Both linked churches have a Deacons' Court Constitution.

Office Bearers:

Interim Moderator - Rev Reg Campbell B.D., B.Sc. Tel. 01463-772242

E-mail: campbell578@btinternet.com

Kiltarlity:

Session Clerk - Mrs Marie Harvey Tel. 01463-741328

E-mail: marie.harvey6@btinternet.com

Clerk to Deacon's Court - Mr Hamish D Mclelland Tel. 01463-741312

E-mail: ham9198@hotmail.com

Treasurer - Mr Ian D Morrison Tel. 01463- 782727

Kirkhill:

Session Clerk - Mrs Maris Elkin Tel. 01463-831590

Clerk to Deacon's Court - Mr Simon Fraser Tel. 01463-831238

Treasurer - Mr John Finlayson Tel. 01463-231289

Mission Statement:

“The vision
of the Church of Scotland is to be a
church
which inspires the people of Scotland
and beyond
with the Good News
of Jesus Christ
through
enthusiastic,
worshiping,
witnessing,
nurturing,
and serving communities.”