

## *Kippen linked with Norrieston*



# Worship and Church Life

## The linked charge

	Kippen	Norrieston
<b>Kirk Session</b>		
Male	10	7
Female	7	4
<b>Guild</b>		
Male	1	-
Female	20	12
<b>Choir</b>	7	Special Services
<b>Sunday Worship</b>	11.15 am	10.00 am
<b>Communicants Roll</b>	224	115
<b>Average Attendance</b>	35-45	25-30
<b>Communion</b>	2	2

**Joint Services** Both congregations have slightly reduced Summer Services during the months of July & August with a joint service being held on the last Sunday of July in Kippen and the last Sunday of August at Norrieston. Also the Good Friday Service alternates each year between the churches.

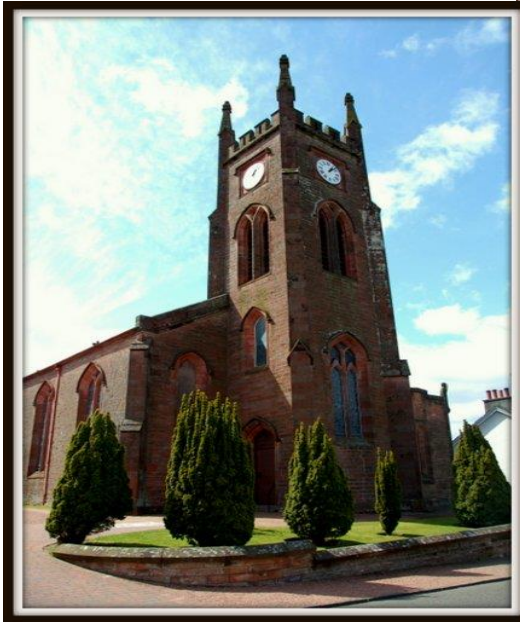
In addition leading up to Easter and Advent we come together with two other linked charges in the west of the Carse as "6 Churches Together" to enjoy Sunday evening joint services and Saturday morning Lenten walks and an early Easter Morning gathering.

**Bible Study Group**      *A small group of a dozen people from both congregations meet to study and learn biblical truth clearly with relevance to today's issues.*

**Manse**                      *There is a bungalow Manse at Kippen with its own grounds and entrance but can also be accessed through the extensive Church gardens.*



# Kippen Parish Church



## The Church & Village

The village of Kippen (pop. approx. 1,500), is set in a beautiful landscape overlooking the Carse of Stirling with breathtaking views across the valley to the Trossachs. It owes much to the building in the 1700s of the military road from Stirling to Dumbarton as it lay at the junction between this and a traditional drove route south over the hills to Fintry.

Kippen's church was first mentioned in public records in the 1300s, though by this time it had been used as the burial place for the Earls of Menteith for many generations.

The earliest buildings in Kippen today date back to the late 1600s and early 1700s and are gathered around the mercat cross and war memorial to the north of the main junction in the village. The remains of the nearby Old Kirk of Kippen date back to 1691, while the Black Bull Inn (now a private house) was built as a coaching inn in 1729. Also close by is the Smiddy, now in the care of the National Trust for Scotland.

Our picturesque and historic centre has easy connections to Glasgow, Stirling and Edinburgh. There is a mix of old and new housing which enjoy top rated local primary and secondary school, excellent health facilities and a small number of shops that supply most daily needs. There is a range of social, sporting, leisure and interest groups appealing to all ages. Also there are annual village events such as the Street Fayre, Flower Show and the Big Whist Cancer Appeal.

There is a Friends of Kippen Church Trust with a wide support to assist with the maintenance of the historic aspects of the fabric of the building. It is a recognition that the Church is a focal point within village life even amongst those who choose not to attend.

## **Guild**

There are about twenty members including one male member. There are monthly meetings to which non-members are invited. We enjoy many varied speakers and activities. Leadership is shared amongst the committee and frequently neighbouring Guilds are invited to come along.

## **Youth Organisations**

Although there are no youth organisations at present in the church there is a Beavers/Cubs pack in the village who join with the congregation on Remembrance Sunday.

## **Primary Schools**

The primary school has approximately 120 pupils and has a good relationship with the church with the minister welcomed to give a short morning service on an agreed basis. School end of term services are held in the church and there is also an evening School Christmas concert held at Kippen.

## **Cappuccino Chatter & Otago Exercise**

A weekly coffee morning on a Wednesday morning is attracting a growing attendance from villagers outwith the church membership.

A recent innovation is an Otago mobility exercise class run by Active Stirling which precedes the coffee and is providing more thirsty chatterers.

## **Church House**

There is a Church House attached to the Church at Kippen normally used as a large meeting room but on occasions as a smaller sanctuary for worship e.g. Maundy Thursday evening service.



The village also has a community/sports halls and a reading room which are both independent of the church.

## **World Mission PartnerPlan**

We are just one small part of those who make up the PartnerPlan supporting Keith & Ida Waddell in their work in the Mission Hospital and School in Livingstone, Zambia.

## **Traidcraft, Christian Aid & the Foodbank**

There is a monthly Traidcraft stall after Sunday worship, the annual house to house Christian Aid collection as well as donations for the Stirling Foodbank.

# Norrieston Parish Church



## ***The Church & Village***

Norrieston is a quoad sacra parish formed in 1878 and lies within the civil parish of Kincardine in Menteith. Norrieston parish (approx. 70 sq. miles) consists mainly of the village of Thornhill (pop. approx. 500) and outlying farming areas. Thornhill is one of the earliest planned villages in Scotland, having been established in 1696.

### **Church**

The present church was built in 1879 and replaced a former building dating from around 1650. Extensive repairs have been carried out on the fabric in 1995 and 2013 and so a relatively maintenance-free period of years is anticipated.

### **Church Hall**

The hall was originally Norrieston Free Church, built in 1844. It was extensively renovated in 1969 and is in very good condition.

### **Kirk Session**

Seven male and four female elders with a mix of professional and farming backgrounds.

### **Congregational Board**

As we use the Model Constitution we have a Congregational Board to deal with fabric and financial matters. It consists of eleven elders and six elected members.

### **Congregation**

Norrieston has a caring, friendly and very supportive congregation. We have a monthly Traidcraft stall after worship, when tea, coffee and further fellowship can be enjoyed. We support the Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal at Christmas and organise and collect for

Christian Aid in May. We regularly donate items of food to the Stirling Food Bank. Members of the congregation run the monthly Thornhill Market, a popular community meeting place where tea, coffee, home baking and light lunches are enjoyed by many regulars.

### **Services**

Morning service is at 10 a.m. Communion is celebrated on the third Sundays of May and November at 9:50 a.m. The present arrangement for Armistice and Christmas Eve Watchnight services is that the minister officiates in each Church in alternate years with pulpit supply in the other Church.

### **Choir**

Part-time choir, brought together for special services, e.g. Christmas, Easter and Communion. There is also a very able organist to lead the praise.

### **Youth**

Sadly, there are no youth organisations at this time. There is a Brownie Pack in the village which, on occasion, comes to Church.

### **Guild**

There are about twelve members, all female. There are monthly meetings to which non-members, including men, are invited. Leadership is shared amongst members and numbers are augmented by the happy arrangement of regularly inviting neighbouring Guilds to come along.

### **School**

The Primary School in the village has about seventy pupils. It has a good relationship with the Church and the minister is always made welcome. End of term services are held in the Church.

### **Village**

In the village there is one general store and newsagent, a well-used community hall, a drama group, Women's Rural, badminton club, accordion and fiddle group, two hotels, village market, Brownie Group, annual flower show, gala day, playgroup and mother and toddlers group. There is a strong community spirit in the village.

## **OUR VISION STATEMENT**

The kind of Church we want to be is incorporated in our Vision Statement:-

*“A friendly Church where people of all ages are welcomed and valued.*

*A joyful Church that worships and prays together.*

*A listening Church that teaches about important issues of faith and life.*

*A committed church that encourages all its members to be involved.*

*A caring Church that is a happy, safe and progressive environment for all ages.*

*An outgoing Church that serves the whole community.*

*A believing Church that makes Jesus central to all its activities.”*

## **WE SEE THE AIMS OF THE MINISTRY AS**

*Proclaiming the good news of the Gospel; carrying out pastoral duties with care and commitment; encouraging teamwork and the use of members' gifts; making the Church and its message relevant in our communities with their varied backgrounds and cultures; and building links with other local Churches.*

### **Scottish Charity Names and Numbers:**

*Kippen Parish Church of Scotland. No.SC004286  
Norrieston Parish Church of Scotland. No.SC028719*