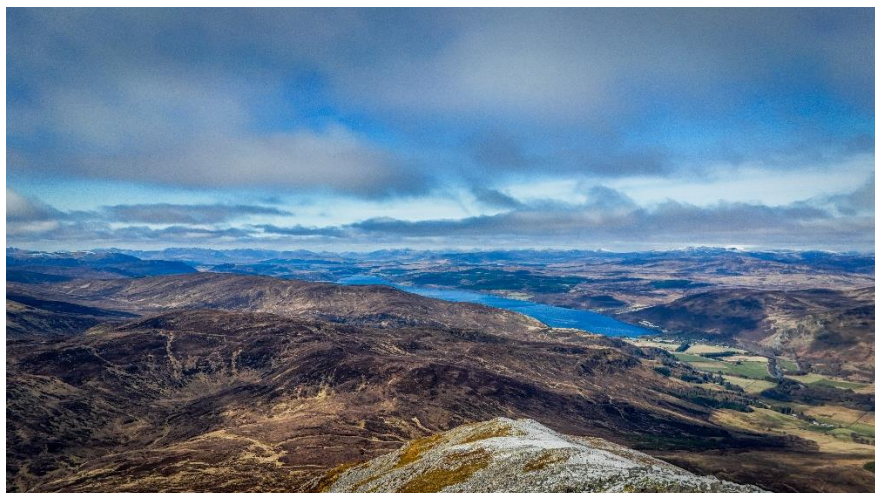


Welcome to the
Parish Profile
of the
Churches of Loch
Tay and Glenlyon
with Rannoch



**Loch
Rannoch**

**If you were our new
Minister, you could be
living in beautiful Highland
Perthshire and enjoying
serving God in the wonders
of His creation, with some
great people! Welcome!**

**Loch
Tay**



Introduction to our Linked Charge

We are delighted you are reading our Profile. Our hope is that you will be inspired by what you read and will sense a 'call' to explore the possibility of joining us on our new adventure.

On the first of January 2025, the united church in the Loch Tay and Glenlyon area of Perthshire was linked with the new church in Rannoch, recently created from uniting the congregation of Braes of Rannoch church with that of Foss and Rannoch.

Now that a clear and amicable new linked charge has been formed by joining two enthusiastic church families from either side of Schiehallion, the opportunity to seek a minister after years of waiting has thankfully arrived. And the good news is that it is based on an **unrestricted tenure**.

Most importantly there is growing anticipation amongst both congregations as we wait expectantly to see whom God has in mind to lead our churches forward.

Our story will unfold as you read this document, and we hope it will enthuse and appeal. There is no doubt we are very enthusiastic about meeting the person God is preparing to lead these two 'families of God's people', living, serving, worshipping and witnessing in this part of Highland Perthshire.

Throughout this Profile we have merged information from both halves of the charge, describing the specifics of both parishes but also reflecting many common traits and characteristics found in both localities.

Contents of the Profile

- 1. Setting the scene**
- 2. How did the vacancy occur?**
- 3. Map of the area**
- 4. Current normal Sunday worship**
- 5. Our new Minister**
- 6. Perth Presbytery Mission Plan 2025**
- 7. Our Church properties in regular use**
- 8. The Manse**
- 9. Aspects of local life around our churches**
- 10. Other facts and details of interest**
- 11. What about the future?**
- 12. And finally.....**

Plus, appendices, Basis of Linking and summary accounts.

Setting the Scene

Our parishes are set in the genuine heart of Scotland within a landscape of outstanding natural beauty where the lochs, rivers and mountains are much admired by locals and visitors alike. Ben Lawers, Ben Alder and Schiehallion provide opportunities for hillwalkers while Loch Tay, Loch Rannoch and Loch Tummel are perfect for water-sports enthusiasts. For the less active, visitors can enjoy the wonderful views.



Looking up Glenlyon

The local villages are rural in their settings while Aberfeldy and Pitlochry are the nearest towns. Both offer all the amenities required, a wide range of shops and supermarkets. There are Health Centres in both Rannoch and Aberfeldy, while Pitlochry and Aberfeldy have dental surgeries. Buses operate in both towns with railway connections in Pitlochry. Rannoch Station, at the extreme west end of the parish, is on the West Highland Line, linking Glasgow with Mallaig. The wider general area is served by regular bus services.

The nearest hospital is in Perth where the Scottish Charity Air Ambulance is stationed, and our area is fortunate in having a local team of first responders.

As may be expected, where tourism has supplanted agriculture and forestry as the main industry, there are many hotels and restaurants in the local area. Our churches, too, benefit from the influx of visitors during the tourist season and other holiday periods. Visitors are made very welcome at all our services.

Like many rural areas in Scotland there has been a major social change over the last 35 years. While many houses have been bought as retiral properties or second homes, the recent Government legislation on this matter may well be seen to benefit those wanting to live and work in the area.



Beautiful scenery around the whole area

Around the villages, and across the total area covered by the charge, the network of minor roads links the sparsely populated countryside of 700 people in the Rannoch area and 800 in Fortingall, Kenmore and Glenlyon.

How did the vacancy occur?

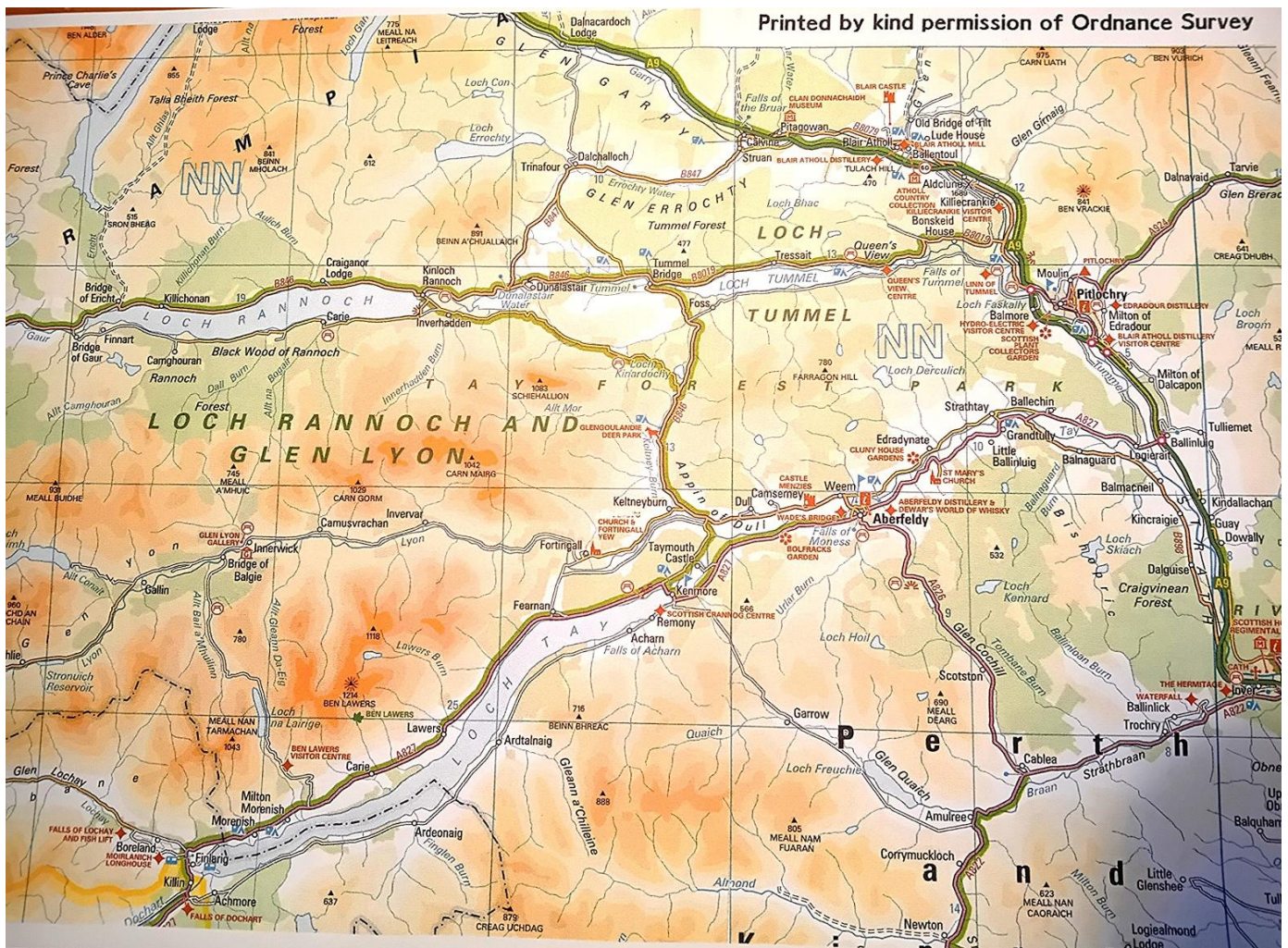
The last full-time minister in Rannoch dates back to 2014 and in Fortingall and Kenmore to 2019. Since then, the Christian presence in the area has been led by gifted ordained local ministers.

Both churches operate with a Unitary Constitution. There are 10 elders in Loch Tay and Glenlyon with 4 ladies and 6 men, and 8 elders in Rannoch made up of 5 ladies and 3 men. The average age in both cases tends towards the over sixty-fives.

The Electoral Register for Rannoch stands at 79 (members and adherents) while at Loch Tay and Glenlyon the similar figure is 81.

On the 13th March 2025, the Service of Union for the two Rannoch churches and the Linkage with Loch Tay and Glenlyon Church were both celebrated in Rannoch Church and confirmed by Presbytery.

Area Map covering the new charge of Loch Tay and Glenlyon with Rannoch



Current normal Sunday Worship

Currently we have two services each Sunday morning using a traditional Church of Scotland format.

At **10am**, worship is currently held in either **Fortingall Church** or **Kenmore Kirk**, where there is a congregation of between 25 and 35 worshippers. We have 5 Communion services annually, 2 in each of the churches plus Easter Sunday.

In **Rannoch**, the service is at **12 noon** to enable both services to be covered by the same preacher travelling between the two venues. The normal numbers vary between 18 and 25 but can rise to 30 with visitors. Communion is held 4 times a year.

The age demographic is broadly similar in both churches with a relatively high percentage over 65. However, we are seeing a small trickle of younger new adherents worshipping at **Rannoch** which is quite encouraging.

Music in both congregations is provided by organ or electric piano using CH4 in the main with occasional supplementation from other sources. We are very fortunate, in both churches, to have willing and gifted organists. Special Services are held at the appropriate times of the year - Christmas, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance.

At both church services, fellowship and sharing friendship are particularly important occasions. At **Fortingall**, refreshments are provided after the service in the Fellowship area within the church. At **Rannoch**, coffee and tea are similarly served but before the service begins.

Our New Minister

We are prayerfully looking for a special individual who.....

- will provide **inspiring leadership**, helping us to grow in faith as followers of Jesus Christ and utilising the gifts and abilities within the congregations;
- through preaching and **teaching God's Word** and through a passion for the Gospel, will inspire, encourage, comfort and support us through thick and thin;
- with energy and enthusiasm, will help us further develop **engagement with our villages**, the wider community, and the world at large;
- is firmly committed through **pastoral care to** reach out to our congregations and communities, responding to their needs with compassion and comfort, whatever their age and background;
- has an understanding of **Christian stewardship** and will encourage our congregations to fulfil our financial obligations;
- is someone used to **dealing with people of varying ages**, building positive relationships whilst respecting values and traditions, as we worship and serve together;
- as a **team leader** is flexible and creative, committed to motivating and getting the best out of diverse groups of people and individuals;
- is someone who will be **open, approachable and frank with us**, sharing in our journeys of faith and allowing us to share in their journey too;
- and finally, will have a sense of **fun and humour**, enjoying friendship with our two church congregations.

Perth Presbytery Mission Plan 2025

Many churches in Scotland are currently under review, involving the linking and uniting of congregations and parishes. As a result, Presbyteries have been tasked with considering a massive re-organisation of the portfolio of the buildings of worship in their Presbytery area.

The result of that re-organisation, built into the Perth Presbytery Mission Plan, indicates that in Loch Tay and Glenlyon, Kenmore Kirk and Glenlyon Church are subject to closure later this year.

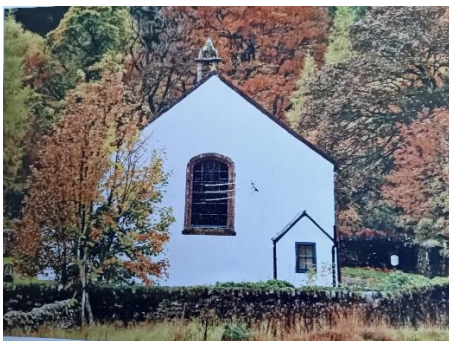
At Rannoch, the smaller church at Braes of Rannoch is also marked for closure and likely to be sold later in 2025.

These three churches are being retained on a 'wind and watertight' basis.

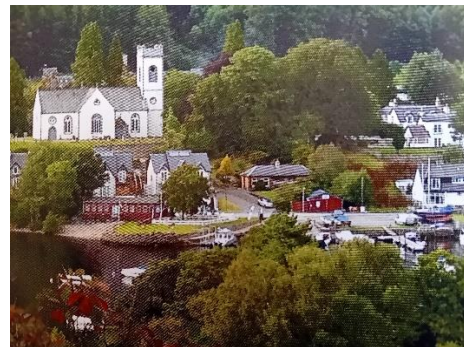
This would leave **Fortingall** and **Rannoch** Churches as the main buildings to be retained and used for regular worship.

In the meantime, occasional services are held at Braes of Rannoch and Glenlyon.

Glenlyon



Kenmore



Braes of Rannoch



Our Church properties in regular use

At the moment, we use 3 buildings with occasional usage of the others.



Rannoch Church

Built originally in 1829 to a design by Thomas Telford with alterations in 1893. The building is in good order and has been well maintained by the property convenors down through the generations. **Rannoch Church** has an organ and a piano and, as well as the normal Sunday services, hosts regular high quality classical music concerts, mobilising the gifts and talents of local musicians and other gifted players from further afield.



Fortingall Church and the Yew Tree

At **Fortingall** there has been a Christian presence for almost 1400 years, since the time of the ancient Celtic Church. The present church, which dates from 1902, replaced an existing building which was in poor repair.

Inside, the walls are warm sandstone with oak panelling while the roof is of hand-worked oak timbers beautifully constructed in an open barrel-vault. Music is provided by an electric piano.

The Manse



Just over 25 years ago, the old Georgian manse at Kenmore was sold and a new attractive four-bedroom house, which has few maintenance problems, was built for the minister.

This building has oil-fired central heating with a good sized fully fitted kitchen and utility room. On the ground floor there is a large sitting room with a feature electric fire. Also on this floor is a separate dining room plus a sizable study with useful bookcases. Upstairs hosts 4 spacious bedrooms with the master bedroom having an ensuite bathroom. A family bathroom serves the other bedrooms.

A double garage is linked to the house with convenient internal access. There are also easily maintained small front and back gardens.

Other Buildings and Glebe Land

None of the churches have Church Halls but both the regularly used ones have informal meeting areas at the rear of the church which work well for Session meetings and fellowship times after the service.

The Loch Tay and Glenlyon Church has glebe lands and these are let to local estates on restricted tenancies.

Aspects of local life around our churches



Kenmore Primary School

Education

There are three local Primary Schools in the area – Kinloch Rannoch, Glenlyon and Kenmore. Each is different in its setting and the one in Kenmore is very close to the centre of the village and local housing.



Etape Caledonia Cycle Race

Village Activities

Entertainment takes many forms in the area, from children's activities, music groups, concerts, - not forgetting the Rannoch Highland Gathering and the Kenmore Highland Games. The annual Etape Caledonia Cycle Race is a key event in May each year, passing through the two parishes and involving road closures on the morning of the ride. Both Churches offer an evening service on race day.

Other facts and details of interest

Responsibilities managed by the Sessions of both Churches

- **Property and Fabric** led by capable people.
- **Finance** headed up by the Church Treasurers.
- **Administration** managed by the Session Clerks, and their Deputy Session Clerks where appointed.
- **Outreach** – small groups of committed people producing quarterly newsletters and prayer bulletins at Loch Tay and Glenlyon.
- **Safeguarding Officers**
- **Health and Safety** – overseen by the Property Convenors.

Pastoral Care

In our rural settings, word of mouth seems to carry the specific concerns of members of the congregation to the Minister or Session Clerk. In this way pastoral matters are dealt with appropriately.

The Guild at Loch Tay and Glenlyon

Over recent years the Guild has reduced in numbers and activity. However, there has been a creative move to link with the Guild at Dull and Weem Church and plans are underway to join with them at future meetings.

End of term services for local Primary Schools

Over recent years, useful links with Kenmore Primary School and Kinloch Rannoch Primary School have been made by the OLM's operating in each area providing Easter and Christmas services, some in the local church and some in the school setting. Warm relationships are maintained with the Head Teachers in both cases.

Secondary pupils across the charge attend Breadalbane Academy, where they are spiritually cared for by Aberfeldy Parish Church.

What about the future?

In reality, the doors are wide open for development and grasping opportunities as they are created and exposed.

The Five Marks of Mission

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.

Our churches have a history of strongly based Biblical teaching often following the Revised Common Lectionary. Proclaiming the Good News is the weekly emphasis and fundamental to the regular teaching. Singing plays a big part in the services, based most of the time on the CH4 Hymnbook.

2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.

This 'Mark' is more of a challenge because of the demographics of the communities but there is an outreach to the schools within the parishes. Newcomers to the church in recent times have been welcomed into the congregation. In the future there is scope for home fellowships and potential enquirers' groups. The results will contribute to our meeting of the aims of the second 'Mark'.

3. To respond to human need by loving service.

Our churches have reputations for being generous to charitable causes. Much has been given through the years to relieve poverty and need both here and overseas. The local foodbank is well supported, as are Christian Aid appeals. There is also special confidential assistance for families in distress.

4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.

The congregations in principle support 'Mark 4' and pray and give as the needs arise with an open mind to do more where possible.

5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

Again, both congregations are supportive of the emphasis of this 'Mark' and adopt the practices linked to eco-friendly congregations.

And finally....

Our hope for this profile is that we have provided you with a positive and helpful spiritual picture of the churches of Loch Tay and Glenlyon with Rannoch.

We have a real desire to share the Good News of Jesus Christ with our villages and the wider communities of this large area of Highland Perthshire. We wish to be seen as faithful worshipping communities, serving and caring for a wide range of people across the parishes.

There is real anticipation about the future because both Churches have been in a state of limbo for at least the last five years. We're ready for change and innovation, progressing forward from a solid base of valuable traditions.

We are already praying for our new minister, and we will be fully supportive of the person God has chosen to fill the role as we step into this new chapter of church life within our two parishes.

Contact Details

If you wish to find out more about the vacancy on an informal basis, please feel free to contact the Interim Moderator.

Lorimer Gray

'Sruan', West Donafuil, Keltneyburn, Aberfeldy, PH15 2LE

Mobile: 07740 378910

Email: Lorimer.gray@gmail.com

Letters of Application explaining why you are applying, a bit about yourself and with a clear CV, plus the names of two referees, should be sent to the **Clerk of the Nominating Committee:**

Elaine Melrose,

'Schiehallion'

Fearnan, Aberfeldy PH15 2PF

Email: elainebmelrose@btinternet.com

Addendum

Postal addresses for information

**The Manse,
Balnaskeag,
Kenmore,
Aberfeldy,
PH15 2HB**

**Fortingall Church of Scotland,
Kirkton,
Fortingall,
PH15 2LL**

**Rannoch Church of Scotland,
6 Bunrannoch Place,
Kinloch Rannoch,
Pitlochry,
PH16 5PZ**

Websites and Phone numbers

Church of Scotland.

<http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk>

Phone: 0131 225 5722

For C of S census data on the charge.

http://cos.churchofscotland.org.ukchurch_finder/

**Summary accounts for the first 3 months of 2025 are attached for
Loch Tay and Glenlyon Church and Rannoch Church.**

**Full Annual Accounts for 2024 are available from the Interim
Moderator.**

Summary Accounts

Rannoch Church of Scotland first Quarter of 2025

Accounts for the period ended 31st March 2025

General Fund

Income

WFO Scheme	702.29
Open plate	417.70
Donations	150.00
HMRC	2441.10
Braes Church Balance on the union on 1.1.25	<u>6986.91</u>
	<u>10698.00</u>

Expenditure

Give 2 grow	£3345.00
Presbytery Dues	442.00
Organists	240.00
Heating and Lighting Rannoch	575.00
Heating and Lighting Braes	27.59
Maintenance Rannoch	215.53
Maintenance Braes	960.00
Flowers	52.00
Sundries	<u>141.44</u>
	<u>5998.56</u>

Total Receipts 10698.00

Total Payments 5998.56

Surplus/Deficit **4699.44**

General Fund Bal as at 31 Dec 2024 26225.98

General Fund Bal as at 31 Mar 2025 30925.42

Fabric Account

Income

Donation £3000.00

Expenditure

Nil 0.00

Total Receipts 3000.00

Total Payments 0.00

Surplus/ 3000.00

Fabric Fund Bal as at 31 Dec 2024 15789.01

Fabric Fund Bal as at 31 Mar 2025 18789.01

Investments-Church of Scotland Investment Trust

Unrestricted Deposit Fund for General Congregation Purposes 10500.00

Restricted Consol. Fabric Fund-Rev 44287.35

“ Consol. Fabric Fund -Cap(11) 386102.75

Market value of balances as at 31 Dec. 387815.29

Braes Church which was united with Foss and Rannoch on 1.1.25, and is now **Rannoch Church of Scotland**, also had investments which is being transferred by Church of Scotland HQ to the new **Rannoch Church of Scotland**.

Investments - Church of Scotland Investment Trust

Unit Trust	Cost	£30961	Market Value	£30835
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Restricted Fabric Fund

Capital Account

Credit balances held at 31 Dec '24 at cost	£5201
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Market Value of balances at 31 Dec '24	£7613
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Revenue Account

Credit balance at 31 Dec '24	£266
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Loch Tay and Glenlyon Church first Quarter of 2025

(Formerly Fortingall, Kenmore, Glenlyon and Lawers)

Financial Report AT 31ST March 2025

General Account:

Balance in Account Statement £8,349.30 as at March 31, 2025

	BANK ACCOUNT:	INVESTORS TRUST DEPOSIT:	TOTAL:
General Account	£7,344.48	£45,226.64	£52,571.12
Fortingall Historical	1,004.82		£1,004.82
TOTAL	<u>£8,349.30</u>		
Kenmore Fabric		£18,158.79	£18,158.79
Fortingall Fabric		£32,838.88	£32,838.88
General Fabric		£35,248.37	£35,248.39
Glenlyon Historical		£6,004.66	£6,004.99
Reserve Fund		£15,502.76	£15,502.76
Social Service Fund:			
Balance in Account Statement	£1,542.64	£2,645.76	£4,188.40

Growth Fund – unit Price as at December 31, 2024

	<u>No. of Units</u>	<u>Cost of Units</u>	<u>Market Value</u>
General Purposes	11,057	£52,484.20	£70,543.66
Social Service Fund	1,496	£8,377.60	£9,544.48
Reserve Fund	7,602	£42,571.20	£48,500.76

Our congregation number is: 271630

Our charity number is: SC006260

PRESBYTERY OF PERTH

BASIS OF LINKING

The congregation of Fortingall, Glenlyon, Kenmore and Lawers Church of Scotland (SC006260) and the congregation of Rannoch Church of Scotland (SC006570) shall be linked on a date to be determined by the Presbytery and that on the following terms and conditions:

1. **Name:** The linking shall be informally known as “The Churches of Loch Tay and Glenlyon with Rannoch”.
2. **Transference of Property and Funds:** The property and funds belonging to or held on behalf of each congregation shall remain the property and funds of each congregation as at present.
3. **Places of Worship:** Both churches at present used and occupied by the congregations shall be the places of worship of the linked congregations. Services shall be conducted at times to be decided by the minister and the Kirk Sessions, subject to the approval of the Presbytery.
4. **Territorial Responsibility:** The bounds to be served by the linked charge shall be the bounds of the present parishes or as the Presbytery shall determine.
5. **Kirk Session:** The minister of the linked charge shall be the Moderator of each Kirk Session. The Kirk Sessions may meet together, as they deem it desirable.
6. **Congregational Management:** The temporal affairs of each congregation shall be administered as at present. The office-bearers of the congregations shall meet annually to decide on their portion of ministry expenses (as listed in the Regulations for Remuneration and Reimbursement of Parish Ministers 2015) and costs for the maintenance of the manse, as may be agreed from time to time by the office-bearers and subject to the approval of the Presbytery.
7. **Minister:** Both charges being vacant, the linked charge shall proceed to the appointment of a minister in terms of the Vacancy Procedure Act (Act 8, 2003) on Unrestricted Tenure.
8. **Manse:** The manse of the congregation of Fortingall, Glenlyon, Kenmore, and Lawers shall be the manse of the linked congregations.
9. **Ministerial Support:** The stipend of the minister shall be payable in terms of the National Stipend Scheme.
10. **Power to Readjust:** While these articles and terms shall form the Basis of Linking for the congregations now linking, the linked congregations shall be free, like other congregations, to adjust arrangements under the authority of Presbytery as need may arise.