

# Packed congregation at St Finnbarr's celebration Church marks its centenary

THE congregation of St Finnbarr's Episcopal Church in Dornoch celebrated the 100th anniversary of the church building in a special service led by the Rt Rev Mark Strange, Bishop of Moray, Ross and Caithness last Sunday.

Although the church itself was built and consecrated for worship in 1913, the congregation met in local homes as part of the Tain mission from 1900.

In leading the centenary service, the bishop was joined by the priest in charge of St Finnbarr's Church, Rev Chris Mayo, who said: "The packed church on Sunday was not only for a celebration of the work of the past 100 years but a commitment to the ongoing mission and ministry at St Finnbarr's."

In his sermon, the bishop said the story of St. Finnbarr's is one of moving on — as

people came from Tain to form the church in Dornoch, over the past three decades the commitment by its clergy and people was to ensure a full-time presence in Brora at St. Columba's church and to support a worshipping community in Lairg.

This now continues as the East Sutherland group of churches and in new worshipping communities at Invershin and the Crask Inn, together with renewed ministries to other areas.

The story has also come full circle by the new link with St. Andrew's church in Tain to support each other in their work within the Easter Ross and Sutherland areas.

The special service in St Finnbarr's was attended by dignitaries including Monica Main, the Lord Lieutenant of Sutherland; Kim Tulloch, the deputy Lord Lieutenant, and Highland councillors Deirdre Mackay

and Jim McGillivray. They were joined by other guests and regular worshippers from Dornoch and beyond and clergy from across the Diocese of Moray Ross & Caithness, so the church was standing room only.

During the service, a new altar frontal, handwoven and embroidered by members and friends of St. Finnbarr's, was consecrated by Bishop Strange.

The role of eucharistic minister (lay assistant minister to the priest and congregation at St Finnbarr's), carried out by Monica Dargie, was also formally renewed and licensed for a further five years.

The celebrations continued after the church service with a buffet lunch in the adjoining hall and an opportunity to see an exhibition of items from St Finnbarr's history.