



Rev Andy Campbell pictured with his wife, Fiona, at his last service as minister of Kilmore and Oban Church of Scotland.

More than a minister

After 26 years in Oban, Rev Andy Campbell seeks a new challenge

KILMORE and Oban lost more than their minister when Rev Andy Campbell chose to seek a new challenge within the church.

The well-known minister spent the last 26 years leading worship in the parish but also worked on several community projects.

So what made Andy devote 26 years to Kilmore and Oban? 'I chose to stay because there were always new and exciting things to do,' he said, 'but I think I've done all these things and I feel God is giving me a new task.'

In his new job Andy, as part of a small team, will be encouraging Scotland's many congregations to adopt a more modern approach to worship.

Some would say Andy has already taken steps to this effect and the Hope2Oban (H20) group is one example of that.

The concept of the Christian youth group was created within the Kilmore and Oban church and Andy was partly responsible for its initiation and development. The group has since employed a full-time youth worker and organises many events for school children.

The Rev Andy and his wife Fiona, a qualified occupational therapist, were also instrumental in the building and running of Glencruitten Church of Scotland Centre.

It took a lot of fundraising to get this project

finished as the overall costs stood at £280,000.

But the project was completed in 1993 and the hall has since become a source of income for the church.

Both Andy and Fiona have been involved in national church work over the years and were involved in the establishment of the new Presbytery of Argyll.

Andy was the founder chairman of Oban FM and has been involved in supporting OASIS, the drug rehabilitation group. He has also been a member of the speaker's club and the local Crime Prevention Panel. More recently Andy has proved he still cares for his community and is speaking up for Oban's ambulance crews. He said: 'I want the ambulance station upgraded and renewed.'

'It is the busiest on call station in Scotland but the office they work from is smaller than one of the ambulances so I'm fighting to get them better premises because these guys have been at the forefront of medical care for years.'

In his role as a minister Andy has been chaplain of Park Primary School, Rockfield Primary School and Oban High School as well as some of the smaller hospitals which existed before Lorn and Islands District General Hospital was opened.

It may take until later on this year to find a replacement for Rev Campbell and Kilmore and Oban will hope their new minister is also more than just a minister.