



St Serf's Parish Church



Profile

Our Mission Statement is to keep St Serf's Parish Church at the heart of our community and to make it a place where people of any faith or none will be made welcome and can both discover and grow in Christ.

The Current Presbytery Plan allows for a team of three to serve this parish: a Minister of Word and Sacrament, a full-time Associate Minister/Deacon and a part-time Parish Worker. The congregation is currently working with the Ministries Council to fill these posts.

We have a Worship/Ministry Group within the congregation which works alongside the Ministry Team to assist in the development of bible study groups, prayer group, healing service, special services and to expand our spiritual dimension.

We have been in vacancy for a minister for some time and we have met the challenges this has brought. However, there is a need for our new minister to lead the congregation to reach out further in the community and meet our potential to spread the Good News of Christ.

The minister will need to be a good communicator, able to work with all ages, be comfortable in the local community as well as being a warm caring person, flexible and able to diversify while being inspirational. A sense of humour would be an asset.

In return, we, the congregation, will welcome and support the minister by being hardworking, enthusiastic and open to change. We are young at heart, family orientated, caring, welcoming, as well as generous and giving.

The congregational statistics of January 2016: Communicants: 395.

Supplementary Roll:154. 17 years old and under: 22. 18 years old and not communicants: 2.

Weddings: 7. Funerals: 22. Baptisms: 3 adults, 2 children. Average weekly attendance is 80.



Sunday worship: Benarty at 9.45 am. Lochgelly 11.15 am. Sunday Club for children at both churches. There are four Communion Services each year held in alternate sanctuaries at 10.30 am. In addition there are five joint services.



St. Serf's Parish Church operates under a Unitary Constitution having a single Kirk Session comprising of 12 male and 28 female elders who are Trustees.



The Kirk Session currently meets quarterly to manage church business, including reports from working groups such as the Finance and Property Group, which is responsible for all matters concerning the fabric of both church buildings and the manse. Reports are also received from Safeguarding Officer, Roll Keeper, Presbytery Representative, BLCT (Benarty and Lochgelly Churches Together), Pastoral Care Group, Administration Team, Worship and Childrens' Ministry Group, Ways and Means Group, (which arranges events to generate income). There is also a Welfare Group which provides entertainment annually for older people and a Flower Group that provides flowers for the sanctuaries.

The Parish of Lochgelly and Benarty is part of Dunfermline Presbytery. It consists of the town of Lochgelly and the villages of Glenraig, Crosshill, Lochore and Ballingry.

The Parish is divided into 38 districts and a Parish Newsletter is distributed June and December.

Community Organisations.....

Our church halls and facilities are regularly used by a variety of community groups and organisations.



St. Serf's Church enjoys **ecumenical links** through 'Benarty and Lochgelly Churches Together' (BLCT). Activities and Worship Services are planned and shared with the Scottish Episcopal Church, Roman Catholic Church and Salvation Army.

Messy Church events have been carried out in both churches monthly for a few years and continue to be popular. Approximately 18 children attend with an adult.

Regular social and sharing interaction with people in the area is provided. A bi-monthly Tuesday Afternoon Group where interesting speakers are invited to talk or demonstrate a skill followed by refreshment and fellowship.

Weekly Drop-in welcomes everyone for chat over a light snack. A Craft Group donates all profits to church funds. There are carpet bowls for men and women. Both churches hold monthly coffee mornings which are enjoyed by many people in the community.

The Church halls and facilities are regularly well used by a variety of community groups and organisations. For example, the Music Society, Probus Club, weight control groups, Keep Fit, Tai chi, and meeting rooms for training, etc.

We actively support Christian Aid, Blythswood Christmas Shoe Box Appeal, local Foodbanks, and Street Pastors for Cowdenbeath, Lochgelly and Kelty plus other appeals as need arises.

Outreach work includes liaising with the local primary schools to assist them in achieving their religious aims within their curriculum. We enjoy welcoming children and parents into the sanctuary for their special worship services. We have a good relationship with the local High School.

Monthly services are held in Mossview Residential Home where some of our elderly members reside.

Our strengths: Over this vacancy period we have continued to adapt to a range of locums and invited preachers while maintaining our enthusiasm for God's work in order to support the Church Family.

Our weakness: Without a spiritual leader our spiritual growth is not meeting its full potential.

Our opportunities: To make the most of the good relationships we already enjoy with the community and to nurture the gifts God has given us.

Our buildings: Both sanctuaries are refurbished, warm and inviting with disabled access. The kitchens are well appointed.

Music in both sanctuaries is provided by electric organ, however a new Hymnal Plus machine is used when an organist is unavailable. The Hymnal Plus is utilised in outreach services.

For more interesting historical details, please see our web pages. www.stserfschurch.co.uk

The Manse sits on the grounds of Lochgelly Church, is semi furnished and well maintained.



If you feel you share our vision and are interested in being called to our parish
please apply with a CV to:

Mrs. Laura Pepperday,
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Informal enquiries can be made to:
Rev Muriel Willoughby.
Interim Moderator.
The Manse
71A Townhill Road
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