St Serf's Parish Church

St. Serf's Church, Main Street, Lochgelly.

St. Serf's Church, Hill Road, Ballingry

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 Parish Assistant, **started in January 2017** and a part-time Outreach Worker **started in February 2018**.

We have been seeking to attract a new spiritual leader for some time and we have met the challenges this has brought. However, there is a need for a new minister to lead the congregation to reach out further in the community and meet our potential to spread the Good News of Christ. We are eager to establish and develop bible study groups, prayer group, healing service, special services and to expand our spiritual dimension.

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 oriented, caring, welcoming, as well as generous and giving.

The congregational statistics of December 2017: Communicants 368;
Supplementary Roll 126; 17 years old and under 14; 18 years old and not communicants 2;
Weddings 1; Funerals 47; Baptisms 1. Average weekly attendance is 70-80.

Sunday worship: Benarty at 9.45 am. Lochgelly 11.15 am. Sunday Club for children at both churches. Four joint Communion Services each year are held in alternate sanctuaries at 10.30 am. and Joint services for Palm Sunday, Pentecost, Harvest Thanksgiving and Nativity.

St. Serf's Parish Church operates under a Unitary Constitution having a single Kirk Session comprising 11 male and 27 female elders, with an average attendance of 24 at Kirk Session meetings.

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 the Parish Assistant, Safeguarding Officer, Roll Keeper, Presbytery Representative, BLCT (Benarty and Lochgelly Churches Together) representative, 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 Glencraig, Crosshill, Lochore and Ballingry.
The Parish is divided into 38 districts and a Parish Newsletter is distributed in 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. There is a fortnightly Tuesday Afternoon Group where interesting speakers are invited to talk or demonstrate a skill followed by refreshment and fellowship.
The 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, NHS COPD support groups and Substance Addiction group, 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 also have a good relationship with the local High School.
Monthly services are held in Mossview and Benore Residential Homes 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, with increasing use of a new Hymnal Plus machine which is used in Lochgelly and occasionally in Benarty when the organist is unavailable. The Hymnal Plus is utilised in outreach services.

The Manse sits in 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,
Clerk to the Nominating Committee,
4 Jubilee Court, Lochgelly. Fife KY5 9EN
Home: 01592 781029 Mobile: 07840 602070
Email: laurapep@live.co.uk

Informal enquiries can be made to:
Deacon Morag Crawford DCS
Interim Moderator
118 Wester Drylaw Place
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Mrs. Alexis Michalski
Nominating Committee Convenor.
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StSerfsChurchLochgellyandBenarty

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