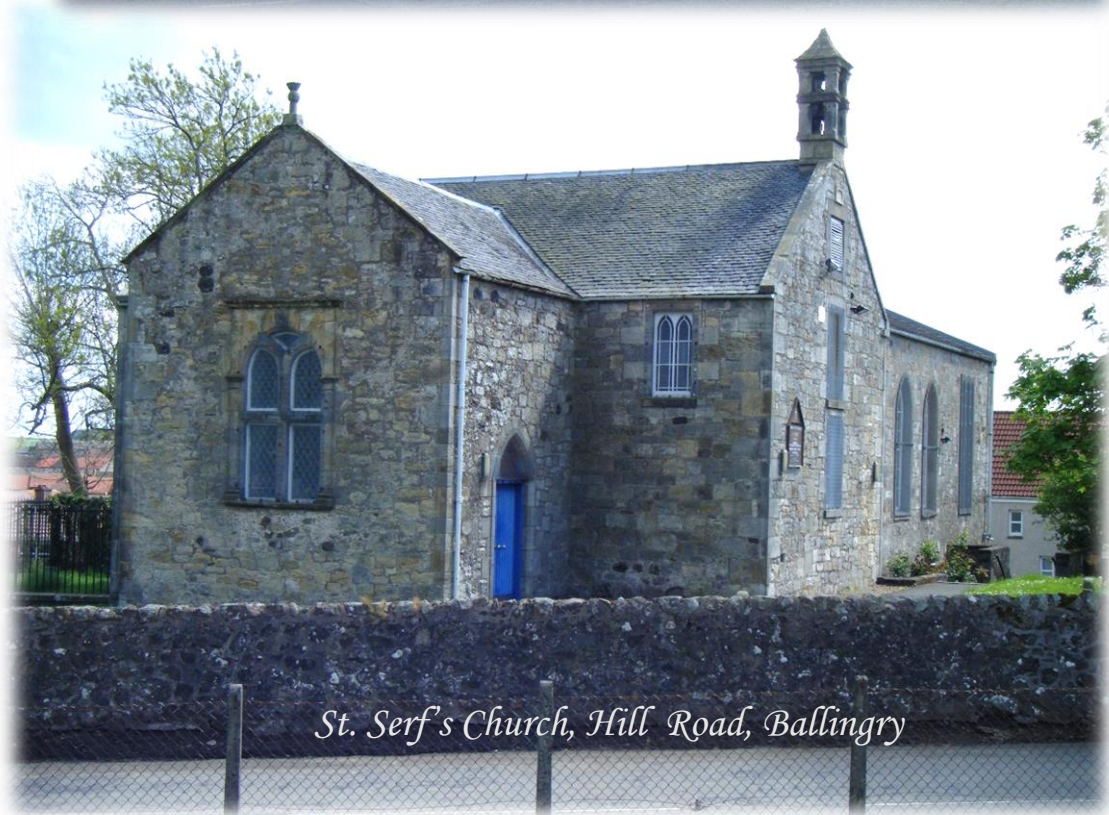




# *St Serf's Parish Church*



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



*St. Serf's Church, Hill Road, Ballingry*

## *Profile*

The Parish of Lochgelly and Benarty is part of Dunfermline Presbytery, within easy commute by rail, car and bus to Edinburgh, Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline and other major cities. It consists of the town of Lochgelly and the villages of Ballingry, Lochore, Crosshill and Glenraig with a total population of around 13,000. Local facilities include 5 local primary schools and a Community Use High School with a swimming pool. The area is well served with doctors' and dentists' surgeries and recreational facilities. Lochore Meadows Country Park is excellent, with water sports and fishing and the area now boasts the new Fife Cycle Park. The Lochgelly Centre is a modern facility housing a 450 seat theatre, modern library and meeting rooms.

**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 Deacon, **in post since January 2017** and a part-time Outreach Worker **started in February 2018**.

**We have been seeking to attract a spiritual leader** for some time and we have met the challenges this has brought. However, there is a need for a minister to lead the team and 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. We are keen to develop deeper relationships with the parents attending Messy Church and to explore new ways of doing church with them. We would like to expand the work we are doing in the Primary Schools and reach out to the High School.

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 2018:** Communicants 352; Supplementary Roll 127; 17 years old and under - 16; 18 years old and not communicants 2; Weddings 1; Funerals 37; Baptisms 3. 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, as well as 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 9 male and 24 female elders, with an average attendance of 24 at quarterly Kirk Session meetings. The Parish is divided into 38 districts and a Parish Newsletter is distributed in June and December.





The work of the church is devolved to a number of working groups:

- Finance and Property Group, which is responsible for all matters concerning the fabric of both church buildings and the manse.
- Pastoral Care Group,
- Worship and Children's Ministry Group,
- Ways and Means Group, (which arranges events to generate income).

These groups report to the Kirk Session which also receives reports from:

- Deacon and Outreach Worker,
- Safeguarding Officer,
- Roll Keeper and Admin team,
- Presbytery Representative,
- BLCT (Benarty and Lochgelly Churches Together) representative,

There is also a Welfare Group which provides entertainment annually for older people and a Flower Group that provides flowers for the sanctuaries.

## *Community Organisations.....*

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



St. Serf's Church enjoys good **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. Recently the group has organised a successful Family Pilgrim Walk and has a series of Reflective Services planned. It facilitates co-operative working at Remembrance and Christmas and is a united Christian witness to the community.

**Messy Church** is held once a month at Benarty. This is extremely popular and attracts over 30 children and their parents, none of whom have any other church connection. In addition there was a weekly afternoon event over the summer, with unaccompanied children welcomed, and over 50 people attending.

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, Lochgelly Musical, a nursery group, Probus Club, weight control groups, Highland dancing, NHS COPD support groups and Substance Addiction group, and meeting rooms for training, etc.

**We actively support** Christian Aid, Blythwood Christmas Shoe Box Appeal, local Foodbanks plus other appeals as needs arise.

**Outreach work** includes liaising with the local primary schools to assist them in achieving their religious aims within their curriculum. Weekly nurture groups, providing craft and construction activities are held in both Lochgelly Primary Schools and classes from these schools enjoy coming to the church to participate in "Bubblegum and Fluff" at Christmas and "The Easter Code". We welcome children and parents into the sanctuary for their special worship services and 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 with good audio-visual facilities and are 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 well maintained and currently semi-furnished.



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

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Informal enquiries can be made to:  
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Church Website: [www.stserfschurch.co.uk](http://www.stserfschurch.co.uk)

Facebook Address: [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com/StSerfsChurchLochgellyandBenarty)  
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