



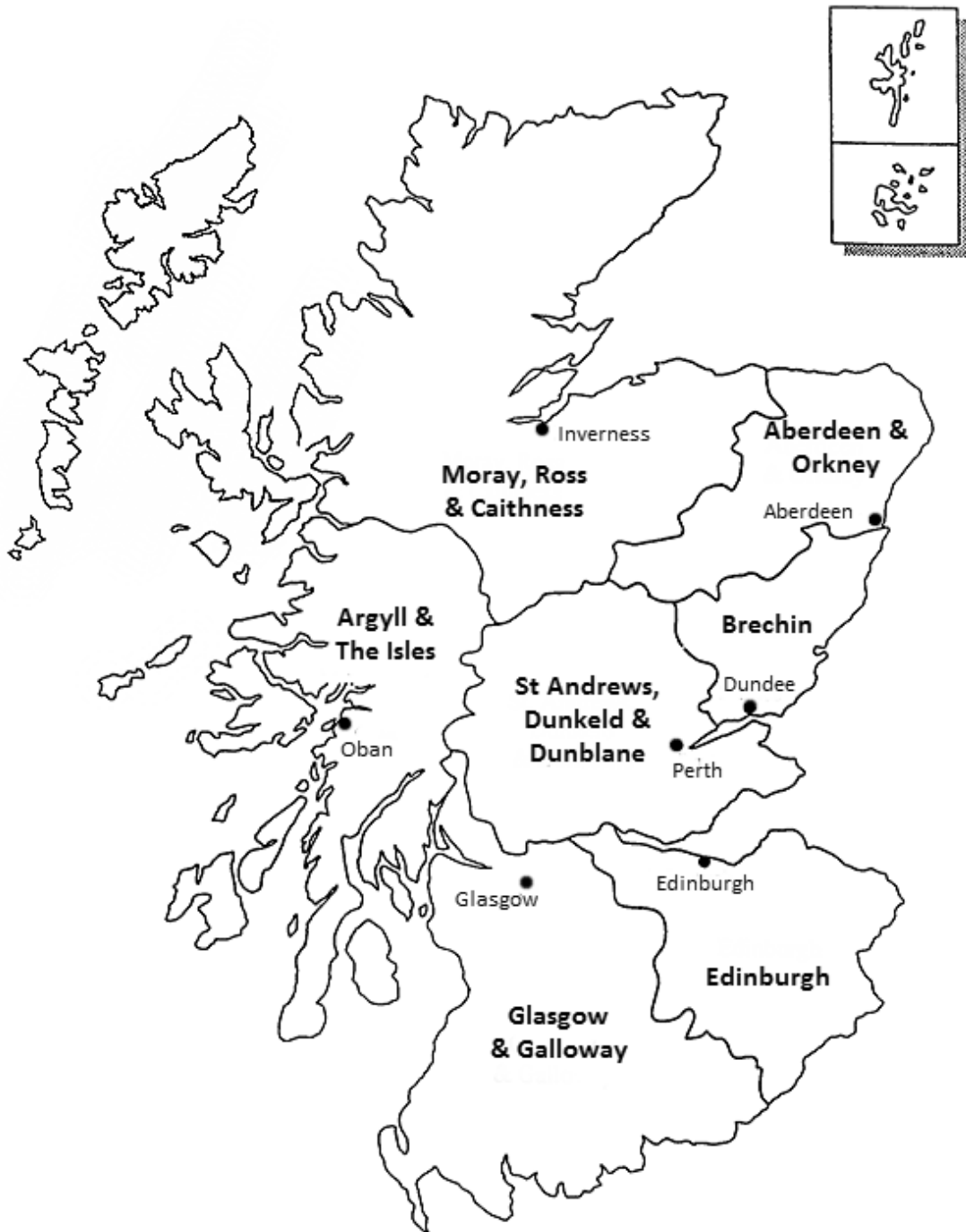
# St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane

Charity No: SC017654

## Diocesan Profile 2017



# The Seven diocese of the Scottish Episcopal Church



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## INTRODUCTION

The Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane serves a diverse range of rural and urban communities from Perthshire to Fife and from Clackmannan to the Trossachs. It is at the heart of Scotland, and it is central for communications not only to Edinburgh and Glasgow but across the country. The Central Belt has the highest density of population in Scotland, and its growth is clear in the new housing developments and transport infrastructure in the Diocese. Cities such as Perth and Stirling have flourishing business centres, and towns in the south of Fife such as Kirkcaldy are rapidly developing into commuter bases for Edinburgh, especially with the new Queensferry Crossing over the Forth. Universities and colleges in St Andrews, Stirling, Perth and elsewhere provide another attraction to the area and enrich its cultural life. Rural areas have a significantly higher proportion of older and retired population, and are generally more prosperous than other rural parts of Scotland, with a strong tourist industry. However there is hidden poverty in both rural and urban areas of the Diocese, with challenges to both agriculture and some traditional industries that are only partly compensated for by new technology.

One of the notable strengths of the Diocese is the warmth and strength of its relationships. It is blessed with widely-distributed congregations that are faithful and committed, willing to grow in faith and discipleship. Ecumenical relations are diverse and creative, and several congregations have established links with civic authorities that have borne fruit not only in corporate events but in missional partnerships. There has been a large number of new diocesan clergy and Lay Readers in the last ten years, who have formed a mutually-supportive body with notable collegiality. They are committed to the opportunities offered for ministerial development, and generally display good morale. The cohesiveness of the Diocese is evident in the way so many come together in the annual Gathering in the Cathedral, to share faith, learn new skills and enjoy one another's company.

There are many opportunities for growth and service in the Diocese, with new areas of population and an ever-increasing complexity of social need to be addressed. The re-shaping of diocesan life to prioritise mission and outreach means that the Diocese is poised to respond from a committed base that has financial stability. Acknowledging that our new bishop will want to express and share their own vision and experience, we hope that the foundation built up over recent years would continue with mission being at the forefront of diocesan life. Such an intention would not only apply to individual charges but also to the whole infrastructure of diocesan boards and committees. There remain some personnel and resource challenges in congregations, but our overall spirit is one of hopeful engagement with the task of growing God's kingdom in this place.

Provincial Website: [www.scotland.anglican.org](http://www.scotland.anglican.org)

Diocesan Website: [www.standrews.anglican.org](http://www.standrews.anglican.org)

## HISTORY OF THE UNITED DIOCESE

After the Scottish Episcopal Church was disestablished in 1689, the congregations of the three dioceses, St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane, experienced varying fortunes. In the south, along with the Forth valley, there were scattered congregations in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century from Aberfoyle to Clackmannan, all of which ceased to exist by 1800. In Strathearn and Fife, only 2 and 3 congregations respectively survived to 1800. In Perthshire and Strathmore, the pattern resembled more the neighbouring diocese of Brechin, with a greater number of congregations present.

The last Archbishop of St Andrews died in 1704 and the diocesan see was vacant thereafter. It was revived in 1731, under the name of the Diocese of Fife, as were the dioceses of Dunkeld and Dunblane whose sees had both been vacant for some years. The succession of Bishops of Dunblane was not secure and the diocese was administered by Dunkeld from 1743 to 1774. A plan to unite Dunblane with Fife in 1792 did not come to fruition and in 1808 the Diocese of Dunkeld and Dunblane was formed under Bishop Torry. The Diocese of Fife was united to Dunkeld and Dunblane in 1837. The restoration of the ancient name of St Andrews led to the diocese being renamed St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane in September 1844.

Nineteenth century mission activity saw the restoration of some of the congregations which had died out during the 18<sup>th</sup> Century, such as Blairgowrie, Doune, Dunfermline and Auchterarder. New congregations sprang up in most of the main towns in the diocese and in places frequented by Anglican tourists. St Ninian's Cathedral was opened in 1850, the first new cathedral to be built in Scotland since the 14<sup>th</sup> century. Two congregations were transferred from the Diocese of Edinburgh: the congregation of St John's, Alloa in 1964 and Holy Trinity, Stirling in 1991.

# Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane: Location of Charges



## OPERATIONAL ORGANISATION

The diocese is centred on Perth where St Ninian's Cathedral and the Diocesan Office is situated. The Bishop's house is in the Diocese but currently not situated in Perth.

The Trustees of the diocese are the Bishop, the Dean, the Diocesan Chancellor and Diocesan Registrar. The Diocesan Secretary, Treasurer and the Convener of the Administration Board also assist in the administration of the diocese.

The Standing Committee comprises the Bishop as Convener, the Dean, the Chancellor, the Registrar, the Diocesan Secretary, the Convener of the Administration Board and representatives of both lay people and clergy. The Conveners of the Mission Committee and Congregational Growth Group are in attendance. This committee acts on behalf of the Diocesan Synod and oversees the work of its pendant committees.

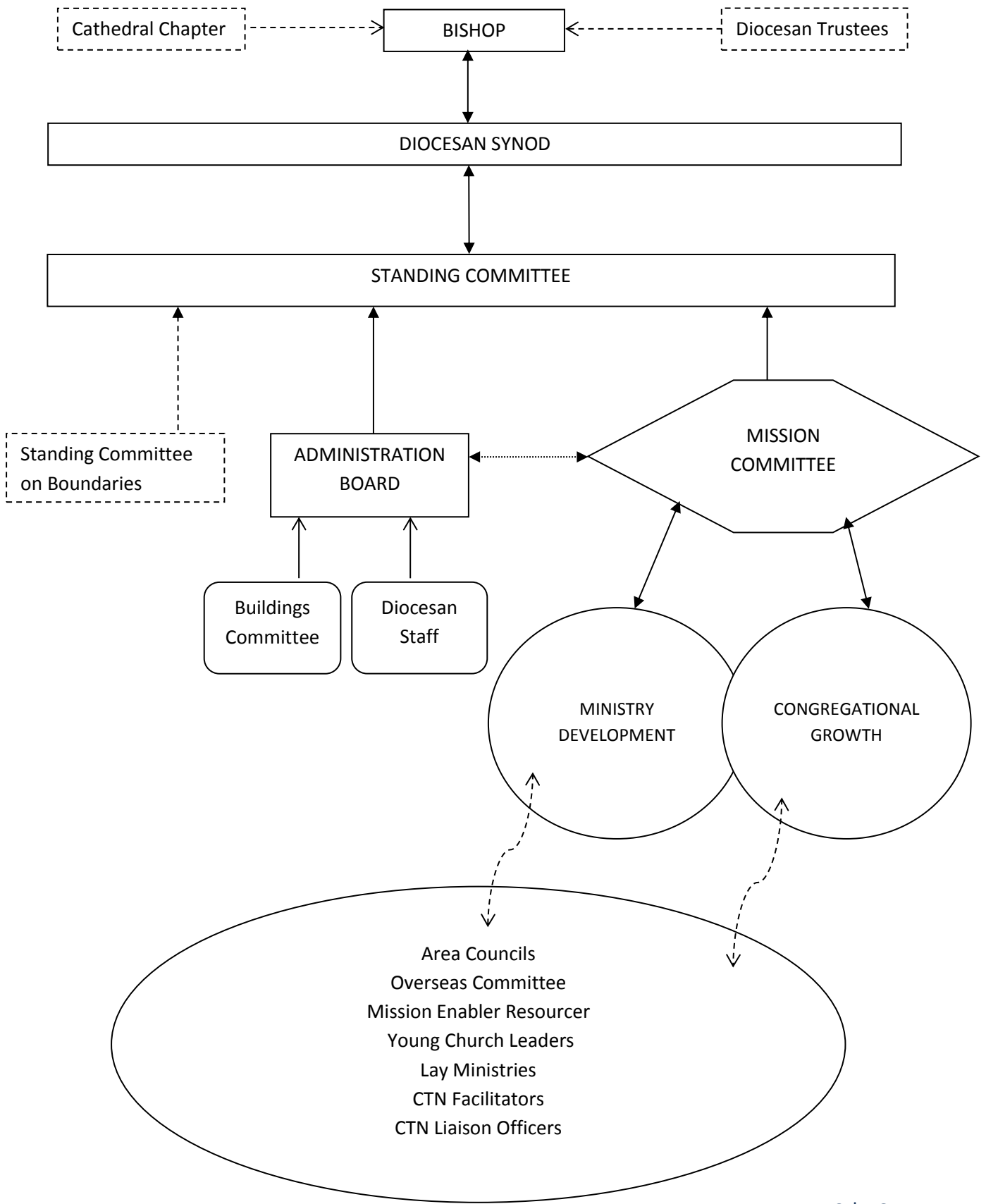
The Administration Board is concerned with managing the administration and finances of the diocese. The Diocesan Buildings Committee is a pendant committee of this Board.

The Mission Committee oversees the Casting the Net initiative, which provides the focus of the diocese in mission. The Mission Committee is served by the Congregational Growth Group, which looks after missional development in congregations; the Ministry Development Group, which is responsible for ensuring the training, support and development of clergy and Lay Readers, and the Clergy and Charges Development Group. It comprises the Bishop as Convener and the Conveners of the Congregational Growth, Ministry Development Group and Charges and Developments Group. The Convener of the Administration Board is in attendance. The diocese has recently appointed a part-time Mission Enabler Resourcer and Resourcer who will report to the Mission Committee.

The Diocesan Overseas Committee supports international partnerships, especially the link with the Diocese of Calcutta.

There are four Area Councils (Dunblane, Dunkeld, St Andrews East and St Andrews West). Members of each Area Council are the Clergy and Lay Representatives from the Charges within its boundary, but meetings are open to all. They meet throughout the year to share good practice and to discuss strategic issues that arise within the wider life of the Church.

# Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane: Diocesan Structure 2013 Onwards





## MISSION AND MINISTRY

During the last twelve years, the diocese has been on a journey of shaping for mission. That journey has been carried out under the banner of the Casting the Net initiative. Casting the Net is a holistic vision within which congregations have been encouraged to undertake strategic planning for mission. A comprehensive pattern of support and development has been provided for clergy and Lay Readers. The Gathering - an annual festival day of activity and learning - has drawn the whole diocese together in the Cathedral. Work has been done to welcome and encourage children and young people, and discipleship programmes are becoming a growing focus.

## THE DIOCESAN REVIEW

The journey began with the Diocesan Review, a comprehensive exploration of the state of the diocese, which was completed in 2007. 331 lay people and 25 clergy completed questionnaires and there were meetings with 28 groups across the diocese. The key aspiration which the Diocesan Review revealed was that people wished to be part of a Church which was moving from decline to growth. The Diocesan Review acknowledged significant decline amounting to 15% between 1988 and 2005. Ageing membership and resource challenges revealed a Church which needed to find ways to restore spiritual vitality and establish patterns of growth.

## DEVELOPMENT OF CASTING THE NET

Casting the Net is an initiative that grew out of the Diocesan Review, and has been refined, refocused and refreshed by regular reviews to ensure the best use of modest financial and people resources.



Initially there were five Policy and Action Groups:

- **Congregational Development** carried forward Mission Action Planning in the congregations of the diocese
- **Ministry and Education** shaped work in ministry training and Christian education
- **Children and Young People** helped congregations to reach out to younger members and to address the issue of congregational age profile
- **Charges and Groupings** reviewed the deployment of clergy so as to prioritise missional opportunities
- **Administration** sought to ensure resources for the mission and ministry of the diocese and to offer high quality administration that supported its life and relationships

We have always recognised the need for a co-ordinating group - most recently called the Mission Committee. This has been responsible for overall strategic focus of Casting the Net. It has ensured internal cohesion in the initiative and prevented the

tendency of such movements to fragment into a number of individual projects. It has also been responsible for ensuring that the overall decision-making processes and administration of the diocese have also been consonant with the mission policy. Obvious examples of this have been the readiness of diocesan administration and budget-setting to prioritise mission. The enlarged Diocesan Standing Committee spends the first part of each meeting discussing aspects of mission in the diocese before moving to discuss more particular administrative matters.

Successive reviews have refined the focus and direction of Casting the Net. At present, the initiative is supported by:

### **Growing Congregations Group**

This group has developed a revised, simplified and more congregationally-based pattern of congregational mission planning. Over half the congregations in the diocese completed Mission Action Planning in its earlier form. Significant recent change in clergy leadership in our congregations suggests that this is a good time for the renewal of this work.

### **Ministry Development Group**

This group oversees the support and development of our clergy and Lay Readers. We have a residential Clergy Conference each year and Study Days during the year. There is a network of Peer Support Groups, a buddy system for clergy new to the diocese and a pattern of Ministerial Review with the bishop.

### **The Gathering**

The Gathering is a well-established opportunity for church members of all ages and from all corners of the diocese to get together in the Cathedral for a day in late spring or early summer. Its aim is to encourage the development of relationships as part of a warm diocesan family, to facilitate the sharing of experiences and ideas, to introduce and give an opportunity to try out new experiences and to provide inspiration and an opportunity to grow in faith. Around 150 people attended this year's event which featured John Bell of the Iona Community who led interactive sessions on the theme 'The Grace of Diversity'. There was also a range of workshops and prayer activities led by various congregational and diocesan groups culminating in an informal eucharist. A team of young people spent the day collecting material for 'A Taste of the Gathering', a film presentation to be shared with those who could not attend, whilst the children enjoyed games, crafts and all-age activities.

One person described it as *"A wonderful celebration of our strength in diversity"*. A parent commented, *"The children's activities gave me space and time to be nourished. As a mum and a Young Church leader, looking after my own faith is a rare privilege"*. Others said that it had been a very enjoyable, memorable, grace-filled day with plenty of food for thought.

## **Children and Young People**

There is a young people's network and some cross-congregational development. We have brought together children's workers across the diocese and provided support. Children are much more visibly present in many of our congregations - as can be seen in the Diocesan Facebook page and its reports of different activities across the diocese including Messy Church.

## **Communications**

Our Facebook page provides a rapidly-moving picture of life across the diocese. Congregations are becoming much more willing to share their work and life on line. The diocesan website at [www.standrews.anglican.org](http://www.standrews.anglican.org) has recently been through the latest of several versions. There is much room for further development.

## ***Other issues***

We have been aware of an almost infinite range of development possibilities. We have experimented with several forms of training for vestries and clergy, to raise the quality of congregational decision-making and to inhibit the growth of a congregationalist mindset. We are also aware of the growing priority which needs to be given to growth in discipleship.

## ***Staffing***

Staffing has always been a challenge - both to find the right person and to finance them. Recently we have employed a full-time Diocesan Missioner, Revd. Thomas Brauer. We are delighted that Revd. Nerys Brown will now work as a part time Resourcer-Enabler for a period of two years.

## ***DIOCESE AND MISSION IN THE SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH***

The Scottish Episcopal Church has a long history of developing mission initiatives, of which the best known is probably Mission 21 which was undertaken with the support of the Alban Institute. Casting the Net was at the beginning of a further development of diocesan-rooted initiatives across the dioceses of the SEC. That process in turn led to the development of the Whole Church Mission and Ministry Policy which affirms the priority of mission initiative in the dioceses led by our bishops as leaders of mission. Significant changes to our training provision led to the development of the Scottish Episcopal Institute which prioritises training and formation for a missional church. The current growth in the number of ordinands in the SEC is in some measure a response to those church-wide developments.

## STATISTICAL DIGEST - Members and Communicants in the Diocese

Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane						
	2014		2015		2016	
Charges	Membership	Communicants	Membership	Communicants	Membership	Communicants
Cathedral	358	334	350	322	324	330
Aberdour	120	60	120	60	120	60
Aberfoyle	80	73	85	73	85	73
Alloa	81	81	101	79	81	53
Alyth	28	25	28	25	26	24
Auchterarder	75	70	73	70	93	89
Ballintuim	35	37	34	34	29	26
Blairgowrie	106	95	101	91	95	87
Bridge of Allan	158	119	151	117	146	111
Burntisland	68	50	68	50	65	50
Callander	45	35	39	31	38	31
Comrie	67	51	58	52	58	51
Coupar Angus	51	43	50	43	51	48
Crieff	81	64	82	61	76	65
Cupar	102	94	110	88	109	87
Dollar	149	120	156	129	138	110
Doone	76	74	77	75	85	77
Dunblane	173	115	183	125	165	114
Dunfermline	217	161	274	187	182	142
Dunkeld (Birnam)	96	90	64	65	72	59
Elie	39	38	38	28	34	24
Forfar/Lunanhead	220	150	135	110	199	127
Glamis	32	32	33	33	35	35
Glenalmond	450	180	440	170	430	170
Glenrothes	32	30	37	32	36	32
Inverkeithing	40	32	95	95	94	94
Killin	13	12	6	6	6	2
Kilmaveonaig	46	24	46	24	32	29
Kinloch Rannoch	6	3	7	4	5	3
Kinross	189	103	183	120	186	119
Kirkcaldy/Kinghorn	109	75	106	74	103	69
Kirriemuir	84	50	80	49	78	50
Ladybank	15	15	17	17	12	12
Leven	27	23	30	25	17	17
Lochearnhead	30	23	29	26	19	13
Lochgelly	22	19	27	26	27	25
Muthill	36	27	37	28	45	45
Newport	52	36	48	38	48	38
Perth St John's	168	133	175	138	180	152
Pitlochry	55	37	59	39	72	50
Pittenweem	40	27	33	31	33	29
Rosyth	32	28	33	32	39	34
St Andrews All Saints	228	168	205	168	122	117
St Andrews St Andrew's	227	202	218	197	215	197
Stanley	12	12	10	10	9	9
Stirling	196	151	170	140	175	144
Strathtay/Aberfeldy	41	34	43	33	33	33
Tayport	30	27	30	27	34	31
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4637</b>	<b>3482</b>	<b>4574</b>	<b>3497</b>	<b>4356</b>	<b>3387</b>

## Pastoral

<b>Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane</b>			
<b>PASTORAL</b>			
<b>Year</b>	<b>2013/14</b>	<b>2014/15</b>	<b>2015/16</b>
Members	4631	3574	4356
Communicants	3482	3660	3387
Baptisms	91	51	56
Confirmations	31	29	38
Admissions to HC	13	26	12
Marriages	52	47	46
Burials	145	194	168
Celebrations of HC	4490	4608	4666
Easter Communions	3058	2946	2784
Total Communions	84754	85177	81045

### **Diocesan Clergy and Lay Readers in 2017**

22 Stipendiary Priests

6 Non-stipendiary priests

55 Retired clergy (holding warrants or Permission to Officiate)

1 Deacon (non-stipendiary)

10 Lay Readers

## Total Charge Income

Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane			
TOTAL CHARGE INCOME			
	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Charges	£	£	£
Catherdral	60,755	60,144	61,421
Aberdour	11,899	14,420	16,089
Aberfoyle	29,740	27,819	29,423
Alloa	18,746	30,821	19,829
Alyth	6,087	7,769	6,665
Auchterarder	23,428	20,251	20,558
Ballintuim	3,030	3,512	3,069
Blairgowrie	17,818	17,818	18,102
Bridge of Allan	55,921	55,579	56,596
Burntisland	11,000	10,759	10,606
Callander	12,876	12,220	9,655
Comrie	14,457	18,243	17,315
Coupar Angus	8,079	8,079	7859
Crieff	19467	19,095	29,952
Cupar	26,436	28,401	21,314
Dollar	47,341	44,609	42,608
Doune	20,004	19,909	18,472
Dunblane	43,032	50,725	46,040
Dunfermline	29,578	34,256	36,142
Dunkeld (Birnam)	17650	20,460	18,967
Elie	14,357	11,610	11,837
Forfar/Lunanhead	35,248	33,395	30,257
Glamis			
Glenalmond			
Glenrothes	11,594	10,529	9,378
Inverkeithing	6,710	29,770	46,634
Killin	3541	2,828	919
Kilmaveonaig	4823	5,366	3,792
Kinloch Rannoch	2,517	2,257	1,708
Kinross	27,223	28,285	26,324
Kirkcaldy/Kinghorn	31,971	26,889	25,451
Kirriemuir	925	11,001	9,639
Ladybank	2811	2,535	2,324
Leven	6,490	6,885	6,283
Lochearnhead	8,175	8,070	
Lochgelly	5,531	5,907	5659
Muthill	7,392	7,540	6,450
Newport	16,519	17,617	8,982
Perth St John's	50,629	49,561	51,103
Pitlochry	9,972	9,631	12,365
Pittenweem	12,492	12,540	11,519
Rosyth	10,042	11,025	12,851
St Andrews All Saints	51,491	43,559	45,502
St Andrews St Andrew's	58,772	80,126	81,343
Stanley	1,392	2,065	
Stirling	34,204	34,267	32,024
Strathtay/Aberfeldy	10,627	9,549	9,909
Tayport	1,121	1,042	1,462
<b>Totals</b>	<b>893,881</b>	<b>968,738</b>	<b>944,397</b>
<b>Diocesan Income</b>	316,983	348,714	479,691

## **ROLES WITHIN THE DIOCESE**

### **Dean**

**Very Revd. Kenny Rathband**

The office of Dean is regulated by Canon 43. The Dean works closely alongside the bishop in the support and pastoral care of both clergy and laity, playing an active part in the appointment and institution of the diocesan bishop, clergy and Lay Readers. In the absence of the bishop, certain roles and duties are undertaken by the Dean. The Dean sits *ex officio* on the major Boards and Committees of the Diocese and is Convener of the Buildings Committee.

### **The Synod Clerk**

**Revd. Canon Richard Grosse**

The office of Synod Clerk is regulated by Canon 44. The main duty of the Clerk is to gather statistics from congregations by way of an annual return. The information once obtained is then collated before being formally tabled at Diocesan Synod in March of each year. Thereafter, the statistics are made available to Provincial Office.

The Clerk is a member of the Cathedral Chapter and responsible for the administration of Chapter meetings, including drawing agendas and preparing minutes. By custom, the Clerk is responsible for leading intercessions at any gathering of clergy for formal occasions such as an institution or Cathedral service. The Clerk is normally appointed Teller and Clergy Prolocutor at meetings of Diocesan Synod.

### **Diocesan Mission Enabler and Resourcer**

**Revd. Nerys Brown**

The aim of the part-time post of Diocesan Mission Enabler and Resourcer is to help to develop mission in the Diocese. Revd. Nerys Brown, who has recently completed her curacy and is serving as a non-stipendiary assistant priest at St John the Baptist Church in Perth, will be building on foundations set down during the last ten years and drawing on the pool of experience and skills which exists in the congregations of the diocese.

Having consulted with the Ministry Development and Congregational Growth Committees, she hopes to undertake projects in the areas of ministry with families and children, the development of discipleship, and congregational growth. These would include encouraging the formation of a diocesan network or to showcase best practice of ministry with families and children; to equipping leaders to develop discipleship in congregations; to encourage adult catechesis and putting faith into practice in local communities; to provide support at congregational and diocesan levels for the Congregational Growth movement.

### **Ministry Development Group**

**Revd. Professor Trevor Hart**

The Ministry Development Group's concern is to facilitate and support the development of all authorised forms of ministry within the Diocese, and from time to time to widen this further still to resource the ministries exercised by all the baptised. Chiefly, though, its work is with clergy and Lay Readers. The Group is responsible for organising a programme of training including a series of study days (three or four each year) and an annual residential conference. Additionally the Group coordinates

the work of a network of Peer Support Groups within the Diocese. There are currently five of these (three for clergy and two for Lay Readers), and another clergy group will be launched in the near future. Together with a 'buddy' scheme for clergy new to the Diocese the aim of these groups is to foster community and mutual support in the exercise of shared ministry.

**Diocesan Director of Ordinands                      Revd. Canon Dominic Ind**

The Diocesan Director of Ordinands (DDO) is responsible to the Bishop for the discernment of vocations to the distinctive diaconate and priesthood within the diocese. Candidates are guided through a process which involves exploring their vocation in the light of the Criteria for Selection. The DDO gathers evidence which is collected in the form of sponsoring paperwork, and advises the Bishop as to whether a candidate should proceed to the Provincial stage of discernment. The DDO debriefs candidates after Advisory Panels.

The Scottish Episcopal Church is seeing a welcome increase in the number of candidates offering themselves for ordained ministry, and there are currently candidates from this diocese exploring their vocation, from varied contexts and backgrounds. It is increasingly the case that candidates have come to Anglicanism and even Christianity relatively recently, which adds both challenge and dynamism to the discernment process. The university chaplaincies at St Andrews and Stirling provide significant nurture of vocations. Candidates whom the Bishop finally selects for training are formed for ministry in the Scottish Episcopal Institute. One of the Institute's students to be ordained in 2017 is from this diocese.

**Warden of Lay Readers                                      Revd. Canon Robert Harley**

The Warden of Lay Readers is responsible to the Bishop for the discernment of vocations to Lay Readership and the support of Lay Readers in the diocese. Candidates meet with the Warden for discussion about their vocation and then are interviewed in the presence of an additional Warden. Candidates whom the Bishop finally selects for training are formed for ministry in the Scottish Episcopal Institute. Lay Readers attend the ministerial development days provided by the diocese and some are involved in Peer Support Groups.

**Safeguarding    Robert Nellist**

The Diocese of St Andrews expects each Charge to carry out fully the Scottish Episcopal Church Safeguarding Policies and Codes of Good Practice for the Protection of Children, Young People and Vulnerable Adults, and comply with legislation. Each Vestry is responsible for this. Each Charge must appoint a Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Co-ordinator to ensure that any work with children, young people and vulnerable adults in their congregation is carried out in accordance with SEC Safeguarding Provisions and the Law. PVG Co-ordinator Appointments first have to be approved by the Bishop.



Each Diocesan Bishop appoints an Officer to ensure compliance with safeguarding responsibilities throughout the diocese, who is supported by the Provincial PVG Officers. The Diocesan PVG Officer monitors and supports the implementation of safeguarding measures in the diocese, supervises and records the appointments of congregational PVG Co-ordinators, undertakes an annual audit of compliance with report to the Diocesan Synod and Provincial Officer, and reports on these matters to the Diocesan Standing Committee.

**Convener of the Overseas Committee    Revd. Liz Baker**

The Diocesan link with the Diocese of Calcutta, has been developed over many years and reflects the close ties and the history of this area of Scotland with North India. The link has been growing steadily and enriches the lives of both our dioceses. Our aim is to develop a partnership suitable for the twenty-first century that aids the breaking down of barriers between cultures and people, showing others how the church can model cooperation to the world. We also seek to understand the context in which we both operate: Christianity in India is a minority faith and our links help us to learn how to be a minority community in difficult situations and how we can help and support each other. Our relationship also enables each partner Diocese to offer to our congregations and individuals an opportunity - through visits, social media and regular communication - to explore a Church life and Christian witness that has a different feel and a greater diversity than our own. By sharing each of our unique perspectives we can help, support and learn a great deal from each other.

**Diocesan Facebook Page                      Lis Burke**

The diocese has an active Facebook page which is administered by Lis Burke, one of our Lay Readers. Whenever possible it focusses on events which show us as a church interacting with our local communities, offering another set of 'ways in' for people. It also promotes events that engage the diocese as a whole, and keeps us in touch with our partner diocese of Kolkata in the Church of North India.

## CONGREGATIONAL PROFILES

In preparing these profiles, Secretaries to Vestries were asked to:

1. Tell us about your church(es), the people, your pattern of worship etc.
2. Describe how your congregation is engaged in missional activity.
3. Give an indication of the hopes and aspirations of your Congregation, including the challenges and achievements you are experiencing or anticipate.

### **St Ninian's Cathedral Perth**

Visitors find St Ninian's Cathedral a special place with inspiring stonework and beautiful stained glass windows, designed by William Butterfield and the Pearson brothers. At present there is a process of restoration taking place (phase 1 at a cost of £750,000) to make the building wind and water tight.

We are a faithful and very hard working congregation with a few families and a good number of older and retired parishioners who care for each other as a Church family. A small group meet for Morning Prayer and week day Eucharists. Our main Sunday service is a Sung Eucharist with monthly Evensongs and Taize/Iona services. There is a competent choir with choristers and choral scholars. Four retired clergy and several Eucharistic ministers assist the worship, while other teams ensure that all occasions are well managed. While there is no formal Sunday School, there are special events for young people throughout the year. The Mother's Union have an active branch within the cathedral, where the MU Diocesan Committee meetings are also held. We are active members of Perth Action of Churches Together, Street Pastors, Christian Aid and Hospital Chaplaincy.

As a congregation we engage in many diverse activities throughout the year. We have a weekly prayer group and Bible study group, annual Lent and Advent groups, Community Lunches, Mother and Toddler group, Eco Group, annual Heritage Camps, a variety of Concerts and other musical evenings managed by Friends of Perth Cathedral Music. We are involved in our own St. Ninian's Episcopal Primary School and connect with four other large schools which use us for services and concerts. We also offer space for local groups in the community to meet and share fellowship with one another. We are open to the public 4 days a week with Churchwatch volunteers and recently received a 3-star Scottish Tourist Board Award. We regularly engage with Community Service folk who are welcomed on a regular basis to help with all manner of things in the Cathedral from gardening and cleaning to painting.

It has been our mission over many years to try to connect with as many different organisations in Perth as possible: the business sector, education, the arts and the local Council. We have slowly built up good relations with local shopkeepers and now have an annual Lantern Parade to bring shoppers to this end of the town. We encourage local schools to bring children in, for example to connect with the cathedral Eco group by growing vegetables in the cathedral gardens. The Council now use our facilities for services and occasional functions. The congregation enjoy occasions such as The Gathering and we would like to find fresh ways of connecting with the diocese.

We hope to attract more visitors to the Cathedral by improving its facilities and undertaking Phase 2 of the restoration, although raising finance – even in a most generous congregation - is always a challenge. We plan to renew the heating and sound systems, including a new audio guide in a number of languages, and to complete the installation of LED lighting. We are in the process of building a new Website with regular advertising to attract visitors to the Cathedral, and are training new guides. All this will attract more interest in the cathedral as a venue for concerts and functions. The recent Songs of Praise broadcast from the Cathedral involved people from the Diocese, the city and surrounding areas and was a great success.



**St Ninians Cathedral, Perth**

## **All Souls Fife – Aberdour, Burntisland, Inverkeithing**

All Souls Fife comprises three congregations: St Serf's, Burntisland (historically the Incumbency), St Columba's, Aberdour, and St Peter's, Inverkeithing. Three years ago, some members of St Paul's and St George's, Edinburgh, joined St Peter's as a Church graft. The congregation has grown from 12 to around 80 regularly attending its contemporary worship held at the local High School. The Church graft is also part of St Columba's and St Serf's in that we encourage the three churches to work and worship together when appropriate. The group is served by a Rector, Curate, Youth and Worship Director, Community Worker and part-time Administrative Assistant. Six 'Connect Groups' across the three churches meet on a regular basis to provide mutual pastoral care and social events, and to study the Bible together.

Mission is central to our life in All Souls Fife and we engage in both personal and corporate outreach. Three Alpha courses have borne fruit in two baptisms and six confirmations. Two after-school literacy clubs called 'WordUP' in local primary schools, in partnership with the Scottish Bible Society, are led by our Community Worker and much appreciated by the schools. Our Youth Worker runs Youth UP, an initiative to connect teenagers to God through recording, performing and writing music. St Columba's offers a Flower Festival and a Songs of Praise Evening during the annual Aberdour Festival. We periodically hold parenting or marriage preparation courses in Aberdour. In addition we hold an annual Holiday Club at the end of every July jointly with the local Church of Scotland. We put a lot of energy in our seasonal events, including a Crib Service, Live Nativity, Christmas Concerts and reflective events over Lent and Holy Week.

We are starting a 'Building Community' Project for St Serf's in Burntisland to explore making better contact with our local community. This will include local surveys, assessing how to make our building more community-friendly and exploring appropriate new styles of worship that will connect with the local growing community

We hope to build a rectory, since the previous one was sold off in the 1980s. Funding and location has been a challenge, but all three Vestries have agreed to pursue building on a plot adjacent to St Columba's in Aberdour. When this challenge is resolved, we aim to renovate and improve the church buildings for missional purposes, since they all have problems with access, and there is no usable church hall.

Like many other churches, we have seen decreasing numbers and increasing average age, although we have seen some wonderful changes regarding this, especially for St Peter's. At St Peter's AGM, a shared time of reflection generated the following chief concerns: How can we grow together as three distinct churches into one community of faith? How do we enable new people to make a meaningful and lasting connection with the church? How do we engage, encourage and support volunteers (both new and existing)?

The workload of leading three congregations is significant and takes its toll. But there is great potential at All Souls. The charge offers a wonderful training opportunity for curates since we have three churches all engaging in mission but with varying worship styles. Over 70,000 people live within a 5 mile radius from the centre of our three churches, with continued new housing being established in our area and population growth. In addition we have open doors to two Primary and one High School. We have been greatly encouraged to see people coming to faith and look forward to more doing so in the future.



**All Souls Fife High School service**

## **Aberfoyle and Callander**

St Andrew's, Callander is linked with St Mary's Aberfoyle which is about ten miles away. St Andrew's congregation is mainly local, whereas St Mary's, Aberfoyle draws a congregation from a wide area outside the village. Both buildings and their settings are attractive and popular with wedding parties and tourists. Both hold a weekly Sunday Eucharist and St Andrew's a midweek service. St Mary's holds a monthly early morning and midweek service in hired places of worship to best serve other parts of its catchment area. Both churches are blessed with good ecumenical relations.

St Mary's stages a monthly concert that has done much to nurture links with the wider community, while St Andrews organises an annual summer outing to which anyone in the town is invited. Both individual members of the congregation and the Rector are active in a variety of local charitable and secular activities, and aspire to increase their numbers and presence in these rural communities.



**St Andrews, Callander**



**Concert at Aberfoyle**

## Alloa

The Mission Statement of St John the Evangelist Church in Alloa is “Growing in God’s Love and Sharing it”. Our congregation is mainly made up of retired/elderly folk and sometimes their grandchildren. We have no Incumbent but rely on a rota of retired priests. We also have a Lay Reader who sometimes preaches and conducts a Service of the Word.

The Rector of St Mary’s, Dunblane chairs our Vestry meetings, and through his connection with the Church Army, he is guiding us on our way to congregational growth, with a programme scheduled to start in September. In the meantime we have identified local clubs and societies we already have links to. We have a friendly relationship with the local Church of Scotland and have a monthly Fellowship Group open to all. There is an annual Pet service (the first in our area) which has been well attended, and indeed copied.

We have recently gone through a refurbishment of our “B” listed building and were able to source grants of around £350,000. Now we look forward to having a priest of our own and more people to share in our love.



**St John the Evangelist, Alloa**

## Alyth, Blairgowrie, Coupar Angus and Ballintuim

St Ninian's, Alyth, St Catharine's, Blairgowrie and St Anne's, Coupar Angus are a linked charge in north east Perthshire. We also have responsibility for St Michael's, Ballintuim, which operates principally during summer months with holidaying clergy. The congregations are primarily rural and semi-rural, and each is an incumbency with its own vestry. The pattern of worship is principally Eucharistic using the 1982 Liturgy. A said Communion is held mid-week in St Catharine's.

Regular Messy Church and Café Church services are held, and Taizé-style services monthly from September to May. Services are also conducted in local care and nursing homes. There is a regular lunch club open to members of the local community. As well as regular Mothers' Union meetings there is a "Pasta, Pamper and Prayer" group which seeks to reach out to women in the local community. St Catharine's in Blairgowrie runs a Community Centre attached to the church which is used on a daily basis by a wide variety of groups reaching out to people of all ages. The Local Food Bank also operates from the Centre. Lent groups and Bible studies are held on a regular basis. The charges play an active part in the local ecumenical group (EPACTS).

One of the congregations has run a successful Sunday School; however, due to change in age profile we are finding this difficult to maintain. We are looking at the possibility of creating a mother and toddler group with a view to developing our outreach to young families. We try to engage with one of the local primary schools, hosting visits to the church from their P6s and P7s. A major challenge facing us is trying to find ways of encouraging young people to take on leadership roles.

In a society where complex demands are placed on families we are seeking to find new and enriching ways of engaging in our local communities and sharing our faith using the gifts and talents at our disposal.



St Catharine's, Blairgowrie



St Anne's, Coupar Angus



## Auchterarder and Muthill

St Kessog's is a beautiful Church situated in the small town of Auchterarder. The congregation of 30-40 regular worshippers is faithful, outward looking and eager to engage with the wider community. The worship style at present is generally traditional and sacramental in nature, on Sunday and midweek, however a wider variety of services are being gradually introduced by the new incumbent and have been well received. Despite the older demographic profile of the congregation, there is a Spirit-filled energy to grow and develop discipleship and mission. St James is situated in the village of Muthill. This beautiful Georgian Church was once the centre of Episcopal worship in Strathearn. The congregation is now a small number of faithful members who attend the Sunday Eucharist. Regular joint services are held in each Church by turn.

During Lent in 2017, St Kessog's hosted lunches for the wider community and other church members. This was the first time such events had been held and it was a great success. Church members regularly host coffee mornings and "eat and meet" lunches which are open to all. The Lent course was attended by people outwith the congregation. Musical events such as Choral Evensong are well attended by the wider community. A plan for ongoing events has been put together by the newly re-launched Fellowship Group to help us reach out to the community, focussing on hospitality and fun. St Kessog's has developed close relationships with all three residential care homes in Auchterarder and St James' is developing a close working relationship with the local Parish church and the residential care home in Muthill. St James has strong ties with the village Primary School and hosts Easter and Harvest services. These are well attended by pupils, parents and staff.

The hopes and aspirations of both congregations are similar – to grow the congregation and attract younger people. The challenges are considerable. Neither church has a church hall and the older demographic limits the amounts of energy available. Nevertheless, there are plans at St Kessog's to use the local Guide Hut to host "Messy Church" and to reinvigorate the Sunday school.



**St Kessog's Auchterarder**

## **Birnam and Stanley**

The charge of St Mary's Birnam and St Columba's Stanley is currently without a Rector. St Mary's, Birnam holds a weekly sung Holy Communion on Sundays, and Holy Communion and discussion in the week; the smaller congregation at St Columba's holds a Sunday service every other week but hopes to return to a weekly service in future.

The congregation has good ecumenical links with other churches in the area, running a joint charity shop, sharing the weekly community coffee mornings and holding joint services, for example on Good Friday. We have also run a joint outreach event "Bridging the Gap" for a number of years. Individual members view their involvement in many other community events as part of their Christian outreach.

Our hope is for a part-time priest who would be able to continue spiritual growth within the congregation. Although not a large congregation, we have survived recent financial challenges with a strong sense of our own identity and look forward to a fruitful ministry in the future.



**St Mary's, Dunkeld**

## **Bridge of Allan**

The congregation at Saviour's, Bridge of Allan, is a mixture of families who have attended on a long-term basis, retired people who have recently moved to the area and staff and students associated with the University of Stirling. The Eucharist is celebrated twice on Sundays and also midweek, and we hold Festival Services and occasionally Evensong. St Saviour's has continued a strong musical tradition with an experienced choir that sings an anthem most Sundays. The Rector is assisted by two Lay Readers. The Young Church is small but well-supported and vital to the Church's community.

Active book groups and walking groups give opportunities for the congregation to make friends and share their faith with other members of the community. The church is open during the day and we also take part in the Stirling Council's Open Doors weekend. St Saviour's has strong links with the Parish Church, sharing a Lent Group and Holy Week Services with them in 2017.

In terms of outreach, a short monthly service is held in a local Care Home. Several members of the congregation volunteer at visitor centres at Cornton Vale and Glenochil Prison. The Choir has sung in Berlin and Rome, and has sung Evensong in other congregations. The popular Christingle Service reaches out to families in the community, while Burns Night dinners, dances and murder mystery events gather the community together for entertainment. In 2015, a 10-foot tall Tea Bag Angel installed in the church received national press coverage and 900 visitors in 1 week, later touring to Dunblane and Gloucester Cathedrals.

The congregation is facing the considerable task of raising £350,000 for roof repairs that we plan to begin next year. A significant fundraising effort has been made by the congregation with £10,000 being made in 12 months. We have identified the missional challenge of retaining young people who have grown in the church, although we do attract students and singers. We hope to build the congregation as a dynamic and friendly community that values nurturing talent.



**Saviour's Choir, Bridge of Allan**

## **Central Fife Centre of Mission: Glenrothes and Lochgelly**

The Central Fife Centre of Mission is the fruit of a partnership between the Diocese and the Church Army. Two congregations have taken a major decision to embark on this new mission initiative to reach out to an area of significant social need.

### ***Glenrothes: St Luke's***

The congregation of St Lukes is drawn from the town and further afield, and we are, in the main, elderly in age but young in outlook. Our current regular pattern of worship on Sundays and midweek is Eucharistic, using the 1982 Liturgy. We have a small but active Mothers Union and a Bible Study Group who meet regularly to discuss questions that have arisen from our readings.

We are part of Glenrothes Churches Together and support Christian Aid, Water Aid, Fairtrade and local groups such as the Foodbank. We welcome the use of our building by community groups such as Hearing Voices, Sarah Hendry Dance group and Baby Sensory. An important involvement is with 'Our Place Auchmuty'. The aim of Our Place is to build stronger connections and relationships in Auchmuty, empowering local people and organisations to lead on projects that will make a big difference to the neighbourhood.

Although it is challenging for us to be without a priest at present, our assistant priests and congregation lead worship and other activities, and this collaboration has strengthened our bonds of fellowship. We are currently working alongside Our Place Auchmuty to secure a bid to improve facilities in the building. We hope to create a Community Café and meeting facilities as part of St Luke's vision of outreach mission work. We are looking forward to forming the Centre of Mission together with our sister church St Finnian's, and hope that through this partnership we can begin to develop our outreach mission.



**St Luke's Glenrothes**

## *Lochgelly: St Finnian's*

The members of our small, friendly and caring congregation come from very mixed social and economic backgrounds. We celebrate Sung Eucharist on Sundays with Compline, Taizé or informal Praise and Worship offered in the evening twice a month, and a said Eucharist midweek. Fellowship and refreshments are offered in our church hall after every service. From autumn to Easter there is a monthly house study group, and Bible study after the Tuesday morning service, and in the summer, a day retreat at The Bield near Perth. Socially we have a summer outing, a Christmas Dinner at a local restaurant, and most years a Burns Supper and a Halloween party.

Missional activity is important to a congregation which opens its arms to anyone who comes through the door. Within the church we hold concerts of music which appeals to local people. Monthly services are held in the Day Care Centre and in three Care Homes. We also work with the Salvation Army lunch clubs, and with other denominations in our local ecumenical group. When possible we are involved in events hosted by the Lochgelly Community Development Forum. The priest is also on the rota for the Thought for the Week in the local Central Fife Times.

As a result of learning about our linked Diocese of Calcutta, one of our congregation has been extremely active within the church, the community and his workplace, a nearby College, in raising a very large sum of money to build and furnish an extension to a hospice they run for children orphaned by HIV and Aids, and has indeed been out to Kolkata to visit them.

We have a limited number of people fit and able to take part in mission activities: a good number of our members require assistance themselves, including some younger members struggling to overcome addictions. The church covers a large area and it is a challenge to make an impact that reaches all parts. However, we are looking to the future and are currently looking forward to the appointment of a Lead Evangelist to the Centre of Mission.



**St Finnian's, Lochgelly**

## Cupar and Ladybank

St James the Great is situated in the centre of Cupar and St Mary's on the edge of Ladybank. At St James Sung Eucharist (or sung Matins monthly) is celebrated on Sundays and evening Compline or healing service twice a month. The Eucharist is celebrated twice a month at St Mary's on Sunday afternoons. On the fifth Sunday of the month, there is a shared service which alternates between the two churches.

The congregations mix very well for both services and social functions. Both are involved in the local ecumenical group, enjoying regular services together throughout the year, taking it in turns to host them. We also have joint ventures with this ecumenical group, such as the Lighthouse Café/Christian book shop in Cupar. We also support Christian Aid as an ecumenical group of churches. We have a Tri-Monthly magazine called the Epistle, and a website.

We support the local food-bank in Cupar and the Bethany Christian Trust in Methill/Leven. St James' has a close link with the local Special School, where the Rector attends the Assembly every Friday; he is on the Ecumenical team that visits various other schools in the area.

Both congregations have an outward-looking ministry and hope that this will help them to grow and build on their already-established presence in the area.



**St James the Great Cupar**

**St Mary's Ladybank**



**Pancake Day**

## Dollar

St James Dollar is a vibrant congregation well-respected and liked in the local community. We draw people from a wide area beyond Dollar to our worship and social functions. On Sunday we have two Eucharist services. We have an excellent team to provide for Young Church. Most of the congregation are retired, though we have about ten working families.

St. James is well-known for its social functions and numerous friends to the congregation show up for these. We have a good relationship with the Parish Church, which has no minister at present. We share worship and activities and study groups with them regularly.

We took part in the Casting the Net Missional initiative and have achieved quite a number of our aims in terms of discipleship-building and in becoming better-known and a visible presence in the area. This is mainly through our support of a local food bank, our presence at community events, holding concerts at Church, and church members playing a huge part in so many of the clubs, choirs, societies and political associations in the area. We are known as a very relaxed and welcoming church, often commented on by visitors and locals, though we are not complacent.

One purpose of the current Rector has been to enable the congregation to be more articulate in their faith and to have the confidence to share it when appropriate. We have a weekly study group between Sunday services, a house group of about 15 people, and study groups in Advent and Lent. We are working on making our worship more accessible without "dumbing it down."

For a smallish congregation, everyone has pulled together in recent years when we faced significant financial challenges. We are now in the black and have energy to reach out in gentle and compassionate ways into our communities. We seek to develop and meet the challenge of making the Christian faith attractive in a secular world.



Christingle Service, St James, Dollar

## Doone

St Modoc's serves the communities of Doone, Deanston and its surrounding villages. It has a beautiful and well-maintained building, and delightful grounds. Some of the congregation - including some new babies - belong to families which have worshipped at St Modoc's for generations, while others have come to live in the expanding housing in the area. We have not had a full-time rector for many years, and this has encouraged lay responsibility and resilience. In addition to regular Sunday Eucharist, services are held on major feast and holy days, for Carol Services and occasional Choral Evensong (with visiting choirs). We have good relations with the Church of Scotland and Roman Catholic Church in Doone, which makes ecumenical worship and other events well-attended.

The Rector leads the Doone Faith Forum, which offers discussion and courses to explore faith. It is usually held on 'neutral' space such as the Information Centre, and people from all the local churches attend, and sometimes those with no church connection. Doone Primary School regularly holds their end-of-term assemblies at St Modoc's, and the Rector offers chaplaincy to the school. We partner with the Church of Scotland to offer Messy Church 4 or 5 times a year, and about 25 children attend. St Modoc's reaches out to the community in social ways, such as by charity meals and a Harvest Supper, concerts, and hospitality during events such as the Stirling Marathon (which went through Doone).

We hope to build on the relationships we have made with young families recently seeking baptism for their children at St Modoc's, and to build further on the good relationship we have with Doone Primary School. We aspire to encourage more non-church members to come to the Doone Faith Forum. We are seeking to grow our liturgical and musical strength. There are a good number of 'active retired' folk at St Modoc's, but the age-profile is a concern. The congregation is developing confidence to articulate faith and to live with its diversity. We look forward to growing as disciples, sharing that faith in word and deed with the community around us.



**St Modoc's**



**Amelie's Baptism**



## Dunblane

St Marys, Dunblane is a Grade 2 listed building and is open during the day for visitors. It is in wonderful condition as we have recently undertaken an extensive refurbishment project. We are also presently discussing reordering of the chancel. The congregation is growing and while there are more older than younger attendees, the congregation covers all ages and we have a healthy Young Church with 16 children. Some of our members have grown up in the Church and in Dunblane while others have visited and stayed with us because they have felt welcome and found a spiritual home. Many are very active in the running of the church.

We celebrate the Eucharist each Sunday morning, with everything on the video screen at the All Age service, with music played by the music group. We believe that children are as important in the church today as people of any other age, and so we shape our services so that everyone can join in the social and worship life of our church. On the first Tuesday of every month we have a Messy Church in the hall to which you can bring the whole family for the most fun you can have in church, and share a free meal together.

We believe that mission is a fundamental aspect of being Church. We have long been involved in local ecumenical mission activities like Scripture Union in the schools, children's summer holiday clubs, and community events in spring and at Christmas. We also run Tea and Toast, a weekly drop-in for mums and carers of young children, and we are beginning to explore Fresh Expressions like Messy Church and Life Groups. St Mary's has a range of groups - for youth, women, craft, a men's breakfast, Mothers' Union and home groups. We are active members of the Dunblane Council of Churches.

St Mary's has an established track record of social mission through volunteering for Start Up Stirling, Prison crèche, Christian Aid, and other similar activities. We have been awarded Eco-congregation status, and many of us are involved in conservation and sustainability projects.

We have also established a relationship with St James' Church in our diocesan companion diocese, Kolkata. Some of them visited Dunblane in 2016, and some of our congregation visited Kolkata in 2017, sharing their medical mission to a remote rural village south of Kolkata. Our aspiration is to exchange visits regularly.

The creation of a warm and welcoming environment has led to growth, but proved challenging to deliver. Ongoing, the main focus will be on establishing our Life Groups as we work towards becoming more effective at growing disciples, and becoming more relevant in our worship and outreach.



**St Mary's, Dunblane**



**Young Church mini fete for Haiti**

## Dunfermline and Rosyth

### *Dunfermline, Holy Trinity*

Holy Trinity is a substantial church in the centre of Dunfermline. We have a strong musical tradition with a paid Organist/Musical Director and robed choir to lead the Sunday Sung Eucharist. Repair and cleaning work to our historic Hamilton Pipe Organ will shortly begin, for which the congregation have raised most of the funds. There is a midweek Eucharist attended by about 20 people including some mums and toddlers. During term time our Young Church meets in the church hall and our Youth Fellowship joins with our neighbours in Kirkcaldy, meeting each Sunday evening. This year 6 of our teenagers are going to Glen 17 youth camp. One of our young people is Chair of the Provincial Youth Committee and our Youth Leader is actively involved in planning and leading Glen 17.

We have a team of licensed Eucharistic Ministers who take Holy Communion to the housebound and sick at home or in hospital. We have a well-run Contact group which enables us to keep in touch with members of the congregation.

Holy Trinity is embarking on a Growing Congregations project with Revd. Capt. Nick Green as facilitator, so as to look at our strengths and address areas we can develop. We aspire to be a broad church with financial stability. Dunfermline is one of the fastest growing towns in Fife and we hope to be able to reach out to new members.



Holy Trinity, Dunfermline

### *Rosyth, St Margaret's*

The congregation of St Margaret's has shared the Rosyth Methodist Church (RMC)'s building since 1996 and we have been in a formal Local Ecumenical Partnership (LEP) since 2000. St Margaret's is a faithful, committed and welcoming congregation. Although most of our members are older, many are actively involved worship, music, pastoral care and hospitality.

Our weekly Sung Eucharist led by a dedicated small choir, who greatly enhance our worship, especially during the Advent, Christmas and Lent seasons. Each month, we share Communion with RMC, using Episcopal or Methodist liturgy alternately. Sunday@Six is a joint lay led monthly evening service, which offers a different form of worship each time. We also help to lead worship at Rosyth Resource Centre, and Orchardhead House Residential Home.

We are actively engaged with RMC in mission and outreach within the local community and we run a monthly Messy Church jointly. We also have a very successful Triangle Café once a week for friendship and company, a popular Wednesday Fellowship (for older people), a monthly craft evening, and a fortnightly Bible study group.

We are working hard to reach out to the wider community and have seen some growth in recent years, but resourcing this is a challenge. A small joint strategic group with RMC will focus on how we can work together to secure the future of the LEP. St Margaret's shares a Rector with Holy Trinity, Dunfermline. We intend to initiate a linked charges agreement with Holy Trinity, which will include putting the financial arrangements on a formal footing.



**St Margaret's, Rosyth**

## Elie and Pittenweem

Elie and Pittenweem are small towns in the East Neuk of Fife, along the shores of the Firth of Forth. The two churches are only 5 miles apart, and have small but faithful and committed congregations. The congregations are largely drawn from the local towns and villages, while several members only attend when visiting their second homes here.

Holy Communion services are held in both churches every Sunday. During our long period without a priest, we have used the 'Service of the Word' on occasions, which was well received. Various joint services are also held. A study course is offered during Lent, this year on the Lord's Prayer. We enjoy good ecumenical relationships with other local Christian churches.

Both congregations do their best to be visible in the community and to open our doors to all. St Michael's, Elie is used as a retreat venue by another local church, coffee mornings are organised, the church is used by East Neuk Music Festival musicians for rehearsals, and we also hold 'Open Days'.

As well as coffee mornings, St John's organises a popular annual Summer Fayre and the church is open daily to visitors during the annual Pittenweem Arts Festival with a short lunchtime meditation. A series of East Neuk Debates has drawn in a lot of attention, and the church is venue for various talks and concerts every year, usually ending with refreshments.

We sincerely hope to build our congregations and especially to attract more young people. This will be a challenge, but we have just appointed a 45-year-old rector to lead us, who will undoubtedly enable us to reach out to younger people.



St Michael and All Angels, Elie

Elie Coffee morning

## **Forfar and Lunanhead**

St John's Forfar was built in 1881, a large building with a superb organ and organist. The worship is traditional and has a Sunday morning and a Wednesday morning Eucharist. There is a mix of people who come, some with a long association and some more recent.

Missional activity is more focussed on coffee mornings, the Annual Church dinner and participating in wider mission such as Sea Sunday, Salvation Army collections and Christian Aid week. There is a monthly Tuesday Evening Club, a sewing group and a Friday lunch club that caters for a number of townspeople in addition to church members.

We are in a challenging situation at present as our Rector has been on sick leave for over twelve months. Our hopes are that this situation will soon be resolved so that we can look to our future congregational life.



**St John the Evangelist, Forfar**



## **Highland Perthshire Group – Pitlochry, Kinloch Rannoch, Kilmaveonaig and Strathtay**

The Highland Perthshire Linked Charge comprises four congregations which together serve a large area of Highland Perthshire. In such a popular tourist destination, our congregations are augmented by seasonal visitors. Worship across the Charge consists of Eucharistic and non-Eucharistic services on Sundays, regular evening services both traditional and reflective such as Taizé and Iona. Daily prayer and midweek Eucharist is offered, plus seasonal and special services. We reach out into the Aberfeldy area through regular services in Weem Parish Church.

Our key missional activities are firstly, with young people in schools and at All Age Services with Messy Church elements. We also work in the local community, running clubs, courses and Quiet Days which are open to all and seek to support refugees in Perthshire. We have links with the Pitlochry Festival Theatre and Churches Working Together in Atholl.

We hope to make a friendly, discussion space at the west end of Holy Trinity, Pitlochry, where we can explore some less formal models of worship. Overall, our congregations aspire to build a strong Scottish Episcopal presence in Highland Perthshire enriching our prayer life with study, visits and retreats, to grow our work with children and to improve the facilities in the buildings without destroying the atmosphere. But most of all to serve and to encourage people in our faith journeys.



**St Adamnan, Kilmaveonaig**

## Kinross

St Paul's, Kinross is an energetic, dynamic and geographically-gathered family that spans an enormous age range (2 – 99 years old!). The worship we offer to God is both liturgical and diverse, including an occasional 'In Conversation' in the sermon slot, a lay-led Liturgy of the Word every quarter, an annual Pet Service and a monthly traditional Evensong. There is a Sunday School, and last year five young people were confirmed. We celebrate Eucharist midweek, and hold a prayer and discussion group weekly and a Pastoral Care group monthly. The church is open during the day.

We aim to combine the best of the old with the best of the new. We retain traditional worship but explore more experimental forms. We make extensive use of modern technology for communications, using Skype for our Bible study group, which enables our scattered young people to meet electronically.

We work closely with other local churches, and the Rector is part of the ecumenical chaplaincy team at Kinross High School. We have formed special ties with the Catholic Church, especially for Triduum services in Holy Week. The Rector is also the chaplain to the local ATC.

As the result of a conversation at the local Recycling Centre, St Paul's has opened up its old black tin hall to become the foodbank for Kinross-shire, run by the 'Broke Not Broken' charity, at which several from the church volunteer. The church has made space to grow fresh fruit and vegetables for the foodbank. This is also a peace garden that will soon include a small labyrinth and seating area.

We also express mission by hosting without charge the local branches of the Credit Union, the La Leche League and Time Exchange in our Meeting Room. Others such as the local branch of Perth's CAB also rent it. We are active in the Kinross-shire Day Centre, the Kinross-shire Volunteers Drivers Scheme and Common Grounds (a local and successful fund-raising initiative).

Since the appointment of a full-time Rector, the church has faced increasing financial struggles and is addressing this at the moment by a series of fundraising events. We were fortunate to receive grants to restore the church roof and bell tower this year. We aspire to make the internal fixtures, fittings and lighting of the church more flexible as we develop our worship and hospitality to the community.



St Paul's, Kinross



St Paul's children's activities



## Kirkcaldy and Kinghorn

St Peter's was built in 1976 to replace the Victorian church that fell victim to mining subsidence, and it has excellent facilities for worship and meetings. A peace garden was planted some years ago and a green space adjacent to the pavement is reserved for the burial of ashes. The congregation includes some young families, and also folk who used to worship at Kinghorn. Services are Eucharistic on Sundays and midweek, with an occasional All Age and regular seasonal services. There is a team of musicians and lay people who help to lead worship. A weekly Prayer Group meets for study and prayer. The Youth Fellowship is shared with Holy Trinity, Dunfermline and St Peter's delegates regularly attend the Glenalmond summer camp. Social groups such as the Thursday Club and Craft Group offer fellowship and activities. The congregation is active and involved, a community that ministers rather than waits to be ministered to.

St Peter's is keen to extend their present involvement in local community initiatives, such as Street Pastors and Kirkcaldy Foodbank. The Rector is chaplain to two schools, St Peter's has welcomed class visits and also as the local cub pack to the church. The church hosted a Viewforth High School concert, the first time pupils had performed outwith their school. We aim to communicate widely about our life, in the Rector's contributions to the The Fife Free Press, the magazine, website and Facebook page, by email and telephone chain.

Kirkcaldy is increasingly becoming a commuter town for Edinburgh and the central belt. It is a challenge to encourage those who travel a distance to work to become engaged with their local community. St Peter's greatest asset is the congregation and their friendliness. It has been encouraging to welcome a significant number of new members recently. The congregation is looking forward to the future mission of its church in this modern society through prayer, action and inclusion.



**St Peter's, Kirkcaldy Patronal Festival**

## **Kirriemuir**

St Mary's is a grade A listed building, designed by Sir Ninian Comper, and is currently undergoing a grant-funded refurbishment. We are situated prominently on a hillside on the north side of Kirriemuir, which has a population of 6000 people. We use the 1982 Liturgy at all our services and have a small Sunday School, which meets approximately fortnightly. A Home Group and a Prayer Group meet weekly.

The Rector co-leads a weekly Scripture Union primary school lunchtime club and for twelve years led the Kirriemuir Churches Scripture Union summer holiday club for primary children. We participate in the ecumenical Kirriemuir Churches Together. Our Overseas Group works to support several overseas and national charities the following charities, including Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong, India, where we sponsor the education of a nine year old boy.

We are looking forward to returning to our building on completion of the refurbishment. In the meantime we have been conducting our services in a nearby retirement home where some of the residents have joined us on Sundays. We are always seeking to welcome people to St Mary's and in the last year or so we have welcomed five new people.



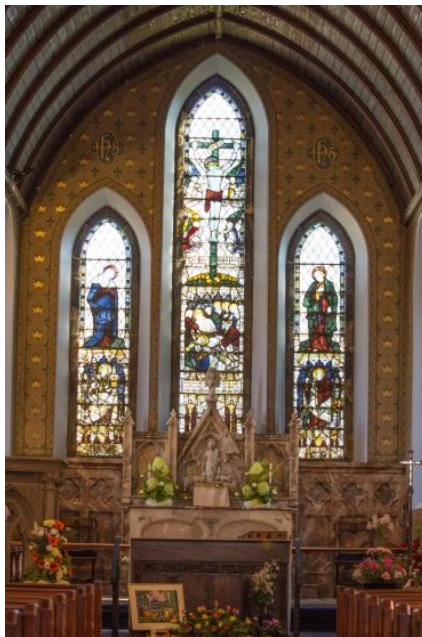
**St Mary's, Kirriemuir**

## Leven

St Margaret's is a Victorian listed building with a Kempe window above the altar. We have a Lay Reader licensed in 2015, and are supported approximately once per month by a retired priest. The rest of the time worship is lay led, on Sundays and Wednesdays.

Members of our congregation are involved in various groups and organisations, for example supporting the Foodbank, Levenmouth Churches Together and a weekly Community Knitting and Crafts group (called Knot Just Knitting).

St Margaret's Vestry is considering how to meet the challenges of the way forward for our small congregation. Recently there has been some development of worship, and participation in the "Thy Kingdom Come" prayer initiative in the run-up to Pentecost.



St Margaret's, Leven

## Newport on Tay

St Mary's in Newport on Tay was built in 1886. We are a small but faithful congregation, meeting each Sunday for Sung Eucharist, and almost every member of the congregation is involved in the activities of the church in some way.

Having recently sold our rectory and hall, we are in the process of planning a reorganisation of the church building to accommodate a meeting space at the back of the church, and also the provision of a toilet. The church is open during the day in the summer months, for reflection and prayer.

Although we have no young people in the church, contact has been made with the local Primary School, and we hope to offer visits for the children, and to give them the opportunity to come and sing for us. Local school and nursery children will be singing in the church as part of the Newport Festival in mid-June. We have made bright coloured "pew bags" containing activities for children in church.

Currently we are in an interregnum, the previous Rector having retired in 2015. Once we have reorganised the church building, we hope to purchase another more suitable property for a rectory, and at that point we can seek a new rector to lead us forward.



St Mary's Newport on Tay



November 2016

## **Perth – St John’s**

St John the Baptist is a city-centre church, with most of the congregation living in the suburbs or outlying areas. Holy Communion is celebrated twice on Sundays, with Matins and an All Age service monthly. We have made major efforts in the past 2 years to encourage young families with children, such as a weekly Buggy Club, Family Fun Days and special services attractive to young people. New initiatives have included Nitekirk, a monthly drop-in time for reflection on Sunday evenings and ‘Windows on the World’ with outside speakers at monthly Evensong.

The church hopes to build on the series of outreach initiatives described and be known as a place of welcome and open-mindedness. This year we initiated a Perth refugee and immigrant support group. We also seek to increase the use of our recently renovated and beautified building and well-equipped Threshold Centre, already accessed by local groups such as Amnesty International, U3A and others.



**St John’s Perth Easter Morning**

## St Andrews - All Saints

All Saints is the younger of the two Scottish Episcopal churches in St Andrews and is the only church in the Diocese to offer daily Office and Mass. We use the 1970 Rite on Sundays and for sung masses on festivals. Solemn evensong & benediction is celebrated monthly on a Sunday, underlining All Saints' distinctive emphasis on catholic spirituality and ceremonial. Worship is supported by our strong musical tradition. The congregation spans a wide range of ages and social backgrounds, with many traveling some distance to participate in All Saints' distinctive liturgy. We have strong links with the University with many students and staff participating in the life of the congregation.

The focus of All Saints, following their MAP exercise four years ago, has been deepening our understanding of the Christian faith and supporting vulnerable members of the local community. Regular study evenings for catechesis, visits and pilgrimages are developing our discipleship. The church premises are used creatively and generously, for example to AA and Al Anon, local clubs and societies, a student Just Love branch and an ecumenical Julian Group. The congregation seeks to welcome visitors by offering hospitality after services, and occasional congregational lunches, which encourages exploration of the underlying spiritual life that nourishes us.

Following a recent quinquennial inspection, we have a major challenge to complete a large programme of repairs especially to the roof and windows church fabric over the next three years. A major refurbishment to the Rectory was undertaken in 2015/16 and now a fresh fundraising effort is required. We hope thus to secure the work of All Saints in the community for many years to come. We aim to achieve these challenges without negatively impacting on the worship and mission of the church.



All Saints, St Andrews

## **Saint Andrew's - St Andrews**

Saint Andrew's is a town centre church with a gathered congregation and includes a cohort of postgraduate students from the University and their young families. At present we have a thriving Young Church. Worship in Saint Andrews encompasses a number of different forms and styles. Our main weekly service is on Sundays when we gather to share in the Eucharist together and to encounter God through the reading and interpretation of Scripture. We have a strong choral tradition, with a weekly service of Choral Evensong on Sunday afternoons. Evening prayer is said daily and the Eucharist is celebrated midweek.

We have good relationships with other Christian congregations in the town and participate in various ecumenical ventures (such as an annual Good Friday Pilgrimage, a 24 hour prayer vigil hosted by our own congregation and an annual sponsored walk across the Tay Road Bridge in support of Christian Aid).

We have two main missional activities at present: firstly, a community lunch, which provides food and fellowship for some of the more vulnerable members of the local community. We hope to develop this project as the core of a proposed 'North East Fife Community Hub', working in conjunction with other local congregations and agencies locally. We also offer 'Butterflies', a group for pre-school children and their carers which meets weekly on Monday mornings and provides a welcome and safe space to sit and chat over coffee while the young ones play, enjoy craft activities and consume quantities of juice and snacks.

One of our challenges is to work for growth in a way that focuses primarily not on numbers but on depth of faithfulness to Christ-like service and ministry. Our hope is to immerse ourselves more fully in meeting the needs of the local community, to open our building more fully to the community and to develop a worship space (literal and metaphorical) where all will feel welcome and at home.



**Saint Andrew's, St Andrews**

## **Stirling**

Holy Trinity is an active and growing congregation broadly set within the liberal catholic tradition of the Scottish Episcopal Church. The church meets in a Grade 'A' listed building of substantial size located in the city centre of Stirling. There is also a newly refurbished hall used by various groups and for church activities.

The Eucharist is celebrated twice on Sundays and also on Fridays, and there are also seasonal services. Music is central for the way we worship as we seek to engage not only the brain, but all the senses. Holy Trinity employs an experienced pastoral musician as Director of Music and a small choir supports the singing, but our focus is the congregation as primary music-maker. An All Age Eucharist is held monthly, actively encouraging participation of the children (who on other Sundays meet in the hall for HTKidz, our Sunday School) and makes the use of a music group. This is complemented by the occasional Messy Church, which typically draws on families beyond our own congregation, and a Youth Fellowship meeting fortnightly on a Saturday evening.

Holy Trinity identified three priorities in its MAP: 'Worship that Renews and Inspires', 'Lifelong Christian Nurture' and 'Sharing Faith'. They underpin all our missional activity. We are seeking to make our worship attractive and deep and we are extending our established Bible studies and fellowship groups to give a wider chance to participate.

Individuals are engaged in a diverse range of activities and organisations, such as The Leprosy Mission, Street Pastors, Cornton Vale Prison Community Hub and the Mothers Union. Holy Trinity is also engaged in Start Up Stirling, which supports the homeless and provides a Foodbank. Coffee mornings and other fundraising events provide significant outreach into the local community and help to put Holy Trinity firmly on the map of churches within Stirling. The 'Kirkin' of the Council' took place in Holy Trinity last year and will provide a basis for continued outreach. We aspire to use our recently refurbished church hall as a means to engage with the wider community.

Our large and historic building is in good condition, and we hope to make the building more accessible and suitable for flexible and inclusive worship. As our Director of Music is the coordinator for RSCM Scotland, there is potential to develop Holy Trinity as a training centre for Church music in a vibrant setting.



**Holy Trinity Church**



**Pentecost Messy Church**



**Strathearn Churches:**  
**Crieff, Comrie, Lochearnhead and Killin**

The Strathearn Churches are currently served by a Ministry Team consisting of the Rector, Deacon, Lay Reader and Lay Missioner. There is mutual support amongst the congregation and the annual four-day Pilgrimage between Crieff and Killin has encouraged the sense of their inter-relationship.

***Crieff: St Columba's***

St Columba's is set in the centre of this popular rural tourist town. It offers two celebrations of the Eucharist each Sunday and a growing weekday service. A missional strength of St Columba's is its contact with those on the fringes of Church. The Tuesday Breakfast Flock serves a group of such people with study, discussion, discipling and prayer in a hospitable environment, while the Omega Group reaches to young people whose parents are mostly outside the church, and has led to several baptisms and confirmations. Pastoral support has also been given to those attending the Craft Group and Stroke Support Group, and also at Ashdene House Care Home. A different approach is offered through an annual pilgrimage along the Three Saints Way, and Perthshire Open Studios' outreach to the artist community. The Rector is chaplain to the Air Cadets who hold their Church Parade at St Columba's.

The challenge is to find ways of drawing in the younger peripheral members so that they begin to feel themselves part of the community in worship and outreach. The congregation hopes to become increasingly visible as hospitable people of God and so demonstrate the reality of God within the community.



### *Comrie: St Serf's*

The congregation hopes to become increasingly visible as hospitable people of God and so demonstrate the reality of God within the community. The Eucharist is celebrated on Sundays and there are other services during the week. A monthly evening service for those with special needs is attended by people from beyond the congregation.

Pastoral care is offered in the community and to those in local care homes. Our wildflower meadow and labyrinth are enjoyed as community amenities. We hold regular film and study group meetings which have engaged those outwith the church. St Serf's engages with Comrie Fortnight by offering an Art and Soul Day and a concert; at the request of the group who had worked at 'greening' the Square, we also stage a Christmas Carol concert that starts in there.

We are noticing some growth in Sunday congregations, and an increasing sense of warmth, spirituality and confidence. We are working on making the building more people-friendly and safe. Our hope is to become increasingly outward-looking and practical in our caring for the community, including the global community. We are seeking ways to increase our links with India through the Overseas Committee.



St Serf's, Comrie

### *Lochearnhead: St Angus*

St Angus draws its congregation from this small village and a scattering of local rural communities plus those who come to holiday here. On Sundays, worship alternates between Eucharist and Evensong, with "Food for thought" in a local hotel on any fifth Sunday, when topical discussion and friendship is enjoyed, including with those from outside the Church.

A home group meets regularly for teaching and discussion which draws most of its members from beyond the congregation. The annual Carol Service on the Village Hall and the lochside Easter Sunday service have become community events. A parishioner writes articles for the local newspaper which helps to encourage dialogue with the wider community.

We have a core stable congregation who have a flexibility and warmth that visitors respond to, and we have welcomed some newcomers recently. Mission is limited to links with the community that we have, and there is a large swathe of the population mostly unreached, but this is beginning to change and there is more discussion about reaching out to our neighbours.



**St Angus, Lochearnhead**

### **Killin: *St Fillan's***

St Fillan's is a historic 'tin church', beautifully panelled with wood, refurbished about 6 years ago, with a small meeting room attached. It serves the small village which is a popular holiday destination on the edge of Loch Tay. Our congregation is supported by the other Strathearn Churches, and on Sundays, we alternate between Eucharist at St Fillan's Church Killin, joint services with the Parish Church, and Evensong at Lochearnhead. Holiday-makers sometimes join in our worship and events.

We reach out to the community by offering activities with the Primary School children especially at Christmas and Easter. An art group meets monthly. Negotiations are underway with Killin Heritage to use the social room to house and display its artefacts which means that the church will be open to visitors regularly in summer.

At St Fillan's, we face a somewhat uncertain future with hopefulness and a desire to engage more people in our services and activities.



**St Fillans, Killin**

## Tayport

Tayport is an attractive town on the northern coast of East Fife, within easy reach of both St Andrews and Dundee and therefore provides a useful “bridge” between our Diocese and the Diocese of Brechin (which includes Dundee). St Margaret’s currently has a Lay Reader but no Rector, but we celebrate Eucharistic worship each Sunday. We also hold an ecumenical Wednesday morning meditation service. most weeks in the year. St Margaret’s is a small but enthusiastic congregation who all take an active part in the life of the church, including playing the organ, reading lessons, producing a monthly newsletter, providing flowers and preparing refreshments after each service.

We work with other Tayport Churches, not only in organising joint church services, but also working with the local community to assist with the local food bank, lunch club for the elderly and organising multiple charity events – many of them involving music. Our hall, built in 2004, is well used by the local community of all age groups, which gives many opportunities for mission.

We hope for a new Rector to lead our life and growth, and recently added a few new members to our congregation. We have no pressing financial concerns and our small church is in good condition.



St Margaret's Tayport

## **PRIVATE CHAPELS IN THE DIOCESE**

### **GLAMIS CASTLE Chaplain: Revd. Canon Dr Joseph J Morrow**

The Chapel is an integral part of the Castle, added by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Strathmore in 1688. After nearly 100 years disuse it was restored by the 13<sup>th</sup> Earl (The Queen Mother's grandfather) in 1866. The small congregation has the Strathmore family at its heart and consists of a committed group of communicants mostly Episcopalian but including other denominations. For the most part they have some connection with the Castle or Estate. Services, usually the 1982 Liturgy, take place about fortnightly and on major festivals and are arranged so as not to clash with the seasonal tourists who visit the Castle or with the village Kirk services.

### **GLENALMOND COLLEGE Chaplain: Revd. Giles Dove**

Glenalmond College is an Episcopalian foundation and now is a co-educational independent boarding and day school for 350-400 pupils aged 12-18. The Chapel congregation consists of staff with their families and pupils, drawn not only from Scotland but from other parts of the British Isles, from Europe and further afield as well. Thus they represent a mixture of denominations and some belong to no branch of the Christian Church. All staff and pupils have an obligation to attend a Chapel service five days a week and once on Sundays. The needs of those with other faiths are met by individual arrangement. Nearly all services are conducted by the Chaplain, but pupils and members of staff also contribute. Eucharist is celebrated every Sunday, although the main Sunday service is more often a form of Morning or Evening Prayer or Eucharist. A service of Confirmation is held annually and for many years has been combined with a service of Admission to full membership of the CofS. The Chaplain prepares all candidates on an ecumenical and inclusive basis, including some Roman Catholics who are subsequently confirmed in their home church. The Chapel is also used for Baptisms, Marriages, Funerals and Memorial Services. During the school holidays, only occasional services are held, chiefly at Christmas (perhaps 50 worshippers at Midnight Mass and 200+ on Christmas Morning) and Easter (up to 100 worshippers).

The Head of Chapel is traditionally the Warden of Glenalmond (i.e. the Headmistress/master). The Chaplain, who must be an Anglican priest, is appointed by the Warden in consultation with the Bishop and her/his appointment must be approved by the Bishop. The Primus of the SEC is ex officio President of the Council (Governing Body) and the Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane is an ex officio member of the Council. The Bishop of Glasgow and Galloway is also currently a member of Council.

The Chaplain is a member of the diocesan clergy and attends diocesan meetings and Synods if free to do so. The Chaplain has a pastoral role for pupils and staff, and is also Head of the Divinity and Religious Studies Department, teaching throughout the school including A Level Religious Studies. The current Chaplain has established links with the Scottish Episcopal Institute, inviting ordinands to spend time as an intern at the College and preaching on Vocations Sunday.

Glenalmond College hosts the Provincial Glenalmond Youth Week, when young people from across the Scottish Episcopal Church gather for a time of worship, fellowship and learning during the summer. 2017 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the SEC Youth Weeks.

## **EPISCOPALIAN SCHOOLS IN THE DIOCESE**

We have two Episcopalian Schools in the Diocese. St Ninian's in Perth and St Mary's in Dunblane.

## **CHAPLAINCIES IN THE DIOCESE**

Diocesan clergy provide Chaplaincy support for students at institutions of Further and Higher Education across the Diocese.

Revd Liz Baker is Chaplain to the Pitlochry Festival Theatre.

The Provost of St Ninian's Cathedral, The Very Revd Hunter Farquharson is Chaplain to Perth Royal Infirmary, Perth Theatre and Concert Hall.

Revd Graham Taylor is Chaplain to Perth Races.

## **OTHER**

### **St Fillan's Cave, Pittenweem**

The cave, which was refurbished and opened to visitors in October 2000, is situated on Cove Wynd and is owned by the Bishop Low Trust. It is entrusted to the care of St John's Scottish Episcopal Church in Pittenweem.

It is a place of pilgrimage and has been used for many purposes over many generations. Today it is a shrine to the memory of St Fillan and to the people of Pittenweem who have lived and worked here over the centuries. From time to time Christian services are held in the Cave.



**St Fillan's Cave, Pittenweem**

## **THE BIELD RETREAT**

The Bield Retreat and Conference Centre at Blackruthven, Perth was established in 1997 by Revd Robin Anker-Petersen and is a centre for Christian spirituality, retreat and healing.