



# Saline and Blairingone Parish Church

## Parish Profile

(Presbytery of Dunfermline)

## *Introduction*

We are a small church seeking the person God wills to be our next minister following the retirement of the Reverend Bob Boyle in June 2010.

Being the Body of Christ in this place at this time presents many challenges; in particular, we feel God is calling us to explore new ways of establishing contact and welcoming members of our communities into Christian fellowship and fresh expressions of church.

The call is on a 50% 5 year reviewable tenure basis, and we recognise that a 50% full time equivalent ministry will challenge both us, and we anticipate, our new minister. We are, however, fortunate in having gained valuable experience and developed the necessary leadership and supportive skills to support our previous minister during a protracted period of absence on medical leave and his subsequent, phased return to work. We are currently blessed with a locum minister whom we also continue to actively support and complement.

## *Parish & Location*

The Parish is a rural area of some 20 square miles and a population of approximately 2200, lying mostly in West Fife but partly in Clackmannanshire and Perth and Kinross. Most of the area is farmland but there are several population clusters: Saline village, the largest, about six miles northwest of Dunfermline; Blairingone village; the settlement of Steelend; and hamlets Kinneddar Park and Cowstrandburn.



Our church buildings are situated in a prominent position on Main Street in Saline. The manse is in a quiet cul-de-sac less than a 5 minute walk from the Church.

### **Worship**

Services of worship are held every Sunday in the Parish Church. Additional services are held during Holy Week and at Christmas, and end-of-term services are held for Saline Primary School. Praise is currently based on CH3, Mission Praise and our own supplementary hymn book, and scripture readings are usually from the New International Version Bible. Opportunity for fellowship and simple refreshment is provided after Sunday services, and occasionally buffet lunches and barbeques take place. Sunday Services are usually conducted by the Minister, but a Worship Team and groups from within the congregation, such as the Guild, conduct the service on occasions.

A group of Church members runs fortnightly services of worship for the residents of Bandrum Nursing Home situated at Cowstrandburn just south of Saline village.

We have completed a series of meetings based on the Fresh Expressions of Worship material to help us find ways of connecting with people from within our community who have not yet been drawn into the church family.

### **Pastoral Care**

At present pastoral care is provided typically:

- By the Minister conducting hospital visits, school visits, house visits, home communions, organisation visits, and ministering to the bereaved;
- By Church members taking church flowers to people who were ill, bereaved, lonely, or suffering in other ways;
- By elders visiting people within their district;
- By Church Guild members visiting the elderly on their birthday anniversaries.

The Church becomes aware of pastoral needs through direct requests and through participation of its members in the social networks of the local community, including various local organisations. A Pastoral Care Team and other congregational activities such as the regular Wednesday coffee mornings in the Church Hall also support the pastoral work of the Church by facilitating social networking and communication.

### **Teaching and Discipleship**

The Church provides Christian teaching and encourages discipleship in a variety of ways:

- Preaching in the context of Sunday or other services of worship;
- Sunday School for children of pre-school and primary ages;

- Bible study groups;
- Church Guild (which meets fortnightly);
- Minister's column in a bi-monthly Newsletter distributed to members;
- Running a holiday club for primary school age children.

Provision for secondary school children and young people is dependent on demand and the availability of leaders, and is currently under review in the context of Fresh Expressions of Church.

The work of our Guild, which meets fortnightly, is underpinned by Christian discipleship relevant to the national Guild current theme.

In 2009 we ran a very well attended and successful "Contagious Christian" course providing encouragement and guidance for personal witness.

Also in 2009 two members of the congregation successfully completed the Church of Scotland Enquiry Process with one now accepted as a candidate for the ministry and the other for training as a reader.

### **Interacting with the local community and seeking mission opportunities**

In addition to the activities mentioned above under pastoral care, and the involvement of individual members in local organisations in a personal capacity, the congregation contributes to the life of the local community in various ways.

Every Wednesday a coffee morning is held in the church hall attracting people both from within and outwith the congregation. A community health initiative selling locally sourced fruit and vegetables operates in the hall concurrently with the coffee mornings.



The Church Fellowship Team arranges social events and activities attended both by church members and other people from the local community.



The church is open on Wednesday afternoons from May until September for visitors, reflection and private meditation.

The Church usually runs a stall providing refreshments at Saline Village Gala.

In both 2009 and 2010 the congregation ran holiday clubs for 5 to 12 year olds under the aegis of Scripture Union. On both occasions attendance equated to over 40% of the Saline Primary School roll. These five day missions in the summer holidays have, and are being, followed up by a number of evening events.



A walking group has a programme of about twenty walks during the year, and includes participants from outwith the congregation in its membership.

The church hall is used by the local Rainbows, Brownies and Guide unit for their regular weekly meetings and by the Saline Primary School Parent Council for their occasional events. A highland dancing class uses the meeting room in the hall complex twice weekly.

### **Social care and supporting mission beyond the parish**

The congregation supports:

- the Blythwood Care annual shoebox appeal;
- Dunfermline Christian Care, an initiative to provide toiletries and items for personal care to homeless people in the Dunfermline area;
- CrossReach through the sale of Christmas cards, calendars and other merchandise;
- Christian Aid through an annual event in the church hall during Christian aid week;
- Church of Scotland World Mission Council through the stamp recycling scheme;
- Fairtrade through occasional sales of products after services and at the Wednesday Coffee mornings;
- The work of various Christian agencies through special collections at various seasons for ongoing development, and when acute needs arise;
- A long-serving Pakistan missionary partner, originally from Saline and now retired but still serving and living in Pakistan, through donations from the general fund.

The Guild raises awareness and funds through its activities to provide financial support to Guild Projects and other mission work in Scotland and further afield.

The Sunday School offerings are used to support Christian mission work.

### ***Recent History Of The Area And Our Church***

Until the latter part of the twentieth century the major sources of employment were agriculture and deep-pit mining. Apart from agriculture there is now comparatively little industry within the parish itself. Main centres of employment are Dunfermline and Rosyth, various nearby towns, and the cities of Edinburgh, Glasgow and Perth.

For much of the 20<sup>th</sup> Century there were two places of worship in Saline. Following the disruption in 1843 a Free Church congregation was formed, flourished, and maintained their own church. Following the union of the Free Church with the Church of Scotland in 1929, the congregation continued for a brief spell as Saline North Parish Church before uniting with the old Parish Church congregation, and worshipping in the current Parish Church.

A Steelend Mission was established in 1913. This became part of the Saline Free Church in 1917 and then, following the union, part of the old Parish Church. A flourishing Sunday School was maintained in Steelend until the late 1950's.

There was also a Roman Catholic congregation and church in Saline from 1959 until 1987.

In 1958, Saline was linked with Blairingone Parish Church, a former Chapel of Ease disjoined from Fossoway Parish Church in 1860. The two congregations were united in 1993 to form the current congregation of Saline and Blairingone Parish Church.

As time passed, the number of worshippers in Blairingone decreased to the extent that the church was de-consecrated in 2004 and subsequently sold. Regular Sunday services continued to be held in the village primary school, but latterly were supported in the main only by members from Saline. As a consequence, the services there were suspended in early 2010.

The importance of the above is that the Parish Church in Saline is now the sole centre for public Christian worship and witness for a large rural area. Whilst this is not untypical across our nation, as a consequence our congregation is formed and shaped by members of various traditions and denominational backgrounds. It is also something that we have to be aware of as a congregation as we seek to spread the gospel across the communities that form this charge.

**Congregational Leadership and Statistics**

The congregation operates under the model constitution. The Kirk Session has 13 elders. The Congregational Board currently comprises 10 of these elders and 5 elected members from the congregation.

Over the last few years the number of members has decreased slightly and currently stands at 159.

Income is predominantly from members' offerings, and has fluctuated as the membership and individuals' circumstances have changed.

	Communicant Members	Baptisms	Weddings	*Funerals	Unrestricted Income
2007	176	3	4	41	£45,896
2008	164	2	0	33	£46,177
2009	164	2	1	5	£42,381
*Numbers for 2007 and 2008 include funerals for another parish whilst the Minister served as an Interim Moderator					

## *Our Church Buildings*

The current Church was built some two hundred years ago, replacing an earlier building. The Session House, which can be seen to the left of the War memorial in the picture below, was built circa 1820. We are currently considering establishing it as a local heritage centre in conjunction with the local Community Council.



In the 1970s a new Hall complex adjoining the Church was added, providing a 9m x 9m main hall (see below), meeting room, kitchen, toilets, and new vestry.



The manse is a modern detached house with large separate double garage. Downstairs accommodation comprises: large lounge, spacious enough for use as combined lounge / dining room; study; kitchen; utility room; cloakroom / WC; and boiler room. Upstairs there are four bedrooms, one with en-suite shower room / WC, and a large family bath / shower / WC room. The property has gas central heating provided by a high efficiency condensing boiler. Cavity wall insulation and UPVC double glazed windows assist in keeping down energy costs.



## **Local Amenities**

Saline Primary School (September 2010 roll, 96 P1 – P7 plus 20 nursery) serves the villages of Saline and Steelend together with outlying parts of the parish within Fife. For secondary education most children go on to the recently re-built Dunfermline Queen Anne High School. There is a small primary school in Blairingone (roll 5). Our previous minister maintained close links with the primary schools in both Saline and Blairingone.

Children educated in the private sector usually attend Dollar Academy, although from time to time some have attended schools in Edinburgh.

Saline has a general store, and there is a separate post office co-located with a soft furnishings business. The Dunfermline-based mobile library visits various locations in and around Saline and Steelend, and several mobile shops also serve the villages.

Besides the Church Hall, the Saline community centre and Steelend Club provide venues for regular indoor recreation and social activities (e.g. mother and toddler group, keep fit classes, carpet bowls, badminton, country dancing, after-school club) and occasional meetings for other village events. There is a fine 9-hole golf course at Saline Golf Club which also provides social membership and activities. There are bowling greens in other nearby West Fife villages and in Dunfermline. Both Saline and Steelend hold annual galas. Other annual events include: an art and photography exhibition; and the show which is the culmination of the year's activities of the district's horticultural and industrial society.

An hourly bus service links Saline and Steelend with Dunfermline, where the bus station provides both local and inter-city connections. There are free park-and-ride facilities at Dunfermline and Inverkeithing rail stations and at Ferrytoll (near North Queensferry) for bus connections to Edinburgh and Edinburgh airport.

## *Ministry*

Elders and other members of the congregation regularly take an active part in worship services. Whilst we want to be encouraged to continue and develop in this, we depend on our minister to plan and conduct most of our weekly Sunday services of worship.

Notwithstanding our search for fresh expressions of being the church for all generations in our community, we would not want to lose something we believe to be a strength: though our Sunday worship services are fairly traditional in style, we try to avoid stiff formality and to help people of all ages feel at home. Visitors do often comment on the friendly and welcoming atmosphere of our worship.

This profile mentions the part played by elders and other members of the congregation in providing pastoral care. We recognise that the change to a part-time ordained ministry heightens the importance of lay involvement in this part of our work as the sole Christian denomination in this parish, but we look to our minister to take the lead in cases of greatest need, such as bereavements. In our villages, timely provision of sensitive and effective pastoral care in such situations strongly influences the perception of the church in the wider community.

In recognising and respecting the limitations of a 50% ministry we believe that flexibility will be the key and an essential element of a successful ministry. We also believe it important that our minister should be visible in the community and become involved in village life. We see this as being important in supporting our efforts as a church to maintain and develop connections with the community.

We believe one of our strengths is in working together in teams. Our congregation is blessed with numerous talents, and much has been achieved when, underpinned by prayer, these have been put to use in the power of the Holy Spirit. We hope our minister will get to

know us, lead us with a light or firm touch as appropriate, encouraging us, keeping in touch with us, and trusting us to get on with the things we can and should be doing as Christ's Church in our communities.

During recent years we have experienced something of a healing process following difficulties which had emerged during previous ministries. We look to our minister to be passionate in leading us in the church's mission to bring people to Christ and to nurture faith in a sensitive and encouraging manner, respecting where the individual is in their journey of faith.

## *The Future*

Our vision statement, agreed by the Kirk Session some years ago, remains entirely applicable today:-

Our Vision is to be as Jesus Christ to one another, to all people in the parish, and to the wider world. We will show God's love through:

- our worship and prayer;
- our pastoral care;
- our teaching and discipleship;
- sharing the Good News in our communities;
- sharing in mission in Scotland and other countries.


We hope our search for ways to connect with people in our community will strengthen our mission, which is our never-ending task as the church, and bear fruit in bringing people, not least those of the "lost generation", to active faith in Jesus Christ as their Lord and Saviour.

This is even more relevant today as we prepare to celebrate 200 years of public worship in our current church in June 2011 and some 770 years since the first recorded reference to a Christian church in Saline.


## *Further Information*

If you would like more details about Saline and Blairingone then do not hesitate to contact the Clerk to the Nominating Committee, Mr Colin Bagnall, The Three Gables, North Road, Saline, Dunfermline, KY12 9UQ.

 [colin.bagnall@salineandblairingonechurch.org.uk](mailto:colin.bagnall@salineandblairingonechurch.org.uk).

 01383 851964


Alternatively, informal enquiries about the vacancy can be made to the Interim Moderator, The Reverend Peter Gerbrandy-Baird, The Manse, 36 Bellhouse Road, Aberdour, KY3 0TL.

 01383 861522.

## *Applications*

Please send your application with your CV and the names of two referees to the Convenor of the Nominating Committee: Mr Jim McNaught, 4 Whitehills, Saline, Dunfermline, KY12 9UJ.

 [jim.mcnaught@salineandblairingonechurch.org.uk](mailto:jim.mcnaught@salineandblairingonechurch.org.uk).

 01383 852270