

Dalgety Parish Church

Parish Profile



... at the heart of the community
... with a heart for the community

Dalgety Bay

Dalgety Bay is a relatively new town with c.11,000 inhabitants. It is situated on the south Fife coast just 4 miles from the Forth Bridges. The nearest sizeable towns are Dunfermline and Kirkcaldy while Edinburgh is reachable by car in half an hour. Many residents commute to Edinburgh for their employment.



Dalgety Bay Primary School (top left), some of the housing in the town, Playpark in front of school and the beach near the Sailing Club

Building started in the town in the 1960s and it has now reached its natural boundaries. New houses are still being constructed but it is unlikely that planning permission would be granted for any further building. Most of the houses are privately owned.

There are two primary schools in the town (c. 950 pupils), with nurseries (c.160 children), while most secondary-age children attend Inverkeithing High School (c. 1,400 pupils) which is just 2-3 miles away. There are colleges of Further Education in Dunfermline (Carnegie) and Kirkcaldy (Adam Smith). For students in Higher Education it is possible to commute to universities in Edinburgh, St Andrews and Dundee.

The town has two small shopping centres containing a dentist, pharmacy, hairdresser, estate agent, bank, building society, newsagent, fast food outlets, dry cleaners, optician, vet, funeral parlour and post office. There are two large supermarkets and two smaller food stores. Additionally, there is a restaurant and two public houses with attached dining facilities. The local petrol station also contains a food outlet and there is a garden centre with tea room. A small community centre is close by the Church. An active Community Council recently commissioned a study into the development of the town centre and this is still at the discussion stage.

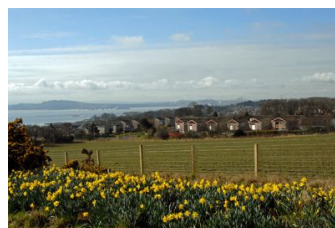
The larger of the two shopping areas is adjacent to the Church in the centre of the town and other amenities are to be found in the same area. These include a public library, health centre and police station. A few minutes walk from the centre there is a relatively new sports centre with playing fields.

There are many other sporting facilities in the town and surrounding area, including a large sailing club, tennis and squash club, a bowling club, various football and rugby teams and a cricket club. The nearest golf club is 3 miles away in Aberdour. The Fife Coastal Path, for walking and cycling, delineates Dalgety Bay's southern boundary.

Employment is found in two industrial estates to the north of the town where a number of manufacturing and service companies are located. Most people, however, find their employment furth of Dalgety Bay.



Dalgety Bay Sailing Club



View over town

The Church and Parish

The town of Dalgety Bay forms the largest part of the parish but the boundaries include part of the adjacent village of Hillend to the west. The eastern boundary is halfway to Aberdour while, to the north the parish includes Fordell Firs, which is the headquarters of Scottish Scouting.



St Bridget's Kirk



Stained glass window (detail)

The Parish Church, which is located in the centre of town, can trace its history back for over 800 years. Two former parish church buildings can be found on the eastern side of town. St Bridget's Kirk is a ruin and in the care of Historic Scotland while the 19th century building is now owned by the Cornerstone Full Gospel Church. There are no churches of other denominations in the Parish.

The present church is a modern, multi-purpose building which was erected in 1981 and extended seven years later. The worship area has a sliding wall which is opened for services to incorporate the hall and the extended space can seat 350 people. There is a stage and, on occasions, it is necessary to place additional seating there.

Entrance to the worship area is via the Hall of Fellowship from which vestry, toilets, office and kitchen can be reached. There is also another hall. The extension includes a large hall, kitchen, toilets and a suite of rooms and while this is accessible from the main church building there is also a separate entrance for this area, outside of which is a small garden and the war memorial.

The building is well maintained and was recently re-roofed. A new heating boiler was installed and other enhancements are under discussion.

The worship area is equipped with a hearing loop and other technology including a projection screen and a monitor with CCTV being provided in several parts of the building. The organ is electronic and was recently upgraded.

The Church is the main public building in the town and is well used by organisations not affiliated to the Church. It is also used by a Council-run out-of-school club.

Dalgety Parish Church is part of Dunfermline Presbytery. It is also a member of Forth Churches Group and shares a Parish Grouping Assistant with partner churches in Aberdour and Inverkeithing linked with North Queensferry. There is also a Reader who is attached to the Group and an unattached Reader who is a member of the congregation. Dalgety Bay is an attractive place for retired ministers to live and several have located to the community.

The Manse is a sizeable villa situated on the eastern side of town but only two minutes' drive from the Church.



The manse (front view)

On the ground floor there is a lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, toilet and study.

Upstairs there are four bedrooms and a family bathroom. The property is double glazed and centrally heated by gas. It also has a security alarm.



The manse (rear view)



The manse is very close to open countryside

The Congregation

The vision of Dalgety Parish Church is to be 'A Church at the heart of the community...with a heart for the community'.

Dalgety Parish has a membership of c.560 people. There are also 40-50 non-members who are regular attenders. Church members are busily engaged in Church activities and in the life of the town. There is a wide range of Church-related organisations. Members are active in many of the issues of the day and the Church is both an Eco-congregation and a Fairtrade partner. A Stewardship campaign, 'Gifts for God', is currently underway with a focus on the giving of time, identification of skills and Christian liberality.



We are a Fairtrade and ECO congregation

The congregation is fairly typical of a Church of Scotland parish but many of the members come from other parts of the UK and wider afield with the result that they have come from other reformed church traditions.

Like many Churches there is a preponderance of older people in the congregation but there is a junior church and a number of youth organisations. New ways of connecting with young people are under active development.

The Minister of Dalgety is Chaplain to both primary schools and shares the Chaplaincy of Inverkeithing High School with other local ministers. He/she is also Chaplain to the local Air Training Corps.

The Congregation meets all of its financial commitments and supports a number of charitable activities including Christian Aid, The Connexion youth project, Frontline Fife Homelessness Services and the Samaritans' Purse shoe box appeal.

In addition there is a growing link with Malawi and to the CCAP Church in Engcongolweni where assistance is being given for water and building projects.

Dalgety Parish Church operates under a unitary constitution and there are three Kirk Session committees which deal with congregational matters (including pastoral care), community affairs and support services. There are 36 elders. The Kirk Session normally meets four times per year.



Malawi Partnership



Engcongolweni Water Project



"Gifts for God" Stewardship event



Nativity service

Public Worship

Services are held every Sunday, currently at 10.30 am. There are five Sunday Communion Services during the year and Communion is also celebrated on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the evenings. Holy Week and Advent services are currently held jointly with other members of Forth Churches Group.



Elder-led Teams welcome worshippers each Sunday and a team provide tea, coffee and biscuits prior to the service starting.

Services are held regularly in Henderson House Nursing Home in Dalgety Bay and, on a rota basis, in Queen Margaret Hospital in Dunfermline.

CH4 is the main Hymn Book but Junior Praise is also used. In recent years there has been a great deal of investment in technology. The words of hymns are projected onto screens and these screens are also used for other media. A Digital Hymnal is in use but praise is most often led by the organist and, quite frequently, by a music group, 'the elastic band' (see photo above). Services are recorded on CD and distributed to the housebound.

Church Groups

There are a number of Church groups for young people. Junior Church meets on Sundays and children attend Church for the first part of the service before pursuing their own programme. There are active companies of Girls' and Boys' Brigades. Our teenage group 'the Discoverers' meets on Sunday mornings and Friday evenings. There is also a Summer Holiday Club which meets for a week in August.

Activities for all members of the community include prayer and Bible study groups which meet weekly, discussion and bereavement support groups which meet monthly and Forth Churches Guild which meets twice a month.

Café Connect provides refreshments on a Tuesday morning and the Badminton Club meets on a Wednesday evening.



Junior Church in action



Forth Churches Guild



The Connexion youth group



Prayer and Bible Study groups

The Challenges

As with most churches the challenges that we face include the need to encourage greater Church attendance and membership, especially amongst younger people. There is also an opportunity to inject new energy into Forth Churches Group, now that the linked charge in the Group is also vacant. The potential is considerable.

We need, in a parish such as this, a minister who will be a good 'all-rounder'; an open minded person who will preach the Word, minister to the people and encourage everyone.

We need a minister who will work with the Kirk Session and the leaders of church organisations to drive forward the 20/20 Vision. We need a good communicator and an enthusiastic enabler who can work with diverse groups of people and help them develop their skills.

We need someone who can help us achieve our ambition to be an 'open and affirming' congregation.



Congregational lunch

Enquiries

Enquiries should be made to the Clerk to the Nominating Committee, to whom applications should also be submitted.

Applications should contain a full CV, names and contact information for two referees and a covering letter, indicating how you might address the challenges noted on page 10.

Clerk to the Nominating Committee

Mr Robin Arnott
25 Sealstrand, Dalgety Bay
Fife KY11 9NG

Tel: 01383 822293
e-mail: robin.arnott@nibor.org.uk

Convenor of the Nominating Committee

Mr Colin McKenzie
16 Ross Avenue, Dalgety Bay
Fife KY11 9YN

Tel: 01383 825309
e-mail: ccmckenzie1@aol.com

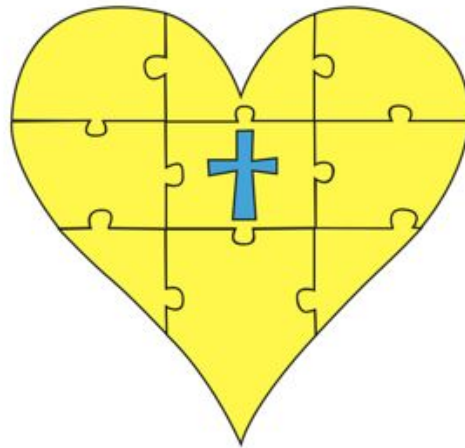
Informal enquiries may be made to our:

Interim Moderator

Rev Robert J Watt
101 Birrell Drive, Dunfermline
Fife KY11 8FA

Tel: 01383 735417
e-mail: r.watt21@virginmedia.com

**Please also check the church's web site at
www.dalgety-church.org.uk**



**“Gifts for God” Stewardship Campaign
~ Connecting Church and Community**

Dalgety Parish Church
is part of Forth Churches Group and is in partnership with CCAP Church
Engcongolweni, Malawi

Dalgety Parish Church of Scotland is registered as a Scottish Charity No SC 020926