

# St John's and Dairsie United Parish Church

Charity No. SC015721

[www.stjohnsanddairsie.org](http://www.stjohnsanddairsie.org)



*United in Faith, United in Love*

# Contents

The Charge

The Union

The Cluster

The Congregation

Worship

Ecumenical Work

Kirk Session and Teams

Finances

Publicity and Publications

Manse

Accommodation

Chaplaincies

Organisations

Other organised work and use of accommodation

The Town and the Village

Team Remits



## **THE CHARGE**

This is a friendly, welcoming and happy congregation, very open to change. We have become accustomed to and enjoy a relaxed style of worship which has enabled new members to feel immediately at home.

Recently the Kirk Session voted to accept applications from ministers in a civil partnership or a same-sex marriage.

These 2 Churches came together first in a linkage lasting 3½ years until they united in January 2009. The formal Church service took place on 1st February, when Rev. Sheila Blount was inducted as the minister of the United Church, having been Minister of Cupar St. John's since December 2002.

Mrs. Blount retired on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2010 because of ill health. Following a vacancy of 18 months Rev. Jan Steyn was inducted to the charge on 7th December 2011. He informed us in January of this year that he had been called to the vacant Scots Kirk in Paris.

The parish covers Cupar, north of the A 91 (the main thoroughfare), the village of Dairsie about 3 miles distant and the surrounding area. Worship in Dairsie is held in the church which was originally St. Leonard's Free Church until the coming together with the Church of Scotland in 1929 and St. John's was Cupar Free Church, then St. John's United Free Church until 1929.

## **THE UNION**

This is now well established, and we work well together in a happy atmosphere. Most Sundays see members from Cupar attending the earlier service in Dairsie. Occasionally a single service is held, and more are planned.

It had been agreed at the time of the linkage that both congregations should move immediately to the Unitary Constitution, with 4 Session Teams, so that the move to the Union would operate much more easily and seamlessly.

## **CLUSTER**

Since the last Presbytery Review the congregations in St. Andrews Presbytery have been grouped in Clusters and our cluster is composed of Cupar Old Parish Church linked with Monimail, Ceres/Kemback/ Springfield and our congregation. Co-operation with the other Ministers will be an integral part of the duties of the new Minister in this charge.

The Clergy and Session Clerks meet regularly and there have been successful events - a very good Ceilidh last year and a joint Coffee morning in St. John's to support fund-raising by Ceres for houses in Nepal. Towards the end of August there was a joint day Pilgrimage to Lindisfarne. There will be a joint Carol service at Christmas in Cupar Old (to include the other denominations in Cupar) and a pulpit exchange, which will become a regular feature.

In the absence of our Locum for ten days at the end of July, the other 2 Ministers offered to stand in for funerals or sick visiting if required and this will, we hope and expect, be a developing pattern. The spirit of co-operation is excellent.

## **THE CONGREGATION**

The current roll of the congregation is 652 plus 9 adherents, although the active roll is considerably less. Although the members are predominantly in the older age groups, there is a small involved group of parents with young families. Three teenagers joined the church by Profession of Faith in January of this year.

At the same time, 12 new members were admitted by resolution of the Kirk Session.

## **WORSHIP**

Sunday worship is at 9.45am in Dairsie and at 11.15 a.m. in St. John's. Attendance at the Sunday morning service in Dairsie is around 20/25 and in St. John's it averages 120/130. On the first Sunday of the month, the service at Dairsie takes the form of a Café Church except on Communion Sundays.

Both congregations now have power point presentation, a new sound system having been installed in St. John's 5 years ago. The loop system in Dairsie has been improved and power point is used normally for the morning service.

There is no Sunday-School in Dairsie at present but the contacts with the School are excellent. One family with 5 children do attend Church regularly.

The Sunday-School children in St. John's join the Congregation for the last part of the service. Numbers are small, but the children are keen and interested. There are

about 12 under-17s regularly involved between the 2 churches, although seldom all at one time.

There is a mid-week service in St. John's at 9.30 am every Wednesday throughout the year except during Christmas week and the first week of the year. Attendance is normally around 12 regulars, with others attending from time to time, including 2 from another congregation. These services are taken on a rota basis by the Minister, a retired Minister who is a member and lay members of the congregation.

From time to time Sunday services are taken by groups of members from both congregations and the organist has twice arranged a service taken entirely by the choir and used in both churches.

Communion is celebrated 4 times a year – on the 1st Sunday of March, June, September and December - and on Easter Sunday in St. John's. A soup and bread lunch is served after the March and September Communions.

Joint services with other congregations are normally evening services, including a rotating service on the evenings of the "5<sup>th</sup> Sundays", of which there are 4 each year. The Holy Week services are united and are held daily in a different church each year. The exceptions are the last Sunday of the year when a joint morning service with Cupar Old Parish Church is held and the Sunday at the end of the Holiday Club Week when the Baptist Church joins us.

On Christmas Eve there is a Christingle Service at 6.30 p.m. and a Watch Night Service at 11.30 p.m. in St. John's. The former attracts a large congregation (well over 200) and the latter a much smaller number. Dairsie also has a Carol service at 8.30 pm. There is a short, half-hour service on Christmas morning in St. John's.

## **ECUMENICAL WORK**

Relations with other denominations are excellent.

There is one other Church of Scotland (Cupar Old and St. Michael of Tarvit). There are 3 other congregations in the town – Baptist, Scottish Episcopal and Roman Catholic.

Joint services take place as indicated above and the Holiday Club and Messy Church are also organised on an ecumenical basis. For details see the Youth Work section.

In the Cupar there is an ecumenically run Café/Book shop, the Lighthouse.

## **KIRK SESSION**

There are 49 active Elders. Three new Elders were ordained in 2015 and two more in October 2016.

The Session Teams are composed of Elders and non-Elders, although we must involve more non-Elders. The Teams proved their value during the Minister's illness and the subsequent vacancy and continue to do so, enabling focussed meetings to take place and aspects of the congregation's work to continue in a way which would otherwise have been much more difficult. It greatly eased the process of merging the congregations.

The Session meets 4 times a year and the Session Teams likewise, with extra meetings as required. Reports from the Teams are presented at the Session meetings.

The Teams have taken over much of the work which was previously done by the Session and which left little time for discussion of important Church issues. The Session retains, naturally, the remits which are assigned to it.

A very successful all-day Conference for our Elders was held in June of 2015. It was our intention to repeat the exercise in 2016 but it proved impossible to arrange it as so much time was taken up with the Local Congregational Report for which, along with our fellow Cluster congregations, we were, so to speak, guinea pigs within the Presbytery. We would certainly hope to repeat the conference.

The 2 Session meetings in April and September are held at Dairsie and some of the Property Team meetings are also held there.

## **TEAMS**

The Teams are follows: -

Property, Finance, Faith Matters, Fellowship and Outreach, Communications and Worship. The work of this last team has for some time tended to be subsumed in the Faith Matters Team. The remits are due to be reviewed.

## **MUSIC**

New Electronic organs were installed in both churches around 10 years ago and a new electric Clavinova was purchased last year for use in Dairsie Hall.

The organist who came in June 2015 has been able to re-establish a choir in St. John's and they have taken responsibility for the entire service recently in both churches.

## **FINANCES**

The finances are sound. Following the resignation of the Treasurer 3 years ago, it proved very difficult to find someone else to take on the duties. However, we are fortunate now to have a qualified Book-keeper who does the essential week-to-week work for a modest fee. The final preparation of the accounts is done by an Accountant.

The spire of St. John's was repaired 3 years ago at a cost of almost £300,000 under the guidance of an approved architect. The financing of the project was greatly assisted by funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Historic Scotland and Fife Environmental Fund. The balance was raised by congregational fund-raising and donations from the local community. Other repair work on one small area of the roof was completed recently and some repair work had to be done on the internal ceiling at the beginning of the year. (See also Accommodation page 8).

The Dairsie building is in very good condition, some repairs to the stone work having been completed recently.

Financially the congregation is working on a sound foundation and is fully self-supporting and contributing to the Church of Scotland funds.

## **PUBLICITY AND PUBLICATIONS**

Very regular use is made of Facebook. Indeed, it has superseded the Website as our main means of publicising the life of the congregation, while the website awaits further development.

After the repairs to the Spire, a board in the grounds, which had been used to advertise the firms doing the work, was left behind and was made into a blackboard. This is used to put inspiring quotations up and it has become a focus of interest for the local community. The messages are changed regularly. When the vacancy occurred, there was even a letter to the local paper from someone out with the town expressing concern that the use of the board might not continue!

There is a weekly "Pewspaper", including the Order of Service and the Church News and intimations.

The Church magazine, recently renamed "The Beacon", is produced 4 times a year. It is printed in an A5 format and is distributed free to each member by the Elders when they visit their Districts before Communion. It is printed "in house" for around £50 a time.

## **MANSE**

The modern manse in Cupar was built in 1997 and the financial commitment of the congregation (then St. John's only) was met by a single vestry day on which almost £40000 was raised, including reclaimed Income Tax.

The Manse is situated in a large housing estate on the southern outskirts of the town, but with easy access on foot to the supermarkets. It is a 7-room house with garage attached and a modestly sized, well-maintained garden. A new boiler was installed recently.

At the time of the Union, Dairsie Manse was sold and the proceeds from this have been invested.

## **ACCOMMODATION**

St John's has a good Hall with a modern kitchen, at the back of the church. About 4 years ago dry rot necessitated major work on the wall between the Hall and the neighbouring room and the opportunity was taken to remove the derelict staging. A permanent café corner has now been created. The opportunity was taken to fully refurbish the Hall and the adjoining room (the Jubilee Room) which is used for small meetings and as a Vestry. The printer is also stored there. The Session Room and the original vestry have also been refurbished and the latter is now available as a family room. The original kitchen acts as a utility room and will shortly have a new boiler.

The toilet accommodation was modernised at the same time as the new kitchen was installed in the early 1990s and includes a toilet for the disabled and a toilet at the side of the front vestibule of the Church.

Dairsie has, behind the church, a very good hall which is in excellent condition and the toilet facilities were also up-graded and include a disabled toilet. There is a large car park on ground to the rear of the church. The area of rough ground adjoining the Church to the West has been transformed into a lovely garden area.



The grounds in front of St. John's are very well maintained by the Gardening Group and contribute greatly to the reputation of the town for its appearance in summer, promoting the work of the "Cupar in Bloom" organisation.

## **CHAPLAINCIES**

The Chaplaincy to Castlehill Primary School is a shared Chaplaincy with the other Church of Scotland Minister, the Baptist Church Minister and the Rector of St. James's Episcopal Church. The same applies to the Chaplaincy at Bell Baxter High School, with the addition of one of the ministers from the surrounding area, as Bell Baxter has a very large catchment. It seems that the contact with Bell Baxter has become less regular than it used to be. There is some contact with Elmwood College too. The Minister of the United Parish is also Chaplain to Dairsie Primary School and has excellent relations there.

Last Christmas for the very first time, Castlehill School held its Nativity play on 2 successive days in St. John's Church. This is being repeated this year.

Dairsie School also holds its Nativity play in the Church at Dairsie.

One private complex of retirement flats and three nursing/care homes (one a local authority one and the others privately owned and run) hold a service once a month with all the denominations participating on a rota basis.

## **ORGANISATIONS**

### **YOUTH**

There is a very successful Holiday Club in the first week of August. This was originally a St. John's venture but is now shared with all the other churches. Because of the suitability of the hall and kitchen accommodation, it is now held in the Old Parish Centre, with a joint service taking place to mark the end of the Week, alternately in St. John's and Cupar Old Parish Church, being the only churches large enough to accommodate the congregation. There is also a barbecue in the grounds of St John's on the Friday evening.

Messy Church is held monthly, except in July, August and December, rotating round 3 churches – St. John's, Cupar Old and the Baptist Church. Numbers fluctuate, having reached a total of 115 on 2 occasions but generally now around 50 or 60. The churches co-operate on catering and staffing. The June Messy Church took the form of a BBQ in the grounds of St. John's.

Following the 2015 Holiday Club a group of teenagers who had been assisting at the event, asked for a regular meeting to be started for their age group. Jan Steyn took this in hand. The hope was to make it a group involving all the congregations.

However, after an encouraging start, as so often happens with young people of that age, the initial enthusiasm waned.

The local Cub Scout Group visits St. John's annually as part of research for one of the badges. There has never been a Youth organisation attached specifically to any one of the Churches in the town. Scouts and Guides have always been "whole town" organisations, while the Boys' Brigade (now sadly defunct since the late 1980s) was set up in 1932 to involve all the congregations, with the ministers of all the churches except the Roman Catholic Church taking it in turn to act as Chaplain. All attempts to resuscitate it have failed for lack of staff, which was, of course, the reason for its demise.

## **GUILD**

There are two Guilds, one in Dairsie and one at St. John's and both have a very committed group of ladies, although sadly with diminishing numbers, who have supported the church devotedly over the years, not least by their generosity. The St. John's Guild meets monthly, on the first Thursday afternoon of the month, from October to April. There are at present around 20 members.

The Dairsie Guild meets fortnightly and has 14 members. They are responsible for the monthly coffee mornings held throughout the spring and summer.

## **PARENTS AND TODDLERS**

This group meets every Thursday forenoon in St. John's Hall. There can be as many as 21 adults although recently the numbers have been smaller. Few are Church members. There is a good supply of quality toys for the children. Ladies from the Congregation go along to make the coffee. Fruit and juice are available for the children.

In Dairsie there is a similar group held in the village Hall but not under the auspices of the Church.

## **REFRESHMENTS GROUP**

The ladies of this group at St. John's provide the tea after the morning service every Sunday. They also provide the refreshments for other larger Social occasions, including one of the 2 Soup and Bread lunches held following the March and September Communion services.

In Dairsie, tea is served in the Hall after the service once a month and on Communion Sundays.

## **BIBLE STUDY GROUP**

The minister had been leading a Bible Study on Wednesday morning after the mid-week services. This has been discontinued in the meantime, but the hope is to restart the group in the future. On 2 consecutive years a study group was organised which was open to people from any or no congregation. Last year the minister also facilitated a year of pilgrimage for individuals, with a printed booklet for each person to record experience as he/she wished.

## **LADIES' GROUP**

After a very active Young Women's Group in St. John's folded, the members reinvented themselves as the Ladies' Group. It is a very informal group, with minimal organisation. They meet once a month and it provides a social gathering, usually with a speaker, for ladies who are not Guild members but are faithful members of the Church. The final meeting in May is always a walk followed by a meal. The attendance is normally around 20.

## **GARDENING GROUP**

This small group of men and women – mostly retired - meet on a Friday forenoon from the end of March until the end of October at St. John's to plant out the borders in the early summer and to cut the grass, weed and generally maintain the grounds which are in a very prominent place in the centre of the town. The work they do contributes greatly to the success of "Cupar in Bloom" each year.

## **"DROP-IN" AT ST. JOHN'S**

This group enables people caring – or having previously cared – for dementia sufferers to have a place to come together for friendship and relaxation, often accompanied by the person living with dementia. They meet one Friday each month for soup and sandwiches. It is well attended and much appreciated.

## **BUSY HANDS**

This group of ladies meets on Thursday afternoons throughout the year to do sewing or knitting or other hand crafts and it has proved a great success, providing an opportunity for friendship and chat as well as goods for sale at coffee mornings and for Blythswood Christmas boxes. They have paid for the defibrillator which has been provided recently for public use and is installed on the front wall of the church.

## **BADMINTON GROUP**

This group meets every Thursday evening from September to March and includes people from out with the congregation.

## **TEA DANCES**

Two years ago, a member who is a qualified dancing instructress suggested starting a Tea Dance on Wednesday afternoons. This has been very successful and draws people from some distance away, although the numbers are not large – up to 20 at most. It has provided company for some elderly people who used to enjoy dancing. Home baking is supplied. It meets from October to April.

The same lady started a Ballroom Dancing Class last year the autumn. It is still small but meets regularly on Tuesday evenings except in the summer months.

## **OTHER ORGANISED WORK**

A defibrillator has recently (as noted above – Busy Hands) been purchased for public use and is installed on the front wall of St. John's.

There is an annual Ceilidh in late July for the migrant workers who come to the local farms every summer. Around 70 of the young people attended the Ceilidh in July this year.

There is a rota of ladies supplying the flowers for Services in both churches, and another of those who distribute the flowers.

A new initiative was tried out last year, in the form of "Wee Worship", geared for mothers with children under School age, with a Bible story, singing and a picnic lunch. The group met on a Monday around lunchtime. After an encouraging start, it fell away and was abandoned, at least for the time being.

There is a very strong link with Cupar YMCA/YWCA.

The Roman Catholic Primary School, St. Columba's, has a Choir (The Friends of St. Columba's School) and in May of 2016 and again in 2017 they held their annual concert in St. John's Church. A Christmas Celebration was also held in December 2016. On the first 2 occasions the attendance was well over 500 and thousands of pounds were raised for charity. The Christmas concert is being held again this year.

## **USE OF ACCOMMODATION**

The hall and Session Room at St. John's are regularly used by other organizations, some on a very regular basis over many years, others as required. From September to April, it is difficult to find any spare times. There is little requirement for such use in Dairsie, but just at the beginning of the year a choir/community singing group started in the village, meeting weekly in the Church Hall.

## **THE CHURCHES AND THE TOWN AND VILLAGE**

The congregation of St. John's was founded in 1843 following the Disruption. When the first church became too small to accommodate the congregation, the present building was erected in 1878 on a dominant site in the centre of the small market town that Cupar then was.

The town of Cupar has grown greatly over the past 50 years and the population is now around 9000 with further projected growth of 1400 houses over the coming decade. The town has excellent educational facilities. There is a Nursery School, a large Primary School, a separate Roman Catholic Primary School, open to non-Catholic children, an excellent Secondary School, Bell Baxter High School, which has around 1600 pupils, and Elmwood College of Further Education. St. Andrews University is only 9 miles away and Dundee University and Abertay University 13 miles away.

The town has good train and bus services. All the Scottish cities are within easy reach by public transport, and by car even Aberdeen is only about 2 hours' drive away.

There is an 18-hole golf course just outside the town and a much older 9-hole course on the southern outskirts of the town. The St. Andrews courses are within 15 minutes by car. There is a swimming pool, a sports centre and 2 bowling clubs. The town abounds in clubs to cater for most tastes – choral music, light opera, junior opera, rugby, football, history, art, camera and U3A.

There is a very well organised and active “Y” centre with a professionally trained leader/ secretary and many activities in the evenings. It combines the work of the YMCA and the YWCA. A youth café, under the auspices of the “Y”, has operated in the town for many years with the aim of giving young people a place to call their own, off the streets - with some success. The congregation has a representative on the Y committee and is otherwise actively involved.

Until the 1975 Local Government reorganisation, Cupar was the County Town, and it still retains some local administrative offices for the North East of Fife.

Dairsie is a parish of approximately 350 inhabitants, lying 2½ miles East of Cupar, on the main St. Andrews Road. The church lies at the centre of the village, having been the original Free Church, St. Leonard’s, which united with the old Parish Church, St. Mary’s, in 1929. Until the 1960s winter worship was held in the church in the village and in summer people worshipped in St. Mary’s which lies about a mile outside the village. In the late 1960s it was decided that St. Mary’s should be closed and deconsecrated. It was finally sold off some years ago.

For around 23 years, Dairsie Church was linked with Strathkinness and Kemback. On the retirement of Rev. Alex Strickland other arrangements were made for the other 2 churches, and the decision was taken to link Dairsie with St. John’s on the understanding that we would work towards a union after 3 years and continue with 2 places of worship in use Sunday by Sunday.

The village lies in a rich farming area, amid rolling hills and green fields, on the main A91 leading east from Cupar.

There is a Primary school and a village hall which is well used by the community.

## **TEAM REMITS**

The Kirk Session has delegated many of its responsibilities to The Session Teams, but remains responsible for the following: -

(appointing elders and the Session Clerk, admitting new communicants, the congregational roll, preparation of the sacraments and communion arrangements, nominations (formerly vacancy) procedure, sale of property, the keeping of appropriate records and presentation to Presbytery for annual inspection, discipline, matters remitted from Presbytery or Assembly, and any issue which does not fit obviously within the remits of the teams.)

The Session Teams consist of elders and up to an equal number of members of the congregation or adherents. Recruitment can be by invitation, recommendation, offers to volunteer and by co-option Elders should serve on at least one team. The minutes of the Session Teams are lodged with the Session Clerk, and incorporated into the Kirk Session Minute Book. Minor expenditure within budget is approved by the Teams, but major decisions need to be agreed by the Kirk Session.

The Session Teams meet at least once between Kirk Session meetings and can generally act immediately. Reports to the Kirk Session should be shorter than the minute of the meeting giving a general view of what is happening.

## **Session Team Remits**

### **Faith and Support**

Pastoral Ministry Pastoral Visitors Bereavement/Special Needs  
Youth Work Holiday Club Safe-guarding Register  
Christian Education Childrens' Work Guild  
Worship Bible Study Prayer  
Flowers/Harvest Organist Appointment World Mission  
Social Care Council Tape Ministry Elder Support  
Visits to Organisations

### **Fellowship and Outreach**

Events Refreshments  
Parish Visitation  
Fundraising Leaflets and Communication Sunday Duty Rotas  
Ecumenical Contacts Traidcraft Christian Aid  
Schools  
Migrant Workers

### **Finance**

Christian Giving Gift Aid Stewardship  
Ministries and Mission Allocation Insurance Cover  
Budgets for Teams Special Appeals Investment Management  
Accounts for Presentation

### **Property**

Care and Maintenance of Facilities Equipment Resources  
Health and Safety Inventories Insurance Value  
Domestic Arrangements (including cleaners) Church Officer  
Hall Bookings Key-holders Utilities  
Church Decorations Property Register



# **Presbytery of St Andrew Local Church Review 2017**

## **CERES, KEMBACK & SPRINGFIELD**

Rev Jim Campbell was inducted to the charge of Ceres, Kemback & Springfield in 2010. The congregation has a membership of 398 and a weekly attendance at worship of around 75. There are three places of worship serving seven small villages. Central to the plans for this congregation is the task of identifying the strengths of each place of worship and working to these strengths while not ignoring the need to review what buildings are required. In addition to the minister, the congregation has a Families Worker (until February 2018) and a part time Youth Worker (6 hours per week) plus some secretarial and pastoral support.

There is very varied programme of activity with 2 or 3 services each Sunday. Activities include Messy Church, Sunday Night Reflective, Open Air services, a Pet service, a 'Woodland Church' plus Sanctuary@Ceres – a time for readings, music and meditation. One united service is held in one place of worship on the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month and on some special occasions. A Worship Group helps with worship on a regular basis. We acknowledge that, the pattern of Sunday worship is complex with a service in Ceres every week and Kemback & Springfield in alternate weeks – hence the need to consider how the pattern of worship could be changed taking into consideration the strength and weaknesses of each place of worship. Other initiatives of the congregation are: Monday Soup Lunches, Church and Community Film Group, Bowls & Blether in Kemback, regular children's workshop in the manse, an Easter egg hunt, and a youth club with 20 young people attending.

The congregation has an outward looking ethos. It has funded 7 houses for the Build a House campaign, it supports Christian Aid, Mary's Meals, Cupar Food Bank, Smile Train, Mercy Ships, Leprosy Mission and Blythswood Boxes as well as Mission Partners in Zambia.

Pastoral care is provided by the minister and Families worker and by elders districts, though there is a desire to review this approach which is considered unsustainable. The Minister and the Families Worker are also involved in the local schools - Ceres Primary, Craigrothie & Springfield and the minister is also part of the chaplaincy team at Bell Baxter School. On a cluster level, the congregation organises a pilgrimage to Lindisfarne and participates in joint activity at Easter with the Cupar Churches.

Financial and human resources are an ongoing issue. The congregation benefits from the Springfield Bequest which funds the Families Worker but at the same time increases the commitment to Ministry and Mission.

The property owned by the congregation at present is 3 churches, 3 halls, a beadle's cottage and a manse, though work is being done with the General Trustees to reduce the number of buildings. Plans are underway leading towards the sale of the Ceres Session House while refurbishment is planned for Ceres and Springfield – all dependent on funds being available. Plans are also in hand for the hall in Kemback to be taken over by local trustees.

A challenge for this congregation is to encourage people in each community to see themselves as one united congregation - with 3 places of worship.

The LCR Team were invited to work with the congregation on their Action Plan. Following that workshop a carefully thought through Action Plan was drawn up in which main targets were identified and how to achieve them. We believe that will be a very helpful tool.

This is a congregation with a lot of activity and a great desire to develop in an appropriate way for the future while acknowledging the challenges that brings.

## **Deliverances**

Presbytery:

1. Thanks the congregation, office bearers and the minister for their commitment and for the outgoing approach that the church has taken.
2. Thanks those involved in the Local Church Review process for their work,
3. Congratulates the congregation for the hard work put into the Local Church Review and for the detailed Action Plan provided
4. Encourages the Kirk Session and congregation to work to the Action Plan but also to prioritise it in such a way as work overload is avoided.
5. Encourages the congregation to look for ways in which the workload of the minister and others can be organised to avoid overload.
6. Encourages the continual effort to work together as one united congregation which currently has three places of worship.
7. Supports the plans to identify the strengths of each of the 3 places of worship and work to these strengths while continuing to review the need for and usage of the three churches
8. Encourages the review of the system of elder's districts to find a way that is appropriate for this parish at this point in time.
9. Encourages the 4 congregations in the Cluster to consider the ideas (detailed below) that emerged from the meeting of Cluster representatives, explore what is practical and of most value and then draw up a plan incorporating these or other initiatives, this plan to be communicated to the S & R Committee by the end of February 2018.

The ideas that emerged from this consultation were:

- Share space/resources where doing so would be beneficial
- Library/ list of resources (e.g. discussion group material) within the Cluster or Messy Church resources
- Sharing practical skills (IT/trades)
- Resource joint learning events (Worship workshops)
- Each congregation to compile inventory of skills/ gifts(e.g. visual arts, etc. these pulled together as a cluster)
- Hold annual joint meetings (e.g.) Worship Groups, Fabric committee, Prayer groups, Outreach Groups

## **CUPAR ST JOHN'S & DAIRSIE UNITED**

Rev Jan Steyn was inducted to the united charge of Cupar St John's & Dairsie United in December 2011 and these years saw a growth in life and activity. The situation in the charge has, of course, changed with the departure of minister. However, the Local Church Review Team is grateful for the work that has been done on this LCR process and we believe that work can be of real benefit during a time of vacancy.

The congregation of Cupar St John's & Dairsie United has a membership of 680 with a weekly attendance at worship of around 150. There are 2 morning services one in Dairsie and one in Cupar. On the first Sunday of the month in Dairsie this take the form of Café Church. There is a mid-week service taken by the minister and a small group of members in rotation.

The congregation has 5 Teams to lead its work: Faith Matters (which supports worship), Fellowship and Outreach, Property, Communication and Finance. A review of these Teams and their remits is planned but this has not yet happened. This, in part, has made it difficult for the Kirk Session to pull together a definitive Action Plan and we would encourage further work to be done on that.

The buildings of the congregation are in good condition and there is a five year property maintenance plan. Congregational finances are adequate for the current work of the church and there are no plans in place for a stewardship campaign because of major fund raising required in the last 4 years.

This congregation has an outward looking approach to the community. Activities include a Ceilidh for migrant workers employed at local farms, the blackboard at the front of the church used to share messages with the community and the encouragement given to members of the congregation to be involved in community organisations. The minister has also been chaplain to Dairsie Primary School and has shared chaplaincy at Castlehill Primary School, Bell Baxter Secondary School and Elmwood College. Ecumenical events include: Holiday Club, Messy Church, "5th Sunday" evening service, Easter Week services, a Town Christmas Carol Service and a meeting to which an Imam from Edinburgh was invited.

The congregation supports Christian Aid and a number of overseas partners – Keith & Ida Waddell, along with work in Uganda and Lesotho.

The deepening of faith is encouraged through the Bible Study, 'a Bible book a month' initiative and a fortnightly course for discussion and study on the basic themes of each book of the Bible.

One initiative led by the minister was to find funds to produce a book of stories from the life of the Church. Called 'Inside Stories' this has been a very successful project.

Pastoral care is provided through traditional elders districts, but there are many other ways in which the congregation respond to the needs of others. These include: the

distribution of flowers each Sunday and the Drop-in for dementia sufferers and their families, the Busy Hands Group, House Group, Tea Dances, and Badminton.

A concern for the congregation has been a) the difficulty of growing the children's and youth groups, and b) the missing generation of people in their 20's and 30's. The congregation has been willing to try new ideas to help with this task. For example, an application for funding for a youth worker to be shared by Cupar Old Parish Church and Cupar Baptist Church was made – to everyone's disappointment, unfortunately turned down.

This is a congregation with a lot going on and we would encourage them to build their Action Plan and, as much as possible, keep up the momentum gained in recent years.

## **Deliverances**

### Presbytery

1. Thanks the congregation, office bearers and the minister for their commitment and for the outgoing approach that the church has taken.
2. Thanks those involved in the Local Church Review process for their work.
3. Encourages the Kirk Session to
  - a. review the Kirk Session Teams as planned
  - b. ensure that Teams are encouraged, with the agreement of the Kirk Session, to work through the Action Plan
  - c. Send to Presbytery a revised plan with specific goals and time scales.
4. Encourages the Kirk Session and congregation to communicate the Local Church Review Report to the congregation and use it to keep up momentum during the vacancy.
5. Encourages the Kirk Session to consider a stewardship campaign within the next two years.
6. Encourages the Kirk Session not to lose sight of the plan for a youth worker shared with another congregation and to consider a new application for funding.
7. Encourages the 4 congregations in the Cluster to consider the ideas (detailed below) that emerged from the meeting of Cluster representatives, explore what is practical and of most value and then draw up a plan incorporating these or other initiatives, this plan to be communicated to the S & R Committee by the end of February 2018.

The ideas that emerged from this consultation were:

- Share space/resources where doing so would be beneficial
- Library/ list of resources (e.g. discussion group material) within the Cluster or Messy Church resources
- Sharing practical skills (IT/trades)
- Resource joint learning events (Worship workshops)
- Each congregation to compile inventory of skills/ gifts(e.g. visual arts, etc. these pulled together as a cluster)
- Hold annual joint meetings (e.g.) Worship Groups, Fabric committee, Prayer groups, Outreach Groups

## **CUPAR OLD & ST MICHAEL OF TARVIT**

Cupar Old and St Michael of Tarvit is a church with a long history seeking to serve the congregation and community in relevant and meaningful ways. Central to this is the church itself and the Old Parish Centre which is well used by church and community. Around 10 years ago, the congregation was in a time of huge development and activity with large sums of money being raised for projects at home and abroad. With that period of intense activity coming to an end, the congregation is now in a different situation and looking to build a new vision for the future.

The congregation was linked with Monimail in January 2015 and the present minister Rev Jeff Martin was inducted in February 2016. The staff team consists of the minister, and a secretary providing admin support – plus those in voluntary roles.

The congregation has a membership of 562 with a weekly attendance of around 150. There is one service each Sunday with an evening informal service on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays of the month. In months when there is a 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday, evening worship is held ecumenically involving all the clergy from the town.

The properties are well maintained and there is a five year plan for the church, Parish Centre and manse.

The financial situation of the congregation means that there are adequate funds for the work that needs to be done. There is an annual gift day although the last formal stewardship programme was 5 years ago,

Pastoral Care is provided through elder's districts and a pastoral care team who work with the minister. New mums are visited and encouraged to attend the TOTS group. The Minister is involved with shared chaplaincy at Castlehill, Bell Baxter Secondary School, and Elmwood College and also in the local nursing homes where services are held on a rota basis.

Christian education and fellowship are supported by various activities: For children and young people there is a Sunday Club and Buddies (P4 – S1); several house groups, a branch of The Guild and a prayer ministry team. There is also a designated prayer area in the sanctuary and in the parish centre.

Involvement with the wider church in Cupar comes through shared ecumenical activity for Holy Week, a town Christmas service and Messy church which rotates round the churches in Cupar. At present the congregation has no involvement with the world church though they do support Christian Aid.

The Local Church Review coincided with the first year of a new ministry under Rev Jeff Martin. In some ways the timing was difficult, but in other ways it encouraged a task that the Minister and Kirk Session wanted to undertake, that of identifying priorities and goals under various headings. Meetings were organised on these areas of church life and a list of potential goals was identified. As things stand at present,

the Kirk Session has not yet been able to decide on priorities because there is too much to take on at once. It was agreed that the Kirk Session needed time to work on these priorities and that the LCR Team would meet with the Kirk Session when that had been done.

This congregation plays an important part in its parish. It is clearly in a time of vision building for the future. We acknowledge the hard work that is being put into that task and would encourage them in it.

## **Deliverances**

Presbytery:

1. Commends the minister, congregation, and office bearers for their commitment and vision.
2. Thanks those involved in the Local Church Review process for their work as they begin to work toward an Action Plan.
3. Encourages the Kirk Session and all its members to develop the Action Plan to the point where there are agreed goals and timetable.
4. Encourages the Kirk Session as it seeks to be a strong leadership team working towards a vision for the future.
5. Invites the Kirk Session to pass on the updated Plan to the Strategy & Resourcing Committee by the end of February 2018 and to arrange a meeting with that Committee.
6. Encourages the Kirk Session to consider how the message of the stewardship of time, talents and money might be best communicated to the congregation.
7. Encourages the congregation to develop a new and effective communication strategy
8. Encourages the 4 congregations in the Cluster to consider the ideas (detailed below) that emerged from the meeting of Cluster representatives, explore what is practical and of most value and then draw up a plan incorporating these or other initiatives, this plan to be communicated to the Strategy & Resourcing Committee by the end of February 2018.

The ideas that emerged from this consultation were:

- Share space/resources where doing so would be beneficial
- Library/ list of resources (e.g. discussion group material) within the Cluster or Messy Church resources
- Sharing practical skills (IT/trades)
- Resource joint learning events (Worship workshops)
- Each congregation to compile inventory of skills/ gifts(e.g. visual arts, etc. these pulled together as a cluster)
- Hold annual joint meetings (e.g.) Worship Groups, Fabric committee, Prayer groups, Outreach Groups

## **MONIMAIL**

Monimail has gone through a period of change and transition leading to the linkage with Cupar Old and the induction of Rev Jeff Martin to the linked charge in February 2016. There are 93 members on the communion roll but it is a very dispersed membership with only 30 living in the parish and an average of 18 attending worship which is held weekly at 9.30 am. There is a regular Sunday School of 3 children of varying ages which makes programming difficult. There is a recognition that Monimail lends itself to a more traditional style of worship but there is also a desire to explore new approaches to worship that might be relevant to the community and of interest to a wider group of people.

Letham Primary School uses the church for some special and end of term services and there is a hope that links between church and school that have somewhat fallen by the wayside in recent years, might be able to be rebuilt.

The presence of the church in the community is important but there is a need to find ways to address the task of evangelism in such a rural context. It is understood that there is no easy answer to this question but we encourage the Kirk Session to continue exploring the issue and asking the questions that might lead to a plan of action.

Monimail is hopeful that being part of the Cupar Cluster will benefit them by making people more aware of what is going on in a wider area and perhaps allowing for the sharing of ideas.

Pastoral care is provided by traditional elder's districts and visits although the nature of the community is such that word of pastoral need travels quickly.

The church is well maintained and the Sunday School hut behind the church is considered fit for purpose. Having a village hall in Letham is a benefit to the congregation who use it for larger gatherings. There is a maintenance plan in place for the church property – updated annually.

Finances for the congregation are not easy. They are currently dealing with a deficit which arose over the period of vacancy and they are working to reduce it. There has been no stewardship project undertaken.

The Kirk Session feels that if they can maintain the life of the congregation over the next 5 years that would be a positive achievement. It remains an ongoing challenge for this congregation as to how it can develop, grow and build meaningful links with the parish it serves.

The main activity is Sunday worship, although the Action Plan suggests some ideas that might allow other opportunities for fellowship and learning. The small numbers inevitably make this tricky. The hope is that the congregation can encourage the use of the church by the community and build on the links with the Primary School and also with the Cupar Cluster.

## **Deliverances**

### Presbytery

1. Commends the Minister, office bearers and congregation for their commitment to this small rural parish.
2. Thanks those involved in the Local Church Review process for their work.
3. Encourages the Kirk Session to explore alternative approaches to worship that would be relevant for this parish but might be of interest to more people.
4. Encourages the office bearers and congregation to work on the Action Plan as outlined and report progress to the Strategy and Resourcing Committee of Presbytery by the end of February 2018.
5. Encourages the plans to build stronger links with Letham Primary School.
6. Invites the congregation to contact the Church of Scotland Stewardship Department and the Mission & Discipleship Council for advice and ideas about encouraging commitment and mission in a rural parish.
7. Encourages the 4 congregations in the Cluster to consider the ideas (detailed below) that emerged from the meeting of Cluster representatives, explore what is practical and of most value and then draw up a plan incorporating these or other initiatives, this plan to be communicated to the S & R Committee by .....  
The ideas that emerged from this consultation were:
  - Share space/resources where doing so would be beneficial
  - Library/ list of resources (e.g. discussion group material) within the Cluster or Messy Church resources
  - Sharing practical skills (IT/trades)
  - Resource joint learning events (Worship workshops)
  - Each congregation to compile inventory of skills/ gifts(e.g. visual arts, etc. these pulled together as a cluster)
  - Hold annual joint meetings (e.g.) Worship Groups, Fabric committee, Prayer groups, Outreach Groups



**St John's, Bonnygate, Cupar, Fife, KY15 4BY**

**Dairsie Church, Main St, Dairsie, Fife, KY15 4SS**



**[www.cuparstjohnsanddairsie.org](http://www.cuparstjohnsanddairsie.org)**



**StJohnsAndDairsieUnitedParishChurch**

*United in Faith, United in Love*