



DUNFERMLINE GILLESPIE MEMORIAL CHURCH

Parish Profile 2016

MISSION STATEMENT

To bring people to Jesus through fellowship, develop them through discipleship, equip them for their ministry in the church and life mission in the world and to glorify God's name through worship.

Gillespie Memorial Church

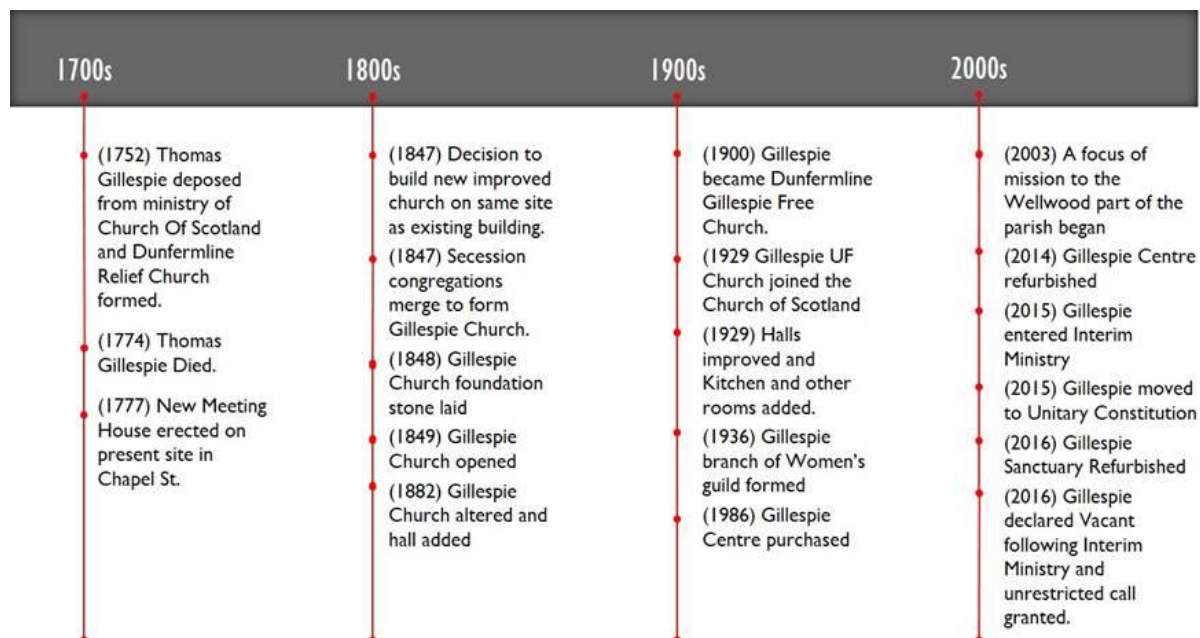
Parish Profile 2016

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Gillespie's History

Gillespie Memorial Church has a long history in Dunfermline and is known for being forward thinking and community focussed.



The Congregation

Gillespie Memorial Church currently has a membership of 154 with a committed core of approximately 60 people of all ages, with an average age of 60. We have a small and enthusiastic youth church. A key focus is to serve the people in our community, which will become evident through this document and when visiting.

During a time of interim ministry, members of the congregation have come together to reflect on our way forward. There is an excitement about God's plans for the future and we are looking forward to the possibilities and growth with a leader who can facilitate progression.

Interim Ministry

During 2014 and a time of guided reflection with "A Place for Hope", the congregation identified the following key opportunities:

- A fresh vision for the future
- Leadership to teach, enable and encourage the congregation
- Clear and inclusive communication
- Improved Pastoral Care
- Varied yet balanced and inclusive styles of worship to cater for all ages
- Development of Mission Work in the Community

A set of Aims and Objectives were produced and six new teams were created, led by Elders from the Session to drive forward these Aims and Objectives under the guidance of an Interim Minister. In 2015 Gillespie entered a period of Interim Ministry. Over 18 months, the congregation moved to a place of togetherness and unity, with a love for one another and a strong heart for moving forward together into whatever future God has planned.

In May 2016 the Interim Ministry review concluded that Gillespie had made significant progress in line with the aims and objectives, and Presbytery declared Gillespie to be vacant and allowed an unrestricted call, to recruit a new minister.

Leadership

Under the Unitary Constitution, Gillespie have a Session of 26 who work with other members of the congregation in six teams. The purpose of these teams was determined through the aims and objectives and are outlined below:

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| Communications | Develop comprehensive communications strategy that addresses the needs of those who are, and those who are not, digitally connected, and ensure a good flow of information from the Presbytery regarding the wider work of the Church locally, nationally, and internationally. |
| Worship | Ensure that Worship meets the spiritual needs of all sections of the congregation, with particular regard to the variety of style of worship material that speak to different people in different ways. |
| Communities | Establish plans to meet the needs of each Community within the overall vision of the church. Establish greater links with Presbytery and the opportunities offered through Presbytery. Consider and support new fellowship opportunities for the congregation |
| Pastoral Care | Re-assess the Pastoral needs of the Congregation and Parish, and ensure that proper provision be made to address these needs, recognising the value of the professional Pastoral Ministry offered by the Ordained leader alongside the Gifts of God's people. |
| Mission and Outreach | Understand and improve mission and outreach work with the relevant support and involvement from the Gillespie Church Family |
| Property and Finance | Manage all matters regarding property and finance related to Gillespie Church, keeping the buildings in good order and fit for purpose, and maintaining accounts in line with the constitution and current legislation. |

The Church Buildings

Gillespie Memorial Church of Scotland is a town centre church, situated next to Dunfermline's bus station. This makes Gillespie an ideal location for community use and for community outreach.



The church sanctuary was renovated during 2016 to an exceptionally high standard. With a new ceiling, fresh paint top to bottom, new heating, carpeted, audio visual equipment and individual chairs for the congregation; the sanctuary is now a light, airy, warm and inviting place to worship.

The flexible space is providing beneficial use to other community groups.

The church building has a hall at the rear with a fully fitted kitchen for catering. The church hall is used regularly throughout the week by a number of community groups: Rainbows, Brownies and Guides, The Guild, Wednesday Fellowship, Toddler groups and the Express Group which supports adults with mental wellbeing challenges.

The Gillespie Centre

Adjacent to the church building is the Gillespie Centre. The Centre was completely modernised in 2014 and updated to create a building that was compliant with Equality legislation and also flexible for the many community users. With a large meeting room and three smaller rooms, together with an industrial kitchen, it is an excellent and versatile space. There is also a fully functional office located in the premises. Our youth church groups are held in the Centre on a Sunday, as are regular church meetings and social gatherings. However, for the majority of the time, we are delighted that our Centre is used by community groups who serve Dunfermline's people in the most amazing ways.

More information about the groups that use the Gillespie Centre can be found on our website. A brief summary is:

[Dunfermline Street Pastors](#) use the Centre on a Saturday night as their base for sending the Street Pastors out to support young people in the town.

[Fife Action on Autism](#) – This group has been running fortnightly for over 20 years at Gillespie.

[The Grange](#) – This is a relatively new group to use our facilities. They meet every week day morning for a drop in for people seeking support with disabilities.

[Fife Council Women Offenders' Group](#) – this is a rehabilitation group which has been meeting for four year in the Gillespie Centre.

[Fife Employability Access Trust](#) – Bring together people to try and get them into employment by providing guidance in writing CVs and developing interview techniques.



[Frontline Fife](#) – this group run weekly drop-ins for homeless and vulnerable people. They provide meals for people and provide guidance for people looking for support.

Gillespie Manse

Situated in a quiet cul-de-sac, the manse is the ideal family home, with a flexible layout consisting of four bedrooms, (master bedroom with en-suite), two reception rooms and study, also landscaped gardens and a double garage.



The rear of the house overlooks the local rugby and cricket pitches. The manse is within walking distance of the town centre and the church, and is in the catchment area for St. Leonards primary school and Dunfermline High School.

The Parish

The church buildings are located in the town centre. The parish includes both private and council housing, flats and houses, retail premises, offices, commercial businesses and leisure facilities.

Gillespie has close links with a retirement home and hold regular services there.

Over the years a school chaplaincy has built up at Queen Ann high School. There are opportunities to work in partnership with other Christian organisations in Dunfermline to support this.

Gillespie's Ministry

The Glen Ministry

The Glen Ministry is a small project which started in 2008. It originally was a ministry which served the rough sleepers who sleep in the Glen (Dunfermline's Pittencrieff Public Park). The project's role has adapted to meet the service users needs. There is far less homelessness in 2016 but we have seen an increasing demand for one-off assistance for basic needs, such as food, or money for an acute financial crisis.

The Glen Ministry works with individuals and families, and from our feedback, reasons service users give for having to use the Glen Ministry are: a loss of employment, unstable/insecure employment (zero-hour contracts), family breakdowns, and delays in benefits being paid.

The Glen Ministry gives food and small financial grants to families or individuals to "tide them over" during acute financial crisis. A key aspect to the Glen Ministry's ethos is to try and encourage service users to source expert help from statutory and voluntary agencies to deal with the root cause of their issues, and it works closely with third sector agencies as part of a holistic approach to meet the local community need.

F3

F3 started in 2015 under the auspices of Gillespie Memorial Church and assisted by Dalgety Parish Church. Its main role is to supply fresh food to families with children of school age and under during school holidays. This is to "boost" their resources further, as the free school meals that are unavailable during the holidays, leading to parents doing without food to ensure their children eat. It operates only during the Fife school holidays and assists families predominantly in the Dunfermline area. Funding for the 2016/17 school year has been secured.

F3 works in close collaboration with the Dunfermline Advice Hub ("the Hub") who have been critical to the successful operation of F3 allowing the Hub to be used as a pick up point for Service Users. As part of the key philosophy of the project we remain open to working in partnership with other agencies and organisations in attempting to meet the need that is in our community.

Both these ministries are faith based, in the sense that the assistance provided is a practical demonstration of God's love for our community. The help is provided to people of all or no faith, without discrimination. No commitment or response is sought from service users.

Wellwood

Members of the congregation were challenged about the isolation of the village within the parish and reached out to the local community. After much prayer and discussion, plans were made to take a large tent to the local park in the summer of 2006. J in the Park, or Jesus in the Park, was born

For 5 years we supported week long summer activities for all ages, including crafts, drama, games and of course worship. The focus of ministry moved to creating a permanent base, known locally as 'The Well' accessing funding from the Church of Scotland Go for It Fund. The premises have now closed, however the Well continues in its new home at the Salvation Army Hall, formerly the Wellwood Community Centre.

Gillespie work in partnership with the Salvation Army to run Messy Church three times a year. This is a fun time for young Gillespie and Wellwood families to get together and share the gospel in a creative and relevant way.

The Future

The Gillespie Family is now ready to move forward. We are looking for someone to lead, encourage and inspire us, with support of the session and session teams, as we prayerfully progress on our future journey.

We believe our next minister will have:

- Strong leadership skills
- An ability to deliver strong Bible centred teaching
- A passion for pastoral care
- An appreciation for the value of both traditional and contemporary worship
- A heart for town centre ministry and our local community.

We want to develop a culture of encouragement, equipping and enabling, for all the people of God to share in the work of the church. We truly believe that there are exciting times ahead as we look towards the next stage in our congregational development. We want the Lord Jesus to be central in all that we are doing - we want to look to Him for guidance and we are praying that God will lead us to the Minister we believe He has already chosen for us.

For further information about Gillespie Memorial Church, contact the Interim Moderator, Victor Laidlaw on 01383 620134 or 07936 516 064, alternatively by email: v9wnltern@hotmail.co.uk.

Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”