



Callander Kirk and Trossachs Church Parish Profile

Vision Statement

“To be a flourishing, Gospel-centred church that through discipleship, seeks to follow where God leads.”



*Father, we light this candle as a symbol of your love and light.
May your love melt us, mould us and empower us to serve you.
May we listen to you and to each other and may your light guide us.
COME AS OUR LIGHT*



After the lighting of our Candle of Hope and Unity this prayer has been said at every service in Callander Kirk and Trossachs Church for the past two years and it exemplifies the manner of our search for a shepherd and leader for the people in this place.

Following the retirement of our minister, the congregation has undergone a period of guided reflection and has also participated in Future Focus, to help us better discern God's vision for the way forward.

This is a lively and gifted congregation which aims to love and to serve the Lord and to bring others to the knowledge and love of Christ through the manner in which we follow His two great commandments.

As a result of our recent deliberations we believe that we should develop through:-Worship
Discipleship
Leadership
Fellowship
Youth provision

and that we should worship in a sanctuary fit for purpose in the 21st Century.

Worship

- On a Sunday morning around 100-150 people of all ages worship at our two services. The first at 10.00am, held in the hall and the second at 11.15am held in the church. Currently, the two services combine in the church on the last Sunday of each month and during Easter and Advent.
- We are richly blessed by those willing to lead worship: at the early service family groups and committed individuals take on the responsibility. Many local clergy do pulpit supply and the congregation boasts four retired ministers.
- Time for Silence is a short, meditative period of private prayer and reflection held at 8.00pm on a Sunday evening in the Kirk.
- On the first Sunday of each month a service is held at 3pm in Trossachs Church, our 'preaching station' set amidst magnificent scenery on the shores of Loch Achray, just beyond the village of Brig o' Turk. Until recently this service was conducted by our retired Auxiliary Minister.
- Of course, many other services are held throughout the year particularly at Easter and Christmas, with Songs of Praise taking place in the hall on summer Sunday evenings. Communion is celebrated three times a year, with a small informal service held each month. For over twenty years the Kirk Session has led a service in October and other organisations plan and run worship events.
- The Easter Holy Week services are particularly Ecumenical thanks to a close relationship with St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.
- Many people are involved in providing aspects of worship - from readings, prayers of intercession and full services – formal and informal.
- Membership is 549 with 84 adherents

Discipleship

We recognise that everyone must grow and develop in faith and a number of House Groups help support this aspect of church life, Life and Work is bought and distributed and bible notes are ordered for those who wish to have them.

We know too that discipleship comes in many forms and allied to this are the following-

- Pastoral Care forms a strong bond within the congregation and in the wider community. A good number of members are regular visitors to those in need of care, support, company or a listening ear. This is indeed the Church in action despite the fact that not all visitors wear a dog collar! Other aspects of Pastoral Care are areas such as Bereavement visiting, Hospital visiting, the weekly Teapot Café and the Ministry of Flowers.
- Over recent years, we have held two Stewardship campaigns; one for finance and one for talents and many members give enthusiastically in both areas. Finances are administered by a small group, including a new Treasurer, and the Fabric Team has been restructured with specific aspects of work allocated to individual members. Of course, we are always in need of further income and support but there is huge commitment and the outlook is positive.
- We have the vision to reach out to others with the love of Christ and trusting in Him, hope to bring more people to a faith. The services are welcoming and we enjoy fellowship in the hall after each one. The summer evening Songs of Praise brings visitors and we are constantly welcoming people who come to spend time in this beautiful part of God's creation. More requires to be done to encourage the de-churched and the un-churched to join us and the Green Team, Teapot Café and Nursing Home services all help to give the Kirk a high profile in the area.
- We do know however, that we need to work harder at OUTREACH despite what is already achieved.
- Another area which could be developed is our involvement in the World Church. One way in which we are successful here is in retiring offerings, when the contributions are usually very generous.
- We maintain contact with Mission Partners
- The Church Prayer Group meets in the home of one of our members.
- Where possible we join in ecumenical activities and have an excellent relationship with other local churches and the many Christian groups in the town.

A new minister is likely to be invited to be Chaplain to the local primary school and a member of the chaplaincy team at The McLaren High school.



Leadership

We would dearly love to find a person of vision to be a shepherd and a leader at this stage in our development. We need someone who will challenge us to deepen our own commitment, help us to think of others, be a major part of the leadership team and be a caring and loving figure in this community. We, in turn, commit to caring, loving and supporting that person.

- The Kirk Session is made up of twenty three elders and currently meets eight times a year. It does not meet during January, April, July and August.
- The Congregational Board has nine members including three elders.
- A small team works to plan and lead the services held at 10.00am.
- As already mentioned, Fabric and Finance are supported by hard working members.
- The Green Team maintains our fairly recently devised Creation Corner, leads the congregation in eco matters, participated in a "toilet twinning" scheme in Africa and organises an annual pilgrimage.
- 'The Link' is our church magazine. It is produced four times a year and is used to educate and inform the membership, whether or not they attend regularly.
- The Flower ministry now involves a number of people so the responsibility is shared.
- We have a very experienced organist and a committed Senior Choir.
- The Junior Choir is an integral part of our youth work and outreach involving children from other churches and some with no church connection at all.
- The choirs, (run by different people), add greatly to the spirituality of our services.

As in many churches, The Guild membership tends to be older but has a strong leadership team and is very much part of the Christian education in the church.



Fellowship

During our discussions for Future Focus it was clear that the membership enjoys any opportunity to meet socially and sees this as a major part of the growth and development of our church 'family' . During our Stewardship campaigns congregational lunches were very much a part of the success of the events.

- Coffee is served in the Kirk Hall after each service.
- The Teapot Café provides a focus for anyone but is particularly aimed at older people. We would like to see more folk brought along by those who have cars and are more physically able.
- The Nursing Home services held each month in the local care homes are greatly appreciated by residents – and their families.
- The Hogmanay Ceilidh began at the Millennium and is a most successful event, run by the Kirk and involving the wider community.
- Trossachs Church holds an annual Coffee Morning in the village hall and the church's Work Party raises large sums of money through various craft activities.
- Church flowers are distributed to the sick and bereaved whether or not they are church members.

During the vacancy, a new FUN(D) and Fellowship Committee has been formed - with great enthusiasm and imaginative ideas.

Youth

Work with young people is a major part of our ongoing discipleship and outreach. A few years ago there was a major review of youth provision and this has proved to be successful in working with the age range. We employ a part time Youth Worker who is involved in all of the activities.

- The youth worker is paid for by contributions from members of the congregation.
- Two Elders currently hold the main responsibility for oversight of the Youth Work.
- There is a strong group of people working as part of a Youth Leadership Team.
- A Youth Prayer Meeting is held monthly
- S.U. material is used for a group in the Primary School, one lunchtime each week.
- The local High School has a Christian group called 'The Point'.
- JAM, (Jesus And Me), meets weekly and covers the age range P7 to S6.

The "Youth Space" - a youth-friendly meeting room in the Kirk Hall has a 42" plasma screen with DVD and surround sound.

Sanctuary

A major part of our vision, longer term, is to see the church refurbished.

- The sanctuary is a large open, square building, well decorated and with good lighting and a gentle atmosphere.
- It has a good PA system, including a loop system.
- The 11.15 service is recorded onto CDs, and there are plans to upload these recordings onto the website
- The church has a modern projection system
- The hope is to eventually replace pews with chairs for a more flexible and welcoming environment and to provide other suitable areas for fellowship.

The above would allow the 10.00am service to meet in its 'café style', although the hall does have new sound and projection equipment

Kirk Hall

The Kirk Hall, adjacent to the main church building has four meeting rooms, toilets, a kitchen and a main hall with a PA system and a projector and screen. The hall is used by both the Kirk and the community for a wide variety of meetings and activities.

Over past years there has been an average of 23 regular bookings each week, just over half of which are non-church related. The hall has two caretakers operating on a job-share basis and is run by a joint committee of church and community representatives.



Church Office

The office is open two mornings a week and is run by two part time administrators. The office houses a computer, printer, photocopier and risograph machine.

The Manse

The manse is a modern detached bungalow in good condition and only ten minutes walk from Callander Kirk. It has a garage, good sized garden, family room, reception room, study and four bedrooms and sits in the quiet cul-de-sac of Aveland Park Road.



Activities

Souper Sunday

This has been celebrated on more than one occasion with special services and a speaker from the HIV/AIDS project.

Art Exhibition

Held in July/August each year, this is a fundraising and thoroughly enjoyable community event, run by the Kirk.

Lighthouses of Prayer.

Groups of two or more people, who agree to pray, care and share the Good News

Alpha.

We have used Alpha Courses to effect and Youth Alpha has played a great part of the teaching at the JAM sessions.



Activities Affiliated to Callander Kirk

Callander Council of Churches

Thursday Club provides an opportunity for people from the community to meet together every second Thursday from 2pm to 4pm.

Nursing Home Services.

These are held in each of the two nursing homes during the first week of each month, with communion services being celebrated three times each year.

Filling Station

Café style Christian Fellowship, meeting fourth Thursday of each month – part of the ecumenical work in the town.

Education

The McLaren High School has approximately 700 pupils, drawn from a wide, (and largely rural), catchment area. A major refurbishment programme was completed about five years ago.

Callander Primary School is the largest of the 14 primary schools within the "McLaren Cluster".



Health & Social Care

Within the parish, there is a modern medical centre, a dental practice, two privately owned residential/nursing homes and a sheltered housing complex.

Some of the varied social groups and activities available in Callander are: McLaren Community Leisure Centre; Callander Youth Project; Guides and Brownies; Cubs and Scouts; football, rugby and hockey clubs; Library; golf club; bowling club; Royal British Legion; Masonic Lodge and the 7.45 Club.

Add to the above Rotary; Callander Amateur Operatic Society; Callander Brass; Callander Chimes, (hand bell ringing); Horticultural Society; Heritage Society; U3A and Senior Citizen clubs and it is obvious that there is plenty to occupy young and old.

The Ben Ledi View is a free community newspaper published six times a year and delivered free to every home in the town.



Vacancy information

Applications

Applications and (CVs), are invited and should be sent to the Clerk to the Nominating Committee:-

Miss Joan Barrie,
24 Murdiston Ave, Callander, FK17 8AY.
Telephone: 01877 330 710

We are happy to assist with informal enquiries; these can be addressed to the Interim Moderator:

Revd. Alex Macpherson,
Telephone: 01360 870 212

