

PARISH PROFILE
ST. MARY'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH ABERFOYLE
SERVING THE TROSSACHS AND STRATHENDRICK.



1. THE PARISH

St. Mary's Aberfoyle serves a large rural area of West Stirlingshire, stretching from the Trossachs southward to the Campsie Fells. The Church itself is situated in Aberfoyle, and the congregation is drawn from the village areas of Aberfoyle, Gartmore, Kippen, Buchlyvie, Arnprior, Port of Mentieth, Balfron, Killearn, Drymen and Croftamie. The area covered is therefore in excess of 100 square miles, with some members travelling over 15 miles to Church.

2. THE CONGREGATION

The current size of the congregation is much as it has been over recent years. Families come and go, though there is a very stable core. The distribution of the parish members is as follows:

Aberfoyle, Gartmore and Kinlochard	16 Households
Balfron	11 Households
Buchlyvie, Arnprior and Fintry	8 Households
Drymen, Croftamie Gartness, Gartocharn, Rowardennan	11 Households
Killearn, Blanefield, Dumgoyne, Strathblane	14 Households
Port of Menteith	8 Households

There is also a strong base of Tourism in the area, with many hotels and guest houses.

3. MISSION 21

A Mission 21 foundation programme was carried out in 1999, and has proved to be a considerable success since. The Vestry is now led by a Lay Chairman, and has input from a number of volunteer Teams: *Communication*, which is responsible for the Newsletter and other "as and when" communications, besides having nominated members in each of the villages who visit if appropriate, and advise on the need for Pastoral visits, etc.; *Fabric*, which takes responsibility for the buildings, sound, heating, lighting, etc.; *Music and Worship*, the only team chaired by the Incumbent, which

addresses Forms of Service, Hymn lists, etc., and *Financial Stewardship*, chaired by the Treasurer, which oversees expenditure, income, contracts, etc.

4. CHURCH ACTIVITIES

Church services:-

The style of worship reflects the broad Anglican Tradition, being neither High nor Low in approach. The hymnbook used is Hymns Ancient and Modern, New Standard, with the occasional use of Common Ground.

There is an 11.15 a.m. Sung Eucharist service every Sunday, using the 1982 Liturgy, with provision of an Evensong from time to time.

After each service, the Church Room is open for fellowship and is well attended. Refreshments are available.

Mid-week Services:-

On the first Tuesday of each month, there is a 10 a.m. Holy Communion Service in the Killearn Kirk Session Room. In addition, there are occasional evening Communion Services.

Ecumenical Services:-

The Remembrance Day service is held jointly with Aberfoyle Kirk where the Memorial is located. The Service is led alternately.

In spite of the recent decision by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, at the local level the Vestry believe that this is a relationship that should be further developed

Sunday School:-

At present, there is no Sunday School. Families attend Family Services, on special occasions such as Mothering Sunday.

The Kirk runs a Sunday School and, as many of the children go to school together, there is a natural gravitational pull in that direction. However, it is hoped to revive the Sunday School at St. Mary's.

Study Group:-

Lent Study groups were held in Callander in 2005 and will continue.

Village Representatives:-

As referred to under Mission 21, there are one or two nominated representatives in each village area who keep in touch with existing local members, obtaining their views and advising the Incumbent of those requiring home visits and greater Pastoral care.

Church Giving:-

It is current policy to offer financial support to a small number of charities proposed by members of the congregation and approved by the Vestry, from the collections at the Harvest Thanksgiving Service and Carol Service.

One or more functions are held each year to raise money for St. Mary's general funds.

Clerical Staffing and Lay Assistance:-

Services are taken by the Rector, the Rev. Richard Grosse. Margie Stephen, the Lay Reader assists with Services on a regular basis. Two members of the congregation are licensed to administer the Chalice.

Lay members regularly lead the intercessions, and there is a lesson reader's rota, the lesson readers also acting as sidesmen/women. Members of the congregation are also involved in the flower rota, and various maintenance and administrative matters.

There is an organist, who is entitled to an honorarium as set by the Vestry. A paid part-time cleaner looks after the Church after Services. The Incumbent is supported by a Verger.

The Buildings:-

The Church was consecrated in 1894, having been built largely to serve the needs of the Episcopalian quarrymen's families then living at the Aberfoyle slate quarries. It is a Category C listed building. It is well maintained and has undergone regular surveys. The heating system was renewed in 1992/3, and has recently been augmented by wall heaters. An Audio Loop system has recently been installed. The Vestry has recently invested in a professional Conditional Survey to assess the development of the Church building to serve the wider community in Aberfoyle, and the results of this are at present being considered.



The Rectory is a well-found 40-year-old building, standing in its own garden below the Church. Attached to the Rectory, with access both from it and from the outside, is a Church Room, used after Services, and for meetings, and in the past for the Sunday School.

The Future:-

With the development of new housing within the area, and with its changing population, which includes many people of English extraction, there is potential for the enlargement of the congregation.