



The Church
of Scotland

THE PARISHES OF
DALBEATTIE AND
KIRKGUNZEON
LINKED WITH URR

Parish Profile



Further information

Further information can be obtained from:

- (a) **Fraser Sanderson**,
Convener of Nominating
Committee, Carantyne,
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- (b) **Ian Menzies**, Vice-
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- (c) **Gordon Cathro**, Clerk to
Nominating Committee,
30 Albert St.,
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- (d) **Rev. Valerie Ott**, Interim
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*(Ian may be best placed to give specific information about Urr parish and church.)

Applications

Applications, including a CV, should be made in writing to Gordon Cathro, Clerk to the Nominating Committee, at the address above.

Profile of the two parishes

Our Ministry

Following the retirement of our minister, the linked congregations of Dalbeattie & Kirkgunzeon with Urr are seeking an appointee who will:

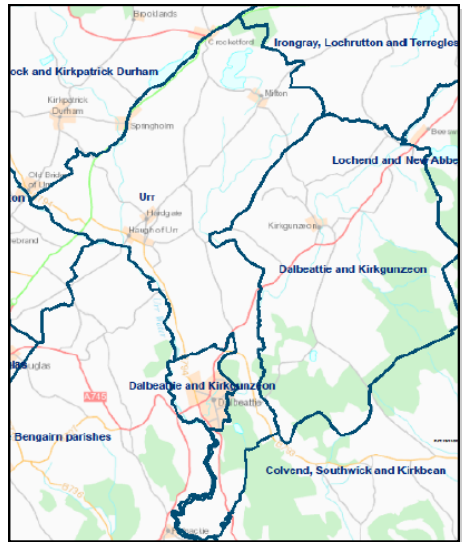
- lead the congregations in worship to stimulate thought, commitment and growth;
- offer sympathetic pastoral care;
- reflect appropriately modern trends in religious thinking;
- engage with and support the wider community in its spiritual needs;
- work with young people through school chaplaincies and other avenues;
- develop the skills and talents of the church members;
- continue to encourage awareness of and responsibilities for world mission;

In return, we will offer the support and friendship of enthusiastic, hard-working Sessions, Boards and congregations, committed Christian communities who are willing to adapt to new approaches.

Our Region



Our Parishes



- Beautiful rural locality
- Excellent health and education facilities
- Active community involvement
- Wide variety of recreational opportunities



Dalbeattie Town Centre



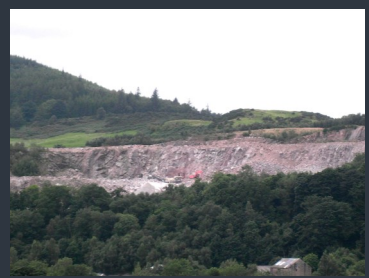
Colliston Park, Dalbeattie



Kirkgunzeon



Haugh of Urr



Dalbeattie Quarry



These beautiful parishes lie in the Stewartry District of Dumfries & Galloway in S.W. Scotland and offer an attractive mix of town and country practice. The two charges are based in the town of Dalbeattie and the nearby village of Haugh of Urr. The parish of Kirkgunzeon united with Dalbeattie in October 2013 and the Trustees of the Church of Scotland have recently granted permission for the sale of the church in Kirkgunzeon.

Dalbeattie, with a population of c4000, is the fourth largest town in Dumfries & Galloway and is 14 mls. from the regional capital, Dumfries. The villages of Haugh of Urr and Kirkgunzeon lie 3mls and 5mls respectively from Dalbeattie.

Dalbeattie has a good range of independent

shops and businesses and serves as the amenity centre for the popular and attractive Colvend, Kippford and Rockcliffe coastal area. The town has a reputation based on its granite quarry but the local economy now relies principally on agriculture, forestry and tourism.

It is an ideal area for natural and sporting pursuits with the 7Stanes Mountain Bike Trail in Dalbeattie Forest and with many opportunities for golf, fishing, sailing and other outdoor activities. There is, for example, an annual Walking Festival and Half Marathon.

There are primary schools in Kirkgunzeon, Hardgate (adjacent to Haugh of Urr) and Dalbeattie (which also has a small Roman Catholic primary school) as well as a six year secondary school in Dalbeattie. A new school

campus to bring together Dalbeattie High School and Dalbeattie Primary School is scheduled for opening in 2016.

The Crichton Campus in Dumfries offers Higher and Further Education opportunities through Glasgow University and the University of the West of Scotland together with Dumfries & Galloway College of F.E which is housed in a new building opened three years ago.

There are excellent health and dental services in the area with a new Health Centre in Dalbeattie to be opened later this year and a new Dumfries & Galloway Royal Infirmary to be built in Dumfries by 2018.

Further information on the town and area can be obtained from the community website 'Dalbeattie Matters' on www.dalbeatiematters.co.uk.

Our Churches

The parishes and churches are different in nature reflecting the different locales but this has been a very harmonious linkage with many joint activities including occasional joint services, joint musical and social activities and a very active joint Guild. Both congregations are committed supporters of Christian Aid and have been closely involved with the Reformed Church of Hungary. We are also members of an embryonic Churches Together group which will develop ecumenical activities among the churches in Dalbeattie and surrounding area. But each parish maintains its own identity...

Urr

We have weekly services at 9.30am and two communion services annually, usually in April

and October.

We have 215 members with an average weekly attendance of c35.

Our Session has 11 members and the Board is made up of the Session plus a further 3 members.

Our Sunday School meets weekly in the Parish Hall which is situated in the village and which offers excellent facilities to the many local organisations which make use of it.

We have two regular organists and a high quality, custom built Wyvern digital organ.

Dalbeattie and Kirkgunzeon

Our weekly service is at 11am and we have two Communion services, annually, usually in May and November. In addition, we currently have a brief service of Communion at the end of the service on the first Sunday of each month.

We have a membership of 558 with average weekly attendance of c90.

Our session has 35 elders and the Congregational Board comprises 36 members, 18 drawn from the Session and 18 elected from the rest of the congregation.

Our Sunday School attends the weekly service for a short period before moving to the Church Centre for classes and activities.

We have a recently refurbished pipe organ and regular organist and choirmaster with a choir membership of 15.

Our Church Centre, which is adjacent to the church, is a relatively new building and offers, in addition to the usual facilities of hall, kitchen and meeting rooms, a church office which is open to further development. The Centre is the focus of

activity for many church groups and local organisations including Brownies and Beavers, badminton, yoga, dance, mother & toddler groups.

We have, among other church-based groups, a Fellowship Group, a Forget-Me-Not Club (supporting those with mental health difficulties) and a DIY Worship Group which offers contributions to church services from the congregation.

You might also be interested to know that :

- We are an Eco-Congregation . The first award was made in 2002 when we were only the second congregation in Scotland to receive such and a second award in 2011.
- We are a Fairtrade church.
- We have a Church Magazine published in Spring and Autumn.

Our History

There has been a church on the site of the present Urr church since 1606. There were subsequent re-builds in 1752 and 1815 with the foundation stone of the present building laid in 1914. Until 1843, the Established Church of Scotland worshippers in Dalbeattie travelled to the parish church in Haugh of Urr but in that year ac-

commodation was purchased in Dalbeattie and the first minister appointed.

The present building was opened in 1880 . Following the Union in 1929, there were two parish churches in Dalbeattie, Craignair and Park, and these existed autonomously until the 1987 union created Dalbeattie Parish Church.

You can discover more about us:

- from our website: www.dalbeattieparishchurch.vpweb.co.uk
- on Facebook: Dalbeattie and Kirkgunzeon Parish Church

Urr



Dalbeattie and Kirkgunzeon



Our Manse



The manse is situated in Dalbeattie within walking distance of the church and also within easy reach of schools and shops. It is an excellent two-storey granite building with attractively laid out gardens. Some building alterations are currently being undertaken to create an office with separate access after which the house will be redecorated throughout. A budget has also been set aside for new floor coverings in all rooms.