FORTHVIEW PARISH CHURCH

PARISH PROFILE
2024



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Introduction
2. Forthview Parish
3. Mission Statement
4. Vision
5. Objectives
6. Our Churches: Worship Life
7. Our History
8. Further information
9. Summary details for each community
10. Map





Interior St Fillan's Aberdour

1 Introduction

Fife: Forthview Parish Church was formed on 1st January 2024 as a union of five parishes: St Fillan's Aberdour, Dalgety, Inverkeithing, North Queensferry, and Rosyth. The Fife Presbytery Mission Plan allocates us a team ministry of three Ministers of Word and Sacrament. The Forthview congregation is enthusiastic about the future and eager to see the new union move forward.
We had little in the way of precedent when conceiving our basis of team ministry but with experience, and once the ministry team is in place, there can be opportunity to review.

As we feel our way into the union, we are initially operating with 5 joint session clerks. Our Kirk Session is functioning well, with excellent teams in place for finance, property, safeguarding, website, and roll keeping.
Session have voted to accept ministers in same sex relationships.
As you read this document, you will see that we have ambitious plans for our congregation and the wider community.

2 FORTHVIEW PARISH

Welcome to our church and community. We are fortunate to enjoy a Central Scotland location with a wonderful mix of coast and countryside, rural and urban, plus the advantage of easy access to cities. Our location makes us attractive for people of all ages and provides residents with a great place for growing up, commuting to work, raising family, or enjoying a busy and active retirement. The parish is well served by centres for retail, plus historic places of interest and the performing arts. Consequently, we serve very diverse communities, generally vibrant but sadly in some places isolated and lonely. As a result, we have prioritised “reaching out and welcoming in” within our Vision, Mission,and Objectives. Members of our congregation are actively involved in church life and welcome your help and direction to see this grow.

Our congregations are getting to know one another well and, following the Church Without Walls Report in 2001, some of the Kirk Sessions have been active on projects together over the last two decades. Our relationships have strengthened, and we have been able to share skills and resources. Our Kirk Session and wider congregations have a genuine enthusiasm for Team Ministry and the energy and commitment to drive forward change, as outlined in our Vision and Mission.

As of Scotland’s Census 2011, our area of Fife recorded a population of circa 32,000, with further new housing developments having been built across the Parish since that time. We are served by one large secondary school and eight primary schools, plus their associated pre-school facilities.



Interior North Queensferrry



Exterior North Queensferry



- *Peace Garden Dalgety*

3 MISSION STATEMENT

Our church and our people aim to look after Forthview members, responding to their worship needs, and to spread God's Word together. We will reach out and take God's Word and His Work to all in our communities and treat people with love and respect. We aim to build Christian foundations for young people and create an environment in which all can learn of God's Work.

4 VISION

Our vision is of Fife: Forthview Parish being a Christian church with a meaningful relationship with the community, helping enrich everyone's relationship with God, and offering our ministry for all age groups.

5 OBJECTIVES

a) To develop a Ministry Team that shares our Vision for Forthview Parish.

b) To use our collective talents for team ministry (including our congregations) to achieve our Vision.

c) To increase our worshipping congregation, building from five separate congregations to one engaged and active Forthview congregation.

d) To be visible seven days a week.

e) To be a part of community life and events.

f) To recognise and respond to injustice (deprivation, poverty, loneliness, and other hidden needs) in our communities.

g) To create a resilient church community through engaging new and different people, and assisting them to find a purposeful place, building skills and confidence through our church's activities.

h) To care for our world through attending to our local environment.

i) To be known for our positive role and relationship with our communities.



Interior Inverkeithing

6 OUR CHURCHES: WORSHIP LIFE

Our five churches have, until recently, worshipped independently of one another, except during Holy Week and Advent, when we have planned shared worship across our communities.

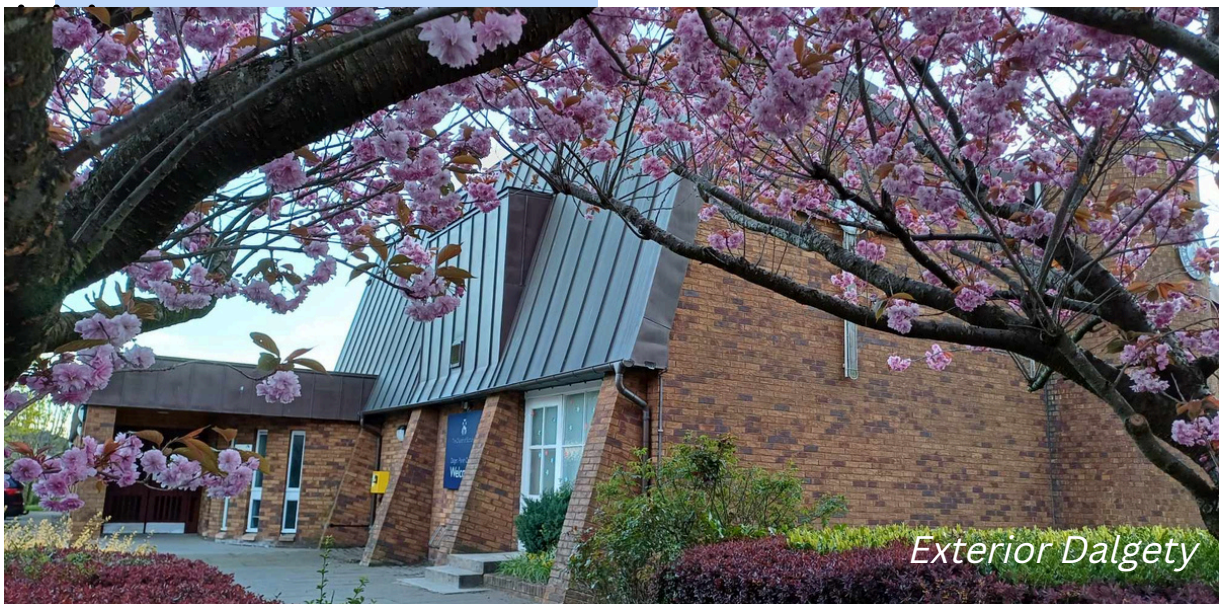
During vacancies and following the recent retirals within the new Forthview Parish, Rosyth has benefitted from a supportive, inspiring locum, while the other churches in the Parish have been enthused by the assigned Associate Minister. All congregations have become much more comfortable with pulpit supply and leading our own worship through our small Worship Groups. We have been surprised at how much our members have enjoyed the varied paths to worship.

Churches worship at various times, and we encourage members to take up the opportunity to visit another community for worship when they can. Where possible, we provide refreshments after worship, and find opportunities to hold Cafe Church or other inclusive activities.

Especially since the pandemic, attendance of children has been a challenge, particularly for the smaller churches, and we don't all have children attending on a weekly basis.



Exterior Rosyth



Exterior Dalgety

7 HISTORY

Forthview Parish has a history of Christian presence reaching back to the Middle Ages, as evidenced by the ruins of St James Chapel in North Queensferry and St Bridget's Kirk at Dalgety, not to mention the active ancient churches in Inverkeithing and Aberdour. Inverkeithing Parish Church was dedicated in 1244, while St Fillan's in Aberdour celebrated 900th anniversary in 2023.

Rosyth was founded as a Garden City in 1909, predominantly to support the expanding Royal Navy Dockyards. The first church followed in 1917, while the current church, built in 1931, reopened in 2015 after extensive renovation supported by local fundraising.

Worship in North Queensferry developed from historic Meeting Houses to a 19th century Free Church, now demolished. The replacement North Queensferry Church and Hall opened at the top of the village in 1963, and as with Rosyth, this was supported by local fundraising.

After new housing expanded in Dalgety Bay to the west of the ancient and the old churches (linked to Aberdour in the mid-20th century) Dalgety Church was built central to the new town in 1981.

[Further history is available on the Forthview website via links to the individual Churches]

8 Further information

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- Parish website : https://forthviewchurch.org.uk/
- The Basis of Team Ministry is available via the website
- The Basis of Union, and full manse information are available by contacting the Interim Moderator above..

9 Appendix 1: Summary Details for Each Community (please find attached)



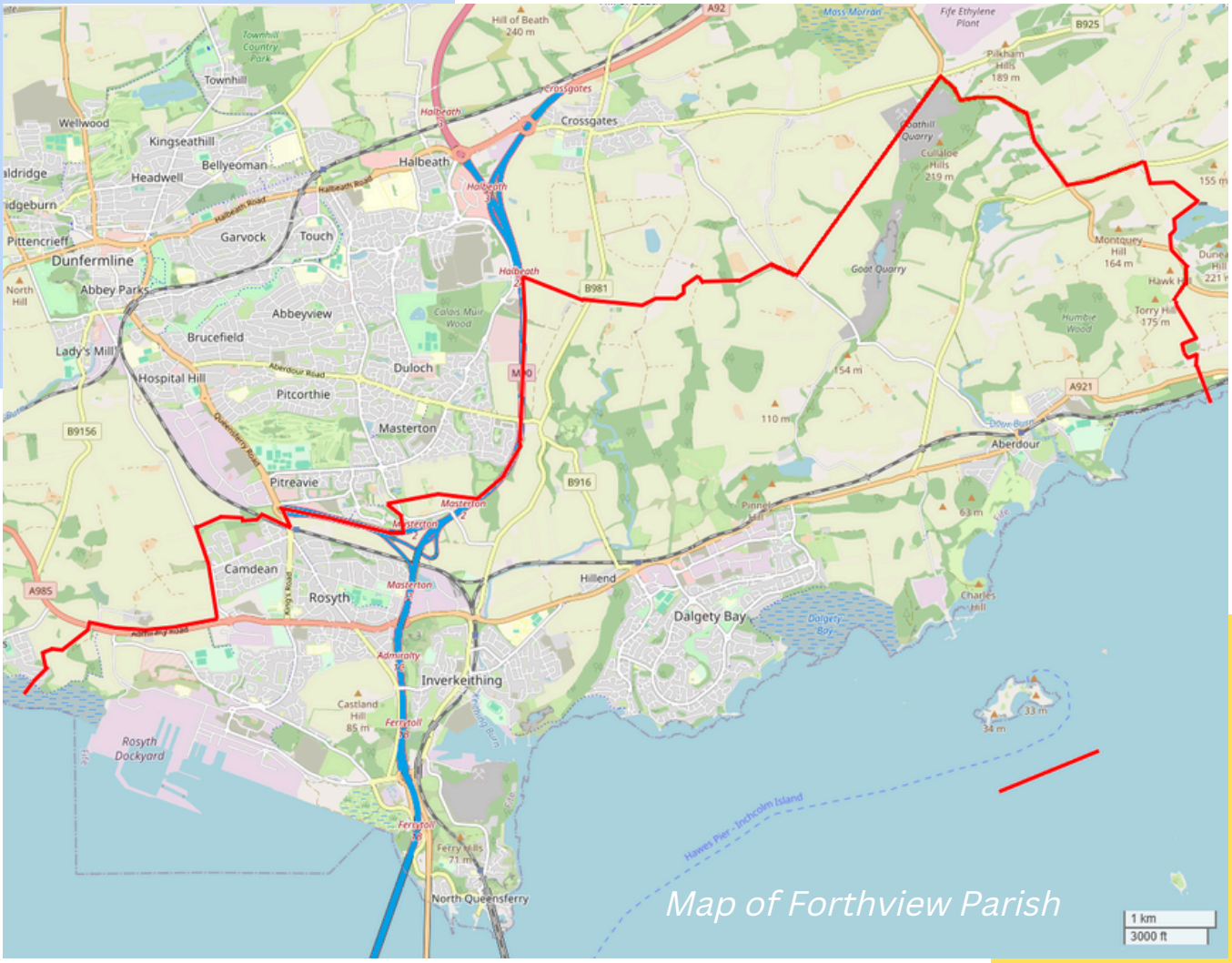
Exterior Inverkeithing



St Fillan's Aberdour


Interior Dalgety

10 Appendix 2: Map



Map of Forthview Parish