



CERES KEMBACK AND SPRINGFIELD CHURCH

Fife Pilgrim's Way near Ceres

Charity No. SCO17442

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PARISH PROFILE

1. MISSION STATEMENT

We are a group of committed Christians trying to live the Gospel, and to bring its message to the communities where we live – “a church with the community at its heart, at the heart of the community.”

We believe in the central value of worship and the importance of prayer.

We cherish the traditions that have brought us so far, but we seek always to test them with a vision of the world in which we find ourselves.

What kind of group are we?

We all get on pretty well together, and look after one another, and in normal times enjoy taking part in worship together and sharing in church jaunts and activities. We would like to find a minister who can become a part of our church family.

We would like to attract young people to share in our worship and carry the church forward. A good deal of thought and effort has gone into our monthly Messy Church services, at present conducted online, and into the Youth Group, on standby just now.



Church barbecue in the garden of the former manse

We know that there is a desire among young people to find ways in which the life of the creative spirit can find expression and direction. We believe that it is part of our mission to satisfy it. Unless we can do so, our church community will not survive, and we urgently seek a minister who can bring young people into the life of the church.

Our buildings are important to us. But we are aware that they no longer function as the hubs of their local communities. We have begun to re-imagine them for a changing social context, and we would like our new minister to lead us in seeking new ways for them to serve the people who go by their doors every day.

The Roll currently numbers nearly 300. The average weekly attendance is about 45, and ranges from 35 to 70. We do not record the ages of our members, but the approximate age profile for ages 25-44 is 4%, 45-64 is 36%, 65-84 is 58% and 85 and over 2%. The roll has been steadily falling over the past few years.

2. MISSION CONTEXT

Ceres Kemback and Springfield is a rural parish to the south of Cupar.

Full census information can be found at

https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/church_finder/data/parish_profiles/261541.pdf

3. OUR WORSHIP LIFE

Normally, we have two services every Sunday. The earlier one is an informal breakfast service, the Gathering, and the later one a more conventional service, with hymns and prayers and a reflection. The Gathering involves the worship group, and members of this group also take part in the later service, and sometimes take over the service completely. At Easter, there are special services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and at Christmas services are held in each of the three buildings, ending with a midnight service. The Christmas services often attract members of the community who do not usually go to church: otherwise the attendance on Sundays is forty or fifty. Before covid precautions made this impossible, we conducted Acts of Remembrance at Ceres church, and the outdoor war memorials in the parish. We hold a special Service of Remembering early in December.

At present we hold one service in Springfield Community Church each Sunday, which is by booking only, and which attracts a congregation of between eighteen and a maximum of twenty-four.

Music is a valued part of our services. In the recent past, we have enjoyed a series of midweek events under the title of 'Sanctuary' which have presented music and readings from a variety of sources. Visual art, and drama have each played a part in some services, and have been welcomed by the congregation.

Our Prayer-group meets once a month in Kemback church, and on the last Tuesday of the month, Ceres church is opened for private prayer.

Two or three times a year we have gathered on a Sunday night to watch and discuss series of video programmes, such as those of Professor Tom Wright, selected and led by the Minister. These have been attended by members, but also by interested individuals outside the church.



Window in Kemback church
by Ruth Walker

We have found these meetings useful and stimulating, and it would be good if they were to continue.

Holy Communion normally takes place in each church twice a year, in addition to a Maundy Thursday communion in Springfield

4. PASTORAL CARE

The congregation has seen itself as a close-knit community, which takes an interest in the welfare of its members. Generally, the Minister is informed of those in particular need, and in addition undertakes a programme of visits. We would like to think that the wider community in the parish cares well for its less able members, as has been demonstrated in the lockdown period.

There is a great deal of scope for drawing newly settled families and those who do not regularly attend services into the church community. This is particularly so in Springfield where there has been a number of new build initiatives aimed at families.



The Minister visits members, non-members and the wider community who may require pastoral support in their own homes or in residential care. More than ever, we have frail members in several nursing homes which are scattered quite widely, including Auchtermuchty, Cupar, Earlsferry, Leven and St Andrews. The Minister keeps in touch with all in care, but members also regularly visit those in residential homes.

5. OUTREACH

The completion of the re-configured Community Church in Springfield, with a salaried part time manager, gives us a great opportunity for outreach. The building has been increasingly used by community groups. The Post Office has now moved into the premises for two mornings every week. As well as the weekly drop-in café, we have a keep fit ladies group using the premises two

evenings weekly, a Pilates group weekly and a gentle exercise for the over 60's weekly. In Springfield there are monthly free film shows in autumn and spring

CKS is a strong supporter of Re-act Scotland, sending aid to refugees in Scotland and to several countries in Europe. Members of the parish are committed workers at the Cupar Food Bank and in the Ceres Community Café. Among other charities supported are the Blythswood trust and the Leprosy Mission.

6. THE GUILD

The Guild holds regular meetings addressed by visiting speakers on a variety of topics. It offers an opportunity for fellowship to all, and raises substantial sums for charitable causes.



7. CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

Although we have a lively and well-supported youth group, there is no Sunday school at present, and no young people seeking instruction in preparation for membership.

Messy Church attracts a mixed congregation of up to twenty parents and children to its monthly meetings, which use the newly refurbished Springfield Community Church.

The Minister has led occasional series of evening discussions and breakfast meetings for adults based on a variety of sources including Alpha Group material and the videos of Prof. Tom Wright.

7. WORLD CHURCH

We follow the activities of our Mission Partners, Keith and Ida Waddell through their website. <https://keithandidainzambia.wordpress.com/>

On the Waddells' last visit to Scotland, the Youth group enjoyed meeting them. We support Christian aid.

There is often a Fairtrade stall at Church functions.

The Youth group, and also Messy Church were able to contribute to the Toilet Twinning charity.

9. HISTORY OF THE CHARGE

The Charge has been in existence since 10th April 2005. It came into existence when the Parish of Kemback formed a union with the united Parish of Ceres and Springfield.

The present vacancy arose when our former Minister, Rev James Campbell, reached retiring age.

The Congregation of CKS has agreed to depart from historic and current practice in order to permit the ordination, induction or appointment of a minister or a deacon who is in a civil partnership or a same sex marriage.

10. PRESBYTERY PLAN

Ceres Kemback and Springfield has permission to call with a seven-year renewable tenure.

We are under the Jurisdiction of St Andrews Presbytery, soon to be incorporated into the Presbytery of Fife

11. OUR BUILDINGS: CHURCH BUILDINGS



Ceres Church in winter

Over the past few years, we have rationalised our use of buildings. We now use three buildings for our services.

Ceres Church seats more than 300 worshippers, and as part of the united parish serves the busy and popular village. It has been listed by the Presbytery as likely to remain open beyond the term of the present plan. The project of refurbishing this building is at an advanced stage (in part making use of its location on the Fife Pilgrim Way).

Kemback is a smaller church, carefully refurbished in the 1920s. Situated in an area of striking natural beauty, it is listed as being unlikely to remain in use after the end of the present plan, largely because of a lack of facilities. Nevertheless, it is well suited to poetry readings and small musical events, as well as being an ideal place for reflection and contemplation.



Kemback Church



Interior of Springfield Community Church

The refurbishment of Springfield Community Church was completed in 2019, providing us with a bright, modern, flexible space, with audio and video facilities. The Presbytery envisages that this building will remain in use after the term of the present plan.

Our worship takes place here during lockdown, and it is used for Messy Church, when this meets. There is a distanced capacity of twenty-four worshippers.

Normally, the Gathering service takes place in Springfield every week. The later worship is conducted alternately in Kemback and Ceres.

THE MANSE

A modern, spacious four-bedroomed bungalow, the manse has excellent kitchen facilities, and gas central heating. There is a large garden, laid out mostly in grass.

Our manse is located within Ceres, with good public transport links to St. Andrews, and surrounding villages, to St Andrews, and to Cupar, where there are mainline rail connections to Edinburgh and Dundee, and to London. Full details of the manse can be had on application. There are good local primary schools in Ceres, Springfield and Craigrothie. The state secondary school in Cupar, Bell-Baxter, has an excellent reputation.



The Manse, Almbank, Gladney, Ceres

OTHER BUILDINGS

Of the three church halls used in 2006, one has been leased to a local charity who use it as a community hall as was originally envisaged when the hall was built. The hall is owned by the congregation. The second hall is under offer for sale and the third hall in Ceres will be put on the market to help fund the refurbishments to the church. Springfield Community Church is the building that has most usage by external agencies ranging from the Post Office to keep fit classes.

12. THE SESSION

We adopted a Unitary constitution in 2017. Sub Committees for Fabric and Finance, Stewardship, Worship, Fellowship and Outreach, also, the Guild, Safeguarding Co-ordinator and Prayer Convener report to the Session.

There are 19 elders on the Kirk Session, with an age profile of 50 to 80+. (Eight men and eleven women). The Session has oversight over the Messy Church and the Ceres Youth Group. A reorganisation of the former system of elders' districts is ongoing.

13. STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

The church has seen a drop in collection levels over the past few years due to the drop in numbers within the congregation. This shortfall in collections continues to be a concern for the Kirk Session, although significant sums are raised annually by the plant sale and church fete as well as other occasional events. However the funds that the church has available both in its balance sheet and in the Springfield Bequest which is invested with the Church of Scotland Investment Fund are substantial.

The Ministries and Mission contribution was £59,439 in 2019 after deduction for Glebe rent and Stipend interest. The church has always paid in full its Ministries and Mission contribution.

14. LOCAL CHURCH REVIEW

The last Local Church Review took place in 2017. These are the four key points arising from the review .

1. Planned refurbishment of Ceres and Springfield church buildings should be taken forward.

Work has been successfully completed in Springfield.

The refurbishment has invigorated the church and the regular café-style services envisaged have been successful. For Ceres, the planning stage is nearing final agreement with hopefully the work starting in 2021.

2. The Review thought that we should be proactive in our relations with existing and incoming members of the local community.

This has achieved only limited success. But there are close ties with the Village Café in Ceres, a valuable resource in the village.

3.The Review proposed that the number of individuals involved with worship groups should be increased.

Three members have been trained as members of worship groups. Others have been able to use their talents in worship.

4.The Review encouraged the church to use its newsletter, website and social media to inform the public of its activities.

The current newsletter has proved particularly popular during the period of lockdown and now reaches some 190 households directly. The website is about to be refreshed using a professional company to provide a modern, easily maintained and informative website able to be adapted to the needs of an outward facing church. The Session to date has not used other forms of social media but strongly favours a review this position.

15.STAFFING

The church employs the following staff.

- A part time Church Manager at Springfield Church, who also serves as Church officer across the parish,
- A sessional Youth Worker based in Ceres
- Three part time cleaners (one for each church)

In addition there are funds available for a sessional Messy Church/Children's worker.

We are fortunate in that we have two self-employed organists/pianists who with the voluntary help of one of the elders who is a fine violinist play at each service.



John McCurrach
Springfield Church Manager

The church retains the services of a self-employed bookkeeper who along with the Treasurer keep the finances of the church in good order.

Whilst there is no church secretary the Treasurer fulfils that role as well as the Treasurer's role. Both Ceres and Kemback have a volunteer Property Convenor and they both undertake their tasks with diligence. The Church Manager in Springfield fulfils the Property Convenor's role for that Church.

16. ECUMENICAL CONTEXT

There are Catholic and Baptist services in Cupar. There are other religious activities in the locality, including the Nativity Play. Relations between the churches is cordial. The parish is grouped into a cluster with the two Cupar parishes, and cluster activity includes an annual carol service, and a monthly social evening in one of the wards of Stratheden Hospital, a community hospital, caring for patients with mental health issues. CKS leads an Easter morning service at the top of Hill of Tarvit, supported by all the local churches. CKS members provide an Easter breakfast in Craigrothie Village Hall afterwards.

17. LOOKING AHEAD

The congregation, like all other congregations, finds itself reflecting on the way forward after the events of this year and the continuing uncertainty in the time ahead in respect of CoVid 19. Despite that uncertainty the congregation is eager to work with a new Minister to find a way forward that makes our Christian faith relevant to the communities in which we live. What the congregation is very aware of is the need to work with the tools for information and dissemination of information about our faith to the wider community.

Ceres Kemback and Springfield Kirk Session, revised 19.xi.20



Skills, qualities and experience which we would particularly value in our new Minister

- **Someone with the ability to lead the congregation and develop and build on the initiatives started in recent years**
- **An excellent communicator in all circumstances,**
- **To engage with young people and families, particularly through our youth group, and Messy Church**
- **To recruit, encourage and motivate volunteers, making the best use of their talents**
- **To reach out to the wider community in which we live, making our Christian faith relevant to them**
- **To include in Church life those who may not regularly attend Church services**
- **A vision for how our buildings might be used in the community in a changing social context**
- **Willing to explore novel means of worship while respecting tradition**
- **An enthusiastic user of IT as an aid to communication**
- **Financially aware, to work with the Session in challenging financial times to use resources sensitively and creatively**
- **Someone who has the life experience and energy to make progress with all the above**