

Moray Presbytery Planning Group Congregational 'Footprint'

Congregation: Keith St, Rufus, Botriphnie & Grange

Minister: Rev Jacobus van Stratten

Other appointments: Session Clerk Nicola Smith

Note on Evidence Sources used:

- PPQ Presbytery Planning Group Short questionnaire, completed late 2020
- LCR Local Church Review; additional letters/numbers indication the section of the LCR referred to (where LCRs have been conducted to the standard template) e.g. LCRC5 = Section C, question 5 of Local Church Review
- PP Parish Profile if any recent
- SfM Statistics for Mission, accessed at https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/church_finder/
- SIMD Statistics regarding Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, www.simd.scot
- CoSSIMD Church of Scotland SIMD stats https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/church_finder/
- Cos2019 Church of Scotland 2019 population estimates
- OB information direct from congregational office bearers
- MCLP Moray Council Local Plan http://www.moray.gov.uk/moray_standard/page_133431.html

a) Mission

Articulation of a congregation's own identity and ministry under the 5 marks

In this section the congregation should give a sense of their understanding of their own congregational identity and calling in terms of the '5 marks of mission':

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
2. To teach, baptise and nurture believers
3. To respond to human need by loving service
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth

b) Communities

Key Questions	Evidence sources <i>(suggested, not exclusive)</i>
<p>What is the estimated parish population? 4488</p>	CoS1029
church roll of 800	
<p>Any projected changes (new settlements etc) in the future? New housing development underway at Banff Road – 122 affordable houses, being built in three phases.</p>	
	MCLP
<p>What school catchments (primary and secondary) operate within the parish?</p>	
<p>Keith Grammar; Keith Primary; St. Thomas RC Primary; Botriphnie Primary, Crossroads Primary; Newmill Primary... there are also some families connected with Buckie High School and Gordon Schools Huntly</p>	MCLP OB
<p>Health Services Provision</p> <p>Keith Health Centre provides medical services to 7,300 people living in Keith and district. In addition, the doctors have a commitment to the patients in Turner Memorial Hospital where there is minor injuries cover during working hours.</p> <p>Visiting consultants from Elgin hold outpatient clinics in Keith eg psychiatry. Other services provided here are podiatry, physiotherapy, counselling and x-rays.</p> <p>Expectations of a new Health centre provision in the near future</p>	
	MCLP OB
<p>What are the key public transport links in your community?</p>	
<p>We are fortunate and have a good bus and train service in Keith. We have people coming by car, foot and also a car transport service. Dial a bus service Community bus</p>	PPQ Q7
<p>Any other relevant information?</p>	

c) Ecumenism

Key Questions	Evidence sources
<p>What other denominations and fellowships are within your communities?</p>	

St Thomas (Catholic) Holy Trinity (Scottish episcopalian) Keith North (C of S) There is another group meet locally, but don't know much about them	PPQ Q1
In what way does the congregation, or people from it, take part in joint ventures or partnerships with congregations of other denominations?	
Joint ministry and administration planning team weekly – other ministers join us once a month Joint holy week services. Was weekly pre covid. Hoping to resume weekly when restrictions allow. There is a meeting planned for next month to discuss a specific issue. Joint churches' choir jointly involved in leading the Rotary Carol service. Shared school chaplaincy, Shared Remembrance Sunday leadership Guiding/Scouting services	LCRC5
Any other relevant information	
Very good and close working relationship with the Episcopalian Church	

d) the poor

Key Questions	Evidence sources
Are there datazones in the top 20% of SIMD in your communities?	
No	SIMD CoSSIMD
Priority for the poor is a gospel imperative: What does your congregation do to serve those living in poverty... a) locally? b) Globally?	
St Rufus a collection point for Moray Foodbank donations A number of the congregation have volunteered with Keith and Strathisla Community Larder, set up to tackle food poverty during Covid Christian Aid – dedicated events and volunteer co-ordinator Donations for shoebox appeal Retiring collections for local, national and international charities Windfarm funding used to support families adversely affected by Covid lockdown Thomas and Margaret Dick Trust fund provides annual financial support grants to eligible members	OB

Any other relevant information	

e) Ministry of the whole people of God

Key Questions	Evidence sources
How are people in the congregation encouraged to participate in worship?	
There is a rota of Bible readers. Youth group take part in services. The children of the Sunday Club led the Christmas service We have had a well supported songs of praise service when people chose favourite hymns Always looking for new ways to involve others in Sunday services (not just elders)	LCRA3 OB
How is the responsibility of the Minister and Kirk Session for the Christian Education of adults within the congregation being exercised, and how could this be developed? What resources have been used?	
There is a weekly prayer group that is shared with the other churches in the town. Guild Sunday worship, 2 services every week as well as livestreamed. Midweek reflections on facebook Monthly service at Weston View care home Regular reflections shared on facebook page Planning a Faithful Witness course	LCRB1 OB
How are you encouraging and supporting growth in faith at every stage?	
Expanding reach using digital technology: Whatsapp group set up to receive mid-week sermon; Church services recorded and broadcast via Facebook during restrictions Regular Facebook posts Keith Community Radio School services Weston View services Joint summer services with the North church and also an agreement over Christmas time	LCRB2 OB
What wider opportunities are there in the life of the congregation for Christian service?	

<p>There is a strong Guild which encourages involvement in the wider work of the church.</p> <p>There is a weekly Fly and Friendship meeting.</p> <p>There is a rota to be at the monthly services at Weston View</p> <p>Many members of our congregation are involved in charity work, not necessarily church related.</p> <p>Post covid - identify and respond to community needs</p>	LCRB3
How are members encouraged to share and assume responsibility in the wider work of the Church, both in Scotland and in the World?	
<p>Through information about the Ministry and Mission Fund allocation.</p> <p>Christian Aid</p> <p>Guild projects</p> <p>Fairtrade</p>	LCRC7
	OB
How has covid affected your answers to any of the above questions?	
<p>Covid led us to review how things were done and led to a digital transition when buildings were closed</p>	OB
Any other relevant information	

f) congregations committed & outward looking

Key Questions	Evidence sources
	<p>Primarily evidenced from discussion with OB</p> <p>Other possible 'barometers':</p> <p>LCRs Section C</p> <p>Use of Church buildings throughout the week</p> <p>Church website</p>
In what ways is the congregation currently involved in the life of the community, listening to its needs and responding?	
<p>Teabag and poem card</p> <p>Activity pack for kids</p> <p>Quarterly newsletter distributed to every household</p> <p>Christmas gifts to all senior citizens</p> <p>Increased use of website/social media during Covid restrictions</p> <p>Keith Community radio</p>	
How do you see your community changing, and what plans are in place to respond?	
<p>Ageing congregations may be an issue, locally and nationally, that we need to consider</p> <p>Increased housing has enlarged the community but there is no radical change in the demographic. "New" folks are easily integrated in to the friendly town.</p>	
In what way does the congregation, or people from it, take part in joint ventures or partnerships with other Church of Scotland congregations?	

Moray Presbytery Local joint services	
What people and organisations make use of the church buildings? Describe ways in which you have taken steps to build relationships with them?	
Guild Sunday club and youth group Health and fitness groups Uniformed organisations Banffshire field group Heritage group Toddler group Country dancing Parties Fundraising events Social events Coffee mornings	
Any other relevant Information	
Covid has taken away the opportunity to introduce our new minister in person. However, livestreaming has allowed him into homes and encouraged people to respond and are now attending in person. This has also attracted new worshipers into church.	

g) mixed economy of parish, networks & virtual

Key Questions	Evidence sources
What other networks of belonging are significant for people in your area?	
Distilleries Farming Local businesses, retailers Tourism Textile workers Uniformed organisations Royal British legion Military connection	PPQ

In what ways do you connect with people through digital platforms or other technology?	
Dedicated website, Facebook and whatsapp groups Virtual kirk session meetings during lockdown Email opt-in option for newsletters Streaming of services	

h) financial responsibility & stewardship

Key Questions	Evidence sources
What were the congregation's Ministries and Mission Contributions for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021?	
2019 - £30,115; 2020 - £32,964; 2021 - £34,116	PPQ Q3
Given the circumstances of your congregation, how have you prioritised your work?	
Routine maintenance is prioritised. Getting the manse and grounds improved is a priority for attracting a new minister. (Steve MacBeath) For me, as Treasurer, I have from the outset concentrated on achieving a timely processing of day-to-day bookkeeping ie bank lodgements and especially payment of bills. I am lucky in that since early retirement I have theoretically had more time at certain times of the year to process the annual accounts. This has meant that draft accounts are presented to the Congregational Board usually in the first quarter of the year and then signed accounts are sent to Presbytery and 121 comfortably within the required timeframe. Whilst I am still learning and I have made a few very minor inconsequential errors, I take pride in the presentation of the accounts and also I have tried to give the Board (and Congregation) as full a report on the financial status of St Rufus as possible, whilst we are relatively sound financially the reserves are declining since our expenditure has exceeded income over the past few years.	LCRG1 OB
How has a Stewardship Campaign helped your congregation's attitude towards giving?	
There is a stewardship committee that organises a stewardship event each year.	LCRG2 OB
How have you worked in partnership with others to achieve what you could not do on your own?	LCRG3 OB
200 celebrations – heritage group, musical involvement (silver band and pipeband)	

<p>TMSA – host and involve in services Schools involvement in Rotary service</p> <p>Theres usually someone within the congregation connected to other organisations that can easily link us up if required.</p>	
<p>Any other relevant information?</p>	
<p>The community, including those who have no formal connection with, or membership of, the Church, is very supportive of the Church in Keith</p>	