

What else might it take to do this?

The work of God is done by God's people, in God's power using God's resources. We need to make best use of these resources and are looking at our building to see that it says and does what we want it to say and do.

- During 2018 we want to identify easier, cheaper and faster ways to heat our building for Sunday services and other use throughout the week.
- During 2018 we'd also like to complete a building maintenance schedule survey to establish our priorities for keeping the building wind and watertight including a confidence in the condition of the roof.
- Many catered events could run more smoothly with a hatch through to the kitchen; we'll aim to install that in 2018 within the fire safety and other regulations.
- As noted elsewhere, we have an immediate need for our sound system to serve us in a reliable manner and an aspiration to make out AV and IT technology work better for us
- One priority has to be identified for a Garfield Weston Grant Application in June 2018. Further grant applications need to be considered for new developments over the coming years.
- We would love to see the main entrance to the church include access to toilets and easier places to talk as we come and go. This may include a development of that part of the church to change how we use the space below the balcony. Visits to other churches during 2018/19 would help to shape our ideas.



Blackford Parish Church

Moray Street, Blackford, Perthshire
Minister: Rev. Mairi Perkins
Our Vision and Action Plan 2017-2022



As part of the Church of Scotland we want to inspire the people of Blackford and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ through enthusiastic worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving of our community.

We're thinking through how we live out this vision statement as a healthy church under God. We are looking at six established areas of our church life and rounding off with further practical implications that we can see.

Worship

Enthusiastic worship will be accessible to our congregation and those yet to join our congregation.

- We'll immediately start to enable elders and others helping with the offering to lead us in prayer to dedicate the offering.
- We'll continue to seek and welcome worship that is both shaped by structure and order and also by a creativity in delivery, leadership, content, response and other ways.
- We will look to have our sound system serviced, upgraded and replaced as necessary during 2018 including the introduction of an induction loop.
- We'll establish a use of PowerPoint and similar resources particularly for repeated parts of our services such as introtit, responses etc for the benefit of all who attend. We'll look for ways to use such technology in helpful and appropriate ways at any given service. We'll review our use of technology each year to grow our physical and human resources in line with our growing use and needs.

Discipleship

We will develop ways to nurture - teach, listen to and accompany - people on our shared faith journey as they become a Christian and grow as a Christian. This has to be a part of our weekly activities.

- We'll continue with a Bible study group that draws members from across the church and village community
- We'll also consider each year if there are other times or materials that would be better suited for further such opportunities.
- We want to make it harder for members and others to drift away and stay

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away from church, learning lessons from talking with members and from elsewhere to grow our pastoral support and mission through elders and others.

- We will continue to build our new commitment to families who have had—and will have—their children baptised within our church. This will be expressed in cards, books, visits and invitations for children and families to our events
- We'll make good quality resources available as widely as possible to stimulate and encourage thoughtful, biblical and prayerful growth beyond our services and other gatherings. Books, Bibles, magazines and CDs will be offered and refreshed for buying or borrowing; our website, Facebook page, the Link and elsewhere will highlight other resources.
- We'll look to take members and others to regional and national events for training or development as well as considering what we can host for ourselves or wider.

Evangelism

We will be deliberate in witnessing to the life changing gospel of Jesus Christ. This is our mission in our teaching and pastoral care as a congregation which we then take out into our community.

- We'll build on Holiday Clubs, Sunday School and other youth work activities to stimulate interest and responses to the Good News of Jesus
- We'll look to find ways for our members, building, grounds and online presence to share this Good News in confident, stimulating ways.
- We'll look at the use of how formal courses such as ALPHA, Christianity Explored or the Community Bible Experience would work best in Blackford

Fellowship

We want members and others to experience God's grace and love through God's people as we work and play together within our church and community. We will use the National Stewardship Programme to identify members and others best placed to give of their time and talents to help with the work of our social and fund-raising activities.

- We welcome the introduction of coffee after services on a regular basis.
- We're benefitting in many ways from the re-establishing of the Coffee Mornings and also the Garden Party in summer 2017 and want to support these as times of fellowship, service and support raising.

- We will restart the Christmas Social and Burns Supper over the coming year.
- We will look to build on the success of other events such as Breakfast after Easter service or the Christian Aid Big Brekkie
- We should also be developing and supporting joint events with Ardoch Parish Church and wider presbytery areas.
- We want to use of Year of Young People to provide such events across our range of young people's programmes. Also consider events with Ardoch young people.

Service

We will work to be known as a church that serves our community, locally and wider, for its own sake and as a starting point for mission.

- We will maintain our various seasonal collections at Harvest, Shoebox appeal, Christmas Gift service and Christian Aid Week. Looking for ways to develop these for wider impact where possible.
- Holiday Club and in-service events
- Supporting those with mental health issues
- We'll look at any partnerships within the community that would bring a wider benefit than our individual action. This would include discussions with the Community Council about a Community Wi-Fi
- Over the next three years we will look at whether we have the capacity to support Christians against poverty, parenting or Marriage courses, etc
- We will find ways to establish congregational links and involvement with our new mission partners in the Czech Republic.

stewardship

We will adopt the National Stewardship Programme to learn and encourage each other in the giving of our time, talents and money to maintain and resource the mission and ministry of our church and wider church.

- We will launch the National Stewardship programme in autumn 2018 by taking on the Talents focus.
- As part of that we'll look to gain a fuller picture of the talents available to us as a congregation
- We'll consider over the coming year whether time and money will be the focus for 2019.
- We'll look to wider grant making bodies including possible reduction of Presbytery M&M payments to help us fulfil our mission.