

Leslie Baptist Church

A Profile



Background...

Leslie is a small town with a population of approximately 3,000 which lies on the outskirts of Glenrothes a new town with a population of approx 39,000. Leslie has one primary school (230 children) and a nursery (60 children). Secondary School age children travel a short distance to Glenwood High School in Glenrothes – we have historical links with both schools. There are three churches in Leslie, our own, Trinity (Church of Scotland) and St Mary's (Roman Catholic). We also have links with the churches in Glenrothes including the Kings Covenant Fellowship, an Independent Charismatic Church.

We consider the church to be evangelical and charismatic, we believe the whole Bible and seek to use all the gifts God gives us in order to give glory to Him and advance His Church. We have an active Ministry Team which is available to pray with people following each Service. Although the sharing of pictures and words from the Lord is fairly common, healings have been much rarer and have tended to come in small group situations.

We tend to use a more contemporary worship style although not exclusively so.

The church has approximately 70 members. A large proportion of the congregation are over 35 and a fair number of these are over 50. The church has a spread of families (mainly with older children), couples and single folk. There are now several teenagers attending services – recently 6 young people made a commitment to Christ. Some of the people attending the church live in Leslie itself but there are also a large number from the wider Glenrothes area.

The Church building has a medium sized sanctuary with a balcony at the back. The sanctuary is quite modern and colourful in appearance (a stage rather than a large pulpit area and cushioned seats rather than pews). There is a hall, large lounge, prayer room and fully equipped kitchen attached to the back hall.



The church building is used by the local community as a meeting place for the Leslie Community Council and a local drama group.

Vision...

Our vision is to equip the saints for the work of the ministry and to impact the community in which we live and work, seeing the kingdom of God become a reality in peoples lives (Eph 4.12-13; Matt 28.19-20) We are at a place where we need to develop the vision, discerning God's will for us as a Church identifying the way forward in the priorities for ministry in Leslie.

Today we stand at a gateway to a new and challenging future, a gateway that we have stood at before, we are at a place where we need to get *out of the boat*, seek the Lord, and trust him for all that he has for us and for all that he wants to do with us.

We seek to take our values and priorities from the New Testament Church as found in Acts 2:42-47.

Value	Priority	Action
1. The Bible	Preaching & Teaching	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call an experienced Pastor • Develop ongoing teaching programme for church and house groups • Train and encourage preaching team
2. Guiding of the Holy Spirit	Worship & Prayer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Foster atmosphere of reverence and expectation in worship • Promote prayer and creative opportunities to pray • Train worship team/ministry team • Upgrade technology to promote greater creativity in worship • Identify people's gifts and encourage their use.
3. Relationships	Fellowship & Pastoral Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop robust care strategy • Involve members alongside elders • Promote membership of house group • Provide a welcome pack for visitors
4. Team Ministry	Service & Social Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage people to discover their gifts through service (team) • Provide training in all aspects of ministry (in-house and external) • Appoint a youth worker
5. Kingdom of God	Mission & Outreach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop outreach programme including personal witness and community inclusive events • Identify and care for the poor & vulnerable • Support missionaries home and abroad.

As we seek and trust the Lord for all that he has for us, and all that he wants us to do -

- We will serve and have the 'Great commission' as our mission. (Matthew 28:19-20)
- We will, as our guide and example, follow the priorities of the early New Testament church (Acts 2:42 – 47)
- We will as individuals and as a church commit ourselves to living out the first and second greatest commandments. (Mark 12:30 – 31)

Worship Services and Membership...

Morning Service -11am

Evening Service - 6.30pm.

Membership at AGM in November 2008 – 73 members:

- Male - 35%
- Female - 65%
- Sunday school and Bible class – average of 12

Locality split of membership:

- Leslie – 25%
- Glenrothes area – 75%

Leadership:

- Elders – 4
- Deacons – 9 including Secretary and Treasurer

Church Officer

Child Protection Officer

Church life...

Each Deacon has responsibility for a specific area of service within the church:

House groups – There are currently 5 house groups meeting each week on a Tuesday or Wednesday evening.

Youth Work - We have an active children's work. There are two clubs that run on a Thursday evening and these cater for different ages (Mega quest P1-P7 and Rock Solid S1-S4). The vast majority of children attending these clubs are from non-church families. We have a Sunday school/crèche on Sunday morning and bible class for young people after the evening service. (We have recently seen 6 of our young people make a commitment to the Lord)

Ministry Team – this group has been trained to offer prayer ministry during a service.

Missions – We currently have 8 missionaries serving the Lord full time. Three couples serve the Lord overseas

- Douglas & Dorothy Smith – Singapore
- Andy & Nina McLaren – Senegal
- Chas & Jenny Tanner – Nepal/Pakistan

Joyce Nicoll is Director of the Charis Foundation, a counselling work in Leslie

We also support Caroline Kemp, a former member who serves with OMF Ethnic Ministries Team in Wolverhampton.

Worship Team – This team consists of the Deacon responsible for worship (the band leader) and 4 other worship leaders. We have a praise band of four core members with support from other musicians when they are available, sound-desk operators, multi-media and computer operators.

Social Activities Group – This is an active enthusiastic team within the fellowship with folks involved in planning and maintaining social events.

Property Team – This team consists of the Deacon with responsibility for property and others.

Evangelism – currently being explored by one of our deacons

A Parent and Toddler group meets on Monday and Friday morning in the church premises– A large number of parents and toddlers from the community attend this group

Pastoral Care Team – We are currently reviewing our pastoral care strategy in the eldership that will draw on the gifting within the fellowship.

Finance – As noted above we support a number of missionaries who are gifted a specific sum each month. We support the BMS and Baptist Union of Scotland setting apart a specific sum per member (although these are less than the recommended levels).

We previously employed an Associate Pastor (who had specific responsibility for Youth & Community) however we had to make him redundant in 2007 due to a lack of funds.

We do not have a Manse but we do have a Church Flat which is rented out and the income used to provide a Housing Allowance for the Pastor. The intention is that the Church flat should meet a need within the community by providing low rent accommodation for vulnerable people. We seek tenants who can help us meet this goal.

The Church is committed to meeting all Baptist Union recommend levels of Stipend and Allowances.