

LOCHWINNOCH PARISH CHURCH PROFILE



HOWWOOD PARISH CHURCH

linked with

LOCHWINNOCH PARISH CHURCH

PARISH PROFILE



Howwood Parish Church of Scotland, a Registered Charity
Scottish Charity Register Number: SC003487

Lochwinnoch Parish Church of Scotland, a Registered Charity
Scottish Charity Register Number: SC014518

LOCHWINNOCH PARISH CHURCH PROFILE

INTRODUCTION

On 17 October 2013, the vacant charges of Lochwinnoch and Howwood were linked by the Presbytery of Greenock & Paisley in accordance with its Presbytery Plan, permission to call a Minister on the basis of Unrestricted Tenure having previously been granted on 18 June 2013.

A joint Nominating Committee was elected on 16 February 2014 and is currently seeking a new Minister.

As the newly linked parishes of Howwood & Lochwinnoch we are prayerfully seeking a minister who will encourage outreach & mission and embrace our church family.

Our vision is to be a church which inspires the people of our linked parishes through worship and witness.

If you are interested in this Vacancy, we invite you to read the following Parish Profile, which we hope will give you a feel for the life and work of our linked congregations and of the communities they serve.

If, after reading the Profile, you would like more information or wish to have an informal chat about the Vacancy, please contact our Interim Moderator:

Rev Ann McCool
76 North Road
Johnstone
Renfrewshire
PA5 8NE

 01505 320006 or e-mail ann.mccool@ntworld.com

Formal applications should be sent to the Clerk to the Nominating Committee:

Mrs Kathleen Smillie
9 Viewfield Avenue
Lochwinnoch
Renfrewshire
PA12 4EE

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☎ 01505 842972 or e-mail: andrewsmillie@btinternet.com

1. THE PARISH



Situated in west Renfrewshire, the Parish of Lochwinnoch stretches 10 miles from west to east and 5 miles from north to south. Lochwinnoch itself is a conservation village and a thriving community of over 1,500 households, primarily owner-occupied. The population of the parish is c.3,400 comprising c. 900 children and young people, c.800 young adult, and c. 1,600 mature adult to elderly (2011 Census). The village has a range of small businesses as well as being a

popular base for commuters. Despite its proximity to Glasgow, it maintains the character of a rural village with the surrounding countryside supporting hill and lowland farms.

The religious affiliation of the parish is 34% Church of Scotland; 19% Roman Catholic or other Christian. (The bulk of the remainder (46%) are either no religion or religion not stated) (2011 Census).

Amenities include:

- Primary school, with secondary education in the nearby town of Johnstone;
- Post office, bank, and a wide variety of shops, including a small supermarket. Larger supermarkets lie within easy travelling distance and Braehead shopping centre and Glasgow are 20 minutes away;
- Range of local services, including accountant, solicitor, medical practice and Dentist.
- Library, small sports centre, and a range of recreational facilities from bowling, indoor football and golf to a range of water sports on the Loch.
- Clyde Muirshiel Regional Park and Lochwinnoch RSPB bird sanctuary, both of which attract visitors to the area as well as benefitting the people of the village
- The village also has its own monthly magazine “Chatterbox” which provides locals with news, views, and what’s on in and around Lochwinnoch.

Transport links:

- The station is on the main Glasgow-Ayr/Glasgow Largs lines with frequent services. Glasgow Central is 30 minutes away
- There is a frequent bus service between the village and Johnstone and from there buses to Paisley and Glasgow. Glasgow Airport is 15 minutes by road and Glasgow Prestwick Airport 40 minutes (there is also a direct rail link)
- Lochwinnoch is within easy travelling distance of Glasgow, the Central Belt and the Ayrshire coast.

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2. THE CONGREGATION



The current membership of Lochwinnoch Parish Church is 148, with 12 adherents. In keeping with most churches the majority of members are in the older age group but, despite their age, they are very committed and hardworking. In recent years we have been encouraged by a number of younger members joining the church.

There are strong and long-standing ecumenical links between the Parish Church, Calder United Free Church and Our Lady of Fatima Roman

Catholic Church, with a variety of joint activities and initiatives, strengthening the individual congregations and giving a unity to the message of the Christian Church in Lochwinnoch. The ministers and priest periodically share joint worship, chaplaincy work and community involvement.

The Parish Church and Calder UF Church hold joint Services on Remembrance Day, Christmas Nativity Service, Harvest Thanksgiving and for the annual youth parade,

Since 2004, there has been a joint Sunday School, encouraging young families to attend Church. There are currently 15 children on the joint roll, and approximately 13 in the ABC group for teenagers.

There are Girls' Brigade and Boys' Brigade companies who meet weekly in the church halls, with good attendances in each. The Calder and Parish churches run a joint holiday club for primary age pupils in the school summer holidays, with around 50 children signing up. Other ecumenical activities include services for the World Day of Prayer, and the Remembrance Sunday service at the war memorial.

The new year's eve service, which processes round all three churches, is well-supported by villagers.

There is a strong sense of community within Lochwinnoch and the Parish Church is integral to this. As well as being a focal point for worship, the Church buildings are currently used on a regular basis by a wide variety of groups, including: Girls' Brigade, Boys' Brigade, St Winnoch Singers and Junior Singers, Historical Society, Art Group, Alcoholics Anonymous, Krafty Kids. The Church also hosts the Christmas and End of Term School assemblies, their Easter service being held in Calder Church. The Parish Church and Halls are also used extensively by the Lochwinnoch Arts Festival during March

The Church also participates in Renfrewshire's Doors Open Day.

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3. WORSHIP

There is a weekly Sunday morning service at 11.30am, led by our Minister. Worshippers are greeted at the door and during the service lessons are read by members of the congregation, from The New International Version of the Bible . In past years we have had varied services including responses and musicians and also involving church members, however since being in a vacancy situation our services have been more traditional.

- Music for worship is supplied by an excellent organ built by Foster and Andrews in 1885. It has 2 manuals, 21 speaking stops and 8 couplers and is of outstanding quality. It was renovated by Hill, Norman & Beard in 1958 and continues to be maintained by them. It is played by a small pool of organists.
- We also have an excellent sound system which includes a Loop for the hard of hearing.
- Crèche is available during time of worship.
- A small Pastoral group exists to augment visits by minister and elders, as needed.
- A monthly Bible Study Group meets in the winter months. This has been suspended during the vacancy but it is our hope that this will continue with the arrival of a new minister.
- Lenten Studies are being held jointly with Howwood Parish Church this year, and in the past we have had a variety of services over the festive season including Christingle and Family Christmas Eve Services, Glam Rock Evening Service, Winter Classics Evening Service also Christmas 2013 we held a 9 Lessons and Carols Service organised by one of our young members which was a great success and well attended.



4. CONSTITUTION

We are a Quoad Omni church and the spiritual affairs of the Congregation are administered by a Kirk Session of 15 Elders (6 male/9 female) and the temporal affairs by a Congregational Board of 10 (incl. 5 elected) members.

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5. OUR VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The congregation recognises the pressure of national trends on Church membership and has worked hard to establish the Church at the heart of the community and in our new linked status we aim to:

- Establish and grow the linkage with Howwood and enhance the spiritual life of both congregations
- Further support the work of the youth organisation
- Encourage more young people and families to be involved with the Church



(To this end “Messy Church “is under consideration)

- Provide continuing pastoral care and support
- Be central to the life of the growing and expanding local community
- Continue involvement and collaboration with all churches in Lochwinnoch and enhance this through our linkage with Howwood to encompass the wider Church

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6. PROPERTY

a. CHURCH AND HALLS



Built in 1808, Lochwinnoch Parish Church is a Grade A Listed building, consisting of a large octagonal sanctuary, adjoining session house, vestry and two halls. When built the Church was capable of seating 1,150 people however the Gallery is no longer used and the Sanctuary now holds around 400-500 people.

In 2006, extensive repair work was completed on the spire and roof of the main building. To achieve this required a major effort by the fundraising group, the building management group, and local community support. The substantial funding required was obtained from Historic Scotland, the Lottery Fund and local charities.

As well as regular maintenance to keep the fabric in good condition, additional work has included: installation of a wheelchair access ramp and a new sound system; and redecoration and re-carpeting of the sanctuary (2008). Other work, such as upgrading toilet facilities, will be undertaken as funds allow.

b. MANSE

The manse for the linked charge is in Howwood and its upkeep is the joint responsibility of the two congregations. The former Lochwinnoch manse has been retained and is being let to provide an additional source of income.

7. FINANCE

The financial position of the Church is sound, with a steady increase in income over the last 3 years and 2013 accounts show a small but significant surplus. A copy of the most recent Accounts can be provided on request.

We have a small but enthusiastic Fund Raising Committee who hold various events throughout the year including regular coffee mornings and Christmas and Summer Fayres.

Statistics for Mission: www.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/stats_for_mission
Lochwinnoch Parish Church website: <http://www.lochwinnochparishchurch.co.uk>