



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

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 A McCool
76 North Road
Johnstone
Renfrewshire
PA5 8NF

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

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

Mrs Kathleen Smillie
9 Viewfield Avenue
Lochwinnoch
Renfrewshire
PA12 4EE

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

The community



Howwood Parish Church has been at the heart of the village community for over 150 years. During that time, the emphasis of the church has been to make the Bible relevant today, to build friendships and to serve our community.

Howwood is a small village located in Renfrewshire. The village is 14 miles from Glasgow city centre, and 7 miles from Paisley on the A737 Glasgow to Largs road. Despite being so close to these main centres, the village has an attractive rural setting amidst the scenic West Renfrewshire countryside.

Over recent years the village has grown considerably, with several new residential housing developments. Around 80% of the housing is owner occupied, which is significantly higher than the national average. The population currently stands at around 1700, with a good spread over all age groups. (20% school age and under; 35% aged 16-45; 45% aged 45 or over) Access to the village has also been enhanced with the opening of a bypass, and the re-opening of the railway station. This makes the village today an ideal place for the commuter and a lovely environment to bring up young families.

Local amenities include two shops, one of which provides a pharmacy; playgroup and mother & toddler groups, both of which meet in the church hall; mobile library services; WRI and a bowling club. There is also an active village community council.



The congregation



The congregation consists of 157 members and 10 adherents, and is one of 51 churches in the Presbytery of Greenock and Paisley. We are a Quoad Sacra charge, our spiritual affairs being administered by our Kirk Session (11 elders), and temporal affairs by our Congregational Board (18 members). We are also a temperate church.

Our services are lively and relaxed. We use a variety of musical styles incorporating both modern and traditional music and people are encouraged to use their gifts in leading parts of worship. The focus of the service is the preaching of God's word making it relevant to today.

We are a cross section of people who come from different communities because they feel part of a family here. Families are very much the focus of our worship and outreach.

Previous ministers have served as chaplain to the village primary school, Capability Scotland School, St Vincent's Hospice and Johnstone High School.

In 2013 the Pastoral workload included:-

- 4 child baptisms and 3 adult baptisms
- 6 funerals
- there were no weddings

The congregation supports many local and national charities, including:-

- Christian Aid
- Tearfund
- Mary's Meals
- Preshal Trust
- Blythswood Care

In addition we select charities to support each year with our fundraising – in 2013 the charities were Erskine Hospital and St Vincent's Hospice. Our chosen charity for 2014 is Teenage Cancer Trust.

We support Fairtrade and are an Eco congregation; participate in the World Day of Prayer and Open Doors Day and are part of the Howwood Community Resilience Plan. In recent years we have held 24/7 prayer meetings, and an Outreach Christmas Coffee Evening has proved so successful that what was intended as a single event several years ago has now become a much enjoyed annual event.

Church Organisations

- Guild (28)
- Girl Guides & Semple Rangers (24)
- Brownies (23)
- Rainbows (12)
- Beavers & Cubs (22)
- Sunday School (12)
- Friends & Heroes Club (14)
- Bible Study group (12)
- Prayer group
- Friendship hour

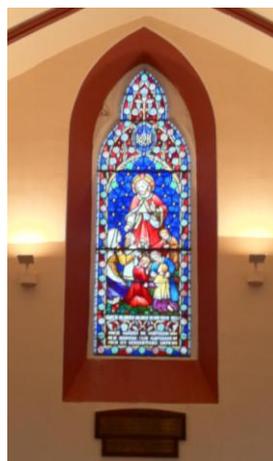
Services



The main service of worship is at 10am on a Sunday, and a Sunday School for children is held in the church hall during worship.

Tea and coffee are served every week after the service and we also enjoy fellowship once a month after worship with "Coffee & Croissants". On Easter Sunday we have a family breakfast prior to the service and annual congregational BBQ marks the end of the Sunday School session.

At present we have two communion services during the year and services every evening during Holy Week. There are also special services marking Christmas, Harvest and Remembrance Sunday



Church buildings



The Church is a sandstone building of cruciform shape built over 150 years ago, with a seating capacity of around 300. There is a Sound & Loop system installed in the sanctuary and an excellent audio visual system.

The hall is attached to the church and has been extended and upgraded over recent years to provide good kitchen facilities and access and toilets for the disabled.



The manse (which will be the manse of the linked charge) is a semi-detached villa situated directly opposite the church and provides seven apartments.

While all of the properties are in a good state of repair, redecoration of the manse and upgrading of its kitchen will be carried out prior to the arrival of a new minister.

Our Vision

Our vision for the future is –

- to keep our church at the heart of the community
- to preach the gospel and serve Christ in worship and prayer
- to reach out to the community, particularly young families within the parish
- to be challenged in our journey of faith
- to continue to encourage and support our brothers and sisters in the wider church

Finance

A full set of accounts is available on request. Please contact the Church Treasurer:

Mrs L G Taylor
01505 331426
lilliantaylor@btinternet.com