

PRESBYTERY OF GREENOCK AND PAISLEY

GREENOCK:WESTBURN

PARISH PROFILE



UNRESTRICTED CALL

<http://www.greenockwestburn.org.uk/>

Greenock:Westburn (Church of Scotland) Registered Scottish Charity No SCO05106

INTRODUCTION

Greenock:Westburn is the result of the successful union in November 2006 of the former St Luke's and St George's North churches in the St Luke's building. Both former congregations were themselves the result of several previous unions and the history of one of our predecessor congregations goes back to 1591. We are now seeking a new minister who has the ability to attract young families and young people, inspire our congregation and work with all age groups, taking us forward in our search for a greater understanding of ourselves and what we can achieve as a congregation and for the community.

Our church is located on the edge of the town centre. The Parish takes in the edge of the west end and most of the central area of the town. A population of approximately 2,500 is resident within the parish boundaries. The Presbytery Plan envisages some amendments to our parish boundary.

As well as having members coming from within our Parish area, ours is a gathered congregation with members coming from across Inverclyde to worship on a Sunday morning.

Greenock itself is situated on the south side of the River Clyde about 25 miles west of Glasgow to which it has excellent road and rail links.

OUR VISION

The Kirk Session is taking the opportunity afforded by the vacancy to undertake a Future Focus conference in August. This is intended to assist us in evaluating our current life and ministry and to begin planning a way forward which we can further develop with our new minister. We will be assisted by two facilitators from the Mission and Discipleship Council and thereafter (late August) we will update this section of the Parish Profile.



WORSHIP



Worship is central to the life of Westburn Church.

Sunday Morning Worship takes place at 9.30 and 11.00am. Our small choir leads worship at 11am. The services are fairly traditional, but we are open to change! A rota of members provides readers for Scripture lessons at the 11am service and this now includes members of the Bible Class at the monthly Family Service held on the last Sunday of the month.

We have a Crèche, Primary Sunday School, Sunday Club and Bible Class which meet during the 11am Service.

A church subsidised bus service is available to bring members to worship who might otherwise have difficulty in attending.

Tea and coffee are available in the Main Hall after the 11am service where members enjoy continuing fellowship. A church library provides books for young and old to borrow and enjoy.

Communion Services are held on the first Sundays in March, June, October and December. The main service is at 11am with an additional more informal service at 3pm in the Lounge aimed at those who are elderly or largely housebound for whom transport is provided. This service is followed by tea and coffee.

In addition, Communion is celebrated on Maundy Thursday and at Easter after morning worship.

Holy Week services are held and in previous years the first three nights' services have been shared with neighbouring churches of several denominations.

Easter morning begins with an early service held on the Lyle Hill, followed by breakfast in the church. The energetic walk from the church and back!



We occasionally hold special Youth Services involving all our Youth organisations.

The annual Greenock and District Scouts service brings over 850 Scouts plus guests and supporters to our church.



A monthly service for the deaf people is hosted on our premises.

Every Christmas the local Hospice holds its 'Light up a Life' service outside our buildings with one of the trees in our garden festooned with their lights throughout the Christmas period.

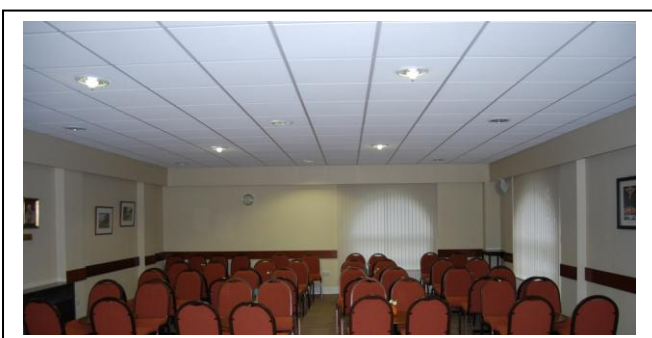
BUILDINGS

Our Sanctuary was opened for worship in 1841. It is Grade A listed and can accommodate over one thousand people. We have recently spent considerable sums on a modern heating system to replace the previous failing one and on ceiling repairs and redecoration.

Worship is enhanced by the Binns & Co pipe organ originally built in 1912 then rebuilt by Rushworth & Dreaper in 1974



We have substantial hall accommodation used extensively by church, youth and community organisations. To one side of the Church, we have a suite of accommodation consisting of foyer, vestry, main hall and lounge together with several meeting rooms. On the other side we have our Youth Hall. Both the main hall suite and the Youth Hall have toilet and kitchen facilities. There is disabled access and facilities. Full broadband and wi-fi is available throughout our buildings.



CONGREGATION AND ORGANISATIONS

Our congregation has a membership of around 850 with 15 adherents. Attendance at morning worship, while healthy compared to many congregations at around 230 between two services, does not reflect our membership numbers.

The latest figures for 2011 show that there were a total of:

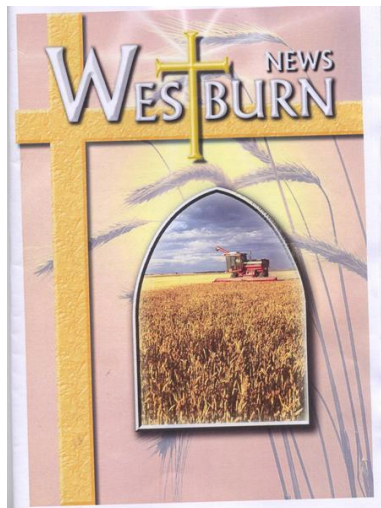
- Baptisms 6
- Marriages 4
- Funerals 45

Almost half of all funerals are parish funerals (20 in 2011).

The congregation is served by a Kirk Session of 80+ operating under the Unitary Constitution. The Session meets four times a year and operates a committee structure with an Executive Committee and:

- Adult Education
- Communications
- Finance
- Property
- Pastoral Care
- Social
- Youth Committees.

To support the work of our church, we employ an Organist, and two part time Church Officers/Hall Keepers who, along with their many mid-week duties, act as Beadle on a Sunday. On a voluntary basis, a secretary is available part time.



Our quarterly magazine is produced by our Communications Committee and distributed to around 600 homes during elders' visits.

Our halls play a major part in the life of the community. A wide range of organisations meet both during the day and in the evenings. These include church organisations:

Youth Organisations:

- Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Ranger Guides
- Explorer, Junior and Senior Girls Brigade
- Anchor Boys, Junior and Senior Boys Brigade
- Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorer and Network Scouts



Adult Organisations

- The Guild
- Choir
- Adult Education/Study Group
- Woman's Bible Study
- Indoor Bowling
- Country Dance
- Badminton Club.
- Stedfast Band (Boys Brigade connected)
- Leapmoor Pipe Band (Scout connected)

Because our hall facilities are modern, well maintained, centrally located and easily accessed by public transport, they attract a cross section of community organisations. A total of 27 organisations with no direct church connection use our facilities, including Glasgow and Clyde Health Board, Inverclyde Social Work Services, Youth Drama Groups and recreational groups such as Zumba, Tai Chi and Weightwise. Our premises are also popular with community groups for events such as coffee mornings. Rental for our premises is a useful source of additional income for the church.

FINANCE

In recent years, we have incurred substantial expenditure relating to upkeep and repairs to our premises. In the past year, in excess of £100,000 was spent carrying out repairs to the sanctuary ceiling.

However, our financial position remains strong.

Our Statement of Financial Activities for the year to 31st December 2011 records:-

Total Income	£169,194
Total Expenditure (excl fabric)	£159,324
Total Net Assets	£417,249

Ministries and Mission allocation (2012) £ 76,418 (net of vacancy allowance)

A full set of the Congregational Trustees Annual Report and Accounts 2011 is available on request.

We are about to embark on a Stewardship campaign, as instructed by the General Assembly, and our planning committee, together with a Stewardship consultant, is preparing for an autumn launch.



BEYOND WESTBURN

Beyond the life of the congregation the church supports four different projects in South Africa, each introduced to us by members of the congregation who visited there. These are:

- Vhutshilo School, Venda
- Cotlands Baby Sanctuary
- Sunshine Association
- Turn the Tide for Kids



Regular collections are taken for these projects at communion services and other fund raising events are also held.

In addition, the congregation regularly supports:

- Rotary Shoe Box Christmas collection
- The annual door to door Christian Aid collection
- Greenock Presbyterial Council Prisoners Gifts Appeal
- World Mission stamp appeal

Following our visit to “Roll Away the Stone” last year, we collected a stone from St Clement’s Church in Dingwall and we have made connections with this church including visits to Dingwall and reciprocal visits from members of St Clement’s. We hope to develop this relationship further in future.

The church has an active website which is regularly updated www.greenockwestburn.org.uk and you are invited to visit it to find out more about our church and congregation.

We also have a Facebook page – although this needs further work and more followers!

Our Social Committee organises outings such as to the Edinburgh Tattoo and has held various concerts in the church.

The annual car run, organised by the Pastoral Care Committee, takes some of our older members out and provides an opportunity for fellowship over supper.

Although our vision of the early 2000's to unite all five congregations in the West End of Greenock has not come to fruition, we still hold joint services with our neighbouring churches with successful Lent and Advent midweek lunches followed by a short service of worship.

There may be opportunities for chaplaincy in both local schools – Ardgowan Primary and Clydeview Academy – as well as in the neighbouring Ardgowan Hospice and several homes for the elderly in the West End. The local James Watt College main campus is very close to the church.

YOUTH

In an endeavour to improve our Youth Work, we employed a part time Youth Worker student last autumn. However, for a variety of reasons, this was not as successful as we had hoped and is coming to an end. An attempt to start a Youth Club failed due to lack of interest among our young people. An Easter Club was held, numbers were very small – although enjoyed by those who did come.

However, one of the concerns of the Kirk Session remains the lack of children and young people and young families in our congregation with small numbers in Sunday School and Bible Class.

One positive event has been the “Big Saturday”, which has now become an annual event, with over 70 children from our youth organisations attending a mixture of worship, games and activities. We hope to build on this success.



There is a very real potential to be realised through our church based youth organisations which are fairly healthy. We estimate that over 170 children and young people use our premises each week. In addition, there are other youth groups using our halls.

THE MANSE



The manse is well maintained and is located in the west end of Greenock within a 10 minute walk of the Church. It is a large sandstone villa with an enclosed rear garden.

Accommodation at present consists of:-

- Ground Floor:- Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Family Room with toilet, and Kitchen
- Upper Floor:- Five Bedrooms, Study and Bathroom

Double glazing and gas central heating throughout.

The manse lies within the catchments of Ardgowan Primary School and Clydeview Academy.

ENQUIRIES

Further enquires can be made to the Clerk to the Nominating Committee to whom applications should also be submitted. Applications should consist of a covering letter, full cv and the names and contact details of two referees:

Miss Jennifer Boag
11 Madeira Street
Greenock
PA16 7UJ
Tel: 01475 720125
e-mail: jenniferboag@hotmail.com

Informal enquiries and recommendations can be made to our Interim Moderator
Rev Morris Coull
1/1 Toward,
1 Greenock Road
Wemyss Bay
PA18 6DT
Tel: 01475 522677
e-mail: morriscoull@mac.com