



STEVENSTON PARISH CHURCH PARISH PROFILE



CHURCH OF SCOTLAND
Presbytery of the South West

Registered Scottish Charity Number : SC000452

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Stevenston Parish Church was formed on 1 August 2024 with the union of the three legacy congregations—Ardeer, High Kirk and Livingstone Churches.

At Stevenston Parish church we strive to be a welcoming church family. We hope to find a minister who has new and forward-thinking ideas, and who will continue to develop the potential of our new united charge.



CHURCH LIFE

As a new Kirk Session we have developed the following mission statement:

“To glorify, enjoy and serve God; ministering hope and the love of Christ within the Stevenston Community”

We are a strong congregation who have come together well following the union and are working together to develop the church. We are a spiritually healthy congregation and feel ready to develop this further. A challenge that we face as a congregation is engaging and working more closely with the local community. In order to continue to build on these strengths and challenge our weaknesses, we need a strong leader to move forward.

We currently have a roll of 221 members and 11 adherents. Our average weekly attendance is between 90 and 100.

Our Kirk Session is made up of 32 elders. The Session is responsible for overseeing the running of the church and making decisions on behalf of the wider congregation. We operate on the basis of the unitary constitution. The majority of Session members have undertaken the mandatory Trustees Training in Safeguarding. Currently we have a Finance Committee and Property Committee set up to assist with the running of the church. These Committees include members of the wider congregation as well as Session members. The Committee structure will be further developed in the near future. The Kirk Session has voted to depart from the Church’s practice in relation to human sexuality.

We have regular pulpit supply in place. In addition to this we have three trained worship leaders within the congregation who lead us in Sunday Worship when required. There are also members of the congregation who are keen to be involved and assist with aspects of morning worship. Since the union we have set up welcome teams, a reader rota, tea rota and have willing volunteers to assist with the delivery of the all age talk.



THE YOUNG CHURCH

Sunday School

At Stevenston Parish Church we have a well attended Sunday School. On a Sunday morning we meet in the church for the first part of the service which includes an all age talk. This is something that we think is important to the spiritual wellbeing of the children. There is also a creche available during this time for babies and younger children if their parents prefer this option. We have a roll of 36 children in the Sunday School and this is run by 14 adults split into two teams. Each week someone is responsible for the story, crafts etc. and we use a mixture of methods to tell the story. During the time in the Sunday School there will be a story, crafts, games as well as singing choruses with the children. During the holidays we run a holiday club which is less structured.

Youth Group

The Youth Group for young people from Primary 5 to S2/3 meet once per month on a Sunday evening. The Youth Group was set up following the success of the summer mission.

There are currently 10 young people attending. The Youth Group runs more informally than Sunday School with a programme of games, challenges, escape rooms, quiz nights etc., whatever the Young People feel they would enjoy. We come together at the end of the evening for quiet time when one of the adults will lead the young people in a thought, meditation or short discussion of a relevant topic.



Girls' Brigade

The 3rd Stevenston Girls' Brigade meets on Tuesdays. They are a vibrant part of the global Girls' Brigade movement, who offer Christian-based youth programmes for girls and young women across the country. The Girls' Brigade combines fun activities, friendship, personal growth and faith development, all within a safe, supportive and encouraging environment.

The 3rd Stevenston Girls' Brigade are a small company with between 6 and 10 girls along with two adult leaders.



Boys' Brigade

Stevenston Parish Church is home to the only Boys' Brigade Company in the Three Towns. The Boys' Brigade meet in the church hall every Wednesday night during the school term between 6pm and 9pm. There are 32 boys over three sections: Anchors (P1-P3), Juniors (P4-P6) and Company (P7-S5). The boys are supported by four officers and two helpers.



On a weekly basis, the Anchors enjoy learning bible stories, playing games, and taking part in art and craft activities. During the year visitors from the local community are invited along including fire fighters, coast guards as well as owl handlers and a petting zoo.

The Junior and Company Sections are involved in Battalion competitions including fun runs, chess as well as bible quizzes. The Junior boys undertake badge work on a weekly basis.

The boys take part in two camps and have two sleepovers per year and also take part in other trips throughout the year.

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides



Girl Guiding provides opportunities for girls to make new friends. We inspire nonstop fun, and a wide range of adventures. We encourage each girl to grow in confidence and we provide a safe space.

The Rainbows, Brownies and Guides meet every Thursday in the Church hall.

Other activities for our young people

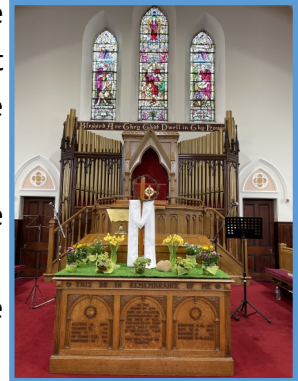
In previous years members of the three legacy congregations ran a very successful Summer Mission, and would be keen to reinstate this to help improve links with the wider Stevenston community.

We involve the young people in Sunday Worship and prior to the union the legacy congregations held joint messy church and we are keen to develop messy church in the near future.

WORSHIP LIFE

We hold a weekly Sunday Worship Service at 10.30am within the Stevenston Parish Church building. We involve the children in the first part of the service. Following the service, tea and coffee is served in the halls which extends Christian fellowship.

Worship is led by an organist and music group. Occasionally we make use of other music resources through the audio-visual system. Praise from a variety of traditional and modern sources is used on a weekly basis. The words for the hymns are projected for the congregation.



The Sunday Service is recorded and is streamed on YouTube for those who are unable to attend. The average weekly viewing figures range from 50-75. This helps to make worship inclusive and more widely available to both congregation members as well as the wider community. In addition to YouTube we also provide a CD and DVD delivery service for those who do not have internet access.

In the first year of the union there have been six baptisms.

We celebrate Holy Communion five times per year: this takes place in March, June, September, December and during Holy Week.

MISSION & OUTREACH AND PASTORAL CARE



Since 1 August 2024 there have been 16 funerals held in the church.

There is one care home in Stevenston, however, we do have some members living in other care homes throughout the Three Towns (Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston) and beyond.

We have recently set up a Pastoral Care Team, Family Involvement Team, Church Events Team and a Communications Team. Various events have been planned to foster relationships with the wider community and we would welcome guidance from the successful candidate on how this can be developed further.

PARISH COMMUNITY

Stevenston is a small town in Ayrshire with a population of approximately 8,500 people (2022 census). Stevenston is part of the larger “Three Towns” conurbation with Ardrossan and Saltcoats with the combined population being 30,000. Stevenston is situated 24 miles southwest of Glasgow with which it has good transport links. Part of the Stevenston Parish falls within the lowest 5% of the most deprived areas in Scotland (2020 Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation).

During the year the congregation support local foodbanks, social work initiatives as well as various national and international causes.

Within the town of Stevenston there are a total of four primary schools: three non-denominational and one Roman Catholic; one secondary school and an additional support needs (ASN) campus. The three legacy congregations had strong links with the schools in the area, however, due to the Coronavirus pandemic as well as being a vacant charge these links are not as strong as they once were. We are keen to strengthen these links going forward and become more involved with the schools within the town.



ECUMENICAL LINKS

In the town of Stevenston there have always been strong links between the congregation and clergy of other denominations. A regular Ecumenical Service took place with the three legacy Church of Scotland Congregations as well as the Roman Catholic Congregation from St Johns. This has fallen away, however, and we are very keen to reinstate this form of Worship.

We participate in the World Day of Prayer together with Roman Catholic and United Free congregations in the town.

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

The church building and halls are well used by church groups and organisations throughout the week.

Monday	Adult Pantomime Rehearsal (August—December)	7.30pm
Tuesday	Girls' Brigade	6.00pm
	Badminton Club	8.00pm
Wednesday	Prayer Meeting	10.45am
	Boys' Brigade	6.00pm
Thursday	Guild	1.30pm
	Rainbows, Brownies & Guides	5.30pm
	Bible Study Group	7.30pm
Saturday	Dance School	All Day
Sunday	Sunday Worship & Sunday School	10.30am
	Junior Pantomime Rehearsal (August - December)	1.30pm
	Youth Group (monthly)	6.00pm

In addition to the groups and organisations within the church, the hall is also used on a Saturday by a local dance group. This helps foster links with the local community.

Prayer Meeting

A meeting for prayer, open to all is held on a Wednesday morning. Prayer prompts are listed as part of the rolling intimations each week at Sunday worship.

Bible Study Group

The Bible Study Group meet weekly and have an in-depth study of a specific book of the Bible. The group has an average attendance of typically 12. Current world affairs and concerns are taken into consideration when selecting the area of study. We hope that a new minister would assist with developing this group.

Guild

The Guild meet weekly between September and March and has a regular attendance of approximately 20 members. They have a varied syllabus each year and actively support the Guild Projects.



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES



Livingstone Players

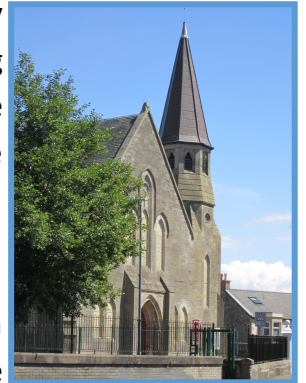
Livingstone Players are an amateur dramatic group, formed in the 1960s. For the past 30 years, they have focused on performing pantomimes. There is now a much wider community involvement in productions, with a cast and crew of over seventy people. They have an adult cast, junior cast, and ensemble. Junior cast rehearsals are free of charge, as are costumes, thus providing performing opportunities without a financial burden. Several former junior cast members have gone on to have careers in the performing arts. Livingstone Players has given them a platform to build confidence and express themselves. Most members are from the surrounding Ayrshire area and as such the group has a strong community feel.

To meet demand, the number of performances has steadily increased, and they now perform six shows, usually during the first week of December. Ticket prices remain affordable and local youth organisations, groups and families attend as a result. Ticket sales have surpassed one thousand and money raised is split between reinvestment in future productions, and charity – primarily Christian Aid. From the past five pantomimes, Livingstone Players have donated almost £17,000 to Christian Aid. They pride themselves on involving young and old alike, creating a broad fellowship of age, both within the cast and the returning audiences who provide a fantastic atmosphere and offer invaluable support.

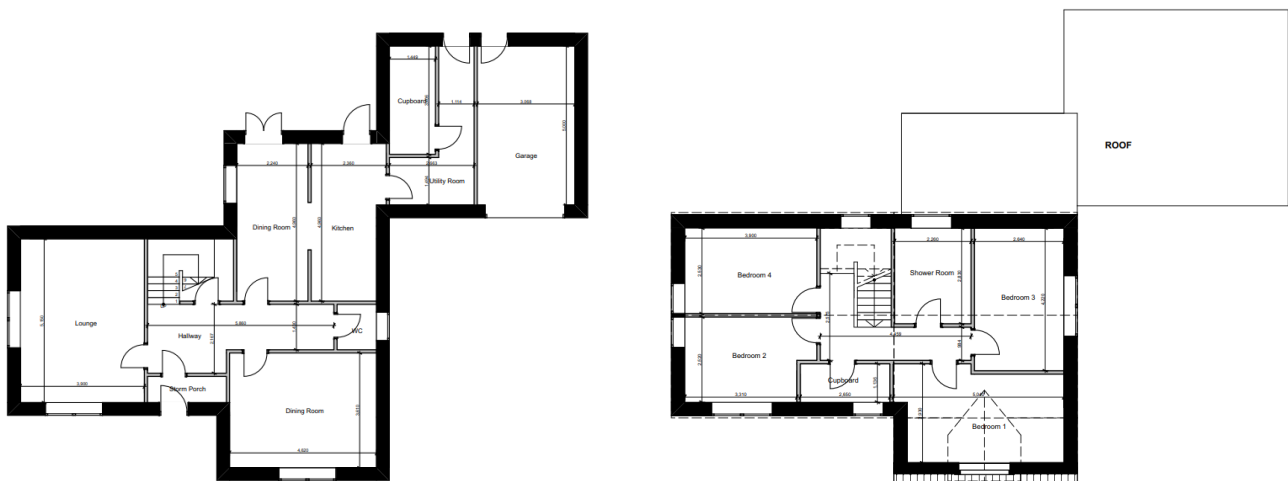


PROPERTY PROFILE

The church building is located in New Street, Stevenston and currently encompasses a sanctuary along with a vestry, two halls, a kitchen and a meeting room. There is a plot of land to the rear of the church building which we hope can be used in the future to help develop the building to make it better for the congregation, Sunday School and wider community.



The Manse is located in Cunninghame Drive, Stevenston. The property is seven apartments comprising of four bedrooms, three public rooms plus a sizable floored loft. The manse is located in a quiet residential area of Stevenston and is within walking distance of local amenities. The property has a double garage and a driveway with ample off-road parking. The property also has sizeable grounds.



FINANCE & STEWARDSHIP

The consolidation of congregational finance is complete.

All three legacy congregations had independently reviewed accounts to the point of Union, 31/07/2024. Stevenston Parish Church has followed the “acquisition” method of accounting to amalgamate congregational finances at the point of Union. A copy of the 2024 accounts can be found on OSCR website.

2025 Giving to Grow contribution is £53,878.

CONTACT

Stevenston Parish Church Website:

stevenstonparish.church

Stevenston Parish Facebook Page:

[@stevenstonparishchurch](https://www.facebook.com/stevenstonparishchurch)

Interim Moderator Contact Details:

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Clerk to the Nominating Committee

Margaret Birch - vacancy@stevenstonparish.church

NOTES

All information is correct as at date of publication.

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