

**PARISH PROFILE**  
FOR  
**CARNWATH**  
LINKED WITH  
**CARSTAIRS PARISH**  
**CHURCH**

**BASIS OF CALL ~ UNRESTRICTED**



**May 2019**



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# CARNWATH PARISH PROFILE

SCO16360

1/w Carstairs Parish Church



# WELCOME TO CARNWATH PARISH CHURCH



## WORSHIP

Services are held at 10.00 or 11.30am in Carnwath Town Hall, Main Street, Carnwath every Sunday. Services are normally traditional but we are open to more flexibility due to the worshiping area. We have had various forms Café Church, catered and held Passover meal



together with linked Parish. Held monthly Night Kirk, a more flexible worship with light supper. Easter, Harvest and Christmas are special times in our church year with occasional additional services.

## CONGREGATION

Many of the congregation support in leading worship in various ways identified by the minister. We use CH4, Songs of God's People and Mission Praise. We do not routinely have access to multi-media in the hall but have access to laptop and projector should this be required for worship. The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated four times per year - March, June, September and December and additionally Maundy Thursday, Easter Sunday and as deemed appropriate. Communion is also provided regularly to members in local care homes.



## FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP

The Kirk Session, co-opted members and minister, in addition to monthly meetings, join together, to enjoy a meal in fellowship, approximately twice a year.

Fellowship Corner – meets every Sunday after worship for coffee, tea and chat. However, this often involves local issues, pastoral care concerns and planning for the coming week.



## PASTORAL CARE

Church members are diligent in identifying anyone in need of pastoral care and providing support as needed. Church flowers are available weekly and delivered to those in need of care and comfort. A Bereavement Service is held annually.

## MISSION AND OUTREACH

The Wednesday Club – the church provided a drop-in opportunity for the older people when it was noted that they missed their Evergreen Club over the summer months. This club has subsequently closed and consequently the church is considering supporting a longer term of service to older people in our community

Harvest produce from our Harvest Thanksgiving is traditionally donated to “Loaves and Fishes” Glasgow.

Clydesdale Food bank has also been supported on a regular basis.

Christian Aid – we have an annual Christian Aid Service which incorporates fundraising, for example, Coffee & Cake after or before Sunday Worship. 2019 we are hosting a ‘Big Brekkie’.

## OUR GUILD

Carnwath Guild meets in Carnwath Town Hall’s Lesser Hall. We hold nine meetings per year with a variety of invited speakers and occasional visits. We are an inclusive group and regularly join with other guilds in the Presbytery for guest nights and other special occasions. In addition, there is a sponsored knit each year to support a specified local charity. Two meals are arranged one at Christmas and one during the summer



break to encourage fellowship and support. On a rotational basis we host the World Day of Prayer and the Presbyterian Summer Rally. The Guild has also organised the creation of banners for the church and worked on a special project last year to commemorate World War 1 with a display of handmade poppies in a village shop window. This year (2019) sees us celebrate our 80<sup>th</sup> birthday.

## LOOKING AND SEEKING

### **Our new minister will:**

- Challenge us in the way we think about our faith
- Lead and support us spiritually and practically
- Encourage us to see new ways to develop the church and its outreach
- Communicate with young people and help us to develop new methods of engagement
- Support us in delivering pastoral care to the community
- Enable us to worship in ways that are meaningful to us
- Listen to the church membership and understand the impact of recent history

## OUR PARISH

In the most recent Presbytery Plan Review our boundaries were amended with our Mission Stations Auchengray and Tarbrax villages, whose buildings had been sold, being transferred to a neighbouring parish. Consequently, Carnwath Parish now consists of West End, a community created to house those working at the State Hospital, Kaimend, a small village one mile to the east and a large landward area to the north along the A70.



It is largely rural. We have an hourly bus service to Lanark and are adjacent to a main line train station at Carstairs Junction for Edinburgh and Glasgow. There is a direct route into Edinburgh along the A70. We have a newly built Primary School with nursery provision which is linked to Biggar High School. In addition a private nursery operates in West End. The population of village, according to the 2011 census is 1410.



Housing is a mix of private and public sector. Plans exist for two large developments of new private housing around the village, which is a commuting village with many travelling to Edinburgh and Glasgow.

We have our own medical practice linked to that in Carstairs, we have a pharmacy, post office, bakery, several grocery shops, newsagent, hotel and restaurant, paint and D.I.Y. shop.

We have a large steel works at the top of the village which employs a significant number of people, a local bus company and an agricultural supply business. A new cookery school is planned in association with the bakery. The State Hospital (mental hospital) which is close by is also an employer of local people.

A minor injuries clinic is available at Kello Hospital, Biggar (8 miles). The University Hospital Wishaw is the local Acute Hospital provision, with an A&E department. St. John's Livingston is also close by.

We have a very active Golf Club and Bowling Club and the area boasts very good country walking opportunities, particularly for dog owners. Our annual Agricultural Show in July brings the farming community together on the edge of Carnwath and the oldest foot race in the world “The Red Hose” is now run on show day.



The nearest swimming pools are Lanark (7 miles) with Carluke (9 miles). Both have gyms as does Biggar. Libraries are at Biggar, Lanark and Carluke.

Visitors to the area enjoy visiting the old market town of Biggar with its eclectic shops and renowned ice cream and the New Lanark World Heritage site with scenic and historical walks along the Clyde.

## OUR CHURCH

We are a linked parish since December 2013. We operate under a Unitary constitution with a Kirk Session comprising of ten elders and three co-opted members. Our current membership is 123, with an average attendance of 30 to 35.

The decision of the linked charge was not to depart from the Church of Scotland practice on the ordination of a minister in a same sex marriage or civil partnership.

### **Finance details from 2018**

The main source of general funds across the Parish is from donations, which include Gift Aid and general offerings at Church services.

The Stewardship Campaign, started in October, 2015 continues with the assistance of the National Stewardship Co-ordinator. The decrease in giving by members reflects the increase in household spending, thereby reducing the amount of monies for other outgoings. The Church's aging congregation are mainly on fixed incomes and it is hoped that the ongoing stewardship work, coupled with the development of the Culture of Invitation during the next financial year will see an upturn and an increase in the amount of giving.

## HISTORY OF CARNWATH

There has been a church on the site in Carnwath since 1186 although there is known to have been an earlier church in the village. The detailed history is attached as an appendix. In more recent years the church, with falling numbers, four church buildings and a problematic manse, was encouraged to divest itself of all its buildings. At this time, it was expected that sufficient funds would be raised to be able to create a modest church building.



However, not all buildings have been disposed of and it is unlikely that sufficient funds will remain to enable this to become a reality. Subsequently the congregation has been worshipping in the Town Hall, Carnwath since November 2012. The loss of buildings has caused considerable distress to the community.



# OUR LINKED PARISH

In December 2013 Carnwath Parish Church and Carstairs Parish Church became a linked charge as a result of the revised Presbytery Plan. In March 2016 we called our first minister together.

Both are rural parishes located in the Clydesdale area of South Lanarkshire. There are three main villages within the parishes - Carnwath, Carstairs and Carstairs Junction, all within a few miles of one another.

All three communities have easy access to direct train routes to both Glasgow and Edinburgh and a good local bus service to the town of Lanark.

Each village has its own newly built primary school. Carnwath feeds into Biggar High School. Carstairs and Carstairs Junction transfer to Lanark Grammar School.

There are excellent childcare facilities within the parish with both school and private nurseries and after school care centre. Carstairs also has a Playgroup and Mother and Toddlers.



Whilst formed just over 5 years ago, our linkage is still in its infancy and requires care and nurturing to enable it to grow and root.

## OUR STRENGTHS

- We are near neighbouring villages
- Fellowship when worshipping together
- Guilds have long established links

## OUR CHALLENGES

- Leadership is needed to link us together
- Strengthening relationships between the two congregations
- Supporting the communities to flourish and grow together

We hope that under new leadership this will come to fruition and that we will grow together in our faith.



## THE MANSE

The manse, which was built in 2009, is situated within the small residential estate at Kames, about ½ mile from Carstairs.

It meets the requirements of a modern manse comprising of 5 bedrooms, 3 public rooms, a fully fitted kitchen, cloakroom/ toilet, bathroom and ensuite. It has a double garage attached to the house and oil central heating.

The manse lies within the catchment area of Carstairs Primary and Lanark Grammar schools.

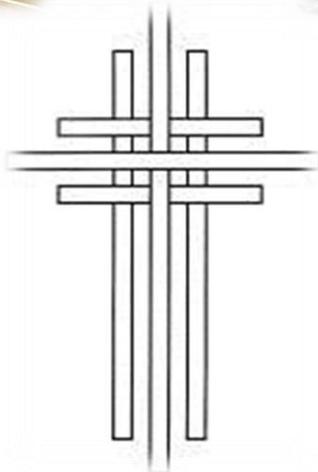




# CARSTAIRS PARISH PROFILE



*Serving God and the community*



## INTRODUCTION

Carstairs Parish Church serves the rural communities of Carstairs Village, Carstairs Junction, Ravenstruther, Cleghorn and the surrounding area. Due to the translation of our minister, at the end of February 2019 we are seeking a new minister. A minister who will walk with us and encourage us, so that together we can discover and fulfil the plan God has for our church.

## MISSION STATEMENT

As we enter this vacancy we are in the process of completing a building project and our local church review. In 2009 the following mission statement was adopted.

*‘Our purpose as a church is to follow Christ’s example and be a caring church, alive and worshipping in the community.’*

Both these projects will allow us to revisit our mission statement and assess if we are fulfilling our promise. Then to determine how we move forward in faith following God’s plan.



## CARSTAIRS PARISH CHURCH IS LOOKING FORWARD IN FAITH

We are looking forward in faith that God will provide us with a minister who will

- Join us in exploring God`s word and developing our spirituality
- Encourage us to step out of the boat
- Embrace us with love, enabling us to share with one another and our community
- Lead us forward in faith

Together, through our faith we will strive to

- Worship and serve God
- Use our time and talents for God
- Nurture our community in the love of God

We are stepping forward in faith by

- working together in our vacancy
- creating a church for the future
- planning the way ahead

## OUR STRENGTHS

- friendly and supportive congregation
- willingly and freely give of our time and talents
- church led youth organisations
- willingness to embrace change
- building adaptation to all purpose

## OUR CHALLENGES

- active but ageing congregation
- few young people and families
- some lack of focus on stewardship
- strengthening links with Carnwath
- meeting people where they are

## WORSHIP

Sunday morning worship is held weekly in Carstairs Parish Church. Since our linkage with Carnwath, service times alternate between 10.00 am and 11.30 am every four months. Our church members are mainly middle aged with approximately 35 to 45 attending Sunday worship each week.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated during our morning worship in March, June, September and December, also during Holy Week and on other special occasions throughout the year.



Messy Church is an alternative style of worship which began over 5 years ago and is held in Carstairs Junction Community Hall. This helps to retain a worshipping presence in Carstairs Junction as well as offering a space for those who enjoy a more creative and participative approach to worship. Very few of those who attend have any other church connection.



Weekly services tend to be traditional in style and we have our own organist. CH4 is our main resource for worship music, although Mission Praise, Songs of God's People and other material are also used. A multi-media system and an inductive loop system are used to enhance the worship experience for all.

Special services of worship are held throughout the Christian year to allow for celebration and reflection. Often these allow for opportunities for alternative styles of worship, youth dedication service, harvest, Holy week, Christingle services.

In the summer months, a joint service is held with Carnwath and alternates between the two villages. Additional joint services are also held at special times such as Easter and Christmas.



# TOGETHER IN FAITH

## **Prayer**

We believe that prayer is fundamental to all we do and to encourage the prayer life we have a weekly Prayer Time and monthly Prayer Focus.

*Weekly Prayer Time* - every Sunday for fifteen minutes before worship

*Prayer Focus* - distributed monthly and printed on our order of service.

*Prayer Days* – this began in response to the Moderator’s National day of prayer



## **Exploring Our Faith**

Opportunities are also given for the congregation to explore their faith more deeply, either in the comfort of their own homes, through small groups and occasional days away.

*Daily Bread Magazine* for personal devotions is available quarterly in church

*Jigsaw Bible Study Group* meets fortnightly in Carstairs Community Centre. The group enjoy fellowship together, discussing God's Word and how it can apply in our own lives.

*A Book Stall* is organised twice in the year, giving the congregation the opportunity to peruse and purchase materials from the GLO Centre Motherwell in their own church.

*Faith Journey Experiences* are enhanced by church retreats, individual visits to local Braehead House and attendance to conferences and workshops.



# TOGETHER IN FELLOWSHIP

## **The Guild**

Our Guild meets fortnightly in Carstairs community Centre and enjoy a varied programme with both speakers and social occasions.



**So Sing** - are a group of people who enjoy singing and are occasionally involved in Sunday worship.

**Sclub** - Like many churches we have only a few young people attending church on a Sunday. Sclub is our Sunday school equivalent which, when young people are present meets during the service and age appropriate activities are always prepared. We encourage those who no longer wish to come to Sclub to remain involved in church life by operating the multimedia system.



**Boys' and Girls' Brigade** - We are blessed to have both a Boys' and Girls' Brigade with approximately 20 boys and 50 girls attending each week from September to end of March. These groups meet in Carstairs Community Centre on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. We are always delighted when they join us for their dedication service in October and some of the young people do enjoy participating in the Nativity.



**Open the Book** became a fortnightly event for the P1 to P7 pupils in Carstairs Junction Primary from October to February 2017/18. Through dramatized story, bible stories came alive and were enjoyed by the pupils. It is hoped to use this material in a similar manner again.



*It is our hope and prayer that we will continue to develop our youth work and build stronger relationships with our young people.*

**Breakfast, Coffee and Lunch** – we enjoy them all and enjoy getting together for a chat, monthly after the service for coffee and at special times throughout the year such as Harvest, Easter, Christian Aid. These occasions also lend themselves to raising some funds for the general work of the church, our building project and other charities.



## TOGETHER IN LOVE

Together with the minister, our Elders are in the main responsible for the pastoral care of our church members. Most elders visit their district 4 times per year in the lead up to communion and conduct additional visits if there is illness or bereavement.

However caring for God's people and being a good neighbour is something we all believe in and so many of our congregation do so in their own way. Together we can all share one another's burdens and celebrate our blessings.



### **Pastoral Care Team**

Pastoral Care allows us to reach out to those in need within the community and we have a small team who visit local care homes where some from our community reside. In the past the team have led carol singing, Scottish celebrations and small acts of worship within these care homes.

Our Pastoral Care Team also created activity bags for young children to use in the church.

**Church Flowers** which are donated weekly by the congregation, are distributed by the elders to the sick, bereaved and housebound within the parish, regardless of membership.

**Transport** is offered by volunteers to take the elderly or those without transport to church on a Sunday.

A **Bereavement Service** is held annually in December for all those who have been bereaved within our community and for whom Christmas is a difficult time.

## TOGETHER IN THE COMMUNITY

Over the years the church and community links have changed. Where in the past the community have come to the church, we now have to find ways of reaching out to the community. We are blessed in that many of our members are active in other community groups which automatically give natural links.

Our **Mission and Outreach** team have recently got everyone knitting and created knee blankets, Twiddle muffs, prayer squares and baby items which are distributed to local care homes and charities. The committee also keep us updated with news from our Mission Partner Rev John McCulloch.

**Messy Church** began over 5 years ago and has been a very successful way to form links with the community. Most of those who attend have no other church connection. Slowly and surely strong relationships are being built with the families who attend and it has been a privilege to walk with them at times of celebration and sadness.

During Holy Week the Messy Church team organised the Big Easter Footprint in response to the Moderator's Big Footprint campaign. A walk through the woods, which link both villages, and by stopping at different stations of the cross, allowed us to share the Easter story in a different way with those of all ages who attended.



**School Chaplaincy** - There are 2 primary schools within the parish – Carstairs Junction and Carstairs Village. Both schools have always welcomed our minister as their chaplain and their involvement at special assemblies and giving pastoral support to the staff.

**Clydesdale Foodbank** which is based in Carluke, offer much needed practical support throughout the Clydesdale area. Carstairs Parish Church continues to be a Satellite for the Foodbank by distributing food parcels over the parishes of both Carnwath and Carstairs.

**Christian Aid Week** is supported in May with a door to door collection which allows those in the community to support this charity but gives us an opportunity to meet those in the community. Many other charities are also supported throughout our church year by retiring offerings, special events and Christmas gift collections.

Other charities supported in this last year have been the Shoebox Appeal, Smalls for All and our Girls' Brigade company organised an Outdoor Café to raise awareness and funds for homelessness through the Wee Sleep Out initiative.

**Remembrance Services** - Since the closure of Carstairs Junction Church, a wreath laying service and observing of the silence has been held at the war memorial in Carstairs Junction on Remembrance Day. Both schools are involved in this act of Remembrance as well as local residents and it is always well attended. A traditional Remembrance Sunday service is held in Carstairs Village with wreath laying at the war memorial there.

**Carstairs Junction Community Hub** is a new initiative being set up by some residents to offer more activities within Carstairs Junction. The church has been invited to attend their promotion days and meet with the community to share information about church life.

**Communication** with the community is done via newsletters, the local paper, the church website and recently we have started a Facebook page.

[www.carstairschurches.btck.co.uk](http://www.carstairschurches.btck.co.uk)

Below are the links to the Church of Scotland statistics for Mission and deprivation which gives some facts about our community.

[https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/church\\_finder/data/parish\\_profiles/130704.pdf](https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/church_finder/data/parish_profiles/130704.pdf)

[https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/church\\_finder/data/deprivation/130704.pdf](https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/church_finder/data/deprivation/130704.pdf)

# TOGETHER AS A CONGREGATION

## **Kirk Session and Congregational Board**

Carstairs Parish Church uses the Model Deed of Constitution. The Kirk Session consisting of 12 elders meet monthly. Our elders have an average age of 60 and consist of 7 women and 5 men. The Congregational Board has 23 members, 12 being elders and 11 from the congregation.

In addition to the Kirk Session and Board we have working groups which also meet monthly. Education, Pastoral and Mission and Outreach report to the Kirk Session with Finance, Property and Social and Fundraising reporting to the Congregational Board.

## **Congregation**

The Congregational Roll at December 2018 was 178 with the average age of the congregation being mid-sixties. Over the past five years we have had 15 admissions, 3 of which were by profession of faith. Since 2014 we have had 9 baptisms, one being of an adult and two weddings were celebrated in 2015. Sadly 34 of our members have passed away in the last 5 years. In 2018 there were 13 funeral services in the church.

## **Finances**

In 2018 our contribution to Ministries and Missions was £32,195 and our financial report is available on request.

# TOGETHER WE BUILD

## Building Project

Carstairs Parish Church was built in 1795 and is situated in a prominent position at the edge of Carstairs Village green.

It serves as the main place of worship for both villages of Carstairs and Carstairs Junction. The church does not have a church hall but makes use of both community halls for Messy Church, youth organisations and meetings.

On 7<sup>th</sup> April 2019 we vacated our church to allow a building project to commence. A project that will see *restoration, renovation and renewal* work take place both externally and internally.

External works to the building includes repairs to the spire, bell-tower, clock tower and clock, repointing of stone work and resealing and cleaning of stained glass.

Internal works to rebuild the staircase to the gallery, provide a fully accessible toilet, create a pantry, remove the pews and replace with chairs and install display board/cabinets to create an exhibition on the history of the church.



When we return to our church, hopefully mid-October 2019, we will have a church building that provides not only ourselves but our community with a flexible space, accessible to all and fit for purpose in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

It is an exciting and daunting project for the congregation but it is a project that is not just about a building. The church is the people. We are a congregation who are looking to be *restored and renewed*, a congregation looking to be encouraged and lead, a congregation looking for a shepherd to enable us to move forward, to step out in *faith*, to step out in *hope* and to step out in *love*.

***Together In Christ***  
***all things are possible***

Thank you for taking the time to read the Parish Profile of Carnwath linked with Carstairs Parish Church.

We would ask that you look forward in faith and prayerfully consider if God is calling you to be our minister.

If you would like further information, informal enquiries can be made to our:

***Interim Moderator***

Rev. James S. H. Cutler  
12 Kittlegairy Place,  
Peebles, EH45 9LW  
Tel: 01721 723950  
Email: [revjmc@outlook.com](mailto:revjmc@outlook.com)

If you would like to be considered for this charge, please submit your CV with two referees to:

***The Clerk to the Nominating Committee***

Mrs Mabel Morris  
72 Lanark Road  
Carstairs Village, ML11 8QH  
Tel: 01555 870676  
Email: [mabelmorris@btinternet.com](mailto:mabelmorris@btinternet.com)

