

# Parish Profile

Parish of Coalburn & Lesmahagow Old

Charity SC017014  
Presbytery of Lanark  
Unrestricted call



## A WARM WELCOME

We, the congregations of the above, would like to thank you for taking the time to find out about us. We hope this Parish Profile gives you a feel for the life and work of our congregations.

# Introduction



A Church review was carried out during 2016/17 and as a result an action plan is being implemented e.g. Joint Services July and August, also at Easter and at the festive season.

We operate under a Unitary Constitution.

We would consider ourselves to be a generous, supportive, hardworking and committed congregation.

Our mission statement is to serve the community in Christ's name.

We are looking for a minister for this unrestricted charge who will lead us and work with us to encourage and use the gifts of God's people in the villages of Coalburn and Lesmahagow.

# The Churches

## Coalburn Parish Church



The first building opened in 1893 as a Mission Station of Abbeygreen Church, Lesmahagow, and by 1895 it was a fully sanctioned charge.

The original building was destroyed by fire in 1918 and was replaced by the present structure in 1922.

Within the church there is a wall hanging depicting the village, past and present. This was completed by the children of the Sunday School to celebrate the church's centenary in 1993. When the church was renovated in 2001, the hanging was refurbished for the re-dedication service, and two additional wall hangings were donated.

During the 125 years of its existence, the church has been served by seven ministers.

Following the retirement of The Reverend Brian Cross, in July 1998, the linkage with Lesmahagow Old Parish Church was implemented.

In 2017 Coalburn and Lesmahagow Churches were united.

# The Churches

## Lesmahagow Old Parish Church



The church is centrally located off the village's main street, Abbeygreen, near the local shops. On its south side are the ruins of Lesmahagow Priory, the old graveyard lies to the north and its western façade opens onto Church Square.

It was constructed in 1804, and the apse was added in the 1890s, giving it its basilican appearance. It is rectangular in plan, with its bell tower - which incorporates the steeple and clock - located above the main entrance on the west side.

The chapter house and ancillary rooms were built in 1934.

Its beautiful Brindley and Foster three-manual pipe organ (built in 1889) was refurbished in 2007.

The ground floor is made of timber, and there are stone/marble mosaic tiles in the raised chancel, which contains an ornately carved timber pulpit and circular seating area.

The church is a category B listed building with stained-glass windows.

# Worship

Each church has its own Sunday service: 10am at Lesmahagow and midday at Coalburn.

Stewarding at services is carried out by elders and members of the congregation, e.g. the welcoming team.

Elders and members take part in church services: reading scripture, leading prayers and worship and carrying out church officer duties.

At Lesmahagow, there is a choir.

The Hymns are reproduced under Christian Copyright (mainly from C H 4 and a variety of other sources) in our order of service.

The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated four times a year in each of the churches, with a system of card invitation being used in Lesmahagow.

Each church holds a Harvest Thanksgiving Service in October.

At Lesmahagow, a Bereavement Service is held annually. This is an open service.

Each church holds an Armistice Service, which is attended by local organisations.

Dedication services are held annually for organisations connected with both churches.

On Christmas Eve in Lesmahagow a community carol service takes place in the early evening which includes both Coalburn Silver Band and Lesmahagow Male Voice Choir. The watch night services take place at 7pm at Coalburn and at 11pm at Lesmahagow.



# Our Aims & Goals

- To be worshipping, caring and compassionate churches
- To engage widely with the local communities, particularly the vulnerable, young people and the housebound
- To develop the personal faith of all ages by providing opportunities for involvement both within the church and in the wider community
- To acknowledge the need for change in order to move our churches forward
- To undertake continuous assessment of stewardship and mission
- To consult and inform our congregations, keeping them up-to-date with events within the church
- To demonstrate that the church building is open and accessible to all (both church members and other local groups) in an endeavour to enhance social interaction
- Explore the development and increased use of audio visual technology to enhance worship
- In short, to further God's kingdom here on earth



# Membership

The Kirk Session comprises 29 Elders of which 13 are men and 16 are women

Current membership stands at 455

| YEAR | FUNERALS | WEDDINGS |
|------|----------|----------|
| 2015 | 44       | 0        |
| 2016 | 35       | 2        |
| 2017 | 45       | 1        |

A copy of the 2017 accounts is available upon request

# Activities

| MON   | TUE   | WED   | THUR  | FRI | SAT   | SUN  |
|---|---|---|---|-----|---|--|
|  |   |  |  |     |   |   |
|  |   |  |   |     |   | <br> |
|  |   |  |  |     |   |   |
|  |   |  |   |     |  |   |

-  **The Zone junior church:** every Wednesday evening in Coalburn instead of a Sunday to encourage children to learn about the bible and enjoy crafts and friendship.
-  **The Trailblazers junior church:** every Sunday morning in Lesmahagow joining the congregation for the first part of the service.
-  **The Guild (Coalburn):** twice monthly on Thursday afternoons
-  **The Guild (Lesmahagow):** fortnightly, on a Monday afternoon
-  **The Marion Group:** fortnightly, on a Monday afternoon. A small sewing group who meet to make items for any sales of work, also to refurbish any items needing repaired or renewed in church
-  **The Choir:** every Tuesday afternoon.
-  **The Prayer group:** every Tuesday afternoon.
-  **The Rambling Club:** second Sunday and fourth Saturday of each month.



## The churches have always tried to look outwards in fulfilling their mission

At Easter and harvest time we support Loaves and Fishes (a Glasgow-based charity that helps homeless people) by providing Easter eggs and canned and dried foods.

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal, Mary's Meals and MAF are charities that also receive help.

Our Church had a party who went to Peru under the auspices of the Vine Trust to help with the building of two homes for street boys. This year two members of the congregation are going to Tanzania to help with the building project there.

We assist with a Dementia Café at Auchlochan Retirement Home weekly.

We participate in Heart and Soul.

# Further Information

## Lesmahagow Village



Lesmahagow with a population of approximately 5,000 and increasing, is a village situated in the central belt of Scotland just off the M74, the main motorway linking Scotland and England. This allows ready access to cities North and South of the border, as well as to both east and west coastlines of Scotland.

The village also boasts an active Community Council, while the Lesmahagow Development Trust was formed in 2009 to implement projects to enhance the facilities and environment of the village.

With two new primary schools and a modern High School, education is provided up to 6th year, while tertiary education is available, conveniently, at Universities in Hamilton and Glasgow.

Being a rural situation there is ample opportunity for countryside walks. Recreation is available at the 18-hole Hollandbush Golf Course, situated between Coalburn and Lesmahagow. Further activities are available at Lesmahagow High School, curling at Hamilton Ice Rink, twenty minutes away, while Coalburn boasts a community leisure centre and swimming pool.

Lesmahagow is a farming community with their Farming Society Annual Show on the last Saturday in May.

Lesmahagow Highland Games are held every year in June.

## Coalburn Village

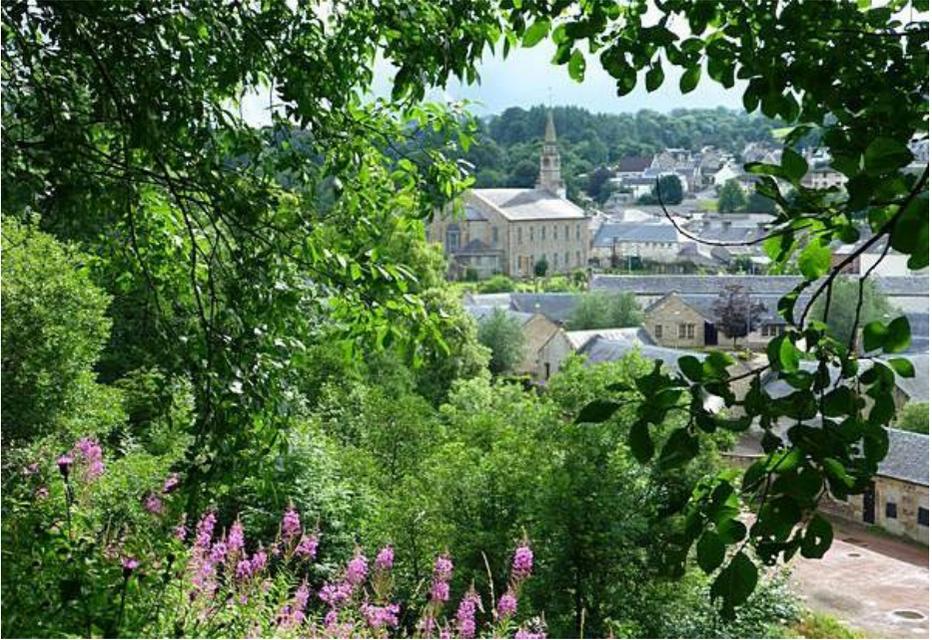


The smaller of the two communities, Coalburn houses a population of approximately 2,000. It is situated about 4 miles south of Lesmahagow, and, like its bigger partner, close by the M74, thus giving it similar advantages of easy access to larger conurbations.

The recently built primary school, with close connections to the Church, provides a feeder for Lesmahagow High School, thus forging a close bond between the communities and churches.

The village benefits from a modern Local Authority Leisure Complex and Swimming Pool. A Miners Gala day is held on the first Saturday in July every year.

# Our New Minister



We are seeking a new minister who will:

provide strong leadership

motivate us by his/her preaching and pastoral care

lead and teach the congregations

be approachable and open with us

## The Future

At the start of a new ministry the congregation looks forward to being challenged in the work and witness it undertakes within the parish.

We hope to be a light shining to all whom we meet, so that as a church and as individuals we can truly be seen by others as Disciples of Christ.

# What we can provide...

Friendly, willing and co-operative congregations

Our willingness to move forward and to change

Our commitment and enthusiasm

The local area provides high quality educational, commercial, health and recreational facilities and is easily accessed by the central belt and beyond

## The Manse

The manse, in Lesmahagow, is a modern, two-storey, timber-framed, detached house. It was built in 2003 and is located in a quiet residential cul-de-sac overlooking the church. It is within easy walking distance of the local shops, schools and church.

The ground floor accommodation comprises a lounge, dining room, kitchen, WC and utility room. The upper floor has a day room and four bedrooms (one with en-suite), family bathroom and ample storage space. There is gas central heating throughout. It has a garden to the front and the rear that is maintained by members of the congregation, as well as an integral double garage. For a new minister coming the whole manse will be decorated and re-carpeted to their colour scheme.

## Halls

Both churches have their hall within the main church building. We encourage use of our halls by local community groups, currently amongst which are W.R.I. Book club, Coalburn Silver Band and Lesmahagow Male Voice Choir.

A loop system is available for the hard-of-hearing.



# Applications

An invitation is extended to speak to our Interim Moderator informally and confidential visits to both churches and manse can be arranged.

Please send your application with your CV and two names of referees to the Clerk to the Nominating Committee:

## Contact Details:

### **Alan Grant**

Interim Moderator

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### **Miss P Surgeon**

Clerk to Nominating Committee

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More information on the web at [www.lopc.org.uk](http://www.lopc.org.uk)