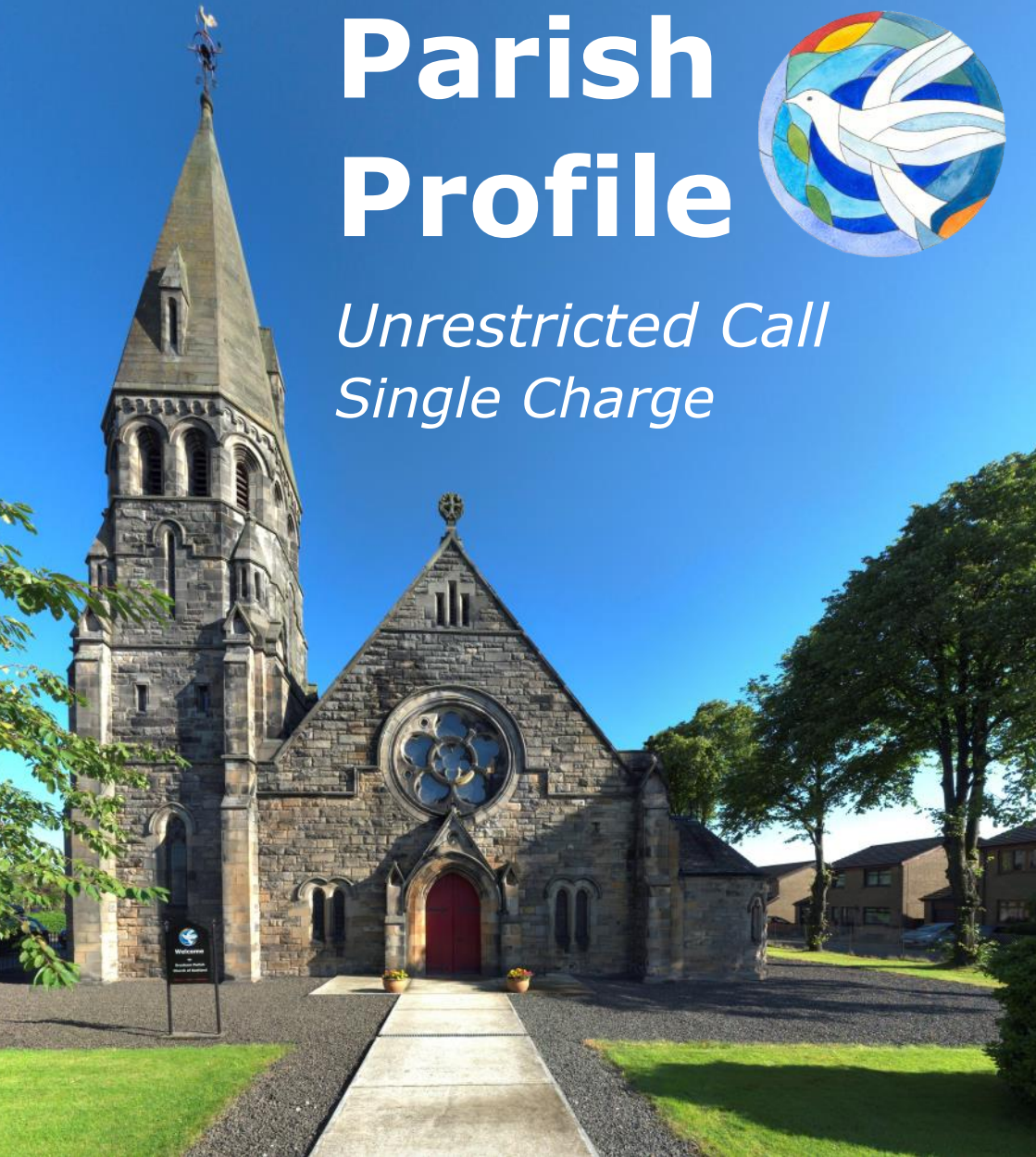


Broxburn Parish Church of Scotland

Parish Profile



*Unrestricted Call
Single Charge*



● **FRIENDLY** ● **FAMILY** ● **FELLOWSHIP** ●

Scottish Charity No. SC017180

Introduction

Broxburn Parish Church's values are '**Friendly, Family, Fellowship**'. We are an active and welcoming congregation with a 'can do' attitude.

The Kirk Session recently decided to depart from the historic practice of the Church of Scotland regarding the ordination, induction or appointment of a Minister who is in a civil partnership or same sex marriage.

We currently have the right to an **unrestricted call** following the relocation of our previous Minister in November 2019 to Moray.

With the 2021 General Assembly resolving to reduce the number of paid ministry posts in the Church of Scotland, posts within the Presbytery of West Lothian will be reduced from 28.2 to 17 by 2025. This is likely to create more opportunities for working together and sharing of resources across local churches to help deliver our mission. West Lothian Presbytery, acknowledging the central importance of mission, is looking to develop Mission Districts within which this collaborative working will take place. Further information about this can be obtained from the Interim Moderator.

Our Church

Our church has been situated on Broxburn East Main Street since 1876 and has played a prominent part in the life of the town ever since. We have a mission to reach out to all and make our modern facilities available to everyone. We currently have a membership of 306 with 71 on our Supplementary Roll. Additionally, we have many who attend and are actively involved in the life of the church but are not members. Pre Covid over 70 people attended each Sunday morning.



During our vacancy, we were successful in obtaining a grant from the Adapt and Thrive Fund which enabled us to substantially upgrade our sanctuary and install equipment to allow us to stream services.

We operate a Model Constitution; our Kirk Session has 21 elders (12 male and 9 female) and our Congregational Board has 31 members.

The Session receive regular updates on our organisations such as Sunday Club and Boys' Brigade. Our Girls' Brigade company closed in 2019 which resulted in losing some of our younger people and their families so our membership and church attendance dropped at that time. We are now focused on moving forward, and as the town of Broxburn expands we feel we are in a really good place to be able to attract new families.

Our last Local Church Review was in 2013 and we embraced the issues raised at that time. Bible Study was mentioned, so classes were introduced and proved very popular. We involved children in a Communion service, set up a Support Group for the minister and looked at activities for other age groups to complement what we already offered to children.

Our Outreach

- In conjunction with West Lothian Foodbank, we opened our halls twice a week as a Distribution Centre. We offered tea and chat along with a voucher to come along to our soup lunches. During our period of closure, we continued to collect from Broxburn and Uphall donation points. We also delivered supplies directly to the homes of those most in need in our area and participated in the Reverse Advent Calendar Appeal.
- Many Community groups use our premises and our revamped sanctuary will enable more flexibility and

increased use of this space. We have a strong link with the Polish community in the area.

- Our recently removed pews were donated to a local Social Enterprise group working with people with mental health issues. They presented a cross and other crafted items from the pews to us (*pictured*) and will use the rest for their fundraising efforts.



- We have a good link with the local primary school which traditionally holds its Christmas and End of Term services in the church. We also provide books each year to P7 leavers.
- We receive strong support from many local people for fundraising events such as our hugely popular Christmas Fayre and it is clear that our church is seen as a valuable part of the community.
- We work with other churches across Edinburgh and the Lothians supporting the work of Street Pastors who help demonstrate God's love on the streets while ensuring people get home safely at night.
- During closure we have produced special Church Newsletters, issued not only to members but to anyone who attended worship, keeping that all important contact.
- With our upgraded premises we see ourselves as a congregation ready to move forward. We are making a fresh start in more ways than one and look forward to working with a minister who can share our vision and creativity while nurturing the talents of our people.

Our Worship

Sunday worship takes place at 11am. Members of the congregation participate by reading the bible and leading prayers. This is a traditional service with the younger people leaving after the first hymn to attend Sunday Club.

Music is provided by our organist; we mostly use CH4 and Mission Praise. Other musicians and our choir also support this service.

A small team operates the sound and AV Desk, providing projected hymns, readings, intimations and video. Tea, coffee and cakes are served as well as a blether after the service.

A more informal and reflective service takes place on Wednesdays at lunchtime. Communion is celebrated four times a year at morning worship and monthly at our Sunday evening services.

During closure we have benefited from an active Interim Moderator who has led our Sunday Evening services and Wednesday Lunchtime services on Zoom.



The Bridge Choir consists of 40 church members and members of the local community aged 18-90 and sings at Christmas and Easter services as well as holding annual concerts in the sanctuary since 2010.

Our Pastoral Care

For many years we have had a Pastoral Care Team of volunteers, who have undertaken necessary training and had PVG disclosure. During closure, the team has

done its best to keep in touch with those requiring support, in distress or sharing good times, by phone, online and greetings cards. We offer a prayer line accessible to all in the community. Some members have been involved in practical care, e.g. shopping or transport to hospital appointments.



The team may need to be re-established. Elders and others are encouraged to advise the Minister of any need for a visit, either at home or hospital. The Minister and the Manse family are offered a support group. A small team assists with funerals, ensuring as far as possible that no extra stress is put on either the family or the Minister.

Our Christian Education

For our younger members we have Sunday Club which pre-Covid consisted of around 8 children aged between 5 and 11. 'Spill the Beans' material is used involving much interaction and participation.

They take part in our annual Nativity Service and at Easter participate in fun events before joining the congregation in church for our Easter service. We have an annual prizegiving service which is followed by outdoor games and picnic food, which both adults and children enjoy. We have a crèche facility in place and welcome visiting children.

We are a member of the Council of Churches, which operate a Chaplaincy team within our local Primary and Secondary schools.



We have an active Boys Brigade Company which in May 2021 celebrated their 90th year of being part of Broxburn Parish Church.

They offer 3 sections - Anchor Boys, Junior Section and Company section. Due to Covid we moved from face to face meetings to Zoom where activities were distributed online to enable the boys to share their work and thoughts. Normally they would meet weekly in the church halls.

For the adults in our congregation, we have had bible study groups during Lent and/or Advent as well as Alpha courses for all ages. Fellowship is very important to us as part of our Christian Education and to help us with that we have several activities open to everyone. Our Sole Mates walking group (*pictured*) meets monthly for fun and walks to suit all capabilities. We also have regular coffee mornings, afternoon teas, soup lunches and ceilidhs.



Ecumenical Context

Our previous minister was a member of a local clergy grouping covering Broxburn, Winchburgh & Uphall, extending beyond Church of Scotland ministers to include the Roman Catholic priest. Broxburn Parish Church is the only Church of Scotland in Broxburn. The surrounding area has a further 2 Church of Scotland churches, a Baptist Church, a United Free Church, 2 Evangelical fellowships and a Roman Catholic Church.

Broxburn Parish Church is an active participant in the Broxburn & Uphall Council of Churches which meets on a regular basis. In the pre-Covid world it arranged pulpit swaps, Nursing Home and Holy Week Services and co-ordinated Christmas events. Relations with other denominations are very good with members of all churches helping support local fundraising events.

World Church

Our congregation has always played an active part in foreign mission. We annually support the Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal (*pictured*).



During closure we were able to collect a substantial amount from within the community in a Covid safe way. We support many charities and the Disasters Emergency Committee through retiring offerings, coffee mornings and Sunday teas. For several years we have supported Mulanje Hospital's bed fund through our weekly Wednesday services. This year, because we couldn't raise funds for Christian Aid in our usual way, two of our members took part in the Kilt Walk and raised over £750.

Our Stewardship and Finance

Our 2020 end of year accounts shows that we had a deficit in both 2019 (£10,163) and 2020 (£7,928). Installation of a new kitchen in our halls in anticipation of holding more hospitality events, contributed to these deficits. Our Ministry and Mission contribution, after adjustment for being in vacancy, was £38,915 for 2020 and was met in full. We started 2021 with an unrestricted cash balance of £73,798.

Having had to close our doors in March 2020 as a result of the Covid pandemic, we lost out on most of our major fundraising events and hall lets, which made a significant dent in our income. However, following on from a successful stewardship campaign in 2017, many of our members moved away from donation envelopes to standing orders.

Throughout closure we were blessed to have existing standing orders maintained and/or increased, new standing orders set up and monies paid in via bank

transfer and cheques. Although our church doors were closed, we have maintained contact with as many of our members and regular attendees as we can and helped keep them informed of our financial situation and our progress towards safely re-opening our doors.

Our Staffing

We do not currently employ staff. Cleaning of the Church premises is undertaken by a local cleaning company. The Church officer is available as required and is a point of contact for all weddings and funerals.

Our Church, Halls & Manse

The Church

The Sanctuary includes two wings and a balcony. Having secured funding during closure, the sanctuary has been re-modelled and updated to make it a more welcoming, attractive and useful space. The pews and old carpet have been removed. The walls have been redecorated and a new carpet laid. Comfortable chairs replace the pews and a new projection, recording and streaming system has been installed. This new system allows us to live stream services, spreading our faith to more people than we can within the church buildings. We expect to better engage the local Nursing Home residents using this system.

Halls

The Church has two halls attached, one larger and one smaller (where the Kirk Session, Board and church groups meet). Local groups use our halls on a contractual basis. The halls accommodate our main toilets, disabled/baby changing toilet and our upgraded kitchen.



Manse

Our spacious manse sits in the church grounds and is separate from the church buildings. Downstairs there is a study, reception room, dining room, kitchen, separate utility room and a toilet. Upstairs there are 4 bedrooms, a family bathroom and a shower room. The manse is well maintained and decorated to a high standard. There is an enclosed garden to the rear and also a separate garage with ample off street parking.

Our Community

Broxburn is a small town with a population of around 18,000, situated between Edinburgh (12 miles away) and Glasgow (35 miles away). Broxburn developed as a town when shale seams were discovered in the 1800s and became a renowned mining and petro-chemical town.

It maintains a pride in that heritage, celebrated by the recently established Shale Trail, and still boasts a Gala Day and Brass Band. There is a mixture of housing from some remaining Miners Rows, to Victorian houses and cottages, to Council housing provision, as well as recent new-build areas.

The nearest hospital is St John's in Livingston. West Lothian has its own Crematorium in Livingston and the cemetery is situated between Broxburn and Uphall. For recreation, there is a Swimming Pool, Sports Centre, two Bowling Clubs and a Football Club (Broxburn Athletic).

While there is no major employer in the town, there are several medium size businesses offering employment. Many people commute daily to the large cities. Since new housing arrived five years ago, the influx of new people has necessitated the provision of more shops and there is now a more optimistic feel and the town is coming alive.

Our Dove Logo



In 2009 our rose window at the front of the church needed to be replaced, so we worked with stained glass artist Emma Butler-Cole Aiken (*pictured*) to create a new design based on the dove from the Old Testament.

Emma also presented us with a pictorial version of the dove to use as our church logo.

We were delighted when the dove window gained a Commendation in the prestigious Saltire Design Awards in 2011.



Web Links

www.broxburnparishchurch.org.uk

www.facebook.com/BroxburnParishChurch

Contact Details

Interim Moderator:

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Clerk of the Nominating Committee:

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The Sanctuary: Before, During & After



Before
(with the
pews)

During
(with new
flooring and
painting
underway)



After
(with new
carpets and
chairs)

