

East Kilbride South Parish

Church of Scotland

Parish Profile



Mission Statement

By the grace of God,
In the spirit of Christ,
We are a people called by God
To live and act by His Word,
And spread the Good News
In our community and beyond.

Our Story so far...

The South Parish Church, which evolved from the West Kirk in The Village area of East Kilbride, celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2008. Its two previous ministers both had lengthy ministries.

We are currently seeking a new minister to lead us into the next chapter in the life of our fellowship, following the retirement of our minister who served us for 31 years.

Baird Hill
The Murray
East Kilbride
G75 0EA



www.southparishchurch.org.uk



Congregation

We are a congregation of 280. Average attendance at Morning Worship is 90-110 and at Evening Worship is 15-25.

At the August 2010 audit the average percentage of members of the congregation in the following age ranges was:

16-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	66-75	75+
6.5%	6.2%	2.6%	13.6%	17%	17.8%	36.3%

At the same audit, the average numbers of children attending on a Sunday were:

0-4	5-11	12-16
4	12	10

Office bearers

The Kirk Session comprises 43 elders and meets on a regular basis. There are currently a number of committees of the session including Mission, Worship and Pastoral Care.

The Congregational Board has 53 members and also has sub-committees including Stewardship, Ways & Means and Property.

Sunday Services are at 10.30am and 7.00pm. There is a time for prayer before the morning service at 10.00am. The Sunday School (Beginners, Primary and Seniors) attend the first part of the morning service and there is a crèche available also. We have a 'Praise Group' which provides music for the hymns and occasionally perform praise items. We use mainly Mission Praise and occasionally CH3 or hymns on the screen. Members of the congregation contribute on a regular basis in the service with the children's address, bible readings, and prayers. Tea and Coffee are served in the hall after the service.

Evening worship takes place in the small hall, after which the Youth Group meets.

We celebrate Communion three times a year, usually on the first Sunday in February, June and October. District elders deliver communion cards prior to this. Communion is also included on the first Sunday evening service of each month.

At Easter, a number of special services are arranged. These include a Youth Event during Holy week, Communion Service on Good Friday and Praise in the Park early on Easter Sunday morning.

At Christmas a family service usually takes place on Christmas Eve where the children of the church are involved in a Christmas presentation. On Christmas Day there is also a short family service.



Activities

The church has a number of activities and initiatives in place that the congregation are encouraged to support and play an active role in. These include

- Prayer chain (by email)
- Church magazine: 'Contact' produced four times a year and delivered to every member of South Parish by the District Elders. A copy of this is available on the church website...
- Operation Christmas Child – we take part in this every year and usually produce around thirty boxes.
- At Harvest we collect food and clothes for Loaves and Fishes, a local charity.
- Monthly Retiring Offerings to support charities such as Tearfund.
- There is a church library, with a selection of Christian literature available.
- Coffee mornings are usually held on a monthly basis, with each organisation being responsible for staffing one.
- Our Ways & Means Committee organises two annual fairs and a plant sale in aid of church funds, as well as occasional other fund raising events.



Organisations

We have a number of church organisations that meet on a regular basis. These include:

Sunday School

Youth Group

Girls' Brigade

Boys' Brigade

The Guild

Men's Breakfast

Midweek Bible Study and Prayer

Smarteenies Toddler Group

Woman's Group

Badminton Club

Saturday Ladies

Rambling Club

Major Recent Events

In the last few years we have held:

- Parish Missions which have involved a good number of our members.
- Two Stuart Townend Concerts to support two national Christian Charities.
- Christianity Explored course.



Finances

The congregation has a Stewardship Committee and also the Ways and Means Committee which organises regular fund raising events in aid of church funds. For more information on our finances see the church website.

Church building

The sanctuary is seven-sided with pews all facing towards the front area with the Communion Table and pulpit.



There is a large hall, small hall, kitchen, crèche, library and meeting rooms.



As well as all the church organisations the halls are used for a dance school, zumba classes, blood transfusion service, and as a polling station for local and national elections.

Manse

This is a 3-bedroom detached house with garage. The house comprises two public rooms, kitchen, study, and toilet on the lower level, and three bedrooms and bathroom upstairs.



The house is situated in a quiet secluded area of East Kilbride, just outside the parish. The local primary school is Mount Cameron Primary, and secondary school is Calderglen High. Both are within ten minutes walk of the manse. East Kilbride town centre is a five minute walk away and the church a fifteen minute walk.

The church is in The Murray area of East Kilbride. The parish is made up of The Murray, Whitehills and some newer small housing estates bordering on these.

While The Murray and Whitehills are geographically next to each other, there is no road that links them and it is a five minute drive via Westwood and Greenhills to go between them.

There are over 4500 homes within the parish, with a large number of these being elderly, single occupancy homes.

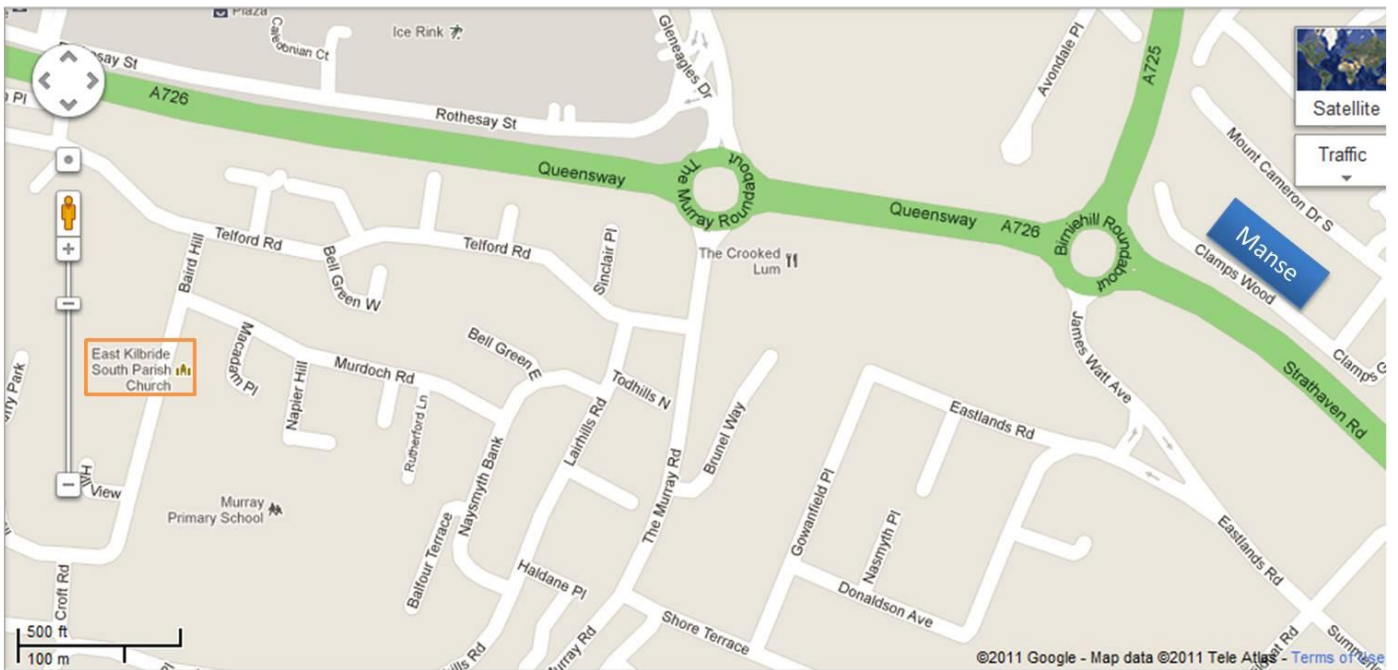
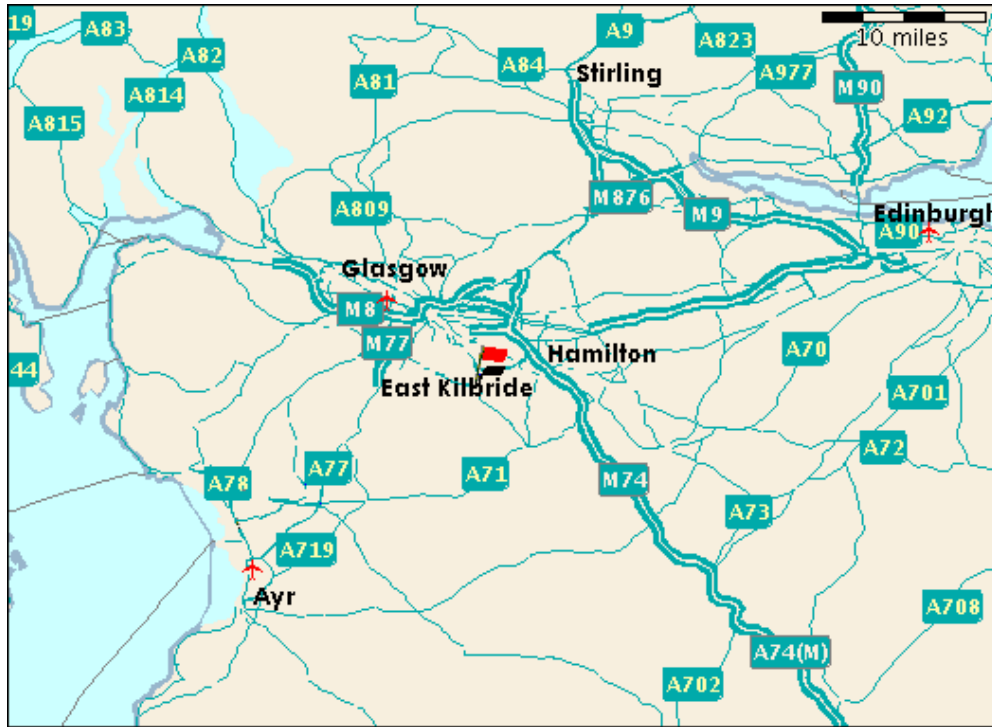
There are two non-denominational primary schools within the parish where our previous minister was chaplain. These are the Murray Primary, across the road from the church and Heathery Knowe Primary, which is a ten minute walk away. There are also two Roman Catholic Schools.

There are two sheltered housing complexes- Headhouse Court and Strathcona House. There are also two nursing homes in the parish – Archibald Kelly Court in The Murray and Whitehills Nursing Home in Whitehills. We do not have official chaplaincy in these but we aim to hold Easter and Christmas services in them.

Other churches in The Murray are Westwoodhill Evangelical, which has a community worker with strong links to the schools, United Reformed, Salvation Army and Episcopalian.

There is a small shopping centre in The Murray, a medical centre, Murray Owen Community Centre which is used as a day centre for people with mental and physical handicaps. There is a bowling club, tennis courts and football pitches.

Where we are



East Kilbride

East Kilbride is a large new town with a population of approximately 75,000. There is a comprehensive town centre and two major outlying shopping centres. There is a swimming pool, ice rink, cinema and a number of sport centres.

It is well equipped with both primary and secondary schools and there is an ongoing extensive modernisation programme to replace old buildings.

Hospital and medical facilities are modern and readily available.

Being so close to Glasgow, access to the city and its amenities is easy due to the good road and rail links.

Our future hopes

We have a Parish Assistant who is undertaking our pastoral needs at the moment and a Reader who is taking the majority of our services during the Vacancy. We would hope that they will be utilised during the new ministry.

We are looking forward to being led into this new period by a dedicated Minister who will play an active part in Congregational life, who will take us deeper into our communal and individual faith through the teaching of scripture and prayer and who will motivate us in our Christian service and witness.

There are a number of opportunities within the Parish and on the fringes of the Church and we are seeking a Minister with the ability and enthusiasm to develop these and bring new ideas on how to tackle them. We are looking for a Minister who will seek to encourage, enable and harness our gifts and use them for the development of faith within the parish.

We are praying that God will lead us to the minister we believe He has already chosen for us.

If you feel that you may be being called to this seven year reviewable tenure please feel free to contact the Interim Moderator for informal enquiries:

Rev. D. Cameron McPherson BSc BD D.Min

Phone: 01698 882195

Email: revcam@talktalk.net

Or the Convenor of the Nominating Committee:

Keith Offor

Phone: 01355 226441

Email: dk.offor@btinternet.com

Applications should be sent in the form of Curriculum Vitae and two references to the Clerk to the Nominating Committee:

David Crawford

96 Colonsay

St. Leonards

EAST KILBRIDE

G74 2HG

Email: crawford.david@hotmail.co.uk