



## **Greenock: Wellpark Mid Kirk**

SC001043

Linked with



## **Port Glasgow: Hamilton Bardrainney Church**

SC005421

## **PARISH PROFILE**

Could you be our new minister? We are ready to welcome you to our linked charge.

## Introduction

Greenock: Wellpark Mid Kirk linked with Port Glasgow: Hamilton Bardrainney Church offers this charge on the basis of a five year reviewable tenure, in accordance with the approved Presbytery Mission Plan of the Presbytery of Clyde. As a consequence of the divergent votes of the two Kirk Sessions, the Church of Scotland ruling is such that the Charge will not depart from the given position of the Church of Scotland with regard to the Ordination and Appointment of Ministers and Deacons in same sex civil partnerships or marriages.

Greenock: Wellpark Mid Kirk and Port Glasgow: Hamilton Bardrainney Church were linked in August 2024. Wellpark Mid Kirk became vacant on the retirement of our minister three years ago. Hamilton Bardrainney Church have been in vacancy for thirteen years. From April 2017 to August 2019 we were linked with St Martin's when a Basis of Severance was issued. Following the recent linkage both churches are now ready to call a minister.

Although our churches are early in our shared faith journey, we have enjoyed joint services, sharing faith and hospitality in each church over the summer, welcoming each other in, and now we are looking for a minister who can guide us in the next part of our faith journey. Someone who will use our different skills and abilities to continue to work towards a church community revealing God's goodness and purpose in this area.

The communities each parish serves are diverse, and have a common goal in spreading God's word to those communities. We are looking to welcome a minister who is willing to guide and support us in our spiritual journey and to enhance our connection with the local communities. The diversity within the parishes would suit someone with both traditional and more liberal views.

We are looking for a minister who can inspire and lead us, support us with a forward thinking vision of the future where God remains at the centre of all we do. A minister who preaches the bible and explains it, engaging those of all ages, and those yet to join us! As a linked congregation, we prayerfully seek a minister who feels called to worship, live and work with us in our communities, here in beautiful Inverclyde. The churches are less than five miles and about a 15 minute drive from each other.

We are within a 35/40 minute drive of Glasgow with excellent rail and bus links to the city centre. From the M8 you have direct routes through to Edinburgh, Stirling, over to the Borders and south to Dumfries & Galloway. Over the last couple of years many cycle routes have been developed to help enjoy our beautiful coastal area. There are opportunities to try sailing in nearby Gourock, take the ferry to Kilcreggan, or Dunoon, and further down the coast you can get the ferry from Largs to Millport. There are numerous riverside walks, as well as being close to Erskine Boden Boo beach which sits under the Erskine Bridge. Port Glasgow has a large retail park so you are never far from shopping and Braehead is a 25/30 minute drive along the M8.

So now we ask, **are you that person?** Could you come and be our minister and take us forward in this new chapter we share together? Take a look and see.

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## Wellpark Mid Kirk



### History

Opened in 1761, the Wellpark Mid Kirk, Greenock, stands in 'the heart of the town'. It is a grand structure which boasts an impressive steeple, over 40 metres high. The design is styled on St Martin-in-the-Fields Church in London. The central location of our church is significant, and as such many civic occasions have taken place in the church over the years, including the annual '*Kirkin' of the Council*' and Remembrance Sunday Services. The minister of Wellpark Mid Kirk is also involved in *Workers' Memorial Day*,

Opening Meeting of the Council, *Armed Forces Day*, and *Merchant Navy Day* services to which a number of local dignitaries attend, including the provost.

We are proud of our church. Of particular note is the pipe organ, fully restored in 2008 played at each Sunday service by our very own skilled and experienced church organist. The sound produced is unique and commented upon by young and old, including those from across the globe who are cruise ship visitors. The 'gilded gabbart', the original weathervane on top of the church spire, can be seen above the church organ pipes!



The nave itself houses a stunning array of stained-glass windows enjoyed by members and visitors alike. Although only 2 of the original 50 remain, having been destroyed during the Blitz in May 1941. A number of historic memorials including the Great War memorial plaques are also accommodated within the church. These depict historical events and reminders of those individuals who impacted upon the lives of others. This

includes a marble, commemorating five doctors who died while tending the sick during the fever epidemic of 1864-1865. Artefacts, from other churches which no longer exist, have been re-sited to Wellpark Mid Kirk.

Formerly known as the Middle or New Parish, the congregation itself was formed in 1741. In 1996, the Mid Kirk and Wellpark West churches united within this building and moved forward as Wellpark Mid Kirk. The church easily accommodates over 1000 but looks and feels intimate even with a much smaller number. Weekly attendance stands at approximately 50/60 and viewed via You Tube by those who are unable to attend the Sunday service in person. As is the case with many other churches, unfortunately Covid has impacted on the numbers attending. The majority of the congregation in attendance is in the over 60 category. We are seeking to find ways to encourage further members to join/participate as the number of new members has been limited over the past five years. The communion roll stands at 365.

We are a congregation of many strengths. Our strength is in our people; their resilience, commitment and hope for our church cannot be underestimated. We are well aware of the challenges we face which include dwindling numbers, an aging congregation and the pressures of lack of finance. In relation to our spiritual life, the congregation relish the opportunity to be re-energised and awakened in our worship. As a congregation, we are about to embark on a stewardship campaign to reflect on where we are, and explore what we can do to try overcome our challenges, support the spiritual life of the congregation, and consider how we can be church in the community.

Wellpark Mid Kirk operates as a unitary constitution. At present our Kirk Session stands at approximately 20 active elders, almost all being over the age of 50. We do not have committees, as such, but elders are involved in different areas of church governance: finance, FRASC (Fund Raising and Social Committee), outreach, pastoral care, property, safeguarding, and worship. We are getting ready to do a volunteering 'campaign' to encourage members of the congregation to be more involved in these groups.

### **Community Profile**

The church building is based in an urban setting in Greenock town centre. The congregation, however, is made up of a 'gathered congregation' with members travelling from towns across Inverclyde. Although Greenock is officially a town, it has many of the characteristics of a small city, shaped by its industrial past and significant role in the local area.

In and around the church locality, there is a health centre and Inverclyde Royal Hospital. There are plenty of community and recreational activities in and around the area: The Beacon Arts Centre, a modern cultural hub with theatre, gallery, café, and community rooms, Greenock Waterfront and Greenock Sports Centre offers gym/swim facilities. There are plenty of local shops, supermarkets, cafes and restaurants.

### **Socio-economic Profile**

The wider Inverclyde/Greenock community shows marked socio-economic challenges. Nearly 45% of Inverclyde is within Scotland's 20% most deprived areas, and Greenock Town Centre ranks as the most deprived area in Scotland. Child poverty affects around 25–26% of children – which is significantly above the Scottish average – over 11% live in severe poverty. Our church sits in the very centre of these statistics.

Inverclyde is third in Scotland for the total number of drug deaths. This is the community we are here to serve. People living with addiction, poor mental health, coupled with a higher than average unemployment rate and workless households while not being a Priority Area Church adds to our challenges.

Greenock has transitioned from a historic shipbuilding, sugar refining, ropeworks and electronics capital to a diversified service economy - call centres and banking - but offers limited higher-paid local employment.



## **Worship Life**

Weekly services take place from 11.30am until 12.30pm on Sunday mornings. A number of special services are available throughout the year but particularly during Easter and Christmas. In December we have a Gift Service, with donations going to the Salvation Army for distribution. On Christmas Eve there is family service as well as a service at 11.30 pm. 'Kirkin' of the Council' and Armistice Sunday services take place in June and November, respectively. During these services, the minister is assisted by clergy from neighbouring churches and other religious denominations.



Services on Sundays are usually formal but can vary in content. Most recently, however, the Assistant Minister has involved members of the congregation in dialogue by asking questions and seeking responses utilising a more collaborative and interactive style. The planning and preparation of worship involves the Minister supported by a trained worship leader when required. Other members read the bible and prayers. Most hymns are chosen from CH 4, but other sources are also used.

'Orders of Service' are printed and contain notices of forthcoming activities and other items of interest or concern to the congregation. There is a large screen at the front of the Church for relaying information and displaying hymn words. Services are broadcast live via YouTube and are well received. At last count, our YouTube channel had 117 subscribers.

Over the summer weeks, the average attendance rate is 50/60. Communion is celebrated four times a year: January, March, June and October. Children may attend and observe Communion. In the last 5 years there have been eight baptisms. We currently have around 4-6 children attending Sunday School each week who leave for Sunday School after the hymn following the children's address. This is led by dedicated volunteers who nurture the children in an age-appropriate way.

During July and August, however, there is all-age worship when all children and young people remain within the Church throughout. If a sermon is included in such a service, children will be given some activity to occupy them, and this is discussed later in the service.

Funeral services are conducted by the minister for both members of the congregation and those within the parish. Over the last three years there have been 3 weddings and 40 funerals with 21 in 2022.

## **School Chaplaincy and Youngsters**

Although there are no current school chaplaincies, historically, the church had chaplaincy links with both Whinhill Primary School and Inverclyde Academy. The previous minister took part in residential activity experiences alongside staff, made pastoral visits, and led school services and assemblies. There is a real opportunity for that school connection to be reinstated. A recent visit from St Michael's Primary School in Port Glasgow saw a number of young people keen to find out more about the ways our church welcomes those from another country, including refugees.

We recognise the potential to grow our children's ministry further, particularly through stronger engagement with families and by re-establishing connections with local primary and secondary schools through chaplaincy. Building relationships in this way could encourage more families to engage with the church, both through Sunday School and other youth-focused activities.

At present, there is no separate provision for teenagers or young adults, though we recognise this as an important area for future development. We would be open to exploring new opportunities to engage these age groups to better engage young people in faith and community life, possibly offering a youth fellowship, and partnering with other churches to support youth events or holiday clubs.

We are also keen to consider how digital resources, or social media could help engage younger people, particularly those who may not attend church regularly but are open to exploring faith in other ways. As already indicated, we currently stream our services on YouTube but there may be potential to more fully utilise YouTube and other platforms to modernise Christian Education for a younger audience.



While these are areas for growth, our congregation is supportive and open to guidance from a new minister on how best to develop Christian education for all ages. We made effort to incorporate the 'Messy Church' initiative within our church and hope to revisit in the future.

## Youth Organisations

Wellpark Mid Kirk is proud to support both the 12<sup>th</sup> Greenock Boys' Brigade and the 7<sup>th</sup> Greenock Girls' Brigade companies, which are long-standing and valued groups within our church community. These organisations offer structured programmes for children and young people, providing opportunities for personal development, skills building, and faith exploration, all within a supportive and fun environment.

2025 saw the companies celebrate their Centenary year. Current and former members of both, were invited to a special service in Wellpark Mid Kirk to celebrate. Numbers attending



greatly exceeded expectations and was a day for all to remember. The Boys' Brigade Inverclyde District Battalion Headquarters is in Wellpark Mid Kirk.



While these are our main uniformed organisations, we are always open to exploring additional ways to engage young people, whether through partnerships with other local groups or by developing new initiatives within the church.

## Church Facilities

These include a vestry, session house, a kitchen on each floor, halls on the ground and first floor. Toilets are situated on both levels. An accessible toilet is available on the ground level. Wheelchair access is available.



Session house



Downstairs kitchen facilities



Downstairs large hall



Upstairs hall

## Pastoral Care and Outreach

Pastoral care is of paramount importance to ensure we show care and kindness to those within our church community who may be unwell, are experiencing hardship, or those who may benefit from a visit from a member of the pastoral team. At the present time, we are looking for ways to expand upon the number within this team to ensure we can reach a wider group. There may also be occasion when we wish to recognise those who have given of their time, talents, or commitment.

Flowers are donated weekly by members of the congregation and thereafter given to named individuals, brought to the attention of the team. Flowers are delivered to those who are housebound or not in attendance on any particular Sunday. Members direct the minister to those who require or request a visit. The minister may provide Communion for some members in their own homes.

## Putting Outreach into action

A willing team of Wellpark Mid Kirk volunteers welcomed four hundred visitors to our church in the first month of cruise ship visits to Greenock this year. This is only the start! Over eighty-three cruise ships will dock during the remainder of the season at Clydeport Ocean Terminal. We look forward to welcoming them.

A long established Arts and Crafts group meets regularly on Wednesday afternoons, contributing to church events and towards fund raising whilst also welcoming both church and non-church members to the fold. This year's *Spring Fayre* led by the Arts and Crafts



Group raised £2033! Teas and coffees for visitors were provided by a team of volunteers. Many, including members of the congregation, provided tasty treats and home baking. Our Hamilton Bardrainney friends also had their own stall!

We take part in *Doors Open Day* which takes place during September every year.

The *Big Blether* now in its third year has been helpful in building cohesion within our church family and creating a sense of belonging. This year we hosted thirty-five guests, some of whom have been unable to attend church for a considerable time. This event is very much a joint effort enlisting the support of many willing helpers who give so freely of their time, talents (baking, singing...and much more!) and also providing transport for guests to and from the event.



We support the *Galloshans* event at the end of October, providing hot drinks and food to visitors attending and supporting the annual extravaganza. This provision is also replicated at the town's annual *Christmas Light Switch On* in Greenock's Clyde Square. This is followed by a *Christmas Carol Concert* in the church to which all are invited to attend. We are hoping for a full house in the future!



In December we have a Family Movie afternoon, serving free hot chocolate and popcorn to those who come along. Our recent Ceilidh/Quiz Night for families in August 2025 was planned in effort to build upon our church community and possibly raise some money in the process. We raised over £1000! It is important we continue to find ways to continue our community events.

## **Ecumenical Context**

There is no formal local clergy grouping. Other denominations in the area include Roman Catholic, Baptist, Scottish Episcopal and the Salvation Army. Relations with other denominations are friendly but informal, apart from those listed in 'Worship Life' for the

two special services where we have Councillors and dignitaries present. We would welcome support in connecting more ecumenically within our own parishes.

## World Church

As a church, we support the Christian Aid Appeal in May each year. Overseas, we sponsor children from the Vhutshilo Mountain School in Venda, South Africa in an effort to improve their quality of life and life chances. This is done through retiral offerings following our Christmas services.



Developing a Fair-Trade culture is an area in which we wish to explore. This may also include raising awareness of the Eco-congregation programme.

## Stewardship and Finance

In the last two years church accounts showed:

Year	Income	Expenditure	Surplus/Deficit
2023	£95 444	£93 893	£1 551 surplus
2024	£81 694	£82 100	£406 deficit

Over the last few years, especially after Covid, and with a dwindling congregation our annual income has decreased. In 2024, we had an outstanding balance from our *Giving to Grow* payment which was paid earlier this year. We are still experiencing a real financial challenge and are preparing a Stewardship initiative looking at both time, talents and money. As agreed with Presbytery, at present, we do not pay our *Giving to Grow* payments by monthly SO. Regular hall lets contribute to our income.

## Church Manse

At present, we are in the process of selling the Wellpark Mid Kirk manse and looking to buy a new modern, comfortable, and well-situated home that will support the wellbeing and ministry of our new minister.

## Hamilton Bardrainney Church



Jeremiah 29: 11

“For I Know the plans I have for you” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future”

### About us

The Bardrainney Church was established in the early 1950's and was originally an extension of Saint Martin's Church in Upper Port Glasgow. The Bardrainney Church was then united with the Hamilton Church from Port Glasgow Town Centre in 1958 which was being demolished due to the regeneration. This in turn helped with the population growth within Port Glasgow and the building of additional homes in the Upper Port Glasgow Area. This community attracted young families and incoming workers, and Hamilton Bardrainney Church became a place of worship and fellowship within the vibrant community.

The original Church building was the current large hall which was too small to serve the needs of the growing congregation, and a Church Building was erected in 1962. This modern building encompassed the needs of a forward-thinking congregation, which by God's grace produced 6 Ministers and 1 Deacon.

Due to on-going structural issues from the outset, the Church was demolished in 2009, and the Church reverted to conducting worship in the original Church building, which has been modernised and is serving the population of Upper Port Glasgow well and will continue to do so into the future.

Hamilton Bardrainney Church in Upper Port Glasgow serves a community of around 6600 residents. The Church is small in size, however makes a large contribution to the local community with a wide range of activities supported by a big hearted and welcoming congregation. Hamilton Bardrainney is a forward-looking Church, continually looking for ways to evolve and grow and we have a strong track record of success.

Hamilton Bardrainney Church is located in the centre of the community, with local amenities close by including shops, Medical Centre, Opticians, Dentist, and the Boglestone Community Centre. Port Glasgow has a thriving retail park, swimming pool, walking routes along the River Clyde, Newark Castle and Shipbuilders of Port Glasgow statue (The Skelpies). The church is supported by a good transport network including road access and local bus routes, train station with links to Glasgow, Wemyss Bay and Gourock, and cycle track running from Paisley, through upper Port Glasgow, to Greenock.

## Worship

We have a weekly congregation of 45-50 people joining for worship, plus many weekly and recurring events to bring more people into the Church building and join the Hamilton Bardrainney family. Our Chaplaincy includes Newark Primary School and Port Glasgow High School. Our current Church Roll is 172 with 6 new members added in 2023/2024 and at present we have 19 Elders and 5 Congregational Board members. We are in the process of moving to the Unitary Constitution following the congregational vote.



Worship Service takes place every Sunday at 10am with a Communion Service quarterly. We also conduct special Easter, Christmas and Remembrance services. Since 2022, Hamilton Bardrainney Church has conducted 4 weddings, 1 baptism and 36 funeral services. All our services are live streamed on Facebook and we have lots of additional information on our website. We use Mission Praise and CH4 for our services, and along with the strong singing voices of our congregation, music is provided by our young pianist in addition to our music system.

## Our vision

At Hamilton Bardrainney Church we are a community minded Church, and we believe we offer exciting opportunities for a fresh and new type of ministry, where we can grow our Church family and reach more of the community we serve. We are open to alternative forms of worship, and we are looking for a Minister who can help us grow our congregation in faith and expand our reach through the word of God.

## Church Facilities

The Church building (Church Hall) is a multipurpose space for both worship and the various activities we offer through the year. The Church is well equipped for the needs of the community with good accessibility throughout the Church building, including a fully equipped kitchen, small hall, session room, vestry, accessible toilet facilities, in addition to the main hall.



The Church building and gardens are in a good condition, thanks to the generosity of the skilled congregation who maintain and cherish the space and make it a venue where people feel safe and welcomed within beautiful surroundings.

In addition to the main Church building, the Manse is also on the Church grounds and is currently rented out to a private tenant.







Small hall



Session room



Kitchen

## Community and Outreach

Hamilton Bardrainney Church is focused on bringing the community together as often as possible through a variety of events which cater for a wide variety of interests.

The *Corner Café* runs every Monday in the Church Hall and is free to all and open to the wider community. The Café has been running for 2 years, is self-funded and is staffed by volunteers, with 45-50 people attending regularly. In addition to hot and cold food, there are games to play and occasional music and singing.



The *Guild* meets on Monday evenings over the summer with guest speakers and quizzes. This has a regular attendance of around 15 people. To keep our congregation and the community in good health, we have Zumba classes on a Tuesday evening and Keep Fit on a Wednesday morning.

We also have weekly *Bible Study and Prayer Group* meetings on a Wednesday which promotes lively discussion. The Bible Study and Prayer Group are at present using ACORN (ask, call, obey, report and notice) to encourage ourselves and others to have conversations about God's work in their lives. We recently held a service and lunch with discussion about ACORN, facilitated by the ACORN representative and Clyde Presbytery Mission Officer.



The 4<sup>th</sup> Port Glasgow Boys' Brigade Company and Juniors meet every Wednesday, with the Anchors meeting on a Thursday.



*Dare to Hope*, a new project for high school pupils run by Youth for Christ has just begun at the start of the new school term. The *Dare to Hope* project is a Wellbeing Café for secondary school pupils in S1 to S6. The Café operates on a Wednesday after school. In the long term it

is hoped to use the course My Life – Building Life Skills which enables children/young adults to deal with their emotions.

To keep the fun in fundraising we also have Arts and Craft classes on a Thursday where you can learn new skills and is open to everyone. We also hold Quiz nights quarterly to keep the community engaged and entertained. Throughout the year we also provide concerts and afternoon teas.



Hamilton Bardrainney is part of Port Glasgow Churches together and participates in Ecumenical events including Holy Week Services, Lenten Studies and other activities throughout the year.

Recently, a local company designed a new website for us which has enabled us to share, more widely, all we are doing in the church and for the community. We receive sponsorship money for its upkeep, and have several admins keeping it up to date.

### **Stewardship and Finance**

Hamilton Bardrainney Church is covering all financial commitments and *Giving to Grow* which is all possible through the generosity of our congregation and the fund-raising events. Our Financial Statement 2024 shows Income of £44,7272; expenditure of £40,155 with a Balance of £17,373.

The Church has also self-funded several projects including new pitched and flat roofs, kitchen upgrade, AV system and new furniture for the café and equipment for events, such as table tennis. In addition, the Church Hall is rented to external businesses to generate income, one example of this would be the Zumba class.



Hamilton Bardrainney Church is also very supportive of other charitable organisations. £1,500 was donated during 2024 to: Water Aid, McMillan Cancer, Ardgowan Hospice, Alzheimer's, Woman's Aid, Little sisters of the poor, Holyland Bursary and Young Life International. We also donated to Starter Packs, Operation Christmas Child – Samaritan's Purse (450 boxes in 2024), Salvation Army Christmas Appeal and Church Angels Foodbank.

## Church Timetable

Weekly Events		
Sunday	Worship	10am
Monday	Corner Café	11am
Monday	Guild	7pm
Tuesday	Zumba	6.30pm
Wednesday	Keep Fit	10am
Wednesday	Bible study & Prayer group	2.30pm
Wednesday	Boys' Brigade Company	7.15pm
Wednesday	Boys' Brigade Junior Section	6.30pm
Thursday	Craft Class	2pm
Thursday	Boys' Brigade Anchors	6.15pm

## Useful Links

[www.hamiltonbardrainneykirk.com](http://www.hamiltonbardrainneykirk.com)

Hamilton Bardrainney Church: <https://www.oscr.org.uk/about-charities/search-the-register/charity-details?number=SC005421>

Greenock Wellpark Mid Kirk: <https://www.oscr.org.uk/about-charities/search-the-register/charity-details?number=SC001043>

## Church of Scotland Census data:

Greenock Wellpark: <https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/church-finder/data/statistics/parish-profiles/150814.pdf>

Hamilton Bardrainney: <https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/church-finder/data/statistics/parish-profiles/150820.pdf>

<https://www.facebook.com/GreenockChurchofScotland/>

<https://www.facebook.com/davymac48>

<https://www.youtube.com/@wellparkmidkirk>

<https://www.twitter.com/wellparkmidkirk>

## Contact Information and How to Apply

If you have any questions about the linked charge of Wellpark Mid Kirk and Hamilton Bardrainney, or if you are considering applying for the position of minister of this charge, then please do get in touch.

Applications should be submitted to the Clerk to the Nominating Committee by *Friday 27<sup>th</sup> February* comprising:

- A Curriculum Vitae including two referees. The two referees who will only be contacted if the application is to be progressed.
- A Covering Letter explaining your reasons for applying and the gifts you believe you can bring to the congregations.
- **If you have a link to any live streams of services you have conducted, please provide information about how to access them.**

### Applications should be sent to:

Mrs Sandra Fairweather, Clerk to the Nominating Committee:

[WMKHBApplications@WellparkMidKirk.com](mailto:WMKHBApplications@WellparkMidKirk.com)

### Nominating Committee Chair:

Mrs Patricia Robertson: [probertson78@btinternet.com](mailto:probertson78@btinternet.com) or Tel: 07931 975519

### Informal queries may be made in confidence to our Interim Moderator:

Rev Jeanette Peel. Tel: 07305 397237. Email: [Jeanette.peel@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:Jeanette.peel@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Jeanette does not work in parish ministry and may not be able to respond immediately.