

# CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE

## ALL SAINTS EPISCOPAL CHURCH BEARSDEN



### Introduction

All Saints Bearsden is a Scottish Episcopal Church in the United Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway and is part of the Anglican Communion in Scotland.

Our Rector moved to another Charge in October 2021 and we are now seeking an Anglican Priest to fill the vacancy. We are an active, resilient Congregation who have continued to worship during the vacancy and recent covid pandemic, but now need new guidance and spiritual leadership to take us forward.

We have put together this document in conjunction with the promotional video to show you more of the Church, the Rectory and the local area.

### History of the Charge

The Scottish Episcopal Church came to Bearsden in 1897 when some members from St. George's Church, Maryhill, who lived in the area obtained permission and funding to build their own Church. The building was designed and erected by the firm of Speirs & Son, who specialised in semi-prefabricated brick and timber structures planned to be temporary for up to 100 years. In the event, the Church was completed and dedicated in 10 months, and is still in excellent condition with a side extension added in 1986. The Centennial history of the Church which was published in 1997 was appropriately entitled '*A Temporary Building*', though it has proved to be anything but!

Bearsden changed from a rural village to a middle class commuter suburb after the coming of the Railway line from Glasgow in 1863. Its population has grown from 2,200 to the present level of around 28,000 as Bearsden is seen as a desirable place to live by many who work in Glasgow.

Housing development continues to increase and it is likely that the small green belt which separates it from Milngavie may soon be lost.

In 1913 All Saints severed its links with St. George's and became an Independent Mission. It appointed its first Incumbent, the Rev. Claude O'Flaherty, in 1916 and since then we have had 10 other Rectors. In 1955 the Rector of the day was also asked to provide Services at St. Andrews Church in Milngavie. This was followed in 1993 by the formation of a Team Ministry to serve Bearsden, Milngavie and Drumchapel. In that era we were blessed with an additional Assistant Priest, as well as 3 Lay Readers to share the duties.

In 2015 St. Andrews elected to leave the Team Ministry and appointed their own part-time Priest, Revd. Andrea Hagenbuch. We continue to enjoy good relations between the two Charges and during the current vacancy Revd. Andrea has acted as our Interim Pastor. During the interregnum we have been privileged to rely on visiting Clergy who have brought us unexpected joy and renewed our confidence in the future.

## **The Church and Halls**

Our attractive and photogenic single storey Church is situated in its own grounds at the centre of the busy Bearsden shopping area. The Hub and Community Hall are immediately to its south and on the opposite side of the main road there is a parade of shops, restaurants and a Bank. Buses that run regularly to the City Centre stop almost outside, while the railway station is 400 metres away.

In the 1980s the size of the Congregation reached a peak and space at main Festivals became limited. A decision was taken to extend the existing building by moving the west wall outward to provide an extra 40 seats. This work was completed in 1986 and also allowed some remodelling to the front of the Church, moving the Altar forward and providing a Choir Vestry. In the Church grounds at the South end there is a dedicated Garden of Remembrance for the burial of the ashes of members of the Congregation.

We have always enjoyed a strong musical tradition with a dedicated Organist and Choir, though the original organ has been replaced several times, A major event was the gift in 1995 of a unique German Sauer Organ from its previous home in Ballater Church of Scotland. This wonderful instrument has two manuals and pedals and was rebuilt by members of our own congregation which fortunately included some Professional Musicians.

The original Church Hall was replaced in 1995 with two new halls funded by the Congregation and a temporary loan from the Diocese. The halls are linked and include storage space, a meeting room and a kitchen. This provided more accommodation for the Sunday School, as well as proving a popular venue for use by the local community. The halls also allow us to host a weekly Lunch Club from September to April with many opportunities for community outreach.

## **Congregation, Worship and Church groups.**

We are a small, friendly, ageing (but sage) congregation. Most of our congregation live in Bearsden or Milngavie, but there are some members from Torrance, Clydebank (who were welcomed when St Columba's Episcopal church Clydebank closed), Blanefield and Killearn. Our Sunday School and Creche have not operated since Covid but we are keen to revive them.

Currently, we have about 30-50 regular worshippers, attending a 10.30 sung communion service, with a choir and an organist. As a congregation we have always been very involved with the services, supporting the Celebrant with our enthusiastic team of readers, intercessors, eucharistic assistants,

and stewards. Our Flower Group ensures that the Church always looks beautiful, warm and welcoming, and the Coffee Group organises welcome after service coffee. We have a group of visitors who, until Covid, regularly visited folk who normally attended church or had some connection dropped off worship notices three times a year to folk who both did and did not come to church but had had a connection with us at some point in their lives.

We produce a monthly magazine which contains news about services, Episcopal meetings, events, poems, or whatever the various contributors would like to write about which could provide entertainment or be of interest. It is posted out, so everyone is certain to receive one.

Before the pandemic we had an active social group which organised evening and daytime social events, often involving music due to the number of talented musicians in the Congregation. The Lunch Group also invites speakers, some of whom come from our congregation which has a high proportion of people with medical, academic and other interesting backgrounds. Finally, we have two active House Groups which meet once a month in the evenings.

We are small but active congregation who are very keen to grow and reach out more to the local community in mission. Our Wednesday Lunch group helps do this and with two large halls which are used by dance, yoga, Tai Chi, and keep fit groups, we have the potential to reach out more. We are, however, realistic about our current human resources (many of our most active members are in their mid-70s) but prayerfully hope to do even more.

We have two representatives who attend the local Association of Bearsden Churches (ABC) meetings. Although quiet during Covid, this group promotes dialogue between the Church of Scotland ministers (4 of them), the Baptist ministers (2), the Roman Catholic priest (1) and us. We organise events together, and this Easter have arranged two Ecumenical services. Further afield, our Mission Support group has provided financial support for about 35 years to various small charities both at home and abroad which often have a Christian link and/or a personal link to the congregation, for example, Livingstonia Hospital, Malawi, Vellore Christian Medical Hospital, India, and Glasgow City Mission. We have also supported Christian Aid and Action Aid for many years.

Our last Rector led services which included a variety of musical traditions and forms, and we have a great mix of worshippers which includes the liberal, the traditional and the academic. All combine to make a Congregation which continues to thrive, and to demonstrate a quiet spirituality. Few of the congregation wear their faith on their sleeves, but rather express this in charitable acts, prayers of comfort for others and active membership of the local community.

## **All Saints during Covid**

As a Church, we have found that Covid brought us some benefits despite affecting our ability to worship together; indeed we have adapted well to the age of Zoom. The Rector set up Zoom services which were shared by 30-40 people. The random breakout room facility which she used after the service had finished, had the surprising advantage that members of the Congregation talked to others whom they might not previously have done. Visitors offered to phone the more isolated elderly members who couldn't manage the IT, either to show them how to do it or to simply keep them feeling they were part of All Saints Church family. In fact, during these difficult two years, the idea of the Church Family grew stronger. The Rector also initiated a Zoom Said Eucharist on a Tuesday morning and a 10-minute prayer and meditation time at 8.00am through Advent and Lent, which was appreciated by a small band of early risers.

Once we were allowed back to worship in person, we continued to transmit the services on Zoom to enable people to worship who did not feel comfortable attending in person. This continues to this day, as does the Tuesday Morning service which is now a prayer service led by two members of the Vestry.

## **Rector and Vestry**

The Rector is supported by a Vestry of 11 people who meet monthly, and include a Treasurer, a Vestry Secretary, and a Property Convenor. All these positions are voluntary.

The current members of the Vestry are:

Vestry Secretary	Brenda Hadcroft
Treasurer	Andrew Long
Lay Representative	David Simmons
Alternate Lay Representative	David Hamblen
Members	Louise Benson, Graham Caie, Tracey Conway, Celia Fisher Anne MacDougall, Andrew Roach
Property Convenor	Jim Craig

## **The Rectory**

The Rectory which was purchased in 2009 is located at 67 Stockiemuir Avenue, Bearsden G61 3JJ, approximately 20 minutes' walk from the Church. It was built around 1968 and extended in 2007. It is a detached, two storey, south facing, double-fronted house with front and back gardens and off-street parking.

The ground floor accommodation comprises porch, entrance hall and stairway, sitting room, study, kitchen-dining room and a cloakroom with a shower and WC. There is a conservatory which leads onto the garden decking. Upstairs is a main bathroom and 4 bedrooms, one with an en-suite bathroom and WC. The attic is floored and reached by a fold-down loft ladder making it a good storage space. There is double glazing and central heating throughout.

It is a 5-minute walk to the local primary school, 15 minutes to the excellent Bearsden Academy secondary school and 1 minute to the local Co-op supermarket. The train station is about a 25-minute walk away, and a 15-minute walk away there also a regular bus service into Glasgow.

## **Finance**

All Saints has been financially sound for many years, as indicated in the summary accounts given in the Table below. These are for the financial year October 2018 to September 2019, the last full year before the pandemic, and when we were paying the full Rectorial stipend to the previous incumbent. The accounts for 2019-20 and 2020-21 have been significantly affected by Covid, and hence we are using the figures from the last unaffected year to illustrate our regular position.

### Summary of All Saints Accounts for Financial Year 2018-19

Receipts	Amount (£)	Payments	Amount (£)
Congregational giving	51028	Ministry	37730
Tax recovery	11692	Organist	4334
Hall donations	19016	Property, heat, clean	16762
Other	27173	Quota	12880
		Mission support	5615
		Other donations	2378
		Major refurbishment	6721
		Maintenance	2473
		Other	15381
<b>Total</b>	<b>108909</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>104274</b>

Our Income from all sources was around £109,000 and expenditure just over £104,000, typical figures for recent years. On the income side congregational giving was just over £50,000 supplemented by Tax Recovery on Gift Aided sums of a further £11,600. Donations by Community Groups for use of the Hall were just over £19,000. On the expenditure side, nearly £38,000 was spent on ministry, dominated of course by the Rector's stipend and expenses. Our organist's stipend and expenses were £4300. Property, heating and cleaning costs totalled nearly £17,000. Our contribution to the Diocesan Quota was just under £13,000. Two other major items of expenditure are worth noting. Firstly, we made a planned contribution to appropriate charities (Mission Support) of just above £5600, supplemented by another £2300 in contributions to appeals which arose during the year, and secondly we spent £6700 on major refurbishment of the Church and Halls, in addition to £2500 on planned maintenance of our plant and buildings.

All Saints also has significant reserves. Unlike in the cases of many charges, we were lucky enough to have weathered the Covid pandemic without our needing to dip significantly into these reserves.

The audited accounts are submitted annually to the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR - [oscr.org.uk](http://oscr.org.uk)) and can be viewed on its website. Although the older accrual style of accounts are not easy to interpret, in the last two years we have been using the Receipts and Payments style of accounts which can be more readily understood.

To summarise, at present All Saints is financially stable, and spends a lot of its income to further its mission in many different ways. Should the need arise to invest in novel outreach projects under the leadership of a newly appointed Rector, the funding for this is certainly available.

## The New Rector

This is a challenging opportunity for a new Rector to build a dynamic and confident church which prayerfully supports both its congregation and the wider community to be a place of joy and hope. Please see the Rector's profile for more details.

## Application Process

Please send completed application forms to Brenda Hadcroft, Vestry Secretary, at [bmhadcroft@gmail.com](mailto:bmhadcroft@gmail.com)

The first interview will be held on Zoom. Any preferred candidate will be invited to physically visit

the Charge for a two night stay in a local hotel to meet the Bishop and Vestry members and explore the Church site, Rectory and local area.

References are called for by the Bishop after an offer is made (subject to PVG clearance and satisfactory references being received).

**Useful links to explore and learn more about us and the Scottish Episcopal Church:**

**All Saints Bearsden website:** <https://bearsden.church.scot/>

**Diocese of Glasgow and Galloway:** <https://www.glasgow.anglican.org/>

**Provincial Website:** <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/>

**Clergy Support:** <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/vocation-and-ministry/>

**East Dunbartonshire Council:** <https://www.eastdunbarton.gov.uk/>

Local Walks: <https://www.walkhighlands.co.uk/glasgow/>

Local Culture: <https://www.glasgowlife.org.uk/>

**Vestry of All Saints Church (Scottish charity number SC005552)**

**June 2022**

*The General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church does not accept responsibility for any loss or liability which may arise from reliance on information or expressions of opinion contained in this document.*

*General Synod of the Scottish Episcopal Church Scottish Charity No SC015962*