

Congregational Profile
St Fillan's, Kilmacolm
Heartland Group
Scottish Episcopal
Church



Introduction

St Fillan's is a small, friendly church community based in the beautiful rural village of Kilmacolm.

Our congregation is very warm, welcoming, committed and hard working within the church and the community. We view the church as our extended family and enjoy sharing our faith and supporting all who are in need. We are a very sociable community and have involved in various activities including coffee mornings, musical activities and fundraising social events. We are hoping to start organising further activities once we have a new priest to lead and guide us.

We are looking for a priest who will work with us to promote spiritual growth and help us to provide mission within our local community. We hope that our new priest will be committed to our congregation and be flexible in guiding us within our worship and spirituality.

We feel that this is the perfect time to recharge with a new priest as we emerge from the pandemic and look forward to working and growing with them.

Worship

Worship at St. Fillan's is at the heart of everything we do as a community **and** all other ministries flow from this. At present we have a pattern of services which includes the principle service at 11:30am each Sunday with Holy Eucharist celebrated three Sundays per month, and Matins celebrated one Sunday per month. We alternate our Eucharist services between the 1970 and 1982 liturgies at present. We also have a midweek service of Thursday morning prayer at 1030am each Thursday. Fellowship is shared after each of these services as a rota of volunteers organise coffee, tea, and biscuits for those desiring a bit of community following the services.

Special Services and Festivals

We hold an annual Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at Christmas followed by mince pies and mulled wine in the Church Hall which, sadly, has been on hold during the pandemic and we hope to resume that this year. This was very well attended by the local community and



included singing from congregation members and our local community children's choir.

We have previously held an annual Songs of Praise service made up of favourite hymns chosen by the congregation. Our annual Harvest Festival Service as well as Harvest Festival Supper (pre-Covid) for the congregation was also a community favourite. For our Patronal Festival we

usually arrange a parish lunch.

Remembrance Sunday is commemorated every year and the churches in Kilmacolm rotate each year to host the local Scout troop for the Remembrance service. Each year we hold a memorial service in remembrance of those who have died in the previous decade and we light a candle for each of them.

Worship at Joint Services

With the innovation and encouragement of two priests in post, the Heartland Charges could look for exciting new opportunities for joint services on events such as major festival celebrations, ecumenical gatherings, confirmation services and others.



Because worship is the central focus and purpose of our church, priest-led services on Sundays, weekdays and throughout the seasons are vital. There is much scope for two priests working together to develop the variety of liturgies, prayers and music that enriches the life of each of the congregations. There are opportunities to create

worship which attracts different age groups. In the future we'd like to see children and young

people involved in services – some flexibility, perhaps, in addition to Sunday mornings, for example, a monthly Evensong in the early evening.

We look forward to developing further collaboration and deepening our connection with our fellow Heartland churches and hope that new priests would lead us in establishing new ways to worship together and share our faith and ministry.

Music in Church

At St. Fillan's we love music and the ways that music connects us to God. This could be an excellent area for focus by new clergy. Clergy can encourage the growth of music to enhance worship in church, for example, simple music for singing during the liturgy; having an organist, encouraging new people to come to church which places importance on music and singing.

We have had a long history of music within the church with congregation members singing and being involved as organists. Unfortunately we haven't had a regular organist for some time and use our sound machine to sing hymns along to a CD. We recently acquired a new organ and hope we can attract someone to join us some Sundays to play.

We have also previously had local children, including the community children's choir, involved in singing and playing instruments in the church and we find that they can be more attracted to joining services if they are asked to sing or play musical instruments. This also attracts their parents and families to attend these services.

Lay Leadership

Each of the three charges has demonstrated the valued contribution of laypeople in many areas of the churches' worship and service, including leading services, as homilists, intercessors, readers, pastoral visitors. However, the laity need clergy support, guidance and encouragement to do all of the above. Good collaboration and working practices between the priests and people would greatly enrich the life of the congregations and raise each church's presence within the local community.



Life in Kilmacolm



Kilmacolm is a beautiful quiet rural village where there is a huge sense of community and close links between the churches within the village. It is a lovely area to live and work with lots of countryside and local walking areas but with towns and cities also accessible with a 30-minute commute into Glasgow and 20-minute commutes to Paisley or Greenock. There are a number of supermarkets within easy reach but we have a vibrant main street

with various shops including confectioner, newsagent, chemist, local butcher and fishmonger, wine shop and gift shop as well as various restaurants, coffee shops and takeaways.

We also have 2 doctor's surgeries and a dentist in the village.

It is a great place to get out walking and spending time in the countryside which can give a very spiritual feel as you have time for contemplation while out and about or it can be very sociable, depending where you walk, as you meet and greet people.

Local schools

There are two primary schools within the village – Kilmacolm Primary School and St Columba's Primary School. Both schools are very involved with village life. KPS is the small local authority run school and St Columba's is a privately run school.

Kilmacolm Primary feeds into Port Glasgow High School and St Stephen's High School located in a shared campus at the top of Port Glasgow which also incorporates a special needs school Craigmearloch School. St Columba's Primary feeds into St Columba's Secondary School located in Kilmacolm.

Previous rectors have been very involved in attending school activities in most of the schools including taking some assemblies, being one of the



chaplains and attending concerts and shows. They all have various clubs and activities going on including drama, football, rugby, hockey, music groups and debating.

Community Building

With two clergy in post in three communities, it should be possible for each place to have a clergy presence in the local communities which has been the case in the past. We look forward to renewing previous important links of working with local church leaders, visiting schools and care homes and taking part in ecumenical and social events.



Christian Education



In 2018, St Fillan's started the 'Greatest Book' Club led by a lay member of the church who has biblical scholarship training. People were interested in exploring many aspects of the richness of the Scriptures and making new discoveries through reading and discussion. It is hoped that a new priest would encourage this initiative and guide future developments.

There are people in St Fillan's who have enjoyed various Diocesan, Regional and Advent/Lent courses in the past. New clergy could help people to grow spiritually by learning more about the Church's worship and tradition; liturgy and music.

Mission, Outreach and Other Ministries

Members of St Fillan's, as individuals, are actively involved in the life of the local community. There is support for other church's activities and clubs, foodbank donations and serving as volunteers in charity shops. Since 2013 St Fillan's has supported a children's community choir encouraging the singing of both sacred and secular music, using the church hall and singing on occasions in churches, schools, care homes and festivals. St Fillan's has regularly run coffee mornings or afternoon teas to



raise funds for other causes. We also have a number of local groups who hire our church hall for their sessions.

Pastoral Care

St Fillan's members care deeply for each other, notice needs and offer help and carry out hospital visits. Lay-people give Home Communion. As new clergy get to know about members of the congregation themselves, he/she would be able to draw on the existing links and look for new ones.

Effects of the Covid-19 Pandemic on the Life of St Fillan's



The Pandemic has impacted on the life of St Fillan's with a reduction in the number attending Services on Sundays. A number of people have not returned to church following the easing of restrictions. During the lockdown period, St Fillan's emailed the weekly Ekklesia pewsheet in an effort to keep in touch with members of the church and also people in the community to maintain a link to the church. There is the possibility that some people might join St Fillan's and this would be much helped if there was a new priest to welcome, guide and nurture this potential.

Finance

Our financial position is satisfactory with adequate reserves to support ongoing mission and ministry for at least the next five years. We are, however, at a crucial juncture where finding the right clergy called to ministry here will determine the long-term future of our church. We feel that with the right clergy guidance, we could grow spiritually and numerically which would improve our long-range financial position and enable us to continue our mission to continuing growing and sharing God's love with those around us.

(Financial reports and quinquennial inspections are available.)