

# St James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church Bishopbriggs



Fellowship after Worship



Willie & Fiona Church Wardens



Puppet Nativity



Kennedy,  
Lay Reader



Christingles



Some of our Servers



Fabric Committee



## Congregational & Priest Profile

Hilton Rd, Bishopbriggs  
[www.stjamesbishopbriggs.org.uk](http://www.stjamesbishopbriggs.org.uk)  
Scottish Charity No SC023292

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## INTRODUCTION



St James the Less Scottish Episcopal Church, Bishopbriggs, is a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion and a charge of the Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway. The Scottish Episcopal Church forms the Scottish Province of the Communion made up of seven Dioceses and is governed by a Diocesan Synod that meets annually. We do not have set parish boundaries, and welcome Anglicans and Christians of all denominations. While the majority of the congregation live within Bishopbriggs, others live in neighbouring towns and villages.

Our congregation are praying for a new priest to come and lead us in our journey of faith in Christ Jesus. We welcome applications from ordained Anglican priests eligible to work within the UK. We have no barriers regarding inclusion and diversity and would support same sex marriages being conducted within our church.

St James the Less is a welcoming, friendly church and has adopted the Martyr Haugen hymn *'All Are Welcome'* as something of a theme song as it reflects the ethos of the congregation and is central to the way in which we want to move forward.

***Congregational Quote***  
*'Welcoming & open church  
with as accepting and varied  
congregation'*

Our aim is to grow and develop as an open and inclusive church reaching out to the wider community and our ecumenical links. We have created a sense of community and family by working together and encouraging members in the congregation to have an active role in the church.

Many people find that St James the Less provides a place where faith can be explored, reflecting our belief that one of the functions of our church congregation is to accompany and support people on their spiritual journey.

## OUR CONGREGATION

The current congregation includes **80** total members of which **61** are on the Communicants Roll, **8** are Communicant's Adult Adherents and **11** are children.

We have a diverse congregation which includes members from a variety of backgrounds and traditions. As with many churches, the age profile is skewed towards the middle-aged and elderly, and numbers attending have slowly diminished over the years. However, we have recently been successful in encouraging a small number of families to attend the monthly Sunday Club with their children and to participate in the eucharist.

### *Congregational Quote*

*'We are engaging and ready to grow*

A number of our congregation actively assist our priest in the daily running of the church and there is a rota for servers, readers, intercessors and tea makers. Many individual members of the congregation volunteer and are widely involved within the local community, the Diocese and Province.

## OUR WORSHIP

The main focus of our worship is on the two Eucharists each Sunday. A said Eucharist is held at 9.00am and the main Sung Eucharist at 10.30am is live streamed on Zoom. Attendance over the two Sunday services is around 40 people, with an average of four attending on Zoom. There is also a mid-week said Eucharist on Thursday mornings with an average attendance of around eight worshipers. Daily Prayer is currently held via Zoom on Tuesday and Thursdays at 5pm, however Morning Prayer has ceased during the interregnum.

There are few occasional Offices required. During the last five years there have been four Baptisms and four Funeral services held, but no Weddings or Confirmations. Our priest will occasionally be expected to hold Memorial Services or officiate at Cremations for members of the congregation and their families,

The style of St James the Less is neither high nor low Episcopalian/Anglican. The Liturgy used is the 2022 updated form of the 1982 Scottish Liturgy. Vestments and liturgical colours are worn and displayed, candles are in evidence and servers assist at the altar. Incense is neither used nor desired. At the main Sunday Eucharist, the Gloria, Sanctus and Agnus Dei are sung, but not the Creed, Gospel or Lord's Prayer. We

### **Audio-Visual Tech**



currently draw on the services of our Lay Reader, Worship Leader, and a number of authorised Eucharistic and pastoral assist to participate and there is a rota of readers, intercessors, and Stewards. Our audio-visual tech team provide sound amplification for the congregation and stream the main service on Zoom. The use of Zoom has enabled online participants to be actively involved as readers or intercessors during the service, the worship leader

takes communion on their behalf, and the congregation all give zoomers a friendly wave when sharing the Peace. Sermons are currently recorded live and posted on our website and Facebook page each week.



Our music is provided by the organ and electric keyboard, and we have on a rota of organists to play each week. The congregation has a small number of musicians who provide music on occasion when no organist is available. Our Hymn Choosing group has been established for over 20 years to select hymns from a variety of sources for the Sunday services, and our mix of traditional and modern hymns and songs is enabled through using a weekly printed service sheet.

One of our strengths is the mutual tolerance of differing views and convictions. Our worship style reflects our positive desire to provide a bridge, not only between traditional and modern worship, but also between traditional and modern ideas. We appreciate and recognise the need for flexibility to enhance and make meaningful the Sunday morning experience for the congregation.

*Congregational Quote  
'Faith is Fun'*

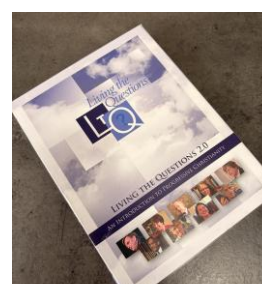
## FINANCE

As at 30 September 2025, St James the Less total funds of £171,596. This figure includes a large legacy received in 2023, of which £125,000 is designated for church building improvements. Therefore our operating balance was £46,596.

The annual financial statement for the year ending 30 June 2025 was presented at our September AGM and is available on request. The annual income for the year 2024-25 was £81,302 which includes an amount of £6,509 interest largely accrued from legacy monies. Our expenditure for the same period was £89,678, which resulted in a deficit of £8,376. Apart from general inflationary expenditure and a drop of £3,000 in our received Standing Orders, £5,000 came out of the General Fund to pay Architect's and Surveyor's fees relating to our building improvement plans.

## CHURCH STUDY GROUPS

**Living the Questions** is a house group where questions around spirituality and faith are explored. A wide range of books, films and media sources are used to inform and enable discussion.



**Advent and Lent study groups.** A range of materials have been utilised to support discussion and reflection during Advent over the last few years. These have included books by Paula Gooder (The Meaning is in the Waiting Room), Marcus Borg (The First Christmas) and John Bell (Life in the Comma), for example. During Lent, the study group has focussed discussion about one of the four Gospels.

**Bible study group** has been paused during the interregnum.

## ONGOING MISSION

St James the Less runs several groups and events that invite people from the community to attend. We see these as being important in maintaining and strengthening our community links, and reinforcing our network between the church and the community. A small number from these groups occasionally attend the services. All of these well-established groups meet monthly, unless otherwise stated.

**Mother's Union** meets in the church hall for fellowship, prayer and learning about mission across the world. Branch members contribute to Mothers' Union in the diocese through supporting families who have experienced gender-based violence by offering AFIA (away from it all) holidays. Members retain links with Bishopbriggs Low Moss Prison by donating MU Christmas cards. Branch members support the church by coordinating the World Day of Prayer and inviting the congregation on their annual canal cruise and other social events. The group is open and welcomes everyone.



**Sunday Club** is held monthly during the main Sunday Eucharistic service to encourage the participation of children and parents, particularly those involved in our wider groups, to come along and take part in the Eucharist and to share in fellowship after the service.

**Crafty Kidz** is an outreach group for young families where parents and children participate in craft activities followed by a short bible story at the end of the session.

**Dads and Toddlers** with '*Bairns, banter and bacon rolls*', this group provides an opportunity for dads to meet together while their children play.



**Guys Group** has largely evolved from the 'Dads and Toddlers', with the dads going along to monthly pub nights and having wide ranging conversation that sometimes touches on spirituality and faith.

**Tuesday Club** provides fellowship and activities for retired people within the community. A variety of guest speakers are invited to present on a wide range of topics.

**Book Club** is organised by a member of the congregation and has expanded to include book readers from the wider community.

**'Grumpy' Men's Lunch** is a popular gathering held monthly in the local Italian Restaurant and provides an opportunity for men to meet, chat and share stories.

**Friday Creatives** is a fairly new, developing group for adults to meet and chat while participating or learning in a wide variety of creative crafts.

**Annual Community Fun Day** is held in August and has been a great success over the past few years with over 200 people attending, the majority of whom are young and extended families. A number of the congregation help with face painting, bouncy castle, treasure hunt, cooking and serving burgers, home baking entertainment.

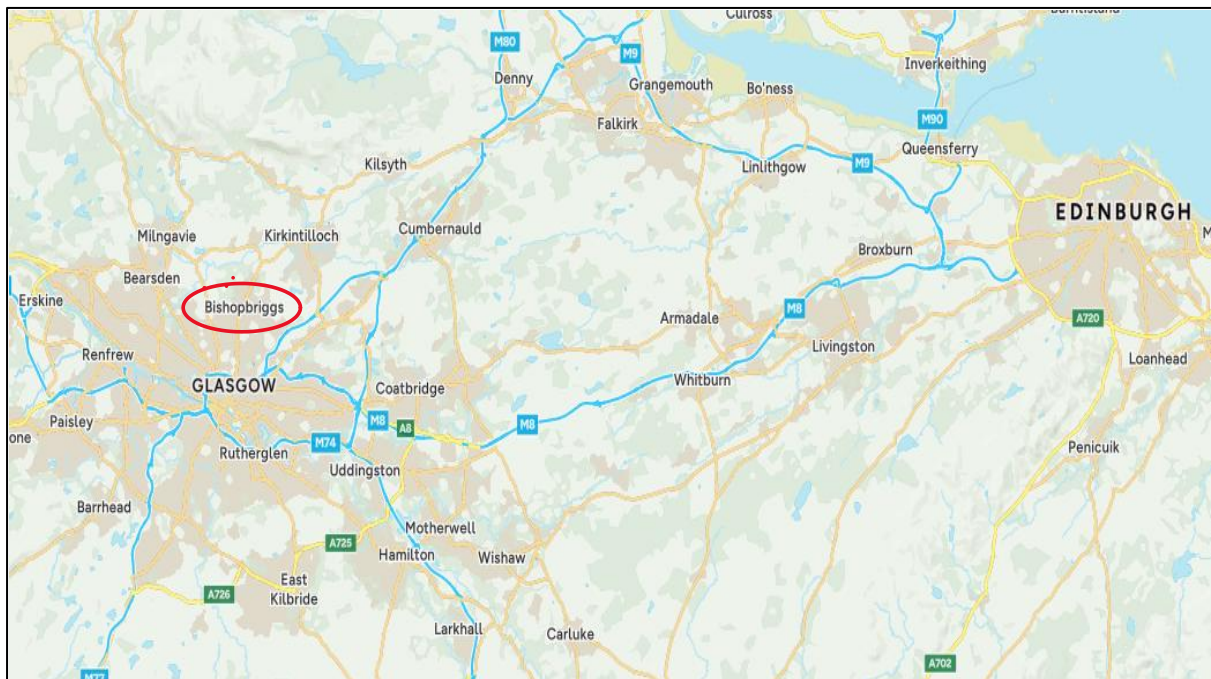


The hall is well used by number of community groups such as Parent & Toddlers, Bridge Club, Taekwondo and children's parties, and is an important source of income for the church.

## LOCAL ECUMENICAL ACTIVITY

A wide range of denominations offer worship within the town. They, along with St James the Less, comprise the membership of Bishopbriggs Churches Together. We share daily joint services during Holy Week, with St James the Less hosting the well-attended Maundy Thursday eucharist. We also host the town's ecumenical Remembrance Service on a rotational basis with the other local churches, and take part in ecumenical services during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

## THE LOCAL AREA



Bishopbriggs is a town within East Dunbartonshire Local Authority in central Scotland. The town borders with the city of Glasgow, 50 miles from Edinburgh, and 15 miles from Glasgow International Airport.

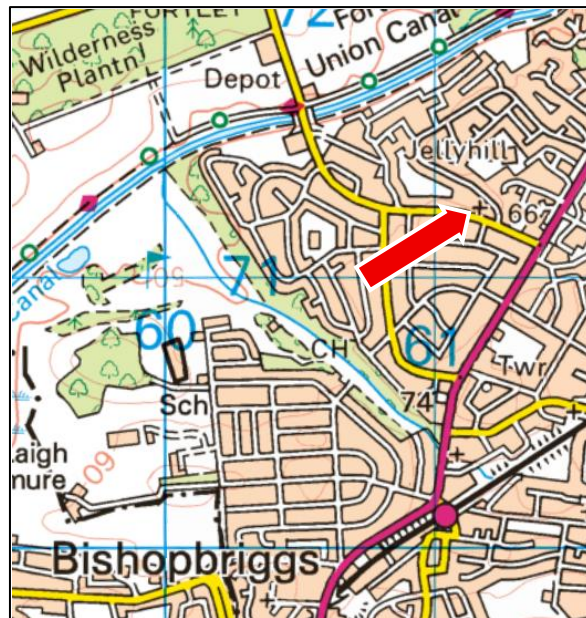
Bishopbriggs has a sense of its own identity and is a thriving community. The population is approximately 23,700 although this number is rising with the development of new housing estates in and around its boundaries. The town is close to the countryside with the north and west boundaries surrounded by green space and farmland, and the Campsie Fells paint a picturesque backdrop. The Forth & Clyde Canal runs through the town and is popular with

the local community for walking, jogging and cycling. There are good transport links with train and bus services into Glasgow, and direct links to both the M8 and M80 motorways.

The main supermarkets and local retail park are easily accessible, and Bishopbriggs is well served with restaurants, coffee bars and public houses. The local sports centre has a gym, swimming pool, sports hall and fitness classes. The town has six primary schools and the two secondary schools were both recently listed in the top 20 list of best performing state schools in Scotland. Other local institutions include Bishopbriggs Low Moss Prison, and the recently opened crematorium. There are four local GP practices, while Local Ambulatory Care, Acute and Maternity hospitals are within a short drive.

## CHURCH LOCATION

The church is located on Hilton Rd and is approximately one mile from Bishopbriggs Cross, often referred to as 'The Village'.



The church building sits within its own defined grounds, surrounded by generous lawns, shrubberies and a large car park. There is a small Remembrance Garden in which ashes of the departed have been interred.

The Rectory is a 1970's extended three-bedroom, semi-detached house located to the rear of the church grounds on Meadowburn, the street which sits off Hilton Road. Access between the church and Rectory is via a gate from the back garden.



## OUR CHURCH BUILDING

The church building, which was consecrated in 1980, is a modern and distinctive single storey, non-cruciform building. The original St James Church was situated in the Glasgow suburb of Springburn, south of Bishopbriggs, until it had to be demolished to make way for the development of a Springburn by-pass road. It was decided that the new church of St James the Less would be built in Bishopbriggs, where many of the congregation lived, and where the population was on the increase. The church interior includes stained glass windows and many other ancient features and artefacts from the original church of St James, as well as other closed churches. These have been tastefully incorporated within the fabric and fittings. Of particular note are the Four Evangelists, stained glass windows from designs by Edward Burne-Jones.

*Congregational Quote*  
*'A beautiful, calm and spiritual space'*

The St Andrew's side chapel contains the reredos from St Andrews-by-the-Green, which was the oldest church in Glasgow after Glasgow Cathedral, and the marble altar stone is from the medieval high altar from Iona Abbey.

## ST ANDREW'S CHAPEL



The Quinquennial, undertaken in October 2021, states that the church buildings are well cared for and maintained by the congregation.

The Church received a substantial legacy from a deceased member's estate. The Vestry agreed that this fund should be designated for use to update and improve the interior of the church building. Plans drawn up and costed by the Diocesan architect were given much consideration

*Congregational Quote*  
*'We are a feisty bunch and don't always agree, but we get there in the end'*

by the Vestry and presented to the congregation. A vote was taken, and agreement was reached to only proceed with the installation of an accessible toilet and upgrading of the kitchen. These improvements are currently being progressed. Agreement was not reached for further work to update

Sanctuary and remove the static pews. The Vestry will continue to consult with the congregation to consider best use of the remaining legacy monies for further potential improvements.

## OUR VESTRY

The Vestry meets around eight times per year, to ensure the effective governance and maintenance of the church and buildings and the life and purpose of the congregation. Vestry members engage regularly with the congregation through Away Days, consultation, meetings and individual conversations. The Fabric Committee regularly reports into the Vestry. Church members can request for an issue to be included on the Vestry meeting agenda. Our AGM is held in September after the main service.

The Vestry is also committed to supporting the work and personal development of our Priest and to the life and work of the church as a whole. Our church is responsible for paying the stipend, pension and expenses, as well as providing housing for our Priest and family. We consider the personal development of our priest to be very important and fully support this through financing study days, courses, and retreats.



## VESTRY ATTENDEES & TRUSTEES

Rector's Warden	Fiona McCulloch (Interim Chair)
Secretary	David Wright
Treasurer	Caryl Haglington
People's Warden	Willie Munro
Lay Reader	Kennedy Fraser (not in photo)
Lay Representative	Jennifer Traynor
Vestry Members:	Eleanor Bah
	Lewis Blair
	Ann Glenesk (Worship Leader)
	Jenoah Joseph
	Esther Muchena
	Jane Munro

In addition, the Priest will also be supported by a network of local Episcopal clergy within the Diocese. There is a Northeast Regional Council where the clergy and lay representatives from six charges, all within a ten mile radius of Bishopbriggs, come together for worship, fellowship and to discuss matters of interest or concern. There is also an annual clergy conference for clergy from across the Diocese.

## **OUR GOALS AND ASPIRATIONS**

Our church recently held a Congregational Consultation meeting to inform this Profile, and some quotes from participants are included throughout this document. At this event we discussed where we are as a congregation and our aspirations for St James the Less during the next five years.

### **OUR FIVE YEAR GOALS**

- Greater communication links with the community
- Increased number of families and young people
- Financial sustainability
- Growth in active membership
- To be an ecological church

Spiritual growth in our faith and worship is seen as being key to supporting the congregation as we work towards achieving our goals. Improved communication and raising our profile across the community were consistent themes raised by the congregation. Outreach to the wider community, in addition to improvements to the church building, are considered to be important initial steps, with a particular focus on families and young children to ensure future growth and stability of St James the Less.

## **PRIEST PROFILE**

The congregation of St James the Less, Bishopbriggs is seeking a qualified Anglican Priest, who is comfortable with Scottish Episcopal Church liturgies and current forms of service with regard to both the scope and musical content. However, they should be willing to explore ways of further developing patterns of worship with the congregation.

Encouraging the involvement of families and young people is very important to us, while also caring for the needs of all ages within the congregation. Our next priest should be willing to lead the congregation in achieving our five year goal plan, developing and building on achievements made over the past few years. This includes supporting and encouraging outreach into the local community and identifying unexplored areas with potential for growth. In addition, our next priest should be willing to encourage and support members of the congregation in the multiple tasks they undertake within the church life.

The Vestry, in consultation with the congregation, has determined that the following are the essential and desirable characteristics that we are seeking in a new Priest:

- **Ability to lead, develop and empower the Ministry Team**
- **Actively supports and promotes lay ministry, study groups and outreach mission**
- **Good communicator who is approachable and engages with the congregation**
- **Identifies and encourages the skills and talents within the congregation**
- **Ability to listen, motivate, and initiate action and handle conflict**
- **Ability to encourage and support the Vestry and congregation, working with them in consensual decision making**
- **Aptitude for preaching and providing meaningful sermons**
- **Commitment to ecumenism and engagement with Bishopbriggs Churches Together**
- **Embraces social and ecological issues**
- **Ability to manage our church with a commitment to planning**

## **CONCLUSION**

The congregation of St James the Less are praying that the right person will feel called to serve our church. If you consider yourself to be that person, please apply by email to David Wright, the Secretary to the Vestry at: **XXXXXX**

The successful candidate offered the post will be required to sign a paper copy of their application in due course. They will also be required to complete a Disclosure Scotland

## St James the Less Bishopbriggs Congregational and Priest Profile

check form for the Protection of Vulnerable Groups.

The closing date is as published in the Church Times and the first round of interviews will be held on **XXXXX**

If a preferred candidate is selected by the interview panel, a visit to the Charge will be organised for the preferred candidate and their immediate household members, with all costs being met by the Vestry.

## APPENDIX

Below are some links to useful websites for further information about the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Our website page	<a href="https://stjamesbishopbriggs.org.uk">https://stjamesbishopbriggs.org.uk</a>
The Diocesan website	<a href="http://www.glasgow.anglican.org">www.glasgow.anglican.org</a>
The Provincial website	<a href="http://www.scotland.anglican.org">www.scotland.anglican.org</a>
SEC Code of Canons	<a href="https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/publications/code-of-canons">https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/publications/code-of-canons</a>
Clergy Terms of Service	<a href="http://www.scotland.anglican.org/vestry-resources/clergy-personnel-handbook-introduction/">www.scotland.anglican.org/vestry-resources/clergy-personnel-handbook-introduction/</a>
Liturgies of the SEC	<a href="http://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/publications/liturgies/">www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/publications/liturgies/</a>
Net Zero 2030	<a href="https://www.scotland.anglican.org/new-net-zero-toolkit-and-net-zero-cards/">https://www.scotland.anglican.org/new-net-zero-toolkit-and-net-zero-cards/</a>
Inspires Online – Monthly SEC Magazine	<a href="https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/publications/inspires/">https://www.scotland.anglican.org/who-we-are/publications/inspires/</a>
Daily Prayer in the SEC	<a href="https://www.scotland.anglican.org/spirituality/prayer/daily-offices/">https://www.scotland.anglican.org/spirituality/prayer/daily-offices/</a>

A history of the SEC can be found briefly in “A Church for Scotland – The Story of the Scottish Episcopal Church” by Gerald Stranraer-Mull  
[www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/a-church-for-scotland.pdf](http://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/a-church-for-scotland.pdf)