

Slateford Longstone



Parish
Profile
March
2018

Our mission statement

"We believe that Jesus is the Lord of all life; we aim to share the Gospel, build up the church and serve the community."

1. Introduction.
2. History of the Charge and Congregation
3. Staffing.
4. Community profile.
5. Worship Life.
6. Pastoral Care.
7. Christian Education.
8. Ecumenical Context.
9. World Church.
10. Stewardship and Finance.
11. Church, Manse and Halls.
12. Appendix and web links for further information.

Introduction

We are a "friendly welcoming congregation," this is not only our view but an unsolicited comment often passed on to us by visitors and new members alike, and we're starting to believe it.

We are a small but faithful congregation with an informal outlook and very open to change as we realise we can't live in the past and let things stand still.

What we believe

We were created by a loving God, who wants to have a relationship with us. As Christians we believe that the only way to enjoy this is through faith in Jesus, God's Son.

That's why our main activity is the weekly service of worship – on Sundays at 10:30am.

We don't pretend to be better than anyone else, but we are keen to share what we have discovered. Following the retirement of our previous minister we are now seeking a new minister.

History of the charge and congregation

We have a longstanding history and the following is a flavour of past events in the area.

In 1745, Bonnie Prince Charlie and his Highland Army marched to Inglis Green on his mission to make a peaceful entry into the city. In the 1880s, Mary Slessor visited the Church with twins she had saved in Calabar. Our historic industries go back to the Middle Ages with various quarries and watermills which enabled businesses to flourish. The Union Canal was opened in 1822 – to transport coal, stone and lino. On its return it brought back ‘polis dung’ from the stables, byres and streets of the town. The Railway overtook the slower boat service in 1849.

Since 1916 we have had 7 Ministers – the first, Rev James A Brown stayed for 35 years followed by the Rev George Goldie, being the first Minister of the new Slateford Longstone Church. On the last Sunday of November 1955, Mr Goldie locked the door of the old Kirk in Slateford Village, praised God for the service it had done and led a great procession with the Elders carrying the pulpit Bible and Communion vessels at its head.

Current and recent information about the congregation

- Our current Communion Roll contains 194 members and 2 adherents. The average weekly attendance at worship is around 40 and the age range of the congregation is from 1 to 90+ years with the majority falling into the 40 – 80 years range.
- Slateford Longstone has operated under the Unitary Constitution since November 2016 and the Kirk Session oversees Pastoral Care, Worship, Finance and Property Teams who look after the day to day running of church matters. There are 11 Elders who attend Session meetings and act as Trustees (10 female / 1 male). We have 4 Emeritus Elders who lead various activities in the congregation (2 female / 2 male).
- In the past five years. We have welcomed 3 new members by Profession of Faith and 1 Adherent, celebrated 5 baptisms. Funerals have averaged 18 per year.

Our previous Minister has retired after almost 12 years and we currently have permission to call a Minister of Word and Sacrament on a reviewable tenure basis.

Although in recent years our Membership has decreased as is common with many churches, we are still very enthusiastic for the future and are looking for someone to take us under their wings and, once again, make it a thriving church and community.

Lead

Connect

Build



Our future minister

"We are looking for a Minister to lead the congregation in worship. A minister who has strong Christian interpersonal skills with people who have no church connection, in order to re-establish strong links with the local community, to build up the membership of the church family, and to maintain contact with the elderly and housebound members."

Staffing

In addition to the minister we have a Music Leader who plays the organ and piano at Sunday worship and any other services as agreed. There is also a cleaner employed on a part time basis.

- We are a suburban parish with a mixture of private, council and sheltered housing communities.
- There are two Primary schools within the Parish, both located in the same grounds and in the past the minister has had a good relationship with both schools being invited along to participate in Assemblies.
- There is a small residential care home for adults with learning difficulties behind the church building. Some of the residents attend Sunday church services.

Worship life

- Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month and children would be permitted to participate in communion if it is felt they have an understanding of the celebration.
- We have a music leader who leads the music in worship using the organ or piano, as appropriate. There is a small choir who assist in leading the singing. Resources that have been used in worship are CH4, Fischy Music, Songs of God's People and YouTube.
- Tea and coffee are served after the morning service. The flowers which decorate the church each Sunday are donated by members of the congregation, and are delivered to Church members and those in the parish who are marking various occasions such as illness, birthdays, anniversaries and bereavement.

Current worship patterns

The Sunday morning worship service takes the traditional format of readings, prayers, hymns, sermon, children's talk and offerings. The children leave for Sunday Club after the first part of the service. Members will share in the readings and leading prayers. We use hymns from a variety of sources and project the words onto a screen.

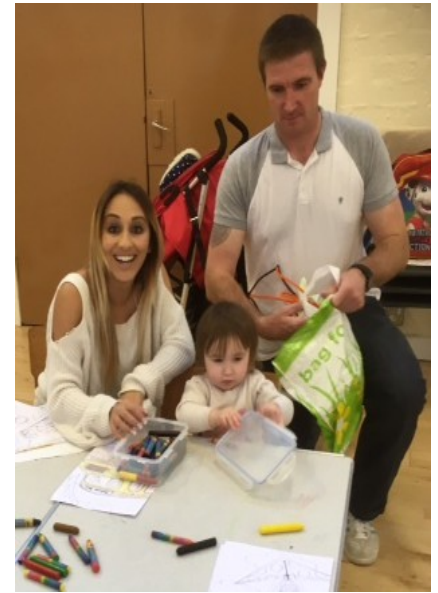
- We have occasional themed services, Christmas, Easter, Harvest, Remembrance, Christian Aid Week and a Guild Dedication Service.
- After the Christmas Service there is a social where we serve refreshments and sing some favourite Carols.
- A retiring offering is collected after our Watchnight Service and this is donated to Bethany Christian Trust.
- We also have an annual Bereavement Service which gives an opportunity for members and families to remember those they have lost recently or in the past.
- In an effort to engage with our local community we distribute Christmas and Easter cards to the households in the Parish.



Carol singing in the local Sainsbury



Messy Church is very popular and meets on the last Friday of the month from September to June. It includes making crafts, worship and sharing a meal together. The families who attend in the main are not involved in any other aspect of the life of the Church.



"Great fun, kids really enjoy the crafts and stories and it's lovely to see so many people come together"

Carole

"As a mum I enjoy seeing my children being a part of Messy Church and being with other families taking part in crafts, singing and socialising. When I asked my son what his favourite part was he said the games and crafts - now my children are a bit older it's still a lovely family activity as they have stayed involved as young leaders."

Joanne

Messy Church has been running for over three years, researched, started and led by our previous minister. The team are happy to continue the running of the meetings during the vacancy, but would value input and involvement from the new minister.

- We have a Pastoral Care Group of elders who carry out home visits to those members who have indicated they would appreciate a visit and to those who are housebound or in care homes. Elders also look after new members, lapsed members and bereaved members.
- The Guild meets weekly between October and May providing the members with the opportunity to express their faith in Worship, Prayers and Action. The Guild ladies particularly enjoy the interesting programme of speakers, and the sense of community afforded to them through the fellowship and weekly worship.

In the words of one of our members

"It's the place to be on a Tuesday evening."

- The Over 50's Group meets weekly in the afternoons. This provides a valuable time of worship, fellowship and pastoral care for those who attend.

Ecumenical context

- Each year we are involved in Holy Week Services, which are held most evenings during Holy Week and rotate around local Churches of various denominations with the sermon each evening being led by a preacher from one of the non hosting Churches. There are participants from 3 local Church of Scotland congregations, 1 Baptist Church and 1 Episcopal Church. This has been going for many years and forms an integral part of the Easter season.
- New Month, New Worship is an evening service held on the first Sunday of the month, and rotates round three local Church of Scotland congregations.
- The minister has been Chaplain to both Primary Schools in the Parish and has been invited to the schools to speak to the children, and on occasions the schools have had services in the church at the end of term.



World church

As a congregation we look to support Christian work and other worthwhile causes in the wider world.

- We have a link to Fresh Start and support their initiative by promoting them through Kirk News, our Church newsletter, with special requests in weekly notices. We receive Newsletters and Annual Reviews which are available to the congregation. We publicise requests for volunteers, and collect donations of household items, which are then delivered to the Fresh Start Office.

- **Operation Christmas Child**



The 568 shoeboxes sent overseas in 2017

The congregation supports **Operation Christmas Child** by accepting full shoeboxes, and collecting donations of goods to make up boxes, which are distributed to children in countries where they may not otherwise receive gifts at Christmas. Church members and members of the community donate to this charity, and outreach is advertised round the parish by the delivery of leaflets.

- During **Christian Aid** week there is a collection within the congregation and a few of our members carry out collections within the community, going door-to-door and collecting outside local shops. The Sunday Club children use the offerings they have brought each week to buy **Christian Aid** Gifts putting much thought into how they can help children, families and communities in different countries.
- Our Church has been a distribution point for **Trussel Trust Food Banks**, however due to lack of referrals we decided to close. This is such a worthwhile cause that we are currently exploring the possibility of re-starting this initiative.

Christian Education

- Over the years we have successfully held Lent Courses which ran for six weeks before Easter and Cluster Groups which would meet for Bible Study and fellowship in homes. It is hoped these initiatives would continue as we move forward in faith.
- Food and Faith was an opportunity for men to meet together for discussion and to share food together.
- The Slateford Longstone Church website and Facebook page are used for information, and we hope to develop these for educational purposes in the future.
- We have used Start! Course, which runs for six weeks, for prospective members as and when needed or enquiries are made.

- A week long Holiday Club attracted around fifty children in the school summer holidays and this is something we would hope to be able to resume in the future with the leadership and support of the minister.



Stewardship and finance

- In recent years we have managed to cover all of our costs but there is little surplus left over at the end of the year therefore we have to manage our spend throughout the year very carefully.
- Having participated in the full cycle of the National Stewardship Campaign in previous years it was felt that our congregation is aware of the needs and we would rest this for a few years. There are regular reminders for members to review their giving or participate in Gift days to increase our finances and contribute to the life of the congregation. However the reality of the situation is that we currently have an ageing and declining membership and those who are able to participate in various teams or roles already do so. New members are also given the opportunity to participate in different aspects of congregational life such as welcome team, Collating Church Notices, Holiday Club and Messy Church.

Our Receipts and Payments accounts for 2016 were approved by OSCR in September 2017, a copy of these accounts is available on request.

| | Unrestricted Income | Unrestricted Expenditure | Unrestricted Reserves |
|------|------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| 2015 | £59,753 | £57,087 | £11,238 |
| 2016 | £58,810 | £58,192 | £11,856 |
| 2017 | £50,104 | £49,271 | £12,689 |

| | Ministries and Mission |
|------|---------------------------|
| 2016 | £28,708 |
| 2017 | £22,368 |
| 2018 | £23,091 |

The budget for 2018 shows General Expenditure of £45,949. This we expect to be met from offerings, hall lets and fundraising activities.



Preparations
for the
fundraising
coffee
morning



Church, Manse and Halls

Church and Halls

- Our present church building was originally built as a hall church in 1955 with the chancel at one end of the hall and a stage at the other end. The property was extended in 1970.
- The church buildings now comprise of the sanctuary with a pipe organ, vestry with adjacent toilet, a large hall, two small halls, two other small rooms used for meetings, a kitchen and toilets. There is ample storage, and cupboard facilities, and a shared car park at rear of the building. Emergency lighting and fire alarm system was installed in 2013.
- Our halls are used by Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Parent & Toddler Group, AA meeting, Dance School, Over 50s Group, Guild, Seniors Exercise Class and Lighthouse Chapel.

Church set up
for Sunday
worship



Quiet space in the
church for prayer
and meditation

As well as our halls and
meeting rooms the
church can also
be used as a flexible
space



Manse

- The manse is a 4 bedroom detached bungalow with garage and front and rear gardens.
- It is situated in the parish at 50 Kingsknowe Road South a short walk from the church and a short distance from the City Bypass, it also has easy access to public transport (buses and trains), schools and supermarkets.
- Accommodation downstairs consists of 2 public rooms one of which has an extended sun lounge (replaced 2012) with access to the garden, 2 bedrooms, kitchen and bathroom. Upstairs consists of 2 bedrooms and a toilet. There are ample storage and cupboard facilities.
- The manse is gas centrally heated and double glazed throughout. An intruder alarm system was installed in 2015 and Mains supply smoke alarms have also been fitted.
- There is a schedule for routine manse redecoration and maintenance in place.



Appendix and web links for further information

Appendix attached separately

- o Local church review, final report October 2017

Website

<http://www.slatefordlongstone.org.uk/>

Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/SlatefordLongstoneChurchEdinburgh?ref=ts&fref=ts>

Parish statistics

http://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/church_finder/profile.php?property_id=17373

A printed copy of this parish profile can be obtained from the Clerk (see below). The parish Profile can also be downloaded from our website.

Applications are invited and should be sent, together with a CV and Personal Statement to:

Marion Marshall, Clerk to the Nominating Committee.

Contact detail email marion@slatefordlongstone.org.uk

For an informal conversation please contact Rev. Peter Nelson, Interim Moderator 0131 623 4119, or 07500 057889

