



# Govan & Linthouse Parish Church

Loving God, Loving Govan

## PARISH PROFILE

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# OVERVIEW

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We are a family: open to all, where people are welcomed and loved for who they are. We enjoy each others company and the challenge of doing new things. We are a happy, active, and welcoming congregation who live life in faith to the full. We gather in our Govan Cross building and have a range of activities that allow us to connect with God, each other and our local community.

We became Govan & Linthouse Parish Church nearly 13 years ago, facing various challenges and meeting them with determination, courage, and grace. We are adventurous, thoughtful, caring, and bold. It has not always been easy but faith has strengthened us, inspired us, and prepared us for our next phase of ministry.

We sit in the heart of Central Govan: once its own burgh with a prevailing sense of identity. Our parish area covers the communities of Central Govan, East Govan, Linthouse, Drumoyne and Shieldhall. It stretches from the Renfrew border along the river Clyde down to Pacific Quay that houses the BBC, Glasgow Science Centre and STV studios. We are well placed for public transport, shops, schools and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital. An ideal place for developing our mission, outreach and chaplaincy.

Historic Govan celebrates links to the ancient Celtic Church and to shipbuilding, with modern Govan developing in the arts and tourism. There are several regeneration projects taking place alongside investment in infrastructure, including a new walkway bridge that will link Govan Cross with the Riverside Museum, leading to the West End of Glasgow. Govan has a village feel with the city on its doorstep.





# OUR CORE

We are open, honest folk, who laugh easily and wear our heart on our sleeve. We are simply:

## LOVING GOD, LOVING GOVAN

Our early focus as a congregation was working through our inherited building legacy. After returning to our Govan Cross building, we concentrated our learning on being *the body of Christ: nourished by faith; called to serve and challenged to love*. We created the statement to provide focus to our work. We are not bound by the words but hope that they convey a basis for leading us forward. In turn, it helps us channel our work and energy as the people of God.

This is a starting point that allows us to express who we are and our creative direction for the future.

LOVING GOD,  
LOVING GOVAN



# OUR ADVENTURE

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We came together on the 10th October 2007, a union of Govan Old, Linthouse St Kenneth's and New Govan churches. Our first minister, Rev Dr Moyna McGlynn, held us with great care as we negotiated the fractious early years of union.



We inherited 3 buildings, with our Govan Cross building identified as the principal place of worship and activity. Govan Old Church, housing the historic Govan Stones, was gifted to the Govan Heritage Trust and we hold the right to worship there each weekday morning alongside a short monthly communion. We retain ownership of Linthouse St Kenneth's Church, an asset to us during our renovation period, as well as our current residents The Salvation Army and our community. With all necessary permissions in place it will be placed on the open market once current Covid-19 restrictions are lifted.



Much of our story involves the renovation of the Govan Cross building; a task that brought unity in our identity as Govan & Linthouse Parish Church. We were blessed with a congregation generous with time, money and talents: endeavouring to complete all we could ourselves. Those who could, scraped, painted, and cleaned whilst those who could not supplied excellent supervision, tea and cake. Many contributed to fundraising generously and sacrificially. This time was not without its challenges with our initial project, forcing us to leave our Govan Cross building, extended to nearly 3 years. Moreover, our minister Moyna died and in our grief, unready for a permanent appointment we were appointed an interim minister, Rev Eleanor McMahan,

With great delight, on the 2nd December 2018, we re-entered the Govan Cross building; a new creative and flexible worship space which includes new heating, lighting and audio visual equipment. Already in varied use from worship to winter wonderlands, prayer to pantomimes and meetings to movies.



Our current activities include a Saturday Tearoom, Girls' Brigade, Boys' Brigade, an Art Group, the Guild, Bible studies, A Wee Jaunt, Messy Mondays, The Meeting Place, Scripture Fun and God's Gang. We work in partnership with several private, public and 3rd sector organisations. We participate in large scale, community wide events and new projects we develop take an inter-generational approach that link both groups and people together. We are proactive in supporting new projects, and can change our spaces quickly and easily. Few others have a 7 minute turn around time from worship to lunch! The wider impact of our building is important, and in these recent Covid-19 times, we are facilitating part of the community response.

We value the traditional and developing forms of worship, and seek to discover new ways with careful judgement and gentle encouragement. We enjoy singing and are happy to have humour within our services, whilst respecting traditional elements like Remembrance. We have a monthly All Age Worship service: a vehicle for increasing congregational participation, giving time and opportunity for this development. We would like to explore more in the way of using different media and one-off worship services, so that we might grow in our faith and encourage others to do likewise. We lead the Good Friday Walk of Witness and Remembrance Sunday gathering at the Cenotaph, working with our faith partners in Govan. We also participate in the annual World Day of Prayer, with our Session Clerk Elspeth the lead organiser.

We work with a layered community where there are challenges of poverty, life opportunity and faith. While resilient, there is anguish for many as Govan sits in the lowest 5% of SIMD statistics. Increasingly, our community is diverse in ethnicity, and this is reflected within our congregation. You can often find us in the streets of Govan going about our everyday lives, for we are very much a part of this place. Our community blends a grittiness with courage and humour: we are determined to be part of the new and emerging Govan.



# OUR TEAM

We are a creative and proactive team: smaller than we once were but growing in the number of partnerships and connections we share. Our team approach allows scope for team members (Ministries Council Development Staff) to lead on projects relevant to their employed area as well as work together to enable us in what we would like to see in Govan. The ability to work with, manage, and lead our team is important to our future development.



## GILLIAN MCILREAVY

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER 0.5 FT

Govan & Linthouse is my home Church and I enable communication links between both the congregation and our community. That can be online or in person, like The Meeting Place. I search for jewels in our community: encouraging empowerment and growth through God's love at grassroots level. That's how The Art Group started.



## ANN LYALL

PASTORAL DEVELOPMENT WORKER 0.5 FT

I see myself as looking for the areas of pastoral need within the life of the congregation and beyond, to the parish and our partners. I also see myself as the person who encourages and enables everyone to be involved in pastoral care in the way we look after one another. I love people and the folk in Govan are great people to be with.



## JAMIE GOODWIN

ARTS & WORSHIP DEVELOPMENT WORKER 1.0 FT

I've lived in Govan most of my life and work closely with partners in ongoing projects. With a focus on mental health and countering isolation through the arts, I'm always looking to support local people. I lead on the monthly All Age Worship services and offer a different perspective as I am new to the Church of Scotland.



## COULD THIS BE YOU?

MINISTER OF WORD AND SACRAMENT 1.0 FT

We invite you to consider whether you could be our minister in Govan & Linthouse Parish Church. We simply want someone who would support us in Loving God, Loving Govan. If you would like to visit, we will answer your questions honestly and hope that will help you decide whether you wish to test God's call here.



# OUR VALUES

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We have a set of 5 values which give a sense of our focus for the future. These form who we are, but also who we aspire to be as God's people. None of these areas stand alone, but are each integrated with the others, informing how we develop.

WE ARE  
CHRIST-LIKE

WE ARE  
CONNECTING

LOVING GOD,  
LOVING GOVAN

WE ARE  
CARING

WE ARE  
CREATIVE

WE ARE  
COMMUNITY

## WE ARE CHRIST-LIKE

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We have a unique identity as the people of God. A union of diverse histories and worship styles: we value our roots and are united by the ways of faith.

The building is important, but relationships matter more. We want to reflect the incarnational Christ in who we are and what we do. We warmly accept each other and those we meet: from the welcome at the door; to our extension of pastoral care; from those we partner with and to all who enter our building we want to be the face of Christ.



## WE ARE CONNECTING

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We crave connection with God but also with one another. We are in regular contact through friendship groups or informal networks, especially during this time of Covid-19. Our strength in welcoming allows us to easily take people under our wing, whilst building a genuine relationship with them. We love learning about our community and continually engage with work outside of ourselves. Increasingly, we act as a link between community organisations, encouraging partnership working whilst bringing the unique dimension of faith.



## WE ARE CREATIVE

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We are not only talking about art, although we work with excellent local artists! Whether it's buildings, budgets, baking or bargaining we approach it with our own flare. Not many congregations can boast of dealing with over 1000 visitors in under 3 hours. Nor tickets for community events selling out in under 6 minutes. We cherish our discipline alongside our own childlike spirit. This can extend to our worship, we serve a creative God who made us in his image. We are continually experimenting with new ideas.





## WE ARE CARING



We want to show God's love to others in all its fullness. We love people and have a gift when it comes to hospitality. Sharing forms part of who we are, with the inclusion of all becoming a growing priority as we have reopened our building. We want to ensure accessibility to all within our parish, regardless of possible barriers. Giving forms an important part of our work as we seek to make a small difference locally, nationally and further afield. We hold a quarterly second collection for charities, as well as taking part in the annual shoe box appeal.

## WE ARE COMMUNITY

We are a family church, connected by faith, finding friendship, and giving a sense of dignity and worth to many. There is no division between a community event and a congregational event, the two are intertwined.

We are learning an Asset Based Community Development approach to parish working: seeing the treasures our community has to offer, including the strength and talents of its people. Working with local people where possible and complimenting local provision rather than operating in competition.





# OUR WORKING WEEK

This provides a flavour of what a week can look like at Govan & Linthouse Parish. It is not exhaustive but offers an overview of our activities and focus.

DAY	ACTIVITY	DESCRIPTION
MONDAY	GOVAN OLD WORSHIP	A SPOKEN LITURGY AND HYMNS LED BY A ROTA OF VOLUNTEERS
	THE ART GROUP	RAN BY RECENT MEMBER FI, AN OPPORTUNITY TO TRY OUT PAINTING
	A WEE JAUNT (SEASONAL)	VISITS TO LOCAL ORGANISATIONS TO LEARN ABOUT WHAT THEY DO
	MESSY MONDAY (QUARTERLY)	OUR VERSION OF MESSY CHURCH CURRENTLY UNDER REVIEW
	THE GUILD	OPEN TO ALL, AN OPPORTUNITY TO GROW IN FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP
TUESDAY	GOVAN OLD WORSHIP	A SPOKEN LITURGY AND HYMNS LED BY A ROTA OF VOLUNTEERS
	KIRK SESSION (MONTHLY)	OUR MEETING TO OVERSEE THE CONGREGATION AND PARISH
WEDNESDAY	GOVAN OLD WORSHIP	A SPOKEN LITURGY AND HYMNS LED BY A ROTA OF VOLUNTEERS
	GIRLS' BRIGADE	LED BY SANDRA AND VOLUNTEERS, OUR UNIFORMED GROUP FOR GIRLS
THURSDAY	GOVAN OLD WORSHIP	A SPOKEN LITURGY AND HYMNS LED BY A ROTA OF VOLUNTEERS
	THE MEETING PLACE	B.Y.O. PACKED LUNCH FOR A CHAT AND GOOD COMPANY
	COMMUNITY CINEMA	OUR MONTHLY FILM NIGHT WITH GOVAN HOUSING AND NSPCC
FRIDAY	GOVAN OLD WORSHIP	A SPOKEN LITURGY AND HYMNS LED BY A ROTA OF VOLUNTEERS
	SCRIPTURE FUN	A DYNAMIC LUNCHTIME AT PIRIE PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL
	BOYS' BRIGADE	LED BY MARION AND VOLUNTEERS, OUR UNIFORMED GROUP FOR BOYS
	SCHOOL ASSEMBLY	WE PROVIDE CHAPLAINCY TO TWO LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS
SATURDAY	SATURDAY TEAROOM	HOMEMADE SOUP AND BAKING, A FRIENDLY FACE AND LISTENING EAR
SUNDAY	MORNING WORSHIP	A TIME TO CONNECT WITH EACH OTHER AND GOD
	GOD'S GANG	LED BY KAREN, OUR VERSION OF CHILDRENS' SUNDAY SCHOOL





# OUR FINE PRINT



## The Call

Govan and Linthouse Parish Church has been given an unrestricted charge. As a designated Priority Area, it benefits from 3 FT equivalent posts under the Presbytery Plan. The minister would serve as line-manager to the paid ministry team unless another arrangement for line-management is made with the agreement of the Presbytery of Glasgow and the Faith Nurture Forum. The Kirk Session has voted to depart from the current and historic doctrine of the Church of Scotland in relation to human sexuality relating to ministers and deacons and would therefore welcome applications from all eligible ministers.

## The Manse

The manse was recently purchased by the congregation, and the schedule is available on our website. The manse has a garden that is easily maintained, and the Kirk Session have undertaken to arrange for the hedge to be cut twice a year. The manse is within a 2 minute walk of Paisley Road West where there is a variety of shops, small restaurants and community facilities. The manse is zoned for Cardonald Primary and Ross Hall Academy. There are good bus routes into the centre of Glasgow. The M8 motorway is about 5 mins drive, and as are both Braehead and Silverburn Shopping Centres.

## The Accounts

The accounts for 2019 have not yet been approved due to the restrictions on meeting due to Covid-19. Accounts for 2018 are available on request, and a set will be given prior to any interview with a prospective minister.

## Additional Information

Further documentation on support of this Parish Profile can be found at:

<https://www.govanlighthouseparish.org/parish-profile>

## Applications

Informal enquiries may be made to the interim minister Rev Eleanor McMahon:

[emcmahon@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:emcmahon@churchofscotland.org.uk)

Tel No: 07974 116539

Applications should be sent to Elsie Donald (Secretary of the Nominating Committee) with a CV and summary of your related experience, and the names of two referees.

Elsie Donald  
15 Fulbar Road  
Glasgow G51 4HU  
[elsiewkd26@gmail.com](mailto:elsiewkd26@gmail.com)