

Annan Old and Dornock Parish

Church of Scotland



Parish Profile August 2025



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Parish Profile

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Mission Statement

At Annan Old and Dornock Parish Church we follow the teachings of Jesus. We aim to be an open, welcoming fellowship that provides a safe place where people of all ages may grow, prayerfully, in their faith, and enhance their life in and with Christ.

Our Vision

We are a broad church with many shades of opinion and would welcome applications from Ministers who hold traditional views and from Ministers who hold a more liberal point of view.

INTRODUCTION

The Charge of Annan Old and Dornock Parish Church of Scotland (Scottish Charity No. SC010555) was formed in September 2023 in the union of Annan Old Parish Church of Scotland with Dornock Parish Church of Scotland. This followed some seventeen years when the two charges were linked and many close ties were formed in this time. The resulting enlarged parish includes the township of Eastriggs, the village of Dornock and part of the town of Annan that lies roughly north of Annan High Street.

Our church family is strong and very supportive. We believe in a shared ministry and we are happy, ready and willing to play our part in ministering to the people of Annan, Dornock and Eastriggs.

During last year we had three Baptisms and nine Funerals.

At the end of 2024 our Membership was 367, plus ninety-eight on Supplementary Roll.

We have thirty Elders who comprise the Kirk Session.

The former Dornock Church building has recently been sold.

Our previous minister recently retired early on health grounds and this is how we find ourselves in vacancy.

CHURCH HISTORY

A history of the Annandale area would closely reflect Scotland's faith journey. It has been a shining light of hope since the mid-6th century, when St Mungo passed through Annan before making his trek north to Glasgow, where he built a Cathedral.

Church history would include references to Edward Irving and former Moderators of the Church of Scotland. (for more information please check our web site at www.annanoldparishchurch.co.uk/ vacancy and Church History)

The church has a separate hall built by the congregation in 1929. It is spacious and well-appointed with easy access and accessible toilets.

The church is a grade 'A' listed building.

LOCAL HISTORY

Annan is fittingly known as "The History Town" and history dates back to Roman and Viking times through to Robert the Bruce and Robbie Burns.

Also other prominent figures and The Kentigern Way (a newly established pilgrim route which starts at Annan Old.

(for more information please check our web site at www.annanoldparishchurch.co.uk/ vacancy and Local History)

OUR COMMUNITY

Over a period of thirty or more years the nature and feel of the town has changed. If we were doing this before the year 2000 we would be highlighting auction marts, heavy engineering and manufacturing, more school leavers staying around, people moving into town for work, bigger congregations and Sunday schools and a broader/ more varied age range. Unfortunately, large local employment opportunities have decreased over the last twenty years and increasingly folks are commuting to either Dumfries or Carlisle for work. There is a good number of small to medium businesses locally and the High Street has a good occupancy rate.

But if you ask anyone who came here for work or retirement, they don't want to leave (voluntarily) because it is a very welcoming place. It is a place where we get on with life and other challenges. For instance, three years ago two footbridges were demolished by a particularly severe storm. They were so important to the life of the town and our enjoyment of the river that a group was formed and in this short time significant funding has been sourced and a design for one bridge is already being considered.

Two major indicators to our thriving and active community would be the Annan Harbour Redevelopment project and Kate's Kitchen (a well used and vital support for the unemployed and less well off members of our community).

(for more information please check our web site at www.annanoldparishchurch.co.uk/ vacancy and Our Community)

OUR WORSHIP

The worship services take place in Annan Old Church at 11.15am each Sunday and in the Baxter Hall at 10 am on the 1st, 3rd and 5th Sundays of the month.

Communion is presently celebrated three times a year at a morning service.

In addition to these, it has been the normal practice to have an evening soup supper followed by communion, on Maundy Thursday in the Baxter Hall. This is now shared with 'Annan Churches Together' and our friends from other churches in the town, as are other services during Holy Week.

It is our recent practice in Annan Old to hold a Christingle Service for all ages on Christmas Eve at 6.30pm and a short Christmas Morning Service at 10am followed by mince pies, cake and coffee.

The praise book in normal use is CH4. In addition, Songs of God's People and Mission Praise Combined are also available. The church also holds a Christian Copyright Licence for words.

The pew bibles in use are of the Good News translation.

Special Services

Kirkin' of the Cornet takes place on the Sunday before Riding of

the Marches. The minister of Annan Old meets the official party at the Town Hall, leads prayers at the war memorial, then parades with the principals and the Town Band along the High Street to the church.

A Remembrance Day service at the War Memorial on Annan High Street is conducted by the ministers of the town in rotation and when a minister leads this service they parade with the British Legion contingent and town band to their own church, where they share a remembrance service.

In Eastriggs there is a joint service at the War Memorial followed by a joint service in the St John the Evangelist church, Eastriggs.

Lydiafield is one of two care homes in Annan and while we have some church members living there, the short services held there are open to all residents and many attend. This time together is organised and delivered by a small but gifted group of members and friends on a monthly basis.

Local Traditions

There is an annual celebration of 'Riding of the Marches' which takes place on the first Saturday in July, when a cavalcade of riders led by the cornet and the town standard bearer ride the boundaries of the burgh, followed by a parade through the town. Afternoon entertainment and pipe band championships end with massed bands playing on the High Street in the evening.

There are salmon fishings on the Solway Firth which date back to Viking times. Fishing with a haaf-net by standing with the net in the channel is unique to the Solway coast.

In Eastriggs an Annual Gala is held in the first full week in July. This week of activities culminates on the Saturday with a parade of decorated floats through the village, followed by an afternoon of sports and family fun on the playing field.

CHURCH GROUPS

Fabric

Made up of elders and co-opted members and responsible to the Session for all matters of Fabric, this group's remit is to maintain all buildings in a satisfactory condition.

Finance

Annan Old and Dornock meets its Giving to Grow commitments every year. It also pays its Presbytery dues promptly. Its regular income – i.e. Open Plate, Freewill Envelopes and bank Standing Orders' has been fairly steady at about £46,000 per year since the Covid outbreak.

About 100 members contribute regularly between Freewill Offering envelopes and bank Standing Orders.

Church organisations and groups i.e. the Guild, Singing Group, Craft & Chat and the Friendship Club contribute about £7500 year.

Fees for weddings and funerals have dropped drastically, but hall lets have increased significantly.

The Guild

From late September to April this group meets monthly on a Wednesday afternoon in the church hall and currently has about 30 members, both men and women. Programmes are varied and follow the Guild theme for the year. This is a very active group which over the years enriched the life of the church and has provided a generous financial contribution.

Friendship Club

This group started over thirty years ago for people to meet together for fellowship. From humble beginnings they now serve a two-course lunch every alternate Monday from September to June, to approximately forty people. Everyone is welcome with or without a church connection. Children from a local nursery often come along and sing their songs.

Sunday Gang

Meets at 11am on a Sunday morning in the church hall and shares in worship with the congregation towards the end of morning service as they are small in number but very enthusiastic as they follow a programme prepared by leaders. The Sunday Gang children join the service in Annan Old before the last hymn and usually share what they have been doing in the hall.

Singing Group

A sort of choir which started informally some years ago with fewer than a dozen, now has 43 members. They meet to practise on Monday evenings each week. The range of music sung by the group is very wide both in the religious and secular, covering classics, songs from the shows and pop. They have regular themed and sometimes seasonal concerts which are popular and well attended.

Craft and Chat

This group of a little over twenty meet weekly for two hours on a Tuesday morning. It is a place for coffee and chat but you also find a solution to most sewing or crafting questions.

Pastoral Care

This group, though small in number, is organised to mainly distribute the church flowers after Sunday Morning Worship.

It is a vital service in maintaining contact between the Minister, Elders and congregation to keep people involved in the day-to-day life of the church.

CHAPLAINCY

Newington School has long had a special relationship with Annan Old and along with the Chaplain (normally our Minister) plan and present their end of term Services: Easter, Summer, Harvest and Christmas. These services often fill the church to capacity.

WORLD CHURCH

It is a few years since we had an active mission family in Malawi to support, although at an arm's length approach we do support the Presbytery's Mission Partners.

During our last vacancy we had a year out of our search when we were asked if we would accept a minister from the Czech Republic to lead us for twelve months. This was a most rewarding time and strong friendships formed. Regular contact is maintained and the occasional visit has been made. Their whole family are friends for

life.

In a wider sense, The Guild does sterling work fundraising and making donations to projects in many parts of the world.

ECUMENICAL RELATIONS

Annan Churches Together is a committee formed with representatives from each of the five churches in Annan and district. We work together well to organise joint worship services (mainly at Easter and Christmas) and some fund raisers and social events. Follow the link form more detail.

(for more information please check our web site at www.annanoldparishchurch.co.uk/ vacancy & Ecumenical Relations)

CHURCH, MANSE and HALLS

Annan Old Church and Hall

A phased repair and renovation programme to the exterior of the church was completed about twenty years ago. This involved repair/replacement of stone in the front aspect of the church building and tower. The church roof was also repaired and re-slatted around ten years ago. Grants from Historic Scotland were obtained for much of this work. Some minor maintenance is still needed on the windows and the internal lighting of the church is under review. The church building and hall are sound and in good order.

The church is easily accessed by people with a disability and there are wheelchair spaces in the seated area downstairs.

Both the church and hall are fitted with sound amplification and inductive loop systems and now have WIFI connectivity.

The church hall is owned by the congregation and was built in 1929. The building comprises a large hall with a stage and is capable of seating 250 people. It also has a well-appointed kitchen.

The front entrance to the hall has wheelchair access and there are two toilets, one having facilities for visitors with a disability, off the vestibule.

Baxter Hall

The hall was gifted to the church by Elizabeth Baxter and was built in 1932. It is situated in Eastriggs township about four miles east of Annan.

The hall seats between 130 and 150 people. To the rear are the Session Room, a kitchen and two cloakrooms.

As Eastriggs has no large public hall, the Baxter Hall is used by several non-church groups and is frequently used for funerals.

Manse

Purchased in 1995 this 1970s built spacious family home is situated in a quiet, private residential area on the south side of Annan. It is in comfortable walking distance of the High Street and church.

The accommodation is on two storeys and has been recently extensively modernised. Comprising on the ground floor: entrance hall, large lounge, an open plan kitchen/ dining room, study, and bathroom. On the upper floor there are four bedrooms and a good size bathroom. The new central heating system has been recently installed.

There is an attached single garage and the property is surrounded by easily maintained gardens, mostly lawn, with some borders and mature shrubs.

LOCAL INFORMATION about Annan, Dornock and Eastriggs

The town of Annan and the village of Eastriggs are growing steadily with both places planning or undertaking moderate house building projects. Social housing is a notable aspect of these projects.

(for more information about education, sports facilities and places of interest please check our web site at www.annanoldparishchurch.co.uk/ vacancy and Local Information)

Communications

The parish is well connected by road in that it stands just south of the A75 Gretna to Stranraer trunk road and is only a few miles from the A74M Gretna to Glasgow motorway and M6 Gretna to Birmingham motorway. Travelling time to Glasgow or Edinburgh or Newcastle is about two hours.

Annan has a railway station and has direct connections to Glasgow and Carlisle where nationwide connections can be made from both places.

Air links in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Newcastle are also easily accessible, with Manchester and Liverpool airports less than three hours by car.

HOW TO CONTACT US

Please check out our FaceBook page at
Annan Old and Dornock Parish, Church of Scotland

or our web site at
www.annanoldparishchurch.co.uk

For more information please contact the
Nominating Committee Secretary:-

Mrs. Esther Bicket
Tel. 07756 842294
Email clerkoadpc@gmail.com

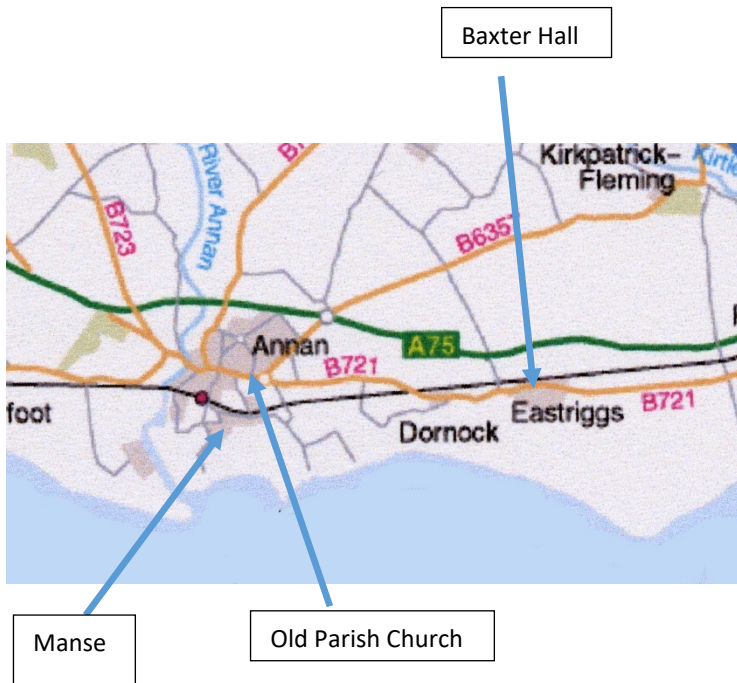
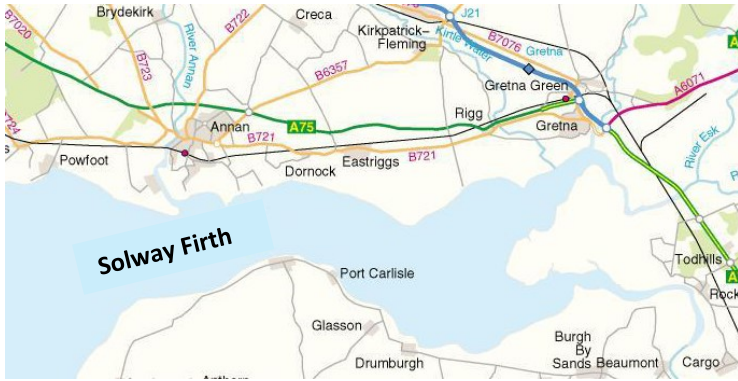
or

Informal enquiries may be made to the
Interim Moderator:-
Rev Morag Crossan

Mobile No. 07861 736071

Email mcrossan@churchofscotland.org.uk

How to find us



APPENDIX



Inside Baxter Hall

A Burns’ Lunch





Devils Porridge Museum

Eastriggs looking east





Annan High Street looking east

Dornock looking west





Manse

River Annan from road bridge





Inside Annan Old

Friendship Club meeting in Annan Old Hall





Singing Group Monday night practice

Sunday gang wall (featuring Joseph)





Annan old Hall

Petanque "Pitch"





Annan Tennis Courts

The running Track





Eastriggs Play Park Grand Opening March 2025

Eastriggs Play Park in action

