

Mansefield Trinity Church, Kilwinning

(unrestricted call)

With full-time assistant minister to be appointed



*“The Christian heart
at the centre of the community”*

Informal enquiries may be made to the Interim Moderator,

Rev. Alan Ward,

tel. 01294 822244 or email alanward@hotmail.co.uk



Mansefield Trinity Church
West Doura Way
Kilwinning
Ayrshire
KA13 6DY

Parish Profile

Registered Charity No: SC016499

www.kilwinningmansefieldtrinity.org

Clerk to the Nominating Committee:
Mrs Anne McManus,
76 Dalry Road,
Kilwinning KA13 7HL
Email annemcmanus48@outlook.com

The town of Kilwinning



Kilwinning Abbey

Kilwinning, with a population of 16,000, is a town in North Ayrshire. It has excellent road, bus and rail links with Glasgow, Ayr, Largs, Irvine and Kilmarnock, not forgetting the neighbouring "Three Towns" of Ardrossan, Saltcoats and Stevenston. Kilwinning boasts a large number of community centres, with a very wide variety of clubs, organisations and societies for all ages and tastes.

History and environment

Kilwinning has a long history both of Christianity and initiative. The name Kilwinning means 'saint or cell of Winning', and after its foundation in the 8th century the town was home to a flourishing Benedictine monastery for four centuries. The abbey was built in the 12th century and disbanded in the late 16th century.

Nearby is Eglinton Country Park with many pleasant walks, and not far away are the attractive beaches of Stevenston, Saltcoats and Ardrossan.

Historically, Kilwinning was a manufacturing town but is now mostly a commuter town with local employment being mainly in the public sector and small businesses.

Mansefield Trinity Parish

Our parish is north and west of the railway line which runs from Glasgow through Paisley and on to Ayr. It takes in the areas of Whitehirst Park, Woodside, Stevenston Road and Pennyburn, with a large rural section reaching northwards toward the town of Dalry. The parish area is 9.48 square miles, some of it housing and much of it farmland. There are 2,711 households with 6,831 residents, according to the most recent census figures. The area can be viewed on Google Earth.

Within the parish boundaries there are:

- two non-denominational Primary Schools – Whitehirst Park and Pennyburn, with whom we have good relationships, and St Luke's Roman Catholic Primary School.
- a sheltered housing complex, West Doura Court
- three new housing developments and more on the way
- Kilwinning Sports Club which is very active
- three Community Centres which provide for the full spectrum of youth and adult groups
- a golf club
- a fire station

Within the town are Kilwinning Academy and a campus of the new Ayrshire College, as well as 2 bowling clubs and a Public Library. There are no other church buildings in our parish, although there are three or four in the town centre, one mile from Mansefield Trinity.



Main Street



Ayrshire College



Whitehirst Park Primary School

Our church



The roll of the congregation currently has around 180 names. Sunday morning worship is attended by an average of 80 people, including several folk who worship with us but are not formal members of the congregation.

Mission Statement

Our vision is that the congregation form the Christian heart at the centre of our local community. We aim to:

- Offer joyful, Christ-centred worship as a focus for our own lives and for those who join us on Sundays.
- Offer opportunities to those who join us, to grow both spiritually and personally.
- Witness to God's love and share the Good News.
- Serve our community in God's name."

Church building



Our building is the first Church of the third millennium built by the Church of Scotland and was dedicated in March 2001. It is one of two Church of Scotland parishes in Kilwinning; the other is Kilwinning: Old (formerly known as the Abbey Church). The building consists of an entrance vestibule leading to a substantial foyer with cafe-style tables. Glass doors and panels give a clear view into the sanctuary. There is a kitchen with serving area to the left with a hatch into the hall which can seat about 60. Off the foyer to the right is a vestry, beyond which is a door leading to corridor with a committee room which can seat about ten, and toilets including a disabled toilet. The whole building is wheelchair-friendly, and there is a car park.



The worship area has a distinctive round shape, which creates a light and airy atmosphere. Full floor to ceiling windows frequently allow the church to be flooded with sunlight during our services throughout the year. The contemporary design includes individual seating, allowing for flexibility of use according to congregational needs. A large, folding, soundproof door can be opened into the hall to increase the seating capacity to 250 plus.

Mansefield Trinity offers a place to belong for all who enter through our doors and a welcome and hospitality to the people of the local area and beyond. Tea, coffee and chat are served in the foyer and hall to congregation and visitors alike after the Sunday service.

Style of Worship



The choir

Worship in Mansefield Trinity is based on the well-known Church of Scotland formula. We also include many informal elements. The praise is accompanied by a modern electronic organ and led by the choir. Occasionally we sing accompanied by guitar and other instruments, and even (by choice) unaccompanied. We use songs from CH4, Mission Praise, Junior Praise and other sources. Members of the congregation read the Bible passages, and drama is used from time to time.



The order of service is projected on the wall with the words of hymns and Bible readings being easily seen by everyone. Before worship begins, Church News and other announcements are projected, and the Session Clerk reads highlights from them.



At present, Communion is administered on the first Sunday of March, June, September and December.



There is a limited ecumenical scene in Kilwinning. We hold joint services with Kilwinning: Old at Christmas and Easter, and with other congregations at the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity and lunchtime Holy Week services.

Messy Church



Mansefield Trinity was the first congregation in Ardrossan Presbytery to run Messy Church. We have now completed six years of Messy Church where on the first Saturday of every month we are hosts to between 45 and 70 people from our local community. A team of ten runs Messy Church, with occasional other helpers. Recently we have had visits from several other churches who would like to replicate our Messy Church. The flexibility of the building and the seating are ideal for Messy Church activities, which include a simple meal eaten together in the hall.



Organisations

The weekly schedule of events includes:



Sunday: 11.00 am worship, with Sunday School, crèche and young people's group.

12 noon every two months: Pastoral Care Group

Monday evening: the Craft Group, producing cards, calendars and small items which are sold for Church and other charitable funds.



Tuesday lunchtime: the Tuesday Café, staffed entirely by around ten volunteers mainly from the congregation. The café provides snacks and light lunches between 10.30 am and 1.00 pm. Its principal purpose is mission and service to the parish and town, and there are about forty customers each week. Any profits go to Church funds.



Tuesday evening: Boys' Brigade Chess Club 6.30–7.30 pm
Kirk Session and Congregational Board meetings
WRVS meetings

Wednesday afternoon: Mothers' and Toddlers' Group, 1.00–3.00 pm



Wednesday evening: Weightwatchers;
SHIMS (Scottish Head Injuries Music Support)

Thursday evening: Choir practice 6.30–7.30 pm
Guild 7.30–9.00 pm



Friday evening: 2nd Kilwinning Boys' Brigade (meeting at Abbey Church Hall)

Saturday: Messy Church on first Saturday of the month, 4.00–6.00 pm

Coffee mornings etc. at least every two months.



Doors Open Day 2014

The premises are also used by other churches, the local primary schools and organisations for conferences, charitable organisations for concerts etc. In the last two years, our building has been used as a polling station. Since 2014, the church takes part in Ayrshire Doors Open Day in September, joining with 3 other venues in the town.

Governance

Currently we have the Model Constitution of Kirk Session and Congregational Board, and are actively considering changing to the Unitary Constitution. There are fifteen Elders and eight elected members. The Stated Annual Meeting is held in the middle of March each year.



Fish & chip supper

The church magazine, "The Challenge", is produced two weeks before Communion Sundays, and is delivered by the district Elders.

The congregation has a website and a Facebook page. The Development Group has recently formed a Communications Group whose aim is to improve communication within both the church and the parish.



Christmas tree festival

More than thirty members of the congregation have Safeguarding Certificates, which indicates the substantial involvement of a high proportion of the membership.

Even more members are involved as helpers in: Bible Reading, Tea & Coffee serving, Flower Delivery and Flower Donation, Welcome Committee, Beadle duty, and so on.

Finance

The Congregational Board has a Finance Committee which supports the Treasurer and advises the Board. The accounts for 2015 are available on request.

There is an active Stewardship Committee working on a three-year cycle. In autumn 2013 the finance programme resulted in a 15% increase in giving in 2014. The same committee pursued a "skills and abilities" programme in autumn 2014 which resulted in a significant number of people coming forward to offer themselves for service in a variety of areas of the congregation's mission and service. In 2015 the third phase of stewardship focussed on the congregation's impact on the community. In 2016 we will again undertake a finance programme.



Christmas fair

There is also a Fundraising Committee which runs events including Coffee Mornings, Music Events, Craft Fairs and Fish and Chip Suppers both to raise funds for the congregation (over £4,000 in 2015) and to promote social interaction within the congregation and in the local community. For the last 2 years we have held a very successful Christmas Tree Festival which involved groups in both the church and the community.

Other information

Other Missionary activity



Food Bank contributions

We also support the North Ayrshire Food Bank and the Blythwood Shoebox Appeal. In 2015 we sent a load of books to a refurbished library in Guyana.

Through the charity "Compassion" we support the education of Joseph, a young boy in Tanzania.

Many members of the congregation serve in local groups such as Community Council and School Council.

The Manse



The modern manse has a reception room, family room, dining room and kitchen with utility room and toilet on the ground floor. Upstairs are three bedrooms (master en-suite), a study and family bathroom. Full details are available on request.

Workload



Easter in the church

Last year the minister conducted twelve funerals, which is about average; six baptisms and one blessing of a child, which again is about average; and no weddings.

The local crematorium is at Holmsford Bridge near Dreghorn, about fifteen minutes' drive from Kilwinning. Burials are normally in Kilwinning Cemetery.

Hospital visits are usually to Crosshouse Hospital in Kilmarnock, about twenty minutes' drive from Kilwinning.

Recent history of the congregation

After two very short ministries (each less than two years) the Presbytery decided to request an Interim Ministry for Mansefield Trinity. Rev Alan Ward was introduced as Interim Minister in April 2013 and retired at Easter 2015.



New elders 2015

During the Interim Ministry period, the congregation met almost all of the Aims and Objectives which had been agreed in the first few months of Interim Ministry. A special, temporary "Process Group" was set up by the Interim Minister to look in depth at the Aims and Objectives and suggest ways of implementing them. It has been so successful that its work will continue through the vacancy as the "Development Group".

In December 2014, the Presbytery of Ardrossan and the Interim Ministries Task Group decided that the congregation is ready to call a minister in full status. In February 2015 the Presbytery Planning Task Group of the Ministries Council concurred with Presbytery's decision. For the sake of continuity, Rev Alan Ward has been appointed Interim Moderator in the vacancy. Since Easter 2015, the locum minister has been Rev. Ross Mitchell who is also a member of the Mansefield Trinity congregation.

We are now planning several new ventures including the development of work with families and young people. The church is fortunate to have several young families in the congregation, and we are considering new ventures to actively involve young people. Recently, new sound equipment has been installed which we hope will help in music and drama presentations. Ideas are being explored for engaging with teenagers as well as younger children.



The congregation's increased giving and involvement is a clear sign to us that Mansefield Trinity has "turned a corner". We are looking forward to calling an enthusiastic minister who will help us to fulfil our renewed vision for service to God and community.

www.kilwinningmansefieldtrinity.org

Find us on Facebook: search for "Mansefield Trinity".