

# AUCHTERARDER – A VIBRANT CHURCH IN A GROWING TOWN

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*Can You Take Us Onto The Next Step?*



PROFILE, OCTOBER 2018

[www.auchterarderparish.org](http://www.auchterarderparish.org) [@auchterarderparish](https://www.instagram.com/auchterarderparish)

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*Sunday Morning at APC*

## 1. AUCHTERARDER PARISH CHURCH - OVERVIEW

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**An all week long place of Christian fellowship for the whole community...**is our vision at Auchterarder Parish Church (APC). Not just words, it is brought to life through our congregational volunteers and their many activities. We have excellent facilities, a modern manse and a great story to tell. We are a vibrant Church in a growing town, a Church with a growing roll that is ripe for further growth. There is much for our new minister to build on and this document is designed to give you some insight into whether you feel that will be you.

**We operate as one church family**, while providing a range of contact opportunities that people can choose from. For example, Sundays at APC can be anything from a brief visit up to an all-morning experience: breakfast is served in the Community Church Centre from 9.30 am followed by a pause for Christian reflection at Breakfast Plus. Morning Worship is at 10.30 am in our beautiful Church Sanctuary, with many staying on afterwards for coffee and fellowship.

**We are much more than just a Sunday Morning Church:**

- Our Pastoral Care team is active in the community throughout the week.
- Our great facilities include the modern, well equipped Community Church Centre, a well-used meeting place for community and Church groups throughout each week.
- We have a long relationship with our school, through Scripture Union, hosting end of term services and currently the “Generations Working Together Programme”. We also have substantial funds earmarked for youth development.
- Our Church minibus, a new venture with great promise, is there to serve the community.
- Archway (Mondays) is a multi-agency café / support service for those who really need it.
- APC’s Guild is one of the largest in Scotland, we have a lively 50:50 Lunch Club once a month and our premises host a new and growing community Men’s Shed.

**Path of Renewal.** APC is one of the original twenty Churches selected for the *Path of Renewal* programme and we are very much in tune with the Church of Scotland’s direction of travel towards network ministries. Prayer is at our core and based on that we are active too, as a connecting Church, there to know God and to make Him known. We are continuing on the Path of Renewal during our vacancy and beyond.

**We have our challenges.** There is more to do for us to connect with those who are lonely or feel disconnected from God and our community. We have the familiar demographic of an ageing congregation and an ongoing quest to strike a chord with our teenagers. We also need to strengthen our links with the local school. Attracting more of the many new families and couples moving into our fast-growing town is going well but could be better. Although we do have a pool of 50 children on our roll, only around 15-20 attend Church regularly.

**What about you?** Overleaf you will find sections on *what we have to offer* and *what we are looking for* in a new minister. These are the product of prayer and consultation with the congregation. We don’t seek a super-human, but we are looking for an energetic servant of God to lead and work with us enthusiastically to grow our vibrant Church.

## 2. SNAPSHOTS OF APC, OUR IMPACT AND WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER

THESE MAJOR CHARACTERISTICS COVER WHAT WE HAVE TO OFFER AT APC:



### PASTORAL CARE FOR OUR CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY

APC has a strong ethos of caring that we turn into reality in a range of ways, welcoming and encouraging young families; taking time for older members and bringing them to Church.



### MULTI-GENERATIONAL WORSHIP WITH A MUSICAL HEART

Music is integral to our worship, traditional and modern; from a multigeneration orchestra and pipe organ to healthy choral support, we have them all at APC. We believe this helps us connect with God and the Gospel in different ways.



### ENGAGING WITH FAMILIES, ESPECIALLY YOUNG FOLK AND THEIR ISSUES

**Kidstream** - With our pre-teens we explore who God is within age-appropriate, Bible-based teaching groups, using a variety of teaching methods. We aim to help them learn how to live the way Jesus would want in today's society.



### ENGAGING WITH FAMILIES, ESPECIALLY YOUNG FOLK AND THEIR ISSUES

**GRID** - Our GRID (Generating Really Important Disciples) teenagers are challenged on issues facing young Christians. We aim to give them a strong foundation of Christian faith for the attendant challenges of growing up and indeed, fulfilling their name!



### A CHURCH RIPE FOR GROWTH, ON THE *PATH OF RENEWAL*

Under PoR, we are exploring new approaches to Church life in the 21C, making Church relevant in this troubled world. Rooted in prayer, we aim to identify and offer opportunities to get alongside, connect with and live the Gospel with our wider community.



### GREAT FACILITIES, BEAUTIFUL SANCTUARY AND A MODERN MANSE

Our facilities combine with the great spirit of our volunteers to turn the vision of an all week long place of fellowship for the whole community into life. Our minibus helps with this and the manse is a lovely modern home (see web links on p 10).

### 3. OUR NEW MINISTER

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*FIVE MAJOR CRITERIA COVER WHAT APC IS LOOKING FOR IN OUR NEW MINISTER:*

A CHALLENGING TEACHER, WHOSE CHRISTIAN BELIEF-IN-ACTION IS OPENLY DEMONSTRATED



ENGAGEMENT WITH YOUNG FOLK, THEIR FAMILIES AND THEIR ISSUES



A PASTORAL HEART FOR ALL AGES, REALLY ENGAGING WITH THE CONGREGATION AND COMMUNITY



A TEAM PLAYER WHO CAN ALSO TAKE THE LEAD THROUGH CHANGE



EXCITED AND CHALLENGED BY *PATH OF RENEWAL* AND APC'S FIRM BASE FOR GROWTH



## 4. SUPPORTING INFORMATION

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### THE PARISH OF AUCHTERARDER (see also “statistics” web link on p10)

The parish of Auchterarder lies in the heart of Scotland, surrounded by beautiful countryside yet within commuting distance of Scotland’s major cities. The origin of Auchterarder’s motto is Matthew 5:14 “a city set on a hill cannot be hid”. Neither, we believe, can its Kirk!

Auchterarder, “The Lang Toon”, has a long High Street, lined with a good selection of independent shops and eateries. The population is 5,280 and is forecast to increase by 1,500 over the next 10 years, providing an unrivalled opportunity for mission and outreach. The Community School of Auchterarder occupies one modern campus, providing nursery, primary and secondary education to over 1,000 pupils.

Together, St Margaret’s Hospital and Health Centre provide medical care to the residents of Auchterarder, Aberuthven, Blackford and Dunning. The elderly within the parish have the opportunity, if needed, to reside at one of the three care homes within the town.

Auchterarder is next to the world-renowned Gleneagles Hotel, the major employer in the area, with a range of top class leisure pursuits, not least golf and horse riding. Other sports facilities are at the community school campus, the golf club and there are local walking and cycling routes to suit all abilities. Auchterarder Adult Education Association’s volunteers provide a range of leisure classes and we also have Rotary, Probus and Camera Clubs, the Inner Wheel and Auchterarder in Bloom.

### CONGREGATION, STRUCTURE AND THE TEAM

APC is the product of the union of St Andrew’s and West Church and the Barony Church into the latter’s buildings in 1983. Our vacancy is the result of the departure from the Church of Scotland of our former Minister, Rev Dr Rob Barlow. Our Locum Minister is Rev Iain Paton, who up to the point of Rev Barlow’s departure had been APC’s Assistant Minister, a position part-funded by the congregation. Rev Paton would be willing to return to that position at the end of the current vacancy. We have three part time members of staff: Musical Director, Stephen Miller, Community Church Centre Manager, Mandy Blackadder and our Church Cleaner, Heather Anderson.

The long-term vision of the Presbytery of Perth is for network (hub) ministry. APC is well placed and set up to play a key role in the network of Churches in our wider area.

APC has a typical attendance on a Sunday morning of up to 200, from a growing communion roll of 543 members (plus 197 on a supplementary roll and 9 adherents, teenagers given the right to vote on the appointment of our new minister). Run under the Unitary Constitution, the Kirk Session has 38 elders, 16 male, 22 female (including 11 new in August 2018). Each elder serves on at least one of six Core Groups: *Finance, Facilities Management, Stewardship, Pastoral Care, Path of Renewal and Worship / Education*. We are part of the Presbytery of Perth which meets quarterly with one presbytery elder plus one equalising elder representing our

Church on presbytery sub-committees. Training is provided for pastoral care, new elders and for worship leaders by the APC-based Perth Presbytery Trainer.

Overseas, APC is connected with ASHA in New Delhi, Vine Trust in Peru / Tanzania and Tearfund in Ethiopia, all Christian organisations which support support families.

## WORSHIP

Jesus conducted his worship in the community and *Path of Renewal* is founded on being good disciples “out there”, including worship, something we wish to explore further with a new minister. Currently, worship beyond the walls of APC extends into care homes for the elderly; through the regular meetings of our Home Group; plus, the Men’s 10:10 group is about living life to the full through its activities, always from a worshipful base.

With the three other Churches in the town (Episcopal, Roman Catholic and United Free) we come together in ACTS, *Auchterarder Churches Together*, including ecumenical worship. ACTS has much potential for APC and the other Churches to explore.

Throughout the year, APC hosts special worship services, including an annual Memorial Service for the bereaved and end-of-term Primary School services. As *Parish Church* we host Auchterarder’s Remembrance Sunday service, especially poignant in 2018. The Community’s Christmas Tree Festival fills the Sanctuary with trees and visitors every December.

Our approach to worship on Sunday mornings has evolved through prayer and under the principle of being *one Church family*. We work hard to practise the “all are welcome” principle at any stage on Sunday morning and the reality is borne out by a healthy blend of young and old at both the formal and less formal elements of our offering on a typical Sunday morning:

## SUNDAY MORNINGS AT APC



9.30 am - Breakfast

- Served by volunteers in the Community Church Centre
- A relaxed start to the day



10.05 am - Breakfast Plus

- A light-touch pause for Christian thought
- Led each Sunday by one of an extended team of volunteers



10.30 am - Morning Worship in the Sanctuary

- Traditional base with a modern feel and strong musical core
- Supported by a new sound and vision system
- Concludes once a month with Holy Communion



11.30 am - Coffee and Fellowship

- In the Centre for up to 100 every week
- By 12.30 pm some folks have been in Church for 3 hours

## FINANCE

### *Financial Summary*

This information has been extracted from the Annual Accounts, copies of which are available on request. This summary also includes Investment Income from the Consolidated Stipend Fund, and a Grant from Presbytery in 2016, all utilised towards the payment of Ministries and Mission Contributions.

2016 Actual	2017 Actual	2018 Budget
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#### **Income**

Regular Income	167,091	170,606	162,153
Grants Received	42,500	2,912	0
Investment Income	20,832	21,162	21,052
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>230,423</b>	<b>194,680</b>	<b>183,205</b>

#### **Expenditure**

Ministries & Mission	73,696	82,540	78,764
Local Staffing	19,722	25,438	36,944
Building Costs and Depreciation	43,270	39,081	35,570
Other Costs	68,532	33,369	21,344
	<b>205,220</b>	<b>180,428</b>	<b>172,622</b>

#### **Net Surplus**

<b>25,203</b>	<b>14,252</b>	<b>10,583</b>
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### *General Trustees Loan*

The Community Church Centre opened in 2009, at a cost of £1.38 million. The funding included a substantial interest free loan from the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland.

The Church has funds of £642,000 from the sale of Glebe property invested in the Consolidated Stipend Fund held with the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland, giving rise to the Investment Income above. Only the interest is available to the congregation.

Following the most generous award of a grant from the General Trustees, announced in September 2018, this has enabled a successful restructuring of the remaining loan balance of £212,000. Repayments will be over the next 6 years and are at a level the congregation has been and will be able to cover. At the end of the 6 years the investment income will become free to use by the congregation.

Our financial position is now stable in readiness for a new ministry. To receive such support from the wider Church of Scotland and the backing of Presbytery, all at a time of vacancy, has been a wonderful encouragement to the congregation and to the leadership.

## FACILITIES

**Church Sanctuary** - Auchterarder Parish Church is on the town's long High Street. It was designed by a Glasgow architecture firm of which Charles Rennie Mackintosh was a partner, built by local tradesmen and first opened its doors in 1905. Still in use today, following an extensive renovation, is the original pipe organ.

The main Sanctuary can accommodate 600 worshippers and is filled to capacity several times during the year, including Primary School services, our Nativity and Watchnight services and on Remembrance Sunday, when our Sanctuary hosts members from all four Churches in the town, known as Auchterarder Churches Together (ACTS). Since the removal of the pews in 2005, the Sanctuary has a flexible layout, making it a truly multipurpose building.

**Community Church Centre** - To the rear of the Sanctuary is the Community Church Centre, opened in 2009. As striking in its own modern way as the Sanctuary, this excellent building has a spacious main hall, boardroom, garden room, toilets (including disabled and children's toilets) and a frequently used commercial kitchen. The Centre is used daily by a variety of Church and community groups and has hosted wedding receptions, funeral teas and conferences. Beside the Community Church Centre is the original Church Hall with separate or adjoining access and views overlooking the Church allotment and memorial garden.

**Car Parking** - There is ample car parking to the rear of the Church Centre, where our 16 seat church minibus is parked, and on Sunday mornings worshippers are permitted to use the neighbouring car park of Heritage Environmental Ltd.

**Sound and Vision** - A new digital system was installed throughout our buildings in 2016. We can "fill the place with sound" and have digital projectors wired into the Sanctuary and halls.

**Manse** - The Kirk Session purchased a brand new 4-bedroomed manse in 2013. The manse benefits from pleasant secluded gardens and a double garage. This is located in a quiet housing estate within easy walking distance of APC and all local amenities.

## ENQUIRIES AND CORRESPONDENCE REGARDING OUR VACANCY

If you would like to discuss any aspect of what you have read in this document, or have enquiries related to our vacancy, please feel free to get in touch with the APC Nominating Committee Convener, Ian Gourlay (email [iangourlay@btconnect.com](mailto:iangourlay@btconnect.com), tel 01764 662695)

Further information is also available from the Interim Moderator, Rev John MacGregor (email [john\\_macg@hotmail.com](mailto:john_macg@hotmail.com), tel 01821 642516)

**All applications and recommendations** should be directed to the Clerk to the Nominating Committee, Chris Cameron (email [apcparishprofile@outlook.com](mailto:apcparishprofile@outlook.com))

## 5. VIDEO AND WEB LINKS:

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- a. Let us introduce ourselves  – Click [here](#) to view
- b. APC Manse – Click [here](#) to view
- c. Church gathering on Sunday morning – Click [here](#) to view
- d. Community Church Centre – Click [here](#) to view
- e. Along the driveway – Click [here](#) to view
- f. APC Youth and their take on the Nativity – Click [here](#) to view
- g. APC Online [www.auchterarderparish.org](http://www.auchterarderparish.org)  APC on facebook – Click [here](#) to view
- h. APC Magazine - Click [here](#) to read (opens in new window as a PDF file)
- i. Parish Statistics - [http://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/statistics\\_for\\_mission/parish\\_profiles/281699.pdf](http://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/statistics_for_mission/parish_profiles/281699.pdf)



***If you feel that you can take us onto the next step, we'd love to hear from you***

Auchterarder Parish Church, 24 High Street, Auchterarder, PH3 1DF  
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