

# PARISH PROFILE FOR THE LINKED CHARGE OF CARNWATH AND CARSTAIRS

*We are two parishes newly linked in December 2013 who worship and serve our God in the villages and surrounding areas of Carnwath, Carstairs and Carstairs Junction all of which enjoy good community links.*



# THE JOURNEY AHEAD

*As we begin this new phase of our journey together, we are looking for a minister who will*

- Lead us spiritually and practically
- Encourage and empower us
- Communicate effectively with all ages and be approachable
- Provide pastoral support to ourselves and our communities
- Enable us to worship in ways that are meaningful to all

*On this journey our congregations offer*

- A desire to worship and serve God
- Deep concern and love for our communities
- Time and talents
- Support
- Willing hands and hearts

*The road ahead presents exciting challenges that we can work on together*

- Nurture the spiritual growth of church members and develop more effective leadership
- Help Carnwath to continue to adapt to being a church without church buildings
- Work with Carstairs to carry forward it's building development plans ensuring the church as a people remains its main focus
- Build relationships and activities with the young and old of both parishes
- Develop the potential of the new linkage

*Our journey will be continuous and without end but it is our hope that we will always be*

- A church that is caring, alive and worshipping
- A church where everyone is offered an open and friendly welcome
- A church where all are loved, accepted and valued just as they are



# OUR CHURCH LIFE

*Both congregations are actively involved in church life*

## WORSHIP

Services are held at 10.00am and 11.30am every Sunday. Carnwath meet in the town hall and Carstairs and Carstairs Junction in the Village church.

Both services are traditional in style with the congregations taking an active part by reading the lessons, leading the prayers and on occasions worship. In Carstairs the young people join us for the first part of the service before moving to Sclub although regular all age services are held so we can enjoy worship together.

Carnwath use CH4 and both use Mission Praise. A multi-media system is used every week in Carstairs.

Lite Bites and Messy Church are alternative styles of worship which are held in Carstairs Junction to ensure we retain a worshipping presence in that village.

Communion is celebrated four times per year in March, June, September and December and when the minister deems appropriate.

Easter, Christmas and Harvest are all special times within our church year when additional services, often of a more alternative style, are held.



## FAITH & FELLOWSHIP

**The Fellowship Corner** meets every Sunday in Carnwath after the service for people to enjoy tea/coffee and a chat together.

**The Guild** meets on the first Wednesday of the month in both parishes. A joint summer outing is held annually.

**JIGSAW** is a Bible Study group which meets fortnightly in Carstairs Community Centre.

**The Drama Club** exists both to build fellowship and reach out to the community. They use drama to find new, creative and inclusive ways to share the gospel message but have also been known to enjoy a bit of panto.

**So Sing** is a praise group which meets on the first Sunday of each month in Carstairs and is regularly involved in worship.

**Lite Bites** offers a thought for the day on the last Monday of each month followed by morning coffee. This is held in Carstairs Junction Church.

## PASTORAL CARE

**Flowers** used to beautify both places of worship are distributed each week to the housebound, sick and bereaved within the parishes regardless of membership.

**Transport** – is offered by volunteers to take the elderly or those without transport to Carstairs Village church on a Sunday. Hospital transport is also available to those in Carstairs Parish.

**Bereavement Service** is held annually in December in Carstairs Parish for those in the surrounding area who have been bereaved or for whom Christmas is a difficult time.



## MISSION & OUTREACH

**Foodbank** - Carstairs Junction is a satellite centre for the Clydesdale Foodbank. On average 4 food boxes are distributed per month by the co-ordinator. Both congregations generously support this cause by donating food items.

**Christian Aid Week** gives the church the opportunity to meet with the community as well as raising funds for the charity. An annual collection, lunch and service are all held within Carstairs Parish.

**Messy Church** began just over a year ago as part of our outreach to the community. Most of those who attend have no other church connection.

**Loaves & Fishes**, a charity for the homeless in Glasgow, is the focus for the Harvest Thanksgiving offering. Members have also assisted at their drop in café.

**Midweek Musings**, evenings of singing, storytelling, hand massage and dream analysis, funded by the Go For It Fund, were held when the church in Carnwath moved to the town hall in 2012.

**Choirs, Concerts, Summer Fete** and other similar events all provide us with opportunities to invite our community into the church.

*Over the last few years, our youth ministry within Carstairs Parish has become a significant part of our mission and outreach.*



## YOUTH MINISTRY

**S Club** meets every Sunday and uses the Spill the Beans material.

**The Net** is a youth group, open to all young people in P7 through to secondary. It runs fortnightly from September to June. This year our theme was 'Choices and Challenges'.

**The Boys' Brigade** meets every Tuesday in Carstairs community centre from September to March. We currently have 25 primary aged boys attending Anchors and Juniors.

**The Girls' Brigade** was reinstated in 2013. Parents within the community who remembered the group from their young days approached the church to fill the gap. Approx. 45 girls attend our weekly Thursday meetings.

**Service** of dedication is held annually for our BB and GB in October and our young people join us regularly for and participate in all age worship services.

**Holiday Club** has become a popular outreach to children within the community. Last summer everyone was invited 'All Aboard' to hear about Peter and this Easter they all turned detective at 'Codebreakers'.

**Give a Gift** is an annual event organised by the youth groups to support those who will receive little or nothing at Christmas. Latterly the gifts donated have gone to Clydesdale Women's Aid.

**School Chaplaincy** enables strong links to be maintained and enjoyed between school and church and provides opportunity to build relationships with our young people. Visits to the Bibleworld bus and Bubblegum & Fluff organised by 2CYT have been supported by Carnwath church.



## OUR PARISHES

Carnwath, Carstairs and Carstairs Junction are 3 small, rural villages only a few miles apart and located within South Lanarkshire.

The 3 communities have easy access to direct train routes to both Glasgow and Edinburgh and a good local bus service to the neighbouring town of Lanark.

Each village has its own primary school, all of which are new builds. Carnwath Primary feeds into Biggar High. Carstairs and Carstairs Junction transfer to Lanark Grammar. Carnwath and Carstairs Junction both have nursery departments within the school. A strong link exists between the primary schools and the church with the minister chaplain to all as well as forming part of the chaplaincy team in the local secondary.

There are excellent childcare facilities within the parishes with a private nursery and after school care centre.

The 2011 census indicated that there are approximately 4500 residents between the 3 villages.

**Carnwath** is the largest of the 3 villages. At the centre of the Village is the market cross built in 1516 by Hugh Sommerville, the 5<sup>th</sup> Lord Sommerville, giving the distance from the market cross to various towns in old scots.

Housing is a mixture of council and owner occupied. The village has its own medical practice, pharmacy, bank, post office, several small convenience stores and a hotel and restaurant.

**Carstairs Junction** again has mixed housing. It has a main railway line station and indeed the railway was the biggest employer many years ago. The village has a small shop with post office and a licensed pub which also serves food.



**Carstairs Village** housing is mixed and a new estate was built in 2010. The local surgery is part of the Carnwath medical practice. There is a well, stocked local shop with post office, a café and a licensed hotel with restaurant.

All 3 villages have well used community halls.

Wishaw General is the nearest hospital and just slightly further afield is St John's at Livingston. For those who are more active there are 2 golf clubs and 2 bowling clubs.

The town of Lanark is 6 – 8 miles away and has a good variety of shops, restaurants and the nearest swimming pool with gym. The renowned New Lanark World Heritage Site is a few miles further on which has scenic and historical walks along the Falls of Clyde.

[http://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/docs/stats\\_for\\_mission/130704.pdf](http://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/docs/stats_for_mission/130704.pdf)

[http://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/docs/stats\\_for\\_mission/130700.pdf](http://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/docs/stats_for_mission/130700.pdf)



# PROPERTIES

## *The Manse*

The 5 bedroom manse was a new build in 2009 and is located within a small residential estate at Kames, approx. 1 to 1½ miles from all 3 villages. The property has 3 public rooms, a fully fitted modern kitchen, cloakroom toilet, bathroom and ensuite. It has a double garage attached to the house and oil central heating.

The manse falls within the catchment area for Carstairs Village Primary School and Lanark Grammar Secondary School.

## *Carnwath Church*

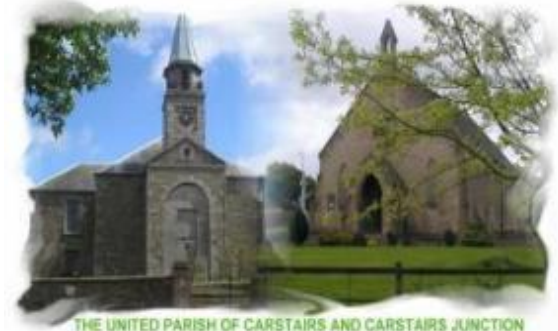
Carnwath Gothic church build in 1798 and formerly known as St Mary's closed in 2012. St Mary's Isle next to the church building was built in 1424 as a mausoleum to the Lockhart's of the Lee and the Earl of Carnwath.

There were 3 churches in Carnwath at one time. The one named above, the Townfoot Garage building and the former church hall joined together to be known as the Collegiate Church.

In the last few years Carnwath have made some very difficult decisions in relation to their buildings. Consequently the congregation now meet in Carnwath Town Hall located on the Main Street. Responsibility for the original church and church hall rests with the Church of Scotland General Trustees.

## *Carstairs Village Church*

This church was built in 1795 and is located at the top end of the village green. It is currently the main place of worship. It has a vestry and a small, upstairs room for meetings but no church hall. Sclub and other groups use the local 'village run' community centre located almost next door.



### ***Carstairs Junction Church***

This church was built in 1879 by the Caledonian railway company. Again it has a vestry but no hall. The church pews were removed some years ago to give a flexible working space. The church is currently used for Lite Bites, occasional services and meetings. The local council community hall is used for Messy Church.



## HISTORY & STRUCTURE

In December 2013 our two charges were officially linked together, the outcome of the Presbytery Plan but a decision both congregations had waited on for some time. Many years before Carstairs and Carstairs Junction had been a linked parish before opting for a Union in 2006.

Under the linkage both parishes retain their own places of worship and their own management systems although certain financial costs are split between both congregations.

### **CARNWATH**

In 2013 Carnwath opted to operate under a Unitary Constitution as this model 'best fits' their plans. Carnwath have a Kirk Session comprising of 12 elders and 4 co-opted members. Current membership stands at 147 with average attendance of 35 to 40.

In 2013 there were 11 funerals and 1 service of blessing.

A copy of the latest financial review is available on request. In 2013 overall income was £22424.00.

### **CARSTAIRS & CARSTAIRS JUNCTION**

Carstairs operates under the Model Deed Constitution and have 22 elders on their Kirk Session and 17 elected Board members. At present there are 213 on the congregational roll and average attendance is 70 to 80.

During 2013 there were 32 funerals, 2 baptisms and 4 child blessings.

A copy of the latest financial review is available on request, overall income in 2013 was £43803.00.



## CONCLUSION

Thank you for taking the time to read our Parish profile. We hope that through our words and images you will have an insight into the journey we are on. We would ask that you prayerfully consider not only our journey but your own. If you would like further information, informal enquiries can be made to our:

***Interim Moderator***

Rev Russell McLarty

Tel: 01875 614496

Email: [russellmclarty@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:russellmclarty@yahoo.co.uk)

If you would like to be considered for this charge, please submit your CV with two referees to:

***The Clerk to the Nominating Committee***

Mrs Linda Brown

87 Lanark Road

Carstairs Village ML11 8QQ

Tel: 01555 870028

Email: [lbrown87@btinternet.com](mailto:lbrown87@btinternet.com)

*'Together we can continue on our journey with Christ'*

