

St Marnock's Parish Church Kilmarnock- Parish Profile

Presbytery
Parish

The South West
KILMARNOCK ST MARNOCK'S



The Link below will take you to the Local Area statistics page on the Church of Scotland website

<https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/church-finder/data/statistics/parish-profiles/110646.pdf>

Details below are of our three buildings – the Church, and two centres of outreach.

St. Marnock's Church, St. Marnock Street KILMARNOCK KA1 1DZ

The Howard Centre, 5 Portland Rd, Ayrshire, Kilmarnock KA12BT

The Well, 100 Whatriggs Rd, Kilmarnock KA13SS

ST MARNOCK'S PARISH CHURCH

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

We are a family of faith, called to celebrate God's message of love and forgiveness in Jesus Christ.

Guided by the living Word of God, we nurture one another through worship, prayer, teaching and fellowship.

Led by the Holy Spirit, we reach out with hearts and hands to those in need, seeking to inspire hope in an ever changing community and world.



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Web sites

Church	<u>www.facebook.com/stmarnocks</u>
Howard Centre	<u>www.facebook.com/howardcentrekilmarnock</u>
The Well	<u>www.facebook.com/people/The-Well/100077354243554/</u>
YouTube and Live Stream	churchonlinekilmarnock

Vacancy information for applicants and those seeking more details.

After 35 plus years of loyal service our minister retired, and we are now seeking a minister to lead us and to develop the opportunities that are present in this parish.

We are a family of faith, called to celebrate God's message of love and forgiveness.

Guided by the living Word of God, we nurture one another through worship, prayer, teaching and fellowship. Led by the Holy Spirit, we reach out with hearts and hands to those in need, seeking to inspire hope in an ever-changing community and world.

The church meets every Sunday (on line service is live-streamed) at 11am.

We have as you will see two very different outreach centres, one near the church in the town centre, and the other at the south end of the town.

Please give any other information that you consider to be relevant but including –

* A personal statement giving your reasons for applying and the gifts you believe you can bring to the congregation

Your own name, address and email address and if relevant, details of any online services you may have.

** Please also supply contact details of two referees who will only be contacted by the nominating committee if your application is processed further.

*** Applications should be submitted to the clerk of the nominating committee (Mrs Joy Currie) email to:-

Stmarnocksnominations@gmail.com



THE VICTORIA
14 Haggs Castle Walk
Kilmarnock
Ayrshire
KA1 2FP

This pleasant four bedroom detached family home boasts a contemporary, open-plan kitchen and breakfast area, along with an impressive main bedroom to the upper floor.

Well-regarded local schools
Excellent nearby transport connections
5-minute drive to Kilmarnock railway station
Close to vibrant town of Kilmarnock

PARISH PROFILE - St Marnock's Parish Church

Vacancy.

After 35+ years of loyal service our minister retired and hence the reason for the vacancy.

History.

Present church was formed in 2021 with the union with Kilmarnock South and Riccarton churches. Present challenges are an ageing congregation. There is a need to attract younger members. The strengths are a dedicated core group from the congregation. The Spiritual life is in some need of re-awakening. Outreach is very proactive through the Howard Centre and through The Well catering for non-church members and those marginalised within the community. The church operates through the unitary constitution. At the last count, there are 44 Elders – although not all are able to undertake duties.

Community Profile.

St Marnock's is a town charge and contains an urban priority area. The Primary School in the parish is Gargieston and the church has a chaplaincy in place with the school. There is also a Primary School contained within the Grange Academy Complex which houses the main Secondary School for the area. Kilmarnock Academy is situated out with the town centre in the New Farm Loch area. There is also Kilmarnock College which offers a wide range of courses. The local hospital is situated in Crosshouse and is operated by Ayrshire & Arran Health Board. There is also a maternity unit attached to the hospital.

Worship Life.

The weekly pattern is a Sunday service at 11.00 am which is live streamed to those unable to attend. There is also a monthly service held at The Well and a monthly Bible study at The Well. A fortnightly prayer group meets through Zoom. The church also holds

an annual 24/7 prayer event usually in Holy Week. Gargieston Primary use the church for their seasonal services. There is no printed Order of Service but there are printed Church Notices issued each Sunday. There is a pool of three organists who accompany worship on a Sunday morning.

Pastoral Care.

There is a pastoral care group who visit the local nursing homes within the parish as well as housebound members, and any member who may be in hospital.

Christian Education.

A Boy's Brigade section meets in the church hall and also another section meets in The Well. A Girl Guide Company meets in the Howard Centre. Rainbow Girl guides also meet in the Church Hall, 5pm to 6 pm, on Mondays. *Sunday School.*

There is a Sunday school catering nursery and primary aged children. Sunday School has been blessed with a super team of teachers, who have lots of ideas to make Sunday School interesting for the children through story and crafting which relates to the message from the mornings story which in turn helps create conversation about their morning with their parents. We also take part in fund raising for Robin House Children's Hospice at Balloch which teaches how we can care for others in a tangible way. To date we have donated over £71000. We also enjoy fun times with parties and treasure hunts. Here are photo examples reflecting the joy and happiness from our Sunday School children.



After Sunday Church Service all are invited to share tea, coffee and baking in the church hall thanks to the generosity of volunteers who prepare, serve, and tidy up. From the donations of the congregation, we have been able to support the following charities: Break the Silence, Ayrshire Hospice, Ronald McDonald House, Howard Centre for the Abaana Choir visit, Lisallana Short Breaks, River Garden Auchincruive and Crosshouse Renal unit.

Ladies Fellowship - The Ladies Fellowship group aims to promote Christian fellowship and friendship within an informal setting. The group meets in the church hall on a Tuesday evening at 7.30pm on a fortnightly basis running from September through to March. Meetings open with a short act of worship followed by an organised activity and/or speaker and a list of meetings are collated in a Syllabus. The Syllabus is produced annually and available for distribution to interested members and one to our Minister. The average attendance is around 30-40 ladies of various ages most of whom are church members. As well as fostering friendships the main aim of the organisation is to encourage and support church projects and activities and to support the work of various charitable organisations through financial giving.

The evening concludes with tea, coffee and baking.

The Church of Scotland Guild - Meetings in the Howard Centre at 7.15pm every Monday evening from September to March commencing with a time of worship and closing with a customary cup of tea. The Guild has a very good attendance and membership, 43 to date. There are many different activities to keep our interests high as well listening to our guest speakers. We had a very successful Coffee Morning this year with a variety of stalls. At the end of the session, we always enjoy a meal in a local restaurant as well as continuing in the summer months with "catch up, blether, and a cup of tea" every last Monday of each month.

As a group we have donated to a range of charities and projects. The Guild is open to males as well as females and all will be made most welcome as our programme is suitable for all.

Ecumenical Context.

There are several Christian denominations within the centre of Kilmarnock. The Episcopal Church, the Congregational Church, the New Laigh Kirk, the Baptist Church, the Roman Catholic Church, the Kay Park Church and the Salvation Army. There is also the Central Evangelical Church, (whose members volunteer in the Howard Centre), and the Christian group that meets in CenterStage. There is a local grouping of churches known as the Fellowship of Kilmarnock Churches and St Marnock's is one of the churches in the group.

World Church.

The church supports Christian Aid through their annual Christian Aid Week and special offerings at Harvest and appeals.

Stewardship & Finance.

The Ministries and Mission contribution for 2025 is £102,639. Over the past two years we have met our contribution. The sum realised from regular giving is insufficient to meet running costs, and investments have had to be realised to assist. A Stewardship Campaign has not been carried out for some time, and it is hoped to do such a campaign in the near future. We are not taking part in the National Stewardship Campaign. A copy of the 2023 and 2024 Accounts is available on request.

Staffing.

At present, there is an MDS staff member who manages the Howard Centre and also takes part in Sunday worship. There is also an outreach employee who operates from the Howard Centre. The Well is run through the auspices of the Pioneer Project who pay the salary of the pioneer ministry.

Church, Manse and Halls.

There is a Property Committee who oversee any maintenance works required. At present, a new manse is being bought. A recent Quinquennial Report has shown up several matters that require attention, and estimates are being sought for the necessary work. Grant funding will be necessary to assist in meeting the cost of the work.

THE HOWARD CENTRE 5 Portland Rd, Ayrshire, Kilmarnock KA1 2BT



The Howard Centre is our busy town centre outreach centre located 300 yards from St Marnock's Church in Portland Road. Our Mission Development Worker Elaine is based in the Howard Centre and has responsibility for the management and development of the Howard Centre and is part of the Ministry Team at St Marnock's. Elaine works closely with Jill, our Mission Pioneer who manages The Well, our other outreach centre.

The Howard Centre is well established and crosses parish boundaries to serve the whole community of Kilmarnock and beyond. We work ecumenically across the other denominations in the town, partnering for various events and activities throughout the year, including Easter, Christmas & Summer Activities. We also serve as hosts for other churches and organisations who choose the Howard Centre for away days, conferences and training.

Our busy community café is open every Tuesday & Thursday serving low cost, home baked scones & cakes and freshly cooked lunches. The café is operated by our hard-working volunteers.



Alongside our café each Tuesday & Thursday we provide free lunches to our friends in the community who find themselves marginalised due to addiction, homelessness, poverty and circumstance. Serving between 35-45 free lunches each day we also run Comfort Corner at these times where toiletries, non-perishable foods, clothing etc is available to those who can benefit from it. This is a huge part of our outreach in the town with strong relationships built we are place of belonging where all are loved, valued and welcome. These relationships allow us to be invited into folks 'stories and therefore to provide support and help when needed. We work closely with other organisations including housing, job centre, police, the recovery hub & CAP, these organisations will come in on café days and just be around offering support with a whole variety of issues. These partnerships with other organisations in the town greatly enhance what we do, and we are so thankful for them.

Our lending library is available at all times offering books, DVDs, games and puzzles. It is well used and just runs itself.

We run a variety of groups and activities in the centre, we have church organisations including our youth organisations, the Guild & Friendship Lunch. We run our own classes and groups, and many other groups and organisations hire our various spaces. We are very blessed to have a variety of adaptable spaces & rooms available. We keep our hall hire cost low to allow big and small organisations and charities to access them.

Our Outreach Worker Jill works one day per week at the Howard Centre providing a variety of Art & Craft classes. Jill is also our Mission Pioneer who manages our other outreach centre, The Well, three days per week.

We rely heavily on our large group of dedicated, hard-working volunteers who undertake a whole variety of roles. Without our volunteers we simply could not function.

Our Prayer Group, who meet fortnightly on Zoom to pray, transform the Howard Centre into a 24/7 Prayer Space during Holy Week each year, offering people the opportunity to pray in person or from the comfort of their own homes. This has proved popular and is accessed by a variety of people from St Marnock's church, other churches in Kilmarnock & beyond and others who have no church connection.

We work closely with East Ayrshire Council & East Ayrshire Leisure, we are very grateful for this partner working. A variety of departments including Education & Learning, Social Work Family Contact, CHAT Health Team, Vibrant Communities & Housing use our space and East Ayrshire enable us to carry out major works and refurbishment projects through their funding avenues. Their financial support is greatly appreciated and has allowed us to carry out major works including new flooring, roof repairs and new doors and East Ayrshire Unpaid Work Service help with our garden and a whole variety of other works including painting & decorating. Julie from the CHAT Team is on site regularly offering free health checks and advice.

We receive a variety of donations including donations of money, clothing, toiletries, gifts, books & puzzles, these donations all help us to serve our community, and we are so grateful for them.

Our Howard Centre garden has recently had a makeover thanks to our garden volunteers. A bright, peaceful, colourful space at the back of building which includes our Remembrance Garden. The garden space is open for all to use.

We have a stock of litter picking equipment available for groups/ organisations & individuals to borrow and use. We also have a stock of Christian banners and posters available for churches to borrow.

We work closely with East Ayrshire Resettlement Team, providing a meeting place and events for all our resettlement families. We have many resettlement families across the local authority including Ukrainian, Arab, Syrian & Afghan families, it's been a privilege to work with and get to know these families and we look forward to further developing this work.



We are connected with Abaana, a charity who works with children & families in Uganda. The charity is based in Northern Ireland. We have hosted the choir twice now. We convert the Howard Centre into sleepover accommodation for 16-20 children and their chaperones. The children's choir comes on tour around Ireland and the UK. When they are with us, they perform their concert in the church but it's so much more than that. We get different businesses and organisations in the town to help with and provide for the visit, it brings the town together, builds relationships, raises awareness and as a result many children receive sponsorship. We are just about to start fundraising to help build another school in Uganda. We so value and treasure these relationships.



The Well 100 Whatriggs Rd, Kilmarnock KA1 3SS



The Well continues as an outreach resource for the south area of the town and is managed expertly and creatively by Jill, our Mission Pioneer. Bellfield Community Council continue to hold their monthly meetings in the building, and they also volunteer weekly at our Time to Talk session on Thursday.

Place Based Investment Programme Funding from East Ayrshire Council, £24,000; Renewable Energy Fund, £19,000 have been instrumental in the modernising of all the amenities making The Well a pleasant venue for all our activities.



A variety of groups and classes are utilizing the areas within ranging from physical activities through to Time To Talk, Men's Club and Craft Club open to all.



We are now working in partnership with Recovery Hub and are delighted to have Jye and his team offering a variety of activities to people going through recovery from addiction.

Worship at The Well and Word at The Well are growing successfully with a steady number of participants.

We are presently planning, with Ayrshire Food Hub, to offer cooking classes to local residents.

An evaluation of The Well and its work was carried out in August by members of the Presbytery resulting in the approval of the project and Jill's position being secured for another 3 years.

Congratulations to all who have contributed in the project.

