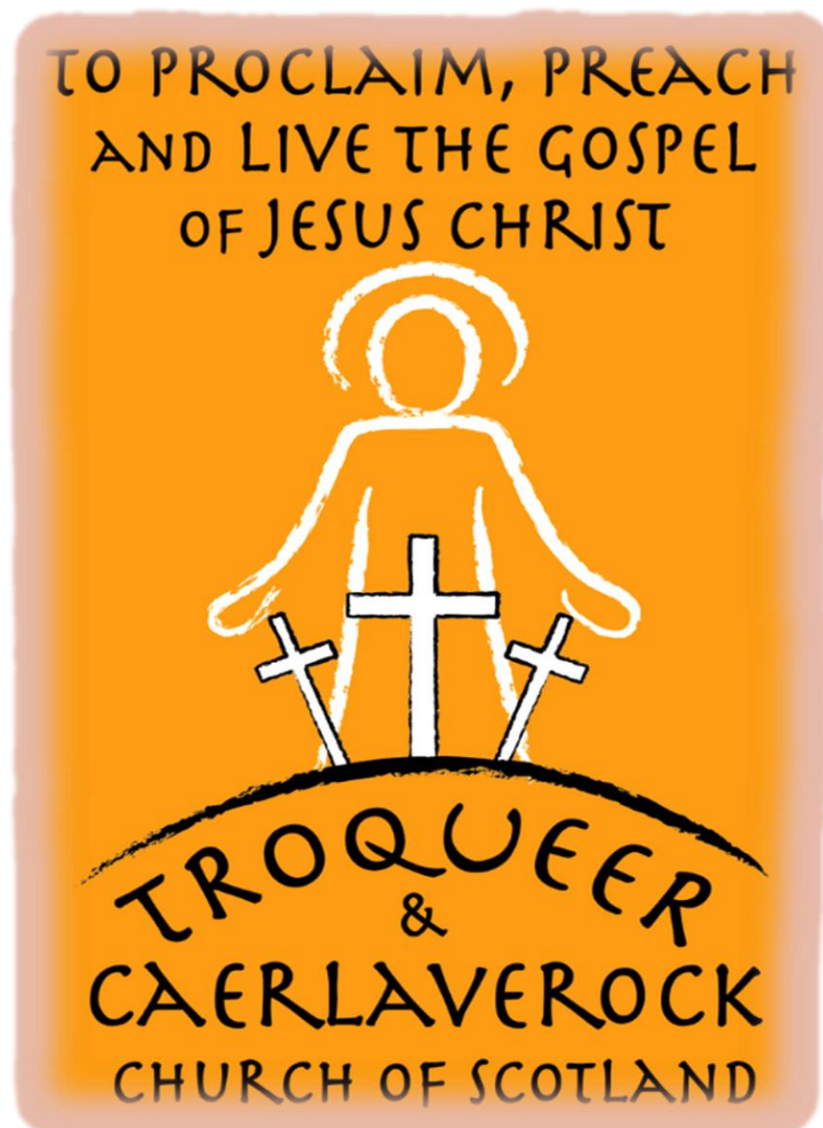


TROQUEER AND CAERLAVEROCK CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

TROQUEER ROAD, DUMFRIES, DG2 7DF

Parish Profile 2025



OUR WEBSITE: www.troqueerparishchurch.com

OUR FACEBOOK PAGE: www.facebook.com/TroqueerParishChurch

OUR SPOTIFY PLAYLISTS: [Troqueer & Caerlaverock Church of Scotland](#)

GOOGLE MAPS: <https://maps.app.goo.gl/yg4kNxAS8JWkzKKZL9> (Troqueer Church Building)

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Introduction

This vacancy arises from the retirement of Troqueer's previous minister in June 2023.

Under the Presbytery Mission Plan, on the 1st January 2025, a Union was created between Troqueer and the smaller rural charge of Caerlaverock which is now a Local Mission Church.

In addition, due to the dissolution of the parish of Dumfries: St Mary's-Greyfriars, we now have responsibility for that area, which includes a large part of the town centre. Caerlaverock Church was linked with St Mary's-Greyfriars prior to its dissolution.



What you will find in us

- An imperfect, involved, and loving church community
- Willing partners in the work of His Kingdom
- A church that is looking to go further on the journey on which God has been leading us as a Jesus-centred community

Our Priorities in a nutshell

- To be faithful in communicating the unchanging good news of Jesus in ways that are attractive to people today
- To increase our congregation, especially by attracting families
- To grow in the distinctives God has given us in our DNA

The Minister we're looking for

- Has an excitement for communicating God's Word in the power of the Holy Spirit, and the offer of salvation in Jesus
- Has a heart for people of all ages, especially young people and families
- Looks forward to encouraging us, strengthening us and challenging us!

About The Area – Dumfries

Dumfries is the county town of Dumfries & Galloway, set along the banks of the River Nith. The largest town in the South-West of Scotland, it has a population of 33,000 and the local economy is largely based on local services, light industry, agriculture and tourism. The historic Crichton Campus is linked to the University of West of Scotland, Glasgow University and houses Dumfries and Galloway College. The largest local employers are the National Health Service and Dumfries & Galloway Council.

In and around the town there are a dozen or more primary schools and four secondary schools. Facilities for leisure activities throughout the town include [DG1](#) and [the Ice Bowl](#) together with many others for outdoor sports. The main hospital services for the Region are all in Dumfries and there is a local Prison. Following the changes with the Presbytery Mission plan there are now four Church of Scotland parishes within the town boundaries.

Parish Description

The New Parish is made of 3 Distinct Areas:

Troqueer Parish

Approx. 30 square miles.

River Nith to the East –
Housing & agriculture.

Est. Population of 4,754.

Caerlaverock Parish (LMC)

Approx. 11 square miles.

Rural Farmland across the
river from Troqueer Parish.

Est. Population of 676.

Previous St Mary's Greyfriars Parish

Approx. 2.5 square miles.

A section of the town
centre & housing.

Est. Population of 4,009.

More detailed information that was previously available on the Church of Scotland website can be provided on request. (statistics for mission based on 2011 census and SIMD information from 2020)

Our Congregation

As a newly united charge, we are feeling our way forward and have been blessed with a productive relationship in the preparation and early stages.

In December 2024, Troqueer's church roll stood at 110, of whom the majority are regularly present for worship gatherings. There are also over 20 non-members who gather for worship with us. Caerlaverock's roll stood at 58.

At the Troqueer location, morning services have 60+ attendees, with up to 25 attendees to our evening services. Our congregation ranges in age from preschool to 90s, and like many congregations the over 50s form a majority. At Caerlaverock, 15 - 20 regularly attend on Sundays, increasing to 30 – 40 at Communion.

Our congregation appreciates the importance of people of all ages forming inter-generational connections within the church – sharing their faith and supporting one another. Prior to our previous minister retiring, Troqueer looked at our DNA as a congregation, and church as family, heartfelt, distinctive worship and a sense of having been on a journey of change over many years were common themes.

During the last five years, average figures in each year for Troqueer were 3-4 marriages, 14 funerals and 1 baptism (infant and adult). In 2023, 9 people were added to the roll and 3 were baptised. Caerlaverock in the last 5 years had 6 baptisms, 9 funerals and 2 new members in total.

Before the union, Troqueer had 11 elders. We previously operated with a board of 13 additional members but have now moved to a unitary constitution. Since the union, 5 elders from Caerlaverock have been added to the Session.

The minister is chaplain to both the primary schools in Troqueer parish. We continue to have an ongoing warm relationship with Troqueer Primary School, and the school uses our church building for their end of term services. We also work closely with the local Regional Worker for Scripture Union Scotland both in Troqueer School and more generally. We hope to rebuild contact with the other primary schools in our new parish- this also contains Dumfries High School which has a school chaplaincy team.

Troqueer Primary sits in the heart of the parish of Troqueer. We are a large Primary School with 10 classes and a Nursery. All in all, we are responsible for the education, welfare, guidance and support of over 320 children.

Since the original school was built in 1958, I am only the fourth Head teacher. There are several staff at the school who have been here in excess of 20 years and our Depute Head has been here well over 30. Troqueer has a real sense of community.

During my tenure we have always enjoyed a close and strong relationship with Ministers. The whole school community visits Church at the end of every term and traditionally our Minister has spoken regularly at assembly. We also have a number of families in school closely involved with the Church and we are keen to continue to develop this relationship.

Martin Armstrong – Head Teacher

There is a strong partnership between the church and SU Scotland supporting local work in both Troqueer School and the church

Owain Evans - Regional Worker, SU Scotland

Prior to the union, the previous Minister at Caerlaverock developed a strong, informal relationship with the local school and its partner, Brownhall, visiting both regularly. Events included a school Remembrance service and provision of a home-baked afternoon tea for the very grateful staff at their pre-term in-service day

The recent locum at Caerlaverock continued with regular visits and provided age-appropriate Christian literature for each pupil at Easter and Christmas.

We are an active member church of Dumfries Christian Network (DCN), who organise town wide initiatives. As a church, we are members of Evangelical Alliance and support Alpha Scotland.

We have members actively involved in:

- Christian Aid
- Dumfries Fairtrade
- Dumfries YMCA
- Scottish Bible Society
- Street Pastors
- Wycliffe Bible translators
 - (Jock & Katy Hughes split time between their home here and Indonesia)

Divine Destiny Church Rwanda

We have had a partnership with [Divine Destiny Church Rwanda](#) since 2007.

Since Covid, visiting has not been practical, so a small group from our congregation meets with Pastor Joel Sengoga, and other DDC leaders via Zoom. During our partnership, Pastor Joel has started from a small gathering in his rented house and trained many local church planters who have founded 11 congregations across the country.

Members of the congregation and others have supported young people, currently around 50, some of whom joined the program in primary school and are now completing tertiary education.

Much more important than these material things are friendships which have formed, with DDC church leaders and family members of sponsored children, and also the prayerful mutual support we have shared over the years.

Alison Wright

Our Top 10 Worship Songs
(From the last 2 years)

1. Build Your Kingdom here
2. Christ be all around me
3. Christ is enough
4. Goodness of God
5. Holy Overshadowing
6. In Christ Alone
7. King of Kings
8. Just as I am (I come broken)
9. Lord I lift Your name on high
10. Will your anchor hold
(Keswick Version)

We asked young people what was important in a new minister. They said:

1. "Kind, funny"
2. "Likes kids"
3. "Knows about God"
4. "Good at listening to people"
5. "Likes jumping around in action songs"

Worship on Sundays: Troqueer

Our gatherings are comparatively informal as a place of welcome to worship God, hear His Word, and be in fellowship with each other. We place great value in members of the congregation (including our children and young people) being encouraged to develop their gifts and be fully involved in all aspects of our services. We have a team of members approved by the Session and Presbytery to conduct services. Although this has been our habit for many years, it's been especially useful during our time without a minister as the Presbytery Mission Plan was being finalised and so our services have been led in this way since June 2023.

Sung worship is a large part of our life together. Our worship team's repertoire is mainly contemporary but also includes classic church hymns. A band leads the music in both services. For the last 10 years, music for worship has been chosen by our 2 worship leaders, with input from our minister (or currently the service leader for that day). Our music is taken from a variety of sources and words are projected onto a screen, which is also used for other video presentations during the service. We have a well-maintained pipe organ. Although we do not have an organist, musical youngsters occasionally play the organ for services, and it is available for weddings and funerals. We currently stream morning services on our Facebook page.

On Sunday mornings, our young people are an integral part of our worship before leaving for Powerhouse in the Church Centre. The young people stay with us for festival all-age services. Currently, their age group consists of 12 young people from 5 families. Worship songs suitable for children are also taken from a variety of sources. We have especially enjoyed ones from Nick and Becky Drake, Doug Horley and others.

Evening services are held in our Church Centre on a 4-weekly basis: Pray together, Worship Together (with a focus on sung worship), Faith Stories (someone sharing testimony of their life with Christ), Eat Together (a meal followed by a short service). These services are more intimate, with room for open prayer and wider sharing. In all our gatherings, we seek to be open to the work of the Holy Spirit, growing in fruit and gifts.

Elders arrange monthly afternoon services in Goldielea nursing home.

We went to the meal and service on Sunday. After a challenging week, I was not in the best frame of mind for a new experience involving new people. We were welcomed and enjoyed a good meal and conversation. The worship was different to what we're used to but was well organized and presented. I've written a list of all the people who introduced themselves that I can recall which was more than eight. This group does 'welcoming strangers' very well. The 'peace' was very moving and unrushed. Now I was glad I went, and I was invited back the next month.'

Email received from a visitor

Worship on Sundays: Caerlaverock

Caerlaverock services previously followed a traditional pattern of worship, using the Church Hymnary Fourth Edition (CH4) and readings suggested by the Church of Scotland lectionary. A good-quality electric organ led sung worship. In the absence of an organist, a Hymnal Plus digital player offered the option of more than 2000 accompaniments and incidental music.

In the initial phase of our Union with Troqueer, we have arranged services for the first Sunday of every month. These are currently organised by the Local Mission Church Team, and led by members of the Troqueer team who conduct worship. A more informal approach is encouraged as well as the gradual introduction of newer music with members of Troqueer praise band participating on occasion. A timetable of worship for the year has been published and individual services are promoted on Community sites and Facebook pages. Members from the Caerlaverock area are welcomed at Troqueer when there is no local service, and some participate there as readers.

Caerlaverock has a strong sense of community, and the Church has led the well-attended Remembrance service at the local war memorial. Harvest thanksgiving is a focus for the farming community.

The Church of Scotland plans to sell the Caerlaverock Church building in 2025, after which it is planned to hold services in the two local halls, within the villages of Glencaple and Bankend. It's anticipated that the organ and / or digital player would be available for these events.



A Word from the Treasurer



Our principal source of income is from Bank Standing Orders. We also have weekly offerings in the Open Plate and Free Will Offering Envelopes

Troqueer's Giving to Grow contribution for the year 2024 was £39,181 which included a Vacancy Allowance of £11,196.

We make charitable donations throughout the year to local, national and sometimes international organisations.

God also provides, through the generosity of our giving congregation, for funding projects over the years, whether for Fabric needs or specialist projects. For example, over £10k was reached to install a new sound system, funds were raised to repair our traditional organ, and to buy smaller items such as the industrial dishwasher.

Our Stewardship is backed up by using the Resources and Training Materials provided by the Stewardship Team at 121 in Edinburgh.

During the linkage with St. Mary's Greyfriars', **Caerlaverock** was responsible for a percentage of Giving to Grow and other joint expenses based on relative congregation sizes.

From 2023 Accounts (last published accounts at time of printing)

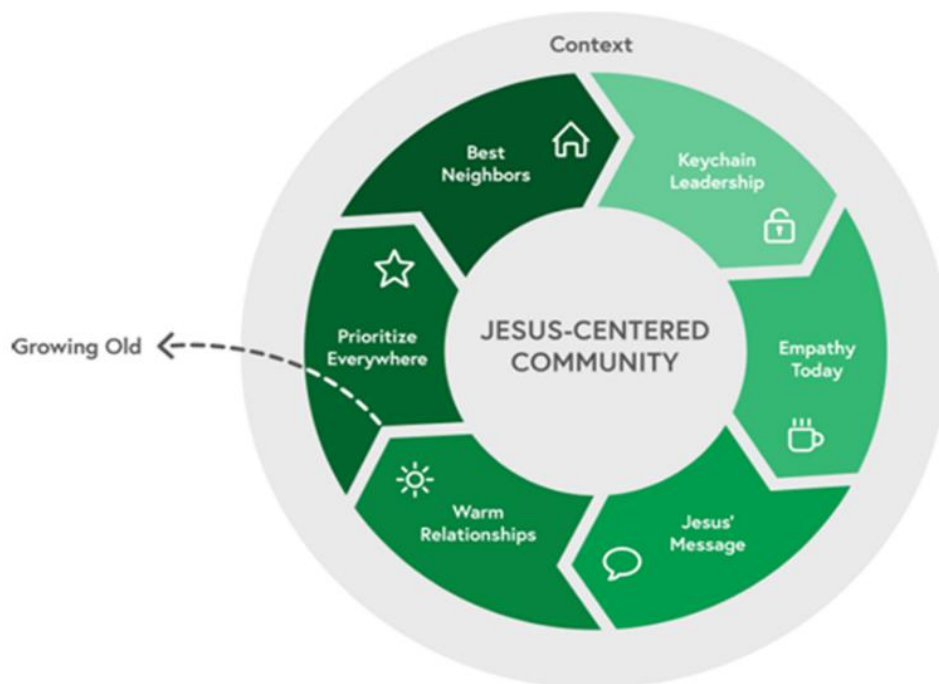
	Troqueer	Caerlaverock
Giving	60,661	5,801
Other income	6,634	2,867
Gift aid	14,752	1,666
Total unrestricted income	82,047	13,034
Payments	75,177	11,597
Surplus	6,334	1,437

Growing Young: Troqueer

In 2020, the Troqueer congregation were one of two in the Southwest Presbytery to be part of the first Church of Scotland cohort of Growing Young

Growing Young encourages churches to engage with 18-30s in a way that gives vitality, life and energy to the whole congregation. In turn, this helps us to become more innovative, accessible, welcoming, and relevant for that age group. Culture change is at the heart of this programme, and with the congregation's support we've implemented and sustained fruitful changes.

We have a small team, including members in the 18-30 age group, who meet for prayer and discussion regularly, focusing on building a Jesus-centred community through the core commitments of the programme. These dovetail well with the 5 marks of mission



It has been wonderful to see how Growing Young has helped us develop in areas where we previously struggled and keeps us prayerfully focused on those areas where we have yet to see the growth we seek.

Sheila Notman

Our Organisations

Boys' Brigade & Girls' Association

Meets each Friday night. From sleepovers, litter picking, BBQs and baking, the weekly programmes are packed with plenty to do and learn. The age range is 5 to 16, with a regular attendance 16. Our leaders are made up of volunteers from the Troqueer Church family, with the core having completed their official Boys' Brigade Leadership training.

The organisation stands first and foremost for developing young people in their faith, together with developing social skills and confidence in a fun and exciting way. Today young people talk about living life to the full, believing that the way to achieve this is from experiences, money and many other things. We have a massive opportunity to tell them about how Jesus can truly transform their lives, so they can truly live life to the full. The challenge for us is ensuring that we fulfil our Object of 'Advancing Christ's Kingdom' and remain relevant in today's world. We try to offer an empowering and relevant programme that is above all Christ centred, remembering Jesus' words in John 10:10- "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full". BB Scotland have introduced Faith Focus materials to support companies in their weekly programmes. We have started using [Start to Stir](#) materials aimed at encouraging teenagers to discover the meaning of Christ's message in their daily lives.



Small Groups

Currently, three groups meet for Bible study, prayer and fellowship: including one afternoon group.

Once a week there's an evening Prayer Hour.



Youth Fellowship

The Youth Fellowship meets on Friday evenings to provide Christ-centred fellowship to young people from P6 upwards in a loving and secure environment where they feel valued and accepted. It offers a place for young people to make friends, learn God's word, have fun and grow in their relationship with Jesus. Our evenings include film nights, bible activities, drama, games, cooking, discussion nights, developing life skills, trips out and much more. The group consists of members of our church family, other fellowships, and those with no church link.

Guild

There has been a Guild in Troqueer Parish Church for around 120 years, beginning with extremely formal meetings to the now quite relaxed and informal. We are well supported by the congregation - particularly over the last 20 years since the inception of projects. We have around a steady 18 members and will always welcome more. We meet monthly, sometimes joining with other guilds.

Community Involvement

Outreach is very important to us; however, it is also an area we long to improve upon – here are some of our events from the past year.

Caerlaverock Church has led the well-attended **Remembrance service** at the local war memorial

Christmas

As well as our worship services, in 2024 we

- Delivered over 1000 Christmas cards to homes around the church, inviting them to our Christmas events.
- Held a swap shop in the primary school, hoping to make further connection with families there
- Held an outdoor celebration with fire pits, marshmallows, hot chocolate and carols
- Went Christmas eve carol singing around the streets near the church

All-Year Round

Our Storehouse provides food donated by the congregation supplied directly to local folks in need or channelled into our local food banks.

We also help marshal the local Junior Park Run, gathering regularly on a Sunday morning before Church.

Warm Hub – In Association with Bethany Christian Trust

This operates twice a week as a lunchtime drop in at our Church Hall, providing hot food at no cost, together with regular input from local health, social care and housing agencies. It is financially supported by the congregation and Bethany Christian Trust, with provisions kindly provided by a local Bakery among others.



Summer

We held our annual Holiday Club – this year we were ‘Fit for a King’ – and welcomed up to 35 primary aged children for a week of fun, music and learning about Jesus.



Our Buildings

Troqueer and Caerlaverock Church property consists of five buildings, which are all in good condition and well maintained, with many helpful members of the congregation donating their time and skills to carry out maintenance and repairs when needed.



Troqueer Church Building

The present church dates from 1771, with seating capacity for 500 (300 downstairs and 200 upstairs). It stands in a large graveyard, now maintained by Dumfries and Galloway Council. There is a recently updated sound system and a large projection screen. Although the church currently has pews, we're in the early planning stages of replacing these with more modern seating.

Caerlaverock Church Building

This building is earmarked to be sold under the PMP. The church building dates from 1781 and is situated to the north of Bankend village approx. 5 miles south of Dumfries.



Troqueer Church Centre

Built in 1991 beside the church, it has a capacity of approximately 100. Our Centre has full catering facilities with disabled access and toilets provided. Both the Church and Centre overlook the scenic River Nith and are a short walk from the town centre.



Our Buildings

Troqueer Church Hall

Troqueer Church Hall is around 1km from the church and was built in 1963. Comprised of one large hall which can seat 200, plus a small hall that can seat 50, it is regularly used for games, and the stage utilised for concerts and performances. The Hall is also equipped with a modern kitchen and accessible toilets, often used by local community groups and our Boys Brigade/Girls Association. In Summer 2024, a team from the church refurbished much of the hall and grounds – this is an ongoing project.



The Manse

The Manse is located at 4 Georgetown Crescent, Dumfries, DG1 4EQ.

This manse has recently been acquired as part of the Presbytery Mission Plan (PMP) and was previously the manse for St Mary's Greyfriars. It is just under 2 miles from the church. Presbytery have approved the sale of our previous manse as it would be difficult to reach the required EPC rating.

The property is a detached villa in a private housing estate, approximately one mile from Dumfries Town Centre. The area is served by two modern primary schools, with a local library, shop, medical centre and buses all within a 5-minute walk. There are also two secondary schools within a walk of 15-20 minutes.

The ground floor comprises of entrance hall, sitting room, 2 downstairs bedrooms, downstairs shower room with W.C., dining room, utility room. The fully fitted kitchen has a gas hob, double built in oven, fridge/freezer and breakfast bar.

An open staircase leads to the first floor which has 2 double bedrooms and a family bathroom

All windows are UPVC double glazed. The property currently has an EPC rating of C. Some redecoration would be beneficial and funds will be available for this once the new minister is in place.

There is a garage and driveway, with gardens to the front and rear.



Our Photo Album



The Church



Junior Park Run



Swap Shop



Swap Shop



Drop in at the Church Hall





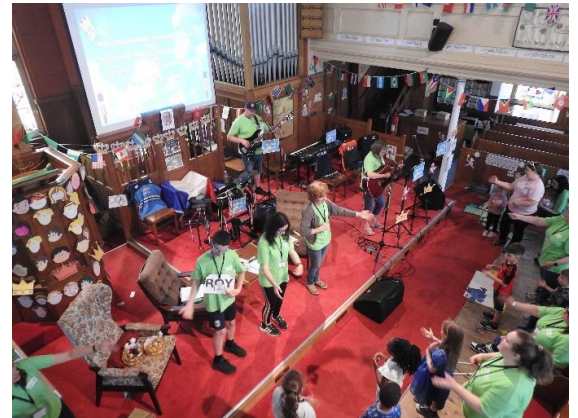
Summer Holiday Club



Summer Holiday Club



Summer Holiday Club



Summer Holiday Club



Summer Holiday Club



Summer Holiday Club



Eat Together Evening Service



The Guild



BB and GA



BB and GA



BB and GA



Outdoor Christmas Celebration



Carolling in Troqueer Streets



Church Sound Desk



Sunday Mornings at Troqueer Location



