

South Calder Parish Church

*A new beginning, shaped by hope and
rooted in God's promise*



Allanton - Newmains

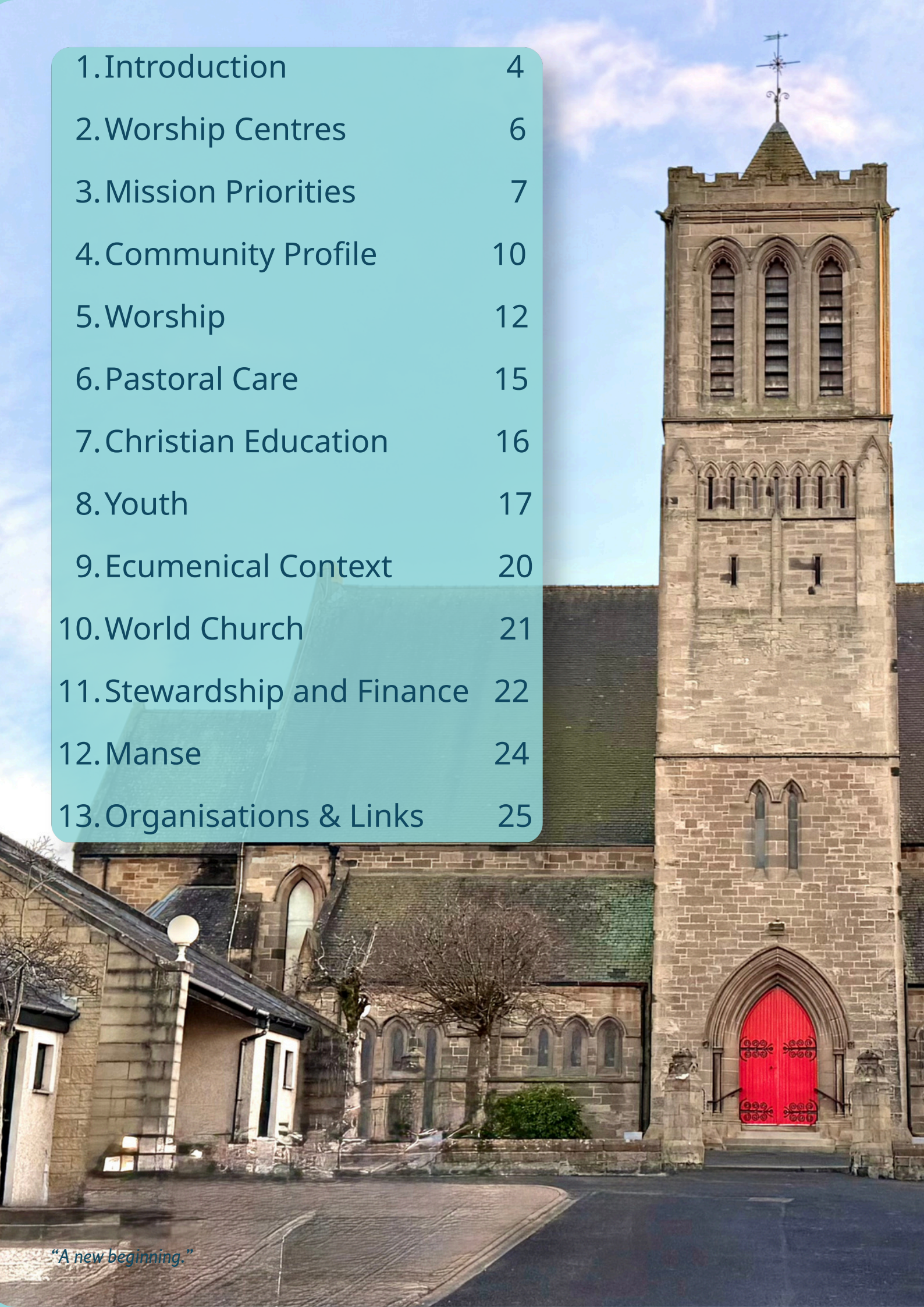
*Our mission is to love God,
love our neighbour, and live
out the Gospel with integrity,
compassion and joy.*

*We seek to be a church where
worship is meaningful,
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“A new beginning.”

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1. Introduction

The Parish of South Calder, formed 1st January 2026, is a vibrant and welcoming Church of Scotland charge in North Lanarkshire. Formed from the union of the churches of Allanton, Bonkle, Cambusnethan North, Shotts Calderhead Erskine, and Coltness Memorial. This new parish reflects a shared vision of faith, fellowship, and renewal, rooted in years of collaboration and prayerful discernment. Their decision to unite as one parish is a testament to their faith, courage, and commitment to the future.

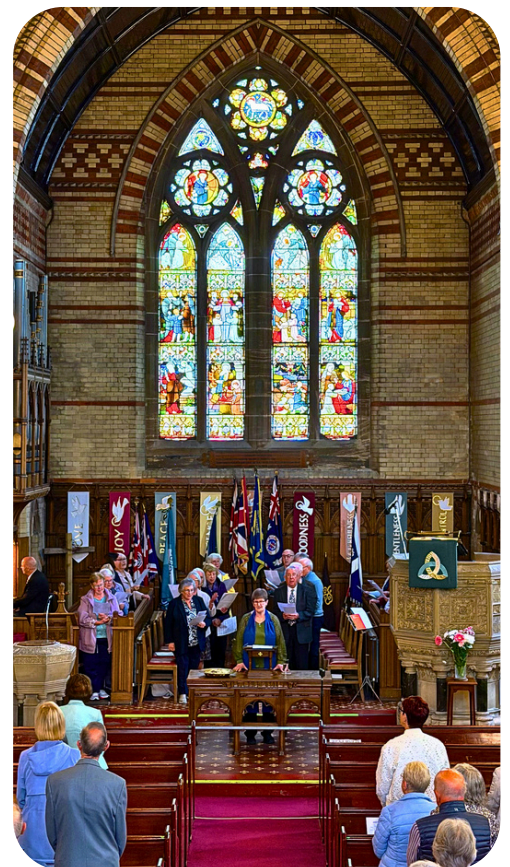
South Calder Parish Church is looking to call a minister, on an unrestricted tenure, with heart and imagination, a willingness to take on new projects and a heart for people. We look forward to welcoming someone who will deepen our spiritual life, strengthen our fellowship, and guide us in shaping a flourishing future for South Calder Church Parish.

We seek a Spirit-led minister with a deep love for God and people, who will inspire faith, build relationships across all generations, and encourage others to use their gifts in God's service.

We are looking for a visionary, creative leader who will help us embrace new opportunities for mission and work alongside us as we share Christ's love in our community.

Above all, we seek a minister who will partner with us as we follow God's call into the next chapter of our journey together.

This new chapter is not just about structural change, it's about Mission — through deepening relationships, renewing purpose, and embracing the call to be Christ's Church in changing and challenging times.



1. Introduction

We are a congregation of faith, vision and action. Grounded in our trust in God, we are enthusiastic about the future, eager to embrace new opportunities, and committed to serving our community in meaningful ways. Throughout several years without a minister, we have not simply maintained church life—we have continued to grow it. We have launched new initiatives, strengthened our links with local schools, and developed innovative community projects that have received recognition from Presbytery. We are looking for a minister who will find us to be willing partners: a congregation that is ready to encourage, support and work alongside them as, together, we seek God's leading and build the next chapter of South Calder Parish Church.

Together with our new minister, we believe this is a unique opportunity to nurture our newly united parish into a thriving, Christ-centred community, growing in faith and reaching out with God's love, hope and compassion to everyone around us.



We have voted to depart from the historical position of the church and therefore welcome applications from those in same-sex relationships.



2. Worship Centres

The Parish of South Calder will worship in two church buildings



Newmains: A well-established centre of community outreach and worship

Kirk Session: The Kirk Session operates on a Unitary Constitution and consists of 19 Trustee Elders; approximately 50:50 gender split, mostly over 50 years of age. There are 89 elders, 66% female.



Allanton: A cherished space of welcome and tradition, continuing to serve the wider area with warmth and hospitality.

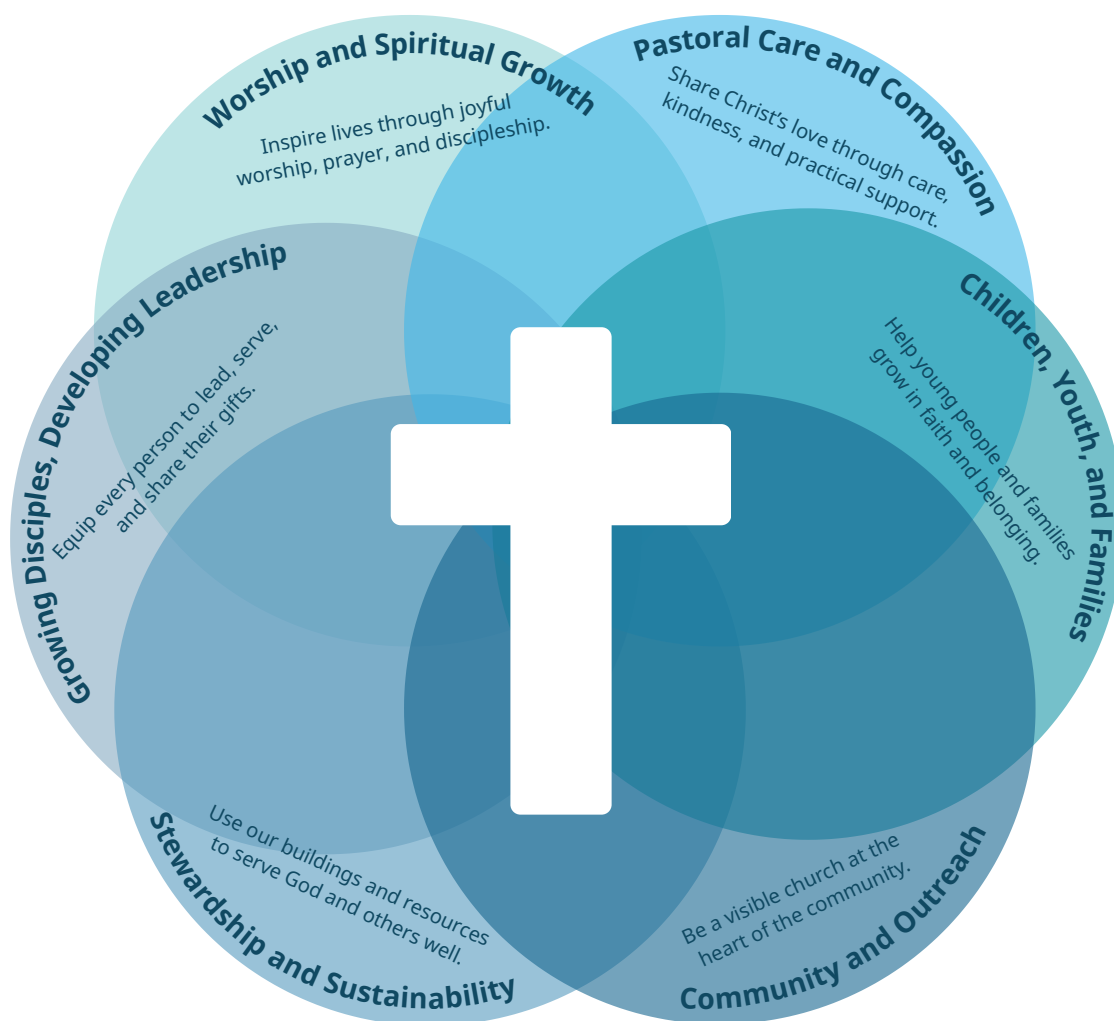


Sub-Committees: We have six sub-committees: Mission, Communication, Pastoral, Social, Property, Safeguarding, H&S and Finance. These are reviewed annually.

2. Mission Priorities

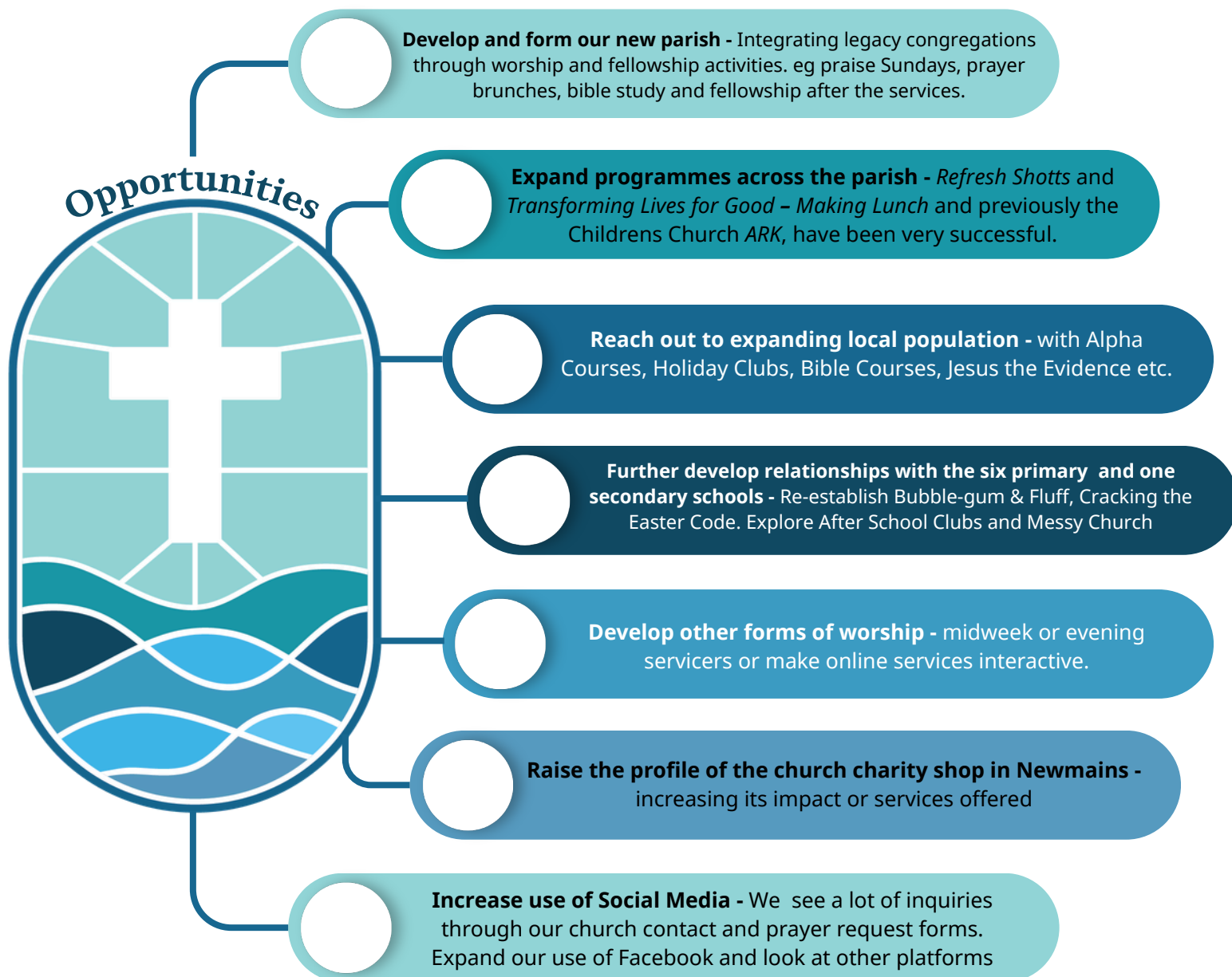
“A new beginning, shaped by hope and rooted in God’s promise.”

Our vision is to grow as a vibrant, outward-looking congregation where people of all ages can encounter God’s love, discover a sense of belonging, and find purpose. We aspire to be a church where lives are transformed by Grace, where worship inspires action, and where our presence brings hope and action to the wider community.

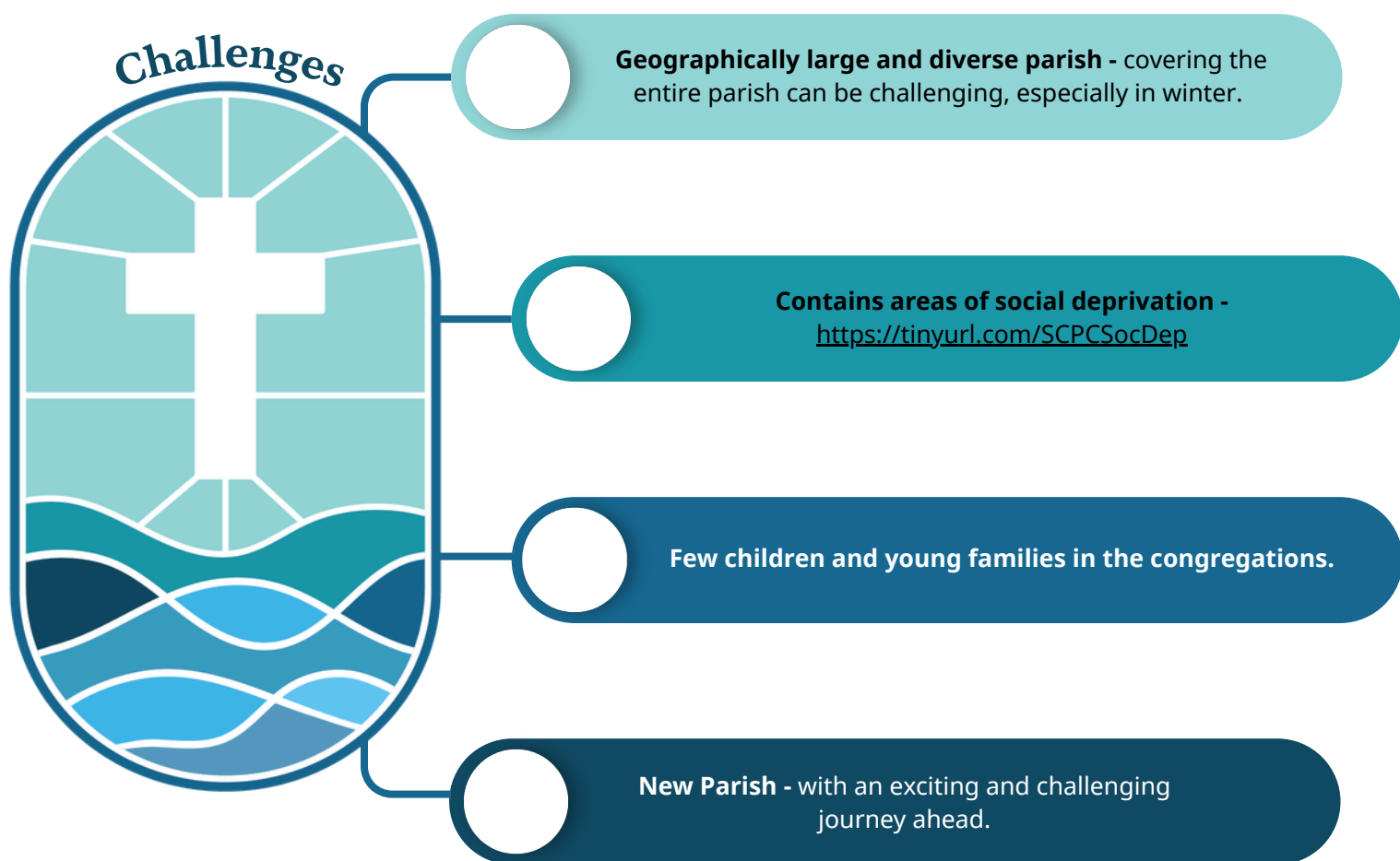


Our mission is to love God, love our neighbour, and live out the Gospel with integrity, compassion and joy. We seek to be a church where worship is meaningful, discipleship is nurtured, and service flows naturally into the life of our community. Grounded in the Five Marks of Mission, we commit ourselves to sharing Christ’s Good News, growing in faith together, serving with generosity, seeking justice and peace, and caring for God’s creation.

2. Mission Priorities

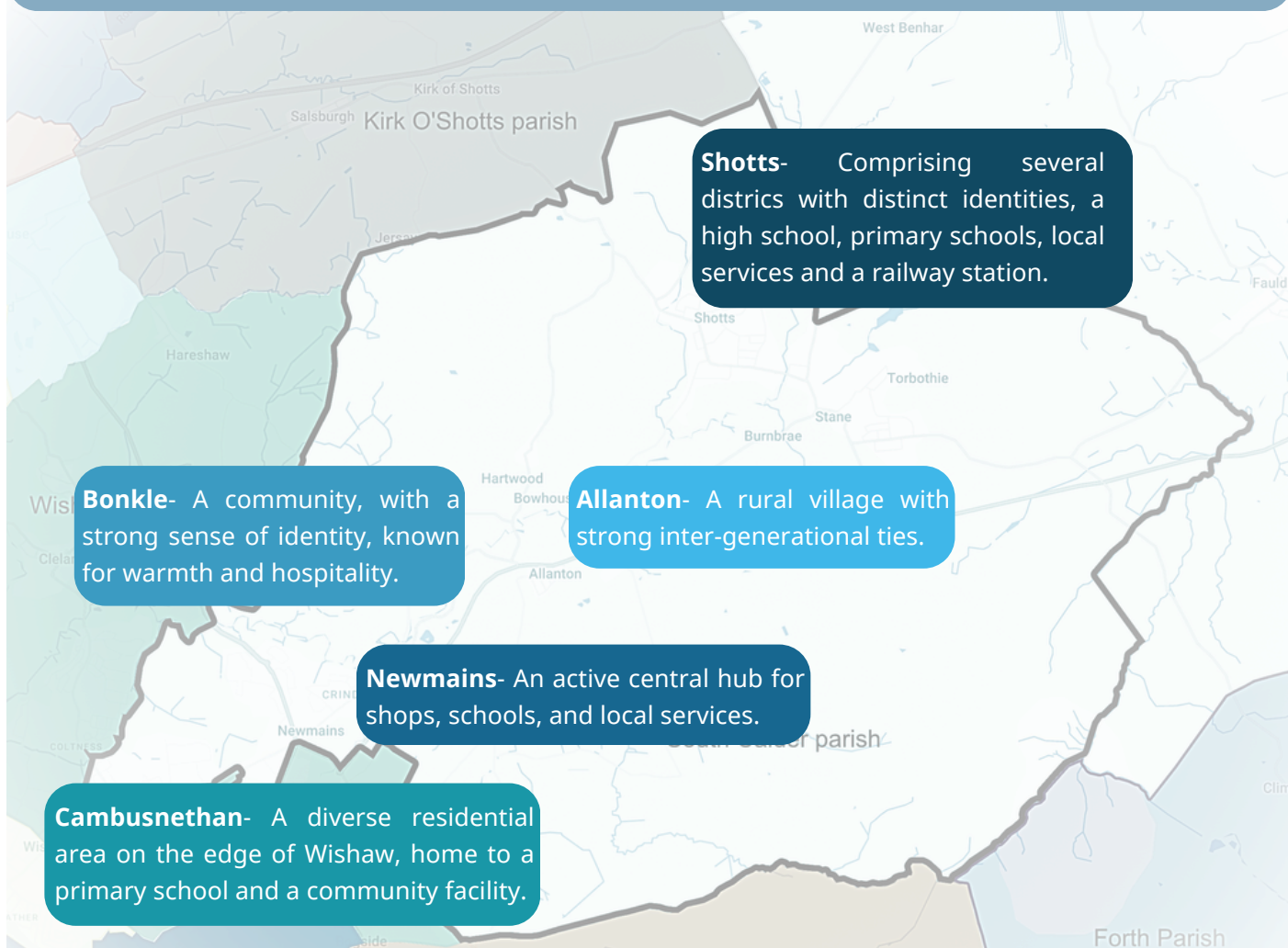


2. Mission Priorities



3. Community Profile

The Parish of South Calder stretches from Cambusnethan in the south-east to Shotts in the north-west, and comprises of the five legacy church villages, plus a small number of other outlying villages and communities. Each area contributes its own heritage, demographic character, and community strengths, to form a parish landscape marked by resilience, diversity, and shared purpose.



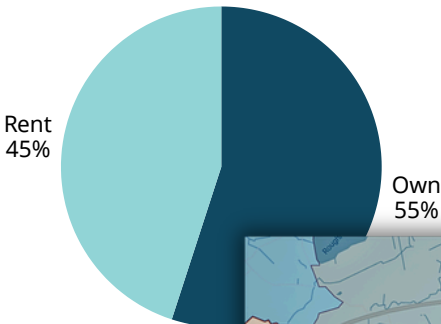
The parish is well-connected by road (M8 and M74) and public transport, with nearby access to Wishaw and Shotts, and onward links to Glasgow and Edinburgh. Local amenities include one secondary and six primary schools, health centres, community halls, shops, sports centres and green spaces — all offering opportunities for outreach, partnership, and presence.

3.Community Profile

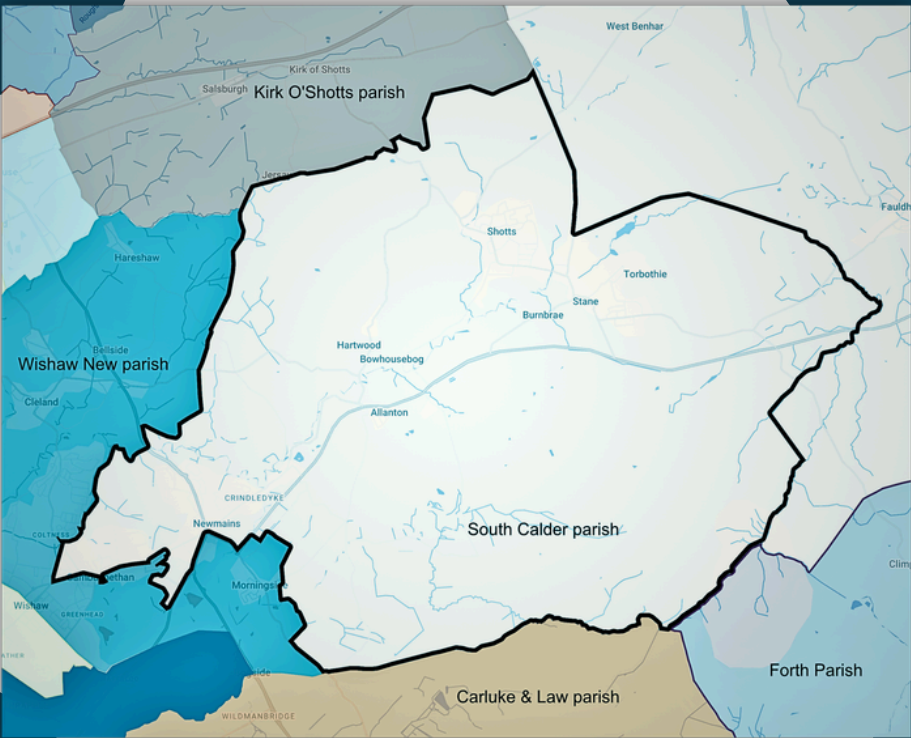
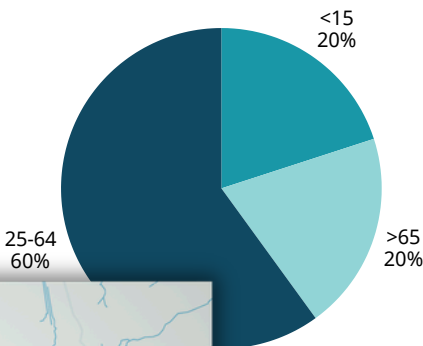
From the 2011 census, the population of the Parish is around 27,000. Since the survey there have been a significant number of new houses built.

Bonkle and Newmains have been identified as CoS Supplementary Priority areas.

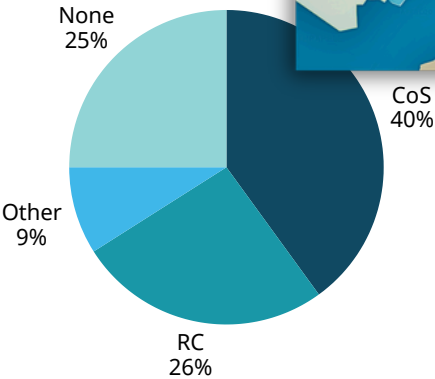
Tenure



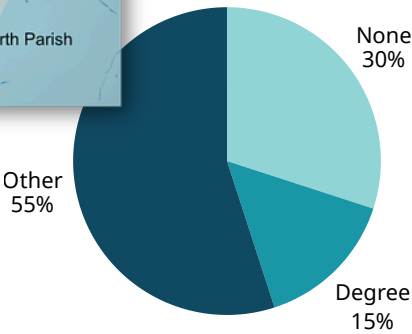
Age Profile



Religion



Qualifications



4. Worship



Worship has always been at the heart of each of our legacy congregations, and we are grateful for the variety of voices, gifts, and traditions that have shaped our shared witness.

During our vacancies, we experienced a wide range of worship styles and musical influences — from CH4 and Mission Praise to contemporary worship music — alongside familiar hymns, scripture, prayer, and reflection. This has given us a broad and flexible foundation.

Both organ and electric piano are used in the services and there is a strong church choir which take an active part in the service. Part of the choir visit other congregations and community events under the banner “*Same Difference.*”

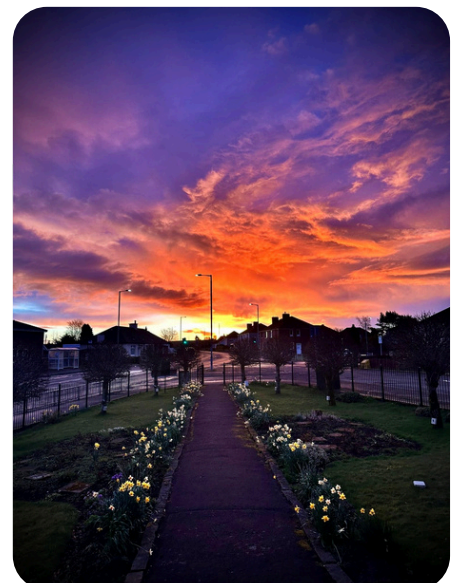


4. Worship

Attendance at weekly Sunday services is around 100-120 at Newmains for the 10:30am service and 30-40 at Allanton for the 12:30pm service. Age range is mostly 55-75. Communion is held quarterly during a joint service held alternately at each worship centre.



There are special services for Harvest, Christingle, Watch-night, Christmas Day and each night of Holy Week- culminating in a dawn service. Elders and members of the congregation often participate and contribute to these services. The Guild and Youth Organisations are involved in services.



4. Worship

Sunday Services are streamed live from both churches to YouTube. Historical services are retained on YouTube. There are around 42 views per week. Both sites use a data projector for worship song lyrics, presentations and videos. The AV infrastructure is currently being upgraded at both sites to allow interactive online services. The website hosts live streaming, news, what's on, service details and a digital archive of the church magazine.



Our Vision for worship

We recognise that worship is a living expression of our faith, and we are open to exploring new styles, learning further contemporary hymns and songs, and deepening our understanding and knowledge through thoughtful liturgy, creative approaches and the guidance of the Spirit. We value worship that is rooted in Scripture, enriched by a variety of musical traditions, and accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds.

Congregational participation

The congregation benefits from a strong team approach to worship. Three Presbytery-trained Leaders of Word and Worship - including one Reader-in-Training - bring much experience. Church members contribute through Scripture readings, and several committed prayer leaders guide the prayers of Approach and Intercession.

Together, they form a collaborative worship team that strengthens the life of the church.



5. Pastoral Care



As our parish grows, we are reviewing a move to a needs-based model led by our pastoral care co-ordinator and team, offering compassionate support—especially for those facing isolation, hardship, or vulnerability—through responsive pastoral teams and community partnerships.



christians
against
poverty

CAP

We run a range of community projects;

- CAP
- Listening Lounge
- Food Bank
- Community Cafes
- Livewell Charity Shop
- Refresh Shotts
- Transforming Lives for Good - Making Lunch

All of which engage with people who have no direct church connection.

Live Well

6.Christian Education

Across our congregation, Christian education remains an important part of our discipleship. Initiatives such as-

- Alpha courses
- Christianity Explored
- Bible study groups
- Annual Lenten Bible studies

Have provided meaningful opportunities for adults to deepen their understanding of Scripture, explore faith questions, and grow in confidence as followers of Christ.

We are a parish full of hope, committed to nurturing a dynamic, imaginative, and Christ-centred ministry that supports adults, children, young people, and families alike.



Prayer Brunch

All Welcome Join us for prayer, worship and fellowship led by members from across the whole parish. Please contact Margaret Byrne,...



A Youth Alpha is planned for late 2026 and we have Jesus: The Evidence Tour and start an 8-week Bible Course in August this year.

7. Youth

Nurturing faith in children, young people, and families is central to life at South Calder. We believe Christian education is about more than Sunday worship—it is about building a community where *everyone feels welcomed, valued, and encouraged to explore faith with confidence and curiosity.*



After the all-age address, our small group of children and young people meet in the halls to explore the Bible through discussion, creative activities, and prayer, where they are invited to wonder, question, and discover. This is supported by a committed rota of leaders, and we warmly welcome new volunteers to help shape the future of our Youth Church.

Although we currently have no children under three, we are ready for growth, with resources and a welcoming space prepared for younger families. We value creative and reflective approaches to faith, such as Godly Play, and are open to reintroducing these as part of a renewed vision for Christian education.



We maintain small but faithful children's groups in Allanton and Newmains and see real potential for growth through holiday clubs, youth Alpha Courses, after school clubs and Messy church.

7. Youth

We are fortunate to have strong links with uniformed organisations, including Girls' Brigade, Boys' Brigade, and Guiding, who meet in our buildings and join us for key services.

1st Allanton Girls' Brigade
1st Shotts Girls' Brigade
1st Bonkle Girl Guides
7th Wishaw Girl Guides
2nd Cambusnethan Boys' Brigade



7. Youth

School chaplaincy is a growing strength of our parish. With six primary schools and one high school, we value our existing relationships through assemblies, services, visits, and pastoral support, and we are eager to work with a minister who shares this passion. Local schools hold events at the Newmains church and Morningside Primary came to visit and explore the church with a view to some children taking part in the service.

We have previously run programmes such as Bubblegum and Fluff, and Cracking the Easter Code with local schools



Girlguiding



8. Ecumenical Context



South Calder Parish Church is part of a diverse Christian community, and we value the strong relationships we share with churches and denominations across our parish. We recognise that Christ's mission is greater than any one congregation and are committed to working together wherever possible.

We have enjoyed partnerships with neighbouring churches and denominations through seasonal services, community events, school chaplaincy, and Remembrance services.

Some of these churches included those involved in the Union and we were able to start projects, such as Refresh Shotts before the actual Union.

We have partnered with the local Salvation Army congregation use their halls and kitchen to hold the TLG Make Lunch club on Mondays during the school holidays.

The Salvation Army already has close ties with both Stane Primary and Dykehead Primary in Shotts, and the addition of the Make Lunch club would add to the support already given to school children and their families.

As part of a local ecumenical group we host World Day of Prayer.



As a new parish, we are eager to strengthen these relationships, particularly in youth ministry, community outreach, pastoral care, and shared worship.

Our vision is to play a positive role in the wider Christian witness of our area by serving alongside others with generosity, unity, and a shared desire to bless our communities.

9. World Church

We have a strong connection to Malawi through the charity *Malawi Fruits*, which was established by members of one of the legacy churches. This involvement continues at a practical level in South Calder Parish Church.

All our former churches were active in global mission eg Christian Aid, and engage with the wider world church. We continue this commitment today and are open to developing new opportunities for meaningful global partnership.



MalawiFruits
Growing the Future

10. Stewardship & Finance

South Calder Parish Church is committed to responsible financial stewardship, ensuring that the resources entrusted to us are used wisely.

Our congregations' unification has simplified our estate, concentrated worship and ministry, and created a sustainable financial model. Regular giving, fundraising events, hall lets, donations, and Gift Aid support our income. Our Kirk Session and Finance Team ensure transparency, accountability, and prudent budgeting.

Our financial priorities reflect our mission: supporting worship (New AV and streaming systems will shortly be installed in both churches), pastoral care, ministry with children and families, community outreach, and the maintenance of welcoming, fit-for-purpose buildings. We continue to seek opportunities to strengthen long-term sustainability through good stewardship, encouraging generosity, and making the best use of our resources.

We recognise the challenges facing churches across Scotland, but we approach the future with confidence. By living within our means while investing in ministry and mission, we believe South Calder Parish Church is well placed to grow, serve our communities, and respond faithfully to God's calling in the years ahead.



We have been allocated 1 inducted minister and 0.25MDS. We also have a church officer at each worship site and a church secretary covering the parish.

11.Manse

The manse is located at 5 Kirkgate, Newmains, Wishaw, in the most densely populated part of the parish and very convenient for Newmains worship centre, local shops, schools, healthcare facilities and other community amenities. Its central location enables the minister to be visible and accessible within the community while also providing excellent access to the wider parish. Newmains is well connected by the A71 and A73, with the M8 and M74 motorways nearby, offering straightforward travel to Glasgow, Edinburgh and the surrounding towns of Lanarkshire.

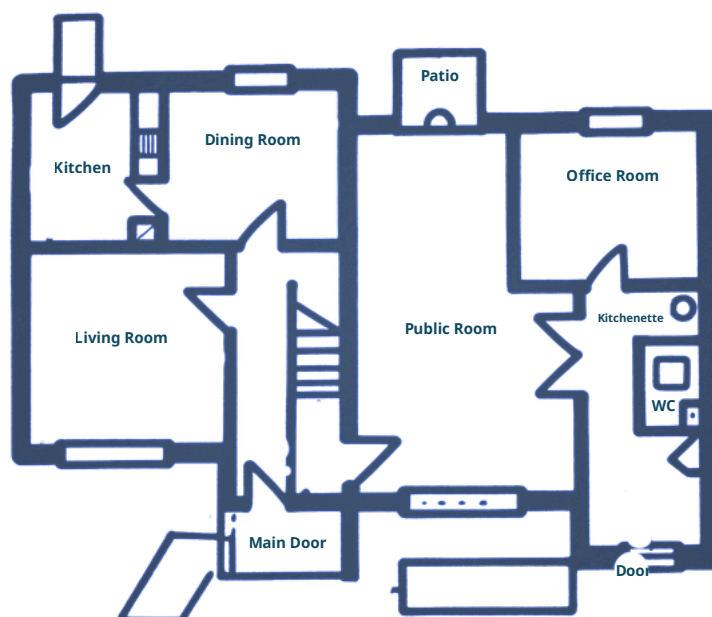
The manse provides a comfortable and welcoming family home, ideally suited to the varied demands of parish ministry. It offers space for family life, personal study, hospitality and pastoral conversations, creating an environment where both ministry and home life can flourish. Situated in a quiet residential setting, it provides a balance between privacy and accessibility, allowing the minister to be fully engaged in parish life while enjoying a peaceful place to live.



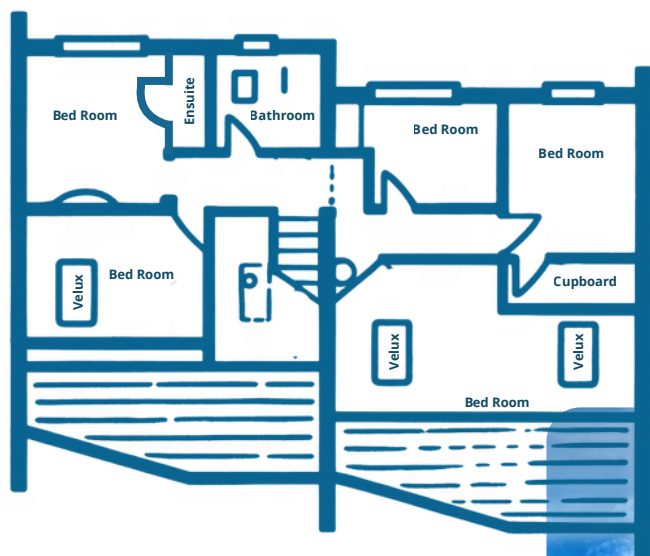
11.Manse

Its location reflects our desire for the minister to be closely connected with the communities we serve and well placed to lead the continuing development of South Calder Parish Church as it grows into this new chapter of its life.

Ground Floor



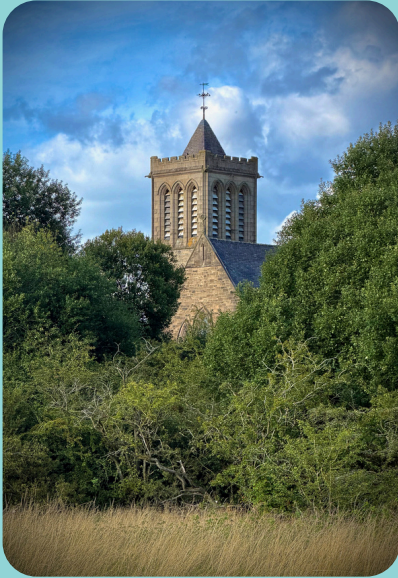
First Floor



We are open to the possibility of selling the manse.



12.Organisations & Links



- The Guild - Allanton, Newmains & Shotts
- 1st Allanton Girls Brigade
- 1st Shotts Girls Brigade
- 1st Bonkle Girl Guides
- 7th Wishaw Girl Guides
- 2nd Cambusnethan Boys' Brigade
- Allanton Craft Group
- Arts Class
- All Sauced up
- Refresh Shotts
- Lunch Club
- Listening Lounge/monthly Lunch
- Foodbank
- Filling Station@Home
- Toastie Friday
- Allanton Community Café
- Community Fridge
- Choir
- Prayer and Bible Study Groups



- Website: <https://southcalderparish.church>
- YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/@SouthCalder2026>
- FaceBook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61587079415773>
- OSCR: <https://www.oscr.org.uk/about-charities/search-the-register/charity-details?number=SC013037>



**SOUTH CALDER
PARISH CHURCH**