

DALRY PARISH CHURCH

• Following Christ • Growing in Faith • Serving the Community

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The background image shows the interior of a church. It features rows of wooden pews with red cushions, a central aisle, and a large arched window at the front. The architecture is traditional, with wooden paneling and a high ceiling. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Welcome

“A welcoming church at the heart of the town”

We are delighted that we have been granted permission to seek a minister and we hope that you will consider joining us. We seek a minister who preaches Christ, who will work with us to support and develop the life of our church and who will guide and encourage us to respond to the challenges and opportunities we face.

Our office bearers and congregation are friendly, enthusiastic and committed to maintaining and developing a wide range of activities designed to share the Word, promote fellowship and provide outreach and support in the Garnock Valley and beyond. Our congregation, whilst comfortable with a traditional approach to public worship, has demonstrated a flexible attitude by embracing beneficial changes over the past years.

Our church Facebook page will give you a flavour of the vibrant life of our church.

facebook.com/dalryparishchurch



Vision for the Future

Christ's church at the heart of the community.

Committed to having the community at its heart.

The church is a friendly congregation which seeks to be an ambassador for God in Dalry through prayer, the preaching of the Word, outreach, discipleship and community involvement.

We aim to be a church with welcoming arms, helping hands and loving hearts.

The new charge of Dalry Parish Church is the result of the union of the two former Church of Scotland charges in Dalry, namely St Margarets Parish church and Dalry Trinity church. Both former charges became vacant due to the retirement of their former ministers Rev. David Albon and Rev Martin Thomson. The new charge was formed on 1st November 2025.

In the words of the Interim Moderator

“It has been a challenging, and highly emotional time as two Dalry Congregations have united to become a new Church forming Dalry Parish Church. Of course, it is only natural to look back on our own faith journey during this time of change, but to quote Oswald Chambers ‘faith does not know where it is being led, but it knows the One who is leading.’ I am sure that as we make our first tentative steps as a newly formed Church we know with absolute certainty that we all worship the same loving, and caring God, acknowledging Jesus Christ as our Saviour, and declaring the Gospel message. The support I have received as Interim Moderator from the Kirk Session has been second to none making it a privilege to have been able to fulfil this role at Dalry Parish Church.”

Bringing together St Margaret's and Dalry Trinity, this union blends rich traditions with a shared vision for the future. We honour our past while embracing new opportunities for growth.

The church has been a presence in Dalry for many centuries. St Margaret's was the Parish Church and Dalry Trinity was formed through the amalgamation in 1962 of three churches (Courthill Church, St Andrew's, a former free church and West Church, formerly a relief church.) In the last 50 years there have been only two ministers in Dalry Trinity and four at St Margarets.

As a new charge, one of the main tasks is bringing together the two former charges to make a new charge which will show God's love and grace to the town. It has a unitary constitution. The presbytery plan envisages that this will be the Church of Scotland in Dalry, and eventually part of a presbytery grouping in the Garnock Valley.

The outreach to the town is in the form of youth work, a drop-in cafe, a relaxation class, a group for the elderly, a line-dance group and Messy Church.

Communion Roll - 440 of which 20 are adherents.

Average weekly attendance 75 morning; 30 evening

Age profile 85% >65, 10% youth, 5% young adults'.

New members/participants (in last 5 years) 20

There are 42 Elders of whom 35 are active.

Age profile of KS between 40- 80

Gender mix M 40%; F 60%

Sub-Groups of K S Safeguarding; Finance; Property (Fabric); Mission and outreach; Social and Youthwork.

Worship Life

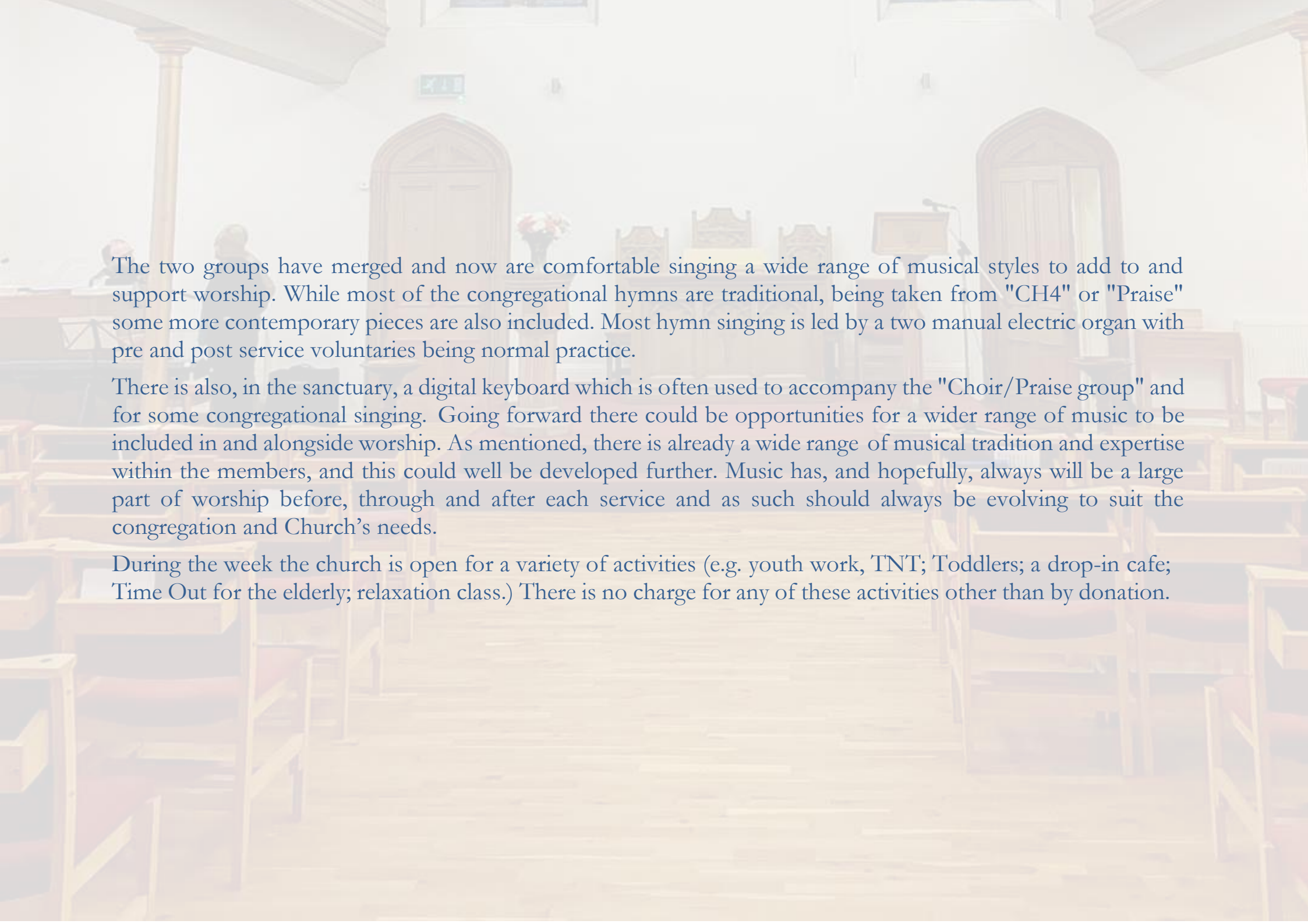
Worship is central to our life. Services combine traditional and contemporary expressions, with music, prayer, and biblical teaching forming the foundation.

Worship at DPC is a blend of formal and evangelical. We meet for worship twice on a Sunday (10.45am and 6.30pm) and for Bible study and prayer on a Wednesday (7.15pm)

This congregation sees its priorities as preaching God's Word, prayer, mission and outreach. When a minister is present Holy Communion is celebrated 3-6 times a year. In the past 5 years there have been approx. 10 baptisms.

Worship begins with all-age worship and then the children leave for Sunday School (JAM Club, Jesus and Me) There are teams of people who participate in the leading of worship. (A musical team and a projection team). We have a group of volunteers who lead us in prayer and undertake Bible readings. During vacancy there have been a team of elders who have led the preaching, though the major part has been done by visiting preachers. The service is projected and live streamed.

With the recent union and merging of two Churches we have the benefit of a wider range of musical appreciation amongst the members. While one Church had a strong tradition of an organ led choir leading the congregation in musical worship and singing traditional anthems the other Church had a more contemporary outlook on music with a Praise Group leading singing and introducing new pieces.



The two groups have merged and now are comfortable singing a wide range of musical styles to add to and support worship. While most of the congregational hymns are traditional, being taken from "CH4" or "Praise" some more contemporary pieces are also included. Most hymn singing is led by a two manual electric organ with pre and post service voluntaries being normal practice.

There is also, in the sanctuary, a digital keyboard which is often used to accompany the "Choir/Praise group" and for some congregational singing. Going forward there could be opportunities for a wider range of music to be included in and alongside worship. As mentioned, there is already a wide range of musical tradition and expertise within the members, and this could well be developed further. Music has, and hopefully, always will be a large part of worship before, through and after each service and as such should always be evolving to suit the congregation and Church's needs.

During the week the church is open for a variety of activities (e.g. youth work, TNT; Toddlers; a drop-in cafe; Time Out for the elderly; relaxation class.) There is no charge for any of these activities other than by donation.

Pastoral Care

The church operates a pastoral visiting scheme. A team of pastoral visitors, which includes most elders and some others regularly visit homes and if necessary, feed back to the minister if there is need for a special visit. All members of this group are P.V.G. & safeguarding trained. Their Convener holds all pertinent information, in line with Data Protection legislation. Membership comprises both elders and congregation members. Visits are made to houses, nursing and care homes and sheltered housing complexes. Visitors often work in pairs to make for an easier and more social visit. Hospital visiting tends to be done by the minister.

Arrangements are made within the church to encourage and assist the elderly and less able by picking them up and bringing them along. This helps provide cheer and contact to those who need it.

In addition, a regular meeting is held in the church for the elderly and their carers which is very much appreciated by those who go. A lunchtime service is held, on a rotational basis, once a month in one of the three sheltered housing complexes in the town. The congregation see care for the Manse family as being important, with regular prayer and visiting.

Our church flower co-ordinator organises a rota and flowers are sent out each week. These mark bereavement, or illness and family troubles and celebrations – special birthdays and anniversaries. In the past year there have been approx. 40 church funerals held in the town.

Christian Education

There are various opportunities for youth work in the church. The JAM club (Jesus and Me) caters for the children of church families (approx. 4).

During term-time there are weekly sessions for secondary age young people (TNT, Thursday Nights for Teens) a Mother and Toddlers group offering vital support to parents and carers of pre-school children, with Messy church monthly. Up to 60 children with their parents come to Messy Church.

Before Covid, primary 6 and 7 pupils and their teachers would come to the church for workshops at Christmas and Easter.

In past years, a 6-week video/discussion group with a meal has been held for adults. Christianity Explored and other presentations have been used for this. Usually about 40 adults have gathered and this has led to some becoming more involved in the church.



Messy Church

Messy Church is a vibrant, all-age expression of Church that reaches families beyond traditional Sunday worship through creativity, celebration, and hospitality.

Dalry Messy Church started in St. Margaret's Church Hall in January 2015 and continues to grow from strength to strength.

We meet on the first Saturday of every month from 4-6pm, except for January/July/August. We are Christ centred and explore our faith through crafts, games, Bible stories, prayer and songs.

We have an enthusiastic team of helpers to welcome families to enjoy fun and fellowship in a hands-on environment.

We end our celebration with a meal provided by The Mill in Dalry. Everything is free and supported by the kirk session. We also do outreach within the community at the local Farmers Show, Party in The Park and Garnock Valley Carves. We have a Messy gazebo to keep us under cover in all weather.

We also have a private WhatsApp group for parents and carers. Everyone is welcome but children must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Further information can be found at Dalry Messy Church Facebook Page – facebook.com/dalry.messy.church

Dalry Messy Church Team



Community Profile

Dalry Parish Church sits at the Cross in Dalry, a small town with a population of over 6,000, in North Ayrshire. We are in the Garnock Valley, between Beith, Kilbirnie and Kilwinning. Dalry has excellent bus and rail links in all directions. The rail link offers frequent services to Glasgow, taking just half an hour to get there. Our town is equidistant between two airports and there is easy access to Central Belt motorways. A new bypass is under construction heading towards the A78 'Three Towns' (Stevenston, Saltcoats & Ardrossan) by-pass. We are just fifteen minutes away from both the Arran ferry terminal, at Ardrossan and the Millport ferry at Largs. Set in lush farmland, Dalry is a modern commuter town, with a long history of industry.

Major employers in the Garnock Valley area include a large chemical works, steel fabricators, Commercial & personal Auction business as well as retail opportunities. The town has a broad range of social and private housing and has several large newer housing developments. A good range of shops and businesses, including two supermarkets, is on offer, too. There are many lovely walks in areas close to the town.

The town has two primary schools, St Palladius which is a small Catholic school and a larger non-denominational school, Dalry Primary, incorporating a nursery. There is also another nursery, Playtime nursery which operates within the town centre. The secondary school, Garnock Community Campus, is ten minutes' drive away. This is also where the local swimming pool is. With the alternative secondary being based in Kilwinning. Previously Dalry ministers have held services and made visits to the school. Re-introducing this link would be something we'd like to look at in the future. The town and its immediate surroundings also have a range of sheltered housing and care home facilities as well as a health centre with a range of services and a dentist.

Ecumenical Context

In the town there is a Catholic church, an Episcopal church, Brethren Assembly, and an independent church.



Relations between the churches are good and the churches work together for various activities each year, namely the Christian Unity service; World Day of Prayer; Holy Week services; an Easter morning service in the centre of town; an Inter-church carol service.

In addition to this the churches work together at various community events such as Tinsel and Torchlight, Party in the Park etc. Messy Church also have an activity area at community events. A Care and Share lunch is provided each week by the churches working together, Churches Homeless Action North Ayrshire (CHANA).

Christian Aid week and shoebox appeals are common to several of the churches.

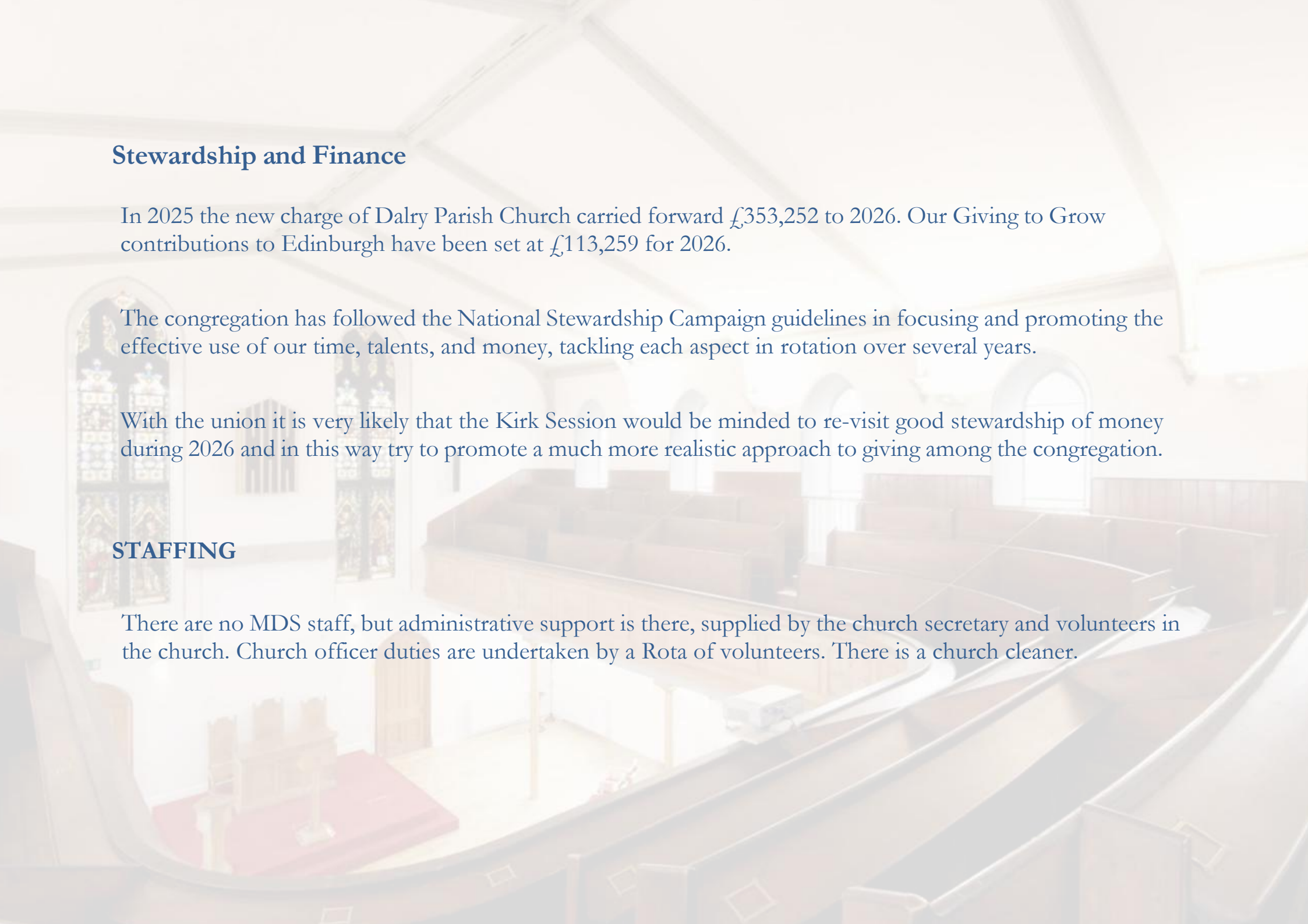
World Church

The church has many partnerships with international mission partners, both Church of Scotland and non-denominational.

We support 13 individuals/couples weekly in prayer (all) and financially (6). We receive regular updates, both visits and letters, from them which support our prayers both privately and at our prayer meeting.

We also have relationships with Tearfund, Barnabas Fund, MAF and Christian Aid who we support at different times of the year.

The church is also involved in supporting Scottish missions like The Well (Glasgow), Glasgow City Mission, Blythwood, SU Scotland and The Lodging House mission. In the past, the church has had an active link with Latin Link as a Guatemalan couple came and worked as youth workers for the church for 7 years (2016-2023).



Stewardship and Finance

In 2025 the new charge of Dalry Parish Church carried forward £353,252 to 2026. Our Giving to Grow contributions to Edinburgh have been set at £113,259 for 2026.

The congregation has followed the National Stewardship Campaign guidelines in focusing and promoting the effective use of our time, talents, and money, tackling each aspect in rotation over several years.

With the union it is very likely that the Kirk Session would be minded to re-visit good stewardship of money during 2026 and in this way try to promote a much more realistic approach to giving among the congregation.

STAFFING

There are no MDS staff, but administrative support is there, supplied by the church secretary and volunteers in the church. Church officer duties are undertaken by a Rota of volunteers. There is a church cleaner.

Church and Halls

Situated in the centre of the town. The building is B listed comprising of the sanctuary, small hall, and the Biggart hall, with kitchen.

Two smaller rooms referred to as crèche room and vestry.

Upstairs there are two rooms, one used for storage and the other for meetings, e.g. youth groups. The halls would also be used for community activities if available.



Upgrade to the sanctuary took place in 2013 with removal of pews, improved heating and double glazing. Upgrades to the kitchen and Biggart hall occurred in 2018. The buildings comply with the disability/ equality act. Maintenance of the building is ongoing.

Due to the merger, the church at present also has ownership of the previous St Margaret's church and halls, but it is hoped this will change soon with a community buy out of these buildings.

The Manse

A modern, well-appointed manse is available for our minister. It is a large bright house, around 45 years old and is set in a quiet street, five minutes' walk from the church. One of the upstairs bedrooms features an en-suite bathroom. This is a modern family home with 3/4 bedrooms and complies with Church of Scotland requirements.



Web Links

Website:

<http://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/church-finder>

www.southwestpresbytery.org.uk/congregation/congregation-dalry

www.dalryparishchurch.org

Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/dalryparishchurch>

Email:

dalryparishchurch@gmail.com

