

CUMBERNAULD OLD PARISH CHURCH

www.cumbernauldold.org.uk

A little about ourselves...



Our church building, dating from the 17th century, is set in the historic conservation village of Cumbernauld.

Our parish, however, in addition to Cumbernauld Village, takes in many of the communities north of the M80 motorway, giving us a parish population of 16,597 (according to the 2011 census).

Within the parish there are families who have lived and worshipped in Cumbernauld for many generations and also a relatively new, shifting and evolving community, many with younger families.

We have 41 elders on our Kirk Session, serving 30 districts, and a further 23 members serve on the Congregational Board. Church membership stands at 312 with a further 23 adherents. Around 80 – 100 people attend regular Sunday worship, over the two services.

Worship

We have two worship services most Sundays: one service in the Parish Church followed by one in the Forge Community Centre in the Balloch / Eastfield area of our parish. The Sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated four times a year with a joint service in the Parish Church in the morning and a less formal celebration in the evening.

Worship tends to be traditional; Bible readings are from the Good News Bible and hymns are usually taken from CH4. Several of our members have led worship on occasions and one is a Reader in Falkirk Presbytery. We have an incumbent organist and a singing group at our first service, while one of a number of different musicians plays at our second service. Scripture lessons are read by members of the congregation most Sundays.

Four times a year (at Easter, Summer, Harvest and Christmas) we hold a Toddlers' Praise service on a Saturday morning for which invitations are sent to children on the Baptismal Register.

Services are held in the church during Holy Week. On a Sunday afternoon near Christmas we hold a Rainbow Service for people who have been bereaved. (The picture on the right shows the 'Rainbow Tree' created at that service.)



Pastoral Care

The congregation and parish are served by a full-time Deacon, who provides most of the pastoral support needs of our members. One of our elders conducts funerals and some of our members plus the Deacon take part in a weekly Prayer Chain.

There are two Nursing Homes and three Sheltered Housing complexes within the parish, as well as two Primary Schools (one of which is a joint-campus school with the local Roman Catholic primary).

Our local hospital is Monklands Hospital in Airdrie (NHS Lanarkshire). Pastoral care is also provided when necessary at Strathcarron Hospice, the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Care Centre and other hospitals as required.

What's it called?

Cumbernauld, at the western end of Falkirk Presbytery, lies in the heart of central Scotland with good motorway links north, south, east and west.

Glasgow and Edinburgh are only 30 – 40 minutes away by car; there are three mainline railway stations in the town (including Croy on the main Glasgow – Edinburgh line); there's even an airport in the parish too!

There are four high schools, two of which are non-denominational, in Cumbernauld and a further education college. The town has a good variety of shopping facilities, from local shops to superstores, as well as a retail park.



The sculpture of 'Arria' by Andy Scott looks over the town of Cumbernauld

In terms of leisure facilities, well Cumbernauld just about has it all – there's Broadwood Stadium and Sports Complex, the Tryst Sports Centre with swimming pool, three 18-hole golf courses (two of which are in our parish), a tennis club (also in our parish), a theatre and Palacerigg Country Park. Westerwood, a hotel and golf-course complex in our parish, has a full range of leisure facilities, including a gym and swimming pool.

The nearby Forth & Clyde Canal and the Antonine Wall, which runs through our parish, offer excellent opportunities for walking (with or without a dog!) and there are numerous clubs and associations – everything from Scrabble to Model Railways to Local History to Ramblers, and much more.



The Forge Community Centre in Balloch, where we hold the second of our two Sunday worship services each week.

So what do we do?

Cumbernauld Old has a thriving Boys' Brigade company, a J Team that meets each Sunday in the Village and a Sunday School that meets at the Forge Community Centre in Balloch. There is a Men's Group and Ladies' Group, both which meet every two weeks in the Session House at the church as well as a Ladies' Circle that meets each week at the Forge.

A fairly recent addition to the social calendar has been 'Day Trippers' (aka '*have bus pass will travel!*') which runs once a month during the summer and offers group outings by public transport to places of interest.

We have an enthusiastic fund-raising team who are always coming up with new ideas for social and fund-raising events. Our annual Burns' Supper is one of the highlights of the year and we have an annual Garden Fete (held in the Manse grounds) and Christmas Fair in the Village Hall.

An Admin Group produces the weekly Order of Service & Intimations sheets. Our Church Magazine is produced quarterly, in February, May, August and November.

We have an up-to-date website at www.cumbernauldold.org.uk and share a Facebook page and Twitter account with our partner Church of Scotland congregations in Cumbernauld – search for *ccosfive* and you'll find us there.



Stewardship

We participate in the national Stewardship programme of the Church of Scotland, following the annual 'Stewardship Season' model, focusing on time, talents and money, generally in September.

By far the biggest of our Stewardship efforts in recent years has been our support of Project ROCK (Restoration of Old Cumbernauld Kirk), the replacement and renovation of our church roof, which was completed in 2015 and involved many members giving of their time, talents and money over several years. We were delighted to receive grant funding from Historic Scotland and the Heritage Lottery Fund and acknowledge the tremendous help received from various departments within '121' over the length of the project.

The bigger picture...

Cumbernauld Old is a very outward-looking congregation and tends to see the Church in the wider context, both in the local community and internationally.

Locally, we are active participants in the Ministers' Fraternal (yes, it includes ladies too!) with regular meetings of the local ministers and we are part of the Cumbernauld Area Strategy Group, a forum for the five Church of Scotland congregations in the town.

We are members of Cumbernauld Churches Together and support both the World Day of Prayer and Christian Aid Week. With our ecumenical colleagues we take part in the Advent and Lent Bible Studies, the Good Friday Walk of Witness around the town centre and the Festival of Light service each Christmas.

We support the local Food Bank in partnership with our colleagues in Cornerstone Christian Fellowship and have a distribution point at the Parish Church, which is open one morning a week. We are also represented on the chaplaincy team at New College Lanarkshire (formerly Cumbernauld College).

Our congregation's Mission Circle supports mission partners in South Africa and we also take part in other short-term projects in aid of the wider work of the church overseas, such as knitting baby clothes for young mothers in Congo and the World Mission Stamp Appeal.

Cumbernauld Old has also taken part in recent outreach events run by Falkirk Presbytery at the Howgate Shopping Centre in Falkirk.

Accommodation

The current Manse is a stone-built C-listed building with its own extensive grounds, in the Cumbernauld Village Conservation Area adjacent to the Parish Church.

The ground floor contains a lounge, study, dining room, kitchen, hall, WC and cloakroom; the first floor has four bedrooms and a bathroom; and the second floor has a further two bedrooms and a box room.



Our Property Committee has an ongoing monitoring and maintenance programme to ensure it is kept up to modern standards.

We do not have a church hall, but there is a small Session House adjacent to the Parish Church and a Laird's Loft in the church which can be used for smaller meetings.

Most social gatherings and activities therefore take place either in the Village Hall or the Forge Community Centre, both of which are rented from North Lanarkshire Council.

So, is Cumbernauld Old the call for you?

We are looking for a minister who will help us realise the potential and opportunities afforded by our large parish.

Someone who can provide encouragement and support to develop the wide range of talents within the congregation would be an ideal candidate for Cumbernauld Old.

Our new minister will be leading an enthusiastic and active congregation in worship and outreach and will help us, together, to follow the path on which God will lead us.

We're ready for a new adventure. Are you?



Your word is a lamp to guide me
and a light for my path. (Psalm 119, v.105)