



# ***DUNDEE WEST CHURCH***

## *A Profile*



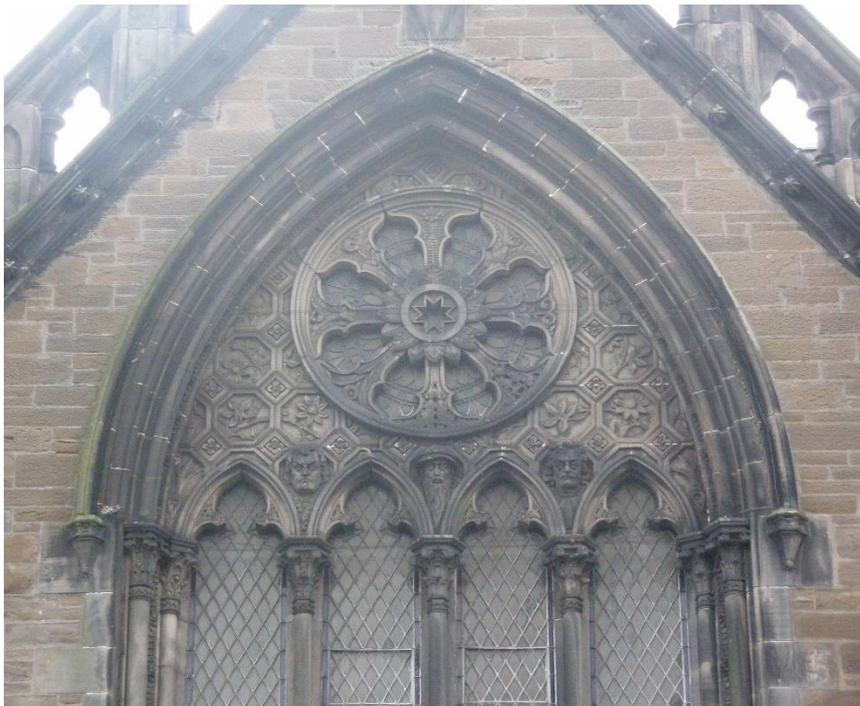
## ***OUR VISION***

### **Involve, Discover & Inspire**

Over the last 15 years, we have looked afresh at our vision within our congregation and our mission within the Parish.

The congregation is:

- Enthusiastic and welcoming
- Involved in the local and wider community
- Eager to make effective use of the Sanctuary, Halls and Rooms within the building to assist the realisation of our vision.



Martin Luther      Thomas Chalmers  
John Knox

## ***OUR FAITH AND WORSHIP***

In our worship and other activities we hope that people will discover a fuller life as set out by Jesus. In our fellowship we try to involve others and hope that they, too, will be inspired by His teaching.

There is an enthusiastic Worship Group whose members occasionally participate in leading worship at Sunday Services.

Currently, our services regularly include three sung responses and conclude with the singing of the Celtic Blessing.

The choir contributes anthems to the services as appropriate and a small number of musicians frequently contribute specific items before and during the service.

A pre-communion service for Elders is led by one of our Elders.



All of this significantly enhances our regular worship and key events in the Christian calendar.

We have a Church Roll of 265 members, 11 of whom joined in the past year.

Within our Parish we have many opportunities and connections which are used for the benefit of congregation and community.

We adopted the Church of Scotland Unitary Constitution in 2008.

Dundee Presbytery has determined that we are in a Cluster with Balgay and Logie & St John's (Cross) churches. Session has formed a group to take this forward and will consider with the other two churches how the cluster might evolve in the coming year.

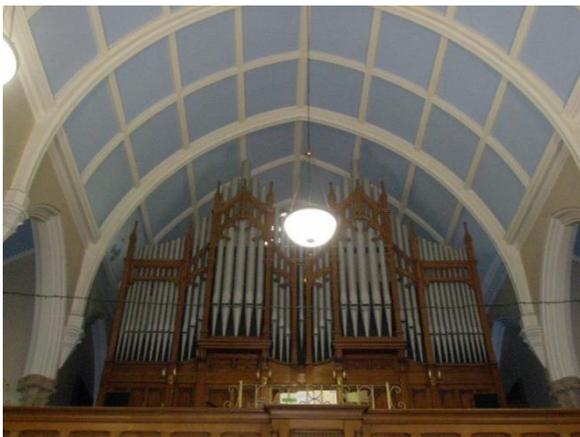
The Kirk Session of Dundee West has decided to depart from the procedures contained in the Ministers and Deacons in Civil Partnerships and Same Sex Marriages Act (Act I 2015) in order to permit the appointment of a minister who is in a civil partnership or a same sex marriage.

## ***OUR PREMISES***

The Sanctuary, with a south-facing aspect, has a light, airy appearance which provides a large, free space for the worship, for celebrating Communion and for a variety of concerts. There is a clear view of the stained glass windows.



The Sanctuary, with a capacity of 350, is equipped with multi-media facilities.



The organ, a three-manual pipe organ, is situated in the gallery.

There is a modern, acoustic grand piano in the church, a digital piano in the Friendship Hall and in the Meeting Room off the Lower Hall and a modern acoustic upright piano in the Upper Hall.



To the rear of the Sanctuary, there is a modern Friendship Hall which provides a welcoming and gathering area and is frequently used for meetings which require the use of the built-in multi-media equipment.



Floodlights enable the stained glass windows to be illuminated internally to draw attention to the church from Perth Road.

These include the window dedicated to William Lyon Mackenzie, born near the church, who became the first Mayor of Toronto in 1834.

One of the two original entrance areas has been transformed into a History Area to reflect details of the constituent congregations from several unions and serves as a suitable place for the Book of Remembrance.

The current united congregation has been in existence since 1999.



A room in the lower area, formerly designated as the Session Room, was converted into a Café in 2010 and is still successfully serving the community.



The corridor adjoining the Café and used by the Café is constantly in use as an Art Gallery, promoting work in a variety of media and by a variety of groups and individuals.



There is one kitchen in the Lower Hall which is used exclusively for the Café and one in the Upper Hall, for more general use. Both are equipped to commercial standards.

The former Church Officer's flat and a small room off the Lower Hall are let, mainly to artists, who have opportunities to contribute to the life of the congregation and to community projects.

The various halls and rooms are generally well used in the evenings throughout the week although there is still scope for further occasional use and for use during the day. A wide range of organisations, in addition to our own organisations, use the premises. The Upper Hall shown adjoining the Church was built in 1956.



## ***PASTORAL CARE***

There is an active Pastoral Care Group which deals with specific needs of members of the congregation such as isolation and loneliness where people have no family near at hand, thus lessening some of the burden on the Minister.

The church flowers are provided each week by church members and distributed to the housebound, sick and bereaved on a rota basis.

The Grapevine, our monthly magazine, is delivered to members by congregational visitors.

## ***PROGRESSIVE CHRISTIANITY NETWORK***

We have been part of the Progressive Christianity Network since 2010 and have co-ordinated meetings in Dundee West. Meetings are monthly and include church members, members of other churches and some with no church connection.



## ***MAKING DUNDEE HOME***

Making Dundee Home, initiated by our Community Development Worker, provides a three-course lunch and food to take away on Fridays as well as opportunities to socialise, involvement in practical creative opportunities and access to key services in the city for those who are struggling to make ends meet and who may suffer from addiction, poor mental health, criminal records and isolation. Helpers are mainly from Dundee University, including the Art College.

Creative opportunities have included print making workshops, filming and photographic work and a plant printing workshop. Staff from Shelter and the Wise Group visit fortnightly. Other activities include badminton and table tennis on a different day.

# ARTS, MUSIC & EVENTS

In addition to the musical input noted under ‘Our Faith and Worship’, the Church is frequently used for concerts, including performances by choral and operatic societies and instrumental ensembles, as well as concerts and services involving schools and other organisations.

Our support for Christian Aid includes the sponsored ‘Tay Bridge Cross’ in which several members participate and a simple lunch for members after Morning Service to launch Christian Aid Week.

The West End Community Council in conjunction with Dundee West organises a concert by pupils from local Primary Schools and Harris Academy prior to the switch on of Christmas Tree lights at nearby Seabraes. This is an exceptionally popular event as it involves many musical items by young pupils.

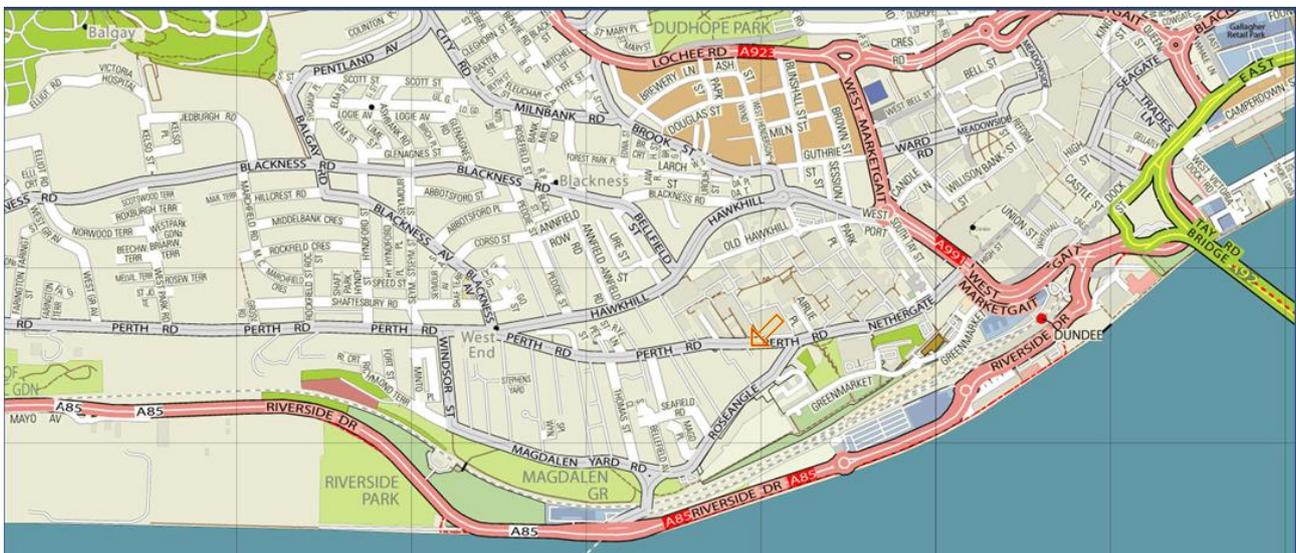
The Guild holds annually an Autumn Fair and a Summer Strawberry Fair. These, including two lunches after Sunday Service, are important social events for Guild, Church and the wider community.

## OUR PARISH

Our parish extends along the South side of Perth Road and various streets off the North side of Perth Road, from Airlie Place in the east to the bypass at Invergowrie in the West and includes within its boundaries, Harris Academy, Blackness Primary School, large parts of Dundee University including Dundee Botanic Garden, Dundee Airport and several care and nursing homes.

There is a mix of private housing, council and private rented housing and student residences. 49% of people in the age range 16-24 within the parish are in full-time education.

This map shows the location of Dundee West Church and near area but not the exact parish.



# ***OUR COMMUNITY***

## **SCHOOLS**

Our parish contains Harris Academy and Blackness Primary School.

Our previous Minister developed a close relationship with Harris Academy as chaplain. While this connection is not as close during our vacancy, the Head Teacher has expressed a wish to have an inter-faith chaplaincy of which we would be part.

## **DUNDEE UNIVERSITY**

Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, which is part of the University of Dundee, is a highly prestigious College famous for its design and craft work and stands opposite the church. Our Art Gallery in the corridor associated with the Café provides exhibition space which students can use.

## **DUNDEE'S CULTURAL QUARTER**

- Dundee City's designated cultural quarter is close by, the following being within a 5 to 10 minute walk from the church:
- Dundee Contemporary Arts is a world-class centre for the development and exhibition of contemporary art and culture.
- Dundee Science Centre, normally called 'Sensation', is a lifelong learning resource for the community.
- Dundee Repertory Theatre and Scottish Dance Theatre Limited's mission is 'Create Together, Discover Together'. The Rep is integral to the transformation of the City of Dundee.
- V&A Dundee, which will open on 15 September 2018, is an international centre of design which will present the brilliance of Scottish creativity and the best of design from around the world. V&A Dundee will provide a place of inspiration, discovery, and learning through its mission to enrich lives through design.

## **DUNDEE AIRPORT**

We have an existing relationship as the resident Minister of Dundee West is Chaplain to the Airport. Emergency accommodation will be available within the church building in the event of any major emergency.

## **SAFEGUARDING**

A Children & Vulnerable Adults Policy is in place for church and outside organisations.

## **DATA PROTECTION**

The congregation takes the security and privacy of personal information seriously. As part of our activities we need to gather and use personal information about a variety of people including members, former members, adherents, employees, office-holders and generally people who are in contact with us. The Data Protection Act 2018 and the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) regulate the way in which personal information about living individuals is collected, processed, stored or transferred.

## CHURCH ORGANISATIONS

- The Choir
- The Guild
- Rainbows
- Brownies
- Two Trefoil Guilds
- Girls Brigade
- Badminton Club
- Progressive Christianity Network
- Making Dundee Home
- Discussion Group (What Does Jesus Say?)
- Soul Space

## OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS

These include:

- Thomson Leng Youth Theatre
- Yoga (three groups)
- Country Dance
- Tai Chi
- Tayside Opera
- The Notables (Choir)
- Acoustic Music Club
- Various one-off rentals throughout the year, such as Vintage and other Fairs, Student Societies and Concerts.

## *OUR MANSE*

Due to personal circumstances, our former Minister was unable to occupy the Manse for a number of years and it has been rented out.

The rental will be terminated as appropriate and the Manse will be available for the Minister.

The Manse is a substantial, detached, stone building in the West End of Dundee within 1 mile of the Church.



## ***OUR FINANCES***

We take particular care with our finances to invest what funds we have wisely, and we also have a small but regular income from use of the premises by outside organisations. We are also fortunate to have been in receipt of a few legacies. Careful stewardship of our finances is essential with the rising cost of maintenance.

## ***OUR MINISTER***

We would wish our Minister to be a person whose spiritual leadership will help us to continue our journey of faith through Jesus Christ, who can use traditional and flexible patterns of worship, and who will continue and develop our outreach to and involvement with the community.

### **WEBSITE**

[www.dundeewestchurch.org](http://www.dundeewestchurch.org)

### **ADDRESS**

Dundee West Church  
130-132 Perth Road  
Dundee  
DD1 4JW

**Scottish Charity Number: SC017136**

### **CONTACTS**

#### **Interim Moderator**

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