

Kilwinning Parish Church

Parish Profile

Kilwinning Parish
Church of Scotland

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Foreword

Welcome to Kilwinning Parish Church's Parish Profile! We are a new, united congregation which serves the town of Kilwinning in North Ayrshire.

We are seeking a Minister who will help us grow as a congregation working alongside our centrally funded Deacon. We are looking to call someone who can honour where we have come from, nurture where we are now, promote spiritual leadership and help us promote faith within our parish, community and beyond.

Introduction

Kilwinning Parish Church came into being on 1st Jan 2026 as a result of the union between the former Kilwinning Abbey and Mansefield Trinity.

The current vacancy follows the retiral of the Minister of Kilwinning Abbey in March 2019 and the retirement of Mansefield Trinity minister in October 2025.

Our Kirk Session has voted to depart in terms of the Ministers and Deacons in Same Sex Civil Partnerships and Same Sex Marriages Act.

Kilwinning Abbey itself celebrated 250 years in 2024 and continues to serve as a vital place of worship and parish life in the heart of Kilwinning.

Mansefield Trinity, established in 2001, is a purpose-built church and it functions as a Worship Centre for congregational life and various parish activities.

Together, these two Worship Centres form Kilwinning Parish Church of Scotland where members actively worship across both locations, serving Kilwinning and the surrounding areas.

If you are excited by the challenge and promise of uniting two congregations into one shared future and purpose; and if you believe that so much could be done in a community where there is the opportunity to embrace history and modern together then we invite you to read on.

This profile offers a glimpse of who we are, what we value, and what we are praying for in our next minister.



History of the Charge

Kilwinning Abbey

Following the Scottish Reformation, the Kilwinning Abbey was largely destroyed and the first Parish Church of Kilwinning was constructed within the ruins of the old abbey in 1590 using the dressed stones. The Abbey itself (now mostly in ruins and maintained by Historic Scotland) dates back to 1188 AD. The building in use today was completed in 1774 on the site of its 16th century predecessor and funded by the Earl of Eglinton.



Their long-standing patronage is evident throughout the building, including heraldic features and a private gallery once reserved for the family. Over time, the church has been enriched by the addition of significant features including a collection of notable stained glass windows and memorials which reflect both faith and local history.

The capacity of the building is around 400 people. In 1929 the parish of Kilwinning was divided between the congregations of Erskine, Mansefield and the existing Parish Church which then became known as the Kilwinning Abbey Church. In 2024, the congregation marked the 250th anniversary of the present building, giving thanks for a rich past and for a continuing ministry at the heart of Kilwinning.

Mansefield Trinity

Mansefield Trinity has history back to 1846 in Kilwinning. The churches eventually became Mansefield Trinity in 2000 when the decision was made on the new title. The church was known as Mansefield up until that time. In 1999 the church decided that a new building should be built in the parish, as it was at that time and decided to build in Whitehurst Park. This was organised by New Charge Development from 121 George Street Edinburgh.

The building was ready for use in March 2001



It is a unique building as it is round in construction. The sanctuary holds 220 worshippers with room to expand into the adjacent hall when required.

The church has the ability to welcome other organisations to use the sanctuary for concerts, meetings etc. as the whole design of the building was to offer the community a space to use, with all of facilities available, kitchen and two halls for their use. Flexible seating allows the sanctuary to be used for various activities. A new acoustic package was installed in 2025 with screens in the sanctuary and the meeting hall. This allows services to be screened over the internet.

It is a warm, welcoming building.

Kilwinning Parish Church

Kilwinning Parish Church came into being with the union of the churches in January 2026.

Currently there are two services of worship on a Sunday morning - in the Kilwinning Abbey building at 10am and the Mansefield Trinity building at 11.30am.



There are around 70-80 attending at the Abbey and around 30-35 at Mansefield. The age profile is mainly older - but there are some in their 20's - 50's and there are also youth and children who attend the Abbey (Jigsaw Club and the Grid) and a few children who attend Sunday School at Mansefield.

The Communion Roll has 526 members with 2 adherents.

The charge operates on the basis of unitary constitution and there are 45 elders who make up the Kirk Session. The elders' ages range from 20's to 80's with the majority being in the over 60's category. Elders were last admitted in the past couple of years.

The Kirk Session has sub-committees. Currently, these consist of:

- Finance
- Fabric / Health & Safety
- Outreach and Development
- Youth Team
- Pastoral Care

There are also two Safeguarding co-ordinators.

In the new united parish, there are around 50 funerals a year, 4-8 baptisms and 5-10 weddings. Moving forward, these could be shared between the Minister and Deacon.



These are early days of our time as a united charge and we hope that a prospective Minister can help us formulate a vision statement moving forward.

We recognise that most of our members are in the older demographic, but that there is plenty of potential to reach the younger generation in our community.

Recently, our Deacon has started Messy Church in the Abbey Hall to encourage young people. Previously this was very successfully run in the Mansefield building.



Currently there is a weekly Bible Study meeting on a Wednesday at 7pm; The Guild meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from September to April and there is a ‘Knit and Natter’ group that meets in Mansefield every Tuesday from 1pm.

The halls are used extensively by organisations such as The Boys’ Brigade, Guides, Craft Groups, Table Tennis and more.



Abbey Development

There are extensive plans to refurbish the Kilwinning Abbey building to make it more suitable for 21st Century worship and community use.

The Kilwinning Abbey Development Project represents a major investment in the preservation and future use of our historic building. With a total value of £1.3 million-of which £150,000 is contributed by the congregation and the remainder secured through external funding. The project will safeguard the Abbey's iconic stained-glass windows, repair and conserve the fabric of the building, and sensitively transform the sanctuary into a more flexible space where worship and mission can grow.

Built using stone from the original 800-year-old Abbey, the church holds deep historical significance, and this project seeks to honour that heritage while equipping the building for sustainable and meaningful use in the years ahead.

With the Mansefield building already being modern and flexible, this will mean we have two well-equipped spaces in the right places.



Community Profile of the Congregation

The town of Kilwinning, with a current population of around 16,990 (2022 census), is situated in a pleasant area of North Ayrshire, about three miles from the sea. It is approximately 30 miles from Glasgow, 15 miles from Ayr and 11 miles from Kilmarnock.

Rail communication in the directions of Glasgow and Ayr - with onward connections to Stranraer, Ardrossan and Largs - is very good, with fast trains running every twenty minutes for most of the day.

Kilwinning is steeped in history and has been a centre of the weaving, coal mining and ironworks industries. In the 20th century it became part of Scotland's last New Town.

The industrial base of Kilwinning has changed over the years, with small to medium sized firms providing most of the employment locally. Many people commute to Glasgow or beyond to work.

It is a fast-growing town. Many new houses have been built over the last number of years, and building is still in progress at the present time. There are several sheltered housing complexes, and amenity housing is available in three areas of the town. In addition, Buckreddan Care Home provides residential/nursing care and dementia residential/nursing care, as well as convalescent care, for a maximum of 113 service users.

Kilwinning has a strong sense of community and locality identity. There is a blend of older properties, the new housing developments and green spaces.

The town is served well by two local GP surgeries, three pharmacies and three dental practices. There are two local hospitals, namely:

Ayrshire Central Hospital in Irvine provides young disabled / rehabilitation services, and a number of assessment beds for elderly mental health services. **University Hospital Crosshouse** is situated two miles from Kilmarnock town centre. It is a large district general hospital providing a wide range of services, including Paediatric inpatient services.

The town boasts a library which is a community hub, a well established community sports club and two bowling clubs. It is also home to several parks and green spaces including McGavin Park and Eglinton Park that offer a variety of outdoor activities and recreational opportunities.

There are six under-five nurseries and seven primary schools, two of which are denominational. There is one comprehensive school - Kilwinning Academy.



Our church oversees the chaplaincy of Kilwinning Academy, Blacklands Primary, Abbey Primary and Corsehill Primary, with whom we enjoy very positive links and, following the Union, our Deacon is establishing contact with Pennyburn Primary and Whitehirst Park Primary.

There is a Kilwinning Campus of the Ayrshire College in the town, which is a popular source of Further Education courses.



61.9% of the population are aged 16-64 years. **Kilwinning has a very mixed profile in terms of deprivation – It has two of its zones that are in the 10% most deprived in Scotland and others which are in the highest SIMD (Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation).**

The church has an attractive website (kilwinningparish.church) and is active on Facebook with a Facebook Page following of 1400.

The church service is streamed from Kilwinning Abbey each week onto the Facebook Page. There are also streaming facilities available in the Mansefield building.

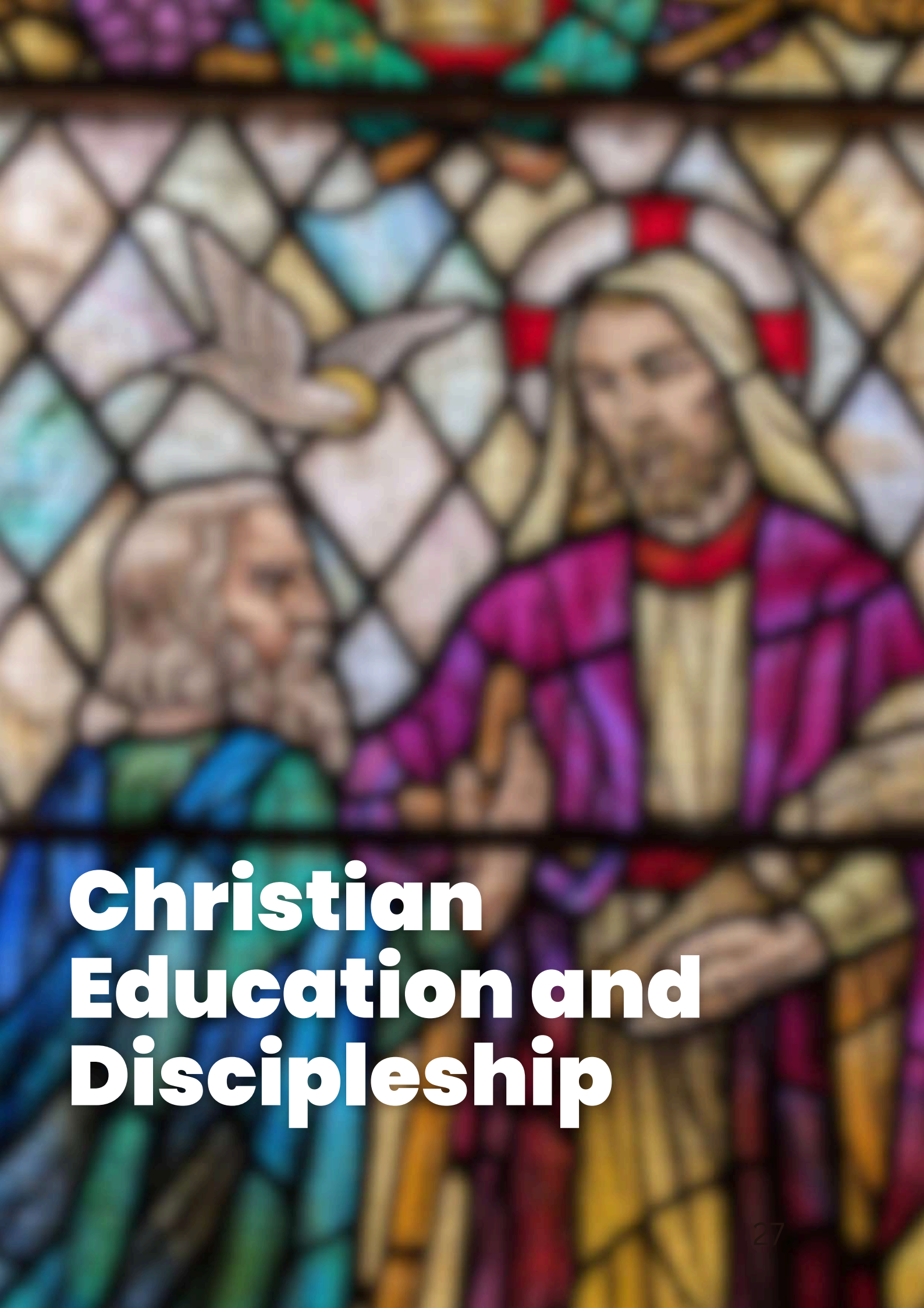


Worship Life

Currently, Sunday Services are 10am at Kilwinning Abbey and 11.30am at Mansefield Trinity.

The service is friendly and welcoming. Praise is mainly from CH4 though other resources are used from time to time. Both church buildings have data projection for hymn words and more.

The praise is led by a regular organist and both services have a choir. Communion is celebrated 4 times a year with a joint service being held alternating at each church building. The time of the service changes to 10.30am when it is a joint service.



Christian Education and Discipleship

Kilwinning Parish Church is committed to supporting Christian education for all ages, offering a variety of opportunities to explore and grow in faith within a welcoming church community

Children and Youth are engaged through:

Sunday School and Jigsaw Club which are for primary age children, offering bible-based learning through stories, crafts and games

The GRID which is held weekly for Primary 6 – Secondary 6 young people which includes bible studies, games and being involved in services throughout the year.

A wide range of uniformed organisations, including:
o **Boys Brigade** (age 5-18) with activities such as crafts, badge work and parades.
o **Girl Guiding groups like Rainbows, Brownies and Guides** fostering development through weekly meetings

Messy Church which is held throughout the year which promotes family fun, food and faith for all ages. Seasonal celebrations like the Easter Breakfast and Christmas bringing the community together in faith.



Seasonal celebrations like the Easter Breakfast and Christmas bringing the community together in faith.

The local primary schools are involved in services in the two faith centres at Easter and Christmas

Kilwinning Academy's Junior Prize-giving takes place in the Abbey Church building in June and the Senior prize giving takes place in Sept every year.

Our Deacon is the Club Chaplain for Kilwinning Rangers football team



For adults, Kilwinning Parish Church offers:

Bible study sessions which take place weekly focusing on scripture and its relevance to daily life.

The Guild meet on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays from September to April with 20-25 people attending. They also organise the World Day of Prayer



Warm Hub – 2 hourly weekly drop-in period during the winter months providing warm drinks, snacks and company to anyone in the local community.

Other clubs/organisations using the buildings include: Weight watchers, Cocaine Anonymous, Table Tennis, Kilwinning Flower Festival

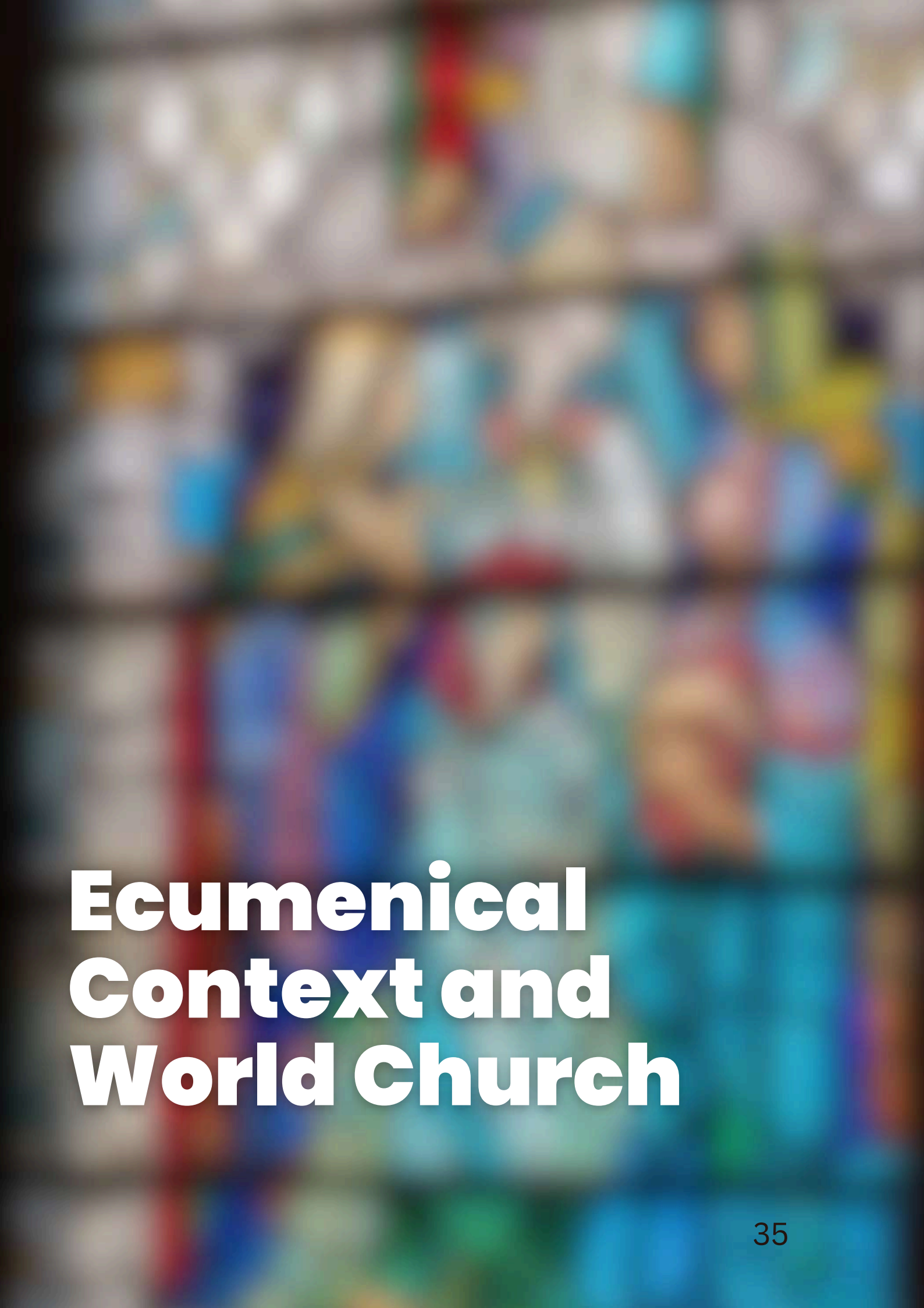




Pastoral Care

Pastoral Care is provided by a pastoral care team who visit the housebound and bereaved in conjunction with our Deacon. Districts are maintained by the elders for administration purposes - but not for regular visits.





Ecumenical Context and World Church

Kilwinning is home to a range of Christian denominations, each actively engaged in sharing the Good News within the community. Following recent changes in clergy across several congregations, this is a significant and timely opportunity for a new minister to help re-energise and deepen collaborative relationships. In particular, there is strong potential to revitalise “Kilwinning Churches Together” as a visible and meaningful expression of Christian unity and shared mission within the town.

We currently enjoy warm and supportive relationships with the Gospel Hall, with members regularly participating in each other’s events and special services. Our developing partnership with Kilwinning Congregational Church is also a source of encouragement and growth.

Their Pastor is actively involved in helping to lead and coordinate our emerging Messy Church working alongside our Deacon and a dedicated team of volunteers. Looking ahead, we are eager to build on these relationships, seeking new and imaginative ways to witness together, serve our community, and provide a united Christian voice in Kilwinning.



We are equally committed to the wider mission of the World Church. Through sustained support of Christian Aid, the Blythswood Shoebox Appeal, Mary's Meals, Compassion UK, South Beach House (for whom we have a representative on the 'Friends' committee), and other initiatives, we seek to respond to global need with generosity and compassion. This commitment is expressed through financial giving, practical donations, and active participation.



Stewardship and Finance

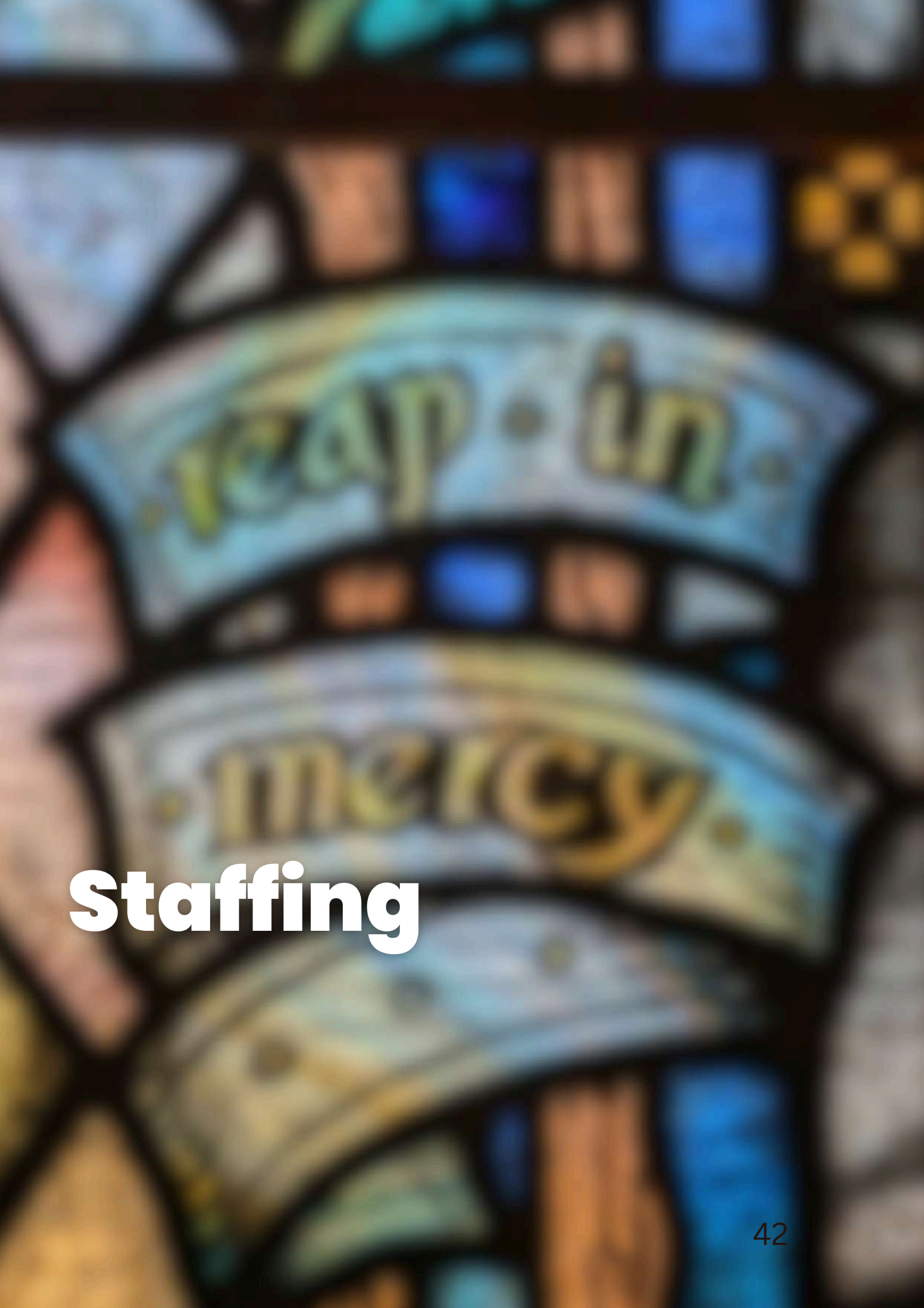
As Kilwinning Parish Church only came into being on 1st January 2026, there has been a lot of work bringing the accounts together.

In Kilwinning Abbey, there was a surplus in 2024 of £73926 (due to the sale of the Erskine Hall) and a deficit in 2025 of £14894.

In Kilwinning Mansefield Trinity: 2024 Surplus of £12,955 and a deficit in 2025 of £4,018.

The ‘Giving to Grow’ contribution in the current year is £78460. There is £150187 held in the Consolidated Fabric Fund. The treasurer asks the congregation to review their giving regularly or change from WFO to Standing Order to enable a more consistent way of giving.

‘Giving to Grow’ is explained annually to the congregation. There are 12-14 organisations making use of the halls, contributing around 4-5% to congregational income.



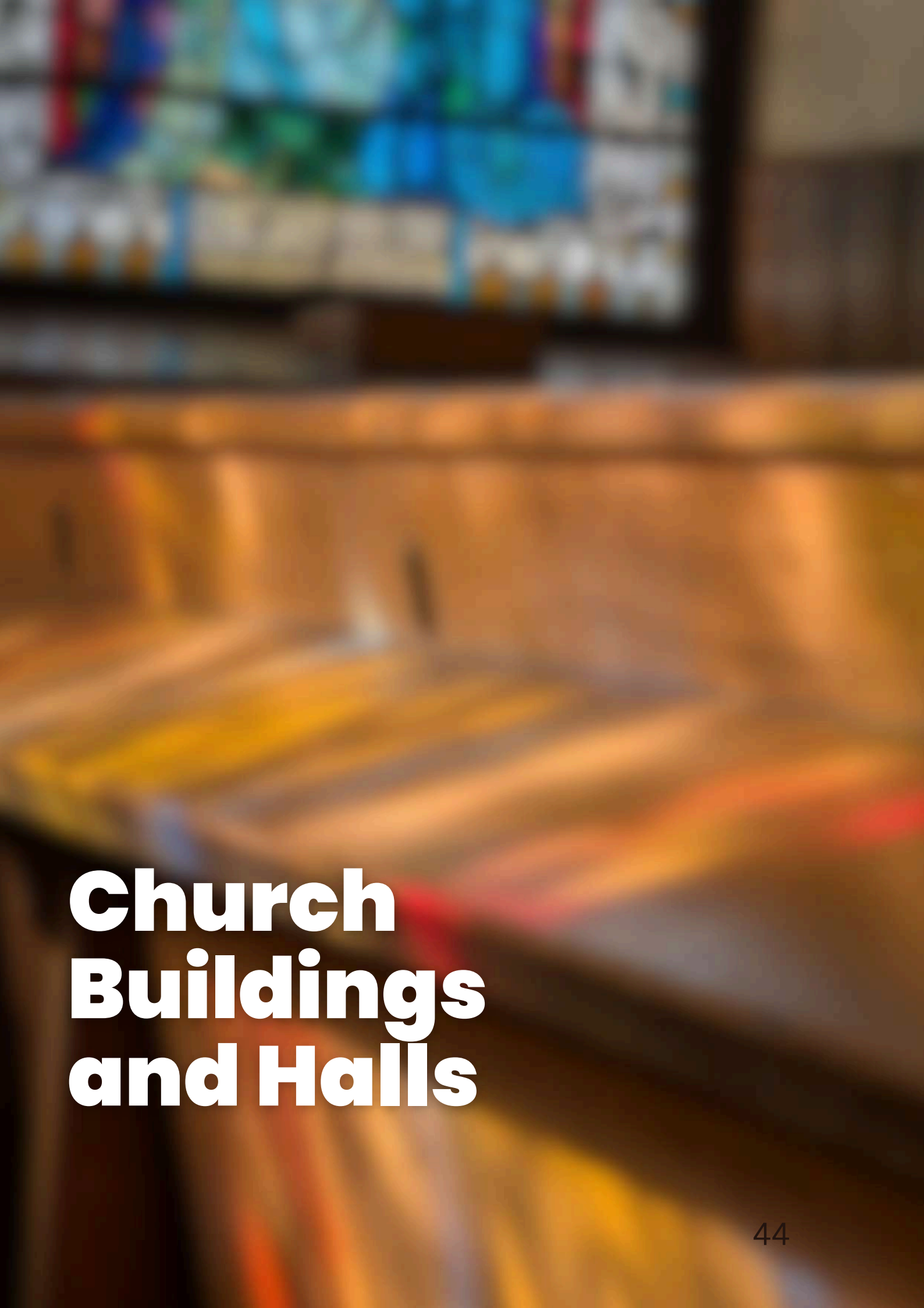
Staffing

The Presbytery Mission Plan envisages that Kilwinning Parish Church has a Full-Time Minister of Word and Sacrament and a Full-Time Mission Development Staff post.

Both are centrally funded. The Mission Development Staff post is currently filled by a Deacon who is centrally funded and a Minister of Word and Sacrament would work alongside her.

There is an organist who is employed to play at both services. Cleaners are employed to clean both buildings.

Church officers are currently made up of volunteers.



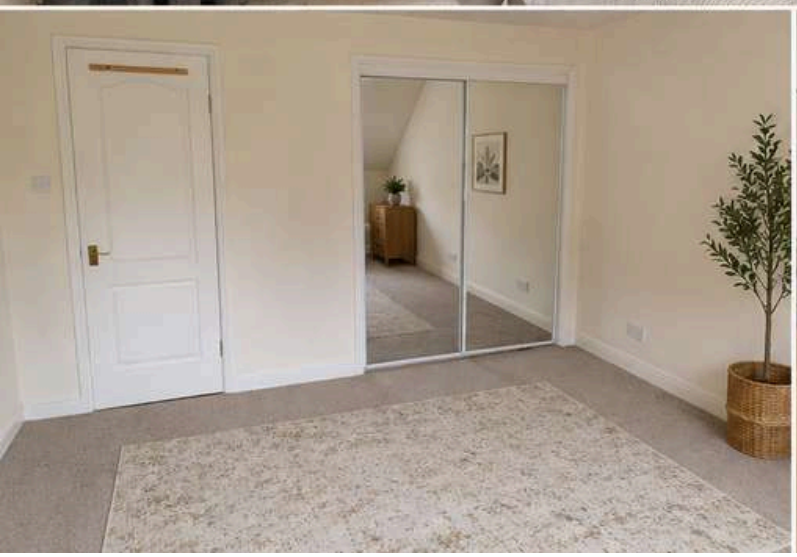
Church Buildings and Halls

As previously stated, there are two church buildings for the charge: Kilwinning Abbey and Mansefield Trinity.

There are two Manses - with the Manse of Kilwinning Abbey in the process of being sold with the proceeds available for the use of the congregation.

The Manse of Kilwinning Parish Church is a 4 bedroom detached property built by Tay Homes in the 1980's. The property consists of: - 4 bedrooms (Master bedroom en-suite)
- 2 public rooms
- Dining room
- Kitchen
- Utility room
- Bathroom
- Downstairs Toilet
- Single garage









*Photos have been staged by AI





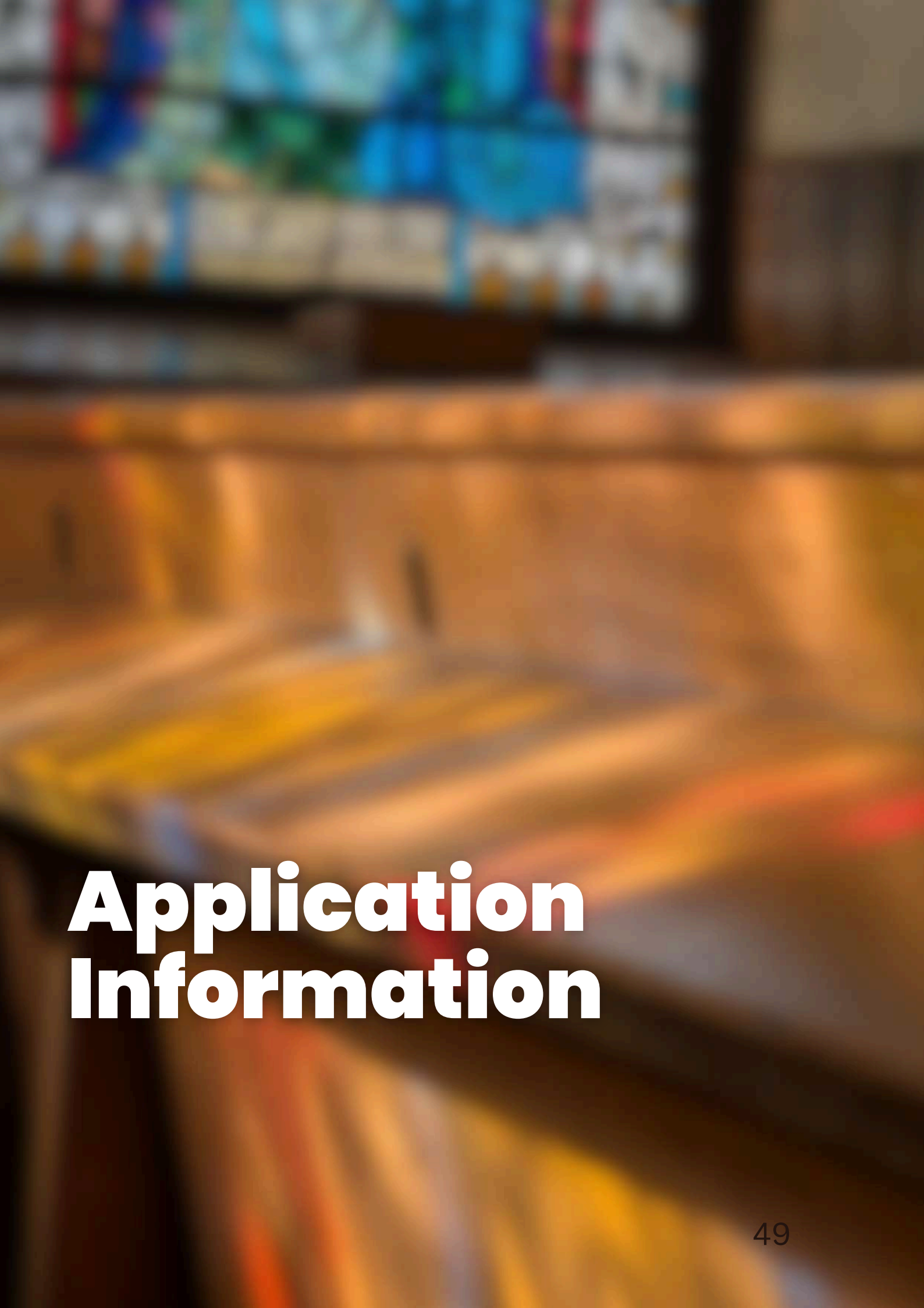


*Photos have been staged by AI

The property has a large enclosed garden with a small patio.

There are patio doors leading from the dining room into the garden. White goods (Fridge, freezer, cooker, washing machine) are already installed.

There is planned redecoration which can be discussed with any prospective candidate.



Application Information

For more infomation potential applicants can contact:

Interim Moderator -
Allan Richardson
rallanrichardson@gmail.com
07770 613723

Clerk to the Nominating Committee
Nairn Angus-McDonald
nairnmcdonald@outlook.com

If you are feeling called to join us in Kilwinning Parish Church as we take this next step in our centurites old ministry to the people of our town, **applicants should apply via our Google Form Application at :**

https://forms.gle/PgtMTe1xwMPxX6qV6



Weblinks

Website: kilwinningparish.church

Facebook: Kilwinning Parish Church of Scotland (https://www.facebook.com/KilwinningParishCoS)

Instagram: Kilwinning Parish Church of Scotland (https://www.instagram.com/kilwinningparishcos)

Church Census Data: https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/church-finder/profile? property_id=18061