

Hope Park Church Parish Profile



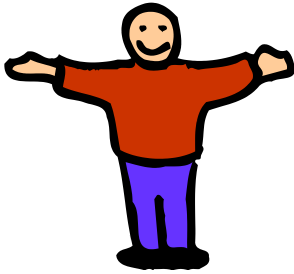
Hope Park Mission Statement *Why we're here*

Hope Park Church worships
the God and Father of our
Lord Jesus and seeks

- ◆ To proclaim the gospel of the risen Christ to people of all ages inside and outside the church
- ◆ To provide opportunities for people to share, renew and develop that faith in an open and welcoming atmosphere
- ◆ To promote Christian values
- ◆ And to care for people at home and abroad.

*We invite you to share in this
adventure with us.*





A WARM WELCOME

We the congregation of Hope Park Parish Church of Scotland would like to thank you for taking the time to find out a bit about us.

We hope this Parish Profile gives you a feel for the life and work of our congregation.

Why not visit us on the web at:

www.hopeparkchurch.co.uk

A Profile of our linked charge Strathkinness Parish Church can be found on the web at:

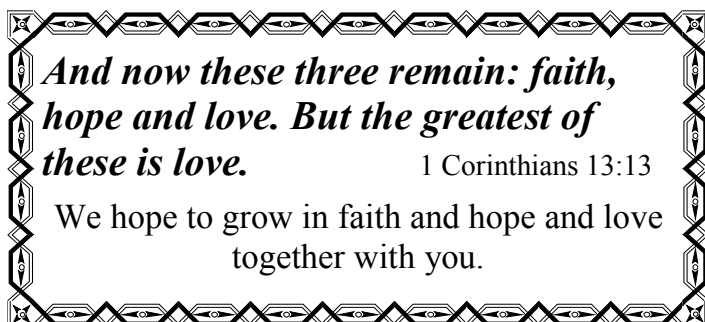
www.strathkirk.com

If after reading our Profile you would like more information, to have a look around or to have a chat about the vacancy then please do not hesitate to contact:

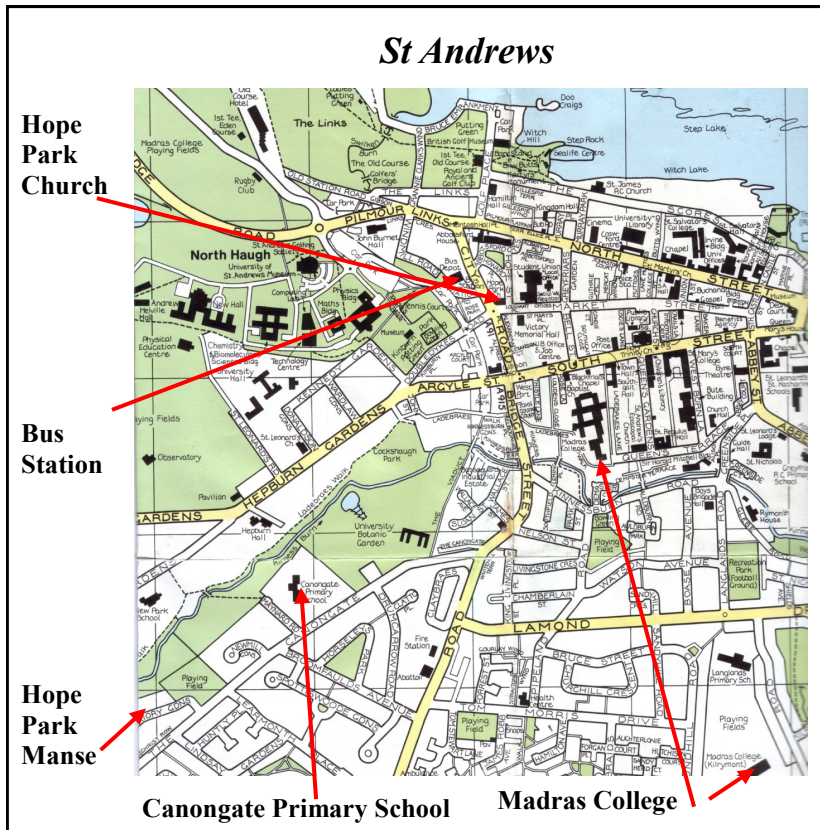
Rev. Arthur Christie
Interim Moderator
16 Taeping Close
Cellardyke
Fife, KY10 3YL
Tel 01333 313917
Email *revaac@btinternet.com*

Please send your application with your CV and two references to the Clerk of the Nominating Committee by 13 October 2010:

Elaine Dowie
90 Bridge Street
St Andrews
Fife, KY16 8AA
Tel. 01334 476337
Email *elainedowie@tiscali.co.uk*



Location in St Andrews



Hope Park Church is on a corner site at a roundabout as you enter the town, just across from the bus station. There are 3 State primary schools in the town including Canongate, where our Minister is the School Chaplain. Madras College is the local secondary school and there is also an Independent school, St Leonard's. The church is within 200 yards of the main shopping centre in St Andrews. A new Community Hospital, incorporating 3 Doctors' Surgeries, has recently been opened on the edge of town opposite Morrisons Supermarket.

We are most grateful for permission to reproduce this extract from 'St Andrews Street Plan' ©2001—Neil TB & MEA Smith.

Manse

The manse is a modern detached house on 2 floors in a quiet residential cul-de-sac, within easy walking distance of the town. It has 5 bedrooms, a study and full facilities. It also has a garden and patio area and a double garage. The house is within 200 yards of Canongate Primary School and is adjacent to the Lade Braes, a scenic burnside walk.



Hope Park manse was built in 1987.

Background to Union/Church History

Hope Park Church has been linked with Strathkinness Parish Church since 2005 and this linkage will continue when, as part of the Presbytery Plan, Hope Park forms a union with Martyrs Church, St Andrews in 2010. After this Union takes place, the resulting charge will be one of 3 Church of Scotland congregations in the town of St Andrews (the others being Holy Trinity and St Leonard's).

In recent years, Hope Park has been developing a partnership with St Ninian's, Glenrothes.

Aims/Goals of Our Church

- To be a worshipping, caring and compassionate church, which is forward-looking. In this respect, to engage widely with the local community, especially with key groups such as the vulnerable, young people/student community, the housebound and the unchurched, whilst at the same time showing our compassion to each other.



Preparing Christmas parcels

- To be a reflective and tolerant congregation, which is open and friendly.
- To be sensitive to the issues involved in uniting congregations and to take people with us, as the new church develops.
- To consult and inform the congregation, keeping all our members abreast of events in the church. This is especially important as our church has a unitary constitution and there is a continuing need to link the Management Team, the Kirk Session and the members of the congregation.
- To acknowledge the need for change, but to bear in mind the need to consider the pace of change.
- To develop the personal faith of all ages, by providing opportunities for involvement (Prayer Chain, House Groups) both within the church and in the wider community.
- To continue to develop different models of worship (use of audio-visual technology, involvement of members of the congregation etc).
- To continue to develop opportunities for social inter-action (social events, clubs etc) and to be a 'busy' church.
- To continue to develop links with other churches in the town, to meet the needs of the local community. Ecumenical Lent Study activities are popular and this year the 3 Church of Scotland congregations shared in a pilgrimage around St Andrews on Good Friday as well as the annual Easter Morning Dawn Service at *St Mary on the Rock*.



The Easter Morning Dawn Service

Vision

- To get more young people involved in the life of the church (Sunday School, Youth leader etc).
- A church building that is even more open and accessible to both church and local groups (church open on a daily basis, café running more days per week, support for vulnerable and needy throughout the year).
- A church where the buildings and the people are at the centre of their lives.
- To care for the needs of our housebound members and to provide opportunities for them to contribute to the life and work of the church.
- To be aware constantly what our aims are e.g. ‘reflective and tolerant’ and seek at all times to put the profile/written documents of our church into practice.
- To be a church reflecting Jesus.



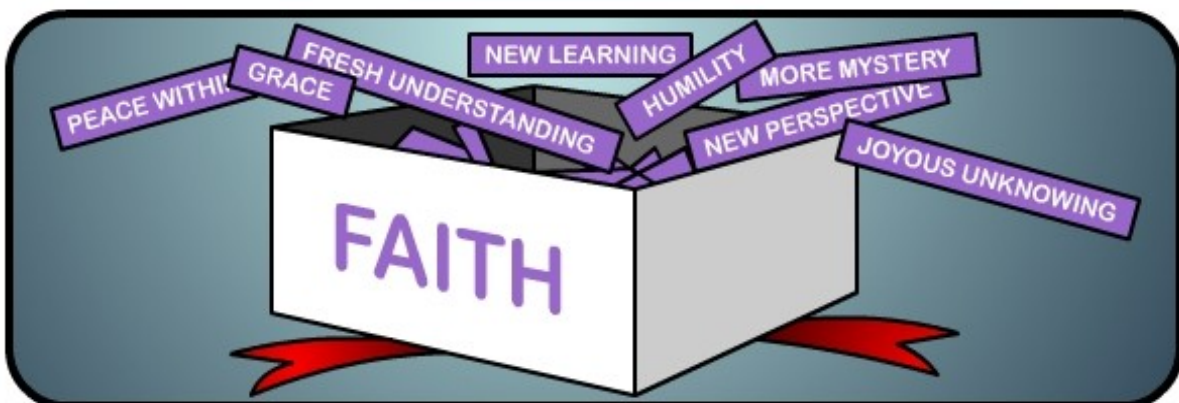
The Roundabout Café at Christmas

What can we offer?

- ✓ An open, friendly and broad-minded congregation willing to learn, engage and change
- ✓ Refurbished buildings
- ✓ Modern, attractive manse
- ✓ Good local facilities
- ✓ We are a ‘Work in Progress’ –previously a Strategic Review brought a document called *Hope in the Park* with a unitary constitution and key committees (see Appendix) but we are ready for new ideas and a new direction.



The West window transformed.



Our faith has no ribbon tying it up, as we are still putting gifts in the box.

<http://asbojesus.wordpress.com/>

Our Membership

- Currently Hope Park has 646 members; weekly attendance varies between 150 and 200 people. The bulk of the congregation is aged over 60 and the age profile is rising. The membership has always been in good heart — the members are an open, welcoming lively group of folk — and still looks forward to a positive future.
- While Sunday School and Young Church have enthusiastic and talented leaders, the number of children attending on any given day has fallen to single figures.
- In previous years, there was provision for an Evening Youth Group — there was a paid student leader and the group had 8-12 members and its own room. Last year the group did not meet due to lack of a leader and suitable accommodation during refurbishment, but restarting it is a key priority.
- ◆ The membership of Martyrs, which latterly had been in decline and was predominantly elderly, stood at around 180, with an attendance of about 40 at normal services. The number of members transferred at point of Union was 146.

Current Organization and Administration of Hope Park Church

- The Church adopted the Unitary Constitution some years ago, and currently the Kirk Session numbers some 75 members of whom about 60 are active in District administration and other posts.
- The Kirk Session currently meets for three “official” meetings: to set out the programme for the ensuing year in September ; to review progress in January; and to receive end of season reports in June. Other ad hoc meetings are held as required during the year.
- Day-to-day administration is carried out by a Management Team consisting of the Minister, Session Clerk, ten nominated elders and Finance and Fabric Conveners and designated committees (for framework see Appendix). The team meets monthly to discuss progress on planned programmes for the year and take decisions on Fabric and Finance matters as required.
- The church employs a part-time secretary who prepares weekly Orders of Service and prepares / prints out Kirk Session and Management Team minutes, reports and other publications and correspondence as required.
- *Roundabout*, our lively church magazine, is published 9 times per year and is wide-ranging in content.
- The church also employs a caretaker/gardener, two part-time cleaners, two café staff and the church organist.

<i>From the 2009 Accounts:</i>		
<i>Total Income</i>	<i>£136,330</i>	<i>(of which, Gift Aid Donations £66,872 and Tax Recovered £33,772)</i>
<i>Total Funds</i>	<i>£123,623</i>	<i>(of which, Fabric Fund £57,442)</i>

Worship

- There are 2 Sunday services: 10.00 am at Hope Park and 11.30 am at our linked charge Strathkinness.
- Stewarding at services is carried out by elders and members of the Congregational Pool, who are elected from the congregation on a rotational basis.
- Elders and members take part in church services: reading scripture, leading prayers, and carrying out church officer duties.



The Harvest Service at Allanhill

- Worship is accompanied by a Makin digital organ. There is a choir of around 18 members, under the direction of our organist, which supports the excellent singing of our congregation and which performs choral items and concerts.
- CH4 and the RSV Bible are used in our worship.
- The Sacrament of Holy Communion is currently celebrated on the first Sunday of each month, excluding January, with card invitation to the services in March, June and November. A short service of Communion follows the morning service in the other months. Communion is also celebrated “in the round” on Maundy Thursday, and a family Communion is held on Easter Sunday.
- There are special Communion Services followed by afternoon tea for those unable to attend a normal service. Transport is provided.
- The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated as required.
- On the first Sunday in January, all of the local congregations join together to worship in the Parish Church of the Holy Trinity.
- A joint service with other congregations in the town and surrounding parishes is held at 7.00 am on Easter morning, followed by breakfast at the Scout Hall.
- Church services for Canongate Primary pupils are held throughout the year.
- A Harvest Thanksgiving Service is held at Allanhill Farm.



Carol singing at St Andrews Hospital

- Special services are held during Advent and over the Christmas period e.g. Christingle, Watchnight and at the Community Hospital.

- ◆ Martyrs had 4 principal Communion Services a year, on the last Sunday of January, June and September and on Easter Sunday, and 4 informal Communion Services between these, following the morning service. There was also a Communion Service on Maundy Thursday.

Our Activities and Organisations

Hope Park has always tried to look outwards to the local community, to Scotland and to the wider world in fulfilling its mission.



Each Harvest time we support 3 “good causes” –one local, one national, and one overseas – by raising funds through **Caring Means Sharing**:

Year	Local	National	International
2007	<i>Leonard Cheshire Organisation</i>	<i>Erskine</i>	<i>Link Overseas Exchange</i>
2008	<i>Horticultural Therapy Dept at Stratheden</i>	<i>Crossreach</i>	<i>Child Survival in Malawi</i>
2009	<i>St Andrews League of Hospital Friends</i>	<i>Save the Children</i>	<i>Mwandi Mission, Zambia</i>



'An Audience with...' audience

The spiritual life of the church continues to develop in a variety of ways. Up to 3 House Groups meet regularly for Bible study and discussion of faith issues. In 2009-10, a series of events entitled ‘An Audience with...’ successfully brought a number of speakers from various denominations to share about their life and faith in a local hotel. A Prayer Group, operating as a Prayer Chain, responds to prayer requests from both within and outwith our congregation.

A Pastoral Care Group helps to arrange visits to housebound members of the congregation to offer friendship and support, but there is scope for integrating pastoral activities more closely into the life of the church.

During the winter season one of our longest established church groups goes to Stratheden Hospital, a Mental Health Support Facility outside Cupar, to offer social activity, games and entertainment to the residents.



Supper at Stratheden

Local Hard of Hearing and Partially Sighted groups meet within the church premises, supported by some of our church members.

Church organisations including the Guild, Encounter, Social Club, Scottish Country Dancing, Golf Club and Pins & Needles meet regularly throughout the year.

A twice-weekly café has been in operation for some years and is a key link within the community. Church members, local people and visitors to the town drop in for coffee or a lunchtime meal — the friendship and fellowship is valued by many in the town.

Finally, in 2009 the congregation received an Eco-Congregation Award with

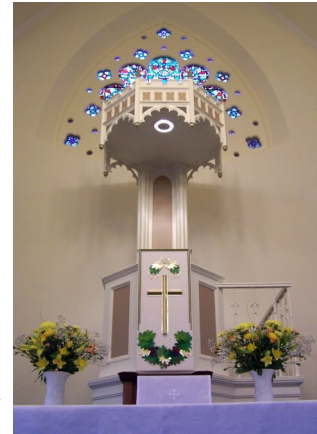


Commendation, having supported Fairtrade over many years and having recently undertaken reviews of its environmental footprint. Working in conjunction with Madras College pupils, we have made improvements in the church’s surroundings by installing flowering tubs, containers and hanging baskets, earning awards for their floral excellence.

Church Refurbishment

Following a review of church facilities and amenities, the congregation decided to embark on a substantial programme of improvements both in the sanctuary and in the halls and rooms of the church:

- The sanctuary has been redecorated, with improved lighting systems/ fire alarms.
- The redundant pipe organ has been removed, re-opening the west gallery and new pews have been installed.
- A lift has been installed to serve the upper church hall, enabling access for all.
- The service facilities of water, electricity, gas and drainage have been upgraded.
- Partial redecoration of corridors and rooms to the rear of the church has been completed.



The total cost of refurbishment work has been around £275,000, with some £40,000 still to be funded.

Our New Minister

A recent meeting of the Kirk Session indicated certain characteristics they would look for in our new Minister:

- ✓ A person who provides strong leadership and challenges us in our daily lives.
- ✓ A person who motivates us by his/her preaching, presence and sense of humour.
- ✓ A person who will lead the congregation and be someone that we can learn from and work with.
- ✓ A person who will share with us his/her vision and goals and be prepared to get both Kirk Session and congregation actively involved in achieving these goals.
- ✓ A person who will be approachable and frank with us. We are not looking for a super-human leader! We hope and expect the new Minister to be ‘among us’ and ‘with us’ on our journey, not ‘above us’.
- ✓ A person who will seek to unite the various congregations and keep us together.
- ✓ A Minister who will cater for the whole church family—bringing in young people but also responding to the needs of the not-so-young and the housebound.
- ✓ The new Minister will not necessarily tick all the boxes in our profile. Together the church community has to accept responsibility ‘to fill the gaps’ and to meet the needs of a modern church.

Appendix

PREAMBLE TO "HOPE IN THE PARK"

In 2004, a Group was set up to look at the way forward for Hope Park. It concluded that there were three options:

- (a) A planned and managed decline with a view to linkage and union.
- (b) Radical reform and rebirth of Hope Park within its present building.
- (c) The ending of Hope Park in its present form and location and its resurrection as a new form of Church within the town.

The Kirk Session voted overwhelmingly for Option (b). This led to the adoption of the Unitary Constitution and the formation of a number of Groups or Teams. In what follows, the purpose of those Groups/Teams is repeated verbatim.

Looking back, it needs to be said that there has been considerable success with some, a lack of success with others and some have not really got off the ground. There has not been a monitoring or review since they were formed.

DIVERSITY IN WORSHIP:

To entuse those who currently attend our services and to offer, in addition, a wider variety of services to attract those who do not as yet attend, or who have fallen away, with an emphasis on appealing to those in the 20-50 age band and retaining those moving into that age group.

BUILDING FAITH AND FELLOWSHIP:

This programme aims to encourage us to get to know and love God and each other by nurturing and reinforcing the existing faith of members of the congregation and drawing in people from the surrounding community. The proposed mechanism is a series of meetings in which a shared meal will be followed by discussion and teaching in a comfortable, non-intimidating environment. This is aimed at building up the faith of existing members and encouraging others to reach the point of Christian commitment.

OPEN DOORS:

The idea behind this programme is to see the Church buildings as a vibrant place where a range of activities take place involving the congregation and warmly welcoming in more of the St Andrews community. Regular social events will also be organised. We envisage that over time the Church buildings will be used extensively by the community at large. This will give a clear signal that Hope Park is very much part of the community.

ROUNDAABOUT CAFÉ:

This will offer light refreshments and an opportunity for all to meet and talk.

YOUTH WORK:

The aim of this programme is to build on current work with youth from the Crèche through Sunday School, Young Church and beyond. As part of this, we need to increase the active participation of youth within the church, meet new needs as they arise and establish links with other churches and youth organizations in the town.

CHURCH GOVERNANCE:

The aims of this programme are:

- To manage the congregation according to the laws of the Church of Scotland, by means of The Unitary Constitution, in a way that will allow decisions to be made and action to be taken in accord with fast moving pace of modern life.
- To ensure the Kirk Session retains its rightful place in managing the congregation.
- To empower small groups who are accountable to the Session to manage an agenda given to it by the Kirk Session.
- To provide an annual report to the Session on work done.

TRAINING, DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES:

The aim of this programme is to enable Hope Park to identify, develop and exploit the gifts and talents of its members. The key aspects are to:

- identify gifts and talents, as well as the amount of time people have to contribute to the church.
- record these gifts and link this information to the needs of the congregation.
- train and empower individuals to be able to use their gifts in the service of the church.

PASTORAL CARE:

The aim of this programme is to raise the level of pastoral care to members of the congregation so that it is allied to their specific needs and not confined to, or confused with, a pre-communion visit. Elders and members of the congregation who wish to serve in this way will be fully involved, with their gifts and talents being identified and used more meaningfully.

BUILDING SUPPORT:

This programme addresses physical changes to the Church premises in order to meet the needs of the other programmes.

MISSION TO ST ANDREWS:

This programme aims:

- to develop in Hope Park programmes reaching out to serve and to share the Gospel.
- to establish a culture of service to community and mission to our neighbours.
- to see this developed in practical ways.

WORLD MISSION:

This programme seeks to develop congregational awareness of worldwide issues relevant to the Board of World Mission's Strategic Commitments, 2001-10, which are:

- working with partner churches on new initiatives in evangelism
- working for peace, justice and reconciliation in situations of conflict or threat
- resourcing the church to set people free from the oppression of poverty
- contributing meaningfully to the struggle against HIV/AIDS
- increasing the involvement of Scottish Christians in the world church

It also aims to provide opportunities for the congregation and for individual church members to make an active contribution in situations of need.