

Parish Profile

... Larbert Tryst Church of Scotland ...

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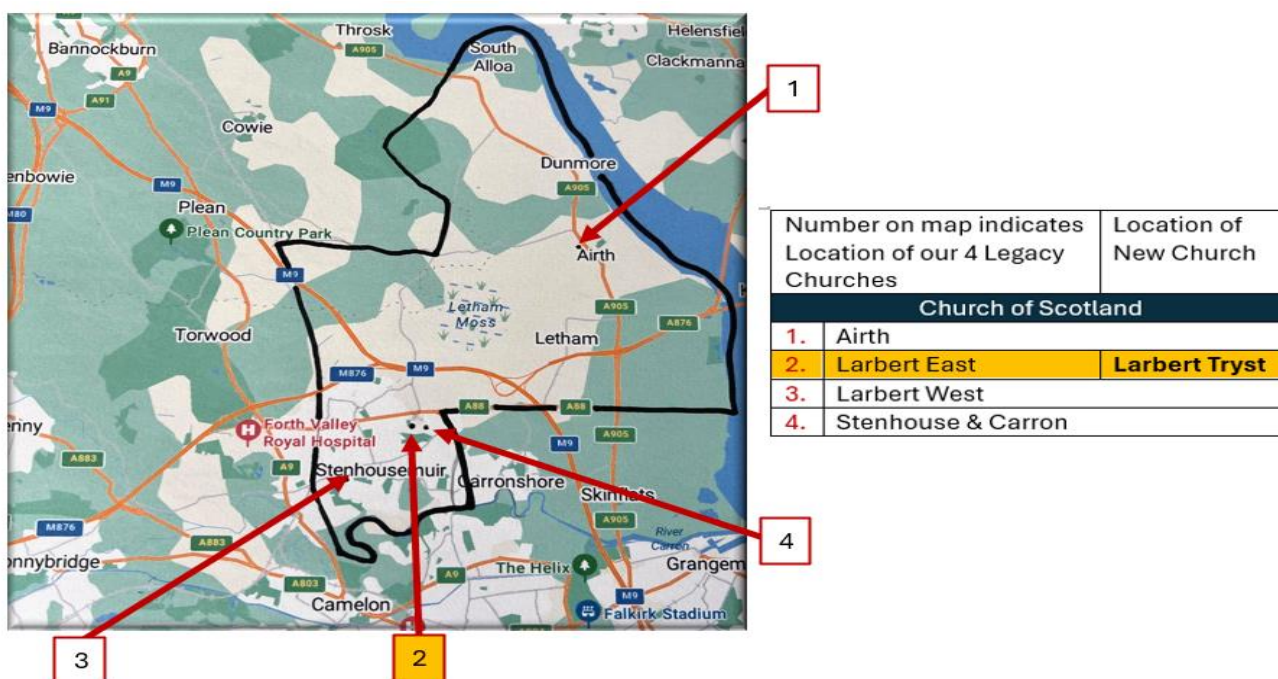
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1. Introduction

We are a newly created charge (1st May 2025) serving the villages of Airth, Stenhousemuir, Carron and a significant area of Larbert. This is predominantly a suburban area of Central Scotland surrounded by farmland. It is very well connected to the rest of Central Scotland by road and rail but with high levels of outdoor amenities close by. It has had an increasingly commuter population in recent years. The area has the town centre of Stenhousemuir with a range of shops, health centres, dentists, etc and the village of Airth to the north.

Map of location and map of new parish



Airth Parish Church, Stenhouse and Carron Church, Larbert East Church and Larbert West Church have worked together for several years and when invited to consider appropriate cluster partners by our presbytery, we took the decision to become a single charge.



2. Our Priorities - Rooted in the Five Marks of Mission

We believe that together we are better able to inspire the local community and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ. Together we can be a community of faith from a wide variety of backgrounds with different gifts, and we can learn, work together and care for each other.

The strength of this congregation is that we have come together with a unity of purpose, accepting that we need to change to grow but realising that there will be challenges ahead. We are excited about the future, and we are actively seeking and praying for that person whom God has been preparing for this opportunity. We want our minister to help us grow in our relationship with God as we continue to serve and worship Jesus Christ in our daily lives.

The communion roll is just under 1000 members. Our first Worship service as Tryst Church was attended by over 230 and we hope to expand on this. The Kirk Session is composed of 28 Trustee Elders (proportionately from 4 legacy congregations) with many other elders and members contributing via the various teams.

At a recent conference of all elders of Larbert Tryst Church we collected and agreed the following reflections:

We are at the beginning of a new and hope-filled journey, grounded in the Five Marks of Mission. Our shared purpose is to love God, serve others and follow Jesus faithfully.

In worship, in fellowship, in action, and in hope, we commit ourselves to become a vibrant meeting place where lives are transformed by grace.

We are looking forward to appointing a new minister who can support and share our aspirations and can help us work towards achieving them. As such, our new minister will embody a blend of spiritual depth, proactive leadership and a heart committed to building the new charge of Tryst Church.

Drawing on the Five Marks of Mission our ideal candidate will be a dynamic spiritual guide, a compassionate pastor as well as an advocate for God's Kingdom.








This is the winning logo designed
by a pupil at Larbert High School
for our new church

3. Community profile of the Parish

| Statistics for mission (source Church of Scotland) | | | | | | | |
|--|---------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------------|------------|--------------|
| Population of Tryst Parish | | 16758 | | | | | |
| Breakdown by age | | | | | | | |
| Pre school | Primary | Sec School | Student age | Young Adult | Mature Adult | Elderly | Very Elderly |
| 1058 - 6% | 1407 - 8% | 840 - 5% | 1627 - 9% | 4609 - 28% | 4735 - 28% | 2216 - 13% | 266 - 2% |
| | | | | | | | |
| Nationality | | | | | | | |
| White/Scottish | White/British | White | Mixed | Asian | Other | Total | |
| 15420 - 92% | 785 | 232 | 34 | 243 | 44 | 16758 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Education | | | | | | | |
| None | 5 to 16 | 16 to 18 | Further Ed | Higher Ed | All over 16 | | |
| 3052 | 3609 | 1926 | 1468 | 3398 | 13453 | | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Economically Active | | | | | Economically Inactive | | |
| Part time | Full time | Self employed | Unemployed | Student | Retired | Study | Home based |
| 1821 | 5562 - 45% | 788 | 462 - 4% | 402 | 1880 - 15% | 370 | 360 |
| | | | | | | | |
| Household composition | | | | | | | |
| One person | | | | | | | |
| Under 65 | Over 65 | Couple +1 | Couple >2 | Parent+1 | Parent>2 | Other | |
| 1066 - 15% | 813 - 11% | 1682 - 24% | 2521 - 36% | 456 - 6% | 237 - 3% | 209 | |
| | | | | | | | |
| Religion | | | | | | | |
| C of S | RC | Other Christian | All other | No religion | Non statutory | | Total |
| 6736 - 40% | 1534 - 9% | 706 | 228 | 6553 - 39% | 1001 | | 16758 |

The table of statistics relate to our new parish. The parish includes Larbert High School which has a roll of 2057 for session 2024-2025. We support Larbert Churches Youth Trust who currently provide a school worker in association with Scripture Union. Gregor Mackay is based in the high school and works in the associated primaries and the secondary school.

These are the primary schools in the parish, all with associated nurseries:-

-  Airth Primary School
-  Stenhousemuir Primary School
-  Kinnaird Primary School
-  Carron Primary School
-  Several private nurseries and a council nursery (Inchlair)

There are several specialist residential and daycare facilities:-

- ❖ Adam Grossert Court - retirement housing (Cairn Housing Association)
- ❖ Robertson Court – retirement housing (Bield Housing Association)
- ❖ Airthrey Care Residential and Nursing Home
- ❖ An adult day care centre (Alanmart)
- ❖ The Magpies – run by Alzheimer Scotland (Falkirk services)
- ❖ Priory Dunvegan - assisted living residence for those with a learning disability.

The Boys' Brigade Headquarters, Carronvale House is also in the parish.

4. Worship and Church Life

As we move to a single worship centre, we have morning worship on Sundays at 10.30am and weekday worship at 11.15am on a Thursday morning. This will be reviewed and evaluated to reflect the needs of the new charge. Sunday worship services are livestreamed to our YouTube channel to a regular live audience of about 30 as well as many 'catch-up' views.

There are weekly Fellowship, prayer & bible study groups across the parish.

There is a fortnightly Sunday breakfast online prayer group and a telephone 'prayer chain'.

There is a Larbert Tryst Guild and other Women's groups.

The Larbert Men's Christian Association has members from many of the Larbert churches and organises various members' activities throughout the year.

There is a monthly memories group, mainly for older members of the community.

Boys' Brigade, Scouts and Girlguiding groups are associated with our church.

Larbert Tryst Church supports the Larbert Churches Youth Trust which also has a role within the chaplaincy team at Larbert High School.

There is a monthly collection for Falkirk Foodbank and a local group, KLSB (Keep Larbert & Stenhousemuir Beautiful) is supported.

The legacy churches have contributed to Homestart, Blythwood Care and Samaritan's Purse shoebox appeals. Communion retiring offerings are donated to various local, national and international appeals.

We recognise the importance of understanding and responding to the spiritual needs of the communities we serve and have recently undertaken a survey of the local community in an endeavour to identify their needs to help us shape our way forward.

5. Pastoral Care

We appreciate that in any charge, pastoral care is important but especially during times of change and transition and we are committed to ensure that the pastoral needs of our congregation are supported.

Our legacy churches continue to cover the parish, through organising parish visitors, visiting the care homes, hospital visitors, a card ministry, flower ministry and many more. We hope our new minister will be at the heart of this activity.

6. Christian Education

There is currently an active young church with a roll of about 35 which meets every Sunday.

Weekly attendance varies between 12 to 30 with a wide range of ages. A creche is available for babies and toddlers. Holiday clubs are regularly delivered with the support of the Larbert Churches Youth Trust school worker.

Alpha courses, bible study and prayer groups are also planned across the parish.



7. Ecumenical Context

All Larbert churches have worked together effectively over the years with joint working to establish Larbert Churches Youth Trust, joint services at Advent and Easter and with the creation of Larbert Men's Christian Association.

Leaders and members of all Christian churches in the area also contribute to Thursday weekday worship as well as working together for such events as the World Day of Prayer and Christian Aid.

We would seek to continue and develop these relationships in future.

8. World Church

We hope to continue with the links to the world that are already established with individual churches.



India Village Ministries have been missionary partners with Airth for over 20 years. They work in rural parts of India and currently look after several orphans through their own orphanage. They also provide care to widows and the elderly and provide training to Christian leaders.



Members of Larbert East Church have joined work parties in Peru and Tanzania on several occasions, most recently in August 2024. This included fundraising by the congregation. The Edinburgh-based Vine Trust working with the Tanzania Women Research Foundation has built over 150 homes for orphaned families.

9. Stewardship and Finance

A statement of the current church finances is available upon request. The four churches are presently pooling their finances, demonstrating that the general income is derived from free will offerings, open plates, and tax rebates. When viewed in the context of the membership roll, the level of giving is particularly encouraging. The congregation has already raised over £2,100 for this year's Christian Aid appeal and will continue to support other charities both locally and internationally.

In due course, the income will be supplemented by the sale of three manse and other church buildings. This will provide the resources to embark on a significant refurbishment programme, equipping the church to serve and support our congregation and parish effectively.

The generosity of the congregation makes Tryst Church self-supporting and a net contributor to the Church of Scotland.

10. Staffing

We seek to appoint a full-time Minister of Word and Sacrament who can help us to build and develop this new charge. We also have a 1.0 allocation for Ministries Development Staff (MDS).

We currently employ a part-time Parish Outreach Worker who is involved in Stenhousemuir and Kinnaird primary schools and supports work with the Young Church, as well as 2 organists who will work cooperatively to support church worship with an enthusiastic choir and a small Praise Band.

We anticipate that future plans for community outreach may require administrative and caretaking staff.

As part of this new union, the Kirk Session voted to depart from the church's practice in relation to human sexuality.

11. Church, Halls and Manse

The Tryst Church buildings are currently undergoing a feasibility study to ensure the worship centre is as warm, welcoming and accessible as possible with improvements financed by sale of the surplus church buildings and manses.

In addition to the Sanctuary, there is a large main hall, a smaller hall and a suite of additional rooms. We are consulting with architects to look at options to ensure we have the best facilities to support our mission.

The manse is a modern 5 bedroom detached home with a detached double garage located in the







Kinnaird village area of Larbert. The proximity of Falkirk and Stirling allows the area to benefit from the amenities of these larger towns. Larbert station is also close by and offers easy routes to Glasgow and Edinburgh. The local Primary School is Kinnaird (with attached nursery) and the secondary is Larbert High.

The manse is just over a mile north of the church, an easy 30-minute walk. There is a small shopping centre including a Sainsbury's, butcher, dentist and 2 takeaways.

12. Web Links for further information

We are in the process of building a social media profile to help promote the new church to our local community and you will find more information on our new website, Facebook and Instagram.

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|  Website Link | www.tryst.church |
|  Facebook Link | https://www.facebook.com/61573916163742/ |
|  YouTube Link | https://www.youtube.com/@TrystChurch |
|  Instagram | https://www.instagram.com/larbert_tryst_church/ |