

# CARRIDEN PARISH CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

## PARISH PROFILE

Website [www.carridenchurch.co.uk](http://www.carridenchurch.co.uk)



The members of Carriden Parish Church are committed to our mission statement: Moving forward in faith.

### Vision Statement

Carriden together with Blackness, caring and compassionate

All are Welcome

Reaching out to the Community; always

Ready and willing to change and move forward

Ideas explored and expanded

Doing always achieves more than talking

Each of us is important and

Needed to share in the life and work of the Church

## Carriden Parish Church of Scotland- Parish Profile

Table of Contents	Page
Introduction	3
Vision For The Future	3
Location	3
Community Profile	4
History	4
Worship	5
Carriden Session	6
Congregation	6
Local Church Review	6
Outreach	7
Church Manse and Halls	8
Web link for further information	8
Appendix I – Superintendence Committee Report	9

## Introduction

Due to the Translation of our present Minister we are seeking a new minister to lead us forward in our journey of faith. We are looking for a minister who will inspire and challenge us to move forward, building on our strengths and guiding us through our weaknesses, teaching as we grow together. We seek a leader who is a team player with a sense of humour who will understand and utilise the knowledge and skills which exist within our Congregation and teach us a faith and practice that is relevant to today's environment, a minister who will help us to continue to build on establishing strong links with the other two Church of Scotland Parishes in Bo'ness for the benefit of all.

Are you that Minister?

## Vote on Minister's in Civil Partnerships

Carriden Church Session voted not to depart from the Church teachings on the matter of Ministers in Civil Partnerships,

## Vision for the Future

We look forward to welcoming a new minister into our open and friendly Church Family.

We recognise that while Carriden Parish Church wishes to maintain its own identity and rich tradition, it can only do so by taking an active part in the work of the local community. We wish to take our participation to a new level and lead initiatives to benefit the community in a spiritual and pastoral fashion. Indeed, not to do so would be against the tradition of Carriden. We have already made considerable progress achieving this, working in partnership with local charities, schools and Community Trusts.

We value our beautiful churches, but we are aware that for Carriden and Blackness Churches to be more of a focal point in the community, we must improve disabled access and toilet facilities.

## Location

The parish of Carriden lies on the shore of the River Forth within Bo'ness and extends to the village of Blackness two miles to the east. We are approximately four miles from Linlithgow train station for travel to Edinburgh, Glasgow and Stirling. The M9 is conveniently close with road links to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Stirling, Falkirk, Livingston and the Forth Road Bridge.

The parish has two schools, Blackness Primary and Grange Primary in Bo'ness. The same head teacher leads both schools. The Parish also encompasses a Sheltered Housing complex and a Nursing home. There is also half mile stretch of light industry, farmland and open countryside within the parish boundary.



## Community Profile

The parish population is approximately 4,000.

The congregation(s) regard themselves as suburban/town for Carriden and rural for Blackness.

The town contains a mix of private & council housing, with two large new housing developments having been built over the last few years. Planning permission has recently been granted for additional housing to be built in the area.

## History

Although there is evidence that communities have existed for at least the past 2000 years in this area of Carriden, the first indication of a formal place of worship did not occur until 1243 when David de Bernham, 25<sup>th</sup> Bishop of the Diocese of St. Andrews consecrated a Church. No known remains of this early Church can be found, though it is thought to have been near the present Carriden House where foundations of a later Church building with its adjacent burial ground can be seen.

In 1766, a new church was built at Cuffabouts, a simple structure which had a tower and a spire added in 1850 which continued to be used until early 1900s. Plans for a new Church at Carriden, designed by P. Macgregor Chalmers, were approved in 1907, the first turf cut in 1908 and the dedication of the church was on 18<sup>th</sup> September 1909.



In the early 1990s we created a car park adjacent to Carriden Church and our Millennium project was the creation of a Garden of Remembrance within the Church grounds. Over the years, we have celebrated the 750<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Church and the centenary of our present building. In keeping with all church families, we have had our highs and lows. It has long been recognized that the strengths and durability of Carriden is the result of the ability of its parishioners to evolve as their circumstances change and it is this spirit which will help to take us forward into the future.

In 1949, the Episcopal Church at Blackness was purchased by the Church of Scotland to serve the needs of the villagers. This has been refurbished over the years and services are held twice a month.





## Worship

The sacrament of Holy Communion is celebrated four times a year (March, June, September and December). Sunday services at Carriden at 11.15am follow a traditional pattern, a welcome at the door from the duty elders and distribution of a printed order of service before the congregation take their seats. The Introit sung by the Choir following the entrance of the Bible marks the beginning of worship which follows a standard format. Praise taken from CH4, Mission Praise or Songs of God's People is led by the Church Organist and Choir. Old and New Testament readings by members of the congregation lead to the Minister's sermon, offering and prayers of intercession are followed by the closing Hymn and Blessing.



Morning worship in Blackness takes place on the second and fourth Sundays of the month at 10:00am and follows a similar pattern to Carriden although of shorter duration.

There is no facility in either Church for the use of CD or projection.

We also have a sheltered housing complex and a nursing home within the parish and hold services there once a month, usually the first and third Sundays at the respective establishments.

The weekly services are prepared and led by the Minister, but during holiday periods these may be conducted by The Worship Group, The Choir, Bible Class or Women's Group. Other special services are held on Easter Sunday (8:00am open air and regular 11:15am), Harvest Thanksgiving, Remembrance, Christmas Carol Services, Christmas Eve Watchnight Service and Christmas Morning.

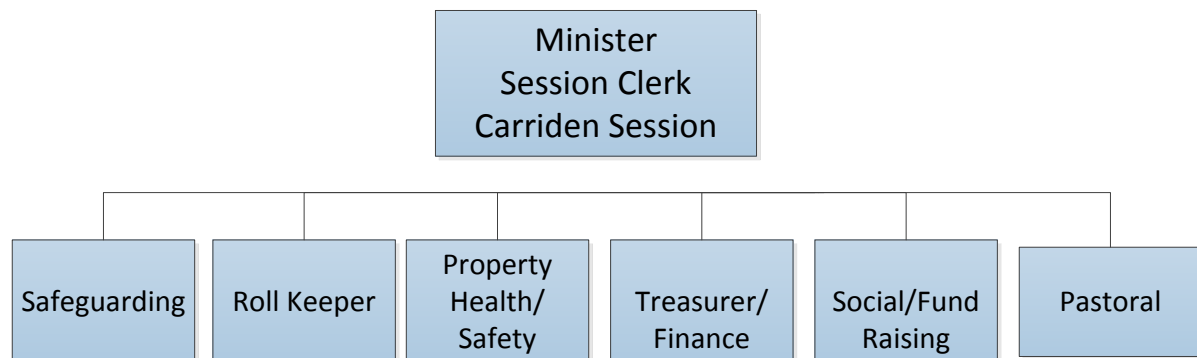
There are also joint services with neighbouring congregations, which are typically held during Holy Week with the Bo'ness Churches Together group.

Carriden services are recorded each week and distributed via CD to our housebound members. A newsletter is distributed to all members quarterly by the elders, and an annual year book detailing office bearers and contact numbers, together with details of forthcoming events is published and distributed to all members. The timing and content of these publications is currently under review to determine the appropriate format to meet the congregation's needs.

Any pastoral care requests are co-ordinated through the Pastoral Elder and passed on to the Minister. There is also a contact card located in each pew in Church.

## Carriden Session

Carriden Session consists of 39 active elders, 24 female and 15 male with the most recent ordinations being in 2016. The Session operates a Unitary Constitutional Model, and oversees the following teams/sub-committees:



Carriden Session is currently reviewing the performance measures that will assess whether the vision and/or mission are being successfully delivered for the Parish.

Over the past years Carriden has met all its financial commitments. The present Ministries and Mission contribution stands at £40,315.

## Congregation

The current Communion Roll sits at a membership of 455, with 54 members having joined over the past five years. Our congregations are predominantly aged over 50, although several young families do attend worship. We would hope our new Minister would help to increase these numbers so we can re-establish children's activities on a Sunday morning. We do offer crèche facilities during the service to allow parents to worship with us. Average Sunday service attendance is 60-70 at Carriden and 15-20 at Blackness.

The challenges for the congregation at this time are to increase younger membership; to restart the Sunday school and to focus on activities which increase the Churches presence within the local community and the benefits therein.

We are a very welcoming congregation who hold monthly lunches after Sunday worship to strengthen fellowship and social gatherings and which also may be fund raising although this is not the aim of the event.

We have a very positive Congregation who are seeking Leadership and Guidance to assist with revitalising our Church and encouraging new membership from our community.

## Local Church Review

We had our Local Church Review (Quinquennial Visit) in 2016 and received a very favourable response from Presbytery. Carriden Session was encouraged to continue with its efforts to involve more people in leading worship, continue exploration of the "Learn Eldership" material and to engage in forward planning for outreach. It was noted that Stewardship is being promoted actively within the congregation and we were commended for the work we are doing through different groups in the community.

## Outreach

The Minister and members of Carriden Church have been enthusiastic and active participants in outreach to the local community. Our previous minister was chaplain to both Grange Primary and Blackness Primary Schools and there is the opportunity for our new Minister to carry on with this, as there is an excellent relationship between the Church and the Schools.

The Minister participates in a Bo'ness Fraternal with the other denominational churches in the area meeting regularly (Monthly), to co-ordinate joint activities such as annual Holy Week Services. There is also a Bo'ness Churches Together Group in which Roman Catholic, Episcopal, Baptist, Apostolic, United Free Churches and Salvation Army participate, with members taking part in Prayer Mornings, Prayer Walks and the Annual Advent Carol Service.

Through Carriden Community Volunteer Group (CCVG) we have established links with both young and elderly in our community. The Afternoon Club for Retired Man and Women meets fortnightly in the afternoon where guests come along and speak on a variety of subjects, after which a cup of tea and a light snack is enjoyed.

Fortnightly there is an after school club, FunB4T Club (Fun Before Tea), which provides opportunities for children (along with a parent or carer) to enjoy and learn new skills while having fun in a safe environment. The children take part in a craft session and have some fun in the hall. We end the afternoon with a light snack.

There is an adult cooking group (run jointly with the NHS) which develops skills under the banner of 'Cooking on a Budget'. Attendees are guided through the process of providing healthy family meals in a cost-conscious manner.

All the Churches in Bo'ness together with local stores collect food and household items to distribute to those in need via "Storehouse". Carriden has a collection box available in the church every week.

The Bo'ness Fair is an annual event and every five years, Carriden takes its turn to hold the "Kirking of the Fair Queen" on the Sunday before the Fair Day (the last day of school before the summer break). A buffet meal is enjoyed after the service.

History Walks (Now taken over by Step Forth) were started by members of the Church allowing people to enjoy walking while learning about the history of the area. There are several different walks on the John Muir Way one of which allows you to walk from Carriden Church all the way to Blackness.

Care Home Services are held once each month in the nursing home at Bo'ness Care Home and the sheltered housing at Craigview.



## Church Manse and Halls

### Church Manse

The manse is a two-storey detached house with an integral double garage. It has gas central heating with a combi boiler.

The accommodation comprises:

Ground Floor: Entrance vestibule, hall, lounge, Dining room, kitchen, toilet and a utility room with door through to the garage.

Half Landing: Sitting room over the garage.

First Floor: Study, three double bedrooms with master en-suite and family bathroom.



The manse is situated 500 yards from Carriden Church and approximately ½ a mile from the Lund and Mission Halls.

### Church Halls

Carriden Church has the Mission and Lund Halls which are located next to each other on Cowdenhill Road, Bo'ness which is approximately ½ a mile from the Church itself. The Mission Hall is a sandstone building, and the smaller Lund Hall is of wooden construction.

Both halls are used for a number of Carriden Church group activities and are available to rent. Our Afternoon Club, FunB4T Club, Session, Church Choir, Women's Group (affiliated to the Church of Scotland Guild) regularly holds meetings here. The halls are the focus for fundraising events such as our Spring Fair and other associated activities.

We have regular lets in both the large hall (Mission) and the small hall (Lund), such as Tae Kwon Do classes covering all ages held twice a week, band practices for two local bands and other lets as they arise.



## Web Link for Further Information and other Useful Links

Carriden Church website [www.carridenchurch.co.uk](http://www.carridenchurch.co.uk)

Falkirk Council website [www.falkirk.gov.uk](http://www.falkirk.gov.uk)

Bo'ness website [www.visitscotland.com/info/towns-villages/boness-p235551](http://www.visitscotland.com/info/towns-villages/boness-p235551)



**Superintendence Committee Report October 2016**

**Deliverances:** Presbytery:

1. Receive the report  
Carriden Church Review May 2016
2. Commend the Rev Malcolm Lyon, Carriden Church, for his work as the Minister in the parish and congregation and for so successfully enthusing the Kirk Session and congregation since his Induction.
3. Encourage the Minister of Carriden Church to continue to seek the guidance of God's spirit in all that he and his congregation do in their working together.
4. Encourage the Minister and Session of Carriden Church in their efforts to involve more people in leading worship.
5. Rejoice with the congregation of Carriden Church in their seeing their Minister as a blessing on their work together.
6. Encourage the Kirk Session of Carriden Church on their exploration of the "Learn Eldership" material and pray that it will result in benefits for them.
7. Commend the Kirk Session of Carriden Church for the work they are doing through different groups in the community for all ages.
8. Encourage the Minister and Kirk Session of Carriden Church to engage in forward planning for outreach to the many new homes being built in the parish.
9. Note that Stewardship is being promoted actively within the Carriden Church congregation.
10. Encourage the Kirk Session of Carriden Church to develop a plan for regular maintenance of all their buildings, but especially the Manse.
11. Give thanks to God for all that Carriden Parish Church is doing

**3. Five-Yearly Visit to Carriden Parish Church, 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016**

Visiting Team:            Mr Arthur Priestly (Larbert West) – Team leader  
                                 Rev Ian Black (Minister emeritus, Grangemouth: Zetland)  
                                 Mrs Janet Rhodes (Denny Old)  
                                 Mr Drew Robertson (Blackbraes & Shieldhill)

**Meeting with the Minister, Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 6:00pm**

Malcolm Lyon is in his second year in this Charge and has been greatly encouraged by the response of the Congregation since his Induction in 2014, following 7 years in his first Charge within the Presbytery of Lothian. Malcolm is aware of the Church's provision for ministry needs, including pastoral support. He has met with the Presbytery Chaplain and has regular contact with another Church of Scotland minister in the town as well as contact through the interdenominational fraternal which meets monthly. Malcolm says that the local members "continually remind me" of the need to look after himself and his family encouraging a healthy work/rest balance to his ministry.

He makes use of the Study Leave Scheme within which he has adopted a bi-annual approach to taking Leave if that proves suitable, but he also sets aside time for study at a personal level. Malcolm recognises from his personal history that his strengths don't lie in office work but he does have an awareness of the need for good order and management. He has no difficulty in obtaining administrative support from within the congregation. Malcolm maintains chaplaincies at Grange and Blackness Primary Schools and encourages the use of the church buildings for community events. He is working through the "Learn Eldership" publication with his Kirk Session and using this as a base to discuss subjects such as what this Church will look like in the future and what part the eldership will play in its development. A small group is under tuition in leading worship. Malcolm looks for the guidance of God's spirit in maintaining and developing what he describes as "a fantastic relationship throughout the whole church and all of us play a significant part in that."

Meeting with the Kirk Session, same evening at 7:00pm

As the Congregation have adopted the Unitary Constitution, the Team met with the Kirk Session and the minister opted not to attend this meeting. There was a good turnout of elders, most of whom contributed to the discussion. The elders confirmed that they had been involved in compiling the answers to the questionnaire.

Worship:

Morning Worship at Carriden Church takes place at 11:15am and twice each month this is preceded by a Service at Blackness Church at 10:00am. Monthly Services are held at Bo'ness Care Home and in the Sheltered Housing complex. Holy Week is celebrated across the different churches in the town and this year Carriden held the Maundy Thursday Service and children from the Primary School came to church on that Thursday. There is an outdoor Easter Service and Christmas Services, including a short service on Christmas Day.

No difficulties have been experienced with the Sacrament of Baptism and no Thanksgiving or Blessing Services for children have been held. Holy Communion celebrated four times a year and on other occasions and settings, including home communion, from time to time throughout the year.

Members of Session lead worship occasionally, the Women's Group lead their dedication service and the Choir is leading a Service. Individual members also participate in worship, mainly reading the Scriptures on an invited basis.

Office Bearers:

There are 36 active Elders with a roughly 45/55 male/female split with an age range from 50 to 88, and this is felt to be roughly representative of the gender and age spread within the active congregation. Some duties are carried out by non-elders. All elders carry out similar duties, although there are a few with different tasks according to their skills and abilities. New elders are trained at local level, including pairing with another elder when carrying out their first visits to congregational homes. Office bearers view the Church as "the family of God and the body of Christ."

Congregation:

At the end of 2015 the congregation roll stood at 400. There were 12 deaths in 2015 and this roughly reflects the situation over the past few years. There are a steady 2 or 3 each year who join by Certificate but none have joined by Profession over the last 5 years. There were 21 funerals last year and 2 weddings conducted by the minister. For historical reasons the Church of Scotland Guild is known as "The Women's Group" but it is nevertheless affiliated to the Guild and has healthy numbers. There are no formal organisations for children although there is a crèche for the youngest children who attend Sunday worship.

## Appendix II- Superintendence Committee Report

There is a Bible Class which meets at 10:15am on a Sunday morning and is attended by 8 adults. There is also a prayer tree on which members are encouraged to place requests for inclusion on prayers during worship. Other groups for the community are mentioned under Mission.

A surprising 70% of the congregation live outside the parish, but that has been caused by the lack of housing development in the parish area, a feature which is about to change through the building of 165 new homes.

The organist is the only paid member of staff. The Church is cleaned by members of the congregation.

The Kirk Session see the congregation as having been blessed by the provision of a new minister (and this was reflected in comment about the possibility of union under the latest Presbytery Plan), and by an increase in the number of attending members.

### Safeguarding:

There are two trained Safeguarding Co-ordinators. The Session submitted a completed form SG11 to the visiting team and answered the team's questions satisfactorily.

### Christian Education:

As stated earlier, there is no Sunday School (no children in the relevant age group attend worship) or other form of Christian Education for children although there are opportunities for children of church families to participate in facilities offered to the children of the community. The minister fulfils the role of chaplain to the local primary schools. The Kirk Session have been studying the "Learn Eldership" material and trying to find practical ways in which to employ that material. The Bible Class before the Sunday Service offers an important study opportunity to the 8 adults who attend.

### Mission:

Although part of the town of Bo'ness, Carriden Church operates in what has been designated an area of deprivation, so there are many opportunities for mission in the community. The Session take the view that if people won't come to the Church, the Church must go to the people and so they have carried out leaflet drops trying to involve the wider parish in activities and that has been well responded to by the community. There is an over-60s group with lunches and speakers, the FunB4T Club for children which engages also with community workers in their activities, the Afternoon Club and a Walking Group.

Services are held in the local nursing home and sheltered housing and the weekly church services are recorded and distributed to the housebound.

Joint social events have taken place with neighbouring churches and worship events at Easter and for World Day of Prayer.

Contributions are brought regularly for Storehouse – the local food bank – and special collections are taken for various charities.

It is noted that there is an expected development of some 165 new homes in the area and this may have a significant impact on the life and service of the Church, including a need for distributing information to new homes and potential for expansion of congregational activities, including Sunday School.

Finance:

The Team considered with Session the outline financial figures for the last three years which were slightly skewed by reason of the vacancy. Normal regular income including Gift Aid tax reclaim appears to be fairly steady but income for past specific one-off purposes is now causing a rise in Ministries & Mission contributions. No significant major expenditure is expected during the current year and no funds are held by the General Trustees. The congregation have no debts at present. Personal stewardship of time skills and resources is encouraged by personal approach, magazine articles and from the pulpit.

Fabric:

Buildings consist of the two Church buildings (Carriden and Blackness) and two Church Halls (at a location apart from the Church), and the Manse in a relatively recent development a couple of streets away from the Church. All buildings are kept in good order and all essential work from the last survey has been dealt with. Buildings are available for use by the community and there is a possibility of additional applications for use because of the potential closure of the nearby community hall. The strategy for building maintenance is that all buildings are “kept wind and water tight” with improvements being implemented where cost permits, but there appears to be no plan in place for regular maintenance for the church buildings or the Manse. Gardens and grounds, including a Garden of Remembrance, are particularly well maintained by volunteer work parties.

Future Planning and Vision:

Session hope for an increase in congregational numbers through the new housing development but they aim to increase the congregation by involvement with the local community based on the successful activities for different sectors which they are currently running. In particular, they would like younger people to become involved in their activities and so be encouraged to join the congregation. They would like to see an increase in offerings and are regularly highlighting their financial situation to the congregation to encourage this. They would also like to involve every member of the congregation in activities which are ongoing in supporting the Church. It was noted that the minister had attended a two-week study leave course on managing change.

Civil Legislation:

The Kirk Session maintain their knowledge of the requirements of civil legislation through material sent from the Church's offices, General Assembly and Presbytery. Fire risk assessments have been carried out in all their buildings and hygiene and first aid certificates are held. Risk assessments are carried out for tasks and personal risk assessments for individual jobs and lone workers. Disabled access is available including access to the sanctuary via the front door. Loop systems are available and wheelchair “parking” space is available. Toilet doors have been changed to facilitate use by less able people. Elders are aware of their obligations and responsibilities under Charity legislation.

Morning Worship, Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2016 at 11:15am

The main diet of worship is within the Church at 11:15am and on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> May, this was led by the team, all the members of which took part, with Rev Ian Black preaching. It was preceded by a meeting of the Bible Class at 10:15am. The attendance was about 60+ with only a few toddlers present for whom there was a crèche facility part way through the Service. There was a strong choir, of both men and women, who led praise along with the organist and CH4, in its guise as “Hymns of Glory, Songs of Praise”, is the main source of hymns. A “second” service is held twice a month at Blackness Church at 10:00am with a small but regular attendance but there was no service on the Sunday when the team visited.