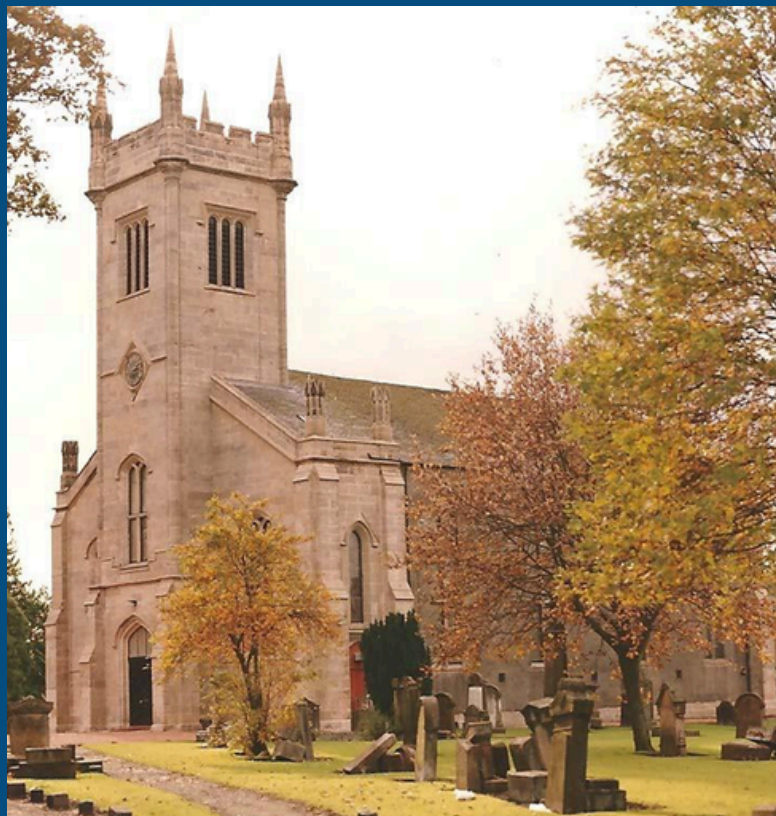


Bonhill Parish Church



linked with

Renton Trinity Parish Church



PARISH PROFILE

THE CALL

Bonhill Church, linked with Renton: Trinity Parish Church, has a call to the linked congregations on the Basis of a Reviewable Charge. We look forward to working together with our new minister to build on the strengths of both congregations to spread God's love in the valley where the Leven flows.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our aim as Christian congregations is joyfully to worship God in fellowship and lifestyle, encouraging others to join us by serving God through praying, caring, teaching and reaching beyond ourselves.

CONGREGATIONS

At present there are two churches each serving their own parish and each holding a Sunday Service. Each congregation serves their distinct communities, and the congregations are active in outreach and service to these communities.

Following a long ministry in Bonhill and a period of prolonged vacancy in Renton, the linked charges were served well by a local OLM, who subsequently transferred to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament in 2017. The congregations have been vacant since the Minister's retiral in April 2022 while Presbytery sought an appropriate and acceptable way forward within the constraints of Presbytery Planning.

The parishes have been linked for a number of years and the long-term aim is for the linked parishes to become part of a united Vale of Leven Parish as part of a 2 person team ministry with Lomond Parish Church. Under the Clyde Presbytery Plan both buildings are currently designated 'B' by the General Trustees while the full cost and scope of potential roof works at Bonhill are fully assessed. The Presbytery Building Officer is working closely with Bonhill and the General Trustees to move this forward.

Both congregations are keen to address the diverse needs of their communities and to improve their work within and for their communities. For this to be most effective, they recognise the need to further enhance their working relationship with each other as an initial step forward.

Renton – The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) places the whole parish of Renton Trinity in the lowest 20% of the country. The area around the town centre is placed within the lowest 10% of the country.

Bonhill – Has 6 distinct areas within the parish which are assessed as being in the lowest 20% (SIMD) with an additional area within the lowest 10% of the country.

CONTEXT OF THE ROLE

- Providing strong and visionary leadership to both congregations.
- Developing and implementing effective strategies to increase the visibility of both worshipping communities, promoting Christian values and mission, and guiding them through the challenges and opportunities they face as they seek to connect with one another and serve the broader communities.
- Leading the people in planning to identify needs and opportunities for meaningful community engagement as both congregations work to increase the church's involvement in their local communities, building relationships and partnerships with relevant organisations and initiatives.
- Introducing and developing a variety of worship styles and services, reflecting the diverse needs and preferences of the congregations and the communities and incorporating the use of IT equipment and digital platforms to enhance worship experiences.
- Supporting church members to actively participate in community activities and volunteer opportunities through the development of outreach programs targeting local schools, parent teacher councils, addiction support and working with other agencies to combat poverty.
- Providing careful and sensitive leadership to support office-bearers in stewardship and financial planning.
- Developing and leading creative and engaging initiatives which cross parish boundaries to revitalise the churches, engaging both existing and potential members of each uniquely small and special urban and rural communities to foster vibrant, growing and outward looking congregations.
- Cultivating a welcoming and inclusive atmosphere which encourages active participation.

The provision of able leadership will be key not just to offering the two linked congregations the necessary ongoing support, but also to engaging and enabling them to work effectively with external groups and the wider parish grouping.

CONGREGATIONAL PRIORITIES

- Affirm and develop the existing congregations in their worship and witness.
- Develop new and creative forms of outreach to local communities.
- Provide innovative and visionary leadership in planning and executing efforts to rejuvenate local mission and outreach, making each church building a vibrant and functional space for both church and community events.

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

- Development of outreach to communities in need including, for example, to primary and secondary schools, care homes and other community groups.
- Rebuild the church's visibility among all who live and work in the parishes.
- Work in partnership with both congregations to develop new forms of community outreach and social concern.

NEW MINISTER

We are looking for a minister who:

- Will be responsible for the conduct of public worship.
- Will provide pastoral care to our congregations and have a broad involvement through outreach with the general community within the parishes.
- Will encourage and develop the existing Ministry to our young families, promoting new membership.
- Will be an enthusiastic leader and who will harness the existing and latent talents of those within the membership and of those throughout the parishes.
- Has good communication and interpersonal skills.
- Will encourage inter-denominational church cooperation.
- Will share our love and affection for our churches, our congregations and the parishes we live in.

In return, we offer our gifts and energies and look forward to working with our new minister to achieve, with God's help, our aims and aspirations for the two parishes.

CONTACT DETAILS

Bonhill Church

Main Street, Bonhill, Alexandria,
West Dunbartonshire, G83 9HR.

Renton: Trinity Church

33 Alexander Street, Renton,
West Dunbartonshire, G82 4LT.

Nominating Committee Contacts:

Informal enquiries can be made to the Interim Moderator: -

Rev Dr Graeme Wilson,
Minister, Bearsden Cross.

Tel: 0141 942 0507

Mob: 07813 486691

gwilson@churchofscotland.org.uk

Applications should include a CV, a personal statement of why you feel called to our parishes and the gifts and experience you can bring to them. You should also include the names of two referees, who will only be contacted if your application is taken further.

If available, please include links to video recordings of recent services you have conducted.

Applications should be sent to the Clerk to the Nominating Committee.

Name: Elspeth Lee

Email: leesels@hotmail.com

[N.B. Under Act 1 2015, both Kirk Sessions have voted to depart from the Church's practice in relation to human sexuality in order to permit the ordination, induction or appointment of a minister who is in a civil partnership or a same sex marriage.]

A photograph of Bonhill Parish Church, a large stone building with a prominent tower and spires, set against a blue sky. The church is surrounded by trees with autumn foliage. A semi-transparent blue rectangle is overlaid on the image, containing the text.

Bonhill

**PARISH
CHURCH**

Presbytery of Clyde

Registered Scottish Charity SC00086

THE PARISH

The Village of Bonhill lies on the eastern bank of the River Leven, on the opposite bank from Alexandria, and between Balloch and Dumbarton. We are on the doorstep of an area of unrivalled natural beauty, just one mile from the shores of Loch Lomond and the gateway to Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. The area has numerous local leisure facilities, both indoor and outdoor, land and water based.

THE HISTORY

Bonhill Parish Church has a long history of service in the Vale of Leven. The church building is traditional and well maintained and has been a place of worship and community gathering since it was built in 1836.

The church was renovated in the 1980's and is now a multi-purpose building that fits our modern-day needs. It comprises of a sanctuary seating over 400 people, a large hall, kitchen facilities, meeting room and a modern office - all under one roof.

The challenges the church faced in 1836 are similar to those in 2025, namely unemployment, housing and poverty. The congregation of Bonhill church continues to put the parish and its people first.

PRESENT

Bonhill Parish Church serves the town of Bonhill, West Dunbartonshire. The parish includes a mix of housing types: approximately 60% social housing, 30% privately owned homes, and 10% private rentals. The area is largely urban, with pockets of green space and access to the River Leven.

The parish has a mix of old and new housing with plenty of scope for outreach development, both spiritual and pastoral, including Chaplaincy of the local High School. It has six primary schools (two of which lie within Bonhill Parish: Bonhill Primary and Lennox Primary), one secondary school and several nurseries, all within walking distance of the church and manse.

The population of Bonhill Parish is around 9000, with a predominantly White Scottish demographic with a relatively balanced age profile. Community facilities include care homes, GP surgeries, a library, and small businesses. While the area faces some economic challenges, there is a strong sense of community, and the church plays a role in offering stability and support.

OUR COMMUNITY AND CONGREGATION

Bonhill Parish Church contributes to local life through food bank support, pastoral visits to care homes, and engagement with schools. We aim to be a steady presence in a changing community.

The church buildings are used by many community groups including, Boys Brigade and Girls Association, Girl Guide and Brownies, keep fit, AA, AlAnon, and school PTA meetings.

Our local Pentecostal Church approached us to allow them to hold services in our building which we were glad to share. They now have Friday evening services and alternate Sunday evening services in our Sanctuary.

We have close links with Bonhill Primary School where the Minister is a regular visitor to assemblies. The Church and our Minister also host Christmas, Easter and End of Year events which pupils and their teachers and parents attend.

Bonhill church organised and hosted a collaborative concert in aid of our local foodbank with musical contributions from other local churches as well as Bonhill pupils.

The Communion Roll currently stands at just over 300 with an average weekly attendance of around 80-100 which has continued in the absence and continuity of a Parish Minister, and increased during a period of Locum Ministry. Communion is held 3 times a year, on the first Sunday in March, June and October. The age profile of the congregation is predominantly older, with approximately 75% aged 60 and above, 20% aged 40-59, and a small number of younger adults and children.

Our Session operates a Unitary Constitution, using a committee structure which utilises the skills of individual elders. The committees cover the areas of Finance, Property, Halls, Social, Pastoral and Worship. We currently have (39) elders 17 men and 22 women, (35) of whom are active.

We are considering innovative ways of adding to the outreach that we already do, such as offering a Warm Place in the winter for the community and Messy Church sessions and we need a minister who is enthusiastic about providing this type of outreach.

Anchors Nature Walk



Juniors Camp



Company Glencoe weekend



WORSHIP LIFE

We have weekly Sunday services rotating annually with Renton between 10am and 11.15am starting times. Our worship is traditional, but our congregation is always willing to explore new styles of worship and in the past, we have had jazz and outdoor summer services.

Music is an extremely important part of worship. Bonhill Church has a long tradition of great singing and music. As part of the refurbishment an Allan Organ was donated by the Fraser Foundation which enhances our services. We also have a modern Clavinova piano which provides modern variations.



Members of the congregation participate regularly in the service by reading the lesson; leading us in prayer; children's talk and delivering the sermon. Our congregation is proud of its reputation for being welcoming and being part of the local community.

In 2024 there was 1 marriage, and 4 funerals in the church. Unfortunately, in the absence of a full-time minister, around a further 40 parish funerals were conducted by other local ministers.

Our Sunday School at present has 4 - 6 children and we have 3 very enthusiastic leaders. The children are a very important part of our congregation and are actively encouraged to be part of our service.

At Christmas time the Nativity Play continues to be a big part of our Advent preparations. with participation of both our young folk and some not so young.



We have several social groups. The ladies and gents lunch clubs meet monthly and enjoy fellowship while eating together in local venues.



The Social Committee organise our annual seniors Christmas Party. This is held within our own church hall and normally hosts around 50 people for lunch, laughter and festive fun.

The committee also coordinates the Easter and Christmas Fayres and other fundraising social activities. Once a month we have a get-together after morning worship in our church hall where everyone can enjoy tea/coffee sandwiches and cakes and most importantly fellowship with one another.



PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care is shared between the minister, elders, and members of the congregation. We visit those who are housebound or in care homes, and we offer support to families during times of illness or bereavement. The Session Clerk helps keep the minister informed of pastoral needs. We also support the manse family, ensuring they feel part of the church community.



Funerals are conducted both for members and for those in the wider parish. The minister regularly visits two local care homes. Until very recently, our Healing Group held a service of Prayers for healing on the third Thursday of every month. This service was open to all in our community - and welcomed them, faith or no faith, to Bonhill church. It is hoped that this might be re-visited under a new ministry.



Our Christmas Candle Service is a beautiful service where we invite everyone to light a candle in memory of family, friends or anyone who is known to us who is ill and in need of special prayers. Our Healing Group sent cards with words of hope and encouragement to those who were too ill to join us in person at church.

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

We offer Sunday School for children, led by volunteers. Attendance varies, but we aim to create a welcoming space for young families. In the past, we have run holiday clubs and seasonal events for children.

For adults, we have benefited from Bible study groups and reflection evenings during Lent and Advent. These sessions are informal and open to anyone interested in exploring faith more deeply.

ECUMENICAL CONTEXT

We maintain good relationships with other churches in the area. We participate in joint services during Holy Week and Christmas. In the past we have also participated in ecumenical services organized by ACTIV – Action of Churches Together in the Vale. Unfortunately, these ended in the wake of the Covid pandemic and are something we would like to restart in the future.

WORLD CHURCH

We support the work of Christian Aid and are a FairTrade congregation. We aim to use ethically sourced products where possible. We are open to building connections with the wider church. We encourage members to engage with world church issues through prayer and giving and have organised collections for several worldwide charities and emergency appeals.

STAFFING

The minister is supported by a Session Clerk and Treasurer, as well as an Organist. Cleaning, and Church Officer duties are shared among volunteers, and administrative tasks are handled by the Session Clerk and other members. We do not currently employ a church secretary or MDS staff member, but we are open to exploring additional support if needed.

STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

Our congregation contributes to Giving to Grow and payments are up to date. We also participate in stewardship campaigns and would look to revisit this in 2026. We use Freewill Offering envelopes and Gift Aid, and our accounts are audited annually. The financial statements for the past 5 years to December 2024 are available on request.

We are currently in the process of renovating our church roof and have been liaising with both Presbytery and the General Trustees (see Joint Profile). Following the 1986-88 reconfiguration of the church building, the Kirk Session made the crucial decision to ensure that we would always have sufficient finances to cover any future fabric expenses.

THE MANSE

The Manse was purpose built approximately 30 years ago on a part of the Glebe Land. The property is on a corner site and has 3 public rooms, kitchen, utility room and toilet downstairs, with 4 bedrooms and a family bathroom upstairs.

It has a double garage, off road parking, an easily maintained garden, and is within easy walking distance to a state of the art primary (Bonhill Primary) and secondary schools (The Vale of Leven Academy).

A recent survey confirmed the property is in good condition, and the Property Convener makes sure that the Manse is kept in a state of good repair and organises for any work required to be carried out by volunteers or contractors as necessary.





*Renton
Trinity*

**PARISH
CHURCH**

Presbytery of Clyde

Registered Scottish Charity SC014833

THE PARISH

The Village of Renton lies within the Leven Valley between Balloch on Loch Lomond (3 miles) and Dumbarton on the Clyde Estuary (2.5 miles).

THE HISTORY

Although the village is small it does have a rich history. The author and doctor Tobias Smollett was a son of Renton and his monument can be found next to our War Memorial in the area adjacent to Renton Primary School.

Some of our history lies in the textile industry and this is thanks to the River Leven, which flows behind the Church. The Leven was integral in the bleaching and dyeing industries and the fields of Cordale and Dalquhurn could be white with the material spread out as part of the bleaching process.

Following the decline of the textile trade in the area, an industrial estate was built in the Cordale fields and a new way of working was developed with "factory lines" being developed at Westclox, Burroughs and Polaroid. So many workers had to cross the River from the village to the new factories that a new footbridge was built to allow easy access.

PRESENT

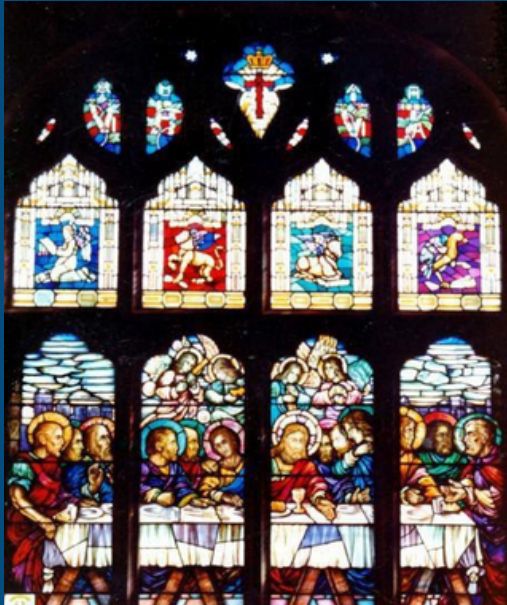
The current population of Renton is approximately 2,400 and Renton Trinity Church has been designated by the Church of Scotland as an Urban Priority Area (UPA).

We have good access beyond the village. Glasgow is approximately 16 miles by road and is easily accessed via the A82, and Renton Railway Station provides a half hourly service to Airdrie via Glasgow Queen Street.

The population of Renton has been expanding with new homes being built in the village and this provides scope for outreach development, both spiritual and pastoral.

Renton has one Primary School and an Early Learning and Childcare Centre which is attached to the school. Renton is served by the Vale of Leven Academy in nearby Alexandria and is within walking distance of the village.

OUR CHURCH



The present building was built in 1892 as the original Renton Parish Church. The church is an attractive red sandstone building set within extensive grounds.

Thanks to the generosity of previous benefactors the Church is graced with feature-stained glass windows by Oscar Patterson which have been professionally restored and maintained. The main windows depict the Baptism in Jordan, the Last Supper in the Upper Room and Christ on the Mount of Beatitudes. Two smaller windows depict Pheobe of Cenchrea and Lydia of Thyatira.

We have a 2 manual pipe organ installed by Binns of Leeds in 1911 which was completely refurbished in 2018 by Michael McDonald, Organ builder. It has a pneumatic action and is kept in good repair and tuned on a regular basis. We have a peal of six bells, gifted to the Church in 1884.

In 1969, the congregations of Renton Millburn, Renton Union, and Renton Parish were united and now use the Renton Parish Church building for worship. During 1983, major conversion works were undertaken within the church to convert the building to its present state. Volunteer tradesmen within the congregation largely did these renovation works. In order to finance the conversion, Renton Union Church in the Main Street was demolished and the developer-built flats on the site. In exchange for the site, the developer helped with major building works required within the present building.

The conversion thus provided a 300-seat church, a suite of halls, kitchen, toilets, and committee rooms all within the existing building. Much dry rot eradication was undertaken at that time in the new church, stripping the entire lath and plaster off to expose and fully renovate the stonework below. A disabled toilet has been installed. An induction loop system is in place.



The church is well maintained and served by our very pro-active Property Group. We have carried out a re-wiring programme, re-decoration of the Church and the refurbishment of Vestry and Session rooms. We are currently in the process of upgrading our Main Hall.

CONGREGATION

The Village of Renton falls within the Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) which places the whole parish of Renton Trinity in the lowest 20% of the country. The area around the town centre is placed within the lowest 10% of the country.

The membership for the Parish of Renton Trinity is 148 members and a worshipping congregation varies around 50 - 55 at morning services.



Although the congregation is small in number, there is dedication and generosity of spirit that believes Renton Trinity is the village Church and should be a focal point for the community and not just for members. There are 12 active ordained elders who are all enthusiastic and committed to their church and their work as Elders.

We operate under the Unitary Constitution.



Members of the congregation participated in the Church of Scotland Future Focus Scheme in 2024. This took place over 3 Sundays and the members believed it to be helpful and thought provoking. It made us consider our place in the community and where our strengths and our shortcomings lay. A very worthwhile exercise and experience.

Fund raising is a very important part of any Church and we are fortunate to have a group who have great enthusiasm for the task. We are also very fortunate in having a community who give us their support. All fund raising is carried out in consultation with the Treasurer.

There is also a group of members known as Friends of Renton Trinity who raise funds to target specific projects. Treasure Hunts, Quiz Nights, Games Evenings, Burns Supper. They organize these events to raise money for the Church. Buying Tea Urns, renewing re extinguishers, vacuum cleaners. The list, as with their generosity, is endless and it is all done with fellowship, friendship and fun.

We have a small but enthusiastic Sunday School who are actively involved in Services. Their input is greatly looked forward to each Sunday morning. From Easter Bonnets to Noah's Ark and the deliberations of which animals should be given a place kept the congregation entertained while the Ark was under construction.

We have an active choir of approximately 8 members who, under the direction of the organist, regularly take part in morning worship and in other musical events.

Renton Trinity has always enjoyed very good relations with St. Martins RC Church in Renton. We recently participated in joint services with Renton hosting the first service and then walking through the village to St. Martin's who hosted the second service. We then shared in fellowship with some lunch in the hall.

There is also an association of churches in the Vale of Leven area which meets regularly encouraging inter-denominational co-operation.

The church is very active in the community we have chosen only a few examples below: We have held community-based events such as Easter Egg Hunts, Silly Games Nights, Cherry Blossom Festival and Christmas Tree Festivals. We try to get the local school to participate in the events by arranging drawing competitions and advising them of anything that might be of interest. These events are all aimed at the wider community and have been well supported.

The most memorable occasion in the last few years was when members of the congregation organized the commemoration of the end of the First World War, "Far, far from Renton". As the Renton War Memorial testifies, like many villages, Renton lost a lot of its sons to that terrible conflict. The stories of four young Rentonians were told. Four left Renton, only one returned. It was a moving but rewarding evening. And it underscored the fact that the people of Renton do not forget the sacrifice. A memorable and moving evening.

This is why Renton Trinity, together with our friends in St. Martin's and the local community gather each Remembrance Sunday. We share a common bond in our respect for those named on the local War Memorial for both First and Second World War.

We regularly enjoy "Pleasant Sunday Afternoons." These afternoons are open to all who want to listen, pray, and praise God in an atmosphere of devotion and companionship. Renton Trinity has a "Monday Matters" group which meets last Monday of the Month. The "group" is open to anyone for a cuppa and chat while doing some crafts. This group was set up after Covid and has a great benefit to members of our congregation who are on their own.

We currently participate in West Dunbartonshire's Doors Open Day, and provided a booklet on the history of the building. We also have a book called 'Kirks in the Capital', written by one of our members and gives a history of all the local churches past and present. There is a residential home in the village.

Renton Youth Club

Who are we?

Renton Youth Club is a Volunteer run club for children in the local community, we rely on donations to keep the club going each week.

What can my child expect at Renton Youth Club?

During our sessions children are able to take part in activities organised by our volunteers eg games, crafts etc aswell as this your child will be provided with a snack and drinks.

When and where is Renton Youth Club?

Renton Youth Club runs on a Wednesday night in Renton Trinity Church Hall for Primary School aged children from 6pm-7:30pm*

*Renton Youth Cafe coming soon for S1-S6 pupils

Contact us

You can contact us by:
Phone/Text - 07504821106 (Thomas)
Message us on Facebook
Email - rentonyouthclub0916@gmail.com

Currently we support the voluntary youth group who use our hall with around 40 children regularly attending, some of whom are neurodiverse. The club organise Easter, Summer and Christmas Special Events. The club have developed one of our small rooms into a sensory space to allow time out space for the children.



Renton Youth Club
Surprise Summer Sessions

Surprise Day Trips for children starting P1 August 2024 - S4

Wednesdays 3rd, 17th and 31st July 2024

Meeting at Renton Train Station at 10am and returning between 3pm and 4pm (approx times and will be confirmed on day of trip)

Limited spaces available, for more information or to register your child either contact Thomas on 07504821106 or message our Facebook page



Renton Community Hub is a local foodbank which the church supports by giving free use of our hall and kitchen every Thursday, with some of our members actively involved in the group. The church also supports the Hub with both monetary and food donations on a regular basis. The Hub provides free groceries and a hot meal. All are welcomed.



Every September the Vale of Leven Christian Aid Walk takes place from Balloch to Renton crossing over the 5 bridges of the River Leven. The walk ends at Renton Trinity for lunch and fellowship. At the beginning of December, we have a Craft Fair and invite local artists and craftsmen/women to exhibit and sell their work. The event is well subscribed by our local craftspeople. It is also well supported by our local community as it gives us an opportunity to come together over a cup of tea. During the pandemic it was difficult for the community to spend time together and outlets like these are essential to keep our village community together.

Renton Trinity Parish Church

TRINITY NEWS

Summer 2025



Congratulations

Many Congratulations and good wishes to Rev. Anne and husband David on the safe arrival of their daughter Eloise Jean on Thursday May 8.



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You are warmly invited to the Communion Service on Sunday 1st June 2025

11:15am

Trinity News is produced 4 times a year to keep our congregation and local community updated with the church and community activities. It is also made available through the church Facebook page.

Professor William Barclay said, "Christianity should be characterised by "the open hand, the open heart and the open door". The congregation of Renton Trinity has always tried to follow that advice. Anyone coming through our door might arrive a stranger but they will leave as a friend.

Before our last Minister received her Call to Bonhill/Renton, for a variety of organizational reasons, Renton Trinity was in Vacancy for over 8 years. During those years the congregation of Renton Trinity kept faith that we would find someone to lead us in our Christian lives, and we did. Now, once again, we have faith that someone will answer our Call.

We are fortunate that the Churches in the Vale of Leven are very supportive of each other. But a village needs a Church and someone to lead the congregation of that Church in their spiritual lives. Take a Church away from a village and you take away a focus for the community and what is left is just another housing estate.

PARISH FINANCES

The financial statements for the past 5 years to December 2024 are available on request. All Giving to Grow contributions are up to date.

THE MANSE

Under the linkage we share a Manse which is situated in Bonhill, details of which can be found in Bonhill's profile.