

Section 1

Application

Application

This is an application for an amendment to the Clyde Presbytery Mission Plan so that Westerton Church is recategorized as A.

This application was approved by the Kirk Session of Boclair Community Church on 10 August 2026. An extract minute is attached [Appendix 1].

Westerton Church

In this Application, Westerton Church includes:

- the sanctuary
- large hall
- small hall
- meeting room
- prayer room
- kitchen
- office
- toilets
- storage spaces
- vestibules and connecting corridors
- surrounding gardens

situated on the corner of Crarae Avenue and Westfield Crescent, Westerton, Bearsden G61 1HX.

Presbytery Mission Plan & Basis of Union

BCC came into existence on 05 June 2024 when the former Killermont Parish Church and Westerton Fairlie Memorial Church united.

The Clyde Presbytery Mission Plan allocated one Minister of Word and Sacrament to BCC. Killermont Church is categorised as A. Westerton Church is categorised as *B (Prov) (GT review needed)*

The Union between Killermont and Westerton was implemented under a Basis of Union approved by Presbytery. This provides that:

4 The Clyde Presbytery Mission Plan has categorised as B the church at present used by the congregation of Westerton Fairlie Memorial Parish Church. The united congregation will explore whether and how existing and new forms of worship and mission can be developed using that church and will be permitted to make a case for recategorization up until 30 June 2027.

5 Failing recategorization as A by 31 December 2027, the church at present used by the congregation of Westerton Fairlie Memorial Parish Church shall be used, sold, let or otherwise disposed of ...

Section 2

Summary of reasons

This Application is made for the following reasons:

Mission

- BCC is committed to proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom to the people of Westerton.
- Westerton Church is a well-equipped space in the right place for this purpose.
- It is already being well-used for BCC's mission to Westerton.
- BCC plans to further develop its mission using Westerton Church.
- It is the only suitable building within Westerton for BCC's mission to that community.
- Without Westerton Church, BCC's physical, visible presence in the Westerton community would cease. It's mission to the people of Westerton would be severely curtailed and, possibly, end.

Worship

- The only place where Christian worship is held in Westerton is in Westerton Church.
- There is no other suitable location in Westerton.
- Sunday worship in Westerton Church contrasts with and complements worship in Killermont Church.
- While remaining quieter, thoughtful and organ-led, Sunday worship is developing with the support of the congregation.
- BCC plans to extend the opportunities for worship in Westerton Church to other days, times and formats.

Other uses

- Westerton Church is used by BCC for other purposes.
- It is used by the Westerton community.

Westerton Church

- Westerton Church sits in an ideal position at the centre of the Westerton Community.
- It is well-equipped for mission.
- It is in a good state of repair with no major items of expenditure required.

Boclair Community Church

- BCC has sufficient income and capital to pay for the cost of running, maintaining and developing Westerton Church for the foreseeable future.

Section 3

Mission

Mission – proclaiming the Good News

Since the union, BCC has been exploring new ways of serving the Westerton community and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ to the people of Westerton.

Westerton Church - a well-equipped space

See section 7 and Appendix 3.

Westerton Church - in the right place

See section 7 and Appendix 2

Westerton Community Café

Started in January 2026, a community café is run by BCC volunteers every Wednesday morning. The Café was originally intended for parents and carers dropping off their children at Westerton Primary School. However, a wider range of customers is now enjoying the Café including older local residents and parents/grandparents and toddlers/babies. We are meeting local residents with whom we would not otherwise have contact and the café is becoming a place of warm welcome and good listening for a growing number of our neighbours. In particular, the café is increasingly used by young families who are open to discussing big issues in the context of Christian faith.

The large hall is used as the café area with tables and chairs for customers with air-hockey and table football for older children. We offer activities for younger children. The meeting room is transformed into a play area. There is also an overspill play area in the large hall. The kitchen is used for preparing hot and cold drinks and heating and serving

pastries, cakes and biscuits as well as home-made scones. A 'bean to cup' coffee machine and a filter coffee machine are used.

There is no reason why the Westerton Community Café should not continue to thrive.

Westerton Primary School

Westerton Church is directly opposite the main entrance to Westerton Primary School. Therefore, Westerton Church is ideally placed to encourage partnership with the school community, pupils, parents and staff.

Our staff team has been welcomed by the staff and pupils of Westerton Primary School. We are invited to share in school events and the School is happy to circulate invitations to BCC's activities. We have welcomed all staff to a start-of-term lunch in our large hall.

Our Youth and Family pastors run a weekly Scripture Union Club for P6-7s which is generally well-attended by up to 15 children.

Westerton ReFuel

ReFuel is a drop-in club for P7s and, during the summer term, P6s. It meets after school on Tuesdays during term time. We offer simple games, crafts and activities which are led by our Youth Pastor supported by BCC volunteers and staff. We use our large hall, meeting room, kitchen and the grassy area to the south.

Attendance has been 15-25 children each week.

As we serve children from the local school and their families, we are able to build up warm and trusting relationships which are beginning to develop into deeper connections.

Ignite

Ignite draws on ideas from sweaty and messy church. Once a month, on Mondays after school, we welcome P2-5's for games and sports, crafts, science experiments and food through which we tell bible stories and pray. This is unashamedly a time for Christian nurture.

We use our sanctuary, large hall, meeting room and kitchen as well as the grassy area to the south of the building.

From small beginnings in Autumn 2025, Ignite now has up to 18 children at each session with more being enrolled for Autumn 2026.

The BCC volunteers and staff are building warm relationships with the children and their parents, some of whom are Christians.

Outdoor seating

We have created an attractive seating area next to the pavement where families gather before and after the school day. A tangible, visible invitation, the seats are well used and are also a place to encounter local residents.

Future plans – Sweaty/Messy Church for families

Our Children & Families' Pastor has been canvassing interest in a monthly service in Westerton church for families who worship at Killermont and families with whom we have been building relationships through Westerton Community Café, Ignite and ReFuel.

We plan to pilot this in Autumn 2026.

Future plans – Community Café worship

We are planning to offer a short time for reflection to supplement our Community Café.

Future plans – Mainly Music

We are planning to offer Mainly Music for young children and their carers to coincide with our Community Café. Using music and play, Mainly Music encourages connection with the local church as a place of community, friendship and spiritual nurture.

Future plans – Study Group with reflective worship

Building upon existing bible reading groups, we will offer accessible Christian inquiry and learning with the option of reflective worship.

Section 4

Worship

Sunday Worship

BCC is committed to developing and extending opportunities for worship using the Westerton building. A programme of evaluation has been initiated.

Worship takes place each Sunday at 11.30 am, except for one Sunday a month when both worshipping congregations gather in Killermont Church. The Westerton congregation numbers generally between 30 and 40.

Worship is authentic and God-honouring and is highly valued by the current worshipping congregation who would be deeply wounded if it were to cease abruptly.

The worshipping congregation is open to changes. A new minister has, naturally, brought changes in style and theological emphasis. The liturgy has developed and new songs are being sung. Seating in the sanctuary has been reconfigured to bring worshippers closer together. Screens have been introduced for the display of song words and bible texts, images and videos. BCC's Youth and Children & Family Pastors have been welcomed to preach and conduct worship. More of the congregation are now sharing in leading worship.

Future plans

BCC plans to extend the opportunities for worship in Westerton Church to other days, times and formats. See Section 3.

Section 5 Other uses

Congregational use

Westerton Church is also used for

- a Bible Book Group
- a Bible Study group
- Westerton Guild

Community Use

In addition, Westerton Church is used by community groups:

- Guides
- Dancing School
- Performing Arts Group
- Country Dancing
- U3A singing group
- U3A ukulele group
- After School Care
- St Andrews First Aid
- Birthday & Family Parties
- Rock Club – gardening
- Local residents' association

Section 6 Westerton – the Community
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Boclair Community Church – parish

BCC's parish is home to about 10,000 people. About 42% identify as Christians (23% Church of Scotland). However, 45% identify as having 'no religion'.

By car, Westerton and Killermont Churches are 2 miles apart. To walk between the two churches takes about 30 minutes. There are no public transport links.

There are no other churches in Westerton.

For a map of the parish boundaries and the relative positions of Westerton and Killermont Churches, see Appendix 2.

Westerton Community

Westerton is a discrete community within the greater Bearsden area. It has strong local identity and clearly defined boundaries. The communities of Westerton and Killermont consider themselves to be distinct from one another.

Primarily a dormitory suburb, Westerton is centred around Scotland's first Garden Suburb created in 1913. It has a railway station, library and hall and a primary school with very limited local shopping. There is also a tennis club, a bowling club and a Guide Hall as well as a nursing home.

There are no other suitable buildings for regular worship or mission within the Westerton area.

We believe that if Westerton Church were to be disposed of, this would be viewed by our Westerton neighbours as the Church of Scotland withdrawing from their community. There would be very limited transfer to Killermont Church. Our relationship with Westerton Primary School would naturally be diminished. None of our mission or worship activities could continue in Westerton.

For a map of Westerton and a schematic map showing key buildings and features, see Appendix 2

Just over 5000 people live in Westerton.

- just under a quarter identify as Church of Scotland (23%); 14% as Catholic and 5% other Christian. 'No religion' is the largest group at 45%.
- residents are split fairly evenly between male and female
- a significant number are older people (with 30% being 60+) but with a fair spread of ages – 'the under 40s' is the largest age group with 39%.
- a quarter of households are residents living alone, with almost 61% of those people being aged 66+.
- just under a quarter of families (23%) have dependent children, with 16% of these being lone parent families.
- residents are predominantly English speaking, with only 5% not being proficient in English and 1% using BSL.

Section 7 Westerton Church

Location

Westerton Church is situated in an ideal place to serve its community and to proclaim the Good News of Jesus Christ.

- at the centre of the Westerton community
- surrounded by housing
- across Crarae Avenue from the main entrance to Westerton Primary School
- above the train station, library and local hall and nursing home.

For maps of the Westerton community, see Appendix 2.

Facilities

Westerton Church is an excellent base for mission to the Westerton community, as well as for worship and for congregational and community use. It is accessible, well-equipped and well-decorated, offering flexible and adaptable spaces. There is no other suitable accommodation in the Westerton area.

Westerton Church, constructed in 1957 and 2014, consists of

- the sanctuary
- large hall
- small hall
- meeting room
- prayer room
- kitchen
- office
- toilets
- storage spaces

- vestibules and connecting corridors
- surrounding gardens

There are grassy and garden areas to the south, west and north of the building.

See Appendix 3 for photographs.

Fabric

The Westerton building is generally in good condition with no major items of expenditure required.

The Presbytery Building Officer's report dated 21 July 2026 is attached.
See Appendix 4.

Section 7 Boclair Community Church

Westerton building – costs

Approximately 50% of the annual costs of running and maintaining the Westerton building are covered by hall lets. There is no reason to think that this will reduce significantly.

The costs directly attributable to running and maintaining the Westerton building are:

		1 Jan-30 Jun 2026	1 Jan-30 Jun 2025	1 Jan-31 Dec 2025
Payroll	1	£7,983	£7,728	£15,227
Fabric		£1,651	£1,519	£5,425
Upkeep of Grounds		£775	£863	£1,770
Utilities - Gas		£3,211	£2,413	£3,511
Utilities - Electricity		£1,142	£1,100	£2,054
Utilities -				
Water/Sewerage		£620	£0	£701
Insurance		£950	£950	£1,900
Printing & Stationery		£442	£29	£314
Broadband,				
Telephone, Postage		£296	£290	£578
Equipment		£230	£0	£190
Janitorial supplies		£136	£75	£211
Miscellaneous		£27	£34	£58
Organ/piano				
maintenance		£0	£1,830	£1,830
Website		£20	£100	£260
Bank Charges		£36	£0	£0
Defibrillator		£0	£0	£168
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		£17,519	£16,931	£34,197

Note 1 This covers the costs of employing a secretary, cleaner and organist.

Income (gross of Giving to Grow assessment) directly attributable to Westerton building is:

	1 Jan-30 Jun 2026	1 Jan-30 Jun 2025	1 Jan - 31 Dec 2025
Hall Letting Income	£11,350	£9,553	£18,265

In addition, BCC members who were members of the former Westerton Fairlie Memorial Church make donations (gross of Giving to Grow assessment) as follows:

	1 Jan-30 Jun 2026	1 Jan -30 Jun 2025	1 Jan-31 Dec 2025
Weekly Offerings - Envelopes	£3,154	£3,862	£8,481
Weekly Offerings - Open Plate	£848	£780	£1,915
Standing Orders	£16,148	£15,393	£30,650
TOTAL OFFERINGS	£20,150	£20,035	£41,046

Boclair Community Church

BCC has sufficient income and capital to pay for the cost of running, maintaining and developing the Westerton Building for the foreseeable future.

A copy of the BCC's 2025 accounts and 2026 budget are attached [Appendix 5].

Appendix 1 Kirk Session Minute

Westerton Church

10 August 2026

Agreed that (1) Boclair Community Church should apply to Clyde Presbytery for an amendment to the Clyde Presbytery Mission Plan so that Westerton Church is recategorized as A; and (2) and that this application should be in the terms considered by the Kirk Session subject to such minor amendments as may be required.

Helen Stuart

Deputy Session Clerk