



# Edinburgh: Gorgie and Palmerston Place Church of Scotland

Parish Profile

January 2025



Scottish Charity Number: SC004291

## Introduction

Gorgie and Palmerston Place Church is a new charge formed by the union of two enthusiastic and committed congregations in the west of Edinburgh. The united parish is one of the largest in the city, in terms of both geographical extent and population. Both existing church buildings, on Gorgie Road and on Palmerston Place, have been retained as active worship centres for the new parish. We also have a community café and outreach centre at Saltyard on Dalry Road.

The recently united congregation now looks forward with prayerful confidence to its mission of growing God's kingdom in our part of Edinburgh through evangelism, discipleship and loving Christian service.

We now seek a forward-looking minister to lead and inspire the work in this large parish, supported by the ministerial team.

Both predecessor congregations have a long tradition of Bible-centred preaching, and our understanding of our mission has been shaped by the eternal truths of God's Word.



## **Minister**

We have been given permission to call a minister to the united charge on a five-year reviewable basis, as required by the Presbytery Plan.

This is an opportunity for a gifted, dynamic minister to help us complete our union and oversee an extensive and diverse parish. We believe there are several other essential requirements for the post.

Candidates should:

- Be Biblical in their theology and hold to the essential doctrines of our Reformed tradition.
- Be relevant and challenging in their preaching of God's Word.
- Be passionate about spreading the Good News to the community at large.
- Be committed to working with families and young people.
- Be an efficient and organised manager of their time and all the disparate activities of the church. In this you will have the full support of the Joint Session Clerks, Kirk Session, and congregation.
- Be able to provide leadership for our recently completed staff team.
- Be a compassionate and caring pastor to the congregation and the wider parish.

We believe this is an exciting opportunity to be in at the start of a new phase in God's plan for His Church in this parish. We are confident that the Holy Spirit will send us the right person for the role.







## Overview of Parish

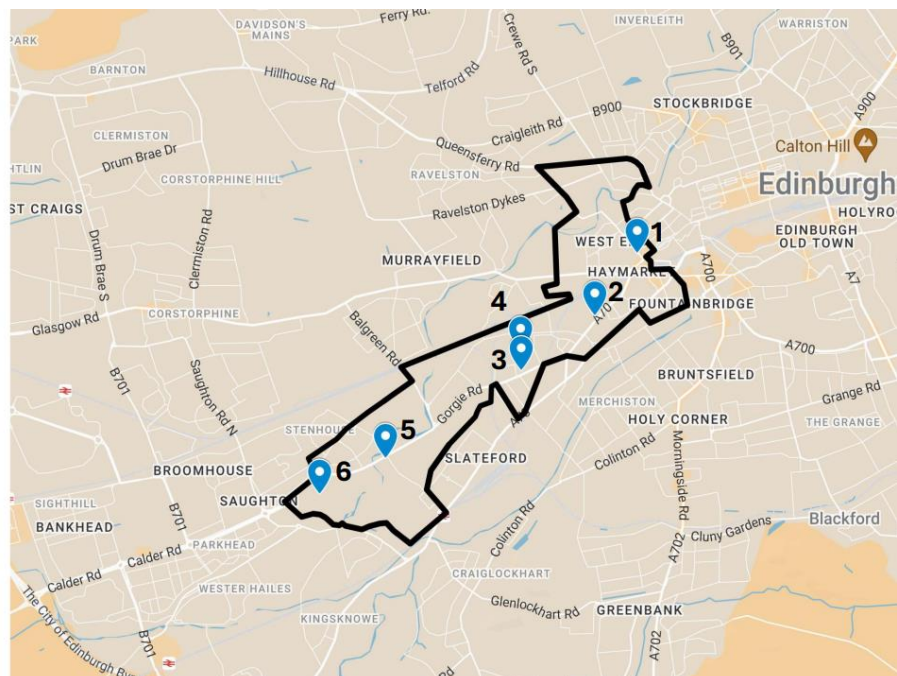
The new parish extends from Queensferry Road in the north to Stenhouse in the south and west, embracing the bustling transport hub of Haymarket and extends the full length of Dalry Road and Gorgie Road, a distance of some four miles.

In addition to Haymarket Station, the parish encompasses a number of notable public buildings, including Tynecastle Stadium, the home of Heart of Midlothian FC, HM Prison Edinburgh, and several primary and secondary schools. Around 24,000 people live in the parish, which represents nearly 5% of the city's population. There is a considerable student population, living in purpose-built student accommodation. A major commercial development at Haymarket, comprising hotels, offices and retail space, is currently nearing completion.

The community is ethnically and economically diverse. There are many shops, hotels, restaurants and small businesses around Haymarket and along the length of Gorgie and Dalry Roads.

### GaPP Parish

-  1. Palmerston Pace Church
-  2. Saltyard Cafe
-  3. Gorgie Church
-  4. Tynecastle Park
-  5. Diadem
-  6. Prison



Our two church buildings, on Palmerston Place and Gorgie Road, are approximately one mile apart and linked by several bus routes. On Dalry Road, half-way between the church buildings, is Saltyard. Saltyard is a café run by the church which serves as a mission and outreach base, being utilised for less formal worship services. The café is housed in the former St Colm's church.



We are in a parish grouping with two neighbouring congregations, Murrayfield, and St Stephen's Comely Bank, with whom we co-operate closely and run various joint activities.

We have a close relationship with St Mary's Episcopal Cathedral and again run several joint activities with them. We are also developing links with Edinburgh Gorgie Salvation Army Corps based on Gorgie Road and with St Martin of Tours Episcopal Church in Dalry.

## **Vision 2030**

Since our union, we have been working to develop our vision for the future of the parish. To this end, we have held two “Vision 2030” days at which the whole congregation has been invited to think prayerfully about our priorities for the years ahead.



The outcomes from the vision days were that we will be a Christ-centred church, glorifying God through our worship, missional service and discipleship. Our strategic priorities are:

- Mission through service
- Young people and families
- Discipleship and equipping
- Caring and nurturing

In all these areas we will work with other churches and organisations in our parish and in the wider Church.

### ***Mission through service***

We long to bring others into Christ’s Kingdom and will seek to achieve this mainly by loving Christian service to our community. We will strive to bring healing to those who are hurting, to identify and address areas of need and to share the Good News of the Gospel.

### ***Young people and families***

Building on our existing work, we aim to attract more young people including families into our fellowship. Youth is essential to the future health and growth of the Church.



### ***Discipleship and equipping***

Our other priorities depend on involving the whole congregation actively in the many tasks of the church. We therefore seek to develop and strengthen the commitment of all our worshippers to supporting the various strands of our work, while deepening their understanding of the Christian faith and helping them to follow Jesus more closely. We will identify and nurture skills and gifts among the congregation. We will provide opportunities for these to be utilised and be open to fresh ideas and new initiatives, while taking care not to overstretch available resources.

### ***Caring and nurturing***

We will continue to support one another by caring for and encouraging each other in our daily lives and in our individual walks with God. We will continue to provide regular fellowship events.



## **Kirk Session and Staff**

### ***Kirk Session***

The Church is governed under the Unitary Constitution, and the Kirk Session comprises 24 elders. Several other elders have retired from the Session but continue to serve in other capacities.

We have two Joint Session Clerks and two Joint Treasurers, one from each predecessor congregation and three Assistant Treasurers.

A number of teams support the work of the church. The remits of these teams are currently being reviewed in the light of our Vision 2030 priorities.

### ***Staff***

We have ministry and staff teams in place to provide support to our new minister. The teams already work together closely, to ensure their roles complement one another.

### **Ministry Team**

Ordained Local Minister

Ministerial Assistant – Children and Families (full time)

Ministerial Assistant – Pastoral and Outreach (full time)

Organist (part time)

### **Other Staff**

Communications Co-ordinator (part time)

Premises Co-ordinator (part time)

Three Saltyard Café staff (part time)

Three caretakers (part time) and two contract cleaners (part time)

The minister will lead and have oversight of the ministry team and the two co-ordinators.



## **Worship**

### **Morning Worship**

We hold weekly Sunday services at both our church buildings, Gorgie starts at 11am and Palmerston Place at 10.30am. Once a month, we meet together for a joint morning service, alternating between the two buildings. Our services take a fairly traditional form, faithfully preaching God's Word, with participation from members of the congregation encouraged. For families, both venues have tables with craft resources in the sanctuaries. Often, there will be a children's talk before the opportunity for young people to go out to various Sunday School activities.

Music is an important part of our worship, and we enjoy singing to the praise of God's glory, with a selection of both traditional and more contemporary hymns. Singing is accompanied by a praise band at Gorgie. At Palmerston Place, there is a pipe organ, and choir.

Fellowship over post-service refreshments is an important part of both weekly worship services. On occasion we hold church lunches, often to raise funds for one of a number of Christian charities.



### **Evening Worship**

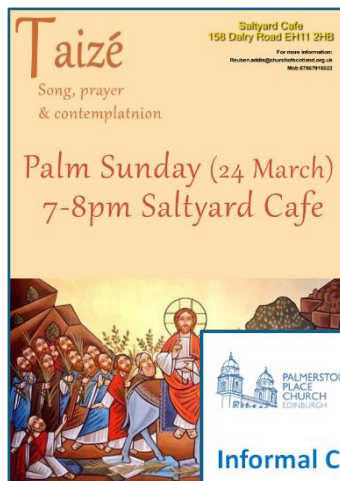
At present, we hold evening services weekly at 7pm, at Palmerston Place (which breaks over the summer). In addition there is a café church in Saltyard. These are aimed at different demographics and vary in style. Palmerston Place holds a more traditional style service, usually running a sermon series from an area of the Bible, and we are often joined by worshippers from other congregations. At Saltyard, the format is a more informal gathering of shared prayer and discussion. On the last Sunday of every month, the service at Saltyard takes the form of a more contemplative Taizé service.

## Prayer and Bible Study

As prayer is an essential component of the Christian life, we hold regular weekly prayer meetings and a monthly men's prayer breakfast. Regular engagement with Scripture is also essential, and we run small Bible-study groups, both in person and by Zoom, which give us the chance to discuss our reading and share both our responses and faith.

## Other Services and Worship Activities


Monthly services are held in the lounge of a local sheltered housing complex at Sutherland Street. Taizé services are occasionally held at Palmerston Place. At Easter and Christmas, we hold additional joint services, and with our parish grouping churches.



**Taizé**  
Sallyard Cafe  
158 Dalry Road EH11 2HB  
For more information:  
theobald@christianfaithscotland.org.uk  
0131 220 1690

Song, prayer  
& contemplation

Palm Sunday (24 March)  
7-8pm Sallyard Cafe



**Palmerston Place Church**  
Edinburgh



**Informal Church Service**  
At Sutherland Street  
Community Centre

**MONTHLY AT 3PM**

FEBRUARY 11TH  
MARCH 10TH  
APRIL 14TH  
MAY 12TH

Led by members of the  
PPC Ministry Team

All very welcome. Tea & Coffee served after  
the service



**Messy Church**  
for all ages!

Last Sunday of month  
in Gorgie Church  
(190 Gorgie Road)  
3pm-4.30pm



**Cafe Church  
Summer Program**

**The Chosen**  
(Film, prayer chat)  
Sunday 7pm, July & August

\*NB; Except for the Taizé Sundays  
28th July / 25th August

Sallyard Cafe  
158 Dalry Road EH11 2HB



**Palmerston Place Church**  
invites you to a  
Summer Tea Party

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July  
2.30pm - 4pm

At Sutherland Street Community Centre

Contact 0131 220 1690 or  
hello@palmerstonplacechurch.com  
www.palmerstonplacechurch.com

Edinburgh: Gorgie & Palmerston Place Church of Scotland  
Scottish charity number SC004291

## Information and Communications Technology

Both church venues are well equipped with cameras, AV desk, digital projection on screens, use of Easyworship and live broadband. We have a good team of volunteers who operate sound, screens and enable services and other church events to be live streamed and recorded via Zoom and YouTube.

Sunday morning services are recorded and uploaded to our YouTube channels. Audio recordings of sermons are available as catch-up on our website.

Social Media platforms currently include Facebook, Instagram and X. We are looking to further develop our social media output.

A weekly e-news is sent to members and friends of the congregation who subscribe, while a regular church magazine is produced in both electronic and printed formats.

Wifi is readily available in all our venues. There are also large monitors in some rooms to allow for any digital presentations to small or larger groups.

The individual website for each venue can be accessed from [www.gappchurch.org.uk](http://www.gappchurch.org.uk)



## **Work with Young People**

We believe that attracting and retaining young people is important to the future health and growth of the Church.

A major focus of our vision for mission is to draw young families back into the Church. We have appointed a dedicated Children and Families Ministerial Assistant, who has been in post since October 2023.

We run a number of activities for young people and for families and would like to develop this work further.

- *The Bridge* – this is an informal gathering for young people aged 12 – 18 years old.
- *Messy Church* – this is run monthly on Sunday afternoons in Gorgie. It is popular, with growing numbers.
- *Babies and Toddlers* – weekly groups are run for babies and toddlers at both church buildings. These attract encouraging numbers from the communities we serve.
- *Book Lambs* - storytelling time for pre-school children, held in Saltyard on Wednesday afternoons.
- *Monday Group* – a weekly gathering for primary school aged children on Monday evenings during term time.

We view expansion of our work with young people, children and families as being at the core of our strategy for mission and outreach.

## Property

### **GORGIE**

Following the union of Gorgie with St Colm's and Stenhouse St Aidan's Parish Churches, the new Parish of Gorgie Dalry Stenhouse (GDS) was created.

There are two retained buildings, Gorgie Church in Gorgie Road and Saltyard in Dalry Road. The church has been in its present site since 1901. A union with Tynecastle Parish Church and Cairns Memorial Church created the original Gorgie Parish Church. The present building was refurbished in 2005 to update the Sanctuary and to create two additional meeting rooms and a corridor providing access to all areas. The kitchen is of commercial standard and heavily used by volunteer catering teams from across Lothian to provide meals for the Bethany Christian Trust Homeless Shelter at the Hub Hotel, Haymarket.



## SALTYARD



The former St Colm's Church was demolished and sheltered housing was built on the site, with worship space incorporated on the ground floor. By agreement with Presbytery, this space was retained and became Saltyard, our café and outreach centre which is currently open three days per week and run by three part-time employed staff and a team of volunteers. It opened in 2013 and is used as an important part of our parish outreach work as well as for less formal worship services. The Café is very popular, busy and much appreciated by the local community.

Videos of the Gorgie church building and of the Saltyard café may be viewed [here](#).

## **Manse**

The manse is an Edwardian terraced townhouse situated in Myreside Road. Over three floors it includes three reception rooms and six bedrooms. There is a small front garden and a large lawned garden to the rear with access to a garage. The property is well served by a number of bus routes. The local state schools are Boroughmuir High School and Bruntsfield Primary School, while the independent George Watson's College is a short walk away.



## **PALMERSTON PLACE**

The church's properties on Palmerston Place comprise the main church building and the adjacent Annan House. The former manse is located in Morningside and is currently let out as a private flat.



### ***Church***

Palmerston Place Church was built in 1875 and we will celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2025. The sanctuary is suitable for sacred and classical music concerts and organ recitals in addition to worship services. A spacious hall and kitchen are located upstairs.



A guided video tour of the building is available [here](#) – (Edinburgh Doors Open Day in Palmerston Place Church, Edinburgh.)

### ***Annan House***

Annan House, next door to the Church at 8-10 Palmerston Place, consists of two former town houses combined together, with an internal link to the church. It contains offices as well as several meeting rooms. Various other organisations rent office space in the building, including Crossreach, Shared Parenting Scotland and the Nazareth Trust. The attractive back garden, recently restored, provides a pleasant space for outdoor activities in fine weather.

## **APPENDICES**

Additional information is contained in the following appendices which can be accessed by the links below:

Appendix 1 – Staffing at Gorgie and Palmerston Place Church

Appendix 2 – Trustees' Report and Financial Statements 2023

Appendix 3 – Gorgie and Palmerston Place Census Statistics 2011

## **APPLICATION PROCESS**

Please send your application with a current CV and covering letter giving your reasons for applying and the gifts that you believe you can bring to the congregation. Please also supply full contact details of two referees who will only be contacted by the Nominating Committee if your application is processed further.

Applications should be sent to John Duncan, the Clerk to the Nominating Committee, at [nominationsclerk@gappchurch.org.uk](mailto:nominationsclerk@gappchurch.org.uk) Expressions of interest are also welcome.

Informal enquiries can be made to our Interim Moderator, Rev Sam Torrens, on 0780 8664194.