



Parish Profile for

# **Hawick Burnfoot Church of Scotland**

Hawick Burnfoot Church of Scotland. Hillend Drive, Hawick, Scottish Borders TD9 8DU. Registered Charity No: SC004517

# Our Vacancy

Having been vacant for the past 6 years we have been given permission to call a full time Minister on a 5-year reviewable tenure.

**We believe that God had a plan for the people of Burnfoot** when the church was planted into our community over 70 years ago, and we believe that to be true today. We have seen God touch lives and work in our community and we have a sense of excitement for the next part of our journey as we discover, alongside our new minister, how we can do ministry together successfully. We have a flexible approach to our worship with a mix of both the traditional and more modern, allowing each person the opportunity to worship in a way suited to them.

We are intergenerational and multi-cultural, creating a welcoming, friendly and relaxed atmosphere each Sunday. This helps us to build meaningful relationships within our congregation as well as with members of our community, as we seek to share God's Kingdom and the love of Jesus with those around us. We are longing for the right person to join us in this.



**We are praying for a minister** who has a sense of calling for Priority Area ministry who will share God's vision and heart for our vibrant and lively community and is looking forward to the Opportunities and Challenges this brings, along side bringing an informal and flexible, but Word-based approach to worship. And in return, we as a Kirk Session and Congregation will support, encourage and get to know our new minister, and will use our gifts, time and talents to assist with the ministry needs of our community.

*Our children and young people would like a new Minister who is kind, caring and fun, who would enjoy working with people of all ages and treat everyone the same.*

# Who We Are

**We are a congregation which was planted over 70 years ago** and we are worshipping in the community of Burnfoot in Hawick. We meet on a Sunday morning for Worship at 10.30 am with approximately 30% of our 57 members regularly attending.

Our service is an amalgamation of both traditional and more modern worship, with a mix of formal and informal styles. Before our service begins on a Sunday we welcome people for Tea and Toast from 10am and following our service we have a time of fellowship with Coffee and Tea.



**Our 6-8 children** also meet together during the service to take part in their own group activities

**We use online resources** through our AV system for both music and song words as we don't currently have any musicians in the congregation. Our worship tends to be a combination of traditional hymns and more modern songs to ensure everyone has the opportunity to worship in a way which suits them.

*We encourage people to join us for times of fellowship and refreshments on a Sunday morning as we recognise that it is in these times relationships are built and nurtured.*



**Our Kirk Session**, made up currently of 6 Elders, meets formally 6 times a year and we celebrate Communion 4 times a year, with the dates being set by the Kirk Session at the beginning of the year. We also welcome any children who are present to celebrate and participate in Communion with us.

**Visiting Preachers** are invited to lead our services during this time of vacancy although some of our Elders have previously been involved in the preparation and leading of Sunday services on a rota basis.

Burnfoot Church



God gave you a fingerprint that no one else has, so you can leave an imprint that no one else can.

**Pastoral Care** is undertaken informally on a day-to-day basis through relationships within the church family with information on different situations communicated to those wishing to pray. There is also a monthly Prayer Focus written and available to our congregation.

IN THIS CHURCH...  
WE DO REAL  
WE DO MISTAKES  
WE DO I'M SORRY  
WE DO FORGIVENESS  
**WE DO PRAYER**  
WE DO WORSHIP  
WE DO GOD'S WORD  
WE DO HUGS  
*we do second chances*  
**WE DO FAMILY**  
WE DO LOVE

# Our Mission Statement

**TOGETHER  
WE DO ...**

**Worship** ... by handing  
ourselves over completely to the  
Father in adoration

**Discipleship** ... by helping  
each other build a meaningful  
relationship with Jesus

**Ministry** ... by sharing the love  
of God with one another, in the  
power of the Holy Spirit

**Mission** ... by sharing the good  
news of Jesus through our love and  
actions in our Church and  
Community

**Fellowship** ... as a Church  
family committed to each other  
and our whole Community

# Our Outreach

We have a successful **Boys' Brigade** Company, 5th Hawick, which was formed in 1951, around the same time as the Church, in the post war Burnfoot Housing Scheme. All sections now meet in Burnfoot Community School on Wednesday evenings from late August to April. Numbers fluctuate, and at present we have 12 Anchors, 10 Juniors, 7 Company/Senior boys, with 5 Officers and 2Helpers.

This year 5 boys gained their Presidents Badge.



**A Knit and Natter** Group meets fortnightly on a Tuesday morning led by Church members and welcomes people from the community. This is an informal group with people coming to knit, crotchet or even just to chat. Knitted items are often donated to the local hospital and at Easter they knitted chicks which were given out at our Easter Sunday Service.

**Fresh Expressions of Church** take place in our community with local Churches working together in partnership for events in the form of Messy Church and Holiday Clubs. These are enhanced with seasonal events open to all ages and include Christmas Carol Singing, Easter and Harvest Celebrations and are aimed at local residents.



*Through all of our Outreach activities we aim to build relationships with, and to love those in our community who don't yet know Jesus.*

# Our Strengths

**One of our greatest strengths is that our doors are still open** after being in vacancy for 6 years and we are still able to share God's Love with our community. We have seen our worshipping congregation increase, gaining 5 new members, some of whom have settled in the area from other countries. This is giving us a multi-cultural, multi-generational congregation and means the number of people regularly worshipping with us has grown recently.

**We have a good relationship with other local Churches**, both Church of Scotland and other Denominations and work together to take Church to the heart of our community through Messy Church, Holiday Club and Townwide Services.

**We participated in the recent Revive Scotland Outreach Event** which took place in the centre of our parish. This was again working with local Churches as well as staff and volunteers from Revive Scotland to take Jesus to the people of our Community.



*Those from our Church and the other Churches involved in these mission and outreach events find it very encouraging. Pooling resources, people, talents and gifts has been supportive and helpful to us all and is enabling us to do things well together.*

# Our Challenges

Since being in vacancy we have been designated a **Church of Scotland Priority Area** which has brought it's own challenges. While this is exciting, we don't feel we have been able to utilise this to its full potential as we lack the leadership and guidance to take it forward.

At this time we would see **our low numbers** as one of our biggest challenges. We continue to look at ways that we can be best serving our community but sometimes find that our vision is bigger than the way we can practically serve it. As is the case nationally we face the challenge of making church relevant to those in our community who have little or no church background.

Currently **none of our Elders live within the parish**, although some of our attending members do. This presents its own challenges in terms of being a regular presence in community life. We do have one Elder working in the community and some members volunteer in activities to support the local School, Youth Club, Community Council and Community Hub.

*We are continuing to try to learn and embrace new things together as a church family as we face the challenges of sharing our faith in our community both as individuals and as Church.*



# Our History and Building

The Church of Scotland saw the need to create a **new Parish and we became a Church Extension Charge** in the 1950s as the new Burnfoot housing scheme grew and developed. The current Parish boundaries were agreed by the Presbytery of Hawick in February 1950 and as the life and witness of our people continued to grow, work began on building the Church that we have today. The work was completed and the church was opened and dedicated on 1st April 1955 and has been maintained over the years to a good state of repair. Over the past 70 years we have been led by 6 different ministers. Our most recent minister was called to serve another Church 6 years ago after journeying with us for 22 years.



**Our current building** is situated at the top of the hill looking over our community to the hills beyond. We have a commanding presence at one of the highest points in our community and we can be seen shining God's Light out from the top of the hill over our parish. The building was built as a Hall Church and gives us flexible, adaptable and functional space which is suitable for both worship services and our church activities and groups. Our building is fully accessible, with a ramp to the front door and a disabled toilet.

**The main sanctuary** is a large open space with wooden flooring. The absence of pews gives us freedom to set up our sanctuary in a variety of ways and our seating is easily cleared giving space when needed. We currently have an AV mixing desk with a loop system situated at the back of the church and a ceiling mounted projector, both of which we are using to provide worship music on a Sunday morning using the church WIFI.



**The Library Area** with comfortable chairs makes this a useful space for smaller informal meetings, and the large glass wall allows those using it to have a view into the church, with the option to use the wall mounted speaker to also hear what is happening in church. We have a selection of books and resources that are available for people to borrow and use.



**The Vestry**, which can be accessed through the church or via a rear door provides a comfortable working space with desk, bookshelves and a seating area for visitors.

**The Session room** and an attic space are in the upper part of our building accessed by stairs. These rooms have had different purposes over the years. We also have a small hall which has a warmer and more intimate feel to it. This room also has the flexibility to be set up in different ways and is currently used by our children's group on a Sunday morning.

*We believe that our building's strength is in its functionality, giving us the freedom and flexibility to use the space in ways that suit us and the activities that we are doing.*



## Our Manse

The Manse is a semi-detached property with garage, private driveway for multiple vehicles and gardens to the front and rear. The property sits on Wilton Hill, the main road into Hawick and in close proximity to the Police, Fire and Ambulance stations.

The house benefits from double glazing and gas central heating and a large loft space for storage. There are 4 bedrooms upstairs along with a family bathroom. Downstairs has a kitchen/dining room, family sitting room, large study and WC. The back garden has an area with raised beds, a shed and an outhouse.



## Our Town

Within Hawick itself there is good range of supermarkets and the High Street has a selection of local small businesses and cafes. Hawick is served by 2 Medical Practices and a local Community Hospital although the main hospital in the area is Borders General Hospital near Melrose, approx. 20 miles away. There are also a number of dental practices, pharmacies and opticians in the town. There are 5 primary schools in the area which all feed into our one secondary school, Hawick High. Hawick and the Scottish Borders also has a wide range of employment opportunities in a variety of industries.

Hawick offers a wide variety of sporting and leisure activities suitable for all ages, and abilities, including rugby, football, boxing, cricket, bowling and golf and there are cycling and walking groups which provide opportunities to get out and explore the beautiful countryside. For the less sporty minded Hawick also has a large variety of recreational facilities and clubs, again suitable for and welcoming of all ages and abilities and include local pipe and brass bands, dance classes, local drama groups and choirs, a library, youth club, swimming pool and many more. The award-winning Wilton Lodge Park has a museum, walled gardens, café and children's adventure play park and offers lovely walks along the riverside.

## Some Facts and Figures

<b>Population of Burnfoot as per 2020 statistics</b>	3,034 people approx
<b>Population of combined parishes in Hawick</b>	14,419 people approx.
<b>Members of Hawick Burnfoot</b>	57 people (15-20 whom regularly attend)
<b>Regular Worshippers in Hawick Burnfoot</b>	20-25 including children & teenagers
<b>Number of houses in Hawick Burnfoot</b>	1,250 approx mostly social housing or privately purchased from social housing

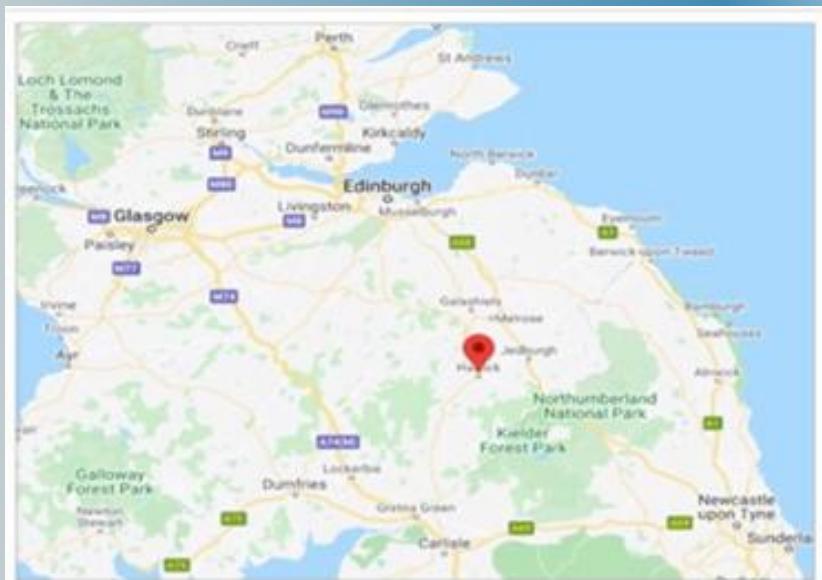
## Our Finances

	2022	2023	2024
<b>FWO and Open Plate Income</b>	£9,387	£8,411	£8,510
<b>Total Income</b>	£12,786	£11,626	£11,400
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	£11,923	£10,226	£14,022
<b>Excess/Deficit over year</b>	£863 excess	£1,400 excess	£2,622 deficit

# Where we are

Burnfoot is the largest housing estate within the Scottish Borders area, with a large, diverse and vibrant population of approx. 3,000 and a strong sense of community. It is predominately made up of families, a number of which are single parent families as well as older retired residents. The estate

was built as an overspill in the post war era with the houses being suitable for family accommodation. The housing is currently provided by local housing associations but a small number of the properties are now privately owned. Burnfoot is described as an area of deprivation with a higher than average rate of unemployment and a number of individuals and families living in poverty. This brings its own challenges to our community as people struggle to cope with these problems and it places our parish high up in the deprivation statistics. Our Parish has a lot of input and support from local authority organisations as well as third sector charities through whom we have opportunities to work with to help and support members of our community



You can find us just off the A7 on the outskirts of Hawick in the community of Burnfoot.

Hawick Burnfoot Church of Scotland  
Hillend Drive  
Hawick  
TD9 8DU





If you feel God is leading you towards our vacancy, informal enquiries can be made to our Interim Moderator Rev Kwame Ahaligah - [kahaligah@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:kahaligah@churchofscotland.org.uk) either by email or telephone - 01750 779015

More information from, and, if you feel led to, please apply by email to the Convener of the Nominating Committee, Joyce Short – [daffodilsinnovember@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:daffodilsinnovember@hotmail.co.uk) including your CV and a personal statement telling us about yourself, sharing your initial thoughts about serving with our Church and about the gifts and experience you could bring to our congregation.

Please also provide details of 2 Referees.