
PARISH PROFILE



The Linked Charge of:

St George's Tron & Wallacewell Local Mission Church linked with St Rollox

What follows is a parish profile of each of the three charges which make up the linked charge of St George's Tron and Wallacewell Local Mission Church linked with St Rollox. As a result of the Presbytery Mission Plan process, these three congregations have come into formal relationship with one another over the course of the past two years.

Introduction

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Initially, in June 2024, Wallacewell Church, a former NCD (National Church Development) charge which was not granted full status at its final review, became a Local Mission Church of St George's Tron. St George's Tron had been replanted in 2013, following the departure of its former congregation, under the leadership of Rev Alastair Duncan, who served as Transition Minister for seven years before being called as parish minister on a five-year Basis of Reviewable Tenure.

Then, in September 2025, St Rollox, which had previously had a Transition Ministry to assist the congregation to navigate the process of the Compulsory Purchase of its former building and its relocation into newly rebuilt premises, entered into a linkage with St George's Tron and Wallacewell LMC, on a renewed five-year basis of Reviewable Tenure. Thus, whilst they share similar recent histories, the links and connections between these three congregations are all relatively new and still in the early stages of forming. The ministry team which now exists to serve these three congregations is new, and the opportunity therefore exists for the person God is calling, to play a significant part in the early stages of this new partnership.

1. St George's Tron

58

MEMBERS

50-70

SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

50%+

UNDER AGE 40



St George's Tron Sanctuary Space



The Wild Olive Tree Café

BACKGROUND

From the 1950s onwards, St George's Tron developed a reputation as a centre of evangelical Christian witness in Glasgow city centre, beginning with the significant ministry of Tom Allan, under whose influence, as an evangelist and preacher, the church grew significantly and flourished. His ministry was succeeded by a series of other distinguished ministries, each of which brought a different, and unique, emphasis to the parish and to the life of the congregation.

In 2012, following a series of debates at the General Assembly regarding the position of the Church of Scotland with respect to questions of human sexuality and ordained ministry, the former minister, Kirk Session, and many members elected to leave the denomination and form an independent congregation elsewhere. The St George's Tron building in Nelson Mandela Place, despite having been recently and extensively refurbished, was vacated and temporarily closed.

In March 2013, Glasgow Presbytery introduced the Rev. Alastair Duncan as Transition Minister, who was tasked with replanting a new congregation in the building and re-establishing the rhythms of parish ministry and mission in Glasgow city centre. In March 2020, this period of Transition Ministry came to an end; at which point, the Rev. Duncan was called to become parish minister, to continue to build and develop the replanted church on a five-year Basis of Reviewable Tenure.

After thirteen years of replanting and nurturing a new congregation, St George's Tron is once again a vibrant evangelical Christian community in Glasgow city centre. The rather austere exterior of the building belies the attractive, tastefully furnished, and spacious interior, which is a pleasant surprise to visitors. In spite of the constant buzz of café life and other Kingdom business, a sense that the space is saturated in prayer prevails; even those who are not particularly switched on to faith, or church, comment on the apparent “good vibes” inside.

BUILDING

For all that it is a hive of activity, the footprint of the St George's Tron building is relatively small. There is a main sanctuary space, which has a fellowship area to its rear, a downstairs room, The Wynd, which can be partitioned to create two smaller rooms and which is on permanent long-term let to Glasgow City Mission, and three small office rooms upstairs at the front of the building, two of which are in use as office accommodation and a third is used as a small meeting space.

There are gents' and ladies' toilets in the basement, and a level-access toilet on the ground floor. There is a commercial kitchen in the basement, with a smaller servery kitchen adjacent to the fellowship area, both of which are in constant use by *The Wild Olive Tree Café*.

WORSHIP

At the core of our community and congregational life is our *Café Church Service*. On Sundays, we gather from twelve noon, when we share a simple, informal, bring-and-share lunch together. The emphasis here is on breaking down barriers, building relationships, and making visitors feel welcome. After lunch, at 12.30 p.m., the worship service starts, with its emphasis on “the preaching of the Word and the praising of His Name’, to quote from Glasgow’s city motto. The service is interactive, the preaching theologically evangelical, and the worship style contemporary. The unusually late start time is deliberate; it engages with the rhythm of the city, appeals positively to young people, and recognises that we are a gathered congregation, with people coming from near and far.

This service, which began as an experiment in 2014, has grown in attendance from a single-figure number then to fifty to seventy per week now. It has been thrilling to realise that it is a way in, or back in, for some who would not venture into any formal church setting. Over fifty per cent of the attendees are young people under forty – equal numbers of men and women, forming an amazing international and social mix, and often including those with learning disabilities, or those who are vulnerable due to poverty, homelessness, addiction, or mental-health issues. There is a significant number of occasional visitors, so that, of the fifty to seventy who attend, a number are neither members nor adherents. There are a few families with young children of crèche age but, as yet, no Sunday school has been established. Immediately after the service, there is an opportunity for prayer ministry for those requesting it.

The *Midweek Service* takes place each week on a Wednesday, from 1.15 p.m. to 1.45 p.m. It is attended by retired people, and by city-centre workers, shoppers, and visitors, most of whom have their own congregations, but who appreciate the opportunity of this oasis in the middle of the week. The service takes place amidst the busyness of the *Wild Olive Tree Café*. Thus, whilst it is an oasis for those who seek it, it is also a powerful incidental witness and outreach opportunity with café guests, some of whom listen in from a distance.

WEEKLY MINISTRIES

The life of the congregation is nurtured by a number of small groups which have developed, and which are an important meeting point and encouragement for those involved. These currently include *Side Door* – our student group; two weekly *Bible Read-Through Groups*; and the *Prayer Group* which takes place in person and online, including members of all three churches.

THE WILD OLIVE TREE CAFÉ

The *Wild Olive Tree Café* is a charity in its own right and runs as a SCIO, financially and legally separate from the church, but with strong congregational representation on the Board of Trustees. The café is effectively the missional arm of St George’s Tron, and enables a core aim of the congregation: to have the church open for ministry, mission, and service throughout the week, and

to connect it to the Glasgow city-centre community. It was originally conceived as a bridge between the church and the city-centre world of shoppers, visitors, workers, the homeless, and the destitute. It has certainly put the church on the map, so far as the life of the city is concerned, and is very popular as a morning coffee, lunch-time, and afternoon tea venue.

As well as serving the general city-centre public, it is a not-for-profit Social Enterprise Café, which disburses its profits to Glasgow City Mission and Bethany Christian Trust. Through generous donations by our café customers, free soup and hot drinks are made available to those who, for whatever reason, are unable to pay for them. Employability training is also offered in the café to help those who are out of work, or who have additional support needs, or who simply wish to volunteer. The café is a place of encounter, and many a lonely, troubled person finds refuge and help, a friendly smile, and a listening ear here. A member of our Café Chaplaincy team is present in the café most days. The needs are many and various, thus the day of a chaplain can involve chatting with, listening to, or praying for those going through difficult times, giving local information to tourists, signposting the vulnerable to specialist places of help and assistance, or helping them in practical ways, as well as being a personal evangelist.

The café experience is also enhanced by the presence of a series of paintings which were painted live on the premises by our erstwhile Artist-in-Residence, Iain Campbell, for the *Gospel Sketchbook Project*; twenty-four canvasses were painted as contemporary reflections on scenes from the twenty-four chapters of the *Gospel of Luke*. These are displayed on rotation; but the pilot painting for the project, *Our Last Supper*, is on permanent display, along with a print of a painting entitled *Homeless Jesus*, by Scottish artist Peter Howson – a companion piece to the *Homeless Jesus* sculpture by Canadian sculptor Timothy Schmalz, which is located outside the building at its south-west corner.

OUTREACH AND MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Over the years, strong partnerships have been developed which are mutually strengthening. We share our space, at different points throughout the week, with Glasgow City Mission, Glasgow Street Pastors, Friends International, Upper Room Church, and Narcotics Anonymous. Glasgow Street Pastors use the building as their base and Street Teams operate out of the church, whilst the front entrance area is used as a Safe Zone, to which those in special need can come for assistance. The building rarely sleeps and is also frequently in demand as a venue for a range of outside user groups.

GOVERNANCE

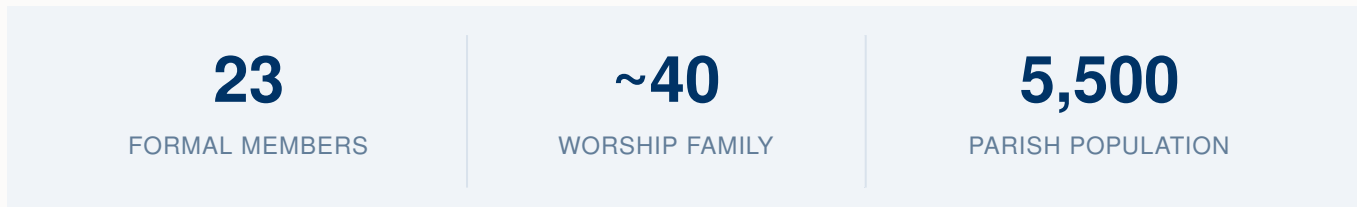
We have a Unitary Constitution. The Kirk Session, which is referred to as the Leadership Team, consists of eight elders. Five others are currently actively considering an invitation to be ordained as elders. The Leadership Team employs three part-time staff members: a Digital Outreach Worker for seven hours per week; an Events Administrator for five hours per week; and a Property

Maintenance Worker for fifteen hours per week. Church membership currently stands at fifty-eight, with one adherent.

VISION

It is our aim at St George's Tron to continue to establish a caring, outward-looking Christian community in the city centre. It is our hope that all who step into the building sense that they are warmly welcomed into a special place of peace and acceptance. May those who come in feel valued and thus draw closer to the Lord. We praise Him for the way He has led and provided for us during the past thirteen years, and we trust Him to lead and guide the future.

2. Wallacewell



Wallacewell Meeting Area



Worship Space

BACKGROUND

Wallacewell Church is centrally located within the community of East Balornock, in the north-east corner of Glasgow. Designated as a Church of Scotland Priority Area, the parish contains a population of some five thousand five hundred people, who reside in two thousand five hundred homes within its boundaries; parts of the area are currently undergoing demolition to make way for new housing.

BUILDING

The building comprises a main hall, which is fully equipped with a sound-system; an adjoining

café, separated from the main hall by a moveable partition; a dedicated prayer room; a computer classroom; an office for the minister; and a reception area with an administrative office and a fully equipped kitchen.

WORSHIP

At the core of our congregational and community life is a growing, Spirit-led church family of around forty people, who represent various ages and stages of life. On Sundays, we gather at 10.10 a.m. to pray prior to our Family Service at 10.30 a.m., coming together to worship the Lord, to give thanks, to praise, and to seek His guidance for the week ahead.

Everyone is encouraged to participate and to use the unique ministry, mission and spiritual gifts that God has bestowed upon each of us. Evangelical preaching is accompanied by a varied style of worship, sustained by online resources. For the children, Sunday ministry takes the form of Wild Church. This provides an opportunity to come together, to build lasting relationships, and to explore Bible stories, with the ultimate aim of establishing a firm foundation of faith; children are encouraged to converse with God in prayer, and to rest in the assurance that they are deeply loved.

WEEKLY MINISTRIES

We strive to be a welcoming church, ready to meet all people precisely as and where they are. Prayer is very much the focal point of life at Wallacewell; before any work of outreach is undertaken, we gather to seek the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Our church group chat is used daily to maintain fellowship and to offer mutual encouragement; requests for prayer are frequent.

On Tuesdays, from 3.30 p.m. to 5.00 p.m., we host *STEM* – a science learning resource maintained in partnership with Glasgow Kelvin College, well attended by children of primary-school age. On Wednesday evenings, from 7.15 p.m. to 8.15 p.m., the Prayer Group meets online including members of all three churches.

Thursdays are particularly busy; the day begins at 10.00 a.m. with the *How Great Thou Art Group*, where individuals meet to engage in arts and crafts whilst offering mutual support, followed at twelve noon by *Soup for the Soul*, a popular ministry which provides sustenance for both the body and the soul. On Fridays, our newly established ministry, *The Woman at the Well*, aims to bring women into a safe environment where they may receive prayer; Holy Scripture is used here to encourage a fresh approach to the problems of life. This weekly rhythm is further enriched by Bible study, which is conducted either weekly or arranged in seasonal blocks.

MONTHLY MINISTRIES AND OUTREACH

Our monthly activities extend this witness further into our local area. On the last Saturday of each month, *The Good Cup Café* serves the community in imitation of Jesus, who came to serve,

providing a space for fellowship and the cultivation of new relationships. On the first Sunday evening of the month, we gather for *Revival Prayer Time* – a focused period of intercession specifically for the salvation of families, individuals, and our entire community.

We maintain smaller prayer cells consisting of two, three, or four people, who meet regularly to support, encourage, and love one another, whilst seeking the face of God in their individual, family, and congregational lives. Since 2024, we have also begun the systematic distribution of the *Gospel of John* and the *Why Jesus?* booklet to homes within our area; though the task will take some time, it remains our firm intention to visit every household in the parish. In addition, we host special community events each year at Easter, during the summer, and at Christmas.

HALL LETS AND COMMUNITY GARDEN

Our space rarely sleeps, and our lets during the week include *Bite and Blether* on Mondays – a group wherein individuals may find support, enjoy opportunities to meet others, and cultivate new friendships. On Wednesdays, the building hosts *The Three Lights* from 11.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m., a group which has an open door to the community and which meets for friendship and mutual support.

Situated next door is our church hall, which is fully leased to a private nursery. We enjoy an excellent relationship with the nursery and consequently, families whose children attend the nursery often visit our family outreach events. The nursery also utilises our main hall for their graduation ceremonies and Christmas productions, which affords us a wonderful opportunity to meet our neighbours face to face.

In the grounds of the church there is a community garden equipped with planters, which are leased annually to local families and groups; this gives them an opportunity to feel comfortable on church premises, in the earnest hope that they will in time move towards becoming part of our Christian family.

GOVERNANCE

We operate as a Local Mission Church under the Unitary Constitution of St George's Tron, in linkage with St Rollox Church, with a local Core Leadership Team consisting of four members. There are currently twenty-three members of the church, although others often join us for worship who are not formally affiliated to the church.

VISION

It is our ongoing desire at Wallacewell Church to foster a deeply supportive and outward-looking community of faith within East Balornock. We pray that everyone who engages with our ministry, mission and outreach might be drawn closer to the Lord. We thank Him for His abundant faithfulness as we navigate this new season, trusting Him completely for the path ahead.

3. St Rollox Church

51

MEMBERS

6

ELDERS

2019

BUILDING COMPLETED



St Rollox Church



Flexible Modern Sanctuary

BACKGROUND

The present St Rollox represents the third iteration of a congregation deeply rooted in the Sighthill area of the city, having occupied two previous locations in the parish. Completed in 2019, the current building offers a wide and versatile range of facilities designed to serve the local community. Sighthill as a community has undergone an enormous transformation in recent years. Most of the former 1960s and 70s housing stock has been demolished, and the area is currently being extensively rebuilt with a mix of private housing, mid-market rental accommodation, and social housing. The opportunity to reach out to the people who are moving into this new community is a significant one, and there is a strategic challenge ahead for St Rollox in identifying how it might best reach out to and serve this newly forming community.

BUILDING

The main sanctuary can be flexibly divided by an elegant glass partition and contains a small crèche; there is also a dedicated car park, a fully equipped kitchen, and accessible toilets, whilst the large main hall can be sectioned into two or three separate rooms as the occasion demands. The building is further enhanced by a large, exceptionally bright lobby space, an administrative room, and a private office for the minister. There is also a separate quiet room, adjacent to the sanctuary which on Sundays, is used as a crèche room, but would serve equally well at other times for prayer or Bible Study.

WORSHIP

Our congregational life is vibrant, with people from many different parts of the world calling this

fellowship their home. It is a small but deeply knit fellowship, mostly made up of those who formerly resided in the immediate area, but who have since moved away; it remains family-orientated and takes delight in celebrating birthdays and major milestones.

The congregation gathers for worship every Sunday morning at eleven o'clock, driven by a shared passion to hear a word from the Lord through evangelical preaching of Scripture. We are in the process of establishing a worship band to lead our sung praise; this group is entirely made up of the young people who attend our Sunday school and church.

WEEKLY MINISTRIES

While the congregation desires to fulfil its call to nurture and discipleship, it is only now emerging from a season of uncertainty and vacancy, and mid-week groups are currently few in number. However, a significant meeting point of encouragement is the *Prayer Group*, where we meet on Wednesday evenings from 7.15 p.m. to 8.15 p.m., with members of all three churches.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECT

The outreach life of the church is largely represented through the *St Rollox Community Outreach Project* which operates on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. On Tuesday mornings, support is offered for learning English, driving-theory lessons, job seekers support, and general advice, as well as providing a welcoming space for a coffee and a chat.

On Wednesday mornings, a craft class dedicated to sewing and jewellery making runs alongside a family-friendly English language group; in the afternoon, the space hosts two other English classes for all ages and levels of understanding.

OUTREACH AND MINISTRY PARTNERSHIPS

Over recent years, engagement with our area has been fostered through the efforts of the congregation and the project. A choir was established to perform at the local Christmas lights switch-on, singing carols and encouraging the community to join in the festive celebration. In addition, a Fun Day was hosted for the Glasgow 850 celebrations; this event was well attended by participants from the project, nearby residents, and friends from the other two churches.

More recently, a partnership has been established with North Glasgow Community Food Initiative to provide a free lunch for anyone in the community who would like to come along. This began in January of this year and is gradually growing in attendance.

GOVERNANCE

St Rollox operates according to the Model Deed Constitution of the Church of Scotland; however,

the Kirk Session has recently agreed to move to a Unitary Constitution. There are six elders: two men, and four women; with fifty-one members.

VISION

It remains the steadfast aim of St Rollox to be a place of encounter with the living God in Sighthill. It is our earnest hope that all who pass through our doors – whether to learn a language, receive other practical assistance, or to worship – will know that they are warmly welcomed into a vibrant international community of faith.

STATISTICS

	St George's Tron	Wallacewell LMC	St Rollox
Members	58	22	51
Adherents	1	0	12
Average congregation	50-70	20-25	30-40
Baptisms 2023-25	5	0	2
Professions of faith 2023-25	13	15	14
Weddings 2023-25	5	0	0
Funerals 2023-25	0	1	3

Financial information via OSCR:

- [St George's Tron and Wallacewell LMC](#)
- [St Rollox](#)

Summary & Opportunity

What should be clear from the descriptions of these three congregations and their respective parishes is that there exists an enormous diversity, but also a huge and exciting opportunity to develop mission and ministry in three very different contexts as part of a team ministry. Each is unique, yet together these three congregations are united in a Kingdom vision to see the Gospel of Jesus transform individual lives and bring hope to their communities. All three congregations share a similar evangelical theological outlook, with a strong emphasis on the importance and authority of Scripture, on personal conversion to Christ, and with openness to the gifts and ministry of the Holy Spirit.

Each situation holds enormous potential, and the task is not for the faint-hearted! But the rewards and encouragements of being part of dynamic and rapidly changing situations are great, and together these congregations are excited to welcome on board a new ministry, and to make room for the unique gifts and vision that that individual will bring.