

GILMERTON CHURCH



The Parish

Gilmerton is part of South Edinburgh, an ex-village swallowed by the city's post war spread but still holding residual identity as an old mining village. Housing is mixed, with considerable work being done on regenerating the houses in the area.

South Edinburgh is a Social Inclusion Partnership, one of 44 areas designated by the Scottish executive as areas of deprivation requiring assistance for development and regeneration.

Gilmerton Church

The numbers attending Gilmerton Church were declining and in 2002 Gilmerton was moved to New Charge Development Status with a specific focus on developing church for young people and their families. The initial work of building relationships with young people through the local secondary schools was very positive through a mix of sport and drama. The local schools have appreciated the partnership and in 2007 the work was recognised with a national award for chaplaincy work at Liberton High School.

Building upon these positive relationships, drawing young people into a faith community where they felt comfortable, proved more difficult. It was ultimately in this area that the work faltered and when the charge became vacant in 2009 a decision was made to unite Gilmerton with Tron Moredun.

Looking forward and building on the past

Whilst no sustainable faith community was built there remain positive things in place:

- Good relationships built with hundreds of young people, particularly through the summer Outreach Programme CrossSports/CrossArts
- A number of young people who have made Christian commitments and maintain at least some contact with Gilmerton Church
- A partnership with the local secondary school at Liberton who remain committed to continuing with chaplaincy input
- Positive relationships at Gilmerton Primary
- Drama work continues with a part-time drama worker in place providing input to local secondary and primary schools and a well attended drama group on Wednesday evenings
- Café Church running on a Sunday evening, providing a place for young people and others to explore faith in an informal setting

Buildings

The Gilmerton Church building was refurbished to provide flexible accommodation and reopened in 2007. Audio visual equipment was installed as part of the refurbishment.