

## **EDINBURGH: TRON KIRK, MOREDUN PARISH PROFILE**

The charge of Tron, Moredun in deferred union with Gilmerton offers one of the most challenging, demanding and exciting opportunities for ministry within the Presbytery of Edinburgh.

The successful candidate will seek to establish working relationships and achieve a shared vision for two neighbouring parish areas with very different recent mission and worship experiences.

**Tron, Moredun**, which became vacant on 31 August 2008, has a small but stable predominately older membership with a long established pattern of worship and service to the community. In recent years Tron, Moredun has experienced a long vacancy followed by a short ministry limiting opportunities to meet mission needs in what is a changing parish area.

**Gilmerton** became a New Charge development in 2002, when the previous congregation was dissolved, with a remit to develop a ministry to young people and families. There is currently no morning worship, communicant roll or Kirk Session but some 10-20 young people attend Sunday evening interactive and participative worship at 'the Hub' (the fully renovated church building). A number of youth projects have been and are running and there is chaplaincy input to a number of local schools.

### **1. A View of the Way Ahead.**

- As a united congregation we will be seeking to re-establish provision for the adult population in Gilmerton and to identify the needs and opportunities for mission which will result from the union.
- This will include developing a sustainable model of youth ministry which will build on the innovative and experimental youth work undertaken by the New Charge team at Gilmerton.
- Part of our aim is to maintain and extend the strong ecumenical links which already exist among the churches in Moredun into the Gilmerton area and link into the valuable work done by S.E.E.C.A.T. across South East Edinburgh.
- We would hope to strengthen and extend the pattern of worship, service and fellowship within the present Tron Kirk congregation to take account of the changing circumstances resulting from the union, and new housing and population changes in Moredun along with the effects of the developments taking place around the site of the New Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh.
- We would also hope to identify and harness the support available from the local Area Grouping and from within the local community in order to maximise the resources available to help achieve the tasks and overcome the major challenges facing the congregation of Tron, Moredun and our new minister.

## **2. The Current Position**

Before the decision to unite Tron, Moredun with Gilmerton the key areas to be addressed by the Tron congregation had been identified as work with children and young people, and work with older people and their carers. The office bearers believed that by developing a family based ministry, by building up the congregation's outreach to elderly and isolated people and their carers, and by providing innovative and creative worship, their congregation could make an impact on their parish. This work has made limited progress as the past seven years have been difficult years for the Tron Kirk. A three year vacancy was followed by a short ministry during which we had a major fire followed by protracted difficulties with the contractor undertaking the remedial work. During the sixteen months while a decision was reached on the future of the Tron Kirk we have been well supported by a caring locum, our Interim Moderator and other local congregations.

The Tron Kirk has always worked closely with our immediate neighbours and in 2005 this relationship was formalised when the South East Edinburgh Area Grouping became an official Parish Grouping. This grouping includes Liberton Kirk, Liberton Northfield, Kaimes Lockhart Memorial, now linked with Liberton, and Gilmerton New Charge.

Joint work is already taking place. The Area Grouping have a number of working groups covering issues such as financial problems, drug dependency, and the needs of the elderly and isolated in our communities. There is an annual joint conference and an annual Elders breakfast followed by a joint morning Service was initiated last year.

The grouping of churches listed, together with two other Church of Scotland congregations and congregations of other denominations have organised an outreach programme known as "The Big Idea" every second year for the past eight years. Different events each day over a 2 or 3 week period, and an extensive programme of activities in local schools, giving opportunities to reach a wide group with no active church connection. The programmes have also given a valuable opportunity for members of the different congregations to meet and work together.

Alongside the Parish Grouping is South East Edinburgh Churches Acting Together, an ecumenical group representing all the churches in the area. S.E.E.C.A.T. organises and manages a programme of joint events throughout the year, including a Christmas Carol Party, services during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, services for the World Day of Prayer, a Lenten study programme, and a Holy Week programme. The Holy Week programme includes a Good Friday Prayer Walk that ends in a joint open-air service held in the car park of Morrison's supermarket on Gilmerton Road, as well as joint church services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday afternoon and evening. The open-air service has proved so popular that a Carol Service was held on the Saturday before Christmas.

As we face the prospect of a Union which will double the parish area and population we currently cover the task facing the congregation and new Minister of the Tron Kirk is considerable. However there is much to encourage and excite as the details from the Gilmerton New Charge Commission (appendix 1) indicate and we know that we have the prayerful support of a strong local network of churches.

### **3. The Tron Kirk**

With 119 members and 5 adherents, of whom 17 are Elders, (4 no longer active elders due to age and ill health), and 7 serve on the Congregational Board the Tron Kirk serves the parish of Moredun, on the south side of Edinburgh. The parish includes within its bounds the **New Edinburgh Royal Infirmary** and teaching and research Facilities for the **University of Edinburgh, Department of Medicine** and the site of a proposed Medi-Park and the new Sick Children's Hospital which are to be built over the next 4-6 years.

#### **3.1 Kirk Activities**

Sunday Worship at the Tron Kirk is normally at 10.30am each week, (average attendance 30/40), with Holy Communion celebrated at least six times a year. The chairs in the church allow different layouts of the space where this contributes to the worship. In common with many churches the age profile of Tron members is high, but they have in the past proved open to changing and developing patterns of worship. CH4 has been used since shortly after its publication in 2005. A legacy exists for the development of worship and mission.

One of the small rooms is furnished as a crèche area, and there are a team of members who meet the requirements of the Child Protection legislation and provide cover for under-fives in the crèche when that is required.

A Sunday Club for primary school age children operates on alternate weeks, with the children spending the first part of the service in church, then leaving to attend the Sunday Club. This group is small, mostly grandchildren of members, however a few children who attend the Megaquest club have begun to show interest in recent months. Despite being a small group, over a period of 2 years, the Sunday Club succeeded in raising nearly £3000 for Christian Aid to help build a school in Angola.

During the week there is a Mother and Toddler group in the church hall on Friday mornings. The group is run by a church member, although many of those attending do not have a church connection.

A Badminton group, organised by a church member, meets in the hall each Thursday.

A Ladies Work Party meets fortnightly to produce items for the sale at our twice-yearly coffee mornings or just for a blether and cup of tea together.

On the last Wednesday of each month there is a children's club called the MegaQuest Club. This is for children from primary 4-7 and is run in conjunction with St Barnabas' Scottish Episcopal Church and St John Vianney's Roman Catholic Church. Over the past three years they have run a very successful week long summer club also based at the Tron Kirk.

Members of the congregation are active in several activities in the local community centre, bowling club, and other community activities

## 4. Buildings

### 4.1 The church

EXTERIOR OF CHURCH



INTERIOR OF CHURCH



The church building was originally planned to operate as a hall church and consisted of the church/hall, seating capacity 150/220, session house, vestry and two small side rooms. This was extended in 1970 with the addition of a main hall with stage, seating capacity 160, small hall, kitchen and toilets. The kitchen meets the requirements of the food hygiene regulations. A ramp has been added to the hall entrance to allow disabled access to halls and we have just completed disabled toilet facilities.

The interior of the building is well maintained with only some areas of paintwork requiring attention. As a result of a major electrical fire in November 2007 the interior of the church has been redecorated. Unfortunately due to some problems with the contractor minor areas of work in the side rooms are still not quite finished but hopefully this will be completed soon. A small legacy allowed us to replace the chairs when the church was redecorated and give more attractive and comfortable seating without any loss of flexibility.

The exterior is also well maintained but this proves more difficult with a constant struggle to keep the vandals and graffiti artists at bay, as the building is situated in a quiet cul de sac, and is surrounded by its own grounds of grass and a small car park.

Provision for music in the church is in the form of both an organ and a grand piano. An audio system including an induction loop was installed about ten

years ago and we are presently exploring the possibility of additional microphones to allow greater congregational participation in the worship.

## **4.2 The Manse**



The Manse is a detached, bungalow style building at 467 Gilmerton Road. Built around 1927, the accommodation comprises, on the ground floor, vestibule, hall, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, master bedroom, bedroom4/study and bathroom. A stair leads from the dining room to two further bedrooms and toilet on the upper floor. The ground floor rooms have sanded floors and the upper bedrooms laminate floors. The building is double glazed and has gas central heating. In addition, there are gas fires in the lounge and dining room. The kitchen was upgraded three years ago and the manse completely redecorated but the bathroom requires some upgrading. Any further work required would be carried out in consultation with the successful candidate.

There is a mono-blocked drive to the front and side of the building, allowing room to turn a vehicle. To the rear of the building there is an attractive long, quiet garden, landscaped by a previous minister, who assured us that it is large but low maintenance. There is a garage to the rear of the house and garden sheds behind the garage and at the foot of the garden.

## **5. The Community**

Moredun is a former council housing scheme, which at the time of the 2001 census had a population of 5,409 of whom 1,184 were under 16 years and 1,111 over 60 years. The statistics indicated that there were around 500 households with single persons, and more than 900 small adult households. However the nature of the community is changing, as sections of private housing have been built on open areas at Nether Craigour, opposite the new Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, and at Upper Craigour, immediately adjacent to the church building. There have been two further private developments, Sovereign Gait a development of 98 houses from two-bedroom terraced villas to four-bedroom detached houses; and Royal Court, a development of 34 two and three-bedroom terraced and semi-detached homes. These have been built on the sites of the previous primary school buildings. In addition small groups of private houses have been built where post-war “pre-fabs” have been demolished. Several large blocks of flats and maisonettes have been demolished and replaced by low density housing while other blocks have been

upgraded and retained. As a result of these developments the age and occupational profile of the area will have altered since the 2001 census.

These changes make a major parish visitation an early priority for the Tron Kirk.

## **5.1 Community Facilities**

### **Goodtrees Neighbourhood Centre**

Situated in Moredunvale Place on the site of one of the previous primary schools, the centre is operated by the City of Edinburgh Council, Community Education Service. It operates a programme of activities from Monday to Friday each week and is the Moredun base for activities of the South Edinburgh Healthy Living Initiative.

### **Moredun Community Centre**

This Centre, which has operated for over fifty years from a post-war prefabricated building, situated in Moredun Park View, is managed by the Moredun Community Association, an organisation of volunteers dedicated to the social welfare of their neighbourhood. The Centre runs an extensive and varied programme for the young, elderly and disabled of the community. This group has been seeking funding to provide bigger and better premises, but despite commissioning a feasibility study to draw up plans for a possible new building on their present site as yet have not been successful in finding the necessary funding.

## **5.2 Facilities for the Elderly**

### **Craigour Home**

Situated in Moredun Park Street, Craigour Home is a purpose-built, 42 bed, Care Home run by the City of Edinburgh Council, Department of Social Work. The minister of the Tron Kirk has in the past conducted monthly services in Craigour Home, although these were discontinued latterly due to a lack of interest. This home is scheduled for relocation in the spring of 2011.

### **Gilmerton Nursing Home**

Gilmerton Nursing Home, situated in Moredunvale Road, is a purpose-built Nursing Home of 75 beds, providing nursing and social care for both elderly people and younger adults. A number of Tron Kirk members are residents of this home

## **6. Schools**

Craigour Park Primary School situated in Moredun Park Road, was part of the first phase Private/Public Partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council. It opened in January 2003 as a replacement for the two previous primary schools.

There are currently 324 children in the school, arranged in 13 classes. The Nursery, accommodating 54 full time equivalent children morning and afternoon, is adjacent to the primary school Administration Unit, and is independent of the school, with its own entry/exit and play area. Internally, the

nursery children are fully integrated, share the school facilities, and are very much a part of the school.

Links between the local primary schools and the Tron Kirk have always been strong, and this has been continued with Craigour Park Primary School. The Tron Kirk minister has in the past served as chaplain to the local Primary Schools. Our locum minister and the minister of St Barnabas, the local Scottish Episcopal Church, working with a Scripture Union worker, are currently sharing the chaplaincy of Craigour Park.

The local Secondary School is Liberton High School situated at 328 Gilmerton Road; about ten minutes walk from the manse. Liberton High, with approximately 684 pupils, is in the neighbouring parish of Liberton Northfield, and has a chaplaincy team which includes the Rev John McPake of Liberton Northfield, the youth worker from Liberton Kirk and the community arts worker from Gilmerton New Charge as Church of Scotland representatives.

#### **7. Basis of Reviewable Tenure and Basis of Deferred Union.**

Papers are attached for information (appendix 2 and appendix 3).

#### **8. Information from Presbytery on the Tron/Gilmerton area.**

The Presbytery of Edinburgh has recently compiled statistical information relevant to the proposed united charge of Tron Moredun and Gilmerton. Papers are attached (appendix 4).