



# Parish Profile 2021

## Vision & Purposes

Broughton St Mary's is an active and friendly congregation with a clear mission to reach out to all in the parish and make our excellent and modern facilities available to our neighbours.

At Broughton St Mary's we want to continue to be engaged as the Church, united in faith and seeking to share God's love with those in the parish. Our church affirms people no matter creed, colour, gender, sexual orientation or age.

## The Parish

The parish of Broughton St Mary's lies immediately to the north-east of Edinburgh city centre and comprises mixed inner city land uses of housing, industrial, warehousing and office uses. The parish contains a large tract of the Georgian Northern New Town developed between 1802 and 1830, but also Victorian tenements, inter-war villa housing and more recent flatted developments on redeveloped former industrial land.

Education is provided by Broughton Primary School, St Mary's RC Primary School and Drummond Community High School. The minister is Chaplain to Broughton Primary School and has a working relationship with Drummond High School. The Scotland Yard Adventure Centre for children and young people with additional support needs is also within the parish. Sources of employment are distributed throughout the area.

Other faiths in the parish are represented by Annandale Mosque and The Edinburgh Baha'i Centre. The congregation has developed regular contact and established good relations with both the Muslim and Baha'i communities. The congregation was invited to celebrate the breaking of the fast of Ramadan at the mosque, and also to attend an Open Day for the local community. We were warmly welcomed. In 2017 the Imam of the mosque addressed the congregation at Sunday worship and the invitation was reciprocated when the minister spoke at a gathering of the mosque community.

In terms of resident population the parish is one of the largest in the Presbytery area with an estimated population in 2011 of almost 11,300 almost half of whom are in the young adult age group of 25 to 44 years. This compares to one-third in this age group for the city as a whole and correspondingly all other age groups, apart from those in the student (16 to 24 years) age group are less well represented. The parish population is therefore characterised by low numbers of children, significantly high numbers of students and young adults up to 44 years and fewer in the older and elderly age groups.

The church hosts a Foodbank (operated by the Trussell Trust) which caters for those in the parish affected by Food Poverty. The Action Group, funded by The City of Edinburgh Council, runs a centre for people with learning difficulties which is based at the church.

Broughton is also a significant centre for the Lesbian-Gay-Bisexual-Transgender community. Broughton St Mary's carries out a ministry to this community, with agreement from Greenside Parish Church (which parish also includes the edge of the LGBT "Pink Triangle").

## The Church

The sanctuary in Bellevue Crescent was opened in 1824. It became St Mary's Parish Church and the congregation acquired its present name in 1992 in a union with Broughton McDonald. A significant redevelopment of the lower ground floor and garden was completed in 2010 to create a series of high quality flexible spaces that provide considerable opportunity for outreach and the creation of community.

We are currently working with a team of architects on an agreed and funded refurbishment of the sanctuary and vestibules. This work had been due to start in May 2020 but had to be postponed as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic and factors out with our control. The refurbishment will now begin in April and be completed by the end of August 2021.

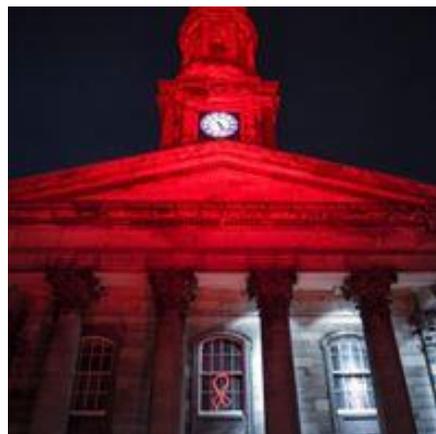
Broughton St Mary's is led by one Minister of Word and Sacrament inducted on a Basis of Unrestricted Tenure. The congregation is governed in accordance with the Deed of Constitution (Unitary Form).

## Congregation

At the time of writing there were 161 people on the Communion Roll and 55 adherents. The number on the Supplementary Roll as at 31 December 2020 was 8.

## Worship

- Sunday Worship is held weekly at 10:30am. Members of the congregation participate in worship by leading prayers, reading the Bible and other worship activities. Praise is accompanied on the organ and piano and the choir plays a significant part in the service, singing an introit and anthem most weeks. During term-time younger members leave part-way through the service for Sunday Club. A crèche is also available every week.
- Messy Church is a monthly Saturday event aimed at children of primary school age, allowing them to mix fun and activities into informal worship.
- Broughton St Mary's is keen to develop other alternatives that will meet the needs of those who are not attracted to the traditional Sunday service.
- Services are held which serve the local community:
  - Christmas watch-night service.
  - Mid-week reflective services.
  - A service of remembering and healing.
  - Services for LGBT History Month and Pride Edinburgh
  - Remembrance Sunday service attended by Royal British Legion, Territorial Army, Broughton Primary and Drummond CHS, Scouts, Community Council, Annandale Mosque, Baha'i Faith, Quakers.
- Broughton St Mary's also hosts other denominations, faith groups and community groups who wish to worship and gather for reflection. These include Quakers, United Methodist Church (Zimbabwe), Assembly of God (Brazil), Romanian Orthodox Church, Bellevue Chapel, Christian Meditation Groups, Spiritualists, Buddhists.
- Broughton Primary School end-of-term service and Christmas services.
- A World AIDS Day service working with people from Waverley Care.



## Groups and Organisations

There are a number of church and community groups affiliated with Broughton St Mary's. Our building is in use 7 days a week. We provide a warm and welcoming safe place for many groups including:

Youth	Adult
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sunday Crèche (new born to 3 years)</li><li>• Sunday Club (3 to 14 years)</li><li>• Messy Church (pram to P7)</li><li>• Rainbow Guides</li><li>• Brownie Guides</li><li>• Beavers</li><li>• Cubs</li><li>• Scouts</li><li>• Lingotots (Spanish tuition)</li><li>• Lothian Autistic Group</li><li>• Children's Drama Groups</li><li>• Smart Cookies After School Club</li><li>• Children's Parties</li><li>• LGBT Youth</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Church Choir</li><li>• Bible Study and Discussion Groups</li><li>• Art Club</li><li>• Carpet Bowls &amp; Scrabble</li><li>• Exercise and Wellbeing Classes</li><li>• Music Groups, i.e. Scottish Chamber Orchestra, SCO Chorus, Dunedin Consort, No Strings Attached Community Wind Band, Sax Academy, Aria Alba, Voice Arc, Pitchcraft, Cadenza, Edinburgh Gaelic Choir and concerts by various groups including the above</li><li>• The Action Group (funded by CEC) which caters for adults from the local area with learning difficulties</li><li>• Family gatherings</li><li>• New Town and Broughton Community Council</li></ul>

## Kirk Session

There are 23 elders in the Kirk Session, 19 of whom take an active part in the work of the Session. The most recent ordination of elders took place in 2008 when four elders were ordained. Two elders were admitted in 2015.

The Kirk Session has appointed a number of teams to carry out its work:

- Pastoral Care Team (supports the minister in the pastoral care of the congregation)
- Finance Team
- Fundraising Team
- Safeguarding Panel
- Property Team

As a Kirk Session we have a clear commitment to work with our minister to plan for our current and future ministry. As a congregation we have a track record of participating in worship and together we prioritise the well-being and pastoral care of all in our church family, including our minister.

The Kirk Session has identified opportunities and challenges going forward, and had embarked on a "Rainbow Mission", following a Mission Strategy Day in January 2019. Our target groups were identified as our own members, those using our building, those identifying as 'Church of Scotland' within the parish and those in the 25 - 45 age group in the local community. We recognised that opportunities for social contact would be important and organised two Family Ceilidhs as a starting point. Colourful new notice boards and helpful signage have been erected both outside and inside the building. We are aware of the need to continue improving our IT/digital presence. We would like to find ways of identifying new leadership from within our number and would welcome a facilitative ministry to help us continue our journey of faith.



This journey has, of course, been impacted by the sudden death of our minister (in February 2020) and by the Covid-19 pandemic. Due to the restrictions placed on public worship, the church was closed for several months in 2020, but worship and fellowship continued on Zoom and by telephone. The church reopened in September 2020, following strict guidelines on social distancing, and services were held in the sanctuary and on Zoom up until the second lockdown forced us to close again.

## Staffing

The congregation has three members of staff:

- Church Administrator (18 hrs per week)
- Organist and Choirmaster (self employed)
- Cleaner (10 hours per week)

The Organist is Chris Dyter. He is an accomplished musician and accompanies worship on the Lewis organ and also on piano. A brief biography can be found on our website at <https://www.bstmchurch.org.uk/music/>, and examples of Chris' playing can be seen on our YouTube channel (link below).

## Manse

In 2018 we purchased a new manse at 78 March Road, Blackhall, Edinburgh, EH4 3SY. The property is approximately three miles from the church and has been superbly upgraded and extended to provide a substantial modern family home. Further information about the manse can be found on our website at <https://www.bstmchurch.org.uk/2018/07/new-manse/>.

## Finance

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts for 2016 to 2020 can be found on our website at <https://www.bstmchurch.org.uk/finance/>.

## Further Information

A copy of the Local Church Review carried out in 2015 is included in Appendix 1.

Church Website: <https://www.bstmchurch.org.uk/>

Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/bstmchurch/>

YouTube Channel: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9IDzDM4MZH-WJw4qFnVxcg>

**The Kirk Session voted unanimously to depart from the Church's traditional position in respect of ministers in civil partnerships and same sex marriages.**



## Appendix 1 - Broughton St Mary's Local Church Review 2015

Broughton St Mary's Church serves a large and diverse parish, with a population of around 12,000, consisting of many faith groups and different Christian denominations – there are 9 different Christian churches within the parish boundaries. The area also has a strong LGBT population, an area of mission Broughton St Mary's was asked to concentrate on. The age of local residents, and the type of housing available means there is a large turnover of residents, or that residents live at opposite ends of the social scale – in large houses, or small flats, bringing its own challenges to the parish church.

The church seeks to be a place of quiet, welcome, community and vision. Pastoral care is a large concern for the office bearers and minister, and is seen as a form of outreach. The recently refurbished Garden Room allows the building to be a community space and its high usage points to it being an open and hospitable space used by community groups, but also by the church to foster stronger relationships and trust with its diverse neighbours. This includes fostering stronger ties with near neighbour Bellevue Chapel. There are two schools in the parish, both multi-faith and ethnically diverse and the minister has welcomed other faith leaders to be part of end of term services to reflect that spread of faith, also welcoming art projects and concerts as part of school chaplaincy.

Graeme's ministry was described as courageous and challenging. The goals in Pack 3 were largely drawn up by the office bearers – the minister's role being to encourage and support in all areas of congregational life.

The demography of the church congregation brings urgency to the work of the church – with such a large population in the parish, can and should another worker be added to the team, perhaps an OLM?

We saw good collegiate working and relationships between the elders, and heard strong praise of the minister's work and ministry. Towards the end of the meeting the question of the suitability of the manse was raised – a topic for another committee, perhaps, but a cause of concern to the office bearers.

The visiting team was able to provide a framework document for the congregation to modify into its Data Protection Policy.