

Hillington Park Parish Church



PARISH PROFILE

August 2021

Church Address

Hillington Park Parish Church
24 Berryknowes Road
Glasgow
G52 2UD

Phone numbers:

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Interim Moderator

Rev Adam Dillon
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Mission Statement

“To bring as many as possible to a knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and to nurture them in that relationship”

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Summary – Our New Minister

This profile has been compiled to present a comprehensive view of Hillington Park Parish Church. This will provide the necessary information required when applying for this charge.

We are a community church with a strong, committed Kirk Session, who will support you in working together to share the Love of God here in our parish.

We are looking for a Minister :-

- with a deep faith in Christ, an eagerness to proclaim the Word of God to all, and who will encourage our spiritual growth.
- who is plain speaking and delivers Bible based teaching relevant to modern life.
- who believes in the strength of prayer and will establish and support Bible study groups.
- who will develop Outreach to our local community and be proactive in encouraging children and young families to join us in worship.
- who will be fully involved in becoming known locally, through active participation in local schools and community.
- who is a people person, a leader and a team player.
- who has a caring personality, establishing good relationships.
- who will embrace Lay Team Ministry and will continue to build on and promote Natural Church Development.

It is important that our new Minister :-

- will be a good pastor, continuing to support and develop the work of the Pastoral Care team with a passion and love for our congregation.
- actively participates in our local ecumenical work with the G52 Churches Together Group.
- has good multimedia skills and will encourage musical participation and appreciation.
- will work in conjunction with the Elders to discuss new possibilities or opportunities for change.

Please note that after careful consideration the Kirk Session have decided not to depart from the traditional Church of Scotland position with reference to Ministers and Deacons in Civil Partnerships and same sex marriages – Act 1, 2015

Details of Vacancy Schedule

Stipend and expenses are at standard Church of Scotland rates.

Historical Background

The congregation was originally formed as Cardonald United Free Church by the Glasgow United Free Church Presbytery 1908. Under the 1929 Act of Union the transition was made to Hillington Park Church of Scotland.

There have been 8 Ministers spanning 109 years of the congregation's history.

Rev. Alexander MacInnes	1908-1919
Rev. John Scorgie	1919-1959
Rev. Stuart Pyper	1959-1970
Rev. Kenneth Anderson	1971-1982
Rev. Morris Coull	1983-1996
Rev. Iain Morrison	1997-2003
Rev. John MacGregor	2004-2017
Rev. Robert Craig	2019-2020

The charge became vacant in October 2020, on the translation of Rev. Robert Craig to the vacant charge of Breich Valley Parish Church.

The congregation has received permission to call a Minister of word and sacrament under unrestricted tenure.

The Parish

The parish is situated in the Cardonald and Craighton area of southwest Glasgow, approx. 4 miles from the city centre and 3 miles from Paisley.

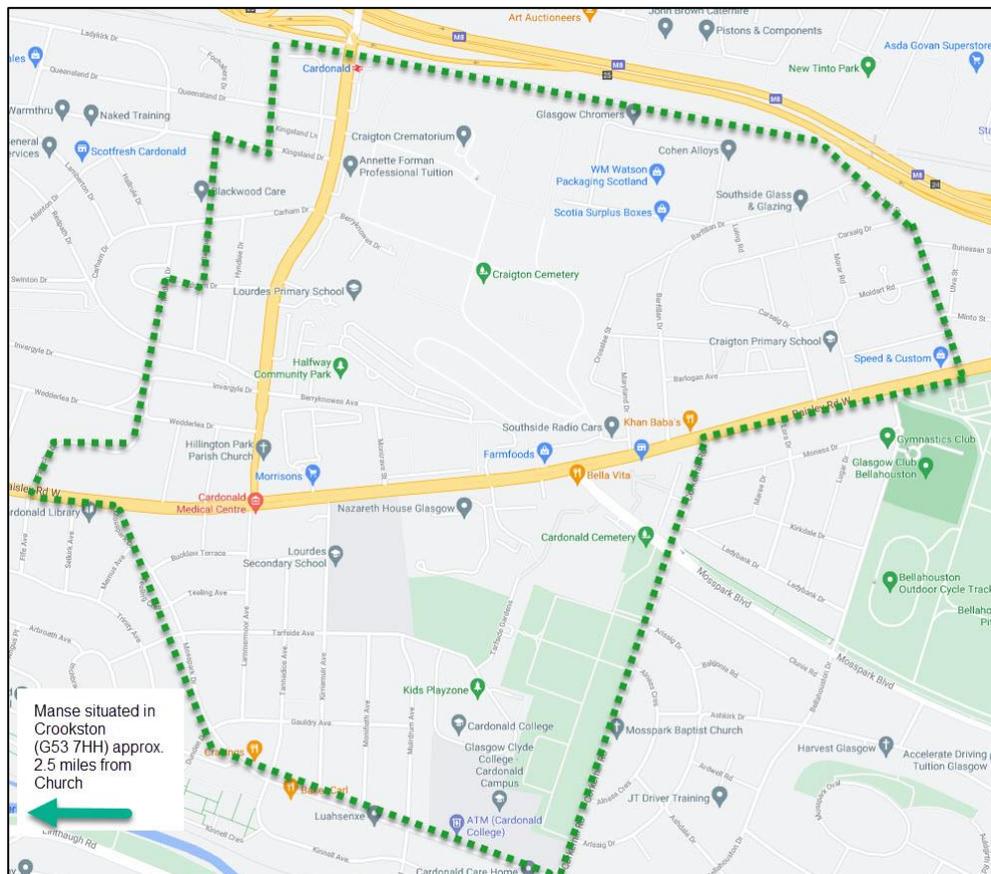
The church itself occupies a prominent position within the parish, as it is situated about half a mile from the M8 motorway near to the junction of Paisley Road West and Berryknowes Road. We are in close proximity to a Morrisons store and enjoy a good working relationship with staff and managers.

The parish has an approximate area of one square mile with a population of 6,500 located within a residential area well serviced by shops and public transport. It has a mixture of private, social rented sector and housing association/private rented homes.

From the 2011 Census, 26% of the Parish declared an affiliation with Church of Scotland.

19% of the Parish were in the age bracket of “Elderly” or “Very Elderly”, with 24% classed as “Mature Adult”. However, with 38% of the Parish classed as “Student Age” or “Young Adult”, there is clearly potential to grow the Congregation.

As of 2011, 11% of the Parish were of Asian or other Ethnic groups. However, this may well have changed over recent years with changes to local housing in the Tarfside and Mossheights area.



Craigton Primary School is located within the parish and past Ministers have been Chaplain there, welcomed into classrooms and assemblies. Pre-Covid the church was used by the school for two services in the year and for their graduation ceremony and end-of-year show for the P7 pupils.

We have also had links with Rosshall Academy and Glasgow Clyde College, Cardonald campus.

G52 Churches Together

Other churches in the area are: -

- Cardonald Parish
- St Andrews & St Nicholas Parish
- Lourdes Roman Catholic Church
- Mosspark Baptist Church
- Church of the Good Shepherd
- Our Lady and St George Roman Catholic Church

Hillington Park Church is an active participant in “G52 Churches Together” group which brings Christians of all denominations together for inter faith services and worship.

An annual “Walk of Witness” on Good Friday concludes with a service of worship in one of the local churches.



**G52 Churches Together
Walk of Witness**

Parish Statistics (Based on 2011 Census)

If Hillington Park Parish were a village of 100 people ..

- 8 would be in primary school; 4 would be in high school
- 27 would be aged between 25 and 44
- 20 would be aged 65 or over
- 70 would be of working age (16-74), including
 - 33 who have no qualifications; 12 who have a University degree
 - 24 who work full time; 10 who are retired
- 83 would describe themselves as 'White - Scottish'
- 9 would describe their health as bad or very bad
- 10 would be providing unpaid care
- 26 would say they belonged to the Church of Scotland

If Hillington Park Parish were a village of 100 households ..

- 47 households would consist of one person, 20 of whom are aged 65 and over
- 24 would have dependent children (aged under 16, or under 18 in full-time education)
- 52 would be in rented accommodation
- 41 would have access to at least one car or van
- 12 would speak a language other than English in the home

<https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/church-finder/data/statistics/parish-profiles/160949.pdf>

Congregation

Membership currently sits at 220 including 11 adherents with an average Sunday morning attendance of 110-130 pre-Covid.

We consider ourselves to have an enthusiastic and active character offering biblical witness, lively worship and relevant teaching. Our members enjoy the spiritual nature of our ministry which encourages knowledge of the Bible and the strength of prayer. Our style is quite informal and modern with all age groups being nurtured in their faith.

Although we are part of the Church of Scotland we welcome folk from all church backgrounds and some of our members have come from different Christian backgrounds.

Recent history of membership is as follows: -

2016	240
2017	233
2018	237
2019	239
2020	229

The above shows a relatively slow decline in membership but also reflects additional members who have joined the congregation. In particular, we gained new members/adherents when 2 local churches closed but during the pandemic we were unable to work to grow our membership.

Church organisations and community groups

Detailed below are lists showing the varied use of our halls by both church organisations and community groups. Generally the numbers given are pre-Covid and the ones with * are groups which managed to continue during the pandemic albeit remotely.

Church organisations and groups

 Boys Brigade	15	Sunday tearoom	20
Girls Brigade *	40	Welcome teams	25
Guild	30	Fabric team	8
Sunday School	12	Pastoral care *	8
Creche	3	Prayer chain *	20
Summer holiday club	60	Choir	16
Girls Alive Bible study	10	The Ark	50
Holistic small groups *(1)	25	Outreach	6
Art Club	12	Flower club	7
Knitters & Natters	10	Walking group	15
Rosie & Jim (toddlers)	15	Playgroup	25

Community groups

Foodbank	50-80
Zumba LH	15
Zumba HD	10
Boogie bands	new group in Aug 2021
Dance UK	80 new in 2021
Irish dancing	new group in 2021
Satori karate	new group in 2021
Bushido karate	24
Drama academy	new group in Aug 2021
Jiggy wrigglers	new group in Aug 2021
Cosmic Coppers	20

Until Covid-19 struck and changed so many things we also provided premises for an Alzheimer's group, the Craigton and Cardonald Seniors Forum, the Church of God Youth Club and a Sri Lankan group.

Church Premises

The church, which is our second building, was built in 1924 of red sandstone in the gothic style with a plain but dignified interior.

An audio visual system was installed in the Sanctuary in 2007. The AV system is managed by a small team using Easyworship software to display hymns and scripture readings on screen. Use is also made of Powerpoint, Christian DVD and video clips downloaded from the internet.

In 2011, following a discernment process, the pews were removed from the Sanctuary and replaced with chairs. The Sanctuary now has a seating capacity of 270. The chairs can be removed and stacked to allow the Sanctuary to be fully utilised for the Holiday Club, BB displays, etc.

To provide facilities to organisations, Wi-Fi was installed in the Church with routers serving most of the halls.

Following a feasibility study commissioned in 2014, we have embarked on an ambitious refurbishment project. To date we have replaced the heating system in the Sanctuary, refurbished toilet facilities, added a new disabled access toilet and put new lighting in the Sanctuary. 3 sets of push pad glass doors, 2 of which are inside the traditional church doors, and 1 with a fob entry system, have been installed at all front entrances.

The second phase will incorporate refurbishment of the large hall with improved storage, refurbished kitchen and new welcome/meeting area.

This will be a phased project over a period of approx. 10 years, with Phase 1 being completed in early 2017.

Our buildings have been comprehensively surveyed and we are confident we can continue to maintain their excellent condition.

Also contained within the church complex are two halls, a Kirk Lounge, vestry, quiet/ choir room, committee room, print room, two kitchens, toilets with disabled facilities, along with various storage areas.

There is a small Garden of Remembrance situated in the church courtyard area, between the sanctuary building and the large hall. This facility provides a pleasant place where people have the opportunity to be alone with their thoughts or to remember their loved ones.

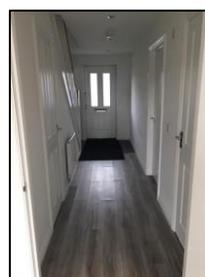
Our Church Halls are well used by Church organisations and many community groups. We are fortunate to have a community car park adjacent to our premises which provides free parking.

The Manse

The Manse is a Taylor Wimpey home built in 2018 – a four-bedroom property with spacious lounge and separate dining room, and the original garage has been converted into an office space. The garden has a patio area and a lawn, the shed has electricity.

The Manse is located in the Crookston area approx 3 miles from the church with local shops and medical centre within walking distance. Silverburn shopping centre is close by with a cinema complex, gym, restaurants and a swimming pool.

Walking from the Manse takes you to the local bus routes heading towards Silverburn or to the main thoroughfare of Paisley Road West – east into Glasgow city centre or west into Paisley. There is also easy access to the M77 motorway.



Schools		Distance	
Crookston Castle Primary	G53 5SD	1.4 miles	
Gowanbank Primary	G53 6RA	2.1 miles	
Sandwood Primary	G52 2QY	2.2 miles	
Cardonald Primary	G52 3HD	2.4 miles	
Cleeves Primary School	G53 6NL	2.6 miles	
Rosshall Academy	G52 3PD	1.4 miles	
Stations		Distance	
Crookston	G52 3NG	1.5 miles	
Mosspark	G52 3EX	2.4 miles	

Church Structure

Hillington Park operates under the Unitary constitution with the Kirk Session responsible for all spiritual, pastoral, financial and fabric aspects of the church.

We have operated Lay Team Ministry since 2001. This was implemented to provide the structures and processes to support our Mission Statement: -

“To bring as many as possible to a knowledge and love of Jesus Christ and to nurture them in that relationship”

The Lay Team Ministry structure involves 10 teams , 36 neighbourhood contact groups and 30 neighbourhood contacts. The neighbourhood contacts are the key communication link between the church, our members and their families, visiting each home on a monthly basis.

Each Lay Team, consisting of both Elders and members, has a responsibility for a specific area of church life, reporting back in a structured manner to the Kirk Session.

Team leaders report to the Kirk Session, to discuss progress and options to improve the work undertaken by the team.

Our Kirk Session consists of 24 female and 7 male Elders. We have split Elders into 8 groups, to provide support and encouragement to each other.

As a church we are on a journey of studying, understanding and implementing Natural Church Development (NCD) principles.

Natural Church Development is concerned with releasing God’s natural growth mechanisms within His church.

Our NCD team, comprising of 4 Elders, supports the Kirk Session to take forward the spiritual, pastoral and fabric work of our Church.

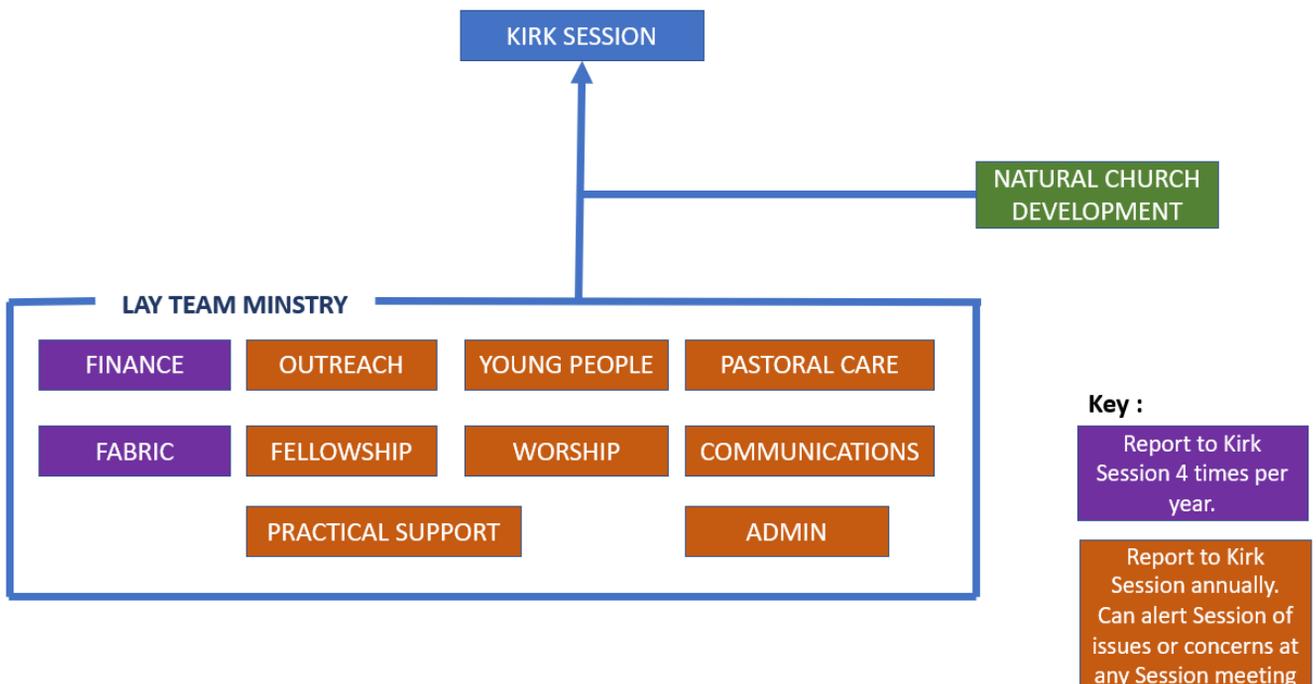
NCD assists believers in rediscovering central biblical concepts and relating them to their everyday life. We are committed to NCD which focuses on the 8 quality characteristics which are found in every healthy church. We are continually seeking to develop the qualities of these characteristics.

Church Structure continued

A number of Congregational Surveys have been undertaken to identify the strengths and weaknesses of the eight quality characteristics :-

- * Empowering Leadership
- * Gift Based Ministry
- * Passionate Spirituality
- * Effective Structures
- * Inspiring Worship
- * Holistic Small Groups
- * Need Oriented Evangelism
- * Loving Relationships

Our Elders’ groups each have responsibility for one of the Quality Characteristics and report to Kirk Session on any items of concern or identify action to be taken which will lead to improvement.



Worship

Worship is conducted on Sundays at 11a.m. and it is also our practice to have an evening service at 6.30 p.m. (not in June, July or August) The Sunday School young people are in church at the beginning of the service and then go off to do their own activities. Once a month there is a family service when the young people remain in church.

A monthly service is held at 3p.m. on Sundays, known as the healing service, which seeks to emphasise the aspect of healing within the Christian ministry.

In December, families are invited to attend a Griefshare service where there is the opportunity to remember a loved one.

There is a tearoom available after morning worship and the healing services.

Singing at morning worship is ably supported by the church musician (a student from the Royal Conservatoire) and by the choir of around 14 members with introits, anthems and other musical pieces. The congregation itself enjoys a good singing reputation.

Use is made of our AV system to project the hymns and Bible readings onto the large screen and the system can also be used by the Minister for Powerpoint presentations and video clips.

Communion is held four times a year on the first Sunday of March, June, September and December at both 11a.m. and 6.30p.m. There is also an annual Communion service for the housebound with transport organised to bring those members to Church. Home Communion is also available when requested, conducted by the Minister.

There is a full programme of events for the Easter period – Maundy Thursday service of Communion, Walk of Witness with other local churches on Good Friday followed by a short service and hot cross buns. Good Friday service in the evening, an early morning service, outdoors if possible, on Easter Day and the Easter Sunday service. Likewise at Christmas there is a full programme – a Christmas gift service in December, a family service the Sunday before Christmas with the nativity, Christmas Eve Christingle service, Christmas Eve candlelit supper followed by the watchnight service and a short service on Christmas morning.

Pastoral Care and Healing Ministry

Pastoral care in Hillington Park Parish Church has a steering group which meets monthly with the Minister to share information which helps us to focus on the many varying needs facing our congregation and those within our parish. This can be challenging and demanding especially for the Minister. Visiting those who are sick at home or in hospital, making a phone call, sending a card or ensuring the church flowers are delivered where they are most needed are ways in which the group offer support.

Grief-share counselling is also part of our remit which has in the past been offered by a trained counsellor for those within the congregation and the community who have suffered the pain of bereavement. In December families are invited to our Grief-share service held in the Church where they have an opportunity to remember their loved ones.

A Communion service for housebound members of the congregation is held in June, after the service there is time for fellowship when refreshments are served in the large hall. Transport is provided to and from the Church.

Healing services are held monthly in the firm belief that prayer and the preaching of God's word are powerful channels of God's grace to bring healing and comfort to enrich the lives of those who attend. The Minister is supported by lay helpers of the healing group.

Christmas offers us a time when we can have fun and fellowship with our senior members at our 'Christmas Bash'. This a time when we have entertainment and refreshments before Santa visits finishing the afternoon singing Christmas carols.

Since 2013 Pastoral Care has organised an annual coach trip to various holiday destinations. This has been an invaluable ministry for our members and their friends who wouldn't necessarily go on holiday on their own and is always a time of great fellowship.

There is also an excellent prayer chain organised by one of our Elders who communicates the requests for prayer from our members and friends to the prayer chain group. Privacy is always respected.

The Ark – [Acts Of Random Kindness] Gift And Card Shop

In 2007, members of Hillington Park Church founded The ARK, which is a Limited Company with Charitable Status. Since then, this shop has been supplying the local community of Craigton and Cardonald with Greeting Cards and a wide variety of Gifts, all new.

Members of Hillington Park Church continue, along with others from local churches and the community, to volunteer in serving in the shop. There are approximately 50 people involved in maintaining staff levels, including volunteers, covering holidays etc. There is no paid staff and all profits go to our Charity Dwelling Places.

The ARK provides 3 main purposes:

- Reaching out to the Community of Craigton in Christian fellowship while supplying their needs from the shop.
- Providing a productive purpose for our staff in serving along with fellowship with customers and other staff.
- Providing badly needed funds for our Charity Dwelling Places.

Dwelling Places UK was founded in Glasgow in 2007 to support Dwelling Places in Uganda, a Charity rescuing children off the Streets. Today they have two part-time workers who are based in The ARK and run the Charity from there. One of our Elder's is a Trustee and Line Manager on the Board of Management of the Charity.

There are 3 main aims of Dwelling Places Uganda:

- To raise awareness in the UK about the plight of street children in Uganda and the work of Dwelling Places.
- To be a financial resource to the objectives of Dwelling Places.
- To encourage and equip volunteers from the UK to serve both in Uganda and in the UK.

Finance

Hillington Park has a record of meeting central funding requirements and is able, with careful budgetary monitoring, to meet annual running costs.

The total Stipend costs (ministries and mission, expenses, phone and council tax) for 2020 were £41743 and this along with our Presbytery fees were paid in full and on time .

The ordinary general income (wfo and open plate) for 2020 was £41702. Further income from halls letting, gift aid, legacies, etc came to an additional £33646.

Church & Community Development

As a church we believe in Outreach and Mission and we seek continually to become a Church Without Walls and as a caring congregation, we are always ready to reach out and lend support in our community.

To aid us in this work we have an Outreach Team which meets regularly and whose remit is to seek God's will in our mission to our local community and beyond, and to take the necessary steps to take His will forward.

Govan and Craigton Integration Network (GCIN)

Govan and Craigton Integration Network (GCIN) is a community based organisation working in south west Glasgow. Originally a response of community and church members to the needs of newly arrived asylum seekers, GCIN has developed over the years to become a local charity working with and for all the diverse communities of the Greater Govan area.

(GCIN) PURPOSE: 'To achieve social justice in Govan and Craigton by building a strong community based on equality, mutual respect, support and integration.'

The Kirk Session is enthusiastic and always available with help and support as they see this as one way ahead for our church's outreach to the community.

Over a period of 3 years pre-Covid we have helped with the running of a Breakfast Club twice weekly on our church premises during the Easter and summer school holidays, often reaching a maximum of 100 children, parents/guardians. We also participated in 3 Gala Days near the Moss Heights flats staffing the food and drink stall.

These events have enabled us to get to know the local community.

Trussell Trust Food Bank



Under the auspices of The Trussell Trust, Hillington Park Church runs a very active foodbank which is open every Friday in the Church Hall.

Pre-Covid the food bank was one of the busiest in Scotland; however, during the pandemic the Trussell Trust has not provided any statistics but since early 2020 the food bank has fed 4,162 adults and children; in addition, from January to April this year 61 families in abject poverty were supported in conjunction with a local secondary school and since April, Glasgow City Council has been provided with a further 20 food parcels each week to support those having to isolate due to Covid.

As part of the food bank outreach, a no cost café was open to all who called in allowing them to relax and have fellowship while food parcels were being prepared. Although not currently operational because of the pandemic, it is intended that the café will return in the future.

Christians Against Poverty (CAP)



CAP money is a revolutionary money management course that teaches people budgeting skills and a simple, cash based system that really works. This course helps people get more control over their finances, so they can budget, save and prevent debt. We have two members who are trained as Money Coaches and deliver courses to adults, students and young people.

Pre pandemic, we had a monthly 'drop in' clinic as part of the Community Kitchen lunch and offered regular workshops and follow ups to local churches and schools. We work closely with the Foodbank team and have been approached by Turning Point (Scotland) to run a course for some of their clients.

