

St. Ninian's Episcopal Church, Pollokshields, Glasgow.  
1 Albert Drive,  
Glasgow G41 2PE

SC010966

[www.stniniansglasgow.org.uk](http://www.stniniansglasgow.org.uk)

## Parish Profile

### Mission Statement / Values

We strive to be an open, welcoming congregation, which enables everyone to grow spiritually and find ways to share our faith with the wider community. Our worship is centred on the liturgy within a liberal Anglo-Catholic tradition.

### Our local context

St Ninian's was founded in 1872 as the first church serving the Episcopalian community in Glasgow south of the Clyde. The church is set to the south of the city centre in an area with a large, mainly Islamic, population of Pakistani origin.

Residential accommodation ranges from Victorian tenements and houses to modern flats.

Industrial and commercial property consists predominantly of small businesses, with a mixture of medium-sized or larger concerns.

The area is well provided with transport links (bus, train and underground) and health-care services. The New Victoria hospital, for example, is less than one mile from the church, and there are several residential and nursing homes. Amenities include a cinema and leisure complex, the Scotland Street School Museum and the East Pollokshields Multi-Cultural Centre. Members of our congregation play an active role as volunteers in The Well Asian Information and Advice Centre ([www.thewell.org.uk](http://www.thewell.org.uk)), which not only provides a service for, but also encourages communication with, the Asian community.

Next door are the Tramway Theatre and the new home of Scottish Ballet, in both of which we have chaplaincies.

Nearby are Maxwell Park and Queen's Park. Pollok Country Park, with the Burrell Collection and Pollok House, is within easy reach.

Other churches within approximately a mile radius of St Ninian's include three Church of Scotland congregations (Pollokshields Parish Church, Sherbrooke St Gilbert's and Queen's Park Church), a Baptist church (Queen's Park), and a Roman Catholic congregation (St Albert's). There are also Sikh and Muslim places of worship.

## Spiritual Growth and Worship

Over the past two decades, in common with most Christian churches, the number of church members has declined but it is now more stable. The congregational roll is 138 and the average number of Sunday communicants is 53 though this increases at major festivals.

Only a minority of the congregation lives in Pollokshields, the majority coming from all over the south side and beyond so that in reality we face into many communities, not one. The majority of the congregation, of the order of 80%, is over 50. We have had an active Sunday School in the past and would like to establish one in the future. The parish demographic is currently a challenge regarding this development.

At the Eucharist we predominantly use the 1982 liturgy, the modern language liturgy of the Scottish Episcopal Church. The 1970 Scottish liturgy is used during Advent and Lent and the last Sunday of the month. We use the 1929 liturgy on Saturdays. The main Sunday service is a Sung Eucharist at 10.15. There is a Said Eucharist on Sundays at 8.30 following said Morning Prayer alternating between Matins and Celebrating Common Prayer. We celebrate the Eucharist midweek at 6.00 p.m. on Tuesdays (1982) and 10.00 a.m. on Thursdays (1970). A Service of Healing is held on the first Saturday of the month at 10.00 a.m., and the congregation maintains a ministry of prayer for all who ask for it, whether members of the congregation or not, by means of a prayer chain.

The worship style is generally traditional and liberal Anglo-Catholic, which is arguably one of the factors which influences attendance at St Ninian's services by individuals and families who live well beyond the canonical area of the church. St Ninian's strives to maintain a strong musical tradition, and to blend dignity with congregational participation.

Church groups and activities include a small but committed choir, an active branch of the Mothers' Union, and a Study Group entitled Deepening Discipleship, which involves shared reading and discussion of a modern theological book. We also have a successful Open Forum group, which considers contemporary moral and social issues, and an informal Book Group which meets monthly.

The celebration of the Patronal festival has been expanded over the past few years to include events and services over the whole weekend. Every year we have special services during Lent and Advent, which have included Quiet Days and courses.

Our ministry team comprises a rector, a non-stipendiary assistant priest a deacon, and a Eucharistic Assistant, with two further Eucharistic Assistants being licensed. Lay people make a significant contribution as servers and thurifers, leading intercessions, reading lessons during the liturgy, and also acting as welcomers. We have a dedicated choirmaster appointed by the Vestry. The clergy team administers home communions. We also have a pastoral visiting group, which maintains links with housebound members of the congregation.

Internal communication is addressed through a weekly pew-sheet and a well-received monthly parish magazine, which includes Diocesan News.

Amongst the curates who have been trained was the first woman priest to serve at St. Ninian's. Under the Porvoo Agreement we have had seconded to us for a period of training a woman priest from our companion diocese of Gothenburg in the Church of Sweden.

## Mission in the Community

Church events include coffee mornings, parish lunches, an annual outing and a Summer Barbecue at the Rectory, and St Ninian's is actively involved in the life of the wider church at diocesan and regional level. The Lay Representative chairs the South Regional Council of Episcopal Churches of the south side of Glasgow, which includes St. Ninian's, St. Margaret's, St Aiden's, St Oswald's and the Good Shepherd. The Lay Representative attends Diocesan Synods and is a member of the General Synod.

The congregation supports a range of charities and community activities, including Christian Aid, the Mission to Seafarers, Save the Children, The Well Asian Information and Advice Centre, and Traidcraft.

Occasional retiring collections or fundraising events are targeted on specific charitable projects, which vary from time to time, including support for an elders' home in Sri Lanka and Motorbikes for Pastors in Byumba.

We maintain links with our companion dioceses, namely Byumba in Rwanda and Kentucky in the United States, and under the Porvoo Agreement with Gothenburg in Sweden.

The church provides premises for the APNA Project, under the auspices of Barnardo's. This derives from a long-standing partnership with local Asian community care workers providing services for Asian children with special needs. The involvement of the church in this activity has provided valuable links with the local Scottish Asian community.

St Ninian's plays an active role in local ecumenical activities including Pollokshields Churches Together, a group of Christian churches in the area. It shares with the other local churches in joint services. Discussions are presently taking place among all the churches regarding a proposal to appoint an ecumenical youth worker for the area.

We take part in house-to-house collections, book sales and hold a special parish lunch for Christian Aid Week.

During the course of the year we organise a planned programme of children's fun and activity afternoons, which are well supported and enjoyed by the local community.

We have a parish website ([www.stniniansglasgow.org.uk](http://www.stniniansglasgow.org.uk)) which we would like to develop further.

Members of the congregation are active in a very successful local drama group. St. Ninian's provides rehearsal space, hosts the group's annual pantomime, and receives an annual contribution to church funds.

We have an active Eco-group and are currently seeking accreditation as an Eco-congregation.

The church hall, recently redecorated, is used extensively for church events including Coffee mornings each month except January, July and August, which continue to be very successful. The Hall is also used by community groups running Tai Chi, Ba Gua, by the APNA project and as a crèche for events at the Hidden Gardens (a community garden attached to the Tramway Theatre).

## Church Property and Finances

The church is a Grade B Listed Building, and is generally in a good state of repair.

Extensive remedial works to the church complex have been undertaken as a result of structural problems arising from the construction of the new home for Scottish Ballet.

The latest Quinquennial Survey was carried out on 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010. While we do not have the full report no major items of concern were noted.

As part of our continuous programme of stewardship of the church specialist work was recently undertaken to refurbish the sanctuary tiles and to clean the Benedicite Murals in the Apse.

The Property Committee ensures that the church buildings, including the Rectory, are well maintained. The Rectory is a substantial Victorian semi-detached house with a garage located in Glencairn Drive, within easy reach of the church. The spacious accommodation and gardens are in good condition.

The Vestry keeps the financial position of the charge under constant scrutiny and a recent increased giving campaign has resulted in an additional £7,500 in income. In the last financial year total income was £95,725 of which £60,618 came from the congregation, and £16,000 from legacies which was added to reserves. Expenditure was £95,000. Copies of the last annual report and accounts are enclosed.

## Our vision

St Ninian's wishes to continue to be a community characterised by spiritual vitality, recognised as such by both its own members and people from other traditions and faiths.

We seek to continue to be

- a source of pastoral care for all those within the reach of its influence
- a centre for dignified, traditional worship and liturgical music
- a centre for serious and challenging preaching
- a source of practical action in the furtherance of Christian witness and mission
- an open and welcoming community

We look to develop new ways in which to achieve

- connection with the new Bishop's strategy for diocesan growth
- personal spiritual growth stimulated by linkage with diocesan Action Groups
- growth in numbers through the enabling and facilitating of the diverse talents of the congregation

In order to achieve this mission, St. Ninian's will have to appeal to a diverse congregation from a wide geographical area. Ministering to this population will provide challenges for both the congregation and future incumbents.

As a congregation we hope and pray that our new priest fits in with what we do, but also brings new ideas and energy to the position to enable us to maintain and develop our presence in St. Ninian's and grow as best we can, individually and collectively serving God in this place.