



# St Ninian's Prestwick

*Walking together, following Jesus.*

Scottish Episcopal Church  
Maryborough Road  
Prestwick  
Ayrshire  
KA9 1SD



Scottish Charity No: SC001486



## Congregational & Rector Profile

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## St Ninian's Prestwick Prayer

Loving God,  
as we walk together following Jesus,  
increase Your Kingdom here,  
according to Your will and purpose,  
that together we may glorify Father,  
Son and Holy Spirit.  
Amen

## 1. A summary of who we are

### ***Walking together, following Jesus***

The very name of St Ninian's suggests that our church is a Missional community, outward looking, expectant and prayerful, and filled with hope at the signs of God's activity all around.

We recognise the importance of an inclusive community, discipleship and Christ's Lordship. Spirit-led, every member of the church has a commission from God, where we are equipped for that call and which permeates all we do.

St Ninian's Prestwick is seeking a Rector who is willing to build on the opportunities and take on the challenges of an active church in this attractive South Ayrshire seaside town on the West Coast of Scotland and lead us in our journey of faith in Christ.

St Ninian's Prestwick is a charge in the Ayrshire Region of the Diocese of Glasgow & Galloway of the Scottish Episcopal Church, which is made up of seven Dioceses. The SEC is governed by a Provincial Synod and a Diocesan Synod which meet annually. The SEC forms the Scottish Province of the worldwide Anglican Communion.

The majority of the congregation live in Prestwick and others live in neighbouring towns and villages. We welcome people of all denominations and none, and together we strive to make this a place where Christian people find encouragement in discipleship and are equipped for the life and witness of the church in God's world.

## 2. Our Congregation

There has been a faithful worshipping presence on this prominent site here in Prestwick for over 100 years. People see St Ninian's as an oasis, and a place of healing, where they feel at home, finding it to be friendly, welcoming, warm, caring, faithful in prayer and accepting of who they are.

We are situated beside the 13th century *Bruce's Well* and the ruins of the *Lazar Hospital* and so we are bound up in the history of the healing and restorative nature of salvation which has been present here for centuries. We run monthly services of healing and *prayers for healing* are incorporated into our weekly services. We see ourselves like the well – a source of the Spirit flowing through us, welcoming all who seek compassion, refreshment, healing, joy and purpose.





We were the first certified *Animal Friendly Church* in Scotland. Our annual Animal Blessing on or around St Francis Day has welcomed Police horses, Shetland ponies, hens, rabbits, goldfish, a tortoise, cats and numerous dogs and their owners who are often not church goers and who, like us, rejoice in God's magnificent creation.



We are registered *Sight Loss Friendly*, welcoming canine pets and service dogs each week. Our Animal Blessing and Christingle services are popular as easy first contact with church for many people. We are also part of the Eco Congregation Scotland movement caring for and making good use of the resources at our disposal.



We are members of Prestwick Council of Churches, working collaboratively on many shared ecumenical activities throughout the year at Christmas, Holy Week and Easter. We also share a joint chaplaincy at Prestwick Academy and have strong links with the local Air Cadets, who take part in our Remembrance Sunday Services. The



crafters at *Crafty noons* (one of our many groups) created poppies for this wonderful altar display for Remembrance Day which also featured artwork from our *NEXUS* group.

The people of St Ninian's are confident in the gospel and there are many opportunities to learn and grow together through Prayer and Bible Study groups, Advent, Lent and Alpha Courses either in-church or on Zoom.

***These are some of the comments made at our recent congregational meeting:***

**“St Ninian’s is like an oasis in the desert and a place where the extra ordinary is always welcome – who wouldn’t want to come?”**

**“I appreciate the efforts of lay members who work hard often behind the scenes to make sure that services and other events run smoothly.”**

**“It is also a place where I am encouraged to get involved, thus helping me to grow in my faith.”**



### 3. Our Worship, Music, Outreach

Our worship is varied and people enjoy the warmth and variety of services and the freedom of the participative, relaxed, charismatic style of worship and music, with a love of and respect for the 1982 Scottish Episcopal Liturgy (Revised 2022) and other Liturgies. This is enhanced by the opportunities provided by the lay worship and ministry teams, using the many gifts and talents available to us, enriching the lives of the individuals contributing, and the congregation at large. On special festivals such as Easter and Pentecost, the congregation have joined together in celebration with great expressions of joy, including dance and drama.



We are blessed to have a versatile worship space to maximise its use in our monthly Healing Service as well as recently accommodating the annual Diocesan Clergy Conference and annual Prayer Labyrinth during Holy Week.

We share pastoral care amongst us and there is a strong lay ministry spread across all aspects of serving Jesus here. Our Lay Team consists of two Pastoral Assistants, as well as several authorised

Worship Leaders and Eucharistic Assistants. The congregation are very active and assist regularly on a rota for Welcome, Readings, Intercessions, Prayers for Healing during the service, Music, IT / Tech, and Teas & Coffees.

We continue to 'Zoom' our services in a participatory way for those who cannot worship on-site and who feel as much part of the congregation beyond our walls as those within.

Numbers are not a concern. We do have around 42 people worshipping with us weekly in church with around 10 worshippers joining us on Zoom from Prestwick and further afield. The Communicants roll has 93 with 78 adherents. Most members are in the upper age range which mirrors the local demographic of Prestwick and surrounding villages. There are younger people on the periphery attached to members' families and children are always welcome and encouraged to be involved in weekly services.

There is coffee and chat time after services and regular Family Lunches with quizzes and light entertainment, providing opportunities for socialising with the congregation, friends and families and where recently our newly appointed Bishop Nick was a guest at our *Desert Island Disc* slot following the Confirmation and Animal Blessing services.





## Music

We use diverse sources of worship material from traditional hymns, modern contemporary, Taizé, Iona, world church and liturgical material from other traditions. We are ably accompanied by Heather Lennon our musician, either on the organ, installed *circa* 1948, or electronic piano providing versatility and access to a range of music styles. We are also blessed with musicians with guitars and percussion, and our worship is regularly enhanced by worship and spiritual songs from YouTube as well as contributions from the *Grace Heart & Voice* ladies choir.

## Outreach & Mission

Reaching out to the community around us, we have 15 different outreach groups and activities which benefit a lot of people. There are weekly activities for crafters *Crafty Noons*, singers *Grace Heart & Voice*, a *Drop-Inn Café* for coffee and chat, a monthly film night and a *NEXUS* group which meets twice a month for those seeking company and support. The hall is regularly used by a variety of groups including Speechmasters, Weight Watchers and Parent and Toddler groups.

Every week there are very popular walking groups for people with different abilities, including those less mobile. Our longest established walking group “Wednesday Walkers” which began in 1990, has covered thousands of miles. It is a great outreach to those with or without any church connections and one of the highlights was walking the Saint Cuthbert’s Way to Lindisfarne.



We also have a walking group on Thursdays *Walkabout-a-bit* for those who wish to walk for about a mile along the prom for their health. There’s always a cup of tea waiting in the hall for their return. Then there are the electric *Trishaws* where our friends from Queens and Berelands Care Homes and Dementia Friendly Prestwick enjoy a trip along Prestwick prom with church members Lesley and Chris, the “pilots” on “*Goggie and Zazoo*”.



For those who simply want company come along to our lively *NEXUS* group set up for those who face loneliness and lack social connection and enjoy taking part in a range of wellness activities for Body, Mind and Spirit. ***“I don’t go out of the house 24/7 unless I come to NEXUS. Today, I feel as if I have been on my holidays!”***



Our church members are involved and volunteer in many other local community groups and charities, e.g. Street Pastors, Foodbank. Many friendships are formed and the strong commitment to community-minded endeavour makes St Ninian’s welcoming and loving, ministering to the needs of each other and reaching out to those in need in our community.

#### **4. Summary of our Ideas/Aspirations for the Future**

We are a people open to constructive and fruitful change. There's a vibrancy about us that means we are not fazed by the unexpected and are willing to try new things. Here are some of our ideas/aspirations for the future:

- To extend more to the fringes of the communities around us to reach out to those who do not yet know the love of Jesus.
- We are interested in Natural Church Development, having recently completed the survey with the Diocesan Canon Missioner and would love our Rector to explore this further with us.
- There is a desire amongst us to make more community use of our outside space, to be more creative, imaginative and visible inside our church and hall and outside, e.g. a permanent labyrinth, a healing garden, community events, notices and banners.
- To have a wider vision of the worldwide church through national and international links, to enrich our faith experience, to reach out to a wider diverse population and to invite people to meet Jesus.

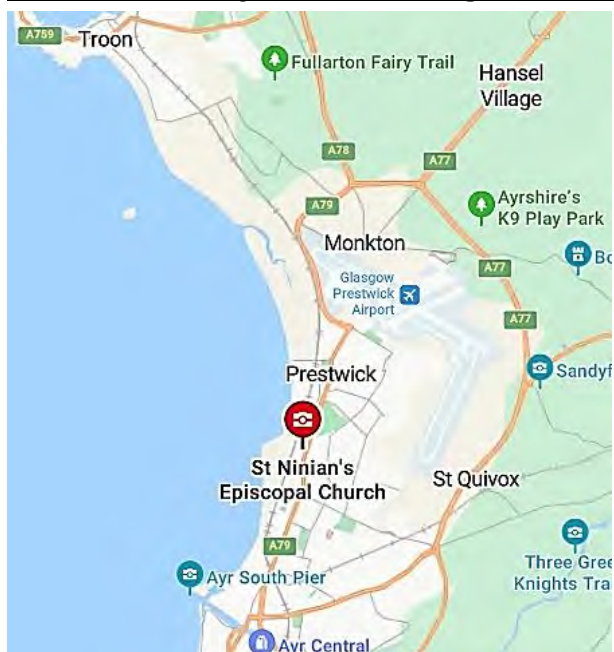
#### **5. Our Ideas for a Future Rector**

We need a Rector who is filled with the Holy Spirit, rooted in the Bible, to lead and help us as we ***walk together following Jesus***. Someone who reaches out with us to reflect the love of Jesus to individuals and to the community, particularly through the healing prayer ministry here, believing as we do that the Holy Spirit heals the broken-hearted, the broken-spirited and the broken-body.

We need a Rector who ...

- rejoices with us, laughs with us, prays with us and cries with us
- is adventurous to lead us with an open mind
- appreciates the joy and companionship animals bring to their human companions throughout their lives and who rejoices in the magnificence of the Father's creation
- commits to and nurtures pastoral care and healing ministry, seeing the gifts and talents in others, encouraging individuals at St Ninian's to blossom and be fully engaged in the lay ministry and life and service of the church
- acknowledges the established outreach groups already here and connects/visits regularly to support and strengthen them
- works with us imaginatively and creatively to make best use of our buildings, outside space and resources
- networks within the community and beyond, knows how church can call out on social injustice and issues people face, and speak truth to power.

## 6. Our Locality (Map, demographics)



Prestwick is a lively and attractive seaside town in South Ayrshire with a population including surrounding villages of just over 18,000. There is an attractive shopping area in the Main Street, with numerous eating places and small, thriving, individual retail businesses.

Prestwick has a retail park on the eastern boundary of the town which has larger High Street names. The nearest banks can be found in Ayr, approximately three miles south of Prestwick.

Prestwick is served well by road, bus and rail networks to other coastal towns: Troon to the north and Ayr to the south and there is a rail connection to Glasgow every half hour

throughout the day. Prestwick Airport is on the doorstep and there are ferry links in Troon, Ardrossan and Largs to the isles of Arran and Cumbrae. There are many sites of historical interest nearby including Robert Burns Museums, Culzean Castle, Dumfries House to name a few.

The town has many recreational and public facilities, including a newly refurbished library and swimming pool, cricket, tennis, bowling and sailing clubs, wild swimming, not one but three golf courses (one being the home of the Open Golf Championship) and walking groups, and much more. Prestwick has an attractive mostly sandy beach with a new children's playpark, a pleasant promenade with cycle path, as well as a thriving soft play facility, ice cream parlour and car parking and toilet facilities at the sea front which looks west towards the Isle of Arran, the Ailsa Craig and enjoys many lovely sunsets.

The area is home to Prestwick Academy and there is a shared Education Campus which includes the Prestwick North Early Years Centre, Glenburn Primary School and St. Ninian's Primary School, the local denominational primary. There are two more schools: Kingcase Primary and Heathfield Primary nearby and a number of other early years education centres.

Prestwick Community Centre is owned by South Ayrshire Council and is managed by an active Community Association. There are two GP surgeries and two pharmacies and the Biggart Hospital in Prestwick is the local hospital for the care and rehabilitation of the elderly. The University Hospital Ayr lies on the southern outskirts of Ayr. It is a district general hospital providing medical and surgical, inpatient day and outpatient care services and South Ayrshire Emergency Department.

People often retire to Prestwick and remain mostly active and seem to live longer (2-3 years above the South Ayrshire and Scotland averages). However, just over 37% of the population live in single occupancy households. As a church we recognise that since lockdown there is a growing number of people who remain less socially connected and isolated, putting pressure on local health and social care providers, who welcome the activities St Ninian's offers, many of which promote good health and wellbeing with a range of community-facing activities to suit a wide range of ages, outlooks and abilities.



## **7. Our Buildings**



St Ninian's was constructed 100 years ago on the most prominent site in Prestwick, adjacent to the ancient historical sites of *Bruces' Well* and *Lazar Hospital*. There are also public footpaths beside the hall, regularly used by families, walkers and cyclists on their way down Maryborough Road to the shore and popular Prestwick Esplanade. The church was consecrated in December 1926 and there are plans for celebrating this centenary milestone in our church history.

The buildings are a resource which we use as imaginatively as possible to engage with the surrounding local community and create new ways of doing church, e.g. opening the church every day throughout the summer as a space for quiet prayer and reflection and a Holy Week labyrinth. Because of its age and with limited means there are continuing efforts to keep the Church maintained.

Our halls are modern (built 1999) and are used by the church and community throughout the week. We have bi-annual clean up days, a gardening group, recycling volunteers, outside rangers who change the banners, notices and displays. We are mindful of our environmental responsibilities, Zero Waste and the SEC Net Zero Action Plan. We recently were approached by a UK company which has now installed several special planters around the church hall in an initiative to *Prevent Prestwick Flooding*.

Our website and a brief History of St Ninian's: [www.stniniansprestwick.org.uk](http://www.stniniansprestwick.org.uk)  
Facebook: [www.facebook.com/stnininianseiscopalprestwick/](https://www.facebook.com/stnininianseiscopalprestwick/)

## **8. The Rectory**



The Rectory is an attractive modern 4-bedroom detached villa, bought in 2020, which sits in a quiet cul-de-sac in a popular residential area in Prestwick, a seven-minute drive or 25 minutes walk from the Church. There is a reception hallway, a through-lounge and dining room leading to a conservatory, a breakfasting kitchen, a toilet, a study and utility room on the ground level. The former integral garage was remodelled into the study 3 years ago off which is the utility. On the upper level there are 4 bedrooms, one ensuite and a family bathroom. There is a good sized well-maintained rear garden with a pond and a shed and a two-car driveway at the front.

## **9. Governance, Vestry and Finance**

We have a full Vestry: Dr Liz Marsden (Lay Representative), Dr Richard Pilley (Alternate Lay Representative), Angus Denham (Treasurer), Elaine Smith (Secretary), Elizabeth Pugh (Property Convener), Vestry members: Etain Hagart-Alexander, James Anderson, Heather Lennon, Alison McDonald, Jackie McNeil and Phil White.

The Vestry meets every six to eight weeks and has responsibility to ensure the effective governance and maintenance of the church and buildings, and the life and purpose of the congregation. The Property Convener regularly reports to the Vestry as does the Protection Co-ordinator, Alastair Colquhoun, reporting on Safeguarding updates.

Vestry members regularly engage with the congregation through weekly email bulletins, consultation meetings and individual conversations as well as the website and Facebook page. Church members can make a request for an issue to be included on the Vestry meeting agenda. Our AGM is held in November after the main service.

### **Finance**

The annual financial statement for the year ending 30 June 2025 was presented at our November 2025 AGM along with our Annual Report and is available on request and on the OSCR website (the Scottish Charity Regulator). The income for the year saw a slight rise in regular giving and Gift Aid compared to the previous year, and reflects a Stewardship Campaign, additional donors and a Diocesan Grant for essential Church repairs. After expenses for the same period, there was a modest surplus which included restricted funding from the Scottish Government Mental Health & Wellbeing Chatty Spaces Grant Fund for *NEXUS*, carried forward to continue its activities to March 2026. Further two-year funding has been secured to continue *NEXUS* to March 2028. There is a modest budget kept aside for emergency building repairs.

St Ninian's Prestwick is a Registered Scottish Charity OSCR No: SC001486.

[www.oscr.org.uk/about-charities/search-the-register/charity-details?number=sc001486](http://www.oscr.org.uk/about-charities/search-the-register/charity-details?number=sc001486)

The 100-year history of our church community is evidence that God continues to provide. We thrive best when we lean on Him and the Holy Spirit, and at times when facing financial constraints, we are a community which works together and endeavours to be steadfast, rich in hope, faith, joy, freedom and talents.

## **10. Support for Ministry**

Our church is responsible for paying the stipend, pension and expenses, as well as providing housing for our Rector.

The Vestry is committed to supporting the work and personal development of our Rector and to the life and work of the church as a whole.

We consider the personal development of our Rector to be very important and fully support this through financing study days, courses, and retreats, drawing on, as appropriate, any Diocesan ministerial support grants and resources.

Priests are also supported by local networks of Episcopal clergy within the Diocese and Ayrshire Regional Council of Episcopal Churches. In addition, there is also an annual conference for clergy from across the Diocese.



## **11. How to Apply**

Our prayer is that the right person will feel called to serve at St Ninian's Prestwick. If you think that person is you, the application form and video is available from: <https://www.stniniansprestwick.org.uk>

The closing date and first round of interviews conducted on Zoom are listed below or are as published in the *Church Times*.

Applicants must be an ordained member of the Anglican Communion, the Porvoo Communion, or a denomination in full communion with the Scottish Episcopal Church (listed in Schedule One of Canon Fifteen in the [Code of Canons](#), page 63).

**To apply for this position, you must have the legal right to live and work in the UK.**

**The Application Form is to be found on our website**  
<https://www.stniniansprestwick.org.uk>

**Closing Date: 5pm Friday 23rd October 2026**  
**First Zoom interviews: w/c 9th November 2026**

**Completed applications are to be sent by the closing date above**  
**to the Rural Dean:**

[ruraldean@glasgow.anglican.org](mailto:ruraldean@glasgow.anglican.org)

Informal conversations are warmly welcomed:

Rev Canon Dr Elizabeth Breakey

Rural Dean: 07506 344747

[ruraldean@glasgow.anglican.org](mailto:ruraldean@glasgow.anglican.org)

or Bishop Nicholas Bundock: [bishop@glasgow.anglican.org](mailto:bishop@glasgow.anglican.org)

The successful candidate offered the post will be required to sign a paper copy of their application in due course. They will also be required to complete a Disclosure Scotland check form for the Protection of Vulnerable Groups.

Following the formal interviews by Zoom, our preferred candidate will be invited for an extended visit to the Charge to meet the Vestry, explore the Church and view the house. The invitation includes their immediate household members, with all costs being met by the Vestry.

## **12. Web Links to wider SEC & Anglican Communion**

Below are some links to useful websites for further information about St Ninian's Prestwick and the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Diocesan website <https://www.glasgow.anglican.org>

Provincial website <https://www.scotland.anglican.org>

SEC Code of Canons <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/our-organisation/code-of-canons/>

Clergy Terms of Service <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/resource/clergy-resources/>

Liturgies of the SEC <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/spirituality/liturgies/>

Net Zero 2030 <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/new-net-zero-toolkit-and-net-zero-cards/>

*Inspires* Online – Monthly SEC Magazine  
<https://www.scotland.anglican.org/news/inspires-newsletter/>

Daily Prayer in the SEC <https://www.scotland.anglican.org/spirituality/daily-offices/>

A history of the SEC can be found briefly in “A Church for Scotland – The Story of the Scottish Episcopal Church” by Gerald Stranraer-Mull

[www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/a-church-for-scotland.pdf](http://www.scotland.anglican.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/a-church-for-scotland.pdf)