



Parish Profile 2024



Where to find us:

 Elizabeth Drive, Bathgate, EH48 1JB

 <https://www.boghallchurch.org.uk/>

 **Boghall Parish Church**

Boghall Parish Church is a 5 Year Reviewable Charge which has agreed to Depart from the Church of Scotland's traditional view on Same-Sex Marriages and Civil Partnerships.

Interim Moderator

Rev. Hanneke Janse van Vuren - hjansevanvuren@churchofscotland.org.uk or 07399967211

Note to the Future Minister

With this Parish Profile, we hope to show what life and ministry is like in Boghall. We try to be a community focussed, forward looking, inclusive and welcoming church. We seek a new minister to help guide us to grow in faith and share God's love in our community. We, the church family, offer you our unconditional commitment, friendship, love and support Could you be the one to take on the challenge to join us in shaping our future?

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1. The Parish Information

Boghall Parish Church Bathgate, UK is a registered Scottish Charity (SC001881)

Minister Vacant

Session Clerk (Joint)

Mr. Robert Gemmell - 01506 654837 or rbgemmell@googlemail.com

Session Clerk (Joint)

Mr. Murray McLauchlan - 07909 332646 or murray@hotmail.co.uk

Church Officer

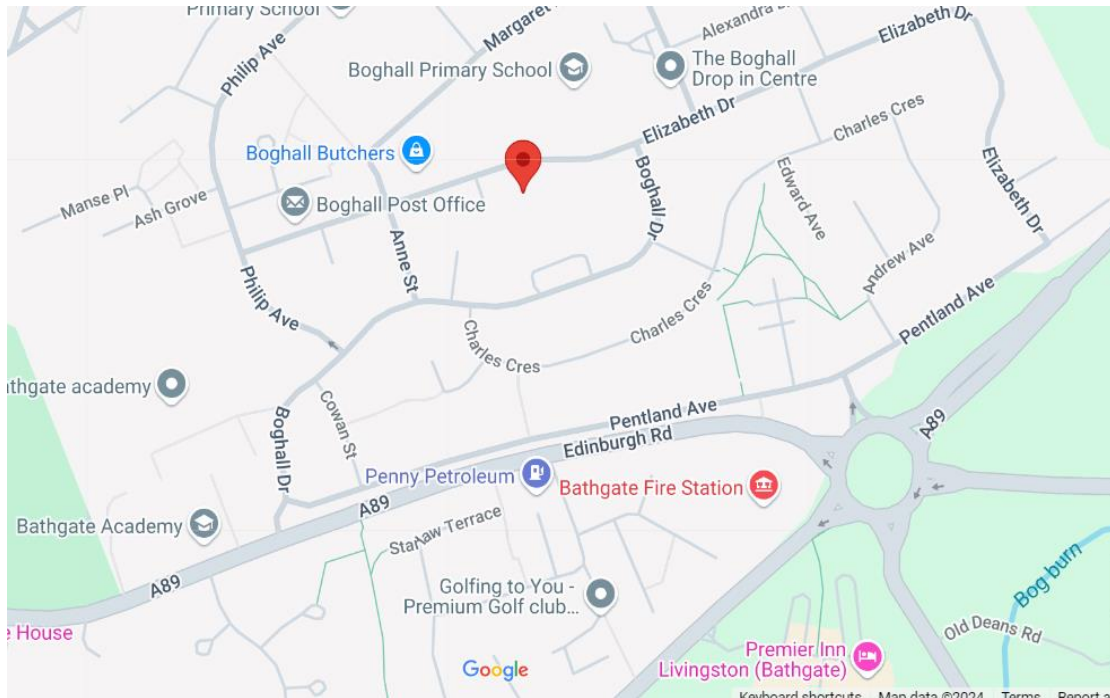
Mr. George Paterson - 07544 805562

Clerk to the Nominating Committee

Islay McLauchlan - islaymclauchlan2@gmail.com

Convenor of the Nominating Committee

Marie Williams- knighybug@yahoo.co.uk



Geographical and Historical Information

Located in Bathgate, West Lothian, the Parish of Bathgate: Bognall is situated on the east side of the town. Bathgate itself, with a population of around 24000, is situated midway between Edinburgh and Glasgow and has good road connections with M8 motorway (Junction 3A), as well as excellent direct rail links to both Edinburgh and Glasgow.

Although there has been a place of worship in the parish since the 12th Century, **Bognall church was established** in 1960 when Rev Tom Milroy was inducted as its first minister. Services took place in the hall until the church building was completed in 1965 with its distinctive hyperbolic/parabolic roof, herring bone pews and distinctive blue and yellow stained-glass windows in a Mondrian design.

Since the ministry of Rev Tom Milroy, the church has been served faithfully by:

Rev. John McLean (1971 – 2004),

Rev. Dennis Rose (2005 – 2010) and

Rev. Chris Galbraith (2012 -2022)

The **parish** consists of a mixture of council and private housing dating back to the late 1950's comprising approx. 2000 homes with a population of approx. 5000 people. Within its boundary the parish has the local secondary school, Bathgate Academy, with its excellent community and sports facilities. There are also Boghall Primary School, St Columba's Roman Catholic Primary School, the Drop-In Community Centre, sheltered housing complex (Norvell Lodge), Post Office, as well as a few shops. Bordering the west side of the parish is Kirkton Park which incorporates a children's play area, tennis courts and bowling green.

Boghall Parish Church is a church located within a defined community, but it is also a Community Church serving a community that is defined by love rather than any other characteristic.

As the population and society in general, has changed, and Boghall Parish Church has responded by offering its resources to the local community. The buildings, the grounds but, most importantly, the kind hearts and love of the congregation are all dedicated to supporting Boghall Primary School, Bathgate Academy, St Columba's Primary School, the Drop-In Centre and individual homes and all individual souls with the love of Jesus Christ.

During Covid we have had to change how we physically protect people and this included elders doing garden gate visits, phone calls and services being broadcast on Facebook and YouTube as well as being burned on DVD and hand delivered to homes of vulnerable adults of all ages.

In recent times we have welcomed new people to the Church from other churches and from other countries. We have also had a change of direction following a request from 2 members of the congregation to allow a single sex marriage ceremony.

This led to a Kirk Session discussion and a subsequent congregational meeting and vote to "depart from the tradition of Church of Scotland" and approve the permission of single sex marriages within the church. The discussion was positive and supportive of the motion and was passed unanimously by the congregation present for the vote.

This reflects a Church with traditions; with ambitions and with a capacity to grow in the love of God.

2. Presbytery Plan

Boghall Parish Church has taken part in discussions with the newly united Bathgate Parish Church (formerly St John's Bathgate and Bathgate High Church) and have agreed to form a Parish Grouping. The Parish Grouping states that Boghall and Bathgate will share resources to serve the whole of Bathgate and that the Minister of Boghall will share a percentage of their time with Bathgate Parish Church. Boghall Parish Church is aware of how that might look in the future with closer working relationships and a possible ministry team in which both ministers will serve Bathgate as a whole. This approach is good for our parishioners developing a sense of co-operation and a desire to serve the wider Parish of Bathgate.

There is still some way to go with this vision, but Boghall Parish Church is and has always been, a church with arms opened wide. Boghall Parish Church has always supported (enthusiastically) other (local) church events within Church of Scotland and other denominations. Our attendance at Bathgate Churches Together is, consistently, very high and our reputation says that Boghall Parish Church supports; joins in with and makes welcome, other churches.

3. Boghall Parish Church statistics

- Membership Numbers and Leadership Description

Congregation		BATHGATE BOGHALL		020137	
Year		2023			
I Members on Communion Roll			IV Involved in Life of Congregation		
1. Total No of communicants last year			182	Children 17 and Under	56
2. No of communicants admitted during current year				18+ and not on Communion Roll	
By Profession	1			Children receiving Communion	
By Certificate					
By Restoration or Res					
Joining a Union					
3. No of communicants removed from Roll in current year				V Office Bearers	
By Death	4			Elders	Male: 8, Female: 13
By Certificate				Deacons	
Otherwise	1			Managers	
To Union				Members of Cong Board	1
Total No last year	182	Total No this year	178	VI Baptisms	
II No of Members removed to another district					Total Baptisms
III No of Persons on Supplementary Roll					Adults
					No of Thanksgiving & Blessing Children
					VII Weddings and Funerals
					Weddings
					0
					Funerals
					5

- What you'll see in Church on a Sunday Morning

Additional Information

Age range of worshippers (enter number in each range):

Under 16	0
16 - 24	4
25 - 44	3
45 - 64	15
65 - 84	37
85 and over	17

In the boxes above, enter either numbers or percentages of a recent count of worshippers

Usual number of Worshippers: 65

In the last year, has your congregation been involved with (enter X against any that apply):

School chaplaincy	X
Youth work	X
Community development in the parish	X
International Links	X
Environmental issues	X
Political issues	X
Health/addiction issues	X
Tackling economic inequality	X
Food poverty	X

Organisations who use Boghall Parish Church on a regular basis

Tae Kwon Do (twice a week) 20 plus young people aged 4-25

Girl's Brigade (weekly) 40 plus young people aged 5-18

Gamblers Anonymous (weekly) 60 plus people aged 18-75

Friendship Club (weekly term-time) 18 plus people aged 9-90

Artlink Edinburgh (2-3 times weekly) 30-50 people aged 15-90

WLC education dept (weekly) term time

Asylum Seekers support group (Monthly)

WLCAN West Lothian Climate Action Network (Biannually)

Boghall Primary School (weekly)

4. Worship - Diane Samuel is the elder who convenes the worship group.



In the time that Boghall Parish Church has existed so far, we have had 4 Ministers in total. Every one of them has shaped and changed Boghall Parish Church in some way or another during their time of service in Boghall. One minister has built foundations that run deep and long and continues to shape Boghall Parish Church today, in a time of vacancy.

John McLean described his role as a "Teaching Elder" and as such he wanted to identify the right skills for each task in Boghall Parish Church's Mission and wanted to use the whole pool of Kirk Session and congregation as well as clergy. In this way, he taught Boghall Parish Church that we are **all** required to bring our resources of talent, money and time. One great advantage of this approach has seen Boghall Parish Church working with a pulpit supply list of preachers and, when, as sometimes happens, no one

is available, we look within our own resources to ensure worship is still delivered in a way that is pleasing to God.

Each pulpit supply minister is supported by a team that will provide people to read scripture, people to pray and a welcome team that will ensure the offering is seen to at the right time. All of this will be driven by PowerPoint presentations delivered and created by elders and the worship team.

This is a strength to be envied in any church and it serves as legacy from all our previous ministers but from John McLean in particular. This ability to be almost self-sufficient as a worshipping congregation has made Boghall Parish Church the welcoming, confident, humble, Community Church it is today.

Currently without a Minister, we are reliant on a pulpit supply programme with a cast of about 10 ministers with whom we have established a real relationship. Many of the ministers are retired or have other jobs within the church. They will know they are assured of a great welcome and a great deal of support from our worship team.

We have used PowerPoint to display (on an 80" TV) illustrations, videos or bible readings as well as Lyrics from CH4 and make the Sermon accessible to those with hearing or sight issues.

We broadcast and stream most services (except those with young people) on Facebook and as such have had people join our services across the UK and beyond. Our use of Facebook is (pretty much) daily with messages reporting events and activities as well as short homilies and bible quotations.

Music is supplied by Katie Wylie, a wonderful music teacher who can sight read any song supplied by the minister without notice. Her talent is particularly beneficial during our regular Cafe Church services. We regularly hold Cafe Services in the Church Hall (as opposed to the Sanctuary) where tables (10 to 15) of 5/6 people will hear one of the groups (E.G. Outreach, Pastoral Care, Worship, Safeguarding or Fabric) take the service and employ our fabulous Juke Box hymns approach. This is simply the opportunity for the congregation to identify a favourite song and Katie will play it instantly on piano or organ to order. Services are held on Sunday morning from 10.30 am and are open to everyone and anyone. The congregation very much, enjoy, the informality of the café church setting

Boghall Primary School hold services 4 times a year; Christmas, Easter, Harvest and Remembrance Day. The children are encouraged to think of the church as their own personal church and are made to feel very welcome. They love coming into the building and P6/7 lead a *friendship* cafe on a Wednesday serving tea, coffee and biscuits (and chat) to residents of Boghall. Christmas and Easter allow us an opportunity to share worship with Bathgate Parish Church, our new sister congregation. We also share worship with a long-established Christmas service with choirs from both primary schools, GB and other organisations taking part.

To support our desire to follow the 5 Marks of Mission we have created a special blessing for use at the end of services:

The Boghall Blessing

As we leave this place, we will tell the world about our loving God and teach the world how Jesus died that we might live; we will ask for the love and grace to tend to our neighbours, near and far. We will ask for the heart to treasure your creation and the courage to transform our world with justice and joy.

Abide with us, dear Lord, in mind and body, in heart and soul.

5. Pastoral Care – Kathy Dunleavy is the Elder who convenes the Pastoral Care Team

Driven by the 5 marks of mission (Tend and Treasure)

Linking in with elder's districts, Kirk Session shares an overview of the congregation, members and associates alike. In this way we can support them spiritually and socially through visits, flowers, cards, calls and any other appropriate ways of encouragement.

The church offers social support in many ways: House group (Tuesdays) Friendship Café (Boghall Primary School pupils in the church hall offering tea and coffee and chat).

An invitation to have lunch after Sunday worship at a local hotel is also offered regularly throughout the year.

The international Prayer Shawl Ministry offers comfort and prayer to those in need, whether they be congregation or not.

*"Shawls ... made for centuries universal and embracing,
symbolic of an inclusive, unconditionally loving, God.
They wrap, enfold, comfort, cover, give solace,
mother, hug, shelter and beautify.
Those who have received these shawls have been
uplifted and affirmed, as if given wings to
fly above their troubles..."*

Written in 1998 by: Janet Severi Bristow Copyright ©2023

Prayer shawls are knitted and delivered by members of the congregation/elders with a comforting card.

Pastoral care is a standing item at Kirk Session meetings but is not detailed in the minutes except for the title "News of the Family" to protect the privacy of individuals.

6. Christian Education – Elders Mark and Eleanor Sterrick take the lead on Education

We are a church that embraces young people's engagement. Our thriving Girls' Brigade with over 40 girls has won many spiritual Girls' Brigade competitions. The girls lead worship annually and attend all-age worship including our Toy Service (toys donated are distributed to local children), Harvest Service and the King's coronation celebrations.

Our monthly Youth Group welcomes P7 upwards for a time to chill and chat, with games and crafts alongside pizza nights. The adult House Group (10-16 Members) provides an informal and relaxed setting for worship and the discussion of a variety of everyday issues. Guided by the Holy Spirit, scripture, prayer, the 5 Marks of Mission and each other's experiences, the Group emphasises the nurturing of faith, mutual support and the expression of God's love for all. All are welcome.

Schools (Teach, Tell, Tend and Treasure)

Working directly with the primary School (Boghall Primary School) and Bathgate academy offering support for pupils, teachers and parents, we have a team of Christine Byron, Beth Lockhart and Eleanor Sterrick. The pupils of Boghall Primary School love their church and love to lead services at special times such as Harvest, Christmas, Easter and Remembrance. Boghall Primary School pupils love to work together inter-generationally e.g. the Friendship Cafe led by p6/7 pupils that encourages basic catering and social skills.

We also offer a listening service to support the more complex needs of teenagers at the Academy.

7. Ecumenical and Interfaith Context – Margaret Samuel is the Elder who attends Bathgate Churches Together Meetings

There are 5 other churches in Bathgate:

1. Bathgate Parish Church of Scotland (our partners in the Presbytery Parish Grouping),
2. St Columba's Scottish Episcopal Church
3. EU United Reform Church,
4. St Mary's and St Columba's Roman Catholic Church
5. Centrepont (an American based Evangelical Church).

At present, there is no Ministers' Fellowship, which has existed in the past.

Boghall Parish Church is one of the founder members of **Bathgate Churches Together** which is formed from lay members of the member churches. Over the years many joint worship opportunities and other joint activities have taken (and still take) place.

These include Lent Study Groups, joint services in different churches during Advent and Christmas, Holy Week, Christian Aid Week and Prayers for Christian Unity week. World Day of Prayer services also rotate around the participating Bathgate churches. Joint Fundraising events for Christian Aid are held including a stall at the local market.

For the moment, the Roman Catholic Church has withdrawn from the group.

Centrepont are in the process of moving into a town centre building (the former St David's Church) and we hope to invite them to join the group when they are ready.

Boghall Parish Church has a very strong link with the Bethany trust and some members volunteer with them to support the homeless with Christian care and love.

Some members also volunteer with the Street Pastors in Bathgate town centre, supporting revellers returning safely home over the weekend nights. Boghall Parish Church mentions both organisations regularly in their prayers.

We also have interfaith links with the local Mosque and with local Asylum seekers through SFIC, Scottish Faith in the Community.

Boghall Parish Church is the host for all the asylum seeker meetings providing secretarial support and hospitality to attending organisations such as SFIC, Scottish Refugee Council, West Lothian Council, Bathgate Mosque, Scottish Episcopal Church Boghall Drop-In Centre, West Lothian College and many more.

Safeguarding (Tend)

We have recently changed our safeguarding team to be led by Lynn Sutherland and, as she is learning the skills required in her new role, she is energising the Kirk Session and congregation that we might, as a church be seen to be taking the safety and nurturing of all vulnerable people, very seriously.

8. World Church – Ann Scott is the Elder responsible for the Outreach Team

Three of the five marks of mission include **Tend, Treasure and Transform** and these lead us as a church to look beyond our horizons to the wider world we live in. We have always had links to projects far and wide and have been a generous congregation during Christian Aid week and other celebrated causes.

Each year our Harvest service does a collection for Charities here in the UK and every 2nd year for Charities abroad on a rotating basis.

To date we have supported the following -

- **Water Aid**
- **EMMS**
- **MAFS**
- **Habitat for Humanity**
- **Tear fund**
- **Mulanje Mission Hospital**
- **Syrian and Turkey earthquake**
- **Ukraine** (we are committed to weekly singing of the Kyrie Eleison in support of the besieged people of Ukraine)

We played host to Dr Arie Glas (Director of Mulanje Hospital) who presented on the work of Mulanje Hospital in 2023

We also (annually) hold an HIV/Aids (Sundae Sunday) service, and we are Christian Aid supporters too. We sponsor a child yearly within **Dr Graham's home in Kalimpong.**

Toilet twinning with Cambodia, the Philippines, Ivory Coast and Bangladesh.

Annual Blythswood Shoebox appeal

We have Asylum seekers based in a hotel in Bathgate, and we have been very supportive of a local group including local councillors to make their stay here as comfortable as possible. This has led to more formal relations with Trustees within the Mosque in Bathgate.

9. Finance and stewardship – Current Treasurer is Janice Welsch (who will step down in 2025)

We are moved by the 5 marks of mission, especially Tend, Treasure and Transform. Our Treasurer updates the Kirk Session both digitally and in person each month on our church finances. Updates are also made to our Congregation through Sunday intimations, Newsletters and at our Annual Stated Meeting.

Our principal source of income is from bank Standing Orders, offering envelopes, cash in the Open Plate and Gift Aid; this amounted to £75,220 for 2023. Other income comes from fundraising, hall lets and Investment Income which amounted to £10,636. The surplus for 2023 was £9,236; the deficit for 2022 was £27,834. However, in 2022 Income Fund Units costing £34,990 were purchased with Church of Scotland Investors Trust. Our Giving to Grow Allocation for 2024 is £41,050 with a Vacancy Allowance of £11,196.

We support various charities throughout the year and in 2023 our Congregation donated a total of £3,160. We also sponsor a child at Dr Graham's Homes in Kalimpong, costing £1,500 annually, which provides full board and education.

We continue to make best use of all elements of Stewardship as we can – time, talents and money. The Church in Boghall would not function without the generous amount of time given by many people in the congregation but also in the Kirk Session. Likewise, their talents are essential in so many ways, both spiritual and practical.

10. Staffing

Boghall Parish Church employs very few staff, but we also have unpaid roles within the structure of the church. Paid roles: (all staff are paid at the national living wage rate)

Church Officer: George Paterson (treasure)

George has duties to include the role of Beadle and janitor. He operates as first point of contact for members of the public looking to hire rooms for parties, conferences, room hire, weddings and funerals. He is keeper of keys and calendars and welcomes first time and seasoned users of the buildings. He also liaises with organisations such as Girl's Brigade, Artlink Edinburgh, West Lothian Council, Bathgate Academy, Boghall Primary School and other community groups. He is crucial in our desire to serve the community.

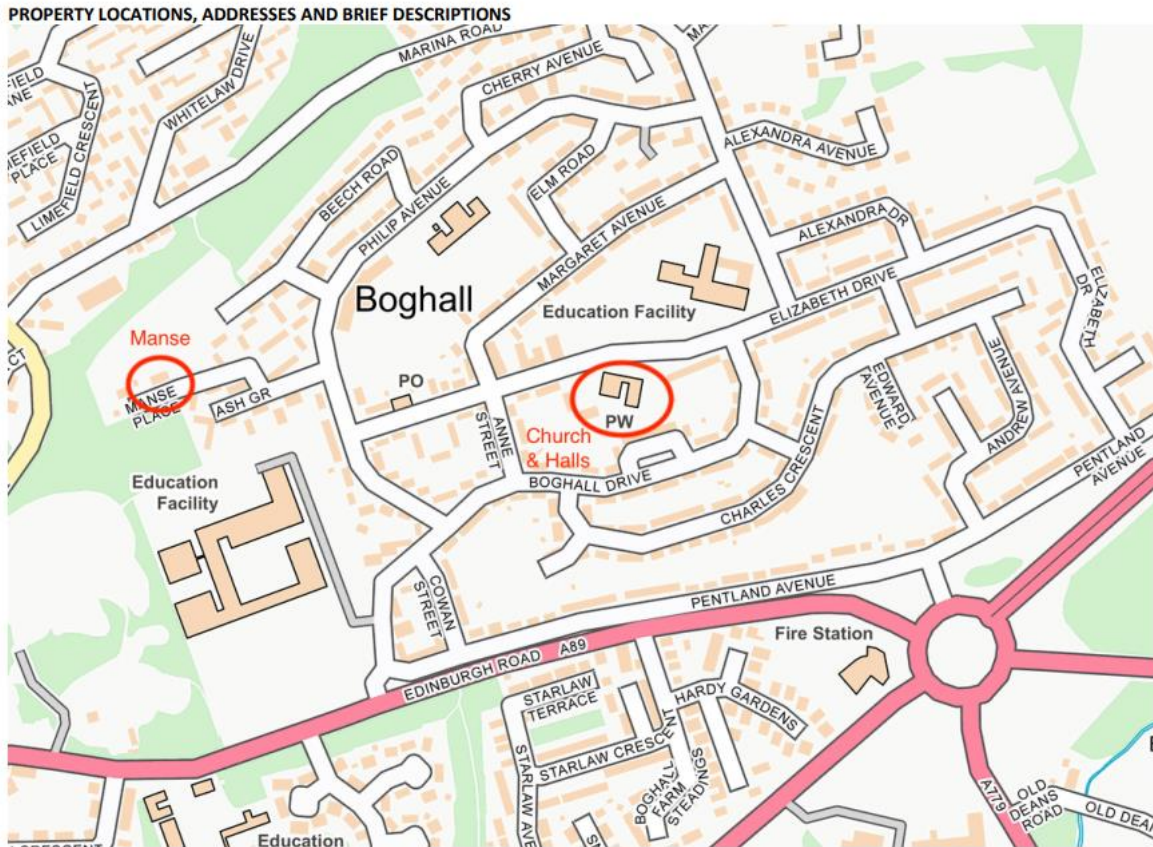
Cleaner: Fiona McCallum (treasure)

Fiona and her family have a long-established relationship with Boghall Parish Church. Fiona is fastidious and friendly, working with everyone who uses the church. Fiona has a wide experience of jobs including care work which makes her very skilled in knowing the importance of looking after the Church users in the context of Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Public Hygiene (Covid etc) and love.

Organist

Katie Wylie is a very talented music teacher who is self-employed but is dedicated in her support of Boghall Parish Church. Katie feels she is part of the Boghall Parish Church family.

11. Church, Manse and Halls – At the moment the Office of Property Convener is vacant



Address & Brief Description

Church & Halls	<p><u>Elizabeth Drive, Bathgate, EH48</u> A distinctive Modernist parish church with an unusual saddle-shaped roof. Built between 1963-65 for the Church of Scotland to the designs of Wheeler & Sproson. The double height sanctuary is kite-shaped on plan and is lit by a decorative clerestory of coloured glass panels. A glazed, L-plan entrance lobby, the Hall of Fellowship, connects the hall to the east.</p>
Manse	<p><u>1 Manse Place, Bathgate, EH48 1NJ</u> 1970s one and half storey dwelling with good accommodation set in a large garden a short distance from the church. The manse is approached by a short but very steep drive.</p>

b) EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Church	<p>Church and halls generally in reasonable condition. Flat roofs should be monitored regularly to check adequate drainage. Long term future and maintenance of the grounds should be considered. The exposed concrete structure of the sanctuary roof should be inspected by a structural engineer. There does not appear to be a fire detection and alarm system. This should be queried.</p>
The Manse	<p>A good property and generally in reasonable condition. Greatest expense will be repairing cracked window cills and some repointing to boundary walls.</p>

c) **GENERAL COMMENTS**

Listed Building & Conservation Area Status

Church	Listed Category C. Not in a Conservation Area
Halls	Not listed. Not in a Conservation Area
Manse	Not listed. Not in a Conservation Area

Disabled Access

Church	Yes (via Halls)
Halls	Yes
Manse	No

These descriptions come from a very recent (November 2023) Quinquennial report which can be made available on request. The reports detail some areas for attention for the trustees to spend time and money to rectify but it is important to say that there are no areas requiring urgent attention.

There will always be things to be maintained and improved in these buildings but, both, the hall and the church are in very good condition. The Manse is in “walk in condition” and it is currently occupied by a divinity student enjoying a placement in Livingston Old Church, who will vacate the Manse when the new Minister is called to Boghall. The gardens at the manse have been lovingly maintained and are a joy to be in.

As a community church, Boghall Parish Church is very fortunate to have so many rooms in the hall, that can be used to support creche and nursery activities as well as meetings and parties and conferences. The kitchen is well equipped and is used weekly to provide a lunch for asylum seekers who are volunteering with our partner agency, Artlink. Artlink are reworking the garden area to allow for raised beds for the community garden as well as a picnic area, a wild garden and a small orchard.

We offer up our resources, physical and human to support the needs of the primary schools, the Academy, the Girls Brigade, the Drop-In Centre, the families and residents of Boghall, whether they attend church or not.

12. Web Links for further information

OSCR Link - <https://www.oscr.org.uk/about-charities/search-the-register/charity-details?number=SC001881>

Boghall Drop-In Centre - <https://www.bdic.org.uk/>

Artlink - <https://www.artlinkedinburgh.co.uk/>

Boghall Primary School - <https://boghallprimary.westlothian.org.uk/>

Scottish faith in the community - <https://www.faithincommunity.scot/>

Taekwondo - https://uktc.co.uk/scotland/west-lothian/bathgate/uktc-taekwondo-bathgate-boghall-parish-church-hall_2839/

Gamblers anonymous - <https://ga-scotland.org/>

Girls Brigade - <https://girls-brigade-scotland.org.uk/>

West Lothian Climate Action Network - <https://sccan.scot/wlcan/about-us/>

13. Person description for potential candidates

The nominating committee has identified the following characteristics as desirable in prospective candidates:

- Energetic
- Community minded
- Inclusive
- Engaging
- Approachable
- Non-judgemental
- Compassionate and empathetic
- Able to reach out to people of all ages

14. Thank You

Thank you for taking the time to read through the story of Boghall Parish Church. If you would like to apply for the vacancy, please send a Curriculum Vitae to the Clerk of the Nominating Committee, Islay McLauchlan at islaimclauchlan2@gmail.com. The Closing Date for applications is Monday 11 November 2024 at 12noon.

Informal Inquiries may be directed to the Interim Moderator, Rev. Hanneke Janse van Vuren on hjansevanvuren@churchofscotland.org.uk or 07399967211.