

A circular graphic with a thin blue border and a gold inner ring. The background is a landscape with rolling green hills under a cloudy sky. A large, white, outlined cross is centered in the middle of the circle. The text "Largo Church" is at the top and "Welcome to our Parish" is at the bottom, both in a white, gothic-style font.

Largo Church

Welcome to
our Parish

WHO ARE WE?

Largo Parish Church came into being on 15 November 2017, a result of a union between the linked charges of Largo and Newburn and Largo St David's churches.

The Kirk Session of the congregation operates under the Unitary Constitution and is committed to working together to reach out to our community as effectively as possible.



First Service as Largo Parish Church: Jan 2018

WHERE ARE WE GOING?

We envisage developing a community hub at the Durham Hall, Lower Largo in the centre of the parish. Through this facility we hope to increase our contacts with the community, making use of social media for information. It is our vision to engage more with our local community which includes opportunities such as informal services where people can ask questions and explore their faith and doubts.



Durham Hall



Coffee after church in The Stables



Walking Group



Drop In – The Simpson Institute



World Day of Prayer: March 2017



Worship in the Durham Hall: Feb 2018



Mid Summer Service: June 2017

1. WORSHIP LIFE

The Worship style in the Largo Parish Church is traditional and relatively formal.

All Services are held in Largo Parish Church, apart from the last Sunday in the month when the Durham Hall is used, offering the opportunity to try a more modern and relaxed approach to worship. All services are at 10.30am



Service of Celebration:
St Davids Jan 2018

Communion is celebrated four times a year, though it has been held at other significant times throughout the year. On Easter Sunday, an early morning service is held on the beach, attracting visitors and dogs! At Pentecost, along with the Salvation Army who have led the service on Lundin Links Common. At midsummer an open-air evening service is held at the ruins of Newburn Church.

Cluster services are held at Advent/Christmas and Easter where we can learn from each other and make new friends. A printed order of service is issued every Sunday with information on forthcoming events. Recording of services: The production of CDs and their distribution to housebound members is important for the housebound to retain a link with their church and Christian faith.



Largo Parish Church Choir

The music is provided by our regular organist or deputy. Largo Sound Praise Band takes its place in less formal worship. With the formation of a Worship Team, more and more member participation is involved. We welcome all ages.



Largo Sound



Mid Summer Service: June 2017



Recording Services

2. PASTORAL CARE

What do we think pastoral care is? We regard it as caring for those in the congregation and parish. As individuals within a congregation we all have a role in pastoral care, reaching out to the housebound and those requiring some support at difficult times. The group meets to plan how to operate and provide a consistent service in the parish, and it is acknowledged that we be proactive in providing that pastoral care for the families of the parish.



The Elders Conference: Jan 2018

3. CHRISTIAN AND SPIRITUAL EDUCATION

For Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals the minister can be contacted directly. Church members are enthusiastic about exploring how to reach out to younger people and we are now in the process of developing our Children and Families Ministry. The numbers attending the girls' uniformed organisations has reduced, but attend special services e.g. Annual Remembrance, Christmas Gift Service and Mothering Sunday, and the turnout reflects the downturn in membership.

Seasonal Bible Study Groups: Lenten Bible Studies have been held annually for many years, involving both congregations, and led by members. There has been discussion about trying to expand this format of study.

Prayer Service: This venture, meets on a monthly basis and is led by a church member.

The Guild: The Guild meets in the Durham Hall, fortnightly, during the winter months. There is a seasonal programme of activities and speakers. The Guild also runs a series of several coffee mornings in the summer. Held in the Durham Hall, these are well attended by the local community and summer visitors.



Order of St John: Dec 2017



Open Door

Adults in the congregation have been involved in the Weaving Worship courses (a worship leading course run by Presbytery) and Lenten Bible Studies. We would like to see more courses on offer and an increase in the numbers attending. We would also like to develop systematic follow up with families after baptisms, weddings and funerals. (Statistics: On average, approximately 80 – 100 attend Sunday worship. In the last five years, baptisms 30. In the last year, weddings 5 and funerals 13). An All Souls Service, for those who have been bereaved in the recent past, has been held previously, and we would like to give consideration to this becoming a regular event.



Open Door

4. ORGANISATIONS: THOSE WHICH ARE PART OF THE CHURCH AND THOSE ASSOCIATED WITH IT

Choir: The choir provides a lead to singing at services and in learning new hymns. It also contributes at special services. The choir operates under the guidance of the church organist who hopes that in future hymn singing will reflect a broader range of choice and variety.

Largo Sound: This small music group meet weekly and plays a variety of instruments. They play a more contemporary repertoire at Sunday Services and various special events. They are currently involved in the monthly services being held in the Durham Hall.

Rainbows, Brownies and Guides: These meet in the Durham Hall on separate evenings during term time.

Parents and Tots: This informal group meets weekly in the Durham Hall and the Stables.

Knitting Group: This group meets monthly in the Stables, and the group supports a variety of charities. Attendees also support the Prayer Shawl Ministry.

Open Door: This is run weekly, on Wednesday mornings and afternoons, throughout the winter, in the Durham Hall, providing refreshments and fellowship.

Drop In: This is run by Pastoral Care, on Thursday mornings throughout the year, at the Simpson Institute, also providing refreshments and fellowship.

Flower Arranging: Classes are held monthly in the Stables.

The Walking Group: Monthly walks, during most of the year, are arranged and led by a volunteer walk leader. Walks to suit various abilities are undertaken. As well as promoting health, fitness and wellbeing, the participation of members of our own and other congregations, plus members of the community also offers opportunities for fellowship.

The Durham Hall is also used by groups not associated with the church; weekly meetings of Largo Bridge Club. It is occasionally used for Community Council meetings and regularly for local councillor surgeries.

The Stables is also used by groups not associated with the church; Mums and Tots, country dancing and two sewing classes meet weekly. Community Council meetings take place occasionally. Largo Cricket Club uses the facilities regularly at weekends and occasionally during the week during the season. (See Church website www.largochurches.org.uk)



The Open Door – in the Durham Hall



Floral Art



Knitting Group



Knitting sent to the Ann Gloag Foundation

5. WEB LINKS AND OTHER MEANS OF COMMUNICATING INFORMATION ABOUT THE CHURCH

In the current climate of ever developing forms of communication, we recognise the need to embrace these and ensure we are visible in the community. We have a Communications Officer and a volunteer to post information on the church website. Development of the website is a work in progress. Regular contributions by a minister are regarded as an integral feature of reaching out to the community.

www.largochurches.org.uk

A church group Facebook page (Largo Parish Church) has been created to share information and reach out to the community. A Community Facebook page is also used to share information about the church's activities and there is a will to expand this to extend our outreach. This is regarded as an opportune time to develop a welcome pack for new residents and those expressing an interest in the activities of Largo Parish Church.

6. CHURCH AND HALLS

The Church: Largo Parish Church is located in Upper Largo. There is some evidence that there has been a church building on the site since the ninth century. Recent extensive restoration work which has been undertaken will secure the building for generations to come. Further details of the history of the church and the recent work, complete with photographs and a video recorded by drone, are available on the church website: www.largochurches.org.uk

The Stables: This church hall is located across from the church, providing good parking access, flexible meeting space, toilets and a kitchen for the provision of light refreshments.

The Durham Hall: This is located in Durham Wynd, Lower Largo. It was originally built as a school in the 1890s. It was acquired by Largo St David's in the 1950s, to be utilised as the church hall. Accommodation comprises large hall, small hall, meeting room, storage space, toilets and kitchen and car park. A major redevelopment and refurbishment is now envisioned to create a joint place of worship and community hub with modern facilities.



Website



Facebook



Largo Church Restoration 2017



The Stables



The Durham Hall

7. STEWARDSHIP

The Kirk Session feels strongly that 'Stewardship' and 'Finance' should be regarded as separate entities. Stewardship includes making the most effective use of our assets whether they be buildings or funding and giving of our talents and time as well as money. Our understanding is that if Christian Stewardship and Discipleship are comprehensively addressed, through a strategic approach, then gratitude through finance will follow.

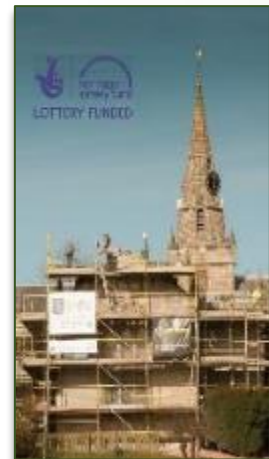
A meeting with the Church of Scotland Stewardship Consultant generated numerous ideas about mounting a Stewardship Campaign. At present a Stewardship Convener is being sought with a view to establishing a Stewardship Team. Terms of reference for this group have been developed.

8. EAST NEUK GATEWAY CLUSTER GROUP

The St Andrews Presbytery introduced a new model of ministry based on six Clusters as part of its Presbytery Plan, to encourage collaborative working across parish boundaries. The Churches in the East Neuk Gateway Cluster Group are: East Neuk Trinity linked with St Monans, Largoward and Largo Parish Church.

The Cluster has been in operation for four years during which time a number of joint services and other activities have been organised. Over the past three years Holy Week Services have been held each evening on a rotational basis with members from each congregation leading worship. As a result, fellowship and friendships have developed.

The Advent Service of Light is led by the Cluster Co-ordinating Group and further events are planned as we work together. A newsletter is used to advise congregations of the activities. Those offered to date have attracted over 100 people and the collections made have been used to support the Christian Aid Christmas Appeal for the Refugees (2016), Feed the Hungry (2017) and Be a Peacemaker (2018). Other Cluster wide events such as 'Walk and Feast' have been organised and have been well attended.



Largo Church Restoration



Stained Glass Window Restoration 2017



East Neuk West Cluster

9. WORLD CHURCH

Largo Parish Church supports a range of activities of a global nature:

Christian Aid: In the past an annual door-to-door collection for Christian Aid was undertaken. More recently this has been replaced by one-off events, such as a Soup Lunch, Coffee Morning, Quizzes and Carwash.

New Destiny: Christian Outdoor Adventure Centre, Brazil: This Centre was established and continues to be run by Morven Clark, whose parents are members of Largo Parish Church. It has been supported by the congregation through prayer and financial assistance.

The Centre offers deprived children and young people the opportunity to escape from their lives of violence and drug abuse. Each week groups visit the Centre and learn that they are valued and loved, and that God is offering them a new Destiny. www.ndaventura.org

World Day of Prayer: A WDP Service takes place in Largo each year.

Blythswood Christmas Shoebox Appeal: We collect boxes from the area annually.

Emergency Appeals: We try to support any world crisis such as Build a House Appeal, after the devastating earthquake in Nepal.



Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal



Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

10. OTHER ECUMENICAL OUTREACH PROJECTS AND EMERGENCY APPEALS

The East Neuk Foodbank: Largo Parish Church supports the East Neuk foodbank with donations collected on Sundays and at Harvest. These are delivered by volunteers.

Levenmouth Homestart: is supported by food donations at Harvest and the donations given at the Christmas Gift Service.



Weekly Food Bank deliveries

11. COMMUNITY PROFILE

Community and Community Facilities

The bounds of Largo Parish Church embrace a rural community comprising three coastal villages (Upper Largo, Lower Largo, and Lundin Links), hamlets and farms.

(See: Statistics for Mission:

http://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/resources/statistics_for_mission/parish_profiles/261588.pdf)

There are two village primary schools, which are located in Lundin Links and Upper Largo. Largo Parish is in the catchment area of the Waid Academy which most children of secondary school age attend. Historically ministers have visited the schools regularly. Rainbows, Brownies and Guides all meet in the Durham Hall, a Largo Parish Church facility in Lower Largo. Cubs and Scouts meet in Leven.

The Montrave Hall in Lundin Links and Simpson Institute in Upper Largo are used by a variety of groups e.g. drama group, exercise classes, flower and art exhibitions and community choir. The minister is a trustee of both these community facilities. Lundin Links has a sports centre with tennis courts and there is a bowling club. There is a championship golf course plus the oldest ladies' golf course in the world, both situated in Lundin Links. A sailing club is based in Lower Largo. There is a sports centre and swimming pool in Leven.

The library in Lundin Links, now run by volunteers, also acts as a community hub. Homelands, based in Lundin Links, is an MS Society resource, with holiday accommodation. It offers classes and a café, both open to the public. There is one care home in Lundin Links and several more, outwith the parish, but only a few miles away. Over the years worship at the local care home has been led on a monthly basis by the minister and members of the congregation.

There is a small cluster of shops in Lundin Links, Upper and Lower Largo. More comprehensive facilities are available in Leven, St Andrews, Cupar and Kirkcaldy. Bus services provide links along the East Neuk coast and to St Andrews, Leven and via Kirkcaldy to Edinburgh. Train stations are located in Markinch, Kirkcaldy and Cupar.



Robinson Crusoe: Lower Largo



Largo Bay



Fife Coastal Path



Lundin Mill Primary School



Kirkton of Largo Primary



Community Coffee Morning



Arranging flowers with Help!



World Day of Prayer



Happy New Year 2017 with Bacon Butties



Community Coffee Morning
– Spoiled for Choice!



New Destiny - Brazil

