



## Houston & Killellan Kirk linked with Langbank Church Parish Profile



**LANGBANK**  
CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

# Introduction

Following the departure of the former Minister at Houston & Killellan Kirk, the Presbytery of Clyde has granted permission to the congregations of Houston & Killellan Kirk linked with Langbank Church to call a minister – the call is unrestricted.

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## Our Invitation

We invite you to consider leading us as we continue our journey of faith together. While both congregations value formality and tradition, we are also eager to explore new types of worship. We are both open, welcoming, and inclusive congregations, with a deep desire for everyone to feel a sense of belonging before believing. Our members appreciate being theologically challenged, and value a message that resonates in today's complex world. At the heart of our communities, we strive to be places where everyone can grow in their relationship with God and with each other. If this sounds like the kind of ministry you are called to, we would love to welcome you into our church family.

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## We seek a minister who can:

- Inspire all ages in worship, interpreting the scriptures in a way that is meaningful and relevant to our daily lives.
- Encourage and utilise the diverse talents within both congregations to help us sustain and grow the broader life of the church.
- Reach out to the wider community, ensuring that everyone, regardless of faith, feels a genuine sense of belonging.
- Nurture and sustain the faith of our young people, creating a strong foundation for them in an ever-changing world.
- Help our two diverse congregations grow closer together, strengthening our bond as linked charges seeking a future union.

We understand that ministers often face significant expectations, and parish profiles can sometimes seem overwhelming. However, we want you to know that you will be fully supported by our dedicated Kirk Sessions and hardworking teams. We are committed to sharing the responsibilities, easing the day-to-day pressures, and giving you the space to explore new challenges for our congregations. You lead, and we will follow.



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## History of the Charge



The current charge was formed in August 2024 by the linkage of Houston & Killellan Kirk with Langbank Church.

Both churches operate under a Unitary Constitution and are part of the Presbytery of Clyde. Both Kirk Sessions have agreed to depart from the historic and current practice of the Church of Scotland and as such we are “D” Status.



The combined roll of both churches is 705, comprised of 606 at Houston & Killellan Kirk and 99 at Langbank Church.

Houston & Killellan Kirk has a weekly attendance at morning worship on Sundays of approximately 150. The congregation encompasses all ages and includes a large number of families who attend regularly.



Langbank Church has a weekly attendance at morning worship on Sundays of approximately 25. The congregation ranges in age from mid-50s to mid-90s.

The Kirk Session of Houston & Killellan Kirk comprises 47 Elders, at Langbank there are 11 Elders.

Both churches have hard working mission, nurture and resources teams who ensure the day-to-day business of the parish is conducted efficiently and enthusiastically. There are also dedicated pastoral care teams who support the minister.



From 2019 to 2023 there were (Houston/Langbank):  
Weddings (11/4), Baptisms (36/1), Funerals (106/16)



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# Our Worship

At both churches services have been conducted by our locum, pulpit supply and members of the congregation.

Worship in both churches is supported by fine pipe organs. In Houston & Killellan Kirk an organ by Church & Co and, in Langbank, a Lewis Pipe Organ.

Choirs at both churches regularly contribute an introit and/or anthem at morning worship. Both have also utilised instrumental groups, a pop-up choir and augmented choir at Christmas and Easter.

Readings, and sometimes prayers, are led by volunteers from both congregations on a rota basis.

Both congregations have AV capacity in the church, for displaying the words of hymns and readings, as well as weekly intimations and short videos or PowerPoint presentations. Services at Houston & Killellan Kirk are live streamed on our [YouTube](#) channel each week and often viewed by well over 100 people.

Houston & Killellan Kirk use the New International Version translation of the Bible and Langbank the Good News version, both sing hymns, old and new, from mainly CH4 and occasionally Mission Praise.

At Houston & Killellan Kirk news, events and other intimations are emailed to members and friends, displayed in Church (via PowerPoint) before Morning Worship and posted on our website, Facebook and Instagram pages.

Services are also held in some of our local care homes, led by our minister, and the Sacrament of Holy Communion is offered.

There are capable worship teams and church members who can organise and lead services in the minister's absence or on other occasions.



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## Our Church Life

Both churches are at the heart of their communities with multiple annual events on the calendar, including (H = Houston, L = Langbank):

- 50:50 Proms (musical concerts in the church) (L)
- Annual Quiz Night (L)
- Drop-in Café every Monday afternoon (L)
- Family Bingo Night in January (L)
- Fashion Night (L)
- Monthly Soup and Sandwich Lunch (L)
- Plant sales (L)
- Pop-Up Breakfast supporting projects in Mwandia (H)
- Easter egg collection supporting Barnardo's Threads (H)
- Houston & Killellan Kirk Carnival (H)
- World Day of Prayer with St Fillan's RC Church (H)
- Welly Sunday, congregation drop donations for three children we sponsor into a child's welly boot (L)
- Guild Autumn Cream Tea & Daffodil tea raising funds for church and charities (H)
- Harvest Thanksgiving Service (with donations to Renfrewshire Foodbank) (H/L)
- Guild Victorian Christmas Market, held in November (H)
- Remembrance Sunday, laying wreaths together with priest and congregation of St Fillan's at our village war memorial (H)
- Warm clothing appeal supporting Barnardo's Threads in Paisley (H)
- Christmas Shopping Night in November (L)
- Reflective Service in December, open to anyone in the community facing Christmas without loved ones (H)
- Christmas Gift Service supporting CrossReach through donations of gifts for prisoners' children (H)
- Christmas Tree Festival (local community groups decorate trees in church and supporting CrossReach (L)
- Carols by Candlelight, last Sunday before Christmas (L)



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# Renfrewshire Foodbank

Both churches work together, collecting donations to support the work of Renfrewshire Foodbank. Houston & Killellan Kirk runs a foodbank collection point every Tuesday, which is regularly boosted by the 'Doorstep Donations' collected by volunteers from Houston's Bee Happy gardening group and donations from Langbank Primary.

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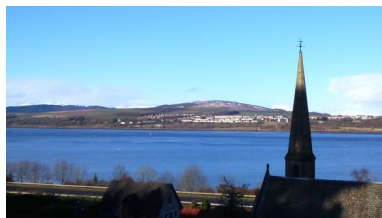
## Our Local Community - Langbank



Langbank is a village of 1,200 residents, with views across the Clyde to Ben Lomond.



Local amenities include Langbank primary school (the minister would be chaplain here), a restaurant, railway station with regular trains to Glasgow, Paisley and Inverclyde, a health centre, multi-use games area and a bowling green. Gleddoch House Hotel and Golf Course is also nearby.



Langbank Church is the only place of worship in the village and the parish, which incorporates parts of the surrounding countryside and a number of farms. Our church newsletter is delivered to every household in the village three times a year.



The church is at the heart of the community; other facilities are limited, so the church becomes a focal point for many of the social activities take place. We enjoy close links with the primary school and work with them on various activities at Christmas, Easter and on their Leavers day.



We have ambitious and exciting plans to develop our church as a more accessible and flexible building for the community. This involves selling our existing manse to partly fund the redevelopment of the current building to increase capacity and improve access to catering facilities. The plans have been well supported in the wider community and we hope that our new minister would help us take them forward.



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# Our Local Community - Houston

The villages of Houston and Crosslee are at the southern end of a substantial rural parish. Over the last 40 years a number of housing developments have been added which brings the local population to approximately 6,500 people.

Many residents commute to work in Glasgow and Paisley, which are 14 and six miles away respectively. Glasgow Airport and the M8 are 10 minutes drive away, and the nearest train station, offering access to Glasgow and the Ayrshire coast, is in Johnstone, also 10 minutes' away.

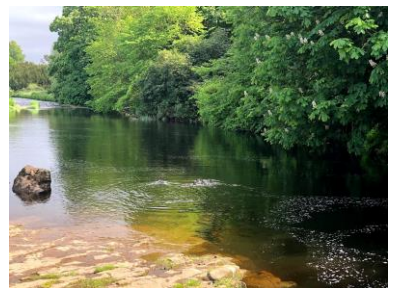
There are three nurseries in the village as well as three excellent schools – Houston Primary School, St Fillan's Roman Catholic Primary School and Gryffe High School. The minister is chaplain to Houston Primary School and a member of the chaplaincy team at Gryffe High School. We organise events such as 'Easter unwrapped' with the primary school and host their Valedictory Service.

Houston has several shops and amenities including a small supermarket, the Village Paper Shop, a hairdresser, beauty salon, a doctors' surgery, two dental surgeries, an optician, a pharmacy, three pub/restaurants, two cafés, a fish and chip shop and a Chinese takeaway.

There are larger supermarkets in Johnstone and Linwood and a large shopping mall at Braehead, nine miles away.

Houston is also home to a tennis and squash club (with gym), and a bowling club. There are golf courses nearby in Bridge of Weir, Kilmacolm, Bishopton, Renfrew and Paisley. The village is also close to the Sustrans cycle route 75 between Paisley and Inverclyde and there are many walking opportunities locally in the attractive fields, woods and hills of the parish.

The On-X in Linwood has a swimming pool, gym facilities, fitness classes and other sports activities; there are cinemas in Linwood and Braehead and libraries in Johnstone and Linwood.



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## Continued.



The village is a vibrant, lively community with plenty going on – and our church is right at the heart of it, offering a wide range of groups and activities for all ages.



In addition to our Sunday Club and Bible class (regularly attended by 50+ children from ages 3-18), we have a Sunday morning Crèche (under 3s), a Baby & Toddlers group, HKK Girls, Boys' Brigade, Boys' and Girls' Brigade Pipe Band, the Guild and Scottish Country Dancing. We have also launched new groups to help tackle loneliness and isolation, particularly among older people. Alongside our Tuesday morning 'Wee Blether' coffee morning these include a thriving Men's Shed, a meditation group and Houston Hello, our dementia-inclusive café, which offers friendship and fun activities to those living with dementia and their carers. Just recently we received funding to start a dementia choir. We have also organised workshops for the recently bereaved including an annual 'toast to absent friends' evening where we share music and poems.



The West Halls, and the Killallan Halls, are the focal points for these activities. We also have plans to develop a nearby plot of land into a community woodland.



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## Our People.

The staffing of Houston & Killellan Kirk is:

- One part-time Families and Community Development Worker (develops and maintains groups and activities to support a wide range of needs within our community)
- One part-time Communications Officer (manages internal and external communications, maintains website and Facebook pages and edits our quarterly 'Kirk Record' magazine)
- One part-time Hall Keeper (manages hall bookings and lets)
- One Organist/Choir Master

Langbank Church employs an organist and a cleaner.

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## Our Buildings

### **The Manse, Main Street, Houston PA6 7EL**

The Manse is a detached house located in the heart of Houston village set in enclosed gardens, with a single garage. It was built in 1960 and extended in 2003.

It is double-glazed with gas central heating (new boiler in 2021) and the property has been upgraded with additional underfloor, and loft insulation to raise its Energy Efficiency Rating to "C".

The ground floor comprises a kitchen (new in 2021), dining room, utility room, downstairs toilet, study, and two further public rooms. There are five bedrooms (one ensuite with a dressing area) and a large family bathroom on the first floor, as well as generous storage cupboards. The family bathroom was replaced in 2022 and the ensuite bathroom in 2024.

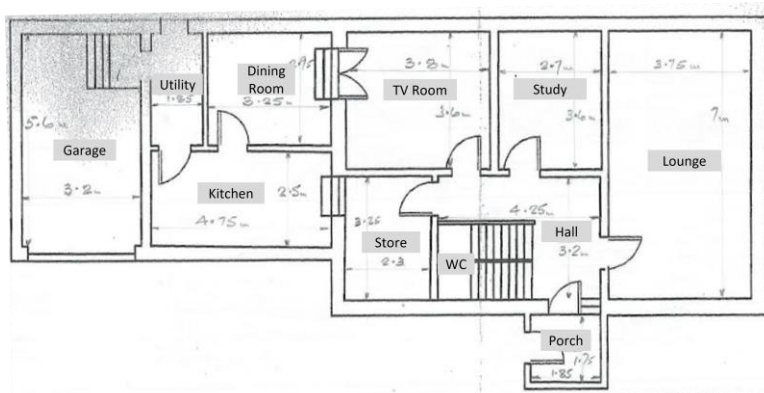
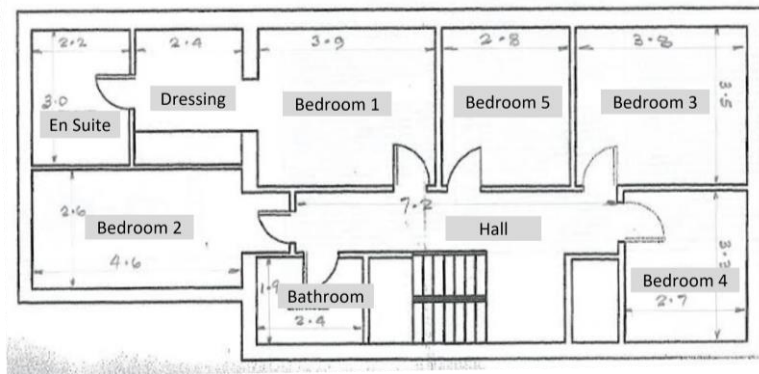
The building is well maintained and finished to a good standard. The house has been fully redecorated in September 2024 and carpeting will be replaced prior to a new minister moving in.

The Manse is a 10-minute walk from the church, Houston Primary School and Gryffe High School and five miles from Langbank Church.



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# Our Manse.



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## Houston & Killellan Kirk

The current church building was completed in 1875 and is B listed, with several beautiful stained-glass windows. It also contains A listed effigies of Sir Patrick Houstoun and Lady Agnes Campbell, dating from the 15<sup>th</sup> century.

It seats 340 worshippers and has a single gallery, which houses our bell tower, organ, and multimedia console.



## The Killallan Halls

An extension to the east end of the church, over the existing graveyard, was opened in September 2015 after an extensive community fundraising initiative. This extension provides additional accommodation including a vestry, kitchen, two additional halls (ground and first floor), storage space and toilets.



## The West Halls

This building comprises two halls, one large and one small, an office, a committee room, kitchen, toilets, and a large walk-in storage area on the ground floor as well as two smaller rooms upstairs.



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## Langbank Church



The building now in use opened in 1867 as the United Free Church. In 1932 it became Langbank Parish Church following the amalgamation of two Churches. It has a stained-glass window at the rear of the chancel showing the transfiguration and a bell tower. A Lewis pipe organ was installed in 1930 and is at present being entered into the Historic Organ Society.



It seats 160 people however there are plans to redevelop the main body of the church - removing the pews and levelling the floor.

## Langbank Church Halls

During the mid-1980s a new hall extension was built giving us a larger upper hall and a smaller lower hall with a catering area and toilets.



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# Conduct of Public Worship

Our programme of regular public worship at both churches is as follows:

- Morning Worship at 9.45am at Langbank Church and full Communion Services on the first Sundays in February, June and October.
- Morning Worship at 11.15am at Houston & Killellan Kirk and full Communion Services on the first Sundays in March and October.
- Both churches hold special services at Christmas, Easter, Harvest and on Remembrance Sunday. An outdoor service is held at the Old Killallan Kirk (dating back to the 11<sup>th</sup> Century) in July.

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## Further information & Our Vacancy Process

Thank you for taking the time to read our Parish Profile. More information can be found on our [Vacancy Page](#). Please visit our websites ([Houston](#) and [Langbank](#)), Facebook page ([Houston](#) and [Langbank](#)), [Instagram](#) or [YouTube](#) to learn more about our church life. Access to our annual accounts and quinquennial reports can be given on application.

To make an application or request a hard copy of this Parish Profile, please contact our Clerk to the Nominating Committee, Evelyn Cook, at [hkklangbank@gmail.com](mailto:hkklangbank@gmail.com)

**We ask all applicants to submit a C.V. and covering letter which specifically addresses your call to this parish. Please also provide two references, one of which should be able to comment on your ministry. Referees will not be contacted until after the interview stage.**

For informal queries please contact our interim moderator the Rev. Barbara Ann Sweetin at [BSweetin@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:BSweetin@churchofscotland.org.uk) or 07988938476

For any other query related to the vacancy please contact the convenor of the nominating committee Dr Matthew Alexander at [matthewalexand@gmail.com](mailto:matthewalexand@gmail.com)

### Houston & Killellan Kirk

Scottish Charity Number SC012822

Congregation Number: 140746



### Langbank Church

Scottish Charity Number SC015085

Congregation Number: 150819



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