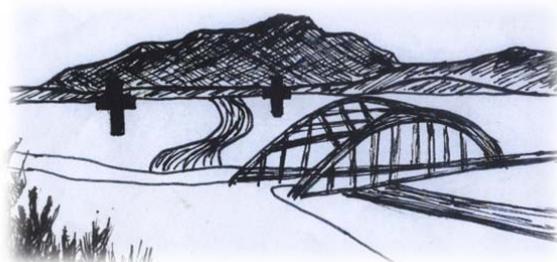




**BONHILL CHURCH LINKED WITH
RENTON TRINITY CHURCH
PROFILE 2015**



The Call

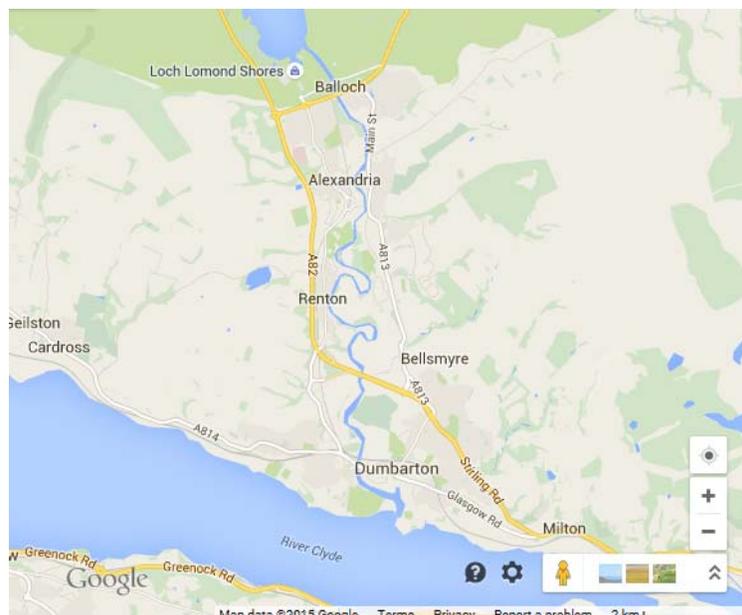
Bonhill Church, linked with Renton Trinity Parish Church, has a call to the linked congregations on the basis of an unrestricted tenure. This is an exciting new venture for both congregations and we look forward to working together with our new minister to build on the strengths of both congregations to spread God's love in the valley where the Leven flows.

Mission Statement

Our aim as Christian congregations is joyfully to worship God in fellowship and lifestyle, encouraging others to join us by serving God through praying, caring, teaching and reaching beyond ourselves.

The Parishes

The villages of Bonhill and Renton lie on opposite banks of the River Leven, midway between Balloch and Dumbarton, three miles south of Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. Glasgow city centre is approximately 16 miles away by road and a fast half hour rail link from local stations.



Bonhill Church Parish Profile

Presbytery of Dumbarton



Bonhill Church

(Scottish Charity No. SC00086)

Main Street
Alexandria
G83 9HR

www.bonhillchurch.com

Bonhill Church, linked with Renton Trinity Parish Church, has a call to the linked congregations on the basis of an unrestricted tenure. This is an exciting new venture for both congregations and we look forward to working together with our new minister to build on the strengths of both congregations to spread God's love in the valley where the Leven flows.

The Parish

The village of Bonhill lies on the Eastern bank of the River Leven, on the opposite bank from Alexandria, and between Balloch and Dumbarton.



We are on the doorstep of an area of unrivalled natural beauty, just one mile from the shores of Loch Lomond and the gateway to the Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park. The area has numerous local leisure facilities, both indoor and outdoor, land and water based. Glasgow city centre is 16 miles away by road and half an hour by train and Glasgow airport is a twenty minute drive away.

The community of the Vale of Leven grew out of a once thriving but now long gone textile industry. The present, largely post-industrial, parish has a mix of old and new housing with plenty of scope for outreach development, both spiritual and pastoral, including Chaplaincy. It has six primary schools, one secondary school and several nurseries, all within walking distance of the church and manse.

Our History

The river Leven brought the monks from Paisley Abbey to fish for salmon and trout in its clear deep pools in the thirteenth century and there has been a church dwelling on this site ever since.

The present church was built in 1836. As industry came to the river and the dye works employed many workers, the Bonhill kirk session agreed that a church should be built in Alexandria and less than thirty years later a second daughter church to be built at Jamestown to serve the parish further up the river.



The original Bonhill church had seating for almost 1200 people. In 1987, with the church requiring extensive renovation, the congregation made the decision to leave the building. For a period of almost two and a half years worship was held in nearby Ladyton Primary school while the work, much of which was done by volunteers, was carried out.



The renovated church is a multi-purpose building that fits our modern day needs. It comprises of a sanctuary seating over 400 people, a large hall, kitchen facilities, meeting room and a modern office. The office is supported by a part time secretary and is utilised by all churches in the Vale of Leven. And all of this under one roof.

The challenges the church faced in 1836 are similar to those in 2015 - unemployment, housing and poverty. The congregation of Bonhill church continues to put the parish and its people first.

Iain Galbraith has written a book on the history of Bonhill called *By the Rivers of Water: Portrait of Bonhill Parish*, which is available if you wish to learn more. Ian, whose family have a long association with Bonhill, is soon to be installed as the new Moderator of Dumbarton Presbytery.

Congregational Life

Bonhill Church has a congregational roll of just over 600, with an average weekly attendance of 150 – 200. Communion is held 3 times a year, on the first Sunday in March, June and October.

Our worship is traditional but our congregation is always willing to explore new styles of worship and in the past we have had jazz and outdoor summer services. Music is an extremely important part of worship. Bonhill Church has a long tradition of great singing and music. As part of the refurbishment an Allan Organ was donated by the Fraser Foundation and enhances our service.

Members of the congregation participate regularly in the service reading the lesson; leading us in prayer; children's talk and delivering the sermon. Our congregation is proud of its reputation for being welcoming and being part of the local community. In 2014 there were 8 marriages, 19 baptisms, 15 blessings and 12 funerals in the church. Unfortunately, in the absence of a full time minister, around a further 40 parish funerals were carried out by other local ministers outwith our church.

Our Session operates a Unitary Constitution, using a committee structure, which utilises the particular skills of individual elders. The committees cover the areas of Finance, Property, Halls, Social, Pastoral and Worship. We currently have 65 elders, 47 of whom are active.

Our Sunday School is well attended with 15-20 children and we have 5 enthusiastic leaders. Our children are an important part of our congregation and are actively encouraged to be part of our services. The children's Nativity plays are a "must see" with their own Christmas Eve Family Service.



During the Advent period our services are family orientated with the many organisations participating. On Christmas Eve we have a family service lead by our Sunday School at 7pm and a traditional Christmas Eve Watchnight service. At Easter we share our Maundy and Good Friday services with our linked partners at Renton Trinity. We also participate in ecumenical services organised by ACTIV – Action of Churches Together in the Vale.

Church Groups

Our singing group meet weekly for practice under the supervision of our organist. They participate in our services as a group or as soloists; they are in demand and perform for many of the local Christian organisations and churches. No experience required, only enthusiasm!

On the third Thursday of the month, our Healing Group hold our service of prayers for healing. This service is open to all in our community. Everyone is welcome, faith or no faith, to Bonhill Church for prayer, meditation, comfort and support. The service is uplifting and the names of those in need of healing are read out.





Our Christmas Candle service is a beautiful service where we invite everyone to light a candle in memory of family and friend or anyone known to us who is ill or needs our special prayers. Our healing group send cards with words of hope and encouragement to those too ill join us at church.

The gents and ladies lunch groups meet monthly and join for fellowship at local restaurants.



The Social Committee organise the OAP Christmas Party as well as coordinate the Easter and Christmas Fayres and other fundraising social activities.

Every year a trip is organised for a weekend holiday at the end of April. The group have visited many destinations in Scotland as well as the North of England and Ireland. A highlight of the trips was a visit to the beautiful island of Iona.



The Friends of Bonhill is a group led by two dedicated and hard working women and are our major fund raising group. This group raised significant amounts of money during our refurbishment and now organise fundraising activities to help fund the maintenance of the church and support organisations within the church.

Once a month we have a get together in the church hall where everyone can have some tea, coffee, sandwiches, cakes and, most importantly, fellowship. The various church groups take turns to serve at these meetings.

Outreach

The church halls are well used, day and evening and host such groups as the Boys Brigade, Girls Brigade, Brownies, Playgroups and Alcoholics Anonymous. As well as opening our halls we also provide support to local groups that are in line with our purposes. In recent years a local organisation that works to help young homeless people have benefited from donations of groceries and essentials.

Parish Finance

The financial statements for the five years to December 31st are available on request.

The Manse

The manse was purpose built approx. 30 years ago on a part of the Glebe land. The property has 3 public rooms, kitchen, utility room and toilet downstairs, with 4 bedrooms and a family bathroom upstairs.



The Property Convener makes sure that the manse is kept in a state of good repair at all times and organises for any work required to be carried out by volunteers or contractors as necessary. The recently fitted kitchen is fully equipped with all domestic appliances.

New Minister

We are looking for a minister who:

- Will be responsible for the conduct of public worship.
- Will provide pastoral care to our congregations and have a broad involvement through outreach with the general community within the parishes.
- Will encourage and develop the existing Ministry to our young families, promoting new membership.
- Will be an enthusiastic leader and who will harness the existing and latent talents of those within the membership and of those throughout the parishes.
- Has good communication and inter-personal skills.
- Will encourage inter-denominational church cooperation.
- Will through time, share our love and affection for our churches, our congregations and the parishes we live in.

In return, we offer our gifts and energies and look forward to working with our new minister to achieve, with God's help, our aims and aspirations for the two parishes.



RENTON TRINITY PARISH CHURCH

Presbytery of Dumbarton

Parish Profile



RENTON TRINITY PARISH CHURCH
(Scottish Charity No. SC014833)

Alexander Street
Renton
West Dunbartonshire
G82 4LT

Renton Trinity Parish Church , linked with Bonhill Church, has a call to the linked congregations on the basis of an unrestricted tenure. This is an exciting new venture for both congregations and we look forward to working together with our new minister to build on the strengths of both congregations to spread God's love in the valley where the Leven flows.

The Parish

The Village of Renton lies within the Leven Valley between Balloch on Loch Lomond (3 miles) and Dumbarton on the Clyde Estuary (2.5 miles). The population of Renton is approximately 2,100.

There is very easy access to the Glasgow, approximately 16 miles by road. There is also an easily accessed Railway station with links directly to Glasgow.

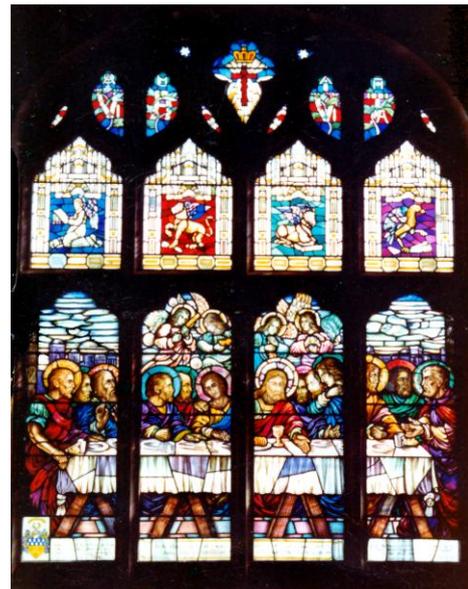
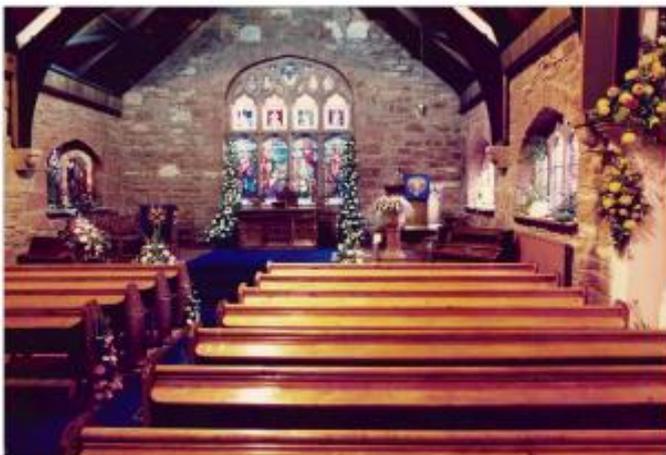
The population of Renton has been expanding with 300 new homes being built in the village over the past 5 years with plenty of scope for outreach development, both spiritual and pastoral . Renton has one primary school , one nursery and is served by the Vale of Leven Academy in nearby Alexandria, all within walking distance of the church.

Our Church

The present building was built in 1892 as the original Renton Parish Church. The church is an attractive red sandstone building set within extensive grounds.

The church is graced with feature stained glass windows by Oscar Patterson which have been professionally restore and maintained. We have a 2 manual pipe organ installed by Binns of Leeds in 1911 . It has a pneumatic action, is kept in good repair, and is tuned on a regular basis.

In 1969, the congregations of Renton, Millburn, Renton Union, and Renton Parish Churches were



united and the present church building was utilised for worship. During 1983, major conversion works were undertaken within the church to convert the building to its present state. Volunteer tradesmen within the congregation largely did these remedial works. In order to finance the conversion, Renton Union Church in the Main Street was demolished and the developer built flats on the site. In exchange for the

site, the developer helped with major building works required within the present building. The conversion thus provided a 300 seat church, a suite of halls, kitchen, toilets, and committee rooms all within the existing building. Much dry rot eradication was undertaken at that time in the new church, stripping the entire lath and plaster off to expose and fully renovate the stone work below. A disabled toilet has been recently installed. An induction loop system is in place.



The church is currently undergoing a makeover wiring new lighting, electric wiring and external pointing all being undertaken

Congregation

The membership for the Parish of Renton Trinity is 284 members and 2 adherents and a worshipping congregation of around 55 at morning services.



There are 20 active ordained elders who are all enthusiastic and committed about their church and their work as Elders.

An enthusiastic Congregational Board supports the Session. There are active committees for fund raising and maintenance of property.

There is also a group of members known as Friends of Renton Trinity who raise funds and target specific projects. They have renewed carpeting, purchased items of equipment, provided the monobloc paving at the entrance to the Church and most recently, were responsible for providing the majority of the finance which allowed us to install the new kitchen.

At present, there is no Sunday School but it is hoped that this will restart with the support of our new minister.

The Church also hosts an ecumenical evening. This is called WOVEN and stands for "Women of the Vale Ecumenical Network". The meetings are held on the first Friday of each month and are aimed at all Christian women within the Vale of Leven.

We have an active choir of approximately 8 members who, under the direction of the organist regularly take part in morning worship.

Renton Trinity has always enjoyed very good relations with St. Martins Church in Renton. There is also an association of churches' in the Vale of Leven area which meets regularly encouraging inter-denominational cooperation.

Parish Finance

The financial statements for the five years to December 31st are available on request.

The Manse

As part of the linkage with Bonhill Church the decision was made that Bonhill Church manse would be the preferred manse for the linkage and as such we now share this manse.

The manse was purpose built approx. 30 years ago on a part of the Glebe Land. The property is on a corner site and has 3 public rooms, kitchen, utility room and toilet downstairs, with 4 bedrooms and a family bathroom upstairs. It has a double garage, off road parking, easily maintained garden, and is within easy walking distance to a state of the art primary and secondary schools.



The Property Convener makes sure that the manse is kept in a state of good repair at all times and organises for any work required to be carried out by volunteers or contractors as necessary.

The recently fitted kitchen is fully equipped with all domestic appliances.

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Renton Trinity Parish Church

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