

Diocesan Curacy 2024-27, at St Columba's, Stanley

A Diocesan Curacy

A full-time stipendiary curacy in the Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane is commencing in September 2024, and will be based at St Columba's, Stanley, Perth, and connected to St Ninian's Cathedral. The curacy stipend will be funded by the Provincial Curacy Grant and by the Diocese.



Vision for the Charge and the Curacy

The expansion of the community of Stanley, the closure of the Parish Church, and plans to develop the community Hub next door, mean that St Columba's is being called to serve Stanley in a new way, as a spiritual and social resource for the whole community as well as the home of a SEC congregation. The small congregation and the Diocese have been working to turn this vision into reality, by investing in the renewal of the church building and appointing a transitional priest-in-charge to serve the current congregation.

The curacy will provide a valuable training curacy, with experienced and active supervision, which will enable the curate to use the missional and pastoral skills formed during training. There has not been a resident Episcopal priest in Stanley since 1916, but the Diocese is providing a house in order for the Curate to live in the community. Through the link with St Ninian's Cathedral, the curate will also experience the liturgical and congregational life of a larger, more 'traditional' SEC congregation, and be part of a larger ministry team.

Setting and Surrounding Community

Stanley is a growing community on the River Tay, close to Perth. It has a primary school, a GP practice, a number of shops, and two pubs.

The present population of Stanley is c.1,500, and of the wider Stanley and Murthly area c.4,600,. However this is now rising as new housing developments are built. The Perth and Kinross Community Action Plan for Stanley intends the population to grow substantially over the next five years to 6-7,000. Major new housing developments are planned, including affordable housing. 80 houses are presently under construction, with 100 more to be built this year, and 100 more in early 2025. By the start of the curacy many new people will be living in Stanley.



The Stanley Development Trust is in the process of developing a new Community Hub in the centre of the community, on a site immediately adjacent to St Columba's church. This would create significant potential for St Columba's to work with the Hub and the community groups using it. In addition, Stanley Primary School also is adjacent to St Columba's, providing opportunity to develop this relationship and offer support to the School, staff, pupils and parents.

Renewing St Columba's building

With the closure and sale of the former Parish Church in 2019, St Columba's is the only church building in Stanley remaining in use for worship. There is a small Church of Scotland congregation in Stanley, presently worshipping in the village hall. Relationships between the /over

congregations and clergy are good, and we hope that they will use St Columba's for worship, enabling the two congregations to grow even closer.

The Diocese and congregation are now renewing and refurbishing the church - installing a kitchen and toilets, repairing the roof, interior and exterior repainting, installing new chairs, and renewing the sanctuary.

St Columba's has no reserves or funds of its own. Funding has come from the giving of the small congregation, from the Diocese, and from grants made by the Province and other bodies. But more support will be needed to prepare the church for re-opening.



Getting Involved

The Diocesan Curacy and the renewal of St Columba's is part of the mission of the whole Diocese, and I would like you and your congregation to feel you have a real part to play, each branch of the Vine of Christ's Church being joined to all the other branches:

(1) by praying regularly, in worship and in personal prayer, for St Columba's, for the Curate who will be ordained on 29 September to serve there, and for the community of Stanley.

(2) by supporting the renewal of the church building with your giving as a congregation. I am asking every Vestry and congregation to consider making a financial donation to the Diocese for St Columba's. Whether your charge can afford £500.00 or £25.00, your gift will help us to re-open the church for worship and begin to serve the growing community with a growing church.

Some congregations may prefer to give towards something tangible. So here is a tangible appeal for support

- **St Columba's needs 30 new chairs - the old ones are broken and past repair, and it is proving difficult to source secondhand chairs in good enough condition. Chairs like the one shown here are ideal for St Columba's, and cost around £100.00 each. if bought new. Would your Vestry and congregation give something towards the cost of the chairs? Maybe by giving the cost of one chair, or a number of chairs?**



If all the congregations of the Diocese would consider giving as generously as they are able towards this part of the renewal, it would release other funds from the Diocese and from grants to pay for the other cost of renewal.

Thank you for taking this proposal to your Vestry and congregation. Please let me know if you are willing to contribute, and to what extent. I am happy to try and answer questions you may have, and to keep you informed as the renewal project develops.

Please you ask your Treasurer to send your Charge's gift by Bank transfer to:
Diocese of St Andrews (SC017654)
Sort Code: 82-68-31, Account No: 00187750
using the Reference 'Stanley 2024'.

Thank you in advance for your congregation's gift. I hope that becoming more involved like this will help us all to feel that this is part of our common mission as a Diocese, as the older branches of the Vine of the Church assist this renewing branch to grow once more.

With my warmest thanks, regards, and prayer,

