

Ben Thorp



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CAREER HISTORY

Baljaffray Parish Church — Probationary Minister

August 2019 - PRESENT

I worked with Rev Ian McEwan in this suburb of Glasgow, gaining a wide range of ministry experience, including schools and nursing homes. I experienced a significant Kirk Session reform, and helped establish an online streaming ministry during Covid-19 lockdown. I developed a training course for new elders, and short videos on how to prepare prayers for Sunday worship. I also had the opportunity to engage with Path of Renewal, and the new Growing Young initiative. Latterly, I have been involved in shaping a strategy for the church as it moves forward through the changing phases of lockdown.

Helensburgh Parish Church — Parish Assistant

October 2016 - September 2017

I worked as part of the ministry team in Helensburgh helping to organise and lead Sunday morning services, Wednesday lunchtime services, and produced a plan for ongoing mission within the area.

Design is Central — Senior Developer

November 2009 - August 2016

I worked both as a sole developer and within a small development team across multiple projects of varying sizes. This was primarily a programming role including website development and mobile applications, as well as some system administration of the various web servers, and regular interaction with customers.

IBM — Various Roles

October 2000 - November 2009

Working within the European Call Centre, I started with customer service, and then progressed through harddrive technical support and deskside support, finishing with 4 years working for the Autoreporting Team.

Scripture Union Scotland — Reachout Worker

August 1995 - August 1997

As part of SU's Reachout programme, I spent a year working with their regional worker in Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders doing school assemblies, running SU groups and various other pieces of youth and children's work.

SERVICE VIDEOS

You can view a video profile, along with videos of services I have prepared and led, at <https://benthorp.org/cv>

EDUCATION

Glasgow University

BD (Hons) First Class

2017-2019

As part of my candidacy I returned to Glasgow University to gain my honours degree

Glasgow University

BD (Ordinary with Merit)

1997-2000

East Devon College

4 A-Levels

1993-1995

Computing (A), Business Studies (B), General Studies (B), Maths (E)

MINISTRY PLACEMENTS

St Rollox Parish Church

Oct 2018-June 2019 (10 hrs p/w)

Placement 3 - Rev Jane Howitt

Orchardhill Parish Church, Giffnock

July-Sept 2018 (Full time)

Placement 2 - Rev Grant Barclay

Cadder Parish Church, Bishopbriggs

Oct 2017-June 2018 (10 hrs p/w)

Placement 1 - Rev John MacGregor

Knightswood St Davids

October 2016-May 2017

Discernment Placement - Rev Graham Thain

For my second year, I worked with the (then) Whiteinch Fellowship as part of a small team reestablishing a worshipping community in the Whiteinch area of the parish, which has since gone on, via NCD, to receive full charge status. The work included some youth and children's work; planning, performing and collating a small community survey; planning a 6 week summer holiday programme; and being involved in various outreach events, including Alpha.

MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

Whiteinch Church of Scotland

1996-Present

Having started as a full-time volunteer, I have been part of the ongoing ministry in Whiteinch ever since. I have led various different types of small group - traditional Bible studies, 'cell' groups, social-based groups, and theological discussion groups. For 10 years I also led the sung worship on a Sunday morning, playing both guitar and bass guitar.

In 2011 I became an Elder, and took responsibility for the teaching programme, including the Sunday preaching rota, but also the matrix of other training and discipleship opportunities within the church, liaising with other ministries (such as youth and children's work). We have sought to create a more cohesive plan for ongoing discipleship whilst combating a trend toward Biblical illiteracy. Additionally, I was involved in preaching on a regular basis.

Forge Scotland (previously Invest)

2010-2014

Forge Scotland aims to "nurture and resource the missional church in Scotland". As part of the leadership team, I was involved in their year long 'Pioneer' course, which aims to train and mentor leaders who are thinking of developing new missional expressions.

My role involved delivery of content on the Forge weekends, planning and developing the syllabus, marking of essays, and mentoring students. Additionally, I frequently contributed written articles for the website.

VISION FOR MINISTRY

At the centre of my calling is a passionate belief in the importance of both making and maturing disciples, particularly through the preaching and application of Scripture. I believe that as we grow as disciples, we also become more able and more effective in our outreach to those who have yet to know Jesus.

Having spent significant time with pioneers, I am convinced of the need for strategic thinking, not just for pioneering work, but also for the more 'settled' work of parish ministry - although no church should ever think of itself as settled! I believe there is a vital place for the local church in seeing God's Kingdom come in Scotland, although it requires courage in the face of the (sometimes challenging) need for change.

REFERENCES

Rev Alan McWilliam

Home church minister from 1996-2019

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Glasgow

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Rev Ian McEwan

Probation Supervisor 2019-2020

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KEY SKILLS

- Teaching/Preaching
- Teamwork
- Experience of both pioneer and 'settled' ministry
- IT / Multimedia
- Worship

INTERESTS AND HOBBIES

I am a follower (and sometime player) of football, and a Liverpool fan, although I like watching most sports. I am an avid reader of both fiction and non-fiction, enjoy watching films, and playing board games. I enjoy cycling. Despite having left the 'profession,' I maintain a keen interest in technology and computers.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

I have been married to Heather since 1999. We have 2 children - Mira (13) and Jamie (almost 11). Heather is a secondary English teacher, specialising in English and Support for Learning, and volunteer development coordinator for a community centre. She is involved in outreach, worship, creativity and helping people find and follow the call of God in their lives.

*If I say, "I will not mention him,
or speak any more in his name,"
there is in my heart as it were a
burning fire
shut up in my bones,
and I am weary with holding it in,
and I cannot.*

Jeremiah 20:9