

# PARISH PROFILE

NORTHESK PARISH CHURCH  
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Northesk sits in the popular, coastal town of Musselburgh, on the southern shore of the Firth of Forth, six miles east of Edinburgh city centre.

The official Parish Boundaries cover the town area on the west side of the river Esk extending to the village of Newcraighall but the church has members from all parts of the town and East Lothian.

It serves the community from a suite of buildings on a compact site in the centre of the town and on all the local bus routes.

A historic, identifiable community, Musselburgh enjoys a unique blend of small-town spirit with the advantage of its close proximity to the city of Edinburgh.

It is surrounded by unspoilt countryside and offers delightful walks along the river, promenade and links. Leisure facilities are many and varied including its famous racecourse, a choice of golf courses, theatre, museum, harbour, sailing, rowing, and cycling clubs, a swimming pool and sports centre.

The Burgh retains its original market town layout with numerous independent shops, a choice of banks and a range of supermarkets.

There are excellent educational facilities at all levels including Queen Margaret University.

Transport links to Edinburgh include rail and regular bus services, with road links to the A1, the City Bypass, Edinburgh International Airport and other major motorways.

*[See more of Musselburgh here](#)*

*Currently, the town is at the centre of rapidly expanding residential developments which provide exciting opportunities for congregational growth.*

## Ministry



### The basis of the call

Extract of Presbytery Minute 28 November 2019:

*Mr Wilson moved that Presbytery (i) grant the congregation the right to call a minister on the basis of a five-year reviewable tenure, with the associated conditions (a) that the incoming minister work one day a week in a Presbytery setting outwith the Musselburgh area, and (b) that he/she commit to join with other Church of Scotland ministers in developing a team ministry for Musselburgh, and (ii) amend the Presbytery Plan to reflect the foregoing change in tenure.*

*In order to consider all applications the Kirk Session has voted to depart from the historic and current doctrine of the Church of Scotland in relation to human sexuality in so far as it applies to ministers and deacons.*

### Worship

Members of Northesk and the local community are currently offered a traditional form of public worship at 11.00 a.m. every Sunday and the sanctuary is available for personal contemplation on Christmas Eve, Good Friday and other occasions as directed by the Kirk Session.

### Innovation

The Kirk Session has a positive attitude to innovation, particularly directed towards attracting younger people and family groups. At the same time, traditional elements and good preaching will continue to be important to the older, faithful members of the congregation.

### Pastoral Care

Although a great deal of pastoral care is already undertaken, the Kirk Session are moving to establish a more comprehensive pastoral care team to meet future needs and will expect our minister to be fully involved in the establishment of the Team and at the forefront of its on-going activities.

### Working Relationships

As the minister of Northesk you can depend on our prayers, our commitment and our willingness to accept fresh ideas and new initiatives. Friendly and enthusiastic support for our minister has always been one of our great strengths evidenced by the fact that our last two incumbents enjoyed ministries of seventeen and twenty-one years respectively.

### Community Links

Northesk is also an active participant in the ecumenical "Churches Together in Musselburgh" which promotes interdenominational collaboration with most of the other Christian Churches in the town. The church enjoys excellent relationships with Campie Primary School who regularly use the premises for the celebration of the main Christian Festivals. Campie is one of three primary schools located within the parish, Stoneyhill and Newcraighall being the others.

*Regardless that the call is on a Five Year Reviewable basis we are looking for a minister with the skills energy and enthusiasm to meet the challenges, build on our sound foundations and lead Northesk into a vibrant, exciting long-term future in the service of our Lord.*

## Membership Profile

Current membership 276 with an average attendance of 80 on Sunday mornings.

Most of our members are over 60 years of age. It is, however, the Kirk Session's ambition to attract more young people into the membership to ensure the church's future survival.

Currently a "Families Development Worker" is in post whose costs and time are shared between the church and the Presbytery.

The congregation has an enviable reputation as warm, friendly and welcoming of visitors, holiday makers and potential new members.



## Constitutional Structure

Northesk is administered in accordance with the terms of the Church of Scotland Deed of Constitution (Unitary Form), is a Charity Registered with OSCR and administered by a Kirk Session of 25 Elders who are its Trustees. Day to day affairs are conducted by a Management Team which is supported by 3 Committees of elders and members overseeing Finance and Building, Outreach, and Social Activities.

## Activities

Opportunities for the development of young people are offered through the **Sunday Club** which meets at the same time as public worship.

**The Boys' Brigade** offers a programme of activities, including piping and highland drumming instruction, for approximately 58 boys aged six to eighteen years (in four, age related, sections) meeting on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings.



The Families Development Officer leads an extremely popular **Big Little Ones, Parents and Tots** group which meets fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons. This group forms the basis for participation in wider community events such as the Musselburgh Festival. In conjunction with the other churches organises occasional Messy Church, Holiday Clubs and provide meals for children during school holidays.



Northesk hosts a branch of the **Church of Scotland Guild** with 40 members who support the church and are enthusiastic participants in the Guild's National Projects, meeting fortnightly on Wednesday afternoons (alternating with the Big Little Ones, Parents and Tots group).

Regular **Coffee Mornings** are held on most Saturdays of the year providing the opportunity for social interaction for church members and the wider community. The coffee mornings also raise funds to support the church and provide a vehicle for other fund-raising events throughout the year.

A **Badminton Club** meets on Wednesday evenings from September to May

**The Choir**, most ably led by the organist, provides an essential element to Sunday worship and contributes significantly to the social life of the congregation, rehearses weekly on Friday mornings

*The main hall is one of the venues for the Church of Scotland **Heart for Art Dementia** initiative which meets fortnightly on Monday afternoons.*

## A Community Facility

The halls accommodation is available to the community and is currently used on a regular basis by the **Guides** and **Brownies**, "**Jo Jingles**" providing musical activity for babies and toddlers, **Scottish Country Dance** classes, in separate sessions, for adults and children and for other organisations on an ad hoc basis by application to the Kirk Session.

The premises are used as a **Polling Station** for national and local elections

The sanctuary lends itself as a concert venue and is regularly used as such for church fundraising and, in collaboration with the local **Brunton** venue management, for appropriate performances

*Northesk members support community based voluntary initiatives such as the local **Food Bank** and the **Bethany Night Shelter** and has **Twinning links** with the Christian community of St John's Tindharia in Northern India.*

## Finance

The church fulfils its commitments to the community by providing the services described above and is proud to have always met its obligation to the wider work of the Church of Scotland through its contribution to **Ministry & Mission** and other necessary expenses and expenditure in the day to day operation of the church. This has been achieved by the congregation's regular giving and a positive response to specific appeals.

## Buildings



### The Manse

Northesk has acquired a modern, energy efficient, property. The house which is about six years old is detached and has three public rooms, four bedrooms (one en suite) and a garage. It is situated on a modern development about twenty minutes-walk (5 minutes- drive) from the church.

### Church & Halls Suite

The suite of buildings is Grade 2 listed within the Musselburgh Conservation Area and is of traditional construction-comprising a generous 400 seat Sanctuary with a Horseshoe Gallery and splendid pipe organ.



A large well-proportioned, multi-function Hall, with a well fitted Kitchen, Committee Rooms, Vestry and conveniently accessible Toilets. There is also a lesser Hall on an upper floor with another small Committee Room and Toilet. All areas, except the upper hall and gallery, are easily accessible and disabled friendly. There is a small well-maintained garden within the curtilage.



The buildings are structurally sound, wind and watertight, fully serviced and in good decorative order - the Sanctuary redecorated in 2017/18. The boilers and the heat distribution system throughout the premises was renewed in 2015 and the entire premises was rewired, including the installation of Fire Alarm and Emergency Lighting systems, in 2011. A new sound system was installed in the sanctuary in 2019 and we are actively investigating the addition of a visual projection system to become “a well-equipped space in the right place”.

*We hope this summary is informative and we'd be delighted to talk further if you have any questions*