

# Mastrick Parish Church of Scotland

## Parish Profile



Greenfern Road, Mastrick, Aberdeen AB16 6TR

Scottish Charity No SC013459

[www.mastrickchurch.org.uk](http://www.mastrickchurch.org.uk)

## About Mastrick Parish and the Church

Mastrick Parish Church was established in 1954, in the post-war local authority housing area of Mastrick, with the new housing development of South Sheddocksley added in the 1970's.

Mastrick is situated on the western side of Aberdeen adjacent to Anderson Drive (currently the ring road). There is a complete range of housing types – family housing, single-person units, owner occupied, sheltered housing, social housing, and supported living accommodation.



The population of the Parish is around 11,000; more detailed information can be found at our Statistics for Mission page – [www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk). There are sheltered housing complexes, a small central shopping centre, 3 primary schools, some industrial and commercial properties, local authority offices, a community centre, library, and a medical centre.

Other denominational centres of worship in the Parish include Roman Catholic, Baptist and Scottish Episcopalian Churches. Ecumenical services have been shared periodically with these other denominations and the Minister works with other local ministers and youth leaders in School Chaplaincy and Prayer Space.

In accordance with Aberdeen Presbytery's Development Plans we are in a deferred union with neighbouring Summerhill Parish Church; the Basis for the Deferred Union was approved by Presbytery in March 2016 and is attached to this profile.

## Worship

Worship takes place on Sunday mornings at 11am, with additional Services during Advent, Christmas and Holy Week.

Worship is all-age, flexible, participatory and contemporary, and members of the congregation are involved in preparing and presenting worship. A multimedia projector and screen is used, with large-print hymnbooks available for those who wish.

The Worship Team's remit is to enhance worship and empower people to prepare and present worship; occasionally the Team leads the whole of Sunday worship, and other

teams are responsible, with the Minister, for planning and leading special services throughout the year, using various different forms of worship styles eg the bereavement and healing service, or services focussing on justice and peace issues when we hear of the work of local organisations engaged in these in Aberdeen.

Communion is celebrated on the first Sundays in March, June, September, and December. Elders and others visit homes in their districts before Communion, and deliver copies of *Contact*, the church magazine, which contains an invitation to everyone to share in Communion.

A family nativity service takes place on the Sunday before Christmas, involving a range of members; on Christmas Eve there is a family Christingle service in the early evening followed by a Watchnight Service.

Messy Church was established in the autumn of 2012, and currently meets quarterly, attracting a steady number of local families. The Parish Assistant has developed strong links with Mastrick's primary schools which encourages children and families to participate.

There is a small Guild, with a programme based on the national Guild priorities.

Fellowship with each other is important in Mastrick, and a recent decision to serve teas/coffees in the Sanctuary before Sunday worship has been welcomed by members; congregational lunches are held from time to time, after worship, and also enable people to get together and share a meal.

Most members of the congregation live in the Parish. As the congregation (and the parish) is ageing, a considerable part of the minister's time is taken up with funerals and associated pastoral care.

## **Leadership**

The Ministry Team currently comprises the Minister and Parish Assistant (0.6) whose main focus is on community outreach, pastoral care and work with families.

Mastrick Parish Church works under a Unitary Constitution with 11 active elders on the Kirk Session which meets 6 times a year; the congregation consists of 290 with approximately 60 attending weekly Sunday services.

A number of teams (of elders and members) have been set up to enable us to fulfil our mission: Worship, Pastoral Care, Justice and Peace, Finance, Property, Communication, James Tyrrell Centre Management, Safeguarding. Each has a specified remit with aims and objectives, and reports on these to the Kirk Session.

## OUR MISSION STATEMENT

*Our purpose is to love God and our neighbour as we seek a fair and just living for all and respect all living creatures and mother earth.*

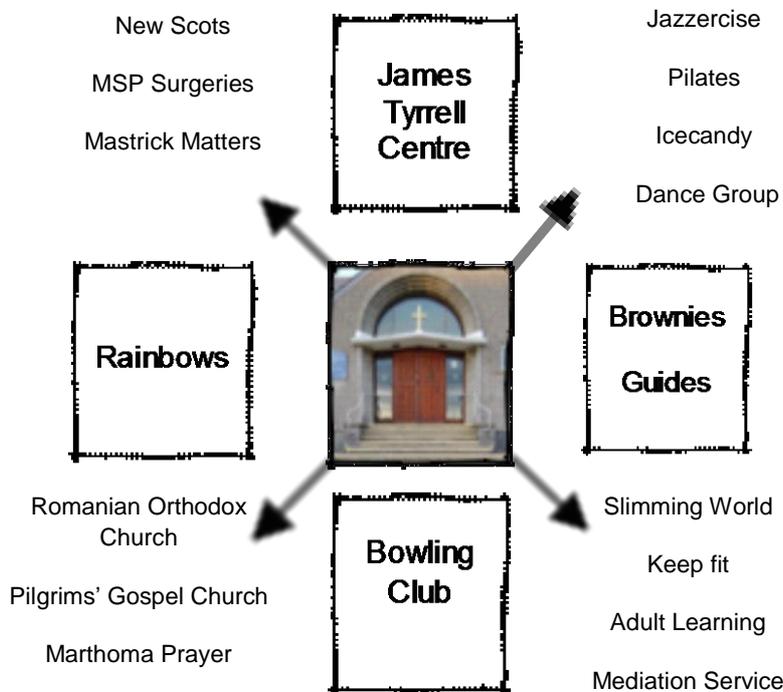
*As a people of faith we are far from perfect but believe in reaching out to others with unconditional respect and positive regard.*

## OUR WELCOME STATEMENT

### WELCOME -

*To those who are weary and seek rest...  
To those who grieve and long for comfort...  
To those who struggle and desire victory...  
To those who celebrate and wish to give thanks for their joy...  
To those who want a fresh start in life...  
To those who have talents and wish to serve...  
To those who are strangers and want to be known...  
To those who hunger and thirst for knowledge of God...  
To those who seek peace, this is your sanctuary...  
This community of faith opens its doors to all and offers a warm welcome.*

## Organisations and Groups



## Outreach and Community Life

From its inception Mastrick Parish Church has been active in local community and wider world initiatives, responding to local circumstances and needs, and we continue that support, with members of the congregation encouraged to play an active part in these:

- For the annual Christmas Shoebox appeal, around 60 shoeboxes are put together from the contributions of members
- We collect contributions and deliver them regularly for a foodbank in Aberdeen which is run by the Instant Neighbour charity
- The James Tyrrell Centre provides a day care service for older people four days a week within the church halls; this was initiated by the Kirk Session and has the Minister as its chaplain. The Management Committee is drawn from the Session and reports directly to it.
- Knitting projects are well-supported with wee vests produced for “fish and chip” babies, and currently “twiddlemuffs” are being knitted and decorated for dementia sufferers.
- Christian Aid is supported by special collections and occasional souper Sunday lunches.
- Mastrick is a Fairtrade church.

Homestart Aberdeen, which began life in Mastrick Church and has now developed to cover the whole of the City, remains close to the heart of the Church; *Mastrick Matters*, a community magazine published by a local radio and media organisation, also started in the Church, which is represented on the editorial team.

Recently we have been pleased to host Syrian refugee families in our halls: while the adults attended ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) classes, their children had play sessions co-ordinated by volunteers from Mastrick and other churches across the city.

In the autumn of 2016 it is planned to set up a Carers’ Café meeting in the Hall, and it is hoped to establish some kind of social gathering for local families with pre-school children, both initiatives designed to meet needs of local people.

Occasional “one-off” appeals are well supported by donations eg for disasters and emergencies locally and throughout the world.

## Strengths



## Mastrick Church buildings



The Sanctuary is a light, sunny and airy building, traditional in layout, and was redecorated thanks to the fundraising efforts of the congregation. An induction loop is available in the Sanctuary, and disabled access is directly from the car park in to the church.

The Presbytery of Aberdeen rents an office on the upper floor, and a small kitchen, toilets and meeting room all link to the Sanctuary.

Adjacent to the Sanctuary is the hall accommodation, with car park and disabled access: this comprises a large hall with stage (recently decorated); the James Tyrrell Centre (refurbished after a major fund-raising appeal supported by the whole community), a small meeting room, the Minister's office, and another office used by the Parish Assistant and treasurer. A kitchen, and toilets (one of which has facilities for disabled people and baby-changing, as well as some storage areas complete the accommodation.

CCTV has recently been installed as part of our property improvement programme.



The Manse is situated just under 4 miles from the Church, in the new development of Kingswells, a neighbouring parish to the west of Mastrick. It is a modern house with garage, comprising living room, kitchen/conservatory, study and toilet on the lower level, and 4 bedrooms (one en suite) and a family bathroom upstairs – and with a well-laid out garden.

Kingswells is served by a primary school within walking distance, and secondary education is at Bucksburn Academy. There is a regular bus service in to Aberdeen.

All our buildings are in a sound state of repair, and well-maintained by the Property Team Leader and volunteers.

### **Finance**

As for many churches, finance is an ongoing concern, with a reducing membership and ever-increasing costs; a Finance Team sets budgets and reports to the Kirk Session regularly. Currently we manage to meet our regular and on-going financial commitments and fund-raise for other items, usually connected with buildings maintenance and updating; this is achieved through long-term lets of various parts of our accommodation, by the hard work of members, and support from others in Mastrick and the wider community.

Accounts are available on request or can be viewed on the OSCR website by quoting our charity number.

### **Pastoral Care**

Pastoral care is an important aspect of our service in Mastrick, particularly as the membership and local population is ageing. The Pastoral Care Team works in collaboration with the Minister, visiting members in their homes or in hospital, and the Minister celebrates communion with individuals at home on request.

Members who are housebound receive cards at Easter and Christmas, and church flowers are given weekly to those facing particular difficulties. The James Tyrrell Centre minibus is available on a Sunday and volunteer drivers and escorts pick up people who otherwise could not attend church.

The congregation is caring of one another, and continually seeks to be accepting of people from all backgrounds and lifestyles, as reflected in our Welcome Statement.

### **Aim and Objectives and Our Progress**

Our church Development Plan for the five years to 2018 is based on the five building blocks of mission – worship, service, fellowship, evangelism, discipleship - each concerned with outreach both within and outwith the worshipping community. It was updated in the autumn of 2015 and that exercise showed we had made significant progress in meeting our objectives.

We look forward to the leadership and guidance of a new Minister in making sure that our objectives continue to be appropriate in the context of a deferred union, and in enabling the congregation to meet them.

### **Challenges**

Promoting the church in the wider community.

*Encouraging young families and children through the door*

Using and enabling people's gifts and talents

*Working towards being more inclusive in our welcome*

### **Our Future**

In 2016, Mastrick Parish Church is at an exciting time as we seek a new Minister who will guide us in our continuing development, and lead us as we prepare for the eventual union with Summerhill.

Mastrick as a community is changing, and so the needs of its people are changing; this brings both opportunities and challenges! We are looking for a Minister who will enable and encourage the congregation to continue to develop its worship and service in this community.