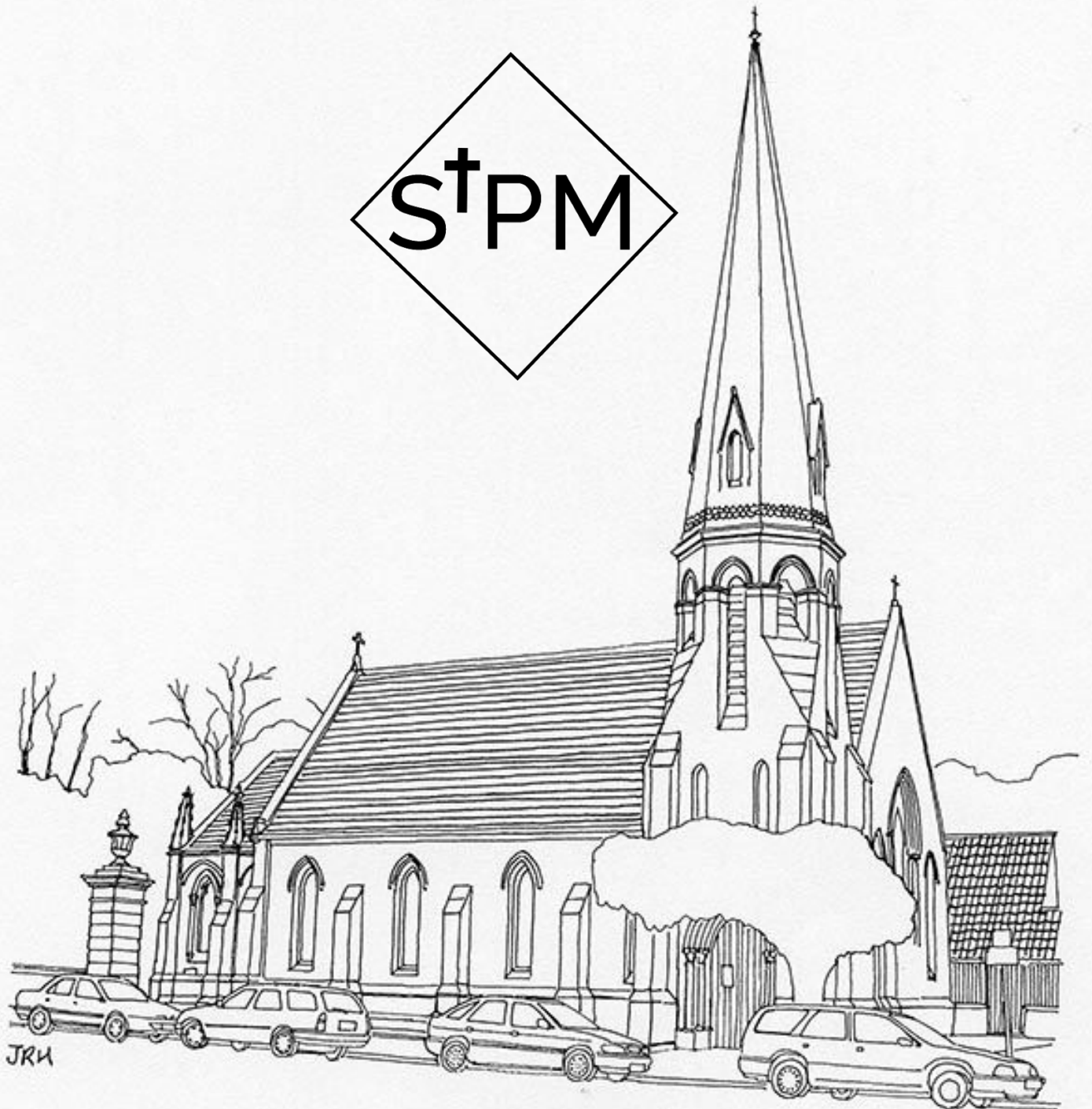


St. Peter's Church Musselburgh



January 2024

SC003445



Scottish Episcopal Church

The Diocese of Edinburgh

Growing together in following Christ and sharing God's love

Rooted in a common heritage we belong to each other, celebrating our diversity, growing in unity and working for the transformation of individuals and society

The Diocese of Edinburgh, part of the Scottish Episcopal Church, is committed to God's mission. This mission affirms the value of life and seeks the transformation of people's lives.

As agents of God's mission, the Church seeks to:

1. *Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.*
2. *Teach, baptise and nurture Christians, and renew the life of the Church.*
3. *Respond to human need by loving service.*
4. *Transform unjust structures of society, challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.*
5. *Safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.*



Our Diocese is one of the seven dioceses of the Scottish Episcopal Church. It covers the eastern side of southern Scotland and stretches from the Firth of Forth to the English border. It includes more than 50 churches with a total membership of 8,500 and a communicant roll of 6,000.

The Standing Committee of Diocesan Synod has two main sub-committees, Mission & Ministry and Finance & Management, both of which seek to further God's mission as set out above. Advice and support are available to charges in all aspects of their developing life. We have recently appointed a full-time Advisor for Christian Life. This is a new post, building on previous work undertaken in the diocese. The vision is that the postholder will enable the people of the diocese to grow in faith as disciples of Christ in mission and ministry; facilitate opportunities to work as a whole diocese together; resource clergy as they lead in mission in the current climate.





Scottish Episcopal Church

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Growing together in following Christ and sharing God's love

Bishop's Introduction

Musselburgh is a beautiful and stimulating place to live and work. St Peter's has enjoyed the short ministry of their previous Priest-in-Charge who helped the congregation to reflect on the lessons learned from the pandemic and to move forward joyfully and with confidence. There is plenty to build on as the people look hopefully to the future, open to what God has in mind for them.

For the right person this is a post with huge potential. They will be supported by a faithful and resourceful congregation eager to make an impact in all parts of the town. They will find real energy within the church family, a deep love for Jesus and a joy in worship.

The new Priest-in-Charge must share the enthusiasms of the congregation and offer a collaborative and consultative style of leadership. They must be secure in their role and able to recognise the leadership that others bring. They must be capable of nurturing disciples both new and old. They must be able to demonstrate that they are at home in the broad range of traditions within the Scottish Episcopal Church.

I believe there is much here to bring out the best in a wise, energetic and imaginative priest who knows from experience how the Good News of God's Kingdom can transform the lives of individuals and communities. I hold in my prayers all who are wondering whether God is calling them to this new ministry.

+John

Bishop of Edinburgh



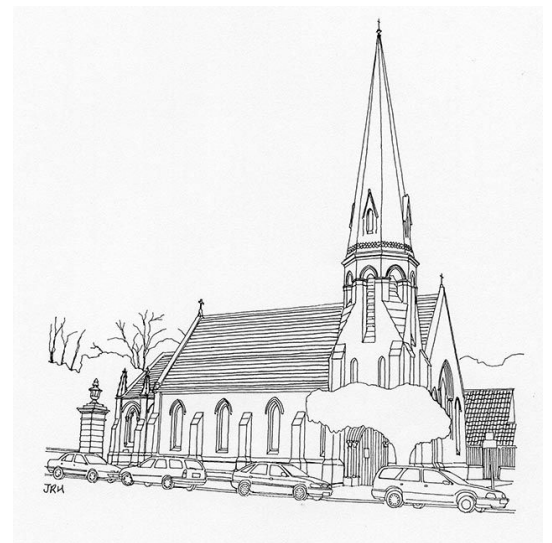
Statement of Faith

As a church, we believe the Bible to be God's word and revelation. We see the Bible as the ultimate authority for faith and life.

As God's people, we continually strive to align our thinking and living to God's word. As a church family we seek to help each other along this journey. We humbly acknowledge that we haven't got there yet and don't have all the answers, but through prayer and study of God's word we aim to draw ever closer.

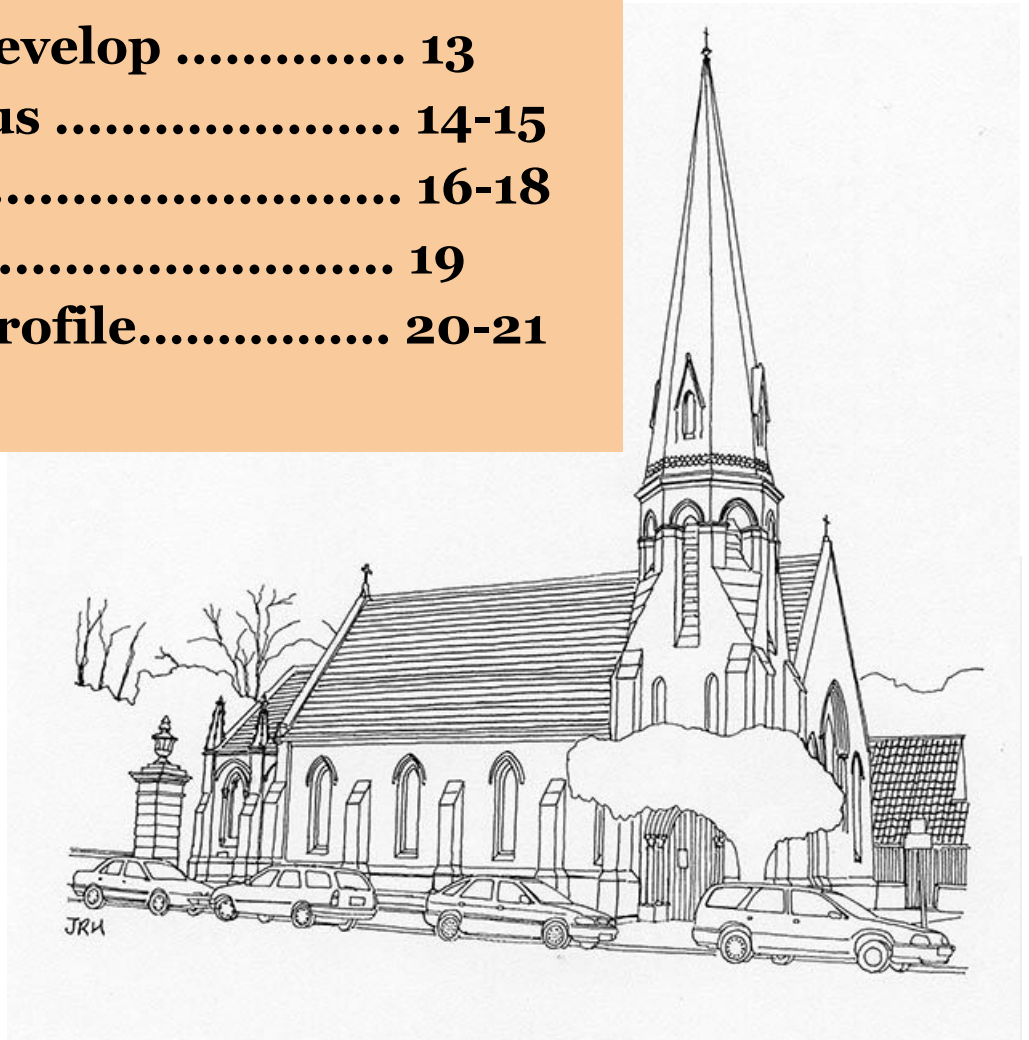
We are looking to share His life-changing message with the community in which we live and draw others to the faith that has changed our lives. We seek to love God with heart, soul, mind and strength and to love our neighbours as ourselves.

We believe in the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, and are confident in the power of prayer. As we ourselves are transformed by God's love, our hope is that we will become more like Jesus in all our thoughts, words and deeds, responding to his call to us to be salt and light (Matthew 5:13-16)



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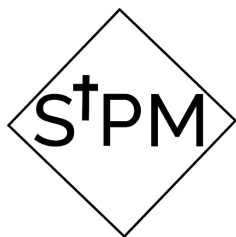
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Welcome to St. Peter's church profile

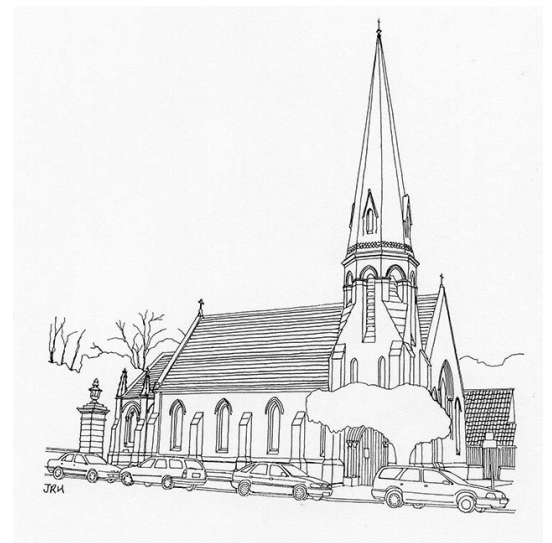


We hope that this profile will give you a helpful and honest picture of our church, both people and buildings.



Overview

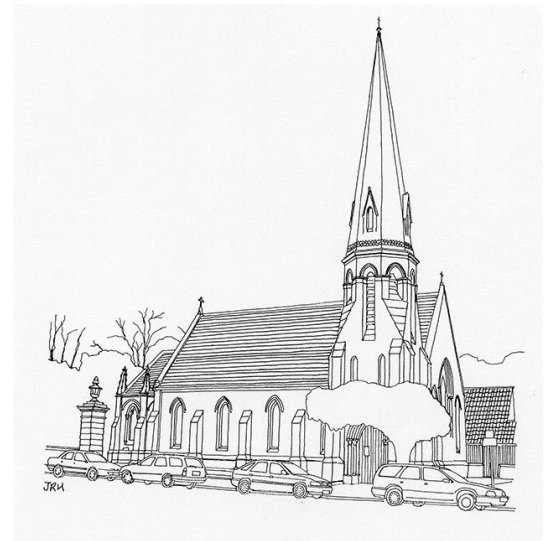
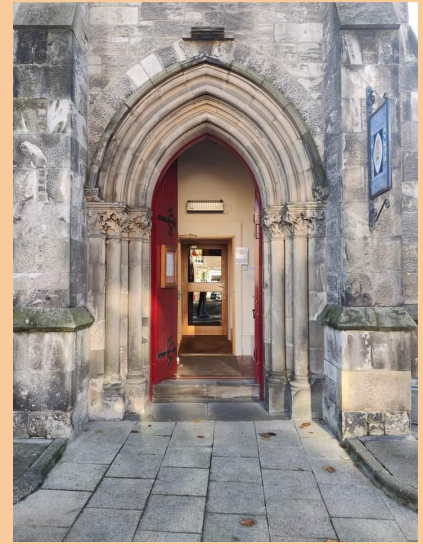
St Peter's Episcopal Church looks forward to welcoming a new Priest-in-Charge. The congregation is small, friendly and enjoys welcoming visitors. Our 50 or so regular members, of all ages, have many different backgrounds – denominational and geographic – and correspondingly varied tastes in style of worship. We are a loving church family, and we happily accommodate each other's preferences: though our worship and preaching are always scriptural. We currently have a small number of children. They are an important part of our family, and we would hope to draw new children, young people and families to the church.



Where we've come from

Our past has been eventful. The church has an unbroken link to the seventeenth century, though the present French Gothic building dates from 1865. In 1976 the congregation was linked with St Andrew's in nearby Prestonpans, but small numbers forced the closure of St Andrew's in 2014.

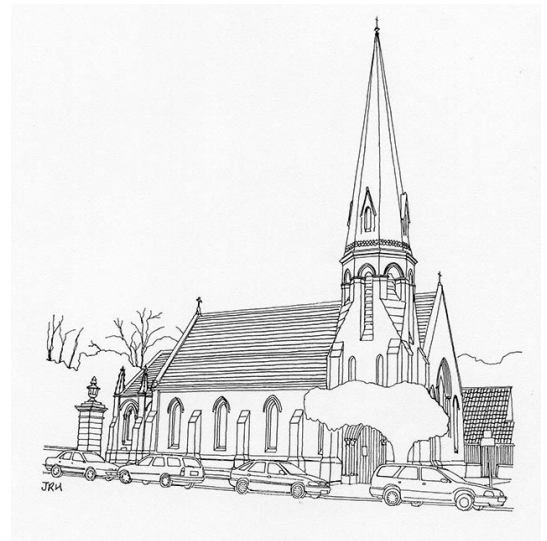
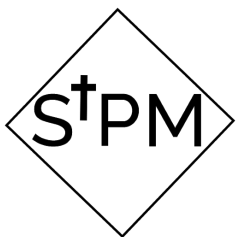
In 2006 St Peter's was renovated; the pews were removed and other work sympathetically done to provide a beautiful but flexible interior. The project won the Musselburgh Conservation Society Design Award for 2009. The adjacent church hall has also been renovated, and is enjoyed by many local organisations.



Who we are

St. Peter's is a forward-looking church with around 30-35 adults and children attending on a typical Sunday, and more who come along occasionally. The faithful and solid foundational membership of committed worshippers of all ages composes a warm, welcoming and loving congregation who have a genuine desire to serve God and encourage one another to be more like Jesus. We are from many different denominational backgrounds resulting in diverse worship tastes, yet united as part of the body of Christ. Every member ministry is important to us and in our liturgical services both ordained and lay people contribute.

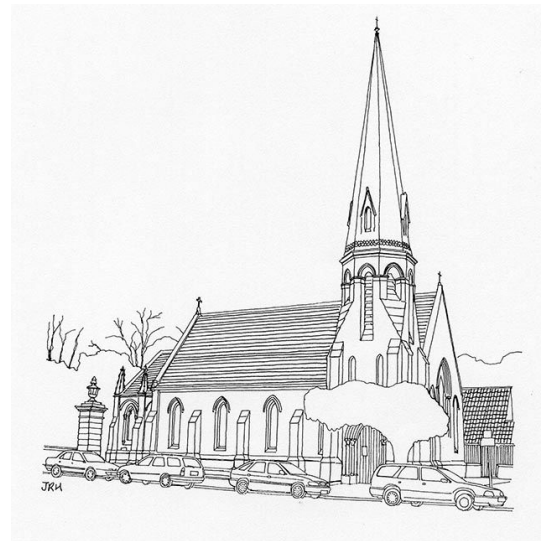
We have a Reader Emeritus and a Sacristan. We have two small groups that meet fortnightly in addition to a resourceful and proactive Vestry.



Who we are

St. Peter's is Bible-centred and encourages people to make a positive commitment to Christ. Small groups and occasional midweek courses provide an opportunity for exploring our faith together and supporting each other in our faith journeys. Our Wednesday morning service also provides an opportunity for discussion. 'Centering Prayer', a silent, reflective form of prayer takes place regularly through the year. We have seen spiritual growth, but our numbers remain small, with some people moving on and others joining us. We have a growing desire to discern, and then take, the next steps towards deepening our faith, leading more people to Christ, increasing the breadth of worship styles as well as responding to need and becoming enablers in our community.

We also endeavour to be a safe church and a Safeguarding Co-ordinator has oversight of matters relating to the protection of children and vulnerable adults.

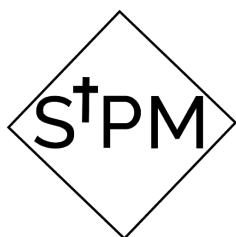
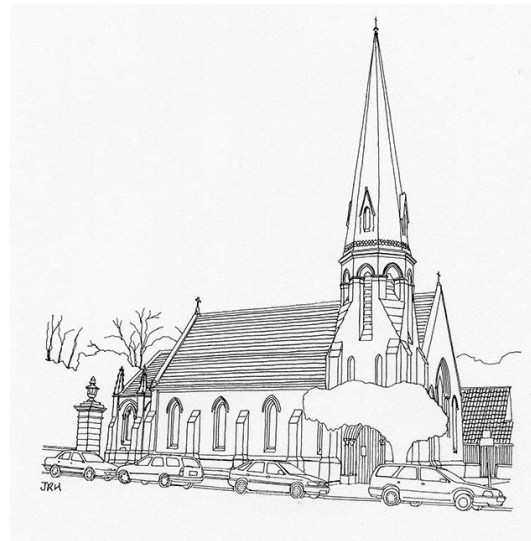


How we are run

In the vacancy period, church members will be stepping up to the challenge of planning and leading the worship and prayer of the church and pastoral care of the members. All-member ministry is encouraged and sought. We will be accompanied on our journey through the Vacancy by an Interim Pastor, appointed by the bishop to be our companion and advisor. As a caring church, members of the congregation will continue to support one another in times of illness or other difficulty.

The Vestry currently consists of 4 men and 4 women. We would usually meet about once every 6 weeks outside the summer holidays. We are blessed in having a dedicated Treasurer and a Fabric Representative who also serves on the Diocesan Buildings Committee.

The Rector, Vestry and Small Group leaders have in the past held an externally facilitated away day in quiet surroundings at the end of each summer to plan ahead. It would be good to reinstate this.



Where we are now

We presently enjoy a diverse and inclusive attitude to worship and liturgy, and all our services have Christ at the centre.

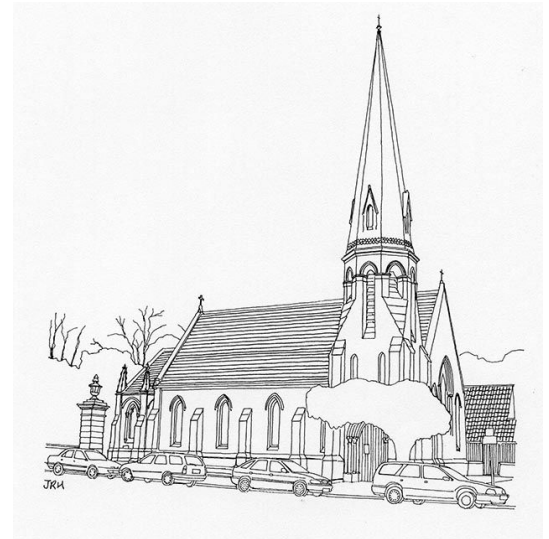
We have two main types of Sunday service:

- A weekly Holy Communion service, currently at 10.30am. Worship includes a variety of music, including both traditional hymns and contemporary songs. This is normally led by piano but also sometimes making use of videos. Crafts and activities for young children are available at the back of the church, supported by volunteers. Children join the service at the point of communion for a blessing. In the past, there has been a crèche for younger children and also groups for older children and we would hope to build up our church family to return to this.
- A monthly (last Sunday of the month) Gateway inter-generational service. This starts with informal breakfast in the church hall from 10.00am. The service begins at 10.30am, and may include games, activities, talks, songs, Bible reading and prayer, making good use of our flexible space. For those who wish to receive it, Communion is offered in the church after the service.

Communion liturgy is as used by the Scottish Episcopal Church.

Other services and prayer and study opportunities throughout the week include:

- On Wednesday mornings at 10am, there is an informal communion service (Scottish Liturgy 1982 or Iona format) with a talk or shared Bible study.
- Two small groups meet fortnightly (one on a Tuesday, one on a Thursday) and follow themed study guides. Around 20 members of the congregation attend one or other of these groups.
- The chapel /prayer room is open during certain periods of the church calendar e.g. Advent for silent/centering prayer, led by a member of the congregation.



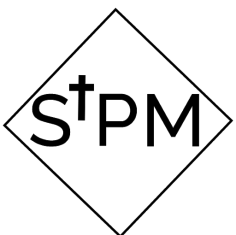
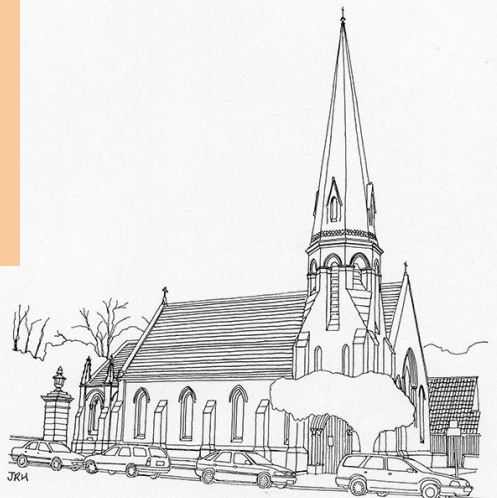
Regular Church Activities

- Small Groups – two groups meet regularly for Bible study.
- Ecumenical worship – we have close links with the Church of Scotland churches in Musselburgh and worship together regularly through the year, including regular Taizé services.
- Centering Prayer – held in church periodically through the year.
- Mothers' Union – meets monthly on Wednesday afternoons. 10+ women attend from St Peter's and other churches across East Lothian.



Annual Events include

- Good Friday prayer and contemplation, including craft activities for young children
- Carols by Candlelight – a traditional service of carols and readings
- Children's Crib Service – a joyful occasion celebrating the birth of Jesus
- Church Picnic – usually in June around St Peter's Day. A church family gathering of food, fellowship and fun.



Serving our community

Cook Club – every Wednesday a team from St Peter’s and other local churches prepare a meal which is served in the church hall. Anyone from the local community is welcome to come and share the meal at no cost. Normally around 15-20 eat together.

Tods and Tots – meets on Friday mornings in school term time in the church hall. This is a thriving community outreach to families with young children. About 20 families are involved, including some grandparents.

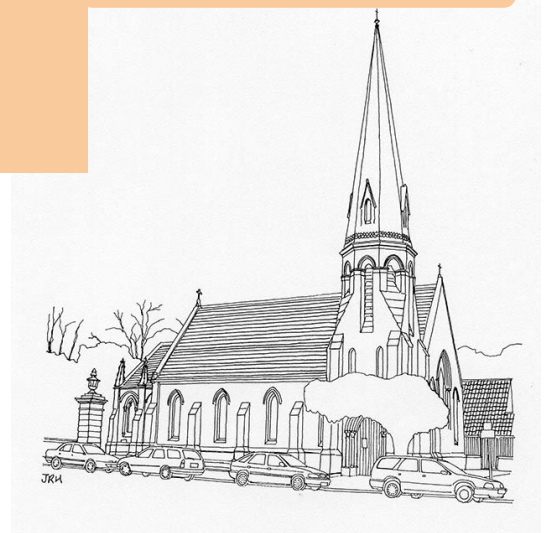
Open Door – our church doors are open for several hours during the day on a Wednesday and Friday and all are welcome to come in for a chat, to find out more about the church and its history, or simply enjoy some time in silence.

Marathon Café – providing free tea, coffee and cakes for runners and spectators at the Edinburgh Marathon Festival on a Sunday at end of May.

Chaplaincy – in conjunction with the St Andrew’s High Church minister, making positive links with Pinkie St Peter’s primary school.

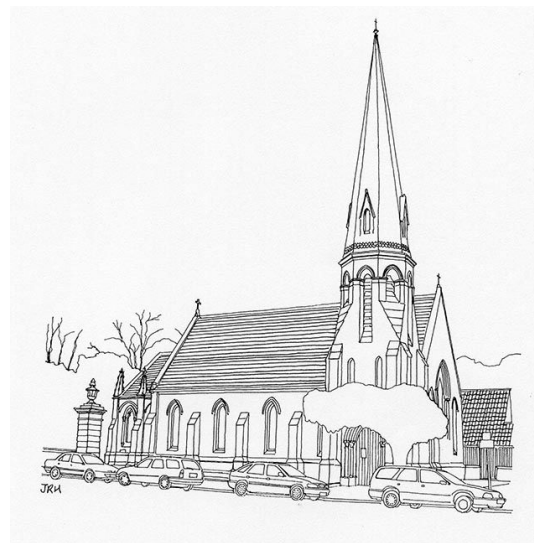
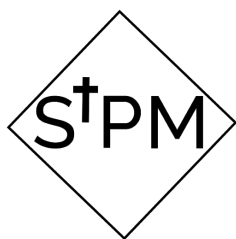
Carol singing in the town – A traditional activity visiting various locations and care homes in the town, joining together with other churches in Musselburgh.

Supporting a local Foodbank – regular collections and donations for the local Foodbank.



What's important to us

We asked our congregation, "What words would you use to describe St. Peter's?" and this is what they said:



What is important to us

We asked our congregation, “What has God done for you?”

Set me amongst loving Christian family who have supported and loved me in tricky times

Kept me going

Brought me home

Helped me accept and love who I am and given me strength for difficult times.

KEPT LOVING ME
(NO MATTER WHAT)

Helped me feel connected to myself and be compassionate

Rescued me – more than once

Helped and loved me through difficult times

forgiven my failings

Kept the lid on

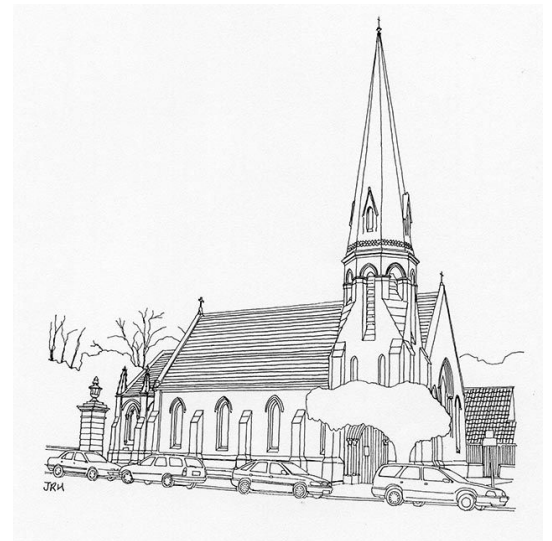
God has held me in his hands through tough times. He has never left me alone or abandoned me. He has given me a voice and a purpose to look out for those He loves.

Been my Rock in times of trouble.

Helped me in times of need

GIVEN ME HOPE

Provided me with comfort during the bad times and joy during the good times



What is important to us

We asked our congregation, “What kind of place would you like St Peter’s to be?”

A safe place to join others in worship and learn what God wants to do in our lives and the lives of others

A place where there is compassion, empathy and open-mindedness

A place where anyone can come and feel welcomed and loved, where support is given.

A place relevant in our community, not cut off from people’s struggles

A place for people of all ages

A place where children can make friends, where there is a kids club

A place where we have different styles of worship

A place where we are braver for God

A place where all are welcome

An outward-looking church

A place where people can find peace

A place where people feel at home and are encouraged to grow and develop in their faith

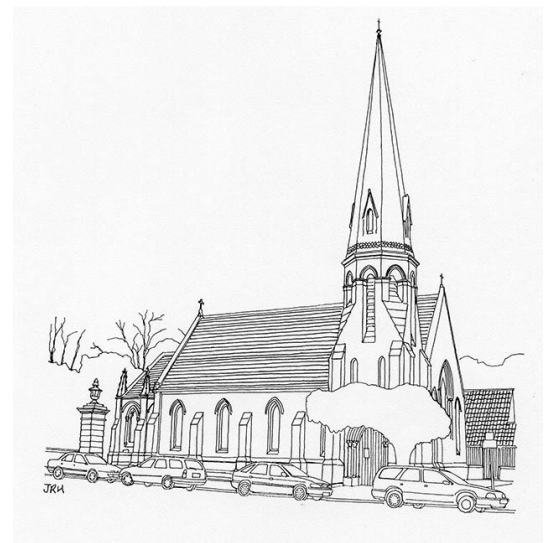
A place with lively music!

A place where lives are transformed

A place where people can ask questions about God

A happy place

A place of safety



How we'd like to develop

These are the priorities we see for the church in the next five years;

Ministry- encourage St. Peter's to disciple and nurture people to minister in the way that God calls them personally, whilst teaching and pastoral care equip the congregation to serve God and those around them as they draw close to Him.

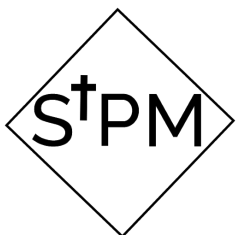
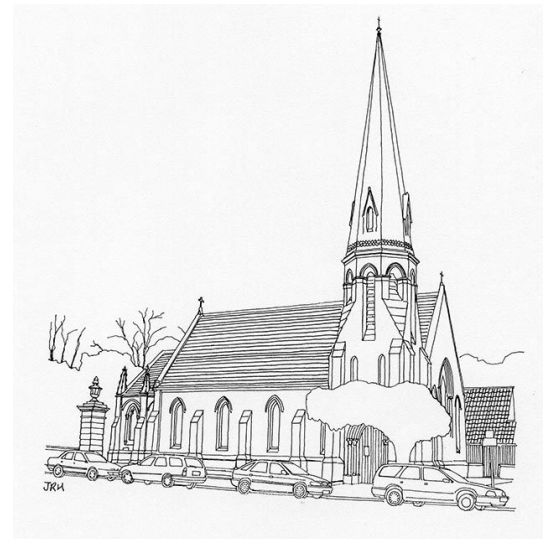
Families- to see growth in the number of families attending regularly and develop our children and youth work in line with this.

Community- continue to build on and strengthen links and involvement with our area, reaching out to the community of Musselburgh with the gospel, including with young people.

Worship- continue to offer diversity in our forms of worship, in music, within our forms of liturgy, in the power of the Holy Spirit, and move the congregation on in spiritual growth.

Small Groups- further develop mid-week small groups and provide training and support for small group leaders.

Working with other Churches- continue to work strategically with other churches in the area.



Where you'll find us

Amenities

Musselburgh has a new Health Centre, a leisure centre with indoor swimming pool, library, theatre, museum, harbour, racecourse, bowling club and 2 golf courses – including one of the oldest in the world. The John Muir Way, a splendid coastal footpath, passes by the town and includes the Musselburgh Lagoons, an area known for its birdlife. The town has several banks and shops as well as a large Tesco. Luca's ice-cream shop/café is close to the church, and extremely popular!



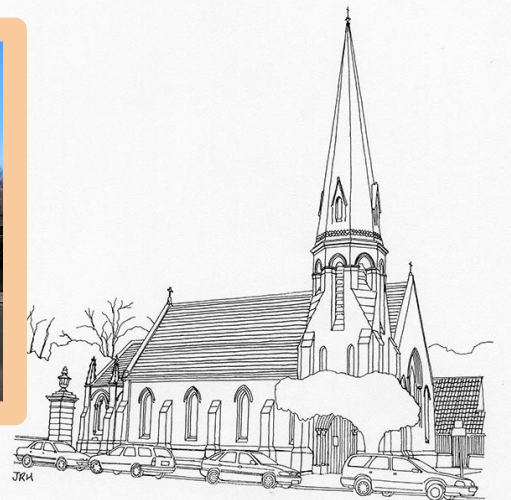
Education

There are several nurseries, 5 primary schools, two comprehensive secondary schools, and the campus of Queen Margaret University in the town. Next door to the church is Loretto School, which is an independent, boarding school.



The People

About 25,000 people live in Musselburgh (including Wallyford and Whitecraig), of whom 85% were born in Scotland. About 35% of the population live alone, and this is reflected in the large number of flats in some parts of the town. About 4% of residents are from ethnic minorities.



Where you'll find us

Housing

There is a great variety of housing in Musselburgh, from mansions to council flats. Many council tenants have bought their homes, leading to a shortage of social housing, as well as sheltered housing for older people, and small homes for people living alone. Several new housing developments are being built in Musselburgh and nearby Wallyford, so the population is rising rapidly.

Employment

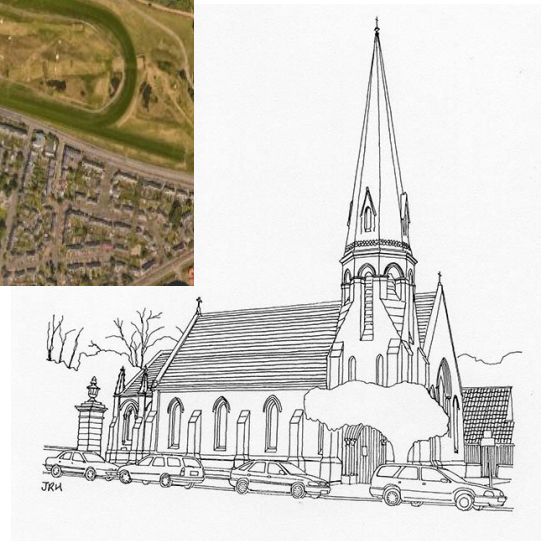
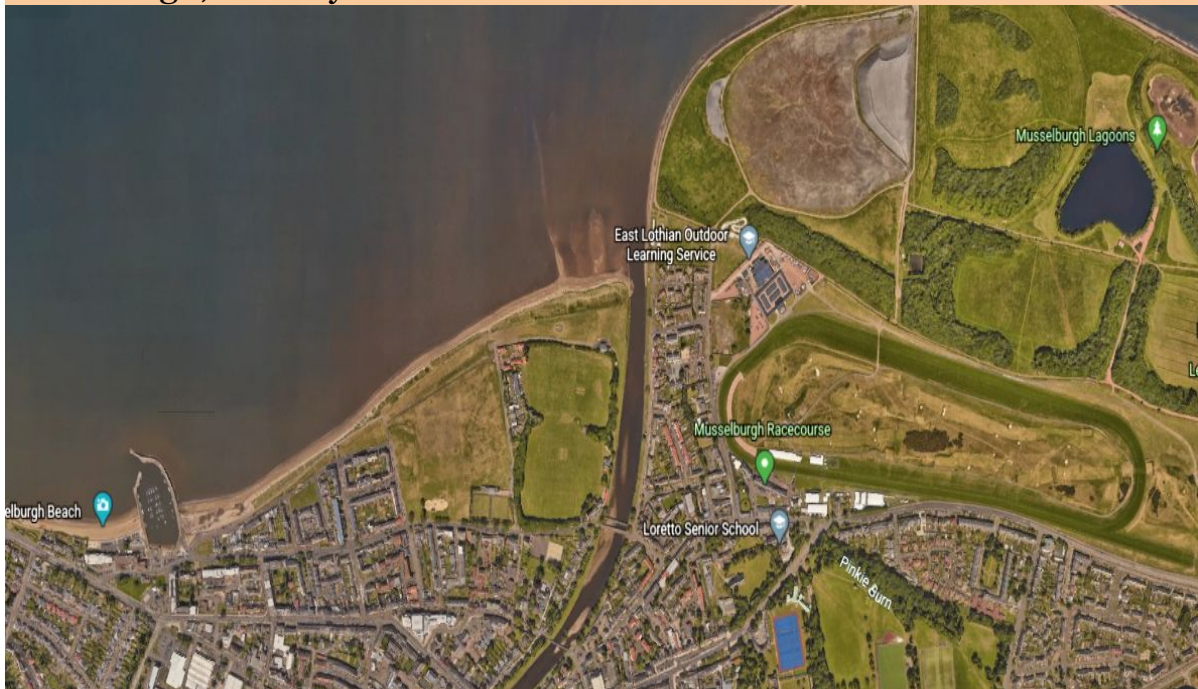
There are several industrial areas in the town. However most working people commute to Edinburgh, and beyond.

Transport links

Musselburgh has excellent transport links, with regular trains into Edinburgh (7-10 min journey time) and many bus routes. It is easy to get into Edinburgh and out to the beautiful East Lothian countryside and beaches.

Social Issues

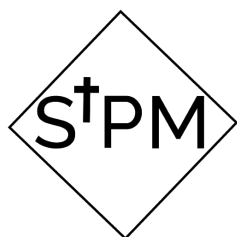
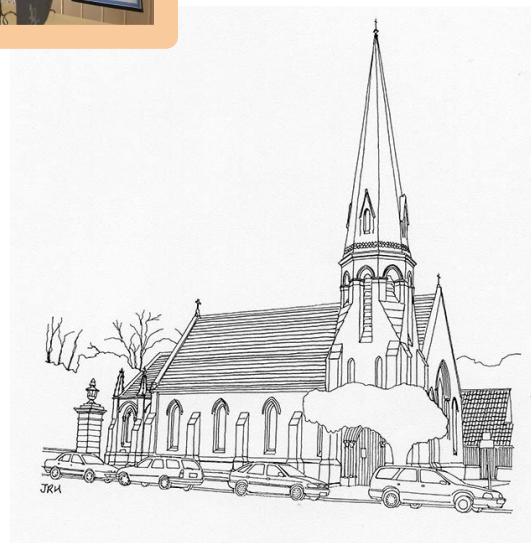
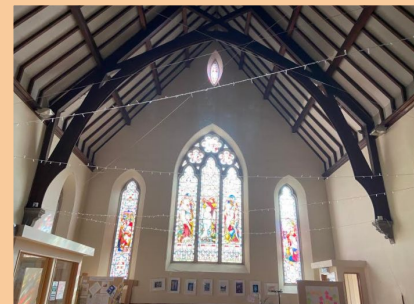
The Citizens' Advice Bureau is kept busy, mainly with local people coping with debt and benefit issues. The East Lothian Food Bank is still in much demand.



Our buildings

Church

The church is a landmark at the east end of Musselburgh High Street. In the modernisation in 2006, in addition to replacing heating, lighting and flooring the old pews were replaced by individual seats. The church space is now fully flexible for a number of uses and layouts – for example drama productions or children’s Summer Holiday Club. With a traditional layout the church seats up to 100 in the nave for Sunday services. Seats in the chancel are usually set out in a circle for Wednesday Communion or for private prayer on a Sunday. There is also a side chapel and beyond it a small vestry. Up a few stairs there is a church office with a small informal meeting area. The refurbishment also saw the installation of a sound system and audio visual equipment allowing for the use of different media in services, which are displayed on a screen. There is an electric organ and an electric piano.



Our buildings

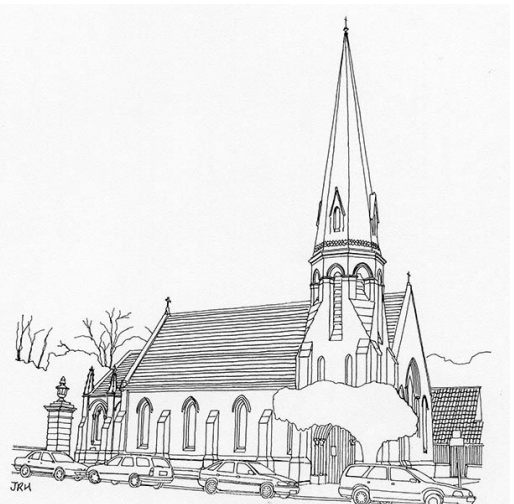
Church grounds

Between the Church and the Hall, and to the rear of the Hall there are grassed areas for children's play, picnics and the occasional Sunday service, weather permitting!



Church Hall

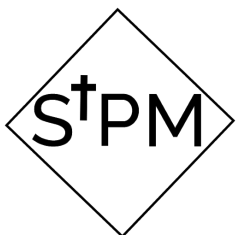
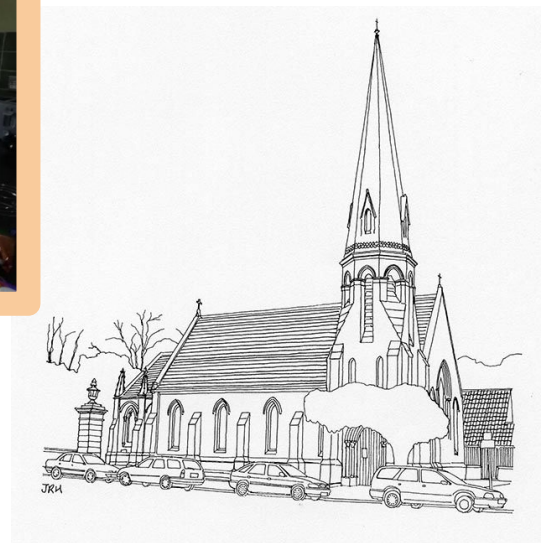
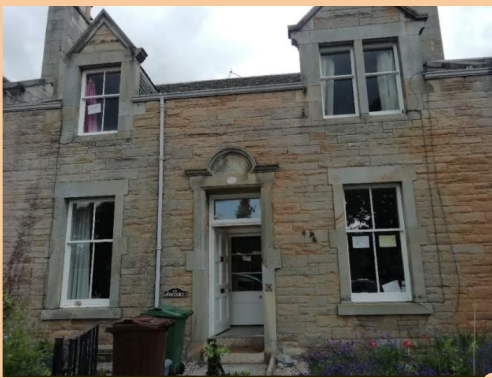
The Hall is behind the church but accessed separately. It can hold 60 - 80 people and is used extensively during the week by church and community organisations. It has its own audio visual system. Our weekly Cook Club and Tods and Tots are held here, and also coffee and tea after Sunday services. The kitchen, heating and windows have recently been improved. Our monthly Gateway services take place in the hall and we have also held Maundy Thursday meals and social events here. The Hall can be hired on a regular basis (Children's drama club, art group, yoga) or an ad hoc (informal wedding reception) basis, but priority is given to church or community organisations where possible. Attached to the Hall is a small lounge area which has previously been used as a crèche, counselling area, or for informal meetings.



Our buildings

Rectory

The Rectory is located about a 10 minute walk from the church to the east, so being close at hand and with the advantage of being a family home. It is a Victorian terraced house in an elegant square around a central garden. Opposite the racecourse, this is a quiet and much sought after location. The age of the property means that the rooms are well proportioned and combine period detail with a modernised interior. The windows have recently been refurbished, the skylight replaced and the roof retiled. The current ground floor layout is a large open plan kitchen/family dining area and lounge, separate sitting room, a study and a utility room, with downstairs toilet. Upstairs are four bedrooms, one of which has been recently used as an extra lounge, and a family bathroom. There is unrestricted on-street parking in the square, a small front garden and a large, enclosed garden to the rear.



Our finances

Church income comes from congregational giving (and associated Gift Aid) and hall letting. Any fundraising events would usually support designated charities rather than the church. Annual financial statements are available on request; headline numbers are shown below.

St Peter's Church Musselburgh

Charity no. SC003445

Year	2021	2022	2023
End date	30 Sept 2021	30 Sept 2022	30 Sept 2023

Incoming resources

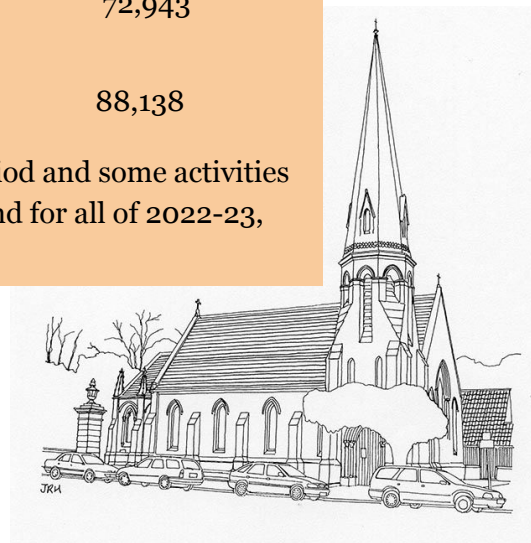
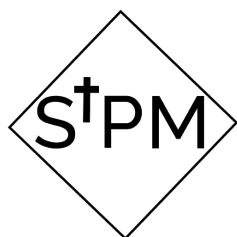
Congregational giving	40,169	54,105	54,768
Donations	2,410	4,233	5,952
Legacies & grants	450	-	2,140
Hall & Rectory lets	4,589	5,100	6,579
Other	-	1,544	1,869
TOTAL INCOME	47,618	64,982	71,308

Resources Expended

Clergy & ministry costs	4,116	39,017	43,065
Worship costs	2,489	4,576	5,434
Fabric costs	4,362	4,939	3,447
Quota	7,072	4,602	5,523
Mission & Education	513	2,014	2,501
Insurance and utilities	13,624	12,473	9,308
Other	3,651	2,945	3,665
TOTAL RESOURCES EXPENDED	35,827	70,566	72,943

Fund balances at year end	95,357	89,773	88,138
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In 2021, expenditure was lower as we were in a vacancy period and some activities were restricted due to the pandemic. From October 2021 and for all of 2022-23, we had a Priest-in-Charge in employment.



Priest-in-Charge profile

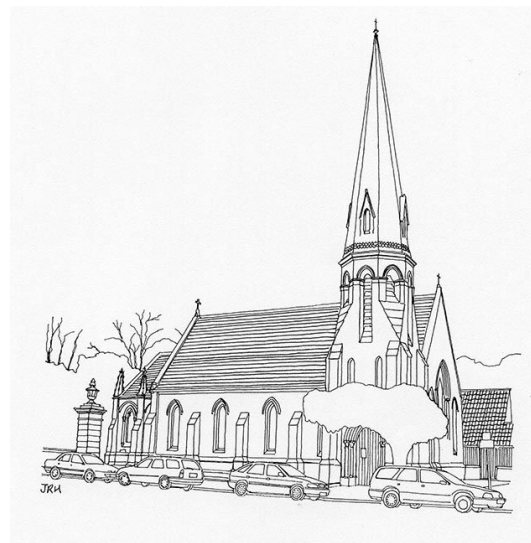
We are seeking a Priest-in-Charge, honestly living out their own faith, who is inspiring, prayerful, theologically stimulating, and in touch with contemporary church debates whilst still respecting more traditional approaches.

They will be familiar with and appreciate the Scottish Episcopal Church. We would like our new Priest-in-Charge to be comfortable with our present liturgies and forms of service with regard to both the scope and the musical content. However they should be able and willing to look at ways of developing patterns of worship with us.

We regard the involvement of families and the development of the young church as important. We would like our Priest-in-Charge to have an interest in supporting and developing this, as well as caring for the needs of all ages within the congregation. They should be happy to encourage outreach into the local community and society at large both in terms of our Christian commitment and our social concerns.

We would like our Priest-in-Charge to have the following skills and experience:

- An aptitude for preaching and teaching
- The ability to lead, develop and empower members of the church to participate in all areas of church life, practising every-member ministry
- To encourage and support the Vestry and congregation, working with them in consensual decision making
- The ability to listen, motivate, initiate action, and sensitively handle conflict
- A constructive leadership style with good communication and delegation skills
- The ability to coordinate the practical management of our church
- A willingness to work with other local churches



Priest-in-Charge profile (cont.)

We would like our Priest-in-Charge to:

- Be both guide and companion, encouraging and developing the every-member ministry
- Have a clear calling to St Peter's
- Believe in the transforming power of God
- Be caring, compassionate and affirming; able to relate to those with doubts as well as those with certainty in their faith
- Have the desire to explore music as part of worship
- Have an interest in fostering ecumenical links and inter faith dialogue
- Have the vision and energy to develop the wider use of all church premises and inspire the congregation to use them as a spiritual resource and community facility
- Have an awareness of their own need for spiritual and pastoral oversight
- Be able to develop our external profile, including aspects such as our website and social media
- Be enthusiastic, with a capacity for fun

We hope our new Priest-in-Charge will create a balance between maintaining our present aims and achievements, and nurturing and developing a God-inspired vision for the future.

Within the initial period of this appointment and subject to longer-term financial viability the Bishop may, with the consent of Vestry, decide to license the Priest-in-Charge as Rector.



Thank you for taking the time to read this profile. Please do contact The Dean at Edinburgh Diocese if you have questions or queries or want clarification on any aspects of our profile.



Line drawing of St Peter's used with permission of the artist John R Hume. Thank you.

