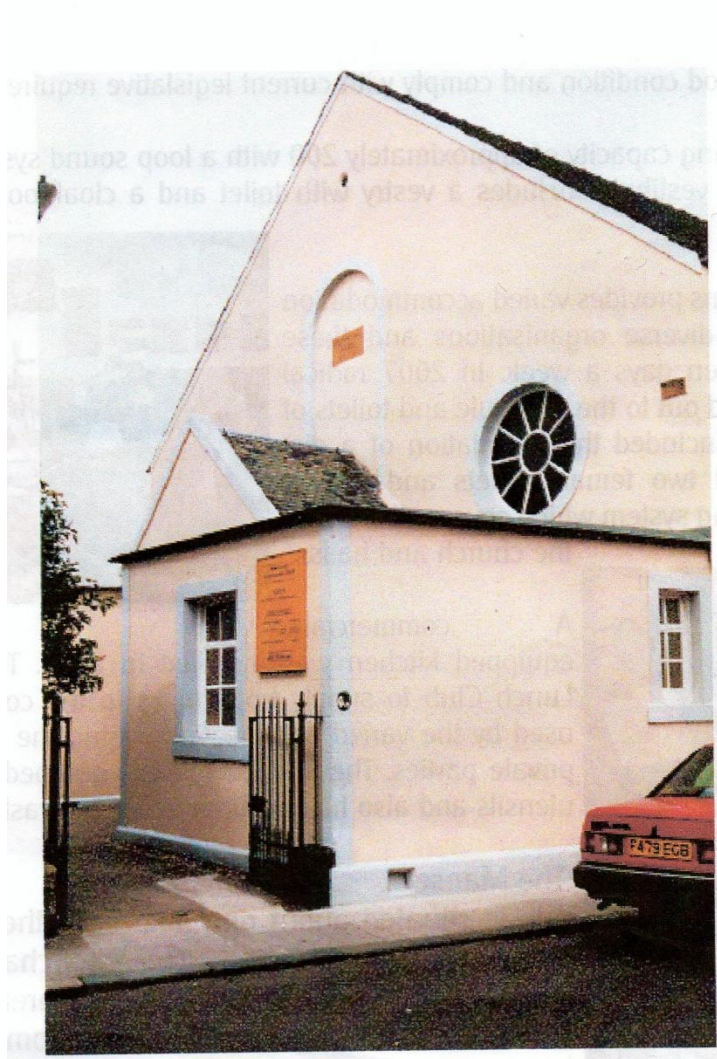


Musselburgh Congregational Church



Our Mission

To provide the opportunity for Christian worship, fellowship, education and outreach and to offer Christian Care, support and love.

Location

The Church is situated in the Fisherrow area of Musselburgh, which is about five miles east of Edinburgh. There are excellent road and rail links with the Scottish Capital and the town has both primary and secondary schools in close proximity. The church has been in existence since 1798 and the church building was built by its original members from local materials and was completed in 1801. A large hall with toilet facilities was built in 1912.



Church Building

All buildings are in good condition and comply with current legislative requirements.

The church has seating capacity of approximately 200 with loop sound system and a Holditch pipe organ. The entry vestibule includes a vestry with toilet and a cloak room. It is all in good decorative condition.

A suite of halls and rooms provide varied accommodation for large, small and diverse organisations and these rooms are in use seven days a week. In 2007 radical alterations were carried out to the vestibule and toilets of the large hall. These included the installation of a disabled/male toilet and two female toilets and a new gas-fired central heating system.

A commercially equipped kitchen was installed in 2004. This is used by the Lunch Club to supply hot snacks to the community. It is also used by the varied organisations using the halls and for small private parties. The kitchen is well-equipped with all necessary utensils and also has a commercial dishwasher.

The Manse

This is situated about one and half miles from the church and is a modern detached two storey villa, purchased in 1968; with lounge/dining area, kitchen/breakfast area and study downstairs and three bedrooms and bathroom upstairs. There is a detached garage.

Worship

The current membership is 115 with an average attendance of 40 attending worship. There is one service each Sunday at 11am but there are occasional special evening services. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first Sunday of each month. The Sunday School also meets at 11am and participates in the first part of morning worship.

Morning worship is traditional in style with hymn singing, prayers, Scripture readings and a Sermon. There is now also a regular Family Service which we have been able to explore different styles of worship. Piano and organ music is played before and after worship.

Working Together

As a Congregational church we are self governing but we are a member of the national Congregational Federation of Scotland, England and Wales which we contribute to financially. Church delegates also attend all Scottish and National Federation annual conferences.

At present there are 9 deacons who manage all aspects of church life under the direction of the members. There is a Ministry Team which coordinates morning worship services by organising pulpit supply during the vacancy. A Vacancy committee has also been set up.

Diaconate members, supported by a Church Member who is currently working towards a Foundation Degree in Practical Theology and local retired Ministers, undertake pastoral care and visits to members are made on regular basis.

To keep all our members informed of the work of the church a quarterly magazine, "The Link", is produced by one of the members and distributed by the deacons. We also have a regular updated website managed by the Church Secretary (www.musselburghcongregational.org.uk).

Finance

We are a fully self supporting congregation with most members contributing by free will offering, open plate collection, standing orders and Gift Aid. Members respond really well to the church's financial needs although we recently had to borrow £15000 from the Scottish Federation to finance the major hall, toilet and heating work. £11000 of this remains to be repaid. Retiring collections are taken 1st and 3rd Sundays for the fellowship fund and Building Fund. There is a weekly rota of members for the supply of flowers for Sunday services and Flower funds boxes also receive regular small contributions.

Organisational Groups

A wide variety of organisations covering all age groups meet regularly in our church and halls. Attendance is healthy and a typical weekly diary of activities is shown in appendix 1.

Sunday School

Our Sunday School meet each week in the Large Church Hall at 10.45am, then all go in to Church. The children begin their worship with the first part of the service by bringing forward their offering, choosing the hymn, reading prayers and hearing their own story. After the children's hymn they return to the hall to sing and do craft work. The children are a very important part of our Church family and they are happy and relaxed in the Church environment. There are currently between 8 and 15 children attending each week, ages range between 2yrs and 14yrs, although small in number they are big in enthusiasm. The Superintendent is supported by 3 teachers who are all dedicated to developing the children's understanding of God's Love for them and to encourage them to explore ways to serve Him.

Women's Fellowship

The aim of the Women's Fellowship is to encourage home and family life and to unite its members in worship, fellowship and service.

Meeting fortnightly on a Tuesday evening (except during the summer months) they have a programme of speakers, demonstrations and films. Throughout the year the Women's Fellowship is responsible for organising many different types of fellowship events including Coffee Mornings, Musical Evenings, Beetle Drives; they also have fundraising events for Charities such as the Macmillan Nurses and have a very popular Christmas Hamper fundraiser. The ladies are very well known for their hospitality and their home baking is out of this world.

Junior Choir

There has been a Junior Choir in existence in our church for well over 100 years, currently the members of the Junior Choir ages range between 5yrs and 18yrs. Although some of the members of the choir attend other churches they are happy to contribute to our morning worship with their delightful singing. The Junior Choir holds an annual concert in the Brunton Hall and along with Friends entertains with Music, Song and Dance.

Lunch Club

This is held on a weekly basis (except during the summer months) this group supplies hot snacks, tea, coffee and biscuits everyone is made very welcome. This group could be classed as both outreach and fellowship as there are many different reasons why people come each week but also leave with a need having been met.

Other Organisations

There are many other organisations that use our halls each week and although in the past we have not actively offered outreach, the Ministry team have been working with these organisations to help them understand what we as a church have to offer.

These groups are 3rd & 4th Rainbows, 8th Brownies, Yoga, Alpha Dance Academy, Little Shakespeare Drama Group, Musselburgh Amateur Musical Association and Alcoholics Anonymous.

Outreach and Mission

Samaritans Purse – Operation Christmas Child

Samaritan's Purse Shoeboxes are packed and sent to Operation Christmas Child by members of our Congregation who also assist in the Warehouse during the build up to the dispatch of the boxes and also in fundraising throughout the year.

Bethany Christian Trust

A team of volunteers from our Church serve the homeless people of Edinburgh during the winter months. We also support the Trust itself by promoting its shops and outreach.

Concern

Over the past few years the Sunday School have completed various sponsored events as part of the Harvest Celebrations from Sing-a-thon to Help Others and all proceeds have been donated to Concern's Food Aid project.

Make a Wish Foundation

The Sunday School held a sponsored Bake-a-thon and all proceed were donated to Make a Wish Foundation.

A few members are part of the Council of Musselburgh Churches and through this membership we have supported events and proceeds have been donated to many charities such as SCIAF and Christian Aid.



“On our firm foundations of our past we build our future.”

We see the future as continuing to develop the good work already taking place in Musselburgh Congregational Church.

- We want to work towards our Church being more effective in serving the community and more attractive to the community.
- We will continue to development our worship, and offer a range of styles while being faithful to our traditions and mindful of the challenge for the church to be relevant today.
- We will continue to develop our buildings and facilities to further these aims.

Appendix 1

Organisations/Groups Using Musselburgh Congregational Church

Monday

Rainbows	6.15pm – 7.15pm
Yoga	7.30pm – 8.45pm

Tuesday

Alpha Dance Academy	2.45pm - 6.30pm
Women's Fellowship (Fortnightly)	7.30pm - 9.30pm

Wednesday

Brownies	6.15pm - 7.45pm
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Thursday

Lunch Club	9.00am – 2.00pm
Junior Choir	4.30pm – 6.00pm
Little Shakespeare Theatre School	7.00pm – 8.30pm

Friday

Rainbows	6.00pm – 7.00pm
JAM (being formed)	7.30pm – 9.30pm

Saturday

Little Shakespeare Theatre School	10.30am – 12.30pm
Alcoholics Anonymous	1.00pm – 4.00pm

Other groups book the halls for use when they are available