

# Liberton Northfield Church

## Parish Profile



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# Liberton Northfield Church

## Parish Profile

### **‘To know Christ and make him known.’**

Welcome to our Parish Profile, and thanks for taking the time to read it. We hope you will find it helpful and informative and that it will enable you to discern whether or not you sense a call to serve here and participate in our mission to ‘To Know Christ and make Him known’. We are asking all applicants to send us a CV together with a single page of A4 (12 pt font) in response to our profile. Tell us how you think your gifts link with our situation, and what developments you can imagine happening under your ministry.

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### **Summary of Church**

We are a suburban congregation in South East Edinburgh that is part of a Parish Grouping with strong ecumenical links. Both congregation and community are mixed in age, culture and economic activity. Having had several key members move away in recent years, we need to develop the next generation of leaders and identify how we might best reach our community with the Good News.



## Our New Minister – a brief profile

We are seeking someone who will:

- ♦ be able to nurture us in our faith with thoughtful Bible teaching, prayer, and both traditional and modern worship
- ♦ be capable of developing our skills, maturity, and leadership to help us share in congregational ministry
- ♦ be willing to engage with us in a Parish audit (such as *Discovery*) so that we can reach out appropriately to the needs of our Parish and beyond.

# What happens on Sundays

## Sunday Morning Service

The Sunday morning service is of a fairly traditional format, but in a welcoming style and includes modern songs of worship. Fischy Music songs, introduced a few years ago, are also used in local schools - providing a good link between work in schools and Sunday services.

We do not have an organist who can play every Sunday, but we are very fortunate to have a volunteer from another church who plays twice a month. A choir helps to lead the singing and also at other times singing is led by one of our members who plays guitar, or by CD. The children's address and participation of the children at the beginning of the service is appreciated by the whole congregation. Members are happy to be involved in the readings and prayers of intercession.



We have data projectors and an up-to-date sound system with hearing loop. CDs of the Service are recorded for giving out to the housebound and others. Tea and coffee in the hall provides an opportunity for fellowship after the service. This along with welcoming duty at the doors and flower ministry is provided by volunteers from the congregation.

Approximately 80 - 100 attend regularly on a Sunday morning (the current roll is 213). Some elderly and disabled people are brought to morning service using the South Edinburgh Amenities Group minibus driven by our own minibus drivers. There is ramp access, a disabled toilet and baby changing facilities.

## Trailblazers (Sunday School)

Currently we have approximately 20 children regularly attending church. Trailblazers meet every Sunday during the morning service, after the children's address. Activities include stories from the Bible, games and crafts. Through the year we have a number of parties for the children and also events to include the whole church family. Children are awarded prizes for regular attendance and so children are encouraged as they see others receiving recognition. We aim to provide nurture and support to children and their families from birth, and have been very encouraged to see many new families joining us over the years. We are hoping that our working with SU in running holiday clubs will encourage and equip more to serve as leaders and helpers since we can only run two age groupings at the moment (0-5, and 6 – 16).

There are great links between our Friday parent and toddler group ("New Life Tots") and the 0-5 Trailblazer group that help new families make the transition to coming to church on a Sunday.

## Evening Service

There is a weekly Evening Service that is smaller (approximately 20 members) and more informal with time for open prayer or sometimes Bible study during the service. Tea and coffee in the hall after the service provides an opportunity for fellowship. We occasionally have joint evening services with the other churches in the Parish grouping.

## Other Services

The church holds a monthly service at Tressilian Gardens, a sheltered housing complex within the parish, with between 15-20 individuals in attendance. Members are also involved with SEECAT monthly services at Liberton Hospital. A Korean church has also been using our premises on Sunday afternoons.



## Youthwork

Youthwork is something we are keen to strengthen and take forward, including by working with other groups and events in the area.

## Prayer

There are several opportunities for prayer: on Wednesdays; Saturday morning; and on Sunday morning before the service. A time for prayer is also set aside after the end of the morning service for any who would like prayer for particular issues. In conjunction with the other churches in our parish grouping we have run 24 hour prayer events, and supported the Try Praying initiative. We are also involved in SEECAT Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, and World Day of Prayers. In the past we have actively supported a number of overseas mission partners and organisations, but recently our two main mission partners have returned to the UK, and so this area of support needs re-vitalised.



## Our Community

## The Parish

In 2011 census, the parish population was 6355 people living in approximately 3,000 houses. The population structure is not dissimilar to the pattern for the city but with slightly more children (0 to 15 years) and more in the mature and elderly (45 years +) age groups.

Liberton Primary, St John Vianney RC Primary and Liberton High Schools, are located within the parish. The Inchview Care Home and the Inch House Community Centre are also located within the parish.

Due to the close proximity of the New Royal Infirmary, a number of buses serve the area and a bus journey into the city centre takes around 20 minutes.

Full information on the parish can be found in the appended church of Scotland Statistics for Mission document



# Finances

Our most recent figures are:

	2011	2012	2013
Income	£81,078	£79,154	£77,480
Expenditure	£61,051	£77,213	£69,371

Our congregational contribution to the Presbytery Ministry and Mission Fund for 2013 was £31,345 and was paid in full. The Kirk Session will be considering how to address issues of stewardship within our church.

## The Team



Elders: Norma Packham, Sheila Corrigan, Ian Messer, Alistair Lawson, Sheila Connor, Rachael Whyte and Irene Hoy

William Gordon  
(Property Convener)  
Helen Palmer  
(Finance Convener)  
Carlynn Young  
(Safeguarding Coordinator)



# The Buildings

## The Church

The church consists of the main church building, a large hall (recently decorated), a small ground floor meeting room, kitchen (recently decorated), an upstairs meeting room and vestry and a large entrance area.

Garage within church grounds currently used for storage. No major repairs outstanding and the Quinquennial inspection in August 2012 was very favourable.





## The Manse

Manse at 9 Claverhouse Drive, Edinburgh, EH1 6 6DR

(Title Deeds held with the General Trustees)

Ground floor consists of a large entrance hall with feature staircase, lounge, study, dining room, small cloakroom and kitchen.

1<sup>st</sup> floor; 3 double bedrooms, 1 box room and bathroom. Front garden with off- street parking, large back garden with 2 wooden sheds.

No major repairs are outstanding

Lounge redecorated and bathroom refurbished recently

Planned upgrades are:

- kitchen to be refurbished

- new carpet in entrance hall and staircase

Some redecoration may be carried out by agreement

# Themes and Focus

## Where are we now

### Focal Themes:

Prayer, Worship, The Bible, Visitation, Outreach and Discipleship

#### Current Strengths:

- \* **We are a community of faith**, through Alpha courses, Bible study, fellowship meals, night shelter provision with Bethany Christian Trust, Blythswood food bank and the Gilmerton Family Centre.
- \* **Good relationships** with the local schools, community health visitors, the churches in the area through SEECAT, Big Idea, Parish Grouping Meetings and conferences.
- \* **We are known as a welcoming and friendly church**
- \* **We are open to take on new projects when God puts it on our hearts.**
- \* **Many ministries**, for example, the Flowers Ministry where flowers are taken to people who are ill or recently bereaved to let them know that the church is remembering and praying for them.
- \* **Funeral services** bring God's word to all even if they do not attend church. We have seen many examples of people start attending church after bereavement having received comfort and a connection with the church.

### Opportunities:

- \* Youth outreach.
- \* Increased participation in Bible study and house groups.
- \* Re-visit the working groups' programme that we established 5 years ago.
- \* Lead people to use the gifts that God has given them to spread the burden of tasks.
- \* Nurture new Christians to maturity and leadership positions.
- \* Re-strengthen our missionary partnerships
- \* Develop our communications systems and structure so that the right message always reaches the right person
- \* Encourage good stewardship of time, talents and finance.

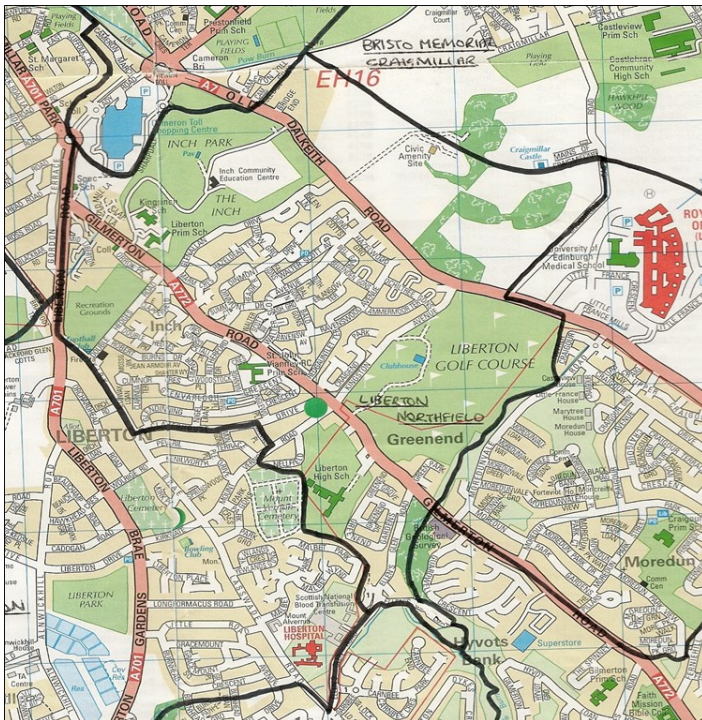
### **Opportunities for Future Focus**

Other churches in our Parish Grouping are using *Discovery* from Tearfund as a tool to audit their parishes. We hope our new minister will embark on this journey of discovery with us as a matter of priority. What we learn will shape our mission and activity, but already we see opportunities for developing work with families (such as Messy Church) and older people (such as a friendship group for people who live alone).

# About the City and Our Area

## Recent History

The 1990's under the ministry of Bill Thompson saw a focus on prayer, especially for the local schools, which at that point denied access to chaplaincy teams. Encouraged by Bill Thompson, the local ministers joined regularly to pray for the south-east of Edinburgh, and in support of each other. This link has strengthened over the years and continues to the current time. Following the retirement of Bill Thompson in 1999, John McPake took over as minister in 2000. By then permission for providing chaplaincy services had been gained within the schools in the area. During the period from 2000 to date there has been encouraging work with very young children and their families, and joint outreach activity with other churches in the south-east of Edinburgh. We continue to be blessed by having individuals and families from many different nations and cultures as part of the congregation.



## Our local area

The area is only a 20 minute bus journey to Edinburgh city centre but is within easy reach of parkland, seaside and hill country. Nearby amenities include a large shopping mall, a Swedish owned furniture store, a cash and carry, a golf course, a ski slope, an Olympic sized pool and a garden centre.

## The Parish

The parish of Liberton Northfield lies to the south-east of the city and is approximately 1 mile by 1.5 miles in area. It is bounded by on three sides by parkland. The Inch housing estate, built by the Council in the early 1950's post-war years, is the main and largest housing area in the parish. The most recent housing additions have been a number of smaller private estates. Right-to-buy has altered the pattern of housing tenure in the parish and by 2008 two-thirds of the houses were owner-occupied with the majority of the house types being flats and terraced villas.

## Contact Us

Applications should be sent to the Interim Moderator, Rev Dr Jared Hay, by email to [jared.hay@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:jared.hay@blueyonder.co.uk) or posted to 13 Lady Road, Edinburgh, EH16 5PA. For informal conversations please call him on 0131 468 1254.