Newbattle: St Nicholas Buccleuch Parish Church

Parish Profile

The Church of Scotland
Parish Church serving
Mayfield, Easthouses,
Newtongrange
and most of Dalkeith

How Did We Get Here

Newbattle: St Nicholas Buccleuch is a newly united congregation which came into being on 22 June, 2025. It serves Mayfield, Easthouses, Newtongrange, Newbattle and most of Dalkeith from church buildings in Newtongrange and Mayfield.

When the then Presbytery of Lothian was creating its Mission Plan, the congregations of St Nicholas Buccleuch and Newbattle realised that they shared much in common in terms of worship style, theological outlook and that the communities and social context were similar. This led to a petition of Presbytery for the congregations to explore the possibility of a union. A series of joint services and meetings led to the congregations voting for union in Autumn 2024.

From 2018 to 2024 Newbattle benefited from the Transition Ministry of Rev Gayle Taylor, during which time the congregation sold some of their property and began refurbishing Newtongrange Church, as well as developing and expanding various other aspects of congregational life.

Rev Sandy Horsburgh was the minister of Dalkeith: St Nicholas Buccleuch from March 2004 to April 2025, when he demitted to allow the union to go ahead.

The congregations have been in deferred union since May 2024 after the vote in favour of union, while Rev Sandy Horsburgh was still in post. This profile has been written as if the union has taken place and our new minister will come to a united congregation.

The congregation is looking forward to the next stage of its life with faith and hope and is eagerly anticipating a new minister coming to work with it to develop its worship, mission, and service within its parish.

The Kirk Sessions voted to accept applications from any eligible minister, including those in same sex relationships.

Our New Minister

We feel so blessed now to be seeking a new minister to work with us as we continue our journey of faith. While we acknowledge that the changes we have experienced have been unsettling, we've pulled through by working together and are now looking forward to a time in which we will be able to focus again on what church life is really about- worshipping God and strengthening our faith so that we can work effectively across our various communities.

So here we are, ready, looking for someone to provide spiritual leadership and guidance. Someone who understands the challenges such a diverse community as ours can have. We value our community outreach and would like to proactively build on these foundations; there is so much more to be done for example fostering the links with the local schools.

We are aware of some challenges in our community and we hope that our new minister will help us work on ways of meeting them. We are keen to reach people who have had little contact with the church and we hope that our new minister will help us to develop new ideas about how we can do this together. We have good links with local schools in both Mayfield and Newtongrange and would like to maintain and build on them with our new minister. We are really keen to make a positive contribution to the lives of the young people in our area.

Our new minister will not be working alone. Although we are, like in many churches, an older congregation, we are hardworking, enthusiastic and supportive. We are also very fortunate to have been allocated two 0.5 full time equivalent MDS posts, one for a Community Development Worker and one for a Parish Worker.

The vision for ministry is to serve our local population by offering an inclusive ministry with an emphasis on preaching and worship supported by a strong family ethos and welcome.

From the welcome people receive at the church door, to the participation within the church service, to the tea/coffee and chat afterwards, we aim to make people feel relaxed, valued and included whether they are well known or here for the first time.

What Do We Do?

The congregation is friendly and when together, the atmosphere is relaxed. We love to sing both traditional hymns and more modern worship songs. We appreciate uplifting services which make us think and equip us for life and work. We value good sermons and thoughtful prayers. We are outward looking and have a concern for the world outside our Parish. Hospitality and sharing food together are an important part of our congregational life giving us the opportunity to welcome people into our church family.

We regularly support Christian Aid and Poppy Scotland. Because our union is so new we recognise that all the things we did as two congregations will not continue, which will make room for new projects. We look forward to the ideas that our new minister will bring.



Here are some of the things we have been doing as a congregation.

'Jesus and Me' Club, Bible Studies, Girls Brigade, Men's Group, New 2U Shop, Art Group, Friendship Lunch, Coffee Shop, Prayer Groups and active support for the two local Gala Days. We also actively support food banks across the Parish and publish our Church Magazine two times a year. There is also a very active Pastoral Care Group who diligently visit the elderly and the sick.

In the Dalkeith part of the parish, we have been active ecumenically, sharing worship with St Mary's Episcopal Church, the Full Gospel Church, Dalkeith Baptist Church, St John's and Newton C of S, and St David's RC Church especially in Holy week. In Mayfield we have a good relationship with St Luke's RC Church. We hope to maintain these relationships.





Our Parish

The parish covers several distinct communities- Mayfield and Easthouses, Newtongrange, Newbattle, and much of Woodburn, Central Dalkeith and Eskbank.

Newtongrange Church was opened in the early 1940's to serve the growing mining community. Although the pit has long since closed, the village is enjoying a new lease of life as a commuter settlement. This has brought increasing levels of prosperity. The reopening of the Borders Railway with a station on the outskirts of the village suggests this trend will continue.

Mayfield and Easthouses church was opened in 1955. This part of the Parish is a mixture of post war housing developments with pockets of urban deprivation surrounded by extensive private housing estates.

Newbattle has a distinctive historical heritage starting with a Cistercian Monastery in 1140. The current Abbey is used as an education facility for mature students. The area includes a large private 1960's housing development. The historic Newbattle Church was sold in 2023

Dalkeith, the county town of Midlothian, has an equally distinctive history and is home to a number of important historical buildings, including Dalkeith Palace, the Old Jail, the Corn Exchange and the St Nicholas Church building dating from 1420. Dalkeith Town Centre was remodeled in the 1960's and currently is completely surrounded by a range of 20th and 21st Century housing developments. The General Trustees are currently in discussions with the leaders of a local congregation interested in buying the St Nicholas Buccleuch buildings.

Central to our vision is a church as a place of hospitality and welcome at the heart of the community where people can meet in a safe comfortable environment.

Numbers of:-	Newbattle Church	St Nicholas Buccleuch Church
Members	237	288
Elders	16	12
Average Sunday attendance	45	36
Funerals (2024)	13	8
Weddings (2024)	0	1
Baptisms (2024)	3	4

Information on the demographics of Midlothian can be found:-

Profile of Midlothian 2023/24

The Church Buildings



Mayfield and Easthouses Church building has been extensively refurbished and offers a formal Church setting, office for the minister and bright, modern, flexible, social spaces which are well used by the local community.



Newtongrange Church building is re-opening after a major modernisation programme including roof top solar panels. This development has created a large formal Church setting and also a range of multi-purpose accessible spaces



Our Manse



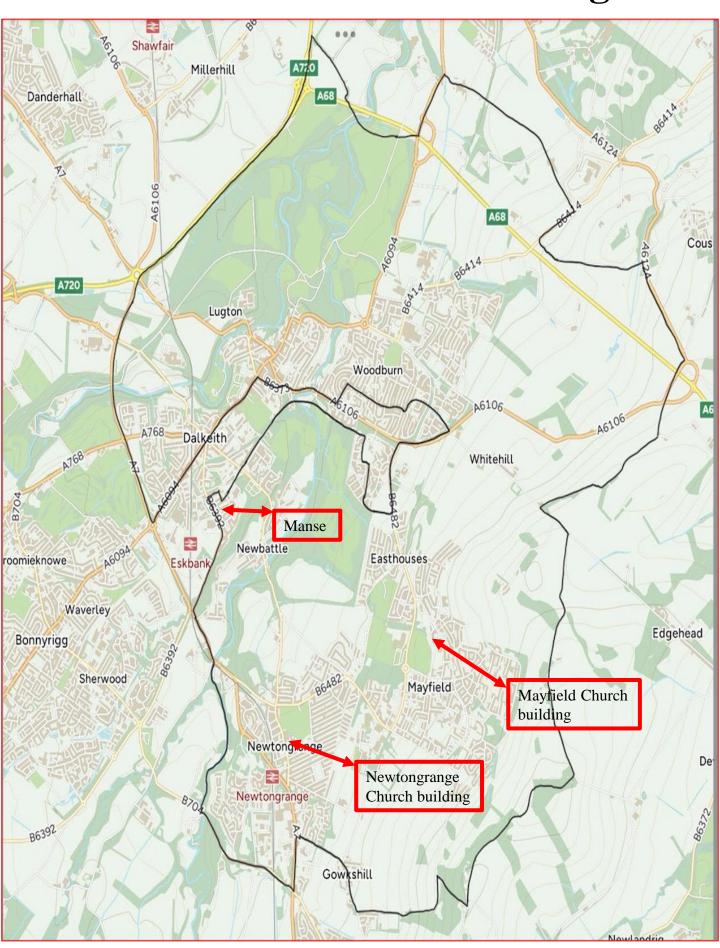
Our Manse is a light and spacious 6-bedroom modern building with double garage and conservatory. It is designed with an open-plan kitchen/dining area with doors leading to a patio within a low-maintenance back garden.

Downstairs also adds a comfortable lounge, dining room, study and toilet. Three of the bedrooms are en suite and there is also a family bathroom on the first floor.

The manse is only a ten minute drive to either of our church buildings and the local station on the Borders Railway line to Edinburgh is within a ten minute walk.



New Parish Boundary & Church and Manse Buildings



Schools in the catchment area for the manse:-

Kings Park Primary School

Dalkeith High School

Contacts

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A copy of the accounts for 2024 appear on the OSCR website. Please follow this link:-

We would love to show you around our churches, manse and parish and to answer any questions you might have as you think about whether we could be the congregation for you before a formal application is made.

Please contact Barbara Faibairn if you would like a visit and an opportunity for informal conversations. We will do everything we can to make a visit possible and enjoyable.