

A photograph of Methlick Parish Church, a stone building with a tall, square tower and a steep, dark roof. The church is surrounded by green trees and a low stone wall in the foreground. The sky is clear blue.

# METHLICK PARISH CHURCH

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PARISH PROFILE 2025









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# Methlick Parish Church

## 1. Introduction - who are we?

Faithful and trusting in our Lord Jesus Christ

A Church family spanning all ages

Welcoming, friendly, supportive and caring

We have community at our core and welcome all whether they attend church services regularly or not

Traditional, but receptive to new ideas

Diverse and tolerant

A congregation more than willing to take on tasks and duties including leading worship on occasion with the support and guidance of our Minister

Methlick Parish Church is reaching out to the community, neighbouring parishes and the wider world in a spirit of service, love and gentleness. We are a Church which is Christ-centred, community minded, relaxed, joyful and Spirit-filled. We offer a range of opportunities for people of all ages to be involved in worship and fellowship.

## 2. History of the Charge / Congregation

It is understood that St. Ninian built a church in Methlick Parish at Andet in the 5th Century, from which he and his followers preached Christianity in Aberdeenshire, making it the first church in the north-east of Scotland.

The present church building, in the heart of the village, described as "one of the finest specimens of Presbyterian architecture in the country" was begun by the son of the 4th Earl of Aberdeen, and completed during the time of his grandson in 1866. An interesting feature of the Church building was its provision for an organ to be incorporated at a future date. In 1877, a petition requested Lord Aberdeen to hold a public meeting so that steps could be taken for the introduction of an organ. The result was the imposing "Father Willis" organ which is in the church at the present day.

Methlick Parish Church has had a joyful history of long serving Ministers including only three ministers in-situ in the last 25 years with the previous two roles being first-charge North American ministers following completion of their Church of Scotland training and University studies.

Due to national Church of Scotland reorganisations and ministerial shortages, we are now seeking a part-time minister to help to inspire us to love and serve our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Our congregation has received Presbytery permission to call a Part-Time Minister of Word and Sacrament under a 3-year reviewable tenure.

Methlick Parish Church has been in vacancy for 2 1/2 years since our previous Minister left to continue his studies in Germany. Despite being in vacancy, we have been blessed with the continuation of regular weekly worship and other church fellowship activities with a willing rota of committed ministers and leaders including our Interim Moderator, retired Ministers, Elders, the Professor of Divinity at Aberdeen and other University colleagues and Students, augmented by members of our own congregation. This mix of leaders and their backgrounds has offered a variety of preaching and teaching styles which the congregation have enjoyed and allowed new talents to emerge from our Parish.

It is hoped that once the new Minister is in post, members of the congregation will continue to be able to help and lead Sunday worship on occasion. The Kirk Session understands that pastoral cover, mission, outreach and community engagement will need to be provided collaboratively by the congregation along with support from the new Minister. We accept that a part-time Minister cannot fulfil all the traditional roles and expectations of a fulltime Minister. By way of preparation for our changed circumstances, we are currently: exploring ways in which Elders and members of the congregation can provide relief and assistance with pastoral and worship duties. We already have experience of leading worship and a ministry team; in addition investing sums in technology and better communication facilities would allow wider input from other sources for a Sunday service, including on-line streaming and music.



# Methlick Parish Church

## 3. Our Vision

Methlick Parish Church's vision is to inspire the people of Methlick and beyond with the Good News of Jesus Christ through enthusiastic worshipping, witnessing, nurturing and serving communities. We seek a minister to share and help us develop our vision.

The ideal person to take on this charge is someone who will bring enthusiasm and energy and take a leading role in congregational growth and development, with emphasis on all ages including children and young people. We therefore seek:

- A person of wisdom to guide us and continue our Bible based ministry to gain a deeper understanding of God's Word
- A facilitator who is able to encourage and empower others to use their gifts
- An excellent communicator who will reach out to all ages, be approachable and engage with the whole community
- A missional attitude to all of Church life
- An applicant who possesses a current driving licence for our rural setting

## 4. Community Profile of the Congregation

- A Parish with a population of around 1,200 with Church members and adherents totalling 202
- A Kirk Session of 17
- Approximately 40-50 regular worshippers of all ages
- A self-supporting Church, meeting its financial commitments
- Church fabric maintained in good order
- Light pastoral load, in terms of weddings and funerals

## 5. Worship

Our Sunday services are held weekly in Methlick Kirk at 10.30am.

Sunday worship, followed by tea, coffee and fellowship.

An active Sunday School, Junior Church, Choir and Guild.

Traditional hymns and contemporary songs with music provided by our regular organist or deputies and augmented by guitar, piano and other live music.

Prayer groups and individual prayer opportunities recently undertaken in Church.

Flower ministry to members of the community in need.

Church notes issued to all households in the Parish through 'Methlick Matters'.

Communion is celebrated twice a year.

There are several special services in the worship calendar, including Good Friday Service, Easter day-break service, Easter Sunday, Harvest Thanksgiving, Thinking Day, Remembrance Sunday, Guild Dedication Service, End of Term Assemblies, Watchnight Service.





# Methlick Parish Church

## 6. Children and Youth

Children and families play an important part in our church family. We have a fantastic Sunday School, Creche and Youth project with weekly Mainly Music sessions. We also have strong links with the village youth organisations including Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Explorers, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides.

**Formartine Youth Project**, or FYP as it is known, is all about the children and youth in the communities of Methlick, Udný Green, Pitmedden, Tarves and Barthol Chapel.

The project was established in 2013 by the churches in the area. The aim was to help meet the needs of young people in this rural area by creating safe places for them to meet, to develop relationships, to be themselves, to believe in themselves and to feel they belong.

Since Covid restrictions ended, the Project has grown in strength. Our Youth Development Worker has built terrific rapport with the young people and the team of volunteers, and through this we have been able to create connections between them, the schools and the different ministries that the churches offer. It has been a huge success and continues to be a collaboration between Formartine Parish Church and Methlick Parish Church. We have a brilliant Youth Development Worker, who, assisted by dedicated volunteers, organises youth cafes, youth clubs, special assemblies, fundraising events, Walk Through Nativity, Walk Through Holy Week, distribution of study bags, holiday clubs, outings...there is always something going on. Upwards of 25 children join the Youth Club in Methlick.

There is also regular chaplaincy involvement in the local Primary Schools and the project supports youth activities in Meldrum Academy and the community. As a result, the young people look on the Project as theirs and are no longer on the fringes but are beginning to take active roles in the running of the Project with some gaining or working towards Saltire Awards and Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

## 7. Christian Education

Sunday School and Junior Church run each week on Sunday mornings providing age appropriate activities for our young people.

A series of Bible study classes for the adults have been run on various themes and are well attended.

## 8. Mission

Jesus commanded us to go into all the world and make disciples. Running the Alpha course is one way we seek to do that, giving people an opportunity to explore the basics of the Christian faith, ask questions and encounter Jesus.

As a pre-cursor to the Youth Alpha course, the Formartine Youth Project (FYP) is running "Start to Stir" for those aged P6 and upwards, giving young people the opportunity to come together and explore some of life's big questions.





# Methlick Parish Church

## 9. Pastoral Care

An essential part of our ministry, we regard this as caring for those in the congregation and parish. As individuals within a congregation we all have a role in pastoral care, reaching out to the housebound and those requiring some support at difficult times. We have a visiting team to assist the Minister and have a weekly flower ministry to members of the community in need.

## 10. Ecumenical Context

Methlick Parish Church is the only place of worship in the village. As a result it has a congregation that includes worshippers from other denominations, who choose to worship at Methlick Parish Church rather than travel into nearby towns on a Sunday morning. Those attending and volunteering at church include Methodists, Anglicans, Episcopalians, Baptists and Catholics, among others.

Within the Parish boundary lies Haddo House and Chapel. Ecumenical Sunday evening services are conducted here once a month through the Summer, and at Easter and Christmas. The invitation to lead an evening service is often extended to the minister at Methlick.

We are engaged in collaborations with our neighbouring Parish of Formartine and will share services, such as during Holy Week. We also help each other with activities organised by Formartine Youth Project, for example: Walk through Nativity and Holy Week, which is run for each local primary school.

Both Parishes use Social media, such as Facebook to advertise their own activities, so we often draw in participants from other Parishes, and further afield to take part, and vice versa.

## 11. World Church

Our mission partners are New Life Home Trust based in Kenya who rescue and care for abandoned babies. Over the last 30 years, New Life Home Trust have rescued over 2,600 babies, the majority having been placed with adoptive parents. The charity continues to care for those not adopted, many of whom have special needs.

Members of our Church congregation have travelled to Kenya in the past and recently helped support a minibus fundraising campaign alongside our annual pledge.

## 12. Stewardship and Finance

We are a self-supporting Church, meeting all our financial commitments. An overall surplus of £23,956 was recorded for the 2024 financial year, largely helped by the Manse being rented out for most of 2024 and a vacancy allowance for Giving to Grow contributions. Our 2023 surplus meanwhile was £12,984 helped by generous one-off donations and legacies.

The Church is always active with stewardship and fund-raising efforts, generating £5,024 in 2024 and £2,270 in 2023.

Our full Church accounts will be available for inspection on application.





# Methlick Parish Church

## 13. Staffing / Other Church Roles

Many roles are carried out by Elders and members of the congregation as volunteers and as part of a Team. We have our shared Youth Worker, a Session Clerk, Church Treasurer, Property Convenor and Church Organist. Teams include Worship, Stewardship, Youth, Home and Overseas Mission, Property, Finance, Safeguarding. We have a rota of Church officers in place and willing volunteers to assist with the cleaning and maintenance duties.

## 14. Church, Manse, Stables & Glebe

The **Church** building has been well maintained including a largely re-slanted roof with ongoing annual maintenance due to its age and stone construction. We are presently looking to modernise the Church building with technology and improved heating whilst respecting the much-loved traditional sanctuary and place of worship that our Church provides. The Church, including the Fellowship Room and Sunday School room is regularly used throughout the week by various youth groups including Mainly Music and other organisations.

The 4-bedroomed, spacious **Manse** was built in 2005 and is very well maintained both inside and outside. The Manse was purpose-designed with a clear division between “public space” and private family space, with Minister’s study and toilet facilities off the main entrance hallway. It offers large public rooms including an excellent kitchen and dining room, with the benefit of French doors opening out into an attractive and enclosed garden area. The Manse is within easy walking distance of the Church and benefits from ample storage throughout including double garage facilities accessible from within the property. A pleasing Presbytery Manse Survey Report recently carried out is available on request and application.

Our Kirk Second Hand Shoppie opens monthly between March to October and is based in the nearby **Church Stables** building. This building, in basic condition, has been classified as a Category C building by Presbytery Planning and is also utilised by the Ythan Valley Rotary Clothing Bank, providing an essential service to the local and wider area.

The adjoining Methlick Kirk **Glebe** land is let for sheep grazing and agricultural use.

## 15. Web links for further information.

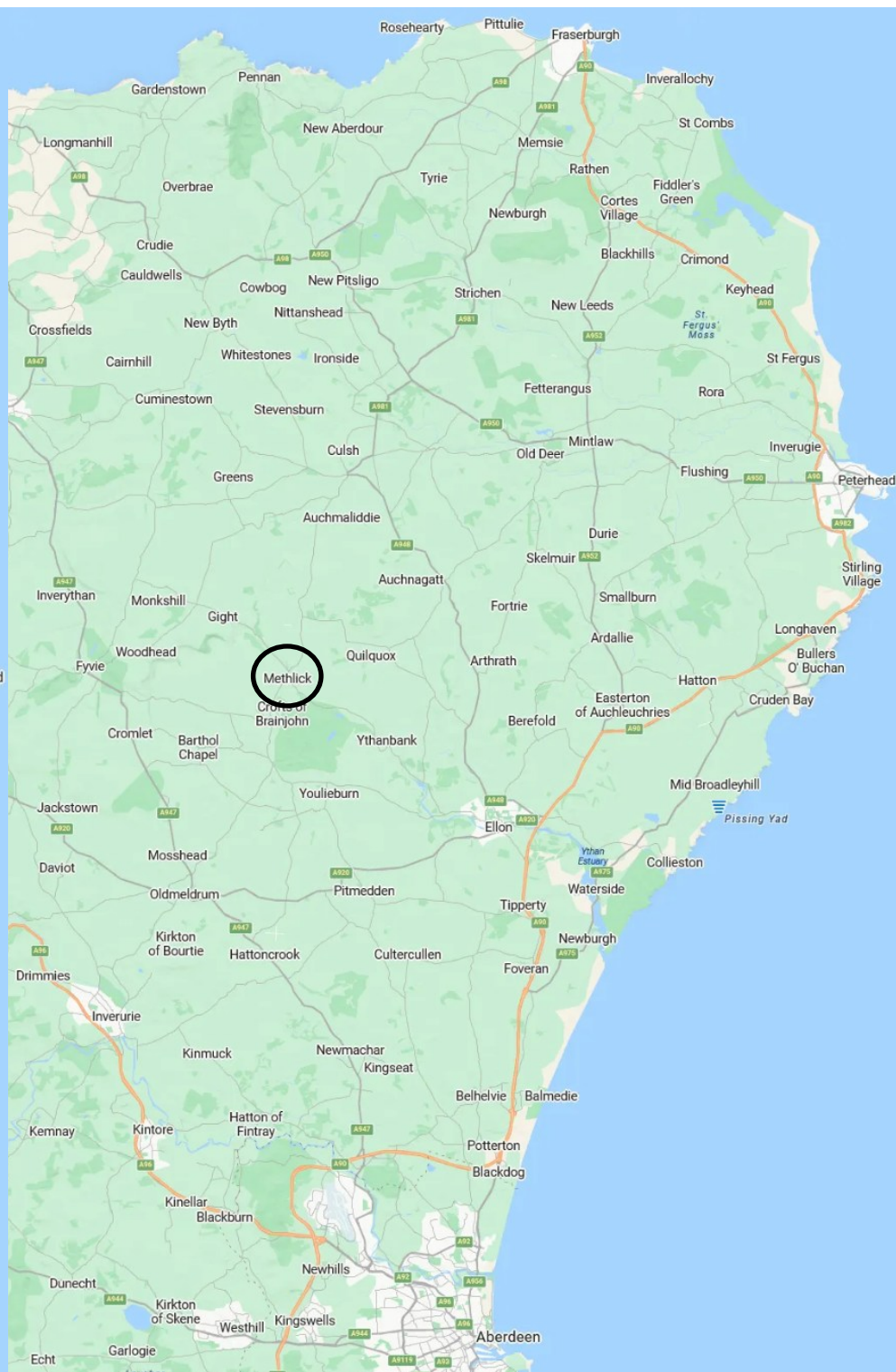
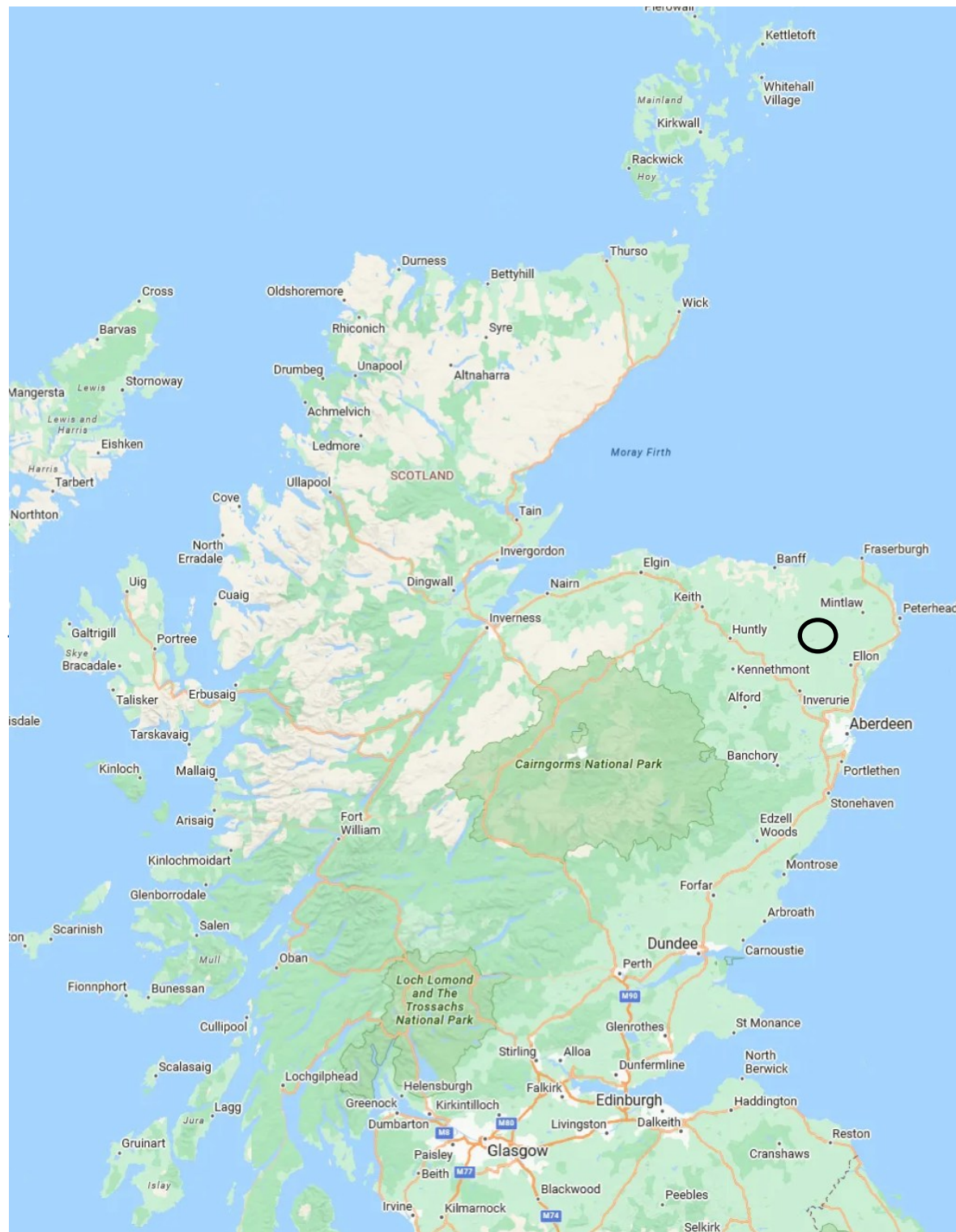
- Methlick Parish Church website: [www.methlickparishchurch.co.uk](http://www.methlickparishchurch.co.uk)
- MPC Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/MethlickParishChurch](https://www.facebook.com/MethlickParishChurch)
- FYP Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/formartineyouthprojectfyp](https://www.facebook.com/formartineyouthprojectfyp)
- Godspeed (featuring Methlick): [www.livegodspeed.org](http://www.livegodspeed.org)
- The North East & Northern Isles Presbytery website: <https://nenipresbytery.org.uk/>
- The Church of Scotland website: <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/>













## 16. Our Village and Community

Methlick is a rural and commuter community that although having expanded in recent years with new homes being built, has retained its strong sense of community spirit. Situated 25 miles from Aberdeen, on the banks of the River Ythan, only 9 miles from Ellon and 13 miles from Inverurie.

A centrally located Church and village hall, shop with post office, Ythanview Hotel, Heritage Society, youth groups and various sporting interests including Football, Cricket and Badminton Clubs and Jog Scotland. The pleasure park is well equipped with the recent addition of a multi-use games arena. There is a nursery and Primary School in Methlick with Secondary education at Oldmeldrum. The Haddo Medical Practice is located nearby at Pitmedden with a pharmacy in Tarves. Dental practices can be found in nearby Ellon and Oldmeldrum. There is also a Veterinary practice here in Methlick.

There are wonderful walks in the area from Methlick and many places of interest nearby including: Haddo House and Country Park; Gight Castle; Fyvie Castle; Prop of Ythsie; Tolquhon Gallery & Castle; Pitmedden Garden and Museum of Farming Life, Bennachie and nearby coastal trails.

## 17. Contacts / How to Apply

Please send any application with CV and covering letter to the Nominating Committee Clerk:  
Katherine Storey E: [katherine.storey@aol.co.uk](mailto:katherine.storey@aol.co.uk)

If you would like to speak with Katherine she can also be reached on 07968268360.

Informal enquiries may also be made to Derrick Thomson, Nominating Committee Member at  
E: [derrickthomson@mac.com](mailto:derrickthomson@mac.com) or by calling 07463988200.









