

Maxwell Church Profile and Minister Profile

Maxwell Church

Maxwell church is a gospel-centred, outward-looking church situated in the village of Kilmaurs in East Ayrshire. We have approximately 40 members, and between 40-50 adults attend the Sunday service held in the village community centre. Teaching and applying the word of God is the core aspect of our church life. Our Sunday morning gatherings are centred on the Word of God as it is read and preached. We meet for Bible study and prayer on a Wednesday evening in the home of one of our church families.

Our church comprises approximately 30 households. Fifty percent of our congregation are aged 30-59 years of age. One third of the church members are male and two thirds female. In addition, there are more than ten children, ranging in age from infants to teenagers.

We seek to be a gospel-driven church taking the Great Commission seriously therefore we are committed to sharing the gospel with our community and we have been blessed with numbers coming to faith in recent times. Currently we run an evangelistic Life Course twice yearly. We organise a community carol service at Christmas and family fun days during the summer. Furthermore, we run a Bible study for new believers, and for those who have attended the Life Course and are seeking to know more of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. A Men's breakfast is held once per month.

Maxwell church is a welcoming church; a distinctive feature of our life is communal fellowship after the Sunday gathering as we chat over coffee and cakes for an hour immediately following the church service.

Our children's ministry comprises weekly age-appropriate classes held during the Sunday service taught by church members. In the summer we run an evangelistic Bible club for primary school children, with approximately 30 attending each day. The club is affiliated to Scripture Union and is organised by our Women's Worker aided by a team of 15 -20 church members. We also run a Parent & Toddler group each week and a Bible study for Mums, these are also led by our Women's Worker.

Maxwell church is part of the Didasko presbytery and a founding member of the West Coast Gospel Partnership. We are committed to training gospel workers and have close links with Cornhill Scotland. In the past five years four people have undertaken the Cornhill Training Course including our current Intern who is due to complete the course this academic year. In addition, one of our elders is taking the Pastor's Training Course, and our Women's Worker was Cornhill trained.

The leadership comprises four elders and several Deacons. Three of the elders preach regularly as does our Intern. Our Woman's Worker coordinates the word ministry amongst women and children.

Didasko Presbytery

Maxwell Church is a Presbyterian Church, within the Reformed theological tradition, believing in submission to a wider group of church leaders for oversight, encouragement and accountability. We have been on a revitalisation journey over the last nine years as part of the United Free Church of Scotland and moved to the Didasko Presbytery in September 2024, believing this would better serve the needs of our growing fellowship. We are one of currently seven churches in the Didasko Presbytery, including a new church plant currently being formed. The presbytery has ultimate oversight of our church and its ministry in all matters of life and doctrine. Our subordinate standard (to Scripture, the absolute standard) is the Westminster Confession of Faith.

With Maxwell, the other churches currently in the Didasko Presbytery are:

- Cornerstone Community Church, Stirling. Minister: Calum Jack.
- Edinburgh North Church. Minister: Stephen Ballingall
- Gilcomston Church, Aberdeen. Minister: Nathan Owens.
- Grace Church, Dundee. Minister: Dominic Fisher.
- The Tron Church, Glasgow. Minister: William Philip.
- Trinity Church, Glasgow, currently in formation.

The presbytery provides support for ministers and elders, supplying vital oversight and help with pulpit supply, prayer, and encouragement. Didasko is based on strong relational bonds and a shared ethos of ministry; it is deliberately not bureaucratic. It is a group of strongly supportive ministers and elders who stand alongside and support one another in ministry and are ready and willing to step in to help when a need arises. One of the ministers, William Philip, currently has oversight of our congregation (interim moderator) and is guiding us through the vacancy process.

Theological Distinctives

At the heart of our convictions is a grateful confidence in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. The gospel concerns Jesus: he is Lord, Saviour and coming Judge. He is the one to whom the Holy Spirit witnesses. He is the head of the church. All the scriptures speak of Christ – and speaks with promise, grace and command.

Consequently, when the Scriptures are faithfully proclaimed in dependence on the Holy Spirit, God's voice is heard with contemporary relevance and fresh application. A central theological distinctive shaping our ministry practice is, therefore, the faithful expository preaching and teaching of the Bible. We aim to teach and apply the Scriptures with depth, warmth, humanity and theological rigour. We would fully expect our next minister to be in line with this understanding of preaching and to see this as a priority in his ministry among us.

We hold, in our constitution, to the Westminster Confession of Faith as our subordinate standard. The Didasko Presbytery is a member of Affinity, a network of over 1200 evangelical churches and organisations in the U.K. declaring and demonstrating the unity of Christ's church for the advancement of Christ's kingdom. The presbytery, and our constitution, remains committed to the historic, orthodox understanding of the complementary nature of human sexuality, and ordination of men in Church leadership.

As a Presbyterian church, as well as baptising new believers who have not previously been baptised, we hold to the baptism of infants born to Christian parents, believing this to express trust in God's covenant promise graciously offered from one generation to the next. We view the family as the primary context in which children will be taught and nurtured in their faith: there, at home, children learn to pray, begin to read and understand the scriptures and learn to trust the Lord Jesus. With their parents, children speak about Christ and begin to understand his love, forgiveness, and presence. As children grow, they discover that the other children in their church family believe the same things they do. We encourage parents to trust in God's promises for our children, and to nurture children in faith. Accordingly, we take our baptismal vows seriously and depend on God's help as our children grow into young adults who profess faith in Christ as their own. Within this context, our Sunday School leaders encourage our children to respond to Christ's commitment to them and to grow in their faith.

Kilmaurs

Kilmaurs is a village in East Ayrshire of approximately 3000 people, approximately 2 miles from Kilmarnock the main town in East Ayrshire with a population of 44,000.

The village has expanded in recent years due to new housing developments, and its proximity to Glasgow which is an easy commute up the M77 or via a train station with direct services to Glasgow. There is a Nursery School and Primary School within the village.

Minister Profile

We offer the following list as a profile of the likely and relevant qualities that applicants should in some measure be able to present depending on their breadth of experience.

Background

We are seeking a man who is able to describe his own real faith and how his love of scripture, personal patterns of devotion and understanding of grace have been nurtured by others and grown. We would expect him to demonstrate involvement in the life of the church throughout his Christian life, reflecting on key moments of insight, learning and serving others. He will have a clear and humble appreciation for Reformed and Confessional theology and ministry practice.

Preparation

Our desire for the minister is that he demonstrates a level of Christian maturity and an integrity of life and faith which is valued by others and marks a suitability for Christian ministry. He will have received and completed relevant training for ordained ministry to the satisfaction of the presbytery, have proven ability to work on his own, manage his own time effectively and be motivated to persevere in adversity.

Ministry

We are looking for a preacher and committed Bible teacher, reflecting the central role of the Bible's authority within our church, because we see the faithful and accurate handling of the Scriptures as a core component of Maxwell Church's ongoing life and ministry. We are looking for a minister who is keen to develop as a mature and faithful teacher who can communicate well with all ages both in his preaching and day-to-day life. Alongside these regular teaching responsibilities, we are seeking a man who is able to manage a wide range of ongoing pastoral care in a church setting while able to manage sustainably the other demands of ministry.

Leadership

We are seeking a man of vision who can demonstrate how he would take others with him to an agreed and shared goal. He should be comfortable with encouraging others to lead and serve while letting them exercise initiative and learn from each other in a team setting. Part of the role will involve managing and training volunteers in church and dealing with the inevitable conflict that arises from time to time in any local church. We are looking for someone who can cope with failure and who can give examples of this in a mature and thoughtful manner.

Partnerships

Our next minister will need to be fully committed to the priorities, ethos and life of our church and presbytery. He will also seek to actively develop our partnerships with other ministries in the Didasko Presbytery, the West Coast Gospel Partnership, Ayrshire, elsewhere in the UK and in different parts of the world.

Appointment Arrangements

- Induction as a minister of Maxwell Church (and ordination if not previously) will be by the Didasko Presbytery and the minister will be asked to vow to submit to the Presbytery in all matters of life and doctrine.
- Christian character, maturity, and suitability for ministry will be assessed using confidential references.
- Stipend will be based within the current Church of Scotland scale, noting particularly the range of figures over the first five years in ministry. We expect a manse will be provided by Maxwell Church.
- The appointee must have the legal right (and appropriate visa if applicable) to work in the United Kingdom.
- The minister will be reimbursed for approved work-related expenses and will be provided with necessary work-related equipment.
- Six Sundays (weeks) of holiday will be the expected norm per year. There would be an expectation that our minister would take time to attend relevant and helpful ministry conferences, and opportunities for further training and development in ministry, with such reasonable expenses paid, and additionally, periods of study leave may be granted from time to time in discussion with, and with the encouragement of, the elders and the presbytery.

Applications and Enquiries

For further information or informal enquiries, please contact: Dr Ivan Hanna, chairman of our search team, at vacancy@maxwell.church

If anyone would like to enquire more about the Didasko Presbytery, including Maxwell Church's place in it, our interim moderator, William Philip, can be contacted via wjup@tron.church

For formal applications, please submit a C.V. along with a cover letter, including the names and e-mail addresses of three people willing to write a reference, and online access to recent sermons to: vacancy@maxwell.church