

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH

St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane

St Mary's, Kirriemuir

House for Duty – Priest-in-Charge

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE

(September 2022)



Introduction

The following document is designed to give those interested in becoming our Priest some idea of the life of St Mary's and its congregation.

St Mary's Church was dedicated in 1905 and consecrated in 1912. It is part of the Episcopal Church in Scotland which is in full Communion with all churches of the Anglican Communion. The church is a grade A listed building and is built in the distinctive red sandstone observed in many buildings in the town.

It is situated in the small town of Kirriemuir (population 6,000) in the county of Angus. Affectionately known as Kirrie or the Wee Red Toon, it is close to the more sparsely populated beautiful Angus Glens. It is easily accessible from the A90 and is 19 miles from Dundee, 55 miles from Aberdeen, 80 miles from Edinburgh and 99 miles from Glasgow. Kirriemuir can



Glen Clova

30 minutes in the car also takes you to the stunning Angus coastline with long sandy beaches and red sandstone cliffs. Glamis Castle, the childhood home of the late Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, is just five miles from Kirriemuir. Golfers too are well served with the town's local 18-hole course as well as the famous championship courses of Carnoustie, Gleneagles and the Old Course at St Andrews within an hour's drive. There are many other good, but less well known, courses close by.



Arbroath cliffs

claim to have one of three camera obscura in Scotland which was donated in 1930 by the author J M Barrie (1868 - 1937) to his home town. Kirrie is also known as 'Gateway to the Glens' and as well as wonderful countryside in which to walk, birdwatchers enjoy the nearby RSPB reserve at Loch of Kinnordy, home to many wetland birds, viewable from hides and boardwalks.

The Congregation

Attendance is around 10 on any one Sunday. Its roll is 22 and we aim to increase the size of the congregation through its mission and ministry.

St Mary's draws its congregation from Kirriemuir and the surrounding area. Overall Kirriemuir has a greater proportion of over 65-year-olds compared to the rest of Angus and Scotland as a whole (25%, 24% and 19% respectively based on 2020 data). It is a similar picture with those over

85 years of age. Those aged 18 years and under are in similar proportions as the rest of Angus and Scotland (approximately 19% of the population). 11% of the population are described as income deprived compared to 14% in Scotland.



Celebration in the hall

There are excellent ecumenical links through Kirriemuir Churches Together. Whilst the Covid pandemic restrictions put much in abeyance, activities such as carol singing in the town and shared monthly meetings and worship have been re-established.

Our vision for the church is to be a visible witness to God's love and be a meaningful part of the town by increasing links with the life of the community whilst growing the size of the congregation. We have a considerable asset in our ownership of land that is currently being used and leased by [Sustainable Kirriemuir](#). In our plans to be carbon neutral we have made stronger links with Sustainable Kirriemuir's [Community Garden at St Mary's Field](#).

Information and Communication

We have a weekly pew sheet and monthly newsletter. There is a church [website](#) and there is a replacement external church noticeboard due to be erected soon.

Worship and music

Sunday morning worship is held at 10am with a Eucharist. When a priest is not present the service is Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament or a Service of the Word. During the vacancy the mid-week service has not been held but that may be considered in the future. The hymnal used is *Hymns Old & New: One Church, One Faith, One Lord*.

During Holy Week we have regularly held a Maundy Thursday service and a Good Friday vigil. We have enjoyed incorporating Creation Time into our liturgical year that culminates in Harvest Thanksgiving. In Advent we have often held a carols and readings service. Traditionally we have also held a midnight Eucharist on Christmas Eve. Many families have also joined us for our annual Christmas Eve Christingle service held in the late afternoon.

No matter where we are in the liturgical year all children are welcome and there is a dedicated children's corner for any family wishing to use it.



Children's Corner

During our vacancy we have had the opportunity to join ecumenical Advent and Lent courses run by our Interim Pastor who is Rector of St John's, Forfar. These are offered to all churches in Kirriemuir and Forfar.

Ecumenical Activities

Kirriemuir Churches Together is the local ecumenical Christian faith group currently chaired by a member of the laity from St Anthony's Roman Catholic Church. Prior to Covid, ministers took a monthly service at Southmuir Primary School. This may be re-established in the future. Along with lay members they have also been involved in a school age Discovery Club and ecumenical holiday club.

All the churches are invited to take part in the civic remembrance at the war memorial on Remembrance Sunday.

Pre covid the World Day of Prayer was held ecumenically and again this may be restarted. All the churches take it in turn to host the Uniformed organisations' Thinking Day service. And Christmas sees members from the different local churches taking part in carol singing round the town with donations going to a charity.



Thinking Day service

Vestry

We have a small but positive group who are keen to expand on St Mary's mission and ministry. The Treasurer is provided by the Diocese to support the vestry. They meet four-six weekly, chaired by the Interim Pastor, who reports that they have a 'can do' attitude!

Finances

The 2021 income of £9,149 was particularly low, primarily a consequence of Covid. Income for 2022 is forecast to show a slight increase, but re-establishing a solid income from congregants and missional activities will remain a challenge. Expenditure during the vacancy in 2021 was £20,281, and will be very similar in 2022. In terms of assets, we have £21,000 in the operating bank account, and hold investments currently valued at £90,000.

Buildings

St Mary's was designed by Sir J Ninian Comper (1864-1960) with aspirations to be 'Venice in Thrums' (the latter a reference to another name for the area with its close connections to the jute industry and one of J M Barrie's novels). The grade A listed building is in good order with a major refurbishment completed in 2017 helped by funding from Heritage Lottery monies. The quinquennial survey is about to be commissioned this year. There is land adjacent to the church which is currently being used as a community garden.



The Rectory has been recently purchased, ten minutes' walk from the church and is situated at 12 Stiven Crescent, Kirriemuir. It is a four bedrooned detached villa with manageable garden. As well as the bedrooms, two of which have ensuite shower rooms, the property comprises entrance hall, lounge, dining room, conservatory, kitchen, utility room, wc cloakroom, driveway, and double garage.

The Rectory

The property has a 'C' band Energy Performance Certificate. Being situated close to the town centre it has easy access to schools, shops, and health centre.

Recent History

The previous Rector was in post for almost 20 years. At the time of his retirement Covid pandemic restrictions were put in place. The Interim Pastor provided online worship for both St Mary's and St John's in Forfar. The vestry members kept in telephone contact with members of the congregation during lockdown. St Mary's and St John's have enjoyed close links over the years, with both churches providing social events and fellowship for those more housebound as the years have progressed.

Ministry Team

The worship team is about to be augmented by two lay worship leaders (in training) and a retired priest who recently moved to the area. Our organist has recently retired and whilst we actively search for an organist, we have been using pre-recorded CDs.

Our worship style is 'low church', and we are very open to new ideas to help us experience the living God and that enables us to share God's love with others.

Aspirations for the future

We have spent time looking at St Mary's mission and ministry over the past months and we are committed to being a church that:

- † Welcomes
- † Has an Anglican style of worship
- † Cares for its congregation and clergy
- † Demonstrates a public witness to our faith
- † Explores new developments over the next three years
- † Considers models for the future

Our expectations are to have a positive relationship with our priest, developing ideas together. We are a caring and welcoming community and keen to look after each other and our priest.

Key Qualities of our Priest:

- † Will be at ease with St Mary's preferred style of worship, and able to develop and enhance it
- † Will have a mature spirituality and a developed life of prayer
- † Will be at ease with people of different age groups and backgrounds
- † Will be aware of their own need to grow in ministry and discipleship
- † Will be motivated to find additional employment if needed
- † Will have a valid UK driving licence
- † Will have competent computer skills

Key Requirements of our Priest:

- † Live in the Rectory bought by the congregation
- † Act as priest for the congregation with an expectation of working a Sunday and two further days a week. This would be agreed through discussion with the successful appointee
- † Excellent communicator with open communication with church and Diocese
- † Build on existing ecumenical relationships
- † Continue links with St John's, Forfar
- † Car driver (for the purposes of claims against expenses, the church building is the Priest's base)
- † An interest in development of music within worship
- † Ecologically minded and positive about St Mary's working towards carbon neutral by 2030 which is integrated into the life of worship in the services

Conclusion

This is an attractive position with a small but enthusiastic congregation located in a beautiful part of Scotland. Its heritage is rich and diverse, and a priest called to St Mary's may be assured of a warm welcome with a congregation excited by the next part of their journey of faith. Informal discussion is welcomed by contacting Very Rev Graham Taylor, Dean of the Diocese dean@standrews.anglican.org. An information pack and application form are from the Bishop's PA and Office Manager, Ms Carol Aitchison, bishopsec@standrews.anglican.org.

Diocesan Information



Message from *The Right Revd Ian Paton, Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane*

I hope that you find this brief Profile of the Diocese and the Charge helpful as you reflect on whether you may be called to serve with us. We are a Diocese of strongly inclusive churches who want to share the love of God with their communities, and to serve the needs of people around them. We aim to be outward-looking congregations who actively help others to know

God in Jesus Christ, and to join us on the journey of faith. If you, together with those charged with seeking a new priest, decide that you are called to serve here, you will find a warm welcome, a supportive group of Diocesan clergy, and a committed congregation eager for pastoral leadership in worship and mission.

May God guide your reflection and discernment about this ministry, and encourage you to imagine that you might come to join us.

A Brief Introduction from the Diocese

The Diocese of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane is one of the seven dioceses of the Scottish Episcopal Church, which is an independent province of the world-wide Anglican Communion. It has nearly fifty churches served by around twenty-five full-time clergy, together with many part-time, self-supporting and active retired clergy, lay readers, and other lay ministries.

We have a strong identity and common life as a Diocese. There are a number of times in the year when we come together – at Diocesan Synod; the Diocesan Gathering; the Clergy Conference and Lay Readers' Conference; Study Days; and for Ordinations, Licensings



and Institutions. Under the Bishop, the Diocesan Staff consists of the Dean (whose work is similar to that of an archdeacon), the Cathedral Provost and Chapter, the Diocesan Office staff, and the members of various Diocesan Committees and working groups. All of these try to enable and support the ministry and mission of the clergy and congregations of the Diocese.



Lay Readers' Meeting

We have an active Diocesan website and Facebook page, and the free monthly E-News emailed to all who subscribe.



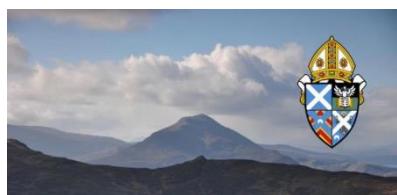
Occasions in St Ninian's Cathedral, Perth

Our congregations are committed to ecumenical partnership and common witness whenever locally possible. Across the Diocese we have many links with the world Church. Within the Anglican Communion the Diocese has active links with Bishop Martinez and the Diocese of Amazonia in Brazil, and with Bishop Paritosh and the Diocese of Calcutta in India. Whilst it was not possible for them to visit the Diocese prior to the Lambeth



Bishop Martinez and Bishop Paritosh

Conference in 2020, Bishop Martinez addressed our post Lambeth Diocesan Gathering through a video message – appreciated by all who managed to attend.



The Diocese serves a diverse range of rural and urban communities from Perthshire to Fife and from Clackmannan to the Trossachs. It is at the heart of Scotland, and it is central for communications not only to Edinburgh and Glasgow but across the country. The Central Belt has the highest density

The distant peak of Schiehallion of population in Scotland, and its growth is clear in the new housing developments and transport infrastructure in the Diocese. Cities such as Perth and Stirling are flourishing business centres, and towns in the south of Fife such as Kirkcaldy are rapidly developing into commuter bases for Edinburgh, especially with the new Queensferry Crossing over the Forth. Universities and colleges in St Andrews, Stirling, Perth and elsewhere provide another attraction to the area and enrich its cultural life. Rural areas have a significantly higher proportion of older and retired population and are generally more prosperous than other rural parts of Scotland, with a strong tourist industry. However, there is hidden poverty in both rural and urban areas of the Diocese, with challenges to both agriculture and some traditional industries that are only partly compensated for by new technology. There are many opportunities for growth and service in the Diocese, with older industrial communities, new areas of population, and an ever-increasing complexity of social need to be addressed. The re-shaping of Diocesan life to prioritise mission and outreach

means that the Diocese is ready to respond.



Clergy Conference

Scottish Episcopal Church: www.scotland.anglican.org

Diocese of St Andrews: www.standrews.anglican.org