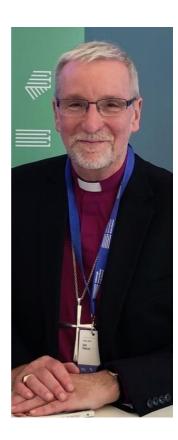# The DIOCESE
# of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane

From

The Right Revd Ian Paton

Bishop of St Andrews, Dunkeld and Dunblane

Dear friend,

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.

+ Ian StAndrew

A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO 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.

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

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 Marinez and the Diocese of Amazonia in Brazil, and with Bishop Paritosh and the Diocese of Calcutta in India.

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 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.

Scottish Episcopal Church: www.scotland.anglican.org
Diocese of St Andrews: www.standrews.anglican.org