

## Parish Profile

### St Andrew's Episcopal Church, Alford, Aberdeenshire

#### Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney



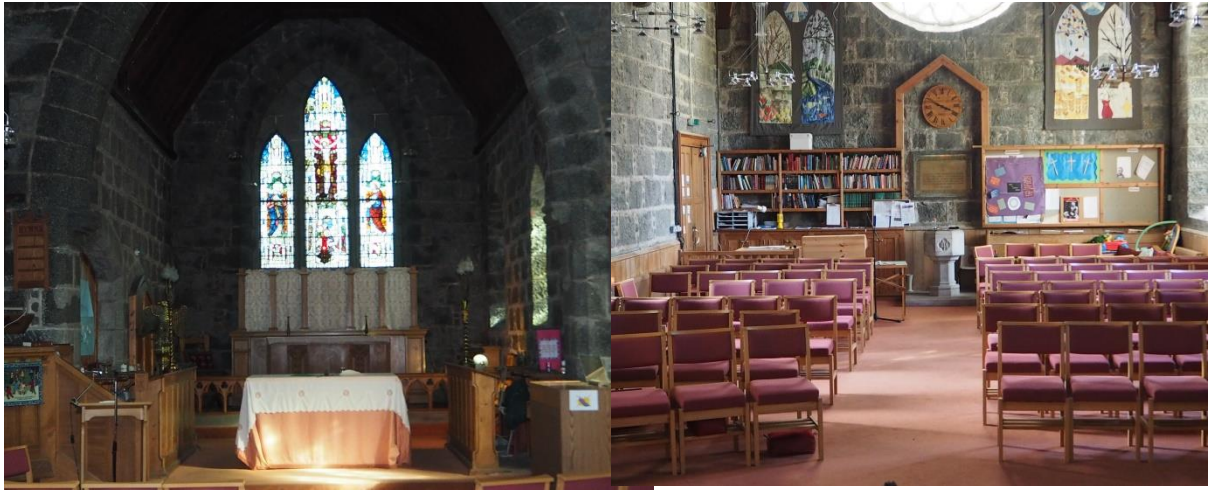
St Andrew's is a fine Victorian building, consecrated in 1869, and has a central position on Main Street in Alford, a large village 25 miles west of Aberdeen, in the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney.

Alford is set in farming country on the River Don, not far from the Cairngorms National Park. It is increasing in size as a commuters' dormitory, and includes both a Primary School and an Academy both based at a new Community Campus. The Academy is a centre for a large number of local feeder Primary schools. The village also has a Health Centre, shops, Post Office, extensive public parks, museums and a local bus service.

The incumbent's house (St Andrew's House), is also on Main Street. It has a large sitting room with a multi-fuel stove, a good-sized dining room, a study, and a large kitchen beside a smaller sitting room. There is a downstairs bathroom and three bedrooms upstairs with a shower room and a small en-suite facility. The house has oil-fired central heating, and there is a large garden and off-street parking at the back.



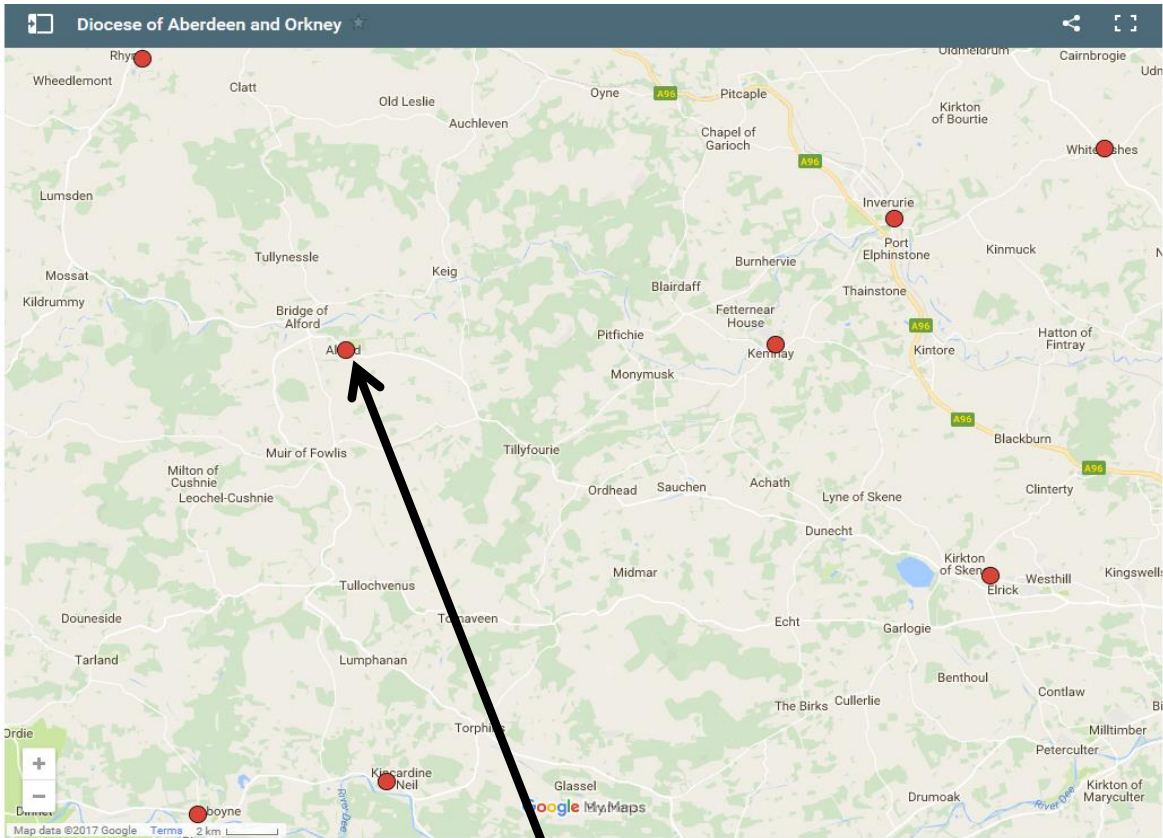
The congregation is drawn from varied backgrounds, and is small but lively and very welcoming, mostly aged over 50, with some younger members including two Street Pastors. Numbers have remained stable for some years, although two recent housing developments may offer a resource of non-Church-goers. Congregational activities include Sunday lunches in the Church, Lent lunches, Primary school end of term services, and a very well attended Christmas Carol service. The Church doors are open every day; there is no Hall, but flexible use of the interior, as we have comfortable chairs, not pews. There is also an IT facility and sound desk.




Sunday morning worship is at 10.30am; on the first Sunday of the month there is an informal, non-liturgical service, catering for all ages. On all other Sundays there is a sung family Eucharist, using the 'Blue Book' – the Scottish Liturgy 1982 with seasonal variations, and a mixture of traditional and modern worship. At 8am on Thursdays we have Morning Prayer with time of reflection leading into a said Eucharist at 9 am. There is a morning Bible Study on Tuesday and an evening Home Group on Wednesday.



The congregation has a continuing aspiration and hope for each member to deepen their relationship with God through Christ, to share their faith more readily, and for the Church to grow in listening to God, in prayer, worship, healing and outreach. Our vision is for a continuing open and inclusive approach to new visitors, to all ages, to further contact with schools, and to the introduction of new events (e.g. 'back-to-church' services or open days). Much will depend on a believing, teaching, community-minded new priest.



 Episcopal Churches



Parish Website

<http://aberdeen.anglican.org/churches-directory/entry/alford-st-andrews/>