

SCOTTISH EPISCOPAL CHURCH – DIOCESE OF ABERDEEN AND ORKNEY

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SECTION 1

PARISH PROFILE – ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ALFORD.

Alford is a large village, 25 miles west of Aberdeen, in the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney.

It is set in farming country on the river Don, not far from the Cairngorm National Park. Alford is increasing in size with many inhabitants commuting to Aberdeen. There is a new Community Campus, with a Primary school and an Academy, which is the centre for local feeder primary schools, a Library and a swimming pool. The village also has a Health Centre, dentist, shops, Post Office, and extensive public parks, and is the home of the Grampian Transport Museum.

Alford is connected to Aberdeen by regular bus services. Bus services also connect Alford to the railway stations and shopping facilities in Inverurie and Huntly.

St. Andrew's church is a fine Victorian building, consecrated in 1869, and has a central position on Main Street, a few minutes' walk from the substantial rectory. The church interior has been modernised to provide a comfortable and flexible setting for worship and other activities.



The Rectory is also located on Main Street, and 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 are a large garden and off-street parking.

There are seven Episcopal churches within reasonable driving distance of Alford.

The St. Andrews' congregation is drawn from a varied background, and is small but lively and very welcoming. Most members are aged over 50, with some younger members. Numbers have remained stable for some years, though the building of two new housing estates offers an opportunity for mission. Two of the members are Aberdeen Street Pastors.

The congregation have 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. There 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 such as 'back to church' services or open days. Much will depend on a believing, teaching, community minded new priest.

Congregational activities include Sunday lunches in the church, primary school end of term services, and a very well attended Carol Service. The church is open every day for private prayer and reflection and is used by the wider community for such purposes. There is no church hall, but the church interior can be used flexibly, as there are comfortable chairs instead of pews. The Church building has an IT facility, with a drop down screen. We are a Fairtrade church, and usually have had a Fairtrade stall in the church on one Sunday each month.

One of our mission partners, in South Sudan, is a former communicant. We have occasional guest services for organisations such as Mission Aviation Fellowship, Street Pastors, Church Army and Christians against Poverty. We have in the past run Alpha courses, and also a community film club. Some of our members are involved in 'Filling Station' and are involved in a new youth café in the village. Others are interested in starting a Local House of Prayer (See Ffald y Brenin). We are open to suggestions for mission.

We have skilled personnel able and willing to run a Sunday school.

We are PVG compliant.

Management of practical issues is undertaken by the Vestry, which meets several times a year as required. Our Treasurer very diligently administers financial and accountancy affairs. In the absence of a Priest-in-Charge, the Vestry also act as a Ministry team, assisted by other members of the congregation and led by the Lay Reader.

Sunday morning worship is at 10:30 am. On the first Sunday of the month there is an informal, non-liturgical service, currently a 'Café Church' catering for all ages. On all other Sundays there is a sung family Eucharist, using the "Blue Book" (1982 Scottish Liturgy) with seasonal variations, and a mixture of traditional and modern worship. Café Church Sundays normally combine small-group discussion with a period of worship leading to the Eucharist. On other Sundays the sermon is occasionally replaced by guided meditation with periods of silence for reflection.

The congregation currently includes both a Lay Reader, and a Preacher in training, who lead worship and preach. Speakers also include other members of the congregation, and invited

speakers, particularly on Café Church Sundays. The Lay Reader administers the Eucharist in the absence of a Priest-in-Charge.

At 8 am on Thursdays we also have Morning Prayer with time for reflection, leading to a said Eucharist at about 9 am. There is a morning Bible Study on Tuesdays, and an evening Home Group on Wednesdays.

There is a local authority retirement complex at Hamewith Court, housing some of our communicants. Regular services are held there by the local interdenominational team of clergy

Parish Website: <http://standrewsalford.aodiocese.org.uk/parishprofile>

SECTION 2

JOB DESCRIPTION FOR A PRIEST IN CHARGE TO BE APPOINTED TO ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, ALFORD.

As the congregation of St. Andrew's we are seeking a Priest in Charge who is:

- Committed to the historic Christian faith and to preaching the Gospel of Christ.
- Has a deep personal faith and is open to the leading of the Holy Spirit.
- Can lead us into deeper faith and worship, and in spiritual growth.
- Will help us make St. Andrew's a place where the light of Christ shines, and those without faith are drawn to Him.

1. Growth of the congregation

St. Andrew's has grown over recent decades from a handful of worshippers to the current small but committed congregation of around twenty. We want the new Priest in Charge to seek, with God's blessing, to grow the congregation in quality in the following ways:

Maintain and develop the current worshipping, baptismal and office pattern, in collaborative working and agreement with the Vestry and Congregation.

Visit members of the congregation within the first year and continue faithful visiting.

Visit new and potential congregation members as soon as possible after first contact.

Deepen faith, enrich personal and corporate prayer, encourage and support spiritual growth.

Enrich corporate worship, develop confident prayer, discernment and identification of gifts, both natural and spiritual.

Be committed to collaborative practices pastorally, to prayer and to relaxed, gentle and Holy Spirit filled worship in both formal and informal settings.

Develop other ministries such as prayer ministry and pastoral visiting.

We would also expect the Priest in Charge to:

- Develop the involvement of further members of the congregation, without respect of gender, in worship and preaching, pastoral care, and other ministries such as those of intercessors, lesson readers, Eucharistic assistants and musical accompaniment, in public and private, formal and informal worship.
- Seek numerical growth
- Seek financial growth

Foster ordination, lay readership, and other lay vocations.

2. Involvement in the life of the Diocese, wider church and local communities.

The following are expected of all clergy within the Diocese:

- Continue and build St. Andrews' engagement with schools within the catchment area.
- Ecumenical contacts and supportive working by stipendiary clergy, as expected and encouraged within the Diocese, together with community involvement.
- Continued development of ecumenical and fraternal links with other churches in the area, such as the Church of Scotland and Roman Catholic congregations are seen as important activities.

3. In-service training.

The Priest in Charge will be expected to participate in Diocesan CMD events as directed by the Bishop.

4. 'The Small Print'

- Without prejudice to any future decision, the appointment of the Priest in charge will be limited to twelve months from the date of licensing.
- The incumbent will be expected to work flexibly to cover duties arising (funerals etc). The Priest in Charge may undertake supplementary work not exceeding three days a week but in the event of any conflict of interest the work of St Andrews will take priority. The contract is for three days a week including Sunday morning.

SECTION 3

PERSON DESCRIPTION FOR A PRIEST IN CHARGE TO BE APPOINTED TO ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH, ALFORD.

A Priest in Charge is required for this congregation with the following qualities:

Pastoral ministry with one or more congregations with capacity in the following:

- Church growth.
- Versatility of approach.
- Commitment to and familiarity with traditional and modern approaches to worship and practice, using liturgy creatively and encouraging a varied use of music in worship.
- A strong desire to carry on the outward looking tradition of St. Andrew's and to build on it, with a visible and active presence in the local area.
- Willingness to engage with and help support the wider diocesan approach to mission, evangelism and church growth.
- A strong desire and commitment to work actively with lay and ordained colleagues in all areas of church life: liturgical and sacramental, pastoral and practical, central and devolved leadership, and to welcome these at St Andrews.
- A desire to provide active support to the Bishop in her ministry, and welcome her to St Andrew's on church business

A skill set which can:

- Motivate, educate and facilitate growth in the existing congregation, in formal and informal ways.
- Be sensitive to the range of traditions and denominational backgrounds within St. Andrew's,
- Be committed to open hospitality and St. Andrews' tradition and custom of generous welcome.
- Balance the needs of the diverse congregation
- Be committed to a structure and secure rhythm of personal prayer and devotion.
- Work with the Vestry and the Bishop and other Diocesan officers.
- Understand the complex boundaries of confidentiality and discretion, but maintain transparency and openness in pastoral processes.
- Be sympathetic to the wide range of traditions within the Scottish Episcopal Church, while being dynamically committed to growth.

Specific requirements are:

- A living and personal Christian faith.
- A full and valid driving licence.
- Current PVG certificate from Disclosure Scotland.
- IT competence.
- It is expected that the Priest in Charge will ensure that the Clergy House and grounds are maintained to a reasonable standard.

