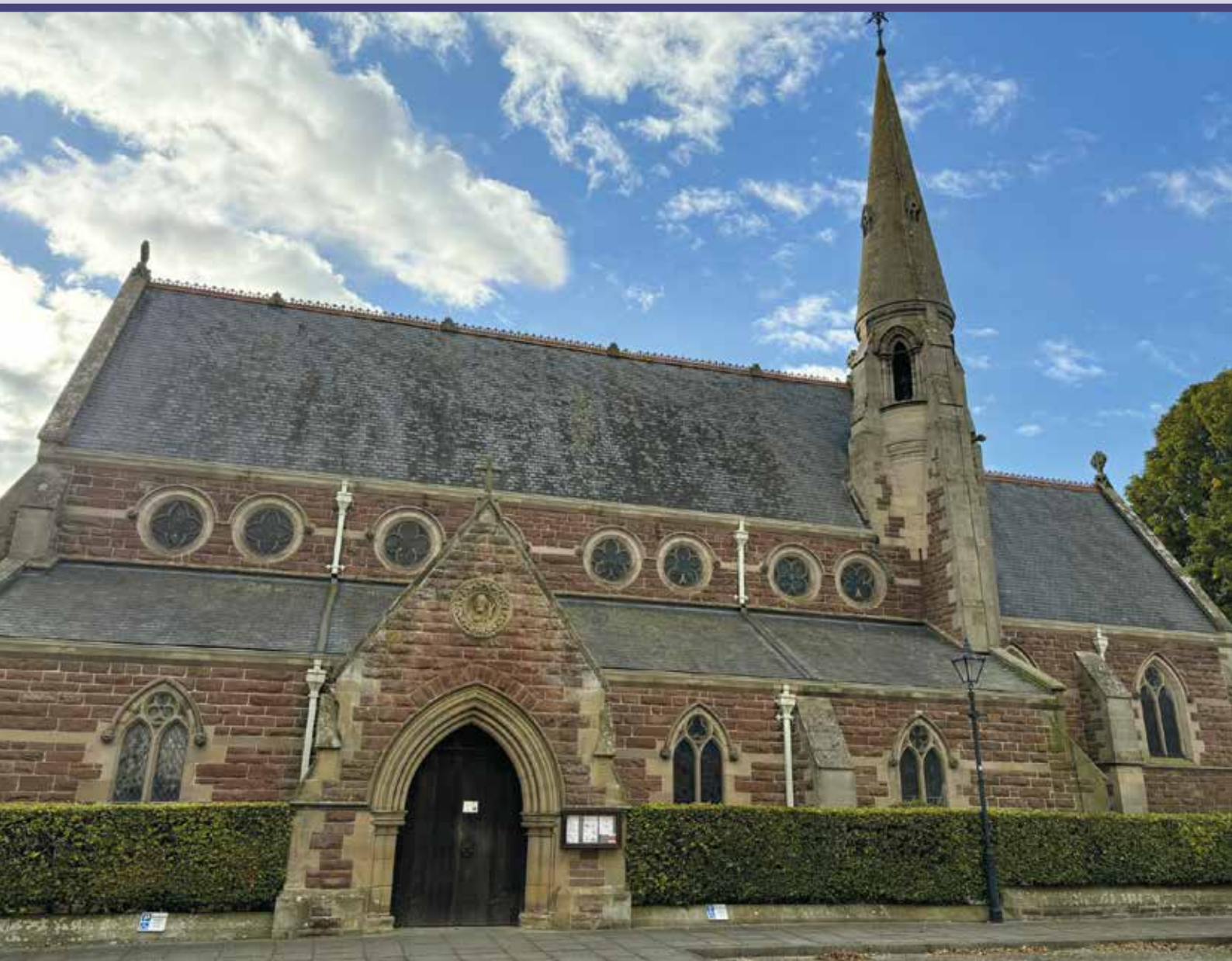




Diocese of Edinburgh
Scottish Episcopal Church



ST ANDREW'S CHURCH KELSO



CHURCH PROFILE



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OUR DIOCESE



Scottish Episcopal Church

The Diocese of Edinburgh

Growing together in following Christ and sharing God's love

Rooted in a common heritage we belong to each other, celebrating our diversity, growing in unity and working for the transformation of individuals and society.

The Diocese of Edinburgh, part of the Scottish Episcopal Church, is committed to God's mission. This mission affirms the value of life and seeks the transformation of people's lives.

As agents of God's mission, the Church seeks to:

1. *Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.*
2. *Teach, baptise and nurture Christians, and renew the life of the Church.*
3. *Respond to human need by loving service.*
4. *Transform unjust structures of society, challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.*
5. *Safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth.*

Our Diocese is one of the seven dioceses of the Scottish Episcopal Church. It covers the eastern side of southern Scotland and stretches from the Firth of Forth to the Scottish border. It includes more than 50 churches with a total membership of 8,500 and a communicant roll of 6,000.

The Standing Committee of Diocesan Synod has two main sub-committees, Mission & Ministry and Finance & Management, both of which seek to further God's mission as set out above. Advice and support are available to charges in all aspects of their developing life.

Our full-time Adviser for Christian Life works alongside us, encouraging each congregation to be a community where people find faith, grow in faith and share their faith, responsive to the call to love God and neighbour. In a world beset by many crises, including a tangible threat to the future of our planet, never has there been a greater need for Christians to put themselves to work for God.

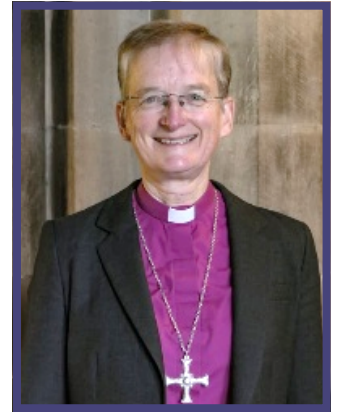
The Scottish Episcopal church regards its response to the climate crisis as a key aspect of its call to worship and obey God our Creator.



Bishop's Introduction

It is my pleasure, as the new Bishop of Edinburgh, to commend to you the post at St Andrew's, Kelso. Thank you for your interest in this unique charge in a beautiful market town which is such a good place in which to live and to flourish.

St Andrew's is a congregation with much to be thankful for and much to look forward to. Rooted in the life of the Scottish Borders and in the rich heritage of the Scottish Episcopal Church, the congregation longs to grow more deeply as disciples of Christ and to share God's love with the wider community. There is a particular warmth and openness here, together with a desire to connect across the generations and to be a place where people can feel at home, grow in faith, and discover the life and joy of following Jesus.



As St Andrew's looks towards its next chapter, the congregation is seeking a priest who will nurture its spiritual life, encourage and equip the gifts of others, and work collaboratively with the congregation and wider community. There are existing relationships to deepen, as well as new possibilities to explore in mission, outreach and pastoral care.

We hope to find a priest who feels at home within the breadth, generosity and inclusivity of the Scottish Episcopal Church, and who will bring imagination, depth and reverence to worship and prayer. There is significant potential here for a priest who will listen well, build relationships and, with energy and hope, help the congregation discern where God is leading.

Coming to this Diocese as its new Bishop, I am very conscious that times of transition can be both challenging and full of possibility. The vacancy has encouraged St Andrew's' congregation to reflect afresh on its identity, what God has entrusted to it, and what it might yet become. I hope that, as you read this profile, you will gain a sense not simply of St Andrew's as it is today, but of the community of faith it hopes, with its new priest, to become.

I warmly invite you to explore this profile and to consider whether God may be calling you to share in this next chapter of the life and ministry of St Andrew's, Kelso. Be assured of my prayers for the congregation, and for all those discerning whether this might be the place to which God is calling them.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "+ Dagmar Edinburgh". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

The Right Reverend Dr Dagmar Winter
Bishop of Edinburgh

WELCOME

The congregation of St. Andrew's, Kelso, a single charge in the Scottish Borders, extends a prayerful and warm invitation to priests discerning a fresh call to ministry. As we seek a new, full-time Stipendiary Rector, we offer a committed Christian community set in one of Scotland's most historical, spiritually rich and beautiful landscapes. The Four Abbeys Way passes through Kelso and close by is the St. Cuthbert's Way, a 62 mile long-distance pilgrimage trail connecting Melrose Abbey to Holy Island in Northumberland.

We are praying for a priest who will walk with us, encourage us, and help us flourish in faith, fellowship, service and joy. As St. Andrew's has a wide-ranging ministry within the church and community, we are looking for a Rector with enthusiasm and energy as we continue to grow week by week.

In addition, we offer a beautiful, well maintained four-bedroom Rectory as your home.



OUR CHURCH AND CONGREGATION

St Andrew's Scottish Episcopal Church sits in a small cul-de-sac in the shadow of the 12th century ruins of Kelso Abbey, on the banks of the River Tweed. Kelso is an historic town surrounded by farmland and stunning countryside. Our sanctuary has stood as a place of worship and welcome within this vibrant community since it was designed by Robert Rowand Anderson and built in 1850.

It is here that we welcome visitors, both local and from afar, seeking a place of peace within its walls. It is also home to a lively, growing, inclusive and welcoming congregation. Being 'Open for You,' is central to our mission as we strive to take the Gospel 'off the page' and place it firmly in the centre of daily life and living. The church is currently open every day during daylight hours and provides a warm, safe and prayerful place for people to 'be' and pray at their leisure. The comments in our visitors book frequently say, 'prayerful, peaceful, warm, welcoming and beautiful', which is what we as a congregation strive to be.

For those of us who worship in St Andrew's there is a real sense of community, where care and support for one another and for the ministry team is embodied within the congregation. We are an enthusiastic, friendly, loyal, and committed group of people. The congregation itself reflects the wide socio-economic mix of Kelso and the surrounding area.

Our church building is in a good state of repair. It is well insulated, has a small, seamlessly integrated kitchen area and toilets at the back of church, and offers a mixture of pews and individual seats to allow flexibility of space for worship and social events. In recent times, the roof has been repaired, the building painted, and the Garden Room and office re-furbished. In the garden, the columbarium has been extended.



In preparing this document, the Vestry consulted the congregation by means of a questionnaire asking the following questions. Included are the questions and a selection of responses:

1. What brings you to this church?

I was struck by how friendly and inclusive the church is, and how this is the culture of the church all the way through, not just from leadership but everyone I have met there. The quality and tone of the services is a good mix of spiritual, uplifting and humorous. The sermons have been excellent – I like sermons with depth that actually grapple with harder topics and help you to think more deeply about life and grow spiritually.

Sermons – well-researched with human touches, relevant.

Tangible presence of God.

Love in action.

Love. Healing. Joy.

‘Home’. Sense of belonging.

Christ-centred worship.

Safe environment to explore my faith. To ask questions.

Openness and understanding to accept disability and to learn new ways to do things.

Genuine attitude of welcome. Inclusiveness. Fellowship.

Prayerfulness, liturgy, exploration and explanation of the Scriptures.

Personal challenge.

Atmosphere of peace and prayer.

Understanding.

Feel seen and valued.

2. Where would you like to see a new Rector lead us in the future?

Continue to deepen faith, to encourage, to grow link to wider community.

To build on the current strengths of St Andrew’s.

To continue the excellent pastoral care.

Whatever the ‘journey’ will be, the new Rector should bring along as many as possible and do this in their own way.

Maintain a focus on people.

More Bible Study and reflection.

Build on broad church approach employing various styles of worship.

A deepening and broadening of what it means to be a Christian in the 21st century, and help to make a theology established 2,000 years ago relevant for today.

Reaching out to the community and encouragement to share our faith.

Lead us, heavenly Rector, lead us!

3. What can we offer a new Rector?

A single charge.

The church is thriving and people really want to get involved. A GREAT DEAL.

An inspiring and committed congregation who care deeply about our worship, each other, and our respective life journeys.

Compassionate support and encouragement.

A firm foundation.

A vibrant and open-minded congregation.

A great town in a wonderful area.

Kindness, friendship, a genuine desire to support our ministry team.

A friendly, generous congregation.

A beautiful, well-maintained church and Rectory.

Stable finances.

Practical help when settling in.

A warm Kelso welcome from a diverse and supportive congregation.

Trust, time, prayer support, reassurance, positivity, encouragement, not making comparisons.

A wide range of experience, willingness to help.

People open to taking the next step in our journey of faith, to embrace new ways and ideas.

*These comments accurately reflect the general feeling of the congregation,
the majority of whom participated.*



OUR SERVICES

We offer five regular services each week:

Sunday at 8.30 am

Scottish Book of Common Prayer Holy Communion which usually attracts 8-12 people.

Sunday at 10.00 am

Sung Eucharist (2022 revised liturgy) with a regular attendance of approximately 65/70. This is led by a small, enthusiastic, robed choir. Followed by coffee and refreshments.

Monday at 10.00 am

Morning Prayer.

Wednesday at 10.00 am

Said Eucharist (2022 revised liturgy) with recorded music and a reflection, sometimes done by a lay person, when between 15-25 people attend. Followed by coffee and refreshments.

Friday at 10.00 am

Morning Prayer.



Our aim is to provide good quality, liturgical worship with the Eucharist at its heart. Our hymnbook is Complete Anglican Hymns Old and New which provides a wide variety of hymns, accompanied either by our excellent Allen organ or on our electric keyboard.

The church has vestments for each liturgical season which are worn by the clergy as they officiate.

There is only one server at present. Our tradition pre-Covid, however, was to have servers and it is hoped that we might reinstate this practice.

At our services readings and intercessions are led by members of the congregation. On a Sunday at 10am the Liturgy of the Word may be led by a robed lay leader. At our Wednesday services prayers from our Prayer Board in the Prayer Space are included as part of our Intercessions. At Morning Prayer, we use *Celtic Daily Prayer: The Rhythm of Life* by David Adam. A dedicated group of five or more people attend regularly. At these services we also pray for each member of the congregation by name using an eight-week cycle.

At Christmas, St Andrew's endeavours to meet the diverse needs of both our congregation and the community providing a variety of services:

Quiet Service

Gentle, reflective, and prayerful, with soft music and space offered to remember loved ones and light a candle.

Lessons and Carols

On the Sunday before Christmas with an extended choir leading the worship for a large congregation.

Crib Service

An interactive and fully inclusive service that follows a unique formula which takes place on Christmas Eve. In excess of 150 children and adults come together to celebrate Christ's birth (if only they would return the rest of the year!).

Christmas Day

At 8.30 am contemplative service using the Scottish Prayer Book and at 10.00 am an All-Age Service, which in 2025 attracted over 200 people.

Easter is the climax of the church year, and we offer a range of services as opportunities to worship throughout Holy Week including Compline and Stations of the Cross, on Maundy Thursday a Eucharist and Watch, and on Good Friday, The Last Hour, as we prepare to celebrate Christ's Resurrection.

Like every church, St Andrew's has its fair share of Baptisms, which take place during a Sunday Service, as well as Weddings and Funerals. Funerals tend to be big affairs in the Scottish Borders and attract a wide variety of people from all walks of life.

OUR RECTOR

This is a full-time stipendiary post. The role is rooted in caring for and continuing to enable the congregation to deepen their faith in God, while also reaching out beyond the church walls to build on the connections already made within the community. This role calls for someone with energy and enthusiasm who will share our vision for the future and encourage us on our journey.

We are praying for a priest who:

- is alight with the love of God, humble, prayerful, and always open to learn.
- will lead us in worship that is rooted in the Scottish Episcopal tradition and who is responsive to our history and context, and open to broadening our experience of worship through using creative liturgy.
- values working collaboratively, and who will nurture lay ministry, identifying and encouraging the gifts of the whole people of God.
- will encourage us in our discipleship, helping us grow in prayer, study, and in our understanding of the scriptures.
- will offer pastoral care, being available to those in need, whatever their circumstance.
- has a love and care for all people, a listener, who will encourage us in times of joy and challenge, enabling us to explore what it means to live out the gospel in real life.
- can lead us in mission, with an eagerness to explore new and creative ways of reaching out to the community.
- is open to the Holy Spirit's guidance leading us into the future, with the ability to embrace change and manage it.
- will contribute to the wider diocesan vision, supporting ecumenical and diocesan relationships, representing the Scottish Episcopal Church in collaborative ministry.
- has a sense of humour – always a valuable gift to have.

Being a rural community, we consider the ability to drive an essential part of this role.

OUR TEAM

We have an Associate Priest, the Rev'd Grace Redpath. The Rev'd Prebendary Jeff Leonardi assists with the 8.30 am service on Sunday twice a month, and our Lay Reader, Moira Edwardson preaches regularly and organises Sunday School and the House Groups.

There is a Sacristan who is also the Office Administrator, who, ably assisted by another person, produces the weekly news-sheet. She also keeps the website up-to-date and attends to many of the tasks required by a busy church.



OUR CHURCH ACTIVITIES

St Andrew's established Sunday School in October 2024. At present, there are 20 children enrolled with an average attendance of 9. Sunday School meets on the first Sunday of the month at the 10am service. The youngsters enjoy a wide and creative curriculum, led by a team of members of the congregation. They leave for the Garden Room after the first hymn and return for communion and for 'show and tell' before the final blessing. On other Sundays of the month the Garden Room is set up as a creche to which an audio feed of the service is relayed.

There are currently five House Groups, comprising nearly half of the congregation. They meet every two weeks in members' houses. A wide variety of topics are studied, discussed and debated. Twice a year the groups come together for a shared lunch and Eucharist.

Bible Studies are a regular feature with 3 four-week courses happening each year. These meet as a large group for an hour after the Wednesday Morning Eucharist. Although a large number of people come together (sometimes more than 20) the formula appears to work and sharing on a deep level in safe surroundings is greatly appreciated by all. In the past we have used the Diocesan Lent Course as well as other courses, sometimes home produced. These courses finish with a Day for Reflection in a private home.



The sick and housebound are visited regularly to whom a number of lay people take Home Communion from the Reserved Sacrament, when appropriate, in addition to those taken by the clergy.

Services are also held in the local care homes.

Tea and Hymns takes place on the second Monday of each month. People from different backgrounds come together for fellowship and hymn singing. People sit around tables and anyone can request for any hymn to be sung. We sing for half an hour, drink tea, eat cakes and chat for half an hour, and then sing for the remainder of the time – a light-hearted outreach to many people within the community.

The St Andrew's Fellowship meets once a month and has a wide variety of speakers and activities. This is a well-established group and covers spiritual and secular topics.



Craft and Chat does exactly what it says on the tin. A regular monthly get-together of craft minded people who produce some wonderful items for themselves, for charity and for the church. In 2024, this group knitted one thousand poppies which are now used as part of the church's decoration for Remembrance Sunday.



OUR COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

St Andrew's is an active member of Kelso Churches Together working within the Community. Nearly all the local churches are involved gathering to worship together, particularly during key points in the liturgical year such as Holy Week, the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, the World Day of Prayer, and the annual service of Remembrance at the war memorial. In addition, we join together at the Kirkin' of the Kelso Laddie service during Civic Week, which happens every July.



The clergy of our local denominations enjoy good relationships in the wider community. During the summer we all take part in some form of outreach either in the town or at the annual Border Union Show, held at the Border Events Centre. There is also an annual Songs of Praise in the Town Square which attracts a large number of people.

The Food Bank is organised by Kelso Churches Together and food parcels are distributed where needed each week. This is financed, run and supported by all the churches.

St Andrew's has an extremely good acoustic making it a desirable venue for individuals, groups and choirs to perform. We host a number of concerts throughout the year. These range from large choirs singing a major work to a rock band from the Kelso U3A group. A recent feature has been putting on free concerts of a high quality on occasional Thursday afternoons to attract people from the community. A couple of local choirs also use the church as their rehearsal venue, as well as Kelso Wine Club that meets once a month. And, of course, our church members are involved in a wide range of community events and groups within Kelso.



OUR GOVERNANCE AND FINANCE

The Vestry are the Trustees for the charity, which is St Andrew's, Kelso. The Rector's Warden (appointed by the Rector) is Chair of the Vestry at present. The People's Warden (elected annually) takes responsibility for the maintenance of the building among other jobs.

The Vestry has six elected members who serve a term of three years, after which they must retire for a year before they can stand for election again, in accordance with the Constitution of St Andrew's. The Lay Representative, Alternate Lay Representative, Vestry Secretary and Treasurer are all ex officio Vestry members. The Vestry meets every two months.

There is a Finance Sub-Committee which has responsibility for the financial management of the church. The finances are in a good position. This is achieved by prudent management and budgeting. The stipend and expenses are paid every month. The Vestry does not hesitate to spend funds when it is required to do so for the good of the church and community.

The Vestry strives to be eco-friendly to ensure that we do not waste the precious resources of our world.

In addition to the above, there are fund raisers, hospitality organisers, flower arrangers, brass cleaners, sides people, coffee makers, linen washers, library organisers, gardeners and many more. The church employs a cleaner for two hours a week.



OUR RECTORY

“This has to be the nicest Rectory in the Diocese if not the Province” said the former Bishop of Edinburgh.

The Rectory, situated in Forestfield, is a stunning detached house on a traditional, quiet street of elegant properties. It provides outstanding family accommodation conveniently located within central Kelso and is only a ten-minute walk from the church. It makes a wonderful place to call home with welcoming, entertaining and family space.



The house has the benefit of private parking in the front drive.

The ground floor includes an entrance vestibule and hallway, a spacious sitting room, a generous-sized study, and a dining room, which can seat the 15 members of the Vestry with ease. At the rear of the house is a large, fitted kitchen / diner, a big utility room, a downstairs toilet and three storerooms.



Upstairs there are 4 double bedrooms. The principal bedroom has a newly-fitted ensuite bathroom with a large walk-in shower. There is a recently updated family bathroom as well as an additional toilet. A back staircase leads to the rear of the house where there is a single bedroom and box room.

The back door leads to the large, walled garden which is exceptionally private. It is beautifully laid out with a patio, lawn and planted borders with mature shrubs, surrounded by trees.

The Vestry has ensured that the Rectory has been kept in excellent order. Its' windows are double-glazed, it has gas central heating, and the benefit of high-speed Broadband (1000 mbps). It has been kept in good decorative order, although it is noted that some interior decoration needs refreshing. This will be done in consultation with the new Rector. Although it is large it is economical to run, warm in the winter and cool in the summer.

The previous Rector has stated, *"It has been a joy to live in"*.



OUR TOWN

Kelso lies at the meeting point of the Tweed and Teviot rivers and is one of the most attractive and unspoilt towns in the Borders. Notable features are the striking 12th century Abbey ruins, the Flemish-style cobbled square, Floors Castle and the John Rennie-designed bridge across the Tweed.

The town, a warm, friendly and bustling community, has a population of around 6,500 with a wide socio-economic mix of people and age ranges. There are several good employers in the area in addition to a large agricultural base which plays a major part within our local economy.

It has:

- A health centre, GP and dental services.
- A community hospital. The area is also served by Borders General Hospital, Melrose.
- Two primary schools, Broomlands and Edenside, each with additional nursery provision, and a newly-built secondary school, Kelso High School, which offers extra-curricular activities.



- Access to further education at Heriot Watt University, Galashiels and Borders College, Hawick and Galashiels.
- A library and community centre.
- Easy access by car to Tweedbank station for trains to Edinburgh, and to Berwick-upon-Tweed station for travel to London.
- Within travelling distance to both Edinburgh and Newcastle airports.
- A variety of individual shops – gift shops, butchers and bakers, cafes, restaurants and pubs, as well as supermarkets – Sainsburys, the Co-op and Lidl.
- A Garden Centre which has an excellent greengrocers.

The countryside around Kelso offers opportunities for walking, cycling and salmon fishing. Other leisure facilities include an ice rink, a swimming pool and a popular racecourse. A key community asset is Springwood Park. Its Borders Events Centre hosts many activities and shows throughout the year, including the Border Union Show. Additionally, there is an abundance of green and open spaces to enjoy.

Kelso supports a wide array of sports clubs - rugby, cricket, football, cycling, bowling, swimming and tennis to name a few, plus several gyms. Other clubs cater for a variety of musical interests and there is a range of choirs. There is an active art club, plus a U3A with a large membership, and a Probus Group. Scouts and guides groups are also active in the town so that all ages are provided for.



CONCLUSION

Kelso is a great community to be a part of, and we believe that this is a wonderful opportunity for a priest, who is excited by both tradition and possibility to join us in St Andrew's. We would value a Rector who is willing to be rooted in the care of the existing congregation whilst reaching out into the community to explore new and creative forms of mission. The role calls for someone with a warm and caring heart, has a love of liturgy and Scripture, and who is welcoming of all.

If you believe that God is calling you to St Andrew's, we will be delighted to receive your application.



NEXT STEPS AND HOW TO APPLY

Have a chat

Informal chats are welcome. If you wish please contact Hannah Marcus (PA to the Bishop of Edinburgh) :

Email: HHARCUS@dioceseofedinburgh Tel: 0131 538 7044

Apply for the role

To apply, please complete an application form available at:

[Application-Form-2026 St Andrews \(Word\)](#)

[Application-Form-2026 St Andrews \(pdf\)](#)

Key dates

The application closing date for this post is at 12 noon on Friday 9th November, 2026

Interviews will take place in Kelso on Saturday 5th December, 2026

St Andrew's Scottish Episcopal Church, Kelso

Diocese of Edinburgh

www.standrewskelso.co.uk

Registered Charity No. SC006302

