

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE 2024



Contents

1. Diocese of Edinburgh
2. Bishop John's introduction
3. Our Mission
4. The Church Plan and the Vestry
5. Finance
6. The Congregation and our Worship
7. The Church Buildings and Rectory
8. Church Setting and Locality
9. Rector's Profile

"I come to St Michael and All Saints because of the traditional style of worship, its Anglo-Catholic understanding of the Church, and the warm welcome I receive there."



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 English 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.

We have recently appointed a full-time Adviser for Christian Life to work 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.

2. Bishop's Introduction

St Michael & All Saints is a remarkable church community. They describe their 'style' in the pages that follow, but no label quite captures the energy of the people, their resilience, their joy, their delight in doing things well for God. The church itself is admirably situated within a bustling part of the city with its fair share of challenges and plenty of opportunities for reaching out beyond the church walls, not least to offer care to the quickly growing student population.

We are looking for a priest who:

- relishes 'Anglo Catholic' worship, not as something trapped in the past, but as an expression of God's glory in the present
- is good at caring for people
- is capable of explaining why the story of Jesus is good news for all
- is able to see the 'big picture'
- is able to help the congregation to discover new ways of serving God and growing in faith

In short we seek a priest committed to living out the vows of the ordinal, so that the gifts of the whole people of God may be realised.

I hold in my prayer all who are considering whether God is calling them to this exciting ministry in our beautiful capital city.

*+John
Bishop of Edinburgh*

3. Our Mission

Our mission is to bring people to the knowledge and love of God and his Son Jesus Christ, within an inclusive community of love and compassion.

We are a welcoming, inclusive congregation encouraging an atmosphere that is friendly and relaxed; people are accepted, affirmed and loved for who they are. At present, we have a variety of outreach activities.

We open our church regularly and live stream our Sunday Mass, Compline and the Jesus Prayer on Facebook.

Our garden, a haven in the heart of busy Tollcross, is well-used by locals. It is cared for by a small team which include local resident volunteers. This garden contains a popular book hive.



Our talented choir attracts people from across the city and beyond. Some come to join the choir and others to experience the spiritually uplifting music. There are occasional concerts and recitals which are well-attended.



We are committed supporters of St Salvador's Food Initiative and our congregation contributes generously to this worthy cause.



The congregation supports other charitable causes. Each year we choose one local charity and one overseas. Our local charity this year has been The Yard, which supports disabled and young children and their families through adventure play.

Our current overseas charity is Médecins Sans Frontières. We have also supported Opir – a charity sending relief to Ukraine. Funds for charities are raised through donations from the congregation.

We have enormous potential for growth in mission outwith our congregation and we want to embrace more local people. Our Church Plan needs to include more specific outreach action.

We have extensive student accommodation in our locality – we need to welcome these students. Also, we would like to forge closer links with our local secondary and associated primary schools.

Recently, much work has been done through Facebook and Instagram to raise our profile. There is an opportunity to

develop communications further. The congregation is very receptive to engaging with the wider community and we expect our new Rector to help us to take this forward.

Our congregational consultation indicated that we would like more focus on outreach by:

- Forging links with our local community and schools
- Developing relationships with our neighbouring churches
- Attracting and welcoming students, young families and people who work in the locality into the worshipping life of the church
- Empowering our congregation to utilise their skills and talents
- Maintaining and expanding environmental ecological and conservation actions



4. The Church Plan and the Vestry

The Vestry has drawn up a Church Plan with the following objectives:

- To ensure our church is a safe place where everyone is welcomed and included
- To develop stable church finances and secure our church's financial future
- To attract and retain new church members
- To utilise new ways of ministering to the congregation
- To grow our members spiritually

We have more specific and practical action points to help us achieve these objectives and to enable us to assess our progress.

As part of the Church Plan the Vestry has formed several sub-committees to address specific areas of church life. These are: Communications, Events



and Social, Fabric, Finance and Ministry and Spirituality. The sub-committees, which meet regularly and report to the Vestry, allow other members of the congregation to be involved in the running of the church and make use of their different talents.

The Vestry meets approximately every six weeks, usually on a Wednesday evening, and reports formally to the congregation at an AGM each December. The Vestry also holds a separate meeting to assess progress and formulate new actions for the Church Plan.

We have been successfully working towards our objectives, despite the Covid-19 pandemic and its aftermath.

5. Finance

Our financial position benefits from the generosity of our congregation past and present. We are fortunate to manage a sizable asset base of circa £860,000 as of September 2023, which we hold principally in long term investments. These assets offer us capital growth, investment income, and considerable financial security. Furthermore, they offer us the flexibility to deploy capital to work towards our mission and Net Zero targets over the coming years.

On an annual basis, we tend to post modest surpluses /deficits. We cover the majority of our expenses through congregational income and associated Gift Aid claims. Our congregation principally donates by standing order, though we also take



cash and contactless collections during services and other events.

Like most households, charities and businesses, our expenses have grown considerably during recent years. We are prudent with our costs but also mindful of the value of a warm and welcoming church – in every sense. Offering regular congregational events, maintaining the quality of our sacristy materials and heating the church appropriately are important to us, even in the face of the current inflationary environment.

Our church and rectory remain in relatively good condition. We have replaced our church heating system and are embarking on a significant renovation project to increase the energy efficiency of the rectory. We stand ready to draw from our reserves, though hope that we can benefit from grant funding, as in prior years.

Financial stability, on both a long-term and an annual basis, remains a key objective of the Vestry. To this end, we are working hard to increase and diversify our income streams. Our income is supplemented through two primary sources: our investments and letting of the church building. We have recently added to our income-generating investments and are raising the profile of our building as a venue for choir rehearsals, concerts and exhibitions. As a result, we forecast

that investment and leasing income will grow from 10 to 20% of our annual income during the coming years.

We would be pleased to forward, on request, copies of our annual reports, all of which have been independently audited and submitted to OSCR.

6. The Congregation and our Worship

We are a gathered congregation, from Edinburgh and beyond: some travel a distance to attend church.

“The type of service we offer and the way we conduct the worship is so authentic and done in a considered, loving way.”

Although our congregation has a high proportion of older people, we have some young parents and children as well as university students. Our congregational numbers are steady (an average of 50 communicants each Sunday) and this year numbers have been increasing. We have in the past had an active Children’s Church but currently there are no children in that age group as they have progressed to the choir. Resources are available for children who come.

People attend Saint Michael and All Saints for various reasons: the liturgy,



which is firmly set within the Anglo-Catholic tradition, the music and the spiritual ambience of the church are the key factors.

Our congregational roll stands at 88 and our members are interested, enthusiastic and hopeful for the future. Many are involved as servers, members of the choir, intercessors, readers, bell ringers and as stewards who welcome people to church services. There are refreshments after Mass, occasional lunches and social events which include talks from external speakers and visits to places of interest. Discussion groups take place during Lent and at other times.

The focus of our worship is Mass on Sunday at 10:30am. For all celebrations of the Eucharist, we use the 1970 SEC liturgy, with the Angelus or Regina Caeli used at the end of the main Sunday Mass. Our tradition is eastward facing.

There is also a well-attended Mass on Wednesdays, followed by a light lunch or refreshments. Rosary Mass is said on the first Saturday of the month.

Compline is said on Sunday evenings at 6.00pm. The congregation would like to return to a more regular pattern of weekday services and to celebrating feasts on the designated dates. There is a traditional programme of services during the seasons of Advent to Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week and Easter.



A very well-trained team of servers support our worship. Music plays a significant role during services. Our choir, Choir Director and team of organists maintain a very high standard of musicianship.

Over the past year we have endeavoured to open the church during the week, giving people the opportunity to visit our historic building and to have quiet time for prayer and reflection. A member of the congregation is there to welcome visitors and to offer an informal listening ministry. Prayers are offered on these days at noon and 4.00pm.

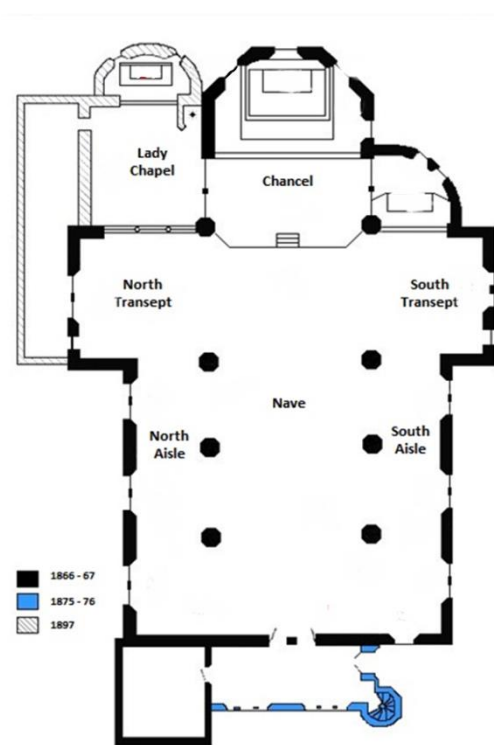
We value the sacramental life of the Church. Our worship is Catholic, beautiful and timeless.

7. The Church Buildings and Rectory

The Church

The church is a Category A listed building located in Brougham Street in the Tollcross area of Edinburgh, approximately one mile from the west end of Princes Street. It was originally built as a mission church for St John's Church, Princes Street.

The church is a fine example of early Gothic style, with lancets and plate tracery, and was designed by R. Rowand Anderson, one of Scotland's premier Victorian architects, and built 1866-78. The church, which has an elaborate interior that belies its plain exterior, is entered through a narthex and comprises a nave, north and south aisles and transepts. The chancel is flanked



by the Lady Chapel to the north and the St Michael altar to the south. To the north of the Lady Chapel and north transept are located the sacristy and the flower porch. The organ console is mobile but the organ pipes are situated above the Lady Chapel. There is limited space at the back of the church for social events as we do not have a church hall.

The church has a garden to the south and west, planted with flowers and shrubs.



A major restoration undertaken in 2008 included work on the roof and external stonework, interior lighting and electrics, decorating and carpeting, with an upgrade of toilet and kitchen facilities. This was funded through the efforts of the congregation and from various grants. A new heating system was installed in 2014. In 2018, further work was undertaken on the roof, funded through the Listed Places of Worship Roof Repair Fund.

The Rectory

The rectory is located at 203 Gilmore Place, a walk of approximately ten minutes from the church. It is on a bus route and is close to convenience stores and local primary and secondary schools.



Our rectory is a spacious, well-appointed, semi-detached stone villa, built c.1872 and is a Category C listed building. The ground floor comprises a vestibule, entrance hall, drawing room with bay window, study, dining room, kitchen, utility room and cloakroom. There is ample storage in the kitchen, hall and to the rear of the property. A staircase leads from the hall up to four double bedrooms and a bathroom. There is gas central heating throughout.

At the front of the property there is parking, and at the rear there is a garden with a patio and a lawn, surrounded by a mature herbaceous border.

The Province, Diocese and Vestry are committed to improving energy efficiency across the Church Estate. During the vacancy, works will be carried out, with the aim of achieving an Energy Performance Certificate (EPC) to, at least, a band C. The works that have been recommended cover roof, wall and floor insulation, a new boiler, double glazing and solar panels.

8. Church Setting and Locality

St Michael and All Saints Church is situated in



Tollcross, a district at the southern edge of Edinburgh's vibrant city centre.

We are very close to the Meadows and Bruntsfield Links, large public green spaces with children's playgrounds. Tollcross has a diverse demographic and a mix of architecture –Victorian tenements, modern flats and apartments, purpose-built student housing and a variety of national and local independent businesses. It has a busy hospitality sector which includes hotels, B & Bs, cafes, restaurants and pubs. The area has been part of an extensive regeneration programme encompassing developments round the canal side at Fountainbridge, a residential and financial sector and the University of Edinburgh Futures Institute in the iconic Old Royal Infirmary Building. Many University of Edinburgh faculties are nearby.

Edinburgh ranks highly in surveys of places to live in the UK. It provides all the advantages of a capital city, with the added attraction of being compact and easy to get around, on foot, cycling and by bus or tram. Edinburgh is central for road and rail travel across Scotland with an international airport. It has areas of natural beauty including the iconic Arthur's Seat in Holyrood Park.



The city has an international focus with its annual Festivals, during which our church is a venue for exhibitions and concerts. Nearby are theatres, a concert hall and TV studios.

There are several other churches in Tollcross, including Church of Scotland, Roman Catholic, and Central Church congregations, and nearby a synagogue and a mosque. Secondary schools within our area include Boroughmuir, James Gillespie's and St Thomas of Aquin's. The primary sector includes James Gillespie's, Bruntsfield and Tollcross primaries. Edinburgh has a strong tradition of independent schools with George Heriot's close by.

Edinburgh's population is diverse. It includes a high proportion of students, who study at one of four universities and several colleges of further education.

9. RECTOR PROFILE

We are seeking a dynamic priest to guide, inspire and support us on our spiritual journey.

Our new Rector should have a knowledge of the Scottish Episcopal Church, its history and traditions, and be committed to our Anglo-Catholic form of worship.



We expect our new Rector to care for the needs of all age groups. We consider the involvement of families and the development of an active Children's Church important to our church life and we want our new Rector to be actively supportive.

The successful candidate will lead us in extending outreach to our community and support us to develop the church as a hub for community events.

The Vestry has agreed that the following are the **essential** and **desirable** criteria we are seeking in our new Rector:

ESSENTIAL:

- Commitment to:
 - promoting Anglo-Catholic tradition, worship, and music
 - compassionate pastoral support
 - mission and outreach
- Leadership skills to advance our church aims
- Capable of encouraging, supporting, and nurturing all members of the congregation
- Strong presence in the Sanctuary
- Good verbal, written and digital communication skills
- A sense of humour

DESIRABLE:

- Positive experience of working with other clergy, including non-stipendiary priests.
- Ability to engage with young people and proven experience in developing youth work.
- A good singing voice.