

Scottish Episcopal Church
Diocese of Edinburgh and the Borders
Church of St John the Evangelist, Jedburgh



www.stjohnsjedburgh.org.uk

Registered Charity No SCO 16786

Parish & Rector Profile
St John the Evangelist, Jedburgh
The Scottish Episcopal Church
Diocese of Edinburgh

CONTENTS

The community we serve	page 3
Our pattern of worship	page 4
Who we are	page 5
How we administer St John's	page 6
How we support ourselves	page 6
Our place in the community	page 6
Where we worship – the Church	page 7
Where we meet – Jedburgh Community & Arts Centre	page 9
Where you will live – the Rectory	page 9
The next part of our journey	page 10
The person we need to accompany us	page 12
Job Advertisement	page 13
Appendix 1 – Canonically Assigned District	page 14

Summary of our mission

- We put prayer and the sacraments at the centre of our life as a church
- We are committed to traditional worship, but we know we must also engage more inclusively with those to whom this does not speak
- We are working with others to develop outreach to the young people of our town
- We want to grow as a people of faith, to grow in our impact on the local community and so to witness to the love and truth of Jesus Christ

The community we serve

St John the Evangelist Scottish Episcopal Church is in the town of Jedburgh, which lies on the A68, 10 miles north of the border. With a population of approximately 4000, the town is the centre of a number of surrounding villages and small settlements.

The Canonically Assigned District for St John the Evangelist, Jedburgh can be seen on the map at Appendix 1.

Jedburgh has a variety of locally owned shops and businesses, as well as a medium-sized supermarket, a main Post Office, three banks, a library and a Sheriff Court House with adjoining police station. Sports facilities include a swimming pool, gym and sports hall, and football and rugby clubs. Annual outdoor events include Walking Festivals, International Rugby Sevens, book festivals, the Border Games (athletic), the Jedburgh Half Marathon and the historic Border Ridings (equestrian marking of boundaries).

There are two primary schools and a secondary school within the town. Further college education is offered in Hawick (10 miles away) and the Heriot-

Watt University campus in Galashiels (17 miles away). Jedburgh is within an hour's drive of Edinburgh, Berwick upon Tweed, Newcastle and Carlisle. Bus services provide regular links between Border towns and these cities, and the Borders Railway runs from Tweedbank (near Melrose) to Edinburgh Waverley.

A health centre provides medical and dental services for the community and the modern Borders General Hospital is 15 miles away, outside Melrose.

The area surrounding Jedburgh is predominately agricultural (arable and sheep farming), with substantial areas of forestry. Employment, which used to be provided by woollen mills, is now largely dependent on tourism, although there are two important industrial employers on the outskirts of Jedburgh. The Scottish Borders Council and the National Health Service also provide substantial employment.

There are two other main Christian churches in Jedburgh, with which St John's enjoys a close and friendly relationship through the active Churches Together organisation: the Jedburgh Old & Trinity Parish Church (part of the established Church of Scotland) and St Mary's Roman Catholic Church.

Our pattern of worship

The present pattern of services includes an early said Communion on Sundays, according to the Scottish Prayer Book rite. The main 10.30 am Sunday service is a Sung Eucharist according to the 1982 rite of the Scottish Episcopal Church. There is a said Communion on Thursday mornings and there are celebrations of the Eucharist on certain Saints days. A quarterly Choral Evensong is a popular service, often attended by worshippers from other denominations. The small SATB choir, led by our Organist and Deputy Organist, give support to the sung services.

At all celebrations of the Eucharist, vestments are worn. The Sacrament is reserved at all times. We have a well used votive candle stand. The church is open for private prayer and to visitors throughout daylight hours.

Who we are

St John's has approximately 130 members on the church roll. Of these, 70 are regular communicants. In common with other rural churches in the central Borders, many of St John's active members are retired. Although there are many young families in the town, this is not reflected in our congregation. St John's is a happy, gathered congregation, that welcomes visitors and members alike as friends.

Four members of the congregation are authorised by the Bishop to administer the Chalice at celebrations of Holy Communion and two to assist in leading worship. Sacristans, sidespeople and other helpers within the services are volunteers from within the congregation. St John's has a designated co-ordinator for the PVG (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) Scheme. Groups of volunteers also undertake various other jobs, including church cleaning, flower arrangements and churchyard maintenance.

For members of the church who are housebound or who live in sheltered accommodation, home communion is offered (through the pastoral care team's co-ordinator, who can arrange the administration of reserved sacrament when requested). A system of home visiting, which meets the requirements of the Protection of Vulnerable Groups law, is in place.

Within the Scottish Episcopal Church, St John's is linked to the thirteen churches in the Borders through the Area Council, a body which meets regularly to share matters of common concern. The clergy and Lay Representatives of each church are members of the Council.

To fit in with the two services on a Sunday, once a month a congregational breakfast is provided between the two morning services, bringing together those who attend each service. A regular men's curry night provides fellowship in a local restaurant, outside the church setting.

How we administer St John's

The Vestry, elected from the church membership for a maximum 3 year term, assists the Rector and has charge of the fabric and property of the Church and the Rectory and Hall. Vestry members are charity trustees. Vestry officers include a Treasurer, Property Convenor, PVG officer and Secretary. Meetings are currently held monthly.

How we support ourselves

Every charge in the Scottish Episcopal Church is expected to be financially self-supporting. Thanks to the generosity of the congregation, the church has been able to meet its commitments over the years. As well as supporting its rectors, providing a ministry of care to its congregation and with the town itself, St John's has met its obligations to the Diocese and Province and contributes regularly to charitable causes locally and worldwide.

Two main fund-raising events are held each year, raising about £2000 towards the expenses of the church, with incidental events throughout the year.

The church's present income is not sufficient to meet the costs of a full time stipendiary priest. St John's, therefore, is initially seeking a half-time rector, although it is our aim to work alongside the new Rector to review that time commitment as the finances allow.

Our place in the community

Volunteers organise monthly mid-week lunches, open to any in the Jedburgh community, often providing transport. Open study groups are arranged, and an ecumenical contemplative prayer group has recently been initiated. The church and the adjoining Community & Arts Centre (see 'where we meet', p8) host an "Autumn Fayre", occasional musical events, and successful Flower Festivals have been held in St John's. Open social activities include a harvest supper and a sewing group.

In its outreach, St John's maintains links with the schools in Jedburgh, both primary and secondary. St John's is building up a relationship with the secondary school, to support its teaching of Religious and Moral Education. 'Messy Church' for children is organised in collaboration with the local Church of Scotland. St John's is working with the Church of Scotland in applying for funds to support a youth worker in Jedburgh, as we wish to reach out more effectively to the young people in the community.

St John's contributes to local charities on a regular basis and supports Christian ventures overseas. In recent years it has provided financial and other help to the Raphael Centre in Grahamstown, South Africa, helping victims of HIV/AIDS. St John's also gives support to Petra School in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe.

A church magazine is produced quarterly and distributed to all those on the roll of St John's. The magazine also reaches into the local community, and to local businesses who advertise within it. St John's has a website, which, judging by the email responses it brings in, reaches far and wide. St John's also makes an effort to contribute regularly to the local community paper, the Jed Eye.

St John's is an open church. St John's offers a quiet space, kept open for private prayer and contemplation, a peaceful, but powerful, asset to the town that is not to be underestimated.

Where we worship – the Church

The church of St John the Evangelist was founded as the first Anglican church in Scotland to promote the tenets of the Oxford Movement. John Keble attended its consecration in August 1844, along with no fewer than four Bishops.

This small church is richly decorated, with a rood screen, elaborately tiled east end, stained glass windows and a modern set of icons depicting the Stations of the Cross. The church is open during daylight hours throughout the year, for

the benefit of worshippers and visitors. Our Archivist has created a Church Trail for visitors to follow: this trail is also exploited by the local primary schools in support of their school curriculum.

The church is an A-listed building, designed by the architect John Hayward, a colleague of William Butterfield, who himself designed the lychgate. In 2013 the Quinquennial Review contained a ten year timetable for specified maintenance and repairs. Such work is up to schedule and no major expenditure is foreseen as being necessary over this period. An incoming rector will enter a church that is well maintained.

A new Viscount two-manual digital organ was installed in January 2015. As well as providing excellent support to the choir in choral services, the organ is also available for musical recitals and concerts which St John's hosts from time to time.

Within the constraints imposed by the Church's architecture and fixed seating, we have recently been working towards making the interior space a little more flexible. The lighting and heating systems are now "zoned", so that the chancel, the main body of the Church and the carpeted area at the West end are separate.

Weekday Communion services take place in the chancel. We use the West end, which has bookshelves and chairs, to serve refreshments after concerts and evening services and for children's activities when young families come to a service.

Where we meet - Jedburgh Community and Arts Centre (JCAC)

The JCAC occupies premises adjacent to the church, formerly St John's primary school. The Centre, run by an independent company, provides pre- and after-school care for young children and facilities for music, art and drama. The property is owned by St John's and rented to the JCAC on a Repairing Lease. A flat adjacent to the JCAC is occupied by the Centre's manager, who undertakes some church duties, such as opening and closing the church daily.

The church office occupies a room on the first floor of the JCAC and provides the usual office facilities.

Where you will live - The Rectory

The Rectory is a mid-nineteenth century terraced house in the upper part of the town, at 48 Castlegate. The accommodation has a sitting room, study/bedroom, dining/kitchen and shower/wc on the ground floor. On the first floor there are four bedrooms, study and bathroom/wc. There is a gas-fired central heating system throughout the property. There is no garage, but on-street parking is available. To avoid it sitting empty, the Rectory is currently rented out on a short term let, through a letting agency.

The back of the property, facing south-east, overlooks a substantial garden, the further part of which has been fenced off in order to reduce the area requiring regular upkeep. There are views of the river Jed below and the ruins of Jedburgh Abbey beyond. The garden incorporates a lawn, shrubs, fruit trees and a shed.

The Rectory being in town, within 10 minutes walking distance (downhill) to the church, allows the Rector to see and be seen: to be part of the community.

The next part of our journey

St. John's attracts many worshippers who find themselves comfortable in the tradition of prayerful, sacramental worship. Some are discovering this for the first time; others tell us how glad they are to have *rediscovered* something they once knew and feared the modern Church had lost.

But the demographic tide is coming in. The younger generation has no established roots in that tradition, and we need to engage with it through different styles and activities.

The new Rector will be someone who sees both of these as equally important – who respects the strength and depth of traditional worship but has an open mind to evolving expectations of the Christian Church in the 21st century.

St. John's has a good working relationship with the Presbyterian and Catholic churches in Jedburgh, both of which face the same issue of ageing congregations. We need to build on our links with the secondary school and continue to encourage the primary schools to use us as a resource. We are working through the challenging process of jointly applying for a grant to support a youth worker.

The new Rector will be enthusiastic about developing our partnership in youth outreach with other churches, willing to work with people of all ages and balance the needs of different generations of churchgoers.

We are also looking to build on other strengths, notably hospitality and music. There is an ever-growing need for companionship and practical help for the elderly. Our monthly lunches contribute to this, but more could be done.

The new Rector will share our pastoral commitment and be ready to help us improve what we do and develop new activities.

We have successfully welcomed amateur and professional performers to St John's to give recitals that take advantage of its warm acoustics, and we want to develop such cultural links further, as well as holding our own events.

The new Rector will be sociable, inclusive and forward looking, one who sees the importance of a strong and constructive church presence in the life of the whole community.

St John's is open during daylight hours to offer a quiet, prayerful space, whether visitors choose to sit in the pews or use the extensive collection of books provided at the West end. We wish to encourage contemplative prayer, both in the home setting and in church.

The new Rector will be equally at home in small, thoughtful groups and in uplifting communal acts of worship.

A visitor to the Church will see evidence that the fabric of life at St. John's is woven from diverse threads: in each pew there is a Bible, yet the Sacrament is reserved at all times and the Stations of the Cross are represented on the walls.

The new Rector will be someone who is as committed as we are to subsuming our individual faith histories and tastes into the common purpose of witnessing to the truth of Christ – who can preach the Good News from scripture whilst respecting a liberal, catholic tradition.

As a single charge, St John's offers the opportunity for an incoming Rector to build up a strong relationship with the congregation and the community from which it is drawn. Whilst we are a robust and self-sustaining congregation with many of the skills necessary to keep a thriving Church life going, St John's is looking for support and leadership to take forward into the modern world the ideals and aims that prompted the building of the church in 1844.

The person we need to accompany us

St John the Evangelist, Jedburgh is seeking a priest eligible to work in the United Kingdom and to be licensed for ordained ministry within the Scottish Episcopal Church.

- **The new Rector will be someone who respects the strength and depth of traditional worship but has an open mind to evolving expectations of the Christian Church in the 21st century.**
- **The new Rector will be enthusiastic about developing our partnership in outreach with other churches, willing to work with people of all ages and balance the needs of different generations of churchgoers.**
- **The new Rector will share our pastoral commitment and be ready to help us improve what we do and develop new activities.**
- **The new Rector will be sociable, inclusive and forward looking, who sees the importance of a strong and constructive church presence in the life of the whole community.**
- **The new Rector will be equally at home in small, thoughtful groups and in uplifting communal acts of worship.**
- **The new Rector will be someone who is as committed as we are to subsuming our individual faith histories and tastes into the common purpose of witnessing to the truth of Christ – who can preach the Good News from scripture whilst respecting a liberal, catholic tradition.**

Informal enquires to: The Dean of Edinburgh, T. 0131 538 7033

Vestry Secretary: Mrs C McLachlan, 91 Bongate,
Jedburgh, TD8 6DU
E. relax@reiversrest.co.uk

St John the Evangelist, Jedburgh, TD8 6DJ
www.stjohnsjedburgh.org.uk
Charity Number: SCO16786

The Scottish Episcopal Church

Diocese of Edinburgh

RECTOR (half-time)

St John the Evangelist, Jedburgh

St John's is a single charge, with a supportive gathered congregation, an historic church in excellent condition, an adjacent hall and a comfortable Rectory, all within the attractive Scottish Borders town of Jedburgh.

If you are able to lead us, building on our strengths as we take the next steps on our journey of faith and witness, we should like to meet you.

For further information visit our website or contact our

Vestry Secretary, Mrs C McLachlan, relax@reiversrest.co.uk

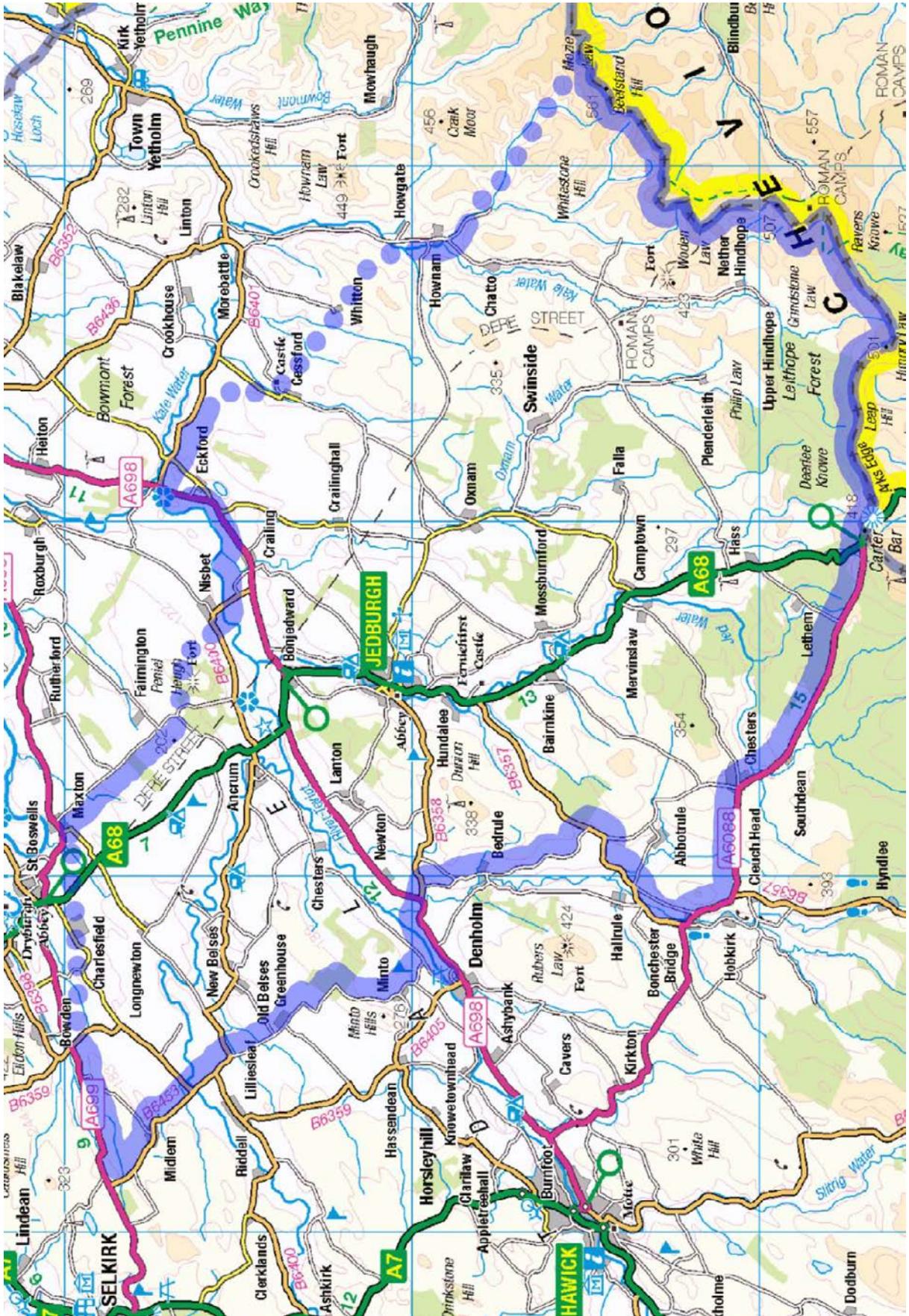
Informal enquiries to: The Dean of Edinburgh, **Very Revd. Susan Macdonald, 0131 538 7033**

The closing date for applications is **Thursday 13 October** and we aim to interview shortly thereafter.

St John the Evangelist, Jedburgh, TD8 6DJ

www.stjohnsjedburgh.org.uk

Charity Number: SCO16786



APPENDIX 1 to Parish Profile: Map indicating Canonically Assigned District