



The Scottish  
Episcopal Church



St Peter's Church, Peebles

## St Peter's and St Andrew's

A unique opportunity for service to God, the  
community and two congregations amid  
the rural beauty of the Scottish Borders



St Andrew's Church, Innerleithen



Scottish Episcopal Church

# The Diocese of Edinburgh

*Growing together in following Christ and sharing God's love*

## Dean's introduction

It is an exciting time to join the Diocese of Edinburgh. As we pray through this time of searching for our next bishop, we are preparing for the next chapter of our life and mission across varied contexts—facing real challenges and real opportunities together.

St Peter's and St Andrew's are rooted in their contexts and varied traditions yet united in their desire to share God's love creatively and passionately within their own communities.

St Peter's is a main street church, ideally placed for mission, hospitality and a warm welcome in Peebles; St Andrew's offers a faithful presence, cherishing its heritage, nurturing fellowship and offering a welcoming space which supports and connects parents, carers and pre-school children in Innerleithen. There is a clear sense of hope and readiness to explore new ways of being church together, with a shared longing to deepen links with schools, to grow younger and to strengthen discipleship for all ages.

We are seeking to appoint a priest who can lead collaboratively and contribute positively – not only to the life of these charges but also to our diocese and province. They must be at home in the broad range of traditions within the Scottish Episcopal Church and able to use our liturgies with imagination and reverence.

There is huge potential here for the right person.

Please hold these churches in your prayers as they seek a leader who will walk with them in faith, hope and love, proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ. And be assured of my prayers for you as you discern God's call.

*Frances*

The Very Revd Frances Burberry  
Dean of the Diocese of Edinburgh



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.

## Who we are and why we would welcome you

St Peter's Church, Peebles, and St Andrew's Church, Innerleithen, are congregations of the Scottish Episcopal Church (SEC) in the Diocese of Edinburgh but very much rooted in the rural Scottish Borders. Each church has its own character, with around 75 active members across both congregations, strong musical traditions and lay involvement in all aspects of church life.

We are looking for – and are excited about welcoming – a new priest-in-charge, working together to enable our churches to flourish and grow. We believe there is great potential for good things both within our congregations and in the wider communities of our towns. Trusting in the faithfulness of God, we look to our future with hope.

Our objectives are to enable our congregations to grow, both in terms of welcoming new people through our doors, and spiritually through regular worship, fellowship and Bible study. Our mission is to bring new people to faith, sharing with all in the community the good news of God's love revealed in Jesus Christ, in partnership with other churches and local organisations.



Peebles, with a population of 9,000, sits on the banks of the Tweed in the Borders, a few miles west of Innerleithen

'We are called to inspire people of all ages to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ, to know, love and serve God. We want this to shape our plans and priorities.'

## Could you be our new priest-in-charge?

We are praying for a priest-in-charge (initially for five years) who can support and grow both our congregations, through working collaboratively with us to lead worship, offer pastoral care, provide teaching and enable our churches to demonstrate the love of God in our communities. Within the initial period of this appointment, and subject to longer-term financial viability, the bishop may, with the consent of the vestries (church councils), decide to license the priest-in-charge as rector.

We are looking for someone who is:

- A person of deep personal faith, sustaining their own well-being and spiritual growth through Bible study, prayer and reflection.
- Able to lead us in inspiring liturgical and musical worship across a range of styles, supporting and building on our diverse musical strengths and creatively providing opportunities for people of all ages to participate in church life.
- A thoughtful, gifted teacher, rooted in scripture and able to connect with people from a wide range of traditions and theological perspectives, respecting our diversity and encouraging us all to grow in faith.
- Friendly and approachable, a people person who can encourage children as an integral part of our Christian communities and help them to develop their own faith through baptism, teaching and confirmation, as well as offering pastoral care and support to all in need.
- Passionate about helping our congregations engage with our communities, skilled in developing strong links between other local churches, schools and events.
- A collaborative leader committed to enabling the gifts of others, while also having the confidence to discern and guide us where God is leading.
- Confident in appropriately sharing their faith and God's love with those outside the church, enabling us to do the same, to grow and nurture new Christian believers.
- Keen to uphold our commitment to be thoroughly welcoming and totally inclusive churches, accepting all regardless of ethnicity, gender or sexuality.

## What we can offer you

We are two growing churches, each with our own characters and traditions, but willing to change as we build stronger connections and relationships in our communities. We believe we can offer:

- Warm and welcoming congregations of faithful, enthusiastic and talented people of all ages keen to contribute and be involved.
- The potential for a ministry team to broaden our outreach, including two retired priests and three lay worship leaders.
- A strong musical tradition, open to different styles with several people able to play instruments and take a lead. St Peter's has a very committed and enthusiastic choir of about a dozen voices, which participates in services.
- Good potential for strong connections with our local communities in schools, organisations and events, and ecumenically with other churches.
- Two well-maintained church buildings.
- A comfortable home in a modern Rectory.
- Opportunity to live in a very beautiful part of Scotland and be part of rural and vibrant town communities with good social, creative and sporting facilities. With excellent schools and numerous opportunities for children, it's the perfect place to bring up a family in a safe and stimulating environment.
- The standard stipend of £36,381 along with non-contributory pension scheme, expenses of ministry (e.g. mileage and administrative expenses) and council tax/water rates (combined in Scotland).

## St Peter's... our vision for the future

We recognise that sharing faith is one of the key things that marks churches out from other organisations, so we want to find new ways to make this happen, as together we trust in the faithfulness of God to bring new life and hope. We want to grow and strengthen our small groups as we encourage one another to participate in church life to help nurture and deepen personal Christian faith.

We recognise the importance of engaging all generations in church life and so we want to strengthen and deepen our work with children and young people. We are called to inspire people of all ages to hear the gospel of Jesus Christ, to know, love and serve God. We want this to shape our plans and priorities as we work to grow as a church.

## Who comes through our doors?

St Peter's is home to a Christian community of about 130 members, about half of whom are active contributors of time and money. The church has a small but faithful core of worshipers, with around 40 regular attendees at the main Sunday morning service.

Our church membership is relatively diverse and reflective of Peebles, with many from a professional background. We have a sizeable proportion of retired people, balanced by a number of families who together contribute about ten children/young people to our church community. People come from a wide variety of Christian traditions and theological perspectives, and we respect each other and worship together happily, appreciating the creativity this brings.

We aim to be an inclusive family, valuing diversity, making space for difference and welcoming every person into our church community regardless of background and denomination. Our niche in Peebles has traditionally been for those with an English or Anglican church background, especially those who value liturgy and Eucharist as part of the regular act of worship. We also attract those who appreciate the warm welcome and care they receive at St Peter's.



Making a joyful noise: St Peter's choir and, right, praising the risen Lord on Easter morning

## Worship, fellowship and our growing family

We have two Sunday services every week, both with a time for fellowship – not to mention coffee and cake – afterwards. At 8.30am we offer a simple said communion service using a version of the SEC 1970 liturgy, with an average of about ten people in attendance.

At 11am, we have our main sung communion service using the SEC 1982 liturgy and Mission Praise. It's a traditional but not fussy service that regularly attracts a congregation of about 40 people. We have a robed choir and the singing is accompanied by organ and/or piano.

During the vacancy, attendance has increased and we are keen to see these figures continue to grow. The third Sunday of the month is usually an 'all-age' service, with a greater involvement, where possible, of children and young people. Our hope is to restart a regular Sunday school and to get more young people through our doors.

Every Thursday at 10am we have a said Communion service with a faithful core of around ten people. Refreshments are offered after the service, providing a friendly, social time for fellowship. For some of these people, this is their main connection with St Peter's.

As well as using our usual SEC liturgy, we enjoy the variety of both modern and ancient styles. We cherish the diversity of our traditions and our theology, with Advent, Christmas, Lent and Easter being highlights of our church calendar. Our annual Christingle service sees the church filled with local families from beyond the usual congregation.



Packed pews and a church bathed in candlelight for our popular Christingle service

Music is important to us, and our sung worship is usually led from the organ, supported by our choir of around a dozen female voices.

We offer a monthly daytime home group, which talks through matters of faith in an informal setting. For Lent 2024 and 2025, we distributed copies of the Church of England daily readings and prayers and held an evening home group and a daytime small group after the Thursday morning service.

Church members are very committed to visiting and supporting each other during the week. It is usual for our priest-in-charge to offer home communion to those unable to attend church. During the current vacancy, home communion and pastoral visiting has been supported by congregation members.

Our church year is regularly punctuated by social activities, which provide a focus for fun, fellowship and fundraising for the congregation and the people of Peebles. This has included coffee mornings, summer fairs and concerts. Particularly popular were an Easter Monday walk, open garden event, Christmas concert, Advent coffee morning and a Burns Supper.

We circulate a short weekly email and a longer monthly news email to ensure our congregation is kept up to date about the life of the church.

There are more than 100 people on our mailing list. Our Facebook page has over 300 followers and we use that to inform, update and advertise events. We also have several informal WhatsApp groups to help church members keep in touch with one another.

Our finances are in good shape as we are well supported by our members through regular giving, with comfortable reserves to fall back on.

Our numbers continue to grow. On Sunday, January 11, a congregation of almost 80 gathered for the service of confirmation for four of our young people. It was a beautiful service and a special time of joy and celebration for our church family.

The service was led by retired clergy the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy and the Rev Canon Cedric Blakey – we are fortunate to have them as members of our congregation – and we concluded with a fabulous bring-and-share lunch.



Growing the church family: Our four confirmation candidates - William, Connie, Eliana and Celeste - with our retired clergy, the Rev Canon Cedric Blakey and the Rt Rev Alan Abernethy

## Our place in a busy and bustling town

There are several Christian churches in Peebles, including two Church of Scotland parishes (one literally next door to us), Roman Catholic, Evangelical, the Society of Friends and the Baptist Church. We have good relationships with all the congregations in the Tweeddale area through the umbrella group of Peebles Churches Together and are committed to working across denominations to show our unity in Christ.

Several members of our congregation are volunteers in the day-to-day running of the Peeblesshire Foodbank. We regularly donate to the Foodbank through our Harvest Festival offerings, and the Aberlour Children's Charity through our offering at the Christingle Service.

We have had strong links with Priorsford Primary School and Peebles High School and are keen for our new priest to maintain and grow these connections with the young people of our town.

The Pitter Patter baby group meets each Thursday afternoon in St Peter's. This has been greatly valued by many of the new parents who have enjoyed friendship and support through the group. It has proved to be a popular initiative, bringing new faces into the church, and could continue to be developed through offering baptism and inviting parents to services such as the Christingle.

Being in such a central position in the town – right on the High Street next to the Post Office and by the main bus stop – we keep the church open during daylight hours so that St Peter's can be enjoyed by everyone. Sometimes people come in to find a peaceful and sacred space for reflection – or simply a more comfortable place to wait for a bus. It shows we are open to all; a simple and practical display of inclusion and hospitality.



Peebles Churches Together in action



St Peter's, a landmark for nearly 200 years

## Our building, a welcoming presence on the High Street

St Peter's Church has served the town of Peebles and its people since 1834. It stands at the east end of the High Street in a very busy, central location. Many people pass by every day, which we believe offers great opportunities for outreach and hospitality.

The church can seat up to 150 people, but in 2018 we moved some pews to open up the area at the back of the building to provide more space for social events, outreach and children's work. We are delighted with the increased opportunities for fellowship that this has created.

At the front of the church, located off the chancel, is a small/medium-sized room that functions as a vestry for choir and clergy robing, as well as a meeting space for the Sunday School and general fellowship. It offers kitchen, storage and toilet facilities and is a useful asset. We have a desire to develop these spaces to be more accessible and to better meet the needs of the church and community.



Santa makes a surprise visit to the Pitter Patter group; the St Peter's faithful head off on an Easter Monday church walk and, left, a welcome cuppa and a time for fellowship after the Sunday morning service

'Our mission is to bring new people to faith, sharing with all in the community the good news of God's love'

## St Andrew's... our congregation

St Andrew's is a small but diverse congregation gathered from the communities of Innerleithen, Traquair and Walkerburn, numbering about 11 members. Our congregation ranges in age from middle aged to retired people, and we also have occasional visitors, both local inhabitants and tourists. On Sundays our average attendance is around seven to nine.

Although small, teamwork characterises the spirit of St Andrew's and we have a great community ethos. Almost everyone has a part to play in our shared life together and we love welcoming others with warm hospitality (often including food!)

Our vestry has a membership of seven and we have a secretary who also serves as treasurer. One of our retired priests, who currently helps with services, lives locally in Walkerburn.

## Our church life

We currently offer a Sunday service at 9.30am, which is normally a Communion service using the SEC 1982 liturgy. During the vacancy we have also appreciated Services of the Word led by our lay worship leader, and some visiting priests. We have enjoyed the variety and informality this has brought, as well as opportunities for different people to contribute to our worship.

Our organist is a valued member of our congregation, and we enjoy our worship from Mission Praise and the New English Hymnal.

Our church building and garden are maintained (to the best of our limited ability!) by members of the congregation.

## Our outreach and connections

Our main outreach is our Come and Play group, started in 2014, which attracts pre-school children, parents and carers. It takes place weekly on Wednesdays from 10am to 11.30am all year round, including school holidays, with often more than 11 children and adults attending. The group is led by our priest and a team of dedicated members, who take part in a short service of morning prayer beforehand, at 9am.

The local primary school is St Ronan's. Before to the pandemic, our rector had regular contact with the school and we would love that to be re-established. We have good relationships with the local Catholic Church and the Church of Scotland in the area.

Innerleithen sits in the heart of the Tweed Valley and has become a go-to destination for lovers of mountain biking. Nestled in the hills, it is ideally placed to cater for mountain bikers and attracts thousands of visitors to the town throughout the year.

Innerleithen hosts popular annual community events which draw visitors from far and wide, one of which is the St Ronan's Games Week (which is held every July). Local events are central to the life of our area, and both are growing and developing.

## Our building by the Leithen Water

St Andrew's Church is a single-storey building dating from 1904, set alongside the picturesque Leithen Water. The church has a very fine altar painting and carved oak screen, along with memorial stained-glass windows. It has a small vestry room at the back of the building.



With fixed pew seating for 75, the church is fortunate to have an adjacent multi-purpose room (accessed through the vestry), with a small kitchen, storage and toilet facilities.

As well as for refreshments after every service, this is used for many different social functions and meetings, including our weekly Come and Play group. It opens out onto a private garden surrounding the church on three sides.

A programme for building maintenance and repairs is overseen and carried out on a regular basis through the Vestry Committee. In 2022, there was a quinquennial survey of the fabric, and the actions are being attended to, so our buildings are in good order.

## Why you should want to live here!

When it comes to stunning scenery and unrivalled facilities, this part of the Tweed valley is hard to beat. Peebles and Innerleithen are long-established towns located on the River Tweed in the Scottish Borders. Peebles lies around 25 miles south of Edinburgh – with all its unrivalled attractions and arts events – with Innerleithen around seven miles east of Peebles.

Peebles is the historic market town of the area now known as Tweeddale, and there are a host of smaller settlements along the valley, including the newer village of Cardrona, which lies midway between Peebles and Innerleithen, and Walkerburn, a further two miles east of Innerleithen. The local population around Peebles numbers about 9,000, while that of Innerleithen and Walkerburn totals around 3,800.

For centuries, both the income and prosperity of Peebles, Innerleithen and the surrounding areas depended on wool and the weaving and knitwear industry, augmented by local agriculture. Today, very few knitwear mills remain. Peebles, Innerleithen and Cardrona are now popular with commuters to Edinburgh and central Scotland, supporting growth in the local population.

Tourism, with many hotels and good local shops, the service industry, public sector, forestry, hill farming and outdoor activities all contribute strongly to the local economy.



The historic facades of Peebles High Street



Peebles High School's newly opened campus

There are three primary schools in Peebles and one in Innerleithen, which feed into Peebles High School, which has a roll of 1,280 pupils for session 2024-25. Further and higher education opportunities can be found nearby in Galashiels and Edinburgh. The area is served by Borders General Hospital in Melrose, with GP surgeries and pharmacies in both Peebles and Innerleithen.

The area is served by good bus routes between the main towns, settlements and Edinburgh, although a car remains a necessity for travelling around this predominantly rural area. The Borders Railway Line connects Edinburgh to Galashiels and provides an important and increasingly used service for eastern Tweeddale.

Social and sporting facilities in the area are very good. Peebles has a local theatre and performance space, numerous clubs, a variety of community halls, a swimming pool, sports centre and a library. The smaller towns and villages in the area proudly retain their public halls as a focus

for local events. Both Peebles and Innerleithen boast pipe bands and silver bands. Peebles has several successful choir groups and Innerleithen has a thriving amateur operatic society and music festival. The area is well known as a superb destination for cyclists, particularly mountain biking, which attracts more than 100,000 visitors annually and contributes strongly to the local economy.

In common with other towns in the Scottish Borders, both communities host significant week-long annual summer festivals, historically based upon the 'riding of the Marches'. In Peebles, the hugely popular Beltane Festival takes place in June, and in Innerleithen, Games Week is in July, both with good ecumenical church involvement. These well-loved events provide a strong focus for the communities – with children in particular to the fore – emphasising attributes of loyalty, local pride, honour and tradition.



Eastgate Theatre and Arts Centre in Peebles



Tweed Valley is a magnet for mountain bikers



Riding the marches at the Beltane Festival



On the march at the St Ronan's Games Week

St Peter's Episcopal Church, Peebles  
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