

The Diocese of Edinburgh

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 are looking to appoint a full-time Advisor for Christian Life. This is a new post, building on previous work undertaken in the diocese. The vision is that the postholder will enable the people of the diocese to grow in faith as disciples of Christ in mission and ministry; facilitate opportunities to work as a whole diocese together; resource clergy as they lead in mission in the current climate.

Diocesan Bishop's Introduction

The Scottish Borders is a great place to live and work. Selkirk and Galashiels are both growing towns, each with a distinctive history and character. The new Borders railway, in particular, has strengthened their economic and cultural links with Edinburgh.

St John's and St Peter's also share much in common, not least a commitment to collaborative leadership. They are at different points on this journey and the pandemic has impacted them each in different ways. This new post will demand much of the right person, but also offer many rewards. We are seeking a priest who can demonstrate the ability to work collaboratively and to recognize and to nurture the gifts of others. They will be expected to enable the mission and ministry of both charges, accompanying, leading and challenging as appropriate. There is much potential for growth, in faith and in numbers.

This is a five year post in the first instance, its funding supported initially by the wider diocese.

I hold in my prayers all who are considering whether God is calling them to this new ministry in this beautiful part of Scotland.

+John
Bishop of Edinburgh



St John's church selkirk

A Collaborative Ministry Church



Church Profile

January 2023

Cover pictures:

Sharing the Peace at our Harvest Gift Day service in 2022

Bring and share lunch party in the church to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the ordination one of our retired priests.

St John the Evangelist, Selkirk

Selkirk

The Royal Burgh of Selkirk is a small town of some 6,000 population in the valley of the Ettrick Water, about 40 miles south of Edinburgh in the Scottish Borders. Its long and proud history inspires passionate



loyalties, which find a focus in the annual Common Riding, partly a commemoration of the loss of most of its young men in the 1513 Battle of Flodden. The town is also associated with the romantic novelist and poet, Sir Walter Scott, who presided over the Selkirk Sheriff Court in the early nineteenth century, and whose home, Abbotsford, is nearby. Traditionally a centre of the textile industry, almost all the mills are now closed, and its economy is based on a variety of light industries, services and tourism.

Churches Together in Selkirk and the Valleys

Selkirk has a flourishing council of churches, in which St John's is an active participant, with the Church of Scotland, and the local Baptist and Roman Catholic churches. This is the focus for some of our mission, through united services, ecumenical worship at Christmas and in Holy Week, a children's summer club, services in



all three of Selkirk's care homes, the Selkirk Food Bank, and Fresh Start Borders, a project that has provided some 3000 starter packs for rehoused homeless families in the last thirteen years. Selkirk is also a Fair Trade town as a result of CTSV initiatives. Members of St

John's play an enthusiastic and often leading part in these activities.

St John's Scottish Episcopal Church (<https://stjohnselkirk.org.uk>)

St John's is a 'charge' (parish) of the diocese of Edinburgh in the Scottish Episcopal Church (the Scottish branch of the Anglican Communion). Planted in 1851, its



present building dates from 1869. It was recently extensively re-ordered, the pews being replaced with chairs to seat up to 100, a highly effective heating system, disabled access and toilets, and a servery. The building is now a multi-purpose home for a variety of



activities including our own fortnightly Memory Café for people with dementia and their carers, the Borders Youth Theatre, various keep-fit groups, and the .Borders Modern Quilt guild.

For many years successive Rectors shaped our life supported by the Vestry (equivalent to the PCC in the Church of England) and we flourished with a regular attendance of 80 or more and all the organisations typical of a thriving church. Today we are smaller, though still vibrant. The congregational list numbers 57, with weekly attendance of 15-30 The age profile reflects that of the Borders—largely retired folk, with a young family and a few young adults, who join us when they are visiting their parents. We have few baptisms and marriages, and until recently had surprisingly few funerals.

The congregation remained fairly constant over the 20 years

leading up to the Covid pandemic, those who died or moved away being generally replaced by new members, often seniors; but since 2020 numbers have noticeably decreased, with a number of deaths



and relocations, and more of our members spending time away with family or on holiday.



St John's is an inclusive church, mirroring the ethos of our denomination. No-one is excluded on grounds of race, gender, age, sexual orientation, social background or education, and in 2018 the Vestry voted in support of the celebration of same-sex marriages in St John's.

Collaborative Ministry at St John's

By 2006, when our last-but-one Rector retired, 11 years of study and reflection had led us to see that St John's would need shared leadership by some kind of team in the future, instead of a traditional stipendiary Rector. We gave our next Rector 4½ years (all our reserves would run to) to help us establish collaborative ministry and leadership as the way forward.

The outcome of this was the organisational pattern we have today. A *Ministry Leadership Team* (MLT), is appointed by the Vestry every five years, following a carefully-designed and confidential process in which the congregation identifies those it recognises as its leaders. The team is commissioned by the bishop, and reports to the Vestry. It enables and facilitates the life and mission of all the people of St John's, while the Vestry remains the ultimate decision-making body. We are currently approaching the end of the third iteration of this leadership pattern.



The MLT currently comprises 6 lay people and our (now retired) former Rector, but no one person is 'in charge' any more. Some of its members are also members of the Vestry, either in an *ex officio* or

elected capacity. Our former Rector has become our ‘honorary priest’, who belongs to the team (like its other members) by virtue of being called-out by the congregation, not because he was once the incumbent. (There is also another retired priest in the congregation who shares in our liturgical ministry, but is not a member of the MLT).

The roles and responsibilities that belonged to individual Rectors in the past are now shared by the MLT members on the basis of the various gifts, knowledge and experience they bring. The MLT is not there to do everything: its role is to encourage all members of the church to use their own gifts and skills in furthering the work and mission of St John’s. At its monthly meetings the MLT rotates the roles of chairperson and scribe, and makes decisions on the basis of agreement. It regularly reviews the ongoing tasks of our 5-year Mission Plan and considers the pastoral needs of individuals and how these can best be met.

Our first MLT was commissioned by Bishop Brian in 2008 and our



current team in 2018 by Bishop John. We are in the process of calling-out another team to take office from Easter 2023. The system is now well-established and embedded in our life as a church. Being a collaborative ministry church is who and how we are; it long-ago ceased to

occupy the forefront of our thinking. Our focus is now much more on our mission than on sorting out our structures of leadership.

The Borders Centre of Mission

In 2018 we shared with the Episcopal churches of Galashiels and Hawick in the creation of the ‘Borders Centre of Mission’, a joint initiative of the Bishop of Edinburgh and the Church Army. It involved the appointment of a ‘Lead Evangelist’, who was also priest of each of the three churches, and a lay ‘Pioneer Evangelist’, whose role was to engage in outreach beyond the membership of the three congregations. Both were to be officers of the Church Army.

By the time the new structure was overtaken by the Covid pandemic in 2020 it was already clear that the project had not been a success. The Lead Evangelist took compassionate leave in 2021 and left for a new appointment in 2022, while the Pioneer Evangelist, who is training to qualify for Church Army authorisation, remains in post in Hawick, where he has developed a valuable outreach work in the Burnfoot area. This has led to the present proposals for the appointment of a priest to share the oversight of the congregations in Galashiels and Selkirk while another priest is appointed with a similar role for Hawick and Jedburgh—proposals that have been welcomed by all four churches.

The Role of the New Stipendiary Priest

We look forward to welcoming the new stipendiary priest at Selkirk and Galashiels as an *ex officio* member of our MLT at St John's. We anticipate that our priest's role will, like that of other MLT members, be a reflection of particular gifts and experience. Our priest will help us to discover and implement new ways of being church, accompany the Vestry in decision-making, and provide appropriate training for all involved in our shared leadership. In this way the new priest will embody for us the bishop's *episcopate*: enabling and setting free the ministry and mission of all the members of St John's; taking turns, from time to time, in the various roles of our public worship, especially sacramental ministry; and sustaining our ongoing relationship with the bishop and the wider SEC. We anticipate that our priest will live in Galashiels.

Worship and Life at St John's

The MLT organises our life and worship, which has undergone significant changes since the Covid pandemic and its consequent restrictions on church life. During the pandemic, we developed a pattern of weekly online worship based on audio recordings of contributors rostered as worship leaders, readers, preachers, intercessors, etc, edited together with pre-recorded hymns and other music, and published with inspiring graphics on YouTube. These were widely accessed by up to 40-50 people, so they reached beyond our own congregation.

Since we have been able to resume live worship our pattern has been as follows

- A 10.30 am main service (usually Sung Eucharist), with seasonal liturgies, hymns and songs, and our own settings; 15-30 people attend. Each month one of these services is a family-friendly Eucharist, and one includes prayers and laying-on of hands for healing by a team of lay healing ministers. On 5th Sundays the service is Matins. Music is either live on a keyboard or via recordings.
- Our former 8.30 am Sunday and 10.00 am Wednesday services of Holy Communion have been discontinued due to non-attendance.



Many members of the congregation take part in leading some aspect of our worship and mission:

- 11 of us take turns as worship leaders conducting the non-sacramental parts of the service. They are authorized by the Vestry, following recommendation by the MLT,



- 7 of us are eucharistic ministers (5 are lay people authorized by the bishop to conduct the service once each month with the Reserved Sacrament; 2 are retired priests, 1 of

whom is currently a member of the MLT).

- 8 of us preach at the invitation of the MLT. All have some (but not necessarily the same) theological training.
- 5 of us belong to the team of ministers of the laying-on of hands and prayer for healing, serving at the monthly healing service.



- 5 of us are servers at the Sunday service.
- 5 of us are sacristans.
- 12 of us take turns leading the intercessions; some compose their own prayers, while others use written litanies for family and healing services.



- Most of us (including some of the children) take turns as lesson-readers, welcomers and providers of coffee.

Sunday services are followed by coffee and a blether. We especially value the welcome we offer to everyone, not only when they arrive, but also after worship. Our small church building is

equipped with activities to make children and their parents feel at home.

We are an Eco-congregation. We received the Eco-church Scotland bronze award in 2019, and we are making our church grounds, which include a meditation path in summer, more eco-friendly, with the installation of nesting boxes and bug hotels, and areas sown to wildflowers.



The re-ordering of the church interior has enabled to us to realise a long-planned project: the opening of a memory café for people with dementia and their carers. This currently takes place fortnightly, with



up to 40 people attending and participating in a range of activities designed to facilitate memory, including physical exercises, games and entertainments. A team of church members has received training as facilitators.

After appropriate training, five of our lay members have joined our two retired clergy to form a funeral ministry team, sharing in the care

of the recently bereaved and offering guidance and suggestions about funeral services, as well as conducting them. This is a ministry that has been widely appreciated.

A monthly tea party in the church is an opportunity for members of the congregation to meet socially, and in the current cost-of-living crisis we are taking our turn with the other Selkirk churches in opening the church as a warm space once a week for anyone who is struggling to heat their home.

We hold Lent groups each year and other short courses when appropriate. Some of us have benefitted from a more academic approach to study through *Travelling On* with one of our retired priests as guide (see the website for more details). We hold annual 'Away Days' for the congregation and for the MLT. These may take the form of study days, quiet days or pilgrimages.



We can always easily find an excuse for a party and ways to celebrate, and our reordered facilities have made bring-and-share lunches in the nave of the church a lively addition to our activities.



We are financially solvent, with modest investments of some £60K and an annual income of around £38K. Our financial year typically ends with a surplus of around £3K.

We raised more than half the cost of the re-ordering of the church from congregational giving, the remainder coming from grants and the sale of the former church hall (no longer fit for purpose) in 2013.

How we see ourselves

- What we are primarily about is God's mission. We believe the gospel needs to be taken to the world outside the church walls, in word and action, in the day-to-day life of our members and in the things we do as a congregation, as well as by welcoming all comers into our building. We see our worship as one key focus of our mission alongside the welcome we offer to all from the community who use our space, and our interactions with friends, neighbours and colleagues.
- Being a collaborative ministry church is obviously important to us, but we are not a congregational church making up our own rules and owing allegiance to no-one. We are part of the Scottish Episcopal Church under the authority of the Bishop of Edinburgh. We pay our quota, we submit our annual returns, we work with and for our sister churches, and we play an active part in Churches Together in Selkirk and the Valleys, our local ecumenical structure.
- We don't have a robed choir (our singers spread themselves throughout the congregation and encourage us all to sing) and our worship leaders and preachers dress in everyday clothes. Our lay sacramental ministers and servers wear cassock-albs, and priests wear stoles (and chasubles on high days and holy days). We light candles, but we don't burn incense.
- Being an inclusive church is also important to us. We are not easily labelled: we are neither 'high' nor 'low', though we are probably more liberal than conservative, and we don't identify ourselves as either 'evangelical' or 'catholic'. We affirm the ministry and ordination of women as well as men.
- We believe strongly in the presence of the Holy Spirit with us, though we would not characterise ourselves as 'charismatic'.



What we are looking for

We offer a warm welcome to a priest who will respect the collaborative nature of our own leadership and who will be skilled at enabling our common life as a member of our Leadership Team. We are looking for someone with ministry development skills, who will share our journey of mission and ministry, bringing wisdom, supervision and appraisal abilities, critical encouragement, theological reflection, and training skills to our congregational life.



Much more information about St John's can be found on our website.

Website: <https://stjohnselkirk.org.uk>

Facebook: [Stjohns Selkirk](#)

St. Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church Galashiels

Scottish Charity number SC006210

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE

December 2022



Though it is winter now, spring will surely follow

Credit: Mike Reynolds

Introduction

St Peter's Church grew out of a mission chapel that was established in 1851 by a curate from Holy Trinity Melrose in a house in the Wilderhaugh area of Galashiels. The foundation stone for the church building of St Peter's was set up in June 1853 and St Peter's was consecrated in

August 1854. St Peter's is a congregation within the Episcopal Church in Scotland which is in full Communion with all churches of the Anglican Communion.

The following document is designed to give those interested in becoming our Priest-in-charge some idea of the life of St Peter's, its congregation and its community.

The Congregation¹

The congregation ranges from people who have lived in Galashiels all their lives to folk who have recently retired to Galashiels. On average 20 people attend our main Sunday worship of whom 19 are communicants. On a typical Sunday two people in wheelchairs will be present and two or three who use walking frames. Nonetheless there are 16 different people on the service rotas taking on tasks from sharing a reflection to preparing the tea and coffee. Our record attendance in the last twelve months was Easter Sunday when 50 adults and children from the traditional congregation and Messy Church celebrated together.

The communicant roll includes 31 people (19 female, 12 male) in 25 households. Five of the households are headed by a person of working age. The other 20 are pensioner households. We keep in touch with a further nine frail elderly who feel part of St Peter's but are unable to get to church.

Messy Church draws in another twelve or so "non-churched" families. Typically a Messy Church session will buzz with the sound of 20 children plus parents/guardians and eight to ten helpers.

The first wedding since Spring 2019 is booked to be held in St Peter's in December 2023. *Will you be the one who conducts this marriage?* 😊



Messy Church

Credit: Kate Marsden

Our numbers may be small but the level of commitment and participation is high.

Worship and Activities

Each Sunday we celebrate communion at 10:30am. In recent months we've been fortunate to have a number of retired priests willing to travel to celebrate the Eucharist with us. In weeks when this is not possible we have three congregation members authorised to lead communion from the reserved sacrament. We use various seasonal liturgy booklets each containing the appropriate sections of the Scottish Liturgy 1982 (revised). We have robed servers. Unfortunately we no longer have an organist, though there is a functioning organ and a

¹ Statistics correct as at December 2022.

modern electric piano. We rely on recorded music for hymns and those parts of the liturgy which we sing.

We have a monthly Sunday evening healing service. We have not re-started the mid-week communion which was stopped during Covid lockdown.

Messy Church meets monthly and is an important link to the wider community.



Nativity with Messy Church children

Credit: Wendy Smale

We have continued the Wednesday evening and Thursday morning on-line bible studies which were introduced when Covid lockdowns began. They have a small but dedicated following and have participants from Selkirk, Hawick and Spain as well as Galashiels.

The church is not open to the casual visitor during the week as we allow other organisations to make use of our premises.

The Galashiels and Area Foodbank is based in the church, storing food in cupboards in the hall and packing and distributing from our premises. We provide meeting space for Alcoholics and Narcotics Anonymous groups, practice space for music and dance classes as well as bottle top re-cycling by the local Rotary.

The Boys Brigade 3rd Galashiels Company, which was established by St Peter's in 1908, continues to have relationship with the church though it now meets in the Galashiels Academy. The Air Training Corps, who have a base in the former free-standing halls, join us for Remembrance day and parade services.

Staffing and Organisation

There are seven members of the Vestry (the church council) including an honorary Treasurer and an honorary Secretary. The Secretary also chairs the meetings and acts as the Lay Representative to the Diocese. The Vestry meets every six weeks or so.

Our constitution also makes provision for a “Ministry Leadership Team” which was first established in preparation for the 2015 vacancy. This is not functioning at present as only two members remain and the Bishop has advised that it would not be appropriate to have a calling out {to appoint new members} in this transition time for St Peter's. The two remaining MLT members are also on the Vestry and continue with the individual responsibilities they had.

We have a volunteer Caretaker who is paid a modest honorarium. He also assists the foodbank.

The Community²

Galashiels, shortened to “Gala” by residents, has a population of just over 13,000³, rivalling Hawick for the title largest town in the Scottish Borders. It is the commercial and retail hub for the central Borders.

Much of Galashiels as we see it today was shaped by what was once a booming textile industry. Now grand mill owners houses are in multiple occupancy. Mill workers housing mixes with modern social housing. Old mill sites have become retail or commercial parks. However Heriot Watt University’s School of Textiles and Design remains, sharing a site with the Borders College. The Great Tapestry of Scotland has found its permanent home in a new building in the heart of the town.



The Borders Railway at Galashiels Station Credit:Walter Baxter CC BY-SA 2.0

The return of the railway in 2015 re-connects Galashiels to the centre of Edinburgh with a half-hourly service and 55 minutes travel time. It has driven a revitalising energy in the town⁴ and extensive new house building.

Each of the Borders towns has their own identity. The generally good-hearted rivalry between the towns manifests, for example, in the game of rugby and in the annual ride-outs – in Galashiels’s case the Braw Lad’s Gathering⁵.

² The canonically assigned district for St Peter’s extends north through countryside to the border with Lothian. To the east and close by is Holy Trinity Melrose, to the south St John’s Selkirk and to the west St Andrew’s Innerleithen.

³ Scottish Census 2021 population estimates including North, South & West Galashiels, Langlee & Clovenfords.

⁴ See for example <https://galashielsheartland.org.uk/our-town/>

⁵ <https://www.thebrawladsgathering.co.uk/>

Though such surveys should be taken with a pinch of salt, it is interesting to note that Galashiels was recently scored the happiest place to live in Scotland⁶. A sense of belonging, along with having a strong sense of community, and polite and friendly residents were important factors in the score. The countryside surrounding Galashiels also has much to offer, especially for those with an interest in rural pursuits such as walking, trail running, biking, wild swimming, et cetera. In terms of entertainment, a variety of amenities are on the doorstep, including a cinema, gyms, a swimming pool, supermarkets, independent shops, cafes, a retail park, restaurants and well-regarded schools. The Borders General Hospital is just 3 miles away.



Gala nestles in the valley Credit: Kate Marsden

The Local Church scene

The churches in Galashiels have been through a rough patch over the last few years. At the start of 2021 across all the denominations there was no full-time minister focused solely on Galashiels. That has changed and now the Baptist Church has a young new minister, the Church of Scotland has consolidated three congregations and appointed an energetic new minister and the Free Church of Scotland is establishing a church plant in Galashiels⁷. There is also a growing independent church, Hope Church Borders, which is centred on Galashiels, operating out of the old Salvation Army building. The Roman Catholic parish priest covers churches in Galashiels, Melrose and Selkirk.

Inter-church cooperation is in flux at present. Traditionally this has been through the Galashiels Fellowship of Churches (GFOC), of which St Peter's is a member. However the GFOC does not seem to be the vehicle through which the newly arrived ministers are channelling their energy. We look forward to having a priest who can join the relationship building that is happening among the ordained leaders in the town.

Buildings

The St Peter's church building was constructed in 1853 and enlarged in 1881 adding a south aisle and extending the chancel. It is Grade C listed and described as a good example of a Scottish Tractarian Church. By the late 1800s there was also a rectory further up the hill to the south, free-standing halls to the west and a school building to the north. Each of these are now in separate ownership. In the late 1980s the south aisle was enclosed to form a small hall and kitchen and in 2005 the pews were removed from the nave and a gymnasium type floor installed. This has allowed the nave to become a multi-purpose space while preserving the traditional church architecture of the chancel.

⁶ 1st in Scotland 2nd in Great Britain in Rightmove Happy at Home study 2022 see: <https://www.rightmove.co.uk/news/happy-at-home/#info>

⁷ See <https://freechurch.org/plans-for-a-new-free-church-of-scotland-in-galashiels/>



Credit: Kate Marsden

The Quinquennial report conducted in 2022 identified only minimal urgent action but did note that there is a large roof repair project on the horizon. This is not deemed to be immediately urgent, but steps should be made towards this project within the next 5 years.

In 2021 the historic rectory was finally sold to avoid the constant drain of repair and maintenance costs, not to mention climate changing heat loss. It has been replaced with a newly built property in a major housing development to the east of the town (see annex for details).

The new rectory has insulation, solar panels and heating to the latest standards. Also, in 2011 solar panels were fitted to the church on the south aisle roof. So we have taken two steps on the journey of achieving the SEC's goal of net-zero carbon emissions by 2030.



Serving Braw Lads Breakfast to the community



The new Rectory



Solar Panels

Finances

Our congregational giving, including what is recovered from the Inland Revenue, amounted to about £22,500 last year⁸. We received about £7,500 from users of our premises. Investment income, fund raising and donations brought total regular income to about £33,000. On the other hand our budget for running costs, utilities, maintenance and our quota to the diocese, but excluding the costs of a regular priest, was about £24,000.

Reserves were enhanced by a modest profit on the replacement of the rectory and now stand at about £143,000 of which £92,000 is the market value of investments in the SEC Unit Trust Pool.

Recent History

St Peter's has faced uncertainty and turbulence since the retirement of our last Rector in 2015. Several different proposals for sharing with other Borders churches came and went. Until, in 2019, an "A7 Centre of Mission" (A7CoM) was established as a collaboration of five parties – the Diocese, the Church Army and the three episcopal churches of Galashiels, Hawick and Selkirk. A Lead Evangelist/Priest-in-charge joined the A7CoM in March 2019 and a Pioneer

⁸ Down from £30,000 in 2017 when regular attendance was about 35.

Evangelist was added in January 2020. For various reasons this collaboration has not been a success. It has cost St Peter's several members who moved to other churches. The Lead Evangelist was placed on leave in September 2021 and resigned in May 2022. The three churches agreed to end the A7CoM and are now moving into new patterns of collaboration.



Sunday Worship

Credit: Wendy Smale

In common with other churches St Peter's has also been changed by the experience of Covid restrictions. Despite all these challenges there remains in St Peter's a congregation determined to move forward and play its part in advancing the mission of the Church in Galashiels.

Aspirations for the future

Though the branches of the St Peter's tree may be somewhat sparse and wizened the roots run deep into the community of Galashiels. We are looking for an ordained leader who can foster fresh growth from the remnant.

At a congregational meeting on 11th September we identified things we valued and things we wanted to develop:

- We have a liturgical, episcopal, inclusive and welcoming approach to worship and being church that we have to offer Galashiels that distinguishes us and complements the offering of other churches in the town.
- We recognise the need to adapt and grow within our tradition to draw in younger generations and families.
- Our Messy Church draws in families (many from St Peter's School) and forms a base on which we can build.
- The Foodbank operating from our premises is another connection with people we are called to serve.
- We would like to re-start outreaches to older people that were stopped by Covid – tea services, services in care homes, Soup'n'Pud – as we have the capacity to do so.



Foodbank using the hall

Credit: John Marsden

- The location of the new rectory – in a housing development devoid of spiritual or community facilities – offers a mission opportunity.



Fellowship after Sunday Worship

Credit: Wendy Smale/Mike Reynolds

Conclusion

We are grateful to the diocese of Edinburgh and our friends in St John's Selkirk who by collaborating with us make possible the recruitment of a full-time Priest-in-charge. We are trusting God for a person to work with us to bring the love of God and the good news of Christ to the people of Galashiels. We welcome you.

Informal enquires to: The Dean of Edinburgh
dean@dioceseofedinburgh.org
Diocesan Office: 0131 538 7033

Vestry Secretary: John Marsden
7 Hayward Drive, Galashiels TD1 3JB
0753 809 4986
stpeterschurchgala@gmail.com

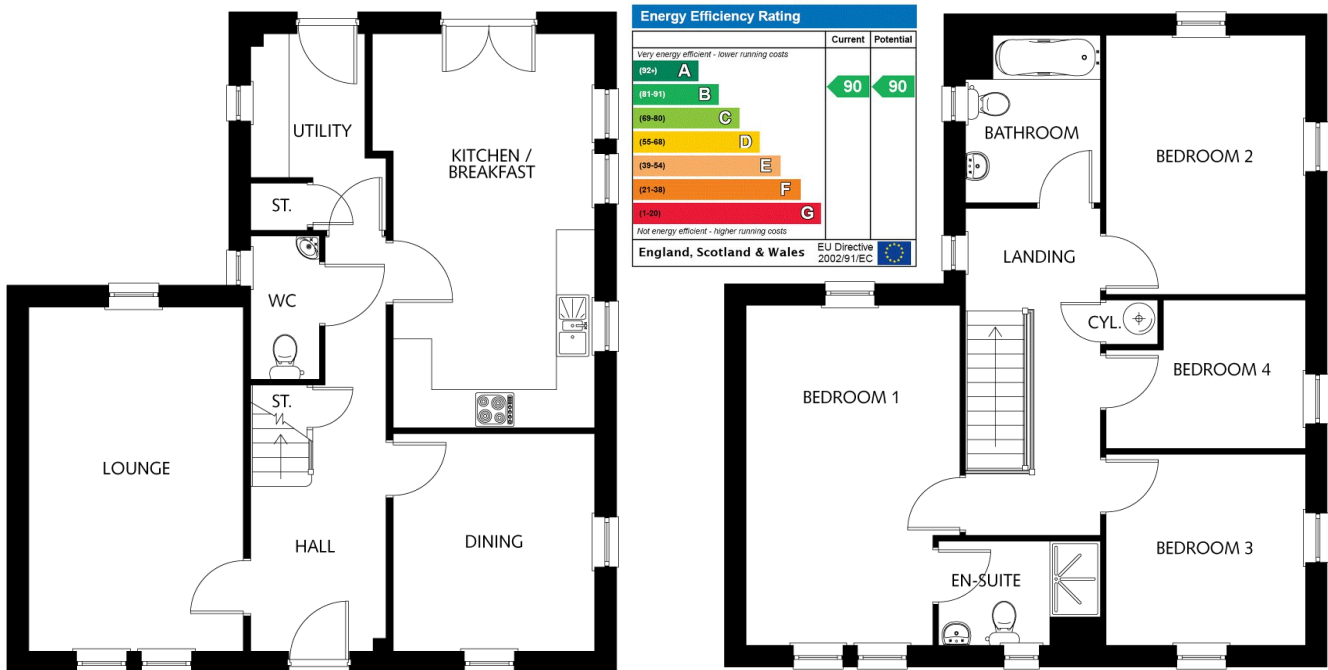
St Peter's Church, Parsonage Road, Galashiels TD1 3HS
stpetersgala.co.uk
Charity Number: SC006210

Annex: The Rectory

The St Peter's Rectory is located in Melrose Gait – a new housing estate to the east of Galashiels. The Rectory is on a corner plot with an open aspect across a grassy square. Below are details extracted from the estate agent's house particulars:



St Peter's House is an impressive detached property with easy access to both Galashiels and Melrose. The spacious and modern property comprises: Entrance hallway, lounge, dining kitchen with French doors to private garden, separate dining room/study, utility room, four bedrooms, two with built-in wardrobes, with one en-suite shower room, family bathroom, garden, parking and garage. This property benefits from solar roof panels, gas central heating and double glazing.



GROUND FLOOR PLAN

FIRST FLOOR PLAN

Floor Plans & Room Dimensions

Lounge - 3.35 x 5.38 metre
 Kitchen/Breakfast room - 3.48 x 6.17 metre
 Dining room - 3.15 x 3.4 metre

Bedroom 1 - 2.95 x 5.38 metre
 Bedroom 2 - 3.15 x 4.09 metre
 Bedroom 3 - 3.15 x 3.02 metre
 Bedroom 4 - 3.15 x 2.36 metre

Priest Profile for St John's Scottish Episcopal Church, Selkirk and St Peter's Scottish Episcopal Church, Galashiels

We are looking to welcome an ordained priest at Selkirk and Galashiels who loves God and loves sharing the good news of the Gospel. Our priest will become part of our welcoming and loving – but different – communities and will be someone who can appreciate the story of our journeys so far and where we now find ourselves.

The priest appointed will be an ex officio member of St John's MLT.

We hope to appoint a priest who will

- be mission focused, prayer focused and outward looking
- be approachable, enthusiastic, encouraging and at ease as a team player
- have energy, a sense of humour, and who is a people person
- have proven skills in church growth
- help us build on the community outreach already started by each charge
- journey together with each charge inspiring the members to move forward with vision
- accompany both Vestries, and St John's MLT, in decision-making, enabling and making use of the talents of all God's people
- have experience of and respect our traditional forms of liturgical worship, but will also help both charges to explore new ways of being church
- enable people to achieve goals

St John's is also hoping the priest will

- take turns, as rostered, in the various roles of our public worship, especially sacramental ministry
- provide or enable appropriate training for all involved in our shared leadership
- sustain our ongoing relationship with the bishop and wider SEC

St Peter's is also hoping the priest will

- have had previous experience of running a 'parish'/episcopal charge or alternatively of managerial experience in a secular profession along with co-ordinating or supervising volunteers
- provide pastoral care and spiritual nurture humbly and contextually to people with diverse characteristics
- be willing to take on a challenge
- be a reconciler
- be equally comfortable with the spiritual and social aspects of the gospel message and able to hold them in union
- preach from and to the heart, expounding the bible simply yet practically