

## Parish Profile

### Kirkandrews-on-Esk Parish Church

Kirkandrews-on-Esk parish church is located on the banks of the river Esk in the north of Cumbria, along the Scottish border. It is an ancient foundation, although the present church dates only from the mid-Eighteenth Century, with magnificent internal re-ordering at the end of the Nineteenth Century.



With its rural parkland setting, the Church of St Andrew is a gem among churches and loved by its parishioners and visitors. Being a parish church, Kirkandrews enjoys a lot of support from local farms and rural businesses. The market town of Longtown is three miles away and, together with Arthuret and Nicholforest is part of the Esk Parishes.

The congregation is drawn from both sides of the border, some travelling a distance to attend worship. The parish is mainly rural in complexion with small settlements on both sides of the river Esk. The Electoral Roll is 52. Remarkably, records show that Kirkandrews has sustained congregation numbers for over 130 years. The capacity of the church when full is 145.

At the heart of parish life lies a hard-working and dedicated group of parishioners and worshippers. They have a clear vision for the future of the parish, know how to bring this about, and thus sustain the life of the parish for future generations.





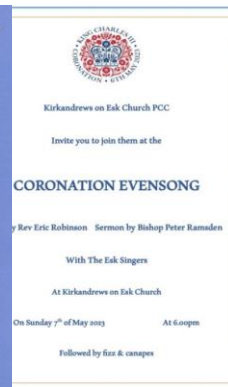
Kirkandrews has an active and tireless PCC and a healthy PCC/clergy relationship. It is all about teamwork. Co-operation on the church's work in the parish is a priority of the PCC. The Kirkandrews PCC comprises 18 members, from all walks of life, and the church has five wardens.

Some years ago, a 'Friends of Kirkandrews-on-Esk Parish Church' was incorporated which has a national membership. There is a special 'Friends' weekend every year which is a major fund-raising event and helps sustain the life of the parish and its church. Many from the community are involved in the work of the Friends.

To quote Rev'd Eric Robinson, the most recent Priest-in-Charge, "There is seldom such a love for a church building, as well as the parish life, which is centred around it, as there is at Kirkandrews. To see the church decorated at festival-times is truly to behold the beauty of the temple of the Lord."

Worship continues to be centred on the Book of Common Prayer, which is the desire of the congregants. Matins, Evensong and Holy Communion are held monthly. The parish is a corporate member of the Prayer Book Society and also affiliated to 'Save the Parish'. Members are convinced that the parochial system, which has served the Church in England for almost nine hundred years is still the best way of bringing Christ and his Gospel to all who live within the parish boundaries. A new priest will need to be in full sympathy with worship based on the Book of Common Prayer and indeed further it.

Special services have seen Kirkandrews parish church full, whether this be Christmas and Easter, a celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III, or a 'Blessing of the River'. The congregation has seen newcomers which is an encouragement to everyone.



During the past year there was a major development in the establishment of a Kirkandrews Church Choir which sings Evensong on a monthly basis when the attendance is fifty worshippers. The choir sings to a very high standard, and it is hoped that the ministry of the choir within the parish will develop in the future. The church is a member of the Royal School of Church Music.

Music is important to our worship. For a long time, the organ has needed refurbishment. Works are current with a completion date in January 2025, when the organ console will be re-sited, and the organ blower improved. This may then enable the church to re-site the kitchen and install lavatories.

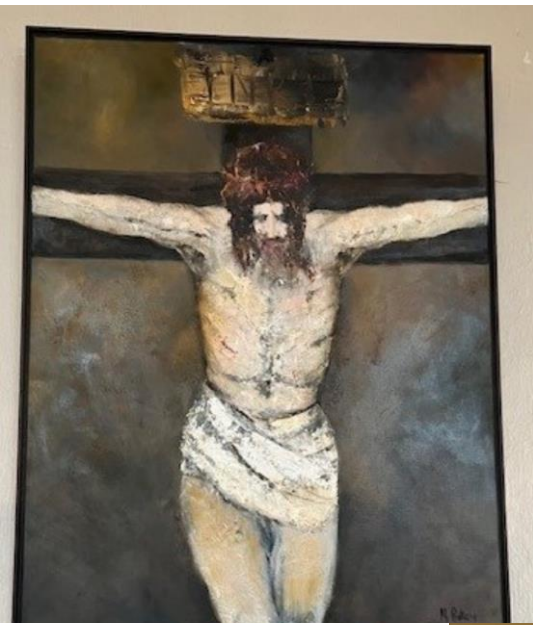
Kirkandrews is also actively involved in the popular and successful annual series of Lent Talks on a specific theme organised by the Esk Parishes.

During 2023 the Priest-in-Charge started study classes to develop the work of the Esk Parishes Ministry Team, bringing in new members. This has continued in 2024, which has also benefitted Kirkandrews.

As the worshipping and pastoral life of the area known as Kirkandrews-on-Esk continues to be centred around this much-loved parish church, it is well-placed to serve the needs of this generation and the ones that follow. A true gift from God of inestimable worth.

For more information about the church please visit: [www.friendsofkirkandrews.uk](http://www.friendsofkirkandrews.uk)





Choral Evensong for the First Sunday in Advent, 1st December 2024

Keyboard Prelude  
Johann Sebastian Bach (1685-1750)  
*Wer nur den lieben Gott läßt walten*

Introit  
Adam Drese (1620-1701)  
*Round Me Falls the Night*

Preces and Responses  
Richard Ayleward (1626-69)

Psalm 9 (vv. 1-8)  
Sir John Stainer (1840-1901)

Readings  
1 John 4: 4-end  
Luke 15: 1-7

Canticles  
Thomas Hardwick (c. 1624)  
*Evening Service*

Anthem  
Francisco Guerrero (1528-99)  
*Alma Redemptoris Mater*

Hymns  
AMR 269; 373 (t. Coe Fen); 10

Keyboard Postlude  
Johann Sebastian Bach  
*Allemande in C*

Officiant  
Rt Rev'd John Richardson  
The Kirkcandrew-on-Esk Church Mice  
Founder Director, Richard Sólým  
Organist, Bob Saudek

