St Andrew's

Scottish Episcopal Church, Milngavie

Congregational & Priest Profile 2026

Park Road Milngavie G62 6PJ

Scottish Charity Number SCO08683

St Andrew's Milngavie Church Profile

Milngavie: a great place to live!

St Andrew's is centrally located within the community of Milngavie. Milngavie is a small town in East Dunbartonshire, a suburb northwest of Glasgow, seven miles from the city centre. It is on the edge of beautiful countryside with

views of the Campsie Fells and is the start of the famous West Highland Way to Fort William which attracts year-round visitors. Loch Lomond is a half-hour drive away, and Aberfoyle and the Trossachs are around forty-five minutes.

There is a good train and bus service to the city centre.

The attractive town centre is pedestrianised with plenty of places to enjoy refreshments, including the Fairtrade café and shop, Gavin's Mill, from which Milngavie gets its name. Gavin's Mill is located by the River Allander and, as well as having a café and shop selling fairtrade crafts, it also has a refill facility for washing products, and food items.

The Allander Leisure Centre, which opened two years ago, has wonderful sports facilities, including an Olympic sized pool, teaching and hydrotherapy pools.

Local schools have good reputations at both Primary and Secondary level and include Douglas Academy, which specialises in music. Milngavie Music Club offers a monthly programme of internationally renowned musicians and Charlie's Loft, a Pizza Bar opposite the Church Hall attracting young people, is a venue for live music and parties.

Milngavie in Bloom volunteers work hard to create beautiful displays of flowers around the town.

As well as supermarkets and a Friday Market selling local produce, there are small independent shops, including Daydreams Bookshop, which opened eighteen months ago and is thriving under its visionary and creative management.

Milngavie has a very good community atmosphere, with events involving contributions from local groups and churches happening throughout the year. Milngavie Week, at the start of June, brings crowds to the town to enjoy many activities and events.

Church Buildings and Garden

St Andrew's Church is located on the main road, close to all the shops and bus stops. It accommodates eighty people and, though dating from 1878/9, has been very well maintained.

It now has an open, modern style that has been developed to provide more space, and to encourage more flexibility in the way the church is used.

Beside the church is Friendship House, once the Rectory, but now a café run by volunteers from different Milngavie churches on three days of the week. We enjoy refreshments there after our Thursday morning Eucharist.

Rooms are also used for music lessons and as a meeting place for groups at other times in the week.

The Church Hall is a light, pleasant and welcoming space, which is used throughout the week by many community groups as well as being a popular venue for parties.

The Garden Room is a smaller room, ideal for the Tuesday Morning Inter-Church Prayer Group, Vestry meetings and for meetings of smaller groups, or when the Main Hall is already occupied.

It leads outside to a beautiful garden. This provides a relaxing space for coffee after the service when the weather is fine. Anyone can sit and enjoy the peaceful surroundings, or it can be an area for party children to let off steam!

The Church, Hall and Garden Room are all fully accessible and equipped with Loop Systems.

Fellowship - inside and out!

Over the last two years, the Vestry has had a focus on repairing and maintaining our buildings in line with Quinquennial Report recommendations, as well as bringing our buildings to the correct standard to meet current fire safety regulations.

We are an Eco-congregation and are keen to do what we can in line with the SEC's Net Zero aims. We have met with Iain Johnstone [Sustainability Officer in the Net Zero Team] who has provided advice, especially about heating, and we are considering infra-red heaters in the Hall.

Our Worship

The worship at St Andrew's is sacramental in nature, centred round the Eucharist, which is celebrated twice a week. Music is an important part of our spiritual life. We have a rota of organists and a talented young pianist to accompany hymns and communion settings at the Sung Eucharist. We also have a long-established Inter-Church Prayer Group, held once a week, drawing people in from various traditions. Our questionnaire to the congregation highlighted the things that St Andrew's congregation value. Below are some of the comments:

- *"Worshipping God with reverence and humility", "Christ-centred", "prayerful spiritual space", "spiritual rather than evangelical, thoughtful,".*
- *Sermons - "scripture passages explored and applied", "succinct sermons, biblically based", "not too long & relevant for today and life's challenges".*
- *"The Scottish Liturgy", "traditional style of reverent worship",*
- *"Music - using organ and piano enhances worship", "traditional hymns played expertly on the organ".*
- *"Comfortable, both the fabric and the people in the congregation, making it feel easier for a newcomer to do what feels right for them".*

Services currently

Sunday – 10am – Sung Eucharist followed by refreshments in the Hall.
Tuesday –10am Inter-Church Prayer Group in the Garden Room
Thursday – 8.45am Morning Prayer [SEC 2024]
10am Said Eucharist followed by refreshments in Friendship House

There are also additional services to mark special festivals in the church year.

The three-year SEC Revised Common Lectionary is used in services, along with the 1982 Blue Book Liturgy of the Scottish Episcopal Church with later revisions. Sung Eucharist settings by MacMillan and Grayston Ives are the main ones used and there is interest in choosing new settings. Hymns are generally chosen from A&M but CH4 is also available for us to use. There is a "pop-up" choir that sings on an occasional basis.
Currently, we have one retired priest, two active servers/crucifer, two occasional acolytes and several people who participate in reading and leading intercessions and in welcoming.

Our Congregation

The Vestry

St Andrew's is a very welcoming and sociable congregation within the Scottish Episcopal Church. It is a member of the worldwide Anglican Communion, offering a home to all other Anglicans and Christians of other denominations, who live locally or who are just visiting. Newcomers and visitors are always warmly welcomed.

We are a small congregation with an average attendance of 25—30 on a Sunday, the majority of whom live within Milngavie or neighbouring Bearsden, with the remainder living a little closer to the city centre. There are 46 people on the congregational roll.

Though there are more older people, some are younger, including two mothers who attend regularly with their three children. Two of the boys have taken on the role of acolytes over the past year and a date is set for their confirmation in November.

There is a relaxed space at the back of the church, where weekly activities linked to the service themes are provided for children who attend, as well as some books and toys for babies and toddlers.

Relationships are strong at St Andrew's, with a definite feeling of everyone being part of the Christian family. Hospitality is highly valued, with after service coffee taking as long as the service itself! Soup lunches are also very popular, with a great variety of soups on offer. The monthly Book Group started in 2007 and is still going strong.

People work together on practical tasks, such as gardening and church cleaning, which also helps in building relationships.

Our regular church walks have been a great opportunity for people to chat and develop relationships, while enjoying the natural surroundings. They always end with welcome refreshments at a café, or back at the church when non-walking friends join us.

Here are some comments from the congregation:

- *"feeling at home on first visit", "feeling included and valued", "an open house spiritually", "a loving Christian family of brothers and sisters",*
- *"The congregation know and support each other well", "home visiting in times of need", "prayerful & practical pastoral support".*
- *"Good tea/coffee baking after the service allowing relationships to grow."*
- *"Most members are active Christians who contribute to the service and work of the church according to their age and ability", "sincere commitment to serving one another and the community" ,"equally there is no pressure on them to do so, up to individuals".*

Community Involvement

Members of the congregation are involved in local groups such as Milngavie Music Club, Milngavie Choir, Milngavie in Bloom, ENABLE group, Christian Aid as well as in the setting up and leadership of EDWR (East Dunbartonshire Welcomes Refugees), a Home Office Community Sponsorship Scheme, which has welcomed and supported families over several years.

St Andrew's has hosted an Ecumenical Flower Festival at the start of Milngavie Week in June each year, bringing in many visitors who also enjoy refreshments in Friendship House next door. In the past two years, this has included a music programme throughout the day with performances provided by the young pupils of the nearby Haydock Music School. This has been a great opportunity to welcome families into the church and for the youngsters to perform in a relaxed, informal atmosphere. We have the loan of a superb grand piano and have hosted concerts in the church — including performances by the Milngavie Choir— on several occasions.

The Dorcas Group takes place monthly, providing a relaxed and welcoming space for creativity. In this group, friendships are developed with those out with the church, and all are welcome. The group makes a monthly donation to a chosen charity, and the recently finished knitted blanket was donated to a charity shop in Govan.

A monthly news sheet with information about church events and activities is available for Hall users, as well as for the congregation. Our website is kept up to date weekly for those exploring Milngavie churches online, or to help members of the congregation who are unable to attend, to keep in touch.

Links with other churches

We are committed to working with other churches in Milngavie in making Christ known and relevant to the community. We believe all churches offer something distinctive and that, within the wider community, we offer a distinctive form of worship which we value and seek to continue.

Our weekly Inter-church Prayer Group has been meeting for many years and welcomes fellow Christians from other Milngavie churches.

Our closest connection is with our neighbouring Scottish Episcopal Church, All Saints, in Bearsden, with whom we have regular shared Lenten and Advent studies, as well as special services, joined also by other churches in the Diocese.

In Milngavie, St Andrew's shares in the Holy Week joint services, the Good Friday Procession through the town, and the outdoor Easter Dawn Service with Cairns church.

We take part in Remembrance Sunday, when we gather round the Memorial in the Village Centre.

We also share in a local church rota for hosting a monthly Prayer Breakfast, and leading weekly services at Milngavie Manor Care Home.

We are very encouraged by a developing link with St Paul's Church of Scotland especially focused on School Chaplaincy at Douglas Academy. The Head Teacher has welcomed the idea for developing the Chaplaincy beyond traditional assemblies.

The Association of Milngavie Churches is going through a process of review.

Mission

Community Outreach & Church Growth

We would like to grow, both numerically and spiritually, exploring ways of reaching out to a wider age group and extending our provision for children and young people.

More opportunities for bible study and discussion have also been requested.

Music has always been a very important part of St Andrew's worship. We would like to find ways of developing this more fully. Musicians in the congregation say the church has good musical resonance and we would like to expand upon the occasional concerts which have already been staged. A Bösendorfer Grand Piano, belonging to a member of the congregation, is housed in the church and has been an asset which could facilitate more music development. There is a very good link already with the nearby Haydock Music School and School Chaplaincy is developing with Douglas Academy, which specialises in music.

We would like to build stronger ecumenical links and explore the possibility of sharing ideas and resources with other charges. A particular link is developing with St Paul's Church of Scotland, and its ministers attend weekly morning prayers in St Andrew's.

The Hall is heavily used by a variety of groups and for children's parties. We would like to build stronger bridges between Hall users and the church community.

The church website is well maintained and up to date, but there is little presence on social media. This is an area which could be developed, perhaps in association with St Paul's which has good social media presence.

See some comments from the congregation:

- *"Though we have some younger people, the congregation generally has an elderly profile, and it would be good to explore how we might to reach out to other age groups" "but not at the expense of older, faithful members"*
- *"Find out what gifts people feel they have & are called to offer so that gifts are valued, take stock of current resources of people & finances in relation to future plans".*
- *"Increase social media presence".*
- *"More variety of musical setting and special services, eg. African Sunday."*
- *"More use of CH4 & Taize"*

Finance

St Andrew's income comes from two sources: collections and donations, and Hall income. A number of charities, international, national and local are selected for our charitable giving throughout each financial year. The Hall income, generated from various groups, makes a significant contribution to church funds and, overall, our financial position is sound and well capable of supporting a half stipend.

St Andrew's does not have a Rectory, but suitable accommodation relating to the needs of the new priest, would be identified for rental. This has been the arrangement on many occasions for previous priests and, indeed, curates.

See the separate, more detailed, information on the church finances.

St Andrew's Scottish Episcopal Church Milngavie-

PRIEST PROFILE THEMES 2026

The Vestry asked the congregation "What qualities would be important to you in a new Priest?" and the following themes emerged as the most important:

FAITH

- A deep faith based on a thorough knowledge of scripture.
- A prayerful vision for the church family, encouraging a deepening understanding of Jesus through Biblically based theology and teaching.
- Keen to build on existing local ecumenical links and wider links within the Diocese.
- Committed to Scottish Episcopal liturgy, with an appreciation of music and hymns in worship.
- Prayerful, informative and succinct preaching

PASTORAL CARE

- Sensitivity to spiritual, physical and emotional needs, and compassionate to all.
- A good listener who is approachable and gentle.
- Understanding the importance of communion for the sick and infirm who can't attend church.

COMMUNICATION

- A communicator who shares ideas with warmth and humour.
- Using spiritual gifts to speak the truth in love.
- Organised, open minded and consultative.

INTEGRITY

- A person of humility and honesty, who leads by example.
- Demonstrating respect for the fellowship and the wider community. I
- Interest in world affairs and living sustainably.

PASSION for MISSION

- Desires to see spiritual growth for all.
- Recognises and uses the gifts and talents of individuals.
- Seeks strategies to reach out to younger age groups and families.
- Flexibility to try new things to promote growth, with the wisdom to pace change to keep all on board.

SUMMARY

We believe it is a God-given opportunity for a passionate, spiritual and inclusive priest to lead St Andrew's church family forward in our journey of faith.

We are aware that no-one can be all of these things all of the time!

Please be assured of our prayers as you seek to discern whether God is calling you to this leadership role.

St Andrew's Vestry

The range of Congregational Responses has been collated into WordClouds

These may give information for discussion but are not to be taken too literally!

Church Profile