



**St Andrew's Parish Church**  
(Church of Scotland),  
**Inverurie**

**THE**

**JANUARY 2019**

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Wishing You  
a New Year filled  
with new Hope ,  
new Joy &  
new Beginnings.



**E-mail: [standrews@btinternet.com](mailto:standrews@btinternet.com)**

*(To hear our services or to download them—go to  
“Listen Again” on our website)*

**Website: <http://standrewsinverurie.co.uk>**

**Scottish Charity Number: SC008791**

**St Andrew's is an open and inclusive Church**

**The Interim Moderator, Rev. Sheila Craggs, may be contacted  
for pastoral care by contacting her on 01358 723055**

Dear Friends

Happy New Year to all of you reading the magazine and I hope that 2019 will bring you health and happiness every day.

Here we are in January, a month named after the Roman god Janus, an appropriate personification of the start of the new year. This Roman god had two faces so that he could look ahead toward the future and back at the past at the same time. As we get rid of an old year and look forward to a new one, we all try to be a little like Janus. We know through experience what we did wrong and what we did right and hope to do better this year. Some people make ambitious new year's resolutions: others just take a deep breath and hope for the best.

To start a New Year is like blossom with petals curled tightly concealing the beauty within. We call on God our heavenly Father to let this year be filled with the things that are truly good—with the comfort of warmth in our relationships, with the strength to help those who need our help and the humility and openness to accept help from others. Let us go forward with great hope that all things can be possible—with our heavenly Father's help and guidance.

Unfortunately, last year we were still not able to secure a minister for St Andrew's Church here in Inverurie. We have tried hard to find a suitable candidate but sadly there is a shortage of ministers and over one hundred and thirty-five vacancies throughout Scotland. Nevertheless, as a congregation we are working hard to maintain a strong bond within our fellowship and the efforts by many people involved have helped to do that. We have had successful fund-raising events and are looking forward to another one on 19<sup>th</sup> January when we are hosting a Burns' Lunch.

Last year we shared services at Easter and Summer with the West Church, and the Watchnight service was well supported by our own congregation and the West Church as well as members of the community. We had a visit from Girl Guiding in Inverurie who held a Carol Service in the church just before Christmas. Our own children from our Time Out Group helped to act out our Living Nativity which was enjoyed very much by the congregation present that day. In February we shall be hosting a Focus Meeting of Presbytery where we shall make a presentation showing how Inverurie St Andrew's is continuing to function, even though we are in a vacancy.

As your Interim Moderator I too have been very busy with Sunday worship week by week, baptisms, funerals, visits to members of the congregation, hospital visits and the various meetings within the church. I cannot thank enough this wonderful congregation for their support in every way and for their love and concern when they see how busy I have been. I love this congregation and will continue to serve in the best way possible. **Every blessing to you all. Sheila**

# News from the Kirk Session

These are the key points from the meeting held on 12th December 2018 -

- The Presbytery of Gordon will hold a Focus meeting with St Andrew's on 5th February 2019. To prepare for this meeting Presbytery will visit St Andrew's in January 2019 to meet with the Congregation after morning worship.
- 
- Arrangements were completed for the joint services with the West Church over Christmas.
- The Communion Services for 2019 were agreed for 24th March and 22nd September 2019.
- The Time Out Team reported that they had held their Christmas Party on 2nd December 2018 and would be at the Church Service on Sunday 16th December 2018 to take part in the Nativity.
- The Boys' Brigade Dedication Service was held on 25th November 2018 in the church.
- The Guide Movement held a Christmas Service of carols and nativity in the church on 11th December 2018. The Interim Moderator attended and took part in the service.
- A Stewardship Campaign will run during March 2019 when the congregation will be invited to look at increasing their individual givings to our church.
- **The Kirk Session still requires to appoint a Data Protection Officer to comply with the new Data Protection Regulations. Any member of the congregation willing to carry out this role is asked to contact the church office. Mr Tom Craggs has agreed to look after Data Retention.**
- **The Safeguarding Coordinator still requires someone to help her in the role and act as a joint coordinator. Any member of the congregation who thinks they may be able to help with the safeguarding role is asked to contact the church office for more information.**
- **Members of the Kirk Session are reminded that it is their responsibility to arrange cover for individual Sunday duties if they are unable to attend and should not be relying on the Church Administrator to arrange their cover.**

**Ken Tuach, Session Clerk**



## NEWS FROM THE FINANCE VAULTS

From the Finance Committee, a Happy New Year to you all.

It's that time of year where we are finishing off the 2018 Annual Report and financial returns for Presbytery/Church of Scotland and OSCR (Oscar Scottish Charity Register). This will be completed in January. However, I thought it might be useful to share a few highlights in preparedness for 2019. We ended the year with available funds of £42,400, regrettably a decline from 2017. Some of the significant financial drivers which impacted St. Andrew's 2018 financial wellbeing are:-

- 1) Expenditures during the year were Ministry & Missions contributions to Church of Scotland (£62,000), Utilities (£6,000), Insurances (£4,000), Maintenance & Repairs (£5,000), Office Facilities and Support (£6,500) and Staff Salaries (£25,000);
- 2) In addition we have an historical liability of £18,500 for Ministry & Mission Underpayments (a reduction of £10,000 thanks to the kind consideration of Presbytery) which we are obliged to repay over the next three years starting in October 2019;
- 3) An outstanding Church of Scotland loan of £20,000 which will need to progressively repay in future years;

On the horizon, we also need to be thinking about ongoing maintenance and repairs to our premises. Potentially this could be in the order of £14,000 over the next two years for which we don't currently have any available funds. Our major sources of income continue to be Givings, Tax Benefits from Givings, Use of our Premises by various groups and, equally important, the Social Committee and Flower Team.

During 2019 we will also benefit from two unexpected legacies:-

- Late Lena Mitchell, legacy of £5,000;
- Late John Bruce, legacy of 10% of the estate residual value (property sale dependent).

In both cases it will be several months before we benefit from these.

None of the above is reason for any despondency but more by way of reinforcing a need for concerted "fundraising" during 2019 to improve our financial position.

Examples of initiatives underway are:-

- A Stewardship Campaign commencing in Spring 2019 with one of the focus areas being Givings;
- Donations from events organised by the Social Committee.
- Increase paid utilisation of our premises.

We encourage you all to support these events which will be advertised on our [Facebook](#) page and [Website](#).

St. Andrew's is a vibrant Church with a loyal congregation for which we should all be very grateful. Personally, I'm very appreciative of the help, support and good advice from the Interim Moderator (yes, I'm biased !!), Board, Kirk Session, Conveners, Finance Committee, congregation and Rev. Stella Campbell of Presbytery. I look forward to a positive and enriching 2019.

**Tom**





**Christingle ...** The IDCT (*Inverurie District Churches Together*) Christingle service was held in St Andrew's Church on Monday 24th December at 4.00 pm. I took my two grandsons with me and as we entered the church we received beautifully decorated oranges - each orange decorated with a candle, a red ribbon and four little sticks holding sweeties.

The orange is round, like the world; the candle gives us light in the dark like the love of God; the red ribbon encircles the world as a symbol of Christ's blood given for everyone; the four sticks point to the North, South, East and West symbolising the universality of God; and the sweet treats remind us of God's blessings. (***Our thanks to all those who made the Christingles***). The service was conducted by the Rev Rhona Cathcart, minister of Inverurie West Church, who involved the 250+ congregation in the meaning of Christingle aided by Larry Young, retired drama teacher and elder at the West Church.

Carols were sung beautifully and the Christmas story was told with sincerity and joy. The service did not last long - only about half an hour, but in that time all the children (and adults) who were there experienced the true meaning of Christmas.

**United Watchnight Service ...** The United Watchnight Service (St Andrew's and Inverurie West) began at 11.00 pm on Christmas Eve with Ralph Green and Richard Barrett (from the West) leading the congregation in carol singing. The lovely seasonal decorations in the church (thanks to Eileen Robertson and her team), including the candles lighting up the aisle and the chancel, set the scene for this special service.

At 11.30 pm our minister, the Rev Sheila Craggs, welcomed everyone to the more formal part of the service. Well loved carols, the lesson from St Luke's Gospel read by Ralph Green and Sheila's Christmas message led to the moment when Christ's candle was lit thus completing the circle of Advent candles. The choir sang a beautiful anthem, "Welcome to Our World" which was followed by a Christmas prayer. The final carol, "Silent Night" preceded the Blessing and, as we left the church, everyone felt that we had participated in the REAL Christmas: not the presents, the tinsel, the parties and all the various commercial trappings but the birth of our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

**Kit Pawson**

**Gordon Dementia Services SCIO** is a service that provides day care for individuals with Dementia. We operate from Pleyfauld House, Inverurie - Monday to Thursday and St. Andrew's Church Hall on a Friday. Our service starts at 10.00 am and runs until 3.00 pm. We offer a range of activities and entertainment throughout the day including lunch. **We currently have spaces available.** For more information please contact us: Tel: 01467 672111 (Mobile 07541229469)

Email: [gds@gds-inverurie.org.uk](mailto:gds@gds-inverurie.org.uk)





## OUR LONDON TO BRIGHTON ADVENTURE.

It started at 6.00 am on a very cold and frosty Halloween morning. We left Inverurie with Toyota

4x4 and trailer with Oldsmobile and luggage tied to it. We picked up Jack, who owns the car, and his wife Fatima and headed south. After a couple of necessary stops we arrived at our hotel in Bicester at 5.00 pm. As previously arranged, Jack and Peter went to Bicester Heritage Centre to leave the Oldsmobile and trailer for safety. We remained in Bicester the next day when the men went to look at various cars, and, as you do, eventually bought one, and the women did what they wanted.

The next day we headed for London where a space had already been booked for the car and trailer in the car park across the road from the Hotel. The Oldsmobile was driven to the car park under the hotel where we found that the Germans had already tried to keep all the spaces, but again ours had been arranged in advance so we won that one! Our other passenger, John, arrived and the plans for the next few days were discussed.

On the Saturday, Regent Street was closed and the entrants for the run were parked up and we dressed in period costume. Other stalls and displays were also there - Silverstone, Movember, musicians and many more. The whole show was quite a sight. Thousands of the public were there asking questions and taking photos. Some people had offered to give runs to the public in their cars - there was even a hearse complete with coffin. The weather was fine and we had lunch in Zedel, a French restaurant, thus completing a wonderful day.

Fatima and I took a taxi back to the hotel while Jack and Peter drove the Oldsmobile through London - an exciting journey! They weren't happy with the car so spent the evening checking everything.

On the Sunday we had to get up at 5.00 am



to pack and be out of the hotel. The men went to fetch the car and found it had a sticking float needle which caused it to flood and

drip petrol. It took them  $\frac{3}{4}$  of an hour to fix and get them on their way to Hyde Park for the start line. They made it for their start time of 7.19 am. Meanwhile I had persuaded Fatima to walk as it wasn't far!!!! Having left the hotel at 6.15 am Fatima just saw Jack and John leave, whereas I missed them by five minutes. Maybe this was because I stopped to speak to Alan Titchmarsh as he was queuing for the toilet. I forgot to take a photo! We then took a taxi back to fetch the tender car and trailer.

We all met at our first rendezvous point at Purley Tesco where Peter took over the driving and I was passenger. We had a very good run, a bit cold but I kept my hands warm by waving to all the masses who were standing along the roadside. Many people came out to cheer the cars on and many interesting vehicles were parked in car parks and pubs. Some even drove alongside for a while thus giving a wonderful friendly atmosphere. We made it to Crawley for our lunch stop. Jack and Peter took over the driving and we all set off for Brighton.





The Oldsmobile crossed the finish line at 2.30 pm - a very good time. Their photo landed up in the Classic Car Weekly and on some web sites. They actually beat the tender car as we had decided to follow the sat nav which for some reason took

us in the completely wrong direction. I took over with the map. We got our chilli and mulled wine and, as there was a bit of mix up with the parking, Fatima and I decided to walk to the hotel. For the second time that day we landed up walking miles. After a much needed rest we dressed in our finery

for the Gala Dinner preceded by a very nice reception with wonderful company. "Chicory Tip" was the band and yes they look old! We did not stay too long as we were tired.

The next day we headed for home, stopping for the night at Gretna Green and retail therapy. We eventually arrived home on the Tuesday afternoon. It was truly a magnificent experience. The weather stayed fine for us and we had no breakdowns. We did all this for the Movember Charity\* (the men had grown moustaches and sideburns) and thanks to all the donations we received we raised £1624.

**Rosie Milne, Elder**

*\*Movember Charity raises money for men's health, prostate & testicular cancer, mental health and suicide prevention.*

**TIME OUT ...** . On Sunday 2nd December we had our Christmas Party.

Before the festivities began, however, we talked again about the meaning of Advent and went over to church where Shirley lit the first candle in our Advent Wreath which represents Hope. In the following weeks candles representing Love, Joy and Peace were lit with the final central candle representing Christ lit on Christmas Day. Back in the hall we played games, ate some delicious food and, at the end of the service, Sheila came over and gave the children their gifts. Thanks to all our Time Out Team for providing the party

food and to the Social Committee for the gifts.

On 16th December the children took part in the Nativity narrated by Sheila. (see photos). **We don't meet in January, so our first session of 2019 will be on Sunday, 3<sup>rd</sup> February.** All young people welcome. We are also looking for helpers so come along to see if you'd like to help.



**FUNDRAISING & DONATIONS: (Nov/Dec) - Teas - £210.23 (A REMINDER - would those who kindly do the teas after the service please write out a receipt of the amount raised and put it into the hall entrance box). Donations received - £40.00 from Girl Guides and £27.11 (in box over our open weekend). Rag Bag - £114.40**



## The Armour of God.

Charles Wesley, the great 18<sup>th</sup> century hymn writer, wrote many songs for the praising of God and in 1747 he penned 'Soldiers of Christ, Arise', still a well known and rousing hymn to this day. The imagery of Christians as soldiers may not be quite as popular now, but it is clearly bible based text, for in Ephesians 6:11 we are told as followers of Christ to: 'Put on the full armour of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes'. The hymn tells us to 'arise and put your armour on'. Paul tells Timothy: 'Endure suffering along with me, as a good soldier of Christ Jesus' (Timothy2:3) and fighting for Christ is a popular theme with other hymn writers of the past, 'Onward Christian Soldiers' and 'Fight the Good Fight' being just two examples. In the Roman world of the apostle Paul, military imagery was very strong and in Ephesians he uses six pieces of armour to put across his points; the helmet of salvation, the breastplate of righteousness, the belt of truth, the shield of faith, the sword of the spirit and the footwear of peace.

Not far from Inverurie, beside Ardmurdo farm, in the ruins of the historic Kinkell Church, is a very graphic reminder of these images of putting on armour and

fighting for Christ. Here stands the grave of Gilbert of Greenlaw who died at the Battle of Harlaw in 1411. For being just over 600 years old, the carved stone is in remarkable condition and clearly depicts all the elements of armour a knight would have worn in the



early fifteenth century and, indeed, a soldier in the first century. His last battle on earth was a pivotal one for Scotland with the forces of Robert Stewart, the Regent of Scotland and Donald, Lord of the Isles fighting for control of the Earldom of Ross and, ultimately, the kingdom. The largely local contingent suffered heavy losses, but won the day as Donald retreated northwards. Gilbert was one of some 600 casualties in the Regent's forces and was afforded burial away from the battlefield due to his high status and religious connections, his uncle being the Bishop of Aberdeen. Originally, the slab



of yellowish sandstone, would have been laid flat over the tomb, but the plain reverse side was re-carved in 1592 for John Forbes of Ardmurdo. Unfortunately Gilbert appears to have his lower legs chopped off as the slab was now designed to

be upright and part of it had to be buried to allow this to happen. Apart from the Forbes coat of arms, the Latin inscription on the stone includes the epitaph "Here lies, bright with honor, and adorned with saintly piety of character....", which gives a little insight into the life of John Forbes. Furthermore, there is a Greek inscription from Philippians 1:21 'For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain'. This was a Christian family and John's son went on to become Bishop of Caithness and in 1616, Bishop of Aberdeen. When Gilbert of Greenlaw died, his tombstone showed the great knight as he had been and the stone belongs to a style found throughout Scotland at that time. When the stone was reused in 1592, a clear point was being made. The pious and saintly John Forbes had adorned the armour of God and had fought for Christ in his life time. In death he had achieved victory and gained his place in heaven.

//....



The tombstones of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries are adorned with such sentiments, culminating with the complex monumental symbolism of the Victorian era.

Today little, if any, Christian symbolism is to be seen on gravestones reflecting the decline in Christian belief, but also within the Christian community there is a more per-

sonal faith less inclined to flamboyant gestures. However through singing traditional hymns we are always reminded that we are each a soldier of Christ and for Him we must adorn the armour of God.

**Graham Bruce, Elder**

## Ministry of Flowers

### JANUARY

### Church

### Vestibule

6th Moira Keith, Nursery Gardens  
(IMO David Keith)

13th Mary & Jim Emslie, Barclay Road

Moira Keith, Nursery Gardens

20th Mrs N Sinclair, Don Crescent

27th Mrs D Ritchie, Middle Park

Dylan Davidson, Westburn Drive

### FEBRUARY

3rd Mr Shand, Morningside Drive

### 2019 Flower Calendar is now in the Church Vestibule.

With the new 2019 calendar now in the vestibule could you please add your preferred date for flowers by writing your name and telephone number in the spaces provided. A few weeks before your date please put your donation into an envelope with your details, date, preferred colours, if any, and hand into the church office. If paying by cheque please make it payable to St Andrew's Church Flower Fund.

**Eileen Robertson**, Your Flower Convener.

## The New Year 2019

*2018 has slipped away*

*And a New Year now comes into view,*

*What will it hold, no-one yet knows*

*What will it bring - good or bad news?*

*Whatever the way the wind will blow*

*Our craft is safe in the Master's hand,*

*Whether placid seas or sudden storms*

*The wind and the waves are at His command.*

*Our lives like a voyage keep journeying on*

*With vistas new and vistas past,*

*The Lord in His mercy holding us tight*

*Steering us on to safe harbour at last.*

*by Megan Carter*

# Congregational Roll

## ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH CHANGES IN ROLL 14th November - 31st December 2018

### Recently Deceased

Mr D Ho, Stevenson Crt, Aberdeen	14/11/2018
Mr D Bruce, Belvidere, Westfield Rd	27/11/2018
Mrs J Walker, 1 Cuninghill Rd	24/12/2018
Mr R Dow, 19 Maryfield Crescent	28/12/2018

### Service Conducted by

Pastor Stephen
Rev. S Craggs
Funeral Private
Rev. S Craggs



### Door & Welcome

### Offering & Count

#### JANUARY

6th	C Clark	Y Clark	J Williams	P Wink
13th	Y Deacon	I Fraser	R Young	A Young
20th	S Davidson	R Green	M Vernal	Joyce Bruce
27th	K Pawson	E Gale	V Binnie	E Barrack

#### FEBRUARY

3rd	I Greig	J Ingram	Jill Bruce	H Christie
10th	S Hepburn	H Morrice	G Bruce	B Cadenhead

## Sunday Services & Readings

#### JANUARY

6th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister: Rev. S Craggs Reader: Bert Cadenhead
13th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister: Rev. S Craggs Reader: Alison Young
20th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister: Rev. S Craggs Reader: Robin Young
27th	10.00 am Parish Worship <b>Holy Baptism</b>	Minister: Rev. S Craggs Reader: Kit Pawson

#### FEBRUARY

3rd	10.00 am Parish Worship <b>"TIME OUT"</b>	Minister: Rev. S Craggs Reader: Stuart Watson
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## Diary of Events - School Term

### Mondays

10.00 to 11.00 am	Zumba Class(Old Hall/Kitchen)
2.00 to 5.45 pm	Pre-school Ballet (Old Hall)
6.45 to 7.45 pm	Anchor Boys (New & Old Hall)
6.45 to 8.45 pm	Junior Section (New & Old Hall)

### Tuesdays

8.00 am to 2.00 pm	Playgroup (New Hall)
4.00 to 5.30 pm	Rainbows (Old Hall/Kitchen)
5.15 to 6.45 pm	Scottish Slimmers(Old Chapel)
7.00 to 10.00 pm	Rock Choir (Old Hall)

### Wednesdays

8.00 am to 2.30 pm	Playgroup (New Hall)
10.30 to 11.30 am	Signing Class (Old Hall/ Kitchen)
11.45 am to 2.00 pm	
7.00 to 8.00 pm	Pilates (Old Hall)

### Thursdays

8.00 am to 1.30 pm	Playgroup (New Hall)
9.30 to 10.00 am	Pre-school Ballet classes(Old Hall)
7.00 to 9.00 pm	Guides (New Hall)
7.10 to 8.10 pm	MSD (Old Hall)

### Fridays

8.00 am to 2.00 pm	Playgroup (New Hall)
9.30 am to 3.30 pm	Gordon Dementia Care (Old Chapel)
7.15 to 9.30 pm	Company Section BB (Old Hall)

### Saturdays

12.30 to 5.00 pm	MSD (New Hall)
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## OTHER EVENTS—JANUARY

5th	9.00 to 11.00 am	Balance Bike Kids (Old Hall)
6th	2.30 to 5.30 pm	Garioch Church (Old&New Hall/Old Chapel/ Kitchen)
9th	7.30 pm	Congregational Board Meeting (New Chapel)
	7.30 to 9.45 pm	Inverurie Concert Band (New Hall)
12th	9.00 to 11.00 am	Balance Bike Kids (Old Hall)
15th	7.00 pm	Playgroup Meeting (New Hall)
16th	7.30 to 9.45 pm	Inverurie Concert Band (New Hall)
18th	7.30 to 9.30 pm	RCCG (Old Chapel)
19th	9.00 to 11.00 am	Balance Bike Kids (Old Hall)
22nd	10.30 am	Monthly Count (New Chapel)
23rd	7.30 to 9.45 pm	Inverurie Concert Band (New Hall)
25th	1.00 to 3.00 pm	Close & Calm (Old Hall/Kitchen)
26th	9.00 to 11.00 am	Balance Bike Kids (Old Hall)
30th	7.30 to 9.45 pm	Inverurie Concert Band (New Hall)
31st	9.30 am to 12.30 pm	Guide Dogs (Old Hall/Kitchen)

**A few tickets still available (£8.00 pp)**

**Phone Molly Conn (01467 620612)**

## Burns' Lunch

Saturday 19th January

12 noon - 2.00 pm

Traditional fare with music





# Who's Who at 'St Andrew's'

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<b>CLERK TO THE BOARD</b> JOYCE LAWSON	(01467 620903)
<b>CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR</b> JACKIE REITH	(01467 628740)
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<b>GIFT AID CONVENER</b> ALLAN DUFF	(01467 621040)
<b>MONTHLY COLLECTION CONVENERS</b> VERA BINNIE & DIANE STUART	(01467 622275 & (01467 620931)
<b>FABRIC CONVENER</b> PETER DONALDSON	(01467 620828)
<b>ROLL KEEPER</b> CHRISTINE BEATTIE	-
<b>ORGANIST</b> IAN MILNE	(01467 620606)
<b>"TIME OUT" LEADER</b> MO VERNAL	(01467 628778)
<b>PRESBYTERY ELDER</b> VERA BINNIE	(01467 622275)
<b>SOCIAL COMMITTEE CONVENER</b> MOLLY CONN	(01467 620612)
<b>FLOWER CONVENER</b> EILEEN ROBERTSON	(01467 625895)
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<b>HALL CLEANER</b> - AGNIESZKA MYSZKOWSKA	-
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<b>SAFEGUARDING OFFICER</b> FRASER HORN	-
<b>SALTIRE EDITORS</b> - DIANE STUART	(01467 620931)
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**FEBRUARY 2019 SALTIRE ... Will be available for distribution from Sunday, 3rd February 2019. Please email material for the February Saltire to The Church Office by 20th January 2019.**

### **St Andrew's Safeguarding Statement**

*(Relating to the Protection of Children and Young People in the Church.  
 Adopted by the General Assembly, May 1997.)*

The Church of Scotland has a deep concern for the wholeness and well-being of each individual. It seeks to safeguard the welfare of all people, regardless of age, who come into contact with the church and its organisations. It is the responsibility of each individual within the fellowship of the church to prevent the physical, sexual or emotional abuse of children and young people and the vulnerable. St Andrew's Parish Church has a Zero Tolerance Policy to any form of abuse.