



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

**THE**

**DECEMBER 2019**

**S  
A  
L  
T  
I  
R  
E**



*Merry Christmas to all our Readers*

**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**

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

Dear Friends

The season of Advent is upon us once again as we prepare ourselves for the coming again of our Lord and Saviour as that tiny baby born in Bethlehem on Christmas Day. Few of us like getting up in the morning especially on these dark mornings but of course we have to and for those who need to rise early an alarm clock is essential, it being the only thing guaranteed to arouse them from their slumber in readiness for another day.

A minister friend once told me about an alarm clock that was particularly special to him. It was bought for him by his wife one Christmas and it featured a photograph of his two children and a recorded message from them both. What better sight or sound could I have asked for to wake up to he said.

Advent offers an alarm clock of a different sort. Far more than a prelude to Christmas, it reminds us of the central themes of the Gospel of what God has done, is doing and will yet do and as such it serves as an annual wake up call to hear and respond. The words of Paul to the Romans perfectly capture that sense of urgency: 'awake for the day of our salvation is closer than when we first came to faith'

Here in other words, is a summons to rouse ourselves and hear again the message of Christ, to shake our lethargy and commit ourselves afresh to his service. Do we still hear his voice and answer his call? Or have we metaphorically rolled over and dozed off in our discipleship?

Take time this Advent to read again the Gospels and to reflect on what they say to you. Take time to listen and to hear God speaking through them. Enjoy the coming season of Advent and remember the true meaning of Christmas that Jesus Christ came into our world to light up the darkness and bring us hope, peace, love and joy.

The service on 15<sup>th</sup> December will be our nativity with the children from our Time Out group taking part. Come along and share in the fun of that day with the children.

A Christmas Eve Watchnight Service will be in St Andrew's beginning at 11pm with carols and then we will come together in worship to welcome Jesus at Christmas. Christmas Day will be celebrated in St Andrew's at 10.30am, but it will be a short service to celebrate the birth of Jesus. If you are able, come and share in these services. I look forward to meeting you and sharing with you the wonder of the Christmas Season. **My wish for you all is that you will have a blessed Christmas and health and happiness in the New Year.**

**God Bless Sheila**

## News from the Congregation Board's meeting on 20th November 2019:

- **Manse:** Internal decoration, new flooring and a general deep clean of the Manse will be undertaken before our new minister, Rev Carl Irvine, is inducted.
- **Treasurer:** There is an **URGENT vacancy** for a Treasurer at St Andrews, do you know of anyone who would be interested? Ideally a member of St Andrew's but anyone would be considered. Please contact the office for further details.
- **Social Committee:** The next social event will be the Burns' Lunch on 18th January 2020, 12 noon - 2.00 pm.
- **Visits:** Please inform the office if you know of anyone who is in hospital or at home ill who would like a visit from the Minister.
- **Change of Address:** We are often not informed when members move house. If you are moving or you know of a member who has, or is in the process of moving, or whose circumstances have changed, can you **please let the office know?** We would rather hear 10 times than not at all.

As stated before, Congregational Board and Kirk Session Meetings are open meetings and **you are welcome to attend** to observe what happens. It is very rare for any part of a meeting to be in private. If you have any matters about Church Property, Finance or Social Issues you would like raised at the Board or you would be willing to serve on the Board please speak to or email me, the office or the Interim Minister.

**Joyce Lawson**, Clerk to the Congregational Board

**Time Out ...** At Time Out we are following the Holy Trinity. We made the second stained glass window – God the Son, which can be seen on our notice board. One of the older members of Time Out – Stella - read the story, followed by our Feast.

We went into the Church to show and tell the Congregation what we had done. **Our next Time Out meets on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December at 9.45 am which is the Christmas Party. We also meet on Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> December for the Nativity. All welcome, please come along and join us – 9.45 am in the new hall.**

**Time Out Team**



## 2019 Christian Aid Christmas Card Delivery Scheme:

**Monday, 9th December — Tuesday, 17th December**

**2019 (Sorting Period)** Suggested donation per card is **minimum 40p** with all funds going to our world neighbours in need.

The sorting office will be operating out of **St. Andrew's Old Chapel** on week-day mornings. Sorting normally lasts 1-2 hours. Please consider volunteering - we are always looking for new sorters to join us.

If you want a walk with a rewarding purpose, please consider volunteering as a Christmas card postie as **this year we have several areas without posties**. Typically you are allocated one street to deliver cards which can be worked in and around a full time job. I usually deliver **two or three batches during the course of the scheme in an evening**. **If you can help with the sorting or deliveries please contact either Lynsey in the church office or Alison Young on 01467 625646. Please leave your name and contact details. Thank you.**

**Alison Young**

## Unto us a Son is born

by Alice Meynell (1847 -1922)

Given, not lent,  
And not withdrawn -- once sent,  
This Infant of mankind, this One,  
Is still the little welcome Son.

New every year,  
New born and newly dear,  
He comes with tidings and a song,  
The ages long, the ages long;

Even as the cold  
Keen winter grows not old,  
As childhood is so fresh, foreseen,  
And spring in the familiar green ---

Sudden as sweet  
Come the expected feet.  
All joy is young, and new all art,  
And He, too, Whom we have by heart.





*St Andrew's Church, Inverurie*

## ***BURNS' LUNCH***

**Saturday, 18th January 2020**

**12.00—2.00 pm**

Excellent Traditional Food

**Entertainment from -**

*Local Accordionist Murray Cowie;*

*Fiddler Lesley Edmond & Molly Conn on the piano.*

**Tickets : £8.00 p.p.**

***Please contact either Molly Conn (01467 620612) or the  
Church Office (01467 628740) for tickets***

**Do Come Along and Join Us**

**ALL WELCOME**



### **Victorian Tea & Craft Fair ...**



On Saturday 16th November the Social Committee hosted a very successful and happy Victorian Tea and Craft Fair. More than 100 people enjoyed a delicious afternoon tea and also had fun buying seasonal goods from local craft folk. **£949.00 was raised** and I would like to thank all the volunteer helpers for their hard work - including the two Syrian ladies who assisted in the kitchen.

**Molly Conn**, Convener, Social Committee

**Ythan Singers Christmas Concert** ("Rejoice and be Merry")  
at St Andrew's Church on **Friday, 13th December 2019 at 7.30 pm**. Donations.



## Love Actually ...

Every Boxing Day people across the land resolve that next Christmas will be different. In January, when the bills arrive, they promise that next Christmas will be simpler, less indulgent and cheaper. According to Money Supermarket, almost 10% of people will still be paying for Christmas well into next year. Perhaps next year, by refusing to conform to every tradition and everyone's expectations, we will recapture the wonder, the magic and the awe of Christmas and 'remember what it's all about'.

November magazines include articles on how to approach Christmas – 'Twenty Six Ways to Simplify Christmas'; or 'Five Reasons Why I'm Not Simplifying Christmas'. There are some radical work-saving, stress-busting, money-saving strategies out there. One woman recommends leaving the Christmas tree fully decorated all year. Hers has been in the corner of the sitting room, festooned in tinsel, baubles, lights and all, for *sixteen* years. It's true. For most of the year it is wrapped in sheets with the reminder, 'Do not open until December'.

Perhaps, after all, even on Christmas Day, reflecting on how simple or how lavish it has been is to miss the point. Maybe, as we approach Christmas, we do not need a to-do list and a credit card so much as a Grinch-like revelation:

**'Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!**

**What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store?**

**What if Christmas ... perhaps ... means a little bit more!**

**(Dr Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*)**

A German proverb goes: ***'The main thing is that the main thing remains the main thing'***. That seems a pretty good definition of simplicity to me: recognising the extraneous and superfluous for what it is and focusing on 'the main thing'. Authentic simplicity has to be an inward reality before it bears the fruit of an outward lifestyle. Attempts to create the outer beauty without the inner actuality are doomed to legalism and frustration.


'The main thing' is to recognise the significance of that first Christmas, the Nativity. The birth of Jesus Christ was marked by astonishing simplicity. The highpoint of history, the climax of eternity, was not marked with grandeur, pomp and pageant. Rather, a pregnant teenager had no option but to deliver her child in the stark and smelly surroundings of a stable, the only warmth provided by the body heat of sheltering animals. The first visitors were shepherds, who were considered the lowest of the low. Jesus, the Bible tells us, did not come with majesty and opulence, but 'full of grace and truth', to reveal God – a God who is love – and to bridge the gap between us and that lavishly loving God.

Christmas is ultimately about love ... actually. As Christina Rossetti's carol puts it, ***'Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine; Love was born at Christmas.'*** Perhaps, as we make our plans, we should be less concerned with how simple or extravagant our Christmas will be. Perhaps the touchstone of all that we do should be love: and how we respond to the extravagant love of God and how we love those around us.

**Mission & Discipleship Church Without  
Walls T**

# Sunday Services & Readings

## DECEMBER

1st		10.00 am Parish Worship <b>"Time Out" Party</b>	Minister: Rev S Craggs Reader: Moira Keith
8th		10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister: Rev S Craggs Reader; Alison Young
15th		10.00 am Parish Worship <b>"Time Out" Nativity</b>	Minister: Rev S Craggs Reader: Robin Young
22nd		10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister: Rev S Craggs Reader: Stuart Watson



## CRISTMAS EVE - TUESDAY, 24TH DECEMBER

### ST ANDREW'S CHURCH -

**4.00 pm IDCT Churches Together  
Christingle Service**

**11.00 pm Carol Singing in Church**

**11.30 pm United Watchnight Service  
conducted by Rev S Craggs**



## CHRISTMAS DAY - WEDNESDAY, 25TH DECEMBER

### ST ANDREW'S CHURCH -

**10.30 am Celebration of the birth of Jesus  
conducted by Rev S Craggs**

29th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister: Rev S Craggs Reader: Vera Binnie
------	-------------------------	---

## JANUARY

5th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister: Rev S Craggs Reader: Bert Cadenhead
12th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister: Rev S Craggs Reader: Sarah Davidson

**Please note ... Church Office will be CLOSED on the following days - 23rd - 26th December 2019 and 1st & 2nd January 2020.**

## Church Support of Young Families .... *Karen has two*

*young children and goes to a weekly Toddler Group run by her local church. She says, 'I've lived here for most of my life and never really felt part of the community until coming to this group. It's very friendly and welcoming here, with a nice atmosphere. I have made good friends and value the support and encouragement I get.'*

*Susanne says, 'Going to the local Toddler Group is an opportunity to get out of the house, meet others and have a hot drink. It is also a link to the church and an opportunity to ask questions and explore things spiritually.'*

What are the issues faced by young families in your area? What provision and support is available to them? Engaging with families and children in their earliest years is a significant response to local need. 52% of the UK's under-5s attend a church-based toddler group. Toddler groups strengthen and support parents to care for their children. Adults and children stay together as they take part in a range of play, music, story and craft activities and parenting support and relationships are built.

Parenting young children can be an exhausting and isolating time; greater numbers of young families may have no family support nearby and mental illness among parents of young children is increasing. Support and unconditional friendship and a safe place to go with their children can provide a lifeline. This is all the more needed following reductions in local authority provision.

Churches that have an outward focus and make connections with needs in their community make a significant impact on the lives of many individuals but also see the life and service of their church growing and deepening. Through understanding and responding to the needs of young families through intentional loving, sharing, praying, and serving, these groups can have a great impact on the lives of both parents and children. The toddler group may be a person's first contact with a church or a place where they might reconnect with church, leading on to deeper connections with faith and the church: baptism, Messy Church, bible studies, parenting and marriage courses, foodbank provision, etc.

There is a direct connection between the experiences of early childhood and subsequent adult flourishing. Where children have a good foundation in their early years, building roots of security, identity and wellbeing, educational attainment and even brain development is strengthened and improved. The single most important factor influencing a child's intellectual and social development is the quality of parenting and care they receive. It is very encouraging to see what a contribution churches are making to support parents and young children through their support of families and young children.

Visit [www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk) for more information and ideas about church work with toddler groups.



# Ministry of Flowers

## Church

## Vestibule

### DECEMBER

1st	Moira Keith, The Gardens	
8th	The Family of the late Daisy McCombie	Ralph & Jenny Green, Rutherford Folds
15th	The Watson Family. Crosslett	Gertie Craib & Family
22nd	Jean Williams, Townhead Terrace	Mrs Cassie & Lorna
29th	Anon	

### JANUARY

5th



*Happy  
Christmas  
To you all*

## 2020 Flower Calendar is now in the Church Vestibule.

May I take this opportunity to thank all members of the congregation who have donated so generously to the Flower Fund in 2019. Every Sunday after the church service the flowers are distributed to members of the Church who are ill or have suffered a bereavement.

With the new 2020 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.

I would like to also take this opportunity to give a huge thank you to all my amazing flower team. St Andrew's is a beautiful church and the flower team never disappoint with their creativity. Big Big thanks to Maisie Roger, Moira Thomson, Audrey Paterson, Hazel Gauld, Eunice Naysmith, Kay Sutherland and Shona Johnston. Thanks also to Linsey, our church administrator, for all her help and finally thanks to Moira Keith for her continued support.

**Eileen Robertson**, Your Flower Convener.

## FUNDRAISING (November 2019):

Teas - £75.98

Rag Bag - £71.60

# Congregational Roll

## ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH CHANGES IN ROLL 6th - 25th November 2019

### Recently Deceased

Mr W Hepburn, 10 Netherblackhall 19/11/2019  
Mr J Omand, Meadows Nursing Home 18/11/2019

### Service conducted by

Rev S Craggs  
Rev S Craggs

### Change of Address

Mrs E Lyon (formerly 26 Don House) now at 19 Selbie Drive  
Mr & Mrs A Simpson (formerly 47 George Square) now at 35 Barclay Road  
Mrs L Cobban (formerly 23 Strathburn Gardens) now at 24 The Carriages,  
Cross Over Road



### Door & Welcome

### Offering & Count

#### DECEMBER

1st	C Clark	Y Clark	Jill Bruce	H Christie
8th	I Fraser	S Davidson	G Bruce	B Cadenhead
15th	R Green	P Donaldson	C Clark	Y Clark
22nd	Kit Pawson	I Greig	Y Deacon	A Duff
29th	J Ingram	S Hepburn	S Davidson	I Fraser

#### JANUARY

5th	J Lawson	D Stuart	C Clark	Y Clark
12th	R Milne	P Wink	I Fraser	R Green

***If for any reason you are unable to manage any of the above dates, it is your responsibility to arrange a swap with someone else on the rota and then it is IMPORTANT to let our Church Administrator know of any changes. Thank you.***



Did you know that mince pies have been traditional English Christmas fare since the Middle Ages when meat was a key ingredient? The addition of spices, suet and alcohol to meat came about because it was an alternative to salting and smoking in order to preserve the food. Mince pies used to be a different shape - cradle-shaped with a pastry

baby Jesus on top.

## Diary of Events - School Term

### Mondays

10.00 to 11.00 am	Zumba Class(Old Hall/ Kitchen)
2.30 to 6.00 pm	Pre-school Ballet (Old Hall)
4.15 to 6.00 pm	Pre-school Ballet (Old Chapel)
6.45 to 7.45 pm	Anchor Boys (New Hall)
6.45 to 8.15 pm	Junior Section (Old Hall)
7.30 to 9.30 pm	Company Section (Old Chapel)

### Tuesdays

8.00 am to 2.00 pm	Playgroup (New Hall)
4.00 to 5.30 pm	Rainbows
7.00 to 10.00 pm	Rock Choir (Church)

### 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)
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)
--------------------	----------------------

### Saturday

12.30 to 5.00 pm	MSD (New Hall)
------------------	----------------

### Sunday

6.30 to 9.00 pm	MSD (New Hall)
-----------------	----------------

## OTHER EVENTS—DECEMBER

1st	2.30 to 5.30 pm	Garioch Church (Old Hall/New Hall/Old Chapel/Kitchen)
1st	11.45 am to 2.15 pm	Birthday Party (Old Hall/Kitchen)
2nd	9.30 am	Lettings Committee Meeting (New Chapel)
3rd	12 noon to 3.00 pm	Homestart Garioch Christmas Party (Old Hall/Kitchen)
10th	10.30 am to 1.00 pm	Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees (Old Hall/Kitchen)
10th	10.30 am	Monthly Count (New Chapel)
11th	7.30 pm	Kirk Session Meeting (New Chapel)
11th	5.45 to 6.45 pm	Zumba Colony Park Girls U12 (Old Hall)
12th	All day	Aberdeen Council - Polling Station (Old Hall)
13th	10.00 to 12 noon	St Andrew's Playgroup Teas After Nativity (Old Hall/Kitch.)
13th	1.00 to 3.00 pm	Les Enfants (Busy Bees) Nativity (Church/Old Hall)
13th	7.30 pm	Ythan Singers Christmas Concert (Church)
15th	2.30 to 5.30 pm	Garioch Church (Old Hall/New Hall/Old Chapel/Kitchen)
18th	2.30 to 5.00 pm	Summers Nursery Nativity (Church/Old Hall)
19th	2.00 to 5.00 pm	Summers Nursery Christmas Party (Old Hall/Kitchen)
20th	12.30 to 4.30 pm	Stepping Stones Nursery Christmas Party (Church/Old Hall/Kitchen)
20th	9.45 to 11.15 am	Close & Calm (Old Hall)
27th	1.30 to 3.30 pm	Birthday Party (Old Hall/Kitchen)

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

**Church Office**  
**St Andrew's Parish**  
**Church**  
**High Street,**  
**Inverurie AB51 3QJ**

**Phone:01467-628740**

**Email:**  
**standrews@btinternet.com**

**http://.standrews**  
**inverurie.co.uk**



## **LISTEN** **"Online"**

All our Church  
 Services are on the  
 internet and  
 are available for  
 downloading or by  
 listening directly.  
[www.standrewschurchinverurie.org.uk](http://www.standrewschurchinverurie.org.uk)  
 Click on  
 "listen again".

<b>INTERIM MODERATOR</b> The REV SHEILA CRAGGS	(01358 723055)
<b>SESSION CLERK</b> KEN TUACH	(01467 620896)
<b>CLERK TO THE BOARD</b> JOYCE LAWSON	(01467 620903)
<b>CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR</b> LINSEY STEWART	(01467 681223)
<b>CHURCH TREASURER</b> - TOM CRAGGS	(01358 723055)
<b>WFO TREASURER</b> ALASTAIR SMITH	(01467 623148)
<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)
<b>TRANSPORT TO CHURCH CONTACT</b> DIANE STUART	(01467 620931)
<b>HALL CLEANER</b> - AGNIESZKA MYSZKOWSKA	-
<b>SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR</b> ALISON YOUNG	(01467 625646)
<b>SAFEGUARDING OFFICER</b> FRASER HORN	-
<b>SALTIRE EDITORS</b> - DIANE STUART KIT PAWSON	(01467 620931) (01467 372389)

**JANUARY 2020 SALTIRE ... Will be available for distribution from Sunday, 12th January 2020. Please email material for the January Saltire to The Church Office by 20th December2019.**

### **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. I 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.