



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

THE

FEBRUARY 2020

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Email: inveruriestandrews@outlook.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 Rev. Carl Irvine, may be contacted
for pastoral care by contacting him on 01467 628740**



Meet the New Minister

It's been said that a stranger is a friend you haven't met yet. As I start at St. Andrew's most of you are strangers to me but, I am sure, we will soon become friends. In this, my first article in The Saltire, I thought it would be a good idea to give you a glimpse into my background, as a first step in helping you to get to know me. Of course, there is only one of me and lots of you so, as we get to know each other, please forgive me if I have to ask your name several times, or forget bits of

your story, before it eventually sinks into my memory!

After spending the first 8 years of my life constantly moving around because my father was in the Royal Navy, I completed my primary schooling in St. Combs and then spent 6 years at Fraserburgh Academy. I am 57 years old, married to Suzanne and have four children; Lewis (28), Caitlin (26), Anne (24) and David (16). Lewis and Caitlin no longer live at home, but the rest of us are now settling into the manse with Chip, a 9-year-old Jack Russell Terrier.

Most of my working life (33 years) has been spent in primary schools, as a class teacher, assistant head teacher and head teacher. Nine years ago, I began to study theology on a part-time, distance learning basis, with Highland Theological College, UHI, graduating with a BA in 2017. During this time, I began to feel the call to ministry more strongly but, because of my age and circumstances, decided to pursue the route to Ordained Local Ministry, a part-time, voluntary form of ministry, similar to the old auxiliary ministry. After three years of training and placements, alongside my full-time teaching job, I was ordained in Inverurie West Church on 13 November 2017.

Unexpectedly, I was then offered early retirement at the beginning of 2018 and immediately accepted, as I was by then in a position where I could apply to transfer to full-time ministry. My application was successful and, after a probationary period split between Meldrum & Bourtie for six months and Kintore for nine months, I am now looking forward to beginning my ministry here in Inverurie St. Andrew's.

Settling into a new church is a time of learning, whether you are a worshipper or the minister. I have no doubt that there are traditions and routines at St. Andrew's that I do not know, please bear with me! I must warn you, however, that, while Sheila may well have the voice of an angel, I most definitely do not!!!! I would not dream of subjecting you to me singing the blessing so, out of respect for your ears, I will pronounce the blessing at the end of the service and we can all join together in a sung amen, which the choir have already been practising.

Over the next few weeks, months and years, I look forward to getting to know each of you. We may be strangers now, but I'm sure we will soon become friends.

Many blessings,

Carl

News from the Congregational Board on 8th January 2020:

- **Letting Committee:** A Lettings' Committee has been formed to promote our facilities for hall bookings. This is a good source of income for St Andrew's. Halls can be let for birthday parties, meetings, funeral teas etc – if you know of anyone looking to hire the halls, please contact the Church office.
- **Treasurer:** There is a vacancy for a Treasurer at St Andrew's. Do you know of anyone who would be interested? Ideally it would be a member of St Andrew's but anyone would be considered. Please contact the Church office for further details.
- **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

Welcome to Carl ... We would like to extend a warm welcome to our new minister Carl who will be inducted into Inverurie St Andrew's on Thursday 30th January. A full report with photographs of this special occasion will be in the March magazine.

After 5½ years with no permanent minister we are delighted that Carl has accepted the call to St Andrew's. We look forward to getting to know Carl, Suzanne and their children (not forgetting pet dog Chip!) and we wish them all happiness and success in their new life with us in St Andrew's.

Kit

NEWS ABOUT THE £'S ... 2019 was an exciting financial year for St. Andrew's. As a result of three legacies, Presbytery of Gordon grant and Church of Scotland General Trustees grant, we became debt free on 18 October 2019. In addition, through watchful eyes on the pennies we ended the year with an accessible income (money in the bank) of £78,690.

St. Andrew's continues to be a Church rich in its faith however whilst at first glance we appear to financially rich, we enter 2020 with a new Minister inducted (Reverend Carl Irvine) and with that important step forward, we have increased financial obligations. At the Board meeting on 8 January 2020, the Draft 2019 Annual Report and Accounts and 2020 Draft Budget were presented and endorsed.

The budget forecast projection is that our income will decrease whilst expenditure (driven by Ministry and Mission contributions, Minister entitlements) will increase so that the accessible income is somewhat reduced as follows:-

Accessible Income 2019 year end	£78,690.00
Project Income/Expenditure deficit for 2020 set aside	(£19,662.00)
Reserves Policy-4 months of project expenditure to be set aside	(£40,000.00)
Accessible Funds Remaining to meet "rainy days" events during 2020	£19,028.00

Recent examples of "rainy day" events include purchase of replacement leaking kitchen urns and replacement of electric space heater in Polly's. Our main income streams continue to be from Givings from our Members (a Stewardship campaign will be undertaken in Spring 2020), social events organised by our Social Committee (2020 events being formulated by Molly Conn and the team) and Use of Premises by external groups (the income from which has decreased over the past 3-4 years) We are delighted to have now appointed a Lettings Convener (Kit Pawson) to lead the charge with a small team to try to stabilise and hopefully regrow our income from external groups using our halls and premises.

Looking forward over the next 5-10 years we will continue to have obligations to maintain our Church buildings and Manse to ensure sound fabric and a safe, comfortable environment within our premises. The first step is to have a current condition survey undertaken and, with professional guidance, the Board to prioritise identified projects using the following guidelines

- High-Urgent to protect our assets from further deterioration
- High-Urgent to protect and/or increase our income stream
- Medium-Needed to plan and fund raise to protect assets longer term
- Low-Nice to have if surplus money becomes available

It is important that before we embark on any project, we must follow a robust process of detailed scopes, definitive estimates and have money actually available, "no more debt" is the mantra and God willing with our combined efforts and patience we will live up to that. This will be a challenge for our Board, Elders, Conveners and Members but one which history shows St. Andrew's can take head-on.

Happy New Year from the Finance Team.



Farewell to Sheila ... On Sunday 26th January, the Rev Sheila Craggs, conducted her last service as our Interim Moderator and minister. It was a very emotional occasion for everyone as we all have taken Sheila to our hearts over the past 2 years. Supporting Sheila at this special service was her husband, Tom and her daughter, Jill.

The service started with the choir singing the beautiful Clare Benediction and ended appropriately with the choir giving a lovely rendition of Edelweiss - with a second verse specifically

written by Ian Milne, our organist. -

*"You are great, never late,
Sermons so full of interest
We'll miss you, husband too,
Please come back soon to see us
Edelweiss makes us all think of you
Your singing is perfection
Retire-Not You
Whatever you do is
Done with sincere dedication
Good luck-good bye."*



Ken Tuach made a heartfelt speech giving examples of Sheila's kindness, integrity and dedication to St Andrews before presenting Sheila with a Celtic cross made from the wood from a St Andrew's pew, as well as a cheque gifted by a grateful congregation. Moira Keith, former flower convener and long serving elder, then presented Sheila with a gorgeous bouquet of flowers. Sheila gave a gracious reply which included her love of our church and her deep affection for all the people she has met during her time with us. As she walked up the aisle, Ian played "Somewhere over the rainbow" as the congregation stood in respect and applauded. There was many a tear shed in the kirk as we bade farewell to our much admired and much loved Sheila. Afterwards we adjourned to the Old Hall where the Social Committee had laid on a splendid tea and we were given a chance to say our own adieus to Sheila. Of

course, Sheila will be back in St Andrew's and when she comes she will be given the warmest of welcomes, but for the moment we are closing a chapter in the life of our church - a chapter which has been filled by Sheila with humour, understanding, dedication, Godly devotion and love.



Sheila, we salute you and we shall never forget all you have done for us. Good luck-good bye.

Kit

Christmas in Switzerland

This year we spent Christmas with our son, Iain, in Zurich, Switzerland. It was also our



holiday to celebrate our Ruby wedding which had taken place earlier in the year.

We were expecting glorious views of snow and ice but apart from the snow on the Alps it rained quite a lot. This did not stop us though. The transport system is marvellous and not expensive, unlike everything else there, so we got around very easily. They had 2 Christmas markets: one was indoors at the huge train station and was a mixture of food and crafts. The whole place was beautifully lit up and had a wonderful atmosphere. You had to watch the prices though: it went from affordable to HOW MUCH? However, we managed to buy some things which did not break the bank! We followed this by going to the Opera House, Iain's place of work, where he took us in the back door and we were lucky enough to see a rehearsal and the scenery and costumes in their huge back stage area. Seeing how everything works is extremely interesting. We then went to the front area of the Opera House where about 3 dozen seats were set out and a small performing area with piano, drums and double bass. The Opera House holds half hour advent recitals leading up to Christmas. As we were first there we had the best seats. I was stunned when the doors opened and hundreds of people came in. They crammed into every small space that was available. Amazing! The singer that day was a mezzo soprano who is singing with Iain in the opera "Coraline". I don't know quite what I was expecting but songs from "The Grinch" and "Frosty the Snowman" came as a surprise -

albeit a very pleasant one.. We had a bit of jazz as well, mostly in English and very relaxing.

We then went to the outdoor market which is right outside the Opera House but it was pouring with rain and it was nearly all food so we didn't linger long.

We were invited to nine Lessons and Carols. This was being done by the Music Makers in a Catholic Church in Zurich. We were handed the programme which mercifully had everything translated from German into English. The readings were all in German but



not all of the ones were the same as I've heard before. The carols, to my surprise, were sung in English as they were all taken from John Rutter's carol books. The communal carols were in German but the complete 4 part music and words were printed

out for us. I discovered they were following a King's College, Cambridge, version by Reverend Milner-White. The church was very modern and beautiful. Afterwards we joined the choir as Iain knew them and, as choirs do, went to the nearest pub, which they had reserved, and met them all.

We had many more exciting times, especially meeting such a wonderfully diverse range of people. Shopping was also an experience - an eye opening one! We have nothing to complain about the price of meat here when a medium sized roast can cost anything up to £70 there and the one goose we saw in a supermarket was almost £150. Ouch! Wonderful place for a holiday but hopefully Iain can manage home next year. Far cheaper!!!

Rosie & Peter Milne

Sunday Services & Readings

FEBRUARY

2nd	10.00 am Parish Worship "Time Out"	Minister: Rev C Irvine Reader: Moira Keith
9th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister: Rev C Irvine Reader: Alison Young
16th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister: Rev C Irvine Reader: Robin Young
23rd	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister: Rev C Irvine Reader: Kit Pawson

MARCH

1st	10.00 am Parish Worship "Time Out"	Minister: Rev C Irvine Reader: Stuart Watson
8th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister: Rev C Irvine Reader: Sarah Davidson



The total raised from the Christian Aid Christmas cards delivery was **£1573.34.**

Also the total raised from the joint Christmas services, for Christian Aid was **£470.38.**

(That was £222.06 from Christingle service and £248.32 from Midnight service.)

A big Thank you once again to all the sorting office and postie volunteers, also to all those who supported Christian Aid by using the local delivery service and who donated at the united church services.

Alison Young

Lent Fasting ... This month sees the start of Lent, the season of penitence, self-examination and fasting running up to Easter. Fasting can be a neglected discipline, but it plays an important part in the Christian life. Jesus began His earthly ministry by fasting in the wilderness for 40 days and He taught His disciples to fast (i.e. not *if* but *'when you fast, put oil on your head and wash your face, so that it will not be obvious to others that you are fasting, but only to your Father, who is unseen.'* (Matthew 6:17,18).

Why Fast?

Firstly, giving up something in my life underlines my desire to put God first in my life. Secondly, fasting shows me how much I depend on things other than God in my life, so I can surrender my idols to Him. Thirdly, fasting encourages me to have a deeper hunger and dependency for God in my life. Therefore, fasting gives me space to humbly focus on God for His strength, provision, and wisdom and results in a more intimate relationship with Christ. It also enables the Holy Spirit to reveal my true spiritual condition, leading to brokenness, repentance, and a transformed life, with a heart more attentive to God.

How can I fast?

Usually fasting involves missing one or two meals during the day, although some can't abstain from food for medical reasons. It might also include abstaining or limiting the time I give to television, alcohol or social media. However, Lent can also be a time to embrace new spiritual disciplines e.g. joining a study group, 'random acts of kindness', or giving more time to prayer and Bible study. Whatever you do, make Lent count this year!

'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.' (Matthew 5:6).

Extracted from Parish Pump

Church Action on Poverty Sunday – 23rd February

Church Action on Poverty Sunday takes place later this month. Many of us want to help the poor, but the challenges are huge.

'Good News for the poor' - that was what Jesus promised – and the crowd flocked to hear it. But He didn't promise to abolish poverty. 'The poor you always have with you', He said, and everything we have seen since has proved that He was right. Two thousand years, many political promises and different regimes, and we still have poor people, often living alongside the conspicuously rich. 'Good news for the poor'? Not, it appears, in any political or social revolution. Sadly, we have yet to abolish poverty.

But followers of Jesus have been in the forefront of those who have tried to mitigate its consequences. Churches and various individual Christians have been prime movers in the amazing development of Food Banks. The Bradford-based charity 'Christians against Poverty' has helped literally tens of thousands of people out of debt. Night shelters for the homeless, schools in the world's poorest lands and support for drug addicts – these are on the agenda of every Church and that is good news for the poor. **There is so much more to be done, of course, if poverty is ever to be eliminated. But not being able to do it all mustn't stop us doing what we can.**

So this year, why not do something to support Church Action on Poverty? Details at:

<http://www.church-poverty.org.uk/sunday/>

Extracted from Parish Pump

Ministry of Flowers

Church

Vestibule

FEBRUARY

2nd	Mr Shand, Morningside Drive
9th	Anon
16th	Mr C Robertson, Keithhall Road (IMO Mr & Mrs A Robertson)
23rd	Mrs Hilda Christie, St James Place

MARCH

1st	Ken & Jill Tuach, High Street
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2020 Flower Calendar is now in the Church Vestibule.

The new 2020 calendar is now in the vestibule. Every Sunday, after the church service, the flowers are distributed to members of the Church who are ill or have suffered a bereavement.

If you wish to contribute, would 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.

Burns' Lunch ...

Over 100 people attended St Andrew's Church Burns Lunch on Saturday 18th January. The hall and chapel were both in use and the music was able to be



heard in both places. To get the proceedings off to a good start a wee nip of whisky or sherry was served followed by the traditional plate of haggis, neeps and tatties. This was followed by trifle or fruit and ice cream and finished off with tea/coffee with shortbread and biscuits. All the while everyone was entertained by toe tapping music from Molly Conn, Murray Cowie and Lesley Edmond. With enough room we could have had a great dance! Some of the kitchen staff could

be seen having a go. We also had wonderful singing from Peter Taggart and Sheila Craggs. The atmosphere was tremendous and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Thanks must go to the Social Committee and the volunteers who help them in once again putting on a marvellous event. A lot of work and time goes on behind the scenes to make this happen and everyone is extremely grateful to them all. Special thanks to all who donated food, neeps, tatties, drams and monetary donations towards this successful event not forgetting Eileen Robertson's lovely table decorations. The winners of the Christmas quiz made up by Rosie Milne were announced as Mrs. Fenty from Fraserburgh and M. Davidson, Inverurie. **The total amount raised, including quiz, was a magnificent sum of £1074** and as people were leaving they were asking "When's the next one?"

Rosie Milne

Congregational Roll

ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH CHANGES IN ROLL 1st - 27th January 2020

Recently Deceased

Douglas Reid, Flat 22 Playfolds House	27/12/2019	Rev S Craggs
Irene Duguid, 15 Western Road	4/1/2020	Rev S Craggs
Jessie Ferguson, 2 Blythewood Place	11/1/2020	Rev S Craggs
Helen Gall, Craigforthie, Inverurie	12/1/2020	Margaret Robb
Ralph Webster, 34 Rutherford Folds	15/1/2020	Rev S Craggs
Shona Foreman, Bennachie View Care Home	18/1/2020	Rev E Glenn
Sandra Lister, Prospect Terrace, PE	20/1/2020	Rev S Craggs

Service conducted by

Change of Address

Mrs Lorimer (formerly Overburn House)	new address to be confirmed
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Transference of certificate

Margaret Allan, 8 Marketmuir Court	from West Church, Inverurie
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Door & Welcome

Offering & Count

FEBRUARY

2nd	R Young	V Binnie	S Hepburn	J Ingram
9th	A Young	Jill Bruce	J Lawson	R Green
16th	H Christie	E Barrack	A Smith	R Milne
23rd	B Cadenhead	G Bruce	R Milne	D Stuart

MARCH

1st	C Clark	Y Clark	J Ingram	P Wink
8th	A Duff	Y Deacon	R Young	A Young

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.

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)
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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)
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Saturday

12.30 to 5.00 pm	MSD (New Hall)
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Sunday

6.30 to 9.00 pm	MSD (New Hall)
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OTHER EVENTS—FEBRUARY

2nd	2.30 - 5.30 pm	Garioch Church (Old Hall/New Hall/Old Chapel/ Kitchen)
4th	5.45 - 6.45 pm	Zumba Colony Park U12 (Old Hall)
5th	7.30 pm	Kirk Session Meeting (New Chapel)
11th	10.30 am	Monthly Count (New Chapel)
16th	2.30 - 5.30 pm	Garioch Church (Old Hall/Old Chapel/Kitchen)
23rd	10.00 am - 4.00 pm	Aberdeenshire Saxophone Orchestra (New Hall)
23rd	(Time tbc)	Inverurie Scouts Founders Day Celebration (Church)
25th	7.00 - 9.00 pm	Buchan Pipe Band (Old Hall/Old Chapel)
28th	9.45 - 11.15 am	Close & Calm (Old Hall)



We are delighted to announce that Jennifer Ingram has taken over Joyce Bruce's role as St Andrew's liaison person with the Foodbank. Again we thank Joyce for her years of superb service and we look forward to working closely with Jennifer in her new position as Foodbank Co-ordinator. Thank you Jennifer.

FUNDRAISING: (January) - Teas £164.77 Rag Bag £41.20

Who's Who at 'St Andrew's'

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 Services are on the
 internet and
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MINISTER The REV CARL IRVINE	(01467 629163)
SESSION CLERK KEN TUACH	(01467 620896)
CLERK TO THE BOARD JOYCE LAWSON	(01467 620903)
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR LINSEY STEWART	(01467 681223)
CHURCH TREASURER - TOM CRAGGS	(01358 723055)
WFO TREASURER ALASTAIR SMITH	(01467 623148)
GIFT AID CONVENER ALLAN DUFF	(01467 621040)
MONTHLY COLLECTION CONVENERS VERA BINNIE & DIANE STUART	(01467 622275 & (01467 620931)
FABRIC CONVENER PETER DONALDSON	(01467 620828)
ROLL KEEPER TOM CRAGGS	(01358 723055)
ORGANIST IAN MILNE	(01467 620606)
"TIME OUT" LEADER MO VERNAL	(01467 628778)
PRESBYTERY ELDER VERA BINNIE	(01467 622275)
SOCIAL COMMITTEE CONVENER MOLLY CONN	(01467 620612)
FLOWER CONVENER EILEEN ROBERTSON	(01467 625895)
TRANSPORT TO CHURCH CONTACT DIANE STUART	(01467 620931)
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LETTINGS CONVENER - KIT PAWSON	(01467 628740)

**MARCH 2020 SALTIRE ... Will be available for distribution from Sunday,
 1st March 2020. Please email material for the March Saltire to
 The Church Office by 20th February 2020.**

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.