



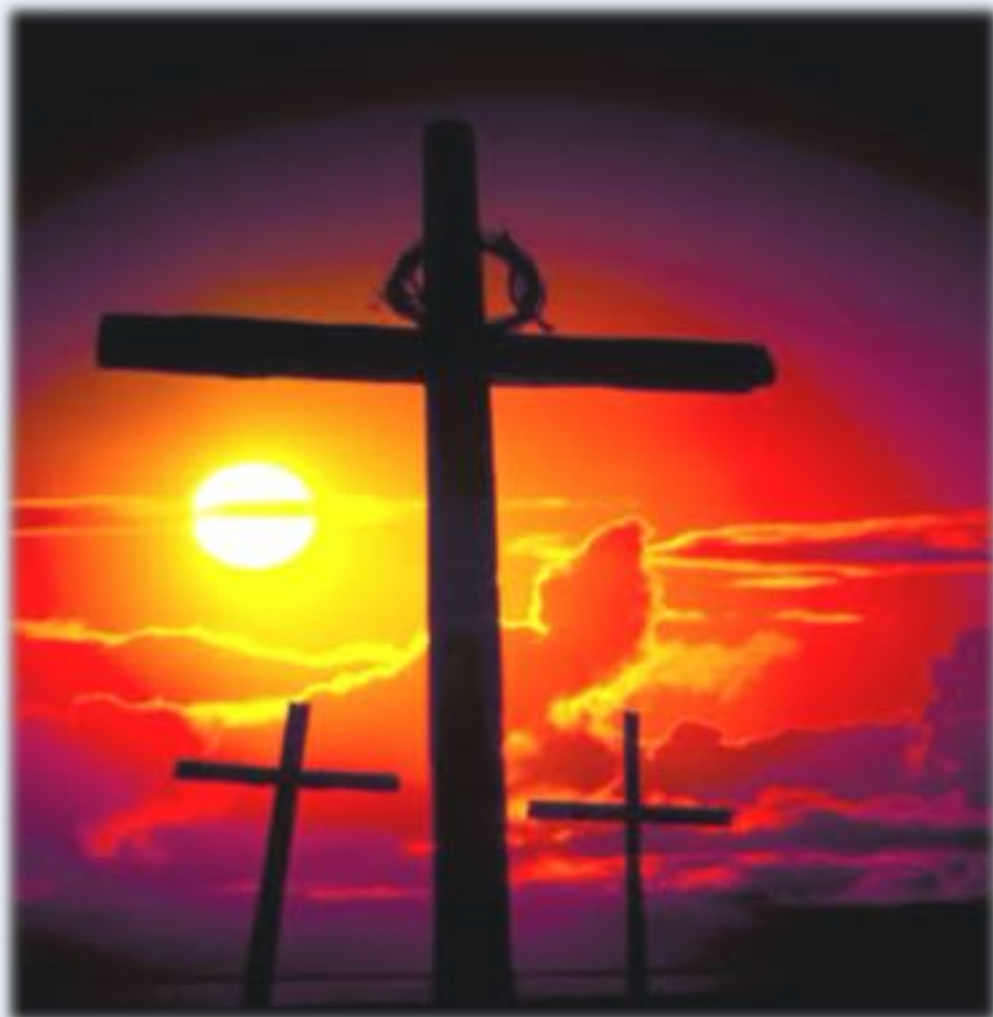
St Andrew's Parish Church

(Church of Scotland),
Inverurie

THE

APRIL 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**

Difficult Times

It's been said that it's just as well that we don't know what the future has in store for us. As I was inducted as your minister on 30th January, there was no way I could know that, six weeks later, the Church of Scotland would suspend meeting for worship across the country for the foreseeable future. Yet that is exactly what has happened as we adapt to the challenges presented by the coronavirus.

This is a worrying time for everyone and not just for our health. Many are faced with the prospect of financial difficulties as businesses struggle to cope, working hours are reduced, or lost entirely, and children need to be cared for during weekdays because the schools are closed. Carefully made plans by government, business and individuals have been thrown into turmoil, and the risks of loneliness are multiplied as theatres, cinemas, sports facilities, etc. close and we practise social distancing to reduce opportunities for the virus to spread. Even essential supplies are becoming difficult to obtain as people stockpile items in preparation for a potential period of quarantine. Please join me in remembering all these issues in your prayers.

But all is not doom and gloom, difficult times can also bring out the best in people as we all find ways to adapt to the 'new normal'. It may not be possible for us to meet physically in church, but we can still worship together in spirit. On St. Andrew's church website, you would normally find a recording of the last Sunday service. Until the church is able to re-open you will, instead, find a sort of 'mini-service' with prayers, readings, a reflection/sermon and a blessing. Everything you would normally expect on a Sunday except singing; I would not be so cruel as to inflict my singing on you!!! As you listen, I hope that you will feel something of the togetherness we experience on a normal Sunday, both togetherness with your fellow worshippers and a closer connection with The Lord:

"For I, the LORD your God, hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, "Do not fear, I will help you."" (Isaiah 41:13)

Finally, Diane and Kit are determined to keep 'The Saltire' going to help you stay in touch with church matters during this period of closure, many thanks to them and all who help in its delivery. Difficult times may well bring out the best in us, but we are lucky to have people who are always prepared to do what they can for our church community.

Blessings to you all, Carl

Key points from the Congregational Board on

11th March 2020:

- **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 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 Minister.

Joyce Lawson, Clerk to the Congregational Board

To all at St Andrew's Church



I would just like to say a big thank you to the congregation of St Andrew's Church for the lovely gifts presented to me at my last service as your Interim Moderator. I love the cross, which was made from the wood of the pews which were removed a number of years ago, and it has pride of place in my home. I also thank you for the lovely flowers and the monetary gift collected for me. I had a wonderful time with you all and made lots of lasting friendships

and will hopefully share many cups of coffee or lunches catching up with people.

I am so happy that Carl your new minister is settling in and has welcomed me on a Sunday as I have joined the congregation for worship. It is very strange sitting in the pew after more than twenty-two years ministering to others, but I am enjoying Carl's services very much and will continue coming along as often as I can.

I ask God to bless the work in St Andrew's and know that you are in safe hands and I am happy to have achieved what I was asked to do as Interim Moderator, in finding your congregation a new minister.

Every blessing to you all. Sheila



NEWS FROM THE CALCULATOR

2019 proved to an exciting year for St. Andrew's seeing our debts eradicated and renewed focus on growing our financial wellbeing.

On 11 March 2020, our 2019 Annual Report and Accounts were approved, signed off and submitted to Presbytery of Gordon well ahead of the deadline.

So where did we end up? At last we ended the year with a surplus of income compared with expenditure. To give you the very latest 29 February 2020 position, here is where we are right now:-

Treasurer Account	28,961.01
Standing Order Givings	54,366.50
Social Fund	1,187.72
Flower Fund	662.55
Funds Total	85,177.78

Less

Set Aside for 2020 Surplus/ Deficit Forecast	(20,000.00)
Designated Kirk Session Fund	(1,609.91)
Designated Rev. Black Fund	(3,700.16)
Designated Grubb Fund	(35.96)
Approved New Hall Toilet Refurb Easter 2020	(5,000.00)
Set aside for Retention Policy	(40,000.00)
AVAILABLE FUNDS	14,831.75

As many of you will be aware, the very welcome induction of Rev. Carl Irvine as our Minister brings with it a number of additional financial obligations together with an increased contribution for Ministry and Mission. Collectively the 2020 Budget forecasts that we will have a reduced level of income in the order of £20,000 for which monies are set aside to avoid falling into debt. In addition, we have a retention policy which the Board have continue to set at 4 months of projected monthly expenditure thus a set aside of £40,000 to ensure we can meet all our ongoing financial obligations.

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In 2019 the Board also approved refurbishment of the New Hall toilets which will be undertaken during the Easter break. The cost of this is £4,900 however we have set aside £5,000 “just in case”. No other projects are under discussion and indeed the Property Convener and Team are charged with developing a detailed inventory of potential projects for future consideration in formulating a 5-10 plan forward and of course fundraising which may be necessary.

We have also been finally able to track down three designated funds which have been sat dormant for many years. These funds account for some £5,350 and steps are being taken this year to finally close these and move the monies into the general account for broader use of our church. A further revelation was the discovery of an investment fund which the Board have agreed we can close down and make the proceeds available for use by the church. So, whilst looking at only the bank accounts we have £85,200, but after all the current set asides we only have £14,800 to meet those rainy-day events which will inevitably continue to occur.

One of our significant income streams is from use of our premises, an income that has seen steady decline since 2017. We have been very fortunate in being able to appoint a Lettings Convener (Kit Pawson) and a team who have taken up the challenge of trying to arrest any further decline and hopefully generate an increase no matter how modest. None of our circumstances is cause for any doom, gloom or despondency. We are a strong church in time, talents and money. We must continue to harness those going forward to ensure we remain in a strong position.

From the entire Finance Team, our grateful thanks to all our members and anonymous donors who continue to give so freely.

Tom J



The Anchor Boys

have had a busy Month of February where the partici-

pated on the following, learning about Chines New Year where they made Chinses Drums, Valentine activities included they mad Love heart biscuits. They had a movie night complete with PJ's for the mid term break, and also made pancakes on a camping stove. In addition, they had a fortune teller activity explaining why pancake day as celebrated. Looking ahead they have planned and discussion about Lent and the importance of it, A World Book day is planned and Mother days activities. There are some preparations being made for Easter.

Junior & Company Sections -Juniors watched a video about discussion emotions and why people feel the way we do at times

and more importantly demonstration the need to talk to someone and discuss any issues or feelings. The played an Emoji game where they paired up the icons with anger, happy, excited etc. Junior section also embarked on making pancakes for Shrove Tuesday. Part of that discussion also included Fair Trade products and goods. Company boys had a quiz and crafts related to Lent and an Elder came in and discussed Lent with both sections. More Fair trade discussions are planned going forward and we are planning to host and evening discussing birds of prey.

However events have overtaken us and in view of the health crisis, we have decided to close down till further notice.

BB Team



SEWING FOR HOPE

James 1:27

Psalm 82:3

This project is one run by the Christian charity, TUMAINI, which means hope in Swahili. This charity was started by Aberdeen GP Dr Susan Wilson in 2003, after visiting Kagera in Northern Tanzania. There are around 100,000 orphans and many widows in this area as a result of AIDS. Tumaini is helping 25,000 of them with education, housing, trauma counselling, training in carpentry or tailoring.

Sewing for Hope Groups make washable sanitary kits so that girls do not miss out on 180 days of school. In a drawstring bag they have a sewing kit, pads, shields, soap, a washcloth and a pouch, to enable them to attend school even when they have their monthly periods.

The Inverurie Sewing for Hope group began in Autumn 2018 as a result of two events that summer: a visit by two friends, Fatima from Syria and Patricia from Scotland to Kildrummy Castle Gardens Museum, where there was an old Singer sewing machine, which Fatima was desperate to try out! and a visit to a Tumaini stall at Keswick at Buckie convention, where the project was explained. The thread of the story began and so in September a small group of New Scots and Old Scots (sorry ladies!) visited the Aberdeen Group and learned how to make the drawstring bags; the sewing kits and then eventually the pads.

Since then once a month on a Sunday afternoon around 8-12 ladies meet to sew by hand or machine, fold, iron, make up sewing kits together. We were privileged to star on Bloomberg news when a journalist and her photographer were in the area and wanted to share the good news of Muslim and Christian women involved in a project for Muslim and Christian girls in Africa. We have had the opportunity to share our story with guilds, Trefoil Guild and a rural so far and this has encouraged ladies to become involved in different ways. We have had kind donations of money and cotton and ran a coffee am to raise funds (another to follow sometime!) for the wincyette and special waterproof materials. Sewing machines have also been donated and refurbished by Stephen in Aberdeen Sewing Machines for our New Scots friends, who can be involved in the project in Inverurie, as well as for those who can sew in Westhill. We are very grateful for buttons, needles, safety pins, apron tape and thread to help us along, which our friends in the charity shops are always on the look out for! If you would like to join us or support us in any way, do get in touch: p.a.findlay@btopenworld.com;

<https://www.tumainifund.org.uk>

[tumainiscotland.org.uk](https://www.tumainiscotland.org.uk);



INVERURIE PRACTICAL CHRISTIAN OUTREACH GROUP

(Starter packs)

Dear Sir/Madam

We originated as an Outreach Group at St Andrew's Church, Inverurie in January 2001 and are now largely based at the West Church in Inverurie. Our aim is to provide starter packs to previously homeless persons who are being re-housed in the local area and we provide double and single bedding packs, single and family kitchen packs, cleaning packs, crockery packs and cutlery packs to help them settle into their new accommodation. These packs are distributed throughout Gordon District in conjunction with the Housing Department at Aberdeenshire Council and over the years we have provided hundreds of packs due to the high demand for them.

However, membership of the group has fallen to four and we are finding fund-raising increasingly challenging. Over the years we have tried unsuccessfully to recruit new members to join the group with limited success. In order to continue to provide this important service, we are looking to find new ways to provide the packs and are hoping that individual churches with Gordon presbytery might be willing to help by 'adopting' a pack and delivering them directly to the Aberdeenshire Council on a regular basis.

We would be grateful if you could identify a person/persons within your congregation/s who might be interested in this outreach project and ask them to contact any of the under-noted group members for further information.

Susan Gordon	-	01467 621017
Meg Macdonald	-	01467 621063
Hazel Newton	-	01467 620414
Gillian Paterson	-	01467 625675

Thank you in advance for your co-operation and support.



It is with great regret that Molly, on behalf of the Social Committee, is postponing the Soup and Sweet, scheduled for Saturday 18th April, till a later date. It is important that the instructions given by the Government and the Church of Scotland are followed re the impact of the corona virus on the lives of our community and church.

A Prayer for the Times



Holy God,

As many aspects of our lives we consider to be normal are put on hold, we thank You that You are constant, the same today as You were yesterday and will be tomorrow. We know that You are always there for us, in the good times, in the bad times and in all the times between.

Father, we are scared. We are scared of this virus that we do not understand. We are scared for ourselves, we are scared for our loved ones, we are scared for all people. As social distancing becomes the new normal, we are scared that our bonds of community may be broken. Father, ease our fears, soothe our worries and help us to help each other.

Lord, we pray that You guide our leaders, help them make the decisions that will keep people safe, fed and sheltered. Help them put division aside and bring co-operation to the fore, encouraging sharing before profit and the weak before the strong. We pray especially for those who work for the good of others, in particular those who work in the medicine, social care, public protection and education. Be with them as they seek to work efficiently amid challenging circumstances, and enable them to serve patients, clients, public and students well.

Father, we do not know why this virus has come upon us but we pray, as did King David when You punished ancient Israel with a plague, that You intervene and bring it to an end.

Amen

Finance Matters ... As you all know, the Church is aware that closing down worship services will impact on congregational income particularly in the cancellation of all hall bookings and of course the generous Givings of our congregation. This in the face of still having our regular expenditures to meet for which no financial relief is currently forthcoming. The Monthly Count envelopes will not be uplifted meanwhile. Please keep your envelopes and these will be picked up from you once our lives are back to normal.

We would like to encourage people to continue contributing financially as far as possible, and to suggest you may wish to consider use of standing orders as an alternative to envelopes or plate offerings. If you wish to set up a standing order then please contact Linsey or Tom (see below) and we can provide you with an appropriate form to use.

Linsey

inveruriestandrews@outlook.com

Phone: 01467 628740

Text: 07792 973246

Tom

tecraggs@outlook.com

Phone: 07798 771202

Text: 07798 771202

In all cases (email, text, phone) we request that you provide us with three basic pieces of information:- **Surname, House number & Post Code**

which will allow us to confirm/provide your membership number which must be stated on the standing order form.

Many thanks from Tom and Linsey, our thoughts and prayers for your safety and well being in these difficult times.

Time Out ... Our Time Out theme this month was - "Temptation". We learned about Jesus spending 40 days and 40 nights in the desert with nothing to eat and drink and being tempted by the devil. He resisted all the temptation and we discussed how we can be tempted and how difficult it is sometimes to resist temptation. We played some temptation games, did colouring worksheets and word searches before going over to the church. The children asked our minister, Carl, to play a temptation game. Carl talked to us about trust and we all joined in the final prayer and hymn before joining the congregation in the hall for tea, coffee, juice and delicious things to eat.

**PLEASE NOTE THAT TIME OUT SESSIONS ARE NOW
CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE.**

Congregational Roll

ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH CHANGES IN ROLL 26th February - 31st March 2020

Marriage Ceremony

Mr T Wink & Miss N Davidson,
Ury View, Old Rayne

14/3/2020

Service conducted by

Rev C Irvine

Books of the Bible Puzzle

Can you find 25 books of the Bible hidden in this paragraph?

It helps if you highlight or underline as you go. Happy hunting!

This is a most remarkable puzzle. Someone found it in the seat pocket of a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu keeping himself occupied for hours. One man from Illinois worked on this while fishing in his john boat. Roy Clark studied it while playing on his banjo. Elaine Vicks mentioned it in her column once. One woman judges the job to be so involving that she brews a cup of tea to help calm her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot ... that's a fact. Some people soon find themselves in a jam, especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalised. The truth is, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have. Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation may help: books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Punctuation or spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete. Remember there are 25 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in this paragraph.

Note for Magazine Distributors: We had hoped to continue with the distribution of the Saltire but under the new guidelines set out by the Government this is impossible. The Saltire will continue to be sent out electronically and can also be accessed on our website. Hopefully our May issue will be available around 1st May.

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LISTEN **"Online"**

All our Church
 Services are on the
 internet and
 are available for
 downloading or by
 listening directly.
www.standrewschurcheinverurie.org.uk
 Click on
 "listen again".

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SESSION CLERK KEN TUACH	(01467 620896)
CLERK TO THE BOARD JOYCE LAWSON	(01467 620903)
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR LINSEY STEWART	(01467 681223)
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SALTIRE EDITORS DIANE STUART KIT PAWSON	(01467 620931) (01467 372389)
LETTINGS CONVENER - KIT PAWSON	(01467 628740)

MAY 2020 SALTIRE ... Will be on line on 1st May.
Please email material for the May Saltire to
The Church Office by 20th April 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.