



# St Andrew's Parish Church

(Church of Scotland),  
**Inverurie**

**THE**

**AUGUST 2020**

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**Email: [inveruriestandrews@outlook.com](mailto: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**



# Our Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

I am writing this just before I take two weeks holiday. We're still hoping to find a last-minute break somewhere in Scotland but, if not, the rest and change of pace at home will still, no doubt, recharge batteries.

One of my first tasks when I return to work will be to moderate, with the help of modern technology, a distanced meeting of the combined Kirk Session and Board. Top of the agenda will be a discussion about when we think it will be safe, and appropriate, to re-open the church building for worship. Much work has gone on behind the scenes to keep the building safe and secure, buy and install hand sanitisers, signage and additional cleaning materials, and to draw up risk assessments and safe operating procedures for when we do re-open. However, in making the decision, there are many other factors to take into consideration, including: How can we ensure appropriate social distancing when people from the same household are allowed to sit together but there must be a 2m separation (at time of writing) from those in other households? What do we do if the number of people who arrive to worship means we cannot fit everyone in while still maintaining social distancing (currently this figure is about 28-35 people for our building)? How satisfied would we feel if, as seems likely, we could only worship without singing? How do we help our less-mobile members come to worship while still maintaining appropriate social distancing? How do we ensure everyone can enter and leave the building without coming into close contact with each other?

I suspect that many of you, like me, are desperate to get back into the building to worship. No doubt, like me, you were heartened when the Scottish Government announced that communal worship would be permitted to resume. But we must understand that what is currently permitted is not the communal worship we are used to. What is permitted is worship where masks are worn and households are socially distanced, where singing, shaking hands and passing collection bags are not allowed, and where Holy Communion would be almost impossible.

As a child, I remember that from the moment the Christmas tree went up, time seemed to slow down, and no matter how much I wished, Christmas Day didn't come any quicker. The Scottish Government's announcement is a bit like my childhood Christmas tree going up, the desire for the day we worship together in our church building seems tantalisingly close but, like Christmas Day, the excitement building up in me, or you, won't make it come any quicker.

So, I would ask you to please be patient and join me in praying for success in the battle against COVID-19, both in our country and throughout the world. Please pray also for the joint meeting of the Kirk Session and Board on 12<sup>th</sup> August, that the Holy Spirit will lead the discussions and guide the decisions so that, when we do, finally, worship together in our building again, we can do so in complete safety and with thankful hearts we can praise our Lord for His gracious bounty in our lives.

**Many Blessings,**

**Carl**

Abba,

As the days have turned into weeks, and the weeks have turned into months, we thank You for keeping us safe during this time of pandemic and lockdown. Thank You that, using modern technology, we have been able to worship together while remaining safe, physically distanced from each other.



Abba, like children waiting for the joy of Christmas Day, we eagerly look forward to the time when we can gather in St. Andrew's and join together in praise and worship of You, our Creator, our God and our Heavenly Father.

We ask Your blessing on our political leaders, our key workers who are working to keep us safe during this time of unseen danger. Thank You for our families, friends and neighbours who have followed the advice that has been given. We ask that You also bless and guide the Kirk Session and Board of our church as they discuss the way forward in their meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> August. Lead them to the best possible decisions to enable us all to resume worshipping together in the same space, as soon as it is safe for everyone.

Father, we know that You are with us as always, and that You take special care of us in times of difficulty. Thank You for Your constant care. Thank You for the guidance of Your Holy Spirit. Thank You for the gift of Your Son, Jesus, in whose name we pray. Amen.

## *Garden of Happiness*

*First plant five rows of Peas:*

*Preparedness*

*Perseverance*

*Politeness*

*Promptness*

*Prayer*

*Next to them three rows of Squash*

*Squash Gossip*

*Squash Criticism*

*Squash Indifference*

*Then plant five rows of Lettuce*

*Let-us be Faithful*

*Let-us be Unselfish*

*Let-us be Loyal*

*Let-us be Truthful*

*Let-us love one another*

*And no garden is complete without Turnips!*

*Turn-up for Meetings*

*Turn-up with a Smile*

*Turn-up with Determination*

**News from the combined Congregational Board/Kirk Session** meeting held on Wednesday, 1st July 2020 at 7.00 pm through a teams video conference:

**Key points:**

**News from the combined Congregational Board/Kirk Session Meeting** held through a Team Video Conference on Wednesday, 1<sup>st</sup> July 2020 at 7.00 pm:

The meeting was constituted by Rev. C Irvine with a prayer.

**Key points raised:**

**Risk Assessment:** Robin Young led the discussion and it was agreed that he would continue to liaise with the Church of Scotland re Health & Safety guidelines. A comprehensive report on the Health & Safety will be set out in the September Saltire.

**Safeguarding:** It was agreed that Alison Young, Robin Young and Charles Clark meet and provide safeguarding guidance and actions considered necessary for live streaming of services.

**Eldership:** Two elders have retired from all duties – Alastair Bonnyman and Tom Dalgleish. An appreciation of their dedicated work to the church over many years will be in the September Saltire.

**Fabric:** A much needed refurbishment of the toilets and flooring in the New Hall will be completed by the beginning of August.

**The next meeting of the Board/Session is on Wednesday, 12<sup>th</sup> August, 2020. At this meeting, the agenda will include discussion on readiness and timing of progressive reopening for Worship and other Hall Users consistent with Scottish Government/Church of Scotland guidance. Comprehensive safety guidelines will be set out in the September Saltire.**

The meeting closed with the Grace.



**St Andrew's Club (Marlene Sim) ...** Marlene Sim, one of the founder members of the St Andrew's Club, died peacefully at home in Forfar on 8th July after a 5 year very brave battle with Motor Neurone Disease.

Marlene was the first President of the St Andrew's Club. Our minister at the time was the Rev. James Davidson and it was his wife Margaret who helped Marlene to form the Club when the ladies of the Church felt they were too old for the Young Woman's Group and too young for the Church Guild!



Marlene was a very talented and gifted person, demonstrating various crafts etc, organising outings, bus trips and even an evening climbing Bennachie. One of the meetings she organised was a fashion show when a few of the members modelled their wedding dresses. One of the "brides" came on carrying a christening gown which had been sewn using the train from her dress. The ladies were so pleased they still fitted into them.

Marlene was sorely missed when the family moved to Forfar in 1987 because of her husband Bob's work with the Hydro Board.

Marlene is survived by her husband, son and daughter and three grandchildren, two of whom were born last year.

Another faithful member of the St Andrew's Club has also died. Jean McIntosh passed away last weekend. Jean was such a lovely lady serving on the Committee for numerous years and was always so full of fun.

**Sandra Hepburn**

**Add Glamour to your kitchen!** During lockdown, some folk have been very busy doing all sorts of inventive crafts and our fellow elder, Mo Vernal, is one of them! After the 175th anniversary of St Andrew's Church, we had some tea towels left over, and Mo came up with a brainwave as to how these could be re-invented - and make money for the kirk!

Being an accomplished needlewoman, over the past few weeks, Mo has transformed tea towels into lovely blue and white aprons with broderie anglaise round the edges and all wrapped individually in a clear plastic cover. If you would like to buy one (or two or three!) please contact **Mo on 01467 628778**. The cost



is very reasonable - **only £5.00** - and, not only will you have a super apron for yourself or for a gift, but you will have helped our church. Thanking you in advance!

**Finance News ...** As we entered 2020, our budget projection for the year end was a very healthy surplus in the order of £20,000. However, as a consequence of the protracted nature of COVID-19 lockdown/limitations, that surplus is now projected to being close to £0 (zero) as a result of lost income from our valued Church building user groups, and lost income from our much enjoyed and appreciated social events (which was to include a Candlelit Supper).

Unfortunately, we still have large expenditures e.g. Ministry and Mission payments, Church buildings insurance, utility costs even though we are in hibernation mode and the forthcoming New Hall Toilets refurbishment in readiness for restart of the St. Andrew's Playgroup on 11 August 2020.

The good news is that we have been able to offset some of the income shortfall through the HMRC furlough scheme, and by some of our members and friends converting their Givings to Standing Orders and utilising the Donate Online facility available on <http://standrewsinverurie.co.uk/index.html> . Presbytery of Gordon has also advised that payment of Presbytery Dues has been deferred to September 2020 and may be at a reduced level for 2020.

At risk is our remaining Retention Policy Fund (4 months of expenditure) which may find us entering 2021 with reduced Retention Policy Funds available. Financially, a bit of a roller coaster but certainly not freefall. We are actually better positioned than many Churches to weather the "storm" but it does mean that if we are to restore our financial health, the fund raising effort in 2021/2022 will require a great effort from the many.

Three pillars of our Church are Time, Talents and Money. In our short time with St. Andrew's, and having had time to look back in history, you have all given freely to each of these pillars and make a simple request. 2021 is going to be a challenging year for St. Andrew's, let's give of our time and talents to raise money for St. Andrew's. **Do you have any thoughts on how we might do that? Then why not contact Linsey and share those so that we can begin to formulate a fundraising campaign for 2021/2022.**



**Anyone up for a 2021 Candlelit Supper if the Craggs Family Volunteers can be gently influenced?**

**Email: [inveruriestandrews@outlook.com](mailto:inveruriestandrews@outlook.com)**

**Phone: 01467 628740**

Very much appreciated, God bless and stay safe.

## HYMN: The story behind ... “JUST AS I AM”

The hymn 'Just As I Am' must be one of the most famous in the world. It has been sung by tens of millions of Christians at Billy Graham Crusades the world over, just for starters! Yet it was not written by a professional who was 'aiming' at a specific market, as many songs seem to be written today. Instead, it was written by an artist in Victorian times.

Her name was Charlotte Elliott, and she was born in Clapham in 1789. She grew up in a well to do home, and became a portrait artist and also a writer of humorous verse. All was well until Charlotte fell ill in her early 30s, and slid into a black depression. A minister, Dr Caesar Malan of Switzerland, came to visit her. Instead of sympathising, he asked her an unexpected question: did she have peace with God? Charlotte deeply resented the question and told him to mind his own business.

But after he left, his question haunted her. *Did* she have peace with God? She knew that she did not, that she had done some very wrong things. So, she invited Dr Malan to return. She told him that she would like to become a Christian, but would have to sort out her life first.

Dr Malan again said the unexpected: "Come just as you are." The words were a revelation to Charlotte.

She had assumed that she would have to put her life in order before she could hope to be accepted by God. Instead, she realised that Jesus wanted her just as she was - and He would take care of the sin. Charlotte became a Christian that day.

14 years later, in 1836, Charlotte wrote some verses that summed up how it had been between her and Jesus that day. They ran:

*Just as I am, without one plea,  
But that thy blood was shed for me,  
And that thou bids't me come to Thee  
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!*

*Just as I am, tho tossed about  
With many a conflict, many a doubt  
Fightings within, and fears without,  
O Lamb of God, I come! I come!*

Charlotte could not have dreamed that 150 years into the future, her verses would be sung by millions of people all over the world, as they responded to the Gospel presented at many great Billy Graham crusades, and made their way forward to do just as the hymn describes - to come to Jesus Christ, despite sin and fear and doubts, to come 'just as I am.'

**Photo of the Year** - Even if you are not an animal person you might enjoy this picture .....



It was considered the best photo of this century. A lioness and her cub were crossing the Savannah, but the heat was excessive and the cub was having great difficulty walking. An elephant realised that the cub would die and carried him in his trunk to a pool of water, walking beside his mother. And we call them wild animals!! It's a

great lesson for mankind who are fighting and dying for no reason.



## LEICA AND THE JEWS ...

The Leica is the pioneer 35mm camera. It is a German product - precise, minimalist, and utterly efficient. Behind its worldwide acceptance as a creative tool was a family-owned, socially oriented firm that, during the Nazi era, acted



ed with uncommon grace, generosity and modesty. E. Leitz Inc., designer and manufacturer of Germany's most famous photographic product, saved its Jews. And Ernst Leitz II, the steely-eyed Protestant patriarch who headed the closely held firm as the Holocaust loomed across Europe, acted in such a way as to earn the title, "the photography industry's Schindler." As soon as Adolf Hitler was named Chancellor of Germany in 1933, Ernst Leitz II began receiving frantic calls from Jewish associates, asking for his help in getting them and their families out of the country. As Christians, Leitz and his family were immune to Nazi Germany's Nuremberg laws, which restricted the movement of Jews and limited their professional activities. To help his Jewish workers and colleagues, Leitz quietly established what has become known among historians of the Holocaust as "the Leica Freedom Train," a covert means of allowing Jews to leave Germany in the guise of Leitz employees being assigned overseas. Employees, retailers, family members, even friends of family members were "assigned" to Leitz sales offices in France, Britain, Hong Kong and the United States. Leitz's activities intensified after the Kristallnacht of November 1938, during which synagogues and Jewish shops were burned across Germany.

Before long, German "employees" were disembarking from the ocean liner Bremen at a New York pier and making their way to the Manhattan office of Leitz Inc., where executives quickly found them jobs in the photographic industry. Each new arrival had around his or her neck the symbol of freedom - a new Leica camera. The refugees were paid a stipend until they could find work. Out of this migration came designers, repair technicians, salespeople, marketers and

writers for the photographic press. Keeping the story quiet the "Leica Freedom Train" was at its height in 1938 and early 1939, delivering groups of refugees to New York every few weeks. Then, with the invasion of Poland on 1st Sept 1939, Germany closed its borders. By that time, hundreds of endangered Jews had escaped to America, thanks to the Leitzes' efforts. How did Ernst Leitz II and his staff get away with it? Leitz, Inc. was an internationally recognized brand that reflected credit on the newly resurgent Reich. The company produced cameras, rangefinders and other optical systems for the German military. Also, the Nazi government desperately needed hard currency from abroad, and Leitz's single biggest market for optical goods was the United States. Even so, members of the Leitz family and firm suffered for their good works. A top executive, Alfred Turk, was jailed for working to help Jews and freed only after the payment of a large bribe.

Leitz's daughter, Elsie Kuhn-Leitz, was imprisoned by the Gestapo after she was caught at the border, helping Jewish women cross into Switzerland. She eventually was freed but endured rough treatment in the course of questioning. She also fell under suspicion when she attempted to improve the living conditions of 700 to 800 Ukrainian slave labourers, all of them women, who had been assigned to work in the plant during the 1940s. (After the war, Kuhn-Leitz received numerous honors for her humanitarian efforts, among them the Officier d'honneur des Palms Academic from France in 1965 and the Aristide Briand Medal from the European Academy in the 1970s.) Why has no one told this story until now? According to the late Norman Lipton, a freelance writer and editor, the Leitz family wanted no publicity for its heroic efforts. Only after the last member of the Leitz family was dead did the "Leica Freedom Train" finally come to light. It is now the subject of a book, "The Greatest Invention of the Leitz Family: The Leica Freedom Train," by Frank Dabba Smith, a California-born Rabbi currently living in England. **Memories of the righteous should live on.** Tullos Coston, USA



**Subject: Rabbi on Biden ...** "The story I'm about to share with you about Joe Biden is special — in fact, I'm fairly certain I'm the only living person left who actually witnessed it first hand. It was about 16 years ago, and I was a young rabbi, brand-new to Delaware, on my way to lead a shiva minyan — a worship service following the death of a Jewish person. I was from California. Back then, I didn't know Claymont, Delaware from Scranton, Pennsylvania. A quick bit of background: when someone passes away in the Jewish faith, we observe seven days of mourning, called shiva. We gather a group of ten Jewish adults together — a minyan — to say the Mourners' Kaddish. It usually happens in a person's home — somewhere intimate.

In this case, the deceased individual — her name was Mrs. Greenhouse, of blessed memory — had not been a person of means. She had lived in rent-controlled senior housing in a tall high-rise building off Nomaans Road. Her apartment had been too small to fit everyone into, so we conducted our worship service in the building's communal laundry room, in the basement of the high-rise.

We assembled the ten elders together, and it was in this most humble of places that I began to lead the kaddish. Toward the end of the service, a door at the back of the laundry room opened, and who walks in but Senator Joe Biden, his head lowered, all by himself. I nearly dropped my prayer book in shock. Senator Biden stood quietly in the back of the room for the duration of the service.



At the close of the kaddish, I walked over to him and asked the same question that must have been on everyone else's mind: "Senator Biden — what are you doing here?" And he said to me: "Listen, back in 1972, when I first ran for Senate, Mrs. Greenhouse gave \$18 to my first campaign. Because that's what she could afford. And every six years, when I'd run for reelection, she'd give another \$18. She did it her whole life. I'm here to show my respect and gratitude." Now, the number 18 is significant in the Jewish faith — its numbers spell out the Hebrew word chai, as in "to life, to life, l'chayim!" But it's also a humble amount. Joe Biden knew that. And he respected that.

There were no news outlets at our service that day — no Jewish reporters or important dignitaries. Just a few elderly mourners in a basement laundry room. Joe Biden didn't come to that service for political gain. He came to that service because he has character. He came to that service because he's a mensch. And if we need anything right now when it comes to the leadership of our country — we need a mensch.

I know this is such a simple, small story. But I tell it to as many people as will listen to me. Because I think that, in their heart of hearts, when people are trying to think about the decision they'll make this year — this is the kind of story that matters.

Joe Biden is a mensch. We need a mensch.

Thanks for reading.

— **Rabbi Michael Beals of Delaware**

*(contributed by Gordon Mallett, Illinois)*

# Congregational Roll

## ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH CHANGES IN ROLL

30th June - 27th July 2020

### Recently Deceased

Mr R Sangster, 9 Westfield Av. 15/7/2020

### Service conducted by

Rev. C Irvine

### Change of Address

Mrs J Flinn, formerly 11 Garden Court now Auchtercrag Care Home, Ellon



## Support your local charity shops -

Are you feeling the financial squeeze just now, but still enjoy

shopping? Why not visit some of your local charity shops? Never have charity shops needed you so much. Coronavirus has meant a huge drop in donations, and many charities face huge financial shortfalls.

The good news is that charity shops are well worth visiting this summer. Vast amounts of clothes and household items were donated following the lockdown this Spring. Grounded at home, people decided to declutter and clear-out!

The result is that, as a spokeswoman for Oxfam says: "People can expect to find some really great treasures to buy."

It should be very safe to shop, for as Julie Byard of Cancer Research UK, explains, the charity shops put all donated items into isolation before putting them on the shelves. She adds: "We're grateful for all donations and to everyone who volunteers and shops with us."

*The persecution of Christians in China continues...*

## Chinese government removes 250 crosses from churches



Chinese authorities removed 250 more church crosses earlier this year, according to Bitter Winter, an organisation which monitors persecution of Christians.

The crosses were removed from 'Three-Self' churches in Anhui province. The action was part of an on-going and wider campaign aimed at deleting Christian images and replacing them with Communist ones.

One congregation of 100 Christians defended their cross at the historic Gulou Church in Fuyang city. But the next day government officials returned, and it was taken away.

An elder from a Three-Self church in Hanshan county said that to know that crosses were being taken down on many churches "makes us very sad because the cross [is] the primary symbol of our faith. But we don't dare to disobey central government orders: little fish don't eat big fish."

*Extracted from Parish Pump*

## When tourists get lost

**H**ave you ever got into trouble while abroad? The true story is told of a group of tourists who went to Israel some years ago and arrived in Jerusalem very eager to see the sites of the old city.



Four members of the group were so engrossed in taking pictures of each other by the Wailing Wall that they ignored the summons from the tour group leader to go back to the bus. A little while later, they realised that they were all on their own in Jerusalem. That's when their problems started.

The four tourists decided to head back to their hotel. But no one could remember the exact name of the hotel. So, they hailed a taxi, and asked it to drive around Jerusalem looking for the hotel. An hour or so later, the driver gave up and demanded payment. That's when they discovered that they did not have enough money to pay the driver. So the driver took them to the police, who demanded some identification. That's when the four tourists remembered that they had left their passports in the hotel safe...

Some hours later, the tour guide tracked down the missing tourists. They greeted her with tears of relief as she provided the police with their passports, paid their debt, and prepared to lead them safely back to their hotel. The police gave some parting advice to the tourists: "From now on, you stay close to your friend!"

Stay close to your friend. It's good advice for all of us. If your life is going in the wrong direction, if you have run up debts of wrong-doing, if you feel lost and alone, you need to take action. You need to stop going on like this. Turn around and go in another direction. The Bible calls this action of 'stopping and turning around' repentance. Repentance is when you stop one direction, and you *turn* to God. For the good news is that there *is* a heavenly tour guide on whom we can all call. Only God can save us from the mess we are in. He sent us His Son to forgive us our sins, to provide us with an identity, and, if we walk with Him, lead us safely through life. As the Bible says: "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:23)



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

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

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 internet and  
 are available for  
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**SEPTEMBER 2020 SALTIRE ... Will be online on 5th September.**  
**Please email material for the September Saltire to**  
**The Church Office by 26th August 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.