



St Andrew's Parish Church

(Church of Scotland),
Inverurie

THE

DECEMBER 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 629163**



Our Minister's Letter

Dear Friends, December is upon us, and Christmas is just around the corner! For many, Christmas may not be the same this year as it usually is; families are unlikely to be permitted to gather together as they usually do, and many are dealing with the effects of reduced income, so may not be as generous as they wish. Whilst we may feel hard done by for these changes to Christmas as we have come to know it, it may be worth reflecting on that very first Christmas in The Holy Land. Although it was not a festival, and there was no pandemic,

it was a time when families were kept apart by the need to obey Roman laws for the census, and the poverty faced by most Israelites was a fact of life that had always been there and had very little prospect of ever changing. Nevertheless, it was against this backdrop that the greatest gift of all time was given.

I recall, a number of years ago, the youth group in the church I attended interviewed people as they drank their after-service coffee one Sunday in Advent. They only asked one question, 'What do you think is the most amazing thing about Christmas?' I'm sure they thought that I hadn't listened to the question as I began my answer...

As I child, one of my favourite television programmes was Doctor Who. Like many, I watched some scenes from behind a cushion, in the hope that it would protect me from the Daleks! I think the fear was part of the enjoyment. The thing I found most amazing was the TARDIS, Doctor Who's machine for travelling through space and time. It wasn't the ability of the TARDIS to travel through space and time that I was most fascinated with, it was the fact that it was bigger on the inside than it was on the outside! So, what has Doctor Who's TARDIS got to do with Christmas?

Well, at Christmas, God came down to earth, in the form of a tiny baby. He left the riches and splendour of heaven for the filth of a stable and a life of poverty. He left behind omnipotent power for total dependence on human parents. Everything about the incarnation saw 'big' fit into 'little' in an infinitely greater way than the TARDIS, created by human imagination, ever could. My child-like wonder with the TARDIS is as nothing to the awe my adult mind has of this uniquely wonderful event. This Christmas may not be the same as usual: smaller get togethers, fewer presents and no carol singing - but these things are not Christmas! Christmas is a celebration of God reaching out to humanity, coming among us, living our lives, experiencing our joys, our griefs and all that lies between. First and foremost, Christmas is about Christ, God with us. No virus, no changes to tradition, no hardship can possibly eclipse the joy of the birth of that wee Boy in Bethlehem about two thousand years ago, because His birth is greater than it all. His birth is the greatest gift the world has ever known: Jesus, Emmanuel, God with us! Now, that is why Christmas is so amazing!

Blessings, Carl

Holy Lord,

As Christmas draws near, help us to see through the frivolous trappings of tinsel and tree and turkey. Help us look past cards and gifts and television specials. Help us remember the filth of the stable, the cry of the babe and the miracle that happened. However different our Christmas may be this year, help us remember that it is probably a whole lot better than the Christmas many will experience.



Lord Jesus, thank You for leaving behind the wonders of heaven for the perils of earth. Thank You for submitting Yourself to dependency on human parents. Thank You for showing us the right way to live.

Amen

Thanks

...

There are many people who work hard for the church, without whom so much would not get done. This special time of the year is an appropriate time to acknowledge and thank all those who do so. Now, I must confess that I tried to write this by thanking all these wonderful people by name, but the list got so long that the magazine would have had to be made much bigger than usual, and I was still worried that I would miss someone out! So I decided instead to simply write a huge THANK YOU to all who help the church and its work in any way at all.

The Apostle Paul wrote, "For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ." and "Now you are the body of Christ and individually members of it." (1 Corinthians 12:12,27).

St. Andrew's Church is blessed to have many people working for its good, thank you one and all.

Blessings,
Carl



Christian Aid Local Christmas Card Delivery ... It is hoped to be able to provide this service delivering cards within the bounds of Inverurie/Port Elphinstone/Osprey Village again this year. **Collection boxes will be available in the Acorn Centre, St Andrew's Church, Morrisons and Tesco from 6th-13th December, and the suggested minimum donation per card is 40p. New volunteers to deliver are always welcome! Please phone Linda Young on 01467 621635 or Alison Young 01467 625646**

Charity Gifts for Christian Aid

Send virtual gifts to loved ones near and far and support our work at the same time. Your money acts as a donation which funds each area of [Christian Aid's work](https://charity-gifts.christianaid.org.uk/). So, if you buy the gift of a goat, your money goes into our Agriculture and Livestock fund, and so on. Every gift is represented by a card. You can write a personal message inside it. Then you can arrange to either have it sent to you, or to whoever you've bought the gift for. <https://charity-gifts.christianaid.org.uk/>

Alison Young

News from the combined Congregational Board/Kirk Session

Meeting held on Wednesday, 11th November 2020 at 7.00 pm, via a Microsoft Teams Video conference:

Key Points:

- **Vacancies:** We still urgently require to appoint a new Treasurer. We are also looking for a new Fabric Convenor. Anyone interested in either of these two very important roles is asked to contact the Church Office for more details.
- **Christmas Hamper Raffle:** Tickets are £2 each, if you wish to purchase please contact the office. The proceeds will go towards refreshing the Old Chapel. **The draw will take place on Saturday 19 December at 12 noon.**
- **Visits:** Visits cannot take place under the current regulations, but if you know of any one who would benefit from a telephone call from the Minister please inform the office.
- **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.

The office is currently closed, Linsey the Office Administrator is working from home and can be contacted during the normal office hours - Monday to Friday from 09:30 to 11:30 am.

Joyce Lawson

Clerk to the Congregational Board

Lettings

After the doom and gloom of the past few months, there are some rays of hope re the Lettings' situation at St Andrew's! The following groups have re-started their sessions: St Andrew's Playgroup and LG dance. MSD (drama) are using the Old Hall for exams. We also have managed to get some new customers: Aberdeen Baby Sensory, 3rd Inverurie Guides and Craig & Beverley*. In the New Year we are hopeful that some of our other former customers will come back - will keep you posted!

**Craig & Beverley, Funeral Directors and Undertakers, have asked to rent the Old Chapel. On our inspection, it was found that the walls of the Old Chapel were in need of "re-freshening" so re-plastering and painting have already begun. The Old Chapel carpet is in need of a deep clean and this will be done once the painting is finished. Hopefully everything should be ready before the end of November. Thanks to the success of Molly's raffle, all costs of this restoration will be covered without having to dip into current church funds.*

Of course our Lettings' income stream is drastically down from last year, but we are beginning to see small signs of a revival. Hurrah!

Kit Pawson, Lettings' Convenor



Homesick at Christmas

I never imagined that I would ever be homesick. After all, I had spent 7 years at boarding school in Edinburgh and never experienced even a

twinge! But Christmas 1965 was a different matter.

Tom and I got married in October 1965 in Brazil and this was going to be my first Christmas away from my family. So many things were new to me - the heat for a start! There was no familiar snow - instead the temperature hovered around 35 degrees. We had just moved into our new home so I had not had time to put up Christmas decorations which, in any case, did not seem to be the norm. And as for festive food, this was a blank as far as I was concerned. I was accustomed to my Mum taking charge of the kitchen, so the cupboards were remarkably bare! (Now you all know why I am not on Molly's Social Committee!)

We went to the Christmas Eve Midnight Service but when I woke up on Christmas morning, I duly burst into tears. Tom tried his best to cheer me up and asked what he could do to help.

I memorably said that I would like mince, tatties and skirlie from The Dairy in Inverurie. Tom, being a New Zealander who had never been in Scotland, at least knew what mince was and had a fair guess about the tatties -- but the word "skirlie" defeated him. I howled even louder. The day promised to be a disaster.

Around 10.00 am (tears still flowing!) there was a ring on our door bell. At the door was the Rev Brady Tyson, an evangelical American pastor, and his son who was in my class at school. Brady asked if we were doing anything that day and when we shook our heads, he immediately invited us to join his family for Christmas celebrations. Off we went in his Volkswagen Combi van to the manse where we were warmly welcomed by his wife and their four other children. Simple but delightful gifts were shared, a delicious lunch (American style) was served in the shade, conversation and laughter round the table never ceased, and the afternoon was spent playing baseball. Around 8.00 pm Brady drove us home. What had started as the saddest day in my life had been transformed by Christian kindness, thoughtfulness and generosity - and one I have never forgotten.

Kit Pawson

The Wishbone

After Christmas dinner, the turkey's wishbone - the V shaped bone above its breast bone is taken out, cleaned and left to dry. As soon as it is nicely dried out, it is ready to be used. Two people - usually chosen from the children at the table - face off, make a wish and wrap their pinkies around a side each, then pull until it snaps. The one left holding the longest end wins, and their wish will come true. This is thought to be the origin of the term "lucky break". Traditions around the wishbone are found in many cultures. Celtic armies used wishbones to predict the weather, and the ancient Etruscans once used the movements and bones of birds for divination and would dry out the wishbone and stroke it while making wishes. The Romans took the tradition from the Etruscans and spread it around their empire. In Britain the bone took on (and later lost) the name "merrythought" and became part of the Christmas ritual. Eventually it went across the Atlantic to the United States, where there are, of course, plentiful wild turkeys. Although in the US the turkey, along with its wishbone, is principally connected with Thanksgiving, in the UK it has become most strongly associated with the Christmas Turkey.



Ministry of Flowers

2021 Flower Calendar

Hi everyone, 2020 has definitely been a strange and different year for St Andrew's Church Flower Calendar. As you all know, the church closed in March and the last day we delivered flowers was March 22nd.

When the church eventually opened again we were not allowed fresh flower arrangements. A few weeks ago at a Board Meeting it was agreed that we could now have fresh flowers in church but because of self distancing and to reduce the risk of infection to older members, the guidelines are for us not to deliver flowers at this time. We decided that at present we would not resume fresh flowers for Sunday services with very limited congregation present and with no opportunity to distribute the flowers later.

All of this has meant that the church is adorned with silk flowers which have been changed from Spring to Summer and now Autumnal with then the addition of red poppies for Remembrance Sunday. Let's hope that things improve so that we can enjoy Christmas in Church in as familiar a way as possible.

May I take this opportunity to thank all members who have donated so generously to the Flower Fund in 2020. Every Sunday [in normal times] we distribute the flowers to members of the church who are ill or have suffered a bereavement. Those who have paid in advance for their dates will of course be able to either leave for a future date or request a refund from myself.

Linsey and I will have the calendar in the church in December at some point but not sure when. Once the new calendar is in the vestibule could you please add your preferred date for flowers by writing your name and telephone number in the spaces provided. Then a few weeks before your date please put your donation in an envelope with your details, date, preferred colours if any and hand into the church office. If paying by cheque please make payable to St Andrew's Church Flower Fund. Finally I would like to 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.



Sunday Services & Readings

DECEMBER

6th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister: Rev C Irvine
13th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister: Rev C Irvine
20th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister: Rev C Irvine

CHRISTMAS EVE - THURSDAY, 24TH DECEMBER

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH - conducted by Rev. Carl Irvine

4.00 pm "Carols Round the Tree" - A reading of the Christmas Story from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, interspersed with carols to listen to.

11.30 pm "Watchnight Service" - A reflective service of readings and carols.

CHRISTMAS DAY - FRIDAY, 25TH DECEMBER

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH - conducted by Rev. Carl Irvine

10.00 am "Christmas Morning Service"

27th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister: Rev S Craggs
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JANUARY

3rd	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister: Rev S Craggs
10th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister: Rev C Irvine

Congregational Roll

ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH CHANGES IN ROLL 25th October - 26th November 2020

Recently Deceased

Mrs J Lobban, 2 Highgrove, Inverurie	25/10/20	Massies Funeral Directors
Mrs J Flinn, Auchtercrag Care Home, Ellon	1/11/20	Rev C Irvine
Miss A Sorrie, Garioch Care Home	16/11/20	Rev C Irvine

Change of Address

Mrs D Ritchie, 6 Ritchie Row, PE	now at Pitcairn Lodge Nursing Home, Kirkton of Skene
Mr E Strachan, 10 Garden Court	now at Westbank Home, Oldmeldrum
Mrs I Simpson, 8 Don House	now at Grove Nursing Home, Kemnay

Transference Certificate

Mr J Stuart, Upper Crimmond, Keithhall (formerly Fintray Kinellar Keithhall Church)

Time Out ... What a pleasure it was to have our first Time Out since lock down. A wee group of children joined us on Sunday 1st November and our theme was "Peace". We talked about Remembrance Sunday and why we remember those who fought for our freedom in many wars but focused on what peace means. The children heard a story about Maximus Mouse who lives in a church and was seeking peace. They then made a large poppy which was displayed on our lovely new notice board at the entrance of the church, painted poppies on pebbles and completed Remembrance Sunday worksheets. Sadly, we cannot have our "Feast" or snack due to Covid restrictions but the children all brought their own drink and biscuits. Our next Time Out will be on Sunday 6th December and we will spend part of our time in church when Rev. Carl Irvine will talk to the children about the meaning of Christmas. **Because of this, could I please ask those of you who are bringing children to Time Out to add their names when contacting the office to "book a seat."**

All pre-school and primary aged children are welcome to come along and join us on the first Sunday of each month, 9.45 am in the old Chapel at the back of the church.

Mo Vernal, Time Out Team

Molly's Raffle ... I am sure you are all very much aware that the Social Committee has not been able to hold our usual events throughout 2020. These occasions are of course to raise funds but, even more important, they bring our church community (and also those outwith our kirk) together in fun and fellowship. This year the church has been badly hit financially but Social Convenor, Molly Conn, has come up with a super idea - a Cracking Christmas Hampers Raffle (*see photo!*) - to help boost our funds. Sadly we cannot meet for this event BUT we can all support it by buying tickets.

Let me explain how this will happen. **Tickets, costing £2.00 each, will be sold by various church members, as well as by Molly from her house door - suitably masked and distanced!** Tickets inside envelopes were included in the November magazine delivery along with information as to how people can buy/return them to the Office. This will NOT be complicated as we aim to keep this fund raiser as simple and accessible as possible. **The winning tickets will be drawn on Saturday, 19th December at 12 noon by Jim McColl and the winners will be contacted.**

Molly is generously donating two Christmas Hampers so please let's support her kind enterprise by buying tickets and knowing that we are helping our kirk. Our prizes have been boosted by the Boys' Brigade donating a third splendid Christmas hamper, and generous members of the congregation have gifted magnificent tins of delicious panettone, biscuits and chocolates.

Kit

For further information please contact Molly at 01467 620612 / Branston, North Street, Inverurie or the Church Office (01467 628740).



St Andrew's Parish Church

Volunteer Rota 2020/2021

		Door	Register	Steward	Steward	Steward
Dec	6	A Smith	J Lawson	V Binnie	S Davidson	M Conn
	13	R Milne	J Bruce	A Young	P Milne	R Young
	20	A Duff	S Hepburn	I Fraser	H Christie	M Keith
	27	R Green	D Stuart	M Vernal	J Green	P Wink

If you are unable to attend please arrange for

a replacement and let Linsey know. (It's not her job to find one for you). Note: All those on Duty please ensure that you are at the church in good time (**9.30 am**). Those with Beadle Duties are highlighted in Bold/Italic.

Please Note: It is essential to book seats for "Carols round the Tree", the Watchnight Service and the Christmas Day service. Please book by phoning Linsey on 01467 628740.

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 brain-wave 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 (apron only) and £7.00 (apron & tea towel)** - and, not only will you have a super apron for yourself or for a gift, but you will have helped our church. Mo is willing to wrap all orders for the "gift packs" in Christmas paper, if so wished. For those who have already purchased aprons, Mo sends a big thank you. £470 has already been raised.

Thanking you in advance for future orders!



Fundraising (Oct/Nov): Rag Bag £144.00

Anon Donation: Flower Fund £20.00; Donation: Fun, Food & Fellowship £50.00

St Andrew's Church Clock ... As a new member of the property team, I was asked to look into getting the church clock going again. After a couple of calls, I was put in touch with Christopher Edwards from Chapel of Garioch. It transpires that Christopher is the "send for" man for most Town Hall and Church clocks in this area and is a real enthusiast! After a quick examination, he restarted the clock and set the time. Christopher did not charge a fee and he has been sent a letter of thanks from the Church.



A plaque on the mechanism gives a fascinating insight into its history which I thought I would share with you. It was made by the famous Aberdeen clock maker, John Black, in 1842 for Ballater Church. In 1879, the clock was bought by Inverurie Watchmaker, Alexander Smith, on behalf of Inverurie Town Council and placed in St Andrew's Church. Following renovations of the church in 1965, the Town Council had the clock overhauled and handed over stewardship of it to St Andrew's Church Kirk Session. As you can see the clock face is in need of refurbishment, but, at 11.5 meters above the ground, the cost of scaffolding or an access platform would be prohibitive. Duncan Naysmith recalls repainting the clock face 35 years ago so it is long overdue a bit of TLC. According to Christopher, it will serve us for many years to come!



Alan Robertson

Take Time

Take time to thinkit is the source of power
 Take time to playit is the secret of perpetual youth
 Take time to readit is the foundation of wisdom
 Take time to prayit is the greatest solace on earth
 Take time to giveit is too short a day to be selfish
 Take time to be friendlyit is the road to happiness
 Take time to laughit is the music of the soul
 Take time to love and be lovedit is a God given privilege

(Taken from Oxford & District Union Parish Church's "Words of Inspiration")



Hello from the Inverurie Boys' Brigade! We hope this update finds you safe and well in the current circumstances. The great news from us is that we are still managing to have face to face meetings and our numbers are now sustained. The Anchor Boys are very receptive to all the activities and it is a great testimony to their leader team. The Anchor Boys and Junior Section enjoyed a different from normal Halloween party, where they made some crafts and played dunk for jam doughnuts which was hilarious to watch - the Minister judged the fancy dress, a difficult job! For Remembrance, the Anchors made poppy pictures and painted poppies on rocks and laid them at the War Memorial. Junior and Company Sections enjoyed a Parliamentary night where the local MP came along and we had a mock election, which was entertaining. They also decorated mugs with a poppy for themselves. Junior Section activities included badge work, where we discussed the history of the poppy, enjoyed watching a video and had a discussion on the prodigal son.

We have had a busy month and on the

23rd November, all Sections will be visiting the Inverurie Heritage Centre. We are planning our annual dedication service on Monday, 30th November. This will take a different format to comply with Covid regulations. We intend to try and live stream that service so parents and family can watch it. Also, we hope that we can include the prize giving from last year which was delayed due to the pandemic situation.

We have identified that our major fundraising efforts will be curtailed so to try and boost funds we intend holding a Christmas Raffle with multiple prizes including a Christmas Hamper. Most prizes have been donated by friends and parents. Tickets are available at £5 per strip for this fundraiser.* In addition, we have a parent who has kindly knitted a Santa & Mrs Claus duo which we will run separately at £1 per ticket. As we say, this will probably be our major fundraiser for the year and we hope that many people will help us with this effort. ***Tickets are available from friends*, family & leaders and will be drawn on 14th December. (Alastair's Telephone No. 07821 379 760)**

That is all for this month but have a lovely Christmas.



From the BB team.



We are continuing to work hard to get food to those people in greatest need at this difficult and challenging time. We know your shopping habits have had to change but we would be very grateful if you would help us, if you can, by donating the following items:

Small jars of coffee

Tinned peas/carrots

Chocolate bars (100g are ideal)

Deodorant

Tinned potatoes

Tinned fruit

Long life fruit juice (1litre box)

Individual toothbrushes

Currently we have good supplies of pasta, soup, beans, tomatoes and tea bags, thanks to your generosity. Thank you for your continuing support and stay safe!

www.aberdeenshirenorth.foodbank.org.uk

Who's Who at 'St Andrew's'

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CLERK TO THE BOARD JOYCE LAWSON	(01467 620903)
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WFO TREASURER ALASTAIR SMITH	(01467 623148)
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MONTHLY COLLECTION CONVENERS	(01467 622275 &
VERA BINNIE & DIANE STUART	(01467 620931)
FABRIC CONVENER (INTERIM) TOM CRAGGS	(01358 723055)
ROLL KEEPER TOM CRAGGS	(01358 723055)
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"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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SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR ALISON YOUNG	(01467 625646)
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JANUARY 2021 SALTIRE ... Will be available for distribution from Sunday, 10th January 2021. Please email material for the January Saltire to The Church Office by 31st December 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.