



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

THE

JANUARY 2021

HAPPY NEW YEAR

*Heaven's gift of another year
As the old departs and the new is born,
Plans for a future and a hope
Preparing us for each new dawn.
Yesterday has gone forever,
New days and ventures lie ahead,
Even darkness turns to light
When we make the Lord our head.
Yielding to the Holy Spirit
Ever mindful that He's there,
As we live our lives before Him
Rejoicing in His loving care.*

By Megan Carter

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**

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Our Minister's Letter

Dear Friends

At midnight on Thursday 31st December 2020 did anything really change?

Well, Thursday became Friday, December 31st became January 1st and 2020 became 2021; but these are all just labels. The Earth continued to spin, babies were born, people lived their lives and people continued to die. So

what was the point of the special TV shows, the fireworks and the, albeit somewhat COVID-muted celebrations? What is the point of all the New Year's Resolutions, most of which will not reach February?

Now, before you think of me as a grouch, or a killjoy, let me explain:

Think, if you can, of the moment you became a Christian. Not just when you first went to church but when you really decided to give yourself to Jesus, to really try to follow Him. Did anything change?

I don't know what your experience was but I can remember my own experience vividly. I had been attending an Alpha Course, had started going to church and gradually felt a need to dedicate myself to God. Alone in a room I prayed, not something I was used to, and asked Jesus to forgive me my sins and come into my life. Instantly I felt ...

... absolutely nothing!!!! No miracles, no angelic choirs, nothing! 'Did I do it right?', I wondered, but I knew there was no 'right way' to pray. So I just accepted what I had done. About 3 days later, I was walking along the street to post a letter and was suddenly awash with a sense of absolute joy!

Now, I'm sure that sceptics would scoff that this was just some psychological need being met from deep within my subconscious – and nothing I say will ever convince them otherwise. But I do know that, ever since that day, I have become more and more certain that I did do that first prayer 'properly' – because it was straight from my heart – I am more and more sure that my Lord, Jesus is walking beside me and I am more and more determined to do my best to work for Him all the rest of my days.

Is New Year's Day special? Well that's for us each to decide for ourselves. For me, while it may mark a new start in the calendar, it's little more than that. Especially when I compare it to my 'New Life Day' - the day I gave myself back to God.

Many blessings, Carl

Heavenly Father,

As we begin a new year in the calendar, we ask Your blessing in our walk with You.

Help us leave past hurts where they belong, in the past. Help us to look for the good in everyone we meet, especially those we don't like. Help us to stop and assist when we see someone in difficulty, and not carry on as if we had seen nothing.

Help us to live anew the Faith we professed when we joined Your Church; rejecting sin, confessing our need for Your forgiving grace, believing Your Word, pledging ourselves to glorify You, and loving our neighbours.

Help us to faithfully keep the promises we made when we joined Your Church: to be faithful in reading the Bible and in prayer, to give a fitting proportion of our time, talents and money for the Church's work in the world, and to profess publicly our loyalty to Jesus Christ, serving Him in our daily work, and walking in His ways all the days of our lives.

Help us, Father, to bear the name of Christ for His honour and Glory, for it is through Him that we pray,

Amen



News from the combined Congregational Board/Kirk Session

Meeting held on Wednesday, 9th December 2020 at 7.00 pm, via a Zoom Video Conference:

Key Points:

- We still urgently require to appoint a new Treasurer. We are also looking for a Fabric Convenor. Anyone interested in either of these two very important roles is asked to contact the church office for more details.
- All records should be returned to the church office by 11 February 2021 to ensure they are ready for presentation to Presbytery at their March meeting.
- It was agreed that the church building could be used for funerals provided that we comply with all Government law and guidelines.

The office is currently closed, Linsey the Office Administrator is working from home and can be contacted by telephone (01467 628740) during the normal office hours - Monday to Friday from 09:30 to 11:30 am.

Ken Tuach
Session Clerk

PROPERTY AND FINANCE

As we enter 2021 under yet another lockdown, it's worth a few minutes to reflect on the performance of 2020 under trying circumstances.

During 2020 we have a restored, strong and very experienced Property Team who have set to work and created a 10 year forecast of work which will be progressively required in our Church Buildings (Main Building, New Hall, Manse, Car Park). In addition, a number of overdue projects have been completed including refurbishment of the New Hall toilets, Old Hall arched window repairs (kindly donated by Eric Massie and Duncan Naysmith), Main Church emergency lighting replacement and ongoing repairs to the Manse.

Financially 2020 was a "nightmare" with loss of significant income from Hall Users and of course our very popular social events. In all we have used up nearly £38,000 of our funds in 2020 to maintain our Church obligations (including Ministry & Mission, Insurance, Utility costs) as well as meet our property repair/maintenance obligations.

The generosity of our members through their regular Givings and many anonymous donations has been very welcome indeed and to you all our gratitude for thinking of us as we pursue our faith, fellowship and stewardship.

In addition, we have been very fortunate in some private creative fundraising efforts (Molly Conn and Mo Vernal in particular) who have donated all of the proceeds from their endeavours to St. Andrew's Parish Church. Well done to everyone who supported them. As a result, we have been able to refurbish our much loved Old Chapel.



We have also gratefully received a donation from Eileen Law to have new hand rails fitted to the Main Church Chancel steps in memory of her parents, Rev Inglis and Grace Black.



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Whilst congregational singing is still not permitted in Church, we are allowed to have solo singing. Another kind donation has allowed the Property Team to have a suitable mobile screen installed in the Main Church Chancel.

2021 preliminary budget forecast was presented to the Board/Session in December. To meet our ongoing obligations including carrying out much needed repairs and maintenance on the Church Buildings (driven by legislation and safety) we are forecasting a deficit of some £11,000 on the assumption that the sorts of restrictions, in all its permutations, continues

to afflict us throughout the year despite the brighter news of vaccines becoming available. The economic circumstances have and will continue to place enormous pressure on our members, families and the wider community.

Could we all make a difference? Potentially, yes we could so some food for thought. We currently have 900 members of St. Andrew's Parish Church. If we all gave £1 per month additional Givings we would raise around £11,000 which would cover the projected deficit. At the other end of the spectrum, if we all gave an additional £1 per week that would raise in the order of £46,000. There isn't a "right answer", we can only request our members to give as their faith and financial circumstances guide them.

From the Property and Finance Teams we wish you a safe and healthy 2021 and look forward to the day we can return some level of normality.

Tom Craggs J



Christian Aid Local Christmas Card Delivery

To all who supported the Adapted Christian Aid Christmas card delivery service this year. To the posties who took on additional rounds to cover for the vulnerable, to the public who showed their support by utilising the service, to the sorters who adapted to the socially distance sort. **Your combined efforts have raised over £1335.00. Many thanks on behalf of Christian Aid Inverurie.**

Alison Young

Ministry of Flowers



Flower Calendar 2021

Dear Members, Unfortunately we are still not able to have fresh flowers in church because of Covid but we will start again as soon as possible.

Eileen Robertson, Your Flower Convener

Anon Donation : £35.00 (thank you)

The opening of the Inverurie Community Campus to Inverurie Academy students

Tuesday 27th October 2020 marked a significant milestone in the life of Inverurie Academy as we moved from our existing building to the new Inverurie Community Campus.



COVID-19-Compliant Event

The previous day, we had held a COVID-19 compliant event to mark the occasion by inviting a representative group of students from Inverurie Academy, St. Andrew's School and a few members of the local press to watch a piped procession into the Campus building.

Nostalgia

It is only right to acknowledge the mixed feelings held by many of the staff and former students as we made this move. On the one hand, we are moving into a purpose-built facility with top-end resources, but on the other we leave a building soaked in history and heritage. Staff were able to raise a COVID-19 compliant glass to our old building with all the memories it carries. We are looking to take aspects of our history and heritage to the new Campus. One of these is the naming of the main Campus Conference Room as the Dr. Dixon Conference Room – pictures to follow!



Partnership

One of the most exciting parts of moving to the Inverurie Community Campus is the opportunity this brings to share our learning and working with others. We become Campus users alongside St. Andrew's School (who had their first full day on Monday 23rd November), Live Life Aberdeenshire, Community Learning & Development, NHS staff and then a huge range of community groups who we hope to welcome as COVID-19 becomes a thing of the past.



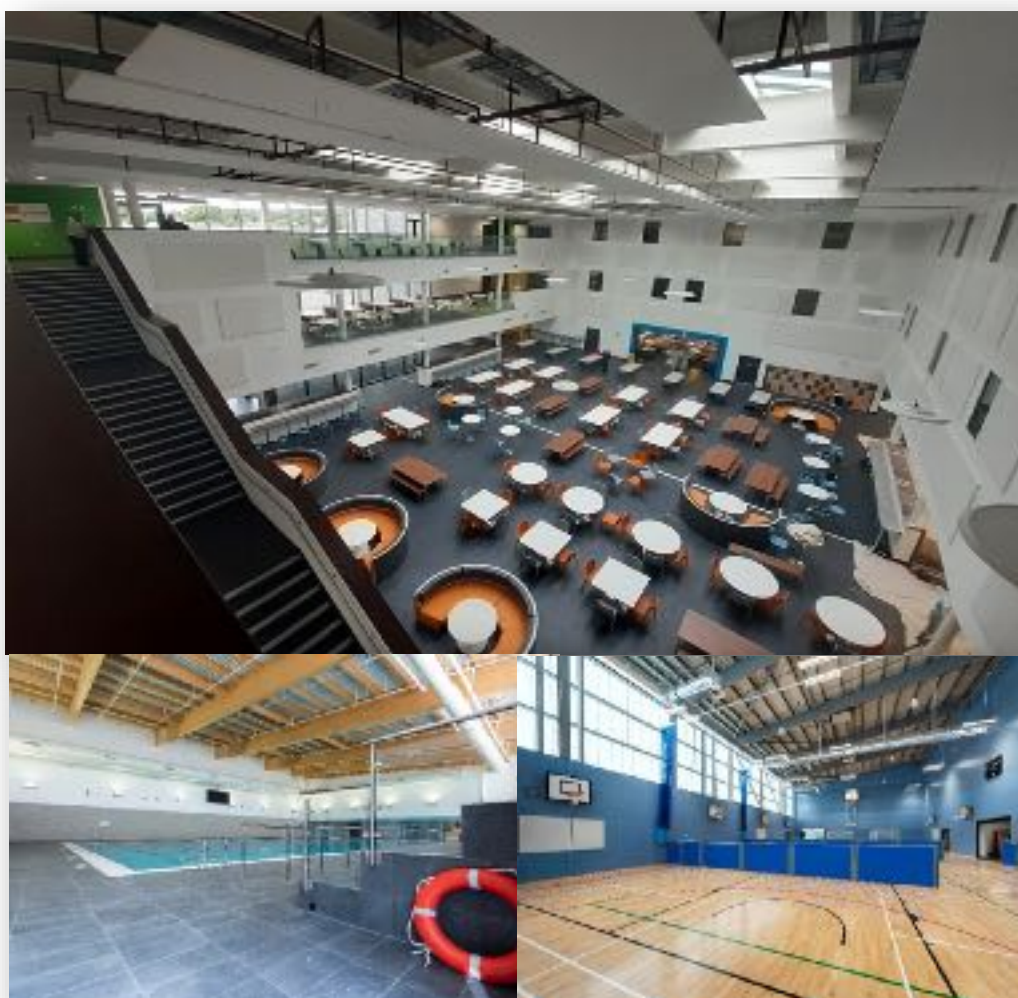
Facilities

I imagine every Campus user, whether visitor, student or employee, will have their own favourite part of the Campus. I am always drawn to the large spaces; the atrium, the auditorium, the swimming pool or the four-court games hall.

Some of these spaces really take your breath away.

This is a fantastic facility for us at Inverurie Academy, for our Campus partners, and for the local community and I look forward to meeting you here soon!

Mr M Jones, Head Teacher



Sunday Services & Readings

JANUARY 2021

10th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister: Rev C Irvine Reader: Rosie Milne
17th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister: Rev C Irvine Reader: Robin Young
24th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister: Rev C Irvine Reader: Alastair Smith
31st	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister: Rev C Irvine Reader: Ralph Green

FEBRUARY

7th	10.00 am Parish Worship "Time Out"	Minister: Rev C Irvine Reader: Robin Young
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Congregational Roll

ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH CHANGES IN ROLL 27th November - 31st December 2020

Recently Deceased

Miss E M D Grant (Betty), 3 Bennachie Avenue	2/12/2020
Mrs S Johnstone, Garioch Care Home	8/12/2020
Mr W Urquhart (Allan), 13 Westfield Road	12/12/2020

Service conducted by

Rev C Irvine
Rev I Telfer
E Massies, Funeral Directors



We volunteers at the Food Bank are continually humbled by the strength of ongoing support we receive from the communities in our area. In this festive season when the focus is on good will and giving, we feel richly blessed that we experience these all the year round and we cannot thank you enough for all that you do to support the work of Aberdeenshire North Food Bank for all twelve months of the year, not just through the commercial hype. We are very grateful for ALL food donations that are made here but this month we are particularly short

of the following items:

Tinned fruit

Tins of meat (steak/mince)

Jam/marmalade

Tinned fish

Tins of beans & sausages/ravioli

Packets of pasta sauce

Currently we have good supplies of pasta, tomatoes, soup, beans and tea bags, thanks to your generosity. Thank you for supporting us, especially throughout this challenging year.

Marbeth Ritchie, Warehouse Co-Ordinator www.aberdeenshirenorth.foodbank.org.uk

Molly's Raffle ... On Saturday, 19th December at 12 noon, Jim McColl drew the winning tickets for the 13 prizes in Molly's Raffle in the church car park. The 2 top prizes were magnificent hampers donated by Molly herself, followed by 2 more super hampers gifted by the Boys' Brigade. The other 9 lovely prizes were kindly given by members of St Andrew's congregation. The first two hampers were won by Mark Eddy and Murray Burr, and the BB hampers were won by Sheila Craggs and Alan Robertson. The remaining prizes were won by Rhona Mitchell, Eilidh Cruickshank, Robin Young, Hazel Ingram, Rachel McKay, Martin Robertson, Lorraine Forbes, Richard Ingram and Kevin Charles. Congratulations to our winners!



Sincere and heartfelt thanks are due to all those who have helped since Molly came up with her splendid idea of a fundraising raffle:- the wonderful people who sold and bought tickets in and around Inverurie and even further afield.

Linsey Stewart in the Office who counted and safeguarded the money.

Jim McColl for graciously giving up his precious time to draw our raffle.

Pete Milne for setting up the tables and the sound system for the Draw.

Rosie Milne and Mo Vernal for their most appreciated help at the Draw.

Robin & Alison Young, Pat Wink, Alastair Smith and Tom Craggs for delivering the prizes to the lucky winners on Sunday 20th December.

Thanks to everyone who contributed, the AMAZING sum of £2,600.00 was raised! WOW! As has been mentioned elsewhere in the magazine, the money has been used to completely refresh and restore our Old Chapel to its former beauty.

A final comment --- at the beginning of the Draw on the 19th, it was a bit damp and miserable, but towards the end as Jim was picking out the last ticket, a magnificent rainbow arched over St Andrew's Church. Maybe it was just a coincidence but for those of us present (less than half a dozen under Covid rules) we took it as a sign of hope in these dark and uncertain times.

With many, many thanks to you all.

Kit



A huge thanks to all who purchased 'Pinnies' and the Christmas packs. A total of **£519.00 was raised** for church funds.

Mo Vernal

St Andrew's Parish Church

Volunteer Rota 2021

		Door	Register	Steward	Steward	Steward
Jan	3	<i>R Young</i>	V Binnie	A Smith	S Davidson	A Young
	10	<i>R Milne</i>	M Conn	J Bruce	S Hepburn	I Fraser
	17	C Clark	Y Clark	<i>R Young</i>	H Christie	K Pawson
	24	<i>A Smith</i>	D Stuart	A Young	M Vernal	P Wink
	31	<i>R Green</i>	J Green	J Ingram	J Lawson	V Binnie
Feb	7	<i>R Young</i>	S Davidson	M Keith	M Conn	J Bruce

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.

New COVID Regulations ...

As of 27th December we are in Level 4, the most stringent of levels, of lockdown. This means that we have to reduce the numbers we can allow in the church on a Sunday to 20 in total. **There will only be 13 bookable spaces with 2 Stewards, the Beadle, Minister, Sound and Vision and the Organist.** To make this easier on us we will have **2 services (10 am and 11.30 am) which can be booked.** Unfortunately we must enforce the maximum capacity numbers so if you cannot get a space, or forget to book a space, please do not come as, sadly we would have to turn you away. Instead you are most welcome to watch on-line. **Please telephone the office if you require a space.**

We will use the left hand side (Lectern Side) for the 10 am service and the right hand side (Pulpit side) for the 11.30 to avoid cross contamination issues. Please follow the Stewards' guidance on this. Finally the Church of Scotland has asked us to reiterate that the Church has been allowed to have in-person worship when other venues are closed, because we have been trusted by the Scottish Government to have good procedures in place to which we adhere. If we do not follow these our ability to meet will be removed

Thanks for your time

Robin Young



Hello from Inverurie Boys' Brigade.

We hope this update finds you all safe and well in the run up to Christmas.

We have been really busy since our last newsletter with Anchor Boys having an evening about discussing their pets. Junior Section embarked on discussion about anti-bullying and the correct way to identify it. Anchor Boys and Junior Section participated in North Scottish District BB Christmas Card Colouring Competition and we are immensely proud to have two boys who won medals for their efforts. Callum Nicholl and Cameron Lorimer came 7th & 8th for Primary Three participants. Well done to both boys! Junior Section discussed St Andrew's Day and combined it with Scottish Theme Games. We are incredibly grateful for the opportunity to conduct our Dedication Service in the Church on 30th November where we also managed to present the major awards from last session. We wish to thank the Minister, Church officers, and Live Streaming crew for allowing us to broadcast to our parents. This year we had one very hard-working senior boy presented with his Queen's Badge which is the highest award achievable. It was presented to Calum

Leitch, well done Calum! As you are all aware, we have been conducting our major fundraising for the year and would like to thank all Parents, Church members of both St Andrew's and West Church for their fantastic support for this event. We completed the raffle on Monday 14th and all prizes are in the process of being delivered to the winners. It was a fantastic effort by all. We held the Christmas party for Juniors and Anchors on the same evening and have been delighted by the response from parents who all said their sons really enjoyed the evening. As you can imagine with the restrictions, this year was vastly different, but the boys really enjoyed it. We are being given regular news bulletins on any updates in changes from Headquarters and, so far, nothing major has been suggested so, unless we hear to the contrary, we intend carrying out our Face-to-Face meeting which will resume on 11th January. During the past couple of weeks we have had two absentees due to track and trace isolation, but we are pleased to report that no boys have been affected.

***In closing, we wish you a very Happy
New Year and hope 2021 will be a
better one for us all.***

BB Team

Time Out ...

On Sunday 6th. December we had our last Time Out of this strange year. What was great though, was that we joined the congregation in church at the start of our session. The children sat on the floor in front of the beautiful Christmas tree and Nativity while Carl retold the story of what happened on Christmas Day more than 2000 years ago. We then went through to the chapel where the children had their own snack and they made sparkly stars and decorated doves. This day would normally have been our party but we did manage a few games. We had 'throw the parcel', 'musical bumps' and 'corners'. Thanks to Joyce who gave us all her delicious toffee and to Hilda and Pat who also gave the children wee treats to take home. **Our next Time Out will be on Sunday 7th. February 2021.**

Mo Vernal, Time Out Team

Who's Who at 'St Andrew's'

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VERA BINNIE & DIANE STUART	(01467 620931)
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SOCIAL COMMITTEE CONVENER MOLLY CONN	(01467 620612)
FLOWER CONVENER EILEEN ROBERTSON	(01467 625895)
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FEBRUARY 2021 SALTIRE ... Will be available for distribution from Sunday, 31st January 2021. Please email material for the February Saltire to The Church Office by 20th January 2021.

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.