



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

THE

FEBRUARY 2021

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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

As you may know, big changes are afoot in how the Church of Scotland is organised. The General Assembly of 2019 decided that the number of presbyteries in Scotland will be reduced from over 40 to about 12. Gordon Presbytery will join with the Presbyteries of Aberdeen and Shetland, Buchan, Kincardine and Deeside, Orkney and the eastern half of Moray. In preparation, Gordon Presbytery is formulating a new 'Presbytery Plan'.

The Church of Scotland has always been committed to providing 'the ordinances of religion' in every parish in the country, usually a local church with a dedicated, professional minister. Changes in society (declining and ageing church membership, fewer candidates for ministry, and the retiral of many existing ministers) have made this harder to achieve.

Currently, the Presbytery of Gordon has 25 charges covering 28 congregations, there are 21 full time equivalent ministers of word and sacrament (FTEMWS) in post. In 2018 Gordon Presbytery was told to expect to have 14.9 FTEMWS by 2023. To cope with these changes, each congregation in the presbytery has been put into a parish grouping, based on a combination of geography and history of working together. We have been grouped with Inverurie West Church. Over the next 1-2 years, each parish grouping is expected to develop a covenant agreement detailing how they will work in partnership on the five marks of mission:

The mission of the Church is the mission of Christ:

1. To proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom.
2. To teach, baptise and nurture new believers.
3. To respond to human need by loving service.
4. To transform unjust structures of society, to challenge violence of every kind and pursue peace and reconciliation.
5. To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth.

To meet the reduction in minister numbers, each parish grouping must agree procedures to follow if a vacancy should arise in the next five years. Our parish grouping will be entitled to just one FTEMWS should either Rhona or myself move on (I'm not planning to!). In addition, over the next 10 years, our parish grouping will be expected to reduce the number of buildings, from four (two churches and two halls) to three.

These are challenging times. At national level, work is ongoing to change church law and develop new tools to help churches work together in different ways. In Gordon, all congregations and groupings are facing difficult decisions; success depends on changing how ministers, Kirk sessions and congregations work together for the benefit of all.

If you have any thoughts or comments about these proposals, please contact any elder, or myself, before the Kirk session meeting on Wednesday 10 February. The draft Presbytery plan will be discussed at that meeting and representatives will be selected to join a small team with the West Church to begin working on our covenant agreement. Presbytery will next meet on 2 March to receive feedback and vote on the plan.

**Blessings,
Carl**

Prayer

“For you know the plans I have for you’, declares the Lord, ‘plans to prosper you and not to harm you. Plans to give you hope and a future.’” (Jeremiah 29:11)



Heavenly Father,

As we embark on a period of change, we pray for Your Church in Scotland. We pray for the Trustees and central committees, that You guide them in their work to ensure that the Church of Scotland, continues to minister to the people of Scotland, both faithfully and fruitfully, in Your name. We ask Your special guidance on all who are working towards the amending of church law, the developing of new tools to help churches work together, and the successful uniting of presbyteries.

Father, as we in the Presbytery of Gordon consider and debate the draft Presbytery plan, we pray that discussions will go smoothly and result in a plan that will enable us to progress Your mission. We pray for our elders, grant them a clear ongoing vision of Your plans for Inverurie, fill them with wisdom to understand Your vision and guide them to agreement on how to work towards it for the benefit of all.

In Jesus’ name.

Amen



“Eyes on Jesus: Daily Devotions for Lent & Easter” *(by Julie Riddle)*

The daily devotions offer devotions from Ash Wednesday (17 February, 2021) through Easter. Eyes on Jesus is based on the Gospel according to St Mark and examines how the various people around Jesus viewed Him. In most cases, people misunderstood who He was and what He was doing.

I have ordered 10 copies from Eden website at a cost of £2.97 each and can deliver to anyone who wishes to join in. The link below should take you to the description on the Eden website.

<https://www.eden.co.uk/christian-books/the-church/pastoral/eyes-on-jesus-daily-devotions-for-lent-and-easter/>

Carl

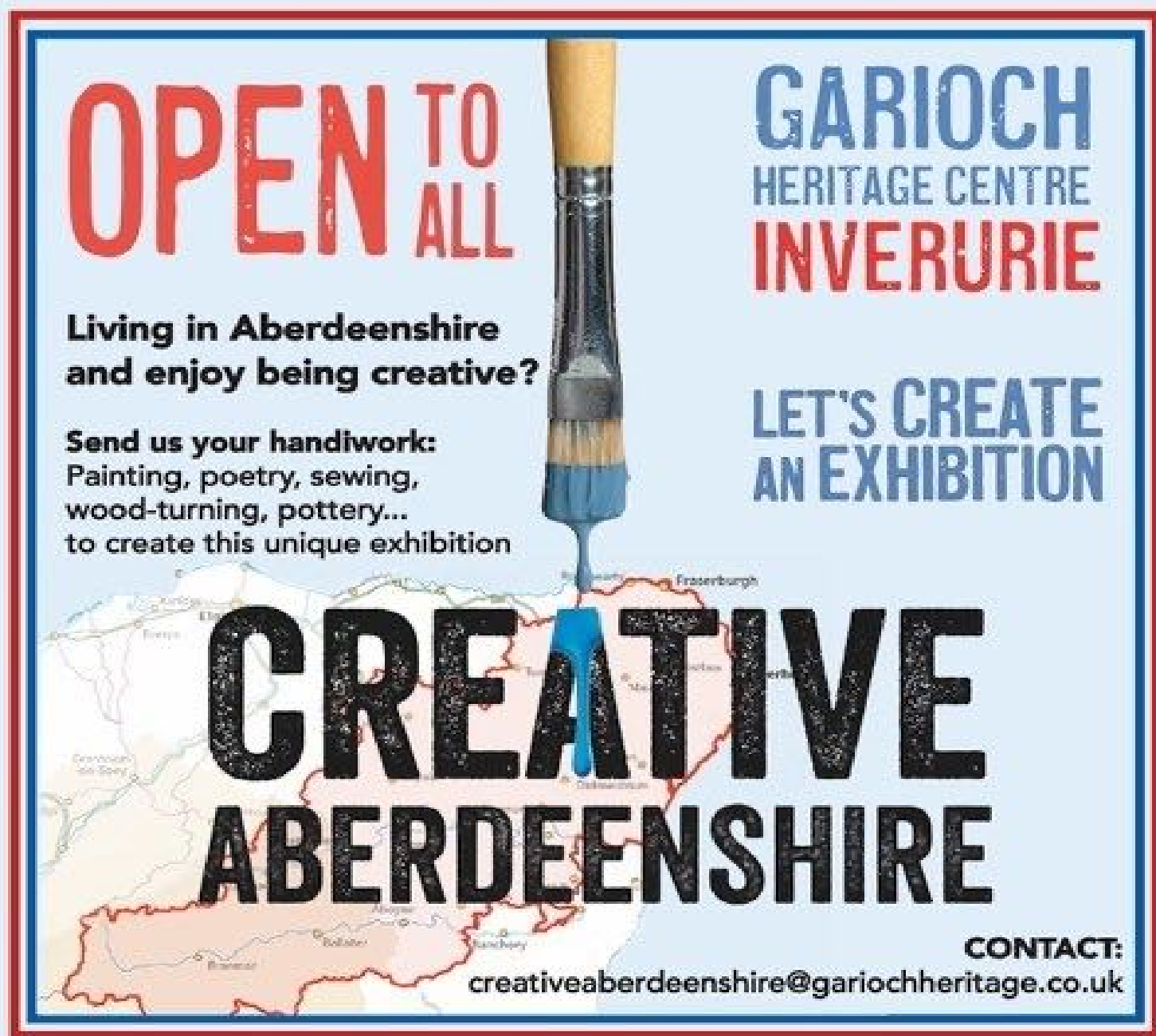
News from the combined Congregational Board/ Kirk Session Meeting held on Wednesday 13 January 2021 at 7.00 pm, via a Zoom Video Conference:

Key Points

- No volunteers have come forward for the Treasurer and Fabric Conventer roles. Adverts have been placed on St. Andrew's, Presbytery of Gordon and Inverurie Residents Facebook pages. Contact for more information is the Church Administrator.
- Further research will be carried out on costs for a phone-in option for members to join in the Board, Session meetings as an alternative to videoconferencing. Any Board, Session members who would be interested in using this facility should contact the Church Administrator.
- Church buildings remain closed in accordance with prevailing Government and Church of Scotland guidelines with a consequent continued severe impact on lettings income and social events income.
- The Draft 2020 Annual Report and Accounts were approved for further processing.
- The 2021 Budget was approved. Overarching message is that 2021 will be financially very difficult due to the COVID restrictions uncertainties.
- Presbytery Citation on Presbytery Plan review Group was read out and will be read out again on Sunday 17 January 2021 online worship.
- Due to the restrictions (stay at home) we are unable to hand deliver the Saltire magazine. It will continue to be produced monthly and made available online through the website. As soon as hand delivery is permitted, hand delivery (including back issues) will recommence.
- Ordination of our four new Elders is not permitted under the current restrictions and is thus deferred. They will nonetheless be invited to join in the Board, Session meetings.
- We are proposing to have a Lent online discussion group. If you wish to join in please let the Church Administrator know.

The office remains closed. The Church Administrator (Linsey) 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.

Tom Craggs, Treasurer/Joyce Lawson, Clerk to the Board



OPEN TO ALL

**GARIOCH HERITAGE CENTRE
INVERURIE**

**Living in Aberdeenshire
and enjoy being creative?**

Send us your handiwork:
Painting, poetry, sewing,
wood-turning, pottery...
to create this unique exhibition

**LET'S CREATE
AN EXHIBITION**

**CREATIVE
ABERDEENSHIRE**

CONTACT:
creativeaberdeenshire@gariochheritage.co.uk

Creative Aberdeenshire at Garioch Heritage Centre Guidelines.

Purpose

Creative Aberdeenshire is the opportunity for you to take part in an exhibition to be held later this year to showcase the talent of local people. This is not a competition but a way for folk who live in Aberdeenshire to create an exhibition for others to enjoy. There will be the chance to donate the items exhibited into a silent auction in order to raise funds for Aberdeenshire Charities.

Categories//...

Categories

- Items that could be created and exhibited include knitting, crochet, tapestry, cross stitch, embroidery, felting, paintings, drawings, stick / crook making, wood turning, basket making, poetry, prose (maximum A3 format.)
- We kindly ask for no photography.
- If the item is designed to be hung - e.g. the painting, drawing, embroidery or prose - it should be presented in such a way to make this possible - e.g. framed and or mounted.

Size

- We will try and accommodate all contributions but for the sake of space we would encourage art work to be no larger than A2 (approx. 420mm x 600mm).
- For non-hanging items, please can they be no larger than 300mm square (or if larger please discuss with Gillian - contact details below).

Exhibition

- We hope to receive a wide range of approx. 200 - 300 contributions.
- The Exhibition will be staged at the Garioch Heritage Centre, Inverurie, later in the year (subject to COVID rules at the time).
- Each piece will be displayed with information giving a brief “story” behind the contribution.

Charity

- Should a sufficient number of contributors be willing to donate their creation in order for it to then be auctioned for local charities, then we will be delighted to do an on line silent auction or similar. Whilst this is not the primary purpose of the exhibition it could be a lovely way to raise money for local charities.

Please feel no pressure to donate your artwork - the main purpose of this event is to encourage people to enjoy creating something and collectively forming an exhibition for all to enjoy.

Charities will be Aberdeenshire based and chosen nearer the time

Registering your interest or want to learn more...

To register your interest please email with brief details of your exhibit to **creativeaberdeenshire@gariochheritage.co.uk** .

Any other queries please contact Gillian at Garioch Heritage Centre via **creativeaberdeenshire@gariochhertiage.co.uk** or on 01467 621855 (Thursdays only)

Here is a piece of information which some of you may find interesting - I certainly did and not just because it involved my daughter in law, Barbara!



Barbara was born in Brussels and is Belgian by nationality. In 2006 she married our son Mark in London and they have 2 sons, Ben and Max, who always attend St Andrew's Church when they stay with Granny and Grandpa in Inverurie. Until recently, Belgium did not allow their citizens to hold 2 passports, but when this changed, Barbara decided to apply for a British passport - especially with Brexit coming into force. I naively thought the process would be a doddle. After all said and done, Barbara had been in the UK for 15 years, had gained a second degree from London University

and is a highly respected psychotherapist working with people who have difficult and challenging mental issues. As a result of being in full employment, she has paid her taxes for many years to the UK government.

How wrong I was!

First of all, Barbara had to apply and then sit a very stiff examination consisting of 24 random questions from an assortment of 470 pieces of information. She was delighted when she passed (pass rate is no less than 18) but then she had to take several documents (husband's passport, 5 years of paperwork to show tax returns, various qualifications, references etc) to a Government Office.

She is now waiting for final confirmation that she can apply for a British passport. And do not think this comes for free! The cost is at present heading towards £2,000.00!

My question to you is would you pass the exam to become a British citizen? See if you can answer the following and no swicking! (Answers are on page 8) **Good luck! PS: I have chosen a variety of the easier questions for you to answer!**

Question 1 of 24 (only 10 of 24 questions selected)

Which of the following statements is correct?

- [A] Women in Britain make up about a quarter of the workforce.
- B) Women in Britain make up about half of the workforce.

Question 2 of 24

Which of the following statements is correct?

- A) Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have parliaments or assemblies of their own.
- B) Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland do not have parliaments or assemblies of their own.

Question 3 of 24

Which UK city hosted the 2012 Paralympic Games?

- A) Belfast
- B) Cardiff
- C) Edinburgh
- D) London

Question 4 of 24

Which of the following statements is correct?

- A) Mary, Queen of Scots was unrelated to Queen Elizabeth I.
- B) Mary, Queen of Scots was a cousin of Queen Elizabeth I.

Question 5 of 24

Which of the following statements is correct?

- A) In 1776, 13 American colonies declared their independence from Britain.
- B) The American colonists were eventually defeated by the British.

Question 6 of 24

Which TWO of the following are famous British artists?

- A) David Hockney and Henry Moore
- B) David Hockney and Sir Edward Elgar
- C) Sir Edward Elgar and Henry Moore
- D) Sir Andy Murray and Sir Edward Elgar

Question 7 of 24

Is the statement below TRUE or FALSE? Hereditary peers have the automatic right to attend the House of Lords.

- A) TRUE
- B) FALSE

Question 8 of 24

Is the statement below TRUE or FALSE? Snowdonia is a national park in Northern Ireland.

- A) TRUE
- B) FALSE

Question 9 of 24

Which country did Germany invade in 1939 that led to the UK declaring war on Germany?

- A) Austria
- B) Finland
- C) Poland
- D) France

Question 10 of 24

Which TWO of the following were major welfare changes introduced from 1945 to 1950?

- A) The National Health Service (NHS) and a national system of benefits
- B) The State retirement pension and employment exchanges
- C) The National Health Service (NHS) and employment exchanges
- D) Employment exchanges and free school meals

Answers To Citizenship Test:

Q1—(B)	Q2—(A)	Q3—(D)	Q4—(B)	Q5—(A)
Q6—(A)	Q7—(B)	Q8—(B)	Q9—(C)	Q10—(A)

Letter from David & Rebecca Morton

22 January 2021

Dear All,

It has been a while since we have communicated with you. Rebecca and I are still living on Lookout Mountain, here in Georgia USA, caring for my aunt who will be 90 in March this year, and is ventilator dependent at home. David is working part-time at a local community mental health clinic serving a very poor and disadvantaged population. He also teaches part-time at Covenant College here on Lookout Mountain, as an adjunct professor in the Community Development department. In the 2020 Fall semester he taught Global Health, and this semester will be teaching Emerging Diseases and Global Epidemics.

Speaking of Global Epidemics, the Covid-19 situation in Malawi had been manageable up until the end of December, when it exploded. Prior to Christmas the country was seeing an average of 0-3 cases per day. On 20 January there were 1,000 cases just on that day. Two cabinet ministers have died of Covid over the past 2 weeks. The country is overwhelmed, without adequate equipment, medications, or oxygen. The anti-viral treatments and the vaccines available here in the USA or UK, are not available at all in Malawi. Nkhoma is facing great difficulty in affording and obtaining what is available. Just yesterday at my request they sent a preliminary budget of the needs, totaling \$40,500:

1. \$11,900 - 6 - month staffing - cost
 2. \$9,700 - drugs for patient care
 3. \$7,480 - transport to Lilongwe for very critical patients
 4. \$6,570 - Oxygen
 5. \$4,850 - for covid testing
- TOTAL - \$40,500**

We are reaching out to multiple sources for assistance. But it is not just the funding, the staff are stressed and overwhelmed. Even when funds are available, sourcing the supplies and oxygen is difficult as the demand is outstripping the supply, especially with oxygen (ventilators are not an option as there are probably less than 20, if that, country wide, and none at Nkhoma). So please pray not only that funding will be available, but that the hospital will be able to source through local suppliers what is needed, especially the oxygen. Please especially pray for Dr Catherine Hodge who is the one overall in-charge of the Covid care at Nkhoma, Paul Mekani the principal nursing officer responsible for the nursing staffing needed, and all the doctors, clinicians and nurses who care for patients, that they will not fear, not be overwhelmed and will be able to remain faithful to their calling to "serve with love and care" as the hospital motto states.

If you are interested, funds should be sent to the Columbus Foundation as listed below: Please write a check payable to "The Columbus Foundation" and on the memo line you must write "Friends of Nkhoma Hospital USA Fund". The check should be mailed to the following address:

The Columbus Foundation
Attn: Lisa Jolley
Director of Donor Services and Development
1234 East Broad Street
Columbus, Ohio 43205-1453

For those in Scotland, Lewis Presbytery is willing to receive funds for Nkhoma payable to "St Columba's Church", designated for Nkhoma Hospital and sent to the St Columba's Church, Lewis Street, Stornoway, UK, HS1 2JF, attention Joan Iverson, Missions Coordinator.

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Thank you all for your prayers and concerns for Nkhoma as it continues to be part of our Lord's healing ministry in the world. I attach a responsive prayer for health care workers that Rebecca and I used daily for Nkhoma and for those in this country and around the world who are caring for Covid patients.

David and Rebecca Morton
211 Pied Piper Trail
Lookout Mountain
Georgia 30750 USA
kuluva2@gmail.com

PRAYER OF INTERCESSION FOR HEALTH CARE WORKERS

Leader:

O God, who did not shrink from the chaos of our fallen world but willingly entered into it, we pray that you would be with those serving in the medical field now. As they enter into uncertain and potentially dangerous circumstances, may they carry your presence, your comfort, and your peace.

All:

Do not let them be overcome by fear, but increase their empathy, calm their distress, and lighten their burdens that they might skillfully and compassionately care for those to whom you send them.

Leader:

As they assess and act, let their hearts be guided by mercy, their minds by right judgement, and their hands by wisdom, that their presence and care in another person's moment of distress and need might bring comfort and healing.

All:

When strength or skill is not enough to aid or save, when loss or harm proves unavoidable, let them neither rage against you nor against their own limits. Let them instead find rest in your sovereignty and give comfort to others as they continue to serve those in need.

Leader:

Let them be bearers of your peace and healing, but let them also learn to rest their own hearts in you, that at the end of each shift they might return home not shaken, but fully present for those who need them.

All:

We join with the apostle Paul in affirming, "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God."

Adapted from Every Moment Holy, vol. 1 and 2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Congregational Roll

ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH CHANGES IN ROLL

1st—31st January 2021

Recently Deceased

Mrs N Sandison, Bennachie View Care Home 10/1/2021

Service conducted by

Rev. C Irvine

Apology—Correction to December Saltire

Should have been -

Mrs D Anderson, 6 Ritchie Row, PE now at Pitcairn Lodge Nursing Home, Kirkton of Skene

NOT Mrs D Ritchie



Christian Aid report surveys

climate breakdown

A new report by Christian Aid, *Counting the cost 2020: a year of climate breakdown*, has identified 15 of the most destructive climate disasters of the year.

Ten of those events cost \$1.5 billion or more, with nine of them causing damage worth at least \$5 billion. Most of these estimates are based only on insured losses, meaning the true financial costs are likely to be higher.

Among them is Storm Ciara which struck the UK, Ireland and other European countries in February costing, \$2.7 billion and killing 14. The UK's Environment Agency issued 251 flood warnings.

While the report focuses on financial costs, which are usually higher in richer countries because they have more valuable property, some extreme weather events in 2020 were devastating in poorer countries, even though the price tag was lower. South Sudan, for example, experienced one of its worst floods on record, which killed 138 people and destroyed the year's crops.

Some of the disasters hit fast, like Cyclone Amphan, which struck the Bay of Bengal in May and caused losses valued at \$13 billion in just a few days. Other events unfolded over months, like floods in China and India, which had an estimated cost of \$32 billion and \$10 billion respectively.

Six of the ten most costly events took place in Asia,

five of them associated with an unusually rainy monsoon. And in Africa, huge locust swarms ravaged crops and vegetation across several countries, causing damages estimated at \$8.5 billion. The outbreak has been linked to wet conditions brought about by unusual rains fuelled by climate change.

But the impact of extreme weather was felt all over the world. In Europe, two extra-tropical cyclones, Ciara and Alex, had a combined cost of almost \$6 billion. And the US suffered from both a record-breaking hurricane season and a record-breaking fire season adding up to more than \$60 billion in damages.

Some less populated places also suffered the consequences of a warming world. In Siberia, a heat wave during the first half of the year set a record in the city of Verkhoyansk, with temperatures reaching 38°C. A few months later, on the other side of the world, heat and drought drove the fires in Bolivia, Argentina, Paraguay and Brazil. While there were no human casualties reported from these events, the destruction of these areas has a great impact on biodiversity and the planet's capacity to respond to a warmer world.

Christian Aid says that: "These extreme events highlight the need for urgent climate action. The Paris Agreement, which set the goal of keeping temperature rise 'well below' 2°C, and ideally 1.5°C, compared to pre-industrial levels, has just turned five years old. It is critical that countries commit to bold new targets ahead of the next climate conference, which will take place in Glasgow, in November 2021."

Extracted from Parish Pump



We are grateful, as always, for the support which we receive from your members, whether in terms of donations of food items or money, both equally important to our work. In Inverurie in 2019, we provided food for 622 households, comprising 859 adults and 645 children, a total of 1504 individuals fed. The comparative figures for 2020 show that we provided food for 825 households, made up of 1129 adults and 644 children, giving a total of 1773 people fed. This is an increase in usage of 17% over the previous year. Sadly, I don't think this trend is going to reverse any time soon. Although our focus is on feeding people, we are always grateful for donations of food for cats and dogs, because we often find that people who are in food poverty will feed a much loved pet first before they feed themselves. We require the following items this month:

Tinned custard

Tinned fish (any varieties)

Jam/Marmalade

Tinned rice pudding

Sponge puddings

Shampoo

Loo Rolls

With best wishes,

Marbeth Ritchie, Warehouse co-ordinator, Aberdeenshire North Food Bank

Who's Who at 'St Andrew's'

Church Office
St Andrew's Parish
Church
High Street,
Inverurie AB51 3QJ

Phone:01467-628740

Email:

inveruriestandrews@

outlook.com

http://.standrews

inverurie.co.uk



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".

MINISTER :

The REV CARL IRVINE	(01467 629163)
SESSION CLERK KEN TUACH	(01467 620896)
CLERK TO THE BOARD JOYCE LAWSON	(01467 620903)
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR LINSEY STEWART	(01467 628740)
CHURCH TREASURER - TOM CRAGGS	(01358 723055)
WFO TREASURER ALASTAIR SMITH	(01467 623148)
GIFT AID CONVENER ALLAN DUFF	(01467 621040)
MONTHLY COLLECTION CONVENERS	(01467 622275 &
VERA BINNIE & DIANE STUART	(01467 620931)
FABRIC CONVENER (INTERIM) TOM CRAGGS	(01358 723055)
ROLL KEEPER TOM CRAGGS	(01358 723055)
ORGANIST IAN MILNE	(01467 620606)
"TIME OUT" LEADER MO VERNAL	(01467 628778)
PRESBYTERY ELDER VERA BINNIE	(01467 622275)
SOCIAL COMMITTEE CONVENER MOLLY CONN	(01467 620612)
FLOWER CONVENER EILEEN ROBERTSON	(01467 625895)
TRANSPORT TO CHURCH CONTACT DIANE STUART	(01467 620931)
HALL CLEANER AGNIESZKA MYSZKOWSKA -	
SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR ALISON YOUNG	(01467 625646)
LETTINGS COMMITTEE - KIT PAWSON	(01467 628740)
SALTIRE EDITORS DIANE STUART	(01467 620931)
KIT PAWSON	(01467 372389)

MARCH 2021 SALTIRE ... Will be available for distribution from Sunday, 28th February 2021. Please email material for the March Saltire to The Church Office by 20th February 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.