



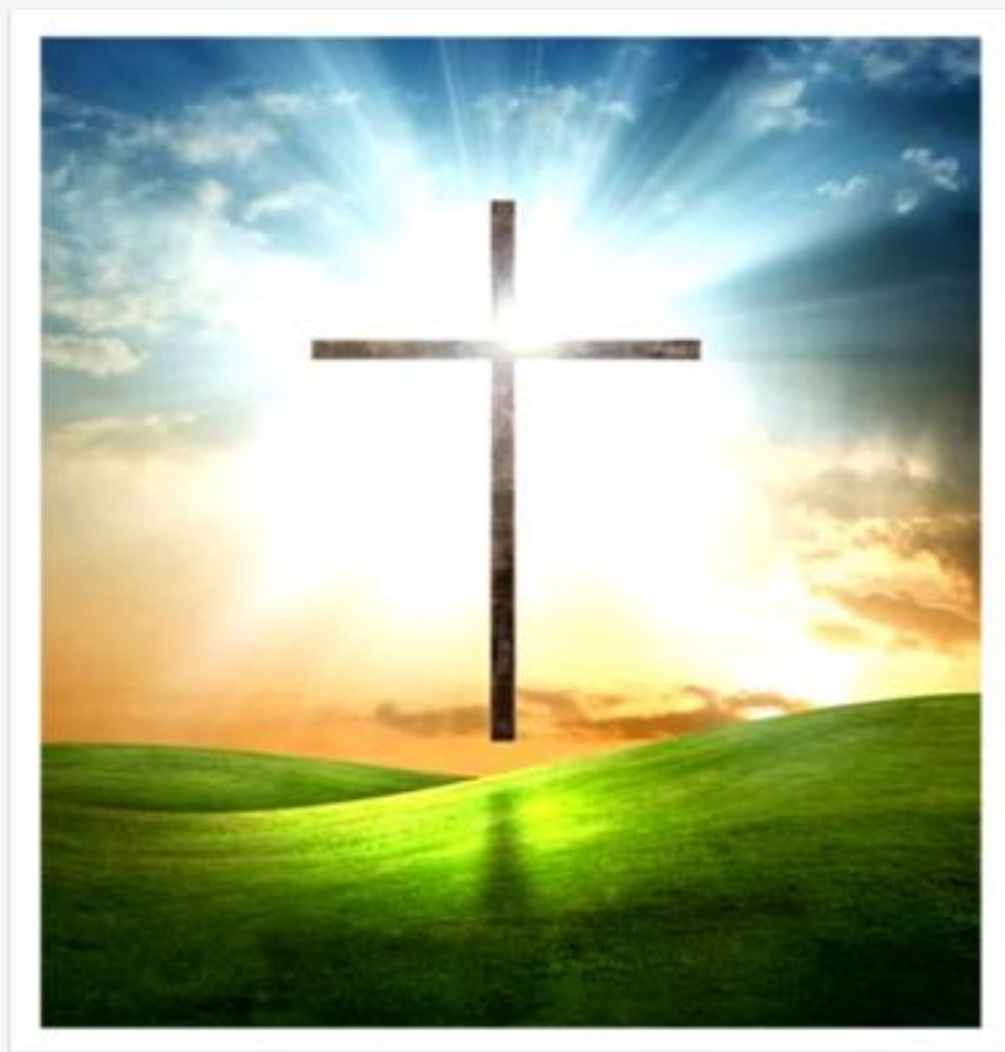
St Andrew's Parish Church

(Church of Scotland),
Inverurie

THE

APRIL 2021

**S
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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

I don't know about you, but I love this time of year. The daylight hours are noticeably lengthening, the birds are singing again, and the first signs of new life are appearing as snowdrops replace snow to whiten patches of ground while buds become distinctly visible on otherwise bare trees. The promise of spring is in the air and I begin to hope for a long hot summer (well, I can hope!).

For many, this year, there are a host of hopes: The hope that the vaccination programme will progress swiftly, and we can return to something like normality. The hope that we will be able to hug family who don't live with us. The hope that we can go into a shop without wearing a facemask. The hope that we can sing our hearts out in church and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a fine piece together in the hall after the service. Some of our hopes may be fulfilled soon, some may take a wee while longer, but all are held with the knowledge that they may come to pass.

For Jesus' friends, His bloodied body hanging on the cross, ended their hope. Their Rabbi, their friend, the One they believed was the Messiah was dead. Death was the end, or so they thought. They had not understood when Jesus told them this would happen, they had not wanted to accept it. As the sun went down they retreated behind locked doors, fearfully facing an uncertain future among the ruins of their dreams. Hope, for them, was gone.

But, of course, Jesus' death was not the end. The tomb, a lifeless place of death was to witness the resurrection, because Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and death could not hold Him. He rose and appeared to a select few on that first Easter Day. Despair turned to wonder, and wonder turned to joy! Jesus was alive! All He said was true. There was real hope for the world, God's great plan to provide a way for us to return to Him was complete. Death is not the end! Hope is real!

Every year we see the promise of the resurrection in each snowdrop emerging from the winter ground and in each bud appearing on a dead-looking tree. We hear the promise of the resurrection in the birdsong announcing each spring morning.

On Easter morning, when we remember that the resurrection of our Lord is a time when hope is fully realised, but the great joy only came after the despair of the Cross. As we went into the second lockdown, closed our church building and resumed online worship we could have been forgiven for thinking 'are we ever going to get back to normal?' We may even have felt ourselves sliding into despair. But, as I write this, the light of hope has sparked again: the vaccine programme is progressing, we can realistically look forward to Easter worship in the church building and, perhaps, we may soon be living comparatively normal lives again.

That's the thing about hope, it springs out of the darkness of despair, often when we least expect it, or have even given up! As the disciples hid away on the evening of the crucifixion, and all of the next day, their hope was extinguished. Then, the Light of the World rose!

Blessings,

Carl

Prayer

Loving God,

As we look around at the spring-time changes of nature, we are reminded of the constant renewal of Your creation. New shoots rising from the earth and growing up towards the light of the sun. Buds opening on trees transforming bare branches into havens for an abundance of life. Lambs gambolling in the fields revelling in the joy of their young lives. In all this transformative wonder, we see Your mighty hand and we are transported back, in our minds, to a lonely tomb, long ago and far away. Back to an event that brought renewal a new meaning: renewing our relationship with You, our Creator.



Jesus, thank You for coming to us. Thank You for teaching us. Thank You for the many wonders You performed. Thank You for taking our sin upon You and leaving it nailed to the Cross. Thank You for bridging the chasm that had grown between humankind and our Creator.

Thank You, Lord Jesus.

Amen

News from the combined Congregational Board/Kirk Session Meeting held on Wednesday, 10 March 2021 at 7.00 pm, via a Zoom Video Conference

Key Points

- Treasurer Strategy-first St. Andrew's meeting held to discuss practical options. West Kirk to contact Tom Craggs to discuss possible ways of working together.
- Property Convener Vacancy-Property Team to consider having a rolling rota of spokes-person for the Board, Session meetings.
- Aberdeenshire Council have proposed use of the Old Hall for 6 May 2021 Elections.
- First Minister's further announcements due on 23 March 2021 which may permit re-opening for Worship for 28 March 2021. On the assumption of a positive announcement, it is expected that we will still be limited to a maximum of 50 attendees (37 congregation).

Proposals for Holy Week are under discussion with West Kirk. Potentially a daily broadcast Monday to Thursday, Friday 7:30 pm live stream from St. Andrew's and possibly on Sunday, a Zoom Worship breakfast. Possibilities for a Bass Service are also being considered..

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

Gordon Presbytery Plan

At the March meeting of Gordon Presbytery, it was unanimously agreed to approve a new Presbytery Plan. The plan details the expected changes to the deployment of ministries over the next 5 years, and the management of buildings over the next 10 years. It has been drawn up in response to the instruction to all presbyteries, from successive General Assemblies, to engage in robust planning; focussing on the five marks of mission, which are:

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

A key feature of the Gordon Presbytery plan is the establishment of 'Parish Groupings', each containing two or more congregations. Grouping will have two years to develop a 'Covenant Agreement', related to the five marks of mission. These agreements will explain how the congregations will work together and how they will develop their ministry team; with parish ministers, Kirk Sessions and congregations operating more collaboratively across the grouping. By working together more closely, groupings will be better able to cope with the expected drop in minister numbers predicted nationally. The Presbytery's Mission and Discipleship Committee have been instructed to provide training to lay individuals and groups to enable them to conduct worship should a minister be unavailable. It may, later, be appropriate for this training to be expanded to include pastoral care training.

Covenant Agreements will also plan for a reduction in the number of ministers and buildings in the grouping. Over the course of next 5 years, it is expected that each Parish Grouping will see a reduction in the number of ministers, occurring through retirement and ministers choosing to move elsewhere, and a reduction in the number of buildings, keeping only those most beneficial to the mission of the church.

St. Andrew's is in a two-congregation parish grouping with Inverurie West Church, with whom we already have a good working relationship. A working group has already been formed to begin formulating the Covenant Agreement. Although neither minister in this grouping has plans to do so, should either move on, they would not be replaced. In this event, the presbytery would look to appoint an Ordained Local Minister to the ministry team of the grouping. Over the next ten years, the grouping will need to identify one of the four buildings (two churches and two halls) to close.

We are living in a time of much change. Perhaps decisions at this year's General Assembly will require us to amend our new plan, that is simply a fact of life but, without doubt, having a robust plan in place for Gordon Presbytery is essential for coping with whatever the future may hold, including our smooth transition to the much larger presbytery that will include Aberdeen and Shetland, Buchan, Kincardine and Deeside, Orkney and the eastern half of Moray.

If you would like more information, the plan is available on the Gordon Presbytery website.

Carl

A DAY (WEEK) IN THE LIVES OF OUR PROPERTY AND-FINANCE TEAMS AND THE CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Even though our buildings are closed we still have two very significant things to take care of, our money and our buildings. There is also a pressing need to keep our congregation informed as best we can even though we can't meet or deliver our much-loved Saltire magazine.

Every morning starts at 06:30 with a surf through Church of Scotland website for any updates on COVID-19 advice, are we still complying, has it changed, what do we need to do? Delighted to say St. Andrew's is ahead of the game and keep in regular contact with the General Trustees and the COVID-19 team just to "make sure".

At 07:00 Church of Scotland publish its daily prayer to Facebook, share with St. Andrew's, Methlick, Inch Parish Churches and Presbytery of Gordon. If you are internet connected then why not have a look and have an uplifting start to your day; [St. Andrew's Parish Church Inverurie | Facebook](#); [Presbytery of Gordon | Facebook](#)

If its Monday, a short visit to the Kirk Office to check on postal deliveries, moneys received and to be banked, update membership records for any changes, check how much money we have in the bank (is it enough to pay the bills and contributions to Church of Scotland). On Friday its banking, payroll, HMRC furlough claims, updating Givings and Finance which are fundamental financial control tools for HMRC Gift Aid tax claims and our regular and year end reporting.

Meanwhile, once a week we do the required property inspections to make sure everything is secure and safe. A missing slate, light bulbs to change all through the "can do" spirit of the property team. Occasionally (recent snow) inspections or user reports reveal serious deterioration (in this case the garage roof) which we can't ignore. Hands to the pumps to check cause and damage, organise temporary fixes and determine a longer-term solution. It will cost in the order of £2,700 of money we don't have but we can't ignore it.



More coffee, talks with Church of Scotland Grant Manager over several days to prepare submissions to various bodies for grant aid. Who can we try to extract grant money from, how much, chances of success (the big unknown)?

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Calls from other Treasurers seeking help and guidance in preparing their Annual Accounts. From a rocky history, St. Andrew's now has a very slick and quick process so by mid-February each year our Annual report and Accounts are complete signed off and submitted to Presbytery. Other Churches are "struggling" so from time to time we get a cry for help and give some hands-on guidance.

Blow me its Friday night (Fish Friday) and the last regular activities for the week to update four Church websites and Facebook pages ready for Sunday worship.

That the teams and Church Administrator manage to look after the "shop" and help others between working from home and socially distanced visits to the Church is a great credit to them all and a level of willingness and dedication we should all appreciate. It all goes on largely unseen.

On your collective behalf my thanks go out to the Teams and Church Administrator, well done for looking after us.

Tom J



Kiltwalk 2021 - 23-25 April

If your boots are made for walking, why not take part in the Kiltwalk?

You can take on any Kiltwalk-inspired challenge you wish. Go for a walk (of any length), cycle, jump on a trampoline or take the family on a scavenger hunt!

The Kiltwalk is happening virtually all across Scotland from 23-25 April.
Get moving for Christian Aid and The Hunter Foundation will increase your sponsorship by 50%!

[Sign up today](#) and don't forget to name Christian Aid as your chosen charity.

[Find out more and sign up today](#)

<https://www.christianaid.org.uk/events/virtual-kiltwalk-weekend>

Charlie Meiklejohn Church Engagement Officer

 [caid.org.uk](https://www.christianaid.org.uk) | 0141 221 7475 | cmeiklejohn@christian-aid.org



Nkhoma Mission Hospital

Serving with love and care

Dear Friends,

Following last night's Presbytery meeting, Willie Paterson, the Presbytery Treasurer has given me an update on the donations for our Lent Appeal for Nkhoma Hospital.

Bank Account £3,352
 Cheques & Cash £1,565
 Just Giving £2,281
Total so far £7,198

This is a fantastic total, well above our initial target of £5000. I have been in touch with David Morton, and he writes:

"the response for Nkhoma has been amazing both within the country and from those in UK and the USA. The hospital has exceeded the \$40,500 goal with Gordon Presbytery's fund raising, so should be able to meet the ongoing needs going forward. The hospital now has enough funds for oxygen, PPE, additional staff coverage and transport of patients needing higher level care than Nkhoma can provide. There is hope that vaccination might become available for health staff sometime in March, and although the vaccine itself may be free, the costs for the logistics for administering it are still being determined."

So please don't think that any additional funds raised cannot be used in combatting the Pandemic at Nkhoma. David writes about the possibility of vaccinations for health staff at Nkhoma, but the vaccination of the general population does not seem to be on the horizon yet, and there are bound to be significant additional costs involved when that happens, even if the vaccines themselves will be free. I know that sometimes people have concerns that fundraising for projects in the global south may not reach their intended recipients. Let me reassure you that funds raised by Gordon Presbytery's Appeal will be transferred directly to Nkhoma via the Church of Scotland's World Mission Department, when the appeal finishes on 5th April. Let me encourage members of presbytery to donate to this appeal personally, if you have not yet done so. With many thanks to all who have supported the Appeal so far.

Best wishes

John Cook, Minister, Howe Trinity Parish Church

Cheques payable to "Presbytery of Gordon" (with "Nkhoma Appeal" written on the **back**) can be posted to: Mr W Paterson, Presbytery Treasurer, Ceardach, Whiteford Road, Pitcaple, Inverurie, AB51 5EB

Online donations can be paid to:

Presbytery of Gordon Sort Code: 83-28-40
 Acc. No: 00237527

JustGiving.

Go to the Just Giving website and search for "Nkhoma" or simply photo the QR code on the right.



St Andrew's Parish Church

Volunteer Rota 2021

		Door	Register	Steward	Steward	Steward
Mar	28	<i>R Green</i>	J Green	M Vernal	P Wink	J Ingram

Apr	4	<i>A Smith</i>	D Stuart	V Binnie	S Davidson	M Conn
	11	<i>R Milne</i>	J Bruce	A Young	S Hepburn	I Fraser
	18	<i>R Young</i>	K Pawson	H Christie	J Lawson	M Keith
	25	<i>R Green</i>	J Green	P Wink	S Davidson	V Binnie

May	2	<i>A Smith</i>	D Stuart	S Hepburn	A Young	M Conn
	9	C Clark	J Bruce	R Milne	Y Clark	I Fraser

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. (I have kept Beadles at Door where I can so they can pop away if needed)

Safety Guidelines IMPORTANT ... Good News! We will be returning to weekly worship in our church buildings as of **28th March 2021**—however we will greatly appreciate if you will follow the guidelines previously stated, ie There may be more than one service a day as, at the time of writing, we are restricted to a maximum of 50 persons in the building during a service. We have 46 seating positions we can use in the building including stewards and the minister which leaves **37 for the attending congregation. A BOOKING SYSTEM IS GOING TO BE USED AND IF THE FIRST SERVICE BECOMES FULL A SECOND AND, HOPEFULLY, THIRD SESSION WILL BE HELD. BOOKINGS CAN BE MADE THROUGH THE OFFICE. Unfortunately there will be no Taxi Service or Flower distribution until we are advised this is allowable. Similarly, there will be no teas and coffees after the service at this time.**

- Please do not come to Church if you have symptoms or if you or someone in your household is isolating.
- On arrival all worshippers will be asked to enter by the main doors on the High Street. If the weather is very inclement, we may change this so all will enter through the Chapel door from the carpark. **Please maintain the 2m separation if you need to queue.**
- On entry you will be greeted by a steward wearing a face covering and reminded **it is mandatory for you to wear a face covering while in the building and during the service. Please sanitize your hands on entry and please leave any offering in the receptacle at the door to the Church.**

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- Please provide your name and a contact number or email address to allow us to comply with the Test and Protect protocols. There will also be a smartphone app and QR Code which will be used alongside the paper record. This information must be kept for at least 21 days and will be destroyed between 21 and 28 days after collection
- You will be escorted, at a suitable distance, to the first available seating position, starting from the front of the Church and working to the back. As necessary the Chapel of Apollinaris will be used for additional seating.
- **Please remain in your allocated location. You may sit beside members of the same household but do not sit with others outwith your social bubble.**
- If you feel unwell or need to leave during the service, please attract the attention of one of the Stewards who will assist
- Hymn books will not be provided. You may bring your own and/or a bible if you wish but singing is not currently permitted, and these should not be shared outwith your household.
- **After the service, please wait until a Steward asks to you leave. You will be asked to leave from the back to the front and through the door you entered by.**
- Please do not congregate in groups in front or to the side of the Church
- **Use the sanitisation point on your exit to sanitise your hands**

Remember at all times the Governments advice – F.A.C.T.S.

FACE COVERINGS

AVOID CROWDED PLACES

CLEAN YOUR HANDS REGULARLY

TWO METRE DISTANCE

SELF-ISOLATE AND BOOK A TEST IF YOU HAVE SYMPTOMS

Robin Young

Congregational Roll

ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH CHANGES IN ROLL 21st February—23rd March 2021

Recently Deceased

Service conducted by

Mr E Hood, 81 Middlemuir Road	21.2.2021	Rev. C Irvine
Mrs H Rennie, Bennachie V. Care Home	22.2.2021	Rev. C Irvine
Mr G Park, 13 Golf Crescent	25.2.2021	Mrs G Douglas
Mrs S Rae, 10 Ladeside Gardens	10.3.2021	Rev. C Irvine
Miss M T Ritchie, Pitcairn Lodge N. Home	12.3.2021	Rev. C Irvine
Mr B Ross, 22 Upperboat Road	13.3.2021	Rev. C Irvine

Change of Address

Mr & Mrs N Trail (formerly 21 Kellands Avenue) now Hargla, Blackhall Road, Inverurie

Sunday Services & Readings



IDTC Holy Week Worship

The 'Walk of Witness', usually held on Good Friday, will not take place this year. However, on the St. Andrew's Church website and Facebook page you can find readings and meditations for each of the usually stopping points. Please feel free to download these and walk the route yourself. **Various churches in IDCT will be**

recording, or live-streaming, worship material at 7:30pm as follows:

Monday	:	Kintore Church
Tuesday	:	Daviot Church
Wednesday	:	St Mary's Episcapel Church
Thursday	:	Inverurie West Church
Friday	:	St. Andrew's Parish Church

***(Live streaming Good Friday service
from St. Andrew's)***

You will be able to access these directly from the websites of the churches involved. It is also hoped to put links onto the St. Andrew's website and Facebook page.

April

2nd	7.30 pm Evening Service	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
GOOD FRIDAY		Reader:	To be arranged

4th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
EASTER SUNDAY 9.45 am Time Out (Old Chapel)		Reader:	Alastair Smith

11th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
		Reader:	Rosie Milne

18th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
		Reader:	Robin Young

25th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
		Reader:	Ralph Green

MAY

2nd	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
		Reader:	Alastair Smith

9th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
		Reader:	Rosie Milne



March 2021: 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:

Tinned fish (any varieties)

Jam

Packets of cereal bars

Tinned Custard

Shampoo

Tinned rice pudding

Tinned tomatoes

Currently we have good supplies of pasta, soup and tea bags, thanks to your generosity.

We are certainly noticing that demand for food parcels is on the increase. Last year between 1st and 31st January, our Inverurie food bank fed 115 adults and children. This year in the same period, we fed 175, up by 52%. January is usually a quieter month in demand for us post Christmas but January '21 was as busy as May last year during the peak of need in the first lockdown. We anticipate further increased need depending on what happens with the furlough scheme and just the ongoing impact of Covid-19 on employment and household costs. This is further exacerbated at the moment with the weather/ fuel costs. In January '21 across our Aberdeenshire North network of 5 food banks, we received 5707 kg of food in donations but we gave out 12615 kg in food parcels. We have a reasonable buffer of stock but that will soon disappear if those levels of demand against supply keep up. Add possible effects of Brexit on food supplies as time wears on and we could be in for an interesting (and hard-working!) year.

All of the above makes us all the more grateful to you all for your faithful and generous support of the work of Aberdeenshire North Food Bank. You make it all happen! Thank you.

Marbeth Ritchie, Warehouse Co-Ordinator, Aberdeenshire North Food Bank

Jennifer Ingram, Foodbank Coordinator for St Andrew's

The Cross in my Pocket

I carry a cross in my pocket
A simple reminder to me
Of the fact I am a Christian
No matter where I may be.

This little cross is not magic
Nor is it a good luck charm
It isn't meant to protect me
From every physical harm.

It's not for identification
For all the world to see
It's simply an understanding
Between my Saviour and me.

When I put my hand in my pocket
To bring out a coin or key
The cross is there to remind me
Of the price He paid for me.

It reminds ,too, to be thankful
For my blessing day by day
And to strive to serve Him better
In all I do and say.

It's also a daily reminder
Of the peace and comfort I share
With all who know my Master
And to give themselves to His care.

So, I carry a cross in my pocket
Reminding no one but me
That Jesus Christ is Lord of my life
If only I'll let him be.

From Oxford & District Union
Parish Church

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)
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SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR ALISON YOUNG	(01467 625646)
LETTINGS COMMITTEE - KIT PAWSON	(01467 628740)
SALTIRE EDITORS DIANE STUART	(01467 620931)
KIT PAWSON	(01467 372389)

**MAY 2021 SALTIRE ... Will be available for distribution from Sunday,
 2nd May 2021. Please email material for the May Saltire to
 The Church Office by 20th April 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.