



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

THE

JUNE 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 I write this, I'm sitting in my office in the Manse on the day after Pentecost, listening to the rain drumming on the window and thinking that we seem to have had quite a lot of rain this month. Now don't worry, I'm not moaning about the weather! After all, were it not for the rain, we wouldn't have the beautiful green countryside for which Scotland is famous. But the rain did get me thinking about how amazing water is!

Science tells us that water is a transparent, inorganic, tasteless, odourless, and colourless chemical substance, which boils at 100° C and freezes at 0°C. But it's so much more than that!

Water covers about 71% of the surface of the Earth and there is the same amount of water on Earth today as there was on the Earth when it was formed. It is part of a deeply interconnected system: the water in the seas evaporates to form clouds, the clouds produce rain, and the rainwater returns to the seas. This 'water cycle' has been going round and round since the beginning of time. It's amazing to think that the water from our taps contain molecules that actually passed through dinosaurs!

Water regulates the temperature of both the Earth's and our bodies. It carries nutrients and oxygen around our bodies, cushions our joints, protects organs and tissues, and removes waste. Indeed, water is in all known living organisms, approximately 60% of a human body and 75% of a tree is water. A healthy person could live about a month with no food, but only about a week with no water. Life would not exist without water.

Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well, "but those who drink of the water that I will give them will never be thirsty. The water that I will give will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life." (John 4:14). Jesus, of course, was not speaking about real water but something far more life-giving. Something revealed to John in a later vision, "Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, bright as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb" (Revelation 22:1). So, what is this 'water of life'? The answer can be found in John's Gospel:

"Let anyone who is thirsty come to Me, and let the one who believes in Me drink. As the scripture has said, 'out of the believer's heart shall flow rivers of living water.'" Now He said this about the Spirit, which believers in Him were to receive; for as yet there was no Spirit, because Jesus was not yet glorified.' (John 7:37b – 39)

Water is vital for physical life, but the Holy Spirit is vital for Spiritual life.

As I listen to the rain on the window, I think how appropriate it is that May has been so wet. The falling rain, providing the Earth with the water it needs to sustain physical life, making a wonderful counterpoint to the day of Pentecost, when Jesus sent the Holy Spirit down from heaven to provide the spiritual water necessary for eternal life. Drink all you need from both today.

Blessings,

Carl

Prayer

Loving God,

Thank You for water, that amazing substance that we tend to take for granted but, without which, we could not survive. Thank You for the way water weaves its way throughout our world, intimately joining us with both nature and each other, past, present and future, in an awe-inspiring web of interconnections.



Thank You too for those 'waters of life', Jesus and the Holy Spirit, as vital to our spiritual wellbeing as ordinary water is to our physical health. As we refresh our souls with the water of faith, help us to fulfil the task that Jesus set, spreading Your Word and making new disciples as we go about our everyday lives. Let our hearts be those of true believers, out of which flow rivers of living water, washing all we meet with the blessings of Your Holy Spirit.

In Jesus' name, Amen

News from the combined Congregational Board/Kirk Session Meeting held on Wednesday, 12 May 2021 at 7.00 pm, via a Zoom Video Conference

Key Points

- **New Elder:** Yvonne Clark will be ordained as an Elder on Sunday 23 May 2021.
- **Communion:** Communion Service will be live streamed on Sunday 23 May 2021 at 7.00 pm.
- **Hospitality:** Good news! It is hoped that the teas after church will resume on Sunday 30 May 2021, with Church of Scotland Guidelines in place.
- **Lettings:** One or two groups have returned to use the facilities at St Andrew's and it is hoped that in the next few months more groups can return. This is a much needed source of income for St Andrew's.
- **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 are asked to contact the Church Office for more details.
- **Visits:** Visits cannot take place under the current regulations, but if you know of anyone 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 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.

Joyce Lawson, Clerk to the Board

Email from Robbie Morrison, Mission Development Worker (West Church)

I hope this email finds you well. I wanted to let you know of our upcoming online event on **Tuesday 1st June at 7:30pm, with Michael Harvey (Back to Church Sunday, Weekend of Invitation)**. Throughout lockdown, Michael has been working with a number of churches and individuals across Scotland, setting up Zoom groups for people to listen to each other's experiences as they pray a simple prayer each morning asking God who to connect with that day/week.

Discover how ACORN is helping churches like yours grow during the Covid-19 lockdowns.

Church leaders and congregational members from the Church of Scotland will share their stories of how a simple spiritual discipline is bringing spiritual growth and impacting those beyond their church.

Come and be inspired to try this within your own context.

For more information and to book your place, please follow this link - <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/gods-call-during-the-time-of-covid-19-tickets-153275203259>

I would appreciate it if you could forward this on to anyone you feel may want to attend.

Thanks

Update on Flower Calendar.

Hi Everyone,

It looks like we will not be having fresh flowers in the church until after summer, but that could all change if there is a relaxation in the rules. I will have the Flower Calendar in the vestibule from July for you to add your name and telephone number.



Thank you all for your patience - I hope we will be back to some kind of normality

soon!!! Meanwhile I hope you have all enjoyed the Spring flower arrangements and also the Summer coloured displays in the church which are now in place. Thank you all. **Eileen, your Flower Convener.**



St Andrew's Parish Church

Volunteer Rota 2021

		Door	Register	Steward	Steward	Steward
June	6	C Clark	Y Clark	<i>A Smith</i>	D Stuart	A Young
	13	<i>R Milne</i>	H Christie	M Keith	K Pawson	S Davidson
	20	<i>R Young</i>	A Young	J Ingram	Y Clark	J Lawson
	27	<i>R Green</i>	V Binnie	D Stuart	J Green	Vacant

July	4	<i>A Smith</i>	D Stuart	I Fraser	V Binnie	A Young
	11	<i>R Young</i>	H Christie	M Keith	S Hepburn	J Lawson

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 possible, so they can pop away if needed)

Introduction to our New Elder—Yvonne Clark

Hello everyone,

My name is Yvonne Clark. I am 56 years old and was born and brought up in Portsoy. I went to Portsoy Primary School and then to Banff Academy. I left school at 17 year old with not a lot of education as I had not paid attention!! I had all different kinds of jobs until I found what I wanted



to do, and that was in the caring profession.

I met my husband Charles, who is also an elder in St Andrew's, in 1983,

and we were married in 1986. We moved to Inverurie 25 years ago. I worked in residential care then moved on to work in the community which I prefer.

I have enjoyed worshipping in St Andrew's Church for the last 7 years and learning more and more about God and Jesus. The more I have learned, the more I have enjoyed the experience.

It has been an honour to be asked to become an elder serving this church and I hope that I will do a good job. If I make mistakes, then I will learn from them.

My hobbies are watching TV, going for walks with our dog Marshall, who is a black Labrador and is a faithful friend. I look forward to meeting and getting to know more of you in the future.

Yvonne



May 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:

Fruit Juice (1 litre long life)

Jam

Cereal Bars

Toothpaste

Tinned Spaghetti

Tinned Tomatoes

Diluting juice

Shaving kit (razors/shaving gel)

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

We are grateful for your continuing support and stay safe!

www.aberdeenshirenorth.foodbank.org.uk

Jennifer Ingram, Foodbank Coordinator for St Andrew's

**Letter from Marbeth Ritchie, Warehouse co-ordinator,
Aberdeenshire North Food Bank**

Dear friends,

At the end of April, the Trussell Trust issued its end of year statistics, describing for the wider public and especially for those in power, the reality of food poverty across the UK. While acknowledging that the last year has seen a great deal of positivity with communities coming together to support with compassion our neighbours in need, Trussell Trust food banks in Scotland gave more than 220,000 emergency food parcels to people facing crisis between April 2020 and March 2021. More than 77,000 of these went to children. Worryingly, these figures are just the tip of the iceberg with unprecedented numbers of people being helped by other food aid providers and community-based groups, including many new ones that provided emergency food during the pandemic. The charity warns that these figures highlight an alarming 63% rise compared to this time five years ago. Hunger in Scotland isn't simply about food, the charity says, it's about people not having enough money for the basics and, with high rates of unemployment and record redundancies, more people than ever will need the social security system to provide a strong enough lifeline to stay afloat.

While we are eternally grateful for your donations of food which allow us to provide emergency food and support to people locked in poverty, we share the Trussell Trust's vision of ending the need for food banks in the UK and continue to work to create a just and compassionate society, finding better long-term solutions to acute poverty.

With thanks for your ongoing support.

Time Out Noah was the theme for Time Out and the children enjoyed playing with our beautiful wooden ark and animals. We watched a video which told the story of God talking to Noah; Noah building an ark; Noah with his family and pairs of animals on the ark; the flood; the dove showing Noah that the water was receding; and finally the rainbow as a sign from God that he would never again send such a flood. After saying our prayer the children each made a cut out ark and coloured a rainbow which was in a take home booklet retelling the story.



All pre school and primary school children are welcome to come along and join us on the first Sunday of each month.

Time Out Team



Hello from the Boys' Brigade.

This update is a little shorter than usual as the weather, over the past couple of weeks has prevented us from having our session meetings. However, 5 Anchor Boys braved the elements one evening, sheltering under the garage door, to continue with their badge work. They have done very well and have started to introduce the Boys' Brigade "Go Wild Challenges".

Junior Section completed a "Get into the Bible" challenge with a video and discussion about being grateful to God, which included the subject of doughnuts. The boys decorated a template and for their efforts received a nice iced doughnut which they really were grateful for.

We had an evening at Kellands Park and played Golf-football and also had penguin races which were a lot of fun. The Company Section joined in that evening and then had another evening with sports activities.

We are all now going to concentrate on the "GO Wild Challenges" which take us into the woods (weather permitting) for Tracking Skills, Nature Bingo, Blindfold Rope Trail and many other fun tasks.

Our two Senior Boys are working well to complete their company service requirements for their President's Badge.

That's all from us at present.

Stay safe and well.

Boys' Brigade team



Tribute to Bert

At the Session/Board meeting on 14th April, it was agreed that we would prepare a tribute to Herbert, popularly known as Bert, our friend and colleague. This tribute contains contributions from many sources who have been glad to contribute memories and anecdotes to a well-respected and loved man.

Bert was ordained as an Elder in St Andrew's on 2nd Nov. 1975 and he proceeded to serve in a wide range of roles over the years, even up to recent times, interrupted only by Covid. He served as Session Clerk, Clerk to the Board, Presbytery Elder (23 years), Beadle, Reader, Monthly & Weekly Envelope Group Member and of course as a District Elder. In all these duties, he would also willingly take on any extra work and did so in a quiet manner. He "got on with the job" without fuss. He was always very committed to his Christian faith and St Andrew's in particular, being of the firm opinion that it formed his outlook on how to live and to act with tolerance, consideration and charity.

Likewise, Bert was the same in his working career, earning the respect of the people with whom he dealt. Though he started work at the Rowett as a technician in the X-ray department, he felt he needed more formal qualifications and worked as a trainee radiographer, rising to being a Senior Radiographer at ARI & Woolmanhill. In this role, his students have spoken warmly of him as a Tutor who would train them in a kindly and supportive manner. When he became a History Teacher at Inverurie Academy, the same approach continued with his pupils respecting and liking him in equal proportions. Some of his pupils have been so inspired that History became their favourite subject and some continued with History into further education. As a measure of how much he was loved, he would receive "fine pieces" from Domestic Science pupils! As a Registration Teacher, his pupils have said that his cheery and kindly nature set them up for their day at school. He also kept his interest in former pupils long after they had left school. It is no surprise that his daughters, Anne and Susan, have both followed their father into teaching—having such an inspiring Dad.

In the community, Bert was involved in many activities – being one of the earliest members of the Bailies of Bennachie and at one time was Senior Bailie. He was in Probus where he had a spell as President and he was also a member of the Heritage Society. A sports enthusiast all his life, Bert was involved in football, cricket, bowls (was Chairman of the Bowling Club at one time), and of course walking. Anybody who walked with him had to keep up a brisk pace, but if you met him on his walks he would always stop for a chat.

In conclusion, many tributes have been paid to him and recurring descriptions include integrity, helpful, kindly and a wonderful character, usually met with a smile. He was a true gentleman who never sought fame. He just got on with things. It would be remiss to fail to record the support he got from Sheila over many, many years of happy marriage. Finally they were regular attenders in Church and enjoyed fellowship at the teas after the Service.

He is sadly missed but we are proud and honoured to have known him.

Alastair Smith, Elder

Another Suggestion for the Great Day Out—Our Answer to Stonehenge!

Last month we featured Crathes Castle but this month we are concentrating on an attraction much nearer to Inverurie - the Loanhead of Daviot Recumbent Stone Circle, which was built just a little later than the world famous Stonehenge in Wiltshire.



Recumbent stone circles were religious sites of the Neolithic Period some 4000 - 5000 years ago and were used for observing the cycles of the moon. These particular circles are unique to the North East of Scotland and there are over 70 examples recorded in Aberdeenshire. (The East Aquorthies Stone Circle, just outside Inverurie, is another superb one to visit.) It is believed that, at Loanhead, the recumbent and the flanker stones formed a false horizon or frame, through which the rising or the setting of the major standstill moon, that occurs every 18.6 years, was viewed.



The recumbent stone, weighing about 12 tons, may have also been used to block the entrances to chambered tombs. The height of the stones increases from the north east (on your left at entry) towards the recumbent stone. The flanking stone on the far side of the recumbent has 12 "cupmarks" upon it, perhaps used during the

religious rites performed here.

The people who built and used the circle farmed the adjacent land - tools and burials have been found in the nearby fields. They were probably descendants of the first farmers in the area, who came here over 5000 years ago.

On the day that my sister, Eileen, and I visited Loanhead of Daviot Stone Circle to do a wee bit of research for this article, we remarked to each other as we strolled through the rowan tree lined path to the circle that it was spine tingling to think that people had walked this area some 5000 years before us. //.....

Then, as we crested the hill, what did we see to reinforce the rather eerie atmosphere? Two men dressed in black, wielding long sticks and engaging in some strange ceremonial fight. Once we got talking to them, the explanation was much more straightforward. They were two chaps from Oldmeldrum practising their karate moves!! (Thank you Bruce for helping me to gather the information re the Circle.)



As a little extra treat - after your visit to the Stone Circle, why not go to the excellent Coffee Lounge in Daviot Village called The Shop, where the delightful owner, Karen, serves delicious hot and cold drinks and super home bakes.

PS Their Empire biscuits are the very best I have ever tasted!

Kit

Other noteworthy points:-

- * Good signage for this attraction
- * Adequate car parking
- * Easy short walk from car park to Stone Circle
- * Wonderful panoramic vista of the Garioch from the Circle
- * As you leave the car park, look straight ahead to the most magnificent view of our beloved Bennachie Range

With many thanks to -

Jim Henderson (Official NTS Grampian Photographer, retired)
for his stunning photographs.



Christian Aid Week 2021 – Inverurie

A big thank you to all who have contributed to Christian Aid this year. Every envelope, every gift can change lives. Totals will be announced in July.

Thanks, Alison

Congregational Roll

ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH CHANGES IN ROLL

20th April—26th May 2021

Recently Deceased

Mrs I Simpson, 8 Don House	20/4/2021
Mr R McIntosh, 122 Brandsbutt	9/5/2021
Mrs E Williamson, Garioch Care Home	20/5/2021

Service conducted by

Rev R Cathcart
Rev C Irvine
Rev C Irvine

Change of Address

Sheena Murrison (formerly 1 Irvine Place)	now 7 Whiteleywell Place
Mrs I Lawson (formerly 6 Nether Davah Court)	now Drumdarroch Care Home, Inch

Sunday Services & Readings

JUNE

6th	10.00 am Parish Worship "Time Out"	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
		Reader:	Alastair Smith
13th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
		Reader:	Rosie Milne
20th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
		Reader:	Robin Young
27th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
		Reader:	Ralph Green

JULY

4th	10.00 am Parish Worship "Time Out"	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
		Reader:	Alastair Smith

New COVID Guidelines : At the time of writing we are allowed to offer hospitality in Church buildings at Level 2 and below. This means we can re-start teas and coffees in the halls after services. However, the Law still requires we follow the Government's rules for the hospitality sector (sometimes called "pub rules"). These rules are set by the Government and are a mix of Legislation and Guidance which describe what we must do to comply with the Law. I know as individuals we can sometimes be loose with the principles of Government guidance and do not see its relevance, but as a public organisation we must follow this guidance to meet our insurance requirements and to avoid criminal proceedings, fines and the bad publicity that would surround this.

At level 2 this means that up to 6 people from 3 households can sit at the same table. This will increase to 8 people from 3 households when we go to Level 1. Seating must be spaced at least 1 metre back to back. Access routes will be required between tables, so this will reduce the number of tables we have. This means at least a 2 metre gap between the backs of the chairs to allow movement. We will also not be able to have people queuing for their drinks so these will have to be ordered and then served to the table by the waiting staff. Children under 5 do not count in the numbers indoors. All present we will need to wear face coverings (unless exempt) when not seated. We will need to take contact details again of those having tea and coffee. You will need to queue outside and be taken to a table by the waiting staff so please do not ask to be seated at the door as this will block the entry of everyone else. Our first trial is proposed for 30th May and we hope to see as many of you there as we can fit in to enjoy a cuppa and a fine piece!

Thanks Robin

Who's Who at 'St Andrew's'

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WFO TREASURER ALASTAIR SMITH	(01467 623148)
GIFT AID CONVENER ALLAN DUFF	(01467 621040)
MONTHLY COLLECTION CONVENERS	(01467 622275 &
VERA BINNIE & DIANE STUART	(01467 620931)
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"TIME OUT" LEADER MO VERNAL	(01467 628778)
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SOCIAL COMMITTEE CONVENER MOLLY CONN	(01467 620612)
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**JULY 2021 SALTIRE ... Will be available for distribution from Sunday,
 4th July 2021. Please email material for the July Saltire to
 The Church Office by 20th June 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.