

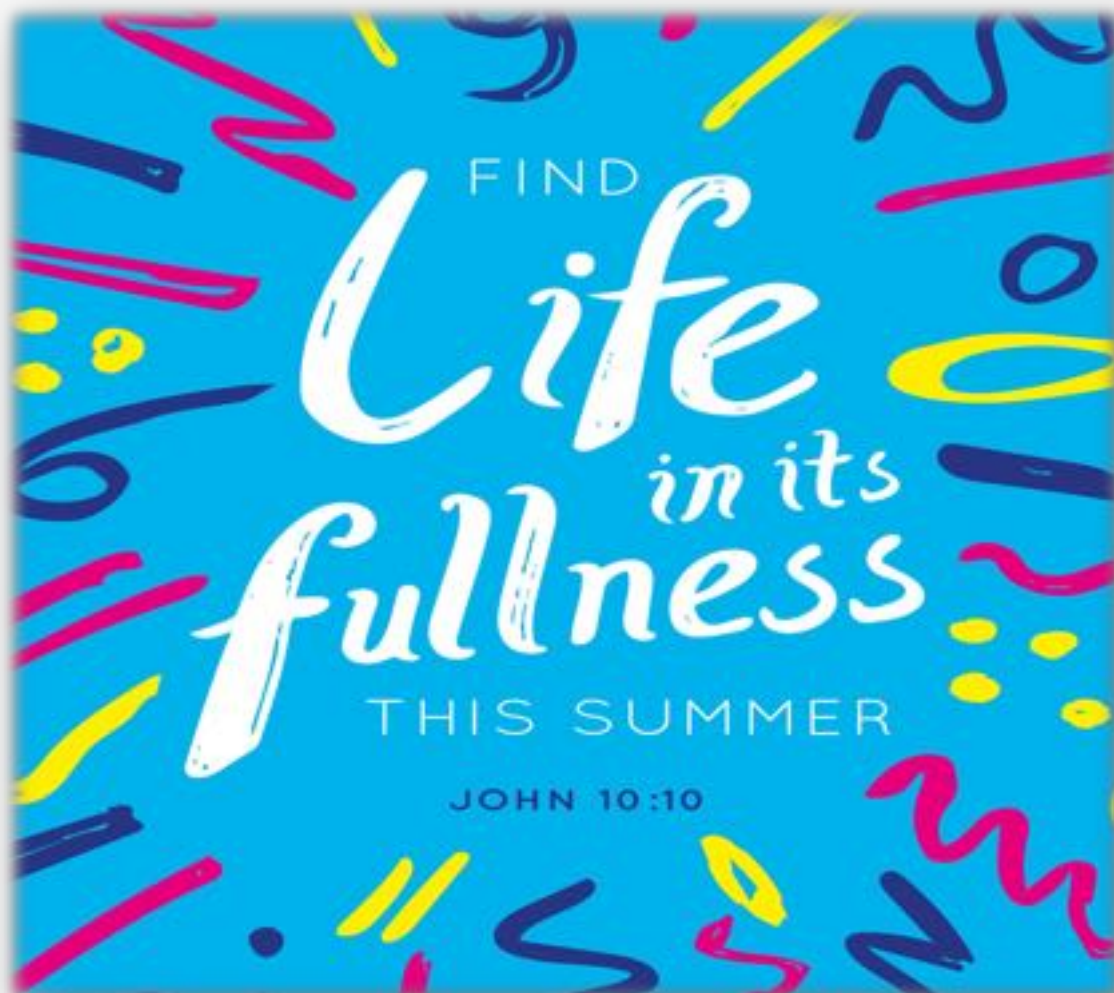


St Andrew's Parish Church
(Church of Scotland),
Inverurie

THE

JULY 2021

**S
A
L
T
I
R
E**



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

With summer upon us, what feels like a long winter of the Covid-19 pandemic seems, at last, to be thawing. Slowly restrictions are lifting and, while we are not quite back to normal, we can again enjoy the familiar pleasures of singing in church and refreshments in the hall. Unlike last year, we are also able to join with our friends in the West Church for our summer services: July in the West and August in St. Andrew's. This, too, is another step on the return to normality. Of course, there are still restrictions which we must continue to follow

and, I suspect, these will be with us for quite some time yet, but it finally feels like we are making progress.

As I was thinking about these positive steps, it struck me that I don't really know what a typical year at St. Andrew's is like. After all, although I have been your minister for almost 18 months, I was only able to lead 7 Sunday services before the first lockdown, and nothing has been as it was since. Indeed, the 'Soup and Sweet' planned for 21st August, will be my first 'social event' since my induction. As I have heard nothing but good things about the social events organised by Molly and her team, I am very much looking forward to the first of what I trust will be many.

Sadly, the fact that we have been unable to freely meet and mix for such a long time has severely hampered my ability to get to know you and for you to get to know me. I am aware that we have well over 800 members in St. Andrew's but, I am told, it has been a long time since anything like that number regularly attended church. The reasons for this may be many and varied; for example, they may be due to health problems, family commitments or work. But they may also be due to uncertainties in faith, feelings of not belonging or bad experiences. I would, therefore, invite all who are reading this, but rarely, if ever, come to church, to let me know why. I can't promise to be able to overcome the issue that prevents you worshipping in church, but I do promise to listen and do what I can.

The Christian faith is deeply rooted in relationships. At its very heart is the relationships within our Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and the way in which God has reached out to humanity ever since Adam and Eve's disobedience created a schism between Creator and created. We come to faith through relationships: for many, Christianity and church attendance were very much part of childhood, for others, those whose parents were not churchgoers (and this includes me) it is typically through a significant relationship that the road to faith opens up. But, becoming a Christian is not an end, it is a beginning: seeking to develop a more meaningful relationship with God, deepening our understanding of scripture and taking personal responsibility for our conduct. Without help, this is too big an ask, 2000 years of experience teaches that living as a committed Christian, is best, and most successfully, achieved alongside fellow believers.

As we look forward to the everyday freedoms that will return with the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, if you do not already do so, why not exercise one of the most important: the freedom to worship and grow with your fellow Christians?

Blessings, Carl

Loving God,

Long ago, Adam and Eve, rejected Your command and ate the forbidden fruit: their relationship with You foundered, creating a rift between Creator and created. Over the vast expanse of time since, You have not stopped reaching out to us in love, sending Your prophets and even Your Son, yearning to restore that broken relationship. Help us, we pray, as we seek to respond faithfully to You.



As we regain the freedoms to mix and socialise, freedoms which we once took for granted, help us to re-examine our relationship with You. Draw us closer, we pray, not only to You but also to our fellow Christians. Help us to build each other up in faith and help us too, to be built up ourselves. Open our eyes to the example of Jesus, Who reached out to all and welcomed all who accepted Him. Open our hearts to follow the lesson of Your church since the beginning: that we are more able to faithfully follow You when we are in relationship together, with each other and with You.

In the name of the relational Triune God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, Amen

Reflected Faith Series: The Spaces Between

Most of us have been in situations where we are not in control, and we don't know how to feel or how to react to our situation. We need help.

The most valuable gift you can have at those times – is time itself. Time to be 'listened to'. Really listened to. But it is not easy to find someone who will 'actively listen' to you.

Think of the last time you were in the reverse position with a friend or a colleague, and they were talking to you. How easily do you recall what they actually said? Most of us are so busy getting our replies ready for when the person has finished speaking, that we don't clearly hear their punch line.

With God it is different. We can take everything to Him; all our worries and cares and failures and faults. And He listens.

He doesn't necessarily jump in with an instant, easy solution, but rather He promises to always guide us, if we ask Him, through life's challenges, and He promises to never leave us. He often speaks to us through his written word, the Bible.

This last year, when many of us have been communicating with others by phone or Zoom, we get nervous if it all goes quiet. We feel the need to 'nudge' the other person, to make sure they are still there. Silence is not a natural state for many of us – and yet it is in the quiet we can hear ourselves and God most clearly.

So, when we talk with God, our conversation should not be rushed and one-sided. We need to give space to our silence before Him, to wait and listen for Him to speak to us.

This month:

Next time you worship in church, listen to the silences: the spaces between the words, the music and the actions. Listen to all the prayers that are spoken.

Look at your surroundings and reflect that they have absorbed thousands of prayers – and holy silence – down the centuries of their existence.

Look out the window and see the vastness of the sky above you – and let your prayers join with those that have gone before you. May the knowledge that you are not alone encourage and strengthen you.

Extracted from Parish Pump (Jo White)

News from the combined Congregational Board/Kirk Session Meeting held on Wednesday, 9th June 2021 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 Convener. Anyone interested in either of these two very important roles is asked to contact the church office for more details.
- The Treasurer reported that money was very tight and would continue to be very tight for the foreseeable future.
- The Moderator reported that two teams had been entered from St Andrew's to compete in the Golf Day being run by Gordon Presbytery.
- It was agreed that the summer services this year would be held in the West Church in July and St Andrew's in August.
- The group set up to review elders' districts reported back to the meeting. The review so far has highlighted that with the number of elders available and the fact that Inverurie is continuing to grow it would not be possible to cover all districts under the present system.
- The Church of Scotland requires all churches to appoint a Covid 19 Safety Officer. The Kirk Session appointed Robin Young to take on this responsibility.

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.

The next meeting of the combined Congregational Board/Kirk Session Meeting will be held in St Andrew's Church on Wednesday, 14th July 2021 at 7.00 pm

Remember!!!

A note for your diaries. Social Events are now back on track starting with -



21st August 2021

Soup & Sweet

12 noon—2 pm

Traditional Music

Detailed information in August Saltire. Other events are being planned for October and November. More information in Autumn Saltires.

Time Out On Sunday 6th June we had our last Time Out for this session: our theme was - 'Daniel in the Lions' Den. We watched a video telling the story and then had our 'Feast' which was lovely considering we have not been able to do so since we returned to church after lockdown. Following our prayer, the children each painted a lion and then completed worksheets and took home a wee booklet retelling the story. Next we went in to church and Carl spoke to the children, asked them about Daniel and we said our prayer again.

At Easter, when the church reopened, we all decided it was time for us to retire and so we all got a huge surprise when we were each given a beautiful bouquet of flowers from the Kirk



Session/Board. Many thanks for these. After the final hymn we went back to the Chapel to have our tea/coffee/juice and biscuits. Although my name is down as Time Out Leader, we work very much as a team and I'd like to thank that team (left to right on photo—Hilda Christie, Joyce Lawson, myself and Pat Wink with the children Dylan Davidson, Harry & Stuart Murray) for all their work and support over the past 12 years. Unfortunately one of our team, Yvonne Reid, was not able to join us since Covid as she works with vulnerable adults. (Also we are grateful to past members for their hard work and support).

Please note that although our final Time Out in Church was this month, we will be having our annual picnic on Sunday, 4th July. Please meet at 9.45 am in the Chapel and, weather permitting, we will walk up to Kellands' Park for some fun.

Mo Vernal

St Andrew's owes a huge debt of appreciation to Mo and her team for their years of devoted service to the children and young folk in our church. Each month (barring school holidays) the youngsters have been given their Bible stories in an innovative and inspiring way. They have been encouraged to discuss the stories; to illustrate them with paints, crayons and felt pens; to create an annual Easter Garden; to have fun at the summer picnic in Kellands Park; to celebrate Harvest; and to explore the wonder of Christmas by acting out the Nativity Story. Each Time Out session included "The Feast" which represented Communion - a moment for the children and adults to sit quietly in a circle and eat a little piece of cake, some black grapes and to drink a small glass of black currant juice - followed by the Time Out prayer.

The congregation always enjoyed the children coming in at the end of the service to allow us to participate in their morning's activities. Thank you Mo and the Team for everything you have given to the children in our church - we shall all miss you.

Kit

Fundraising—June : Rag Bag : £86.40

Annual donation gratefully received from Mrs B Reid towards the purchase of church candles

St Andrew's Parish Church

Volunteer Rota 2021

		Door	Register	Steward	Steward	Steward
July	4	A Smith	D Stuart			
	11	R Young	V Binnie			
	18	C Clark	Y Clark			
	25	J Lawson	J Ingram			

Aug	1	R Green	J Green	M Keith		
	8	A Smith	M Conn	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 possible, so they can pop away if needed)



Hello from the Boys' Brigade ... This is just a short note to bring you all up to date. We have managed to conclude our session for 2020/2021 culminating on 25th June with our Annual Award

Presentation. We were extremely fortunate to be able to hold this in the Church and managed to allow parents to attend the somewhat reduced ceremony.

We would like to thank our Minister, Rev. Carl Irvine, who presented the boys with their badges. The boys all worked extremely hard this year for their badges which they will proudly wear on their uniform.

We were also fortunate that our session programme was only hampered on two occasions when we could not meet outside due to adverse weather conditions. We have also managed to meet all government guidelines during this difficult year.

The boys have been given "Go Wild" Challenges for the summer to complete at their leisure, so that will be interesting to see the results. We are now on holiday and look to return possibly at the end of August or early September, when we shall be delighted to welcome any new members or helpers.

Enjoy your summer. Take care, **The BB Team**

Congregational Roll

ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH CHANGES IN ROLL

27th May— 25th June 2021

Recently Deceased

Mr Derek McCulloch, 3 Charles Place

7/6/2021

Service conducted by

Rev. C Irvine

Change of Address

Linda Booth (formerly 18 Kellands Rise)

now at 1 Irvine Place

Mrs Gertrude Craib (formerly 2 Overburn House)

now at Bennachie View Care Home

Sunday Services & Readings

INVERURIE ST ANDREW'S/WEST CHURCH JOINT SUMMER SERVICES 2021

JULY—WEST CHURCH

4th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. R Cathcart
11th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. R Cathcart/ Rev. C Irvine
18th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
25th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. R Cathcart

AUGUST—ST ANDREW'S CHURCH

1st	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. R Cathcart
8th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine/ Rev. R Cathcart
15th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
22nd	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
29th	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine

Booking Information:

July (West Church): Phone Acorn Centre on 01467 670850, you will be given a seat number. If full, the live stream will be on:

<http://www.inveruriwestchurch.org/westcast.html>

August (St Andrew's Church): Phone Church Office on 01467 628740. If first service is full, you will be advised that a second service will be held at 11.30 am.

Teas/Coffees

July (West Church): No teas/coffees on site. For those that get home quickly, there will be a Zoom fellowship for teas/coffees.

August (St Andrew's Church): Teas/coffees in the Old Hall after the service,

Key General Assembly updates and what they mean for us

Mission Planning & Ministries

This year's general assembly had some monumental decisions to discuss in terms of the future structures of the church. The pandemic has accelerated a process of decline which has been ongoing for decades. As a result, the number of available Church of Scotland ministers will drop drastically over the next five years or so. Many buildings will need to be sold or re-purposed over the next 5-10 years. Only those which are judged clearly fit for purpose within a forward-thinking mission plan for their area will be retained. The relationships among congregations will change too as many are linked, united or re-formed in different ways. It doesn't matter whether an individual church is particularly 'successful' or not, we are all going to have to adapt.

In the short term, all presbytery plans have been suspended, which means newly vacant charges cannot call a minister and no new work can be started on buildings, with the exception of essential maintenance and agreed projects in progress. Every presbytery needs to create a new mission plan based on a fixed number of available ministers. Nationally this is 600 ministries + 60 vacancies. This includes ministry development staff posts. The number of Full-time Ministers of Word and Sacrament across the country will be reduced to 480.

Gordon Presbytery will be reviewing our recently agreed plan to make any necessary changes in order to comply with the new instructions, and ensure it will be compatible with the larger mission plan of the new Presbytery of the North East, which we will become part of next year. It looks like there will be future reductions/adjustments to be made in terms of both minister and development staff posts. The presbytery will also be conducting building reviews to guide parish groupings in deciding which buildings should be retained.

At St. Andrew's we currently expect to continue to be in a parish grouping with The West, working ever more closely over the next five to ten years and, eventually, sharing a minister, as and when either Rhona or Carl retires or leaves. The direction of travel within all groupings is to move towards becoming single parishes. To make this work we will need to continue to encourage and develop lay leadership skills among our congregations.

When developing our work as a parish grouping, we will be expected to focus around the Five Marks of Mission namely:

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.

//....

A small group has been formed with representatives from the two congregations to discuss how to take forward our joint working. Although nothing has been decided, current ideas under discussion include:

Joint monthly evening services involving lay people and alternating premises.

Joint/shared Bible studies.

Joint prayer groups.

Alpha or Christianity Explored courses.

Joint social events and concerts.

Joint training of Elders (both new and existing).

Training for lay preachers and ministry teams.

Shared children's events – possibly online.

A joint magazine or shared input into separate magazines.

Budgetary Challenges and Financial matters

A new Ministries and Mission model is being developed to help support the new presbyteries. At the same time, nationally the church has created a Pioneer Mission Fund to support church growth and established a voluntary scheme to encourage donations. A national gift day has been proposed around Harvest Season to support the work of the local church.

Legal Issues

Various protocols around congregational meetings will be looked at in the next general assembly. An overture on legislation permitting Church of Scotland ministers and deacons to opt in to conducting same-sex marriages was passed. This is to be discussed by Kirk sessions under the Church of Scotland's Barrier Act which ensures that core innovations must be subject to the opinions and comments of the wider courts of the church before being passed as Acts.

Ecumenical Agreements

The St Andrew's declaration consisting of mutual acknowledgements and commitments between the Church of Scotland and the Scottish Episcopal Church was agreed. The Church of Scotland will be joining a new ecumenical body called the Scottish Christian Forum.

Theology

Comments are sought on the Westminster Confession being the, or one of the, confessional standard(s) of the church. Profession of faith and membership is also under discussion.

Presbyterianism

Kirk sessions and presbyteries are also to engage with material on the effectiveness of Presbyterianism when developing their mission strategies.

Other Topics Discussed

Congregations urged to take part in COP26 and sign the Scottish Churches Pledge.

Support for Net Zero by 2030 challenge.

Divestment in oil and gas company shares agreed.

Ethics of Investment Practice Committee has been set up.

Efforts to vaccinate the world against COVID 19 were affirmed and the decision of the UK government to cut overseas aid from 0.7% of Gross National income was deplored.

Safeguarding instructions which must be followed.

If anyone would like more information on any of the above, please speak to Carl and he can chat to you and/or direct you to where you can read the full reports.



Creative Aberdeenshire

23rd September - 3rd October 2021

Garioch Heritage Centre Guidelines.

Purpose

Creative Aberdeenshire is the opportunity for you to take part in an exhibition to showcase the talent of local people. **It will be held at the Garioch Heritage Centre 23rd September – 3rd October 2021.** This is not a competition but a way for folk from Aberdeenshire to create an exhibition for others to enjoy. There may be the chance to donate the items exhibited (should you wish) into a silent auction to raise funds for Aberdeenshire Charities.

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 or any other art and craft work!
- 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, if contributions were max A2 size (420mm x 600mm) it would allow us to display more - however we don't want to turn away wonderful art so please discuss with Gillian.
- For non-hanging items, please can they be no larger than 300mm square (or if larger please discuss with Gillian - contact details below).

Exhibition //

Exhibition

- We hope to receive wide range of art and craft - perhaps over 200 contributions.
- The Exhibition will be staged at the Garioch Heritage Centre, Inverurie (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 be auctioned in aid of local charities - then we shall 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 (with details on your exhibit) or for any other queries please contact Gillian - creativeaberdeenshire@gariochheritage.co.uk tel 01467 621855



June 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:

Long life fruit juice (1 litre boxes)

Cereal Bars/Snack bars

Small jars of coffee (100g)

Shaving kit

Sponge Puddings

Instant mash

Toothpaste

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

www.aberdeenshirenorth.foodbank.org.uk

Jennifer Ingram, Foodbank Coordinator for St Andrew's

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 & WEBMASTER 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	-
COVID 19 SAFETY OFFICER ROBIN YOUNG	(01467 625646)
SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR ALISON YOUNG	(01467 625646)
SALTIRE EDITORS DIANE STUART	(01467 620931)
KIT PAWSON	(01467 372389)

AUGUST 2021 SALTIRE ... Will be available for distribution from Sunday, 1st August 2021. Please email material for the August Saltire to The Church Office by 20th July 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.