



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

**THE**

**SEPTEMBER 2021**

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**Email: [inveruriestandrews@outlook.com](mailto: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 summer draws to a close, life start to get busier. With September upon us, this is especially true for farmers, as the harvest needs to be gathered. As I write this, the winter crops are already being harvested and the spring crops will soon follow. The seeds sown have borne fruit and now is the time for the farmers to reap the rewards of the work. Harvest time can be precarious, knowing this, farmers adapt their work schedules according to the weather. Before September is out, I fully expect to see the lights of tractors and combine harvesters illuminating fields as they work well into the night.

Jesus often used aspects of farming to teach about the life of faith: In Matthew 13:3-9, He described how the Word is like seeds sown on different types of ground, with only the seeds sown in good soil thriving, while in Mark, 4:26-29, He described how the growth of the seed is a mystery.

As Christians, we plant the seed of faith in other people through example, through talking, through caring, and in many other ways. We cannot know if, or when, that seed may grow. That is God's work.

The fact that you are reading this means that you are good soil, and the seed of faith has been planted in you. How well is the seed growing? Are you like the first green shoots, breaking through the earth, and reading this mainly out of curiosity? Are you like a young plant, seeking the nourishment you need to reach maturity of faith? Or are you like a fully grown plant, standing steadfastly with God at your side? Whichever of these images most closely matches where you are in your journey of faith, know that you a much-valued part of the crop.

Of course, the farmers' work does not stop with the sowing of the seed. The fields have to be tended, weeds and pests have to be battled, proper irrigation assured and, no doubt, a hundred-and-one other jobs need to be done that, as a non-farmer, I know precious little about. In the same way, the growth of faith in a person needs to be nurtured at every stage of their walk with God, and that's where the church comes in. The church is not the building, that's just where the church meets. The real church is the community of believers made up of all its members and, in the same way that it's impossible to tear a full ream of 500 sheets of paper in half but simple to tear a single sheet, so a community of believers, gathered together, supports and strengthens each individual within it.

Whether your faith is just being awakened, whether it's developing and you are looking to learn more, or whether you are a mature believer, confident in your faith, you have a place in the church. The question is, are you filling it? If not, why not?

The church meets in the building each Sunday at 10am. If you don't already do so, come along and grow with the rest of us in Christ.

Many blessings,

Carl

Nurturing God,

We thank You first for the people in our lives that planted the seeds of faith in us, and we thank You for those who nurtured us as those seeds grew. Help us to sow the seeds of faith in others and help us to nurture them to grow fully into relationship with You.



As Your church, we know that each individual member is at a different stage of faith. Help us to come together, especially drawing in those whose church membership is limited to their name on the roll. Help us to nurture each other in our faith; teaching, supporting and caring as one church. Form us, into a fitting crop to feed the hungry in our community.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

## **HYMN: The story behind ... ABIDE WITH ME**

One of the most famous hymns in the world came out of Brixham, near Torbay, Devon, in 1847. In those days it was a poor, obscure fishing village, and the vicar was the Rev Henry Francis Lyte. It was a discouraging place to be a pastor, but Henry felt that God wanted him there, and so he stayed, though it was lonely work, and he suffered constant ill health. By the time he was 54, Henry had contracted tuberculosis and asthma, and he and his family knew he was dying. It would have been so easy for him to look back on his life and feel a complete failure. What had he ever much accomplished? And yet – and yet – Henry knew that in life it is not worldly success that matters, but how much we respond to Jesus Christ, and how much we follow Him.

In September of 1847 Henry was preparing to travel to the south of France, as was the custom for people with tuberculosis at that time. One day before he left, he read the story in the gospel of Luke about the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They were met by Jesus on the day of His resurrection, and they invited Him to stay with them because it was getting late. "Abide with us", they said "for it is towards evening." "Abide with us - for it is toward evening." These words struck a chord with Henry, who knew that it was getting 'towards evening' in his life. So, he sat down and wrote this hymn as a prayer to God – *(the following are just some of the verses)*

### ***Abide with me***

*Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;  
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide!  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,  
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

*Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day;  
Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass away;  
Change and decay in all around I see;  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me.*

*I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless;  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness.  
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy  
victory?*

*I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.*

Shortly after Henry wrote that hymn, he preached his last sermon. He was so ill he practically crawled into the pulpit to do so. A few weeks later, in Nice, France, he died, and so of course he never knew that his hymn would go on to become greatly loved the world over.

*Extracted from Parish Pump*



# Nkhoma Mission Hospital, Malawi

9<sup>th</sup> August, 2021

## UPDATE ON THIRD WAVE OF CORONAVIRUS-19 AT NKHOMA MISSION HOSPITAL

Nkhoma Mission Hospital experienced the onset of the third wave of Covid19 in July 2021, in keeping with the rest of the country. We registered only two positive cases in the whole month of June 2021. In contrast, the month of July registered 276 suspects and 73 of them were positive cases. It means **our case positivity rate in July 2021 was 26.4%**, which was slightly higher than the 23.5% reported by the Ministry of Health for the same timeframe.

Of these 73 positive cases: **32 met criteria for high severity**, meaning they needed to be hospitalized. This is **43.8% severity case rate!** This is a HUGE contrast to the first and second waves, when only 2 out of 10 who tested positive would need to be hospitalized (20% severity case rate). This covid variant is now more contagious but even worse, more severe. Of note, 7 of these 32 completely refused admission or referral, meaning they went home despite being in critical state. We sadly received word from a few of these cases that they passed away in the next few days in their villages. The first eight days of August 2021 has so far seen 29 positive cases, of which 13 cases were severe (**44.8% severity rate**).

Since becoming a treatment center, our third wave has seen 1 on-site death so far, on Friday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. Add this to the previous 3 on-site deaths in 2020 first wave (when we were a holding center) and 3 on-site deaths in 2021 second wave (when we were a holding center), for a total of 7 on-site deaths. Of the 102 cases of our third wave so far, only 1 case was fully vaccinated (a staff member). This individual had very mild symptoms and self-isolated successfully at home. On the 19<sup>th</sup> of July, Nkhoma Mission Hospital followed the Ministry's request that we would start to treat Covid inpatients on-site. This means

that for severe, hospitalized patients, we no longer refer them to Kamuzu Central Hospital unless we are out of stock of necessary supplies, such as oxygen cylinders or medications. This has put a huge stress on our staffing capabilities to essentially have opened two new wards, but we praise God that currently these needs are met with partner funding through the end of 2021. However, it also puts a large stress on our transport department, which has been having to do twice daily trips to KCH's oxygen plant to refill our 17 large cylinders which keep our severe patients alive. Each patient uses anywhere from 3-6 oxygen cylinders per day. Last Thursday and Friday, we admitted 7 patients within a span of 24 hours. We were forced to send 2 of these to KCH due to our lack of adequate ongoing oxygen. One of the patients was so severe that he required 2 large oxygen cylinders to be running (to give 30L of oxygen) at one time, before he ultimately passed away. The ambulance made multiple trips a day to refill cylinders, but due to high increases of oxygen shortage everywhere, the drivers were often forced to wait in long lines or to return later to collect the filled cylinders, putting our patients at risk.

Day by day, we continue to assess the state of our supplies and staffing as we determine how many patients we can care for. This is a fragile system, as it hugely depends upon KCH's oxygen plant to be continuously running in good time, and our ambulances to be freed up to make these cylinder trips for us, which is not their primary purpose. It depends entirely on donor funding so far, as the Ministry has been reticent on funding requests we have made, except for 5 oxygen cylinders which they have lent to us end-July for Covid purposes. A large proposal was submitted to the Ministry on Friday the 30<sup>th</sup> on what would be required from Nkhoma Mission Hospital to work as a successful government-sanctioned treatment facility. The Ministry has acknowledged receipt but has yet to give any feedback.

Thank you and God bless,

Catherine Hodge, M.D.



**Aberdeenshire North Food Bank** ... We hope that you have all been enjoying the lovely summer sunshine during the past month and that the holiday season has allowed a little break from the usual routine for you all, though perhaps not quite as it has been in the past. We continue to be very grateful for all the support that come in our direction from all of you and we can never tire of saying that without your donations of both food and money we simply could not provide the help for those in food poverty that we do.

We've been reviewing statistics lately and I have attached 3 sets of figures, 2 showing the January - June numbers of people fed for our Inverurie food bank in the pre-pandemic 2019 and in 2021 and the third showing our provision across all 5 food banks in our network for the first 6 months of this year. It reinforces how much we need your support. Thank you for your continuing generosity.

Marbeth Ritchie (Warehouse Co-Ordinator)

<b>2019</b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	
<b>Inverurie</b>							
<b>Households</b>	32	41	52	42	57	39	263
<b>Adults</b>	46	59	70	58	74	60	367
<b>Children</b>	40	39	49	34	35	33	230
<b>Total</b>	86	98	119	92	109	93	597

<b>2021</b>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	
<b>Households</b>	78	66	81	55	55	57	392
<b>Adults</b>	110	95	109	84	89	83	570
<b>Children</b>	65	40	45	36	49	59	294
<b>Total</b>	175	135	154	120	138	142	864

#### **August Wish list -**

**Jam/marmalade**

**Long life fruit juice (1 litre box)**

**UHT Milk(full cream/semi skimmed, please)**

**Sponge puddings**

**Instant Mash**

**Shampoo/shower gel/deodorant**

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

[www.aberdeenshirenorth.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.aberdeenshirenorth.foodbank.org.uk)

**Jennifer Ingram, Foodbank Coordinator for St Andrew's**

## St Andrew's Parish Church

### Volunteer Rota 2021

		Door	Register	Steward	Steward	Steward
<b>Sept</b>	5	<b>A Smith</b>	J Lawson	V Binnie	J Ingram	H Christie
	12	C Clark	Y Clark	<b>R Young</b>	M Conn	A Young
	19	<b>R Milne</b>	P Wink	M Keith	I Fraser	J Bruce
	26	<b>R Green</b>	M Vernal	S Hepburn	D Stuart	J Green

<b>Oct</b>	3	<b>A Smith</b>	V Binnie	J Ingram	S Davidson	J Lawson
	10	C Clark	Y Clark	<b>R Young</b>	H Christie	A Young

**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)

## Service of Thanksgiving & Remembrance ...

**N**HS Grampian Chaplaincy Team have decided this year to have an in-person Service of Thanksgiving and Remembrance. The service isn't specifically to remember people who have died from COVID-19 - though it may include them - but it is to remember all our loved ones who have died, of any cause, in any of the Grampian hospitals or units in this past year at Foresterhill, Dr Gray's, Roxburghe House, Woodend Hospital, Royal Cornhill Hospital or any of the Community Hospitals. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the 2020 Service was recorded and made available through Social Media. This year, we will return to our usual venue at Queens Cross Church, Aberdeen on the second Sunday in September - Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2021 - at 3.00pm. **We are restricting the numbers in the Church to 70 and if you wish to attend, we would ask you to book your place by e-mailing: [gram.chaplaincy@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.chaplaincy@nhs.scot) by noon on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021.**

Please give us your name, number in your party (maximum of 4) and your contact telephone number. If you have a booked a place and find nearer the time of the Service that you cannot attend, please email [gram.chaplaincy@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.chaplaincy@nhs.scot). **Do not come to the Service if you develop any symptoms associated with COVID-19.** You will be required to wear a face mask during the Service. Although the Service will be in-person, it will also be live streamed for those who are not able to attend. The link to the Queens Cross YouTube Channel is :

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCL0nBRVdbAJDfITXRYwzMA>

**We will circulate a link to the live stream service via social media in the week leading up to the service.** The centrepiece of the Service will be the lighting of 12 candles for each month of the year and remembering all those who died during that particular month. If you watch the live stream from home, you may wish to light your own candle at home at the appropriate month. **For further information, please contact:**

**01224 553316 [gram.chaplaincy@nhs.scot](mailto:gram.chaplaincy@nhs.scot)**

Rev Mark Rodgers, Lead Chaplain/Head of Spiritual Care,  
NHS Grampian , Chaplaincy Department,

# Congregational Roll

## ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH CHANGES IN ROLL 26th July—25 August 2021

### Recently Deceased

Mr G Whyte, Westbank Care Home  
Miss N Tough, 32 Netherblackhall

3/8/2021  
7/8/2021

### Service conducted by

Rev. C Irvine  
Rev. C Irvine

### Change of Address

Mrs J Anderson (formerly Millfield, North St) now at Drumdarroch Care Home

## Sunday Services & Readings

### SEPTEMBER

5th 10.00 am Parish Worship

**"Time Out"**\*

Minister: Rev. C Irvine  
Reader: Vera Binnie

12th 10.00 am Parish Worship

Minister: Rev. C Irvine  
Reader: Sarah Davidson

19th 10.00 am Parish Worship

Minister: Rev C Irvine  
Reader: Moira Keith

26th 10.00 am Parish Worship

**"Communion Sunday" \*\***

Minister: Rev C Irvine  
Reader: Kit Pawson

### OCTOBER

3rd 10.00 am Parish Worship

**"Time Out", "Harvest Thanksgiving"& "Giving Day"**

Minister: Rev C Irvine  
Reader: Robin Young

10th 10.00 am Parish Worship

Minister: Rev C Irvine  
Reader: Alison Young

**Good News!** There is no longer any requirement to phone the Church Office to book a seat. Please come along and join us in Sunday Worship. (You will however, be asked for your contact details).

**\*Time Out, 5th September.** Could the children please meet in the front pews of the church for the start of the service. After welcome, etc I will do a children's address and Suzanne will then take them through to the old chapel (not new hall) where they can be collected at the end of the service - hopefully to sit with parents for tea etc

**\*\*Communion, 26th September.** There is still uncertainty whether we will be allowed to hold our traditional communion service within the church. If not, we will live stream as before at 7.00 pm.



## Social Events:

**Summer Soup & Sweet:** On August 21st Molly Conn, Social Committee Convenor, and her team hosted a splendid Soup and Sweet Lunch in the Old Hall and the Old Chapel. Over 130 people attended and enjoyed a choice of 3 delicious soups and 3 mouth watering sweets, followed by coffee and shortbread. During the lunch, traditional music played by Murray Cowie (accordion), Lesley Edmond (fiddle) and Molly Conn (piano) entertained the guests for 2 hours with Scottish music and much loved songs from long ago to the present day, which had everyone tapping their feet and occasionally singing the well known words.



People loved the event - the first one held for over 18 months because of Covid restrictions. The buzz of conversation, the bursts of laughter, the appreciation

of the food and the music and the general upbeat atmosphere made for a happy and carefree afternoon.



Of course, these events do not just "happen". They take weeks of planning involving selling tickets, catering for large numbers, setting out tables, chairs and place settings, the demanding organisation within the kitchen on the day, the serving by both waitresses and waiters (the latter a "first" for St Andrew's!!), the clearing up afterwards - so many aspects to be considered and worked out in order that people who have paid for their tickets have a memorable time. St Andrew's Church is truly grateful to all those who contributed their talents, time and costs to making this Summer Soup and Sweet Lunch such a super occasion. Added to the social success of the day,

there is also a financial benefit as £1,112.00 was raised.



At the end of the Lunch, Carl, our minister, gave a heartfelt Vote of Thanks to all the volunteers and guests which was followed by sincere applause by everyone.

### Future dates for your diaries!

Harvest Lunch on Saturday 30th October - see poster overleaf for further details. *Word to the wise! Phone Molly soon as tickets are going like hot cakes!!*

Christmas Afternoon Tea on Saturday 20th November at 2.00 pm.  
More information about the Afternoon Tea in our October magazine.

*(Thank you to Griselda McGregor, Advertiser, for top photo and to Tom Craggs for the others)*



St Andrew's Parish Church, Inverurie

# Harvest Lunch

Saturday, 30th October at 12 noon—2.00 pm

With traditional music  
(Entertainers to be confirmed  
in October Saltire)

Tickets: £8.00 per person

## menu

### Main Course:

*Mince, Tatties, Peas & Skirlie*

### Dessert:

*Eve's Pudding*

*Jelly Fluff*

*Trifle*

*Coffee, Tea &*

*Macaroons*

For further information  
regarding tickets please  
contact Molly Conn  
(Tel. 01467 620612)



## Last of the Summer Outings - Pitmedden Garden

Over the summer months we have been to Crathes Castle, Loanhead of Daviot Stone Circle, Huntly Castle and for our last outing I am going to suggest the magnificent Pitmedden Garden, only 5 miles from Oldmeldrum.



Brilliant design and meticulous maintenance give this garden its unique charm. With almost 6 miles of clipped box hedging, the parterres (with over 30,000 annual bedding plants) at the heart of the garden are a masterpiece of intricate patterns, knots and

sparkling colours.



The Great Garden was originally set out in 1675 by Sir Alexander Seton and was re-created by the National Trust for Scotland (NTS) in the 1950s, based on the 17th century plans of the gardens at the Palace of Holyroodhouse in Edinburgh. An orchard was planted just outside the walled garden in 2014, packed with over 200 fruit trees as well as nut and fruit bushes.



The upper terrace at Pitmedden will soon look very different, thanks to the pioneering replanting project designed by the Chelsea Flower Show gold medallist, Chris Beardshaw. The NTS is creating the UK's largest "floristic meadow" which will be bursting with colour from spring through to winter.

Two "deconstructed" parterres will feature a wide range of herbaceous plants, including grasses, seasonal bulbs and late flowering, insect-friendly perennials.

//...



All the plants are being grown in Scotland and peat-reduced compost containing minimal fertilisers is being used. The plants will not need staking and few will be cut down in winter, thus providing a seed source for birds and shelter for overwintering insects.



### Don't miss!

The Museum of Farming Life adjacent to Pitmedden House is full of agricultural artefacts from our NE past. This truly is a trip down Memory Lane - especially for "us oldies"!

A visit to the tearoom which has a **Taste our Best Award by Visit Scotland**. (PS from Kit -- don't know about you, but I have piled on the pounds this summer thanks to all the lovely tearooms!!)



### Apple Festival

On the last weekend in September there will be the annual apple festival where you can buy fruits harvested from the garden and enjoy musical entertainment.

**For further information, please phone:**

**Pitmedden Garden 01651 842352**



*With many thanks to -*

**Jim Henderson**

*(Official NTS Grampian Photographer,  
retired)*

*for his stunning photographs.*

### Additional Information

NTS properties in Grampian will mostly be open throughout September and October. Grounds are accessible all year round.

There will be Christmas Shops at selected properties in Grampian during December - more information in the October and November Saltires.



# 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](http://www.standrewschurcheinverurie.org.uk)  
 Click on  
 "listen again".

### **MINISTER :**

The REV CARL IRVINE	(01467 629163)
<b>SESSION CLERK</b> ROSIE MILNE	(01467 622577)
<b>CLERK TO THE BOARD</b> JOYCE LAWSON	(01467 620903)
<b>CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR</b> LINSEY STEWART	(01467 628740)
<b>CHURCH TREASURER</b> TOM CRAGGS	(01358 723055)
<b>WFO TREASURER</b> ALASTAIR SMITH	(01467 623148)
<b>GIFT AID CONVENER</b> ALLAN DUFF	(01467 621040)
<b>MONTHLY COLLECTION CONVENERS</b>	(01467 622275 &
VERA BINNIE & DIANE STUART	(01467 620931)
<b>FABRIC CONVENER (INTERIM)</b> TOM CRAGGS	(01358 723055)
<b>ROLL KEEPER</b> TOM CRAGGS	(01358 723055)
<b>ORGANIST</b> IAN MILNE	(01467 620606)
<b>"TIME OUT" LEADER</b> SUZANNE IRVINE	(01467 629163)
<b>PRESBYTERY ELDER</b> VERA BINNIE	(01467 622275)
<b>SOCIAL COMMITTEE CONVENER</b> MOLLY CONN	(01467 620612)
<b>FLOWER CONVENER</b> EILEEN ROBERTSON	(01467 625895)
<b>TRANSPORT TO CHURCH CONTACT</b> DIANE STUART	(01467 620931)
<b>HALL CLEANER</b> AGNIESZKA MYSZKOWSKA	-
<b>SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR</b> ALISON YOUNG	(01467 625646)
<b>WEBMASTER</b> ALISON YOUNG	(01467 625646)
<b>SALTIRE EDITORS</b> DIANE STUART	(01467 620931)
KIT PAWSON	(01467 372389)

**OCTOBER 2021 SALTIRE ... Will be available for distribution from Sunday, 3rd October 2021. Please email material for the October Saltire to The Church Office by 20th September 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.