



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

THE

DECEMBER 2021

**S
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*May peace, joy and love be with you
all this Christmas*

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

December is upon us already! After another year dominated by the global pandemic, the chance to pause and contemplate the single greatest event in the history of the world is very welcome. When we think about the Nativity in the Bible, we mostly think of two accounts; the first in Matthew and the second in Luke:

Matthew begins his Gospel with the genealogy of Jesus, tracing His ancestry right back to Abraham. Confirming, for his mainly Jewish audience, that Jesus was a Jew. Matthew then recounts how both Mary and Joseph received the news before simply stating, 'Jesus was born at Bethlehem in Judea during the time of

King Herod.' (Matthew 2:1a) Matthew concludes his nativity account with the visit of the Magi, the massacre of the innocents and the flight to, and return from, Egypt. Throughout, Matthew relates the events to prophecies from the Old Testament.

Luke's account goes into more detail. Beginning with the miracles surrounding the birth of John the Baptist, Jesus' cousin, before recounting the events familiar from countless Nativity plays: angelic visits, census, journey to Bethlehem, no room at the inn, stable, manger, shepherds and the presentation of Jesus in the Temple.

This is the Christmas story we remember every year. But there is greater element, only really clear in John's Gospel: 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made; without Him nothing was made that has been made.' (John 1:1-3) John then recounts the Nativity in half a verse, 'The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us.' (John 1:14a) The Word is, of course, Jesus.

If we turn back to the very beginning of the Bible, to the account of creation in Genesis 1, we see how God spoke the universe into being. Each creative act is introduced with the words, 'And God said,' and concludes, 'and there was'. Notice, God **spoke** creation into being, He used the power of His **Word**, the same Word that 'became flesh and made His dwelling among us', Jesus!

Jesus did not start as a baby in a manger, He has always been, He is the creative force responsible for all existence, an integral part of the Triune God. From the moment Adam and Eve were banished from Eden, God worked on bringing us back to Him. The Bible relates the unfolding of His plan, beginning with God's covenant with Abraham and the growth of his family into a nation, continuing with the rescue from Egypt and entry into the Promised Land, and culminating with Jesus' death and resurrection. Through Moses, God rescued the Israelites from slavery to the Egyptians. Through Jesus, He rescues us from the much greater slavery to sin.

Jesus' birth marked the beginning of the final stage of God's plan, a stage that will only be complete when Jesus returns. As we celebrate this Christmas, let's pause to remember the enormity of God's Plan to bring us back to him.

Blessings, Carl

Loving God,

As we pause to celebrate the wonderful birth in Bethlehem, we thank You for Your care. We thank You that You do not turn from us the way we turn from You, that You did not allow the defiance of Adam and Eve to be the end of the relationship between You and humanity, instead, You implemented the most marvellous plan of reconciliation, enacted over millennia, establishing Your covenant first with one man, then a whole nation and finally, through Jesus, the whole world.



Lord Jesus, as You were born in poverty, help us to show compassion to the poor. As You cured the sick, help us to show care for those who are unwell. As You reached out to outcasts, help us to do what we can for refugees and the homeless. As You demonstrated love in so many ways, help us to echo Your example, so that this Christmas brings joy into lives that are in need.

Amen

News from the combined Congregation Board/Kirk Session Meeting held on Wednesday, 10th November 2021 at 7 pm.

Key Points

- Money gratefully received from National Giving Day is to be used for urgent repairs.
- Hall Lets steady. Future Session meetings to be held in Polly's Room.
- The search for a Replacement Treasurer is still ongoing.
- Discussions are in hand to hold a Burns' Concert on Sunday 23rd January 2022 at 2pm by the Garioch Fiddlers.
- A United Watchnight Service to be held in the West Church on 24th December at 11.30 pm.
- A United Christmas Day Service to be held in St Andrew's at 10.00 am.

Members were reminded that the Office Administrator is very busy so please try and keep visits to the office to those that are necessary and complete the business as quickly as possible. The office is open Monday to Friday from 09:30 to 11:30 am. Over the festive period the office will be closed from Friday 24th December through to the 31st and will re-open on Monday 3rd January.



National Giving Day—The members and friends of St. Andrew's **donated £3,730 on National Giving Day.**

Our thanks to everyone for their kind thoughts and generosity which will help St. Andrew's in its efforts to overcome the financial impacts of the COVID pandemic.

Tom Craggs, Treasurer

FUNDRAISING: October :

Teas—£119.31



2021 Christian Aid Local Christmas Card Delivery -



4th—12th December 2021 (Sorting times)

Collection boxes will be available in the Acorn Centre, St Andrew's Church, Morrisons and Tesco on the above dates and the **suggested minimum donation per card is 40p.**

Alison Young 01467 625646

Time Out *This month Dylan, Harry and Stewart thought carefully about the idea of sharing food so that everyone in the world can have enough to eat. We listened to the miracle story of 'The Feeding of the 5000' and were asked to think about believing and trusting in the love of Jesus. Anything can happen when we trust in God. We made paper chains to represent the continued giving of Our Lord, the 2 fish and the 5 loaves being shown in blue and gold respectively.*



The boys had great fun and worked so well together. Looking forward to our December meeting on the 5th when we will focus on Advent and what it means to us.

With love,

Suzanne, Sunday Club Time Out Leader.

Wisemen—In 2019 Inverurie & District Churches Together (IDCT), an ecumenical group of local churches, set up a small nativity scene in Inverurie Square with Mary, Joseph and the baby Jesus. Last year a shepherd and a lamb were added. This year we would like to add the 3 Wise Men and ask for donations towards their cost (£600). If you have enjoyed seeing the nativity scene which is the true meaning of this season, and would like to help IDCT to continue to build it up, please consider making a donation to help our funds. A "just giving page" has been set up to 'Help bring the Wisemen to Inverurie Square'. This gives you a chance to donate something towards the cost of the figures, should you wish to do so.



www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/idct

Rev Rhona Cathcart, West Church



November 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 spaghetti

Jam

Instant mash

Packets of cereal bars

Tinned macaroni cheese

Tinned tomatoes

Jars of sauce

As Christmas goods start to appear in the shops, I would like to remind you of the importance of checking shelf life dates on goods (selection boxes and mince pies in particular!). Some of them are surprisingly short. It makes our lives a lot easier if chocolate goodies etc have a minimum shelf life of 3 months from the time of donation. With best wishes and grateful thanks as ever for your support.

Marbeth Ritchie, Warehouse Co-ordinator

www.aberdeenshirenorth.foodbank.org.uk

Jennifer Ingram, Foodbank Coordinator for St Andrew's

Thank you for the "Meet the Team" in the Autumn Saltires.



It is very pleasant to read the profiles on the Elders, Time Out Leader and others who contribute so much to St Andrew's.

New church members and people like me who are returning to St Andrew's after living in faraway places do not easily get to know the folk who give so much of their time and talents to the church. It helps to get names and photos and to read a little bit about their lives outwith St Andrew's.

I look forward to meeting new friends in future magazines.

Best wishes, Eileen Law

Thank you from Barnardo's Scotland

On behalf of Barnardo's Scotland a huge thank you to the good folk of St Andrew's Church who bought our Christmas cards and other festive goods during the teas after the Sunday services in October and at the Christmas Afternoon Tea in November. Almost £600.00 was raised by direct sales and orders.

This money will help our children and young people in Scotland who desperately need our support.

**A very big
THANK YOU to
you all!
Kit**



St Andrew's Parish Church - Volunteer Rota 2021

		Door	Register	Steward	Steward	Steward
Dec	5	<i>R Milne</i>	P Wink	J Bruce	M Conn	
	12	<i>R Young</i>	A Young	H Christie	I Fraser	
	19	<i>R Green</i>	Y&C Clark	J Green	D Stuart	
	26	<i>A Duff</i>	Volunteers	Volunteers	Volunteers	
Jan	2	<i>R Milne</i>	D Stuart	Volunteers	Volunteers	

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)

25th December: The history of Christmas

The Bible does not give a date for the birth of Jesus. In the third century it was suggested that Jesus was conceived at the Spring equinox, 25th March, popularising the belief that He was born nine months later on 25th December. John Chrysostom, the Archbishop of Constantinople, encouraged Christians worldwide to make Christmas a holy day in about 400.



In the early Middle Ages, Christians celebrated a series of midwinter holy days. Epiphany (which recalls the visit to the infant Jesus of the wise men bearing gifts) was the climax of 12 days of Christmas, beginning on 25th December. The Emperor Charlemagne chose 25th December for his coronation in 800, and the prominence of Christmas Day rose. In England, William the Conqueror also chose 25th December for his coronation in 1066, and the date became a fixture both for religious observance and feasting. Cooking a boar was a common feature of mediaeval Christmas feasts, and singing carols accompanied it. Writers of the time lament the fact that the true significance of Christmas was being lost because of partying. They condemn the rise of 'misrule' - drunken dancing and promiscuity. The day was a public holiday, and traditions of bringing evergreen foliage into the house and the exchange of gifts (usually on Epiphany) date from this time.

In the 17th century the rise of new Protestant denominations led to a rejection of many celebrations that were associated with Catholic Christianity. Christmas was one of them. After the execution of Charles I, England's Puritan rulers

made the celebration of Christmas illegal for 14 years. The restoration of Charles II ended the ban, but religious leaders continued to discourage excess, especially in Scotland. In Western Europe (but not worldwide) the day for exchanging gifts changed from Epiphany (6th January) to Christmas Day. By the 1820s, there was a sense that the significance of Christmas was declining. Charles Dickens was one of several writers who sought to restore it. His novel *A Christmas Carol* was significant in reviving merriment during the festival. He emphasised charity and family reunions, alongside religious observance. Christmas trees, paper chains, cards and many well-known carols date from this time. So did the tradition of Boxing Day, on 26th December, when tradesmen who had given reliable service during the year would collect 'boxes' of money or gifts from their customers.

In Europe Santa Claus is the figure associated with the bringing of gifts. Santa Claus is a shortening of the name of Saint Nicholas, who was a Christian bishop in the fourth century in present-day Turkey. He was particularly noted for his care for children and for his generosity to the poor. By the Middle Ages his appearance, in red bishop's robes and a mitre, was adored in the Netherlands and familiar across Europe. Father Christmas dates from 17th century England, where he was a secular figure of good cheer (more associated with drunkenness than gifts). The transformation of Santa Claus into today's Father Christmas started in New York in the 1880s, where his red robes and white beard became potent advertising symbols. In some countries (such as Latin America and Eastern Europe) the tradition attempts to combine the secular and religious elements by holding that Santa Claus makes children's presents and then gives them to the baby Jesus to distribute.

From: <https://christianity.org.uk/the-history-of-christmas/#.W9LmchNKhsM>

Congregational Roll

ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH CHANGES IN ROLL 15th October—24th November 2021

Recently Deceased

Mr M Moore, 11 Millfield Terrace	15/10/2021
Mrs J Anderson, Millfield, North Street	29/10/2021
Mrs A Milne, 4 Playfaulds House	1/11/2021
Mrs K Kemp, 8 Charles Place	5/11/2021

Service conducted by

Rev R Cathcart
Clatt Church
Rev C Irvine
Rev C Irvine

Change of Address

Mrs M Sangster (formerly 9 Westfield Avenue)	now at Drumdarroch Care Home, Inch
Kelly Murrison (formerly 72 Selbie Drive)	now at "Yewbank", Elphinstone Road, PE

Sunday Services & Readings

DECEMBER

5th	10 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
	"Time Out"	Reader:	Stuart Watson
12th	10 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
		Reader:	Robin Young
19th	10 am FAMILY SERVICE	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
	"TIME OUT" LIVING NATIVITY	Reader:	Moirra Keith



CHRISTMAS EVE

24th Dec

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH -

4.00 pm United Christingle Service

WEST CHURCH -

11.00 pm Carol singing in Church

11.30 pm United Watchnight Service

conducted by Rev. R Cathcart



CHRISTMAS DAY **25th Dec**

ST ANDREW'S CHURCH -

**10.00 am United Christmas Morning Worship
conducted by Rev. C Irvine**

26th	10 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
		Reader:	Volunteer

JANUARY 2022

2nd	10 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
		Reader:	Volunteer

Ministry of Flowers

Church

Vestibule

DECEMBER

5th	The Family of the late D McCombie	Mrs Moira Keith
12th	Mrs Eileen Law	Mrs Hilda Christie
19th	The Watson Family	Sandra & Norman Hepburn
26th	Mrs Norma Brimner	Mrs Beryl Farquhar

JANUARY

2nd To be confirmed



**Happy
Christmas
to you all**

2022 Flower Calendar is now in the Church Vestibule

Hi Everyone,

2021 has still been a challenging time for everyone but hopefully 2022 will bring us back to normality. May I take this opportunity to thank all members of the congregation who have donated so generously to the Flower Fund in 2021. Every Sunday after the church service, the flowers are distributed to members of the Church who are ill or have suffered a bereavement.

With the new 2022 calendar now in the vestibule, could you please add your preferred date for flowers by writing your name and telephone number in the spaces provided. A few weeks before your date please put your donation into an envelope with your details, date, preferred colours, if any, and hand into the church office. If paying by cheque, please make it payable to St Andrew's Church Flower Fund. I would like to also take this opportunity to give a huge thank you to all my amazing flower team. St Andrew's is a beautiful church and the flower team never disappoint with their creativity. Big, Big thanks to Maisie Roger, Moira Thomson, Audrey Paterson, Hazel Gauld, Eunice Naysmith, Kay Sutherland and Shona Johnston. Thanks also to Linsey, our church administrator, for all her help, and finally thanks to Moira Keith for her continued support.

Eileen Robertson, Your Flower Convener

Didn't the church look amazing for Remembrance Sunday.

A big thank you to Pat Wink for her beautifully knitted poppies and a big thank you as well to Mo Vernal who helped Pat to display them so creatively in the church.
Thank you ladies.





Hello to all,

Hope you all had a nice break during the Tattie Holidays. The boys have returned with a bang!

We started back with a Hallowe'en Disco/Party when we had the boys in Fancy Dress, with their pumpkins, to be judged by our Chaplain and Church Minister, Carl Irvine. We are most grateful to Carl for coming along and picking the winners. The choice was hard as there were some cracking costumes but eventually two winners were chosen: one from Anchors & one from Juniors. They were Alfie Gordon from Juniors & Ruariadh Morris from Anchor Boys. Huge congratulations to them.

The Pumpkin prizes went to Cameron Lorimer from Juniors and Bobby Jordan from Anchors - they both got £5 vouchers to spend in Strachan's toy dept so hopefully they spent them wisely! We sent the boys home with a Hallowe'en "goody bag" which had a few sweets, some glow sticks and a wee light up toy each.

The boys all returned to normal activities this week with Company Section starting to practice drill. We then all helped to make the Airfix model spitfires which we had bought in kit form.

Anchor Boys last night finished making their hand print aliens before moving on to their WW2 Programme. They had a shot at the Evacuation game which has an assault course of tunnels, benches and the big parachute to manoeuvre through obstacles. This game was greeted with great hilarity.



Juniors - They started on their WW2 themed programme which involved colouring-in a Spitfire. Then they too had a game of Evacuation. All in all another fantastic and fun packed couple of weeks.

Next Monday the Anchor Boys will be getting a talk from one of the Aberdeen Airport Firemen and hopefully, after Christmas, we can get the boys to visit the station.

We also presented some boys with their medals and certificates for the Go Wild Challenge.

Company and Juniors attended the Armistice Parade on Sunday, 14th November. We had 14 boys on parade. (The young Anchor boys were not allowed to parade.)

Happy Christmas from the BB Team



Meet the St Andrew's Team—*Over the next few months, we shall be including information about our Elders, Board Members, Volunteers and Staff. We hope you will enjoy reading about the folk who contribute to the smooth running of our church.*

Molly Conn—Elder & Social Convener

I was born in Aberdeen and brought up with my parents and big sister, Margaret, in a croft outside Rhynie. There was always music in our house: my parents had a dance band so I was brought up with a love and appreciation of music. From an early age I was involved with Rhynie Church and enjoyed singing at the various concerts and other kirk events. I trained as a Dental Nurse at College in Aberdeen. For many years I was a member of the team at the Medical / Dental Suite at Inverurie Academy and my final working years were spent in the Dental General Anaesthetic Theatre at the newly built Aberdeen Children's Hospital.



As mentioned, music has always been a huge part of my life, and, as I grew older, I ran my own dance band for 10 years (the Molly Shand Dance Band), and I also played the piano with other groups and bands. I have one daughter, Alison, and one granddaughter, Danielle, who both live in Inverurie.

I became an Elder in St Andrew's Church in 2016 (having previously been a Board Member) and have been Convenor of the Social Committee for many years. I have made many good friends through my kirk activities and the church played a major part in helping me cope with my husband Morris's death. I feel the church is my other family.

Reports on 2 very successful Events:

Harvest Lunch—On Saturday 30th October the Social Committee and other helpers hosted a Harvest Lunch in the Old Hall and the Old Chapel. Both venues were filled to capacity and guests enjoyed wonderfully prepared traditional fare whilst listening to great music provided by Peter Taggart, accordionist, his daughter, Marie Noble, vocalist, Lesley Edmond, fiddler, and Molly on the piano. It was a fun afternoon with lots of good hearted chatter and laughter with everyone enjoying themselves.



Thanks to the hard work of Social Convenor, Molly, and her devoted team of workers, the grand sum of **£1,102.00 was raised**. A vote of thanks must also be given to all those who assisted with the setting up of tables etc on Friday morning and the tidying up on Saturday late afternoon.



Kit

Christmas Afternoon Tea—The Christmas Afternoon Tea was the last social event of this year and was held on Saturday 20th November. As usual the



tickets had been quickly snapped up and both the Old Hall (splendidly decorated with dolls, teddies & soft toys in festive dress plus other seasonal adornments) and the Old Chapel (with a more thoughtful religious theme) were filled with happy people of all ages (including young Logan aged 4½ months!) enjoying an afternoon tea worthy of the London Ritz. Molly's team had made dainty sandwiches, mini sausage rolls, scones with double cream & jam, mince pies, meringues and a variety of delicious home bakes which provided a mouth watering treat along with tea served in beautiful porcelain pots. Mulled wine



was poured, for those who wished, as an elegant final flourish to this spectacular event. Fun and laughter abounded everywhere and everyone voted this party a great success. A further attraction was the Craft Fair which was held in Polly's Room and the Inner Hall where local folk exhibited their highly skilled handcrafted goods for sale. Thanks to the fantastic hard work by Molly, the Social Committee and other volunteers, who worked SO hard before, during and after the event, **£1,371.00 was raised**. St Andrew's gives you all our heartfelt thanks and congratulations.

Kit



MOLLY'S RAFFLE We are now entering the last 3 weeks of Molly's Raffle which will be drawn by Derek

Ritchie, BID Manager, at the teas after the service on **Sunday 19th December**. There is still time to buy your tickets either by contacting Molly (01467 620612) or the church office (01467 628740). There are more than 30 wonderful prizes waiting to be won - and you could be one of the lucky winners! Thank you for your support.

Kit

St Andrew's Church, Inverurie
Burns' Concert
 Sunday, 23rd January 2022
 2 pm

Garioch Fiddlers
 Come along and enjoy an
 afternoon of music

St Andrew's Parish Church, Inverurie

Burns' Lunch

Saturday, 15th January 2022
 12 noon—2.00 pm

Come and join in the celebrations
 of Robert Burns
 Traditional music

Tickets : £10.00 per person

Tickets may be obtained
 from Molly Conn
 (Tel. 01467 620612)



Who's Who at 'St Andrew's'

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	VERA BINNIE & DIANE STUART	(01467 620931)
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JANUARY 2022 SALTIRE ... Will be available for distribution from Sunday, 9th January 2022. Please email material for the January Saltire to The Church Office by 15th December 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.