



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

**THE**

**JANUARY 2022**

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**Happy New Year 2022**

**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

The start of a new year is often a time of reflection and a time of hope: reflection on the year just gone and hope for the year ahead.

For many people, 2021, like its preceding year, was dominated by the pandemic; trying to keep up with the latest guidance, remembering to take a mask when leaving the house, and maintaining relationships when not seeing relatives and friends enough, or even seeing them too much! But, of course, there was much more to last year than Covid, the normal ups and downs of life still continued to affect everyone. Leaving the pandemic to one side, some will look back at the past year fondly, others will be glad it's over, while still others will be somewhere in the middle.

Looking forward to the year ahead is always full of uncertainty. In the depths of a cold, Scottish winter, many look forward to a week, or two, on holiday in the Mediterranean sun, some may be looking to a special event, perhaps a wedding, a new baby or a 'big' birthday or anniversary. But this year, the uncertainty is magnified by the pandemic: Will it end? Will we learn to live normal lives around it? Will it continue to dominate what we can or cannot do? The only certainty is, we just don't know!

As Christians, what we do know is that there is so much more to life than the plans we make. When the pandemic closed the Church building, we carried on worshipping at home and online. When we couldn't help loved ones practically, we could pray for them. And when we felt almost overwhelmed by pandemic restrictions, we could draw on the inner strength of the Holy Spirit. This should come as no surprise, because scripture tells us that God will look after us, 'Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness.' (Lamentations 3:22-24)

When we root our lives in God, we become a member of His family and we can trust in His care. That does not mean that we abandon responsibility and just let 'life happen to us', but it does mean accepting that He has our best interests at heart: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." (Jeremiah 29:11)

As we look forward to 2022, we can still hope that the pandemic will end, we can still make plans for the new year as before, including holidays, special events, and so on. But, if these plans have to be changed, or even abandoned altogether, we should not be disheartened, rather we should look to make the most of whatever comes our way. For we know the truth of scripture, 'And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 4:19)

My prayer for the year ahead is for God's love to continue to be felt throughout the world, regardless of what else is going on. Whatever 2022 holds for you, remember, in God, you already have all you need.

Many blessings,

Carl

Loving God,

As we stand at the start of a new year, help us to face it with confidence. Be with us in our plans and hopes for 2022, be with us if they come to fruition, be with us if they need to be changed, and be with us if they need to be abandoned altogether. Remind us always, that Your plans never fail, that Your plan for us is unfolding as it should, and that we can be certain that Your plan for us is much better than anything we could plan for ourselves.



Heavenly Father, as You lavish Your love on us, help us to share it with all we meet and through all we do. We know that all is not well in this world, guide us as we seek to do what we can to make the world a better place, a place where poverty and violence are not tolerated, a place where care for the environment is a prime concern, and a place where Your Gospel can become the foundation upon which more and more people build their lives.

Lord, bless this new year to Your glory. Amen

## **News from the combined Congregation Board/Kirk Session Meeting held on Wednesday, 8th December 2021 at 7 pm.**

### **Key Points**

- Social Committee to cover costs to replace oven in the kitchen.
- Ongoing repairs to Manse and Church.
- Hall lettings still steady with new enquiries coming in.
- A number of social events planned for 2022.
- It was proposed that we now hold quarterly communions.

**Due to new Covid regulations the Church Office is meanwhile 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.**



### **December 2021**

We are very grateful for ALL food donations that are made here but this month we are particularly short of the following items:

**Tinned veg**

**Jars of sauce**

**Tins of meat (steak/mince)**

**Packets of pasta sauce**

**Tins of beans & sausages/ravioli**

**Packets of cereal bars**

**Shower gel**

Currently we have good supplies of pasta, soup, beans and tea bags, thanks to your generosity. Thank you for supporting us, especially throughout another challenging year. [www.aberdeenshirenorth.foodbank.org.uk](http://www.aberdeenshirenorth.foodbank.org.uk)

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



**Time Out ....** Our lovely lads Harry , Dylan and Stuart had a creative construction time this month. Suzanne delivered an Advent input to complement the Talk delivered by Rev. Carl Irvine.

During Time Out the children were asked what waiting meant for them in daily life. We then thought deeper when we asked ourselves what Advent (waiting on the arrival ) meant to us. We made our own Advent candles to remind us of the four Sundays in Advent before hearing Suzanne read The Advent story whilst enjoying a drink of juice. We finished our Time Out class by joining in fellowship with the congregation for our 'fly cup'. Look forward to our next Sunday Club Time Out in January.



Happy New Year to you all  
and every good wish for a  
Blessed 2022  
With love,  
**Suzanne**, Sunday Club  
Time Out Leader.



## Ministry of Flowers

### Church

### Vestibule

#### JANUARY

9th Mrs Moira Keith  
16th Mrs N Sinclair  
23rd Dylan Davidson  
30th Neil & Louise Grant

#### FEBRUARY

6th Mr Shand  
13th Ken & Jill Tuach

With the new 2022 calendar now in the vestibule, would 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.

**Eileen Robertson**, Your Flower Convener

# The reality of faith in God

As we enter this New Year of 2022 even the most devoted Christians can't ignore the uncertainties we face. The whole world was caught up in the persistent spread of Coronavirus. It is shaking national economies and causing untold stress and harm. Many people fear that their lives and families will never be the same again. Almost daily the news has been gloomy and economic experts say the situation is the worst in living memory. How do we, as Christians, react to all this? What do we trust in? Has God something to say to us in these days?

An answer may be found in a well-loved passage from the Bible – Psalm 23: 'The Lord is my shepherd ...He restores my soul ...he leads me ...I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever.' But in the middle of this lovely psalm there are three reminders that Christians are NOT exempt from the realities of life. The psalmist speaks of 'the paths of righteousness', 'the valley of the shadow' and 'the presence of my enemies.' The mention of 'the paths of righteousness' is a reminder that we are called to love the Lord and live our lives in *righteousness*. The wonderful promises in this psalm come with a condition; they are given to those who determine by God's grace to live righteously. And that must be our first resolution for 2022.

The 'valley of the shadow' may refer to death, but generally the reference here is wider. It means all those occasions when fear and sorrow and heartbreak and loss come to even the best Christians.

Then there are our 'enemies.' Originally that probably meant those wanting to kill the psalmist. For us it may be the seduction of old temptations, the fears that paralyse us and the memories of sins that still haunt us.

The psalmist is a realist! As Christians we live our lives in the real world! We are not floating on cloud nine; we are rooted in a fallen world and surrounded by temptations and sins and infirmities. Any day, pain, an incurable disease, even death itself, may come to us or to those we love. How do we face these realities?

Psalm 23 has the answer. If we, by God's grace, will walk in 'the paths of righteousness,' then all the promises are ours! The Lord will be our Shepherd. He will lead us by the still waters; He will restore our souls, prepare a table for us in the wilderness, protect and guide us with His rod and staff and, at the end, bring us into the house of the Lord forever. Let's make Psalm 23 our charter of faith for 2022!

*Extracted from Parish Pump*

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**Tom, Treasurer**

## St Andrew's Parish Church : Volunteer Rota 2022

		<b>Beadle</b>	<b>Register</b>	<b>Steward</b>	<b>Steward</b>
<b>Jan</b>	9	<b><i>R Milne</i></b>	M Conn	M Keith	S Hepburn
	16	<b><i>R Young</i></b>	A Young	I Fraser	H Christie
	23	<b><i>R Green</i></b>	J Green	M Vernal	V Binnie
	30	<b><i>A Smith</i></b>	Y & C Clark	P Wink	S Davidson
<b>Feb</b>	6	<b><i>R Milne</i></b>	K Pawson	N Peters	J Bruce
	13	<b><i>R Young</i></b>	A Young	J Ingram	A Duff

**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)

### 25<sup>th</sup> Jan: St Paul, the first Christian intellectual

This month, on 25<sup>th</sup> January, the Church celebrates probably the most famous conversion of all. At least, what happened to a young man called Saul on the road to Damascus has become a byword for all instant conversions - what is known as a 'damascene' moment. Saul was a devout Jew, a Pharisee, a student of Gamaliel and a fierce critic of the followers of Jesus, then a very new sect on the religious scene.

On his way to Damascus to start a purge of Christians in that city, he was blinded by a bright light and heard a voice saying, 'Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?' He asked the identity of the voice, and was told: 'Jesus, whom you are persecuting'. Stunned by the experience, he followed further instructions which led him to a Christian man in Damascus, who prayed with him. As he did, Saul's sight was restored.

The experience convinced Paul that Jesus - crucified in Jerusalem four or five years earlier - was in fact the Messiah and had risen from the dead. After a period of instruction, Saul was baptised and took the name Paul. At first, some Christians were wary about the reality of his conversion, but over a period of time he was accepted and

indeed eventually recognised as an 'apostle', a 'special messenger' of Jesus Christ.

His intellectual stature and leadership gifts quickly marked him out, and within a few years he became a leading figure in the emerging Christian Church, preaching and founding churches all over the Middle East, largely of Gentile converts. He was eventually martyred in Rome, probably in 65AD. Paul was the first intellectual of the Christian Church, the man who was able to set the events of the life and teaching of Jesus, and especially His death and resurrection, into a coherent theology, with its roots very clearly in the Jewish faith of his own upbringing.

Many people think of Paul as a rather negative, narrow misogynist, but even a quick reading of his letters actually reveals a person of great warmth, who evoked enormous affection and devotion from others. 'You would have plucked out your eyes and given them to me!' he writes to the Christians at Galatia. As for the charge that Paul disliked women, even a quick read of his letters will reveal how large a role women played in his churches. In terms of the first century, St Paul was a dangerous liberal! So, all in all, the amazing Paul of Tarsus deserves a bit of celebrating on 25<sup>th</sup> January.

*Extracted from Parish Pump*

# Congregational Roll

## ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH CHANGES IN ROLL

25th November—31st December 2021

### Recently Deceased

Mrs E Harper, Orleans, Blackhall Rd	4/11/21
Mr W Ord, 10 Davah Court	16/11/21
Mr D Prosser, Roselle, School Rd, PE	6/12/21

### Service conducted by

Rev. C Irvine
Rev. C Irvine
Rev. C Irvine

### Change of Address

Mr M Mountford (formerly Woodlands Farm, Kintore)	now 11 Riverside Park, Inverurie
Mr & Mrs K Gillies (formerly 33 Brandsbutt)	now Flat 7, Ury Bank, Wallace Rd

## Sunday Services & Readings

### JANUARY 2022

9th	10 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
	<b>"TIME OUT"</b>	Reader:	Moirra Keith
16th	10 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
		Reader:	Alison Young
23rd	10 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
		Reader:	Stuart Watson
30th	10 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
		Reader:	Sarah Davidson

### FEBRUARY

6th	10 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
	<b>"TIME OUT"</b>	Reader:	Vera Binnie
13th	10 am Parish Worship	Minister:	Rev. C Irvine
		Reader:	Robin Young

## Happy New Year

Heaven's gift of another year

As the old departs and the new is born,

Plans for a future and a hope

Preparing us for each new dawn.

Yesterday has gone forever,

New days and ventures lie ahead,

Even darkness turns to light

When we make the Lord our head.

Yielding to the Holy Spirit

Ever mindful that He's there,

As we live our lives before Him

Rejoicing in His loving care.

By Megan Carter





Well Folks,

We hope you are all safe and looking forward to 2022. In the previous few weeks before Christmas, the Anchor Boys were remarkably busy making leaf lanterns and being able to read and understand time in written words, digital and analogue ... at all of which they proved to be very proficient. They also discussed "Frozen", the movie, and how Olaf the Snowman melted to save Princess Anna. This sacrifice provided a discussion on how Jesus loves us and how He put other people before Himself. The boys had fun making their Melted Snowman Biscuit which had to be eaten rather than taken home.

Anchor Boys and Junior Section completed the Christmas card colouring competition for North Scottish District and, although Junior Section were not successful this year, Anchor Boys had a 1<sup>st</sup> prize awarded to Ewan Dewar and 4<sup>th</sup> Prize to Bobby Jordon. Unfortunately, due to the bad weather we had to cancel a meeting night.

Junior Section have also been very busy. We discussed World War Two, which involved the evacuation of children and we also coloured in Spitfire templates. We discussed COP 26 and all the necessary information about climate change, how it effects the world and what we can do to help. We attended the annual Armistice Day Parade, and finally we had a theme night about Advent and the history and purpose of it.

Company Section were also very busy assembling and building model aeroplane models (Spitfire). We had general talks about 5 steps to mental well being. In addition they was an evening when the topic was building walls or bridges and discussing the theme that Christians build bridges rather than walls, It became a very interesting debate.

The company also conducted a small fundraising evening with the help of a parent when the theme was Tropical Skin Care and although the attendance was hampered by the weather it proved very successful. The Company would like to thank Nicola Thomson for her support in organising this evening. We have now wound up for our session. Both Anchor Boys and Junior Section had their Christmas party, Company Section enjoyed a Christmas meal and both Junior and Anchor Boys attended the local pantomime on 18<sup>th</sup> December.

All in all it has been a very busy session and we will return after the festive season.

Wishing you all a prosperous New Year  
and all the very best for 2022

Stay Safe

**BB Team**





Hello,

I'm a volunteer at 2 local rescues and a Hedgehog Champion with the British Hedgehog

Preservation Society/Peoples' Trust for Endangered Species.

How long is it since you last saw a hedgehog? The UK has lost a third of its population since 2000, and their numbers are declining as fast as tigers in the wild. They are now officially classed as vulnerable to extinction in the IUCN's Red List for British Mammals. There are many reasons and it's sad to think that, for future generations, such a fate would make this lovely, prickly God's creature only a character in storybooks. Here are 10 simple tips to help them.

1. Link your garden with a Hedgehog Highway. Hedgehogs travel between 1-2 km a night searching for food and a mate. Leaving a small gap in your fence the size of a CD case will let hedgehogs through but be too small for pets. BHPT/PTES sell snazzy little recyclable Hedgehog Highway signs, for a few pounds. Ask your neighbours to do the same!

2. Create a wild corner in your garden so they can snuffle around for insects.

3. Tidy up netting and litter which can trap hedgehogs due to their spines. Even rubber bands dropped by the postie can become embedded in their skin, causing a slow, painful death.

4. Put out food and water. You can supplement their diet with wet dog or cat food (preferably not fish based). No bread, milk or mealworms, which are all extremely bad for them. For those who are into simple DIY you can make a feeding station to stop other animals having a free supper - details on the BHPS website/YouTube

5. Stop using chemicals especially slug pellets. Hedgehogs are a gardener's best friend as they eat slugs as well as many

other beasts which would otherwise be devouring your prize flowers and vegetables

6. Check before mowing or strimming. Hedgehogs often sleep in long grass or hedges during daytime and won't run away if they hear a mower, resulting in horrific injuries or death. Use gloves to move a single hog to safety. If there's a family, call the BHPS for advice on 01584 890801, the SSPCA on 0300 999 999 or Google to find your local Hedgehog Rescue.

7. Be careful with bonfires or simply burning leaves. Piles of debris are irresistible to a hedgehog looking for somewhere to hibernate or nest - build it on the day of burning to avoid a tragic end, or if you have to build it before then check carefully with a pole or broom, not a spade or fork. They are usually in the centre.

8. Make a home for hedgehogs. A log pile is one of the best features for encouraging all kinds of wildlife, and easy to make. It will encourage insects and provide nesting opportunities all year around. Alternatively, you can make your own hedgehog house - download instructions from the BHPS website.

9. Keep an eye out for hedgehogs when driving at night, & let it get over the road safely if you see one. If you see it too late try to steer so it will pass under the middle of the car where it is least likely to be harmed.

10. Record hedgehog sightings, including dead ones, on The Big Hedgehog Map website. This is important in building up a picture of where they are most active & how we can encourage local populations. A hedgehog seen during the day is usually in need of help & you should contact one of the organisations above.

If you'd like to do more, you can become a Hedgehog Champion by registering on the Hedgehog Street website, where you can find lots of resources to make your gardens, neighbourhood and Parish, hedgehog-friendly zones.

**Moir Grant  
Falkirk**

**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.*



## Joyce Bruce—Elder

I was born in Bridge of Allan and brought up in Clackmannan. I attended Clackmannan Primary alongside my two younger sisters and two brothers.

I trained as a nurse at Stirling Royal Infirmary ... happy days! I always wanted to be a nurse ever since I could speak ... according to my mum.

I moved to Aberdeen to nurse but was never really happy there. I had prepared to go back to Stirling when I met John and never left! We married in Alloa West Church in 1975. The photograph in the local "Squeak" read "Inverurie Loon marries Alloa Girl"! I was always introduced and known within the area as the "wife of Johnny Bruce fae the shoe shop"! (Often still am!).

We have been retired for 7 years. Our son, Steven, now has the shop along with his wife, Dale. Our daughter Lorna also worked alongside us but now she and her husband Steven have The Kintore Trophy Centre. We have 4 grandchildren, all having been involved with St Andrew's. Steven and Lorna were both married in St Andrew's.

I am a keen outdoor bowler and have missed it tremendously during the pandemic. Hopefully 2022 may see somethings back to normal!!

My gran played a big part in my church life. From a very early age my sisters and I attended church, Sunday School and Bible Class. I will always remember the morning I received the letter from the St Andrew's Church inviting me "to give much careful and prayerful consideration to become an elder". I felt honoured to accept. I continue to be involved and committed to the work of the church. It is always there for me.



**Information on Burns' Events ....** The Burns' Lunch has been postponed due to Covid regulations. For further information please phone Molly (01467 620612) and we shall also be updating the event in the February Saltire. Thank you.

At the time of this magazine going to print the Afternoon Burns' Concert is still on schedule to be held on Sunday, 23rd January as set out on the poster on page 11. If anything changes because of Covid regulations you will be informed.



## Social Events:



**Molly's Raffle** ... After the service on Sunday 19th December, Molly's Raffle was drawn in the Old Hall. As people enjoyed their coffees, teas, mulled wine and festive fare, Derek Ritchie, Manager of BID, Inverurie, kindly "did the honours". There were over 30 magnificent prizes, including several superb Christmas hampers, and great fun was had as Derek drew the winning tickets.



Thanks to Molly's inspirational idea and hard work, and thanks to all those (including The Boys' Brigade who gave 2 hampers) who donated the hampers and individual prizes, a grand total of £1,650.00 was raised.

Finally, and very importantly, a huge thank you to everyone who bought tickets, thus making this raffle such a success—both financially and as a light hearted, happy event. You are all STARS!



Kit

# Who's Who at 'St Andrew's'

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**FEBRUARY 2022 SALTIRE ... Will be available for distribution from Sunday, 30th January 2022. Please email material for the February Saltire to The Church Office by 20th January 2022.**

### **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.