

THE

# **St Andrew's Parish Church**

(Church of Scotland), Inverurie

# **APRIL 2022**

S A L T Ι 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**

In about 500 BC, the Greek philosopher, Heraclitus of Ephesus, said, '*Change is the only constant in life*'. In today's world, the truth of this seems evident. In technology, no sooner have you splashed out on the latest T.V., phone, laptop, etc. than a new, improved model comes out. Over the past two years, it seems that we have lived with an ever-changing set of rules and advice to limit the harm from the COVID-19 pandemic. While in the world of fashion, the latest 'look' changes so fast, that I gave up long ago. Through all of this, it seems, the Church of Scotland has continued in pretty much the same way it has done for a long time. But change is coming to the Church as well.

In 2019, the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland agreed a 'Radical Action Plan', which aims to address the problems of falling numbers of church goers and ministers, and a legacy of too many buildings, some of which are either no longer suitable or in the wrong places. As a result of this, various structural changes are underway in the National Church, one of which will result in a reduction in the number of presbyteries. In preparation for this, the General Assembly passed the 'Presbytery Mission Plan Act' in 2021, meaning each existing presbytery must write a new 'Presbytery Mission Plan', which will then help presbyteries combine.

The latest draft of the new 'Gordon Presbytery Mission Plan'\*, is now in the consultation phase. It was discussed at the joint meeting of St. Andrew's Kirk Session and Congregational Board on 9 March, and you can read about this in the 'News from the Combined Congregation Board/Kirk Session Meeting' section of this magazine below.

Despite all this change, I must disagree with Heraclitus of Ephesus, change is **not** the only constant in life, because God is a far greater constant. Time and again, in scripture, we can find this truth:

'But You (God) are the same, and Your years will have no end.' (Psalms 102:27)

'I, the Lord, do not change,' (Malachi 3:6a)

'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever. (Hebrew 13:8)

The circumstances of our lives may change in many different ways: gradually or suddenly, planned or unplanned, welcome or unwelcome, for better or worse, chosen or imposed. But what never changes is the foundation of our hope. As the people of God, we can be assured that He will be with us, no matter what changes we face:

'This is my command: be strong, be resolute; do not be fearful or discouraged, for wherever you go the Lord your God is with you.' (Joshua 1:9)

Blessings,

Carl

\*The Draft 'Presbytery Mission Plan' for Gordon is available on the Presbytery website (www.presbyteryofgordon.org.uk)). We thank You for Your everlasting love: moved to create, patient to teach and forgiving when asked. In You, we know we are secure yet, in the world we can be fearful. Scared of the unknown, worried for the needy, and unsettled by change. Yet, to You, there is no unknown, in



You all needs are fulfilled, and with You all change is for the good.

As Your Church faces a period of change, we seek Your blessing on those who are working to ensure that the result will be a Church more able to do Your work in this land. Help us to let go of the things which are no longer effective, improve those that bear faithful witness, and build new ways to advance Your mission. Build us up, we pray, to be true ambassadors for You.

In Jesus' name,

Amen

## News from the combined Congregation Board/Kirk Session Meeting held on Wednesday, 9th March 2022 at 7 pm in the **New Chapel**

## **Key Points**

- There was a discussion about the draft Presbytery Plan. It was decided to appeal for the reversal of the decision to release our New Hall and reconsider proposed staffing levels for the future.
- Session have also agreed to begin exploring with representatives from Fintray/Keithhall/ Kinellar Parish Church the possibility of uniting them and St Andrew's.
- As of 21st March the law will change meaning the wearing of masks in church is no longer compulsory.\*\*

### The Church Office will return to normal working hours as of 11th April 2022, ie Monday to Friday, 9.30-11.30 am.

#### Rosie Milne, Session Clerk

\*\*Since the Session Meeting on 9th March the law has been amended. It is expected that the law will change at some point in April, meaning that the wearing of masks in church will no longer be compulsory. It was noted that, while some people will welcome this, others may wish to continue wearing masks and would be uncomfortable around those not wearing them. To provide choice, we will set aside the Chapel of Appolinaris **exclusively** for those who wish to wear a mask and not be near people who are unmasked. To be clear, masks may still be worn in the sanctuary, but **must** be warn in the Chapel of Apollinaris.

Please note, this change will take effect when, and only when, the law changes, and will be announced in the intimations on the Sunday before the change.

# Why Easter will never go away

How do you make sense of the Resurrection? Dead men don't rise, so why believe that this particular dead man *did* rise?

At the end of St Luke's gospel we read that: "they still did not believe it because of joy and amazement" (Luke 24.4). This is highly significant. The Gospels do not show us a group of disciples who were in a receptive frame of mind. After the crucifixion, they were in hiding, frightened and scattered. Then suddenly, they came out of hiding and were totally different; excited, joyful. By Pentecost they were confident, with one firm message: 'You crucified Jesus, but God raised Him up!' How did they know this? Because of direct personal experience. Some of them had visited the tomb of Jesus: it was empty. Others claimed to have seen and touched the risen

Lord. Were they hallucinating? People can hallucinate in groups – when taking drugs, for example. But of course, each one will see a different hallucination. But the disciples all saw the same thing. Or rather, the same person. Jesus.

Were they lying? Jesus had died a humiliating death as a criminal. Perhaps they wanted to rescue His good name. So, did they pretend they had seen Him? This theory has a big problem. Their preaching led them into trouble with the authorities. They were beaten and imprisoned and some of them killed. People will die for ideas and causes which they believe in passionately. But not for things they have made up. We might suffer for our convictions, but we will not suffer for our inventions. What about the 'swoon' theory? That Jesus didn't die on the cross, despite terrible wounds? That He recovered in the tomb, and then escaped? That the disciples nursed Him back to health? But Roman soldiers knew when a man was dead; and there was the guard on the tomb. Also, the events which followed simply don't fit. If the disciples had been hiding Jesus all along, they would have kept very low-key, and out of the way, so that the authorities did not come after Him again. Besides, to preach that God had raised Jesus from the dead - which is exactly what they did preach - would have been a lie. Beatings and threat of death would soon have loosened their tongues. Inventions crumble under pressure; convictions hold fast. Another reason for believing in the Resurrection is this: Jesus' continuing impact. Thousands and soon millions of people in every generation since have shared an inescapable sense of being 'accompanied' through life. Though unseen, they identify this presence as the Risen Lord.

Sometimes this experience of meeting Jesus is gentle and fitful. Sometimes it is dramatic and life changing. This reminds us that the resurrection of Jesus is not just an interesting historical puzzle. It is a vital, present day reality. It brings wonderful comfort, assuring us of the central Christian truths: death is dead; Jesus is alive; God is love.

This central notion was captured, most movingly, by the great Albert Schweitzer: 'He came to those men who knew Him not. He speaks to us the same word: "Follow thou me," and sets us to the tasks which He has to fulfil for our time. He commands. And to those who obey Him, whether they be wise or simple, He will reveal Himself in the toils, the conflicts, the suffering which they shall pass through in His fellowship, and, as ineffable mystery, they shall learn in their own experience who He is.'

### Have a joyful – and a challenging – Easter.

Extracted from Parish Pump



		Beadle	Register	Steward	Steward
Apr	3	R Milne	P Wink	M Keith	K Pawson
	10	R Young	A Young	N Peters	J Bruce
	17	R Green	J Green	J Lawson	A Duff
	24	A Smith	Y&C Clark	S Hepburn	J Ingram
May	1	R Milne	M Keith	M Conn	S Hepburn
	8	R Young	A Young	I Fraser	H Christie

## St Andrew's Parish Church Volunteer Rota 2022

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. We hope everybody is safe and well and looking forward to the clock change at the end of the month and better weather.

Anchor Boys have been busy with their activities with a discussion he bays knew the been skin is black and the fun

about Polar Bears. Some of the boys knew the bear skin is black and the fur white and they also learned how far the bears could swim and their height & weight. There was a little quiz at the end with everyone scoring 9 or 10/10. They also decorated their pancakes for Pancake Tuesday. This week we celebrated World Book Day Theme with most of the boys dressed as characters from their favourite book. There was a discussion with everyone about their favourite books. We discussed the Greatest Book - the Bible and the boys knew/ remembered quite a few stories. Finally we had a quick Mr Men game, from which the leaders enjoyed Mr Lazy the most!!



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**Junior Section** continued with their badge activities and their DIY project in making the Birds' Nest Boxes. We also embarked on making pancakes and the boys certainly enjoyed that. At our last meeting we briefly discussed the situation in Ukraine and opened the evening with a prayer for all the people caught up in the war. We also discussed a subject called sensory overload, which was a brief introduction into how sound, light and distractions affect different people. We watched two short videos on Autism.

**Company Section** were also very active conducting a Winter Olympics themed night, gathering information on all sporting activities. They also made pancakes one night and had a 6-Nations Quiz. They had an Escape Room theme where the boys had to develop the problemsolving skills to escape from a room. All in all, the boys are enjoying every section.

## **Congregational Roll**

#### ST ANDREW'S PARISH CHURCH CHANGES IN ROLL 14th February—23rd March 2022

#### **Recently Deceased**

Mr J Beagrie, 1 Baddiefurrow Mrs Muriel Trail, Hagla, Blackhall Road Mr James (Jim) Morrison, The Meadows Care Home (formerly 18 Watson Court)

## 14/2/2022 26/2/2022

#### Service conducted by

Aberdeen Crematorium Rev. C Irvine

13/3/2022

Rev. C Irvine

Certificate of Transference of Lines from St Andrew's

Mrs M Chapman, 10 Middleton Way, Inverurie

# Sunday Services & Readings

#### APRIL

10th

10 am Parish Worship Palm Sunday Minister: Reader: Rev. C Irvine Ben Pawson



rdeenshire

North

## **Easter Services**

Monday, 11th - Friday, 15th April 2022 Joint IDCT Holy Week Services : Guest Speaker—Paul Nimmo 7.30 pm each evening in St Andrew's Church, Inverurie

### GOOD FRIDAY, 15th APRIL

- **8.00 am** "Walk of Witness" leaving from the Catholic Church of The Immaculate Conception and making its way through the town to the foot of the Bass.
- **9.30 am** Breakfast in St Andrew's Church

### EASTER DAY, 17th APRIL

- 8.00 am Sunrise service on the Bass, led by Rev. R Cathcart
- 8.00 am Alternative Service in the New Chapel, St Andrew's Church, led by Rev. C Irvine
- 8.30 am Easter breakfast in the Acorn Centre, West Church
- 10.00 am United Worship in the West Church

24th April	10.00 am Parish Worship	Minister: Reader:	Rev. C Irvine Alison Young
MAY			C
lst	10.00 am Parish Worship <b>"TIME OUT"</b>	Minister: Reader:	Rev. C Irvine Sarah Davidson

March 2022 - 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:

UHT Milk Jam/Marmalade/choc spread Tinned Vegetables Shampoo Fruit Juice (1 litre long life) Tinned Fish Tinned potatoes

Currently we have <u>very good</u> supplies of pasta, soup and tea bags. Thank you for your continuing support and stay safe! <u>www.aberdeenshirenorth.foodbank.org.uk</u>

Jennifer Ingram, Foodbank Coordinator for St Andrew's

# Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland 2002/23

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, will be held in the General Assembly Hall on The Mound in Edinburgh from Saturday, the 21st of May until Thursday the 26th of May.

One of the first items on the agenda will be the installation of the new Moderator, Rev Iain Greenshields, who is the minister of St Margaret's Community Church in Dunfermline, Fife.

On hearing of his appointment, Rev. Greenshields said, 'I am honoured and humbled to have been chosen as Moderator Designate and I aim to represent the Church and God in a way that is positive, instructive and hopeful. There are a great many challenges facing our society today including climate change, poverty, mental health, social isolation, addiction and the Church is active in supporting those in genuine need. Ultimately the greatest need in our society is the spiritual vacuum that exists in the lives of so many.'

Rev. Greenshields, who is 67, was born and brought up in the Drumchapel area of Glasgow and became a Christian at the age of 22.

He was ordained in 1984 to his first-fulltime position as a Minister of Word and Sacrament in Cranhill near Easterhouse, a parish he served for nine years.

His second charge was St Machan Parish Church in Larkhall, South Lanarkshire, before eight years service as a chaplain at the former Longriggend Young Offenders' Institution and nearby Shotts Prison. There then followed a five year spell as the minister of Snizort Church, Isle of Skye, beginning in 2002. During this time he served as a hospital chaplain and the Moderator of Lochcarron and Skye Presbytery in 2003-2004 as a well as its finance convener.

Rev. Greenshields moved to St Margaret's Community Church in 2007 and over the years held various roles within the Presbytery of Dunfermline including Moderator and clerk. He was also a National Assessor for the Church.

Rev. Greenshields is married to Linda, a Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies teacher at Levenmouth Academy in Buckhaven, Fife. The couple have six children – Alistair, 31, Ross, 30, Caitlin, 27, Eilidh, 18, Siona, 15 and Suisaidh, 10, and a grandson, Oran, who was born in August. Their three youngest daughters come from different parts of China.

After adopting Eilidh in 2004, he and his wife set up a charity called Hope4China's Children the following year and it has raised  $\pounds 1.2$  million to provide education, support, medical care and foster care for around 800 girls in Guangxi Province.

A lifelong fan of Partick Thistle Football Club, Mr Greenshields said he is a fit and active person who enjoys time with the family, learning and personal growth, reading, cycling, badminton and the very occasional game of golf.

(adapted from https:// churchofscotland.org.uk/news-and-events/ news/2021/articles/rev-iain-greenshields-is -the-moderator-designate-of-the-generalassembly-2022-23)

Carl

## FUNDRAISING (February) :

## **Ministry of Flowers**

Church

Vestibule

### APRIL

3rd	Ian & Diana Stuart	Norman Peters
10th	Margaret & Tom Dalgleish	
17th	The Bonnyman & Harper Families (IMO Ally Bonnyman on his 90th birthda	ay)
24th	Margaret & Tom Dalgleish	
MAY		

1st Alastair & Ann Smith

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.

Could you please let the Church Office know of anyone within the church membership who has been ill or bereaved to whom we could send flowers at the end of each service on a Sunday. Thank you.

Eileen Robertson, Your Flower Convener

## Donations for asylum seekers in Aberdeen

Patricia Findlay is the Chair of the Aberdeen Interfaith Forum and has a strong partnership with faith communities there. Please bring your contributions to St Andrew's Church and they will be forwarded to Patricia Findlay.

#### Below are the needs: <u>MEN ONLY</u>

Ideally the sizes needed are S,M,L (Jackets, Jumpers and Tshirts) – we had plenty XL clothing left over as it's too big for any of our service users. For trousers, the most common sizes requested are 32/34 waist or tracksuit trousers (S,M,L).

#### For clothing, please see below -

Jackets	Jumpers	Tshirts	Jeans / tracksuit trousers
Gloves	Hats	Scarves	Socks & Underwear
			(preferably still in packaging for hygiene reasons)

#### For the shoes, please see required sizes below -

 Size 39: x9
 Size 40: x12
 Size 41: x21
 Size 42: x44
 Size 43: x15

There are about 100 asylum seekers in the Aberdeen hotel, so it will probably be necessary to link in a few faith groups to meet the needs.

Best wishes, **Sabine Chalmers | Co-ordinator | Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees** Faith Action Team, The Church of Scotland, 121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN | Mob: 07388 376784 **Ukraine Refugees:** We are all wondering what we can do to help refugees at the moment and this might be one way churches could be involved. Sanctuary Foundation is trying to establish a list of organisations or individuals who would be willing to sponsor a Ukrainian refugee when they arrive in the UK. There are a variety of ways that this can be done and the website gives more information. I have not managed to establish whether UK wide refugee aid will be available or whether devolved governments will be doing their own individual thing.

Thank you

Rev. Valerie Mitchell (vmitchell@churchofscotland.org.uk)

## https://www.sanctuaryfoundation.org.uk/

# Time Out

This month Stuart, Harry and Dylan enjoyed a fun session focussed on TRUST.

We began our time together with a blindfold game where we had to trust each other to give us safe instructions. When blindfolded we listened to instructions to follow to help us move safely around the room. It was a little scary but great fun.

Then we moved on to try our hands at a block tower game where we took it in turns to remove a brick from the tower one by one. This time we had to trust ourselves to make good decisions when selecting a brick to push out. Would the tower topple or could we manage to do it safely? Suffice to say, we have very competitive Time Out members.

We closed our time together in the hall with quiet reflection and coloured our own picture to remind us of the most important trust we need.

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart"

We meet again April 3rd in service and with love, Suzanne





## Meet the St Andrew's Team—Over the next few months, we shall be in-

cluding 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.



# Sandra Hepburn, Elder

I was born and brought up in Turriff. St Ninian's Church in Turriff played a huge part of my growing up, attending Sunday School and Bible Class and eventually becoming a Sunday School teacher and a member of the Choir. I was Brown Owl of the local Brownie Pack. On leaving school I was employed by the Police Board as a clerical assistant within their office in Turriff.

On my marriage to Norman at St Ninian's Church, our first home was near Ellon and I travelled to work with Aberdeen City Council at St Nicholas House. We moved to Inverurie and our family of two daughters, Lyndsay and Louise, were born. They both attended Sunday School and Bible Class, and I again became a Sunday School teacher under the leadership of the lovely Jim Morrison. Both daughters are married and live in Inverurie and we have two lovely grandsons Miles and Zack. I was one of the founder members of the Church's St Andrew's Club.

After a gap of 14 years I returned to work in the office of a local motor vehicle business, then moving to Gordon District Council (now Aberdeenshire Council) at Gordon House, and retiring after 20 years within the Admin and Legal Department.

I am a very keen bowler at the Garioch Indoor Bowling Club, and I enjoy walking and gardening. My faith and the Church still play a huge part in my life and I was very honoured to be ordained as an Elder in 1999. I enjoy helping at many of the social events and before Covid I was on the Church's taxi rota.



# Ralph Green, Elder

I was born in Edinburgh in 1946 and brought up near Oldmeldrum until I was 8 when my family moved to Dalkeith. We returned to Port Elphinstone when I was 12 and have lived in Inverurie ever since.

I attended Sunday School at St Andrew's when the Rev Douglas Lister was minister. Jenny and I were married there in 1970 by the Rev. James Davidson and our two children (Ralph and Jill) were also christened by him. They both attended Sunday School and Jenny was a long time Sunday School teacher. Jill and her husband, Stuart, were married by the Rev. Iain Telfer and our five grandchildren were all christened at St Andrew's by the Rev Iain Telfer and the Rev Graeme Longmuir.

I was involved with 1st Inverurie Boys' Brigade from the late 70s to the mid 80s, most of that time as an Officer in charge of the Junior Section when there were about 30/35 boys attending. I became a Board member in the early 80's and was Convener of the major kitchen and toilet refurbishment almost 30 years ago. When I retired in 2006 I served as Session Clerk from then till 2011, and I am currently the Communion Elder and a member of the Finance Committee.

St Andrew's, for many years, has been a very important part of my life and will continue to be. Nowadays I enjoy debate and discussions around the Session table. I also carry out tidying duties around the Church grounds and recently took over "the keeper of the front door tubs" role from Moira Keith!!!

# Social Events:

**Burns' Lunch**: On Saturday 26th February, we had our belated Burns' Lunch when more than 130 folk enjoyed great music, songs and fine fare. To begin the afternoon the haggis was piped in

by David Webster and following him carrying the haggis, was Molly Conn our Social Convener. Rev. Carl Irvine gave a wonderful rendition of The Address to the Haggis and Hamish Vernal said The Selkirk Grace. During the delicious meal of

Haggis, Neeps & Tatties followed by Trifle or Cranachan, Tea/ Coffee, Shortbread and a wee bag of Toffee we all enjoyed

listening to wonderful music and song ranging from the sixties to Scottis Ballads. Bill Aiken played guitar and sang with Charlie Esson on Accordian. Peter

Taggart and James Stewart also ably entertained us with a medley of Scottish songs.





Thanks to all those who came along, the musicians & songsters, those who donated trifles,

toffee & drinks, gave of their time setting up & clearing up, cooked & served food, helped in the kitchen, organised the technology and to James Stewart who donated the delicious Tatties & Neeps. The splendid sum of £1300 was raised.

Mo Vernal

**Garioch Fiddlers' Concert:** On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> March, we enjoyed a wonderful concert in the church performed by the Garioch Fiddlers. This was the postponed Burns' Concert from January, so we were still able to hear some of the Bard's tunes.

We were treated to many styles of Scottish music, marches, strathspeys, reels, jigs, slow airs and polkas, getting our feet



tapping and hands clapping. In between the orchestra playing we had four solo acts. The award winning violinist, Emma Cameron, accompanied by her father, Angus, who showed us all how a violin should be played; a flute duet by



Olwenn Stewart and Rosie Milne which sounded wonderful in the church; Dream Angus and The Dark Island sung beautifully by Sheila Craggs; and Ian Thow on his accordion getting our feet tapping once again.

The conductor Susan Simpson kept everything going and Colin Dempster was a great compere, as well as accompanying the orchestra on the keyboard. At half time we enjoyed a delicious tea supplied by Molly Conn, Mo Vernal and Pat Wink. This was very much appreciated. This was a truly magnificent afternoon with many people helping to make it a success. Here's to the next one!

\*Donation from Garioch Fiddlers to St Andrew's Church—£427.00



# 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.standrewschu rchinverurie.org.uk Click on "listen again".

MINISTER : The REV CARL IRVINE	(01467 629163)
SESSION CLERK ROSIE MILNE	(01467 622577)
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)
MONTHLY COLLECTION CONVENERS	(01467 622275 &
VERA BINNIE & DIANE STUART	(01467 620931)
FABRIC CONVENER (INTERIM) TOM CRAGGS	(01358 723055)
ROLL KEEPER TOM CRAGGS	(01358 723055)
ORGANIST IAN MILNE	(01467 620606)
<b>"TIME OUT" LEADER</b> SUZANNE IRVINE	(01467 629163)
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)
COVID 19 SAFETY OFFICER ROBIN YOUNG	(01467 625646)
SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR ALISON YOUNG	(01467 625646)
WEBMASTER TOM CRAGGS	(01358 723055)
HALL CLEANER AGNIESZKA MYSZKOWSKA	-
SALTIRE EDITORS DIANE STUART	(01467 620931)
KIT PAWSON	(01467 372389)

MAY 2022 SALTIRE ... Will be available for distribution from Sunday, 1st May 2022. Please email material for the May Saltire to The Church Office by 20th April 2022.

#### St Andrew's Safeguardimg 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. I 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.