

# Keystone

The Newsletter of St Andrew's Church of Scotland - Corby

**SPRING 2018**

Spring is in the air! You can see it all around you. Crocuses and Daffodils poke their heads up, newborn lambs are in the fields, the songbirds return as the weather gets warmer and we switch forward the clocks to wrestle back our longer days from Winter's miserly grip. More than anything, Spring is a season of renewal. New life, new growth, new challenges, new beginnings.



We Spring Clean to get rid of the dust and clutter of Winter and make ourselves feel fresh and ready to embrace a new year.

It's a time of optimism and change, when anything seems possible as we enjoy the first warm sunshine of the year and banish scarves and woolly hats to the wardrobe.

Springtime changes the way we see the world. It becomes a brighter, happier place, filled with as-yet untapped potential.

The fact that we celebrate Easter at this time of year is surely no coincidence. Jesus gave his life so that we might all have a new start, a clean slate, a fresh page.

The sacrifice of Good Friday was made for us all, but the real story of Easter is the promise of renewal held within the resurrection. The empty cross and the empty tomb have a message of hope for us all. We can only imagine the moment when the tomb was discovered, with its stone rolled away. There must have been a single thought in everyone's mind - Mary, the Disciples, the scholars and the men of scripture, "This changes everything".

And so it has. We have been gifted a springtime for the soul.

# A letter from the Manse...

Dear friends,

As we set out into a brand-new year, what are you doing to fortify your faith? Here are just a few habits that can help you grow in this area:

## **Study the Bible.**

We need to make his Word a part of our lives. God's Word is divinely inspired, and it will help you to be fully equipped to do everything God wants you to do.

## **Maintain a quiet time.**

How are you doing with your quiet time? If that's a guilt-inducing question, perhaps you're trying to have a quiet time like someone taught you long ago, but the method you were taught doesn't fit the way God shaped you. What can you do to spend some daily time in God's Word?

## **Read Christian books.**

Do yourself a favour, and learn all you can. Keep feeding your soul with what other believers have to say. If all I do is study the Bible for myself and don't listen to what other Christians have to say about it, I'm not gaining from the wisdom and experience of other believers.



Strengthen yourselves so that you will live here on earth doing what God wants, not the evil things people want.  
(1 Peter 4:2 NCV).

## **Keep your testimony fresh.**

What is God doing in your life? When was the last time you wrote out your testimony? If you write it out, God will give you the chance to share it. When you share your testimony with others, it fortifies your faith.

## **Be faithful to a small group of believers.**

The Bible says we should "encourage one another and build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV). We are in a marathon of faith, and we need to run together. We need the support and encouragement of other believers.

Yours in Christ

*Norman*







## Deciding to Become an Elder

When I was asked to consider becoming an Elder my first thoughts were:

- You can't mean me – I'm not the right sort of person.
- That sounds like a seriously scary commitment – am I up to it?
- How will I be able to make a positive difference?

I thought about the Elders I know well and how hard they work to sustain our church family, buildings and organisations. Being an Elder seemed like a huge job and though the thought scared me, however, I said I would consider it. Which is exactly what I did.

I prayed, talked to family, prayed, talked to friends in Church, prayed some more and read my Bible everyday. Reflecting on the passages I was reading I kept being drawn to the many words of encouragement and assurances of help from God.

"Do not be afraid"

"I will be with You"

"I will put my spirit in you ... the spirit comes to help us weak as we are"

"Do not merely listen to the word – do what it says"

So after some time I said yes and became an Elder because I knew God wants me to become a more active member of his working party here on earth and that I need to use the time, talents and resources he gave me to bring the love of Jesus to where it is most needed.

I now realise that God doesn't have a 'type' of person he chooses to do his work. He made us all different and we each have different gifts to offer in service.

It still feels a bit of a scary job to be taking on, but I can only do my best and I will continue to pray for guidance and I hope you will all, not only pray for me, but for all the many other people trying hard to 'do their bit' to further God's work in the world from our Church here at St Andrew's.

With love,

*Margaret Myles*



## Four new members share their day.

Sarah, Emma, Rob and Lorna were all welcomed into St Andrew's by Norman and the Elders on the 21st January and have taken up roles within the church. Emma is our new Treasurer, Lorna and Sarah are sharing the job of Fabric Convener and Rob produces Keystone.

# Bits and pieces from your Acting Session Clerk

*John Wiseman*



## Corby Neighbourhood Policing Team

Our Minister recently received an e-mail from PCSO Helen Murray from the Corby Neighbourhood Policing team which read – “I am currently looking at interacting with the elderly in the community and was wondering if St. Andrew’s had any groups running with whom I could come along and join to discuss any issues that they have.” The Minister has advised PCSO Murray that we presently have no such groups running, but advised her that we would intimate her approach. If there is anyone who would be interested in speaking with PCSO Murray on an individual basis, can they please advise either the Minister or myself and we will pass on details to PCSO Murray.

## Christmas Services

It was very pleasing to note that the Christmas Eve Candlelit services again proved very popular. Around 60/70 people were in attendance at the Family service at 6pm at which Elaine Milligan scripted a short “drama” surrounding the Christmas Story linked in with the singing of appropriate Carols. She also conducted a short section within the service for the ten or so children within the congregation. The Watchnight service at 11-30pm was attended by about 40 people, many of them visitors to St. Andrew’s, and we are again very grateful to Louise and her four fellow musicians from “Gordon’s Volunteer Band” who provided superb accompaniment to the hearty singing of carols during the service.

## Stated Annual Meeting

The Stated Annual Meeting (formerly known as the Annual General Meeting) of the Congregation is scheduled to take place in the Church Hall on Sunday 18th March following Morning Worship at about 12.15pm.

## Presbytery

The most recent meeting of the Presbytery of England was held in Crown Court Church, Russell Street, Covent Garden, London on Saturday 14th October 2017 and the main points arising from this meeting were:-

- The Moderator, Mr. Michael Stevenson gave a brief Memorial for Rev. Glen Bowie, a member of the Presbytery, who had passed away in September and members of Presbytery stood in silent memory.
- The names of Rev. Duncan Murray, Rev. Neil McClay, Rev. Dr. Peter Keelman, Rev. David Anderson, Rev. J. Daly, Mrs. Elspeth Gordon were added to the Roll of Presbytery whilst that of Rev. Glen Bowie was removed.
- Rev. Dr. David Coulter advised that a member of Presbytery had been approached to be nominated as Moderator for 2018/2019 and was giving this consideration.
- It was agreed that the applications received from 5 churches for a share of the discretionary 5% of the Ministries and Mission Allocation for 2018 be accepted subject to further details being received from London, St. Columba’s. In addition, it was agreed that Corby, St. Andrew’s be granted a small sum of relief and that Newcastle, St. Andrew’s receive slightly more than they had requested.



- It was agreed that Jersey, St. Columba's be granted some additional time to submit an application for a Mission project.
- The Clerk left the meeting whilst a discussion took place about the Honorarium to be paid to the Clerk and it was agreed that this be increased by £500 from Presbytery resources and be supplemented by using £1,000 from the M & M relief available to Presbytery.
- The Clerk reported that he had been informed that the Presbytery would be receiving a visit from Rev. Susan Brown, Moderator Designate for 2018/19 with more detail being advised later.
- The Treasurer presented a report together with the Receipts and Payments account for the first nine months of 2017. He also presented the proposed Presbytery Budget for 2018 which contained a proposal about Presbytery Dues for 2018 and, after discussion, it was agreed that Presbytery Dues be set at £6.45 per member and the Property Survey Levy be set at £0.55 per member.
- The Clerk advised that Rev. Philip Majcher (Convener), Rev. Angus MacLeod and Mrs, Sheila Haddon would make up the team to carry out the Local Church Review for Corby, St. Andrew's.
- Miss Elizabeth Fox, the Interim Moderator, gave a brief update on the progress of the vacancy at Guernsey, St. Andrew's in the Grange.
- The Clerk advised that the Quinquennial Property Survey had been completed and the report from TWD Ltd. was awaited. He then drew the attention of the meeting to a letter from CARTA stressing that Congregations must consult CARTA before any alterations to the interior of Sanctuaries such as Audio-Visual installations, heating systems, lighting schemes and pew alterations are carried out.
- Crown Court Church sought Presbytery approval for them to spend up to £280k plus VAT to refurbish their Organ and this was agreed.
- Remits from General Assembly giving instructions/recommendations to Presbyteries, Kirk Sessions and Congregations were tabled.
- After the conclusion of the business of Presbytery and lunch, members were involved in an interesting interactive session led by the new Principal Clerk to the General Assembly, Rev. Dr. George Whyte.



### Our charity for 2018

The Kirk Session, at its meeting in November 2017, gave consideration to the international charity that it would like to support during 2018 through retiring collections to be taken up on the first Sundays of January, February, April, May, July, August, October and December. A number of options were put forward before the Session decided to give aid to the UNICEF children's charity which works in 190 countries throughout the world including East Africa, Bangladesh, Yemen, Iraq and, in particular now, Syria and its neighbours.

The charity receives no money from the United Nations budget but is entirely funded by its supporters and with the donations that it receives provides education, life-saving food and nutrition, clean water, vaccines, relief in emergencies and protection from violence. It is presently concentrating on helping to keep Syrian children safe and warm.

## Fabric Report

It was with regret that the Kirk Session had, at their September meeting, to accept the resignation through health grounds of John Malcolmson, as both Convener of the Fabric Team and as St. Andrew's Health and Safety Officer. John had taken over the Fabric portfolio from Marty Lambert with great enthusiasm but, after a relatively short time in the job, had found it necessary to offer his resignation. The Kirk Session are very grateful for the work that John has done on behalf of St. Andrew's and look forward to his continuing efforts on our behalf as his health permits.

Sarah Farrow and Lorna Hawkins have jointly volunteered to take on the responsibilities of Fabric Convener, where their many years experience in administration and project management roles will undoubtedly be very valuable.

As always, a big thank you to all our dedicated Fabric Team members who continue to carry out so much excellent work on all aspects of the fabric of St. Andrew's, saving the Church an enormous amount of money through their efforts.

A copy of the report from the Quinquennial Property Survey of the Church, Church Hall and Manse carried out by TWD Limited on behalf of the Presbytery of England has now been received and will be studied in detail by the Kirk Session and the Fabric Team in due course but early indications suggest that the report has only highlighted a few minor jobs marked as "Urgent" that need to be undertaken quickly.

### A Slice of Humour

A Sunday Club teacher asked the children just before she sent them off to church, "And why is it necessary to be quiet in church?"

A wee girl replied, "Because people are sleeping."

## Finance Report

*Emma Burton. Treasurer*



I would like to start my report by firstly thanking Margaret Callaghan for doing such a fantastic job as Treasurer for so many years and secondly for all her help, support and guidance in making the transition between us so smooth. I hope Margaret enjoys her retirement!

Income	£47,557.49
Expenditure	£58,089.29
Deficit	£10,531

We still clearly have a deficit between our income and expenditure. However, we finished the year on a more positive note, with November and December being in a positive. This is very encouraging to see the figures in a positive, so it's a great starting point for the new year ahead – with our aim to try and break even as a minimum each month.

Included in the income towards the end of the year were some generous donations made, as well as the ever-popular Christmas Male Voice Choir fundraising event held in the church. The hall rent is also still a very useful income. If anyone knows of any clubs or groups that may be looking for a new venue – please bear St. Andrew's in mind as we are blessed to have such a fantastic Church hall.

Although the deficit is still a real concern, I truly believe that we can turn this around into a permanent positive. If anyone in the congregation has any ideas on how we can improve the general finances of the church - please feel free to come and have a chat with me or any member of the Finance team. The Church finances are open to anyone who is interested or has any questions – I am always available and I am more than happy to assist or advise.

The next few weeks will be a busy time for myself as Treasurer and for the finance team as I prepare the year-end figures ready for the AGM.

My next update will cover this in more detail.

## Scottish Country Dance Club

Another year has sped by and already we are into a new year!

Our last evening of dancing before Christmas was our usual 'bring and share' supper with a selection of favourite dances and was enjoyed by all.

Unfortunately, illness is taking its toll on our members. Two of our regulars have had to give up their membership and others are falling victim to seasonal illnesses. This makes Wednesday evenings something of a lottery on how many will turn up!

For those of us who are still willing and able, there are several social dances and Burns' suppers in the offing which we shall support. Our February dancing trip this year is to Algarve in Portugal and three of us are looking forward to the chance of some winter sun – a particularly welcome thought at this rather dreich time of year!

Our own annual dance will be on Saturday May 12th and we hope it will attract the usual friends from surrounding clubs.

*Eileen Smith,  
Secretary.*

## Fund Raising Group

The Annual Christmas Carol Concert was a highly successful evening, well attended and raised £1,728 for church funds.  
Thank you to all who donated and helped to make this such a success.

## Film Night

Our next event is on 23rd February, when we'll be holding a Film Night in the Church Hall.

We're showing a great feel-good movie that we're sure will be a hit with everyone. Come along and share the fun. Tickets for the evening will be available in advance and also on the night.

## Belcanto

A date for your Diary:- Saturday 12 May, a concert by Belcanto. Internationally renowned female voice choir Belcanto will perform their unique repertoire of classical and contemporary works, gospel and musicals at St Andrew's.

Tickets £8, which will include light refreshments.

*Take a look at Belcanto's website: [www.belcantokettering.co.uk](http://www.belcantokettering.co.uk)*



Again, many thanks to everyone who supports us by coming to our events, donating in many different ways, we could not do it without you.

We look forward to another exciting year and I would like to wish you all a very Happy Healthy 2018

*Yvonne Lambert*



# Two dates that remind us we are all one in the eye's of The Lord

In the Church calendar there are two important dates in January. The first date is the “Week of prayer for Christian Unity” which is held between January 21 and January 27th. The second date is a commemoration of “Holocaust Memorial Day” which is held the Sunday around the 27th January.

At least once a year Christians are reminded of Jesus’ prayer for his disciples that ‘they be one so that the world may believe’. (John 17 v 21) Hearts are touched and Christians come together to pray for their unity. St John’s Gospel tells us that Jesus died to gather all the peoples of the world into one Church family. Jesus died to overcome divisions and suspicious between nations and races and gather everyone together into a nationwide Unity of love and harmony. Jesus died to bring together a United Church, demonstrating to the world how Jews and Gentiles could break down the dividing wall of partition, to show a church that could accept people, tolerate and love one another despite all our differences.

We are reminded in Paul’s letter to the Colossians (ch 3 v 9 – 14) about his advice to the church, ‘Do not lie to one another, since you have shaken off your old self with its practices and have put on the new self, which is being renewed in knowledge in the image of its Creator. Here there is no Greek or Jew, circumcised or uncircumcised, barbarian, Scythian, slave or free, but Christ is all, and is in all. Therefore, as God’s chosen people, holy and dearly loved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience. Bear with each other and forgive whatever grievances you may have against one another. Forgive as the Lord forgave you. And over all these virtues put on love which binds them altogether in perfect unity.’

The second important date is Holocaust Memorial Day on 27th January.

The theme for the Holocaust Memorial Day for 2018 was ‘The Power of Words’ either spoken or written, whether from individuals, corporations, community organisations or the State, can have a huge impact on those who hear them or read them. How we use language and words makes a difference both for

good and evil. Words that were used had an impact on the Holocaust and subsequent genocides through propaganda used to incite, through slogans written in resistance and through memoirs written to record and respond to what was going on. Much was hidden to what was really going on, and that we now know, was the systematic elimination of six million Jews by the Nazis. Millions were persecuted and killed because they were Disabled, Gay, Gypsies, Slavs, by the colour of their skin, Jehovah’s Witnesses or Political Opponents of the Nazis.

In Cambodia, an estimated two million civilians died under the Khmer Rouge between 1975- 79. Pol Pot’s regime targeted Ethnic Minorities, Muslims, Christians, and Buddhists.

In the Rwanda genocide of 1994 around a million people were rounded up and murdered, 70% of the Tutsi population.

These, and other modern genocides in Sudan and Bosnia are remembered on or around 27th January.



That day is the anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp in 1945. This date holds great significance, not only for those in the Jewish community, but for everyone across the world. It has also become the ‘Day of Remembrance for the Victims of National Socialism in Germany’ since 1996.

Holocaust Memorial Day gives us an opportunity to remember all the victims of genocide and to stop and think about the lessons to be learnt from these events and challenge ourselves to use the experiences of the survivors to help unify our lives today.

*Elaine Milligan*





Well, we did it. We sailed the 3,047 miles across the Atlantic and arrived in St Lucia on the 7th December, after 18 days, 5 hrs, 4 mins and 50 secs. If you remember, being new to sailing I was apprehensive about the trip as a relative novice joining a more experienced crew, but we quickly learned how to share tasks according to our knowledge, strength or skills. We all met on the Marina-side in Gran Canaria and had just three days to get to get our boat ready to sail. The 45ft yacht 'Island Girl' would be our home for the next three weeks.

200 boats started the crossing. Within a couple of days, we hit a gale which peaked at a Force 9 and scattered most of the fleet, as everyone searched for a way around it. What we didn't know was that it would last for almost two days and nights! For me, this was a pretty scary time so early in the trip, but I gripped the little wooden cross I'd taken onboard, offered up a prayer or two and found what I needed to be able to marvel at nature, rather than be frightened by it.

Then, curiously, just a couple of days later we were becalmed and bobbing about, looking at a millpond sea stretching to the horizon in every direction and making us feel very small indeed. When the wind finally returned in earnest, we raced on through three consecutive nights, flying our huge spinnaker. A fast, but perhaps risky strategy. At 1am in the morning on the third night, the helmsman, struggling with sleep deprivation and poor visibility, lost control of the boat and over she went! A thousand miles from land, we were flat on our side with waves coming into the cockpit. I've never been so pleased to be told what to do! A few calm instructions from the Skipper and we were back upright and on our way. Phew, another quick prayer of thanks sent aloft!

Our tenacity had paid off however and we were now 140 miles in the lead, so the rest of the race was about just staying out in front if we could. In fact, the last few days were smooth, fast sailing and gave us time to enjoy the ride. We saw dolphins during the day and marvelled at the phosphorescence in the water and the starlight overhead at night. Wow, what a show. I even got hit in the head by a flying fish!

As we rounded the headland into St Lucia's Rodney Bay, the lady Race Director came on the radio and announced, 'Island Girl, you are looking beautiful today. Welcome home!' It was an emotional moment.

We'd won the race by 36 hrs, but more importantly perhaps, we had learned so much about ourselves. Teamwork, trust in each other and prayer had prevailed and we had made friends for life. Other boats may have had calmer seas and an easier ride, but we had enjoyed being tested and felt stronger for it.

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### A pause for thought

Scrabble players worldwide were outraged when it was suggested that mobile phone-style text slang may become acceptable in this popular word game. Shortened words like 'luv' and acronyms like PCM (please call me) and LOL (laugh out loud) might be included, said the game's makers, but the Association of British Scrabble players was vehemently opposed to the change, saying it didn't honour the purity of the English language.

Texting is the new way of communicating. 58.5 million texts are sent each day in the UK. But many, especially of an older generation, simply don't like its technological complications and the slang abbreviations that are often used.



Some contemporaries of Jesus didn't like his style. They felt that his way of teaching about God did not do justice to God's purity and holiness. His origins too, birth in a stable of poor parents, did not seem to justify his claim to be speaking on God's behalf. A criminal's death on a cross seemed to some to be the final evidence that this man could not be God's new way of communicating with human beings.

Nothing is good simply because it's new. But sometimes our resistance to change inhibits the discovery of new things which will improve our lives.

Let's today be open to what's new and hope to find it enriching.

# Let's share our thoughts!



At an informal 'church family' meeting after a Sunday Service late last year, discussions were held with members of the Congregation around their thoughts on change at St Andrew's. During the meeting, it was suggested that perhaps members could be given the opportunity to comment on some of the issues raised, by way of a survey.

As a result, a simple survey has been designed to explore how we, as a Church, communicate with one another and to help us to gather thoughts on any recent changes or ideas that have been suggested.

The survey can be accessed in several ways:



We'll email Members for whom we hold an email address with a link to the survey



It can also be accessed on line by visiting <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/VCGKV38>



Paper copies will also be placed at the back of the church for completion by hand

The survey will be available from Sunday 8th April 2018 for 6 weeks.

Once the results have been analysed a report will be submitted to the Kirk Session in June for discussion. A summary of the results and the Kirk Session's response will be published both on the noticeboard in Church, on the St Andrew's website and also in the next available edition of Keystone.

Please try to take the time to take part as your views do really matter and could help to shape the St Andrew's of the future.

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The Easter Egg is a  
symbol of new life and  
new beginnings.

The good news of Easter  
is that Jesus died on the  
cross but rose again so  
that we could begin anew.

## NOTICES

### BAPTISMS

#### November

Florence Everley Linnell

### DEATHS

#### November

George Farrell

James Sorrie

Ronald Warren

#### December

Evelyn Sorrie

Isabella Devlin

Rev. James Trevorrow

## Wordsearch...

All the names listed below are in the puzzle - left, right, up, down or diagonally.

*Deborah, Elisha, Ezra, Hadassah, Jesus, Joel, Judas, Judea, Mattatha, Nehemiah, Ruth, Samuel, Silas*

After you have found all the names you should reveal a final mystery name.

M	H	T	U	R	J	D	L
H	A	I	M	E	H	E	N
S	D	T	S	D	O	B	A
I	A	U	T	J	V	O	J
L	S	R	U	A	I	R	U
A	S	D	Z	D	T	A	D
S	A	M	U	E	L	H	E
S	H	E	L	I	S	H	A



**St Andrew's Church of Scotland**  
Occupation Road Corby NN17 1EB

Sunday Services held weekly at 11 am.

Communion Services held on the 1st Sunday  
of March, June, September and 19th November

Registered Charity No. SCO43458



### **Useful Telephone Numbers:**

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### **Team Leaders**

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Outreach	Elaine Milligan	01536 205259
Educational	Elaine Milligan	01536 205259
Publicity	Jack Pawson	01536 770953
Gift Aid Convener	Jack Pawson	01536 770953
Free Will Offering Convener	John Wiseman	01536 395382
Hall Convener	Jack Pawson	01536 770953
Scottish Country Dancing	Eileen Smith	01536 515460

**[standrewschurchofscotlandcorby.com](http://standrewschurchofscotlandcorby.com)**

### **PRINT OR DIGITAL?**

We're trying to do our bit for the environment, so Keystone is available in both paper and digital forms. If you like your news electronically, just e-mail [rjhawkins@btconnect.com](mailto:rjhawkins@btconnect.com) and we'll send it to you by e-mail.

It's also available to download on the St Andrews website.

We'd like to extend our thanks to Simon at **INK** in Market Harborough (01858 419048), for printing Keystone.