



Keystone

The Newsletter of St Andrew's Church of Scotland - Corby
Autumn 2018

What a summer we've had. In the words of the tabloids 'Phew, what a Scorcher!' (although they obviously did not attend the Church BBQ).

But then suddenly, here we are again, on the brink of Autumn.

It's been an amazing summer in so many other ways. The church has held a number of great social events that have brought us all together and encouraged others from the community to join us. We've continued to extend the church's outreach to those less fortunate than ourselves and in return, companies and individuals are pitching in and lending a hand with some of the maintenance and repairs we need. Our finances are improving and our church is being slowly modernised through a programme of redecoration and new amenities like WiFi.

Karma isn't a christian concept, but sometimes the idea that when you do good things, good things happen back, does strike a chord.

This Autumn we are hoping to re-energise the various teams that contribute to the work of the church. These were set out in the Unitary Constitution and include Outreach, Pastoral, Finance, Stewardship, Property and Communications. There's lots of opportunities for each and every one of us to get involved with one or more of the teams.

We all have something to offer, whether it's experience, knowledge, practical skills or simply a willingness to get stuck-in and help. The more people that get involved, the more we'll be able to achieve. Everyone can play a part. It's usually not a huge commitment, it's not all hard work and it's often a lot of fun.

No matter how little you feel you can contribute, please get involved - it all adds up and together we have the ability to make a real difference to the church and to our wider community in Corby.

And thinking about it, maybe our own Christian version of Karma is called Grace.

A letter from the Manse...

“Out of sheer generosity God put us in right standing with Himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we’re in and restored us to where He always wanted us to be. And He did it by means of Jesus Christ. He sacrificed Jesus on the altar of the world to clear that world of sin” (Romans 3:24–25 The Message)

The greatest gift you’ve ever been given wasn’t bought in a shop. No cash exchanged hands. It wasn’t even wrapped. Yet it cost the Giver everything.

The Bible says God sent his Son to earth to give you the greatest gift ever. He came to Earth to die and make you right with God. Romans 3:24–25 says, “Out of sheer generosity God put us in right standing with himself. A pure gift. He got us out of the mess we’re in and restored us to where he always wanted us to be. And he did it by means of Jesus Christ. God sacrificed Jesus on the altar of the world to clear that world of sin” (The Message).

So why did Jesus have to die? Let’s go back to the basics:

- **Nobody’s perfect.** I’ve never met a single person who has claimed to be perfect. I don’t measure up to my own expectations, much less God’s perfect standard. Neither do you. We’ve all blown it. The Bible says, “All of us have sinned and fallen short of God’s glory” (Romans 3:23 CEV).
- **God is just.** God wants to be fair. When somebody breaks a law, there must be a penalty for it. When you break man’s laws, you pay man’s penalty. When you break God’s laws, you pay God’s penalties. The Bible says, “The payment for sin is death” (Romans 6:23 CEV).
- **Jesus paid the price for our sin.** The Bible says, “God took the sinless Christ and poured into Him our sins. Then, in exchange, he poured God’s goodness into us” (2 Corinthians 5:21 TLB). Jesus took on my sin and your sin and all the sin that has ever been committed. That’s the

good news, the Gospel. Jesus paid the price you could never pay.

• **Accept God’s free gift.** God gave us a free gift of salvation when Jesus took our sin upon himself. It’s a gift we must receive. The Bible says, “Yet to all who did receive him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God” (John 1:12 NIV).

Will you accept God’s free gift of salvation? It’s one thing to understand the basics of how to have a relationship with Jesus. It’s another to accept the gift.

I pray you will make that all-important decision today.

If you are ready to commit your life to Jesus Christ, then pray this prayer:

“Dear Jesus, you have promised that if I believe in you, everything I’ve ever done wrong will be forgiven, I will learn the purpose of my life, and you will accept me into your eternal home in heaven one day.

I confess my sin, and I believe that you are God, my Saviour. I receive you into my life as my Lord. Today I’m turning over every part of my life to your management. You have the right to call the shots in my life.

Jesus, I want to receive the great gift of your love. Thank you that I don’t have to earn it or deserve it or work for it. I want to use the rest of my life to serve you rather than serving myself. I humbly commit my life to you and ask you to save me and accept me into your family.

In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.”



Rev. Norman Nicoll



A typically british BBQ

You couldn't make it up! During one of the hottest summers on record and with six weeks of unbroken sunshine behind us, the rain chose to arrive *exactly* as the food was ready to serve at the Summer BBQ. And did it rain! Stair-rods, cats and dogs, a torrent, a deluge!

We were caught in the open and didn't know whether to run for cover or make a dash for the burgers and sausages. Norman stuck with the barbeque while everyone pitched in to ferry food, ketchup and cakes into the hall. We quickly re-grouped to enjoy an indoor BBQ, perhaps more typical of the UK weather, while the kids enjoyed the rain and games.

We had a great afternoon and the rain abated in time for us to pack away our festival tents and bunting until next year - when we'll no doubt be keeping a close eye on the forecast! A very big thank you to everyone who volunteered and came along to help make it so much fun.



Anne learns to fly a hang glider, while Chrissie stays firmly grounded



The heaven's may have opened, but the Minister stuck to his Barbie



It's never too wet for a game of Footie!



Two young entrepreneurs set up shop and made £5.20p for church funds



Rob gets his first tattoo!



This tent thing's not as easy as it looks!



Bits and pieces from your Acting Session Clerk

John Wiseman



80th Anniversary

The range of photographs and memorabilia on display in the Church Hall on Sunday 8th July following the service to commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone of the Church certainly attracted a great deal of interest and our thanks go out to all who lent us exhibits. During my search of papers in the Session House before the event, I came across an item of particular interest to myself – a photograph of the Junior Choir taken around 1956 including a very young future Session Clerk!!

I was quite surprised how few people were able to pick me out, even when I indicated which row I was in – I didn't think I had changed that much! My faith that I was still recognisable from all those years ago was restored when I showed the photograph to my daughter, Sarah who picked me out immediately.



Ministries & Mission Contribution

The Stewardship and Finance Department have recently sent each congregation a letter to explain how their Ministries and Mission Contribution in 2018 will be used. An initial figure was set for St. Andrew's this year but, as a result of £500 relief being granted by the Presbytery of England, our final figure was set at £29,172. This sum will be split in the proportion of 16.5% to Mission (£4,813) and 83.5% to Ministries (£24,359). The Mission element will be used to support the Church's work in resourcing congregations for Christian education and outreach, providing social care services in Christ's name to further the caring work of the Church. The element given to Ministries will go towards the costs of providing over 750 ministers and other parish workers in communities throughout Scotland and further afield as well as assisting with the costs of recruitment and training. The 2018 cost of a parish minister at the top of the stipend scale is £42,362 (including employers national insurance and pension contributions) meaning that if a congregation's contribution to Ministries is less than this figure, as in our case, that congregation is being supported by other congregations.

Welcome/Door Duty teams

At this time last year I wrote a short article seeking volunteers to join one of the Welcome teams at the Church door on a Sunday morning. Unfortunately there was not a great response to my request and, as a result, I find it necessary to repeat my search for new helpers. Volunteering would only mean a commitment to be present at the door once every five weeks and to assist with the collection of the Offering during the service as well as helping out with counting the collection at the end of the service. If anyone feels that they would be able to join one of our teams, I would be delighted to include them in the rota for the remainder of this year and into next year.

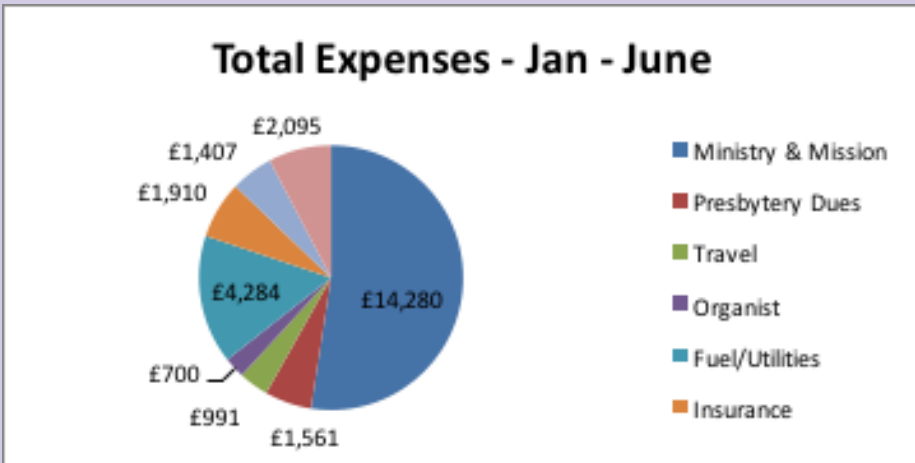
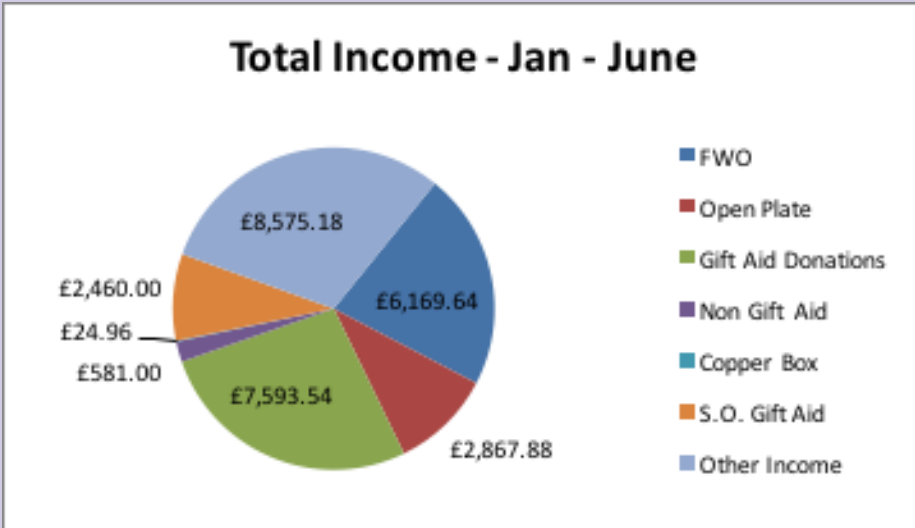
Presbytery

The most recent meeting of the Presbytery of England was held in St. Columba's Church, Pont Street, London on Tuesday 12th June. A copy of my report of the Presbytery meeting can be found on the News & Information notice board in the Hall.

John Wiseman.



A great half-year for our finances!



Total income from January - June	£29,386.46
Total expenditure from January to June	£27,361.76
THE CHURCH IS IN THE BLACK BY £2,024.70!	

This is a fantastic first 6 months of the year, showing a positive income for the period. I have detailed on the opposite page what our main income / expenditure is made up of.

So far this year we have been really blessed with a number of income boosts – Weddings and Funerals, an increase in monthly Standing Orders and some fantastic fundraising events, all of which have helped to bump up the savings pot.

We have also been helped massively by the Fabric team who have managed to carry out many of the servicing and repairs jobs at no cost. This has saved the church around £1,600, which is a huge help with the expenditure bill of the church.

Working together is the way forward....so fingers crossed for a great third financial quarter.

Emma Burton.
Treasurer

Property Team Report

Sarah Farrow & Lorna Hawkins

We've had another great quarter - the gardens are looking lovely as always, thanks to the efforts of the Tuesday Gardening Team in the face of the summer drought.

Our first bit of news is that we now have WiFi in the Church (with a weak connection also in the Hall that is being improved over the next month). This will provide great opportunities for communications going forwards, as well as making the Hall a more 'lettable' space for the future.

We've had a successful security check by the police, in and around the Church and Hall which we passed with flying colours, with only a couple of requirements - to change the locks on the Hall and side door to the Church and reduce the number of keyholders for both security and insurance purposes. We will also be repairing the security lighting and adding some additional lights for the winter months

Our Fire Safety inspection was carried out and was all good. We just need to fit a smoke alarm in the hallway outside the Session House.

Repairs to the roof tiles, guttering and skylights have now been completed by Premier Roofing.

The noticeboards outside the Community Room have become a great place to catch up on what's going on in the Church and we now have a separate board for current news and information including, finance and presbytery.

We're really excited to have made the first steps on a new project - the potential renovation of the Church Bell. We've had it surveyed free of charge (by utilising the crane used during the roof repair) and we're awaiting an estimate of costs.

Our next decorating challenges are the Vestry and the Session House. Any volunteers to prepare, paint, (or just make tea) would be great. If you can lend a hand please put your name down on the Property Notice Board in the Hall.

So far this year, companies have provided us with free services that have saved us over £1,600, for which we are hugely grateful. In addition, our volunteers and helpers have worked tirelessly to keep everything spick and span.

A big thankyou to everyone for your support.

The Pastoral Team

Margaret Myles

We're a small group of church members who work to maintain and strengthen relationships within the Church through home / care-home / hospital visits, phone calls, sending cards and providing cups of tea after the service each Sunday.

We keep in touch with each other and do our best to pass on and take action quickly when member of our congregation may be in particular need.

At a recent team meeting we discussed how we can reach out to children and make them feel more welcome in church and then decided to resource the area at the back of the church so that parents and their children know on entering that there is a place for all children here. It has been good to see and hear the area being regularly used during the service

The 'Pastoral Care' of our congregation is the responsibility of all of us and we urge everyone pass on news of people who may be struggling to us if they feel they can not do anything about it themselves

Members of the Pastoral Team are in church most Sundays and those who are on 'Welcoming' Duty pass on concerns to us if we are not.

Community Payback Scheme

Lorna Hawkins

I'm pleased to tell you that were now working with the Community Payback scheme, run for minor offenders who work within the community to give something back for the offences they have committed. They've started refurbishing the railings around our Church and Hall each Tuesday. It could take a while, but its free, apart from materials, and it's another demonstration of the church's engagement and relevance to our wider community.

Tuesday's are a great day at the Church – full of people serving God and the community in their own way. Our brilliant Garden Team, Nightlight, Community Payback and other church folk who are always around working on something or other. It's lovely to see so much going on.



Fund Raising

Yvonne Lambert

The **Belcanto** Ladies Choir on 12 May was a truly wonderful performance by the choir and their soloists and raised £526 for church funds.

Also during May, Rob and Lorna set off with three friends to walk across Scotland on the **Great Outdoor Challenge**. They donated £560 through the generosity of all those who sponsored them.

Sadly, the **Organ Recital** which was due to take place on July 7 had to be cancelled as Dr Peter Litman had broken his foot. We wish him a speedy recovery.

The **Atlantic Crossing** talk was a great social evening in June. It was a fun night of slides, videos, anecdotes, questions and answers, which raised £115.

The **Summer BBQ** held at the end of July was a lovely afternoon with about 50 people attending (despite the rain!). Although it was billed as a purely social event, rather than a fundraiser, we made £105 for church funds.

Some forthcoming events for your diaries...

Murder Mystery Night - October 20th

Get your detective heads on for this evening of dastardly deeds and dubious characters. Our amateur players (the 'Ham-its') will be providing clues and more than a few laughs we're sure as they perform a live 'radio' play for us. So even if you're more Clouseau than Poirot, you're sure to have a bit of fun.

The Film Night - October 26th

We'll be off to the Jungle for our next film evening. A classic film that will create a real hula-Baloo with your little 'man-cubs' (and anyone else who fancies themselves as a 'King of the Swingers'). We'll be sure of a good sing-along again!

Christmas Concert - December 7th

Tickets for the Christmas Carol concert (Corby Male Voice Choir) will be available early November

St Andrew's Scottish Country Dance Club

Eileen Smith - Secretary

We are now in the middle of July and enjoying a wonderful spell of hot, sunny weather. It certainly feels as if we are having a well-deserved 'summer'!

Between March and June is when many clubs have their annual dances, often with a live band who may have travelled from Scotland – a real treat! These dances are always great fun where we meet with dancing friends we may only see once or twice a year. For those who want to, there are opportunities for dancing over the summer months with other groups we belong to and that certainly stops us getting rusty.

Our club broke up last week with our usual 'faith supper' and an evening of dancing. We were pleased that our end of year finances enabled us to give a donation to Church funds. Everyone now has a chance to rest their legs for a few weeks and perhaps enjoy a trip away, whether at home or abroad.

The new term will start on September 5th when we hope that all the familiar faces will be back with us.

We are very grateful to Marion, who brings the music each week and puts us through our paces. I also want to thank Hamish for opening the hall, locking up afterwards – and dancing in between!

Isla becomes All-England Champion!



Isla has only been dancing since she was five years old (all of four years ago) and attends Marica Turner school of Highland dancing in Corby.

She recently entered the Corby Highland gathering in July and won - so she is the All-England Under-12 Intermediate Champion!

She's traveled all over England with Emma and Ed, doing competitions - which she keeps on winning!

She has even danced in the International Highland Dancing competition in Disneyland Paris and came runner-up, beating girls from Canada, America, New Zealand and Scotland. Well done Isla!

125th anniversary of the Girls Brigade.

The Christian youth organisation has its roots dating back to 1893 when the Girls Brigade of Ireland was formed in Dublin by a woman named Margaret Lyttle. She started the first ever group for girls at Sandymount Presbyterian Church in Dublin. This was the Victorian age when girls and women were still without so many of the rights we take for granted today. Helping girls to discover personal Christian faith was at the heart of Mrs Lyttle's innovative mission. In 1965 the Irish branch amalgamated with two other UK Christian groups - the Girls Guildry of Scotland and the Girls Life Brigade of England and the organisation entered its modern chapter as the united 'Girls Brigade'.

Today there are more than 600 groups - also known as companies - across the UK. The brigade is also represented in 50 countries worldwide - from Anguilla to Zambia. Over the years young girls joining the brigade have sworn to carry out good works and be true to the group's Christian ethos and its motto "onwards and upwards". Members have been able to work towards securing badges in hundreds of areas, from anatomy and astronomy to knot-tying, wool-rug making and pianoforte. Today the organisation embraces causes such as bullying, children's mental health and local community issues.

The Girls' Brigade's principles are as follows:

1. The Brigade acknowledges Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord according to the Scriptures and seeks to fulfil its aim to the glory of one God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit
2. The Brigade witnesses to the standard set by Jesus Christ and gives positive teaching on the Christian attitude to life
3. The Brigade promotes a just society where all people are equally valued.

The motto of the Girls' Brigade is "Seek, Serve and Follow Christ" and its Aim is "To help girls become followers of the Lord Jesus Christ, and through self control, reverence and a sense of responsibility to find true enrichment of life".

In the centre of the crest is a Cross, the symbol of Christ and his Church. Below the cross is a Lamp, which represents the light of the Girls' Brigade shining upon the World. Above it is a Crown, of Christ as King. Behind it all, is a Torch, the flame of Christ's living spirit.

The badge incorporates symbols from the three original organizations and is, therefore, in itself a symbol of union, as well as faith and allegiance to the Lord Jesus Christ

St Andrews Church was the very proud successful host of The 2nd Corby Girls' Brigade for many years, but no longer has a company today.

Happy 125th Anniversary to the Girls' Brigade.

A few snapshots from the celebration of the

80th

anniversary of our church building in July.

A big thankyou to all who made it such a success!



The Great Outdoor Challenge

The Great Outdoor challenge is an annual, unaided, walk across Scotland from West Coast to East Coast through some of the loveliest landscapes in the UK. Our friends Tom, Kistie and Emma (all of which we'd met on earlier mad-cap adventures), called us last year and sent us the details. Each year 300 entrants plan their own routes and travel the 160 miles, living out of their rucksacks, for twelve days, wild camping in amazing places and in our case, throwing in a few lovely B&B's for good measure.



We elected to start our trip in Oban, and set off by dipping our toes in the Atlantic in bright sunshine on Monday morning. 'It will

never last' we thought - this is Scotland after all!

The first thing we realised was that a rucksack containing everything you need for a fortnight weighs a ton! I could only just lift mine and Lorna needed help just to get it up to shoulder height. Food, tent, cooking kit, sleeping bags the list went on - and it all added up.



The next two weeks were an amazing experience.

We walked from Oban inland to Loch Etive and then followed that beautiful stretch of water north (camping within a few feet of its shores) until we climbed up and over into Glen Coe - a ridiculously hard slog that left us all wondering what we'd let ourselves in for.

We arrived at the Glen Coe Ski Station and collapsed into our sleeping bags exhausted. The Grampian Mountains are tiring but stunningly beautiful.

The next morning we crossed Rannoch Moor and camped by the side of Loch Eigheach, where Emma had arranged a surprise. Just up a lane was an amazing restaurant, so good that we met a couple who had come up by train from London just for the night! (The station appeared to be about the only other building in the village).



As we ate, we watched a herd of deer graze directly outside the window.

We followed Loch Rannoch to Pitlochry before descending into Kirkmuir for the final stretch through lush pasturelands into Brechin and finally, on to our destination at Montrose.

Rucksacks off, walking boots and socks off and a quick run into the North Sea to complete our coast to coast journey. We'd crossed without a single drop of rain and best of all, we'd beaten the Midgie season by a week!



Pause for Thought

If things don't seem to be going too well at the moment, you could try enrolling in the Luck School. Part of the University of Hertfordshire, students learn there how to make luck happen. Whole businesses have enrolled and seen, in some cases, a 20% rise in profits, while individuals who thought they were down on their luck see things very differently now.

The course tutor, Richard Wiseman, has identified five principles at play among lucky people. They maximise their chance opportunities by having networks of friends; they're relaxed enough to be open to different ways of achieving their goals; they are open to intuition and listen to their hunches; they expect things to go their way; they are able to see the positive side of bad fortune and so are better able to deal with it.

So luck, if you've got it, can be harnessed. So, said the apostle Paul, can faith! Unlike luck, faith comes by choice not chance and is a response, not to fate, but to God's offer of loving care. But once adopted, says the apostle, you need to "work out your salvation" (cf Phil 2:12). In other words, it's up to the believer to build on the possibilities faith provides.

Whether it's our good fortune we want to enhance or our faith we wish to develop, we might benefit from applying the principles of the Luck School.

Nightlight

Following on from the emergency shelter we provided during the worst of the winter, we have continued to work with the fantastic volunteers at Nightlight to provide a lunch service for the homeless of Corby each Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday throughout the summer.



Just a few of Nightlight's tireless volunteers

It's almost unbelievable that in 2018 we could have over 50 people camping in the woods in and around a town like Corby, because they have nowhere else to go and no support system to keep them from harm.

Bad luck, bad decisions, mental health issues and people-trafficking are all causes of homelessness. It's rarely a choice, but it can easily become a seemingly hopeless cycle of neglect

and abuse. Nightlight is often the only place these people can turn to. It survives on donations and provides invaluable outreach to those living rough. At the moment, volunteers are working seven days a week to provide food, clothing and shelter (even if only in the form of better tents). Try to imagine living in a rudimentary single-skin tent through the heat of the recent drought, or during the following torrential downpours. This situation will only get worse as we move into the winter months and the temperatures drop to minus figures.

The charity is in the process of trying to secure a permanent facility which will allow them to provide care and protection for some of the most vulnerable people in our community, but it is unlikely to be available until springtime.

It's so easy to think of the homeless as somehow 'others'. Different to us, out-of-sight-out-of-mind, someone else's problem. But I can tell you from the short time I have spent with them, that they are just like you and me - someone's sons and daughters, ex-factory and office workers, soldiers and sailors. They have different stories to many of us, sure. And like the rest of us, they're a mixed bag. But what makes them really different from us is the fact that people treat them as invisible.

As a church, Jesus showed us we have a duty to not walk by on the other side of the road and pretend we do not see. I'm so pleased we're able to help.

Rob Hawkins

NOTICES

Baptisms

July Rosie Grace Smith

Deaths

May Isobel Bradley
Colin Took

Marriages

June Davina Hogg and Jonathan Lewis
Sophie Robinson and Lewis Baker
Elizabeth Williams and William Skewis

June John McShane
Helen Clemenson
Dorothy Coull
Janet Adams
Martha Millar

July Ann Judge and Gareth Kinsey
Kylie Johnson and Thomas Lennox
Charlene Finlay and Adam Cairns

July Mary Lochhead
Kenny McDougall
Alexander McGregor
Nessie Duncan
(Gilmour)

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

Sunday Services held weekly at 10.30 am.

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

Registered Charity No. SCO43458



Useful Telephone Numbers:

Minister and Moderator	Rev Norman Nicoll	07930 988863
	NNicoll@churchofscotland.org.uk	
Kirk Session Acting Clerk	John Wiseman	01536 395382
Treasurer	Emma Burton	07966 966768

Team Leaders

Finance	Lella McLean	07982 249995
Property	Sarah Farrow	07952 636093
	property.standrews@outlook.com	
Stewardship	Margaret Callaghan	01858 464370
Pastoral Affairs	Margeret Myles	01536 267554
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

standrewschurhofscotlandcorby.com

A final pearl of wisdom...

'God doesn't mind your church having a small congregation. What he objects to is your church having a small vision, for that limits what He can do through you....God has a plan for church growth and you have a part to play.'

Image credits:

Jeremy Thomas at Unsplash
for cover Masthead image