



## St Andrew's West Parish Church – Pastoral Letter

May 2026

Dear Friends

This is the last letter I write as your minister. It has been approximately six and a half years since my induction in November 2019. As a congregation, we have been through many difficulties. Soon after I arrived, we faced Covid and the consequent lockdown, which was probably one of the most challenging periods in the history of the Church. We also experienced all the discussions surrounding the Presbytery Plan and Mission Plan. There were many joyful moments as well, including baptisms, weddings, and other beautiful celebrations. Through all the ups and downs, we kept going, supporting one another.

My departure will create a period of uncertainty for the Church. What comes next? The Presbytery has already appointed an Interim Moderator for the Church, Rev. Murdo McLean, who from 18 May onwards will be the minister responsible for everything that happens in the church. You will probably meet him soon. For the time being, the main point of contact is the Session Clerk. (Kenny Rodgers, [sawpcsessionclerk@gmail.com](mailto:sawpcsessionclerk@gmail.com)). For pastoral matters, your district elder should be your first point of contact. If you do not know who your district elder is, please contact the Session Clerk, who will be able to advise you.

You can also keep in contact with what's going on via the Church website <https://standrewswest.org/> or [Facebook](#) page. Additionally, you can sign up to the congregational-wide email list that keeps you up to date with any church news, by emailing [stawpc@gmail.com](mailto:stawpc@gmail.com) and asking to join.

Things should continue as smoothly as possible, and all activities and missionary plans must carry on. The church has already begun producing a congregational plan, which is essential if the church is to be allowed to call a new minister. Although there is a great deal of paperwork for the Kirk Session to complete in preparing that plan, it is important for everyone to engage in the process.

A couple of years ago, we started the walking group, which has provided an opportunity for fellowship and for getting to know one another better. I have always seen the walking group as a perfect metaphor for what a church should be: people from different backgrounds and with different views on faith and life walking together, encouraging one another, and sharing both sorrows and laughter.

More recently, we started the Warm Welcome Space, which has provided an opportunity to extend our hospitality to the wider community during the week. Many people have already attended once or twice, and some have become regulars. We have a committed group of volunteers, but additional volunteers are always welcome. If you have not yet done so, please come and visit the space on any Wednesday.

The Church has also engaged in interfaith work over the last few years, and it is important that this continues. Our parish is one in which many people are affiliated with other faith communities, and we need to engage with other faiths if we are to maintain a relevant presence within our parish.

Last but not least, I would like to thank you all for your support during my time at St Andrew's West. It would not have been possible to do anything without the dedication, friendship, comfort, and encouragement of the congregation. Now it is time for both you and me to move on, trusting in faith that God will lead us into the next phase of our lives.

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