ST. ANDREWS
BAPTIST CHURCH

November 2026 Newsletter

Who was Andrew the Apostle?



Andrew was an ordinary fisherman whose life was changed by Jesus. What might it mean for us to hear and respond to His invitation today?

A fisherman who found something extraordinary

Andrew was one of the twelve disciples of Jesus, but he is perhaps less well known than his brother, Simon Peter. Yet Andrew played a significant part in the story of Jesus, and his life offers us a beautiful example of faith, curiosity and a willingness to introduce others to something wonderful.

Andrew lived in Galilee, in the north of what is now Israel. He was a fisherman, working alongside his brother Simon Peter. Fishing was hard, practical work. Their lives would have revolved around their boats, nets and the waters of the Sea of Galilee.

Then Andrew encountered Jesus and his life would never be quite the same again.

The Gospel of John tells us that Andrew had first been a disciple of John the Baptist. When John saw Jesus walking by, he declared, “Look, the Lamb of God!” (John 1:36). Andrew and another disciple followed Jesus, wanting to discover more about Him.

Jesus turned and asked them a simple question: “What do you want?” They asked where He was staying and Jesus invited them to come and see.

Andrew spent time with Jesus that day. Whatever he heard and experienced convinced him that he had found someone extraordinary.

The first thing Andrew did

Andrew's response is one of the most telling details in his story. He didn't keep his discovery to himself. Instead, he went straight to find his brother Simon. “We have found the Messiah” (John 1:41), he told him.

Andrew then brought Simon to Jesus. Jesus looked at Simon and gave him the name Cephas, which is translated as Peter.

It is a small moment in the Gospel story, but its consequences were enormous. Peter would become one of the most prominent figures among Jesus' disciples and a leading voice in the early Christian church.

A quiet but important disciple

A quiet but important disciple Andrew rarely takes centre stage in the Gospels. While his brother Peter became a prominent leader, Andrew quietly helped others come to Jesus.

In John's Gospel, some Greeks wanted to meet Jesus. Philip spoke to Andrew and together they brought the request to Jesus (John 12:20–22).

Andrew reminds us that we don't need to be in the spotlight to make a difference. A kind invitation, a listening ear or a simple act of service can help someone take a step towards Jesus.

What happened to Andrew?

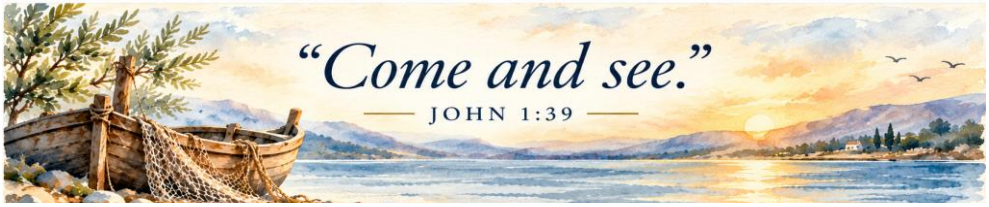
The Bible tells us that Andrew was one of Jesus' twelve apostles, but little about his later life. Christian tradition associates him with missionary work and death by crucifixion. He is often depicted with an X-shaped cross, although these details come from later tradition rather than Scripture.

A name with a meaning for us

Here at St Andrew's Baptist Church, we carry Andrew's name. His example encourages us to welcome people, share our hope in Jesus and offer what we have.

We may never know what follows from a simple invitation or a kindness shown to someone who feels alone. Andrew could not have imagined the impact of introducing his brother Peter to Jesus.

His story leaves us with a simple challenge: we don't have to do extraordinary things to make a difference. We simply need to be willing to bring others to Jesus.



Remembering Eric

A life guided by faith, curiosity and love



Eric was a man of remarkable curiosity, inventive thinking and a wonderfully dry sense of humour. Born in Johannesburg in 1954, he was reading fluently by the age of four and retained his fascination with history, engineering and music throughout his life.

A natural problem-solver, Eric lived by the motto, “There's a solution to every problem.” His varied career took him through finance, engineering, entrepreneurship and plumbing, but his curiosity extended far beyond his work.

It was through a church youth group that he met Elaine, and they married in 1978.

Together they built a life across South Africa, New Zealand and the UK, raising their daughters and later delighting in adventures with their four grandchildren. Ever curious, Eric even taught himself Minecraft so he could build worlds with them. Faith, music and family remained important throughout his life. During his six-year battle with cancer, Elaine cared for him with extraordinary love and compassion. Eric will be greatly missed by his family and all who knew him.

Following Eric's memorial service at St Andrew's on Friday 16th October, his family shared these kind words:

“Thank you so much to St Andrew’s for hosting us yesterday. Everyone was so accommodating and kind. It was a lovely service.”

We are grateful to everyone who came together at very short notice to prepare and host the service, offering such a warm welcome and helping to make the occasion special for Eric's family.

We Will Remember

Remembrance Sunday · 8 November 2026

On Remembrance Sunday, we remember those who gave their lives in war, the families who mourned them and all whose lives have been changed by conflict. We honour their sacrifice and remember the terrible cost of hatred and violence.

We long for a world where peace prevails, yet history reminds us that the struggle between good and evil continues. Our world is far from what God intended it to be.

But as Christians, we are not without hope. Jesus entered our broken world, gave His life for us and rose again. In Him, we find forgiveness, strength for today and hope for the future.

Following Jesus means choosing love over hatred, kindness over cruelty, and courage over fear. We may not be able to bring peace to the whole world, but we can be peacemakers in our homes, our community and our relationships. Through Christ, our lives have purpose, and even the smallest acts of love can make a difference.

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God."
Matthew 5:9

This Remembrance Sunday, may we honour the past, pray for those who suffer today, and look to Jesus, our source of hope and strength.
You are warmly invited to join us at St Andrew's Baptist Church at 10.30am.



What happens when faith changes your story?

Meet David Harper - TV Antiques presenter and expert



We are delighted to welcome **David Harper** to St Andrew's Baptist Church for our morning service on **Sunday 15th November at 10.30am**.

David will be sharing his **personal testimony**, telling us about his journey of faith and what Jesus means to him today.

There will also be opportunities to ask questions throughout the session, making this a chance not only to hear David' story, but to explore some of the questions that his story raises.

A chance to meet David too

David will be bringing copies of his new book, *The God Conundrum*, which will be available to **buy and have signed after the service.**

£10 per copy
(Online price £11.99)

Whether you already know David or not, you are warmly invited to come along, hear his story and spend some time with us.
Why not have a think about who you could invite?

Come and hear the story behind the antiques expert — you may find it prompts a few questions of your own.

A Special Evening at Canaan Bookshop

Christmas gifts, Christian resources and fellowship

There is something special about finding a gift that encourages someone's faith, brings hope, or reminds them of the love of God. This November, we have a lovely opportunity to do just that!

On **Tuesday 17th November, from 7–9pm**, Canaan Christian Bookshop will open especially for St Andrew's. We will have the shop to ourselves, giving us time to browse at our leisure, discover new books and resources, and find thoughtful Christmas gifts for family and friends.

From books and Bible study materials to cards, calendars and other gifts, there is plenty to explore. It is also a wonderful opportunity to support a Christian bookshop that helps make faith resources available to our community.

There will be a 10% discount for our church group, along with complimentary refreshments, including tea, coffee and delicious mince pies!

If we can all arrive promptly, the evening will begin with refreshments and a presentation of some of the items on special offer. Afterwards, we can take our time browsing, chatting and enjoying fellowship together.

Whether you are looking for Christmas presents, something to deepen your own faith, or simply an enjoyable evening with friends from church, everyone is encouraged to come along.

Please look out for the sign-up sheet in the church foyer, so that we can let the bookshop know how many to expect.

We look forward to sharing this special evening together!



"Your word is a lamp for my feet, a light on my path".
Psalm 119:105 NIV

A Season of Hope



Preparing our hearts for Christmas

On **Sunday 29th November**, Christians around the world begin the season of Advent. But what exactly is Advent, and why does it matter?

The word *Advent* means “coming” or “arrival”. It is the four-week season leading up to Christmas, when we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. It is also a time to look forward with hope to His promised return.

Advent invites us to slow down amid the busyness of December. While the world rushes to buy presents, decorate homes and prepare festive meals, we are reminded that Christmas is about something far greater than the celebrations around us. It is about God coming into our world in the person of Jesus.

A light in the darkness

At this time of year, the days grow shorter and the nights grow longer. The simple tradition of lighting an Advent candle each week reminds us that, even in the darkest times, the light of Christ shines with a hope that cannot be extinguished. The Bible tells us:

“The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.”
John 1:5 (NIV)

Perhaps this Advent we could each make a little space for quiet reflection, prayer and reading God's Word. We might ask ourselves what it means to welcome Jesus afresh into our lives, and how we can share His love with those around us.

As we begin the journey towards Christmas, may we remember that our greatest gift is not something wrapped beneath a tree, but the gift of Jesus Himself — our Saviour, our hope and our light.

May we enter this Advent season with expectant hearts, renewed faith and a hope that shines brightly in the darkness.

St Andrew's Day



30th November — a day of faith, history and tradition

Each year on **30th November**, Christians remember St Andrew the Apostle. The date is traditionally associated with his death, although the Bible does not tell us when he died.

Over the centuries, Andrew became closely associated with Scotland. According to tradition, his relics were brought to the Scottish town now known as St Andrews, which became an important religious centre. The town takes its name from him, and his connection with Scotland remains strong today.

The story behind the Saltire

Have you ever wondered about Scotland's flag? Known as the Saltire, it features a white diagonal cross against a blue background.

Christian tradition associates this cross with the X-shaped cross on which Andrew was believed to have been martyred. Today, the Saltire is a familiar symbol of Scotland, and St Andrew's Day is celebrated with Scottish music, food, culture and community events, as well as church services.

A tradition that lives on

St Andrew's Day reminds us how faith has shaped communities and traditions across generations. It is a chance to appreciate the history we have inherited and consider what we pass on to those who follow us.

For us at St Andrew's Baptist Church, the day has a special significance. Our name connects us with a long Christian heritage, and we can give thanks for those who have shared the Christian faith through the centuries.

As November draws to a close, may we remember the importance of passing on a faith that continues to bring hope today.

"One generation commends your works to another." — Psalm 145:4

Coming Up at SABC

Save The Date ♡



CHRISTMAS DROP IN

Saturday 5th December
10am – 2pm



CAROLS BY CANDLELIGHT

Sunday 20th December
4pm



CHRISTMAS EVE MIDNIGHT SERVICE

Thursday 24th December
11.15pm



CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

Friday 25th December
10.30am

Life at SABC

Join us through the week

Mondays
Craft Club – 1.30-3.30pm
Prayer Meeting – 7.00-8.00pm

Tuesdays *(Term Time Only)*
Tiddlers – 10.00-11.45am

Wednesdays
Prayer, Worship & Reflection – 2.00-3.00pm
Bible Study – 3.30-4.30pm

November at SABC

Ladies Breakfast
Guest Speaker: Gaynor Van der Hagen
Saturday 7th – 9.30am

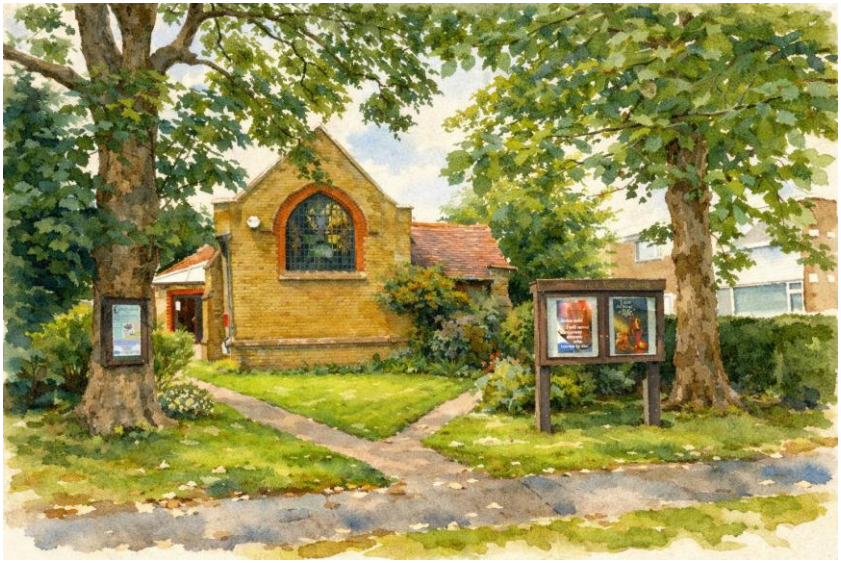
Sunday at Six – Evening Service
Sunday 8th – 6.00-7.00pm

Guest Speakers: David Harper – Sunday 15th
and **John Putman** – Sunday 29th

Special Evening at Canaan Bookshop
Tuesday 17th – 7.00-9.00pm

Men's Breakfast
Guest Speaker: Rory Tebrook
Saturday 21st – 9.00am

Prayer for Israel
Thursday 26th – 2.00-3.00pm



Sunday Service: 10.30am

Everyone Welcome

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