

**“OPERATION ANDREW”
AN EVENT INSPIRED BY ST ANDREW AND THE SCOTTISH FLAG**



St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland and the Scottish flag is his symbol, the saltire or X shaped cross. We often forget that the person behind our flag was one of Jesus' first followers, and died because of his Christian faith. He was tortured to death by crucifixion in AD60 at Patros in Greece, and, according to tradition, asked that the cross be placed diagonally since he considered himself unworthy to die in the same way as Jesus on an upright cross. From this, the saltire became recognised as his symbol.

St Andrew is described in the bible as one of the first people to be called by Jesus to be his follower, and the first to invite someone else – his brother Simon Peter - to come and meet Jesus to find out the truth for himself.

Inspired by his example, members of Barthol Chapel Kirk are celebrating St Andrew's legacy this year.

First, just as St Andrew did, we are inviting others to find out more about Jesus' life and claims for themselves. In the spirit of his example, we are giving out copies of John's Gospel, which was written, in its own words, "that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God". We are inviting those around us to read and see if they agree!

Secondly, we are inviting guests to help us mark St Andrew's day at a special service on Sunday 28th November at Barthol Chapel Kirk. The service will be led by Rev Matt Canlis from Methlick, and also celebrate the beginning of the Advent Season leading up to Christmas. Matt offers the perspective of someone coming to the Church of Scotland afresh and demonstrated his real gift for explaining the relevance of the Christian faith today.

Anyone who enjoyed reading the copy of John's Gospel, or wants to find out more, then do feel free to talk to members of the Kirk, or Elders, or our Minister Rev Isabel Buchan (01651 851250 buchan.123@btinternet.com).