

## Two for the price of one!

Two for the price of one this weekend. We celebrate St Andrews Day coinciding with Advent Sunday. An eye witness to the first coming of Christ on the day we look forward to *His* return. A special service at St Andrews Brigstock (Sunday 4 pm) will mark the occasion.

Andrew is of course the Patron Saint of Scotland as well as of our Church in Brigstock. I am unsure as to how big the celebrations are in the northern end of our nations, in modern times. They do get a Bank Holiday which seems great timing as the winter darkness kicks in. The stories of how he became Scotland's Saint do vary a little. Ranging from clouds in the shape of the Saltire to some of his remains being shipped to various places around Eurasia including near what is now Fife on the east coast. Certainly the Scottish flag representing the Cross of St Andrew (Saltire) is among the oldest national flags still in use. Watch the World Cup Finals next June and be sure to see it painted on the faces of thousands of hopeful football fans.

St Andrew is also Patron Saint of many other cities and nations too, including Romania, Ukraine and Barbados! Indeed he is believed to have done significant missionary work in Kyiv. As far as the Gospels are concerned he is only mentioned a few times but all occurrences are significant. He is the first to recognise the Messiah has come after being introduced by John the Baptist. He connects his brother Simon Peter to Jesus as they are both called to be 'fishers of men'. Alongside his brother and cousins James and John he is part of the inner circle of disciples and is present at the amazing incident up a high mountain that we call the Transfiguration.



After Jesus' death and Resurrection he travelled far and wide in sharing the Gospel message. A big part of that message was that The Light had come into the world and that Light could never be snuffed out. And one day that Light would return to shine in every corner.

And that hope is what the season of Advent is all about.

Go well.