

HOI ANDREW: OLD AND NEW

Jesus: Hoi, Andrew!

Andrew: Yes, Jesus?

Jesus: You're looking a bit down in the mouth, like – are you ok?

Andrew: I suppose.

Jesus: Did you not enjoy your wee holiday back in Scotland, then? I thought you loved that old place? And the chance to catch up with your old cronies? Thought you'd be buzzing again and ready to go!

Andrew: Well, my mother was pleased to see me, but things just weren't the same, Jesus.

Jesus: What – has she finally decorated your old room and chucked out your old LP collection?

Andrew: If that was all Jesus I'd be happy, but so much more has changed than that! It's just not the same!

Jesus: What are you talking about, Andrew? What things have changed?

Andrew: Well, you'll never guess...at my old Church where I was a boy they've put in wooden pews. I loved the days when we just milled around talking to one another – you had a great chance to have a blether, catch up and see how everyone was doing, and just gather to praise God, but now we've got to sit on hard benches!

Jesus: Oak, Andrew?

Andrew: It's no joke, Jesus!

Jesus: I didn't say "joke", I said "oak", are the benches made of oak?

Andrew: Beech!

Jesus: You wish you were back on the beach?

Andrew: No, the pews, Jesus...they're made of beech! Mind you, you're not far wrong – I loved the days when we listened to you on the beach and sang songs and prayed – I felt really close to you.

Jesus: Has much else changed, Andrew?

Andrew: Oh, aye! You should see the minister now...all dressed up with drab black gowns on...looks like the Church's answer to Batman! And he's started talking in this funny language – thou knowest... lest we desirest! Ah canny make out a word! Which reminds me, Jesus, do you know what "begat" means?

Jesus: Well, if there's a "begat" on the lady in front of you it probably means you can't see very well ahead!

Andrew: Are you having a laugh, Jesus? I said "begat" not "big hat"!

Jesus: I'm just trying to cheer you up, Andrew.

Andrew: And another thing, Jesus...they've started to make up what they call "committees"...wee groups of people that gather together and all they seem to do is talk, talk, talk...endless talk and it seems to me that not a lot of action is taking place anymore!

Jesus: I know what you mean, Andrew. The Father was thinking about sending a committee into the world to share his good news but in love he decided just to send me!

Andrew: "For God so loved the world that he didn't send a committee" – that could be a new catchphrase – I wonder if it will catch on?

Jesus: But I thought you didn't like change?

Andrew: I know...it's just hard to change, Jesus.

Jesus: Tell me about it, Andrew...

Andrew: I mean, they've even set that lovely Psalm of David to a new tune – Crimmond they call it!

Jesus: Oh crivvens!

Andrew: No, Jesus...Crimmond!

Jesus: And that's a bad thing, Andrew?

Andrew: Well, Jesus, it's just not what I'm used to. I don't know if singing Psalm 23 to that new tune will ever catch on – the old folk will certainly not like it!

Jesus: You think we need to get back to the good old days with harps and dancing and praising; folk gathering around listening to me even though I don't dress up like the Pharisees?

Andrew: Sounds like a good idea, Jesus.

Jesus: Back to beach services with sand in the toes, God's lovely sun on our faces and big Bob playing his accordion?

Andrew: Apart from the accordion, Jesus, that'd also be a good idea!

Jesus: I've changed you, Andrew!

Andrew: I know you have, Jesus. And that change is a good thing. It's just when all around me starts to change from what I know it seems to send me out of sorts.

Jesus: Andrew, there will always be change and in the midst of change I will always be there. People will always have their likes and dislikes but your faith must go deeper than the things you see and the things you have cherished. Look for me in the new as well as the old for I am in both.

Andrew: Jesus, you always seem to make it so simple.

Jesus: And there will be no change there Andrew!

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