

**Press Release** July 2016

**Photography Exhibition “Awaiting the Rapture”**



This exhibition features a set of photographs taken by Duncan Astbury that reveal an insight on how religious beliefs and faith in a life after death have shaped the Scottish landscape. Taken over a 2 year period, they include a variety of countryside locations including small parish churches and rural graveyards.

The Scottish landscape is commonly altered by the erection of objects associated with death - family burial grounds, mausoleums, graveyards, grave markers, graves, mortsafes, monuments and tombs. These objects are Christian in origin and speak of a belief in a Rapture, when the body will rise up from the earth. The photographs show how this belief has impacted our landscape over the last few centuries.

The exhibition is being held in Braemar, situated in the heart of the Cairngorms National Park. It opens on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July and continues through to 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Entry is free and on show will be a collection of framed photographs, along with accompanying text, to give some insight on one of the great questions universally faced - “what do we think happens to us after we die?”.

Event Organiser: Duncan Astbury with SRCT & St Margaret’s Trust  
Venue: St Margaret’s, Braemar, Cairngorms National Park, AB35 5YP.  
Admission cost: Free

Event Dates: Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> July to Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July inclusive

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Further details via the website at

<http://www.duncanastbury.com/exhibit.html>

## **About SRCT**

The Scottish Redundant Churches Trust (SRCT) is a charity (Scottish Charity No. SC024407) that saves historic churches at risk. They work with communities to secure the future of their churches through expert conservation and creative regeneration.

St Margaret’s is of outstanding significance within the UK for its architecture and as a major work of the prominent Scottish architect Sir John Ninian Comper. Numbering amongst the finest churches in Scotland, St Margaret’s is listed Category A by Historic Environment Scotland and is an architectural high point of Braemar and a landmark within the village.

St Margaret’s was acquired by the SRCT in August 2013.

## **About St Margaret's Trust SCIO Braemar**

St Margaret's Trust is a charity (Scottish Charity No. SC045945 ) responsible for the day to day operation of St Margaret's. It's objectives include the advancement of the arts, heritage and culture; the advancement of education; and the advancement of community development through the restoration of the St Margaret's Church building and its development as a community hub supporting and promoting both the visual and performing arts.

## **About Duncan Astbury**

Duncan has been taking photographs for some 35 years now, this experience has been combined with studying as a mature student to complete a BA (Hons) degree in Photography from the University of Creative Arts.

His approach seeks to reveal insights about the beliefs, sociology and culture of Scottish people by producing photographs which reveal aspects of how the environment, both rural and urban, is altered from an otherwise natural state to a man-influenced state.