



Church Focus



Winter 2025

**Maud & Savoch
with
New Deer, St. Kanes**

**Charity Numbers:
SC009773 & SC007917**

From the Manse

In a time when so many churches are closing and being put up for sale, one might have cause to assume that interest in the Christian faith and participation in what we do as members of God's church in our community is on the wane. It would, of course, be simply an assumption. We would be the first to agree that we have had plenty challenges to deal with over the past few years, especially in the aftermath of lockdown measures which had to be taken during the Covid epidemic. But it seems to me that the tide is now turning. Our faith in a loving and caring God carried us through difficult days and the belief that God is at work in and through us has inspired us to follow wherever he leads into ventures we may not have been brave enough to consider pre-covid.

In Maud, the fortnightly soup and sweet lunch has gone from strength to strength. It is a delight to walk into a room with so many folk across the ages sharing food and friendship in the fellowship of God's people, ably supported by a team of volunteers without whom the lunch club could not function. If you have not managed along yet, do come when you get the chance. A very warm welcome awaits you. And if you can't manage out, we offer a wee delivery service too (although this is restricted to addresses that are mainly around the village).

In St Kane's, we are adjusting to the Church Centre being our place of worship. Our Session Clerk along with a group of able volunteers has been working around the building, finding suitable places for some of the cherished items we brought over from the church building, and altering various spaces within the centre to make it feel more worshipful. There is a fresh buzz about the place when you step in now, and we have enjoyed the sense of fellowship that can only be found by working together towards a common cause.

Before sitting down to write this letter today, I was reading through the minutes from our most recent Kirk Session meeting and was struck by just how many positive and enjoyable events and experiences we have had as congregations. During the summer we hosted worship in our tent in it's new position at New Deer Show. This is always a joyous occasion. At the end of the school holidays our church family joined together for its annual church picnic which he held in the grounds of Maud Church. The weather was

glorious and much fun was had playing games, blowing bubbles, and of course, sharing food.

Most recently, we enjoyed a wonderful time of worship and fellowship at our Harvest Thanksgiving service which, this year, was in St Kane's. The hall was adorned with seasonal produce and the generosity of our community for the local foodbanks was phenomenal. The highlight for me was sharing in an interactive service of worship in a packed hall, seeing so many folk happy to be gathered in one place to give thanks to God, celebrating his goodness and generosity with whatever gifts we had to offer, including our time and talents. It is a delight to welcome you all, but we have been blessed too by the number of new people coming along and joining the fellowship. God is indeed good.

As for the future, well, watch this space. Mainly Music, a new venture for us, will be starting in January. We are already planning our Christmas services across the two congregations, and an advent bible study group is in the planning for those who might appreciate a quieter moment to reflect on the real meaning of Christmas amid the busy-ness of the seasonal preparations that consume so much of our time and attention.

We hope you can see, not only from this letter but also from the many activities noted in this newsletter, that our churches are nowhere near dying, and that, on the contrary, we have caught our 'second-wind' so to speak and are excited to see what God has in store for us. Do come and join us we you can. As the saying goes, 'come when you can, leave when you must.' But know that a warm welcome awaits you, whether you are a regular visitor, someone who can only make it now and again, or joining in our fellowship for the very first time.

We wish you all the very best of God's blessings for the season that lies ahead and look forward to spending time with you in the days that lie ahead.

Yours in Christ,

Aileen McFie (Rev)

Church Services

Regular Sunday morning services will take place at St Kane's Church Centre in November, Maud Church in December and back to St Kane's Church Centre in January. There is also Holy Communion on 2nd November 2025 at St. Kane's Church Centre.

Remembrance Sunday – 9th November



- 9.15 am - Wreath Laying at Maud War Memorial
- 9.30 am - Remembrance Service at Maud Church
- 10.30 am - Wreath Laying Service at Savoch War Memorial
- 10.50 am - Wreath Laying at New Deer War Memorial



11.10 am - Remembrance Service at St Kane's Church Centre

"Greater love has no one than this, that one lay down his life for his friends"

John 15:13



Sunday 14th December

All Age Family Nativity Service 10.30 am Maud Church
Family Christmas Service – 6.30 pm Auchnagatt Village Hall

Sunday 21st December

All Age Informal Christmas Service -10.30 am Maud Church

Christmas Eve - Wednesday 24th December

Christmas Fun and Fellowship Service – 6.30 pm St Kane's Church Centre
Watchnight Service -11.15 pm Maud Church.

Holy Communion dates for 2026



At its last meeting, the Joint Kirk Session discussed and agreed when and where we would be celebrating the sacrament of Holy Communion during 2026. You will find them noted below. Please be aware that there are a few alterations to the order and dates of some from previous years. If you are new to the area and would like to know more about the Church of Scotland's understanding of this sacrament, do not hesitate to contact the minister or one of the elders.

25th January 2026 – 10.30 – St. Kane's Church Centre

7th June 2026 – 10.30 – Maud Church

30th August 2026 – 10.30 – Maud Church

1st November 2026 – 10.30 – St. Kane's Church Centre

St Kane's Church Building

On the 8th August 2025 St Kane's Church building was sold to Edzell Securities Limited. All movable items have been removed and are now in St Kane's Church Centre where all Church Services and activities continue to take place.

Advent Bible Study

Janet Dick will be leading this year's Advent Bible Study during November & December. Dates and details are yet to be confirmed and these will be advertised and posted on the Church Facebook pages once they are. If you want to find out more or are interested in coming along contact Janet on 07790934031

Harvest Thanksgiving

Celebration was in the air when around sixty people joined to give thanks at the Harvest Thanksgiving service which took place in St Kane's Church Centre on Sunday 28th September. Donations of home-grown produce were received from the public and used in the Harvest Display. Non-perishable goods were collected for the Aberdeenshire North Food Bank from which we received a certificate of appreciation for goods weighing 78.60kg & £44 collection. During the service we were treated to some of our younger members of the congregation playing the organ during the hymns. Our first time ukulele player assisted with our Harvest table song in which all ages came & placed different items on the Harvest Table. A soup lunch was served after.

Craft Group and Prayer Shawl Ministry

Craft Group meets 10.30 am til 12 noon the first and third Monday of the month at Maud Church Hall. It's been a very busy year and we have been delighted to have new folk join the group and greatly appreciated the help of Gail and Aileen sharing their skills in teaching some of the group to crochet.

Alongside the woolly work and chatting aspect of Craft Group this year we have supported several causes this year, making hats, balaclavas and scarves for the Christian Seafarer's Mission and the Blytheswood Christmas Shoebox Appeal and will again be donating some warm woollies to the Salvation Army this winter.

All are welcome and if you are interested in finding out more about Craft Group or the Prayer Shawl Ministry contact Jan on 07460307416. You don't need to be good at crafting to join but if you want to have a go at learning something, there will always be someone to give you a bit of help and advice.

"Each of you should use whatever gifts you have received to serve others, as faithful stewards of God's grace in its various forms" 1 Peter 4:10



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

Dates for Winter

Monday November 3rd and 17th

Monday December 1st and 15th

Monday January 5th and 19th

Walking Group

Walking group has continued throughout summer and though busy times have made it difficult to get out together regularly we have had some fabulous walks. We will continue to walk on an ad hoc basis throughout the winter so look out for posts if you fancy getting out in the shorter darker days.

Information about individual walks is posted on our WhatsApp Chat and if you would like to be added to this group please let Jan know (07460307416). If you are not on WhatsApp get in touch with Jan and she will arrange for you to get information about any planned walks.

Remember that anyone in the group can post if they are heading out for a wee walk and would like to invite folk to join them.

Warm and Welcome Soup and Sweet



It's been fabulous to see so many folk coming along and enjoying themselves at our soup and sweet these last few months. We are so thankful to all those who came along to support it. Also for the generous donations of fruit and vegetables received from folk during harvest and the lovely team who do the cooking and serving. Thank you everyone.

All are welcome so if you haven't been before, come along for a warm welcome, cup of tea, chat with friends and a tasty soup and sweet lunch which runs from 11.30 am to 1.30 pm on the second and fourth Monday of each month at Maud Church Hall.... and please encourage those who you know would enjoy the food and fellowship to come along.

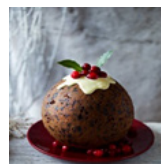
There is no charge for teas or lunch but folk can make a small donation if desired.

Monday 10th and 24th November

Monday 8th December



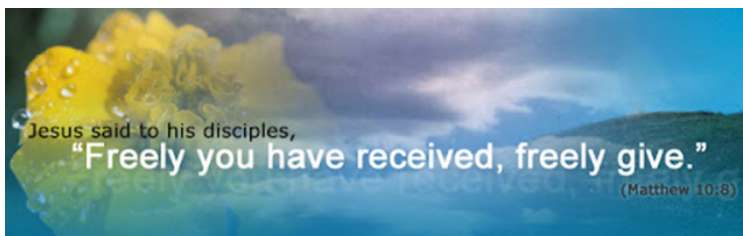
Monday 22nd December (Christmas Special)
donations go to the work of the Salvation Army



Monday 12th and 26th January

St Kane's Giving Day

Thank you to everyone who came along and joined together for fellowship, fly cup and a buttery at our stewardship Giving Day Event on Saturday 6th September in the Mustard Seed Café. Donations via money envelopes on the day and given throughout September were accepted totalling £2300 with the addition of £406 reclaimed through Gift Aid tax the total giving for the event was £2706 which will go towards keeping the church presence in New Deer.



Mainly Music



Following the announcement in our last Newsletter we are delighted to share with you that Mainly Music will be starting at St Kane's Church Centre in January. Mainly Music is a fun music, songs and physical activity programme for young children along with their parents and carers to enjoy together.

It provides the opportunity for children to have fun, and socialize, building skills and confidence with those caring for them, through music and creative activities whilst giving families an opportunity to think about the God-part of life.

It has been so fantastic to already have so much interest for Mainly Music from young families in the community and we appreciate your patience as it has taken us a little more time than anticipated to get everything in place. We are almost there though and look forwards to welcoming our first group very soon.

Details will be posted on social media and in the local villages and if you want to find out more or are interested in coming along when we get started contact Josephine on 07761002414.

St Kane's Glebe

A BIG thank you goes to all the families who have volunteered their time and talents doing the ploughing, sowing, combining and baling the glebe. This year we have been fortunate enough to achieve 27 tonnes of barley at 16% moisture and eighty-eight straw bales from the ten-acre field.

The Culsh Glebe has been let grazing for sheep the summer months. The fencing around this field is showing its age so if anyone would like to donate a post or two, please contact Mr Drew Elphinstone as Glebe Convenor 07763 404 315

"The land has produced its harvest; God, our God, has blessed us"
Psalm 67:6

Foodie Favourites

What?

Where?

When?

Why?

Foodie Favourites

St Kane's Church Centre

7.00 pm Thursday 6th November and 4th December

The Foodie Favourites Team will demonstrate some tasty new dishes which you will then have the opportunity to taste. Recipes will be available for you to take away with you.

The evening closes with a time to get together over a fly cup. Whether you have come along for the last seven years or it's your first time you will be made most welcome.

The Boys Brigade

1st New Deer Boy's Brigade meetings are held in St Kane's Church Centre on Monday evenings from 6.30 pm to 8.30 pm during the school term.



After a great first term we are looking forwards to our second term, especially with festive fun at our Christmas party on the 15th December.

We start up again on 12th January, after the Christmas break. New members are always welcome at our active, friendly group for boys and girls in P1 to P3 for Anchor Boys and P4 to P6 for Junior Section.

If you have children who are interested in coming or would like a bit more information just get in touch with Anne Marie on 07768850894 or come along on the night.

Men's Breakfast



Men's Breakfast is held at The Mustard Seed Café, St Kane's Church Centre 8.30 am to 10.00 am, usually, on the first Saturday of each month.

Men come together to share fellowship and faith over a tasty breakfast where they have a platform to chat on all manner of subjects.

If you would like to find out more contact Alistair on 07551406204 or just come along one Saturday morning.

Winter dates - Saturday 1st November, 6th December, 3rd January

St Kane's Guild

St Kane's Guild meets at 7.30pm on the fourth Thursday of each month from September to May in St Kane's Church Centre. New members are always welcome and if you would like to find out more contact Anne on 07789382721

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 27th November 7.30 pm – Concert by Turriff Community Singers - see below

Thursday 4th December 12 noon - Guild and Friendship Club Christmas Meal at the Mustard Seed Café

Thursday 22nd January – 7.30 pm – Guild meeting at the Church Centre when we will hear from Joyce Thomson about the challenges for people living with epilepsy and effective support.



Christmas Coffee, Cake and Crafts

at

Maud Church Hall

Saturday 29th November

10.00am til 12 noon

All Welcome





Festive Afternoon Tea
2.00 pm til 4.00 pm - Saturday 6th December
The Mustard Seed Café, New Deer



All donations go to support the education of children at M'buka CCAP Primary School, Malawi

Music and Carol Singing
Come Along and Join the Festive Fun

Church Meetings

November:

Communications Team – 7.30 pm Monday 3rd November St Kane's Church Centre

Maud and Savoch Congregational Board - 7.00 pm Thursday 6th - Maud Church Hall

St Kane's Congregational Board – 7.30 pm Tuesday 11th - St Kane's Church Centre

January :

Joint Kirk Session – 29th January 7.30 pm – St Kane's Church Centre



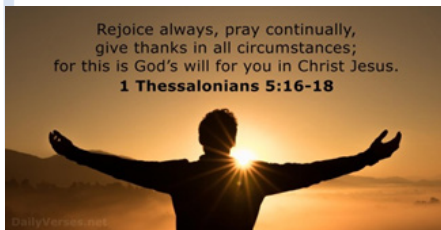
Time for Prayer

Join us for prayers at 10.00am on Wednesday mornings at St Kane's Church Centre. We also have a WhatsApp Prayer group where we share prayer requests and prayer points. All are welcome to join the Prayer Groups and if you want to find out more contact Rev Aileen McFie or just come along one Wednesday morning. You can keep up to date with Presbytery News and Prayer Points at www.nenipresbytery.org.uk

Dear Lord, we step into Your presence with a heart full of gratitude for the blessings You have poured into our lives. As the winter season approaches, we pray that You would open doors for us to serve and to bless others.

Help us to see the needs of those around us and give us the opportunity to extend a helping hand. Fill our hearts with compassion and love, so that we may reflect Your light to those who are in darkness. Guide us in finding ways to bring comfort and warmth to those who are struggling during this season. May our actions be a reflection of Your love and grace, as we seek to be Your hands and feet in this world.

We surrender our desires and plans to You, trusting that You will use us for Your glory. Grant us the strength and wisdom to serve others selflessly, joyfully, and with a servant's heart. In Your precious Name, we pray. Amen.



Supporting Our Community

It was great to be able to make such a big donation from our Harvest Thanksgiving Service in September. We continue to take donations of non-perishable foods for the local Foodbank all year round and also essential items for young families for Bairnecessities. Items needed include toothpaste, baby shampoo, sponges, oil, wipes and talc, nappy bags, non bio washing tablets and ladies deodorant. Donations can be made at both Churches and at St Kane's Church Centre and are really appreciated by those in need.



Thank you for your donations and continued support Find us on Facebook - Maud and Savoch Church and New Deer St. Kane's Parish Church
Our Minister is Rev. Aileen McFie 01771 644631