

Church Focus



WINTER 2024

Maud & Savoeh with New Deer, St. Kanes

Charity Numbers: SC009773 & SC007917

Welcome

Dear Friends,

(The message today has been adapted for you from a sermon preached on Sunday 13th October, 2024.)

A phrase commonly found in 'church-speak' is "the whole people of God". It is a phrase that reminds us that God's church is more than a building or institution, and that each and every one who claims Jesus as Lord and seeks to follow him has a place and a purpose in his service. Each one of us here has been called by God's love to be a valued and cherished member of his family. None of us is worthy of such love. None of us is perfect, not one. Each of us has done things we ought not. All of us have at one time or another said something we should not have, or remained silent when we ought to have spoken out. Every one of us has sinned in one way or another, and fallen way short of the standards God expects of his children. But let me tell you this too. Not one of us, not a single person here has done anything so bad that God would withdraw his love from us. Not one. Because there is absolutely nothing that can be done to separate us from that amazing love.

In his letter to the Romans, the apostle Paul makes it plain:

"For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

No matter how far we have fallen from God's grace, he has a place for us in his heart, and he longs for us to accept it. Each one of us therefore, belongs to that wider family that is known and referred to as the "whole people of God". That is you, and me, and everyone who loves the Lord Jesus and seeks to follow him, frail and flawed though we are. And so, it follows that when one or other of us is missing, that space is felt.

Our responsibilities as the whole people of God are shared responsibilities, and as we are happy to play our part when things are going well, so too are we required to stick with it when the going gets tough. It is easy to be a disciple of Jesus when everyone likes us and the job is easy – not so much

though, when we are tired and weary, feeling heavy-laden, overburdened and overwhelmed.

I was listening to a talk the other day when I was stopped short by something one of the speakers said. He was addressing the desire that many of us have to give up when things start to get too hard, too difficult for us to carry on and he asked the question, “where would we be today, if Jesus, on the way to calvary, decided that enough was enough, that the cross he was carrying was too heavy, too cumbersome, too painful to bear and that he could go no further. Where would we be today if Jesus had chosen to give it up, to go no further and instead go in search of a life of comfort and peace? Where would be today?

Make no mistake, Jesus knew all these feelings and he brought them to God his Father. But when he prayed about them, what did Jesus say? “Father, if you are willing, remove this cup from me; yet, not my will but yours be done.” Do you hear that? “Not my will but yours...”

Can we honestly say we have put God’s will before our own in every experience of life? When the going gets tough, do we ask God for help and accept it when it is given, or do we conclude that it is too hard and regrettably walk away. I say regrettably because I don’t believe that any of us make the decision to walk away lightly.

When fewer and fewer people are available and able to carry the load of stewardship the challenge to live generously with our time and energy becomes even more challenging. Cultivating a spirit of generosity involves looking out for each other, lifting each other up when they are low, offering assistance in practical ways when we can, no matter how small. It is about being willing to share the load, not leaving it to one person to carry because we think we can’t help, or that they don’t need our help. It’s about respect, consideration and compassion. And when we ourselves are feeling overburdened and overwhelmed, it means letting others help us. Perhaps the key to perseverance and growth lies in remembering that just as the body is one and has many members, and all are members of the body, so too are those who are in Christ. We are the body of Christ in this place. So let us give thanks and rejoice in his holy presence with us always.

Yours in Christ,

Aileen McFie

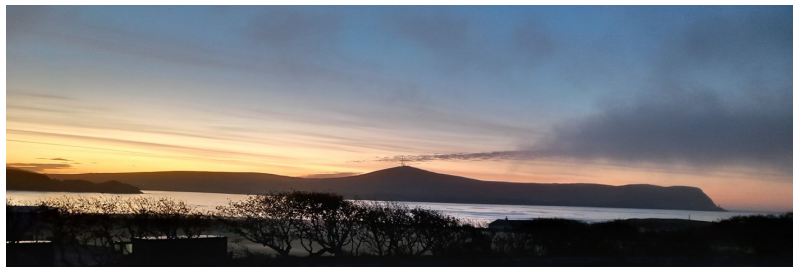
Church Services

Our regular All Age Sunday Morning Worship are held at 10.30 am on Sunday mornings, month about between Maud & Savoch Church and St Kane's Church Centre.

November - St. Kane's Church Centre

December - Maud Church

January - St. Kane's Church Centre



Please join with us we remember with thanksgiving those we have loved and lost for a

Service of Hope and Light

on Sunday **3rd November** at **3pm** in **Maud Church**

All are welcome.

"A light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it."
(John 1:5)



We look forward to welcoming you around the Lord's Table on Sunday 3rd November at 10.30am in St Kane's Church Centre and Sunday 2nd February 2025 in Maud Church, when we shall share in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

All who love the Lord a little and want to love him more are invited to share this holy feast.

"Come, because it is the Lord who invited you."

Remembrance Sunday 10th 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 Savocho War Memorial

10.50 am Wreath Laying at New Deer War Memorial

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

Christmas Services Sunday 15th December

All Age Nativity Service 10.30 am Maud Church

Family Christmas Service – 6.30 pm Auchnagatt Village Hall

Sunday 22nd December

All Age Christmas Service 10.30 am Maud Church

Christmas Eve - Tuesday 24th December

Family Advent Service - Christmas fun and craft at St Kane's Church Centre (time to be confirmed)

Watchnight Service - 11.15 pm Maud Church.



With regret, due to unforeseen circumstances Café Church will not be taking place for the next few months. We will be back in the New Year at some point.

Watch this space for future announcements.

A Thank You from St. Kane's Church, New Deer

A huge thank you goes to everyone who helped prepare our memorabilia which was generously loaned to use for the New Deer St Kane's building closure event at the end of September. The contributions came from near and far and enhanced our displays beautifully. Over 650 people of all ages attended the four-day event sharing lots of memories of celebration and events that had taken place over the years.

If you missed the event here are some pictures of the event to enjoy.



New Deer St Kane's now welcome you to join us in Sunday morning worship in St Kane's church centre at 10.30am during November, January and March.



HOPE | **EXPLORED**

WHAT'S THE BEST FUTURE
YOU COULD EVER IMAGINE?

There are few emotions more powerful than hope. But these days, hope seems hard to come by.

Hope Explored is a three-session series about the life, death and resurrection of Jesus that examines his extraordinary claims. Through teaching from Rico Tice and studies from Luke's Gospel, Hope Explored shows how Jesus offers us a hope worth having, a hope that won't disappoint us.

Over three sessions, Hope Explored presents the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, and provides an opportunity to discover how he fulfils three great longings we all experience: the longing for hope, peace, and purpose. The structure of each session is simple: a short Bible study, a talk and a discussion based on the talk.

These sessions will take place over three weeks beginning on Wednesday 8th January at 2pm in St Kane's Church Centre.

For further information and to register your place, please contact the Minister by telephone on 01771 644332 or email at arobson@churchofscotland.org.uk.

Craft Group and Prayer Shawl Ministry



KNIT. CROCHET. PRAY.

Craft Group generally meets 10.30

am til 12 noon the first and third Monday of the month at Maud Church Hall. It's been lovely to have new folk join us this year. All are welcome. 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.

We are still keen to develop a Prayer Shawl Ministry within our Churches although have been too busy to get going properly yet. The winter months are an ideal time to get started so if you are interested in getting involved just get in touch. All are welcome and if you are interested to find out more about Craft Group or the Prayer Shawl Ministry, contact Jan on 07460307416.

Dates for Winter

Monday November 4th and 18th

Monday December 2nd and 16th

Monday January 6th and 20th

Walking Group

With shorter days evening walks will cease for the next few months but we still hope to get out for some daytime walks in the winter months.

Information about individual walks is posted on our WhatsApp Chat or on our Facebook pages. If you would like to be added to our WhatsApp chat 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.

Warm and Welcome Soup and Sweet

All are welcome at our twice monthly Monday soup and sweet at Maud Church Hall which runs from 11.30 am to 1.30 pm. Come along to for a warm welcome, cup of tea, chat with friends and a tasty soup and sweet lunch 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.

Dates for Winter

Monday 11th and 25th November



Monday 9th and 23rd December

Christmas Specials



Monday 13th and 27th January

Church Meetings

November

Maud and Savoch Congregational Board - 7.00 pm Thursday 7th -
Maud Church Hall

St Kane's Congregational Board - 7.30 pm Tuesday 19th - St Kane's
Church Centre

January

Joint Kirk Session – Tuesday 28th 7.30 pm - St Kane's Church Centre

February

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

Foodie Favourites
*A Cookery Demonstration
and Tasting Evening*

7pm Start

**2024/2025
Thursdays
7th November
5th December
6th February
6th March**

**St Kane's
Church
Centre**

**Free Entry
All
Welcome**

**Presented by
New Deer
St Kane's
Parish Church**

The poster also features several circular images of food: a stack of three small cakes, a roasted meat platter, a bowl of red sauce, a strawberry shortcake dessert, and a bowl of vegetable salad.

Boys' Brigade

**THE BOYS'
BRIGADE**
in SCOTLAND
>the adventure begins here



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.

Our Christmas party takes place on the 16th December when there will be lots of festive fun and games.

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

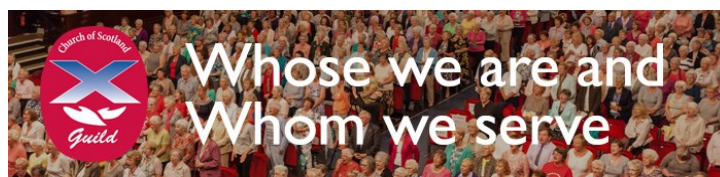
Saturday 2nd November 2024

Saturday 7th December 2024

Saturday 4th January 2025

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 28th November 7.30 pm

Guild meeting at St Kane's Church, when we will be entertained by the wonderful music of the Turriff Brass Band.

Wednesday 11th December

Guild Carol Service - 2.00 pm - St Ninian's Church, Turriff

Thursday 12th December

12 noon for 12.30 pm Guild Christmas meal at the Mustard Seed Café

Thursday 23rd January

7.30 pm – Guild meeting at the Church Centre when we will hear about the wonderful work of Mary's Meals





ST KANE'S GUILD



invite everyone to an evening of music performed by

Turriff Silver Band

on THURSDAY 28th
NOVEMBER 2024

at 7.30pm

in ST KANE'S CHURCH

ALL WELCOME

Refreshments will be served

Donations in aid of

Guild Project 'Home for Good':

Finding homes for vulnerable children in Scotland

SCO11353

Christmas Coffee, Cake & Crafts

Maud Church

Saturday 7th December



10.00am til
12 noon



All Welcome

Festive Afternoon Tea

The Mustard Seed Café, New Deer

Saturday 14th December

2.00 pm til 4.00 pm



*Donations to support the education of children at
M'buka CCAP Primary School*

Prayer



Prayer time has changed to the new time of 10.00 am 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

Heavenly Father, as we enter into the winter season, we come before you seeking rest and renewal. In the midst of the busyness of life, we ask that you grant us moments of stillness and peace, where we can find refreshment for our souls.

Lord, we know that winter is a time when nature rests and prepares for the coming spring. We pray that you would also help us to slow down, to embrace the quiet moments, and to find solace in your presence. Fill us with your Spirit, rejuvenate and restore us.

In this season of rest, we ask that you reveal to us any areas of our lives that need to be surrendered or let go. Help us to release any burdens or anxieties that we may be carrying, and guide us to a place of greater surrender and trust in you.

Thank you, Lord, for the gift of winter, where we can find rest and renewal in your presence. May this season be one of deep spiritual growth and transformation, as we draw closer to you and experience your love and grace in new and profound ways.

In Jesus' name, we pray.

Amen



Supporting Our Community

We continue to take donations of non perishable foods for the local Foodbank and also essential items for young families for Bairnecessities. These 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 Savoeh Church and New Deer St. Kane's Parish Church
Our Minister is Rev. Aileen McFie 01771 644631