

---

Pastoral Letter from Gert's desk.



***Udny and  
Pitmedden  
Parish Church***

***Pitmedden  
Aberdeenshire  
AB41 7PS***

***'You are most  
welcome on the  
journey with us'***

---

I want to start with a warm word of thanks to everybody that was involved in the process of me becoming the next Parish minister at Udny and Pitmedden Parish Church. It was not an easy process, given all the unique circumstances we find ourselves in during this time of pandemic, which I want to assure you; will also come to pass.

I invite all of you to join me on a life altering journey, that will not leave you unchanged. The biggest challenge for now is to meet and get to know each other.

Hence this letter.

Worship services will go on at Pitmedden Church with all the necessary precautions to keep everybody safe and yet to make it a time of fellowship and celebration. At **10am on Sunday mornings** you are invited to join us. This is the first step on our journey together. A place and time we can be together with God, but if you feel you still want to isolate and avoid groups, we are looking into the possibility of live streaming worship services on zoom in the near future; I will keep you posted.

There are 3 options we can meet each other in person:

1. On **Wednesdays starting on 11 November**, I will be at Pitmedden Church from 10am to 1pm. I invite you to come and meet me. This will however be without coffee due to restrictions. To make it a safe experience I want to ask you to 'book' your slot – now I feel so important ☺. We keep it to 45 min slots per family. Text me when suites you best and I will text back with exact time slot.
2. For those who can't make it during the day I will be available at the manse on **Wednesday afternoons** from 6pm – 7:30pm. Same rules apply and text me for an appointment. I am allowed as a minister to receive members at the manse if it is work related, so we are in the rules and guidelines of the Church of Scotland.
3. A third option would be to meet me at your house outside. Weather permitting! I will make myself available on **Tuesdays** for outside meetings.

All these get togethers are strictly only for 2 households at a time; me with one other household and no more than 6 people, according to Tier 2 level restrictions. Hand sanitizing, face

coverings and 2m distancing will be adhered to – no hugging or handshaking (sadly).

This will give us the opportunity to meet each other although in different circumstances but we still have our presence, voices and luckily with God there is no social distancing. The spirit will bind us together.

Please text me on 07510670606 or WhatsApp me on +447510670606 with your name, the number of people and the date and time that will suite you for our get-to-know-each-other time.

I am looking forward meeting all of you and for you to get to know me better.

**Advent** starts on Sunday 29 November and I believe we will have a blessed Christmas time together.

At Udney and Pitmedden, we plan with the help of Elaine Moffat and helpers a **drive-in Christmas service** in mid-December. This is exciting and I hope all of you will be able to attend in the safety of your cars. Details will be shared soon.

For Christmas we will not be able to have a nativity play but we will have worship services on **Christmas eve**: 7pm our congregational and family service and our contemplative watchnight service at 11pm.

I will share more about these services later.

Our paths joined for a brief moment in the history of this world, may it be a moment of grace, love and abundance in our journey towards the Kingdom of God, here and now.

My best wishes and the love and grace of God be with us all.

Gert.