

Udny & Pitmedden Church

Newsletter

Come let us
Adore
Him



December 2017

SERVICES FOR DEC 17 TO FEB 18

Dec

3 rd	10am	Pitmedden	1 st Sunday in Advent
10 th	10am	Udny Green	
17 th	10am	Pitmedden	Nativity
17 th	7pm	Pitmedden	9 Lessons and Carols (Guild)
24 th	10am	Pitmedden	
24 th	6.30pm	Pitmedden	Christmas Eve Service
24 th	11.30pm	Pitmedden	Watchnight Service
25 th	10am	Udny Green	Christmas Day Service
31 st	10am	Pitmedden	

Jan

7 th	10am	Udny Green
14 th	10am	Pitmedden
21 st	10am	Pitmedden
28 th	10am	Pitmedden

Feb

4 th	10am	Udny Green
11 th	10am	Pitmedden
18 th	10am	Pitmedden
25 th	10am	Pitmedden

Mar

2 nd	7pm	Pitmedden	World Day of Prayer (Guild)
4 th	10am	Udny Green	

KIRK CAFÉ



The Kirk Café is held on Wednesday mornings. Come along and enjoy a cup of tea/coffee and a scone.

MUSINGS FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends,

This is the time of year when we remember people who are no longer with us. There is All Hallows Eve followed by All Saints Day and All Souls Day and of course Remembrance Sunday and all that goes along with that. It's a time to remember those who were part of our lives for a time and are now no longer with us in the same way. But it's not just time to remember and be sad, it's time to say 'thank you' for all the things that those people gave us during their lives for these things will remain with us as long as we live.

Remembrance Sunday is always a hard one for me. I can think back to my father and father-in-law who both served in Burma during the second world war and who rarely spoke about the horrors that they had seen but it is the story of my brother that always brings a tear to my eye as we stand in silence at the War Memorial.

Allan was my younger brother and had a learning disability. Despite that he went on to train as a landscaper and ran his own small business in the West of Scotland. Allan was always a little bit different to most people and he struggled with socialising. However, he found the environment in the Territorial Army very much suited his personality. The TA's valued his skills and allowed him to do all sorts of things alongside others who simply accepted him for who he was, with all his quirks and idiosyncracies!

At the time of the Iraq War though, Allan was called up and spent some time in the desert out there helping to build a water pipeline to provide much needed fresh water for civilians. During that time he apparently saved the lives of a group of young soldiers caught in a suicide

bomb at a checkpoint. Seeing the flames from his post in the desert and unable to get anyone on his radio, he drove his truck towards the site of the bomb with no thought for his own safety. He lifted all the injured into the back of the truck and took them to the nearest field hospital. After dropping them off he stopped briefly for a cup of tea (remarking only that he was disappointed at the lack of cakes) in the canteen then rejoined his truck and spent the rest of the day out in the desert digging the trench for his pipeline.

It was after his return to Scotland that we learned that Allan had an inherited neurological condition that would have certainly excluded him from any kind of active service. His time in the desert affected his physical health so badly that he died of pneumonia at the early age of 51. Allan was a difficult person to live with and most people wrote him off. As a big sister I quarrelled with him many times and found him utterly frustrating. At school they told us that he would never amount to much intellectually but my parents refused to accept that. Allan's story reminds me that each of us has a contribution to make and that each person has God given gifts that they can use in the service of others.

There was a place for Allan in this world and there is a place for every single child born into our care. Each of us bears the image of the Creator and deserves our respect and our support no matter what category society places them in.

As we approach the Christmas Season when we remember the birth of the Christchild who was certainly different and may well have caused his parents many anxious moments, let us think in particular of those who are dealing with illhealth or disability or disadvantage of any kind. Let us remember that in God's eyes all are precious, all are loved and all have a gift to give.

Blessings Gillean

BILL SHEWAN – 50 YEARS

This year, Bill completed 50 years of service as Udney Green's Church Officer – the Beadle. What a service! We celebrated his first 30 years of service way back in 1997 when George Robertson, our then Minister, described him as the “most conscientious, diligent and helpful beadle anyone could have”.



George reminded us, back then, how Miss Mackie of Coullie “cajoled, bribed him even” to become Beadle in 1967 when he was just in his 30's. Bill apparently said he would give it a try until they could get someone else. It, however, became a family business with his wife Isabell, and his boys, standing in for Bill when he was away delivering a load of feed

somewhere far away. He had worked various farms around Udney before he became a lorry driver. He tells us he drove the first combine in Udney up at the Mill of Fechel - or was it Coullie - and lived first up by Pittrichie with Isabell. He remembers the roof coming off Pittrichie House after the war with the roof timbers giving good burning on his home fires.

As a lorry driver, he says, he never got lost and would often be offered supper and a bed by grateful farmers in the far north when he got the sheep feed to them when

they badly needed it. Other farmers who saw him on the road would be telephoning ahead of him to say he was on his way.

In September, the church celebrated his 50 years of service with a little party at the end of an Udney service with some of his family around him. Gillean thanked him for all that he had done, his great-grand-daughter sang to us and we shared a cake. He didn't want much of a fuss. A photograph of him receiving his "up-dated" long-service award now greets all who enter the Udney Kirk. He didn't want to stop Beadling but now thinks it is the best thing. We wish him well in his retirement, after all he is only 88. He deserves a rest though.

GOOD COMPANIONS CLUB

A big thank you to everyone who helped in any way to make our annual coffee morning a great success. A grand total of £967.40 was raised.

The entertainers for our November meeting were Newburgh WRI who gave us a super afternoon of stories, music and singing which had everyone's feet tapping. Names were taken for the Christmas lunch on Wednesday 6th December in the hall, members to be seated by 1.45pm. Following the meal Fiona G will entertain.

The committee would like to take this opportunity to wish our members a very merry Christmas and a healthy New Year and thank them all for their continued support over the year. Next year is our 50th anniversary so hopefully we will have lots of celebrations!

Next meeting is Wednesday 21st February

FIONA LISTER – DISCERNMENT STUDENT

The discernment process is a procedure set up by the Church of Scotland to help potential candidates to the ministry to search out where their particular call lies. It involves a placement with a minister in a parish where we get the opportunity to discuss what it means to have a ministry within the Church of Scotland, what my faith and understanding are and what I feel God calling me towards.

It is not an exact science but a process which can take anything from 3 months to a year to investigate my understanding of God's plan for my life with the help of a mentor. I feel very fortunate to have been placed with Gillean at Udny and Pitmedden Church for this valuable experience.

The journey to this point has not been straight forward (these things rarely are!) I grew up in the Howe of Fife, an agricultural area a few miles south of Cupar, Fife. At the age of 17, I took the long journey up to Robert Gordon University in Aberdeen to start my degree in nursing – a career which I enjoyed and which took me through marriage and the birth of my 3 girls. Following the birth of the youngest I had to find a job which was more conducive to the work/family balance and was offered the role of manager of Loaves and Fishes coffee shop in my home parish of Kemnay. This was a job which was made for me and which I loved since it has allowed me to be present for my girls as they moved through school. At first I saw it as an administrative role but it quickly took on a more pastoral feel as I realised the potential within Loaves and Fishes as an outreach for the church, both among the customers and the staff. This was never more apparent than in January 2016 when we opened overnight as an emergency centre for the village, providing warmth, food and comfort when there was

flooding in the village. It was a privilege to be a part of the relief effort and to have the opportunity to walk alongside people who were going through such difficult times. At various points in my life it was suggested to me that I should consider training for ministry within the Church of Scotland and eventually earlier this year I bit the bullet and applied for the discernment process. Throughout this period I have felt God's hand at work on so many areas of my life, showing me how things can work out, if I trust in him. This is but the first step on a journey which will take me a lifetime to complete, the path may not always be easy but I know that if I Trust and Obey God will walk alongside me all the way.

CONFERENCE

At the end of October Gillean and I attended a conference in Perth on bereavement and loss. The speaker was Tom Gordon who has served as a Minister, Hospice Chaplain and now as a Counsellor for the Bereaved.

His knowledge and experiences either from his own personal journey or from people who have benefitted from his counselling, gave us a good insight into the wider aspects of bereavement.

Tom's presentation was sincere – interspersed with some timely humour, very informative and enjoyable. Grief is dealt with in so many ways – none of it easy, and sometimes the extra help offered by people like Tom Gordon, in centres such as Stepping Stones, is invaluable to those who need that vital support. There are booklets you can buy that he's written on Bereavement At our Church here we have a Pastoral Care team. If you would like a visit from any of us, for whatever reason, or if you know of someone who would like a visit – please let me know. Agnes Goar Tel 01358 642560

FUNDRAISING



The Fun Walk held at Mains of Orchardtown, by kind permission of Alan and Hazel Rae, was a very successful event. It was a lovely Sunday afternoon on the 20th August.

About 30 people enjoyed a walk along the old railway line towards Ellon. They then returned to Mains of Orchardtown for a lovely BBQ. Burgers, sausages and some lovely salads were on offer, followed by strawberries and ice cream. It was very pleasant sitting in Alan and Hazel's lovely garden. Even better we raised £700 for church funds.



The Scavenger Hunt was held on Sunday 17th September. It was another fun event! About 14 teams set off to solve the clues on the sheet devised by Alun Walker! All they needed was a bag, a camera and some detective skills!

It was well supported by families of young children and a very young at heart team who seemed to have lots of fun. There was a delicious afternoon tea back at the church and it was well supported. Many thanks to everyone who baked for the Afternoon Tea it was much appreciated! The best



team name was "Shelties Foals" and the winning team were the "Strawberry Tarts!" We managed to raise about £350

.Another successful Gourmet Food Auction took place on 10th November when over £4000 was raised. All manner of goodies were up for auction including home bakes, puddings, hampers, wine, ready-made dishes and vouchers for meals, selling from just a few pounds to over £100. Thank you to all who donated helped and contributed in any way and to auctioneer, Andrew Sleigh, who ensured an evening filled with fun and laughter

GIFT AID

Did you know that if you pay tax and you donate to our Church you can increase the amount you give by allowing us to claim back tax on your behalf for the benefit of the Church, this is known as gift aid and contributes majorly to the Church's income every year. It costs the 'giver' nothing, all you have to do is fill in a **gift aid declaration** which is available at the church or from our Treasurer Garth Entwistle. If you have not done this already then please act on it as soon as possible.

Regards Al Barclay Finance Convener

FORMARTINE YOUTH PROJECT

Youth focused project, in your village

The Formartine Youth Project has been incredibly busy growing in all directions across the 4 villages that formed and support the project. With an aim to connect with our communities, right where you are, we have been busy meeting the needs within our community.

The project currently has over 20 different groups and ministries operating on a variety of weekly and termly events, working with new born families to school leavers. Here is an update on some of those groups. Our mainly music group in Pitmedden has grown to 2 sessions at 10am (currently with a waiting list) and 12.45pm. We see many come from other villages including Tarves to join in the music fun with their pre-school children. If this is of interest to you, just get in touch. Our Barthol Chapel Youth Club meets monthly in the primary school. We've had great fun at the trampoline park in Inverurie during October and a Bon Fire theme night in November which sparklers and s'mores. It's all about having loads of fun together and connecting with the young people.

Our schools work has also grown with our weekly 'JAFFA' group being shaken and stirred and relaunched this year. We've moved to a Thursday lunchtime in the school and have been over 60 pupils attend this term. We've had great fun learning about different stories and getting to know the pupils of the school. We are excited about the future of JAFFA and continuing to partner with the primary school.

Our most exciting project this term has been running the Youth Alpha film series with 10 young people from across the area. We meet in 2 groups, enjoy food together and watch the short video and finish with discussions. It's a really relaxed and non-aggressive way to look into the

foundations of the Christian faith with the freedom to question and debate the different weekly topics. This series includes the opportunity to have a weekend away, so we're taking 14 teenagers away for a 2-night stay at Compass Christian Centre, Glenshee. We are so excited to have our first residential as a project and pleased to have so many young people coming along.

Some upcoming events:

Saturday 25th Nov, 9th Dec & 16th Dec @ 7pm – Pitmedden Youth Café, open to all P6-S6, free entry

Friday 1st December @ 4.30pm - Pitmedden Parish Messy Church

Friday 8th December @ 7.30pm – Barthol Chapel Youth Club, BC Primary School, P7-S6, £2 entry

Sunday 10th December @ 11am – Tarves Parish Messy Church

Any questions or queries, just get in touch. Thanks!

Claire Bell

Children & Youth Worker

GUILD

The Guild meets in Pitmedden Church at 7.30pm and all are very welcome

- 6th Dec -Scott Baxter – Cyrenians
- 10th Jan – In-house meeting
- 7th Feb – World Day of Prayer preparation. The service comes from Suriname
- 2nd Mar – World Day of Prayer
- 7th Mar - Morag Speak – Wiltshire Foods
- 4th Apr – AGM and Mary Rasmussen & guide dog - Living with blindness
- 12th May – Annual Coffee Morning

NOV

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MESSY CHURCH FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT SPIRIT

Patience:

Lots of fun was had by everyone on Friday evening. We made prayer snow globes, paper apple wreaths and we planted snow drops. Gillian made a wonderful cake recipe at story time, and we all learnt what it means to be patient. The evening was rounded off with a buffet tea.

Our next Messy Church is on 1st December at Pitmedden Church 4.30-6.30pm. We hope to see you there!!!

TEAR FUND

Once again there will be an opportunity to share Christmas greetings with our Church family by putting your messages on a Wall Banner, and making a donation instead of buying cards. The donations will go to Tear Fund .

The exciting news is that the UK government have agreed to match funds, which means that any donation we make will be doubled by the government. GREAT NEWS! Funds going through non-government organisations are more likely to reach the people in greatest need as staff on the ground have good local knowledge and can supervise distribution.

This will help people like Geena in the Central African Republic who had to flee from her home with her children when armed groups attacked her village. Having lost everything, Geena received training, seeds and tools from Tear Fund, enabling her to harvest corn and peanuts in there months. Geena is thankful to God for help to provide for her mother, 6 children and grandchild. Gift aid forms can be filled in too. Just complete the form and state the amount you are donating, place in the donation box and tax can be claimed back by Tear Fund. Thank you for your support.

Church of England Prayer for Peace

Compassionate God and Father of all... hold back the hands that kill and maim; turn around the hearts that hate. Grant instead your strong spirit of peace-peace that passes our understanding but changes lives. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen

NAME THAT CAROL

Can you name each of these Christmas Carols from the excerpt? Answers at the end of the newsletter

1. Down where he lay
2. Silent stars go by
3. Sleeps the world
4. You dismay
5. Snow on snow
6. Swift are winging
7. Angelic host proclaim
8. Outcast and stranger
9. Sing in exultation
10. Angels gave the sign
11. Guiding star behold
12. Lowly cattle-shed

YOUTH CAFÉ

Youth Café has been quieter recently as we have dropped to 4 open nights a term. This term we are open on the 11th, 25th November and the 9th and 16th December. The young people enjoy lively games, sometimes a bit of baking and a snack.

If you know of anyone in the community who has an enthusiasm for working with young people please let me know. Fiona 842412.

We are sad to say goodbye to Steph Howarth, now Steph Hopps as she and Will are moving to the north of England for work. Steph has been a faithful volunteer on Saturday nights and has been brilliant and organising our rota. We wish you all the very best Steph!

Claire is taking 15 young people away to Compass Christian Centre at Glenshee for an Alpha weekend

away. Please pray for her and the young people for safe travel, good experiences and growing faith. Thank you.

MAINLY MUSIC

Mainly Music Tuesdays continue to be happy mornings with about 25 families attending. We have restarted the afternoon group at 12.45pm owing to having a large waiting list. Quite a few families in the morning group are having second babies, so will be with us for a while, which is lovely.

We are thankful to all our volunteers who make this music time possible, also to those who bake, repair toys and do all sorts of helpful things. **YOU ARE APPRECIATED!** You know who you are.

The afternoon group is quieter at the moment, so if you know of any mum who has a new baby and is feeling isolated, you could suggest she gets in touch. (Fiona 842412) or message our Facebook page.

We hope to have a bake sale on Tuesday, November 28th. All funds raised will go to the charities which support one of our members- ARCHIE, Ronald McDonald House, Robin House and a few others. It has been a blessing seeing Hannah overcome hurdles and blossom over the years she has been attending and we are thankful to have her.

IMAGINE

Imagine a star shining bright in the sky
a man and a woman with nowhere to lie
a stable so lowly nothing more to be found
a mattress of straw on the hard ground

Imagine a baby being born on that night
with cattle and donkeys watching his plight
the warmth of their bodies is all they can share
the very first love, the very first care

Imagine that child in a manger of hay
Him sleeping so peaceful to the break of the day
when down from the hills and leaving their sheep
come shepherds so simple with a faith that's so deep

Imagine three kings who followed the star
with gifts of gold, frankincense, myrrh
entering that stable so very poor
and flinging themselves down, flat on the floor

Imagine a child born to be King
Imagine us as alleluias we sing
Imagine a God who gave us his word
Then imagine that babe, our Saviour, our Lord

Roger Stapenhill



12-14-2012

I THINK YOUR LIGHTS MIGHT BE TOO
BRIGHT THIS YEAR

Baptism

William Hicks 10/9/17 Rosebank Farm

Roan Alan Stewart-Nicol 22/10/17

Ronald William Reid 5/11/17 Wester Coullie Croft

Naming Ceremony

Findlay Woodward 30/9/17 Allathan Park, Pitmedden

Weddings

Daniel Debosshere & Ayla Snidtket 19/9/17 Dunottar
Castle

Martin Clyne & Megan Sutton 23/9/17 Haddo Chapel

Funerals

Margaret Murray 11/9/17 Townhead, Fyvie

William Leslie 12/9/17 Mains of Pittrichie

Maureen Ironside 4/10/17 Maryville, Pitmedden

Nancy Hepburn 12/10/17 Auchtercrag, Ellon

Albert Henderson 23/10/17 Denend

Jean Eley 23/10/17 Craigdam, Tarves

Jenny Fraser 25/10/17 Sunnybank Nursing Home

The weekly **Church Diary and Parish Prayer Pointers** is the best way to keep everyone informed of your organisation's regular meetings and one-off events, and draw attention to any issues or individuals you would like the church family to pray for. Please email details to Elaine at elainemoff@aol.com or phone 01651 842898 - and don't forget to let me know when a regular meeting is cancelled or takes a break!

NAME THAT CAROL - ANSWERS

1. Away in a Manger
2. O Little Town of Bethlehem
3. Still the Night
4. God Rest You Merry Gentlemen
5. In the bleak Mid-Winter
6. Infant Holy
7. Hark the Herald Angels Sing
8. Child in a Manger
9. O Come All Ye Faithful
10. Love Came Down at Christmas
11. As with Gladness Men of Old
12. Once in Royal David's City

CHURCH NEWS ARTICLES

The **DEADLINE** for the March edition is 11th Feb 2018. Share your information & news **at any time** by emailing udnypitmeddenchurchnews@gmail.com.

CONTACTS

Minister	Rev Gillean Maclean	01651 843794
Session Clerk	Mr Leslie Moffat	01651 842898
Treasurer & Gift Aid	Mr Garth Entwistle	01651 842412
Free Will Offering	Mrs Anne Grant	01651 842332
Organists contact	Mrs Anne Woodward	01651 842900
Church Officer (Udny Green)	Mrs Mary Gray	01651 843419
Church Officer (Pitmedden)	Mr Alvan Milne	01651 842967
Youth Cafe	Mrs Fiona Entwistle	01651 842412
Big Breakfast	Mr Andy Burslem	01651 842092
Boys Brigade		
Good Companions	Mrs Joey Sleigh	01651 851256
Guild	Mrs Carol Marr	01651 842242
Kirk Café	Mrs Gladys Ross	01651 843068
Mainly Music	Mrs Fiona Entwistle	01651 842412
Messy Church	Mrs Maria Weeds	
Formartine Youth Project	Mrs Claire Bell	07983759925
Safeguarding Coordinators	Sheila Burslem Roy Burnett	01651 842092