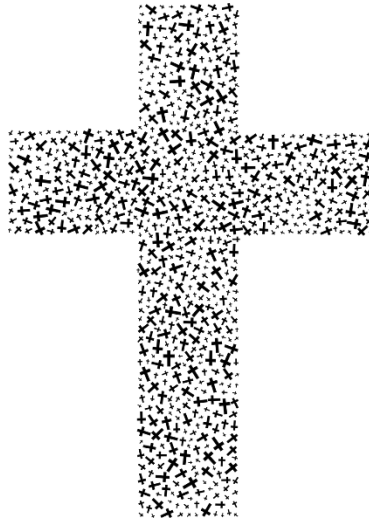


Udny & Pitmedden Church

Newsletter



Jun 2016

SERVICES FOR JUN TO AUG 2016

Jun

5 th	10am	Udny Green	
12 th	10am	Pitmedden	
19 th	10am	Pitmedden	Fathers Day
26 th	10am	Pitmedden	

Jul

3 rd	10am	Udny Green	
10 th	10am	Pitmedden	
17 th	10am	Pitmedden	
24 th	10am	Pitmedden	
31 st	10am	Pitmedden	

Aug

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

KIRK CAFÉ



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

The Kirk Café is looking for more help - perhaps about once a month or so on a rota. If you would like to join in please speak to Gladys or come along to the café and find out more.

Dear Friends,

This edition's Church News comes from Maggie Pirie who is a native of this neck of the woods and who has returned to do some training in the Church in which she grew up. Her parents are Bill and Sheila Johnston, who will be well known to many of you! Maggie is just about to complete the first stage of her training for what we call the 'readership'. If she continues and we haven't put her off she will study and train to take services on a part-time basis around the area, helping out churches during holidays and at times when they don't have a minister of their own. I have enjoyed getting to know her and we have had lots of fun!

Blessings from the Manse of Udney Green!

Gillean

My name is Maggie Pirie, or many of you will know me as Margaret Johnston as I was born and raised in the Post Office, Udney. I now live outside Auchterless, Turriff with my husband, Leslie and two grown children, Neil and Lisa and I'm an Elder in the Church in Auchterless. I have been working in health and social care for 30 years and just changed jobs last year, to catering. Big change but not as big as having the feeling that God wanted me to do something else! So, I applied to the Church of Scotland to become a Reader, also known as Lay Preacher. As I don't come to Udney and Pitmedden Parish every week, I thought I'd let you all know how the training is going. At the moment I am going through the "Discernment Process". This is me, dipping my toe in the water to see if readership is the right thing for me and if I am right for it. This process takes between 3 to 6 months. My thoughts so far? Different parish, different congregation, different minister. Same God, thank goodness! My first week and I thought (wrongly) that I

would just be introduced to everyone. No, I had the reading to do. I'm not used to there being a projector and screen so it was a first for me. It was also strange speaking in front of people who had known me as a child and young adult, especially my parents! Of course, they are used to me talking but, presenting was a different matter altogether. It was also strange being in the Church I had gone to Sunday School in. I hadn't been in this church for years and had never seen it without the pews or pulpit. However, I have to say, it is still a church and feels like a church so that was a relief.

I've been to the "Mainly Music" group on a Tuesday for children under 3 years of age and their Mums or carers. What a delight. "Head, shoulders, knees and toes....." La! La! It is a great group, where the children play and learn and the Mums get a chance to talk with other Mums and get support from each other. One Mum said she liked it as it wasn't "too churchy". Don't get me wrong, we did sing about God but not too much. Tea and coffee with a fine piece followed.

I've also attended a Youth Club on a Saturday evening. As Pitmedden Church does not have any pews there is space for this to happen. They played badminton, table tennis and snooker. There were table top games in the back room as well as art and craft. The kids were mainly from Primary 7 age group, although there were some older ones too. A good mix and great kids. 2 adult helpers just to keep an eye and ensure the snacks are kept out of the main church area. Like all community groups though I'm sure they would appreciate having more helpers so, if you have any free time perhaps you could help?

I attended my first ever "World Day for Prayer". This year it was written by women from Cuba and it was very educational and enjoyable. I would recommend giving it a try next year. You will learn something, I could guarantee!

I've also prepared and said some prayers. The first was for Mothering Sunday and my first ever attempt at saying a prayer out loud for other people. I did find this to be quite emotional. Unfortunately, my Mum was not able to be there but she was in my thoughts (and the prayer). I've also had a go at part of the sermon, or "talky bit" as Gillean described it to me. My daughter laughed at me when I was preparing this as I had all my books around me, the laptop on and the blank sheet of paper sitting beside me. When she saw me a couple of hours later, not much had changed! Fortunately, the writer's block didn't stay for long and I managed to find something to say. Alongside this, I'm reading. One book I'd recommend to you is by Henri Nouwen, "Life of the Beloved and the Greatest Gift" and is about us being God's beloved children. I'm now reading "Having a Mary Heart in a Martha world" by Joanna Weaver. This is the book I'm reading with Gillean, to discuss and develop my knowledge and understanding. It has worksheets in the back and recommended reading from the Bible. So that's it so far. Thank you all for your support and interest and I look forward to seeing you soon. I certainly would recommend visiting the church in your village if you haven't done so before, or for a while. The congregations are lovely – no you don't have to send me a cheque for that! Gillean has a brilliant sense of humour and is really supportive, kind and understanding – yes Gillean you can send me a cheque! I have learned a lot during my short time with you and will be taking some ideas back to my local church and minister. Thank you once again and all blessings for the future.

Maggie Pirie

PRAYER LABYRINTH AT EASTER

It is not often that you will find me quiet or even surrounded by quiet, indeed when I listen to my music everyone listens to my music but last month Elaine Moffat created a prayer labyrinth within the church in Pitmedden and that kept me quiet for a while. I believe that a prayer labyrinth is used to facilitate prayer, meditation, and spiritual transformation and, while it didn't manage to achieve the latter, it did successfully slow me and calm me down. Don't get me wrong, it wasn't a case of straight in and instantly achieving calm but, upon entering, we were asked to be quiet and to pray. As usual, my mind was still racing as I walked through the first few stations but then I came to a point that did slow me down. I was asked to write on a slate with water and because I didn't want anyone else to know what I was praying for I had to stand and wait for the slate to dry, which made me think long and hard about what I had written and from that point I found it easier and easier. By the time I had reached the centre I was surprised to find the whole process was calming me down and making it easier to pray. I can't tell you that I now use these techniques in my daily prayers but when I can't slow down I do think about the labyrinth and yes, it has helped me more than once. So, thank you Elaine and if we do it again in the church can I advise everyone to try it and just slow down and pray. Who knows, I might even find a true spiritual transformation but don't hold your breath - like most of us I don't know if I could let Christ take the steering wheel and drive for me all the time.

Alun Walker

CHRISTIAN AID

At this time of writing, final plans are being made for the Udry & Pitmedden 'Get The Gither' in Pitmedden Village Hall on Sat. 21st May. During these times of planning, our small team meet over a cup of tea & a fine piece. Today, it was in the home of Grace, where we had an especially enjoyable meeting together. A beautiful table was set for us, candle centrepiece, savouries & a choice of VERY fine pieces.

Grace is a special lady. With her encouragement, wise words, sense of humour, prayers and friendship, she is an inspiration to the Christian Aid team. Grace has decided to put her feet up a bit more often now, so to Grace we say a big thank - you.

Thanks, too, go out to all who supported the Souper Sunday in Pitmedden Kirk. Here is a copy of the letter received from our Christian Aid Regional Support Officer, Perth:

Many thanks for your kind donation of £385.00 on 31st March 2016 towards the work of Christian Aid. Your gift will help support our work in 46 of the world's poorest countries.

By taking part in the Super Soup Lunch you are supporting people like Alice Karoki, a nurse in Kenya who is the driving force behind the father support group in Isiolo. She started the group, with the help of our partner ADMSKE (Anglican Development Services - Mount Kenya East), after realising that to bring about changes in behaviour and ways of thinking you had to bring on board the fathers as well as the mothers. In the groups she teaches men about nutrition and sanitation, and the importance of women delivering in hospital, as well as encouraging men to make decisions with their wives about the health of the family and family finances. Gerald

Kimani who attended the group says "I am very happy now. It's like two different lives - before I went to the group and after. It's very nice to be close to my children and loving wife and providing for them."

Christian Aid believes that communities around the world must be self - reliant, community led and responsibly governed. We choose partners that share our values and put these into action. It is through your love and support we are able to provide this assistance.

Once again, thank - you so much for your continued support of our work with and for the poorest communities on earth. With your help, we can make a difference.

More thanks again to all who supported the Christian Aid Celebration at Udney Green Kirk on 1st May. Your generous donations, £562.58, are helping once more, thank - you. A special thanks to Bill, for his extra walking up and down to the kirk on the Saturday, letting us in, for his couthie newsin', and for locking up again after us. Thank - you, also to Catriona who came along with the beautiful Fairtrade products, as she did on the Souper Sunday. Your purchases of Fairtrade goods also helped Christian Aid, as 10% of sales were donated. It's interesting too, to hear Catriona when she explains a little farther about the making of the Fairtrade products, and the background story of some of the people who have been involved.

During Lent, we had the opportunity to "Count our Blessings" and give again. People once more were very generous, with £134.78 being given. The Count Your Blessings leaflets seemed to highlight our wealth and sometimes extravagance, prompting us to perhaps stop and truly count our blessings.

Big Breakfast, on Sat. 7th May, was once more an enjoyable event, with delicious smells and good banter coming from Pitmedden Kirk. During the morning, a short Christian Aid film was shown, highlighting the plight of Morsheda, in Bangladesh. Changes in the seasons and cycles of weather in Bangladesh over the years wreak havoc and destroy people's livelihoods and harvests. The donation of £320 from Big Breakfast helps Christian Aid to assist with training in poor communities living with the constant threat of losing their homes and possessions due to river erosion. Thank - you Big Breakfast.

We look forward to the Udney & Pitmedden 'Get The Gither' on Sat 21st May in Pitmedden Hall. During that event there is a group of young musicians, Trinity, taking to the stage in the afternoon. Later, these young folk are heading along to the Kirk to play at the Youth Cafe, where the youngsters from Formartine Youth Project have been invited. Thank - you, Claire, our Youth Worker, for bringing the young folk together into Pitmedden Kirk, and maybe learning a little bit about Christian Aid at the same time.

These Christian Aid events have taken the place of the former house to house envelopes & collections. Whilst trying to raise money for Christian Aid, to make the world a better place, our aim too is to bring folk together in our own community, both church members and non members. As a wise old Granny once said, " We're a' Jock Thamsin's bairns."
Udney & Pitmedden Christian Aid team.

FUNDRAISING

The Fundraising group have put together a really fun packed calendar for this year! Here goes!

The Fashion Show with Catwalkers from Ellon started off our events on the 21st of April. As usual Alison and Andrew Walker put on an excellent show of the summer collection. There were outfits for everyone in all price ranges for the Loons as well as the Quines! The Walkers very kindly gave 20% off any purchases for everyone who attended. There was a fantastic crowd and we raised £1000.00 for church funds.

There will be a **Hog Roast & Barbecue at Logierieve Farm** on the 18th June by kind permission of Roderic and Alison Bruce. The event will kick off at 2p.m. and will continue until about 6p.m. There will be music supplied by a Gospel Group from Aberdeen. There will be stalls and fun and games for all. Tickets are priced at £25.00 and will include the hog roast and baked potato & salad and strawberries and ice cream + refreshments. Tickets for children are priced at £10.00. This promises to be real treat not to be missed. Tickets are restricted so book yours soon!

In August there will be a **treasure hunt** - Alun Walker gives you more detail. - A number of years ago Steven and Carole Reid, along with James and Barbara Last, organised a treasure hunt around the village to help raise money for the church and it was so popular we thought we would steal the idea and do it all again. It will take place on the afternoon of the **14th of August** and will involve a walking hunt, with prizes for the winning team and the best team name. This will be followed by a BBQ back at the church and, with my expertise from the Big Breakfast, I should be able to turn out a good burger or sausage bun. (For those of you who are thinking "well, that will make a change from the Big Breakfast")

remember that this is a Church Newsletter). We will give you more information nearer the time, with the starting time and the cost of a sheet of clues, but you have been warned and hopefully we will see you all there, Alun

In October we are hoping to have **Gordon and Cheryl** back again for the **Proms at Pitmedden**. They entertained us last year and they were so versatile and talented that everyone who attended really enjoyed themselves. It was just a pity that there hadn't been more people. Gordon and Cheryl are professional entertainers. Cheryl has a beautiful singing voice as has Gordon and Gordon also plays a selection of musical instruments. The programme was very varied. There will be refreshments and canapes served. Please come and join in our very own Proms!

On 11th November, we are holding **The Gourmet Auction** in Udney Green Hall. This has always been a most enjoyable and successful evening so make sure you keep the date free and get **COOKING, BAKING, PRESERVING, DISTILLING or BREWING!**

Sponsor a Pew: we have launched a sponsorship appeal for everyone to sponsor one of the pews in Udney Green Church. We have been very blessed by one of our members who has kindly given of her time and talents to make cushions for all the pews downstairs at the church. We are asking people to sponsor a pew to help with the cost of the materials and to go towards other restoration. The suggested amounts are £30 for a small centre pew and £ 40 for the larger side and other centre pew. Groups could go together to sponsor if they wish and we could also claim gift aid if paid by cheque. Udney Green is a beautiful old church and it is much sought after as a wedding venue so it is important that it is as beautiful as the brides who will be married there.

2016 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

Udny & Pitmedden Church is a busy place these days. We have Mainly Music on Tuesdays, BB on Wednesdays, Youth Café on Saturdays, Messy Church now several times a year and a host of other things going on. Exciting Christian Aid activities for one thing. On top of this we have our own Youth Worker – Claire – who is soon to go on maternity leave – working with our young people in both Meldrum Academy and in our own community and our Minister – Gillean – of course is doing untold things, all the time, all over our parish and beyond.

Everything we do is fairly stretched with our volunteer helpers pretty busy. Fortunately for the BB's at least, we are looking forward to (3) new officers in September, allowing the old guard to step back a bit. Our church finances however, are not so strong. Our reserves dropped below £5,000 in April. We would like to maintain these reserves at around £20,000 so that we are well prepared for anything that might happen. They have been dropping for some time now and we clearly need to do something about that.

A Stewardship Campaign is to start in September, focusing in on the stewardship of our time, our talents and our money. We will all be challenged to review the giving of our time, our talents and our money. We certainly need more of all these things.

The church is reaching out to an increasing number of families through all of our activities. It is surely appropriate to invite these people to join in with us in the work of the church. The Stewardship Team will need to, carefully and prayerfully, reach out to all the people we come in contact with and try to bring new resources into the church's life. Come and join the stewardship Team as we plan this new campaign. Talk to our Minister about this and let's see what we can do together.

CRAFT, CHAT AND CHARITY

The group have been busy beavering away, both their fingers and their tongues have been very busy! There aren't very many people who meet every second Wednesday and we are always looking for new members. You can bring along a craft that you are interested in doing.

We are indebted to the people who knit and crochet at home and provide many beautiful blankets, hats, bootees and scarves. Recently, approximately 30 hats were donated to The Aberdeen Seafarers Centre - so nae mair caul Heids!! Blankets and Baby goods continue to be sent to Malawi, where they are much appreciated. Some members of the group have been knitting premature babies jackets and hats for the neo natal unit in Aberdeen.

June continues to knit tirelessly for Speur Ghlan, which does wonderful work for pre-school children with Autistic Spectrum Disorders. She has single handedly raised a phenomenal amount of money.

The latest pattern is for calming muffs for relieving stress - maybe we could all do with one!

We are also very grateful to a generous benefactor who provides us with wool for knitting our projects.

Please come along and join us - it is only a couple of hours once a fortnight. The group will be stopping in May for the summer but will restart in August / September.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

- Udny and Pitmedden Church of Scotland
- Formartine Youth Project
- Mainly music Pitmedden Church

1st UDNY GREEN BOYS' BRIGADE



Thank you to everyone who came along to our annual fundraiser, Pancake Morning, which was very successful and will keep the Company going for another year. The weekend camp was again at Badaguish, Aviemore and this year the weather was definitely on our side both on the Saturday and Sunday, we even needed sun cream!

We are now at the end of our year and Parents Night will be on Wednesday 25 May at 7.00pm in Udney Green Hall. Thank you to all the Officers and Helpers who have made this another successful year for the Company. We will start again in September.

GOOD COMPANIONS CLUB

The Good Companions Club meetings have now finished for the summer apart from the outing on Wednesday 1st June. This year we are having afternoon tea at Kellockbank then on to Banff for some shopping in the Spotty Bag Shop before High Tea at Cuminestown. The meetings have been well attended by members and it was good to see some new faces adding to the numbers during the year. The programme was varied as usual with a good mixture of music and singing to keep everyone happy.

Meetings start again on Wednesday, 21st September at 2pm in Pitmedden Public Hall. In the meantime if anyone wants any details about the Club please contact the President, Joey Sleigh on 851256

FORMARTINE YOUTH PROJECT

We've had an exciting time over the last couple of months getting to know more of you and involvement in the community. We have been partnering with the Udney Trust to support the amazing work going on behind the scenes to help get the skate park sorted as well as Christian Aid team at the church to raise needed funds through great events.

Sometimes weekly activities can become a bit mundane but this is not what we are seeing. Through the hard work of a great team of volunteers, we are able to offer great activities for you and your family throughout the week.

Our Mainly Music programme continues on a Tuesday, giving us a great chance to get to know you whether you have been here for a week or 15 years! Messy Church gives the kids a chance to get really messy with all the family joining in. Looking forward to seeing some messy seaside hands on Friday 27th, from 4.30-6.30pm.

I'd just like to thank everyone who comes along and all our volunteers who make the project happen. I am heading off on maternity leave from the beginning of July so won't been quite so visible for a few months. We will update you on the progress of the project after the summer and of course share our good news with you.

Thank you all for your kind wishes and all activities will be continuing as usual.

Get in touch!

Claire Bell

Formartine Youth Project

clairefyp@outlook.com

WORLD STAMP MISSION APPEAL

Folk have been curious to know what happens to the stamps that are collected at church. The following is an excerpt from a letter received from the World Mission Stamp Appeal which we hope explains. Please bring along your stamps as they are used for a good cause.

Dear friend,

I am writing to thank you for the used stamps which you have kindly sent to raise funds for the World Mission Stamp Appeal. Please thank everybody involved in collecting these stamps for their continued support and hard work. It is through your support that vital funds are able to be raised to help our partners worldwide. In 2015 we raised an amazing £3511 that will be used to support the work of the Church of Scotland HIV Programme.

The appeal which starts in March 2016 is raising money for the Othara Eco-spirituality centre run by our partner the Church of South India. The Church of South India (CSI) recently opened the Othara Eco-spirituality centre, where people can learn about climate change and the importance of conserving the earth God has given us.

This year the Stamp Project will support some their ecological innovations including harvesting and re-use of rain water, the establishment of a biogas plant to power the kitchens and the development of a small dairy and chicken farm of native breeds

THE GUILD

The Guild would like to thank everyone who bought tickets, gave donations or came along on the day of our Annual Coffee Morning. The sum of £503.93 was raised and this will be used to support our local church and the current Guild Projects. Thank you all very much – your help and support are greatly appreciated

MAINLY MUSIC

Tuesdays at Pitmedden Church are very happy and lively!
We are delighted to have new team members: Vikki
Janetta and Mary Gray.

Team

Gladys Ross, Claire Bell, Moira Thow, Fiona Entwistle,
Marisca van der Vyer, Ann Jones, Mary Gray, Vikki
Janetta with occasional help from Agnes Goar, Evelyn
Barclay and Maria Weeds.

We had a visit from our newest member, Kyle (7days old)
with mum, Carly. Big brother, Ethan has just moved to
Nursery. Of course he is beautiful!

The afternoon group who started last autumn as tiny wee
ones are now all turning 1. It is a joy to see them joining
in, clapping and even balancing bean bags on their
heads!

Good news arrived this morning to confirm that Mainly
Music UK is now a registered charity. Having an office in
the UK should make it a lot easier to order materials and
pay our subscriptions.

Another blessing is seeing Mainly Music families coming
along to Messy Church and joining in the fun!

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!

YOUTH CAFÉ

This term we have been experimenting with a new format, and, so far, it seems to be working well. We are trying to have a variety of structured activities at the beginning and bring out the food in the kitchen later on. We are delighted to receive a grant from the Udny Community Trust to purchase a robust football table, which will also fold away.

We still have around 20-25 young people most Saturday evenings.

Please keep us in your prayers, that we would build good relationships with the young people and that there would not be destructive damage around the Church or in the community.

Again, we have lost some of our volunteers. If you, or anyone you know might be interested, please contact Fiona (842412), Claire or Gillean. Even one Saturday evening a term would be greatly appreciated. Many thanks to all those who already help, in lots of ways, and to the Big Breakfast for funding.

Funeral Services

William (Bill) Keay	25/3/16
Ewan (Doug) Simpson	1/04/16
Alfred (Alfie) Wilson	15/04/16
William (Bill) Kelman	9/05/16
Sheila Brown	11/5/16

Baptisms

Kerr Marty Janetta	25/03/16
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THE BIG BREAKFAST

Big breakfast is an experience not to be missed. We are always on the first Saturday of every month from 8:30am.to 11:30am in Pitmedden Church.

The menu choice is extensive with rolls and croissants filled with any combination of eggs, bacon, sausages, Stornaway black pudding or all of them on a plate with white or brown toast for 'THE BIG BREAKFAST' all washed down with freshly brewed tea or coffee, fresh orange juice and diluting juices for the young at heart. Why not finish off with a Danish pastry or a Belgian waffle?

March £470 raised for the Church

April £410 - new fridge freezer, crèche storage and balance to the Church.

May £310 Christian Aid

Thank you to all of you who have supported Big Breakfast. If you enjoyed the experience tell your friends and neighbours, they might enjoy it too.

We look forward to serving you all in the months ahead.
The Big Breakfast Team.

CHURCH NEWS ARTICLES

The **DEADLINE** for the September edition is 14th Aug 2016. Send in your information at anytime so that your news can be shared with us all. Your comments, ideas and material are always welcome. Letters and articles should be emailed to

udnypitmeddenchurchnews@gmail.com

CONTACT

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)	Mr Bill Shewan	01651 842346
Church Officer (Pitmedden)	Mr Alvan Milne	01651 842967
Youth Café & Mainly Music	Mrs Fiona Entwistle	01651 842412
Big Breakfast & Boys Brigade	Mr Andy Burslem	01651 842092
Good Companions	Mrs Joey Sleigh	01651 851256
Guild	Mrs Carol Marr	01651 842242
Kirk Café	Mrs Gladys Ross	01651 843068
Messy Church	Mrs Maria Weeds	
Formartine Youth Project	Mrs Claire Bell	07983759925