

# Maud and Savocho

## linked with

# New Deer, St. Kane's

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## PARISH PROFILE 2017

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Maud & Savocho and New Deer Parishes are 30 miles north of Aberdeen, in the middle of Buchan Presbytery. Although primarily agricultural, we are within commuting distance of the oil and ancillary industries Aberdeen is famous for, and many families have moved to the area, taking advantage of our rural setting but good road links.

The four local Primary schools feed into Mintlaw Academy. Further education is available at North East of Scotland College Fraserburgh Campus, Aberdeen Campus and at two universities in Aberdeen. We have a range of local health facilities, community hospitals in the surrounding towns of Turriff, Peterhead, Fraserburgh and a comprehensive provision in Aberdeen.

Each Parish maintains their individuality and structures but work together when the opportunities arise. Joint services are held and members support each other's activities. One example is the joint Puppet Ministry which began in 2015 and brings together children, young people and adults.



## MAUD and SAVOCH

### **Mission Statement**

"Recognising that God loves everyone unconditionally, our mission is to provide an environment that enriches worship and welcomes everyone to receive God's love, grow in God's love and share God's love with Jesus Christ as our Light."

"Jesus Christ the same Yesterday, Today and Forever" Hebrews 13:8

### **Village**

Maud, a Village at the Heart of Buchan, started as a small hamlet where horse and cart transport could be serviced. Carters could rest their horses before continuing their journey, carrying goods to and from villages across central Buchan. A railway was introduced in 1861, and Maud became the hub of local economy for around 100 years. The once vacant mart site has been redeveloped by the Maud Village Trust which has brought new life to the village with a community service centre providing many facilities used by the whole community. This also runs and maintains the community garden, play and exercise areas and business units.

Maud's population is around 750, with a primary school, playgroup, fire station (with a First Responder service), shops, café, garage, post office, hotel, agricultural businesses, gym, the Dial-A-Community Bus service, consulting and treatment rooms for health care professionals, farm produce and pet food supplies shop, Cornerstone Sheltered Housing complex and a busy village hall. We have many clubs and organisations including a Junior Football Club, Amateur Dramatic Society, Toddler Group and more.

Achnagatt has a population of around 200 with a primary school, village hall and shop. Arnage School is located nearby.



### **Parish**

Maud Church was opened for worship in 1876, and is situated in the older part of the village, near the old railway station, which is now part of the Formartine and Buchan Way.

In 1967 the church hall was added largely through the efforts of volunteers. It is excellent for children's ministry, informal prayer and praise and is used by various Church groups. An outdoor area provides a nice space for summer activities and a small garden.

Maud & Savoch became a united charge in March 1996 with the Savoch Church being closed and subsequently sold.

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Church membership numbers 172, with a Congregational Board of 19, 12 of whom are Elders. Additionally, there are a slowly increasing number of local people who regularly attend services and have become involved in Church activities. Whilst, like many Church of Scotland congregations, we have had a predominantly older congregation we have been pro-actively reaching out to younger families in the community and are now seeing this bear fruit.

## **Worship**

We meet for worship at 10am each Sunday, with formal Communion in April and October. Embracing all forms of worship with the "Praise!" hymns and songs book as the main resource, along with Mission and Junior Praise. Special services are organised throughout the year including joint services with St. Kane's Church and a Christmas Family Service at Auchnagatt (where the village hall is used.) Refreshments and Fellowship are offered twice a month after the service. Elders and members are happy to assist the Minister and contribute to services. Overhead projection facilities are available.

Through a strong commitment to Children's Ministry, building good community connections and regular prayer we have seen a growth in this area of the Church work and worship. In 2015 we received a Go for It grant to set up the joint Puppet Ministry venture with St Kane's Church.

Family Services are held regularly on the first Sunday of each month.

## **Groups and Outreach**



Each Wednesday an informal prayer group meets at the Church.

The Friends of Maud & Savoch Church meet on the first Monday of each month, from October through to May, for friendship and fellowship. The Friends Craft Group and Prayer Shawl Ministry meets regularly and has been involved in preparing baby packs and knitted goods for overseas mission, pew cushions and helping with our Poppy Fall. The Kirk Shop re-started in 2015 which, combined with a Buttery Morning serves to bring people together and raises funds for the Church and various projects.

A Lunch Club meets on the third Thursday of each month and a walking group meets on Sunday afternoons/Monday evenings from May to September.

Our Stewardship month is March with the Planning team preparing the programme and liaising with the Session. Elders help the Team deliver materials, encouraging people to take part in the various events and activities, which we hope includes something for everyone.

Over the last year we have also supported a range of work at home and overseas including The Salvation Army, The Raven Trust in Malawi, World Evangelism for Christ, Traidcraft and Fairtrade.

Our members are updated with what is happening in the Church and the various groups associated with it through our magazine and website.

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## Children's Ministry

MASH (Maud and Savoch Heroes) Clubs provide Sunday, Holiday and Summer clubs.

- The Sunday Club, for children of all ages, takes place alongside regular worship, with children sharing the first part of the service then heading to the Church Hall for dedicated teaching & learning.
- Summer Clubs are aimed at P1-7 children though pre-school children can attend with a parent. Running during the long holiday we theme it on a Biblical hero. We incorporate a trip & shared meal. The numbers attending Summer Club has increased year.
- Holiday Club also runs occasional Activity Days during other school holidays and in-service days. We pack in as much as we can focus on a key Biblical theme, character or Christian message.

Core teaching aims to ensure that children receive key messages from the Bible and Christian values through stories, drama, music, crafts and games, giving them the opportunity to share faith, learn together, develop skills and have some fun. At present we are using Scripture Union Mosaic materials which fit well with our mixed age group.

## School Connections

Strong links have been established with Maud, Auchnagatt and Arnage Schools, with regular assemblies led by a team from the Church. Services are held in the Church, at Easter and Christmas, for Maud Primary School and an evening Christmas Service, involving children from the school is held in the Village Hall at Auchnagatt.

## Finance and Fundraising

Our Church is able to meet all its financial obligations. Our main sources of income are donations through the Freewill Offering Scheme and Gift Aid, and fundraising events, such as the annual sponsored walk organised by the Walking Group.

	2014	2015	2016
Income	£34,125	£39,221	£35,524
Expenditure	£31,795	£36,925	£31,091

Under the linkage with New Deer the Maud manse became surplus to requirement and it is currently let. The income that we receive from leasing the manse is available for fabric purposes.

## Summary



## NEW DEER, St. Kane's

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

"By God's Grace, we seek to be:

- A Spirit-led Church that grows in faith, being fully reliant on the Word of God and prayer.
- A vibrant, teaching Church that encourages fellowship and participation.
- A welcoming Church that reaches out and engages with the whole community, proclaiming the Good News of Christ's Kingdom."

By a vote in December 2013, the Kirk Session confirmed their belief in the Church's historic and current doctrine and practice in relation to human sexuality and their application to the Ministers and deacons of the Church.

### **Village**

New Deer has a primary school with a nursery and a pre-school playgroup. Within the village there is Culsh House nursing home, sheltered housing and Cornerstone supported living accommodation. There are many shops in the village along with a GP/nurse surgery, pharmacy, vet and garage. New Deer's active Community Association run the Public Hall and Pleasure Park and organise many events through the year, such as quizzes, fireworks display, theatre productions and film nights. The Hall is a venue for a wide variety of activities including exercise classes, toddler groups, Young Farmers etc.

Within the Pleasure Park, there is a Bowling Club, all weather sports facility and a children's play park.

The New Deer Agricultural Association organises the annual New Deer show in Craigieford Park, which is sited between the villages of New Deer and Maud.

Mintlaw Community Church led by the Assemblies of God currently holds a weekly service in New Deer village at 10.30 am on Sundays.

### **Parish**

St. Kane brought the good news of Jesus to this area around a thousand years ago, and the present Church is named after him. It was built in 1839, replacing a smaller one. The tower was added in 1865.

The electoral roll of the Parish stands at 1703 and membership of the Church is 310. The Kirk Session consists of 11 Elders with an additional 9 members making up the Congregational Board. Session and Board meet on alternate months. The adoption of the Unitary Constitution had been agreed 'in principle' with the decision awaiting consultation with our new Minister on this piece of work. We have gained pointers for our way forward from the Church of Scotland's "Future Focus" Programme.



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## **Worship**

We hold public worship at 11.30am on Sundays with formal Communion services in spring and autumn. Previously we have had an informal Communion following the first Sunday of each month.

All age family services, where the Worship Committee work with the Minister are held regularly. When possible, services are held at the sheltered housing complex, Turfhill Court and the Culsh House Nursing Home. A Remembrance Sunday service is jointly organised with the British Legion, and when time permits, other services are led by Church organisations

At Easter we join with Maud and hold a 'Sonrise' service at the Culsh Monument, followed by breakfast, alternating between the Churches. Following the Agape Meal on Maundy Thursday at Maud, St Kane's host a Good Friday Service. These services are mainly organised by Elders and members, who also help with the Christmas Eve family service.

An informal choir has been run, made up of members who love to sing God's praise regardless of their vocal talents!

Music is provided via a fine, recently refurbished, Willis Organ fitted in St Kane's in 1887 and thought to have been acquired from Canterbury Cathedral. We're blessed with a team of accomplished organists.

Café Church is a new type of service taking place quarterly. It is a very relaxed and informal time of food, fellowship, worship songs, and a message through video clips and short talks. It attracts not only our own members but people from other churches as well as some who don't regularly attend Church.

Prayer Focus is time of prayer and contemplation before the weekly morning service which is open to all. There is also an opportunity for anyone to submit prayer requests.

## **Groups and Outreach**



We have a Bible study group and in the past the Church has run Discipleship Courses i.e. Alpha and Freedom in Christ. There is a Prayer Chain for all prayer requests which is also activated for urgent need.

Our active Guild has members committed to raise funds for a variety of projects and to grow in faith and fellowship. Anchor Boys and JAM (Jesus and Me) both sponsor children through Compassion UK and we have special appeals from time to time. At Christmas we participate in filling shoeboxes for children overseas. The Mustard Seed Cafe has a monthly charitable donation plate and sells goods for Traidcraft through their catalogue.

Our Summer Holiday Club, puppet shows and other events help take the message of Christ into the community. Regular toddler and parent and adult lunch clubs are held in the Church Centre. A New Year's Day lunch is held to welcome anyone who would otherwise be alone. Summer Church picnics are open to family, friends and the community.

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We have a tent at the New Deer Agricultural Show, with our linked charge, which allows us to provide materials and information about what we offer and to spread the word of God's love to everyone, alongside free tea and coffee! We have information in the local community newsletter and produce our own newsletter 'St Kane's Matters'. The Church Centre also acts as collection point for the Trussell Trust, our local Foodbank and also collects used phones and ink cartridges for charity funds.

Our Stewardship seasons work to a rolling 3-year plan of TIME, TALENTS and TREASURE under the banner of 'Connect 2 St Kane's' and a committee organise the Stewardship month in June each year. Plans are agreed with Kirk Session and we encourage all members to participate in the various activities ensuring there is something for everyone in the programme.

## **Church Centre & Mustard Seed Cafe**

Much prayer, fundraising and hard work converted the building adjacent to the Church in to our Church Centre & Mustard Seed Café; a major focus of the Church's life 7 days a week. The centre has 2 large activity rooms, 2 meeting rooms, a quiet room, crèche and an office. It is used extensively by our organisations & Presbytery, other Churches & groups (Baby Clinic, Funeral Teas, Guides, Boys Brigade etc.)

The Mustard Seed Café is a terrific vehicle for outreach into the local and wider community. It is managed and operated by volunteers and caters for locals, passing trade and regularly visited by 'Buchan Dial a Community Bus' for outings, toddler's lunches and a Lunch Club. A variety of Christian books and items are on sale, through CLC and other items support local charities. A Traidcraft catalogue is available for orders throughout the year.

## **Children's Ministry**

Youth activities range from the cradle roll and crèche through JAM and Rock Solid (10-14 yr olds). The young people attend the first part of the service before going to the Centre for planned teaching and activities. When the opportunity arises we join other events e.g. Youth for Christ.

We have a thriving Boys' Brigade, of which the Minister is the Chaplain, with 40 boys spread throughout Anchor Boys, Junior, Company and Senior Sections. The Company recently celebrated their 25 year anniversary. Over the years several boys have attained their Queen's Badge and Duke of Edinburgh Bronze, Silver and Gold Awards. The local Rainbows, Brownies and Guides also meet in our Centre and are invited to participate in our events. The Youth Committee oversees Church youth activity to ensure a cohesive programme of activities.

More recently a joint youth venture in Puppet Ministry, involving young people and adults, has been developed with our linked charge.

## **Finance**

Our Church has always met in full its Ministries and Mission contribution and as a charge pays the full cost of its Ministry. The Mustard Seed Cafe generates sufficient income to cover all running costs of the Church Centre with any surplus going to The George Walker Fund for Youth Outreach or to the Fabric Fund. In addition, we have an annual Giving Day.

	2014	2015	2016
Income	£91,031	£92,639	£76,158
Expenditure	£85,504	£85,357	£77,308

We are active in promoting Gift Aid, Standing Orders and the use of Freewill Envelopes and currently have a healthy fabric fund for maintenance of our properties.

## Summary



## MANSE



The manse was built in 1926 and sits in its own private grounds close to St Kane's. It is a spacious 5 bedroom property with full central heating and double glazing. It has been modernised in recent years with a new fitted kitchen, boiler and all necessary white goods and en-suite facilities to the main bedroom. It is fitted throughout with good quality fitted carpets and curtains. The manse is covered by a rolling plan of refurbishment and decoration.

## JOINT VENTURES

### **Services**

Although joint services had tapered, commitment from both Churches has seen these increase again, and they are now held regularly; these are well supported by both congregations.

### **Puppet Ministry**

Our most recent joint venture is Puppet Ministry, using the puppets to teach about the Bible in a fun, animated and imaginative way. We received a Go For It grant which has helped us develop and grow. We have a dedicated team of young people and adults, who meet regularly to prepare puppet presentations, which teach, involve and entertain children (and adults) all around the community.

### **Mission**

After the initial Twinning Agreement expired in November 2011 the partnership has continued through a Covenant of Friendship Agreement between M'buca CCAP, St Kane's and Maud & Savocho Churches. This was signed in March 2017 and reflects the continuing commitment to build on this partnership through which so much has been gained in faith, fellowship and mutual support.



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The cornerstone of the partnership on which we build faith together is mutual spiritual prayer and encouragement. There has been much activity in this in the years since it began including visits between Christians from the three Churches. Josephine Breton (who spent 2014 and 2015) as a volunteer teaching assistant at M'buka Christian Primary School returned at the beginning of 2017, after a year at home. She continues to share her gifts as a music teacher and through this link several strong relationships have been developed with local primary schools.

The banner, which was started by ladies in Maud & Savoch and St. Kane's and completed by the ladies in Malawi, is a great illustration of our shared faith and devotion.



## NEEDS FOR OUR CHARGES

The congregations of this charge are now positively seeking to call a Spirit led Minister of Word and Sacrament, with strong Bible teaching, who can guide us in focusing on God's plans for His Church in this north east corner of Scotland.

Our desire is for a Minister who will help us be aware of the challenges of our time and lead us in tackling these issues by using the wealth of experience, talent and goodwill available.

We look forward to forming a partnership with our new minister which offers mutual support and encouragement through fellowship and prayer.

We are looking for an active lead in strengthening the following areas of our work:

### ***Worship & Spirituality***

Building on existing prayer, Bible study and discipleship activities and developing our worship so that it becomes more meaningful and attractive to a greater number of members and the community.

### ***Outreach***

Helping us to provide our members and the wider community with opportunities to encounter God and to find help and support in challenging times including, where appropriate, working with other organisations. Continuing to be proactive in taking the 'Good News' to the children in our schools and building on the youth work already in place.

Encouraging us to take a greater interest in and to become more responsible for the needs of Christ's Church locally and overseas and in bringing people to faith.

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## **Pastoral Care**

Overseeing the building up of a network of pastoral visitors to enhance the work of the Minister and Elders in supporting our members and those in need of our care.

## **RESPONDING TO GOD'S CALL**

Do you feel that you share our vision for this charge and that God is calling you to join with us in doing His work in our communities? We would like to hear from you!

To apply, forward your CV and personal statement "Why do you feel called to serve the Lord in these Parishes?" to the Clerk to the Nominating Committee, Andrew Dick, Bloomfield Cottage, The Avenue, Maud AB42 4NA. E: [andrewjdick@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:andrewjdick@yahoo.co.uk) M: 07971 877349

### **For further information:**

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