

**MAUD AND SAVOCH**  
LINKED WITH  
**NEW DEER, ST. KANE'S**

**Are you the missing part of  
God's plan for our rural parishes?**



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

Jeremiah 29 v11

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## **Are you the missing part of God's plan for our rural parishes?**



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 to be a Church which is aware of the challenges of our times and who will lead us in tackling these issues by utilising the wealth of experience, talent and goodwill available.

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.

### ***MISSION***

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.

### ***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.

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## INTRODUCTION

Maud & Savoich and New Deer Parishes are situated in the heart of rural Buchan, 30 miles North West of Aberdeen. This is a predominantly agricultural community, however, being in commuting distance of Aberdeen, many properties are now occupied by people in the oil and ancillary industries with many new houses being built in the area. Maud and New Deer are 2.5 miles apart and there is excellent access between the two Churches along a good straight main road.

There are four primary schools within the boundaries of the two congregations with secondary education at Mintlaw Academy and further education at the North East Scotland College, Fraserburgh Campus and 2 Universities in Aberdeen. There is a good range of health facilities locally with hospitals in nearby Turriff, Peterhead and Fraserburgh and comprehensive all age health care available in Aberdeen.

### *Working together*

Whilst maintaining their individual personalities and structures, the two Churches work well together and since the linkage, take part in joint activities. These include Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter 'Sonrise' services and other occasional joint services as opportunities arise. There are plans for a joint Prayer Shawl Ministry and members of both congregations support each other's activities and events when possible. In particular Maud & Savoich congregation have provided knitted items, financial, and spiritual support to St Kane's Faithshare twinning with M'buka CCAP in Malawi.

### *Vacancy*

The charge became vacant in October 2013 when our previous Minister was called to take up a new position. Having started the process to call a Minister, we were unable to continue, when in December 2013 delays in settling the Buchan Presbytery plan, due to discussions around joining 3 Churches in Peterhead led to all vacant charges, including our own, being sisted. On subsequent agreement of the plan we were given permission to call a Minister in November 2014 when the sist was lifted.

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**Maud & Savocho**



***Our Mission***

“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 Tomorrow***

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## **Maud (A Village at the Heart of Buchan)**

Maud started life as a small hamlet where horse and cart transport could be serviced. Carters could rest their horses before continuing on their journey, carrying goods to and from villages across central Buchan. A railway was introduced in 1861, and Maud became the hub of the local economy for around 100 years. The mart has been closed for over a decade, and the old mart site has been redeveloped by the "Maud Village Trust". This has brought a new life to the centre of the village.

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

An extension was made to the property in 1967, when we added a new hall. This was accomplished largely through the efforts of volunteers. Recently undertaken refurbishment has enhanced the space, which is excellent for children's ministry, informal prayer and praise and work of the various Church groups. An outdoor area provides a nice space for activities in the summer and a small Church garden has been started.

### ***Maud and Savoich Parish***

Maud (population around 750) has a primary school, playgroup, toddler group, fire station with a First Responder service, shops, cafe, garage, post office, hotel, agricultural businesses, gym, Buchan Dial-A-Community bus, consulting and treatment rooms for health care professionals including GPs, farm produce and pet food supplies shop and a village hall. There is a comparatively new housing development, and more housing is planned, as well as a council and Cornerstone Sheltered Housing Complex.



There are many clubs and organisations within the community, including a successful Junior Football Club and an amateur dramatic group, which was started 10 years ago as a Church pantomime group to raise funds but which is now run by Maud Amateur Dramatic Society.



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We also have the “Maud Village Trust”, which is a recognised Scottish charity founded in 2002, with the aim of purchasing and developing the old mart site. So far we have developed a Community Service Centre, and a Community Resource Centre (in partnership with the NHS, which provided grant funding). The key word in this development is community, and the aim of the centres is to provide various facilities which can be used by the whole community. Alongside this is the community garden, play and exercise areas and business units, all of which are leased to small businesses, complete the site.



Auchnagatt (population approx 200) has a primary school and village hall where Christmas Services are currently held in conjunction with the School. Arnage School is also located nearby.

Maud & Savoich became a united charge in March 1996, following a successful linkage lasting 21 years. Following the union, Savoich Church was closed and has now been sold. The congregation from the villages of Maud, Auchnagatt and the surrounding areas numbers 189 members, with 19 on the Congregational Board, 12 of whom are Elders. Within the congregation, whilst the majority are older members, we have been pro-actively working to increase the number of younger members, and this is beginning to bear fruit.

We meet for worship at 10am each Sunday, with formal Communion taking place in April and October.

We embrace all forms of worship with the “Praise” hymns and songs of worship book being the main resource along with Mission and Junior Praise. Overhead projection of services, hymns, stories and other information is available for use. Elders and members of the congregation are happy to help the Minister with services when required. On the first and third Sundays of each month teas and coffees are served after the services.

Throughout the year we have special services and occasional joint services with our linked charge of New Deer St Kane's.

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### ***Children's Ministry***

Through a strong commitment to Children's Ministry, community connections and regular prayer we are thankful to have seen significant growth in this area of Church work and worship, over the last two years.

### ***Sunday School***

This takes place alongside regular Sunday Worship with children sharing the first part of the service before heading through to the Church Hall for dedicated teaching and learning. 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.



Family Services have increased over the last year with the children making a valued contribution to these and we hope to build further on this work in the coming year. Children of all ages are welcome at Sunday School with young families in particular being encouraged to join Family Services.

### ***School Connections***

Strong links have been established with local primary schools and regular assemblies are led at Maud and Auchnagatt schools by a team from the Church. Easter and Christmas services are held at the Church for Maud Primary School and an evening Christmas Service, involving children from the local primary school at Auchnagatt.

### ***"Heroes" Summer Club and Activity Days***

Heroes Club is held for a week in the school summer holidays. Through the week the story of the chosen Old Testament hero and "message" is built up through story, drama, music, crafts and games. Additional themed Activity Days are held in other holidays and at key times of the year such as Harvest Thanksgiving and Easter.

These activities reach beyond the Sunday School regulars taking The Good News to a wider group of children in the community.

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## *Other Groups*

Each Wednesday a prayer group meets in the Church hall from 10.00am to 11.00am. Bible study and praise takes place on the last Wednesday of the month. Both these groups are open to anyone wishing to attend.



We also have a Lunch Club, which meets on the third Thursday of each month and a walking group which meets on Sunday afternoons, and occasionally Monday evenings, from May to September. The Friends of Maud & Savoich meet on the first Monday of each month, from October through to May, for friendship and worship. A craft group has recently started up for the sharing of skills, talents and fellowship and there are plans for a joint Prayer Shawl Ministry with St. Kane's.

We aim to keep our members up to date with what's happening in the Church and in the various groups associated with the Church through our quarterly magazine and through our website.

Our Stewardship month is March each year and we are currently engaged in the third year of a rolling three year Stewardship programme. Our Stewardship Planning Team prepares the programme and agrees this with the Session. Our Elders then deliver the Stewardship material to our members, encouraging them to take part in the various events and activities, which we hope will include something for everyone.

## *Mission*

Having a long history of Mission Partners in Malawi our energies, since 2012, have been focused on supporting the Faithshare Partnership between St Kane's Church and M'buka CCAP, Malawi. This has included fundraising, gathering donated goods for the school and community at M'buka, providing knitted blankets, shawls and baby clothes and working with our Christian sisters here, and in Malawi, on the Banner for M'buka CCAP.



We have been involved in supporting the work of The Raven Trust in Malawi, providing knitted clothes, blankets and other goods and are currently working on providing packs for premature babies in Senegal through a World Evangelism for Christ Missionary.



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Plans are progressing for the Sunday School to support a child through Compassion International.

***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.

	2012	2013	2014
Income	£30,526	£36,541	£34,125
Expenditure	£33,713	£35,636	£31,795

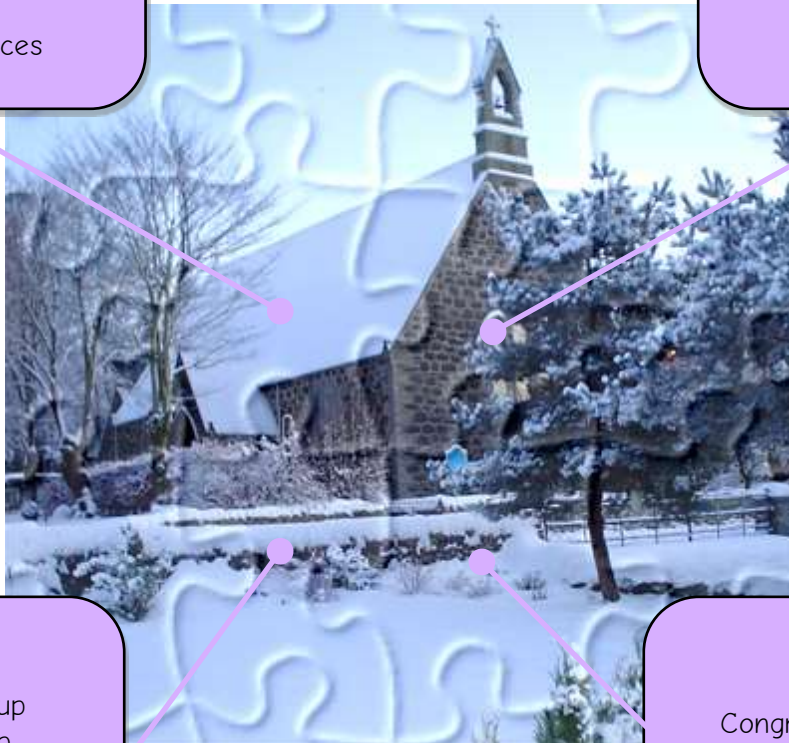
Under the linkage with New Deer the Maud manse became surplus to requirement and it is currently let. The income that we receive from leasing the manse is available for fabric purposes.

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**OUR CHURCH ACTIVITIES**

Website  
Quarterly Newsletter  
Lunch Club  
Friends of Maud & Savoch  
Craft Group  
Holiday Club  
Teas after Services

Sunday Services  
Communion  
Kirk Session  
Joint Services  
Sunday School



Prayer Group  
Stewardship  
Bible Study  
Outreach

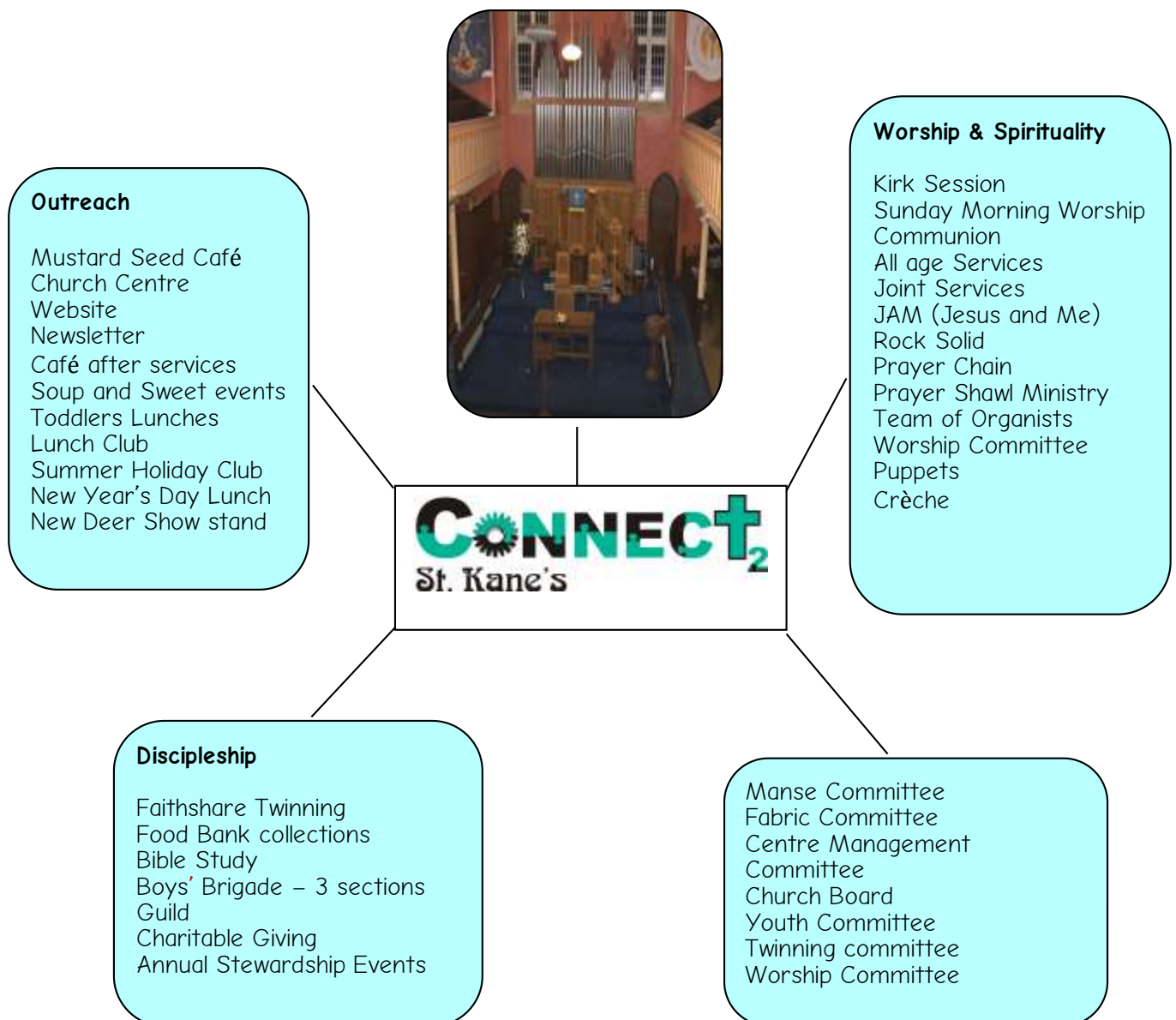
Congregational Board  
Fabric Committee  
Stewardship Planning Team

## LIFE & WORK AT NEW DEER ST KANE'S

### VISION 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."



## **New Deer**

New Deer has both a primary school (roll 105) and nursery school (roll 40) and there is a number of local pre-school groups and activities. Within the parish there is the Culsh House Nursing Home, sheltered housing and Cornerstone supported living accommodation. The village supports a variety of shops and services, including a post office, bank, several food outlets, a popular restaurant and a hairdressers. Central Buchan Medical Practice has a GP/nurse surgery in the village and there is a dispensing pharmacy. There is also a veterinary surgery and a garage.

New Deer's active Community Association has an annual community events calendar as well as organising regular social events which include fireworks display, travelling theatre productions and film nights. The Public Hall is the venue for some children's activities and local club meetings.

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.

### ***Background information***

The good news of Jesus was brought to these parts around a thousand years ago by St Kane. The present Church named after him was built in 1839, replacing a smaller 17th century one, the tower being added in 1865. The electoral roll of the parish stands at 1703 (from Statistics for Mission) and the membership of the Church at 347. The session consists of 18 elders with an additional 12 members elected for a three year term making up the board. Session and board meet bi-monthly on alternate months. Session recently agreed to adopt the Unitary Constitution 'in principle' but decided to await the appointment of our new Minister for consultation with him/her on this piece of work.

We recently completed the Church of Scotland "Future Focus" Programme and this has given us some pointers for the way ahead.

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

This building adjacent to the Church was purchased 'in faith' in 1993 and over a period of 10 years with much prayer, fundraising activity and hard work by members, was converted into the fine building it is today.

The Church Centre is a major focus of the Church's life 7 days a week. The building comprises of 2 large activity rooms, 2 meeting rooms, a quiet room, creche and an office. It is used extensively not only by our own organisations but by Presbytery and other Churches and groups e.g. Baby Clinic, Funeral Teas, Guides, Brownies etc.

The Mustard Seed Cafe fronts the Centre and is a terrific vehicle for outreach into the local and wider community. Managed and operated by volunteers, the cafe not only caters for locals and passing trade, but is used regularly by 'Buchan Dial a Community Bus' for outings, Toddlers' lunches and a Lunch club. There are a variety of Christian books and items available for sale in the Cafe through CLC and quizzes and items to support local charities. We provide the Traidcraft catalogue for orders throughout the year. The cafe is open 5 days a week.



***The Church Centre, Mustard Seed Cafe and St Kane's Church***



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## ***Worship***

We currently hold public worship at 11.30am on Sundays with 2 formal Communion services in spring and autumn. Until our current vacancy, an informal Communion was held following the morning service on the first Sunday of each month.

A monthly family service involves the Worship Committee in working with the Minister to provide an 'All Age' Service'.

Easter Sunday sees us participate in several joint services - an Easter 'Sonrise' service at the Culsh Monument, followed by breakfast at one of the Churches on an alternating basis. There is also an Agape Meal on Maundy Thursday at Maud and a Good Friday Service at St Kane's Church.

These services, along with the Christmas Eve family service, are in the main organised by elders and members. Services are held from time to time at both Turfhill Court, (the local sheltered housing complex) and Culsh House Nursing Home.

There is an occasional informal choir, made up of members who love to sing God's praise regardless of their vocal talents! We are currently hoping to develop a Puppet Ministry and are looking into Messy Church.

From time to time services are led by other Church organisations i.e. Guild, Youth organisations, Elders and a joint service is held with the British Legion on Remembrance Sunday.

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 are blessed with a team of accomplished organists.

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*Easter morning 2014*

### ***Discipleship***

We have a Bible study group and in the past the Church has run Discipleship Courses i.e. Alpha and Freedom in Christ.

A joint Prayer Shawl Ministry with Maud & Savoich is in its infancy and involves members in knitting shawls for those in special need of God's love and comfort. There is a Prayer Chain for all prayer requests and in the case of urgent need the chain is activated.

Our active Guild has 19 members involved in raising funds for a variety of Guild and other projects and growing in faith & fellowship. Anchor Boys and JAM (Jesus and Me) both sponsor children in Africa 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.

### ***Outreach***

In order to take the message of Christ into the community we have held events like guided Prayer Labyrinths, a Christmas Puppet show and an annual Summer Holiday Club. There are monthly Toddler & Lunch clubs and we traditionally hold a New Year's Day lunch open to the community and all who would otherwise be alone. A Church picnic open to family, friends and the community takes place during the summer. The New Deer agricultural show gives us an opportunity not only to provide a free tea and coffee

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service but also a drop in tent with materials and information about who we are and what we offer with the main purpose being to spread the word about God's love for everyone. We have information in the local bi-monthly community newsletter to advertise our events and produce a quarterly newsletter 'St Kane's Matters'.

The Church Centre also acts as a collection point for the local Foodbank run by the Trussell Trust and as a collection point for used phones and ink cartridges.

***Mission***

In 2010 we took the first steps to engaging in Twinning through the Church of Scotland with a Church near Lilongwe in Malawi. November 2011 saw the signing of a 5 year twinning partnership between St Kane's New Deer and M'buka CCAP. Since then we have had several exchanges of visitors both ways with 4 Malawians visiting us here in New Deer and 3 visitors travelling to Malawi. The agreement includes amongst other things praying for each other and sharing our experiences and our love of God.

The highlight of the latest visit to Malawi was the completion of a banner started by ladies of St Kane's and Maud and Savocho and completed by our Malawian sisters. What a joy to see the banner in their Church. Currently we are planning a visit by 2 Malawians in the early part of 2015 and a visit by several of our young adults in July 2015.

One of our Twinning Committee members, a retired Music teacher, is currently midway through a two year volunteer role as a classroom assistant at the Church school.



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### ***Fellowship of Confessing Churches***

The Kirk Session joined the fellowship in June 2009 and although this organisation has now disbanded 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**, by a vote at session in December 2013 when the draft Overture on the ordination of Ministers & Deacons in civil partnerships was being discussed.

### ***Youth work***

Youth activities range from the cradle roll and creche 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 50 boys spread throughout Anchor Boys, Junior, Company and Senior Sections. 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.

### ***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.

	2011	2012	2013
Income	£97,844	£94,877	£92,921
Expenditure	£98,852	£94,849	£91,006

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

## ***Stewardship***

We work to a rolling 3 year plan of TIME, TALENTS and TREASURE under the banner of 'Connect to St Kane's' and have a committee which organises the Stewardship month in June each year. Plans are agreed with session and we encourage all members to participate in the various activities ensuring there is something for everyone in the programme. The committee averages 6 members and rotates with people serving a maximum of 3 years and new members being elected to ensure a mix of talent.

## ***Hopes for the future***

- Developing Prayer, bible study and worship to encourage more participation by members and the community
- Reintroduction of contemporary evening service & monthly informal Communion
- Developing the results from our Future Focus consultations
- Building on our Faithshare Twinning Partnership,
- Considering a review of Pastoral Care and reorganising Elders work
- Forming a partnership with our new Minister which offers mutual support and encouragement through fellowship and prayer



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***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.



***The Manse***

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## Responding to God's Call

*Copy of Parish Profile and supporting material available on our websites*

If 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 then we'd 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 -*

*Clerk to the Nominating Committee*

**Dawn Brodie**  
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01771 644420  
07554 993103

*For further information:*

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Rev Billy McMillan  
Tel: 01888 560727  
Email: revbillymcmillan@aol.com

**Church websites:**  
**[www.maudchurch.co.uk](http://www.maudchurch.co.uk)**  
**[www.stkanes.org.uk](http://www.stkanes.org.uk)**

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