

Udny and Pitmedden Church



Parish Profile

Introduction

This Parish Profile will give a view of what we are and what we do. It will describe this community and what lies around it. We pray this will give the reader a good insight into Udney and Pitmedden Church, its current position within the community and what its hopes are for the future.

Udney & Pitmedden Church was formed when Udney church and Pitmedden church united in 1931. The congregation is served by one minister and one session with worship services being held regularly in both villages. It has become increasingly important for us all to worship together on a Sunday. Since July 2011 we have met regularly together with a single Sunday morning service alternating between Udney and Pitmedden.

Pitmedden church was refurbished during the 1990s to make a “warm, welcoming and flexible worship area” with a range of facilities, including a PC based multimedia system, to support the work of the church in the community. This refurbishment has worked well and allows a range of activities to take place within the church building. Pitmedden is, clearly now, the parish’s centre of population though activity remains evenly spread between Udney Green and Pitmedden. In faith we stepped out to develop Pitmedden Church and we have been blessed as God provided for our needs through the giving of the congregation and from community events. There is still an opportunity to develop an upper room at the rear of Pitmedden Church for new activities. Udney Green meanwhile remains traditional.

The church in Udney & Pitmedden has come through a difficult time. There has been a decline in attendance at Sunday worship and a number of members leaving to worship in other churches.

Our congregational roll has recently been reviewed by asking members to reaffirm their commitment to the church. We now have a communion roll of around 270. We are open to mission and re-discovering what that means. A few of our members have recently attended the “Mission Shaped Introduction” course run within the Presbytery. We are open to being led into new forms of worship while maintaining and developing what we do now. We look forward to the appointment of a new minister who could lead us in this.

There is a wider Christian community within the Udney Parish of which our Church is a part. These believing Christians work happily together to serve the community in a number of ways. For example, people from other churches serve in the Kirk Café, help with Mainly Music and volunteered in our Holiday Clubs.

The churches

Udney Green - The present Church is situated at the north end of the village green and dates back to 1821. The current Church was built to replace the former church known as "Christ's Kirk" which was situated in the Udney Green Cemetery. Udney Green Church is a beautiful traditional church and can seat up to 500.



Pitmedden Church Interior



Udney Green Church Interior

Pitmedden – Pitmedden Church was founded in 1843, although the church itself was built in 1864 and the first service, as the United Free Church of Udney was held in 1865. In 1931 the two churches were united and it remained unchanged until March 1993 when a Development Appeal began, which has since upgraded and transformed the Church. A massive £220K was raised, by means of a grant and by a very supportive congregation. Then the work began to upgrade the building, including the worship area, the addition of a meeting room, kitchen facilities and toilets. Today Pitmedden Church is a flexible building and is a warm welcoming place to worship God.

The manse



Manse exterior



View from front of property

The modern manse, built in 1986, is situated in its own grounds in the village of Udney Green. This south facing, spacious four bedroom detached dwelling overlooks the Glebe, Bronie Burn and open views of the countryside. It is accessed via a private driveway.

The ground floor comprises a study, lounge, dining room, modern kitchen, utility room and a cloakroom, with attached garage. The upper floor has a master bedroom with an en-suite, three good sized bedrooms and a family bathroom.

The Church in the community

It goes without saying that one of the aims of all churches should be to open their doors wide to all members of the community and not just their members. Udney and Pitmedden Church has a long tradition of this which is constantly changing to accommodate the needs of the community. Our Church does all it can to provide the glue which holds the community together. In a recent review of the various activities in which the church plays either a leading role, or in which church members are significantly involved, the list was surprisingly long and diverse.

The Kirk Café

One of the surprises was that many of the organisations and functions run by the church for the benefit of the whole community involved food! Tea, coffee, scones and juice are served on Wednesday mornings by a dedicated team of volunteers. The café provides a friendly place to meet neighbours for a chat during the week, and have a bite to eat.

The Big Breakfast

On the first Saturday of every morning, the grill is hot and the kettle is on for the Big Breakfast. A gastronomic extravaganza of all that we are now told that we shouldn't have for breakfast. This is very well attended and runs most of Saturday morning so that you can spend the afternoon recovering. These events are run either for the benefit of church funds or special events. Whatever the reason, its popularity goes from strength to strength. It is worthy of note that the cooking is usually done by the men and so a BBQ atmosphere prevails but without the ever present threat of fire.

The Guild

One of the most enduring organisations within the Church of Scotland has to be the Guild. The branch in Udney and Pitmedden has been a perennial source of diverse education, both theoretical and practical. Talks are given on a wide range of topics following the Guild theme with various speakers and activities. In addition to this, the Guild takes an active part in special services through the year such as the World Day of Prayer and Nine Lessons and Carols.



The Good Companions

The Good Companions Club is held on the 3rd Wednesday of the month at 2pm in the Pitmedden Village Hall from September to June. The Club is specifically for the senior members of the community and welcomes all residents who are aged 50 years and over for entertainment and afternoon tea.

Mission

Our Presbytery mission partners are David and Rebecca Morton in Malawi. They work under often difficult conditions in Nkhoma Hospital which is in the hills about 20 miles east of the capital, Lilongwe. David is a doctor and Rebecca ministers to the patients bringing joy into an otherwise desperate situation.



As well as overseas mission, the church is regularly involved in local mission work in and around the villages of Pitmedden and Udney Green. All of our involvement in local events is always seen as an opportunity for outreach to the wider community. Whether it is for the local school, pre-school or adults, there are always opportunities to introduce people to the life and work of the church and through God's grace an opportunity to lead others to Him.

Habitat for Humanity

For several years, a group of volunteers have worked with Habitat for Humanity in Cape Town helping to build good quality houses in townships. The relationship between Udney and Pitmedden and the people of these townships in South Africa strengthens with every visit and we hope and pray that the lives of the people who move into the new houses keep getting better. These visits are funded by a variety of events (see the Big Breakfast above) and undertaken with the blessing and prayers of the church.



And yes, he is a doctor.

Visit www.habitatforhumanity.org.uk for more information about this worthwhile cause and see the full video.

Sunday School

It could be argued that the Sunday School is something that happens inside the church but that should not imply that it is not open to any and all children in the community. The numbers can fluctuate but the Sunday School is there during the Sunday morning service to provide all our younger parishioners with the opportunity to meet and learn more about Jesus and how to put his teachings into practice from an early age. A dedicated team of teachers and leaders is there to provide the education and guidance needed by our young members to lead them to a belief that believing that accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Master is the only way to salvation. Wanting to worship God in the company of other believers will then be the natural consequence.

For many years, the Sunday School has been sponsoring children through Compassion. Currently it's a 12 year old young boy Ashenafie who lives in Ethiopia.

Boys' Brigade

The Udney Boys' Brigade has become a regular part of the community. Re-started in 1986 the present 1st Udney Green BB company will celebrate its 25th year in 2011/12. It meets every Wednesday for 30 weeks of the year with 40 – 50 boys attending, spread between the Anchor Boys, Junior Section and Company Section.

The Company Section is one of the largest in the Aberdeen & District Battalion. It regularly awards the Queen's Badge – the highest award in the BB – to its Senior Boys. All the sections seek to promote the word of God and encourage boys to live a Christian life. Few boys, however, come to church with any regularity. The BB encourages the boys to develop and expand their horizons, to develop their self-confidence and have fun. The annual fund-raising pancake morning provides all the finances needed. A summer camp at the beginning of May finishes off the season very well.

Mainly Music

A more recent addition to the outreach work of the church is the running of a weekly Mainly Music session during the school term time. These meetings of pre-school children, and parents/carers of course, are great fun and give another opportunity for anyone in the village looking for a pre-school activity to come into the church and meet for creative activities, music, dancing and refreshment. The



redevelopment of the Pitmedden church some years ago has given us a wonderful multi functional building in which to run activities such as this. Newcomers have remarked that it was not as they remembered “being in church” was like. Just another reminder that the church is the people and the building should be whatever it needs to be. The computer, audio and video systems installed during the redevelopment makes the church an ideal venue when plenty of space and volume is needed!

Visit www.mainlymusic.org to learn more about this global organisation.

Holiday Club

Over the last few years holiday clubs have been run in Pitmedden Church for a week through the summer for children from the community. In 2011 an enthusiastic team, including people from five other churches outside the parish, worked together using Razzamatazz Robots material by John Hardwick. The bible theme took us from the creation through to Jesus' message of salvation. Over 20 children attended, and parents and children came together for an award ceremony on the final Friday evening.

XF – explore faith!

A lively bunch of teenagers meet up at Bonnyton Farmhouse for fun, food and fellowship about once a month. They come from all over the area within the parish and beyond. Sometimes a special visitor comes or there is a film show always to encourage the young people to explore their faith. It is attended by our young people and run by Christians in the community. This is another example of ecumenical activity.

Ladies Fellowship



An ecumenical ladies Bible study group has met in the parish for over 25 years and small children and toddlers have always been welcome!

Currently the ladies meet each Friday morning from 10.00 -11.30.

Ladies Friday Evening Fellowship

An interdenominational group meet monthly on a Friday evening in Pitmedden Church. After tea, coffee and home bakes there is a time of worship, praise and prayer following a talk from a visiting speaker. Occasional meetings for a whole day have been organised. Speakers have included Michelle Guinness, Jennifer Larcombe and Nancy Goudie.

ReVive

ReVive is an emerging group which meets weekly to discuss virtually anything in the context of Christian fellowship. The topics discussed are wide ranging from personal questions from those attending to the subject of a sermon someone has heard and even to which film they should go and see before having dinner. Do you want to discuss personal or world affairs?, do you consider yourself at home in postmodern society ? or do you just fancy a chat over tea and cake ? then ReVive is for you.

Alpha Courses

Alpha courses, run in recent years within the church, have really encouraged our membership to explore their faith to a deeper level and there would be an interest in continuing these to reach more people within the congregation and outside

Udny and Pitmedden Church Newsletter

A church newsletter is produced and distributed quarterly.

Church Finances

A full set of accounts is available on request

The Area

Udny and Pitmedden Parish lies in rural Aberdeenshire about 14 miles north of Aberdeen and is part of the [Presbytery of Gordon](#). The current population of the parish is around 2400.



There are two villages in the parish – Udny Green and Pitmedden which are situated two miles apart.

Pitmedden

Pitmedden is the larger of the two villages. It has a population of over 1400 people and there is a sheltered housing complex, with 12 apartments at [Greenacres](#)

The National Trust of Scotland property, [Pitmedden Gardens](#), with the adjoining Museum of Farming Life, is situated on the outskirts of the village. Pitmedden has been regularly recognised for its floral displays.



Udny Green

Udny Green is a small picturesque village of 60 houses lying south west of Pitmedden. The original houses surround the green with the church at the top

Udny Castle, a typical Scottish tower house with ornamental turrets, is located just outside Udny Green.

Udny Green has also won awards for its floral displays.



Fairtrade

Fairtrade status for the Mid-Formartine area was achieved three years ago. The Fairtrade Group works to promote the use and availability of Fairtrade products. They organise special events such as cookery demonstrations, musical evenings and fashion shows. Young representatives work within Meldrum Academy and promote the sale of Fairtrade products in the school.

Schools

There are two schools situated within the parish, [Pitmedden Primary School](#) with Nursery Unit and [Udny Green Primary School](#). An Out of School Club operates at Pitmedden Primary School. The minister is chaplain at the primary schools.



Pitmedden Primary



Udny Green Primary



Meldrum Academy

Secondary education is at [Meldrum Academy](#) in Oldmeldrum which has a roll of around 940 pupils. Udny & Pitmedden Church is part of a chaplaincy team at Meldrum Academy.

Health Care

The [Haddo Medical Group](#) is located in a modern health care centre in Pitmedden.

[Hospital Care](#) is provided in Aberdeen.



Employment

Agriculture is the traditional industry of the area and there is a variety of other industries in the area. Due to its location, Udny and Pitmedden is a significant commuter area for Aberdeen. There is a low unemployment rate within Aberdeenshire.

Transport

A regular bus service passes through [Udny Green and Pitmedden](#) to and from Aberdeen numerous times daily. In addition there are services to Ellon and Inverurie. The nearest airport is [Aberdeen Airport](#) which is approximately 12 miles away. There are train stations in Aberdeen, Dyce and Inverurie.

Udny Community Wind Turbine

A small group has worked over the last 5 years to install a community owned 800 kW wind turbine within the parish. This turbine will generate funds over the next 20-25 years for the Udny Community Trust. The Trust has the responsibility of administering the use of these funds. Various community planning events have identified a number of project priorities for the community. A tenth of all that is available is to be allocated to good causes outwith the parish. Good causes may be proposed by community members. Church members were instrumental in making this turbine happen and are active within the Trust. There is an opportunity for the church to provide wise guidance and support to the Trust in its use of funds.

Newsletter & Blog

Pitmedden News is a free community Newsletter for the village of Pitmedden and the surrounding areas including Udny Green. It is delivered and also available in the local shops, and medical centre. It is complimented by a blog at [Pitmedden News](#)

Local Shops and Amenities

Pitmedden has

- Village Hall – Pitmedden Hall
- Park with Basketball Hoop and Skateboarding Park
- Convenience Store – Co-op
- Hotel and Restaurant – Linsmohr Hotel
- Public House – Pitmedden Bar
- Chinese Takeaway – Sunflower Garden
- Hairdresser

Udny Green has

- Village Hall – Dr Spence Memorial Hall
- Restaurant – Eat on the Green
- Art & Writing Classes Workshop – Art on the Green
- Cemetery

A Post Office and General Store is situated just outside Pitmedden.

There are several towns nearby, Ellon (5 miles), Oldmeldrum (5miles) and Inverurie (10miles) which offer a comprehensive range of shops, supermarkets and services. In addition Aberdeen is also nearby with all the facilities of a major city including shopping centres, cinemas, theatre and Music Hall, further education college, two universities and sporting and recreational facilities.

A mobile library visits Pitmedden and Udney Green every fortnight on a Tuesday. [Libraries](#) are also available in Oldmeldrum and Ellon.

Local Organisations and Activities

The following list contains some of the organisations and activities which operate in the Parish

- [Udney Community Council](#)
- [Udney Community Trust Co Ltd](#)
- Udney Community Wind Turbine Co Ltd
- First Responders
- Udney & Pitmedden Flower Show
- Udney Reel Club
- Dancing in Pitmedden Hall
- Ballroom dancing in Udney Green Hall
- Pilates in Udney Green Hall
- Dog Obedience Class in Udney Green Hall

Sport

- [Formartine United Football Club](#)
- [Pitmedden Bowling Club](#)
- Sartori Martial Arts Grampian
- [Udney Tennis Club](#)

Youth Organisations & Groups

- 1st Udney Brownies
- 1st Udney Green Boy's Brigade
- [1st Udney Guides](#)
- Formartine Football for under 10s, under 15s and under 18s
- [Pitmedden 2's Group and Playgroup](#)
- [Pitmedden Rainbows](#)
- [Udney Junior Agricultural Club](#)

Whom we are seeking

We are looking for a minister who will help assist and lead us:

- ✠ Preach and teach God's word and proclaim the Good News
- ✠ Nurture the talents and gifts of the congregation to serve in Udney & Pitmedden and beyond.
- ✠ Encourage and develop the existing Ministry to our young people.
- ✠ Provide pastoral care to our congregation and community.

We look forward to working together with our new minister to seek prayerfully, God's will for our congregation and help us to serve God in the community.