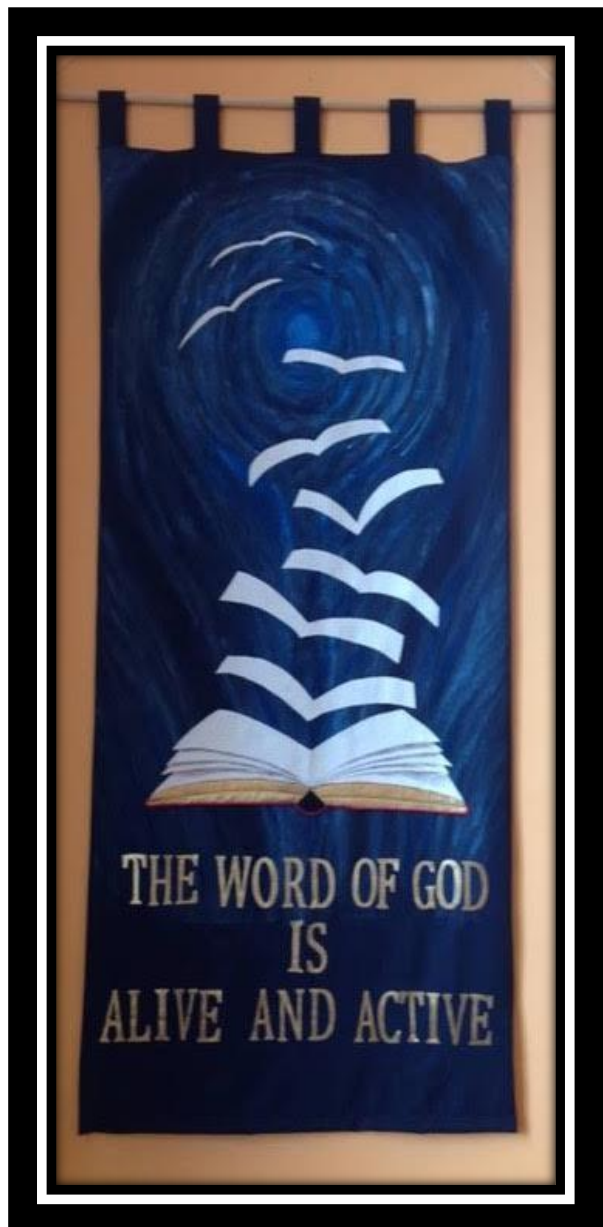


**St Andrew's Lhanbryd & Urquhart Parish Church**

***TO KNOW***

***TO LOVE***

***TO SERVE***



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## OUR VISION



### **SALU's mission statement - To Know, To Love, To Serve**

- we want to know God more fully
- to love Him more intimately
- to serve Him amongst our neighbours and community

We seek to be – and believe that we are – a friendly and welcoming church, where members and visitors alike feel accepted and valued.

As a congregation in rural Moray, we seek to support and care for our minister and manse family, mindful of the workload and challenges of the ministry today. We aim to work with our minister in a 'Body of Christ' ministry model, where we discern and encourage our congregation to use their gifts, reaching out with the transformational good news of Jesus Christ to our local community.

## OUR FUTURE AND NEW MINISTER

The Presbytery Mission Plan has given SALU an exciting and unique opportunity.

- We are one church family who are moving home from our present buildings to a new village-based location.
- We are excited about discovering the new worship place in Lhanbryde which God is now calling us to.
- We are looking for someone to help lead us in establishing and evolving this new worshipping community.
- We already have a Project Group working on evaluating options and aim to appoint a Project Manager in due course.

We have much to treasure and be grateful for from the legacy of 240 years of Christian witness and faith development and are now looking forward to exploring new ways of meeting the challenges of the Great Commission and being church for the communities of Lhanbryde, Urquhart and surrounding rural area of Moray.

It is important that our new minister relishes the challenge of supporting us in this next stage of SALU's history and be willing to be collegiate, flexible, adaptable, creative and forward-looking to help us show how God's word is relevant and life-giving to 21<sup>st</sup> century lives in this part of the NE of Scotland.

After a recent vote, the congregation has decided to depart from the Church's traditional position in respect of Ministers in civil partnership & same sex marriages.

## INTRODUCING SALU

St Andrew's Lhanbryd & Urquhart Parish Church (SALU) became vacant after the sad and untimely death of our minister Rev Dr Breda Ludik in Sept 2023.

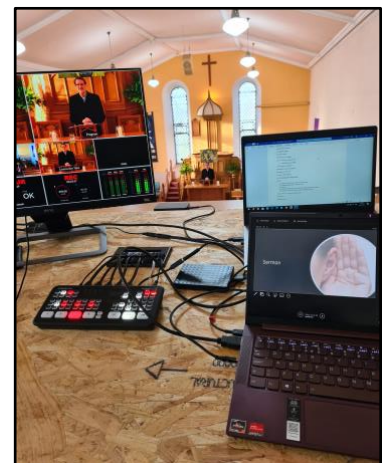
SALU is a rural church mid-way between Inverness and Aberdeen and 3 miles east of Elgin. SALU is a result of the successful union of two churches in 1988 - St Andrew's Lhanbryd and Urquhart. We are one congregation with one Kirk Session and the North East and Northern Isles Presbytery has determined that this is an unrestricted call.



## WORSHIP



Worship is at the very heart of our church life. We gather together at 11 am every Sunday at St Andrew's Lhanbryd church where attendance is 60 - 70. Communion is held regularly four times a year with other more informal Communion on an *ad hoc* basis.





The audio-visual team supports live streaming of Sunday morning worship to Facebook using 3 static cameras, OBS software with an atern switcher and a digital sound desk. Services are also uploaded to YouTube and available later via the church website. We regularly have over 150 views a week of our services across all our social media platforms. [<https://www.salucofs.com/salu-online/>]

The sermon is also available as a transcript and as a video clip via the weekly church newsletter.

In-house screens provide the opportunity to illustrate sermons and all-age talks, as well as allowing screening of lyrics of all worship hymns and songs and Bible readings. We can mic up to 16 sound inputs at any one time, so can cover all types of music. The AV team can also support outside sound and vision in other spaces, including at CONNECT in church hall and Active Church at Lhanbryde community centre.

Although services are generally traditional in format, we are open to different approaches. Worship is enlightening, thought provoking and participatory (members regularly lead the call to worship and the all-age/scene setter, do bible readings and take prayers of Intercession and for our Future). Our pattern of worship is flexible and continually evolving. The worship support group is actively involved in supporting the minister and Breda's legacy has increased the remit of the group with weekly preparatory and feedback meetings where corporate worship is discussed and planned. This meeting is open to the entire congregation, and at present 10 people regularly attend on Tuesday mornings.

Additional services take place at particular times of year, mainly Easter, Christmas and during Christian Aid Week. Remembrance Day services take place every year at the war memorials in Urquhart and Lhanbryde.



We enjoy informal links with Bellie & Speymouth Church of Scotland in Fochabers. As well as pulpit exchanges, this has also involved joint services, including a Sunday morning service in the main marquee at the annual Speyfest event in Fochabers and services during Holy Week.





In 2022 a Memory Tree was gifted to the congregation and that year we had our first Memory Tree Service. We plan to make this an annual event, an opportunity to mark the passing of loved ones and give folk a time to mark their lives in a special way.

### Music

Members of the congregation with musical gifts work on a rota to play for our services, using our fantastic electric organ, our electric and our traditional piano. Singers and musicians have come together as Salute Choir for special occasions such as our 240 Anniversary and Christmas services.



### Prayer

Every Sunday morning, as part of the 11am service, different members of the congregation take it in turns to lead intercessory prayer for our future, our community and the wider world. There is also the opportunity after the service for individuals to pray with our minister if required.

We also have a weekly Prayer Diary where the congregation is invited to add requests for prayer or mention things to be thankful for. This is then circulated via weekly email from the SALU administrator.

All members are encouraged to pause on Wednesdays at 1pm and take a few minutes to pray for the work and witness of our church. Also everyone is invited to attend the church prayer gathering at 10.15 am, before morning worship on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month. Interactive prayer stations and Rhythm of Life resources have also been used to encourage personal and corporate prayer.



## SALU ONLINE

### Social Media

The church uses the following social media:

- Church website <https://salucofs.com/>
- Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/salucofs>
- YouTube <https://tinyurl.com/CofSSALU>
- Podbean <https://salucofs.podbean.com/>
- Weekly email Newsletter and Prayer Diary



## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

### Young Church

Young Church is aimed primarily at youngsters who are at primary school, or early secondary school. Each Sunday morning youngsters join the whole church family for the first part of the service and then go through to the hall for a time of exploring the Bible through games, stories, music, video and crafts. Like many churches we face the challenge of competing interests on Sunday mornings. We do not see a regular large group of youngsters but seek to encourage those who do come.





## CONNECT

Since 2016 we have been running CONNECT, a café-style worship on the first Sunday of every month in the church hall, starting with breakfast at 10 am. Members of the congregation lead an introduction to a Bible theme using music, video, drama and interactive prayer, where the emphasis is on an informal, relaxed intergenerational environment with youngsters and adults learning and sharing together.

At 11 am there is an opportunity for further worship via either creative activities, round table discussion or joining the reflective service in the sanctuary and at 11.30 am all groups come together in the hall to share what they have learned. We are gaining expertise in using Slido (PowerPoint add-in) allowing interactivity via mobile and tablets.

Feedback on CONNECT:

“Refreshing.”

“The sharing of time, stories and interactivity makes it real.

I am not a passenger – this is important.”

“Great to meet in an informal setting to discuss aspects of our faith.”





### House Groups

Evening and daytime house-groups led by SALU members have met for blocks of 6 weeks and have in the past explored Steven Croft's study guide "*Experiencing God's Love*".

The congregation have also taken part in The Community Bible Experience reading "*The Story*" together, with 35 members meeting in groups to discuss what the words of Luke meant to them. This was well received and both with our previous minister and in vacancy we have met to discuss "*Broken Signposts*" based on the book by N T Wright and explored the themes of Sunday mornings, including a series on Jeremiah.

### PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care is delivered by the Elders who inform the minister of pastoral issues. The Elders are supported by members of the congregation who also visit. We also have a dedicated hospital and care homes visitor.

With an ageing congregation and declining numbers of young families attending, funerals are – not surprisingly – more common than baptisms. In the last three full years we have had 0 baptisms, 28 funerals and 2 weddings. In the same period 5 new members and 7 adherents have joined the church.

### Welcome Corner

We have a reputation for being a welcoming and caring church. However, as it is difficult to have a proper conversation in the narrow aisles as you come into the church, a Welcome Corner has been created at the back of the church. As well as a small, seated area there is a table, which was made out of the pews removed to provide the additional space. This table is used for the visitors' book, the flower distribution book and displays.

### CHURCH ORGANISATIONS & ACTIVITIES

#### TOFM (Together On Friday Mornings)

Together on Friday mornings is a Women's group that meets twice a month.

We share each others lives over a cup of coffee and are happy to welcome ladies who do not come to church.

Once a month we have a speaker or an activity. We celebrate special birthdays and have Christmas outings and summer picnics.



### The Guild

The Guild is a happy group mainly of women who plan meetings round the Guild theme, and support the fund raisers for Guild projects.

We have fun too with Christmas parties (including mocktail making) a highlight.

The membership numbers 26.



We have beautiful and moving World Day of Prayer services every year, and in March 2024 we were led by the women of Palestine.

### The Thrift Shop

The Thrift Shop, now 40 years old, is run in a garage adjacent to the manse and staffed by church volunteers. It opens Tuesday 10:00am - 11:30am, Thursday 1:30pm - 3:00pm. The Thrift Shop is often referred to as an *Aladdin's Cave* and sells a variety of clothes, toys and household goods donated by the community. It is well supported by members of the community. We get people from Keith, Elgin and Grantown on Spey, as well as "passing through" traffic. Fifty percent of money raised goes to Christian Aid, with the remainder supporting local charities. (Income in 2023 was £6,761).





### Christmas Concert and Christmas Eve Walk

Our Christmas Concert involving singers and musicians from across the community is now an annual highlight during early December. It is also an amazing fundraiser for local charities.



Then on Christmas Eve there is a walk around one of the local villages of either Urquhart or Lhanbryde. This has allowed us to help keep the Christmas message alive. At the end of the walk and carol singing, we gather in the local community Hall for more carol singing and of course mincemeat pies, refreshments and fellowship. It has become a popular event attracting a number of people from throughout the community.



### Flower-arranging Team



We have an enthusiastic team of ladies who arrange the flowers each week. After worship on Sunday the flowers are delivered to someone in the parish who is ill, in need of cheering up or maybe celebrating a special occasion.





## OUTREACH

### Active Church

Sunday afternoon February 18<sup>th</sup> 2024 saw us launch ACTIVE CHURCH in Lhanbryde Community Centre, an outreach venture for families and children in our community. Based on the theme 'Bouncy Church – God made me amazing!' 30 children and 28 parents enjoyed the bouncy castle, games, tech challenges, craft activities, Fischy music songs and bible storytelling. A hot 2-course meal was a real hit with everyone present too!

Financial support from C of S Seeds for Growth as well as grant funding from our partner the local Methodist North of Scotland Mission Circuit is enabling our team of over 20 volunteers to reach out to young families who are not connected with church. The open-door to Lhanbryde Primary school assemblies is a very positive way for inviting youngsters along. We plan to hold ACTIVE CHURCH once a month, using both Lhanbryde Community Centre and outdoor spaces such as the beach.



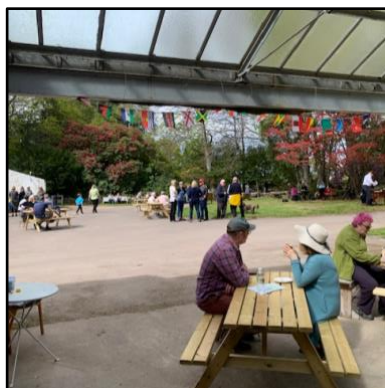
### School Links

We have good relationships with Lhanbryde Primary School where we are now doing monthly whole school assemblies, introducing the youngsters to the up-coming Active Church theme. Previously we had a Children's Worker who ran a lunchtime club which was well supported and volunteers have also shared skills such as knitting with young people in school.

### Christian Aid

Our church has supported Christian Aid for over 40 years. The community in general is happy to give to the door-to-door collection. It is an old habit in Urquhart and Lhanbryde but we are still amazed that over £2,000 is raised annually (£2,324 in 2023).

Another lovely fund raiser is when a local estate garden is opened to the public and we are asked to provide and serve teas. In 2023 £2,673 was raised. We are very grateful for this local support.



### Step by Step

Step by Step in Moray is a charity which supports families who feel isolated or vulnerable, offering a warm welcome in a friendly environment for parents with children up to age 3. They help families to develop friendships, confidence and skills which will enhance their lives and enable them to give their children the best start in life.



From May 2022, SALU has been financially supporting Step by Step family workers who are in contact with 29 families locally. Six church members volunteer at weekly group sessions in Lhanbryde Community Centre and a further two members sit on the Board of Trustees.  
<https://stepsmoray.org/>



### SACRO and SALU

Three years ago local fish merchant Ian Mcallion, was approached to ask if he could donate smoked haddock to make Cullen Skink for the residents of Guildry house which provides accommodation for up to twelve homeless people in need of support to find their way in life.

This led to thoughts of how to help further. Ian and Liz (a member of SALU) began by delivering freshly cooked Christmas dinner for residents and staff and this has continued.

An awareness visit and several meetings began a growing connection with SALU. The thrift shop provides clothing and household items free of charge as required and cash donations have enabled Liz and a small team of helpers cook and deliver a homemade meal once a fortnight.

This 'Supper Club' initiative is very much appreciated by the residents and staff. They look forward to a home cooked meal; it is a sign that someone cares for them.

## CONSTITUTION & STRUCTURE

There are currently 31 active elders serving under a Unitary Constitution.

14 of our elders are male; 17 are female. The most recent elders to join were admitted to the Kirk Session in 2017. On average, our elders have served for something over 20 years.

The Session comprises four working groups: Fellowship, Outreach, Stewardship/Finance and Worship Support. These groups meet on a regular basis and contribute to worship services.

### Talkabout Sessions

The Kirk Session hosts regular Talkabout meetings, which aim to grow both the eldership and the congregation. Topics have included "What are spiritual gifts?" and "The future of SALU - strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats;" "Sharing Your Faith;" "Fresh Expressions - What is Church?" and "Path of Renewal." These are half or full day sessions and have proven popular and thought- and action-provoking.

## CONGREGATIONAL ROLL

The church roll is currently 260 members and 17 adherents. We have a regular attendance of approximately 60 - 70 every Sunday morning.

## STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE

Our Church is in a healthy position. In addition to regular giving, we hold an annual Giving Day in autumn which last year raised £5,235 and a further £1,030 through Gift Aid.

Total receipts for 2023 amounted to £77,190 and payments were £81,299 resulting in a deficit of £4,109. This was largely down to our commitment to Mission through Step by Step and upgrading the Manse. Other investments over recent years have included the upgrade and futureproofing of our AV system, and the employment of our administrative assistant, who is invaluable in the day to day running of our church.

This expenditure also includes donations to various charities. These include Christian Aid, Blythswood, Guide Dogs, the local Rainbows and gardening club.

£34,703 of total giving was made through Gift Aid, which attracted a tax refund in 2023 of £10,104.

SALU is recognised as a Scottish Charity SC008850.

## SALU HISTORY

The united charge of St Andrew's Lhanbryd & Urquhart came into being in November 1988.

For further info click below

<https://www.salucofs.com/church-history/>



## THE PARISH & THE WIDER COMMUNITY

The Parish is to the east of Elgin, lying to the north and south of the A96. It is a pleasant rural parish, about 30 square miles in size, with agriculture the predominant industry. Many of the residents of our parish travel to work beyond its bounds to Elgin and other locations. A significant minority of our congregation live outside the parish.

Lhanbryde is the larger of the two villages within the parish, with about 3000 inhabitants. It has a mixture of private and council housing. Amenities include the village shop, Co-op, pharmacy, hairdresser, post office, a pub and the community centre. There is a primary school, within easy walking distance of the manse. The church has both formal and informal links with the busy and thriving community centre. Several of our members are involved in the Lhanbryde Community Challenge, with one elder attending the monthly management meetings.

Urquhart, with a population of around 500, is about 2 miles to the north of Lhanbryde. It is a small village with a village hall. There are some newer housing developments as well as the original village.

We do not currently have a worship centre in the village. Another group, Moray Grace Fellowship, meets weekly in the Community Centre.

Parish Statistics:

[352099.pdf \(churchofscotland.org.uk\)](https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/352099.pdf)



*Our village volunteer gardeners*



*Summer basket outside the manse*



*Views around Moray*



### Attractions of Moray

SALU is in Moray which enjoys a mild microclimate and excellent natural beauty with a variety of beaches and forests within easy reach. There are many things to do in Moray including outdoor activities such as golf, mountain biking, watching dolphins, touring distilleries, visiting castles, fishing and exploring museums. The nearby county town of Elgin is a former cathedral city and Royal Burgh. It is the administrative and commercial centre for Moray and hosts the football team Elgin City. There are good public transport links with bus services to Aberdeen and Inverness, railway stations at Elgin and Keith and easy access to Aberdeen and Inverness airports which now serve an expanding list of UK and international destinations.

The local [Lhanbryde Primary School](#) is a feeder school for [Milne's High School](#), Fochabers and [Elgin Academy](#).

Leisure facilities in the area include [Moray Leisure Centre](#) with swimming pool and ice rink, [Moray Sports Centre](#) and gym (largest in North of Scotland), bowling alley, 3-screen cinema and [Elgin Town Hall](#) staging a range of music and theatre events. Elgin has a District General hospital, Dr Gray's, and [UHI Moray](#), which is local partner college of the University of the Highlands and Islands.

The websites listed below all give further information about the area:

[www.moray.gov.uk](http://www.moray.gov.uk)

[www.northern-scot.co.uk](http://www.northern-scot.co.uk)

<http://www.speyfest.com>

### ECUMENICAL LINKS

Over many years SALU has worked collaboratively with Bellie and Speymouth Church of Scotland, sharing services especially in run up to Easter. In July we have also contributed to the ecumenical Speyfest Church Service alongside C of S, Scottish Episcopal and Roman Catholic congregations. Recently we have added to our links developing a working partnership with the local Methodist churches along the Moray Coast in our Active Church outreach.

## PRESENT CHURCH BUILDING AND MANSE

### Present Church Building – to be sold by 2027

Situated in a rural location a mile or so on the Elgin side of Lhanbryde village, our present church is a traditionally styled building, dating from 1783. In addition to the sanctuary, the building comprises a large and a small hall, a modern kitchen. There are two large parking areas, one to the north and one to the south of the building; the latter having designated disabled parking spaces. Although a “well maintained space”, the building is not “in the right place” so in response to the Presbytery Plan we will be relocating to Lhanbryde village – a Planning Group is at present doing feasibility work on options and we anticipate appointing a Project Manager in due course.



### The Manse

The manse is a traditional stone-built detached house on the main street in Lhanbryde. It is a spacious family home. On the ground floor are 2 public rooms, a study, a fitted kitchen, a utility room and toilet with shower. Upstairs are 5 bedrooms and a bathroom. There is a small garden at the front and a large low-maintenance lawned garden to the rear. There are three outbuildings, including a single garage and a building adjacent to the manse which is used as the Thrift Shop. The manse meets the standards required by the Church of Scotland.

The location of the manse in Lhanbryde makes the minister accessible to the community. The manse is a tangible presence of the church within the village and is a focal point for contact.







## THE INVITATION, VISITING AND CONTACT DETAILS

Are you the minister God is calling to SALU?

Have you found yourself saying as you have read our profile - *"Yes! They sound like my kind of people! I could work with them! That's my kind of vision for the church!"*

Then we need to meet!

At a Kirk Session 'Talkabout' - we were praying and asking ourselves – *"What are we looking for, hoping for, praying for, in our new minister?"*

We want our new minister to be him or herself, and for us to be willing and open to giving him or her the space and the encouragement to lead us, perhaps in ways we had not considered or imagined, and to challenge us to step out in faith along new paths – to walk and work with us in a shared vision as we step out together with God.

We have what we imagine to be the common hopes of many congregations, which find expression in the qualities we would hope for in our new minister:

- A minister who will help us understand the Bible and how to apply it in our lives
- A leader who will walk and work with us as we move forward into a new opportunity for ministry
- An individual with good people skills and an enthusiasm for outreach to all within our local community, especially to families, schools and young people
- Someone who is open to innovation
- A person who has a deep pastoral care for people within our church and parish

While we have compiled the list above, it may be of course that God is preparing someone very different as the right person to be our minister and we are open to hearing and following God's leading.

### Informal Visit & Enquiries

We appreciate you may wish to find out more or to make an informal visit to SALU before you consider making an application. We would be pleased to show you and your family the area, the church and the manse and can arrange a visit in confidence if required – please contact our Interim Moderator, Rev Wiekus van Straaten.

### Contact Details

Interim Moderator: Rev Wiekus van Straaten  
Email: [WvanStraaten@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:WvanStraaten@churchofscotland.org.uk)  
Phone Number: 01542 882799

Applications and recommendations  
should be made to:

Christine Watkins  
Clerk to the Nominating Committee  
Email: [salu.treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:salu.treasurer@gmail.com)

