



# Formartine Parish Church

## Pitmedden Kirk

15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 Newsletter




Our apple trees have produced a lot of fruit this year. In part, this will be down to the right weather conditions at the right time, something I have no control over. And maybe they've also reached 'the right age' and are suitably mature. But there is another important factor. For the last couple of years they have been tended by someone who knows fruit trees and how to nurture them.

He has dug out the grass at the base, giving their roots a chance to breathe and allowing them a feeding area where they don't have to compete for water and

nutrients with the tough and greedy grass. He also started a pruning regime. Gently at first, but more severe in the second and third year. The benefits were not instant, it has taken time, but they are all the better for expert care. While I was happy to have someone else look after them, I did sometimes worry when I saw all the healthy looking prunings on the ground.

The Bible has a lot to say about gardening, nurture, and pruning. It's a well-used metaphor, and sometimes the story puts us in the role of gardener. We do have a degree of responsibility for our own lives: where we are, what we do, the things we allow to influence us and how that affects the people we are.

However, as Christians, we also recognise that the biggest influence in our lives is God. God is the gardener. We have 'surrendered' our lives and our future – not in a way that absolves us from any responsibility, but in a way that recognises that God is the expert, and wants to play an active part in our lives. God's purpose is to nurture us, care for us, and enable us to produce good fruit that will feed others. That will involve pruning as well as providing nutrition and the right growing conditions. Are we prepared for that? Are we willing to say, 'take my life'? Do we really want God to not only show us what needs to be pruned, but let God get on with it? Do we really believe that in the end, we will be stronger, healthier and more productive? It can be scary, it can feel like a loss of control, but it can also be exciting – what is faith, if it's not hope in an 'unknown' future with God?

You might like to try 'Pause',  an App designed to help you do just that and take a minute or two each day to rest in God's presence.

Please send in anything for the newsletter that you think deserves a wider audience – diary items [including services/events in Formartine Parish], information, good news, a short article, offers of assistance, requests, prayer points. What do you want us to include? [elainemoff@aol.com](mailto:elainemoff@aol.com)



**Fifth Sunday in Lent**

**SUNDAY'S SERVICE 15<sup>th</sup> March**

The worship service on Sunday is at 10am in Pitmedden Kirk, followed by coffee.  
Duty elder: Heather Black

This week Alison will give her sermon in Pitmedden via Zoom from Tarves Kirk. **If you normally worship with us via Zoom, please use the Tarves link below, not our usual Zoom link.**

Formartine Parish: Pitmedden Kirk is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.  
Topic: Formartine Parish Church – Tarves Kirk

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87168112624?pwd=TVlybkJhMGtwdXlWcnJ2RXpCWFRPdz09>

Meeting ID: 871 6811 2624

Passcode: 191245

Dial by your location

0131 460 1196



Would you like to be part of the team that does the readings in church each Sunday? Or would you like to be involved in some other way in the life of the church? There are many areas where you and your unique gifts could really contribute to our services and life as a church family. Please speak to Elaine [elainemoff@aol.com](mailto:elainemoff@aol.com)

**From Caroline - Formartine Youth Project**

Last of the Easter bag packing sessions for schools is this morning at 10am in Tarves. More the merrier.

Setting up for the Interactive Walk-Through Holy Week experiences will be **Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> at 12o'clock in Pitmedden (Please note change of days)** and **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> in Tarves after the service.**

We are on the lookout for artificial Christmas trees, grey material, green material, neutral coloured cushions, earthen ware pottery . Please make sure everything is LABELLED.

The Pitmedden / Udney Walk through is **Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> at 11am** for one session (about 1.5 hours) & **Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> at 11am in Tarves.** It a great experience and the young people love it!. There can be a bit of role play if you like but if not plenty of support roles to help things run smoothly too. Please let Caroline know if you are available: [carolinefyp@outlook.com](mailto:carolinefyp@outlook.com)

Please get involved if you can it is a really rewarding out-reach experience with our young people.

Pitmedden Youth Cafe are doing a **Community litter pick Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March** from 4pm followed by snacks and movie!. Please come and join us and help make Pitmedden beautiful! Meet at Haddo Surgery carpark. Please wear weather appropriate clothing, wear hi-viz if you have and bring gardening gloves.

Finally - our Easter garden displays are in place in Udney Green and Pitmedden - thank you to Udney Boys Brigade at young people from Pitmedden Youth Cafe - please get creative and add to these community displays - let's reflect on the love and hope in the world and share the joy of Easter. Displays at Tarves and Barthol Chapel will be completed early next week with thanks to young people from The Hut.

Big shout out and thank you to Sean Swindells who is running the **London Marathon** this April and has kindly offered to raise funds to support Formartine Youth Project activities. Please follow us on social media for updates on how to donate, check the church notice boards or contact [carolinefy@outlook.com](mailto:carolinefy@outlook.com)

Our **website and Facebook** pages have been renamed! You should be automatically redirected if you try to visit the old pages, but please go to [formartineparishchurch.org.uk](http://formartineparishchurch.org.uk) and on Facebook, **Formartine Parish Church**

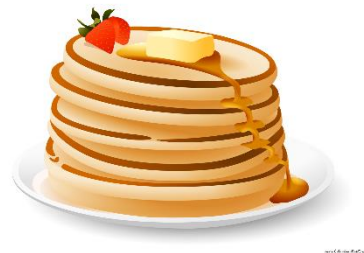
**ELDERS:** Joan Ross is preparing a 'Who's Who' page on our new website and would like you to send her a photograph to [art@tolquhon-gallery.co.uk](mailto:art@tolquhon-gallery.co.uk)

**EVERYONE:** We want our website to be interesting and attractive, and connect with the wider community. This will be increasingly important as we start the process of seeking a new minister. Please send Joan information about your events and photographs – check the current advice about getting permission from subjects in your pics. Do you have any historic photographs, of the church or events? It would be great to have a gallery of Udney & Pitmedden in past times.

**The Giving Table** will be happy to receive anything that can be 'sold' and spare produce – veg, fruit, baking, flowers, eggs, etc. – that you may have. Donations will go to church funds. Don't forget to 'buy' items, too! Thanks to all the bakers and contributors.

There is a **diary** near the notice boards at the back of the church. If you are planning a meeting or event in church, please fill it in to ensure that we don't double-book and so that the heating can be programmed appropriately.

**The Boys Brigade pancake morning is TOMORROW  
Saturday 16th March 10-12 Dr Spence Memorial Hall.**



### **Formartine Parish Church**

Various teams with specific remits have been set up to take care of the practical and spiritual aspects of our united congregations as we move forward together into a shared future.

These are:

- Worship
- Pastoral care
- Communication and IT
- Administration – Data protection, Safeguarding, Rolls, etc.
- Property
- Finance

We have identified team leaders and some members, but would be delighted if you wanted to serve on a team. We need people with an interest or a skill, but mostly with a willingness to get involved. Please contact Alison [aswindells@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:aswindells@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**Opportunity for Service** - An upgrade to the IT system has been installed to ensure compatibility with Tarves. We are looking for volunteers to join the team. Full training will be given, and there will be ongoing support. If you can serve in this way, even on an occasional basis, speak to Elaine or Alison

Have you moved house recently? Got a new phone? Changed your email address? We are trying to **update the information** we hold on members and adherents, so that we can keep you informed and get in touch if we need to. If you think we might be behind the times, please contact Alison Bruce as soon as possible [alisonbruce10@gmail.com](mailto:alisonbruce10@gmail.com)

### **CHURCH DIARY**

**The church diary will include events and services scheduled both in Pitmedden and Tarves Kirks. Please let me know if you want anything added, or would like to arrange car share.**

Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	10am-12pm BB Pancake morning, Udney Green Hall
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	12-1.30pm Lunch in Tarves Youth Hall
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup>	10am worship in Pitmedden and Tarves Kirks
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am <i>mainly music</i>
Tues 19 <sup>th</sup>	10-11.30am Coffee morning in Tarves Kirk
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	2pm Good Companions in Pitmedden Hall, with Pitmedden School pupils
Wed 20 <sup>th</sup>	Boys' Brigade sections, from 7pm in Udney Green Hall
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup>	3.15-5.15pm Youth Café in Pitmedden Kirk
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am Palm Sunday walk from Tarves to Pitmedden over the Drove Road <b>11am joint service in Pitmedden Kirk, preceded by coffee</b>
Tues 26 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm Session meeting in Pitmedden Kirk re: vacancy
Thurs 28 <sup>th</sup>	7pm Maundy supper and communion in Pitmedden Kirk
Fri 29 <sup>th</sup>	7pm Good Friday service in Tarves Kirk
Sun 31 <sup>st</sup>	10am Joint Easter Celebration service with communion in Tarves Kirk, followed by refreshments



You won't go hungry on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March!**

Coffee and pancakes with the BBs in Udney Green, then off to Tarves for lunch to celebrate the opening of the Youth Hall.

If you need a lift for either event, contact Elaine.

We have a **Pastoral Care Team** who are available to contact and/or visit anyone in the parish, on request. Please contact our Minister, Alison, if you know someone who would benefit from this ministry.

### **INFORMATION**

Our Minister, Rev Dr Alison Swindells, can be contacted at [swindells@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:swindells@churchofscotland.org.uk) or on 01651 851295

From 1<sup>st</sup> April, our Interim Moderator will be Rev Alastair Bruce, Minister at Ellon. He can be contacted at [abruce@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:abruce@churchofscotland.org.uk) or 01358 723787

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