



Formartine Parish Church

Pitmedden Kirk

5th April 2024 Newsletter



We've had a cold, wet winter and early spring, and a very early Easter. There was a danger that here in the north-east we might not see many of the signs of new life that we have come to expect as part of our Easter resurrection celebrations.

I spent some time recently in Devon and was delighted to find that being 600 miles or so further south meant that life was bursting forth from the dead-looking branches.

Richard Rohr, in his reflections for Easter Monday, explained how the resurrection offers us hope, especially in these challenging times, when so much of human life seems so futile, so tragic, so short and so sad. Non-stop war, unjust imprisonment, the oppression and exploitation of the poor. If Christ is risen, why is there so much suffering?

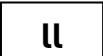
He writes,

I believe the resurrection of Christ is saying that the final judgment has already happened. It's nothing we need to fear. It's nothing we need to avoid or deny. God's final judgment is that God will have the last word! Easter reveals that there are no dead ends; ultimately, nothing is going to end in tragedy and crucifixion. Of course we look around us, at history and at life in its daily moments and it seems, "No, no, that isn't true." And yet, again and again, here and there, more than we suspect, new life breaks through for those who are willing to see and to cooperate with this universal mystery of resurrection. We're so lucky in my part of the world that Easter coincides with springtime. If this applies to you, I hope you're going out and seeing the leaves and the flowers being reborn after months of winter. I went out early this morning to see the Easter sunrise. Sure enough, the sun rose as it always does and peeked over the horizon, just between two mountains. It appeared not so much like a sunrise but as a groundswell. The light was coming from the earth. It was coming from the world we live in. It was coming not from the top, but from the bottom. It seemed to say that even all of this which looks muddy and material, even all of this which looks so ordinary and dying, will be reborn.

Easter is the feast of hope. This is the feast that says God will have the last word and that God's final judgment is resurrection. God will turn all that we maim and destroy and hurt and punish into life and beauty.

What the resurrection reveals more than anything else is that love is stronger than death. Jesus walks the way of death with love, and what it becomes is not death but life. Surprise of surprises! It doesn't fit any logical explanation. Yet this is the mystery: that nothing dies forever, and that all that has died will be reborn in love.

So to be a Christian is to be inevitably and forever a person of hope. God in Christ is saying this is what will last: my life and my love will always and forever have the final word.

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

SUNDAY'S SERVICE 7th April

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

This week Susanna Bichard 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 plans worship, or do the readings in church each Sunday? 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

From Caroline - Formartine Youth Project

A 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. Donate at: https://www.justgiving.com/page/sean-swindells-1711634033686?utm_term=J7YGQWjk2

QR code available on the new Formartine Church website and FB page

Thanks, too, to everyone who helped in any way with the Easter Walk-Thru and activities for the young people.

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 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

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.



A huge thank you to everyone who supported the Boys' Brigade pancake morning in March, including those who were unable to be there, but still donated. It raised a grand total of £722 for BB funds.

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 our Session Clerk, Susanna Bichard smbichard@aol.com

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 Susanna or Elaine

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

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.

United worship services

These will usually be on the 4th and 5th Sunday of the month and will alternate between Tarves and Pitmedden. The next one is on Sunday 28 April in Pitmedden when Rev Alastair Bruce will celebrate Communion.

See posters, our FB page and website for more information. www.formartineparishchurch.org.uk

Note: some activities may be taking a break during the school holidays

Sun 7 th	10am worship in Pitmedden and Tarves Kirks
Tues 9 th	9.30am <i>mainly music</i>
Tues 9 th	10-11.30am Coffee morning in Tarves Kirk
Wed 10 th	7pm onwards, Boys' Brigade sections, in Udny Green Hall
Thurs 11 th	3.15-5.15pm Youth Café in Pitmedden Kirk
Sun 14 th	10am worship in Pitmedden and Tarves Kirks
Sun 28 th	10am Joint worship in Pitmedden Kirk, Rev Alastair Bruce, Interim Moderator
Thurs 9 th May	7.30pm Session in Pitmedden Kirk

Haddo Chapel

There will be ecumenical services on the first Sunday of the month at 6pm in Haddo Chapel throughout the summer, preceded by tea in the Library at 5pm



Sunday 31st March
Easter Day
Professor Sir Iain Torrance, KCVO Kt FRSE

5 pm Afternoon tea in the Library, Haddo House
6 pm Evening Service

Wednesday 25th December
Christmas Day
Professor Tom Greggs
Marischal Chair of Divinity, University of Aberdeen

10.30 a.m. Christmas Service at Haddo

Evening Services at 6 pm
Tea and Coffee in the Library, Haddo House, 5 pm

5th May
The Rev'd. Dr Dennis Berk, St Mary-on-the-Rock, Ellon, and St. James-the-Less, Cruden Bay

2nd June
Dr Emma Percy, Senior Lecturer at the University of Aberdeen

7th July
The Rev. James R. Clarke, Ellon Baptist Church

4th August
The Rt. Rev. Hugh Edward Gilbert, O.S.B., Bishop of Aberdeen

11th August
The Rev. Dr. Paul McKeown, Bellhelvie Parish Church

18th August
The Rev. Jennifer Denniston, (nee Macdonell) Parish priest in Worcester Diocese

25th August
Canon Michael A. Hutson, St Mary's Church, Isle of Benbecula

15th September
Festival Service
The Rev. Professor Ferdinand von Prondzynski
Director of Music: Dr. Roger B. Williams, MBE with members of Haddo House Choral and Operatic Society

Haddo House, Aberdeenshire
By arrangement with
 the National Trust
for Scotland

15th September 1994

News from Presbytery

“This Is Alpha” Conference is on in Perth on Saturday June 8th with Nicky and Pippa Gumbel as special guests. See Alun Walker for info

We have a **Pastoral Care Team** who are available to contact and/or visit anyone in the parish, on request. Please contact Susanna Bichard 01651 851345 if you know someone who would benefit from this ministry.

INFORMATION

Our Interim Moderator is Rev Alastair Bruce, Minister at Ellon. He can be contacted at abruce@churchofscotland.org.uk or 01358 723787

Scottish Charity Number SC006056