



Formartine Parish Church

12th April 2024 Newsletter



Two pictures for the price of one, both taken on my walk this morning. They have more in common than that, although it's not immediately obvious, and this is where I wish I could embed a video with sound in the newsletter...


It's windy today, a noisy but balmy wind that stirs the senses and makes me feel alive. It makes the tree tops sway alarmingly, but the evergreens are remarkably pliable and go in whatever direction the wind takes them. It's the rigid, or dead, or shallow-rooted trees that suffer. That same wind is making the daffodils dance, bobbing about as in Wordsworth's poem, but despite their delicacy and comparative weakness, the wind at ground level is agitating them without destroying them.

God's Spirit, the Spirit of Jesus, the Holy Spirit, is often likened to the wind. I'm sure we will hear a lot more about that at Pentecost in a few weeks' time. The Bible tells us that the Spirit lives in each one of us. It also says why. If we allow, the Spirit will comfort, strengthen, inform, guide us, help us in all aspects of our daily lives. There is no sacred-secular divide. The Spirit will give us special gifts and help us to use them (1 Cor 12), but will also enable us to produce 'fruit' in our lives (Gal 5), so we will be transformed people. However, none of this is forced upon us.

All this might seem fanciful, we might be sceptical, puzzled, we may have doubts or worries. We may be reassured, comforted, heartened, and put at ease. It might make us excited, expectant, enthusiastic and enlivened. I would like to suggest that we may feel all these emotions, and maybe even all at once!

The thing about the wind is that it needs to be free, free to move, to influence, to blow. And in order to feel that influence, to enjoy its freshness, to know its power and experience its effects, you have to get out there, take a walk, stand on the promenade, fly a kite – watching passively from behind a window won't cut it.

So, too, with the Spirit of God. Read what God says about the Spirit in the Bible – it applies to you and me. Set the Spirit free in your own life, trusting God to blow hard enough to move you without blowing you over. Be nervous, be soothed, be encouraged, feel anticipation. Step outside and experience the wind of God's love and power for yourself.

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 12th April

The worship service on Sunday is at 10am in Pitmedden Kirk, followed by coffee. Rev Alastair Bruce will be preaching and the service will be available on Zoom.

Duty elder: Alison Bruce

Formartine Parish: Pitmedden Kirk is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Pitmedden Kirk Sunday Service

Time: This is a recurring meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/2186977011?pwd=OUJYQnNoUjhNVk1qMkhtT0FvMThPdZ09&omn=81768295781>

Meeting ID: 218 697 7011

Passcode: 2024



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

FYP are in need of clean jam jars with lids on, for an activity with the schools. Labels removed, please.

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.

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 ymbichard@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 share Communion with us

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

NOTE: The church rolls will be available for inspection in Pitmedden Kirk at the united service on Sunday 28th April

Sun 14 th	10am worship in Pitmedden and Tarves Kirks
Tues 16 th	9.30am <i>mainly music</i>
Tues 16 th	10-11.30am Coffee morning in Tarves Kirk
Wed 17 th	2pm Good Companions meet in Pitmedden Public Hall when Bill Gray and Moira Rae will be the entertainers for the afternoon
Wed 17 th	3.30-5.30pm Youth Café in Barthol Chapel Kirk
Wed 17 th	7pm onwards, Boys' Brigade sections, in Udney Green Hall
Thurs 18 th	3.15-5.15pm Youth Café in Pitmedden Kirk
Sun 21 st	10am worship in Pitmedden and Tarves Kirks
Sun 28 th	10am United worship, Pitmedden Kirk, Rev Alastair Bruce, Interim Moderator
Thurs 9 th May	7.30pm Session in Pitmedden Kirk

April 2024

14th Tarves / Pitmedden Kirks

21st Tarves / Pitmedden Kirks

28th United worship Pitmedden Kirk

May 2024

5th Tarves / Pitmedden Kirks

12th Tarves / Pitmedden Kirks

19th United worship Pitmedden Kirk

26th United worship Tarves Kirk

For united worship we join together in one Kirk.
On all other Sundays there is worship in both Kirks.
Also on Zoom. www.formartineparishchurch.org.uk

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, Belhelvie 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

St. James the Less, 1984

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