



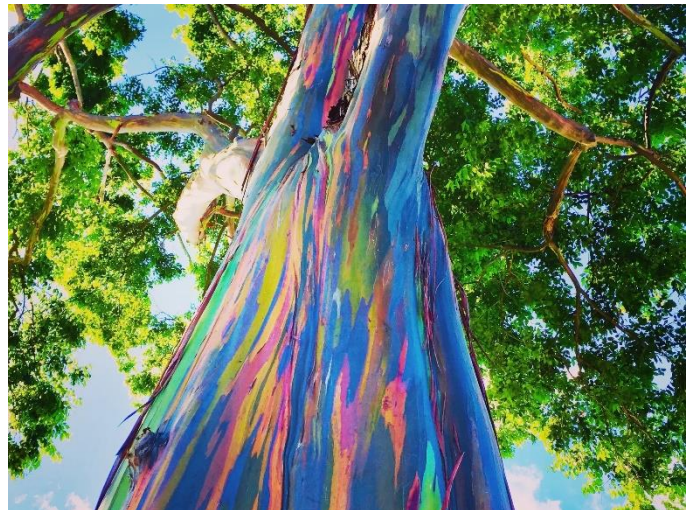
# Formartine Parish Church

17th May 2024 Newsletter

## Pentecost



On a recent trip to Devon, I spotted a Sycamore tree, which has bark that peels in layers, revealing different shades of earthy colours – browns and greys and ochres. It really caught my eye. Then I did a bit of research and discovered this Eucalyptus – a riot of rainbow colours which develop as older, exposed bark matures. Different colours, textures and shapes... but all sharing one purpose.

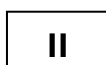


The Pentecost story highlights the importance of diversity: abundant, glorious and boundless.

Over a dozen ethnic groups are mentioned in the famous Pentecost passage; each having its own language. Yet, the 'one' Spirit communicates with all. Through this Spirit all can understand and are connected as one family of humanity, no matter the differences between peoples. We can see that in our own congregation – we are a diverse group of people, each with our own gifts, backgrounds, ways of expressing ourselves – but we are equally loved by a God who communicates with us personally, in ways we can understand. We share one Spirit, men and women, young and old, ordained and lay: the 'wind' of God blows on us all, and we are all capable of catching God's vision for our shared future, dreaming dreams of the seemingly impossible, and accessing the amazing power of God's Spirit to realise God's plan for us.

The beauty, the miracle, the witness to the world, is in our diversity, our unity, our communion.

You might like to try 'Pause', or two each day to rest in



an App designed to help you do just that and take a minute 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)

THERE WILL BE NO NEWSLETTER ON 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY or 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE. PLEASE LET ME HAVE ANY NOTICES OR INFORMATION FOR NEXT WEEK'S EDITION BY THURSDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> MAY

For our united Pentecost celebration on Sunday, please remember to wear something

**RED** or **YELLOW**

### **SUNDAY'S SERVICE 17<sup>th</sup> May**

United Worship on Sunday will be at 10am in Pitmedden Kirk and is a celebration of the church's birthday, Pentecost. Susanna Bichard, our Session Clerk, and a Reader with the Church of Scotland, will be leading us in our time of intergeneration worship, which will be followed by coffee and birthday cake! The readings are 2 Samuel 6:14-19 and Acts 2:1-21

For the foreseeable future, it is likely that only one service will be available via Zoom, and the venue will change depending on which Kirk the preacher is in. Both links are provided below. **Please use the Pitmedden Kirk link this week.**

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

**Topic: Pitmedden Kirk Sunday Service**

Time: This is a recurring meeting – 9.50am

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

Meeting ID: 218 697 7011

Passcode: 2024

Dial by your location: 0131 460 1196

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

**Topic: Tarves Kirk Sunday Service**

Time: This is a recurring meeting – 9.50am

<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 **worship team** that plans and/or leads our services, or do the readings in church on 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](mailto:elainemoff@aol.com) (Pitmedden) or Susanna [smbichard@aol.com](mailto:smbichard@aol.com) (Tarves)

### **From Caroline - Formartine Youth Project**

We are collecting clean jam jars with labels removed for a school activity. Please leave at the church or contact Caroline to arrange collection. Thankyou.

Its exam time for our young people - a stressful and challenging time for many. Formartine Youth Project (with generous donations from Coop & Meldrum and District Rotary Club) have put together some 'Study leave support kits' containing some little treats, resources and tips to manage exam anxiety. Do you know a young person with exams looming or feeling worried? Bags are available to pick-up from Pitmedden Coop,

Methlick Shop (just inside the door), Tarves Spar (next to the book exchange) and Methlick, Pitmedden and Tarves kirks, please help yourself.

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**

**We want our website to be interesting and attractive, and connect with the wider community. This will be increasingly important as we seek 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 Tarves, Barthol Chapel and Udney & Pitmedden in past times. [art@tolquhon-gallery.co.uk](mailto:art@tolquhon-gallery.co.uk)**

**The Giving Table** in Pitmedden 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.

Both Kirks have a basket at the door should you wish to make an **offering** as you enter. Setting up a **Standing Order** is an easy way to give to the work of the church, and if you pay tax, then **gift-aid** allows the church to benefit from additional funding. Please contact [formartinechurchtreasurer@outlook.com](mailto:formartinechurchtreasurer@outlook.com) for a Gift Aid form. You can give regularly or as a one-off directly into the church bank account: **82-63-10 80485504**

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 our Roll Keeper, Alison Bruce as soon as possible [alisonbruce10@gmail.com](mailto:alisonbruce10@gmail.com)

### **May 2024**

**19<sup>th</sup> United worship at Pitmedden Kirk – Pentecost, with Susanna Bichard**

**26<sup>th</sup> United worship at Tarves Kirk – with Alan Doak**

**23<sup>rd</sup> June United worship at Pitmedden Kirk – with the Worship Team**

**30<sup>th</sup> United worship at Tarves Kirk – with Susanna Bichard**

**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](http://www.formartineparishchurch.org.uk)**

### **United worship services**

These will usually be on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month and will alternate between Tarves and Pitmedden. The next one is Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> May in Pitmedden with Susanna Bichard, as we celebrate Pentecost.

See posters, our FB page and website for more information. [www.formartineparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.formartineparishchurch.org.uk)

The **General Assembly** runs from this Saturday to Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>. Details are in Life and Work and on the Church of Scotland’s webpage [www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk) All sessions are public, and you can view and download papers, and follow live on the website or on Facebook. Our commissioners this year are Alun Walker, our Presbytery elder, and our Interim Moderator, Rev Alastair Bruce. The timetable and some overtures and reports are here:

[https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0019/121465/Order-of-Proceedings-2024.pdf](https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/data/assets/pdf_file/0019/121465/Order-of-Proceedings-2024.pdf)

You will also find links to full reports, many of which are interesting and informative. For example, the **Guild** report will be presented on Tuesday morning.

## 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 a lift.

Sat 18 <sup>th</sup>	Opening day of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland
Sun 19 <sup>th</sup>	10am united worship for Pentecost with Susanna Bichard in Pitmedden
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	9.30am <i>mainly music</i>
Tues 21 <sup>st</sup>	10-11.30am Coffee morning in Tarves Kirk
Wed 22 <sup>nd</sup>	7pm onwards, Boys' Brigade sections, in Udny Green Hall
Thurs 23 <sup>rd</sup>	3.15-5.15pm Youth Café in Pitmedden Kirk
Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	10am united worship in Tarves Kirk with Alan Doak
Sat 1 <sup>st</sup> June	8.30am Big Breakfast in Pitmedden Kirk. Last orders 10.30am
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup> June	10-11.30am Hub Café in former Barthol Chapel Kirk
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> July	10-11.30am Hub Café in former Barthol Chapel 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, 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

## News from Presbytery

In 2024 Life and Work magazine launched a series called Presbytery Focus. The June issue features the Presbytery of North East and Northern Isles. You might be interested in reading about our own Presbytery in the following article, which is an edited extract, written by Thomas Baldwin.

### **PRESBYTERY OF THE NORTH EAST AND THE NORTHERN ISLES**

#### **FACTS**

FORMED: January 1 2023

FORMER PRESBYTERIES: Aberdeen and Shetland, Orkney, Buchan, Moray, Gordon, Kincardine and Deeside.

CONGREGATIONS: 107

VACANCIES: 11

WHILE bringing together a number of very disparate presbyteries could never be easy, the new Presbytery of the North East and the Northern Isles (NENI, pronounced 'Nenny', for short) had a bit of a head start. NENI came together by an inadvertent two-step process. The former presbyteries of Aberdeen and Shetland announced union plans in 2018, before the General Assembly instructed the formation of the new 'super presbyteries'. That initial merger was completed in 2020, and the experience proved helpful when Aberdeen and Shetland was joined by the rest of the north east and Orkney last year.

The completed presbytery covers most of the mainland to the east of Inverness, and north of Montrose along with the two northern island groups.

The dominant conurbation is obviously the city of Aberdeen, centre of Scotland's oil and gas industry. But NENI also encompasses the fishing communities of the east and Moray coasts, the farming, castles, distilleries and royal connections of historic Aberdeenshire, and part of Cairngorm National Park. Then there are the island communities, including the 65 residents of the UK's most remote inhabited island, Fair Isle.

For the new presbytery, the first challenges were for everybody to get to know each other, and to make sure that no part of the organisation felt excluded.

"I think in general folks are working well," says Peter. "The committees are taking some time to bed in and get to grips with the scope of the work involved. Each of the individual presbyteries worked slightly differently, so harmonising everything into a new uniform way of working inevitably takes a bit of time. But generally there's a very good spirit of co-operation across the presbytery.

"One of the complications with such a geographically spread presbytery is just to build relationships, and to understand who's who and who's got the skills you need for all the committees. We're also being very proactive about trying to make sure there is a good spread geographically.

"We have to be wary of Aberdeen being seen as the place where everything happens. It's the hub for the area and the natural congregating space, as well as where the ferries come in, but we have to try to get the balance between what's pragmatic and what includes folks from across the whole area.

"Each of the legacy presbyteries had quite different policies with regard to how they funded their work. Of course we had to harmonise that. A lot of the money needs to be raised from congregational giving through presbytery dues, and then the posts need to be giving back across the whole presbytery so everyone feels it's worthwhile."

The presbytery has been able to assemble a team of staff: an administration officer, mission development officer and treasurer are already in place, and a youth development officer will shortly be appointed, and two other roles are being created: a communications officer and a congregational support officer, who will be a 'trouble shooter' available to help congregations with whatever they need.

As with all the new presbyteries, establishing the new organisation has been combined with the sometimes fraught business of presbytery mission planning. Again, the earlier experience with Shetland has been useful, as the islands underwent radical change before the current process was begun. "They went down from 30 congregations to one, with about 10 places of worship," says Peter. "What's happening in Orkney is not quite the same as that, but certainly the experience has been helpful for others.

"But we also recognise that each individual place is different. There are things you can learn, but you also have to tailor for each setting."

Peter has first-hand experience of the new way of working, being part of a team ministry at the new congregation of Aberdeen: Devana. "We're just about a year into it," he says. "Three congregations coming into one, retaining two buildings and two ministers.

"It's been working well. We get on well in the team, and the new congregation have, on the whole, been really supportive.

"We're in this experimental period of trying new things and seeing what will work. And we can see that happening across different areas of the presbytery.

"It's really encouraging to see how team ministries are developing and how they are able to release people into doing new things, although it's a bit early to see the fruits."

Another encouragement has been two 'fantastic' conference sessions held by the presbytery last year.

Peter says: "Having that larger number of people, both on site and online, really enabled good and healthy discussions, guided by a guest speaker. It was a really good and positive experience, everything you would hope for from a larger presbytery gathering and provides a basis from which we can build and develop as a presbytery, mutually supporting and learning from each other in that process."

There are regular meetings of NENI (our presbytery). These meetings are public, and you can follow live on the NENI Facebook page. Dates at [www.nenipresbytery.org.uk](http://www.nenipresbytery.org.uk)

"This Is Alpha" Conference is on in Perth on Saturday June 8th with Nicky and Pippa Gumbel as special guests. See Alun Walker, our Presbytery Elder, 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](mailto:abruce@churchofscotland.org.uk) or 01358 723787**

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