



# Formartine Parish Church

24th May 2024 Newsletter

Trinity Sunday



The theme for this year's General Assembly, which closed yesterday was

***"Building...  
communities  
in faith  
disciples  
each other up  
love & trust  
...Together"***


If you were unable to watch live, all the highlights and reports are available at [www.churchofscotland.org.uk](http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk)

As I have followed the proceedings, and read the reports, one thing in particular has struck me. We are a mixed-economy church. The diversity that has been the topic of recent newsletters is nowhere more apparent than in the Assembly Hall, in the information given, in the questions asked, and the debates that have ensued. There are people – and by extension, congregations – who come to Assembly ready to listen, to engage, to question, and ultimately to recognise the

decisions taken by Assembly, enthusiastically taking them back to their own situations to work out how best to take things forward. Of course, there are those disagree, who vote against motions, but then accept the corporate decision, presenting them to their congregations and acting in a way that honours the Presbyterian system of governance, which is to accept the will of Assembly. It must be said that there are also congregations who refuse to engage, who it appears do not comply with church law, do not join the debate, and indeed who never send requested information or commissioners to Assembly, thus denying the church the opportunity to hear their point of view and work through differences. And what applies to congregations also applies to individuals.

"Building ...Together" is not just an aspiration, pie-in-the-sky, but something we need to engage in. As individuals and communities of faith, we need to build each other up, deepen our relationship with Jesus and each other, and show that we love and trust each other. This is the path that Formartine is on. Hallelujah!

What does this picture say to you? I see new growth, bright and fresh and tender. On that same branch, I see older, tough greenery, in some places supporting that new growth. I also see some hard stems, woody and desiccated, with lichen growth. The internet tells me, "Lichen does not kill a tree... but does grow on slow-growing and sometimes declining trees..."

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)

**THERE WILL BE NO NEWSLETTER ON 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY or 7<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

### **SUNDAY'S SERVICE 26<sup>th</sup> May**

United Worship on Sunday will be at 10am in Tarves Kirk, when Alan Doak will be leading us in our time of intergeneration worship, followed by coffee.

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 Tarves Kirk link this week and on the 2<sup>nd</sup> June, and the Pitmedden link on June 9<sup>th</sup>.**

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=TVlybkJhMGtdXlWcnJ2RXpCWFRPdZ09>

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**

**Summer Holiday Club** plans are coming together and we will follow a similar format to the last two years running weekly on a Friday morning 10-11.30 rotating between Methlick (12<sup>th</sup> July & 2<sup>nd</sup> August) and Pitmedden (19<sup>th</sup> July & 9<sup>th</sup> August) kirks and Tarves Youth Hall (26<sup>th</sup> July & 16<sup>th</sup> August). If you are interested/available to help as an extra pair of hands please contact [carolinefyp@outlook.com](mailto:carolinefyp@outlook.com). Sessions are aimed at pre and primary school age.

We are also providing the opportunity for young people of academy age to be part of the leadership team: develop personal skills, be a positive role model and gain an accredited 'Dynamic Youth award' for their CV. They need to attend a minimum of three sessions over the summer 9.30-12 plus a planning session. Closing date for noting interest 16<sup>th</sup> June. [carolinefyp@outlook.com](mailto:carolinefyp@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**

**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 and June 2024**

**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 26<sup>th</sup> May in Tarves Kirk

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

### **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.**

Sun 26 <sup>th</sup>	10am united worship in Tarves Kirk with Alan Doak
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am <i>mainly music</i>
Tues 28 <sup>th</sup>	10-11.30am Coffee morning in Tarves Kirk

Wed 29<sup>th</sup> 7pm onwards, Boys' Brigade sections, in Udny Green Hall  
 Thurs 30<sup>th</sup> 3.15-5.15pm Youth Café in Pitmedden Kirk  
 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**

“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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