



# Formartine Parish Church

## Pitmedden Kirk

9<sup>th</sup> February 2024 Newsletter



*Juke Jerram's "Mars" in Exeter Cathedral*

This week I visited the National Space Centre in Leicester – a 96<sup>th</sup> birthday treat for my father, who has been fascinated and awed by space travel since the first moon landing in 1969. The day included a 30-minute show in the huge planetarium, where we ‘travelled’ from the earth through space, visiting planets, stars, nebulae, black holes, galaxies and onwards, to the very outer limit of the visible, vast universe. Our guide was obviously used to some people being overwhelmed by the immense sweep of the cosmos,


believed to be at least 10 billion light years in diameter, and expanding since it’s creation in the Big Bang about 13 billion years ago. He was very reassuring, and as we retraced our journey back to planet earth, he said that we might feel small and insignificant, almost invisible and of no consequence. However, on our planet life has evolved, from single celled organisms to complex human beings capable of exploring space. We live and love and make a difference in the lives of others.

I did indeed feel very small as I tried to get my head around the enormous dimensions of creation, the vast timescale involved, the breathtaking splendour of clouds of gas and matter, and especially the beauty of our own blue planet. It made me think.

“You alone are the Lord, Creator of the heavens and all the starts, Creator of the earth and those who live on it.” [Nehemiah 9].

“Body and soul, I am marvellously made – what a creation! You know me inside and out, you know every bone in my body...every hair on my head. All the days of my life were prepared before I was even born.” [Ps 139]

How great is our 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)

## **SUNDAY'S SERVICE 11<sup>th</sup> February**

The service on Sunday is at 10am in Pitmedden Kirk, followed by coffee.

Duty elders: Agnes and Carol

Readings: Psalm 30 and Mark 1:40-45

### **PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ZOOM LINK AND PASSCODE**

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/81768295781?pwd=c1ZiTHY2VFU2V05OTTdaNkpWRWw3dz09>

Meeting ID: 817 6829 5781

Passcode: 2024

One tap mobile

+442039017895,,81768295781#,,,,\*2024# United Kingdom

+442080806591,,81768295781#,,,,\*2024# United Kingdom

Dial by your location

- +44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom
- +44 208 080 6591 United Kingdom
- +44 208 080 6592 United Kingdom
- +44 330 088 5830 United Kingdom
- +44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom
- +44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom
- +44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom



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)

We will be collecting an **offering** each week during the service. Please also remember that giving by **standing order** is an easy way to give regularly to the work of the church, and if you pay tax, then **gift-aid** allows the church to benefit from additional funding. You can give regularly or as a one-off directly into the church bank account: 82-63-10 80485504. The name of this account changed on 1/1/24 to Formartine Parish Church. Members and adherents should have received a letter with more information. Please speak to your elder if you did not get the letter, if you want to discuss gift-aid, or if you have any questions.

**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!

It would be helpful to those who make our coffee each Sunday if you could bring your **own mug**. Thanks.

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 **Good Companions Club** resumes on Wednesday 21st February at 2pm in Pitmedden Public Hall. Stuart Anderson is the entertainer for the afternoon.

### **Formartine Parish Church**

We are now Formartine Parish Church of Scotland: Pitmedden Kirk! As well as a combined Session, which has had its first meeting, various teams with specific remits have been set up and are already functioning well, taking 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

Our **website and Facebook** pages will be updated and renamed soon – watch this space!

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)

# CROSSREACH

Care you can put your faith in

## PRESBYTERY NEWS

Within the bounds of our Presbytery, Crossreach, the Social Care Arm of the Church of Scotland, runs 6 Centres/Projects: 2 in Stonehaven, and one in each of Balmedie, Banchory, Buckie and on the Shetland Isles.

We can be duly proud that the Church

is so active in the care of others in Christ's name.

To celebrate, promote, and come together as a Presbytery round this work in our local area, several Presbyters have signed up to RUN FOR CROSSREACH at the BALMORAL RUNNING FESTIVAL on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> APRIL, and at the same time raise some money to support the world of CROSSREACH locally.

You can join in. It is not too late to sign up and run for CrossReach. To do so visit the Run Balmoral Page and let Rev Keith Blackwood ([KBlackwood@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:KBlackwood@churchofscotland.org.uk)) know that you have done so.

You can also support CrossReach by circulating the link to the JustGiving Page through your Congregation's email lists and media channels and share with your members and followers this opportunity to donate to the local CrossReach projects within our Presbytery bounds.

The Link to the designate fundraising Page is below:

[https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/running-for-CrossReachNENI?utm\\_term=QzRYzbQX6](https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/running-for-CrossReachNENI?utm_term=QzRYzbQX6)

## 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 10 <sup>th</sup>	10-11.30am Coffee morning in Barthol Chapel
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup>	10am services in Pitmedden and Tarves Kirks
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup>	10am <i>mainly music</i>
Tues 13 <sup>th</sup>	10-11.30am Coffee morning in Tarves Kirk
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup>	Boys' Brigade from 6.30pm in Udny Green Hall
Thurs 15 <sup>th</sup>	3-5pm Youth Café
<b>Tues 20<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7.30pm Session meeting in Pitmedden Kirk</b>
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	2pm Good Companions Club, Pitmedden Hall

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

Scottish Charity Number SC006056