



Formartine Parish Church

Pitmedden Kirk

8th March 2024 Newsletter



Those of you with a long memory may remember that the church notice sheet in pre-Covid days would have a 'quote for the week' which would often come from Father Richard Rohr, a Franciscan theologian who founded the Centre for Action and Contemplation. I have learned a lot from his meditations and books, particularly about my understanding of what he calls "*the first incarnation*", nature, the created world, and what creation can tell me about God, and my relationship with God. In fact, I believe God actively speaks to me through nature, as I take my daily dog-walks, so I'm not just prompted to worship the creator, but I often find my thoughts being directed down a particular path. Just as reading the Bible (the Word of God), or the life and example of Jesus (God's Word made flesh), can be comforting, challenging and inspiring, so can the physical world, the earth with its environment, landscape, plants and animals, and the cosmos, the universe beyond our world. We just need open eyes and a receptive mind.

The following excerpt was taken from Fr Richard's Monday email:


"On spring and summer mornings, I love to go out early with my little cup of coffee and walk through my garden... If I can somehow let my "roots and tendrils" reconnect me with the "givens" of life, not the ideas about life, but the natural world, what is—I experience the most extraordinary grounding, connection, healing, and even revelation. One little hopping bird can do me in!

Many of us have a sense of self or identity created by our relationship to ideas, thoughts, and words. We can spend our whole lives rattling around inside of ideas, rarely touching upon what is right in front of us, when it's the "givens" that heal us and reconnect us to Reality. We spend a majority of our time interacting with thoughts and opinions about everything. We're almost entirely fixated on our computers, smart phones, news feeds, email, social media, and selfies. This is, of course, an "unnatural" world of our own creation. We don't even realize that we've disconnected ourselves from the only world that people lived in for most of human history.

One of the foundational reasons for our sense of isolation and unhappiness is that we have lost our contact with nature. In the natural world, there is no theology to agree or disagree with. We don't have to identify as Presbyterian or Lutheran, male or female, conservative or progressive. There is nothing to argue about. It is in contact with all the "givens"—that which has been available to every creature God has created since the Big Bang—that something is indeed given. I guess in the spiritual world we would call it grace.

This is not some New Age idea. In Scripture we read, "What can be known about God is perfectly plain, since God has made it plain. Ever since God created the world, God's everlasting power and divinity,

however invisible, have been there for the mind to see in the things that God has made” (Romans 1:19–20). Every day, we are given a natural way to reconnect with God and it doesn’t depend upon intelligence, education, or a religion. It depends on really being present and connecting with the soul. Of course, it’s not as simple as just standing in my garden. If I get my email first or start worrying and planning my day, the moment’s over. It’s done because I’m not really present. But we can preserve and protect those sacred moments before we read the news or check our email, before we look at social media or review the day’s agenda. If we can find a way to be present to the “givens,” especially the natural “givens,” I believe we can be happy.”

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 8th March

Fourth Sunday in Lent

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

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=OUJYQnNoUjhNVk1qMkhtT0FvMThPd09&omn=81768295781>

Meeting ID: 218 697 7011
Passcode: 2024



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

From Caroline - Formartine Youth Project

Please note change of time for bag packing in Pitmedden: Now **12 o'clock Wednesday 13th March.**
10am Friday 15th in Tarves - more the merrier - please confirm if you can make it.
carolinefyp@outlok.com

Setting up for the Interactive Walk Through Holy Week experiences will be **Tuesday 19th at 3.30pm in Pitmedden** and **Sunday 17th in Tarves after the service.**

We are on the look out for artificial Christmas trees, grey material, green material, neutral coloured cushions, earthenware pottery . Please make sure everything is LABELLED.

The Pitmedden / Udney Walk through is **Thursday 21st at 11am** for one session (about 1.5 hours) & **Friday 22nd at 11am in Tarves.** It a great experience and the young people love it!. There can be a bit of role play if you like but if not plenty of support roles to help things run smoothly too.

Please get involved if you can it is a really rewarding out-reach experience with our young people.

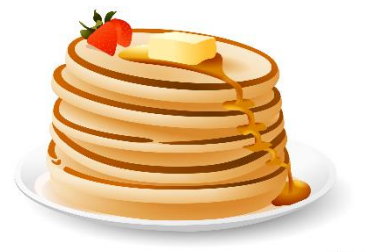
Date for the Diary: Pitmedden Youth Cafe are doing a **Community litter pick Saturday 23rd March** from 4pm followed by snacks and movie! Please come and join us and help make Pitmedden beautiful! Meet at Haddo Medical Practice Carpark. Please wear weather appropriate clothing and bring gardening gloves. carolinefyp@outlook.com

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!

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 Boys Brigade pancake morning is on Saturday

16th March 10-12 Dr Spence Memorial Hall.



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 Alison 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

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.

Sun 10 th	10am worship in Pitmedden and Tarves Kirks
Tues 12 th	9.30am <i>mainly music</i>
Tues 12 th	10-11.30am Coffee morning in Tarves Kirk
Wed 13 th	Boys' Brigade sections, from 7pm in Udney Green Hall
Thurs 14 th	3.15-5.15pm Youth Café in Pitmedden Kirk
Sat 16 th	10am-12pm BB Pancake morning, Udney Green Hall
Sat 16 th	12-1.30pm Lunch in Tarves Youth Hall
Sun 17 th	10am worship in Pitmedden and Tarves Kirks
Wed 20 th	2pm Good Companions in Pitmedden Hall, with Pitmedden School pupils
Sun 24 th	9.30am Palm Sunday walk from Tarves to Pitmedden over the Drove Road 11am service in Pitmedden Kirk, preceded by coffee
Thurs 28 th	7pm Maundy supper and communion in Pitmedden Kirk
Fri 29 th	7pm Good Friday service in Tarves Kirk
Sun 31 st	10am Easter Celebration service in Tarves Kirk, followed by refreshments



You won't go hungry on **Saturday 16th March!**

Coffee and pancakes with the BBs in Udney Green, then off to Tarves for lunch to celebrate the opening of the Youth Hall.

If you need a lift for either event, contact Elaine.

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 or on 01651 851295

From 1st April, our Interim Moderator will be Rev Alastair Bruce, Minister at Ellon. He can be contacted at abruce@churchofscotland.org.uk or 01358 723787

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