



# Formartine Parish Church

19<sup>th</sup> April 2024 Newsletter



*Blessed are those who trust in the Lord, whose trust is in the Lord. They shall be like a tree planted by the water, sending out its roots by the stream. It shall not fear when the heat comes, and its leaves shall stay green; in the year of drought it is not anxious, and it does not cease to bear fruit.*  
*Jeremiah 17:7-8 NRSVA*


Today I spotted celandine growing in two different situations. The photographs don't show it very well – I should have taken a ruler on my walk! – but those growing in the shadows of the wood have leaves about 2cm across with flowers the size of a penny, but mostly closed. The ones growing on the banks of the stream have far fewer leaves, but they are 4cm in diameter, the flowers are more numerous and not only much bigger, but fully open to the sun.

I was reminded of this verse from Jeremiah, and similar sentiments in Psalm 1 (...trees planted by streams of water...yield their fruit in season...in all that they do, they prosper) and Ezekial 47 (...on the banks, on both sides of the river...they will bear fresh fruit every month because the water for them flows from the sanctuary. Their fruit will be for food, and their leaves for healing.)

What can we learn from these humble flowers? Our roots should not just go down deep, but we need to be planted where we can feed on, and be refreshed by, the source of life itself, God and God's Spirit. To be fruitful, to feed and help others, and be a healing presence where God has placed us, we need

to access God's sustaining, supporting, powerful and nourishing presence, 24/7. A 'shower of rain' on Sunday, or a 'dip in the pool' at a mid-week study group is great, and keeps us going. But to flourish, bear fruit, be transformed into the people God has created us to be and spread the Gospel, we will need to make dwelling by the river of life and accessing all that God offers us, our way of life.

At a time of change for us all, finding our feet and our place, not only in a new united parish, but a parish in vacancy, we can all draw upon the water of life that God freely offers, at all times and in all situations, and offer ourselves and the gifts God gives us to each other and our communities.

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 21<sup>st</sup> April**

There will be worship services on Sunday at 10am in Pitmedden Kirk and Tarves Kirk, followed by coffee. Patricia Findlay will be preaching in Pitmedden, and the readings are Exodus 3:1-15 and Mark 1:14-20

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 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](mailto:elainemoff@aol.com) (Pitmedden) or Susanna [sembichard@aol.com](mailto:sembichard@aol.com) (Tarves)

### From Caroline - Formartine Youth Project

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.

A Big Shout Out and thank you to Sean Swindells who is running **the London Marathon this Sunday!!** He 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](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](http://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](mailto: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 Tarves, Barthol Chapel and Udney & Pitmedden in past times.

**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 plate 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 ask your elder for a Gift Aid form or contact [formartinechurchtreasurer@outlook.com](mailto:formartinechurchtreasurer@outlook.com) You can give regularly or as a one-off directly into the church bank account: **82-63-10 80485504**

## **Formartine Parish Church Teams**

Various teams with specific remits have been set up to take care of the practical and spiritual aspects of our united congregation 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 [smbichard@aol.com](mailto:smbichard@aol.com)

**Opportunity for Service** - An upgrade to the IT system has been installed to ensure compatibility between Tarves and Pitmedden. 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 our Roll Keeper, Alison Bruce as soon as possible [alisonbruce10@gmail.com](mailto:alisonbruce10@gmail.com)

### **April 2024**

**21<sup>st</sup> Tarves / Pitmedden Kirks**

**28<sup>th</sup> United worship Pitmedden Kirk**

### **May 2024**

**5<sup>th</sup> Tarves / Pitmedden Kirks**

**12<sup>th</sup> Tarves / Pitmedden Kirks**

**19<sup>th</sup> United worship Pitmedden Kirk**

**26<sup>th</sup> 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](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.**

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

### **NOTE: The church rolls will be available for inspection in Pitmedden Kirk at the united service on Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> April**

Sat 20 <sup>th</sup>	10am-1pm Reflective Day (see info below)
Sun 21 <sup>st</sup>	10am worship in Pitmedden and Tarves Kirks
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup>	9.30am <i>mainly music</i>
Tues 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10-11.30am Coffee morning in Tarves Kirk
Wed 24 <sup>th</sup>	7pm onwards, Boys' Brigade sections, in Udney Green Hall
Thurs 25 <sup>th</sup>	3.15-5.15pm Youth Café in Pitmedden Kirk
Sun 28 <sup>th</sup>	10am United worship with communion, Pitmedden Kirk, Rev Alastair Bruce, Interim Moderator
Tues 2 <sup>nd</sup> May	7pm Mid-Formartine Guild in Tarves Kirk, with Christine Wilkie speaking about her book "From Barbados Banffshire via Guyana". All welcome
Thurs 9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>7.30pm Session in Pitmedden Kirk</b>

### A Day of Reflection

#### **When and Where?**

The day will take place on Saturday 20 April at St Mary's Church Centre, Inverurie.

We gather from 10:00am for coffee and then a 10:30am prompt start, and will close with lunch (please bring a packed lunch) at around 12:30pm until 1:00pm.

#### **What's the Theme?**

The theme the leaders for this day have chosen is Recognising the Risen Jesus.

#### **Want to join us?**

Simply email us at [epiphanynescot@gmail.com](mailto:epiphanynescot@gmail.com) to let us know you are coming. You (and anyone you might like to invite to come with you!) will be very welcome!

#### **Need Transport?**

If you'd like to come but will find it difficult to get to Inverurie, please let us know. If we can, we'll see if anyone else is coming from your area who might be able to give you a lift.

#### **Can't come but like the material?**

Not a problem - material can be emailed out a day or two before the event for you to join in with us in spirit. Please email us to tell us you would like the material and we'll include you on the mailing.

#### **Donations**

Donations are requested to cover the costs of running the day and we currently request that donations are given in cash on the day.

## 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

### **Life and Work: June 2024 Presbytery Focus - North East and Northern Isles**

In 2024 Life and Work magazine launched a series called Presbytery Focus. The forthcoming June issue will feature the Presbytery of North East and Northern Isles. You might be interested in reading about our own Presbytery.

**Personal Purchase** There is the option for individuals to purchase single copies in print or digital format via the magazine's website [www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe](http://www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe) Digital issue only £2.99 and print £3.50. Anyone making a personal purchase will pay during the online order process. You can also order a print copy by contacting Muriel Milne as soon as possible [Muriel.milne@outlook.com](mailto:Muriel.milne@outlook.com)

"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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