



Formartine Parish Church

3rd May 2024 Newsletter




As a young child, prayer to me was either saying the “This night as I lay down to sleep...” prayer, seeking blessing for a long list of relatives whose names I had to remember, in order, or the long winded, off the cuff types in a service, where I staved off boredom and fidgeting by counting the number of times one old man, who loved the sound of his own voice, said “Oh, Lord...” in a particularly dramatic and doom-laden tone – think Fraser in Dads’ Army! As a teenager, I would experience Cathedral choirs singing Latin prayers, charismatics praying in tongues, repetition of The Lord’s Prayer or The Shema, and the earnest pleading with God in a prayer meeting, to intervene in a particular situation of injustice or suffering. As an adult, having worshipped in many different denominations in different circumstances, my experience has been broadened and enriched. Art, movement, activities at prayer stations, walking a labyrinth or in woods, even silence, has been added to the mix. I’m sure many of you will have similar experiences of different ways to

pray in a formal setting, or in your own life.

None of these experiences are ‘wrong’ or ‘right’, just different ways of communicating with a God who loves to hear from us, and converse with us. We might feel that our prayers must be eloquent, that prayer is best articulated by a ‘professional’ and then we can say ‘Amen’. We might think that God will not be interested in the everyday goings-on in our lives. We might be tempted to keep a shell around our inner life, present a smooth, perfect exterior, not just to our acquaintances, but also to God. But I would encourage you to break that shell, to be really open with God, and see what a difference it makes to your relationship.

This week, I came across some advice from an unnamed Rabbi who has spent his life on the streets of New York, rescuing children from homelessness and prostitution.

“When you pray, talk to God just as if you were talking to your best friend. Tell the Holy One everything. Especially, dedicate specific times each day when you tell God about all your worries, all your hurts, all of your problems. Take off your mask and just speak. If you do that, if you really let your whole essence speak to God like that, some days there will be a lot of tears. But that’s a good thing. And when you are done telling God about your hurts... just silently rest in God, letting God hold you. And then for the rest of the day practice joy and optimism knowing that you are God’s beloved child, knowing that you are loved, and knowing that you are carrying a great gift in your heart... In some of the most difficult times in my life, this way of prayer is what saved me—telling God everything, crying with God, wrestling with God, and then when all is said and done, just resting in God, feeling loved into newness, feeling loved into aliveness and joy.”

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 SERVICES 5th May

Worship on Sunday will be at 10am in Pitmedden Kirk and Tarves Kirk, followed by coffee. Alan Doak will be preaching in Pitmedden, and the readings are 1 John 5:1-6 and John 15:9-17.

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=OUJYQnNoUjhNVk1qMkhtTOFvMThPd309&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=TVlybkJhMGtwdXlWcnJ2RXpCWFRPd309>

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 (Pitmedden) or Susanna sembichard@aol.com (Tarves)

From Caroline - Formartine Youth Project

Thank you to everyone who supported Sean in the London Marathon this year. We are incredibly grateful that he chose to raise money for Formartine Youth Project. He has so far raised an amazing £1300. It's not too late to donate and please do complete a gift aid form if you are a UK tax payer. We can claim an extra 25p per £1 donated at no extra cost to yourself!. Forms are available from Caroline: carolinefyp@outlook.com



[Sean's fundraiser for Formartine Youth Project](#)

Help Sean Swindells raise money to support Formartine Parish Church

www.justgiving.com

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 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

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 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

May 2024

5th Tarves and Pitmedden Kirks – with Alan Doak in Pitmedden

12th Tarves and Pitmedden Kirks – with Patricia Findlay in Tarves

19th United worship at Pitmedden Kirk – Pentecost, with Susanna Richard

26th United worship at Tarves Kirk – with Alan Doak

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

United worship services

These will usually be on the 4th and 5th Sunday of the month and will alternate between Tarves and Pitmedden. The next one is this Sunday 28th 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

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 4 th May	8.30am Big breakfast in Pitmedden. Last orders 10.30
Sun 5 th	10am worship services in Pitmedden and Tarves
Tues 7 th	9.30am <i>mainly music</i>
Tues 7 th	10-11.30am Coffee morning in Tarves Kirk
Wed 8 th	7pm onwards, Boys' Brigade sections, in Udney Green Hall
Thurs 9 th	3.15-5.15pm Youth Café in Pitmedden Kirk
Thurs 9 th	7.30pm Session in Pitmedden 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 McKown, 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 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

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

May is also the month of the General Assembly. Details are in Life and Work and on the Church of Scotland's webpage www.churchofscotland.org.uk All sessions are also public, and you can view and download papers, and follow live on the website.

"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 or 01358 723787

Scottish Charity Number SC006056