

Formartine Parish: Pitmedden Kirk Newsletter 26th January 2024



We are used to seeing logos every day – on the appliances we use, on our food packaging, our cars, in adverts. Often we don't need to read any words to know which company made the article or which organisation is being represented. 'Logo' is an abbreviation of *logotype*, from the two Ancient Greek words *logos*, meaning word or speech, and *tupos*, meaning mark or imprint. It is a graphic mark, emblem or symbol used to aid and promote public identification and recognition, and may be abstract or figurative in design. [Wikipedia]

This is the new logo for Formartine Parish. It has been designed by Danny Ross, who worships at Tarves Kirk, and here is his explanation for the various elements in the logo:

CROSS The symbol of Christianity. The cross brings us all together in Christ's love, forgiveness, and salvation, in unity of purpose.


FLAMES The three flames represent the three congregations. Barthol Chapel — a living flame. Tarves

— a living flame. Udney Pitmedden — a living flame. The living flames reference the day of Pentecost, marking the beginning of the Church. The flames also allude to the Burning Bush, the emblem of the Church of Scotland.

DOVE The dove represents the moment when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus, when he was baptised by John, marking the start of his ministry.

What better representation could we have of our life, not just as a church community, but as individuals. We have Christ at our centre, informing all we do. We are surrounded by other followers of Jesus, encouraging and supporting, keeping the fire going, and reminding us of God's inextinguishable love. We have the Spirit, both within us and flying free, leading us forward into a new way of being.

Let's pray that these 'identifying marks' really define us as individuals and as a parish as we continue to explore our mission in the wider community. May we embody this logo, so that others will readily see Jesus at the centre of all we are and do, feel the warmth and sense of family that God's unconditional love brings to God's people, and know the hope, assurance and sense of direction that the indwelling Spirit brings to our unpredictable lives.

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 28th Jan

The communion service on Sunday is at 10am in Tarves Kirk, led by Rev Dr Alison Swindells, and followed by coffee.

Topic: Formartine Parish: Tarves Kirk Sunday Service

This is a recurring link.

<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 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

We will be collecting an **offering** each week during the service. Please also remember that giving by **direct debit** 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.

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

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

Alpha news from Jeannie Price

We wanted to let you know that we are running another in-person Alpha course in the New Year, and would really love you to support it. The course is going to be held at the Coffee Apothecary in Udney on Wednesday evenings from 7pm – 9pm. We're really excited about what God can and will do through Alpha and look forward to this next Alpha chapter.

How might you support it?

Firstly, through prayer – please pray for the team leading the course, those invited to come along and every aspect of the catering and technical “stuff”.

Secondly, by promoting the course and inviting people along – the vast majority of those who attend Alpha come along because of a personal invitation. We're willing to come and do a short Alpha plug, if appropriate, during a Sunday service or your Session meeting.

And thirdly, through supporting us financially. The cost of running the course and providing a meal and coffee each week for guests is expected to be in the region of £4,000.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch. alpha@methlickparish.church

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 28 th	10am joint communion service @Tarves Kirk
Tues 30 th	<i>mainly music</i>
Wed 31 st	Boys' Brigade from 6.30pm in Udney Green Hall
Wed 31 st	7pm Alpha @ The Apothecary
Thurs 1 st Feb	Youth Café
Sat 3 rd	8.30am Big Breakfast. Last orders 10.30am
Sun 4 th	10am services in Pitmedden and Tarves Kirks
Sun 11 th	10am services in Pitmedden and Tarves Kirks
Tues 20 th	7.30pm Session meeting in Pitmedden Kirk

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

Scottish Charity Number SC006056