



# Formartine Parish Church

## Pitmedden Kirk

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



How crazy does this 'crinkle crinkle', or zig-zag wall look? Why build a wall like this? What benefits are there to this design as opposed to a straight wall – other than to make me smile?


Well, although it is longer than an equivalent straight wall in this position would be, it uses less than half the number of bricks. A straight wall would need to be at least two bricks wide if not more, and would often need buttresses at regular intervals along its length. Despite its unconventional appearance and economy of components, the wavy wall gains extra strength from its clever arched structure, where every brick works together to deflect wind and give support. Sturdy walls like this have been being built for hundreds of years.

So, fewer bricks, leaning on and relying on each other, doing the job and acquiring extra strength, even although it looks

unconventional to our eyes. Stronger by deliberate design, not by accident or circumstance.

It is frequently said that churches in vacancy, if they can adapt and are open to a degree of change and doing things differently, become stronger. They come to value and use the gifts that all the church family has, in perhaps new and different ways, so that even if numbers are few, the warmth of the welcome and friendship, the significance of the worship, and the relevance of teaching and learning together, has deep importance. Everyone works together and becomes stronger in their faith as they bring what they have for the benefit of all.

As a parish, we are meeting together in new ways, sometimes with our minister Alison leading us, and sometimes with other people in our fellowship using their different gifts to lead our worship. After Easter, we will be in vacancy, and our congregations will move into another way of being and doing, sharing our lives, worship, service and mission. We will all continue to work together, as we look to discern the person God is calling to be part of Formartine parish and walk with us into our future. We have already been exploring our gifts and how we can use them to build the church, trying different things, taking advantage of technology, acknowledging our strengths *and* our weaknesses, and appreciating the opportunity to share our resources. We are all finding our place in the wall.

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 16<sup>th</sup> February**

## **First Sunday in Lent**

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

Duty elder: Anne Grant

Readings: Isaiah 58:6-12, Mark1:9-15

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

Formartine Parish: Pitmedden Kirk is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81768295781?pwd=c1ZiTHY2VFU2V05OTTdaNkpWRWw3dz09>

Meeting ID: 817 6829 5781

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](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.

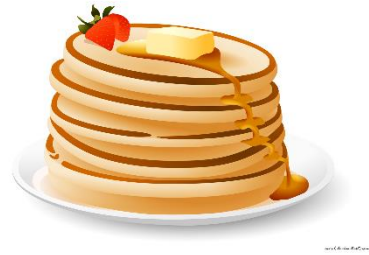
**The Giving Table** will be happy to receive anything that can be 'sold' and spare produce – veg, fruit, baking, flowers, eggs, etc. – that you may have. Donations will go to church funds. Don't forget to 'buy' items, too!

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 Boys Brigade pancake morning is this Saturday!!**

**16th March 10 -12 Dr Spence Memorial Hall.**



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**

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](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 17 <sup>th</sup>	10am-12pm BB Pancake morning, Udney Green
Sun 18 <sup>th</sup>	10am services in Pitmedden and Tarves Kirks
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am <i>mainly music</i>
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup>	10-11.30am Coffee morning in Tarves Kirk
Tues 20 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm Session meeting in Pitmedden Kirk
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	2pm Good Companions Club, Pitmedden Hall
Wed 21 <sup>st</sup>	Boys' Brigade from 6.30pm in Udney Green Hall
Thurs 22 <sup>nd</sup>	3-5pm Youth Café
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	10am joint service and communion at Pitmedden Kirk
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>	Zoom chat exploring church membership. Contact Alison for link

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