



# Formartine Parish Church

## Pitmedden Kirk

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



It's nice to see signs of spring around the place: buds, snowdrops and bluebells, birdsong, the wild ducks returning to our pond... even a bit of warmth in the sun. Each season has its pros and cons, of course, and winter seems to have more cons than pros. However, there is a certain beauty in the skeletal trees, the lack of weeds, and frost on the grass.

One thing the dearth of foliage highlights, is the support underpinning familiar structures and vegetation, and we get to see little gems that are otherwise hidden. As my photo this week shows, first there is the trellis. This gives the clematis a supportive structure to cling to, something to wrap its tendrils around. This in turn provides a safe and secure environment, particularly when it is in full leaf, for a bird to build a nest, lay eggs, and bring up its young.

Underpinning and strength, cooperation, symbiosis, working together. What a great reminder of God's relationship with us, and ours with each other. God gives us a solid base, a stable structure, which enables us to grow, flourish and thrive. We are free to branch out and explore our environment, in the knowledge that our support is firm and true. Only then, as we hold fast to God as our foundation, can we become strong enough to support others, to work together, and enjoy the fulfilment that comes from collaboration and teamwork, building relationships and partnering with those around us. Climbing plant, nest, bird, eggs, chicks... all able to thrive only because of the strong and steady trellis.

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)



**Second Sunday in Lent**

**SUNDAY'S SERVICE 25<sup>th</sup> February**

The Formartine Parish communion service on Sunday is at 10am in Pitmedden Kirk, followed by coffee.  
Duty elders: Muriel Milne and Fiona Entwistle  
Reading: Mark 8:31-38

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

Apologies to those who were unable to join on Zoom last week. This will be the link for the foreseeable future.

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

One tap mobile  
+442080806592,,2186977011#,,,,\*2024# United Kingdom  
+443300885830,,2186977011#,,,,\*2024# United Kingdom

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Dial by your location

- +44 208 080 6592 United Kingdom
- +44 330 088 5830 United Kingdom
- +44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom
- +44 203 481 5237 United Kingdom
- +44 203 481 5240 United Kingdom
- +44 203 901 7895 United Kingdom
- +44 208 080 6591 United Kingdom

Meeting ID: 218 697 7011  
Passcode: 2024

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kGu1ZyXz7>



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)

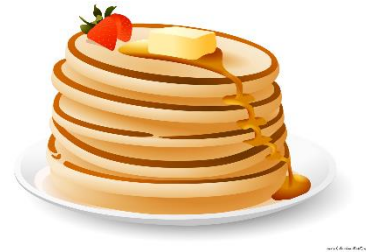
We will be collecting an **offering** each week during the service. Please also remember that giving by **standing order** is an easy way to give regularly to the work of the church, and if you pay tax, then **gift-aid** allows the church to benefit from additional funding. You can give regularly or 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!

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](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)

## 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 25 <sup>th</sup>	10am Formartine Parish communion service at Pitmedden Kirk
Mon 26 <sup>th</sup>	Zoom chat exploring church membership. Contact Alison for link
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am <i>mainly music</i>
Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>	10-11.30am Coffee morning in Tarves Kirk
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup>	Boys' Brigade from 6.30pm in Udny Green Hall
Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup>	3.15-5.15pm Youth Café
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup> March	8.30am Big Breakfast. <b>Last orders 10.30</b>
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	10am worship in Pitmedden and Tarves Kirks
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm Session meeting with Presbytery Planning Team, Tarves Youth Hall
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	10am-12pm BB Pancake morning, Udny Green
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup>	12-1.30pm Lunch in Tarves Youth Hall



You won't go hungry on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March!

Coffee and pancakes with the BBs in Udny 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](mailto:swindells@churchofscotland.org.uk) or on 01651 851295

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