



Formartine Parish Church

10th May 2024 Newsletter



Two peas in a pod... well, almost. They may be litter-sisters, having the same parents and a shared early upbringing, but one has lived with me in the country, and one with my daughter in a city. They have different personalities. One would run off exploring at the drop of a lead (she does have good recall, thank goodness!), the other hardly strays from my side. One is a blue, one black. One is slight of build, one chunkier, they have different head shapes... etc.

Last Sunday in church I was asked the ages of my daughters, and it reminded me how close they are in age – at one stage I had three children under 3 years old. I was delighted, thinking they would be great friends as they grew older, sharing their background, experiences and outlook. I'm happy to say they are good friends, and are just about to go on holiday together, a girls' week to belatedly celebrate a 40th birthday. However, I know there will be tongues bitten, allowances made, preferences voted on, and some necessary 'alone' time built in, as well as enthusiastically

shared outings, adventures and down time. Despite having the same upbringing, they are their own people, with very different personalities and characters, individuals with a shared heritage but a unique take on things. It's a good thing, and I like to think I brought them up to be independent and free thinking. I'm sure this will resonate with many of you who are siblings or parents.

As I was gathering the information for the newsletter, and reflecting with others on our new united parish and the Parish Profile being prepared for interested ministers, it made me look at Barthol Chapel, Tarves, Pitmedden, and Udny; the villages, the Kirks, and the congregations. We have a shared heritage both as Christians and as Presbyterians in the North East of Scotland. Each individual who worships in Formartine will have shared experiences as well as very different ones. Just the fact that so far we will have been led in our worship and witness by many different ministers, each with their own individual take on life, on spirituality and our place in the world, will have shaped our thinking and our approach to living as God's people.

At the end of the day, though, we are brothers and sisters, family. We share a father, a friend and a soulmate. We can love each other without agreeing on everything. We can work together without always getting our own way. We can be forgiving when we – or others – get it wrong. We can appreciate each other's strengths and weaknesses and be enriched by the process of 'getting on' as children of God. Unity without uniformity is the way forward – otherwise how dull life would be!

You might like to try 'Pause', or two each day to rest in



an App designed to help you do just that and take a minute 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



This Sunday, 12th, sees the start of Christian Aid week, and we will be finding out more during the service. For further information, and to make an **online donation** visit <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/> There will also be an opportunity to donate at the door in both Kirks in the collection basket. The focus this year is on Burundi.

SUNDAY'S SERVICES 12th May

Worship on Sunday will be at 10am in Pitmedden Kirk and Tarves Kirk, followed by coffee. Patricia Findlay will be preaching in Tarves, and will have a friend, Desire, from Burundi with her. The readings are Psalm 86:1-7 and Mark 12:28-31

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 Tarves 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=OUJYQnNoUjhNVk1qMkhtT0FvMThPd09&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=TVlybkJhMGtwdXlWcnJ2RXpCWFRPd09>

Meeting ID: 871 6811 2624

Passcode: 191245

Dial by your location: 0131 460 1196



Would you like to be part of the **worship team** that plans and/or leads our services, or do the readings in church on 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 smbichard@aol.com (Tarves)



Good Companions is back this week, Wednesday at 2pm in Pitmedden Village Hall. This is the last meeting of the session, and is a games afternoon, with quizzes, bingo and raffles. Names will be taken for the summer outing to Brechin along with £12.50 per member. Never been before? This is the perfect opportunity! All are very welcome.

It's the **Barthol Chapel Hub Café** on Saturday. There will be a plant stall, so please bring any house or garden plants you want to sell, and take some different ones home. They are also starting a book and DVD swap shelf, contributions welcome.

The poster features a checkered background. At the top, it reads 'Barthol Chapel Community' in black. Below that, 'Hub' is in red and 'Café' is in a large, black, cursive font. To the right, it says '2nd Saturday of the month' in black, '10.00-11.30' in red, and 'In former Barthol Chapel Kirk' in black. In the center, there is a white mug of coffee and a white plate with three cookies (two round, one square). At the bottom left is a red 'OPEN' sign. At the bottom right, it says 'Join us for a blether and a fine piece. Donations towards Hub Project welcome' in black. At the very bottom, the dates 'Saturday 11th May, 8th June, 13th July' are listed in black.

From Caroline - Formartine Youth Project



[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 basket 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 contact formartinechurchtreasurer@outlook.com for a Gift Aid form. 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

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

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

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 Sunday 19th May in Pitmedden with Susanna Bichard, as we celebrate Pentecost.

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 11 th	10-11.30am Hub Café in former Barthol Chapel Kirk
Sun 12 th	10am worship services in Pitmedden and Tarves
Tues 14 th	9.30am <i>mainly music</i>
Tues 14 th	10-11.30am Coffee morning in Tarves Kirk
Wed 15 th	2pm Good Companions, Pitmedden Village Hall
Wed 15 th	7pm onwards, Boys’ Brigade sections, in Udney Green Hall

Thurs 16th 3.15-5.15pm Youth Café in Pitmedden Kirk
 Sun 19th 10am united worship for Pentecost with Susanna Bichard in Pitmedden
 Sat 8th June 10-11.30am Hub Café in former Barthol Chapel Kirk
 Sat 13th July 10-11.30am Hub Café in former Barthol Chapel 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 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 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

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