

Barthol Chapel linked with Tarves

PARISH PROFILE



There will be shouts of joy...

Our Vision

The congregations of Barthol Chapel and Tarves are committed to finding effective ways of sharing God's love. We believe the Bible is relevant today and offers essential words of comfort and personal challenge to everyone. God has equipped us all with talents and skills and encourages us, through the Bible, to use them to develop and to help each other.

We want our Churches to be alive with those who serve our Lord and to attract others to share our faith. We are strong in some areas of outreach, but need to go further. We pray that we can develop meaningful ministry to all parts of our communities, to the villages and the more dispersed rural population, becoming more aware of people's needs and aspirations and developing our service to them.

Our links with young people have grown, through Messy Church, Sunday School, JAFFA Club and the Youth Group. We pray that our new minister will help us to make Jesus relevant in the lives of our young people and that our young people will become actively involved in all areas of church life.



Barthol Chapel linked with Tarves look forward to welcoming a new minister who will enjoy being part of our two communities and who will lead us forward as we offer Christian worship, pastoral care and outreach in rural Aberdeenshire.

We need someone with enthusiasm, vision and spiritual insight to lead our congregations in creative ways, to develop our church life, and to reach out to all ages and lifestyles. We see our new minister providing a network of support, fellowship and spiritual contact throughout both parishes.



Zephaniah 3:17

The LORD your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing

How we share our spirituality

In Worship

Susanna is a Reader based in Tarves who has been active in Presbytery since 2007, conducting worship and taking funerals; she would like to be part of the worship team with our new minister.

The Barthol Chapel Worship Team contributes to worship with occasional prayers and addresses and sometimes the team leads the whole service.

Bible Study Group — Uncage the Lion

This Bible study group meets in Barthol Chapel about four times a year. They meet in each other's homes to explore Christianity together in an informal setting over

supper with topics coming from the group.

House Group

The House Group meets every Wednesday in Tarves for discussion and prayer and the meeting is open to all denominations.

With Music

Tarves has a wonderful, well maintained pipe organ and piano and the choir leads the hymns every Sunday. The acoustics in the church are excellent.

Barthol Chapel has an enthusiastic group of musicians who play for family services and other services as opportunities arise. People of all ages play together with a wide range

of instruments including chamber organ, recorder, clarinet, violin and guitar.

Joint Services

There are several joint services through the year where Barthol Chapel and Tarves worship together: a dedication service to mark the start of the Church year, a Carols by Candlelight service before Christmas, and a service in Christian Aid week followed by a fund-raising lunch.

On Palm Sunday there is a short service in Tarves, followed by a walk to Barthol Chapel, where there is tea and coffee for the walkers (and drivers) followed by the morning service.

Ythanbank Services

The Churches of Barthol Chapel, Methlick, Tarves and Udny / Pitmedden meet with Parishioners from Ythanbank four times a year in the local Mission Hall for joint services and fellowship.

Invitation Services

Barthol Chapel held their second pets' blessing service last summer. 1 horse, 10 dogs, 2 cats, a hamster and a chicken were blessed on a glorious summer's day. Unfortunately, the alpacas were on holiday.

A St Andrew's Day invitation service at Barthol Chapel focused on Scotland's patron saint.



We have fellowship, friendship and faith in our future

Fellowship in the Churches

You will find up to 40 villagers in Tarves Church on a Tuesday morning for fellowship and coffee. Once a month the local playgroup comes up and visits — coffee probably isn't the attraction, more likely it is the 'biscuit'. Tarves serves tea / coffee on the first Sunday of the month, offering time for fellowship.

Barthol Chapel serves tea / coffee and fine pieces twice a month after services. Fellowship is warm and usually prolonged, with the beadle struggling to eject stragglers.

The Guilds

Tarves Guild is long established. It meets monthly from September until May and is one of the best supported guilds in the area with a lively programme of speakers and

events. The Tarves Guild annual Soup and Sweet has become a firm fixture in the village calendar.

Barthol Chapel Guild has been meeting for over 90 years and has recently grown. The Guild holds several meetings throughout the year when members meet informally to praise, pray and socialise. Guest speakers are invited and there is also a Christmas party and a summer outing.

Both Guilds have a long tradition of commitment to supporting and raising awareness of the financial needs of partner organisations in Scotland and overseas.

The Tarves Breakfast

The Tarves Breakfast has wide support from all.

Regular customers, occasional visitors and hungry walkers who just happen to pass by the Youth Hall, go no further until they have investigated a bacon roll.

We have a head-chef, a sous-chef, drinks waiters and helpers who channel food from kitchen to customer — a thoroughly professional and experienced crew who smile throughout.

October Harvest Home

The October Harvest Home is an annual event and funds from this go towards the maintenance of Tarves Youth Hall.

A Stovie Supper and local entertainment follow the evening Harvest Thanksgiving in the Church, and the congregation's welcome

donations of food are in turn given to the Cyrenians in Aberdeen.

Church Community events

Barthol Chapel congregation regularly contributes to community events such as the village Burns Night celebrations, bingo nights and fireworks.

Tarves Christmas Eve Service

The 2015 Christmas Eve Carol Service was a huge success, attracting a lot of our Messy Church families. They enjoyed the relaxed child-friendly evening with many staying afterwards to chat over hot chocolate, mulled wine, mince pies and stollen.

Subsequent comments on our Messy Church Facebook page were very encouraging.



How do we reach out to those who need our help?

Barthol Chapel and Tarves have local, regional and overseas outreach connections.

Blytheswood Care Shoe Box Appeal and North East Scotland Support for Romania

Tarves and Barthol Chapel sent 125 wrapped boxes to the Blytheswood Shoebox Appeal after the November 2015 dedication service. Tarves Guild also co-ordinates monthly collections for the North East Scotland Support for Romania.

Christian Aid

We have a history of generosity towards Christian Aid. Tarves co-ordinates a door to door collection throughout the parish and also holds a coffee morning while Barthol Chapel hosts a soup and sweet lunch for both churches at the end of Christian Aid week.

Over £2,600 was raised in 2015.

Nkhoma Hospital, Malawi

Tarves continue to support Nkhoma with knitting for the babies and children in hospital and little skirts so girls can dress for school. The Raven Trust now arrange transport out to

Nkhoma.

Poppyscotland Appeal

The Tarves War Memorial is a focal point at the top of Kirk Brae. The sacrifice of local men from both Wars will never be forgotten.

Each year Tarves Messy Church children make a poppy wreath and lay this alongside the British Legion, Aberdeenshire Council and personal wreaths. In Nov 2015 the children also created a tree of remembrance which is displayed in Tarves Church; each leaf on the tree symbolises a dead soldier from the parish.

Barthol Chapel has a meaningful Remembrance Service and wreath-laying, with the welcome contribution of the British Legion.

Pastoral Care

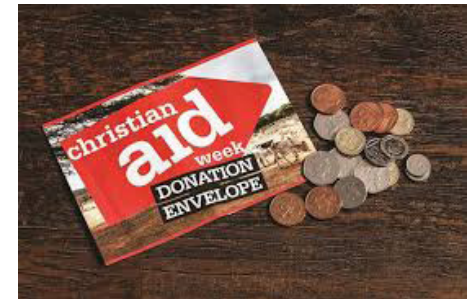
The Tarves Pastoral Care Team ensures that anyone going through a difficult time is offered support. This varies and may include visits, practical help, lifts or Church flowers.

We keep a record of bereavements and on the first anniversary a card of our own design is delivered in

person. This is much appreciated.

Currently the team is made up of members of the congregation and session but would also include the minister. Support is offered to the whole community with discretion and confidentiality. Our aim is to embody the Gospel.

In Barthol Chapel, pastoral care is less formalised and works by word of mouth. This works well for the people we know about. But we need a leader to help develop a better approach, so people don't fall through the net because they are new to the community, or isolated geographically, physically or socially.



How do we meet the need of children and youth in our Parishes?

The churches have links with Barthol Chapel and Tarves Primaries and Meldrum Academy

Sunday School

A small Sunday School meets at Barthol Chapel during school term.

Barthol Chapel Youth Group

Between 5 and 10 young people from P7 and above get together once a month during school term. They also have outings to tenpin bowling and help out at social events in the village.

Messy Church

The success of Messy Church in Tarves has encouraged our focus on children and families. These two groups are at the heart of Tarves,

and being able to bring them along to the Youth Hall and introduce them to a fellowship for families has been a privilege since we began in March 2013. We can welcome up to 31 children and 25 parents at any Messy. We even have had others visit us to see 'how it is done'! Donations from Messy Church families go to supporting a variety of charities in December each year.

JAFFA Kids in Tarves Primary School

Jesus A Friend For All is an after-school club for P5/6/7. We use Scripture Union resources which are stimulating, challenging, fun and bible based. The club attracts around 8 boys and girls. It runs every week during the autumn and spring terms.



The school is very supportive of this.

Formartine Youth Project

The Formartine Youth Project (FYP) unites the children and youth activities of four rural Aberdeenshire parish churches: Methlick, Tarves, Barthol Chapel and Udney & Pitmedden.

Claire, our Children and Youth Worker, attends assemblies, classroom activities and one off events to build strong relationships between the schools and the churches.

This full time post is partly funded by 'Go For It', and Claire works within the community as well as within the church family. In total, FYP has

19 groups that are ongoing at any one time. One of Claire's particular strengths has been to establish a Christian Union in Meldrum Academy.

Tarves and Barthol Chapel have a wide range of groups that meet the needs of our communities. We have connected with the local families, children and young people allowing the Church to be seen as an essential part of each community.



Two rural parishes, one centred on a village, the other a hamlet

TARVES and BARTHOL CHAPEL

are in a lovely part of Aberdeenshire, nestled between the blue hills of the eastern Grampians to the west and the wildlife rich coastline of the North Sea to the east.

Tarves

We have 264 members and a weekly congregation of between 30 and 50 in number. Most of the congregation is from within the village of Tarves, but some come from the wider edges of the parish and beyond. We have a Kirk Session of 17 elders, who meet formally every month apart from July and August.

The wider parish has a population

of 1293. Four new housing developments have been built in the last 24 years resulting in rapid growth for the village. The 'About Tarves' leaflet covers all church activities and local amenities.

Replacing a mediaeval structure, Tarves Kirk was built in 1798 and is much loved. Sensitive adaptations over the years have given us a light, airy, flexible space for work and worship. We are proud of our welcoming wee kirk.

We also have a Youth Hall which was refurbished in 2009. The local playgroup, winter indoor bowls, badminton, Messy Church, children's parties and the Tarves Breakfast are examples of regular users.



Barthol Chapel

We have 78 members and a typical congregation numbering 15 to 30. The members of the congregation are widely dispersed, with some living in the village, others in the surrounding countryside, and some travelling many miles to worship.

Our main challenge is to develop models of ministry and service that are effective in such rural situations.

We have a congregational board of seven members and session of ten elders. We have scheduled meetings every two months and occasional ad-hoc planning meetings.

The last Presbytery Support Group told us they had never laughed so

much during a review meeting.

The parish has a population of 471, of whom only about 50 live in the hamlet. The church and the primary school are the major amenities and with the Community Association, bind the population together and are the focus for community life.

We are planning to restructure the interior of the church to provide a better meeting space and a facility for the community to use. This will be coupled with some essential work on the roof.



About our area and its amenities

TARVES and BARTHOL

CHAPEL are in a beautiful part of Scotland, which has deep-rooted traditions of language, history and culture. This unique area has become enriched in recent times by the advent of North Sea oil and an influx of diverse people from throughout the world.

The parishes are in a settled landscape of attractively rolling fields and wooded countryside. Yet the city centre of Aberdeen is just 17 miles from Tarves so we offer the best of rural life combined with easy access to city life. Also nearby are the thriving towns of Inverurie, Oldmeldrum and Ellon.



Education

Educational facilities are excellent.

Primary

- Primary school in Barthol Chapel
- Primary school with Nursery in Tarves

Secondary

Both Tarves and Barthol Chapel are within the catchment area for Meldrum Academy. School buses serve the area.

Further and Higher Education

Aberdeen is a university city offering excellent opportunities.

- North East Scotland College
- University of Aberdeen
- Robert Gordon University

Sport and Recreation

A huge range of activities takes place in the area.

Either as a participant or a supporter, you can enjoy football, rugby, tennis, cricket, golf, Pilates, sailing, bowling, athletics, cycling, martial arts, badminton, swimming ... the list goes on ... bridge, whist, drama, dance classes, painting classes, choral society, folk club ...

There are wonderful local walks and there are many places of interest hosting regular events. These are just a few.

- Tarves Heritage Centre
- Haddo House and Country Park
- Tolquhon Castle
- Pitmedden Garden



Healthcare

There is a modern health centre, Haddo Medical Group, in the village of Pitmedden and a large university teaching hospital in Aberdeen — Aberdeen Royal Infirmary.

There are several local dental practices in Ellon and Oldmeldrum.

Veterinary Services

There are vets in Oldmeldrum and Ellon.



The Manse



The manse is in a quiet street on a pleasant residential estate in Tarves. Built in the 1970s, it is comfortable and spacious. Recently extended, it has been upgraded and renovated throughout to an excellent standard.



There is a large lounge, dining/family area leading to a new fully-fitted kitchen, study, 4 bedrooms (1 en suite), bathroom, cloakroom, utility room, partially floored loft. Double glazing, efficient oil central heating.



There is a good sized garden, enclosed by hedging. Double garage. Disabled access throughout the property.

We are looking for a Minister who will...

- Inspire us to spread Christ's message in our communities
- Engage with our young people
- Re-engage with lapsed Church members
- Guide our spiritual development
- Develop our pastoral work and nurture our talents

How our Congregations are helping during the vacancy

- By supporting all aspects of Church life during our time without a minister
- By having faith: faith is so much more than simply agreeing with a statement — it is a choice about what is fundamentally important in life
- By using Romans 12:12 as a foundation for the future:
Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer
- By encouraging others to join us and learn what the Church has to offer



Thank you for taking the time to look at our Parish Profile.
Interested? Please get in touch.

For further information in the first instance, please contact
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Ruth Nisbet, Clerk to the Nominating Committee
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Find our online Parish Profile at <http://tbckirk.weebly.com>
Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/tarveschurch



You can learn much more about our lively communities on
www.bartholchapel.com and www.tarves.org.uk

*There will be shouts of joy...when we are blessed with a minister
who has a calling to Barthol Chapel linked with Tarves.*

Registered Charity numbers SCO10960 and SCO17161