

Foveran Parish Church

Parish Profile



Holyrood Chapel, Newburgh



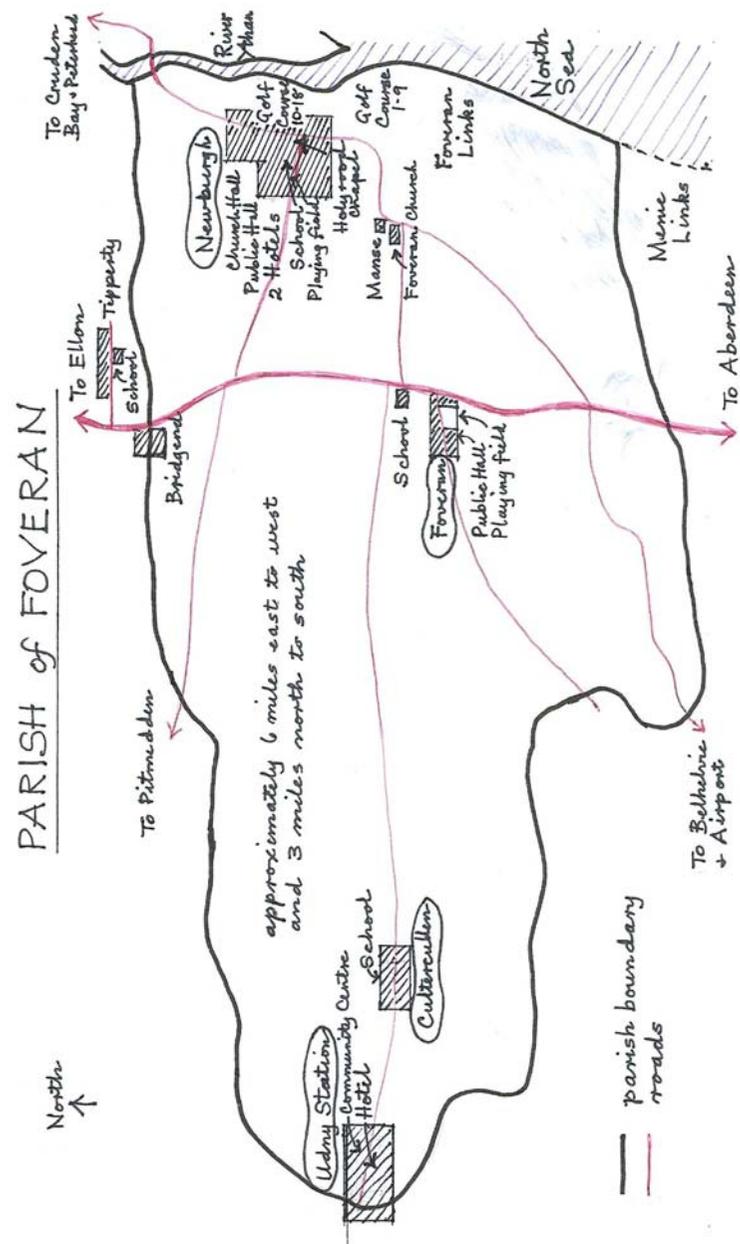
We are here
See back page for a map of the parish

Foveran is a village, rural and coastal parish in Gordon Presbytery in Aberdeenshire. It is an expanding community of about 2000 people, approximately 12 miles North of Aberdeen and includes four villages – Foveran, Cultercullen, Udney Station and the largest village, Newburgh, where our church building is situated.

Newburgh is a small coastal village with a wide range of inhabitants. Many people come to the North East to work in or around the oil industry and Newburgh reflects this diversity. It also retains strong links with the past through local residents who have lived here all their lives. It is popular with young families as it is in commuting distance of Aberdeen, has a good school, a beautiful beach and is a friendly place.

The parish sits on the estuary of the river Ythan, which is a Site of Special Scientific Interest within the Forvie National Nature Reserve. The area is world renowned for its wildlife and natural beauty – as recognised by Donald Trump who recently built his golf course in the dunes south of the parish!

We are an enthusiastic and welcoming congregation with a lively Sunday School and Youth Group. We are a church with an active involvement in the community and with valued contributions from people of all ages.



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Overview

CONGREGATIONAL PROFILE

• Membership	300 (approx)
• Regular worshippers	70-80
• Kirk Session	16
• Congregational Board	13
• Gift Aid Declarations	92

Our congregation is a good mix of ages and comes from a variety of denominations as a result of the fact that we are the only Christian church in the parish. During the past 2-3 years we have seen membership increase (seven new communicants in the past year) and thirteen new families come regularly to church. They have not all become members but we obviously welcome this growth and pray that God will continue His work here in the coming years.

OUR VISION STATEMENT

Our vision is to be a church which inspires people with the Good News of Jesus Christ through our enthusiasm, worship, witness, nurture and service.

LOOKING AHEAD

- Our church is growing as a result of God's movement here. We want to continue to grow through reaching out with the message of salvation to our community.
- Our main church is too small for the growing congregation, so we have a vision for selling our church buildings and building a new community church in the future.

WE ARE LOOKING FOR A MINISTER WHO WILL:

- Lead us in our service of God in this community.
- Guide our congregation, young and old, to grow in faith and love.
- Help us to catch God's vision for this place.

Patterns of Worship



Our Sunday morning service is at 11am in Holyrood Chapel, Newburgh. It begins with everyone in church, including Sunday School, for the first part of the service. During this part we have modern worship songs played by our praise band. We use a digital projector to project words and carefully picked images. Visuals are an important part of worship throughout the children's address and sermon (as requested by the minister).

After the children's address the Sunday School leave and are escorted to the Church Hall while the second part of the church service begins. Here we have the sermon and the church choir providing more traditional hymns.

After the service everyone is invited to rejoin the children in the Church Hall for tea, coffee and fellowship.

In the first six months of 2012 we trialled a new monthly evening service of prayer and worship. We are currently reviewing this idea with a view to possibly starting up again involving our youth band.

There is a **Worship Committee** (fourteen people) which aims to support the minister in the planning of services and providing help and advice in how to meet the needs of our diverse age group. The **Choir** consists of around ten members who practise regularly. We also have a group of volunteers from the congregation who read the lessons during the service each week.

Christian Nurture

NURTURE OF YOUNG PEOPLE



We have a vibrant life of nurture and fellowship for our children and young adults. It consists of:

Crèche - ages 0-2

This is set up in the vestry of the main church to accommodate babies during the service. It has a speaker so that the service can be heard.

Explorers – ages 3-11

Our Sunday Morning group has around twenty children on the roll. We have three dedicated teachers, all of whom are enthusiastic in their roles. All have done Child Protection/Safeguarding courses and have up-to-date certificates. We also have additional assistance from some of the older youth group members. Here, children experience Christian teaching with memory verses and a mix of games and craft.

Explorers take part in a number of the services: on the morning of Easter Sunday everyone gathers on Gallows Hill in Newburgh for a brief time of worship before the much anticipated egg-rolling competition; the Nativity Service sees all the hard work put in by the children (and teachers) coming together in the telling of the birth of Christ; and the Prize-giving Service shows the congregation what the children have been learning throughout the year.

FAX – ages 11-15

FAX meet during the service in the wee room in the church hall for a mixture of silliness and fun and Christian teaching. There are around ten in the group and we have three teachers working on a rota. Members of FAX also regularly help with music, data projection, special services, and hospitality. They have a much loved annual weekend away at Teen Ranch in Tayside, and this year we had a group of nineteen people which included three over 18s who went as leaders for the first time.

Youth Group – ages 15-19

Over the past year we have started a new group for the older teens meeting once weekly in a home for bible study and friendship. This group is the place where we look at what it means to be a Christian beyond childhood, eat cake, and pray for each other. We recently started working through student Alpha material. There are around eight young people attending.

Youth Band

Recently a few teenagers started meeting together to practise modern worship music and offer themselves for our services.

The Holiday Club

A children's club is organised every year for a week of the summer holidays by adult and teenage volunteers. It has proved very popular and consequently is held in the larger Newburgh Public Hall to give more space for activities. Last year there were about fifty attendees in total, around twenty of whom were aged P5-P7 (an age group which often finds 'more exciting' things to do than come to church clubs), many of whom have never heard the Good News of Jesus. Everyone had a great time – leaders included!



NURTURE OF ADULTS



Alpha Courses

Over the past few years several Alpha courses have been organised by the minister and others, and attended by members of the congregation and friends. A closer fellowship developed as a result of the discussions and some new church members were gained.

One of these courses was a daytime course for eleven young mums (some church-goers, some not) started in early 2011. Encouragingly, all the participants still meet regularly for bible study and this group is included as one of the house groups below.

House Groups

House Groups have been running for about two years, one on a Tuesday afternoon, one on a Friday morning and one on a Wednesday evening. The groups vary in their studies, but all look at and discuss Bible books (Colossians, James), people (including a series on the women of the Bible), and themes (Who is Jesus?) the last one involving the use of DVDs. It is our aim to encourage a sense of community and Bible discussion in an informal setting. The groups are attended by people of various ages and backgrounds and we have had encouragement seeing those who are normally very quiet become brave enough to venture an opinion or two.

Our Church and the Community

OUTREACH & MISSION

Messy Church



For about three years we have held Messy Church in Newburgh Public Hall (which is bigger than the Church Hall) every six weeks. It brings in families who don't usually attend church or Sunday School. The regular children and the children of these new families (and their parents) are taught a Christian Message through craft, stories and singing.

Corner Café



For the last seven years a group of volunteers has run a coffee morning in the Church Hall every Thursday from 10-noon. This has proved very popular in the community and has raised a great deal of money for church funds and various charities.

Footprints Café



Footprints cafe is a new venture which started in Autumn 2012. It is open the second Saturday of each month in the Church Hall. Volunteers are of all ages and include church members and other members of the community who want to be involved in service and fun. All the proceeds from the cafe go to charities with links to

church members, including New Life Homes in Kenya, Kids Club Kampala in Uganda, and Hope counselling in Aberdeen.

Christian Aid

For many years the church has organised a house-to-house collection in the parish. Due to the hard work of many dedicated collectors the total collected this year was £3004. Over £200 was raised at a Soup Lunch in the Church Hall, bringing our overall total to a record £3220.

Social Committee

The Social Committee consists of ten church members and aims to arrange a varied program of social events throughout the year to provide opportunities for fellowship, outreach and fund raising. Annual events are: the Burns Supper, the Roup, Harvest Ceilidh Dance, walks in the area and talks by interesting visitors. The annual events are very popular bringing new people into contact with the church.

Church Newsletter



Four times a year a newsletter is produced with contributions from various members. It is delivered to all in our community who have said they would like it. We use it to communicate with members and also to show non-members all the good things that are happening in our church. It is delivered by elders round their districts.

Church Website

We have recently developed a new website to house all the information about what goes on in our church. It is an advert for new people interested in church as well as a place for members to keep and access useful church information.

Youth Club

Until April 2012 we ran a Youth Club in the Church Hall on a Friday night for all young folk in Newburgh. Although it closed last year, we would be keen to make contact with this age group again in some way in the future.

Overseas Mission

We have Mission Partners in Malawi with whom we keep in regular contact and recently met. A member of our church works voluntarily for the New Life Home Trust in Kenya as a fundraiser so for the past year our church has been financially helping her to raise money for solar panels in orphanages there.

PASTORAL CARE

There are around three baptisms, two weddings and ten funerals annually.

There is a **Pastoral Care Group** in the church of around nine members who share the responsibility of visiting the sick, bereaved and elderly in the Parish. The minister and this group are involved in a rota to hold Sunday afternoon services at Balmedie House, a residential home for the elderly run by Crossreach.

The minister acts as chaplain to each of the three Primary schools in the Parish – Cultercullen, Foveran and Newburgh – and shares the chaplaincy of Ellon Academy.

LINKS WITH THE WIDER CHURCH

Under the Presbytery Plan's Area Grouping, Foveran Church works alongside Belhelvie and Ellon Churches. We share Christmas and Easter Services with Belhelvie Church which works well.

OUR BUILDINGS USED BY THE COMMUNITY

The Church Hall is in use almost every day by many different organisations and groups, including:

Beavers	Band Practice
Cubs	Footprints Cafe
Scouts	Corner Cafe
Rainbows	Coffee Mornings
Guides	Sunday School
Scottish Country Dancing	Children's Parties

Buildings

Over the past few years we have undertaken many improvements to our church buildings. The congregation is responsible for five properties:

Holyrood Chapel



See front page for exterior view

This is our regular place of worship and is situated on Main Street, Newburgh. It has a capacity of 100 people. Holyrood Chapel was built in 1838 as the original Newburgh Mathers School, bought by the Church in 1882 and converted into a Chapel of Ease. The clock tower was added in 1892 and the interior refurbished in 1907, including a pitch pine roof in imitation of St. Laurence, Forres.

We recently sanded and varnished the floors, put in new carpets and replaced the pews with modern comfortable seats. Holyrood has a pipe organ, a digital piano and is fitted with an induction loop system, radio microphone and computer projection facilities.

Church Hall



The Church Hall is on Newburgh's Main Street about 100 metres from Holyrood Chapel. It is well used on a daily basis by church and other community groups and has been considerably renovated in recent years, with new double glazing, toilets, decoration and significant kitchen enhancements.

The manse



This is a detached, 2-storey, 4 bedroom villa next to Foveran Parish Church on the A975, in a rural setting with several houses nearby. It has been inhabited by recent ministers. It is well maintained and has central heating, double glazing and a

garage, along with an enclosed rear walled garden.

Although our manse is suitable to move into now, we would like to sell this building and buy a new manse in the village of Newburgh in the near future.

Foveran Church



This church was built in 1794 and is situated one mile south of Newburgh on the A975. Until December 2006 this Church and Holyrood Chapel were both used regularly for services. Under instruction from Presbytery we were obliged to take steps to close one of our church

buildings and this was to be Foveran Parish Church.

The building is still used on occasion for larger weddings or funerals. The Scottish Redundant Churches Trust is no longer interested in taking over this building and an architect has been engaged to assist in the development of our future ambitions for this building and surrounding ground (see later).

The glebe

The glebe is a 6½ acre field just south of Foveran Parish Church and is let on a seasonal basis for grazing.

Property Committee

There is an active Property Committee of five people with responsibility for inspection and upkeep of the church buildings. The committee also makes recommendations to the Congregational Board on repairs and maintenance.

FUTURE PLANS FOR OUR BUILDINGS

As our church is growing, we are finding that our main church building no longer has the capacity or facilities we require. Holyrood Chapel is usually at least $\frac{3}{4}$ full on a Sunday and with the prospect of more houses being built in the parish it is essential for us to be able to offer new people an appealing place to come and worship, as well as a building fit for purpose for our existing congregation.

It has also been noted in the past that it would be easier for a minister to meet people if the manse was located in the village of Newburgh.

As a church, we are committed to the short term vision of buying a new manse in the village of Newburgh. We are also committed to the longer term vision of eventually selling all our properties, and with the money building a new community church in the village of Newburgh.

At present we are working with our architect and planning advisor on how to best deal with these issues and achieve the vision.

Finances

Finance matters are co-ordinated by a small committee and run on a daily basis by the Treasurer. A Stewardship Campaign in 2009 was very successful and, combined with a number of members new to the congregation, the church's finances have shown significant improvement in recent years. The previous regular annual deficit has been replaced by an income which permits us to pay in full our ministry and mission allocation. With cash reserves currently about £85,000, we are also in a position to ensure regular maintenance and enhancement to our properties, not only through our financial control, but also as a result of notable donations by several of our members.

The Session, Board & Committees

Our Kirk Session has sixteen members and the Congregational Board has thirteen. Both meet monthly and operate under the Model Constitution but much of the work is done by Committees as follows:

Worship, Pastoral, Social, Property and Finance.

Support for the Minister

We will support our new minister with reasonable clergy expenses. We also expect a minister to take proper holidays and days off and we will support him or her if undertaking study leave or training for personal or professional development.

Contacts

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Local Area



The Forvie sands

Seals on Newburgh beach

Foveran Manse is zoned for [Newburgh Primary School](#), which also provides Nursery education, and [Ellon Academy](#), a secondary school of more than 1100 pupils. A brand new Academy is being built in Ellon, and is on track to be ready for the 2015 intake. A Playgroup and a Mother and Toddler group meet in Newburgh.

Newburgh has a Post Office, village shop, an excellent butcher, hairdresser and two hotels. Ellon has a full range of shopping facilities, medical and dental practices, a library, a Community Centre with swimming pool and a modern Sports Centre. Many clubs for all ages meet around the parish. In Newburgh these include: Rainbows, Brownies, Guides, Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Dancing, Badminton, Football, Gymnastics, Netball, Art, Windsurfing and Taekwondo for children. For adults there is also Windsurfing and Taekwondo, as well as Badminton, Scottish Country Dancing, a Gardening Club, Cronies Club and the WRI.

[Newburgh-on-Ythan Golf Club](#) has a very fine 18-hole links course with wonderful views over the estuary. It has a large modern clubhouse and its activities include a varied social programme. Facilities for football and tennis are also available on the links. The Ythan Estuary is the most famous sea-trout fishery in Scotland, while the Nature Reserve at Forvie, so designated in 1959, includes the fifth biggest dune system in Britain where thriving bird colonies can be seen. Lovely walks along the broad beach or on the cliff top can be enjoyed.

The area has a regular bus service to Aberdeen city and is located 17 miles from Aberdeen Airport. Further information about all local activities can be found in the [Foveran Community Newsletter](#) published quarterly by Foveran Community Council.