

Our Vision

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

www.fpchurch.co.uk

Church Directory

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|
| Minister | Rev W. Kenneth Pryde The Manse, Foveran Tel: 789288 | Sunday School Superintendents | Mrs Donna Cruickshank Tel: 789688 & Mrs Christine Mitchell Tel: 751743 |
| Session Clerk & WFO Recorder | Mrs Christine Fordyce Craigard Foveran Tel: 789236 | Editor of Church Newsletter | Mrs Jane Bradford 49 Main St Newburgh Tel: 789511 |
| Clerk to the Board | Mr Peter Morrison 4 St. Clair Wynd Newburgh Tel: 789770 | Property Convenor | Mr Alastair Cruickshank Fairfield, Pitmillan, Newburgh Tel: 789688 |
| Gift Aid Treasurer | Mrs Anne Whalley 57 Mavis Bank Newburgh Tel: 789521 | Crèche Supervisors | Mrs Sarah Smith 81 Mavis Bank, Newburgh Tel: 789481 & Mrs Cheryl Harvey Burnside Cottage, Newburgh Tel: 789475 |
| Treasurer | Mrs Frances Morrison 4 St. Clair Wynd Newburgh Tel: 789770 | Webmaster | Mr Alasdair Smith 81 Mavis Bank Newburgh Tel: 789481 |

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Foveran Parish Church Newsletter

Spring 2012

Minister's Letter

Dear friends,

Most of us who are of the 'older generation' remember how church membership was a natural progression from Sunday School, through Youth Fellowship, moving seamlessly into what were called church membership classes. At the end of these we all stood together at the front of the church and collectively agreed to a series of questions put to us by our minister.

Although this system had its advantages, the stress seemed to be more on 'church membership' and less on making a confession of faith in which we committed ourselves to Jesus Christ as His modern-day disciples. Perhaps for this reason there is now confusion over what it means to be a member of the Church. Many people I speak to who attend church consider themselves to be members of 'their' church because they attend there and commit themselves there, yet they are often not 'members' in the technical meaning of the word.

Over the years I have tended to stress the importance of making a confession of faith, rather than becoming a 'member of the church' although church membership comes with that faith confession. Making a confession of faith brings us into the family of the Church world-wide and it doesn't matter in which branch of the Christian faith you made that confession, whether Protestant, Catholic, Lutheran, Orthodox, we are all part of the body of Christ we call the Church.

There are several people regularly worshipping with us and engaging in the life of Foveran Church who for various reasons have not made a confession of faith. For some, particularly our teenagers this natural step of commitment to Jesus has not yet been offered to them. For others it's perhaps a case of coming to Christ later in life and wanting to make a commitment to Him now. Others still may have had a baby baptised since I came here and now wish to fulfil the promise they made to make a confession of faith so that they can give a Christian example to their child.

Others still may have joined us from other branches of the Christian faith and need to know more about the Church of Scotland before they commit themselves to our church. In the established Protestant churches this is known as 'transferring your lines,' a reference to the membership accounting system these churches operate, although for those outwith this system there are equally easy ways to becoming a member of a local church of your choosing. If you are unsure just ask me.

Whatever reason you may have I am running a series of four CONNECT meetings which will help you to explore the Christian faith in a non-threatening way. These evening meetings will begin towards the end of May and in order to tailor them to your needs I invite you to put your name on the relevant form on the table in the church.

CONNECT will help you to engage with both church and faith.
See you there!

Yours in Christ

Kenneth

Church Hall Refurbishment



I am sure all of you who use the hall regularly will have noticed the transformation that has taken place over the last few weeks as the interior has been given a full make-over by a dedicated team of volunteers under the enthusiastic leadership and guidance of Margaret Buchan. Some 280 man/woman hours of work has gone into this redecoration from an initial clearing of unnecessary items to the final cleaning of the hall. The work has been done by three groups of helpers, the Sanding and Preparation Team, the Painting and Varnishing Team and the Cleaning Team. The names of the volunteers are listed below. In addition special thanks is due to Bridget Black for donating the undercoat paint.

Sanding & Preparation Team & Varnishing Team

Margaret Buchan
Bridget Black
Jane Bradford
Alistair Cruickshank
Bruce Cruickshank
Donna Cruickshank
Margaret Gorman
Ann Massie
Ruth Platts
Kathleen Souter
Elisabeth Wannewetsch

Painting & Varnishing Team

Margaret Buchan
Kathleen Souter
Elisabeth Wannewetsch

Cleaning Team

Donna Cruickshank
Sue Edwards
Lorna McKen
Agnes Kinloch
Pam Millichip
Christine Mitchell
Anne Botheroyd

On behalf of the congregation I thank everyone who took part in this very worthwhile task. Now that our hall is looking so good it is important that we all do our bit to keep it clean and tidy.

Kenneth

Easter at Foveran Parish Church

We had a good turn out for our Easter Service up Gallows Hill. Everyone enjoyed the service before the much anticipated egg rolling competition which was won by Will Hawthorn, 2nd Lisa Dow, 3rd Leona Kemp. This service would not be possible if the path to the top wasn't cleared every year. This year we discovered we have a fairy godmother who cleared the path this year and last without help. A big thank-you goes to Mrs Alice Atkins for all her hard work.

The view from the top of Gallows hill is worth seeing at any time of year but at Easter time with the cross in the circle at the top you remember why we're there.



A hearty breakfast was enjoyed by many at the Church Hall before we went along to the church to join the rest of the congregation for the Easter Sunday service where the decorated Easter eggs were judged, thanks to Jean Robertson for doing the honours. The results were 1st Laurie Dow, 2nd Callan Booth, 3rd Rachel (Joe and Aileen Bailie's granddaughter). Well done to you all! And thank-you to everyone who helped with the breakfast, lots of work, lots of dishes, but very much appreciated.



Pentecost



Christians celebrate three "mega-festivals". Two, Christmas and Easter, are well known to both believers and non-believers. But many may not be as familiar with the third, the festival of Pentecost.

Pentecost is celebrated 50 days after Easter, and that is what 'Pentecost' means! Jesus had been raised from the dead, but he promised his followers that they would not be left alone, and that he would send a guide, a comforter, a helper - the Holy Spirit.

You can read the story of the first time the Holy Spirit came in Acts 2, just after the Gospel of John in the Bible. It tells how all the believers were together in one place, but they were hiding, because they were scared of the Jewish authorities who had just put Jesus to death on the cross. Suddenly there was a sound like a mighty rushing wind and it seemed that flames of fire settled on the heads of Jesus' followers.

They rushed out and told many people about how wonderful God was- quite a change from a group of fearies! Even though people in the city were from many places, they all heard the truth of God being spoken in their own language!

Peter spoke to the crowd and told them that Jesus, whom they had just crucified, was their promised Messiah - Saviour - and that they needed to stop doing wrong things, trust Jesus and be baptised. 3,000 people became Christians that day!

God's wonderful Christmas gift of His one and only Son, and Christ's Easter triumph over the power of sin, death, and the devil would be of no benefit to us if the Holy Spirit did not give us the gift of saving faith.

The Holy Spirit gives us the faith to believe and trust in Christ as our Saviour. This precious gift of faith in the saving work of our Lord Jesus Christ is the reason Pentecost is the third "mega-festival" of the church and why we celebrate it with such joy and thanksgiving.

Reviews of The Aberdeen Passion Play

"SURELY THIS MAN
WAS INNOCENT"



As reported in the last newsletter, a group from church went to the Aberdeen Passion Play which was performed on Saturday 7th April in the Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre.

After a bit of bother finding the right queue to get in – 'Steps' were also playing at the AECC that evening! – the performance-goers were impressed with what they saw. Here is what a few of them thought:

"A very moving and convincing performance of a key part in the ministry of Jesus Christ. The music and acting performances combined in an effective, moving and powerful way to tell the story of this world-changing event which still has the power to speak across the ages and the generations. A must see event if it returns to Aberdeen again."

Rev Kenneth Pryde

"If this event is ever held in Aberdeen again I really urge you to go! This was the Easter story where you laughed, you cried, and you came out of the venue feeling totally uplifted and joyous. The people acting out the story were brilliant, the music and choir were fantastic! Jesus Christ has risen, He has Risen Indeed! and may the Lord make us truly thankful!"

Donna Cruickshank

"Stunning and professional performance which brought Jesus' resurrection 'alive!'"

Margaret Buchan

Foveran Parish Church Sunday Schools

Explorers meets on a Sunday for children aged 3 years up to Primary 6. We attend church for the first part of the service (beginning at 11.00 am) and then go along to the Church Hall where we have a bible story followed by related activities or crafts and then finish with a snack.



We usually study a theme over a 3-6 week block. At the moment we are studying Abraham. Explorers finishes just after 12.00 and parents who are in church just go along to the hall after the church service and pick up their children. Those who aren't in church can just pick them up direct from the hall.

FAX meets at the same time in the small room in the Church Hall and is bible based discussion / teaching for those of P7 age upwards.



Every 6 weeks or so we have Messy Church, usually held in the Public Hall, which, as the name suggests, is an opportunity for children to learn about the Christian faith through messy play. We have various fun activities based around a theme which the children and their parents can work their way around. We finish with a time of worship and a talk. A light lunch of homemade soup and bread and cheese followed by tea, coffee, juice and homebakes is laid on in the Church Hall afterwards.

The next Messy Church will be after the summer holidays (dates to be confirmed later) but all Messy Church families are warmly invited to come to the church on **Sunday 24th June** at 11am for our **Family Service** with a prize-giving for all the children, followed by our **Sunday School Picnic** at Foveran Play Park, Blairythan Terrace, Foveran. Please come along and join the fun, you will be made most welcome!



Jambo everyone,

I thought I would give you an update on the New Life Home Trust and our fundraising efforts.

I met with Suzanna Bastable in April and she is thrilled by our commitment as a church and appreciates all our efforts. As you are aware, our fundraising this year is going towards buying solar panels for the main home – Kilimani – where Suzanna and Guy both live and work.

When installed they will be able to save around £7000 a year on electricity bills, and the saved money will be used for the much needed medical supplies and feeding programmes .

I had the privilege of talking about New Life Homes to the Ellon Academy children at their Easter Assemblies. The children were keen to hear about New Life and took up a collection. They raised £173.00 which was great.

Our total so far this year is £2233.00. I am planning to host a church bead party in June, so I hope you will support this and join with me for a fun afternoon of jewellery making, and cake!! I will announce a date soon.

I have been fortunate to have been offered an area in The Store Craft Shop to sell my Kenyan Scarves, which is very generous of them, so pop in and have a look.

I have recently done a bead party in Inverurie Church, and also plan to host one for the Newburgh Playgroup in June. I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who is

supporting the New Life Home Trust and every penny raised goes straight to Kenya, there are no overheads.

The statistics are still shocking. Suzanna told me during her visit the she is very busy and has lots of babies at the moment. There are still around 300 babies a week abandoned in terrible circumstances and the Trust relies heavily on fundraising.

I am planning to run a half marathon in September in aid of New Life, so if anyone fancies joining me just let me know... plenty time to train!!!

Thanks,
Paula Hawthorn



Social Committee



In response to an initiative from Christian Aid to Bowl Over Poverty, we decided this year to hold a SUPER SOUP LUNCH in the Church Hall on Saturday 28 April – this took the place of the tea party or coffee morning held in recent years. There were five delicious soups on offer, and those who attended enjoyed a friendly lunch and also a chance to buy home-bakes and Traidcraft and Fairtrade goods from the stalls. Our thanks to

everyone who supported this event in any way – we had hoped that more folk would come along, but nevertheless we were able to raise £216.78 for Christian Aid. An additional £146.75 was handed over to Anne Aspden for sales from the Traidcraft/Fair-trade stall.



Looking Ahead:

We hope to arrange a WALK TO FORVIE KIRK early in September, and also to hold a HARVEST CEILIDH DANCE (with music from The Ythan Fiddlers) on Friday 5 October.

If anyone out there (particularly those from younger age groups) would like to get involved with the Social Committee, please speak to myself or any committee member – even if you just have suggestions for future social events we would be delighted to hear from you.

Mary Smith (Social Convenor)
Tel: 01358 742234

Corner Café Summer Break 2012



This year Corner Café will be closed on 12th, 19th and 26th July and reopen on 2nd August.

The organisers and helpers would like to thank you all for your continued support and hope to see you back in the Café after the break. New customers will be especially welcome and if you would like to help please contact Marry (789276) or Jean (789240).

Treasurer's Report



I'm told that Treasurers are only happy when they have been saved from spending vast amounts of money. In that case, I should be grinning from ear to ear after the efforts of Margaret Buchan and her team in the Church Hall. The cost of the decoration materials is being supported by Corner Cafe, but the value of the work put in by Margaret and the others is immeasurable, and I'd like to add the Treasurer's thanks to all the other accolades being given to them.

Our bank balance remains quite healthy, but expenditure has at times exceeded income in the first four months of 2012. We have spent £12,600 on our property so far this year, but appreciate the effective vestry heaters and the now well-maintained exteriors and interiors of our church and hall buildings. For the first third of the current year, our income was £19,113 compared to £18,603 for the same period in 2011. That's an increase of 5.3%. Expenditure has been so far £21,698 in 2012, compared to £14,564 for the same period last year - an increase of 49%.

We as a congregation are in a fortunate state - at the moment we are able to maintain our property and meet our commitments. I began this article smiling, but I know that all Treasurers are expected to inject words of caution into anything they write. So here's the thought for the day.

A relatively small number of people in our congregation give to the Church of their time, talents and money in a realistic way. Are you part of this group?

Frances Morrison.

Anne Gillespie

As many of you know, Anne Gillespie was a past Fabric Convener of this church and it was her request that a collection be made at her funeral service for Foveran Parish Church. This has amounted to £1110 so far.

Chairs for Sale



We have seven of these retro-style chairs available to a good home for a donation to church funds. They are sturdy wooden chairs with a red vinyl seat. They would be lovely sanded down and varnished or painted. Perfect for around the kitchen table. Any offers, please phone Ken on 789288.

Farewell



Firstly, I would like to say a huge thank you to you all for the chance to share with you in worship and church life over the last few months. It has been a great experience and I have enjoyed my time here in Foveran Parish immensely, you have made me feel very at home here and it will be hard to leave.

As with all of the placements I have learned a lot and been challenged and stretched by the experience. It has been a pleasure getting to know you, sharing conversation and fellowship, as well as the Board and Session meetings. There have also been some firsts too, Messy Church and my first Burns supper being two of them. Working with the Youth Fellowship in preparing for the Watchnight service was a lot of fun as was the Explorers' Christmas party. I have lots of memories that I will treasure

Ken has been a great encouragement and pastor throughout the process. I am grateful also, to all of you, for allowing me to share part of my journey towards ministry with you. I pray God's blessing on you all and will keep in touch.

God Bless

Debbie

Henry (Harry) Smith 1922 – 2012

Harry Smith was a highly-respected elder of Foveran Parish Church for over fifty years and was Session Clerk for over ten of these. He was brought up in Inverness and studied at Edinburgh University. He worked as an income tax inspector before going into teaching which he loved. He married Nan and they had five children.

Harry taught in Nairn Academy and Auchterless Secondary then became head teacher at Craigie Primary near Newmachar and finally Cultercullen for twenty three years. My father William, head teacher at Foveran, and Harry became good friends and Harry asked Dad for advice in connection with teaching, putting on school concerts and Session Clerk matters.

Our families often visited each other for enjoyable musical evenings. Harry would play his fiddle accompanied by my Mum or myself on the piano. For many years I travelled with Harry and Nan to the Banchory Scottish Music Festival where he played his fiddle expertly. He was well respected by the other competitors.

Harry joined the Ythan Fiddlers and as well as playing he coached the young fiddlers to a high standard. He often entertained at concerts in Foveran Hall and at Church functions, later with his son Alan, also an accomplished fiddler.

He was a conscientious elder, an excellent visitor in his district round which he drove until his mid-80s. He spent his last two years in Garioch Nursing Home. Although he had dementia he still played his fiddle, often with Alan, and remembered all the tunes from his past. When we visited he was always welcoming and polite. Harry was a true gentleman.

Christine Fordyce



Articles for newsletter

As you will have probably noticed, the newsletter has been printed in full colour for the first time. We are trying this out so please let us know if you like it!

We are always looking for articles for the newsletter, so if you have any bright ideas of any sort please let me know.

Also, please take photos of church events and let me have them for the newsletter as it is always good to let everyone see what has been going on as well as read about it. Thank you!

Jane Bradford

Creche

Due to a growth in the number of families coming to church, we are in need of a crèche to house our younger children. Sarah Smith and Cheryl Harvey have taken on the roles of crèche supervisors and hope to have this up and running in the church vestry on a Sunday morning soon. They are on the lookout for a pool of volunteers and toy donations so if you can help please contact them – details in the church directory on the back page.

Dates for your Diaries

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| End of May | CONNECT meetings begin – dates TBC |
| Sun 27 th May | Six O'clock Service, 6-7pm, in the church |
| Sun 24 th June | Family Service with Prize Giving 11am, followed by Sunday School Picnic at Foveran Play Park, Blairythan Terrace, Foveran |
| Mon 13 th - Fri 17 th August | Kids Holiday Club, details about the holiday club theme will be released nearer the time |

Pastoral Notices

Funerals

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|
| 6 th March | Elizabeth Ellis |
| 8 th March | Marjory Clark |
| 27 th March | Gerhard Heinemann |
| 5 th April | Henry (Harry) Smith |
| 25 th April | Anne Gillespie |

