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Reg.CharityNo.SCO11701



Church of Scotland
Foveran Parish



CHURCH NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2011

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear friends,

Summer is supposed to be the time when life in our churches slows down and people take a well-earned break before returning in the autumn recharged and ready to go flat out again to witness to our Lord. Yet summer has been a busy time for our church with many exciting developments taking place, many of them happening in the background. Just some of them are mentioned below and others will appear inside this newsletter.

WORSHIP TEAM

First of all I want to thank the members of our Worship Team who conducted worship in my absence as I covered my continuing duties at Udney and Pitmedden as their Interim Moderator during their vacancy, and also had my holiday. Our Worship Team willingly take these occasional services which enable them to share and to grow in their faith. They also gain experience in leading worship in a church which values the contributions of all believers. Incidentally they save the church around £55 plus expenses each Sunday they take a service which is the fee to supply a Reader or retired minister, so you get something for nothing too! I hope you are proud of those who contribute to our worship in this way and keep them in your prayers.

HOLIDAY CLUB

My thanks also to the young, and not so young people who organised and facilitated the annual Holiday Club. We are blessed to have such active and imaginative young folk in our church who are committed to helping children explore the Christian faith in exciting ways. It was good to see their photo and report in the Foveran Parish Newsletter.

PRESBYTERY PLAN

We have continued to be busy after the summer break with action being taken on the Presbytery Plan which encourages congregations within Gordon Presbytery to think ahead for the next 5 to 10 years and to focus on the vision for their churches over that timescale. Ministerial resources are set to change radically over the next few years as fewer people offer themselves for full-time ministry of Word and Sacrament and pressures increase on central church finances.

The changing face of ministry in the Church of Scotland means that there will be an increasing need for lay involvement in worship and pastoral care and an expanding need for other forms of Ministry, such as Ordained Local Ministry. You can read Peter Kiehlmann's article inside which will explain a little of what this means for both him and the Church of Scotland, including our church in Foveran. As part of his preparation for Ordained Local Ministry Peter will be undertaking some training with me and this will necessitate him being involved more in worship. He and Tricia are already heavily involved in the life and worship of the church and your support and prayers will be much appreciated by them as Peter's calling by God develops.

STUDENT TRAINING

I have been asked by the Church of Scotland Ministries Council if I would accept a student candidate for training in ministry and this I have agreed to, having been a Church of Scotland minister trainer for many years. This is part of the wider work some ministers are selected and trained to do and I'm pleased that Debbie Dobby will be starting with us in October, remaining with us until after Easter. She will be taking an active part in worship on most Sundays and also carrying out some pastoral and other duties within our parish as part of her training. You can read about Debbie inside this issue. As members you are asked to support her and to encourage her in her growing ministry. We are privileged as a congregation to be entrusted with the training of Church of Scotland candidates.

COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

We now have a Communications Team in place who will be responsible for organising and co-ordinating communications within the church. Good communications are essential in any organisation and the church is no exception, especially as we have become busier over the years. Although our Sunday intimations continue to be an important form of communication there are other ways of keeping people in touch with what's going on, especially if they can't be with us every Sunday. Work is continuing on a new website which will be an invaluable communications tool for all ages within the church family.

HOUSE GROUPS

These start officially again on Tuesday 25th and Wednesday 26th October and we will embark on an adventure called *Journeys* which will examine the Christian faith through real-life experiences and amazing stories that changed lives forever. Come and join us on Tuesdays at 1.30 pm at Sue Edwards', 6 Airyhill View, Newburgh or on Wednesdays at 7.30pm in the Manse, beside Foveran Church.

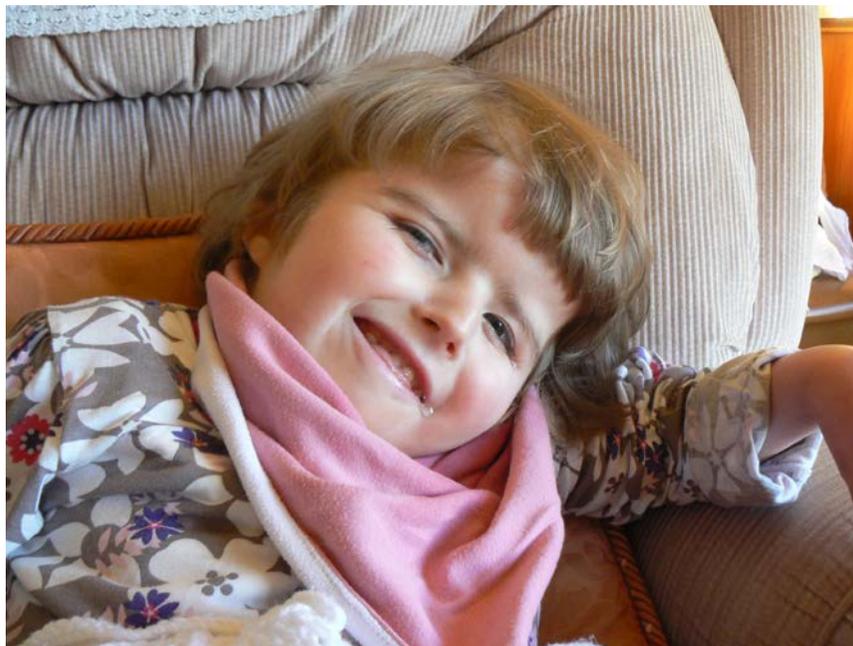
MORE THANKS

We give a big thanks to Sue Edwards for being our Newsletter Editor for many years and we wish her well as she passes that task over. She has shown patience and understanding as she waited for articles as well as great initiative, wisdom, imagination and skill. Thanks also to Jane Bradford who has willingly agreed to be our new Editor and who will no doubt also put her proficiency and resourcefulness into the newsletter.

You will see from my letter and from within the pages of this newsletter that our church is a busy one with opportunities for everyone to serve the Lord with the gifts He has given them. As more and more people use their gifts we will see the church grow stronger in faith and in the action our faith demands of us. If you feel called to use the gift or gifts that God has given you (everyone has at least one) then please speak to me.

Yours in Christ
Kenneth

Sophie Edwards



I would just like to thank all those in the church family and also the wider community for their cards, prayers, flowers, and other gifts following the death of our Sophie. It has been a great encouragement to us to know how much she meant to everyone who knew her. We are especially thankful to those who so generously gave towards the charities we chose to support in lieu of flowers and I have been able to send cheques for the following amounts:

To Unique (the rare chromosome disorder support group)	£550.00
To St Andrew's School Inverurie	£430.00
To The Children's Hospice Association Scotland	£430.00
To SOFT UK (Support organisation for Trisomy 18 & 13)	£380.00
Giving a total of	<u>£1790.00</u>

This is a fantastic figure so thank you all.

The amount to Unique is higher because some donations came in specified for them, the rest were split evenly. I also had a late donation from a family member which I then split between the charities who had acknowledged and thanked me for the previous cheques.

In case there is anyone reading this who did not know Sophie, it must be obvious from the charities chosen that Sophie had medical problems but from very early on, Sophie refused to be defined by her condition. She had a very strong personality which shone through, she had a cheeky sense of humour and was not afraid to yawn or sigh loudly if she was tired or bored. Sadly towards the end of her life we saw less of this as she was using all her energies just to live, although the odd spark of character did emerge occasionally. It was a true privilege to be her mother and I am particularly grateful to my very good friends who have helped and supported me throughout her life but especially in the last few months.

Sue Edwards (and Jeremy)

IN MEMORY OF SOPHIE EDWARDS

As a tribute to Sophie who died earlier in the summer I've included some parts of the Service of Thanksgiving and Celebration that we held for her in Holyrood Chapel on 15th July. Those of you who were able to be there will remember how the tributes of her family and friends gave a very full and lovely picture of her life and character. Below are extracts from what I said at the beginning and end of that service.

One day as the crowds continued to press around Jesus, some mothers brought their children to be blessed by Jesus. But the disciples, thinking that they would protect Jesus and give him some rest rebuked the mothers and turned them away. But Jesus heard what was happening and instead rebuked the disciples saying, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." And he placed his hands on the children and blessed them. Matt 19:14

We come here today to celebrate the life of Sophie Edwards and to give thanks to God for her life and for the many ways in which her life has enriched our lives and challenged our comfortable perceptions, forcing us to look at the real and deeper meaning of life.

All who knew Sophie have grown to love her, and have learned rich lessons from her. She has been a wise and gracious teacher and an inspiration to many and we come here today to give thanks to Sophie, for all that she gave us and taught us, and to give thanks to God for her life, her affection and her love.

The prophet Isaiah observed that 'God gives power to the weak and strengthens the powerless.' Is 40:29

After Sophie's funeral service a week past Wednesday, Sue, Jerry and I were talking about her, and Jerry mentioned the 'power of the powerless' and that connected in my mind with the title of a book written by the author Christopher de Vinck who used precisely that phrase, 'The Power of the Powerless,' as the title for one of his books which reflected on the life of his severely disabled brother.

Although in many ways powerless, Sophie displayed great power; power to influence the lives of all of us in positive ways; power to win our love, power to win our respect, power to win our amazement at her resilience, her strong grip on life, power in her amazing will to live her life. In her power she also taught us valuable lessons in the importance of life itself and of the important things in life – the true values of life: - relationships, love, affection, humility, respect, patience, acceptance, innocence, tenderness, joy, gratitude, courage, perseverance, care, consideration, compassion; the power to teach us the

value of a smile, of a laugh, of life's simple pleasures. Without doubt, Sophie demonstrated through her life the power of the powerless.

She also helped us to see into a world where there is no Afghan war, no financial problems, no phone hacking scandals, no Euro crisis, no power struggles; indeed none of the things that trouble us were of importance in the world Sophie inhabited. Maybe this is what Jesus had in mind when he said, "What is hidden to the wise and learned is revealed to little children." Mat 11:25

So we come today to reflect on all these things and much more that made Sophie the special little girl who captured our hearts in a very special way.

And towards the end of the service I included these words.

One day the disciples had been arguing among themselves about greatness and power, and over which of them would be the most important in God's kingdom, so they came to Jesus and asked, 'Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?' As usual, Jesus raised the bar on the argument and the limited understanding of his all-too-human disciples, and called a child, set him in front of them, and said, 'Truly I tell you, unless you change and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.'

And if that left his followers in any doubt, he continued, saying, 'But if anyone causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. Do not despise one of these little ones for I tell you, their angels in heaven look continually on the face of my Father in heaven. It is not the Father's will that any of these little ones should be lost.' Mat 18:1-5,10, 18

Sophie did not have to become like a child, she was a child with all the innocence and love that was hers from birth. So it is that her entry into the kingdom of heaven is both immediate and assured and we commend her to the eternal care of God, who made her, who gave her life and who loves her still, and forever.

We all continue to miss Sophie and her lovely smile
and our thoughts and prayers remain with her parents,
Sue and Jerry, and with her family.

Nae a proper minister? Training for Ordained Local Ministry

A strange shrill noise woke me at 6am on a Saturday morning – I was staying at West Park Conference Centre, Dundee, last June and had gone to bed early on the Friday night and although there was a pre-breakfast meeting planned, I'd decided to have a wee lie-in, followed by a cooked breakfast, before facing the day. Having worked as a GP for twenty-five years I'd gone along to the Church of Scotland Enquirers Conference, considering areas of service in the Kirk.

But...as I was up...and awake...I went along to that early session, where the Minister spoke about Jesus walking on the water. Peter said "Lord, if it's you, tell me to come to you on the water."

Jesus said "Come!"

This seemed to me to be a clear call from God to 'step out of the boat and walk on the water.' For me this meant considering service to God as an ordained minister, although I am still not entirely sure what this means in the long term. I plan to continue to work as a doctor and train part-time to become ordained, so I do not see myself as being a full-time parish minister.

Over the last year, I spent six months with Ian Groves at Inverurie West, had many assessments including two psychological profiles [which I passed!] and in June this year was accepted as a Candidate for Ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Church of Scotland, following a National Assessment Conference in St Andrews.

Thanks to all who have listened, talked and prayed with and for me over the last year and a half. Tricia and I count it a huge privilege to be part of Foveran Kirk and have enjoyed getting to know and work with folk here. We look forward to seeing how God will continue to lead us in future. In about four years, I hope to be Ordained as a Local Minister (OLM) - the new name for Auxiliary Ministry. This is a voluntary post, but requires significant training including Theology Studies, then three further placements away from Foveran.

Peter Kiehlmann

Student Placement

Hello. My name is Debbie and I will be spending the next few months with you on placement until Easter, so allow me to introduce myself.

I am just about to commence my second year as a Candidate, training for the Ministry of Word and Sacrament. My academic studies are at Aberdeen University, and I completed a part-time placement at St. Andrew's Parish Church in Inverurie, and a full-time summer placement in Rotterdam. I love reading and belong to our local book group. I also enjoy singing and listening to music and like doing craft work and sewing when time permits.

I am married to Brian, who is the Minister of the Parish of Blairdaff and Chapel of Garioch, and we moved to Scotland three and a half years ago from Cheshire. We have two teenage children, Sam who is 17 and Hannah who is 15. They both attend Inverurie Academy and Sam is hoping to go on to university next year to study Zoology. Hannah would like to become an interior designer. We share our home with two rescued greyhounds, Billy and Baillie and the garden with two sheep, Phoebe and Delia.

I am looking forward to getting to know you all and sharing with you in the life and worship of the church.



Debbie Dobby

Christian Aid

I am often amazed by the different reactions and comments we get when collecting for Christian Aid. Although the house-to-house collection is past for this year the needy people should always be in our thoughts, especially with the ongoing campaign to provide mosquito nets, so I decided to put my feelings into verse.

THE COLLECTION

The people in our parish are a pretty generous lot
When we collect for Christian Aid there's plenty in the pot.
But what about the people who refuse to give a thing?
I'm sure that every now and then they're out enjoying a fling!

So surely they can spare a pound to help the planet's poor.
They could give something cheerfully instead of being so dour!
"Not interested" say one or two – how CAN they use that phrase?
Not interested in children dying in their early days?

Malaria kills many children far too soon and yet
It only costs three pounds for us to buy a child a net.
How CAN we turn our backs on all the awful poverty?
How CAN we see the plight and say "It doesn't bother me"?

It's quite acceptable to say "I do it through the bank".
These folks have direct debits – they're among the ones to thank.
But "Charity begins at home" is not the thing to say.
It doesn't stop there – WE can count our blessings every day.

So thank you to our organisers working hard each year
And thanks to the collectors who are keen to volunteer
And well done, all who give us their donations with a smile.
You're saving lives and showing love and going the extra mile.

Christine Fordyce

NEW LIFE HOME TRUST
Quality Commitment. Care for Vulnerable Children.

Fairtrade Shopping Day

FAIRTRADE

Fairtrade clothes, food and Christmas crafts, fashion shows every hour, jewellery making with Kazuri beads

For **New Life Home Trust**, caring for abandoned babies in Kenya

Tickets: Adult £5.00; Children £3.00; Families £10.00 (includes tea, coffee, juice & biscuits!)
Available from Paula Hawthorn (01358 789751); Anne Aspden (01651 842329);
Newburgh Post Office; Watson's Family Butcher Newburgh. or pay at the door on the day!

Saturday 29th October – 10am to 4pm
Ythan Hotel, Newburgh

Paula Hawthorn will be selling tickets after church for the next few Sundays or you can pay at the door on the day.

Please come and join the fun!

You and Your House

Some time back, a good Christian friend of mine told me about a little book, in addition to his bible, to which he refers every day. This is Spurgeon's 'Morning and Evening'; daily meditations which contain a short scripture verse and related thoughts to guide us each day on the way through life.

I had been thinking and praying one evening about my family and the families of others in our community when I was suddenly overwhelmed by the impossible task we face in trying to tell all those we care for, that Jesus loves them. They must come to Him for forgiveness: our sons and daughters, sons and daughters-in-law, mothers, fathers, husbands, wives, mothers and fathers in law, grandchildren. The world is so exciting, so appealing, so enticing. How can we have any chance?

Later I read from Spurgeon's book: (I've modernised a few 'thou's to 'you's etc. for our under 40 readers). He talks about the sinner who knows he can't escape condemnation at the impending judgement – like a sword at his throat. The only hope is Jesus.

Spurgeon says:

Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved, and your house. (Acts 16:31)

This gospel for a man with a sword at his throat is the gospel for me. This would suit me if I were dying, and it is all that I need while I am living. I look away from myself, and sin, and all idea of personal merit, and I trust the Lord Jesus as the Saviour whom God has given. I believe in Him, I rest on Him, I accept Him to be my all in all. Lord, I am saved, and I shall be saved to all eternity, for I believe in Jesus. Blessed be Your name for this. May I daily prove by my life that I am saved from selfishness, and worldliness, and every form of evil.

But those last words about my "house": Lord, I would not run away with half a promise when You give a whole one. I beseech You, save all my family. Save the nearest and dearest. Convert the children and the grandchildren, if I have any. Be gracious to all who dwell under my roof or work for me. You make this promise to me personally if I believe in the Lord Jesus; I beseech You to do as You have said.

I would go over in my prayer every day the names of all my brothers and sisters, parents, children, friends, relatives, and give You no rest till that word is fulfilled, "and Your house."

Let us all remember all our loved ones every day to God. Do it when you're out walking, when you're cooking, gardening, working or out running. Do it when you're driving to work; put the radio off! Do it on Sunday morning in the church at 9am, when we meet to pray. And, like the persistent widow in Jesus parable (Luke 18:1-8), don't give up; it can be a very long road for some people.

(See <http://www.spurgeon.org/daily.htm>)

Andrew Mitchell

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Presbytery Plan

Thanks to all who stayed behind after church twice recently to discuss and contribute to the preparation of the Presbytery Plan for our church. The Kirk Session is in the process of finalising the plan and full details of it will be included in the next newsletter.

Harvest Thanksgiving

It has been suggested by one or two of our members that our Harvest Thanksgiving Service is held too early in the year, but, as a minister wrote in "Life and Work" last year, we are giving thanks for all harvests not just the grain one.

He said harvests are happening all over the world at different times of year. He often holds his Thanksgiving Service in a farmer's barn in September.

In this country the berry harvest is past, Pitmedden Garden celebrated its Apple Harvest on 25th September and the harvest of the sea is ongoing.

We are thanking God for all our food. At least four neighbouring churches had their harvest service the same day as us. (My husband John and I are both from farming families).

Christine Fordyce

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Social Committee

A MUSICAL EVENING with Jim and Marisha Addison was held in the Church Hall on Saturday 20 August. Approximately 60 people attended and enjoyed a fantastic evening of high class entertainment. Jim and Marisha were so friendly and talented, and their musical programme included songs from all over the world and brought back so many memories – and it was great also to hear songs associated with Aberdeen's own Scotland the What and June Imray given a new twist. The audience included folk from Udney, Oldmeldrum and Crudie who had various connections with Jim and Marisha, as well as some friends from Belhelvie. Thanks to those who attended and also others who gave monetary donations, approx £210 from this event will be donated to the New Life Home Trust which cares for abandoned and HIV babies in Kenya.

Saturday 26 November is the confirmed date for the ANNUAL ROUP in the Public Hall, Newburgh – this is a chance to pick up some bargains and have a lot of fun! We shall again be looking for donations for the auction and also of books, toys and bric-a-brac for the stalls. Please hold on to any unwanted items in the meantime – let us know if you need them to be collected in advance out of your way. And please help us now to publicise this event, and encourage others who have unwanted items to consider donating them for sale. Items can be handed in to the Hall on the Friday evening (7.00-8.30pm) or on the Saturday morning (10.00am-12noon). We shall need extra volunteers to help on the day – so please let us know if you are able to lend a hand. For further information, or if you have any items which you cannot manage to bring along yourself, telephone 01358 742234 (Mary) or 789688 (Alistair). The doors will open at 1pm – the auction will begin at approx.1.30pm. We look forward to seeing you there – it's a great social occasion (there are refreshments, too) and there are usually many bargains on offer!

Finally on Saturday 3 December we look forward to welcoming back singer, guitarist and song-writer BRUCE DAVIES who will present a concert entitled 'Songs for the Season'. Bruce gave a great concert (with a Scottish theme) for Belhelvie Church last March after his planned Christmas visit there was postponed because of the wintry conditions. So we are delighted that he will be coming here to Foveran Parish in December 2011, and he will be entertaining us then with a mixture of religious and other well-loved Christmas songs. This is a treat in store at the start of the festive season – further details will be available in the local press nearer the time.

A final date for your diaries: looking ahead to next year, you may like to make a note that Friday 20 January 2011 is the provisional date for our annual Burns Supper.

We very much look forward to your continued support.
Mary Smith
(Social Convener)
Tel: 01358 742234

David and Rebecca Morton, Nkhoma Hospital, Malawi



David and Rebecca



Rebecca with triplets born in the hospital

David and Rebecca faced a very difficult time in June when finances at the hospital reached a critical stage. The following extracts are from letters sent at that time.

Dear Friends

Thank you all so much for your concern and prayers, and encouraging responses. We are still waiting for payment from DHO, but there does seem to be willingness to find a way forward to keep some type of agreement going that will provide care even if the resources available through the District Health Office are becoming less. It is clear now that the major issue is that the Malawi government just does not have the funds to reimburse at the level patients are accessing the service, so we will need to make adjustments, and make sure that the most important things (inpatient maternity and under fives care as well as antenatal care) continue. So pray for wisdom as we go about negotiating how to make this all work....

...Yesterday we were paid 2 cheques from the District Medical Office, totalling over 8 million Kwacha (\$53,000). We learned the delay was due to the treasure department delaying release of funds to the district. There are still major issues to be determined, (new agreement, how we will be paid in the future, remaining 5 million kwacha owed, etc) but our God has provided and now we have funds to last for another month!

Please continue to pray for the ongoing relationship with the district health office and also for the lack of foreign exchange (meaning \$, hard currency is necessary for the country to be able to buy fuel, drugs, medical supplies, everything that is not made within the country – as the Malawi kwacha is not an international currency) causing fuel shortages and lack of building materials, drugs and medical supplies for local purchase.

God is good so we continue to trust Him for our provision as He responds to your prayers for us.

Thank you, David and Rebecca

Financial Report

Here are the latest figures for January to August this year, and a comparison with 2010.

2010 Income	£43,418	Expenditure	£33,639
2011 Income	£36,881	Expenditure	£29,745

I produce a monthly statement of our finances for the Congregational Board, and if anyone else would like see these more detailed reports they should let me know.

Many of us continue to give realistically to keep our monetary contributions to the work of the Church in a relatively good state. A letter from Gordon Jamieson, the Church of Scotland Head of Stewardship appeared in our Spring newsletter. In this he pointed out that other congregations are contributing over £21,000 a year towards the cost of ministry in this parish of Foveran. You may recall that in the last newsletter I reported that the Congregational Board had agreed that we send a voluntary contribution of £5,000 to the Church of Scotland to reduce our reliance on others. The Kirk Session later decided that we should put this payment on hold meantime. We are, however, continuing to work towards a greater degree of self sufficiency.

Frances M Morrison (Treasurer)

Dates for your Diaries – including Explorers Dates

Sun 23 rd October	Messy Church, 11am, Public Hall (see below)
Sun 30 th October	Communion Service, 11am
Sun 13 th November	Remembrance Sunday, 10.45am in Holyrood Chapel and Foveran War Memorial afterwards
Sun 4 th December	Messy Church, 11am, Public Hall
Sun 11 th December	Nativity Dress Rehearsal in morning Service of carols and readings at 6.30pm
Sat 17 th December	Explorers and Messy Church Christmas Party (see below)
Sun 18 th December	Nativity Service in Holyrood Chapel, 11am
Sat 24 th December	Christingle service at 4.30pm and Watchnight service at 11.30 pm with carols from 11.00 pm
Sun 25 th December	Christmas Day Family Service, 11am
Sun 1 st January	Family Service in Holyrood Chapel
Sun 8 th January	Family Service in Holyrood Chapel
Sun 15 th January	Explorers resume

Messy Church

The next Messy Church will take place on Sunday 23rd October at 11am in the Public hall followed by lunch in the Church hall. The final Messy Church of 2011 will be on Sunday 4th December at 11am in the Public hall followed by lunch in the Church hall.

If you haven't already been to a Messy Church, come along and give it a try. It's informal, family orientated, fun and of course, messy. We'd love to see you there.

The children from Messy Church are also invited to join the Christmas party in the Church hall on Saturday 17th December. For any more info contact Christine 751743 or Donna 789688.

Pastoral Notices

Weddings

10 th July	Ruth Gray and Peter Ingram
13 th August	Sheila Simpson and John Smith [conducted by Rev S Craggs]

Funerals

6 th July	Sophie Edwards with service of thanksgiving on 15 th July
20 th July	Colin Macfarlane

Invitation to Communion



on Sunday October 30th 2011

**Communion Service
Holyrood Chapel, 11am**