

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Minister	Rev W. Kenneth Pryde The Manse, Foveran Tel: 789288
Session Clerk and WFO Recorder	Mrs Christine Fordyce Craigard, Foveran Tel: 789236
Clerk to the Board	Mr. Peter Morrison 4 St. Clair Wynd Newburgh Tel: 789770
Gift Aid Treasurer	Mrs Anne Whalley 57 Mavis Bank Newburgh, Ellon AB41 6FB Tel: 789521
Treasurer	Mrs Frances Morrison 4 St. Clair Wynd Newburgh Tel: 789770
Sunday School Superintendents	Mrs Donna Cruickshank Tel: 789688 Mrs Christine Mitchell Tel: 789487
Editor of Church Newsletter	Mrs Jane Bradford 49 Main St Newburgh Tel: 789511

Reg.CharityNo.SCO11701

Photographs on front cover by Martyn Gorman



Foveran Parish Church Newsletter

Winter 2012

MINISTER'S LETTER

Dear friends,

Where there is no vision the people perish. Proverbs 29:18

As someone who often climbed the Scottish mountains I know only too well the effort needed to reach the summit and enjoy the reward, the view from the top. Often it's a grind as you place one foot in front of the other, step after step on your relentless ascent. The effort often seems to be greater than the anticipated reward as you slog upward with your face to the hillside. However, if you stop every so often and look back down the mountain you get a different picture, for you see how far you've come and how much height you've gained. Encouraged by this you continue with renewed vigour.

In a similar way the life and progress of a church can be both hard work and rewarding. The task of bringing people to know Jesus and making our faith relevant can be daunting, yet if we look back on where we've come from we see a different picture and can gain encouragement from the progress we've made, so it's good to look back occasionally to take stock and to be encouraged.

It is now three years since Elizabeth and I joined you in your journey of faith and I would like to look back on these years to encourage you. When I look at the life of our church over this period I see a church growing in faith, love, fellowship, discipleship and spiritual depth. There is a growth in the number of young families involved in the life of the church and the demographic profile, the range of ages, etc., has changed radically. The age range present in worship now reflects more accurately the community we serve. These are trends that run counter to those of the Church of Scotland generally and you need to be commended for that. Looking back from where you have come must surely be an encouragement for you as it is for me, so where do you want to be, as a church, in three years from now? What does Proverbs 29:18 mean to you?

I know that many of you have grasped a vision for the future that if realised will change this church even more radically. That vision, of a new purpose-built Community Church in Newburgh, is a bold one that for many at present would seem unattainable. It looks a bit like a mountain from the bottom and right now we're not sure where the top is or even if there is a way to get there.

Finance is the biggest obstacle to this vision, especially in the present economic times. Yet these times will eventually pass and the vision will remain to entice this church forward, challenging you to be bold for Christ. As a church we do have properties and land that could be sold to help finance this vision and in partnership with other bodies and organisations it could become a reality, so there are potentially very exciting times ahead for you as a church. I also know that by following where Jesus Christ leads will best ensure the future of this church, for Christ is in that future and beckons us to follow him there in faith and with courage.

Yours in Christ
Kenneth

Dates for your Diaries

Sun 26 th Feb	Messy Church, 11am, Public Hall and lunch afterwards at the Church Hall
Fri 2 nd March	World Day of Prayer Service, 7.30pm, Holyrood Chapel
Sun 25 th March	Messy Church, 11am, Public Hall and lunch afterwards at the Church Hall
Thurs 5 th April	Maundy Thursday Service, 7.30pm Belhelvie Church
Fri 6 th April	Good Friday Service, 7.30pm, Holyrood Chapel
Sat 7 th April	The Aberdeen Passion Play, 2.30pm, AECC
Sun 8 th April	9am - Egg Rolling on Gallowshill (Meet at 9am in Briggies car park before we walk up Gallowshill for a short service and then egg rolling – bring your own hard boiled eggs!) Afterwards there will be breakfast served in the Church Hall 11am – Easter Service, Holyrood Chapel
Sat 28 th April	Super Soup Lunch, Church Hall
Sun 13 th May	Messy Church, 11am, Public Hall and lunch afterwards at the Church Hall
Sun 24 th June	Messy Church, 11am, Public Hall and lunch afterwards at the Church Hall

Pastoral Notices

Baptisms

11th Dec 2011

Jesekah Stirton

Funerals

30th Jan

Sheila Cocker

2nd Feb

Flora Innes

David and Rebecca Morton, Nkhoma Hospital, Malawi Extracts from their January 2012 letter



Rebecca with the triplet orphans
who are all doing well

Dear Friends,

We just want to give you an update on a praise item and a prayer item. Please thank God with us for an incredible donation to the hospital running budget from an individual who felt God's leading to donate a substantial inheritance she received for Nkhoma hospital, and specifically the gap between what we can raise and what we need for the running costs of the hospital.

This will enable us to make up the difference which has been much greater since July between income and expenditure due to a number of issues.

The prayer item is that we just learned that all of the church medical units in the country will be audited by the government regarding the payroll of those staff paid by the government through the Christian Hospital Association of Malawi. It is a complicated issue, but it is very difficult to get everything right in this area because of shortfalls in our own HR department... so it would be very easy for us to be found out of compliance and threatened with fines. Over the next week we will be engaged in the huge task of going through all of the payroll and everyone's personnel files. This comes at absolutely the most busy time of the year (we have had over 1000 admissions since 1 Jan in the children's ward alone) for clinical work. Pray that our staff will have the wisdom and energy to prepare properly what needs to be prepared, and that we will find favour in the eyes of the auditors. Pray also for the children's ward staff who are at times overwhelmed with the work load.

Your prayers have been upholding us. Remember the time we requested prayer for the huge debt of \$85,000 owed to us by the district health office? We have been paid everything. So we need your effective prayers again.

David and Rebecca

Introducing the all new Foveran Parish Church website!



We have a brilliant new presence on the web thanks to Alasdair Smith. Visit www.fpchurch.co.uk to have a look at the basic outline which we hope to fill with exciting content over the coming weeks and months.

Alasdair has brought us bang up to date with a website that can be edited by multiple people in the church over the web – this is not as scary or difficult as it sounds!

The idea is not to have a static website that doesn't change; it is to have a website that reflects things as they happen in the church and holds useful information that can be easily accessed by everyone with an internet connection. Church news, photos, information about upcoming events, rotas and anything else we wish can be added.

Alasdair plans to have a tutorial session with anyone who is interested in finding out exactly how to put things onto the website so please contact him directly at alidsmith@gmail.com to voice your interest.

For this to work it needs plenty of people who are willing to contribute things like photos, articles, information etc. We want a vibrant presence on the web that works for us as a church but that also is an 'advert' to others (including potential new ministers!) showing what an exciting place our church is. Check it out and get involved with any suggestions, contributions or questions to Alasdair or myself (Jane Bradford – jane@bradford1.net).

Thanks must go to Hazel and Tim Kemp, and Jean Jones who put so much work into setting up our previous website.

A warm welcome to our Services at Holyrood Chapel, Foveran Parish Church

It can be daunting going to a church service for the first time or after having been away for a long while. We aim to make our Sunday services welcoming, understandable and open to all – whether you are a regular worshipper, haven't been to church for years or perhaps have never been to a church. We are a growing, family-friendly church seeking to reach out to all people.

We hope the summary below helps explain a little of what you can expect to happen at any of our Sunday services.

What does a Sunday service look like?

Foveran Parish Church now has 2 different Sunday services.

Our 11 o'clock service starts with a time of singing songs of worship led by a band from the front. The children and young people share in our worship which has more modern songs. After about 20-30 minutes the children leave for their own fun and learning time in the Church Hall and our church service continues in a more traditional form with a sermon lasting around 15 minutes. Also during the service, members of the church will have an opportunity to give money into a general offering for the work of the Church worldwide (though many will do this through standing orders or by other online means), but as a newcomer, please do not feel obliged to do this - this is for people who call Foveran Parish Church their home church. The service usually finishes at noon.

On the last Sunday of each month we have our Six o'clock Service (SoS) which is also open to all and aims to be more relaxed with a longer time of singing worship songs at the start. There may be an opportunity for people to contribute by telling what God is doing in their life or by praying and there may be a short talk or DVD to reflect on. In response we will then join together in another short time of worship and there will be an opportunity to receive prayer, either during or after the service.

In November of 2010, baby Kahonoki, meaning "Little One Who was Saved", as he was called by the hospital staff, was picked up by the New Life Home Trust (NLHT) staff and driven 20 kilometres to Nyeri where he was welcomed "home". Weighing a mere 2.28 kg, it was there that he was given the name Jacob Mfalme, "Jacob the King". After almost a week at the home the staff decided that the wound care (wounds caused by the maggots eating his skin) was more than they could handle and that he would be better off at New Life Home in Nairobi with the support of a full medical facility.

The New Life Home staff and volunteers gave him the special care he needed and showered him with love and affection. He soon turned into a chubby ball of cuteness. It was there in the infant room of NLHT that we first saw our son. It was love at first sight, and it was in those special first moments that the Lord so clearly and graciously showed us the "whys" of the dark pain we had recently gone through.

At the end of 2010, my husband Dennis and I continued to be confronted with the despair of infertility. We began praying that the Lord would direct us in what we should do about a sibling for our first adopted child, Anjela. We were definitely open to adoption again but hadn't yet decided the details. We dreamed of having a bi-racial baby that would look a little more like us but knew that would be practically impossible. However when we called a Kenyan adoption agency, they told us of a bi-racial baby at New Life Home Trust. Even before we met him, Dennis and I knew this was the baby that the Lord wanted for us no matter what his condition was, or if he truly was bi-racial. We knew this was the answer to our prayers.

The next morning after Dennis talked to the adoption agency, we hadn't yet told the news to our three-year old daughter Anjela. When she awoke she said, "Mama, I want to have a baby brother and his name is Benjamin". I said, "What? Are you kidding?" Dennis and I looked at each other in amazement and said, "Well, I guess we will have to name him Benjamin".

Later I realised that the day Benjamin was born and thrown into the pit latrine was the same day Dennis and I were told that our chances of conceiving children were "slim to none.".... We had no doubt about it: this precious baby was God's gift to us!

Allison Omondi, an American missionary, lives in Mombasa with her husband Dennis, a Kenyan pastor, and their two adopted children, Anjela and Benjamin

New Life Home Trust News

Here is an extract from the latest New Life Home Trust Newsletter.

Paula Hawthorn

Nothing But Grace, The Story of Baby Benjamin



Sometime before the early morning hours of November 1st, 2010, a woman gave birth to a baby boy and then dropped him into an eighteen-foot deep public pit latrine toilet in Muthua slum in Nyeri, Kenya. This baby would become my adopted son. No one knows who the woman was or where she came from. Most believe she wasn't a local. She disposed of the baby while it was still dark so that she would not face mob justice and the possibility of being burned alive.

Normally babies found in pit latrines, because of the weight of the placenta, are pulled down face first into the mire of faeces, where they are found

suffocated to death. But not this special baby. Instead, somehow this baby landed on his back, face up. No broken bones or internal injuries were found. It was as if an angel slowly lowered him down. After the baby had spent hours in the latrine, a "Good Samaritan" heard his weak cries and spent the next two hours digging a parallel vertical hole for rescue. Onlookers told him to let the baby go, but he refused. Eventually both man and child emerged from the pit, alive but covered in faeces, flies, and maggots. Once the Good Samaritan had handed the baby over to a woman, he removed his shirt, washed off and went his way, never to be seen again.

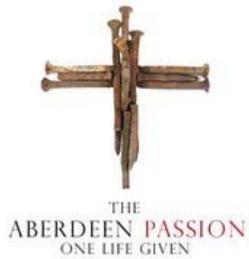
The baby was then taken to Karatina District Hospital where the receiving nurse reported him weak and dehydrated with maggots still feeding on his skin and crawling from his orifices. Not believing he would live, the nurse chose to wash and clean him in order to give him a respectable death. However, after washing him thoroughly, force-feeding him, and pumping his body with antibiotics, he began to revive. The nurse called him "a fighter". After 3 weeks he was released.

Also on the last Sunday of the month we take bread and wine together to celebrate the Lord Jesus Christ and what he's done for us in his death and rising from the dead. Twice a year this happens during a formal Communion service and at the other times during a short, informal act of worship immediately following the 11 o'clock service.

After each service, tea and coffee is served where there is plenty of opportunity to chat to people and make new friends.

We also have Messy Church, an experimental worship experience especially catering for whole families, which meets approximately every six weeks.





The Aberdeen Passion

is a traditional Passion Play which will be performed on **Friday 6th and Saturday 7th April 2012** (Easter Weekend) in the **Aberdeen Exhibition and Conference Centre**.

The passion story has been told and retold as a play over the centuries in a variety of styles and adaptations. "**The Aberdeen Passion - One Life Given**" is a traditional passion play, involving over 100 performers through a blend of onstage action, a live band and choir performing modern songs with lyrics specially written for the production. The play is a faithful retelling of the greatest story ever told, drawing its source material directly from the Gospel of St. Luke. This adaptation of Jesus Christ's last days is an amateur production which draws its cast and crew from members of local churches in Aberdeen and the North East.

Those involved are both Christian and non-Christian, drawn together by the amazing story that unfolds over the final few days in the life of Jesus Christ.

'A man who was completely innocent, offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act.'

Mahatma Gandhi

'I know men and I tell you that Jesus Christ is no mere man.'

Napoleon

'I am an historian, I am not a believer, but I must confess as a historian that this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very centre of history. Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history.'

H.G. Wells

You will find lots more information about the performance at www.aberdeenpassion.com and www.facebook.com/aberdeenpassion

As a Church we will be organising transport to & from Aberdeen for the 2.30pm performance on Saturday 7 April. Please contact Rev Kenneth Pryde on 789288 if you would like to go.

Friday 20 January. This year Peter Morrison acted as chairman for the



Photograph from Ted Bartlett

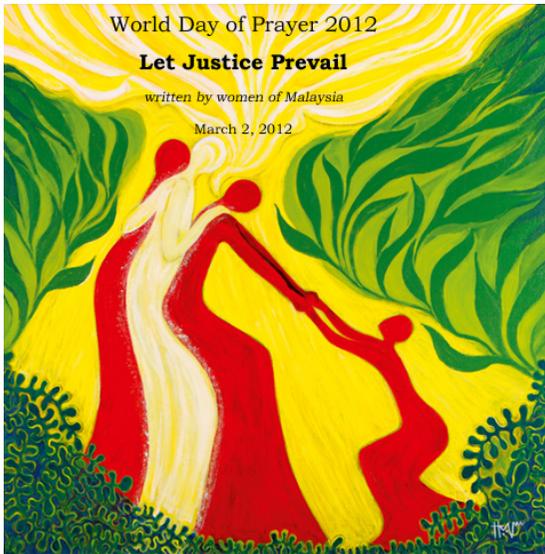
evening and Don Hawthorn gave the Selkirk Grace and piped in the haggis, which was borne by Anne Massie with George Adams as the Quaich bearer. Peter Kiehlmann addressed the haggis in great style and Alistair Cruickshank then proposed the toast to the Bard and recited the poem 'To a mouse' (complete with the mouse!). After the interval Zander Kirk gave a moving rendition of 'Holy Willie's Prayer' and we were then treated to fantastic musical entertainment performed by Danny and Carole Hawthorn, Hayley McFarlane, Shannon Dewars, Tricia Kiehlmann, Zander Kirk and Cameron Dow. The entertainment concluded with another brilliant rendition of 'Tam O'Shanter' by Alistair Cruickshank. The chairman then expressed our appreciation to the team at the hotel for an excellent meal and warmly thanked all the performers. Our thanks to everyone who came along – we had a full house this year, and it was great to see some of the young folk involved. We hope that you enjoyed the fellowship, food and entertainment as we met once again to remember Scotland's national Bard. This year we are delighted that the evening also raised just under £230 for the New Life Home Trust.

LOOKING AHEAD: We are hoping to hold a SUPER SOUP LUNCH in the Church Hall on Saturday 28 April so please make a note of this date. The money raised will be added to that raised from the house-to-house collection in Foveran Parish during Christian Aid Week (13 – 19 May).

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 Convener) Tel: 01358 742234

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



Our World Day of Prayer service takes place on **Friday 2nd March at 7.30pm** in the church at Newburgh. This is a yearly joint service with Belhelvie Church that takes place on the first Friday of March, and this year we are hosting the service. This year the service has been written by the women of Malaysia and all are made welcome with tea

after the service. It is a lovely service, and you will find more information about it at www.worlddayofprayer.net

Jean Robertson

SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Some time ago now, the annual ROUP took place on Saturday 26 November in the Public Hall, Newburgh. This event enjoyed excellent support and the final amount raised for church funds is approx. £1500. Our grateful thanks go to the auctioneer and all helpers, and to everyone who supported this event in any way.

On Saturday 3 December we welcomed back singer, guitarist and songwriter BRUCE DAVIES who presented a concert entitled 'Songs for the Season' in the Church Hall. Approximately sixty people enjoyed a fantastic programme of religious and other well-loved Christmas songs, and almost £115 was raised for the New Life Home Trust for abandoned and HIV babies in Kenya.

Very recently many members and friends from Belhelvie, Ellon and Foveran enjoyed our annual BURNS SUPPER in the Ythan Hotel on

A look back at Christmas...



The Explorers Christmas party was very noisy and lots of fun by all accounts. There was even a very special visitor...

The Christmas Carol Singing evening was a great success with over 100 people of all ages attending to get festive and sing their favourite carols. I'm sure the mulled wine and mince pies helped! It is set to become an annual event.



The Explorers children (and teachers!) did a fantastic job of the Nativity performance. The singing, reading and costumes were brilliant.

The Christmas Eve Christingle service saw the church packed with people young and old to make their Christingle candles. →



Our Vision and the Gordon Presbytery Plan

Following the request by Gordon Presbytery for churches to help in the formulation of the next Presbytery Plan, we held congregational meetings in September 2011 when we considered the needs of our church and parish. Some of you attended these meetings and took part in the consultation and planning process. The Kirk Session then submitted our full response in September and copies of this document have been available in church. The Presbytery Plan will form the basis of the next five to ten year plan for Gordon Presbytery and will assist in the decisions required to be made for the futures of all the churches within presbytery. The statement printed below was part of our submission in September 2011 and gives an overview of the larger vision for our church and the parish we serve.

**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**

To enable our vision statement to be more fully realised we need to radically rethink our buildings which are inadequate for modern mission and very costly to run and maintain. They are uninsulated and heated electrically.

Foveran church is to be sold as instructed by Presbytery and Holyrood Chapel, our remaining church building is only just adequate for Sunday worship and too small for the majority of funerals.

As a result of these issues we have taken the decision as a congregation to investigate ways in which we could build a **multi-purpose Community Church building** which would suit the needs of a developing church in a growing community.

Church Readers

The present roster of Church Readers runs until the end of February, and I hope that all on that list are happy to continue to deliver the readings at our services. I will soon be drawing up a new roster to run from March until the end of August. Please let me know of dates when you will **not** be available, using the sheet which will be on the table at the door of the church. As always, new readers will be very welcome - please add your details to the list. An e-mail address is helpful so that our minister can contact you directly to let you know what is to be read.

Frances M Morrison

I was sorting through some of the letters and poems we had been sent just after Sophie died and found one that I thought I would like to share with you. I'm afraid I don't know who wrote it, but as we head into a new year, I think it has something to say to all of us in some measure.

Sue Edwards

They Have Gone

*You can shed tears that they have gone
Or you can smile because they have lived.*

*You can close your eyes and pray that they'll come back
Or you can open your eyes and see all they've left.*

*Your heart can be empty because you can't see them
Or it can be full of the love you shared.*

*You can turn your back on tomorrow or live yesterday
Or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.*

*You can remember them and only that they've gone
Or you can cherish their memory and let it live on.*

*You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back
Or you can do what they'd want:
Smile, open your eyes, love and go on.*

Treasurer's Report

At the time of writing, I am preparing the annual accounts for the year ending 31 December 2011. These accounts will be presented to the congregation at its Stated Annual Meeting in March 2012. Our financial state is quite healthy, but as always we shouldn't allow ourselves to become complacent. Our income for 2011 was over £65,000, and the expenditure about £51,000. The Congregational Board of Management has approved in principle the renovation of the vestry at the church, and that will dip into our bank balance, but will, like the work that has been done on the church and the hall, greatly enhance our buildings. It is gratifying that our Newburgh properties are now in a good state, and are used and appreciated by so many people.

During 2011 we donated money to various charities. Crossreach received £218, the proceeds from collections at the Christmas services in 2010, and we sent £35 to our Mission Partners at the end of that year, after a special retiring collection. In 2011, thanks to the work of the Social Committee and the generosity of those who attended their functions, we have given £100 to the British Heart Foundation, £88 to Childline, and £556 to New Life Home Trust, **which amount includes £232 from the retiring collections at our Christmas services.** More money will be going to that Trust after the Burns Supper.

Over half of our income comes from Direct Debits and Weekly Freewill Offerings used by our members, and as mentioned elsewhere in this newsletter we can reclaim tax from those contributions - over £9,000 from people signed up to Gift Aid in 2011. I am well aware of how much members of the congregation do for our church, but I'd like to remind everyone that we shouldn't think that the kirk is "aye askin' for money". Any expenses that you incur - for example catering for Social events, buying stationery, replacing cleaning products - can be reimbursed. Just give me a receipt, and I'm happy to write a cheque. More major items which you think would benefit our congregation should be approved by the Congregational Board before they are bought on our behalf.

Frances M Morrison

This would be an energy efficient structure built to, or near to, Code 6 or Zero Carbon level, reducing substantially our present carbon footprint.

The sale of Holyrood Chapel, the church hall in Newburgh and the Foveran church building and attached ground would realise money for this project, but other partner funding would be necessary, possibly including the local authority and others since community use would be encouraged.

It will also be necessary to address issues with the present manse which has no thermal insulation in the walls and is not built with cavity construction. Consequently the manse is very costly to heat. Insulation of a structure of this type will be costly and other maintenance work also needs to be carried out.

The location of the manse beside a busy and fast road is a safety issue we will need to consider before we call another minister, especially if we want to encourage a minister with a young family.

Our finances have seen a radical turn-around over the last two years and we have a committed congregation working to fulfil our vision as a church which has been brought about by the leadership and encouragement of our minister, the Rev Kenneth Pryde, and of course the Holy Spirit.

Foveran Parish Church Kirk Session



Gift Aid 2010

You will be delighted to learn that, in September, Foveran Parish Church received a payment of **£9416.56**, from H.M. Revenue and Customs. This was the amount claimed under the Gift Aid scheme from donations which had been made during 2010 by people who have signed Gift Aid Declaration forms.

25% is added to a donation with Gift Aid. £10.00 becomes £12.50. £100.00 becomes £125.00. It is wonderful for the Church to receive this bonus, with very little extra effort from donors. If you are a taxpayer and you have not completed a Gift Aid form already, please consider doing so.

Gift Aid can be recovered for any donations given at any time, whether regular or occasional, as long as they are from a donor who has signed a form. Donations given by Weekly Freewill Offering envelopes, in the brown envelopes at Communion with completed slips enclosed or by monthly, biannual or annual Standing Order directly to the Church can be attributed to named donors. Money in the collection plate with no name can not.

If you are concerned about anonymity, this is taken very seriously. The duty elders who open the W.F.O. envelopes do not know to whom they belong. They note the amounts in the envelopes next to numbers on a list. The W.F.O. Recorder (Christine Fordyce) transfers this information to a list with names later. Standing Orders appear on the monthly bank statement so the Treasurer (Frances Morrison) is aware of these donations. Some donations are sent directly to me by post.

Christine and Frances are aware of their own records only. The Gift Aid Treasurer (me) is the only person who has access to all the information. Individual donations are never discussed amongst us or with anyone else, although I do have to keep a record which can be shown to H.M. Revenue and Customs if requested.

Perhaps some donors would rather not commit to regular amounts, preferring to consider their financial situation at different times throughout the year. If you would rather put money in the plate, please put a note with it, including your name, address, date, amount of donation and signature, or use one of the Gift Aid envelopes which are always available on the table as you come into church. For confidentiality, any notes could be put in an envelope addressed to me. Alternatively you could send me a letter, summarising your cash donations over a period of time.

It would be excellent if all donations from taxpayers could have 25% added. Please think about becoming a Gift Aid donor if you are not one at the moment. I would be pleased to answer any queries. Just contact me for advice or for forms.

Supporters of Foveran Parish Church, please thank yourselves for your outstanding generosity in 2010. We hope the donations for 2011 have been equally generous or even better and look forward to a further boost, with more Gift Aid donors, in 2012.

Anne Whalley, Gift Aid Treasurer
57, Mavis Bank, Newburgh, Ellon, Aberdeenshire, AB41 6FB.
Tel. 01358 789521