

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 Ricky Reid The Manse, Foveran Tel: 789225 reidricky8@hotmail.com	Treasurer	Mrs Frances Morrison 4 St. Clair Wynd Newburgh Tel: 789770
Session Clerk	Mrs Sue Edwards 6 Airyhill View Newburgh AB41 6DW Tel: 789139	Sunday School	Mrs Donna Cruickshank Fairfield, Pitmillan, Foveran AB41 6AL Tel: 789688
Clerk to the Board	Vacant – anyone interested in this position please get in touch		Mrs Christine Mitchell Old Mill of Collieston Slains, Ellon AB41 8RG Tel: 751743
Roll Keeper & WFO Recorder	Mrs Christine Fordyce Craigard, Foveran AB41 6AP Tel: 789236		Mrs Erica MacKenzie Brookfield, Foveran, AB41 6AP. Tel: 789416
Property Convenor & FAX Leader	Mr Andrew Mitchell Old Mill of Collieston Slains, Ellon AB41 8RG Tel: 751743	Editor of Church Newsletter & Website	Mrs Jane Bradford 49 Main St Newburgh. Tel: 789511 jane@bradford1.net
Gift Aid Treasurer	Mrs Anne Whalley 57 Mavis Bank Newburgh AB41 6FB Tel: 789521	Safeguarding Coordinator	Mrs Margaret Gorman 7 Eider Road Newburgh Tel: 789359

Foveran Parish Church is the known name of Foveran Church of Scotland
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Foveran Parish Church Newsletter

Spring 2015 Minister's Letter

On old fish hooks and old doctrine

I can't remember where I saw it, but there is a picture in a book I may have on the Celtic days, of a fish hook recovered from one of those lake dwellings which have been found about the place. It is a hook with a curved shank and the hook bends back on itself like an incomplete circle. Today we call them 'Circle' hooks, and the attraction of them is that once a fish gets this hook into its mouth it is almost certain to get hooked in the edge of the mouth by itself.

I am sure you are fascinated by this – not! So why am I telling you this? Simply for this reason: there are some things that are almost impossible to improve! The mouse trap, the pencil and the wheel are all ancient things which still fulfil a useful purpose, and some are having new applications discovered or revisited. There is a certain truth in saying that fashions come in cycles - who would have thought that vinyl records would return to fashion not to mention certain clothes coming back into vogue!

It is not any different in Church life. Some people want to always be doing something new, and it is more about excitement than reality, only to learn that it has all been done before. Sometimes the things which were thought to be

innovative and exciting and effective are discovered on closer examination to have blown away like a morning mist as the sun rises. This is sad, because over the years I have known and heard of many people who appear to have given up faith when their particular slant on it was shown to be false.

Recently I have been reacquainting myself with the works of Jonathan Edwards, a minister in New England in the 1700's, and also about that period of history in the colonies and the UK, Scotland in particular. The first thing of note is that those folk were concerned about the very things that are concerns for us. How do we pass faith onto our children and grandchildren when there are so many new things to distract them? How do we recognise a real Christian from a religious person, and what do people have to do to become Church members? Should anyone and everyone be baptised and take communion? Is there to be a difference between a Christian and a non-Christian in their way of life, and if so what? What is the Church all about anyway and how does this all relate to making a living?

The contribution of this old writer has been great, if not constant. He was a pastor and a theologian and was a champion for truth even though it cost him dearly. One of his more recent and best biographers, Iain Murray, commented on Edwards' priorities saying that they were 'preaching, revival, and missionary endeavour', and that Edwards considered his day to be a day which should give rise to 'prayer and action' (p471). Edwards himself noted in his work on who should qualify for Communion, that it is the lack of holiness, not the lack of numbers that hindered the advance of the Church.

I agree with Murray and Edwards about the state of affairs today. Just because truth is old does not make it outdated or false. It is time to get back to the Word and solid doctrine; this has often preceded and has followed revival.

Ricky

A Look Back at Christmas

Our **Carols by Candlelight** evening with delicious mulled wine, shortbread and mince pies – complete with a lamppost to sing under – was packed out and the sound made was truly beautiful. Thank you to all who came



along and sang, played the rockin' music and donated their time and wine – you know who you are! A profit of around £90 was made which will go to New Life Home Trust for abandoned babies in Kenya.



The children's **Nativity Service** turned high-tech this year with roving reporters beaming back interviews with crucial witnesses (the shepherds & wise men) as events from Bethlehem were played out live in front of us by our talented Sunday school children (guided by our equally talented and hard-working Sunday school leaders!).



The **Christmas Eve Christingle** is always a lovely thing to attend on Christmas Eve and this year was no exception. The atmosphere was electric with excited children – and adults! The Christingles (an orange with sweets, dried fruit & a candle) were made and lit with no mishaps, and we remembered the real meaning of Christmas.



Stewardship 2015

The General Assembly of 2011 instructed all congregations to engage in a 3 year rolling stewardship campaign looking at the subject of Time, Talents and Money. As Foveran did this some years ago, we have not yet engaged with it, however now we must. The hard fact is that only a small number of congregations are self-financing, and so congregations with a larger budget contribute to the others through the ministry and mission contribution. This is done because the Church of Scotland is committed to having a presence in every parish in the nation, be it very rural or city.

There are factors which complicate the matter. We live in an active and frenetic culture, so our time is under pressure. We live in a low commitment culture where people want things done, but expect government or someone else to do it, and we live in a society where every charity is looking to the same people to fund them, so money is scarce. Add to this the fact that we have too many church buildings since the union of churches in 1929 and that these are old, poorly insulated and costly to heat, insure and maintain, and we have almost a perfect storm of pressures.

However, this has not always been the situation of the church. There are times of revival and refreshing when people give time, energy and money freely out of gratitude to God for such a great salvation, all from Grace, but generally, we are not in such days today.

So, we need help in putting together a stewardship campaign. The focus will be on Talents, so please help if asked, or volunteer, and don't kill the messengers!

Ricky

A Reminder

Please remember that hospitals can no longer alert Ministers to the fact that parishioners have been admitted and require a visit. If you know of someone who is unwell, whether in hospital or at home, who would like a visit, please contact either Ricky or myself.

Sue Edwards

An Invitation to all who love nature...



"Caring for creation" is an often heard mantra. Easily said but how do conservation organisations apply their science to a better future for the rest of us? At 7.30pm on 31st March at Queens Cross Church, Albyn Place, Aberdeen, Dr Ian Francis, Conservation Manager of the RSPB, will illustrate and open minds with a talk entitled, "Nature and People in North East Scotland". All are welcome - entry is free.

Every congregation with concern for our natural environment should have representatives present! This event is organised by the Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire Network of Eco-Congregation Scotland.

Eco-Congregation Scotland is a charity, offering a programme to enthuse and equip churches to weave environmental issues into their life and mission in an enjoyable and stimulating way. To find out more please visit www.ecocongregationscotland.org.

Equip – Invitation to Workshops for the Arts



The Church of Scotland is offering practical creative workshops for anyone in the church, to help make connections with congregation and community. The workshops are in:

*Craftivism *Doodling in Tongues *Drama
*Graffiti *Poetry *Worship Spaces

The date is Saturday, 28 March 2015, 10am - 4pm and the venue is Dalziel St Andrew's Church, 43-47 Merry Street, Motherwell, ML1 1JJ. Booking is required, and can be done at www.resourcingmission.org.uk/events/equip-arts - deadline is 19th March.

New Session Clerk

At the service on Sunday 18th January, it was my great privilege to present a bouquet of flowers and a John Lewis Gift Card to Christine Fordyce, on behalf of the church, to thank her for her dedication and hard work in her role as Session Clerk, now that she has handed that particular baton to me.



I have been Session Clerk depute for a couple of years now, but Christine did so much for and on behalf of the church that it will be a difficult job trying to separate the duties of Session Clerk from all the other things Christine did, and which we hope she will continue to do.

She has such a wealth of knowledge concerning the history and the people of the parish that I cannot hope to attain – although with God's help and your support, I look to serve to the best of my ability.

I ask that you will bear with me over the next few weeks as I try to establish what exactly the role entails and to find my feet, so please be patient if something you expect to happen doesn't – a gentle reminder will be accepted, or if things are done twice....

I've a very hard act to follow.
Sue Edwards, Session Clerk

New Knit & Natter Friendship Group

A new group has started up in the Church Hall on Thursdays from Feb 5th, 2015, 1.30 – 3.30pm. Bring your own projects, e.g. knitting, crochet, tapestry, cross-stich. Make new friends, enjoy a cuppa and maybe learn something new! All welcome. Please just come along on the day or contact Margaret Buchan (789298).

Report from the Treasurer (don't ignore this bit – it's important!)



As I write this, it's still January, the sun is shining, and it's a good time to look back on the year that has gone, and forward to 2015. During the 2014 Christmas services there were special collections for Christian Aid, and I am pleased to report that, thanks to the generosity of the congregations, a cheque for £290 was sent to that charity. I have also recently banked £87, a donation from the organisers of the Carols by Candlelight celebration, and it has been agreed that this will go to New Life Home Trust.

Now for a quick look at the rest of our 2014 finances. There are some expenditure items to which we are committed. £27,871 went to the Church of Scotland Ministries and Mission fund: 86% of that was deemed to be for Parish Ministries, and the remaining 14% for Mission and Renewal. Rates and Insurance ate up another £4,380, and electricity costs for 2014 were £4,338. (As some of the electricity invoices were based on estimates, I know that the real cost of heat and light for our buildings was somewhat more than that, and we'll be billed in due course) We have an attractive and informative Newsletter, for which the cost of producing 2014's editions was a little over £1,500. Presbytery dues and ministers' travel expenses added another £3,843 to the year's essentials - the total of all these being £41,932. Repairs and renewals to our buildings cost £9,327. We, the current members of Foveran Church of Scotland, are merely stewards, and it is our duty to nurture and encourage those who will be our future; we contributed £700 for Messy Church and other activities for young people.

Our (now well-heated!) hall is a source of income, and various groups who used that last year contributed £2,330. Most of the rest of the income comes from the Weekly Freewill Offering scheme (£12,114), Bank Standing Orders (£23,427), and other donations and open plate collections on Sundays (£8,027). Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs added £9,564, for which thanks to those who signed up to Gift Aid.

In summary, 2014's total income was £64,432, and expenditure £60,455. Already we know that our 2015 Ministries and Mission Contributions will increase to £31,321, and that we must spend a fairly substantial amount to keep our buildings up to standard. We are going to be pushed to meet our commitments in 2015, UNLESS....

Have you thought recently about your contributions to our Church? No, I don't mean just money! Our expenditure has always been much lower than it could have been because of the time and talents donated by our members. If you were able to give a bit more - time, talents or money, maybe your treasurer's hair would stop turning white (if only!!) at the prospect of what could be ahead of us.

Frances M Morrison

30 January, 2015

Social Committee Report

Some time ago now on Saturday 22 November the ANNUAL KIRK ROUP took place in the Public Hall, Newburgh. There were many generous donations of items for sale on the stalls and under the hammer - including household items, home-grown neeps and tatties, beautiful Christmas cakes and lots of other home baking, books, toys and bric-a-brac. Lovely refreshments were on offer. Our thanks to everyone who supported this event in any way; it raised approximately £1160 for church funds.

Very recently on Saturday 24 January there was excellent food and wonderful entertainment at our annual BURNS SUPPER, once again held jointly with Newburgh-on-Ythan Golf Club in the golf clubhouse. Ricky Reid gave the Selkirk Grace and as chairman kept the evening running smoothly. Don Hawthorn piped in the haggis, borne aloft by Martin Bühler (the caterer) with George Adams as Quaich (and refreshment!) bearer. Peter Morrison confidently addressed the haggis and George Annand (a golfer) gave a very fitting tribute and toast to the Bard. After the traditional supper, Alistair Cruickshank once again had the audience enthralled as he recited 'To a mouse' and (with the help of his grey mare) 'Tam O'Shanter' – he even gave us a helpful translation this year!



The excellent musical entertainers this time were Doreen and Lauren Astley, Cameron Dow, Carole, Danny, Paula and Will Hawthorn, Zander Kirk, Frances and Peter Morrison and Julie Sinclair. Alistair and Cameron helped to add much appreciated humour to 'Duncan Gray.' Ricky expressed our appreciation for the hospitality of the golf club and to Martin and the staff for an excellent meal and thanked all the performers, and after a final word from Don Hawthorn we all joined in singing Auld Lang Syne. We are delighted that the evening raised approximately £230 for the New Life Home Trust. Our thanks to everyone who helped to make this possible.

LOOKING AHEAD:

On Saturday 27 February the very talented BRUCE DAVIES will be appearing in concert in The Forsyth Hall, adjacent to Belhelvie Church, from 7.30pm. Bruce is based in Fife and has been a full-time singer/guitarist/songwriter for almost 30 years, appearing all over the UK and USA, Germany, Nigeria and Jamaica. He performs the songs of his heroes and friends, some of his own award-winning compositions and the best of Scotland's repertoire. This visit from Bruce has been arranged as a joint event for both Belhelvie and Foveran Churches, so we hope that lots of you will be able to come along – note that the evening will include a prize draw. Tickets are £5 each (including refreshments) and available from myself. If you need help with transport to Belhelvie please let us know.

Later in the year we hope to again hold an evening VARIETY CONCERT to raise a little extra cash for Christian Aid. This will be another opportunity to enjoy local talent and again there will be lots of youngsters involved. Further events may also be arranged in the coming months, so please keep a look out for publicity in the local press and on posters throughout the local area.

Mary Smith (Social Convener, Tel: 01358 742234)

Pastoral Notices

Funerals

31st Dec 2014
8th Jan 2015
29th Jan 2015

William Wood
James Stanger
Sheena Patrick (nee Keith)

Baptisms

18th Jan 2015

Grace Alice
Elizabeth
Bowman



Our Mission Partners in Malawi
Extracts from their letter January 2015

Dear Family and Friends,

It has been over 6 months since we last communicated, in May 2014. Since then we have had six weeks in Scotland (September to mid-October) visiting churches, project partners, and renewing our contract with Church of Scotland for another four years. It was a good time and we are encouraged with the interest, support and partnerships we have with Gordon and Lewis Presbyteries, and Church of Scotland's World Missions Council.



Loch Kinord, Aberdeenshire

Highlights include revisiting a number of primary schools in Aberdeenshire to share about the most dangerous animal in Africa (the mosquito) and care of refugee and orphan children at Nkhoma, meeting new pastors, and experiencing wonderful prayer times with a number of congregations. We know that we are an extension of the work of God's kingdom through churches in Scotland, the USA and around the world. This is very important to us as the work we are involved in here at Nkhoma is much beyond our own personal resources.

Malawi is experiencing difficult times. Financially the local currency (Kwacha) has gone from 387 to the dollar in May to 497 to the dollar in November then down to 456 to the dollar last week. This has caused high inflation, uncertainty for the future, and deep dissatisfaction among the general public here.

On the encouraging side, good care is being provided, lives saved and the vulnerable cared for. The cervical cancer project has far exceeded targets, screening over 7,000 women to date and is becoming the model programme for the country. Recently the World Health Organisation held a national meeting on progress in screening (as Cervical Cancer is the number one cancer causing death in

Malawian women), and Nkhoma Hospital's project was by far providing the most care for this condition in the country, as well as providing the complete package of care from education to screening, to treating pre-cancerous lesions, to biopsying suspicion lesions, to providing curative surgical care for those eligible, and palliative care to those beyond curative treatment.

To highlight another very encouraging programme, this year our HIV/AIDS program with support from the Equip Programme (together with Partners in Hope, Baylor University's international pediatric HIV program and the Elizabeth Glaser Foundation), has prevented over 80 infant HIV infections through antenatal care and the early infant diagnosis HIV program. If a pregnant woman is infected with HIV and is not on treatment, there is at least a 35% chance that she will transmit the infection to her child prenatally, during delivery or while breast feeding. Because Nkhoma is able to get 100% HIV screening to all antenatal women in our care and almost 100% initiation of treatment (a few women tragically refuse treatment), out of the 278 positive women found this year during our antenatal care, instead of ending up with 35% or 97 children infected, we had only 15 (5%) infections. Of these 15 infected infants, 11 are currently still on treatment with our programme.

These statistics are much more than numbers. They represent individuals who would not have access to this kind of care without Nkhoma Hospital. How many more women would die of cervical cancer, or children become infected with HIV if this care was not available? In addition there is the work of our chaplaincy team, counselling, praying, and bringing reconciliation among families.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers, that 2015 would be a year where we see the hospital, church and wider community experience the love of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, and because of this become, as St. Paul says in 2 Corinthians 5:17, a new creation, living for the glory of God and the good of the world.

David and Rebecca Morton,
Nkhoma Hospital, Malawi

Dates for your Diaries

Sun 8 th Feb	Messy Church, Newburgh CHURCH HALL (note the new venue from now on), 10.50am with lunch afterwards as normal.
Sun 22 nd Feb	Thinking Day Service, Holyrood Chapel
Fri 6 th March	World Day of Prayer, 7.30pm Holyrood Chapel
Sun 29 th March	Messy Church, 10.50am, Church Hall
Thurs 2 nd April	Maundy Thursday Communion Service, 7.30pm, Holyrood Chapel
Fri 3 rd April	Good Friday Service, 7.30pm, Belhelvie Church
Sun 5 th April	9am - Egg Rolling on Gallows Hill, all welcome! Meet at 9am in Newburgh Inn car park before we walk up Gallows Hill for a short service and egg rolling – bring your own eggs! Then breakfast is served in the Church Hall. 11am – Easter Service, Holyrood Chapel, including decorated egg competition (make different eggs for this – not the ones for rolling!)
	
Sun 26 th April 10 th -16 th May	Communion Service, 11am, Holyrood Chapel Christian Aid Week
Sun 17 th May	Messy Church, 10.50am, Church Hall
Sun 21 st June	Messy Church, 10.50am, Church Hall & Picnic at Foveran Park
Sun 28 th June	Explorers' Prizegiving
10 th -14 th Aug	Holiday Club!