

Our Vision

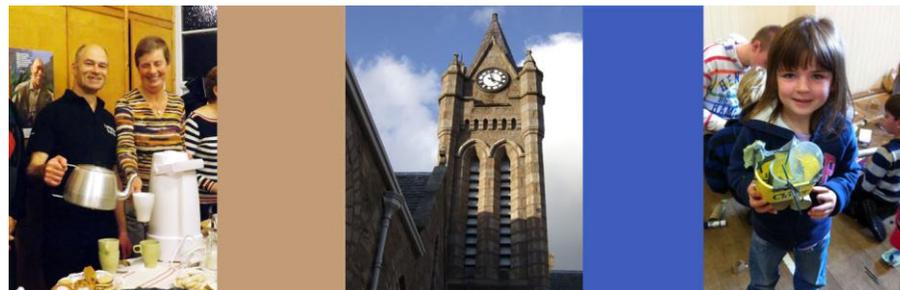
Our vision is to be a church
which inspires people
with the Good News
of Jesus Christ
through our enthusiasm, worship, witness,
nurture and service

www.fpchurch.co.uk

Church Directory

Minister	Rev Ricky Reid The Manse, Foveran Tel: 789288 Reidricky8@aol.com	Treasurer	Mrs Frances Morrison 4 St. Clair Wynd Newburgh Tel: 789770
Session Clerk & WFO Recorder	Mrs Christine Fordyce Craigard Foveran AB41 6AP Tel: 789236	Sunday School Superintendents	Mrs Donna Cruickshank Tel: 789688 & Mrs Christine Mitchell Tel: 751743
Clerk to the Board	Mr Peter Morrison 4 St. Clair Wynd Newburgh Tel: 789770	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	Property Convenor	Mr Alistair Cruickshank Fairfield, Pitmillan, Newburgh Tel: 789688

Reg. Charity No.SC011701



Foveran Parish Church Newsletter



Christmas 2013

Minister's Letter

Hello,

I do like Christmas time, well sort of. I like to go to a garden centre and look at all the tat, knowing that we are not going to buy any. I like the special boxes of chocolates which appear at this time of year - whole boxes of those orange wrapped swirly ones with a Hazel Nut in the centre. I like to see what the 'in' toy is and imagine how long it would take for me to break one. I like to look at boxed up model railways and wish I had not taken mine apart all those years ago. That's the sort of thing I like.



A Furby – the 'in' toy
this Christmas

It goes without saying that I like the cooking, Turkey and Ham and all the bits with it, Christmas cake and pud and custard, and then saying to Yvonne after the meal, 'let's not do that again!'. All the silly traditions we have built up over the years, especially the one we have where Yvonne says that I will never get a ham that size into the pot, or a turkey that size into the oven with the 'O yes I will,' and the 'O no you won't!' as in the Panto. O yes, there is another thing I like, the Panto.

There are other things I don't like. The pressure from the supermarkets and shops, which basically tell us that if we don't bust the bank on our children's presents or on those of our special friends, spouse, parents and so on, not only are we worse than Mr. Scrooge, but we deserve to win the Cad of the Year award. Why is it that those who can least afford to splurge out usually do so even if it means getting a loan from congo or bongo or whatever the lenders of choice is?

It seems that, as in the time when Jesus was actually born, the world, and even the Church, misses the whole wonder and miracle of Christmas by trying too hard to make something which is already unique, a party of a totally different variety.

The word that explains Christmas is Incarnation. It's not a word that is often used today and when it is used, the meaning is weakened. The doctrine of the Incarnation, for doctrine it is, says that the Child in the manger, the baby born to Mary, was none other than the Son of God and the son of man. Perhaps it was Charles Wesley who has come closest to commenting on this in his famous Hymn - 'veiled in flesh, the Godhead see, hail the Incarnate Deity.' There is actually a lot of theology tied up in those concepts.

So Christmas is given to us to enjoy -yes, but not to make a joke or a trivia of it, because at Christmas, by the Incarnation, God was enacting in history, in a definite time and place, the mystery of His plan for our salvation. This plan had been determined from before the beginning of time, but at that first Christmas time, the power of God began to be exerted in a way never before seen, and from then on, God's purposes are hurtling on to a time in the future when they will be perfectly completed. And that, in part, is what Christmas is about. So, forgive me if I now can't be bothered with party poppers and Christmas TV specials, all that seems rather mild in comparison with what God has done!

Ricky

Reverend Anthony Craig

At the start of our vacancy Rev Anthony Craig was appointed, at a Gordon Presbytery meeting held in Holyrood Chapel, to be our Interim Moderator. After the meeting he was surrounded by our elders and bombarded with questions. We had to rescue him and allow him to get to the vestry for his cup of tea!

Since then we have all bombarded him with questions and he has always answered them patiently and efficiently. He has led some of our services, always in a sincere and thought-provoking way and his faith shone through. We must not forget the hand puppets Crow and Frog who helped to dramatise Anthony's talks.



Anthony with Crow & Frog

Anthony chaired our Board and Session meetings, solving our problems and keeping things calm with his unflappable manner.



Anne & Anthony at Rev Reid's induction

He and his wife Anne have taken part in our social activities and have taken great interest in our members, visiting the sick and comforting people, like our own family, through sad times. They are friendly with a sense of humour and everyone I speak to refers to them as a lovely couple.

We wish them a long and happy retirement.

Christine Fordyce

Induction of Rev Richard Reid

In October the Induction took place of our new minister Richard Reid BSc, CDRS, BD, MTh (who likes to be called Ricky). The service, arranged by Gordon Presbytery, was held in Foveran Church to accommodate the large crowd attending. About twenty Presbytery ministers and elders and about twenty members of Ricky's last parish travelled to the service as well as many of our own congregation.

Ricky and his wife Yvonne come from Northern Ireland originally, but for the last 8 or 9 years Ricky has been in charge of three parishes, Nairn, Auldearn and Dalmore.

The service, in a lovely warm Foveran Church with a beautiful floral arrangement by Jean Robertson, opened with the rousing hymn "Christ is made the sure foundation". Mr Alan Doak of Ellon capably led the service and the Presbytery Clerk, Rev Euan Glen gave an excellent sermon. The Presbytery Moderator, Rev Douglas McNab, gave the preamble before the signing of the Formula.

Our own Choir sang one of Ricky's favourite hymns, "Be Thou my Vision" and the congregation promised to share in the worship of the church, give generously for its work and support and encourage the minister by prayers and friendship. Elders Ian Stott and Paula Hawthorn and member Cameron Dow brought forward three symbols of shared ministry – a bible, a communion cup and a jug of water. The service closed with the hymn "Look Forward in Faith".



Ian Stott, Paula Hawthorn, Cameron Dow, Anthony Craig, Alan Doak, Ricky & Yvonne Reid

We adjourned to the Church Hall where the traditional Induction Social was held. Welcome cups of tea and homebakes were served.



Rev Anthony Craig, our Interim Moderator welcomed everyone and presentations were made to all who had helped during our vacancy. Rev Sheila Craggs of Ellon gave a welcome to Ricky on behalf of the neighbouring parishes. Entertainment consisted of Shannon Dewars' lovely rendition of "As the Deer pants" and "Wild Mountainside" and Alistair Cruickshank's recital of the poem "Gin I wis God" by Charles Murray (bamboozling Ricky with his Doric).



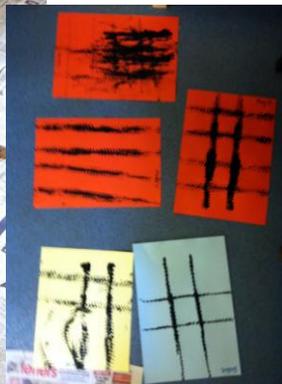
Clockwise from top left:
Margaret Gorman & Anne Craig;
Ricky & Sheila Craggs; Yvonne &
Anne Botheroyd; Alan Doak &
Jane Bradford; Susanna Richard
& Alistair Cruickshank

Apparently the Nairn contingent went home in tears not being able to take Ricky with them, but their loss is our gain.

Christine Fordyce

Messy Church

Messy Church on Nov 3rd was all about journeys. The children made painty footprints (very messy), a road with photos of people at different stages of life's journey, and vehicles made from junk to name but a few activities on offer. We were encouraged by Donna to think about our journey through life with God, and how he carries us through the difficult times, as illustrated in the poem 'Footprints in the Sand' (see opposite).



Footprints in the Sand

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Many scenes from my life flashed across the sky. In each scene I noticed footprints in the sand. Sometimes there were two sets of footprints, other times there were one set of footprints.

This bothered me because I noticed that during the low periods of my life, when I was suffering from anguish, sorrow or defeat, I could see only one set of footprints.

So I said to the Lord, "You promised me Lord, that if I followed you, you would walk with me always. But I have noticed that during the most trying periods of my life there have only been one set of footprints in the sand. Why, when I needed you most, you have not been there for me?"

The Lord replied, "The times when you have seen only one set of footprints, is when I carried you."

Mary Stevenson



Festive Corner Café



Corner
a
f
é

Thursdays
10am-noon



Church Hall
Newburgh

all welcome

To put everyone in the Christmas spirit, Corner Café will hold its Festive Coffee Morning on **Thursday 12th December**. Delicious mince pies from the Ythan Bakery will be served and the children from Newburgh Playgroup will entertain us by singing some Christmas songs. The Church Choir will then sing Christmas carols and a raffle will be held. All are welcome!

Corner Café will close for four weeks after that, reopening again on **Thursday 16th January 2014**.

Social Committee Report



On Friday 13 September we held a joint event with Belhelvie Church in The Forsyth Hall, when we enjoyed a memorable visit from the Osiligi Warriors from Southern Kenya. Their tour manager first showed audio-visual presentations and then the seven Warriors performed Maasai tribal song and dance and amazed us with their celebrated jumping. They also brought along beadwork for sale and this proved very popular. Excellent support from both parishes enabled a total of £771 to be donated to the Warriors for family and educational support in Kenya.



Another memorable evening took place on 26 September in the Church Hall, when Angus Hay (a former army officer and amateur historian) gave us an illustrated talk on the 51st (Highland) division and St Valery-en-Caux, France 1940.



Norman Fraser & Ann Wolrige-Gordon
with Angus Hay

The event attracted an overwhelming response particularly from folk in the wider North East area, most of whom had family connections with the 51st and the Gordon Highlanders. The income from ticket sales and an additional donation enabled us to forward £435 to Erskine (caring for ex-servicemen and women).

More recently on Saturday 2 November at 7pm in Holyrood Chapel the team who went to Africa told us of their work in Uganda and Kenya last summer. Peter, Tricia, Shannon, Cameron and Jess showed us wonderful pictures of the children and gave an interesting, moving and sometimes humorous talk. Everyone was thanked for help with fund raising to make the trip possible – and reminded that Footprints Café continues to raise money each month to help support Kids Club Kampala and the New Life Home Trust.

In September 2012 we heard about the Rehoboth Children's Homes Trust from Connie Andrews whose late husband helped to found the first Rehoboth Children's Home in the Philippines in 1981. The home raises disadvantaged Filipino children, giving them both a home and an education. Copies of the latest Newsletter and Prayer Guide from the Trust are available in the stand at the church door - you are welcome to take these away if you are interested.

Looking ahead - the annual KIRK ROUP will probably have already taken place on Saturday 23 November before you read this newsletter. The committee thank you for all your support during 2013, and look forward to welcoming you to our annual BURNS SUPPER early in the New Year.

Mary Smith (Social Convenor)

Tel: 01358 742234



Christmas Dates for your Diaries

Sun 1 st Dec	Messy Church, 11am, Public Hall
Thurs 12 th Dec	Festive Corner Café, Church Hall, 10-12noon
Sat 14 th Dec	Footprints Café, Church Hall, 10am-4pm
Sun 15 th Dec	Dress rehearsal for Nativity, children meet in Church Hall at 11am. Lessons and Carols – a traditional carol-singing service, Holyrood Chapel, 6.30pm
Sat 21 st Dec	Sunday School Christmas Party, Church Hall, 2-4pm then Carols by Candlelight in the Public Hall from 4pm. This is for everyone, all families welcome.
Sun 22 nd Dec	Nativity Service, 11am, Holyrood Chapel
Sun 24 th Dec	Christingle Service, Holyrood Chapel, 4.30pm. All families very welcome. Watchnight Service, Holyrood Chapel, 11.30pm. Carols sung from 11pm.
December 25 th	Christmas morning Service, 10.30am, Holyrood Chapel

All our services and events are open for everyone. Please come along to any of the above to celebrate Christmas – you do not have to be a 'church-goer'! Families are always welcome too – we don't mind a bit of noise!

Merry Christmas !