

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

Summer 2015

Missing the Obvious

It may be a man thing, but we are masters at missing the obvious. Until a day or two ago, I could not have told you what sort of light fitting was in the bathroom. It was only when the bulb went that I ever looked at it. Have any other husbands failed to notice a new hair style, or the furniture rearranged?

As Christians and Church people, we are so often remiss in the attention we give to passages in Scripture. For example, how do we rate different church activities in order of priority? Some folk think Church is all about music and singing. Some think it is about the social contacts and friendships. Others think it is about the preaching and how eloquent it is, or about any number of important and valid activities. However, some of the most obvious and strongly stated things, even things that the Lord Jesus Christ said, are displaced to the margins of our thought, if they ever reach our thoughts at all!

Let me give you two stunning examples on exactly the same subject. In Matthew 28, the Resurrected Christ (that is an event in itself, is it not?) said that, 'All authority in heaven and earth has been given to me.' Wonderful! But the statement does not stop there. He goes on to say, 'Therefore go, make disciples of all nations...' Nations there means all peoples, rich, poor,

clever, less clever, Muslims, Buddhists, terrorists, black, white, yellow, red, local, far away, at work, at home, in the gym, in the factory, bank, school, nominal church members, all peoples. Think that means we are to go to everyone, even though all will not welcome us.

The consequence of Christ's Resurrection is that people, by means of the Church, by the power of the Holy Spirit, should become Christians, believers, people to whose hearts the life of God has come and made new creations. People who are led by the Spirit to grow up and become Christ like. This is the work of the Church, all the Church, every one of us; this is our Commission, our Great Commission.

What about this other passage? Mark 1 verse 17 – look it up. It says this, 'Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men.' Peasant fishermen into fishers for the souls of men. Can it happen? On the day of Pentecost, Acts 2, Peter stands up and delivers his first sermon, and 3000 come to faith. Does that scare you? It scares me, but don't forget the first phrase of Jesus, 'Follow me.' As we follow, if we follow, it is God who will make us fishers of men.

Perhaps this raises uncomfortable questions as to how good we are at following? Are we doing our own thing, or are we following Christ? Big issues, obvious from the text, but often overlooked because we prioritise everything else, and ignore man fishing because it takes us into the discomfort zone of needing to depend utterly on God, and exposes us to all sorts of things we find uncomfortable. More needs to be said, but enough for now.

Ricky



**The morning of a job interview.
The night when a family member was sick.
The five minutes before an exam.
Most people have prayed in moments of desperation...**

Was someone listening? Was the prayer answered?

20 million adults in the UK pray. 13 million pray at least once a month and nine million every day. One in three people believe God will answer their prayers.¹

Trypraying is for those who are not religious and don't do church.

The desire to reach out to God is basic to many, many people. Trypraying is a resource for people like that: no church connection or interest, but open to find out about God. It's a booklet and an app that invites you to pray to God for 7 days and see what happens in your life.

If you are interested and want to find out more, visit our website at www.fpchurch.co.uk and follow the trypraying link from the front page. From there you can download the app or request a booklet.

**Wouldn't it be amazing if God answered your prayers?
You'll ever know unless you give it a chance.**

¹ Prayer in the UK. Tearfund November 2007

Easter



Easter morning was a lovely sunny one and our annual hike up Gallows Hill was very enjoyable. After a short service of worship we rolled our eggs down the hill then went along for breakfast together at the Church Hall. The Easter Service in church included the decorated egg competition, where some amazing creations were judged! Easter is a special time and in the midst of all the fun we remembered and celebrated Jesus' life, death and resurrection.



Footprints Cafe



Sam Wambeyo, Corrie Fraser and Olivia Barker from Kids Club Kampala visited Footprints cafe on Saturday 9th of May and Sam told his story. This was the last Footprints cafe. Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to make it such a great place for meeting and enjoying good food together over the past few years. Our donations have been greatly appreciated by all three charities we have supported.

Tricia Kiehlmann

JAMBO everyone,

It's that time of year again when our friends Guy and Suzanna Bastable visit from Kenya. This year has passed very quickly, as I'm sure you will all agree. Foveran Parish Church has again been a great support to the New Life Home Trust, and I want to thank everyone involved who has helped fundraise for the charity which is so close to my heart.

The New Life Home Trust is a Christian organisation who rescue abandoned and HIV babies, of which there is a huge problem in Nairobi and surrounding areas. The New Life Home Trust has been helping abandoned babies since 1994. The main aim of the trust is to provide love, medical care, essential feeding programmes, schooling, and then have the babies / children adopted into new families, which is very successful.

I have been fundraising for the NLHT for several years now, mainly doing bead parties with beautiful Kenyan handmade Kazuri beads. Kazuri means small and beautiful in Swahili. This year I have done several bead parties which I thoroughly enjoyed:, the Newburgh Guides, Collieston WRI, and the WRI here in Newburgh. Everyone was very generous and we raised a lot of money for the NLHT. I also ran the Aviemore half marathon and again raised money, thank you to all who donated and eased my pain of running!! I have entered again for this year.

I am hosting a coffee morning on Saturday 13th June 11am -1pm in the Church Hall, Newburgh in aid of the NLHT. Guy and Suzanna will be there so you can meet up and chat over coffee and home bakes. They will be giving a short talk on what is happening with them over in Nairobi, so please come and support us if you can. It is a great opportunity to hear about the amazing work this charity does, and meeting Guy and Suzanna is always an inspirational experience.

Newburgh Mathers School have also become involved with the NLHT and Suzanna will be attending an assembly in May at the school. I have been part of a Fairtrade working group in the school lead by Mairi Stewart. We decided as a group to make a baby blanket to give to Suzanna when she is over visiting and the children worked very hard, decorating squares which have been made into a blanket. They are all very excited about this! Thank you to the school, Mrs Lindsay and Miss Stewart for making this possible.

If anyone would like more information on the NLHT, donating, sponsoring a cot, or bead parties for adults, groups or children, please visit the website www.newlifelifehome.org.uk or contact me paulahawthorn68@gmail.com / 01358 789751 / 07854 186968.

Thank you, God Bless, Paula

Latest News of the Knitting for Nkhoma Hospital Malawi from Rosemary Legge

On Saturday 31 January a container was sent off to Malawi. It contained 11 boxes of knitting destined for Nkhoma Hospital. The knitting came from various groups and individuals in Gordon area and beyond. It included 833 Jumpers, 55 Cardigans, 488 Hats, 48 Bootees/socks, 19 Mittens, 104 Baby Blankets and 57 Toys/teddies.



We needed to give a donation of £10/box towards the cost of shipping. By the time the boxes were sent Theresa had received donations totalling £110 which covered the cost of the 11 boxes exactly. Isn't it amazing how the Lord provides?

I contacted Rebecca Morton at Nkhoma hospital in Malawi to let her know the knitting was on its way and here is her reply:

Dear Rosemary,
Sorry for taking a long time to reply. Our internet connections are very fragile. We have had a lot of power cuts due to the flooding down in the south. Anyway it was great to hear from you and the good news of the shipment. Wonderful how the cost of the shipment has been provided. We are down to our last four boxes from the original lot received last June. But the Jones (another missionary couple working at Nkhoma) have just received another 10 boxes via the Ravens Trust. So I think we will have plenty to take us through until the next lot arrive and we are very grateful. We finished the teddies and most

of the larger jumpers but we still have some infant clothes and blankets. One thing I might say is that the mittens are not really used very much here.



We look forward to the arrival of the shipment and we will send a vehicle to Blantyre to pick them up as soon as we can. Thanks to everyone for the excellent work. I include a couple of pictures. The little girl in pink lost her mum and twin brother but is now thriving with her grandparents thanks to Nicole's help with the infant formula. The mum with the triplets really struggles with making enough breast milk for them all but they also are doing okay.

Love, Rebecca

I now have a pattern for a knitted African doll. It is similar to the simple teddy pattern. The doll has a little dress and cardigan which can be taken off so that the child can dress their dolly. David and Rebecca say that this would be great for girls who are in hospital as they would have a doll to play with. Children in this area of Malawi do not have any dolls or teddies so those we send are very much appreciated. Also you can make skirts using any bright cotton fabric.

If you would like a pattern please contact Rosemary Tel 019755 81239, E-mail cushnietough@aol.com or download the patterns from the Presbytery web site www.presbyteryofgordon.org.uk . Zander and Margaret Buchan also have information and patterns.



Corner Cafe

Corner Cafe will close for the summer break on 9th, 16th and 23rd July. It will reopen, with everyone feeling refreshed, on Thurs 30th July. Corner Cafe wishes to thank everyone who supported us with home-baking and help providing teas at the Newburgh Gala. A lovely day was had by all.



VE Day Anniversary Celebrations

The Church of Scotland asked all churches to have their bells rung at 11am on Saturday 9th May. John Fordyce volunteered to ring the Holyrood Chapel bell, which he did for ten minutes, helped for part of the time by Lucas and Duncan McKerrow.

World Day of Prayer Service



Like congregations all over the world Foveran Parish Church has held this service every March for many years. We thank Jean Robertson for her hard work in organising it many times. This year the task fell to Audrey Clarke who, like Jean, did a very efficient job. This time the service was written by the Christian women of the

Bahamas and thanks to Audrey and her team which included Foveran and Belhelvie members we learned a lot about that country (known as "the Family of Islands"). The picture shows those who took part holding the Bahamian flag and some tropical fruit.

Report from the Treasurer



At the Stated Annual Meeting on 19th April 2015, the annual accounts were presented to the congregation. In a nutshell, our Income for 2014 was £63,677 and Expenditure £59,645. Of the income, £9,564 was tax recovered on Gift Aid Donations; this amount could be increased greatly, so if you keep meaning to do something about our Church reclaiming some of the tax you have already paid, please speak to Anne Whalley. I can provide more copies of the accounts if you weren't able to be at the Annual Meeting.

Our bank balance at the end of 2014 was quite healthy, but since then we have brought the organ in Holyrood Chapel up to a better standard, at a cost of £1,800, and some much needed work on the manse is ongoing with a fairly hefty bill expected. The improvements to the heating in the church hall are not quite finished, and that will dip into our finances too.

It is almost 10 years since Peter and I moved to Newburgh and became involved in the life of our friendly congregation. We greatly enjoy being welcomed as part of various committees, but it's not healthy if the same people hold office for years and years, especially when there is unused talent in the "body of the kirk". A new Treasurer is being sought! It's not an onerous task, and I would be happy to ease my successor into the post, and give help when needed.

Frances M Morrison

11 May 2015

Social Committee Report

On Friday 27 February Fife-based singer/songwriter/guitarist BRUCE DAVIES appeared in concert in the Forsyth Hall, Belhelvie. This event was organised jointly by the social committees of both Belhelvie and Foveran Parish Churches. Bruce's fine singing and accomplished guitar playing and his easy style were all much appreciated by the

large audience, and we are pleased to report that £244 has been donated towards the work of our mission partners in Malawi as a consequence of a most enjoyable evening of fellowship and high quality entertainment.

As I write this we are looking forward to a VARIETY CONCERT to raise a little extra cash for Christian Aid. It will take place on Saturday 23 May in Newburgh and will be another welcome opportunity to enjoy the talents of many of our own members and friends.

LOOKING AHEAD TO THE AUTUMN:

During September we hope to have a visit from 'The Sound of Many Waters' Gospel Choir – the date has yet to be confirmed. And on Friday 2 October, we are planning to hold another Family Harvest Supper Dance in the Newburgh Inn with music provided by the Ythan Fiddlers. Please make a note of this date now in your diaries. Further events may be arranged in the coming months, so please keep a look out for publicity in the local press and on posters throughout the area.

Mary Smith (Social Convener, Tel: 01358 742234)

Ellon gets their new Minister

On Friday evening the 8th of May the Rev. Alistair Bruce was ordained and inducted to the charge of Ellon Church. After a long and difficult vacancy, the Ellon congregation rejoiced and cheered as a new minister took up the charge, and with it, we hope a new page and a new chapter of their history will begin.

Alistair has just completed his probationary period after doing a Masters degree. He studied for his BD a number of years ago, and has worked in education and has managerial experience. Alistair is a keen musician, and sometimes cooks!

Since we, Belhelvie and Ellon are part of a Parish grouping, we hope that as Alistair settles into his new charge, we may begin to explore ways of putting content into this grouping. Paula has already established contacts with the youth workers, and we will see how

other things may develop. Do pray for this family, as the demands will come thick and fast.

We wish Alistair and Nicola and toddler James every blessing in this new phase of their lives. It also means that Ricky has completed his duties there as Interim Moderator.

Our Mission Partners in Malawi Extracts from their letter April 2015

Dear Family and Friends,

The last few months have been challenging. Despite major efforts at negotiating with the Ministry of Health and the Christian Hospital Association of Malawi (CHAM), there was no resolution of the salary situation until there was an official strike of CHAM health workers through the National Association of Nurses/ Midwives of Malawi. Fortunately the strike only lasted one day as this pressure finally forced the Ministry of Health to pay most of what was owed to the



The Nkhoma team at the strategic planning session.

CHAM health workers. There are still significant issues to be worked out, both with the Ministry of Health and with CHAM. Nkhoma Hospital is trying to spear head a better relationship with both groups, focusing on the fact that in order for health care to improve for the majority of Malawians, who are the rural poor, and mostly served by CHAM health units, there must be a healthy and trustful relationship between CHAM units and the Ministry of Health. Please continue to pray for this effort.

Towards the end of February, Hospital management organised a planning session to draw up strategic goals to guide the hospital for the next 3 years. We agreed upon the following in order of priority:

1. Strengthen and re-assert the Christian identity of the hospital
2. Improve governance and communication within all levels and departments of the hospital and its relationship with the community and church
3. Improve the relationships between the hospital and CHAM/Ministry of Health
4. Become less donor dependent both in terms of financial and personnel resources
5. Continue to improve the working environment and remuneration/benefits for the staff
6. Continue to improve the infrastructure of the hospital and related health centres
7. Expand health care services to become more comprehensive within the communities served.

You can see that this is a daunting task. Pray that our Lord will guide us and give the wisdom in seeking how to actually work this out in a way that will extend the loving kingdom of our God in our community.

In the midst of all of these plans and issues, we are still caring for individuals. A sixteen year old girl was brought by her family from Kamuzu Central Hospital (KCH), the major tertiary referral centre in Lilongwe as KCH told them there was nothing they could do. The girl had severe pancytopenia (her bone marrow was making no cells) so she was bleeding, anaemic, and had a severe infection. We used everything we could think of in our armament of medical care infused with prayer and the situation reversed after 3 weeks. I have continued to see her in the medical clinic and at her last visit, her blood counts were almost normal. But we also had a 24 year old woman with a young baby who had severe pneumonia with lung scarring, and despite 2 months of treatment were unable to save her. Why do some recover and others not? Pray for us that in this Easter season we will be encouraged by St Paul's charge to the Corinthian Church at the end of his magnificent exposition of the resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15:58 "Therefore my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain."

David and Rebecca Morton, Nkhoma Hospital, Malawi

Dates for your Diaries

Sat 13 th June	Coffee Morning for Guy & Suzanna Bastable, 11am-1pm, Church Hall
Sun 21 st June	Messy Church, 11am, Church Hall, and straight afterwards the annual Sunday School/Messy Church picnic. This year, straight after Messy Church we will head to the beach (weather permitting). Messy Church will provide the picnic. There will be a sand castle competition, rounders, parachute etc. If the weather is poor we'll stay in the hall and have our lunch and games there. All are welcome to the beach/hall for picnic &/or games.
Sun 28 th June	Family Service including Explorers' & Messy Church Prizegiving
During School Holidays	There will be family services on Sundays at 11am in the Church so everyone is welcome.
Mon 10 th -14 th Aug	Holiday Club, Newburgh Public Hall 10am-12noon, for ages 3 years – S1 Academy. All Welcome!
Sun 16 th Aug	Holiday Club Service, 11am in church.
Fri 2 th Oct	Supper Dance, Newburgh Inn, with Ythan Fiddlers

Pastoral Notices

Baptisms

29th March

Evelyn Skye Madeline Arnold

Funerals

11th Feb

Betty Ross

19th March

George (Dod) Shewan