

## Our Vision

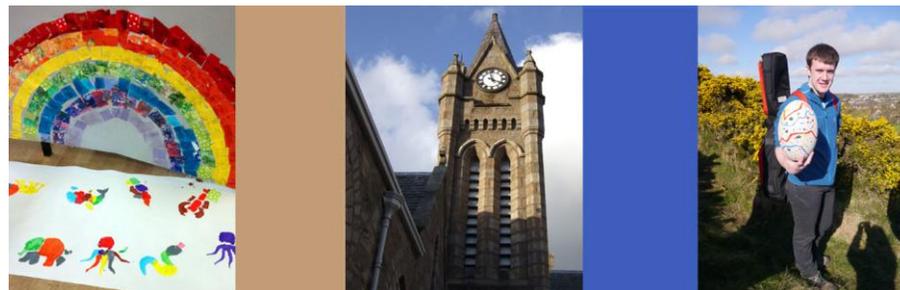
Our vision is to be a church  
which inspires people  
with the Good News  
of Jesus Christ  
through our enthusiasm, worship, witness,  
nurture and service

[www.fpchurch.co.uk](http://www.fpchurch.co.uk)

## Church Directory

Minister	Rev Ricky Reid The Manse, Foveran Tel: 789225 <a href="mailto:Reidricky8@aol.com">Reidricky8@aol.com</a>	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 <a href="mailto:jane@bradford1.net">jane@bradford1.net</a>
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

Summer 2014

## Minister's Letter Learning from History

Hello,

A very strange thing seems to be current in church people's thinking today. One of the buzz words is 'Emerging Church' or 'New expressions of Church.' What people mean by these terms differs, but, if the thinking behind it is that if we do church using new techniques and technology, it will make people come and be Christian, then it is wrong. The only thing that makes people Christian is being born again through faith in Christ; methods don't make Christians, God does.

There are so many religious technologies out there today – we could do a new thing every week and still not run out of ideas – so methods do not impress me much anymore. As Tozer said long ago, "Men look for better methods, God looks for better men."

However, there are some principles that have been used to construct methods or programmes which are timeless. The ones that contain the minimum of organisation to enable the principles to tower and shine through are the most useful – let me tell you about one:

In 1744, some ministers in Scotland were mindful of the low state of religion in the nation and indeed through the world. Concerned about this, and the turmoil amongst the nations, they agreed to do the following. They would set apart Saturday evening and Sunday morning before Church service time for prayer. They would also keep the first Tuesday of each quarter as a day of solemn humility and prayer, individually, in groups or in the congregation – not all day, but parts of the day as folk were able – and if that Tuesday was not convenient, the next best day of the same week. People were asked to agree to this, but not sign up to it – it was not meant to become an end in itself. This was done for two years, and then in 1746, letters were sent out asking the different congregations in the land, and the world, who had agreed to do this, for feedback. It was decided to proceed with the plan for a further five years.

It was in 1746 that a certain Jonathon Edwards was given the letter about it, and went and did the theology of these 'Concerts' of prayer. These have continued on and off over the years.

The focus of these Concerts of prayer was to seek and pray, asking God to pour out afresh His Spirit upon the Church and the land. That He be glorified by His Church in all the earth, and that His plans and purposes should speed towards their end. Essentially it was for the revival and restoration of the Church in our own nations, and for multitudes to come to faith. It is always difficult to say that this led to that in spiritual matters, but do remember that the 1700's and 1800's did see remarkable revivals in this nation and many others.

I have a notion that it is time to give ourselves to this once more, but more of this as we move into summer. Luke 18 – "Jesus told them a parable to show them that they should always pray and not give up".

Ricky

## Easter

We had a fine climb up Gallows Hill on a beautiful sunny Easter morning this year, followed by a short service of worship at the top before rolling our hard boiled eggs back down the hill.



After our descent down Gallows Hill, a lovely breakfast was served in the Church Hall before we made our way to church for the Easter Service and egg decorating competition results.



Egg-rolling competition results:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Stewart Hawthorn
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Alfie Stander
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Albie Stander



Best Decorated Egg competition results:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Millie Thomson
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Rebecca Ritchie (pictured here on right)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Sadie Smith
- Special artistic prize to Jill Stander



### Special Birthday!

Our Session Clerk, Christine Fordyce, had a special birthday in April. She had a pleasant surprise when the Corner Cafe staff presented her with a cake which was shared with the other customers. She was chuffed when 12-year-old Andrew Astley, son of Doreen, whispered to his Mum that she, Christine, looked 15 years younger and she was flattered when two other young gentlemen, her friends Cameron Dow and Andrew Ritchie, said they "couldn't believe" her age!



## New Young At Heart Worship Evening

**Revelations** is a new worship band which was recently formed by some of the younger folk in our congregation (and beyond!). Their debut performance was at the new 'Young At Heart' worship evening on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> May in the church. It was a brilliant evening of stirring worship songs, including a good mixture of old and new. Along with some prayer, bible readings and YouTube clips, it gave plenty of food for thought too. Look out for more of these worship evenings to come in the near future.



**Revelations** (above) includes (clockwise from left): Will Hawthorn, Andrew Ritchie, Ross McKeown, Shannon Dewars, Jess Stirton and Cameron Dow.

## Thank you!

We have been overwhelmed by the love and support that we have received from everyone in the Church, in the form of kind words and beautiful gifts for our grandson Dylan. Donna, Kathryn and I would like to thank you all sincerely for the way you have welcomed Dylan into the church family, it is very much appreciated.

Dylan truly is a gift who brings us joy each day with his smiles and giggles and Ricky they can't all be wind!

Love from Alistair, Donna and Kathryn.



Corner Cafe will close for the summer break on 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> July. It will reopen, with everyone feeling refreshed, on Thurs 31<sup>st</sup> July.

## Treasurer's Report



I am writing this at the beginning of May, incredulous that the first third of 2014 is already behind us. Our total income for January to April this year was £17,581, which is a little less than the comparable figure for 2013. Over £4,000 of 2014's proceeds so far came from Weekly Freewill Offering envelopes, and just over £8,000 from bank standing orders set up by our members. By the way, if you **have** set up a standing order for your contributions to the finances of our church, it's perfectly acceptable to allow the Offering basket to pass you by on a Sunday morning - as many of us do - and I promise that there is no subsequent lowering of the collector's brow. And if you've been thinking about setting up such a mandate, just think how much more relaxed you would be during the service without having to remember if you'd left your offering lying on the table at home, and if not, into which pocket you'd put it.

Expenditure to the end of April was £16,600 compared to last year's £9,000. But remember that in 2013 we weren't paying Council Tax on the manse, and we didn't have a minister to pay, so in 2014 we are spiritually much the richer as a congregation.

Next time you're passing Foveran Churchyard, have a look at the recently cleaned Loutit Celtic Cross. Isn't it impressive? The money to pay for the restoration came from our Trust Fund, in which £200 was invested many years ago, **"the interest to be used to wash the cross annually with soap and water, and to paint the letters on the cross every ten years."** The Cross was cleaned professionally this spring - I shudder to think how much soap, water, scrubbing brushes and raw knuckles would have resulted from our following the original instructions. An additional stipulation was that any excess money **"may be used for the upkeep of gravestones in Foveran churchyard which belong to any minister of the parish who died prior to 1913."** Anyone looking for a summer project? We'll provide the soap and water.

Frances Morrison

7 May 2014

## Social Report

On **Saturday 24 May** (with a 7.00pm start) we invite you to another evening **Variety Concert** with a varied programme of entertainment performed by many of our own talented members and friends. There will be lots of youngsters involved and ice creams for you all to enjoy in the interval. Please note that the venue is the Public Hall, Newburgh so there will be plenty of space for everyone. Tickets can be obtained from Margaret Gorman (789359), Christine Fordyce (789236) and Mary Smith (742234), priced £6 for adults and £3 for children. This event will allow us to raise a little extra cash for Christian Aid. Please come along - everyone will be made very welcome.

A further date to note: on Saturday 4 October, we hope to hold a Supper Dance in the Newburgh Inn with music provided by the Ythan Fiddlers. Please keep this date free in the meantime. The committee would be delighted to hear from you if you have suggestions for future events, so do feel free to get in touch.

Mary Smith (Social Convenor)  
Tel: 01358 742234

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## Alien Invaders

Friendly Aliens landed on Earth and World leaders were invited to a conference to ask them questions. The Pope asked them if they had heard of Jesus Christ? They replied – "Oh yes, he's a great guy! He comes to visit us every couple of years". A bit upset, the Pope tells them that he has only visited Earth once and we have been waiting over 2000 years for his return. Trying to console the Pope an Alien says – "Maybe he didn't like your chocolate". Confused, the Pope asked what he meant? The Alien explained that when Jesus visited them, they gave him big boxes of chocolates. Then the Alien asked – "What did you give him?"...

Alistair Cruickshank

## Men's House Group

The church men's group is a forum for friendship, cakes, bible questions and buns. We feel that only by spending time together, discussing the things of eternity together and eating biscuits together, can we truly grow as Christians and as friends in our church.

A couple of rules, though:

No question is ever too stupid – At the rescue of the Hebrews at Passover, if all the first born died, why not Pharaoh? Surely he must have been a first born too?

No question is ever too obvious – Why did God create the devil, if he was going to lead us all to sin?

No questions can't be asked – Why does God not make himself more obvious and convince the sceptics?

So if you have questions, come along and ask.

If you have doubts, come along and tell them.

If you just want to meet some guys for a chat, come along and talk.

If you just like cakes, come along and eat.

Meetings are generally the last Monday of each month at 8pm in one of our houses. To qualify for entry, you must be alive and male; typically there are about 6 regulars that conform to that specification.

Interested?

Call 01358 789416 (Roddy) or 01358 751743 (Andrew)

## Jambo everyone!



I received great news from the New Life Home Trust last week. As you know we have been fundraising over the past 2 years specifically for solar panels. Now all five New Life Homes have had solar panels installed, helped by our fundraising in this community. The installation of the solar panels will enable each New Life Home to make a saving of around £7000 per year, as electricity is extremely expensive.

As you are aware the New Life Home Trust relies on donations to function, so the saved monies will be put to great use and will enable them to continue rescuing and saving many abandoned babies, and to continue caring for those children in desperate need.

I will be continuing to fundraise by doing bead parties – please contact me if you would like me to make some beads for you or fancy holding a bead party – adults or children – or if you would like any information regarding The New Life Home Trust.

Guy and Suzanna Bastable, coordinators of the New Life Home Trust, are coming over from Kenya here to Newburgh on 21st June. I am hosting a coffee morning in Newburgh Church Hall from 10am - 12pm, where you can meet the Bastables and hear about the great work they are doing in Nairobi. There will be cake, fellowship and a chance to give a donation if you wish. Please come along if you can, and contact me if you would like any further information.

Thank you all for your constant support for this charity, you really are making a difference to these abandoned children's lives.

God Bless, Paula

## **Our Mission Partners David and Rebecca Morton in Malawi**

David and Rebecca come from missionary and Scottish heritage and have previously worked in Uganda and Malawi. They are American by nationality.

In 2008 they spent three months in Malawi working with an HIV and Aids programme. There they re-established ties with friends at Nkhoma Hospital and the Nkhoma Synod of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian. They were urged to consider coming to work at Nkhoma Hospital as another doctor was greatly needed there.



David now works as a doctor at the hospital with an emphasis on medicine and paediatrics, and also helps to supervise the primary health care, and HIV and Aids programmes. Rebecca supports David and helps in the hospital. They have two grown up sons, Philip and Sam.

### **Extracts from their last letter in February 2014**

Dear Friends & Family,

In November I wrote about the financial situation of the country and the hospital. Regarding Malawi, the country is eagerly anticipating the promised report on the “Cashgate” scandal, hoping that justice will be done, funds recovered, and confidence restored with the international donor community. But there is also fear that with presidential and parliamentary elections this year, if the report is unfavourable to the present government, the report may not come out.

But the real financial news is on the hospital side. December was a very difficult month and we began the New Year with only \$2000 for the hospital running costs (with a monthly budget of \$150,000, of which \$50,000 needs to be raised in donations, the rest coming from the government salary grant and patient fee/Service Level Agreement income). In January the hospital received over \$77,000 in donations for the hospital running costs, more than any other month over the past 12 months. In addition since November the hospital has received

the SLA payments from the district for the August through October invoices, and the government salaries grants have been regular and mostly on time. God has been our provider through the generosity of many churches and individuals, and enabling the government to meet its commitments to Nkhoma.

With a number of volunteer doctors having finished their time here, David is now more heavily involved again in the clinical work, particularly on the medical ward. We continue to see a lot of patients with HIV and AIDS complicated with opportunistic infections, especially TB. Yesterday we lost a 14 year old boy with kidney failure who we had been treating for over a year. One of the major differences between care in the USA/Europe compared with Malawi, is the lack of resources for chronic medical conditions such as renal failure and heart issues. There is no availability of kidney transplantation, and extremely limited possibilities for renal dialysis. There is no heart surgery available for even simple heart valve problems, so we do the best we can with the medications but often, as with our recent patient, there is only so much that can be done. Yet it is amazing what we still can do. Recently, with the help of a Ministry of Health pilot project which included Nkhoma as one of three hospitals to be involved, we have seen a dramatic improvement in the recognition and treatment of pre-term labour leading to increased survival in premature neonates born at Nkhoma.

Gadison, our refugee boy is now in a new home, with a new family in Denver. What an amazing story. He was brought to us last July battered and abused. Now, thanks to the loving care of the Nkhoma family, the incredible work of the local UNHR team, he has a new home, a new start, and a new future.

Please continue to pray for the situation in Malawi but give thanks for the Lord’s provision for us. Pray for wisdom as we deal with many difficult medical conditions with limited resources, that we will be faithful; in the care we provide. Continue to pray for Gadison as he begins his new life and give thanks to God for placing him in a Christian home and a church and Sunday School class that began praying for Gadison before he left Malawi. Thank you again for partnering us in prayer and support.

David and Rebecca Morton, Nkhoma Hospital, Malawi

## Dr Joseph Edwards



Joe & Sheila Edwards

Joseph, known as Joe, Edwards who died in April was brought up in Holywell, North Wales, where he met his wife Sheila. He won a scholarship to Imperial College, London, where he studied for his PhD under the Nobel Prize-winning scientist, Patrick Blackett. Joe worked in Bangor and Liverpool Universities and finally in Aberdeen University as a lecturer in Geophysics. In the late 1960s Joe and Sheila settled in Newburgh where they stayed until Joe's retirement. Joe loved walking in the area.

Joe had a lovely tenor voice and was an asset to the Church Choir and the Ythan Singers. He became a respected elder of Foveran Parish Church and a few years ago received his 30-year certificate. For a time he was also Superintendent of the Sunday School. With fellow elders William Mitchell and Harry Smith Joe started the Church Social Committee and they arranged concerts where Joe delighted audiences with his solo singing.

When Joe retired he and Sheila returned to Holywell to live in the house where Joe was brought up. Our sympathy goes to Sheila and the family, including daughter Judith and husband Russell who still live in the family home in Newburgh.

## Dates for your Diaries

Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> May	Christian Aid Variety Concert, Newburgh Public Hall, 7pm
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Messy Church (postponed from 18 <sup>th</sup> ) *
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup> June	Coffee Morning for Guy & Suzanna Bastable, 10am-12pm, Church Hall
Sun 22 <sup>nd</sup> June	Messy Church, 11am, Public Hall. <b>No</b> lunch in Church Hall but bring your own picnic straight after Messy Church to Foveran Park followed by Games at our Annual Sunday School/ Messy Church Picnic. *
Sun 29 <sup>th</sup> June	Family Service including Explorers' & Messy Church Prizegiving
During School Holidays	There will be family services in the Church so everyone is welcome.
Mon 10 <sup>th</sup> -14 <sup>th</sup> August	Holiday Club, 10am-12noon, for ages 3 years - S1 Academy. All Welcome!
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> August	Holiday Club Service, 11am
Sat 13 <sup>th</sup> September	Footprints Café, Church Hall, 11am-4pm
Sat 4 <sup>th</sup> October	Supper Dance, Newburgh Inn, with Ythan Fiddlers

\* The Messy Church Team wish to express gratitude to all who have helped in any way.

## Pastoral Notices

### Baptisms

4<sup>th</sup> May

James Lewis Munro