

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 & WFO Recorder	Mrs Christine Fordyce Craigard Foveran AB41 6AP Tel: 789236	Sunday School Superintendents	Mrs Donna Cruickshank Tel: 789688, Mrs Christine Mitchell Tel: 751743 & Mrs Erica MacKenzie
Clerk to the Board } Property Convenor	Vacant – anyone interested in either of these positions, please get in touch	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

Christmas 2014



Minister's Letter

Hello,

Where has the year gone? I still have a present from last year sitting beside my desk waiting for batteries to be inserted and the mechanism to be set up. Perhaps that will be a job for Boxing Day, think I said that last year too!

I have said it before, and I say it again, Christmas is a strange time of year. It seems to start earlier every year. The chocolate Santas have been in the shops for weeks now and, I admit it, I have bought Christmas cards already – well, they were buy two packs and get the third free!

I remember a year or two ago standing waiting for my items to be rung through in a medium sized shop. I was waiting because the owner was having a pep talk with his staff, about five of them, and I heard him say that the Christmas run up, October, November and December were important months for them as they took 50% of their turnover in Christmas sales. By the time you look at this, the TV will be covered in adverts for toys and perfume and 'refreshments.' It's all about putting on the Ritz. 'Buy this, only £499.99 and no payments for three years,' and the pressure not to be mean parents and get the kids all the stuff they 'need'.

What is it we have done to Christmas? A child was born to poor parents, in a stable, in a manger. Only a handful of people at that time were let into the secret that God had given a gift that He would pay for in full in about 33 years' time, which would involve one payment of a life. No cheap and cheerful imported gift this, but the one gift that really counts.

So what was the gift? At Christmas, God sent His one and only Son into the world as a man. As a man, Jesus Christ lived and experienced and suffered all that comes to us. He lived a perfect life, and then His life was given as a sacrifice, a perfect sacrifice, to restore a relationship between God and mankind which had been destroyed by sin. If you wonder what sin looks like then do this – look in a mirror and we will see a sinner! Come on now, be real, you are not trying to tell me that you have never lied, or driven too fast. Keep going, each of us has a long list of things we have thought, said and done which we know were not good, and this is only the thin end of the wedge.

Jesus Christ came to earth at Christmas not to give us a holiday or a spending spree or a food fest - these things are meant to be in celebration of Christ's advent, not an end in themselves. We have gathered up all the gift paper and tinsel, and have thrown away the gift, how strange we are.

Christmas is a celebration. It is a time for joy and a nice dinner and all that, pantomimes and children's choirs and so on. However it is much more than all of that, it is the remembering and the celebration of the coming of the Christ into the World who came to save His people from their sins and grant eternal life to all who believe in Him.

So there we have it. What will your Christmas bring? Salvation or just new tinsel for the tree?

Ricky

Messy Church

With Remembrance Sunday approaching, the last Messy Church on Nov 2nd was all about remembering people and things. The children (and some adults!) made beautiful poppies, sewed some picture frames, made prayer boxes and as usual decorated (and ate) quite a few biscuits.



Festive Corner Café



Corner
café

Thursdays
10am-noon

Church Hall
Newburgh

all welcome

To put us all in the Christmas spirit, our Festive Coffee Morning will be held on **Thursday 18th December**. At this event the draw will be made for a Luxury Christmas Hamper which has been kindly donated by a group of ladies. All are welcome!

This will be the last coffee morning in 2014. The café will be closed for a period of the subsequent four Thursdays and will re-open on **Thursday 22nd January 2015**. Merry Christmas from all at Corner Café!

St Andrew



In the light of the recent independence referendum, I thought this might be interesting for many of us to know...

St Andrew is the patron saint of Scotland and the Scottish flag is his symbol, the saltire or X shaped cross. We often forget that the person behind our flag was one of Jesus' first followers, and died because of his Christian faith. He was tortured to death by crucifixion in AD60 at Patros in Greece, and, according to tradition, asked that the cross be placed diagonally since he considered himself unworthy to die in the same way as Jesus on an upright cross. From this, the saltire became recognised as his symbol.

St Andrew is described in the bible as one of the first people to be called by Jesus to be his follower, and the first to invite someone else – his brother Simon Peter - to come and meet Jesus to find out the truth for himself.

It is always interesting to remember that the foundation of our nation (both Scotland & UK) is so much built on the Christian faith and tradition. For those of you who think that this is something for the past and not the present, why don't you read John's gospel in that bible at the back of the cupboard and find out about Jesus the person who so inspired St Andrew.

The Editor



Bye Shannon!

We wished Shannon Dewars a fond farewell on Sunday 26th October as she heads down to Kinross for a new job. We will miss her beautiful singing voice at the front of the church and her boundless enthusiasm, commitment and faith. Good Luck Shannon!



Balmedie House

Dr Peter Kiehlmann, one of our elders, is training as a locally ordained minister and is on the rota for leading the Sunday afternoon services in Balmedie House. He is pictured with one of the staff and two residents taking a harvest-themed service, complete with sheaves provided by Pitmillan Farm, Foveran.



Social Committee Report



The FAMILY HARVEST SUPPER DANCE on Saturday 4 October in the Newburgh Inn was much enjoyed by all those who attended. The function suite was attractively set out and the supper was excellent and well-served. Music for dancing and other entertainment was provided by The Ythan Fiddlers and they really did us proud. The evening included a raffle and this helped us to raise the sum of £274 which will go towards the work of our mission partners in Malawi (see later article). The committee wishes to thank all those who supported the event in any way - we were especially delighted to welcome many visitors from the Bridge of Don, Collieston and Menie to this event and a good time was had by all.



Photos by Phil Harman

Looking ahead - the annual KIRK ROUP will probably have already taken place on Saturday 22 November before you read this newsletter.

We are also beginning now to plan for our annual BURNS SUPPER early in the New Year – this is likely to take place on Saturday 24 January 2015, so please put this date in your diaries.

Meanwhile the committee wish you all a very happy and meaningful Christmas season, and look forward to welcoming you to our social events in 2015.

Mary Smith (Social Convenor)

Tel: 01358 742234

Treasurer's Report



The finances for the first 10 months of 2014 are: Income £53,200, Expenditure £49,260.

Not included in these statistics are the amounts, largely thanks to the Social Committee, we have collected and disbursed to charities. By the time you read this, the Annual Roup may have come and gone, involving huge amounts of hard work from many of our members. Charity begins at home, it's said, and the Roup profit will go towards the expenses of Foveran Church of Scotland.

Some of you may not be able to put a face to my name, but if you're in any doubt, come along to the coffee fellowship after church on Sundays. I'm the grumpy one who seems to be the

self-appointed keeper of the door - frequently closing it to keep the expensive heat in the hall. The electricity bill for the hall alone is about £3,000 a year. We hope soon to instal a new heating system there, which ought to be more efficient and less expensive. But Mrs Grumpy will still be around - you have been warned!!

Frances Morrison

3 November 2014

Visit by our Mission Partners David & Rebecca Morton



Usually we include extracts from the letters we receive from David & Rebecca from Nkhoma Hospital in Malawi but in September we were treated to a visit from them to tell us about their work in person.

David showed slides and talked about their home in Malawi, the hospital and all the work they do to help people there. He highlighted that the scariest animal they encounter in Malawi is not the lion, tiger or snake, but the mosquito because of the malaria it carries.

A Big Thank You to all the Knitters!

Last newsletter we asked for donations of knitting which could be sent to Nkhoma Hospital in Malawi where our Mission Partners, David and Rebecca, are based. We are pleased to say that Zander recently took three large bags full of knitting to Gordon Presbytery to send on to Malawi. We'd like to say a huge thank you, and pass on thanks from David & Rebecca who have said how important it is to the people of Malawi and how much they appreciate it. Here are some photos of them enjoying your hard work:



The knitting is always appreciated and can be passed on to Zander or anyone from church at any time.

Pastoral Notices

Funerals

25th September

Julie Wilkie



Christmas Dates for your Diaries

Sun 30 th Nov	Messy Church, 11am, Public Hall
Sun 14 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
Thurs 18 th Dec	Festive Corner Café, Church Hall, 10-12noon
Sat 20 st Dec	Sunday School Christmas Treat, Church Hall, 2-4pm then: Carols by Candlelight in the Public Hall from 4pm. This is for everyone, all families welcome.
Sun 21 st Dec	Nativity Service, 11am, Holyrood Chapel
Christmas Eve	Christingle Service, Holyrood Chapel, 4.30pm. All families very welcome. Watchnight Service, Holyrood Chapel, 11.30pm. Carols sung from 11pm.
Christmas Day	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 !