

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	Mr Alasdair Sloan Auquharney House Bogbrae, Hatton Tel: 01779 841166
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	Mrs Pamela Sloan Auquharney House Bogbrae, Hatton Tel: 01779 841166		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

Christmas 2015 Minister's Letter



Hello,

Matthew 1 verse 21.

“She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins.”

So spoke the angel to Joseph to tell him how it was that Mary was pregnant. This is called the Incarnation, the most significant event in human history. God becomes man to save us from sin.

This is what Christmas is all about. Have a look at the world news. Almost everything that is happening that is terrible, is a result of human action. So many things that may have been presented in the best light, probably had other, less noble motivations. Things have been done which have resulted in unexpected consequences. Do you remember the slogans that were said of the world wars – ‘the war to end war.’? Noble, but impossible because of our sinful natures! There have been wars ever since, cold or hot or just plain nasty.

Jesus came after the golden age of Greek philosophy which had only been able to discover something about the plight of mankind, not actually do anything about it. In fact, many philosophers took their own lives because they saw no hope for

humanity. A more modern philosopher, H. G. Wells' last book was entitled, "Mind at the End of its Tether." Read it and be frightened! Jesus came in the last era of the Roman Empire, and this was so because God was showing that it was neither the wisdom of mankind, nor the might and government of man that could solve the plight of man, but that we needed a Saviour.

Jesus is that Saviour.

So, as we come to the end of another year with Christmas and New Year celebrations, let me ask you a question. Has it been a good year? By this I mean, do you know, and have you grown in the salvation of God which is by being in a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, or not? Are you still hoping that the wisdom and might of the world will make things better?

Ricky

Living Out Faith – Ellon Foodbank



'For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.' **Matthew 25:35-36**

The Ellon Foodbank is part of the national Trussell Trust, a charity founded on Christian principles that works with people regardless of religious belief or non-belief.



Our Harvest Thanksgiving contributions this year went to Ellon Foodbank (non-perishable goods) and Balmedie House (fresh produce).

Two of our church members, Margaret Buchan and Paula Hawthorn, help out at the foodbank in Ellon, sorting food and handing it out to those who need it.

The Trussell Trust is a really interesting charity whose mission is "Bringing communities together to end hunger and poverty in the UK by providing compassionate,

practical help whilst challenging injustice". You can read more about them at www.trusselltrust.org. How it works is:

Food is donated – All food given out is donated, whether by schools, churches, businesses, individuals, or through supermarket collections. Such collections engage the public at supermarkets where they are met by volunteers who offer shoppers a 'foodbank shopping list' and ask them to buy an extra item with their shop. This food is then collected at the checkout before being taken to the foodbank warehouse. Tesco in Ellon are great supporters of the foodbank and hold a collection twice a year, the next one being on 5th December.

Food is sorted and stored – At the warehouse, food is sorted by volunteers according to type and 'best before date' before being packed into boxes and stored ready for use. Food is then taken to foodbank centres, where it is made up into food parcels for clients. Frontline care professionals such as doctors, health visitors, social workers, CAB and police identify people in need and issue them with a foodbank voucher.

Clients receive food – Foodbank clients bring their voucher to a foodbank centre where it can be redeemed for three days emergency food. Volunteers meet clients over a cup of tea or free hot meal and are able to signpost people to agencies able to solve the longer-term problem.

If you would like to help the work of the foodbank by donating non-perishable items, there is a box permanently inside the door of the church which you can donate to any time and is delivered up to Ellon regularly. If you feel you have time to give to this worthwhile enterprise please see the Ellon Foodbank website: www.aberdeenshirenorth.foodbank.org.uk where there is contact info and details of how to get involved.

Goodbye & Good Luck to Becca & Andrew



We have to say a reluctant (temporary) farewell to two very pleasant young stalwarts of our church, Rebecca (Becca) Ritchie and her brother Andrew. For several years they have attended FAX/YF, have helped to organise Holiday Clubs, controlled the powerpoint and in Andrew's case played guitar in the Praise Band.

Becca who is doing a language (French/German) degree in Aberdeen University is spending study time in Grenoble and after New Year hopes to work in a school in Berlin.

Andrew meantime having passed his Highers has taken a full-time job in Teen Ranch near Dundee, the Christian Centre where our young folk have gone for weekends for several years. He hopes later to go to the University of the Highlands Fort William branch to study outdoor activities. We will miss them and wish them both well.

Festive Corner Café

Corner
a
f
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coffee
scones
volunteer
church
meet
relax
toast
kids
young
old
everyone
catch-up
FINE PIECE
FUN
community
chat

CAKE
FRIENDS
laugh

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 17th 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 2015. The café will be closed for a period of the subsequent four Thursdays and will re-open on **Thursday 21st January 2015**. Merry Christmas from all at Corner Café!

Social Committee Report

The HARVEST SUPPER DANCE on Saturday 2 October in the Newburgh Inn was much enjoyed by all those who attended. The evening began with a tasty supper – followed by dancing or just chatting with wonderful music provided by The Ythan Fiddlers. Thanks partly to the raffle we were able to raise the sum of £256 which will go towards the work of our mission partners in Malawi. The committee wishes to thank all those who supported the event in any way - we were delighted again to welcome many friends from Collieston and elsewhere in our local area.

Looking ahead - the annual KIRK ROUP will probably have already taken place on Saturday 21 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 23 January, 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 2016.

Mary Smith, Social Convenor

Tel: 01358 742234

Christian Aid

After many years of hard work and dedication to Christian Aid, Jean Jones and Jenny Smith have decided to hand the baton on to someone else. We would like to thank them for their commitment and faithfulness, but that means that we are now looking for someone to take on the role of coordinating the Christian Aid collection. Please contact Ricky (789225) or Sue (789139), if this is something you would be willing to do.

Treasurer's Report



This is my first Treasurer's report so for those who don't know me, Pamela (Clerk to the Board) and I and our four children, Samuel, Solomon, Luke and Naomi moved to the area a year ago. I'm a Chartered Accountant working for an oil services company in Aberdeen and I consider myself fortunate to be able to serve the Church in whatever way I can.

A few observations I'd like to make on the financial results of Church activities for the nine months to September 2015 compared to the same period last year:

- Income is slightly down from last year mainly as a result of a drop in Standing Orders compared to last year. Although no cause for concern as it is still in excess of expenditure, however, it will have a knock-on reduction in what can be claimed as Gift Aid in 2016.
- Expenditure is broadly flat despite an increase in the cost of the organ upkeep which isn't expected to occur annually so costs are being kept under control.
- Cash balances have increased slightly and I have undertaken to review how we invest our surplus funds so that we can maximise their use for Church purposes.

Alasdair Sloan,
Treasurer

Gift Aid 2014



We have received £10,186.29 from H.M.R.C., tax recovered from donations, eligible for Gift Aid, made in 2014.

It is such a bonus that Foveran Parish Church can benefit from such a large sum of money with no extra effort from the donors – as long as they have paid Income Tax and have completed a Gift Aid declaration form.

If you are a taxpayer and have not filled in a form, please consider doing it. You may give money regularly, by standing order or by weekly freewill offering envelopes, or just occasionally, by cheque or cash. You may plan in advance to give a certain amount regularly or give what you feel you can, when you can. Once you have completed a Gift Aid declaration form, anything you give, at any time, is eligible for Gift Aid tax recovery as long as it can be identified as coming from you. In effect, this would increase each of your donations by 25%.

Please contact Christine Fordyce if you would like weekly freewill offering envelopes or contact me if you would like to set up a standing order. If you would prefer to give by cheque (payable to Foveran Church of Scotland), please send it to me with a note of your name and address. Cash with a note of the donor's name and address would also be eligible, but please don't put cash in the post.

If we have been recovering tax from your donations but your circumstances have changed and you no longer pay income tax, please let me know.

I can answer any queries you may have - just ask!

Anne Whalley, Gift Aid Treasurer

Tuesday Groups



We have two Bible Study Groups which meet during the day on a Tuesday. The morning group starts at 10.15 while the afternoon group begins at 1.30. Both run for about an hour and a half.

We start with a welcome cup of tea or coffee, then work through our study, beginning with the relevant Bible passage and allowing time for discussion as we go. It is meant to be a time of sharing and discovering the Bible, so although the groups are facilitated in the main by Yvonne and Sue, others occasionally lead and no-one has all the answers, and we all feel that we learn something from each study. We also study and discuss books by authors such as Nicky Gumbel.

We will be starting a new series of studies in January and would be delighted to welcome new people to both groups. Speak to Yvonne (789225) or Sue (789139) for more information.

Please also contact us if you would like to join an informal Bible Study, but cannot manage a Tuesday, as if there was enough interest, we would consider starting another group.

Sue Edwards

Extracts from Mission Partners' Letter, October 2015

Our Mission Partners, David & Rebecca Morton in Nkhoma Hospital, Malawi are facing a very difficult time at the moment. They are waiting for funding owed to them by the Malawian government, without which they are being forced to ask for payment from patients (maternity and children under 5) whom they used to be able to treat for free. As a result of this change they have seen a significant decrease in pregnant women coming to the hospital.

Political wrangling and bad money management/unaccounted-for missing funds from the Malawian government means there is very little money available for healthcare to Malawian people. Despite this the hospital continues to provide the best services it can and has been encouraged by recently published figures showing dramatic improvement within Malawi regarding HIV/AIDS. Nkhoma has been an important part of this success through their own programme which has over 2000 people on treatment, and provides universal screening and treatment of pregnant women and exposed infants.

David and Rebecca have asked us to pray:

1. That God will raise up faithful, just, and competent leadership at all levels with Malawi.
2. That the government will pay Nkhoma and other CHAM (Christian Hospital Association of Malawi) units what is owed.
3. That there will be a new Service Level Agreement for this financial year, or we will find another way to enable our communities to access the health care needed.
4. That the hospital will find a way through our own challenges of unfaithful staff, our own issues of corruption in some of our projects.
5. That the hospital will know how to deal best with issues of alcoholism among some of our staff.
6. That despite the financial challenges, as we celebrate 100 years of Nkhoma's existence this month, we will be able to continue, as our motto says, "Serving With Love and Care."

7. As Rebecca and I will be travelling to the USA for November and December, that our time in the States (divided between visiting family and hospital issues) will be restful, yet fruitful for the hospital as we will be meeting with many partners.

You can access their full letter on our website www.fpchurch.co.uk

Knitting & Sewing for Nkhoma

Here is an update from Rosemary Legge, coordinator of all the knitting sent to Malawi from Gordon Presbytery. She expresses her thanks to all who are knitting and sewing. Every single item is very much appreciated. Our knitters here in Foveran Parish have really contributed to the shipment:

In June there were 17 boxes of knitting and sewing for Nkhoma hospital on the container sent out with the charity FROM (Famine Relief for Orphan in Malawi). These have now arrived in Blantyre (Malawi) and will be taken on by lorry to Nkhoma hospital.





At the beginning of November 24 boxes were sent in a container with the Raven Trust. This shipment included a nearly new computer and large printer donated by an office upgrading their equipment, and a sterilizer and instruments donated by Alford Surgery because they now have to use disposable instruments. These boxes will be taken to Ekwendeni hospital in the north of Malawi. From there they will be taken by lorry to Nkhoma hospital in the south.

The amount of knitting and sewing has doubled since last year because more people are getting involved which is great news. We give the Raven Trust a donation of £10/box and £100 to help pay for the fuel for the lorry. The containers are sent out to Malawi about every 6 months. We are very grateful to everyone who is helping with this project in any way. You are making a big difference to the lives of very needy children in Malawi.

The people there are extremely poor and at the moment in particularly dire straits. As you will see from David and Rebecca's letter the hospital has not received the funding they should get from the government. Many people have no food because last year there was a famine and this year in March there were floods in the south which washed away crops and livestock. The majority of people are subsistence farmers,

which means they just grow enough to eat. So if the crops fail or are washed away there is no food. It's hard for us to imagine isn't it? Please pray for the people of Malawi and the work of Nkhoma hospital.

Rosemary Legge

If you'd like to knit for Malawi please ask Zander for more details.

Church & Church Hall Keys

Could anyone who has a key for the Church or Church Hall please email me on jane@bradford1.net so we can take stock of who has keys for insurance purposes.

Thank you, The Editor

SPOT THE DIFFERENCE

2009

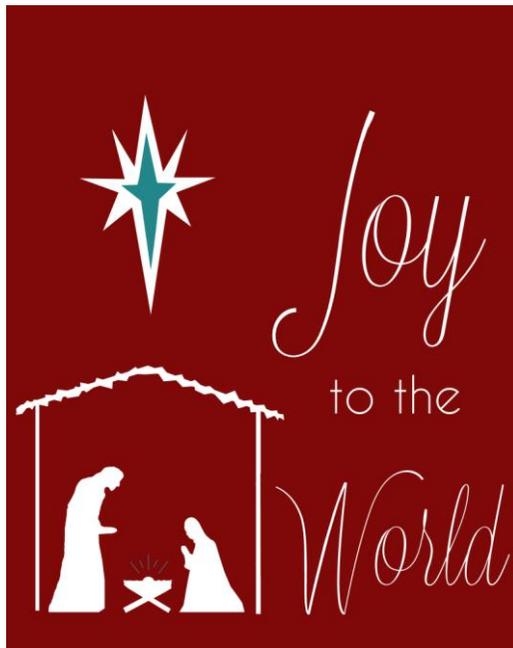


Can you spot 10 differences between these two pictures?

Christmas Services



You are warmly invited to any or all of our Christmas Services this year. From our lively 'Carols by Candlelight' in Newburgh Public Hall to the atmospheric 'Christingle Service' in the church on Christmas Eve, they are all sure to get you in the Festive Spirit and remind you of the reason for the season.



Christmas Dates for your Diaries

Sun 29th Nov Christmas tree lighting & short service, 4pm outside church.

Sun 13th Dec Evening Carol Service, 6.30pm in church.

Thurs 17th Dec Festive Corner Café, Church Hall, 10-12noon

Sat 19th Dec Sunday School Christmas Treat, TBC

Carols by Candlelight in Newburgh Public Hall, mulled wine & delicious Ythan Bakery mince pies & shortbread, from 4pm. This is for everyone, all families welcome.

Sun 20th Dec Nativity Service, 11am in church.

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, 10am in church.

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! You are also welcome to our regular church services which are in Holyrood Chapel at 11am most Sundays.

Merry Christmas !