

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, Hatton AB42 0QY Tel: 01779 841166
Session Clerk	Mrs Sue Edwards 6 Airyhill View Newburgh AB41 6DW Tel: 789139	Sunday School	Mrs Christine Mitchell Old Mill of Collieston Slains, Ellon AB41 8RG Tel: 751743
Clerk to the Board	Mrs Pamela Sloan Auquharney House, Hatton AB42 0QY Tel: 01779 841166		Mrs Erica MacKenzie Brookfield, Foveran, AB41 6AP. Tel: 789416
Roll Keeper & WFO Recorder	Mrs Christine Fordyce Craigard, Foveran AB41 6AP Tel: 789236		Mrs Wendy Colquhoun 2 Eider Road Newburgh Tel 788969
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 Sue Edwards 6 Airyhill View Newburgh AB41 6DW Tel: 789139	Safeguarding Coordinator	Mrs Lindsey Dickie 33 Eider Road Newburgh Tel: 789103

Foveran Parish Church is the known name of Foveran Church of Scotland
Registered Charity No.SC011701



Foveran Parish Church Newsletter

Summer 2017 Minister's Letter Keep the Basics

Hello,

Imagine this scenario: you are wanting to make the Birthday Cake to surpass all others ever made. You get all sorts of exotic and tasty ingredients but at the last, you forget to buy self-raising flour or baking powder. No worries, you have all the exotics, so you forge ahead with plain flour. Or, imagine this: you are in the final of the 110 metres hurdles at the Olympics, however, in your enthusiasm to win you forget to jump. What about this: you pack the car for a lovely car holiday around the North coast of Scotland. You get to Bettyhill and see the sign, 'Last Petrol for 150 miles'. You are down to the last little indicator on the fuel gauge, but you drive on.

What do you think will happen? Joy or sorrow? Will we excuse ourselves or blame ourselves for making wrong decisions and responses to basic matters. The cake will probably turn out flat, the race will see us bruised and tripped up, and the car trip will have us wishing we had renewed our subscription to the recovery service we had for 30 years, but never needed!

When we forget, or neglect, or think we are beyond the basics, the fundamental building blocks of any activity, we will usually find that the results we hoped for are not forthcoming.

It is no different when it comes to the Christian faith. When I was a young Christian, I imagined that by my present age I would have it all worked out – this has not happened. The longer I am a Christian, the bigger I discover the faith is, encounters with God are sweeter, I realise more my utter unworthiness to have received anything from God, yet increase in astonishment at His generosity, goodness, patience and utter kindness to have guided me through many ‘dangers, toils and snares.’ Others of my vintage feel the same.

Acts 2:42 – **“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.”** – is the blue print of the Early Church, and yet we have departed so far from these basics is it any wonder we are not seeing the power of the early church, or their joy, in most of the West. Please look at that verse, and ask to what degree we are missing the practice of the basics?

A look at the Bible: The Apostles’ teaching.

Here are a few tasters concerning the ‘Apostles’ Teaching’ of Acts 2:42. It refers to the body of teaching they left behind in the New Testament and also the Old Testament because the New Testament was the unfolding of the Old. Paul had a high regard for what was taught.

1 Thessalonians 2:13: **“And we also thank God continually because, when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as a human word, but as it actually is, the word of God, which is indeed at work in you who believe.”** Paul equates what he had taught the Thessalonians as the very word of God.

In Galatians 1:11-12: **“I want you to know, brothers and sisters, that the gospel I preached is not of human origin. I did not receive it from any man, nor was I taught it; rather, I received it by revelation from Jesus Christ.”** Paul tells them

that his message is not one made up by men, but is a revelation from God.

These are big claims, but important claims. The authority of Scripture is regarded very poorly in the Western world, where we elevate our own reason. Has this worked out well in the last 100 years?

The Apostles’ teaching is authoritative and tells us some vital and basic things. Romans 1:16-17: **“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile. For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: “The righteous will live by faith.””**

The Apostles’ teaching teaches us about God. It tells us the message of what He has done in Christ. It is a message that tells us we can be rescued and brought to safety by the power of God. It tells us how that rescue may be obtained and how it works, by faith.

Acts 2.42 says that the new believers devoted themselves to the Apostles’ teaching as the first of four things highlighted. If we were to read on through the book of Acts, we would see that the Church was added to, was multiplied, and grew. It prospered in enthusiastic numbers, and was accused of filling first the city, and then the country, with the message of Jesus. This is not bad going for a group of uneducated ex-fishermen and others, who had no money, no property, no reputation, no big-name backers, and who proclaimed a message that offended the Jews and was foolishness to all the rest!

How did it happen – in part because they were a people devoted to the Apostles’ teaching, the Scripture. This is a basic – miss this, and we miss everything.

Big Band 2017



After plenty of practising (loudly in poor Christine & Andrew's house) the Big Band came together for their first gig at church on Sunday 12th March. The band is made up of around eleven musicians of all ages, playing keyboard, various guitars, clarinet, saxophones, drums, electric violin and tambourine! It was a joy to behold with ears and eyes, and we look forward to hearing them play lots more in the future.

New Elders



Two new Elders, Yvonne Reid and Pamela Sloan, were inducted and admitted (Pamela was an elder in her previous church) on Sunday 23rd April.

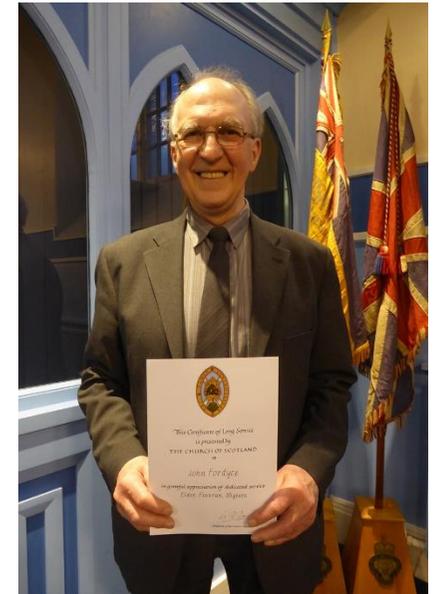
Congratulations!



Congratulations to our very own Polline Leung and Rob Cruickshanks who recently tied the knot at Holyrood Chapel on Saturday 25th February. They are a lovely couple and we wish them a long and happy marriage together!

Presentation of Long Service Certificate

Congratulations to John Fordyce who was presented with a Certificate for Long Service at Inverurie's St Andrew's Parish Church on 30th April 2017. John has faithfully served as an Elder of Foveran Parish Church for 35 years. The Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Russell Barr, presented around fifty certificates to elders of various churches in Gordon Presbytery.



Saturday Café



Last Saturday of the month
11am-3pm, Church Hall, Newburgh

Come along and enjoy **delicious**
homemade soups, scones & pancakes,
teas & coffees all for a donation.

We are always looking for volunteers to help at the Saturday Cafe so if you feel you can spare some time, even just 2 hours on a Saturday, please contact Margaret Buchan on 789298.

Corner Café

Corner
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Thursdays
10am-noon

Church Hall
Newburgh

all welcome

Corner Café will close for the summer break for the whole of July this year. It will reopen, with everyone feeling refreshed, on Thursday 3rd August.

At the time of writing this the Newburgh Gala is still to come, but Corner Café wishes to thank everyone in advance who supports us with home-baking and help providing teas at the Gala. We are sure a lovely day will be had by all.

Coffee Morning for Guy & Suzanna Bastable of New Life Home Trust

On Saturday 24th June 10am -12 noon there will be a coffee morning in the Church Hall, Newburgh in aid of the New Life Home Trust.



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 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.

Guy and Suzanna Bastable are a couple who used to live locally and who now live in Nairobi and work with NLHT. They will be at the coffee morning 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.

Report from the Treasurer



On Sunday May 7th, we held the Annual Stated meeting where the accounts to December 2016. These showed a surplus of £998. However, since this included a one-off donation of £10,000 we need to remain watchful of the Church finances. The 2016 accounts are available under the 'Church Life' section of the website www.fpchurch.co.uk

Here are the results of the Church activities for the 3 months to March 2017 compared to the same period as last year:

Foveran Church of Scotland

Income & Expenditure

For the 3 months ended 31 March 2017

Income	Jan-Mar 2017	Jan-Mar 2016
Activities to Generate Funds	1,261	1,170
Baptisms, w eddings, funerals	280	140
Charities	165	-
Deposit Account Interest	556	-
Open Plate	1,936	1,689
Other donations	914	925
Rental of Premises	182	323
S.O	4,916	5,567
Sundry income	89	91
W.F.O	2,198	2,032
Total Income	12,496	11,938

Expenditure

Accountancy	43	43
Charities Exp	263	316
Cleaning & w aste disposal	468	180
Fundraising Expenses	1,351	1,175
Light and heat	991	1,052
Office Supplies and Stationery	126	-
Organ Upkeep	118	-
Other operating leases - rent	-	220
Printing	412	911
Rates and Insurance	900	907
Repairs and renew als	110	7,426
Subscriptions	164	9
Telephone	228	218
Travel	2,381	-
Wages and salaries	7,304	7,007
Youth Work exp	113	-
Total Expenditure	14,972	19,464

Surplus / (Deficit)	-	2,476	-	7,526
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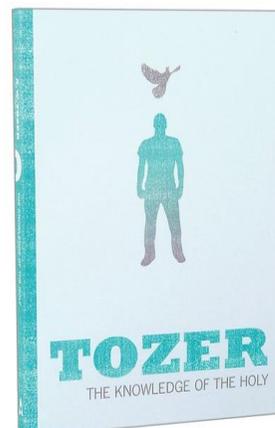
A few observations I'd like to make:

- Income is up slightly with some deposit interest from investments coming in during Q1.

- Expenditure is down due to mainly less expenditure on repairs although we have budgeted on costs to maintain our properties in 2017.

Alasdair Sloan, Treasurer

Book Review



“The Knowledge of the Holy” by A.W. Tozer.

For many years A.W. Tozer was the editor of a missionary magazine, a writer and Pastor, and many would regard his writings as prophetic with the emphasis being to call the Western Church back to a vital relationship with God. Tozer longed to see the Name of God honoured and regarded again with reverent fear.

In his little book, ‘The Knowledge of the Holy’ Tozer introduces the reader to a consideration of the Attributes of God. An Attribute of God is what God has revealed himself to be like. The reason Tozer gives for writing this devotional study on the Attributes of God, is that to know God and to live an authentic Christian life, we must think of God correctly. If we do not think about God correctly, it will soon follow that our living will go wrong. Think of how many people excuse bad behaviour with the notion that God loves then anyway!

God is not to be toyed with. As C.S Lewis said of Aslan, the Christ figure of the Narnia books, ‘He’s not a tame lion, you know!’ Sadly many Christians have a low view of God, almost as if He were an ageing grandfather who will pander to his grandchildren, and is desperate for their interest in him. Neither of those notions is a description of the God of the Bible!

This little book, read slowly, prayed over and thought about, will do much to expand and refresh our souls. Spiritually, the grasping of this material will be like coming out of a sick bed where we have been confined for many years into the fresh air and green fields and open sky and sunshine, and to a world we never knew, or had forgotten ever existed.

There is now a paperback edition, it may even be an E Book by now! See www.authenticmedia.co.uk ISBN 978-1-85078-621-4

Ricky

Rev Neil Gow

Rev Neil Gow was minister of Foveran Parish from 2001 to 2008. He was well-loved and much respected and had a wonderful sense of humour. Parishioners were made very welcome in the Manse by him and Liz, and those of us who kept in touch were warmly welcomed in Portknockie and Glasgow. Liz has kindly sent us Neil's story.



Neil & Liz on the first trip with FAX & YF to Teen Ranch 2003

I am so glad to be able to tell you about Neil and to thank you for all the cards and letters of sympathy we received when he died. It was great to meet many dear friends at his funeral. He retired early, very sorry to leave the folk of Foveran Parish Church, but tired and unaware of a developing cancer. He cheerfully survived seven years of treatment and I was thankful that, at the end, God was merciful and Neil escaped the last stage of the disease.

Neil started playing the violin aged seven. His parents, living ten years in a Glasgow East End slum, were active in church and in the Labour Party. Their social conscience was passed on to Neil and his sister Louise and, when they moved to Drumchapel in 1955, they all thrived. At Strathclyde University Neil earnestly studied Science and, fiddling in a folk group at weekends, became an entertaining intellectual. I visited Glasgow Folk Centre and remember once hearing him singing around 1967. This memory came back years later so he was impressive!

On graduating Neil opted to do Voluntary Service Overseas instead of a PhD and in the West Indies for two years discovered a talent for teaching which led to teacher training back home and a Chemistry job in his old Drumchapel School. I was teaching Physics there and we were married in 1973 – a fine romance in the Science department! Neil was quickly promoted to Principal Teacher and finished his MEd in Educational Psychology.

I was a Christian and Neil an atheist, but when our daughters Ruth and Jill were born and I got involved in our local church God became a

possibility to Neil. He studied scripture of every religion before finding in St Mark's Gospel the revelation of God in Jesus and very quietly gave his life to our Saviour. His father, an Elder, and his mother, a Sunday School teacher, recognising in their son a change **they** had not experienced, left their church soon afterwards. (St Mark's!)

Neil was ordained an elder and studied as a Lay Preacher. In 1991, driving home disheartened from a failed interview in Lochgilphead, he stopped to pray in a lay-by and the Holy Spirit told him to "enter the ministry". He did not want that but within four months it was clear to us that God intended to change our lives when Neil applied to and was accepted as a candidate by the Church of Scotland. He quit teaching on a Friday and was a first-year student on the Monday of the new term in Glasgow's Trinity College, attached to St Mark's Drumchapel.

The issues created for the family by the sudden change were all sorted for us. I was happy teaching Science part-time to the deaf children in the city schools but was asked to become full-time permanent teaching blind children too. I learned Braille as well as British Sign Language. A modest insurance policy matured to pay the mortgage and the Church of Scotland paid Neil's tuition fees.

In March 1996 Neil was ordained into Blair Atholl and Struan Church where the four of us became involved in revitalising the parish. It was a busy Manse for five years! Sadly for Neil, his tenure was terminated when Presbytery ruled that parishes be linked and new posts advertised. He applied to several vacancies but when he applied to Foveran we both knew it was God's call. It felt right and you know we were happy in Aberdeenshire.

The girls were married and we returned to Glasgow from Moray to be near them and the Beatson Hospital. That gave us three more good years when Neil, coping with chemotherapy, played in the worship group as well as preaching in Knightswood Baptist Church. Ruth and her family live in the ex-council house of my grandparents just up the road. Jill lives in Drumchapel and is expecting a baby boy in September. I'm hoping he'll inherit a very precious fiddle.....

Romans 8. 28 "For we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love Him and are called according to His purpose".

Elizabeth (Liz) Gow

Extracts from our Mission Partners' Letter Malawi April 2017

Dear Friends and Family,
I started trying to write this letter a month ago, but could not get it finished due to two weeks of a very severe gastroenteritis. I thought after 20 plus years of African living I was immune to such things. After a slow recovery, I have been trying to catch up.



One of the blessings as well as the challenges of living and working here is the wide range of work, opportunities and responsibilities we both have here, so I want to share a brief report on a number of them.

First, an update on the service level agreement (SLA), we have with the ministry of health, that left the government owing us over 40 million kwacha (£43,000) from February 2015 through November 2016. Finally, in March we were paid 29 million kwacha (over £31,000), leaving 11 million (£12,000) still owed. We have also invoiced for services provided from December through March, over 16 million kwacha (£17,000), and hope to get some of this before the end of April. We are so thankful to have received these funds, and to be able to continue providing maternity care at no charge to the patients.

Our challenges remain to 1) get the last amount owed from prior to June 2015, 2) get more timely payments for current invoices, and 3) get the ceiling amount per month raised to a realistic level, so that we are not having to contribute such a high amount of the cost of this service. Because of this ceiling we have been unable to restart SLA services to cover under five children, so those families have to find resources to cover the cost of treatment. Please pray that we will be able sort these issues out, and that the government would increase the ceiling to enable us to restart the service for children.

Second, the Nkhoma Eye program, which is the leading eye program in the country, has gone through difficulties due to poor financial record keeping leading to donor concern and freezing the grant until changes were made. The project had been semi-autonomous from the hospital, but management stepped in last August and my role was to oversee and restructure the financial record keeping, reporting and putting in

new policies to provide the necessary accountability. This has been much work and involved firing and replacing the administrator and finance person in the eye department. Despite the difficulties, the future for the project is very bright after a number of meetings with key people from CBM (the main donor). Please pray that the new staff selected will be faithful and competent in their responsibilities, and that the program will be able to continue its country leading eye care provision.

Third, the hospital chaplain, Rev Kachumba, who has been at Nkhoma for over 7 years, accepted a call from a parish as he felt led back into parish ministry. So, after a very fruitful ministry at Nkhoma and building up a good team with four chaplaincy assistants, he left Nkhoma in February. Through the Nkhoma Synod process, a new chaplain has been selected, with input from the hospital. Rev. Kalebe has been appointed and will be arriving at Nkhoma next week to take up duties. Remember Rev. Kalebe as he takes up his new role in this very critical and multi-faceted work that includes spiritual care and counselling for patients, guardians and staff as well as leading the chaplaincy team, serving on management, chairing the hospital disciplinary committee and being the link between the church and the hospital.

Finally, on the clinical side, we are very thankful for a number of very skilled and dedicated short term doctors from Scotland, Ireland and South Africa who have made it possible for me to dedicate most of my time on these administrative and financial issues. Also we have been amazed at the significant reduction in numbers of malaria cases this year. In 2016 from January to March we had over 1,700 admissions of children under five with malaria and 43 deaths. This year we have had only 706 admissions and 25 deaths. This is despite not being able to start our malaria prevention program until late March, and having limited resources for spraying until the beginning of April.

One more request for prayer from Rebecca – our friend and co-worker, Nicole, who is caring for 15 children now, is encountering a difficult situation with a placement of one of her sets of twins. Please pray for the right decisions to be made. Thank you all for your continued concern and support.



David and Rebecca, Nkhoma Hospital

Social Committee

The committee has no events planned over the next few months.

The Kirk Roup has been a valuable and well supported community event for many years now, but donations were well down last year both for the auction sale and also for the stalls. So, in 2017 we are hoping instead to hold a Silent Auction with stalls and teas. The provisional date for this is Saturday 18th November.

Looking ahead, we would be delighted if others in the church would like to get more involved in social events – new ideas are welcome and present committee members are getting older!

We welcome feedback and look forward to your future support.

Mary Smith, Social Convenor

Pastoral Notices

Baptisms

16th April Arthur Edwards

Weddings

25th February Rob Cruickshanks & Polline Leung

Funerals

16th February Eric Reid
22nd March Alexander (Sandy) Anderson
24th March Ina Duncan
6th April Margaret (Peggy) McKay
21st April William McKay
15th May Alexander (Sandy) Penny

Dates for your Diaries

Fri 26 th May	Holiday Club Meet-Up, 3.30-4.30pm, Church Hall. For age 3-11, all welcome.
Sat 27 th May	Saturday Café, Church Hall, 11am-3pm
Fri 23 rd June	Holiday Club Meet-Up, 3.30-4.30pm, Church Hall. For age 3-11, all welcome.
Sat 24 th June	Coffee morning to meet the Bastables, 10am-12 noon then Saturday Café, 12 noon-3pm, both Church Hall, Newburgh
Sun 25 th June	Sunday School prizegiving and picnic.
During School Holidays	There will be family services on Sundays at 11am in the Church. Everyone is welcome.
Sat 29 th July	Saturday Café, Church Hall, 11am-3pm
Mon 14 th -18 th Aug	Polar Explorers Holiday Club, Newburgh Public Hall, 10am-12noon, for ages 3 and upwards. All Welcome!

Our Sunday Morning Services are in held at 11am every week, and we hold an Evening Service on the 1st Sunday of the month at 6 pm, both at Holyrood Chapel. All are very welcome.

We have prayer meetings on Sundays at 10.15am and Wednesdays at 7.30pm, both in the Vestry at Holyrood Chapel.

There is a ladies prayer meeting on Fridays once a fortnight in the Vestry (phone Yvonne 789225 or Sue 789139 for exact dates) and there is a chance to speak to Ricky about any issues on a Wednesday in the Vestry 6.15-7.15pm.