

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 Christine Mitchell Old Mill of Collieston Slains, Ellon AB41 8RG Tel: 751743	Safeguarding Coordinator	Mrs Lindsey Dickie 5 Laverock Road Newburgh Tel: 789103

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



Minister's Letter Spring 2018 - New Starts

You have probably seen it in a film, read a story or watched a TV drama. The plot goes something like this. The hero or non-hero has come out of a life of crime, or been a secret agent, a government assassin or something of that nature. They are trying to live a new life with a new name in a new place, but circumstances arise, or things catch up with them from the past, and they have to do one more crime, solve one more case, or prove themselves not guilty of a crime they have been set up for.

It's all good make-believe entertainment, but often the message of the sub-plot is that no one can start a new life without the old life bleeding into it and reproducing itself again. I suppose the old wives phrase is that you, 'can't teach an old dog new tricks.' The Bible says something similar. It poses the question whether a leopard can change its spots, and of course, the answer is that it can't.

Many people want to change. Many people need to change or they will come to an early grave or a sorrowful end. Many of us wish we could rewind the past, and do things differently or say things differently. Perhaps if we had married someone different? Perhaps if we had worked harder at school? Perhaps if we had chosen a different line of work, perhaps if we had not listened to that person?

Whatever we think, a new start seems a vain hope and a sad impossibility.

There is one possibility for a new start no matter what age or stage we are at. The gospel of Mark begins, 'The beginning of the good news about Jesus Christ...' In the gospel we read of men and woman in dead end situations and jobs and relationships who found in Christ a power to begin a new sort of life, even within the setting of their old lives.

We need power to begin a new life. This power is not within us. If it were, we would have changed before now. AA talks about turning to a higher power and admitting that we are powerless to change. The Gospel is described by the apostle Paul as, 'The power of God for salvation...' Salvation means complete rescue and safety.

Change, a new start is possible, but only by the power of God. Christmas is the celebration of Christ coming into the world as the power of God. Easter celebrates the working of God's mighty power to effect the change He makes available to those who believe.

A new start in a new year is possible, possible by believing in God and Christ. It can start the moment we ask Christ to come into our lives. Do it now.

I think that there are actually very few choices that matter. Who are we going to live our lives for, what are we going to spend our lives doing, and whom are we going to spend our lives with? Those are the important questions. Every other one is not really a decision. I suspect that all brands of bacon come from pink pigs, so little choice there. I suspect that all detergents come from the similar chemicals, so little choice there, and so on.

There is one other decision which undergirds and influences the three decisions I have said matter – whom are we going to live our lives for, ourselves alone, or for others, what are we going to live our lives doing, getting rich, or choosing a career which serves others, whom are we going to live our lives with, that is, being faithful to our spouse, and it is highlighted in a conversation that Jesus has with His disciples in Luke 9 verses 18-28.

Jesus asks them who people say He is, and the disciples report the various theories they have heard proposed as to Jesus' identity. Jesus then turns to Peter, and point blank asks him, 'but who do you say I am?' This is the question of questions and the decision of decisions.

The answer to this will affect every other aspect of Peter's life, and of our lives also, because this is a decision every person will make in life.

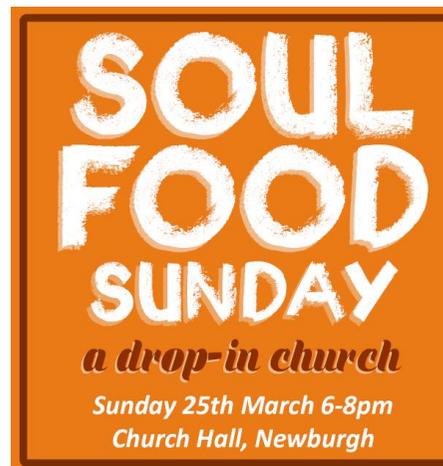
Many do not answer the question, or do not bother to investigate it to give a serious answer. That is in itself a decision to reject Christ.

So here is the question again – who do you say Christ is? If He is the Messiah, then what are you going to do about it. If you can't be bothered or dismiss this question, then you have answered it already, Christ was the fool on the Cross. What do you say?

Ricky Reid – Minister of Foveran Parish

NEWS, NEWS, NEWS

We are planning to start a new venture once a month on a Sunday evening!



SOUL FOOD SUNDAY

- a drop in Church. Our first event will be: **Sunday 25 March, 6pm-8pm** in the Church Hall, Main Street, Newburgh.

Drop in and come and go as you wish! We will have a different line-up each month which will include listening to music or singing, live or recorded; a story spot, where someone shares something important that they have

discovered about God; and a brief talk with questions and discussion on a topical subject. More will be added as the months go on.

Soul Food Sunday is for everyone in our community and is a 'drop in' - for people to come and go as they wish. The evening will be kept informal and fun in a café-style with tea, coffee, and this month, as it is Easter time, hot-cross buns. Keep an eye out for more information around the parish.

Corner Café



The children from Newburgh Mathers School have been linking up with Corner Café recently by kindly baking for the café and visiting on a Thursday morning.

Corner Café was treated to a lovely Christmas Concert of songs from the Nursery children at our Festive celebration, which was very busy with plenty mince pies being eaten and raffles being won! Thanks to all who came along and supported us. If you've never been along to Corner Café on a Thursday morning at the Church Hall, 10am-12noon, please do come and see us, you'll be made most welcome!



Burns Night Celebration



A very successful Burns Supper took place this year on Saturday 27th January at Newburgh-on-Ythan Golf Club. We enjoyed excellent food and wonderful spoken and musical entertainment - and raised approximately £100 each for the New Life Home Trust and Nkhoma Hospital in Malawi. Thanks to all who helped in any way to make this possible.

A Look Back at Christmas



Christmas was busy at Foveran Parish Church as usual! Here is a look back at the Community Carol Singing, Nativity and Christingle Services.



A Prayer

We will be including a prayer in each issue of the magazine which you can use in your personal prayer life if you wish.

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for all your goodness and mercy to us. As we look back over the last year we can see your hand at work in our lives. You have been with us in our joys and sorrows and have guided us in the way we should go. Father, forgive us for any times that we didn't go your way, and for our pride when we think we don't need you. We are grateful that you are faithful to your covenant with us and you don't forget us even when we ignore you. Thank you that you will never leave us or forsake us because you have said so.

Thank you for all the blessings we so easily take for granted... for our health and homes and families and all those dear to us. Thank you that we live in a country where we don't need to fear that we will be attacked for our faith, and where we have food and water and comfortable homes.

Lord, we are amazed that you the Sovereign Lord and creator of everything should be interested in us and love us. Thank you for your wonderful plan to redeem us so that we can become your children and get to know you more and more. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for dying for us and that you didn't leave us to fend for ourselves but sent your Holy Spirit to live in us so that we have your power at work in us to make us new and grow to be whom you have called us to be. Thank you for your salvation and for your work in us to sanctify and make us holy.

Lord, as we look forward to the coming year, we choose to put our trust in you. We invite you to be Sovereign in our lives, to have your will done and your kingdom come here in us. Stir up a holy desire in us to seek to know you above all. Give us courage and confidence to pray honestly and persistently.

Father, we have great expectations because our hope is in you and in your word. Be exalted, and glorify your name in our community. In Jesus name we pray, Amen

Open Church



If you see this sign outside the church it means the doors are open and you are welcome to come inside for quiet time and prayer. Sometimes life is busy, loud and we all face difficult things. The church offers a space away from it all in which to be quiet and be closer to God. It will be open Mondays-Wednesdays 10-3pm. Anyone is welcome in.

Tuesday Bible Study

Two flourishing bible study groups meet on a Tuesday in the session room of the church. The morning group meets from 10.15am-11.30am and the afternoon group meets from 1.30pm-3pm. They are relaxed, informal and welcoming. The groups are open to everyone of all ages including mums and dads with babies and pre-school children. There is a well-stocked toy cupboard and no one minds noise. The groups enjoy tea, coffee, treats, fellowship and laughter while exploring and discussing bible passages. The morning group is currently focussing on Matthew and "Being Discipled by Jesus", while the afternoon group is taking a sweep through the Bible looking at 100 key passages.

Pamela said, "Whether you are taking your first tentative step in finding out about Jesus or you have been studying the bible for years, you will be welcomed with open arms. No one judges and everyone encourages one another."

Mischke said, "The moment I walked in I felt very welcomed and was met with warmth and I could feel God moving amongst us. I look forward to Tuesdays and learning more as I re-embark on my spiritual journey."

Drop in one Tuesday or contact Yvonne or Sue for more information or to arrange a lift.

Youth Alpha

A Youth Alpha will be starting on Wed 18th April for young people aged S1 & S2. If anyone is interested in joining this they are welcome - please contact Paula (07854 186968) or Jane (07977 297426)

Sewing for Hope!



I am part of a small group of women from around Aberdeen who are part of a much larger group of women around the world who sew some pretty unusual items for girls in less affluent areas of the world so that they can go to school every day!

We sew personal hygiene kits for girls who live in Tanzania and are fortunate enough to have a place at school. The problem is that they miss several days a month from school because they cannot easily leave the house.

We sew for a Christian charity called Tumaini which was started in Guernsey ten years ago and now has a presence in Scotland, known as Tumaini Scotland. 'Tumaini' is Swahili for 'hope' and the Tumaini fund seeks to bring hope to the widows and orphans in Kagera in North West Tanzania. It is estimated that there are over 200,000 orphans in this area alone, an area the size of Northern Ireland. Sadly this is mostly due to AIDS. Tanzania is one of the ten poorest countries in the world and Kagera, being furthest from the capital, is one of the poorest areas of Tanzania. 12% of children die before their first birthday, many orphans live in derelict shacks and only 7% go on to secondary school. But Tumaini is all about hope and among other things helps provide clean water, safer houses, vocational training and parish workers who travel miles on bicycles to visit and help the local children and women.



Anyway I could go on, and on, but the main reason for writing this is that we need more people sewing! If you have a sewing machine, can sew in a straight line and have a few hours free every month when you would be prepared to sew either on your own or as part of a small local group please let me know and I can tell you more about what we do and why we do it. Hopefully you can see from some of the girls' faces in the photo how pleased they are to receive the kits that we make. The impact on their lives is literally life-changing giving them a future and a hope!

Yvonne Bestwick

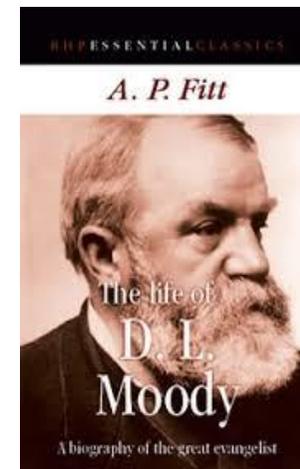
The Life of D.L. Moody - A Biography by A. P. Fitt

Many of you will have heard of Moody and Sankey. Moody was an Evangelist and Sankey was a musician. They visited the UK in the second half of the 1800s even coming North to Glasgow, where huge crowds came out to meetings where thousands became Christians.

Perhaps you think that Moody and Sankey were very special individuals and, in a way, they were. However, their origins were very ordinary; Moody was a shoe salesman, he never trained in a university, never became a minister, but did become a household name. Your Gran very probably had a Moody and Sankey hymn book in her house as over 8 million books were sold in their lifetimes. By the way, they never took a penny of the royalties!

This book is a short biography of Moody from his earliest days to his death. It includes lovely stories about him and his grandchildren. For any of us who believe that we cannot have a new start in life, this biography could help us see things differently. God did extraordinary things through a very ordinary man. God can do it with us.

Moody, to the end of his life was criticised for his poor grammar. His last known letter to his grand-daughter had twenty-three spelling mistakes in it, so he never became sophisticated. In this biography we have the account of an ordinary man used by God, not because of who he was, but because of who God is. This is an easy read, but it contains powerful truth. Suitable for any age, early teens to old age could all gain from reading it.



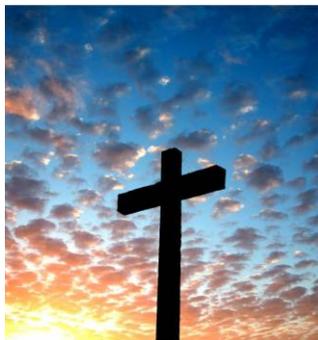
ISBN: 978-1-905044-42-9
Published by Rickfords Hill
Publishers Ltd.

Gift Aid Treasurer

When I took over the position of Gift Aid Treasurer from Anne Whalley at the end of 2016, I intended it to be only a temporary measure until someone else could be found to undertake it on a more permanent basis. I am pleased to say that Christine Mitchell has now willingly volunteered to take it on, so all the paperwork has now been passed to her and she will be preparing and filing the returns for the year 2017. Please address any Gift Aid donations and correspondence from now on, to Christine.

Sue Edwards

Invitation to Celebrate Easter



We would like to invite you to join us this year in our Easter celebrations. As well as the traditional Easter Services in church, we have an uplifting and fun outdoor service for all on top of Gallows Hill bright and early on Easter morning. Meeting in the Newburgh Inn car park at 9am, we walk up the hill and have a short service of worship at the top. The kids then roll their eggs down the hill before walking to the Church Hall for coffee & bacon rolls. The Easter Service in church is after this at 11am, where there is a competition for the best decorated eggs. Everyone is very welcome.

Christian Aid BIG Breakfast

Come along to our Christian Aid Big Breakfast this year on Sunday 13th May between 9.30-10.45am in the Church Hall. Bacon rolls, croissants & coffee await you as well as the opportunity to give to the great work of Christian Aid. They believe that in a world with such wealth as ours, no one should go without food, shelter, security or any of the other basics we all need, and are determined to end poverty and injustice worldwide. See www.christianaid.org.uk for more info.



Activities on Each Week

Sunday Morning Prayer Meeting, 10.15-10.45am, Vestry, Holyrood Chapel
 Sunday Morning Service, 11am, Holyrood Chapel
 Tuesday Morning Bible Study, 10.15-11.30am, Vestry (Contact Yvonne 789225 or Pamela 01779 841166)
 Tuesday Afternoon Bible Study, 1.30-3pm, Vestry (Contact Yvonne 789225 or Sue 789139)
 Thursday House Group, Andrew & Christine Mitchell's house (Contact Andrew or Christine 751743)
 Thursdays, Corner Cafe, 10-12noon, Church Hall, Newburgh

Once a Fortnight

Friday Ladies' Prayer Meeting, 10-11.30am every second Friday, Vestry (Contact Sue 789139)
 YF Youth Fellowship, every second Tuesday, Paula Hawthorn's house (Contact Paula 789751)

Dates for your Diaries 2018

Fri 23rd February Holiday Club Meet-up, Church Hall, 3.30-4.30pm.
 Fri 23rd March Holiday Club Meet-up, Church Hall, 3.30-4.30pm
 Sun 25th March Soul Food Sunday, Church Hall, 6-8pm
 Fri 30th March Good Friday Service, Holyrood Chapel, 7.30pm

Easter Sun 1st April

Easter Sunday
 9.15am – Short Service & Egg Rolling on Gallows Hill, **all** welcome! Meet at 9am in Newburgh Inn carpark before we walk up Gallows Hill for a short service and egg rolling – bring your own eggs! Then breakfast of bacon rolls and toast will be served in the Church Hall.
 11am – Easter Family Service in church, including decorated egg competition (make different eggs for this – not the ones for rolling!)



Fri 27th April Holiday Club Meet-up, Church Hall, 3.30-4.30pm
 Sun 13th-Sat 19th May Christian Aid Week
 Sun 13th May Christian Aid BIG Breakfast, 9.30-10.45am, Church Hall
 Fri 25th May Holiday Club Meet-up, Church Hall, 3.30-4.30pm
 Fri 29th June Holiday Club Meet-up, Church Hall, 3.30-4.30pm
 Mon 13th-Fri 17th Aug HOLIDAY CLUB WEEK, Newburgh Public Hall, 10am-12noon
 Fri 28th September Holiday Club Meet-up, Church Hall, 3.30-4.30pm
 No October Holiday Club
 Fri 30th Nov Holiday Club Meet-up, Church Hall, 3.30-4.30pm (Christmas Focus)

Pastoral Notices

Funeral	23 rd October 2017	Anne (Nan) Smith
Baptism	28 th January 2018	Daniel Hedberg