

**2017 Reports
for the
Stated Annual Meeting
held on
Sunday, 27 May, 2018**

**Foveran Church of Scotland
Charity Number SC011701D**

Session Clerk Report 2017

We are continuing to see increased attendance on Sunday mornings and have seen several baptisms in the past year. Membership was slightly down as sadly there have been deaths of some church members and one person has moved out of the area to be nearer family. We have seen the return of one family after many years away in another part of the UK, and are delighted to see that they are starting to participate again in church life.

There have been some new people attending both of the Tuesday groups, mostly these are people who do not actually attend our church, but they are still very welcome to attend and there is always room for more people!. Prayer meetings continue to be attended by the same faithful few folk, and again, it would be great to see some new faces.

The Sunday evening services stopped last year, but we have been trying out Soul Food Sunday, which is an informal 'drop in' church held in the church hall on the last Sunday of the month. It is early days yet, but those we have held so far have been well attended and enthusiastically received.

The Friday afternoon Holiday Club meetings continue to run and are attended in general by children who are in the first couple of years of Primary. Most of these children do not come to Sunday school yet they seem to enjoy the Friday afternoons and are fairly regular. They get to hear the Gospel, play games and make something to take home. This is an important Ministry as other interests such as sport seem to be a powerful lure for our young people on a Sunday morning, so we have seen a slight decrease in the numbers at Sunday school, but the teachers remain faithful and are prepared to teach whoever turns up each week.

Our Young People are a musically talented group, so it has been good to encourage the occasional Big Band Sunday in order for them to worship the Lord using these talents. Whilst I realise that this is not to everyone's taste, it is important to encourage these young people and not to criticise them. There are many activities that seek to take children and young people away from worship on a Sunday, so we must do all we can to make church a welcoming place and somewhere that they actually want to be.

There have been some additional volunteers added to rotas in the past year, and these people are becoming familiar faces around the church and in the village. It is good that people want to become involved to replace those who feel that they have 'done their bit' and want to step down. Changes in family circumstances sometimes also mean that people want to step aside for a time, so we are always looking for volunteers. If you feel you have a talent that you would like to offer as a service to the Lord, please speak to Ricky or myself.

There are always things to be done, welcome team, teas and coffees after the service, donations of flowers to name a few, but all are valuable in the life of the church.

After a discouraging bit in the middle of the year where attendance was down (probably due to holidays), it is good to see the church beginning to look more full on a weekly basis. In this day of secularisation even within the church, I am very encouraged that we have a Minister who firmly believes the Bible and is keen to teach its Truths to us. Ricky works hard to get the balance of music right, for both those who like modern and those who like traditional, and I think he manages it most of the time! We are very fortunate to have him as Minister and I would urge you to support him with your prayers and (if you can) occasional encouragement.

Sue Edwards
Session Clerk

Sunday School Report

10 children on the roll, 5 of whom attend regularly.

5 teachers working in rotation to allow those not teaching to stay in church.

Using Scripture Union teaching material aimed at small groups with a wide age range.

The children took part in the Nativity service at Christmas and the Easter service held at the top of Gallows Hill then in the church on Easter Sunday.

This year the children's weekly giving was used to buy the following from Christian Aid Present Aid:

A toilet, a goat, feed a family, delivery kit, school books, bags and biros, a sheep, a family hygiene kit and build a granary.

Holiday Club Meet Up Report

Held the last Friday of the month in the church hall for an hour after school.

Open to all children in the area.

Attendance has ranged from 10 children to 18 children.

A typical session will include a game, a bible story, snack and a craft.

There are 3 leaders helping on a regular basis.

Holiday Club Drama Group Report

Held on a Monday after school in the church hall for an hour.

5 children attend on regular basis to rehearse the drama which will be performed as part of the Holiday Club in the summer. This year the holiday club is called Guardians of Ancora Treasure Seekers and follows the life of Jesus from his birth to death and resurrection.

Christine Mitchell

FAX Report

Our FAX group is running this year with fewer than last year with 6 boys regularly attending. Our Sunday morning time is primarily a time of Christian teaching with an element of fun. Teen Ranch trip will go ahead in June being joined also by the girls in the holiday club drama group. We are glad to have many of the boys playing with us in the worship band too – this not only keeps them involved in church activities and so exposed to ongoing Christian teaching, it also means they are publicly identifying themselves as Christians standing up in front of the church and helping to lead worship.

Please pray for these boys, that God will be their all-consuming passion and that their hearts will be His without reserve. Pray that they will be His witnesses in Foveran, Newburgh, Hatton, Ellon and wherever else they find themselves. And please value and encourage them – very few churches, if any in this area, have a youth attendance like this and a potential for bold Christian witness like we have in our Church.

Thanks too, to Roddy Mackenzie for his help and support in taking them week about with me.

Andrew Mitchell

Property Report

The usual maintenance and general upkeep tasks have been attended to as necessary and in general buildings are in a reasonable condition. Special thanks are due to Ian Simpson for all the work he has done repairing the hall heating and ongoing work with the church clock.

In the coming year we don't intend any major tasks although the Church Quinquennial property inspection report has highlighted a few areas of concern with our buildings so we may have some expense in taking care of some of these issues. We don't yet know the extent of the work required.

We will refit the front doors of the church such that the two wooden doors open outwards. This will allow us to present a more inviting appearance to worshippers on a Sunday with both wooden doors fully open and with duty elders behind the internal glass door welcoming people as they arrive. We also intend to fit two new noticeboards, one in the church courtyard and one for the hall, with the majority of this cost being met by generous donation from the corner café.

Thanks to Ricky, Christine John and Jane for all their hard work on the property committee.

Andrew Mitchell
Property Convener

Social Committee Report 2017

The Social Committee aims to organise events which provide opportunities for fellowship and outreach, while at the same time raising a little money for various charities and (at the November event) for our own Church. The committee thanks all who attended the events held in 2017 or who supported them in any way, and I personally thank all the committee members for their enthusiasm and hard work throughout the year.

As usual our first event was a **Burns Supper** in January, once again held jointly with Newburgh-on-Ythan Golf Club in the Clubhouse. Robert Burns was celebrated in word, song and music; the food was excellent and well served and the entertainment was much enjoyed by all. The friendly and sociable evening raised almost £200 for the New Life Home Trust. Our thanks to everyone who helped to make this possible.

In November we held a **Silent Auction** with teas and a baking stall in the Public Hall, Newburgh. Overall it was well supported by many of our members and friends and raised approximately £812 for church funds. Thanks to all who helped with this event in any way, including Watson Family Butcher, the Newburgh Inn and Newburgh-on-Ythan Golf Club for their generous donations of vouchers.

The committee always welcomes suggestions and feedback, and invites others to become more involved in organising future social activities. We look forward to continued support from church members and other friends in the local area or beyond.

Mary Smith
Convenor