

Ferryhill Parish News

September 2010

Maxi Edition for delivery by 5th September

During the summer, the theme for our services was ***Celebrating Creation*** and week by week, we considered many different aspects of the theme. We learned of the environmental damage we have caused to our planet and of the urgent need to address this. We praised the wonder of creation and the beauty of the world in which we live. We thought about the creative skills which we possess. We heard about the challenges faced by the oil industry. We saw how children are learning to protect the environment and we considered the links between climate change and global poverty. We enjoyed two walks – one at Forvie Sands and the other around Ferryhill.

Our challenge now is to continue to work towards becoming an Eco-congregation by responding to the challenges we have been learning about this summer with faith and action. The **Eco-congregation Task Group** will be considering our next steps during the autumn. If you would like to contribute to the work of the task group, contact Anne Ralph (575520) or Shelagh Bain (588744).

The next **Indoor Carboot Sale** will be held on Saturday September 11th at 10am. The proceeds from this Sale will go to the Church's Chigodi Fund, which is used to assist the twinning arrangement with our partner Church in Blantyre, Malawi. Donations for the Church Tables will be gratefully accepted. The October Sale will be on Sat 2nd October and will be in aid of the Development Fund.

All are welcome at these Sales. To book a table phone Fiona tel 590806.

The **Summer Club** this year was enjoyed by all involved, young and old! Grateful thanks go to all the willing helpers who gave their time and energy to make it such a wonderful success. A feed back meeting for the helpers is being held on Sunday 5th September after the morning worship. Photographs of the Summer Club activities will soon be seen on the Church website. www.ferryhillparishchurch.org.uk

Message from Ian Dick, Minister at Ferryhill

The Church of Scotland has an obligation to serve all the people of Scotland and so there is a network of parishes that covers the whole country. The Minister of a Parish therefore has a responsibility to all the people who live in a parish and not just those who are members of the Church. This is expressed, for example, in the Parish Minister being obligated to celebrate in Church the marriages of those who live in the parish and to conduct the funerals of those who were resident in the parish whether or not they are or were members of the Church.

The congregation at Ferryhill exists not simply for itself but to serve the parish in which it worships and so this issue of Parish News is being distributed to every home in the Parish of Ferryhill. It not only sets out the activities that take place in the Church buildings and which are open to all and to which you are warmly invited but also highlights some of those aspects of Church life that reaches out beyond the walls to local, national and international communities.

Two or three generations ago most people lived all their lives in the same community in which they were born. Today this is not the case. All communities are characterised by change, by people coming and going, those arriving sometimes being far distant from where they grew up, far from the communities in which they were nurtured and with which they first identified. An essential feature of community is to help people have a sense of belonging. The Church should be a place where people feel they belong; it is a world-wide community but with local expressions. Everyone has the right to be in Church if they want to. A Church is not one group's home into which others are invited, it is a home for all in which all have a right to be. Ferryhill Parish Church is therefore **your** Church and **your** place is always there for you whenever you choose to come whether to worship or to the other activities that go on.

The Church can help give people a sense of their individual value in God's eyes, a sense of belonging, a sense of identity, a sense of cultural history – how their community came about, how they are part of it; it helps them to understand who they are and where they come from; it help to give them roots. The Church here in Ferryhill wants to play its part in helping to create and sustain a sense of community and a sense of belonging to that community.

The congregation at Ferryhill seeks to be inclusive of all irrespective of age, gender, race, disability, sexual orientation or marital status. It also recognises that the Church is not a place of arrival for people of sure faith, but a community of mutual support and encouragement both in the journey of life and in the ongoing journey of faith, seeking and searching often with as many doubts as certainties, thereby recognising and sharing our common humanity in a relational community. I hope you might want to help sustain that community by your involvement.

For the Attention of Members and Adherents of Ferryhill Parish Church

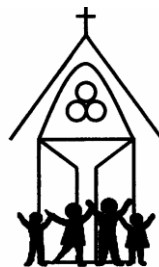
Dear Friends,

'Stewardship 2010 : Facing the Future' is the title of a booklet that every member and adherent of the congregation will receive either through a visitor or by post during September. **'Stewardship 2010 : Facing the Future'** sets out the financial needs of the congregation and the wider Church and how we as members and adherents can contribute towards these.

St Paul reminded congregations in his time that *'God loves a cheerful giver'* reflecting the fact that giving to the work of the Church is a spiritual matter; it's about faith and commitment that stem from a sense of thankfulness to God for this life and for all that we have. We take so much for granted and perhaps we need to pause now and again and reflect on those things for which we should give thanks. It's easy to take the Church for granted and assume it will always be there to provide for our religious needs – Sunday worship, baptisms, weddings, funerals – not forgetting the friendship and support in times of trouble and the contribution the Church makes to community and national life. But if we want the Church to continue to be there not just for us but for our children and for future generations as well, then we need to support it financially. **'Stewardship 2010 : Facing the Future'** is a challenge to all of us to review our financial commitment to the Church to ensure that future.

If the Church has meant something to us, has given something to us, offers something to us, our families and our communities, then we should show our gratitude in being a cheerful giver towards maintaining its worship, caring fellowship and outreach to the community. **'Stewardship 2010 : Facing the Future'** offers each of us the opportunity to make a careful and prayerful decision about what to give to the Church alongside all the other ways we spend our money and not just to end up giving the Church the loose change left in our pocket as a kind of afterthought after everything else. The measure should be to give as we have prospered, as we are able and in proportion to what we have. If we all did that, and reviewed our giving regularly, then the church would have no financial problems and would never need to ask for money. But being a human institution, that might be too much to expect and as with other spiritual matters we need reminding from time to time of our responsibilities to God, to the world, to the Church and to each other. That is what **'Stewardship 2010 : Facing the Future'** is all about.

Yours,



A KIRK FOR ALL
AT FERRYHILL

SERVICES IN SEPTEMBER

WEDNESDAY 1st

11 a.m. Cowdray Club

SUNDAY 5th

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.

'Stewardship 2010

Facing the Future' 1

Sunday Club.

Crèche.

SUNDAY 12th

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.

'Stewardship 2010

Facing the Future' 2

Commissioning of

Stewardship Visitors.

Sunday Club and

Crèche.

6 p.m. Evening Worship in

Devanha Gardens

Nursing Home

SUNDAY 19th

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.

Sunday Club and

Crèche.

6 p.m. Informal worship in

the Memorial Chapel

with Holy Communion

TUESDAY 21st

12.10 p.m. Service of prayer

and reflection

(lasts about 15 mins)

SUNDAY 26th

11 a.m. Worship for all ages.

Sunday Club and Crèche

6 p.m. Evening Worship in

Maryfield East Nursing

Home

The **Co-ordinating Committee**
meets Thursday 9th September
at 7.15 p.m.

The **Kirk Session**
meets Thursday 16th September
at 7.15 p.m.

Harvest Thanksgiving

The Harvest Thanksgiving on 3rd October will be an all-age Family Service and will again provide the opportunity to make a gift of money towards the Christian Aid Harvest Appeal (envelopes available with next month's Parish News and in the Foyer of the Church) as well as to make donations of tinned and dried foods to the Instant Neighbour Trust.

Donations of flowers will also be welcome to decorate the church; these should preferably be brought to the church on the morning of Saturday 2nd October between 10 a.m. and noon. These will be distributed afterwards to the sick and housebound.

