

Service Times

- 10.30 am Portsoy Church
Every first, second and third Sunday each month
(followed by refreshments in the Session House)
- 10.30 am Fordyce Village Hall
Every fourth Sunday each month—but please note
that on 24th July the service will take place in
Portsoy Church
(followed by refreshments)
- 10.30 am Portsoy Church Hall
If there is a fifth Sunday in the month
(followed by a light lunch)
- 6.30 pm Sandend Village Hall
An evening service every first and third Sunday
- 2.30 pm Durnhythe Home
2.30 pm every Wednesday

Meetings:

- ◆ **Congregational Board** will meet on Thursday 2nd February at 7.30 pm in the Session Room.
- ◆ **Kirk session** will meet on Thursday 16th February at 7.30pm in the Session Room.

View Focus on-line at: www.fordyce.org.uk

www.fordyceparishchurch.org

+++

Scottish Charity No: SCO 00522

FOCUS

Fordyce Parish Church Magazine



February-March 2012

Letter From The Manse



February 2011

Dear Friends

Yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in the God of my salvation.
Habakkuk 3:18

Come on and celebrate

New Year celebrations are not what they used to be although having your friends and family around you is a great feeling.

Being alone can be even better - when you're alone with God! In reality there are times when it's absolutely essential to make space for just you and God. The life of Jesus demonstrates this, time and again. Jesus often withdrew to isolated places and prayed; sometimes by boat, sometimes by climbing a mountainside; but always to be by himself, to pray. God often speaks into our lives when there's nobody else around. Perhaps that's because He wants you to be more influenced by Him, than them!

Being alone however is not the end of the subject. Yes, you need to get one to one with God but there are other times when you can only experience the fullness of God's presence as you get together with God's people. The place that happens is Church.

When people who all love Jesus and strive to be his followers, gather together to worship, to praise and to share words of encouragement, God's Spirit is present in a powerful way. In His presence, you grow to the extent you are stirred up with His Word.

The world around us is often confusing and we are often left feeling empty and without hope. We struggle and stumble with the seeming futility of life. But you know when we gather with others to be the family we call Church, we're reminded that we are not alone and need never be alone.

To rejoice in what Jesus has achieved on your behalf, requires it to be shared and so he has invited us every week to celebrate together and celebration is always a group activity.

Directory

Minister

*(The minister is
Unavailable on
Mondays)*

Rev Norman Nicoll

The Manse, 4 Seafield Terrace,

Portsoy AB45 2QB

Tel: 01261 842272

E-mail: fordycechurch@btinternet.com

Joint Session Clerks

Mrs Yvonne McKay, Bayview, Sandend.

Tel: 842408

Mrs Joan Morrison, 11 Cullen Street,

Portsoy. Tel: 843021

Clerk to the Board

Mrs Hazel Broomfield, 8 Seafield Terrace,

Portsoy. Tel: 843771

E-mail: sinclairbroomfield@btinternet.com

Pro Tem Treasurer

Mr William Wood, "Ythanwood", Durn Road,

Portsoy. Tel: 843905

Gift Aid Convener

Mrs Joan Morrison, 11 Cullen Street,

Portsoy. Tel: 843021

Hall Convener

(for bookings)

Mrs Helen Mair, 10 Marine Terrace,

Portsoy. Tel: 842463

Hall Keeper

Mr Charles Duncan, 44 Seafield Street,

Portsoy. Tel: 842585

Beadle

Mrs Margaret Kindness, 53 Soyburn Gardens,

Portsoy. Tel: 843262

Focus Magazine

Mrs Ishbel Mackinnon, 17 Durn Road, Portsoy.

Tel: 842545

E-mail: ishbel.mackinnon@btinternet.com



PLEASE e-mail or hand a written note to the minister if you know of anyone who is ill at home or in hospital (especially Dr Gray's in Elgin—as we are not notified).

A Christian book lending library is available in the Session House at Portsoy Church.

If you see something you fancy reading, just put your name in the register, borrow the book and sign it back in when you're finished.



Quotes:

- ◆ Some people treat God as they do a lawyer; they go to him only when they are in trouble. *Anon*
- ◆ Our prayers must mean something to us if they are to mean anything to God. *M D Babcock*

PRAYER CIRCLE

Name:
(Not necessary)

Please pray for:
.....
.....
.....

Please place completed slip in box at church door or hand to the minister, Edith Stuart or Vera Lumsden.

This new year, God is perhaps challenging you to change your life, to call you back into the Body of the church and so, if you are feeling a bit like an ember that has fallen from the heart of the fire and grown cold and distant from God's presence and his people, don't be too proud to seek his grace and to give Him His due. Come and re-connect with God through worship.

There are times when it's absolutely essential to make space for just you and God. But most other times it's absolutely essential to take your place and get together with God's people to worship God.

Yours in Christ

All in the month of FEBRUARY

It was....

- ◆ 200 years ago:- on 7th Feb 1812 that Charles Dickens, celebrated British novelist, was born.
- ◆ 90 years ago:- on 28th Feb 1922 that Egypt became independent from the UK.
- ◆ 80 years ago:- on 24th Feb 1932 that British racing driver Sir Malcolm Campbell set a new land speed record of 253.96 mph at Daytona Beach, Florida.
- ◆ 70 years ago:- on 9th Feb 1942 that soap rationing began in the UK (so that oils and fats could be saved for food production during WW2)
- ◆ 65 years ago:- on 7th Feb 1947 that the first of the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in caves in Khirbat Qumran (now in the West Bank, Palestine).
- ◆ 60 years ago:- on 6th Feb 1952 that King George VI died, and was succeeded by his daughter, Queen Elizabeth II.
- ◆ 40 years ago:- on 9th Feb 1972 that the British Government declared a state of emergency over the miners' strike which began a month earlier.
- ◆ Also 40 years ago:- on 17th Feb 1972 that the House of Commons voted narrowly in favour (by 8 votes) of joining the Common Market (now the European Union).
- ◆ 20 years ago:- on 7th Feb 1992 that the Maastricht Treaty was signed, establishing the European Union.
- ◆ 15 years ago:- on 22nd Feb 1997 that scientists at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh announced they had successfully cloned an animal for the first time: Dolly the sheep.

FLOWER LIST

5th Feb	Mrs. M. McKenzie
12th Feb	Miss B. Gardiner
19th Feb	Mrs. K. Windsor
26th Feb	Fordyce flowers
4th March	Mrs. M. Ritchie
11th March	Mrs. M. Shearer
18th March	Mrs. M. McQuillan
25th March	Fordyce flowers
1st April	Mrs. D. Gibson

Please feel free to contact Diane (842338) or Doreen (842315) if key is required for entry to Portsoy Church.

There are cards available for anyone wishing to gift the flowers afterwards. Please ask Diane or Doreen.

Tea Rota

5 th Feb	Ishbel
12 th Feb	Diane
19 th Feb	Margaret & Moya
26 th Feb	Fordyce
4 th Mar	Yvonne
11 th Mar	Doreen
18 th Mar	Joan & Janet
25 th Mar	Fordyce
1 st April	Enid & Susan
8 th April	Olwen
15 th April	Ishbel
22 nd April	Fordyce
29 th April	Hall

If any of these days are not suitable feel free to arrange a swap or contact Joan on 843021.



THE GUILD

Meet at 7.30 pm every second Tuesday from September to March in the Church Hall. All are welcome (men and women). For further details contact the secretary Joan Morrison on 843021.

HOUSEGROUPS

Women's Group—Meet on Wednesdays from 10.00 am—12.00 noon at 27 Sutherland Place, Portsoy.

Thursday Group—Meet at 17 Durn Road, Portsoy at 2.30 pm during term time. *To check Housegroup availability or for further information please contact the minister.*

NEW LIFE

Now incorporates Prayer Time and meet on Wednesdays at 7.30 pm in Portsoy Church Hall. Everyone welcome to come along for a time of learning, prayer and fellowship.

COFFEE 'N' COMPANY

The Outreach Group coffee morning held every Tuesday from 10.00 am to 12.00 noon in Portsoy Church Hall. Enjoy a time of fellowship and free tea, coffee and pancakes.

THE WELL CAFÉ & CRECHE

Running in Portsoy Church Hall during school term times from 9.15-11.00 am on Fridays for those aged "almost 20" to "40-ish". Tea and coffee are served along with a warm welcome to all.

I feel so blessed to have such great contentment in my life
 For me, to read Philippians 4, verses 11 to 13 says it all.
 As I read these words, such gratitude I feel,
 For with Christ, I will never encounter a perplexing wall.

Although throughout life's journey we meet upsets along the way,
 We should always remember to ask for God's presence by our side
 To see us through those dark and often cloudy days -
 For he is our Heavenly Father - our one true help an Guide.



Kay Windsor

Mission Statement

We aim to serve God daily through praise, worship and friendship and serve our community offering hope, direction and purpose by sharing the love of Jesus Christ.

"WE LOVE BECAUSE GOD FIRST LOVED US"

1 John Ch 4 vs 19

Crossword Answers:

ACROSS:

1, Wage. 3, Cleansed. 9, Plateau. 10, Ready. 11, Did so. 12, Hollow. 14, Unregenerated. 17, Offers. 19, Islam. 22, Is not. 23, Overran. 24, Barracks. 25, Legs.

DOWN:

1, Wiped out. 2, Guard. 4, Laughing-stock. 5, April. 6, Seaport. 7, Days. 8, Belong. 13, Oddments. 15, Refiner. 16, Raided. 18, Extra. 20, Large. 21, Limb.

Funerals:

"He will wipe every tear from their eyes, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. All these things are gone forever". (Rev 21:4 NLT)

3/12/11 James Taylor
8/12/11 Jane Munro Symon Kaemper
17/12/11 James Robertson Rennie Philip
13/1/12 Michael Kelbie
14/1/12 Muriel Morrison
18/1/12 Jessie (Janet) Banford Rae
19/1/12 Georgena Innes



Date for your diary!

The Annual Stated meeting of Fordyce Parish Church will be held on Sunday 18th March in the Church after the morning service.

The minutes of the last ASM will be available on that Sunday.

We look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible.



Extra £736 needed a year - just to stand still

Have you planned your household budget for the coming year? It probably won't cheer you up. The cost of living has risen so quickly that by late last year we needed to spend an extra £736 just in order to maintain the same living standard as we had in 2010.

Rising energy bills, petrol prices and food prices can be scary: the average household electricity bill rose by 7.5 per cent between August and September 2011, while the average gas bill rose by 13 per cent in the same period. The price of clothing went up four per cent.

As the supermarket chain Asda warns: "Families have never had it so tough".

FOCUS DEADLINE

The next edition of Focus will cover the months of April and May 2012. Please have anything for inclusion passed to Ishbel Mackinnon on or before Sunday 25th March 2012.

WELCOME TEAMS

10.30 am (Portsoy Church unless stated otherwise)

5 th Feb	Bill Wood, Sarah Lange, Hazel Broomfield
12 th Feb	Eileen Brown, Olwen Christie, Helen D'Arcy
19 th Feb	Morag Galloway, Isabella Gray, Ishbel Mackinnon
26 th Feb	Joan Morrison, Moira McKenzie (Fordyce)
4 th March	George Murray, Robert Murray, Dorothy Hutcheson
11 th March	Eric Hendry, Anne McArthur, Yvonne McKay
18 th March	Edith Stuart, Jim Singleton, Bill Wood
25 th March	Atholl Taylor, Sarah Lange (Fordyce)
1 st April	Hazel Broomfield, Eileen Brown, Olwen Christie
8 th April	Helen D'Arcy, Morag Galloway, Isabella Gray
15 th April	Ishbel Mackinnon, Joan Morrison, Moira McKenzie
22 nd April	Dorothy Hutcheson, Eric Hendry (Fordyce)
29 th April	George Murray, Robert Murray (Hall)

If any of the dates are unsuitable please ensure you arrange a swap

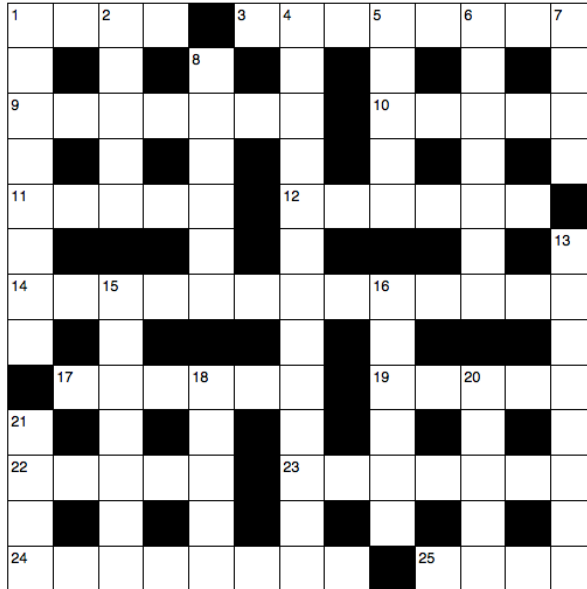
CROSSWORD

Across

- 1 Salary (Isaiah 19:10) (4)
 3 Question Jesus asked of those healed of leprosy, 'Were not all ten — ?' (Luke 17:17) (8)
 9 Wide, elevated level area of land (Joshua 13:9) (7)
 10 'So you also must be — , because the Son of Man will come... when you do not expect him' (Matthew 24:44) (5)
 11 '[He] said to the man, "Stretch out your hand." He — — , and his hand was completely restored' (Luke 6:10) (3,2)
 12 'Who has gathered up the wind in the — of his hand?' (Proverbs 30:4) (6)
 14 Not born again (13)
 17 'Again and again he — the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins' (Hebrews 10:11) (6)
 19 Mails (anag.) (5)
 22 'He — — here; he has risen' (Matthew 28:6) (2,3)
 23 Defeated (Judges 20:43) (7)
 24 Soldiers' quarters (Acts 21:34) (8)
 25 'Pillars of marble' were how the Beloved described those of her Lover (Song of Songs 5:15) (4)

Down

- 1 Totally destroyed (Genesis 7:23) (5,3)
 2 What the Philippian jailer was told to do with his prisoners Paul and Silas (Acts 16:23) (5)
 4 Object of ridicule (Job 12:4) (8-5)
 5 In most years, the month in which Easter falls (5)
 6 For example, Caesarea, Joppa, Tyre, Sidon (7)
 7 '[Jesus] was in the desert for forty — , being tempted by Satan' (Mark 1:13) (4)
 8 'Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power — to our God' (Revelation 19:1) (6)
 13 Mend dots (anag.) (8)
 15 Purifier (Malachi 3:3) (7)
 16 Attacked (1 Samuel 27:8) (6)
 18 The good Samaritan to the innkeeper: 'When I return, I will reimburse you for any — expense you may have' (Luke 10:35) (5)
 20 How Matthew described the crowds who followed Jesus (Matthew 4:25) (5)
 21 For example, one of 25 Across (Judges 19:29) (4)



Solution on page 12

Compassion

What a lovely thing it is -
 A heart that's warm and kind,
 One filled with compassion
 That soothes the troubled mind.
 A heart that's all forgiving
 And always understands,
 One who goes the second mile
 And never makes demands.

Many hearts grow cold and hard
 From knocks upon life's way,
 And others lack compassion
 In the world today.
 Always trim your lamp of love
 And keep the flame alight -
 For the heart filled with compassion
 Is precious in God's sight.

By Kathleen Gillum

How to reduce your pain

It seems that laughter really is a great medicine, if recent research at Oxford University is anything to go by.

Researchers found that hearty laughing with friends for 15 minutes a day was enough to raise a person's pain threshold by 10 per cent. Laughing makes us exhale several times in a row, which prompts the brain to release pain-killing chemicals known as endorphins.

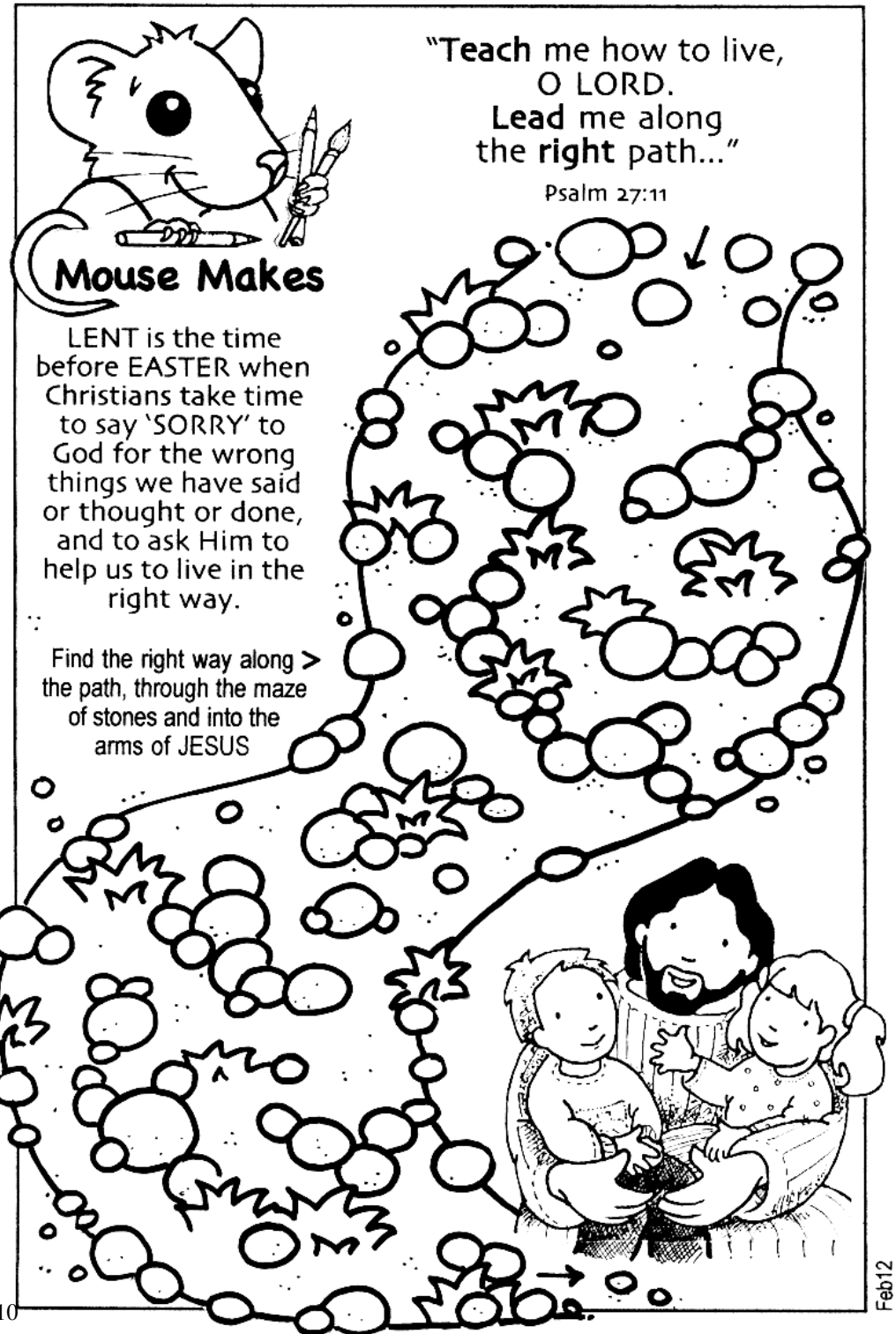
You can start again!

'You will give me added years of life, as rich and full as those of many generations, all packed into one.'
 Psalm 61.6

A man out walking in the early Spring saw a bird's nest lying on the ground. It had been destroyed by a storm. He thought sadly of the time and work it must have taken to build it, but suddenly his thoughts were interrupted by a bird singing. When he looked up into the tree, he saw a wonderful sight: the little bird was busy building another nest!

You can't go back. You can't rewrite the past! But you don't have to wallow in regret or remorse. Your experiences have made you the person you are today and, if you're still breathing, then you can start your life over again, beginning right now! David blew it - his mistakes were bigger than most people's, but he decided not to be a prisoner of his past. He prayed: 'You will give me added years of life as rich and as full of those of many generations, all packed into one.' Psalm 61.6. Get your eyes off the rear view mirror! All of us have things we wish we had done differently - or hadn't done at all. What is past is past. Put it under the forgiveness of a merciful God and move on. Your best days are ahead if you can accept this promise and move on it.

From 'Word for Today'



"Teach me how to live,
O LORD.
Lead me along
the right path..."

Psalm 27:11

Mouse Makes

LENT is the time before EASTER when Christians take time to say 'SORRY' to God for the wrong things we have said or thought or done, and to ask Him to help us to live in the right way.

Find the right way along > the path, through the maze of stones and into the arms of JESUS

Feb12

A Slice of Humour

- ◆ One minister says that it doesn't bother him at all if his members look at their watches during his sermons. It does affect him, however, when someone not only looks at his watch, but also holds it up to his ear to see if it's still running.
- ◆ An honest seven-year-old admitted calmly to her parents that Freddie Brown had kissed her after class. "How did that happen?" gasped her mother. "It wasn't easy," admitted the young lady, "but three girls helped me catch him."

Christian Aid Count Your Blessings

Lent, beginning 22nd February, is a time to take each day to reflect, pray and be thankful for the goodness of God and the blessings that we have received.

Make Lent count this year by joining the Count Your Blessings journey and supporting some of the poorest countries in the world.

You can download a copy from
www.christianaid.org.uk/lent

Belated congratulations ...

To Mr James Henderson, who recently celebrated his 100th birthday at his home in Westerwards, with his wife Isabella and other family members and friends.

Mr Henderson grew up at Myreside Farm at Grange and attended the Crossroads of Grange School. He then went into farming, where he met Isabella. They married in 1943 in Banff and latterly lived in Durn Cottage until James retired in 1976, when they moved to Westerwards.

Mr and Mrs Henderson have been blessed with two sons, a daughter, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Portsoy councillor, Jack Mair, presented Mr Henderson with a bottle of whisky on behalf of Aberdeenshire Council and vice-lord lieutenant of Banffshire, Roger Goodyear, presented a congratulations card from the Queen.

Pause for thought

"I have held many things in my hands, and I have lost them all, but whatever I have placed in God's hands, that I still possess."

Martin Luther



Prayer Focus

"I will give thanks to You, O Lord, And sing praises to Your name."

2 Samuel 22:50

Christmas has been and gone and I am sure that many of you, like me, would have begun the preparations making lists of things to do, especially one about gifts for family and friends. It would have been carefully written out, making sure to match each person to the right present. It would have been a giving list based on the desire to give to those you love. That is good, but sometimes we fall into a trap of making lists of what we want to receive rather than what we can give.

You know, all too often this happens in our prayer life. There are so many times when we need God's help that we tend to make a prayer list just like a child would—of the things he or she wants for Christmas. This would be rather one-sided in our praying so it would be helpful to keep two kinds of prayer lists: the needs list (in which we bring problems to the Lord) and the giving list (in which we offer our praise and thanks to Him).

Some days we awaken with aching joints and feeling dull in spirit (I know I do!) and wonder how we can shake off the sluggishness and make it through the day. Our way is to try lifting up our thanks and praise to God for all His benefits. We have so much to thank Him for: His healing of diseases, His love, kindness and tender mercies, His peace in times of chaos, comfort amid loss, forgiveness of sinful choices, and strength with difficult tasks. The list goes on and on. Our hearts should be filled with praise and thanksgiving for all that God has given and done for us.

Going back to our prayer lists, remembering God's goodness and giving makes our needs list seem very small indeed. All the more reason to dedicate each day in rejoicing in the Lord.

Father God, may we spend time in silent contemplation of Your goodness in our lives. Praise, glory, wisdom, thanksgiving, honour, power and might belong to You for ever. We thank You for listening to our prayers. You know all our needs and we thank You for Your unfailing pure unbounded love day-by-day and for all Your provision. In all things Lord, may Your will be done.

Amen

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
FRIDAY 2nd MARCH 2012

The World day of Prayer this year is on Friday 2nd March. At this time Christian people throughout the world will be joining in a service with the title '**Let Justice Prevail**', which has been written by Christian women of Malaysia. Each year the first service of the day is held on the island of Tuvalu in the Pacific Ocean, close to the international dateline and continues for a period of 36 hours until that same date concludes in Alaska just the other side of the dateline.

Here in Portsoy we shall be joining in the service in **the Church Hall, Seafield Street, at 7.00 pm on Friday 2nd March**. Everyone is most welcome to attend.

Christianity Explored **One life! What's it all about?**

In the December Focus, I said that I intended to run a course in the New Year entitled Christianity Explored in which we will explore three questions that cut right to the heart of Christianity: Who was Jesus? Why did he come? What is involved in following him?

I can now confirm that the course will be held in the Session Room at the Church on Wednesday evenings 7-9pm, beginning February 15th and it will run for 6 weeks. It will be informal and run on a relaxed basis where hopefully you won't be afraid to ask questions you've maybe always wanted to ask, no matter how simple or difficult you think they are.

Although you heard it here first, there will be notices posted around the town giving details and it will also be intimated in Church through Church Family News, which you can access online at: <http://www.fordyceparishchurch.org/>

I look forward to seeing you.

Rev Norman Nicoll