

900th Anniversary of Forgan Church

1124



2024



**Sunday 18th August 2024
11am**

**Service Conducted by
Rev Dr Amos Chewachong
of Newport-on-Tay Church of Scotland**

Forgan Church

Today we are worshipping in the grounds of the old Forgan Church, in recognition of there having been a church on this site for 900 years. Newport was in the old parish of Forgan. The original church of Forgan was first registered at St. Andrews in 1150, having been founded in 1124. The church was dedicated to St. Phyllan and thereafter the parish sometimes bore that name too. The present-day ruins probably date back to the fourteenth century. Around the kirk is the old graveyard, in which there are some interesting stones, including those of the Berry family of Tayfield, the Stewarts of St Fort and the Gillespies of Kirkton.

The old kirk was beautifully but inconveniently situated, and it must have been a test of faith indeed for the villagers making their way there from the scattering of cottages on the shore on bleak winter mornings. Small wonder therefore, that, according to the Kirk Session records, the elders were frequently dispatched, mid-service, to scour the Newport braes to round up non-attenders.

In 1770 the church was thoroughly repaired, then seats installed in the early 1800s. Until the eighteenth century, it was quite rare for churches to be fully seated, another test of faith indeed, when sermons were regularly 2-3 hours long! Also at the time of these alterations, Newport's boatmen raised money to construct a gallery at the east end of the church. This was known as the Boatmen's Loft. The farmers' gallery was at the opposite end, and the Laird's Loft was in the north extension, with an outdoor stair for access.

Despite all these improvements the old kirk's position was still considered too remote. By 1841 the minister, Charles Nairn, was encouraging the building of a new parish church, more conveniently sited on the Leuchars-Newport road. This was completed and opened the following year, 1842. The old kirk was abandoned, and its contents, and even its windows, roof slates and some stone, were disposed of in 'roup' fashion, and the building rapidly deteriorated. Interestingly, the windows of the old church can still be seen today in the summer-house at Tayfield House.

The appropriately named Kirk Road is a present-day reminder of the old path taken by villagers from the Woodhaven end of the village on their way out to both the old and the new Forgan churches.

Order of Service

— *Welcome & Call to Worship* —

CH4 63 : All people that on earth do dwell
sing to the Lord with cheerful voice.
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell,
come ye before him and rejoice.

Know that the Lord is God indeed;
without our aid he did us make;
we are his folk, he doth us feed,
and for his sheep he doth us take.

Oh, enter then his gates with praise,
approach with joy his courts unto:
praise, laud, and bless his name always,
for it is seemly so to do.

For why? the Lord our God is good,
his mercy is for ever sure;
his truth at all times firmly stood,
and shall from age to age endure.

— *Prayer & The Lord's Prayer [Trespases]* —

CH4 14 : The Lord's my shepherd, I'll not want

He makes me down to lie
in pastures green: he leadeth me
the quiet waters by.

My soul he doth restore again;
and me to walk doth make
within the paths of righteousness,
even for his own name's sake.

Yea, though I walk in death's dark vale,
yet will I fear none ill:
for thou art with me; and thy rod
and staff me comfort still.

My table thou hast furnishèd
in presence of my foes;
my head thou dost with oil anoint,
and my cup overflows.

Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me:
and in God's house for evermore
my dwelling-place shall be.

— *All Age Talk* —

CH4 522 : The Church is wherever God's people are praising

knowing we're wanted and loved by our Lord.
The Church is where we as Christ's followers are trying
to live and to share out the good news of God.

The Church is wherever God's people are loving,
where all are forgiven and start once again,
where all are accepted, whatever their background,
whatever their past and whatever their pain.

The Church is wherever God's people are seeking to reach out and touch folk wherever they are — conveying the Gospel, its joy and its comfort, to challenge, refresh, and excite and inspire.

Reading : 1 Corinthians 3 v 10 - 16

By the grace God has given me,
I laid a foundation as a wise builder,
and someone else is building on it.
But each one should build with care.

For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid,
which is Jesus Christ.

If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones,
wood, hay or straw, their work will be shown for what it is,
because the Day will bring it to light.

It will be revealed with fire,
and the fire will test the quality of each person's work.

If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward.
If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved —
even though only as one escaping through the flames.
Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple
and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?

CH4 81 : I to the hills will lift mine eyes

From whence doth come mine aid?
My safety cometh from the Lord,
who heaven and earth hath made.

Thy foot he'll not let slide,
nor will he slumber that thee keeps.
Behold, he that keeps Israel,
he slumbers not, nor sleeps.

The Lord thee keeps, the Lord thy shade
on thy right hand doth stay:
the moon by night thee shall not smite,
nor yet the sun by day.

The Lord shall keep thy soul;
he shall preserve thee from all ill.
Henceforth thy going out and in
God keep for ever will.

— *Sermon* —

CH4 182 : Now thank we all our God

with heart and hands and voices,
who wondrous things has done,
in whom his world rejoices;
who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
with countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

Oh, may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
with ever-joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us,
and keep us in his grace,
and guide us when perplexed,
and free us from all ills
in this world and the next.

All praise and thanks to God
who reigns in highest heaven —
the Father and the Son
and Spirit — now be given:
the one, eternal God,
whom earth and heaven adore;
for thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.

— *Prayers of Dedication and Intercession* —

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ,
God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.

On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

Amen.

CH4 110 : Glory be to God the Father

glory be to God the Son,
glory be to God the Spirit, —
great Jehovah, Three in One!

Glory, glory, glory, glory
while eternal ages run!

Glory be to him who loved us,
washed us from each spot and stain!

Glory be to him who bought us,
made us kings with him to reign!

Glory, glory, glory, glory
to the Lamb that once was slain!

Glory to the King of angels,
glory to the Church's King,
glory to the King of nations!
Heaven and earth, your praises bring;
glory, glory, glory, glory
to the King of Glory bring!

‘Glory, blessing, praise eternal!’
Thus the choir of angels sings;
‘Honour, riches, power, dominion!’
Thus its praise creation brings;
glory, glory, glory, glory,
glory to the King of kings!

— *Benediction* —