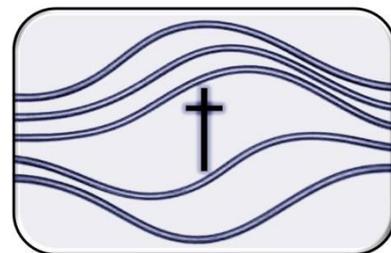




# Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



**April 2018**

Welcome, everyone, to April. At any other time I would talk about the arrival of Spring and snowdrops and daffodils and lambs but since the weather hasn't been what one could call "cooperative" then I will simply say that you should keep an extra semmit on until May at least. I am writing this piece at the beginning of Holy Week. This, as we all know, begins the day before Christmas and its beginning is heralded by the arrival of the first crème eggs in Tesco. Now the more astute of you will recognise that this is, of course, nonsense. Whether you accept the biblical accounts of the first Holy Week as historical or if you see them as symbolic, it doesn't really matter. The meaning behind the events is important. The week begins with Christ's entry into Jerusalem on what came to be called Palm Sunday.

Palm branches were waved and coats were placed on the road. People sang Psalms and for some reason it upset the "leaders" of the people. They instructed Jesus to tell the crowds to shut up. Imagine it, ordinary people praying and singing hymns in an unsupervised, haphazard fashion! What kind of anarchy is this? They could stray into heresy! That's what they thought. But Jesus once told them that if they destroyed the Temple that he would raise it after three days. He went on to explain that he was talking about the Temple of his body. Since in Jesus we get to know God as God with a human face, God among us, any attempt to concentrate worship and access to God in the hands of a few people was wrong. Christ came to signal the beginning of a new moral, spiritual order. In the new order access to God would be open to all. And what one truly believed about God would be matched by actions; so Jesus responds by rebuking the leaders instead of the crowds. Jesus said, "If they keep quiet the stones would yell out." Nobody has the right to place barriers between you and God, not me, not anyone. A week later he is betrayed by one of his best friends on Maundy Thursday. He institutes Communion and even the one who was going to betray him is offered bread and wine.

It is a similar lesson to Palm Sunday. No one is excluded from God's grace. When we celebrate Communion as we do at St Fergus I always include the phrase, "Come to this table, those of you who have tried to follow Jesus and those of you who have failed." We keep an open table at St Fergus and all are welcome. No one is turned away. Someone once told me that they were too big of a disappointment as a person to be admitted to Communion. They were too much of a failure to be loved or admitted to a Kirk. It broke my heart that they had been told that. Speaking only for ourselves I can say that all are welcome and no one is turned away because Jesus never turned anyone away.

Good Friday comes next. Traditionally all lights were shaded in Churches on Good Friday. This is to symbolise the sky going dark as Jesus died on the cross. But if you ever thought of God as someone distant from you then the events of this day should tell you otherwise. Jesus truly proved that he was one of us, that he was God with a human face. He fully identified with our darkest moments as he cried out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Yet he still found time to comfort the thief crucified next to him. He found time to organise his grieving mother's welfare. He found time to comfort the grieving wives of Jerusalem. He found time!!!! He still finds time.

But the darkness thought that it had him beaten. However, three days later he rose from the grave, thumbed his nose at death and fear and anxiety and gave them the "Spanish Archer" of the "El-bow." He comforts the grieving Mary and he comforts his disciples. He doesn't berate them for their lack of faith because he experienced that for himself as he hung on the cross. This Easter he comes to you. It doesn't matter how far you have drifted away, how skeptical you have become or how hurt you have been by unthinking professionally religious people in the past. There will always be a place for you in the community of faith that is Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland. If you want to know more come and see us. You know where we are.

***Revd John Nugent BD(Honours)***

# Church Register

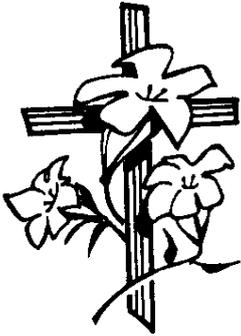
## DEATHS:

*We are sorry to report the passing of the following people:*

2<sup>nd</sup> March - Janette McGregor Beloved sister of Hugh and Tom and the late James and dear Mum to David.

8<sup>th</sup> March - Isaac "Ikey" Mcphee beloved brother of Wilma Newlands.

## Flowers for Sunday



DATE	KINDLY DONATED BY	ARRANGER
1 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Mrs A Roberston, McLeod Road	Mrs Harper
8 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Mrs E Henderson, Lyth	Donor
15 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Mr John Steven, MacRae Street	Mrs Harper
22 <sup>nd</sup> Apr	Mr Grant Ramsay, Staxigoe	Donor
29 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Mrs A McAllan, Newton Ave	Mrs Johnson
6 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>VACANT</b>	

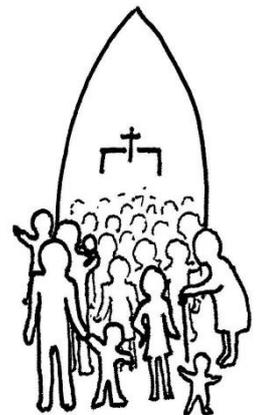


*If you would like to fill an empty date on the rota please contact Mrs Harper on 602612*

**THE LARGE HALL IS IN USE EVERY SATURDAY UNTIL 11.30 - FLOWERS CANNOT BE ARRANGED THEN**

## Church Duty Rota

Date	BUS	STAIRS	DOOR	DOOR	USHER
1 <sup>st</sup> April	A Duffy	J Mclennan	E Henderson	*****	J Coghill
8 <sup>th</sup> April	B Campbell	H Gray	G MacDonald	M Thomson	J Mackay
15 <sup>th</sup> April	G Ramsay	W Robertson	A Sinclair	*****	G Watt
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	M Duffy	J Cormack	I Banks	R Mappin	H Gray
29 <sup>th</sup> April	J Mclennan	A Duffy	J Coghill	*****	E Henderson



## Sermon Information from the Minister

DATE	READING 1	READING 2	SUBJECT	DAY OF CHURCH CALENDAR
1/4/2018	Isaiah 25:6-9	John 20:1-18	Easter Sunday	Easter Sunday
8/4/2018	Psalms 133	Acts 4:32-35	Unity and Resurrection	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Easter
15/4/2018	Zephaniah 3:14-20	Acts 3:12-19	Resurrection and Mercy	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Easter
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Psalms 116	John 6:30-40	The living bread	4 <sup>th</sup> of Easter
29 <sup>th</sup> April	Psalms 22:25-31	Acts 8:26-40	Barriers removed	5 <sup>th</sup> of Easter



## GUILD

The new Guild session starts on **Monday 9th April at 7.30pm** in the Small Hall. The meeting will be a Songs of Praise evening and a warm welcome awaits everyone.

Transport is available, please contact Annie Rosie (603618) or Janet McDonald (602543). The Guild meets every two weeks and the next meeting on **23rd April** will be the very popular Matter of Opinion. It is hoped to hold the **Spring Rally in Watten Church on Thursday 3rd May at 7.30pm**

### \*\*\*\*IMPORTANT INFORMATION\*\*\*\*

#### PARKING AT THE CHURCH

When attending church on Sundays, or any other events in our building, there MUST be clear access at the front gate as a drop off point for less able people and for emergency access. Therefore, please use the parking space marked along the wall at the side of the church making sure your vehicle is completely within the white lines marked. NO PARKING signs will be going up shortly. Thank you all for your cooperation with this matter of public safety.

#### VOLUNTEERS

Like all organisations, the church has lots of small things (as well as big ones) which need to be done regularly, but, very few people to do them. We do not want to overburden the few and frighten them off, so it would help greatly if many people could help us. If some people felt they could do a small thing, well as we all know, many hands make light work.

We are in the process of making up a list of things which people could help with which would not be too taxing for anyone. If you would like to help out and feel able to do so, no matter how small the job may seem, please contact Donald Henderson, who is the Fabric Convenor, on 01955 604156. Thank you in advance for considering this matter.



## FORTHCOMING EVENTS - DIARY



#### SPRING THRIFT SHOP: 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> April 2018



Our spring Thrift will be open on 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> April from 10.30 daily. The hall will be open Friday 6<sup>th</sup> to receive any goods you wish to donate. As always, the usual array of bric-a-brac, lamps, pans, we have it all. Should you wish new curtains, bedding, cushions, or a bargain from our clothes rail, at reasonable prices, then pop past. We also have the popular baking/jam tables with chutney too. Again, any donations for any of the above would be gratefully received, if possible please, by 10am daily.

#### Café Church

Our next café church will be Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> April. Come along and have a chat, a coffee, and find out what we can do for you. For those who don't fancy the more 'traditional' Sunday service, this might be exactly what you want. An informal chat with friends over coffee. Come and see us. All are welcome.





## **Street stall: outside MacAllan's shop - 27<sup>th</sup> April**

We hope all you bakers in the congregation will turn up with your favourite bakes. Please arrive from 9.30 onwards with your treats to be sold. If you are not a baker, do come along and support us, we will be there, we hope you will too.

### **RELIGIOUS HUMOUR**

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six year olds. After explaining the commandment to "Honour thy Father and thy Mother" she asked.

"Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

From the back, one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill".

A kindergarten teacher was observing her class of children while they were drawing. As she got to one little girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, " I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without missing a beat, or looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

The teacher said that it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even although it was a very large mammal its throat was very small.

The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that whales could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible.

The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah."

The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The girl replied, "Then you ask him".

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine Whether or not an older person should be put in an old age home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket Because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No" he said. "A normal person would pull the plug."



***This is the time to celebrate new beginnings and new life.***

***Happy Easter to you all.***



**Website:** Find us at [www.wickstferguschurch.org.uk](http://www.wickstferguschurch.org.uk) or find us on facebook

*Please can all items for May's newsletter be with Michelle by Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> April – Thank you.*

<b>CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS</b>			
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Scottish Charity No.SC013840