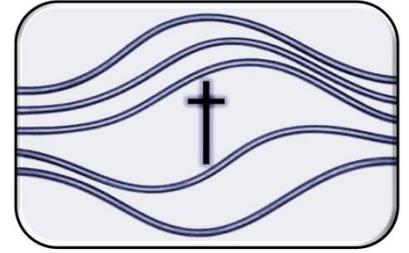




# Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



**April 2016**

Welcome to the April edition of the Wick St Fergus magazine. By the time you read this, not only will Easter have come and gone, but also we will have held the first of our Café church sessions. This isn't simply another kind of religions meeting or a coffee bar like churches used to have, this is another way of 'doing' church. If we understand "Church" as a gathering of people who come together to learn more about God from God, then we are faced with an immediate problem. If we recognise that we live in a society that has little concern with the Church, and if we further recognise that this means that people are not acquainted with our language and our "little ways" and the finer points of Trinitarian theology, is it any wonder that people are not queueing up to fill our pews? That is the nightmare scenario. But fear not dear readers! There is sufficient evidence to prove that people still have a desire for transcendence.

This is often heard in the statement that some folks make when they say that they are spiritual but not religious or Christian. So where do folk who find themselves in this position go when they want to talk about how they feel about the universe and their place in it? And how does the church go about bridging the cultural gap which exists between the church and those who like to have a long lie on a Sunday morning? Is there another way of communicating spiritual matters without cloaking those matters in absolute doctrinal language? We like to think that there is such a way. It is a way that helps us to build a "Church **for** Scotland," rather than simply rearranging the deckchairs on the Titanic that is sometimes thought of as the "Church of Scotland." This is where Café church comes in.

To paraphrase Mr Spock on Star Trek, "It's Church, Jim, but not as we know it." The first café church event will take place on Easter Sunday and at approximately monthly intervals after that. In what is a completely informal setting, people will be able to meet and chat about what is important to them. The room will be set up like a café. Coffee and tea etc. will be served, film or powerpoint and music will be used to stimulate discussion and there will be an area for children so that families can come along. For the first couple of café church events we will set the theme, but as the months roll on, themes will emerge from the group so that what we discuss will be relevant and important to the group so that it won't merely reflect the needs of Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland.

Religious language and practice will be kept to a minimum. We are not claiming to have all the answers but we believe that together we can look forward to exploring meaningful issues together. Sunday morning will continue to be a time of traditional worship because many people still find meaning in that for their lives. It is still important. But what café church will hopefully do is demystify the Christian faith whilst respecting the spirituality of others. In a very real sense, we will be learning from one another, whilst professionally religious folk like your minister learning from those who come, and those who come learning from one another.

This initiative reflects what has in many ways become the theme hymn of Wick St Fergus Church: All Are Welcome In This Place. Verse four says, "Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face.....Let us build a house where all are named, their songs and visions heard and loved and treasured, taught and claimed as words within the Word." This is Church for those who have tried to follow Jesus and for those who have failed. This is where we get to encounter Jesus in you and hopefully you will encounter Jesus in us. Watch out for the adverts, our Facebook page and website. You know where we are.

**Revd John Nugent BD(Honours)**

# Church Register

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

John Gunn, former elder of Wick St Fergus Church: March 4<sup>th</sup>

Mary Broomfield, of Sibster Mains: March 7<sup>th</sup>

Alexander "Tosh" Wares, of Wick: March 10<sup>th</sup>

Alexander Durrand of Wick: March 22<sup>nd</sup>

## Diary

Choir                      Wednesdays  
 7<sup>th</sup> April                  Stewardship – 7pm  
 5-7<sup>th</sup> April                Spring Thrift  
 29<sup>th</sup> April                 St Fergus Street stall

## Flowers for Sunday

DATE	DONOR	ARRANGER
3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	Mrs A Roberston	Donor
10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Mrs E Henderson	Donor
17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Mr John Steven	Mrs Harper
24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Mr Grant Ramsay	Donor
1 <sup>st</sup> May	Mrs A McAllan	Mrs Johnson

## Church Duty Rota

Date	BUS	STAIRS	DOOR	DOOR	USHER
3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	M Foubister	J Coghill	J MacIennan	E Henderson	J Houston
10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	G MacDonald	J Mackay	B Campbell	M Thomson	M Foubister
17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	G Ramsay	A Rosie	W Robertson	A Sinclair	G Watt
24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	H Gray	J Cormack	M Duffy	R Mappin	I Banks
1 <sup>st</sup> May	J Coghill	E Henderson	A Duffy	J Houston	J MacIennan
8 <sup>th</sup> May	J Mackay	J Mackay	G MacDonald	M Foubister	B Campbell

## Sermon information from the Minister

DATE	READING 1	READING 2	SUBJECT	DAY OF CHURCH CALENDAR
3 <sup>rd</sup> Apr	Exodus 15: 20-21	John 20: 19-31	Jesus is alive: so what?	2 <sup>nd</sup> of Easter
10 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Psalm 30	Acts 9: 1-20	Resurrection: the consequences (I)	3 <sup>rd</sup> of Easter
17 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Psalm 23	Revelation 7: 9-17	Resurrection: the consequences (II)	4 <sup>th</sup> of Easter
24 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Psalm 148	Revelation 21: 1-6	Resurrection: the consequences (III)	5 <sup>th</sup> of Easter
1 <sup>st</sup> May	Ezekiel 37: 1-14	John 14: 23-29	Resurrection: the consequences (IV)	6 <sup>th</sup> of Easter

## The Bible in 50 Words

God made, Adam bit, Noah arked, Abraham split, Joseph ruled, Jacob fooled, Bush talked  
 Moses balked, Pharaoh plagued, People walked, Sea divided, Tablets guided, Promise landed, Saul freaked,  
 David peeked, Prophets warned, Jesus born, God walked, Love talked,  
 Anger crucified, Hope died, Love rose, Spirit flamed, Word spread,  
 God remained.



## **The Guild**

**Guild Report 22 February:** Our Leader for the evening was Janet Macdonald who, after leading the opening devotions introduced our guest for the evening Mr. Ian Leith who gave us an illustrated talk on Patagonia and the Caithness connection. It was surprising how many people left this county for a new and hard life in Patagonia mostly involved with the sheep industry. Ian gave us examples of how successful some of the Caithness folk became and how to this day there are descendant families' still bearing Caithness names. We were given a fascinating insight to the life that the original emigrants lived and the hardship many endured. We are indebted to Ian for shining such a bright light on a little known part of Caithness Heritage. After votes of thanks the meeting was closed and tea served.

**Guild Report 7th March:** The wonderful display of cushions and bags almost took our breath away, as we arrived in the hall for the Guild meeting, which was led by Alison McAllan. After the opening devotions Alison handed over to our own member Dorothy Johnston, whose skill in a wide variety of craft work is legendary, but who made it sound such an easy and enjoyable hobby. She showed us some of the items she had "rescued" from charity shops and turned into beautiful cushions and bags, all illustrated with fascinating stories, including one rescued tapestry purchased for 50p, which she laboriously completed before giving it a gentle wash in the bath. She watched in horror as it fell into a hundred pieces in the water, but Dorothy is no defeatist and rescued it once again and put it together like a jigsaw puzzle. The result was stunning. The meeting closed with the service of tea and biscuits.

**Guild report 14th March:** The final meeting of the Guild session took the form of High Tea in the Nethercliffe Hotel, which was followed by the AGM. Janet McDonald conducted the meeting and after a reading and prayer, she gave a report on the past year, thanking everyone who had helped in making it so successful, including Harry and Tommy for setting out the chairs and the minibus drivers. She also thanked everyone who had helped in the preparation and presentation of the World Day of Prayer on 4th March and all who had provided such a lovely tea afterwards. Dinah Sutherland presented the year's financial accounts, which were duly adopted. We have lived up to the Guild strategy of BE BOLD BE STRONG by supporting two of the six very diverse projects put forward by the Guild nationally, which up to 31st December had received £27,478. The two we selected to receive £150 each were Caring for Mother Earth in Bolivia, by supplying solar ovens to local villages and the Haiti Project, which is building a church and community centre to replace that lost in the earthquake. By supporting two each year, all six will receive a donation. The leadership team and committee remain unchanged. The next session will be starting earlier and with a break to include the dark winter months will continue until the end of June. The dates have yet to be finalised by the committee, but will be well advertised in the church magazine. Kathlyn Harper gave a comprehensive vote of thanks and Phyllis Gray gave a closing prayer.

## **Guild Information and Events:**

The Afternoon Tea proposed for the **9th April** has been postponed and will take place in September.

The Guild **Summer Rally** will be held on **Wednesday 15th June** at 7.30pm in Dunnet Church. Hopefully a minibus will be arranged.

The **Autumn Rally** will be held on **Wednesday 2nd September** at 7.30pm in Thurso West Church

***"Why worry? If you've done the very best you can, worrying won't make it any better." - Walt Disney***

## **How to get to Heaven from Scotland**

A Scots lady was testing children in her Glasgow Sunday School class to see if they understood the concept of getting into heaven. She asked them, "If I sold my house and my car, had a big jumble sale and give all my money to the church, would that get me into heaven?"

"No!" the children answered.

"If I cleaned the church every day, mowed the garden and kept everything tidy, would that get me into heaven?"

Again, the answer was "No!"

By now, she was starting to smile.

"Well, then, if I was kind to animals and gave sweets to all the children and loved my husband, would that get me into heaven?"

Again, they all answered "No!"

Now, she was just bursting with pride for them and continued, "Then how can I get into heaven?"

A six year old boy shouted, "Yuv got tae be deid!"

Kinda brings a wee tear tae yir eye....!

©Peter Crook (online Parish Window)

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **Spring Thrift: Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

Our spring Thrift is open Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April from 10.30am – 3.30pm (closing 1pm Thursday). We also have a Baking/Jams stall and donations for that would be most welcome. Come along, have a look and grab a bargain.

### **St Fergus Street Stall: Friday 29<sup>th</sup> April**

From 10am (outside Macallan shop) by kind permission of the proprietor. We urge all the great bakers within the congregation to turn up on the morning of the stall with all their great bakes. We find this a very popular event and our tables are very quickly cleared by the passing folks and the shop assistants. Of course we welcome our regular customers who know they are assured of lovely baking. We look forward to seeing as many of as possible on the day.

### **Wick & District Gardening club**

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> May: 7.30 – Talk and sale of plants with Doubie Paterson from Beaulieu.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June: Visit the poppies from the Tower of London at St Magnus Cathedral. We have some spare seats, phone Virginia – 01955 602700

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

*Please can all items for May's newsletter be with Michelle by Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> April – Thank you*

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