



# Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



August 2017

Welcome to the August edition of the Wick St Fergus Magazine. Continuing from what we discussed last month, I want to say something else about the character of God before going on to talk about its implications for how we live our lives. The primary way in which God makes himself known is that of love. 1 John 4:7-8 tells us without any deviation or shadow of meaning that God IS love.

In terms of our thoughts on justice, this has serious implications for us. For one thing it means that we are never called to judge the cause of a person's need. We are never to inquire as to how someone got themselves into a particular situation. Phrases such as, "he's made his own bed and now he has to lie in it," have no place in our language. For another thing, we are to remember that true mercy and love means that we do things not to get things done for us. Instead we do things for those from whom we may never get anything in return. If we do a good turn for someone with the expectation that we get something in return then that is no longer being merciful. Instead it is a business transaction.

I used to work with homeless people in the city of Glasgow and at Loaves and Fishes we never made it a precondition of getting help that our service users had to come to a Gospel presentation. The word "gospel" simply means "good news." For a hungry and homeless person the clearest example of good news was getting something to eat and washing it down with a cup of hot tea and accompanied by a listening ear. They brought their need to us and in return we gave to them. We gave soup, sandwiches, tea and coffee and clothes and a listening ear as well as a shoulder to cry on.

In time the barrier between us lessened so that they were no longer service users. Instead they became friends and family. In terms of how we conduct politics or civic life, this means that we need to stop seeing people in impersonal terms. Behind each statistic is a story. Behind each number is a life. Cutting someone's benefits just because they fail to meet some set of conditions that have been set with the deliberate purpose of cutting expenditure is simply not on in moral, spiritual or economic terms. Jesus said in Matthew 25, "In as much as you have not done it to the least of these, my brothers and sisters, you have not done it unto me." And as for using those most at risk in society in order to pay for the mistakes of the powerful, that is immoral, unspiritual and simply wrong. If you suddenly found yourself without the wherewithal to get by in life, how would you like to be treated? Would you want to have to justify yourself by being shunted from pillar to post in order to satisfy some arbitrarily chosen set of criteria? Or would you like to be treated with respect, understanding and mercy?

In the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 7:12 Jesus said, "So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you for this sums up the Law and the Prophets." That pretty much settles things, doesn't it? Not judging the cause of need - a difficult thing to do, or is it? Sometimes we do such judging in order to let us off the hook when it comes to helping others. After all, if they have brought things upon themselves then we hardly have the responsibility to help them or confirm them in their self-imposed need. That is how some folk think. This is why, for example, the work done by Caithness Foodbank is so important. It's a tragedy that we have a situation in this country where a foodbank is all that separates some folk from hunger. But that need is there. What folk need is not a pseudo-moral lecture. Instead they need mercy. They need grace. They need us to draw alongside them. They need us to speak up for them. If we remain silent we become complicit in the conditions that brought them to where they now find themselves. That is what Jesus would

have done. If you want to know more about how you can become involved come and see us sometime. You know where we are.

(Revd

John Nugent BD Honours)

## Church Register

*All deaths, baptisms and weddings for July will be reported next month due to the early printing of the newsletter because of holidays this month. Thank you for your understanding with this.*



DATE	KINDLY DONATED BY	ARRANGER
6 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Mrs Durrand, Ackergill	Donor
13 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Farquhar & Durrand Families	Mrs Simpson
20 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Mrs Liz Nicolson, Sibster	Donor
27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Mrs M Bremner, George Street	Mrs Harper
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	Mrs K Robertson, Broadhaven	Donor

## Flowers for Sunday



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

## Church Duty Rota

**\*\*\*\*ELDERS PLEASE NOTE CHANGES TO ROTA\*\*\*\***

*Apologies for the incorrect Rota being printed last month - Michelle*



Date	BUS	STAIRS	DOOR	DOOR	USHER
6 <sup>th</sup> Aug	W Robertson	G Ramsay	*****	G Watt	A Sinclair
13 <sup>th</sup> Aug	M Duffy	R Mappin	I Banks	J Cormack	H Gray
20 <sup>th</sup> Aug	A Duffy	J Coghill	J Maclennan	E Henderson	J Houston
27 <sup>th</sup> Aug	M Thomson	J Mackay	B Campbell	G Macdonald	M Foubister
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sept	G Ramsay	*****	W Robertson	A Sinclair	G Watt



with little or no education especially for girls who, when they reach the age of twelve are married and the infant mortality rate is very high. Women have to rise very early and it can take two hours to collect firewood, then setting the fire and cooking takes another four hours bending over the fire and inhaling an unwholesome amount of smoke. The new Solar Ovens made on the style of the old Hay-Box but constructed from glass are pure simplicity, all the women need to do is prepare the food pop it into the oven, close the lid and forget it until meal time. This initiative will no doubt make an enormous contribution to the lives people all over the world. Duncan answered a number of questions over a companionable cuppa. This is the final meeting for the season. We begin again on August 28<sup>th</sup> when our meeting will be a "Songs of Praise"; we hope to see you all again then.

## Sermon information from the Minister

*Due to the early submission of the newsletter, this section will return in September*

~~BOOK SALE~~  
~~REPORT~~  
~~FOR~~  
~~TH~~  
~~COMING~~  
~~EVENTS:~~



### Street stall: 25<sup>th</sup> August

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. We hope to have our usual selection of baked goods, jams and chutneys. Come along and grab some brilliant bakes.

## OPEN DAY: 7<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER - Weddings, hats, handbags and shoes

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the wedding exhibition will now be in October, and we hope to have a vast display of wedding items: hats, handbags, shoes, veils, tiaras, anything wedding related, even photos. Please contact us if you have any dresses/larger items you would like collected or to arrange delivery and we promise to take very good care of your precious memories. More details will follow in the September magazine.



## Book Sale report

*Again, due to the early publication, details of the funds raised will follow next month.*

## Moment by Moment

There was a little girl, who's father was a vicar.

One day, she came to her father and said, "Daddy, can a person go their whole life without sinning?"

The father answered, "No dear, I'm sorry, but that's just not possible."

"What about a year, daddy? Can a person go a whole year without sinning?" she continued.

"No, I don't think that's possible either."

"What about a day, can a person go a day without sinning once?"

"It's very unlikely, no, I don't think they can."

"What about one moment, daddy, can a person go one moment without sinning?"

"Yes, that is possible."

"Then daddy, I want to live my life, moment by moment."

*Author Unknown*

## Wrong Water

A mother was watching her four year old son playing outside in a small plastic paddling pool, half filled with water. He was walking back and forth across the pool with an expression of GREAT concentration on his face, and making big big splashes.

Suddenly, the little boy stopped, stepped out of the pool, and with a look of disgust, began to scoop all the water out of the pool with a small blue pail. "What's wrong dear?" asked his mother.

"My Sunday School teacher said Jesus walked on water, and this water doesn't work!"

## Lost in translation

Are you travelling this summer? Keep an eye out for some delightful translations to English that don't quite make it.....

*Danish Airline* - We take your bags and send them in all directions

*Heathrow* - No electric people carrying vehicles past this point.

*Japanese Taxi* - Safety first; please put on your seatbelt. Prepare for accident

*Kenyan Maternity Ward* - No children allowed

*Beijing shop* - Haircuts half price today. Only one per customer.

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

*Please can all items for September's newsletter be with Michelle by Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> August - Thank you*

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