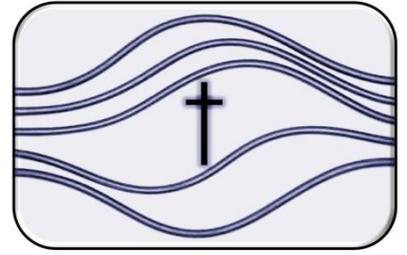




# Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



**February 2016**

Welcome to February, it is one of my favourite months of the year. For one thing, it is the month in which I was born. Not that I am dropping hints or anything, but the twenty fourth of the month is significant in this regard. Times like this are often times for looking back. Birthdays can be a time of reflection, a time for considering how the years have affected you.

The last weekend in January was significant for me because it represented another kind of anniversary i.e. the eighth anniversary of the day when I got off the bus from Glasgow and set foot on the sacred turf of Wick. There I was met by Rev. Ronnie Johnstone who was our interim moderator the time. He took me to Mackay's Hotel for a meal before taking me immediately to my first ever Kirk Session meeting.

That was my introduction to Wick. I only came for two weeks and here I am eight years later. And what an eight years it has been! I am half the man I was then (that's down to the diet). But what I want to say is that this is a great community. The people of Wick are generous, kind, welcoming and are committed to their community. Your support for what we are trying to do at Wick St Fergus Kirk is encouraging. But it is the people of Wick who are the stars of this tale.

Organisations like the Wick Society, Wick Players, the RNLI, the folks who work at both our hospitals. Folks like you build a community that is worth preserving and developing for make no mistake, we don't want to simply survive. We need to grow in what has been termed "Community capacity." This simply means that we need to deal with the negative sides of what is around us rather than assuming that everything is hunky-dory. Where we are, as a community, has taken a great deal of work. Things like domestic violence, illegal drugs, chemically enhanced crime, homophobia, violence against women, apathy towards our wonderful young people and casual racism masquerading as banter.

So how do we maintain and develop healthy communities? Jesus had a number of important things to say about this, particularly in that manifesto for healthy communities called the Sermon on the Mount. He said in Matthew 7:12: ***In everything do to others as you would have them do to you, for this is the law and the prophets.*** This is sometimes referred to as the Golden Rule. How we deal with and speak to and about one another can have either a healing effect, bringing unity to our community, or it can have a detrimental effect, bringing civic discord. St Paul also wrote in his letter to the Galatians 6:2: ***Bear one another's burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ.*** Interestingly, this applies to people from all kinds of backgrounds and not just folks like us. Words like those from Christ and St Paul can be found in the Holy Literature of many religious traditions as well as in philosophies and social manifesto.

Someone said to me recently: ***That's all very well, John, but we have become so politically correct that it isn't possible to slag someone off any more.*** To that person, and to all who agree with him, I would say this: if your sense of self-worth and integrity and equilibrium depend on you being able to use humour to demean others, however well intended, then perhaps a period of self-examination (and maybe counselling) might do you the world of good. One thing is certain, though, and that is that Wick is a great place to live and grow. And Wick St Fergus is an inclusive and affirming community of believers in the Lord Jesus. He never turned away anyone, no matter their background of racial origin or economic status of gender affinity. At Wick St Fergus our manifesto is the life, death and resurrection of the joiner from Nazareth. Come and see us sometime, you know where we are.

Revd John Nugent BD (Honours)

# Church Register

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

Frank Ross: 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015  
Sybil Slater: 30<sup>th</sup> December 2015  
Nan Mackay: 30<sup>th</sup> December 2015  
Liza Henderson: 7<sup>th</sup> January 2016  
Jem Laurenson: 8<sup>th</sup> January 2016  
Sandy McAdie: 8<sup>th</sup> January 2016  
Mark Alan Gunn: 13<sup>th</sup> January 2016  
Isabella Lauren Munro: 14<sup>th</sup> January 2016  
Jack Shepherd: 16<sup>th</sup> January 2016  
David Ross: 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2016

# Diary

Choir                Wednesdays  
4<sup>th</sup> February      Stewardship – 7pm  
12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> Feb      Book Sale

# Flowers for Sunday

DATE	DONOR	ARRANGER
7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Mrs Julie Steven	Donor
14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	The Moor Family	Mrs Simpson
21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	Mrs Jacqui Budge	Donor
28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Mrs Gates	Mrs Harper
6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Mrs K Harper	Donor

# Church Duty Rota

Date	BUS	STAIRS	DOOR	DOOR	USHER
7 <sup>th</sup> Feb	J Houston	P Crow	A Duffy	E Henderson	J Coghill
14 <sup>th</sup> Feb	M Foubister	B Campbell	G MacDonald	M Thompson	J Mackay
21 <sup>st</sup> Feb	G Watt	D More	G Ramsay	A Sinclair	A Rosie
28 <sup>th</sup> Feb	I Banks	M Duffy	H Gray	R Mappin	J Cormack
6 <sup>th</sup> Mar	P Crow	A Duffy	J Coghill	J Houston	E Henderson
13 <sup>th</sup> Mar	B Campbell	G MacDonald	J Mackay	M Foubister	M Thomson

**We still urgently require distributors for our magazine.**

If you feel you are able to help with this, please contact John Cormack: 01955 603774. We depend wholly on our volunteers and hope we can find more helpful people to assist within this area of the church. With thanks in advance.



## **The Guild**

**January 11<sup>th</sup> 2016**

This was our first meeting for 2016 and after welcoming everyone back, led the opening devotions before handing the evening over to member Mrs Pat Weir. Pat led the guild through the stories of Incarnation, betrayal and crucifixion of Jesus as written by the late, great David Kossof.

The stories began with shepherd Seth on the hill with his fellow workers and how they reacted to the Angels announcement of the birth of Jesus. After singing "While humble shepherds" Pat related the story of the Passover and betrayal of Jesus as seen through the eyes of Benjamin who worked alongside his brother in the upper room of the tavern which his brother owned. The company then joined in singing, "Here O my Lord I see Thee face to face." Finally, Pat described the scene in the cemetery where Jesus was laid to rest through the eyes of Zeak who looked after the area and could not understand why a grave normally reserved for someone of importance had been given to one so low. When Pat finished you could hear a pin drop, the company had hung on to her every word. The Guild then sang "Thine be the Glory." Janet gave the votes of thanks and tea was served. Thank you Pat for giving us such a lovely evening.

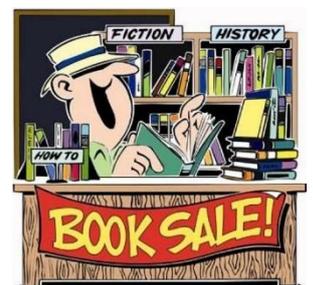
### **Guild Report Jan 25 2016**

Our meeting on January 25<sup>th</sup> took the form of a Scot's Night. Our leader for the evening was Phyllis Gray who, after our opening devotions introduced the first song of the evening "Scot's Wha Hae" sung by all the members which gave us a rousing start. Our performers were all Guild members: Janet McDonald, who recited "Broth on 'e Sunday" and later performed the monologue "'e platform scene." Maureen Robertson and Dorothy Johnston sang two duets, "The Four Marys'" and "Coming through the Rye." Kathlyn Harper gave a short talk on Robbie Burns and some of his poetry and Kathleen Robertson sang two songs, the first, a wee bit of fun titled "Have you seen my red Yoyo" followed by a traditional scots song. Between each performance the members joined in singing popular Burns' songs and the evening finale was the ever popular "Auld Lang Syne." The Selkirk Grace was given and the company were served traditional Scots Fare including Kathleen Robertson's Famous Cloutie Dumpling. Thanks to everyone who helped make the evening a great success.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **Book Sale – Friday 12<sup>th</sup> & Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> February**

The St Fergus spring book sale will take place in the hall on Friday/Saturday 12/13 February from 10.30am – 3.30pm. There is always a huge selection of books on offer, at excellent prices. Come along and grab a bargain.



### **The world Day of prayer**

The World Day of Prayer will take place on Friday 4th March in St. Fergus Church at 2.30pm. This years' service has been prepared by the Christian women of Cuba and it is an ecumenical service where all are welcome.

### **AGM/Social Evening – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 7pm**

The AGM of the Congregational Board, followed by a Social Evening, will be held on Wednesday 30 March 2016 at 7pm, followed by a social evening. We would welcome everyone to come and join us on this special evening.

**Ask the Minister:** *This is the first of a new occasional feature, in which I will attempt to answer questions that are put to me. The questions can be on anything at all. If you have a question that you would like answered then please pass it either to me or Michelle, our editor.* Today's question comes from *Curious, Ackergill*. *"Is it more important to be right than to be kind?"*

**Answer:** A good question. Curious? No it isn't. The reduction of matters of faith to a series of statements to which one must agree is a fairly recent one. In the early days of the Church it was sufficient to publicly state that Jesus was one's Lord. This in turn was validated by how one treated others such as the poor, orphans, prisoners, the sick, the excluded and so on. It was also validated by how one treated other members of the family of faith. Conversely, if one spoke to someone in a way that was unchristlike or if one treated someone in a way that did not reflect Jesus then one's stated acknowledgment of Jesus as Lord was suspect. I John tells us that God is love and John 1 tells us that Jesus is God made flesh and blood. Therefore the life of Christ is our model for living. As with Christ and the adulterous woman in John 8, he forgave her and showed her mercy before she asked for mercy. Even though the law demanded that she be stoned he refused to participate in or give credence to blind prejudice or injustice, no matter whether it was legal or not. It is therefore more important to be kind than to be right.

**Report on Christmas Tree Festival:** The 3<sup>rd</sup> annual tree festival was a great success raising £445.99 with many groups represented and some have rebooked for this year. Monies raised on the day were kindly donated to Dyslexia Scotland Caithness Branch (see letter from Carole Price below).

## **Letter of thanks from Caithness Dyslexia Branch**

On behalf of Dyslexia Scotland Caithness Branch I wish to sincerely thank the St Fergus Stewardship Committee for your invitation to join in the Christmas Celebration on the 12<sup>th</sup> December 2015 and your very kind donation towards our funds. As you may already know the Dyslexia Scotland Caithness Branch is a newly formed branch of the Dyslexia Scotland. Prior to the opening of our Caithness branch many parents, children, young adults and adults had to travel to Inverness to access the support and information they needed. Since our official launch in 2015 we have been able to offer a wide range of events, information and advice to those affected by dyslexia. Our group intends to continue to bring support and provide information about Dyslexia and its associated difficulties to all concerned and interested. We look forward to meeting more people, up close and personal, at our future events, such as open evenings and drop in sessions. You can find information about events on our Facebook page [Dyslexia Scotland Caithness] and on Caithness.org. Additionally, all events are on Dyslexia Scotland's website at [www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk/events](http://www.dyslexiascotland.org.uk/events) or via the Dyslexia Scotland Helpline 0344 800 8484. Email [helpline@dyslexiascotland.org.uk](mailto:helpline@dyslexiascotland.org.uk) Once again we would like to thank St Fergus, its committee members and the people of Caithness for their generosity and kindness. Your support will help ensure that we can continue to offer a not for profit service.

Warm regards, Carole Price. [Dyslexia Scotland Caithness Branch Member]

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

*Please can all items for March's newsletter be with Michelle by Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> February – Thank you*

<b>CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS</b>			
<b>Title</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Phone</b>	<b>Email</b>
Minister	John Nugent	07511 503946	johnnugentis@mail2web.com
Session Clerk	Anne Duffy	01955 605732	martinneduffy@gmail.com
Clerk to Congregational Board	Elizabeth Henderson	01955 604156	tannach.henderson@gmail.com
Treasurer	Martin Duffy	01955 605732	
Magazine Editor	Michelle Foubister	01955 602416	chellefoubister@sky.com
Website	Jean McLennan		jean.mclennan02@btinternet.com

Congregational No.41229.

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