



Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



January 2016

Welcome to 2016 everyone! My prayer for you all is that the year to come will be filled with promise instead of fear. I pray that regret will be left far behind you all and that your memories of the year gone past will be at worst bitter-sweet. Last year ended in a very interesting way for me and with Wick being a very observant town you will no doubt know what I am talking about.

Some people will want to forget all about the year that has gone past and I can appreciate that. Not everyone's experience of 2015 will have been pleasant. But a wise old minister I got to know when I lived in Germany once said to me that the events that happen to us in life can be understood to be their memorial stones of footprints in the sand. All that a memorial stone does is say, "This is as far as I have come." The footprints say, "This is where I was when I began moving again."

Now I am fully aware that this is easier for some than others. Sometimes the battering that comes to us all is debilitating. The people of Paris, Iraq, Syria and many other places in our world would disagree strongly with this and I appreciate that. But Dr Viktor Frankl once wrote that one of the main freedoms that we have is that after reflection we can choose how we react to what is around us.

I am full of admiration for those who respond rather than react to the sucky things that can happen. I am proud of the single parents who pour out their lives and go without for their children. They are incredibly brave. I am full of admiration for the LGBT folks in our community who wrestle daily with their search for love and also how they have to deal with the unthinking words and deeds of unthinking people towards them. They are incredibly brave. I am proud of the women who persist in life despite abusive partners. They are incredibly brave.

I am full of admiration for my Muslim friends who persist with kindness and love despite being the objects of scorn and derision and worse from idiots who have only recently learned to walk upright and who make participants in the Jeremy Kyle show look like intellectual powerhouses. I am so full of admiration for those who are prepared to persist with life even though everything in their lives is telling them to give up. They are so incredibly brave. I am proud of those who make that choice to continue in the face of raging uncertainty and unpredictable life.

Despair, while understandable, is not compulsory. Darkness, you see, is the great liar. It has no substance of its own. Jesus said that we are the light of the world. What that means is that in the face of darkness we let him shine his light through us, all of us. And even if the light that we have has gone dim, then worlds of Iona Community founder, George Macleod that we should follow the light that we have and then ask for more light. We take what we have, no matter how small and insignificant it seems to us or others, and we dispel darkness, shattering its easy illusion. My prayer for you in the New Year is that you would have a light-filled New year. And please, take the opportunity to come and see us sometime. You will always be welcome. You know where we are.

John Nugent BD (Honours)

Church Register

DEATHS: Due to the early printing of the newsletter, all December and January deaths will be published in the February edition of the newsletter. Thank you for your understanding.

Magazine Distributers Needed

We still require magazine distributers on a regular basis. 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.

Flowers for Sunday

DATE	DONOR	ARRANGER
3 rd Jan	Mrs A Roberston, McLeod Road	Mrs k Roberston
10 th Jan	The Lyall Family	Mrs Gill
17 th Jan	Mrs M Roberston, Miller Avenue	Mrs Johnson
24 th Jan	Exmouth Memorial	Mrs Harper
31 st Jan	Mrs N Durrand, McLeod Road	Mrs Harper

Church Duty Rota

Date	BUS	STAIRS	DOOR	DOOR	USHER
3 rd Jan	J Cormack	R Mappin	I Banks	H Gray	M Duffy
10 th Jan	E Henderson	J Houston	P Craw	J Coghill	A Duffy
17 th Jan	M Thomson	M Foubister	J Mackay	B Campbell	G Madonald
24 th Jan	A Sinclair	G Watt	D More	A Rosie	G Ramsay
31 st Jan	R Mappin	I Banks	M Duffy	J Cormack	H Gray
7 th Feb	J Houston	P Craw	A Duffy	E Henderson	J Coghill

We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a healthy, happy and blessed 2016.

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Please can all items for February's newsletter be with Michelle by Wednesday 27th January - Thank you

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Scottish Charity