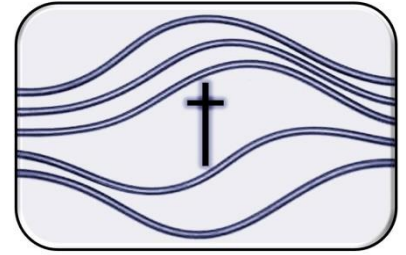




Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



January 2020

A Happy New Year from us all at Wick St Fergus.

Welcome to a new month and a new year. At this time of year, I always feel a bit like the Reverend I.M. Jolly, but I do not intend to greet you with a mournful “Hullo...” But neither do I propose to greet you with forced cheeriness or exaggerated bonhomie. For some the past year has been a time of growth, prosperity and joy. For others, you will be glad to see the back of it.

Sometimes looking back can have a strange effect on the memory. Sometimes we look back on the past through rose-tinted spectacles. We do this for any number of reasons. Some have been so hurt that they would rather not think about the past at all as it upsets their equilibrium. You know the kind of thing – in order to protect the inner-you, you imagine a past for yourself that never really was. Yet others put on the rose-tinted glasses because they like to think that their own history is better than what is happening now. You know the kind of thing – the call to Victorian values and so on.

I always remember my late Gran (who I may have mentioned in the past) saying to one of her old pals who was moaning about the current state of affairs, “Maggie, what is it that you miss about our day? Is it the rickets and malnutrition, being unable to go to the doctor because you couldn’t afford the bill or the medicine, is it the grinding poverty, is it consumption...?” The point is that each age brings with it its own problems that must be faced in ways that are relevant to what is contemporary at the time. How we understand things is always changing as new information comes to us. So it is that each succeeding generation needs to address the issues of their own age. What is given to us to do is use the gifts and talents that we have, to address what is in front of us.

Now by the time you read this there will have been a General Election. At the time of writing it has yet to take place, so I will not tell you who I voted for. I believe in the future. Someone once defined faith as not blind imagination but looking to a reality that hasn’t happened yet. The future isn’t set in stone. And because nobody is perfect, then it follows that no political party is perfect. Further, because people gave their lives over many years so that you could vote, we owe it to those brave pioneers to vote. Now some people, fearful of the future and perhaps channeling their inner cynic, might say, “Nothing really matters everything remains the same, we are what we are till the day that we die. It doesn’t matter who you vote for, the government always gets in.” That is the counsel of despair. But as I look to 2020, I am filled with hope. I am filled with hope because I remain convinced that when people band together in the cause of justice and equality, then anything is possible, even the reality that hasn’t happened yet. I also believe in the future because of the love of God for humanity.

I believe that God empowers us to live and act in hope. In one place in the Old Testament he says to a group of despairing people who have given up on hope, “I know that plans that I have for you, plans for a future and a hope.” I want to finish this abbreviated newsletter with some words from one of my great heroes, the great Viennese psychotherapist Viktor Frankl. Let the following be your motto for 2020 and beyond. He once wrote, “Whoever has a WHY to live for can endure almost any “HOW.” If you want to find out more about that “WHY” then come and see us at St Fergus. You know where we are. **REV JOHN NUGENT BD (HONS)**

Flowers for Sunday



DATE	KINDLY DONATED BY	ARRANGER
5 th Jan	Mrs Roberston, 11 MacLeod Road	Mrs Harper
12 th Jan	Exmouth Memorial	Mrs Harper
19 th Jan	Mrs M Robertson, Miller Ave	Mrs Johnson
26 th Jan	Mrs N Durrand, McLeod Road	Mrs Harper
2 nd Feb	Mrs Julie Steven, Bay View	Donor

Church Duty Rota

	USHER	DOOR	BUS
5 th Jan	J Coghill	E Henderson	J Mclennan
12 th Jan	M Foubister	H Gray	P Macadie
19 th Jan	A Sinclair	W Roberston	P Ramsay
26 th Jan	G Watt	J Cormack	P Macadie

NEW YEAR QUIZ: Thursday 23rd January

Come along to our January Quiz & brighten those dull, dark January days. This will be fun-filled evening with Tea and biscuits provided. Entry £3 per person.

NEW YEAR

Take twelve whole months. Clean them thoroughly of all bitterness, hate, and jealousy.

Make them just as fresh and clean as possible. Now cut each month into twenty-eight, thirty, or thirty-one different parts, but don't make up the whole batch at once.

Prepare it one day at a time out of these ingredients.

Mix well into each day one part of faith, one part of patience, one part of courage, and one part of work.

Add to each day one part of hope, faithfulness, generosity, and kindness.

Blend with one part prayer, one part meditation, and one good deed.

Season the whole with a dash of good spirits, a sprinkle of fun, a pinch of play, and a cupful of good humour.

Pour all of this into a vessel of love.

Cook thoroughly over radiant joy, garnish with a smile, and serve with quietness, unselfishness, and carefulness. You're bound to have a happy new year. Author Unknown

Website: Find us at www.wickstferguschurch.org.uk or find us on facebook.

Items for February's newsletters to be with Michelle by Wed 22nd January – Thank you.

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