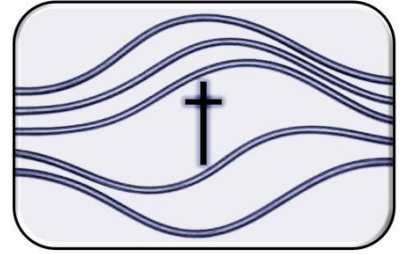




# Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



July 2016

Welcome to July you lovely people! Now some of you may be wondering, “Why is a Presbyterian minister being so jovial at the beginning of a newsletter?” Well, I’ll tell you. I am writing this towards the end of May. It is also the beginning of a fundraising initiative I undertook to raise funds and awareness for two causes; Medicins Sans Frontieres and Caithness and Sutherland Women’s Aid. I mentioned this last month. I have had some interesting reactions and responses to this initiative. They have ranged from some incredible acts of generosity by the people of Wick to the reaction of the cynic who says, “What is the point of doing this for these charities in particular? The problems of this world are so great that there is little point in doing something.” That, of course, lets people off the hook – or so they think. And when people question the two charities I generally respond by asking, “Well what are you doing to help or to raise funds or awareness of a cause nearest to your heart?”

As I said last month, doing nothing is not an option. If you are worried about problems at home, get involved for goodness sake! Moaning about a problem is not enough. It’s a bit like realising that one is on the wrong train and so one runs along the corridor in the opposite direction. It’s ultimately futile. And if one thinks that responding to problems is futile I would remind them of the story of the man walking along Reiss Beach where he sees a small boy throwing washed up starfish back into the water. There were thousands of them! The man went up to the chiel and asked him, “Why are you doing this? There are thousands of them. What difference are you making?” To this the boy responds by picking up a starfish, throwing it into the water and he says to the man, “I just made a difference to that starfish”.

We strongly believe at Wick St Fergus in making a difference, even if our act seems futile. We refuse to remain cynical about human nature, believing that there is inherent dignity in humanity and that because we are made in the image of God and because God’s purpose for us is to be shaped into the likeness of Jesus, we therefore are more interested in original GOODNESS rather than original SIN. People are more than simply a collection of symptoms of some weird infection, worthy only of suspicion. Instead we have all been endowed with the potential for good. What is important is that we choose to exercise this radical view of human nature. Those who view individuals or people groups with suspicion really do not represent the spirit of Christ in any way that is worth speaking of. But if one views people as beings with potential, even if that potential is occasionally well hidden, then we realise that we are sharing God’s view.

In Matthew 25 we read that so close to us is Jesus of Nazareth that he views us as his sisters and brothers, as his partners if you will in the care of his world and its inhabitants as well as the ecosystems. James 1:27 says that pure religion consists in care for the vulnerable and not participating in the cynical world view. Indeed, James views this as such a danger that he speaks of warning that we need to remain unstained by it, so insidious is it. And look for a moment at the people Jesus chose to be part of his inner circle. He had two bad-asses like James and John, a terrorist like Simon the Zealot, a violent man like Simon Peter, a tax cheat like Matthew. He ate and drank with those who had been cast aside by those who thought that they were something. He saw in others things that no one else did. That is what we believe at Wick St Fergus, that everyone has potential, that everyone has the potential to make a difference for good, that no act, if it is done with great love, is futile. If this is the kind of approach which interests you then 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:

Helen Groat: 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Gordon Cook: 9<sup>th</sup> June 2016

Raymond Cooper: 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016

James MacKay, of Thrumster: 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016

Sylvia Vine: 29<sup>th</sup> June 2016

## Flowers for Sunday

DATE	DONOR	ARRANGER
3rd July	Mrs L Mackay, Biggins, Killimister	Donor
10 <sup>th</sup> July	<b>vacant</b>	
17 <sup>th</sup> July	Mrs More, Robertson Square	Donor
24 <sup>th</sup> July	The Munro family	Mrs Harper
31 <sup>st</sup> July	The Sinclair Family in Memoria	Mrs Harper
7 <sup>th</sup> Aug	Mrs Durrand, Ackergill	Donor

*There are a couple of vacant dates for the Flower rota. If you are willing to take one, please contact Mrs Gates.*

## Church Duty Rota

Date	BUS	STAIRS	DOOR	DOOR	USHER
3rd July	M Foubister	B Campbell	M Thomson	G Macdonald	J Mackay
10 <sup>th</sup> July	G Watt	W Roberston	G Ramsay	A Sinclair	A Rosie
17 <sup>th</sup> July	I Banks	M Duffy	H Gray	R Mappin	J Cormack
24 <sup>th</sup> July	J MacIennan	A Duffy	J Coghill	J Houston	E Henderson
31 <sup>st</sup> July	B Campbell	G Macdonald	J Mackay	<i>A Duffy</i>	M Thomson
7 <sup>th</sup> Aug	W Robertson	G Ramsay	A Rosie	G Watt	A Sinclair

## Sermon information from the Minister

DATE	READING 1	READING 2	SUBJECT	DAY OF CHURCH CALENDAR
3 <sup>rd</sup> July	2 Kings 5:1-14	Galatians 6:1-16	True Spirituality	6 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity
10 <sup>th</sup> July	Deuteronomy 30:9-14	Colossians 1:1-14	Nearer than you think	7 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity
17 <sup>th</sup> July	Psalms 15	Colossians 1:15-28	The Believer's Life Pattern	8 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity
24 <sup>th</sup> July	Psalms 85	Colossians 2:6-19	Freedom Does not mean self-reliance	9 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity
31 <sup>st</sup> July	Psalms 107:1-9	Colossians 3:1-11	Christ, Our life	10 <sup>th</sup> after Trinity



## **Guild**

The new session begins on Monday 29th August at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

## **Café church**

At the time of going to press, we are happy to announce that our café church continues to be a success. There will be no café church in July, we will be back in August.

## **THEOLOGY AS EXPLAINED BY CHILDREN**

- The first book of the Bible is Guinness, in which Adam & Eve were created from an apple tree.
- Noah's wife was called Joan of Ark.
- Lot's wife was a pillar of salt by day and a ball of fire by night.
- Samson slayed the Philistines with the axe of the Apostles.
- Unleavened bread is bread made without ingredients.
- Moses went to the top of Mt. Cyanide to get the 10 commandments.
- The 7th commandment is 'Thou shalt not admit adultery.'
- Joshua let the Hebrew in the battle of Geritol.
- David fought the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in Biblical times.
- Solomon has 300 wives and 700 porcupines.
- Jesus was born because Mary had an immaculate contraption.
- The people who followed Jesus were called the 13 decibels.
- The Epistles were the wives of the Apostles.
- One of the opossums was St. Matthew.
- Paul preached holy acrimony, which is another name for marriage.
- A Godly person should have only one wife. This is called monotony.

## **\*\*\*\*\*Forthcoming Events\*\*\*\*\***

### **Book Sale – 22/23<sup>rd</sup> July**

The summer Book Sale is getting near again. This year it will be held on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd July 2016. Times as usual are 10.30am – 3.30pm both days. We have a lot of new books in already and any donations will be more than welcome. We look forward to seeing you all there, with many great bargains to be had.

### **Street stall – Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August**

Our summer street stall will be held on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> August at the usual spot outside MacAllans shop. As always, all donations will be gratefully received. We look forward to seeing you all; there will be plenty baking and other fine treats to tempt you with.



*Psalms 74:17 "It was you who set all the boundaries of the earth; you made both summer and winter."*

## **Afraid of the dark**

A little boy was afraid of the dark. One night his mother told him to go out to the back porch and bring her the broom. The little boy turned to his mother and said, "Mama, I don't want to go out there. It's dark."

The mother smiled reassuringly at her son. "You don't have to be afraid of the dark," she explained. "Jesus is out there. He'll look after you and protect you."

The little boy looked at his mother real hard and asked, "Are you sure he's out there?" "Yes, I'm sure. He is everywhere, and he is always ready to help you when you need him," she said.

The little boy thought about that for a minute and then went to the back door and cracked it a little. Peering out into the darkness, he called, "Jesus? If you're out there, would you please hand me the broom?"

## **Minister's Poetry Corner**

The hand that binds is the hand that frees.

The mouth that bites is the mouth that kisses.

The tongue that curses is the tongue that heals.

The foot that kicks is the foot that carries one to an act of love.

The mind that pursues darkness is the mind that contemplates grace.

We are what we choose and  
we choose what we do.

And so I choose to free, to kiss, to heal, to go where love is needed but rarely offered,  
I choose to contemplate grace.

This is the way of Christ.

*(c) John Nugent*



## **Facebook Page**

Did you know we have a Facebook page as well as our website? If you are on Facebook, why not find and "like" the Wick St Fergus page. The website is [www.wickstferguschurch.org.uk](http://www.wickstferguschurch.org.uk)

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

*All articles for August newsletter should have already been submitted – Thank you*

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