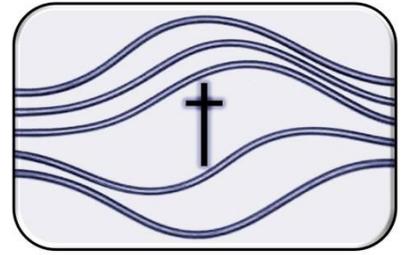




Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



July 2018

Welcome to July and to this edition of our newsletter. How is your summer proceeding? If you are reading this somewhere sunny then I hope that the weather stays this way for you. If it is damp where you are then, as my old Gran used to say, at least its character-building weather. I have to say that I am feeling a bit sad this month. Just a few days before writing this I had the sad privilege of officiating at the funeral of a very good friend. Many of you will have known Robert "Hubba" Miller for longer than I have. Many of you will have your own stories and memories about Hubba. The town lost a bright and shining light with Hubba's passing. He was kind, a good man and our prayers are with his family.

From the moment that I was told about Hubba's passing various thoughts have been going through my head and they are all variations on a theme. That theme is "Relationships and how we conduct them." Now I come from Clydeside and the Clydeside attitude to relationships could best be described at times as either reserved or wild. For example, men shake hands. They don't hug. You try not to show emotion in public as that could lead to "accusations." When someone for whom you had great love or respect is taken from the picture then you look for someone to blame. If you are betrayed, then you make sure that you vow undying vengeance on them so that they will get what's coming to them. Affirmation is a no-no because you don't want someone to get too big for their boots; and so we substitute the banter for emotional honesty.

Sadly we have people in our lives for too short a time. It is left to us to decide what we do with the people who come into our lives. We can either judge them or help them get on. We can love them or hate them. We can bear grudges or we can let go. We can carry the burden of resentment around inside of us or we can set it down. Now the Psalmist asks God in Psalm 90:12 that he would, "teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom." Wisdom is sadly lacking in our society. We have all kinds of knowledge but not wisdom. The two are not the same. In another place the Bible speaks of people who are, "...ever learning but never coming to a knowledge of the truth." I don't mean to make this depressing but an awareness of how short a time we have on this earth will have an effect on how we conduct our relationships with others.

In a society as skeptical and as cynical as ours, telling someone that you love them or that you forgive them or that you want the best for them, even if they reject your overtures, becomes a revolutionary act. It says to an angry world, "I beg to differ." That grudge that you have held in your heart for so long against that other person, you can feel it eating away inside of you, and do you know something else? By retaining that anger or hate or resentment you are giving power to the pain you feel. At this point in our society, when government is built on adversarial principles and where you defeat your enemy by making them look bad or inadequate or by soundly defeating them. If you retain your resentment you have let them win.

One of my favourite words is the Sanskrit word "Namaste." It has passed into modern parlance and people often think it is a polite way of saying hello to someone. But its meaning is far more revolutionary and far more radical. When you greet someone with "Namaste" you are saying, "I greet the image of God in you." It makes encountering the other person a sacred act, which is what all encounters are in any case. When two lives touch one another it is a sacred moment. That is how it should be. But remember, we have the choice to profane that moment as well. That is why I choose not to hate anyone who has hurt me. I will not retain resentment for anyone. If I have ever hurt anyone then I ask for their forgiveness. Giving our resentment up is the first step to healing relationships. If you want to know more then come and see us at Wick St Fergus 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:

4th May - Robert Manson of Reiss, beloved husband of Margaret.

9th May - David Graham Brown of Wick, beloved husband of Joyce.

10th May - Margaret Nicol nee Skinner of Wick, much loved wife of Pat.

6th June - Charles Alexander Macbeth Jess "Charlie" Williamson latterly of Surrey, much loved son of Charlie and Maureen Williamson.

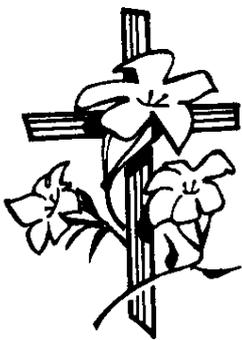
8th June - Dolina Johan "Joan" Bruce nee Manson of Haster, beloved wife of Hector.

11th June - Robert Murdoch "Hubba" Miller of Wick, dear husband to Pam.

12th June - David "Davy Cormack of Hallkirk, beloved husband of Lotte.

Any further funerals in June, July and August will appear in the September issue of the newsletter.

Flowers for Sunday



DATE	KINDLY DONATED BY	ARRANGER
1 st July	Mrs K Robertson	Donor
8 th July	Mrs L Mackay, Biggins	Donor
15 th July	Mr & Mrs D More	Donor
22 nd July	The Munro family	Mrs Harper
29 th July	The Sinclair Family in Memoria	Mrs Harper
5 th Aug	Mrs Durrand, Ackergill	Donor



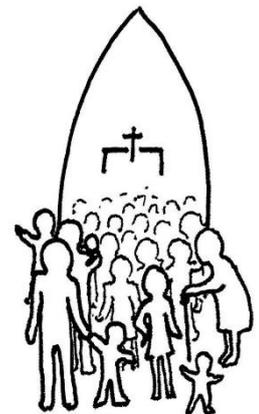
If you would like to fill an empty date on the rota please contact Mrs Harper on 602612

THE LARGE HALL IS IN USE EVERY SATURDAY FROM 7.30am UNTIL 1pm

FLOWERS CANNOT BE ARRANGED BETWEEN THESE TIMES

Church Duty Rota

Date	BUS	STAIRS	DOOR	DOOR	USHER
1 st July	J Mackay	M Thomson	G Macdonald	M Foubister	B Campbell
8 th July	W Robertson	G Watt	G Ramsay	*****	A Sinclair
15 th July	I Banks	J Cormack	H Gray	R Mappin	M Duffy
22 nd July	A Duffy	*****	J McLennan	J Coghill	E Henderson
29 th July	B Campbell	M Foubister	G Macdonald	J Mackay	M Thomson
5 th Aug	G Ramsay	W Robertson	*****	A Sinclair	G Watt





GUILD

After a rather late start, Mrs Phyllis Gray was pleased to welcome everyone to the meeting, beginning with the usual opening devotions. Our guest for the evening was Mrs Doreen Leith from Wick Voices. Doreen had been a guest at the Guild last year, when the Wick Voices was a relatively new initiative and members were very interested to learn of the improvements to the recordings and to listen to snippets from recent recordings compiled by Doreen. These included stories from a variety of interesting people including Ishbel Mcboyle, Tracy Chisholm (Eyers), Celia More, who talked about Caithness Textile artists, skipper George Carter from Lybster, whose recollection about an encounter in 2003 with a Great White Shark, went "viral". 1949 Herring Queen Ray Richard, farmer Will Gunn, Graham Mackay, a Wick exile, working as a lawyer in Hong Kong and Walter Mowat from John O'Groats were also featured. The overall quality of recordings was noticeable and Doreen and the others on the team are to be congratulated on their efforts to preserve our memories for the future. Several Guild members have already been recorded, with some more in the pipeline and it was agreed that all of us have memories worthy of preserving. Memories were still being shared as we made our way home, after a welcome cup of tea. The next meeting and final one before the summer break is on July 2nd, when the speaker will be Mr Harry Gray and there will be a Bring and buy sale at this meeting.

Some Funnies

Dinner Time

A wife invited some people to dinner.

At the table, she turned to their six-year-old daughter and said, "Would you like to say the blessing?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," the girl replied.

"Just say what you hear Mommy say," the wife answered.

The daughter bowed her head and said,

"Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

Adam's Rib

In Sunday School, they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week, his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, 'Johnny what is the matter?' 'Little Johnny responded, 'I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife.'



FORTHCOMING EVENTS – DIARY



Pudding Night – Wednesday 4th July @6.30pm

Our now annual pudding night will be held on 4th July. Entry is £4, half price for children. We will have an amazing, mouth watering selection of puddings to sample. Grab a bowl, and a spoon, and fill up. Spread the word, bring your friends and have a lovely night of food, chat and tea/coffee.

BOOK SALE – 19/20th July

Our summer book sale is planned for 19th/20th July. As always, any donations to be made beforehand will be gladly received. Come along and grab yourself a bargain, we have had many donations and there will be some super items in our stock.



Advance Notices:

Summer Street Stall – Friday 24th August

Open Day – 29th September

Our Harvest Open Day will this year be held on 7th October. Our theme this year is Shoes, Hats and Handbags. We would love to display your best shoes, bags and hats: any unusual or different items, and anything striking you would love to share. More details to follow nearer the time.



What happened when one person prayed for a baby...

When did you start praying for the children of your friends? Justin Welby, the Archbishop of Canterbury, thanks God that someone prayed for him before he was even born – in the hope that he would one day become a Christian. The Archbishop told the story during a recent short film on the Thy Kingdom Come initiative. He said that after he had become a Christian, he had ‘learned that there was a particular person who prayed for me every week – since I was conceived – that I might become a disciple of Christ.’

He concluded: ‘I cannot tell you how grateful I am to them.’

The film can be seen at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=4_AMDxSdKAc



DATA PROTECTION LAWS

Recent changes to Data protection Laws mean that we must inform you of any information we hold about you. Here in the newsletter HQ I do not store any personal information other than the contact details provided from church office bearers, outlined in the table below. Any other information shared has been done so with the permission of the individual. No personal wedding/funeral details are published other than names/dates etc. which have all been passed to the Minister. If you have any questions, please contact me, Michelle Foubister. My details are in the table below. With thanks, Michelle.

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

DUE TO HOLIDAYS – AUGUST’S NEWSLETTER HAS ALREADY BEEN SENT TO THE PRINTER. CHURCH REGISTER INFORMATION WILL BE CARRIED OVER UNTIL SEPTEMBER. Thank you for your patience with this.

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