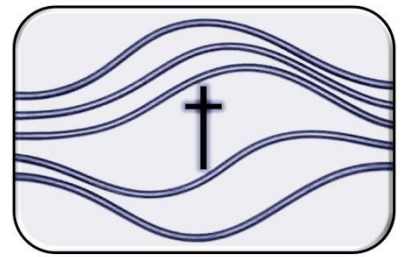




Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



June 2017

Welcome to June's edition of our newsletter. By the time you read this the 2017 General Assembly of the Church of Scotland will be a fond, distant memory. Actually, I am trying to put a positive spin on it. Sometimes it can be as exciting as watching paint dry. The Mound has no air conditioning in the Assembly Hall and so keeping awake is a major achievement in itself. I was sitting in the Assembly Hall last year. Next to me sat a former moderator and on my other side sat another old friend. My phone, which was on silent, began to vibrate just as I felt two sets of elbows digging into my sides. My friends suggested that I wake up and stop snoring.

I went out of the hall to answer my phone only to find that it was my sister calling me. I asked her what the matter was. She said that she was watching the live feed from the Assembly online and that the camera focussed on me having a kip. Then an email came in from a friend in the good old US of A suggesting the same thing. But seriously, at the Assembly we get to deal with important things. This year several important issues will be discussed (or will have been discussed by the time you read this). There is no doubt that as a Church we need to change the way that we do things if we are to move beyond survival into growth.

Change can be painful but we must grasp the nettle on this. There is no point trying to deal with 21st century issues using 17th century methods or structures. Secondly, the issue of Palestine/Israel will come up. This will involve raising issues of justice and peace and how we deal with historic/systematic injustice in our world. As Martin Luther King once put it, whoever remains silent in the face of injustice has chosen the side of the oppressor. Thirdly, the issue of human sexuality and its implications for the Church will inevitably be raised and as usual more heat than light will be created. Unless we find a positive and Christlike way through these issues then anything that we have to say to the world will be muted.

For example, we can't expect to be taken seriously here in the west on issues of human rights if we continue to prop up abusive regimes such as Saudi Arabia. In the Sermon on the Mount Jesus said: ***Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God.*** There is a credibility gap between what the Church says about peace and what the Church does in response to conflict both foreign and domestic. And unless we learn to live at peace with ourselves then nobody will ever listen to us. And why should they? George Macleod, founder of The Iona Community once wrote: ***How can a Church that is divided represent a God who is one?*** As in the person of God, so the Church is called to represent unity expressed in diversity. Ours is a table where all are welcome, where all have value, where the contributions of all are respected and where the love that heals the broken heart is found. Our true hope is built on the foundation of one who called the most unlikely of people into his intimate company.

None of us are perfect. Many of us are damaged. We express our frailty in the unlikeliest of ways. But we come to one who lived among us as one of us and who took our frailty to himself. He is called the Prince of Peace in the Old Testament book of the prophet Isaiah. I can honestly say, as someone who has lived with depression for some years, that whenever I have reached my most melancholic moments, I have found someone standing beside me who knows by experience what our lives are like. Jesus, the joiner of Nazareth, walks with us as a fellow traveller through this life. He lifts us up, he sustains and he never turns away anyone who calls out to him. If you want to know more, 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:

5th May: Ronnie Hutchison, husband of Isobel and father to Darren, Mark and Hughie. Murchison Street, Wick.

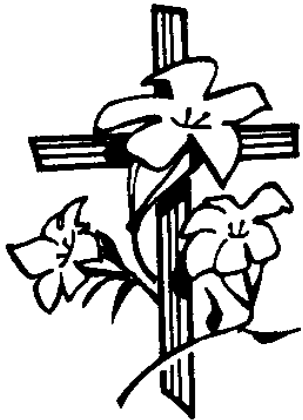
13th May: Charles George Rae Simpson, "Charlie." Husband of Kaye and father of Andrew, Katrina and the late Gordon. Newtonhill, Wick.

18th May: Alexandra Henderson (nee Nicolson). Wife of Danny and mum of Anne and the late Alexander. Broadhaven Road, Wick.

23rd May: Michael George Morrice. Husband to the late June and beloved dad of Patricia. Owen Place, Wick.

WEDDINGS:

20th May 2017: Andrew Plowman to Nicola Oag – Thrumster Church.



Flowers for Sunday

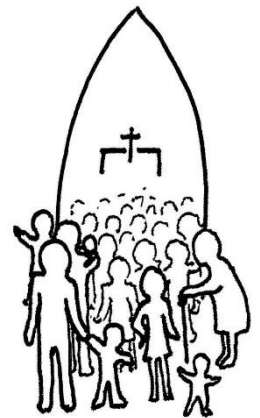
DATE	KINDLY DONATED BY	ARRANGER
4 th June	Mrs Simpson, Ackergill Cres	Donor
11 th June	Mrs D Smith, 88 Willowbank	Mrs Harper
18 th June	Mrs C Henderson, Girnigoe	Mrs Simpson
25 th June	Mrs Harper	Donor
2 nd July	Mrs L Mackay, Biggins, Killimister	Donor



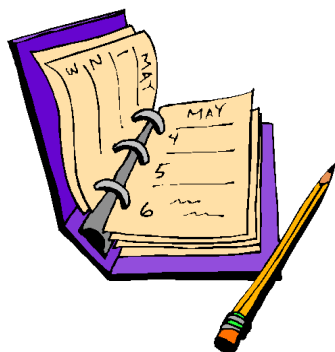
Church Duty Rota

****ELDERS PLEASE NOTE CHANGES TO ROTA****

Date	BUS	STAIRS	DOOR	DOOR	USHER
4 th June	M Thomson	G Macdonald	B Campbell	J Mackay	M Foubister
11 th June	A Sinclair	G Watt	W Roberston	*****	G Ramsay
18 th June	R Mappin	I Banks	J Cormack	M Duffy	H Gray
25 th June	J Houston	J Maclellan	A Duffy	E Henderson	J Coghill
2 nd July	J Mackay	B Campbell	G Macdonald	M Thomson	M Foubister



*If you are unable to attend on your duty day please arrange a swap. Dates with ***** require cover.*



DIARY for JUNE/ FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 1st Stewardship Meeting – 7pm
- 4th Short service in Pulteney House – 3pm
- 5th Guild – Speaker Isobel Sutherland
- 7th Guild – Rally in Reay (bus available)
- 8th Kirk Session
- 17th Wedding Exhibition: 10.30-4
- 19th Guild – Speaker Janet MacDonald – Solar ovens for Africa
- 25th Café Church

Sermon information from the Minister

DATE	READING 1	READING 2	SUBJECT	DAY OF CHURCH CALENDAR
4/6/2017	Joel 2:21-32	Acts 2:22-33	The Comforter Has Come	Pentecost Sunday
11/6/2017	Isaiah 6:1-8	2 Corinthians 13:11-13	Unity In Diversity	Trinity Sunday
18/6/2017	Psalms 43	Romans 5:1-8	Positive Peace And Welcome	1 st After Trinity
25/6/2017	Genesis 21:8-21	Matthew 10:24-39	Subversive Love	2 nd After Trinity
2/7/2017	Genesis 22:1-14	Matthew 10:40-42	Subversive Scripture	3 rd After Trinity

WEDDING EXHIBITION *****POSTPONED*****

The date of this has had to be changed, look out for the new date next month. (Hopefully in July). Meanwhile, look out your dresses, shoes, photos, tiaras, horseshoes, invites, acceptances, and any other memorabilia will be gratefully received and expertly looked after. If you have a dress, please contact us asap to be sure to get in the display. We need as many items as possible to ensure our event is a success. We are very much looking forward to seeing all the items on display in the church, and hope that as many people will come out to see as possible. Entry to our exhibition is £3 and includes a cup of tea. Please share this event with your friends to help make this day as successful as possible, and help CHAT to fund their many important ventures (See below).



CHAT

CHAT is a campaign group dedicated to driving improvements in local healthcare services across Caithness. We are fighting for a safer service within all our health services in Caithness. We have the 100 mile helper bags almost ready to launch which will help mums in labour, parents with sick kids or anyone who has had to rush away from home in an emergency situation. We continue to gather lots of requests about various health areas to strengthen our campaign. We have already been to Holyrood but are now preparing for our postcard launch again heading for parliament. We are considering the options of getting an independent report done on woman's health which is very costly.



Street stall report

On a lovely spring morning we held our street stall. Many thanks to everyone who supplied the great selection of baking, jams and even fresh rhubarb. We also want to thank everyone who came along and supported this effort and bought the goodies, and for the generous donations. Thanks to Donal for transporting the tables and McAllans for allowing us to use their store front for our stall. A fantastic total of £440 was raised. Once again, thanks to everyone involved.

Pudding night report

Our pudding night last weekend was a tremendous success. We had lots of hungry guests arrive to sample the delights, all of whom were amazed by the super sweet treats on offer and we raised an amazing £175. Thanks to all who donated puddings, and those who came along and supported us, who all said what a great night they had, and what value for money this evening was. Well done everyone.



THE GUILD

Guild members attended the Council Spring Rally in Watten Church, where the secretary Christine Murray gave a report on the previous year and set out plans for the coming session. The Summer Rally will be held on June 7th at 7.30pm in Reay church and it is planned to organise a minibus. The guest speaker will be Miss Anne Dunnett. Project Co-ordinator Janet McDonald, who had attended the Conference in Edinburgh the week before, gave an update on the six projects being supported by the Guild which are entering their third and final year.

Street Pastors.....	£78,659.	16
Care for the Family.....	65,898.	12
Caring for Mother Earth in Bolivia (Solar Ovens).....	57,949.	63
Feed the Minds - eradication of FGM in Kenya.....	86,471.	92
Mission International Haiti Project.....	53,037.	35
Prospects - All Friends Together. Scotland.....	<u>54,915.</u>	<u>68</u>
	£ 402,055.	56

It was also proposed that all Caithness Guilds support the Scottish charity *SMALLS FOR ALL* by donating new underwear to girls and women in Africa. The pants must be new and in sizes ages 3 -15 years for children and ladies size 8 - 16. These will be gathered in at the Guild Week Rally in November.

Monday 24th April

Our leader for this meeting was Mrs. Janet McDonald who, after our usual brief opening service introduced our guest for the evening Mrs. Doreen Leith who leads the "Wick Voices Section" of The Wick Society. The inspiration for this section came from the Johnston Collection which tells a pictorial story of our local community and it was considered time to record local voices telling local stories. Doreen took us on a wonderful journey illustrated with Johnston images while we listened to a range of recordings from George Bethune talking about the Duke of Kent's crash on Scaraben, our own Kathlyn Harper's recording memories of a wartime bombing, Anne Dunnett on her love of tennis, Anne Mackay on Wick Post Office and other recollections of a time gone by. This was a fascinating evening, well done to our Wick Society for this initiative, we were told that there are 57 recordings available on The Wick Society's website, well worth a visit. After a hearty vote of thanks tea was served.

May 8

Guild members met at the Lifeboat Station at Wick harbour, where they were given an in-depth insight into the running of the lifeboats around our coasts by coxswain Ian Cormack. The RNLI receives no government funding and is totally reliant on donations from the public to meet the 172 million pounds per annum needed for GB & N Ireland. It costs £120,000 per year to keep the Wick boat afloat. A volunteer needs at least 3 years' training before he/ she becomes a full member of the crew and a complete kit cost around £500 per person. Guild members have willingly taken up a special collection for the local lifeboat.

Website: Find us at www.wickstferguschurch.org.uk

Please can all items for July's newsletter be with Michelle by Wednesday 21st June –Thank you

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Congregational No.41229.

Scottish Charity No.SC013840