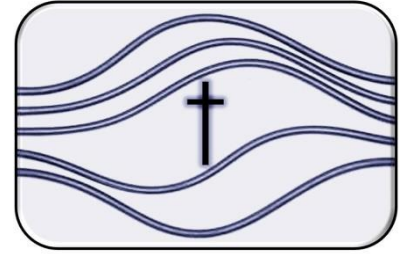




Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



June 2016

Welcome to June everyone. By the time you read this we will be mid-way through the year. And what a year it has been. At the Kirk we have had various initiatives not the least of which is our Café Church initiative. We have a small band of supporters to help give an open atmosphere where no topic is “verboten.” You will hear more about this in the coming months.

I have been greatly disturbed by some things that I have been reading in the news lately. One of the most prominent items has been the refusal of the government in Westminster to permit entry to our country to a group of three thousand unaccompanied children from refugee camps. Now by the time that you read this there may well have been a flip flop on this. Even if there is. There will be government number-crunchers trying to find ways of creatively managing that magic number of three thousand. Now before you say anything this is not about party politics. This is a simple issue of morality. We were told, for example, that it would be safer to send the children back. However, the very next day a medical facility run by the excellent medical charity *Medicins sans Frontieres* was bombed and not only were seventeen children killed, a medical volunteer who happened to be the only paediatric specialist in that part of Syria died as well.

This brave man gave his life to alleviate the suffering of children. We need to be about this kind of business as well. I have been banging on about this for a while. Back to this in a moment. Another subject which has exercised me is that of domestic abuse. We have in our county an excellent organisation called *Caithness and Sutherland Women’s Aid*. They do sterling work under overwhelming conditions with greatly diminished resources. After one of my rants I was challenged on both of these issues by a friend in the town. “So what are you going to do about this?” asked my friend. I gave it some thought and came to a conclusion. I am going to do something to both raise money and which will also raise awareness of both these issues. To that end I have had my head publicly shaved. A crowdfunding page has been set up, and money collected which will go to MSF and also CASWA.

Now some might say, “Won’t that make you look ridiculous?” Yes it will. But think of it this way. That man in Syria gave his life to save children. This country turned its back on children. It was not always thus. Back in the 1930s there was a thing called the *Kindertransport* which smuggled Jewish kids from Nazi Germany. There were, in fact, several attempts at this with some kids being turned back to face certain death. I am only shaving my head and making myself look ridiculous. And if someone is more worried about a minister’s dignity or a Church’s reputation than whether kids live or die or about a brave man’s death then something has gone sadly wrong somewhere.

Did you know that Jesus was an asylum seeker? His birth was seen as a threat to a murderously neurotic sub-King called Herod the Great. He sent out death squads to have all the male children in the area surrounding Bethlehem murdered. But Jesus’ Dad, Joseph the Carpenter from Nazareth, was warned of this impending act of murder and he fled with his family to Egypt where Jesus spent his first years on the banks of the Nile. Jesus wasn’t ashamed to be publically humiliated for us. I will risk the jokes of others for children and the families of abusive men. Like I said, a crowdfunding page will be set up and when I have achieved the target, with your generosity, I will let my hair grow back in again. Regular updates will appear in our Church Facebook page and website. Local press will also be kept aware. The sum I hope to see raised is £6000, with £3000 then be transferred to each organisation. I hope that I will be able to count on your help. Wick is an extremely generous town. Let’s show the world how merciful we are. Come and see a bald minister. You know where we are.

John Nugent BD(Honours and also bald)

Diary

Choir	Wednesdays	2 nd June	Stewardship – 7pm
5 th June	Centenary Service of Remembrance	9 th June	Session – 7pm
19 th June	Café Church		

Flowers for Sunday

DATE	DONOR	ARRANGER
5 th June	Mrs Simpson, Ackergill Cres	Donor
12 th June	Mrs D Smith, 88 Willowbank	Mrs Harper
19 th June	Mrs C Henderson, Girnigoe	Mrs Simpson
26 th June	Mrs E Lyall, Stratford on Avon	Donor
3 rd July	Mrs L Mackay, Biggins, Killimister	Donor

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

Church Duty Rota

Date	BUS	STAIRS	DOOR	DOOR	USHER
5 th June	M Thomson	M Foubister	B Campbell	J Mackay	G Macdonald
12 th June	A Sinclair	G Watt	W Roberstson	A Rosie	G Ramsay
19 th June	R Mappin	I Banks	M Duffy	<i>M Foubister</i>	H Gray
26 th June	J Houston	J Maclennan	A Duffy	E Henderson	J Coghill
3 rd July	M Foubister	B Campbell	G Macdonald	M Thomson	J Mackay

Sermon information from the Minister

DATE	READING 1	READING 2	SUBJECT	DAY OF CHURCH CALENDAR
5 th June	Deuteronomy 6:20-25	Luke 7:11-17	Remembrance and Compassion	2 nd Sunday in Trinity
12 th June	Psalm 5:1-8	Luke 7:36-8:3	Justice and God's character	3 rd Sunday in Trinity
19 th June	Psalm 42 & Psalm 43	Mark 5:21-43	Justice and the Rule of God	4 th Sunday in Trinity
26 th June	Psalm 77:1-20	Galations 5:1, 13-25	Freed For Freedom	5 th after Trinity

Pudding night

At the time of going to press, our pudding night was well attended and many delightful puddings served. The total raised will be announced in next month's newsletter. Thank you to everyone who attended, to everyone who helped set up, to everyone who baked and to all those people who help make our events such a success.



Street stall: Our stall last month attracted many customers, though we could have sold more. Thanks to all our bakers, donators and customers we raised an amazing £338.30. Thank you all.

*****FORTHCOMING EVENTS*****

Centenary Service of Remembrance – Sunday 5th June

On 31st May 1916 the last great and full sea battle in WWI was fought off the coast of Denmark - The Battle of Jutland. The British had 28 Dreadnoughts and 9 Battle Cruisers while the German navy had 16 Dreadnoughts and 5 Battle Cruisers. Later both sides claimed victory and while the Royal Navy suffered far more losses, the German fleet never again mounted a challenge.

Although the action took place on 31st May word of the battle only came to Wick in a late night telegram on June 2nd telling the Navy had lost 14 ships including the HMS Invincible and HMS Queen Mary. It was well known that Wick men were on both ships and it is easy to imagine the anguish of the families as they waited for news of their men. Finally on June 6th details were released.

As the casualty lists came through, the town realised with horror that they had lost fifteen men in one day - eleven on Invincible and four on the Queen Mary. Thirteen widows and thirty-three fatherless children were left. It was the biggest loss in a single day in Wick throughout the Great War.

Join us at our special service to commemorate those who gave their lives on Sunday 5th June.

Remember this – Thursday 30th June

June brings an interesting and exciting even brought to you by the good people of the church. An exciting, illustrated talk from Harry Gray. The talk will include some Johnston collection, but mostly other vintage pictures, which will all be explained by Harry in our own St Fergus church hall. The talk begins at 7.30 and entry is £3 which includes tea and a baggie. Hope to see you all there, and bring a friend. It should be a very interesting night.

Summer Book Sale: 22nd & 23rd July

Our summer book sale will take place this July on Friday 22nd and Saturday 23rd July. As always, any donations to be made beforehand will be gladly received. More information will follow about the book sale in the August edition of the newsletter.

From the mouth of children

A father was at the beach with his children when the four-year-old son ran up to him, grabbed his hand, and led him to the shore where a seagull lay dead in the sand.

"Daddy, what happened to him?" the son asked.

"He died and went to Heaven," the Dad replied.

The boy thought a moment and then said, "Did God throw him back down?"

Give me a break

An atheist was spending a quiet day fishing when suddenly his boat was attacked by the Loch Ness monster. In one easy flip, the beast tossed him and his boat high into the air. Then it opened its mouth to swallow both.

As the man sailed head over heels, he cried out, "Oh, my God! Help me!"

At once, the ferocious attack scene froze in place, and as the atheist hung in mid-air, a booming voice came down from the clouds, "I thought you didn't believe in Me!"

"Come on God, give me a break!!" the man pleaded. "Two minutes ago I didn't believe in the Loch Ness monster either!"



Last month's café church was again, a great success. It was attended by many, most of whom had no St Fergus connection, who came along to try out this new method of worship. Our next café church is planned for Sunday 19th June. Please come along if you would like to try a new way of worship, and tell anyone who might be interested. All are welcome. Keep an eye on the paper for future dates.

Minister's Poetry Corner

For Betty With The Black, Black Hair

The loved ones came to welcome her. She did not want to go but life had become such a trial for her that She had no option but to leave. Her husband didn't want her to go but her suffering left him broken of heart. And so the loved ones whispered in their ears. They whispered comfort and healing love. They sang of the hospitality of the great, long hall of the Swift-Sure-Hand and his welcoming Aspect. For a moment she opened one eye and saw them. They shared her tears but in their eyes she saw something special. And then they spoke: Come with us to the land of the ever-young.

© John Nugent

Guild News

Summer Rally – 15th June – 7.30pm, in Dunnet church. For transport please contact Janet (602543).

Guild meetings resume Monday 29th August at 7.30pm in the small hall.

Strawberry Teas – Saturday 17th Sept at 3pm in the Church hall



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. Have a look, all updates can be found on there too.

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

Please can all items **FOR JULY AND AUGUST** newsletters be with Michelle by **Wednesday 22nd June** – Thank you

CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS			
Title	Name	Phone	Email
Minister	John Nugent	07511 503946	nugent0@me.com
Session Clerk	Anne Duffy	01955 605732	martinanneduffy@gmail.com
Clerk to Congregational Board	Elizabeth Henderson	01955 604156	tannach.henderson@gmail.com
Treasurer	Martin Duffy	01955 605732	
Magazine Editor	Michelle Foubister	01955 602416	chellefoubister@sky.com
Website	Jean McLennan		jean.mclennan02@btinternet.com

Congregational No.41229.

Scottish Charity No.SC013840