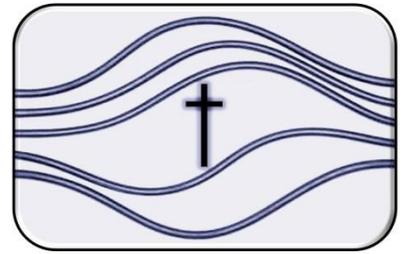




# Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



June 2018

Hello everyone and welcome to the June edition of the Wick St Fergus newsletter. As I write this I am sitting at my Dad's laptop. The weather outside in Blantyre is glorious. I don't get back to Blantyre as often as I would like but we have some beautiful countryside in the area. It's not as beautiful as Glasgow but then again, few places are.

At the weekend I head off to Edinburgh for the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland. The Kirk meets at The Mound in Edinburgh to deliberate many things. Some of these things seem important to the speakers. Some think that they are trivial compared to the problems of society. Others just like hearing the sound of their own voice. In any case, in the truest sense the General Assembly represents the Kirk coming together as a family and like all families there are tensions, but these are calmed down as friendships are renewed and news is exchanged. In another sense, the General Assembly (GA) is a sort of homecoming. You get the uncle that you are never quite sure of, the Granny who always pinches you on the cheek and who can't believe that you are now forty-five.

Our family of faith is wide-ranging in its reach. The only thing that makes this possible is the head of our family, the one from whom we take our lead, Jesus of Nazareth. And here is the really great thing: what holds us together is not uniformity, we are not clones. St Paul talks about this in 1 Corinthians 1 when he says that not many of us were wise or clever, but God takes that which is foolish in the world to confound the wise. What makes the Kirk into a family is love. The very nature of God is made known in how he makes himself known to us and that is as love. St John says in his first letter that God is Love. It is love that makes the Church a home. In fact, it could be said that where love is absent then God is absent. Where there is no evidence of love then there is no evidence of God. Therefore, if the Church is to truly be a safe place, a home, then, it must be a place where you can tell that love is present.

The next question is: how can we do that?

Look at how people treat one another. Look at how they treat those who can do nothing in return for them. That is love. Look at how they treat the poor. That is love. Look at how they treat those who work for and with them. That is love. Look at how they speak of their fellow members of the family and then look at how that compares with what they say about those members of the family. In the service of baptism, we say that God no longer tests us against our misdeeds but rather against his love for us. When love becomes the prime motivating force for relationships within the family of God, instead of the need to meet some kind of external standard, then we are permitting God to set the standard for approaching him.

My late Mum loved me anyway, even if I was being daft. It is the same with God. He loves us before we ever say that we are sorry because he loves us as we are. You've maybe heard someone say (you have maybe even said it yourself), "The Kirk is not for the likes of me." That is not how the Church works. The Church is where you belong because Jesus invitation is universal. You are invited because you were loved before you ever even knew that you were loved. Maybe if churches spent more time convincing people that they were loved and so could come and be welcomed then there would be no room for judgement. And here's a possibility: maybe the reason why some are so ready to condemn others and why they are so ready to point out the failures of others is so that they don't have to think about their own. It's a thought, isn't it?

Maybe they take such an unholy interest in the sanctity of others as a way of making themselves feel good without having to deal with those parts of their lives that they would rather keep hidden. And

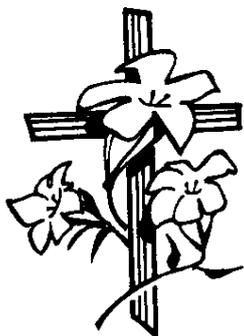
that is why the Church is a home, a place where you are welcome no matter what. So here is where you belong. If all that you have to bring with you is your pain, then that is sufficient. You bring with you whatever you have because you belong here as you are. No preconditions. You come and see us. You know where we are.

*Revd John Nugent BD(Honours)*

## Church Register

*Due to the Minister's attendance at the Assembly, all information will be held over until July.*

## Flowers for Sunday



DATE	KINDLY DONATED BY	ARRANGER
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Mrs Simpson, Ackergill Cres	Donor
10 <sup>th</sup> June	Mrs D Smith, 88 Willowbank	Mrs Harper
17 <sup>th</sup> June	Mrs C Henderson, Girnigoe	Mrs Simpson
24 <sup>th</sup> June	Mr D Henderson, Broadhaven Road	K Harper
1 <sup>st</sup> July	Mrs L Mackay, Biggins, Killimister	Donor



*If you would like*

*date on the rota please contact Mrs Harper on 602612*

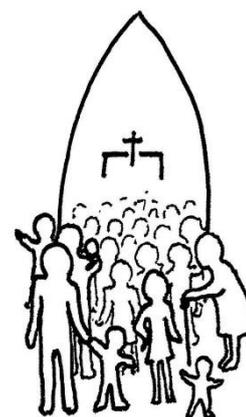
**THE LARGE HALL IS IN USE EVERY SATURDAY FROM 7.30am UNTIL 1pm**

**FLOWERS CANNOT BE ARRANGED BETWEEN THESE TIMES**

*to fill an empty*

## Church Duty Rota

Date	BUS	STAIRS	DOOR	DOOR	USHER
3 <sup>rd</sup> June	M Thomson	J Mackay	B Campbell	G Macdonald	M Foubister
10 <sup>th</sup> June	G Watt	A Sinclair	W Robertson	*****	G Ramsay
17 <sup>th</sup> June	J Cormack	H Gray	R Mappin	M Duffy	I Banks
24 <sup>th</sup> June	J Coghill	E Henderson	*****	A Duffy	J Mclennan
1 <sup>st</sup> July	M Foubister	M Thomson	G Macdonald	J Mackay	B Campbell



## Poetry Corner

### Wee Haiku

I thought about this,  
a disrespectful person,  
dispenses hate words.

© John Nugent

### Wee Haiku

Love was weaponised,  
it attacked the ungrateful.  
It was love no more.

© John Nugent



## **GUILD**

### **May 7th.**

Mrs Kathlyn Harper led the meeting and after the opening hymn, reading and prayer, she handed over to Mr Alistair Sinclair, who told us how he progressed from filming his first son as a baby, right through to capturing local events and making DVDs. He brought along a variety of DVDs, which illustrated the diversity of his hobby in capturing history in the making, including travelogues of Caithness, which are now being shown in the Heritage Museum to give tourists a flavour of the area. The film he showed us was of the 2009 Wick Gala crowning ceremony and procession and we were delighted to listen to the guest speaker, our own Mr Harry Gray, whose speech received a resounding round of applause by us, as well as the crowd gathered in the Market Square. Kathlyn thanked Alistair for his excellent talk and DVD, before she closed the meeting and the members enjoyed a cup of tea before returning home.

### **May 21st.**

Before the meeting began, Mrs Janet McDonald paid a short tribute to Mrs Evie Glass, who had passed away that morning in a nursing home in Elgin at the age of 92. She had been a stalwart member of Bridge Street Church, before joining the congregation of Wick St. Fergus on the union and renewing her membership of the Guild. She is remembered with great affection and respect and our sympathy is extended to her daughter Elise and family in Elgin.

Janet then opened the meeting with a hymn, reading and prayer, before handing over to our guest speaker Mrs Maureen O'Neill, who is no stranger to us in St. Fergus. Using the Guild strategy of *One Journey, Many Roads*, Maureen had us enthralled as she told us of her life's journey, through her early education, to being seriously ill and being given 6 months to live at the age of 24, her career in education including teaching in Dunblane, when the massacre took place. This was followed by one year in Hertfordshire, which stretched to 17, before retiring with her husband Leslie to Caithness in 2011. Her talk was illustrated by music and poems and her humour shone through as she outlined her faith and beliefs. The evening passed very quickly and it was soon time to close the meeting and enjoy a cup of tea and chat before returning home.

### **Future Dates**

4<sup>th</sup> June - Speaker Mrs Doreen Leith from Wick Voices.

18<sup>th</sup> June - Mrs Kerry Spiers from Tartan at Heart.

27<sup>th</sup> June - Caithness Guilds' Summer Rally, Lybster. 7.30pm. Transport available.

2<sup>nd</sup> July - Speaker Mr Harry Gray. This is the last meeting before the summer break.

## **Remembering 14<sup>th</sup> June 1928**

Emmeline Pankhurst, leader of the British suffragette movement, died 90 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1928. Less than a month later, women were given equal voting rights with men. Born in Moss Side, Manchester, in 1858, she helped found the militant Women's Social and Political Union in 1903, after the death of her husband. They became known as suffragettes to distinguish them from the more law-abiding suffragists, who included many Christians.

The suffragettes often attacked church buildings, because the Church of England as an institution was seen as opposing votes for women. Nevertheless, there were large numbers of Christians in the Church League for Women's Suffrage, which by 1914 had over 5000 members.

Mrs Pankhurst was arrested on many occasions and went on hunger strike, which led to violent force-feeding. But she ended her militancy at the outbreak of war, reasoning that it would be no good having the vote if her country ceased to exist. It was the use of female labour during the war that led as much as anything to their eventually obtaining the vote.

In 1926 Mrs Pankhurst surprised many people by joining the Conservative party; she was selected to run for Parliament shortly before she died.

# FORTHCOMING EVENTS – DIARY

## pudding Night – Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July

for

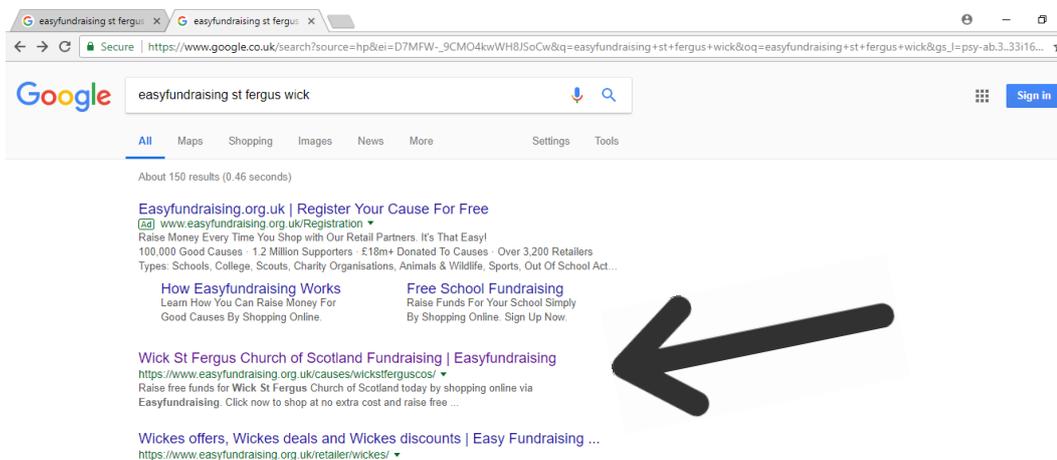


Our now annual pudding night will be held on 4<sup>th</sup> July. Entry is £4, half price children. We will have an amazing, mouth watering selection of puddings to sample. Grab a bowl, and a spoon, and fill up. Spread the word, bring your friends and have a lovely night of food, chat and tea/coffee.

## Easy Fundraising for Wick St Fergus

I suspect a lot of you within the congregation purchase items online from the Internet and if you do then this is a way you can help raise money for our Church at no additional cost to yourself. We have registered the Charity “Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland” with [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk). This allows anyone to set up an account with [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) and select Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland as your preferred Charity/Organisation. If you then make any purchase via the [easyfundraising](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) portal, the Church will be given a donation as a percentage of your purchase, at no additional cost to yourself.

Typically the donations are either between 1% and 15% of the purchase price of the order or in some cases fixed amounts. There is a comprehensive list of websites within the [easyfundraising](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) portal that cover just about every conceivable purchase you are likely to make. It is so simple and easy, you can start straight away. Just type ***easyfundraising St Fergus wick*** into Google search bar. Then click on the St Fergus page. (see arrow in image below) and follow the instructions. Simple. And as soon as you start spending, you donate, at NO extra cost to yourself. Go on, give it a try.



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

**Please can all items for May’s newsletter be with Michelle by Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> June – Thank you.**

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