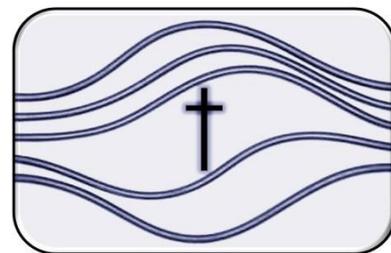




Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



May 2018

Hello everyone and welcome to May 2018. The weather is getting warmer, a bit, and my jokes are not getting any better so don't say that you haven't been warned. On the 20th of this month my brother Craig will be 54. Since I know that he is an avid reader of this illustrious newsletter I know that he will be grateful that I have told the whole of Caithness about this. And since this newsletter is also available on the interweb and is read by gazillions of people across the world, he will no doubt be pleased to know that everyone, literally everyone knows about this.

Now some people are a bit funny when it comes to others knowing about their age. In fact, others are also a bit funny when someone finds out all kinds of inconvenient information about them and justifiably so. There have been not a few scandals concerning the use made by social media of private information about individuals. In some cases that information has been passed on to private companies and newspapers and it is right that action is taken against such misuse. But there is an old saying: knowledge is power. I know that you will find this hard to believe but some politicians do not like it when information is leaked to the public domain. In some cases, this hiding of information is used to protect against political embarrassment. In other cases, information is leaked in order to destroy the character and credibility of another. This is reprehensible and it is only right and just to call the powers that be to account for their misuse of information for whatever cause.

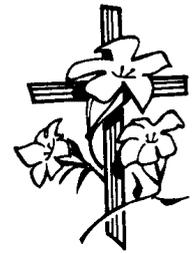
Now in the worldwide Church we are in the information sharing business. We also make use of information. Here's how it breaks down: information sharing is in the Church's DNA and is contained in the last command given by Christ before he returned to his Father in Heaven. He said: Go into the whole world and make disciples from all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit and teach them everything that I have commanded you. This is the information charter of the universal Church of Christ.

Now there will be times when the requirements of this charter will come into conflict with opposing forces like governments and empires and political expediency. This is especially so when it comes to the government abuse of power or when governments seek to enshrine laws which protect inequality. An example of this is the attempts made to hide the full extent of suffering caused as part of the recent Windrush scandal. In other cases, government agencies have been assisted by their bosses in hiding scandals by the hiding of information. The facts are often covered up by false flagging. In such cases, because of Christ's commitment to justice it is part of the Church's job to call out those who abuse positions of power. This gets us into trouble with some of the powers that be, not that I am naming names of course. But you get the gist of what I am saying. The point is that we would not be authentic Christians if we did not call out the misuse of power. It has got me into trouble before and I would do it again because the people of this town and county are the care of the people of God. Like it says in the L'Oreal advert: we do this because you are worth it.

Christ certainly thought and we at St Fergus think that it is a pretty important idea to agree with our boss (not me, you understand, but the boss upstairs). We are good news people and we believe that suppression of news also suppresses hope. That is one reason why I have never hidden my struggle with depression. Telling truth is important in order to suppress the lie and the curse of false flagging and stigmatisation. Our lives are open books and we believe that this is healthy. It makes it possible for folks to speak to us in confidence. 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:

4th April - Fordyce "Fordie" Smith (nee Mutch) – beloved wife of the late Ian Smith and dear Mum to Kevin and Anne

4th April - Alan Spencer – dear brother to Betty, Billy and Robert – 4th April 2018

5th April - Frederick "Fred" Sutherland Harper – husband to the late Joan Harper and dear brother to Tommy, Sasa and Katherine.

10th April - Barbara Stewart (nee Swanson) – beloved wife to Sandy Stewart and dear mum to Kevin and Rachel, step mum to Sue Ellen and Lisa.

18th April - Donald MacGregor – beloved husband to Catherine and loving father.

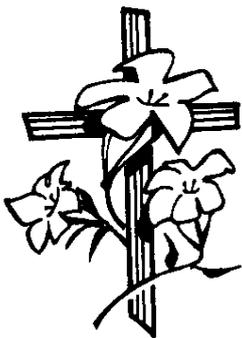
20th April - Gary Stewart Macalpine "Wee Wees" – dear son to Sandy and Millie.

26th April – Ivy Perry (Nee Downing) latterly of Lybster, and Pulteney House in Wick – beloved wife of the late Walter, dear Mum and mother in law.

BAPTISMS:

1st April - Pamela Macadie; Baptised and admitted to membership of Wick St Fergus Church

Flowers for Sunday



DATE	KINDLY DONATED BY	ARRANGER
6 th May	Mrs Robertson, Macleod Road	Mrs Harper
13 th May	Mrs P Watt, Whitehouse Park	Donor
20 th May	Mrs M Foubister	Donor
27 th May	The Malcolm Family	Mrs Simpson
3 rd June	Mrs Simpson, Ackergill Cres	Donor



If you would like

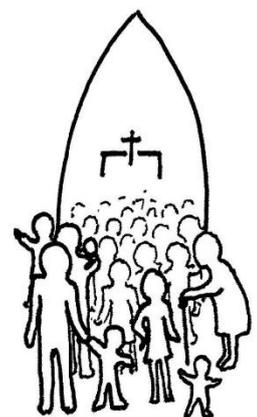
date on the rota please contact Mrs Harper on 602612

THE LARGE HALL IS IN USE EVERY SATURDAY UNTIL 11.30 - FLOWERS CANNOT BE ARRANGED THEN

to fill an empty

Church Duty Rota

Date	BUS	STAIRS	DOOR	DOOR	USHER
6 th May	J Mackay	B Campbell	J Coghill	G Macdonald	M Thomson
13 th May	A Sinclair	G Ramsay	G Watt	*****	W Robertson
20 th May	M Duffy	R Mappin	I Banks	H Gray	J Cormack
27 th May	A Duffy	*****	J Mclennan	E Henderson	J Coghill
3 rd June	M Thomson	J Mackay	B Campbell	G Macdonald	M Foubister



Sermon Information from the Minister

DATE	READING 1	READING 2	SUBJECT	DAY OF CHURCH CALENDAR
13 th May	Ezekiel 36:24-28	John 17:6-19	Brought home	7 th of Easter
20 th May	TBC	TBC	TBC	Pentecost
27 th May	TBC	TBC	TBC	Trinity Sunday
3 rd June	TBC	TBC	TBC	1 st after Trinity



GUILD

9th April. There was a good attendance at the first meeting of the new Guild Session. The members were in good heart and good voice as they enjoyed a *Songs of Praise* of hymns, poems and readings based on the current Guild Strategy of One Journey, Many roads, put together by Kathleen Robertson. Ruth Ferguson's expertise on the piano kept the singing on the right musical road and the beautiful rendition of "All in the April Evening" sung by Maureen Robertson,

Dorothy Johnston and Kathlyn Harper was the highlight of the evening. A comprehensive vote of thanks was given by Janet McDonald, who was in the chair and members enjoyed a welcome cup of tea before they made their way home.

22nd April. The Guild meeting on Monday 22nd April took the form of the ever popular "Matter of Opinion." Our Leader for the evening was Mrs Phyllis Gray and after our opening devotions she handed the evening over to the invited panellists; Mrs Jeanette Coghill, Mrs Michelle Foubister, Mr Jimmy Johnston and Mr Alistair Sinclair, the chairman was Mr Harry Gray. The panel gave their opinions on a variety of questions, a few serious but mostly of a lighter vein, ranging from food heaven & hell, space travel, and people from the past they would like to meet - the result was an interesting and often hilarious evening. We are grateful to our panel for giving up their time to take part and giving us a most entertaining meeting. After our closing, tea and biscuits was served.

Future Dates

3rd May – Spring Rally in Watten Church – 7.30pm

7th May - Alistair Sinclair will be showing one of his DVDs.

11th May - The Church of Scotland Guild Caithness Gathering. Pulteneytown Parish Church; 10-12.30

21st May – The speaker will be Mrs Maureen O'Neill.

Transport is available for both dates and all are welcome.

The Church of Scotland Guild Caithness Gathering.

Everyone is welcome to attend and Guild members are particularly encouraged to be there. Bring yourself! And maybe a pen and paper and a bag to carry the free resources that will be there. There will also be a Guild shop, so you may wish to have some money for that.

This is a special celebration of the Church of Scotland Guild led by a team from the Guild Executive in Edinburgh. There will be uplifting music, useful workshops, inspiring talks and opportunity for fellowship and fun. Don't miss it!

Recent events: Thrift

Our recent thrift was a roaring success and raised an amazing £1720. Thanks to all the willing helpers who set up, cleared up and special thanks to those who gave their time manning stalls each day, all with patience and good humour. The array of goods and lovely baking donated attracted many customers and our immense total was only achieved through your continued support.

STREET STALL

The street stall on Friday 27th April proved another successful fundraiser. Many thanks to those who came with lovely baking, jams, rhubarb and daffodils for our stall, and of course to those who supported us on the day. A grand total of £317 was raised.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Pudding Night – May

Our now annual pudding night has always been a great success. With amazingly tempting and tantalising delights on offer, it is always very well attended.

LOOK OUT FOR FURTHER INFO IN NEXT MONTHS MAGAZINE



Christian Humour

A little boy opened the family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible. He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between two pages.

“Mum, look what I found,” the boy called out.

“What have you got there dear?” his mum questioned.

With astonishment in the young boy’s voice, he answered, “I think it’s Adam’s underwear!”

Canticle

Though I speak in tongues of angels and of men,
and have not love what good would it do then?
And though I prophesy and understand all,
and have not love, it would do no good at all,
do no good at all.

Though I give my life to be burned in the fire,
and have not love, then my pride is my funeral pyre
Though I display my mind and show off my good thoughts,
and have not love, it just proves that I’ve been bought,
and that I’ve been caught.

And though I memorise a thousand creedal words,
and have not love my existence would be absurd.
And if I give my goods in a great display of pride,
and have not love I would have nowhere left to hide,
and no one by my side.

And if I stand tall and speak to great acclaim,
and if to the truth I testify,
and if with my rhetoric I all hearts I could inflame,
without love I’d be a lie.

For everything I do and say and imply
without pure love.....
Words without love and actions without care
are meaningless and won’t take you anywhere
take you anywhere. © John Nugent

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

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Please can all items for May's newsletter be with Michelle by Wednesday 23rd May – Thank you.

Congregational No.41229.

Scottish Charity No.SC013840