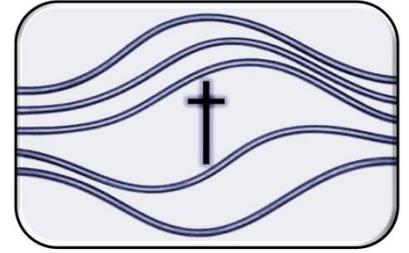




# Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



**May 2016**

This month's leader article has a strange, bittersweet quality to it. Last month Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland lost one of the finest Christian souls it has ever been my privilege to serve with. Margaret Crowe passed away on the morning of Tuesday the 20<sup>th</sup> of April. But Margaret was more than simply another cancer statistic. Margaret was a shining example of what it meant to be a Christian in today's post-modern world. She wasn't afraid to embrace or at least examine new ideas and she also appreciated the value of history and so didn't throw the baby out with the bath water, as it were.

Discussions with Margaret and her beloved husband, Leslie, around her kitchen table over her incredible homemade soup and sandwiches, liberally laced with her out-of-this-world tomato chutney, ranged from the Kirk's history of exclusion towards LGBT folks to the Kirk's heating system. Margaret was both knowledgeable and enquiring. Let me assure you, she wasn't afraid to ask questions. Together with Leslie they formed a formidable team and from them I learned all about what it meant to be dedicated to the cause of Christ in this place. They were among the strongest supporters that not only I but also my two predecessors, Stuart Frizzel and Stephen Thompson, had.

This former operating theatre nurse knew how to calm the often short temper of this emotional Minister (me that is) and always provided a ready ear and shoulder for listening and leaning purposes. Margaret also had the incredible ability to puncture pomposity and she knew how to bring me back down to earth when I became "up myself" with delusions of grandeur. She could read me like a book. Margaret was the kind of woman who, according to my grandmother, could see through a wall in time. That such a brave, strong and sensitive woman should succumb to cancer, a scourge she had previously defeated, is an injustice that makes me want to scream towards the heavens at how unfair our existence in this world is, at the injustice of it all. And if Margaret ever felt like that you would never have guessed it. Her first thoughts were always for others.

Both Margaret and Leslie worked with me on many of the weddings I conducted here in the Kirk and she was always there for the often nervous grooms who stood waiting with trepidation on their future wives. And if they were still "tired and emotional" after self-medicating the night before then lots of black coffee was available. When my own mother passed away the first folks who called to see how I was were Margaret and Leslie. Actually the first people I met from the Kirk when I arrived from Glasgow back in 2009 were Margaret and Leslie. Ronnie Johnstone and I knocked on the Manse door in Miller Avenue and it was opened by Margaret. And from both Margaret and Leslie I was reminded of a very important lesson in true Christian spirituality. You can go to a Kirk for years, have been on Kirk Sessions, committees, stood up to preach and have an encyclopaedic knowledge of Church lore but unless how you deal with others is your main evidence then all claims of being a Christian are pretensions. I can honestly say that we are all going to miss them both very much.

Margaret was special. She still is special and will remain special in our memories. And if I can be selfish for a moment, I am going to miss her. I won't be able to attend the funeral but I want to finish this wee tribute in the way that I would if I were conducting her passing from this world to the next: And so, Margaret, we release you into your well-deserved rest. Be received as an honoured daughter knowing that your welcome is assured. In the Salvation Army they used to speak of being promoted to glory. You have received your well-earned promotion. Well done thou good and faithful servant. It's time to go on home.

**Revd John Nugent BD(Honours)**

## Church Register

**DEATHS:** We are sorry to report the passing of the following people:

Ingrid Sutherland: 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016

Cathy Berenicki: daughter of Robert More: Interment of Ashes: 7<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Norma Morris: 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Sanders Donn: April 14<sup>th</sup> 2016

Norman MacDonald: 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016

Margaret Crowe: 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016

### **Baptisms**

Nathan Rae Sinclair, son of William & Chankhao Sinclair, grandson of George & Vida Sinclair

## **Diary**

Choir                      Wednesdays  
5<sup>th</sup> May                      Stewardship – 7pm  
12<sup>th</sup> May                      Board – 7pm  
28<sup>th</sup> May                      Pudding Night

## **Flowers for Sunday**

DATE	DONOR	ARRANGER
1 <sup>st</sup> May	Mrs A McAllan	Mrs Johnson
8 <sup>th</sup> May	Mrs A Roberston	Donor
15 <sup>th</sup> May	Mrs P Watt	Donor
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Mrs Foubister	Donor
29 <sup>th</sup> May	The Malcolm Family	Mrs Simpson

## **Church Duty Rota**

Date	BUS	STAIRS	DOOR	DOOR	USHER
1 <sup>st</sup> May	J Coghill	E Henderson	A Duffy	J Houston	J MacIannan
8 <sup>th</sup> May	J Mackay	M Thomson	G Macdonald	M Foubister	B Campbell
15 <sup>th</sup> May	A Rosie	A Sinclair	G Ramsay	G Watt	W Roberston
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	J Cormack	R Mappin	I Banks	H Gray	M Duffy
29 <sup>th</sup> May	E Henderson	J Houston	J MacIannan	J Coghill	A Duffy
5 <sup>th</sup> June	M Thomson	M Foubister	B Campbell	J Mackay	G Macdonald

## **Sermon information from the Minister**

DATE	READING 1	READING 2	SUBJECT	DAY OF CHURCH CALENDAR
1 <sup>st</sup> May	Ezekiel 37: 1-14	John 14: 23-29	Resurrection: the consequences (IV)	6 <sup>th</sup> of Easter
8 <sup>th</sup> May	Psalms 97	Acts 1:6-12	Authority, Power and Love	Day After Ascension
15 <sup>th</sup> May	Psalms 33	John 14:25-27	Signs of the Spirit: The Divine Obsession	Pentecost Sunday
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	Isaiah 6:1-8	1 Corinthians 12:12-27	Unity in Diversity as a Necessity	Trinity Sunday
29 <sup>th</sup> May	1 Kings 18:30-39	James 1:27	A Fragile Unity	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday in Trinity
5 <sup>th</sup> June	Deuteronomy	Luke 7:11-17	Remembrance and Compassion	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Trinity

## Hope

Replace your worry with hope, And fulfil your hope with action.  
Send positive thoughts to your most troubling situation.  
Soon you'll find yourself starting to act on those thoughts.

Instead of worrying about the worst that could happen.  
Allow yourself to hope for the best that can happen.  
In your mind, make the most positive outcome real.

Hope for the best, with passion, conviction and faith.  
For when you do, you'll begin to see real, workable ways to get there.

There is no situation so desperate that it cannot be turned around.  
Always, there is a place and a purpose for hope.  
Hope for the best, and let that hope push you forward.  
With hope in your heart, you're well on your way.

© Parish Window (author unknown)

## A moral lesson from a mother

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5, and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson.

"If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.'

Kevin turned to his younger brother and said, "Ryan, you be Jesus!"

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## What would Jesus do?

While waiting in line to check out at a Christian bookstore, a man noticed another gentleman speaking to the clerk about a display of hats with the letters WWJD on them. The clerk explained that WWJD stood for "What would Jesus do?" and the idea was to consider this question when making decisions. The man pondered this a moment, then replied, "I don't think he would pay £18.95 for this hat!"

## Copper Pot

The copper pot has continued to steadily overflow with your generosity. Thank you all for your kind donations – we will keep you posted with monies counted as we are made aware of the totals.



## Thrift Shop

Our thrift shop held in April was, as always, a great success; and our thanks are due to all the kind folks who donated the superb items for sale, as well as the lovely baking and jams. We are also grateful to the men and ladies who helped set up, clear up, and man the stalls for the days of our thrift. An amazing total of £1530 was raised. Thank you all once more for your continuing support.



The first meeting of café church was a great success, and the second is planned for Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> May in the small hall. Our inaugural café church had many visitors, most of whom had no St Fergus connection, coming along to try out this new method of worship. The format was successful and well received with lively debate, and feedback indicated that all were willing to attend again in the future. All future dates will be announced in church and in the press. Please come along if you would like to try a new way of worship, and tell anyone who might be interested. All are welcome.



**\*\* CHANGE OF DATE\*\***

**PUDDING NIGHT – Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May**

The now annual pudding night will be held in the hall on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> May. As usual, we will have a super selection of sweets and desserts, and you are able to sample as few, or as many, as you would like, just pick up a spoon and a bowl, and delve in. We have an amazing selection of bakers in our community and we are lucky to have such amazing puddings to sample. Detox Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> seems wise!!

**Christian Aid Week: 15-22 May**

This year, Christian Aid week runs from 15 – 22<sup>nd</sup> May. Donation envelopes will be available at the Church door from Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> May and we thank you all in advance for your never ending Christian generosity in support of this important work.



**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. The website is [www.wickstferguschurch.org.uk](http://www.wickstferguschurch.org.uk)

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

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

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