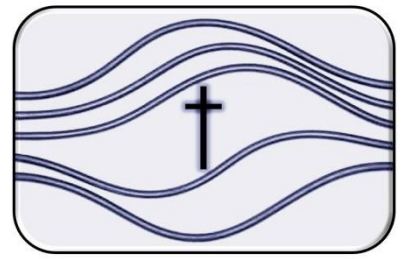




Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



May 2017

Welcome to May. As I write this, looking out of the manse study window over the Glebe and the wonders of nature, as I observe the birds flying about while they seek material for their nests it sets the mind to thinking and contemplation. The thought uppermost in my mind is, "WHAT IS UP WITH THE WEATHER?" I mean, come on, it's the end of April, for goodness sake! We shouldn't be having sleet showers at this time of year! It's bizarre! And it gets worse!

This sets me off on a stream of consciousness. It goes something like this: why on earth did that referee give a penalty in that Celtic versus Ross County game? And why were there no Tunnock's Teacakes[®]™ in Wetherspoons this week? And why do people park so bizarrely on Macarthur Street? What is the purpose of Irish country music? How many angels can dance on the head of a tack? It's not that I am obsessive or anything like that, but these things concern me and keep me awake at night with righteous anger. Actually, I am winding you all up. These things, at the end of the day, don't amount to a hill of beans when compared to what is really important like justice, inclusion, peace (with others and with God), caring for one another, welcoming others, the economy and how the poor are created and treated by those who should know better.

There are many more issues. They are what should occupy us. The Bible has a lot to say about this sort of thing. In St Matthew's Gospel my real boss has some important things to say about all of this. In chapter 25 Jesus speaks of the final judgment of all things. But the measure of what is going to be important is not anything petty or obscure. Far from it.

The measure against how people will be judged is not some obscure theological concern which has the appearance of divinity but which actually denies and opposes God's intentions for his world. The judge looks at the unco guid (those who thought that they had their feet under God's table) and then he looks at those to his right and says to the unco guid: "In as much as you have not done it to the least of these, MY BROTHERS AND SISTERS, you have not done it to me." What is important is NOT my personal salvation or having Jesus as my personal saviour, phrases that are never used in the Bible by Jesus or anybody.

Our devotion to God is seen in our devotion to what is truly important to him, issues such as justice, grace, love, fairness, equality, elimination of poverty caused so that others can live in privilege. Don't be diverted by religious niceties. When candidates in the coming council elections come to your door or when they come up to you in the street don't be satisfied if they are answering questions which you have not asked. Don't be diverted by personal attacks on other political personalities or philosophies. Ask your canvasser: what will your people do about unemployment in our town, how will you support our health service provision, what have your folk done about this up to now IN OUR AREA?

What is truly important to us will be seen in how we act. This is true for citizens and with those who claim or would seek to represent them. Don't be satisfied with petty concerns. Don't be fobbed off with pat answers. Examine yourself. Examine our town and county. Examine them. At Wick St Fergus we take our parish responsibilities very seriously. Stop me in the street or come and see us and ask questions. You know where we are.

(Revd John Nugent BD Honours)

Church Register

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

28th March - James "Jimmy" Macdonald.

30th March - David Robertson: Husband of Anne.

31st March - Annie "Nancy" King: wife of the late Angus King and mother of the late Gary King.

31st March - Robert "Bertie" Webster: husband of the late Betty Webster

8th April - Catherine Ross: Wife of Alistair, Mum of Daniel, daughter of Patricia "Pat" Weir.

19th April 2017 - John McAllister Alexander: husband to Wendy and father to Lisa, Marie, John and the late Kate.

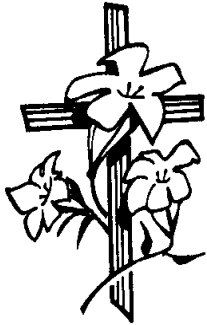
WEDDINGS:

7th April – Thomas Sutherland and Dawn Farquhar were married by the minister in Ackergill Tower. They will be setting up home in Australia.

BAPTISMS:

9th April - Holly Henderson, daughter of Colin and Gemma Henderson and granddaughter of Donald and Elizabeth Henderson.

16th April - Ohana Giorgia Macphee, daughter of Yvonne Macphee.



Flowers for Sunday

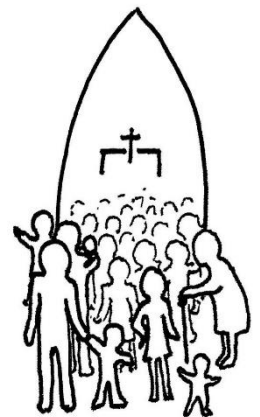
DATE	KINDLY DONATED BY	ARRANGER
7 th May	VACANT	
14 th May	Mrs P Watt	Donor
21 st May	Mrs Foubister	Donor
28 th May	The Malcolm Family	Mrs Simpson
4 th June	Mrs Simpson, Ackergill Cres	Donor



If you are able to fill a vacant slot on the flower list, please contact Mrs Harper on 602612. Thanks in advance.

Church Duty Rota

Date	BUS	STAIRS	DOOR	DOOR	USHER
7 th May	G Mackay	M Thomson	M Foubister	G Macdonald	B Campbell
14 th May	*****	A Sinclair	G Ramsay	G Watt	W Roberston
21 st May	J Cormack	R Mappin	I Banks	H Gray	M Duffy
28 th May	E Henderson	J Houston	J Coghill	J Maclennan	A Duffy
4 th June	M Thomson	M Foubister	B Campbell	J Mackay	G Macdonald



If you are unable to attend on your duty day please arrange a swap.

*Dates with ***** require cover. Please assist if you are in attendance on the day.*

With thanks, The Minister



THE GUILD

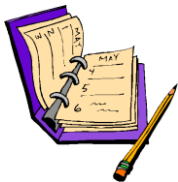
27th March - Monday March 27th saw the beginning of the Guild's new session. They have decided to have the Guild during the summer in the lighter nights. Mrs Janet McDonald welcomed our members to the new session and after the opening devotions handed the evening over to our special guests, Wick Arion Choir who along with accompanist Miss Norma Sinclair and under the baton of their conductor Mrs

Barbara Nicol gave us a delightful evening beginning with a trio of songs, The Dark Island, Kate Dalrymple and The Lord's my shepherd to the Vicar of Dibley theme. This was followed by a solo by Lesley Hendry, Make me a Channel of your Peace. Following a selection from Les Miserables, Marjory Bain entertained us with a Willie Lyall dialect poem. The choir then sang I had a Dream from Abba, the Beatles hit "When I'm 64," Bette Midler's "The Rose" and John Denver's "You fill up my senses" and Hallelujah. Anne Duffy then sang "Remember Me" and the choir ended the evening with a lovely rendition of "All in the April Evening." Mrs Kathleen Robertson gave the votes of thanks and the company then sat down to tea.

10th April - Our meeting of Monday April 10th was led by Mrs. Phyllis Gray who held the theme of Holy Week and during the opening prayer remembered our member Mrs Pat Weir. Following the opening, the evening was handed over to our guest for the evening, Harry Gray who treated us to a slide show "A Walk in the Past" taking us on a scenic tour of Wick long ago. The images stirred the memories of many of our members and excited much comment and discussion as each image was revealed beginning in Willowbank of the 1930s, along the north shore, through Wick town centre, around Pulteney and the harbour of old, finishing with the first and last Wick Herring Queens which also attracted much comment and naming of the Queen's Court, a splendid and nostalgic evening. Following the closing hymn and benediction the company enjoyed a nice cuppa and a blether.

Sermon information from the Minister

DATE	READING 1	READING 2	SUBJECT	DAY OF CHURCH CALENDAR
7 th May	Psalm 23	John 10:1-10	The Voice of the Shepherd	4 th Sunday of Easter
14 th May	Ezekiel 37:1-12	John 5:19-24	Resurrection Purpose	5 th Sunday of Easter
21 st May	Psalm 73:21-28	John 14:15-21	Resurrection Company	6 th Sunday in Easter
28 th May	Ezekiel 36:24-28	John 17:1-11	Never Alone	Sunday After Ascension Day
4 th June	Joel 2:21-32	Acts 2:22-33	The Comforter Has Come	Pentecost Sunday



DIARY for MAY/ FORTHCOMING EVENTS

- 4th Stewardship Meeting – 7pm
- 11th Board – 7pm
- 20th Pudding night – 6.30pm

Pudding night: 20th May

Our annual pudding night will be held on Saturday 20th May @ 6.30. We will have a super selection of sweets and desserts, and you can sample as few, or as many, as you like, just pick up a spoon and a bowl, and delve in. We are lucky to have the support to do this again. All donations will be gratefully received on the morning of 20th. Thanks in advance to all our lovely bakers.



WEDDING EXHIBITION: Saturday 17th June: 10.30 – 4.00

We will be putting together an exhibition of all items wedding related: donations of dresses, shoes, photos, tiaras, horseshoes, invites, acceptances, and any other memorabilia will be gratefully received. All monies raised on the day will be donated to CHAT, further details in next month's magazine. But be sure to start looking out all your wedding related items to proudly display at our exhibition.

Easy Fundraising for Wick St Fergus

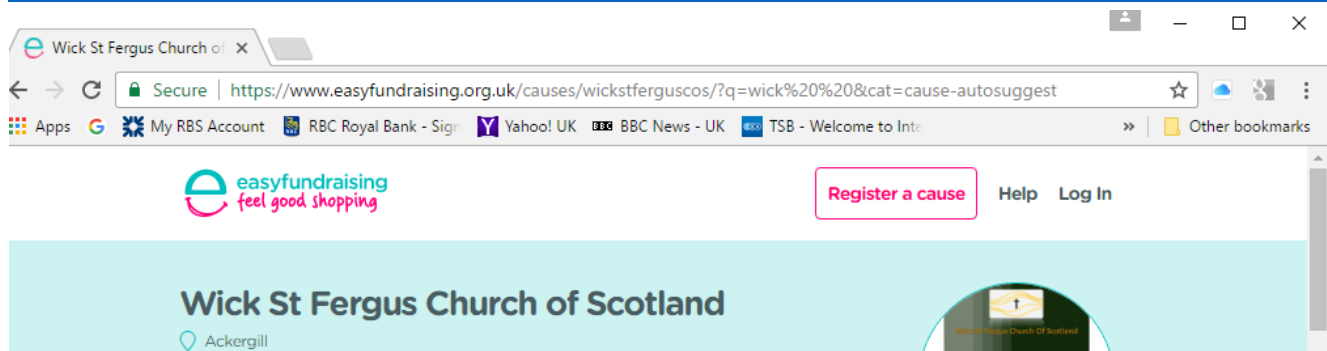
I suspect a lot of you within the congregation purchase items online from the Internet and if you do then this is a way you can help raise money for our Church at no additional cost to yourself. We have registered the Charity "Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland" with easyfundraising.org.uk. This allows anyone to set up an account with easyfundraising.org.uk and select Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland as your preferred Charity/Organization. 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.

How do I start using the Portal?

Just type in the address below into your Internet Browser and you will come to the Wick St Fergus page shown below. Hit **JOIN US** and follow the instructions.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/wickstferguscscos/?q=wick%20%20&cat=cause-autosuggest>



Thrift Shop success

Our thrift shop which was held last month proved very popular and our thanks go to all those who helped set up and clear the hall, to those who manned the stalls and of course, to all who donated items to sell at our thrift. We are very grateful for all donations received, especially the very much in demand items of jam, chutney and baking. An amazing £1100.80 was raised.

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

Please can all items for June's newsletter be with Michelle by Wednesday 24th May –Thank you

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Congregational No.41229.

Scottish Charity No.SC013840