



Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



October 2017

Hello folks! Welcome to the Wick St Fergus Kirk October newsletter. As my old Greenock Granny used to say, “Nights are fair drawin’ in.” As a good Presbyterian it is my profound duty to inform you that the long, slow descent into the depths of winter begins now. Bet that’s cheered you all up! But as you would expect, there is a serious point to this. It has to do with how we perceive darkness. Here in the west we see it as something certain, solid and inevitable. Threatening, even. We view the onset of winter or even the internal darkness that grips the soul as a form of overpowering menace.

Now do not misunderstand me. I have lived through depression myself and I know what the long, dark night of the soul can feel like. One of the saddest things about illnesses of the mind is that they go unseen by others. A broken leg is bad enough but a broken heart or mind can be a truly terrifying thing. But there is hope. This lies, firstly, in understanding the nature of darkness. Simply put, it has no substance in and of itself and any power that it does have is only because we fail to see this and attribute to it more respect than it deserves.

Think of it like this: there is an old eastern proverb which says, “a candle is a protest at midnight. It is a non-conformist. It says to the darkness: I beg to differ.” It only takes one wee lightbulb to chase all of the darkness from a large room. In other words, darkness can only exist in the absence of light. It has no “presence”, only “absence”. When we accept this we immediately regain a measure of control over how we see and experience things. One of my favourite writers, the late Viktor Frankl, wrote in his epic work “Man’s Search For Meaning” that whoever has a “why” to live for can endure almost any “how.”

Once we regain purpose and meaning for our lives we don’t need to worry so much about how we are going to get there. A sense of purpose, a sense that we might be more than what others say that we are, has tremendous healing powers. This is why, for example, the behind the doors attempts to pit the Dunbar Unit Against the Town and County Unit are so insidious. People are seen as items on a balance sheet and are treated as such. Is it any wonder that vulnerable people lose heart and begin to feel that there is no point in fighting on, that there is no purpose so we might as well give in? But when we embrace light we learn that things change.

Jesus once said that he was the light of the world, that whoever followed him would never walk in darkness. A renewed sense of purpose gives that to us because Jesus said in St Matthew’s Gospel in the Sermon on the Mount that WE are also the light of the world and that we are to so shine our light that people might recover hope (see God in us). That is why we fight for justice. That is why we do not give up on people, even if all that they have to bring to us is their need. One of the ways that we practice this at St Fergus is to practice openness and inclusion because we believe that everyone has a purpose and that everyone has a contribution of value to make in making our world, our community a better place, a place of purpose, a place where darkness has no place. Our unofficial anthem is the hymn “All are welcome in this place.” All can take part. All can feel welcome. All have a part to play in welcoming others. All belong. ALL CAN HAVE A RENEWED SENSE OF PURPOSE. If you want to learn more about having your sense of purpose renewed then 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:

31.8.17 - Agnes "Nancy" Maltmann: Wife of the late John, a dear sister, mother and grandmother.

6.9.17 - Margaret Smith: Wife of the late David, a dear mother and granny.

8.9.17 - Charlie Thompson: Dear Husband of Jessie, loving father and grandfather.

11.9.17 - Andy McPhee: Dear brother and uncle.

16.9.17 - Keith Budge: Dear husband of Jean, loving father to Kevin and Alison, son of Mrs B Budge.

19.9.17 - Kathleen Gunn nee Sinclair. Sadly missed.

22.9.17 - Isabella "Isobel" McBoyle. Loving mother of George and the late Wilma, Margaret & John.



Flowers for Sunday

DATE	KINDLY DONATED BY	ARRANGER
1 st Oct	Guild	Mrs Robertson
8 th Oct	Harvest - Mrs J Cormack	Donor
15 th Oct	The family of the late Mrs Gates	Mrs Harper
22 nd Oct	Family of the Late Mrs Barrett	Mrs Harper
29 th Oct	Mrs P Weir, Huddart St	Donor
5 th Nov	Mrs Kathleen Robertson	Donor

If you would like to fill an empty date on the rota please contact Mrs Harper on 602612



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

Church Duty Rota

******ELDERS PLEASE NOTE CHANGES TO**

ROTA****

Date	BUS	STAIRS	DOOR	DOOR	USHER
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obstetric fistula, which causes incontinence and the women are considered unclean and ostracised. Girls miss out on their education by having to stay off school each month and never reach their full potential.

Giving pants may seem a small thing to do, but it can make a life changing difference to women and girls, who have no access to such "luxuries". The St. Fergus Guild Pantometer stands at 161 pairs.

Everyone is welcome to add their support for this good cause and the sizes to look for are **Girls age 3 - 15** and **Ladies sizes 8 - 16**. These may be given to Janet McDonald or any Guild member by the end of October. Thank you in anticipation.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

7TH OCTOBER - WEDDING OPEN DAY: 10.30 - 3.30



By the time you read this our planned wedding open day will be almost upon us. If you have a wedding dress, tiara, head-dress, jewellery, photos etc. please drop them in to us for our exhibition. We hope to have a vast display of wedding items so do not hesitate to contact us if you have anything you would be happy to lend us. Please contact us if you have any dresses/ larger items you would like collected or to arrange delivery and we promise to take very good care of your precious



memories.

Entry is £3 and all proceeds for this event

will be donated

to CHAT.



17th -

19th

October:

Autumn Thrift

10.30 am - 3.30pm Tues 17th & Wed 18th

10.30 - 12 noon on Thurs 19th, October

The thrift is almost upon us; there will be the usual stalls of home baking, jams and chutney, and all donations of these will be gratefully received. If you are unable to deliver, please contact Mrs Harper for collection on 602612. Thank you in advance for your generous donations.

The hall will be open for the hang up and to receive goods between 2pm and 4pm on Friday 13th.

FOOD HYGIENE

Without the help and support of all the folk who bake and make jams and chutneys for our fundraising events and social occasions we would be a very poor church in all ways, and for this we want to thank you all more than we can say. However, in order for us to continue this good work we must all conform to Church of Scotland guidelines for Food Hygiene, and some of us will be attending a Food Hygiene Course later in the year. Although we are quite sure you all know what steps to take for good cleanliness and hygiene, as part of our Risk Assessment, we have to remind you of the main points:



