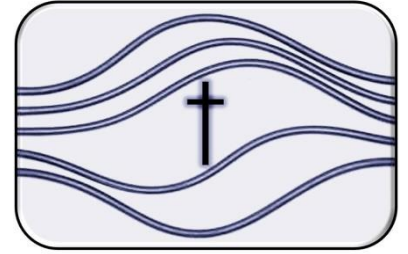




# Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



**September 2016**

Welcome to September, folks. This leader article is going to be a bit different because I wanted to use it to pay tribute to the life and memory of the late Revd Alistair Roy. Alistair was the last Minister of Wick Bridge Street Church of Scotland before that Kirk's union with Wick Old Parish Church to form Wick St Fergus Church. As many of you will no doubt know, the Reverend Alistair Roy, last minister of the former Bridge Street Church of Scotland, passed into the presence of his Lord and Saviour on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> of August. His funeral was held at Aberdeen Crematorium on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> of August.

Alistair was not only a figure of significance in the town and district, the character of this godly man left a huge impression on the town and Kirk which he served from his arrival in 1955 at Wick Bridge Street until he retired through failing health in 2007. He served his Kirk and his community faithfully for fifty-two years. Alistair served his community from the 1970s until the early 2000s as both a community and district councillor and his essentially compassionate and pastoral nature came to the fore during this time.

Just yesterday afternoon I was contacted by one family he had helped on numerous occasions both as councillor and minister. One of the family members told me, "We are a colourful sort of family and as well as helping us with council matters, Mr Roy spent much time with me personally when I went through various troubled times. He never dismissed me or turned me away but he always seemed to have the right thing to say, even if I didn't want to hear it. I will be saying a wee prayer for his family".

Alistair also had a heart for young people. He served faithfully as chaplain to Wick North School and also he was chaplain for many years to Wick Air training corps. His concern for social justice was seen in during the time when he chaired the local branch of Christian Aid. First and foremost, Alistair was a minister of the Gospel, a fine Pastor and great visitor. I had a long conversation with his two sons, Alan and Ian on the afternoon of the 19<sup>th</sup> August and they spoke of his love for Wick, the Church on Bridge Street and for the people of Wick in general. In fact, it was said of him that Alistair was a man of all the people of Wick, not just of his own congregation. He was a regular contributor to the epilogue spot for Radio Remedy. One of Alistair's quirks was his strange sense of punctuality and when Jean was getting ready to finish for the evening she would put on a longer record in order to allow Alistair enough time to get to the studio.

He was a great visitor, usually in the evening, often going on visits straight from work in his garden, leaving muddy footprints behind him on people's carpets. When listening to others speak about him it quickly becomes clear that Alistair was a friend to everybody, that he never turned anybody away, and for Alistair, his commitment to those whom he pastored didn't cease when he left the area. When our own Muriel was in hospital for her heart operation a few years ago, Alistair, who by this time was having mobility issues, came and visited her in his wheelchair. As someone else also put it, "If you needed to speak to someone then he was the person to talk to. He might forget your name sometimes but he always listened." Alistair could be frustrating at times but he was loved and appreciated by all who had the blessing of experiencing his

ministry. Alistair was an intellectual but who also loved the cream cookies on Sunday School picnics. But above all, he loved Wick. And Wick loved him.

Yes, he could be forgetful. At Alan and Adelaine Sinclair's wedding, Adelaine had to go round the block a few times because Alistair forgot about the wedding and somebody had to go and find him. He turned up wearing his wellies under his robe. But Alistair's heart was as big as his intellect. And people responded to that. This was matched by a profound sense of spirituality which in turn informed his pastoral work, work which is still bearing fruit today. The fact that he is still spoken of with great fondness is testimony to what he achieved during his time in Wick, work which continues to have an effect on people's lives. Alistair, well done thou good and faithful servant. Enter in to the joy of thy Lord.

**Revd John Nugent BD (hons)**

## **Church Register**

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

Mrs Elizabeth Hendry: 6<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Mr George Ross: 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Mr Donald Coghill: 13<sup>th</sup> August 2016

Mr Freddie Tait: 18<sup>th</sup> August 2016

**WEDDINGS:**

Donna Mcphee & Graham McBreen - 1<sup>st</sup> July 2016

Gavin Henderson & Susan Taylor – 12<sup>th</sup> August 2016

Ailsa Cowie & Scott Mackay - 20<sup>th</sup> August 2016

Kimberley Smith & Mark Shepherd – 27<sup>th</sup> August 2016

**BAPTISMS:**

Logan Mark Walker – 17<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Freya Reid – 24<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Alfie Alexander – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2016

## **Church Diary**

Choir – Wednesdays: 7.30

Café Church – 11<sup>th</sup> September

Merchant Navy Service – 11<sup>th</sup> September

Communion Sunday – 18<sup>th</sup> September

## **Church Duty Rota**

<b>Date</b>	<b>BUS</b>	<b>STAIRS</b>	<b>DOOR</b>	<b>DOOR</b>	<b>USHER</b>
4 <sup>th</sup> Sept	G Ramsay	A Rosie	W Roberston	A Sinclair	G Watt
11 <sup>th</sup> Sept	H Gray	J Cormack	M Duffy	R Mappin	I Banks
18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	J Coghill	E Henderson	A Duffy	J Houston	J MacIennan
25 <sup>th</sup> Sept	J Mackay	M Thomson	G MacDonald	M Foubister	B Campbell
2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	A Rosie	A Sinclair	G Ramsay	G Watt	W Robertson

## Flowers for Sunday

DATE	DONOR	ARRANGER
4 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Mrs K Robertson, Broadhaven	Donor
11 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<b>Vacant</b>	
18 <sup>th</sup> Sept	Mrs P Gray, Louisburgh Street	Mrs Harper
25 <sup>th</sup> Sept	<b>Vacant</b>	
2 <sup>nd</sup> Oct	Guild	

***There are a couple of vacant dates for the Flower rota. If you are willing to take one, please contact Mrs Gates.***



### Guild News

**Strawberry Teas** – Our Strawberry teas will be on Saturday 17th September @2.30pm. Relax and enjoy a delicious Strawberry tea with a background of images from the Chelsea Flower Show 2016. There will be the usual selection of stalls and we look forward to seeing you there. Admission is £3 payable at the door.

**Guild Presbyterial Council Autumn Rally** - Thurso West church on Wednesday 28th September at 7.30pm. For transport, please contact Janet McDonald (602543)

## Summer updates

### Remember this

The talk prepared and presented by our very own Harry was well attended and raised £260. Thanks once again to Harry, as well as everyone who attended.

### Book sale

Our summer book sale raised the amazing total of £528. As always, we give our thanks to everyone who helped set up, dismantle, those who were helping at the sale, and all our customers. We are very blessed to live in such a generous town.

## Harvest Open Day Saturday 8th October

### **Caithness Past**

**We are looking for all things Caithness.**

**Photos, Paintings, Patchwork, Knitted Items, Tapestries Fishing or Agricultural items,**

**Models of any kind**

**Anything to do with Caithness**

**For more details or to offer items Contact, Elizabeth Henderson or Harry Gray.**



The next meeting of our café church will be Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> September. This is still a relatively new venture, but is proving to be a great success. If you are interested in church, but not quite sure how to “come in”, or, if you fancy a coffee and a blether, then come on over and see us. All are welcome.

### **Minister’s Poetry Corner**

For Betty With The Black, Black Hair

The loved ones came to welcome her. She did not want to go but life had become such a trial for her that She had no option but to leave. Her husband didn’t want her to go but her suffering left him broken of heart. And so the loved ones whispered in their ears. They whispered comfort and healing love. They sang of the hospitality of the great, long hall of the Swift-Sure-Hand and his welcoming Aspect. For a moment she opened one eye and saw them. They shared her tears but in their eyes she saw something special. And then they spoke: Come with us to the land of the ever-young.

© John Nugent



### **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 October’s newsletters be with Michelle by Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> September – Thank you*

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