



Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



September 2017

Welcome to September. As we say in Port Glasgow, “the nights are fair drawin’ in”. Days are shorter and nights are longer. I thought that I would mention that in order to cheer you all up. If you are looking for something to do on the cold winter days then may I please make a wee suggestion? Come and see us at Wick St Fergus Kirk. You know it makes sense. We are not perfect. We sometimes make mistakes, big and small ones. But this I can promise you - no one is ever turned away.

Our unofficial motto comes from what has become our favourite hymn: all are welcome in this place. It was the first hymn ever sung after the union of the former Wick Old and Bridge Street congregations and it set the tone, I hope, for my time as minister here in this wonderful town. We strive to be a community of faith which is inclusive in every way. What do I mean by inclusive? It means that we affirm all who come to us. We place no barriers to participation on the basis of gender, sexuality, economic status, where you live, your surname, your family situation, age or infirmity.

Now this causes problems for some people. There are some faith centres where women are hindered from bringing their many gifts to be used in Christ’s service. I well remember one Kirk to which I had been attached where the elders received many complaints after women were given permission to uplift the offering. I’m not kidding you! That’s just a wee example to show you that sometimes churches get it wrong. No matter how we try to convince ourselves that we are perfect and that our way of interpreting Christianity is the only way, we still get it wrong. Why? Precisely because we are not perfect!

Our understanding of God is limited. That is one reason why we need one another. We exhort one another and we sustain one another. It reminds me of something that St Paul said in his letter to the early Church in Galatia in what is now Turkey. He said - ***bear one another’s burdens and so fulfil the law of Christ.*** We learn more about God from one another than we will ever do from sermons and books. Not that we learn nothing from these things but thinking about this I am also reminded of something that one of my Kirk heroes once said. His name is St John of the Cross and he lived in Spain on the fourteenth century. He said, and this is a prayer that I use at the start of every sermon, ***Lord, strip away from us the pious sounding words of sermons and books that we might encounter you in your truth face to face.*** We learn from one another. All that we ask is that folks come with an open mind, willing to learn.

It actually comes as a surprise to some to learn that they have a mind. Did you know that? The great renaissance scientist, Galileo, once wrote after one of his famous skirmishes with the Inquisition: ***I am not convinced that the God who gifted us with the blessing of having a mind ever intended for us to forego its use.*** And so when we invite you to come to Wick St Fergus please be aware that it is an invitation to come and learn with us. Some folk might say that they have God all wrapped up. I’m not sure to which God they are referring, certainly not the God I believe in. And if they do say this then they are, at best, deluded. The people of this town have taught me so much over the past eight and a half years. We would love to hear from you. That is why we have the Cafe Church initiative here. It begins again in September. Some come and learn from us just as we will learn from you. You know it makes sense. You know where we are.

Revd

John Nugent BD(Honours)

Church Register

DEATHS:

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

Margaret Christie (nee Munro), wife of the late Leslie Christie. Funeral 21/7/2017

Michael Ross Doull - husband of the late Doreen Doull and son of Ina Doull. Funeral on 23/9/2017



MARRIAGES:

Alan and Avril Farquhar - Ceremony from the Kirk - 14th July 2017

DATE	KINDLY DONATED BY	ARRANGER
3 rd Sept	Mrs K Robertson, Broadhaven	Donor
10 th Sept	vacant	
17 th Sept	Mrs P Gray, Louisburgh Street	Mrs Harper
24 th Sept	Mr L Crowe, Uphall, Broxburn	Mrs Harper
1 st Oct	Guild	Mrs Robertson

Flowers for Sunday



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

Church Duty Rota

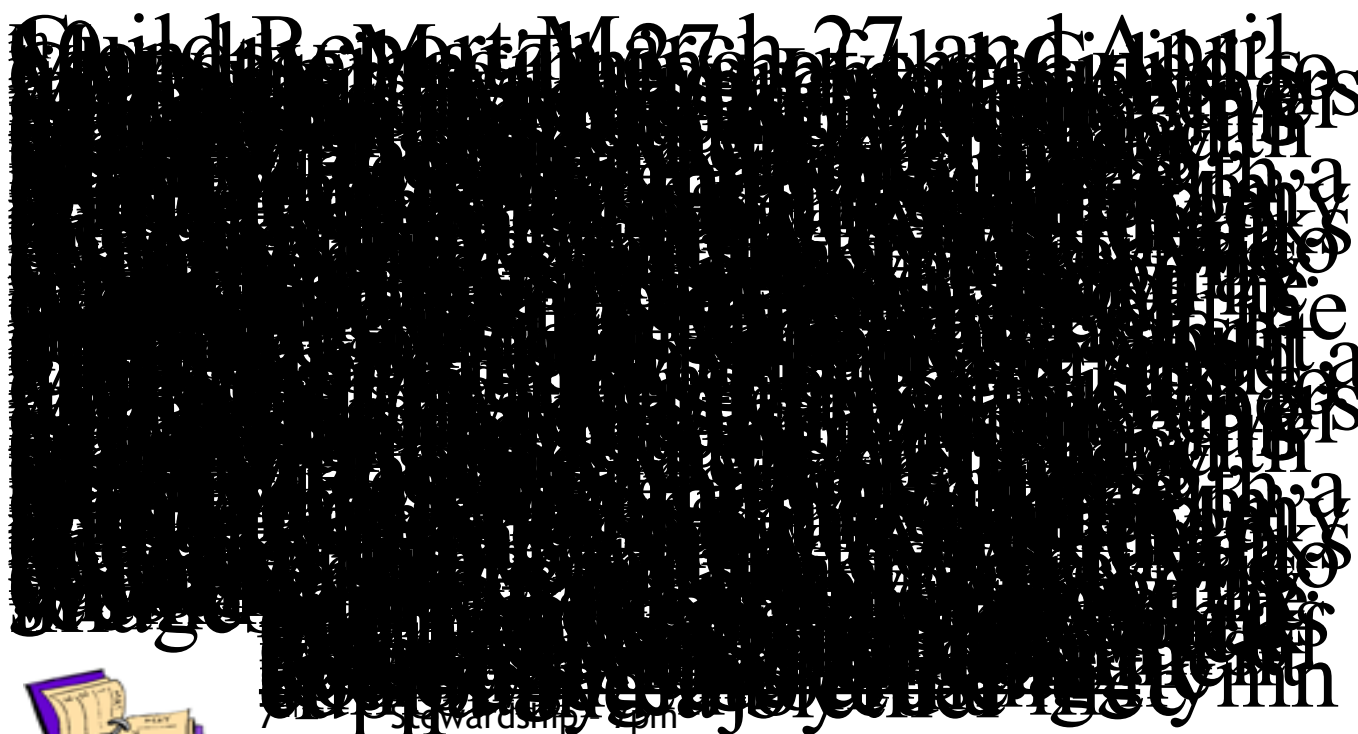
******ELDERS PLEASE NOTE CHANGES TO ROTA******



Date	BUS	STAIRS	DOOR	DOOR	USHER
3 rd Sept	G Ramsay	*****	W Robertson	A Sinclair	G Watt
10 th Sept	H Gray	J Cormack	M Duffy	R Mappin	I Banks
17 th Sept	J Coghill	M Foubister	A Duffy	J Houston	J MacLennan
24 th Sept	J Mackay	M Thomson	M Foubister	G Macdonald	B Campbell

1 st Oct	G Watt	A Sinclair	G Ramsay	*****	G Watt
---------------------	--------	------------	----------	-------	--------

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



Sermon information from the Minister

DATE	READING 1	READING 2	SUBJECT	DAY OF CHURCH CALENDAR
3/9/2017	Psalm 115	Romans 12:9-21	A subversive ethic	12 th Sunday after Trinity
10/9/2017	Psalm 119:33-40	Romans 13:8-14	A subversive foundation	13 th Sunday after Trinity
17/9/2017	Psalm 114	Matthew 18:21-35	A subversive history	14 th Sunday after Trinity
24/9/2017	Psalm 145:1-8	Philippians 1:21-30	A subversive life	15 th Sunday after Trinity
1/10/2017	Psalm 78:1-4, 12-16	Philippians 2:1-13	A subversive Jesus	16 th Sunday after Trinity

Monday 24



in the Guild Hall, 11th October, 7.30pm. The exhibitors will be Sandra Coghill from Flower Days. The exhibits using supermarket flowers to the exotic will be raffled for Guild Projects. Admission is £3 which includes a cup of tea. Don't miss out on this great evening. All are welcome.

THE GUILD

The Guild is holding a floral art demonstration in the Church Hall at 7.30pm on Monday 11th September 7.30pm. The demonstrator will be Sandra Coghill from Flower Days. The exhibits using supermarket flowers to the exotic will be raffled for Guild Projects. Admission is £3 which includes a cup of tea. Don't miss out on this great evening. All are welcome.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

OPEN DAY: 7TH OCTOBER - Weddings, hats, handbags and shoes

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, the wedding exhibition will now be in October, and we hope to have a vast display of wedding items: hats, handbags, shoes, veils, tiaras, anything wedding related, even photos. 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. More details will follow in the September magazine.



Autumn Thrift: 17th - 19th October

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

10.30 - 12 noon on Thurs 19th, October

It is that time of year again, the Autumn Thrift is quickly approaching. Have a look in your cupboards for any clothes, accessories or small items of furniture you no longer require, and pop them down to us. If you are unable to deliver, please contact Mrs Harper for collection on 602612. The hall will be open for the hang up and to receive goods between 2pm and 4pm on Friday 13th. There will be the usual stalls of home baking, jams and chutney, and all donations of these will be gratefully received. Thank you in advance for your generous donations.



Newsletter “bloopers” *These have all been published in ACTUAL Church newsletters!!*

The Fasting & Prayer Conference will include meals.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community. Smile at someone who is hard to love. Say 'Hell' to someone who doesn't care much about you.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be tryouts for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

Potluck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM. Prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon

This evening at 7 PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The eighth-graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

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

Please can all items for October's newsletter be with Michelle by Wednesday 20th September - Thank you

CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS			
Title	Name	Phone	Email
Minister	John Nugent	07511 503946	nugent0@me.com
Session Clerk			

Clerk to Congregational Board	Elizabeth Henderson	01955 604156	tannach.henderson@gmail.com
Treasurer	Martin Duffy	01955 605732	
Magazine Editor	Michelle Foubister	01955 602416	chellefoubister@sky.com
Website	Jean McLennan		jean.mclennan02@btinternet.com

Congregational No.41229.
No.SC013840

Scottish Charity

Scottish Charity No. SC013840

REDACTED INFORMATION