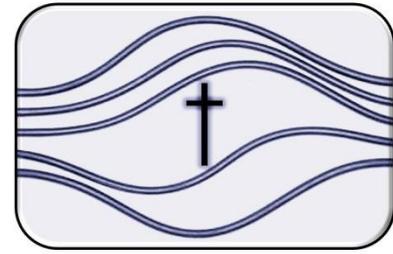




# Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



**April 2019**

Hello everyone and welcome to the April issue of the Wick St Fergus Church newsletter. One of the great things about following the old Christian year, a calendar followed by many churches since the time of the apostles, is that there is always something to write about. To this it can be said that life in this world is also so interesting that there is always something to write about.

This month is a case in point. I am writing this in the middle of Lent and as many of you will know, Lent is the time between Ash Wednesday and Easter Sunday, the most important time of the Christian year. For many this has to do with the temptation of Christ in the desert for forty days and forty nights and because of this, many folks abstain from various things to illustrate Christ's time of abstinence in the desert. Just as Fathers Ted, Dougal and Jack gave up cigarettes, drink and rollerblading, so I am giving up abseiling, marathon running and skydiving.

Lent, actually, has little to do with giving up and has more with giving to. During this special time Christians reflect on Christ and his life and then they reflect upon their own lives. Now as I sit at my computer writing this, we are in the middle of the latest round of the Brexit controversy. It has been a time of fierce and combative argument. It hasn't been exactly a harmonious kind of dialogue, with respect on all sides being noticeably missing. But engaging in debate is important. We don't have to agree and even if we don't agree we at least can come to an understanding of the other's honestly held position. But when we sink to the level of invective and insult it simply shows that we are listening in order to argue and win instead of listening in order to understand.

In time unrestrained and unchallenged diatribe leads to the kind of horrors we saw in Christchurch in New Zealand last month. There was no attempt to listen, no attempt to understand. And over fifty of our Muslim brothers and sisters lie in their graves. It showed an aspect of modern society that is not only distasteful but also dangerous. St Paul said of Christ in Philippians 2 that Christ literally emptied himself and became one of us, as weak and frail and subject to the same temptations that we are tempted by yet he surrendered his own will to that of his Father so that now we can say that because of Christ that God knows by experience what human life is like.

The New Testament also says of Christ that the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give himself as a ransom for many. He even knew that deep depression that comes with total isolation and the feeling of God-forsakenness when he cried out on the cross, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" And in the midst of his pain and deepest darkness of the spirit, he sets his own pain to the side for a moment and says to the thief hanging beside him, "Today you will be with me in paradise." He even takes thought for his grieving mother and says to her while also addressing John the disciple, "Woman behold your son and Son (John) behold your mother."

I may disagree with one side of the Brexit debate, but I will never permit difference to come between me and basic human respect for my neighbour. To otherwise would be to take the side of anarchy and evil. Others will still be able to approach the believer in Christ, even if they are on the winning side of a debate. That's how Christ did things. That is how we do them at Wick St Fergus. If you want to learn more come and see us some time. You know where we are.

**Revd John Nugent BD (Honours)**

## Church Register



**We are sorry to announce the passing of the following people:**

9<sup>th</sup> March – David Bremner Smith: beloved husband of Jessie. Dear Mum to Marion, David and James

11<sup>th</sup> March – George McPhee, dear brother to Charlie and Wilma.

## Flowers for Sunday

DATE	KINDLY DONATED BY	ARRANGER
7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Mrs E Henderson, Lyth	Donor
14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Mr John Steven, MacRae Street	Mrs Harper
21 <sup>st</sup> Apr	Mr Grant Ramsay, Staxigoe	Donor
28 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Mrs A McAllan, Newton Ave	Donor
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Mrs A Robertson, Macleod Road	Mrs Harper



***If you would like to fill an empty date on the rota please contact Mrs Harper -602612  
THE LARGE HALL IS IN USE EVERY SATURDAY From 7.30am UNTIL 11.30 and flowers cannot be arranged during this time. Please respect these timings.***

## Church Duty Rota

Date	BUS	STAIRS	DOOR	USHER/DOOR
7 <sup>th</sup> April	P MacAdie	B Campbell	J Mackay	M Foubister
14 <sup>th</sup> April	G Watt	W Robertson	G Ramsay	A Sinclair
21 <sup>st</sup> April	I Banks	H Gray	J Cormack	M Duffy
28 <sup>th</sup> April	J Mclennan	E Henderson	J Coghill	A Duffy
5 <sup>th</sup> May	P MacAdie	J Mackay	B Campbell	M Thomson

***As decided at Session, once duties are complete, usher to go on DOOR duty as 2<sup>nd</sup> person.***

**We are low on helpers, if you are willing to help once a month - please call Michelle 602416.**

## Easter Service Dates

18<sup>th</sup> April – 7pm: Maundy Thursday Service (small hall)

19<sup>th</sup> April – 7pm: Good Friday Communion Service (small hall)

21<sup>st</sup> April – 11.30am: Easter Sunday Church service



# SERMON INFORMATION FROM MINISTER

DATE	READING 1	READING 2	SUBJECT	DAY OF CHURCH CALENDAR
7 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Minister on holiday – locum TBC.			
14 <sup>th</sup> Apr	TBC	TBC	TBC	1 <sup>st</sup> in Holy Week
18 <sup>th</sup> Apr	TBC	TBC	Maundy Thursday Communion	Maundy Thursday
19 <sup>th</sup> Apr	TBC	TBC	Good Friday Service	Good Friday
21 <sup>st</sup> Apr	TBC	TBC	Easter Sunday	Easter Sunday
28 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Exodus 14:10-30, 15:20-21	John 20:19-29	Surprised by Joy: Life Trumps Death	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Easter
5 <sup>th</sup> May	Zephaniah 3:14-20	John 21:1-14	Surprised by Joy: Empty Hearts Are Filled	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Easter



## Guild

Guild meeting dates are outlined as follows:

- 1<sup>st</sup> April - Salvation Army Songsters.
- 15<sup>th</sup> April - Mr A. Ferrier: Vietnam and Cambodia
- 29<sup>th</sup> April - Miss Zena Sinclair: Schooldays Remembered.
- 1<sup>st</sup> May - Guilds Together Spring Rally: Venue to be confirmed.
- 13<sup>th</sup> May - Matter of Opinion.
- 27<sup>th</sup> May - Arion Choir

Transport is available. If you wish to use this facility, please contact Janet McDonald (tel: 602543). Please note that the treasurer, Dinah Sutherland, will be collecting the capitation fee of £12, which is due in April. Please join us for fun and friendship as we continue with the Guild theme of *One Journey, Many Roads*, exploring this year's strategy of *Companions on the Road*



## Magazine Distribution

Various distribution districts do not have collectors at present: East Reiss, Loch Street/Moray Street, Thurso Road/ Janetstown. If you would be able to help with the distribution, please contact John Cormack (603774) for further details. Thank You.

## Board Sub-committee

A Sub Committee of the Congregational Board has been set up to look into the Financial Affairs Of Wick St. Fergus Church.

**Answers to our March Quiz.** 1. Moses 2. The book of Leviticus 3. Moses 4. 120 years  
5. Joshua 6. 7 days 7. The book of Judges 8. Gideon 9. Ruth 10. The Philistines

## April Quiz

Answers will be published in May's newsletter.

1. Who succeeded Samuel and became King of Israel?
2. Who was the wife of Uriah who married King David?
3. Which son of David's rebelled against him and paid with his life?
4. How long did King David reign for?
5. Which King was known for his great wisdom?
6. Who ascended to Heaven in a chariot of fire?
7. How many books of the Bible did Moses write?
8. Who washed his hands of the fate of Jesus?
9. In which Book of the Bible is the bottomless pit mentioned?
10. Who is thought to have written the Epistle of the Hebrews?

## **\*\*\*\*\* FUTURE EVENTS \*\*\*\*\***

### **Spring Thrift: 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019**

Our spring thrift will be open once again on 9<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> April from 10.30am daily. The hall will be open Friday 5<sup>th</sup> from 10am to receive any goods you may wish to donate and as always, the usual array of goods; bric-a-brac, bedding, lamps, pans etc. will be available. Thank you.



### **Pudding Night – Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

Our now annual pudding night has always been a great success. With amazingly tempting and tantalising delights on offer, it is always very well attended. LOOK OUT FOR MORE DETAILS IN NEXT MONTH'S MAGAZINE



### **Out of the mouth of babes**

A woman invited some people from church to dinner. At the table, she turned to her six-year-old daughter and said, 'Would you like to say the blessing?'

'I wouldn't know what to say,' the girl replied.

'Just say what you've heard Mummy say before,' the hostess answered.

So, the daughter bowed her head and said, 'Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?'

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

*Please can all items for May's newsletter be with Michelle by MONDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> April – Thank you.*

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