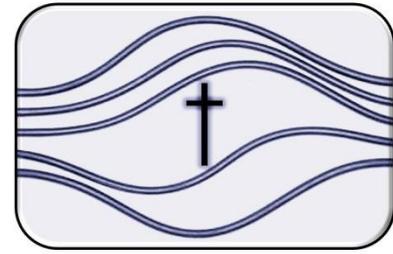




# Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



February 2018

Welcome everyone to February 2019. I hope that you all had a great beginning to the year but, importantly, that the year to come fills you with hope instead of anxiety. The German philosopher, Ludwig Feuerbach, once defined faith as an attempt to escape reality. In other words, faith for him meant nothing more than a denial of reality. Having said that one of my favourite writers, Viktor Frankl, defined faith as holding fast to the reality that **hasn't happened yet**.

Now why mention the names of two obscure writers and raise this whole subject? It's actually very simple. Often people see themselves as a victim of circumstances. This can be summed up in the old Scottish phrase, "What's fur ye will ne'er go by ye." The idea is that whatever happens to you is inevitable and so when bad things happen, or when angst overwhelms someone, then there is nothing that one can do to avoid it and so one is better off accepting it. But faith, hope, whatever you want to call it, tells us that no matter what circumstance brings us that we can look beyond it. In other words, we are not victims. We are not even survivors, but we are instead victors.

In working with those living with depression (and having wrestled with this myself over the years), I have learned that every day is a victory in which I have woken up next day. But permit me to mention a wee disclaimer here. What I have said should not be construed as representing a criticism of those who give up. As Irish poet W.B. Yeats put it, "Too long a sacrifice can make a stone of the heart."

There are times when it makes complete sense to give up given the weight of circumstance. However, think back to that definition of faith that I mentioned from Viktor Frankl. Faith is holding fast to the reality that hasn't happened yet. The writer of the New Testament letter to the Hebrews puts it like this in Hebrews 11:1, "Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen." **In other words, the reality that hasn't happened yet.**

When Dr Frankl wrote the saying that I mentioned earlier, he was writing from the context of that of an inmate of a concentration camp during the Third Reich. He wondered why some people came up with reasons to survive and why others gave into despair. After a year of observing his fellow inmates, he came up with the answer. They had answered the question of why they should live. As he put it, "Whoever has a **why** to live for can endure almost any **how**." When circumstance tells you that your life is worthless, then listen instead to the other voice that tells you that you are a person of infinite worth. When others tell you that your existence is meaningless, then listen to those verses that tell you that you are beautiful. When the world around you tells you that you have a dark heart, then tell the world that you are a being of light.

***When the world tells you that you are nothing, instead tell the world that, "God so loved the world that he gave his only beloved son so that whosoever believes in him might not perish but instead have life."*** A pious, religious-sounding platitude? Some would say that. But not us at Wick St Fergus.

You are beautiful.

Your life has meaning because you have meaning.

You are a person of worth and if others can't see that then it is to their loss that they haven't come to know you. At Wick St Fergus we want to get to know you, to hear your story, to affirm to you that you deserve to know that you are loved. Come and see us. You know where we are.

***Revd John Nugent BD (honours)***



## **Church Register**

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

16<sup>th</sup> December - Susan "Sue" Musgrave (nee Munro), beloved wife of Keith and dear Mum to Kim and Tracy.

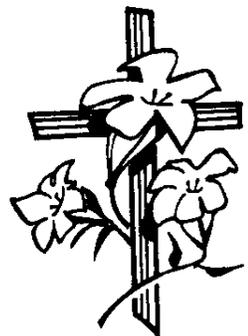
22<sup>nd</sup> December - Elizabeth "Betty" Gunn (nee Beasley), beloved wife of the late Donnie Gunn and dear Mum to Caroline, Donald and Kevin.

31<sup>st</sup> December - Margaret Rosie (nee Sinclair), beloved wife of the late Donnie Sinclair and dear Mum to Elaine and the late Ray.

25<sup>th</sup> January - William Cormack Manson, known to everyone as Billy, beloved husband of Joan and dear Dad to Jan and Bruce.

## **Flowers for Sunday**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>KINDLY DONATED BY</b>	<b>ARRANGER</b>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Mrs Julie Steven, Bay View	Donor
10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	The Moore Family	Mrs Simpson
17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Mrs Jacqui Budge, Proudfoot Road	Donor
24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	<b>VACANT</b>	
3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	Mrs K Harper	Donor



***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
3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	J Coghill	J Mclennan	E Henderson	A Duffy
10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	P MacAdie	B Campbell	M Foubister	M Thomson
17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	A Sinclair	G Ramsay	G Watt	W Robertson
24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	M Duffy	R Mappin	I Banks	J Cormack
3 <sup>rd</sup> Mar	P MacAdie	E Henderson	A Duffy	J Mclennan

## SERMON INFORMATION FROM MINISTER

DATE	READING 1	READING 2	SUBJECT	DAY OF CHURCH CALENDAR
3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Psalm 48	Luke 2:22-40	The presentation of Christ in the temple	5 <sup>th</sup> before Lent
10 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Isaiah 6:1-8	Acts 3:1-10	Holy is the Lord	4 <sup>th</sup> before Lent
17 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Jeremiah 17:5-10	Galatians 4:8-20	True Justice	3 <sup>rd</sup> before Lent
24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Job 28:1-11	Acts 14:8-17	True Vision	2 <sup>nd</sup> before Lent

*Over the next few months, we have decided to include a selection of "quiz" questions – based on the bible. Answers will be in the following months instalment of the magazine.*

***Good luck, and NO GOOGLING!!***

### FEBRUARY QUIZ

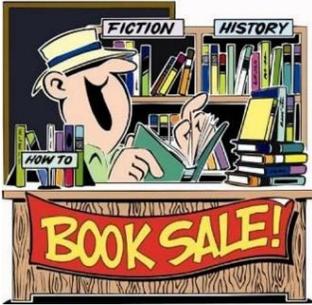
1. What did God create 'In the beginning?'
2. What occupation did Abel follow?
3. Who was the famous sea faring grandson of Methuselah?
4. How long did it rain upon the earth for at the time of the Flood?
5. Where did the Ark come to rest?
6. How long is Noah supposed to have lived?
7. What were the names of the two sinful cities destroyed by God?
8. What was the name of Lot's wife who made the mistake of looking back?
9. Who was the son of Abraham that was to be offered up for sacrifice?
10. Who wore a coat of many colours?

**Answers will be published in March's newsletter.**

# \*\*\*\*\*FORTHCOMING EVENTS\*\*\*\*\*

## Book Sale

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> & Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February**



The St Fergus book sale will take place in the hall on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> and Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> February from 10.30am – 3.30pm both days. There is always a huge selection of books on offer, most priced around 50p, both fiction and non-fiction. We will accept offers on some of the more unusual texts. We have a wide selection of Caithness books this year, the type which are released round about Christmas containing photos. Come along and grab a bargain. We look forward to seeing you all there.

*Exciting events to look forward to in 2019:  
see future newsletters for further details;*

- \* Thrift shop
- \* Pudding night
- \* Quiz
- \* Social event
- \* Street stall
- \* Harvest open day..... and many more

## Walkout!

After church, the woman at the door was embarrassed before the minister. 'I hope you didn't take it personally when my husband walked out during your sermon.'

'I did find it rather disconcerting,' the preacher admitted.

'It's not a reflection on you at all,' she assured him. 'Ralph has been walking in his sleep ever since he was a child.'

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

**Please can all items for March's newsletter be with Michelle by TUESDAY 20<sup>th</sup> Feb – Thank you.**

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