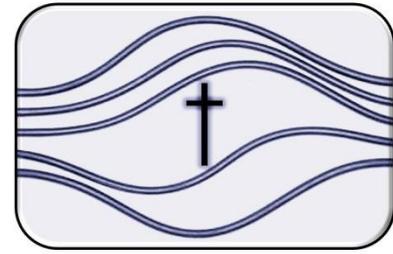




# Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland

## January 2019



Hello everyone and welcome to 2019. As you read this, I will probably be in Blantyre visiting my old Dad. Some of you have met him already. He came up to Wick with my late Mum almost ten years ago when I was inducted as Minister of Wick St Fergus Church. He will be eighty years old this year and my brother, sister and I are having great fun pointing this out to him.

The last Thursday of this month will be the tenth anniversary of my arrival from Glasgow in Wick. I had been sent for two weeks to be the locum Minister of Wick St Fergus. I am still here. It would be difficult not to notice me. In this time of reflection on what has gone past and on what is yet to come I have been giving a lot of thought to my time in Wick. I want to register a great big thanks you to the congregation and office bearers of Wick St Fergus Church for their welcome and support during my time here. We are not perfect, but we are trying (very trying according to some). Above all I have learned more about what Christian community means here than in any other Kirk in which I have worked. They are great people. I also want to register my appreciation and thanks to and for the people of this amazing town and district of Wick. The welcome I have been given here and the friendship I have experienced has been truly inspiring.

In the past year and a bit I have lost two of my greatest friends here in the town and to see how the people of this town gathered round my friends' families (as well as seeing how folks gather to support the bereaved in the town) has also been a great learning experience for me. Your support for various community groups here in the town is a lesson to other towns. You have set the bar for other communities in caring for the vulnerable. Your support for groups like CHAT, Caithness Foodbank, RBLS etc. is truly epic.

On Remembrance Sunday in 2018 it was inspiring to see the crowds come out to pay their respects to the fallen. To see veterans and serving soldiers and service people, to witness the young people pay their respects, tells me that there is more good than bad in this town. To see the support given to our amazing NHS clinicians and staff in the past twelve months, especially in the face of official intransigence and obfuscation, shows me that this community has a future in 2019 and beyond. It has truly been an honour to serve in this town over the past ten years and the prospects are no less inspiring for the year to come.

Our mission as a Kirk in Wick is to serve this community and its people, to be a place of welcome and safety for all, whatever creed, colour or background. Our unofficial motto is found in our favourite hymn at the Kirk, one line of which says, "Here the outcast and the stranger bear the image of God's face, let us bring an end to fear and danger – **all are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.**"

Now I don't believe in the religious "hard sell" so I will close by saying simply that there is always a place for you at Wick St Fergus in 2019 and beyond. The only requirement, if at all, is that you come with an open mind. It is our honour, privilege and pleasure to serve this great town so come and see us this year. You know where we are.

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

HAPPY NEW YEAR, from all at St Fergus Church



## Flowers for Sunday



DATE	KINDLY DONATED BY	ARRANGER
6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Mrs Roberston, 11 MacLeod Road	Mrs Harper
13 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Exmouth Memorial	Mrs Harper
20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Mrs M Robertson, Miller Ave	Mrs Johnson
27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Mrs N Durrand, McLeod Road	Mrs Harper
3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	Mrs Julie Steven, Bay View	Donor

***If you would like to fill an empty date on the rota please contact Mrs Harper on 602612  
THE LARGE HALL IS IN USE EVERY SATURDAY From 7.30am UNTIL 11.30***

## New Church Duty Rota

Date	BUS	STAIRS	DOOR	USHER
6 <sup>th</sup> Jan	J Mclennan	E Henderson	A Duffy	J Coghill
13 <sup>th</sup> Jan	P Macadie	J Mackay	B Campbell	M Foubister
20 <sup>th</sup> Jan	W Robertson	G Watt	A Sinclair	G Ramsay
27 <sup>th</sup> Jan	P Macadie	H Gray	J Cormack	M Duffy
3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	J Coghill	J Mclennan	E Henderson	A Duffy



Message from Rev Nugent: Just to let you all know that I have a new blog site. It is filled with poems, tales, songs and other interesting things (at least I think so). It is easy to find. The address is: [sunwiseturn.wordpress.com](http://sunwiseturn.wordpress.com)

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

***Please can all items for February's newsletter be with Michelle by Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> Jan – Thank you.***

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