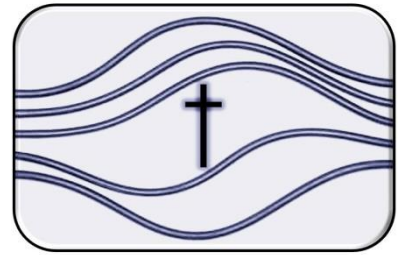




Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



March 2018

Well hello and welcome to the March edition of the best newsletter in Wick. By the time you read this I will have had my birthday. I'm not going to say how old I am but let's just say that I will never see 55 again. I know that last month was a bit sad with the passing of John Houston and I wanted to be a bit more fun this month, but I find myself putting on my serious hat again. Our first session of Café Church happened at the end of February and will in future take place on the last Sunday of each month.

Café Church is about being a safe place where people can ask questions without being worried about taking a view or opinion that differs from conventional wisdom. The February session dealt with the Bible. One of the reasons I selected this subject is that a fundamentalist/literalist reading of the Bible worries me. Here at Wick St Fergus we believe that HOW one reads the Bible is as important as simply reading it for religious or doctrinal reasons. If you use it in the same way that medical people use a prescription pad (showing my age here) then it becomes an agent of oppression rather than a facilitator of liberation.

We believe, and the bible teaches us; humanity is special, that there are more good people in the world than there are bad, and that wherever love is present, then God is there also. That we are tested not against our failings but rather against God's love for us. We do not believe that the Bible teaches that humans are simply means to achieve an end. People are more than numbers on a balance sheet or data on a spreadsheet. If you are good enough for Jesus then you are good enough for us and since nobody was ever turned away by Jesus then no one, whether for religious or doctrinal reasons, has the right to exclude others because they do not fit a set of predetermined criteria. What is more, we condemn those who would see people as parcels of data or as inconveniences in some grand plan.

That is why we support the work of CHAT and all organisations that work for the good of other people, organisations like Amnesty International, Christian Aid, Caithness Foodbank, Stonewall and many more. What is sad for me is that organisations exist in the world which put ideology before compassion. A classic example of this is the way that those who struggle in our society are put through the wringer because some heartless people believe that people struggle because it is their own fault, that they are lazy and are not deserving of our time or generosity.

Jesus must be a big disappointment to people like that. He said in one place to a woman who was accused of adultery, "Where are those who accused you?" and when she couldn't find them he responded by saying, "Neither do I." And when Jesus accused the unco guid in this word of a lack of compassion for the suffering in Matthew 25 and they object to his condemnation he tells them, "In as much as you did not do this to the least of these my brothers and sisters you did not do it to me." With regard to those who dismiss those in need and who so structure things to suit their own protection, the Bible speaks of those who, "...frame wickedness through statute." If saying this kind of thing leads to people accusing us of being political then we plead, "GUILTY AS CHARGED."

Jesus is good news and when you read the Bible through the eyes of Christ we find that we have more in common with one another than those things which separate us. That is how you can tell the good from the bad; those ideas and actions that separate people from one another and which promote the benefit of a privileged few do not represent, nor can they ever represent, Christ. But don't just take my word for it. Check it out for yourself. Or maybe come and see us soon. You know where we are.

Revd John Nugent BD(Honours)

Church Register

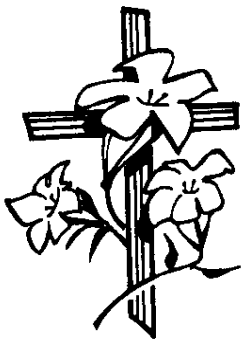
DEATHS:

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

10th February, 2018 - Rona Farquhar (nee Stewart): beloved wife of John. Mum to Alistair and good friend to many Interred at Wick Cemetery.

26th February, 2018 - Robert Gibson, formerly of Wick. Beloved Dad of Audrey Ord, memorial service from Wick Seaview Nursing Home.

Flowers for Sunday



DATE	KINDLY DONATED BY	ARRANGER
4 th Mar	Mrs K Harper	Donor
11 th Mar	Mrs Watt	Mrs Harper
18 th Mar	Miss Smith	Donor
25 th Mar	Mrs P Gray	Donor
1 st Apr	Mrs A Roberston	Donor

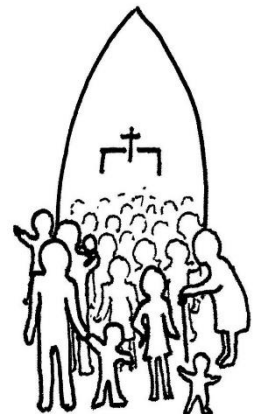


If you would like to fill an empty date on the rota please contact Mrs Harper on 602612

THE LARGE HALL IS IN USE EVERY SATURDAY UNTIL 11.30 - FLOWERS CANNOT BE ARRANGED THEN

Church Duty Rota

Date	BUS	STAIRS	DOOR	DOOR	USHER
4 th Mar	J Mclennan	*****	E Henderson	J Coghill	A Duffy
11 th Mar	M Foubister	M Thomson	G MacDonald	J Mackay	B Campbell
18 th Mar	W Robertson	G Watt	A Sinclair	*****	G Ramsay
25 th Mar	I Banks	H Gray	J Cormack	R Mappin	M Duffy
1 st April	A Duffy	J Mclennan	E Henderson	*****	J Coghill

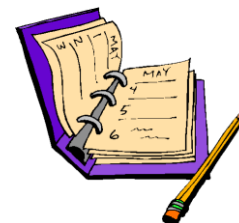


If you are unable to attend on your duty day please arrange a swap. Dates with * require cover. Please assist if you are in attendance on the day. With thanks, The Minister.***

SERMON INFORMATION FROM THE MINISTER

DATE	READING 1	READING 2	SUBJECT	DAY OF CHURCH CALENDAR
4 th March	Psalm 19	1 Corinthians 1:18-25	The Importance of Foolishness	3 rd Sunday in Lent
11 th March	Exodus 2:1-10	Luke 2:41-52	True Love	4 th Sunday in Lent
18 th March	Jeremiah 31:1-34	John 12:20-33	The Inconvenient Power of Conscience	5 th Sunday in Lent
25 th March	Psalm 118:19-29	Mark 11:1-11	Palm Sunday	Palm Sunday
29 th March	Psalm 116	John 13:1-17	Maundy Thursday	Maundy Thursday
30 th March	Psalm 130	Colossians 1:18-23	Good Friday	Good Friday
1 st April	Isaiah 25:6-9	John 20:1-18	Easter Sunday	Easter Sunday

FORTHCOMING EVENTS - DIARY



AGM & Social Evening – 28th March

Our Annual General Meeting and social evening will take place at 7pm on 28th March in the church hall. You are all invited to come along to what is always a very enjoyable evening. The short business meeting, includes a short update from the Convenors of the Congregational Board, Stewardship and Fabric Committees, and an explanation of the Accounts by the Treasurer, will be followed by the relaxing part which will be a social programme and Tea. See you all there.



The Guild

Friday 2nd March - World Day of Prayer. Pulteney Parish Church @ 2.30pm. All welcome.
Monday 9th April - First meeting of the new session @ 7.30pm in the Small Hall. All Welcome.



Easter Services

29th March Maundy Thursday Communion: Small Hall
30th March Good Friday Service: 7pm – small hall
1st April Easter Sunday Service: 11.30am



SPRING THRIFT SHOP: 10th – 12th April 2018

Our spring Thrift will be open on 10th – 12th April from 10.30 daily. The hall will be open Friday 6th to receive any goods you wish to donate. As always, the usual array of bric-a-brac, lamps, pans, we have it all. Should you wish new curtains, bedding, cushions, or a bargain from our clothes rail, at reasonable prices, then pop past. We also have the popular baking/jam tables with chutney too. Again, any donations for any of the above would be gratefully received, if possible please, by 10am daily. Thank you all once again in advance, for your donations and support with our thrift.

Some Clever Anagrams

PRESBYTERIAN: BEST IN PRAYER

DEDORMITORY: DIRTY ROOM

GEORGE BUSH: HE BUGS GORE

SLOT MACHINES: CASH LOST IN ME

THE DECIMAL POINT: I'M A DOT IN PLACE

ELEVEN PLUS TWO: TWELVE PLUS ONE

ASTRONOMER: MOON STARTER

THE EYES: THEY SEE

THE MORSE CODE: HERE COME THE DOTS

SNOOZE ALARMS: ALAS! NO MORE Z'S

THE EARTHQUAKES: THAT QUEER SHAKE

MOTHER IN LAW: WOMAN HITLER!!

“DICTIONARY DEFINITIONS”

ADULT: A person who has stopped growing at both ends and is now growing in the middle.

BEAUTY PARLOUR: A place where women curl up and dye.

CANNIBAL: Someone who is fed up with people.

CHICKENS: An animal you eat before they are born and after they are dead.

COMMITTEE: A body that keeps minutes and wastes hours.

DUST: Mud with the juice squeezed out.

EGOTIST: Someone usually me-deep in conversation.

HANDKERCHIEF: Cold storage.

INFLATION: Cutting money in half without damaging the paper.

MOSQUITO: An insect that makes you like flies better.

RAISIN: Grape with sunburn.

SECRET: Something you tell one person at a time.

SKELETON: A bunch of bones with the person scraped off.

TOOTHACHE: The pain that drives you to extraction.

TOMORROW: One of the greatest labour-saving devices of today.

WRINKLES: Something other people have, similar to my character lines.

YAWN: An honest opinion openly expressed.



Website: Find us at www.wickstferguschurch.org.uk or find us on facebook

Please can all items for April newsletter be with Michelle by Wednesday 21st March – 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		northjean17@gmail.com

Congregational No.41229.

Scottish Charity No.SC013840