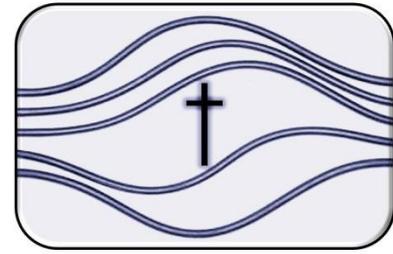




Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



March 2019

Hello everyone and welcome to the March edition of the greatest theological magazine in the world. Here at Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland we try and bring you something different every month in our newsletter.

We take the same view with our Sunday morning services. The basic format has remained the same, although we are looking at that in our new worship committee, but the themes we touch on are themes that will challenge and at the same time hopefully bring comfort and peace to those sitting in the pews.

We try and make people sit up and think, because we believe that the life of faith is a life that this world of ours needs. Our message of the good news of a Christ who welcomes all who come to him is relevant more than ever in our post-modern age: because all are welcome, regardless of age, economic status, ethnic origin, sexual orientation or gender. We believe that distinctions imposed by humanity do not affect those who would join themselves to the Kingdom of God and the cause of Christ, we believe in equality of opportunity, and also believe the distinctions that I mentioned have no place in determining one's place in God's new order of love and justice.

Hold that thought for a moment. I want to deviate for just a minute and tell you about a surprise I received just last week. I was contemplating my upcoming fifty-seventh birthday and the thought of growing old did not exactly fill me with unbounded joy. But, in the post that afternoon, I received a surprise. I received the first Valentine's Day card ever to come to my door in a good number of years. I admit it was a big surprise. My first thought was, "Great, I am noticeable enough to have my own stalker." But the surprise cheered me up. It is in the nature of the surprise to challenge one's immediate status quo. The clue is in the word, "surprise." It was completely unexpected. After all, ministers are not in the habit of receiving surprises and as you all know, ministers are always painfully aware of their status and some are very keen on status.

Now some folks have a certain view of the Church as a concept or institution. They have vivid pictures in their mind of how the Church functions. Some think that only those who are good enough can get their feet under God's table. Some think that certain things will exclude one from acceptance in God's community of faith. Some people even think that to receive assistance or help or even the friendship of the Church that one must be a certain kind of person. With that in mind some of you might have been surprised to read my earlier comments regarding the distinctions mentioned above and the concept that all are welcome, in any capacity, to find their place in God's family of faith, will have come as completely unexpected to them. And so, my message to you this month is simple. **ALL ARE WELCOME IN THIS PLACE.....**

Everyone has a part to play in the common good. Jesus said in St John's Gospel (6: 37), 'whoever comes to me I will never drive away.' In the words of George Macleod, founder of the Iona Community, "We affirm God's goodness at the heart of humanity, planted more deeply than all that is wrong." If you need a safe place, then come and see us. If you need to know that you are valued, then come and see us. If you want to know how this is possible then 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:

9th Feb – Donald McKain Rosie, Graveside service.

11th Feb – Francis Calder, beloved wife of Billy, dear mum to Ian and Alan, much loved Granny. Memorial service - 8th Feb. Committal - Inverness Crematorium 11th February.

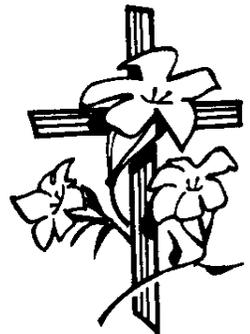
Apologies for the following error/omissions in the previous magazine:

31st December – Margaret Sinclair (nee Rosie): Beloved wife of the late Ronnie Sinclair, dear mum to Elaine and the late Ray.

17th Jan – George Donald Ronaldson, husband of Nancy, dear father, brother and grandfather.

Flowers for Sunday

DATE	KINDLY DONATED BY	ARRANGER
3 rd Mar	Mrs K Harper	Donor
10 th Mar	Mrs Watt, Broadhaven	Mrs K Robertson
17 th Mar	Miss Smith, Broadhaven	Mrs Harper
24 th Mar	Mrs P Gray, Louisburgh St	Donor
31 st Mar	Mrs A Roberston, McLeod Road	Mrs Harper
7 th Apr	Mrs E Henderson, Lyth	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.

AGM – Sunday 31st March – 12.30pm

Our Annual General Meeting will take place immediately after our Sunday service in the church on Sunday 31st March. All are welcome.

Church Duty Rota

Date	BUS	STAIRS	DOOR	USHER/DOOR
3 rd Mar	P MacAdie	E Henderson	A Duffy	J Mclennan
10 th Mar	M Thomson	M Foubister	B Campbell	J Mackay
17 th Mar	G Ramsay	A Sinclair	W Robertson	G Watt
24 th Mar	P MacAdie	H Gray	R Mappin	I Banks
31 st Mar	A Duffy	J Mclennan	E Henderson	J Coghill
7 th Apr	P MacAdie	B Campbell	J Mackay	M Foubister
<i>As decided at Session, once duties are complete, usher to go on DOOR duty as 2nd person.</i>				

SERMON INFORMATION FROM MINISTER

DATE	READING 1	READING 2	SUBJECT	DAY OF CHURCH CALENDAR
3 rd Feb	Psalm 91	Luke 4:1-13	Remembering Our Foundation	Lent 1
10 th Feb	Psalm 27	Luke 13:31-35	Form Over Function	Lent 2
17 th Feb	Deuteronomy 6:4-9	John 17:13-19	Sent As He Is Sent	Lent 3
24 th Feb	1 Samuel 1:9-17	John 19:25b-27	Mothers' Day	Lent 4
31 st Mar	TBC	TBC	TBC	Lent 5

Answers to February's Quiz. 1. Heaven & Earth 2. A Shepherd 3. Noah 4. 150 days
5. Mount Ararat 6. 950 years 7. Sodom & Gomorrah 8. Ruth 9. Isaac 10. Joseph

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

1. Who saw a burning bush?
2. What was the name given to the manual for the priests of Israel containing 400+ laws?
3. Who wrote the book of Deuteronomy?
4. How old was Moses when he died?
5. Who succeeded Moses as leader of the Israelites?
6. For how many days was Jericho surrounded by Joshua's army?
7. What book tells of the history of Israel in the Promised land?
8. Who overthrew an alter to the god Baal?
9. Who was married to Boaz?
10. Who stole the Ark of the Covenant from the Israelites?

*****FUTURE EVENTS*****



Spring Thrift: 9th – 11th April 2019

Our spring thrift will be open once again on 9th – 11th April from 10.30am daily. The hall will be open Friday 5th 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. Should you wish new curtains, bedding or cushions, we always have a wide selection at bargain prices. Pop past and see us, the popular baking tables, chutney, jams etc. will be available too. Donations for any of the above will be gratefully received, if possible before 10am each day. Thank you.



Count your Blessings.....(part 1)

1. If you own a Bible, you are abundantly blessed - about 1/3 of the world does not have access to one.
2. If you wake up each morning with more health than illness, you are blessed to rise and shine, to live and to serve in a new day.
3. If you have anyone on the planet, just one person that loves you and listens to you; count this as a blessing.
4. If you can freely attend a church meeting without fear, then you are more blessed than over 1/3 of the world.
5. If you have a yearning in your heart to parent a child, you are blessed because you still desire what you cannot see.
6. If you pray today or any day, you are blessed because you believe in God's willingness to hear your prayer.
7. If you pray for someone else, you are blessed because you want to help others also.
8. If you have food in your refrigerator, clothes on your back, a roof over your head, and a place to sleep; all at the same time; you are rich in this world
9. If you have a brother or sister in Christ that will pray with you and for you, you benefit from a spiritual unity, bond, and agreement, which the gates of hell cannot stand against.
10. If you have any earthly family that even halfway loves you and supports you, you are blessed beyond measure.

May God bless you and keep you safe

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

Please can all items for April's newsletter be with Michelle by TUESDAY 26th March – Thank you.

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