



# Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



November 2017

Hello everyone and welcome to the November issue of Wick St Fergus Church magazine. I don't want to alarm you but as anyone who has been out shopping will tell you, Christmas is just around the corner. I just said that to cheer you up. But we must face the reality of the situation, there's no escaping it, we can't pretend that it won't happen. That is the way that some people view matters related to public life or as it's known in less polite circles, politics. It was pointed out to me recently that ministers shouldn't get involved in politics. The problem is that if Christians are doing their job correctly and if they take their boss seriously they can't help but become political (that's political with a small "p").

What do I mean by that? Here goes: as human beings we live in communities or society to give this its collective name. We live in these groups in order to provide safety and welfare for all. In an ideal society the sick, infirm, needy, marginalised are looked after and helped to get back on their feet. That's how it should work. Now I am only a humble parish minister and even I can see that. I can also see that it sometimes goes wrong. People aren't helped as they should be. People go hungry when they shouldn't have to. And it all seems so unrelenting. It seems, as Jesus once said, that, "the poor are with us always."

Back to politics for a moment. In the face of this sort of thing and in order to counteract the effects of poverty and injustice and privilege we have systems in place to further the meeting of need in the community. And when something goes wrong, in a perfect world, we would expect these systems to sort things out. And when these ordered systems don't function as they should people then have the right, and also responsibility, to speak truth to power. If the system shuts them out then they have to do their speaking and campaigning from the outside. And when the voices of some are not being heard we have the responsibility to speak out for them. When Jesus walked the dusty roads of Palestine two thousand years ago he championed the cause of the people and he became a voice for those who had been marginalised by the system. When the Governor of Galilee, Herod, sent people to Jesus to warn him off he responded by telling them, "Go and tell that old fox..." (Luke 13:32). The term "fox" was really a mortal accusation getting to the heart of Herod's character. He perpetuated injustice and ruled his corner of the Roman Empire with terror and brutality. When Jesus saw how the Pharisees were misusing their position in order to protect their position he answered them directly using a term that showed them up for being nothing more than having an appearance of religion but in fact their were filled with corruption. He called them "whitewashed tombs full of the bones of dead men."

With Jesus the humble were blessed, the meek were powerful and the mourners were comforted (Matthew 5). On the other hand, the privileged were sent away (Matthew 25, Luke 1:46-55). The welfare of others is therefore a political matter and because it was of concern to Jesus it was also a spiritual matter. You cannot separate the two. And so we speak out. It was a Brazilian priest, Dom Helder Camara, who said, "When I feed the poor they call me a saint. When I ask why they are poor they call me a communist." We are political beings. We defend the poor but we do it as Jesus did: we do it directly in the face of unmoving officialdom but we do it with respectfully. We conduct our campaigns on behalf of the marginalised not as "they" do with an eye to power but we speak and act with an eye towards those we seek to speak for, letting ***their*** voice be heard. Come and see us at Wick St Fergus Church and learn more. You know where we are.

*Revd*

*John Nugent BD(Honours)*

# Church Register

## DEATHS:

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

4.10.17 - David Rafferty: Dear husband of Gloria, Loving Dad and Grandad

## Flowers for Sunday



DATE	KINDLY DONATED BY	ARRANGER
5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	The Family of the Late Mr & Mrs Banks	Donor
12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Royal British Legion	Mrs Harper
19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Mrs Janice Henderson	Mrs Simpson
26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Mr & Mrs Turner	Donor
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	The family, in memory of Elsa MacDonald	Mrs Harper

*If you would like to fill an empty date on the rota please contact Mrs Harper on 602612*  
**THE LARGE HALL IS NOW IN USE EVERY SATURDAY UNTIL 11.30 AND FLOWERS CANNOT BE ARRANGED THEN**

## Church Duty Rota



Date	BUS	STAIRS	DOOR	DOOR	USHER
5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	M Duffy	I Banks	J Cormack	R Mappin	H Gray

12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	J Houston	J McLennan	A Duffy	E Henderson	J Coghill
19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	M Foubister	B Campbell	M Thomson	G Macdonald	J Mackay
26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	G Watt	*****	A Sinclair	G Ramsay	W Robertson
3 <sup>rd</sup> Dec	I Banks	M Duffy	H Gray	R Mappin	J Cormack

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	Reading	Theme	Church Calender
5 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Isaiah 35:1-9	Luke 19:18-27	All Saint's Day II	All Saints Day
12 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Amos 5:18-24	Matthew 25:1-13	Someone's Coming	3 <sup>rd</sup> Before Advent
19 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Maureen	Maureen	Maureen	2 <sup>nd</sup> Before Advent
26 <sup>th</sup> Nov	Ezekiel 34:11-16	Matthew 25:31-46	Christ the King (Communion)	Feast of Christ The King

~~Guild Report: March 27 and April 10~~

## Diary for September/ future events



- Weds Choir
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Stewardship
- 9<sup>th</sup> Board
- 12<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Service
- 18<sup>th</sup> Caithness Guild Rally in Wick St Fergus
- 26<sup>th</sup> Communion Sunday
- 30<sup>th</sup> St Andrew's night - SCOTTISH QUIZ
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Dec Advent/Carol songs of praise service
- 9<sup>th</sup> Dec Christmas Tree Festival



~~When Mrs Phyllis Gray, who has been a member of the Guild for many years, passed away, the Minister, Mr. J. M. Gray, officiated at the funeral service, which was held in the church on the 24th of September.~~

## THE GUILD

### September 25th.

The meeting was opened by Mrs Phyllis Gray and following the opening hymn, prayer and reading, Mrs Janet McDonald paid tribute to Mrs Isobel McBoyle, who had passed away the week before. Isobel was a faithful and very long standing member and was at the core of the Guild family, who have been blessed by having her among them for so long. She will be fondly remembered as someone whose support could always be relied on and who was always "there" sitting quietly, always smiling. Her last attendance was in April, when, despite health problems, she insisted on paying her annual fees. Our sympathy is extended to her family.

The guest speaker for the evening was Mrs Deirdre Aitken from Hearing and Sight Care.

Started in 1994 as a Scottish Government initiative, the three staff members and 10 volunteers are the only ones in the Highland Region offering dual sensory services to an area stretching from Tongue and Durness to Helmsdale, with offices in Wick and Thurso. There are 1500 people registered for this invaluable service, which gives practical help at ground level to those with sight or hearing impairment. Deirdre explained fully all the services and aids which are available from talking clocks, to a signature guide for filling in forms. It was an extremely informative, well presented talk, which was greatly appreciated. Thank you Deirdre.

### October 9th.

This was a Guild Night with Mrs Janet McDonald in the chair. Following the opening devotions, an almost full attendance of members, including one new one, sat back and watched a film about *Care for the Family*, which is one of the current Guild Projects. This was followed by a discussion about the allocation of funds, which resulted in £300 being donated to the church, £150 each to Guild Projects the *Eradication of FGM in Kenya* and *All Friends Together* and £200 to hurricane-torn *Haiti*, where they are building a church/school/community centre with the help of Guild money. The arrangements for the High Tea in the Nethercliffe on Monday 23rd October were finalised and this will be the last meeting of the current session. Following the final hymn and prayer, it was time for purchasing from the Bring and Buy table, which added a further £74. 71 to the funds.

### The Guild Week Rally - 18<sup>th</sup> November

The Guild Rally for all the Caithness Guilds will be held on **SATURDAY 18TH NOVEMBER AT 2.30PM in St Fergus Church**. At this meeting all the pants for *Smalls for All* will be gathered in. Thank you once again for all your donations to this excellent cause.

**Pray, not because you need something,  
but because you have a lot to thank God for.**

## Recent News:

### WEDDING OPEN DAY

A huge thank you to all who supported our Wedding Exhibition in our church last month, the magnificent sum of £794 was raised with every penny going to support CHAT. You are a fantastic community and we would like to thank everyone who donated, helped set up/take down, purchased raffles, donated prizes and helped with the tea. Thank you again. We have a wonderful community and an amazing group of supporters.

### AUTUMN THRIFT

We had a very successful autumn thrift and raised an amazing £1195. Many thanks to all those who supplied goods, baking and gave generous donations. We are extremely grateful for all the help we receive to set up, clear and of course, man the stalls and sell our goods at the thrift itself. Thank you.

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

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

**St. Andrew's Day Scottish Quiz - 30<sup>th</sup>**



## **November: 7pm**

Come along to our Scottish Quiz on St Andrew’s Day. We are sure this will be a fun night. Come as a team, or on your own and join in for a fun, Scottish themed quiz night. There are sure to be many laughs, as our quiz master is not sure her answers are correct!!

Entry £3 per person - which includes a cuppa at the break.

## **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December**

### **Advent Service: Carols & songs of praise**

Our service on Sunday 3rd Dec will be an advent songs of praise service. This will include carol singing, readings and an overall celebration to welcome Christmas. Come along and get in the festive spirit.

## **Christmas Tree Festival - 9<sup>th</sup> December**

We are hosting a Christmas Tree Festival again this year and hope to make it even bigger and better than in the past. As before the idea is for Groups who could do with a helping hand to find volunteers, or to make people more aware of the service they provide, to decorate a Christmas tree and talk to our visitors about their organisation. If you would like to be part of this event, or know someone who would, please contact Elizabeth Henderson [tannach.henderson@gmail.com](mailto:tannach.henderson@gmail.com) for more details.

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*Please can all items for December’s newsletter be with Michelle by Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> November - Thank you*

Congregational No.41229.  
No.SC013840

Scottish Charity

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