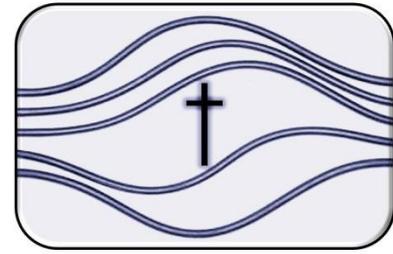




Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



November 2018

Hello people of Wick and district. This is your friendly, neighbourhood minister with the November issue of our Kirk magazine. I am sure that you are all becoming very excited about the arrival of Christmas. Advent Sunday is on the second of December this year. It represents the beginning of the old Church year and is a time of looking forward to the coming of Christ.

The Sunday preceding Advent Sunday used to be known as The Feast of Christ the King. This represented the end of the old Church year and was therefore a time of looking back. It was a time of remembering, a time of reflection, a time for the Church to remind itself what it was all about. And there is no harm in doing this year after year. When you get to my time of life it is good to have wee reminders of things. This is what the Feast of Christ the King has traditionally done for the Church. Readings from the New Testament would be given concerning Jesus ministry and how he conducted himself. The people would be reminded about the character of Christ and how he was no ordinary King or Emperor. The Church would be reminded, because it needs reminding at times, that it exists for others. Jesus once said that the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve and to give his life as a ransom for many. St Paul speaks in his letter to the Philippians of how Jesus became one of us and of how he appeared among us in the form of a servant. Paul goes on to speak about how Christ literally emptied himself and made himself to be of no reputation. And at the beginning of the passage he instructs his readers to have the same mind as Christ.

Now some of you may be thinking: John, I thought that you said Jesus was a King. I did indeed say that. But what you need to understand is that Christ's authority did not consist of ordering people around. He wasn't some kind of cosmic dictator who stood over humanity, watching for every little mistake and judging people accordingly. Instead he shared our weaknesses, our foibles. He became tired and upset and hungry and thirsty just like we do. His authority consisted not in issuing edicts. Instead his authority emerged from the very depths of his character and we know from 1 John 4:7-8 that in his being, God is love. And the New Testament says in another place that we love because God first loved us.

Christ's authority consists in not taking advantage of his authority, in sharing in our pain and weakness. When St Paul was on his way to Damascus to persecute the fledgling Christian community there he was thrown to the ground and he heard a voice that said: Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me? Stunned by the event, Saul (as he was known at that time) responded by saying: who are you Lord, that I am supposed to be persecuting? The voice responded and said: It is me, Jesus, whom you are persecuting. So close is Jesus to us that he shares our pain. There is never a moment when we are truly alone when the dark times come, when the shadows grow long and the nights grow cold. Why? The great King of all Kings is coming, and he comes with mercy and welcome. This is the King we remember at the end of the month. This is the King whose coming we remember in Advent. If you want to know more about this King then please contact me or 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:

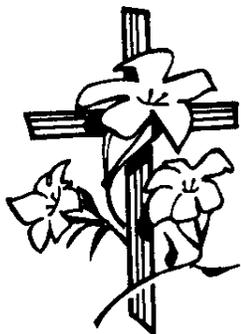
28th September: Catherine Gunn (nee Bain) - beloved Mum to James and Olive.

2nd October: Martin Hugh Boyd - dear son of Renee and Archie, and beloved brother to James, Kevin and Emma.

24th October: Catherine Henderson, (nee Durrand) - beloved wife of the late James "Hamish" Henderson and dear Mum to Hamish and Philip.

30th October: Adelaine Sinclair – dear wife to Alan, beloved mother and grandmother.

Flowers for Sunday



DATE	KINDLY DONATED BY	ARRANGER
4 th Nov	The family of the late Mrs Banks	Donor
11 th Nov	Royal British Legion	Mrs Harper
18 th Nov	VACANT	
25 th Nov	Mr & Mrs Turner, Sunbeam Terrace	Donor
2 nd Dec	The family of the late 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 IN USE EVERY SATURDAY From 7.30am UNTIL 11.30***

Church Duty Rota ** PLEASE NOTE CHANGES**

Date	BUS	STAIRS	DOOR	DOOR	USHER
4 th Nov	P Macadie	J Cormack	M Duffy	R Mappin	I Banks
11 th Nov	P Macadie	E Henderson	J Maclennan	A Duffy	J Coghill
18 th Nov	B Campbell	M Foubister	J Mackay	*****	M Thomson
25 th Nov	A Sinclair	W Robertson	*****	M Foubister	G Watt
2 nd Dec	M Duffy	R Mappin	H Gray	I Banks	J Cormack



SERMON INFORMATION FROM MINISTER

DATE	READING 1	READING 2	SUBJECT	DAY OF CHURCH CALENDAR
4 th Nov	Deuteronomy 6:1-9	Mark 12:28-34	All Saints Day	4 th before Advent
11 th Nov	TBC	TBC	Remembrance Sunday	3rd before Advent
18 th Nov	Psalm 16	John 1:1-14	Don't be alarmed	2 nd before Advent
25 th Nov	Psalm 93	John 18:33-37	Christ the King	Last before Advent



Guild

24th September - It was another full house for the meeting of 24th September, led by Mrs Kathlyn Harper. Following the opening devotions, she was very pleased to welcome back Barbara Nicol and the Arion Choir with accompanist Norma Sinclair. The choir delighted the Guild members with a wonderful selection of musical items from familiar Scottish songs, songs from the Shows, and nostalgic items which had Guild members enthusiastically joining in. All this was interspersed with poems from choir members Lesley Hendry and Marjory Richard. It was a super night which closed with a welcome cuppa.

8th October - The Guild business meeting was led by Janet McDonald. Following a hymn, reading and prayer, it was time to turn attention to Guild matters, both national and local. The accounts were discussed/agreed and treasurer Dinah Sutherland explained how much money was left to distribute from the current year's funds. It was agreed to donate £200 to the church and £100 each to two Guild Projects *Malawi Fruits Growing the Future* who will provide solar pumps, access to tractors and give support to young people to grow cash crops using modern methods and *The Free to Live Trust's Seema's Project*, which aims to rescue children from the red light district of Pune in India and provide accommodation and a future for them. The Guild is very grateful to the members of the congregation who donated to the retiring offering following the Guild Sunday service. It was not all business because the Guild thespians Maureen, Dorothy and Nancy acted out a couple of dramas on the Guild theme of *One Journey, Many Roads* in their own inimitable ways. The rounds of applause were well deserved. Janet brought the meeting to a close with a hymn and prayer, before the members descended on the Bring and Buy table, which raised the gratifying amount of just over £100.

Future Date. Saturday 17th November Guild Week Rally at 2.30pm in Thurso West Church.
Details from Janet McDonald (01955 602543).

*******FORTHCOMING DIARY EVENTS*******

St. Andrew's Day Scottish Quiz – 29th November: 7pm

Come along to our Scottish Quiz on St Andrew's Day. This was very popular last year, and many teams took part making it a fun, competitive night. We are sure this will be a great night once again. Come as a team, or on your own and join in for a banter-filled Scottish themed quiz night. There are sure to be many laughs, as our quiz master is never 100% sure her answers are correct!! With a prize for best team name, biggest losers, and the winners/runners up, it is shaping up to be another excellent night. Entry £3 per person – which includes a cuppa at the break.



Christmas Tree Festival – 8th 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 that any groups/organisations/charities who could do with a helping hand to find volunteers, or to make people more aware of the service they provide, decorate a Christmas tree and come along to 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 for details.

16th December – Gospel/country concert: Brandon McPhee & his band

20th December – Choral Christmas concert

PARKING AT THE CHURCH: As we told you a few months ago we need to have clear access at the front gate as a drop off point for less able people and for emergency access. Signs saying are now in place so please use the spaces marked along the wall at the side of the church and ensure your vehicle is completely within the white lines marked. *We have received a few complaints recently that men working on the house across the road are using the parking space. Sorry but there is nothing we can do about this as it is not only for church use.*

Heaven or Hell

A little girl was talking to her teacher about whales. The teacher said it was physically impossible for a whale to swallow a human because even though it was a very large mammal its throat was very small. The little girl stated that Jonah was swallowed by a whale.

Irritated, the teacher reiterated that a whale could not swallow a human; it was physically impossible. The little girl said, "When I get to heaven I will ask Jonah".

The teacher asked, "What if Jonah went to hell?"

The little girl replied, "Then you ask him".

SMARTEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD

A doctor, a lawyer, a little boy and a priest were out for a Sunday afternoon flight on a small private plane. Suddenly, the plane developed engine trouble. In spite of the best efforts of the pilot, the plane started to go down. Finally, the pilot grabbed a parachute, yelled to the passengers that they had better jump, and then he bailed out.

Unfortunately, there were only three parachutes remaining. The doctor grabbed one and said "I'm a doctor, I save lives, so I must live," and jumped out.

The lawyer then said, "I'm a lawyer and lawyers are the smartest people in the world. I deserve to live." He also grabbed a parachute and jumped.

The priest looked at the little boy and said, "My son, I've lived a long and full life. You are young and have your whole life ahead of you. Take the last parachute and live in peace."

The little boy handed the parachute back to the priest and said, "Not to worry, Father. The 'smartest man in the world' just took off with my back pack.

Commandments of a child.....

A Sunday school teacher was discussing the Ten Commandments with her five and six-year olds. After explaining the commandment to "honour" thy Father and thy Mother, she asked, "Is there a commandment that teaches us how to treat our brothers and sisters?"

Without missing a beat one little boy (the oldest of a family) answered, "Thou shall not kill."

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

Please can all items for December's newsletter be with Michelle by Wednesday 12th Dec – Thank you.

CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS			
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Treasurer	Martin Duffy	01955 605732	
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Congregational No.41229.

Scottish Charity No.SC013840