



Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



NEWSLETTER - February 2012

**Even though I walk through the darkest valley I fear
no evil for you are with me, your rod and staff comfort
me (Psalm 23:4 NRSV)**

By the time that you read this I will have been in Wick for exactly three years. Considering that I was only supposed to be here for three weeks, that is quite something. It is with this in mind, though, that I want to begin properly with an apology. Some of you haven't been getting the visits that you deserve. Mostly this has been because things have been hectic. One or two have "fallen through the gap" and I apologise for this.

I will get to you soon. Promise!

But it also has to be said that even in this busy time God has been good and he has shown me time and time again what an extraordinary place Wick is. I have been privileged to sit with those who are perhaps in the process of leaving this life. Others have been struggling with this life. Many have exhibited a level of joy in the face of suffering that would floor even the best of us (or those who consider themselves a cut above the rest of us mere mortals).

I have seen a level of resilience in this place that tells me time and time again what a special place Wick is. In fact this has made the verse at the head of this article all the more real for me. You see, it tells me that God has not forgotten Wick, that God is here and that God is at work. It tells me that nothing can suppress the incredible spirit of this town because it has its origins in God.

The detractors have simply lost touch with the ground of their being. In a very real sense they have lost touch with themselves. And even then "Wick Warks Weel" in that the town reaches out, even to its detractors and moaners and seeks to draw them in to the heart of what this place, the place I fell in love with getting off a bus from Glasgow three years ago, what this place is really like and that is a place that is welcoming, that opens its heart to the grieving and the lonely, that gives people a chance to belong. You can't say that about every place in this great nation of Scotland.

When my time comes to leave Wick at some point in the future I will carry memories with me of a town that welcomed an overweight "Weegy" and let me take part in its life. We should give thanks for this place. I know that I do.

Have a great month and come and see us on Sunday mornings at 11:30 sometime soon and give thanks with us,

Revd John Nugent BD (Honours)

Church Register

Funerals

Carol Smith, 26 Tower Square, Ackergill. Beloved wife of the late Drew.

Stella Bain, Riverside House, (formerly Macrae Street, Wick). Dear aunt and great-aunt.

John Moodie Redmond, 104 High Street, Wick. Dear father of Sean, Elizabeth and Mike.

Stella Anderson, 1 Hood Street, Wick. Dearly loved wife of Sandy.

Elizabeth (Betty) McPhee, 3 Leishman Avenue, Wick. Beloved wife of the late Isaac.

David John Sutherland, 114 Willowbank, Wick. Loving partner of Sandra.

Christening

Jessica Kate and Elliot David Robertson. Grand-children of Maureen Robertson, Miller Avenue.

New Elders

John and Pauline Craw, 8 Proudfoot Road, Wick.

Diary February/March

Friday 3 rd February	Stewardship 7pm
Monday 6th	Guild 7.30pm
Thursday 9 th	Kirk Session 7pm
Sunday 19th	Informal Communion during Service
Monday 20 th	Guild 7.30pm
Friday/Saturday 24/25th	Book Sale
Thursday 1 st March	Stewardship 7pm
Friday 2 nd	World Day of Prayer
Monday 5 th	Guild 7.30pm
Thursday 8 th	Congregational Board 7pm

Flowers for Sundays

DATE	DONOR	ARRANGER
12 th February	The Moore Family	Mrs Simpson
19 th February	Mrs J Steven, Tyrelle, Bayview	Donor
26 th February	Mrs I Gates, 4 Girnigoe Street	Donor
4 th March	Mowat family, per Mrs Watt, Broadhaven	Mrs Harper
11 th March	Mrs K Harper, 15 Whitehouse Park	Donor
18 th March	Ms J Smith, 88 Willowbank	Mrs Harper
25 th March	Mrs D Miller, Tolbooth Lane	Mrs Johnston

Church Bus

I know we don't have the snow and ice we had last year, but in winter the wind and rain can make it just as difficult to decide to come out on a Sunday morning. Why not try the Church Bus? We pay the same for the bus whether it has one passenger or is full, so just contact David More on 603081 and arrange to be picked up and delivered at the Church door with no worries about where to park or getting wet. Each week there is an Elder on the bus to make sure everyone is looked after properly. The Elders for the next few weeks are:

5 th February	E Henderson	4 th March	J Houston
12 th February	K Robertson	11 th March	M Morrow
19 th February	A Sinclair	18 th March	G Watt
26 th February	L Crowe	25 th March	I Banks

Christmas Charity

Donations collected at the Christmas Open Day, Bilbster Carol Concert and the Christmas Eve Services amounted to £510. Thank you all so much for your ongoing generosity, especially in the present economic climate when you can see others in so much more need than yourself and are prepared to help.

Forthcoming events:

Book Sale

We will be holding another **Book Sale on Friday 24th and Saturday 25th February** in the Church. We have started getting in donations to re-stock our tables and will be very grateful to receive any books you no longer want – they are probably just what someone else is looking for! We look forward to seeing you all on Friday or Saturday from 10.30am to 3.30pm.

SPRING THRIFT SHOP

13, 14, 15 March 2012

10.30 – 3pm, and 10.30 – 1pm on Thursday 15th

Fresh Baking each morning

Start your Spring Cleaning early – look through your loft – Tidy your teenagers rooms!!!
All donations welcome – deliver to the church on Friday 9 March from 2pm, or contact anyone you know in the church to arrange collection.

Church AGM plus Tea and Social evening

Wednesday 21st March 2012

Church Hall 7pm

Michael Marcus Concert

Michael Marcus is a singer/songwriter from Westray in the Orkney Islands. He has made several albums to date and has been on the road since 1999 singing and leading worship all through the UK.

St Fergus Church on Friday 13th April 2012 at 7.30pm

Full details in next month's Newsletter

Guild Reports

January 9th saw the opening meeting of 2012 with an excellent turn out of members.

Guest for the evening was our Minister who took us on a musical tour from Morvern and Fiunary of west coast Scotland to Alabama in the deep south of the USA, accompanying himself on the guitar and telling the story of how the old Scottish folk tunes travelled with the emigrants to the new lands. These traditional tunes now found new expression in such places as the Appalachian Mountains and founded the basis of what we now call “Bluegrass” music. When the Evangelists Moody and Sankey undertook an east coast tour of the USA, Ira Sankey noted down many of the tunes from the then folk music and many found their way back into use as hymn tunes on their crusades. Many of the early Bluegrass singers, Ralph Stanley, The Carter Family, Hank Williams etc, popularized the tunes set to Gospel Songs and our musical journey ended with the old melodies being used in protest songs by the civil rights protesters as they fought for equality. The music popularly thought of as traditional American has deep roots in the Scottish folk music brought to their shores by those early Scots emigrants. This was a splendid evening thoughtfully presented and in the words of Kathleen Robertson in her vote of thanks “I think we’ll have him back again.”

January 25th we celebrated our National Bard. - Our guest for the evening was the inimitable Mrs Jenny Szfelbain who entertained the company in song, with interaction from the members, and readings from her own wide range of poetry. This was punctuated with renderings by Pat Weir of “Tae a Louse” and “Tae a Moose”. This entertainment was thoroughly enjoyed by all and was followed by a feast of

Scots fare, with special thanks to Kathleen Robertson for her “Cloutie Dumpling.”

The Boys' Brigade

We have three new volunteers and a very constructive meeting was held on Wednesday 25th January with Simon Smith BB Development Officer for the Highlands. It was decided to begin with the reforming of the Anchor Boys, 5 - 8 year olds. Some initial training will take place for the new leaders and a date just after the Easter break has been targeted for recruitment. More details to follow.

Life of Our Church

To many people when asked what goes on in their church the answer very often is – Sunday services; fundraising; funerals; roof repairs; and a vague impression that whatever else has to be done there is a minister and elders, but no real feeling of what this would be.

So it seems a good time to let everyone associated with St Fergus Church know exactly what goes on in the building throughout the year:

- **Sunday Service** at 11.30am every week.
- **Pause Point** most Saturday mornings 10.00- 10.30am.
- **Kirk Session** meets every second month on Thursday nights at 7pm the Session are responsible for the spiritual or religious life of the church.
- **Congregational Board** meets every alternate second month on Thursdays at 7pm – basically they are responsible for Fabric and Finance
- **Worship Committee** are responsible to the Session and explore new ideas for worship.
- **Presbytery** meetings.
- **The Guild** meet every second Monday at 7.30pm and new members, including men, are welcome. Contact Janet McDonald on 602543 if you would like more information.
- **Fabric Committee** oversees the detail of the upkeep of the building and reports to the Board.
- **Stewardship Committee** organise all fundraising events as well as other outreach events which are intended to increase interest in the church and welcome people back as well as new members. The committee are always looking for new ideas as well as continuing with the “old faithfuls” of Thrift, Book Sales, Kirk Fayre, Slide Show etc. They also report to the Board.
- **The church Choir** meet on Wednesday nights at 7.45pm and are always looking for new members.
- **Guides** meet in the Church Hall on Friday nights. Contact Eleanor Harness 604691.
- **Brownies** meet in the Church Hall on Tuesdays. Contact Anne Begg 602900.
- **Rainbows** meet in the Church Hall on Thursdays. Contact Nicola Milne 606060.
- **Wick Gardening Club** meet on Mondays once a month. Contact C Scott 602619.
- **Wick 50+ Group** meet every second Tuesday at 7.30 and the Contact person is Renee Scott on 605295
- **Caithness Orchestra, Wick Choral Society, Swimming Club, Hillhead School and North School** all hold meetings and events at various times.

CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS

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