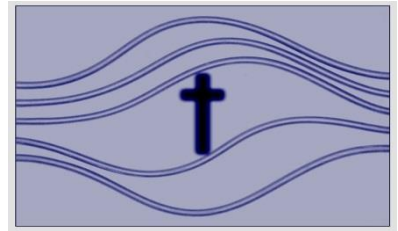




Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland



Newsletter – November 2014

Luke 23:42-43

“Jesus Remember Me”

Happy November everyone! No doubt you will all be pleased to know that it is only two months or so until Christmas. Now I know what y'all are thinking: ***Enough already with Christmas, Christmas is weeks away!!!*** But please bear with me for a moment before you throw this newsletter away in a fit of frustration. I remember when I used to work with Loaves and Fishes Charity for the Homeless in Glasgow city centre and one Christmas I was walking through the city when I passed a shop window and in the window was a display of expensive toys and computer games. Above the toys hung a poster that said ***Remember the kids this Christmas.*** Looking in the window was a young woman with four children. When the bairns pointed to the toys I heard the Mam say ***Santa is going to be too busy to come to our house.*** The children felt forgotten. It's sad, isn't it? But the real tragedy isn't even so much that the children would receive little from Santa but rather that our society equated remembrance with largesse and a surplus of goods. And the parents would have felt a strange combination of guilt and being forgotten themselves: guilt for not being able to provide nice things for their bairns and the sense of being forgotten in that nobody was taking the needs of their families into account at Christmas. But why mention all this in October/November? Well, by the time you read this we will have participated in Remembrance Sunday, the Sunday closest to Armistice Day. But instead of just being one day a year, Remembrance Sunday should act as a motivational spur to remembering the sacrifices made by soldiers past and present all year round. It's easy to feel that we have worn our poppy for a few weeks each year and feel that we have done our bit but our veterans live with the remembrance of war and their fallen comrades every day of their lives and it isn't right that they should do this alone. If succeeding governments had any backbone at all they would ensure that our brave veterans shouldn't have to rely on charity. You see, Remembrance Sunday is all about their remembrance of us just as Christmas is all about God's remembrance of us. And so if we are going to remember the kids at Christmas then let's ensure that each child is loved and valued not only at Christmas but also every day of the year. And when you come to any of the acts of remembrance over the Remembrance week then use them as opportunities to resolve to speak out on behalf of our veterans, badgering the living daylights out of politicians to ensure that our veterans are treated with respect by a nation that only exists because of the sacrifice of these brave women and men. This year don't just buy a poppy. This year give of yourselves. Come to the war memorials and cenotaphs. Attend the acts of remembrance that will be taking place in your local communities and remind our surviving veterans that their sacrifices will never be forgotten, neither will the memories of their fallen comrades. In Wick and district there will be plenty of opportunities to participate. Look out for the advertisements. At Wick St Fergus we take seriously our commitment to remember all who have gone before so if you want to come and see us and maybe just sit quietly with your memories in one of our Sunday services then you will be most welcome to do so. You know where we are.

Rev. John Nugent BD(Honours)

Church Register

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

Dan Nicolson – beloved Father and Grandfather
Donald Campbell – loving husband, Father and Grandfather
Lene Mackay – loving Mum, Grandmother and great Grandmother
Peter Harlock – beloved Father, Grandfather and great Grandfather
Mary Cooper – beloved mother, grandmother
George Johnstone – beloved Father, Grandfather and Great Grandfather

BAPTISMS:

Aiden James McBreen; son of Donna McPhee & Graeme McBreen – 12th October
Ayla Paige Sinclair; daughter of Kayleigh & Jamie Sinclair – 18th October

Diary

Choir Practice	Wednesdays 7.15pm	23 rd November	Communion Sunday:
4 th November	Presbytery 7pm		Feast of Christ the King
6 th November	Stewardship 7pm	30 th November	First Sunday in Advent
9 th November	Remembrance Sunday	6 th December	Shoppers Lunch
13 th November	Congregational Board 7pm		

Flowers for Sunday

DATE	DONOR	ARRANGER
2 nd Nov	Mrs P Weir, 37a Huddart Street	Mrs Simpson
9 th Nov	Royal British Legion	Mrs Harper
16 th Nov	Mrs J Henderson, 103 Henrietta Street.	Mrs Simpson
23 rd Nov	Mrs J MacDonald, Shore Lane	Donor
30 th Nov	Mrs Turner, Lamont, 6 Sunbeam Terrace	Donor
7 th Dec	Miss E McDonald, 34 Grant Street	Mrs Johnston
14 th Dec	Mrs Mcadie, 10 Vansittart Street	Donor

Bus stewards

Date	Steward
2 nd November	A Rosie
9 th November	J Cormack
16 th November	E Henderson
23 rd November	M Thomson
30 th November	A Sinclair
7 th December	L Crowe

Art Exhibition

The recent art exhibition was very well attended with 127 pictures on display, raising an amazing £512.20 which has been handed to the Caithness Heart Support Group. Thanks to everyone involved with the organisation of this event, those who displayed their work and those who attended to help raise this fantastic amount.

Thrift Shop

In spite of the horrid weather, our thrift shop attracted lots of customers and our stalls were well patronised; many thanks to everyone who donated the great variety of goods, baking and jams. There is a great deal of work involved in setting up the stalls and tidying away afterwards. We are most grateful to those, including the minister, who gave their time to man the stalls over the three days. It was well worth the effort and an excellent £1456 was raised.

District Collector

We need someone to distribute church newsletters in the Glamis Road area of the town. Please contact John Cormack (603774) if you are able to help with this. Thank you.



The Guild

Annual Guild Rally

This year's Rally was held in Thurso St Peter's & St Andrew's Church.

After very warm welcome and opening devotions, Mrs Janet McDonald presented a very up to date report on the National Guild projects which at the moment stands at £511,302: a very satisfactory effort which was warmly applauded by the gathering.

Our guest for the evening was Mrs Marjory Paton who talked on her experiences during her year as Guild Convenor. She took as her theme our Guild Motto "Whose we are and Whom we serve," and using each letter in turn took us on a most informative and enlightening journey through her year, this was much appreciated by all. Following the votes of thanks, given by Rev Esme Duncan the company enjoyed an excellent tea.

Guild meeting 6 October 2014

There was an excellent turn-out of members, including one new one, who braved the elements to enjoy Peter Almond's excellent illustrated talk on his visits to St. Kilda. He was accompanied by his wife Rosie, who very ably worked the projector. After the opening devotions, led by Janet McDonald, the lights were dimmed and we were transported across the sea to the haunting sound of the violin played by another guest young Emily Morrison, as we watched the dark outline of St.Kilda rise into view. Peter and Rosie first visited St. Kilda to take part in an archaeological dig in 2003 and Peter has been back in 2006 and 2009. His interest in the island was sparked when he was a young boy, by the iconic photograph of the "St. Kilda Parliament" which shows a line-up of old men, some barefooted, grouped outside their houses, discussing what tasks they would undertake that day. He gave us a fascinating and comprehensive insight into the history of the island and its people from the unusual way of choosing husbands to why three out of every five babies didn't survive after eight days. The island has the biggest population of gannets in the world and extra care is taken against rats coming ashore from visiting ships, because they would eventually kill all the birds. After one of the worst winters on record, the starving population were evacuated from St. Kilda on August 28th 1930. The evening closed with the usual welcome cup of tea, before we returned to the warmth and "mod cons" of our homes.

Change to the Programme.

The St. John's Church choir are unable to come on November 3rd and instead the guest will be *The Music Monsterettes* and their conductor Virginia Crow.

Reminder - Guild Week Rally

Pulteneytown Parish Church - Saturday 15th November - 2.30pm, when all the Mary's Meals backpacks will be handed in.

Postage stamps

The stamps we put into the bin in the inner vestibule of the church go south and are sold to stamp dealers to raise money for the World Mission department of the Church of Scotland. Thanks for your continuing support with this. Please remember to leave 6mm (¼") around the stamps to help the buyers remove the stamps from the envelopes more easily. Thank you.

Remembrance Week Timetable:

Saturday 8th November - Memorial Garden (Town Hall) – 10.50am

Sunday 9th November – War Memorial – 10.45am

War Graves – 2.00pm

Bilbster War Memorial – 2.50 (for 3.00pm)

Tuesday 11th November – War Memorial – 10.45am

Pause for thought

How would you cope with doing absolutely nothing but be alone with your thoughts? It seems that most of us are unable to switch off, and struggle to spend even brief periods of time alone, with nothing to do but think or daydream. In a recent research study, people who were deprived of access to music, other people, or even smartphones, preferred to give themselves mild electric shocks rather than simply sit still and think for 15 minutes. As Christians, could we take the chance to use that time to talk to God? Would we think of the things we have done wrong? Would we think of the things we could have done differently? Would we waste the time worrying about what we have yet to do? Silent reflection and or talking to God *IS* something we could all benefit from. Maybe this month we could all manage some time out for our thoughts. *The study was published in the magazine 'Science'.*

Talking to God is for everyone!

As Christians, we are often asked about prayer. What is prayer? Why do we pray? How do we pray? What do we say? The truth is that depending who you ask, you will get a different answer! Prayer is something that is unique to you; it is you talking to God. What you say, how you feel and your relationship is unique! It has been said that we learn to pray by praying, not by reading about it. That said, speaking with others and listening to their understanding of prayer can help us reflect upon our own experiences. How to Pray is therefore a collection of thoughts and ideas to help us think about prayer, especially if we are new to it, returning to it or simply want to refresh our prayer life. One helpful approach is to take as little as five minutes in your day to pray. Each minute is spent on one of the words your parents were always trying to get you to say: Hello. Thank you. Please. Sorry. Bye. Talking to God should be easy. Give it a try this month. *Taken from Church of Scotland website*

Forthcoming Events

6th December - Shoppers Lunch – in the hall from 11.30am – 2.30pm. There will be a sales table as well as a selection of favourite homemade soups, tasty sandwiches and mouth-watering puddings, tea and coffee, all at very reasonable prices. Come along, bring the family and lunch with us.

13th December - Christmas Tree Festival – Christmas is a time when we give to others by way of presents and cards. This year, how about giving some of your time to a charity in need of help? There will be a good selection of organisations displaying decorated trees and staff will be available to speak to anyone interested in giving some of their time to help others. Come along, enjoy the decorated trees, window displays, have your tea and browse the sales and baking tables. If you, or someone you know, would like to decorate a tree and give information for a good cause please get in touch with Elizabeth Henderson, 604156 or tannach@dsl.pipex.com.

Website: Find us at www.wickstferguschurch.org.uk

Please can all items for December's newsletter be with Michelle by Wednesday 26th November – Thank you.

CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS			
Title	Name	Phone	Email
Minister	John Nugent	07511 503946	johnnugentis@mail2web.com
Session Clerk	David More	01955 603081	
Clerk to Congregational Board	Elizabeth Henderson	01955 604156	tannach@dsl.pipex.com
Treasurer	Martin Duffy	01955 605732	
Magazine Editor	Michelle Foubister	01955 602416	chellefoubister@sky.com
Website	Jean McLennan		jean.mclennan02@btinternet.com

Congregational No.41229.

Scottish Charity No.SC013840