



# Wick St Fergus Church of Scotland

## Newsletter – November 2011

[www.wickstferguschurch.org.uk](http://www.wickstferguschurch.org.uk)

### **1 Corinthians 12:27**

By the time that you good folks of Wick and district read this month's newsletter we will have formally welcomed Pulteneytown Parish Church's new minister, the Revd Stuart Farnes. I am really looking forward to being the preacher for the evening at his ordination and induction on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November.

Occasions like this are among the few times when all of God's people come together from across what seems to be an impossible religious divide. All of the Kirks in Caithness Presbytery will be there as will representatives from Kirks from other traditions. I always look forward to meeting with folks like Father John Allan from St Joachim's and getting to have a yarn with Revd Wendy Knott from the Episcopal Church and Revd Bill Ferguson from the Baptist Church. These occasions are far too infrequent.

The division of the community of faith here in Scotland and elsewhere is also a cause for great sadness. Some Kirks refuse to recognise the valid and crucial contributions that are made to the life of the nation by the various Christian traditions. Some Kirks live on warped memories of the past, viewing other traditions through lenses that are just out of focus. Yet others think that the Reformation in Scotland only just happened, or so it would seem. And there are even some who would cast doubt on the validity of another tradition's spirituality. Such people often cast such doubts, generally on people who disagree with them. And such people miss out on so much.

The fact is that we don't have to agree. We do not all fulfil the same function and so we need one another in order to gain a true, overall picture of the magnificence that is God revealed in the joiner from Nazareth. An old, faithful believer once wrote the following prayer ***From the cowardice that shrinks from new truth, from the laziness that is content with half truth, from the arrogance that thinks it has all the truth -- Oh, God of truth, deliver us.*** We need one another's insights and the experience that each of us brings to the Christian faith and the interpretation of the Bible otherwise the result is bigotry. ***And bigotry has no place in the Church!*** Like St Paul said, if the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be and if the whole body were an ear, where would the sense of smell be? I do not have the option of saying to my sisters and brothers in other Kirks that I don't need them.

That is one reason why I am thankful that right at the very beginning of Wick St Fergus Church we committed ourselves in our vision statement to work together with other congregations of God's people.

And so to Stuart I say, "Welcome to Wick, I look forward to working with you." To my sisters and brothers in the other Kirks in the area I say, "Thank you for being where you are, for being the presence of Christ in our town and district. Let's get together more often."

**Together we are the body of Christ and God has not left us. Let's talk soon.**

Rev. John Nugent, BD



## **Congregational Register 2011**

### **Funerals**

**SMITH** Margaret Oliphant Macaulay, beloved wife of the late Dick Smith, formerly of Ackergill.  
**GRANT** Kian James Grant, 12 Hill Avenue. Dearly loved infant son of Hayley and Raymond.  
**SINCLAIR** John Sinclair. Beloved husband of the late Effie Munro, formerly of Pilot Row, Papigoe.

### **Diary**

6 November Guild Sunday  
6 November Pulteney House 3pm  
10 November Congregational Board 7pm  
12 November Elders Coffee Morning  
14 November Guild 7.30pm  
20 November Communion  
28 November Guild Christmas Evening  
3 December Shoppers Lunches  
8 December Kirk Session 7pm

### **Bus Elders 2011**



Any enquiries to David More, Session Clerk,  
on 603081

6 November G Ramsay  
13 November D Broomfield  
20 November H Gray  
27 November G MacDonald  
4 December A Rosie  
11 December J Coghil

### **Recent Events**

Harvest Open Day - Over £600 being donated to Kidney Kids Scotland.

Thrift Shop - Over £1600 to running costs of church.

Thank you all for your generous support of all our events.

### **FLOWER ROTA**

At present we have a vacancy for Sunday 19 February 2012. If you would like to provide flowers on that day, for one Sunday or every year, please get in touch with Mrs Isobel Gates who will let you know the details.

DATE	DONOR	ARRANGER
November 6 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J Henderson, 103 Henrietta Street	Mrs Simpson
November 13 <sup>th</sup>	Royal British Legion Miss Ibbie Rosie, 7 Upper Dunbar Street (In memorium)	Mrs Harper
November 20 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs MacDonald, 45 Coach Road	Donor
November 27 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Turner, "Lamont", 6 Sunbeam Terrace	Mrs Gates
December 4 <sup>th</sup>	Miss E MacDonald, 34 Grant Street	Mrs Johnston
December 11 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs McAdie, 10 Vansittart Street	Mrs Gates
December 18 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs Gunn, Netherby, Northcote Street	Mrs Anderson
December 25 <sup>th</sup>	Mrs J Stewart, Bilbster House	Donor
Jan 1 <sup>st</sup> 2012	Mrs Glen, 4 Henrietta Court	Donor

## **Guild Report**

Monday 3 October 2011

This meeting took the form of a "Matter of Opinion" with a well balanced panel consisting of Margaret Thomson, Anne Duffy, John Crow and Jimmy Johnston all kept under control by Chairperson Kathleen Robertson.

The questions were quite diverse and it caused great hilarity when one panellist confessed their earliest memory as being caught smoking by Mum in the bike shelter at school and the resulting skelp! The question of the introduction of Beavers to Scotland resulted in a gender divide with the ladies for and the men against, one of the men suggesting that the expansion of "Beavers" was best left to the Scouts!

Other topics ranged from Wind Farms to Holiday destinations, Euthanasia to historical dinner dates. All in all a very interesting and entertaining evening and the Guild is grateful to the panellists for their time, thoughts and humour. The debate was followed by closing devotions and tea.

Monday 17 October 2011

The meeting was opened by Mrs Anne Robertson who introduced the speaker, Mr Alan Sinclair, who took us on a trip to Nova Scotia, Newfoundland and Labrador illustrated throughout with slides and lovely music. Halifax the capital of Nova Scotia, has the second largest tattoo next to Edinburgh and its flag is a blue St Andrews Cross on white with the Scottish Lion Rampant at the centre. Most of the population are descended from Scots and speak the Gaelic.

Newfoundland and Labrador was the first permanent colony of Britain in 1610. Its flag is a stylised version of the Union Jack. The collapse of the historic cod fishery was replaced by the discovery of oil off the Grand Banks. The life-style is very laid back. Thanks to Alan for a most enjoyable evening.

The evening closed with a hymn and prayer and the usual cup of tea.

## **Shoppers Lunch - 3 December 2011**

DO YOU FANCY SOMEWHERE DIFFERENT FOR LUNCH??



Well, come along to our Church Hall on

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2011.**

Our Shoppers Lunch will be held from

11.30am - 2.30pm

**The most popular Soup is Cullen Skink but all the other favourites will be on offer too, plus a variety of delicious Sandwiches and to round off, a selection of mouth-watering Gateaux and Cakes with Tea or Coffee.**

ALL AT VERY REASONABLE PRICES.

THERE WILL ALSO BE A SALES TABLE WITH CHRISTMAS GIFTS, JAMS, CHUTNEYS AND BAKING

**Remember the date and enjoy a super lunch**

## **Christmas Open Day - Saturday 17 December 2011**

This is advance notice of our Open Day, and as usual we need your help to make it a success. The theme this time is Christmas Past. So we would be delighted if you can start to look out anything to do with a Christmas in your past – it may be a present, a decoration, a photo, a programme from an event, something from your school days etc.etc - the list goes on! If everyone could provide one item what a display we could have! We are still at the planning stage so keep an ear open for any other ways to help. More details in next month's newsletter, and posters will be up soon.

## **Stewardship News - November 2011**

At our recent Stewardship meeting it was suggested we update the congregation at regular intervals on what we are doing as a committee. This is the first of what will be regular two/ three monthly updates on what we are doing and looking ahead to the future.

The Stewardship committee consists of around 20 members, we meet monthly and we are responsible to the board for the following objectives that we set ourselves at the start of the Union in 2009 and as you can see it's not all about fundraising.

**Promoting the Stewardship of Money by via innovative fund-raising**

**Production of a Social and Fundraising Annual Programme of events**

**Identify the congregation's gifts and abilities and encourage their use within the fellowship of the Church**

**Develop Initiatives to maximize Gift Aid within the congregation and to increase giving.**

**Participating in, or organizing community events to get the congregation actively involved with the wider community and allow the wider community to experience St Fergus Church and its work.**

**To demonstrate proper financial governance within St Fergus, ensuring we meet the OSCR guidelines set for UK/Scottish Charities.**

**To publicise the work of the committee within the congregation and in the wider community.**

Please remember we are always looking for members of the committee, although we are a large committee, we have a very ambitious programme throughout the year and all help and assistance is welcome and of course your ideas. We are always looking at innovative ways of presenting our church to the wider community.

We have just undertaken a very successful Harvest Open Day which raised £615 for the Charity "Kidney Kids Scotland". For the first time we have set up an account to enable people anywhere (whether via our website or posters) to give to our causes by using "Just Text Giving", this method of giving was explained in the October newsletter. We intend to set up a similar scheme for the Christmas Charity and set it running from the 1<sup>st</sup> December. If you missed the Harvest Exhibition there are plenty of photos on the St Fergus website for you to look at, see [www.wickstferguschurch.org.uk](http://www.wickstferguschurch.org.uk)

Our next events are the Elders coffee morning, Shopping Lunches and our Christmas Open Day, this year being held on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> December where we plan to have live music throughout the day and an exhibition of "Christmas Past."

Looking Forward

One of the things that we hope will be different for next year's Stewardship programme is a concert in April by Michael Harcus in Wick St Fergus Church. Michael is a well known modern gospel /contemporary folk singer from Westray and he has kindly agreed to do a concert for us in Wick St Fergus. Watch this space for more information nearer the time.

Alan Sinclair, Stewardship Committee Chairperson

### **CHURCH CONTACT DETAILS**

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