

# FOCUS

Your Church Magazine  
February 2009



## Comrie Croft 20th - 22nd March 2009

Plans are well under way for the first Church Weekend Away, to take place at Comrie Croft, Perthshire over the weekend of 20th-22nd March.

This promises to be a weekend of fun and fellowship and for those already signed up to go, more information on what to expect from the weekend will be available soon.

**It's not too late to join us!  
There are still some places available!!**

Comrie Croft is a 4\* hostel providing good quality accommodation and we have exclusive use of the premises for the whole weekend. At the moment we can still accommodate an additional family or couple (or a single sex group who would like to share a room) as well as a number of "singles" who could take up spare places in other rooms. Help is also available organising travel if required.



The cost for the weekend is only £75 which includes 2 nights accommodation and all food and refreshments for the weekend starting with tea and cakes on arrival on Friday night through to Sunday lunch.

If you would like to take up this offer, please contact Edna Ledingham (733723), Val Muir (735001) or Jill Grant at the church office (735845).

## ***From the Manse***

### **Dear Friends**

This year marks the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the beginning of Peterculter Parish Church, when St Peter's and Kelman were united. As you can see in this issue of the magazine, we have a number of events lined up to mark this event .

Ten years does not perhaps seem very long time to justify marking the anniversary – but I am always keen to find a reason to enjoy ourselves!

During the past ten years, a great deal has happened to move the congregation forward. A key event was of course the refurbishment of the building, not only in the sanctuary, but also in the halls and kitchen. But many other events have taken place which may not be so obvious, but are just as important. For me, the involvement of others in worship and the introduction of the Thursday morning service, along with having Sunday services of a different format, are all important.

We have seen numbers increase at teas and coffees after worship and our social and fund raising events have brought people together in all sorts of ways and are now a hallmark of our congregation. Although at times support was not always strong, it has been great to have been able to have run so many Adult Christian Education courses which I have enjoyed presenting. The establishment of our Bible Study Group, more recently the House Group and the various Alpha course we have run have all been worthwhile.

Another highlight which I would want to mention has been the fantastic efforts of our Outreach team who have done so much to pass on the Good News and highlight the various activities in our congregation. One aspect of that is our excellent web site, as well as the postcards sent out to the parish at Christmas and Easter. Although the Justice and Peace group has been disbanded, its remit has been passed to other committees and we look back on the important achievements of an eco congregation award and our partnership with St Paul's Church, Blantyre.

On the financial front, it's worth noting that our givings have increased over the years, despite the fact that the Roll has declined. Despite this fairly substantial decline, we have welcomed many new members to our church family over the years.

Of course, it is not all good news. The numbers who come on a Sunday are still only about a quarter of our membership. We face the ongoing challenge of attracting children and young people and one of the saddest aspects of Ministry for me has been the number of parents who have not

stayed true to the vows they took when their child was baptised. And of course, when we look back on ten years, we can think of many members whom who have passed away and whose loss we still feel because they were all important members of our church family.

For me personally, what I think of especially about the past ten years has been the support I've received from so many of you which has made my job worthwhile and which I appreciate very much.

I hope and pray that God will continue to guide us in the years to come and that we will keep moving forward in the task of celebrating and spreading the Good News of Christ our Lord.

Yours sincerely

*John Ferguson.*

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## **Christmas Collections**

Final totals resulted in £292 being sent to both CLAN and to St Paul's Church Malawi, through the offering at the Candlelit Service

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## **Bereavement Team**

Please remember that we have a small bereavement team in the church, made up of a group of members who are willing to visit people who have lost loved ones.

If you would like a visit from a member of the group, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

The arrangements would be informal and can be ended at any time. Contact me on 735041 if you are interested or would like more information.

**John Ferguson**



## Table Top Sales

Our table top sales continue on the 1st Saturday of each month with the next one taking place on Sat 7th February.

Tables can be set up from 9 - 10 am with items on sale from 10 - 12 noon.

If anyone has some small items they would like rid of, but don't want to take a table themselves, then these can be donated and will be sold for church funds.

## 47th Aberdeen (Culter) Company, The Boys' Brigade.

In this our Centenary year a committee has been formed to organise a celebration of this marvellous event. All the old records have been trawled through and some 1800 names of all the boys who have passed through the Company in the past 100 years have been listed. This was part of a monumental task as the next part was to try and find addresses of where the surviving old boys now lived. It is quite amazing as to how far the boys from Peterculter have travelled around the world. Letters have been sent out to everyone we could find telling them about the celebrations. To anyone we have missed, please accept our sincere apologies and we can only but hope that you have heard about the celebrations through the grapevine.

- ◆ Monday 11 May. Cheese & Wine at Culter Sports Club
- ◆ Tuesday 12 May Display of Company memorabilia at Heritage Centre,
- ◆ followed by Treasure Hunt an finishing with refreshments at Heritage Centre.
- ◆ Wednesday 13 May Bowling Night at Mill Club Bowling Green.
- ◆ Thursday 14 May Company Display in Culter School
- ◆ Friday 15 May Dinner/Dance at the Hilton Treetops Hotel
- ◆ Sunday 17 May Church Parade

3 - 5 July there will be an Old Boys' camp at Lebhall, Ballater. Friends of the Company and any of the public wishing to participate in any event will be most welcome subject to tickets being available for 11th and 15 May. We are investigating the costings of transport to the Treetops and will indicate as to whether this is a viable proposition as soon as possible.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Mr and Mrs Taylor of Hillview Road who celebrate their Platinum Wedding Anniversary on January 28th. For those who rarely hear of this, a Platinum anniversary is 70 years!



This is a truly wonderful achievement.

### Church Flowers

Flowers for November and December have kindly been donated by:

- ◆ Isobel Kennedy
- ◆ Cath Mackenzie
- ◆ Helen Michie
- ◆ The Gordon family
- ◆ Chris Taylor
- ◆ Moira West
- ◆ Hilda Rodger
- ◆ Margaret Carmichael
- ◆ Norma Rothwell
- ◆ Margaret Grieve



I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have donated towards the flowers over the past year. It is very much appreciated by everyone.

Also a special thanks for the berries, mainly from Mrs Romans with help from her neighbour, Nancy Withrington, who collected 2 large bags from her tree.

<b>Flower Convenor</b>	Violet Smith	733317		
<b>Deputy</b>	Moira West	734732		
<b>Treasurer</b>	Hazel Mitchell	733187		
<b>Committee</b>	Lorrie Bilsborrow	Isabel Barclay	Dorothy Reid	Margaret Stephen
	Dayer Colburn	Catherine Lacy	Chris Masson	

## 10th Anniversary Celebrations

During 2009 there will be a number of social events to mark the 10th anniversary of the beginning of Peterculter Parish Church following the union of St Peter's and Kelman Memorial.

The first of these will be a buffet lunch after morning worship on Sunday 8th March to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the union of St Peter's Church and Kelman Memorial Church.



Other dates planned throughout the year are:

- ◆ Friday 22nd May - Cheese & Wine social evening for board and session members.
- ◆ Wednesday 17th June - Musical Evening featuring a visiting group of singers from South Carolina (under the direction of Bill Riehl who used to live in the area) and a group from the Aberdeen Chorus of Sweet Adelines.
- ◆ Wednesday 7th October - Fashion Show by Bon Ton of Cults.
- ◆ Saturday 14th November - Scottish Ceilidh evening.

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### Church Lunch

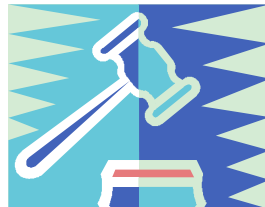
The next monthly lunch will take place on Wednesday 4th February.

All welcome



### Annual Stated Meeting

The Annual Stated Meeting of Peterculter Parish Church will take place after morning worship on Sunday 15th March 2009.



## Senior Citizens' Outing

This year's outing will take place on Wednesday 27th 2009 to Celebrations of Turriff. There you will have the opportunity to buy lunch, afternoon tea/ coffee and browse around their shop. The restaurant is self-service but assistance will be given to less able members of our group. Celebrations have assured us that we will be welcome and that places will be available, but asked that we "stagger" our queues for lunch, etc.

The 49 seater coach will leave from the church at 11 am and depart from Turriff at 3.30 pm to return to Culter (so there will be plenty browsing/ shopping time!) Transport to and from the church will be provided if required.

It has been agreed that a charge of £6 per person be made towards the cost of transport. This includes the driver's gratuity.

If you wish to go on this outing, please give your name and your £6 to your elder as soon as possible as numbers are limited, and certainly no later than Sunday 26th April 2009.

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## Gifford Lectures 2009

Professor Alister McGrath is visiting the University of Aberdeen throughout the month of February to deliver the 2009 Gifford Lectures. His series is entitled A Fine-Tuned Universe: Science, Theology and the Quest for Meaning.

The lectures take place from Tuesday 10th February - Thursday 26th February at 6.00 pm King's College Conference Centre, University of Aberdeen.

Further information is on the University website [www.abdn.ac.uk/gifford](http://www.abdn.ac.uk/gifford)

To reserve your free place please call: 01224 272084, or E-mail [c.papiransky@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:c.papiransky@abdn.ac.uk).

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## Thanks

The magnificent sum of £2,902.32 (a new record by 85p) was raised for church funds at the Christmas Fayre on the 29<sup>th</sup> of November. Thanks are due to all who participated and put in so much work to make the day such a success.

Each evening begins at 7.30p.m. with a presentation in the church or small hall, followed by discussion time in the small hall. The evening will end at 9.00p.m.

No prior knowledge of the topics is required

For more information, contact John Ferguson on [jc.ferguson@virgin.net](mailto:jc.ferguson@virgin.net) or phone 735041

### **Course 1 - Who Was St Paul?**

- ◆ Thursday 5th February - Introduction, Upbringing, Jewish background, Conversion
- ◆ Thursday 12th February – Travels with St Paul
- ◆ Thursday 19th February – The Epistles
- ◆ Thursday 26th February – Paul's legacy



This series will look at the life of St Paul and explore his background, teaching and journeys. Why was he so successful? What kind of man was he? And is it the case that he single headedly changed the nature of Christianity to allow it to advance into the non Jewish world?

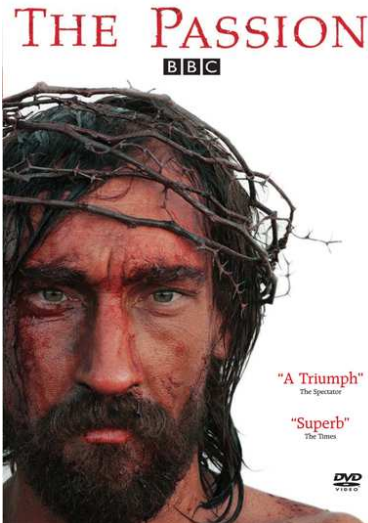
### **Course 2 - The Passion**

- ◆ Wednesday March 11th - BBC: The Passion, Episode 1, followed by discussion
- ◆ Wednesday March 18th - BBC: The Passion, Episode 2, followed by discussion
- ◆ Wednesday March 25th - BBC: The Passion, Episode 3, followed by discussion

- ♦ Wednesday April 1st - BBC: The Passion, Episode 4, followed by discussion

The Passion is a television drama, retelling the last week in the life of Jesus Christ, written by Emmy Award winner Frank Deasy. The Passion was shown throughout Holy Week 2008 on BBC One, drawing to a dramatic climax on Easter Sunday.

Visually arresting and rich in colour, the story is rooted in the chaotic world in which it took place - the city of Jerusalem during Passover week. Set in the political and religious context of the time, it combines both narrative tension and thematic power to convey the events that took place that week.



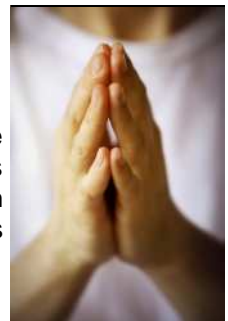
The Passion places the audience at the heart of the action by telling the story from three points of view - the religious authorities, the Romans and Jesus. For the first time, all the key players are intimately characterised, with Jesus at the centre. The drama begins with Jesus' prophetic entrance through the East Gate, following him to his crucifixion and its startling aftermath.

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## Pray Now Daily Devotions for 2009

Pray Now is a collection of modern prayers that can be used by all denominations, by individuals, prayer groups and leaders of worship. Each year, our relationship with God is explored through a theme. The year's theme is "Environment".

Copies of the publication are available at the church door.



**Quiz Night in aid of the Malawi  
Partnership Fund  
Friday 13th February, 7.30 pm  
Ferryhill Church Hall**



**A fun evening for teams of 4**

Tickets priced £20 per team available from  
Craigiebuckler Church Office, telephone 315649  
or from Kenneth Petrie, telephone 315125 or at the door on the evening.

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**Books Wanted  
For  
Queen's Cross Parish Church  
Giant Book Sale  
To be held each day 9th & 11th - 16th  
May 2009**

**For  
Christian Aid**

Please hand in any books, maps, old postcards, old photographs, scraps, stamps, ephemera, sheet music, records, CDs or audio books.

Donations to the Queen's Cross Church Office, Albyn Place, Tuesday to Friday 9 am - 12 noon or arrange for collection by calling:

The Church Office: 644742

Elizabeth Ferguson: 315949



## The Moosie's Prayer

*Submitted by Cath Mackenzie*

A puir wee kirk moose aa forlorn  
 Its furry coat fair sairly worn  
 Sank doon upon its bony knees  
 And prayed - for just a wee bit cheese.

And so it gazed as roond they went  
 Then just as tho twas heaven sent  
 Whit landed richt upon its heid  
 But two lumps of communion breid!

The tears ran doon its wee thin cheeks  
 But nane could hear the saddest  
 squeaks  
 That drifted on the cauld nicht air  
 Till whiles it could nae pray nae mair.

The staff o life lay on the flair  
 The bounteous answer tae his prayer  
 Just as he thocht it looks fell dry  
 A body couped some wine forbye.

Syne daylight cam, the kirk bells rang  
 The doors swung open wi a bang  
 Communion day had come aan by  
 With wine and plates of bread piled  
 high.

Wee moosie stoated up the aisle  
 Wearing sec a boozy smile  
 The folk stopped singin, fair aghast  
 Tae see a drunken moose walk past

The wee moose lay as still as daith  
 And watched it aa wi bate braith  
 Then thocht - if I keep awfu quate  
 A bit might just fa all a plate.

The organist fell off his chair  
 The minister could only stare  
 Tae see this drunken sinful moose  
 Cavortin in his sacred hoose.

At last it staggered up the nave,  
 Then turned and gave a happy wave  
 I ken noo when it's time to play  
 I'll dae it on Communion Day.

## A New Rector at St Devenick's

Paul Watson has been appointed as the new Rector at St Devenick's Episcopal Church. He previously worked in Sri Lanka with the Church Mission Society. His Institution will take place on Wednesday 4th February.



The Presbytery meeting on Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> December included the following:

**1. Presbytery Additional Minister**

The Presbytery Plan allows for an additional Presbytery ministry post. It was agreed to appoint a Mission Development Worker for 5 years to facilitate the “Church Without Walls” ethos at local and city-wide levels. The post will have two overlapping roles:

To help the Presbytery as a body to develop its mission to the whole of Aberdeen

To assist congregations in their mission.

**2. Summerhill**

It was agreed to amend the Presbytery Plan in respect of Summerhill Parish Church to let the congregation call a minister on a full time and unrestricted basis. The Plan had proposed a 70/30 split between Parish and Presbytery.

**3. Aberdeen Children’s Christmas Party**

After a great deal of effort from many members of local congregations the party took place on Sunday, 30<sup>th</sup> November at Harlaw Academy. Although only 40 children turned up they all enjoyed themselves immensely. Surplus food and children’s parcels were distributed to local charities. After expenses it was hoped about £2,500 would also be available for distribution.

Despite the disappointing attendance positive comments had been made by the press.

**4. Donation to St Paul’s, Blantyre, Malawi**

The Malawi Partnership Committee received notification from our church of our intention to donate £805 to our twinned congregation of St Paul’s to aid the completion of a manse. The Presbytery Clerk was instructed to forward this information to Blantyre City Presbytery for its information and approval.

**5. January 2009 Meeting**

Presbytery does not normally meet in January but met *in hunc effectum* on Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> January to consider the call from Queen’s Cross Church to the Rev Scott Rennie. The meeting was held in private. Presbytery agreed to sustain the call with those against indicating their intention to appeal. If the appeal is successful then the matter may need to be resolved at the General Assembly.



**Richard Little**

## Friendship Club

2008 - 2009

*Everyone is welcome to these meetings each of which starts at 7.30 pm.*



- Tuesday 10th February Golden Girls - singers  
By Myra Noble and friends
- Tuesday 24th February Club at Home Evening  
Bring and Buy Stall
- Tuesday 10th March "Children from Chennai" (India)  
By Muriel Thomson, making a return visit.
- Tuesday 24th March "Memories"  
By Kitty McDonald



## The New Hope Trust Appeal

The New Hope Trust has written to thank everyone for all the donations of shoe-boxes from our church at Christmas time.

A team of 6 took them to Romania where the items were distributed in old people's homes, hospitals, homeless shelters and children's homes.

The letter says:

"To people here it may seem like only a small shoebox filled with goodies, but to those who receive them it is a major event in their lives. To see the tears as children eat their chocolate and play with their new toys is a wonderful feeling. You are also a part of that miracle. They may never meet you, but they will be forever grateful to you for their gifts.

## Worship Diary - February

<b>Date</b>	<b>Service</b>	<b>Preacher</b>
<b>1st February</b>	10.30 a.m. - Morning Worship	John Ferguson
<b>8th February</b>	10,30 a.m. - Morning Worship	John Ferguson
<b>15th February</b>	10.30 a.m. - Youth Service for Thinking Day	John Ferguson
<b>22nd February</b>	Sacrament of Communion 10.30 a.m. & 3.00 p.m.	John Ferguson

## Church Directory

<b>Baptisms</b>	
<b>7th December</b>	Edwin Michael Alistair Naughton, son of Alastair and Nicola, Burnside Road, Peterculter
<b>14th December</b>	Lucy Elspeth Clark, daughter of Graeme and Gail, 24 Abbotshall Place, Cults
<b>Funerals</b>	
<b>22nd December</b>	Frank Scollay, 68 Johnston Gardens West
<b>22nd December</b>	Jim Moultrie, Mowat Court, Stonehaven
<b>29th December</b>	Gladys Stirton, Rowan Court Nursing Home
<b>15th January</b>	Flo Will, 199 Johnston Gardens North
<b>23rd January</b>	Kathleen Morrison, Ashley Lodge Nursing Home

# Peterculter Parish Church

## Minister

Rev John Ferguson

Tel: 735041

Email: [minister@culterkirk.co.uk](mailto:minister@culterkirk.co.uk)

## Church Office

Jill Grant

Tel: 735845

Email: [secretary@culterkirk.co.uk](mailto:secretary@culterkirk.co.uk)

## Session Clerk

Donald Muir

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Email:

[sessionclerk@culterkirk.co.uk](mailto:sessionclerk@culterkirk.co.uk)

## Magazine Editor

Val Muir

Tel: 735001

Email: [editor@culterkirk.co.uk](mailto:editor@culterkirk.co.uk)

## House Group

The house group will meet on Tuesday 3rd February and Tuesday 17th February at 7.00 pm.

Please see the intimations sheet about where it will meet, or phone the minister for more information.

It would be great to see more people coming along to the group!



## Don't Forget!

*Teas, coffees & a chat!*

Thursday & Saturday Coffee  
Time



*Coffees are served in the small hall on Thursdays & Saturdays between 10.00 am and 12 noon.*

*All welcome.*

*Come along and enjoy fellowship, fine fare and fresh coffee in our newly decorated small hall!*

*You are also invited to join the short service of worship on Thursday mornings at 11.30 am.*

**Next Issue: March 2009**

**Material to editor:**

**Sunday 15th February 2009**

**Ready for distribution:**

**Sunday 22nd February 2009**



**World Day of Prayer  
Peterculter Parish Church  
Friday 6th March 2009, 7.30 pm**

***Papua New Guinea  
(Land of the Bird of Paradise)  
All Welcome  
Refreshments after service***



## **Mission Statement**



***The purpose of Peterculter Parish Church is to celebrate our faith in God and in the Good News of Jesus Christ through worship, fellowship, teaching, outreach and pastoral care and to participate in the work of the world wide Church.***

**See the church website:**

**[www.culterkirk.co.uk](http://www.culterkirk.co.uk)**