

FOCUS

The Church Newsletter of Peterculter Parish Church
May 2018



GOD'S KINGDOM IS STRONGER



THAN STORMS





PRAISE CELEBRATION

SUNDAY JUNE 10TH
11 am

FOLLOWED BY PICNIC

**CONGREGATIONS OF
CRAIGIEBUCKLER, CULTS, HOLBURN
WEST, KINGSWELLS, MANNOFIELD
AND PETERCULTER**



DEAR FRIENDS

I saw a new heaven and a new earth. These are the familiar words from Revelation which point to a paradise which will take place after death – or when Christ comes again at the end of time. It looks forward triumphantly to a Kingdom in which justice is established once and for all. The extravagant language of Revelation 21 speaks of the end of suffering and the image of a wedding also suggests love, beauty and permanence. God and humanity will be together in peace and joy for ever - the heavenly destiny for which we wait in faith. But Christian Aid came up with the

slogan Life before Death. They are saying is that simply waiting in faith for this vision to come true after we die is not all that being a Christian is all about.

In his mission, Jesus looked to the time when the Kingdom of God would be made perfect, and all suffering will come to an end. But he also announced that, because of him, there is a sense in which the Kingdom has already begun. When he healed the sick and brought good news to the poor - this was a sign that the Kingdom had come and Jesus called on his followers to carry on his work so that others could see glimpses of the Kingdom here on earth,. He wanted people to see Christians practically demonstrating love, so that they would clearly be recognised as men and women who belong to God. When Christians take loving action on behalf of the world's poorest communities they not only put into practice the values of the Kingdom of God here and now, they are also become beacons of what the Kingdom will be like when it's made perfect in eternity. That's what it means to pray, 'Thy Kingdom come on earth as it is in heaven.'

This year's Christian Aid Week focuses on Haiti and the work that is still ongoing of recovering from Hurricane Matthew. Will you support this vital work? Through the House to House Collections, we can raise a considerable sum of money for Christian Aid. You can volunteer to help out with this by signing the sheet at both church doors. Or simply give what you can.

Can you help to give life before death to those in desperate need and severe poverty?

*Yours sincerely
John Ferguson.*

ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

There will be a short course this month exploring the state of the Christian Church in different parts of the world today.

What are the challenges facing the Church in different parts of the world?

In which regions is it expected to thrive and where will it decline?

It will take place on the dates below at 7.30 pm in the Small Hall.

- May 3rd – The Middle East and Europe
- May 17th – North and South America
- May 31st – Russia and China
- June 14th – Africa.

WORSHIP

| | | |
|----------|---|---------------|
| 6th May | 10.30 am - Morning Worship Followed by Prayer Time | John Ferguson |
| 13th May | 10.30 am - Family Service for Christian Aid Week | John Ferguson |
| 20th May | 10.30 am - Morning Worship | Worship Team |
| 27th May | 10.30 am - Family Communion Service | John Ferguson |

FLOWERS

Many thanks to all who donated towards the church flowers for April to date. Thanks also to those who put money in the tin in the entrance hall. It is very much appreciated.

Thanks to everyone who supported our Daffodil Tea/Coffee Morning which was a great success with daffodils everywhere and other Easter goodies too.

We once again thank David Gammie for letting us pick his daffodils for free. And that was a lot of daffodils - over 3000!

Convener: Violet Smith 01224 733317

Treasurer: Mabel Taylor 01224 732030

Moira West

Moira Marshall

Alison Middler

Margaret Carmichael



MR JOHN KELMAN

Our former church officer or Beadle, Mr John Kelman, was presented with the gift of a barometer from the congregation recently. John served as Beadle from 1997 until last year and he was warmly thanked for his outstanding service to the congregation over so many years. John's health has meant he has had to stand down and we wish him well for the future.

Thanks must go to the team of four volunteer beadles who are now covering the duties.

John Ferguson.

STRAWBERRY TEAS GIFT DAY

Saturday 16th June 2018

10-12 noon and 2-4 pm



In 2016 and 2017 the Strawberry Teas Gift Day was a remarkable fundraising success. Last year, including the Gift Aid uplift, over £6,000 was raised which was a great help towards our church achieving a surplus in the accounts. Due to its ongoing success, both as a financial and social event, we will again be having a Gift Day this year.

All of us, members, adherents and others will be invited to the church on Saturday 16th June with the choice of attending between either 10 to 12 noon or 2 to 4 pm to give a monetary gift, in addition to regular giving, to boost church funds. The Social Team will again be providing the Strawberry Teas and if they are as good as last year, those who are able to come along are in for a real treat. A Flower Team stall will add to the occasion.

More information and an invitation along with a return envelope will be included with the June magazine so even if you are unable to attend you will still have the opportunity to make a donation.

With the support of all of us we can again have a very successful Strawberry Teas Gift Day.

Help

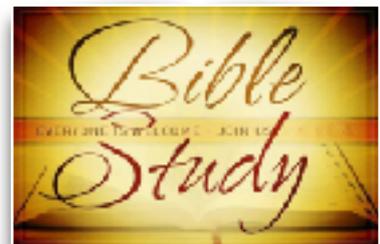
Help will be needed for setting up, serving and clearing up for the Strawberry Teas. With enough volunteers assistance might only be needed for as little as an hour. A sheet for adding names of those offering to help will be available in the church at the end of May.

The Stewardship Team

BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

We now have two Bible Study Groups running in the church. An afternoon group and an evening group meet every second Thursday.

The afternoon group meets in people's homes and the evening group in the church Small Hall.



COFFEE TIME

Teas, coffees and home baking are served every Thursday and Saturday from 10.00 am - 12 noon.



COFFEE TIME

Fine fare and fine company to be had!

Also stay for our short service of worship on Thursday at 11.30 am. All welcome!

MID WEEK LUNCHES

A two course lunch is available on the first Wednesday of each month in the large hall.



Our next midweek lunch is on 2nd May at 12.30 pm.

The price is only £3.50. We would love to see you there.

VOLUNTEERING AND TALENTS

In common with all congregations of the Church of Scotland our congregation benefits from the contribution made by volunteers who give their time and talents willingly for the benefit of the Church. The areas of congregational life which rely on the contribution of volunteers are many and varied and much of the activity would be unable to continue were it not for the commitment shown.

The services on Sunday May 6th and Sunday 27th May will have the theme of Talents. It is greatly appreciated how many of our congregation volunteer their talents for the work of our church but more are needed for the future as those who have served for a long time decide to step down. Inserted with this magazine is a form with "USE OF TALENTS" in the heading.

If you are not already participating in church life (or if you are and would like to do more by trying something different), here is your chance to let us know where you might want to volunteer your talents. The form has some of the wide range of activities and the opportunities for volunteering for the benefit of our church. Please take time to study the options to see if there is something you would be interested in doing.

An early response would be greatly appreciated and a Team member from a chosen area will get in touch as soon as possible.

Please return the form by 3rd June

The Stewardship Team

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Along with one of our elders, Donald Muir, I will be attending this year's General Assembly in



Edinburgh. I'm grateful to Colin Jones and the Worship Team who will be taking the service on May 20th in my absence.

John Ferguson

CULTER GALA SATURDAY 26TH MAY 2018

At this year's Culter Gala the church will once again be running a bottle stall. To be successful we need as many bottles as possible, so we are looking for donations of all types of bottle, large and small, containing anything from drinks and sauces to lotions and shampoos.

If you have something suitable you would like to donate please leave it in the marked box in the church extension area.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are looking for volunteers to go on the rota for Saturday Coffee. Sadly, unless we can find some new people, we would need to cut back the number of Saturdays we can have the coffees each year. If you can help, please contact Alison Middler on 01224 733156.

PRAYER TIME – FIRST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH

On the first Sunday of every month, after morning worship, there is a short Prayer Time, which is an opportunity to pray for others. Cards are available on the table at the extension door and should be placed in the box provided.

PETERCULTER PARISH CHURCH ONLINE

We regularly update our Facebook page and Twitter feed with details of all our activities as well as making everything available on our main [website](http://www.culterkirk.co.uk).

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| Website | www.culterkirk.co.uk |
| Twitter | @culterkirk |
| Facebook | www.facebook.com/CulterKirk |



Peterculter Parish Church 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 worldwide church.



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CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Wednesdays & Fridays : 9 am - 1 pm

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Sunday 27th May

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