

# ***FOCUS***

*The Church Newsletter of Peterculter Parish Church*

*October 2019*

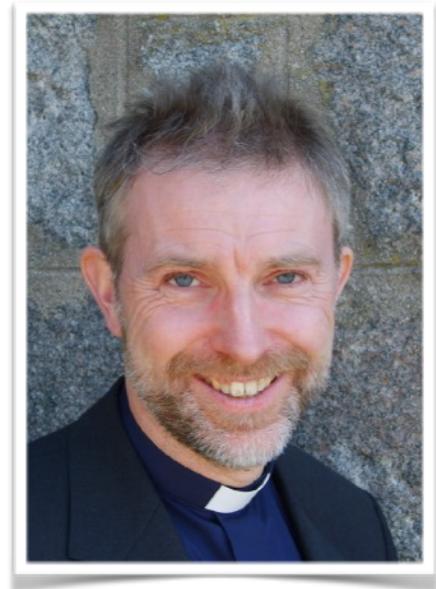


*Harvest Thanksgiving  
Sunday 6th October*



## Dear Friends

Can you help? How often do we hear that question and try to think of a way out of volunteering for something? In today's world, people's lives are very busy and there are many pressures on people's time. The church greatly relies on people giving up time to undertake its work and one of the aspects I have noticed in my years in ministry is that fewer people are coming forward to help. This means that the work of the church tends to fall on those who have been heavily involved for many years. I have a real concern about the long term work of the church if its work is to be carried by fewer and fewer people.



We need to bear in mind that everyone who joined the church promised to give of their time and talents to its ongoing work. We do not undertake this work simply for an institution we call the Church. We should do it because of our faith in Jesus Christ whom we seek to serve.

The one area where we are very short of help is in regard to Thursday and Saturday coffees. The number of people helping out with Thursday coffees, for example, has halved in the past 10 years which means that people on the rota are on it much more often. If you can help, please contact Fiona Jones on 01224 739076 or for Saturday coffees, it's Alison Middler on 01224 733156.

To all those who do so much unsung and often unseen work for our church, I would like to extend a very sincere thank you.

I would like to take this opportunity to encourage you to consider subscribing to Life and Work magazine. The magazine offers an excellent insight into issues facing the Church, as well as wider issues of concern to Christians and non Christians alike. As church members, we should seek to be aware of what is happening in the wider church and if you would like to subscribe, then please contact Shona Stewart on 01224 739369.

*Yours sincerely*

*John Ferguson*

## Fiona Lister

Over twenty years ago, I travelled from the Kingdom of Fife northwards, to Aberdeen to study nursing at Robert Gordon University. Having fallen in love with the north east of Scotland, I chose to stay and in 2001 I married fellow Fifer, Andy. We found a spiritual home at St Stephen's Church in Aberdeen and made many good friends there, as well as participating in an Alpha course and other aspects of church life. Our eldest daughter, Charlotte, was born in 2004 and in 2005 we moved to Kemnay and added to our little family in 2006 and 2009 with Katie and Annabel. We continued to be actively involved in the life of the church and in 2012 I took on the role of manager of the Loaves and Fishes coffee shop at Kemnay Church Centre where I was in charge of the accounts, the baking and the pastoral care of our volunteers and customers. I very much preferred the baking to the accounts!

I have always loved spending time with people, and hearing their stories. There is no greater privilege than walking with others, especially when their road is a bit rocky. That was what drew me to nursing, to the outreach of the coffee shop and ultimately into ministry. I had a profound experience of being used by God to minister to others when Kemnay was hit by devastating floods in January 2016. The coffee shop became the command centre for the rescue effort; it provided food and overnight accommodation to those washed out by the flood waters and was the base for the Samaritan's Purse team who came to offer support. When we show concern for people's basic needs, it is the most powerful expression of God's love.

As I first felt God call me towards full time ministry, I was a bit incredulous that he could possibly think that I could manage to return to study after such a long time away or that I could manage around the demands of family life. I should have known better! God has been abundant in his provision for me. I gained confidence in my ability to keep up with the bright young things attending university by starting off at the Saturday morning classes run by the Aberdeen Centre for Ministry Studies and last year, having been accepted by the Church of Scotland as a candidate for full-time ministry, I took the plunge; returning as a mature student to Aberdeen University to start my BD. I must have done something right since I am now into the second of my three year degree course.

I am excited about starting my second placement with you all at Peterculter. Having perused your website and your Facebook page, it looks like you have a lot going on and it will be a privilege to take time to get to know you over the next few months. I will be with you from the first Sunday in October up until the beginning of May and hope to participate in many aspects of church life.

## Wednesday Club

The next two meetings of the Wednesday Club are as follows:

Wednesday 9th October - Innes Simpson, Hearing Dogs for the Deaf

Wednesday 23rd October - Brian Gall, Cove Honey Bees Association (with honey for sale!)

Both meetings are held in Culter Church at 2pm. Annual membership is £10 with £1 per meeting. Non members pay £2 per meeting. Tea/coffee and biscuits with lots of chat in the small hall after each meeting.



## Christmas Light Switch On

This year the switch on of our Culter Christmas Lights will be on Saturday 23rd November from 4pm-6pm here at the church.

Volunteers are required to help with the set up from 1pm-2pm. This involves preparing the church and hall for the stalls, Santa's Grotto and entertainment and with the serving of refreshments.

If you can lend a hand please speak to Catherine Lacy on 01224 733710.



## Prayer Safari

There will be a Prayer Safari for the National Day of Prayer on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> of November in the six Aberdeen West Churches which are part of the Cluster Group.



Craigiebuckler, Cults, Kingswells, Holburn West, Mannofield and Peterculter churches will be following the theme of ***Prayer and Reflection at a Time of Challenge*** and they will all open their doors for prayer from 10am - 4pm.

You can choose to visit one or two of the churches, or travel to them all during the day.

## Miss Alice Scott

A former Elder of Peterculter Parish Church has died. Alice Scott passed away on August 18<sup>th</sup> aged 96.

Alice was deeply religious with a strong faith and from her younger days onwards, she worked hard for the church and was a very committed member. She grew up in the Salvation Army and then attended Denburn Church and Mastrick. She was a Sunday School teacher at Bon Accord Church in the 1950s and was kind and caring towards the children. She also assisted in the Girls Guildry, Sunday school and Bible class.

The church meant so much to Alice throughout her life. And of course, everyone who knew her will remember the hats she wore!

When she moved to Culter, Alice joined St Peters Church and sang in the choir and then the choir at Peterculter Parish Church. She had a number of favourite hymns and loved the old ones best. She was an elder in the church and a faithful visitor.

Alice really was a lovely person – she was kind, gentle and loving – if there is an example of Christian living and of someone who showed true Christian values throughout her life, then it's to be found in Alice.

Alice is now at peace – she is now experiencing the love of the Lord Jesus Christ whom she served faithfully throughout her long life.

**John Ferguson.**

## Coffee Time

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

Fine fare and fine company to be had!

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

All Welcome!



# COFFEE TIME

## Mid Week Lunches

A two course lunch is available on the first Wednesday of each month in the large hall at 12.30 pm. The next lunch is on 2nd October.

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



## Prayer Time - First Sunday of the Month

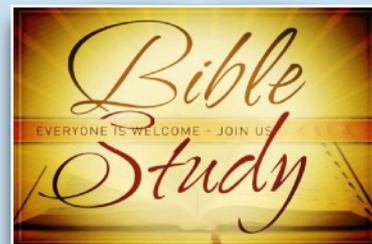
On the first Sunday of every month, after morning worship, there is a short Prayer Time, which is an opportunity to pray for others. Cards are available on the table at the extension door and should be placed in the box provided.



## Bible Study Group

The Bible Study Group will begin to meet again on Thursday evenings in the small hall. Dates are October 10 & 31st, and November 14th & 28th.

All very welcome.



# Youth Quiz Night - Open to all!



Don't sit staring at the computer... come along and support our teams in their

## Youth Quiz Night

Friday  
4<sup>th</sup> October  
at 7pm

Peterculter Parish Church



## Flowers

Many thanks to the following who have kindly donated towards the church flowers for the month of September.

Harvest Thanksgiving is on Sunday 6th October when the church will be beautifully decorated.

**Convener: Violet Smith 01224 733317**

**Treasurer: Mabel Taylor 01224 732030**

Mike and Monica Player

Irene Duncan

Mrs Sheila Stewart

Dayer Colburn

Jennifer Thurmond (née Bisset)

Albert & Alison Middler



## WORSHIP PROGRAMME: OCTOBER

<b>6th October</b>	<b>10.30am - Harvest Thanksgiving, followed by Prayer Time</b>	<b>Rev John Ferguson</b>
<b>13th October</b>	<b>10.30am - Morning Worship</b>	<b>Rev John Ferguson</b>
<b>20th October</b>	<b>10.30am - Morning Worship</b>	<b>Mrs Fiona Lister</b>
<b>27th October</b>	<b>10.30am - Sacrament of Holy Communion</b>	<b>Rev John Ferguson</b>

### 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](#).

Follow us, like us and visit us!

<b>Website</b>	<a href="http://www.culterkirk.co.uk">www.culterkirk.co.uk</a>
<b>Twitter</b>	@culterkirk
<b>Facebook</b>	<a href="http://www.facebook.com/CulterKirk">www.facebook.com/CulterKirk</a>



## Presbytery Matters

Presbytery met on Tuesday, 3<sup>rd</sup> September at High Hilton, the church of the Moderator the Rev G Hutton B Steel and some of the business was as follows.

### *Church Partnerships with Malawi*

The World Mission and Partnership Committee reported that communication with partner churches had improved overall. Two visitors from Malawi were due to be hosted by Midstocket Church and St Stephen's were to host another two.

### *Presbytery Plan and Necessary Buildings Exercise*

The September meeting confirmed publication and meeting dates for discussion of the Plan and the Buildings exercise:

- The new Plan along with the Necessary Buildings report and Vision Statement as appendices should be available from October the 7<sup>th</sup>.
- Presbytery will be formally presented with the Plan at a special meeting on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> of November from 10am to about 3pm at High Hilton Church.
- There will then be a period of consultation up to the 14<sup>th</sup> of January when the Planning and Deployment Committee (PDC) meet.
- PDC will publish the final Plan for approval to the Presbytery meeting on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2020.

### *Ordination*

Former trainee at Peterculter, Mrs Joan Thorne, was to be Ordained on Thursday September the 19<sup>th</sup> at Dyce Parish Church as an Ordained Local Minister (OLM).

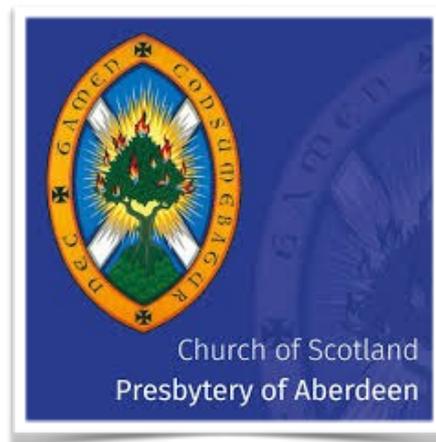
### *Induction*

Presbytery sustained the call to Midstocket Parish Church of the Rev Tanya Webster of Park Church, Ardrossan and will meet for her Induction on Thursday October 24<sup>th</sup>.

### *Crossreach*

Kirk Sessions were invited to consider how they might celebrate and highlight the work of Crossreach in acknowledging 2019 as its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

### *Richard Little*



## Church Directory

Wedding	
21st September	Harley Ross and Oskar Lauritzen
Funerals	
30th August	Alice Scott, Bruce Cottages, Cults
3rd September	Ron McKay, Johnston Gardens



## Crossreach Christmas Card & Calendar Collection 2019.

The catalogue for the above, together with a sample copy of the CrossReach Wall Calendar for 2020 and also sample copies of some Christmas cards are available at the Church extension door. The cost of the calendar remains at £5 each (or £4.60 if our total order is for 50 or more) and cards mainly are £3.75 for a pack of 10. Post and packing charges depend on the value of our total order.

If you wish to place an order from the catalogue please see or phone Moira Connon (01224 734054) not later than Sunday 3rd November 2019.

Otherwise, order direct.



## Friendship Club

Our first meeting is the 3rd September at 7.30pm and all are very welcome. Our programme is as follows:



8th October	Georgie Parker: Exercise to Music for the more mature person
5th November	Joyce Cowie: Craft for Christmas
11th February	Rev John Ferguson
3rd March	A Talk on the Heritage Tapestry

## Singalong-a-Corrie

The next Singalong will be held on Monday 14th October at Coronation Court lounge at 2.00pm.

You will enjoy the company singing old and not so old familiar songs. We have a cup of tea/coffee afterwards and a good chat. All welcome and transport can be arranged if needed by phoning Tessa Cowie on 01224 734049

All Welcome.



# 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

## Next Issue - November 2019

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27th October 2019

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