

FOCUS

The Church Newsletter of Peterculter Parish Church

November 2019

Christmas Fayre

Saturday 30th November 2019

2pm - 4pm

Tickets: Adults £3/Children £1.50

Available from Church Office or at the door

(Price includes tea/coffee & home baking)

Stalls include:

Bric-a-brac

Bottle Stall

Chocolate Tombola

CDs & DVDs

Books

Cake & Candy

Toys & Games

Traidcraft

Flowers

Christmas Decorations

Dear Friends

I'm sure that many of you will have seen the front page of the Press and Journal recently which highlighted the draft Presbytery Ten Year Plan. You can read the full Plan on the Presbytery web site at www.aberdeenpresbytery.org.uk.

For ourselves, our building has been designated as a category A, which means it has a long term future beyond the life of the Plan. We have been asked to make some improvements to the sanctuary, in regard to lighting. There is also a reference to the need to improve free flow. I believe that on the latter point, this was due to a misunderstanding. There is easy and straightforward access from the sanctuary to the halls and I cannot see how this could be improved. I was surprised to read about the concerns on the lighting of the sanctuary as in my 20 years here, nobody has ever mentioned this as an issue. However, we had already begun to look at replacing some of the present bulbs with LEDs, which will of course last much longer. We will also look into other ways that the lighting might be improved, although personally I don't think a church interior should be too brightly lit. It is nearly 20 years since the sanctuary was redecorated and so we will look into having it painted in a lighter colour, although all of this is dependent on finances.



The Plan also foresees one charge covering ourselves, Cults, Mannofield, Kingswells and Craigiebuckler. This would be undertaken through a five way union, which could happen while the present ministers are still in post, subject to their agreement. If one or more of the ministers declines to become part of a team ministry, then it could only happen during vacancies. This would be a major change to how we are structured and it means that a ministerial team made up of three ministers and one Ministries Development Staff worker would cover the charge and the worship centres within it. It would mean one Kirk session, but in my view there would still need to be some local decision making for the worship centres. There is a great deal of working out to do before any of this can come into effect.

These are exciting, but challenging times and a great deal of work lies ahead in seeking to implement this radical Plan. Of course, the first step is for Presbytery to actually approve it. These are simply proposals and Presbytery can reject them or amend them. It is likely that the Plan will not be agreed until February or March next year. I will keep you posted of future developments.

Yours sincerely

John Ferguson

Isabel Miller

Isabel Miller, a former elder of the congregation, died peacefully on September 19th 2019, surrounded by her loving family.

Isabel had a deep Christian faith which lay behind everything she said and did. She was an elder of the church in Kelman Memorial and then Peterculter Church for over thirty years until she retired from the eldership in 2008. She always enjoyed going round her district to meet people. She was a keen member of the Woman's Guild for a number of years.

In 1992 she attended the General Assembly of the Church Of Scotland and that was an experience she greatly enjoyed.

She enjoyed being the leader of the Pastoral Care Team until 2012 - and made many friendships - she was a loyal companion to the people in her care. She was always efficient and well organised and enjoyed organising the annual bus run and sending out cards from the team to housebound members.

I cannot mention the church without mentioning the lovely hats that Isabel always wore to worship. Isabel was always immaculate and smartly dressed and for her, coming to worship was always a special occasion.

Isabel had a lovely personality - always friendly, always smiling, always interested in other people. She was a down to earth, loving and deeply caring person who lived out the principles of the Christian faith in her every day life. Whenever I visited Isabel, there was always her lovely warm smile to greet me.

Through her Christian faith Isabel showed much patience and courage in coping with her illness.

We believe she is now at peace and our thoughts and prayers go out to all of her family at this time.

Church Directory

Funerals	
2nd October	Margaret Morrison, Eastleigh Care Home
4th October	Isabel Miller, Tor Na Dee Care Home
9th October	Geo Middleton, Oldtown Cottage
29th October	Bill Farquhar, St Ronan's Drive

Wednesday Club

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

Wed 6th November: Neil Cooney's talk highlights The Austerity Years 1945 - 1950. How many people remember them? Please note that this meeting begins at 2.30pm.

Wed 20th November: Craig Pike's talk is entitled "Where there's a Will there's a Biscuit Tin". Sounds interesting! The talk is back to the usual time of 2pm and both speakers will be well worth hearing.

Tea/coffee and biscuits afterwards and all will be made welcome.

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.



Moderator Designate

The next Moderator of the General Assembly will be the Rev Dr Martin Fair, minister of St Andrews Parish Church in Arbroath, Angus.

Dr Fair, who was ordained and inducted into St Andrew's Parish Church in 1992, said he hoped to highlight addiction and mental health issues during his year in office.



He will be the first Moderator from Arbroath to serve as the Kirk's ambassador at home and abroad during what will be the 700th anniversary year of the Declaration of Arbroath.

Dr Fair and his congregation set up Havilah in 2006 and paid staff and volunteers have helped around 1,000 people to date.

Open five days a week, it used to predominately help addicts but services have been broadened with the introduction of a community choir, a therapeutic garden and a drop-in service.

Dr Fair said he is excited and a bit daunted about becoming Moderator and his one regret is that his beloved parents, Ena and Bill who were born and bred in the Church, did not live long enough to see him take up the 12 month role.

"I am really excited about the future of the Church and quite frankly, if I solely focused on statistics that suggested terminal decline I would have quit the ministry years ago," he added.

"It is at a key crossroads and we are letting go of some of what has been and embracing what is to come.

"I am looking forward to getting out and about and being alongside folk in the local church and hope to be an encouraging voice to help prepare all of us for what God has in store.

"There is a wonderful opportunity for the Church right now to rediscover its meaning and purpose for the people of Scotland and beyond in the here and now.

"I am totally fired up as a minister and as Moderator, I want to communicate that excitement and positivity."

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 6th November.

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



Prayer Time - First Sunday of the Month

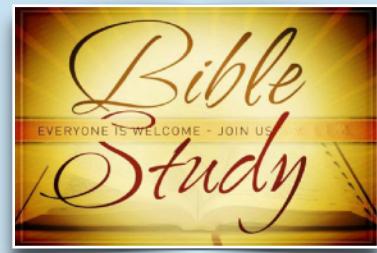
On the first Sunday of every month, after morning worship, there is a short Prayer Time, which is an opportunity to pray for others. Cards are available on the table at the extension door and should be placed in the box provided.



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.





The Time to Remember service for those who have lost loved ones over the past year or in years gone by will take place on Sunday December 15th at 2.30 pm. All are welcome.

Words of Mother Theresa:

People are often unreasonable, illogical and self-centred.

Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish ulterior motives.

Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some false friends and some true enemies.

Be successful anyway.

If you are honest and frank, people may cheat you.

Be honest and frank anyway.

What you spend years building, someone may destroy overnight.

Build anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, people may be jealous.

Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, people will often forget tomorrow.

Do good anyway.

Give the world the best you have, and it may never be enough.

But give the world the best you have anyway.

You see, in the final analysis, it's all between you and God;
it's never been between you and them anyway.

Christmas Fayre Help

With the support of us all, the Christmas Fayre is a great event for adding to our church funds which need a boost as we approach the end of the year. It can only happen with sufficient volunteers so please consider how you might help.

Extra assistance at Teas and Coffees will be much appreciated. A list will be available at the entrances to the church for those willing to volunteer to serve or clear up and/or bake.

Please add your name to the list or phone Edna Ledingham on 01224 733723.

If anyone would like to help between 1.30 pm and 4.30 pm by assisting at a stall and clearing up after the Fayre please speak to Richard Little.



Congregational Christmas Lunch - Sunday 8th December

Roast beef dinner/alternative non-meat option

Price £10 - adult/£5 child

Tickets on sale from Sunday 10th November

Limited number of tickets available so get your tickets early to avoid disappointment!



Save the Date - Sunday 8th March, 2pm - 4pm

Senior Citizens' Afternoon Tea

With entertainment from The Drama Wiffies



Flowers

We would like to thank all of those who kindly donated towards the church flowers this month.

Convener: Violet Smith

01224 733317

Treasurer: Mabel Taylor

01224 732030

Sylvia Nicol	Millar Funeral
Ross & Fauritzen Wedding	Bob Laing
Agnes Bowie	Marlene Dawson
Lal Kinghorn	Margaret Carmichael





WORSHIP PROGRAMME: NOVEMBER

10th November	10.30am - Remembrance Sunday	Rev Dr John Ferguson
17th November	10.30am - Morning Worship: Crossreach Anniversary Service	Rev Dr John Ferguson
24th November	10.30am - Morning Worship, followed by Communion	Rev Dr John Ferguson
1st December	10.30am - Morning Worship: First in Advent, followed by Prayer Time	Rev Dr John Ferguson

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!

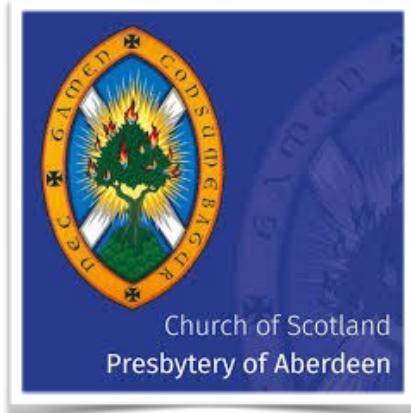
Website	<u>www.culterkirk.co.uk</u>
Twitter	@culterkirk
Facebook	<u>www.facebook.com/CulterKirk</u>



Presbytery Matters

Draft Presbytery Plan

Presbytery published a Draft of the 10 year Presbytery Plan on October the 7th after its production by the Planning and Deployment Committee (PDC). It took account of the General Assembly of 2019 Radical Action Plan and the decision of the General Trustees to reduce the number of church buildings by 30 to 40%. Presbyteries were challenged in their Presbytery Plans to be robust, imaginative and courageous in reducing the number of charges and creating ministry hubs.



Like other Presbyteries, Aberdeen faces realities such as:

- Falling membership
- Ageing congregations
- A reducing and ageing cohort of active volunteers
- A shortage of office-bearers
- Fewer ministers of Word and Sacrament
- In Aberdeen Presbytery a reduction in allowable posts from 38 to 31

After all the buildings in Presbytery were reviewed during this year with the aim of having “**well equipped spaces in the right places***” the PDC accepted the report on necessary buildings conclusions in producing the Plan.

If the proposals are agreed this will result in some new churches being built over time, others redeveloped and some disposed of where the building no longer serves the needs of a modern church and its communities.

The Plan envisages nine “Hubs” with parishes being merged to form large parishes. The changes will allow ministers to work more effectively in teams across the city and to develop the skills of clergy and lay people to re-engage in the life of the city through effective mission work.

Presbytery will be formally presented with the Plan at a special meeting on Saturday 23rd of November from 10am to about 3pm at High Hilton Church. All congregations have been invited to send representatives.

Divestment Conference

For the second year in a row at the General Assembly, a call for the Church's Investment Trust to withdraw its holdings in Oil and Gas companies was narrowly rejected. This will be raised again in 2020.

Meanwhile, the Presbytery meeting at Queen's Cross on October the 1st was mainly a conference session on this topic. Speakers from both sides of the debate addressed the conference which had the objective of informing all Presbyters but especially those who will be at the General Assembly next year.

Richard Little



Crossreach - 150 Years

The Church of Scotland has demonstrated a passion to make a real and lasting difference to the individuals and communities it has come into contact with through its commitment to social care.

While the way services delivered have changed over time influenced by legislation, research and the essential feedback of those who use them, there is one word which strikes as a constant.

Love.

The transforming power of love in action in each of the services offers security, comfort and hope to everyone it comes into contact with.

From the very youngest, to the very oldest, whatever their circumstances CrossReach believes that in challenging times everyone needs someone in their corner. Someone who can help them, as an individual, to make the change which will allow them to live life to the fullest possible and to thrive.

That change might include becoming free from addiction, experiencing peace instead of anxiety in working through a mental health problem, feeling safe in a new or even a familiar living place, or simply being able to take part in activities which bring joy.

Each aspiration is equally important and each milestone an achievement.

We will mark this anniversary at our service on November 17th.



Stewardship

Following on from the Sermon on Sunday 13 October you will be aware that the theme for this year's Stewardship Season is that of Money. A topic we never wish to discuss but one which we must consider, ensuring that the Church, both locally and nationally, continues into the future.

The Church does not unfortunately run without money and we all promised, when we joined the Church, to give a fitting proportion of our income to its work in the world. This money allows the Church to, amongst many things, enable worship in its buildings, pays for Ministers to preach the word as well as enabling discipleship, Mission and caring and support services for those in need through CrossReach. The money that we give locally goes to many places to support the work of the Church.

We should always strive to give a fitting proportion of our income to the Church and this amount is something that is up to each of us as members to consider what we feel is appropriate and fitting. We should always review this amount as well as our circumstances change.

Here in Peterculter we have always met our requirements for Ministries & Mission in full and this is something we should be proud of, as not all churches in Aberdeen or beyond are able to meet their requirements through many different challenges they each may have. This payment we make enables the wider Mission of the church to be continued and for this year our requirement was £66,400 and next year it will rise to £68,600. This is by far our biggest expense but we also have other costs each year to heat the building, keep it up to standard as well as many other mundane costs just to keep everything running. For this year all these costs (including our Ministries commitment) will be in the region of £121,000 or nearly £2,500 a week.

At this time, I am not sure whether we will achieve this level of income to support these costs before the end of the year but with prayer and commitment who knows what will be achieved before the year end. I must stress though that the recent costs to refurbish the hall and the disabled toilet have come from past legacies and grants and have not been funded by our ongoing general income. This recent work was a good use of the funds provided by these late members to provide a lasting testament to them.

Finally, please do not hesitate to contact me or any of the Stewardship Team about this article or should you wish to change your method of giving to e.g. to a Standing Order. If you already do not give under Gift Aid and are able to do so, please consider signing up if you can. The advantage of this is that your donations are increased by 25% from the tax we can recover at no cost to you. In 2018 this amounted to just over £16,000, a significant part of our income.

William D Anderson
Congregational Treasurer

The Giving Tree

The Giving Tree from Instant Neighbour will be available at the door of the church from Sunday 17th November. There will be gift tags available for you to collect that will have details on who to buy for so that no child in Aberdeen will wake up on Christmas morning with no presents.

The Giving Tree Appeal is in its 29th year and after the success we had last year there will be more tags available. The gifts can be handed back either unwrapped or in a gift bag rather than wrapping paper. There will be information sheets available to help you decide on appropriate gifts.

Please have the gifts back to the church by Sun 1st December or to the local Instant Neighbour shop by Wed 4th December 2019.

The charity is also looking for any toiletries, goods for the foodbank plus selection boxes so that every child has one with their gift.

Many thanks for your participation.



The poster features a green background with white snowflake patterns. At the top, it says "Check out the gift guide on our website for some handy gift ideas". Below that is the "THE Giving TREE" logo, which includes a green leafy branch and a red smiling face. A pink banner below the logo reads "Imagine a child waking up to no presents this Christmas...". Another banner states "The Giving Tree distributes new gifts to young people across the north-east who would otherwise not receive a gift at Christmas". The main section is titled "Get involved:" and contains three numbered steps: 1. Take a gift tag, 2. Buy a new gift, and 3. Drop the gift off. Each step has an icon and a brief description. At the bottom left is the Instant Neighbour logo with social media links and the hashtag "#INGivingTree2019". On the right, it says "sponsored by Chevron" and provides charity details: Instant Neighbour Aberdeen, Registered charity SC002223, 01224 489955, and www.instantneighbour.co.uk.

Friendship Club

All are welcome to join us at the Friendship Club.

Our programme is as follows:



11th February

Rev John Ferguson

3rd March

A Talk on the Heritage Tapestry

Singalong-a-Corrie

The November date for the next Sing Along is Monday 11th November at 2pm in Coronation Court lounge.

The members of the Pastoral Care Team enjoy singing along with the residents and would welcome anyone who could spare an hour to boost the singing.

Tea/coffee and home baking in the dining room afterwards. 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

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www.culterkirk.co.uk