

FOCUS

The Church Newsletter of Peterculter Parish Church

December 2019



COME AND WORSHIP AT PETERCULTER CHURCH THIS CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve: 7pm - Candlelit Service

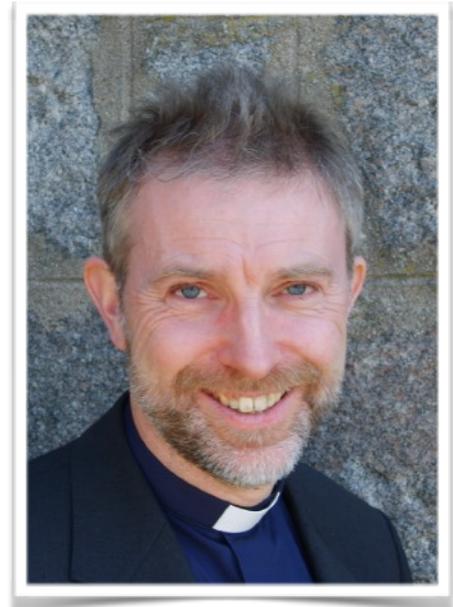
Christmas Eve: 11.15pm - Watchnight Service

Christmas Day: 10.30 am - Family Service

Dear Friends

I would like to encourage all of you to come along to our Christmas services and events this year.

A great deal of work goes on behind the scenes to ensure that we celebrate Christmas to the full at Peterculter Parish Church. The Nativity Play, drama at Watchnight, the Christmas lunch, the outdoor service, putting up the Christmas tree and decorations, producing the card for the Christmas drop to the parish and all the other events do not just happen by magic! All of this happens through volunteers who give up their time for the work of the Church. I would like to record my thanks to those who do so much to make Christmas special for everyone else.



I recently asked children at the school to imagine what life and history would have been like if Jesus had not been born. Not surprisingly, the most serious ramification was there not being any Christmas!

If Christ had not been born there would be no Nativity Scenes and a story about a baby born in a stable and laid in a manger. There would be no message in the Bible about God's Kingdom, life style, relationships and values. There would be no reaching out by Christians to those who are sick and on the fringes of society. There would never have been the belief in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The significance of this for Christians is that there would be no hope of a life to come after we die and no faith in a God who cares deeply about all that we go through in life.

For those of you who will find Christmas a difficult time, for those who have been recently bereaved, for people reading this who are ill or have experienced a terrible year, the birth of that tiny child in Bethlehem can bring light into your darkness, hope amidst your despair and new life where everything seems bleak. This Christmas many will thank God that the birth of Christ did indeed take place.

I hope you all have a very happy and peaceful Christmas and I wish you all every blessing for 2020.

Yours sincerely

John Ferguson

From Fiona Lister

As we enter into the season of advent, and start a new year in the Christian calendar, it is time again to take stock of the year which has passed. For me it has been an eventful year with lots of changes and new things happening. It has been wonderful to be welcomed so enthusiastically into the church here in Peterculter and I have very much appreciated everyone's support as I have settled in.

Advent is a time of preparation and it would be wonderful if we were able to take the time to enjoy the period leading up to the coming of the Christ child. It is too easy to be caught up in the busyness of the world and in the materialist culture which we inhabit. If we can each take the time to celebrate advent with anticipation, either through the simple lighting of a candle, opening the doors of an advent calendar or through a personal bible study or prayer calendar, it can help us to remember that what we are anticipating is the coming of God incarnate in the world and not just a time of presents and food. I encourage you to join me in trying to keep it simple and keeping our focus on the real Christmas message, and not be distracted by the pressures around us. With this in mind, I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and hope to continue to get to know you all better over the coming months.

Wednesday Club

The Wednesday Club does not meet in December but restarts with two meetings in January:

- 15th Jan: A talk by David Northcroft entitled "A City To Be Proud Of"
- 29th Jan: A talk by Alex Walker entitled "I Was A Wartime Baby."

Both meetings at 2.00pm in Peterculter Parish Church. 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.





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)**

Singalong-a-Corrie

The November date for the next Sing Along is Monday 9th December at 2pm in Coronation Court lounge.

This will be our last rendition of old favourite songs and carols of 2019. All are welcome to come along and join in (words provided).

Tea/coffee and cakes afterwards kindly provided by Coronation Court Staff.



Flowers

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

Hope to see you all at the Christmas Fayre.

Convener: Violet Smith 01224 733317

Treasurer: Mabel Taylor

01224 732030

Bob Laing

Dorothy Reid

Mike and Christine Mackie

Moira West



ELECTION HUSTINGS DEBATE



**GENERAL ELECTION HUSTINGS FOR
ABERDEEN SOUTH
ALL FOUR CANDIDATES WILL TAKE
YOUR QUESTIONS**

**Submit questions in advance to
JFerguson@churchofscotland.org.uk
Everyone is welcome
to attend!**

**Wednesday 4th December
7.00pm – Cults Church Sanctuary**

Coffee Time

Teas, coffees and home baking are served every Thursday and Saturday from 10.00 am - 12 noon. The final Saturday coffees for the year will be on December 7th and the final Thursday coffees will be on November 28th.

Thursday coffees resume on 30th January and Saturday coffees on 25th January

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



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. Our Christmas Lunch, including sherry, tea and coffee is on 4th December.

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



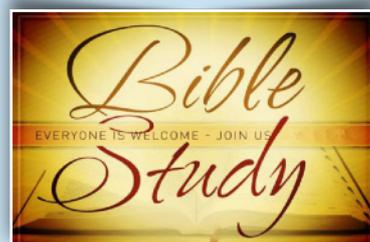
Prayer Time - First Sunday of the Month

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. All very welcome.





Our annual Time to Remember Service will take place on Sunday December 15th at 2.30 pm.

Everyone who has lost a loved one in the past year or in previous years is very welcome to come along.

Loss can also be the ending of a close relationship or losing your job, so the service is open to people affected by these circumstances too.

It will be followed by tea, coffee and home baking in the large hall.

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

Senior Citizens' Afternoon Tea
With entertainment from The
Drama Wives

Save the Date - Friday 6th March

(Time to be confirmed)

World Day of Prayer

Cults Parish Church

“Rise, Take Your Mat and Walk”

*Service written by the
Christian women of
Zimbabwe*

Jars of Grace

UNICEF Jars of Grace labels are now available at both church doors. If you would like to collect money in a jar for UNICEF please bring it along to the Family Service on December 22nd.

Beer and Carols

There will be a Beer & Carols event held by the Aberdeen West Churches on Thursday 12th December at 7.00 pm at the Bieldside Inn. All welcome to come along and join in.

Did You KnowThere Is an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) in the Kirk?

The Grampian Dancers who are regular users of the Large Hall have kindly provided an AED which is now located in the Vestry corridor beside the First Aid Kit.

An informative training video is available on YouTube - <https://youtu.be/IL3gxUCCVA4> - or on the Kirk website (www.culterkirk.co.uk).

It is only about three minutes long and well worth a look.



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

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!

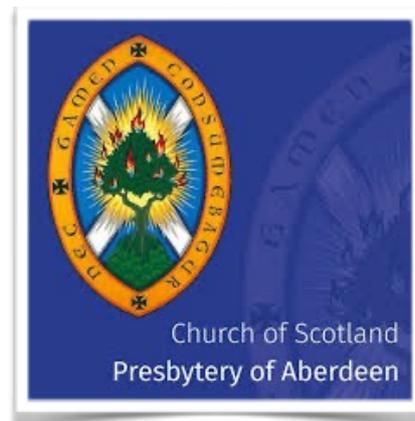
Website	www.culterkirk.co.uk
Twitter	@culterkirk
Facebook	www.facebook.com/CulterKirk



Presbytery Matters

Presbytery Plan

Presbytery noted at its meeting on Tuesday 5th November at Queen's Cross that either a member of Presbytery or a member of a congregation must have passed a copy of the Draft Presbytery Plan to the Press and Journal newspaper as they had seen a copy of it within hours of the proposal having been circulated to presbyters. This was most regrettable as it did not allow for congregations to hear directly from their own leadership about the details of the plan before reading about it in the press.



New Presbyteries

The Joint Aberdeen-Shetland Working Group continues to meet to work through the union proposals for the two presbyteries. The intent was still for the union of presbyteries to be agreed at General Assembly 2020 and come into effect from 1 June 2020.

As discussions between Aberdeen and Shetland were hopefully reaching a conclusion moves were underway to join presbyteries in the north east of Scotland to create a new large Presbytery in line with General Assembly decisions.

On the 22nd of October a joint meeting with representation from Aberdeen, Buchan, Gordon, Kincardine & Deeside and Shetland presbyteries was held, chaired by the Principal Clerk, the Rev Dr George Whyte. Representation from Moray and Orkney presbyteries had been invited. It was noted that this meeting is taking place in the context of similar meetings across Scotland with a view to creating twelve presbyteries and seeking, on average, presbyteries with around 80-100 charges as a critical mass that will enable successful devolution of powers and responsibilities and for these to be managed regionally with success. On timing for the creation of a new Presbytery it was suggested that 2022 may be an appropriate target date, perhaps with Orkney joining a little later.

Richard Little

Church Directory

Funerals	
18th November	Gillian Bateman, Arbroath
Memorial Service	
21st November	Dorothy Smith, Tor Na Dee

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.

Check out the gift guide on our website for some handy gift ideas



THE Giving TREE

Imagine a child waking up to no presents this Christmas...

The Giving Tree distributes new gifts to young people across the north-east who would otherwise not receive a gift at Christmas

Get involved:

- 

1. Take a gift tag
from one of the Christmas trees around the City and Shire
- 

2. Buy a new gift
appropriate for the age of the child and attach the tag. Please leave the gift unwrapped or use a gift bag rather than wrapping paper
- 

3. Drop the gift off
at one of the drop off points listed on the back of the tag by **Wednesday 4th December 2019**




Instant Neighbour Aberdeen
Registered charity SC002223
01224 489955
www.instantneighbour.co.uk

#INGivingTree2019



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.

Launch of the Giving Tree by Instant Neighbour

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

Sunday 1st December	10.30 am - First Sunday in Advent	Rev Dr John Ferguson
Sunday 8th December	10.30 am - Morning Worship, followed by Christmas Lunch	Rev Dr John Ferguson
Sunday 15th December	10.30 am - Christingle Service 2.30pm - Time to Remember Service	Rev Dr John Ferguson
Monday 16th December	7 pm - Outdoor Carol Service in Church Car Park	Rev Dr John Ferguson
Sunday 22nd December	10.30 am - Family Service and Nativity Play	Rev Dr John Ferguson
Tuesday 24th December	7 pm - Candlelit Service 11.15 pm - Watchnight Service	Rev Dr John Ferguson
Wednesday 25th December	10.30am - Family Service: Children are invited to bring along their new toys	Rev Dr John Ferguson
Sunday 29th December	10.30 am - Lessons and Carols Service	Rev Dr John Ferguson

JANUARY WORSHIP

Sunday 5th January	10.30 am - Morning Worship, followed by Prayer Time	Rev Dr John Ferguson
Sunday 12th January	10.30 am - Morning Worship	Pulpit Exchange Day
Sunday 19th January	10.30 am - Morning Worship	Rev Dr John Ferguson
Sunday 26th January	10.30 am - Morning Worship, followed by Communion	Rev Dr John Ferguson

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 - March 2020

NOTE: THERE WILL BE NO FOCUS IN JANUARY OR FEBRUARY

Material to editor	Sunday 16th February
Ready for distribution	Sunday 23rd February

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www.culterkirk.co.uk