

Peterculter Parish Church Newsletter

From The Manse

Dear Friends,

It is now possible to open up churches for private prayer and for small private funerals. We have decided not to do this as yet. This is primarily because the stringent regulations involved are such that we do not feel it would be fair to our volunteers to seek to implement them at this time. There has been no demand for private prayer and my own view is that we can pray anywhere, it does not have to be in a church building.

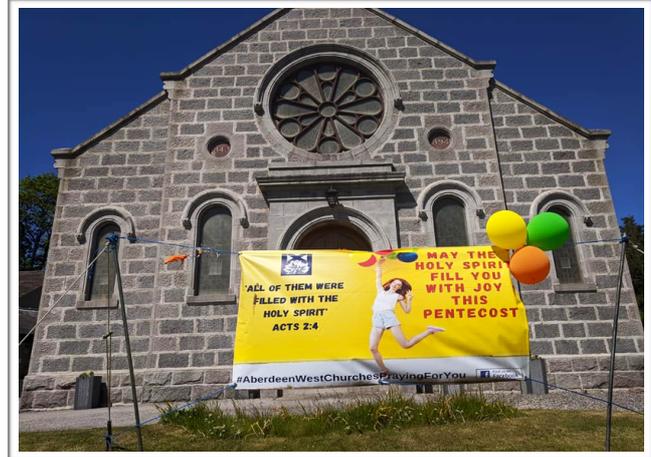
The Kirk Session will meet in early August to discuss the situation regarding the re-opening of the church building for Sunday worship. By that time, we will have a better idea as to the timing. However, we have to weigh up the fact that initially worship will be different from what we are used to from before the Lockdown. Physical Distancing measures will be in place, which means individuals will need to sit 2 metres apart from each other, unless you are a couple or family group (although of course, this might be reduced to one metre). There will be no singing or teas and coffees and strict hygiene conditions will be in place. One option on the table is for the five congregations in the Cluster Group to open initially for midweek worship in mid August, before gradually moving to re-opening for Sunday worship.

You are advised not to attend church if you are shielding or have an underlying health condition, until the situation is back to normal.

We do hope that the online worship to be found each Sunday on the Aberdeen West YouTube page might continue for a time after we return to our buildings. We also now have a facility which allows you to phone in and listen to the services. Just phone **01224 013222** on a Sunday at 10.30 am, plus the recording stays for 7 days. Or if you prefer, you can request a CD copy.

The church finances continue to suffer as a result of the present situation. However, they have been greatly helped because so many of you have continued to give via Standing Orders and FWO envelopes. Thank you for your generosity and faithful giving. There is now a straightforward alternative way to give to the congregation on the Church of Scotland web site and the link to this is here:

<https://cos.churchofscotland.org.uk/donate/>



Church Pentecost display

We have also received some large one-off donations. There was one particular donation from a person who clearly wished to remain anonymous which I would like to mention. A combination of my letting the dog out as the person came round the corner at the manse very early on a Sunday morning, combined with the fact that I wasn't wearing my glasses or contact lenses meant that while I saw someone there, I had no idea who it was! By the time I went back inside to sort myself out, the person had put a very generous donation through the door and then had gone. I am extremely grateful and thank them very much.

I am still phoning round some of you, but I have found that my role as Presbytery Clerk has been taking up a great deal of time, more so in fact than in normal times. However, I know that elders are seeking to keep in touch with many of you.

I would like to thank the team who put together the Pentecost display at the church, photos are included in this Newsletter and also Jill Grant, who kindly ran off this Newsletter again.

We continue to hope and pray that the situation with the virus will keep improving and we remember everyone in prayer who is still being affected by it.

I will be on holiday in July and you can contact the Rev Shuna Dicks on (01224) 861692, if you need the services of a minister. I won't be going far!

Yours sincerely

Instant Neighbour

Well done to our team who organise the Instant Neighbour drop off each Monday from 11am to 12noon. We received this lovely message below:

“I just wanted to send a massive thank you to the parishioners and community of Peterculter for the astonishing amount of food which we have received since Lockdown. We have valued the support from Peterculter Church for many years now, but we have been overwhelmed by the recent donations - a total of 2371kg since March 23rd!

Please pass on our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to this amazing effort - it is literally making the difference between our Foodbank remaining open or having to close.

With best wishes and many thanks,

Dot Goldie

- Instant Neighbour Office Manager.”



Instant Neighbour food collection

Communion Table

The Communion Table on the chancel was 100 years old in April. It is dedicated to Alice Margaret Holland and the story behind the table is now on our website and you can also read about it in the Culter Courier.



Pentecost window display

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Funerals:

- ✦ May 26th 2020 - Eddie Bremner, Towerview Park
- ✦ June 4th 2020 - Kathleen Elfellah, St Ronan's Drive.