

Peterculter Parish Church Newsletter

FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends

We have now settled into a regular pattern of Sunday worship and we are almost getting used to the new way of doing things. Numbers have ranged from around 30 to the maximum number of 50 on Remembrance Sunday.

It has also been good to see the church hall being used a little more, such as for the Blood Transfusion Service and the NHS for flu jabs. The Boys' Brigade have also resumed and we expect the Guides and Scouts to do so at some point.

Church meetings continue to be held via Zoom, as does the Bible Study group. And although I cannot visit the school, I have been producing some online Assemblies.

For me, I find it strange not having the regular human contact that comes with the aspects of my job which I can no longer do. Visits to the schools, care homes, hospitals and people's homes are all part and parcel of a minister's job. In addition, the time we spend chatting after worship over coffees or at Thursday and Saturday coffees allow me to keep in touch directly with so many of you. A phone call is just not the same! So I really look forward to a time when normality in these areas can resume. Please do feel free to phone me or drop me an email any time.

We are heading for a difficult winter and our prayers must continue to be with all those who are suffering from the virus and those who have lost loved ones. In the funerals I have conducted since this began, I am conscious of how hard it is for relatives who mourn the loss of loved ones to cope with the restrictions on top of their grief. Please keep them in your prayers.

There will be a further Newsletter in December which will give more details of Christmas events, as we seek to celebrate the birth of Christ our Saviour in these strange times.

Yours sincerely

John Ferguson

INSTANT NEIGHBOUR

Drop off times for Instant Neighbour are on Mondays from 11 am - 12noon and 7.00pm - 7.30 pm

ALPHA COURSE

Mannofield Church are running an online Alpha course from January 18th 2020. More information from the minister.

COMMUNION

We will be having a Communion Service after morning worship on Sunday November 29th. If you wish to take Communion, just stay in your seat when the main service ends. You will then be invited forward to collect your bread and wine, you take it back to your seat and we partake all together at the same time.

CHRISTMAS 2020

There's no doubt that Christmas is going to be very different this year in the church. We are looking to just having the Candlelit Service at 7.00 pm on Christmas Eve and not having a Watchnight or Christmas Day service.

The 'Time to Remember' Service will go ahead and will take place on Sunday December 13th at 2.00 pm. Anyone who has lost a loved one in recent times, or a long time ago, is very welcome to come along.

There will be special Christmas services from the Aberdeen West Churches online, including a Zoom Nativity Play on December 20th and a live streamed Watchnight Service from Culter Parish Church.

SESSION CLERK AND DEPUTE CLERK

Our Session Clerk, Mr Dave Gordon and Depute Clerk, Mr Neil Laing, have decided to resign from their posts.

Dave has served as Session Clerk for eight years and he has done an excellent job throughout. His considerable administrative skills have come to the fore and no minister could have wished for a more organised Session Clerk! Dave has worked away in the background, giving many hours of his time to play a key role in the running of the church. In addition to his regular duties, he has also played an important part in property matters. Dave will continue on the Kirk Session as an elder. I would like to thank Dave for all of his hard work over the years and for being an excellent Session Clerk for Peterculter Church.

Neil Laing has been the Kirk Session Depute Clerk and prior to that he was Clerk to the Congregational Board. He has served in these roles for a total of twenty years. Neil has played an important role in the life of our congregation, again working hard behind the scenes to help in the administration of our church. I would like to thank Neil for the excellent service he has given over many years. Neil will also be continuing as an elder.

I am delighted to be able to let you know that Mr Donald Muir has agreed to take over as Session Clerk and Mrs Sheila Walker as Depute Clerk. Donald previously served as Session Clerk and I am very grateful to him for agreeing to do a 'come back'. He brings much experience of church life to this important role.

Sheila is known to most of you as our Young Church Leader and while she will continue in that role, she has somehow found time to assist Donald as Clerk! Again, I am very grateful to Sheila for her commitment.

John Ferguson

NOT THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE!

Our annual Gift Day in the summer and the Christmas Fayre normally bring in thousands of pounds in much needed income for the church. Although we cannot hold a Fayre, we are going to have an event called Not the Christmas Fayre! We are asking you to think about what you might have spent at the Fayre normally and come along to church and hand in the amount. This will take place on Saturday 28th November from 10.00am until 1.00pm.

It will not be the most exciting of events! It will simply be volunteers being present in the church to allow you to hand in your envelope, with all the usual measures being in place. Of course, you can also send in a donation by post to the church office or send your donation by bank transfer via the details opposite.

There is no doubt that the fact that we rely so much on fund raising and also outside lets means that our financial position is not at all good. In addition, unlike some congregations, we do not have substantial reserves to fall back on. Your support at this critical time would be greatly appreciated.

A donation envelope should be delivered to you along with this Newsletter.

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

A Reverse Advent Calendar is available at the church door. Just pick up the calendar and add an item of food every day in Advent in aid of Instant Neighbour. You then take your bag along to the Candlelit Service on December 24th at 7.00pm or the Instant Neighbour drop off on Monday January 11th, 11.00am - 12noon.

CHURCH DIRECTORY: FUNERALS

22nd October:
Margaret Dick, North
Deeside Road

27th October: Alex
(Gander) Irvine,
Eastleigh Care Home

4th November: Gordon
Thomson, Malcolm
Road

BANK DETAILS

Sort Code: 83-49-40
Account No: 00628410
Name: Peterculter
Parish Church