

# Peterculter Parish Church Newsletter



## FROM THE MANSE

### Dear Friends

Thank you to everyone who exercised their vote in regard to the decision to be part of the Aberdeen West Parish Grouping.

The result of our vote was 113 for and 3 against and the results of all the congregations are included elsewhere in this newsletter. The Basis is still to go to Presbytery for final approval on June 19th.

It is very encouraging that the new grouping has the backing of the vast majority of those who voted. It will not in any way change anything regarding structures, finances and buildings. It will instead formalise what in many ways has already been happening with the five congregations working together in different ways and also with the Ministry Team working closely together, especially in recent times on the Aberdeen West Online Service. However, in the longer term, the plan will be to eventually link the five congregations together and then ultimately unite them. The latter final step will not be for another 7 - 10 years.

The process of change has been affected by decisions taken at this year's General Assembly, which will mean a reduction in the numbers of Ministry posts in the Church of Scotland from around 1000 to 600. This means that in Aberdeen and Shetland Presbytery, our posts will be cut from 37 to 24. This is a major reduction, which probably means that when the next two ministers within our Grouping leave, they will not be replaced, but a smaller Ministry Team will cover the Grouping. These are major changes, reflecting the fact that the Church is now facing huge challenges in relation to its Ministry, its buildings and its role in society. However, we have experienced big changes before and I have no doubt that we will prevail, because God will not abandon His people.

In looking ahead to the return of more normal worship and in line with recent Scottish Government announcements, congregational singing is now allowed in areas under Covid protection level 1 and 0. This means that we intend to sing again in church from 20th June, although the wearing of masks will still be obligatory.

I am aware that many members have not returned to worship while restrictions are in place and I can totally understand that. Our average attendance is 30 - 40, but often with more than that watching on the live stream or watching the recording later. I really do hope that when we are back to normal that those who have not been with us for some time will come back! It will be wonderful to welcome you.

Yours sincerely,

**John Ferguson**

## STREAMING OF SERVICES

The church service is live streamed on our Facebook page and is available afterwards as well. You can also watch it on our YouTube channel at [Peterculter Parish Church - YouTube](#)

The joint **Aberdeen West Services** can be watched via Facebook every Sunday at 10.30 am or at [www.youtube.com/c/AberdeenWestChurches/videos](http://www.youtube.com/c/AberdeenWestChurches/videos)

## INSTANT NEIGHBOUR

Foodbank donations for Instant Neighbour can be made on Mondays from 11 am - 12 noon.

## KIDNEY CARE UK

Please remember that used postage stamps are gratefully received by Miss Dayer Colburn who sends them off to the charity Kidney Care UK. If you can help, please pop them through Dayer's door at 163B North Deeside Road or through the church office letterbox.

Many thanks to everyone who sends these stamps. Kidney Care is very grateful for all contributions which really make a difference to the work they do.

## CHURCH DIRECTORY: FUNERALS

May 5th: Elaine Withrington, Birch House

May 7th: Lucy Murray, Blackhills Court, Westhill

May 26th: Jimmy McDiarmid, Broomhill Park

May 28th: Heather McKay, Grampian Gardens, Dyce

## LIFE AND WORK

Life and Work magazine is available every month and during lockdown, our Life and Work Organiser, Shona Stewart, has been kindly delivering the magazine to subscribers. If you wish to subscribe to it, the cost is just £3 a month and you should phone Shona on 01224 739369.

Also see:

<https://www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe/subscribe>



## BASIS OF PARISH GROUPING VOTING RESULTS

Parish Church	For	Against	Total
Craigiebuckler	184	14	198
Cults	125	7	132
Kingswells	67	16	83
Mannofield	181	8	189
Peterculter	113	3	116
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>670</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>718</b>

## STUDENT PLACEMENT

I am very pleased to be able to let you know that we will be having a student placement for 6 months from June 20th.

He is Dr Donald Wood, who is a member at Fetteresso Church, Stonehaven, and is training to become a Minister of Word and Sacrament.

Donald was a Lecturer in Systematic Theology at Aberdeen University and because of this, he is not required to undertake further studies, but fulfil a series of placements. Donald will be with us part time.

We look forward to Donald joining us.

**John Ferguson.**

## EMAIL CONTACT

If you wish to receive future newsletters via email and have not already supplied us with an email address, can you please email [secretary@culterkirk.co.uk](mailto:secretary@culterkirk.co.uk)

## CONTACT US

### Minister:

- Rev Dr John Ferguson
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## CHURCH OFFICE

Please note that the church office remains closed to church members and the public.



## GIFT DAY

We will be holding a Gift Day on Saturday June 26th from 10am - 12noon. With this newsletter, you will find an envelope to allow you to give a special donation to the work of the congregation, especially in light of the loss of income caused by Covid 19 restrictions where our hall lets have ceased and offerings have fallen. E-mail recipients of this newsletter are kindly requested to donate by post or bank transfer.

I will be at the church on that date to receive envelopes, but of course you can also deliver or send your envelope to the church office at 2 Craighton Crescent, Peterculter, AB14 0SB or you can send it via bank transfer, with the details below.

**Sort Code: 83-49-40**

**Account No: 00628410**

**Name: Peterculter Parish Church.**

Alternatively, you can take out a Standing Order and to do so please contact William Anderson at 01224 732505 or [1445wda@gmail.com](mailto:1445wda@gmail.com)

