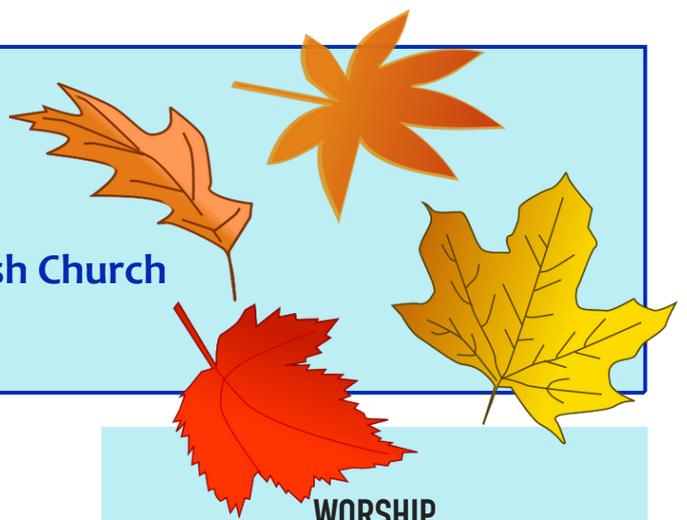


# Focus

The Church Newsletter of Peterculter Parish Church  
November 2021



## FROM THE MANSE

### Dear Friends

How is church doing in these challenging times? It has been very encouraging to have had Young Church resume and great to welcome some new children. Young Church plans to organise a Nativity Play once again and look forward to more children coming along to begin rehearsing.

There is also reasonably good news on the financial front, which shows that

while income is still slightly down, we are managing to hold our own, helped by the resumption of groups that hire the building.

Attendances on a Sunday are still running at about 50% of what they were prior to the pandemic, which means an average turnout on a Sunday of 40 - 50 people. I imagine that there are a number of reasons for this. Some people understandably don't like wearing masks or feel uncomfortable about being with other people in general, even with the vaccination programme. Others will have found that they are happier watching the services online and it has been great that we have been getting such good numbers watching each week. However, I imagine that it's also the case that after a long gap of not being able to attend church, it's easy to get out of the routine of doing so and stop coming altogether.

It would be lovely to see more people coming along to Thursday coffees. It's a great way to meet people and enjoy tea and coffee, plus a good selection of treats.

The Presbytery planning committee will be looking again at all the buildings in Presbytery to review their classification. This exercise was undertaken fairly recently, but thanks to the General Assembly it has to be done again! The new Presbytery Mission Plan will mean that buildings will be classed as to be retained beyond the five years of the Plan or to be disposed of during the lifetime of the five year Plan. As you know, many buildings in the Presbytery have been earmarked for closure and some have already gone. I am confident that our building will be on the list of those to be retained. However, this can only be the case if we can be an active, vibrant and strong congregation, reaching out to our community with the Good News of Christ.

Your sincerely  
**John Ferguson**

## WORSHIP

- 7th November: Morning Worship
- 14th November: Remembrance Sunday
- 21st November: Morning Worship & Admission of Elder to the Kirk Session
- 28th November: First in Advent

# Worship

## STREAMING OF SERVICES

Don't forget that we continue to livestream our own services each week on Facebook and these can then be found to watch later in our YouTube page: <https://youtube.com/user/CulterKirk> or from our website at [www.culterkirk.co.uk](http://www.culterkirk.co.uk).

Thank you to Val Muir and Colin Jones for undertaking this every Sunday.

## INSTANT NEIGHBOUR

Please note that as well as the Monday morning drop off from 11 am - 12noon, you can bring goods on a Sunday morning and leave them in the basket at the extension door.

## FLOWERS

Our thanks go to the following people who have kindly donated towards the church flowers:

- \* Moira Marshall
- \* Myrtle Farquhar

We will have a limited amount on sale on our stall at the Christmas Sale on Saturday 27th November.

Hope to see you there!

**Convener: Violet Smith**  
**01224 733317**

**Treasurer: Mabel Taylor**  
**01224 732030**

## NEW KIRK SESSION MEMBER

Mr Ross Andrews, a Church of Scotland elder, will be joining the Kirk Session on Sunday November 21<sup>st</sup>. We look forward to welcoming Ross on that date to the Kirk Session.

## CROSSREACH

A copy of the CrossReach "Christmas Card and Calendar Collection 2022" catalogue is available at the Church door. Order directly or enquire at the church office.

Crossreach states:

By buying your Cards and Calendars from CrossReach, not only are you receiving beautiful, high quality cards at reasonable prices to bless family and friends with, you are also being part of the great mission of CrossReach to "seek to support people to achieve the highest quality of life which they are capable of achieving at any given time."

Every single day someone in Scotland desperately needs support from one of our services which cover areas including substance misuse, counselling & support, homelessness, mental health and specialist care. Your purchase is helping make an incredible difference to someone, giving them the hope



of a better future. While you may never meet them, we can't tell you how much it means to us all. So, thank you for buying your Christmas Cards and Calendars from CrossReach, and making a difference.

This is because all the profits CrossReach receives from the sales from this Catalogue goes to help our caring work across Scotland.

<https://shop.crossreach.org.uk/index.html>

## KIDNEY CARE UK

Many thanks to all who continue to collect and pass on to me used postage stamps which then are posted to the above charity.

With the festive season approaching there could be many more used stamps available so please tear round a stamp, leaving lots of paper, and place them in the envelope at Church, put through Church Office door or pop them through my letter box.

**Dayer Colburn**  
**163b North Deeside Road**  
**Peterculter**

## PRESBYTERY MATTERS

During the pandemic meetings of Presbytery have continued through Zoom allowing discussions and decisions to be made.

The September meeting dealt with two Overtures under the Barrier Act. The Act dates back to 1697 and compels the General Assembly to consult the wider Church in core areas such as worship, doctrine etc. A majority of Presbyteries have to support an Overture for it to be considered at the

following General Assembly.

The first Overture was Amending the Church Courts Act which deals with the numbers attending the General Assembly. It means a reduction from a Church being represented once in 4 years to once in 5 years and past Moderators only being able to attend automatically for 5 years.



Presbytery voted - For 60 with 0 against.

The second was Solemnisation of Same Sex Marriage. The Legal Questions Committee have been dealing with this since 2018.

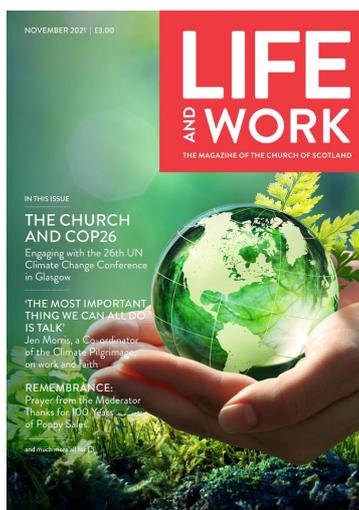
A Minister of Word and Sacrament or a Deacon would have to apply to become an Authorised Celebrant. Full Legal Protection would be needed for those who choose to become a Celebrant and for those who choose not to.

About six ministers spoke in favour of the Overture arguing for inclusiveness and everyone being treated the same. Nobody spoke against.

Presbytery supported the Overture with 55 voting for and 6 against.

## LIFE AND WORK

The November issue of Life and Work is now on sale at the Church door, priced £3. Members who have ordered their copy will receive theirs in the usual way. In this month's edition Thomas Baldwin describes how the Church and the wider Christian community is engaging with



the 26th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26).

There is a special supplement on COP26 online which can be found here:

<https://www.lifeandwork.org/resources/cop26-special-supplement>

## SENIORS' BUS OUTING 2022

The Seniors' Bus Outing usually takes place in May. The day involves a (wheelchair accessible) bus trip and the opportunity to purchase lunch before returning mid-afternoon/ around 5pm.

At the moment, we are only looking to determine whether there is enough interest to organise this outing next year. If there is sufficient interest, we will provide further details in February.

Please inform the church office (01224 735845) or your elder by the end of November if you would be interested in attending an outing in May 2022. Please note this is not a commitment at this time

but just an indication to confirm the level of interest.

# Christmas Fayre

**Saturday 27th November 2021**

**2pm to 4pm**

**Tickets: Adults £3, Children £1.50**

**Christmas Themed Teas/Coffees**

**Chocolate Tombola**

**Bottle Stall**

**Flowers**

**Donations for the above will be gratefully accepted**

**Between 2pm and 4pm on Friday 26th November**

**or**

**Between 10am and 12am on Saturday 27th**

**For those unable to attend the Fayre but would like to make a monetary contribution to ensure the success of the event, a box for donations will be available at the Church door on Sunday 21st November and on the day after the Fayre on Sunday the 28th**



## WHAT'S ON

### THURSDAY AND SATURDAY COFFEES

The Thursday coffees will run each Thursday from 10.00 am - 11.30 am and the Thursday midweek service will take place at 11.30 am.

Dates for the 2022 Saturday Coffees will be issued in the next magazine.

If you are able to volunteer to help with coffees, please contact myself or the church office. This also includes Sunday teas and coffees after the service.

**John Ferguson**



### BIBLE STUDY GROUP

The dates of future Bible Study Group meetings are:

- Thursday November 11<sup>th</sup>
- Thursday November 25<sup>th</sup>
- Thursday December 9<sup>th</sup>

All at 7.00 pm in the small hall.



### TIME TO REMEMBER

This year's Time to Remember Service for those who have been bereaved in the past year or in years gone by, will take place on Sunday December 19<sup>th</sup> at 2.00 pm

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

### Funerals

13th August	Jocelyn Reid, Strathview Care Home
3rd September	Douglas Moir, Market Street, Stoneywood
24th September	Kathleen Eaton, Eastleigh Care Home
12th October	Ian Thomson, Cults Avenue
15th October	Bob McKay, Wallace Road
20th October	Jean McBain, Hillside Crescent
27th October	Kate Bisset, St Ronan's Circle

## 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
- 01224 735041
- [JFerguson@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:JFerguson@churchofscotland.org.uk)

### Session Clerk:

- Donald Muir
- 07476 821813
- [sessionclerk@culterkirk.co.uk](mailto:sessionclerk@culterkirk.co.uk)

### Newsletter Editor:

- Val Muir
- 07766 740878
- [editor@culterkirk.co.uk](mailto:editor@culterkirk.co.uk)

### Church Office:

- Katie Gillies
- 01224 735845
- [secretary@culterkirk.co.uk](mailto:secretary@culterkirk.co.uk)



## CHURCH OFFICE

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

**CLOSED**