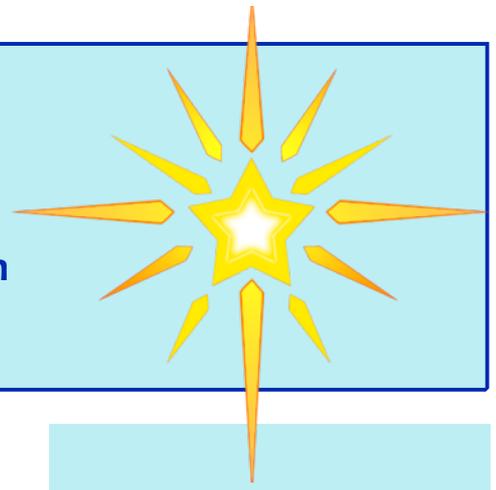


Focus

The Church Newsletter of Peterculter Parish Church
December 2021



FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends

Just imagine Covid had been around in 1st century Palestine when Jesus was born. Here's a possible news item:

A local Bethlehem innkeeper has been fined 500 shekels for allowing a young woman to give birth in his stable without having carried out health and safety checks in advance. Bethlehem Council Health and Safety Inspector, Ivor Cautious, said that there were no fire extinguishers in the stable, it lacked hand sanitiser for possible visiting virgins giving birth and the manger in which the child was laid contained contaminated water. Furthermore, it was found that a bunch of angels performed the Hallelujah Chorus without wearing masks and on top of that, the inn did not have an entertainments licence.

The present restrictions placed upon us in worship can be frustrating and the thought of attending Christmas services while wearing a mask may be off putting to some. On top of that, people find it puzzling that you do not need to wear a mask in a nightclub, while it's required in a church. However, given the rise in case numbers, it is for the best that people know that churches are relatively safe places to gather and I can understand why this restriction is still being imposed. Like many things in life, it's something that we just get used to. I'm also very impressed at how good the singing is!

I therefore hope that many of you will come along to our Christmas services this year. It was decided that, following advice from the Church of Scotland, it would be best to reduce the number of our usual services, hence we are not holding a Christmas Day Service this year. At a time when many people are facing difficult and dark days, it's all the more important that we turn to the church in order to appreciate the real meaning of the celebration of the birth of Christ. It is so easy to forget what it's truly all about and so celebrating the depth and strength of God's love in sending Christ among us as a tiny child will bring some hope, good cheer and light amidst darkness to one and all.

Your sincerely
John Ferguson



CHRISTMAS WORSHIP

See page 4 for details of all our Christmas services



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.

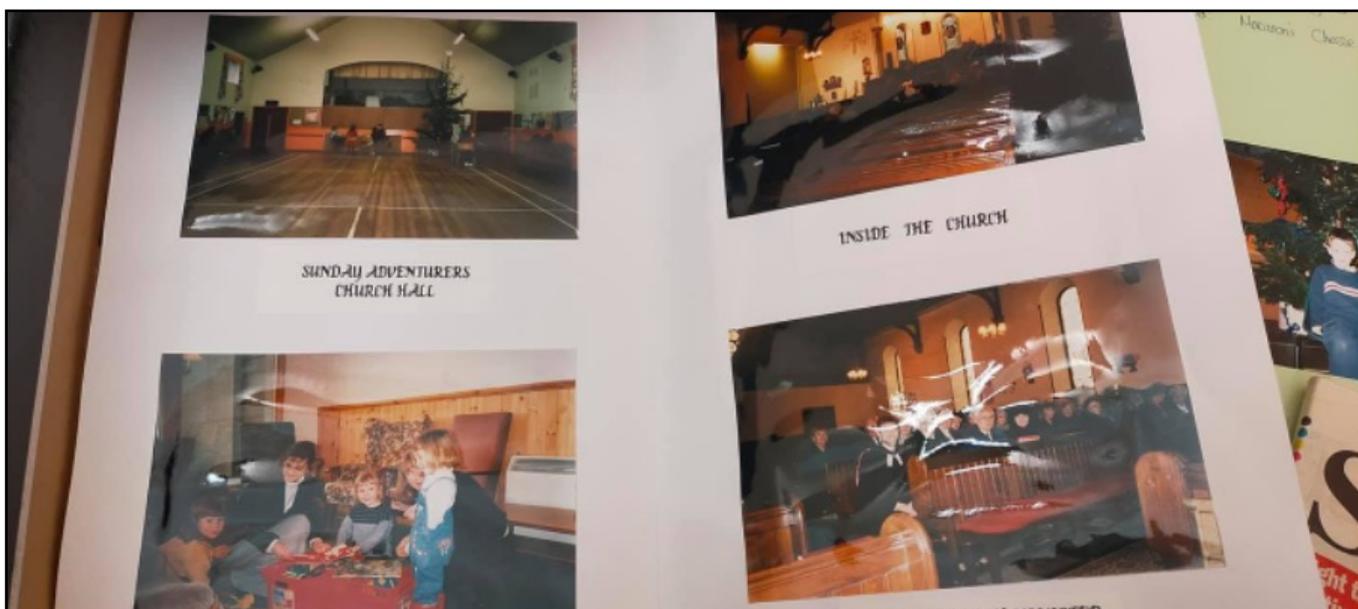
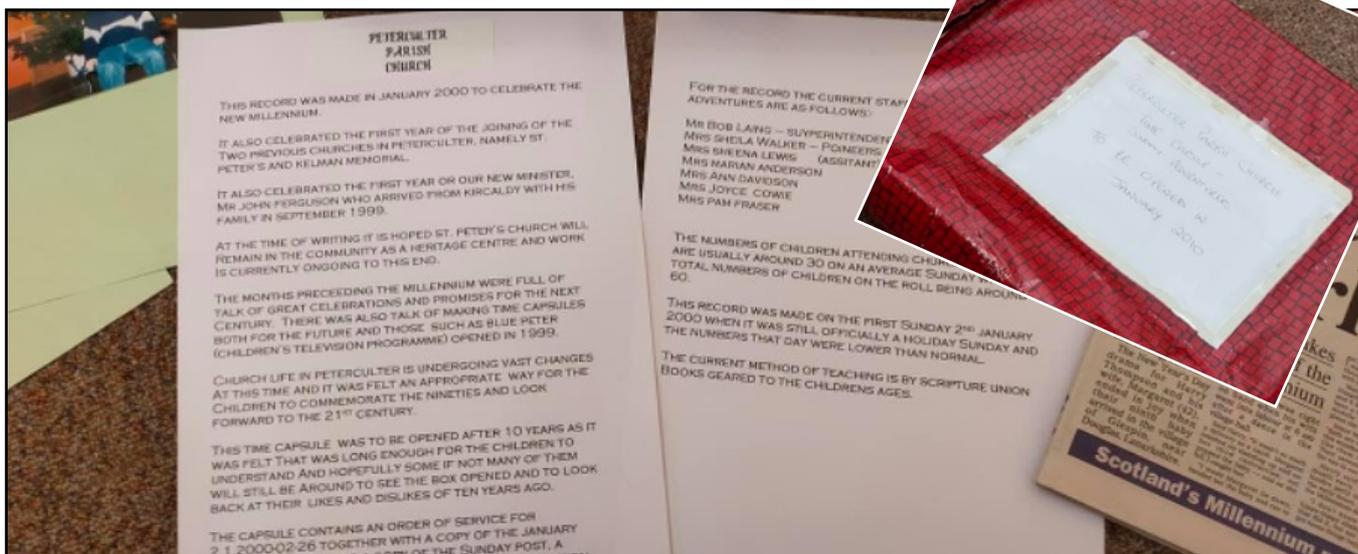
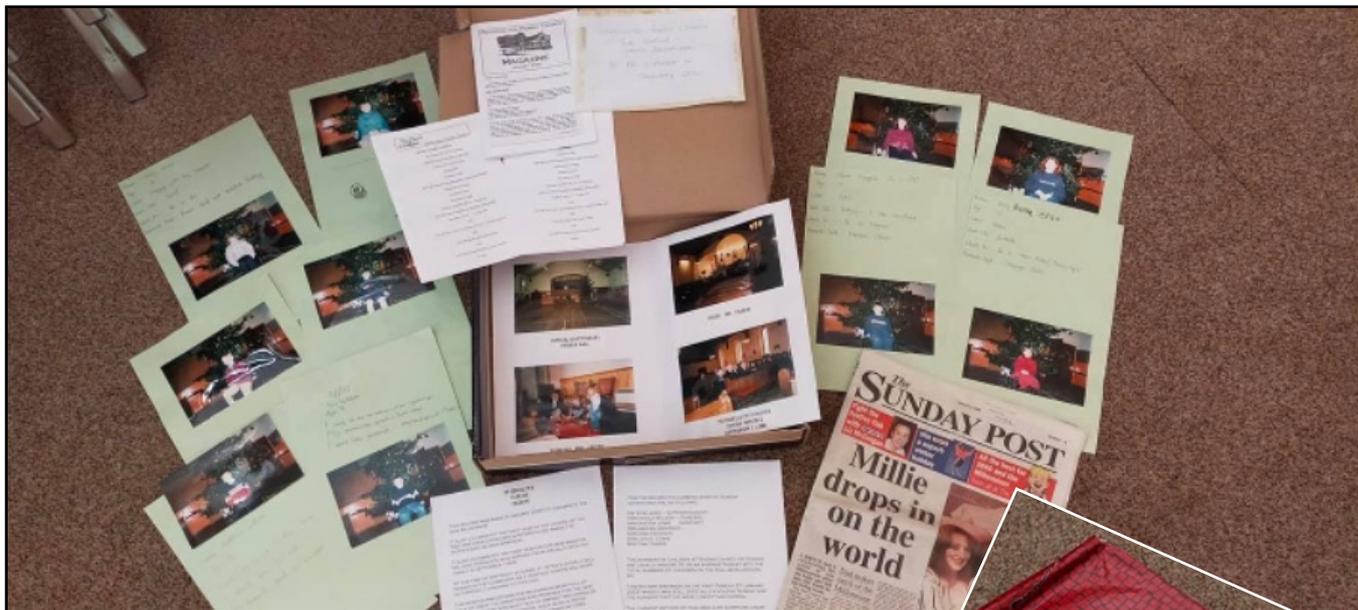
Thank you to Val Muir and Colin Jones for undertaking this every Sunday.

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.

TIME CAPSULE

When tidying out a cupboard a time capsule was found by Young Church staff. It contained photos, the church magazine, an Order of Service and the Sunday Post from the first Sunday of 2000!!! It said it was to be opened in 2010, so only 11 years late!



ST PAUL'S CHURCH, MALAWI

Over the years, we have seen our partner church in Blantyre, Malawi, develop a new building for the congregation. The first picture was taken by our minister in 2008 when members of Aberdeen Presbytery visited Malawi and the remaining ones show the church today. The minister, Rev Maxwell Mbewe has asked that his best wishes and be passed on to our congregation. In turn, we wish our partner church well and we are delighted to see the wonderful progress that has taken place in creating the new building after many years.

NEW KIRK SESSION MEMBER

Mr Ross Andrews, a Church of Scotland elder, joined the Kirk Session on Sunday November 21st. We were delighted to welcome Ross to the Kirk Session.

FLOWERS

Our thanks go to everyone who has kindly donated towards the church flowers:

- Isobel Campbell
- Arthur Beattie
- Albert and Alison Middler
- Sylvia Nicol



Convener: Violet Smith
01224 733317

Treasurer: Mabel Taylor
01224 732030

PRESBYTERY MATTERS

Presbytery met on 4th November, for the first time in-person since the start of the pandemic.

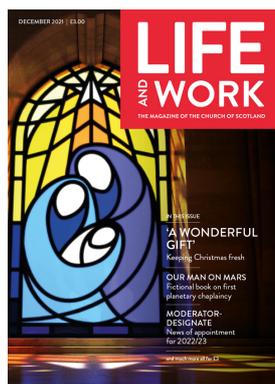
The Rev Laurene Lafontaine was warmly thanked for her two years' service to Kingswells Church and was wished well in her new charge of Broughton St Mary's, Edinburgh.

Following a vacancy for about two years, Presbytery noted that the Rev Sarah Brown, minister at Castlemilk, Glasgow,

preached as Sole Nominee at St Machar's Cathedral on October 17th 2021 and was elected as minister by 64 votes for and 2 against.

LIFE AND WORK

The December 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 Jackie McAdam asks whether it's still possible for people, especially ministers, to keep the eternal message of Christmas alive again and again each year.



WHAT'S ON

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP 2021

Sunday 12th December, 10.30am	Christingle Service
Monday 13th December, 7pm	Outdoor Carol Service Refreshments in large hall afterwards
Sunday 19th December, 10.30am	Family Service with Nativity Play
Sunday 19th December, 2.30pm	Time to Remember Service
Friday 24th December, 7pm	Candlelit Service
Friday 24th December, 11.30pm	Watchnight Service
Sunday 26th December, 10.30am	Lessons and Carols Service

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.

The final Thursday coffees before Christmas will be 16th December, resuming on 13th January.

There will be a Saturday Coffee Morning on 18th December - with bacon rolls!

The next one will be on January 15th and then they will be on the first and third month every Saturday thereafter from 10.00 am - 12 noon.

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.

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 19th at 2.30 pm.

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Funerals

4th November	David Sadler, St Ronans Circle, Peterculter
16th November	Georgina Fraser, Lethen Park Care Home, Portlethen

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



CONTACT US

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CHURCH OFFICE

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

CLOSED