

Focus

The Church Newsletter of Peterculter Parish Church
March 2022



FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends

The Aberdeen West Parish Grouping met recently to discuss the situation in regard to the future of the congregations in the Grouping, now that Kingswells is vacant. At the moment, nothing has been decided. However, as I've mentioned before, substantial changes are on the way in the next few years, which will see an ongoing reduction in buildings.

There has been a Christian presence in the village for hundreds of years and having a church community in Peterculter is important for a village like ours.

Of course, I would say that! But I think even those who have little or no connection with the church would be sad to see it close. However, there can be no guarantee that a physical Christian presence will continue forever.

There is no doubt that one key way of seeking to ensure that a church continues to exist in the village is to make sure that it stays strong and healthy. There is a sense of 'use it or lose it'. When church buildings have closed in the past and people in a community have protested about it, it's often asked where these people were when the church needed their support.

While we face many challenges, I do think that there is much to feel positive about when it comes to our congregation. We continue to be active in reaching out to the community with the Good News and despite the difficulties of the pandemic, our worship, Young Church and fellowship have all continued. We have also seen remarkable support financially from members.

I continue to be encouraged, but also deeply conscious that we are reliant on a relatively small number of people, whose commitment and support makes my job so worthwhile. This is seen elsewhere in the magazine with the awarding of Long Service Certificates to four of our elders. My many congratulations to them all and thank you to all the other volunteers for your service to Christ and His Kingdom

The Scottish Government has announced an end to Covid requirements from March 21st, which means that the wearing of face coverings will no longer be required at worship.

Your sincerely
John Ferguson

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The World Day of Prayer Service will take place on Friday 4th March, at 2pm, at Kingswells Parish Church and will be led by John Ferguson.

The World Day of Prayer is an international, ecumenical, prayer movement initiated and carried forward by Christian women in more than 180 countries and over 1000 languages. Every year Christians of many traditions and all ages, celebrate a common day of prayer on the first Friday in March.

The theme this year is "I know the Plans I have for You" and has been prepared by the England, Wales and Northern Ireland branch.

WORSHIP

See page 4 for details of our services for March

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 on 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.



LOOKING AHEAD TO EASTER

On Palm Sunday afternoon, (April 10th) the Aberdeen West Parish Grouping will be holding a Forest Church Event at the woods at Countesswells.

Forest Church is a fresh expression of church drawing on much older traditions when sacred places and practices were outside - but it is also drawing on contemporary research that highlights the benefits of spending time with nature in wild places.

Forest Church isn't just normal church happening outside, instead it attempts to participate with creation. And it isn't just a fellowship group doing an outside activity, it aims to learn, worship, meditate, pray and practice with the trees, at the spring, or along the shore..

Full details will be in the April issue of the magazine.

In Holy Week this year, a service will take place each evening in one of the five churches in the Grouping at 7.00 pm. These are:

Monday: Kingswells

Tuesday: Peterculter

Wednesday: Craigiebuckler

Thursday: Mannofield

Friday: Cults

On Easter Day, we will have the usual outdoor service at 9 am in the Glebe, followed by breakfast in the Heritage Hall.

LONG SERVICE CERTIFICATES

Three of our elders received Long Service Certificates for 30 years service from the Moderator of the General Assembly, the Rt Hon Lord Wallace of Tankerness QC (Jim Wallace).

Neil Laing and Erik Stein received theirs at the Presbytery Annual Service at High Hilton Church and William Anderson received his at a Presbytery lunch organised for the Moderator the next day. (William is also the Presbytery Treasurer)

A fourth elder, Mrs Jean Cook, could not manage the service and received her certificate for 40 years service from the minister.

Well done to them all!



FLOWERS

MARCH 2022

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

- Frances Chapman
- Mike Player
- Moira West

Your donations help greatly towards the running costs of the flower team and it is nice to see the delighted faces of the recipients of the flowers on a Sunday!

Convener: Violet Smith
01224 733317

Treasurer: Mabel Taylor
01224 732030



PRESBYTERY MATTERS

All Presbyteries within the Church of Scotland face a very difficult year with new Mission Plans and new enlarged Presbyteries to be in place by the end of the year. Work is continuing apace in Aberdeen and Shetland Presbytery striving to meet these objectives. An extra meeting of Presbytery was held on Zoom on the 1st of February mainly to affirm that the teams planning for the changes were progressing satisfactorily. Aberdeen and Shetland will be part of the new Presbytery of the North East and Northern Isles.

At the February meeting Presbytery was informed that the Rev Susan Sutherland has decided to retire from her charge at North Aberdeen which was formed by the union of Mastrick, Northfield and Summerhill parish churches. Susan was with us here in Peterculter for a year about 14 years ago as part of her training for the ministry.

The next meeting of Presbytery, open to all, is at Queen's Cross on Thursday, 3rd March 2022.

Richard Little

LIFE AND WORK

The March 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 Issue

Stories are 'Comfort Food for Our Souls'

The Church and Scotland's 'Year of Stories'

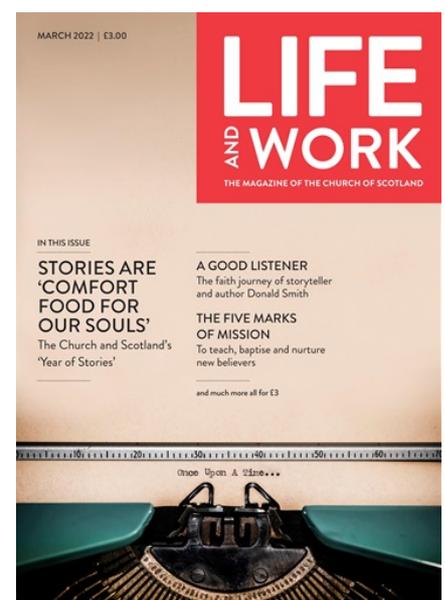
A Good Listener

The faith journey of storyteller and author Donald Smith

The Five Marks of Mission

To teach, baptise and nurture new believers

And much more over 52 pages..



WHAT'S ON

WORSHIP

| | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|
| 6th March, 10.30am | Morning Worship | John Ferguson |
| 13th March, 10.30am | Morning Worship | John Ferguson |
| 20th March, 10.30am | Hymns from Around the World | John Ferguson |
| 27th March, 10.30am | Morning Worship | Rev Mark Rodgers |

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.

Forthcoming Saturday Coffees dates are 5th and 19th March, and 16th April from 10am - 12noon.

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



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Baptism

20th February Rosie Jane McDonagh

Funerals

23rd December Eileen Bowman, Coronation Road

21st January Monica Player, St Ronan's Drive

4th February John Kelman, Towerview Lane

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

Minister:

- Rev Dr John Ferguson
- 01224 735041
- JFerguson@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerk:

- Donald Muir
- 07476 821813
- sessionclerk@culterkirk.co.uk

Newsletter Editor:

- Val Muir
- 07766 740878
- editor@culterkirk.co.uk

Church Office:

- Katie Gillies
- 01224 735845
- secretary@culterkirk.co.uk



CHURCH OFFICE

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

CLOSED