

Focus

The Church Newsletter of Peterculter Parish Church
April 2022



FROM THE MANSE

Dear Friends

This Easter our thoughts and prayers must continue to be with the people of Ukraine. Easter is a time of hope, of light in the darkness and of new beginnings. At the time of writing, it's very hard to feel any of that when it comes to this horrific situation.

Christ Jesus was hung on a cross by those who placed no value on human life, who didn't care that he was an innocent man and so his crucifixion was deeply unjust.

The same is true in Ukraine today. Those who deliberately target buildings where they know women and children are present are evil and barbaric. They don't care about the value of human life or the appalling suffering they are inflicting on innocent people. That this evil is still being perpetuated in the 21st century beggars belief.

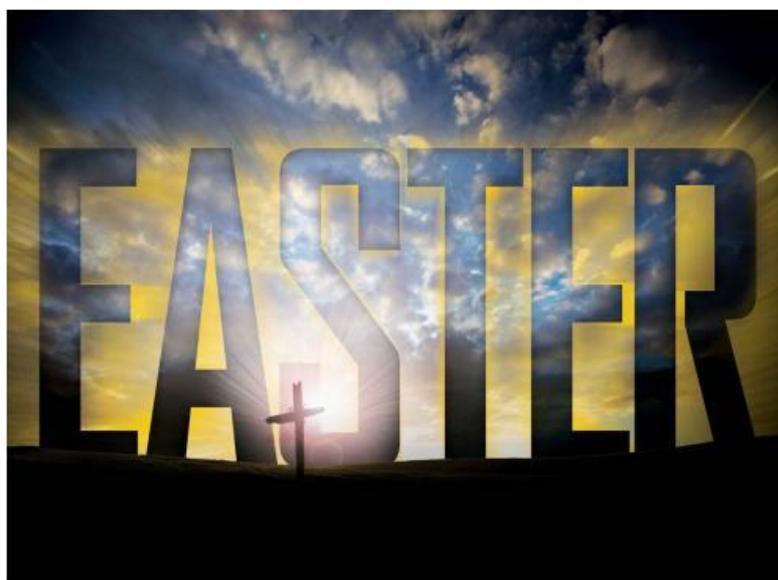
If there are any Easter signs of hope, it comes through the response from the international community - the welcome so many countries have given to refugees, the aid which is being given to support those whose lives have been devastated by this war and the fact that sanctions against Russia are a sign that other nations know that their actions are utterly immoral and have no place in a civilised world.

This Easter, let's remember many others in our world who are also suffering in places such as Afghanistan and Yemen due to conflict.

I hope and pray that the light of a resurrection morning which we celebrate will give us all some hope amidst so much darkness. Come what may, we need to believe that the evil we are seeing perpetuated on our TV screens day after day will never be stronger than human compassion and love.

Your sincerely

John Ferguson



WORSHIP

See page 3 for details of our Easter 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 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.

JOHN KELMAN

The former Beadle of Peterculter Church, Mr John Kelman, died peacefully on January 25th.

John was the Beadle or Church Officer at St Peter's Church for at least 10 years before it united with Kelman Memorial Church. He was then appointed Church Officer at Peterculter Parish Church from its beginning - he was appointed in March 1999 when St Peter's and Kelman came together. It was a job he loved and he was totally dedicated to it.

John would always be first at the church on a Sunday morning and last to leave and he took pride in all the tasks he undertook. For me, it was always reassuring to have John there - knowing that all the tasks would be carried out with great efficiency. He was always 100% reliable and meticulous.- you always knew that you could completely trust John . As well as

being Beadle, John was a member of the Congregational Board and the Property Committee and he gave many hours to undertaking practical tasks around the church. He was always very helpful to the flower team as long as they didn't mess about with the light switches! He was sorry to have to give up being Beadle, but sadly his health meant he could no longer carry out the work.

John was a gentleman. He was a very down to earth person, friendly, kind and caring. He had a droll sense of humour and fun. He was a private, dignified man who never wanted a fuss. In so many ways, he epitomised quiet Christian service.

Our thoughts and prayers go to his daughters Lynda and Shona and all the family. I have no doubt that they treasure their many wonderful memories of someone who was quite simply the salt of the earth, a good man.

John Ferguson



PAT BURNETT

Mrs Pat Burnett has retired as Cradle Roll Convener of Peterculter Parish Church. Pat has looked after the Cradle Roll since Peterculter Church began and I would like to thank her very much for undertaking this role over so many years. Pat always ensured that the families of children on the Roll (aged under 3) received Birthday Cards and this was greatly appreciated. Pat was also a member of the Youth Council.

Thank you Pat for your service to our congregation.

John Ferguson

EASTER WORSHIP

3rd April	10.30am	Morning Worship followed by Annual Stated Meeting
10th April	10.30am	Palm Sunday Family Service
11th - 15th April		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.
11th April	7pm	Kingswells
12th April	7pm	Peterculter
13th April	7pm	Craigiebuckler
14th April	7pm	Mannofield
15th April	7pm	Cults
17th April		Easter Day
	9am	Outdoor Service at The Glebe
	9.30am	Breakfast in Large Hall at the church (not the Heritage Hall this year) for those who have been to the Outdoor Service and those coming to the 10.30 am Service
	10.30am	Easter Day Service of Celebration
24th April	10.30am	Morning Worship followed by Communion

FLOWERS

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

- Dayer Colburn
- Mr & Mrs Albert Middler
- Myrtle Farquhar
- Margaret Carmichael

Convener: Violet Smith, 01224 733317

Treasurer: Mabel Taylor, 01224 732030

PRESBYTERY MATTERS

At the March Presbytery meeting tribute was paid to the Rev Laurie Gordon who died at the age of 94 on the 5th of February 2022. He retired from the Parish of John Knox (Mounthooly) in 1995 having served there since 1968. Laurie was a faithful Presbyter and as well as Committee work over the years was Moderator of Aberdeen Presbytery in 1986.

The Rev Michael Shewan and the Rev Susan Sutherland were warmly thanked for their services to Aberdeen North and prior to that to Summerhill and Mastrick respectively. The Moderator wished them both well for the future following their retirement at the end of March.

Also thanked was the Rev Scott Rennie who was leaving Queen's Cross Church following 13 years service there. Presbytery noted his call to Crown Court (a church of Scotland Church in London) was sustained by the Presbytery of England.

The Presbytery Clerk, our minster, presented the Annual Congregational Statistics for 2021 which showed a "continuing worrying downward trend". Funerals and baptisms were significantly down but while congregations could not ignore the figures he spoke of signs of hope that statistics did not include the important and positive work that was being undertaken in congregations across Presbytery.

Richard Little



WHAT'S ON

FOREST CHURCH

The Aberdeen West Parish Grouping will be holding a Forest Church Event at the woods at Countesswells estate on Palm Sunday. It will take place 2pm-4pm, meeting at the Countesswells play park.

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.

All are welcome!

ANNUAL STATED MEETING

The Annual Stated Meeting, including the presentation of the congregational accounts, will take place after the service on 3rd April. All members of the congregation are invited to attend.

THURSDAY AND SATURDAY COFFEES

The Thursday coffees will run each Thursday from 10am - 11.30am and the Thursday midweek service will take place at 11.30am.

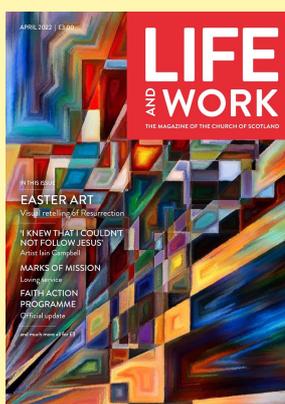
Forthcoming Saturday Coffees dates are 2nd and 16th April and 7th and 21st May from 10am - 12noon.

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.



LIFE AND WORK

The April 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.



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