

# Focus

The Church Newsletter of Peterculter Parish Church  
June 2022



## FROM THE MANSE

### Dear Friends

The Presbytery met recently to receive a Draft Mission Plan for the next five years.

For the Aberdeen West area, it has been proposed that Ruthrieston West join our grouping, bringing the number of congregations within it to six. The draft Plan stated that within five years there should be just two congregations with four buildings in the Grouping - ourselves, Cults and Kingswells forming a union - and Mannofield, Craigiebuckler and Ruthrieston West forming the other union. The two congregations in the grouping will be served by four ministry staff. The Kingswells and Ruthrieston West buildings will be closed.

It's a major change - it would mean the end of Peterculter Parish Church as a congregation because we would become part of a new united charge. However, the fact that our building has been designated as necessary for the next five years is clearly good news, but there can never be a guarantee that this will be the case in the longer term.

I should also stress that because of the creation of the new Presbytery from 2023, it is possible to look across the Presbytery border and consider whether readjustment might be possible with congregations near us, which at present are in Kincardine and Deeside Presbytery.

You will probably have seen in the Press details about other proposals, which include the proposed closure of ten church buildings in the city and a number of unions to take place, with the creation of team ministries.

These changes are difficult for everyone involved but, sadly, they are necessary given the crisis facing the Church at this time.

At Communion recently, we sectioned off every second row in order to allow elders to serve people more easily and this worked really well. However, it did make me think back to what Communion was like when I first came here. The attendance at the February 2000 Communion (it was recorded back then) was 269. I was amused to read in the Kirk Session minutes that I was "disappointed with the numbers" as they represented just 25% of the current membership! I cannot imagine expressing disappointment at such a packed church today! This demonstrates just how much church life has changed in the past 20 years or so.

I do hope you all have a lovely summer and please send a postcard if you are on holiday and we will show it at church. Do please continue to support your local church and can I thank all those who continue to do so - it means so much because it ensures that a Christian presence, worship and witness can continue in our village at a time when so many others are losing such a presence.

**Your sincerely**  
**John Ferguson**

## WORSHIP

See page 4 for details of our June 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](http://www.culterkirk.co.uk)

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

## YOUR MAGAZINE

This month's Focus Magazine is being distributed along with a Church Directory, which we hope you will find useful. It is also being distributed as a hard copy to all members, including those who normally receive it by email

## 47<sup>TH</sup> CULTER BOYS' BRIGADE PRESENTATION EVENING

The 47<sup>th</sup> Culter BB Company held their annual Presentation Evening in the church last month. There was an excellent turnout of boys and a number of awards were distributed. The event took place in the church, because the Company are still not back to being able to use the school, but they hope to do so from September. An award was also made to the minister by BB Captain Mike Reid, (pictured) for 20 years service as Company Chaplain.



## GALA DAY

The church once again has a stall at the Gala, which raised the sum of £265 via the Bottle Stall. The stall looked great! Many thanks to our Outreach Team for all their hard work in organising it.



## MR LEWIS PATTERSON

One of our long serving elders, Mr Lewis Patterson, has decided to stand down from the Kirk Session. Lewis has served as an elder for 43 years, which is a remarkable achievement. Throughout that time, Lewis has been a hard working, conscientious and faithful elder. He has visited his district, contributed much to decisions made at the Kirk Session and also played a key role in the Property Committee over many years. I would like to extend a sincere thank you to Lewis for his service and to wish him and his wife Muriel God's blessing for the future.

**John Ferguson**

## LIVE STREAMING IMPROVEMENTS

Our services continue to be live streamed each week on Facebook and these can then be found at our YouTube page. <https://youtube.com/user/CulterKirk>.

The Kirk Session has agreed in principle to improve the Live Streaming facilities. However, we do not have sufficient funds in our reserves to undertake this. We are aware that a good number of people watch the service live, with many more watching the recording later.

The cost of these improvements is around £3000. Pledges towards this total now stand at £1600.

If you would like to pledge an amount, no matter how small, then please contact the Treasurer William Anderson at [1445wda@gmail.com](mailto:1445wda@gmail.com) or phone him on 01224 732505 or speak to him at church.

## 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.

In June, the coffees continue throughout the month, but there will not be a mid week service on June 9th, 16th and 23rd.

The final Thursday Coffees will be on June 30th, which will also include the final mid week service until coffees and Thursday worship resume again in September.

Forthcoming Saturday Coffees dates are 4th June and 18th June from 10am - 12 noon. We then take a break for summer and restart on Saturday 3rd September.

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.

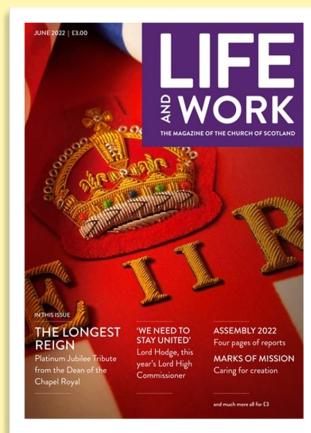


## LIFE AND WORK

The June 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.

Members who have ordered their copy on a regular basis will receive their copy in the usual way.

This month's issue focuses on the Diamond Jubilee, with a tribute to the Queen from the Dean of the Chapel Royal.



## CHRISTIAN AID

Thank you to all those who contributed to the retiral Offering for Christian Aid Week.



**The total raised was £600.**

## 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.



**Instant  
Neighbour**  
Food Bank

**URGENT APPEAL**

Demand for Instant Neighbour's Food Bank Increases

**Items Required**

- Pasta
- Pasta Sauce
- Tinned Beans, Soup, Veg, Tuna, Puddings, Fruit
- Tea & Coffee
- Biscuits
- Cereal etc

Donations can be handed in to our St. Machar Warehouse or cash donations can be made on our website

5 St Machar Drive, Aberdeen AB24 3YJ  
InstantNeighbour.co.uk 01224 489955

Thanks to our friends at FaceDonate we are able to offer fresh milk along with our parcels when possible and donations to this can be made using the QR code!

Charity No SC002223 Company No SC002223

QR code: 

Scan to donate  
fresh milk

For Instant Neighbour Food Bank service  
Charity Number SC002223

Twitter icon

## JUNE WORSHIP

<b>5th June</b>	Morning Worship - Pentecost Sunday	Rev Mark Rodgers
<b>12th June</b>	Morning Worship	Rev Mark Rodgers
<b>19th June</b>	Morning Worship	Rev Gordon Craig
<b>26th June</b>	Pulpit Exchange	Rev Jean Boyd, from Drumoak Church
<b>3rd July</b>	Morning Worship - followed by Communion	Rev Dr John Ferguson

## CHURCH DIRECTORY

<b>Baptism</b>		
<b>1st May</b>	George Middleton	Scotsmill Crescent, Blackburn

<b>Funerals</b>		
<b>29th April</b>	Gavin Reid	West Lasts Farmhouse, Peterculter
<b>10th May</b>	Mary Smith	North Deeside Road, Bieldside
<b>12th May</b>	Patricia Urquhart	St Peters Terrace, Peterculter
<b>18th May</b>	Margaret Legg	Balnagask Care Home, Torry

## FLOWERS

Our thanks go to everyone who has kindly donated towards the church flowers during May.

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

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



## 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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### Newsletter Editor:

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## CHURCH OFFICE

The Church Office is now open to the public on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 10am - 12 noon.

