

Focus

The Church Newsletter of Peterculter Parish Church
June 2023



FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

Dear Friends of Peterculter Parish Church

I hope you don't mind me sharing a recent experience which has very much been on my mind. Indeed, so much so, that some of my own congregation at Holburn West have been wondering when I am going to return to planet Earth. No, I haven't been up in a rocket, but I certainly felt I had ascended a mountain and had been greeted by a



magnificent view. Let me explain what I am so excited to report. On the 12th of May, following the invitation of the Aberdeen City Council, I accompanied the Lord Provost of Aberdeen to Pittodrie stadium for the conferral of the Freedom of the City to the Gothenburg Greats, marking the fortieth anniversary of the Aberdeen football team winning the European Cup Winners Cup after defeating Real Madrid. I had the privilege of being on the same stage as these legends.

I was impressed with many of the good qualities I observed in them. A wonderful sense of camaraderie that continues to exist between the players, which is rekindled when they meet up. They were clearly enjoying the fortieth anniversary celebrations. A tremendous sense of fun, laughter, and banter. And of course, a healthy pride in their amazing achievements as a team. Willie Miller, even forty years on, still carries with him a sense of authority, leadership, and presence which the players respect. Other players such as Neil Simpson, Peter Weir and Eric Black had a kind, respectful, encouraging way about them. Each player had a vital part to play in that successful team.

The team had a mix of youth and experience, of players hailing from the East coast and the West coast. They had strong leaders and strategists in the manager Sir Alex Ferguson and the coaching staff.

Although there are many stories of the strict and demanding training the players went through, that needs to be balanced by the stories of camaraderie, companionship, laughter, and care expressed. In the recent excellent BBC Scotland documentary "Aberdeen '83: Once in a Lifetime" Gordon Strachan reveals that at one point he may have considered walking away from football if it hadn't been for the friendship and support of that particular team. Scottish football would have been deprived of a tremendously talented footballer if that had happened. It was also very moving to observe how greatly the team still have a deep sense of grief and loss over the death of Neale Cooper, who contributed so much to the team off and on the pitch.

WORSHIP

See page 4 for details of all our services over the summer and details of Pastoral Support cover.

LIVE STREAMING - NEW ARRANGEMENTS

Our services are now being live-streamed directly to YouTube rather than on Facebook. These can be watched live (or later) on our YouTube page: <https://youtube.com/user/CulterKirk>.

After the service they can also be found from our website: www.culterkirk.co.uk

SEPTEMBER FOCUS

There is no Focus in July and August

Deadline for articles:
Sun 20th August

Publication :
Sun 27th August

Now at this point, you may be thinking, this Minister has said more than enough about football.

However, as a Church, I believe there is much we can learn from the Gothenburg Greats. They shared in a sense of vision, of what they wanted to achieve. Skills and confidence developed. As a Church, it is good for us to have a sense of vision and purpose. As we work on things, we can discover success. We each have different parts to play, and when we all do our part to the best of our ability, a tremendous amount can be achieved. The life, teaching, ministry, and example of Jesus provides a shared path for us to follow. God gives us the values to pursue and develop: faith, justice, and mercy.

Leadership is important too. Of course, our principal leader is Jesus. We ought also to pray for the leadership skills of church elders and members to be utilised. We hope and pray that the Peterculter congregation will soon be granted permission to call a minister. As a Church we also ought to live as a Church Family, enjoying, love and laughter. Along with that, we need to look out for and be sensitive to the person who needs that extra encouragement and support at a particular time. As a body of people worshipping working together, we share in the joys and sorrows and are blessed through the loving bonds shared. I close with some words from the Scriptures which link in to the life of the Church and perhaps even the Gothenburg greats too.

¹² Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. ¹³ Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

(Philippians 3: 12 - 14)

The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body.... Now you are the body of Christ, and each one of you is a part of it.

(1 Corinthians 12)

God bless you,

Rev Duncan C. Eddie

PRESBYTERY MATTERS

Unions and Church Name Changes.

At the Presbytery meeting on 25th April the Basis of Union agreed between Holburn West, Midstocket, Queen's Cross and Rubislaw was approved. The name of the united congregation is Fountainhall Church of Scotland. Two places of worship will be Queen's Cross, to be known as Fountainhall Church at the Cross (to which the Rev Duncan Eddie will be inducted) and Midstocket, to be known as Fountainhall at the Stocket. Holburn West and Rubislaw buildings are to be sold, let or otherwise disposed of.

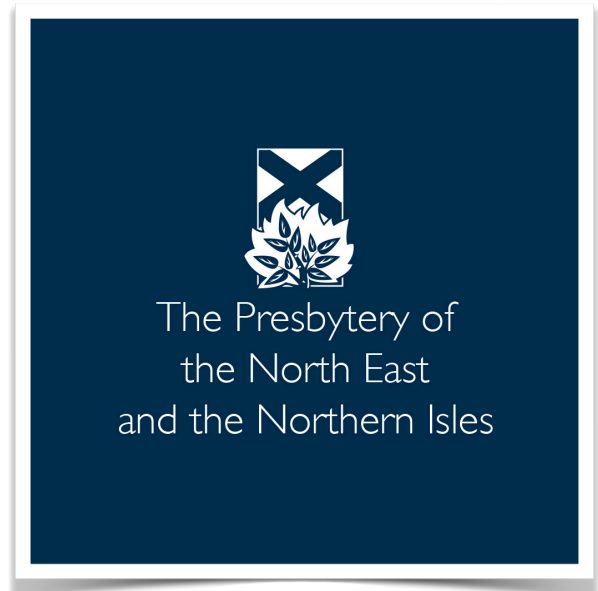
Also approved was the Basis of Union agreed between Ferryhill, South Holburn and St Mark's. The name of the united congregation is Devana Parish Church of Scotland. Ferryhill will become Devana (Fonthill Road) and South Holburn, Devana (Holburn Street) with St Mark's to be used, sold, let or otherwise disposed of.

The intention is that a Parish Grouping, known in the Presbytery Plan as West End/City Centre/Riverside Area, be formed between the new congregations of Fountainhall and Devana.

Another approval was for the Basis of Union agreed between Skene and Kingswells. Kingshill Parish Church is the name of the united congregation with the building at Kingswells to be used, sold, let or otherwise disposed of.

The next Presbytery meeting is all day at Fountainhall Church at the Cross on Saturday the 17th of June.

Richard Little



THURSDAY WORSHIP AND THURSDAY AND SATURDAY COFFEES

The Thursday midweek services will continue at 11.30am on a monthly basis for now, with the next one taking place on Thursday 1st June.

Thursday coffees continue as normal each week from 10am - 11.30am

Saturday Coffees will be held from 10am to 12 noon on 3rd and 17th June .

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



FLOWERS

Thanks to all who contributed to the Church Flowers for May and June:

- Jean Gilbert
- Arthur Beattie
- Jill Watson and Family

Convener: Violet Smith

01224 733317

Treasurer: Mabel Taylor

01224 732030



INSTANT NEIGHBOUR DONATIONS

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



GIFT DAY

Gift Day has become a vital part of fundraising for our church. This year it will be held on Saturday 16th September.

A hard copy of the September magazine, with more information, will be given to the household of each member along with a donations envelope.

Stewardship Team



JOB VACANCY AT ST DEVENICK'S CHURCH, BIELDSIDE

- Post: Church Administrator
- Hours: 8-10 hours a week with some flexibility for home working
- Pension scheme available
- For a copy of the job description, or any further information, please email: mail@stdevenicks.org.

Applications will be made by CV.



JUNE - AUGUST WORSHIP & PASTORAL SUPPORT

Morning Worship at 10.30am unless otherwise indicated.

Date	Preaching	Pastoral Support for the week following
4th June	Angie Mutch	Keith Blackwood
11th June	Duncan Eddie Family Communion	Keith Blackwood
18th June	Susan Sutherland	Keith Blackwood
25th June	Angie Mutch	Keith Blackwood
2nd July	Mark Rodgers	Benjamin Byun
9th July	Susan Sutherland	Mark Rodgers
16th July	Mark Rodgers	Mark Rodgers
23rd July	Mark Rodgers	Mark Rodgers
30th July	Shuna Dicks	Shuna Dicks
6th August	Ian Groves	Mark Rodgers
13th August	Mark Rodgers	Shuna Dicks
20th August	Susan Sutherland	Shuna Dicks
27th August	Sharmann Maromo	Shuna Dicks

Pastoral Support Contact Details:

Keith Blackwood: 01224 315748
KBlackwood@churchofscotland.org.uk

Benjamin Byun: 01224 312706
BByun@churchofscotland.org.uk

Mark Rodgers: 07388 418456
DMRodgers@churchofscotland.org.uk

Shuna Dicks: 01224 869028
SDicks@churchofscotland.org.uk

CHURCH DIRECTORY

Funerals		
26th April	Irene Stuart	Peterculter
9th May	Stan Henderson	Peterculter

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

Interim Moderator:

- Rev Duncan C. Eddie
- 01224 325873
- DEddie@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

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

