

# Focus

The Church Newsletter of Peterculter Parish Church  
December 2023



## FROM REV. CORNÉ RANDALL

"I'm dreaming of a white Christmas", is the opening line of the popular song, White Christmas and personally, I think Bing Crosby sings it best. In movies, Christmas is often associated with snow. In South Africa however, Christmas is during the summer months which have long, hot, and sweaty days. A popular Church hymn in South Africa has the following lyrics: *Skenk ons `n helder Somerkersfees* (Give us a bright summer Christmas day).

Christmas in South Africa is celebrated in variety of ways but most of the people I know attend church and thereafter have a barbeque (in South Africa we call it braai) with friends and family. If you don't have a swimming pool, you invite yourself over to someone who has a swimming pool (the person hosting the braai, usually has a swimming pool 😊). Braai, swimming, eating, and playing family games are very much part of the day. The presents are usually opened on Christmas Eve.

The beaches are popular holiday destinations during the festive season and many families go camping together. We are spending Christmas this year in Scotland, so I think we'll give the swimming a miss...

Wherever you are spending Christmas this year, I pray that you will experience God's grace and love. My prayer is that God strengthens all of us to love one another, to love our neighbours and to carry the love of Christ into the world. May we remember that the light has splintered the darkness, that hope is ours once more.

**Rev. Corné Randall**

## FROM OUR INTERIM MODERATOR

I bought some Christmas cards from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association recently. The design of one card in particular, drew my attention. It's a snowy setting with a deep blue starlit sky. There is one particularly bright shining star. Below it is a manger with a baby lying peacefully in it. In the foreground are three dogs sitting nicely, ever so good, looking respectfully and with wonder at the baby in the manger. I find the design of the card jolly and peaceful.

It might be perceived by some as sentimental and whimsical. With the snow-capped trees, it's probably far removed from how the original nativity scene in Bethlehem, in the land of Israel and Palestine would have looked. Nevertheless, it conveys symbols of hope, joy and peace, and these are definitely healthy and life-giving for us to focus on. The baby Jesus is in the centre, the dogs of different breeds sit reverently. An ordered and beautiful landscape is the surround.

When dogs, people, Wise Men, Shepherds put Christ at the centre, they are affected in a transformative way. Our lives are more flavoured and influenced by the greatest values: faith, justice, peace, mercy, hope and love.

I hope you enjoy Christmas related activities over this season: thoughtful messages and beautiful Christmas cards, carol singing, parties, fayres, giving and receiving of presents, tasty food, meeting up with friends. Like the three impeccably well-behaved dogs in the Christmas card, take a moment to look into the centre and regard the Christ child. Something of that amazing one will touch you.

God bless you over this Christmas season.

**Rev Duncan Eddie**

## WORSHIP

Full details of all our Christmas services are on page 2.

Note that on Sun 24th Dec and Christmas Day there will be **no morning service in Culter Kirk**. On Sun 24th the morning service will be in **Drumoak Church Hall** and on Christmas Day the service will be a shared service with Cults held in **Cults Church**.

## LIVE STREAMING

Services from Culter Kirk are live-streamed to YouTube. These can be watched live (or later) on YouTube: <https://youtube.com/user/CulterKirk>. After the service they can also be accessed via our website: [www.culterkirk.co.uk](http://www.culterkirk.co.uk)

## FEBRUARY FOCUS

*Note there is no Focus for January*

**Deadline for articles:  
Sunday 21st January**

**Publication :  
Sunday 28th January**



# Worship Calendar

Date	Time	Details	Where?	Who?
<b>Sun 3rd December</b>	10am	Morning Worship	Durriss Church	Robert Bell
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Culter Kirk	Rev. Susan Sutherland
<b>Thu 7th December</b>	11.30am	Midweek Service	Culter Kirk	Rev. Corné Randall
<b>Sun 10th December</b>	10am	Morning Worship	Drumoak Church Hall	Rev. John Notman
	10.30am	Morning Worship	Culter Kirk	Rev. Corné Randall
	2pm	"A Time to Remember": Annual Bereavement Service	Culter Kirk	Rev. Corné Randall
<b>Sun 17th December</b>	10am	Morning Worship	Durriss Church	Home Group
	10.30am	Family Service with Nativity Play	Culter Kirk	Rev. Corné Randall
<b>Mon 18th December</b>	7pm	Indoor Carol Service with Aberdeen Concert Band, Mulled Wine & Mince Pies	Culter Kirk	Rev. Corné Randall
<b>Sun 24th December - Christmas Eve</b>	10.30am	Morning Worship	<b>Drumoak Church Hall</b>	Rev. Corné Randall
	7pm	Candlelit Service	Culter Kirk	Rev. Corné Randall
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service	Culter Kirk	Rev. Corné Randall
	11.30pm	Watchnight Service	Durriss Church	Jamie Campbell
<b>Mon 25th December - Christmas Day</b>	10.30am	Christmas Day Service shared with Cults Parish Church	<b>Cults Parish Church</b>	Rev. Shuna Dicks
<b>Sun 31st December</b>	10.30am	Morning Worship shared with Cults Parish Church	Culter Kirk	Rev. Corné Randall
<b>Thu 4th January</b>	11.30am	Midweek Service	Culter Kirk	Rev. Corné Randall
<b>Sun 7th January</b>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Culter Kirk	Rev. Corné Randall
<b>Thu 11th January</b>	11.30am	Midweek Service	Drumoak Church Hall	Rev. Corné Randall
<b>Sun 14th January</b>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Culter Kirk	Rev. Corné Randall
<b>Sun 21st January</b>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Culter Kirk	Rev. Corné Randall
<b>Thu 25th January</b>	11.30am	Midweek Service	Durriss Church	Rev. Corné Randall
<b>Sun 28th January</b>	10.30am	Morning Worship	Culter Kirk	Rev. Corné Randall

## WORSHIP 2024

### SUNDAYS AND THURSDAYS

All Sunday morning services from the start of the new year will be held at 10.30am in Culter Kirk. Worship leaders and pastoral support from the start of 2024 will be dependent upon the deployment of ministers within the Aberdeen West Parish Grouping.

Starting in the new year, a shorter midweek service at 11.30am, (preceded by teas and coffees from 10am) will be held as follows:

- 1st Thursday of month: **Culter Kirk**
- 2nd Thursday of month: **Drumoak Church Hall**
- Last Thursday of month: **Durriss Church**

There will also be the usual scheduled Thursday service in Culter Kirk on Thursday 7th December.

### THURSDAY AND SATURDAY COFFEES

Each Thursday coffees are served from 10am -11.30am in Culter Church Hall.

Thursday coffees are also service in Drumoak Church Hall and Durriss Church on the days when there is a Thursday service as shown in the above schedule.

Saturday Coffees are held in Culter Church Hall from 10am to 12 noon on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month.

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

Many thanks to Moira West and Myrtle Farquhar who contributed to the Culter Kirk Flowers this month.

We were also delighted to receive a generous donation from Culter Community Council Pop-In Funds. We thank them very much.



**Convener: Violet Smith**

**01224 733317**

**Treasurer: Mabel Taylor**

**01224 732030**

### INSTANT NEIGHBOUR DONATIONS

Our foodbank drop-off for Instant Neighbour takes place each Monday from 11am - 12 noon. Alternatively you can bring goods on a Sunday morning and leave them in the basket at the Culter Church extension door.



## Presbytery Matters

The Presbytery of the North East and the Northern Isles

[www.nenipresbytery.org.uk](http://www.nenipresbytery.org.uk)

### Aberdeen West Parish Grouping

A decision taken at the Presbytery meeting on the 7<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 affecting our grouping is that approval was given to the Basis of Union between Craigiebuckler Parish Church and Ruthrieston West Parish Church with a date of union proposed to be the 1<sup>st</sup> of December 2023.

The name of the united charge will be Aberdeen Springfield Church of Scotland. Ruthrieston West building is to be sold, let or otherwise disposed of. A Team Ministry is to be formed between the Rev Kenneth Petrie and the Rev Benjamin Byun until the retirement of the Rev Kenneth Petrie in 2024. After his retirement, the Kirk Session could decide to create a locally funded post as part of a new Ministry Team.

Also concerning Aberdeen West Parish Grouping, Presbytery noted that the Rev Sharmann Maromo will continue in his role as Assistant Minister at Cults Parish Church following completion of his familiarisation process. The role aims to provide support in Parish Ministry and to encourage and develop mission and outreach within Cults Parish Church and the Grouping. This is a centrally funded post for up to 18 months and has no implication on the Presbytery's staffing numbers. The Rev Corné Randall is involved in the same scheme. Sharmann is currently staying at Peterculter Parish Church manse.

### Founder's Day Visit by Moderator

It has long been a tradition that the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland visits Aberdeen City for the University Founder's day. This visit has included links with Aberdeen City Council and the former Presbytery of Aberdeen. At a service of worship within the Presbytery the Moderator preached and presented long service certificates.

In 2024 with the new Presbytery of the NE and Northern Isles, the Moderator, the Rt Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, has offered to be present at two services. The first will be at an evening service on Friday the 9<sup>th</sup> of February in Kingshill Trinity Church, Westhill. The second will be on Sunday the 11<sup>th</sup> of February, at the joint worship in Fraserburgh.

**Richard Little**



**Instant Neighbour**

### FROM THE SESSION CLERK

It was a pleasure to welcome elders from the previous Drumoak-Durriss Church Kirk Session to the first Culter Kirk Session meeting covering the enlarged parish on 1st November, the effective date of the Union..

The next stage towards calling a full-time minister is for Presbytery to identify a Vacancy Advisory Team to assist us in this process. Following this, the selection of a congregational Vacancy Committee will take place in the new year.

**Donald Muir**

### KIDNEY CARE UK

With the onset of the Festive Season and possibility of increase of stamps being stuck on Christmas cards, I ask everyone to collect said stamps and gift them to the above charity.



You can put them through the letterbox at the Church Office, place them in the envelope by the door to the small hall or pop them through my letterbox at 163b North Deeside Road.

Very many thanks to all and a Merry Christmas,

**Dayer Colburn**

### PASTORAL SUPPORT

**27th Nov - 3rd Dec** - Rev. Keith Blackwood

**Phone:** 01224 310087

**Email:** [kblackwood@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:kblackwood@churchofscotland.org.uk)

**Otherwise** Rev Corné Randall will be providing pastoral support for the foreseeable future.

**Phone:** 07775 868391

**Email:** [crandall@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:crandall@churchofscotland.org.uk)



### EMAIL CONTACT

It would help administration greatly if you are able to provide an email address that

the church can use for communication.

If you have an email address and have not already supplied us with it, can you please email

[secretary@culterkirk.co.uk](mailto:secretary@culterkirk.co.uk)



### CONTACT US

**Interim Moderator:**

▸ Rev Duncan C. Eddie  
▸ 01224 325873

▸ [DEddie@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:DEddie@churchofscotland.org.uk)

### Session Clerk:

▸ Donald Muir  
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### Newsletter Editor:

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### Church Office:

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▸ 01224 735845  
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### CHURCH OFFICE

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



### Admission by Profession of Faith

19th November	Claire Reynolds
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### Baptisms

19th November	Katie Nicole Reynolds
	Andrew Leslie Reynolds