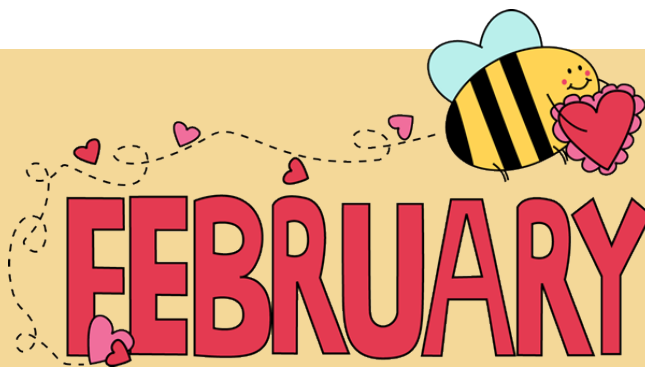


Focus

The Church Newsletter of Peterculter Parish Church
February 2024



FROM THE SESSION CLERK

Selection of Vacancy Nominating Committee on 25th February

A Congregational Meeting will be held in the church immediately after morning worship on Sunday 25th February to select our Vacancy Nominating Committee. At the meeting, we will be seeking formal nominations for this very important task. Nominees require to have a proposer and seconder and must already have agreed to be nominated. The committee will be formed of 9, 11 or 13 members. If the number of proposed nominees exceeds 13, there will be a vote by secret ballot during the meeting.

The purpose of the Nominating Committee is to seek and identify a Sole Nominee to recommend to the Kirk Session and congregation for calling to the charge. The congregation shall have a final vote on this choice after hearing the candidate preach. The Church of Scotland has comprehensive guidelines for this process in the *Ministries handbooks, forms and guidance notes* section within the *Resources* tab on their website. It must be noted that the work of the Nominating Committee is completely confidential and no information will be provided, nor should anything be asked of its members until a Sole Nominee has preached.

Our Interim Moderator Rev Duncan Eddie will lead worship that Sunday and will convene proceedings thereafter. The meeting is open to all who were on the Drumoak-Durris and Peterculter Churches' Electoral Registers of Members and Adherents used earlier for the congregational votes on our recent union plus any new members or adherents who have joined since then. Anyone wishing to join as a new adherent should contact me as soon as possible.

Farewell and Welcome

February sees Rev Corné Randall take on a different role as Assistant Minister within the Aberdeen West Parish Grouping where he will be assisting the Rev Keith Blackwood at Mannofield Church. I want to express our appreciation of the effort and commitment Corné has put into supporting us here in Culter, Drumoak and Durris over these recent months whilst we have been working towards and then establishing our new union. He has helped us greatly during this challenging time and leaves with our warm thanks and very best wishes for the future.

This move has been made possible with the return to Culter Kirk of Rev Susan Sutherland who has agreed to act as Locum providing us with two and a half days support a week for the remainder of our vacancy. I'm delighted that Susan has agreed to help us in this way and I know she will be very warmly welcomed back to Culter Kirk. Indeed, Susan herself is looking forward very much to renewing old friendships and I'm certain making many new ones too. Welcome Susan, it's great to have you back!

On a Personal Note

I shared with the Kirk Session my intention to stand down as Session Clerk after the appointment of our new minister which I'm anticipating will take place this summer. The period of vacancy has certainly been a rather absorbing one for me. It certainly makes you aware of the great diversity of responsibilities and situations a parish minister meets whilst in a charge! I will of course be on hand to assist both my successor and the new minister in settling in.

Donald Muir

WORSHIP

See page 4 for details of all our February worship

CONTACT DETAILS

Please can we make a particular appeal for more email addresses from members and adherents based in Drumoak and Durris.

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

MARCH FOCUS

Deadline for articles:

Sunday 18th February

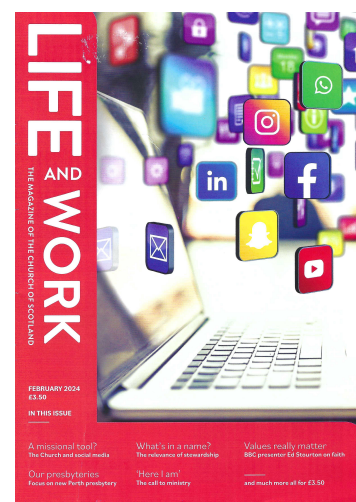
Publication :

Sunday 25th February

LIFE AND WORK

The February issue of Life and Work is now on sale at the Church door, priced £3.50.

Members who have ordered their copy will receive theirs in the usual way. Anyone who doesn't already do so, but would like to receive a regular copy of the magazine should contact Shona Stewart on 07801 445096.



SAVE THE DATES!



Saturday 23rd March 2024, 7.30pm

Cabaret Showcase with the Aberdeen Chorus of Sweet Adelines.

Come and hear the chorus perform a variety of songs in their a cappella style in a cabaret setting in the church hall.

Bring your own refreshments and sit back to be entertained by this award winning group of singers.

Ticket information available soon.

Sunday 24th March 2024, 2pm

Senior Citizens' Afternoon Tea with entertainment by Jim and Marisha Addison playing music from the 1960s.

£5 - pay on the day.

In order to assist with catering please let your elder know or phone the church office on 01224 735845.

Please let us know if you need us to arrange transport for you.



AFTERNOON TEA

FLOWERS

Our thanks go to everyone who kindly donated towards church flowers for November, December and January.

- Arthur Beattie
- Elizabeth Greig
- Jean Gilbert
- Isabel McIntyre
- Moira West
- Dayer Colburn



Every week, you will notice flowers in the church. These are arranged by a small group of ladies and this group is getting smaller, so we would appreciate any help.

The fund for the flowers is healthy, thanks to generous donations from members who often wish to mark significant dates. After the service, the flowers are distributed to members of the congregation.

If you feel you could join us even once or twice a year, please let us know.

Thank you.

Convener: Violet Smith, 01224 733317

Treasurer: Mabel Taylor, 01224 732030

TRIBUTES

It was with great sadness that we lost both Mary McNaughton and Sandy Cook recently. Both had served the church faithfully for many years as elders and Sandy was still acting as Property Convenor. They will be very dearly missed.

SATURDAY COFFEES

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.



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.



CHRISTMAS FAYRE UPDATE

The Christmas Fayre on the 27th of November 2023 raised the much appreciated sum of £1,800 for Church funds and thanks are due to all who contributed to making the day a success.

Thank You from Jean Cook

Jean and family would like to thank all whose kindness and cards have been such a support in the sad times following Sandy's death.



Presbytery Matters

The Presbytery of the North East and the Northern Isles

www.nenipresbytery.org.uk

Mission Plan

At the Presbytery meeting on the 5th of December the Planning and Deployment Committee (PDC) reported on the progress of the Mission Plan which was complete and approved. It is made up of the combined Mission Plans of the former Presbytery areas that came together in January 2023 to form the new Presbytery.

By the 1st of January this year the Committee estimated that 56 Congregations will have worked together to complete the implementation of 16 Basis of Adjustment (the majority of which are Unions, one of which is ours). This means that 11 charges either are, or soon will be, in a position to call Ministers and/or recruit Mission Development Staff (MDS).

The new Presbytery began with 146 congregations or charges and by the end of 2023 will have adjusted to form around 107 charges.

The Committee recognised all the hard work and sacrifice that had been involved for so many.

Presbytery Clerk

Presbyters were informed on the 14th of December that the Presbytery Clerk, the Rev Elspeth McKay, who moved from Paisley Abbey in 2022 to take up the post, had decided to take early retirement having suffered ill-health for most of 2023. Elspeth was at our service of Union in November.

Richard Little, Presbytery Elder

Richard has kindly agreed to continue as Presbytery Elder for the next year. We are very grateful for his continuing dedication to this important role, one which he has undertaken for the past 32 years.



Funerals

4th January	Sandy Cook
19th January	Mary McNaughton



SUNDAY WORSHIP 2024

All Sunday morning services are now held in Culter Kirk at 10.30am.

THURSDAY WORSHIP AND COFFEES

A short Thursday midweek service is held at 11.30am, as follows:

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

Tea and coffee is served prior to these services from 10am at Culter and from 11am at Durris and Drumoak.

FEBRUARY WORSHIP

Thursday 1st, 11.30am	Culter Kirk	Susan Sutherland
Sunday 4th, 10.30am	Culter Kirk	Susan Sutherland
Thursday 8th, 11.30am	Drumoak Church Hall	Susan Sutherland
Sunday 11th, 10.30am	Culter Kirk	Susan Sutherland
Sunday 18th, 10.30am	Culter Kirk	Susan Sutherland
Sunday 25th, 10.30am	Culter Kirk	Duncan Eddie
Thursday 29th, 11.30am	Durris Church	To be confirmed

PASTORAL SUPPORT

1st - 23rd February

Rev. Susan Sutherland
07483 296859

susan.sutherland@sky.com

24th February - 5th March

Rev. Keith Blackwood
01224 315748

kblackwood@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



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 open to the public on Friday mornings from 10am - 12 noon.

