

Focus

The Church Newsletter of Peterculter Parish Church
April 2024



FROM OUR LOCUM MINISTER

Dear friends

When I pray, I think of a thousand things I need to do. I forget the one thing I set out to do: PRAY. I am not the first to struggle. When one of the disciples requested "Lord, teach us to pray", none of the others objected.

In fact, the only tutorial they ever requested was on prayer. They could have asked for instructions on many topics: bread multiplying, speech making, storm stilling but their request was "Lord, teach us to pray".

Jesus gave them a prayer. Not a lecture on prayer. Not the doctrine of prayer. He gave them a quotable, repeatable, portable prayer - the Lord's prayer.

While on holiday I picked up a book entitled "Before Amen" by Max Lucado. The back cover said "Wouldn't we like to pray. More? Better? Stronger? With more fire, faith and fervency". I opened the book and read on. The author suggests that the prayers of the Bible can be distilled into one. The result is a simple, easy-to-remember, pocket size prayer:



Susan Sutherland

*Father,
You are good,
I need help. Heal me and forgive me.
They need help.
Thank you.
In Jesus' name. Amen*

I have found this prayer helpful and hope that you find it helpful too. I begin my morning, *Father, you are good*. As I walk through the house to pick up my laptop and diary, *I need help*. As I wait in the supermarket queue, *They need help*. This prayer punctuates my day.

Prayer for most of us is not a matter of a month-long retreat or even an hour of mediation. Prayer is conversation with God while driving to work or awaiting an appointment. We speak. He listens. He speaks. We listen. This is prayer in its purest form. God changes his people through such moments. He is changing me though the power of a simple prayer!

In the church extension there is a box for prayer requests should you wish us to pray for you or a particular situation. Preparations are underway to call a new minister to the parish so we could all make it a priority to pray for applicants and our nominating committee during this process.

**Blessings,
Susan**

WORSHIP

See page 4 for details of all our May services

LIVE STREAMING

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

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

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: **Durriss Church**

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

MAY FOCUS

**Deadline for articles:
Sun 21st April
Publication :
Sun 28th April**

APPOINTMENT OF VACANCY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

I'm delighted to confirm the process of calling a new minister to our vacant charge is now underway under the guidance of our Presbytery advisors led by the Rev Dr Edmond Gatima of Torry St Fittick's Church. The congregation selected the following team to undertake this most important task:

Isabel McIntyre (Convenor), Ross Andrews (Clerk), Marion Anderson, Hilda Brown, Iona Campbell, Gibby Connon, Robert Davidson, Howard Fowlie, Colin Jones, Edna Ledingham, Richard Little, Claire Reynolds and Sheila Walker.

Our thanks and prayers are extended to them as they seek to find a sole nominee for election by the congregation. Please note that their work must be conducted in confidence.

The vacancy will be advertised on the Church of Scotland website in April (<https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about-us/vacancies-and-volunteering/vacant-charges>) and will include a link to our Parish Profile which describes our church and community.

Donald Muir
Session Clerk



Some of the photos we have used in the Parish Profile



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 volunteers for Sunday teas and coffees after the service.



FLOWERS

Thanks to all who contributed to the Church Flowers this month, and also to everyone who pops money in the moneybag at the front door. Thank you!

- Margaret Wallace
- Marigold Bowman
- Moira West
- Lorrie Bilsborrow
- Dorothy Reid
- Isabel McIntyre
- Mr & Mrs A Middler



Convener: Violet Smith

01224 733317

Treasurer: Mabel Taylor

01224 732030

INSTANT NEIGHBOUR

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.



SENIOR CITIZENS' AFTERNOON TEA

Our Senior Citizens' afternoon on 24th March was very well attended when Jim Smith and Alastair Wilkinson entertained us with sixties music.

There was a real buzz with everyone singing along remembering the good times and wishing they could get up and jive.

Thanks to the flower team for making the tables so attractive with spring flowers and to all those who helped make the day a success.



Food, Fun and Entertainment at the Senior Citizens' Afternoon Tea

THANKS

The organisers of the Warm Space Initiative, which has been held weekly in the church hall over the winter months would like to thank everyone for allowing the use of the premises and also to express appreciation for the warm welcome they have received.





APRIL WORSHIP

Thur 4th April, 11.30am	Culter Kirk	Susan Sutherland
Sun 7th April, 10.30am	Culter Kirk	Susan Sutherland
Thu 11th April, 11.30am	Drumoak Church Hall	Susan Sutherland
Sun 14th April, 10.30am	Culter Kirk	Susan Sutherland
Sun 21st April, 10.30am	Culter Kirk	Susan Sutherland
Thu 25th April, 11.30am	Durris Church	Susan Sutherland
Sun 28th April, 10.30am	Culter Kirk	Susan Sutherland

PASTORAL SUPPORT

Rev. Susan Sutherland
07483 296859
susan.sutherland@sky.com



Funerals

21st March	Phyllis Innes	Hillside Crescent, Peterculter
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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

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CHURCH OFFICE

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

