

Focus

The Church Newsletter of Peterculter Parish Church
September 2025



FROM OUR MINISTER

Moving from Dundee to Peterculter what instantly struck me about the parish of Peterculter was the incredible natural beauty and the warmth of the welcome my boys and I have received.

I have been doing lots of walking and often find myself stopping to take photos or just to watch as the river flows, the rabbits in the manse garden chase one another or as so many different birds go about their business.

A bible verse I am often drawn to is "In the beginning God created" (Genesis 1:1) and more so now living and working in such a breath-taking natural setting. I am filled with a sense of awe at God's creation. At this time of year, creation seems to preach its own kind of sermon. The turning of seasons, leaves changing colours and creating a rustling carpet on the ground, the quiet rhythms of growth, and harvest and the beauty in the smallest details remind us of God's ongoing work in the world. The first chapters of Genesis remind us that creation is not just something God did, but something God does—continually sustaining, renewing, and inviting us to notice.

God is always doing a new thing—sometimes slowly, like the shaping of a landscape, and sometimes suddenly, like a burst of spring blossom but as the old hymn says, "God is not dead he does not sleep". They remind us that everything we are and everything we have comes from the will and love of the Creator which is ongoing. Creation is not merely the backdrop to our faith—it is the first expression of God's creative character and love, and it continues to reveal God's nature: abundant, ordered, relational, and good.

As people made in God's image, we are invited to participate in this ongoing work of creation. Ministry itself is a co-creative task: shaped not only by the minister but by the whole people of God, each one a bearer of gifts and graces. It is an exciting time for me but also hopefully for the congregation as we get to know one another and discern what God is doing here in this place. I look forward to meeting many of you in the coming months.

May you be blessed by Hope, as seasons change

May you trust in God's truth and purpose

As you move into his future.

**With every blessing,
Emma**



WORSHIP

See page 3 for details of all our September services.

LIVE STREAMING

Our services are live-streamed on our YouTube channel.

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 & SATURDAY COFFEES & THURSDAY WORSHIP

Thursday Coffees in Culter start again on 4th September, 10am - 11.30am.

Saturday Coffees in Culter start on 6th September, 10am - 12noon.

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

- 1st Thursday of month: **Culter Kirk**
- 2nd Thursday of month: **Drumclogh Church Hall**

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

OCTOBER FOCUS

Deadline for articles:

Sun 21st September

Publication :

Sun 28th September



GIFT DAY SATURDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2025

A report to the General Assembly last year included the stark reality that only 29% of charges in the Church of Scotland currently meet the full cost of Ministry which means 71% do not. After the Assembly this year a "Financial Sustainability Review" is to take place which could lead to some churches being declared insolvent and eventually closed.

A Gift Day gives an opportunity for members to donate to the church in addition to regular givings, making a very welcome boost to church finances before the end of the year. Following the Union the event was very successfully continued last year.

Monetary gifts can be given in Donations Envelopes available from Sunday 7th September at the Church or the Church Office. Envelopes can

also be found at the Thursday services at Drumoak and Culter. A box for the Envelopes will be at the side entrance to the Church from Sunday 7th September till Sunday the 28th. Envelopes can also be posted at any time through the letter box at the Church Office.

You can give directly to the church via bank transfer:

Sort Code: 83-49-40

Account Number: 00628410

Account Name: Peterculter Parish Church

Reference: Gift Day

Our church is in a relatively healthy position financially but needs our continued support to keep it that way!

Gift Day coincides with Saturday Coffees on the 20th from 10 am to 12 noon so a donation can be put in the box between those times with the opportunity to stay for a chat and a refreshment.

The Stewardship Team

PRESBYTERY MATTERS

Presbytery last met on Saturday 21st of June at Fountainhall at the Cross Church several weeks after the General Assembly. It was noted by Presbytery that, at the Assembly, some very important decisions with far-reaching consequences were made such as:

Shortfalls/Insolvent Congregations

Within the newly amended Mission Plan Act is a section entitled Financial Sustainability Review. This will be triggered when a congregation, amongst other criteria, is not able to pay its debts as they fall due or has accrued a shortfall and is unable to pay Ministries and Mission Contributions.

More recent information shows that a Review will be done by relevant Presbytery Committees over a period of 3 months and about 30% of congregations will be affected although this percentage could be higher in other Presbyteries. If, after the Review, it has not been possible to resolve the financial issues the charge will be declared insolvent and closed but this step will be a last resort.

More information will be available at the September Presbytery meeting.

Assisted Dying

At the Assembly a working group convened by the Rev Dr John Ferguson attempted to change the position of the Church on Assisted Dying. The Assembly was in agreement with much of what was being proposed. The importance of prioritising excellent and universally available palliative care was emphasised as well as robust safeguards if Assisted Dying is legalised.

Following a close vote, 149 to 145, the final position was: "Acknowledging the diversity of sincerely held theological views held within our broad Church, re-affirm the Church of Scotland's opposition to Assisted Dying."

Presbyters were requested to engage with the material posted on the Church of Scotland website.

The next meeting of Presbytery is "all day" on Saturday the 13th of September at Fountainhall at the Cross Church.

Richard Little



Thu 4th Sep, 11.30am	Short Midweek Service	Culter Kirk	Rev Emma McDonald
Sun 7th Sep, 10.30am	Morning Worship	Culter Kirk	Rev Emma McDonald
Thu 11th Sep, 11.30am	Short Midweek Service	Drumoak Church Hall	Rev Emma McDonald
Sun 14th Sep, 10.30am	Morning Worship	Culter Kirk	Rev Emma McDonald
Sun 21st Sep, 10.30am	Morning Worship	Culter Kirk	Rev Emma McDonald
Sun 28th Sep, 10.30am	Morning Worship	Culter Kirk	Rev Emma McDonald



FLOWERS

Thanks to all who contributed to the Church Flowers in June, July and August.

- Margaret Watt and Sheila Walker
- Garry and Jill Watson
- Margaret Carmichael
- Dayer Colburn
- Isabel McIntyre
- Anne and Alan Dey
- Moira West
- Mike and Christine Mackie
- Mike Player

Convener: Violet Smith, 01224 733317

Treasurer: Mabel Taylor, 01224 732030

FINANCIAL FRAUDS AND SCAMS

Financial frauds are becoming more and more sophisticated and it can be quite difficult to know what is genuine or not.

In Culter we are grateful that we have a mobile branch of the Royal Bank of Scotland come to us every Thursday, parking next to the Church between 10:00 and 10:20, which allows people to access bank services locally.

The Royal Bank of Scotland deliver Financial Foundation Workshops on frauds and scams and have offered to have one of these sessions at the Church one afternoon.

If this is something that you would be interested in, could you please let Katie in the office know by emailing secretary@culterkirk.co.uk, or phone 01224 735845 so that we can gauge interest and arrange a session if enough people would like to attend one.

Ross Andrews

Aberdeen West

SOCIAL AFTERNOON





ONLY £3

Join us for tea,
cakes and
entertainment.

There will be a
raffle in aid of
Christian Aid

27 SEPTEMBER 2025

2-4PM

MANNOFIELD PARISH CHURCH

Book your tickets by 21st September
through your local representative

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.



Autumn's Benediction

*The amber trees in twilight glow,
Their leaves like prayers released below,
Each falling one, a whispered grace,
A sign of rest in God's embrace.*

*The air turns crisp, the heavens clear,
And in the stillness, God draws near.
Not loss, but change—His hand, His art,
Etched in the turning of the heart.*

*The fields lie quiet, the skies grow wide,
Yet faith walks calmly by His side.
The harvest comes, both fruit and soul,
For He who sows will make us whole.*

*The sun bends low in soft retreat,
Yet lights the path beneath our feet.
The colours blaze in holy flame,
Creation singing out His name.*



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.

