

Focus

The Church Newsletter of Peterculter Parish Church
December 2025



FROM OUR MINISTER

One of my favourite Christmas carols is Angels From the Realms of Glory.

Every year I am struck by how beautifully it traces the sweep of Gods story from angels who worshipped at creation and now proclaim the long-awaited Messiah before the carol carries us from the glory of heaven to dusty fields of shepherds and then to sages who will travel far in search of the promised King.

Christmas is not and has never been an isolated moment, but part of a grand unfolding narrative of God's love for the world.

Familiar Nativity plays, carols, cards, and traditions can tempt us to view the baby in the manger as nothing more than a comforting seasonal tale. The prophets for centuries pointed towards a Messiah, and their words brought hope from generation to generation. In God's perfect timing hope burst into the world. Ordinary shepherds were confronted by the extraordinary, angels filling the night with light and singing praise and declaring God's promise of a Messiah was being filled in front of their eyes.

Christmas reminds us that God stepped into creation as a newborn child. It is the fulfilment of prophecy, the breaking in of hope. It is the wonder of incarnation. And so as we sing the hymns and retell the nativity, may we not settle for nostalgia.

Instead, may we be filled with wonder of what truly happened, that heaven drew close, the love entered the world afresh, that God is with us. The old carol invites us once more this Christmas to, Come and worship, come and worship, Worship Christ the newborn King. May we do just that.



*May the light of Christ guide your steps,
the joy of the angels lift your heart,
and the peace of the newborn King
rest upon you and all whom you love,
this Christmas and always.*

Merry Christmas

Emma

WORSHIP

See Page 2 for details of all our Christmas services.

LIVE STREAMING

Our services are live-streamed on YouTube.

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**

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

FEBRUARY FOCUS

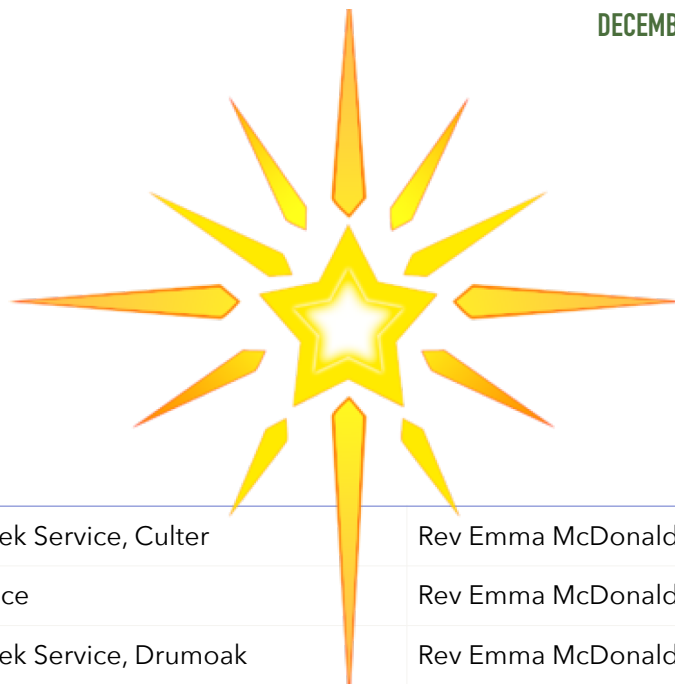
(Note: no January Focus)

Deadline for articles:

Sunday 18th January

Publication :

Sunday 25th January

DECEMBER WORSHIP

Thursday 4th December, 11.30am	Short Midweek Service, Culter	Rev Emma McDonald
Sunday 7th December, 10.30am	Sunday Service	Rev Emma McDonald
Thursday 11th December, 11.30am	Short Midweek Service, Drumoak	Rev Emma McDonald
Sunday 14th December, 10.30am	Sunday Service	Rev Emma McDonald
Monday 15th December, 7pm	Carol Service with Aberdeen Concert Band	
Sunday 21st December, 10.30am	Sunday Service	Rev Emma McDonald
Sunday 21st December, 2pm	Carol Service at Drumoak	Rev Emma McDonald
Wednesday 24th December, 7pm	Candlelit Christmas Eve Service	Rev Emma McDonald
Wednesday 24th December, 11.15pm	Watchnight Service	Rev Emma McDonald
Sunday 28th December, 10.30am	Sunday Service of Lessons and Carols	Rev Emma McDonald

JANUARY WORSHIP

Sunday 4th January, 10.30am	Sunday Service	Rev Emma McDonald
Sunday 11th January, 10.30am	Sunday Service	Rev Emma McDonald
Sunday 18th January, 10.30am	Sunday Service: Pulpit Swap	Rev Benjamin Byun
Sunday 25th January, 10.30am	Sunday Service and Soup Lunch	Rev Emma McDonald

TEAS AND COFFEE DATES OVER CHRISTMAS/NEW YEAR

Tuesday 30th December, 1pm - 3pm

Friday 2nd January, 10.30am - 12.30am

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.



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.



THANK YOU

Thank you, thank you to all those who helped out with baking, serving and

kitchen duties for the Open Doors Day and celebration of 50 years of Saturday Coffees on 15th November.

Also to those who came along to share fellowship over a cuppa.

It was much appreciated.

Jean Montgomerie



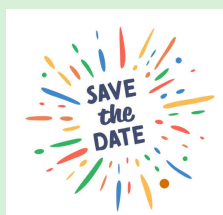
SAVE THE DATES - 2026

Sunday 25th January:

Soup and Bread after worship

Sunday 29th March:

Afternoon Tea and entertainment.



Presbytery Matters

The Presbytery of the North East and the Northern Isles

www.nenipresbytery.org.uk

Presbytery Matters

At the meeting on 4th of November Presbytery received a: Presentation on Legacies of Slavery

The Rev Andrew Kimmitt spoke about a recent project led by the Kirk Session of the congregation of Aberlour to explore connections with the transatlantic slave trade. This followed a report to the General Assembly in 2023 on the legacies of slavery. The project involved collaboration with various experts, the local primary schools, ecumenical partners and the local community. It comprised the creation of banners using a particular style of quilting that is associated with story-telling and originated on plantations. Research uncovered a document listing the names of primary-aged children on plantations and those names were prayerfully sewn into one of the banners with the intention of honouring them, whilst realising that names were typically imposed by enslavers. One such name was "Aberdeen".

Part of a report from the Church Society and International Committee concerned the campaign: Scotland Demands Better

This campaign was supported by the General Assembly this year and by the current Moderator, the Rt Rev Rosie Frew, who has played an active part.

Presbytery invited the Rev Dr Mary Cranfield to talk about her participation in the Scotland Demands Better March on 25th October in Edinburgh. She spoke about the significant number of people who had attended the march from every age and stage of life and described it as a profound event which gathered together faith groups, trade unions, Amnesty International and charities such as Oxfam Scotland and Shelter.

The movement is calling for action on poverty and inequality. It is demanding that politicians make the changes we need for a society where every household can thrive and prosper.

Much more information is available on the Church of Scotland website and other sources.

Richard Little

FLOWERS

Thanks again everybody who either donated flowers, money or time to the Flower Team this year.

We wish everyone a Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year.



Convener: Violet Smith, 01224 733317

Treasurer: Mabel Taylor, 01224 732030



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

Minister:

▸ Rev Emma McDonald
▸ 07956 750026

▸ emcdonald@churchofscotland.org.uk

Host International Students

- ✓ Enjoy learning about other cultures and sharing your way of life?
- ✓ Have a spare bedroom and a welcoming home?

Join us in creating lasting memories and friendships by offering a home away from home.



Find out more at:

- 🌐 www.eiluk.org
- ✉ host@eiluk.org
- ☎ 01684 562577

EIL UK is a Registered Charity no. 1070440

Could you lay an extra place at your table this Christmas?

UK charity seeks hosts to share Christmas with an international university student far from home

Festive Stays 2025: Could you lay an extra place at your table this Christmas for an international student?

Each year the charity EIL UK receives hundreds of applications from international students studying at British universities hoping to experience Christmas or New Year in a British home.

If you could offer friendship and host an overseas university student for a 3-night stay between 24th and 27th December 2025, drop us a line at host@eiluk.org to find out more about this rich and rewarding experience and how you can be part of the HOST UK programme.



**Experiment in
International
Living UK**

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CHURCH OFFICE

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

