

Focus

The Church Newsletter of Peterculter Parish Church
March 2026



FROM THE SESSION CLERK

This month, with the Rev. McDonald on compassionate leave, the headline article is provided by our Session Clerk.

As I write this article Lent is fast approaching. It's hard to believe that we are in the run-up to Easter already - this year is certainly flying by! Lent marks the temptation of Jesus in the desert immediately following His baptism by John the Baptist. We all know the story about how Jesus was tempted by the Devil to use his powers as man expected rather than as God desired. Ultimately Jesus resisted the temptation, setting Him on the path to the cross and the resurrection.

In our own lives, we are surrounded by temptations each and every day to behave not as God would want us to. How well do any of us resist these temptations? If we are struggling, we need to remember that we don't need to face these troubles alone. The words of an old hymn come to mind. The first verse starts off: "Yield not to temptation, for yielding is sin. Each victory to help us, some other to win.". The chorus continues: "Ask the Saviour to help you, comfort, strengthen and keep you. He is willing to aid you; He will carry you through."

As we go through Lent and beyond, don't be afraid to ask Jesus to give us strength to resist temptation, whatever form it may take.

Holy Week Services

This year, as in previous years, the Aberdeen West Parish Grouping will be having a service each night during Holy Week in the run-up to Easter, with the services taking place in the different Churches of the grouping.

If you haven't been before I'd encourage you to come along as they are well worth attending and I personally get a lot out of them. The dates for the individual services are:

Monday 30th March - Mannofield Parish Church

Tuesday 31st March - Cults Parish Church

Wednesday 1st April - Springfield Parish Church

Thursday 2nd April - Peterculter Parish Church

Friday 3rd April - Peterculter Parish Church

All services start at 7:00 p.m.

Ross Andrews, Session Clerk

AFTERNOON TEA - WITH ENTERTAINMENT BY VOCAL ZONE

Sunday 29th March 2-4pm. £6.50 payable on the day.

Vocal Zone is a quartet of singers who sing a variety of songs in 4-part harmony a cappella style.

Names please, for catering purposes (**no later than 15th March**), to Katie in the church office, to elders or at church.

Transport can be arranged if necessary.

LIVE STREAMING

Our services are live-streamed to our 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

SATURDAY COFFEES

10am-12noon 1st and 3rd Saturdays of each month.



THURSDAY WORSHIP AND COFFEES

A short Thursday midweek service is held at 11.30am, on the 1st Thursday of each month.

Tea and coffee is served prior to these services from 10am.

APRIL FOCUS

Deadline for articles:

Sun 22nd March

Publication :

Sun 29th March

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.



Instant Neighbour

PRESBYTERY MATTERS

Presbytery met online on February the 3rd when items for discussion included:

Moderator's Term of Office

Since the inception of the Presbytery of the North East and Northern Isles (NENI) in 2023 the Moderator has been appointed for 2 years and the Rev Shuna Dicks of Culter is due to complete her term in June this year. A proposal was presented that in 2026 Presbytery should appoint both a Moderator to serve for 1 year and a Moderator Designate to serve for 1 year in that role, gaining experience on the Business Committee and as a stand in for the Moderator, before taking over as Moderator for 1 year the following year. This pattern would then continue in succeeding years.

Presbytery approved the proposal.

Cairns Counselling

Cairns was started by Queen's Cross Church (now Fountainhall at the Cross) and was registered as a Charity in 1994 providing a space where participants feel able to talk with a counsellor about the difficulties they face in life without fear of being judged. They were given the Queen's Award for voluntary service in 2014.

Over the years Cairns has been part financially supported from a bequest held by Presbytery, firstly Aberdeen, then Aberdeen and Shetland and more recently by NENI. In 2024 a grant of £8,000 was given from the bequest to Cairns.

After a request from Cairns for an £8,000 donation for 2026 the Property and Finance Committee regrettably proposed rejection of the request due to the financial situation in many churches in Presbytery and the national church with the money being better spent within Presbytery.

A counter motion suggested giving the money for this year then spending time reviewing the situation over the year bearing in mind the long-standing backing for Cairns and it being an example of the church giving support in the community.

The counter motion was lost by 57 votes to 56 which meant that Presbytery accepted the proposal from the Committee and the request was turned down.

Richard Little



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

