

Focus

The Church Newsletter of Peterculter Parish Church
April 2026



FROM OUR MINISTER

There is often lots of talk at this time of year of bulbs pushing through the soil, of new life emerging and lambs playing in the fields. These are beautiful images, familiar and comforting. Easter, the story of Christ's resurrection can easily become softened and simplified to be made more palatable to the public. Easter, the most incredible event in human history, has been reduced in the national thought to chocolate eggs lining supermarket shelves and images of bunnies. The focus has shifted. From hope to commercialism with the promise of new life becoming just another part of this year's cycle of consumerism.

Easter though is not a metaphor; it's not intended to be a yearly stop on the commercial calendar. Easter is the truth that death does not have the final word. That God acted in Christ. That love overcame evil. That new life and forgiveness is open to all, not through our actions but through Christ's.

When asked whether he looked ahead with optimism or pessimism, Bishop and missiologist, Lesslie Newbigin answered, "I am neither an optimist nor a pessimist. Jesus Christ is risen from the dead."

The invitation at Easter is to ground ourselves in this reality, to make it the foundation of our lives. To set aside, even for the moment the chocolate, good as it may be, to encounter again the startling truth that Jesus is Risen. In the Risen Christ we are offered a living hope. One that calls us, steadies us and hold for whatever lies ahead.

The poem Easter Morning captures this beautifully.

May God bless you this Easter,

Emma

RECOGNITION OF LONG SERVICE

The Church was recently delighted to recognise the service of four of our elders (from left to right): Norman Bruce, Wilma Angus, Rev. Emma McDonald, Carol Leech and Bob Laing.

Norman has served on the Kirk Session as an active elder for over fifty years. Wilma, Bob and Carol, who have decided to step down from the Kirk Session, have between the three of them over one hundred years of service to the Church. We are very grateful to all of them for their years of dedicated service and were pleased to be able to publicly thank them during worship.



Easter Morning

The stone is rolled, the silence breaks

A fragile dawn begins to wake

Where grief once held its heavy breath

Now life has spoken out of death

No Fragile Hope, no passing flame,

But love that calls us each by name

And in that call, both clear and true

The Risen Christ makes all things new.

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

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.

MAY FOCUS

Deadline for articles:

Sunday 24th May 2026

Publication :

Sunday 31st May 2026

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.



DURRIS CHURCH 200TH ANNIVERSARY

In June 2022, the then Moderator of the General Assembly (Rt. Rev. Dr. Iain Greenshields) planted a cherry blossom tree to mark the 200th anniversary of the Durris Church building. A plaque was to have been placed next to tree shortly afterwards however this was missed due to various reasons.

A plaque has now been procured and is to be formally dedicated at a special ceremony in the Durris Church car park on Sunday 10th May at 2:00 p.m.



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



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CHURCH OFFICE

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

