

Focus

The Church Newsletter of Peterculter Parish Church
June 2026



FROM THE MINISTER

I wonder do you know the old children's hymn by written by Gwen F. Smith that starts:

I love the sun it shines on me, God made the sun and made me?

It is a simple hymn that carries a lovely truth. Summer is part of God's creation and as such is something to be enjoyed and received with gratitude. The longer days, the warmth of the sun, flowers blooming gardens growing and fields ripening remind us of God's goodness and faithfulness. Summer also brings a different rhythm to life, fruits and crops mature, a time when schools pause for holidays, families enjoy time off together and for many people life seems to slow down a little. That slowing down can be a blessing as so much of modern life can seem to move at a relentless pace. Even creation follows seasons of growth and harvest and renewal.

The church here has been busy in recent months, and nationally the General Assembly ran in Edinburgh and online from 15th-18th May. In a more streamlined four days it did often seem that there was a significant pace to the reports and decisions, amongst which the Church nationally made an apology over its historic involvement with slavery. There was also a significant report into the causes which are impacting decline in the church and reports on finances with new minimum levels of income looking set to impact and define futures of congregations in coming years.

I will write more fully about these matters once outcomes of decisions connected to the reports are made available in greater detail to ministers and congregations. Even amid these discussions and decisions it is worth remembering that the Church too lives within God's seasons. There are time of activity and challenge but also times when we are called to pause, to listen, to pray, to rest and trust in God's leading for the future.

Psalm 19 reminds us of God's faithfulness. We see it in creation each day: the sun shines, even behind the clouds, and nothing is without its warmth. In the same way, God's presence and grace are with us every day. As summer unfolds may we find moments to enjoy the warmth of the season (hopefully without too much rain) and to be aware of the Goodness of God in creation.

With every blessing

Emma

Psalm 19

*In the heavens God has pitched
a tent for the sun.*

*It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is deprived of its warmth.*

WORSHIP

See page 2 for details of all our June 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

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.

SEPTEMBER FOCUS

There is no Focus in July and August and the September edition will be one week later than the usual schedule due to holidays

Deadline for articles:

Sun 30th August 2026

Publication :

Sun 6th September 2026

JUNE WORSHIP

Thursday 4th June, 11.30am	Midweek Worship
Sunday 7th June, 10.30am	Morning Worship
Sunday 14th June, 10.30am	Morning Worship
Sunday 21st June, 10.30am	Morning Worship
Sunday 28th June 10.30am	Morning Worship



The Presbytery of the North East and the Northern Isles
THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

PRESBYTERY MATTERS

The last Presbytery meeting was on the 28th of April.

A very regular item at the meetings is consideration of proposed alterations to buildings and their costs contained within the report from the Property and Finance Committee. All works exceeding particular financial limits need to be reported to Presbytery and if a total of £50,000 on a building is likely to be surpassed within certain time limits, Presbytery has to send this information to the General Trustees for their approval.

At the April meeting, Presbytery approved the application from Springfield Parish Church (formerly Countesswells) for works to the Church roof, stonework, gutters etc. amounting to a sum of £239,969.40 including VAT. All information was ready for passing to the General Trustees after the meeting.

The Property and Finance Committee noted that in early February Springfield Church suffered from a serious roof leak causing considerable water ingress at the sandstone arch stones between the sanctuary and the chancel.

It is also worth noting that the majority of proceeds from the sale of manses and church buildings throughout Presbytery goes into the Consolidated Fabric Funds of churches such as ours enabling repairs, maintenance and improvements to be done.

The next Presbytery meeting is on Saturday 20th June at 10am at Fountainhall at the Cross.

Richard Little

CULTER GALA THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone who donated bottles for the Church bottle stall and to those who helped to man the stall. We raised £398 for Church funds.

In addition to the bottle stall, this year we also gave away bottles of water with Bible verses stuck on to them. Thanks to the warm weather they were very popular!



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.



CHRISTIAN AID COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who contributed towards to the Christian Aid collection. As a result of your generosity, a total of £1,000 will be given to Christian Aid from the collection.



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

Session Clerk:

▸ Ross Andrews
▸ 07816 593042
▸ sessionclerk@culterkirk.co.uk

Focus Editor:

▸ Val Muir
▸ 07766 740878
▸ editor@culterkirk.co.uk

Church Office:

▸ Katie Gillies
▸ 01224 735845
▸ secretary@culterkirk.co.uk

CHURCH OFFICE

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

