

Focus



The Church Newsletter of Peterculter Parish Church
September 2026

FROM THE MINISTER

John 14:26 - "But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

I wonder have you ever had a person's name or face pop into your head out of the blue and you can't settle until you contact them? Maybe it takes you a while, you maybe put it off for a few hours or days to then get in contact with them only to find that they were thinking of you. Or maybe you are thinking of someone, and the phone goes and it is the person who has been on your mind.



Lots of people put these things down to coincidence but what if I were to suggest to you it is possible the Holy Spirit is at work prompting you to make contact. I had this just today before writing this with some friends in ministry who stay in New Zealand. I wakened up to find them both in my thoughts and it wouldn't desist and so I made contact and interestingly they said we had just been thinking about you.

It's a bit like the task that we know needs to be done and we have put it off for weeks and then we get up one day and it's all we can think about and we feel moved to do it.

Those little niggles or prods are exactly the way that the Holy Spirit works. Gently moving us to a course of action whether that be contacting friends or family or something else, but we must be careful not to consider Him merely an influence on how we live but a living presence who guides comforts and empowers us,

John Eldredge said that the early Celtic Christians called the Holy Spirit 'the wild goose.' And the reason why is they knew that you cannot tame him.

Soon it will be time for the geese to return to Scotland, for their noise and presence to fill the skies as winter beckons. So, a bit of a challenge for us all. When we hear or see the geese as we are likely to do this winter let's take time to pause and watch. To give thanks for them and for the work of Holy Spirit and pray for both patience to listen for his promptings and guidance and for strength and willingness to do that which He is calling us to.

Wishing you every blessing

Emma

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.

OCTOBER FOCUS

Deadline for articles:

Sun 20th September 2026

Publication :

Sun 27th September 2026

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

Thursday 3rd September, 11.30am	Midweek Worship
Sunday 6th September, 10.30am	Morning Worship
Sunday 13th September, 10.30am	Morning Worship
Sunday 20th September, 10.30am	Morning Worship
Sunday 27th September 10.30am	Morning Worship

Worship



The Presbytery of the North East and the Northern Isles

THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND

PRESBYTERY MATTERS

The Presbytery of the North East and Northern Isles (NENI) last met, all day, on Saturday 20th June at Fountainhall at the Cross Church.

Amongst all the reports was a 14 page document from the Planning and Deployment Committee containing an update of the Presbytery Mission Plan which aims for a network of vibrant, fruitful, sustainable churches, following Jesus, in recognisable communities. Details are given of the implementation of the Plan since the inception of NENI in January 2023 when there were 147 Congregations.

At that time:

50 churches reported attendances of 25 or less (33%), 67 churches had no children in worship (45%), 67 churches reported no youth work (43%) and 50 churches had no involvement in school chaplaincy (33%).

Since the beginning of 2023, over 101 Kirk Sessions have engaged with the process of adjustment, leading to 30 Unions and as of May 2026 Presbytery is now made up of 83 Congregations. The adjustment has allowed the creation of 23 Vacancies with Permission to Call a Minister of Word and Sacrament (MWS), 10 of which have been filled leaving 13 still to be filled. 57.75 Ministers in Presbytery are in post.

As of this year, disposal has been completed or is in progress of 52 church buildings.

Artificial Intelligence (AI)

The topic of an afternoon conference session was AI and its use in ministry. Hannah Cundell from Aberdeen University addressed conference and led the discussion. Questions were raised about the ethics of using AI, how accurate it is, how reliable it is, does it make false claims, is plagiarism involved, is it a useful tool in formulating prayers for example and so on. AI can be accessed online at ChatGPT and the subject will be revisited at the October Presbytery meeting.

Richard Little

GIFT DAY SATURDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER 2026

At the General Assembly this year it was noted that, regarding finances for the Church nationally, continued vigilance and prudent stewardship are required. We in our Church strive to do this which is why fundraising efforts such as a Gift Day play a vital part.

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.

Monetary gifts can be given in Donations Envelopes available from Sunday 6th September at the Church or the Church Office. Envelopes can also be found at the Thursday coffee mornings. A box for the Envelopes will be at the side entrance to the Church from Sunday 6th September till Sunday the 27th. 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

Gift Day coincides with Saturday Coffees on the 19th 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



CHURCH ROLL

Since the last edition of Focus, the following adjustments have been made to the Kirk Membership Roll

New Members

July:

Margaret (Maggs) Simpson, Peterculter

Deaths

June:

Alan Dey, Banchory

Jean Gilbert, Petyerculter

July:

Rosie McBeath, Peterculter

Heather Rae, Tor Na Dee Care Home

Tessa Cowie, Peterculter

Caroline Stewart, Peterculter

August:

Dian Shaw, Eastleigh Care Home

Elizabeth Duncan, Drumoak

Janet Smith, Inchmarlo Care Home

Transfers Out

July:

Lynn Winton, Blairs

Total membership at 22nd August: 686.

Please notify any further adjustments to the minister or Donald Muir, Roll Keeper.

**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****UNION STREET OF OLD**

David Oswald Aberdeen Library Historian is giving a film show and talk on Union Street of old.

Join us for a trip down memory lane.

Wednesday 23rd September, 2pm

In the large hall followed by tea and coffee.

**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.



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