

Focus

The Church Newsletter of Peterculter Parish Church
February 2025



FROM THE LOCUM MINISTER

Here we are at the start of a new year. The Christmas rush is over. The 'high street' is pulling people to the sales.

Many people like shopping in January. That is, if their budget has not been depleted in December. The prices of almost everything after the Christmas season are usually slashed right down.

Shopping events are seasonal which is why marketing people hype up events through advertising.

Sometimes our worship of God is seasonal, too. Some go to church only on Communion Sundays, birthdays and other special occasions like Easter. "God is everywhere, not only in church" is a convenient excuse. So, does that mean we can worship Him anywhere and everywhere?

The Bible encourages and charges every believer in Jesus to continually worship Him - not only on a Monday or any other day of the week, but every moment of our lives.

Hebrews 13:15 says "Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise—the fruit of lips that openly profess his name".

Worship therefore should be in our thinking, in our feeling, in our living, in our busyness, in our idleness, in church or out of it, at work, at home, on the golf course - everywhere. It cannot be occasional or seasonal.

'Lord, teach me to worship You with every word and deed, with every moment of my life'.

May this be our prayer for 2025.

Every blessing

Susan



CHRISTMAS

Christmas Eve was busy! It was lovely to see the church so full at the Candlelit Service. There was great excitement - not only from the children, but from the adults too. After the service one little boy asked me if he could come back. My reply to him was 'You are welcome anytime'.

The Watchnight service was much more subdued and was a time of reflection as we waited for the last candle on our Advent ring to be lit and the church bell to be rung at midnight.

Cheques for £227 have been sent to Aberdeen Street Pastors and Let your Little Light Shine - a UK charity that provides education in Malawi. A big thank you to everyone who gave so generously.

WORSHIP

See page 2 for details of all our February 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

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**
- Last Thursday of month: **Durris Church**

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

MARCH FOCUS

Deadline for articles:

Sunday 16th February

Publication :

Sunday 23rd February

PRESBYTERY MATTERS

Visit of the Moderator of the General Assembly

It had long been a tradition that the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland visited Aberdeen City for the University Founder's Day. This visit included links with Aberdeen City Council and the former Presbytery of Aberdeen. With the new Presbytery of the North East and Northern Isles now entering its third year, choice of venue for a Moderator to visit has now moved further afield.

At the Presbytery meeting on 3rd of December 2024 it was noted that it was the intention to hold a Presbytery Service with the Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Shaw Paterson, at 7pm on Friday 14th February 2025 in Inverurie West Parish Church. During the service long service certificates will be presented by the Moderator to elders who have been active for not less than 30 years of service with further certificates available for elders who have served for additional 10 year intervals.

The next Presbytery meeting is online on Tuesday 3rd February 2025.

Richard Little

CHRISTMAS FAYRE UPDATE

The Christmas Fayre on Saturday 23rd November proved to be a successful fundraiser and social event. The sum of £1,789.56 was raised for church funds and many thanks are due to all who participated including those who gave donations, stall holders and those who came along on the day.

Save the Dates!

SENIOR CITIZENS
AFTERNOON TEA

SUNDAY 23RD
MARCH 2025

COLOURS
FASHION SHOW

FRIDAY 23RD
MAY 2025

WORSHIP FOR FEBRUARY

Sun 2nd February 10.30am	Sunday Morning Worship	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Thu 6th February 11.30am	Short midweek service	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Sun 9th February 10.30am	Sunday Morning Worship	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Thu 13th February 11.30am	Short midweek service	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Drumoak Church Hall
Sun 16th February 10.30am	Sunday Morning Worship	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Sun 23rd February 10.30am	Sunday Morning Worship	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Thu 27th February 11.30am	Short midweek service	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Durriss Church



FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

One of my favourite verses in the Bible is this one: "Taste and see that the Lord is good"

Psalm 34 verse 8

It may seem to be an unusual verse to choose in January, when people often focus on diets and a healthier lifestyle after the Christmas festivities. Yet, the words of the verse remind us of the invitation we ought to be offering to people.

God is good. God is love. God is faithful and just. God is gracious.

We have much to celebrate and give thanks for in the God we gather to worship.

Perhaps we need to be more confident in extending an invitation to our neighbours, friends and colleagues, to come and see, pop in, have a taste. They may discover a pleasant surprise that the Christian faith can be a joy and a blessing. We can share in fun, laughter and tears.

I've heard of individuals coming along to the church, enjoying the experience, and then telling some of their family and friends. And that this has then led to others coming along too. That's wonderful to hear. Let's pray and act in a way that such things continue to happen.

I would like to express my thanks to the Rev Susan Sutherland for her ongoing ministry at Peterculter Parish Church. Susan's ministry is well received and appreciated by the folks at Peterculter. Of course, Susan is assisting us during a time of vacancy, while the Nominating Committee seeks a full time minister of Word and Sacrament to accept the Call to Peterculter. On this matter I would now like to give you an update.

The Peterculter Nominating Committee would have hoped by this time, to be announcing that they had chosen a minister as sole nominee for the congregation. We are not there yet. However, I want to reassure you that while the Nominating Committee, on your behalf, has been actively publicising the vacancy, receiving applications and meeting with potential candidates, this has still to progress to presenting a sole nominee.

Please remember the Nominating Committee and potential candidates in your prayers as they respectively seek God's guidance on the way forward.

With my good wishes and prayers for you in 2025,

Rev Duncan C. Eddie

Interim Moderator

DRUMOAK-DURRIS PROPERTY UPDATE

Both Drumoak and Durris Churches are being marketed for sale by the Church of Scotland. Each building has at the time of writing been visited by three or four interested parties resulting in a suitable offer to purchase being received for Durris Church. Completion of this sale is likely to take a couple of months or so whilst legal formalities are being completed. The church is being sold together with the log cabin and a narrow strip of land along the outside of the graveyard wall giving access to the cabin from the access road and providing a dedicated parking area for the property. The graveyard surrounding Durris Church remains owned by Aberdeenshire Council and is not therefore part of the sale.

At this time, one party has expressed an interest in purchasing Drumoak Church and it is understood this will lead to negotiations with the Church of Scotland General Trustees in Edinburgh.

You may be aware that the Rev. Corné Randall, who has been living with his family in the Drumoak Manse on Sunnyside Drive, was inducted to the vacant charge of Inverkip, Skelmorlie and Wemyss Bay on the Clyde coast at the end of January, leaving the property unoccupied. This property will also be marketed for sale by the Church of Scotland in the near future.

Ultimately, Peterculter Parish Church shall have property in three locations, the Church, Halls and Office in Craigton Crescent, the Manse in Howie Lane and the Church Hall on Sunnyside Drive, Drumoak.



PASTORAL SUPPORT

Rev. Susan Sutherland
07483 296859
susan.sutherland@sky.com

FUNERALS

- Jessie Taylor
- Norma Rothwell
- Barbara Bruce

FLOWERS

Thanks to all who contributed to the Church Flowers for December and January.



Convener: Violet Smith
01224 733317
Treasurer: Mabel Taylor
01224 732030

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 Sunday teas and coffees after the service.



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.



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 10am - 12 noon.

