

Focus

The Church Newsletter of Peterculter Parish Church
September 2024



FROM THE INTERIM MODERATOR

For the limited experience I have in DIY, usually putting up some shelves, it's definitely good to use a spirit level. With that item you can get things properly aligned. "Spirit level" is an interesting name. It is referring to the mineral spirit solution inside the vials.

When as Christians we are faithful to the Gospel, I believe we can be like a spirit level in the community, bearing witness to values which promote truth, justice, grace and compassion. It's good for us to have something or someone to measure our lives alongside, to know we are on the right track. Not a bullying, always dissatisfied critic or judge, but one who has profound values and lives them, Jesus of Nazareth! We are to grow both personally and as a church and community, as we learn to live in alignment with these life affirming values. May you know encouragement and joy in doing that.

There is no news to report at this stage regarding a new minister coming to Peterculter Parish Church.

On a positive note, the congregation and parish are being very well ministered to by Rev Susan Sutherland, who is our locum minister during the vacancy. Thanks have been expressed to Donald Muir our outgoing Session Clerk for his diligence and care given in that role. We look forward now to welcoming and supporting our new Session Clerk Ross Andrews and deputy Session Clerk Fiona Jones.

One other thing I would like to mention. With the recent union of Peterculter and Drumoak Durris we at present have several buildings to look after, albeit some of these buildings and land are to be sold. If you are interested in assisting with issues of property maintenance and development, please let us know. Your skills in this area would be much appreciated. Perhaps we could offer you a "spirit level" to assist.

With my good wishes and prayers.

Rev Duncan C. Eddie

Interim Moderator

Minister of Aberdeen: Fountainhall Church

FROM THE LOCUM MINISTER

As I write this article the schools start back for their 2024-2025 session. Young folk in our communities will be starting pre-school, others will be starting school. Some older children move up to secondary education and others will be leaving shortly to go to college or university studies. It is a moment of new beginnings for them all.

Some of you may have children or grandchildren starting one of these new stages. These are exciting times and yet they are difficult times as parents and grandparents have to let go and trust God to take care of them.

During the summer, monthly services continued in Drumoak and Durris and it was super to see so many folk coming along. They start up again in Culter on the 5th September. See page 4 for the schedule of these services and also our coffee mornings!

Blessings

Susan

GIFT DAY
SAT 21ST SEPTEMBER

[Full details on page 2](#)

SAVE THE DATE
SAT 9TH NOVEMBER

[Livingston Outlet
Centre Shopping Trip](#)

[More details next
month](#)

WORSHIP

[See page 3 for details
of all our September
services.](#)

Our Sunday services are live-streamed on our YouTube channel.

These can be watched live (or later) at our YouTube page:
[https://youtube.com/
user/CulterKirk](https://youtube.com/user/CulterKirk) .

After the service they can also be found on our website:
www.culterkirk.co.uk

OCTOBER FOCUS

Deadline for articles:

22nd September

Publication :

29th September

YOUR NEW SESSION CLERK

For those of you who don't know me, my name is Ross Andrews and I'm the new Session Clerk, having officially taken over from Donald Muir from the 1st July. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Donald for all the effort that he has put in during his time as Session Clerk, especially over the past year or so with the vacancy and then the union with Drumoak & Durriss. I'm particularly grateful to Donald for his detailed handover and also for the fact that he will be continuing to support both myself and Fiona as we get up to speed with the roles of Session Clerk and Deputy Session Clerk respectively.

If you've ever spoken with me, it will be obvious that I'm not a local Culter loon! I grew up in rural Northern Ireland on my parents' farm, coming to Scotland in 1992 to go to Edinburgh University and then moving to Aberdeen for work when I graduated. I moved to Culter in 2014. Throughout all these moves I've still managed to keep (most) of my accent. Hopefully you're able to understand what I'm saying.

My church journey started at my local church in Northern Ireland, Killeter Presbyterian Church. As a student in Edinburgh I usually attended the nearest Church of Scotland to my accommodation. When I came to Aberdeen I joined the Kirk of St. Nicholas Uniting, becoming an elder in 2009 and latterly joint Session Clerk. The congregation was dissolved at the end of 2020, after which I joined Culter Kirk. My first experience of worshipping at Culter Kirk was in 2014. My daughter had joined the Brownies and she took part in the Remembrance Sunday parade. I went along to support her. I have to admit I was a bit apprehensive at first, coming to an unfamiliar Church where everybody knew everybody else and I would feel an outsider. During the service John Ferguson highlighted a book that had recently been published to commemorate the start of the First World War, which detailed those people from Culter who had died in the war. At that service he read out the details of those who had died in 2014. What struck me at the time was the fact that most, if not all, of those people were born elsewhere and had moved to Culter for work, much like myself. That fact, combined with the welcome I received completely allayed any misgivings I had. Since then I've always felt at ease here and I hope that everyone who comes through our doors feel just as warmly welcomed and made to feel as home as I was then.



Ross Andrews

GIFT DAY SATURDAY 21ST SEPTEMBER 2024

A Gift Day became a successful, regular part of annual fundraising at the former Peterculter Parish Church from 2016. It gave 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.

Following our Union to form the new Peterculter Parish Church the united Kirk Session agreed to continue with this event. Monetary gifts can be given in donations envelopes which will be available from Sunday 1st September at the Church or the Church Office when it is open. Envelopes can also be found at the Thursday services at Drumoak and Durriss. A box for the envelopes will be at the side entrance to the Church from Sunday 8th September till the end of the month. Alternatively, envelopes can be posted at any time through the Church Office letter box.

Gift Day coincides with Saturday Coffees on the 21st from 10am to 12noon so a donation can be put in the box between those times with the chance to stay for a chat and a refreshment.

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

A report to the General Assembly this year included the stark reality that only 29% of charges in the Church of Scotland currently meet the full cost of Ministry which means 71% do not. The overall budget within the C of S for 2024 shows a deficit of £8.1 million, another stark reality. As part of the 29%, we cover all our costs. Let's help to keep it that way.

The Stewardship Team

THANK YOU!

Can I take this opportunity to thank very sincerely those of you who contributed to my generous 'retirement' gift. It has been both a challenge and a privilege to act as Session Clerk during the time of our vacancy.

I'm very grateful to Ross Andrews for taking over this important role. I will still be kept busy as I shall be acting as daytime support for Ross as and when required.

Thanks also to Fiona Jones for agreeing to become the new Depute Session Clerk replacing Sheila Walker who I have very much appreciated acting as deputy for me.

Donald Muir

DRUMOAK/DURRIS FRIENDSHIP GROUP

Drumoak/Durris Friendship Group restarts on Monday 7th October at 2:00 p.m. in Drumoak Church Hall.

New faces are always welcome. It's been good to see friends from Culter joining us.

Tea and entertainment or speakers, £2.

Any queries to Amy Wilson, tel. 01330 828582.

HARVEST THANKSGIVING SERVICE

6th October

Our Harvest celebration is a reminder of all the good things God has given us. It also serves as an opportunity to share with others who are less fortunate. We would like everyone to bring non-perishable food items to the service which will be donated to 'Instant Neighbour'. This is a practical way of helping our neighbours. See the list of the most useful items.

After the service we will have a 'SOUP LUNCH' and donations for this will go to '2

The Nations'. Recently Susan's daughter, Vivien, spoke about her and her husband, August's work in the Philippines and this is the charity that supports their ministries.

UHT or long life milk
Tinned soup
Tinned meat & fish
Tinned vegetables
Rice & pasta
Jar sauces
Cereals
Tinned fruit
Biscuits & snack bars
Teabags & instant coffee
Sugar
Diluting juice

PRESBYTERY MATTERS: RETIRALS AND A UNION

Presbytery last met on 15th June when a number of ministry retirals were noted and reports given on church unions. Retirals mentioned included:

1. The Rev Kenneth Petrie from parish ministry in Aberdeen Springfield, formerly Craigiebuckler, on 31st of July.
2. The Rev Eddie McKenna from parish ministry in Aberdeen South St Nicholas Kincorth on 15th of August.
3. The Rev Louis Kinsey from parish ministry in Aberdeen Bridge of Don St Columba's on 1st September.

Presbytery thanked them all for their service and wished them well.

One of the unions reported on was between the congregations of South St Nicholas Kincorth and Torry St Fittick's which will be the place of worship with South St Nicholas to be sold, let or otherwise disposed of. The name of the new charge is Aberdeen South Church of Scotland with the service of union taking place on 1st September 2024.

Richard Little

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP

Sun 1st Sep, 10.30am	Sunday Morning Worship	Jamie Campbell	Culter Kirk
Thu 5th Sep, 11.30am	Short midweek service	Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Sun 8th Sep, 10.30am	Sunday Morning Worship	Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Thu 12th Sep, 11.30am	Short midweek service	Susan Sutherland	Drumoak Church Hall
Sun 15th Sep, 10.30am	Sunday Morning Worship	Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Sun 22nd Sep, 10.30am	Sunday Morning Worship	Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Thu 26th Sep, 11.30am	Short midweek service	Susan Sutherland	Durris Church
Sun 29th Sep, 10.30am	Sunday Morning Worship	Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk

SUNDAY AND THURSDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

All Sunday morning services are held at 10.30am in Culter Kirk. Normally, a shorter midweek service takes place at 11.30am on Thursdays, (preceded by teas and coffees from 10am) as follows:

- 1st Thursday of month: **Culter Kirk**
- 2nd Thursday of month: **Drumoak Church Hall**
- Last Thursday of month: **Durriss Church**

THURSDAY AND SATURDAY COFFEES SCHEDULE

Each Thursday coffees are served from 10am -11.30am in Culter Church Hall.

Thursday coffees are also served in Drumoak Church Hall and Durriss Church on the days when there is a Thursday service as shown in the above schedule.

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.



CHURCH DIRECTORY

Funeral: Muriel Napier

PASTORAL SUPPORT

27th August - 1st September :

Rev. Shuna Dicks

01224 861692

sdicks@churchofscotland.org.uk

At all other times:

Rev. Susan Sutherland

07483 296859

susan.sutherland@sky.com

FLOWERS

We kindly thank everyone who donated towards church flowers for June, July and August:

- Jill Watson and Family
- Mavis
- Anne Dey
- Moira West
- Michael Player



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

Interim Moderator:

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CHURCH OFFICE

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

