

Focus

The Church Newsletter of Peterculter Parish Church
November 2024



FROM OUR LOCUM MINISTER

Have you ever seen a performer spinning plates on poles? He spins one while the others slow down, and the whole time he works at figuring out which plate needs to be spun to keep the trick going.

Does your life ever feel like that? The only thing is, if you could pick the least important plates you might decide to drop a couple. Unfortunately, we typically treat all our plates the same and it is usually the most important plates that suffer.

We have all heard the phrase "first things first", but we don't always know what the first things are. In Matthew 6 verse 33 Jesus tells us to seek first His kingdom and His righteousness. This means to turn to God first for help, to fill our thoughts first with his desires, to take his character for our pattern, to serve and obey him in everything.

People, objects, goals all compete for priority. In the busyness of everyday life let's take a little time to evaluate the plates we are spinning and focus on the true first things right now.

Lord help me to identify your "first things" that my life is in competition with.

Susan Sutherland



Susan Sutherland

EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION....

a request from the Locum Minister

It has come to my attention that we do not have contact details for family members should an emergency arise e.g. if someone takes ill in the church. It would therefore be helpful if we had contact details should an emergency occur. Along with this issue of 'Focus' there is a form to complete and return to the Church Office, should you wish us to hold this information.

I would stress that these details would be strictly confidential and only for church or the emergency services should the need arise. We are doing this for no other reason than to show that we care for one another.

Susan



WORSHIP

See page 2 for details of all our November services

LIVE STREAMING

Our services are live-streamed to our 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

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.

DECEMBER FOCUS

**Deadline for articles:
Sun 17th November
Publication :
Sun 24th November**

WORSHIP FOR NOVEMBER

Thu 31st Oct, 11.30am	Short midweek service	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Durris Church
Sun 3rd Nov, 10.30am	Sunday Morning Worship	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Thu 7th Nov, 11.30am	Short midweek service	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Sun 10th Nov, 10.30am	Sunday Morning Worship	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Thu 14th Nov, 11.30am	Short midweek service	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Drumoak Church Hall
Sun 17th Nov, 10.30am	Sunday Morning Worship	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Sun 24th Nov, 10.30am	Sunday Morning Worship	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Thu 28th Nov, 11.30am	Short midweek service	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Durris Church

ADVENT SEASON

Advent starts the season for preparing for the coming of the Messiah and the celebration of Christmas with the birth of Jesus Christ. Advent always commences on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. This year Advent begins on the 1st December.

In our world, Christmas has become a commercial event. During Advent we are challenged to reclaim the customs that help us celebrate God's gift of love in Jesus and to avoid or curtail those things that stand in the way.

Our Journey Through Church Year C

I tend to follow the Lectionary - the set readings for the Church throughout the year. This gives me discipline in that it makes me look at passages I would otherwise skip over. It means that I don't pick my favourite bible stories.

On Advent Sunday (1st December), we move into Lectionary Year C. For the next 12 months, the featured Gospel is Luke, with excursions into John during Christmas and Easter.

This is the only Gospel with a dedication; Theophilus is probably Luke's patron. The evangelist acknowledges that his is not the only version of the story of Jesus. He is not an eyewitness but depends on others for his information.

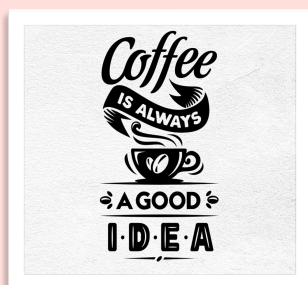
The content of the Gospel suggests that it is written not so much to create faith as to encourage those who already believe. Luke hopes that by reading his account, Theophilus will become more confident in his faith. In this year of Luke, we can also ask how words written to encourage Theophilus might renew our faith today.

Susan

THURSDAY WORSHIP AND THURSDAY AND 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 volunteers for Sunday teas and coffees after the service.



FLOWERS

Thanks to all who contributed to the Church Flowers during October.

- Lorrie Bilsborrow
- Iona Campbell
- Moira West
- Myrtle Farquhar

Convener: Violet Smith

01224 733317

Treasurer: Mabel Taylor

01224 732030



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.



GIFT DAY AND GIFT AID

The recent Gift Day raised £3,671 this year excluding possible Gift aid claims of a further £697. My thanks to all of you for your generous donations to our church.

Thinking on Gift Aid can I ask all those members, formerly of Drumoak Durris whose offerings were under Gift Aid, to please sign and return to me or the Church Office the enclosed Gift Aid declaration. This will ensure my records are up to date should HMRC carry out any inspection in the future,

If you have any queries on Gift Aid or want to give regularly by either by Standing Order or weekly envelopes please see me.

William Anderson

Treasurer

LIVINGSTON OUTLET SHOPPING TRIP

Sat 9th November 2024

**Leave Peterculter Church 7.30am
returning approximately 8pm**

£27 per ticket

**Includes tea/coffee & buttery/shortbread
on the way down**

**Contact Fiona Jones 07775 955250
for payment details & to book a seat**

**Bring cash on day as there will be a
raffle on the bus**



PASTORAL SUPPORT

Rev. Susan Sutherland

07483 296859

susan.sutherland@sky.com

A time to Remember

"A TIME TO REMEMBER"

On Sunday 8th December at 2.00 pm we will hold our annual bereavement service in the church. This offers a quiet moment in the rush up to Christmas when those of us who have experienced bereavement can share together both our grief and our hope in this time of remembrance.

Everyone is welcome to come along. Refreshments will be served after the service giving us an opportunity to talk to one another.

**USED STAMPS FOR KIDNEY CARE UK**

In the run up to Christmas hopefully we will all be receiving more letters and cards. Recycling our used stamps is a good way to support Kidney Care UK.

Every kilogram of stamps that is collected generates £20 income to support kidney patients.

Please bring your stamps along to church and put them in the pocket on the noticeboard in the extension area.

Please trim your stamps to have a finger's width (or 1cm) of paper all the way around.

For further information speak to Dayer Coburn.

**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:**

▶ Rev Duncan C. Eddie

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CHURCH OFFICE

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

