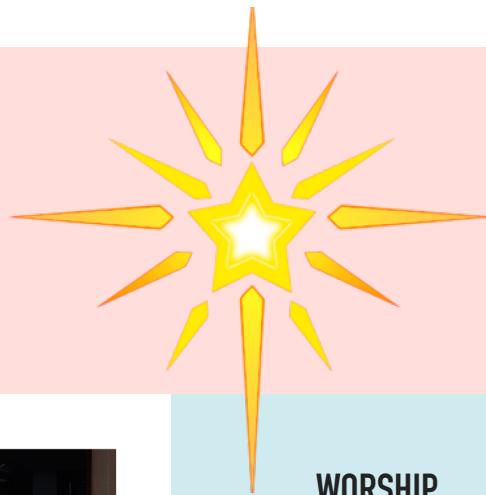


Focus

The Church Newsletter of Peterculter Parish Church
December 2024



FROM OUR LOCUM MINISTER

I love Christmas and I am looking forward to spending Advent and Christmas with you at Peterculter Parish Church.

Throughout December we will be singing Christmas carols and I am sure we all have our favourites. The first one we learned as a child was probably 'Away in a Manger'. This carol allows us to reflect on that very first Christmas. No electricity, therefore no flashing lights. No shopping centres, therefore no Christmas shopping. No Christmas trees, no partying. The shepherds, insignificant citizens in those days, were hard at work.

"Away in a manger, no crib for a bed.
The little Lord Jesus laid down His sweet head.
The stars in the bright sky looked down where he lay,
the little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay".

Times have changed. Today, Christmas celebrations have evolved into Santa Claus, well-lit homes, richly adorned trees, shopping etc. Of course we must celebrate since Christmas marks our Saviour's birth. The moment Mary touched God's face is the moment God made his case: there is no place he will not go. If he is willing to be born in a stable, then expect him to be at work anywhere.

NO place is too common. NO person too hardened. NO distance is too far. There is NO person he cannot reach. There is NO limit to his love.

When Christ was born, so was our hope. That is why I love Christmas.

May God's great love fill your heart with joy this Christmas and may you know His peace in the coming year.

Susan Sutherland



Susan Sutherland

WORSHIP

See overleaf for details of all our services including all our Christmas worship

LIVE STREAMING

Our services are live-streamed to our YouTube channel. These can be watched live (or later) on our YouTube page: <https://youtube.com/user/CulterKirk>.

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

THURSDAY COFFEES & THURSDAY WORSHIP

There will be no midweek services or Thursday coffees during December. In January there will be only one date:

- Thursday 30th Jan:
Durris Church

Tea and coffee is served prior to this service from 11am.

FEBRUARY FOCUS

There is no January Focus

Deadline for articles:

Sun 19th January 2025

Publication :

Sun 26th January 2025

Save the Dates!

**SENIOR CITIZENS
AFTERNOON TEA**

**SUNDAY 23RD
MARCH 2025**

**COLOURS
FASHION SHOW**

**FRIDAY 23RD
MAY 2025**

WORSHIP FOR DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Sunday 1st December, 10.30am	1st Sunday in Advent	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Sunday 8th December, 10.30am	2nd Sunday in Advent	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Sunday 8th December, 2pm	A Time to Remember	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Sunday 15th December, 10.30am	3rd Sunday in Advent	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Sunday 22nd December, 10.30am	4th Sunday in Advent	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Tuesday 24th December, 7pm	Christmas Eve Service	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Tuesday 24th December, 11.15pm	Watchnight Service	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Sunday 29th December, 10.30am	Morning Worship	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Sunday 5th January, 10.30am	Morning Worship	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Sunday 12th January, 10.30am	Morning Worship	To be confirmed	Culter Kirk
Sunday 19th January, 10.30am	Morning Worship	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Sunday 26th January, 10.30am	Morning Worship	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Culter Kirk
Thursday 30th January, 11.30am	Short midweek service	Rev. Susan Sutherland	Durris Church

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

We had a full church on Remembrance Sunday and it was super to have so many children and young adults from the Boys' Brigade, Scouts and Pipe Band join us.

Our flower team did an amazing job at decorating the chancel area. The communion table was covered in knitted poppies from Drumoak and Peterculter Churches. The Anchor Boys did canvas paintings of the poppy fields using their fingerprints. The Junior Section decorated jars with poppies and put lights inside. As you can see these were very effective. Thanks to everyone who contributed to our display. At the end of the service £686 was collected for Poppy Scotland.



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.



FLOWERS

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

- Anne Dey
- Moira West
- Margaret Carmichael
- Moira Marshall
- Isabel McIntyre

We would like to wish you all a happy Christmas.

Convener: Violet Smith, 01224 733317

Treasurer: Mabel Taylor, 01224 732030



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.



DRUMOAK-DURRIS HOMEGROUP

On the 20th October Drumoak-Durris Homegroup hosted a Parish Coffee and Catch-up. This was a relaxed and enjoyable afternoon drinking tea/coffee and eating cakes while catching up and chatting with new and well kent faces.

As a group we recognise that although Culter, Drumoak and Durris are one Parish, people within the geographical area have connected with several different local churches. This was an occasion for all to come together regardless of our place and choice of worship. It is our hope to host another catch-up afternoon early in the New Year....

The Homegroup meets via Zoom at 7pm on Monday evenings and is open to all. There is no set format and it's very informal. We discuss a range of topics, sometimes focusing on certain Books of the Bible, sometimes discussing current affairs and how we apply our Christian Faith. If you want to know more ask Carol Leech or Martine Podesta.

PRESBYTERY MATTERS

Presbytery last met via Zoom on the evening of 5th of November. The former Moderator, The Very Rev Sally Foster-Fulton, introduced discussions on Legacies of Slavery with particular regard to an apology from the United Reformed Church (URC) at its General Assembly in 2022 for its role in the transatlantic slave trade. The apology was repeated at a service in Jamaica this year during an ecumenical pilgrimage.

Presbyters were put into a number of separate "rooms" on Zoom to discuss in small groups what lessons could be learned from the URC apology to possibly help Presbytery and the Church of Scotland if it is to make a similar apology in future.

Included in seven parts the URC:

- "humbly acknowledge our share in and benefit from our nation's participation and that of some of our own antecedent bodies in transatlantic slavery
- offers our apology to God and to our sisters and brothers in Africa, the Caribbean and their descendants, for all that has created and still perpetrates such deep hurt, which originated from the horror of slavery"

Following submission of comments, the meeting continued with Ordinary Business when reports were received from six Committees. With reports submitted before meetings, if there is nothing controversial, business can usually be completed expeditiously.

The next Presbytery meeting is on Tuesday 3rd December on Zoom.

Richard Little

PASTORAL SUPPORT

Rev. Susan Sutherland

07483 296859

susan.sutherland@sky.com

HOLIDAYS

Susan Sutherland will be on holiday from 6th - 15th January.

Pastoral Care will be provided by:

Rev Shuna Dicks, 01224 861692,

sdicks@churchofscotland.org.uk

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.

FUNERALS

Louisa (Bunty) Clark

Alexander (Sonni) Bowman

Margaret Rattray

Sheena Tait

Alexandria Sherriffs

THANKSGIVING SERVICE

Rachel Adam

INSTANT NEIGHBOUR DONATIONS

Our foodbank drop-off for Instant Neighbour takes place each Monday from 11am - 12 noon.

Alternatively you can bring goods on a Sunday morning and leave them in the basket at the Culter Church extension door.



**Instant
Neighbour**

**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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▸ DEddie@churchofscotland.org.uk

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▸ 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.

