

Cults Kirk

News

AUTUMN 2025



OFFICE:

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www.cultsparishchurch.co.uk

MINISTER:

Rev Shuna Dicks, 1 Cairnlee Terrace, Bieldside AB15 9AE

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✉ sdicks@churchofscotland.org.uk



PARISH REGISTER

BAPTISMS

James Francis Lang 3rd August 2025
Julian Graham Williamson 28th September 2025

WEDDING

Ross and Rohanne Taylor
Cults Parish Church 5th October 2025

Prayer Requests

Our prayer group are happy to take prayer requests. These can be left in the boxes in the Kirk Centre and Church, as well as in the box on the wall outside the entrance to the Main Hall on Quarry Road.

All prayers will be treated in confidence and only shared with the Prayer Group and Prayer Circle. All we need is a first name of the person and or a little about the circumstances to be prayed for. Please also seek permission from the person to be prayed for.



In Memoriam

Jesus said, 'I will be with you always, to the end of time' - Matthew 28:20

Our prayers remain with each and every family who has experienced the death of a loved one.

Gillian Smith	1 st	August 2025
Kathleen King	6 th	August 2025
John Y L Hay	18 th	August 2025
Lesley Ford	26 th	August 2025
Kathleen Sutherland	30 th	August 2025
Vilma Smith	6 th	September 2025
D Mearns	19 th	September 2025
Sandra Grant	29 th	September 2025
Catherine Stephen	29 th	September 2025
Marjory Smart	30 th	September 2025
Ian Suttie	4 th	October 2025
Joyce Reid		October 2025
Ian Montgomery	12 th	October 2025

CULTS GUILD

Dates for your Diary

Tuesday 4th November – Working with Asylum Seekers - Rev Gary Smith

Tuesday 18th November – ‘A War Hero’ - Dr Peter Fogiel

Tuesday 2nd December – Guild Christmas Party at 3pm

Meetings are at 2pm in Lochnagar at the Kirk Centre. Everyone is very welcome to attend any or all of the above meetings. Further information from Evelyn Sangster 01224 868038



Cults 50 Group



A warm welcome awaits all over 50s every Wednesday in Cults Kirk Centre. There is a speaker, tea and coffee and lots of chat. We have various activities like a Bridge and Scrabble Group, a Book Group, Rambling Group, and even a Theatre Group..

29 th October	‘Preserving Our History - From the Big to the Small’ - <i>John Lemon</i>
5 th November	‘A Career in Television - A Few Memories’ – <i>Sandy Craib</i>
12 th November	‘Wildflowers, Insects and Us’ - <i>John Malster</i>
19 th November	‘St Machar’s Cathedral – A Living History - The Story of the Book’ - <i>Clare Davidson</i>
26 th November	‘A War Hero’ - <i>Peter Fogiel</i>

If you would like to join us or find out any more, please contact Janette Glass on 07801 938883 or Marta Moody on 01224 867628 or just ‘Turn up’ on a Wednesday at 1.00pm.

Bridge & Board Games are enjoyed every Tuesday from 10-12, Rummikub, Upwords & Scrabble being the most popular. New members & guests will always be made most welcome.

For more information contact:- Lizzie Thomas 01224 869413

Message from our minister, Rev Shuna Dicks.....

Dear Friends,

As autumn has well and truly arrived, we are looking forward to many of our seasonal events in the coming months. I was sitting in the meeting of the Outreach Core Group last Friday and one of my thoughts was, what a well-oiled machine this group is. Each person brings something to the group; they know their role and slip into it seamlessly. The business was dealt with swiftly and we enjoyed a cuppa and a good blether. Being church need not be difficult. We are blessed at Cults to have so many people who give of their time to ensure what needs done gets done, and of course we are supported in this by our wonderful staff team.



If the whole body were just an eye, how could it hear? And if it were only an ear, how could it smell? ¹⁸ As it is, however, God put every different part in the body just as he wanted it to be. ¹⁹ There would not be a body if it were all only one part! ²⁰ As it is, there are many parts but one body.

1 Corinthians 12:17-20

But being church has its challenges. One of our areas of challenge at the moment is finding a successor (or successors) to our treasurer, Bruce. Bruce after many years in the role has made the decision to step back. We are grateful for all that Bruce has done to keep our financial records in good order, but Bruce stepping back leaves a gap in our team. Is this a gap you have the skills to fill? As well as keeping our accounts in order Bruce has also been responsible for our Payroll. Is this something you have the skills to help us with? Stepping into this role would mean joining a supportive team. None of us in Cults Parish Church works alone. Whilst Bruce will remain in post for a period of time, a volunteer coming forward now would enable them to learn from Bruce as the accounts and annual report for 2025 are prepared. If you are at all interested, please speak to myself or Graeme - we will not assume any commitment at this stage!

Meanwhile we look forward to all the coming months bring. I wish you all God's blessing,

Your friend and minister,

Shuna

JUSTICE AND PEACE CORE GROUP

The mission of the Justice and Peace Core group is to follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ in trying to address the inequalities and injustices in our world.

Locally we organise collections and deliveries to local food and clothing banks and collect clothing for the asylum seekers housed in Aberdeen. Further abroad we fundraise for Christian Aid through a variety of events held throughout the year. We also promote and sell Fairtrade products to support growers and producers in developing countries.

We bring to the attention of our congregation issues and causes that we feel are important and merit their support. This is often done through retiring offerings with donations made to selected charities and organisations. Representatives are invited to speak at Sunday Worship.

We have lobbied our MP to push the UK government to achieve resolution to the conflict in the Middle East and continue to try to engage with him on other issues.

We are a small group, and new members would be very welcome. If you would like more information please contact the Group Leader, Neville Taylor Tel: 07496 514429

ABERDEEN KILT WALK 1ST JUNE 2025

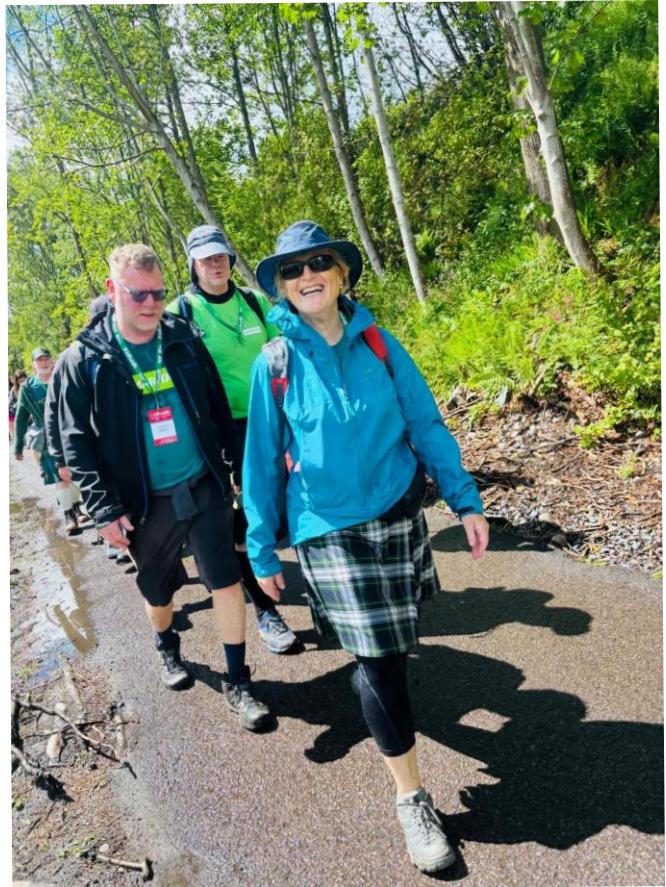
This year 6000 walkers set off from either Bellfield Park, Banchory (Mighty Stride - 18 miles) or Cults Academy (Wee Wander - 4 miles) finishing at Duthie Park. 518 charities participated and 1.27 million pounds were raised! Judy Farquharson and Stella Anderson participated:-

Judy chose the Mighty Stride. I walked from Banchory to Aberdeen to raise funds for the Aberdeen branch of Samaritans. Samaritans answer a call for help every 10 seconds day or night. They are always there to listen, without judgement, in times of crisis. We had a great day walking through sun, rain, and thunderstorms but it was all worth it! I met so many great people who volunteer for and support so many local and national charities.

Stella chose the Wee Wander. I was raising funds for Leprosy Mission, setting off in the rain from Cults Academy. Fortunately, the sun came through at times, and we had a pleasant walk down the Deeside way with lots of cheery folks.

As we arrived at Duthie Park we were presented with medals and a great welcome when we walked through the 'triumphal arch'. Food and entertainment were laid on for all the participants and there was a great atmosphere, with music and highland dancers putting on a great display.

We thoroughly enjoyed the outing and Judy and I would like to thank all our sponsors for their most generous donations.



BADMINTON

The Church Badminton Club meets on Monday evenings at 7.15p.m. in the main hall. We are a friendly and enthusiastic group with ages from mid twenties to mid eighties and if anyone wishes to come and join us, you will be most welcome. Mid way through the evening, there is time for tea/coffee and chat.

For more information, contact John Troup - Tel 07980894630

THE HUB CAFÉ IS OPEN TO EVERYONE, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY
FROM 10AM to 2PM FOR SNACKS, SCONES AND LIGHT LUNCHES.
TO VOLUNTEER, SPEAK TO SUSAN OR email:- hubcafe@cultsparishchurch.co.uk.



JOINING THE CHURCH

If anyone who either comes to church or worships on-line is interested in joining the Church, please contact Rev Shuna Dicks:- sdicks@churchofscotland.org.uk

CHRISTIAN AID

Cults Parish Church continues to support Christian Aid so here is an update along with a big "thank you" to everyone who supports and contributes to Christian Aid.

We had 22 volunteers delivering over 2500 envelopes during Christian Aid Week and with our Strawberry Tea in July, we were able to send them £2,700. We also contributed to the NENI Presbytery 'IN Their Lifetime' initiative.

We led the service on the 18th May in which as part of the service we intimated the planting of a plum tree in the church garden to celebrate 80 years of Christian Aid. Almost £100 went to Christian Aid from the recycling of ink cartridges. We had our walk on the old railway line on 7th September and as of the moment of writing this, we have raised a further £900 and that doesn't include what we raised at the Harvest lunch on 5th October. Once again, a very big "thank you".

CULTS MONDAY LUNCH CLUB

Come for lunch and a chat. Make some new friends, everyone very welcome to this friendly group.

We meet on Mondays at 12.00 at Cults Kirk Centre. The cost is £5 for a two-course lunch and a cup of tea/coffee.

Contact Jacky, tel 01224 861736 for more information. Booking necessary

Pilates
Aberdeen

SOLVEIG DAHLE SMITH

Cert. Pilates Inst. MAPPI
Retired Physiotherapist

CULTS KIRK CENTRE
Tuesday morning & evening
Friday morning
Contact details:-
solveig@pilatesaberdeen.com
www.pilatesaberdeen.com
01224 861421

MCKAY & INNES
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

154 North Deeside Road Peterculter: Tel 01224 730233
Contact us at: mckayandinnes@outlook.com

Cameron McKay & Callum Innes

*Let us help, guide, and support you
through a difficult time.*

Available 24 Hours

Pre Paid Funeral
Plans Available

SUPPORTING THE PRODUCERS

The price of coffee and chocolate on our fairtrade shelves at the Hub has risen sharply recently. This is due to climate change affecting the cocoa and coffee harvests. In order to keep prices at an affordable level our mark up on these items is now virtually zero. However, we are still trying to support three producer groups through Transform Trade every month so please if you purchase something put a little extra in the honesty box – it will go a long way to helping the following groups:

- Sadhna in India who employs 700 marginalized women in her garment factory.
- Tanzania Delicious Cashews owned and run by farmers who would like to build a factory to process the nuts.
- The Nyeri Chai Association who support Kenya's small holder tea industry.

Thank you!

ASYLUM SEEKERS

"We are not able to promote the charity at the moment with the current attitude by the far right, so we are struggling for donations"

"Anyone who is of ethnic minority is a target and it's making it an unpleasant environment. We had a young man brutally beaten by a mob of the far-right protesters. He's too scared to report it to the police! What has happened to Scotland?"

The words of Jayne Smith of the local charity AARC (Asylum and Refugee Care) in messages to me when acknowledging continuing donations from people associating with Cults Parish Church and in response to my enquiries of concern.

We probably all have a range of concerns depending on our political perspectives, but the fact is that asylum seekers are dispersed throughout the UK, including to Aberdeen and Aberdeenshire, in accordance with government policy as implemented by the UK Home Office. One particular issue is the length of time taken to process applications. This is not fair on the applicants and puts pressure on the system.

AARC and similar charities exist to support and advocate for asylum seekers in practical ways including supply of clothing and personal hygiene products, assistance in communicating with relatives left behind, assistance with navigating bureaucracy (in a foreign language), access to recreation and socialising. The weekly personal allowance from government would barely buy two fancy coffees from one of the well-known chains. Remember that asylum seekers are prohibited from paid employment. It is only when granted right to remain that they can enter the employment market and seek housing.

There is continuous turnover in the placements in Aberdeen so the demand for basic needs is continuous.

Our faith requires us to love our neighbour. Our neighbour can be anyone and will include those of different ethnicity, creed and gender to ourselves. Fundamentally we are all the same and we do not know if we ourselves could end up in a position looking for a humanitarian response.

For over two years now, I have been humbled by the generosity of many which has ensured an almost weekly delivery of clothes to the drop off point. Please consider the requirements noted below:

Adult male clothes and footwear in good condition as well as new underwear and socks (in original packaging). Outdoor wear is particularly welcome as is sportswear. All sizes but there is always a shortage of smaller sizes. Prospective donors may consider purchasing from charity shops.

Contact Bill Falconer to arrange drop off / collection or enquire at the church office (Kirk Centre) on weekday mornings.

MUSIC TO REMEMBER

We meet on the second Tuesday of the month at the Kirk Centre (Lochnagar) from 2pm-3.30pm to sing well known songs, have fun, a cup of tea and chat together. The group is for people with dementia, those who support them, and anyone else who enjoys singing and would like some company.

We're meeting on the following dates:

Tuesday 11th November 2025

Tuesday 9th December 2025

For more information or if you are interested in helping at the sessions please contact Brenda Lurie 01224 868850.



THE HUB CAFÉ

The Hub Café can now cater for Private Functions or Afternoon Teas which can be delivered to your home.



*Speak to Susan in the café or
email:- hubcafe@cultsparishchurch.co.uk*

KNIT AND NATTER

We meet every alternate Monday in Scolty at 2pm. We knit items for organisations and charities. For LINUS we knit blankets for children in hospital and wheelchair patients. For BLYTHSWOOD we knit hats, scarves and mittens for Christmas boxes. For the GUILD, we knit blankets and toddler jumpers for Malawi. For the PORT CHAPLAIN we knit hats for seamen visiting Aberdeen. For CARE HOMES we knit twiddle muffs for dementia patients. All sounds very worthy but in between we discuss all manner of serious and not-so-serious matters while drinking tea and eating biscuits. WE WOULD BE DELIGHTED IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN US AT ANY TIME!

HELP FOR THOSE STRUGGLING

We know that many people will be finding life financially difficult at the moment. If you know of anyone who is struggling, please let them know that we can help. We have contact details for agencies and groups that may be able to help.

Our Hub Café is also open to everyone. A number of coffees and teas have been paid for under a pay it forward scheme. Anyone wanting a free tea or coffee simply needs to ask for 'Tina' when placing their order. If anyone would like to pay for an extra cup of coffee or tea to support this scheme, they can do so by telling the server they wish to pay for 'Tina's' drink.



All types, costs and sizes of projects undertaken.

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All you have to do is call.

01224 313080

Coffee Morning

in aid of



THE
LEPROSY
MISSION

*Saturday 15th November
10.00 - 12.00 noon*



admission
£3

Hillside Parish Church



3 Hilton Drive
Aberdeen
AB24 4DN



*Stalls Christmas Cards/Gifts
Home bakes Tombola Bric-a-brac*

SANTA'S GROTTO

VISIT SANTA, JOIN IN CRAFTS AND SEE OUR AMAZING CHRISTMAS TREES. REFRESHMENTS WILL ALSO BE SERVED.

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER

CULTS PARISH CHURCH 2PM-3.45PM
COST £10 PER CHILD

CONTACT CAROL AT CAROL.SINK@YAHOO.COM OR TEL 07960158135
TO BOOK A TIME SLOT BY 26TH NOVEMBER

MONDAY SQUAD

Each Monday morning a small but enthusiastic group meet at the Church where a variety of jobs are undertaken e.g. repairing and varnishing outdoor chairs, washing windows, hoeing and raking the gravel paths, cutting and trimming all the grass and looking after all the flower beds and tubs.

This autumn, there have been many comments on the extremely colourful display of flowers around the Church and also Kirk Centre. Currently the pink nerine lilies are attracting a lot of attention. Next spring, some of the bulbs will be for sale if you are interested.

If you would like to join our group, please come along on Monday mornings at 9.15.



Front Cover: - Visitors to Cults Parish Church often comment favourably on our collection of stained glass windows and panels which grace both the Church and the Kirk Centre. The front cover shows the most recent one which was donated by the Kay family in memory of their parents, Douglas and Ann, who were elders in Cults East Church. You'll find it in Scolty, upstairs in the Kirk Centre, in front of the window which overlooks the Hub Café.