

# Jerome's Jottings

It seems to me that the traditional Scottish seasons have gone a bit out of kilter. The end of August and the beginning of September have seen excellent weather and glorious days. Spring at last!



## New beginnings

As if to echo the season, there has been a spate of new things happening at Polmont Church which has had us all basking in the warmth of this season:

- † the flower festival
- † the completion of the new car park
- † a new ministry to the babies and toddlers of the crèche
- † a new group for teenagers called Inspire meeting on Sundays
- † a new Alpha Course about to begin
- † a new group gathering together at 10:30 every Sunday to pray for the church and all that goes on in it
- † the Church website going online at the beginning of September

It really does seem like springtime, all these new things emerging. There is a definite sense of new life and growth, and it is wonderful to see and to be a part of it.

In spiritual terms, there are two characteristics of new life and spiritual growth: Friendship with God and communion with the followers of God.

## Friendship with God

Friendship with God is the first and most important step of new life. It is the letting go of all that keeps us from having a good relationship with God and an entering into God's embrace. We make this such a complicated affair, but it really is just a prayer away.

## Family of God



But once in the family of God, the next important step is that of community, or living together as the family of God. I must say that I have to look askance at those who call themselves believers, yet keep themselves away from God's family.

Often this 'self-imposed exile' has been the result of something hurtful that happened many years ago in the church community. This pain is held onto and new lifestyles are created around it, but that hurt does not go away. Sometimes this 'exile' is used as an excuse to cover up the truth that they did not want to be part of the community anyway!

Just as a family is diminished by the absence of one of its members at family gatherings, so is the family of God. There is much new life and many new beginnings taking shape in Polmont Old – come and be a part of it, rather than be apart from it.

*Jerome*

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## The Grid

The Grid is fun. When we come in, we play games like Chairball, French cricket and Noah's Ark Rounders in the big hall. Then we go through to the kitchen and get food like toasties, hot dogs, crisps and juice and we say grace.

Then we go to the small hall and eat it whilst watching a movie. David, Jerome and Gordon let us choose from the DVDs and videos available and we have seen lots of different films. During the film, we get sweets and biscuits.

After the film we split into groups according to our age and talk about the film and the messages it gives us. At the end we pray again, and go home.

Sometimes we have a Grid sleepover where we watch longer films and spend more time talking about them.

*Emma Bell and Lucy O'Brien*