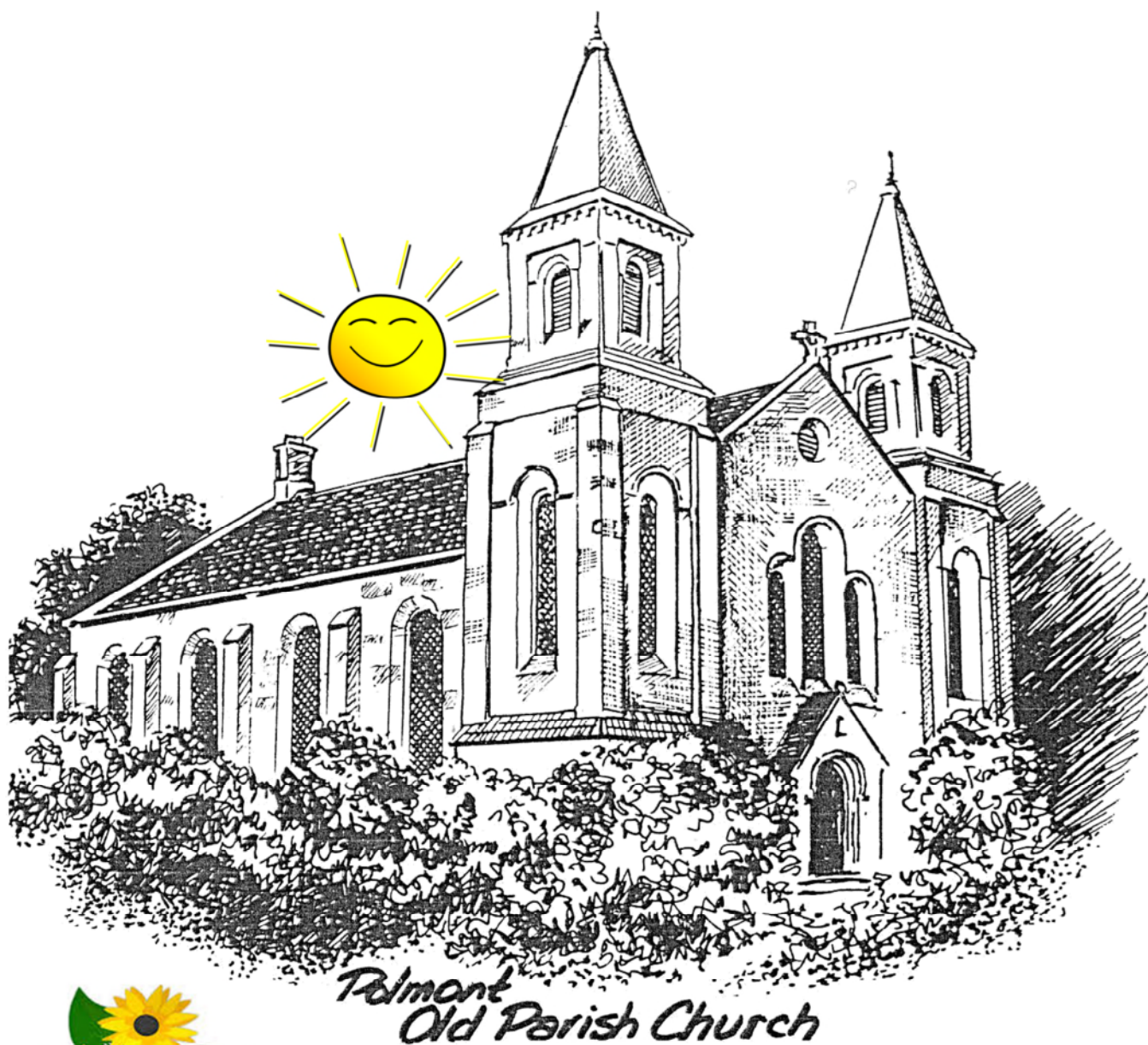


# TWINSPIRE

POLMONT OLD PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER  
[www.polmontold.org.uk](http://www.polmontold.org.uk)

SUMMER 2026  
Scottish Charity Number – SC003421



SUMMER  
TIME



## Sunday Worship at Polmont Old

11.00am



MORNING WORSHIP

12noon

ACTs (After Church Teas) in Fellowship Room

### WEEKLY EVENTS

which are continuing throughout  
the summer months

#### **MONDAYS**

12.00noon – 2.00pm \* **Baby Group** \* Church Hall

#### **THURSDAYS**

1.00pm – 3.00pm \* **Snowdrop Café** \* Church Hall

#### **FRIDAYS**

2.00pm - 3.00pm \* **Chair Keep-Fit Class** \* Church Hall

### COMMUNION SUNDAY

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2026

11.00am



*All welcome*

### DATES TO NOTE FOR JUNE & JULY

**27<sup>th</sup> JUNE to 12<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2026**

School Holidays

**WEDNESDAY 3rd June**

Wednesday Club summer outing to St Andrews

**SUNDAY 7<sup>th</sup> June**

11.00am – Communion Service

**SUNDAY 14<sup>th</sup> June**

12 noon (approx.) Annual church meeting to  
present the accounts

**WEDNESDAY 15<sup>th</sup> July**

Deadline for articles for Twinspire Summer  
Newsletter

**20<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> July**

BB Camp at St Andrews

**SUNDAY 26<sup>th</sup> July**

Twinspire Summer Newsletter distributed



### Minister

**Rev Debbie van Welie**

☎ 01324 715995

Session Clerk

Ian W McLean

Treasurer

Lorna Farquhar

Church & Hall

Administrator

Lynda McKechnie

### Church Office

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Polmont, FK2 0PT

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### Website

[www.polmontold.org.uk](http://www.polmontold.org.uk)



### PARISH REGISTER

#### PROFESSION OF FAITH & CONFIRMATION

Sunday 3 May 2026

Lisa PEARSON



#### DEATH

May 2026

Margaret LAING





### **A Farewell Prayer**

Jesus stands in the tradition of His forefathers, when He prays His farewell prayer in the presence of His disciples, in the Gospel of John<sup>1</sup>. Moses<sup>2</sup> and Jacob<sup>3</sup> spoke their last words through such a prayer, long before Jesus did.

The time to leave His disciples, and indeed the world, was for Jesus also the time to present His final report to God<sup>4</sup>. The purpose of Jesus' work on earth was to bring eternal life to people who believed He was God's Son; eternal life to those who chose to belong to Him and therefore, through Him, belonged to the Father: His disciples, standing there with them, hearing His prayer.

But what is eternal life?

Jesus gives the answer, when He says,

*And this is eternal life, that they know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent. (John 17:3)*

Knowing God and the One whom He sent, Jesus Christ: that is eternal life. The Sender and the One Whom He sent are One.

Returning to His glorious, heavenly home to be seated at the right hand of the Father, with whom He was one even before the world existed .... it meant letting go of His disciples, who remained in the world that was and is full of aggression; hatred; anger. Knowing that, Jesus brings them before God with the words,

*And I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, keep them in your name, which you have given me, that they may be one, even as we are one. (John 17:11)*

Oneness; unity, union .... that was what Christ prayed for, for His disciples. That is what Christ continues to plead for, for those who belong to Him now.

Union with Him implies union with one another, in Christ.

That is so while in the world there is resistance towards precisely that. In the world, but sadly also in the Church of which Christ is the Head. Resistance that is rooted in the insistence on sticking to all the different agendas to which God's purposes are made subordinate.

Meanwhile, God is patient. Yet, He still hides His face when disobedience lasts, as it says in the book Ezekiel,

*I dealt with them according to their uncleanness and their transgressions, and hid my face from them (39:24)*

Consequences of such disobedience have to be faced in order to learn what it says a few verses later:

*.... they shall know that I am the Lord their God (39:28)*

Belonging to Him means that there is no room for playing with Him.

Belonging to Him means having reverence for Him. Only from that reverence can thoughts, words and deeds flow that tune in with who He is: the Holy One.

Therefore, may we pray according to His Holy will. May we pray and act, driven and carried by the dynamic of love that flows from the Father to the Son; from the Son to those who belong to Him; and from those who belong to Him to one another.

*Yours in Christ*  
*Rev. Debbie van Welie*

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<sup>1</sup> John 17

<sup>2</sup> Deuteronomy 33

<sup>3</sup> Genesis 49

<sup>4</sup> Dr P.H.R van Houwelingen, *Johannes Het evangelie van het Woord*, page 333

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### **MISSION PLAN UPDATE**

Following the update in the last Twinspire, the congregation was advised that an information meeting would be held after the service on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April. Our facilitator, David Cameron, provided an update, and members of the congregation had the opportunity to ask questions. All members should then have received a letter during the following week with a summary of the information meeting, plus details of the vote on the Basis of Union, which was to take place on Sunday 19<sup>th</sup> April. Votes were also held on the same day at Laurieston and Redding & Westquarter churches.

#### **Results of the votes**

75 people were present for the vote at Polmont Old with 15 voting “for” the Basis of Union and 59 voting “against”.

In addition to voting for or against the Basis of Union, church law requires the *vacant* congregations also to vote for or against the sitting minister. A vote for the sitting minister could potentially overrule the vote against the Basis of Union.

The two votes of each vacant congregation were consistent:

Laurieston voted “against” both the Basis of Union and Debbie  
Redding and Westquarter voted “for” both the Basis of Union and Debbie

#### **What happens now?**

David Alexander and Keith Ross from the Presbytery Planning and Implementation Committee have given us the following update:

*“The Presbytery Planning and Implementation Committee provided a general update to the Presbytery meeting on 25th April 2026, following the votes of two of the Congregations against a Basis of Union. P&I are meeting at the end of the month and will reflect upon the voting results and consider any future possible options. Thereafter, we will consult with the Kirk Sessions on a way forward.”*

Please support the Planning and Implementation Committee by remembering them in your prayers, as they seek God’s guidance in considering the way ahead, while having the best interests of the three congregations in mind.



### **LETTER TO EDITOR**

An average church member,  
I have much feeling, love  
and respect for both Polmont Old (our  
members, minister and building), and for the  
changing Church of Scotland generally. At the  
same time (lest we disappear altogether, due  
to finance and fewer members), I believe we  
all understand why we too have to change -  
and therefore really must amalgamate with,  
and welcome, neighbouring churches, like  
our friends at Redding and at Laurieston.

Yes, this will be with pain for many, but also  
with promise of a positive stronger church  
i.e. a worship church that will be more  
effective and suitable for God's work, as well  
as being more manageable, more joyful all  
round, and striving - as it has to be, for  
helping the area's needy. We all can and have  
to, put in different efforts, but these will be  
eased beyond measure by God's certain help.  
A result will be our increased ability to be  
involved in helping those less fortunate than  
ourselves, a fundamental Christian belief and  
instruction.

I myself feel there's been inadequate  
information, countless rumours and hardly  
any simple open talking. Our respected  
leaders can help with these, and I ask for this  
help.

Deciding where ain't easy. Continuing  
indecisively or getting it wrong (and against  
the thoughts of a large majority) could mean  
losing too many members for a new worship  
church to be effective. This greatly concerns  
me and others. Our leaders are guiding us  
with experience and with meaningful  
good-will, but I suggest we all want early  
discussion, clear reasons for/against, and at  
least the airing of issues towards any worship  
church - before a final decision is handed  
down regarding the most suitable (or the  
least painful) one for us to meet God's  
purposes.

So . . . . I suggest you do talk to your elder,  
talk to other members, ignore rumours, think  
hard, and pray harder. We want what best  
suits our Lord and Master. Believe. Matters  
will resolve. Members, let's get our act  
together!

Note, the above is just my take on matters.  
I'm not privy to any current thinking.

*AVERAGE MEMBER, Ian*

P.S. While the Church of Scotland may be  
toiling for its future in some ways, I  
understand there is a big slowing down of the  
decline in membership, and over the last 5  
years, a fair number of brand new members  
have joined. This is good news, whatever we  
decide!

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### **DEADLINE FOR TWINSPIRE SUMMER NEWSLETTER**

This is due for publication on  
**Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> July 2026**

Deadline for the submission of articles is  
**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> July 2026**



Send articles by email to  
[twinspire@polmontold.org.uk](mailto:twinspire@polmontold.org.uk)

### **A Poem by Eddie Askew** **(from I've been thinking, Lord)**



There are so many uncertainties, Lord.  
So many things to worry about.  
People don't seem to get much better  
in the way they run things,  
but I believe that one day  
-- although I don't want to waste my time  
trying to work out when --  
one day  
I shall see your power and glory,  
when all things are made new.

*Contributed*



### **FINANCE UPDATE: MAY 2026**

Hello everyone, I wanted to start by thanking all of you who are continuing to support Christ's work in the world through your donations to the congregation of Polmont Old.

This report covers March and April 2026, and over that period the congregation received donations from the Brownies and the Share-A-Craft group, as well as the regular offerings we receive from our members and friends. I especially want to highlight the Spring Coffee Morning which raised a total of over £1200 for our hall fund. Thanks to everyone who was involved in organising this great event.

We also received the usual income from hall lets and two funerals, and our last payment from the Listed Places of Worship VAT scheme, which has now come to an end.

I'm pleased to say that we successfully applied for a grant from the Presbytery's Small Grants Scheme, to support a course on worship which Doug has taken part in. Encouraged by that, since then we've also applied for a grant from the Bargeddie Organ Fund, which is also administered by the Presbytery. We are waiting to hear the result of that application, which is intended to help with the cost of regular organ tuning and maintenance.

The Kirk Session approved our 2025 Report and Accounts in March, and these have now also been attested by Presbytery and submitted to OSCR. You can view them online via OSCR's website, at <https://www.oscr.org.uk/about-charities/search-the-register/charity-details?number=SC003421>

The accounts will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting, which is planned to take place after the service on Sunday 14 June. In the meantime, if you have any questions on the accounts, or if you are interested in learning more about our financial position, I'd be happy to help.

NB. The retiring offering following the communion service on June 7<sup>th</sup> will go to our mission projects in Bangladesh and Zimbabwe, In Bangladesh we support the Community Based Education Program run by the Christian Service Society, which works with poor children, their families and their communities. We also support Vicki Graham's work to provide medical help to the marginalised Tonga people in northern Zimbabwe, via the charity Operation Mobilisation.

*Lorna, on behalf of the Stewardship and Finance team (Lorna and Nancy)*



### **NEWS SNIPPETS FROM FALKIRK HERALD**

**Saturday 3 July 1926**

*I thought these were two very interesting local news reports from 100 years ago (Ed.)*

**SUNDAY SCHOOL TRIP** - On Thursday the children attending Polmont Parish Church Sunday School had their annual trip to Doune. There were 6 charabancs provided by H. Pender & Son, and the travellers numbered 180. The company assembled in the Public Park, where refreshments were served by Thos. Elder & Sons, bakers, Stirling. The afternoon was spent in sightseeing, and among the places visited were Doune Castle. The party arrived home about 10p.m., all having thoroughly enjoyed themselves.

**SUMMER HOLIDAYS** – All the schools throughout Polmont area closed on Wednesday last for the summer holidays, and will reopen again on September 6.



## 2ND POLMONT BOYS' BRIGADE

### Junior Section

It has been a busy session for the Junior Section. We have had our usual games and activities as well as some cooking, learning about Winter Olympics, making dragons for Chinese New Year, bookmarks for Mother's Day, Valentines treats, learning about Easter, and lots more.



Junior Section making bird feeders



Junior Section Valentine's Day



At the end of April we took part in the Battalion Sports where we finished in 2<sup>nd</sup> place out of 8 teams. Boys competed in sprint, obstacle and sack races.

Junior Section Sports

As part of their badgework we discussed how we can pray and the boys wrote a prayer of their own. The prayer below, which I read at our closing church service was written using the boys' prayers.

*Dear God*

*Thank you for the wonderful world you have given us to share with others. Thank you for the animals and wildlife. Thank you for the food we eat and the water we drink.*

*Please keep my family well and happy. Continue to protect my friends and relatives. I am thankful for my family who are always there for me when I need them most.*

*Thank you for looking after the people that help me and my family and the people who help me learn. Could you ask all those fighting in the world to stop. I want to stop war because people are losing their lives and it is sad.*

*Could you please help the weak, the homeless, those who are ill or scared and anyone who feels unsafe. I pray for those who are currently struggling or in a rough situation, send them help so that they can be given a chance to live a happy life. I hope you can help people who are sick get better.*

*I am sorry for not always being respectful as I should be to other people. I am sorry for getting angry at my parents and being mean to my brothers.*

*Help keep everyone on the right path.*

*I hope you are doing well.*

*Amen*



Junior Section at Closing Service

### **Company Section**

Have enjoyed a full programme again this session, spending time doing First Aid, cooking, photography and DIY. They have also learned about Winter Olympics, spent an evening doing communication based activities and had an Easter Escape Room. Boys have also continued to enjoy playing volleyball at the end of the evening and occasionally doing some vaulting.

Our Volleyball team won the Battalion Volleyball competition for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year.



Company Section Table top Curling



Company Section DIY



Company Section Colour Party  
at Closing Service

### **Awards Night**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> of May it was our annual awards night for Junior and Company Section. Well done to all the boys on achieving their awards last and a special mention to all our trophy winners.

### Junior Section

Talman Trophy - Noelis

Best Recruit - Murray

Best Boy - Jack L

### Company Section

Barrie Morris Trophy - First Aid – Euan.

125 Trophy – Harry.

Anderson Challenge Shield - Volleyball Team.

Derick Turner Leadership Shield – Logan.

2nd Polmont Quaich for Best All Round Boy – Kian.

President's Badges were presented to Calum, Aaron and Harry.

Gregor and Mason became our new King's Men.

And it was the last awards night for Alfie, Moray and Blair.



Company Section Volleyball team

Congratulations to everyone. And thanks to all the family and friends who came along to support the boys on their special night.

*Alan & Helen Ward*

### Anchor Boys

We had a very busy term learning lots of new things, songs for our Burns Supper, New Games and Learning to Tell the Time. At the end of February we all had a great day at our Annual Anchor Boy Fun Day in Larbert with all the other Anchor Boys from across the Falkirk Area. We had a puppet show, played games and made Noah's Ark pictures.



After the Easter holidays, with the weather being nice and sunny, we have



had a few nights out at the parks playing games and having fun.

We had our Awards Night on the 21<sup>st</sup> May when all our boys received their Service Badges and Anchor Awards. We say goodbye to 3 Anchor Boys - Tom, Calum and Caleb who are moving onto Junior Section after the summer; we will miss you but hope you have the best time with Mrs Ward at Junior Section.



Awards Night

We are going to finish off this year with our sports night on the 28<sup>th</sup> May and hope the weather is nice, so that our parents and family can join us.

*Lynda McKechnie, Mrs Simpson and Cerys*



Some Anchor Boy Awards



Bouncy Castle fun



Mums & Dads join in the fun





# CHURCH ROTAS



|                  | Welcome Teams<br> | Flower Donors<br> | Flower Distributors<br> | After Church Teas ACTs<br> |
|------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>JUNE</b>      |                                                                                                    |                                                                                                    |                                                                                                           |                                                                                                               |
| 7 <sup>th</sup>  | C                                                                                                  | Janet Anderson                                                                                     | Team C                                                                                                    | Helpers required                                                                                              |
| 14 <sup>th</sup> | C                                                                                                  | Vena Learmonth                                                                                     | Team C                                                                                                    | Helpers required                                                                                              |
| 21 <sup>st</sup> | C                                                                                                  | Margaret Struthers                                                                                 | Team C                                                                                                    | Helpers required                                                                                              |
| 28 <sup>th</sup> | C                                                                                                  | VACANT                                                                                             | Team C                                                                                                    | Helpers required                                                                                              |
| <b>JULY</b>      |                                                                                                    |                                                                                                    |                                                                                                           |                                                                                                               |
| 5 <sup>th</sup>  | D                                                                                                  | Margaret Slater                                                                                    | Team D                                                                                                    | Helpers required                                                                                              |
| 12 <sup>th</sup> | D                                                                                                  | VACANT                                                                                             | Team D                                                                                                    | Helpers required                                                                                              |
| 19 <sup>th</sup> | D                                                                                                  | Helen Young                                                                                        | Team D                                                                                                    | Helpers required                                                                                              |
| 26 <sup>th</sup> | D                                                                                                  | Allison Andrews                                                                                    | Team D                                                                                                    | Helpers required                                                                                              |
| <b>CONTACT</b>   |                                                                                                    | Nancy Rule                                                                                         | Nancy Rule                                                                                                | Margaret Connor                                                                                               |



As you will see from the above table, ACTs is looking for volunteers to put their names down on Margaret's list to serve the teas/coffees after Sunday morning service.



There are some vacant days for the donation of flowers to enhance the church on Sunday mornings.



Speak to Nancy, if this is something you would like to contribute to.

*Photo on the left:*

Pamela made this for Remembrance last year. I thought it was showing great skills and our church should see how talented she is.

*Contributed by Jean Glen*