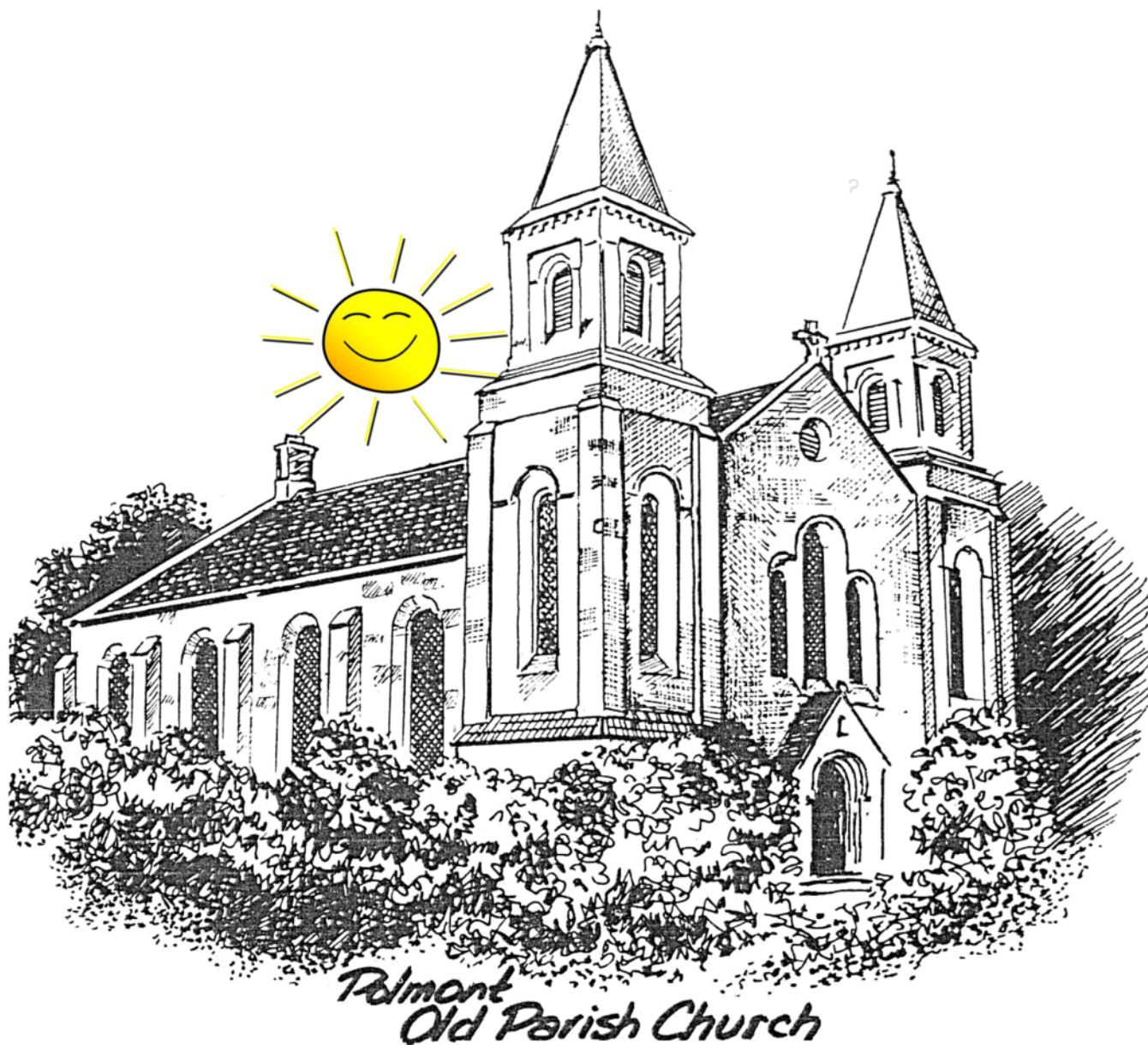


TWINSPIRE

POLMONT OLD PARISH CHURCH NEWSLETTER
www.polmontold.org.uk

SUMMER 2026 ISSUE 108
Scottish Charity Number – SC003421



A time for everything

It is now more than three months since Polmont Old members voted with an overwhelming majority against the union. This put me in the position where I had to consider the options that were available to me. I knew from experience that only from one of them, a path would emerge. And it did.

What I actually mean is, "God did it again".

Many of you would have heard that I will be retiring from parish ministry and moving to St Andrews at the end of September, with Sunday the 27th September being my last service.

My ministry at Polmont Old had both good and bad times, while I always felt carried by the One who directed me to Polmont in the first place. During the eleven and a half years that I served as a parish minister, I was never left without guidance from above. I am grateful to those who, each in their own way, gave me support.

Last week, the path towards retirement was further shaped, as I was offered the post of Assistant Chaplain by the University of St Andrews.

God is a personal God. He knows each individual He created and hopes that they want to know *Him*. If the latter is the case, it means that you get training: spiritual training that involves the heart and mind with which His word is received....or not received.



Change cannot be avoided. Personal choices have been made and will have to be made. Whatever choice that may be, my hope and prayer for you are that it will be carried by the words of a Dutch hymn that I share with you, as they always have given and continue to give me solid ground under my feet,

'Whatever the future may bring, the Lord's Hand guides me. Therefore, it is with courage that I lift my eyes up to the unknown land.'

Every blessing,
Rev Debbie van Welie

Update on Planning and Implementation Engagement

Following the votes of the Lower Braes Cluster, together with the news that Rev Deborah Van Welie had discerned that she should demit, the Planning and Implementation Committee have been deliberating the possible options they might discuss with you. I am able to advise that Committee representatives will shortly be in touch to organise a meeting with Cluster Representatives that will hopefully take place in the week beginning 17 August 2026.

I realise that this is a time of uncertainty for the Cluster and for Polmont Old as a Congregation whose Minister has made the difficult decision to demit, and I pray that you will know a sense of God's peace and leading as you seek to find a way forward that helps to ensure God's kingdom can be shown and known in your local communities.

Kind regards



Fiona Crawford, Presbytery Clerk: Forth Valley and Clydesdale

Sunday Worship at Polmont Old

11.00am



MORNING WORSHIP

12noon

ACTs (After Church Teas) in Fellowship Room

*** NEWS FLASH ***

VOTE FOR THE UNION OF **
THE LOWER BRAES CHURCHES

SUNDAY 13TH SEPTEMBER 2026
AT CLOSE OF THE MORNING SERVICE

2nd POLMONT BOYS' BRIGADE

OPENING SERVICE



~~SUNDAY 13th SEPTEMBER 2026~~
**** NOW SUNDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER 2026 ****
11.00am

Please come and support the boys



Minister

Rev Debbie van Welie

01324 715995

Session Clerk

Ian W McLean

Treasurer

Lorna Farquhar

Church & Hall

Administrator

Lynda McKechnie

Church Office

Church Hall
Main Street,
Polmont, FK2 0PT
 01324 715995

email: contactus@polmontold.org.uk

Website

www.polmontold.org.uk



LOWER BRAES JOINT SERVICE

SUNDAY 27th SEPTEMBER 2026

11.00am

Polmont Old Parish Church

This will be **Debbie's last Sunday**
as our minister.

Please come and join us to wish her
well in her retirement.

DEADLINE FOR NEXT EDITION OF TWINSPIRE

The next issue is due for publication on
Sunday 27th September 2026

Deadline for the submission of articles is
Wednesday 16th September 2026



@ @ @ @ @

Send articles by email to:

twinspire@polmontold.org.uk

We continue to be blessed with the dedication
of our relief organists, most recently James,
Margaret and Alastair, who give of their time
to lead us and the choir in worship
each Sunday.



A HUGE **Thank You**
from Polmont Old Congregation



STEWARDSHIP AND FINANCE UPDATE

Recently I was looking through the book “Living Generously” which was published by the Church of Scotland Stewardship team in 2024. People are sometimes confused by the word “Stewardship”. The book gives a nice explanation, explaining that it was originally used to refer to caring for the affairs of a household. A “steward” was someone who decided how best to use those things which were entrusted to them, but which they didn’t own. (This is the origin of the surnames “Stewart” and “Stuart”).

In the same way, the things that we “have” are not really ours: everything belongs ultimately to God, but He allows us to choose how we make use of it. As Christians our stewardship doesn’t just refer to the choices we make about our money, but also to all the other choices we make in our lives. If anyone is interested in exploring this further I’d be happy to lend you the book. It is full of things to think about to help us be effective and joyful stewards in all areas of our lives.

As your Finance team, we try to be good stewards of the congregation’s funds. This includes regular reporting to the Kirk Session as well as the update at the congregation’s annual meeting each year, and the Finance updates in each Twinspire.

During May and June, in addition to donations from members and friends, we received income from hall lets, ACTS, sales of Sandra’s jam and our holdings in the Church of Scotland Investors Trust. We also received donations for use of the hall, including donations from the Baby Group and the Wednesday Club.

All our normal bills have been paid as usual, plus some repairs and maintenance. We continue to take all “fabric-related” expenditure from our restricted fabric fund.

The retiring offering at the start of Christian Aid week raised £214.85, and this has been sent to Christian Aid.

The retiring offering after the June communion service was for the mission work we support in Bangladesh and Zimbabwe. We added this to the money from the retiring offering after the February communion service, and sent around £136 each to the Christian Service Society (for Bangladesh) and Operation Mobilisation (for Zimbabwe) in July. (You’ll see the thank you emails elsewhere in this Twinspire.)

Also in July, we have sent £122.70 to the DEC Venezuela earthquake appeal. This was taken from the money raised through “Jars of Grace”.

These donations to other charities and good causes, plus all the work done by our congregation locally, would not be possible without the support of our members and friends. We are very grateful to all of you for your support.

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

JARS OF GRACE



A reminder that we are still collecting Jars of Grace for mission projects.
Just pop your small change into a jar and when it is full,
hand it in to church or give it to your elder.



Fridah with her sons Eliud and Ablud and grandson Quillan.

Dear Lorna

Your gift of £214.85 - whether given personally, through your church, or your Christian Aid Group - is helping communities thrive. Thanks to support like yours, people are gaining the skills, confidence and opportunities they need to build a brighter, fairer future.

Your generosity is helping communities thrive by supporting partners like Beacon of Hope, equipping urban farmers like Fridah with training, tools and seeds.

"When I harvest what I've planted, it makes me happy. Urban farming has changed my life."

Thanks to support like yours, Fridah can now grow food for her family and earn a reliable income.

Your gift is helping people gain the skills, confidence and opportunities they need to build a brighter, fairer future.

Thank you again for your support,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Senior".

Jay Senior

Community Fundraising and Volunteering Lead

HELP. HELP. ARE WE LOST IN A VACUUM? WHAT IS HAPPENING TO US NOW?

All of us Polmont Oldies care massively about the future of our beloved church and its members, and also about Debbie, our esteemed minister (who is leaving us to retire) - and yet, following the hefty surprising vote not to amalgamate with Redding, we don't seem to have much word or info from **our controllers** about what is possibly ahead. I feel we're in a **communication vacuum** - not being informed or knowing about our future situation, not that it's easy.

Controllers is perhaps an odd word I agree, but they exist! Could be our elders, presbytery, or Edinburgh head office - or a combination of all. Whatever, we are quite desperate to know from them what options (if any) may be ahead. **Hear our cri de coeur** . . . please, will those who feel they know and understand our situation, communicate and openly inform us, the average congregational members. By any method will do.

Our good Lord will guide us without any doubt, but be aware that you, yes you, and I, have at least a small part or element in saying what happens next to our church building, congregation, and amalgamating plans. An awful thought is these could all just fade away into almost nothing - that would be a real crying matter, and dreadful for all of us and for our faith. So **together, we do not let this happen.**

Prayers really do help. At the same time, ask your session elder to push for informative option announcements on Polmont Old's future. This is so important to every single one of us, on our journey in faith and togetherness in life.

A hugely concerned average member.



UPDATE FROM THE SNOWDROP CAFÉ

As always a massive thank you to everyone that supports the Community Café every Thursday between 1pm and 3 pm. We wouldn't have been able to support the number of charities that we have without your very generous donations .To date we have donated ££32,051.50 to local charities.

We had a wonderful day out on the 17th June to Pitlochry, House of Bruar and later to Auchterarder Golf Club for a lovely meal. Some people stayed in Pitlochry while the majority went on to Bruar. As always these trips are arranged by Alice Cumming who negotiates the best possible prices, so a big thank you to Alice for another successful trip!

*Helen Watson
On behalf of The Snowdrop Café*



Rosemary presenting a cheque for
£500.00 to Maggie's representative



Dear Friends at Polmont Old Parish Church,

We confirm that your gift of **£136.44** in support of **Vicky Graham** has been received.

Thank you for your support.

Finance Team
OM in the UK

Gift Details

Payer: Polmont Old Parish Church

Fundraiser:

Address: Rev Deborah Van Wellie, Main Street, Polmont, Falkirk,
Stirlingshire, FK2 0PT, United Kingdom

Date: 10 July 2026

Method: Bank transfer

Reference: 8892-20260710

Amount: £136.44

Allocation: Vicky Graham,

Your details shared with this OM worker

Name: Yes

Contact details: Yes

You can read stories of [God at work here](stories of God at work here).
You can manage your communication preferences, details shared with gift recipients and review your current Gift Aid status via our [PARTNER PORTAL](#).
Please contact the finance team at finance.uk@om.org if you have any questions or require further assistance with this gift or Gift Aid declaration.

OM in the UK processes and stores personal data using Beacon CRM and payment data using Stripe, PayPal, and GoCardless. Further details are available at www.uk.om.org/beacon.

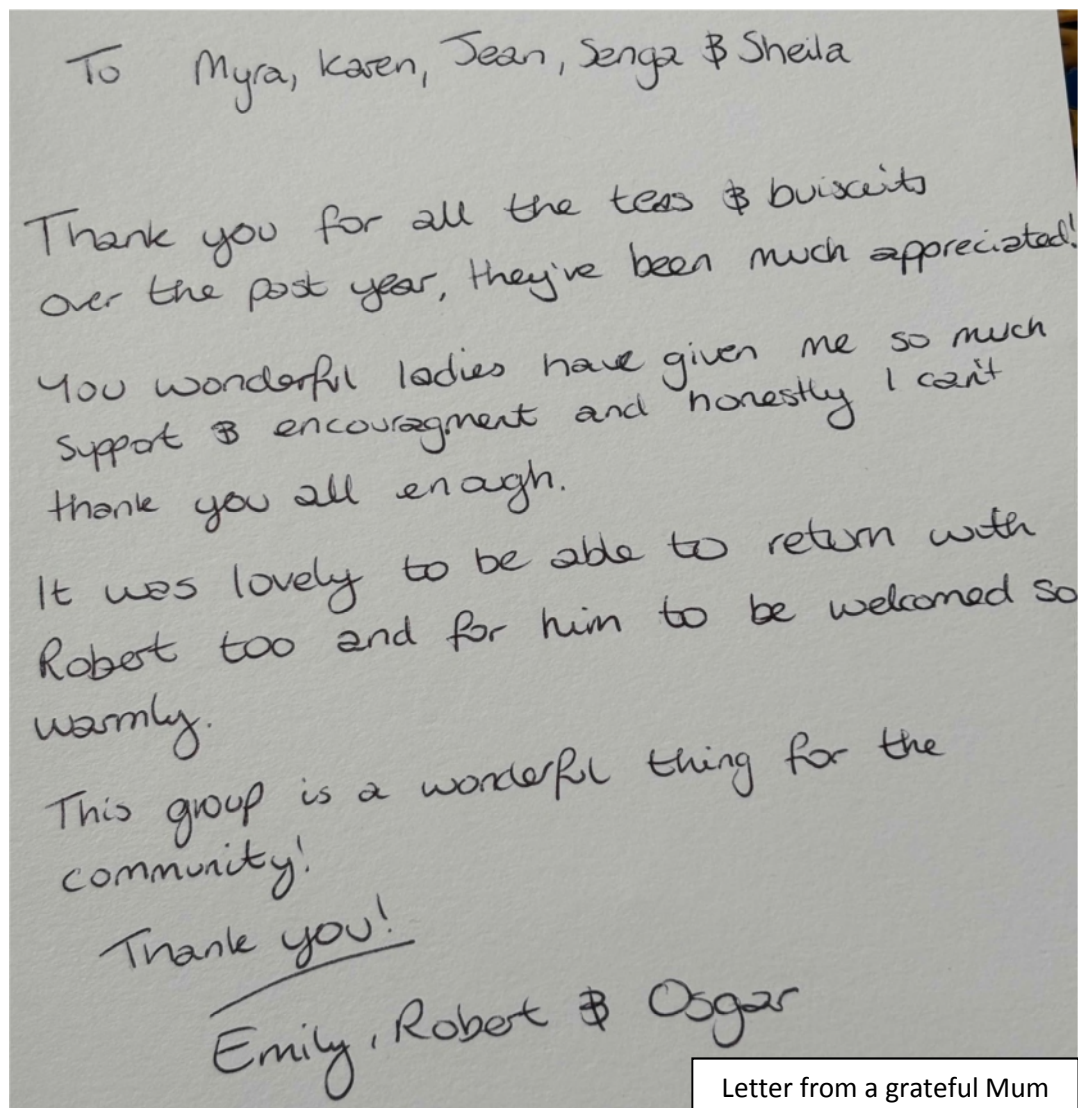
*Operation Mobilisation registered office: The Quinta, Weston Rhyn,
Oswestry, Shropshire, SY10 7LT.
Registered as a company limited by guarantee no. 2564320 and charity
no.1008196 (England and Wales).*

THE BABY GROUP

We will be continuing through the summer and link with the buggy walk each week on Mondays at 12 until 2pm. BUT we are taking a holiday on two Mondays – 3rd and 10th August.



Sheila Redfern has joined us and we are very happy to have her as one of the Grannies.



Letter from a grateful Mum

BIBLE VERSES FOR SUMMER

Matthew 24:32 "Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near."

Proverbs 10:5 "He who gathers crops in summer is a prudent son, but he who sleeps during harvest is a disgraceful son."

Proverbs 30:25 "Ants are creatures of little strength, yet they store up their food in the summer;"

DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal
£122.70 on 15th July 2026

Dear Lorna Farquhar,
Treasurer - Polmont Old Parish Church

Thank you so much for your generous donation to the DEC Venezuela Earthquake Appeal.

Your kindness is already making a real difference. Because of your support, DEC member charities and their trusted local partners are reaching people in urgent need with life-saving aid. From the moment the earthquakes struck, they have been on the ground helping with search and recovery efforts and providing emergency shelter, food, clean water and medical care.

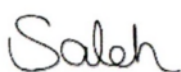
DEC charities have worked in Venezuela for many years, building strong local partnerships that made it possible to respond quickly when this crisis unfolded. Today, we continue to adapt to changing needs, ensuring help gets to those who need it most, when they need it most.

Your donation is not just meeting immediate needs but will help to support families as they begin to rebuild their lives in the weeks and months ahead. It is part of the longer journey of recovery, hope, and resilience.

If you'd like to see how your generosity is making an impact, you can follow the work of DEC charities by visiting our website at dec.org.uk or by following us on Instagram @disasteremergencycommittee.

On behalf of everyone your support will reach, thank you once again for your compassion and solidarity at such a difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

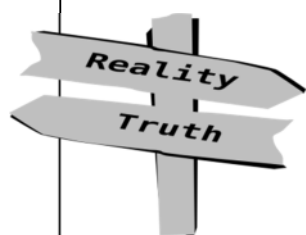


Saleh Saeed
DEC Chief Executive



DEC Member Charities:
ActionAid UK
Action Against Hunger UK
Age International
British Red Cross
CAFOD
CARE International UK
Christian Aid
Concern Worldwide (UK)
International Rescue Committee UK
Islamic Relief Worldwide
Oxfam GB
Plan International UK
Save the Children UK
Tearfund
World Vision UK

Company No: 33556
Register Charity No. 1062638



GREAT TRUTHS THAT ADULTS HAVE LEARNED!!

Families are like fudge...mostly sweet, with a few nuts.

Laughing is good exercise. It's like jogging on the inside.

Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone.

It's frustrating when you know all the answers, but nobody bothers to ask you the questions.

Strathcarron
HOSPICE



45 Years
IN THE HEART OF
our communities

Coffee Morning

Saturday 29th August 2026

Polmont Church Hall

10.00am – 1.00pm



Calling all Home Bakers

Donations of home baking will be gratefully received
early at the Hall on the Saturday morning.
Or speak to Helen Watson or Lynda McKechnie

An atheist objected strongly to teaching religion in schools. His argument was that children should be allowed to reach maturity, then decide for themselves what they choose to believe.

Coleridge the poet, who heard the atheist, invited him to join him in his garden which happened to be overgrown with weeds.

"What do you see?" asked Coleridge.

"It's nothing but a patch of weeds," replied the atheist.

"Yes," said Coleridge, "I decided to let the garden decide for itself what it should grow."





CHURCH ROTAS



	Welcome Teams 	Flower Donors 	Flower Distributors 	After Church Teas ACTs 
AUGUST				
2 nd	E	Nancy Rule	Team E	Helpers required
9 th	E	VACANT	Team E	Bob & Margorie Gregory
16 th	E	James Morris	Team E	Carol Hogg Janet Mason
23 rd	E	Allison Andrews	Team E	Liz Erskine
30 th	E	Nancy Rule	Team E	Helpers required
SEPTEMBER				
6 th	A	VACANT	Team A	Helpers required
13 th	A	Sandra Reid	Team A	Liz Erskine
20 th	A	Nancy Rule	Team A	Helpers required
27 th	A	Jean Porter	Team A	Helpers required
CONTACT		Nancy Rule	Nancy Rule	Margaret Connor



WEDNESDAY CLUB

Age Concern meetings have now concluded for the summer and will recommence on Wednesday 9th September. Our last meeting in the hall was afternoon tea followed by entertainment.

Our summer outing the first week in June was to St Andrews, followed by High Tea at the Bay Hotel, Kinghorn which was enjoyed by all. This was also a special day for Betty Glen, who is retiring as President after 55 years. Betty was presented with a brooch and a bouquet of flowers.

The Committee is looking forward to meeting with members in September and extends an invitation to anyone who would like to join us then. We wish all members a very happy summer break.

Janice Morrison
Secretary

SUMMER SUN

~ Robert Louis Stevenson ~



Great is the sun, and wide he goes
Through empty heaven without repose;
And in the blue and glowing days
More thick than rain he showers his rays.

Though closer still the blinds we pull
To keep the shady parlour cool,
Yet he will find a chink or two
To slip his golden fingers through.

The dusty attic spider-clad,
He, through the keyhole, maketh glad;
And through the broken edge of tiles,
Into the laddered hay-loft smiles.

Meantime his golden face around
He bares to all the garden ground,
And sheds a warm and glittering look
Among the ivy's inmost nook.

Above the hills, along the blue,
Round the bright air with footing true,
To please the child, to paint the rose,
The gardener of the World, he goes.

KIRK DIARY FOR AUGUST & SEPTEMBER

AUGUST

Sunday 2nd

Morning Service * 11.00am
ACTs * 12noon * Fellowship Room

Monday 3rd

NO Baby Group

Thursday 6th

Snowdrop Café * 1.00pm – 3.00pm * Church Hall

Friday 7th

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

Sunday 9th

Morning Service * 11.00am
ACTs * 12noon * Fellowship Room

Monday 10th

NO Baby Group

Wednesday 12th



Thursday 13th

Snowdrop Café * 1.00pm – 3.00pm * Church Hall

Friday 14th

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

Sunday 16th

Morning Service * 11.00am
Kidzone * 11.00am * Church
ACTs * 12noon * Fellowship Room

Monday 17th

Baby Group * 12noon - 2.00pm * Church Hall

Thursday 20th

Snowdrop Café * 1.00pm – 3.00pm * Church Hall
BB Anchor Boys Enrolment * 6.00pm * Church Hall

Friday 21st

Chair Keep-Fit Class * 2.00pm – 3.00pm * Church Hall
BB Junior Section & Company Section Enrolment * 6.30pm - 7.30pm * Church Hall

Sunday 23rd

Morning Service * 11.00am
Kidzone * 11.00am * Church
ACTs * 12noon * Fellowship Room

Monday 24th

Baby Group * 12noon - 2.00pm * Church Hall

Thursday 27th

Snowdrop Café * 1.00pm – 3.00pm * Church Hall
BB Anchor Boys * 6.00pm – 7.00pm * Church Hall

Friday 28th

Chair Keep-Fit Class * 2.00pm – 3.00pm * Church Hall
BB Junior Section * 6.30pm - 8.00pm * Church Hall
BB Company Section * 7.30pm – 9.30pm * Church Hall

Saturday 29th

STRATHCARRON COFFEE MORNING * 10.00am – 1.00pm * Church Hall

Sunday 30th

Morning Service * 11.00am
Kidzone * 11.00am * Church
ACTs * 12noon * Fellowship Room

Monday 31st

Baby Group * 12noon - 2.00pm * Church Hall

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 3rd

Snowdrop Café * 1.00pm – 3.00pm * Church Hall
BB Anchor Boys * 6.00pm – 7.00pm * Church Hall

Friday 4th

Chair Keep-Fit Class * 2.00pm – 3.00pm * Church Hall
BB Junior Section * 6.30pm - 8.00pm * Church Hall
BB Company Section * 7.30pm – 9.30pm * Church Hall

Saturday 5th

POLMONT FLOWER SHOW * 2.00pm – 4.00pm * Greenpark Centre

Twinspire #108 † July 2026

Sunday 6th

Morning Service * 11.00am
Kidzone * 11.00am * Church
ACTs * 12noon * Fellowship Room

Monday 7th

Baby Group * 12noon - 2.00pm * Church Hall

Wednesday 9th

Age Concern Wednesday Club * 2.00pm – 4.00pm
* Church Hall

Thursday 10th

Snowdrop Café * 1.00pm – 3.00pm * Church Hall
BB Anchor Boys * 6.00pm – 7.00pm * Church Hall

Friday 11th

Chair Keep-Fit Class * 2.00pm – 3.00pm * Church Hall
BB Junior Section * 6.30pm - 8.00pm * Church Hall
BB Company Section * 7.30pm – 9.30pm * Church Hall

Sunday 13th ** VOTE FOR THE UNION **

Morning Service * 11.00am
Kidzone * 11.00am * Church
ACTs * 12noon * Fellowship Room
12 NOON * VOTE FOR THE UNION OF THE LOWER BRAES CHURCHES *

Monday 14th

Baby Group * 12noon - 2.00pm * Church Hall

Wednesday 16th

Age Concern Wednesday Club * 2.00pm – 4.00pm
* Church Hall
Deadline for articles for Autumn edition of
Twinspire

Thursday 17th

Snowdrop Café * 1.00pm – 3.00pm * Church Hall
BB Anchor Boys * 6.00pm – 7.00pm * Church Hall

Friday 18th

Chair Keep-Fit Class * 2.00pm – 3.00pm * Church Hall
BB Junior Section * 6.30pm - 8.00pm * Church Hall
BB Company Section * 7.30pm – 9.30pm * Church Hall

Sunday 20th NEW DATE * BB OPENING SERVICE

Morning Service * 11.00am
ACTs * 12noon * Fellowship Room

Monday 21st

Baby Group * 12noon - 2.00pm * Church Hall

Wednesday 23rd

Age Concern Wednesday Club * 2.00pm – 4.00pm
* Church Hall

Thursday 24th

Snowdrop Café * 1.00pm – 3.00pm * Church Hall
BB Anchor Boys * 6.00pm – 7.00pm * Church Hall

Friday 25th

Chair Keep-Fit Class * 2.00pm – 3.00pm * Church Hall
BB Junior Section * 6.30pm - 8.00pm * Church Hall
BB Company Section * 7.30pm – 9.30pm * Church Hall

Sunday 27th LOWER BRAES JOINT SERVICE

Morning Service * 11.00am * Polmont Old *
DEBBIE'S LAST SERVICE
Kidzone * 11.00am * Church
ACTs * 12noon * Fellowship Room
Autumn Edition of Twinspire issued

Monday 28th

Baby Group * 12noon - 2.00pm * Church Hall

Wednesday 29th

Age Concern Wednesday Club * 2.00pm – 4.00pm
* Church Hall

Thursday 30th

Snowdrop Café * 1.00pm – 3.00pm * Church Hall
BB Anchor Boys * 6.00pm – 7.00pm * Church Hall

ADVANCE NOTICE

Sunday 4th October

COMMUNION * 11.00am * Church

*There are two days in my calendar:
This day and that Day
~ Martin Luther ~*

*"Calendars and clocks exist to measure time, but
that signifies little, because we all know that
an hour can seem as eternity, or pass in a flash."*

*"Don't be fooled by the calendar. There are only
as many days in the year as you make use of."*