

**Church of Scotland
Scone & St Martins Parish**



Church News

April/May 2026

Parish Register

Deaths

| | |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| 5 February 2026 | Yvonne Barr, Scone |
| 6 February 2026 | Jean Thomson, Kinrossie |
| 1 March 2026 | Christine Munro, Perth |
| 2 March 2026 | Allison Fowler, Scone |
| 2 March 2026 | Jim Nicol, Scone |

Church News

Material for the next edition should be forwarded to the church office (tel 553900; email sconeandstmartinschurch@gmail.com) or to the editor Moira Daly (moiradalyscone54@gmail.com) by Thursday 28 May 2026. Please send in any items you think will be of interest to the congregation.

Church Office

| | | |
|------------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| Opening hours: | Wednesday | 9.30 am to 12 noon |
| | Friday | 4.30 pm to 6.00 pm |
| Email and Phone only: | Monday | 9.30 am to 12 noon |
| | Friday | 9.30 am to 11.00 am |
| Address: | Balformo Road, Scone, PH2 6QX | |
| Contact: | 01738 553900 or email sconeandstmartinschurch@gmail.com | |

If you know of anyone who requires a visit from the minister or an elder, please hand in the details at church on Sunday or to the church office.

PRAYER CHAIN

A Telephone Prayer Chain is available to support in prayer any person/s in the church or community, or their family or friends whether living here or elsewhere, particularly if urgent prayer is required for matters such as illness, operations or other problems. Phone requests to Lilian at 01738 553651 or, if she is unavailable, to Frances at 01738 552681.

Dear Friends,

We are now officially into Spring time and isn't that cheering news. Mind you on the day on which I write I am reminded of the old saying, "ne'er cast a clout 'til May be oot". I hope you approve my spelling of the Scots. Given the state of the world at present and all the rain we have known, I hope you are taking some blessing from the spring season having arrived.

Soon we will be singing, "The Glory of the Spring how sweet". Here are some verses to refresh your memory:

The glory of the spring how sweet! The new-born life how glad! What joy the happy earth to greet, in new, bright raiment clad!

Divine Redeemer, Thee I bless; I greet Thy going forth; I love Thee in the loveliness of Thy renewed earth.

But O these wonders of Thy grace, these nobler works of Thine, these marvels sweeter far to trace, these new births more divine:

This new-born glow of faith so strong, This bloom of love so fair, This new-born ecstasy of song, and fragrancy of prayer!

Creator Spirit, work in me, these wonders sweet of Thine. Divine Redeemer, graciously, Renew this heart of mine.

I hope these words encourage you and especially at a time when we feel the death of so many good friends.

Since November, we have lost, and remember the loved ones of: Gordon Lamond, Betsy Hendry, Jean Thomson, Dorothy Manson, Gladys Smith, Margaret Buchan, Neil Townend, Yvonne Barr, Alison Fowler, Christine Munro and Jim Nicol. We loved them all and commend them to God's eternal keeping. We remember too their dear families, and, assure them, we are here for loving support and keep them in our prayers, including Laura Oxburgh, Sunday Club Leader in the loss of her Mum and Sheena and Douglas Calderwood in the loss of their son in Inverness. I also have been in Kirkcaldy conducting the thanksgiving service for Jean Webster, a former Session Clerk, and in Dundee conducting the service for Alma Campbell, a former member. The Peace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with them all.

Now, we live in our Easter Faith! As I write it is coming up for Palm Sunday. So, let me share with you some verses of a colleague who was a few years ahead of me at University, and a few years ahead in age. He has given great service in hospital and hospice situations, and out in parishes where many have not been without their challenges; his name is Tom Gordon:

"It happened on a Sabbath morn, or so the story goes/
when crowds arrived to line the city streets/
And children waved their branches high/
and grown-ups threw their cloaks/
Upon the ground/
their Saviour King to greet.

True happiness embraced the crowd as halleluiahs rang/ And passion cries became their welcome prayer./ The time was right, the day was good, and hearts rejoiced anew/ As praise conveyed a joy beyond compare.

It happened on a summer's day, or so the story goes/ When happiness to someone's life was given/ A peace restored; a hope renewed; a King of Love come close/To offer a transforming glimpse of heaven.

That happiness has had its way, not only then, but now/ As halleluiahs ring across the years./ And songs of love, and cries of peace, still echo in the heart/And praises still make laughter out of tears.

It happens on this Sabbath morn, or so the story goes/ When crowds arrive to celebrate a day/ of palms and passion, pride and praise, and cloaks cast on the ground/ As Love is humbly carried on its way."

Ah, the Love of Christ in identity with our lives. Life has its cheering moments but sometimes amid the bluster and the tears, what else? We travel through Holy Week and into Maundy Thursday, and the betrayal, and Judas and the thirty pieces of silver. He did in the dark, what he might or might not have done in the light. And, do you remember the meal he had been at before then, The Last Supper. And, when did you last visit the Garden of Gethsemane, that place of inner and spiritual struggle, where the disciples slept as Jesus prayed "Nevertheless not my will but Thine be done". And, then was the arrest of Jesus.

Will you recall how before the cock crowed, Peter's denial of Jesus was not once but thrice. Ponder Herod and ponder Pilate. Jesus carried his Cross to the place of execution. One person came out of the large crowd along the way to offer him help to carry it. Life was far from challenge free for Jesus. They jeered him. They spat on him. They cast lots for his clothing. They scoffed, "If you are the Son of God, Save yourself! Come down from the Cross. Do you remember the sign they placed above him?

He hung on that Cross and he died on that Cross. The experience was far from pain free. Jesus knew the pain of mortal life in the many challenges he faced: Physical pain, Mental pain. Spiritual pain. And, he died. Do you remember the words he spoke, "Father Forgive them for they know not what they do. Into Thy hands I commit my spirit."

Ah, yes, there is much to reflect on. Even to the expectation that the end had come for the best who had ever lived. But death could not defeat Christ. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

And, now, to the bright tune of Love Divine, all loves excelling, Hyfrydol, sing these words, for death could not defeat Christ!!!

“Christ has risen while earth slumbers, Christ has risen where hope died,
As he said and as he promised, as we doubted and denied.
Let the moon embrace the blessing, let the sun sustain the cheer,
Let the world confirm the rumour, Christ is risen! God is here!

Christ is risen, and for ever, lives to challenge and to change,
all whose lives are messed or mangled, all who find religion strange.
Christ is risen, Christ is present, making us what he has been,
evidence of transformation, in which God is known and seen.”

In all you experience in life, on the journeying, accept Christ’s Presence with you. “I am the Resurrection and the Life”, says the Lord. And the beginning of such blessing begins in the here and now. Let us Live and Love in Christ, as we reach out in our families, in our community, and out into the world. Easter Day is the best day of the entire year!

And may encouragement be known to all who know health challenges. Many of you are so faithful and we pray Christ’s healing love is known by you. New life, full life, abundant life are gifts offered you all, in the blessing of Easter!

But Easter is also a Season. In the Easter Season there are many encounters. I invite you to open your Bible and to read these stories:

The Encounter of Mary and Jesus in the Garden: John 20: 11 – 18

Jesus appears to the disciples, and to Thomas: John 20: 19 - 31

The Emmaus Road: Luke 24: 13 – 35

Down by the Lakeside: John 21: 1 – 14

Jesus and Peter: John 21: 15 – 19

And, A Blessed Easter to you all,
Maudeen

APRIL 26th is our Easter Celebration of Holy Communion – see separate article.

PENTECOST:

This magazine covers the Season of Pentecost. It is on 24th May. Come celebrate with us! This day, also, is a Great Day!!! Pentecost is the day the Spirit is given Christ’s followers. It has been called the birth day of the Church. It is a day of colour and enlivening. Find out more by joining us at Pentecost!!!

FOLLOW THE WEBSITE for all that is happening from week to week.

THE ORCHARD: It was great to see our Session Clerk, Mike Moir, plant the first tree in the Community Orchard on the Church Glebe. He has worked

hard to turn the vision into reality. Thank you, Mike. And, it was good to see an encouraging turn out for the event, and helpers to plant the first 30 trees!

THANK YOU to Barbara Murray for stepping in to help us during the illness and death of Margaret Buchan. We give thanks to Barbara for the lovely music, voluntaries, and leading of hymn singing on both the organ and piano. We are grateful to Kate McNaughton for taking over for a spell from 12th April. We are so blessed with wonderfully musical friends. May God bless them.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS: Our gratitude to the Treasurer for the presentation of the Annual Accounts. The date of the Stated Annual Meeting will be announce later.

TEA TEAMS We are grateful to the Tea Teams for the weekly hospitality and for helping with Café Church and Night Kirk.

SONS AND DAUGHTERS: Do we have any sons and daughters who would help with a Music Group on the 3rd Sunday of every month or on the 5th Sunday when we have a 5 Sunday month? Phone the Manse and let me know: 01738 551942. More in the next edition.

Maudeen

Session Clerk's Report

I attended a conference recently run by the Stewardship and Finance Committee of the Church of Scotland. Some quite interesting information was given about the financing of ministry and will be brought to the General Assembly in May this year. As far as Scone and St Martins is concerned, the most interesting part in the model would be, to quote the document "*a charge that was able to meet the full cost of having a full time Minister of Word and Sacrament would be able to call a minister, with the permission of Presbytery.*" You will note the last few words! But it does seem rather ridiculous that Scone and St Martins is being reduced to 0.5 of a minister, according to Presbytery Mission Plan – that aspect of the plan is what we have to be reviewed – when we would still be sending money to central funds to fund other churches in the Perth Presbytery to have a full time minister, who cannot fund a full time minister from their own funds. We are awaiting the outcome of our review but I wouldn't hold your breath on there being a change of mind! But, if the above becomes the method of finance, then surely we should have the right to call a full time minister. We wait with bated breath.

Mike Moir

Invitation to Holy Communion

Jesus said “I am the bread of life: he who comes to me shall not hunger and he who believes in me shall never thirst; he who comes to me I will not cast out. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness: for they shall be satisfied.”



The Minister and Kirk Session
invite you to celebrate the
Sacrament of Holy Communion on:

Sunday 26 April 2026

Guildtown Hall at 9.30 am
Scone Old Church at 10.45 am
Burnside Hall at 2.30 pm

Please note that the elements of non-alcoholic wine and gluten-free bread will be provided at the Communion Services.

Sheltered Communion

There will be a short informal service in Burnside Hall on Sunday 26 April at 2.30 pm with the sacrament of sharing bread and wine. This is open to all but primarily planned for folk less able to join the main service. Transport is available if needed, please phone me. There will be refreshments after the service. Please alert anyone who might enjoy the opportunity for worship and fellowship.

Margaret McMillan 551560/07393851332



Kirk Session Meeting 23 March 2026

As many of you will know, the Kirk Session has been under pressure from the Presbytery of Perth to make a decision about the future of church buildings within Scone and St Martins. As you will also know, we have closed and sold two churches within the parish, at St David's, Stormontfield and, last year, St Martins Church. The Kirk Session, under the Presbytery Mission Plan, was asked to make a decision as to which church to retain in Scone by the end of March 2026.

On 3rd February, the Kirk Session met to discuss, in detail, the advantages and disadvantages of each church. This was done thoroughly and the Building Officer from Perth Presbytery had visited both churches and halls on 14th January, but the report was not available at the time of the meeting and it was decided to wait until the report had been received before a final decision was made. The report was made available at the meeting of 23rd March and the whole matter was discussed again.

The matter was put to a vote of the Kirk Session as to which church building was to be retained and the vote was as follows:

- In favour of retention of Scone New Church 1 vote
- In favour of retention of Scone Old Church 18 votes

Therefore, the motion to retain Scone Old as the church in Scone was passed. The clerk will write to the Presbytery Clerk of Perth Presbytery informing him of this decision. The clerk will also notify the Presbytery Clerk of the wish to retain both sets of halls.

Mike Moir





Our meeting in February should have been a talk on Robert Burns. Unfortunately, our speaker could not attend but we had an opportunity to take part in a quiz based on Burns. Our fundraising quiz raised the sum of £420. It was not as well attended as in previous years. We will look at what can be done in the future but those who attended enjoyed themselves. Our last talk of the year was by Rev John Duncan MBE who gave an interesting talk on the life of an army chaplain.

We held our Annual General Meeting on 24 March 2026. Sadly, we were looking for a new secretary and committee member because of the sad loss of Margaret Buchan, who was our secretary and had everything at her fingertips and also Christine Munro, who, over many years, has been convener and committee member. She was such a thoughtful person and able to step up to any emergency that occurred, bringing resolution and calm in her wake. She also helped out in her understanding of current technology, which was a great asset in comparison to most of us. Details of the new committee follow below. We also mourn the passing of Yvonne Barr, who died in February, and was a committed member in the life of the Guild and attended regularly. Our sympathies also go to Margaret Nicol, who lost her husband Jim, an elder who supported the work of the Guild.

Margaret McMillan and Helen Moir remain as joint conveners and Margaret Nicol will continue as Treasurer. Marian Forgan and Moira Daly will share the role of Secretary. Other members of the committee are Ann Gellatly, Joyce Brown, Beth Coghill and Rachel Jamieson.

We look forward to our afternoon tea at Brown and Blacks on 9 June.

It has been a sad way to end our year which has been very successful in terms of our speakers, despite one cancellation and one postponed due to bad weather. We are a close family in the Guild of Scone and St Martins and our thoughts are with those who have lost such special people. They will be in our prayers for comfort and strength in the time ahead.

Helen Moir

Pastoral Care

I feel I have bypassed the pain of winter. I can cope with a bit of rain even if short grey days are depressing but I really don't like snow and ice – except in a photograph of course. Now here we are, spring and the Easter season is with us - isn't it lovely? Colour, freshness, birdsong and today - warmth and sunshine and the equinox marking equal time of light and darkness.

Our hearts however go out in sympathy to all who feel the emptiness and grief of loss in bereavement of loved ones. May all find peace and comfort in shared memories of good times.



A happy celebration is noted from Guildtown when Helen Stewart was presented with flowers at the early service on 8 March on the occasion of her 90th birthday. Congratulations Helen and Best Wishes to you and all other nonogenarian readers.

The Doris Day Film Lunch in March cheered us all up on a dark and dismal day. The next film – again Doris Day, is Calamity Jane, cost £5 in Burnside Hall on 21 May at 12 noon. Please book on 551560/552370 or on Facebook.

Sheltered Communion will be held on Sunday 26 April – please see separate article.

Fellowship Lunch

Numbers for the Fellowship Lunch have been lower this year so please speak to your neighbours or suggest to a friend if you enjoy this informal soup and meal around the table. Transport can be provided if you phone on the number below.



Lunch dates are:

7 May and 4 June

All are welcome to eat and share the fellowship at 12.30 pm at a cost of £5.

May we know the peace and joy this Eastertime through the blessing of God's Love.

Margaret McMillan, Pastoral Care Committee, 01738 551560/07393851332



Christian Aid Week

10 - 16 MAY 2026

This year, we are again delivering envelopes to as many houses as we can in Scone to be returned to The Sweetie Shop, Spar grocer, Co-op or both churches. If you are able to help with the delivery of envelopes, please get in touch with Peggy Lamond. I apologise to anyone who does not receive an envelope, but, we do not have enough deliverers to cover all of Scone. There will be envelopes available in church on 11 May.

CAN YOU IMAGINE - waking up every morning knowing that if you do not earn enough money today your family will go hungry tonight. With no formal work opportunities, heart-breaking low pay, high food prices and no social support it's impossible to plan ahead. This is the precarious, stressful life most people lead in the densely packed, sprawling informal settlement of Dagoretti in Nairobi, Kenya.

Fridah Morao is a mother and grandmother who became the sole provider for her family after her husband died last year. Fridah lives in Dagoretti with her twin sons, 13 year old Eluid and Abiud, her daughter and grandson, 4 year old Quillan. The family live in a rented corrugated metal shelter. There is no running water and only shared toilet facilities. To bring in money, Fridah sells vegetables which she buys from a wholesaler. It's a 2 hour round trip 6 times a week. 'Sometimes I don't know how to feed my family. But I believe in myself and pray to God that I will succeed'.

Thanks to programme of support from Christian Aid's partner 'Beacon of Hope' Fridah is nurturing seeds of hope. 'Beacon of Hope' is training aspiring farmers like Fridah to cultivate their own vegetables in small, unused city spaces. Join us to support Families like Fridah's to protect themselves from hunger and to nurture hope.

This Christian Aid Week please GIVE, ACT and PRAY. I have available a 7 day devotional to use during Christian Aid week. If anyone would like one please get in touch.

Peggy Lamond (Scone and St Martins Christian Aid representative)

It has been a relatively quiet spell since the last newsletter. Courtesy of various bugs our attendance has dropped and some Thursdays that has impacted on our programme. The last Thursday of March month we had our first full attendance for some weeks.

Our musicians, Eoin and Callum did very well at Perform in Perth (Music Festival) both in the playing with various bands/orchestras and also individually. At the end of the festival Eoin went home with two trophies. By the time this newsletter is available both boys will have played with the Dunblane Company band in the BB Scottish bands competition.

Ryan; Liam; and Eoin turned out to help at the recent church coffee morning and as usual did themselves proud.

Some of the boys will be turning out to help at the Church bingo tea in the middle of April.

We could only raise a team of two for the Battalion indoor football competition but Liam and Daniel were joined by Jackson from the Kinnoull Company and had a great three game series against a team from the Kinnoull Company. Unfortunately they lost two of the games (1-0 in each game) and drew the third. A great effort considering that the Kinnoull team was a bit older.

We are now having a two week break coinciding with the school Easter holidays then it should be a hectic spell for the rest of the session up to the awards night at the end of May.

Iain Lamond



The Hub - Community Café

We look forward to seeing you at the Hub at Balforno Road Hall on Wednesdays from 10 am - 12 noon for tea/coffee, home baking and good company - cost £3. All welcome. Happy Easter.

Ann Gellatly, 01738 552370

CHURCH NEWS

How do you receive Church News? Many members are now receiving their magazine by email. Emails cut down on printing costs, allows you to receive your magazine quickly and helps out distributors. If you would like to change to email format, please let Kate Carswell know (details below).

Delivery of Church News Would you be willing to help deliver a few copies of Church News every 2 months? This is a worthwhile exercise and helps those who are not able to receive their magazine by email to receive a copy. If you feel you could help out or would like further information, please contact Kate Carswell (details below).

DATA PROTECTION

By law, the Church should keep records up to date and accurate. Many folk have changed their phone numbers eg now use mobile numbers instead of landlines. If you think your information is not up to date, can you please inform Kate Carswell (details below).

Kate Carswell, Rollkeeper

Email: katecarswell@hotmail.co.uk

Phone: 01738 551174 or 07563515423

Sunday Club



The Sunday club have enjoyed learning all about Noah's Ark over the last few weeks and have made a great job with all their arts and crafts.

As Easter approaches we will take a look at the Easter story through games and crafts. On Easter Sunday we will have an Easter egg hunt and make some Easter goodies to take home with us. As always we would absolutely love to see some new faces at Sunday Club, everyone will be made very welcome. We meet at 11:40am on Sunday mornings.

The Sunday Club will break during the school holidays which are Sunday 12th and Sunday 19th April, returning the following week Sunday 26th.

Laura Oxburgh

Social and Fund Raising

Our Scottish Country Dance on 7 March 2026 raised the sum of £228 which is slightly down on 2025, but there was a BIG EVENT on TV that day ie Scotland v France Rugby, which was a very exciting game and some of our usual dancers were either at the game or watching it on TV. But we were pleased with the amount raised and the people who were there thoroughly enjoyed the programme of dances made up by Margaret Breckenridge who also guided the dancers through the dances and everyone also enjoyed the beautiful music played by Jim Lindsay. Thank you to all who helped.

The Coffee Morning on 14th March 2026 in Burnside Halls raised the sum of £838.30 and my committee and I wish to thank everyone who assisted in any way, either by baking, serving on stalls or serving teas. Also special thanks to the Boys of the BBs who again came along to help out.

FUND RAISING EVENT DATES FOR 2026

Friday 17 April 2026

Bingo Tea in the Burnside Hall
Eyes down 7.30 pm

Could I please ask again for Bingo prizes, prize draw gifts and baking for the teas. All donations will be greatly appreciated.



CHURCH FAIR - 22nd AUGUST 2026 in Burnside Halls and Car Park 2pm to 4pm

Again assistance is required to help run the stalls ie Cake and Candy, Toiletries, Jewellery, Books, Bottle Stall, Toys and Games in good order, Jigsaws, Prize Draw. All these stalls will be inside along with the beautiful teas served by the Guild. I appeal for Baking for Cake & Candy, also the Teas, along with donations for the other stalls and also Prizes for the Prize Draw. There will be Perth & District Pipe Band, Perth Silver Band, Diane Lambert Johnstone Dancers, Face Painting, Games in the Car Park run by the BBs, Ice Cream and Juice, Burgers and also the DUCK RACE in the Scone Burn. There will also be Fancy Dress so come along parents and bring your children and get them to enter in the fun. The committee are also looking to find new ideas for the Fair, so watch for further info in the June/July edition of the Church News.

COFFEE MORNING - Saturday 10th October 2026, Burnside Halls, 10am to 12 noon

SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCE - Saturday 14th November 2026, Balformo Halls. 2pm to 4pm

I wish to remind everyone that these fund raising events are for the whole of our parish ie Scone and St Martins Parish, so please get in touch if you are able to assist in any way. We also require help on the morning of the fair to erect the marquee and gazebos. Let's make 2006 a really good year!

Please contact me or a member of my committee with names of people wishing to help in any way, at any of these events. Thank You.

Anne Lamond, Social & Fund Raising Convener. Tel 07711394452

Glebe Orchard Project



The Scone Community Orchard is up and running! On Saturday 14 March, the first 30 trees were planted in the Glebe, in the area immediately beyond the church car park. All the trees have been sponsored and so the group is able to look forward to later in the year when some more trees can be planted. If you wish to sponsor a tree, just send your name and address, email etc to me.

Mike Moir

Tributes to Elders

Yvonne Barr

Yvonne was an active elder in the Kirk Session and very conscientious in carrying out her duties to the members in her district. She was a member of the Guild and had been a member of the church choir. She was always kind to others and willing to help where she could when people were in need. She will be sadly missed by many as she touched the lives of so many people. We pass our sympathies to the family.

Christine Munro

Christine Munro was ordained an elder on 16th October 1988, under the ministry of the Rev Bruce Thomson and was a regular attender of the Church. She took part in many aspects of church life and latterly was the organiser of the distribution of the church newsletter. She regularly attended to the decoration of the church for special services at Christmas, Easter and Pentecost. She was able, calm, friendly, and helpful, and she guarded her privacy well and loathed fuss. It was not just church that Christine took part in as she was a contributor to the Perthshire Musical Festival. She took part in Scottish country dancing, including dancing at the Edinburgh Tattoo.

We extend our sympathies in their loss to Allison and Gillian and all the family.

Jim Nicol

Jim and Margaret moved to Scone in 1985 with his job with Scottish Woodlands, with whom he worked for over forty years. Jim was an elder in the kirk until his health prevented him from continuing. He was a quiet man, with a great spark of humour. He was of great assistance on the Property Committee of the Congregational Board and latterly the Kirk Session and his knowledge of trees was of great assistance in dealing with the problems that occurred in the graveyard surrounding Scone Old. He will be sadly missed by many and we pass our sympathies to Margaret and the family.

Mike Moir

Neil Townend

Neil was born in West Yorkshire on 27 November 1940 to Kenneth and Clara Townend, and grew up in Honley, near Huddersfield. His mother worked in a mill and his father drove buses, perhaps planting the early seeds of Neil's lifelong passion for transport. Despite modest beginnings, his father's ambition shaped the family, being the first on their street to own a telephone, television and car.

Neil first met Christine at Sunday school when he was five and she was three. Their friendship grew into a lifelong partnership, rooted in shared time at the Methodist Chapel through youth groups, choir and tennis. Neil's academic ability took him to Holme Valley Grammar School and then Aberystwyth University, where he studied Classics and Philosophy—though this eventually led him, somewhat unexpectedly, into a career in transport.

During university, Neil and Christine wrote to each other daily, maintaining a strong bond despite the distance. They married in 1963 and began a life together that would take them across the UK as Neil progressed through the bus industry. From Brighton to Stoke, Oxford, Edinburgh and Glasgow, Neil steadily built a distinguished career. Highlights included his role in Glasgow, where he met the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh at the reopening of the subway.

In 1979, Neil became Director of Public Transport for Tayside Regional Council, a role that brought him and his family to Scone, where they settled. His work extended beyond buses to airports and harbours, reflecting the breadth of his expertise. Neil retired early at 50 in 1991, but remained active as a consultant, contributing to transport projects in the UK and internationally. He also became involved in charitable work supporting sports and the arts in the north of Scotland.

Family was at the heart of Neil's life. He and Christine raised two children, James and Jill, and later became proud grandparents to Lucy, Jenny, Tom, Callum and Jamie. Known affectionately as "Grandad Trains," Neil shared his love of railways with his grandchildren, from model trains at home to visits to preserved railways. These moments created lasting memories filled with laughter and joy.

Ian Baillie

Thank You

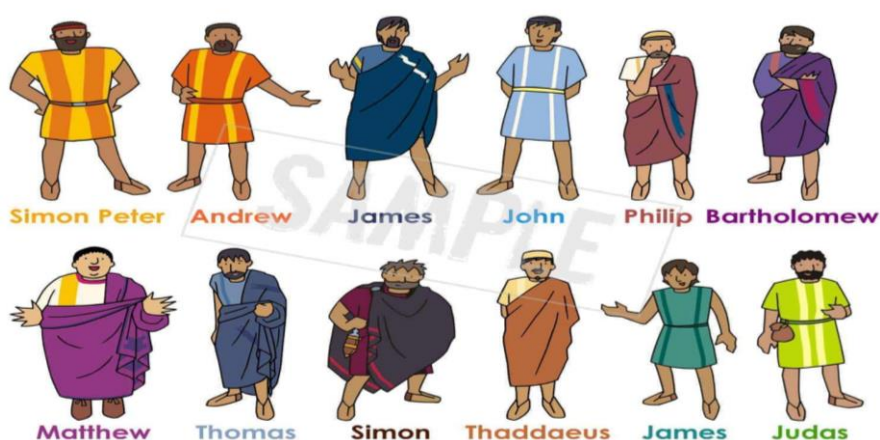
- Sheena and Douglas Calderwood thank the Congregation for the flowers, cards and good wishes expressed in regards the recent sudden bereavement of their son Grant.
- Ann Gellatly says thanks for all my calls, cards and gifts after my recent surgery for a new knee. I am starting to get back to my activities, most of which include coffee and cake.
- Morag Riddell would like to thank everyone for cards, letters, flowers and phone calls received on the loss of her mum, Gladys Smith. Your kindness and support is much appreciated.

Jesus Chooses Twelve Special Friends

Jesus chose twelve men to go out and spread the word of God. They were called “apostles” which means a messenger, someone who is sent on a mission. Here is a verse to help remember their names:

There was Simon, there was Andrew, they were brothers by the sea.
There was James and there was John, they were sons of Zebedee.
They were so glad to go with Jesus as he walked along the shore;
So they left their nets and went with him to look for several more.
They spotted Matthew sitting at his tax collector’s seat;
So Jesus had a chat and even stayed with him to eat.
Barthlomew and Philip joined the eager band of men;
Then Simon, James and Judas brought the number up to ten.
But Jesus wanted twelve good men to spread the word abroad;
So Thaddaeus and Thomas joined the followers of the Lord.

Read the story in Matthew 10: 1 - 4



Anonymous, sent in by Margaret Petrie

Memories from the War – A Stolen Life

I woke up to the sound of a powerful explosion nearby. It was so intense that the door to my room swung open. I glanced at the clock; it was 2:17 a.m. Listening carefully, I heard the distinct sound of a Shahed drone engine circling overhead for about 30 minutes. Then came the bursts of a machine gun and another explosion. Thank God they shot down the deadly weapon.
From Rev. Anatoliy Raychynets, Deputy General Secretary of the Ukrainian Bible Society

I found it difficult to fall back asleep as memories of the previous day replayed in my mind. The Lord directed our plans in such a way that we got lost near Toretsk while searching for a group of infantrymen waiting for us. Due to the interference from reconnaissance electronic warfare (REW) systems since enemy drones hunt our vehicles in swarms the navigator wasn't functioning properly.

We accidentally encountered a warrior who was very happy to see us. He kindly invited us to his "hideout" and offered us tea. His name is Vitaliy, and his call sign is Staryi, which means "old man" in Ukrainian. He earned this name because he has served in the assault troops since 2014. Now a pensioner and a veteran, he was discharged due to severe injuries, yet he continues to defend our country. Due to his serious injuries, he cannot use a weapon, so he now works as a tanker driver. When he saw the pixelated Bible I had, he was genuinely touched.

You can read more online [sorry] at the Bible Society website at: <https://www.scottishbiblesociety.org> then look for people around the world.

Did you know the well known proverb: -

Love covers a multitude of sins is based on 1 Peter 4 v 8

Have a look and see if I am right or wrong



Thank you to everyone who has handed in used stamps. Please keep up the good work by collecting your stamps and handing them into church in aid of the Scottish Bible Society.

Frances Moir

**Scone & St Martins Parish Church Finances
Receipts for 2 months ended 28 February 2026
(excluding Guild and Clubs)**

| UNRESTRICTED FUNDS | 2026 | 2025 |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|
| RECEIPTS | £ | £ |
| Offerings | 8,658 | 9,965 |
| Appeals | 850 | 415 |
| Tax recovered on Gift Aid | 3,560 | 3,853 |
| Donations | 0 | 75 |
| Weddings and funerals | 673 | 390 |
| Contributions from congregational organisations | 70 | 520 |
| Hall Lets | 2,979 | 3,165 |
| Fundraising events (net income) | 375 | 342 |
| Other income | 0 | 300 |
| Total Receipts | <u>17,165</u> | <u>19,025</u> |

Notes:

- Offerings are 13% down on last year, partly due to the timing of some large offerings, but also, sadly, deaths in the congregation.
- The Christmas 2025 Appeal, has brought £850 further donations in 2026.
- The tax recovery is for the final quarter of 2025.
- The contribution from congregational organisations is from the Badminton Club.
- Fundraising is from the Quiz (£290) and a Movie Lunch (£85).
- For the first 2 months of 2026, we have incurred a deficit of £2,035.

Thank you to everyone, for your contributions to our financial health!

Robin Walker, Treasurer



Knit and Chat

Next meetings for Knit and Chat are 6 May and 3 June at Balforno Hall at 10.30 am. All welcome.

Anne Gellatly 01738 552730

Children's Story - A Story for Pentecost

May 24th 2026 is a special day for the Church. It's like Christmas Day. It's like Easter Day. Sunday 24th May is Pentecost, which means fifty. Therefore Pentecost is on the fiftieth day after Easter Day. It recalls the day when God gave the Holy Spirit to the Church.

One of the wonderful things about the Church is this - it has spread all over the world. People with white faces; people with black faces; people with brown faces; people with yellow faces; people with olive colour faces and any other colour too - they can all belong to the Church! People in cold countries and people in hot countries; rich and poor; old and young - the Church welcomes them all.

A lady lived in a big house, it had many rooms. She would ask friends to visit her and stay for a while in her lovely house. There was a big garden with flowers, shrubs and trees. A gardener kept it in splendid order. One tree was special. It was huge! It reached far into the sky and the branches spread out in a wide canopy. It had a trunk broader than three people could put their arms around. The lady asked her most important visitors to carve their name with a sharp knife on this tree. Only the most important people mind you! Not the ordinary folk! Not anyone and not everyone!- only the really important people.

Now that is NOT how the Holy Spirit works in our world. The Holy Spirit of God wants everyone to know Father God and love the Lord Jesus - big people and little people; important people and ordinary people; black people and white people; old people and young people. That is why the Church is spreading all over the world! (The Dove is the Symbol of Holy Spirit)



Children's Prayer

Thank you, Father, for the new life that Jesus showed us when He came back to life on Easter Day.

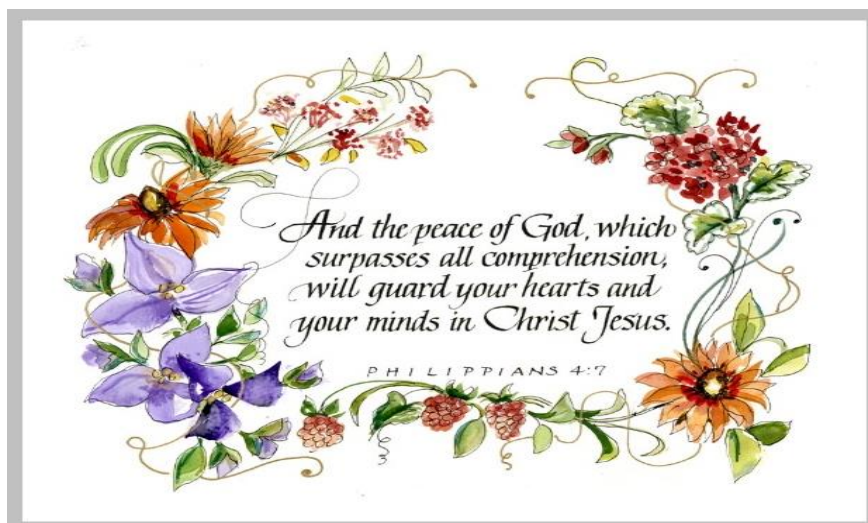
We see new life around us at this time of year, with lambs being born in the fields, and new leaves on the trees and the hedges.

(Every flower has a purpose. It may be the food source for many insects. Try not to damage living things, because others like to enjoy them too, and the wildlife of our country depends on our respecting it).

Anne Lamond

PARISH DIARY

| | | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|---|--|
| April 8 | 10 am - 12 noon | Hub Community Café | Balformo Hall |
| 12 | 9.30 am 10.45 am | Morning Worship Morning Worship | Balbeggie Hall Scone Old |
| 15 | 10 am - 12 noon | Hub Community Café | Balformo Hall |
| 17 | 7.30 pm | Bingo Tea | Burnside Hall |
| 19 | 10.45 am | Morning Worship | Scone Old |
| 22 | 10 am - 12 noon | Hub Community Café | Balformo Hall |
| 26 | 9.30 am 10.45 am 2.30 pm | Morning Worship - Communion Morning Worship - Communion Sheltered Communion | Guildtown Hall Scone Old Burnside Hall |
| 29 | 10 am - 12 noon | Hub Community Café | Balformo Hall |
| May 3 | 10.45 am | Morning Worship | Scone New |
| 6 | 10 am - 12 noon | Hub Community Café | Balformo Hall |
| | 10.30 am | Knit n Chat | Balformo Hall |
| 7 | 12.30 pm | Fellowship Lunch | Burnside Hall |
| 10 | 9.30 am 10.45 am | Morning Worship Morning Worship | Balbeggie Hall Scone New |
| 13 | 10 am - 12 noon | Hub Community Café | Balformo Hall |
| 17 | 10.45 am | Morning Worship | Scone New |
| 20 | 10 am - 12 noon | Hub Community Café | Balformo Hall |
| 21 | 12 noon | Film Lunch | Burnside Hall |
| 24 | 9.30 am 10.45 am | Morning Worship Morning Worship | Guildtown Hall Scone New |
| 27 | 10 am - 12 noon | Hub Community Café | Balformo Hall |
| 31 | 10.45 am | Morning Worship | Scone New |
| June 3 | 10 am - 12 noon | Hub Community Café | Balformo Hall |
| | 10.30 am | Knit n Chat | Balformo Hall |
| 4 | 12.30 pm | Fellowship Lunch | Burnside Hall |
| 7 | 10.45 am | Morning Worship | Scone Old |
| 9 | 2 pm for 2.30 pm | Guild Afternoon Tea | Brown & Blacks |



Scone Rotas

| | Welcoming Party | Reader | Beadle |
|--------|--|---------------------|---------------------|
| Apr 12 | Frances Moir, Marian Forgan Dorothy Morrison | Frances Moir | Hamish Breckenridge |
| 19 | Linda Thomson, Robin Walker Rosalene West | Robin Walker | Ross Merson |
| 26 | Noreen Hunter, Hamish & Margaret Breckenridge | Hamish Breckenridge | Mike Moir |
| May 3 | Ian Baillie, Kate Carswell Moira Daly | Ian Baillie | Gordon Pirie |
| 10 | Marian Forgan, Anne Lamond Peggy Lamond | Anne Lamond | Robin Walker |
| 17 | Linda Massie, Margaret McMillan Ross Merson | Ross Merson | Ian Baillie |
| 24 | Frances Moir, Mike Moir Dorothy Morrison | Mike Moir | Ross Merson |
| 31 | Linda Thomson, Robin Walker Rosalene West | Robin Walker | Gordon Pirie |
| June 7 | Noreen Hunter Hamish & Margaret Breckenridge | Hamish Breckenridge | Bob Murray |

Teas

| | Tea Duty | Milk and Money |
|--------|--|-----------------------|
| Apr 12 | Linda Thomson, Margaret Ewen, Noreen Hunter | Linda Thomson |
| 19 | Margaret & Hamish Breckenridge, Kate Carswell | Margaret Breckenridge |
| 26 | Marian Forgan, Rosalene West, Rae Farrow | Marian Forgan |
| May 3 | Cona Beatson, Noreen Hunter, Daphne Forbes | Cona Beatson |
| 10 | Val Grossart, Christine Townend, Moira Daly | Val Grossart |
| 17 | Marian Forgan, Joan Gilchrist, Aileen Hamilton | Marian Forgan |
| 24 | Anne Lamond, Peggy Lamond, Linda Thomson | Anne Lamond |
| 31 | Dorothy Morrison, Marian Forgan, Moira Daly | Dorothy Morrison |
| June 7 | Rosalene West, Barbara Murray, Kate Carswell | Rosalene West |

Flowers

| | Donating | Delivering |
|--------|-----------------|-----------------------|
| Apr 12 | Vacant | Caroline Haddow |
| 19 | Ann White | Peggy Lamond |
| 26 | Marian Forgan | Helen Lowe |
| May 3 | Margaret Lobban | Margaret McMillan |
| 10 | Anne Lamond | Dorothy Traynow |
| 17 | Audrey Cooper | Norma Walker |
| 24 | Vacant | Margaret Baillie |
| 31 | Nan Muirhead | Margaret Breckenridge |
| June 7 | Peggy Lamond | Kate Carswell |

CONTACT DETAILS

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| Minister | Rev Maudeen MacDougall Tel 01738 551942 Email: Maudeen.Macdougall@churchofscotland.org.uk |
| Session Clerk | Mike Moir Tel 01738 551549 Email: mikemoir@blueyonder.co.uk |
| Rollkeeper | Kate Carswell Tel 01738 551174 Email: katecarswell@hotmail.co.uk |
| Editor Church News | Moira Daly Tel 01738 552773 Email: moiradalyscone54@gmail.com |

CONVENERS

| | | |
|----------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| Communications | | |
| Finance | Douglas Calderwood | 01738 553399 |
| Pastoral Care | Margaret McMillan | 01738 551560 |
| Property | Mike Moir | 01738 551549 |
| Safeguarding | Marian Forgan | 01738 552064 |
| Social & Fundraising | Anne Lamond | 01738 552262 |

USEFUL CONTACTS

| | | |
|--|---------------------|--------------|
| Boys' Brigade | Iain Lamond | 01738 553582 |
| Christian Aid | Peggy Lamond | 01738 553582 |
| Church Flowers | Margaret McMillan | 01738 551560 |
| Church Office | Roksolana Clark | 01738 553900 |
| Fellowship Lunch | Margaret McMillan | 01738 551560 |
| Free Will Offering Envelopes/Gift Aid | Margaret Nicol | 01738 552232 |
| Guild | Helen Moir | 01738 551549 |
| Hub | Ann Gellatly | 01738 552370 |
| Knit n Chat | Ann Gellatly | 01738 552370 |
| PACT | Hamish Breckenridge | 01738 551072 |
| Sunday Club | Laura Oxburgh | 07789014142 |
| Treasurer | Robin Walker | 01738 551936 |

Scottish Charity No SC007094