



Summer Newsletter 2026



Grace and Peace to you in the name
of our Lord Jesus Christ

Dear friends, as we reach the summer months, I want to begin with a heartfelt thank you. This past year has been full of worship, events, fundraisers, pastoral visits, community support, and all the unseen tasks that keep our church life moving. What has stood out to me again and again is not only the effort people have given, but the care and enthusiasm poured into every service and every event. It truly makes a difference, and it does not go unnoticed. Thank you for offering so much of yourselves to the life of this congregation.

A sincere word of appreciation also goes to the members of our Kirk Session. Your dedication, guidance, and willingness to serve have strengthened our shared ministry in countless ways. Thank you for the time, energy, and thought you bring to the work we do together.

Throughout the year, I have received many encouraging comments from visitors and newcomers who have spoken warmly about the welcome they received at both of our beautiful worship centres. Hospitality is one of the gifts God has nurtured in this parish, and it is a joy to hear how deeply people feel it.

But as we celebrate this, it is also good for us to pause and reflect on how we can continue to grow—not only in offering a warm welcome, but in creating a true sense of belonging. In the Christian life, belonging is more than being greeted at the door. It is being known, valued, and drawn into the fellowship of Christ's body. Jesus didn't simply invite people to "come near"; he invited them to be part of the family of God. As we look ahead, may we keep asking ourselves: How can we help others not only feel welcomed, but feel at home? How can we make space for people to bring their gifts, their stories, and their faith? This is holy work, and it is work we share together.

We also take a moment to remember with tenderness the members we have lost during the year. We hold them in our thoughts and pray for their families, trusting in the comfort and hope God gives to all who grieve.

At the same time, we give thanks for the wonderful families who have joined our church over the past months. We pray that many more will feel drawn to share in our life together in the year ahead. Let us continue to work faithfully and joyfully to invite others to "come and see" what God is doing among us.

Looking ahead, our Stated Annual Meeting will take place on Sunday, 5 July, following the service at Brechin Gardner Memorial. I hope we will gather in good numbers—not only for the business of the meeting, but to enjoy fellowship as one united congregation.

This year's theme, "Come and see", leads us into a summer of together services, as we alternate between our worship centres and gather as one church family. These weeks offer us a lovely opportunity to deepen relationships, share worship, and celebrate the unity God gives.

As a family, we are also looking forward to spending time in South Africa during the summer. We hope to return refreshed, renewed, and ready for the next shift in ministry and mission. May God bless you and keep you through these summer months. May His grace surround you, His peace sustain you, and His Spirit guide us all into the season ahead.

Sunny summer regards

Adriaan

Minister, Brechin and Farnell Parish Church

