



Dear Friends

Yes, we may not have seen as much sunshine as we would have liked but the delights of the summer are still with us -summer fruits; sprouting vegetation, holidays, and extended daylight.

I wonder how your pattern of ministry changes in these summer months?

Groups and services meeting outdoors?

BBQs? Walks? Picnics? Midnight hikes?

Different working patterns? Early morning rising and evening sunsets?

As well as taking holidays how can we do things slightly differently in summer?

I enjoy going barefoot and feeling the earth under my feet. Having wee firepits where possible...

The vibrant colours and abundance of the season invite us to engage spiritually by relating the senses to ideas such as light and shade; arid and lush; thirst and satisfaction; scent; flourishing etc.

### **Stories and reflections on 'Growing Young'**

At the last Presbytery meeting I ran an introductory seminar about 'Growing Young' -a learning community that ten of our churches have been part of for the past 18 months. As a Presbytery we would like to run another new cohort from January next year as this is a profound way of helping change culture and churches grow. Find below links to wee videos on the Youtube channel made by four of our participating churches of this current cohort who talk about new projects and about the difference Growing Young has made in the life of their church.

Bonnyrigg Parish church <https://youtu.be/imEtHhDjHyk>

Galashiels <https://youtu.be/JJVP AJ3mQbk>

Traprain <https://youtu.be/NLB9z3EC8pY>

St.Andrews High, Musselburgh [https://youtu.be/o\\_3eeQipheE](https://youtu.be/o_3eeQipheE)

If you are interested to know more and wish to explore if you could join the next cohort I would be delighted to chat with you further.

To commemorate their organist, Jim Marshall, who passed away suddenly in April 2022 after over 55 years in post, the congregation of Bowden and Melrose parish arranged to have the organ in Melrose Church overhauled. Thanks to the generosity of John Wilson, a member and keen organist, a new clarinet stop was installed as part of the work.

At the end of April a large and appreciative congregation including Jim's widow Irene and other members of his family attended an organ recital by John Kitchen the Edinburgh City Organist to inaugurate the new stop.

Pictured from left: John Kitchen, Irene Marshall, John Wilson. (Taken from Life & Work)



### **Church of Scotland LEARN resources**

There is a growing suite of courses now available to use from an online CoS library. These include

Being an Elders; Growing as a leader; Unconscious Bias; Being a session clerk; Talking about your faith etc... See below a link to a recording of a seminar from last week which gave an overview of how the resource works and of the materials available.

<https://church-of-scotland-learning.circle.so/c/show-tell/discover-church-of-scotland-learning>

### **Attached is a Summer Ideas Activity pack from HOPE**

#### **General Election**

Love, pray, vote!

From the joint Public Issues Team in which the Church of Scotland participates.

<https://ipit.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/2024.06.01-General-Election-Prayer-guide-1.pdf>

#### **Looking ahead**

##### **Starting something new? A morning for those who are pioneering**

I am thrilled that the Rev. Dr Ian Adams, chaplain & author has agreed to spend the morning with us at St Johns KP in Dalkeith on **Friday September 13<sup>th</sup>** to help us reflect further on discerning the next steps in pioneering new mission initiatives. Ian is one of the best communicators I know and has been involved in new ways of being church for many years. Please book in through Eventbrite. This event is open to all and is being advertised across central Scotland. Come with a team of folks.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/pioneering-practice-discerning-the-next-step-tickets-911349148837>



### **Christian Aid -The Kilt Walk in Edinburgh. Sunday September 15<sup>th</sup>. Leslie Milton writes...**

“For the past few years I have worked with Christian Aid to get a team together for the Edinburgh kiltwalk. The middle distance (around 14 miles) leaves from Musselburgh Links, and as At Andrew’s High is the close to the starting point we gather the team and organise a short act of worship before we set off together. The middle distance walk is the

most popular, although some of the St Andrew’s High folk thought that it was too short, and are planning the 21 mile walk this year. There’s also a smattering of people who walk the short distance (five miles) from the shore between Granton and Crammond. The finishing point for all walkers is Murrayfield It would be great if we were able to have a greater participation from Lothian and Borders churches.”

### **Disability Awareness Sunday September 22<sup>nd</sup>**

In 2024, the date for Disability Awareness Sunday is **Sunday 22nd September**. But any Sunday can be Disability Awareness Sunday! This year there's a whole Disability Awareness Week, starting on 15th September. Join the hundreds of churches across the UK - and the world! - to share about church disability inclusion. Register for the church service resource, free of charge, below. <https://throughtheroof.org/forchurches/disability-awareness-sunday/>



**Friday October 25<sup>th</sup> Presbytery Day Conference at St.Andrew, Blackkadder, North Berwick with guest speak Prof. Tom Greggs. More info coming but open to ALL.**

### **In the Presbytery Prayer Calendar**

This last week we were praying for Tara Curlewis in Rome. Tara explains her situation... “The Church of Scotland ministry in Rome embraces providing worship in English for all people who identify as Presbyterian or Reformed in tradition. The congregation comprises many folk originally from Ghana or Cameroon as well as a handful of Scots and some people from America or other parts of Europe. It is normal to have more visitors than regulars on any given Sunday. St Andrew’s Rome is a typical city church with the majority of its members living a considerable distance from the church. Many have a commute of 90 – 120 minutes each way to attend worship.

For more information on Tara’s work & prayer points please click on this facebook link <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/xPiEwma58Qcvxpb2/>

**Next week, from Sunday, we remember and pray for the Parish of Greenlaw.**

**July 7th Greenlaw**

*We remember in prayer this week the leadership and all involved in the life of this community.*

*community. We give thanks for those leading worship and for wider community activities and involvement. We pray for more opportunities to reach out into the parish.*

**Read / Think / Pray / Act**

**Reading scripture together**

The readings for the week are as follows

Monday, July 1, 2024: 2 Corinthians 8:16-24

Tuesday, July 2, 2024: 2 Corinthians 9:1-5

Wednesday, July 3, 2024: Mark 9:14-29

Thursday, July 4, 2024: 2 Corinthians 4:8-13

Friday, July 5, 2024: 2 Corinthians 10:7-11

Saturday, July 6, 2024: Matthew 8:18-22

Sunday, July 7, 2024: No readings, we worship with others in church

Wishing you much joy in the lightness of this season

Peter

Rev. Peter J. Wood  
Mission Officer for Lothian & Borders Presbytery