

CHURCH NEWS

News from
Kingshill Parish Church of Scotland
Aberdeenshire

Summer 2026

Dear Friends.....

By the time you read this, I will—astonishingly—have been in post for just about one full year. My first instinct is to think that probably not much has changed in this time, that, in many respects, the church is the same now as it was in May 2025. And, of course, in some respects, it is. The people are by and large the same, most of our services and activities have gone on just as they have before, and our places of worship are the same—with some upgrades and repairs here and there.

But then, skimming through my many emails, reading the subject lines, and browsing my saved documents, I am

reminded of just how much we have done as a church—and, indeed, how much has in fact changed. Our worship pattern, Bubble Church, Vespers, the departure of Stuart (which I know disappointed us all)—these are just a few obvious things that stand out to me as decidedly different from last year, not necessarily ‘better’ or ‘worse’, but certainly different.

In reviewing the past year and all we have done, all that has changed, I notice there is a very real risk in focusing in on these things as if it somehow justifies us as a church. Yes, it is good that we are not stagnant, that we are very much alive and responsive—but we need to resist the temptation of stopping there. Of allowing our ‘works’ to serve as the primary metric of church health.

On Pentecost, we reflected that, sometimes, what we need is to stop doing. To take a break from the busyness of daily life and simply sit, with hands open, asking the Lord to draw near and to speak. The coming of the Spirit is often (rightly) associated with power and vitality, but we should not forget what the disciples were doing before the Spirit came. They were still. They waited. They prayed.

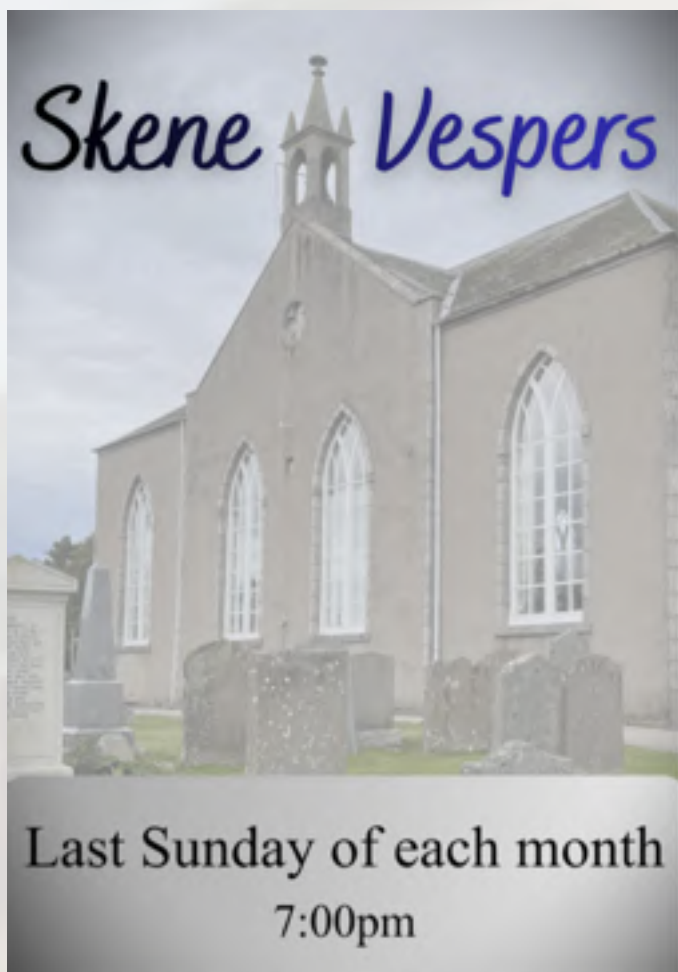
Perhaps that is what we, too, need over the summer period: some rest, quiet, and space to allow the Spirit to grow within us. Ultimately, that is how we measure success in the church. Is the Spirit moving, growing, thriving among us? Or are we—perhaps subtly, unconsciously—blocking him out? May this summer be a time of rest and renewal for you, and for us together as his church.

Yours,

Rev Daniel

Skene Vespers – A Perfect Way to End the Week

Join us on the final Sunday of each month at 7pm for a quieter, evening service at Skene Kirk. The first two were found to be very enjoyable—“a perfect end to the day and week,” as it was reported by one.



Sunday Service Livestream

The service will be livestreamed to our YouTube Channel at 11.00am.
https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCQ-wWCO2QUvEU8BhPTq_xfA

Messages

GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2026

This year was my first as a commissioner at General Assembly. It was, in a way, a strange year to be a commissioner, as it was the first time Assembly ran over the course of four days, rather than the week or more of yesteryear. I suppose it turned out for the best, as there was not too much in the way of controversy. The most contentious item concerned the move towards one 'Lead Academic Provider'—that is, having ministers train almost exclusively at Trinity College, Glasgow, rather than having the option between Glasgow, Edinburgh, Aberdeen, and Highland Theological College. Apart from this, however, General Assembly saw few sustained debates, and I'm not sure there were more than five or six items that required a vote at all!

There was, however, another report of note, not least for us here at Kingshill. This had to do with the Church of Scotland's engagement with asylum seekers, especially in light of how centrally the issue has featured in British political discourse as of late.

While, once again, there was little pushback on the general feeling that churches should treat asylum seekers with especial kindness and generosity—regardless of political persuasion—the importance of this particular issue to General Assembly was such that it did not fail to attract some media attention.

In March, we were contacted by an Aberdeen-based producer for the BBC to ask if Kingshill might like to feature in their coverage of General Assembly. He mentioned that he had seen some of the work we do, and that, up to that point, other churches had expressed some reluctance due to the possibility of unwanted visibility and even protest. I figured folk in Westhill generally know what we're up to anyway, so didn't see the harm in inviting him along. And so he came, along with a cameraman, in early May.

If you have not seen the production already, it is available anytime you like on BBC iPlayer—the title is, appropriately, 'General Assembly'. Delightfully, our friends from the Community Church were happy to be involved as well, so I'm pleased to report we got some good, ecumenical coverage here in Westhill! I think you'll agree with me that the production is excellent from beginning to end.

The coverage of the history of Scottish involvement in the slave trade in Bermuda is particularly enlightening. Anyway—do have a watch if you haven't yet. And for the elders among you, don't worry: an executive summary of General Assembly will come to session soon!



Messages

SKENE KIRK HYMN SINGS

Mark your calendars! Skene Kirk is playing host to a two-part praise event celebrating the riches of hymnody ancient and modern. Generously supported by the Church Hymnary Trust, we will begin with a time of praise in the church, followed by more-than-light refreshments in the Milne Hall. There are rumours of summer wines and perhaps—perhaps—even a barbecue, though details on the catering front are still being worked out.

The first evening will be an organ-led exploration of neglected classics, along with a selection of some of our favourites. The second evening will feature a contemporary praise band to lead us in worship. In addition to praising God, eating good food, and enjoying Christian fellowship, these two nights will familiarise us with new hymns to take back to church with us on Sunday—all in keeping with the Church Hymnary Trust's central mission:

The advancement of the Christian Faith through the promotion and development of hymnody in Scotland...by assisting in the development, promotion, provision and understanding of hymns, psalms and paraphrases suitable for use in public worship.

These are two events you won't want to miss! In fact, I, Rev. Daniel, promise to doubly refund the price of your ticket if you don't have a good time. And that's because these events are free, open to all and sundry at no cost.

The Traditional Hymn Sing will be on Friday, 21 August, and Contemporary Worship will be on Friday, 2 October. Doors will be open from 5pm, but singing will commence at 6:00. Following proceedings in the church, we will make our way to the Milne Hall for food and fellowship.

All donations on the night will go directly to Skene Kirk utilisation and upkeep. Come out, invite your friends, and enjoy a night of hymnody!

SKENE KIRK HYMN SINGS

Two evenings of worship through song, exploring the richness of traditional and contemporary hymnody

Friday 21 August - Traditional Hymn Sing (organ-led)
Classic hymns and lesser known treasures

Friday 2 October - Contemporary Worship
Modern songs of praise led by a worship band

6pm start both evenings, followed by food and drinks (including wines!) at the Milne Hall

FREE ENTRY

Generously supported by the Church Hymnary Trust

Kingshill Parish Church | Registered Scottish Charity SC009462



Messages

KINGDOM BUILDERS

Westhill Holiday Bible Club

For those going into P1 - S1

10th - 14th August

10 am - 12:15 pm

Ashdale Hall, Westhill

Book now by scanning the code



<https://www.facebook.com/hbcwesthill>

A Summer Service

Call to Worship

God is the King of moon and sun;
God is the King of stars beloved.
He knows our every need;
he is the kindly God of life.
Let us worship God.

Hymn: CH4 147

All Creatures of Our God and King

Opening Prayer

God of love,
light a flame of love in our hearts to you,
a flame of love to our families and friends,
a flame of love to our neighbours,
a flame of love to our enemies.

Grant us forgiveness,
for we have been heedless:
in our thoughts,
in our words,
in what we have done,
and in what we have failed to do.
Grant us your forgiveness today.

Lord God, heavenly Father,
as you scatter the mist from the hills,
banish the deeds of darkness
from the sons and daughters of light.
Help us to know and believe
that, as children of your love,
we are free to begin again.

*Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors.
And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from
evil,
for thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory,
forever.
Amen.*

Hymn: 463 Fairest Lord Jesus

Reading: 2 Corinthians 5:16-21

¹⁶ From now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view. Though we once regarded Christ in this way,

we do so no longer. ¹⁷ Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here! ¹⁸ All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: ¹⁹ that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting people's sins against them. And he has committed to us the message of reconciliation. ²⁰ We are therefore Christ's ambassadors, as though God were making his appeal through us. We implore you on Christ's behalf: Be reconciled to God. ²¹ God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

Prayer for Others

We pray this day for:
the church, that bright lamp of faith,
her ministers and people, and our parish.
May God protect her,
keep her, and save her.

We pray for the world, the creation of God,
its land and sea, its peace and prosperity.
May Christ Jesus move
through all the earth.

For those who are ill,
and for those who suffer.
May the Good Shepherd
who knows and loves his sheep
make them whole and well,
active and content.

For our country,
for the world's nations,
for the cessation of violence
and all forms of suffering:
Prince of Peace, have mercy.
Through Christ our Lord,
Amen.

Hymn: 286 Tell Out, My Soul

Doxology

Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end.

Amen.

Other News



1st SKENE BOYS' BRIGADE

BBs is now on its summer break. Activities resume with our annual summer camp in mid-August, where the boys will be: hill walking, mountain biking, paddleboarding and rock climbing.

May was a busy month for the BBs. At the start of the month 10 boys had a trip up to Abernethy outdoor centre where they enjoyed bouldering, zip lines, assault course, crate climbing and canoeing amongst other activities.

Our open night in the middle of May was very well attended. The boys gave an overview of the past year and received their awards. The highlight was Andrew Styles receiving his President's Badge.

The month finished with an assortment of outdoor activities including hillwalking and cycling for company section, with an adventure walk and an observational scavenger hunt around Westhill.

At the start of June, we joined the Aberdeen BB Battalion for a Civic reception at the Townhouse where Andrew Styles was formally presented with his President's badge by the Lord Provost. A number of officers also received Long Service awards, most notable were Doug Hudson with 50 years' service and Donny Struthers with 55 years.

Our new session will start in September and we will be delighted to welcome any new starts. Anchor boys (P1 to P3) meet at Trinity church on Friday 6:30 to 7:45 pm, Juniors (P4-6) Westhill Academy 6:30 to 8:00 pm and Company section (P7 upwards) Westhill Academy 6:30 to 9:00pm. If you are interested, please come along and give it a try.

Niall MacBeath - Company Captain

Contact: niall.macbeath@btinternet.com

or via our Facebook page: [1st Skene-Westhill Boys' Brigade](#)



Other News

GUILD NEWS

Hello, I can't believe that another Guild year is done, it has flown by. We have enjoyed hearing from our various speakers and learnt so much from them as well as having a good blether and fellowship over a cuppa and a fine piece. As I write this, we are looking forward to our summer outing to Raemoir Garden centre for a lovely Afternoon Tea together.

At our last meeting in May we enjoyed a musical afternoon with local charity Music4u, we all enjoyed singing along with Lewis to songs from yesteryear.

Although many Guilds have now stopped, there are some who meet through the summer months and it is lovely when we can all meet up together to share ideas and enjoy some fellowship. We will be doing that on Saturday 27th June when Guilds from all over the North East and Moray will be gathering at Trinity Church, Westhill. The meeting starts at 12pm where we will be hearing from Matt Sinar who is the Youth Development Officer for the Presbytery of the North East and the Northern Isles. All welcome.

On Saturday 22nd August we are delighted to welcome back to Trinity, Frances Carlaw, the Pearl Lady, who gave a fascinating talk about pearls last year and showed us the lovely jewellery she makes with them, which are available to buy. Tickets are £5, the proceeds which will go to the four Guild projects we are supporting and will include tea/coffee and fine piece. So, put the date in your diary.

I hope the summer is pleasant and warm and we come back refreshed for the new session starting on Monday 12th October.

Blessings,

Pauline.



Soldiers' Church Erected at Sholing.

Many persons, particularly those who contributed to the cost of its erection, will be pleased to hear that the little "Soldiers' Church," on the Common, which, during the war ministered to the spiritual needs of thousands of the men who passed through the Rest Camp on their way to the battlefields overseas, instead of being dismantled, has been put to practical use, and will, in fact, serve to perpetuate the memory of the men who worshipped there. The Committee which was responsible for its erection in the Camp recently gave it to the parish of Sholing, and it has been re-erected in Occil-road, Sholing, in order to serve the requirements of the Ichen end of the parish. The Bishop of Southampton (Dr.

Mararthur), dedicated it to "All Souls" on Wednesday. The clergy, who took part in the service of consecration were the Revs. B. G. Leonard-Williams (Vicar), A. Gunn (Bishop's chaplain), G. Hughes, C. Lovekin, N. G. Davis, and F. C. Dickson. The church, which has seating accommodation for three hundred persons, was crowded, and the choir from the parish church was in attendance. The service opened with the processional hymn, "Onward, Christian soldiers." The Bishop's sermon was preceded by the hymn, "We love the place, O God," and was followed by the singing of "Praise my soul, the King of Heaven." After the pronouncement of the Benediction, the "Te Deum" was sung as an act of thanksgiving.

It is interesting to note that all the work of decorating the church has been performed voluntarily by men of the parish in their spare time. The building itself has been lengthened eleven feet. The church bell was very kindly given by Miss M. E. Haigh.

I was brought up in the Sholing area of Southampton in a house built in the 1960s. I was inquisitive about what was there before the houses, and old maps showed a church. This was All Souls, a "tin church" fabricated from corrugated metal, and there were three of the type in Southampton. There are few records of the church remaining but this clip was posted online by a local history group and brings it all to life. There are no photographs of the church although there are some of the others - maybe I will share this with you next time I have a space to fill in the newsletter.

Bob Emmerson

Notices

WARM WEDNESDAYS

Warm Wednesdays will continue through the summer months of June, July and August. However this will take a slightly different form. During these summer months, we miss out the soup and serve a sandwich with tea or coffee and cake/biscuit. All are welcome to come along and meet up with others for company and chat. Warm Wednesdays are held in the Lounge at Trinity Church on the second Wednesday of the month.



Sheila Gray



WELCOME

We are pleased to welcome our new member:

**Mrs Jess Jardine,
Kingswells**



We remember with thanksgiving those who have died recently, and we offer their relatives our prayerful sympathy:

Lilian Thomson	Brimmond Drive
Norma Smith	Woodlands Care Home
Sally Leiper	Garioch Care Home
Gwen Craig	Roxburgh House
June Sherriffs	Rubislaw Park Care Home
Mabel Booth	Brodiach Farm
Hilda Winters	Arnhall Drive
Mike Saddler	Glebe Terrace
Hazel Milne	Pitcairn Care Home
Peter Stephen	Huxterstone Drive
Helen Pitblado	Blackhills Court

WANTED

Do you have any suitcases or holdalls that you no longer need? The ladies who run the clothing bank for the Asylum Seekers have run out completely and they are essential for those people moving on. Without a bag or case they are limited to plastic bags which are not very suitable. Any bags can be dropped off at Trinity.



Thank you!

SAFEGUARDING

The safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults in our community is of vital importance. If you see or hear something that concerns you, please do something.

For anything connected to the Church, contact Ann Paterson or Audrey Walker, Safeguarding Coordinators through Safeguarding.kingshillparish@gmail.com

For non-church concerns, contact either the local social work service or the police. Contact details can be found on the Safeguarding page of Kingshill Parish Church website.

CHURCH OFFICE

Eva Will is available from 9.00am to noon on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. Please get in touch by phone or email.

tel: 01224 742512

email:
secretary.kingshillparish@gmail.com



Scottish Charity No 009462