Lammermuir Parish Newsletter September 2026

Lammermuir Parish Church
Church of Scotland
Scottish Charity Number: SC015414

www.lammermuirchurch.org

The Church of Scotland

Next newsletter deadline: 19 November 2026

Minister's Letter

Here we are, a new school year beginning, many crops already harvested, the weather turning cooler and somewhat damper than it has been for much of the summer. How was your summer? Have you had time to relax and recharge, to reconnect with families and friends, perhaps to go on a holiday back to a well-loved place or to discover somewhere new?

I much enjoy the greater freedom throughout the summer: fewer meetings, no running for the school bell, a generally more relaxed atmosphere. I do wonder sometimes how we might be able to retain that spirit of freedom, of less pressure, of relaxation and peace as the pace of life increases again.

There is a question, of course, of what makes us feel pressured and stressed: if that is caused by expectations and schedules beyond our control, or if it's a matter of our inner attitude. However you answer that question for yourself, and make adjustments as you see fit, in this time of early autumn we focus on the harvest, and with it, on questions of what seeds we have sown this year, how we have nurtured them, and what we hope to harvest from them: perhaps a new hobby or skill, perhaps s new direction at work or in volunteering, perhaps a new friendship, perhaps continuing sustaining something that we have long cultivated.

Many of the Bible stories are set within an agricultural context, and there we find not only an encouragement to sow carefully and wisely, choosing the right ground in which seeds can flourish and feeding and fostering them just as they need, but also a motivation to share generously of the rewards of our efforts, literally and figuratively speaking. Where can we help each other to benefit from what we have respectively learned and gained, where can we support each other and equally look for support?

As we move further into autumn, may it be a fruitful and peaceful time for us all. As ever, if you would like to get involved more practically with our daily church life, or if you would welcome a chat or any other support, please get in touch.

All good wishes,

Aniko

Our Church Family

Baptisms	28 June 2026	Finlay John Nixon-Moss, son of Alex and Amanda Nixon-Moss (nee Macfarlane), Stamford (West Saltoun), at Yester Church
	26 July 2026	Rafferty Duncan Thomas Menzies, son of Jamie and Sophie Menzies, Edinburgh (Leaston), at Humbie Church
Wedding	1 August 2026	Eliza Plowden and Josh Berry, London (Johnstounburn), at Humbie Church
Deaths	25 July 2026	John Macfarlane, Session Clerk, West Saltoun
	30 July 2026	Helen Maccartan, Haddington

Our thoughts and prayers are with all who mourn the loss of their loved ones.

Ministry student

From October, we'll have a ministry student with us in placement for six months.

Aaron will spend a day a week with us and participate in our services.

This is his second placement, alongside his theology studies in Edinburgh.

I'll leave it to him to tell you more about himself in the next newsletter.

I'm sure we'll all make him feel very welcome!

Contacts

We have about 25 active elders, and many others who are involved in organising various aspects of our church life. Here are the main contacts – and we're very happy to put you in touch with others if you have specific questions.

Minister	Anikó Schütz Bradwell	01620 811193 07936 042191	AnikoSB@churchofscotland.org.uk
The minister's time off is usually Saturdays and Mondays.			
Session Clerk	Alex Campbell	07876 347135	amg.campbell@gmail.com
Depute Session Clerk & Gift Aid Treasurer	Paul Sales	07827 226135	paulsales457@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Wendy Ferguson	01620 11069	wendyferguson.wf@gmail.com
Safeguarding	Ian Jameson	07803 893970	dianjameson@aol.com
Newsletter	David Bradwell	01620 811193	djbradwell@gmail.com
Website and social media	Cressida Douglas-Miller	07789 931737	cressida@thehopesestate.com

Connect with us online:

Contact us

Watch our services on YouTube – search for 'Lammermuir Church'

Across

6. choir 7. Brazil 9. legible 10. fling 11. Ides 13. catnip 15. Pekoe 16. anthem 17. lion 20. attic 22. abolish 23. acorns 24. fasts

Down

1. foggiest 2. bribe 3. abbey 4. Carfrae 5. kiwi 6. call it a day 8. agapanthus 12. gem 13. cos 14. noisiest 15. peccary 18. balsa 19. Goofy 21. Tuck

Please join us for our
DROP IN COFFEE MORNINGS

Come for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee

10.30am-12noon

In Yester Church on Wednesdays
9 Sept, 14 Oct, 11 Nov and 9 Dec

In the Session Rooms in East Saltoun
on Wednesdays 23 Sept, 28 Oct, 25 Nov and 23 Dec

AFTERNOON COFFEES AND TEAS
at the Humbie Kirk Stables
2pm - 4pm
on Sundays 27 Sept, 25 Oct and 29 Nov

DOG CAFE
at the Gifford Bowling Club

coffees and teas for all who want to spend some time with friendly dogs

2-3pm on Wednesdays 3 Sept, 7 Oct, 4 Nov and 2 Dec

Lammermuir Church
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John Macfarlane

We give thanks for the life of John Macfarlane, our co-Session Clerk, who died in July.

John was a steady presence in our midst, a good friend to many, a gifted worship leader and singer as well as administrator and dedicated to the work of the Church.

In the messages we have received from the community and the wider Presbytery, his kindness, sharp mind and dry sense of humour are mentioned over and over. He is greatly missed.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife Ray, their daughter Amanda with Alex and Finlay, John's twin brother, and all his friends.

Going forward, we are glad that Alex Campbell, who shared the office of Session Clerk with John, has agreed to continue as sole Session Clerk, supported by Paul Sales, Depute Session Clerk, and Wendy Fergusson, Treasurer. Please contact them for any enquiries or information you would have directed to John in the past.

The future of Humbie Church and Stables

As you may be aware, when then Presbytery Plan was set, which required us to close at least two of the buildings of the former parish of Humbie linked with Yester Bolton and Saltoun, as well as both churches in Morham and Garvald, one further condition was that we would review the use of Humbie Church and Stables for the mission and ministry of our church by the end of 2026.

As you know, we have services in Humbie Church once a month, and the Kirk and Stables are used reasonably frequently, for meetings, monthly coffee afternoons, events like the Summer Camp and Flower Festival, and it is very popular for weddings.

Of course, there is plenty of potential to use the Kirk more: to have more concerts, use it as an additional exhibition space to the Humbie Hub, and the Stables complementing Humbie Village Hall as a smaller and more intimate space. The Stables refurbishment has now been concluded: have a look next time you are there.

A group commissioned by the Kirk Session, and made up of elders from around the parish, have carried out a thorough review of how the two Humbie buildings contribute to the work of our church, and concluded that Humbie Kirk and Stables offer something unique through their beautiful and peaceful setting, a space for prayer that is always open, and a lovely series of events that help us engage more widely with people from near and far not all of whom are regularly involved in our church life.

Our spaces at Humbie complement well what we do elsewhere: particularly with Yester Church right at the centre of the community, and Humbie Kirk offering a more secluded setting. The Kirk Session has, in its August meeting, followed the recommendation of the review group, and voted to keep Humbie Kirk and Stables open as part of our church.

This now concludes everything required of us by the Presbytery Plan, and going forward, we'll continue our work based in the buildings we now have: Yester and Humbie churches, the Session Rooms in East Saltoun, and the Stables in Garvald and Humbie. Of course, our work goes far beyond the buildings, and is based firmly in our community, and after years of very difficult decisions around buildings and unions, we can now again better focus on that. We are also one united parish, and all of our buildings are for the use of the whole community. We decided to retain two churches for the purpose of offering a variety of services and events, and everyone is strongly encouraged to participate in events across the parish, not only in their village.

Summer garden fete

At the end of May our Church Fete was back in the Manse garden in Gifford, with lots of visitors, Janet's and Christine's famous cream teas, live music provided by very talented friends of our church led by Johnny and Philip, and many games and stalls on offer. As ever, Claire and Liz did a fantastic job planning and coordinating it all, and many who were there commented on the lovely atmosphere. We raised more than £2,500 for the church - thank you all so much!

Festival of flowers

Thank you to all who prepared, ran and supported the fantastic Festival of Flowers at Humbie Kirk all weekend, and especially our Songs of Praise on Sunday afternoon. There were some fantastic voices and harmonies, all surrounded by the beautiful flowers. Over the weekend, more than £1,000 were raised for our church - thank you.

Haddington Show

In June, for the first time we had a stall at the Haddington Show, together with our friends from Traprain and Dunglass Parishes, as rural churches serving rural communities. It was lovely to see so many of you there.

Outdoor service with pet blessing

In July, we held our annual outdoor service, this time at the beautiful Carfrae Farm. Of course, after weeks of sunny and hot weather, the Sunday was the first day of heavy rain, which - while much appreciated by the farmers and gardeners in our midst - meant that we held the service in a shed rather than in the garden, as planned. As part of the service, we sang hymns like '*All creatures of our God and King*', '*How great thou art*' and '*For the beauty of the earth*', prayed in the words of St Francis of Assisi, and heard a blessing by Fyodor Dostoevsky. We also had invited pets to join us at the service, and offered a blessing. After the service, we shared lunch together, with many dishes brought along by different members of the congregation.

Lammermuir Church Property Group update

John Macfarlane

Our group are deeply saddened by the death of our colleague John, and record our grateful thanks for his wisdom, enthusiasm, and many contributions to this group over the years. John's input to the upgrade of Yester has been valuable and will form part of the whole.

Yester Kirk Interior Upgrade

We have previously sought, and received, permission to appoint Stuart Davidson Architecture Ltd as Project Managers for the refurbishment of Yester Church. SDA provided costs for a Feasibility Study that includes input from other professionals. Approval of £15,000 to fund the work was requested and approved. An initial timeline was included with the submission, and a visit to gather detailed information and measurements took place on Wednesday 5th August. It is hoped that a presentation of the results of the feasibility study will take place in the near future.

Yester Kirk Chairs

A sum of £20k was approved in 2025 for the purchase of chairs to replace our pews. Prestonkirk are replacing their existing chairs (similar to ours) and they are in good condition. We arranged a visit to see if theirs might be suitable for us. This may be an opportunity to reuse rather than purchase new. No decision has been taken at this time.

Yester Kirk Boiler

The chimney flue is damaged and needs to be replaced, and we are seeking costs for this. The flue replacement needs to be in place before we can safely use the boiler again.

Paul Sales

Messy Church

20 September in East Saltoun

Our next Messy Church takes place on Sunday 20 September, 4-6pm in the Fletcher Hall in East Saltoun. We'll hear about the story of the Good Samaritan, with crafts and games, perhaps even some hands-on first-aid practice for the kids, a toddler corner, child-appropriate prayer time, and a shared tea for the children.
All children of pre-school and primary school age are warmly invited, together with their parents, grandparents or carers.

We have a wonderful team, and it would be lovely to see more children join in, so please spread the word.

The subsequent Messy Church will be on Sunday 15th November in Humbie Village Hall).

Macmillan Coffee Morning

26 September in Garvald

There is going to be a Macmillan coffee morning (in aid of cancer support) in Garvald Stables on Saturday 26 September from 10am to 12noon. Everybody is very welcome for tea coffee and home-baking.

Caroline McGregor

Reflective Morning

3 October in Humbie

Following last Advent's event with participants from our own area as well as from further afield in Presbytery, we are offering another Reflective Morning on Saturday, 3rd October, in Humbie Kirk and Stables.

This time, and following a taster at the Humbie Summer Camp, the theme will be 'Who knows what tomorrow will bring: seeking happiness'.

It will include various options, including guided reflections on biblical characters, optional walks, drawing and writing, and space for personal reflection in the church.

Feedback for last year's event included *'How wonderful it was - thoughtful, mind provoking, intimate'* and *'What a beautiful way to spend the morning. It was a lovely way to take time away from the outside world. The setting at Humbie was gorgeous surrounded with the river and the woods. An ideal location to take time out. The food and hospitality was amazing*.' We're happy to report that Elizabeth and Guy have kindly agreed to look after the food again! Book your place with Aniko.

Church breakfast

4 October – before the harvest festival service

Our harvest thanksgiving service will take place on Sunday 4 October. Before the service we will be offering breakfast. Listen out for further announcements in church, via our weekly email or on the website for more details on the arrangements.

Winter Wellbeing – an information evening
8 October in East Saltoun

In the community survey run by the Community Council in East and West Saltoun a few of years ago, there were a number of requests for mental health support in the community. Our Parish minister, Aniko Schütz Bradwell, has arranged for one of our local residents, Jill Jeans, to deliver an information workshop on wellbeing and looking after our physical and mental health in the winter months.

Jill is the CEO of Changes East Lothian, a charity that aims to enable people to achieve and maintain good mental health and wellbeing, and it is partly funded by the East Lothian Health & Social Care Partnership to do this for the county.

If you are interested to find out more, either for yourself or those you care for, we will hold an information session on Thursday, 8th October, 6:30-8pm in the Session Rooms in East Saltoun, with warm drinks and cake. Jill will be speaking about looking after both your physical and mental health & wellbeing and introducing the services available from Changes East Lothian and other organisations across the county.

For more info, please see www.changeschp.org.uk

If you'd like to come along, please sign up on the sheet in the church, the local shop or let Aniko know via anikosb@churchofscotland.org.uk so we can gauge the number attendees.

Humbie Fireworks
1 November

Please make a date in your diary for the Humbie fireworks which will be held on Sunday 1 November. More details about the event and how to get tickets will be available nearer the time.

Carrie Murray

Remap update

Remap is a charity which provides free custom-made equipment for disabled people Paul Wightman, the secretary of Remap in Lothian, Fife and Forth Valley, has let us know how the collection of funds at our Christmas eve service in 2024 has been used. This fund has now been fully used, and a final update of recent projects has been added to our website www.lammermuirchurch.org/remap. To find out more about the help Remap can provide and how to support them if you are able, their website is www.remap.org.uk

A scripture recipe

This is a delicious cake to make at Harvest Time

Ingredients

1. ½ lb Judges 5 v 25
2. ½ lb Jeremiah 6 v 20
3. 1 tbsp 1 Samuel 14 v 25
4. 3 of Jeremiah 17 v 11
5. ½ lb of 1 Samuel 30 v 12
6. ½ lb Nahum 3 v 12 (Chopped)
7. 2 oz Numbers 17 v 8
8. 1 lb 1 Kings 4 v 22
9. Season to taste with 2 Chronicles 9 v 9
10. Pinch of Leviticus 2 v 13
11. 1tsp of Amos 4 v 5
12. 3 tbsp Judges 4 v 19

Method

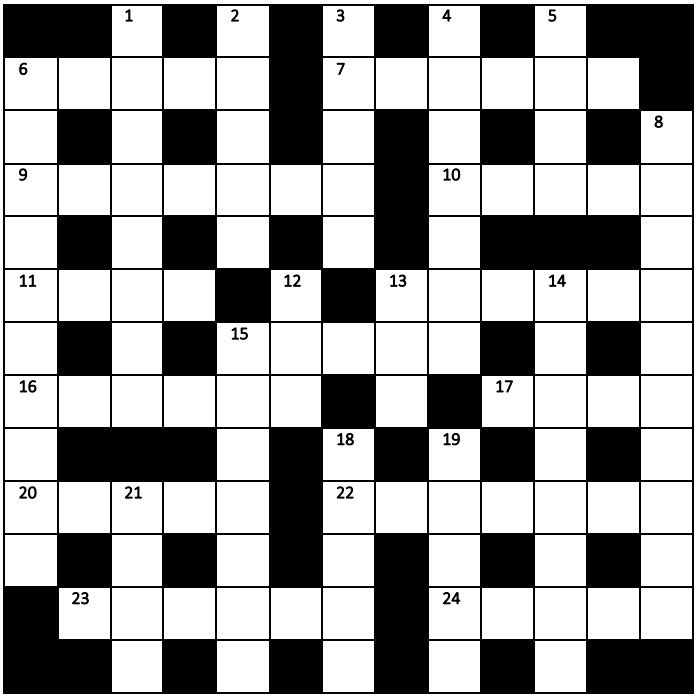
- Cream 1, 2 and 3
- Beat 4 and gradually add to 1, 2 & 3
- Add 5 and 6 and 7, beating well
- Mix together 8, 9, 10, and 11 and beat them in, then add 12.

For a good cake follow Solomon's advice in Proverbs 23 v 14. Place in greased / lined 8" square tin Cook at 150 C / 300 F / Gas Mark 2, until cake is well-risen and spring back when touched in centre.

If you try it, please do let us know how it turns out!

Sourced from the Longhorsley Village Recipe Book, with thanks to Andrea Nairn

Lammermuir Crossword No. 9



Across

6. This group of people meet in church every Wednesday to practise hymns (5)

7. This team beat Scotland 3-0 at the 2026 FIFA World Cup (6)

9. Writing which is neat enough to be read easily (7)

10. A solo Highland dance (5)

11. Beware the 15th March! (4)

13. The feline is sleeping (6)

15. High quality black tea (5)

16. Choral music designed to be sung by a choir in church (6)

17. Simba; Aslan; Elsa which animal? (4)

20. Room at the top of the house (5)

22. Put an end to a law, custom or practice (7)

23. The nuts of the oak tree (6)

24. Periods when one doesn't eat (5)

Down

1. I don't know, I haven't the (8)

2. An inducement to bypass rules (5)

3. There is one at Jedburgh, Melrose and Dunfermline (5)

4. This year's Lammermuir outdoor service was at --- Farm (7)

5. Flightless bird, native to New Zealand (4)

6. Decide to finish an activity or piece of work early (4,2,1,3)

8. Plant also known as Lily of the Nile or African Lily (10)

12. A jewel (3)

13. Type of lettuce, also known as Romaine (3)

14. The ones making the biggest din (8)

15. Related to the pig, this is called a skunk pig from Central and South America (7)

18. Very light wood, often used for model making (5)

19. A Disney cartoon character, a tall dog (5)

21. This Friar was one of the Merry Men (4)

Opportunities to be involved

A church is brought to life by its congregation, and everyone is welcome to participate actively, in and beyond our services. We are very keen to extend our Worship Team, and if you feel even a slight nudge towards being involved in this area of our church life, please speak to Aniko.

Opportunities include reading the Bible passages, leading prayers, and offering Sunday Club for the children. Plenty of resources and training are on offer, with a new season of Worship Leading courses (with weekly online evening sessions for 5-6 weeks per course) offered by Presbytery from this autumn.

Other area where we urgently need help at present are:

- We need more helpers to distribute our quarterly newsletters, particularly in the East and West Saltoun area, as some of our regular volunteers are too unwell to do so at present.
- We are looking for a Booking Secretary for the Session Rooms in East Saltoun, coordinating room bookings and opening the building up.
- We are looking for a new Safeguarding Coordinator for the congregation.

Please think about if you could offer your support in any of these areas, and speak to Alex, Paul or Aniko if you would like to hear more. Thank you.

Toasty Tuesdays – what have we been up to over the Summer?

On a regular basis we are enjoying Rab's Wellbeing exercise. Great relaxation along with controlled movement. Patrick Gamell, Vice Lord Lieutenant, gave us an interesting talk on what they do and some fun stories during his role. Three of our members were 90 this year, so we just had to acknowledge that, thank you Jenny Harper for coming along. In June we went down to the Kirk Stables and visited the Flower Festival in the Kirk. The beautiful smell from the flowers was memorable, and we entered 'Garden in a Box'. We trialled a ''Summer Camp''. Three days at the Stables with a guided woodland walk,

crafting and gardeners question time. Aniko came along making us all think what was life all about, great end to the three days.

Funded by Humbie Community Fund and HYCF, hosted by Toasty Tuesdays, we set off on a bus trip to Falkland Palace and gardens. 43 came on the trip including some families. A stop off at Loch Leven Larder on the way home finished a great day out.

Our Summer Programme ends in October. We then meet weekly. If you would like to join us, please get in touch.

Margo Hodge (07931 349242) and Rab Sneddon (07870 295957)

Rab's popular Wellbeing Exercise

90th Birthday Celebrations

Winning Box

Visit to tulips.

Toasty Tuesday volunteers let loose!

Scripture recipe clues solution

1. Judges 5 v 25 – She brought forth BUTTER in a lordly dish
2. Jeremiah 6 v 20 – To what purpose cometh there to me incense from Sheba and the SWEET CANE (sugar) from a far country?
3. 1 Samuel 14 v 25 – And all they of the land came to a wood; and there was HONEY upon the ground.
4. Jeremiah 17 v 11 – As the partridge sits on EGGS
5. 1 Samuel 30 v 12 - And they gave him ….. two clusters of RAISINS
6. Nahum 3 v 12 – All thy strongholds shall be like FIG trees (DRIED FIGS)
7. Numbers 17 v 8 - … the rod of Aaron brought forth buds and yielded ALMONDS
8. 1 Kings 4 v 22 – And Solomon's provision for one day was 30 measures of FINE FLOUR.
9. 2 Chronicles 9 v 9 – Neither was there any such SPICE as the Queen of Sheba gave Solomon
10. Leviticus 2 v 13 – With all thine offerings thou shalt offer SALT
11. Amos 4 v 5 – And offer a sacrifice of thanksgiving with LEAVEN (Baking Powder)
12. Judges 4 v 19 – She opened a skin of MILK, gave him a drink and covered him up

Proverbs 23 v 14 "Thou shalt BEAT him with the rod"

Summer Camp leaf printing

Crafting lanterns

Let loose at Falkland Palace

Humbie Hall Trust Update

The works installing the bi-folding doors and creating the accessible platform and ramp have now been completed and duly approved by East Lothian Council. We are grateful for Hall users' forbearance in recent months while the works which greatly enhance the Hall facility were carried out. This significant project has only been possible because of the substantial financial contributions provided by DLX and Humbie Community Fund towards the cost of this project.

Landscaping of the garden area is already underway and it is envisaged this will be progressed as autumn approaches. We hope this will give Hall users an attractive outlook through our new doors.

We as Trustees appreciate very much the continuing support everyone gives to the on-going improvement of our much-used Hall facility which benefits our community.

Lynne Lowrie

&

Sandy Wilson

Service schedule September to December 2026

Sunday Services take place at 10am, led by the Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell, unless noted on the schedule). Streaming or recording available, check on the website for details www.lammermuirchurch.org.

SEPTEMBER		
6	Humbie	Coffee and tea after service.
13	Yester	Led by the Worship Team. Sunday Club.
20	Yester	Coffee and tea after service.
20	East Saltoun	4.00pm Messy Church in the Fletcher Hall
27	Yester	Communion service. Lothian Larder collection.
OCTOBER		
4	Humbie	Breakfast before service. Harvest Festival
11	Yester	Service leader tbc. Sunday Club
18	Yester	Service leader tbc. Coffee and tea after service.
25	Yester	Blythswood collection (tbc)
NOVEMBER		
1	Humbie	Communion service. Coffee and tea after service.
8	Yester at 10.50am	Remembrance Sunday, starting at the War Memorial.
8	Humbie at 10.50am	Remembrance Sunday at the War Memorial, led by members of the community.
15	Yester	Coffee and tea after service.
15	Humbie Village Hall	4.00pm Messy Church in the Village Hall
22	Yester	
29	Yester	1st Sunday of Advent
DECEMBER		
6	Humbie	2nd Sunday of Advent. Coffee and tea.
13	Yester	3rd Sunday of Advent. Lessons and Carols.
13	Humbie at 4.00pm	Service of Remembering
20	Yester	4th Sunday of Advent. Nativity. Coffee and tea.