

'Church Chat'

The Magazine of
Haddington Parish at St Mary's Kirk



June 2026

"For the glory of God and the solace of a whole community"

INVITATION

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper
will be celebrated at
9.30am (non-alcoholic juice) and
11am (alcoholic wine & non-alcoholic juice)
on Sunday 14th June 2026



You are warmly invited to share in this important part of the
life of the new Haddington Parish.

(Children are welcomed at the Lord's Table)

Summer Worship

On Sunday 5th July, we will begin our Single Summer Services.
There will be one service at 10.30am until the end of August.

From our Locum Minister

Rev Kristina Herbold Ross

Dear Friends at Haddington Parish,

Warm greetings to you. In the Church calendar, with Trinity Sunday falling on 31st May this year, the month of June will mark the start of the liturgical season of Trinity. We think of God as Trinity – Father, Son and Holy Spirit – which goes to the very core of our Christian faith. In the Trinity we see the perfect relationship – God in three persons, yet one and indivisible.

For me, June marks my first anniversary of preaching at St Mary's – although I didn't become your locum minister until later in the year. Other anniversaries this June include the 100th anniversary of the birth of the American actress Marilyn Monroe and the 250th anniversary of the birth of the painter John Constable. St Mary's Kirk has seen so many significant anniversaries since construction began; I'm reminded of the words Jesus spoke after some Pharisees told him to rebuke his disciples. *"I tell you,"* He replied, *"if they keep quiet, the stones will cry out."* (Luke 19:40)

Anniversaries are helpful milestones on our journey through life. They help us to take stock and are good at reminding us of what we can and should learn from history, to look at our weaknesses and to celebrate our strengths – and to learn from both. In the person of Jesus, in perfect relationship with God the Father and Holy Spirit, we see his message of *"life in all its fullness"*. (John 10:10).

May you know Jesus' message of *"life in all its fullness"* and may it help you to remain God's faithful and joyful servants – this June and always.

With every blessing and good wishes,

Kristina

PRAYER FOR TODAY -

Fill Me With Your Peace

Dear God,
I bless your holy name for the
good night's rest you gave me.
Thank you for renewing my
heart and refreshing my soul.
I pray that you give me
strength in everything I do
Help me surrender all my
worries and challenges to you.
Fill me with your peace, joy,
and love this day and always

Amen

THE GRACEFUL CHAPTER

Vacancy Update

The congregation met in March to elect 13 members of the congregation to form a Nominating Committee, whose task is to try and find a new minister for the congregation.

Since then the advert asking candidates to apply has gone live on the Church of Scotland website. The Parish Profile is available on our own website and everyone is invited to have a look at it:

<https://www.haddingtonparish.org.uk/downloads/Parish%20Profile%20-%20Haddington%20Parish%20.pdf>

Please keep the Nominating Committee and any applicants in your thoughts and prayers as they go about this important task.

Stewart Meikle

Our Church Family



Baptisms

"Then He took the children in His arms, placed His hands on them, and blessed them".



June

Eliana Honor McKerchar

Weddings & Blessings

"Meanwhile, these three remain: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of all is love".



April

Kirsty Elder & Guy Mozolowski

May

Octavia Rowles & William Cobb
Sidney Thomas & Ben Savardi

Deaths & Funerals

"Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted".



March

Mrs Jean Campbell

Mr Alan Hope

Mr Ralph Musgrave

From the Editor



Thanks to all who have contributed to this edition of *Church Chat*.

The deadline for our Harvest Edition is **14th August 2026**.

New contributors are welcome. Please send your articles as Word documents. Keep them brief. Half an A4 page fills a page of the magazine. Don't bother to format to look like the magazine. I can do that.

John Weierner

Crafty Folk



We meet every Thursday morning in the Church from 10.30am to 12noon. We always welcome new members.

Our creations are on sale at the Craft Stall when the Church is open for tourists and visitors each day from 1.30pm to 4pm.

Jane Davies

Prayer Group



The prayer desk with the box where people can leave their prayer requests is set up in the northwest aisle of the church.

The Prayer Group meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month from 10.30am. If anyone would like to join the group, please speak to Kristina in the first instance.

Elisabeth

Wednesday Quiet Time

Everyone is most welcome to come into our beautiful candlelit church on the 3rd Wednesday of the month for a time of quiet reflection. Please join us from 7.00pm to 7.30pm on Wednesday 17th June, before our summer break. We plan to resume in September after the Lammermuir Festival finishes.



Isobel Colley and Felicity Haire

Flower Team

Many thanks to all who supported our flower basket efforts for Easter Sunday - both arrangers and buyers thereof! Due to your amazing generosity, we have banked £450 - a very healthy sum to help us to continue to provide cheerful posies each week, which are always very much appreciated by the recipients.

As we are working on becoming more eco-friendly, we have arranged for Lottie Longman, flower arranger extraordinaire, to give us a demonstration on alternative methods and mediums in which to arrange Church flowers, to reduce our use of floral foam.

Lottie's demonstration will be on Wednesday, 3rd June at 6pm, and should last about an hour.

Please let Joyce Edwards or Felicity Haire know if you would like to join us and we'll add your name to the list. All will be made most welcome.

We are always looking for more Church people who enjoy arranging flowers and who would like to join our Flower Team - we would love to add your name to this list too!

Joyce Edwards & Felicity Haire

Walking Group



We meet on the second Saturday of each month, usually about 9.30am at the North Door of the church. We take on circular walks of about 7 miles and usually travel to our starting point by sharing cars or by bus.

Circle of Friends Afternoon Teas

Do join us again for our monthly afternoon tea at 2.30pm on



Thursday, 18th June.

Everyone is so welcome to come and catch up with friends, both old and new, and enjoy some home baking along with the chat. We will take a break for July and August - please check the noticeboards for the date of our September afternoon tea date.

**Isobel Colley, Rona Bowick,
Maureen Duncan, Helen Gray,
Felicity Haire, Lorna McDougal,
Di Kettles and Anne Wilcox**

Car Run

We have a lovely group of folks, both receiving and providing lifts to our church services. It would be good to welcome one or two more drivers to the team. This can be a regular monthly commitment or a standby role.



Please speak directly to Di Kettles. I'm at the 9.30 service on the 2nd Sunday of the month and can be found in the choir at the 11am service. Or pop along to our afternoon tea each 3rd Thursday and see me there. Thank you!

Di Kettles

The Youth Group



The group meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month 6pm – 7.30pm and is for ages 11 to 16 years. We have 9 young people in total, 7 boys and 2 girls. We have been very blessed by the

offers of help from the congregation, but we continue to need leaders, so if this is something you would be keen to be involved in, please see any of the YC team.

Sheila Wright

Young Church

continues to meet on

Sunday mornings



after the 9.30am service for about 40 minutes. All visiting children, or those who usually come to either service, are very welcome.

Young Church is for children of 3 years to Primary 7. All are welcome, whether able to attend regularly, or just when they can.

We usually start with the all-important snack time, then share a story or talk about a topic of faith. We then move on to a related craft and finish with a prayer.

Sheila Wright

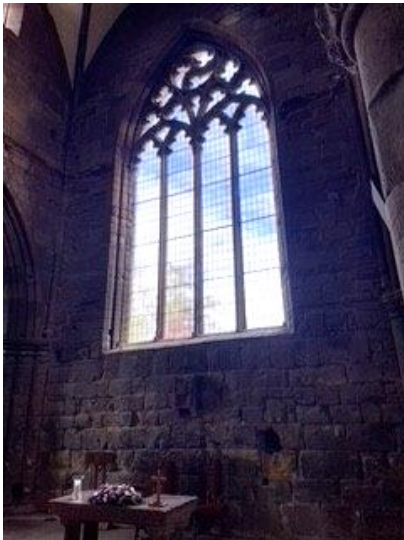
Church Fabric



The Fabric Team has been busy in the past few months. Here is a selection of some of the things they have been getting up to.

Window Restoration

All the clear leaded glass windows in the east end of the church have now been completely cleaned and restored.



This has been carried out by a specialist company Rainbow Glass Limited and involved removing the old failing polycarbonate protection system on the outside,

cleaning and repairing the lead and glass on both the inside and outside. Then finally replacing the external protection system. Do take a look at the magnificent work that has been done when you are next in the church. Thanks to all who were involved in raising money for this initiative.

Manse Improvements

While the manse at 1 Nungate Gardens has been empty we have been taking the opportunity to make several improvements. This has included painting and decorating on both the interior and exterior, electrical upgrades and installing a new gas boiler.

Solar Panels

Work to install solar panels on the south-west aisle roof has now been completed and we are now generating electricity! There are 38 panels with a 17kw capacity, so quite a sizeable array and we think we are the first church of our size to complete such a project in Scotland. The panels are set to record carbon savings of more than three tonnes of CO₂ annually – the equivalent to 150 trees – as well as cutting the church's electricity bills and reducing our dependency on fossil fuels. We may look to add batteries at some point in the

future and so make further savings. Take a look at this clip to see them getting installed:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4a9-Vr1PcF8>



Kitchen Improvement

The kitchen in the church is very old and tired and due an upgrade. A local architect has been engaged to help us draw up plans for a new kitchen, making better use of the existing space and potentially giving us the opportunity to use the building for a more diverse range of events.

Any questions on any of the above or anything else to do with Fabric please speak to me, our Fabric Convenor.

Stewart Meikle

Thanks to the Kitchen Crews



This is a “shout out” of sincere thanks to the folks, both women and men, who so cheerfully serve us from the kitchen at church events.

They hide in the list of *Church Groups and Activities* under the name “The Social Group” and perform under the able leadership of Janet Penman.

In fact, there are several teams working in rotas to cope with all the many social activities in our busy church.

I’m sure that their hearts will be warmed to read, in the adjacent article, that plans for upgrading the kitchen are being drawn up.

So, thanks again!

John Weiterer

That Tunnelled Road

A poem by Stewart Carruthers - 1996

*I walked along a tunnelled road
Through trees that bordered my way
And shadows cast by a sheltered sun
Like bars before me lay.*

*The calm of darkness was all around
As squirrels and birds played games
I stood and wondered at this hallowed hall
In amazement at God's great aims.*

*For here the trees linked all their arms
As if to protect the living
I, as one of these stood below,
Appreciating nature's giving.*

*Great boughs bent over, leaves astir
The breaths of wind puff by
Sun's rays reach through and dance along
That tunnelled road they try.*

*But like a church in seeming prayer
That tunnelled road was still
And, had I been on my knees to pray,
The air with prayers I'd fill.*

This poem was inspired by the road to Yester House by Gifford Park with the arching trees along it.

Stewart Carruthers

Music & Events in St Mary's Kirk



2026 is proving to be a very busy year for concerts and events. We have already hosted ten concerts since January. These have brought lots of people into our church; shown we are part of our community and boosted congregational funds.

Upcoming Concerts this month include a Summer Concert by the Garleton Singers on **Saturday 6 June** – “Sounds of Creation”, inspiring music for choir, pianos and percussion including Parry – Blest Pair of Sirens; Robert Cohen’s Celestial Trilogy; Stars, Light, Music & Night by Judith Weir and Canticle of Creation by Jay Wilcox. Tickets are available from the choir website or Kesley’s bookshop, choir members or at the door.

On **Saturday 27 June** there will be “A Hans Zimmer Candlelight Experience” - two one-hour concerts in candlelight with a first sitting 7-8pm and another sitting from 9-10pm. The candles are small LED tealights and the music, by composer Hans Zimmer, will include movie theme tunes including Gladiator, Lion King, Pirates of the Caribbean, and The Holiday. For tickets go to www.lumos-experiences.com



Our 2026 **St Mary's at 4** concert series runs every Sunday afternoon until the end of August with 18 concerts in total.

On **7 June** we welcome the Sonos Araon Duo on piano and flute, on **14 June** it is Elinor Evans on clarsach, on **21 June** a wind ensemble, the Sinfonia Chamber Players and on **28 June** the Andante Chamber Choir from the Borders. Please do come along to one of the concerts to

support the artists and the church. Please help spread the word. This year's donations are going to the project to refurbish and upgrade the church kitchen.

We hope you enjoy the annual **Haddington Camera Club exhibition**, being held in St Mary's for ten weeks running up to 26 July. If you haven't already had a look, do come along one afternoon between 1.30pm and 4pm and see the amazing photographs. It is well worth a wee visit!



If anyone is interested in joining our Events Team, please get in touch with Alison Meikle at events@stmaryskirk.co.uk

Christian Aid

Farmers' Market Stall

This was a successful awareness-raising event in April. We had our *Cone Garden* on display and lots of friendly faces dropped in to see us.



Christian Aid Week 2026

The Joint All-age Service was held on Sunday 10th May in St Mary's Kirk, involving the Praise Band, the organ and several speakers from both churches. Thanks are due to all those that contributed, particularly Rev Kristina and Rev Liz who jointly conducted the service.

Together, we explored the experiences of Fridah Moraa and Belinda Kasudi, urban farmers living in the sprawling informal settlement of Dagoretti in Nairobi Kenya. Life there is precarious, with inadequate

housing, no reliable access to running water and few opportunities to earn an income. Hunger is a constant threat, as families face heartbreaking decisions over how to feed their children. In this densely packed environment, farming might seem impossible, but Fridah and Belinda have taken on the challenge with the supportive training of Christian Aid's partner *Beacon of Hope*. They have developed intensive cultivation methods which can be fitted into small spaces between houses such as planting in bags or using Cone Gardens – a tower of soil retained by scrap materials such as tyres and strips of plastic or roofing felt.

The model cone garden was on display at the service.

The service was well received and there was warm fellowship at the refreshments afterwards.

A total of £1075 was raised in cash at the retiring collection and a further £116 online. The online page will stay open until 26th June and can be accessed with this QR code:



Midsummer Afternoon Tea on 20th June 2026 at 3pm

This will be held in the Rectory Garden. Tickets cost £10, available in church from reps or by phone or online from Gail at Trinity Centre.

Sponsored Walk on Saturday 12th September

We will repeat this with the help of our Walking Group over the same route as last year.

Our Church Reps on the Steering Committee

Mary McMillan, Janet Penman, Maureen & John Weiерter, and Anne & Paul Wilcox.

John Weiерter



A Beginner's Guide to The General Assembly

(The words in blue are links to more information on the Church of Scotland website.)



The General Assembly is the supreme court of the Church of Scotland which meets annually at the Assembly Hall in Edinburgh on the Mound to hear reports from the councils and committees, make laws and set the agenda for the national Church.

The Assembly was first held in 1560, the year of the Scottish Reformation which marked the beginning of the Protestant Church of Scotland.

Who attends

Around 500 ministers, [deacons](#) and elders are commissioned to attend the Assembly each year. Delegates and visitors are also invited from partner churches around the world. Those attending the Assembly can choose to do so in Edinburgh or online.

A new [Moderator](#) is appointed to chair the daily business each year. Moderators can be male or female and ordained ministers, deacons or elders. The role is honorary and the Moderator is neither the leader nor the head of the Church: The Church of Scotland holds that Jesus Christ is, 'the King and Head of the Church'. The correct title is [Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland](#) , or 'Moderator of the General Assembly'.

The Moderator chairs the daily proceedings, leading daily worship, keeping order, ruling on points of order, and signing documents on behalf of the Assembly.

The [Lord High Commissioner](#) is appointed by the King to act as his representative and attend the Assembly as an observer.

General Assembly 2026

The 2026 General Assembly took place in May when Rev Gordon Kennedy, minister of Craiglockhart Parish Church in Edinburgh, was installed as Moderator. He will spend a year as an ambassador for the Church of Scotland. He succeeds the 2025-26 Moderator, Very Rev Rosie Frew.



During the next 12 months, the Moderator acts as the Church's ambassador, meeting with ecumenical partners and faith leaders, visiting presbyteries and projects and representing the Church at home and abroad. When asked for an opinion on important issues, the Moderator is expected to have in mind the views of the General Assembly or the relevant Church committee.

You can look back on the Assembly and other news from our central church, sometimes known as “121 George Street” by going to the website: www.churchofscotland.org.uk/home



(Now that *Life and Work* is not being published anymore you must go online for news about The Church of Scotland.)

As well as a variety of news items, there is a list of online newsletters to which you can subscribe for free!

Church Groups and Activities

with the names of their organisers.

These groups will warmly welcome you.

Further information on each can be found in previous editions of this magazine and on the internal notice board at the west end of the church. You can approach them in church or contact them through the minister or session clerk – see the Church Contacts page.

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------|
| • Welcome Teams at both the 9:30 & 11am services. | Rae Goode |
| • Beadle Team | Stewart Meikle |
| • Bell Ringing | Eleanor Hayman |
| • The Choir | Stewart Macrae |
| • Young Church & Youth Group for older kids. | Sheila Wright |
| • Worship Teams | Rae Goode |
| • The Prayer Group | Kristina H-R |
| • The Circle of Friends (Pastoral Team) | Isobel Colley or Felicity Haire |
| • Events in Church | Alison Meikle |
| • The Crafty Folk | Jane Davies |
| • The Flower Team | Felicity Haire or Joyce Edwards |
| • The Fabric Team | Stewart Meikle |
| • The Home Group (Bible Study) | Robert Lightbody |
| • The Praise Band | Robert Lightbody |
| • The Social Team | Janet Penman |
| • The Third Wednesday Team | Felicity Haire |
| • The Visitor Season Team | Stewart Macrae |
| • The Walking Group | Mary McMillan |
| • The AV Team | Mike Rodger |
| • Church Magazine | John Weierter |

More news and information about events in the church can be found on the website which includes a handy events calendar. You can also make donations here.

Click the link or point your camera at the QR code:

www.haddingtonparishchurch.org.uk



You can also find us on Facebook.



CHURCH CONTACTS

Locum Minister: Rev Kristina Herbold Ross

Interim Moderator: Rev Elisabeth Spence

Session Clerk: Rae Goode

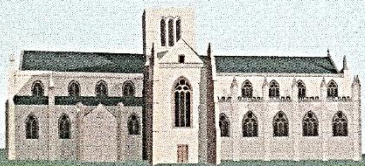
Church Bookings: Alison Meikle

Magazine Articles: John Weierter

For regular giving you can pick up a form at church
or request a Gift Aid declaration form here:

E-mail: donations@haddingtonparishchurch.org.uk

Haddington Parish (Church of Scotland)
Scottish Charity Number SC010614



ST MARY'S AT 4

SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERTS AT 4PM,
ST MARY'S KIRK, HADDINGTON



Judy & Sally



Coreen



Leander

Philomusica



Elinor



Finlay



Berwick Concert Band



Andante Choir



End of the Pier

www.stmaryskirk.co.uk

Breve Encounters

Sonos Atron



ST MARY'S AT 4

**MAY
3**

COREEN SCOTT

Local singer with a wide range of musical styles

**MAY
10**

BERWICK BRASS QUINTET

from Northumberland

**MAY
17**

BREVE ENCOUNTERS

16th & 17th Century music on voice, viola da gamba, flute and recorder

**MAY
24**

STUART HARMONIE

Group from Aubigny, our twin town - songs & music to celebrate the Auld Alliance

**MAY
31**

END OF THE PIER

Music by Flanders & Swan / Joyce Grenfell / Noel Coward

**JUN
7**

SONOS ARAON DUO

Catherine Baker on piano & Lynn Fraser on flute

**JUN
14**

ELINOR EVANS

East Lothian Clarsach player

**JUN
21**

SINFONIA CHAMBER PLAYERS

Wind ensemble

**JUN
28**

ANDANTE CHAMBER CHOIR

from the Borders

**JUL
5**

BERWICK CONCERT BAND

Brass, wind & percussion from Northumberland

**JUL
12**

LEANDER VAN DER BOS

Organist touring Scotland from the Netherlands

**JUL
19**

HADDINGTON FIDDLES

Traditional music

**JUL
26**

ABERLADY MOONSHINE ORCHESTRA

Contemporary jazz & blues

**AUG
2**

BERWICK BAROQUE PLAYERS

from Berwick upon Tweed

**AUG
9**

PHILOMUSICA

Popular Edinburgh orchestra

**AUG
16**

HOLY TRINITY HANDBELLS

Our bell-ringing neighbours

**AUG
23**

FINLAY SMITH

Violinist

**AUG
30**

JUDY BARKER & SALLY THOMAS

Songs & tunes on Scottish small pipes & English concertina

**FREE ENTRY
BUT DONATIONS TO THE KIRK'S
KITCHEN PROJECT ARE WELCOME**

**REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE
BEFORE THE CONCERT, FROM 3PM**

If you're interested in performing, or have any questions, please email events@stmaryskirk.co.uk

Haddington Parish (Church of Scotland)
Scottish Charity Number SC010614