



Dear Friends

Back in June, Drena asked if we could write something for Update when we move. We thought that would be in September, but now eight months later we're finally on our way! We're moving to a house in North Berwick this weekend and are surrounded by packing boxes and dismantled furniture! We want to thank you so much for your patience with us and for allowing us to stay on.

Our initial plan was to buy or rent a small flat in order to keep our cottage in Arran but after lots of house viewings we realised this wouldn't work. We then took the tough decision to put our cottage on Arran on the market, and the sale concluded in November. After a lot of searching in different locations, our offer on a house with room for the family to come and stay in North Berwick was accepted. It obviously won't take all the stuff we've accumulated over the years so there have been lots of trips to charity shops – Gumtree has been a big help too! Please come and see us if you're ever through in the East – we'd love to catch up.

As we get ready to leave Union Manse after over 21 years, we would like to thank you for letting us stay on for longer than expected. We are so grateful as this has given us and the family some stability while so many things have changed. Thank you. The Manse has been a very happy family home; it's a great house with lovely neighbours on all sides and we will take so many treasured memories from the years we have lived here.

However it has been very strange to live on in the Manse but not to be with you all. We have both missed the fellowship of Lenzie Union enormously – though it's been lovely to meet people in the shops or whilst walking to the station. We will miss that opportunity to see you when we move.

Being a Depute Presbytery Clerk is very different, but it's going well and I'm enjoying learning new things. I really miss being a parish minister and leading worship on Sundays, but I'm getting a much wider perspective on the Church. After completing an MSc in Museum Education at University of Glasgow a couple of years ago Joanne is now enjoying working in the heritage sector in Edinburgh and East Lothian.

Though Sundays are very different now, we've enjoyed visiting lots of churches and the novelty of sitting together in the pew. After 30 years at the front, it's a privilege to have time to listen and observe. The Church of Scotland is certainly facing huge challenges just now, we've seen many warm and faithful congregations adapting to change. We've seen other encouraging things too – at one church we arrived a little late and expected the door to be locked but were thrilled to find ourselves walking in with a large group of young families with buggies.

Last Sunday, the theme of the service in the church we were visiting was Paul's farewell to the church in Ephesus in Acts chapter 20 and it resonated with us both. Although we moved on from Lenzie Union in June, leaving the Lenzie community seems like another stage of parting.

So, we sit among our packing boxes with a deep sense of love and gratitude for you all in our hearts - and this prayer from Acts 20:32: *Now I commit you to God and to the word of his grace, which can build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.* (Or in the Message Bible: *Now I'm turning you over to God, our marvellous God whose gracious Word can make you into what he wants you to be and give you everything you could possibly need in this community of holy friends.*)

With our continuing love and prayers,
Dan and Joanne

DCarmichael@churchofscotland.org.uk

Church Family News

A Thanksgiving Service for Mr Sandy Steedman was held in the church on Monday 10th February. We send our love to Sandy's family and friends.

Church Family News

Congratulations to Bill and Charlotte Semple who celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on 13th February!



Communion

Sunday 16th March

'Do this in memory of me'

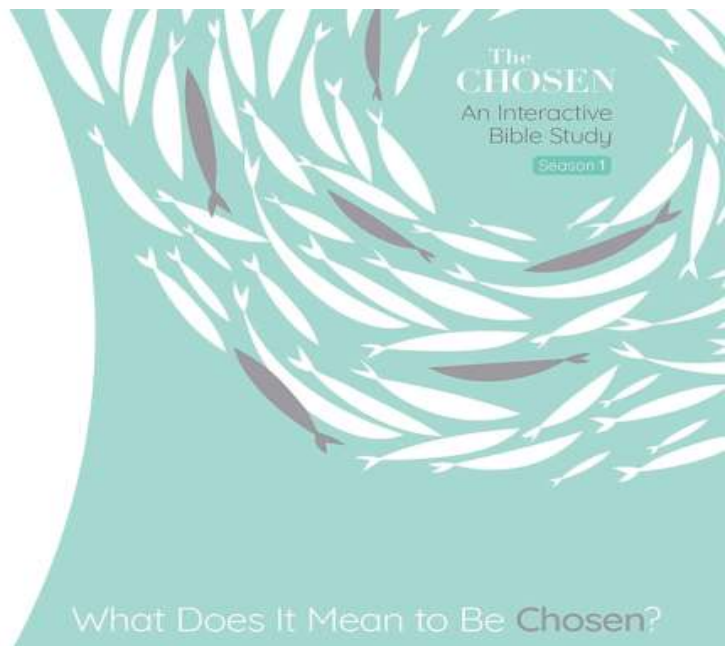
**Please join us for our service of
Communion on Sunday 16th March at
11.00am**

**If you are watching at home please
have some bread and wine with you**

Cluster Lent Study

Starting Wednesday
5th March at 7pm
St David's Memorial
Park Church
For 5 weeks

All Welcome



On Update's front page is a simple picture of Dan, which is typical of Dan. Showing him making time for people, one person at a time, as he always did. Blessings on you and your family Dan as you leave Lenzie for North Berwick. You will bring blessings to North Berwick for sure.

From all at Lenzie Union

You are warmly invited

We are so lucky to have good people willing to come and minister to us during this period of change. Do come and join us on a Sunday morning. A warm welcome awaits

Sundays Lighthouse starts in church and moves into the New Hall for crafts, stories and games. For primary age and younger

Sunday Bible Class for secondary age meets in church and moves to the Atrium for Chat, video, quiz with a message

Youth Café meets on Thursdays 3.45 for an hour of fun, food, games, chat, music and pool. For secondary age young people

Lighthouse and children in church, indeed children of all ages, use the area in the transept to draw and read while the service is going on. Do you have a large rug we could use to reduce noise from chairs being moved? Kim would love to hear from you.

FRIDAY 7TH MARCH
1.30PM
THE WORLD DAY OF PRAYER
LENZIE UNION PARISH CHURCH
All are invited along
to the
World Day of Prayer

Messy Church
March 15th 4.00 - 5.00

Children all welcome - just bring an adult! And have fun with church, crafts, games and messiness

Messy Church dates
until June
March 15th
April 26th
May 17th
June 14th

Sunday Worship
11.00am

Sunday 2nd March:
Mrs Roberta Logan

Sunday 9th March:
Rev Leslie Grieve (1st Sunday in Lent)

Sunday 16th March:
Communion, led by Rev Ian Reid

Sundays 23rd and 30th March, 6th 13th and 20th April (Easter Sunday):
Rev Leslie Grieve.

Annual Congregational Meeting - Thursday 20th March 7.30pm

We encourage as many as possible to attend the ACM which will be held in the New Hall. This is an opportunity to hear the latest church news and to ask about anything in the Trustees' Report or other aspects of church life. There will be an update on the continuing discussions on a union between Lenzie Old and ourselves. You are invited to submit any questions on the Presbytery Mission Plan in advance of the meeting and we will do our best to answer them on the night. A box will be in the hall to receive these or email

sessionclerk@lupc.org

Fiona Menzies

1st LENZIE COMPANY BOYS' BRIGADE

Since last month we are delighted to report further progress with the Company Section five a side football and chess teams in the U.K. national competitions.

The chess team defeated the current U.K. champions, 1st Scone Company, in the Scottish semi-final to qualify as one of two Companies from Scotland going forward to the U.K. final. They will compete against two teams from England/Wales and two from N. Ireland. This event is taking place today (1st March) at the B.B. Scottish Training Centre at Carronvale, Larbert. Hopefully we can report further success in the next Update!

The under 15 five a side football team (six boys from 1st Lenzie and two from 1st Cumbernauld) have won through a further two rounds since last month and by topping the group in the Scottish final last Sunday at the Allander Sports Centre, Bearsden are officially the **Scottish Champions**. They will travel to N. Ireland later this month to compete in the U.K. final.

The Company 61st Annual Display & Presentation of Awards will take place in the New Hall on Friday 28th March at 7.15 pm to which all are invited. The chief guest will be Rev. Dez Johnston, President of the Boys' Brigade and the chairperson will be Rev. Dr. Kleber Machado, our Interim Moderator.

Finally, we **still require** registered BB officers before the start of the new session in August/September.

Hugh Wright, Company Correspondent



1st Lenzie Under 15 5 a side football team (with 2 guests from 1st Cumbernauld) are Scottish Champions and will travel to NI soon to compete in the UK final. To coach Gary, and players Jamie, Struan, Cameron A, Cameron R, Rhuian, Cameron, John and Tyler – well done to all of you! And Good luck at the final!

Wanted

Volunteers to undertake officer training so our Boys Brigade can continue to grow and thrive. Training over one weekend required plus PVG. 1st Lenzie needs you.....and you won't regret it!

You are also warmly invited to

Saturday 22nd March Litter Pick. Meet at 10.00am in Dean house. Registration in Dean House. Please bring gloves. All children must be accompanied by an adult. Finish at 11.30am

Presbytery Mission Plan

There is not a great deal to add to the update that was issued to both congregations earlier in February, which provided information on the discussions of the joint steering group. (Copies are available either digitally or on paper if you did not already receive this– please ask)

At the time of writing we still await the results of the drone surveys that were carried out on the roofs of LUPC and LOP on 10th Feb. The joint steering group will meet again on Wednesday 12th March, and we will keep you updated as we continue our discussions on the Basis of Union.

A united church in Lenzie needs a new name and we invite you to give us your ideas for consideration. Suggestion boxes will be in the church vestibule and hall foyer until the end of March

Daffodil Cup of Tea on Saturday 5th April in LUPC New Hall 2.30 – 4.30pm.
All welcome for a chance to have a blether.

And there is a lunch to look forward to in LUPC New Hall after the service on Sunday 11th May.

Lenzie Community Council will arrange a Lenzie Community Festival to take place on Saturday 9th August with events and activities happening around Lenzie - in the churches, Lenzie Rugby Club the Gatehouse and other locations from 10.00 till 4.00pm. Check out LCC and LCF Facebook pages for more info as the event takes shape.

Lenzie Community Council is developing a Local Place Plan. If you would like to be involved in its development please come along to one of our Information Days in April or May.

BUILD Home South Africa 2026



Hello, we are Jasmine and Emily of Lenzie Union Church, and we are going on a trip in July 2026 as a part of Amor Ministries to South Africa to be part of the Build South Africa 2026 expedition. This trip to South Africa is an excellent and a life changing opportunity for people over the age of 15 to be a part of something extremely rewarding. This is a charity trip to work together with local churches in an area outside of Johannesburg called Botleng to build a house for a family who are sadly trapped in poverty.

During our stay in Botleng we will get to experience how locals live their everyday lives and get a real taster for everything South Africa has to offer. We will also be looking out for some of the most vulnerable children and families living there.

Our expedition will also include many opportunities to experience the cultural aspects of South Africa and issues of world justice, personal faith, and community transformation. We will be able to visit their local church whilst we are there and be involved in a church service as well as going to see a Soweto Tower. We will also get to participate in many team building exercises and training and will have a day revolved around their church and community.

Our Youth Worker Kim Halliday was able to experience this wonderful trip in 2018 and has now put us forward as part of Lenzie Union to participate in the expedition in 2026.



We have been very close friends ever since we were little and have grown up together. In some ways we are like sisters and are really looking forward to being able to be a part of something this big and being able to help people in need.

The trip will take place from the 18th to the 28th of July in 2026. The trip costs £2,200 each and all team members will be fundraising this amount as part of a group. Together, we will be participating in different fundraising events over the next year and are sure there will be many that you will be able to join us for. We will hopefully be running bake sales and other fun events such as coffee mornings and a fashion show! We would love it if you would be able to come along to help support us.

In the meantime, we have attached a code to our Build South Africa 2026 easy fundraising page where you can subscribe and shop online with your favourite brands whilst we receive a small donation at no extra cost from you. Look out for our Just Giving Page coming soon where you can keep updated on our fundraising progress. There is also a link to the Amor page where you can read more about the expedition to South Africa and how it is such a fantastic opportunity for us to be participants of. You can also follow us and our journey at our group Facebook page **Kirkie & Lenzie Build South Africa 2026**.

Yours sincerely, Jasmine McLean & Emily Fraser



Build South Africa easy fundraising page: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/build-south-africa-youth-trip-2026>

Amor Page:

https://www.amoreurope.org/build/southafrica2026?fbclid=IwY2xjawloHN1leHRuA2FlbQlxMQABHcBoLk4ytw_yXzN74PhVe0EN88BtqCV7snLX-ilgroKhGewIDLqe5UPDZg_aem_L7uzGLJ36hy82VWZow8Ssg





The picture on the left shows a smiling Bill Finlayson receiving a presentation from Coffee Pot's Marion McPherson and Morag Barron on 31st January 2024.

The occasion was the retirement of Lenzie's own Bill Finlayson on his retiral as pianist for the Piano Bar after 40 years of service. Coffee Pot patrons helped Bill celebrate with a slice of Coffee Pot cake – always a pleasure