

October 2026

Strathmore Parish Church Newsletter You are receiving this newsletter because you have passed on your email address to the church. If you do not want us to have your email address, or if you do not want to receive these emails, please let us know right away at admin@strathmoreparish.org Please feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone you think might be interested, or to send us the email address of anyone who would like to receive the newsletter.

Hello, everyone – they always say you should never begin with an apology, but I need to say right at the start this month that my usual computer is kaput and this month's newsletter is being compiled on a laptop which I have never used before – everything is different! Please be patient if this newsletter looks odd in any way – hope to be back to normal by the November issue!



Definitely into autumn now, and amazing colours beginning to appear in the trees, though some experts think the leaves won't last long this year, because of the very dry summer. Lots of berries on the rowan trees, though, so there's plenty of food for the birds, and a great variety of mushrooms and toadstools coming up like magic in the woods. We had a very nice mild spell earlier this week, too, and it is always lovely to have an Indian summer!



Let's hope and pray that the farmers continue to get good weather to bring in the tatties – tractors are already going up and down our street, trailers loaded with tattie boxes!

Details of Harvest Thanksgiving services in all four of our churches later in this newsletter . . .

It's not often that we have an official announcement from the Church of Scotland in our Strathmore Parish newsletter, but we do this month, and it's important!

'The Church has been made aware of fake websites promoting a Church of Scotland fund-raising lottery – both at a national level and also purporting to be from individual churches.

These websites look very professional but are nothing to do with the Church; staff at the national office have reported them to the appropriate authorities as a matter of urgency. A key indicator of the scam is that the web address mis-spells 'Scotland' with two 'c's.

If you, or anyone you are aware of, has given money to such a scam website, please contact Police Scotland. If you have any further concern about these fake websites, you can contact the Kirk's Law Department via email at LAWDEPT@churchofscotland.org.uk

For the avoidance of doubt, the Church of Scotland does not run a fundraising lottery.'

And nor does Strathmore Parish Church,
so please be careful, and don't be giving your hard-earned money to a scammer!

No sooner have the school uniforms disappeared from the back wall of the supermarket than, guess what?? No, not Halloween! **Christmas!** Yes, Christmas puddings and mince pies are available in your local store now! So much for celebrating the seasons in the right order!

But of course we do have to think ahead, and if you are someone who likes to be organised early, then these next items are definitely for you – all looking forward to the Church's seasons of Advent and Christmas, and all giving you the opportunity to help good causes,



During October and early November, we will have Meaningful Chocolate's Real Advent Calendars for sale in all of our churches. It's very difficult nowadays to find an advent calendar that has an image of the nativity on it (you can have religion or you can have chocolate, but it seems you can't have both!) but these calendars do, and they include a little book about the Christmas story, as well as a FairTrade chocolate novelty behind each of the doors. Price remains the same as last year - £5 each. If you don't have children in your family circle, perhaps you would like to sponsor a calendar to go to a local food bank?

Look out for the Advent calendar display in our churches!

Please meet Ana, seven years old, the youngest of four children in her family, living in a village in Kosovo. Both parents are in poor health and unemployed. They make a living by scavenging through rubbish for scrap metal to sell. None of the children are at school. Like many families in former communist countries, they don't get any government help.

Last Christmas Ana, along with other children in her village, received a Christmas shoebox from **Blythswood Care**. (Might that box have been filled by you? It's very distinctive, isn't it?) Faton Berisha, the local worker who delivered the boxes, said, 'Ana was thrilled to find colourful notebooks and crayons in her box. She still uses them and looks after them carefully. She and her parents were so happy when Ana found a hat, scarf, gloves and socks in the box – winter temperatures where they live are often well below freezing.' Might you be able to fill a shoebox for a child like Ana, or for someone equally needy? Leaflets will be in our churches soon; last date for bringing boxes is usually the first Sunday in November.



**Cards and gifts
that change lives
& save lives**

Shop now

Digital E-Cards



If you like to buy Christmas cards that support a charity, please consider the Church of Scotland's own social care arm, **Crossreach**. The 2026 catalogue has an excellent selection of cards, calendars, wrapping paper, etc., and they are all very reasonably priced. You can access the catalogue online

at <https://shop.crossreach.org.uk> or, if you phone 0131 454 4374, they will send a catalogue to you and you can order by post or phone. This year they have a really good range of cards in different styles, and it's good to know that when you shop with Crossreach, you're supporting the Church of Scotland's caring work with frail elderly folk, dementia sufferers, young children in disadvantaged circumstances, people with addictions and many others.

CROSSREACH - care you can put your faith in

Harvest Thanksgiving

- a time to thank God for all the good things in our lives!

Harvest Thanksgiving services will be held in all of our churches on the dates highlighted below. Come and sing the traditional harvest hymns, give thanks for another harvest safely in and show your gratitude for having more than enough for all your needs by bringing gifts to help others.

Non-perishable foodstuffs will be welcomed in all our churches;
sacks of tatties or carrots brought to church will be gratefully received by the foodbanks to whom our gifts will go;
Meikle Church can also accept fresh fruit, veg and flowers;
cash gifts (in an envelope marked 'harvest', please) are always a boon to the foodbanks and food hubs in our area.

Church services during October:

Sunday 4th 10.00am Newtyle

*Sorry - no 10.00am service at Kettins today
as there will be scaffolding in the church.*

11.30am Glamis

Sunday 11th

10.00am Meikle **Harvest**

10.00am Newtyle

11.30am Glamis

Sunday 18th

10.00am Kettins **Harvest**

10.00am Newtyle

11.30am Glamis **Harvest**

Sunday 25th

10.00am Meikle

10.00am Newtyle **Harvest**

11.30am Glamis

Kettins and Meikle kirks will be open on the Saturday afternoon before their thanksgiving services for anyone wanting to bring food gifts. Help with decorating the churches and delivering the goods afterwards is always appreciated.



Guild meetings in October:

On Wednesday 7th October, two young women, Christina and Cathie, are travelling down from Alness to tell Guild members and friends how they became partners in one of the current Church of Scotland Guild projects, **Bear Necessities for Bulgaria**. *'Two ordinary girls, but also very special girls, with hearts of gold and with a passion to help very poor children in a village in Bulgaria, and to spread the Gospel in that part of the world.'*

That's at 7pm in the church hall at Kettins, Wed 7th, and all are welcome.

Nearer the end of October, Newtyle Guild are hosting Jamie Morrison, of **Signpost International**, at their meeting in the Legion Hall, Newtyle, and they invite members of the congregation and friends to join them. Guild members from Newtyle visited the Roundhouse in Whitfield (a Dundee community project set up by Signpost International) and found that a very worthwhile visit.

The meeting in the Legion Hall is at 2pm, Monday 26th October – all welcome!



The pupils at Meigle Primary School have been growing different varieties of potatoes this year in large flowerpots and tattie bags in the playground. This is a pic of their haul of Alouette potatoes from one of the pots. Lovely spuds! They've tried Charlotte and Ratte varieties too, and they've all done well - the seed potatoes were bought at the Tattie Day event in Kirriemuir Town Hall back in the spring, a really great morning out if you are interested in growing tatties!

Now, two community events for the first Sunday of October: the first one might interest you if you have a good crop of apples this year!

Yes, it's Apple Pressing Day again at the Kettins Community Hub – anytime between 11am and 4pm on the 4th October.

A full-size copy of this poster is attached to the email newsletter. All are welcome on the day, either to press apples or just have a cup of tea or coffee and watch the fun!

And below is a poster (also an attachment) for an organ recital in Inverarity Kirk on that same afternoon. Lionel Steuart Fotheringham, local laird at Inverarity as well as Head of Music at Dundee High School, is an internationally-renowned organist – it's amazing what he can achieve on the wee organ at Inverarity – and he has the happy knack of making classical organ music accessible to everyone. If you possibly can, go to hear him play! You'll love it!



Quite a bit of news in our Strathmore Parish Church newsletter for October, isn't there? (And quite a lot of variation in the font size of the text, I'm sorry to say!) No space left to tell you about an excellent walk in our parish area – just have to save that till next month.

Until then, enjoy all the colours of autumn, and look after yourself as the days grow shorter and the weather grows colder!

Best wishes,
Mary Reid

