

This is the monthly newsletter from Strathmore Parish Church; you are receiving it 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 don't want to receive these emails, please let us know right away at admin@strathmoreparish.org 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 be added to the mailing list.

Hello , everyone - as I'm writing this, it's a lovely sunny morning, a bit of a breeze so plenty of drouth - just a perfect late summer day, but . . . if the weather forecast is right, then our lovely summer is, sadly, coming to an end. Most of us feel a wee bit of sadness at the ending of the summer, don't we?

And this year it's especially so, as the time has come for us to say our goodbyes to our much-loved minister, Carleen. This Sunday, 31st August, will be the last time Carleen leads worship as the minister of our parish. We have only **one service in Strathmore Parish** that day, and it will be at **10.00am in Newtyle Church** - so an early start for some of us! If you are coming by car, please leave plenty of time for parking, as the streets of Newtyle are likely to be busy. As well as our own congregation, there will be visitors coming for the baptism which will take place during the service, and, of course, friends and colleagues of Carleen's will be there as well.

After the service, there will be a presentation to Carleen, after which a cup of tea will be served to us all as we are seated in the church - there will be time for a chat with those round about us and an opportunity for us to say our personal goodbyes to Carleen.



Strathmore Parish is looking at its loveliest just now, isn't it? A few fields still standing, waiting for the combines to arrive, but mostly now it's bales we're seeing or just the gold of the stubble. Always interesting to have a walk round a stubble field, and see familiar scenes from a different viewpoint!

It can give you a bit of a fleg, though, if you're driving on one of the back roads, and turn a corner to meet the combines advancing towards you, taking the whole road!



Harvest Thanksgiving

Harvest Thanksgiving Services
throughout our parish
will be held during October.
Look out for details soon!





I wonder if anyone in your house or in your wider family has started school this month? The smart young gentleman on the left, complete with new blazer, etc., was snapped setting off for his first morning in Primary 1 - proud parents were walking behind, carrying his new schoolbag and taking pics!

It's such an important time for these wee ones, isn't it? Our early learning experiences make a huge difference to our whole pathway through education, so please remember in your prayers all the little people in the primary schools in our parish (Eassie, Glamis, Kettins, Meigle and Newtyle) and their teachers, too, as they settle down together into this first year of school.

I'm glad to report that the young man in the pic, when asked how his first day had gone, said, 'Brilliant!' Let's hope it's always like that!

This August also saw the 80th anniversary of the ending of the Second World War - you may have seen on TV the service of commemoration on VJ Day, 15th August. It took place at the National Memorial Arboretum, near Lichfield in Staffordshire. It is a beautiful place, and well worth visiting if you are in Staffordshire. You could wander all day in the lovely wooded grounds, bounded by the River Tame, coming across all kinds of interesting memorials to different regiments and groups who have served our nation during times of war.

More info at <https://www.thenma.org.uk/>

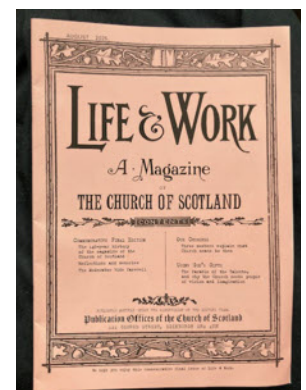


The memorial at the heart of the Arboretum.

As you all know, this is a time of huge change in the Church of Scotland and the effects of that change can be seen all over our country. In the towns and cities, there is no longer a church on every corner - well, many of the buildings are still there, but nowadays they may house community centres, art galleries, luxury flats, nightclubs or restaurants. (I recently had a very nice lunch in The Culdee restaurant in Monifieth, formerly St Rule's Church!) In the countryside, too, where each village formerly had its own parish kirk, manse and minister, we now see ministers with much larger parish areas, covering the same ground as several older parishes.

One of the Church of Scotland's hallowed institutions, its monthly magazine, 'Life and Work', has been threatened with closure for some years (like many newspapers and magazines, it hasn't been paying its way) and now the decision has been made - the final edition of 'Life and Work', which has been published monthly for 146 years, came out this month. The cover is a facsimile of the cover of the first edition - from January 1879. (Better quality than this pic suggests, though!)

If you are one of the many church members who have 'Life and Work' delivered to your home every month, you will miss it, I'm sure - a great mix of interesting articles, readers' letters on many topics and superb photographs!



a selection
of 'Life and Work'
covers
over the years

Now some upcoming **dates for the diary:**

Sunday 31st August 10.00am at Newtyle: whole-parish service (Carleen's last Sunday)

Sunday 7th September 10.00am at Meigle: whole-parish service led by Rev John Duncan,
our Interim Moderator

Services on 14th and 21st September as usual,
but please note Communion and Guild Dedication at Newtyle on 14th;
Guild Dedication at Kettins on 21st.

Sunday 28th September 10.00am at Meigle: whole-parish service followed by election of Nominating
Committee whose task will be to find our next minister.

Services during October will all be at the usual times.

So . . . quite a bit to remember there!

In the final issue of 'Life and Work' (see above), the editor chose to use the last page of the magazine to sign off, after a century and a half, with the page on the right.

It combines two prayers, the first lines being part of what's known as the Celtic Blessing, which dates back to early Christian and pre-Christian Scottish writings, and the second stanza being the familiar benediction we hear in church nearly every Sunday.

Carleen has often used the Celtic Blessing in our services, so we know that she loves it, and I think you will agree that it expresses everything that we would hope and pray for, for her, as she moves on to a new phase of her life.

Looking forward to seeing everyone this Sunday,
Best wishes,
Mary Reid

