

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 - I hope you are enjoying this lovely summer and, if you have been away on holiday, that you had a relaxing and interesting time. At our house, we've been having a succession of family members and friends coming to have a wee break in Strathmore and, as you will know, it is always a huge pleasure to show them around our local area, which is looking glorious just now! If you can get to a place that has a wide view, the predominant colour over the whole countryside is gold, and on a sunny day it is a wonderful sight, isn't it? I have been trying to get a good photo of the fields in our parish standing ready to harvest, but so far haven't succeeded - does anyone else have a good pic? If you do, please email it to the admin email above and we can share it in the next newsletter.

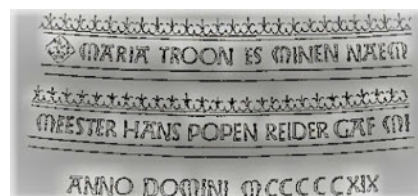
On the way home from Perth the other afternoon, with one of our visitors (we'd been at the 'Macbeth' exhibition in the Perth Museum - I'd recommend it! And the scones in their excellent tearoom, and a wander through St John's Kirk afterwards - a great outing all round!) we stopped at Kettins for a look at the churchyard, which is always bonny, but particularly nice with the trees in full leaf.



Like all four of the church buildings in our parish, Kettins has many interesting features, including the lych gate at the entrance to the kirkyard (centre of pic on left), where traditionally the coffin was set down to rest before the mourners continued to the graveside. Lych gates are a common feature of older churches in England, but less so in Scotland - I believe only three are at the entrances to Church of Scotland kirkyards.

As well as the stories revealed on some of the gravestones at Kettins, there is a fascinating tale attached to the old (1519) Flemish bell, named 'Maria Troon', which once rang out to call Kettins parishioners to worship on Sunday mornings, but is now displayed in the old stone bell housing at the south side of the church.

If you would like to know more about Maria Troon and her story, there is plenty of information (and speculation!) online - you will find <https://www.geograph.org.uk/photo/401594> a useful place to start, or just google 'Maria Troon' and prepare to be swamped with facts and myths!



Sunday services in our four church buildings continue as usual during the month of August until Sunday 24th. The following week, ***Sunday 31st August, is when we will all gather together at Newtyle Church, at 10am, to bid farewell to Carleen*** . This will be the last time Carleen will lead worship as the minister of Strathmore Parish Church. It will be our opportunity, as a whole congregation and as individuals, to thank her for all she has meant to us over the past years.

After the service on that day we'll be having a cup of tea together to give us time to chat to Carleen and to each other, with, of course, a bit of home baking. If you can help by bringing a traybake or a loaf or some home-made biscuits (nothing that needs to be buttered on the day!) or by serving teas or clearing up, then ***please phone Moira Cameron (01828 650409) by Sunday 17 August*** to let her know how you can help.



Wherever Carleen settles after she retires, let's hope that she finds contentment and fulfilment and that she will always be in a place where there are lovely things to see and think about. Let's pray that, like the writer of Psalm 16, she is always able to say '*the lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places*', and that she'll come back to visit us in Strathmore whenever she can.

Looking ahead to how our parish life will go on after August, our Kirk Session have already been working with Presbytery to enable us to get on with the task of calling a new minister. As part of that process, the Rev John Duncan, who will be the Interim Moderator for Strathmore Parish Church during the vacancy, will take the service at Meigle on Sunday 7th September. Please note that that Sunday there will be no other services in the parish - yes! Two Sundays in a row! - and we will all join together at Meigle, when Mr Duncan will 'preach the charge vacant' and help us to understand how things will move forward towards the goal of finding a minister to serve in our parish.

Later in September, ie on Sunday 28th, again at Meigle, we will have yet another whole-parish service, at the end of which the Nominating Committee will be elected. This is the group of eleven people who will have the task of advertising the vacancy at our church, studying any applications from ministers who wish to be considered for the charge, assessing their potential to meet the needs of our parish, and ultimately 'nominating' (hence the committee's name) the person whom they feel would be best suited to be our minister.

Although the formal election of the Nominating Committee is scheduled to take place on Sunday 28th September, the Kirk Session is encouraging us to be thinking ***now*** about who we feel should be on that committee.

If there is someone in the congregation whom you feel would be a good person to serve in that way, you should:-

1. ask the person if they are willing to take on the task
2. email Mike, our Session Clerk session.clerk@strathmoreparish.org to say you would like to propose the person (you will need someone who agrees with you to second your proposal).

Or, if you yourself feel that you could be a useful member of the Nominating Committee, you may ask others to propose and second you.

It is important to note that only those whose names appear on the Electoral Roll of our congregation (ie as church members or adherents) may become members of the Nominating Committee or may propose or second others. Please give these matters your serious consideration.

Looking forward to seeing everyone together soon,

Best wishes,
Mary Reid