

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 - this coming Sunday will be the 1st March, and as well as being officially the first day of Spring (hooray!) it is also St David's Day, so there will be much celebrating in Wales this weekend, with dragons, daffodils, leeks and Welsh Cakes taking centre stage. Have you ever wondered . . . why leeks???



Apparently St David, who was born in Wales in the late 5th Century and became a renowned preacher of the gospel, lived very simply and, for much of the time, existed on a diet of leeks and herbs. On one occasion he encouraged local troops to fasten a leek to their clothes as they went into battle, to ensure a victory - and it worked! The Welsh Guards continue that tradition, on ceremonial occasions, to this day, though the Princess of Wales, who is a Regimental Colonel, wears a gold leek brooch!

David founded a monastery in the Glyn Rhosyn valley in south-west Wales - the town of St Davids grew up around it, and today the lovely St David's Cathedral stands on the site of the ancient monastery.

Much of what we know about the life of St David comes from the 'Bucedd Dewi' (the life of David) written at the end of the 11th Century - he has been regarded as the patron saint of Wales since about that time.

Maybe, in his honour, we could all have a bowl of leek and tattie soup this Sunday when we get home from the kirk!



One of the big issues affecting our our congregation here in Strathmore is . . . who will be our next minister? Peter Burnet, convener of the Nominating Committee, has an update for us this month:-

*The Kirk Session has asked me to provide a further update on our **Vacancy**. Having advertised through the appropriate channels, and set a closing date of 6th February 2026, we have received no acceptable applications.*

The Committee and Kirk Session are in agreement that it is not the Parish profile, or our offering, that are unattractive, rather there are very few candidates across our national Church who would be willing to make a move at this time of uncertainty, unless driven by personal or family circumstances.

At the time of writing there are 29 vacant charges advertised across the Church in Scotland. Due to a restriction, imposed by COVID 19, there are a very limited number of Probationers who will be seeking a charge from June 2026. Our advertisement remains live and we are still open to applications.

Peter Burnet

So that's not very encouraging news at present, is it? But we must live in hope that, somewhere, the next minister for our congregation is out there in waiting, and that sometime soon he or she will feel the time is right to apply for this charge. In the meantime, we need to keep active as a congregation, and make sure that there is as much as possible going on, so that any potential candidate sees us as a viable proposition!



Linens for Lent

So here's a wee project for us to be getting on with in the meantime . . . the Salvation Army's **Skinnergate Lifehouse** in Perth would be very grateful for donations of towels for use by the men (from age 16 and up) who use their service, which provides temporary accommodation for homeless men and supports them in finding employment and permanent homes. Read more at <https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/skinnergate-lifehouse>

Also, the **Guide Dogs Training Centre** in Forfar (whose towel cupboard is currently full to bursting) is in great need of blankets, etc., for the dogs' beds!

How can we help? Please have a look through your linen cupboard at home to see if you could donate:

- bath towels or hand towels in good condition
- blankets or throws with plenty of wear still in them or duvets (but not down or feather-filled!)

Please bring your donations to church any Sunday throughout the rest of Lent, ie any Sunday in March. Last possible date will be Easter Sunday. There will be a collection point in each of our four churches. If you feel you can't do without any of your current towel stock, might you consider buying a couple of towels when you're at the supermarket, and putting them in with the others? It would be good if we in our parish could support these two excellent charities in their caring work.



Dates for your diary:

- Sunday 1st March - 10 am Communion service at Newtyle, services at Kettins and Glamis as usual.
Sunday 8th March - services at Meigle, Newtyle and Glamis as usual.
Sunday 15th March - Mothers' Day, services at Kettins, Newtyle and Glamis as usual.
Sunday 22nd March - services at Meigle, Newtyle and Glamis as usual.
Sunday 29th March - Palm Sunday, **whole-parish service at Glamis** at 11.30am. No other services today.
Please note a) 29th is the Sunday the clocks go forward
and b) the Stated Annual Meeting of our congregation will take place after the service; a short meeting, but very important.
- Thursday 2nd April - Maundy Thursday service at Kettins, 7pm
Friday 3rd April - Good Friday service at Glamis, 7pm
Sunday 5th April - Easter Sunday, Communion at Newtyle 9.15am,
Easter services at Newtyle and Kettins 10.00am, and at Glamis at 11.30am.

Quite a short newsletter this month, but lots of dates to put into your diary!

This pic, a last reminder of winter (we hope!) taken last Saturday in Glen Clova.

Take care, everyone,
Mary Reid

