

May
2026

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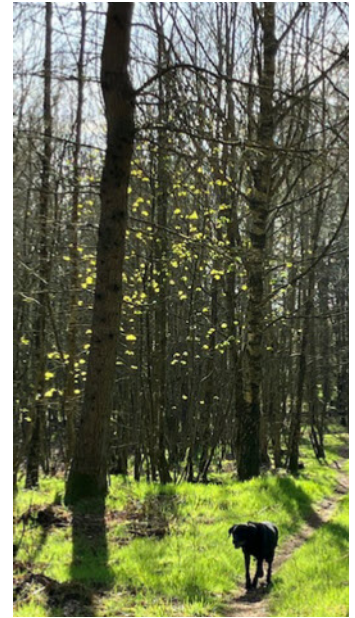
Hello, everyone - here we are at the start of what our grannies used to call 'May month'! April seems to have gone past in a flash, but this year I, for one, have been very taken with how, during April, the trees change completely - at the start of the month, they are just bare skeletons, with the first leaf or flower buds starting to appear, but by the end of April they are a riot of colour.



On the left is a pic of one side of the green at Kettins, early in April when the trees were bare and the daffodils by the churchyard wall first came out (the Field of Hope daffs at the other side of the green have been glorious for the whole month!)

The pic on the right was taken on a sunny afternoon in a wee woodie behind the old Glamis railway station - new leaves just emerging!

The chestnut is often the first tree in leaf - have you ever noticed that the big, sticky chestnut buds point upwards, but when the new leaves first open, looking like the fingers of a hand, they are all pointing down? The leaves of the oak and ash trees are among the last to emerge - do you remember this old rhyme about which of them will be out first?



***Oak before ash, we're in for a splash;
ash before oak, we're in for a soak!***

There was a fair bit going on in our parish throughout April - beautiful services in Holy Week, then joyful Easter Sunday! In the week immediately after Easter, visits were made to the Guide Dog Centre in Forfar and to the Salvation Army's Skinnergate Project to deliver the items gathered during Lent in our four churches.



You donated 32 cosy blankets and rugs for the guide dogs to sleep on!



And 136 towels to be used by homeless men being helped to find permanent homes!



Staff and residents at the **Skinnergate Project** told us the towels would be 'an absolute Godsend' and the people at the **Guide Dog Centre** were delighted to have their almost empty bedding cupboard filled up.

We have since heard that the dogs are very pleased, too!



Many, many thanks to everyone who donated items and who helped to get them where they had to be!

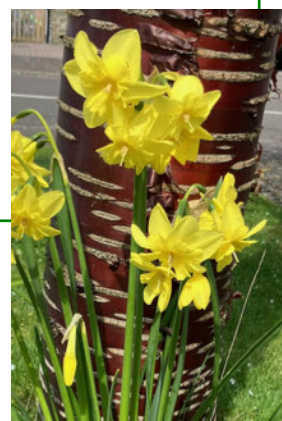
Saturday 25th April was the date for this year's Guild daffodil tea held in the church hall at Kettins; plenty of daffodils, inside and out, and a wonderful display of wild garlic growing at the side of the burn. Here's a

wee note about the event from Kate Harris:

Dear Guild Members and Friends of the Guild,
I'd like to thank you and members of your family or friends who helped raise an astonishing amount of money at the **Daffodil Tea** yesterday - **£1002.82**.
Thanks to our treasurer for the hard work of organising floats for the stalls and sending us this result so quickly.
It was a wonderfully warm and very happy, friendly day.
Grateful thanks are extended to those who helped in any way

- to those who donated baking, produce, plants, tombola and raffle prizes and donations.
- to all those who manned the stalls, the door, organised the raffle and served the afternoon teas.
- to those who advertised for us; that brought people from all parts of our Parish and beyond.
- the Hall was beautifully decorated with daffodils galore - their perfume filled the air - thank you.
- to the men who helped with the gazebos and heavy lifting of tables and chairs - thank you
- we are very grateful to all those who managed to come along and support us; we are sorry that some were unable to be with us for various reasons but they remain in our thoughts.

Thank you all!
Kate



Wasn't that an amazing amount of money to raise? And you're right, Kate, it was a beautiful afternoon and a very happy event, with folk there from all over our parish, enjoying a delicious tea and heading off home with plants, home baking and other goodies!

We all enjoy a nice bit of home baking, don't we? And we have some astonishingly good home bakers living round here - ladies and men! It is amazing to see how professionally our local bakers present their cakes and traybakes, and everything is always scrumptious! We'll all have another chance to satisfy the sweet tooth *and* support a good cause on Saturday 16th May, when, once again, the church members at Newtyle will present '**Cake at the Gate**', their very popular street stall raising funds for Christian Aid. Please put this event in your diary and give it your full support, either by baking goods for sale or by going along to 8 Church Street, Newtyle, (just down from the church) on Saturday 16th May. Stalls will be open from 10am, and my advice would be - go early! Teas, coffees, etc., will also be available.



I'm sure everyone will recognise the image on the right as being the symbol of the charity **Amnesty International** - the human rights organisation, founded in the 1960s, committed to taking up the cause of groups or individuals, anywhere in the world, whose human rights are being violated in any way. You can find out more about Amnesty's work on their website <https://www.amnesty.org/en/> - well worth reading!

Someone who is committed to supporting Amnesty International in a big way is university student Hope Barrie, whose mum, Anita, is a member of our congregation. Hope herself



attended Sunday School at Kettins while she was growing up, and used her musical talents on many occasions to help with the nativity play presentations at the kirk. This summer she is planning to do a sponsored climb of Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania (which is over 19,000 feet high!) in aid of Amnesty International. Would you like to encourage Hope in this major undertaking and contribute to the £5,000 she hopes to raise?

If so, you can go to JustGiving <https://www.justgiving.com/> and search for Hope Barrie Kilimanjaro to make your donation, or you can put a donation in the church plate in an envelope clearly marked 'Hope Barrie Kilimanjaro Challenge'.

If you have children at the pre-school or primary stage, don't miss Strathmore Parish's next **Messy Church!**

When? Sunday 10th May at 1.30 pm

Where? the church at Newtyle

What is it? lots of fun activities
based on a Bible story!

Snacks and drinks provided.
Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Dates for your diary:

Sunday 3rd May Services at Kettins 10.00am, Newtyle 10.00am, Glamis 11.30am

Sunday 10th May Services at Meigle 10.00am, Newtyle 10.00am, Glamis 11.30am
Messy Church at Newtyle at 1.30pm

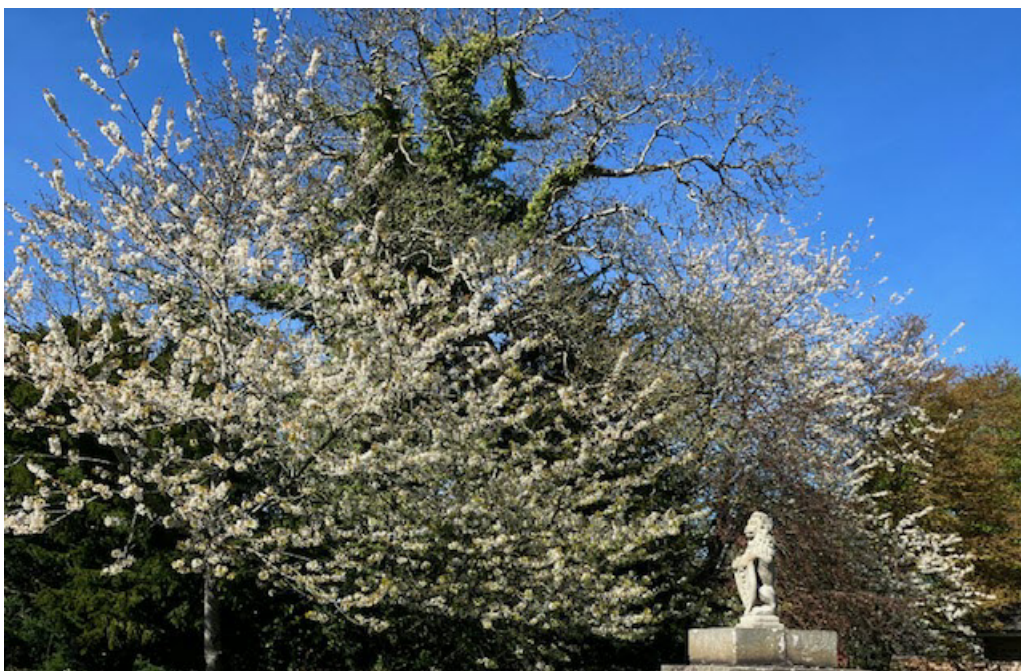
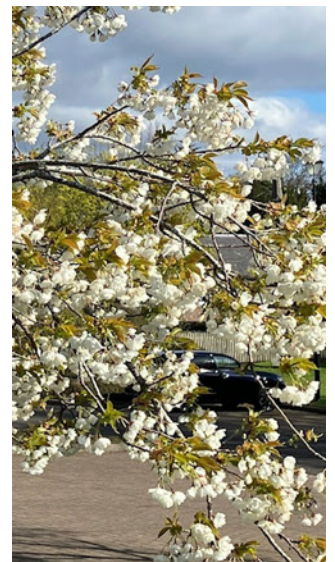
Saturday 16th May Cake at the Gate (see above) Newtyle, 10.00am

Sunday 17th May Services at Kettins (Communion) 10.00am, Newtyle 10.00am, Glamis 11.30am

Sunday 24th May Services at Meigle (Communion) 10.00am, Newtyle 10.00am, Glamis 11.30am

Sunday 31st May Fifth Sunday, whole-parish service at Newtyle Church at 10.00am

Isn't the blossom especially lovely on everything this year? All sorts of theories going around as to why that should be, but the main thing is just to notice it and, despite all the bad news we see on TV, give thanks for the beautiful world we live in. At the bend in the main road at Meigle, there's a stunning pink cherry in the churchyard, with another matching it on the other side of the road. I guess we all have our favourite local trees that we like to look out for, either near our homes or somewhere we drive past regularly - I wonder if you recognise the tree below, or know where it can be spotted?



Enjoy the sunshine and the lichter nights in May,

Best wishes,
Mary Reid