

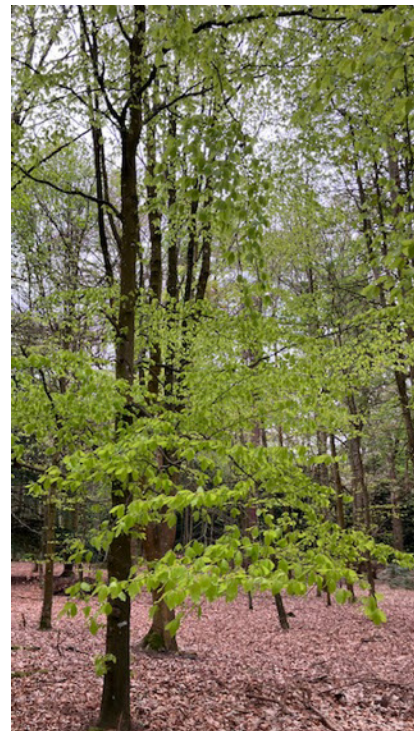
This is an occasional newsletter from Strathmore Parish Church; you are receiving it because you have passed on your email address to the church. If you do not want us to have your email address, or if you don't want to receive these emails, please let us know right away at admin@strathmoreparish.org 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 - so here we are, almost at the end of another month. Although this last weekend of April is forecast to be a bit wet and windy, we are promised a lovely sunny start to May!

Isn't the countryside round about looking great just now? Every imaginable shade of green on the roadsides and in the fields and woods! (Did you read in the press last week that scientists have discovered a new colour? I can't get my head round that at all!!) It's such a joy walking in the woods at this time of year, with last year's dried leaves crunching underfoot and this year's fresh new leaves unfolding.



Do you know this bonny wee plant on the left? It's called Wood Sorrel and it is popping up through the dead grass all over the place at the moment - in the woods, of course! It's very recognisable with its little shamrock leaves, which have a sharp, lemony taste - they are safe to eat, so have a go! When the sun shines the white flowers open up wide. What a wee treasure!



There's a lot going on in our parish area this coming month, so let's crack on with the kirk news. Uppermost in our minds, I'm sure, is the fact that Carleen, our much-loved minister, recently announced to us all that she is intending to retire from the ministry at the end of August this year.

The Reverend Carleen Robertson first came to live and work in Strathmore when she was ordained to the ministry of the Church of Scotland and inducted to the charge of Eassie and Nevay with Newtyle on 25th November, 1992. When Glamis, Inverarity and Kinnettles became vacant in 2010, Carleen was appointed by Presbytery to look after that parish as well as her own one, which she did until the time of our union in 2024, when Eassie, Nevay and Newtyle united with Ardler, Kettins and Meigle and with Glamis to form Strathmore Parish Church and Carleen became minister of the new congregation. (Inverarity and Kinnettles had previously joined with Forfar: East and Old in 2023.) So Carleen has ministered to the people of our area for over 30 years - what will we do without her?



It was good of Carleen to give us, and the Presbytery, as much notice of her retiral as she has done, because that allows an early start to some of the procedures that need to take place before any parish can begin to call a new minister. The Kirk Session will keep us informed as to how things are going, and we will all have to play a part in keeping our church life moving forward. (More about all of this in the next kirk newsletter!)



During Lent this year, the charity ShelterBox asked churches to fundraise to buy 'a Tent for Lent', so that families made homeless by war or natural disaster might have a place to call home. Here in Strathmore Parish Church, collection boxes were at the doors of all of our church buildings during Lent, and we



were all invited to contribute or, if we could, to raise funds with others. And what a generous response! This week, **£1400** was deposited in our church bank account, and every penny of that will be on its way to ShelterBox by the time you read this! We hoped to send them enough money for a tent for one family, but the wonderful response of members and friends means that **three fully- equipped tents** (ie with bedding, water-purifier, solar-powered light and heat, etc.) will be paid for by us. Three homes for folk who have lost everything. On behalf of ShelterBox, then, **huge thanks** to all the individuals and groups who contributed in any way!

There's still a wee bit of April left, so here's a reminder of what's on in the kirk this coming weekend:- on Saturday 26th, there's a Daffodil Tea in the church hall at Kettins, with all the usual stalls plus lovely home baking done by the Guild members for you to have with your cuppie. Starting at 2pm, £4 for adults, £2 for children.



The Glamis spring Communion service is this Sunday, 27th April, at the usual time of 11.30am.



On Sunday afternoon, all are invited to attend the annual church service of the District Grand Priory of Tay Valley which will begin at 2.30pm, after the members of this ancient order of Knights of the Temple and of Malta have walked round to the kirk from the Masonic Lodge, where they are gathering, and where they invite anyone who has attended the service to join them for refreshments afterwards. It's an unusual and surprising sight to see the members, in their white robes with the red templar cross, walking to the church, and makes you wonder if Glamis and Meigle (an important Temple site in earlier centuries) saw similar processions in their streets in the past.

Into May now, and here's a very interesting story in a note from Anne Steel:-

*To celebrate **your 80th birthday** is a delight and, for most of us, a reason to remember with joy many wonderful events. I wonder if you know that this month is the 80th birthday of one of our favourite charities - **Christian Aid**! Just imagine - for 80 years we have been helping so many different needy groups to survive and to have better lives - in so many different countries.*

How did Christian Aid start? After the end of World War 2, the Rev Douglas Lister, a Church of Scotland Army Chaplain serving in the north of Germany, requested help for 80,000 homeless German refugees sheltering in desperate, freezing conditions. When the British Army refused his appeal, Douglas Lister wrote to churches all across Britain and they responded by sending blankets, food and clothing - and Christian Aid was born!

Before the war, Douglas Lister was a minister in Carnoustie, and later served in other parishes across Scotland. We should be proud that, thanks to someone from our country, the idea of Christian Aid for those in need began!

All through those 80 years, ordinary folk like you and me have supported Christian Aid by crafting, baking, selling, serving at coffee mornings, etc., and in so many ways have raised money to share with others, who have such difficult lives.

*A few years ago, we had to change our ideas about how we did these things - Covid was here! Since then, we in Newtyle sell our cakes, jam, crafts, etc., just in the gate at 8 Church Street. (Very close to the church.) Tea and coffee also served! So far we've had little rain, so we hope you will all come along on **Saturday morning, 17th May, from 10.00am onwards**, with contributions for the stall and with pennies to buy tasty goodies and a raffle ticket - and to have a cuppie if you can stay.*

Christian Aid Week this year runs from Sunday 11th May to Saturday 17th - we hope all members and friends of Strathmore Parish Church will get involved and round off the week with a visit to 'Cake at the Gate'!

Anne Steel



There are no end of opportunities in our area for us to enjoy tea and cake while, at the same time, help the kirk and other organisations to raise money for good causes. I should have mentioned earlier that, this Sunday afternoon (27th April), Eassie and Nevay SWI are holding an **Afternoon Tea in Eassie Hall** between 2pm and 4pm. Adults £8.00. Children £5.00. Contact: 07815511039 or 07712188752.

Coffee and tea are both on the menu at Strathmore Parish Church's **Coffee Club** every Thursday morning from 10 to 11.30am . That's held in the Legion Hall on Belmont Street in Newtyle . Also available is a great opportunity to have a blether with folk from round about - old friends and new! Drop in whenever you can - tea, coffee and home baking are free, but most 'customers' like to leave a wee donation, and these are used to support community fund-raising efforts. Recently, these have included Tent for Lent and Meikle Primary School PTA.



At Kettins, the next **village lunch** (open to everyone) is in the Community Hub on Wednesday 21st May and thereafter will be on the third Wednesday of every month.

Over the past 18 months Kettins Community Council has received support from Perth and Kinross Council's allocation from the Nature Restoration Fund as well as Tayside Biodiversity Partnership's Biodiversity Village project to fund and install a range of nature friendly projects in the area - if you would like to read more about what's going on, click on the attachment *KPCC Biodiversity* sent with this newsletter.

Some kirk events dates for your diary:

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| Saturday 26th April | 2 pm - 4 pm | Daffodil Tea at Kettins |
| Sunday 27th April | 11.30 am | Communion Service at Glamis (other services as usual) |
| Sunday 27th April | 2.30 pm | Grand Priory Service at Glamis |
| Saturday 17th May | 10.00 am | Cake at the Gate, 8 Church Street, Newtyle |
| Sunday 18th May | 10.00 am | Communion Service at Kettins |
| Sunday 25th May | 10.00 am | Communion Service at Meikle |
| Sunday 1st June | 10.00 am | Communion Service at Newtyle |

It is so good in our new congregation to be visiting churches other than the one we usually worship in, and getting to know our fellow-members. And many folk have said how they have enjoyed driving along previously unfamiliar wee roadies to get to the other church buildings, with, sometimes, unexpected lovely views! There's no doubt that we are blessed to live in this part of the world!

Let's enjoy this beautiful spring in any way we can,

Best wishes,

Mary Reid

