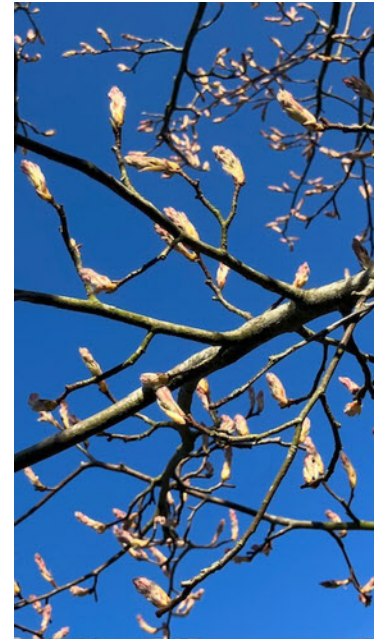


*This is the monthly newsletter from Strathmore Parish Church; you are receiving it because you have passed on your email address to the church. If you do not want us to have your email address, or if you don't want to receive these emails, please let us know right away at [admin@strathmoreparish.org](mailto:admin@strathmoreparish.org) 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 - hasn't it been good to have so many dry, sunny days after all those weeks of rain? That awful wet weather is just a distant memory now - the earth has dried up, the leaves are beginning to appear on the trees, and the spring flowers are making their welcome annual appearance.

If you drive along any of the roads in our parish, nearly all of the fields are looking brown and bare, just waiting for whatever is going to be planted, but, at long last, the roadside verges are turning green. It's definitely Spring now, but these last few days have been cold again, haven't they? Your granny would have warned you, 'Ne'er cast a clout ere May be oot!' and would no doubt have instructed you to, 'Keep yer semmit on a whiley yet!'

It's great to get out, though, at this time of year - last Saturday, I saw a family group (children of all ages, mums and dads, aunties and uncles, assorted dogs) in the playpark at Belmont: on the swings, chasing each other across the grass and kicking a couple of footballs around the goalposts. There was a lot of laughing and screeching going on - great exercise in the fresh air, lots of fun, and happy memories that the children will carry with them through life!



We are fortunate to have, throughout our parish area, so many places where the bairns can play outside, and so many lovely walks, whether it's just for a wee Sunday afternoon stroll, or for a good stride out in the woods and hills or alongside the fields. Newtyle is particularly blessed with good walks, thanks to the Newtyle Path Network group of volunteers, who have developed an extensive system of paths, some of which are very suitable for wheelchairs, push-chairs and kiddies' bikes and scooters - a great opportunity for a family outing! The Path Network group continue to maintain and improve the paths, too - you can read about their work on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/NewtylePaths/> and, of course, they are always on the lookout for more volunteers to join them and help with the practical tasks of keeping the paths in a good safe state.



Is that something **you** could consider doing? The pic on the left shows the top end of the Railway Loop path, which rises slowly up through a deep cutting (pic on the right - nice and sheltered when there's a cold wind!) then comes down into the village, past the cemetery and into Kirkton Road, at the back of the kirk.



Enjoying a walk on one of the many footpaths in Strathmore Parish is an excellent way of getting to know our whole parish area, and this is just the best time of year to go exploring!



Thank you to everyone who has brought **towels and blankets** to church over the past few weeks of Lent. The last Sunday for bringing items will be Easter Sunday, 5th April, after which we'll be packing them up and taking them to their new homes in Perth and Forfar.



This Sunday, 29th March, at 1am, is when the clocks go forward to 2am. Unfortunately, this is the clock change that means we get an hour less in our beds! So it's good that **our whole-parish service** for the fifth Sunday of March is **at Glamis**, where the service doesn't start till 11.30am - no other services this week. We are all gradually getting to know our fellow Strathmore members through these 'fifth-Sunday' services, and that's a very good thing. This week, which is Palm Sunday (lots of favourite hymns!) our Interim Moderator, Rev John Duncan, will be leading worship.



This coming Wednesday will be the **1st of April** - April Fools' Day! There are lots of theories as to why the cry of 'April Fool!' is so popular all over the world, but no-one seems to be sure how, or why, it all started.

In France, they shout 'Poisson d'Avril!' (*April fish*) and you can buy chocolate fish, often presented in a sardine tin (see right). In Lanark, and other towns in the south of Scotland, the 1st of April is known as Huntigowk Day!



In the Christian Church worldwide, we are coming towards the end of the season of Lent - next week will be what's known as Holy Week, when Christians remember particularly Christ's journey towards the cross. In some cultures and religious communities, there are church services throughout Holy Week; here, we will have a **Maundy Thursday service at Kettins at 7pm** and a **service for Good Friday at Glamis, also at 7pm**. As is right for this season of the Christian year, these services are usually quieter and more contemplative than our usual Sunday worship, but also very meaningful and moving. If you haven't experienced them before, please try to come to one, or both, of the Holy Week services.



A very old tradition in the Church is that of keeping the Easter Vigil - originally, this was a time of prayer which started on the Saturday evening and continued through to dawn on Easter Sunday, when those present would be the first to rejoice in Jesus' resurrection and to say 'Christ is risen!', the Easter greeting.

The Easter Vigil tradition continues in some churches to this day, sometimes with a full vigil going on through the night, more often, now, as a vigil service taking place on the Saturday evening. As part of such a service, the Paschal Candle is lit, and often that is a very ornate candle, a new one being made every year. The pic on the left, a display of Paschal candles from many years past, was taken at Canterbury Cathedral - you can see some of the magnificent stained glass reflected at the top of the display case. The photo doesn't really give you an idea of the size of these candles - each one is at least a metre in height!

And on **Sunday 5th April, it will be Easter** - the most joyful Sunday of the Christian year! I think everybody looks forward to Easter, don't you? Most of us make it a family occasion, or a time for meeting up with friends, and if there are children in the household, there is bound to be lots of fun decorating hard-boiled eggs to be rolled at the family picnic, or searching in the garden for chocolate eggs hidden by the Easter bunny!

Our **Easter Sunday services** in Strathmore are at Kettins at 10.00am, Newtyle at 10.00am (preceded by a Communion service at 9.15am) and at Glamis at 11.30am. Let's hope and pray that every home in our parish has a happy Easter. All five primary schools (Eassie, Glamis, Kettins, Meigle and Newtyle) come off for the two-week Easter holiday on Friday 3rd April - wouldn't it be great if the weather was good for the children getting outside to play!

The Kirk Session is asking for your help and advice! You'll recall that, when we joined the union to become Strathmore Parish Church, one of the paragraphs in the Basis of Union, to which we agreed, stated that Carleen, who was to become minister of the new charge, would continue to stay in the manse at Newtyle until she retired, at which point the Newtyle Manse would be put on the market. Meantime, the tenancy arrangement for the manse in Meigle would be brought to an end, and that house would become the manse for Strathmore Parish Church. All of that has now happened, and the manse in Meigle, which is in Dundee Road, has been re-decorated in readiness for a minister coming to us in due course.

However, there is still a bit of outside work required (broken-down wall, path slabs needing to be re-laid, tree pruning, general tidying-up) and the Kirk Session wonder if anyone knows of a good, reliable landscape gardening firm, or the like, who might take on the initial work. If **you** can recommend some firm for this type of work, please speak to Mike Riddell-Webster, our Session Clerk, [session.clerk@strathmoreparish.org](mailto:session.clerk@strathmoreparish.org) or contact Alison Davidson, our Admin Assistant [admin@strathmoreparish.org](mailto:admin@strathmoreparish.org)

Also, if you would be interested in joining a wee group of volunteers from our congregation who could commit to helping to keep the manse garden tidy until such time as we have a new minister living in the manse, again, would you please contact one of the people above?

Just to finish this month's newsletter, below are one or two more pics taken on the Newtyle Railway Loop Path.

If you have a favourite walk in our parish area, please get in touch with me, [mmreid@btinternet.com](mailto:mmreid@btinternet.com), and we'll include it in a future issue of the newsletter. Photos of views or events in the parish would be very welcome too.

Take care, everyone, and wrap up warm if you're going out!

Have a very happy Easter,

Mary Reid



A wall in the railway cutting.  
The Dundee - Newtyle line was opened in 1831; the first railway line north of the Tay.



A very nice spot to have a wee rest, and admire the view up into the glens of Angus