

*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](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 - it seems like our long, sunny spring is over and, as we move into the summer months, we're about to have a spell of unsettled weather, with a bit of rain! We surely can't complain about the rain, though, as we have had so many lovely sunny days, and the ground is crying out for water - quite a few tattie fields being watered this past week.



About ten days ago, Scottish Water said they didn't want to impose a hose-pipe ban, but they were asking everyone to try to reduce water consumption as much as possible. Apparently our national use of water then went down by 60 million litres a day! (from 2,000 million!!) Then, a few days later, one of the directors put out this message:-

*"We'd like to say a massive thank you to everyone who has helped reduce water demand by using what is a precious resource as efficiently as possible, but we need customers to continue their support and to take whatever measures they can to do so.*

*The system remains under significant pressure and so we we'd like to encourage everyone to continue to use Scotland's water as efficiently as possible.*

*Gardeners can have a particularly big impact by switching off sprinklers and using watering cans instead. But we can all play our part through simple steps like shorter showers and turning the tap off while we brush our teeth. It all adds up."*

It's good to see a public body saying 'Thank you' when the public co-operates, isn't it? But the situation is still difficult, and Scottish Water is urging people to help save water by:

- using water efficiently in the garden and outdoor spaces by using a watering can instead of a garden hose and avoiding using sprinklers
- taking shorter showers
- turning the tap off while brushing teeth
- using washing machines and dishwashers only when fully loaded
- using a bucket and sponge rather than a hose to wash the car.

The company says **we are individually using an average of 178 litres of water per person per day** in Scotland, which is higher than in England and Wales where people use an average of 137 litres per person per day. Who knew? I guess we could all do better!

I've never really looked at the Scottish Water website before now, but it's very interesting, eg you can estimate how much water your home is using, and you can see a printout about the water quality in your postcode area. If you'd like to learn a bit more about it, go to <https://www.scottishwater.co.uk>

Another website which always comes up with something interesting is the Church of Scotland site <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk> If you click on the 'News and Events' button, there's always something that catches your eye! Of course just now there is quite a bit about the recent General Assembly of the Kirk, and you can also access a brief biography of the Kirk's Moderator for 2024 - 25, the Rev Rosemary (or Rosie) Frew, the parish minister at Bowden and Melrose, in the Borders. In the course of their moderatorial year, Moderators always make visits to one or two Presbyteries, and Mrs Frew plans to visit the Presbytery of Perth at some point, so we may have the opportunity to hear her preach somewhere in our neighbourhood.



Here in Strathmore Parish Church **we have some information** about what will happen when Carleen retires - that's in three months time, and I expect that for Carleen herself and for all of us as members, these months will pass very quickly! Looking ahead, the Presbytery's Vacancy Procedure Committee is recommending that Presbytery should grant permission to Strathmore Parish Church to call a minister. The details of our 'permission to call' will be discussed at the June meeting of Presbytery, in the light of new legislation by this year's General Assembly.

The Vacancy Procedure Committee also suggests a Nominating Committee from our Parish consisting of 11 church members - they'll have a lot of work to do, drawing up a Parish Profile for interested ministers to read, arranging for advertising the charge, then, in due course, interviewing applicants and deciding which one should be put forward as the 'sole nominee' for all of us to hear and vote on.

The Strathmore Nominating Committee will be guided in its work by the Rev John Duncan, a retired parish minister and forces chaplain, who is already known to some of us as he has conducted worship in some of the Strathmore churches. Mr Duncan will be our Interim Moderator (the minister in charge of our parish) after Carleen retires on 31st August, but Presbytery will allow him to start working with the Nominating Committee from 1st August. The Kirk Session and the Nominating Committee (once they have been elected) will keep us all posted as to how things are going.

To help in the compiling of the Parish Profile, Mike Riddell-Webster, our Session Clerk, is asking anyone who has a good photograph of any church activities to send it to him at [session.clerk@strathmoreparish.org](mailto:session.clerk@strathmoreparish.org) No applicant for the vacant charge will need much convincing that this is a lovely place to live and work, but we also need to persuade interested candidates that we are a congregation that is enthusiastic about supporting our minister and the work of the church!



Is there anything nicer, on a day of wind and sun, than to stand and watch the wind moving over the barley?

And here's a couple of very quirky tree decorations spotted in a hawthorn near the old railway line!



From the organisers of 'Cake at the Gate' held in Newtyle in Christian Aid Week:- *'Thank you to everyone who brought cakes, etc., for sale, and thank you to everyone who came along to buy! Over £1000 was raised on the day for Christian Aid, and envelope donations have still to be counted and added to that, so we will be able to send a really good total amount to Christian Aid for their work with the world's neediest people.'*



**Diary:- Sunday June 1st is Communion Sunday at Newtyle (at 10am); other services are as usual that day and every Sunday till 29th June, when we have a 5th Sunday service for everyone at Glamis at 11.30.**

Looking forward to seeing you then,  
Best wishes,  
Mary Reid