

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 - this is the newsletter for July! July? Yes, half of 2025 is gone already, the longest day was last weekend; we'll soon be saying, 'Aren't the nights drawing in?' No, not really; we still have the summer months to enjoy and many of us are looking forward to our summer holidays, especially the bairns at the five primary schools in our parish (at Eassie, Glamis, Kettins, Meigle and Newtyle) who come off for the 'seven weekies' today, the last Friday of June. For the oldest ones, this will be their last day at primary school, they'll be looking ahead to going to the big school (at Blairgowrie or Kirriemuir) after the summer, quite a scary prospect after their years in the lovely family atmosphere that exists in our rural primary schools!



June has been a very mixed month, weather-wise, hasn't it? We've had everything - gales, wee showers, steady rain, cold mornings, sunny days and a mini-heatwave! But despite all of that, and the prolonged drought we had earlier, the flowers at the roadsides are as

bonny as ever, eg these buttercups and the lovely bright campion, and the winter barley is already turning colour and looking as if the the first of the harvesting might not be too far away. The fields and the woodlands round us are changing every day, aren't they?



And going back a wee bit further, to Christian Aid Week in May, you'll be delighted to learn that the total sum sent off by Strathmore Parish Church to Christian Aid, from 'Cake at the Gate', Christian Aid envelopes and other donations, was £1,433. Wasn't that great?

Looking ahead now, it's all happening at Glamis this weekend, with weddings on Friday and on Saturday and the 'fifth-Sunday' service there on Sunday. Keith and Kered, who are getting married on the Saturday, are regular worshippers at Glamis, and they are inviting members of the congregation to join them and their guests in the church at 3pm to be part of their marriage celebrations - how nice is that? If you can stay on for a while after the ceremony, there will be a 'wee cuppie' in the Strathmore Aisle!



Please remember that it is a **fifth-Sunday service** this week, so no services at Kettins, Meigle or Newtyle, but everyone worshipping together **at Glamis at 11.30am**. Many folk still refer to the kirk at Glamis as St Fergus' Kirk - the story of St Fergus is difficult to research, as Fergus was a common Scottish name for many



centuries, and there are references to several saints named Fergus in the middle ages. The earliest church in Glamis, though, was established by Fergus, who is reputed to have lived in a cave down beside the Glamis burn and to have baptised people in the spring there - St Fergus' Well. The mediaeval church (1242) was dedicated to him, the Strathmore Aisle being the only remaining part of that building, as was the present church (1792) and then there was a re-dedication to the saint in 1933, when the interior of the church was re-modelled. You may have noticed that the weather-vane on top of the church spire has, unusually, a fish on it - maybe you can just make it out on the picture? - it's a symbol of St Fergus. A previous version of the fish hangs above the

coalhouse door on the Session House. If you haven't been aware of these things before, have a good look round on Sunday!



This Sunday afternoon, 29th June, there's a chance to see Elizabeth and George McLaren's beautiful garden at 'The Doocot' at Kinloch (between Meigle and Longleys on the main road, turn off the road at the lodge house with red eaves). The garden is open from 1pm to 5pm, and entry is £6 for adults, free for children.

Because The Doocot stands on the central ridge of Strathmore, there are amazing views to the north and south, and the garden itself is a delight, with lots of different areas to explore. The members of the Guild are providing tea, coffee and home baking, and the proceeds from that will be donated to the current Guild projects - one of which, 'Playful Beginnings', aims to support vulnerable young families where the parents themselves don't have the necessary skills to bond with their children and enable them to grow and develop as they should.

Every child deserves the best possible start in life - 'Playful Beginnings', (which is being run by the Church of Scotland's social work arm, Crossreach) will strive to ensure that the parents and children involved will all have much better outcomes in their lives.

So please come along to The Doocot on Sunday afternoon, enjoy the garden and the views and indulge in a lovely afternoon tea, and know that you are supporting some very worthwhile causes!

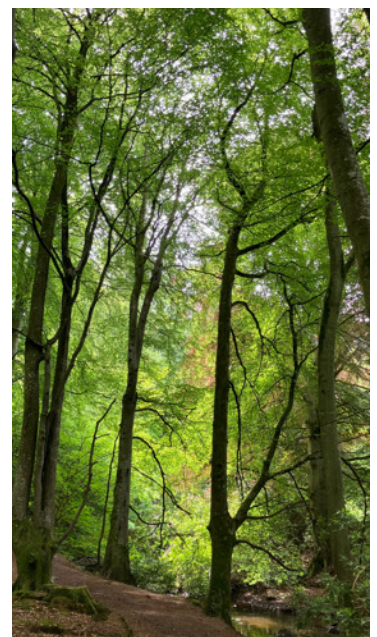
Over the summer months, there's not so much going on in the kirk, but our church services continue as usual Sunday by Sunday throughout July and August. As you know, **Sunday 31st August** will be Carleen's last day as our minister, and, as it is a fifth Sunday, there will be just one service that day. We will gather for worship **at Newtyle Church at 10.00am**, for Carleen's last service, and for us, as a congregation, to say our goodbyes to her. There will be more detail about arrangements for the service in the next newsletter. It's very nice that the service is to be in Newtyle Church, where Carleen was inducted to her first (and only) charge in 1992, and right across the road from the Manse where she has lived since then.



You may have heard that, at its June meeting, the Presbytery of Perth confirmed that Strathmore Parish Church is to be allowed to call a new minister to serve in our parish. At this year's General Assembly in Edinburgh, it was decided that all ministers will now be appointed on the basis of 'reviewable tenure' - that is, at some point Presbytery will review whether or not they can justify a particular parish having its own minister, or whether some further parish unions will be needed. Our new Strathmore Parish Church minister will be appointed to a seven-year-reviewable tenure - that's the longest period that is allowed under the new Kirk rules. (I've since heard a few folk saying, 'Aye weel, that'll see me oot!')

Presbytery also confirmed that the Rev John Duncan will be the Interim Moderator for Strathmore Parish Church while the charge is vacant after Carleen retires. Mr Duncan will take up that post on 1st September, though he will be working with the Kirk Session before that to help guide them through all the procedures and paperwork necessary at the start of the process of calling a new minister.

We will all have an opportunity to meet Mr Duncan on **Sunday 7th September**, when he will conduct the **service at Meigle, at 10.00am**. Unusually for the first Sunday of the month, we will be having a whole-parish service that day at Meigle, for what, in the old days, used to be called 'preaching the church vacant'. At the end of the service we will elect the Nominating Committee - the eleven members of our congregation whose task will be to find the right minister to take us forward into the future. Mike, our Session Clerk, asks all of us to consider whether this is something we could do, or to think about whom we might propose to be on the committee.



Now, just a couple of wee things of local interest - did you read the reports of the Alyth Show in the press a couple of weeks ago? Apparently the cattle parade 'wowed the crowd', but at the end of the day it was a sheep that went home with the 'Champion of Champions' cup and rosette! I wonder, too, did you see the picture in the Scotsman of the two cattlemen sound asleep in their camping chairs while the Princess Royal was having a wee smile at them as she did her rounds of the Highland Show at Ingliston?

If you have an interest in heavy horses, there was a fascinating programme on BBC Scotland earlier this week called 'Clydesdale - Saving the Greatest Horse' - go to <https://www.savingthegreatesthorse.com/> or find it on iPlayer. (I thought I saw our own Moyra Stewart on one shot!)

I'd never heard of St Tenew (had you?) till I read an article about her in the Historic Scotland magazine. She was, it seems, the daughter of a Scottish chieftain in early times, and was banished from her home after a noble lord assaulted her and left her pregnant. Tradition has it that poor Tenew was protected by miraculous interventions, for example, a shoal of fish leading her safely across a river, and eventually she gave birth to a boy who became St Kentigern. He was re-named Mungo and is the patron saint of Glasgow - hence this amazing mural on the end of a Glasgow tenement.

Sometimes known as St Tannoch, Tenew has in recent years become an inspiration to many women who have suffered violence from men.



Some dates for your diary:-

Sunday 29th June 11.30am at Glamis - whole parish service.

Sunday 29th June 1 - 5pm, garden open day at The Doocot

Sunday 31st August 10.00am at Newtyle - Carleen's last service

Sunday 7th September 10.00am at Meigle - whole-parish service led by Rev John Duncan.

Enjoy the summer months, and remember Carleen in your prayers as she comes to the end of a long and faithful ministry in our parish area.

Best wishes,

Mary Reid