

ACROSS

THE GLENS

No 9

STRALOCH

GLENSHEE

KIRKMICHAEL

CRAY

THE PARISH OF
KIRKMICHAEL,
STRALOCH &
GLENSHEE

PERSIE

NETHERTON

MINISTER - REV. ALAN MCKEAN
phone Blackburnians 255
SESSION CLERK - MARGARET BROOKES
phone Strathavale 375

PARISH REGISTER

Deaths

Mrs Jean Hogg 17th December 1989
Mr Grant Webster 26th December 1989
Mr Andrew Dunbar 31st December 1989
Mrs Catherine Crichton 19th January 1990

Services

March 11th Kirkmichael 10.30
18th Kirkmichael 10.30 Netherton 12.15
25th Kirkmichael 10.30 The AGM will be held in
the Church after this Service at 11.45 am
April 1st Kirkmichael 10.30 Netherton 12.15
8th Kirkmichael 10.30
13th GOOD FRIDAY Kirkmichael Session House 7.30 pm
15th EASTER SUNDAY
Kirkmichael 10.30 Netherton 12.15
22nd Kirkmichael 10.30
29th Kirkmichael 10.30 (5th Sunday)
May 6th Kirkmichael 10.30 Netherton 12.15
13th Kirkmichael Communion 10.30 Netherton 12.15
20th Kirkmichael 10.30 Netherton 12.15
27th Kirkmichael 10.30 Glenshee 12.15
June 3rd Kirkmichael 10.30 Netherton 12.15
((Communion))

Obituaries

We welcome short biographical notes sent by friends but we would ask you please to check with relatives to ensure the accuracy of the facts.

GLENSHEE, March 1990

My dear people,

It's good to think it will soon be summer, and the changes and new life that will bring. There are a lot of changes going on not just in our lives but in the glens. Beyond here the map of Europe is being re-written.

In the midst of so much change, in the midst of whatever comes into our lives and these changes can be sudden and drastic: we need an anchor. The anchor of the Christian is Jesus Christ. The hymn puts it "We have an anchor that keeps the soul, steadfast and sure while the billows roll. Fastened to the rock which cannot move, grounded firm and deep in the Saviour's love."

The Bible tells us in Hebrews 13 v 8 "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever". and that same God and Lord said at the end of Matthew's Gospel "All power in Heaven and on earth has been given unto me." Jesus, the Christ un-changing, all powerful Saviour and Lord. He is only a prayer away, yet when you call on the One who gave His life on the Cross for our sins that we may know God's pardon and eternal life. The Anchor that keeps the soul in a fast altering world.

May I take this opportunity to wish a happy and blessed Easter to the Session, Board, Guild, Magazine team, Organists and Sunday School and to those who have come to worship faithfully Sunday by Sunday and to all who read this.

The Lord bless you and be gracious to you.

Alan McKean

IN MEMORIAM

Sandy Reid 1912 - 1989

Strathardle lost one of its well known characters with the death of Alexander (Sandy) Reid in July 1989.

Sandy was born in Orkney and spent the first 12 years of his life there. In 1924 his family moved to the mainland and settled at The Bleaton where Sandy attended Blackwater School. Shortly afterwards there was a move to Williamston and after school Sandy served his time with Frank Fender.

During the war he worked on the extraction of timber from the Kindrogan Forest and subsequently joined Frank Fender, continuing later with Frank's son, Sandy, an association with the Fender family which was to last for over 40 years.

Whilst at Kirkmichael, he met the girl who was to become his wife - Helen Pennycook: they were married in 1942 and three years later they came to Milton of Balvarran. There are three children of the marriage - Bill, Doreen and Ian.

All who knew Sandy delighted in his friendship and kindness. He was constantly engaged in making items out of wood which he thought might be needed by people and these gifts bore the mark of real craftsmanship. A quiet man, he had a fine sense of humour and was a grand companion.

Our sympathies go out to Helen and to his children and four grand-children.

THE STORM

Outside storm gales rage, unabated, wild;
Inside I hear His words, "Be still My child".
Frenzied snowflakes fall from sky of leaden hue:
His words they come "My Peace I give to you"
With increased might, the storm spreads o'er the land:
His words to me, "You're safe within my hand".
Roofs torn from houses, cars strewn 'cross the road;
I hear His voice "upon me, cast your load".
Pylons fall, power cables fall like hail;
Whate'er befalls His power will never fail.
Darkness falls, the day creeps into night;
I hear my Saviour say "I am the Light".
We're warned, "Unless you must, in your homes stay",
With peace, "Come unto Me". I hear Him say.
From storms like this, all creatures seek to hide;
To you and me He says, "In Me abide".

P.K.

January, 1990

HANDWRITTEN BIBLE PROJECT

We had 58 verses from Isaiah to write, raising 50p per verse towards purchase of paper for printing the Bible in Chinese. Some of our verses had dreadful names in them and much pen-sucking occurred, but all were written out and by some curious arithmetical fluke there was £36 in the sweet jar which has been sent along with our pages to the National Bible Society of Scotland. (NO! NO! I sent a cheque for £36 ...) Many thanks to the generous souls who wrote and paid - and thanks also to those who would have written a verse or two had we got round to them before we ran out of verses.

Now we must remember in our prayers the real aim of this project - to send God's word into China in a form instantly accessible to the Chinese people.

M.B.

Extract from a letter received from Elizabeth Campbell our Missionary Partner in Manila, the Philippines.

"From my last letter you would see that we planned to do some door-to-door visitation last December. Just after I posted the letter we decided to postpone this until January. There were several reasons, one being that Elizabeth (my co-worker) and I only moved into our house in early December, the attempted coup, and it seemed too close to Christmas, a time when everyone is very busy. We did, however, go ahead with a Thanksgiving/ housewarming at another missionary's house. We were greatly encouraged when about 17 people attended (excluding us). On New Year's Eve Elizabeth and I attended a street party which gave us the opportunity to develop relationships with our new neighbours. Our street visitation, undertaken in January, involved new workers presently doing language study in Batangas City. This involved going with survey cards which asked general questions like: name, number in family, bible in home, Bible read regularly, ever attended Bible study. We then offered John's gospel with short self Bible study notes. We were encouraged when between 30 and 40 people accepted these notes. Some wanted nothing to do with us when they knew we were not Roman Catholic. There are five studies in the series, so we return to each person who took the first one, if they have completed it take it for correction and give them the next one - and so on. Pray with us that some of the people will want to progress to home Bible studies. We were encouraged too when 10 families (about 15 adults and 6 children) came to our home recently through an invitation to come and hear why we are here, living amongst them. Pray that some will respond to the invitation to join us in Bible study. Thank you for your prayer support."

Elizabeth C.

RURAL ROUND- UP

Mount Blair The 1990 meetings began with a demonstration and talk on Ceramics. Members were shown a varied selection of attractive ornaments by Ms Thom of Guildtown. The Annual Outing to the pantomime was thoroughly enjoyed by members, Glen children and Senior Citizens. We travelled by bus on a very snowy Saturday to see Mother Goose at Perth Theatre with high tea to follow at the Enverdale Hotel. The subject of 8th February was 'Bonsai and Fuchsias' and on the 8th March Mr Hamish Blaikie will show slides of Glenshee. The subject on April 5th will be 'Cold Sweets'. Any ladies wishing to come along will be warmly welcomed. Mrs Jean Cameron, Ashintully Lodge, is our Secretary and she will be pleased to help with any queries.

Ballintuim have learned all about glass-engraving and photography but they are very anxious about the future because they are desperately short of members. Their Secretary is Mrs Doreen Johnston, Stylemouth (Strathardle 397) from whom further particulars can be had.

Glen Shee raised 45 at an Open Night and are taking part in the sponsored walk on April 7th. They are finishing up at the Dalmunzie Hotel where they are having tea. Secretary: Mrs Fraser, Old Spittal Farm.

Bridge of Cally The session opened with an introduction to Tear Craft. They have also seen slides (some from 1959) of Glen Shee and the Cairngorms. The annual Christmas Dinner was held at the Bridge of Cally Hotel. Secretary: Mrs Rosemary Marchant who can give further information.

Kirkmichael have two more meetings this session, one on Yeast Cookery by the mother and daughter team of Elizabeth and Sheila Cairns on April 12th, and the Business Meeting on 10th May when Mrs Jill Ellin (their Secretary) will show slides of the Far East. They are entertaining Meiklour on the 14th March and Ballintuim a few days later.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

'A certain man had two sons
One was rich and the other was poor.
The rich man had no children
While the poor man was blessed with many sons
and many daughters

In time the father fell ill.
He was sure he would not live through the week
So on Saturday he called his sons to his side
and gave each of them half of the land of
their inheritance.
Then he died

Before sundown the sons buried their father with
respect as custom required

That night the rich son could not sleep.
He said to himself.
'What my father did was not just
I am rich. my brother is poor.
I have bread enough and to spare.
while my brother's children eat one day
and trust God for the next.
I must move the landmark which our father has set
in the middle of the land
so that my brother will have the greater share.
Ah - but he must not see me.
If he sees me he will be ashamed.
I must arise early in the morning before it is dawn
and move the landmark

With this he fell asleep
and his sleep was secure and peaceful

Meanwhile the poor brother could not sleep.
As he lay restless on his bed he said to himself.
'What my father did was not just
Here am I surrounded by the joy of my many sons
and many daughters.
while my brother daily faces the shame
of having no sons to carry on his name
and no daughters to comfort him in his old age.
He should have the land of our father.
Perhaps this will in part compensate him
for his indescribable poverty.
Ah - but if I give it to him he will be shamed.
I must awake early in the morning before it is dawn
and move the landmark which our father has set.
With this he went to sleep and his sleep was
secure and peaceful

On the first day of the week -
very early in the morning.
a long time before it was day.
the two brothers met at the ancient landmark.
They fell with tears into each other's arms.
And on that spot was built the city of Jerusalem.'

Ancient Parable

Bobby Brown's tape of Scottish Music is now available. All proceeds to the Church and to the Strathardle Benevolent fund. It can normally be obtained in the Post Offices, otherwise from Mrs Margaret Brookes, Session Clerk, Woodend, Enochdhu, price 6.00.

The Wednesday Club

The Kirkmichael Wednesday Social club have enjoyed a very happy and gratifying autumn session, with membership now standing at 22.

The guest speaker in October was Mr Tom Morrison from Rattray. He gave an excellent illustrated talk entitled 'Mainly Mountains'. His detailed description of rock and cloud formation was fascinating as he travelled over the Scottish mountains. He finished a perfect show with some shots of wildlife taken in the distant hills and a few spectacular sunsets, coming 'down to earth' with a few 'weel kent' local views.

The guest speaker in November was Mrs Betty Ivey, Whinstones, Kirkmichael. Her subject - 'A Holiday in Switzerland'. She recalled every day of her adventurous and thrilling holiday in the Swiss Alps - the Eiger, Jungfrau and Wengen where the railway went right over the mountain. She highlighted the great variety of Alpine plants and flowers, her camera spotting very tiny brilliant colours well up in the mountains. Her talk and pictures were both entertaining and humorous.

On December 13th Mrs Walker welcomed members to their Annual Christmas Lunch in the Strathlene Hotel. An excellent traditional meal, complete with Christmas pies, coffee and crackers was enjoyed. Unfortunately, owing to the "flu bug" numbers were reduced to 17. The singing of Auld Lang Syne concluded a very happy occasion.

J.M.

Letter from Jane Baker

Bingley, Yorkshire Jan 90

The last time I wrote a letter for the magazine, I was in the far south-east. Now I'm moving north, coming closer to Scotland again. Bingley is where my parents live, and I've been staying with them for Christmas and New Year, enjoying a holiday after the candidates course at the WEC HQ, at Bulstrode.

The course finished just before Christmas. A week before that, I was accepted into the mission. It was good that Alan and Kathy McKean could come down to represent the church when the final decision was made; and I know that their visit brought home to them that the people up in the glens are part of a worldwide church, not an isolated group. It's easy to be discouraged in Britain, where we see decline in the church; but being in an organisation like WEC opens our eyes to the parts of the world, like Africa and the Far East, where the church is growing dramatically, with many people realising their need to put God first in their lives. It's exciting to realise that we can know the same God here.

I enjoyed every part of the course, and have left my mark on Bulstrode by painting several doors! We finished with a Christmas dinner and show, and as I'm not an actor, I was given the task of carrying signs across the stage to set the scene. A highly responsible job. As my work in the future will be writing (Bible correspondence courses in Portugal) I gained some experience by helping to write a sketch and a song. All the candidates worked together on the show, and so we went out with a bang from Bulstrode. By this time next year, we'll be scattered all over the world - Africa, Europe, S America and Pakistan. We can all be sure that God has prepared the way for us, and will continue to guide us.

From late January to the end of February, I will be doing a short training course at Bulstrode; then I'm looking forward to being back in Strathardle and Glenshee until the summer. The air in the south-east is not the same as Highland air! It will not be long now until mid-August, when I go to Portugal, and a Linguaphone course on Portugese to get me started. I can greet people at three different times of day so far! There's still a long way to go.

Jane B.

NETHERTON CHURCH

The Mission house which preceded the church at Netherton was a double cottage by the Mill given for the purpose by Mr Robert Chalmers of Netherton in 1865. The Mission was served for 43 years, until his retiral in 1913 by the Reverend David Donaldson who lived locally with his sisters. It was not autonomous, the local committee being answerable to the Session of St Andrews United Free Church, Blairgowrie, but did seem to be a vigorous small congregation with two services on Sunday and Bible class and Prayer meetings through the week.

The church, opened in 1891, was built with funds raised locally from public subscription at a total cost of 650. The notable pitchpine woodwork inside was by James Keay of Netherton and the gates were made by the Netherton smith. The mason came from Kirkmichael.

When Mr Donaldson's successor retired, the Presbytery agreed to raise the station to full independent status, provided that adequate financing could be assured. The committee and congregation worked hard to meet the condition and also found a house to rent as a manse at £18 a year (Woodford, the house Mrs Duff Sinclair occupied at Bridge of Cally). The Reverend David Conochie was appointed minister in 1920 for 3 years, but in fact stayed until 1939 at the United Free Church of Netherton Bridge of Cally.

The plan of union with the Church of Scotland was supported unanimously by the congregation, so that in 1929 the charge became the Church of Scotland, Netherton. Procedures changed a little, a session was elected but the 'committee' is not yet described as 'the Board'.

Mr Conochie retired at the same time as the Reverend Tam Smith of Persie, facilitating the union of the two charges to produce the united charge of Persie and Netherton in October 1939. The Reverend Donald Urie BD, a probationer, was the new minister and he lived at Persie Manse. He gained his doctorate (DD) and moved on in the fifties.

This move coincided with the Reverend Mr Richmond's retiral from the united charge of Glenshee and Cray and facilitated the penultimate union. Persie Church and Manse were sold. The new minister and his wife the Reverend George and Mrs Ballingall lived at Cray Manse and served the 3 churches of the charge of Glenshee and Gleneloch. Mr Ballingall was succeeded by the Reverend Robert Hill and Mr Hill by the Reverend David Doig.

Now we come to the last union when the incumbent of Kirkmichael and Straloch, The Reverend Walter Ritchie was inducted to the charge of Kirkmichael, Straloch and Glenshee with 5 churches to serve.

In compiling this history, the conviction that the church is the people and the buildings assets of less significance was reinforced. Many worthy servants emerge. The 'big House' donors of stained glass and silver - the site for the church, of course, still belongs to the Wilson family, late of Ashmore. Then Mr Vint of the woollen mill was Treasurer for years, Mr Keay of the woodwork was always on the committee and latterly it's chairman, and the Nicoll family. Mr Nicoll was Treasurer for 30 years and notably vigorous in raising funds for the new church, and his daughters were equally faithful. We owe thanks to them for the communion glasses and table. Mr Nicoll's portrait is in the vestry as is also Mr Hay M Prain's. Mr Prain was an office-bearer from 1915 until about 1950, he was Session Clerk for many years. (One could wish his writing more legible).

My sources were a minute book 1913 - 1940 found in the vestry, various inscriptions and tablets and above all Miss Linda Harris whose knowledge of and love for Netherton Church is impressive.

E.D.

Woman's Guild

The annual Business meeting will take place in the Session House on April 5th. Members are reminded to bring their knitted strips which we are going to sew into blankets.

Kirkmichael Church cleaning

We now have a very good team who take turns, singly or in pairs, at cleaning the church, namely:

Mrs Andrew	Mrs Blair	Mrs Brookes
Mrs B Duncan	Mrs C Duncan	Mrs E Duncan
Mrs Dutch	Mrs Fleming	Mrs Keiro
Mrs MacLachlan	Mrs C McGregor	Mrs Reid
Mrs Ringer	Mrs Staton	Mrs Stewart
Mrs Locke		

As we have decided that every second week is enough to keep it spick and span nobody has to do it too often but we would still be grateful for more names to add to the list. The most difficult part of the whole operation is getting the Church door open. If you would be willing to take a turn please give your name to Mrs Ringer or Mrs Stewart.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Netherton Sunday School was in Church for a Christmas Service on December 17th when their playing and singing was much appreciated.

The Community Council met on Monday 26th February and discussed roads and parking. The next meeting will be on May 21st at Strone of Cally at 7.30 pm.

School

Kirkmichael raised £214.77 for Help the Aged with a sponsored quiz. They are having an outing to Stirling Castle and Bannockburn on the 26th March. There is also to be a Sale in aid of the school on April 21st.

The three Glen schools and the Playgroup each received a generous donation from the Log Cabin Hotel as a result of the disco held at New Year.

A Sale held in the Village Hall on 10th March in aid of the Playgroup with new and slightly imperfect goods generously donated by Mrs Locke, raised over £150 for funds.

Strone of Cally School entertained the Thursday Club at the end of term to a pantomime 'Jack and the Beanstalk'. Mr McKean conducted an end of term Christmas service for the pupils and parents in Netherton Church.

Holidays:

Blairgowrie	April 9th	May 14th and 15th	June 18th
Dundee	April 2nd	May 7th and 8th	
Perth	April 16th	May 7th May 28th	
Pitlochry	March 26th	April 30th	

Spring Term ends on Friday, 30th March. Summer Term starts on Monday, 16th April and ends on Wednesday, 27th June. May Day holiday, Monday, 7th May.

Editorial Committee

Mrs E Dutton Mrs J Lindsay Miss C Macgregor Mrs M Stewart
Typing Mrs Y Clark to whom we send congratulations on the safe arrival of Charlotte Dawn.

Copy for next issue by May 30th please to Mrs Stewart or any of the committee.