

ACROSS

THE GLENS

No 11

STRALOCH

GLENSHEE

KIRKMICHAEL

CRAY

THE PARISH OF
KIRKMICHAEL,
STRALOCH &
GLENSHEE

PERSIE

NETHERTON

MINISTER - REV. ALAN MCKEAN
phone Blackburnans 255

SESSION CLERK - MARGARET BROOKES
phone Strathardale 375

Glenshee October 1990

My dear friends

It does not seem a year since we were looking forward to Christmas last year, and here we are again. The lead up to the day when we remember the coming into the world not just of a person, not just of a great teacher but the coming of God in human flesh, God made man Immanuel - God with us. That God the Son should want to leave glory, leave Heaven to come and live as a human to be a carpenter, teacher, "meekness and majesty, manhood and deity" goes the Graham Kendrick chorus. He came to earth to save us from our sins and to break their power. Remember we are not worshipping a baby but the fact of who the Baby is, what He said, what He did, how He died and rose again. Matthew I v 21 She will bring forth a son and you shall call His name Jesus for He shall save His people from their sins. Without the Saviour - Jesus the Christ there is no CHRISTmas. When we come again to the stable, remember it didn't end there. Will you accept the challenge of following Christ the way to God? Are you willing to be counted for the Master? It is tough, hard and requires courage patience and love, but the Christ who has gone the road before us will also be there to walk the road with us. Are you ready to accept the challenge of being Christ's?

We are so looking forward to moving into the new manse. We have been eight years at Dalnoid and look forward, God willing, to many more years of the Master's service in the new manse. The door is open to all who want to come. We hope to move sometime in November. The address is:

The Manse
Balnald Road
Kirkmichael
Blairgowrie PH10 7NA

May we wish you a Happy, blessed and challenging Christmas and 1991.

Yours in Christ

Alan McKean

S E R V I C E S

DATE	KIRKMICHAEL	GLENSHEE	NETHERTON
21.10.90	10.30		12.15
28.10.90	10.30	2.15 (Glenshee shuts for winter)	
4.11.90	10.30 (Communion)		12.15
11.11.90	10.30 (Remembrance Sunday)		
18.11.90	10.30		12.15 (Communion)
25.11.90	10.30		
02.12.90	10.30 Advent Sunday		12.15
09.12.90	10.30		
16.12.90	10.30		12.15
23.12.90	10.30		12.15
24.12.90	WATCHNIGHT SERVICE KIRKMICHAEL 11.15 PM		
25.12.90	CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE KIRKMICHAEL 11.00 AM		
30.12.90	10.30		
06.01.91	10.30		12.15
13.01.91	10.30		
20.01.91	10.30		12.15
27.01.91	10.30		

St Michael's and all Angels, Ballintuim Carol Service on Sunday, 23rd December at 3 pm followed by tea and mince pies. This is a joint Service and all are welcome. There is also a Christmas Day Service.

MARRIAGES

We are pleased to announce the following weddings have taken place:-

In Netherton Church

Ariane Strang to Keith Johnston	18.08.90
Sarah Kirkwood to John Macdonald	22.09.90

In Blairgowrie

Colin Cochrane to Christina Bullock	28.09.90
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We ask God's blessing on these couples

THE WOMAN'S GUILD

The first meeting was held on October 4th when our President, Mrs Falconer welcomed members and their guests.

She spoke briefly on the Guild Theme "One Body - Different Gifts" and some of us realised our memories were not what they once were.

There was a letter from Jane Baker thanking the Guild and Church members for providing the lunch after her Valedictory Service. She says "It was certainly a day to remember, in every respect. Thank you for thinking of everything and for entering into the occasion so enthusiastically." There was also a letter from the members of North Kelvinside Church who had been there thanking us for "the warm welcome, **fellowship and wonderful hospitality**". **Members were reminded that sewing and knitting kits were urgently needed for Mozambique (see back page). Patterns for Save the Children vests were given out. Mrs Ringer had brought us all bookmarks from the Holy Land. The Guild Project this year is to provide a fund to give a grant to all final year Divinity and St Colm's students to buy books.**

The speaker Miss Marilyn Douglas described how she and a small group made banners for her Church in Cumbernauld. She disclaimed any artistic ability but she had certainly plenty of imagination and the banners she brought to show us were dramatic in their impact. She had a very attractive personality, her sincerity shone through and her enthusiasm was infectious. When she had us all designing banners with very varying degrees of success we realised it was not so easy as she made it seem. Nevertheless we did resolve to try our hand at one - perhaps for the forthcoming celebrations. We are very happy to welcome Mrs C McGregor to membership.

October 15th	Committee Meeting	10 Glen Derby	2 pm
31st	Party for Senior Citizens	Kirkmichael Hall.	2.30 pm - 5 pm
		Entertainment by staff of Glenshee Lodge.	
December 6th	7.15 pm	The Manna House Trust - Mr Noel Pickering.	Hostesses - Mrs Clark & Mrs Clark jnr
1991			
February 7th	7.15 pm	Roxburghe House	Dr Martin Leiper
		Hostesses - Mrs Ballintine & Mrs Dutton	
March 1st	2.30 pm	World Day of Prayer	Session House
7th	7.15 pm	Bangladesh - Talk & Slides	Mrs J Ellin
		Hostesses - Mrs Locke & Mrs Brookes	
28th	7.15 pm	A G M Video & Discussion.	Sew Up Blankets and vests.
		Hostesses - Mrs Ferguson & Mrs Marchant	
April 16th	7.30 pm	Visit to Glenisla Kilry & Lintrathen Guild	
May		Evening at Glenshee Lodge (to be arranged)	
June 1st		Coffee Morning at Kirkmichael Hall	

Autumn Presbyterial Meeting Abbey Church Hall. Coupar Angus on 17th October at 7.30 pm. The Rev Hugh Watt - Easterhouse : Working in the City".

Rua Brigadeiro Correia Cardoso, 240-1-o. 3000 COIMBRA, Portugal

It's a whole month now since I arrived in Portugal - a very busy month with so much happening and so many new experiences that I could fill a small book! For one thing, I've almost forgotten what rain is like - can you imagine it?!

I spent the first two weeks at the WEC headquarters in Braga, in the far north of the country. There was time to become used to some of the features of Portuguese life - notably the eccentric plumbing! - and to take a few trips to different places round about. I've been to 3 cities now, and they're all fast-growing, with tower blocks sprouting like mushrooms round the central area of old buildings. Amongst the building sites, looking incongruous, are old farms, and it's not unusual, on the busy avenue near where I live now, to see a small scooter-pulled cart loaded with vegetables going slowly up the side of the road with the cars and buses rushing past.

After the WEC team conference, which was a good opportunity to meet the rest of the people working here, I moved down to Coimbra, where I'll be doing language study. The university course for foreigners starts near the end of October, and meanwhile I've started private lessons - one hour a day - the Baptist minister's wife. She's an excellent teacher, and after only just over a week, I can understand quite a bit more than when I began. I can speak more too! Doing cassette lessons before I came has proved to be a big help. Every small step is a big adventure. For example, a couple of days ago I went to a shop I hadn't been in before and bought 20 envelopes - and afterwards felt so pleased with myself! Things you take for granted at home are an effort here, and there's a real sense of accomplishment when you've done them. On the other hand, it's very easy to make a complete idiot of yourself! Or to say something hilarious without meaning to. I proudly announced to the girls in the flat that I'd had a letter from my mother - or that's what I thought I'd said, and couldn't understand why they burst out laughing. I'd said "my wife" instead of "my mother"!

This flat is right on the edge of the city, but within a 20-minute bus ride of the centre. There's a good view of hills and trees across the road, and the landscape is dotted with red-roofed houses. The university is on top of a steep hill in the old city - a maze of narrow zigzag cobbled streets and alleyways. Washing hangs from the windows everywhere, and there are dozens of tiny shops. Markets are a feature of life here, from the big official ones selling everything you ever wanted from food to furniture, to the little stalls set up on the pavements. It's a shock to see beggars everywhere - one aspect of the contrast between rich and poor. You can get your shoes polished at the roadside too. Portugal's a very labour intensive country. If you want to cut the grass on a roundabout - give four men a pair of shears each! And the pavements are works of art - hand-made mosaics of small blocks of limestone, and that includes the new ones being made along the avenue.

God has answered many prayers concerning this time in Coimbra. First, the language lessons with such a good teacher. Then, accommodation with Portuguese girls, so I have to practise what I learn. These girls are ready-made friends too; very open, and generous with their time (and with good Portuguese food!). Until January, there's an American girl, Kim, here too, and she's taken time to show me around. Kim is another missionary-in-training. There are so many new things to learn and new ways to get used to - but God is providing in different ways the help I need, and that's very good for me, teaching me to depend on Him more. I didn't used to ask for His help before going shopping! - but now I'm learning to, and finding that He's concerned about "little" details of everyday life.

Letter from Jane Baker cont'd .../

My full address is with this letter in the hope that some of you will write. I'd love to hear from the glens, whether it's postcards or lang letters. I've already had a postcard of Queen's View, so please send some more pictures for my "Perthshire Gallery"! I don't need reminders, as I often remember you, but it's still good to hear. Until I do, Deus vos abencoe - God Bless you.

Jane Baker

COMPASS CHRISTIAN CENTRE

Over 200 people gathered at the Compass Christian Centre for the dedication of the 'almost complete' Sports Hall and Games Room. Those who shared in the praise and the celebration that day included neighbours and friends from the glens, friends and supporters from all over Scotland and England - the farthest travelled being from Cambridge; the Lord Provost of Perth together with members of the District Council and the Chairman of the Scottish Tourist Board.

After the Service of Dedication and thanksgiving for God's provision of the funding necessary and the many miracles of His timing and provision, there was an opportunity to see round the Centre, share in the fun of raft building competition and race across our newly enlarged pond (staff versus Centre directors) and to inspect the plans for the future development. A buffet meal followed and the first ceilidh in the sports hall rounded off an excellent day.

The building is now complete and available for use by members of the local community and visitors as well as centre residents. Badminton, short tennis, volleyball, basketball, unihoc, archery and carpet bowls can all be played in the main hall - though not all at the same time! Table tennis and pool are housed in the games room. A separate class-room has been included and is equipped for environmental studies but will also be used for craft work and other activities.

On Sunday 30th September there was an open invitation to all to join with the Centre staff and guests for worship in the Sports Hall. There were no services in the local churches that day. The Centre had members of Chalmers Ardler Church, Dundee in residence for a family weekend. The service was lead by Sandy Falconer and the staff team and the singing was accompanied by guitars, flute, oboe and keyboard. Coffee was served after the service and visitors enjoyed the chance to linger and see things at first hand.

THE WEDNESDAY CLUB

The Club finished the 1989/90 session with a coach trip to Falkland Palace on 9th June. The weather was excellent and on returning to Kirkmichael High Tea was enjoyed at the Strathlene Hotel.

GIVE ME A QUIET CORNER

Give me a quiet corner and a little time to hear the singing
of the birds from dawn to dusk throughout the year

Give me a chance to think things out before it is time to go
Give me a place where I can sit and see the sunset glow.
Give me a window with a view that plans to meet the sky
Give me a garden where the trees can feel the winds blow by
Give me good days and sleep-blessed nights when I have closed
the door and anyone can have the world.
I'll never ask for more.

(Patience Strong)

Patience Strong died a few weeks ago. She was not a great poet but her love of nature, her simple philosophy and her steadfast Christian faith brought comfort and strength to many thousands of troubled hearts. She will be greatly missed.

FROM A CORRESPONDENT ...

BRITISH FAROE WEEK 1990
TO COMMEMORATE THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LANDING OF BRITISH
TROOPS

It was early morning on 12 May when our party of 8 dancers, a piper, an accordian player and 2 invaluable helpers met at Scrabster, loaded all the luggage into one car and a trailer and boarded MV "Smyril" for a 14 hour crossing to Torshavn. The least said about that the better!

All thoughts of sea sickness were forgotten when we arrived - the whole town was out to greet us at midnight, cheering, singing and waving banners as the ferry docked. The Band of the Royal Marines, the Pipes and Drums of the Gordon Highlanders, the Vadre Male Voice Choir and ourselves joined a detachment from HMS "Brilliant" to march through the town with an ever larger band of followers - we were in danger of losing each other, not to mention the odd shoe! After an official welcome we dispersed and went with Johanna and Alif to their home. It was wonderful to have us all staying together and the hospitality and generosity of the Hansen family was magnificent.

After a few hours much needed sleep we went on Sunday morning to the Memorial Service in the old West church. Among those attending were soldiers who had been landed in the Faroes as part of the Allied Invasion 50 years ago, current representatives of the regiments, British and Faroese diplomats and civic officials. The Welsh Choir sang the Introit and the Anthem in Welsh and we tried to sing the hymns in Faroese!

That afternoon we attended a reception given by the British Faroe Association, were offered our first taste of whale meat and introduced to the Faroese National Dance. The Ring Dance is a simple set of steps in an unusual rhythm performed by "as many as will" with linked arms and to the singing of special "nordic saga" type of song with interminable numbers of verses!

Our next engagement, that same evening, was as part of "Cabaret Valentine" in a small theatre in Torshavn. "Valentine" was the wartime code name for the invasion and all the light hearted acts were from or about the war years. Our contribution was just light hearted!

Not so light hearted was the Gala Concert in the Nordic House on Monday evening - here we shared the stage (which was wonderfully wooden, flat, even, and not slippery) with the Marine Band, the Pipes and Drums, the Welsh Choir and a Faroese Choir. Our small group was given a wonderful welcome, and our performance lifted to match the occasion. It was, however, a little daunting to know it was going out live on television. A colourful evening of music and dance ended, literally, with bouquets all round.

Our next day started early, the bus left at 7.30 am for Westmanna, where we boarded a ferry for Vagar. This was the island where the British troops built the airstrip that has become the only airport in the Faroe Islands. British influence was felt for a long time, as they drove on the left on Vagar when on the other islands they drove on the right! Here, once again with our friends the Marines and the Gordon Highlanders, we gave two shows in school halls to capacity and appreciative audiences and one very impromptu performance in an old people's home! Everywhere we went children presented us with posies of wild flowers and vied with one another to hold our flag. Lunch and Dinner at the Hotel Vagar were both memorable occasions; our hosts resplendent in national costume and the hospitality so generous. The Foursome Reels on the ferry back at midnight were certainly performed with abandon!

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BRITISH FAROE WEEK 1990 cont'd ...

Wednesday was another long day visiting Toftir, Strendur, Soldafordur and Runavik; dancing on quaysides, in car parks, in the street and once on a stage. The final performance that evening was a "Tatoo" in a large sports arena with an astroturf surface. By this time we were very tired and cold - how we envied the bandsmen their thick tunics and how we felt for the gymnasts in bare feet! Once again spirits revived with a good supper and a breathtakingly beautiful trip on the ferry in the half light, but, oh, the feet needed a good soak before bed!

Marius and Rhoda Rubeksen, who attended Summer School some years ago, invited us to their Dance Club for an evening and it was such a pleasure to relax and dance socially. Scottish, Old time and Faroese dances.

We danced in supermarkets, furniture stores, and town squares, giving as mementoes many of Strathsepy Sales smaller items! We hardly had time to shop, write postcards, sightsee or sleep but we had a wonderful time due in no small measure to the adaptability and forbearance of the dancers and the skill and sensibility of our musicians.

At the final dinner, in the presence of the Prime Minister, many farewells and expressions of thanks were made and we were proud to have been part of such a successful week that had meant so much to the people of the Faroe Islands.

The dancing went on till dawn ...
"Smryil" sailed at 4.00 am ...

Linda Gaul
June 1990

THE RURALS

Kirkmichael & District 55th Birthday Party 18th October at the Aldchlappie Hotel.
Secretary: Mrs J Ellin.

Ballintuim Secretary: Mrs B Duncan.

Bridge of Cally Secretary: Mrs Rosemary Marchant

Glenshee Secretary: Mrs Fraser

Mount Blair The first meeting of the session saw us off to a good start with a slide show by Miss Molly Lumsden on "New England in the fall".

11th October "World in Miniature" Doll's Furniture and Houses - Mr B Rumble.

2nd November Rainbow Whist and Beetle Drive

8th November "Feathered Friends" - Mr J Stevenson, Vane Farm RSPB

13th December "Healthy Living" - Dr Ruth Gray, Well Woman Clinic

All meetings in Blackwater Hall at 7 pm. If you would like to come along, contact Mrs J Cameron, Secretary. We shall be pleased to see you.

A Voice from the Dead

A scholar has claimed that a fragment of a letter from Samson, possibly a love note to Delilah has been found among the Dead Sea Scrolls.

John Strugnell, Head of a team of scholars with exclusive access to most of the unpublished scrolls, said he stumbled on a fragment containing nine words and three lines of the letter.

Strugnell, the world's leading expert on the scrolls, said it was clear from the first few words of the letter that it was from Samson.

WAR IN MOZAMBIQUE

Owing to the war many families in Mozambique have lost all their possessions. Christian Aid has launched a project to help women to make clothes for their families. To this end they are appealing for sewing articles (needles, pins, cotton reels, buttons, etc). They also need material for children's dresses and wool and pins to knit a child's sweater.

The average contents of a sewing kit would be:

4 average needles and 4 dozen pins
3 reels of cotton, different colours full or nearly full
8 or more buttons threaded on string, some matching
small pair of scissors (sharp enough to cut fabric)
1 metre elastic 0.5 - 1.0 cm wide
1 metre ribbon or straight binding
dozen press studs on card
Trouser Zip

(Further information can be had from Mrs Fleming 982-223 to whom these materials should be given.)

Child's dress lengths and knitting materials are also needed -

Fabric width	Length	
90 cm	1.5 - 2.5 metres	Can be in two pieces
115 cm	1.0 - 2.0 metres	large enough for back front and extras (sleeves)

Fold fabric down to a neat square about 20 x 20 cm. Fix with sticky tape.

Pair knitting needles 3mm for 4 ply, 4mm for double knitting
Medium crochet hook Large sewing needle stuck in card
250 - 450 grammes 4 ply or double knitting wool. Wool can be different colours but all the same thickness and fibre.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Autumn begins Friday, September 28th, resumes October 15th
Christmas Friday, December 21st, resumes January 7th

KIRKMICHAEL CHURCH DUTIES

October	7th	Mrs Reid and Mrs McGregor
	21st	Mrs Keiro and Mrs B Duncan
November	4th	Mrs Stewart
	18th	Mrs E Duncan and Mrs Andrew
December	2nd	Mrs Dutch
	16th	Mrs Brookes
	23rd	Mrs I Milne and Mrs C Duncan
January	13th	Mrs Staton
	27th	Mrs Cochrane
February	10th	Mrs Maclachlan
	24th	Mrs Ringer

A new flower list is in the Church but unless there is a very special day it is best if the days chosen are alternate to the cleaning days. Last year we had very few names other than those already engaged in cleaning.

"Years wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul"
(Samuel Ullman)

Editorial Committee: Mrs E Dutton Mrs J Lindsay Miss C Macgregor
Mrs M Stewart - Copy Editor (Strathardle 285) Printing - Mrs Y Clark. Copy for the next issue by 21st January please.