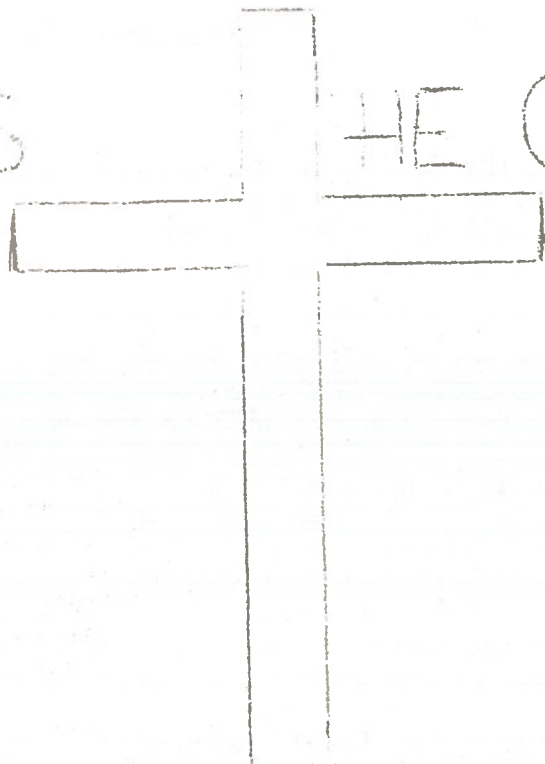


ACROSS

THE GLENS



NO. 12

STRALOOCH

GLENSHEE

KIRKMICHAEL

CRAY

THE PARISH OF
KIRKMICHAEL,
STRALOOCH &
GLENSHEE

PERSIE

NETHERTON

MINISTER: REV ALAN McKEAN
phone Strathardle 425

SESSION CLERK: MARGARET BROOKES
phone Strathardle 375

Kirkmichael, January 1991

Dear Friends

Since the war started in the Gulf. I wonder if, like many you have been discovering new depths of emotion, ranging between anger, helplessness and the thought of being a small cog in world events? Once again we learn the very high cost of freedom and the constant vigilance required to maintain it.

The attempts to widen the war by provoking Israel, and the threat to use POW's as human shields as well as their humiliation on TV as well as the backing of international terrorism show what we are up against.

Our prayers and thoughts go to the men and women out in the fighting especially that they may not be de-humanised. What must the families of those exhibited on television feel? What pain must those who have lost someone feel? What can we hold on to? Romans 8 v 35 says "Who shall separate us from the Love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress or famine or persecution or the sword? v 39 nothing shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord".

During times of peace things like peril, persecution and many of the others seem far in the distance. Something has come which can separate us from each other and has separated us from each other and has separated many families and may separate many more. Prayer is the most powerful weapon we have, let us use that weapon to commit our forces and their families as well as the POW's and their families into the love of Christ as well as showing that we care about their needs.

It is that love from which nothing can separate us. "the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord". No matter how you feel, tell it to God that He may draw you and those in your heart close to Him.

Prayer: Heavenly Father, when what must be done has been done, bring peace and a safe return of those in danger. Help us to appreciate the freedom in which we live through Your grace and mercy in Jesus' name - Amen.

God bless and keep you.

Alan McKean

SERVICE TIMES

	KIRKMICHAEL	NETHERTON
03.02.91	10.30	12.15
10.02.91	10.30	
17.02.91	10.30	12.15
24.02.91	10.30	
Friday, 1st March	WORLD DAY PRAYER Kirkmichael	2.30 pm
03.03.91	10.30	12.15
10.03.91	10.30	
17.03.91	10.30	12.15
24.03.91	10.30	
29.03.91	EASTER FRIDAY Kirkmichael	7.30 pm
N 31.03.91	EASTER SUNDAY	10.30 12.15
07.04.91	10.30	12.15
14.04.91	10.30	
21.04.91	10.03	12.15
28.04.91	10.30	

WOMAN'S GUILD

February 7th 7.15 pm Roxburghe House Dr. Martin Leiper
Hostesses - Mrs Ballintine and Mrs Dutton
March 1st World Day of Prayer 2.30 pm Session House
7th 7.15 pm Bangladesh - Talk & Slides Mrs Ellin
Hostesses - Mrs Locke and Mrs Brookes
28th 7.15 pm AGM ... Video and Discussion
Sew up blankets and vests
Hostesses - Mrs Ferguson and Mrs Marchant
April 16th 7.30 pm Visit to Glenisla Kilry & Lintrathen
May Evening at Glenshee Lodge (to be arranged)

Presbyterial Council Meetings:

March 13th Annual Business Meeting St Mary's South Hall
2.30 pm
April 17th "Year as Moderator" Rev Irene Miller. Strathtay
7.30 pm Alyth Church Hall

o o o o o o o

We sang this lovely and appropriate hymn in Church one morning and we were glad that Miss Crichton had braved the bad roads to help us through the rather difficult time.

WINTER

'Tis winter now: the fallen snow
Has left the heavens all cold
Through leafless boughs the sharp winds blow.
And all the earth lies dead and drear.

And yet God's love is not withdrawn:
His life within the keen air breathes;
His beauty paints the crimson dawn.
And clothes the boughs with glittering wreathes.

And though abroad the sharp winds blow.
And skies are chill, and frosts are keen
Home closer draws her circle now,
And warmer glows her light within.

O God! who giv'st the winter's cold,
As well as summer's joyous rays,
Us warmly in thy love enfold.
And keep us through life's wintry days.

HANDWRITTEN BIBLE PROJECT

Last year we participated in the Handwritten Bible Project along with some 300 churches and groups round Scotland. Our efforts are now gathered in three massive volumes, specially bound by courtesy of the Cambridge University Press. The Bible is now available for display on request to Colin Hay at the National Bible Society of Scotland, 7 Hampton Terrace, Edinburgh. The £20,000 raised provided paper for 26,000 Bibles. These were printed by the Amity Press in Nanjing and they have orders for 1.4 million more. They also print the Scriptures in several minority languages such as those spoken on the mountainous border with Burma. Because of poor roads people will struggle for days to reach a supply point. Their subsistence livelihood means that they often have to sell eggs or a pig to pay even the subsidised price of a Bible.

Rua Brig. Correia Cordosa, 240-1-o. 3000 COIMBRA. Portugal Jan 91

It's a pouring wet day in Coimbra and the hills around the city are completely blotted out by low cloud. Sounds familiar?! Since I last wrote, and was foolish enough to say that I'd almost forgotten what rain is like. I've had ample opportunity to rediscover the delights of wet weather. October was sodden. But by contrast November was glorious - St Martin's Summer, it's called, and happens every year, with three weeks or so of the best sort of British summer weather. Then December turned bitterly cold, but to compensate for the wet days, there was a lot of the best sort of British winter weather - cold and crisp and clear, with wonderful sunsets. We even had some frost, but that was in the north, when I went up to Braga for Christmas week.

The last four months have flown past, and now the second term at Coimbra university has started. My time in Coimbra began with a five-week crash course in Portuguese - a lesson every weekday with the Baptist pastor's wife, which gave an excellent foundation, both for everyday conversation, and for the university course. There has been plenty of opportunity to practise what I've been learning - in the house, with friends in the church, and in shopping, travelling, and so on. Understanding what is being spoken around me is now becoming easier - quite a big breakthrough because the people speak so fast among themselves, and swallow a lot of the words. Portuguese grammar rules are quite strict and complicated, and even the swallowing of certain syllables happens according to the rules! I'm enjoying learning, and it's exciting seeing it all come together, and realising that I'm learning to live in another language. Having been a northerner all my life, it's funny that I'm learning to speak 'posh' Portuguese - Coimbra Portuguese is equivalent to Oxford English!

Just as important as learning the language is understanding the culture, and the best way of doing this is getting to know the people, and listening to what they say about their country, what their priorities are in life, how they see the world, learning how they 'tick'. We had it drummed into us so much on the WEC candidates' course that we are not missionaries of British culture but of Jesus - and He didn't go round Judea establishing Presbyterian or Anglican churches! Rather, He demonstrated God's love for every kind of people, and by His Holy Spirit changed from the inside the lives of all those who accepted that He was Saviour and Lord.

So life has been very full and interesting, not with big exciting events but with so much to learn and absorb. There have been times when I've been tireder than ever before in my life - tireder even than when I worked in the hospital in Glasgow! But that's usual. And I'm gradually becoming accustomed to things that seemed strange at first. In fact I'm wondering if I'll arrive back in Britain and automatically greet friends by kissing them on both cheeks! It might cause a few stares in the middle of Kirkmichael, but here, you're neglecting what's right if you don't do that.

I didn't discover much about Christmas traditions in Portugal - you really need to be invited into a home to find that out, and as Christmas is very much a family time, such invitations are rare. A lot of things are familiar - Christmas trees and decorations, turkey, a special Christmas season cake - but I don't suppose many British families sit down to boiled dried cod, boiled potatoes and boiled cabbage late on Christmas Eve! The Christmas morning service we went to in Braga Baptist Church was lovely - we celebrated the birth, death and resurrection of Jesus, to emphasise the full meaning of Christmas, and the singing raised the roof. I spoke with my family on the phone in the afternoon, and had dozens of cards and letters, so certainly didn't feel forgotten.

Many thanks to all who have sent Christmas cards and postcards - I will answer! I often remember you, and am always glad to hear news. I wonder if I hold the record for the most distant person to receive 'Across the Glens'.

Jane Baker

KIRKMICHAEL SCHOOL

After a welcome Christmas holiday pupils and staff have settled back to school again. Mr Wilson is attending a computer course in Dundee and his class is being taken by Mrs Duncan, supply teacher from Bridge of Cally. The seniors are studying Canada and the infants Prehistoric animals. It is hoped to arrange a field trip to suit both topics.

With the possibility of National Testing being introduced a meeting with a guest speaker from the Region will take place on 13th February. Parents from both Kirkmichael and Straloch Schools are invited to attend.

This term staff from the three glen schools are meeting weekly to discuss 5 - 14 (A Policy for the 90's). The staff will join also for the In-service day on Friday 1st March.

The Mid-term holiday is on Friday 15th February and Monday, 18th February. The Easter holiday begins on Friday the 29th March.

MOUNT BLAIR COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The AGM was held on 26th November after which the following office bearers were elected - Gordon McGregor, Chairman. Mrs J Lindsay, Vice-Chairman. Following her resignation, Mrs Isobel Milne agreed to fill the position of secretary/treasurer until a replacement can be found. Anyone interested in this position should contact either Gordon McGregor, Strathardle 205 or Isobel Milne, Strathardle 385.

Miss Caroline MacGregor resigned her position as a councillor for Kirkmichael area after many years. At present Miss Macgregor is resident in Muirton House residential Home, Blairgowrie. The council expressed their gratitude for the tremendous amount of work done during Miss Macgregor's term as a Councillor. Mrs Isobel Milne has been elected as a councillor for the Kirkmichael area.

The Council unanimously agreed to support the building of an all-weather sports court at Kirkmichael school to serve the Mount Blair area by donating a substantial sum of money. This donation will be made following the successful application for planning permission.

The next meeting will be held in Kirkmichael School at 7.30 pm on February 25th. Anyone with a point to raise should contact their local councillor - Glenshee - Mrs J Lindsay; Blacklunans - Mr F Fleming; Bridge of Cally - Mrs Gillan, Mr P Drysdale; Kirkmichael - Mrs I Milne, Capt D Ellin; Enochdhu - Mr G McGregor.

EASTER

Our Easter Sunday must fall between March 21st and April 25th. This year it falls on March 31st.

Authorities differ on the origin of the term Easter. One theory is that it derives from the old Teutonic name for April which was Ostermonath or the month of the wind from the East. The more generally held belief (postulated by Bede) is that Easter takes its name from Eostre the Saxon goddess whose festival was held in April. It is said that the early Christian missionaries, instead of trying to abolish the pagan feasts kept the dates but turned them into Christian festivals.

My original thought was to organise a video club. The distance necessary to travel to reach a cinema and the subsequent cost of taking a family out were what triggered the idea, but having discussed it with several people I began to doubt it's feasibility. The thought then lay dormant for a year until last winter when the sense of depression and isolation brought about by the short winter days and dubious road conditions brought it to the fore again. This time I developed it more and thought more generally about the needs of a community and what might entice them away from their cosy fires to travel through the cold, the dark and the damp to a meeting place where they could mingle with other people in a sociable atmosphere. I talked it over with Jean Cameron and we decided to enlist the help of Mr McKean. Following that meeting a decision was reached to enlist the help of other members of the community, to pick their brains and find out their preferences. The meetings that followed were well attended and many ideas put forward and discussed. Once we knew roughly what we were doing to do we contacted the Community Education Group in Blairgowrie and, with their help obtained a grant to get us going, along with a great deal of useful help and advice. We had our first formal evening meeting last April. These meetings are held once a month on the last Monday in the month in Straloch School. They start at 7.30 pm and we usually have someone in to give us a talk, or maybe a quiz game followed by cup of tea which gives people the chance to mix and talk. Anyone who wants to come is welcome. There is a small charge of 50p per person to cover expenses. For those unable to attend evening meetings we also hold meetings once a month in the afternoon usually on the second Monday of the month. These meetings are held in our own homes and so it is necessary to check with the group news letter to discover the venue. We eventually decided to call ourselves 'The Strathardle Community Group' after much discussion. The office-bearers of the group are as follows; Chairperson - Mgt Clark; Vice-chairperson - Jean Cameron; Secretary - Lee Webster; Treasurer - Lavender MacLachlan. Lee will shortly be leaving us and she leaves us with our grateful thanks for all her hard work and our best wishes for the future.

Forthcoming Coffee Afternoons by the following -

February 11	Nan Tod, Tarvie Lodge
March 11	Anne Sandison, Cotterton, Straloch
April 15	Margaret McPherson, The Kirk, Straloch

No charge is made for coffee.

Evening Meetings will take place in Straloch School on the last Monday of each month from 7.30 pm as follows -

February 25	Wine Tasting with Ian Gow
March 25	Talk of Strathardle History - Lynette Borrowdale
April 29	Annual General Meeting

A charge of 50p per adult covers expenditure for the speaker.

FROM THE BLAIRGOWRIE ADVERTISER 1891 ...

Coming Events:- Opening of new Church at NEITHERTON on 27th August

Try Abercrombie's 2.00 Tweed suits made to measure. Splendid value. Abercrombie's Stores, Kirkmichael.

Prices in Blairgowrie August 1891 -

Ceylon Tea	1/6 per lb
Family Tea	2/- per lb
China Tea	2/6 per lb

SPORTS ASSOCIATION

The Strathardle and District Community Sports Association has been set up to raise money to build and equip an all-weather multi-purpose sports court to be situated in the grounds of Kirkmichael School for use by pupils of all three glen Schools and also members of the public. It is envisaged that sports such as hockey, netball, tennis, 5-a-side football amongst others will be enjoyed.

The total cost of the project is in excess of £20,000 with a minimum of 3,000 having to be raised by the Association. The balance of the cost will be met by various grants from Local Authorities etc.

A programme of fund-raising is being planned for 1991 to help us reach our target. Diary date to remember - 22nd February at 7.30 pm BINGO AND BEETLE DRIVE in the Village Hall. The Association is also compiling a Recipe book containing 'favourite recipes' from people in this area. If anyone has a recipe which they would like to be included, then this can be done by handing it in to any of the Glen Primary Schools. The completed Recipe Book will go on sale at a later stage in the year. Further information on the Association and the plans for fund-raising can be obtained from the Treasurer, John Milne (Strathardle 385) or the Secretary, Yvonne Clark (Strathardle 306).

ROUND THE RURALS

Mount Blair Members have enjoyed a varied selection of speakers and demonstrations including Doll's House and Furniture. RSPB and a most informative talk and video by Dr Ruth Gray from the Well Woman Clinic. A Christmas outing to the pantomime "Cinderella" was much enjoyed by members and their families, accompanied by senior citizens and Glen children who were guests of the WRI. The day was happily rounded off with high tea at the Angus Hotel.

Why not join us at our next meeting on Thursday, 14th February when Home cooking will be the order of the day. (Blackwater Hall at 7 pm - Secretary, Mrs Jean Cameron).

Glenshee The January meeting was cancelled owing to the snow. There will be an Open Night on Wednesday, 6th March when the Young Farmers will entertain. It starts at 7.15 pm and everyone is invited to attend. Buffet supper.

Bridge of Cally February 5th Talk by Intravel, Perth. March 5th - Claire Painter on Leatherwork. March 22nd - Dance in aid of Scottish War Blinded in the Corrie-fodly Hotel at 8 pm Tickets £2.00. Jim Petrie and Aileen McIntosh. April 2nd - Sheila Cairns - Beginnings and Ends.

Kirkmichael - February 14th Open Night "Plant Hunting in the Hills" - Mrs Bette Ivey - see back page. On the 14th March Bridge of Cally are our visitors and in April we learn about Microwave cookery from Sheila Cairns. Our Business Meeting is on May 9th and to encourage a good attendance our Secretary, Mrs Ellin is arranging a Slide Quiz.

Ballintuim - a Burns Supper was held in the home of their President Mrs Webster when they had fun with a "Sing, say or fivepence to pay" game. There were songs, recitations and even a tune on a Jew's harp.

'PLANT HUNTING IN THE HILLS'

There will be an illustrated talk with the above title in the Kirkmichael Hall on February 14th. The speaker is Mrs Bette Ivey who is an acknowledged expert in the rock garden field and has won many prestigious awards all over the country for her alpine plants. She has created a wonderful garden in Kirkmichael with many rare plants both under glass and out-of-doors. Everyone is welcome at this meeting and the talk will begin at 9 pm after the WRI business is finished. Tea.

BRIDGE OF CALLY LUNCH CLUB

The Club membership currently stands at 18, having recently lost two or three members mainly due to ill-health or infirmity. We hope this may only be temporary and that when their health improves they will be able to rejoin us.

The members continue to enjoy excellent lunches at Strone of Cally School and the talks and slide presentations which follow. The topics ranged from Alpine flowers in their natural habitat to the properties of the National Trust from Scotland. We also had two musical afternoons - one 'live' and the other on tape.

During last year the Club had its annual visit to Pitlochry Theatre to see "Sailor Beware" followed by afternoon tea at the theatre, and in September a coach trip to House of Pitmuies near Forfar. Thereafter the members had a meal at the But'n Ben at Auchmithie.

To bring the year to an end, the members had an excellent pre-Christmas dinner with entertainment at Blackwater Inn.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Kirkmichael Rural Open Night	February 14th
Sports Association Bingo & Beetle Drive	February 22nd
World Day of Prayer	March 1st
Glenshee Rural Open Night	March 6th
Bridge of Cally Rural Dance	March 22nd
School Holidays begin	March 29th
Women's Guild Coffee Morning	June 1st
Strathardle Games	August 24th

KIRKMICHAEL CHURCH DUTIES

February	10th	Mrs Fleming
	24th	Mrs Ringer
March	3rd	Mrs Keiro and Mrs B Duncan
	17th	Mrs Stewart
	31st	Mrs Brookes
April	14th	Mrs Blair
	28th	Mrs Dutch
May	12th	Mrs MacLachlan
	26th	Mrs E Duncan and Mrs Andrew
June	9th	Mrs K Duncan and Mrs I Milne
	23rd	Mrs Cochrane

In addition to all the above we have Mrs Locke, Mrs McGregor, Mrs Reid and Mrs Staton who are regular helpers. There is no reason why cleaning has to be a feminine prerogative and indeed we are very grateful to some husbands who help with this necessary work. It is a pleasure to see the church looking so bright and polished and the brasses gleaming.

Editorial Committee: Mrs E Dutton, Mrs J Lindsay, Miss C McGregor, Mrs M Stewart (Copy Editor) Strathardle 285. Please have copy for the next issue in the hands of one of the above by May 19th. Printing Mrs Y Clark.