

## Kirkmichael Manse May 1991

My dear Friends

This is going to be a busy year for us as a congregation and an important one for the life of our church.

We rejoice in the fact that our church building in Kirkmichael is 200 years old this year (1791-1991) and that the building in Netherton is 100 years old (1891-1991) and we are having special services of thanksgiving on 21st July for Kirkmichael and 25th August for Netherton (to be followed by a family snack in the local Halls).

The other major question facing us is finance. We have to submit to Edinburgh some  $\frac{1}{6}$ 7,700 this year. We are already subsidised by "121 George Street" the Church of Scotland Headquarters to the tune of £9.000 (approx.) What we will not be allowed to do is to continue with such a heavy subsidy (or aid) without trying to raise more money ourselves.

Therefore the idea is to have an Auction Sale on Saturday. 31st August in the Kirkmichael Hall, along with a concert at the Bridge of Cally Hall on September 6th and a 'Soiree' and pot luck supper at Kirkmichael Hall on October 25th.

The Deeds of Covenant are being collated by Mr Maclachlan and this will help us greatly in that respect. Whereas fund-raising will have to be part of our church activity yearly from now on nothing can replace a regular review of our giving and Christian stewardship. I Corinthians Ch.16 v 2 'On the first day of the week let each one of you lay something aside storing asides as God may have prospered ...' A handful cannot keep things going, but if we all pull together then the cost seems not so great. Our church has been kept by the Grace of God, and we are benefitting now from commitment and good stewardship of previous generations.

The scripture says 'as God has prospered him' (or her) God has given us everything, new life in christ, forgiveness of sins, health, sight, the means to keep our family. How much we value these things and more is not shown just with our words, or what we believe in our hearts, but what we do in our practical Christianity in the time, talents and money we give to Go who did not spare His only Son but 'gave Him up for us all'

May you feel free to join our evening communions, family services Sunday worship, Bible studies and prayer meetings over the summer.

May the Lord God keep you safe on any journeys you have to undertake and may you have a blessed summer.

God Bless you

Alan McKean

# PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms: Lawrence Alan Daniel born 25th July 1990 baptised 28th October 1990, son of Brian and Petrina Menzies.

Benjamin Joseph born 25th October 1990 baptised 7th February 1991, son of Michael and Tracy Wright, The Toll House. Bridge of Cally.

Tara Joyce born 17th November 1990 baptised 5th May 1991, daughter of Billy and Shona McCombie. Raemoir, Kirkmichael.

We rejoice with the parents in their happiness.

### Deaths

22nd March Mrs Jessie Keiro, 9 Rosemount Park Gardens, Blairgowrie

7th April Mrs Katherine Balfour. Dirnanean. Enochdhu

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We send our deepest sympathy to Mr and Mrs Alan Powrie on the death of their son Alan so tragically killed on May 19th.

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Mrs Keiro was brought up at Cultielonie farm and after her marriage in 1943 took over the Kirkmichael Post Office which she ran until her retirement in 1975. Although towards the end of her life she moved away to Blairgowrie she was remembered with much affection and respect in Kirkmichael. She remained a loyal member of the Kirkmichael Wednesday Club. Her husband Hamish died some years ago but she leaves a daughter and a son who with his family lives in Kirkmichael.

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To many of us Mrs Balfour was 'The Lady of the Manor' and very charmingly and graciously, conscientiously too, she filled this role. Coming first to Enochdhu when she was a girl her father Sir George Dolby rented Kindrogan — she married Frances Keir Balfour of Dirnanean in 1932 and spent the rest of her life in Strathardle.

A devoted church member she attended the services regularly and supported the Church in every way. She had been President of the Woman's guild and of the Presbyterial Council. In the tribute paid to her at her funeral her nephew said 'helped and encouraged by her husband she developed a great sense of duty. This led her to undertake so many duties, when asked, and that lead to many sleepless nights before a particular event."

Founder member of the Kirkmichael WRI and President for 37 years when that was the accepted way and afterwards Honorary (and greatly honoured) President, she gave them particular pleasure by joining them for their 55th Birthday Party and giving every appearance of enjoying it as much as anyone though by that time she was very frail.

She had been a Captain in the local guides and a Commissioner, on the committees of Hope Park and Belmont eventide Home ... the list is endless. She loved a game of bridge and was an excellent player.

We especially remember her great charm, her humility and her lively sense of humour.

Quoting again from her nephew's words which we echo sincerely "she was a lady who set and expected high standards, immensely loyal to her husband, her wider family, her country, her friends and the folk in the glen. She had a high sense of morality and thought it important that others had it too — and what's more was prepared to say so ... For most of us here her passing is the end of an era. There is going to be a big gap in our lives. We are going to miss her very much. But for her something very different. She now has life in all its fullness. No more recent weakness of body or mind. No more things in life to regret. Nothing more of the loneliness of being a widow and alone at night in a house full of memories. Now only the fullness of joy and completeness never known or ever dreamed of before. For she did indeed trust in the Lord, and He did prove to be her Rock Eternal".

She was laid to rest in the private burial ground at Kindrogan.

## JERVICE TIMES

	KIRKMICHAEL	NETHERTON	GLENSHEE
June 2nd 9th 16th 23rd 30th	10.30 10.30 10.30 10.30 FAMILY S 10.30 SONGS OF		12.15
July 7th 14th 21st 28th	10.30 200TH ANNIVERS	12.15 ARY SERVICE KIRKMIC ERVICE GLENSHI	
Aug 4th 11th 18th 25th	10.30 10.30 10.30 FAMILY 1 100TH ANNIVER		12.15 COMMUNION 7.30 PM
Sep 1st 8th 15th 22nd 29th	10.30 10.30 10.30 10.30 FAMILY - (5th Sun		12.15 12.15 12.15
Oct 6th	10.30	12.15	

We were saddened to hear of the untimely death of Mrs Alison Sibbald formerly of Crowhill who taught for some time in Kirkmichael and later in Alyth. She took a full part in the life of the Glens and in particular in Kirkmichael church where she was an elder and President of the Woman's Guild. She was President of the Ballintuim WRI and her many friends were very sorry when she left the district.

### THE WOMAN'S GUILD

President Mrs Tricia Falconer Secretary Mrs Sheila Fleming Vice-President Mrs Marjorie Stewart Treasurer Mrs Ethel Duncan

The Guild had an interesting and successful session except that our February meeting had to be cancelled because of the snow. We hope that Dr Leiper will come to tell us about Roxburgh House on some future occasion.

Our AGM was lightened by the talk, illustrated with slides, given by Mrs Jill Ellin on Bangladesh. She showed great insight into the problems which beset that very poor country.

This year our funds were divided between the Church and the guild Project to provide books for divinity students.

The Guild are going to man the Stall at the Strathardle Games.

The opening date for 1991/92 is not yet decided but will probably be October 3rd, usually the first Thursday in the month.

### A GENEROUS DONATION

Mr and Mrs Bill Keiro gave Kirkmichael Church a beautiful carpet which they laid and fitted in most expertly. This has made the vestry look very smart.

## ONE HUNDRED AND TWO HUNDRED

For the double celebration (Netherton 1891 and Kirkmichael 1791) we are having souvenir mugs and teacloths produced. These should be on sale at the Strathardle Games where we hope to have a stall.

It is hoped to put toilet facilities into Netherton, a strip light into the vestry to help the Sunday School and perhaps look at the pew Bible and Hymn situation.

The big event of the year will be the Auction Sale in Kirkmichael Hall on August 31st. Starts at 11 am with viewing the night before 7 pm - 9 pm and on the morning of the sale. Auctioneer Mr J Downie. Refreshments will be served all day. Come and make a day of it - something for everybody. Convenors Mrs Imlay 0250 86 241 and Mrs Fleming 0250 82 223.

Don't forget the Concert in Bridge of Cally on September 6th and the 'Soiree' in Kirkmnchael on October 25th. If anyone has any other ideas for fund-raising or celebration the minister or any of the office-bearers would be delighted to hear of them.

### GLENSHEE CHURCH

Glenshee Church stands in what is surely as lovely a setting as any church in Scotland, with Ben Gulabin for a background and overlooking the River Shee.

However, when it was visited in 1801 by James Hogg, the Etrick Shepherd, he was not impressed — in fact he painted a grim picture of the building, according to him the kirk was in a very disreputable state. The door could be locked but the windows were just blank holes in the walls and the church could be easily entered through them as by the door. There were no seats but here and there a stone was placed and sticks laid from one to the other. As was common at that time, the interior of the kirk was used as a burial ground, the east end being for the McIntoshes of Dalmunzie and the west end for the McKenzies of Culthill and Cronaherie, the ancestors of the McKenzies of Finegand and Borland.

The present church was built in 1822 and was known as a "Chapel of Ease". This was for local people for whom it was too far to travel regularly to Kirkmichael for church services except for summer Communion when services were held from Thursday to Monday.

In 1858 the church became a Quo ad Sacra of Kirkmichael and the first minister of the parish was the Reverend George Menzies.

The present church is at least the second on that site and although it would seem to be at the top of the glen. When it was built, there were if anything, more houses above the kirk than below.

It was originally planned to build it at Runavey and in fact, legend has it that building was actually begun there.

However, the fairies, who interested themselves more in local affairs then than they do now, did not approve of the site so each day after the masons finished work, the fairies came in by night and pulled down what had been done. This continued for some time and eventually it was realized the futility of opposing the 'little folks' so the new building was erected by the site of the old — one which presumably was approved of by the fairies as there was no more opposition shown.

The burial ground which surrounds the kirk is still in use and there are to be seen some very old stones which are laid flat, which was the prevailing fashion of the time. Some stones have full inscriptions while others have only initials and a date. A few of these date back to the eighteenth century.

In 1921 a memorial on the wall inside the building, dedicated to the men of Glenshee and Persie who fell in the First World War was unveiled by Lady Birkmyre of Dalmunzie.

Unfortunately, the resident population of the Glen is declining so congregation numbers dwindle but I sincerely hope that it will never be considered necessary to close the Church. J Lindsay

### A VISIT TO REGISTER HOUSE IN EDINBURGH

The ascent of the Adam steps at the east end of Princes Street gives access to the Adam foyer commanded by a security guard and an enquiry desk. Enquiry results in form filling and armed with the completed form, on the nod from the benevolent security guard, divested of coat and any other appurtenances, armed with pencil (pens are forbidden) and handbag, one strides through a busy book-lined circular room and upstairs to Church Records where the form satisfies and a Readers Ticket is acquired.

So, to business, anent the Kirkmichael Church bicentary, records were sparse, Minutes of a meeting of Dunkeld Presbytery at Kirkmichael in October 1790 record an examination of the fabric of Church and manse and the compitation of a decree to require the heritor of the parish to 'make the church and manse sufficient by Martinmas 1791' Subsequent minutes record a delay of proceedings and that was the last reference I could find. The church was obviously built, but where a record of this can be found remains a mystery.

The only other item of interest about Kirkmichael, that I spotted, stated boldly that in January 1562 the minister of Kirkmichael, John Hammil, had been cruelly assaulted by John Reid of Straloch and others.

But I was really after Persie records and they were prolific until 1939. From 1713 a probationer was paid by the presbytery of Angus and Mearns to serve the district. In 1785 half an acre of moor ground was offered by Mr Farquharson of Persie and Invercauld for building a chapel to serve the district 'if he shall have a seat to accommodate his family'. The site is described as at over Persie on the road from Blairgowrie to Fort George, South of the Episcopal chapel lately erected and in the parish of Bendochy. It was given 'in free blench for payment of one penny Scots. if asked, allenerly' which means for a nominal rent paid, if asked, once.

The chapel was contracted to be built for £150.10s and 4 bolls of lime and the money raised by subscription.

In 1835 discussion began about raising money for endowment of the chapel and raising Persie to a parish quo ad sacra. The current Mr Farquharson agreed to mortify another half acre of ground for a manse and plant a wood to north and west of it. The proposed parish was 8 miles long and 3-5 miles wide with a population of more than 760 souls.

With no small difficulty a bond for £40 was signed in 1848 by a few heritors, ministers and tenantry, whereupon the Presbytery of Meigle granted ordination of a minister, his remuneration to be augmented by seat rents and an annual grant from the Home Mission of the church.

A subscription list for endowment was opened and headed by still familiar names including Farquharson. Ramsay of Bamff, Shaw of Finegand and Clerk Rattray of Craighall; £1713.10s was promised and erection into a quo ad sacra was approved by Synod in 1858.

The actual "Decree of Disjunction" for the erection of the chapel to a Parish church quo ad sacra was granted by the Assembly in 1858. It being stipulated that the endowment must raise 100 annually for the minister.

Snippets of Blairgowrie, Rattray, Bendochy, Caputh, Kinloch, Alyth and Kirkmichael parishes contributed to the new parish of Persie.

The most celebrated minister of the parish was the Rev. Thomas Smith who was ordained and inducted on 23rd March 1885. In 1889 the introduction of a 'small organ' caused a furore which had to be sorted out by presbytery in October 1890. They decided that the trustees had no right to remove the organ, which had offended at least one of them.

The last minute of 18th June 1939 records the retiral of the Rev. 'Tam' Smith and his hope for continued financial support from the Central funds of the Church of Scotland. Ministers were not paid enough to save for retirement. The minute is signed in a very shaky hand.

The list of elders included Adam Jackson of blackhall ordained in 1939 and his son James ordained in 1950.

I had a fascinating read and was moved to share it.

E Dutton

# LETTER FROM JANE BAKER ...

Jane writes that summer has arrived in Portugal and that they had already had one of their first forest fires uncomfortably close so that her splendid view has been somewhat spoiled but the volunteer firemen extinguished it quite efficiently.

She says "language learning time has been passing all too quickly. Holding conversations is becoming easier all the time as is understanding different accents. I'm really pleased that I can read with a fair degree of speed and "Asterix in Britain" in portuguese provided some light relief! The exam is in mid—June, then the next big challenge will be taking part in a 2-week summer mission in Porto where I will be on a team of mainly foreign young people as a Portuguese speaker."

Jane speaks of the similarities between Scotland and Portugal - many of the flowers are the same though they all seem to come out at the same time - Heather in March is a surprise and roses and daffodils together. Like the Scots many Portuguese have to leave the country to work but they carry a large chunk of home with them and maintain close contact with family and home. North Portugal was once occupied by the Celts she says so there is a lot of Celtic blood there. One big difference is that at Easter most people celebrate only the death of Jesus and not His resurrection so the idea of Jesus being truly alive is a very alien one. On a lighter note Wall's Ice-cream is better and cheaper there! She continues "I am sure that one of the main factors in helping me to settle so quickly here has been that I have already lived in another country apart from England. God never wastes anything. It is exciting to see Him taking everyday situations, wherever I am, and using them to teach me more about Himself, and to change me. He has spoken to me when I've been reading my Portuguese Bible, and that brings it home that He really is the god of all the world and speaks every language and loves every people. May we all learn to know Him more - that's the greatest adventure of all and it can be entered without taking one step from where we are!

# STRATHARDLE & DISTRICT COMMUNITY SPORTS ASSOCIATION ALL - WEATHER MULTI PURPOSE SPORTS COURT

Fund-raising continues as we try to reach our target. We have had very generous donations and of course lots of support for our various fund-raising activities. Currently we are selling raffle tickets for a Grand Draw to be held at a dance in the Kirkmichael Hotel on Saturday, 29th June. During the day of the 29th a 5-a-side football tournament will be taking place in the Bannerfield with teams competing from Coupar Angus, Blairgowrie and Pitlochry as well as our own local sportsmen! The winning trophy and medals will be awarded at the Dance in the evening. We are looking for plenty of spectators for the 29th, so please all come along and support! The school children will all be taking part in a sponsored walk up Mount Blair on Sunday, 16th June.

### ROUND THE RURALS

<u>Kirkmichael</u> The AGM in May ended a busy year. At our monthly meetings we were introduced to macrame, given demonstrations of microwave cookery, cake icing, and Mrs Sturrock had wonderful ideas for Christmas decorations and presents. The 55th Birthday party in the Aldchlappie Hotel was a great success and everyone was delighted that Mrs Balfour was able to come. Bette Ivey gave an interesting and amusing talk with slides, on a holiday in the Dolomites looking for alpine plants, and Bridge of Cally members came to entertain with sketches, singing and a quiz.

The choir helped with the Christmas singing in church, are entertaining Bridge of Cally in June, and entered the Elizabeth Gardener Competition heats in Blairgowrie. This competition, held annually is for all the Rurals in Perth and Kinross and can be a quiz, an entertainment of some sort, a choral selection — the choice is very varied. Kirkmichael usually enter with varied success.

The Points cup was won by Mrs C McGregor, 2nd Mrs H Reid. Three new members have just joined the Committee - Mrs K Duncan, Mrs P Menzies and Mrs H Reid. Mrs Ethel Duncan is President for another year, Mrs L Maclachlan, Vice-President, Mrs N McLellan Treasurer and Mrs Elizabeth Cairns, Secretary.

The next event in the calendar is the Coffee Evening on Thursday, 1st August at 7.30 pm in Kirkmichael Hall. There will be the usual stalls and entertainment from Anne Burgess' dancers and Lorna Webster from Blairgowrie. EVERYONE PLEASE COME!

If anyone in the glen is wondering whether she might enjoy the Rural, why not come along to see. The Kirkmichael and District SWRI meets at 7.15 pm in Kirkmichael Hall on the

to see. The Kirkmichael and District SWRI meets at 7.15 pm in Kirkmichael Hall on the second Thursday of each month starting again in September. You would be most welcome.

Mount Blair The AGM held on 9th May brought the 1990/91 session to a close. Mrs Jean Cameron was presented with the Betty Imlay Points Cup. The spring meetings have comprised a members Night, a visit to the Fens Road Post Office Sorting Office which proved to be most interesting, a talk by our Central Councillor and a biscuit making demonstration. Meetings have been well attended and we were pleased to gain a 4th equal placing in the annual Swan Trophy competition. Meetings will resume in September and we shall be pleased to welcome new members. President Mrs P Cameron Secretary Mrs J Jackson.

Glenshee At the recent AGM Mrs Cook was re-elected President. Secretary Mrs Fraser and the Committee Mrs Blaikie, Mrs Lindsay. Mrs McCowan, Mrs Stewart. The first meeting of the winter session is on September 5th (always the first Thursday of the month), and there will be a trip probably on the 2nd Tuesday, but arrangements for this will be announced later.

<u>Ballintuim</u> President Mrs West. They meet on the third Tuesday each month. Mrs Betty Duncan won the Points Cup with Mrs Martin 2nd.

Bridge of Cally Opening meeting on September 3rd when Mrs Mary Wilson from Rumbling Bridge will give a demonstration on Sugar Craft. President Mrs Doreen Farmer Secretary Mrs Rosemary Marchant. Silver Salver was won by Mrs Nan Sangster. 2nd Mrs Evelyn Smith. Coffee Evening June 4th at 7.15 pm. All welcome. Entertainment.

### EPISCOPAL CHURCH

There are Services in Ballintuim on Sundays throughout the summer at 11 am.

### THE WEDNESDAY CLUB

The Kirkmichael Wednesday Social Club have had a full and happy session. The coach trip to Falkland Palace was a great success in June, finishing with high tea at the Strathlene Hotel. After the summer break, whist got under way again in October with the ever welcome cup of tea and chat.

In October and in conjunction with the Bridge of Cally Lunch Club members were invited to a Social in Kirkmichael Hall by the Kirkmichael and Glenshee Woman's guild. Entertainment was provided by the staff of the Christian Compass Centre at Glenshee. the ladies of the Guild served a delicious tea and provided prizes for various games. Mrs Bette Ivey was guest speaker in November, her slide talk was entitled "A Walk in the Dolomites" and was excellent entertainment. Members enjoyed their annual Christmas Lunch at the Aldchlappie Hotel and in January Burns was celebrated at the Strathlene Hotel. In February Miss Sue McKenzie from Kindrogan Field Centre explained in her slide/talk how the primary children learn biology and local history by enacting the people who lived in long-lost crofts and cottages a century ago. Her pictures were interesting and at times amusing.

In March Mr George Sturton, a member of the club showed an excellent collection of pictures taken as a Warden with the Scottish Conservation, and the club was saddened by the death of Mrs Jessie Keiro a popular and happy member.

Mr and Mrs Clark were given a plant in celebration of their Golden Wedding and Mrs Walker was presented with a painting of her home in recognition of her thirteen successful years as President. The artist was Mrs Whyte.

The Club are looking forward to their coach outing in June.

J.M.

### STRATHARDLE COMMUNITY GROUP

Coffee afternoons on the 2nd Monday in the month in private homes. No charge for coffee.

June 10th Hostess Nan Todd, Tarvie Lodge July 8th Hostess Tina McDonald. Ardle Lodge

Aug 12th Hostess Anne Sandison, Cotterton, Straloch

Evening meetings Straloch School last Monday of each month 7.30pm

June 24th Treasure Hunt A charge July 26th t.b.a. of 50 p

Aug 26th t.b.a. of 50 p

Aug 26th Family Video per adult

Some very successful events took place in the winter. In February Ian Gow from Peter Dominic came and the members had an enjoyable and instructive wine-tasting evening. In March the subject was the History of Strathardle and the slide and overhead presentation with the enthusiasm and obvious love of the subject demonstrated by Lynette Borrowdale was appreciated by all present.

Chairman M Clark Vice—chairman Nan Todd Treasurer L Maclachlan Secretary M Macpherson

We have been asked to publish the new times of the Kirkmichael Post Office opening hours - these are not the same as the shop opening hours.

Kirkmichael Times of Post Offices

Monday 9.00-1.00 : 2.00-4.00 in Ballintuim

Tuesday 9.30-11.30 : 1.30-2.30 Bridge of Cally
Wednesday Closed and

Thursday 9.00-1.00 : 2.00-4.00 Enochdhu

Friday 9.30-1.30 : 2.00-4.00 Enochdhu
Friday 9.30-11.30 : 1.30-2.30 have not altered

Saturday 9.30-11.30 : Closed

## DATES TO REMEMBER ...

Details elsewhere and on notices in the villages

June	4th 6th 13th 16th 29th	Bridge of Cally WRI Coffee Evening. Entertainment Glen School Sports School Service in Kirkmichael Church Sponsored Walk up Mount Blair (Sports Court) 5-a-Side Football Tournament. Kirkmichael Dance in the Kirkmichael Hotel (both events in aid of Sports Court)
June	30th	SONGS OF PRAISE, KIRKMICHAEL CHURCH 10.30 AM
July	21st	BI-CENTENARY SERVCE IN KIRKMICHAEL CHURCH 11 AM FOLLOWED BY LIGHT LUNCH IN HALL
Aug	24th	Strathardle Games
Aug	25th	CENTENARY SERVICE NEIHERTON CHURCH 11AM FOLLOWED BY LIGHT LUNCH IN BRIDGE OF CALLY HALL
Aug	31st	AUCTION SALE IN KIRKMICHAEL HALL
Sep	6th	CONCERT IN BRIDGE OF CALLY HALL IN AID OF CHURCH FUNDS
Oct	25th	CHURCH 'SOIREE' IN KIRKMICHAEL HALL

Schools break up 26th June and return August 20th.

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We are all going to have a very busy summer but we would especially draw your attention to the Anniversary Services in Kirkmichael and Netherton. If you have been christened or married or your parents or grandparents have been or if you have just goodwill towards the church, do come along and help to make these services really memorable. It doesn't matter if you haven't been in church for a long time we'd love to see you and to the lunch afterwards. Offers to help with the catering won't be refused either, but that doesn't matter, come and take 'Pot-luck" with us. If you have a favourite hymn for Songs of Praise the minister will try to include it.

CONGRATULATIONS to the Ann Burgess Dancers for being chosen to entertain at Scone Palace on 23rd June in front of two or three thousand people attending a Trade Fair.

### KIRKMICHAEL CHURCH DUTIES

July 7th	Mrs C McGregor and Mrs H Reid
21st	Mrs L Maclachlan
Aug 4th	Mrs O Staton
18th	Mrs J Keiro and Mrs B Duncan
Sep 1st	Mrs Locke
15th	Mrs Y Clark
29th	
Oct 13th	Mrs J Blair
27th	Mrs E Duncan and Mrs G Andrew
Nov 10th	Mrs Stewart
24th	Mrs Ringer
Dec 1st	Mrs H Dutch
22nd	Mrs I Milne and Mrs K Duncan
Jan 5th	Mrs Brookes

### Editorial Committee

Mrs E Dutton Mrs J Lindsay Miss C Macgregor

Mrs M Stewart (copy editor) 10 Glen Derby — Strathardle 285. Printing Mrs Y Clark. Please have copy in our hands by September 23rd preferably in writing owing to the holidays. The next issue should contain as many of the winter events as possible.