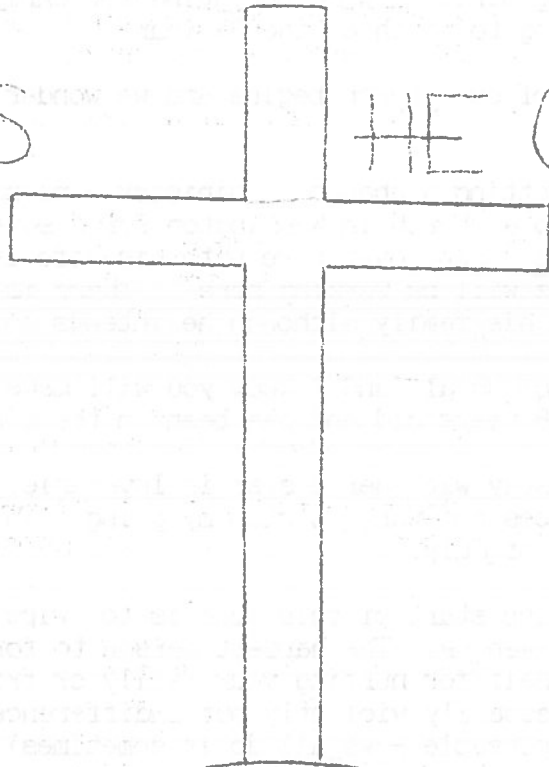


ACROSS

THE GLENS



No 15

STRALOCH

GLENSHEE

KIRKMICHAEL

CRAY

THE PARISH OF
KIRKMICHAEL,
STRALOCH &
GLENSHEE

PERSIE

NETHERTON

MINISTER: REV. ALAN MCKEAN
phone " 425 (Strathardle)
SESSION CLERK: MARGARET BROOKES
phone Strathardle 375

Kirkmichael Manse
January 1992

My dear Friends

It does not seem so long since we were preparing for Christmas with all the wonder and worship of the coming to earth of the Saviour.

A new year in the life of our church begins and we wonder what lies ahead for us and for our church.

Well, firstly you are getting a change of minister - no not a vacancy but an exchange. I am going to a church in Washington for a seven week working exchange. The American minister is coming over here with his wife and two children. He is the Rev Joseph Condro and he will be working here. There is going to be a Soiree on 5th June to welcome him and his family although he intends to arrive on June 1st.

This will be a change for us all and I know you will make Joseph and his family welcome. He is about 48 years old and has been in the ministry longer than me.

My wife has offered to stay with her sister in Inverurie; she is unable to get medical insurance but does not want to stop my going. Things should get back to normal about the middle of July.

One thing we can do at the start of this year is to 'wipe the slate clean' - to forgive as God has forgiven us. The hardest person to forgive is often yourself. You cannot forgive yourself for hurting your family or friends, you feel by the way you have acted (not necessarily violently but indifference or being a martyr or thinking yourself indispensable - we all do it sometimes). You feel ashamed and find it difficult to face the person you think you hurt.

Perhaps someone has hurt you. Make an effort - a decision of the will to forgive. That is like removal of pus from an abscess, there is still a wound, but God will heal that.

Forgive, go to the one you feel you have hurt let the love of God heal you and flow out to you forgiving those who hurt you.

Luke 11 v 4 - Forgive us our sins for we also forgive everyone who is indebted to us - that includes ourselves. Jesus won that forgiveness for us as well as our forgiveness by God on all who love and trust him.

May each of you find the Peace of Christ.

Alan McKean

PRAYER GROUP

The church Prayer Group meets most weeks, bringing before the Lord concerns of the parish and beyond. The time spent in prayer is generally 30 - 40 minutes. Sometimes prayer is silent, sometimes spoken, usually both, but always what is received in inner peace and strength and refreshment is more than equal to what is given in time and mental and spiritual energy.

Anyone thinking they might like to join the group need feel in no way threatened or worried - it's informal and relaxed, and the coffee afterwards is great!

If the group were more aware of specific needs they could pray more specifically, and rejoicing when the answers came would be greater for all concerned. Every item for prayer would be treated in strictest confidence.

Contact the minister, the Session Clerk or the Prayer Secretary: Tricia Falconer, Corrydon Lodge, Glenshee Tel: 025-085 221.

PARISH REGISTER

Marriages: 1991

Nov 9th Christine McDonald to Gregor Martin Glenshee Church
 Dec 14th Ann Benjamin to Donald McGilvery Netherton Church

1992

Jan 5th Idonea Chance to Martin Crossley Glenshee Church

Baptisms: 1991 Kirkmichael Church

Oct 26th Jake Ludovic Dundas son of the Hon. James Jauncey
 and Sarah Jauncey. Born 29th March 1991.

Dec 22nd Rohana Margaret daughter of Ian and Fiona McKenzie
 born 27th September 1991.

1992

Jan 19th Emma Louise daughter of Graham and Fiona Samson
 born 8th August 1991.

Deaths: 1991

Dec 12th Miss Jane McLaren, Ballintuim
 1992

Jan 1st Mrs Eleanor Edward, Rattray
 14th Mrs Jean Duff-Sinclair, formerly Bridge of Cally.

CHURCH SERVICES

		KIRKMICHAEL	NETHERTON
February	9	10.30	-
	16	10.30	12.15
	23	10.30	-
March	1	10.30	12.15
	8	10.30	-
	15	10.30	12.15
	22	10.30	-
	29	-	12.15
April	5	10.30	12.15
	12	10.30	-
	17	7.30 pm	Session House
	19	10.30	12.15
	26	10.30	-
May	3	10.30	12.15
	10	10.30	12.15(Glenshee)

Please note:

22nd March - ~~Meeting~~ ^{AGM} of the Congregational Board after Church Service, Kirkmichael

PRAYER LETTER FROM ELIZABETH CAMPBELL IN MANILA -

one of our Missionary Partners

Dear Friends

It was good to have time at home in the summer. Unfortunately, as always, I didn't manage to see everyone I'd hoped to see - time ran out!

I wasn't sure what kind of situation I'd be coming back to. Mt Pinitubo had erupted just a few days after I left for the UK. Manila looked much the same as I'd left it, except for traces of ash, especially along the sides of the roads, but a few weeks after I returned I had the opportunity to go on a relief trip from Diliman Bible Church and that was a different story! It's almost impossible to describe in any way that you could comprehend! Everywhere you looked there was greyish white sand, sometimes in mounds where it had been cleared from the roads, in other places several feet deep just as it had fallen on houses, rice-fields ... everywhere! We visited two evacuation sites and gave relief goods. I was particularly involved in debriefing the children - this involved playing games with them, then getting them to draw pictures and talk about what had happened. We also held an evangelistic meeting in the evening, then stayed overnight with some of the Aeta tribal people. These people, who have lost almost everything yet shared what they had, even giving us breakfast the next morning before we left. It was difficult to hold back the tears - especially when one older man told me of how they had to leave their animals behind, and how when the burning hot ash fell, the animals couldn't escape! It seems such an incredibly huge task to relocate these people, rehabilitate them and provide them with a means of livelihood. Heavy rain and typhoons have not helped the situation, causing mudflows which sweep away everything in their path. Relief trips continue, though until now I have not been able to go again. The main effects in Manila seem to be an increase in the level of dust and pollution, which in turn causes an increase in allergy-type problems for many people, especially sinus, throat and chest problems.

More recently the country was hit by 3 typhoons within 10 days. This is out-of-season for typhoons too! I'm sure you would have heard of the one which caused so much death and destruction in Ormoc city, Leyte. Most deaths were from drowning because of flash floods, caused, they think, by deforestation, the result of illegal logging. Many Christian Leaders believe that the Lord is judging the nation because of so much idolatry and corruption, but a non-Christian "prophet" reportedly said on television that the reason for so many disasters is that so many people are becoming 'born-again' Christians! How Satan loves to twist and distort the truth. Please PRAY for this country and her people, for the Lord to be merciful.

My work over the last few months has been very varied. I've been involved in some one-to-one Bible study/counselling as well as counselling training people together with a Filipino couple. We attended a week long seminar, "The Bondage Breaker" which was excellent. More than 1,000 people were there, many of them pastors and leaders. I'm also involved in planning a one-day seminar to be given by Dr John White in January.

./...

Letter from Elizabeth Campbell in Manila cont'd ...

He will be the speaker at our OMF all-Phillippines conference, then will stay on an extra day for a seminar to which we can invite Filipino Christian leaders. The counselling work with the Christian Medical Specialist Services (CMSS) has not really got going so far. The rent for the building they use has doubled, so many of the doctors wonder how long they can continue even as it is, without beginning something new, through they do recognise the need to have such a centre for counselling, too. Finance is so often the problem for Christian groups here. I meet once a week with the dentist, Gigit, for prayer; but so far that's all that happens. One of the other areas where the Ashtons and I hope to begin work is in the preparation of teaching materials for subjects such as ministering to the sexually abused, dysfunctional families, co-dependency etc. There is much need for this kind of help. It will involve listening to tapes and reading books from home, then adapting it to fit in the Filipino context. I also continue to be involved with the music and choir for the Tagalog congregation of Diliman Bible Church; was "dorm-sitting" last week in faith academy, and am part of the children's programme committee for conference, so life is not dull.

Pray, as the Lord leads you in all of this, and thank you all for your continuing support in prayer and in other ways. May you know the Lord's blessing in the year ahead.

Love Elizabeth

THE WOMAN'S GUILD

The party for the Senior Citizens was a very happy occasion and the netertainment put on by the staff of the Compass Christian Centre was quite professional. Good news is that one of the leading players, Bruce Dempsey, has been accepted to train for the Ministry. We send him our congratulations and good wishes.

The next meeting is the AGM on February 6th when there will be a talk and video on the Project "Building for their Future" - Mrs Marchant. We will also sew up the blankets. Hostesses - Mrs Dutton and Mrs Ferguson. Note the time - 2 pm.

On March 5th also at 2 pm the Rev A Smith from Dunkeld Cathedral will speak on "Life in Chile". Mr Smith was in the Salvation Army when he was in Chile so this should be a really interesting talk. Hostesses: Mrs Ballantine and Mrs Marchant.

The World Day of Prayer is on March 6th at 2 pm. Hostesses - Mrs Brookes. Mrs McGregor.

April 2nd at the usual time of 7.15 pm Video and Slides on "Save the Children" - Mrs Crawford. Hostesses: Mrs Clark Snr and Mrs Clark Jnr.

In May we are having an outing to Belmont Home on a date to be arranged.

VIDEO CLUB

We meet every fortnight, mostly on Wednesdays at 7 pm finishing at 8.30 pm. We alternate between Christian videos and good story videos. The club is open to all in primary classes 5 - 7 and is held at Kirkmichael Manse. Parents who send their children along are welcome to call in at anytime during the meeting - you might even be there for the lemonade and biscuits. Dates for this term January 29th, February 12th and 26th and March 11th and 26th.

Alan McKean

A/C Cedo, Apartado 294, 4703 Braga Codex

January 1992

Last year at this time, I wrote that I hadn't discovered much about Christmas traditions in Portugal, because it's very much a family time - so you need an invitation to spend Christmas with a family. Well, that's just what happened this Christmas. I've been going to the little Brethren Assembly since coming to Braga, and have been made very welcome there. At Christmas they made sure that I, as the only single team member left in Braga, should not feel alone.

The big meal here is on Christmas Eve at night, and I joined one family for the evening - a couple with two teenagers and a little boy. The kitchen was busy with all the preparations. To my horror, there was a heap of slimy octopus on the table - and when it was put on to cook it got worse, because it turned dark purple. I couldn't help thinking about those films in which ships get caught by giant octopus Everyone was very amused by my reactions. Fortunately!

The main ingredients of the meal are cod, boiled potatoes and cabbage, but I did try a bit of octopus - and it's very boring, rather like fishy rubber. The cod was good though, carefully seasoned with oil, lemon juice and garlic. So were the cakes and puddings that followed - all regional specialities. It was slightly strange to have a pudding made of thin spaghetti, but I enjoyed sampling the different things.

Afterwards, another family came to visit, and presents were opened. The main business of the evening was talk, and I was quite happy to join some of the younger ones in playing one of the little boy's new games, while trying to understand as much as possible of the conversation.

As I didn't get home till nearly 2 in the morning, I was happy to make a late start and spend Christmas morning quietly. But before lunch I set off up the hill carrying my homemade British Christmas cake to join the 2 families again for lunch - a kind of soupy seasoned mixture of shredded meats with rice and vegetables; followed by my Christmas cake which everyone loved. In the afternoon, some of us joined what must have been most of the rest of the population of Braga, wandering round in the sun in the city centre, where the only things on sale were balloons and popcorn. Then it was back to the second family's house for tea - more of the good cakes. Is it any wonder I couldn't eat properly for a week afterwards?

Oddly, the church's celebrations of both Christmas and New Year happen at New Year. After the late night meal (more cod and octopus!), there was a vigil at the church, with singing and prayer. On New Year's Day in the afternoon, the children had their Christmas festa - plays, songs and poetry about Jesus and the difference He makes in the lives of His followers. It was very well done - and when the performers disappeared behind the curtains between items, the congregation sang choruses until the whisper came, "We're ready now". Very chaotic and Portuguese, and very enjoyable.

And the verdict? In July, I had met for prayer with friends who would also be moving up to Braga, and we were able to praise God together for the things He had prepared for us in Braga - homes, families and friends. I don't yet have a permanent home, but as you can see I've found friends and families who take good care of me. "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His love endures for ever" (Psalm 136:1).

Jane Baker

CHURCH ACTIVITIES

1991 was a memorable one for the Church with the centenary celebrations and all the events associated with them. It was an encouraging one too because so many people showed their interest in the Church and helped to make the social occasions so enjoyable and profitable. Everyone is to be congratulated on a great effort.

Unfortunately money-raising is an essential part of church life and cannot be forgotten but it is possible to make it pleasurable and as painless as can be. It has therefore been decided to have several social events throughout the year when we hope to re-create the happy atmosphere which we all felt at last year's celebrations.

First there will be a "Soiree" in Kirkmichael Hall on June 5th to welcome our exchange minister the Rev Joe Condro. Mr McKean will be in America from June 1st to the middle of July when his duties will be taken over by Mr Condro who will be living in the Manse with his wife and children and his mother. This party will be an ideal way for us to meet them and for them to get to know us. We do emphasise that EVERYONE is welcome to come to all our church functions. So that no-one need feel embarrassed we have decided to make a small charge for most of the events. Before Mr Condro leaves us we will have a lunch and this will be in Bridge of Cally Hall after the Netherton service at 11 am on July 5th. There will be no service in Kirkmichael that day. Mrs McKean has invited us to have a Coffee Morning in the Manse and this will be held on August 15th and will include a Bring and Buy Sale.

Looking even further ahead there will be a Christmas Fair on November 7th in Kirkmichael when we hope to have notelets with the attractive sketches which are on the mugs ready for sale. There will be all kinds of other goods to choose from and there will be something for the children too. Come and buy your Christmas presents!

PLEASE PUT ALL THESE DATES IN YOUR DIARIES AND COME AND ENJOY YOURSELVES.

ROUND THE RURALS

Mount Blair - the Christmas Outing to the Pantomime was greatly enjoyed by members, Glen children, parents and Senior Citizens. This year we attended the Dundee rep's performance of the 'Snow Queen' with tea afterwards at the Angus Hotel, Blairgowrie. At the first meeting of '92 Mr Tim Heale gave an extremely interesting talk about the rebuilding of historic Forter Castle in Glenisla. February 13th - Slides of Perth in Bloom. March 12th - Period Costumes - Perth Museum. Meetings are held in Blackwater Hall at 7 pm. President - Mrs Pam Cameron, Secretary - Mrs Jean Jackson.

Glenshee - are happy that their numbers have now risen to 16. There will be an Open Night on March 4th when the Young Farmers will entertain. After this function last year £50 was sent to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund. Everyone is welcome.

Bridge of Cally - had an interesting demonstration of supper dishes from the Chef at the Bridge of Cally Hotel and Mr Gibb from Blairgowrie, a graphologist, spoke on handwriting. They are having a Jumble Sale on April 4th in aid of the War Blinded and a Coffee Evening on June 2nd.

Kirkmichael - are holding a Whist Drive on March 20th at 7.30 pm and are hostessing the Spring Group Meeting on March 28th.

Ballintuim - enjoyed a Burns Supper. They would welcome new members.

GOOD NEWS

It is splendid that the Sunday School at Netherton so happily and efficiently run by Mrs Flora Noonan now has 12 members whose ages range from 4 to 9. They put on a delightful Nativity play at Christmas.

Furthermore Mrs Margaret Macpherson has volunteered to start a Sunday School in Kirkmichael and it is hoped that this will soon be off the ground. This will fill a sadly felt gap in our village life. Mrs Macpherson with her husband Ewan live in the former Church at Straloch and it must be a comfort to all of us who so deeply regretted the disuse of the Church to know that it has been so imaginatively converted and is occupied by a family who love it and are dedicated to the Church as a whole.

Although the bell no longer rings for Sunday Service it has been preserved and occupies pride of place in the entrance hall.

DATES TO REMEMBER

- March 4th Glenshee Rural Open Night - Young Farmers Entertain.
- March 6th World Day of Prayer, Kirkmichael Session House 2.30pm
- March 6/7th Spring Fair, Perth
- March 20th Kirkmichael Rural Whist Drive
- March 22nd Meeting of Congregation ~~at~~ ~~Br...~~, after Church Service, Kirkmichael **AGM.**
- March 28th Spring Group Meeting, Kirkmichael
- April 4th Jumble Sale, Bridge of Cally
- June 2nd Coffee Evening, Bridge of Cally
- June 5th Soiree in Kirkmichael to welcome Mr Condro and his family
- July 5th Lunch in Bridge of Cally Hall after Church Service
- Aug 15th Coffee Morning and Bring & Buy Sale, Kirkmichael Manse
- Nov 7th Christmas Fair, Kirkmichael Hall

School holidays: Half Term 14th and 17th February. Term ends April 3rd and Summer term is from April 20th to July 1st.

CELEBRATION RECIPE

4 Avocado pears fresh herbs to decorate

For the filling:

8 oz Philadelphia cheese 2 tsps finely chopped parsley
2 tsps finely chopped lovage 2 tsps finely chopped sage
2 tsps finely chopped savory
1 tablespoon single cream
Salt

Blend together all the filling ingredients and lightly season to taste with salt. Halve the avocado pears, remove the stones and fill with the cream cheese mixture. Decorate with a small sprig of fresh herbs. Serves 8.

Editorial Committee:

Mrs E Dutton, Mrs J Lindsay, Miss C Macgregor

Mrs M Stewart (Copy Editor) 10 Glen Derby, Kirkmichael - Tel: Strathardle 285.

Printing Mrs Y Clark. Please have copy in our hands by April 20th.