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Across the Glens

ISSUE No. 16

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Please have copy in our hands by the end of September. This issue is slightly later than intended - next year we will try to avoid the lambing season for the collection of copy!

Kirkmichael Manse
Dear Friends

By the time you read this I will probably be in America and the Rev Joseph Condro on his way here.

Joseph expects to work here, please call on him for pastoral services and I know he intends to visit some of you, to attend to the schools and Bible studies. Please note that the Rev Bill Shannon will also be available for help during the whole of my absence.

It will be a big change for Joseph from Washington to here, but most Americans like Scotland and really want to learn about the country. He is an experienced minister, having been in the ministry for 15 years - please make the family feel welcome that they may take back to America fond memories of their time here. I covet your prayers while I am there, especially for my safety and that with God's help I may be a worthy ambassador for my country. The church in Adelphi has not had an exchange minister before. I will take a lot of slides of the things that are different and interesting.

I hope many will go to the soiree on June 5th and on 15th August we hope to have a coffee morning at the Manse. Our major fund-raising effort this year is a Christmas Fayre on November 7th - please do all you can to make it a success - one thing about the Glens whether it's a sale, coffee morning or concert it is never dull.

I wondered if any of you would be interested in forming a drama group, perhaps to put on a Christmas Pantomime, perhaps you could think about that and get in contact?

May God bless and keep us during this summer in holidays, work, coming and going. "I am the Light of the World" said Jesus "those who follow Him do not walk in darkness".

God keep you safely in His hands.

Alan McKean

PARISH REGISTER - Deaths

Alan Mair Bridge of Cally 29th January 1992
Alan Mair who sadly died after a long illness came to live at South Persie in 1977. He loved this quiet peaceful part of the countryside and leaves a wife Osla who became an elder of the Church in 1983 and two young sons.

Arthur Walker Kirkmichael 22nd March 1992
Arthur Walker was born in Pitlochry and came to Strathardle in 1929. He worked for many years at Dirnanean until he retired in 1972 and came to live in Kirkmichael. He had been in ill-health for several years. He leaves his wife Violet and a grown-up family.

George Brown Rosemount 5th April 1992
George Brown was born near Wolfhill but came to Rochalle in 1952 where he worked until 1979 and where his brother still lives. He had a family of four, some of whom are still in the area.

Will Stewart Bridge of Cally 5th April 1992
Will Stewart retired in 1973 after a lifetime in the newspaper world. He was awarded the OBE in 1967. Having had associations with the Glens since boyhood he retired permanently to the district in 1981 with his wife Marty who survives him.

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CHURCH TIMES and DUTIES - See Back Page

St Michael's Episcopal Church, Ballintuim
Services throughout the summer on Sunday at 10.30 am with visiting clergymen.

Glenshee Church has been repainted and re-plastered. It has been cleaned by some of the members and is now looking beautiful. It is well worth a visit.

* * *

Rua D Frei Caetano Brandao,
180-20, 4700 BRAGA. Portugal

At the time I last wrote, I was still waiting for the appearance of the home that I was sure God had for me here in Braga. Well, I am now sitting in that home! It's a 2-bedroomed flat which I'm sharing with my American co-worker, Linda. And it really is beautiful - chiefly because, instead of being in a modern block, it's in the old city in a renovated traditional house. So it has a balcony overlooking the street, and two pairs of French windows open onto the balcony from the living room - not because it's a posh house, but because that's the traditional architecture! And for those who have a more practical turn of mind, it has All Modern Conveniences. Like a lot of Portuguese houses it's tiled throughout (except for the bedroom floors - we're very glad they're carpetted), so it will be very cold underfoot in winter, especially as there's no central heating; that's a privilege of the rich here. So we're working on a big rug and thick heavy curtains for the living room. A lot of older houses have shutters, but this one doesn't.

We're enjoying living here. It's good to be very near the city centre, and to be able to walk to the shops, to church, to the new Cedo office, to the railway station - everything we need is within 15 minutes' walk. Braga is a city of about 600,000 people, and by far the larger part of the city area is made up of fairly new to half-built houses and blocks of flats. The central old city is not very big at all and most of its streets are narrow, apart from a wide spacious avenue with beautiful gardens and fountains. Many of the houses are narrow too, like ours - only one room wide - and all different, a lot of them being tiled, so the effect is very picturesque. Renovated buildings alternate with those that have been allowed to decay, and it's a shock to see that even very tumbledown houses are occupied. An old couple at the church live in one whose ceiling is lined with polythene because the roof leaks. At the other end of the spectrum, right in the middle of the old city is an ultra-modern pedestrian shopping centre, which funnily enough doesn't look out of place. It too has fountains and gardens, beautifully kept, as are apparently all public places. Those gardens show yet another of the contrasts evident in Portuguese life - the pace of life is more leisurely, and you see a lot of people relaxing in the gardens and cafés; at the same time, a lot of hard manual work goes into the making and maintaining of the gardens.

Another contrast struck me forcibly last week, Easter week. During the day the sun shone, the sky was brilliant blue, and the streets were full of people shopping and children playing, with the cafés doing good business. But on Thursday and Friday nights, late, there were torchlight processions of men dressed in dark robes and hoods with just their eyes showing - the so-called 'gravediggers'. Brass bands played slow music, and the procession followed slowly. There were shrines in the streets depicting the agony of the crucifixion, and other statues of Christ on the cross were carried around in the processions. It was very eerie. I wish I could say there was an equivalent joyful celebration on Easter Sunday, but no - just the priests taking the crucifix from house to house.

Someone said to me recently, "You've just got to accept that these people do things in a different way, and if they're happy, then that's all right". Well, I don't particularly like religious labels - it's too easy to classify people, and the labels can hide lots of realities. But a big difference between me and many others here is that I know that Jesus is alive today, whereas they see Him as helpless and in agony on a cross. If Jesus is just that suffering figure, I can feel pity for Him, but it all seems a bit futile really, and not very relevant. If, however, He died but now is alive, that means something was achieved, and there's now the possibility of real hope, real victory, a real new beginning. Death and everything that goes with it is not in control, but has been conquered! Nobody can be forced to accept that, but everybody has the right to hear it. It's the best news there is.

Jane Baker

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

This year's moderator the Rev Hugh Wyllie is minister of Hamilton Old Church where he set up the Hamilton Centre for Information to provide help and counselling for the disabled and unemployed. Started in 1983 it now employs five full-time and four part-time staff. He started work in banking but during National Service with the RAF he realised that the Church was his true Vocation. His father, an elder of the Church went back to work in a junior position to help him through the University at a time when grants were not so readily available as now. He proved a prize-winning student. Two of the Presbyteries which he will be visiting during the year will be Angus and Kincardine and Deeside.

The Lord High Commissioner is Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden. He is an enthusiastic patron of the arts being a trustee of the National Heritage Memorial fund. He has chosen as his chaplain the Rev Alistair Symington of Bearsden who is presently convenor of the Church's Committee of Chaplains to the Forces.

THE WEDNESDAY CLUB

Outing on June 13th to the Duthie Park, Aberdeen and a Theatre outing on September 2nd. New members would be very welcome. Secretary, Mrs Mary Ross.

KIRKMICHAEL SCHOOL

The Project this term is Farming and the children will be having a day at Dirnanean in connection with this.

ROUND THE RURALS

The Rural year is drawing to a close and only the AGM's are yet to take place. Mount Blair, Bridge of Cally and Kirkmichael took part in the Swan Trophy and Bridge of Cally and Kirkmichael in the Elizabeth Gardner competition. Although none of us won at least we didn't disgrace ourselves.

Mount Blair raised the funds to take the children of the district on an outing by hosting a Tupperware party. Kirkmichael made £193.14 at their Whist Drive. There were 15 tables and the raffle raised the incredible sum of £159.20. At the same time they had a Beetle Drive for the children. They are pleased that this year they have 9 new members.

They also were hosts for the Spring Group meeting when a very successful afternoon was had with an entertaining talk from Mrs R Ripley, former matron of Pitlochry Hospital and the Glens Choir singing Joseph and His Amazing Technicoloured Dream Coat. Fortunately more people will have a chance to hear this music when they repeat the performance at the concert of welcome for the American minister.

In addition Mount Blair's year was brightened in February with a colourful selection of slides showing Perth in Bloom. In March they went 'out and about' to Perth museum where they were shown round the 'Time of our Lives' exhibition and followed it by a meal in Littlejohn's. In April local girl Sheila Cairns gave an excellent demonstration of Vegetarian Cookery and everyone enjoyed the tasting. They meet on the second Thursday of each month (September - May) in the Blackwater Hall. Secretary, Mrs Jean Jackson.

Glenshee will be having an outing in September. Their Secretary at present is Mrs Fraser and they meet on the first Thursday of each month.

Ballintuim meet on the third Tuesday of each month in the Hall and would welcome new members when the winter session starts.

Bridge of Cally are having a coffee evening on June 2nd.

WHAT COLOUR IS YOUR CAR?

According to a recent report driving a green car means that you are more interested in family life than career success, while red represents a personality that is competitive, outgoing and tough. White means you are refined and reputable but you have to clean the car more frequently. People who drive black cars are said to be success-orientated, blue is said to imply a conscientious and hard-working driver who is happier working as part of a group, while silver represents style and elegance.

KIRKMICHAEL SUNDAY SCHOOL

It is with pleasure that I report a happy and promising beginning to the re-opening of the School on 8th March 1992. The children are responsive and a joy to work with. We have covered together the life and times of Joseph, the importance of the Easter message, making crowns, Easter biscuits and sharing the joy of the Resurrection. Our lessons over the next three weeks will cover Daniel.

I have felt much love and support from the members of the congregation and hope that we will go from strength to strength.

I wish to thank my young helpers Julie and Isla for all their generous time and help.

Margaret Macpherson

THE WOMAN'S GUILD

We had some very good meetings during the year and are now looking forward to our outing to Belmont Eventide Home on 28th May. We leave at 1 pm. We congratulate Mrs Tricia Falconer our Past President on being elected President of the Presbyterial Council. We are hostessing their meeting in Kirkmichael on October 14th at 7.30 pm. We were generously gifted £150 by the Glenshee Rifle Club when they disbanded and were able to give a donation to the Kirkmichael Sunday School and a small donation to Netherton S.S. to buy a map. As usual we supported the Guild Project. This year it is to help St Colms in their project SALT - Sharing and Learning Together). We will know more about this later.

SERVICE TIMES AND DETAILS

DATE	KIRKMICHAEL DUTIES	MINISTER	----- TIME -----
May 31	Mrs Dutch	Rev G McBride	10.30 12.15 Glenshee
June 7		Rev J Condro	Kirkmichael Netherton
June 14	Mrs Milne/Mrs C Duncan	"	Kirkmichael Glenshee
June 21		"	Kirkmichael Netherton
June 28	Mrs Brookes	"	Kirkmichael Glenshee
July 5		Rev G McBride	Kirkmichael Netherton
July 12	Mrs Fleming	Mr G Dolby	Kirkmichael Glenshee
July 19		Rev A McKean	Kirkmichael Netherton
July 26	Mrs Cochrane	"	Kirkmichael Glenshee (Communion)
August 2		Rev A McKean	Kirkmichael Netherton
August 9	Mrs McGregor/Mrs Reid	"	Kirkmichael Glenshee
August 16		"	Kirkmichael Netherton
August 23	Mrs Staton	"	Kirkmichael Glenshee
August 30		"	Netherton
Sept 6	Mrs Y Clark/Helpers (Harvest Thanksgiving)	Rev A McKean	Kirkmichael Netherton
Sept 13		"	Kirkmichael Glenshee
Sept 20	Mrs Keiro/Mrs B Duncan	"	Kirkmichael Netherton
Sept 27		"	Kirkmichael Glenshee

DATES TO REMEMBER

June	2nd	Coffee Evening, Bridge of Cally
June	3rd	ECHO Meeting, St Mary's Hall, 7.30 pm
June	5th	Soirée and Concert to welcome Mr Condro and family Kirkmichael Hall, 7.30 pm.
August	15th	Coffee Morning and Bring and Buy Sale in the Manse 10.30 am - 12.30 am
August	22nd	Strathardle Games
October	14th	Presbyterial Council Meeting, Kirkmichael, 7.30 pm
November	15th	Christmas Fair
Holidays:	Perth May 25th	Blairgowrie June 22nd