

MINISTER:

Rev. Alan McKean
The Manse
Balnald
Kirkmichael
Tel. 881425

SESSION CLERK:

Margaret Brookes
Woodend
Enochdhu
Tel. 881375



Kirkmichael Parish Church 1791-1991

S.K.

ISSUE NO. 19

ACROSS

GLENS



Straloch

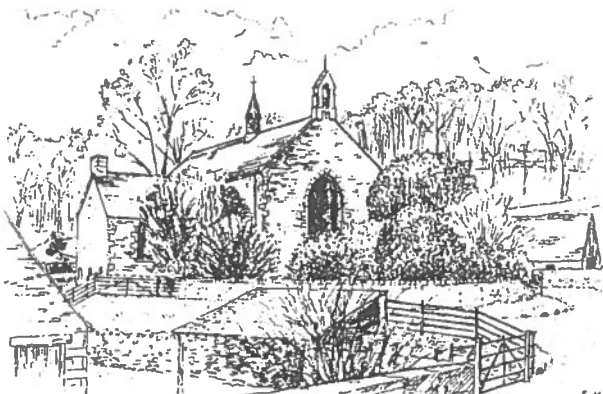
Glenshee

Cray

Kirkmichael
1791-1991

Persie

Netherton
1891-1991



Netherton Church 1891-1991

S.K.

**THE PARISH OF
KIRKMICHAEL,
STRALOCH, & GLENSHEE**

MINISTERS LETTER

Dear Friends,

It is very comforting to look out in the cold, snowy weather to know that it will only last for a short time. It will get better, it will improve. The grip of winter will not be permanent. What lifts my spirits in the midst of storms, snow, wind and rain, is the return of the lapwing. In the ten years I have been here they always lift my heart, and their flying is a constant joy - looking up is always a good idea. Lapwings, the reminder that things, or the weather will get better. Looking up to God in the midst of difficulty, change or seeking what the next step is. Jehosaphat and the land of Judah had major problems from invaders. In Kings 20 they were totally at a loss except for prayer v.12 'Lord ... we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us nor do we know what to do but our eyes are upon You' - the great multitude lost. There will be good and bad, old and new, change and stability throughout the coming year, not just for the people of Bosnia or Ethiopia or Somalia (they need our prayers) but for most of us. 'Lord our eyes are upon You' - that way we will be able to go forward.

March 7th brings a joint service with St. Michael's, Ballintuim. March 21st, the five-yearly visit from Presbytery and the 28th March the A.G.M. after morning Service.

God bless you

Alan McKean

SERVICES:

Date	Kirkmichael	Netherton	Glenshee
7 February	10.30	12.15	-
14 February	10.30	-	-
21 February	10.30	12.15	-
28 February	10.30	-	-
7 March	This is a joint Service at 11.00 a.m. at St. Michael's Church Ballintuim - no Kirkmichael or Netherton Service.		
14 March	10.30	-	-
21 March (Quinquennial)	10.30	12.15	-
28 March (AGM after Service)	10.30	-	-
4 April	10.30	12.15	-
11 April (Easter Sunday)	10.30	-	-
18 April	10.30	12.15	-
25 April	10.30	-	-
2 May (Commun. Kirkmichael)	10.30	12.15	-
9 May	10.30	-	12.15
16 May (Commun. Netherton)	10.30	12.15	-
23 May	10.30	-	12.15
30 May	-	-	12.15

PARISH REGISTER

Baptism

3rd January: Emma, infant daughter of Simon and Alexandra Winton.

Marriages

9th October: Jane Fleming to Nigel Hill at Glenshee Church

23rd October: Elizabeth Menzies to John Bridges in the Spittal Hotel.

Deaths

29th October: Miss Agnes Crichton

3rd November: Miss Caroline Macgregor

Memorial Service

A Service was held on October 25th in St. Michael's to commemorate the life of **William Sample** who was tragically killed flying.

Miss Agnes Crichton was born in Cleobury Mortimer, but came to Kirkmichael when she was one year old. She left to train at the Glasgow College of Domestic Science. She spent the rest of her working life in Dundee. She is survived by her devoted sister who plays the organ so faithfully in Kirkmichael, week by week.

When **Miss Caroline Macgregor** died, Kirkmichael lost one of its most influential and unusual characters. A woman of very high principles and strong convictions, she worked tirelessly for any cause in which she was interested, chief of which was Kirkmichael Church. Clerk of the Congregational Board for many years and founder member of the Woman's Guild she never missed a Sunday in church, sitting always in her place in the gallery, until she could no longer manage the stairs, when she had a special place at the back.

Born in Ballintuim and educated locally, after training in Moray House she spent all her professional life teaching in Kirkmichael. First appointed to staff in 1928 she became head teacher in 1934. In addition to her normal duties, she organised many extra-curricular activities and generations of children could bear witness to her devotion and dedication.

President of the local E.I.S. association and vice-chairman of the Education sub-committee she also found time to produce the local dramatic society's plays with great success, and to serve as member and office-bearer to the Mount Blair Community Council. For some time she was secretary of the local branch of the Conservative party and was sworn in as a Justice of the Peace in 1952.

"Bud" performed many acts of kindness and is greatly missed by her many friends. It was sad that she could not end her days in the place she loved so much and in whose history she was steeped. Kirkmichael is a poorer place without her.

Where Art Thou, Mother Christmas?

*Where art thou Mother Christmas?
I really wish I knew
Why Father should get all the praise
and no-one mentions you.*

*I'll bet you buy the presents
and wrap them large and small,
Then in the end our cunning friend
Pretends he's done it all.*

*So hail to Mother Christmas
The uncomplaining slave
And down with Father Christmas
That good-for-nothing knave.*



(Roald Dahl's poem and Quentin Blake's illustration have been donated to the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Ireland)

LETTER FROM THE REV. JOE CONDRIO

September 28, 1992

Dear Alan and Church Friends in Kirkmichael,

Well!. It has been a long time, it seems, since we left Scotland and good friends behind. But now, finally, we have settled into our new church home and our new house.

After getting home from Scotland, we turned to the task of saying goodbye to friends and church people we had known for almost twenty years. It was a tough time with a great deal of emotion, but a lot of fond memories. We are still writing back and saying thank you. But we have not moved that far away from Adelphi, about a two hour drive, so that we can occasionally see some friends from the D.C. area. In fact, several have already come down. But we miss our friends and that is to be expected. It is different, but still OK.

We officially moved to Staunton on August 13th after selling our house in the nick of time. All the worry about selling the house. God had it all figured out. Work at the Bethany Church in Staunton began on August 17th. Both our new home and church family situations are marvellous. I was officially installed at the Bethany Church on September 20th. It was a nice celebration attended by many friends. The church is great, with a nice variety of people and a lot of energy to get things moving. It is a good challenge that I am enjoying. The change is healthy and beneficial. It should be a long and healthy ministry.

Our home is beautiful, set on a high hill with five acres of land and a view of the Blue Ridge mountains. We love it. Already we have cleared some of the land in anticipation of a garden in the spring. We have even seen our first deer. We have not made progress yet on establishing the bed and breakfast. That will begin sometime next year.

The children have settled in. They love playing on the property and running their bikes on the deck and the driveway. They now have their own rooms, even though they still come into the parents' room. Ruth has started pre-school and will be in kindergarten next year. Benjamin remains at home watching batman and now talking rather well.

Tricia has loved fixing up the house. She has made it a beautiful place. She loves the kitchen and loves entertaining visitors. She is now able to visit her mother more often. Her mother is not doing well, so there is a need to spend more time there now.

We miss all of you and have good memories. Margaret Smith is doing very well. We hope she will visit us real soon.

Please convey to your church members our greetings and prayers.

Geoslyn Lodge, Meigle Road, Alyth

Dear Friends,

I have taken the opportunity to write to you to provide an update on my first visit to Romania. On Sunday, 12th April, I travelled back to Romania. Several days previously an articulated vehicle full of an assortment of aid left Perthshire bound for our rendezvous point in Cluj.

On Monday, 13th April I met the lorry and the following day all the goods were distributed to the orphanage, communities and prison. I then returned to Bucharest for my onward journey to the Danube Delta. There I purchased 160 pairs of shoes for the girls orphanage (1 pair per child) and purchased desks for a school.

At the leprosy sufferers village, I was able to leave sufficient funds to commence the paving of the earthen areas. This work will start almost immediately and should be completed by Autumn. In Bucharest I visited a local 'home' for the elderly. These are people who are no longer wanted by their relatives. The very basic conditions in which the people are living are very hard to describe. As the exchange rate for the dollar has increased I was able to purchase foodstuffs for the residents in the 'home'. My final visit was to a group of Albanian refugees. Once again the over-crowding and living conditions of these families was dreadful. To them there was little sign of hope. I delivered clothes, foodstuffs and medicines to ease their plight.

Throughout the entire trip I was continually asked to personally pass on the grateful thanks and love of the people whom we have been able to help in Romania. I know that your generosity will never be forgotten by them.

For me it was a humbling experience to be the recipient of such sincere gratitude from so many people and I can only pass their feelings on to all of you through this letter. There are still many projects to be undertaken in Romania. It is my intention to fund-raise to pay for the installation of an efficient electricity supply in the Leprosy sufferers village and to finance the repairs of the aged buildings there and fund-raise to purchase the necessary medicines, clothing, food-stuffs and other detailed items for the communities, orphanages, refugee camps, prisons and 'homes' as the needs are identified.

If you feel you would like to help in these new projects, or if you would like to hear a slide presentation about the visits, please contact me at the above address.

I would like to finish this letter by giving you all my sincere thanks for making this successful trip possible.

Lynda O'Donnell

This letter has been passed on to us by Mrs Sheila Fleming and Mrs O'Donnell is coming to address us on March 4th at 2 p.m. in the Session House.

~~~~~

*The minister officiated at an unusual wedding in October. Alix Hutly and Gary Scoras Spiers, keen members of the Blairgowrie White Còcaide Society which promotes the culture of Scotland and re-enacts Jacobite battles were married in the grounds of Ardblair Castle. The bridegroom walked from Blairgowrie to Ardblair with 20 of his fellow members in the Highland garb of 200 years ago. Mr McKean said the service was similar to any used today, except that there was no singing. He set the tone when he asked if anyone had any reason 'why this cheil and quean should not be lawfully yockit - speak now or forever haud yere wheesht. " I enjoyed it" he said, " the thought passed through my mind that I don't know what the Society clansmen do to the English, but they terrified me!"*

Rua D. Frei Caetano Brandão, 180-2<sup>o</sup>

4700 Braga

January 1993

Another year has finished - my first complete year in Braga. Looking back, it has flown by. A lot has happened, even in the 8 or 9 months since I last wrote. In fact, one major event that I didn't mention last time happened just after we'd moved into this flat. No sooner was the furniture in place than I was on the bus to Porto to meet my sister at the airport!

Getting there was the first challenge. Obviously, only people with cars are supposed to go there - no handy 'city-airport link'. First you have to get to Porto by coach or train, then find the number 52 bus-stop, which isn't near any of the 2 railway stations or 3 coach stations! Ten minutes' walk later, you reach the bus-stop, then when the bus finally comes, it ambles through the outskirts of the city for 30+ minutes, stopping everywhere, before dropping you at a roundabout outside the airport. After all that, I walked up to the barrier just as Anne was coming through it!

Her arrival coincided with the beginning of 2 weeks rain - after a dry sunny winter! but in spite of that, we had a good time. We divided the time between Coimbra and Braga, and went out everyday, though sometimes whole day trips had to be substituted by less ambitious half-days, because of the weather. We had a long scenic train ride east, nearly to the Spanish border; made a trip to a mountain national park in the north; visited big regional market (that day we got drenched); visited some of the most extensive Roman ruins in Europe; and climbed to the highest point of the beautiful wooded grounds of a palace, from where we had a fantastic view of the mountains, with a fresh covering of snow! It was a good holiday, and now I'm looking forward to Anne coming back this Easter, and maybe bringing our other sister with her!

There were a couple of shorter breaks later in the year, and brief visits too, from other friends, but of course most of the year has been spent in the office. In September we had our team conference, and that, for me, marked the end of my first two years, and a change from part time work/part time language study to full time work. That doesn't mean I now know the language! - and certainly I need much more practice with listening and speaking. Being in an office means there is little contact with people, so I still often find it hard to understand.

I said "little contact with people", and that's true in terms of seeing them face to face. But I'm communicating with people all the time - most of them in Angola and Mozambique. That can be very difficult - my life isn't all holiday, but would seem so to most of our students and correspondents. Attempts to establish a multi-party government in Angola have failed and after a brief period of uneasy peace, war has broken out again. Here's an extract from a letter recently received from a Bible course student:-

"The delay (in returning the course) doesn't mean I want to abandon you. I want to continue because I'm young and created by God and I want to know what God has for me.....With the situation that's happening in our country, it doesn't let me write to you quickly, because Luanda was better when the peace agreement still hadn't been signed; now it has worsened. We have a terrible situation, I don't even want to live in Angola any more, but I keep obeying the commandment given to us in 1 Thessalonians 5:17 (Pray without ceasing)..... Here in Angola, a dog has more value than a man, people are being killed, cut, burnt, shot, stoned, etc. Very sad. Even we survivors are living with fear. .... We also, the survivors, are only asking God that He guards us, because He only is our refuge."

Such an account, with its evidence of a faith made stronger by hardship and of a knowledge of God strengthened by suffering, is a challenge to me as we start this new year, which already has many shadows over it. God keeps pointing me to Psalm 91, and I want to join with the writer of that Psalm as he says, in verse 2, 'I will say of the Lord, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I will trust"'.  
"

Jane Baker

## KIRKMICHAEL SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

During last term, the Sunday School concentrated its efforts on Zacchaeus the tax collector, Zechariah and Elizabeth, and John the Baptist.

The Christmas Fair preparations were greatly enjoyed by the children. Christmas cards were gathered throughout the area and recycled into very smart gift tags and sold at the Fair. A total of £30 was raised on the day.

On the 19th December the children enjoyed their Christmas Party at Talla-She (the old kirk at Straloch). All happily tucked into their tea in what was at one time the vestry, and in pre-war years doubled as the Sunday School - a very apt venue indeed! Carols were sung, games were played and a fancy dress competition held. The latter had three equal winners; Amy Rattray (Christmas Fairy), Alec Rattray (snowman) and Johnathon Menzies (red indian). The Christmas fairy gave gifts from under the tree and a happy afternoon was enjoyed by all.

The Nativity Play 'The Time Has Come' was performed in church on 20th November. After several 'interesting' rehearsals, the children rose to the occasion and were word perfect on the day, presenting the age-old story with dignity and freshness. We thank Robert Macpherson for making the realistic animals in the manger and the parents for ensuring that the children were so beautifully turned out in their various costumes.

I take this opportunity to thank Isla Milne and Julie Duncan for their continued and valued help each Sunday morning.

*Margaret Macpherson*

## NETHERTON SUNDAY SCHOOL

Netherton Sunday School continues to meet happily and successfully under the care of Mrs Flora Noonan. They presented their Nativity Play very charmingly - the old story, presented by children never fails to move the audience.

It is hoped it will not be necessary to cancel any more services this winter.

## THE RURALS

**Mount Blair** held a Military Whist in the Blackwater Hall in November which raised £250 which went towards the expenses of the Christmas Party. Because the number of children in the area had increased, it was decided to have a Christmas Party this year instead of a visit to the pantomime. It was held in the Blackwater Hall and organised by Mount Blair and Glenshee W.R.I.'s jointly. There was an entertainment by a conjurer who had been hired and a visit from Santa Claus with gifts for the children, and the party seemed to be a success with both children and adults. The members outing was a new venture - an evening Ten Pin Bowling at Dundee - the new experience was greatly enjoyed and will certainly be repeated.

*(M. McL)*

**Ballintuim** had to cancel all their January functions.

**Kirkmichael** had to cancel their January meeting, but hope to have about 'Bats' next year. On the 11th February there is an Open Night on Crime Prevention taken by the Tayside Police. On 11th March there is a visit by Bendochy. This session some members went bowling, and some joined by other friends, spent a very happy evening at the theatre in Edinburgh. This caused some considerable anxiety as the weather was horrendous both before and after, but fortunately there was a slight lull on the 20th, and everything worked out well.

**Glenshee** joined with Mount Blair in the Christmas Party, and on March 4th "It's Concert Time Again" with Jim Webster and Party.

## The Christmas Fair

The Fair was a resounding success. Mrs Kitty Imlay and her team worked very hard both before, after and during the afternoon, with help from a great many other friends. The stalls were laden and the various activities well patronised. It was meant to be a fun fund-raiser, and this is what it turned out to be. We would like to thank everyone who came or contributed in any way. The sum raised on the day was a splendid one of £1,257.92.

## The Woman's Guild

The Guild hosted the council meeting in November and heard a most inspiring talk - 'Who Cares' - by Mrs Ann Allan. Speaking without notes, which she had forgotten, she gave a brilliant talk. We had an excellent evening when the Education Working Party led by Trich Falconer told us about St. Colm's and were glad to welcome several visitors when we heard about Iona. Everyone seemed to enjoy the party we gave the Clubs, and again the young people from the Compass Centre entertained us splendidly.

**February 4th** brings Mr Michael Simpson (former B.B.C. producer).

**March 4th** is an important date, when we have an open meeting. Lynda O'Donnell is speaking with slides, and we know this will be of interest to all.

**April 1st**, an evening meeting is on the Samaritans.

## Congratulations!

**Mrs Helen Weaver**, who sadly lost her sight since leaving Kirkmichael, won the Lord Roberts Trophy at the Tayside Visually Handicapped Golf Society Outing.

**Tracy Ogilvie** and **Katrina Falconer** won the James Watson Memorial Shield for duet singing at the Mod. In the solo class (16-18) Tracy was first and Katrina second. **Simon Cuthbertson** won the solo singing (under 10).

## Dates To Remember!

|            |                                                     |
|------------|-----------------------------------------------------|
| March 4th: | 'It's Concert Time Again' - Glenshee W.R.I.         |
| March 4th: | Romania - Lynda O'Donnell - Session House 2 p.m.    |
| 5th:       | World Day of Prayer - Session House 2.30 p.m.       |
| 7th:       | Joint Service in St Michael's, Ballintuim - 11 a.m. |
|            | (No Service Kirkmichael or Netherton)               |
| 19th       | Kirkmichael W.R.I. Whist Drive                      |
| 28th       | A.G.M. After morning Service, Kirkmichael           |

## Kirkmichael Church Duties

|             |                                |                           |                          |
|-------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Feb 7th:    | Mrs Keiro & Mrs B. Duncan;     | Feb 21st: Mrs Maclachlan; | March 14th: Mrs Dutch;   |
| March 18th: | Mrs E. Duncan & Mrs G. Andrew; | April 11th: Mrs Staton;   | April 25th: Mrs Cochrane |
| May 9th:    | Mrs Stewart;                   | May 23rd: Mrs Fleming     |                          |

## 'Thought for the day'

May ye aye ha'e health an' plenty wealth,  
An' aye a crust tae cha'  
May troubles never block yer path  
That's waur tae shift then sna'.

(The casting of the Brae J.M.)

## Editorial Committee:

Mrs Elizabeth Dutton; Mrs Jean Lindsay; Mrs Marjorie Stewart (copy editor)

Please have copy in our hands by 16th May.

Printing by Wendy Rattray