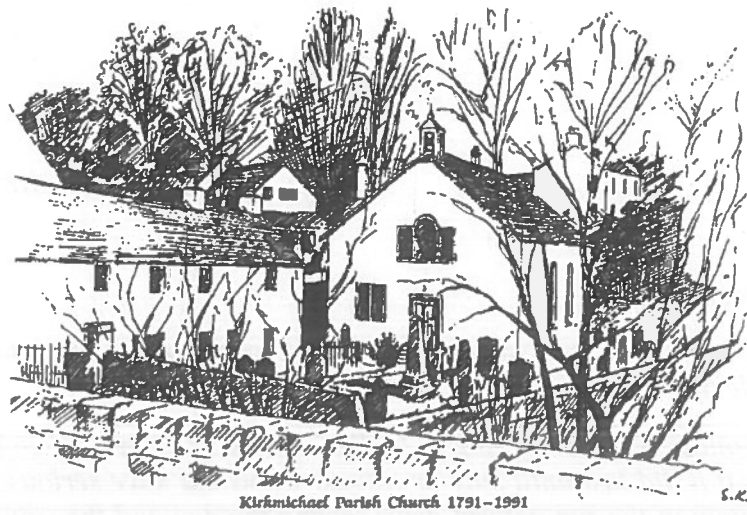


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The Manse
Balnald
Kirkmichael
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Kirkmichael Parish Church 1791-1991

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

Kirkmichael, May 1993

My dear Friends,

I hope you are enjoying the good spell of weather, sunshine generally manages to cheer people up!

We wonder what it is going to be like in July or August when schools are on holiday - will it last - if it did last until July or August we would have serious water problems. Last year in Washington the sun poured down during the day and the rain poured at night. After tasting the water in the area I understood why Coffee and Coke were so popular.

Is it going to last? We wonder a lot about that - the future. Things do come, the holiday, house, the new job after so many applications. There are several babies due. As we wait, what thoughts pass through our minds for the future.

Sometimes we can think so much of to-morrow that we lose the benefit of today. The time we have now, "this is the day the Lord has made". Today is where God is, now is the day and time. He has promised to be our help and strength 'a present help'. Instead of worrying about what tomorrow may bring, Jesus gives us a different instruction. Matthew Ch 6 v 31 - Do not be anxious saying then 'what shall we eat' or 'what shall we drink' or 'with what shall we clothe ourselves?' - - - your Heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 'but seek first His Kingdom and his righteousness and all these things shall be added to you'. Therefore do not be anxious for tomorrow, for tomorrow will take care of itself. Be thankful and rejoice in God's gift of today.

We had our Quinquennial visit from the presbytery in February. They gave the office bearers and congregation a good report, and when all the things that had been achieved were written down, they made an impressive list. In actual fact when the list of deliverances and the reports were read out in Presbytery we felt "right Proud" of our congregation. The introduction of Junior Praise resulted from not only what was discussed in the Quinquennial and the A.G.M., but from direct approach to me by parents from the Sunday Schools saying that the praise needed to be updated. We are grateful to Mr Albert van der Veldt for playing the guitar to introduce some of the new hymns while others, out of necessity, have to be introduced by tapes. We have to be willing to change some of what we do just as past generations had to change what they did in order to introduce what was new to them and what we now accept as normal.

The one thing we were instructed to do was to carry out a financial visitation to the members of the congregation. This will probably take place later on in the year. The idea being to get members to review their giving, not so much those who already give a great deal, but those who may not have realised that part of membership, no matter how long ago taken up, was to support the church with their time, talent and financial means. Please think about it.

We hope to be having various events, not just for fund raising, but for the ever increasing social aspect as well.

God Bless and keep you all safely each day, and may any holidays you take be a time of peace, rest and recreation.

Alan McKean

PARISH REGISTER

Death

Charles William Wilkie.

5th April 1993

Willie, as he was always known, was born in Cortachy and spent a lifetime in the farming community. After a spell as manager of Ferns of Cloquhat he took over Mains of Mause in 1946. A valued supporter of the church he is survived by his daughter Pat Alexander, who with her husband Peter continues at Mains of Mause.

We heard with regret of the death of **Roy Potter** followed so suddenly by that of his wife **Isabyl**. We remember them with great affection and will very much miss their familiar figures in Kirkmichael every summer.

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CHURCH SERVICES

<u>Date</u>	<u>Kirkmichael</u>	<u>Netherton</u>	<u>Glenshee</u>
June 6th	10.30	12.15	-
June 13th	10.30	-	12.15
June 20th	10.30	12.15	-
June 27th	10.30	-	12.15
July 4th	10.30	12.15	-
July 11th	10.30	-	12.15
July 18th	10.30	12.15	-
July 25th	10.30	-	12.15
August 1st	10.30	12.15	-
August 8th	10.30	-	12.15
August 15th	10.30	12.15	-
August 22nd	10.30	-	12.15
*August 29th	COMMUNION GLENSHEE -	-	12.15
September 5th	10.30	12.15	-
September 12th	10.30	-	12.15
September 19th	10.30	12.15	-
September 26th	10.30	-	12.15
October 3rd	10.30	12.15	-
October 10th	10.30	-	12.15
October 17th	10.30	12.15	-

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RUMANIA

After Mrs Lynda O'Donnell's visit to the Guild a collection was arranged for Rumania. There was a tremendous response and Mrs Fleming was able to pack her vehicle to the roof with coats, blankets and toilet requisites. These gifts, together with the sum of over £77.00 were then delivered to Mrs O'Donnell to be taken to Rumania by the Fife Police.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOLS

The Schools have both had very successful sessions and will be closed during the school holidays.

Rua D. Frei Caetano Brandao, 180-2º
4700 Braga,
Portugal

May 1993

Where am I? Physically, I'm still in Braga, and very settled, for me - we've been in this flat for a year and 2 months now! The geraniums on the balcony are coming into flower, although they seem a bit uncertain about it; perhaps because the grey skies and rain storms are not very seasonal. I've been going to the Brethren church for getting on for 2 years, and have now started teaching the older Sunday school group (ages 11 - 13) once a month or so. This weekend it's my turn again, and it usually means a lot of preparation. I've just been out shopping, and still find it hard to remember that shops stay open till 7 p.m. (but they're closed from 1 - 3) . You never know what you might find - the new butcher downstairs parks his motorbike inside the shop. Oranges currently cost about 60p a kilo. I've been trying out more Portuguese recipes, and enjoying the results! Those are just a few aspects of daily life in Braga.

Meanwhile, most of my working life has to do with Mozambique and Angola, though there's an increasing number of Portuguese students doing the Bible courses. In the last few days, I've marked courses from Mozambique, Angola, Portugal, Zimbabwe, and Cuba, and in spite of the war, the great majority still come from Angola. The situation there is as bad as ever, though peace talks continue, but the mail keeps getting through. I recently heard of missionaries there who've been killed, but literature can still go in, and each Cedo journal, or Bible course, or New Testament is a 'paper missionary'. We've been able to send a lot of New Testaments with Psalms, and see it as one of the most important areas of our work at present. The Word of God can, and does, change lives.

As if being in Portugal and Africa were not enough, part of me is already in Britain! Only 4 weeks from writing this, I'll be in the south of England, and from there I'll be slowly making my way up to Scotland. So I'm thinking about London, Yorkshire, Glasgow,, the Hebrides, and last but certainly not least, Strathardle and Glenshee! I'm hoping for a good Perthshire autumn. But before that, there's a lot to do - materials to prepare for meetings, slides to take, letters to write, thing to organise in the office, and official 'intimation' to make that I'll be out of the country for several months, and plane tickets to collect - I've already booked my flight. And I'll have to leave my room fit for habitation, in case it should be needed by visitors.

Of course, no amount of description can really do justice to a place or to what it's like to live there. I've often felt frustrated that there are so many things I'd like others to know about, but writing and even photos can never give a full picture. So I was very pleased that Anne, my youngest sister, came again in March for a holiday, this time with Penny, my other sister, and a friend of theirs. Now I can talk with them about this area, and don't just have to try and tell them what it's like. We had a wonderful holiday, and with a hired car, had more freedom to travel, especially to the mountains. One day there was worth a whole week of holiday!

It won't be long now till I'm back in the Scottish mountains, and I'm looking forward to it. Portugal may sound a more exotic place to live, but Strathardle and Glenshee have special place in my heart, and Portugal hasn't pushed them out!

Jane Baker

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Snow Fun Week

Simon Fraser won the Robert Findlay Cup in the boys' under 12 ski-race, and Erica Hunter was runner-up in the girls' under 8 race.

The Compass Christian Centre

The Centre held a Day of Celebration to mark their 25th Anniversary. The actual date was the 9th December 1992, but it was felt that it might be snowing then, so it was held on May 15th. There had been six inches of snow in Glenshee the night before and it was bitterly cold - (in some places the coldest May day since records began) but the warmth of the hospitality and the obvious happiness and enthusiasm of all concerned made everyone (almost) forget the weather.

The day began with a bring-your-own lunch and try-the-activities period followed by service of Thanksgiving in the afternoon. The Sports Hall was packed with friends and invited guests. Many of the young people who had worked at the Centre over the years returned with their young families and the joyful singing raised the roof. Various speakers took part including Mr McKean. We were all given a tube of Smarties and it was just mentioned how many coins of various denominations it would take to fill it.

Then we had time to visit the shop, watch the various demonstrations, have a cup of tea and inspect the new family flatlets beautifully converted from the old Coach House.

After a magnificent buffet supper in the main building we returned to the Sports Hall for a Ceilidh. The music was led by Hamilton Scott; Tracy Ogilvie and Katrina Falconer sang, Albert Briggs piped, and the Kirkmichael Dancers (and others) danced. At the interval there was yet more food with a slice of birthday cake. When we left, the jollifications were still continuing under the Master of Ceremonies Gordon Roy.

It is quite extraordinary to think that 25 years ago all that existed was the Lodge on a yearly rental. Today the Compass owns the Lodge, 17 acres of land, the magnificent Sports Hall, a loch, the new flatlets and are in the process of building more staff accommodation. When the project of expansion was mooted five years ago it seemed impossible that the ambitious target of £270,000 could ever be reached. In the event over £500,000 poured in.

We must congratulate Sandy Falconer to whom much of the credit for the success of the centre must go, and who seems to have the gift of attracting and keeping such a delightful band of dedicated young helpers.

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THE RURALS

The Rurals have all held the A.G.M.s and will be meeting again in the autumn.

Bridge of Cally celebrated their 60th Birthday in April with a party. Mrs May Kidd spoke on 'the history of the Rural'. The subject sounded rather forbidding, but she made it hugely amusing.

Kirkmichael won the local heat in the Elizabeth Gardiner competition for Public Speaking, and were awarded the Janet Nicholson Cup. The team were: Mrs L. MacLachlan, Mrs Jill Ellin and Mrs Betty Ivey. Mrs N. McLellan and Mrs H. Reid shared the Points Cup. Mrs C MacGregor won the President's choice Cup at the Spring Show. There is a Coffee Evening on July 29th.

Mount Blair came third in the Swan Trophy and are holding a Whist Drive on November 26th.

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Notice in Japanese Hotel bedroom

.... 'Is forbidden to steal hotel towels please. If you are not a person to do such a thing is please not to read notice'.....

A Friendly Visit

The dreaded Quinquennial Visitation turned out to be a very pleasant one. This formidable name merely covers a statutory visit from some members of the Presbytery which must take place every five years. Every congregation large or small, town or country must host this. We started with the service conducted by the Rev. Gordon Oliver from Alyth and then he, with the two visiting elders, Mrs Main and Miss Kininmonth, were royally entertained to lunch in the manse. While they were very appreciative, they were too wily to be softened up by this and subjected us to a very searching examination afterwards. We awaited their report with a certain degree of trepidation.

In the event, they were very complimentary and commended us and the minister very highly for all we have recently achieved. They were surprised at the vast distance the parish encompasses and were fully aware of, and sympathetic towards, the difficulties which beset a very scattered community which largely depends on farming and tourism, both of which fluctuate in success from year to year, and to some extent prevent regular attendance at church or even a commitment to a definite amount of giving.

However, we do have to contribute to the schemes of the Church, not only to support ourselves, and this we are unable to do, so that we have to receive aid from the Sustenance Fund.

Earlier in the year we were visited by Mr Connacher and told about a scheme whereby all members of the congregation are visited by one or two elders or members of the Congregational Board and everyone is asked if it would be possible for us to review our givings.

All the Board were very reluctant to undertake this. The feeling, and it is a very strong feeling, is that social events, preferably open to all members of the community of whatever denomination or faith or lack of it, serve our needs much better and have the double advantage of raising money and even more important, of drawing the Glens and villages together. We explained this to Mr Connacher, and again to Mr Oliver at the Visitation, but in spite of our protestations - that is not too strong a word - we have been told that we must do this visiting and so this will be happening sometime in the autumn. We know very well that many members are already giving as much as they can afford, but we hope that we will be met with sympathy and understanding when we very reluctantly embark on this project.

It is clear from the reports in the Assembly that the Church is very overstretched and if there is no increase in contributions some of the work may have to be curtailed, and this would be a tragedy. The Mission and Aid Fund needed £16.13 every minute of 1992. The good news is that more and more is being achieved each year and last year congregations donated more than £64,000,000 to the Church. When we visit we hope to explain more fully why so much is needed.

Contributions to the Church are absolutely confidential, except to the Treasurer who obviously must know the donors, but it might be of interest to see the breakdown of the weekly Freewill Offering. Covenanted givings are separate from this.

Below 1p per week	2
1p - 50p per week	3
51p - £1 per week	12
£1.01 - £1.50 per week	6
£1.51 - £3 per week	4
£3.01 - £5 per week	0
£5.01 - £10 per week	2
Over £10	1

Income after 41 weeks: £2,026.85

PRAYER

A prayer secretaries' conference was held recently at the Manse (our minister is prayer correspondent for the presbytery). Mr McKean was congratulated on preparing the six-monthly prayer diary for the use of congregations in the presbytery, copies of which our members now have. If you don't have one and would like one, contact the minister or myself.

It was agreed that the next step forward should be some kind of workshop or training session on prayer, to be held probably in September in Dunkeld which is the most central venue for the whole presbytery. It would include teaching on different ways of praying and deal with problems related to prayer. There would be opportunity for informal discussion in small groups and a chance to look at helpful books on the subject.

Soon there will be a prayer request box in each of our churches where anyone can slip in a note, anonymous if desired, asking for prayer for their own or anothers need, and the matter will be prayed for in strictest confidence at the prayer meeting and in ;the members' private prayer times. Do use this facility when the need arises - prayer does work and God does care.

Tricia Falconer

Tricia provides the fortnightly prayer sheets which we receive in church so regularly and we are greatly indebted to her for this helpful service. We take this opportunity to thank her and commend these sheets to any of you who do not already use them.

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What's new?

The Spirit of Liberty is bound to go all lengths. It will make its way into the home, until at last the very animals catch the infection of anarchy. The father is afraid of his sons, and they show no respect for their parents in order to assert their freedom. The schoolmaster timidly flatters his pupils and the pupils make light of their masters. Generally speaking, the young copy their elders and argue with them, while the old, anxious not to be thought disagreeable tyrants imitate the young and condescend to enter into their jokes and amusements.

Putting all these items together you can see the result. The citizens become so sensitive that they resent the slightest application of control as intolerable tyranny, and in their resolve to have no master they end by disregarding every law, written or unwritten.

Plato c. 428 - 348 B.C.

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Kirkmichael S.W.R.I. trip to Fife cancelled in its original form owing to lack of support. Some private cars may be going.

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"Sunday's not really very suitable—that's the day he washes the car!"

"Twixt optimist and pessimist

The difference is droll

The optimist sees the doughnut

The pessimist, the hole.

The Women's Guild

President: Mrs Elizabeth Dutton; Vice President: Mrs L. Maclachlan;
Secretary: Mr R. Marchant; Treasurer: Mrs M. Ringer;
Delegates: Social Responsibility: Mrs Ringer; World Mission and Unity: Mrs M. Stewart;
Education: Mrs T. Falconer.

We had a happy and interesting session and meet again on the 30th September. We have changed our day for meeting to the fourth Thursday in the month to avoid clashing with something else. This first meeting will be a Praise evening when with the help of Mrs Dutch we hope to practise some of the hymns out of the new book. Everyone is welcome and we hope there will be a good turn-out of members and interested friends to this Open Night.

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Important Dates in aid of Church Funds

June 30th at 6.30 p.m. Mini-auction - Bridge of Cally Hall:

This is NOT a jumble sale. Good saleable articles are asked for. Please come and support us. Further details will be given later.

In August. Coffee Morning in the Manse Date to be announced later.

28th August: Volunteers are asked for to man the stall at the Games for an hour or two -

October 29th: Concert - Kirkmichael Hall: "The Traditionals" Accordion & Fiddle Music.

(Further details of all these functions from Mrs Kitty Imlay or Mrs Sheila Fleming.)

Other Dates

29th July: Coffee Evening with the Choir. Kirkmichael S.W.R.I., in the Hall.

30th September: Praise Evening in Session House. Open Meeting.

16th October: Delegates Roadshow

26th November: Whist Drive & Beetle Drive in Blackwater Hall. Mount Blair S.W.R.I.

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The Wednesday Club

The Club has had a busy year with various speakers. Members enjoyed a visit to Duthie Park in Aberdeen last summer and a visit to Pitlochry Theatre in the autumn. We joined a Christmas Party given by the Woman's Guild. Christmas dinner was in the Aldchalppie Hotel and our Burns Supper in the Kirkmichael Hotel.

New members would be made very welcome.

Mary M. Ross (Secretary)

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Kirkmichael Church Duties

June 6th: Mrs McGregor and Mrs Reid

July 4th: Mrs Keiro and Mrs B. Duncan

Aug 1st: Mrs Brookes

Sept 5th: Mrs Mclachlan

Oct 3rd: Mrs Fleming

June 20th: Mrs Ringer

July 18th: Mrs Staton

Aug 15th: Mrs Milne and Mrs C. Duncan

Sept 19th: Mrs Dutch

Oct 17th: Mrs Crichton

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Editorial Committee:

Mrs Jean Lindsay; Mrs Elizabeth Dutton;

Mrs Marjorie Stewart (copy editor) Printing: Mrs Wendy Rattray

We are grateful to the Guild for their generous donation of £30.00 towards the cost of producing this news-sheet.

Copy in our hands by October 1st, please.