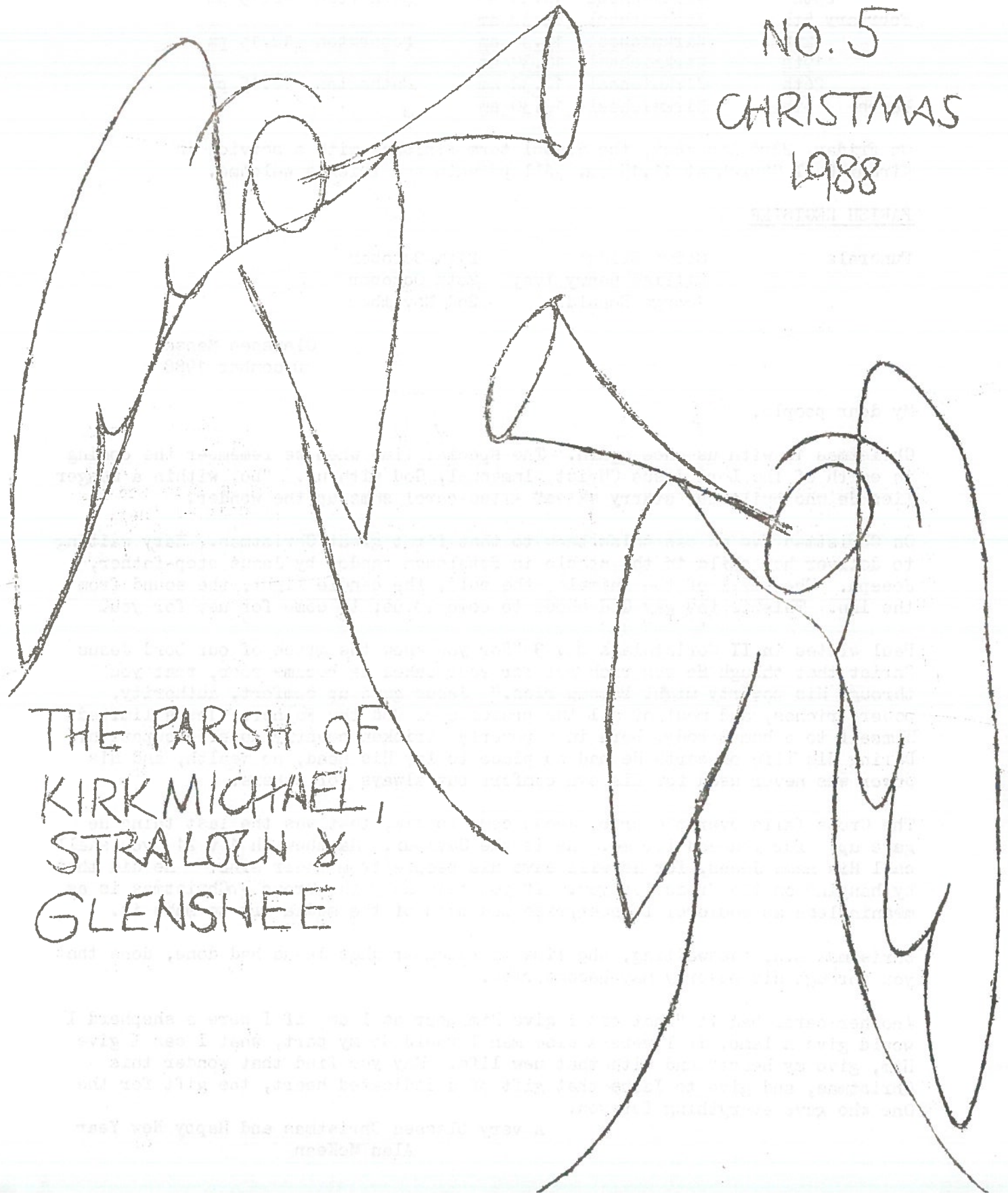


# ACROSS THE GLENS

NO. 5  
CHRISTMAS  
1988



THE PARISH OF  
KIRKMICHAEL,  
STRALOUN &  
GLENSHEE

SERVICES - DECEMBER TO FEBRUARY :

December 18th	Kirkmichael 10.30 am	Netherton 12.15 pm	Family Service
	Carol Service St. Michaels, Ballintuim	3.30 pm	
December 24th	Watchnight Service	Kirkmichael 11.15 pm	
December 25th	Christmas Day	Kirkmichael 10.30 pm	
January 1st 1989	Kirkmichael 10.30 am	Netherton 12.15 pm	
8th	Kirkmichael 10.30 am		
15th	Kirkmichael 10.30 am	Netherton 12.15 pm	
22nd	Kirkmichael 10.30 am		
29th	Kirkmichael 10.30 am	Netherton 12.15 pm	
February 5th	Kirkmichael 10.30 am		
12th	Kirkmichael 10.30 am	Netherton 12.15 pm	
19th	Kirkmichael 10.30 am		
26th	Kirkmichael 10.30 am	Netherton 12.15 pm	
March 5th	Kirkmichael 10.30 am		

On Friday, 23rd December, the School term finishes with a service in Kirkmichael Church at 11.15 am. All parents and friends welcome.

PARISH REGISTER :

Funerals	Olive Bridge	24th October
	William Henry Ivey	28th October
	George Donald	2nd November

Glenshee Manse  
December 1988

My dear people,

Christmas is with us once again. The special time when we remember the coming to earth of the Lord Jesus Christ, Immanuel, God with us. "Lo, within a manger lies He who built the starry skies" - the carol sums up the wonder.

On Christmas Eve we can think back to that first great Christmas. Mary waiting to deliver her child in the stable in Bethlehem tended by Jesus step-father, Joseph. The smell of the animals, the cold, the candle light, the sound from the inn. This is the way God chose to come to us, to come for us, for you.

Paul writes in II Corinthians 8 v 9 "For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ that though He was rich yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich." Jesus gave up comfort, authority, power, riches, and most of all the presence of God the Father. Jesus limited Himself to a human body, born in a poverty stricken country under occupation. During His life on earth He had no place to lay His Head, no wealth, and His power was never used for His own comfort but always for others.

The Cross falls over the crib, Jesus came to die, that was the last thing He gave up: for you and for me. He is the Saviour. Matthew Ch 1 v 21 "you shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." He did that by hanging on the Cross for you. If you take away the Cross - Christmas is as meaningless as commercial enterprise and much of the media try to make it.

Christmas Eve, the waiting, the time to remember what Jesus had done, done that you through His poverty may become rich.

Another carol has it "What can I give Him poor as I am, if I were a shepherd I would give a lamb, if I were a wise man I would do my part, what I can I give Him, give my heart" and with that new life. May you find that wonder this Christmas, and give to Jesus that gift of a dedicated heart, the gift for the One who gave everything for you.

A very blessed Christmas and Happy New Year  
Alan McKean

NEWS FROM OUR MISSIONARY PARTNERS

Rev. Tom and Mrs Jane Nicholson

TAIWAN, Nov 1988

Dear Friends

Christian Greetings from Taiwan.

Most of the time Scotland seems so far away to us as we live and work here in Taiwan. I know that this is also true for all of you when you think about us out here in the Far East. If it wasn't for God, the creator of the whole world and saviour of all people, there would be no sense of connection between us at all. God be with each one of us as we try to be faithful to Him in each of our very different situations.

Scotland has been brought extra close to us this last month, first by meeting a couple from the Glasgow area, who warmed our hearts with their Scottish accents and with reports of new life in the Church of Scotland. Then we received a visit from the Asia Secretary of the World Mission and Unity Board, the Rev. William Murison, who is visiting missionaries and discussing future partnership between our churches. The older I get the more clear it becomes that the churches of the World must not live in isolation from each other, but share with each other and strengthen each other. How best to arrange this is an ongoing question, but here is a big 'thank you' to Mr Murison for his encouragement and support, and to all of you in the Church of Scotland for supporting and struggling with the issue of world mission and international Church partnership!

Since I last wrote, many things have happened. I am now mainly working in the Resource Centre of the General Assembly Office and have officially left the Youth Work Committee. This change has been very gradual. Over the years I have been working more and more with the other parts of the Church and less and less with the Youth Committee; so what has now been formalised has in fact been happening for some time! In the Resource Centre, I continue to pick out English articles for translation and inclusion in the publications of the Church. This work needs better organising (and more translators!) so please pray that I can set up a better system.

One piece of encouragement has been the adoption of one of my plans for our youth magazine: each month we feature one of the excellent line drawings from the Good News Bible and write a devotional piece about it and end it with a short prayer. After the prayer we feature next month's picture, but without the Bible reference to which it belongs. In this way we ask the readers to guess, or search, or wait until next month for the answer! The first in the series appeared in the July issue and was based on the beautiful picture and comforting theme of 1st Corinthians 3:6.

Apart from my work with the Resource Centre, I also now help the Church look after foreign visitors. Mainly this involves introducing them to our Church agencies and often interpreting for them. I also continue working at the Rainbow Project once a week; this project was set up by the Church for the prevention and cure of prostitution among Taiwan's Aboriginal girls. I look after the project's English correspondence and summarise for them, the results of Western research into prostitution. On an average of once every three months, the minister of the Chinese church we attend has asked me to preach. Yes, it is getting easier!

In this letter I have tried to give an overview of my work here, but in the Resource Centre so many other jobs come our way too. The democratic movement here has been taking quite a beating lately, and a number of Church people are among those in prison. Pray that Christians can give a better witness in these circumstances.

We are all well and thank you for your warm letters and prayers for us.

In Christ,

Tom & Jane Nicholson, Eli abeth, Jessica and David.

## CHURCH FLOWERS

In some of the copies of the last magazine it appeared as though Mrs Margaret Locke was in overall charge of the flowers but of course Miss Linda Harris arranges them in Netherton and Mrs Falconer and Mrs Lindsay see that there are always some in Glenshee when there is a service there. We all enjoy the results of this dedicated work.

Glasgow, December 1988

It certainly doesn't seem like three months since I wrote a letter for the last magazine, but a lot has happened in that time. I was away most of September - visiting friends, an evangelism course, a holiday with my parents in Ayrshire.

Then it was down to job hunting in earnest, and I got used to receiving letters saying "I am sorry we have no vacancies". Eventually, however, in spite of there being several other applicants, of having no experience, and of being available for only 8 months, I was accepted for a part-time, day duty, nursing auxiliary post at the Victoria Geriatric Unit - which is yet more proof that this step was God's idea and that He had His hand on every aspect of it.

This has been further shown since I started work two weeks ago. It was hard to adjust at first to a situation so unfamiliar. The first couple of days were bewildering, but during the second week on duty I seemed to find my feet as I realised just what it means to be there in obedience to God - He truly is with me, not in any spectacular way, but very practically, enabling me to cope with jobs I never thought I'd be able to do, and with the strangeness and the pressures. The ward I'm on is for long term care, and most of the patients are very old and/or very helpless. The worst aspect is not being able to talk more with them; you can talk to them, but many don't respond visibly. It's hard work and not very glamorous! - but very good experience. However, I shall never get used to being 'Nurse Baker'!

A couple of weeks ago, I heard that the preliminary stage of my application to WEC had been accepted, which means I now complete the main application form. It seems that more places are becoming available with WEC for correspondence Bible teaching in West and Central Africa. It has been good to go along to the Glasgow WEC prayer meeting, and to get to know the people there - including some real live missionaries! A couple of years ago I was terrified of missionaries and of the superhuman things they seemed to do; but I've learned now that it's a bigger view of God that makes the difference, not just for going overseas but for living as a Christian at home as well. May we all this Christmas, have a fresh experience of how real and alive God is, as we remember that He loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus to give a new start in life to all who trust in Him. Jesus said "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest". (Matthew 11:28)

Jane Baker

## GRANNY RUTHERFORD'S CAKE

8 oz butter or marg.

12 oz plain flour

8 oz sugar

4 eggs

1lb any kind of mixed fruit

Cream butter and sugar very well and eggs and flour alternately.

Put into cold oven set at Gas mark 3 or 325°F or 170°C and bake for about 3 hours.

## ROSEMARY'S INVENTION (Chocolate Mousse without eggs)

Chop up  $\frac{1}{2}$ lb bar of plain chocolate into very small pieces and put into blender. Bring  $\frac{1}{2}$  pint of single cream to the boil and pour it over the chocolate. Blend well. Set in very small cups because it is very rich. Chestnut puree may be put in the bottom of the cups if liked. Decorate with cream or grated chocolate or both.

(this was invented before the egg panic!)

'I'M FINE, THANK YOU'

There's nothing the matter with me.  
I'm as healthy as can be.  
I have arthritis in both my knees,  
And when I talk, I talk with a wheeze.  
My pulse is weak, my blood is thin,  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I'm in!  
Arch supports I have for my feet,  
Or I wouldn't be able to walk in the street.

Sleep is denied me night after night,  
But every morning I find I'm all right.  
My memory is fading, my head's in a spin,  
But I'm awfully well for the shape I am in.  
How do you know that my youth is all spent?  
That my get up and go, just got up and went!  
I really don't mind when I think with a grin  
Of all the grand places my "got up" has bin.

The moral is this, as my tale I unfold,  
That for you and me who are growing old,  
It's better to say "I'm fine" with a grin  
Than let other folks know the shape we are in.  
Old age is golden, as I've heard it said  
But sometimes I wonder as I get into bed;  
With my ears in a drawer, my teeth in a cup,  
My eyes on a table until I wake up.  
Ere sleep overtakes me I say to myself:  
"Is there anything else I could lay on the shelf?"

When I was young my slippers were red,  
I could kick my heels right over my head,  
Then I was older my slippers were blue,  
But I could still dance the whole night through.  
Now I am older my slippers are black,  
I walk to the stores and puff my way back.  
I get up each morning and dust off my wits,  
And pick up the paper and read the "obits",  
If my name is still missing, I know I'm not dead,  
So I have a good breakfast, Thank God, and get  
back into bed!

Origin Unknown

REMEMBER, REMEMBER -

CAROLS ROUND THE CHRISTMAS TREE IN KIRKMICHAEL SQUARE ON FRIDAY, 23RD  
DECEMBER AT 6.30 PM AND AFTERWARDS AT THE STRATHLENE HOTEL.

\* \* \* \* \*

### THE WOMAN'S GUILD

February 2nd      Session House 7.15 pm      Tricia Falconer      A Bible Theme  
March 2nd          Session House 7.15 pm      World Mission and Unity Slide Set  
March 3rd          World of Prayer                      Arrangements later  
April 6th          Session House 7.15 pm      Garden Slides      GJ Dutton

The Guild entertained the Wednesday and Thursday Clubs to Party on December 7th. The Glens Choir under Mrs Helen Dutch sang very tunefully and joyfully and persuaded the party to join in some of the better known songs. Mrs Ellin read us Roald Dahl's version of Goldilocks and the Three Bears with dramatic effect and Mr and Mrs L Weaver played the accompaniment for the Choir. After tea they took over the entertainment and with Mrs Weaver abandoning her accordion and taking her place at the keyboard where she was equally at home, Mr Weaver treated us to some of the old melodies in a most delightful way. Soon nearly all the party were on their feet renewing their youth. We hope our guests enjoyed themselves as much as we did.

### THE WEDNESDAY CLUB

In September the Wednesday Social Club welcomed Mrs D Howat, Director of Nursing Services to an open meeting in the School. There was a good attendance and her talk provoked many questions regarding Nursing services in the Glens.

J. Morrison

Just Health enough to give and spare  
Just health enough to banish and care  
Just friends enough sincere and true  
What more want I?  
What more want you?

(from an old friend - L H)

### NEWS IN BRIEF

The Kirkmichael WRI Whist Drive and raffle raised £148. We would like to thank everyone who supported us. Although the Rural is not specifically intended to raise money for charity we do distribute as much as we can. This year we have decided to give £50 to the Ninewells Cancer Fund, £50 to the Blairgowrie branch of the Royal National Institute for the Blind and £50 to the Strathmore Wing of the Blairgowrie Cottage Hospital.

There was excitement in Kirkmichael when Colin McRae and his co-driver Derek Ringer brought their magnificent Sierra Cosworth to the village for the night. They went on to win the Scottish Rally the next day.

Johnny Johnston (J.J.) appeared on New Faces and baffled the audience with his magic and charmed them with his puppet assistant. He was highly praised by the panel who recognised his brilliant talent.

Holidays:	Perth	Jan 2nd & 3rd	March 27th
	Blairgowrie	Jan 2nd & 3rd	March 20th
	Pitlochry	Jan 2nd & 3rd	April 3rd

### Editorial Committee

Mrs Elizabeth Dutton	Mrs Jean Lindsay	Miss Caroline Macgregor
	Mrs Marjorie Stewart	

As before we thank Mrs Yvonne Clark for producing the magazine but we have not yet solved the problem of distribution. We would really like every household in the Glens to get a copy and advice or offers of help would be welcome. The next issue should come out before Easter (the last weekend in March) so copy should be in our hands by the 15th.

A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR!