

ACROSS

THE GLENS

NO. 7

STRALOCH

GLENSHEE

KIRKMICHAEL

CRAY

THE PARISH OF
KIRKMICHAEL,
STRALOCH &
GLENSHEE

PERSIE

NETHERTON

MINISTER: REV. ALAN MCKEAN
phone Blackburns 255

SESSION CLERK: MARGARET BROOKES
phone Strathardle 375

Services for the coming months:

July 30th	No service	Kirkmichael		Glenshee	12.15
August	6th	Kirkmichael	10.30	Netherton	12.15
	13th	Kirkmichael	10.30	Glenshee	12.15 (Communion)
	20th	Kirkmichael	10.30	Netherton	12.15
	27th	Kirkmichael	10.30	Glenshee	12.15
September	3rd	Kirkmichael	10.30	Netherton	12.15
	10th	Kirkmichael	10.30	Glenshee	12.15
	(Our Missionary Partner, the Rev. Tom Nicholson from Taiwan will be present at these services D.V.)				
	17th	Kirkmichael	10.30	Netherton	12.15
	24th	Kirkmichael	10.30	Glenshee	12.15
October	1st	Kirkmichael	10.30	Netherton	12.15
	8th	Kirkmichael	10.30	Glenshee	12.15
	15th	Kirkmichael	10.30	Netherton	12.15
	22nd	Kirkmichael	10.30	Glenshee	12.15
	29th	No Service	Kirkmichael	Netherton	12.15

c00o

Letter from the Minister

Glenshee Manse
July 1989

My Dear People

So far most of us will be happy with the summer, our hope for the rest of the summer is mixed; some would like rain for the crops, others would like more sun, for it will not be long before winter returns.

It is good to go on holiday, to relax, to just let the pressures fall off. "Chance would be a fine thing" some say, and even the longest holiday in the furthest away place comes to an end. Recreation in Christ's hand is taken further, it becomes re-creation - II Corinthians 5 v 7 - Therefore if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation. Our Lord Jesus Christ is not just our God when we feel good on holiday. He is God of our lives even through mixed feelings, times of grief, uncertainty.

We walke by faith, not be sight (II Corinthians 5 v 7). Our hope is not in outward circumstances but in the promises and unchanging nature of God. "Does God know how I feel?" "Does God really know what I'm going through?" "Does God really know I am at he end of my tether?" Yes, He does. "Your Father knows" (Matthew 10 v 29) "Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground apart from your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Therefore do not fear you are of more value than many sparrows." Day by day through worship, prayer, reading God's word you can begin to take steps of faith, faith that depends on God, and His power, His promises, and His love.

We have managed to take some further steps to changing the manse. We have also begun work on the re-plastering of the ceiling of Kirkmichael Church as well as necessary re-wiring in the Session House and Church.

May you have a time of safe journeys and re-creation.

Yours in Christ

Alan McKean.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

The Council met on 29th May 1989 in Strone of Cally School.

Councillor A Powrie had attended to many minor road and traffic problems. Mrs Gillan reported drainage problems at Steps of Cally. Councillor J. Wilson promised to investigate the matter. A complaint was raised as to the siting of the skip in Kirkmichael, but so far no alternative has been found.

Mr McGregor asked for parking to be provided for two cars at the War Memorial. The problem of parking in Kirkmichael was again raised but so far no solution has been offered.

The next meeting is on Monday, 28th August at 7.30 pm in Kirkmichael School.

o o o o

News from Jane ...

Glasgow, July 4th

When I last wrote in the magazine I had survived 2 weeks in the Victoria Geriatric Unit as an auxiliary. Now there are less than 2 weeks left! The months in between have been very mixed, but I have come to enjoy most of the work, and to know the girls I work with better (in spite of the language barrier - broad Castlemilk is something else!) and I can honestly say I would do this kind of work again. There were days when I would cheerfully have handed in my notice during the first couple of months, but I held on to the certainty that this was where God wanted me to be, and time and time again He saw me through. I learnt to take one day at a time, and to thank Him at the beginning of each day for what He would teach me through it (sometimes through gritted teeth). Of course when the work became easier, and I was accepted more by the other staff, this dependence on God tended to slip. It's always easier to hold onto Him when the going's hard, and then to return to self-reliance when the problems are sorted out - and then we miss out on opportunities to get to know Him better, and to receive all He wants to give us.

As some will know by now, I had my interviews with WEC in early June, and have been accepted by the mission as a candidate. The waiting has never seemed long to me, as I knew that WEC's main concern in selecting candidates, as in everything else, is to find what God wants, but it is a great encouragement to be going on to the next stage, and for God's guiding to WEC in the past year or so to have been so clearly confirmed. I leave Glasgow in about a fortnight to fit in a holiday and some time at home before the 4 month candidates' course starts on August 29th. This includes studying, work in the house and grounds, and being part of WEC's prayer life, all at the HQ near London.

One question was raised at the interview which startled me, concerning my suitability for overseas work. There was 'a slight hesitancy' over whether I would have 'sufficient physical and emotional stamina for the stresses of overseas'. So obviously I have to keep a more open mind on the subject of where I would end up working. WEC does have home-based work - including correspondence teaching in various languages that reaches all over the world. I was certainly beginning to look forward with excitement to the possibility of going overseas, and felt very much involved with one West African country with a definite need for a TEE (Bible teaching through written materials and through travelling round study groups) worker through meeting several WEC workers from there. But I'm sure that same sense of excitement over what God is doing round the world is essential whatever part I end up playing in mission - and mission is all about believing God can change people wherever they are; it doesn't just involve those who go to foreign countries. Meanwhile, I am very happy that I have been accepted by WEC, and all who are involved in that are sure that it is the right next step. So God will make the rest of the way clear in His time.

My first bit of culture shock will come very soon - the return to England after 16 years mostly in Scotland! I've never lost my accent, but I'm told that some of my expressions are rather strange to English ears. Perhaps translations will need to be provided. Sometime next year I will be north of the Border before going to England? Timbuctoo? Outer Mongolia? Bongo Bongo Land? Anything is possible!

Jane Baker

FOCUS ON CHINA

We listened with mounting horror to the graphic despatches which James Miles and the other BBC reporters sent from Peking but fortunately there is another side to the coin in China at present.

The story is told by the British Sailors' Society Chaplain in Liverpool of how he took some Chinese seafarers on a sightseeing tour of Liverpool. At the end they gave him a thank you gift and the Chaplain reciprocated by presenting the Communist China Commissar with a Chinese Bible. The Commissar in thanking him said he had long wanted to read and study a copy of the Bible. Recently the Commissar returned to Liverpool aboard another ship and warmly greeted the Chaplain. Talking with the Captain and crew of the new vessel, he learnt that the Commissar had not merely been reading the Bible but sharing its message with the crew members and encouraging them to study the Scriptures. The Chaplain was able to provide several more Chinese Bibles and English ones as well. The Captain said that young people in Shanghai were eager for Bibles.

Write a Bible

The National Bible Society of Scotland is undertaking to help in a scheme to provide Bibles for the Chinese people by encouraging Scots to write out the Bible by hand ... all 31,000 verses of it. But we are not asked to do this impossible task alone. Everyone is invited to write a verse and to subscribe at least 50p per verse. In this way funds will be raised. Who is going to print the Bibles? The Amity Foundation as a printing works in Nanjing, China and although production only began in November 1987 300,000 Bibles had been printed by May of this year. Orders had been received for a further 600,000 as well as 200,000 New Testaments with Psalms in the simplified script now commonly used in China. It is hoped to print over 1,000,000 Bibles in 1989, but this target can only be reached if the paper is supplied free of charge by the United Bible Societies.

Through the Handwritten Bible the National Bible Society of Scotland hope to provide enough paper to print 20,000 copies but they need our help - your help.

The Woman's Guild are intending to take part in this project and we hope that many others will also be interested. We have been allocated a portion of the New Testament and an opportunity will be given for anyone who would like to write a verse to do so at the Coffee Evening on October 26th. It doesn't matter what your writing is like - good, bad or indifferent - a perfectly scripted manuscript is not what is wanted so come along to the Hall on October 26th and help to support the Compass Christian Centre and the Church at the same time.

We pray that the return of the old regime will not herald a return to the old days of suppression and persecution of the Christians.

oOo

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY?

Voice from the past recalled on the BBC after the General Assembly drew to a close ..

Benjamin Franklin, one of the architects of the American Constitution, reminded his readers 200 years ago "When you assemble a number of men to have the advantage of their joint wisdom, you inevitably assemble with those men all their prejudices, their passions, their errors of opinion, their local interests and their selfish views.

From such an assembly can a perfect production be expected?"

Parish Register

Baptism: Fiona Catherine Daughter of Alastair and Catherine Dempster
Bridge of Cally 16th April 1989

Funerals: Mrs Marjory McLaren, Broughdaarg 21st April 1989
Mrs Sheila Sample MBE, Cnoc-Sualtach, Kirkmichael 23rd June 1989

Deaths: Mark Aitken, Troutbeck, Glen Derby, Kirkmichael 9th July 1989

Mrs McLaren lived in Dundee until about two years ago when she came to Glenshee to live with her daughter and son-in-law.

The news of the death of Mark Aitken came as a grievous shock. Mark was a young man in the prime of life, full of energy, enjoying life to the full. He was training in hotel management and in this he had found his niche and was well on the promotion ladder. Mark was the second son of Thom and Mary Aitken who are at present living in South Africa as Mark also was when his sudden illness struck him.

With the death of Sheila Sample Kirkmichael has lost one of its best-loved residents. She had known much sorrow in her life but she never paraded her grief and was always cheerful. She loved entertaining and was a most charming hostess. She worked tirelessly for causes in which she believed and had been decorated for her work in the Far East during the war. She bore her last illness with tremendous courage and always greeted you with her lovely smile even when she was in great pain. Our sympathy goes out to her family and particularly to Jenny who cared for her so devotedly.

"Death is nothing at all ... I have only slipped away into the next room ... I am I and you are you ... whatever we were to each other, that we are still. Call me by my old familiar name, speak to me in the easy way which you always used. Put no difference into your tone, wear no forced air of solemnity or sorrow. Laugh as we always laughed at the little jokes we enjoyed together. Play, smile, think of me, pray for me. Let it be spoken without effect, without the ghost of a shadow on it. Life means all that it ever meant. It is the same as it ever was; there is absolutely unbroken continuity. What is this death but a negligible accident? Why should I be out of mind because I am out of sight? I am but waiting for you for an interval somewhere very near, just around the corner ... All is well."

H.S.H.

oOo

The Woman's Guild

The first meeting of the winter session will be held in the Session House on October 5th at 7.15 pm when Mrs May Ringer will give a talk illustrated by slides on her recent visit to Israel. This promises to be really interesting as she tells us she had a wonderful time. New members or visitors will be very welcome.

Kirkmichael W R I Coffee Evening

Thursday, 27th July All Welcome ! 7.30 pm in the Hall
Cake and Candy Produce Bric-a-Brac Raffle Children's Tombola
Adults 50p Entertainment Children 30p

oOo

Woman's Guild Coffee Evening

As nothing specific has been done in this area to help the Compass Christian Centre in Glenshee the Guild intend to hold a Coffee Evening on October 26th at 7.30 pm in the Hall. Proceeds will go to the Centre to assist their ambitious and very worthwhile scheme to build a Sports Hall and to the Church. Entrance, Adults 50p, children 30p. There will be sales tables for Cake and Candy, Bric-a-Brac and Books and an entertainment will be provided by the young people from the Centre. You will also be able to write a verse of the Bible for the Handwritten Bible Scheme being run by the National Bible Society of Scotland (see page 4 of this news sheet).

Please come and support us, everyone is welcome.

oOo

The Wednesday Club

The Kirkmichael Wednesday Club held their AGM on the 26th April thus finishing another happy and successful session.

Mr and Mrs N Smith received a small gift and a Good Wishes card for their new home in Rattray.

The Annual outing was held on June 7th. The coach party travelled to Balmoral Castle where a lovely afternoon was spent. On returning to Kirkmichael members enjoyed high tea at the Strathlene Hotel.

'June damp and warm
Does the farmer no harm'

oOo

J.M.

News of the Schools

During the summer term Kirkmichael School studied the River Ardlie. They visited the filter station and water storage tanks at Balnald, the old mill at Balnakilly and studied the plants, animals and birds on the river banks. They visited Edinburgh Zoo where they looked for birds, animals and reptiles living in or around water. While the seniors had a music workshop in St. Stephen's school the infants took a walk up the River Ericht.

The children and parents of Strone of Cally School enjoyed a trip to Inchcolm Island in the River Forth aboard the passenger steamer Maid of the Forth and spent the rest of the afternoon in the Perth Leisure Pool. The grown-ups had a busy time keeping an eye on everyone.

The three schools joined with each other for sports and games leading to football and netball tournaments. A combined Sports with refreshments occurred in June in excellent weather.

Mrs Norma Morris presented dictionaries to the five pupils who were leaving Kirkmichael School to go on to Blairgowrie High School. They were: Louise Brown, Kim Johnston, Yvette Finch, Matthew Jones and Peter Hammond. Mrs Morris also presented swimming certificates before receiving a bouquet of flowers from Nicola Elvin.

Owing to the work being done in the Church the end-of-term united Service was held in the Kirkmichael Hall. Mr McKean wished teachers and pupils a happy holiday and the collection was sent to the Save the Children Fund. Schools go back on Tuesday, 15th August.

oOo

Editorial Committee: Mrs Dutton; Mrs. Lindsay; Miss Macgregor; Mrs Stewart; to whom copy should be sent by October 15th for the next issue.