

This is an occasional newsletter from Strathmore Parish Church; you are receiving it because you have passed on your email address to the church. If you do not want us to have your email address, or if you don't want to receive these emails, please let us know right away at admin@strathmoreparish.org Feel free to forward this newsletter to anyone you think might be interested, or to send us the email address of anyone who would like to be added to the mailing list.

Hello, everyone - It's November; although you wouldn't realise it, as we've had such a lovely week of dry, sunny weather! Back in mid-October, we had a similar spell of unseasonably warm weather - many folk would call that 'an Indian summer', but this year I heard, for the first time, the phrase 'St Luke's little summer', which apparently was what such a fine spell was called long ago, when our churches were more given to celebrating the feast days of the saints. The 18th of October is St Luke's day.

If the warm weather came in November, round about the 11th, St Martin's day, it was known as 'St Martin's little summer' - though, in my experience of standing at different War Memorials over the years, I've never known it to be mild on the 11th! I don't know which saint we have to thank for this week's sunny days; maybe 'All Saints', as 1st November is traditionally the day when we remember all the saints who have gone before us. (Hence 'Hallowe'en' on 31st October, of course, as all the de'ils and witches and bogles have a last chance to come out to practice their evil arts before the saints take over the next day!)

Did you have guisers at your door last night? I love to see all the wee ones coming to the door in their scary costumes as soon as it's dark, nowadays with their parents standing back a wee bit, but ready to remind them of the punchlines to their Hallowe'en jokes! (Why did the skeleton not go to the ball? etc..) Yes, of course it has lost something since we were children, and we wore our mum's old frocks, or just put our school blazers on back to front, but it is heart-warming to see the little ones so excited at being out in the dark with their wee friends. And it is definitely a lot easier to carve out a pumpkin than a neep!



We've had some lovely sunsets, too, this week - a wee compensation for the nights drawing in, perhaps? As I was coming home from Perth yesterday afternoon, the sun was setting behind me and there was a beautiful golden light over everything in our parish area.

I thought it might still be shining on the back of the kirk at Kettins, but I was just too late! Still a nice pic, though! If someone can catch this view in a better light, please email it to me (mmreid@btinternet.com) so that it can go in the newsletter and we can all enjoy it.

Carleen is conducting a service of Communion at Kettins this coming Sunday, 3rd November, at 10.00am, and also at Glamis at 11.30am. She has been very busy this week leading a retreat for members of our large and diverse Presbytery - it's a reminder that ministers have other duties for the Kirk, as well as their parish work!



Let's remember Carleen in our prayers, and Tim, our new Ordained Local Minister, as they seek to serve God and his people in Strathmore Parish. And don't forget that, if you are grieving or worried or are have something that is weighing heavy on your mind, our ministers will always be ready to talk to you. Contact Carleen on CRobertson@churchofscotland.org.uk or Tim on TPodger@churchofscotland.org.uk, or you can phone Carleen at the manse on 01828 650 461.

You may remember that, back in August, Tim chaired a meeting for church members, looking at ways in which our new parish might engage more with the local community. Tim's report to the Kirk Session about the meeting is attached along with the newsletter today, and it makes a fascinating read. It's great to see ideas that worked well in the past (could we do them again?) and new ideas for things we might try now. There's also a column for 'what we would like to do if there were no limits' which includes 'invite the King!' Please read the attachment - you'll find it full of interest. All of us need to remember, though, that ideas on the page will only work if we, as church members, are prepared to help put things into practice - so when we're asked to help with something that needs doing, let's just say 'yes!' Or, even better, let's volunteer!



The autumn colours seem to have gone on for a long time this year, don't they? And they have been magnificent - this pic was taken just last week, but I expect all the leaves have now blown off the trees. Some folk find autumn a really sad time - I wonder if that's because we associate it with Remembrance Day, which is always a sad occasion, whether we observe our remembering at a church service, or a ceremony at a local War Memorial or at home, watching the events at the Cenotaph on TV.

It's right that we should remember those who died in the defence of our country and of our right to live in freedom. Next year, 2025, will see the 80th anniversary of the end of World War 2; it was interesting on Budget Day to hear the Chancellor of the Exchequer allocate funding for marking that occasion as an important time for our country to remember the past.

Now some dates for your diary for the coming weeks, please note all the arrangements for Remembrance Sunday:-

Friday 1st November, 7.30pm at Inverarity Church - Lionel Steuart Fotheringham, the local laird, will give an organ recital in the church. An opportunity to hear a first-class organ scholar in a wee country kirk. Tickets £10, pay at the door.

Sunday 3rd November, 10.00am Communion at Kettins Church.
11.30am Communion at Glamis Kirk.

Sunday 10th November, Remembrance Sunday

- 10.00am church service at Meigle
- 11.00am wreath laying at Meigle War Memorial
- 11.30am wreath laying at Ardler War Memorial
- 12 noon wreath laying at Kettins War Memorial
- 10.00am church service at Newtyle, followed by ceremony at the War Memorial.
- 10.45am ceremony at Glamis War Memorial, followed by service in Glamis Kirk at 11.30am.

Sunday 24th November, 10.00am Communion at Meigle Church

Hoping that, as we move into the colder months, you'll wrap up well and keep warm!
Best wishes,
Mary Reid