

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 - what a great spell of spring weather we've been having, haven't we? Well, yesterday was a bit of a washout, but on the whole March has been dry, drouthy and sunny, just grand for most of us, but maybe not so useful for the farmers!

It has certainly been a great pleasure going out with the dog lately. For one reason or another, I've been walking closer to home this month, so most of the 'pics from the parish' were taken in the Glamis area - here's the first one: it's a view looking towards Mount Blair, which lies between Glen Isla and Glen Shee, but I wonder if you can guess where I was when I took the photo?

The warmer weather hasn't brought out many leaves on the trees yet, although the hawthorn is starting to green up, but what a lot of spring flowers out now! The pic below is of a daffodil seen up in Caddam Woods - quite unusual with the green colour on the outside of the petals.

And there's lovely blackthorn blossom in the hedges - the blackthorn's always the first one out, but we don't often get a good crop of sloes from it in the autumn round here (or maybe we do, but folk keep them a secret, for making their sloe gin!)



The springtime is a busy time of year for everybody, and there's a lot going on in the kirk as well as on the land and in our homes and gardens. Please don't forget that **this coming Sunday, 30th March, we have only one service for our whole parish - it's at 10.00 am at Kettins Church.**

(So that's an early start for some of us - many of the folk who worship at Glamis, at 11.30, come from Kirrie, Forfar or even further afield!) We all need to remember too that it's this weekend that we put the clocks forward!

If you like daffodils, and you enjoy a nice cup of tea with some home baking, then keep the afternoon of **Saturday 26th April** free, as there is to be a **Daffodil Tea in the church hall at Kettins**. The hall is just beside the church and churchyard - in past times the building was the stable and outhouses for the Manse.

Huge thanks to everyone who has already contributed to our '**Tent for Lent**' appeal - you'll remember we're trying to raise £350 from our parish to buy a tent for the charity Shelter Box, which they will then equip with essential items like blankets, a solar-powered lamp, cooking stove and water-purifier, and use for a family who have lost their home and belongings due to a natural disaster or, as we've all seen on the news, whose home has been destroyed by bombing.



Some of our church members have invited a few friends in for a cup of tea, and asked for a donation towards 'a Tent for Lent' - is there something **you** could do to help raise a wee bit of money?

It seems as if we are fairly racing through Lent this year! This coming Sunday, 30th March, is the fourth Sunday of Lent, which in the UK is traditionally celebrated as Mothering Sunday, or Mothers' Day. In April we'll have the fifth Sunday of Lent on 6th April, then Palm Sunday on the 13th, when we remember Jesus being welcomed into the city of Jerusalem by crowds of his followers. Then the Church moves into the

events of what we now call 'Holy Week', leading up to the crucifixion on the Friday.

This year, in Strathmore Parish, we will have two special services during Holy Week:- on **Maundy Thursday at Newtyle, at 7pm**, and on **Good Friday at Meigle, also at 7pm**. Our ministers always prepare so well for these services and, if you are able to attend, you will find them to be times that are thought-provoking and challenging, encouraging us to contemplate some of the mysteries of the Christian faith.



As we continue our journey towards Easter, one of the great highlights of the Church year, it is such a joy to observe round about us the ongoing cycle of the farming year! And right now, there is a huge variety in the fields themselves - while some are still standing in stubble, most are ploughed, and it is always lovely to see the pattern of the furrows emerging from the plough, isn't it? Some fields have been seeded, and are waiting for signs of life, while others are already showing the crop that's coming.

Now, a few items of a musical nature:

1. A fascinating item in the April 'Life and Work', the Church of Scotland's excellent monthly magazine, by Dr Ian Bradley (Emeritus Professor of Cultural and Spiritual History at the University of St Andrews) about the 60th anniversary of the film 'Sound of Music'. In the course of his very interesting article, Ian says, *'The Sound of Music is essentially a story about vocation and how God is calling each of us to find ours.'*

To subscribe to 'Life and Work' go to www.lifeandwork.org



2. An item from the Presbytery Roundup *Dundee Parish Church (St. Mary's), Nethergate, Dundee is pleased to announce that on Saturday, 29th March, 2025, we shall be hosting an evening Concert by the Dunedin Consort who will be performing a Concert of a cappella music inspired by the season of Lent. Tickets for the Concert which commences in the Church at 7.00 p.m. are priced between £6 and £20 and may be obtained from Dundee City Council Box Office at dundeebox.co.uk (Tel. 01382 434940)*

3. Also by the Dunedin Consort, a performance of Bach's St Matthew Passion in St John's Kirk, Perth, on Sunday 13th April at 3pm. Tickets from Perth Concert Hall booking office on 01738 621 031 or at <https://www.perththeatreandconcerthall.com>

4. And quite far ahead, but tickets selling fast, Aly Bain and Phil Cunningham are back at the Eassie Hall on Friday 16th May. Details and tickets on <https://www.eassieandnevay.org/>

Now, a summary of Strathmore Parish Church dates for your diary:-

Sunday 30th March 10.00am at Kettins Church, 5th Sunday service for our whole parish
then Sunday services as usual during April.

Sunday 13th April 9.00am at Newtyle Church, early Holy Communion service

Thursday 17th April 7.00pm at Newtyle Church, Maundy Thursday service

Friday 18th April 7.00pm at Meigle Church, Good Friday service

Sunday 20th April Easter Sunday, services as usual

Saturday 26th April 2.00pm at Kettins Church Hall, Daffodil Tea

Sunday 27th April 11.30am at Glamis Kirk, service of Holy Communion



stubble field still fine for a walk!



tatties just starting to appear

I always feel that the spring is a time of hope, do you? I think it's because we see more of the sun and we are surrounded by signs of new life all around. For us in Europe, that has all become very much part of our celebration of Easter, and symbols of spring flowers, new lambs and baby rabbits are as much a part of our cultural scene at Easter as are images of the cross or of the stone being rolled away. (Perhaps more so, these days!)

Do you ever wonder what it must be like to celebrate Easter in the southern hemisphere, where they are at the end of their summer and moving into autumn? Maybe some of you have celebrated Easter in Australia, or South Africa, for example? I had a look online for 'Easter in Australia' and found plenty of references to hot cross buns and chocolate eggs, but, unsurprisingly, no lambs gambolling! You might be interested to know, though, that chocolate eggs are delivered to Australian children by the Easter **bilby**, not the Easter bunny!



The bilby, pictured left, is a wee marsupial creature native to Australia, but, sadly, it was almost wiped out when rabbits were introduced there after the arrival of settlers from the UK. Closely related to the kangaroo, but much smaller, the bilby is now recovering in numbers. Who knew??

Let's all pray that this spring, this Easter, will bring hope to everyone in our parish area, and, indeed, to the whole world, where hope must be thin on the ground in some places. I hope you will be able to get out and enjoy seeing the signs of new life in our lovely parish area, and that the services in our churches during Lent and at Easter will bring you encouragement and joy.

And finally don't forget to put your clock forward on Saturday night!

Best wishes,
Mary Reid

