

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 - are you, like me, thinking, 'How did it get to be September?' But there is a real autumn feel about everything now, isn't there? The trees are definitely changing colour (why is it that the chestnut trees are always the first to display their gold and red?) and many of the fields in our parish are already at the stubble stage - with good weather forecast for this weekend it won't be long till all the grain is in!



A lot of folk say that autumn is their favourite season, and I suppose that's because we all love the colours of the fields and the trees. One famous artist who really appreciated this season was Vincent van Gogh, who once wrote this, '*As long as autumn lasts, I shall not have hands, canvas and colours enough to paint the beautiful things I see.*'

While you're out and about this autumn, if you get a good pic of the autumn colours locally, please email it to me (Mary Reid) at mmreid@btinternet.com and we can share it with everyone who gets the church newsletter.

Speaking of which, some of you may find that you have two copies of the newsletter arriving in your inbox this month! That's because we haven't yet got the original mailing list (mostly Glamis folk with some others) transferred from my computer to the Strathmore Parish admin assistant's computer, which is where all the personal information for our church members will be held. (Some addresses are currently in both!!) If you are a computer whizz and know how to do this without Alison, our admin person, having to type each address in, please let one or other of us know how it's done! Otherwise it'll be a long slog, but we are hoping that by the time the October newsletter comes out all of that will all be sorted out one way or another, and the addresses will be held in only one computer.

Regarding the information which Strathmore Parish Church will hold about members, ie name, address, email, etc., it's all covered by GDPR rules (General Data Protection Regulations) so you can be assured that the kirk will look after that information carefully and never pass on your details to any other person or organisation. We do need to be able to contact members from time to time, though, so it is important that our church membership roll is up-to-date.

Many thanks to all those members who have already responded to the recent letter from Strathmore Parish Church and have returned the form confirming their details - that has been a huge help in making sure our church roll is accurate! If you haven't yet sent back your form, in the SAE provided, please do that as soon as you can. If you didn't receive a letter about our new congregation (or if, *Shock! Horror!* you have lost or mislaid it) contact Alison Davidson at admin@strathmoreparish.org and she will send you another letter with the appropriate forms included.

It has been good, too, that so many people have already been in contact with their banks to change their standing orders for church donations to the new Strathmore Parish Church account, as the bank accounts for Ardler, Kettins and Meigle and for Glamis will be closing soon. (Newtyle folk don't need to change!) If you have any queries about ways in which you can donate to our church, you can contact our church treasurer, Diane Strachan, at treasurer@strathmoreparish.org and she will be happy to help.

As you know, when we pay for goods and services these days, we are all using cash less and less often, but I wonder if any of you have, in the last few weeks, received one of the new King Charles £1 coins in your change? They are lovely, and the one I got in the Glamis PO has two beautiful bees on the back of the coin - very unusual and interesting.



September is the month when all sorts of groups and organisations get going again after the summer break, and the Church of Scotland Guild is no exception. The Guilds from our three previous congregations are all continuing to meet, sometimes together, sometimes separately, and are looking forward to putting their faith into action by learning about, and supporting, the Guild's four chosen projects. This photograph, taken at a national Guild meeting in Dundee a couple of years ago, happens to have a number of Strathmore PC members on it!

Listen out for announcements in church about the various Guild meetings and, if you are not already a Guild member, please think about supporting this amazing organisation by going along to a meeting or a fund-raising event.

If you fancy taking up a new hobby or pastime this autumn, opportunities abound locally! If, like Vincent van Gogh, autumn inspires you to paint, the Saturday morning art group at Eassie Hall (twice a month) will be starting soon (see <https://www.eassieandnevey.org> for details of all their activities, or contact Linda Breckenridge linda.breckenridge@gmail.com). If you are within striking distance of Forfar, Forfar Association for Continuing Education (FACE) runs classes in a wide range of subjects on the Community Campus at the academy (details on <https://forfareveningclasses.weebly.com/> and they also have a Facebook page.)

Many of us like a wee holiday break in the autumn months - we all hope Carleen enjoys her holiday coming up soon! On a recent break in Crieff, Bert and I spent a day exploring the Trossachs, not an area we are very familiar with. The pic on the left below shows a new viewing platform overlooking Loch Katrine, on a wee hill known as the Sir Walter Scott viewpoint. If you can expand the pic, you'll see how the new tower frames the view.



And the pic on the right was taken at the Japanese Garden at Cowden near Yetts o' Muckhart - an intriguing place to visit!



Isn't Scotland just superb? Especially when the sun shines!

If you are looking for a wee outing not too far from home, Angus Archives (housed at Restenneth Priory, just outside Forfar) has a small temporary exhibition on 'Old Parishes of Angus', which includes ancient documents, very interesting photographs and some fascinating old maps. Details can be found on <https://visitangus.com/angus-archives/>

Our new Ordained Local Minister, Tim Podger, was pleased to see a good gathering of Strathmore Parish Church members at the meeting held at Kettins recently to discuss ways in which our congregation might have more impact in our local communities and interest more people in coming to church events, activities and services. Lots of suggestions were put forward and are now being sifted through, to see which might be implemented soon and which might take a longer planning period. Tim says not to worry if you missed the meeting, we'll all hear more about these suggestions as time goes on. If you weren't there, but have an idea as to how the church might reach out to more folk in our area, feel free to email Tim at TPodger@churchofscotland.org.uk

Now, just to recap about the pattern of church services for Strathmore PC, we're having a service at Newtyle at 10am and a service at Glamis at 11.30 every Sunday. On the first and third Sundays of each month, a service will be held at Kettins at 10am; on the second and fourth Sundays, the service will be at Meigle, at the same time. When there is a fifth Sunday in the month (which happens three or four times every year) we will have only *one service for the whole parish*, and the first of these 'fifth Sunday' services will be on the 30th of September, at Glamis, at 11.30am. Carleen is looking forward very much to seeing us all together, so, although the service may not be at the time **you** are used to, please come if you possibly can (and please stay for a quick cuppie afterwards - a great opportunity to meet fellow-members you may not know yet!)

If you have never been in Glamis Church before, here's one last pic of a recent event, which you may have seen reported in the Courier a couple of weeks ago. Some years ago, when the Glamis Scouts had to close



down because of lack of numbers, their flag was laid up in the kirk. More recently, the Scout troop has been re-started, and now has Squirrels, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts meeting every week. They decided that their flag would be better kept in the Scout Hut, where it belongs, and so, on a lovely sunny August evening, the whole troop, with parents, friends, our ministers and many church members, met in the church.

Crawford Langley, a church member who was at one time the County Commissioner for the Scouts in Angus, formally handed the flag over, and the Scouts marched it back through the village to the Scout Hut, followed by the whole assembled company ! Tea and cake were served to us all and were followed by an outdoor investiture ceremony as some of the young people moved up to their new sections for the coming session.

If you search online for Glamis Scouts, you'll find their website, and they also have a Facebook page.

So that's most of the kirk news for September; if you have items you would like me to include in the newsletter, please email me - I know what's going on at the eastern end of our new parish, but it would be good to have more items from further west! Please help if you can!

Enjoy the sunshine this weekend,
Best wishes,
Mary Reid