

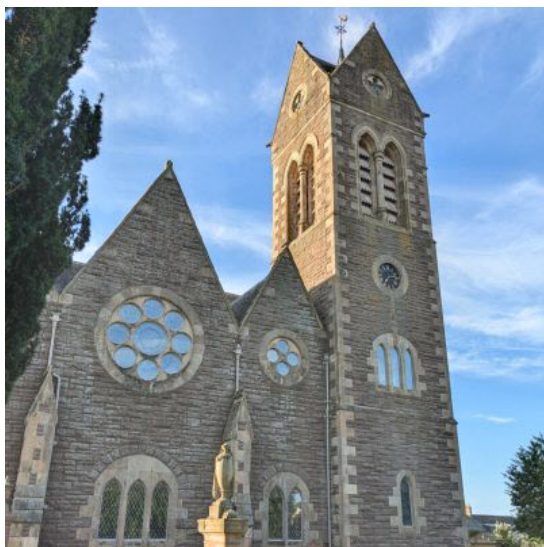
This is an occasional newsletter from Strathmore Parish Church; you are receiving it because you have passed on your email address to the church. If you do not want us to have your email address, or if you don't want to receive these emails, please let us know right away at admin@strathmoreparish.org 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 - hope you all survived Storm Eowyn safe and sound! There are some trees down round about, aren't there, but compared with some of the news reports on TV I think our part of Angus got off more lightly than expected.

I can tell you, though, that it is a strange experience to stand at your kitchen window and watch the polycarbonate panels of the greenhouse take off, one after the other, to go flying about the garden!

We've had some lovely days since then, haven't we, although it's still pretty chilly in the early mornings. The increase in the length of days is noticeable now - is it too early to hope that we are past the worst of the winter? Is that what's called 'tempting fate'?

This is the time of year when our garden birds are most at risk from starvation; if you have bird-feeders in your garden you'll know that they are being emptied just about as fast as you can fill them up! What a lot of joy you get from watching the birds, don't you?



Strathmore Parish Church Kirk Session met on 23rd January. Among other business, the elders welcomed the news that we now have a website for our congregation - you can click on <https://www.strathmoreparish.org> or just google Strathmore Parish Church and you'll find it.

The website highlights all four of our places of worship - the pic opposite is the photo of Newtyle Church - with a little bit of the history of each building, the times of services and contact email addresses for anyone wanting to get in touch. It is hoped that more information about our parish life will be added as time goes on. Many thanks from all of us to Jacqueline Scott, a member of the Kirk Session, for getting this important aspect of our parish life up and running - if you have any comments about the website, or can offer any help with maintaining it, please contact Jacqueline on jacquelinescott100@yahoo.co.uk

Just to remind ourselves about **the Kirk Session**, which is made up of elders from each of our former congregations:-

Carleen, our minister, is the Moderator of the Kirk Session - she acts as the chairperson for the meetings.

Mike Riddell-Webster is the Session Clerk, responsible, with the minister, for drawing up the agenda for each Kirk Session meeting. The Session Clerk's duties include keeping minutes of the Session meetings (a record of the decisions made) and these are inspected by Presbytery every year, along with our church accounts and other documents.

The elders who are currently members of the Kirk Session are: Linda Breckenridge, Frances Brough, Linda Brown, Moira Cameron, Linda Christison, Alistair Cluley, Valerie Findlay, Isobel Hynd, Peter Ord, Mike Riddell-Webster and Jacqueline Scott.

Our Church Treasurer is Diane Strachan.

One of the Kirk Session's responsibilities is making sure that children and any other vulnerable persons are kept safe when they come to worship or are involved in any church activities. In order to do this, the Church of Scotland requires every congregation to have a Safeguarding Panel to ensure that:

- a) all of the trustees (ie the Kirk Session) and all those working with children and vulnerable groups undertake regular PVG training (Protection of Vulnerable Groups) and
- b) a system is in place so that anyone who has concerns about these matters will know how to report them so that something can be done.

Here is a message from Kate Harris, who has agreed to become the Safeguarding Coordinator for our congregation:

The Kirk Session has decided to adopt a full union model of Safeguarding which means we have a single Coordinator and one Panel for Strathmore Parish Church instead of a Safeguarding Coordinator and Panel for each place of worship.

I have been appointed by the Session as Safeguarding Coordinator. I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Catherine (Kate) Harris. I have in the past been Coordinator for Ardler, Kettins and Meigle Parish Church. The very nice part of the job has been meeting and recruiting volunteers to work with children in the Church. PVG membership and training are two of the requirements necessary before a person can be listed on the Church's register which is inspected annually by Presbytery.

We have enjoyed safe places of worship in all our churches but we cannot be complacent when it comes to protecting children and adults at risk from harm. It is a permanent and necessary part of Church life. The Church of Scotland takes this very seriously and the key safeguarding message is a simple one-

'If harm or abuse is suspected or witnessed, or is reported to you, you must immediately report it to your Safeguarding Coordinator.'

Shortly you will see posters up in our Church Buildings with details about safeguarding and an email address and tel. number if you wish to make contact for whatever reason.

Kate Harris

Email: safeguarding@strathmoreparish.org telephone: 07951882913

Thank you for this message, Kate - we are fortunate to have an experienced person like yourself in this role!



Huge thanks to everyone who collected the stamps from their Christmas cards and brought them to church! We've finished collecting now and the stamps will be heading off soon to join stamps from all over Scotland to be exchanged eventually for cash, to help the church in Malawi set up tree nurseries to provide much-needed employment and locally-produced food for the people there.

It's great that our congregation can join with others to do something for people who are in desperate need - look out in our next newsletter for details about 'A Tent for Lent', a project which will enable us to help, among others, the folk in Gaza, who, as you'll know from the TV news, are returning to their homes to find . . . rubble! Wouldn't it just break your heart?

Our own homes are so comforting in the cold weather, aren't they? But it's nice to get out, too, and see what's going on in the countryside around us - I saw this amazing fungus the other day, peeping out through the dead leaves. It's the 'green turkey-tailed fungus', or so I'm told, so look out for it if you are in the woods!

Best wishes,
Mary Reid

