

*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](mailto: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.*

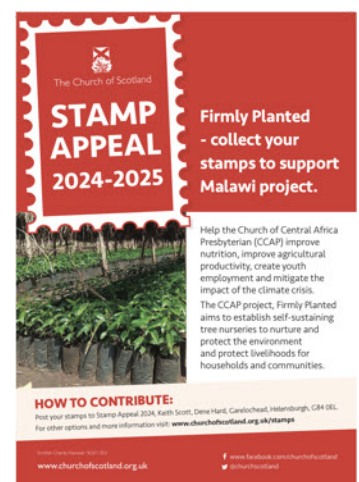
Hello, everyone - hope you are all managing to keep warm in this very cold spell of weather! So many weather warnings last weekend about Storm Bert, which caused some terrible floods down south, but we seemed to escape the worst of it here, didn't we? I expect, all over Britain, blokes called Bert got a lot of teasing about the headlines in the papers!



Many thanks to everyone who filled a Christmas shoe box for Blythswood - we had more than ever this year! And particular thanks to Dorothy Gautier, who took all of our boxes up to Blairgowrie (our local collection point for Blythswood) at the beginning of November, to get them started on their journey to some of Europe's poorest people; the boxes mostly go to children and elderly people in Eastern Europe and the Balkan countries. It is so good to think that our boxes will bring a wee bit of cheer to people who are struggling to keep warm!

Another way for us, as a congregation, to support folk who are worse off than ourselves is through the Church of Scotland's annual Stamp Appeal - billed on the Kirk's website as *'an easy way for your congregation to get involved in the world mission work of the church.'*

And it really is easy! All you have to do is cut the stamps off any envelopes coming into your house over the next month or so, leaving about half-an-inch of paper all round the stamp, save them up in an envelope then pop them in a collection box in your local church where you see a poster like this one. → The money raised by this annual appeal always goes to help the work of the church overseas; this year, as last, it will support the Church in Malawi in establishing tree nurseries, with the long-term aims of providing employment, improving nutrition and combatting climate change. Please help if you can - everybody's stamps (put together) can raise a lot of money!



Now, here's a message from Diane Strachan, our congregational Treasurer, and it is for those of us who give to the church by Freewill Offering Envelopes, which are a great way to support your local church Sunday by Sunday.

Diane says, *'As we approach the end of the year, we are coming to the end of the Freewill Offering envelopes marked 'Ardler, Kettins and Meigle' and 'Glamis'.*

*Members at Newtyle who use the FWO envelope giving system will have some envelopes for early 2025 remaining. However, the new envelopes for Strathmore Parish Church will begin on the first Sunday of January, 2025.*

*If you donate to the church in this way, you will shortly receive your new envelopes for Strathmore Parish Church - **please use the new ones from Sunday, 5th January**, whether or not you have any envelopes left. The envelopes will be distributed in the manner which was previously used in your part of the parish.'*

So, that sounds especially important for Newtyle envelope users - if you keep using the Newtyle envelopes after the New Year, there will be no way to record your giving, as we will all have different numbers in the new system!

As you may know, our minister, Carleen, has been on holiday for the past week or so, but not, as you might expect at this time of the year, in some sunny spot far to the south!

No! Carleen and her sister, Anne, have been off on a cruise in the far north, and here's a pic of them taken as their ship was crossing the Arctic Circle.

Carleen says the temperature that day was milder than it was in Scotland, but you will notice that she and Anne are inside, while the folk standing outside, watching the ice-floes go past, are pretty well wrapped-up! It's lovely to see them enjoying their holiday, though!



Remember, if you have a holiday pic, or a photo taken somewhere in our parish, that you'd be happy to share with fellow-members, please email it to me at [mmreid@btinternet.com](mailto:mmreid@btinternet.com)

As we are all getting to know the different church buildings in our new parish, it would be nice to see some kirk photos! Here are two that you might find interesting:-



On the left is a painting of the church in Meigle, seen from an unusual angle - you can see the main door into the church in the gable end on the left-hand side. The wee door under the tower leads into the boiler-house! The painting was done by Stuart Wallace.

And on the right is a pen and ink drawing of Glamis Kirk, again looking up through the graveyard - this one was done by John Hume for the Scotland's Churches Trust.



Now some dates for your diary - remember that Advent begins this Sunday!

**Sunday 1st December 10.00am at Newtyle** - service of Holy Communion

**Sunday 1st December 5pm at Glamis Square** - Christmas lights switch-on  
Come early to join in carols with Forfar Instrumental Band and enjoy hot drinks and snacks!

Church services as usual throughout Advent until:-

**Tuesday 24th December 7.00pm at Meigle** Carols and readings for Christmas  
**11.30pm at Newtyle**  
**11.30pm at Glamis**

**Wednesday 25th December 10.00am at Kettins** Carols on Christmas morning

**Sunday 29th December 10.00am at Meigle** Joint service for Strathmore Parish (fifth Sunday)

Hoping that you and those you love will have a peaceful Advent and a very happy Christmas,

Best wishes,  
Mary Reid

