



Link

November 2018

Making God's love known through Jesus Christ

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The God of all comfort

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves receive from God. (2 Corinthians 1:3–4)

How often do you come across a verse (or two) in scripture and, suddenly, it seems to make absolute sense to you, right at that moment where you are in life? This happened to me with the verses above. I shared part of that story at a morning service in October (you can listen to the sermon or download the podcast from the church website). As Pastoral Associate I've often had to accompany people as they walk through dark places because of ill health, job situations etc. Some people have asked me where my strength comes from. I can honestly answer, 'My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth' (Psalm 121:2). To that I can also add that there have been numerous occasions in life where I have been aware of God's comfort in difficult or stressful situations. Being aware of how God has comforted me, I can now draw on that to comfort others.

So how does God comfort us?

God uses many things and many ways to bring us comfort when we need it.

- How many of us, when we've been facing difficulties or trials, have been aware of the phone ringing (or a text message) at just the right moment to bring comfort and

encouragement? Just the other night I had someone arrive at my door with a card and a bunch of flowers – she knew that I'd had a tough day, so had wanted to be a conduit of comfort.

- How many have seen their prayers answered, whether it's to do with sickness or a job interview or in answer to other problems? One of the best ways we can help other people is by praying for them.
- Perhaps you've been aware of a verse of scripture resounding with you, and then become even more aware of that word over the next few days, affirming what you've heard?

Conduits of comfort

God's comfort can come in all manner of ways and sometimes when you least expect it. He uses those around us, those conduits of comfort, to connect with us. But he also uses his Holy Spirit to intercede for us.

If you are in a place of suffering right now, what I'm about to say may not seem much comfort at this time – but one day, what you are going through will help you bring great comfort to other people: *'He comes alongside us when we go through hard times, and before you know it, he brings us alongside someone else who is going through hard times so that we can be there for that person just as God was there for us'* (2 Corinthians 1:4, *The Message*).

It's said that those who have faced difficulty in life make the most effective ministers. We are all capable of ministering to others – the experiences we've had in life will empower us to reach out to bring comfort, as I'm sure many of you have found out over the years.

Remembrance

11 November 2018 will mark 100 years since the end of the First World War, that war which was supposed to end all wars. Unfortunately it didn't, and sadly there are still people around who live with the devastating consequences. Some of you may remember seeing the 2013 film, *The Railway Man*, based on the true story of Eric Lomax, a British prisoner of war who was forced to work on the Thai–Burmese railway. He was tortured, beaten and starved. When the war ended Eric Lomax was rescued, but he lived with the psychological trauma for many years after. There are many like him.

The student union of an English university recently provoked outrage at their decision not to 'promote commemorations this Remembrance Day'. The debate rages on but what should be remembered is that for those who attend an act of worship/remembrance, this is an opportunity for God's comfort to touch their lives. Far from glorifying war, it's also an opportunity for us to give thanks for the lives given that we might be free, and to remember so that we might not repeat the mistakes of the past.

I hope and pray that the God of all comfort will comfort you if, or when, you hurt, and that you will, in his strength, be able to reach out to others and comfort them as his conduits of comfort.

Elaine Hogan

Congregational roll

Baptisms

Casper Janes Brown

7 October 2018

Tabitha Nico Brown

7 October 2018

Amelie Elizabeth McLaren

21 October 2018



The floral cross

The floral cross has just been given a new lease of life, a new set of clothes.

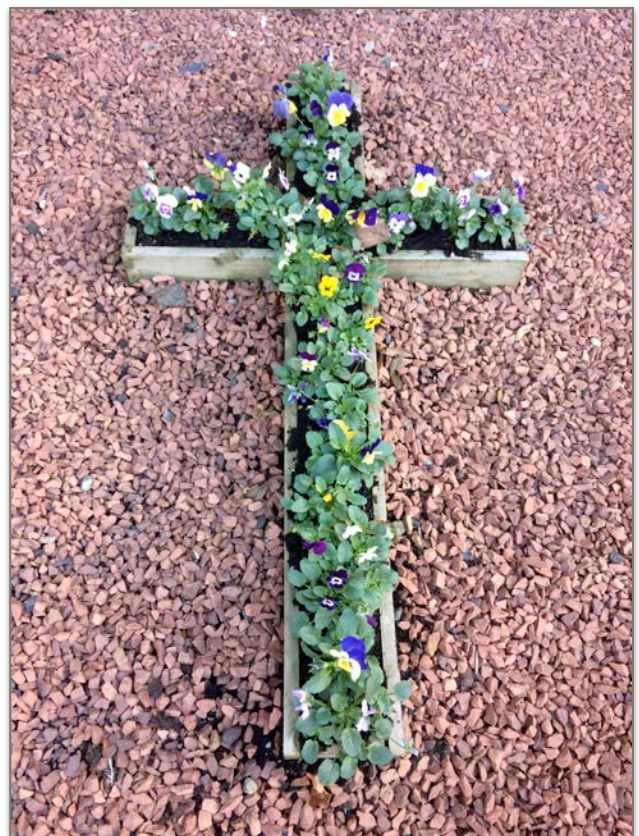
This may remind you of when you came into relationship with God, when you experienced his unfailing love, when you were undeservedly given a new lease of life, of life eternal, a new set of clothes.

This was the beginning of a process of change, of transformation of your life, when old clothes began to be discarded: the lies, the rage, the desire for revenge, the slander, the spitefulness etc.

The keeping close to the word of God, Jesus, by being filled and guided by the Holy Spirit, the process of putting on new clothes of compassion, humility, gentleness and patience, and above all these virtues putting on love, the one word that sums up our new self, begins to happen.

May the change of clothes of our floral cross each time remind us of how daily we seek the presence of our heavenly father and we too put on new clothes.

anon.



Remembrance Sunday

Don't forget, the morning service will start at 10:50 on Sunday 11 November, to allow us to take part in the two minute silence at 11am.



Kelpies Canter

Christian Aid's Kelpies Canter took place on Saturday, 29 September 2018. This is a 5 km (c.3 mile) trail within Helix Park, Falkirk. This is the home of the Kelpies and the Forth and Clyde Canal, and the River Carron passes through it. The trail meandered through the park, passing the Kelpies and at times following and crossing the canal and the river.



We signed up in early September to take part in this event to support Christian Aid. We did this for a few reasons. The first is that we have supported this charity for a number of years: Sarah participated in Christian Aid Week collections in Dumfries, and Michael took part in the charity's 70 Munro challenge in 2015. Also we both want to get physically fitter, and we enjoy the benefits of spending time outdoors.

We both aimed to run the 5 km. The other 100 or so participants ran or cycled or walked it. Before we cantered there was the opportunity to have our faces painted and to participate in a Zumba-styled warm-up. We declined the former and took part in the latter. We did it, but we positioned ourselves at the back of the crowd of our fellow participants. After this we were instructed to turn 180° and begin the canter. Thus, inadvertently, we found ourselves at the front of the field of our fellow canterers and being led by a piper.



Michael opted for a slow canter to start, while Sarah's pace was more akin to a gallop. We both completed the 5 km and received medals. However one of us finished it 15 minutes before the other crossed the finishing line. Nevertheless we enjoyed ourselves, and so far this event has raised £500 for the work of Christian Aid.

Sarah and Michael

Afternoon Fellowship

Following our exploits on the Union Canal, at our October meeting, we found ourselves transported to Kenya in the company of Heather Tweedie. As part of a 30-strong party from Heriot's, Heather travelled to the Ol Pejeta conservancy in the Laikipia region of Kenya which is near Mt Kenya.

There they worked with the pupils of the Miterio Primary, a rural school which caters for pupils from 4 to 14 years old. As well as working with the children in the classrooms, the Heriot's party also helped decorate rooms and build toilets and had fun with their Kenyan counterparts.

The party also had time for some leisure activities such as canyoning. On a visit to a wildlife park, they were lucky enough to see Africa's 'big five', but also discovered how these animals are under increasing threat especially from the traffic in animal parts, which are seen as important medicines in other parts of the world.

An enjoyable afternoon finished with tea and a chat.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 6 November, when we welcome Nikki Kirkland as our speaker. This is a real chance to get to know Nikki, who is our OLM Probationer, so see you all there.

Lorna Gentleman

Christmas lunch

As in previous years, the Afternoon Fellowship will be returning to the Golf Tavern on **Tuesday 4 December** at 12:30 for the annual Christmas lunch. Look out for the sign-up sheet and more details in the Pillar Hall in November.

Life and Work orders for 2019

If you wish to order *Life and Work* for 2019, it is important that you let me know before Wednesday 17 November so that I can place the order by the deadline of 19 November.

Order forms will be available by the copies of *Life and Work* in the Pillar Hall as well as in the copies of the November issue.



The cover price for 2019 will be £2.80 per issue, but if you are paying for the year in advance the cost will be £30.60, £2.55 per copy. The cost per copy, if buying monthly, will be the cover price of £2.80. If you wish to purchase copies this way, please return a completed order form so that sufficient copies can be ordered.

There is now also a digital edition of *Life and Work* available, and this can be purchased online at www.lifeandwork.org.

Janet Darling

Kitchen notes: gnocchi with pancetta, spinach and parmesan cream

I love sharing recipes and acquiring new ones, especially when they are recipes that are used regularly. It always seems less risky to cook from a recipe I know someone else has used and that is a firm favourite with them. A few months back I put in a recipe for roasted gnocchi, which has proved to be incredibly popular. I was out walking with a friend a couple of weekends ago and we were chatting about cooking. We both started to talk about a simple gnocchi dish that we really liked – turns out we were discussing the same recipe! During the course of that conversation I was told about this month's recipe. I've been assured that it is both easy and tasty – I haven't yet had the opportunity to make it, so please let me know how it goes if you do make it.

- 500 g pack gnocchi
- 1 garlic clove, sliced
- 1 tbsp olive oil
- 100 ml double cream
- freshly grated nutmeg
- 130 g pack smoked pancetta cubes
- 100 g spinach
- zest ½ lemon
- 25 g parmesan, grated, plus extra for serving
- 25 g toasted pine nuts



1. Cook the gnocchi following pack instructions, then drain. Meanwhile, heat 1 tsp of the oil in a small pan and fry the garlic. Then add the cream and a good grating of nutmeg. Put to one side.
2. Heat 2 tsp of the remaining oil in a frying pan, and cook the pancetta until crisp. Add the gnocchi and fry until it starts to turn golden, adding a little more oil if it begins to stick. Stir in the spinach, lemon zest and seasoning.
3. Stir the parmesan into the cream sauce. Spoon the gnocchi onto plates, drizzle over the sauce and scatter with pine nuts. Serve with extra parmesan.

Linda Garside

Tea towels: a reminder

All groups using the Pillar hall should take their own tea towels and tablecloths away to wash and return.

As for other tea towels, at the moment only two stalwart people take them home and wash them. It would be great if this burden could be shared as a lot of laundry is generated each week, especially in the halls. Please contact the church office for more information.

Flower rota

Thank you to those who have donated and arranged the flowers for the sanctuary for November.



	Donated by	Arranged by
4	Karen Ferguson	Karen Ferguson
11	In memory of the McKenzie family	Lorna Gentleman
18	TBC	Sue Hindle
25	Jean Macaulay	Lorna Gentleman

TCP shopkeepers' dinner

The TCP shared meal was held on Wednesday 19 September in the Pillar Hall.

It was a roaring success, thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. There was a real sense, with all the shop keepers present, of a family gathering. There is a core group who always attend and who see the meals as a fixture and one to look forward to with anticipation. These meal times generate much laughter and relaxation but also free sharing of ideas, successes and some problems relating to the shops. Folks are more than willing to pool thinking/ideas and suggest solutions. This creates a real sense of community sharing and working together.

At the meal an exciting development was discussed. It's a project initiated by Saunderson's, the butchers. They will be raising funds to pay for the purchase and installation of a defibrillator outside the butcher's shop. Customers at the shop have been donating money for this, with the butcher undertaking to match like-for-like any funds raised. TCP have decided to hold a Beetle Drive as a fundraiser in support of the Saunderson's project. The Beetle Drive will be held on 31 October, from 19:00 to 21:00 in the Pillar Hall. Tickets, at £5.00/£3.00, will be available from church or on the door. This is always a very well-attended fun event, so look forward to seeing you there.

Anyone interested in joining the TCP group will not be disappointed. It's a warm and happy group who have derived great pleasure from doing God's work in this part of the community and would welcome anyone wanting to be part of it.



Helen Wolpert

Remembering from the *Home Front*



As Remembrance Sunday approaches, so does the end of a radio drama I have been following for the past four years. *Home Front*, produced by BBC Radio Four, has documented the lives of fictional residents of Folkstone one hundred years ago in real time for the whole duration of the First World War.

There has been something both moving and challenging to feel the perspective of what it really meant to live through four years of war. Like some of the characters, since the summer of 2014, I have become engaged, I have married and I have had a daughter. I have lost people close to me, and met new friends. Four years is a long time.

It's even longer when those you love are far from home, and in danger, or you have to live every day with the loss of a father, brother, husband or son, watching others go through what you have been through, or waiting for the day when you have to choose between conscription or conscientious objection, and that's without even considering the slow drip of increased restrictions and regulations, and dwindling resources.

I knew the war (and the series) would end, but the characters I've listened to didn't. They have carried on living and loving, despite everything. It's certainly a challenge to me to keep on going when the world can seem a dark place.

So this year, I come to remember those who lost their lives in war with a new perspective on the loss of those they left behind, and a more heartfelt prayer for all those who still live in the shadow of conflict today.



Home Front is still available to listen to on the BBC website, and as a podcast.

Emma Torry

BVC pastoral team

Here at BVC we are blessed to have a wonderful team of volunteers who provide pastoral support for those who may need a little bit of extra support. The team is made up of a few pastoral elders and pastoral assistants. These wonderful people bring rays of sunshine and blessing into wherever they visit and are much appreciated for all they do.

What is a pastoral assistant, and how do I become one?

Pastoral assistants come from all walks of life, but the main thing they have in common, apart from their love of God, is a passion for coming alongside people and journeying with them through the highs and lows of life. They demonstrate the love of Christ through caring for others. This usually involves visiting people in their homes, or sometimes in hospital (or in a coffee shop if they are more able to get out and about). This allows the members to keep in contact with the church if they are no longer able to attend regularly.



Some people may only need visited once a month (or less), others more frequently, especially if there are no family members in Edinburgh. These visits are usually supplemented by the elder, and the pastoral associate or the minister, particularly in times of crisis. The pastoral assistants report back to the pastoral associate, particularly where there are any changes in circumstances for those being visited.

Team members may be responsible for visiting between one and five people, depending on their capacity and availability to visit.

The pastoral assistants are offered training and support at regular team meetings.

If you have an interest in helping people (mainly the elderly in our congregation) please speak to Elaine Hogan. Please note that you will be subject to Protection of Vulnerable Groups (PVG) Disclosure checks.



'Occasional' help required

There are times when we may need to offer additional support over a few days to people on a short term basis, e.g. post-hospitalisation. This could involve visiting or taking someone out for a coffee, or offering occasional transport to/from church.

Ideally we would like to compile a list of people who might be willing to help. If you are able to help occasionally or would like more information about any of the above please speak to Elaine.

Elaine Hogan

1918–2018: a hundred years of persecution

On 11 November 2018 we will quite rightly remember the sacrifice of those who died in the service of our country in war since 1914. As Christians we should also be aware of those who died in the name of Christ under persecution. This includes:

Armenia, 1914–1923

The Turkish Ottoman government's systematic extermination of 1.5 million Armenians. George Horton (the US Consul in Izmir) is particularly remembered for his book *The blight of Asia*, which describes the systematic ethnic cleansing of the Christian population. Horton became an eyewitness to the destruction of the city, and notes that the goal of the Ottoman government was to get rid of all Christian peoples in the Empire.

Soviet Union, 1917–1991

The total number of Christian victims under the Soviet regime has been estimated at between 12 and 20 million. In 1995, the Russian state commissioner confirmed that 200,000 Russian Orthodox Priests, monks and nuns were killed.

The numbers are truly mind-boggling, even in a century with so much wilfully inflicted death and destruction. And today the persecution of Christians continues across the globe as Christians can face discrimination and poverty, as well as physical attacks. This article from the Barnabas Fund gives one example: 'Al-Shabaab terrorists murdered two Kenyan Christians travelling on a bus on 14 September 2018 after they refused to recite the shahada Islamic creed.'

<https://barnabasfund.org/en/news/al-shabaab-jihadists-stop-kenyan-bus-and-murder-christians-aboard>

Christians are not being massacred by governments as before. However, our Christian brothers and sisters still suffer for the faith we share. Let us not forget them in the hour of their need.

'But please remember me when everything is going well for you, and please be kind enough to mention me to the king and help me to get out of this prison.' (Genesis 40:14)

I've started an Edinburgh prayer and support group for persecuted Christians, and we've had our first meeting. If you're interested in coming to meetings or contributing please contact me on 07905 217008 or flexdream@hotmail.com.

For more information:

- Barnabas Fund: barnabasfund.org
- Open Doors: opendoorsuk.org
- Christian Solidarity Worldwide: csw.org.uk

John Clayton



A cathedral welcome



You might have seen a version of the following appearing on your social media (if you indulge!). Coventry Cathedral say on their website: 'this isn't original to us – but is something we regularly print on the front of our service booklets which has been widely reported and much appreciated...'

Do we extend a welcome like this here at Barclay Viewforth?

We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, straight, gay, confused, well-heeled or down at heel. We especially welcome wailing babies and excited toddlers.

We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing', just woken up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Archbishop of Canterbury, or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago.

We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, football dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like 'organised religion'. (*We're not that keen on it either!*)

We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to the Cathedral.

We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as kids or got lost on the ring road and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters... and you!

Suggested by Elaine Hogan



Christmas services

Advance notice of the plans for Christmas at BVC this year. More details will be in the December/January issue.

9 December

- 15:00 Carols at Gillespie Crescent
- 18:30 Carols by candlelight

16 December

- 11:00 Nativity service
- 18:30 Carols on the steps

23 December

- 11:00 Morning service
- No evening service

24 December

- 23:00 refreshments before Watchnight service at 23:30

25 December

- 10:30 Christmas Day family celebration

30 December

- 11:00 Morning service
- No evening service



Shoebboxes: sorting centre

We will be receiving shoeboxes from the congregation on Sunday 11 November (which is also Remembrance Sunday). Please bring your filled shoeboxes to church on or before that date, along with the appropriate form completed and any donation.

Barclay Viewforth is also a sorting centre this year. All the shoeboxes that are donated have to be checked to ensure they satisfy customs regulations, and to check they do not contain any unsuitable items.

We need volunteers to come and help with the sorting and checking. The sorting will take place on Thursday 15 November from 09:00 to 21:00, and Friday 16 November from 09:00 to 14:00. If you can spare an hour or two (or more) during these two days, please do come along.

For more information about helping with sorting, please speak to Fiona Tweedie or Julie Nicholson.



Emma Torry

Useful information

Minister

Rev. Sam Torrens

minister@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Ministry Team

Administrator

Julie Nicholson

admin@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Pastoral Associate

Elaine Hogan

pastoral@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Probationer

Nikki Kirkland

nkirkland@churchofscotland.org.uk

Officers

Session Clerk

John Ritchie

sessionclerk@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Treasurer

Janet Darling

treasurer@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Roll Keeper

Helen Miller

rollkeeper@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Church Officer

Chris Hogan

Webmaster

Mike Ellis

webmaster@barclayviewforth.org.uk

Music

Organist/Choirmaster Andrew Robertson

Organist

Michael Bonaventure

Worship Band Leader Anna Nicholson

Missional communities(*), groups and teams

Afternoon Fellowship Jean Macaulay

Blessing*

Contact the church office

Celebrate Recovery*

Sam Torrens

Connect Plus*

Elaine Rumney

Football

Andrew Stephenson, Sam Torrens

Meals for Mums

Linda Garside, Katy Gray

TCP*

Elaine Hogan

The Net*

Alison Edmondson, Kirsteen Milne, Andrew Paterson

Toddlers

Katharine Ellis

For enquiries by telephone, please call the church office on 0131 229 6810

Contribute to the magazine

Link relies on people like you to fill our pages each month. Please send us articles, pictures, poems, artwork, recommendations, upcoming events and important notices!

You can submit content by email to magazine@barclayviewforth.org.uk or hand in a hard copy to the editor or the church office. Articles should be 400 words or less.

Content for the **Dec/Jan** issue must be submitted by 17:00 on **Tuesday 20 November**.

Emma Torry, Editor



Sat	3		Church of Scotland National Day of Prayer	
Sat	3	10:00	Football: BVC v. St Mary's Metropolitan Cathedral	<i>Ask Team</i>
Sun	4	12:15	Church lunch	Pillar Hall
Tues	6	14:00	Afternoon Fellowship: Nikki on OLM	Pillar Hall
Wed	7	19:00	Pastoral team meeting	Pillar Hall
Thurs	8	19:30	Choir	Pillar Hall
Sat	10	10:00	Football: BVC v. Niddrie Community Church	<i>Ask Team</i>
Sun	11	09:45	Gillespie Crescent remembrance service	Gillespie Cres.
Sun	11	10:50	Remembrance Sunday service	Sanctuary
Sun	11	10:50	Shoebox dedication	Sanctuary
Mon	12	10:00	TCP	Church Office
Tues	13	19:00	Connect Plus	Pillar Hall
Thurs	15	09:00	Shoebox sorting and checking	Pillar Hall
Fri	16	09:00	Shoebox sorting and checking	Pillar Hall
Sun	18	09:45	Prayer breakfast	Pillar Hall
Mon	19	19:00	Kirk Session	Pillar Hall
Tues	20	17:00	December/January magazine deadline	
Thurs	22	19:30	Choir	Pillar Hall
Sat	24	21:00	Hosting Bethany Night Shelter	Halls
Sun	25	10:00	Gillespie Crescent service	Gillespie Cres.
Sun	25	18:15	Informal Communion	Pillar Hall
Sun	25	21:00	Hosting Bethany Night Shelter	Halls
Mon	26	07:30	Night Shelter clean-up	Halls
Mon	26	10:00	TCP	Church Office
Tues	27	19:00	Connect Plus	Pillar Hall
Thurs	29	19:30	Choir	Pillar Hall
Fri	30	21:00	Hosting Bethany Night Shelter	Halls

Red events are BVC events, **blue** events are CoS and **green** events are run by other organisations



Sat	1	21:00	Hosting Bethany Night Shelter	Halls
Sun	2	21:00	Hosting Bethany Night Shelter	Halls
Mon	3	07:30	Night Shelter clean-up	Halls
Tues	4	12:30	Afternoon Fellowship Christmas lunch	<i>Golf Tavern</i>
Thu	6	19:30	Choir practice	Pillar Hall
Fri	7	19:00	Tree decoration	Sanctuary
Sun	9	15:00	Gillespie Crescent carol service	Gillespie Cres
Sun	9	18:30	Carols by candlelight	Sanctuary
Thu	14	19:30	Choir practice	Pillar Hall
Sun	16	11:00	Nativity service	Sanctuary
Sun	16	18:30	Carols on the steps	Sanctuary
Thurs	20	19:30	Choir practice	Pillar Hall
Sun	23		No evening service	
Mon	24	23:00	Watchnight service (service starts 23:30)	Sanctuary
Tues	25	10:30	Christmas Day family celebration	Sanctuary
Sun	30		No evening service	

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Welcome to Tabi and Casper



Happy birthday, Sam!



New season brings new tasks for the minister!



Congratulations to Heather and Pete, who were married on 22 September at Myres Castle in Auchtermuchty

Want to see your photo here?
Email it to the address on p.13