

In the PICTure

December 2022 / January 2023

Send news to: revmartynthomas@outlook.com

Delivered free to every home in Letham and district by
Dunnichen Letham and Kirkden Church of Scotland (Registered Scottish Charity 0003833)

It's Christmas!

Christmas is almost here! A time when once more we celebrate with family and friends but it's also time for all those annoying Christmas Cracker jokes. Year on year they get churned out and every year we give a deep sigh, "Oh no, not again". So just for a bit of Christmas fun I'm going share with you some of my favourites.

What is always coming but never arrives? **Tomorrow**

How many of each animal did Moses take into the ark? **None, it was Noah who took the animals into the Ark!**

Why was the turkey in the pop group? **Because he was the only one with drumsticks.**

What do you call a boomerang that does not come back? **A stick**

And then there are the 'the good news or the bad news' stories.

Wife: "I have good news and bad news. Which do you want to hear first?"

Husband: "The good news."

Wife: "Your car's airbag worked perfectly."

We have not had the best news over this past year. We have seen cruelty and hatred in the Ukraine, suffering in areas where there have been floods and drought. Drugs continue to hit our streets like a plague, and we are still fighting the war on Covid. It begs the question, is there really any good news?

Someone once said: "Christmas is a joyous day for children. For parents, peace on earth comes several days later when all the batteries wear out!"

Well, the message of the first Christmas, "Peace on earth" comes to everyone when Christ, as a baby, enters our lives, into the muck and mire of it all.



A father once suggested that they do Christmas differently this year. He called a family meeting and challenged them to use their time during the busy Christmas season wisely. They were to reduce excessive spending on gifts. He talked about being more welcoming to relatives who were visiting and that there should be a more friendly atmosphere around their home. Siblings were to try to get on without fighting.

He brought his speech to a climax with, "Let's make this the BEST Christmas EVER!" After a few minutes, his little boy piped up, "But dad, I don't see how we could ever make it better than the first Christmas."

We certainly can't improve on what happened that first Christmas, but we can improve on the way we celebrate it.

I am sure if there is anything that all of us need to hear just now it is good news in tough times. The scripture reading from the Gospel of Luke 2:1-7 certainly brought a proclamation of good news for tough times in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago.

And so, as we hear the stories of the Birth of Jesus once again, let us remind ourselves what the Good News of Christmas meant for that time and how it still can offer hope and meaning for us today.

We certainly can't improve on what happened that first Christmas, but we can improve the way we celebrate it.

Eric and I wish you all a very happy Christmas.

Pat Walker

Joint Locum Minister

Christmas Eve Saturday 24th December Service at 6:00pm in Letham Church
Christmas Day Sunday 25th December Service at 10:30am in Letham Church

Morning Services
Sundays at 10.30 am
ALL WELCOME

Eric and Pat Walker
Joint Locum Ministers
Tel. 01575 572082 Mob. 07802 386119
E-mails: Eric.line15@btinternet.com
Pat.line15@btinternet.com

Sunday 13th November 2022

The Remembrance Service was led by Rev Eric Walker when he and the congregation were joined by the local Scouts and their leaders, who presented their flags in Church.

Lessons were read by Blyth Gavin and Suzanna Davidson followed by Caron Millar who recited "In Flanders Fields".



Decorations by Joan Smith



The Scout Group gathered at Letham Church

The Scout Group and Church Members moved to the War Memorial in Dempster Park with local piper, Angus McFarlane, leading the walk playing well known tunes such as 'The Braes o' Killiecrankie' and 'Bonnie Galloway'.



Young Scouts planting poppy seeds in the new planters

Cllr Louise Nicol and other local organisation representatives laid wreaths beside the newly installed planters (appropriately at one time used by the military) in which young Scouts later sowed poppy seeds.

The short service concluded with Rev Eric Walker

pronouncing the benediction.

Jeannie Mair

Photos by Bruce Mair

CROSSREACH REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION 2022

The remit of CrossReach is to provide social care services and specialist resources, in Christ's name, to people in challenging circumstances – to further the caring work of the Church. This continues the Kirk's long tradition of providing care and support which started back in 1869, over 150 years ago.

The work of the organisation also includes helping to identify new areas of need and guiding the Church in approaches to relevant problems in society.

Those who depend on the support of CrossReach every day of the year include:

- People who are homeless
- People with drug and alcohol challenges
- People with learning disabilities
- People involved in the criminal justice system
- Children and young people with additional support needs, in particular those who require residential and educational support
- Children with disabilities
- Children and families requiring community support and early intervention
- People who need counselling
- People with dementia.

CrossReach has services all over Scotland, and is one of the largest social care agencies in the country. CrossReach strives to help those who are vulnerable through its values of compassion, openness and care. In short - CrossReach does "LOVE IN ACTION". But like most charitable social care organisations, it faces significant challenges. In their 2022 Report to the General Assembly, the staff were commended for their continued efforts throughout the past year in dealing with the challenges of the ongoing pandemic and thanks were expressed for their dedicated service in Christ's name.

The financial impact of Covid-19 was especially noted as it has affected all areas of the work of CrossReach – occupancy, recruitment, service delivery and fundraising.

Those who have financially supported CrossReach over the past year were warmly thanked. Every single penny can enhance, change and even save a life.

The General Assembly called on all churches to make CrossReach their charity of choice for the next year and beyond, so that services can be maintained and developed, and resources can be enhanced once again following the pandemic. It is to be hoped that our congregation will respond positively to that appeal.

In the meantime, purchasing items from the 2022 CrossReach Christmas Card and Calendar collection could be a way that you personally could help.

Thank you.

Irene McGugan

"IN THE PICTURE"**ANNUAL ENVELOPE APPEAL**

"Thank you" to everyone who once again responded so generously to the annual envelope appeal. A special mention for Letham Pensioners who always support the magazine with a large cheque.

This year the total raised was £753! As we are able to claim additional income through the "Gift Aid" scheme, this should bring in a further **£118** (approximately), making a final total of around **£871**.

While this is slightly less than our all time highest total of last year, this is still incredible given the challenging circumstances many of us find ourselves in.

This money contributes to the ongoing printing costs of the magazine which now total £235.66 per edition. When added to the income from the local businesses that support us through their advertising, this means we are able to maintain the magazine in a financially sound position.

In addition to being a sponsor, KeyStore also hosts our collection box, and we are most grateful for this additional help.

We really are very appreciative of this generosity which will allow us to continue producing "In the PICTURE" and deliver it free of charge to every home in the parish.

THANK YOU!

Publicity Group



**Dunnichen, Letham & Kirkden
Guild**



The Guild Theme for 2022/23

"Wee Seeds, Big Trees"

**The Guild will meet on Tuesday 13th December
at 2:30p.m. in the Church Hall.**

(Please note it is the 2nd Tuesday not the 3rd)

"Christmas Theme"

All are welcome.

Many thanks to all who supported our Coffee Morning on 12th November.

It was lovely to see the tables all filled and lots of chat.

Total raised £190.00 Thank you.

Isabel McClung, Interim Convenor

Church Diary

YEAR	2022
Sunday 4 December	10:30am Morning Worship Informal Holy Communion Retiring Offering for Ukraine
Thursday 8 December	7:00pm Kirk Session
Sunday 11 December	10:30am Morning Worship
Sunday 18 December	10:30am Morning Worship
Saturday 24 December	6:00pm Christmas Eve Service
Sunday 25 December	10:30am Christmas Day Service
YEAR 2023	
Sunday 1 January	10:30am Morning Worship Informal Holy Communion
Sunday 8 January	10:30am Morning Worship Social Group Report
Sunday 15 January	10:30am Morning Worship
Sunday 22 January	10:30am Morning Worship
Sunday 29 January	10:30am Morning Worship
Sunday 5 February	10:30am Morning Worship Informal Communion

Christmas Prayer

We pray to understand Christ's call to love one another as He Loved us. We earnestly pray to close the doors of hate and open the door of love all over the world.

May we reach out to each child with the message of His love, mercy and grace and show them what the true meaning of Christmas is to us all.

Next Issue of 'In the PICTURE'

Deadline for February 2023 issue is

Saturday 18 January

Material may be sent to Joan Smith,
9 Burnside Road (01307 818937)

E-mail: joan_77@btinternet.com

or to Rev Martyn Thomas

14 Kirkgait (01307 818084)

E-mail: revmartynthomas@outlook.com



Fairtrade



Thinking of trying some
Fairtrade goods?

You can order selected Fairtrade goods by emailing your order to dlkFT21@gmail.com for delivery in January/February 2023.

(If there is a shortage then items will be allocated on a "first ordered" basis.)

Here is the list for you to choose from:

Fairtrade CafeDirect Instant Coffee (100g)	£5.25
Fairtrade Medium Roast Ground Coffee (227g)	£4.55
Earl Grey Teabags (50 bags)	£2.50
Divine 70% Dark Chocolate (35g)	£1.20
Divine Milk Chocolate (35g)	£1.20
Divine Dark Chocolate with Ginger & Orange (90g)	£2.60
Divine Dark Chocolate with Mint (90g)	£2.60
Divine Dark Chocolate with Raspberries (90g)	£2.60
After Dinner Mints (150g)	£1.65
Vanilla Fudge (150g)	£1.65
Buttermints (150g)	£1.65
Organic Strawberry Jam (340g)	£3.20
Organic Orange Marmalade (340g)	£3.20
Eswatini Curry Sauce (medium) (275g)	£3.55
Eswatini Mixed Fruit Chutney (300g)	£3.55
Traidcraft Demerara Sugar (500g)	£1.70
Kitchen Roll (pack of 2)	£2.10
Quilted Toilet Roll (pack of 4)	£2.90

(Prices and availability correct at time of going to print)

Fairtrade goods are also available from the Farmers' Market and several shops in Forfar as well as on the internet e.g. at the Traidcraft shop.

Thank you, in anticipation, for your order and I hope that you will enjoy the food and / or drink.

Margaret Moore

FORFAR FOODBANK



URGENTLY NEEDED

Tinned meat	Snacks
Tinned fruit	Tinned puddings
Coffee	Fruit squash
Long life milk	Dried pasta / rice meals
Nappies (size 6 & 7)	

We have plenty of cereals, beans, pasta and soup.

Letham Church is open and ready to receive items for the Angus Foodbank every Sunday morning.

Financial donations can be gift aided, allowing the Foodbank to claim a further 25% from HMRC.

info@angusfoodbank.org.uk Tel. 01307 466841

'In the PICTURE'

Welcomes items of news and expressions of opinion from organisations and individuals within the community, provided such articles are signed.

Published items do not necessarily reflect the views of either the Publicity Group or the Kirk Session of Dunnichen, Letham and Kirkden Church.

Letham Feuars' Committee

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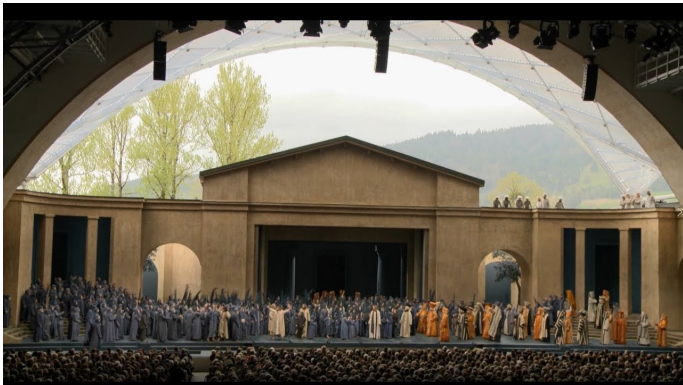
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Who's kept a promise for nearly four hundred years?

In 1633 plague swept through the village of Oberammergau, just like it had across much of Europe. Like many others the people prayed, but in their case they did something else too. They vowed that if God halted the plague in their village they would celebrate the life of Jesus in a play about his life every ten years. The plague stopped. The next year the people of the village put on their play. And they are still doing it, every ten years, 388 years later.



Maureen and I were privileged to go to southern Germany this year to see the play recently. It is a long play. It takes all afternoon, a break for dinner, and then the second part in the evening.

About two thousand people, all from Oberammergau take part, many of them acting and singing, many others behind the scenes. The children take part in the afternoon. There were even live donkeys, sheep, horses and camels on stage!

The actors and singers are all ordinary people from every walk of life. You might see them in the shop the next day, or serving your meal at your hotel. That makes the play all the more powerful. They are not celebrity actors getting paid vast sums. They do it because they want to and because the story of God's love is so important to them. They all remember how God heard their prayer all these years ago and they still keep their promise to him.

I sometimes wonder about the promises we made to God; when we stood before him and said "I do" in the vows of marriage; or we joined the church and promised to take part in its life and worship; or we promised to bring up our children in the Christian faith by prayer and example.

We know God keeps his promises. How good have we been at keeping ours?

Klaus Buwert

ELSA MCTAGGART

As a child, Elsa lived with her mum and dad Susan and Joe McTaggart and her many siblings in Park Road Letham before moving to Weem, near Aberfeldy.

As an adult, she has gained a reputation here and abroad as an extremely talented singer, songwriter and musician.

In a rare chance to hear them locally, Elsa and her husband Gary will be playing in Monikie Memorial Hall on Friday 9th December, bringing a charming set of music fit for a winter's eve, weaving a variety of songs, instruments, festive singalong, new music and ceilidh sets into the night's entertainment which is guaranteed to be filled with music, laughter and a warm interaction with the audience.

Bring your own drinks and nibbles and coorie in for an intimate evening with Elsa and Gary. Tea, coffee and mince pies will be available for a donation.

Tickets cost £10 and can be pre-booked by calling 07890074307 or by going on-line to:

mctaggart-store.com

Irene McGugan

Congratulations

The World Clydesdale Show was held in Aberdeen recently when more than four hundred Clydesdale Horses took part. Until now the show has been held in North America with competitions for both horses and harness.

Well done to local couple, Enid and David Proctor who won the World Championship prize for their magnificent harness.



Jeannie Mair

Photo shows Mr & Mrs Proctor on the right.

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ELLEN SMITH

22nd February 1949 - 9th October 2022

THERE were few people in the village who didn't know Ellen having lived here for more than 50 years.

Ellen was born in Dundee on 22nd February 1949 and moved to Letham along with husband Ken and her two daughters Michelle and Gillian in 1972.

They lived in The Square before moving to Blairs Road after son Gary came along. While raising her young family in the village Ellen worked in the Timex factory in Dundee.

But her true calling was nursing and so she embarked on her training. She started off her nursing career as an auxiliary at the old Whitehills Hospital in Forfar before completing her training and moving first to Kings Cross Hospital in Dundee and then Ninewells.

Ellen approached her nursing career like everything else in her life - with passion and dedication. And her nursing career followed her everywhere too - even after she retired in 2009 following her final stint in the minor illness and injury unit back at the new Whitehills.

Throughout her own treatment she continually came across nurses who knew her - or who knew of her. And it wasn't uncommon, whenever Ellen was in hospital herself, to find student nurses sitting by her bed gleaned as much knowledge as they could. She took great pride in helping them.

Some of the district nurses who cared for Ellen in her final weeks had started their careers working alongside her. They were looking after one of their own.

After she retired Ellen and Ken made a full time job out of having holidays! The two of them travelled the globe, some holidays were just the two of them - others with the family.

When she wasn't travelling she loved spending time with her family including her four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Ellen's main hobby though was walking. She joined the Brechin Ramblers after she retired and enjoyed many walking holidays. She did the West Highland Way - twice, the Great Glen Way, the moon walk, the kilt walk and countless other walks. In fact she used her passion for walking to deliver this very magazine to many of you.

She was committee chair of ramblers which was a role that played to her excellent organisational and leadership skills. She became quite the expert at 'voluntelling' people to help out on the committee (telling them to volunteer). She was rarely let down such was her influence and likability.

One of her rambler friends paid the perfect tribute to Ellen by saying 'her spirit will accompany us on future walks, like a friendly voice in our ears'.

Ellen was strong, resilient, brave, kind, funny, thoughtful, selfless and always always positive. She faced her illness head on and was utterly fearless throughout.

She died at home on October 9th surrounded by her loving family. She is deeply missed by them and all who knew her.

Keep walking towards the sun Ellen ... and leave the shadows behind you.



Gill Smith

Linda Robertson

A well-known figure in Letham, Linda sadly passed away on 28th October 2022. The beloved wife of David and precious mother to Susan, Kirsty, and Katy. A beloved grandmother, sister, and friend to many. Linda was the eldest of five.

During the time of the Cyprus Emergency her father and family were posted there by the RAF. During curfew it was decided, as Linda looked like a little Greek girl, she should be sent to the shops. If there was trouble Linda always seemed to be around. This time she finished in the middle of a shoot-out between the Greeks and Turks with her and the shopkeeper cowering behind a stack of Heinz bean cans.

Nursing was to be her vocation. Married in the 1970s Linda was to become Mum to her two adored, beautiful daughters Susan and Kirsty. Then in the 1980s she trained as a Health Visitor generating a new set of stories to relate to friends.

At this point she started to settle down, forming new interests. She took up Wine Making, became a Wine Judge and she formed friendships across Scotland particularly in Kilmarnock, Perth, Monifieth, and, of course, Forfar.

In 1996, having known David for many years and after a whirlwind romance they married, and Katy was accepted into the family as one of her own.

Travelling was a big part of Linda's and David's life and saw them going round the world four, maybe five times. A common wish was to visit all Seven Wonders of the modern world which was achieved having visited Machau Pichu in 2015.

But Linda was a daredevil and for her 60th Birthday she bungee jumped from the 328 metre high Sky Tower in New Zealand not once but three times and then also tried paragliding.

Linda sponsored many projects including the local school library and sick bay plus the education of a couple of children in the Gambia.

This is a very brief look into the life of a very busy Linda Robertson.

Our Prayers are with the family who will miss her.

Pat Walker

LETHAM and DISTRICT



Margaret Bowman's illustrated account of the Lost Aerodromes of Angus was very much appreciated by a large turnout of members and friends at our meeting on 1st November. Many ladies also purchased a copy of her book on the subject. She was thanked for her presentation by Anne Simpson.

The competition results on that evening were as follows:-

2 Slices of Gingerbread:- 1. L. Slater;

2. I. McClung; 3. M. Bundock.

Calligraphy:- 1. L. Slater; 2. J. Mair;

3. F. Webster.

Flower of the Month:- 1. L. Slater; 2. J. Smith;

3. J. Mair.

Our Christmas meeting on Tuesday, 6th December will feature entertainment provided by the Accord Singers from Forfar.

The competitions for this festive evening will be

- 3 puff pastry cocktail sausage rolls
- A wrapped Xmas parcel (to be put into the raffle later)
- Garden Flower of the Month.

Then in January 2023 – on the third – not the first Tuesday of the month – the 17th – we will have our Guest Night open to all other institutes and to any interested ladies locally. The evening will take the form of a Quiz Night with competing teams of 4 people.

The monthly competitions for the January meeting are:-

- A small jar 3 fruit marmalade.
- Handmade fabric bead necklace.
- Garden flower of the Month.

In this final issue of 'In The PICTURE' for 2022, we wish everyone in Letham and District – and beyond – every good wish for a happy festive season and all the best in 2023.

Jane Nicolson (Press Secretary)

GARDEN CLUB

Following an interesting talk from Ken Cox of the Glendoick Garden Centre in November on Woodland Gardens, our next evening will be a popular return of Steve Ludlum, the master of flower arranging.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 13th December in the Bowling Club at 7:30pm.

The January meeting is on Tuesday 10th January and is a Fun Quiz Night with Colin Ainsworth.

All Welcome

Bill Muir 07908 339420



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12-13-2013

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
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