

April 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)

Dunnichen Letham and Kirkden Church Scottish Charity 003833

# Easter Servíces

in Letham Church

### Good Friday 7th April 2023 at 6:00pm

Remembering Jesus the Christ's supreme sacrifice for us on the Cross for our sins reconciling us to God our Creator.

### Easter Sunday 9th April 2023 at 10:30 am

Rejoicing in the Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ to ensure believers of God's Love and eternal life.

All are welcome to celebrate the Love and Peace of God Father, Son and Holy Spirit

# Letham Feuars' Committee Registered Scottish Charity:SC003197

# ANNUAL LITTER PICK

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> April 2023 10.00am – 1.00pm at the Feuars Hall

All welcome, so please come along and help keep the village looking its best

Soup & rolls, & Easter bunny also making an appearance!

lethamfeuars@gmail.com



Letham Church will open the Church Hall every Friday during the winter to provide a Warm Space for all. Come and enjoy refreshments and company in a relaxed atmosphere.



Tea, coffee and home-made soups



Broth 'n' blether

Coffee and conversation

### Crafts, James, conversation

Everyone welcome, no matter what age. Letham Church Hall - Fridays 11am-2pm

### Letham Pensioners' Spring Coffee Morning

Letham Pensioners will be holding their first coffee morning since the pandemic. It will be in Letham Village Hall between 10am and 11:30am on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

There will be coffee/tea and cakes, plus all the usual stalls. The price per ticket is  $\pounds 3$  ( $\pounds 1$  for children under 14), which can be obtained from committee members, or you can pay on the door.

This is one of our major fundraising events to help subsidise both the Summer Outing and the Christmas Meal, so please come and support it if you can.

Elaine Saunders, Letham Pensioners



The Kirk Session invites all members, adherents and believers to a Celebration of the Lord's Supper in Letham Church on Sunday 7th May 2023 at 10:30am The service will be conducted by the Rev Dr Karen Fenwick.

### Feelings

Why is it that some days we don't seem to be able to focus on anything and simply can't get on with the job at hand? We simply can't be bothered! There is so much that we need to do, but we simply can't be bothered. Is it because we have too much on our minds or maybe not enough to keep life interesting to get the adrenalin going? Nothing to look forward to. It can of course be a combination of many things. But if we don't want

to get on with what we should be doing, what is it we really want to do? You hear that people go for a walk to clear their head, but I've never found that helpful (I'm only a Walker by name, not by nature). Make a 'nice' cup of tea, does that help? Pick up a good book and read a few chapters, yes, but that only makes one feel guilty as there is so much else to do! The greenhouse is calling out for attention, but it's too cold. Excuses, that's

what we are all good at; we can always find an excuse for not doing what needs to be done. I'm sitting here at my computer and I don't know what to write about for this month's article. I have no excuse, so why I can't focus and just tell you a funny story, I'm not sure. Well, I don't seem to be able to recall one at the moment.

This was my dilemma yesterday.

But today is a new day and although I still don't know what I am going to write about, I do feel a bit more positive. Feelings, we all have them and sometimes they are not always easy to put into words, but I want to share with you a lovely story that might just explain how Jesus feels about every one of us and shows how he feels for his children.

A little girl and her father were crossing a bridge

# Morning Services Sundays at 10.30 am ALL WELCOME

together. The father was scared his little girl would fall into the river as there were no supporting hand rails and so he said, "Sweetheart, hold my hand so you don't fall in."

"No Dad, you hold my hand," came the reply.

"What's the difference" her dad asked.

"There's a big difference. If I hold your hand and

something happens to me, chances are I may let your hand go. But if you hold my hand, I'll know for sure, that no matter what happens, you will never let my hand go."

In any relationship, the essence of trust is not in its bind, but in its bond. Jesus trusted that his Father was holding his hand every day, even on his way to the cross. Yesterday, when I couldn't be bothered and couldn't see my way out of the fog and couldn't focus, Jesus was telling me, "Tomorrow's a new day, I've got your hand." He is

there for everyone, even if we are not always aware of it.

Until next time, take care.

Pat Walker, Joint Locum Minister

# Left Property

Various items (walking sticks, umbrellas, etc) have been left in the church and church hall over the past few months. If the rightful owners would like to claim them contact Richard on 07703 234192.

Any items still unclaimed by the end of July will be sent to charity.

### **Eric and Pat Walker**

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



# Youth and Safeguarding Report March 2023

The General Assembly of 2022 agreed substantial reform of Safeguarding Training for everyone working or holding positions within the Church of Scotland. This has been talked about for a number of years and is now in the process of being implemented.

There is now a requirement for all Elders to undergo a two-hour safeguarding training course every five years. Those people who have undergone PVG checking to allow them to work with children and other vulnerable groups must do an additional short training course to ensure they are kept up to date with all the current guidelines and practice.

The Elders here in Letham are currently attending these courses. Some are in person in Dundee but most are done via Zoom. The courses are very well run and highlight the importance of everyone being vigilant in dealings with children and other vulnerable groups.

We have a number of people who have completed the PVG checking process and we would be happy to welcome families with children of all ages to our worship. If you would like to join our team, and are willing to undergo the PVG checking process, please speak to Irene McGugan or Norma Craigon and we would be happy to give you more information.

Another important change is the recent implementation of a whistleblowing policy. The Church of Scotland, like many other organisations, requires all churches to have a whistleblowing policy.

Whistleblowing is when someone knows, or suspects, that there is some wrongdoing involving illegal or underhand practices occurring within the congregation and alerts the right person. Here in Letham, concerns should be referred to the Session Clerk, Irene McGugan, or the Interim Moderator, Rev Dr Karen Fenwick.

Any member of the congregation can raise concerns if they believe that a criminal offence has been committed, someone is failing in their legal duty, there is a Health & Safety breach or the congregation is attempting to conceal information about problems in these areas.

A copy of our whistleblowing policy is available on request. Please speak to Irene McGugan if you would like further information.

Norma Craigon

### **Church Diary**

Sunday 2 April	10:30am Morning Worship Informal Holy Communion Retiring Offering for Ukraine
Good Friday 7 April	6:00pm Evening Service
Easter Sunday 9 April	10:30am Morning Worship
Sunday 16 April	10:30am Morning Worship
Sunday 23 April	10:30am Morning Worship
Sunday 30 April	10:30am Morning Worship
Sunday 9 May	10:30am Holy Communion (Formal) Retiring Offering for Ukraine

# OUR LOCUM MINISTERS PAT AND ERIC WALKER

On Sunday 26th February, at the start of the Sunday service, it was announced that Pat and Eric would be stepping down as our Locum Ministers at the end of May. They will conduct their last service on Sunday 28th.

The normal term for a Locum Minister to be with a church is six months, occasionally extending to a full year. Pat and Eric have been with us for an incredible four years, and we are truly grateful to them for this exceptional period of devotion to our village and to our members.

There will be an opportunity to properly thank Pat and Eric for their service at a later date, and information about this will feature in the May edition of "In the PICTure".

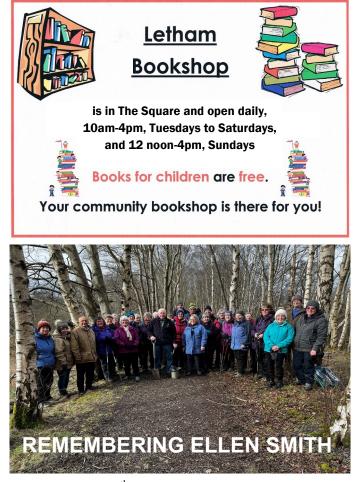
Meantime, if you would like to make a donation towards a farewell gift for Pat and Eric, please bring your contribution to church any Sunday or to Warm Spaces in the Church Hall any Friday between 11am and 2pm. until the 28th April. We would request that all donations are received by 14th May.

Thank you.

Kirk Session

#### '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.



On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> February, family and friends of Ellen Smith joined members of the Brechin Ramblers Group on a "walk to remember" in memory of Ellen.

Ellen was a long time member and immediate past Convenor of Brechin Ramblers and walking was her passion. She was also a faithful member of DLK Church and delivered "In the PICTure" for many years. A Rowan Tree was planted in one of her favourite woodland areas, to commemorate her life, after which everyone enjoyed some of the favourite snacks which Ellen enjoyed on a walk.

We trust the tree will thrive and whenever we walk that route, we will have an opportunity to remember a very special person.

Irene McGugan

Next Issue of 'In the *PICT*ure'

Deadline for May 2023 issue is Saturday 15 April

# 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

# **RAG BAG COLLECTION**

Last date for collection Sunday 30th April 2023 All monies raised go towards Church grounds refurbishment. Wearable clothing (not work clothes), shoes, handbags and belts.

Regret, bedding and towels not permitted. Please leave at the Church or for any queries, bags needed, uplift required etc. Phone Bruce Tel: 01307 818600

# Learning Together

Group Weekly Bible Study



in Letham Church Hall

on



Mondays at 1:30pm Toys and drawing materials available for children Tea coffee and snacks provided All are Welcome

LETHAM TWINNING ASSOCIATION





# **COFFEE MORNING** SATURDAY 22<sup>nd</sup> APRIL 2023 10 am - 12 noon

## LETHAM CHURCH HALL

Coffee and beverages, home baking, photos and memorabilia of twinning visits and raffle with many prizes!

Entry Fee £3.00

Letham is twinned with Monasterboice in County Louth, Ireland and Leguillac de l'Auche, Dordogne, France. Proceeds go towards providing hospitality for a proposed visit by our friends from Leguillac. It's their turn to visit us this year.

### LETHAM and DISTRICT



This year seems to be passing very quickly – into April already!

At our meeting in early March, President Lynne Slater did well to produce both a music and a picture quiz at very short notice when the planned speaker cancelled.

Much hilarity ensued with faces we recognised but the names escaped us and tunes we knew quite well but we could not bring the title and/or the artist to mind. Exhausting stuff!!

Glynnis Dickens a visitor from St Vigean's Institute judged the monthly competitions, which resulted as follows:-

Individual raspberry cheesecake:

1. J. Mair; 2. F. Webster.

3 pocket scissor keeper:

1. C. McNeill; 2. F. Webster; 3. J. Mair.

Garden Flower:

1. S. Campbell; 2. I. McClung; 3. L. Slater.

For our meeting on Tuesday, 4th April, we pay a second visit to Letham Craft Shop and the Auld Bar cafe. We hope to have a demonstration on spinning; time to browse the Craft Shop and finally to enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and scone or pancake in the Cafe. We will meet at 7pm sharp on this occasion.

And in no time at all it seems – we will be at the month of May and our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 2nd. This will also be the presentation of annual trophies and a celebration of our 99th Birthday.

Next year is the Big One!

Jane Nicolson (Press Secretary)

# FORFAR FOODBANK four sector of the sector of



Tinned meatTinTinned fruitDrInstant coffeeFrLong life milkToToilet paperNa

Tinned puddings Dried pasta / rice meals Fruit squash Toiletries 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

## **GARDEN CLUB**

In March Tracey Williams gave us an interesting tour round her spring garden showing her enthusiasm for plants rather than swathes of grass.

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April will be the Club's AGM followed by the Garden Club members bulb competition.

Our Annual Plant Sale will be in the Scout Hut on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> May when contributors to the sale and customers will be most welcome.

All Welcome

Bill Muir 07908 339420



# A guide dog needs you!

Are you a dog lover, based in or around Forfar, with room in your home to look after a dog during evenings and weekends?

As a volunteer fosterer, you will give a dog in training a loving home while they embark on their journey to becoming a life-changing guide dog.

You'll get to see the progress they make in training and be a vital part of their journey, without the commitment of looking after a dog full-time.

Fosterers will be required to drop off and pick up the dogs from our Forfar centre on weekday mornings and evenings.

To find out more, please visit

https://www.guidedogs.org.uk/how-you-can-help/ volunteering-for-guide-dogs/volunteer-roledescriptions/fosterer/

or email

VolunteerScotNI@guidedogs.org.uk Allison Wines, Volunteering Coordinator

#### From a Church magazine:

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus walks on the water.' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'



The Club is holding an Open Day on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> April from 1:00pm. Visitors will try out some fun bowls. For further details contact:

David Mill, Club Secretary (07974 753708) or

#### lethambowling@gmail.com



Hand Pict **Showcase Gallery** 



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Letham Feuars' Committee Registered Scottish Charity: SC003197 Supporting In the PICTure Remember LETHAM BOOK SHOP Open Six Days a Week in Letham Feuars' Hall Auldbar Road. All takings in aid of local organisations For information about the Feuars please contact lethamfeuars@gmail.com



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> 18A The Square, Letham, Angus Tel: 01307 818814

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### Fairtrade Fortnight Breakfast and Café Church

#### Why Fairtrade?

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> March Letham Church hosted a Fairtrade Breakfast followed by a service when the congregation was informed about Fairtrade.

#### So what is Fairtrade?

Fairtrade is one of the very few pushbacks against a global economic system designed to benefit the rich and powerful. It is one small attempt to bring about some fair play in what is an unrelentingly



unequal, economic environment. Fairtrade tries to provide farmers with a decent standard of living - enough



to cover all their farming costs and enough to cover their basic human rights, like a nutritious diet, children's education and healthcare and cope with environmental changes.

Fairtrade products come from many different places in the world

**Sugar** begins life as sugar cane and for the Fairtrade market this comes from Malawi in South Africa.

Working on a sugar cane plantation is hard work and of course used to be done by slaves but today, because of Fairtrade and the UK's Modern Slavery Act, it requires large companies to publicly report on the steps they are taking to ensure that forced labour is not a part of their products.

**Bananas** are a staple part of many peoples' diets and they come mostly from the Caribbean. If you have ever seen bananas being harvested, you will know it is a dangerous job.

**Cotton** comes from India, and Fairtrade supports around 20,000 small cotton growers, allowing them to rely on a wage and regular work.

**Footballs.** Did you know that in Sialkot, Pakistan, nearly half the population, that's around 40,000 workers, rely on making footballs for a living?

**Chocolate**. Cocoa beans are grown in Malaysia and for every bar of Fairtrade Chocolate you buy, you are supporting the farmers who grow the beans.

But Fairtrade is also about improving the local environment, problems such as the lack of access to clean, and safe water and raising awareness that the farmers and their families who have contributed least to the climate emergency, are forced to face some of the worst effects of the crisis. The irony is of course that many indigenous farmers know their lands; their techniques are often deeply eco-aware.

Over  $\pounds 50$  of Fairtrade goods were sold at the church breakfast and  $\pounds 161$  was raised in donations.

Look out for Fairtrade goods when you shop. And if you don't see them, ask for them and do your bit to make ours a fairer world.

Rev. Klaus Buwert



#### To the people of Letham

Thank you to everyone who took the time to read and/or vote on the Letham Playgroup poll. We are pleased to see that there is still a need for a playgroup service in the village, however looking at the immediate interest the numbers are unlikely to make this financially viable.

We do not wish to give up - the Playgroup has been with us for 50+ years!! What we really need is community support and tangible commitment from those who wish to use the service in the future.

This is an appeal to everyone - we need financial / fundraising support until the Playgroup is back to full capacity but most importantly, we need those who wish to use the service to get in touch (letham.playgroup.committee21@gmail.com)

to confirm their interest to get involved with saving and maintaining the playgroup provision. Without the community behind us, the current committee fear they will not succeed in saving the Playgroup alone.

Anyone who would like to offer support, we would be delighted to hear from you - please contact the committee by email.



# Cuppa With A Cop

Constables Jo Greig and Sarah Watt invite you to come and meet them and have Cuppa with a Cop.

This is a chance to speak with your local Police Officers about absolutely anything that matters to YOU in your local community.

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2023 — 6pm to 7pm Letham Village Hall TaysideCommunityWardsArbroath@scotland.police.uk

