

In the PICTure

May 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)*



LETHAM AND DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

**THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE ASSOCIATION**

WILL BE HELD

in

**THE COMMITTEE ROOM,
JUBILEE COURT, DUNDEE ROAD,
LETHAM**

on

THURSDAY 18th MAY 2023

at

7 pm.

Letham is twinned with Monasterboice, County
Louth, Ireland and Leguillac de l'Auche,
Dordogne, France

We welcome new members of the Association. Come
along and help to plan our forthcoming programme

Convener: Sandra MacRae
(alexandramacrae1941@gmail.com)

Secretary: Morag Fraser

Letham Pensioners' Annual General Meeting

Letham Pensioners' AGM will take place
in the small room to the left side of the

Village Hall

at 2:00pm on Tuesday 23rd May 2023

Any Pensioners are invited to attend

Elaine Saunders Treasurer

A Fond Farewell to PAT and ERIC WALKER

As was mentioned in the April edition of "In the PICTURE", Pat and Eric have decided to "retire" from their Locum Minister duties.

Their last service in Letham Church will be at 10:30am on Sunday 28th May.

We hope to have a big attendance that day, not least because we will be hosting a light lunch event following the service, to give everyone a chance to say a proper goodbye to the couple who have so faithfully ministered to us for almost four years.

Please do accept this invitation to come to the service and / or lunch in the Church Hall on Sunday 28th May.

Kirk Session

FORFAR FOODBANK

As the cost-of-living crisis continues the Foodbank desperately needs your support as demand exceeds supply. All donations are gladly accepted though the items below are those which are needed most.

URGENTLY NEEDED

Biscuits	Diluting juice
Tinned fruit	Long-life fruit juice
Jam	Microwave puddings
Long life milk	Tinned puddings
Pasta sauce	Carrier bags

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

ITP Final Offering

“Life is flux,” said the philosopher Heraclitus. The Greek philosopher pointed out in 500 BC that everything is constantly shifting, and becoming something other than what it was before. Like a river, life flows ever onwards, and while we may step from the riverbank into the river, the waters flowing over our feet will never be the same waters that flowed even one moment ago. Heraclitus concluded that since the very nature of life is change, to resist this natural flow was to resist the very essence of our existence. “There is nothing permanent except change.” he said.

And this takes me to one of my favourite passages from the Bible from the Book of Ecclesiastes. It says everything about life, and I have used it many times at funeral services but it is equally relevant to preach a happy sermon on.

Let me remind you of what it says:



Ch. 3 - A Time for Everything

1. There is a time for everything,
and a season for every activity under the heavens:
2. a time to be born and a time to die,
a time to plant and a time to uproot,
3. a time to kill and a time to heal,
a time to tear down and a time to build,
4. a time to weep and a time to laugh,
a time to mourn and a time to dance,
5. a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them,
a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing,

Morning Services
Sundays at 10.30 am
ALL WELCOME

6. a time to search and a time to give up,
a time to keep and a time to throw away,
7. a time to tear and a time to mend,
a time to be silent and a time to speak,
8. a time to love and a time to hate,
a time for war and a time for peace.

But where does time go? Where has this year gone? Where have the last four years gone? Yes, that is how long we have been joint Locums of Dunnichen, Letham and Kirkden Parish Church, but we feel the time has come for us to go into semi-retirement from the ministry because of failing health on both our parts.

So, sadly this is our final ramblings for your ITP magazine. Like all of our experiences as Readers over the last eighteen years with the Church of Scotland it has been wonderful working with the people of Letham, and we will never forget our time with you.

We will miss the discipline we need to bring services each week to the Church, we will miss the fellowship we have come to know after the services, and we thank you for allowing us the privilege of being your Joint Locums. However, we have always known this time would come. So, it is with heavy hearts we leave, but we know there are exciting times waiting for the Church of Scotland as a whole and Letham is a part of that change. “Life is flux, there is nothing permanent except change.”

We wish God’s richest blessing on all who support the Church, on all who read the magazine the Church produces each month, and we pray they will gain strength from knowing God’s love.

Pat and Eric Walker, Church of Scotland Readers

Eric and Pat Walker

Joint Locum Ministers

Tel. 01575 572082 Mob. 07802 386119

E-mails: Eric.line15@btinternet.com

Pat.line15@btinternet.com

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.

LETHAM and DISTRICT



On Tuesday, 4th April, a very large gathering of our own members and invited guests from Colliston, Inverkeilor, Kingsmuir and St Vigeans Institutes, enjoyed a talk and demonstration of preparing various animal coats (sheep/alpaca/camel/yak/rabbit/dog) for carding and spinning into assorted wools and yarns.

The demonstrator was Mrs Anne Allen with help from her granddaughter. She held the attention of the ladies for over an hour, answered many questions and invited anyone who wished to have a hands-on try of her wheel.

She was thanked for her excellent presentation by Anne Simpson.

President Lynne Slater then explained to the ladies that they were free to peruse and purchase from the Craft shop and also to select a cake of their own choice with tea or coffee until the evening ended at 9pm. This opportunity was appreciated and much enjoyed by everyone.

Mrs Allen kindly also took time to judge the monthly competitions:-

2 Easter biscuits:

1. L. Slater; 2. F. Webster; 3. A. Simpson.

Handmade Easter card:

1. L. Slater; 2. J. Smith; 3. C. McNeill.

Flower of the month:

1. F. Webster; 2. C. McNeill; 3. L. Slater.

The President thanked the staff of the Auld Bar Cafe and Craft Shop for their great help in making the evening so enjoyable for everyone.

On Tuesday, 2nd May we will hold our AGM and 99th Birthday Celebration.

The new committee for session 2023/24 will be elected and trophies for the past year will be presented.

There will also be tea and Birthday cake – of course.

Jane Nicolson (Press Secretary)

Next Issue of 'In the PICTURE'

Deadline for June 2023 issue is

Saturday 20 May

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

Church Diary

Sunday 7 May	10:30am Morning Worship Formal Holy Communion Retiring Offering for Ukraine
Sunday 14 May	10:30am Morning Worship
Sunday 21 May	10:30am Morning Worship
Sunday 28 May	10:30am Morning Worship Farewell to Eric and Pat Walker Informal lunch after service
Sunday 4 June	10:30am Morning Worship Informal Holy Communion Retiring Offering for Ukraine

WEST HIGHLAND WAY 36 HOUR CHALLENGE



Rev. Tim Mineard was the Locum Minister at Dunnichen, Letham and Kirkden Church almost five years ago during his time as a student Minister, and is remembered fondly by many of our congregation.

Tim has been in touch to let us know about his latest initiative:

“Myself (Tim) and my friend Andy Reid are walking the 96 miles of the West Highland Way non-stop within 36 hours over 18th - 19th May. We are raising funds for a new charity that I'm the Treasurer of, called Friends of KNFU – a charity I helped set up in 2021.

All the money raised here in the UK goes to the work of Kings' Norton Foundation, Uganda, which provides education and assistance to children with additional support needs in Uganda. This is a hugely under resourced area of need in the country and KNFU makes a massive difference to the lives of young people with disabilities and their families.

We're aiming to raise £5,000 through this challenge. You can give online at the following link:

https://www.stewardship.org.uk/pages/friendsofKNFU_WHW.”

Alternatively, there is a Sponsor Form in the Church.

Irene McGugan and Bruce Mair are hoping to join Tim on the final leg of this challenge, walking with him from Kinlochleven to Fort William, providing additional tangible support from Letham!

Please support this initiative if you can.

LETHAM HAPPY WANDERERS

On 6th April 2023 Letham Happy Wanderers celebrated ten years of Health Walks. We were one of the original groups to establish under the auspices of "Paths For All" - the aim of which is to encourage everyone to "move more".

We continue to attract more than twenty walkers on a weekly basis. Meeting EVERY Thursday at 10am at the Church Hall, walks are mostly local, though occasionally we use buses or cars to go a little further afield. We are usually back at the Hall within two hours when refreshments are served. There is no charge to take part in these walks and all are welcome. Contact Irene on 818436 for further information.

The poem written by one of our walkers explains more

LETHAM HAPPY WANDERINGS

The Letham Happy Wanderers keep marching on
And we were hoping the worst of the weather was gone
On the whole we've been very lucky
Though sometimes the paths have been rather mucky.

There's been a few mishaps along the way
But nothing too serious I'm glad to say
Not very nice for those hitting the ground
But we are all here to rally around

We've walked in the rain and wind and slipped on ice
Which obviously at the time was not very nice
But we're not gathered here to complain about weather
As this walking Group is always a pleasure

Thursday morning is always a treat
As that is the day as a Group that we meet
Old friends and new it has brought us together
So we don't really care about the weather

I can't praise the leaders of the Group enough
As making up the rota must be really tough
Trying to vary the walks can't be easy to do
While doing their best to please me and you

We walked round Balgavies all the way there and back
By which time we were all in need of a snack
Went into the Craft Shop for coffee or tea
Some even had a pancake but that wasna' me

The next week we went to Arbroath by bus
Which got us there without any fuss
Our walk first took us to Keptie Pond
Then round some of the street and sights beyond

Thursday the 16th of March - a very rainy walk
But it didn't stop the chatter and talk
We splashed through puddles up past Idvies and back
With Irene on hand to keep us on track

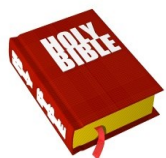
Last week we went to Arbroath by car
Which shows how versatile a Group that we are
We met up with Wilma our leader of the day
And she led us round Hercules Den - quite a long way.

Strength and Balance is another thing that we do
So once a month Cathie it's over to you
We do exercises from head to toe
Then just like today we are ready to go

So here's to the Wanderers who know on the whole
Walking is good for the mind and the soul
So here we are ready to walk once again
And I'm sure you'll all give it a ten out of ten

So as for the group this is a special day
We are celebrating our 10th Anniversary
So a nice walk and some cake back at the Hall
And a very Happy Anniversary to you all.

FROM A VERY HAPPY WANDERER - GLADYS



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



GARDEN CLUB

Following a successful 2022/23 season with a full programme, we look forward to planning the next season starting in September. Any suggestions for topics or speakers would be most welcome.

Dates for your diary

Plant sale: Saturday 8th May at 10am
in the Scout Hut.

Donations of plants, and customers are welcome.

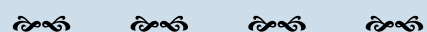
Flower Show: Sunday 13th August,
schedules available soon in the Keystore.

Bill Muir 07908 339420

You know that indestructible black box that is used on planes? Why don't they make the whole plane out of that stuff?

A diplomat is a man who always remembers a woman's birthday but never remembers her age.

A Chinese restaurant has been hit with a £10,000 electricity bill. They said they can't turn off all the lights but they do dim sum.



Why don't sheep shrink when it rains?

WARM SPACES - LETHAM

Late last year, the Kirk Session decided to support this national initiative and open the Church Hall as a “warm space” for people to come to during these times of soaring fuel costs and a general cost of living crisis.

From January, the Hall has been open from 11am to 2pm every Friday. It was hoped that this would provide an opportunity for anyone who wished, to enjoy companionship, games and refreshments in a warm and informal setting.



While the Church was happy to contribute the “space” we have been overwhelmed by the generosity of others who contributed their time and resources to support this initiative.

Keptie Bakery donated bread, rolls and cakes every week. Keystore provided all the milk for the teas and coffees, and a dedicated band of chefs cooked up three different types of soup every week.

We also had a willing rota of volunteers who set up and cleared away, served at tables and did the washing up. And last but not least, we have applied for a grant of £2,000 from the Church of Scotland to cover the cost of electricity, which we are hopeful of being awarded.

A number of people have attended every week – others popped in less regularly, but all seemed to have appreciated their time together.

With the better weather now here, we have suspended this meantime, (the last event was 28th April) though the Kirk Session is giving consideration to whether and how we continue this successful venture next winter.

But the overriding aim of this article is to thank everyone involved for their tremendous generosity and for all their help in making this a success.

Kirk Session

Obituary

Our church was saddened to learn this week of the death of one of our most valued members, Someone Else.

Someone’s passing creates a vacancy that will be difficult to fill. Else has been with us for many years and for every one of those years Someone did far more than a normal person’s share of the work.

Whenever there was a job to do, a class to teach or a meeting to attend one name was on everyone’s list, “Let Someone Else do it”. Whenever leadership was mentioned this wonderful person was looked to for inspiration as well as results; “Someone Else can work with that group”.

It was common knowledge that Someone Else was among the most liberal givers in our church. Whenever there was a financial need everyone just assumed Someone Else would make up the difference.

Someone Else was a wonderful person; sometimes appearing superhuman. Were the truth known, everybody expected too much of Someone Else. Now Someone Else is gone! We wonder what we are going to do.

Someone Else left a wonderful example to follow, but who is going to follow it? Who is going to do the things Someone Else did?

When you are asked to help this year, remember – we can’t depend on Someone Else any more.

Spotted a herd of wild Weetabix today.
Absolutely stunning!



Envelopes for sale

DLK Church has a quantity of C5 diamond flap 100gsm white banker envelopes for sale at very reasonable prices.

25 off	£2.69
50 off	£4.54
100 off	£8.24
250 off	£17.39
500 off	£29.99
1,000 off	£53.85

If interested contact Richard on 07703 234192.



Letham Bookshop



is in the Square and open daily,
10 am-4 pm, Mondays to Saturdays, and
12 noon-4 pm, Sundays.



Books for children are free.



Your community bookshop is there for you!

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Annual Fabric Report

16th April 2023

Compared to recent years this last year has been absolutely dull and boring. There have been no major concerns with the church or hall, the main actions being to ensure that the relevant legislation and certification has been complied with.

However, because there haven't been capital issues, doesn't mean there aren't any on the horizon. Within the church, planning is ongoing regarding painting the fire exit doors and the Sanctuary door. All the external windows are also in need of painting – some are down to bare wood. It was hoped that the Community Justice Payback Team would help with this task though it hasn't transpired that way.

The church hall is about to undergo EICR certification – confirming the electrical work in the hall meets the standard required. This will be the first time since the hall was refurbished though no issues are expected.

Plans are being formulated for redevelopment of the grounds. Improving drainage at the gate where it floods, and improving egress through the fire exits are issues being scrutinized so that the grounds remain welcoming to visitors.

The bench in memory of Angus Watson, a stalwart of this church for many years, has been refreshed and is useable by all.

There are some issues at the Manse which Kirk Session will be considering and discussing with the General Trustees, as the General Trustees retain title though the congregation is responsible for the maintenance. This will be a case of "watch this space".

One issue which is reprehensible and which should be brought to the congregation's attention is the matter of the gentleman who allows his dog through the gate to foul the church lawn – and doesn't clean up after it. All members of the congregation are asked to watch for any such behaviour and report it to the Fabric Convenor.

For the year gone there are some thanks due. These are to Eric McCauley and Bruce Mair, who have maintained the flower beds, and further thanks to Eric for the beautiful planters he made and donated. Irene McGugan and Elaine Saunders have done a sterling job of supporting and advising the Fabric Convenor and helping source equipment.

Who knows what next year may bring? Surely not as dull a year as this last one! The next twelve months will tell.

Richard Moore



Firmly Planted

Firmly Planted is a community-based agroforestry initiative with the ambition of making a sustainable impact across Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. It is spearheaded by our partners in the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian (CCAP), and built around the church's community structures. The initiative will resource individual groups to respond to the various challenges affecting Malawi today.

Agroforestry presents an opportunity to address challenges of food insecurity, deforestation, climate change and youth unemployment. Tree nurseries create employment opportunities, fruit trees improve nutrition and wider tree planting helps mitigate the impact of the climate crisis, in turn improving agricultural productivity.

Firmly Planted will provide community-based training tailored to the community's needs, ensuring woodlots are well maintained to have the greatest chance to thrive.

The programme, through effective distribution, looks to attain large-scale tree planting of locally relevant woodlots – these could be linked to schools, churches, clinics and community groups. Having already established a pilot tree nursery, CCAP is looking to replicate this across the Synods by implementing Central Tree Nursery Hubs allowing each nursery to grow tree seedlings based on the needs of their communities.

This year's stamp appeal proceeds will go towards establishing the tree nurseries.

Please give your stamps to Norma Craigon or put them in the box in the Church Hall.

Thanks.

Life Laws - The Law of the Theatre:

At any event, the people whose seats are furthest from the aisle arrive last.

'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.



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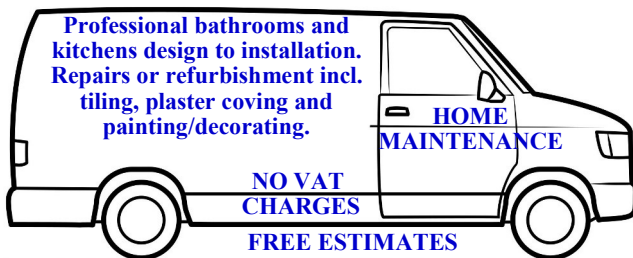
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