

In the PICTure

June 2023

Send news to: revmartynthomas@outlook.com

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Dunnichen Letham and Kirkden Church of Scotland (Registered Scottish Charity 0003833)*



BIG HELP OUT!

On a rather damp evening in early May, almost 30 Cubs with their Leaders descended on Church grounds to plant our wild flower garden. It was the 8th May and this was part of the “Big Help Out” initiative.

An area near the North door of the Church had been chosen as the best area for wild flower planting as it gets lots of sunshine. This patch of ground had earlier been cleared and dug over by Bruce Mair and Richard Moore in preparation for the planting.

Five sunflower seeds were placed against the boundary dyke then specially selected plant plugs, to attract bees and butterflies, were randomly placed around the plot, before the whole area was liberally sprinkled with nectar rich, Scottish wild flower seeds.

When the planting was over, the Cubs were treated to hot chocolate and biscuits to thank them for their efforts.

We all look forward to seeing what our wild flower meadow looks like in the summer.

West Highland Way Challenge



In the May edition of “*In The PICTure*” we outlined the Challenge which Rev Tim Mineard had set himself - that of walking the 96 miles of the West Highland Way in 36 hours in order to raise funds for a charity in Uganda which he helped set up in 2021.

On Friday 19th May, Irene McGugan and Bruce Mair travelled to Kinlochleven to join Tim and his companion on the final 15-mile section of the Way, to its end at Fort William. Normally this would take 6-7 hours to walk, but because of the time constraints of the challenge, this had to be completed in only 5 hours.....so the pace was fast.

As might be imagined, after 81 miles in, Tim was suffering a bit with sore feet - significant blisters and at least two toe nails which will fall off. And he was tired. But such was his determination to succeed that he completed the challenge in full, and looks set to raise the £5,000 target.

He especially wanted to thank everyone in Letham who supported him via sponsorship and in other ways. It really seemed to mean a great deal to him.

Thank you and WELL DONE TIM!

May

It is said that the month of MAY got its name because it MAY be cold or it MAY rain or it MAY be warm and sunny. It's a bit in between. And in the Church it is similar as we've had the excitement of Easter and then there is a lull before the summer activities.

For the early followers of Jesus, they had come through the horror of the cross, watching the one who had called them by name, who loved them, taught them and gave them hope, be brutally executed, and cast aside. Only for him to appear again, alive, well, carrying the scars on his hands and leaving them both delighted and bewildered.

But then he had to go, though he told them to hold on because his Spirit, the Helper, would come and encourage and teach and strengthen them. He would always be with them. For a short time, they were in between, just waiting, until it happened – His Spirit came and they knew that he was close, even though they could no longer see him.

The good news is that the promise of his Spirit is for all followers of Jesus for all time. And he continues to call us by name, we're usually just too busy to hear his call. So when you find yourself with a moment, in between all of your daily activities, close your eyes and listen – he's calling you by name and you just MAY hear his voice on the breeze.

The promise of his Spirit is for all who answer that call to follow him and allow him to love, strengthen and encourage us as we journey through life. MAY you know God's presence today and everyday.

A Blessing for our journey through life:-

May the road rise up to meet you.

May the wind be always at your back.

May the sun shine warm upon your face;

the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again,

may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

*Rev. Dr. Karen Fenwick
Interim Moderator*

Morning Services
Sundays at 10.30 am
ALL WELCOME

Pentecost

Pentecost is often called Whitsunday and is a day when the Church celebrates its birthday. It takes place on the fiftieth day after Easter (this year 29th May).

After they witnessed the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ the Apostles met in secret in a upper room. This group of ordinary folk, fishermen etc. were considering what to do next and were praying about it when suddenly a mighty wind encircled them. This was followed by what seemed like tongues of fire. The group experienced a change in their lives. So filled with the Holy Spirit they spoke to an international audience in the various languages. Peter acted as spokesman and expounded the Jewish Scriptures proclaiming that Jesus was the Messiah and the Son of God.

Initially they took the message to the Jewish people, and were called "People of the Way" after Jesus had told them: "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life". Later they realised that the message was also for other people and it was in Antioch they were first called Christians.

From the early beginnings the believers were not rulers but servants. One of their first actions was to set up a group of seven to administer help to widows and orphans.

The commission of Christians is based on "Love God and Love your Neighbour (others)", a fulfilment of the Ten Commandments. It involves caring for all no matter what their nation or religion, but at the same time doing it in the Name of Jesus Christ, Saviour and Lord.

The Church is not a building but a group of people who believe and trust in God and follow as disciples His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. They are not perfect but sinners who accept Jesus as Saviour and Lord of their lives, and want to follow Him and His teachings.

The Church has changed over the years and has often got things wrong and misused its message but is still growing in many parts of the world.

It has as many ways of working and many denominations as there are ways of expressing beliefs but the base belief all Christians have is in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev Martyn Thomas

Treasurers Report to the Annual Stated Meeting Sunday 14th May 2023

This is a report on the Annual Accounts for 2022.

As I have said before, there are three kinds of funds reported in our accounts. These are the Endowment Fund, restricted funds, which comprises the Renovation Fund and the Redecoration Fund, and the unrestricted funds. In this latter group you will find the Fabric Fund, the ITP Fund, the Guild Fund, and the General Fund.

I will mainly be discussing the General Fund here.

Income has decreased in 2022 as against 2021. This is the time of increased costs for everyone. For example, it was unfortunate that the church had to renew the electricity contract in October 2022. As you all know, prices went through the roof, and the best contract that I could find was for a one-year contract at around four times the price per unit as the previous one. Fortunately, the government stepped in and gave some relief in the costs. This relief ended in March 2023. An amount of £6,500 was transferred out of the General Fund into other funds. £500 was transferred into the Fabric Fund. £1,000 was transferred to the Redecoration Fund. The £5,000 transfer to the Renovation Fund consists of £3,000 given to us from Presbytery, which remained unspent at the end of the year, and £2,000 for a legacy received in 2022. All in all, a loss has been sustained on the General Fund again this year. Unfortunately, I have also predicted a loss for 2023 when producing the Budget. The rate of income is not keeping pace with the rising costs. In the Trustees Report there is a paragraph entitled Financial Review. This shows that 90.5% of our income comes from the voluntary offerings of our members. But also note the actual numbers of members making those donations is just 43. Even if you take into consideration the number of people attending services, which in 2022 was on average 26, the majority of members of the church do not make any financial contributions at all. At the end of 2022 there were 195 members on the roll. If everyone of those “missing” members gave just £5 a month, we wouldn’t be in a loss situation.

You will find on the last page of the Annual Report a statement of the amounts of money held by the General Trustees on our behalf. This shows the amount of rent received for the Manse, plus interest, and any costs paid out, including any administration costs charged by the GTs. There have been a lot of repairs to the Manse in 2022, and it appears that there may be a lot more in

2023. The roof needs replacing, and we may have to apply for grants and loans to do the work.

There was very little fundraising done again in 2022. The usual Rag Bag collections were done, and we are very grateful for all your donations for this and for Bruce’s hard work in making it happen. There was income from online shopping through Amazon Smile and EasyFundraising. This is an easy way to give to the Renovation Fund without costing you a penny. Please see me if you would like to know more about it. The final £1,500 of the loan was paid back in March 2022.

Once the new Presbytery has approved the accounts, I will be making the usual report to OSCR. I will also make the accounts available on the Church’s website – www.dlkchurch.org.

Elaine Saunders, Treasurer

Church Diary

Sunday 4th June at 10:30 am

Morning Worship

Service conducted by Rev Alan Watt

Informal Communion at 11.30 am

(Retiring Offering for Ukraine Relief)

Sunday 11th June at 10:30 am

Morning Worship

Service conducted by Rev Klaus Buwert
and Elders

Sunday 18th June at 10:30 am

Service of Hymns, Readings and Prayers

Conducted by Bill and Margaret Reid.

*(All offerings on the day to go to Panihati,
a community in Bangladesh supported by
Presbytery.)*

Sunday 25th June at 10:30am

Morning Worship

Service conducted by
the Very Rev Dr Martin Fair

Very Rev Dr Martin Fair

We are truly honoured that the Very Rev Dr Martin Fair, previously Minister at St Andrew's, Arbroath, and past Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, has offered to preach at Letham Church for three Sundays over the summer (June 25th, July 30th and August 27th).

Martin is an exceptional preacher and if you have not experienced one of his services before, do make a point of attending when you will be privileged to hear his unique style and benefit from an inspirational message.

GARDEN CLUB

On the 13th May we held a very successful plant sale, with thanks to both those who donated plants and to those who came to buy. With a special thanks to those who helped organise and manage the sale.

By the time you are reading this the flower beds in the square will have been planted up for the summer. Many thanks to the Feuars for paying for the plants and also to the volunteers for planting them.

The next event will be our annual flower show on Sunday 13th August with schedules available at the Keystore, Letham Crafts, Auldbar Cafe and the craft shop in the square. E-copies can be available by giving me a ring.

Bill Muir 07908 339420



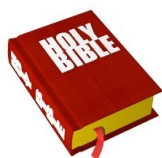
Learning Together

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.



Next Issue of 'In the PICTURE'

Deadline for July/August 2023 issue is

Saturday 17 June

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

'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 and DISTRICT



May 2nd brought our Annual General Meeting and Presentation of Trophies.

The accounts for the past session were presented and the Treasurer, Jeannie Mair, was thanked for all her work.

Retiring Secretary, Evelyn Balfour, outlined events which had taken place since the last AGM in May 2022 and President, Lynne Slater, thanked members of the retiring committee for their help and support.

Ballot papers were counted by two ladies from St Vigeans Institute - Anne Frith and Linda Ramsay - and they received houseplants from the President to thank them for their assistance.

Those elected to form the committee for session 2023/24 were:-

Victoria Alexander; Meg Bundock; Sheelagh Campbell; Jeannie Mair; Colette McNeill; Anne Simpson; Lynne Slater.

Annual trophies were awarded as follows:-

Flower of the Month:

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

Handcrafts:

1. L. Slater; 2. J. Smith;
3= C. McNeill / F. Webster.

Homeskills:

1. F. Webster; 2. L. Slater; 3. E. Balfour.

ROSEBOWL (most points overall):

1. L. Slater; 2. F. Webster.

Most Points in Federation Show:

1. L. Slater; 2. A. Simpson.

The 99th Birthday cake was cut by Jane Nicolson. There followed a very pleasant period of socialising and enjoying various nibbles and a slice of birthday cake.

The final event before the summer break will be a meal at the But 'n Ben at Auchmithie on 21st June.

Jane Nicolson (Press Secretary)

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.

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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

A man walks into a lawyer's office and asks, "How much do you charge?" The lawyer says, "£5,000 for three questions." The man asks, "Wow, that's pretty expensive, isn't it?" And the lawyer says, "Yes. Now, what's your third question?"

The Cosgrove Award

The Award is named after the first recipient, James Cosgrove, in recognition of the outstanding contribution he made to the community over many years

The Award is available to be presented annually, by Letham & District Community Council, if a recipient meeting the criteria is nominated.

The plaque containing names of recipients is displayed in the Village Hall.

Criteria for making the Award

The criteria is that the nominated person(s) has contributed towards the community over an extended period of time and is (are) worthy of recognition.

Nomination

To nominate someone, you must find a further two supporters of your nomination, write a synopsis, in no more than 150 words, as to why you feel the nominated person(s) is/are suitable for the award. Once written, please fill in the appropriate sections.

Address to Letham & District Community Council and post it in the letter box of the Feuars' Hall, 15 The Square.

Nomination forms are available in the Book Shop, The Square.

Clock for retired people





T: 01674 658501

M: 07873 566500



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FAIRTRADE



I have recently been asked to be the 'contact' person in our Church for Fairtrade and I will start by thanking Margaret Moore very sincerely for the many years of hard and efficient work which she has done to ensure that people have been kept up to date with news about Fairtrade and also encouraged to purchase Fairtrade goods.

Sadly, Traidcraft, which was involved in the supply of some of our goods, has now gone into administration. In future you can order directly from a website - there are a number of websites selling Fairtrade goods, a few of which are listed here. If there are other websites which you can recommend, please let me know.

Fairtrade Foundation - fairtrade.org.uk
 Oxfam - <https://onlineshop.oxfam.org.uk>
 Ethical Superstore -
<https://www.ethicalsuperstore.com>

If you prefer to order through the Church, please speak to me and your order can be sent when we are ordering supplies for the Church. You can also of course look for Fairtrade goods in local shops and supermarkets.

Other news -

The Great Big Green Week is being held from 10th - 18th June. Many Fairtrade campaigners will be joining events and running their own, sharing the message that **'to win climate justice we need trade justice'**.

I hope we shall not find it too difficult to adapt to the recent changes in the way we order our Fairtrade goods. Please speak to me if you have any questions.

Maureen Buwert
 07767 084887

LIFE LAWS - Wilson's Law:

As soon as you find a product that you really like, they will stop making it.

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.

Free, local information to help you tackle the Cost of Living Crisis

With the price of most things going up it is important to "make every penny count", as the saying goes, and also to make good use of the things that you already have.

Information, ideas and inspiration are available at Forfar Library and online.

"Forfar Library has been selected as one of the first in Scotland to host a 'Lend and Mend Hub', as part of a trailblazing pilot project helping to tackle the cost-of-living crisis." ⁽¹⁾

The library has access to new (and older) books that can help reduce the cost of living. Topics include:

- * Making new clothes, upcycling and mending clothes, using a sewing machine, knitting
- * DIY
- * Cooking (eg budget cooking, batch cooking)
- * Money tips
- * Gardening (eg growing your own food in containers)

These books are all free to borrow to members of the library and some of them are available online. They may also be available from the mobile library.

The list of books is available at

<https://angus.spydus.co.uk/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/MSGTRN/WPAC/HOME>

then scroll down to Cost of Living and click on "Show All".

(Note: books may be out on loan but can be reserved.)

Shortly the "Lend and Mend" service will open with sewing machines, an embroidery machine, an overlocker (for seams and edges) and mannequins available.

Margaret Moore

(1) Source

<https://anguslive.scot/forfar-library-service-selected-for-pioneering-lend-and-mend-hub-project/>

What is a "Woodlot"?

In May's edition of "In the PICTURE" the word 'woodlots' was referred to in the "Stamp Appeal" article.

Do you know what the word means? If so, please let me know.

If you have any examples or pictures of the word this would be much appreciated.

Thanks

Martyn Thomas

(revmartynthomas@outlook.com)



Letham Bookshop



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



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