

In the PICTure

July / August 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 GARDENING CLUB

Annual Flower Show

Letham Village Hall

Sunday 13th August 2023
1:30pm to 4:00pm

Show Schedule

available from KeyStore, Letham Craft Shop
or directly from Bill Muir on 07908 339420.

*Presentation of Trophies and Awards
at 2:00pm*

Silver collection at the door.

The Cosgrove Award

The Cosgrove 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, of no more than 150 words, as to why you feel the nominated person(s) is (are) suitable for the award.

Once completed, please sign 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.*

FORFAR FOODBANK



As the cost-of-living crisis continues the Foodbank is now having to purchase food to meet demand.

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

Morning Services

Sundays at 10.30 am

ALL WELCOME

Welcome to our new Elders

Klaus Buwert

At the service in Letham Church on Sunday 7th May 2023 I was welcomed onto the Kirk Session as an Associate. The Kirk Session is the ruling body for the church and normally elders are ordained if new, or admitted if already ordained elsewhere. I am in the peculiar position of being neither, because I am a retired Church of Scotland minister.

We came to Letham in March 2022 when I retired. In my ministry I had churches in Kinlochleven and Nether Lochaber in the West Highlands, Wishaw in ex-industrial Lanarkshire, and latterly in Muthill linked with Trinity Gask and Kinkell near Crieff.

Originally I was from Dumfries.

In between university degrees I spent a year in Austria with a mission organisation, Operation Mobilisation. My first degree was Law but I never practiced, because it was while I was at University I saw the light and then went on to study Theology.

I am married to Maureen who was admitted to the Kirk Session on the same Sunday. We met because she had been a missionary in India and was linked to my congregation in Kinlochleven.

We have enjoyed becoming part of the community in Letham and getting to know some of the people and the area, and look forward to being more involved in the life of the Church, which has played such an important part in the village for a very long time.

Klaus will be taking Morning Service on 16th July and 20th August. All are welcome.

'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.

You know you've reached middle age when you're cautioned to slow down by your doctor, instead of by the police.



Maureen Buwert

It was a privilege to be admitted to the Kirk Session of Dunnichen, Letham and Kirkden Church on 7th May 2023. I have been asked to write a little about myself, as a way of introduction.

I was born and brought up in Glasgow. Life was busy, particularly with Church activities - gradually moving up to leadership in the Sunday School and Girls' Brigade, and also being in the choir. Sport and music filled my other spare moments.

After leaving school, I trained as a physiotherapist at Glasgow Royal Infirmary, where I continued working for several years.

In 1974 I went to St Colm's College in Edinburgh (the Church's missionary training college), then set off in 1976 to work at the Polio Rehabilitation Centre attached to a Church of South India Hospital. It was wonderful to be there for nine years.

While visiting one of my Partner Churches, Kinlochleven, I met the minister - Klaus. We were married the following year! Our three sons were born while we were in Kinlochleven. From there we moved to Wishaw for fourteen years (where I worked part time in our local Health Centre), and then to Muthill for eight years. Our sons are all married now and have blessed us with five grandchildren.

We are very happy that we chose Letham to live in when Klaus retired last year. We have had a very warm welcome and are looking forward to becoming more involved in serving in the Church.

Money can't buy happiness, but it certainly keeps the kids in touch!

Next Issue of 'In the PICTURE'

Deadline for September 2023 issue is

Saturday 19 August

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



A spell of good weather not only cheers us all up, but it also gives us the opportunity to get outside. Our priorities change a bit so we can tidy the garden, paint the fence, get washing on the line, get out for a walk, even if we need to wait until it cools a bit towards evening, or better still, get away for a wee holiday. Holidays are great, but all of the packing and carrying of luggage can be exhausting – sometimes, by the time that we get home, we need a holiday to get over the holiday.

Jesus has some great advice about baggage, but he doesn't mean the type that we take on holiday – he means the type that we carry around with us all of the time. Baggage like worry, or self-doubt or guilt or unforgiveness. Even the burden of busyness can wear us out. He tells us, *"Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light."*

He wants us to know that we are loved, really loved, no matter where we have been or what we have done, even when we can't love ourselves. He will take us just as we are. However, he doesn't leave us that way, he heals our brokenness, restores our souls and gives us a whole new outlook IF we let him. So, while we are taking time out in the good weather and changing our priorities, and putting on our Factor 50 sun screen, maybe we could factor in some time out with God. We could quietly speak to God when we are in the garden or out for a walk, or appreciate the beauty of the world that he has given, or maybe even pop into Church. The Bible tells us just what God requires of us:-

"The LORD has told us what is good. What he requires of us is this: to do what is just, to show constant love, and to live in humble fellowship with our God." Micah 6 vs 8

Enjoy the summer, enjoy the long evenings and enjoy God's blessing on your lives.

Rev Dr Karen Fenwick, Interim Moderator

Church Diary

Sunday 9th July at 10:30 am
Morning Worship
Service conducted by
Rev Alan Watt

Sunday 16th July at 10:30 am
Morning Worship
Service conducted by Rev Klaus Buwert
and Elders

Sunday 23rd July at 10:30am
Morning Worship
Service conducted by
The Salvation Army

Sunday 30th July at 10:30am
Morning Worship
Service conducted by
the Very Rev Dr Martin Fair

Sunday 6th August at 10:30am
Morning Worship
Celebrant to be confirmed

Sunday 13th August at 10:30am
Morning Worship
Celebrant to be confirmed

Sunday 20th August at 10:30 am
Morning Worship
Service conducted by Rev Klaus Buwert
and Elders

Sunday 27th August at 10:30am
Morning Worship
Service conducted by
the Very Rev Dr Martin Fair

Sunday 3rd September at 10:30am
Morning Worship
Service conducted by
the Gideons

Thought for the Month

There is nothing that love cannot face;
there is no limit to its faith, its hope,
its endurance.

1 Corinthians 13 v 7

FAIRTRADE

When you hear the word 'Fairtrade', what do you think of - bananas? coffee? chocolate? These are some of the most common Fairtrade products but there are many others. Here's one which you may not know about - shea (pronounced 'shay' in the UK) butter.

What is shea butter?

It's a natural moisturiser produced from fat that's extracted from the nut of the shea tree. These trees grow in the wild in Africa.

How is shea harvested?

Shea nuts are harvested from the trees, then sorted, crushed, roasted and ground. Producers then whip and separate shea butter by hand. This is done mainly by women (around 10 million women today collect shea nuts for processing), but they rarely reap a rich reward and it's hazardous work, with long days and risks to their health.

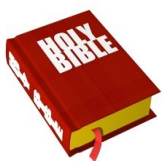
The difference Fairtrade makes

Buying products containing Fairtrade shea butter means the women earn a fairer price for their product.

What can we do?

Shea butter is an ingredient in many everyday beauty, wellness and cosmetic products, including sunscreen, lipstick and soaps. Consider asking your favourite beauty brand to start using Fairtrade shea butter.

Maureen Buwert



Learning Together

Group Weekly Bible Study

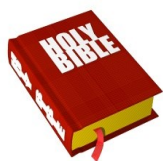
in
Letham Church Hall
on

Mondays at 1:30pm

Toys and drawing materials available for children

Tea, coffee and snacks provided

All are Welcome



A Big Thank You

This 'Thank You' comes from our hearts. We spent four years being the Joint Locum Ministers at Dunnichen Letham and Kirkden Parish Church and although it was not all plain sailing it is a time we will always cherish. On our retirement from the Readership, we were blessed with a send-off many a minister would have been proud of, and pride is what we felt on the 28th May. The skills of the congregation as hosts were second to none and the people involved should also be very proud, from those setting up the hall to those serving and baking for us all to enjoy. We felt this was a meal shared through a love for one another, so thank you for that.

Of course, there is another big thank you we need to acknowledge and that is for the beautiful gifts we received. The picture which Laurie so kindly did for us has a very special meaning. It is named "*Usan Bouquet*" and when we saw it, we knew that was the one for us. Pat's dad was brought up in Usan Village and when telling some stories that came out of Usan, most people don't even know where it is, so for Laurie to have been inspired by the village, makes it so special.

Then of course, the generous gift vouchers. We really are at a loss to say how much your generosity meant to us. We have our eye on a new top of the range microwave oven as our old one is past its sell by date, so, maybe our kitchen will benefit too.

Our flowers are beautiful, the skill of Jane who wrote a poem for us, the tribute Elaine gave, the many cards we received wishing us well, all mean so much.

Thank you for making our time at Letham memorable, it certainly was a privilege and will never be forgotten.

We will close by saying a very inadequate "Thank You" to all who made our last day as your Joint Locums so special.

Thank you and God bless you all.

Pat and Eric Walker.

The oldest computer was owned by Adam and Eve.

It was an Apple with very limited memory.

Just 1 byte and everything crashed!

Hedgehogs - why can't they just share the hedge?

A thesaurus is great. There's no other word for it.

What do colour blind people do when they are told to eat their greens?

Crime in multi-storey car parks. That is wrong on so many different levels.

FAREWELL - - AND FARE YE WELL.

It's not goodbye forever – so it doesn't break our heart
And certainly not – 'Thank goodness to see that pair depart!'

But regretfully acknowledging for us their race is run
Still fully we appreciate a job so ably done.

They came to serve as Locums, for a year – or slightly more

Then, we scarcely can believe it – that somehow became four!

For Covid it had intervened - to Church we could not roam

So the enterprising Walkers delivered to each home.

When meeting was an option, we gathered once again

With seating safely distanced, 'Amen' was the refrain.

And Sunday after Sunday with very few to spare

They continued to lead us in worship and in prayer.

But scripture says, 'An ending to all fine things must be'

Alas our congregation faced the harsh reality

That these two lovely people, who really are the best

Were entitled to retirement, tranquillity and rest.

The future is uncertain; don't know what lies ahead.

But we wish you God's good guidance; by Him you will be led.

May He direct your thinking every minute of each day

And smooth the path ahead of you, wherever you may stray.

Jane Nicolson



The poppy seeds which the Cubs and Beavers scattered at the end of the last Remembrance Parade are now flowering.

Isobel Sword

LETHAM and DISTRICT



The elected committee was hosted by Lynne Slater (President) on 17th May 2023 for the forthcoming year September 2023.

Discussions were held to invite new speakers and demonstrations, which promises to be varied and interesting, yet to be confirmed.

The group are also looking forward to the annual outing to the But n Ben in June.

We will have a Tombola Stall at the Letham Flower show on the 13th and hope to see everyone there.

Have a lovely summer and see you all in September.

Colette McNeill (Press Secretary)

LETHAM PENSIONERS

The last day for paying the £2 subscriptions for 2023/2024 is 30th September 2023. If you were previously a member of the Letham Pensioners and you would like to continue but have not yet paid your subscription, then please get in touch with Elaine Saunders – 01307 818230 – to arrange collection, or you can call at 10 Dundee Road to pay.

If you are a new Pensioner or new to the village and would like to join, please get in touch as above. Membership gives a subsidised outing each year, a subsidised Christmas party and a Christmas present delivered to your door.

Any non-pensioner who would like to donate to the work of the pensioners can contact Elaine as above.

We hold various fund-raising events during the year, such as coffee mornings, and everyone is welcome to join us.

Elaine Saunders Treasurer, Letham Pensioners

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
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If interested please contact Richard on 07703 234192.



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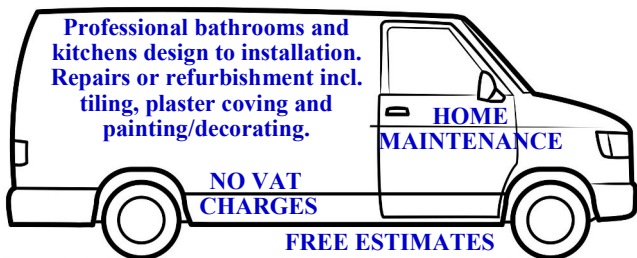


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AID TO UKRAINE

In the early stages of the conflict in Ukraine, Kirk Session gave some thought to the ways in which we might support the people of that country.

Believing in the power of prayer, the first thing we initiated was that every service held in our church, would include a prayer for Ukraine. We have held to this promise and every Sunday we ask God's blessing on those most affected by the war, and that the suffering of so many will soon be ended and hostilities ceased.

However we also wanted to offer some practical help, and so decided to link in with the national Church of Scotland initiative to provide aid via our partners in The Reformed Church in Hungary. So, on the first Sunday of every month, we have a donation basket in the Sanctuary, in order that those wishing to support the humanitarian effort in Ukraine have a means of doing so.

At the General Assembly at the end of May, the Faith Impact Forum reported that £430,000 had been gifted by Church of Scotland members to help the people of Ukraine. This has been distributed by The Reformed Church in Transcarpathia, The Reformed Church in Hungary, Hungarian Church Aid and St Columba's Church of Scotland in Budapest.

Thank you to all who assisted with this humanitarian effort.

Kirk Session

LETHAM GARDENING CLUB

The small flower beds were planted up at the end of May with African Marigolds, as were the edges of the two large beds. Many thanks to the small band of volunteers who did the planting and also to a number of primary seven girls who appeared during their lunch break to help.

The beds will be weeded every 3/4 weeks during the summer mainly to keep down the chickweed and anyone wishing to join the team please give me a ring. The next big event on our calendar is the Flower Show on Sunday 13th August.

Schedules are still available from the Keystore and craft shop and cafe, or ring me and I will email you one.

Bill Muir 07908 339420

FREE COFFEE GROUNDS FOR YOUR GARDEN

Many gardeners use coffee grounds as a fertilizer, and there are a few reasons why adding coffee grounds to the soil around your plants can help them grow strong: aeration, drainage and water retention are all improved when organic matter – like coffee grounds – is added to the soil. Also, worms are attracted to coffee grounds, and their presence can help improve the quality of the soil.

Coffee grounds also support the lives of micro-organisms that keep soil healthy and can act as mulch for your plants, blocking sunlight from soil and inhibiting the growth of weeds. Many gardeners also find that coffee grounds seem to repel slugs and other pests that feed on garden plants. If you struggle with cats using your garden soil as a litterbox, you'll be happy to know that felines tend to stay away from gardens that have been fertilized with coffee grounds.

Just sprinkle them on top of the soil or mulch and work them into the top layer of soil. Acid loving plants in particular love used coffee grounds. These include:

Azaleas	Blueberries
Camellias	Daffodils
Hydrangeas	Mountain heather
Nasturtiums	Rhododendrons

But the advice is to keep coffee away from tomato plants.

The good news is that if you wish to try this, you can get used coffee grounds free of charge, on request, from Keystore. The new coffee machine there is proving very popular and generating lots of used grounds which Rag and Kurtis would like to "recycle" rather than just throw away.

So good news for our eco credentials and good news for our gardens.

Irene McGugan

Middle age:

When a romantic candle-lit dinner for two is less appealing than sufficient light to read the menu.

Seen in an office

After tea break staff should empty the teapot and stand upside down on the draining board.

Spotted in a Safari Park

Elephants please stay in your car

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Supporting *'In the PICTure'*

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in Letham Feuars' Hall, Auldbar Road.

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For information about the Feuars please contact

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