

Church Magazine—August 2026

Dear Friends,

The summer is beginning to fade and autumn is gently approaching. The God of the seasons shows Himself through each change and reminds us of His faithfulness. We are so blessed to have the Bible as the great revealer of our Father's character — faithful, loving, just, merciful, compassionate, and so much more. We see these qualities manifested in the person of His Son Jesus, and in looking at Him we see the Lord.



I hope you will join me in engaging with the new **E100 daily Bible reading programme**. It gives us, as a Church family, the opportunity to meet with God through 50 Old and New Testament readings. You can take part via the Church's Facebook page or by receiving a written copy of the material.

I will be preaching on some of the themes, and there will be an opportunity to gather on **Tuesday evenings at 7pm** to discuss the readings and ask questions. *Pancakes and Chat* begins on **Tuesday 1 September**. The Home Groups and Sunday Club will also be exploring some of the topics.

So, over to you. God always blesses those who seek Him and never turns away anyone who comes to Him.

Jim

Introducing our new Young People & Families Worker — Hannah Hanson

Hello new and old friends! My husband Noah and I have just moved from Canada with our (almost) one year old son, James and our sweet dog Bodie. Before we left, I was working at our Church as the Intergenerational Pastor and before that I directed a youth camp for several years. I absolutely love coming alongside young people in their journeys with Jesus and am deeply devoted to leading through a life of prayer. I am looking forward to seeing what God has in store over the next few months as we lean into Him together!

Grace & Peace,

Hannah Hanson

Young People & Families Worker
Letham St Mark's Church



BLYTHSWOOD CARE SHOEBOX APPEAL 2026

Last year 167 boxes for the appeal were supplied by Letham St Mark's Church. They became part of a consignment of 7500 boxes sent to **Ukraine** from the sorts in Perth and the surrounding area.



The filled shoeboxes from the Perth region are being sent to **Ukraine** again this year.

The launch of this year's appeal will be a Coffee Morning on Saturday 29th August from 10am – 12 noon at Perth Baptist Church. They will also be hosting a Blythswood Care 60th Anniversary event on Saturday 12th September at 7pm, at which representatives from **Ukraine** will be speaking.

Please note that the limit for shampoos etc has been raised to **350ml**. Please see full list on our church notice boards.

It is planned to have wrapped boxes ready in Letham St Mark's to be taken and filled from Sunday 6th September, and returned, please, no later than Sunday 18th October.

The main sort will be from Monday 9th to Thursday 12th November, at Perth Baptist Church. If anyone would like to help at that or requires any further information, please speak to me or **email iainshaw276@gmail.com or phone 07434164225.**

Iain Shaw

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE SUMMER 2026

GDPR legislation has been updated in recent years! This may affect volunteers in the church. If you relinquish a role (paid or voluntary) we are now required by law to delete your information from our records. We also must inform the central Safeguarding office that you are no longer carrying out the role. It is the individual's responsibility to inform Disclosure Scotland that they are no longer carrying out the role if it required a PVG membership.

Unfortunately, this will mean reapplying for the role if you decide to volunteer at a later date including updating your PVG membership if appropriate. If you are concerned that the Safeguarding Co-ordinator may still have your details and you are no longer volunteering, or you have any other queries about this please contact her on 0779901050.

We continue to recruit volunteers and paid workers as safely as possible using the guidance and documents on the Church of Scotland Safeguarding website which is available online for anyone to look at.

Maggie Symon Safeguarding Coordinator

Funerals -

Mr Andrew Aitken — 29th March 2026

Mr Alastair Robertson — 29th March 2026

Mrs Kathleen Anderson — 6th April 2026

Mrs Betty Taylor — 5th July 2026

Mrs Ethel McCash — 8th July 2026

Christian Aid



Thank you to those who kindly donated books to the Book Sale at Kinnoull Church. Over £3444 was raised on the day!

The total banked from LSM's Christian Aid Week 2026 Appeal is £1215, in addition to online direct donations. Many thanks to all who contributed, whether through envelopes or online.

There's always time to donate to Christian Aid. Any filled envelopes will be gladly received through the church plate or church office at any time of year. Our donations will enable more people to make a life for themselves and their children, in the most challenging circumstances around the world.

Annual Quiz Night 7pm, Friday 4 September 2026 £8 per person

Please gather your friends and family to form a team of 4 or just come along and join up with someone on the night.

On that evening there will also be a Harvest Produce Bring & Buy: plants, fruit, vegetables, etc so please collect whatever you can donate, and come along with cash or a card to buy something delicious or beautiful to take home.

Gill Kaye

Hello from the **Pastoral Care Team!**

It's been a wonderful summer and the team have been out and about visiting our Church family members who, for whatever reason, have been unable to attend Sunday or Tuesday worship. We are always happy to be welcomed into your home but will happily telephone or text too.

If you or you know of someone who would enjoy a visit and a wee chat or telephone call, please get in touch with Lynn McKay (mobile number 07849 717792).

Blessings

Lynn McKay Pastoral Worker



LSM Connections Café

The church café was open throughout the summer. We welcomed familiar faces and new ones to sample the bacon rolls, home-made scones and other sweet delights.

This would not have been possible without our dedicated team of volunteers of cooks, baristas and servers. A huge thank you to you all for your hard work.

We also said 'goodbye' to Irene McLaren who, after many many years making the tastiest lattes and cappuccinos decided to hang up her apron and enjoy more free time. Irene was presented with flowers and a special cake on her last day (photo on the right). Thank you, Irene.

As we head towards Autumn, we look forward to seeing new customers and maybe new volunteers too, to continue this very important part of our church ministry.

Lynn McKay

Connections
Letham St Mark's

Opening Times
10am—1pm

Tuesday,
Wednesday & Thursday

All Welcome



Church Family News



Beautiful wedding photograph of David & Fiona



A recent photo of David & Fiona on their daughters wedding day

Huge congratulations to **David & Fiona Anderson**, they recently celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary. They were married on the 18th July 1986 at Freuchie Parish Church in Fife by the Rev Iain Wright. Congratulations to you both from everyone at Letham St Mark's.

Saturday 13th June 2026 was a very special day for the Stewart and White families.

Heather Stewart (Jim & Anne's niece) married **Nathan White** (Keith & Tracey's son).

The ceremony itself was led by our minister, Jim then Anne gave a wonderful address to Heather & Nathan. The whole day was filled with love, joy and happiness.

The LSM Church family were amazing, a team of fantastic people led by Elizabeth Sime decorated the café area, they also served refreshments after the wedding ceremony and provided shortbread, tablet and macaroons which were beautifully made by Elizabeth Sime, Val Gerard and Jim Leslie.

Heather & Nathan's wedding reception followed at the Huntingtower Hotel where everyone enjoyed a beautiful meal followed by a fantastic disco and ceilidh (led by Laura Oswald). The younger ones never left the dance floor!!!

As Anne said during her wee address to the bride and groom, Heather and Nathan, you are both a match made in heaven.

Congratulations **Mr & Mrs White** from everyone at Letham St Mark's.



A very Happy 80th Birthday to **Ann McNamee**. Ann will turn 80 on the 4th September 2026. We hope you have a wonderful day celebrating your special birthday from everyone at Letham St Mark's.



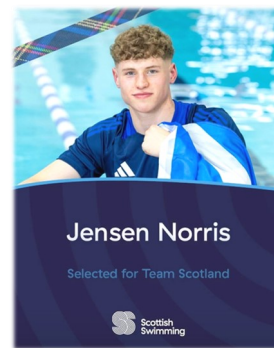
Happy 5th Birthday to **Harris Knak** who turns 5 years old on the 7th September!! We hope you have the best day, Harris love from all of your church family at LSM.

Church Family News



A huge Happy 1st Birthday to **James Paul Hanson**. James will turn the ripe old age of 1 on the 30th August. We hope you, your parents Noah & Hannah and wider family have a lovely time celebrating your special day.

A huge congratulations to **Jensen Norris** who was selected to be part of the Swimming Team for GB at the European Championships. He won 2 x European Junior Championship Relay Medals — a Silver and a Bronze!! Absolutely fantastic - well done Jensen.



Well done Team Scotland and our Jensen 🏊🇸🇨



Jensen was also part of the Swimming Team for Team Scotland at the Commonwealth Games held in Glasgow this summer. As you can see from the photo, a new Scottish record in the Mixed 4 x 100m Freestyle Heats. Everyone at LSM was behind you, Jensen, we are all very proud of you. Well done again.



A huge well done to **Jack Geddes** and **Harris Knak** who have just started school and are now into their second week of Primary 1. Well done boys, we hope your first term of primary school goes really well.



SUNDAY CLUB

As Sunday Club leaders we wondered how we could encourage and welcome back those who had come during the year, but who hadn't been for a while.

We decided to hold a party ... and what better birthday to remember than the birthday of the church? So on 24th May (Pentecost) we held a party with games, bible teaching, food and cake!

On leaving each child received a water bottle with a flame and the church logo printed on it. 25 youngsters attended and had a great time.

Ruth Gunn



Summer 2026 Community Development Work

While a lot of our usual activities take a break for the summer we kept connections with some of our community friends through summer bus trips and continuing on with the Thursday afternoon knitting group.



Thursday Afternoon Knitting

Some of the knitting group who usually enjoy our Community Warm Space wanted to continue through the summer so we stayed open for them each Thursday from 2pm until 4pm in the afternoon so they could continue their social and charity knitting. We also enjoyed celebrating with Muriel as she won the 2026 Perth & Kinross Environmental Volunteer of the year award.



Muriel celebrating her award with cake!!

Summer Bus Trips

We had great days away in Pitlochry, Lochore Meadows, the Deer Farm near Cupar, Macrosty Park in Crieff and Aberdour Beach. As you can see from the photos everybody had a great time. Thanks again to Letham4All for giving us the use of their community minibus which enabled us to have some low cost fun during the summer.



Volunteers Lunch

On the 20th July, we shared a lunch with some of our church volunteers who were available to join us to celebrate the things we do and to say 'A Big Thank You' for all the dedicated work they do to enable us to be the church in the community that we are.



**SUPER
★ Huge
★ Thank you**



Neil Slowman Community Development Worker

HOME GROUPS

If you have been wondering about joining a Home Group, this is a great time to give it a try. They are getting started again after the summer break, and they are looking for new members. We are going to be discussing the themes in E100, which will link with the sermons and also with the conversations on Tuesday evenings over pancakes.

There are 8 groups altogether, meeting fortnightly in mornings, afternoons and evenings, in homes and also at the church building. Most groups have around 5 – 6 members, and would be keen to welcome more people. There's a vacancy waiting for you, with a choice of times and days.

To find out more, put your name and a contact number or email on the sheet above the sideboard just outside the sanctuary door. I will get in touch to give you all the details and options.

Gill Kaye



The Growing Young team held a Car Treasure Hunt on 23rd May. It was followed by a barbecue which was enjoyed by all. Several teams took part. Most of the clues were located in Dunning, Bridge of Earn, Forteviot, and Forgandenny. Along the way, teams collected various items which were submitted along with their answers. Teams were also challenged to compose a rhyme to sum up their experience of the event. The weather was pleasant on the day and it was good to get out into the countryside.



The Growing Young team contributed to the decision to employ a specific worker to support and encourage Young People and Families in our church. Mrs Hannah Hanson was recruited and took up her post in July. She has a great deal of experience of both teaching and ministry with children. We are really excited about this and look forward to working with Hannah.

On 1st August we held a multi-generational 'Christmas in August' event which was well-supported. Iain Shaw kindly demonstrated shoebox wrapping and boxes were wrapped for Blythswood. Our church takes part in the annual shoebox appeal run by this Christian charity. The event also involved a Christmas tree, Christmas music, turkey sandwiches, crafts and games.



Members of our team will attend a further summit in Edinburgh on Saturday 29th August, along with other churches from our area who are involved in the Growing Young Initiative.

Fiona Anderson

Messy Church restarts again at LSM on

Sunday 4th October

All very welcome.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.



Warm Spaces restarts again at LSM on

Thursday 3rd September

All very welcome.



Social Media Reminders

Remember, you can always keep in touch online with Letham St Mark's and all of its goings on in a variety of ways:-



Our website address is—
www.leshamstmarks.org.uk



Our Church Facebook page is
[@Letham St Marks](#)



Our Café Facebook page is
[@LSM Connections](#)



Our Babies & Toddlers Facebook page is [@Letham St Marks Baby and Toddler Group](#)

Letham St Mark's church services are held at 10am every Sunday & 11am every Tuesday. Our church services are also live-streamed via our YouTube channel.

Letham St Mark's

The church in the community

Contact Details—

Minister

Rev Jim Stewart

Church Tel: 01738 446377

Manse Tel: 01738 624167

Email:

jstewart@churchofscotland.org.uk

Session Clerks

Jim Leslie Tel: 01738 446377

Irene Wilkie Tel: 01738 446377

Church Centre Manager

Tracey White

Tel: Church Office: 01738 446377

Email: office@lethamstmarks.org.uk

Community Development Worker

Neil Slowman Tel: 07549 104044

Pastoral Worker

Lynn McKay Tel: 07849 717792

Young People & Families Worker

Hannah Hanson Tel: 07356 033955

Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Maggie Symon

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