

Church Magazine — March 2024

Letham St Mark's—Dates for your diary

Palm Sunday Service—Sunday 24th March, 10am

*Maundy Thursday Communion Service—
Thursday 28th March, 7pm*

Good Friday Service—Friday 29th March, 7pm

*Easter Sunday — Sunday 31st March, 9am-10am,
Bacon rolls and painted eggs — All welcome*

Easter Sunday Service — 10am



The Church of Scotland

Dear Friends,

I wish you all a very happy Easter as we celebrate the death and resurrection of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. He is risen – He is risen indeed! Whatever the circumstances we know that faith in Christ will always have the last word. We may face the noise or stillness of life, a dark time of health challenges – physical and mental, relationship disappointments, unemployment, family crises and other things too. But, if the Gospel is true, then what we know is the guiding and abiding love of Jesus with us in every circumstance of life will always be there.

Safe and warm in the arms of Christ.

The first quarter of 2024 has been busy in the Church with LSM Connections Café, Babies and Toddlers, Alpha Group, Messy Church, Church services and the building work to create a new children's play area and a new larder for the café. Thank you to everyone who has given of their time, talents and money to make all this happen. We may be facing many challenges as a denomination but locally we cannot stand still and wait for things to settle or move – there really is only one gear in the Kingdom of God and that is forward. The Kirk Session have worked hard to make much of this happen along with our dedicated staff and volunteers. We are blessed to have each and everyone of you.

We are possibly going to have a South African minister working with us from June for a year as she transitions from the Dutch Reformed Church to the Church of Scotland. Details are still being worked out but I am hopeful that the Rev Karlien Becker will be joining us at Letham St Mark's.

We are also beginning to engage with the North Perth Partnership (Perth North, Riverside, Bankfoot, Luncarty and Stanley) to create a working understanding and agreement of how we can help one another in mission. The village Churches have been given .25 fte of a minister and we are trying to see how (together) we can facilitate mission and growth. It is all a bit unknown but we are committed to try and find a working formula that will help everyone.

Blessings, Jim



Building Work Update

The building work taking place in the church at the moment is moving at a fast pace. Our builders Liam and Rob have been working really hard over the last 4 weeks so we can move forward as a Church in the community and have our dedicated soft play area for under 5s and a larder/storage area to service our growing café and all of the many activities that use our church kitchen.

You can see the progress that has been made in both areas in the photos below.



Community Development Work



Spring at last. Buds, flowers, fresh growth – a season of new life. I love this time of year. As we progress into spring and summer, I would love to see some growth and fruitfulness in my own life and in the life of the church. That's why as Letham St Mark's Community Development Worker I enjoy making new connections and building on what we already have. We are heading into the last two of our winter 23 and spring 24 Messy Church sessions where we have sought to teach about Jesus being seen and known through His interactions with people and also His call to people to come and follow Him. Numbers have varied but every time is an opportunity to develop friendships and make new ones. Through Warm Spaces, the Babies & Toddlers group, and LSM Connections Café myself and teams of volunteers continue just to be friendly, welcoming, and provide a space suitable for community engagement. We want the church building to be a place where all people feel safe and welcomed, a community that they might just want to be a part of.

Working alongside other community organisations I also continue to be involved in after school clubs at the three Letham primary schools. These run once each week for a period of 8 weeks and we then move on to the next school on a rotational basis. At the moment we are in Our Lady's on a Wednesday afternoon and then after Easter we will move to Letham primary. A simple structure of food, games, and crafts seems to work for the young people and helps me get to know other local staff and families.

We are also in the middle of an Alpha course just now which runs on a weekly basis. As a group we meet together once each week for dinner and then watch a 25-minute film on topics such as 'Who is Jesus?', 'How can I have faith?', 'Why and how should I read the Bible?'. This is then followed with tea & coffee and an opportunity to think about, and discuss in small groups, a couple of questions that go along with each film. I would encourage anyone who would like to understand the basics of the Christian faith, why it is relevant to each and every one of us, to attend an Alpha course. We will complete this Alpha on the 9th of April and then would like to run another one starting early in October if people show an interest.

So as we move forward into the spring and summer of 2024, I pray that God will bless you and that you will have a happy and fruitful season.

Neil



Opening Times

10am—1pm

Tuesday, Wednesday
& Thursday

All Welcome

Over 2023, we welcomed a total of 5395 customers, over 2022, we welcomed 4356 customers, an increase of 1039 which is amazing, we must be doing something right!

We are very grateful to all of our customers, old and new and of course we couldn't run the café without our wonderful volunteer staff.

Madison hard at work in the cafe

Our working partnership with Fairview School has continued this year, we have been joined by Madison who is completing work experience with us on a Tuesday. She is joined by Lorna, her support worker and Tracey, her teacher. Madison is an absolute character and has settled into her role in front of house.



We have also been joined by four pupils from Letham Primary School - Annika, Kyle, Jaiden and Hayleigh. They are assisted by a support teacher and have been working hard taking orders, preparing their trays, serving customers and tidying up tables. This is in conjunction with Lifeskills for Letham, which helps each child build up their confidence by developing their numeracy, language and social skills.

January was a quieter month for us, however, February has picked up and ended up being a very busy month for us, we welcomed 494 customers to our café.

If you haven't been down to visit us, please do come, we have a children's corner for the wee ones to play in while parents have a coffee, it would be lovely to see you and you would be made most welcome, our baristas do make a lovely latte!! And our cooks make beautiful scones!!



Our temporary children's corner while the building work takes place

Tracey White LSM Connections Manager

Upcoming dates for Messy Church are
**Sunday 7th April, 4pm — 5.45pm &
Sunday 5th May, 4pm — 5.45pm**

All very welcome.

Children must be accompanied
by an adult.



Pastoral Care

I can hardly believe almost 10 months have passed since I began this role.

Thank you to everyone who has welcomed me into their homes and for sharing cups of tea and far too many biscuits!

I also want to thank the people I have chatted to at the LSM Connections Café too.

I couldn't do this role without the support of the amazing people who volunteer on the Pastoral Team. They are a dedicated group who are keen to take God's love into homes where Church attendance is not always possible and to pass on news about our church in the community. On their behalf, thank you for making them welcome in your home.

If you would like to volunteer to be part of this team, please get in touch with me (07849717792), or contact the church office on 01738 446377.

I would love to hear from you.

I hope and pray you have a peaceful and joyful Easter.

Lynn McKay



Kinnoull Church are requesting book donations, if you have any books you have read and would like to pass them on, could you please contact **Gerry Watson at Kinnoull Church**.

This is for a **Book Sale and Coffee/Tea Day in aid of Christian Aid Week, to be held on Saturday 11th May, 2024 in Kinnoull Church, 10am—4pm.**

All Welcome.

Prayer Breakfast



Is held on the first Saturday of each month, 8.30—9.00am for breakfast (optional!) and 9.00-10.00am for prayer. It begins with a short "thought for the day" from the Bible brought to us by a different volunteer from the group each month.

The prayer topics and any others are briefly discussed before we have a time of prayer.

Everyone and anyone is welcome to come when they can manage. Why not come and see!

Ruth Gunn

**Taken from Short prayers for Long Days by
Greg Mitchell**

Dear God,
Help me to be a thin person
with a fat heart.
Amen



Dear God, Put me to the test...
but don't let me know the score.
Amen

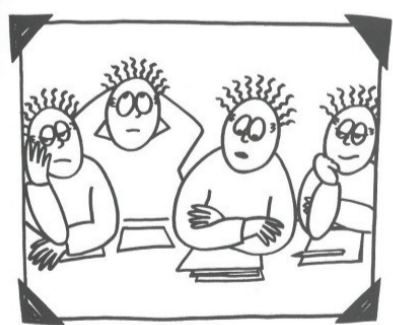
Dear God,
Open my ears, shut my mouth,
and let my heart do the talking.
Amen



Dear God,
Teach me that "silent" and "listen"
are anagrams that mean prayer.
Amen

Dear God,
Make me always fill up the jug of life...
and not just drink from it...
and put it back in the fridge.

Amen



Dear God,
Let my prayers be vibrant conversations
with you... and not a staff meeting.
Amen

Morag Murdoch

Funerals—

Mrs Mary Rennie — 15th October, 2023

Mrs Jane Bonner — 8th December, 2023

Mrs Irene Cameron—13th January, 2024

Mrs Margaret Brown — 24th January, 2024

Mr Alan McGregor — 25th January, 2024

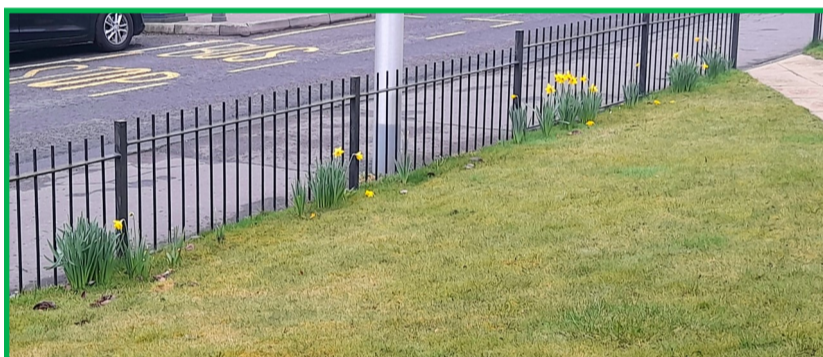
Mrs Mary Granzow— 5th February, 2024

Mr Morrison Clark — 9th February, 2024

Weddings—

Ruth Foster & Jack Buchanan — 10th February, 2024

Spring has sprung! It's lovely to see the daffodils blooming outside in the church grounds. A lovely reminder of the late Sylvia Stuart who planted them along with her husband Bill.



Sunday Club ...

continues with attendances being erratic. However, we decided to do a series on the life of David with such lessons as David: The Shepherd Boy, Anointed King, fighting Goliath, friend to Jonathan, and fugitive.

Along with the lessons, we have had a target challenge competition, the winner yet to be revealed..... challenges range from ping-pong ball into paper cups, elastic band pinging etc.

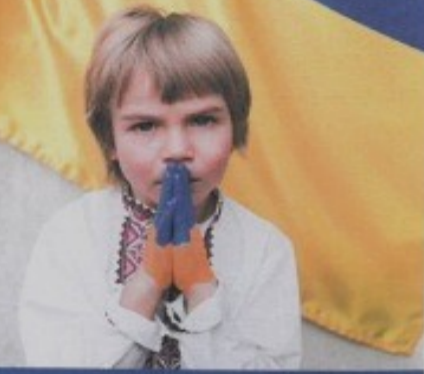
The team continues to prepare and turn up even when there are no children. However, when the children do come, they are delightful and we have the pleasure and privilege of teaching them God's word.

Ruth Gunn



international

News from Oksana in Vorzel



It's now almost two years since the war started, and it affects so many different aspects of our lives.

At Vorzel, Open Bible's residential centre in the countryside not far from Kyiv, we were able to run some events in the summer, frequently having to wake the children and young people in the night to go to our new, partially constructed bomb shelter.

Many of you will recall the old, dusty basement where we sought shelter when the war first broke out. With grants and donations, we have been able to create a safe bomb shelter with heating and ventilation. This is a government requirement for us to run camps at the centre, and we are pleased to be making good progress.

There are other important bits of maintenance work, particularly drainage and

some of the windows that were damaged by bombing, that we are tackling as funding allows.

During the Christmas holidays we were able to run a residential event as well as a day camp for local children. It's so important to offer these events as a tiny bit of normality in lives where fear and threat have become commonplace.

Because so many of our regular volunteers have either left the country or are involved in humanitarian volunteering in the war zones, we are depending on a small number of teenage volunteers. It is a great opportunity to work with these young people, to help them grow the skills to work with young people and to provide a place for them to be nurtured.

We have a vision for trying to help support churches in their youth work, but at the moment, the focus for many churches is offering basic humanitarian aid,

therefore there is very little youth work taking place.

We do have some regular clubs running in churches but struggle to run activities in schools at the moment. For example, a school where we used to run a regular club now teaches pupils in shifts, with the rest of classes delivered online because the school bomb shelter would not hold the whole school. This means there's no time in the regular day for us to run a club, but we are still managing to deliver a monthly event and staying in touch that way.

Looking towards summer, we hope to be able to offer camps at Vorzel. We are very aware that we make our plans without knowing what will be possible but trust that God will make a way for us. We really value the prayers of our friends and supporters in Scotland. We say thank you to God all the time that we are all still alive and that we can continue to run activities. ■

Oksana Khimich
Open Bible, Ukraine

Offering Envelopes –

There are still sets of monthly offering envelopes available. These can also be used for occasional giving. If you haven't received a set yet please contact **Gillian Forsyth** or leave a message with the church office.



Supa Club

Attendances continue to be good with an average of 20 (mostly girls) and over 80 on the register from P5-P7.

We have been talking about who Jesus is, illustrating it with stories from the New Testament, e.g feeding of the 5000. We also play games which can involve using the parachute, crafts, etc. The staff continue to be helpful and supportive.

In May, we hope to take 6 to the residential weekend at Altnacriche near Aviemore, the all inclusive cost being £90 which we hope to subsidise to £45. Please continue to pray for the group, the school and that 6 pupils will take the offer to go to the weekend

Ruth Gunn



SU Scotland

Babies and Toddlers

Babies and Toddlers meet weekly on a Tuesday, 12pm —3pm.

We were delighted to receive a donation of beautiful knitwear that had been knitted over the winter by Joyce Sneddon, one of our regular café customers.

Hazel and Sreevani (in photo) were very happy to receive this lovely knitwear for their children.



Also folks from Letham St Mark's are helping at ...

.. Renew 23.3

A "cafe" space where it is OK not to be OK, which works in cooperation with mental health services.



The "cafe" meets in the Methodist Church on Mondays from 10.00am to noon and on Thursday from 2.00-4.00pm. The volunteers are not distinguishable from "the clients".

Before they arrive the space is set up in an informal way with crafts, a games table (jigsaws and dominoes) and a prayer space open to anyone at any time, with formal led prayers at the beginning, middle and end of each session to which "the clients" have the option of attending.

Tea, coffee and biscuits are available.

More come on a Thursday than a Monday but friendships and trust are being built up.

Leaflets are in LSM café area should you wish to learn more.

SAFEGUARDING REMINDER

Safeguarding has now become an important part of Church life as we have a duty to Ensure a Safe Church for All. This means protecting children and "adults at risk" (also called protected adults).

The Church aims to minimise the risk of harm occurring and in order to do this all applicants for voluntary and paid positions have to go through a recruitment process which may include the need to join PVG Scotland as part of this. Those working with children or protected adults will need to join PVG Scotland, other posts may require a basic Disclosure check to be carried out.

This is done to ensure the safety of all and thankfully incidents are rare.



If anyone has any questions about safeguarding please contact me on 07799010050.

Maggie Symon

- EASTER SUNDAY -
Evening Praise



The Brook Church
 343 Brook St, Broughty Ferry, DD5 2DS
 Sunday, 31st March, 6.30pm

with the
THE INSPIRATION ORCHESTRA



broughtyferrypresbyterianchurch.org
 www.theinspirationorchestra.com

SAVE THE DATE!

THE INSPIRATION ORCHESTRA
Festival 2024



Saturday 25th May
 10.30am - 4pm

Pitmeadow Farm
 Dunning, Perthshire. PH2 0RA

Music, Food & Fun in a beautiful farm setting!
Free admission - Suitable for all ages



CLASSIC CAR DISPLAY 

www.theinspirationorchestra.com

The Inspiration Orchestra is a project aimed at enabling disabled people to play beautiful music. Our work revolves around weekly individual music lessons, weekly orchestra practices and monthly public concerts. Any person living with disabilities may apply to join us. All lessons are free of charge.

The charity is governed by a board of trustees, all local to Perth and covering a wide range of professional backgrounds. Currently, The Inspiration Orchestra's sole music tutor is Ian White. The charity raises funds to pay tuition fees and looks forward to engaging additional tutors in the coming years.

Contact Information —

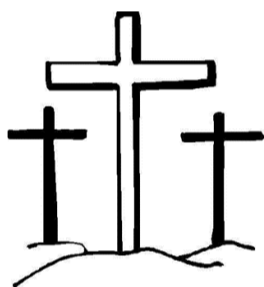
Telephone: 01738 813 673
 Chairperson: Emma Smith
 Donations: Margaret Benson
 Tutor: Ian White



Several members of LSM are Street Pastors, who are on shift to "listen, help and care" each Friday and Saturday from 9.00pm, with some days additionally from 6.00-9.00pm.

Others are connected with Perth Grammar and Bertha Park schools. Recently there was a celebration of 15 years on the streets of Perth where Rev Les Isaac was the speaker.

Anyone aged between 18 and 99 will be most welcome to come out as an observer without commitment - just speak to Alex and Val Gerard, Andrew Symon or Sandy Gunn.



Walk of Witness

Good Friday 29th March

Walk, Worship and Witness through the streets of Perth

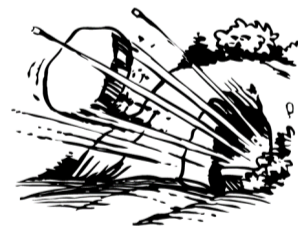
Gather for a 10:30a.m start at
St. John's Kirk

Easter Dawn Service

**Easter Sunday 31st March,
7am at Quarrymill**

Followed by breakfast at
Scone (Old) Church

You may wish to park at Scone Church and walk down through Quarrymill to the Service



Perth Action of Churches Together

Christian Aid Week 12—18 May, 2024

Poverty pushed Aline to the brink of survival. She was abused, homeless and hungry, but Aline pushed back harder. Driven by hope, faith and the love of her children, Aline was able to fight against the inhumanity of poverty and build herself a new life.

In Burundi, malnourishment and poverty affect more than 70% of the population, making survival a daily struggle. Jobs and food are hard to come by, and those who have homes often have no electricity or running water.



For Aline, life was a constant struggle. She was married young and gave birth to her eldest son, Fisto when she was just 14 years old. Aline experienced constant abuse at the hands of her violent husband. A few years later, Aline faced even more devastation. Her husband married another woman, forcing Aline to flee. He prevented her from taking their children with her, and in a further act of cruelty, told the local community that Aline was mentally ill and unable to care for her children.

Hungry, scorned and alone, Aline took her first step towards her new life. She started by participating in a transformative three-day community workshop funded by Christian Aid. "I came out with amazing knowledge and skills. The trainer restored a sense of hope and energy in me" says Aline. She was taught how to form a Village Savings and Loans Association (VSLA) and establish a steady income. VSLAs mean people can save for their future and borrow money to kickstart small rural businesses. With all she had learned, Aline's dream of getting her children back finally felt possible.



With a small start-up loan, Aline started trading avocados and peanuts locally. With her profits, she bought a bicycle so she could transport greater quantities of goods to markets further afield.

Eventually, her hard work had finally paid off, and she had earned the money she needed to rent a house.

Her three eldest sons were then able to escape their father and join her. She hopes to be reunited with her youngest children in time, they are living with different members of the family at the moment.

Today, Aline lives peacefully on her own land in a remote village. She's baked her own bricks and is building a strong home for her and her children in every sense. Now she can afford food, clothes and essential healthcare for her family. She has also purchased solar panels so her children can do their evening homework by electric light.



"When we see Christian Aid, we feel comforted; we feel we are not alone. You helped us to change our poor living conditions. I really thank you from the very bottom of my heart." Aline

No one should have to live on the brink of survival. During Christian Aid Week 2023, you raised £5 million to help transform lives just like Aline's.

This year, you can help us support even more people living in poverty. With 7 days and so many ways to raise funds for our Christian Aid Week appeal, what will you do? Bake, run, swim, walk — we can't wait to see what a difference our supporters can make!

There will be an opportunity to give through the plate at church during Christian Aid Week in May.



Taken from Smile, Please! New Christian Crackers

The wife of the Major at the Salvation Army Citadel was responsible for the children's slot in the morning service at Christmas. She indicated that with the help of a number of children she was going to display an acrostic on a well-known Christmas word. They practiced in the hall upstairs and then came confidently trooping onto the platform, facing the congregation, but, in reverse order!! The word should have been STAR, instead it read RATS....



Morag Murdoch

A choice of prayers:-

Church of England "O Lord, grant that we may not be like porridge — stiff, stodgy and hard to stir; but like cornflakes—crisp, fresh and ready to serve."

Church of Scotland "O Lord, grant that we may not be like cornflakes — lightweight, empty and cold; but like porridge—warm, comforting and full of natural goodness."

Recipe for a happy marriage:

The wife should love her husband a little and understand him a lot.
The husband should love his wife a lot, and never try to understand her at all.

Letham St Mark's

The church in the community

Find a Warm Welcome at our Free Warm Space
Letham St Mark's Every Thursday from 2 till 7pm
Bring your own interest or just bring yourself
Everyone is welcome to make use of this
Free Warm Space



SC002467

www.lethamstmarks.org.uk



Letham St Mark's

The church in the community

Contact Details -

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Manse Tel: 01738 624167

Email: diamondboy09@yahoo.com

Session Clerks

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Irene Wilkie Tel: 01738 446377

Church Centre Manager

Tracey White

Tel: Church Office: 01738 446377

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Community Development Worker

Neil Slowman Tel: 07549 104044

Pastoral Worker

Lynn McKay Tel: 07849 717792

Safeguarding Co-ordinator

Maggie Symon

Tel: 07799010050

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