

Church Family Forum—February, 2020

Lent and Easter at LSM

We will be observing Lent this year by reading Matthew's Gospel together along with the daily devotional which is freely available with this Church magazine.

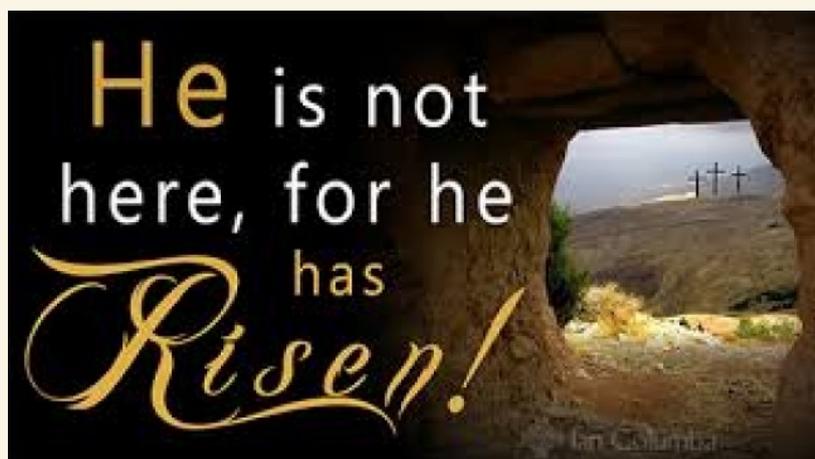
Lent Reflections, 7pm — 7.15pm from Wednesday 26th February to Thursday 26th March

Palm Sunday — 5th April, 9.30am & 11am services, a breakfast will be served from 10.15am

Maundy Thursday, 9th April — Communion, 7pm

Good Friday, 10th April — 7pm service

Easter Sunday, 12th April — Bacon rolls from 10.15am, one service only at 11am.



The End Of An Era

And a new beginning...

The past year has been the beginning of the end of an era and the beginning of a new era. On the 23rd February 2020 our MDS/Deacon Mr Ken McKay will retire after 22 years of service. Kenneth has laboured for God's Kingdom through pastoral care for members and parish people alike. I wish to pay tribute to Ken and thank God for all that he has done through his servant. We pray a rich blessing upon Ken and Mary as they go forward to the next chapter of their life.

With Ken's retirement we are facing a new direction and prospect. Over my 23 years of ministry at Letham St Mark's we have always had a desire to do outreach and to share the Gospel with the parish. However, we have never really engaged with the community in a committed way where we, as the Church, have intentionally put resources into serving the community directly. This is now going to change. As of May we will be employing a Community Development Worker with the role of working in the community and using the building to serve the people of the parish. I am very excited about this Christian witness that shows Christ's love to the people of the parish in a very real way. We are also employing a part-time Pastoral Assistant to cover some of the duties associated with Ken's role. The Rev Anne Findlay will be taking up her duties from the beginning of March and anticipate a warm reception for Anne when she visits. In both appointments we see a great challenge for members and adherents of the Church. We look forward to a great movement of God where His people will hear the call to joyfully work for God's Kingdom in new ways.

Our calling is to provide the "Ordinances of religion" to the people of our parish and this is something we have done and will do in the future. As society changes so does the way the Church relates the Gospel to people's lives. Over the past year we have walked with families who have been grieving, celebrating, searching and finding faith. My role as Minister will also develop to be more of an overseer within the local structures to enable others to fulfil their role.

My grateful thanks goes to the Elders, the Deacon, Tracey White, Gillian Forsyth and all the volunteers who work so hard in children's and young people's ministry. I am also grateful to Mrs Denise Botwright and Robert Johnston and the Praise Band who so brilliantly lead our worship on Sunday mornings.

Aye Jim

Kenneth D Mackay — DCS

Our Deacon, Kenneth has retired after 22 years service to Letham St Mark's Church.

His last Sunday with us was on Sunday 23rd February.

On this day, a retirement gift was made to Kenneth on behalf of the congregation. Should anyone still wish to contribute please pass on to either our Session Clerk, Jim Leslie or our Treasurer, Gillian Forsyth and this will be forwarded to Kenneth in due course.



*Faithful servants never retire.
You can retire from your career,
but you will never retire from serving God.*

New Pastoral Assistant



Our new Pastoral Assistant is Anne Findlay. Anne will take up this new post on Monday 2nd March, 2020.

Anne will deliver pastoral care through visiting, this will involve — visiting members and non-members in a variety of locations including care homes, hospitals, homes etc and overseeing our Pastoral Care Team. We look forward to Anne joining the team here at Letham St Mark's.

Anne Findlay worked for NHS Tayside as a healthcare Chaplain from 2002. She began her chaplaincy work in Ninewells hospital in Dundee and for 8 years worked as the Chaplain in Perth Royal Infirmary and the Cornhill Macmillan Centre up until her retirement in March, 2019.

Anne hails from Drumoyne and began attending the Govan Church of the Nazarene as a young girl, into her teens and then studied for a Diploma in Theology at Nazarene Theological College. Eighteen years of Anne's ministry was spent in the Bolton Church of the Nazarene as a Minister of Christian Education, where she was the leader of the Kindergarten school and involved in the youth and various uniformed organisations. Anne was the Associate Minister of the Church of the Nazarene, Perth for 5 years before becoming a hospital Chaplain.

**Meet our student,
Anne Redpath**



It is hard to believe that, at time of writing, I am already more than half way through my placement at Letham St Mark's, as I train for Ministry. Time flies when you are enjoying yourself, as they say, and so this is the first opportunity to let you know, in print, a little bit about who I am and what I am up to!

My husband, Jim, was in Parish Ministry for 28 years, and as part of that ministry, I had lots of fun leading Sunday School, Youth Fellowship and Scripture Union Summer Holiday Clubs. Anyone remember 'Going Bananas'?!!

As many of you know, I was a teacher before leaving to pursue my call to ministry. I began as a teacher of Religious and Moral Education and through that developed an interest in supporting young people with additional support needs. I have been privileged to work in that field for the last fourteen years, with a particular focus on supporting adolescent mental health for the last five. Alongside that, I trained as a worship leader with St Andrews Presbytery, which ultimately led to me beginning to hear my call to ministry. It took a while for me to be convinced that God was actually calling me to full-time ordained ministry, but He left me in no doubt, and so here I am on a surprising new adventure!

At the moment I am still doing part-time study by distance learning at Aberdeen University as part of my training, and when I leave LSM at the end of April, I will be embarking on a full-time ten-week summer placement before transferring to Edinburgh for a year's full-time study at New College, beginning in September.

I would like to take this opportunity to say that it is a real privilege to worship, serve, and learn from you, and I have already been richly blessed by the warm welcome, fellowship and encouragement I have received. Thank you for that. I am looking forward to getting to know more of you over the next couple of months and to sharing with you in all that God has in store.

Praying for God's richest blessings for you all,
Anne Redpath



The collection for Christian Aid at the Christmas services came to £455.31. In addition I was able to send a further £160 which was the surplus from sales of Traidcraft Christmas cards and from the catalogue in November last year. This is testament to the great generosity of LSM people who donated this money as part of their Christmas shopping. Many thanks indeed to all my customers. Your support this Christmas has given a chance to women in poverty to build new lives for themselves and their families.

The letter of thanks highlighted the benefits for women such as Ranjita from Rajasthan, India, who had cleaned latrines and sewers by hand from the age of nine. With the help of a Christian Aid-funded self-help group, she discovered she was entitled to a government compensation grant and help to find a dignified occupation. She is now earning a living as a tailor and is able to send her daughter to school.

Research shows that more money in women's hands contributes not only to eliminating poverty but also to better education, nutrition, and health outcomes for children and other members of the household.

Ash Wednesday on 26th February marks the start of Lent this year. Christian Aid's resource for Lent is a series of illustrated daily readings reflecting on the climate crisis and its impact on people living in poverty in Kenya. Please pick up your free copy in the cafe area, or request one from me.

Gill Kaye, Christian Aid rep
mob 07801818535
email: gill_kaye@hotmail.com

**The Annual Business Meeting of the Church will take place on
Tuesday 24th March, 7pm
All are welcome to attend.**

ANNUAL
BUSINESS
MEETING

On the Saturday between Christmas and New Year these lovely folks enjoyed an afternoon together, which consisted of some good food, good company and lots of hilarity. The number of gifts in Twelve Days of Christmas caused lots of frantic calculations!..... You had to be there!

Thanks to the generosity of those who attended, after costs were covered, we were able to make a donation to the Perth Food Bank.

Elizabeth Sime



FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT

Fairtrade Fortnight is from 24th February to 8th March 2020. For information and stories explaining the effects of our everyday shopping choices, please visit <https://www.fairtrade.org.uk/> or <https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/what-is-fair-trade>

If you keep an eye open in your usual supermarket or local shop during Fairtrade Fortnight, you should see special promotions on fairly-traded goods, such as bananas, coffee, tea, chocolate, and rice. If you don't see any, enquire at Customer Services. Businesses are likely to take action to stock more fairly-traded goods if they know customers want the producers to receive a fair price for their work.

When the time comes for buying chocolate Easter eggs, you could consider making sure that what you buy is fairly traded, such as those from the Real Easter Egg company, Traidcraft, and Divine Chocolate.

Gill Kaye



Baptisms -

Jessica Holly Apps — 19th January, 2020

Funerals -

Mrs Margaret Erskine—8th December, 2019

Mrs Margaret Stewart — 21st December, 2019

Mrs Aileen Kippen — 21st December, 2019

Mrs Margaret Kellock — 9th January, 2020

Mr William McDowall — 18th January, 2020

Mrs Annie Philips (Nan) — 22nd January, 2020

Mrs Joyce Boag — 26th January, 2020

Mr Stuart Johnston — 6th February, 2020



**But I could never go
out overnight !**

On days when it is expected that the city centre will be busy there is an early shift from tea-time to approx 9.30pm. Why not come out as an observer? Or if you are thinking of doing it “when I retire”, it is possible to do most of the training in advance, so that you are ready to start.

Contact Gordon Loudon on ggloudos@aol.com



One of our Boys Brigade officers, Ben Johnston was recently commissioned as a Street Pastor on Friday 29th November in Perth Baptist Church. We wish him well in his new venture as part of the rota of Street Pastors in Perth.

Gordon News

Happy New Year!

Yes, I know it's February. Yes, it's now been over a month since the New Year but as this is the first time we've emailed in 2020, I feel it would be remiss not to at least lead off with that. To not would seem, somehow, rude.

We're now settled back into life in Uganda after our Christmas break in the UK. It was so lovely to have a change of pace, a change of season and most importantly get a chance to see family and friends that we've missed spending time with. We're sorry if we didn't get a chance to say hi, but we were really trying to keep the holiday as low-key as possible. Although, if you count 1400 road miles travelled to all four countries of the UK 'low-key' then I'm not sure I want to see 'high-key'!

After all the fun, frolics and festivities of Christmas, we arrived back in Uganda in the second week of January and hit the ground running! The girls were back in school 18 hours after we landed and I was back in the office the following day. Since then, we've welcomed new interns, begun a major new project with EMI, adapted back to the weather and driving conditions and, most importantly, reconnected with our friends and church family here in Kampala.

So, what did we get up to at Christmas? Our four-country tour of the UK began in England (after a hearty breakfast of Belgian chocolates eaten during our connections through Brussels). We had a few days at Laura's sisters house,



getting our heads straight and more importantly, our warm clothes unpacked and chance for our bodies to begin to adjust to the cold weather. Over the course of the next few weeks, we visited friends and family in Newark, Whittlesey, London, Cambridge, Newtownards, Moneydig, Dunning and Perth, as well as others that we just stopped off with as we drove past. We got to visit our sending church, Newark Evangelical Church, as well as the church they're planting in

Fernwood. We also visited St Mary's Ballybeen and Letham St Mark's, Perth. It was particularly encouraging to be warmly welcomed into those fellowships, and to chat with people who were genuinely interested in both the work of EMI Uganda and in how we were doing as a family.

All in all, it was lovely to be able to pick up again those precious relationships that we left somewhat unattended in the course of moving continents.

We know that being in Kampala is exactly where God wants us to be, but it doesn't mean that it's easy being away from our dear family and friends. Since we arrived back, the new term has kicked off at EMI. We're starting to get used to the rhythms of the terms here. Something is always changing—whether it's new projects starting or it's people coming or going, nothing ever stays the same for long. The big news in the structural



department, this term, is that we have our first Ugandan structural engineering intern! Isaac has just graduated from university here in Kampala, and he's now undertaking a four month internship with EMI. I'll be supervising Isaac as he helps with our main project this term. We're now designing the biggest building I've done with EMI to date, the main admin and teaching building for Livingstone International University in Mbale, Eastern Uganda. This is a huge project and will take up a lot of my time between now and the end of March. Meanwhile, construction work is still ongoing on other projects. The pouring of the floor slab at the new workshop is slated for this week. This is a crucial element of the whole project—the rest of the building is basically just to keep the rain and sun off the slab—so the process of preparing and pouring requires close supervision from myself and our team and in the midst of everything, I'm going to Burundi for a few days next week to check on the progress at Kibuye Hope Hospital. It's nice to be busy!



The girls really loved their Christmas break and especially their time with both sets of grandparents. We got to do a bunch of fun things as a family, and they are now in danger of thinking that life in the UK is just one big holiday! Saying that, they have settled back really well into life here. I think the normal routine of school etc has been great at giving them a structure, and it's helped having so many of their good friends nearby. Laura is throwing herself back into the busyness of life with aplomb. Whether it's Bible studies, mentoring, school runs, Sunday school, music lessons, hosting or much, much more, she manages to somehow keep the balance of all these activities with making sure that we all get fed and watered at the end of the day. She's truly remarkable!

Prayer points—

- Give thanks for a really good holiday in the UK. Pray for our relationships there as we carry on with our life in Uganda.
- Pray for wisdom and guidance for Laura in what things she should or should not be involved with.
- Pray for this upcoming term with EMI. Pray for the projects and the people, particularly for Isaac, that he would grow both professionally & spiritually.
- Give thanks that the girls are feeling comfortable in their life here.
- Pray for our financial situation, that God would restore our support back to the level it needs to be. Praise God we have already begun to see answers!

**The
McCarthy
girls**



The Gordon family (minus Elle, photographer)



PERTH & KINROSS REMEMBERS

Over the past five years, the Archives & Local and Family History team at Culture Perth and Kinross have helped groups and individuals across the region deliver a variety of projects to commemorate the Centenary of the First World War.

In August last year, Perth & Kinross Remembers, a twelve-month legacy project supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund was launched. The project has also kindly received local support from the Friends of Perth & Kinross Archive, The Jimmy Cairncross Charitable Trust and The Perth Common Good Fund.

Perth & Kinross Remembers aims to gather the work and research produced by community groups, schools and individuals during the 2014–2018 commemorative period and place the outputs in a First World War Legacy Collection. Here they will be preserved in the Perth & Kinross Archive, where they will be available to future generations.

As we move further away from the First World War, it is even more important that we record and preserve as much as possible. From original material, including letters, postcards and photographs, to remembrance services and community-led events, all of this will help future generations learn about the impact of The Great War, and how it was commemorated in the years following.

Get Involved:- Have you been involved with First World War memorial projects in your local community? Do you have original photographs, letters and other papers from the First World War? If you would like your collections or commemorative events to be part of a First World War Legacy Collection, we would love to hear from you.

Please get in touch with Fiona Hall, Perth & Kinross Remembers Project Officer at fionahall@culturepk.org.uk or 01738 477053.

More information about Perth & Kinross Remembers, how to get involved and upcoming volunteering opportunities can be found on the project webpage at www.culturepk.org.uk/cpkremembers.

A programme of talks will be running this year from January until August of 2020. More information on the talks and how to register can be found here www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/culture-perth-and-kinross-6327092777 or you can contact Fiona Hall using the above contact details.

Please note that the talks are free, but, registration is required.



PERTH & KINROSS REMEMBERS

The talks taking place this February and March are as follows -

'Our Work Continues: The Commonwealth War Graves Commission in Scotland' will take place on Thursday 27th February at 6.30pm in the Sandeman Room of the AK Bell Library, Perth

AND

'Women, Work and the First World War' will take place on Friday 6th March at 6.30pm in the Sandeman Room of the AK Bell Library, Perth.



Our Church Café is open on **Tuesdays and Thursdays, 10am—12pm** during school term time.

Our Café volunteers do a fabulous job of providing lovely coffees, teas and home-made scones for our customers.

If you are free one morning, why not come along and join us.

You would be made most welcome.

Still Waters

Snow, rain or sunshine our volunteers are out in the Still Waters van going around Perth handing out food every Saturday night to the homeless and anyone facing financial difficulties.

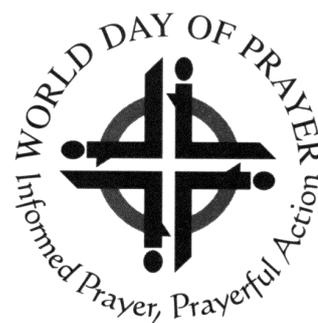
Each volunteer plays a special part by either making soup, macaroni cheese, mince and tatties, sausage casserole or sandwiches. Some volunteers prefer handing out the food at various locations and having a chat with some of the people. Murrays, Greggs and Baynes supply us with trays of left over cakes which goes down a treat. Tesco donates fruit, vegetables and various other foods.

There are four teams of volunteers from various churches including Donella Johnstone, Doreen Brown, Denise Botwright, Morag Murdoch, David Dixon, Ruth McLauchlan, Janis Souter & Neil Slowman from Letham St Mark's and Kerstin Lang from the Letham Swap Shop, they all share the love of Jesus by serving the food they have prepared with God's love.

If anyone feels God is leading them to help with this very much needed work, please speak directly to any of the folks above.

Donella Johnstone & Doreen Brown

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER



Friday 6th March, 2020

11.00am

The Salvation Army Citadel

7.00pm

The Congregational Church

All are welcome

'Rise, take your mat and walk'

Written by the Christian women of Zimbabwe

A Parkinsons Coffee Morning will be held at

Letham St Mark's Church on
Saturday 21st March, 2020
from 10am — 12pm.

£3 — Adults

£1.50 — Children

PARKINSON'S^{UK}
SCOTLAND
**CHANGE ATTITUDES.
FIND A CURE.
JOIN US.**

Come along and sample our home-baking with a cup of tea or coffee
and support Parkinsons.

Easter Crafts

Books

Nail Painting

Home-Baking

Spring Flowers

The Girls Brigade Christmas Carol Service and nativity were well received by friends and family, enjoying tea and mince pies afterwards.



The Brigaders with their leader Hilary at Christmas-time in PRI, ready to sing Christmas carols.

Some of the patients were moved to tears as they sang along to these familiar songs. The girls handmade gifts were appreciated too.



The Brigaders being shown how to create these wonderful crepe flowers to add to the rhododendron leaves by Dorothy Alexander.



The end result—well done to all the girls and thank you to Dorothy.

Mary Mackay, Captain





Our next Breakfast Church Service will be held on Sunday 1st March starting at 10.15am, looking at the theme — Justice and God, this will be led by the Very Rev Andrew McLellan.

There will be a free breakfast followed by worship. This is an all age service and everyone is very welcome.

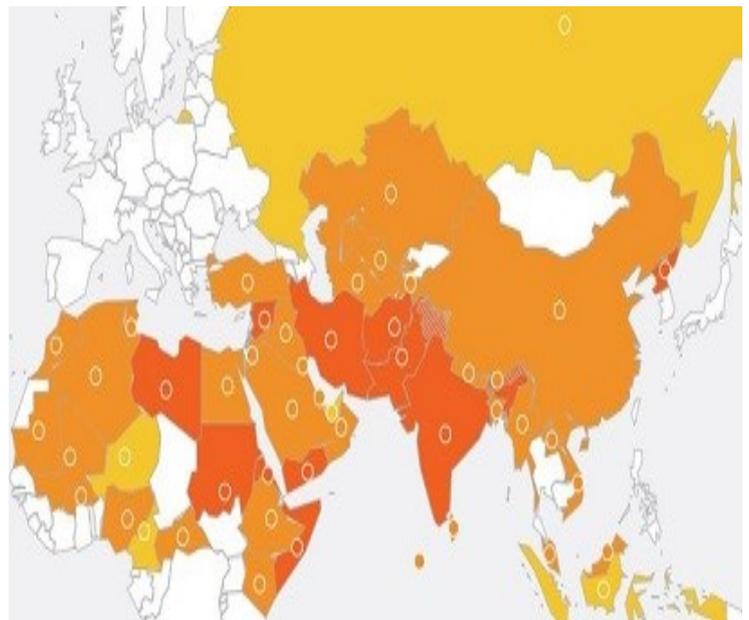
Our 9.30am service will be held as normal.

Update on Family News !

In a recent issue of Family Forum prayers were asked for members of the global Christian family who are being persecuted for their faith.



Although it affects approx 240 million as indicated in the latest Open Doors Watch List 2020, it gets little coverage from the media and no real interest was taken in this sad



issue at the General Election. The Mounstephen report concluded that the persecution of Christians is so extreme it amounts to GENOCIDE in some parts of the world. It called on the

Government to consider sanctioning countries that persecute Christians, and introduce mandatory religious literacy training for Foreign Office staff. The Government has now said it will adopt the recommendations "in full"

Boris Johnson used his Christmas address to highlight global Christian persecution : "As Prime Minister, that's something I want to change. We stand with Christians everywhere, solidarity, and we will defend your right to practice your faith."

Speaking in the House of Lords, Baroness Goldie said legislation would be brought forward following the UK's exit from the EU to "show global leadership" by penalising countries which violate human rights. She said the UK would impose sanctions "in response to serious human rights violations or abuses".

Let us ...

- ... continue to pray for our brothers and sisters who are being persecuted;
- ... press **all** political parties to expedite the passing of the legislation;
- ... keep ourselves informed through e.g. www.opendoorsuk

www.opendoorsuk.org

Sandy Gunn



Over the past year many of you have been popping up to the Swap Shop in Garth Avenue to bring your donations of clothing, household items, books, bedding and furniture which can be re-used rather than disposed of as waste and end up in landfill.

Our grateful thanks for making time to do this.

We are reminded every day in our News programmes and documentaries of the impact of the climate emergency on the natural world, our health and well being and the future of our coastlines and oceans. A quote from one of our users:

“It’s a simply brilliant idea, Reduce Waste, Reuse, Swap and save money”

This project delivers services directly to the community and its focus is in providing for those in greatest need.

The Swap Shop welcomes around of 50 shoppers each day who come to browse, blether and leave with a bargain.

Around 170 items are taken away each day to be reused and 200 Kg of donations are sorted.

Our Household and Furniture Stores provides a service to Social Workers, Womens Aid and Housing Support for families entering their new tenancy or emergency accommodation without the basics.

We rely on funding from Charitable Trusts, two part-time staff and the commitment volunteers.

Our most recent member of staff has been funded by the Forteviot Trust and National Lottery Awards for All. His remit is to increase our recycling capabilities and also to develop further the impact we can have within the Schools and community groups in Letham to work towards reducing waste and learning how the behaviour of each one of us can make a difference.

This is an exciting time for Letham Climate Challenge and if you would like to be part of it and travel alongside those members of the community in Letham who feel deeply about it then we would be delighted to hear from you.

If you can offer 2-3 hours a week to join our team of volunteers you will find yourself amongst a new group of friends and a really worthwhile activity. If this is not for you we would value your skills and experience as members of the Board.

Contact : Christine Sloan 01738 443904 for a chat.

Our days are happier when we give people a bit of our heart rather than a piece of our mind.

If you have to choose between being kind and being right, choose being kind and you will always be right!

Dr Wayne Dyer

Jesus never says to the poor "Come and find the Church" but He says to those of us in the Church - go out into the world and find the poor, the hungry, homeless and imprisoned.

Tony Campola

"If you want to do the work of God

Pay attention to people,

Notice them,

Especially the people nobody else notices."

John Ortberg

Telling people that God loves them is good theology,
Showing people that you love them is what transforms the world.

Jim Palmer



If you would like to receive the Church-Family Forum by e-mail please contact the Church Office,
office@lethamstmarks.org.uk

The benefits are -

This method saves paper and ink!
You will receive your copy as soon as the Forum is produced!
It will all be in colour!

All Are Welcome

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The church in the community

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