

Letham Mark's

The church in the community

Rannoch Rd, Perth, PH1 2HH

01738 446377

www.lethamstmarks.org.uk

Scottish Charity No SC002467

Church Family Forum—December, 2020

Christmas 2020

Wednesday 16th December — Advent 4, 7pm

Thursday 17th December — Annual Memorial Service, 7pm

Wednesday 23rd December — Advent 5, 7pm

Thursday 24th December — Christmas Eve Service, 7pm

Wednesday 6th January, 2021 — New Beginnings, 7pm

At each service we can accommodate 34 people —

1. Please pre-register your attendance and book a seat(s) by phoning Elizabeth Sime on 07561614203 by Monday at 8pm each week.
2. You will be allocated a specific seat(s) number to use on the night.
 3. You will be able to access the Church from 6.45pm via the front door on Rannoch Road.
4. When you arrive, please put on your face covering and keep it on throughout your time in the building.
5. Please sanitise your hands upon entering and exiting the building.
6. Please follow the one way system in and out of the building which will be clearly marked.
7. As you enter the Sanctuary, you will be directed to the seat you have been allocated.
 8. Please refrain from singing during the service as this is not permitted.
 9. Please observe the 2 metre social distancing rule at all times.
10. At the end of the service, please leave the building safely without going to any other part of the building or remaining to speak to others.

Please remember if you or someone in your household has symptoms of Covid-19, please do not attend the services.

Thank you and let's worship God together in a safe way.

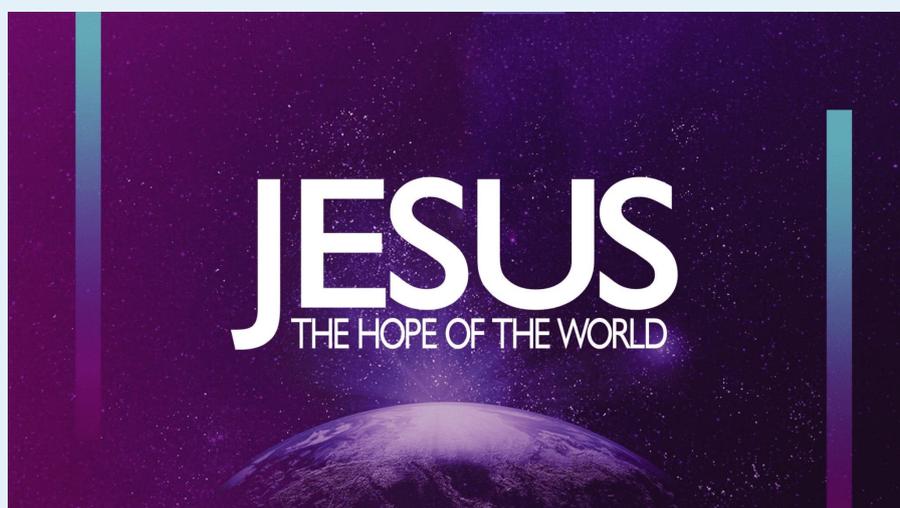
Dear Friends,

Christmas and a New Year are nearly with us once again and I am sure you are glad that is the case. Not because Christmas is going to be easy or as like other years but because there is hope for a vaccine for next year. Our prayers have been answered and our wait is over. It won't happen straight away but it will lead us to a place where we can start to live our lives in a way without the restrictions we all face. The coming of Jesus is, of course, the greatest cause for hope humanity has ever known.

Luke 2:12 "Today in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord." The hope that we need came in the form of a baby, a human, a real person with a divine nature. When God viewed the need of humanity there were options as to what he could do to intervene and change humanity's lot. In the end it was personal for God because He sent His Son not just to speak the message but to be the message. It is extremely humbling to consider such things and to realise it was for us that Jesus came. His love was so great that He personally took on board our brokenness, sin and pain. During this pandemic the fact that Christ has come to the world, lived, died and rose again opens up to us a Saviour who is real and never absent. Our pain is His pain, our loneliness is His loneliness and our feelings of being disconnected are something He knows all too well. When we pray and cry out to God He knows and He feels all that we experience. To go even deeper is to entrust ourselves into God's hands and by faith we listen and believe in prayer. That is hope.

May God bless you this Christmas season and to a New Year full of hope.

Rev Jim Stewart





Letham St Mark's Memorial service Thursday 17 Dec at 7pm

Christmas can be a sad and difficult time for lots of people who have lost loved ones, this year may have been especially difficult.

We are holding our Annual Memorial Service on Thursday 17th December at 7pm to which you are very welcome.

Unfortunately, we are limited in attendance to 34 people, if you would like to book a seat(s), please call 07561614203.

A warm welcome will be extended to all.

Pastoral Care

If you would like to speak to someone, you can request a phone call from the Pastoral Team to talk over any situation you are facing.

Please contact:-

Minister, Rev Jim Stewart – 01738 624167 or diamondboy09@yahoo.com

Pastoral Assistant, Rev Anne Findlay – 07540008838.



LSM Connections Café

We have been running for over a month now and it has been great to see the buzz of life and hear the chatter of conversations. We are slowly growing with each week seeing an increase in customers from the previous. LSM Connections provides a safe, friendly, spacious venue to visit alone or meet with a friend for teas, coffees, sweet treats and bacon rolls. Please make use of the opportunity Connections provides to meet with a friend or neighbour as we seek to develop further connections and links between church and community.

Going forward it would be great to have some more volunteers who would like to do a shift in Connections. There are plenty of opportunities, whether in food prep, drinks making or serving customers, with full training given to anyone who would like to get involved, please do get in touch if you would like to find out more information.

If you have hours to spare and would like to serve in this way please contact Tracey by email at office@lethamstmarks.org.uk or leave a message on the LSM office phone 01738 446377 and someone will get back to you.

Over Christmas and New Year LSM Connections will be closed from Monday 21st December and reopen again on Tuesday 12th January 2021.

God is Good

The Connections Café Team

Letham 'Advent Windows' Community Initiative

Do you remember those old advent calendars you used to open each year as a child and perhaps still do with your children or grandchildren?

Well, Letham4all are running a '**Light up Letham for Christmas, Advent Windows**' event this December to promote community spirit and are looking for local residents to create an advent window display in their home and then take a photo of the window and display from outside. The idea is to then email the picture to letham4all@gmail.com and they will post a different window each day running up to Christmas on Letham4all social media pages.

I think this sounds like a great community event and would encourage anyone who lives in the area to join in.

Further information is available on the [letham4all website](http://letham4all.com).

Neil
LSM Community Development Worker



Christmas Drop-In

On **Monday, 28th December** the Cafe area will be open from 10.00am - 1.00pm as an informal place to meet for a cuppa and a biscuit. There will be no charge for this, as we see it as an opportunity to open our doors to our church and community for a short while between Christmas and New Year. There is no need to book a place, just come along and be assured of a warm welcome and a place for a chat. All usual Covid-19 precautions will be in place.

Connections Cafe Team



Weekly Offerings

A huge thanks to everybody who has kept their weekly contributions going during this crisis, and those who have saved up their envelopes over the past few months. Many of you got in touch after the last newsletter to have your envelopes uplifted, or sent in cheques. The building might have been closed, but God's work continues, and your donations have helped make this possible.

At our last meeting with the Treasurer, she reported that almost 80% of the congregation now make their contributions by standing order, rather than by weekly freewill offering envelopes. It is a very simple system to set up, and many of you have found this to be an easier way of supporting the work of the church. If you would like to consider donating by standing order, please contact the office, and we'll arrange for a form to be delivered to you

God bless

Jim Leslie
Session Clerk

This year, we have missed the opportunity to share with many in our church family who have celebrated significant birthdays and wedding anniversaries.

We have also been unable to show our love in the usual way of visiting and sending flowers to those who have been bereaved or been able to mark the first anniversary of the death of a loved one. All of these occasions matter and we remind ourselves of the love of Christ, which never falters or fails, especially when we are in the dark valleys.



Funerals -

Mr William Cochrane — 8th March, 2020
Mrs Betty Forbes — 18th March, 2020
Mrs Connie Delbridge — 19th April, 2020
Mr Mike Andrews — 20th April, 2020
Mrs Marion Glennie — 9th May, 2020
Mr Angus Forsyth — 5th June, 2020
Mr Jim Ewan — 11th June, 2020
Mrs Beth Duncan — 23rd June, 2020
Mrs Sylvia Wallace — 3rd August, 2020
Mrs Jane Dewar — 4th August, 2020
Mrs Madge Ord — 10th August, 2020
Mrs Margaret Munro — 12th August, 2020
Mrs Mary Dobbie — 1st September, 2020
Mr George McMillan — 2nd September, 2020
Mr Adam Murray — 10th September, 2020
Mr Maurice Donald — September, 2020
Mr Gilbert Petrie — 15th September, 2020
Mr Donald Marr — 10th October, 2020
Mr James Hogg — 19th October, 2020

Zooming

For those of us of a certain age there was a time when the word Zoom brought to mind an ice lolly or that thing we did as children as we ran around pretending to be rockets or a top ten hit by Fat Larry's Band!

But since March many of us have become very familiar with this new concept of Zooming. It has been used by many for work meetings. I have now Zoomed in many different ways within our church family.

Back in May, when Anne Redpath was still with us she arranged a couple of Zoom Coffee Mornings where about a dozen or so of us had a chat. Before the second Coffee Morning we were asked to think about our favourite films, so we had a good discussion as many of us shared the same classic favourites, like Sound of Music and Calamity Jane.

My Home group kept going for a number of months, we used the time for a short reflection and to pray. It was great to see and hear Jeanette, Ed, Caroline and Fiona. Stewart and Sheena also joined us.

Irene Wilkie, Gillian and Dave Forsyth and I have enjoyed several quizzes too, we have all come to the conclusion that we are better with our combined brainpower than we are as individuals!

I have also joined in with the fortnightly church prayer meeting on a Sunday evening.

Whilst all of these experiences have been quite different and have been with different people, it is something I am very grateful for as it has allowed a measure of connection with my church family, particularly when we were in that time of strict lockdown, when we couldn't see people from other households or go anywhere, this sense of social interaction was vital for me. Technology can often be blamed for many of the problems in the world, but at this point in time having remote contact is something which has made a hard time just that wee bit easier.

I have taken screen shots of one of our quiz nights and a Home Group meeting, the quality isn't great, but you might enjoy seeing faces you haven't seen in a while.

Elizabeth Sime





Quiz Night



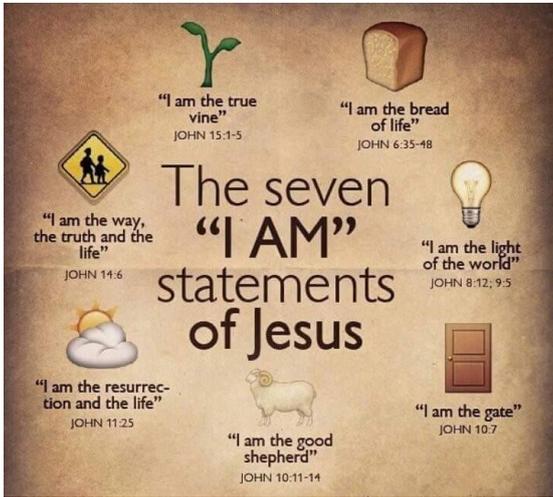
Home Group meeting



Keeping Connected

It's been great to keep touch with the Sunday School pupils throughout this time. We have looked at the "I am" sayings of Jesus and the young folk have been challenged to memorise the verses!! We have a short series on Christmas and who knows -with the coming of the vaccine - we soon may be back at church!

Sunday School staff





The 2nd Perth Girls Brigade



Following the retirement of our Captain, Mary Mackay and after a lot of time to prayerfully consider our options regarding the continuation of 2nd Perth Girls Brigade, it has been agreed that our Girls Brigade Company with the current leaders and helpers cannot continue to serve the girls and therefore plan not to re-open for Session 2020/21.

With the Covid-19 pandemic lock down at the end of March we were not able to have our annual display and prize-giving for session 2019/20. In lieu of this we have given each of the girls a gift voucher to treat themselves and to have a positive final experience of their time with 2nd Perth Girls Brigade.

The Leaders for each section have now delivered the “Goody bags”, Award Badges, Attendance Certificates and Gift Vouchers to all the Girls who regularly attended during session 2019/20.

The Explorer Section Leaders reported that they had good fun distributing the goodies, a reminder of the times they had enjoyed with the girls on Brigade evenings.



Thankfully all the girls are well, although one wee one did have Covid but thankfully no ill-effects since and did not spread to the rest of the family. Others had got new pets (Chilli & Chocolate the guinea pigs) others with existing pets (best names were Jack and Victor the Jack Russells) ... and a Special Surprise was a new baby brother - 6 days old!

There was also a very special welcome for the Leaders who delivered to two of the senior girls, Nathalie & Erin. They wore their Brigade Sweatshirts and had made posters and displayed them on the wall outside their doors. We leaders together with their mums were very proud of them.



The motto for Girls Brigade is to “Seek, Serve and Follow Christ” and we would hope this has influenced many girls through several generations who have been involved in Girls Brigade and that they had fun and learned about God’s love.



Thank you to the Congregation, Kirk Session and Minister for the support to the girls and leaders past and present.

Finally a huge THANK YOU to everyone who has given of their time and talents to 2nd Perth Company over many years.

2nd Perth Girls Brigade Leaders

Luke 2:1 – 12



The Birth of Jesus



Across

3. In verse 9 the shepherds saw an "_____ of the Lord."
5. "_____ also went up from . . . Nazareth" is in verse 4.
6. The word after "because" in verse 4 is _____
7. "And there _____ shepherds" is from verse 8.

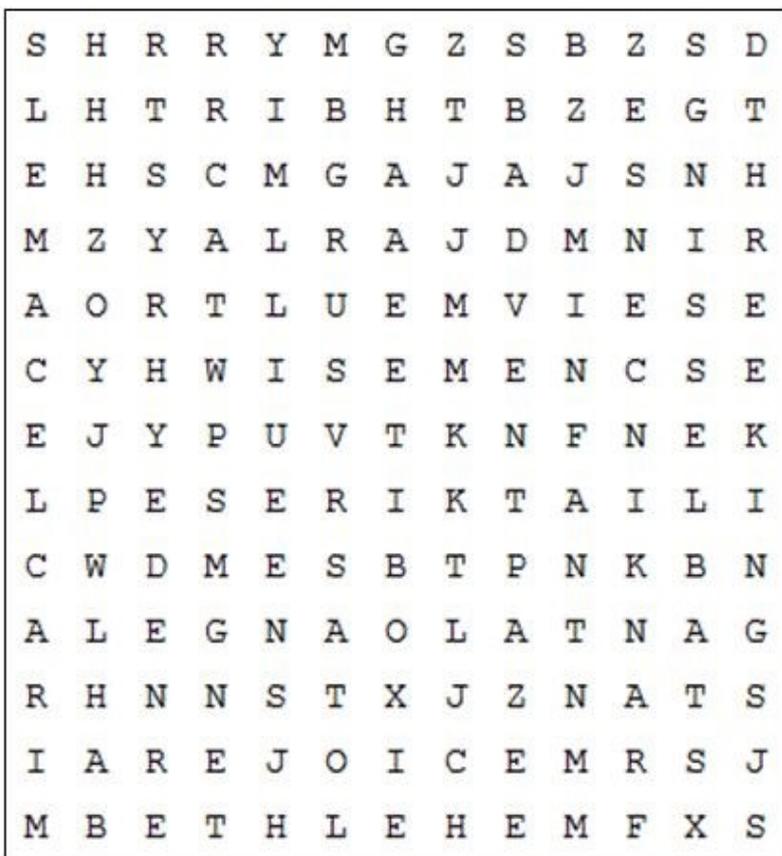
Down

1. "Room for them in the _____" is in verse 7.
2. "_____" were watching their flocks in verse 8.
3. The third word in verse 4 is _____.
4. "He is Christ _____ Lord" is in verse 11.
7. The fourth to the last word in verse 2 is _____.





Joy to the World



ADVENT
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
BIRTH
BLESSINGS
CAMELS
FRANKINCENSE

INFANT
JESUS
JOSEPH
MAGI
MANGER
MARY
MIRACLE

MYRRH
NATIVITY
REJOICE
STABLE
STAR
THREE KINGS
WISE MEN



YF Together Again

Since September, the YF has been meeting on Zoom every 2 weeks for a time of sharing, quiz / game and Bible study. The Zoom calls have been especially good for involving the young folk who live outside of Perth - we've even been joined from Stornoway!

We've managed to meet face-to-face (covering) one Sunday evening in November! It was good to chill together again albeit from a distance as we played inverted charades and psychiatry (don't ask!). The Penguin biscuits were very popular unlike the jokes on the wrapper.

We've been looking into John's gospel under the theme of identity (who is John, who is Jesus) and discovered that the purpose of the Gospel is near the end of the book (see John 20:31).

May you know the blessings of God this Christmas and always.

Dave Forsyth
Youth Fellowship Leader

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." John 1:14





Letham St Mark's is taking part in Christmas Box 2020, an exciting online event on the 13th December at 6pm.

As part of this interactive event we would like to deliver to you a free Christmas Box with five items inside that will help explain the Christmas story as we watch the online event. It's fun, free and for all the family.

If you would like to receive a free Christmas Box then please email office@lethamstmarks.org.uk by Thursday 10th December and we will deliver it to you before the event.

This newsletter has been hand delivered by volunteers, however in the current situation, this is a challenge. It would be much simpler if we were able to maximise the number of newsletters that can be delivered electronically going forward.

If you are able and willing to receive future newsletters electronically, please email office@lethamstmarks.org.uk and we will deliver future newsletters by this method.



“But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David, a Saviour has been born to you; He is Christ the Lord.” Luke 2:10-11

“For to us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be on His shoulders, and He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
Isaiah 9:6

Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son and will call Him Immanuel. Isaiah 7:14

Thanks be to God for His
indescribable gift!
2 Corinthians 9:15

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

Letham St Mark's
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