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LOCHEE LOCAL NEWS

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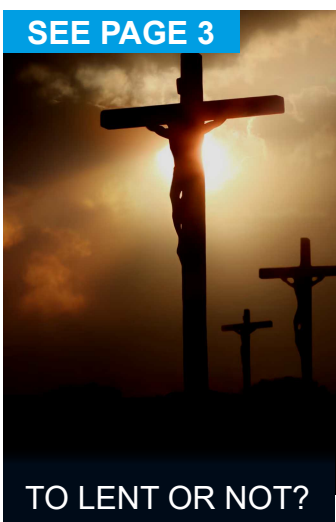
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MIRACLE OR HOAX?



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TO LENT OR NOT?

RESURRECTION IN EVERY SHOOT



BY KATY WRAIGHT

“Have you ever seen such a wet January?” That’s the question that I’ve heard from many people over the past month, and it shouldn’t come as a surprise to hear, as Brits always have a lot to say about the weather! But, really, it has been such a wet, dark start to the year, and now that the calendar has just turned over into March, we’re finally starting to see some of the glorious signs of spring. In my garden, crocuses are starting to peek through the muddy soil. Driving along the Kingsway I can see the green shoots of the daffodils that will turn the sides of the road into a riot of colour in just a few more weeks. As I sit

and write this, I can hear birds chirping outside, and if I take a few steps along the pavement I’ll see buds beginning to show on the trees. Everywhere there are signs of spring, signs of new life.

And we see this inside as well as outside. I popped into the Range a few days ago and the shelves were full of bright colour.

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Easter decorations, all yellow and green and fresh looking. Easter bunnies, little chicks, eggs, hats; so many cheerful displays to look at. It makes me wonder at all the different symbols we have for this time of year. The bunnies and chicks - they all make sense, as this really is the season for new life in the animal world. Easter bonnets? That tradition is a bit less obvious to me. Some people say it's a medieval tradition about wearing your best clothes during Lent, others say that decorating your hat with flowers was a way of celebrating spring — and maybe showing off your classy new headgear to your friends! Easter eggs? Well, you'll have to turn to Noah's article to get the answer to that tradition. But what is the best symbol for this season? What makes the best picture for Easter?

We're having a gardening day tomorrow - all the kids out in the garden digging over the dirt, pulling weeds, uprooting the ivy (I bought ice-cream for a treat to have half-way through the day when everyone's enthusiasm is likely to wane). We have a compost pile where we throw out all the food waste, the grass cuttings and fallen leaves from the hedge. All through the year it's been sitting and decomposing, all that dead food, dead leaves, dead grass, decaying until it turns into soil. But, when we spread that soil onto the garden bed and dig it in, and plant seeds in it, that's when the magic happens. New life springs up. And not only new life, but new life from death. Plants that can grow and flourish in the good soil that came from all the small deaths of the year before.

This new life from death is what Easter means to Christians. At Easter time we celebrate a glorious Death, a death that brings new Life to all who put their hope in the one who gave his life for us. I think that's a pretty good picture for Easter. New shoots springing up through the soil, reminding us of the one Death that gives Life.

So come and join us as we celebrate this Easter! We'll have an Easter Egg hunt and a bouncy castle, followed by lunch together at Lochee Baptist Chapel on 4th April, starting at 11:30. We'd love to see you there.

Saying Farewell to the Community Hub

BY NAOMI WRAIGHT



The Lochee Community Hub, located on the High Street, will sadly be closing down at the end of March. Established in October 2016, it has been a centre of social gatherings for the whole community to attend, from newborns to nineties. It has housed arts and crafts projects, family activities, pupil support, weekly get togethers, even scrabble sessions! Since a major redesign in January 2024, the hub has seen a huge increase in people attending, and has served as a space for connecting local residents, encouraging long-lasting friendships, and reaching out to those in need.

Despite all the Hub has done however, due to lack of council funding it will no longer be able to remain open. Katie Angus, the Community Hub Manager, is trying to connect those who have enjoyed coming to other nearby networks so that the work they have done can continue even when the Community Hub cannot. Hopefully the local library will be one new meeting place for some of the Hub's activities. If you are a local resident and you have enjoyed using the Hub, they would love you to join them at their open day on Friday 27th from 10am until 2pm for cake and coffee and to say your goodbyes.



At the Heart of the High Street

BY CATHRYN DICKSON

Nestled in the middle of our high street sits a little shop that has significantly stood the test of time, having seen many other shops come and go over the last 25 years. *Small Steps*, a business that sells dance wear, knitting supplies and haberdashery, including buttons and ribbons, was already established for more than five years just a few doors down by Marion Watterstone before moving to their current location. Marion, who was a dedicated highland dance teacher and competition judge for many years, combined her passion for dance and knitting in the retail sector, beginning as an in-shop in the Wellgate. Moving to Lochee gave the store greater independence, and so *Small Steps* was born. In recent years Marion's health has taken a hit, but she is ably assisted by her husband, Gordon, following his retirement from other work.

Together they enjoy engaging their regulars as well as meeting new customers. They persisted through the Covid years, although they observed the changes that it brought to their customers' dancing and social habits. Unphased, the business continues to adapt their supplies according to demand. Their most popular items are knitting supplies along with an array of dance shoes. If you are in need of specific dance or gymnastics outfits, items can be ordered in. Sweet knitted items for children can be made to order. Next time you are on the high street, be sure to pop in and see the variety of craft supplies on offer.



To Lent or Not to Lent? That is the Question!

BY NOAH DICKSON

Easter - how do we celebrate it? Why do some Christians fast at Lent and how are Easter eggs connected? These are both long standing traditions that have very special meanings. It began in the 4th century early church as a 40-day period of fasting, that was meant to help prepare individuals for baptism at Easter through fasting and repentance. In later years during Lent, you would only eat two small meals and dinner, then focus your day around prayer. Certain foods would be forbidden, even when you were eating. It was almost like a vegan diet. The Sabbath would remain a day of feasting and celebration. The 40 days reflects the period that Jesus spent fasting in the desert. Lent has an Anglo-Saxon root from the word meaning "spring". In AD 601, Pope Gregory I formally established the period to begin on Ash Wednesday and end on the Thursday before Easter. On Ash Wednesday in some churches, people draw crosses on their foreheads in ash to signify that they would one day return to the dust. So, Lent begins with a reminder of death and ends with Jesus conquering death. Lent is not meant to be easy but to be a symbol of the suffering that Jesus went through. Although the

tradition has changed over the years, today Lent can be helpful for remembering what Jesus achieved on Easter Sunday, not as a tradition to be relied on, but one that causes us to rely on Jesus' sacrifice on the cross. His sacrifice on the cross brings us new life. Having Easter eggs is also a tradition relating to Lent. People used them to break their fasts as they were one of the restricted foods. To make sure that no eggs were wasted during Lent they would boil any that were laid and have a feast at the end. Most children are devastated to find that Easter eggs are hollow, but there is a reason for that too. It was to show the empty tomb, so when you crack them open, it is like the stone being rolled away. Others just rolled the eggs. Some also used to paint them red to show the blood of Jesus spilt for us. Easter has many underlying traditions, but all you need to do is look a little closer. So, this Easter when you roll, decorate, boil, or look for your eggs, consider the true meaning behind it all and remember the sacrifice of Jesus.



Easter - the most important miracle that ever happened or the biggest hoax in history. But do miracles even happen? You're free to make your mind up one way or another but that does mean you're either wrong or right!

It is an important question to answer because if miracles happen and Jesus did rise from the dead, then there is at least some credibility to the claim of Jesus to be God the Son. And equally there is a possibility that the creator of the universe loved the world so much that he was willing to write himself into history and die to give His people true life. They are both fairly significant facts if they're true. I would suggest they're worth some careful thought.

Miracle or Hoax

BY DAVID HOLT

We are created reasonable beings. With that reason we ought to weigh the evidence before making that leap of faith to one side of the fence or the other. Here are the three biggest pieces of evidence widely considered to support the resurrection of Jesus 2000 years ago:

1. *The empty tomb.* Dead bodies tend to stay where they are left. So, either Jesus a) was not really dead (called the Swoon theory), b) someone moved him (the Romans or disciples) or c) he came back to life. Each one of these options has been explored over the years and I'm convinced the third option is the most credible.

2. *The appearances after his death.* Multiple accounts speak of people meeting Jesus after he had risen. Many of those people were willing to die without renouncing this fact since they really believed it was true. When you read about the type of people who suddenly made these claims it makes the likelihood of its truth all the more likely.

3. *The rapid growth of the early church.* I used to think this was the weakest of the three biggest claims, but as I've read more history and reflected on how pervasive Christian followers are in today's world despite some pretty horrendous circumstances, I have grown to see why this argument is so compelling.

So, when you're regretting that last Easter egg and wondering what it is all about, have a look into the evidence and make a decision based on it.

Light out of Dark



Our modern world is full of amazing technology. It took just over 66 years from the first flight of a plane by the Wright brothers to the Apollo 11 landing on the moon. It took a very similar number of years between the first TV's appearing in our homes to the first TVs appearing in our pockets through smartphones. The modern world is such a marvel that it can tempt us to look back at the past and wonder what took our ancestors so long. Stuck in the "dark ages" is a phrase sometimes used. But who was responsible for making them so dark? Historians like to whisper about the church and how it held back progress for 1000 years. If it wasn't for the church, could we have had smartphones back in AD 1010?

I wonder, if like me, you have noticed how long house builders who move onto a new plot of land spend digging down and fiddling about in the mud. For the longest time not a lot of house seems to get built. However, what is happening is a

lot of preparation. The foundations below the ground are a very underappreciated part of the building. What if these so called "dark ages" were the foundation stage of our modern world, without which we could never have achieved what we now see?

A major shift in this foundation project began after the fall of Rome in AD410. Until that point the 'Pax Romana,' a peace enforced at the point of the Roman sword, held the empire together. After the splintering of the empire into hundreds of mini-states, the church became the default uniting entity across the new borders. The influence of the church then began to grow, not through the sword, but through the power of persuasion, and religious communities sprouted up all across the western world.

Through the influence of Christianity, the great emperor Charlemagne became an educationalist. Schools were started, thousands of books copied by hand, a new era of learning began. As a result of

BY PASTOR DAVE

this learning, the new technology of wind and water power replaced hard repetitive labour, architectural innovations enabled the building of cathedrals, and agricultural innovations enabled more food to be produced. This learning led to reforms in the law courts with the language of human rights being introduced. Universities were established and the political scene was transformed with the idea of parliaments and the beginning of democracies, limiting the tyrannical power of kings. With the translation of the Bible into the language of the people a religious reformation also began that advanced the idea of freedom over tradition.

And so, the foundation for our modern world was set and the positive idea of enlightenment established. Ironically, all down to ideas spread during the "dark ages."

What's on at Lochee Baptist Chapel over the spring?

EASTER MEAL
AND COMMUNITY FUN DAY
SAT 4TH APRIL 11:30AM

Easter is a great time of year to celebrate. Let's celebrate together with a big family meal, Easter egg hunt, crafts and bouncy castle!

Sign up via the contact details on the front of this leaflet to book a FREE place for yourself and the family!

**Why not try church,
Sunday 10:30am
Lochee Baptist Chapel
12 Bright Street**