

In the PICTURE

December 2023 / January 2024

Send news to: revmartythomas@outlook.com

Delivered free to every home in Letham and district by
Dunnichen Letham and Kirkden Church of Scotland (Registered Scottish Charity 0003833)

The Kirk Session and congregation of Dunnichen, Letham and Kirkden Church
wish everyone a Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Letham Pensioners' Christmas Lunch

The Christmas Lunch will be held in the
Village Hall on Saturday 9th December.

Entry to the hall starts at 12 noon and the meal
will start at 12:30pm prompt.

Members of the Pensioners' Committee will be
coming round shortly with tickets.

The cost is £15 for Pensioner members. This
includes a much subsidised 3-course lunch, a
glass of wine, followed by mince pies and tea/
coffee. There will, of course, be some
entertainment afterwards.

*Christmas Eve 24th December
2023 at 7:00pm*

All are invited to carolling at the
Christmas Tree in the Square at
Letham.

Cakes and Carols

A relaxed afternoon, singing favourite carols
while enjoying tea/coffee and delicious cakes.

MONDAY 11th DECEMBER

2:00pm - 4:00pm in Letham Church

Members from Lowson Memorial,
St Margaret's, Aberlemno, Guthrie and
Rescobie churches are warmly invited to join
us in Letham.

As we will soon be one church this will be an
opportunity to get to know people from the
other congregations.

ALL are WELCOME



The John Lewis advert on TV has the strapline
'Let Your Traditions Grow'. It features a strange
plant that ends up outside in the cold while every-
one is inside celebrating Christmas.

Many Christians feel the same way. While the
world is busy celebrating Christmas, the baby
Jesus, whose birth we celebrate, is left out in the
cold.

It used to be traditional to go to Church at Christ-
mas. There is a chance to grow that tradition in
Letham again this Christmas.

There will be two special services on Christmas
Eve, Sunday 24th of December.

At 10:30am there will be an all-age service, suita-
ble for families with children, and young at heart
of all ages. We are putting together a small singing
group to take part, and there will of course be
traditional Christmas carols, a reminder of the first
Christmas, and mince pies afterwards.

It also used to be a tradition to have a watchnight
service leading into Christmas Day. If that is
something you would be interested in, there will
be a service at the church at 11:30pm.

Rev Klaus Buwert.

*May your heart be lifted in praise this
Christmas for the wonderful gift of Jesus
and the joy He brings to our lives.*

CROSSREACH

CROSSREACH REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION 2023

On behalf of the Church of Scotland, CrossReach provides social care services in Christ's name, to people in challenging circumstances. But it remains the case that the name and the work of CrossReach are still largely unrecognised and unappreciated, both inside the Church and throughout the country. And that is regrettable because that which is unknown is liable to be under supported. The Church's practical work for social good, including counselling, treatment for dementia, and care of frail and vulnerable people deserves recognition.

CrossReach supports people who have a variety of needs, including problems of mental health, old age, homelessness, addictions, criminal justice, and exclusion. Domestic violence, drug dependency, and other fields of social need are often neglected or underfunded by public authorities, who welcome the role played by CrossReach.

The Church, and we, should voice our pride in CrossReach and its mission. In the midst of the challenges and changes facing the Church of Scotland we should be explicitly proud and grateful for having a Christian asset which works powerfully in the world.

Dunnichen, Letham & Kirkden Church supports CrossReach in different ways. Financially, through our Wilson & Peter Bequest, we give a lump sum of either £400 or £600 in alternate years to support the Bluebell Perinatal Service in Glasgow. We have also donated the offerings from our Christmas Services in recent years, and currently a proportion of the tea and coffee donations after the service goes to CrossReach – three months' worth this year amounting to £154. We know also that individual members commit to monthly giving to the organisation, while others take the opportunity to support the work of CrossReach by buying cards and other merchandise. We particularly commend the new CrossReach e-card service this year. Sending Christmas cards in this way helps us reduce our carbon impact while helping provide services for others at the same time. Full details of how to do this were outlined in the November "In the PICTURE". Plus of course there are many others who pray for the staff and services of CrossReach and there is nothing better than that.

Please do what YOU can to offer support to CrossReach and the people it supports.

Thank you

Irene McGugan



*"Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming."
Matthew 25:13*

The Apostle Peter writing to early Christians reminds them that only God knows when the Second Advent will happen. Down the ages many groups have predicted when the Second coming will happen and they have always been wrong.

Jesus tells us to not spend time trying to find out but be always ready for it. To remain steadfast in trusting and serving the Lord.

Not only do we not know when Christ will come in Glory but we don't know the date He was born on earth. Christmas Day was chosen to coincide with the Roman winter solstice which was a festival time. It seemed good to St Augustine to use this time for the Church's Christian Celebration.

Christmas as the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ in this country has lost its meaning to a great many people. Even the Advent Calendar with details of Jesus's life and teaching. has been replaced by chocolates or liqueurs.

The Saint Nicolas who gave money to starving children has been replaced by Santa Claus. Gifts were given to the baby Jesus and his parents to acknowledge His kingship and no doubt helped as they fled as refugees to Egypt to escape the infanticides of King Herod.

Jesus came to bring the Good news of God's love and to proclaim true peace in the world. He died on the cross to bring salvation and life to any who accepted him and were prepared to serve in His Name.

This surely is the true message of Christmas, God sending His Son into the world to bring Hope, Salvation and Love. It demands our trust and service.

When the Lord Jesus Christ comes in glory it will be life eternal for those who trust in Him. But it will be judgement to those who rejected Him.

So we must be careful how we celebrate his Incarnation and remain steadfast in carrying out his message of hope and redemption.

Rev Martyn Thomas

“In the PICTure” ANNUAL ENVELOPE APPEAL

“Thank you” to everyone who once again responded so generously to the annual envelope appeal.

This year the total raised was £897.55 As we are able to claim additional income through the “Gift Aid” scheme, this should bring in a further **£112** (approximately), making a final total of around **£1,009.55**.

This incredible total was assisted by two extremely generous donations from individuals plus the usual kind contribution from Letham Pensioners.

Only a few pounds less than our all time highest total, these donations are remarkable given the challenging circumstances many of us still find ourselves in.

This money contributes to the ongoing printing costs of the magazine which are now just short of £260 per month – quite an increase on previous years. However this Appeal total when added to the income from the local businesses that support us through their advertising, means we are able to maintain the magazine in a financially sound position – if only just.

In addition to being a sponsor, Key Store also hosts our collection box, and we are most grateful for this additional help.

We really are very appreciative of this generosity and of the endorsement and support of the magazine which will allow us to continue producing “In the PICTure” and delivering it free of charge to every home in the parish.

THANK YOU!

Publicity Group

‘In the PICTure’

Welcomes items of news and expressions of opinion from organisations and individuals within the community, provided such articles are signed. Published items do not necessarily reflect the views of either the Publicity Group or the Kirk Session of Dunnichen, Letham and Kirkden Church.

Letham Church Diary

Sunday 10th December at 10:30am
Morning Worship
Service conducted by Rev Brian Oxburgh

Sunday 17th December at 11:00am
Joint Service at Lawson Memorial Church
No Service at Letham
Transport can be arranged (see below)

Sunday 24th December at 10:30am
Morning Worship
Service conducted by Rev Klaus Buwert
Sunday 24th December at 11:30pm
Watchnight service
Conducted by Rev Klaus Buwert

Sunday 31st December at 10:30am
Morning Worship
Service Conducted by Rev Klaus Buwert

Sunday 17th December 2023

There will be no service at Letham Church. There is a Joint Service at Lawson Memorial Church to which all are invited.

Transport is available; anyone requiring a lift or wishing further details, should contact Norma Craigh (01307 818275).

Being Church Together

Sunday 3rd December 2 pm

Blue Christmas service at St. Margarets

Inspiring Hope for those who will struggle with the ‘festivity’ of Christmas because of money, relationship, health or other worries.

Saturday 9th December 9am – 1pm

Forfar Farmers Market at Lawson Memorial.

Sunday 10th December 6:30pm

Bellshill Salvation Army Band - Carols at Lawson Memorial.

Sunday 17th December 11am

Joint service at Lawson Memorial.

Come along and join in!

Sunday 17th December 2pm

Forfar’s Big Sing!

Carol Service for everyone in Forfar at St Johns.

25th December 10am

Christmas Day services at Lawson Memorial and Guthrie.

Remembrance Sunday

The Church welcomed more than fifty Scouts, Cubs and Beavers with Kathy Calderwood and her leaders, to the Poppy Scotland Remembrance Service.



Photos by Bruce Mair

Rev Allan Webster conducted the service during which a colour party of four presented their flags. A Scout and a Cub read faultless lessons and all the children and young people were a credit to themselves and their organisation.



Rev Allan Webster accompanied the Scout Troop to Dempster Park for the Two Minutes Silence, whilst Rev Martyn Thomas led the Two Minute Silence in the Church for those who chose to stay in the Church.

The War Memorial site had been prepared by Alison Towns before representatives from Angus Council, Angus Community Council, Letham

Feuars, Dunnichen, Letham and Kirkden Church, Letham Pensioners and Letham Scouts, amongst others, laid wreaths at the foot of the Memorial.



Letham School -Trim Trail Fund

The exercise trail around the school field requires upgrading and recently the KeyStore assisted with a £500 donation; a Halloween disco raised £800; and Letham Bowling Club donated £305 from their 'charity bottle'.



Photo by Bruce Mair

Pictured are Kirsty Reynolds, one of the fund raisers, receiving the cheque from the retiring President of the Bowling Club, Anne Simpson.

Letham Litter Pick

The village is fortunate in that The Feuars, Letham School, Letham Cubs and Beavers, and Dave and



Photo by Bruce Mair

Kate Christie amongst others, organise litter pick events throughout the year. On this occasion Letham Happy Wanderers, undertook a session on a very wet morning in November.

Anyone who wishes may join the Wanderers for a 2/3 mile walk every Thursday, leaving from the Church Hall at 10am.

LETHAM and DISTRICT SWI

Scottish Women's Institutes

President Lynne Slater welcomed members, Mrs Christine Shand from The Gardening Club Letham and our Speaker for the evening, Mr Steven Dewar of Curr & Dewar Auctioneers Dundee.

Steven gave an amusing and informative account of his time as an auctioneer, from working as a teenager in his family's business in Dundee; to working in England for some years and is the fourth generation to run Curr & Dewar. Steven brought along a collection of artefacts he had acquired during his time and we all had fun discussing as to what they were. Some of us were almost right!

Steven kindly agreed to judge the monthly competitions.

Monthly competitions results.

Flower of the month.

1. L. Slater; 2. F. Webster; 3. I. McClung
2 Slices of Tea loaf

1. F. Webster; 2. L. Slater; 3. J. Mair

Novelty Pin Cushion

1. F. Webster; 2. C. McNeill; 3. E. Balfour

Mrs Jane Nicholson thanked Steven for taking his time out of his busy schedule to come along and entertain us for the evening. Lynne also gave a thank you to the members for making the evening a success.

Our next meeting will be on the 5th December 2023. We will be having our Christmas party and local singer Danny Laverty will be coming along to sing for us. Our competitions will be held as normal; 2, chocolate truffles, a handmade Christmas card and garden flower of the month.

On the 16th of January 2024 at 7.15pm, we are excited to have Anne Allan returning to give us a demonstration on Spinning and Weaving. Anne visited last year and demonstrated her great skill, captivated the audience and left a lasting impression on everyone. Letham residents / visitors are most welcome to join us, the cost for the evening is £5 per person and includes light refreshments.

It would be lovely if you would come along and a warm welcome awaits you.

*Colette McNeill,
Press Secretary.*

FORFAR FOODBANK



As the cost-of-living crisis continues the Foodbank is now having to purchase food to meet demand.

All donations are gladly accepted though the items below are those which are needed most.

URGENTLY NEEDED

Biscuits	Diluting juice
Tinned fruit	Long-life fruit juice
Jam	Microwave puddings
Long life milk	Tinned puddings
Pasta sauce	Tinned Tomatoes

We have plenty of cereals, beans, pasta and soup.

Letham Church is open and ready to receive items for the Angus Foodbank every Sunday morning.

Financial donations can be gift aided, allowing the Foodbank to claim a further 25% from HMRC.

info@angusfoodbank.org.uk Tel. 01382 698020

The 3 stages of man: He believes in Santa Claus. He doesn't believe in Santa Claus. He is Santa Claus.

LETHAM GARDENING CLUB

On Tuesday 14th November we had a very enjoyable and informative talk by Ken Cox on his family's history, their plant hunting expeditions and the history of the Glen Doick Garden Centre.

On Tuesday 12th December: We welcome back flower arranging expert and entertainer, Steve Ludlum. It's easy, just come along and watch him doing it.

On Tuesday 9th January: Once again Colin Ainsworth plays quiz master, for a fun night of questions and debate on many plant issues.

Not forgetting that the quiz master's decision is final.

Come along and join the club. All welcome.

Bill Muir 07908 339420



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Next Issue of 'In the PICTURE'

Deadline for February 2024 issue is

Saturday 20th January 2024

Material may be sent to Joan Smith,
9 Burnside Road (01307 818937)

E-mail: joan_77@btinternet.com

or to Rev Martyn Thomas
14 Kirkgait (01307 818084)

E-mail: revmartynthomas@outlook.com

Heavenly Father,

how we praise and thank You for all You have done. Grant this Christmas that our hearts will be filled with thankfulness for all the blessings You have given us.

We praise You for Your Son, Jesus. For His birth and what He did on Calvary. May our hearts be ever grateful.

DUNNICHEN, LETHAM & KIRKDEN TO JOIN WITH FOUR OTHER LOCAL CHURCHES

Further to previous articles in "In the PICTURE" this update provides details of the progress being made to bring about the Union of the congregations of Aberlemno, Guthrie & Rescobie; Dunnichen, Letham & Kirkden; Forfar: Lowson Memorial; and Forfar: St Margaret's.

As a reminder, at the 2021 General Assembly, plans were agreed to address the significant challenges facing the Church of Scotland with the aim of establishing a leaner and fitter Church with a focus on mission. This was reflected in the Presbytery Mission Plan for Angus Presbytery, which determined amongst other things that this Union of five congregations should be taken forward.

Representatives of the five Kirk Sessions have been meeting for a number of months, and have now drafted the documents required to establish the Union. These will be voted on by the Kirk Sessions in early January next year, with congregational votes taking place later the same month.

Elders are currently delivering an explanatory leaflet to all members of DLK Church, outlining the process and timescale and providing the necessary information to allow an informed vote. If all goes to plan, the Union should take effect from April 2024.

If any non member would like further details, please speak to a member of Kirk Session.



The Angus Glens Rotary

Christmas Lunch
in the GKUPC Hall
(Old Parish Hall)
Kirriemuir



Monday 25th December
12:30pm - 3:30pm

Anyone who would be having the day on their own would be made most welcome.

Lunch, a blether and some Christmas Cheer.

Interested? Contact Heather (01575 574796) or any Angus Glens Rotary member.



WARM SPACES - LETHAM



Letham Church will open the Church Hall every Friday during the Winter to provide a Warm Space for all. Come and enjoy refreshments and company in a relaxed atmosphere. Starting Friday 3rd November.



Crafts, games, conversation



Everyone welcome, no matter what age.

Letham Church Hall - Fridays 11am to 2pm



Learning Together



Group Weekly Bible Study
in

Letham Church Hall
on Mondays at 1:30pm.

Toys and drawing materials
available for children.

Tea, coffee and snacks provided.

All are Welcome.

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Supporting *'In the PICTure'*

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Open At Least Six Days a Week
in Letham Feuars' Hall, Auldbar Road.

All takings used for the benefit of Letham.

For information about the Feuars please contact
lethamfeuars@gmail.com



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