

In the PICTURE

June 2024

Send news to: revmartynthomas@outlook.com

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All Souls @ Letham Church

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LETHAM AND DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

(Letham-Leguillac de l'Auche-Monasterboice)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 3 JUNE 2024

The Annual General Meeting of Letham and District Twinning Association will take place on Monday 3rd June 2024 at 7 pm in the Feuars Committee premises, The Square, Letham (entrance via the stairs above the Second Hand Bookshop with Disabled Access facility)

ALL WELCOME

There will be an opportunity to discuss the arrangements for the proposed visit in August by a party of our friends from Leguillac de l'Auche

Offers to accommodate our visitors in homes in Letham most welcome

New members to the Association also most welcome.

Convener: Sandra MacRae: alexandramacrae1941@gmail.com

Secretary : Morag Fraser: morag-fraser@hotmail.co.uk

Letham Church Services
Morning Worship
At 10.30 am
Services Conducted by
a member of Team Ministry

FOODBANK NEW ARRANGEMENTS

For many years now, Letham Church has been supporting the Trussell Trust Angus Food Bank initiative based in Forfar. Last year, for administrative purposes, it became the Dundee and Angus Food Bank, and we understand that its already limited 3 day opening is to be reduced to 2 days per week.

One implication of this is that the food project at Lawson Memorial Church has been almost overwhelmed by demand, as people in need go there for support when other options are not available.

Lawson Memorial does two large food drop offs on Wednesday and Friday, but also supplies local groups (Toddlers, Pensioners' Lunch Club and local school nursery.) They can also respond if someone makes contact needing immediate help. And there is no need for an official referral system to be able to access this support.

The Elders at Letham Church have therefore decided that in future our food and other donations will be taken to Lawson Memorial to help meet that increased demand. Our reasons for this are that there is greater accessibility during the week for families requiring support; the church benefits from donations of fresh food in addition to tins and packets etc.; there is no requirement for individuals and families to be referred by an agency in order to access food etc.; there is also the reassurance that all of our donations remain in the Forfar and Letham areas; plus it is another way in which churches in the All Souls Union can work together in mission and outreach.

We hope that our regular contributors will agree with this new arrangement and continue to give generously. Thank you. Irene McGugan

Service at Letham on Pentecost



Next Issue of 'In the PICTURE'

Deadline for **July/August 2024** issue is

Saturday 22nd June 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: revmartythomas@outlook.com

Extract from Treasurer's Report 12/05/24

As you are all aware, Dunnichen, Letham & Kirkden Church no longer exists as a separate entity. On 1st April 2024 we became part of Forfar: All Souls with Aberlemno and Lawson Memorial churches. We, in this church, are now known as Forfar: All Souls @ Letham. Having been without a Minister since 2019, we are now lucky enough to be part of a Team Ministry, with one of three Ministers preaching each week.

Income

In 2023 81% of our income was made up of donations (plus Gift Aid where appropriate) via standing orders/other donations (39 members) or the open plate (an unknown number). The average attendance at services was 26. There were 191 names on the roll at the end of 2023. Not everyone at services donates via the open plate, as they have Standing Orders, so, if we say that 13 people donate this way then approximately **73%** of members do not contribute to the costs of the church. How do we encourage those members of our church family to help out? If you do decide to start giving and you are a taxpayer, please, please fill in a Gift Aid declaration form, available from the church office in Lawson Church.

Expenditure

We always try to minimise our costs, but the church is as affected by rising costs as you all are. The building still has to be maintained to keep it in good order. The solar panels help to reduce our electricity costs, but this has been negated over the past year by the enormous rise in the price per unit and the standing charges.

CAN WE DO IT? YES, WE CAN!

'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 Forfar All Souls @ Letham.

Rev Maggie Hunt

The sunshine we have been enjoying in mid-May will hopefully be drying the ground a little and crops will be slowly ripening in the fields very soon. It seems no time since the last frost and sudden snowfall and here I am sitting out in the garden of my manse with my dog Molly enjoying the warmth.

As seasons change, so too, does the church...changing liturgical colours like the flowers in nature. Gold and white to red then green and even blues and purples. A reminder that we are all loved by God...all through the year. Our church changes too as All Souls welcomes visitors, holiday makers and newcomers to our buildings in Letham, Forfar and Aberlemno.

By mid June we also hope to welcome you all to our new Community Hub building on West High Street (next to the Meffan). A place to pop in when you're in town doing messages and say hello, meet friends or attend a group, activity, event or meeting or just sit a while with company. More details to follow in due course!

Time for me to sign off...my glass of lemonade is empty and I must return indoors to get another. Hope to see you around the village this month.....please say "hello" if you see me.
Much love, Rev Maggie



May the God
of hope fill you
with all joy and
peace as you
trust in him, so
that you may
overflow with
hope by the
power of the
Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13



Letham Primary 5 pupils have now embarked on a short weekly programme of visits to the Letham Bowling Club between now and the Summer holidays. They are continually grateful to the Bowling Club and its adult members who give up their time and expertise voluntarily, to allow children to come along to the club to learn key skills and develop a real understanding for the game! They have built upon and continued to maintain this link and strong relationship with the Bowling Club for some years now. Other classes will of course get the opportunity in the future too. Letham Primary are very thankful to Christina Aitchison and all other club members.

Mrs D Williamson Depute Head Teacher Letham Primary School

Village Calendar

I was reminded a couple of months ago about the Village Calendar that I used to put up in the ground floor entrance to the Feuars Hall. The reminder came about as there was a clash of dates with the Pensioners and the Bowling Club. This is where every organisation running an event could note down the details to avoid any such clashes. It could also be used for anyone wanting to know what was going on in the Village. I have now put a calendar, running from May to December, up in the entrance hall and I hope it will be of value to the Village as a whole.

Elaine Saunders

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IT FOR BEGINNERS



PLEASE NOTE THAT THE PROPOSED CLASS 'IT FOR BEGINNERS' WILL NOT TAKE PLACE DUE TO LACK OF INTEREST
 Sandra MacRae

LETHAM GARDENING CLUB

On Saturday 8th May we held our annual plant sale which was well supported by donations and buyers raising over £700, with the money raised going toward the expenditure for the flower show in August.

Schedules are available from the craft shops and the post office.

Many thanks to all who worked hard on the day.

The flower beds in the square will be cleared and replanted at the end of May and if there are any willing helpers please give me a ring.

Bill Muir 07908339420

TALES OF LETHAM STANES No. 5

*"I've seen many a ruined building,
 but never a ruined stane."* (Hugh McDiarmid)

A STANE THAT SPEAKS TO US FAE LANG SYNE - PART 1

The auld stane featuring in "In the PICTure" for the next two months is not in fact a stane. It is a glass fibre replica of a Pictish Standing Stone. Some years ago, the folk in Angus County were blessed with a good man. He was Sheriff Kermack. Apart from dispensing justice from the Bench, he was a fervent advocate for the history of Angus and Scotland.

The replica Dunnichen Stone stands proudly today on the rectangle of grass across from the gate into Dunnichen Kirk. The original stone was discovered nearby by a ploughman on the land of the old Dunnichen estate.

The ploughed up stone was erected in the centre of the walled garden of Dunnichen big hoose. It stayed there as the centerpiece of the garden for many decades.

However, in the passage of time, the stone found itself on a list of a specialist Government body tasked with taking care of old historical stones, all of which were at risk of manmade air pollution and acid rain.

So, without a "by your leave", or permission of any sort, workmen arrived in the garden and it was removed. As far as we knew, it was taken away to an unknown place. However, in 1963, actors in the newly restored Arbroath Abbey Pageant found the stone stored in the Abbey.

Then along came Regionalisation (remember that?) – Tayside Region incorporated everywhere from Kinloch Rannoch to Montrose, with Dundee as the centre. The Dunnichen stone was taken to Dundee – centralization don't you know?

Years later, when Regionalisation came to an end, Angus Council took on the role of local government here.

There was a battle between Dundee and Forfar as to who should inherit the stone. Forfar won, and the stone was placed in the Meffan Institute, where it is to this day. JAMc

"Thank you for the articles about the Tales of Letham by JAMc. As a relatively new resident in Letham it is a fascinating insight into the past of our village. I have also enjoyed joining the Happy Wanderers who wander through the village and surrounding paths every week. The Tales have alerted me to things to look out for on our Wanderings that I might never have seen.

Yours Klaus Buwert"

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LETHAM & DISTRICT 



President Lynne Slater welcomed members to the Annual General Meeting and Presentation of Trophies.

A summary and reports were given on a successful year by The President and Secretary.

Thanks was given to the Committee and to all the members.

Meg Bundock thanked our President Lynne Slater for all her hard work, generosity and commitment to the ongoing success of the institute, especially on taking new Committee members under her wing.

A token of appreciation was given to Lynne from the Committee.

Annual trophies were presented as follows:

Flower of the month: 1. Victoria Alexander; 2. Jeannie Mair; 3. Lynne Slater.

Handcrafts Tray : 1. Frances Webster; 2. Lynne Slater; 3. Colette McNeill.

Home-skills Cup: 1. Lynne Slater/Victoria Alexander; 2. Frances Webster. 3. Jeannie Mair.

Rose Bowl Most Points at the federation show: (Handcrafts and Home-skills)

1. Victoria Alexander, 2. Jeannie Mair, 3. Colette McNeill

Rose Bowl most points overall :

1. Frances Webster, 2. Lynne Slater, 3. Jeannie Mair.

This is the 100th year for Letham and District institute and to celebrate Lynne presented everyone with an invitation to afternoon tea, on the 4th of June 2024, which will be held at a local hotel.

All of the members are very much looking forward to the event.

Lynne thanked everyone for coming along and hopes to see all the members at the tea.

Letham and District is a small very proactive In-

stitute. This year we have had very successful fundraisers, ending with our Spring Coffee morning in April. We have been entertained, acquired new skills and discovered new and interesting information from our guest speakers and had a lot of fun throughout 23/24. Members have been very generous with their time and efforts ensuring our Institute continues to thrive.

We do not have any meetings over the summer but commence again on the 3rd of September 2024 when we will have a new schedule of speakers and demonstrators.

If anyone has been thinking about coming to one of our meetings, maybe you are new to the village, or have often thought about coming along but don't know anyone or even wondered what do we do, please do give us a try. You may find something in common, make new friends and even have some fun. It would be lovely to see you, everyone will be made very welcome.

Colette McNeill
Press Secretary



Guild



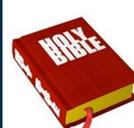
The Guild has finished now and the last meeting is the trip to the garden centre at Drum near Banchory and tea in Stonehaven on 22nd May.

The new session will start in the autumn and all are welcome...

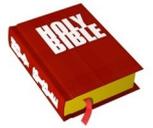
The difference between stupidity and genius, is that genius has its limits. *Albert Einstein*

A bank is a place that will lend you money if you can prove that you don't need it. *Bob Hope*

Remember, today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday. *Dale Carnegie*



Learning Together



Group Weekly Bible Study

Letham Church Hall
on Mondays at 1:30pm.

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