

In the PICTURE

September 2024

Send news to: revmartynthomas@outlook.com

Delivered free to every home in Letham and district by
Forfar All Souls @ LETHAM (Charity Number SC002417)

FORFAR ALL SOULS

**FAIRTRADE BREAKFAST
SUNDAY 15th SEPTEMBER
IN LETHAM CHURCH**

**BREAKFAST FROM 9:30am
FOLLOWED BY THE SERVICE**

**ALL ITEMS SERVED WILL BE
FAIRTRADE GOODS**

**INCLUDING CEREALS, BANANAS
TEA & COFFEE**

EVERYONE IS WELCOME

Family Fun



Families from Letham and surrounding area enjoyed 'Summer Fun' on Tuesday afternoons at the Letham Church Hall over the summer holidays.

We shared stories, played games and did crafts together. We made all sorts of crafts and even created 'eco-planters' for the



gate to the church re-using tesco storage

boxes, with broken pots and slate spinters as crocs and then filling with summer bedding plants. They really are looking

lovely. Thank you to all who helped.

Rev Maggie Hunt & Mr John Crichton



MAGNITUDE FESTIVAL EVENT

THE VERY REV DR MARTIN FAIR

will present video highlights from this year's festival and tell us all about this inspiring youth event – see separate article (page 2).

in Letham Church

on THURSDAY 19th September

from 7 p.m.

Refreshments will be served.

ALL WELCOME

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

Cosy Cuppie In the Church Hall

on Friday afternoons 1pm to 3pm

Starting on Friday 19th July

This is a joint venture by Letham Seniors (formerly Letham Pensioners) and Letham Church

Come along for a Cuppie and a biscuit or maybe a cake. There are card games etc for those wanting to play, but if you just want to catch up with people, then that is OK.

Volunteers will be required so please contact Isobel Sword if you can help.

Telephone 01307 818362 or 07981 740 888

Email isobelsword@hotmail.co.uk

MAGNITUDE CHRISTIAN YOUTH FESTIVAL

20TH – 24TH JULY 2024

LENDRICK MUIR, SCOTLAND



Magnitude is a five day annual ecumenical Christian festival for young people aged 11-18. It is a space to encounter God, enjoy community and experience nature together.

Organised by Scripture Union, its aim is “to see a generation of young people captivated by the magnitude of who God is and transformed by encountering Him; a movement of young people, thousands strong, who go on to transform their churches, transform their communities, transform their nations and transform the world.” Inspired by the Very Rev Dr Martin Fair who preached in Letham Church during February and March this year, many of our members donated generously. This allowed young people who could not afford the costs, to be able to attend this event.

We have received the following messages of thanks, confirming that the experiences of both young people and their youth leaders were indeed transformative.

“Thank you very much for letting us experience our first ever Magnitude Festival. It was so amazing of you for being able to fund our trip here and from the bottom of our heart we thank you. Although we are twins, our experiences were entirely different, with our perspectives and outlooks being changed completely and our outlook on God and His actions. Once again, thank you and we hope you had a great time too!!!”

From Myles and Malvin.

“Thank you so much for your thoughtful and generous donation which allowed me (and two of my young people) to attend Magnitude for the first time this year. It has been an incredible and rewarding experience for me – coming together with so many other Youth Workers to network, share ideas, listen, learn and support each other to help engage and encourage our young people in their faith journeys. Thank you for facilitating this very rewarding opportunity.”

Caroline - Formartine Youth Project.

See advert on front page

THE TRICOLOUR FLIES OVER LETHAM

Letham welcomed a party led by Maire (Mayor) Regis Batailler and his wife Louise when they



visited Letham from 5th to 8th August. Letham is twinned with Leguillac de l’Auche in the Dordogne department of France This is the latest of a number of exchange visits between the two communities during which many friendships have developed. The guests stayed with local families and visited local places of interest includ-

ing Glamis Castle, Arbroath Abbey and the Glenesk Folk Museum. They also enjoyed a local pub night and joined in the singing of Scots songs. For the period of the visit , the tricolour flew over Letham village square just as the saltire flies over the village square at Leguillac.

The visit culminated in a Reception by the Provost and Council of Angus in the Canmore Room , Forfar on Thursday 8th August . There, Deputy Provost Linda Clark gave the visitors an official welcome and gifted Maire Batailler with a shield bearing the coat of arms of Angus and in exchange Maire Batailler gave Deputy Provost Clark a medallion bearing the coat of arms of Leguillac.

Alexandra MacRae Convener
Letham & District Twinning Association

‘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

Next Issue of ‘In the PICTURE’

Deadline for **October 2024** issue is

Saturday 21st September 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

All Souls Church Letham



On 28th June we welcomed two new elders. Jimmy and June Scott who have been living in Letham for a wee while and have been coming along to the church and helping out. They kindly agreed to be part of our leadership team, caring for the people of our parish area.

Photo is Rev Maggie with James and June

As recently admitted elders to All Souls Church Letham we have been asked by ITP to introduce ourselves to you. We are James and June Scott and moved to Letham in February 2023. Born in Banff we met in 1970 and married in 1975. We lived on a farm, where James was a shepherd, just outside of Macduff and attended Macduff Parish Church where James became an elder. In the 19 years we were there we had 4 children and took an active part in the church. In 1994 James was made redundant and we moved to Glensaugh Farm near Auchenblae. There we became members of West Mearns Parish Church which served the villages of Auchenblae, Fettercairn and Drumlithie and it was during our years there that June became an elder too. We lived there for 24 years. After James retired in 2018 we spent 4 years helping on his cousin's farm just outside of Boat of Garten and attending the church in The Boat. In 2023, after staying with our daughter for 3 months and attending the church in Avonbridge near Falkirk, we finally found our new home in Letham where we look forward to meeting, getting to know and serving you all. James and June Scott

From Rev Maggie Hunt

Well...the summer holidays are over – but hopefully the summer weather continues.

We've had sunshine and showers for the best part of 3 months now and frankly – I wish I could have at least one day that was dry from start to finish to get gardening done at the manse and get curtains washed and on the line before any autumn winds blow them away! God never promises to take away the rain, just to help us live with it, along with the other storms of life.

At the church, we've been thinking about the Old Testament stories of David this summer and how tales from 4000 years ago have truths about the misuse of power that we can see even today sadly. We now move into an autumn 'season' looking at our world – and how we can care for our planet, encourage better ecosystems, support our farmers and choose fairly and ethically traded goods to make a difference. We are holding a FairTrade breakfast on 15th September from 9.30 – 10.30am and everyone is welcome. Harvest Thanksgiving will be 20th October this year so pop the date in your calendar!

As always, please say hello if you see me around the village or get in touch if you'd like a visit or a chat sometime. Just leave me a voice message on 07557 38 1932. Rev Maggie x



Ice cream Sundae Sunday

Church members and others from the local community enjoyed free bowls of ice cream on Sunday 11th August for Ice cream Sundae Sunday. Everyone who came along was treated to a bowl of vanilla ice cream with extras like wafers, sauce, toppings and cream. The church Kids' Corner had sweeties and soft fruits to add as well!! We heard the story of 'The Snail and the Whale' and sang school assembly songs together before heading off to enjoy Dempster Day.

Letham Seniors

This is an important announcement for all Seniors in Letham and District. All subscriptions for 2023/24 need to be paid by 30th September 2024. If subs are not paid then you will not be eligible to attend the Christmas Party. Please contact Isobel Sword or Elaine Saunders as soon as possible. Elaine Saunders, Treasurer

WORLD MISSION REPORT



What do Haiti, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ecuador, Papua New Guinea and Uganda have in common?

All of them have, to a greater or lesser extent, inner conflicts and civil war. They are not places to spend your holidays. But they are all countries where our mission partners MAF (Mission Aviation Fellowship) does its life-saving, Christian missionary work. Practical Christianity; bringing food aid, education and access to health to places of the world inaccessible except by airplane.

I have reported in the past about two MAF missionaries who were held captive in Mozambique – now mercifully relieved. Letham's MAF missionary partners Ruth and Duncan Jack from Glasgow serve in Uganda where Ruth is Country Director for Uganda. The organisation "Transparency International" describes Uganda as "one of the most corrupt countries in the world" which also has an appalling human rights record, uses child labour, uses child slavery and criminalises LGBT people. Despite being nominally 85% Christian, clearly MAF has work to do exemplifying to the Ugandan government what true Christianity means.

The UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office warns travellers to avoid parts of Uganda altogether except for strictly necessary purposes. The so-called Lords Resistance Army and spill-over from the civil war in the adjoining DRC, make parts of Uganda hazardous.

Uganda hosts the largest refugee population in Africa, over 2 million including from neighbouring South Sudan. Uganda is a third world country, yet we in affluent Britain complain about too many immigrants.

MAF Uganda flies 4 times per week to Arua providing access to the Bidibidi refugee settlement which houses 270,000 refugees. One project which MAF makes possible through its link with Brass for Africa is to provide musical instruments for children. Lots of refugee children have learnt to play brass instruments for relaxation and it also enables them to make a living. Making music has a wonderful effect in releasing trauma and improving mental health. The number of suicides in the camp has dropped dramatically.

Alexandra MacRae MAF Representative

LETHAM GARDENING CLUB



The Annual Flower Show was held in the Village Hall on Sunday 11 August. Chairman Bill Muir was pleased that the number of entrants remained the same as 2023, despite the weather pattern this summer reducing the actual number of entries. Pictured are the prize winners from all sections along with Mr Tom Rennie, winner of the Burgess Rose Bowl and Letham Gardening Club Salver.

Jeannie & Bruce Mair

Many thanks to the committee and all those who helped to make it happen, as village flower shows get fewer every year.

The garden club evening sessions start for the season on Tuesday 10th September at 7pm in the Bowling Club. We kick off with Pippa Clegg from the Kilry Garden Club on the issues and conditions relating to gardening in the Angus Glens..

Come and join us and bring a friend

Bill Muir

07908339420

DEMPSTER DAY



The recent Dempster Day coffee, cakes and car afternoon held on Sunday 11 August was a resounding success.

In conjunction with the village flower show, tea, coffee and cakes were kindly donated by many villagers and from Keptie Bakery and served up by the Letham Feuars' Committee across the road at the scout hut.

The event had a transport theme with a number of classic cars, motorbikes and tractors on display.

For the competitive visitors there as a treasure hunt and a mini-digger challenge.

Congratulations to the winners: Treasure Hunt – James Cameron, Digger Challenge – Guthrie Easton and Mark Lawson

Thanks to Letham Scouts, Keptie Bakery, cake donors and the vehicle owners together with everyone who came along on the day.

Karen Henderson



All Souls Church Guild



The Guild held a Coffee Morning on Saturday 17 August and a big thank you to all who supported so generously. We will be able to distribute the funds raised from the March & August Coffee Morning at our 110th A G M in March 2025 to the Church and Guild Projects.

On Saturday 7 September we are inviting Guilds from the Angus area to join us in the Lowson Church for the Live Streaming of the National Gathering and the launch of the new 3-year Strategy for 2024 – 2027 “Let Us Build A House” and the first of three Themes for 2024 – 2025 - “Sure Foundations” and the Discussion Topic is “Faith: the reason we serve”. 4 new Projects will be introduced, and we look forward to learning more about them.

The Guild meetings are on Wednesday afternoons at 2 pm fortnightly in the Lowson Church Hall and usually finish between 3.30 and 4 pm unless otherwise intimated.

We welcome old and new members or if you just want to come along to hear more about any of our programme topics you are very welcome to do so. The Guild Membership is under £20 for the year or FREE for the first year for anyone who has never been a Church of Scotland Guild Member.

Please bring your own mug for a cup of tea or coffee. A wrapped biscuit will be provided.

Guild Week 8 – 15 September

11 September - Opening Social – Accord Concert Party

15 September (Sunday) - Rededication Service in Lowson Church during Morning Worship

25 September - New Recycling Bins & Rules – Peter Moug, Angus Council

9 October Sure Foundations Theme Afternoon- Rev Maggie Hunt at LETHAM Church

23 October Steel Band

6 November Guild Project Afternoon – Unida, Brazil

20 November Christmas Wreath Demo – Anne Elder

4 December Christmas Meal

If you need more info or have any queries please contact Linda Stewart 01307 469255 or email lin-das28@btinternet.com

Linda Stewart All Souls Church Guild Contact

***If you need a lift to the guild please contact
Norma Craigon at 818275***



How Is 30 Years of the Fairtrade Mark Being Celebrated This Year ?

Thirty years ago this year, Green and Black’s Maya Gold chocolate hit the shelves, followed shortly by Cafedirect coffee, Percol coffee and Clipper tea.

These were the first products in the UK to carry the Fairtrade mark, a guarantee that the tea, coffee, cocoa and sugar farmers had been paid a fair price for their product. A response to the collapse of global coffee prices in the late 1980s, it marked the beginning of a movement that now supports over two million farmers and workers in 58 countries.

As well as providing a fair living for the people who actually produce our staple products, communities throughout the world have benefited from help with such things as education, training, health centres, improved housing and infrastructure, environmental improvements and climate change mitigation.

Michael Gidney, CEO of the Fairtrade Foundation, says: “The incredible public support for Fairtrade has been an inspiration. Hundreds of companies have responded, with thousands of Fairtrade products available in supermarkets, cafés and workplaces across the country. This is the result of many people, over many years, playing their part in making the UK a fairer place. Thank you for standing shoulder to shoulder with producers.”

The Fairtrade movement has been embraced enthusiastically by faith groups, including the Church of Scotland, since the beginning. At local level the congregation in Letham have signed up as a Fairtrade church, pledging to use Fairtrade products in their own activities.

Marking the 30th anniversary of the Fairtrade movement in the UK, the annual Fairtrade Fortnight will be from September 9-22. The theme of Fairtrade Fortnight is ‘Be the Change’, encouraging people to choose Fairtrade goods whenever possible. This coincides with Creation Time (September 1 – October 4), when churches are encouraged to have a focus on caring for God’s creation.

On 15th September there will be a Fairtrade Breakfast at the Church in Letham at 9:30am. Please come and enjoy some Fairtrade products for breakfast.

Visit www.fairtrade.org.uk to find out more about 30 ways to celebrate 30 years of Fairtrade.

Maureen Buwert

Shiells

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Supporting *'In the PICTure'*

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All takings used for the benefit of Letham.

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lethamfeuars@gmail.com



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I hope everyone has had a lovely summer even with the weather being very unpredictable and that you managed to enjoy some of the sunshine and also the time has arrived when our plans have been put in place for the new year with the SWI.

Looking back, last year proved to be very successful for Letham SWI. We had amazing speakers and demonstrators, various fundraisers and of course competing in the SWI Angus Federation show, ending with our 100 years celebration in June 2024.

Our new session 2024/2025, begins on the 3rd September and we welcome our demonstrator for the evening, Mr Mike Satchel.

Mike is local to Angus and will be sharing his glass decoration skills, also bringing along some of his work for us to see. Mike regularly sells his work at local craft fairs in the county and has kindly given his time to come and join us.

Also on the 1st October, Anni Whitehead will be joining us to share in the ancient ritual of a Japanese Tea Ceremony. Anni will be taking us through the various customs and stages, encouraging a few members to participate. This promises to be a very interesting evening and gives us all a chance to experience the taste of a different culture to our own.

In both sessions we will be having our monthly competitions which we hope everyone will have a try and also bring along their garden flower for each month.

We will also hold our usual raffles on the evening.

If anyone is thinking of coming along to see what we do please join us, bring a friend, meet new people and have a chat while also enjoying the demonstrations, you will be made very welcome.

We look forward to welcoming all our members back, also welcoming new members and keeping the SWI moving forward into the next year and beyond.

The cost for visitors is £6.00 which includes light refreshment with tea/coffee.

We meet in the Letham Bowling Club and commence at 7.15 pm on Tuesday 3rd of September.

See you all then.

Colette McNeill (Press Secretary)

TALES OF LETHAM STANES No. 7

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

STANES FROM THE DEMOLISHED KIRKDEN
ADORN THE FRONTAGES OF HOUSES
ON EAST DEN BRAE.

In the year 1952, Kirkden kirk was demolished.

The houses on the right hand side (going downhill) on East Den Brae were about to be built, on sloping land. This land was secured by building substantial frontages with the stone from the duntakings from the recently demolished kirk at Kirkden.

So, from looking down on our devout forebears at their solemn Sabbath services, weddings and funerals for 100 years or more, (does anyone know when the kirk was built?) the purpose of these old stones was changed to supporting the many family homes on East Den Brae.

A task these stones have fulfilled admirably to this day, 72 years later. We salute them.

Demolition of the kirk was not a complete razed to the ground event. A part of the wall remains and that is topped by the kirk bell. Colourful aubrietias sprout from the walls and flower gloriously in the springtime, and this all sits alongside the ancient graveyard where the gravestones make very interesting reading of times gone past

The old kirk is worthy of inspection - it is open at no charge. The walk can begin on East Den Brae to see the great stonework in front of the houses, go downhill into the Den and cross the Vinney. You can get to Kirkden via the entrance road at the bottom of Grant Roy's brae.

After visiting the kirk you can walk along the path in a westerly direction, cross the Vinney and go up the brae to join Braehead road and Gardyne Street by the school.

JAMcG



Learning Together



Group Weekly Bible Study

Letham Church Hall
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