

In the PICTURE

December 2024/ January 2025

Send news to: revmartythomas@outlook.com

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

All Souls @ Letham

Advent and Christmas are not a joyful time for everyone. Family problems, grief, employment difficulties, money trouble all crowd in into our lives

Everyone is invited to this special community service, led by the Rev Maggie Hunt

Come along and be with others, like yourselves, who may find Christmas a sad and difficult time

Blue Service

**Sunday 8th December
1.00pm**

All Souls @ Letham

Christmas Services

**Sunday 15th December
10.30am in Letham Church**

GIFT SERVICE

Bring a toy, or gift for an adult, for us to donate to someone who will not get one

**Sunday 22nd December
10.30am in Letham Church**

DIY COMMUNITY NATIVITY PLAY

A fun hour for Children and adults followed by mulled wine and mince pies

**Christmas Eve 11.30pm in
Letham Church**

WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

For more details see Rev Maggie Hunt on page 3

All Souls @ Letham

Cakes and Carols



**Thursday 19th December
1.30 to 4pm in
Letham Church**

Come and enjoy lovely scones and cakes while singing your favourite carols. All welcome.

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.



Broth 'n' blether

Tea, coffee and home-made soups



Coffee and tea-conversation

Crafts, games, conversation

Everyone welcome, no matter what age.

Letham Church Hall: Fridays 12noon-2pm



The Remembrance Day service was held in Letham Church on 10 November with Rev. Maggie Hunt officiating. The congregation welcomed about 35 Beavers, Cubs and Scouts, along with their leaders, and all stood as the four flag bearersLois MacCarrol and Madeline Grove for the Scouts, Sophie Brodie for the Cubs and Eilidh McIntosh for the Beavers presented their flags.

Rev Maggie Hunt spoke of the tragedy of war and the symbolism of poppies before all present joined in making a paper poppy wreath.

The service then split, with the Scout group processing to the War Memorial in Dempster Park There the two minutes silence was observed along with Letham folk before poppy wreaths were laid representing local organisations and friends. The memorial area had been prepared and made ready by Mr Gary Anderson.

Rev. Martyn Thomas led the silence in the Church

Throughout, the young people were a great credit to their leaders and families and showed respect for the occasion . It was a pleasure to have them in the Church and park.

The Photographs are the interior of the Church ,decorated by Mrs Joan Smith , and the 1st Dunnichen (Letham) Scout Troup at Dempster Park.



Jeannie Mair

Photographs by Bruce Mair and Arran Low

'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 .

Next Issue of 'In the PICTURE'

Deadline for February 2025 issue is

Saturday 18th January 2025

Material to be sent to Rev Martyn Thomas
14 Kirkgait (01307 818084)

E-mail: revmartynthomas@outlook.com

And to Jeannie Mair

2 Idvies View (01307 818600)

E-Mail: j.mair382@btinternet.com

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

E-mail: joan_77@btinternet.com

CROSSREACH REPORT TO THE CONGREGATION 2024

CrossReach is the Church of Scotland's social care arm. Every day, staff in this organisation show the practical side of faith by giving renewed hope to people in challenging situations or at breaking point. Over 70 services across Scotland help more than 28,000 people every year, through a unique whole-family approach - so families impacted by mental health, dementia, disability, poverty, and homelessness, get the support they need to thrive.

For some, only a short association with CrossReach is needed; for some that support extends to years. Domestic violence, drug dependency, and other fields of social need that are often underfunded by public authorities, welcome the role played by CrossReach.

The Church and we, should be very proud of CrossReach and its mission. In the midst of the difficulties and challenges and changes facing the Church of Scotland we should be hugely grateful for having a Christian asset which works powerfully in the world delivering life enhancing, life changing and life saving services.

Our church supports CrossReach in a few ways. Financially, through our Wilson & Peter Bequest, we give a lump sum of several hundreds of pounds in alternate years to support the Bluebell Perinatal Service in Glasgow. This is one of CrossReach's Counselling services - a service which provides a confidential space to explore difficult feelings or experiences on a one to one basis. Here are comments from two parents who have used the Bluebell Service:

"My counsellor has guided me with so much care and intelligence through our sessions. I've learnt a lot about myself, and it's been an invaluable support during the first year of my son's life. Staff have been so kind to me and my son. I trusted them implicitly."

"I have been able to completely change my perspective and feel more positive. I am hopeful about life and my relationship with my children with my counsellor's help. I feel more able to face challenges and feel more like myself again."

We also currently send 50% of the tea and coffee donations after the service to CrossReach. 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 are not all in a position to offer support directly to CrossReach, but there are many who pray for the staff and services of CrossReach and there is nothing better than that.

Thank you

Irene McGugan

From Rev Maggie Hunt

'Its Christmas!'....well no...not really. Not yet. We still have the wonderful season of Advent to enjoy first before Christmas comes. A season of hoping and wondering and preparing. And it is looking to be an advent of real joy here at All Souls Letham. Lots going on to suit the needs of our wider Letham community as well as offering a chance to explore spirituality and perhaps deepen your faith. There's lots going on with our sister churches in Forfar and Aberlemno and with the wider church across different denominations in the Forfar and Letham area - including an advent Bible study, a silver band concert and a joint BIG SING carol service for all to enjoy.

As mentioned last issue, we have a number of special services coming up which are especially created for members of the Letham community who usually 'don't do church'. They are designed to be extra welcoming, informal and open to people who come without belief or understanding of Christianity.

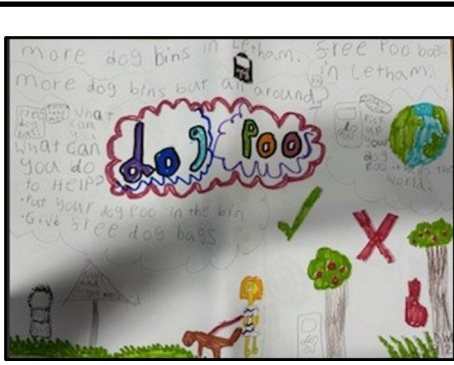
Blue Christmas - a special 30 minute community service for anyone who will find Christmas hard or sad this year - for whatever reason. Whether it is grief, family issues, money worries, work problems. Come and be with others who understand that it isn't the most 'joyful' time for everyone. Sunday 8th December at 1pm at Letham Church - all faiths or none are welcome. Tea, Coffee and cakes will be served afterwards.

A gift service on Sunday 15th December at 10.30am. Bring a toy, or a gift for an adult, for us to donate to folks who might otherwise not receive this year. Please don't wrap your gift but feel free to pop it in a bag. We are also hoping to have folks share their musical and creative gifts with us that morning too.

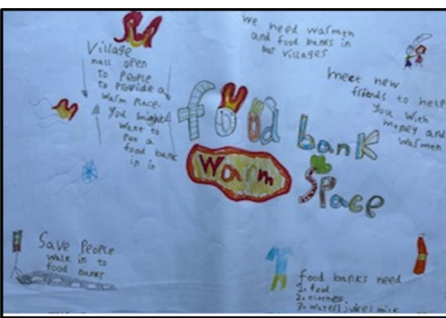
We have a "DIY community nativity play" on Sunday 22nd December at 10.30am. It is just a fun hour together with old fashioned carols, dressing up and panto-style responses with no rehearsals and no set roles. It is great for kids who love taking part, adults who enjoy dressing up and friends who love carols but don't come to church usually. Bring the kids, grandchildren, friends, neighbours etc - everyone who comes gets to join in and be part of the fun. A festive feast of mulled wine, mince pies and treats will be served afterwards.

A traditional Watchnight service at 11.30pm on Christmas Eve. Come along, sing the old favourite carols, wait for the midnight moment when we light the candle and announce that Christmas has come. We'd love to see you - all are welcome of all ages.

In January we meet together to think about Epiphany - the realisation that something is more than it first seems. We look to the Wise Men's Star on Sunday 5th and continue to seek, look and have epiphanies together each week through till February. A great introduction to church, to Jesus and to the writers of the Bible as we explore together week by week who this baby Jesus is.



Children in P3 from Letham Primary School have been creating Campaign Posters for issues they feel most important in our community. The children feel strongly about the on going issues with people not picking up after their dogs, not having a village food bank and a warm space, tackling pollution, planting more trees and addressing littering around the village



LETHAM GARDENING CLUB

On the 12th November we had a talk by Reg Henderson of Revell Green Nursery on pollinators and pests in the garden. Reg came along with a full size bee hive (less bees) together with a nursery hive and took us through the complete process of the workings of a hive. He then covered the main pests we are bothered with, from ants to moles and cats, and methods used to solve the problem. A very interesting evening on saving the honey bee (which only pollinates 20% of our garden plants) and getting rid of moles etc.

On the 10th December we have, by popular request, the return of Steve Ludlum with his own entertaining ideas for flower arranging.

On the 21st January we have our annual quiz night with Colin Ainsworth as our quiz master. This is a fun night with much banter and please note that it is on the 3rd Tuesday of the month rather than the usual second.

Please join us and bring a friend.

Time 7.30 pm Venue Letham Bowling Club
Bill Muir 079083392



All Souls Church Guild



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

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

4th December Christmas Meal

Following the Christmas Meal on 4th December the Guild is on an extended break in the hope that we will avoid the worst of the winter storms..

We resume our meetings on 26th February with a talk on the Friends of Toowa, Uganda.

If you need more information or have any queries please contact Linda Stewart at 01307 469255 or email lindas28@btinternet.com

The Guild wishes you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year."

If you need a lift to the guild please contact Norma at 01307818275

What's the best Christmas gift to give? A broken drum.
You can't beat it

Why does Santa use GPS?
He doesn't want to be a lost Claus.



Learning Together



Weekly Group Bible Study

Letham Church Hall
on Mondays at 1:30pm.

Toys and drawing materials
available for children.

Tea, coffee and snacks provided.

All are Welcome.

**“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 £944. As we are able to claim additional income through the “Gift Aid” scheme, this should bring in a further **£207** (approximately), making a final total of around **£1,151.**

This incredible total was assisted by one large donation and a further two generous contributions from individuals, plus a very kind contribution from Letham’s Village Lottery.

This would seem to be our highest total ever, which is 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 over £206 per month. 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.

In addition to being a sponsor, KeyStore 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 deliver it free of charge to every home in the parish.

THANK YOU! Communications Committee

SANTA’S GROTTTO (BOOKINGS ONLY)

AT 6 GUTHRIE STREET, LETHAM

£4 Per Child (Includes Santa Visit, Gift, Cookies & Drink,
Charity Donation)

Please pop along any time to pre-book and pay ASAP

Opening times

SUN 22nd December 4pm – 6.30pm

Mon 23rd December 4pm – 7pm

Tue 24th December 4pm – 6pm

For those who just want to see the grotto while Santa
isn’t here it will be open for viewings on

Friday 20th December-4pm to 5pm and Saturday 21st
December-1pm to 3pm. Donations welcome.

Kind Regards, Mel & Wayne

TALES OF LETHAM STANES No. 10

*“I’ve seen many a ruined building,
but never a ruined stane.”* (Hugh MacDiarmid)

GAEN ABOUT BOTTLES O’ FIZZ

WERE UNKNOWN IN THE 1800’S

This month’s stane is a happy collection of stone, metal and leather. What did the drouthy visitors to Dempster Park do when a drink was required on a het summer’s day? A big stane houses the mechanism for a hand water pump - a relic of the past in Dempster Park.

Excavating the memories of yet another relic, (that’s me), I remember when the pump worked. Keeping in mind that the passage of time may enhance memorable moments, I recall it was a hot day in the park. Other drouthy cratur had already “fanged” the pump with a starter dash of water. To “fang” is a word that comes from the German “to catch” but also features in the old Scots language.

So, an enthusiastic couple of strokes on the out-stretched pump handle brought a surging gush into your smiddy made cup of burnished metal. This was attached by a chain to the stone housing of the pump. Surely this was a heaven sent moment! A mugful of cool, almost aromatic water, tumbling forth. What a joy to drink; what a delight; and it was free! An exotic drouth slaker from the cool depths of the earth. The same metal mug was used by all and yet there are no records of plague or similar afflicting the users.

Wells are wonderful things. In 1789, Letham Farm was chosen for establishing the new village of Letham as the land was suitable for digging ever yielding wells. To sustain life, you MUST have water. Every house in the original village had a well. In 1947 all household water requirements were from wells.

Better off households had a pump installed to fill a tank in the attic, but many houses threw a small bucket attached to a rope into the well, before filling a bigger bucket or carrying the bucket directly into the house sink; or filing a reek blackened kettle, pot or basin. Mains water and sewerage were installed over the entire village by the 1950’s. The wells were instantly redundant.

So, as a salute to wells, our stane for this month is a carved out obelisk in the village park. This obelisk houses a well pump and the mechanics required to get water from the well out of the earth. The pump handle and the water delivering metal stroup complete the above ground scene.

Below ground is a dug rounded well formed by stones. This cylindrical, 3 foot wide well, is where water gathers. The water remains fresh being constantly fed by new rain falling or via the ebb and flow of the water table. Wells can be 17 feet or more deep. Some still exist to this day to form an interesting feature in the garden. Some have been covered over with a slab of stone. Some have been filled in. But they are all a salute to the origins of the village. The well in Dempster Park still exists but no longer delivers cool water as Mr Health and Safety would surely have an ackapeevie if he learned that the public was drinking from wells – especially from the well in Dempster Park.

JAMcG



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all our customers, friends and
acquaintances we made over
the years**



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LETHAM & DISTRICT



President Lynne Slater welcomed members and our guest demonstrator for the evening Lynda Marshall, a local artist from Angus.

After spending a career working for the NHS, Lynda decided to embark on a course in Creative Textiles Techniques which has led her onto specialising in Scottish land and seascapes using wool felting and also creating beautiful and unique botanical printing onto silk. Amongst these wonderful talents Lynda also teaches felt making, pastel techniques and examples of her art can be found for sale at our own Hand Pict Showcase Gallery in Letham.

We were very fortunate to have Lynda join us and it was amazing to see her using leaves she had collected earlier in the year and then dried and rehydrated. She prepares her silk fabric by cleaning it in a weak iron solution then presses the leaves between two pieces of fabric before rolling up tightly with string and steaming for around 80 minutes. A process she has perfected and made to look simple.

Lynda brought along a collection of her silk scarfs for us to see and the end result is amazing, they definitely have The Wow factor. No two are the same, all were beautiful and so unique in design and colour. Lynda uses natural products and tries to reuse and recycle whenever she can and is constantly on the look out for leaves of all shapes and sizes.

We all thoroughly enjoyed the evening and Lynne thanked Lynda for sharing her wonderful talent and for judging our competitions.

A knitted scarf. 1st Lynne Slater.
2nd Colette McNeill. 3rd Lindsay Smith.

Foliage only arrangement. 1st Lindsay Smith.
2nd Lynne Slater 3rd Jeannie Mair

Flower of the month. 1st Kathleen Ferrier.
2nd Colette McNeill. 3rd Jeannie Mair.

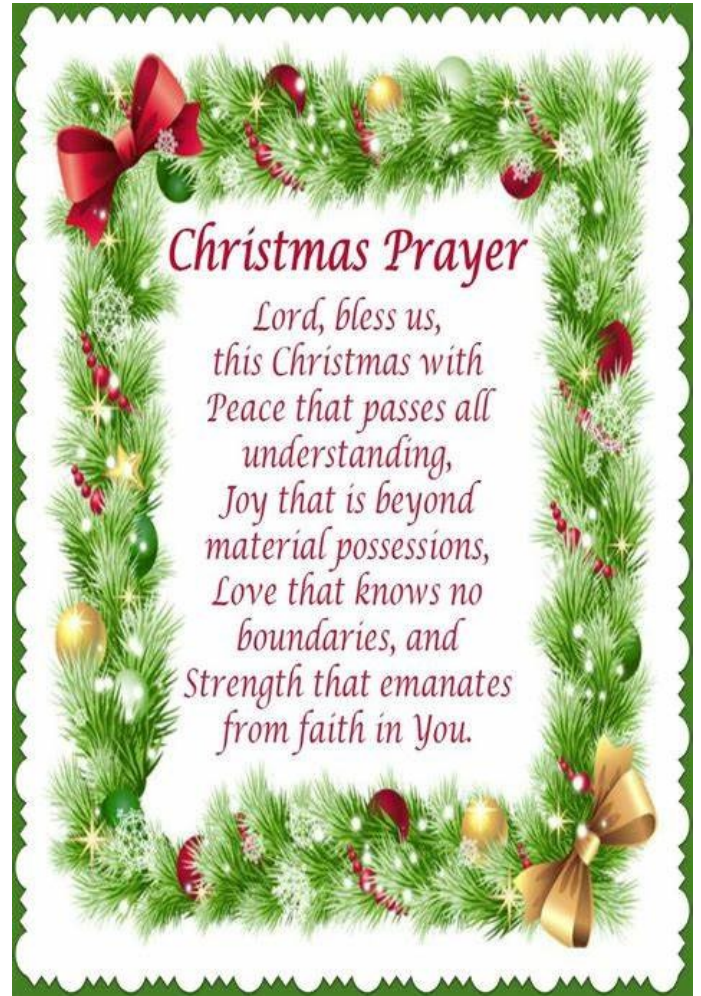
Lynne thanked members for the delicious tea with savoury and sweets provided.

Our next meeting is on 3rd December 2024 at 7.15 when we will be having a look back at our 100 year history and enjoying our early Christmas Party.

At the January 7th, 2025 meeting. The Speaker will be Carol Anderson, from Age Scotland. The three Competitions are: 2 slices of Cloutie dumpling, A 'New Year' Acrostic poem and Garden flower if the month.

Visitors will also be very welcome.

Colette McNeill (Press Secretary)



Food Project

Usual Items are required for the Food Bank and as it is Christmas maybe selection boxes for the children would be special.
All donations Welcome.

Please bring your items to Letham Church on Sunday mornings

Thank you. Forfar All Souls @ LETHAM

Men's Fellowship Group

In 'Lowson Church' Buildings
1 Jamieson Street, Forfar
on the 3rd Monday of the month
@ 10.30 am (10.15am for Tea/Coffee)

16th December: Christmas Lunch
Lochlands Mill Forfar

20th January 2025:
"White Water Rafting-Rio Grande"
Speaker:- **William Mather**

More info from David Adam: 07889573885

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Letham Feuars' Committee

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Supporting *'In the PICTURE'*

Remember **LETHAM BOOK SHOP**

Open Mondays to Saturdays
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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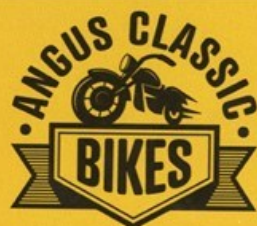
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
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