

In the PICTURE

March 2025

Send news to: revmartythomas@outlook.com

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

Letham Singers

Burns' Suppers were held around the end of January, one of which was in the Letham Bowling Club when The Letham Choir, accompanied by Mrs Dorothy Goss on piano, opened the evening's entertainment.

The choir performed traditional Scottish and Burns songs including The Skye Boat Song, Ye Banks and Braes, John Anderson my Jo and ended with a lively Marie's Wedding.

The ladies were warmly applauded and thanked for their excellent singing and their time.

The choir meets on the stage of the village hall on Wednesdays from 7.00 pm to 8.30 pm

New members are always welcome.



Despite the recent stormy, and sometimes frosty weather, snowdrops are in abundance in gardens around Letham. It is a pleasure to see them as one walks around our village. *Photo by J Mair*

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' bletcher

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

Quiz Night in support of Guide Dogs

in Letham Village Hall
on Saturday 12th April, at 7pm.

£100 prize to winning team. Generously donated by Stable Bathrooms, Letham
Max 5 adults per team, £5 each

Bring your own (glasses) bottle & nibbles
....Snacks at 1/2 time

School age children welcome
Donation of raffle prizes gratefully accepted.

Please message to book a table
Margaret on 07759954304, email
marussell2019@gmail.com



FAIRTRADE & ECO CONGREGATION REPORT FEBRUARY 2025



FAIRTRADE



The **Fairtrade Foundation**, which celebrated its 30th anniversary last year, works with farmers and food producers all over the world to try to ensure that these people receive fair payment for what they produce, and as a result some of the poorest people are able to improve their conditions and methods of farming and invest in their communities.

Fairtrade Fortnight happens each year and last year it was held in September. During these 2 weeks many UK groups and businesses highlighted ways in which we can support the Fairtrade movement - not just for 2 weeks of the year, but in our shopping throughout the year. Many people think only of tea and coffee, or maybe chocolate, when they hear the word 'Fairtrade', but in fact there are more than 5,000 Fairtrade products available! The theme of Fairtrade Fortnight last year was 'Be the Change', encouraging people to make an active choice to contribute to fairer, more sustainable production by choosing Fairtrade goods whenever possible.

In Letham we marked Fairtrade Fortnight on 15th September with a café Church service incorporating a Fairtrade breakfast. Special thanks are due to Norma and her team of helpers for providing a wonderful breakfast using as many Fairtrade products as possible.

At the beginning of November a group from Letham joined other members of our All Souls congregation for an enjoyable Fairtrade & Fizz evening at Lawson Memorial Church.

Throughout the year we use Fairtrade products wherever we can for Church activities. We have also encouraged people to purchase Real Advent Calendars and Real Easter eggs - produced by the Meaningful Chocolate Company. These calendars and eggs are not available in supermarkets and are the only ones available which are Fairtrade and have a book with them telling the Christmas or Easter story.

They are ideal for helping families think about the real meaning of Christmas and Easter. An order form for Real Easter eggs will soon be available - if you do not have children or grandchildren, or neighbours to buy one for, you could do what some of our members did last year - buy one or two and donate them to the Food Bank.

Maureen Buwart

Eco Congregation

Dunnichen, Letham and Kirkden Church held both the Bronze and Silver Eco Congregation Awards. However, we are now Forfar All Souls Church, and are the only Worship Centre within the Union, to be a member of Eco Congregation Scotland.

Eco-Congregation Scotland is a Christian environmental organisation helping local groups of Christians to link environmental issues to their faith; to reduce their environmental impact; and to engage with the community.

So going forward, although we retain our awards, our task is to assist the other members of All Souls Church in Forfar and Aberlemno to begin their journey towards becoming eco-congregations, by building on our experience.

As a congregation, we continue to care for creation in a number of ways. We retain our commitment to using FairTrade food and drink as far as possible at our hospitality events, and most of our cleaning products are ethically sourced. We continue to organise Rag Bag collections, and impressively we donate large amounts to the Food Project managed by Lawson Memorial Church.

More recent initiatives include the replacement of all the lights in the sanctuary with LED bulbs. In addition, the heating controller in the church is now easier to programme and therefore saves electricity. We closely monitor electricity usage and aim to ensure that everything is switched off after use, and our solar panels continue to provide us with energy savings.

We are using the new Council blue bin for recycling and take glass to the bottle bank. We continue to make use of the green waste collection.

Plans for the grounds are at an early stage but eco friendly solutions will be looked at. Following the success of our wild flower garden last summer, we will be repeating the exercise which not only adds colour to our premises, it provides a good environment for bees and butterflies.

And not least, our Minister, Rev Maggie, includes reference to care for creation as a regular part of worship.

However, responsibility for addressing climate issues rests with all of us, so we would invite suggestions about how Letham church and community can become more eco-friendly. These ideas can be shared via "In the PICTURE" in order to challenge and help each other to find ways of significantly reducing our own impact on the environment by considering issues such as energy use, recycling, travel and finance.

Irene McGugan

Collect your stamps to support the work of the Al Ahli Hospital in Northern Gaza.

The hospital is the only Christian hospital in the Gaza Strip and Gaza's only cancer hospital. It serves in time of calm during the occupation and despite all, and through all the bombing since Oct 2023, the hospital has continued to serve the population in whatever way they can with the small resources they have and with staff working hours under difficult conditions.

The hospital is run by our partner church, the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East.

HOW TO CONTRIBUTE:
Post your stamps to Stamp Appeal 2025, Keith Scott, Dene Hard, Garelochhead, Helensburgh, G84 0EL.
For other options and more information visit: www.churchofscotland.org.uk/stamps

Scottish Charity Number: SC011353
www.churchofscotland.org.uk
Facebook: www.facebook.com/churchofscotland
Twitter: [@churchscotland](https://twitter.com/churchscotland)

Stamps can be handed in to the Church or the Church Hall anytime they are open.

It would be very helpful if the stamps could be trimmed leaving a border of ¼ inch / 6mm.

KEEP FIT CLASSES FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

The Keep Fit classes for Senior Citizens have at last been arranged with the assistance of Angus Council who have found a suitably qualified trainer to take the classes.

The classes will take place at Jubilee Court in the residents' lounge on Mondays between 10 and 11 am commencing on Monday 3rd March.

Residents of Jubilee Court will not be charged for participating in these classes but non residents will pay a small fee of up to £5 for each session.

To help with assessing numbers would all those intending to take part please notify the undersigned:-

Alexandra MacRae.
Convener Jubilee Court Residents Group.

alexandramacrae1941@gmail.com.
01307 819310

From Rev Maggie Hunt

I am writing this on a cold grey February day. It is very much still winter AND YET I can see snowdrops in full bloom and the shoots of daffodils and scilla plants ready to bring vibrant yellows, oranges and blues to the border by the time you are reading this in March. We can always find hope if we are willing to stop a moment to look...just like searching the ground for signs of green shoots. We can always find hope when we meet together as well. I hope you'll join us in March at one of our church services or warm spaces lunches. You'll be guaranteed a warm welcome and a sense of hope shared among us.

We have a special service Wednesday 5th March at 2pm. It is an Ash Wednesday Service and it is for anyone and everyone in the community. 30mins of quiet reflection, blessing and prayer.

We end Lent with Easter Sunday on 20th April – we are planning kids crafts, chocolate treats and a community Easter Egg hunt as part of our time together at 10.30am so please put the details in your diary to join us before family lunches and events later in the day.

RAG BAG COLLECTION

Last date for collection Sunday 6th April 2025

These funds will contribute to the cost of the redesign of our grounds and parking places.
Wearable Clothing (not work clothes), Shoes, Handbags and Belts.

Regret, bedding & towels not permitted.

*Please leave at the Church or any queries, bags needed, uplift required etc.
Phone Bruce Tel: 01307818600*

SCAMS

National Fraud Intelligence Bureau warns us that:

“Nearly a third of all fraud is committed over the telephone”

Police Scotland have issued a booklet entitled: **“The Little Booklet of Phone Scams”**

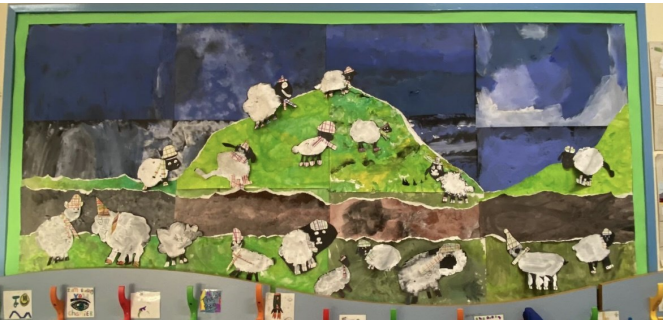
It reminds us of those scams and how to deal with them

The Booklet and other Information is available from

www.scotland.police.uk/advice-and-information/scams-and-fraud or call 101



Letham Primary School



The children at Letham Primary came together for a Scottish themed community afternoon to celebrate Rabbe Burns. Children took part in a mix of activities; painting, dancing, drawing, reciting poems, singing Scottish songs and even took part in a 'haggis drive'. A great community session for all involved.



Next Issue of 'In the PICTURE'

Deadline for April 2025 issue is

Saturday 15th March 2025

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

E-mail: revmartythomas@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

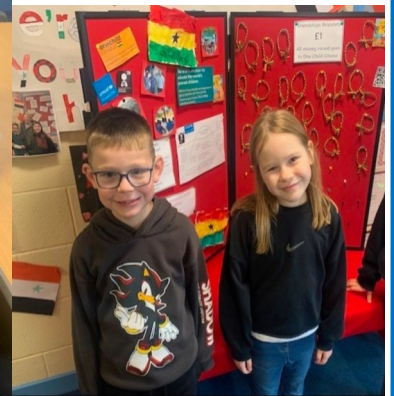
Letham Primary School



£113.59 raised for "One Child Ghana" through Letham Primary School P3 bracelet enterprise project! The Primary 3 Children led by Mrs Batard were delighted to sell each and every bracelet!

Great Job!

D Williamson Deputy Head Teacher



LETHAM GARDENING CLUB

Our last meeting welcomed Lynda Marshall of Hand PICT Showcase Gallery in Letham who gave a very interesting and informative demonstration on the botanical printing process for silk scarves. Lynda's style and easy nature made this a very enjoyable evening.

On Tuesday 11th March we welcome Emily Maycock, the head gardener of the Hope Community Garden in Arbroath whose topic is organic gardening and compost making.

Venue is the Bowling club and the time is 7.30 pm. Come and join us and bring a friend.

Bill Muir. 07908339420

Information from Age Scotland re Admiral Nurse Clinics.

Nationwide Building Society and Dementia UK have formed a new venture offering 45 minute appointments with a dementia specialist nurse in their branches, one of which is in Dundee on 11th, 12th and 13th March 2025. The dementia specialist nurses, called Admiral Nurses, can offer advice to families and carers about dementia symptoms and progression, guidance on how to support someone living with the condition and manage changes in behaviour, advice on navigating the social care system and legal issues or simply provide emotional support to family carers

The address below is to the Dementia UK website and contains further details about the clinic and the booking page:

<https://www.dementiauk.org/information->

The Basement Letham

Notice of Closure Effective 10th January 2025

Due to the low number of volunteers and the lack of attendance, The Basement will close until a new volunteer group is willing to come forward. The Basement needs a fresh approach to renew interest, despite efforts by the current committee the attendance has been low. Funds will lie dormant with The Basement bank account until such time as a new committee is formed.

In alignment with GDPR, all youth member records will be deleted.

A review will be held in 6 months, if at that time no interest is established, a decision will be made to either remain dormant or close The Basement charity, where all accounts would be distributed to local youth groups (to be determined).

Regards *David Cargill Acting Chairperson*

Food Project

The current needs are:

**all forms of non-perishable goods,
toiletries, e.g. soap, toothpaste, toilet rolls etc
size 6 nappies**

**Please bring your items to Letham Church on
Sunday mornings .**

**A big thank you for all donations. If anyone
in Letham requires immediate support from
the Food Project please contact
pat@strathdeveron.co.uk or
lowsonchurch@gmail.com**

Thank you. Forfar All Souls @ LETHAM

TALES OF LETHAM STANES No. 11

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

IT'S LOST, BUT IT MUST BE SOMEWHERE

Before Letham Village was founded in 1789, there were already a few biggins in The Den. The main building of that place was Plashmill, currently used by Central Motors. Since the village was founded, the Mill has become a Plashmill involved in the fibres of the flax and the finished linen - linen weaving being the primary objective for the establishment of the village of Letham.

The power of the Vinney Burn was used in the Mill to power machinery. Before the village, the Mill in The Den operated as a Meal Mill. People from all around would bring their oats to be milled and come to the Mill for a resupply of oatmeal, for their own kitchens.

My question is this? Whatever did happen to the last meal grinding stone at the Mill? Millstones are not lightweight. Unless it found a berth as a Meal Mill stone in some other location, Milldens for example, we can only imagine it was disposed of close at hand.

So my stone of this month is the Meal Mill stone from Letham Mill which we now know as the Plashmill.

How did the power of the Vinney Water be conveyed to the Mill? It was powered by water from a dam called the Haulker Den Dam, which was just-a-bout across the Vinney near to the current bridge upstream in The Greens. A lade conveyed the water behind the houses in The Den to about the middle of The Den which has a hump on the road where the water crossed the road and entered the Mill premises.

With the establishment of the village in 1789, this Meal Mill was converted into a Plashmill, utilising the same water power from the Vinney burn.

JAMcG

When it was time for bed, the two boys knelt down and began to say some prayers. Suddenly, the younger brother started yelling at the top of his voice.

"I PRAY FOR A BICYCLE! I PRAY FOR A NEW COMPUTER! I PRAY FOR A TRIP TO DISNEYLAND!" and so on...

His older brother leaned over and whispered, "There's no need to shout. God isn't deaf."

"I know," said the younger brother..

"But Grandma sure is!"

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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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LETHAM & DISTRICT



President Lynne Slater welcomed members and guests to our February meeting and Maggie Fleming from Letham craft shop kindly came along to judge our competitions.

We had organised a games night for everyone, had a lot of fun and found out just how competitive we all were.

Due to January's meeting having been cancelled, Maggie had two months of competitions to judge, tasting both Clottie dumpling and three fruit marmalade!

Garden Flower of the Month.

1. Colette McNeill
2. Isabel McClung
3. Meg Bundock

2 Slices of Clottie dumpling.

1. Isabel McClung
2. Lynne Slater
3. Frances Webster

A 'New Year' Acrostic Poem

1. Meg Bundock
2. Lynne Slater
3. Colette McNeill

Small Jar of 3 Fruit Marmalade

1. Meg Bundock
2. Frances Webster
3. Lynne Slater

Valentines Theme Scrapbook Page

1. Meg Bundock
2. Frances Webster
3. Jeannie Mair

Lynne kindly thanked Maggie for taking time to come along on a wet cold evening to be our judge.

Another reminder also for the Angus Federation SWI show taking place on Friday 21st and Saturday 22nd March 2025 in The Reid Hall, Forfar. There will be Posters and flyers put up around Letham village in the coming weeks.

It was lovely to see everyone and if you are new to the village or have been thinking about coming along but aren't sure, just give it a try. We meet on the first Tuesday of every month September through until May at 7.15 pm in Letham Bowling Club. We are a small friendly group, and you will be made very welcome.

You will find more information on our website. www.lethamswi.org

Colette McNeill (Press secretary)

'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.

**All Souls Church Guild**

Theme for 2025 is—**Sure Foundations**

Dates of Meetings are:-

26th February: **"Friends of Toowa, Uganda"**
Speaker: Anne-Marie Pitt.

7th March (Friday): **"World Day of Prayer"**
Venue and time to be confirmed

12th March: **"Faberge Eggs"**
Speaker: Mary Ballantine

15th March (Saturday) **"Coffee Morning"**
10.00am to 11.30am - Usual Stalls and Raffle
Tickets £3.50 payable at door in aid of Guild
Funds - Venue: Lawson Church Hall

26th March: **110th A G M** - Rev Dr Karen Fenwick

We welcome you to come along to any of our meetings to hear more about any of our programme items. **Please bring your own cup or mug**, a wrapped biscuit is provided.

All Meetings are on Wednesday afternoons at 2.00pm in Lawson Church Hall, finishing between 3.30 and 4.00 pm unless stated otherwise.

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

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

Men's Fellowship Group

In "The Anchorage Building"
26 West High Street, Forfar
on the 3rd Monday of the month
@ 10.30 am (10.15am for Tea/Coffee)

17th March "Flodden Fields"
Speaker:- **Donald Innes**

More info from David Adam: 07889573885

**Learning Together**

Weekly Group Bible Study
Letham Church Hall
on Mondays at 1:30pm.

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available for children.

Tea, coffee and snacks provided.

All are Welcome.



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