

In the PICTure

September 2025

Send news to: revmartythomas@outlook.com

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Forfar All Souls @ LETHAM Charity Number SC002417)



Annual Flower Show

The Letham Gardening Club held their annual Show in the Village Hall on Sunday 10th August. As usual, there was a good standard of fruit, vegetables and flowers. Mr. Colin Ainsworth, well known in the village, presented the prizes. All prize winners were warmly applauded: most points overall award was won by Debbie Peebles and Tom Rennie, with a remarkable run of 7 years, won the award for most points in the vegetable section.

Mr. Bill Muir, Gardening Club Chairman, thanked Colin, all attendees, and all entrants, without whom there would be no show, and asked that diaries be noted for August 2026 (Photo by Bruce Mair)

FAIRTRADE BREAKFAST

Support Fair Trade in Letham



All Souls @ Letham Church
Sunday 21st September at 10am

COSY CUPPA

In Letham Church
Hall



Every Friday 2.00 pm to 3.30 pm

Come for a free cuppa, homemade cake & chat

All ages very welcome

Sunday Worship
In Letham Church
10.30 am



Worship/Discipleship Report.

This report covers worship, which we know about. It is what we do every week at church.

Also includes discipleship which is about learning more about our faith and deepening our faith.

All Souls Kirk Session has a Worship/discipleship committee.

The last meeting I attended was 6th March and it discussed Lent, Holy Week and Easter services. A variety of groups and meetings across the churches of All Souls took place, including every night of Holy Week in Letham which was well attended.

There is also weekly worship at the Anchorage on a Wednesday which is very accessible for folk literally to walk off the street to attend.

Here in Letham we have been exposed to a variety of creative forms of worship. E.g. all age services with stories and ice cream. We have had the singing group's input at Christmas and Easter, and Peter Scarlett's songs accompanied by the guitar.

They may not be the traditions we are familiar with, but we need to take seriously their purpose. More people don't go to church these days than do go. They are not familiar with any kind of worship and have no traditions. So services like today's are designed for people who don't go to church at all, to encourage them to give it a go. There will be plenty of services that follow the traditional pattern too, so there is something for everyone.

As for discipleship, there is a house group held Letham fortnightly with 8 or 9 attending, another in the east end of Forfar monthly and an online Zoom housegroup with 5 attendees too. Not big numbers when you think how big our parish now is.

There is also the Celebrate Recovery meetings in Letham. Small numbers again, but it provides an opportunity for people with addiction problems to get support and help. Modelled to some extent on AA meetings there is an emphasis on the Higher Power, but it makes explicit that for us the Higher Power is Jesus. *Klaus Buwert*

In The Know

Inside this edition of ITP you will find a copy of "In The Know" for 2025. This is full of useful numbers. Some of the NHS numbers have changed recently and ITK gives the latest ones. We hope you find this useful, and if you think of any numbers that should be included, please let us know.

Elaine Saunders

KILT WALK 2025 – THANK YOU!!!!

The Dundee Kilt Walk from St Andrews to Dundee took place on Sunday 17th August. Irene McGugan joined hundreds of others on this challenge – all raising money for charity. Irene set a target of raising £1,000 all of which would go to the new charity, Tour de 4, set up by Sir Chris Hoy to raise funds for others who like him are facing stage 4 cancer.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of family and friends and indeed total strangers, this amount has been raised and surpassed!! This was a huge encouragement to complete the walk (and overcome sore feet and tired legs.....).

"THANK YOU SO MUCH TO ALL WHO DONATED" is a totally inadequate comment, for something which was really appreciated by Irene and which will mean a great deal to the charity. But nonetheless, please accept these heartfelt thanks.

Irene.

Calling all Seniors in Letham and District

If you are aged 60 or over and not in full time work, then you are eligible to join Letham Seniors. Our membership includes a subsidised annual outing, Christmas party and Christmas present. We may try to run more short outings during the year.

If you have any ideas about where you would like to go, then please get in touch with any of the Seniors Committee members.

The membership year runs from 1st June each year. If you have not yet paid your membership fee, or are new to the area, you have until 30th September to pay your fee for 2025-26.

Membership cost £5 per year. Again, contact any committee member, or Isobel Sword or Elaine Saunders.

Elaine Saunders Treasurer

'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.



Ice Cream Sunday in Letham Church



Lunch in Letham Church Hall
Photos by Bruce Muir and John Crichton

From Maggie Hunt

As the summer ends and the nights draw in and the cold winds blow, there is lots to look forward to - so please pop dates in your diary now for events later in the Autumn.

At All Souls Letham we have been spending the summer months thinking about how church has changed over the years and will continue to change. And how the Holy Spirit is always on the move and leads us onwards. We have been praying about how to engage more with our community and better serve the people of the village, noticing where God already is at work. We look forward to meeting with groups over the autumn months to discover how we can help.

Over September and October our big focus is our church wide theme of 'Joyful Generosity'. We aim to ensure that everyone in our church knows what is happening in all the different worship and mission centres. There will be weekly services reflecting this theme as well as leaflets and brochures which will be delivered to members. Having been involved a little in the preparation of the mailing I have been overwhelmed by the amount that we do as a church to serve our communities. It truly is remarkable that we are able to do as Jesus asks and quite literally feed the hungry, clothe the naked, offer shelter and warmth to the cold and bring friendship to the lonely. I hope you are excited by what you discover about the work of our church and come along to our special Commitment Sunday service on 26th October to find out more.

We have some special services coming up this month and early next month:

21st September - a FREE Fairtrade Breakfast in the church at 10am. Stay for the Fairtrade talk and service or just enjoy our company over a bite to eat. Ensuring fair pay for all is important to us as are food miles and the ecological impact of where we source our food.

5th October - Blessing the Animals! Bring your pets [or a photo of them] for a blessing as we hold our annual 'blessing of the animals' service. Service is at 10.30am BUT if your pet won't stay, still feel free to pop along after for a blessing 11.30am - 12noon.

12th October - Harvest Thanksgiving. It has been an early grain harvest this year and the yield is good and so we give thanks and remember farm workers still bringing in tatties and other crops. We are having a Harvest Lunch in the hall afterwards at 12noon to which everyone is invited. If you don't 'do' church, please still join us for lunch to support our farming community.



All Souls Church Guild



The Guild would like to say a **big thank you** to everyone who supported the Coffee Morning in the Lowson Church Hall on Saturday 23 August. The Guild greatly appreciates your continued support.

We look forward to the start of the new session when we welcome old and new members. If you just want to come along to hear more about any of our programme topics you are very welcome. The Guild Membership costs £17.00 for the year or FREE for the first year for anyone who has never been a Church of Scotland Guild Member.

On Saturday 13 September some of our members are travelling to Perth North Church for the National Guild Annual Gathering for the launch of the 2nd Theme for 2025 – 2026 – “**Living Stones**” of the “**Let us Build a House**” Strategy and the Discussion Topic “**encouraging one another through Fellowship and Friendship**” It will be an inspiring day with wonderful singing, speakers, entertainment and Guild News and Project updates.

Guild Week 14 – 21 September 2025

17 September Opening Social – U3A Singing for Fun Group

Sunday 21 September - Guild Rededication Service during Morning Worship at All Souls @ Lowson Church

1 October “Living Stones” Theme Afternoon Rev M Hunt at Letham Church

15 October Angus Small Repairs

29 October Joint Guilds’ Project Afternoon in Lowson Church Crossreach – Playful Beginnings

12 November Open Meeting – all welcome - Scam Prevention – Constable Anderson

26 November Spinning Demonstration – Ann Allan

10 December Christmas Meal to be arranged

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

[If you need more information or have any queries please contact me \(Linda Stewart\) 01307 469255 or email \[lindas28@btinternet.com\]\(mailto:lindas28@btinternet.com\)](#)

Next Issue of ‘In the PICTURE’

Deadline for **October 2025** issue is

Saturday 20 September 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

TALES OF LETHAM STANES No. 16

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

“SMA’ BIELD IS BETTER THAN NAE BIELD
AVA” (Rabbie Burns)

We doubt that Rabbie Burns was referring to today’s STANES story about dry stane dykes, but they do provide shelter (bield). Scotland is criss-crossed from end to end with dry stane dykes. These are so called because they are constructed with stones without the use of cement or mortar. This requires a great deal of skill as the stones need to be wisely chosen and carefully utilised from foundations to the dyke itself not forgetting the very vital capstones. Building such dykes is a dying art, although there are a few specialist schools training dry stane dykers.

Dry stane dykes have adorned Scotland for at least 3-4 hundred years, and probably before that. They are used as markers of boundaries of estates, homes and fields. They are works of art.

They travel for thousands of miles over mountains, hills and glens, fields, farm steadings and homes. Whilst they are markers of boundaries, they also provide shelter for sheep, outside wintering cattle and a myriad of other smaller creatures, from stoats and weasels, to rats and mice and sundry others. Hill walkers and ramblers also coorie down behind them for shelter when having their cuppie and a rest. It has been known for these same walkers to seek seclusion behind the dykes when a “comfort stop” is required.....

Built from volcanic or estuary stones from the beginning of time, dry stane dykes are likely to last for ever. Originally, their purpose was as border markers but they can provide added benefits, such as being hosts for suitable plants, mosses and lichens; being places of refuge and indeed homes for small animals; and places of shelter for bigger animals, including humans, sheep and cattle.

They travel for miles throughout the land, but do not seem to be intrusive. The stones come from a turbulent past when they were maybe flowing like lava but more likely from the vast estuaries from the beginning of time. Today, we may pass them by, hardly noticing their presence, although dry stane dykes are the stones markers of this world’s violent geological past.

JAMcG

Letham Primary School



A final farewell to the P7 children at Letham Primary School at the end of term. Our Head Teacher Ms Frain and SPSA Mrs Scott also marked their retirement after 18 and 20 years of service in the school. The school community wishes everyone well. We look forward to welcoming our new Head Teacher Mrs Siobhan Brown to her post in the new term.

A huge thanks must also go to local piper and mum to Leo and Reuben, Erin Farquharson for coming along to pipe our P7 class out on their last day. A fitting farewell for all!

Mrs D Williamson Depute Head Teacher (Working days Wednesday-Friday)
Letham Primary School Angus [01307 494270](tel:01307494270)



Letham and District Scottish Women's Institute



By the time you read this the Letham and District SWI will be in full swing and looking forward to our October meeting. In anticipation of Halloween, Karen Donaldson, a florist who also runs Rowan and Fern lampshade design, will be demonstrating how to arrange flowers in a pumpkin and, with an emphasis on no waste, one of our competitions is to make an individual pumpkin pie.

The other competitions are for a single 3D paper flower and our usual garden flower of the month.

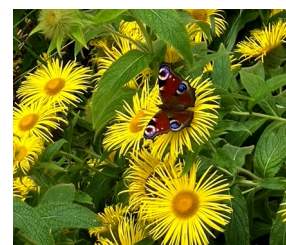
We meet on Tuesday the 7th of October at 7.15 in the Letham Bowling Club. The cost for visitors is £6 and could you please bring along a cup for your tea or coffee.

If you would like to come but need help with transport, or would like more information please contact the president, Dorothy Goss, on 07467 071175 or dotgoss53@gmail.com.

Contact Dorothy, Treasurer Wendy Cameron, or Secretary Lindsay Smith for a chat or more information at lethamswi@gmail.com

Silent Morning

The kiss of the sun for pardon,
The song of the birds for mirth,—
One is nearer God's heart in a garden
Than anywhere else on earth.



The famous lines from Dorothy Gurney's poem were true for the participants at the Silent Morning event in our garden earlier in August.

The other element was, like it says on the tin, silence. After a brief introduction we spent an hour in silent prayer, meditation, just enjoying the peace. If the longest silence you have ever experienced is the two minutes at the War Memorial in November, how would you cope with an hour?

Silence has always been a feature of many religions as an avenue to draw nearer to God. If you are interested in joining us look out for the date of the next one.

Klaus Buwert



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M: 07873 566500



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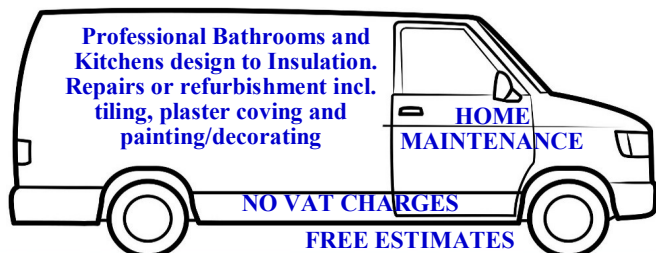


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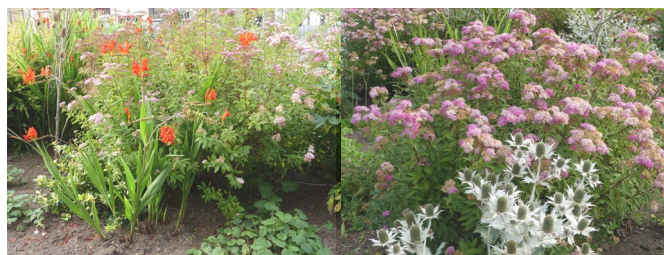
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Letham Square



The flower beds are a collaboration between the Feuars and the Gardening Club. The Feuars pay for the flowers, and the gardening club volunteers clear the beds, plant the flowers, weed the beds and generally tend to them throughout the year. No mean task for a small number of volunteers, (whose collective ages stretch back to about the Battle of Culloden).

The hanging baskets are purchased by, and hung in the square by the Feuars, then watered throughout the summer by a small number of volunteers. Again, no mean task.

Both the flower beds and the hanging baskets are very much appreciated by the residents of the village and visitors alike, but they don't appear by magic.

So, for those of you in the village who might volunteer if asked. Then we are asking.

To help with the hanging baskets please contact the Feuars committee direct. Bill Muir

Scottish Charity No. SC028492



Letham Drama Group has risen from the ashes and is back in action. We have been meeting regularly for a few months now, and have some plans in place for growth and development.

So far, we've enjoyed several trips to the theatre to see some great shows by local amateur dramatic groups.

We are hoping that it won't be long until we're ready to bring our own productions back to Letham again.

Our first big event is a quiz night on the 13th of September 2025 in Letham Village Hall at 7.30pm. Teams of 4 people, £5 per person. Tea and biscuits served. Bring your own bottle if wished. Raffle prizes accepted gratefully.

This is going to be a great night and will definitely not include your normal quiz questions. No need to brush up on politics, general knowledge or geography! Instead, watch television, practice songs from musicals and revisit those well-loved films because this is an entertainment quiz, and you will be entertained!

There is a trophy to be won!

The trophy was, generously, sponsored by the daughters of the late Anne Smith who was a long-term member of Letham Drama group and enthusiastic supporter of live theatre and amateur dramatics.

No need to buy tickets just come along on the night. The more the merrier!

We are already planning another event for later in the year, but no spoilers just yet.

If you are interested in joining Letham Drama Group you will be more than welcome. Whether you're keen to join theatre trips, meet new people or get involved in performances or have experience in stage craft and whether you're a beginner or a seasoned pro, we'd love to meet you.

We meet every second Thursday 7.30 pm Letham Village Hall; our September dates are 4th September and 18th September or come along to the quiz and catch up with us there. Alternatively email us at lethamdramagroupangus@gmail.com.

Looking forward to meeting you at the quiz or at one of our meetings.

Letham Gardening Club

On the 10th of August we held our annual flower show and once again it was excellently supported by both entrants and visitors. Many thanks to the committee and all those who made it happen.

The garden club evening sessions start on Tuesday 9th September at 7pm in the Bowling Club. We kick off with Nicol Millar from the Springfield Park Rose Garden in Arbroath. A beautiful garden that few appear to have heard of.

Come and join us and bring a friend.

Bill Muir 07908339420

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