

ALL SOULS NEWSLETTER



"And is it true? And is it true,
This most tremendous tale of all...?"



There is a lot we take for granted at Christmas: traditional food, the traditional stress about shopping and present buying; inviting our friends and relations to our celebrations. All these things can seem to be absolutely compulsory - and quite often they wear us out before we ever get to the 25th December. "And is it true" that this is what Christmas is all about? Sometimes you hear people say that it's all about family or all about the children and perhaps that is true, up to a point. But in his poem, "Christmas," John Betjeman has his eye and his imagination set on something greater - "the Maker of the stars and sea become a Child on earth for me." That's the tremendous tale: the shock of the creator of all things becoming, of all things, a baby - and doing it for you and doing it for me. So, this Christmas, when we work so hard to make the season meaningful for others or when we would quite like to opt out of it altogether, we should find a quiet moment - perhaps, if we can, under the stars or beside the sea - and say, "I am of such value to God that he has given me the present to end all presents."

That is true.

Heather





Lowson Light Night



FACT work together to light up the night on Halloween with a lights festival. It was great to see so many families join us “guising” and “trick or treating” as well as enjoying hot dogs, soup, hot chocolate and coffees. Big thank you to all the helpers and everyone who came along and our volunteers.



Hello everyone! My name is Lachlan Macleod, and I'm delighted to be your new ministry apprentice, as part of the All Souls Church family!

I'm originally from Aberlemno, where I've been a member of the church for many years, having started in the Sunday school. It's been wonderful to see Aberlemno become part of All Souls over the past couple of years, and I'm very supportive of the church union and all the opportunities it brings for shared worship, service, and community life.



For much of my working life, I've been a chef, cooking in a variety of places across Scotland and England. Over time, my work became increasingly centred around people living with addiction or facing other challenges in life – most recently at the Salvation Army homeless facility in Dundee. Those years taught me so much about compassion, dignity, and the power of a shared meal to build trust and community. They also helped to shape my heart for ministry, deepening my desire to walk alongside people in recovery and to be part of the Church's work of hope and restoration.

Although I first felt a call to ministry back in my school days at Brechin High School, I took a few detours before finally following it. Looking back, I can see how every experience along the way – in kitchens, institutions, and communities – has helped prepare me for this path.

I'm humbled and excited to now be one of the Church of Scotland's eleven new Ministry Apprentices. I'm even more honoured to be able to serve my home church for the next two years! I have a wealth of knowledge in our church of people to seek inspiration from - ministers and elders both past and present - who I have so much admiration for. I'm looking forward to learning from every part of our church life – worship, pastoral care, outreach, and mission – and to seeing how God continues to work through the Church in our three different communities.

It's a privilege to be learning and serving here at All Souls, and I look forward to getting to know more of you in the weeks and months ahead.

Regards,
Lachlan Macleod



ALL Souls Food Project

Our Food Project started in 2016 when we were contacted by Tesco fareshare regarding end of day produce. They were aware that we ran Toddler Groups and a Lunch Club and thought that we would be able to use it. Rev Karen was often contacted by people needing food and so gradually the project started to build. We were soon getting referrals from schools and social services and more offers from local businesses to supply food. Soon Asda, Aldi, Greggs, Lidl and KFC were allowing us to pick up donations as our list grew. As the project was growing, more help was required and this was relayed to members of our Church and a group of volunteers rallied round to help form a Food Project. Rev Karen supplied me with a list of names requesting food and arrangements were made to get deliveries to them once a week either on a Wednesday or Friday.

In 2020 Covid-19- struck and we were in lockdown but our food project group continued to support the needy, and on a much larger scale. Our numbers grew – in fact, at that time we had over 50 households (over 120 people being supplied with food). Pressure was put on us to supply more clients with food and we contacted the main suppliers in the town for help.



God's hand was at work and we had and still have huge support from Greggs, Strathmore Foods, Saddlers the Bakers, Aldi, Tesco, Asda, Lidl and Angus Upcycling. We also get welcome support from All Souls at Letham, Aberlemno and the Anchorage.

This year we have received 70 Referrals from Voluntary Action Angus, Angus Council Social Department and other organisations who pass on names weekly of those requiring our help. Some are long term and others who just need a helping hand from time to time.

A special effort is made at Christmas by Angus Upcycling (a local charity) to provide Christmas bags which includes fresh chickens along with the usual trimmings and we deliver these to our clients along with their weekly food parcel.

We have an Eco Fridge and three freezers to help keep food fresh prior to delivery. We deliver to over 70 households and feed over 150 people weekly along with 30 extra food parcels given out as a One Off delivery so far this year. We also deliver Greggs food to Strathmore School three times a week

The Food Project would not be a success without the willing band of 20 helpers who deliver and collect food from the above suppliers, 7 days a week in all kinds of weather.

Monetary donations continue to be received from various individuals and organisations which enable us to prop up our store supplies

The feed back we have had over the years has been very encouraging when we know that we have helped many people over a very difficult period in their lives. This can be for 2 years and more in some cases.

We are always looking for volunteers if you have some spare time.

Pat McDonald, Food Project Co-ordinator





All Souls Church Guild Let us Build a House 2025 – 26 Theme – Living Stones

On Saturday 13 September six members attended the National Guild Annual Gathering in Perth for the launch of the 2nd Theme for 2025 – 2026 – “Living Stones” of the “Let us Build a House” Strategy.

It was an inspiring day of Guild News, Project updates and speakers, worship and entertainment and wonderful singing from the Guild pop up choir.

At our Opening Social during Guild Week the U3A Singing for Fun group entertained. The Guild Rededication Service during Morning Worship in All Souls @ Lawson was well attended. Some of our members have been unable to return for various reasons and we have welcomed 3 new members who are enjoying the Free Membership.

In October we had a talk from Rev Maggie on the Theme “Living Stones” and built a variety of things in Lego but not houses at Letham Church. We also had an interesting and informative talk on the Angus Small Repairs Service. We hosted the Joint Guild’s Project afternoon with a very interesting and emotive talk with short films on the work of Crossreach and the Playful Beginnings Project.

In November we will learn about Scam Prevention and a Demonstration on Spinning.

Our Christmas Meal is on 17 December at the British Legion followed by our usual extended break.

Diary dates for 2026

25 February Women in Politics – Linda Clark

11 March Happy Ukes

18 March Guild Project Afternoon at East & Old Church

Build my Church – Bear Necessities for Bulgaria

21 March (Saturday) Coffee Morning All Souls @ Lawson Hall 10.00 – 11.30 am

With very best wishes from all at the “Guild” for a Happy Christmas and a Happy Healthy 2026 to you all.

Linda Stewart - All Souls Guild Contact lindas28@btinternet.com .

Fairtrade Sunday at Letham



Bible Verse Advent

Day 1: Isaiah 40:9-11	Day 13: John 1:10-13
Day 2: John 1:9	Day 14: John 1:14
Day 3: Isaiah 7:14	Day 15: Luke 1:26-38
Day 4: Numbers 24:17	Day 16: Luke 1:39-45
Day 5: 1 Peter 1:19-20	Day 17: Luke 1:46-56
Day 6: Galatians 4:4-5	Day 18: Luke 1:57-66
Day 7: Micah 5:2	Day 19: Matthew 1:
Day 8: John 7:42	Day 20: Matthew 1:22-23
Day 9: Genesis 3:15	Day 21: Luke 2:4-7
Day 10: Isaiah 40:3-5	Day 22: Matthew 2:1-2
Day 11: Isaiah 11:1-5	Day 23: Luke 2:25-35
Day 12: Zechariah 6:12-13	Day 24: Isaiah 9:2-5
	Day 25: Isaiah 9:6

Each year, we sell CrossReach Christmas cards and calendars and have special collections for their work. You may have seen their newsletters or prayer leaflets too. But who are CrossReach?

CrossReach is the social care provider of the Church of Scotland, offering a range of services for children, families, and older adults across Scotland. As one of the country's largest care providers, it has been offering help for over 155 years, with a Christian ethos of providing care and support to people of all ages who are facing challenging circumstances.

CrossReach offers a variety of services, including support for older people (with a focus on dementia care), children and families, and those in recovery.

Its goal is to provide high-quality care and support, rooted in a Christian ethos, to empower people to live full and fulfilling lives.

It is one of the largest care providers in Scotland, with over 1,800 staff and around 500 volunteers working across the country.

The organization's history stretches back to 1869, when the Church of Scotland's Committee on Christian Life and Work was formed to address social conditions and provide care.

For over 40 years, Barbara Chalmers [Rev Maggie's mum] has been a Guild delegate and then congregational contact for CrossReach, and through this volunteer role she ensures people in her area know what the charity is doing and how they can help. The past two years she has offered her selection of sample CrossReach Christmas cards and calendars at All Souls Letham where we all enjoy seeing the latest designs and looking at the lovely images of Scotland featured in the calendar. Orders can then be made free of shipping charges. So why does she do all this?

She says 'I have always supported the work the Church has done in social work and social care. CrossReach is so important across Scotland in providing services where others might not step in to fill that much need gap in provision. As a volunteer contact, I enjoy getting regular mailings which keep me updated about their work and I can get involved in making a difference through sharing the news with others in the church or by fundraising through selling cards and calendars. This year I have sold over £350 of cards and calendars to support their work.'

You can find out more from your local contact in your congregation or online at www.crossreach.org.uk



Beautiful Poppy floral display at Letham for Remembrance Day



2231 Forfar RAF Air Cadets visit Aberlemno.

A massive thank you to all the cadets who attended the Harvest Thanksgiving service at All Souls @ Aberlemno on Sunday 19th October.

They all looked incredibly smart and represented the unit perfectly.

For the Air Cadets, attending occasions like this isn't just about faith; it's a fundamental part of the Respect and Service values we champion.

Parading at important events demonstrates discipline, supports the community, and builds 'esprit de corps' (team spirit) within the squadron.



Mens Fellowship Group



Men's Fellowship Group which meets at the Anchorage, pictured is Mark giving a talk about forensics. The next meeting will be the Christmas lunch on the 15th December.

Next years Program below -

19th January - Tayside Mountain Rescue,
Speaker Paul Morgan

16th February - Red Squirrels, Speaker Derek Ramsay

16th March - Uk Hearing Industry, Speaker Ian Grimmer.

20th April - A Life of Two halves, Speaker Sandra Affleck.

Contacts Detail :

Rev Karen Fenwick -
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Rev Maggie Hunt -
MHunt@churchofscotland.org.uk

Rev Heather Gourlay -
hgourlay@churchofscotland.org.uk

ALLSouls Office - 01307 460576

Website: www.forfarallsouls.org

**Deadline for copy for next
nextletter is 15th February at noon.
Articals can be sent to
whatson,allsouls@gmail.com
at anytime.**

INFORMATION about groups and activities

We hope you like this "new look" format of the Forfar All Souls Newsletter. One feature which you will notice is no longer included is the day-by-day detail of groups which meet and activities which take place in our four locations. This is because there are other and better ways of accessing this information—ways which can be updated more effectively so that the content is always up to date and accurate. Here is a brief guide:

ABERLEMNO: Intimations at weekly worship.

LETHAM: Intimations at weekly worship, and "In the PICTURE".

LOWSON: Intimations at weekly worship plus written details on the Order of Service.

The ANCHORAGE: Written list available in the premises.

Full details for all four locations can also be found on our website, currently under development: www.forfarallsouls.org. It is also possible, of course, to contact one of the Ministers for further details. This newsletter will continue to carry information about seasonal and one-off events.

Introducing our new All Souls Church Logo



The design has been approved by the Kirk Session to be used freely on all communications, posters and social media posts, wherever possible.

Rationale for design:

- the fish symbol or *Ichthys* is a recognised Christian symbol based on the Greek word for fish and is also an acronym for the Greek phrase "Iesous Christos Theou Yios Soter", meaning "Jesus Christ, Son of God, Saviour"
- blue is the adopted colour of the Church of Scotland
- Three crosses of Calvary, also representing the three churches of the Union
- Circles represent the members of our church family
- Different colours for individual church branding eg newsletter entries, individual church use, etc
- Design offers versatility to be used for individual groups, ie the bottom curve could be replaced by group/team specific info, eg Youth Group, The Guild, The Anchorage, Hospitality, Warm Spaces, Karaoke Group, and so on.

To use the logo, please contact the Communications Group or a member of the Kirk Session for further assistance.

A BIG THANK YOU

Thanks go to those who helped prepare and distribute the Joyful Generosity campaign to all members of our church family.

Grateful thanks to members who reflected on all we do as a church – offering Inspiring Worship, Vibrant Community, and Sharing Hope – only made possible by our combined giving.

Whether maintaining our worship centres, supporting ministry, or reaching out in love, our gifts strengthen our shared life and extend God's grace into the world. Response cards are being received, and some have reviewed their giving.

If you haven't had a chance to do this, there's still time.

Gifts are welcomed, whatever form or size. Looking to the year ahead, may we all continue to discover the joy of giving and the richness of life shared in the community.

Heartfelt thanks and every blessing,

The Finance Group

easyfundraising

How you can support us for free

Limited £2s available

The Free £2 App-eal

- Download the easyfundraising app
- Sign up as our supporter
- Once registered, we'll get a £2 donation!

Download > Register > Get £2



Pictured is Norma with the cake at Letham's Commitment Sunday



Agap meal meal after Communion at the Anchorage, enjoyed by all.



Christmas Services All Souls

29th Nov 10-12noon Christmas Fayre

30th Nov Advent 1 [and light switch on in town]

1st Dec 6:45pm Noteables Christmas Fundraising Concert

5th Dec 2pm Blue Christmas service at All Souls Letham

5th Dec 7pm Church family Xmas Party [and Letham Light switch on]

6th Dec 11am Carols at the Cross FACT

7th Dec Advent 2 and Salvation Army Band 6pm

9th Dec 7pm FACT bible study at Lawson

13th Dec Messy Christmas Church, followed by Christmas Movie Matinee

14th Dec Advent 3 and FACT carols at FCC 6pm

15th Dec Men's Fellowship lunch at the Mill

17th Dec 10.30am Christmas service at Anchorage

17th Dec Guild Christmas lunch at the Legion

18th Dec 11am Christmas Eve services service

18th Dec 11.30am All Souls Lawson Christmas Soup Lunch

18th Dec 2pm Cakes and Carols at All Souls Letham

19th Dec 12noon Letham Warm Spaces Christmas soup lunch

21st Dec Advent 4

24th Dec

6.30pm services in Aberlemno, Lawson and Letham

Watchnight/Midnight services at Aberlemno [11.30pm] Letham [11.30pm] and Lawson [11pm]

25th Dec 10am worship at Aberlemno, Lawson and Letham

28th Dec Sunday worship at Aberlemno, Lawson and Letham

