

In the PICTure

December 2025/January 2026

ITP was established in 1995

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

All Souls @ Letham

Cakes and Carols



**Thursday 18th December
2 – 4pm in Letham Church**

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

All welcome.

Letham Feuars

**CHRISTMAS LIGHTS
SWITCH ON
FRIDAY 5th December
In The Square
At 6.30pm**



**CAROLS AROUND
THE TREE**

**EVERYONE IS
WELCOME**



Christmas in Letham

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| 30 th Nov | 10.30am Advent 1 service at Letham Church |
| 2 nd Dec | WI Christmas party |
| 5 th Dec | 2pm Blue Christmas service at Letham Church |
| 5 th Dec | 6.30pm Letham Christmas Light switch on at the tree |
| 6 th Dec | Letham Seniors & Ramblers Groups Xmas lunches |
| 7 th Dec | 10.30am Advent 2 service at Letham Church |
| 14 th Dec | 10.30am Advent 3 service at Letham Church |
| 18 th Dec | 2pm Cakes and Carols at Letham Church |
| 19 th Dec | 12noon Letham Warm Spaces Christmas soup lunch |
| 21 st Dec | 10.30am 'DIY Nativity play' at Letham Church |
| 24 th Dec | |
| | 6.30pm 'Sing-a-long-a Christmas'. Christmas singing for everyone of all ages...everything from 'Let it go' and 'jingle bells' to 'Silent Night' with warm drinks and mince pies. |
| | This year it is at Letham Church. |
| | 11.30pm Midnight service at Letham [11.30pm] Church |
| 25 th Dec | |
| | 10am informal 30mins of church at Letham Church |
| 28 th Dec | 10.30am Sunday worship at Letham Church |



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.



**Tea, Coffee and
Home-made
soups**



Broth & Blether

Tea or Coffee

Crafts, games, conversation

Everyone welcome, no matter what age.

Letham Church Hall: Fridays 12noon-2pm

CrossReach

At Letham Church we sell CrossReach Christmas cards and calendars and have special collections for CrossReach as well. 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. 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 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 needed 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 Irene McGugan or online at: www.crossreach.org.uk

"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 £624. As we are able to claim additional income through the "Gift Aid" scheme, this should bring in a further **£100** (approximately), making a final total of around **£724.**

This is slightly less than the sums raised in recent years, but is still a very impressive amount – especially given the challenging financial situation which affects so many families currently.

This money contributes to the ongoing printing costs of the magazine which are now just over £221 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, Key Store 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 Group

Stewardship Campaign

It is clearly too early to gauge the success or otherwise of our campaign. What can be said is that we must thank the Stewardship Team for the time and effort taken in mounting and preparing the campaign, not forgetting Katherine Southern (from Church of Scotland) for her advice and guidance. And of course to recognise the assistance of those members of Kirk Session and others who distributed the message.

While disappointed at the slow and sparse return of response cards on and since Commitment Sunday, we were heartened by receipt of donations of £2,900 on the day. It is intended to leave the Acceptance Boxes with spare cards in each of our churches and The Anchorage for some time to come and will monitor and record our Standing Orders and Freewill Offering Envelopes. "Thank you" letters to those responding and reviewing their giving are being prepared.

Obviously we hope and pray that the campaign is a success, and, for the future wellbeing of our church, that all of us continue to give with Joyful Generosity
Ron Leslie (Acting Treasurer)

From Maggie Hunt

Hello everyone and welcome to our early winter edition of In The PICTure. This edition covers all of December and January so will have details of all the Christmas events and activities in the village. There is certainly a lot going on and it is thanks to a huge team of volunteers across various committees, teams and groups who put in effort all year around. Thank you.

There's lots happening at Letham Church too with special services on each of the four Sundays before Christmas as we count down to the big day with Advent worship. Everyone is welcome – even if you don't usually come or have never been before. We're a friendly bunch and would love to see you if you want to join us such as:

Blue Christmas

There is a special service on Friday 5th December at 2pm. It is called a Blue Christmas service. Just like the Elvis song for some people it will be 'a blue blue Christmas' this year. Whether because of grief or job loss or family upset. This is a short quiet, reflective service where we bring our hopes and fears, sadness and concern to God. Together we recognise the need for a little bit of Soul Space, or quiet time in the midst of the busy-ness of life, to be true to ourselves about how we are feeling and be ready to face all that Christmas may bring this year.

Cakes and Carols

This service is on Thursday 18th December at 2pm. As the advert says 'It does what it says on the tin'. An hour of singing all our favourite carols from Away in a manger to Hark the Herald Angels Sing followed by afternoon tea. There will be fun, friendship, festivities and lots and lots of cakes!

DIY Community Nativity Play

Sunday 21st December at 10.30am. Have you ever had a hope of being an angel or a hankering to be a shepherd? Well, this is for you! It is a fun, festive get together as we ALL take part to create a nativity play...either playing a part or doing audience participation. Ever seen The play that goes wrong' shows? well...it's a bit like that and all in good cheer. Sometimes we have 2 Mary's and 3 Josephs, sometimes it is all Wise-women and often the choir of angels are mostly aged 70+. Anyone who comes along can take part – simple hats and props are provided but kids can come dressed up if they want. Come and join the fun!

Sing-a-long-a Christmas

This event is on December 24th at 6.30pm. On hearing that the traditional Christmas eve carols at the village hall had to be cancelled we're offering our cosy warm church building to folks of all faiths and ages to enjoy a good old Christmas eve sing a long.

We're planning a mix of traditional carols with well known tunes like Frosty the Snowman and Jingle Bells. We are grateful to volunteers from

other groups in the village who are stepping up to help us offer warm drinks, mince pies and festive treats for all.

Watchnight

Our name for a midnight service on December 24th at 11.30pm. Come along whether from your home or the pub and join us for a traditional start to Christmas. Favourite carols, candles and Christmas lights as we count down the minutes till the big day arrives.

Christmas Morning Church

We meet at 10am on Christmas morning.

A short 30mins of carols, readings, reflections, prayers and enjoying company.

Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Service on Sunday 9th November started in Letham Church. It was conducted by Rev Maggie Hunt, it then proceeded to the Memorial in the Park where wreaths were laid

The full church included Local Cubs and Scouts



The Service continued in the Church conducted by Rev Martyn Thomas for those not going to the Park.

The internal decorations were done by Joan Smith.

The outdoor display was from the former St Margaret's Church in West High Street Forfar.

Photos are by John Crichton





FAIRTRADE

Fairtrade Fortnight 2025



was celebrated at the end of September/beginning of October and during that time we held a Fairtrade breakfast in the Church in Letham. There we were reminded about what 'Fairtrade' means, and challenged to become more involved by purchasing goods bearing the Fairtrade logo. When shoppers choose products with the Fairtrade mark, they help farmers in some of the poorest parts of the world earn fairer prices and invest in their families and communities.

The Fairtrade Foundation has recently shared some good news -

During Fairtrade Fortnight, Fairtrade tea sales soared by 40%, confectionery by 20% and coffee by 15%. This is very encouraging, but it's important to make sure that these figures do not apply for only two weeks in the year. It would be wonderful to see them remain high, and increase even further, as more people realise the importance of supporting Fairtrade.

Here's another interesting set of statistics.

88% of UK consumers recognise the Fairtrade Mark; 83% trust it, and 78% care about Fairtrade. However, only 33% of consumers actively choose Fairtrade products.

Perhaps this would be a good time to think on a personal level, - am I one of the group of people who think Fairtrade is a good idea but don't do anything more than that about it, or am I one of the 33% of UK consumers who actively choose Fairtrade products?

Maureen Buwert

Music and Memories

We are thinking of starting an afternoon of music and memories for people with Dementia and their carers.

It would be held on Monday afternoons, from 2.00pm to 3.30pm, starting in the New Year, and would be in the church hall, which has disabled friendly access.

Should you be interested in coming or would like to help out with the music or tea making etc, please contact Elaine on 01307 818230.

Hogmanay

Hogmanay (*HOG-mə-nay, -NAY*)

Is the **Scots** word for the last day of the old year and is synonymous with the celebration of the **New Year** in the Scottish manner. The word may have come from the French and translated by the Normans

It was used on the last day of the year (the cry for) the former customary gift of oatmeal cake etc., demanded by children on this day.

Things have changed now Hogmanay is the Scots word for the last day of the year and refers to the celebration of the coming New Year. The new traditions include special meals usually steak pie, torchlight processions and "first footing".

"First footing" was an important part of the celebration. To ensure you good luck for your house, the first foot after midnight should be a tall, dark - haired male (that is not a Viking!) and he would bring with him symbolic pieces of coal, shortbread, salt, black bun and a wee dram of whisky. Other "first-footers" were new brides, new mothers, and anyone born on 1st January

Scotland invented making New Year resolutions like, stop smoking, losing weight, eat less junk food etc. I wonder how many keep them by February.

Things have changed these days but most New Year parties close with the singing of Robert Burns, "Auld Lang Syne".

From various sources Editor

'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 2026** issue is

Saturday 17 January 2026

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

Letham Primary School



Robyn in P5 is a newly appointed representative of our school Rights Respecting Pupil Lead Group. Robyn took the time to produce a quality presentation on Children In Need / Pudsey Bear to share with all classes in school during Assembly. A wonderful effort Robyn, well done!



Pudsey over the years

PUDSEY HAS NOT CHANGED MUCH ACROSS THE YEARS - HE STILL REPRESENTS CHILDREN IN NEED ACROSS THE COUNTRY AND WORKS HARD TO SUPPORT FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES TO IMPACT ON ALL THE CHILDREN WHO NEED IT.

THANK YOU FOR LISTENING!



Impact on children in Scotland

- Money raised across Pudsey Day helps children with disabilities and supports clubs, activities, and provides opportunities for children who need help and support either in school, the community or at home.

Angus Council - Bin Collection

The calendar issued by the Council in relation to bin collection days has now ended.

The current calendar is available on line for downloading at www.angus.gov.uk thereafter select bins, litter and recycling.



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 @ Lowson 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 @ Lowson 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

A man was beaten up by an oboe, French horn and a violin.

Police think it was an orchestrated attack.



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Letham and District Scottish Women's Institute



On Tuesday 4th November the ladies of Letham and District SWI were treated to a most informative and entertaining talk on "Honest George" Dempster and how he came to establish our lovely village. Mrs Henderson touched on many aspects of his life – landowner, merchant, solicitor and Member of Parliament – and showed photographs of Letham in the past. As a newcomer to the village it was fascinating to find out what makes Letham such a unique place. Mrs Henderson and her daughter then kindly judged the competitions and the results were –

3 Pieces of puff candy

1. Wendy Cameron, 2. Dorothy Goss
3. Lynne Slater

A Crocheted coaster

1. Lynne Slater 2. Dorothy Goss
3. Pauline Greenhill

Garden Flower of the Month

1. Lynne Slater 2. Lindsay Smith
3. Victoria Alexander



We also celebrated our success in two SWI Angus Federation Competitions. Lynne, Wendy, Lindsay and Victoria won the "Ruralympics" and Pauline, Wendy and Dorothy were victorious in the Quiz.



Our Next meeting on December 2nd is our Christmas Party and on January 6th we are having a games night. December competitions are 3 cheese straws, a Christmas table decoration with a candle, and a garden flower.

January competitions are 2 slices of smiddy loaf, a Burns themed brooch (any craft), and a garden flower

Letham Gardening Club

In November Steve Ludlum gave us an interesting talk and demonstration on Japanese flower arranging, using his own style and plants that are available to us.

Steve is undoubtedly a master of his craft.

On the 9th of December Ann Taylor is to give us a talk on the history of the Broughty Ferry Rock Garden. Although the garden is open to walk through on Broughty Ferry front, many of us will never have heard of it.

On the 13th of January with Colin Ainsworth, we will hold another of our fun quiz nights, when the less you know the more fun and banter there is.

Come and join us in the Bowling Club at 7.30 on both these evenings. Oh, and bring a friend.

Bill Muir

07908339420

KeyStore

**Christmas Greetings
From KeyStore Letham
Thanking Letham Residents
for their Custom**

**Wishing you all
A Merry Christmas and
A Happy New Year**



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

It is the only Christian hospital in the Gaza Strip and Gaza's only cancer hospital

Please remember to save your Christmas Stamps and give them to Norma Craigon or place them in the box in the Church Hall

Many Thanks for your help

I accidentally drank a bottle of invisible ink. I'm now in A&E waiting to be seen.

What happens when a microscope crashes into a telescope? They kaleidoscope.

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Supporting *'In the PICTure'*

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For information about the Feuars please contact

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