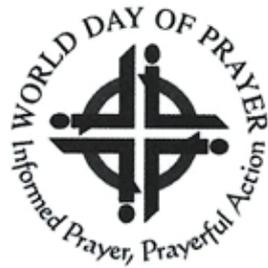


In the PICTURE

March 2026

ITP was established in 1995

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



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

Friday 6th March 2026

"I will give you rest: Come"

Written by Christian Women of
NIGERIA

A warm welcome awaits you in
Forfar East, and Old and Inverarity
Church.

At 2.00 pm

You are invited to

Explore Easter

For adults, toddlers, kids and teens.
All ages welcome

Saturday 28th March 10 - 12noon
FREE pizza lunch at 12noon too!

All Souls Letham Church
Dundee Road, Letham

Join us for

'Palms and Passion'

The story of Jesus' last week

Sunday 29th March
10.30am

All Souls Letham Church

You are invited to our

Easter Day Celebration

Sunday 5th April
at 10.30am

inc. Songs, Stories, Kids Crafts, and Egg Hunt!

All Souls Letham Church
Dundee Road, Letham

Used stamp collection

In the past 30 years over £96,000 has been raised for a wide variety of projects but the Church of Scotland has now stopped taking used stamps.



While the Church of Scotland is no longer collecting used stamps, there are many other charities who are still taking them.

Charities include **RNIB** (Royal National Institute of Blind People): Collects used stamps to support its work for blind and partially sighted individuals. Stamps should be separated into UK and overseas categories.

Against Breast Cancer: This charity turns used stamps into funds for breast cancer research. They accept all types of used stamps.

Oxfam: Accepts used stamps and stamp albums at their shops. The stamps are sold to collectors to raise money for their global initiatives.

Kidney Care UK: This charity supports kidney patients and accepts donations of used stamps to help fund their services.

Parkinson's UK: Collects used stamps along with other items like mobile phones and coins to raise funds for Parkinson's research and support.

Consult any of the charity websites for further information on how to donate your stamps. They will be very grateful for all donations.

WARM SPACES - LETHAM



Broth & Blether

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



Tea or Coffee

Everyone welcome, no matter what age.

Letham Church Hall: Fridays 12.-2pm

Eco Congregation:

Report to the Congregation 2026

This worship centre holds both the Bronze and Silver Eco Congregation Awards and is 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.

Christian concern for the environment has become increasingly important in recent years. In part this is a response to the realisation of the detrimental impact that human activity is having on the environment.

So often, environmental issues are dealt with against a background of fear and threat. We should stop doing activity 'x' because otherwise environmental problem 'y' will happen. While not minimising the gravity, scale or urgency of environmental issues, caring for creation is a key Christian task, to be approached with love and hope.

So what do we do here? 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 Lowson Memorial Church.

We closely monitor electricity usage and our solar panels continue to provide us with energy savings. We use the 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 progressing – though very slowly - but eco friendly solutions are being considered. We will retain a wild flower garden 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 must 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.

February 2026

From Maggie Hunt

Today, as I write this, the rain has stopped [for now] and it is a lovely frosty February day. It is very much still winter AND YET I can see snowdrops in full bloom and small lilac early crocuses showing the way to spring. Lent starts mid February this year, so by the time you get this magazine we'll be on the way to Easter. However, I hope you'll join us in March at one of our church services, or Lent groups or Warm Spaces lunches. You'll be so welcome at our gatherings.

We have Lent group meetings every Thursday afternoon at 2pm and you are welcome to come to as many or as few as you like. We are linking in with online church 'Sanctuary First' to explore what it means to answer the simple question 'follow me?'. You are invited to join us on a Thursday or go online to find our daily messages on social media and on our website or go directly to www.sanctuaryfirst.org.uk and be part of a connect group.

We are offering a time to 'Explore Easter' on Saturday 28th March from 10am – 12noon where we will have crafts, activities and reflections for adults and kids alike. Come along, join the fun and we have even got pizza and soup planned for lunch afterwards!!

At the end of lent we have Holy Week – the week running up till Easter. We will be meeting in the church building each day from Monday 30th March till Friday 3rd April at 2pm and at 7pm for a 30min time of reflection together as we think about Jesus' last week.

Easter Sunday on 5th April – we are planning kids crafts, chocolate treats and an 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.

'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.

HOLY WEEK
REFLECTIONS [JUST 30MINS]

at 2pm and 7pm
each day
Mon 30th March
Fri 3rd April

All Souls Letham Church
Dundee Road

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ALL SOULS CHURCH GUILD
Charity No: SC 002417

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In aid of Guild Funds

SATURDAY 21 March
10 am – 11.30 am

@
LOWSON MEMORIAL CHURCH HALL

Adults £4.00

Tickets for sale at door or at Lowson Lunch Club 12 & 19 March

*Raffle *Home Baking *Gifts

Next Issue of 'In the PICTure'

Deadline for April 2026 issue is
Saturday 21st March 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)

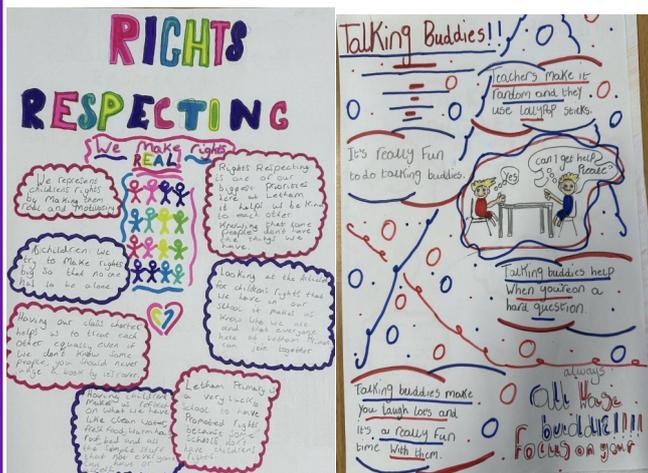
E-Mail: j.mair382@btinternet.com



Our Young Leaders of Learning (Learning Detectives) Grace, Skye, Harry and Struan welcomed their partner school Rosemount Primary for their learning visit. The children shared all the work they have been doing over the last few weeks; a Power Point presentation, evidence from pupil/staff focus groups, they lead a whole school tour and discussion and gathered evidence from across the school on the things we do well here at Letham. A lovely morning sharing and celebrating. Now the group will meet to reflect on the positives and identify areas for future improvement. Well done to all involved

Mrs D Williamson (Depute Head Teacher)

Below are some of the pupils' posters



RAG BAG COLLECTION

**Last date for collection
Sunday 12th April 2026**

All monies raised will contribute towards the costs of the redesign of our grounds and parking spaces.

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

KeyStore – Parking Changes

I wish to advise that Angus Council have decided to implement double yellow lines around the corner of our shop at Gardyne Street/Dundee Road. This will result in no customer parking outside the shop unless one is the holder of a blue badge.

We did speak with the Council in an attempt to change this decision but were unsuccessful. We appreciate that a lot of our customers are elderly and this will be a huge inconvenience to them. However also for those utilizing the Post Office for parcels, boxes and banking. Regrettably, if Post Office usage falls to a certain level, then it will close. This being beyond our control.

Kurtis and I are grateful for the support we receive from the village and hope that this will continue. For those who may experience difficulty, please approach us and we will try and work out a suitable arrangement.

Thank you Rag and Kurtis

Letham Seniors' Spring Coffee Morning

This coffee morning will be held in April.

Please watch out for more details in the April edition of "In the PICTURE".

Meanwhile, offers of baking and prizes for the Tombola will be gratefully received.

Elaine Saunders

TALES OF LETHAM (B)

“In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks.”

John Muir



“The Magpie: handsome troubadour with an evil streak.”

photo by Bruce Mair

The RSPB website describes the Magpie as follows: “With its noisy chattering, black-and-white plumage and long tail, there’s nothing else quite like the Magpie. When seen close-up, its black plumage reveals a purplish-blue iridescent sheen to the wing feathers and a green gloss to the tail. Magpies seem to be jacks of all trades – scavengers, predators and pest-destroyers. Non-breeding birds will gather together in flocks.”

It is a member of the crow family (corvids) and its Latin name is *pica pica*.

In 1947, when I arrived in the village, Magpies were unknown in this area. Around 2017, the Magpie appeared in the Letham area. So after a period of about 70 years, the Magpie has suddenly appeared in Letham. Perhaps it is unfair to speak unkindly about one single bird, since after all, it’s just making a living like the others.

However, it must be mentioned that the Magpie has a very bad reputation for killing squabs in their nests. They wait patiently to allow the fledglings to grow up and provide a tasty morsel for eating. Some people say the Magpie is responsible for the decline of song birds in the areas where it takes up residence. Taking precautions and knowing its own proclivity for attacking and eating squabs, a Magpie’s nest can usually be found at the top of a moderately sized tree. It usually has two entrances and is domed to make

sure these entrances are as narrow as possible, and can be defended.

Its jaunty presentation and actions have found a place in an opera by Rossini – The Thieving Magpie (La Gazza Ladra). The story on which this opera is based is true – of a servant girl who was executed for stealing jewels from her master. After the execution it was discovered that it was, in fact, a Magpie which was to blame. This confirms that they are attracted to bright objects.

There is no doubt that the Magpie is a highly intelligent bird. It is not really a wholehearted dislike of the bird, but killing young birds in their nests, thereby denying us of the pleasant sounds of bird song, jars with the human outlook on the realities of nature.

Now that a few Magpies are resident in Letham, we can only anticipate their numbers will grow, whilst our songbird numbers decrease.

JAMcG

Letham Gardening Club

On a wet and windy night on Tuesday 10th February we welcomed Valerie Orr from "Blooming Bees" based at Battledikes just outside Forfar. Valerie gave us an interesting, informative and enthusiastic look at growing cut flowers commercially in Scotland, in only an acre of land. Many thanks to Valerie and all who turned out in the cold and rain.

On Tuesday 10th March (when we hope the weather will be better) Steve Ludlum will be visiting to give us advice and encouragement on a DIY - do your own take/style on a Japanese Flower Arrangement. Let your imagination take you to Japan, but don't forget to bring your own container, with oasis to fit and a selection of flowers and foliage.

The Gardening Club is held in the Bowling Club at 7.30, come and join us and bring a friend.

Diary note: Unfortunately we have had to change the date of the plant sale and coffee morning from the 9th May to the 16th May, which on the upside gives another week for the plants to recover from this wet weather.

Bill Muir

07908339420

A dog gave birth to puppies in a public place and was arrested for littering.



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Please pop in if you need any advice.



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Letham and District
Scottish Women's Institute



On Tuesday 3rd February we were treated to a splendid recital by the ladies of the Letham Community Choir. In a varied programme they raised us up, transported us over the rainbow, paid tribute to the Bard and reminded us of some favourites from past generations. We enjoyed singing along to old favourites like "Three Crows", "Coulter's Candy" and "Mhairi's Wedding". Their final song, "Flying Free" included the words

"So Life's a song that I must sing, A gift of love I must share.

And when I see the joy it brings, my spirits soar through the air."

An accurate description of what we could see in the faces, and hear in the voices, of the choir as they sang.

In the business part of the evening we began making preparations for next month's quiz night and the forthcoming SWI Angus Federation Show. This event, held in the Reid Hall on Friday and Saturday 20th and 21st March is wonderful display of the skills of local women and well worth a visit even if you have no personal connection with the SWI. There is a small entrance fee which includes coffee or tea and home baking too!

Since our January meeting was cancelled due to the weather, our judges, Gail and Pat from the choir, had the onerous task of judging 5 competitions. The results were:

Smiddy Loaf -

1 Lindsay, 2 Dorothy, 3 Lynne.

Chocolate truffles -

1 Dorothy, 2 Lynne, 3 Lindsay

Burns themed brooch -

1 Lynne, 2 Lindsay, 3 Dorothy.

Valentine's card -

1 Dorothy, 2 Lynne, 3 Lindsay.

Garden flower -

1 Lynne, 2 Colette, 3 Frances.

Our next meeting is our annual quiz night to which teams from other institutes are invited and the competitions are a jar of whisky marmalade, a photograph (8"x10" mounted) of a walk on the beach, and a garden flower. *Dorothy Goss*

I saw a man carrying a door handle today and asked him why?

He said, 'It gets me out of the house.'

I paid a carpenter up front to make me a bed. Unfortunately he's done a bunk!



All Souls Church Guild
Let us Build a House



2025 - 26 Theme - Living Stones

Happy New Year

As we all look forward to spring and brighter days the Guild will resume meeting again on 25 February after our usual extended break in the hope that we have missed all the wintry weather.

Our meetings are on Wednesday afternoons at 2 pm fortnightly in the Lawson Church Hall and finish between 3.30 and 4 pm. Please bring your own mug for a cup of tea or coffee. A wrapped biscuit is provided.

The Diary dates for 2026 are

25 February Women in Politics - Linda Clark

11 March Happy Ukes

18 March Guild Project Afternoon at Forfar East & Old Church

Build my Church - Bear Necessities for Bulgaria

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

Raffle, Cake & Candy and a Gift Stall - Donations welcome

Tickets £4.00 pay at the door or for sale at Lawson Lunch Club Thursday 12 & 19 March

March 25 2nd All Souls Church Guild A G M with Rev Karen

April 8 Your Garden in Spring - Les Craib

April 22 Closing Social with The Mitchells (Christine & George)

Linda Stewart: All Souls Guild Contact .

Music and Memories

Three people interested in this project met in the Church Hall on a cold wet and windy Monday afternoon. We decided that a Monday afternoon was not a good idea for some of us. We then decided that we would not start this event until the weather improved.

We agreed to hold this on **one Friday afternoon per month**, starting in April. It will be part of the Brew & Blether, hosted by Letham Seniors each Friday from the end of April to October. A leaflet will be put into the April edition of "In the PICTure" with more details.

Please note that a carer or other responsible person must accompany any vulnerable person, due to Safeguarding regulations.

Elaine Saunders

Shiells

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