

In the PICTURE

May 2026

ITP was established in 1995

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



Coffee Morning

Letham Church Hall

Saturday 16th May

10am - 12noon

Raising funds for Christian Aid



All Souls Letham Church

“Songs of Praise”

Sunday 31st May 10.30am

Let us know YOUR favourite hymn or worship song by emailing mhunt@churchofscotland.org.uk

We will try to include the village's top 5 choices.



Join us at All Souls Letham for



Pentecost

Sunday

Sunday May 24th at 10.30am

Letham Gardening Club

Plant Sale and Coffee Morning
In Village Hall

Saturday 23rd May at 10.00 am



Various plants from annuals to perennials
Donations welcome from 5.00pm on Friday
Customers very welcome on Saturday

Pastoral Care Report

The overarching aim of the Pastoral Care Group is “to ensure that all members feel that they are loved and cared for, as this helps to develop a sense of belonging”. This sense of belonging is even more vital when a complicated new union is created. It is especially important to ensure that those who can no longer come to church feel that they are not forgotten.

As you probably know this aim is pursued through an arrangement of pastoral districts each in the care of a pastoral visitor, usually an elder though this is not always the case. There were two main challenges in establishing these: one was the merging of the communion rolls of the 5 legacy congregations, creating a huge roll initially of around 1500 (currently around 1260); the other was the different attitudes to pastoral care inherited from the former congregations. Some of the pastoral visitors simply assumed that part of their role was to get to know the people in their districts and visit them from time to time. For others it was more a case of letterbox delivery when something was being sent out to the congregation.

We also had to recognise that not all members want the kind of relationship where someone is turning up on the doorstep every now and again, and prefer a less personal connection. So we asked people to fill in a form indicating what kind of contact they would like in the future: by email; by telephone; by letterbox delivery, or by a visit. Not surprisingly perhaps a very large majority opted for either email or letterbox: the small number asking for a visit tended to be in the older age group.

The Kirk Session has bought a tool called Church Desk which will enable direct email communication, and this will cut down on district numbers and printing costs.

The other subsidiary aims of the Group are first – to ensure that everyone who wants a visit will have a designated visitor and currently we are building up a team of these. If the folks they are visiting are particularly vulnerable such as housebound or in a care home then the visitor needs to have a safeguarding disclosure and a job description. That description has now been drawn up, and we are grateful to Norma for her help on this and on all the other safeguarding issues which arise in pastoral care situations. We have to ensure that all of these are carefully attended to.

Another aim is to make sure that people suffering traumatic life events such as loneliness, illness, bereavement and other loss situations receive special ongoing attention.

In all the visiting situations whether an informal chat or more in-depth care it is important that folk feel equipped to carry this out. To that end we encourage elders and visitors to attend training: an afternoon session was run in January this year attended by 20 people who discussed visiting, listening skills, Safeguarding issues and future strategy. There is also a Presbytery training day on Saturday 16 May in Perth which includes a session on bereavement visiting. Six folk from All Souls are signed up to go to this and if anyone else is interested to attend please let us know. There are cars going through so a lift can be arranged.

In all of this, congregational communication is vital and again we are grateful for the close co-operation we have with the Communications Group of which Irene is the Convener.

Helen McCleod Letham 12.4.26

LETHAM SENIORS AGM

TUESDAY 12th May 2026
Church Hall
2pm

Everyone is welcome to come and see how we have spent your money in 2025/2026, and give your ideas on activities and fundraising for 2026/2027.

If you can help in any way, or even come onto the committee, you will be greatly appreciated.
Tea/coffee and biscuits will be available.

LETHAM SENIORS

Brew & Blether



Every Friday afternoon in the Church Hall
2pm to 3.30pm from April 24th

Everyone, regardless of age, is welcome to join us for free tea, coffee, home baking and lots of Blether.

On the 1st Friday of the month (starting on 1st May 2026) we invite people with Dementia or other illnesses, together with their carers, to join us for Music and Memories.

We are hoping to have live music and a good sing-along.

There will also be games to play, especially designed for those of us with poor memories.

We are sorry that all vulnerable people **MUST** be accompanied by a carer of some sort, due to regulations.

‘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.

Letham All Souls Church Easter Sunday



Some of the activities on Easter Sunday
Decorating The Cross, Egg Tree, Easter Bonnet
and Choir Singing

From Maggie Hunt

Hello everyone!

As I write this, we are still in the middle of early spring, with cold winds and rain showers BUT by the time this arrives with you, it will be properly Spring with warmer days and lighter evenings [and no doubt still the occasional rain shower too]. Spring fills us with hope and that is a good thing for everyone and something that Christians care about – that everyone should have hope.

We have lots going on this May at All Souls Letham Church so please come along and join in, even if you haven't been before or feel that 'church isn't your thing'. You'll be made so welcome.

Sunday 3rd May at 10.30am is our traditional formal Communion Sunday where we gather around the table and remember Jesus final words to 'remember me' by sharing a simple meal together as equals.

Sunday 10th May we look forward to a Christening as we welcome little baby Aubrey into our church family. We also very much look forward to meeting her Yorkshire family too as they travel to celebrate together with us and with her parents.

Saturday 16th May we have a coffee morning with cake stall to raise funds for Christian Aid; a charity that works across the world through local community projects to combat climate change, feed the hungry, empower women and change lives for the better.

Sunday 17th May we have a special Christian Aid service at church learning of their work.

Sunday 24th May is Pentecost – the church's birthday. We think about how God's spirit came down and gave people hope. We look forward to a day of celebrations and joy for everyone.

Sunday 31st May is our Songs of Praise service – singing lots of favourite hymns and sharing stories together.

“ May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.”

Romans 15:13

**Forfar all Souls @ Letham
Announce**

Service of Holy Communion

In Letham Church

On Sunday 3rd May At 10.30 am

Service Conducted by

Rev Maggie Hunt

Age Scotland have given information in the attached 2 articles.



3,687 accidental house fires in Scotland last year.

Most could have been prevented that's why the Scottish Fire and Rescue Service is offering **FREE Home Fire Safety Visits** — quick, friendly visits that give you practical, potentially life-saving advice.

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If this sounds like you — or someone you care about — don't wait.

Book a Home Fire Safety Visit here:

www.firescotland.gov.uk/contact-us/home-fire-safety-visits/

Radio Teleswitch Meter (RTS)

Householders with the above meter type should note the system ends on 30 June 2026 and are asked to contact their electricity provider asap. You may have such a system if you have electric storage heaters and / or operate Economy 7 or Economy 10 tariffs.

I once purchased a dog from a blacksmith. As soon as I brought him home, he made a bolt for the door.

Next Issue of 'In the PICTURE'

Deadline for **June 2026** issue is

Saturday 16th May 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



Free on a Wednesday night?

We meet weekly to sing a variety of different types of songs. We have fun, a chat and a giggle. You don't need to have a wonderful voice, you just need to enjoy singing.

Why not come along and see what we are all about, and if you enjoy it, then we'll see you the following week!

We meet on a Wednesday in the Village Hall between 7pm and 8.30pm and choir returns after our Easter break on the 22nd April.

Everyone Welcome!



You can find us on Facebook



Letham Seniors Coffee Morning

The sum raised was £446
(sum taken £524 costs £78)

Thanks to every one who helped putting together the Coffee morning & everyone who came to support us. *Isobel Sword*

TALES OF LETHAM (D)

"In every walk with nature, one receives far more than he seeks."
John Muir



1948 (Yesteryear)

Newcomers to the village found a house in the Braehead. Having moved from Glasgow in the previous November, the young laddie of 10 years old was awakened at 5 a.m. by a glorious, bubbling, vigorous wall of bird song, coming out of Idvies Wood. For the first time in his short life, the boy was immersed in the sound of the Dawn Chorus. He is now nearly 90 and this fantastic moment from the Braehead is burnt into his memory.

Born on a farm in Perthshire, another lifetime situation was burnt into his memory. At the age of 5, he was placed in charge of a very canny Clydesdale horse, which walked outwards from the site where a haystack was being built, to convey a big bundle of hay up a large pole for eventual building into the haystack. This whole operation required a large pole, a long rope, a horse and someone to guide the horse. When the horse was at the pole, a large bundle of hay was put into a three-armed grab. When the horse was urged forward, the grab closed and rose up the height of the pole, pulled by the rope attached to the horse. This young worker's task was leading the horse outwards and backwards while a big bunch of hay was raised up to the stack with each outward horse movement. At 5 years old, the day's work for this young boy and his horse would be sure to bring on a heart attack with today's health and safety bodies.

During this stack building darg, the day was accompanied by sporadic singing from a nearby lark. Another memorable sound.

2026 (Last week)

7th April. Two ardent Letham hill walkers, one a well qualified photographer, spent the day in Glen Moy. Only one lady and her dog were spotted during the entire day there. However, well into the Glen, a great many birds were seen, some exhibiting mating behaviour and others moving into their nesting locations. The varied mob included: flocks of curlew, peewit and oyster catchers. There was a stonechat and a wheatear, some red kites and some black grouse. A dipper was spotted by the burn. While most of the birds present would move on to their nesting sites, the dipper was already dragging insects from the burn to feed its growing family. The eggs for this clutch were laid about the middle of February in a moss covered nest by a babbling

stream. The eggs in the nest are laid on this early occasion in the year to coincide with and capitalise upon the burgeoning insect life in the early spring.

This bird experience in Glen Moy was accompanied by a special sort of totally uplifting noise.

The comparisons between 1948 and 2026 show us quite clearly that although birds like the curlew, the peewit, and the oyster catchers no longer nest in the fields around us, they seem to be thriving in areas where they are less likely to come across human beings.

These bird observations come as rather a comfort when we no longer see close at hand several bird species.

JAMcG

LETHAM GARDENING CLUB

We completed the 2025/26 season on Tuesday 14th April with our AGM and members bulb and houseplant competition. The competition was well supported with Dorothy and Brenda being our winners. We also have a number of positive ideas for our next season, which starts on the 8th September with a talk on the Broughty Ferry Rock Garden.

Our plant sale and coffee morning, that supports the cost of the flower show, is to be held on Saturday 23rd May. This has always been well supported and we look forward another successful sale.

Whilst everyone appears to appreciate the flower beds in the village square, they don't simply appear by magic. So, a plea from those volunteers who do look after them; if there is anyone who would like help, usually on a Tuesday forenoon, please give me a ring. If you think that you would volunteer if asked, then we are asking.

Bill Muir

07908339420

LETHAM AND DISTRICT TWINNING ASSOCIATION

REMINDER OF OUR INSERT IN LAST MONTH'S IN THE PICTURE

OUR EXCHANGE WITH OUR TWINNED COMMUNITY OF LEGUILLAC IN THE DORDOGNE, FRANCE TAKES PLACE BETWEEN 6TH AND 12TH JULY.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN THE GROUP PLEASE CONTACT:-

ALEXANDRA MACRAE (alexandramacrae1941@gmail.com) or MORAG FRASER (morag-fraser@hotmail.co.uk)



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Naturelle

Welcome to Spring - A. Vogel

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Local Honey available in store
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Please, pop in if you need help or advice

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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 7th April the ladies of Letham and District SWI were visited by guest speaker Reg Henderson. Instead of the previously advertised talk on bees and beekeeping, Reg gave an informative presentation on plant propagation. He demonstrated several methods of successfully bringing on plants including saving and germinating seeds, root division and taking cuttings. Reg generously donated iris cuttings to members so they could be planted in Letham gardens. In addition, he demonstrated how "layering" could be achieved in plants and trees using a variety of different methods. A herbaceous plant was also donated to the raffle (won by Isobel). Before finishing, Reg gave a brief talk on his beekeeping and the impact wasps, and poor weather, have had on bee numbers. We hope he will be able to return to the institute to tell us more about this in the future.

Federation Show 2026 - Letham and District was well-represented in the classes and several "tickets" were received - including a "commended" for our co-operative entry, "Scottish Inventors". Well done to all who entered, helped out and provided baking for the show.

Particular congratulations go to Frances Webster who won the Caroline Lang Salver - for the individual who entered the "Best overall bowl of bulbs." Letham and District also won the Cuthbert Shield - for a small institute with the "Most points in bulb section" - A huge well done to Lynne and Frances who entered their bulbs.



During the refreshment break Reg Henderson judged the monthly competitions and the results were winners photographs above

A Decorated Egg

1st Lindsay, 2nd Joan, 3rd = Lynne and Dorothy

Flowers in a teacup

1st Frances, 2nd = Lynne and Dorothy, 3rd = Colette and Joan.

Flower of the month

1st = Wendy and Isobel, 2nd Colette, 3rd Dorothy.

Our next meeting on May 5th is the AGM and presentation of awards. This is the last formal meeting of the year with an outing in June rounding off the season.

Dorothy Gloss

I used to respect my elders but now it is getting harder and harder to find one.

Warm

Spaces



Our Warm Spaces event ran in the Church Hall from the beginning of November until the middle of April. Offering free soup in a warm space has been a yearly event since the winter of 2022-23.

It has been very popular with many villagers over the winter months. Three varieties of soup have been served every Friday with a selection of bread and rolls. This was followed by tea or coffee and a range of lovely cakes and pastries. The bread and cakes were provided by the Keptie Bakery and we are extremely grateful for their kind donation. The milk was gifted every week by the Keystore and thanks are also due to them for their support.

Thanks also go to the loyal band of soup makers who make the most delicious range of soups every week. Lentil is always the most popular but we have quite a variety of others, ranging from spicy sweet potato to Cullen Skink. As a special treat we sometimes have stovies; always a very popular choice.

The people who set up and serve do a great job every week and their hard work is much appreciated by everyone. If we have enough helpers, we will hopefully be able to run this event next winter. Please contact us if you would like to be involved. Many of those who attend live alone and the chance to meet and chat with friends is very important. We have a number of hardy souls who venture out regardless of the weather conditions. Fortunately, when we finish our winter soup event, the Letham Seniors start their Brew and Blether on Friday afternoons from 2pm. This runs through the summer so there is still somewhere to go if you are looking for some company and a chat.

Norma Craighon and Irene McGugan

Thank you all For soup cakes and chat.

It's great would not want to miss out on that.

You will be missed an awful lot.

I can't wait to see what's in the next soup pot

Irene McLaren

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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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