



SEPTEMBER, OCTOBER, NOVEMBER 2026

ALL SOULS NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING OUR WORSHIP, EVENTS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH

A Message from Rev Maggie Hunt

What a wonderful summer we've enjoyed! As I write this, the harvest is being brought in from the fields – rape, oats, barley, wheat and tatties. The countryside is abuzz with activity. The church is busy too - we've had Breakfast club and Holiday Club at Lowson; Icecream Sundae Sunday at Letham; the School Uniform Project has given away over 100 items each week to families before school restarted; and plans are being finalised for harvest thanksgiving and various coffee mornings and activities over the coming weeks and months across the whole parish area. We hope you will join us for worship or just a cuppie over the autumn months. There are lots of options over various dates so that hopefully, everyone can attend somewhere at some point.

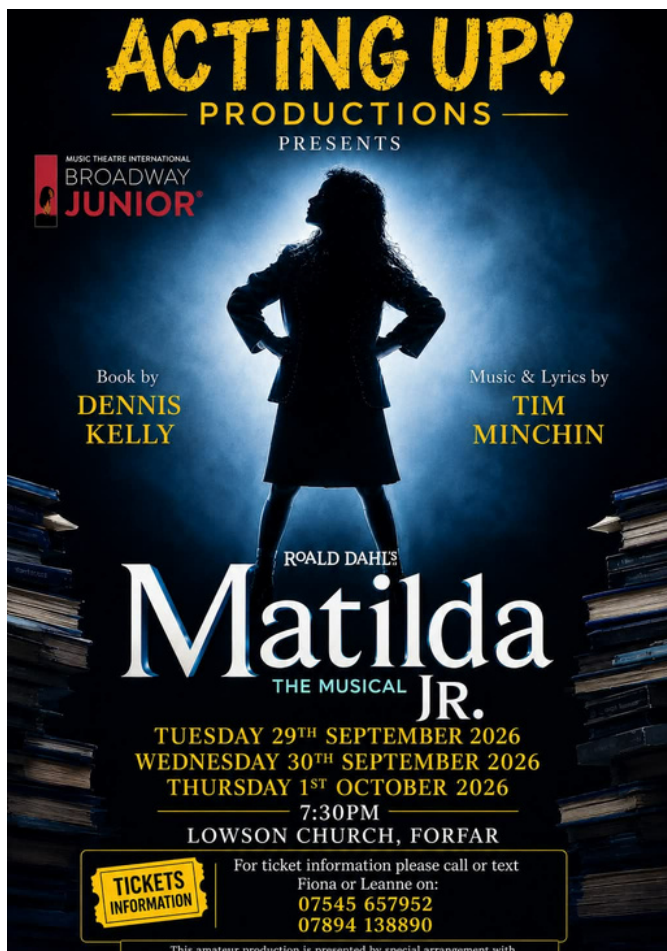
Harvest Thanksgiving will be 4th October at 10.30am in Letham

18th October at 10am at Aberlemno and 11am at Lowson

Autumn Communion will be 25th October at 11am at Lowson,

1st November at 10.30am in Letham

22nd November at 10am in Aberlemno



WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A DIGITAL CHURCH?

Digital Church is the name we use for all the ways we are being church to people through use of Technology. This includes our website, our recorded services, email messages, our social media [Facebook, Instagram, TikTok], WhatsApp and any podcasts we produce. All Souls Church has been a digital church for a long time now but many people still don't realise how much we produce and how to access our church.

Most of us belonged to church through the covid lockdown through digital church - whether you watched the services on YouTube, listened on a phonenumber or through Podbean, kept up through email or Facebook or visited our websites. We still have lots of folks who are part of our church family [and those who have chosen to join us] who are part of our fellowship every week through our digital church presence. It is crucially important that we continue and expand our digital church presence as younger generations seek faith through tech.

We have recently invested in ChurchDesk, a system that will allow us to email out to members who would like to be included in regular messages. If you would like to get your newsletter by email or via a web link please just let us know. We are hoping to get this system running very soon. Equally, if you would like prayer points or readings regularly in your inbox - just ask and we will try to get these to you. We are currently looking to update our website and consolidate our social media but in the meantime you can join our digital church in the following ways:

You can find our church services on www.youtube.com/@lowsonchurch8294

You can find us on the web at www.forfarallsouls.org

You can follow us on Facebook at Forfar All Souls, Lowson Memorial [All Souls] and Forfar:All Souls Anchorage.

We currently need some help with social media, which was handled by Lachlan before he died. If you can offer even just 30mins a month to update our socials, and/or check our links are working, we would be really grateful.

Eco Congregations and a Season of Creation

Eco Congregation Scotland is a faith-based movement supporting congregations to care for the environment, in worship, practical action and in advocacy. The legacy church of Dunnichen, Letham & Kirkden holds both the Bronze and Silver Awards and is a member of Eco Congregation Scotland.

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland has for a long time endorsed Creation Time / Season of Creation. Resources to assist in planning relevant services and activities for the Season of Creation are produced by Eco Congregation Scotland. This 5 week opportunity for the church to focus on "caring for creation", runs this year from 1st September, to 4th October (St Francis of Assisi's Feast Day). The theme this year is "Living Water".

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. In the midst of current horrific wildfires, drought and the shocking loss of biodiversity, the Climate Emergency cannot be ignored.

Rev David Coleman, chaplain to Eco Congregation Scotland writes, "With the urgent threat of crises of nature and climate, a green church is more church, and happier too. The Season of Creation schools us in spiritual resilience and hope, and helps us enjoy aspects of our faith neglected in an age of injustice and exploitation both of people and planet."

All our church events taking place during the Season of Creation, across our parish, provide an opportunity to reflect on how we care for our world. All three churches will conduct a Harvest Festival in the next few weeks, when we give thanks for the gifts of wonderful produce grown locally. We also have Fair Trade Fortnight in September which allows us to highlight how we can support our brothers and sisters in other parts of the world by choosing Fair Trade products as much as we can when we go to the supermarket. All Souls Church runs an Eco Shop in Forfar and also manages a school uniform project - both initiatives giving clothing a second life and helping to prevent so much of it going to landfill. And our food project takes FairShare food that would otherwise be wasted, and distributes it to those in need.

Caring for creation is a key Christian task, to be approached with love and hope. We are all in this together - and there is wisdom and suggestions still to be shared.

If you have ideas on how we can be a more environmentally friendly church, please get in touch.

CROSSREACH

Care you can put your faith in

On behalf of the Church of Scotland, CrossReach provides social care services in Christ's name, to people in challenging circumstances. Every day, staff in this organisation show the practical side of faith by giving renewed hope to people in challenging situations or at breaking point.

The purpose of the organisation is 'to demonstrate Christ's love in action by offering high quality care and support - so people across Scotland can find stability, grow in confidence, and live fuller lives.' For more than 150 years, CrossReach has walked alongside people through some of life's hardest moments and we pray they can keep doing so for generations to come.

Over 70 services across Scotland covering adult care, older people's services and children and families projects, help more than 28,000 people every year, through a unique whole-family approach - so families impacted by mental health, dementia, disability, poverty, and homelessness, get the support they need to thrive.

But it remains the case that the name and the work of CrossReach are still largely unrecognised and unappreciated, both inside the Church and throughout the country. In the same way that people know that worship takes place on a Sunday, (even if they don't attend Church) we would want them to know also about the Church's practical work for social good, including counselling, treatment for dementia, and care of frail and vulnerable people.

For some, only a short association with CrossReach is needed; for some that support extends to years. Domestic violence, drug dependency, and other fields of social need that are often underfunded by public authorities, welcome the role played by CrossReach.

The Church and we, should be very proud of CrossReach and its mission. In the midst of the difficulties and challenges and changes facing the Church of Scotland we should be hugely grateful for having a Christian asset which works powerfully in the world delivering life enhancing, life changing and life saving services.

Our church supports CrossReach in a few ways. We celebrate Social Care Sunday each year in a service usually in November. Financially, through our Wilson & Peter Bequest, we give a lump sum of £500 in alternate years to support the Bluebell Perinatal Service in Glasgow. We have also donated the offerings from the Letham Church Christmas Services to CrossReach in recent years, and currently a proportion of the tea and coffee donations after the service go to CrossReach. We know also that individual members commit to monthly giving to the organisation, while others take the opportunity to support the work of CrossReach by buying cards and other merchandise.

We particularly commend the new CrossReach e-card service this year. Sending Christmas cards in this way, helps us reduce our carbon impact, while helping provide services for others at the same time. However, "normal" Christmas cards and calendars will be available for purchase – look out for details coming soon. Rev Maggie's mum is a CrossReach contact and allows us to see sample cards each year in the Autumn and to buy through the church, thus saving the cost of postage and packing. Please see Maggie for ordering details for cards, gift wrap and calendars in Sept and October.

We can all recognise that our social care system in Scotland is struggling amidst a myriad of challenges. Yet it is something we, or people we know, are likely to depend on either now or at some point in the future. We are not all in a position to offer support directly to CrossReach, but we can pray for the staff and services of CrossReach – there is nothing better than that.

Rev Dr Karen Fenwick - kfenwick@churchofscotland.org.uk

Rev Maggie Hunt - mhunt@churchofscotland.org.uk

Rev Heather Gourlay - hgourlay@churchofscotland.org.uk

All Souls Office 01307 460576

website: www.farallsouls.org

Deadline for next newsletter is 15th November at noon.
Articles can be sent at any time to whatson.allsouls@gmail.com

SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF PAST EVENTS, SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES



The Wednesday Worship congregation from the Anchorage visited Letham in June for a Football themed away day



Kids from all across the area came along to our holiday club called 'Rocky's Plaice' at the start of August



All Souls @ Letham celebrated Dempster Day in August with Icecream Sundae Sunday and a pizza lunch



We held our Summer Fayre at the end of June at Lowson

GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

This issue of the All Souls Newsletter doesn't feature **ALL** the groups which meet and activities that 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.

However - you can find out all about what's going on at:

Aberlemno - intimations at weekly worship

Letham - intimations at weekly worship and the 'In The PICTURE' church and community magazine.

Lowson - intimations at weekly worship and written details in the printed order of service

Anchorage - a 'what's on' sheet available to pick up

You can also find out more on the church website www.forfarallsouls.org and on Facebook

CAN YOU HELP?

If you worship in one of our Churches and would like to help ensure that the wider All Souls Union is aware of events, special services and general happenings where you are, either in the form of pieces for the newsletter, bits for the website or help with social media; please let us know!

Also please consider joining the Communications Group, which amongst other things is responsible for producing this Newsletter.

Anyone interested should contact Rev Maggie Hunt in the first instance.

The Guild

The Guild held a Coffee Morning on Saturday 22 August and a big thank you to all who supported so generously. Your continued support will help us to make generous donations from our funds at our 3rd A G M in April 2027 to the All Souls Church and the Guild Projects.

On Saturday 12 September some of our members are attending the Guild Annual Gathering at Perth North Church for the start of Guild Week and the launch of the last theme "Beyond the Walls" of the "Let Us Build A House" Strategy and this year's Discussion Topic - "Action & Mission - Reaching out to others".

We look forward to the following new session and welcome old and new members or if you just want to come along to hear more about any of our programme topics you are very welcome join us. The Guild Membership is £18.00 for the year or FREE for the first year for anyone who has never been a Church of Scotland Guild Member.

16 September Opening Social - Spectrum Choir

Sunday 20 September

Guild Rededication Service at 11 am during morning worship at All Souls @ Lowson

30 September Theme Afternoon - Beyond the Walls - Rev Heather Gourlay

14 October Bandawe Hospital, Malawi - Sam Riddell

21 October Strathmore Woollens - Christine Donaldson

28 October Angus & Tayside Guilds Together Mini Gathering
11 am - 3 pm - Kingsgait Church, Dundee

Please contact me at lindas28@btinternet.com
if you require more information.

Very Best wishes

Linda Stewart
Minute Secretary



Messy Church @ All Souls



Messy Church is an intergenerational church that meets together to explore the gospel through crafts, activities, stories, music and shared food.

We welcome children with their families to come and be church together once a month on a Saturday at 10am at All Souls Lowson.

Our next Messy Church meetings are:

September 19th, October 17th
& November 21st



We are looking for donations of cakes, bakes, raffle and tombola prizes, toys, gifts and crafts for our Christmas Fayre.

All donations can be handed in at Lowson Church on Friday 27th November from 3pm



Men's Fellowship

Men's Fellowship meets on the third Monday of the month at the Anchorage, West High Street, Forfar.
Men are invited to come along 10am for a 10.30am start.

21 September Speaker: Derek Ramsay. Topic : Red Squirrels

19 October. Speaker: Robert Thompson. Topic : Poultry Matters!

16 November. Speakers: Iain Rouse-Mitchell, RBS, Jane Hickie, RBS. Topic : Fraud and Scammer Awareness

7 December. Christmas Lunch. Venue : TBC

for further information please contact David Adam Mobile 07889 573 885

WINTER BREW & BLETHER

From Friday 6th November, Brew and Blether at Letham Church will start a winter programme. This will be led by church members, instead of Letham Seniors, but it will still have the dementia friendly musical event on the first Friday of every month. There are also some new events and activities planned. This means that the Church Warm Spaces event will not be running over the winter. The Warm Spaces event was of its time and much appreciated by those who attended during the last few winters. Those who attended last year really appreciated the social aspect of the event and this led to the afternoon Brew and Blether being set up over the summer. Continuing Brew and Blether over the winter means that this social event continues to be available for anyone in the village who would like to share a cuppie and a blether on a Friday afternoon. It is free and runs from 2-3.30pm in the Church Hall. All welcome.

LOWSON CHURCH MENS GUILD

Mens club meet on a Tuesday evening between 7 – 9 pm.
The session runs from beginning of September to end of March. We currently have approximately 15 members. During our meetings we run competitions such as bowls, darts, dominoes, pool and snooker. We enjoy some camaraderie over a tea break half way through our meeting. We have a coffee morning, Christmas meal, social evening, burns supper and summer outing bowling and putting at Johnshaven as part of our programme. We restart on Tuesday 1st September in the hall and any new members will be made welcome.



**Praise and Song
With a cuppie and a scone!**

Join Rev Maggie, Marjory and friends at All Souls Letham
for an afternoon of singing, cakes and [hopefully] all your favourite hymns

**Wednesday 23rd September
at 2.30pm**

All Souls Letham Church, Dundee Road, Letham



**Fairtrade
and Fizz**

**Pre-Christmas
Social evening and
Shopping event**

**Saturday 14th November
All Souls Lowson Hall
7pm.**

**Entry £5 inc first glass of
fizz, canapes & table gift**

Scottish charity no. SC002417



Dates for your diary

[or to pin to your fridge!]

September 2026

- 1st September - Mens Guild at Lowson restarts 7.30pm
- 2nd September - Wednesday Worship returns weekly at 10.30am in The Anchorage
- 4th September - Musical Memories at Letham Church hall 2-3.30pm
- 7th September - Cosy Cuppies returns 1.30pm weekly at Anchorage
- 10th September - Kirk Session meeting at Lowson 7pm
- 12th September - Doors Open Day Angus [All Souls Letham open for visits 12 - 4pm]
- 13th September - Doors Open Day Angus [All Souls Letham open for visits 10am - 1pm]
- 16th September - Guild Week meeting at Lowson at 2pm
- 16th September - Cafe Church at Lowson 7.30pm
- 19th September - Fairtrade Coffee Morning at Letham 10-12noon
- 21st September - Mens Fellowship at the Anchorage 10 for 10.30am start
- 23rd September - "Praise and Song with a Cuppie and a Scone!" at Letham 2.30pm
- 23rd September - Body and Soul at Lowson 7.30pm
- 29th September - 1st October - Youth production of 'Matilda Jr.' at Lowson Church

October 2026

- 2nd October - Musical memories at Letham Church Hall 2-3.30pm
- 4th October - Harvest Thanksgiving and Harvest Lunch at Letham 10.30am
- 18th October - Harvest Thanksgiving at Aberlemno 10am
- 18th October - Harvest Thanksgiving at Lowson 11am
- 19th October - Mens Fellowship at the Anchorage 10 for 10.30am start
- 21st October - Cafe Church at Lowson 7.30pm
- 25th October - Holy Communion at Lowson 11am
- 28th October - Body and Soul at Lowson 7.30pm

November 2026

- 1st November - All Souls celebration and formal communion at Letham 10.30am
- 6th November - Musical Memories at Letham Church hall 2-3.30pm
- 7th November - Coffee Morning at Aberlemno Village Hall 10 -12noon
- 8th November - Remembrance Sunday
- 14th November - 'Fairtrade and Fizz' social evening at Lowson
- 16th November - Mens Fellowship at the Anchorage 10 for 10.30am start
- 18th November - Cafe Church at Lowson 7.30pm
- 22nd November - Holy Communion at Aberlemno 10am
- 25th November - Body and Soul at Lowson 7.30pm
- 28th November - Christmas Fayre at Lowson