

# In the PICTURE

March 2024

Send news to: [revmartythomas@outlook.com](mailto:revmartythomas@outlook.com)

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Dunnichen Letham and Kirkden Church of Scotland (Registered Scottish Charity 0003833)

## LATEST NEWS ABOUT FORFAR ALL SOULS @ LETHAM CHURCH

On Sunday 28th January, all five congregations voted in favour of both the Basis of Union and the Basis of Team Ministry and these votes were approved by the Presbytery of Perth at its meeting on Saturday 3rd February.

This provides a good base from which we can move forward with the congregations of Aberlemno, Guthrie and Rescobie, Forfar Lawson Memorial, and Forfar St Margaret's, with our Ministry Team of Rev Dr Karen Fenwick, Rev Maggie Hunt, and Rev Heather Gourlay.

A meeting of the joint Kirk Sessions took place in Letham on Thursday 15th February. This served as an opportunity to meet fellow Elders but also as a way of planning for how the new, united Kirk Session will be established and how it will function.

It has also been agreed that a service of Union will take place on Thursday 21st March at 7 p.m. in Lawson Memorial Church, Forfar. This important (indeed historic) occasion marks the official beginning of Forfar All Souls Church of Scotland. We hope for a large representation from Letham, and transport can be provided if required.

While this is a very significant change for our church and will require a lengthy period of adjustment, in many ways, nothing will change for our members. There will still be a service on Sunday mornings at 10:30 a.m. to which everyone is welcome, and these services will be led by one of our "Team" with the occasional "guest" preacher.

If you have any questions about the Union, please speak to one of our Elders.

Kirk Session Dunnichen, Letham & Kirkden

## 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. Starting Friday 3rd November.



Crafts. games.  
conversation



Everyone welcome, no matter what age.

**Letham Church Hall - Fridays 11am to 2pm**

## Letham Feuars' Committee

Registered Scottish Charity: SC003197

## ANNUAL LITTER PICK

Will take place on

**Sunday 14th April 2024**

Start Time is 11.30am and finish at 2.30pm

There will be refreshments after in  
The Feuars' Hall

More details in next months ITP  
and on Auld Letham FB page

[lethamfeuars@gmail.com](mailto:lethamfeuars@gmail.com)

## Quiz Night

In support of Guide Dogs,



In the Letham Village Hall  
on Saturday 13th April, at 7pm.

Max 5 adults per team, £5 each. School children free.

(There will be a small raffle and quiz for children)

Bring your own bottle & snacks, and glasses.

Donation of raffle prizes gratefully accepted.

Please contact Margaret on 07759954304

email '[marussell2019@gmail.com](mailto:marussell2019@gmail.com)'

**to reserve a table.**

## FAIRTRADE & ECO CONGREGATION REPORT. FEBRUARY 2024

### FAIRTRADE

Margaret Moore was the Fairtrade contact person for our congregation for a number of years until last year, and we offer our sincere thanks to her for all the time and effort which she put into helping people to understand more about Fairtrade and enabling them to purchase Fairtrade goods. Fairtrade tea and coffee are used every week for Church activities.

During Fairtrade Fortnight last year, on Sunday 5th March, a Fairtrade Breakfast/Café Church was held in the church hall. This was well attended and much appreciated, thanks to the hard work of the Social Group and all their helpers. Fairtrade Fortnight 2024 will be from 9th - 22nd September.

We encouraged people who like to buy advent calendars for family or friends, to buy the Real Advent Calendar. These were different from most which were available in supermarkets etc. because they used Fairtrade chocolate, and they included a book which explained the real meaning of Christmas - which sadly is something many children these days know little or nothing about. We are happy to order Fairtrade goods (tea, coffee, etc) on behalf of members, or if you prefer I can give you details of web sites where you can browse and see what is available and order things yourself.

### ECO CONGREGATION

We have a silver award from Eco-Congregation Scotland. The following are some of the ways in which we have tried in the past year to make our Church more eco friendly.

A wildflower garden was planted in the Church grounds by the local Cubs. This resulted in a wonderful display of colour and is a reminder for us of the need to provide areas which will benefit wildlife.

For the Church and Church hall, we source as many of our materials as possible (toilet rolls, napkins, etc.) from ethical and 'green' sources, and we use a recyclable bottle of spray and reusable cloths for cleaning, instead of disposable wipes,

The Church light bulbs have all been changed to more eco friendly ones, and the old ones have been recycled.

General 'rubbish' has been recycled wherever possible rather than simply being binned.

Advice has been given about different ways in which used coffee grounds can benefit our gardens.

If you have any suggestions as to other ways in which our congregation might become more eco aware, please let any of the elders know.

Maureen Buwert

## TALES OF LETHAM No. 2 STONES SALUTING OUR PAST

*"I've seen many a ruined building, but never a ruined stane."* (Hugh McDiarmid)

He's nae oan aboot stanes again is 'e? No, he is going on about the founding of the village in 1789. Well, stanes do come into the tale.

What was the political flavour of the moment in 1789? The effects of the new Union between Scotland and England (1707) were emerging. The existing farm of Letham

seemed to fit the bill for the need of the moment. Those who could manufacture linen were encouraged with favourable assistance, so the Landlord George Dempster of Dunnichen, who was an MP at Westminster, created a planned village called Letham, solely to manufacture linen on farmland which was on his estate.

When one was bent on creating an Empire, as the new Union seemed to be, one of the priorities was manufacturing sales, because without sales you are going nowhere, certainly not over the entire world. Basically without sales you cannot create an Empire.

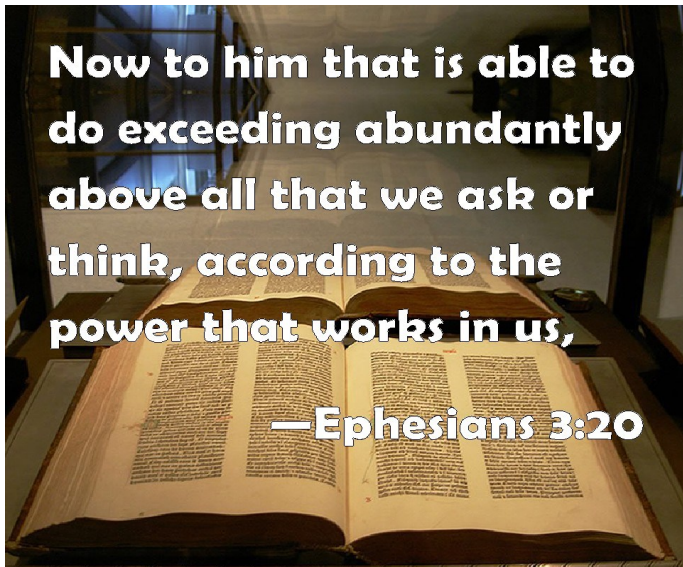
At the back doors of many of the original Letham houses, are single stones, some nicely hewn in squares, some tapering in a round shape and some just looking like wee boulders. However, they all have something in common. They all have a rounded metal hoop embedded in lead in the stone. Many owners of old Letham houses have such a stane at their back door or in their back garden. Some have no idea what it was for, but it seemed to come with the house. The origin of Letham, created by the needs of the past, was weaving linen in every house in the village. These stones were attached to the house loom to act as a weight to propel the weaving shuttle from side to side. As far as we know such loom stones are all that remain of the village commercial activity of over 200 years ago.

To possess such a stone today is a privilege. These stones serve as a salute to the past industry of this village and are a reminder of the hard work and survival of our village forebears in the challenging years gone by.

J.A. McGugan



May this new month be a time of growth, hope, and inspiration. May it be a season of rekindling and reviving my relationship with You, Holy Lord. Thank You.



As I've said, since leaving the congregation of Arbroath: St. Andrew's, my wife Elaine and I have been in over forty congregations – from Orkney to London and everywhere in between. Congregations in small villages, leafy suburbs, county towns, deprived housing estates, city centres and far-flung islands.

What variety! That's something to rejoice in. Uniformity would be dull.

But what a lovely fellowship is shared by you, the good folks at Letham. Of course there are bigger congregations and some with a greater spread of ages. Be that it as it may, you have a sense of togetherness that is tangible and you offer a welcome that others could learn from. And there are congregations serving considerably bigger populations that would be delighted with a regular Sunday attendance such as you have.

So there's much for you to be heartened by, despite the significant challenges facing the wider Church at this time.

In the final analysis, however, our confidence must be in God and God alone – the One for whom all things are possible... *'who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us.'* (Ephesians 3:20)

Partnering with other congregations is a step in the right direction, for sure, but it still comes down to the power of God at work in us.

If the Church is to survive – and more than that, thrive – it will be a work of God and nothing less. Like never before then, this must be a season of prayerfully trusting in God. And there's no time like the present, as we journey through Lent towards Easter 2024.

May each of you know the rich blessings of the Almighty and the love, joy and peace of Christ our Lord,

Martin Fair

## Letham Church Diary

Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> March at 10:30am  
Morning Worship  
Service conducted by Very Rev Dr Martin Fair

Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> February at 10:30am  
Morning Worship  
Service conducted by Rev Allan Webster

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March at 10:30am  
Palm Sunday  
Morning Worship  
Service conducted by Rev Dr Karen Fenwick

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March at 6:00pm  
Good Friday  
Service conducted by Rev Martyn Thomas

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 10:30am  
Easter Sunday  
Morning Worship  
Service conducted by Rev Klaus Buwert

Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> April at 10:30am  
Morning Worship  
Service to be confirmed



## Happy Easter

For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

~ John 3:16

## Next Issue of 'In the PICTURE'

Deadline for April 2024 issue is

**Saturday 23rd March 2024**

Material may be sent to Joan Smith,  
9 Burnside Road (01307 818937)

E-mail: [joan\\_77@btinternet.com](mailto:joan_77@btinternet.com)

or to Rev Martyn Thomas

14 Kirkgait (01307 818084)

E-mail: [revmartynthomas@outlook.com](mailto:revmartynthomas@outlook.com)

Copy to Richard Moore

Email: [richard.moore1957@outlook.com](mailto:richard.moore1957@outlook.com)



## Guild



The meetings are in the Lowson Memorial Church

All Meetings at 2.00pm Unless noted

### The Programme for 2024 is:

6th March: ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Rev Dr Karen Fenwick

18th March: COFFEE MORNING 10.00 to 11.30

20th March: PROJECT "STAR CHILD"

East & Old Parish Church at 2.00pm

3rd April: FABERGE EGGS

Speaker: Mary Ballantine

17th April: CLOSING SOCIAL

Christine & George Mitchell

ANNUAL TRIP in June- to be arranged

If anyone requires transport in order to attend, please get in touch with Norma Craigon: 818275

When the cannibal showed up late for lunch, the others gave him the cold shoulder.

## LETHAM GARDENING CLUB

On Tuesday 13th February we enjoyed an interesting talk by Joe Gibb on the Coonawarra wine region of SW Australia, with useful hints on where to buy their best value and best tasting wines.

On Tuesday 13th March we were to have a talk on the challenges of gardening in Kilry and Glenisla. Unfortunately Pippa is unable to make her date, so please look out for an update on the Village News notice board in the square.

All welcome and bring a friend.

Dates for your diary:

11 May 2024 - Plant sale in Scout Hut

11 August 2024 - Flower Show in the village hall

Bill Muir 07908339420

## VEGETABLE BOX DELIVERIES AVAILABLE IN YOUR AREA.



Rottal Vegetable Garden is a Biodynamic farm in Glen Clova; we are offering ultra fresh and local fruits and vegetables grown naturally (without pesticides nor chemicals).

Our box scheme is running from March to Christmas and for this new season, we are opening a route to Letham.

Friday will be our delivery day and a standard veg box costs £15 -options available

For further information, please visit:

<https://rottalvegetablegarden.com>

Or email us [rottalvegetablegarden@gmail.com](mailto:rottalvegetablegarden@gmail.com)

## Ninety Years Young

Birthday congratulations to Mrs. Christine Fraser who at the start of February celebrated going into her tenth decade.



'Teenie', as she is usually called, takes a walk around the village every day and is very well known. She is a popular member of The Happy Wanderers and Line Dancing Class, amongst others, and recommends keeping active and taking an interest in village affairs. She is also an active member of the Pensioners Committee.

## The New Presbytery of Perth

Over the last few years, the Church of Scotland has made changes to its structure to prepare for future challenges. Presbyteries across the country have been amalgamated to improve efficiency and better support congregations.

The new presbytery of Perth was formed on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2023, from the merger of the former presbyteries of Angus, Dundee, Dunkeld and Meigle, Perth and Stirling. It is the only new presbytery to take its name from one of its legacy presbyteries but the current Clerk to the Presbytery, Rev Dr John Ferguson, says the name makes sense, "Perth is the geographical centre and it's where the presbytery office is." There should be 92 ministers to serve 154 congregations but there are currently 47 of the 92 charges vacant.

Reflecting on the first year, Dr Ferguson says that there have been many positives, but that it has been 'challenging at times' to get to grips with a presbytery that skirts the Central belt to the south, the Cairngorms National Park to the north, Loch Lomond and the Trossachs National Park to the west, and stretches up the east coast from the River Tay to Montrose. From its westernmost point, Drymen, to Montrose is a drive of about 103 miles.

"There has been a lot of work to establish the presbytery," he says. "We are meeting 4 times a year and we are now switching to hybrid (a mixture of online and in-person) meetings which I think is the best option. We are getting there, but it's adjusting to a new way of working and also the sense that we want to do things differently. The whole point was not to just lump the presbyteries together and do the same things."

He admits that 'of course' there is a lot of unhappiness about buildings closing. "But it's the reality that we've just got far too many buildings and it doesn't make sense to keep them all going."

More positively, Dr Ferguson says he is 'really pleased' with the team that has formed at the office. "One of the positive things about larger presbyteries is we have got the budget to employ staff. We have got staff to support congregations in relation to governance, buildings, finance and so on."

Asked where he hopes the presbytery will be in 5 years, Dr Ferguson says, "I'd love to get to a point where we are settled in our buildings, so congregations can concentrate primarily on what really matters, which is mission, and Presbytery is seen as being there to support that."

## OBITUARY: Sheila Hawick

Sheila Mary Hawick was the wife of the late Arthur, much loved mum of Kenneth and Gavin, a very proud granny of Craig and Shelby and great-granny of Amoria, and a dear and caring friend. All who knew her will have very special memories of this loving person. They will be all the more precious in the days to come and smile, as this is how she would like to be remembered.

Sheila was born on the 6<sup>th</sup> of July 1935 in Edinburgh. Sadly she lost her dad when she was only ten years old but even at that young age she was always ready to help in any way she could. After school she worked for the National Coal Board. She met Arthur, who was in the Merchant Navy, at a dance and they married in 1964. They had two sons, Kenneth and Gavin and in time became very proud grandparents and great grandparents. When the boys were young they had very happy holidays at Dunbar and Pitlochry and after Arthur passed his driving test they enjoyed lots of picnics.

Sheila returned to work in her forties, serving as an assistant occupational therapist at the Victoria Hospital. She and Arthur then moved to Banffshire where Sheila ran a Bed and Breakfast for 9 years. Everywhere she lived she was an active Church member, keen on the Woman's Guild, and enjoyed craftwork and local spinning and knitting groups. When she and Arthur came to Letham in 2001 she again supported the local Church and Guild and helped set up a local knitting group. She loved doing crochet and in her house there are some beautiful sown pictures.

Wherever Sheila was living she liked to help people in many ways. She increasingly needed to care for Arthur at home as his health became poorer and he passed away in December. Sheila too had become housebound but she kept as active as she could with her art skills and making lovely pots of homemade soup and being delighted when she saw the family she loved so much. Sheila was always looking on the bright side, even last month when in hospital, where she was very positive with the staff and made the nurses laugh. She will be sadly missed, especially by her loved ones and they are in our thoughts and prayers.

Her funeral took place on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> February at Parkgrove Crematorium, which was conducted by Rev Brian Ramsay to whom thanks for the content of this obituary.



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## LETHAM & DISTRICT



President Lynne Slater was very happy to welcome members and guest, Mairi Alexander to our meeting.

Due to the snowy weather conditions in January, our meeting had to be cancelled, therefore it was nice to see everyone again and Christmas seemed a distant memory!

Mairi had come along in her capacity as a Federation judge, H&H Secretary and also being a very talented craftswoman herself, lent us her expertise in producing our entries for our upcoming Federation show in March 2024.

Mairi showed us several articles she had produced and submitted over the years and gave us advice, hints and tips and encouraging everyone to "have a go" and to enjoy the experience of entering an exhibit to the show. We all thoroughly enjoyed listening to her invaluable advice.

Mairi kindly agreed to judge our competitions which included two months work from members.

### Garden Flower of the Month

1. Jeannie Mair 2. Isabel McClung 3. Kathleen Ferrier

### A Small Jar of Plum Chutney

1. Meg Bundock 2. Frances Webster 3. Jeannie Mair

### 2 Cheese Scones

1. Lynne Slater 2. Isabel McClung 3. Jeannie Mair

### A Sewn Makeup Bag

1. Jeannie Mair 2. Lynne Slater 3. Frances Webster

### Appliqué Tote Bag

1. Frances Webster 2. Colette McNeill 3. Lynne Slater

Kathleen Ferrier kindly thanked Mairi for judging the competitions and sharing her knowledge with us all.

Our next meeting will take place on 5th March 2024 and will be a quiz night hosted by Ian Whyte.

Letham residents/ visitors are welcome to join us and participate and the evening will commence at 7.15pm in the Letham Bowling Club. The cost is £2.00 per person, tea and coffee will be provided. Please bring your own cup and supper if wished. A raffle will also be held to win a food hamper and there will be prizes for the winning team. Everyone will be made very welcome.

Lynne thanked everyone for their attendance and support.

Colette McNeill( Press Secretary)

## FORFAR FOODBANK



As the cost-of-living crisis continues the Foodbank is now having to purchase food to meet demand.

All donations are gladly accepted though the items below are those which are needed most.

### **URGENTLY NEEDED**

Biscuits Diluting juice  
Tinned fruit Long-life fruit juice  
Jam Microwave puddings  
Long life milk Tinned puddings  
Pasta sauce Tinned Tomatoes

We have plenty of cereals, beans, pasta and soup.

**Letham Church is open and ready to receive items for the Angus Foodbank every Sunday morning.**

In 2023 Dunnichen, Letham and Kirkden Church, assisted by the Cubs and others, donated a massive total of 636.21kg of food and other requirements to the Foodbank.

This is 136.21kg (27.24%) above the target set and 83.61kg (15.13%) more than last year.

Dundee & Angus Foodbank have asked that their very grateful thanks be passed back to all who contributed.

Financial donations can be gift aided, allowing the Foodbank to claim a further 25% from HMRC.

*info@angusfoodbank.org.uk Tel. 01382 698020*

### *'In the PICTURE'*

Welcomes items of news and expressions of opinion from organisations and individuals within the community, provided such articles are signed.

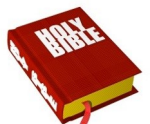
Published items do not necessarily reflect the views of either the

Publicity Group or the Kirk Session

of Dunnichen, Letham and Kirkden Church.



## Learning Together Group Weekly Bible Study



Letham Church Hall  
on Mondays at 1:30pm.

Toys and drawing materials  
available for children.

Tea, coffee and snacks provided.

All are Welcome.

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## Letham Feuars' Committee

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Supporting *'In the PICTure'*

Remember **LETHAM BOOK SHOP**  
Open At Least Six Days a Week  
in Letham Feuars' Hall, Auldbar Road.

All takings used for the benefit of Letham.

For information about the Feuars please contact  
[lethamfeuars@gmail.com](mailto:lethamfeuars@gmail.com)



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is in the Square and open daily,  
10 am-4 pm, Mondays to Saturdays, and  
12 noon-4 pm, Sundays.

Books for children are free.


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## SNIPS

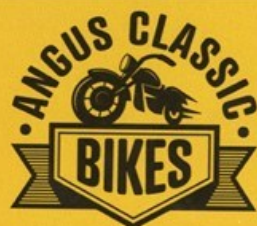
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