



MARCH, APRIL & MAY 2026

ALL SOULS NEWSLETTER

CELEBRATING OUR WORSHIP, EVENTS AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH



What a wet start to the year.

We haven't seen so much rain since Noah set sail!

And with the sky being so cloudy and overcast, we haven't seen any rainbows to cheer us up either. But as Christians, we do have hope through the love of God and His desire for us to live close to Him. As we travel through the season of Lent towards Easter, we make a journey with Jesus as he calls us to follow Him.

There will be lots of opportunity to join us on this journey, either through Sunday or mid-week worship, Bible study or prayer – check out the dates and times of events in each worship centre. It will be great to see you.

Wishing you God's richest blessing, Karen.



EASTER EVENTS

There's lots to come and see this Eastertime at All Souls.

Breakfast Club is running from 9am til 11am every morning at All Souls Lowson. Everyone is welcome to pop in and enjoy a hot cuppie and a filled roll or some toast and cereal. Kids activities and toys are available each morning.

We have 'Explore Easter' craft and activities sessions for all ages at Letham on Saturday 28th March 10 - 12noon [followed by a lunch for everyone] AND at the Anchorage on West High Street Forfar on Saturday 4th April 2pm - 4pm.

Messy Church meets at All Souls Lowson to explore the Easter Story on Saturday 21th March at 10am. All are welcome.

We have a prayer labyrinth of reflective stations to engage and inspire you on April 4th at All Souls Lowson Church.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

As always, we cannot offer all the community outreach and congregational support that we want unless we have enough volunteers. For some roles - even just offering to help out for an hour over Easter would make the world of difference.

We need helpers for Exploring Easter Crafts, for Breakfast Club and Lunch Club. We need folks that can be 'on standby' to deliver newsletters where a volunteer is sick or unable to get out.

We always welcome a spare pair of hands at coffee time or to help with special events and services or to post prayers and news on social media.

There is never a time we don't need a wee bit of extra help to let us serve God in our communities.

Please think about what you could do to help .

ABERLEMNO REPRESENTATION REQUIRED!!

If you worship in Aberlemno Church and would like to help ensure that the wider All Souls Union is aware of your events, special services and general happenings, please consider joining the Communications Group, which amongst other things is responsible for producing this Newsletter. Anyone interested should contact Rev Heather Gourlay in the first instance.

WHAT'S ON AROUND ALL SOULS - SOME HIGHLIGHTS



All Souls Church Guild

Let us Build a House
2025 - 26 Theme - Living Stones

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 March and April are:

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 at Lawson Lunch Club Thurs 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
lindas28@btinternet.com.*



World Day of prayer

This year's world day of prayer service comes from the women of Nigeria.

The theme is
'I will give you rest - come'.|

We meet to share in worship and prayer with Christians from all the churches in Forfar and surrounding areas on Friday 6th March at 2pm at East, Old and Inverarity Church, East High Street Forfar and then again on Wednesday 11th March at 10.30am at the Anchorage.

Men's Fellowship

The mens fellowship continues to meet at the Anchorage on the third Monday of the month at 10am for a 10.30am start.

March 16 - Neil Valentine: 'The Friendly Games'
April 22nd - Sandra Affleck: 'A life of two halves'

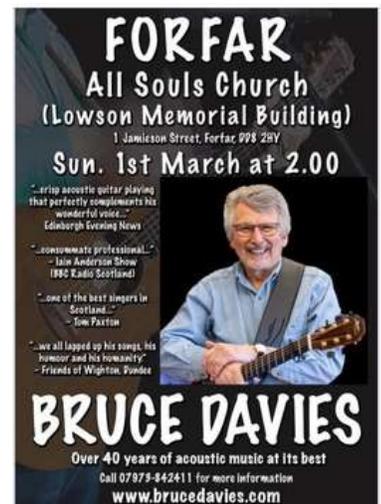
SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF PAST EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES



A fabulous burns ceilidh in January



Our young people put on a very successful production of Annie Jr at the start of February



We enjoyed a lovely afternoon with Bruce Davies providing the entertainment at the start of March

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 monthly village 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 social media.



LENT LUNCHESES , GROUPS AND ACTIVITIES

**Forfar Action Of Churches Together
Lenten Lunches & Studies
@ East, Old & Inverarity Church**

**Every Friday during Lent [Feb 20th to March 27th]
Lent Lunches: 12noon til 1.30pm
prepared and served by a different congregation each week.**

**Lent Studies at 2pm* using the book :
Study: - The Six Miracles of Calvary (William R Nicolson, Our Daily Bread Publishing)**

**[*except 6th March when we meet at 11am
to allow for the World Day of Prayer service at 2pm.]**

Follow Me. A lent journey with Sanctuary First

All Souls at Letham invite you to join us as we explore with Sanctuary First online what it means to follow Jesus when the going gets tough.

We will ask, what is it like to be a Christian when the way forward seems unclear, when there are few signs illuminating the way and the wilderness seems to stretch on and on?

What does following Jesus mean when we're daunted, overwhelmed, exhausted or lost?

Well it means... unmistakable love!

It means the way, the truth and the life!

It means living water and the bread that will fill you, the peace that lasts, the transformation that sticks. It means fuel for the journey —

There will be a group meeting each Thursday from 19 Feb, for six weeks, at 2pm at All Souls Letham for an hour of listening, reflecting, questioning and praying. Come alone to just one or all.

There will also be an opportunity to 'dig deeper' at the Letham fortnightly house group and online via the Sanctuary First Connect Groups.

There will be images and daily posts on Facebook and Instagram and links to Sanctuary First's daily prayers on our website.

for more info see: <https://www.sanctuaryfirst.org.uk/>

HIGHLIGHTING OUR HOSPITALITY



All Souls offers a range of get togethers, events, groups and activities for everyone across the area to enjoy good company over a meal or a cuppie and cake.

Warm Spaces @ Letham

The Warm Spaces initiative was a Government backed scheme. The aim was, primarily, to help those who were having difficulty heating their homes after the huge increase in the price of energy during the winter of 2022 - 23.

Warm Spaces was set up in Letham Church Hall in January 2023 and it has continued from November to April every year. It is free for all who attend.

While all are welcome to join us in a warm space to save heating their own homes, most of our regular attendees are there for the company and social interaction the event provides. There is always a happy atmosphere and it is obvious the chat is much appreciated.

Our regular attendees say, "I enjoy the warmth of the company and the lovely variety of soups which I don't have at home."

"I enjoy sharing a meal with friends in a lovely warm hall and hearing about village news"

"Awfy guid soup, bread and cakes. Awfy guid craic!"

From 12.00 every Friday, three different kinds of soup are usually offered with bread and rolls. This is followed by tea or coffee & a selection of cakes.

All the bread, rolls and cakes are donated by the Keptie Bakery and the milk is donated by the Keystore. Grateful thanks are extended to these businesses for their continued support. Soup is made by a group of volunteers on a rota basis and the set up and serving is also done by a willing band of volunteers. Some of those who attend also enjoy helping with dish washing and clearing tables.

The event is open to all and you will be made very welcome.

Norma and Team



Letham Seniors & The Cosy Cuppie

When the first extremely successful Warm Spaces season came to an end, Letham Seniors (formally known as Letham Pensioners) suggested continuing with something on a Friday, so that the habit of there being somewhere to meet & chat that didn't involve a financial cost, could continue.

Hopefully after two years of six months with warm spaces (soup and goodies) and six months during the better weather of tea, cake & chat we will be able to continue with this informal opportunity to socialise, meet new people and exchange information.

We might look at calling the Friday afternoon something like Brew, Blether & Cake and making it clear that everyone is welcome, age no barrier!

Volunteers to help always welcome and suggestions for activities always welcome. We had live music one afternoon when we had a surprise visit from (professional) musicians *Isobel Sword*



HIGHLIGHTING OUR HOSPITALITY



COSY CUPPIES at the Anchorage Welcomes everyone



Every Monday afternoon Cosy Cuppies meets in the Anchorage in West High Street 1.30 - 4.00pm. It is a time for, slightly more senior, members to get out of the house to meet friends, and make new ones. Afternoons are spent playing games and just chatting. All with tea, coffee & biscuits.

Dominoes, and Bananagram are the popular games just now, but new ones can be added. We did have a knitting group which clicked away busily but those members have not been around recently. We can set up a table for that if there are enthusiastic knitters who would like to come along. It is a very friendly, relaxed afternoon.

At Easter and Christmas we usually have a short time of worship with well known songs and readings. This is much appreciated by members, many of whom find it difficult to get to church.

We have a team of 6 volunteers who set things up and make the refreshments. So, we invite any member of All Souls, and anyone not a member, to come along to the Anchorage on a Monday afternoon between 1.30 - 4.00pm to join in the chat and fellowship or start up a new activity. We run from September to June. We hope to see you soon. If you want to chat please speak to: Liz Ross, Maureen Fenton, Diane Roy, Norma Seaton, Muriel or Gavin Drummond.

Everyone is WELCOME at Cosy Cuppies
Gavin Drummond

Lowson Lunch Club

Lunch club has been running now for 18 years. This wouldn't be possible without our wonderful team of Volunteers.

From folks that shift the tables & chairs & the ones who set the tables so pretty, Our soup makers, servers,clearers, dish washer, dish dryers, the mini bus driver,escorts and soup delivery driver!

Thursday morning from 9:30 is when the hall is transformed and tables set for 72 for lunches.

Soup is served from 11:45 onwards with a variety of five tasty homemade soups on offer.

Afterwards a choice of filled rolls prepared to order and a variety of tasty cakes and pancakes, tea and coffee.

Thank you to everyone who comes along to lunch club. Also there would be a very warm welcome to anyone who would still like to come along.

There is no charge for lunch club although donations are gratefully received.

(The lunch club team)



Some photos from last Christmas



Left to right: Letham Explorer Scouts joined us for worship and sold Christmas crafts during advent at Letham; Everyone of all ages taking part in the nativity story on Christmas eve at Lowson; Receiving a wonderful donation of goodies from the Tesco community team; The Singing Group at Letham leading our advent praise.

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

"But the angel said to the women,
'Do not be afraid, for I know that
you are looking for Jesus, who
was crucified. He is not here; he
has risen, just as he said.'"

– Matthew 28:5-6

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 three Messy Church meetings are:

March 21st - get ready for Easter

April 18th - He is Risen

May 23rd - Theme tbc

At All Souls Aberlemno, life around the church building continues to be active and encouraging. Our Wednesday evening Karaoke Club has recently celebrated its third anniversary of meeting together. It has become a relaxed and enjoyable midweek gathering, and new faces are always welcome.

For more information, please contact Susan on 01307 830763.

The Art Club continues to meet on Mondays at 1pm, providing a friendly creative space for all abilities. Anyone interested in coming along can contact Jane on 07842 282962.

By the time this edition of the newsletter reaches you, the Aberlemno Annual Quiz night will have taken place in Forfar, and we look forward to sharing an update in the next issue.

For wider local events and community information, do check Aberlemno.org. If you have any Aberlemno Church news, updates, or items you would like included in future union communications, please contact Lachlan Macleod at lmacleod@churchofscotland.org.uk.



Diary Dates for special services in March – May at Lowson

Weekly Worship Sunday 11am and Elevenses Thursday 11am

Saturday 7th March- Prayer breakfast in hall at 9.30am

Wednesday 18th March 7.30pm - Café Church – informal monthly praise night

Saturday 21st March 10am – Messy Church – Get ready for Easter!!

Wednesday 25th March 7pm – Body & Soul – Ladies gentle exercise/reflection/meditation

Holy Week Services Monday 30th March – Friday 3rd April at 7pm

(Communion on Maundy Thursday at Elevenses and at 7pm)

Saturday 4th April 9.30 – 12 noon – Prayer Labyrinth followed by refreshments

Sunday 5th Easter Sunday (Lochside service 8am) Family service 11am

Monday 6th – Friday 10th and Mon 13th – Friday 17th April Free Breakfast Club in Church

No Café Church due to school holidays

Saturday 18th April Messy Church – He's Alive!!!!

Wednesday 22nd April 7pm – Body & Soul – Ladies gentle exercise/reflection/meditation

Saturday 2nd May Prayer breakfast in hall at 9.30am

Wednesday 20th May at 7.30pm - Café Church – informal monthly praise night

Saturday 23rd May 10am – Messy Church – Get ready for Easter!!

Wednesday 25th May 7pm – Body & Soul – Ladies gentle exercise/reflection/meditation

CONTACT INFORMATION

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All Souls Office
01307 460576

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

Desperately seeking a Church Treasurer

Can you help?

Do you have finance and/or
accounting experience and are
willing to offer your skills.

for more information contact your minister.



.....ALL THINGS HOSPITALITY.....

The All Souls Hospitality and Fundraising Team was set up formally in early 2024, following the Union. It comprises a Steering Group, which meets regularly to plan a wide range of events throughout the year, and a host of volunteers, we like to call Hospitality Angels (because that is what they are!!) They work tirelessly to pull together the individual events as set out in our Annual Events Calendar (and a fair more besides which pop up along the way!)

Some events are specifically planned to raise funds for the church and its projects. However, all are designed to provide opportunities for congregations and our wider communities to join together in fun and christian fellowship for all ages, served up, of course, with a healthy dollop of good old "All Souls Hospitality". All our events have been extremely well attended, some even a "sell-out". Our activities over the last couple of years have raised several thousands. This is down to you - the congregation and your families, friends and neighbours - for the amazing support given by attending in great numbers, and by giving generously of your time, skills and money. WE THANK YOU!

As ever, we are always looking for volunteers to join our happy troupe, either by serving on the Steering Group, or at individual events.

Please contact Chris.saltoun@gmail.com
or message 07950157108 for further information



Holy Communion

Whilst there are monthly informal Communion services in some of our churches, we meet for a more formal service twice a year.

This spring our services of Holy Communion are:

All Souls Lowson Sunday 26th April at 11am

All Souls Letham Sunday 3rd May at 10.30am

All Souls Aberlemno 24th May at 10am and 7pm

We look forward to seeing you there.

Home communion for our housebound members is available on request



Holy Week and Easter at All Souls



We meet during Holy Week [30th March to 3rd April]

Lowson: Monday to Friday 7pm

Letham: Monday to Friday 2pm and 7pm

There will be Holy Communion shared at:

The Anchorage

Wednesday 1st April at 10.30am and Thursday 2nd April at 12noon

All Souls, Letham

Thursday 2nd April at 2pm and 7pm

All Souls, Lowson

Thursday 2nd April at 11am and 7pm

All Souls, Aberlemno

Thursday 2nd April at 7pm

Good Friday services on 3rd April are at Aberlemno and Lowson at 7pm, and Letham 2pm and 7pm

Messy Church meets on Saturday 21st March at 10am to hear again the Easter story and celebrate together in praise, prayer and crafts.

There will be a chance to be still with God and reflect at a prayer labyrinth on Saturday 4th April at Lowson Church in the sanctuary from 9.30am til 12noon.

We invite you to 'Explore Easter' through crafts and reflective activities at All Souls Letham on Saturday 28th March from 10am - 12noon and at the Anchorage on Saturday 4th April 2pm -4pm.

Easter Celebrations on Sunday 5th April

Lochside Worship at 8am

We meet at the bay next to the boatclub at Forfar Loch for Easter praise with Christians from all over the churches in Forfar and beyond. A hot breakfast is served afterwards in All Souls Lowson Hall.

All Souls Aberlemno church meets at 10am to worship the risen Christ

All Souls Letham meets at 10.30am to praise, pray and share in the joy of Easter morning

All Souls at Lowson meet at 11am to celebrate the resurrection and share in worship

Cosy Cuppies at the Anchorage invites you to join them on Easter Monday [6th April] at 2pm to hear again the wonderful Easter story and share in praise and prayer.

