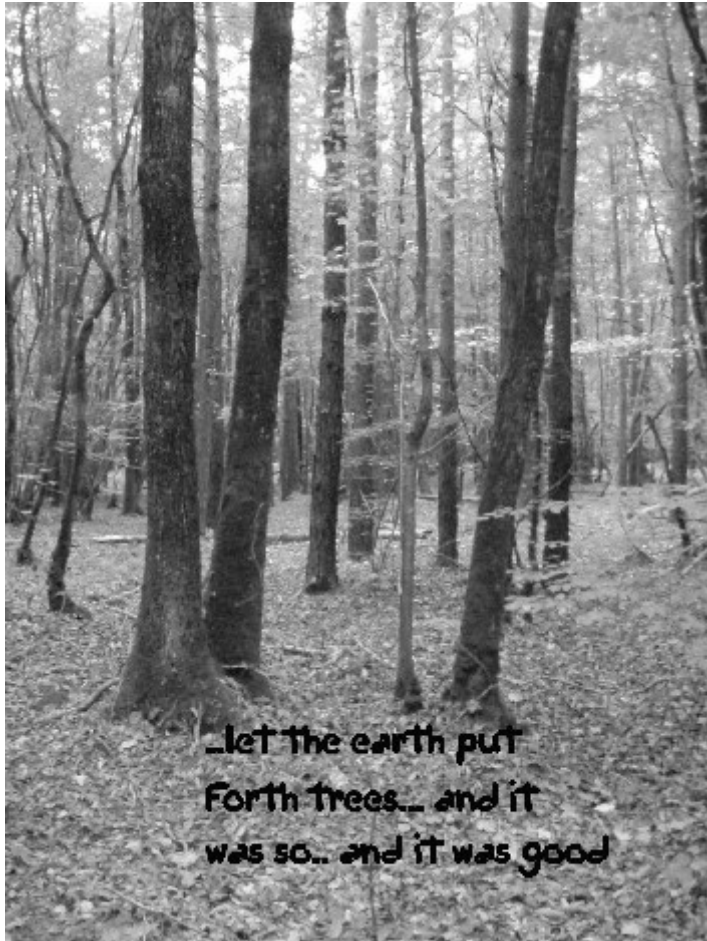


WEE YETT

The parish magazine for Linton Morebattle Hownam and Yetholm

Autumn 2011



Harvest and Trees

The other day I shared an Assembly with James Wauchope in Yetholm Primary and one of the key points in reflecting on harvest this year was trees – a slow crop to yield a return yet an essential crop for so many reasons. The same day I stumbled across a focus for the season of ‘creation’ championed by the World Council of Churches and they were pointing in the direction of the International Year of The Forest 2011 where I came across a meditation offered by monk. (http://www.praying-nature.com/site_pages.php?section=Ecology+Matters&category_ref=89)

He begins in Psalm 96 12 – where ‘the trees of the forest sing for joy for the Lord has come to judge the earth. ‘ For me it was a timely reminder of the rich affirmation of creation found in such texts where the humble tree takes on such a symbolic role in restoration renewal and energising our planet. I love that song where the ‘trees of the field shall clap their hands and we shall go out with joy.

Even the trees sing and those of us who love forests walks will have joyed to the duet of leaves and breeze as we are a guest in the magic of forest or woodland. Some of the benefits of woods are derived from a single tree whilst others come from the value of several or numerous trees functioning together such as a cluster, woodland or forest. Trees help to sustain the long-term health of the community. Unfortunately, forests and woodlands locally and globally are under increasing threat due to human demand for land for development and agriculture and for timber.

For me individual trees have always had a powerful aesthetic/spiritual draw. Trees add to the beauty of our world and as I write the early colouring of Autumn is changing nature's palette. The irregular shapes of trees and their canopies contrast the squareness and regularity of many of our buildings and enrich our urban and farm landscapes. In addition, trees provide a natural-looking screen and privacy around homes, schools, and hospitals. They shelter us providing shade in summer relief from wind in winter and renewable fuel for our fires and boilers.

Trees store moderate air, improve air, storm water, and are re-buffers.

Trees especially those that are native habitat for native bird trees, and most numerous where there are native trees



carbon dioxide, temperature, improve air quality, soak up storm water, stop soil erosion, and are remarkable sound

especially those that provide the best wildlife. Many species nest in trees and are a variety of and bushes together

Likewise, native trees support a rich biodiversity of flora and fungi. Trees are living centres for a wide range of species including mammals, insects, birds, wild plants, lichens and fungi. Hedges are hugely valuable 'wildlife corridors' for all the above. Sometimes you can spot people too – they host many of us for recreational purposes giving much needed restoration to us and are attributed with lowering blood pres-

sure. There is much interest medically on no-pharmaceutical prescribing and a walk in the woods is a tonic in itself. I have always been taken with Genesis line of feeding the nations and Ezekiel's point of their provision for the healing of the nations.

This year, 2011 is UN International Year of Forests, both a celebration of trees and a drive to educate people about the value and importance of trees and forests so that people protect existing trees and woodlands and also support new plantings.

By coincidence a friend shared the following piece as a tribute to the death of a global friend of the planet (From Peter Miller's reflection for September) ;- Wangari Maathai of Kenya died on September 25th at the age of 71. In 2004, seemingly out of the blue, she was awarded the Nobel peace prize to the consternation of many politicians and governments who still did not understand the "peace" connection between human rights and the environment. Years earlier Wangari, as a village woman herself, had realised that local communities were destroying their own resources. The land, once fruitful, was becoming barren. It was the women, she reasoned, who experienced the worst impact of a degraded environment. In 1977, she set up the Green Belt movement, more in hope than in expectation that it would grow. It did.

Her vision initially led to the planting of literally millions of trees in Kenya. But it was not long before the tree planting itself became a symbol for the democratic struggle going on in her country. The planting of trees, a simple act in itself, became to be seen as a challenge to the ubiquitous abuse of power and to the widespread corruption in high places. At one point, her movement planted trees in Uhuru park in central Nairobi, to demand the release of prisoners of conscience and a peaceful

transition to democracy.

Although she herself was at one time in the Kenyan government, she never ceased to campaign on behalf of the poor, and especially on behalf of rural women who still endure so much poverty and marginalisation. Like many who work for justice, she was imprisoned, and from time to time her life was threatened. In recent years, Wangari had become deeply critical of global institutions such as the World Bank and the IMF, of so-called “development” projects, and of the continuing neo-colonial attitudes of the rich nations. Increasingly, she sided with the world’s poorest people, and was seen as a beacon by many of us who are concerned about the future of the planet. She rightly saw that the global elites have become predators, self-serving and only turning to ordinary people when they needed them. She saw clearly the terrible, and dark, consequences which are now embedded in the great inequalities of wealth and of possibility which frame our present global order. In 2006 she led the Unep tree-planting scheme which has brought 7bn trees to the planet.

For me she was a prophet who never forgot her own roots in rural Kenya. She had enemies, and many despised her activities, but long after corrupt leaders and elites are forgotten, her name will be cherished by all who care about our planet and its future. She was a one-off. A fighter to the end.

Prayer

Creator God and Gardener of the world,
Tender of trees, of the field and the grass,
Keeper of forests, woodlands and wide-open plains,
Fecundity of the waters, the One who vests our Earth in its blue
breathing veil,

We ask you your blessing on each of us and upon all who have
the power
To change our destructive ways;
We ask your blessing upon our commitment to preserve life for
all humanity
and for the entire Earth Community.
Bless the Earth and bless us your creatures, the temples of
Your Holy Spirit.
Through Jesus Christ your Son, our Lord.
Amen.



Our 5 new elders conducted worship on Sunday 25th of September—Moira Breeze Reflects;-On Sunday 25th.September the congregations of Yetholm and Morebattle were privileged to be led in worship by our five new Elders, John Thomson, Margaret Lister, Moira Keddie, Simon Oldham and Graeme Watson.

Speaking for myself, I very much appreciated the way in which individuals, although probably appropriately nervous, put

thoughts of themselves aside and thought only of providing an atmosphere of reverent worship. In this they succeeded.

From comments made or overheard after the service at Yetholm, the congregation obviously appreciated the care and content of the service so lovingly and carefully crafted. We are very fortunate to have Elders of such faith and ability to work with our Minister Robin in sharing responsibility for leading worship.

Revision of Elder's Districts

The Church of Scotland has a system of pastoral care for the Parish that is designed upon an elder's district. The constitution of the Church has as a major article the provision of the ordinances of faith to every part of the land and the theory is that the Kirk Session executes this through a territorial responsibility. From time to time by retiral or sadly death the system gets stretched and needs reviewed. We have just carried out this review and now take advantage of our new elders to ensure a very large parish is covered. Undernoted is the geographic distribution of the parish;-

Elders Districts

District 1- West of Morebottle

Bill & Leslie Thomson (01573 440245)

Cowbog
Otterburn
Caverton Mill
Cessford
Easter Wooden
Wester Wooden
Marlefield
Grahamslaw
Kirkbank
Caverton Hillhead
Crailing

Mosstower
Heiton

District 2- Morebottle

Jenny Flannigan (01573 440234)

Main Street
Renwick Gardens

District 3 – Morebottle

Margaret Lister (01573 440344)

Teapot Bank
Thimble Lane
Teapot Street

Heughhead
Old School Gardens
Bottom of Mainsfield Avenue

District 4 – Morebattle
George Lees (01573 440206)

Top Mainsfield Avenue
Morebattle Mains
Shielstockbraes
Whitton

District 5 – Linton +
Linda Fleming (01573 440396)

Linton Church Road
Linton Mill
Linton Burnfoot
Grubbit
Corbet Tower
Gateshaw
Morebattle Tofts

District 6 – Kale Valley
Jacky Fleming (01573 440396)

Hownam Grange
Hownam Mains
Hownam Howgate
Bughtrig
Gateshaw
Heavyside
Hownam
Over Whitton
The Yett
Mainside
Upper Chatto
Chatto
Swanlaws

Philogar
Towford
Bierhope

District 7 – Bowmont Valley
Trish Gentry (01573 420580)

Belford on Bowmont
Blakedean/Attonburn
Clifton on Bowmont
Kelsocleuch
Sourhope
Woodside
Primside Mill
Cliftoncote
Mowhaugh
Calroust
Swindon
Primside
Crookedshaws

District 8 – Yetholm
John Thompson (01573 420577)

Woodbank Road
Braeside Road
Cheviot Place

District 9 – Yetholm
Margaret Gibson (01573 420446)

Grafton Bank
Grafton Road
Dow Brae
Main Street/The Crescent
Old Manse to Post Office

District 10 – Yetholm
Netta Harvey (01890 850227)

Morebattle Road
Main Street to White Swan

District 11 – Yetholm

Moira Keddie (01573 420411)

Deanfield Place
Deanfield Court
Deanfield Road
Deanfield Bank
Back Lane
Dairy Wood

**District 12 – Yetholm
Diane Gittus (01573 420524)**

Yew Tree Road
Yew Tree Lane
Yew Tree Bank
Yew Tree to Romany
Hayhope
Duncanhaugh

**District 13 – Yetholm
Tom Tokely (01573 420616)**

Main Street to Butchers Shop
Venchen
Mindrum
Howtel
Downam
Wideopen

**District 14 – Kirk Yetholm
Carol Butler (01573 420356)**

Village of Kirk Yetholm
Halterburn

District 15 – Kirk Yetholm

The Yett
Shotton
Yetholm Mains
Harelaw

**District 16 – Yetholm to Hoselaw
Graeme Watson (01573 420602)**

Cherrytrees
Old Graden
Graden
Hoselaw
Hoselaw Mains
Lochtower
Fourmartdean Steading
Lochside

**District 17 – Mainhouse to Linton Bank-
head
Simon Oldham (01573 440770)**

Mainhouse
Kersknowe
Frogden
Linton Bankhead
Caverton Mains
Old Caverton
Greenlees
Blakelaw
Moorhouse

**District 18 – Linton
Margaret McTavish (01573 440514)**

Linton Farm

**District 19 – Linton and Kelso
Chris Cameron (01573 224218)**

Linton Downs
Hillhouse
Crook Road
Kelso

District 20 – Kelso

**Jimmy Fleming (01573
(01573 420612)
224278)**

Kelso

Kelso

**District 21 –
Kelso
Romie Scott –**

Retreat Day

Saturday 3rd. September saw a group of us travelling to Holy Island for our church Annual Retreat. The original date for this had been changed due to many people having to drop out for various reasons and this amended date also suffered from similar problems. Nevertheless, those of us fortunate enough to be able to attend would not have missed this day for any reason.

A day on Holy Island, using St. Cuthbert's Conference Centre as our base, provides a space for peace, prayer, reflective worship and sharing. The structure of the day allows freedom to walk, by oneself or in company, to wander around the centre of Holy Island, to sit in the carefully tended garden there or to spend time in the ruins of the Abbey or in St. Mary's Church, with its wonderful representation of monks carrying the body of St. Cuthbert to safety. We always end the day with Communion in the Conference Centre, drawing us all together in this final act of worship.

Many of us have very busy lives and this Retreat Day provides an opportunity to 'pause' and take time to consider what our 'busyness' consists of. I believe we could all benefit from that time set aside just for us.

Yetholm Film Nights

Our new season starts again on Saturday 8th. October with the showing of 'Made in Dagenham'. Our planned Programme contains a variety of films which we believe will appeal to most people. As requested, we have again included one classic film,

Casablanca'. In our last season our classic film 'Some like it Hot'drew our biggest box office attendance.

Information posters are on the notice boards in Yetholm and surrounding areas and Programme leaflets are available in the shop and Post Office. Please pick one up and come and join us at the cinema in the Wauchope Hall.'

Walk For Truce



A Relative of Arthur Bates, Kirk Yetholm is walking from Athens to London to highlight a UN resolution seeking a truce of all engagements through the Olympiad. - In October 2011 all 193 member states of the United Nations General Assembly will gather in New York to sign a Resolution declaring their commitment to observe to "*pursue initiatives for peace and reconciliation in the spirit of the Ancient Games*"—in the past everyone has signed it but no one has ever implemented it. **We think that is a missed opportunity. We want to see the Resolution brought into reality.** I have decided to walk over 3000 miles in the hope that we can persuade **all signatories** to the Truce to

do just **one** thing to implement it. Not only would this bring the flame of hope into conflict zones around the world it would mean that we would rediscover the central purpose of the Ancient Games which was to provide for a pause in the endless cycle of violence through the observance of the Sacred Truce. If they could do it 3000 years ago, then surely we can do it now. If you agree then please support Lord Michael Bates online at <http://www.walkfortrue.org/> (He is pictured in Slovenia)

The Rustads Reflect on a Dinner with the Archbishop

One morning in early June, as Michael and I were contemplating our priorities for the day on our farm in Norway, the phone rang.

"Michael, I've a letter from the Archbishop of York waiting for you here! Shall I open it?" It was the breathless, excited voice of his office manager in Newcastle, and if Michael had refused her request she'd probably have expired of curiosity. A few seconds later she announced: "He's inviting you to dinner! On September 10th!"

If she found this somewhat unbelievable, that was nothing to our reaction - it was bizarre to imagine being at the Archbishop's table in York when our immediate concerns were with runaway horses and loose boat moorings - and whilst the Church of Norway does have bishops, it doesn't go in for archbishops.... A few days later the invitation with its red and gold lettering arrived in our mailbox and we learnt a little more about this interesting happening: it was to be a charity dinner and presentation concerning the Eden Network. But how had Michael been included on the list of guests? Maybe it was connected with his business on Tyneside? Or was it to do with him being a trustee of a Newcastle-based charity? Time went by, and as the deadline approached he decided to accept, but only if I were to accompany him. He rang the Archbishop's office and explained that, as he was disabled, he'd

appreciate bringing his wife along to help him. No problem! So we planned an early-ish return from Norway, and booked accommodation in York - a good excuse for a long weekend in a lovely city. Everything went according to plan (remarkable in itself when the Rustads are on the move) and we arrived at Bishopthorpe punctually (yes!) at 6 pm on a warm, windy evening - so windy that drinks on the river terrace had to be replaced by drinks in the portico and vestibule, with a keyboard and sax duo swinging their socks off. The little we knew about the Eden Network had prepared us for the fact that we might know some of the key people involved, and this proved to be true; we had mutual friends reaching back many years to leafy Cheshire suburbs.

Our meeting with Dr. John Sentamu took place in the sitting-room, where he welcomed us with warmth and a story from his youth:

"I don't tell you this for you to be sorry for my tough childhood, but to show you that when you help a young person you are shaping the future," he said. As John was the oldest of 13 children his father could not afford to pay for his secondary education (university education would be free...), and he was obliged to walk 12 miles each way to school after securing a place paid for by the Anglican Church. A teacher noticed his dishevelled and exhausted appearance and drove him home one day in order to check that it really was true - he had indeed walked 12 miles. The next day there was a second-hand bicycle waiting for him.

Dinner was held in the Great Hall and the fifty guests were seated according to where they came from, on tables of ten. We were flanked by former Archbishops of York gazing down from the walls: portraits of elderly, stern-faced, grey-haired men in black cassocks and white surplices... and then the latest portrait, vibrant in red and gold vestments, a black man smiling from the canvas!

And what of the Eden Network? 'We gather teams of people to relocate their lives in tough urban communities, partnering with local expressions of church.' Their mission is to reach out to young people and their families whilst living within these places, committing to live for maybe 5 years in a no-go council estate, so that they understand problems and become trusted friends as they daily express the love of Christ. As 'The Message' version of the Bible puts it:

'The Word became flesh and blood and moved into the neighbourhood.'

(John 1, v.14)

We were moved and inspired by our evening at Bishopthorpe - it was not just the warmth and passion of the Archbishop, but also the vision and commitment of those who launched the Eden Network in Manchester and are now expanding in Hull, Bradford, Newcastle and Blyth with their dedicated teams of young people giving up glittering prospects to become Salt and Light where it's most needed. You can read more about the Eden Network on their website: www.eden-network.org and we hope that you will remember them when you pray.

(And of course, they need funds!)

Pray too for Dr. John Sentamu. He is not in good health, following appendicitis earlier this year which developed into peritonitis, and he has recently had corrective surgery to his shoulder, which it is hoped will restore more movement; this was a result of ill-treatment in a Ugandan jail in earlier times. But what a dude!! We will long remember our dinner with the Archbishop.

Celebrating 20 years

REV MCHAFFIE'S 20TH CELEBRATIONS

By David Ferguson

IT IS OFTEN said that Scots are reluctant to recognise achievement far less celebrate it, but while there may be something in



the Scottish psyche that strives to keep our kinfolk from 'getting above their station' there is also something inherently Scots in the well-worn phrase 'any excuse for a party'.

And so it was that we all congregated in the Morebattle Institute to recognise and raise a wee toast to the 20 years that Rev McHaffie, Robin to one and all, and his family have spent among the hardy flock of souls around Morebattle, Yetholm, Linton and Hownam.

Nearly 200 people covering several generations squeezed into

the hall, including past and current ministers, couples married by Rev McHaffie (including myself and Fiona who met just weeks before Robin started in the parish) and now grown-up children baptised by his hand.

Among the tributes paid there was even some comedy, provided by the Rev Dr Ian Clark, who reflected on Robin's time in the area with warm generosity and unique takes on his colleague's work that had all ages in the hall nodding in agreement and laughing heartily. One wondered if he has considered a run at the Apollo.

Rev McHaffie came to the Borders from Glasgow, having worked in Kinning Park – across which the M8 now runs – and the east end of Glasgow, around the old Glasgow Cross. He admitted wryly that there was something of a culture shift for him and his family when he arrived in this neck of the woods, but clearly it agreed with them and he was quick to state that this gathering was not a precursor to retirement.

Robin's wife Hazel was presented with a bouquet of flowers and

Rev McHaffie with framed pictures reflecting views and moods of the area – his and those of the countryside! And with the usual high quality food and drinks available, the congregation duly enjoyed toasting the McHaffies in typical party style.

Rev McHaffie said: “It doesn’t seem like 20 years, but then when I look around and see some of the children I baptised and couples I’ve married you realise it has just gone by very quickly. This was very generous and it’s very humbling to see so many people want to come and celebrate our last 20 years, and it would be nice to think we might do it again in 20 years’ time!”

Kalewater Community Council Matters

Cllr Dixon had received information from SBC Roads office Gary Haldane that as a result of recent monitoring, 168 vehicles/week travelled through Hownam with 85% of them travelling at a speed below the criteria which would justify a 30mph zone. Cllr Dixon noted that there were problems with vehicles at the corner at the W end of the village.

The section of road around Corbet Tower was being assessed for a warning sign in view of its use by St Cuthbert’s Way walkers.

An application to SBC’s Community Grant Scheme in support of the Morebattle Interpretation Board is now ready. Treasurer noted that £300 contribution from Vattenfall had been received into the General Account. Chair noted that neither planning permission nor a building warrant was required. Permission had been granted by the Village Institute to locate the board on institute ground. (Meeting was in Hownam Hall—June)

Divine Gifts

O God, you have given me my herds;

The meat which I eat, and the milk which I drink, are gifts from your hand.

All cattle belong to you,

and you entrust them to people as you think fit.

O God you have given me my fields and streams;

The bread which I eat, and the water which I drink, are gifts from your hand.

All land belongs to you,

and you entrust it to people as you think fit.

O God, you have given me my sons and daughters;

The boys whom I cherish, and the girls whom I love, are gifts from your hand.

All children belong to you,

and you entrust them to people as you think fit

From a

Zulu, South Africa

REFLECTION

A COINCIDENCE is when God performs a miracle, but decides to remain anonymous.

Morebattle & Hownam Guild

Institute 7.30pm

New members and visitors welcome

6th Oct Mrs Jean McDermid -

China Story

3rd Nov Rev Tom MacDonald -

Dr Graham's Homes, Kalimpong

2nd Dec Christmas Meal &

Social Evening in Templehall Hotel

Charities Fair

5th November

10.30-1.30

Yetholm Wauchope Hall.

Great variety of gift stalls

Refreshments

**An opportunity to buy Christmas
Cards and gifts while supporting
many charities**

Deaths

Ella Hooper

Jean Wight

George Fairley.

David Turnbull

Nan Stark

Mary Anderson

Michael Turner

Fay Little

Alastair (Sandy) McGilp

Baptisms

Edward Hamish Bruce
Cahill

Mary Elizabeth Tweedie

Adam James Moir

Benjamin Alexander Moir

Joseph Andrew Moir

Lily Beatrice Harriet Red-
path

Oscar Edward Harry Red-
path

Weddings

Kirsty Turnbull –Marcus
Smith

Rebecca Adams – Grant
Davidson

Morebattle Knitters & friends-

Raphael Centre, Grahamstown, South Africa.

I have sent off today another two parcels containing knitted blankets, jumpers hats and dolls to the above Centre who are delighted to receive our continued support from all of us back here in the Borders. Below is an extract from their last e.mail

"Dear Helen and her marvellous team of knitters! Thank you so much for the beautiful big parcel that has just arrived, what a joy to open. The winter woollies are exactly what is needed on this freezing cold Grahamstown day. They arrived just as I was putting together a parcel for Thandeka and Thandiwe, 12 year old twins who participate in our after school programme. I have added two beautiful striped woolly hats for them. I look forward to seeing their reactions.

We are very grateful for the larger stripy jumpers as South African children are usually quite a bit bigger than European children. We also prefer to give the children clothing they can grow into. It is specially nice that you send such a wide variety of sizes. Thank you.

The smaller knitted items have been parcelled and will be handed out at a Prevention of Mother to child Transmission outreach event later this month. This was done by Anna Loeffler, a German PhD student. The Raphael Centre is very honoured to have such a well respected academic choose our Centre as part of her research, Anna has promised to take photos of the Mums and babies with the woollies"

As the nights draw in I wonder if anyone else would care to knit for us. A simple jumper pattern is available, a great way to use up all these odd lengths of wool. Donations of baby clothes and children's under wear will also be gratefully received. Helen Cessford

The **YETHOLM VILLAGE CHOIR**

Growing out of a group put together by Margaret Rustad earlier this year specifically to share the bill on the night of this summer's Village Play, Yetholm now has a new regular musical activity, unambiguously named The Yetholm Village Choir.

The choir's first promotion will be an evening of Christmas words and music at 7.30 pm on Thursday December 22nd in the parish church. It is planned to be a non-stop seasonal entertainment, featuring speakers, some players from the Yetholm Sinfonia and of course the Yetholm Village Choir.

The group is, at least to start with, an all-female choir, though men may be incorporated at a later date. As the current conductor Geoffrey Emerson points out "it has been scientifically proven that singing does you good in many unexpected sorts of ways – mentally, physically, spiritually and socially".

"We're still recruiting singers" says Geoffrey "particularly sopranos. An ability to read music would obviously be helpful, but as long as your voice can blend with ours you'd be very welcome, so do remember, **Singing Is Good For You !**"

Please ring 420 279 for more information.

YETHOLM SINFONIA

The Yetholm Sinfonia is now in its sixth concert season and continues to flourish, entertaining it's audiences with a varied and unusual repertoire. The orchestra was formed in 2006 in order to bring the world's most inspiring music to this corner of the country, and to give local musicians plenty of opportunities to play it.

Geoffrey Emerson, the founder and conductor, who lives in

Yetholm, studied music in Manchester and London. He spent five years as principal horn of H. M. Scots Guards Regimental Band, before becoming Chief Brass Tuner for Boosey and Hawkes. In 1981 he co-founded a professional music festival in rural North Yorkshire, covering the full range of musical activity including opera, and ran it for 15 years. His appearances on stage at Covent Garden include sharing a bale of straw with Maria Callas and drinking tea (plus whisky) with Bing Crosby.

The Yetholm Sinfonia manages to exist on box office income and the support of its many Friends and Benefactors. What may not be obvious are the costs associated with running a venture such as this; the main cost being the hire of the music, which can often be £15 or more per minute. The musicians play for nothing more than an excellent tea, provided by the Yetholm Macmillan committee and although more than half are local, some travel from as far afield as Newcastle, Carlisle and Dundee. The orchestra always tries to encourage local talent, but inevitably some soloists have to be hired from elsewhere. A useful link has been established recently with the Royal Scottish Academy of Music in Glasgow, and some of the most notable solo vocalists of the past couple of years have been advanced or graduate RSAM students.

Unusually, the concert season runs as the calendar year, and in 2011 there are two main concerts left – in Kelso Old Parish Church on October 29th and in St Andrew's Episcopal Church on December 17th. The October Concert includes the Monkchester Dances by Wilfred Josephs. Monkchester was the old name for Newcastle, and the suite consists of witty and imaginative settings of well known Tyneside tunes. Also being played is Beethoven's genial 8th Symphony, and a charming Mozart flute solo.

In addition to it's own concerts, the orchestra will be playing for two performances of Handel's Messiah with the Roxburgh Singers on December 3rd and 4th in Hawick and Kelso.

Another date for the diary is Thursday 22nd December at 7.30 in Yetholm Parish Church, when Geoffrey Emerson will conduct the newly formed Yetholm Village Choir in an entertaining concert of seasonal words and music with The Yetholm Sinfonia Wind Players and Soloists Kate Fish and John Nichol.

DR

POSSILPARK

On 17 September we were visited by three remarkable, delightful and feisty ladies from our linked parish in Glasgow. Over coffee in Morebattle June and Karen told us of their adventurous trip to Mumbai and a tribal area in Gurjarat to learn at first-hand about the work of women's Self-Help Groups, of which there are now over two million in India. Women, often the victims of domestic abuse and discrimination, get together regularly, pay what they can into a fund, and receive help in setting up small-scale employment. More important, they support and encourage each other, and even sometimes go round together and face-down an abusive husband. The same techniques are now being tried in some of the more 'difficult' areas of Glasgow, including in one case a team of ladies prepared to go round and do ironing for a modest fee. Jean then told us about her work for 'Kinship Carers': usually Grandparents left to bring up grandchildren because of drug, alcohol, domestic break-up in the intervening generation. Kinship Carers get almost no state support, and usually have to pay for the caring out of their own pensions. Jean and others have now raised this to the level of a national campaign in Scotland, and she described with great gusto and Glaswegian humour how even the high-heidit yins in government are beginning to sit up and take notice.

All three ladies again shared their story with us at Yetholm and Morebattle kirks on the Sunday morning, and we sent them

back to their own church with our good wishes, and admiration for the creative and tenacious work they are doing!

Colin Johnston, Missionary Partner Tiberias

Colin will be with us in Yetholm Church from 10.30am on November the 7th to chat around his work in Israel and what the centre is doing. All Welcome

Morebattle Church Choir

Members of Morebattle choir met recently for an informal ceilidh. We enjoyed an evening of song, stories and reminiscing. Some of us are recent members and others have had associations with the choir for many years. Those whose memories are long have provided many of the details and dates and although I go back quite a few years there are those whose connections with the choir are much longer than my own. Much of the following comes from them.

Some of you reading this will remember the days before our Kirk - St Lawrence joined together with St Aidan's, the United Free Church down the hill (now a garage). There is no memory of a choir in St Lawrence's but St Aidan's had a four-part choir as far back as the late 1930s/early 1940s and some members used tonic solfa notation. Miss Jean Young was the organist and choir mistress. She had played the organ there since the late 1920s and herself was taught by a Mr Kidd in Kelso Old Parish Church. She taught her nieces Jean, Nettie and Rita among many others to play the piano. St Aidan's had a reed organ that required its bellows to be pumped. This had been a job undertaken by many local youngsters over the years. Around the beginning of the 1950s the decision was made to convert it to electric power. St Lawrence's on the other hand used a harmonium, which was operated with foot pedalling. Mary Wylie played the harmonium in St Lawrence's along with Mrs Harkness, wife of The Reverend John Harkness who was the parish minister.

The two churches were united as part of the National Union of the Church of Scotland and the United Free Church of Scotland in 1929. With each denomination often holding two churches in a single village it remained to establish appropriate local arrangements. In Morebattle this was achieved by holding services in each church. In 1952 the union was completed and Rita aged 15, played for the service of union. Services continued to be held in both buildings. By now Rita was the organist in St Lawrence with Miss Young (Auntie Jean) in charge of the choir. A few years later Rita left to attend Moray House and Nettie took over organ duties and the choir in 1955. Rita again took the helm after returning to the village, Nettie having married and moved to Linton. Eventually the St Aidan's heating pipes ceased to function at which point the building was finally closed and weekly services came to the present building of St Lawrence with Rita playing for the services. It is not clear exactly when a choir began in St Lawrence's. It may be that this happened when the St Aidan's building ceased to be used. Memories differ with regard to the position of the harmonium in the church. It is remembered as both facing the wall in front of the pulpit and also facing the pulpit itself. At some point after 1959 the organ from St Aidan's down the hill was brought up to replace the harmonium. The choirls sat in the front pews below the pulpit. Numbers were high with nearly all the village girls being choir members. When singing they stood up, turned round and faced the congregation.

On Mr Harkness' retiral The Reverend Kenneth MacFadden, minister of Yetholm and Hownam took on the additional charge of Morebattle and remained until his retiral in the late 1960s. The Reverend Joseph Brown who came to the parish in July 1967 followed him. He remembers one conversation with Auntie Jean in which she said, "Mr Brown, will you tell these girls in the choir to behave themselves". It was not clear just what misdemeanours had occurred but such was Auntie Jean's reputation and influence that he "gave them a wee word"! When Auntie Jean began to be troubled with tinnitus Rita took over the running of the choir. Practices took place in houses but as choir

numbers increased these practices were moved to the church building. Again the date is unclear but at some point the organ was moved and was placed up in the chancel behind the pulpit with the choir being seated opposite, where the organ now is.

Choir numbers began to decrease with the older girls going to college and university, leaving only a few young girls. In 1971 Margaret Lees and Rita thought that it would be a good idea to have some ladies join to swell the numbers and it was then that among others Margaret herself, Minnie Lees, Jenny Flannigan and Eileen Woodward became choir members. During Queen Elizabeth's Silver Jubilee in 1977 Margaret Currie was asked to come and help the choir to prepare something extra special for the Jubilee celebrations. She seemed to enjoy taking part and Rita approached her to ask if she would like to take on the role of choir leader, which she accepted. In 1983 the current organ was acquired and put in its present position up in the chancel and the choir moved down the steps to where we still are.

Many of us have memories of the choir under Miss Currie's leadership. Eileen remembers the time when Margaret called her a 'broken reed'! Eileen says that she doesn't remember what she had done but that she was probably late for practice or not paying attention! We recall that Margaret marked attendance at practices and we were all very careful to let her know if we wouldn't be able to make either a Sunday service or a Thursday night practice, **and why**. Miss Currie sat right in the back corner seat under the praise board. I sat in front of her and got the occasional fright when she suddenly began to thump out the beat on the pew behind me when she thought we were not up to scratch.

During the 1980s as well as our normal participation in Sunday worship we were taken out and about to various venues across the Borders to entertain and Margaret Currie would often sing the well known Scottish song The Four Marys.

It was during the early 1990s that Margaret became increasingly unwell and I was asked to help out with the choir. For quite a

long time I would consult weekly with Margaret to discuss hymns and anthems and I remember with fondness these times during which I got to know Margaret much better and learned much from her. She was generous in her friendship and shared her musical knowledge freely.

And so I have been leading the choir now for some years. We have welcomed new members to the choir and have sadly had to say goodbye to some dear friends. We continue to meet on a weekly basis to prepare for Sunday worship. We have contributed to many other events in addition over the years, some like the annual Guild Christmas service are regular favourites and others occur more infrequently. We have entertained at Guilds, WRIs and even hosted our own concert some year's back. We now use the new Church Hymnbook and try to introduce more unfamiliar pieces from it to the congregation, as well as continuing to use some wonderful material from books no longer in regular church use including the Scottish Psalter. We regularly sing material from other sources and have gradually built up a small library of choir music. Why do we do it? The answer to that would be different for different folk but I think might include reasons such as we love to sing, we enjoy each other's company and the camaraderie of the choir and we hope that we help to lead worship and contribute to the life of the church. I feel privileged to have been asked to be part of this group of people who give generously of their time and talents. My thanks to them for their dedication.

With thanks to the Rita and the choir, Joe Brown, Nettie and Jean Fleming.

Debbie Brown June 2011

HOUNAM 2011

How does this part of our Parish cope in 2011? Sadly it has undergone more changes than any other part. Search for an original inhabitant in the village and our struggles begin! All is not lost as we find Margaret Jeffrey who ran the Hounam Post Office for forty four years and still lives in the village. She has seen so

many changes. She remembers the days when Hounam had its own resident Minister who lived in the Manse. The kirk would be full on a Sunday with young and old in attendance. Now there is a handful of worshippers at the monthly service although the church is still used for the occasional evening Communion and the popular Christmas Eve service. Funerals still take place and the Kirkyard is the burial place for the Lochside Oliver family.

There have been many changes to farm life with fewer and fewer workers employed on the land. The Post Office closed some years ago and local shopping is restricted to a Butchers Van and a Fish Van. The nearest surgery is in Kelso--- a far cry from the days when the Kale Valley was on a weekly run from a local doctor. The school closed in 1943 even before Margaret Jeffrey was of an age to go to it! On a brighter note the former school is now the Village Hall and is well used by bowlers, the Rural and for whist drives, coffee mornings and the odd party. There is still a good community life. Then there are examples of modern life---the Shooters at Greenhill, Land Rover Testing between the Kale and Bowmont Valleys and possibly waiting in the wings a Wind Farm at Whitton Loch.

There we are ---the old days loved by so many have gone for ever but the beauty of the valley remains and will be enjoyed by those who choose to live in it

A.J.T. with thanks to Margaret Jeffrey.

Normal Services

Linton 1st Sunday of the Month at 11.15am

Hownam 4th Sunday of the month at 12.30pm

Morebattle Meets with Linton Kirk at Linton on the 1st Sunday of the month and at 11.15am all others.

Yetholm Every Sunday at 10.00

Mid week Service every Tuesday -Linton at 6.30pm

Diary

16 th October	Guild Sunday	Yetholm 10am
21 st October	Berwick Male Voice Choir	Yetholm Church 7.30pm
23 rd October	Harvest Communion	Morebattle 11.15 only
23 rd October	Evening Communion	Hownam 6.30pm
30 th October	Harvest All Age Service	Yetholm 11am only
	Harvest Lunch	Yetholm
7 th November	Colin Johnstone	Yetholm Church 10.30am
13 th November	Remembrance Sunday	Yetholm Memorial 9.45am
		Yetholm Service 10am
		Morebattle Memorial 11am
		Morebattle Service 11.15am
		Hownam Memorial 11.30am
		Linton Memorial 12.15pm
21 st November	Session Meeting	Upper Room
27 th November	Evening Communion	Morebattle
18 th December	Carol Service	Yetholm, Morebattle
	Quiet Service	Morebattle 6.30pm
23 rd December	Christingle Service	Yetholm, 3pm
Christmas Eve	Family Service	Hownam , 7.00pm
	Watchnight Communion	Linton, 11.30pm
Christmas Day	25 th December	Morebattle, 11.15am

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Material for Winter Edition mid November please

www.cheviotchurches.org for updates and features

This is the last edition under the editorship of Alastair Turnbull and we would wish to thank him for his time and commitment thee last years