

**The Magazine for the Parish of Cheviot Churches:
Church of Scotland**

CHEVIOT



Autumn 2020



Prayer Corner



Autumn Prayers

We bless you,
God of Seed and Harvest
And we bless each other in
That the beauty of this world
And the love that created it
Might be expressed though our lives
And be a blessing to others
Now and always.
In the fading of the summer sun,
the shortening of days, cooling breeze,
swallows' flight and moonlight rays

WE SEE THE CREATOR'S HAND

In the browning of leaves once green,
morning mists, autumn chill,
fruit that falls frost's first kiss

WE SEE THE CREATOR'S HAND

We see signs of summer's passing in golden leaves,
shortening days, misty mornings, Autumn glow.
We sense its passing in rain that dampens,
winds that chill, Harvest's bounty placed on show.
Creator God, who brings forth
both green shoot and hoar frost,
sunrise and sunset,
we bring our thanks
for seeds that have grown,
harvests gathered,
storehouses filled, mouths fed.
And, as your good earth rests
through winter's cold embrace,
we look forward to its re-awakening
when kissed by Spring's first touch.

For Summer's passing and harvest home.

**WE GIVE YOU THANKS O LORD,
AMEN.**

Poppy Collection 2020

There will be no house to house Poppy Collections in Yetholm and Morebattle Districts this year, however tins will be in shops and pubs, anyone wishing to donate direct to Poppy Scotland please contact Poppy Scotland New Haig House Logie Green Road. There will also be a retiring collection in both Churches on Remembrance Sunday. Edinburgh EH74HQ Tel. 0131 557 2782 or 0131 550 1579.



Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

A few months ago, it seemed as if every week or two there was a further easing of our lockdown restrictions, and we were all really quite hopeful that things were getting back to some kind of normality. How wrong we were! Since then, several parts of the country have had restrictions re-imposed, and the stark reality is that the virus is still very much with us and likely to be so for a while yet, and we must continue to exercise caution. Words like 'quarantine' have re-entered into our everyday vocabulary, as many of our hopes for an autumn break abroad have grown far less likely.

Having said that, there have been developments. Schools have started again to the delight (??) of both student and parent. We have also been introduced to the concept of 'eating out to help out', and many of us will have taken advantage of that scheme. Churches have also been given the green light to re-open, and now both Yetholm and Morebattle kirks are open for services (we will work on opening Hownam and Linton in due course), though very different from the services we are used to. Numbers are limited through social distancing, and services are shorter. Many of us miss being able to sing, but at least we can listen to the organ play. There has been, needless to say, a degree of stress attached to reopening, and I would very much like to thank everyone for their hard work in making the reopening possible. We can only imagine that there will not be much change in the foreseeable future. Harvest and Remembrance Sunday will go ahead, but again 'not as we know it'.

Driving around the parish, I am being taught patience by finding myself behind tractors, but it has been wonderful to see the crops in the fields and the combine harvesters in action. September has been designated as 'Creation Time' by the churches in Britain, a time to focus on the environment and how we treat the earth. I am sure, like me, you have been horrified by pictures of the damage day-trippers and campers have done by littering and soiling the countryside. As we celebrate Harvest and give thanks for the fruits of the earth, so we are called to look after our planet.

*Look after the earth gently,
Look after the earth gently,
For if the earth is spoiled,
It cannot be repaired.*

Look after the earth gently. (Yoruba poem from Nigeria)

The various activities in our communities like coffee mornings or choirs have not been able to take place yet, and we miss the fellowship of these

occasions, which help to maintain our sense of community. We have valued, however, what has taken place, and I am not alone in thanking Simon and Bridget Fraser for opening their Walled Garden at Corbet Tower, so we could delight in the displays of sweet peas. A sum of £500 was raised for Cheviot Churches – much appreciated!

Who knows what the next few months might bring? Covid-19 is still with us, but we will still appreciate the changing colours of the trees and the crispness in the air which autumn brings. But we will go forward ever in hope and expectation, always ready to support one another.

Peace and Blessings
Colin

All-Age Prayer

ECOLOGY is the science of understanding the interactions between all living things.

It is also:

E for the Environment, which deserves our care and protection,

C for the Continents, diverse and special,

O for the Oceans, rich in the spectacular, and full of mystery,

L for Love, that is the energy in the midst of all that is good,

O for Order, instead of chaos,

G for God who must be praised for making it all, and

Y for You, (and me), for whom all this is given,

and whose help God asks for, in order that the world's ECOLOGY stays right, and all living things share well the creation God has given.

Amen

The Dandelion

Like a dandelion, my faith grows and flourishes in the cracks and crevices of life, taking root in the most unlikely places.

My faith is firm and full of life, sunny, just as the flower of the dandelion is full of life and bright yellow.

But then, just as everything is comfortable and serene, something happens. It is as though the world is fragile, just like the clock of the dandelion, fragile and so delicate that the slightest movement will send the pieces flying away.

My faith from being securely rooted is disturbed. I find it hard to see God's hand at work. I cry out, but I become stripped of all I am, bereft, just as the stalk of the dandelion, stripped of its head. I forget that the stalk is still rooted in the ground.

It is then, when I am nothing, that God comes and fills me, touching me with love and compassion, strength and life. It is then I realise that the seeds that blew away have in fact rooted themselves deep within me, and the faith that I thought had gone, has become stronger because of the experience of being emptied and filled anew.

I don't like the times when I feel so insecure, yet I know that through these times I am being brought back to God in a deeper relationship that helps me to grow. I need the barren times, in order to appreciate the harvest; otherwise I take God for granted. I thank God for the dandelions in my life that help me to see God more clearly.

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Harvest/ Remembrance

Harvest Thanksgiving will be celebrated on **Sunday 27th September** at Yetholm at 10am and at Morebattle at 11.15. We are invited to bring groceries (tinned goods, dried goods like pasta and rice) for the Kelso Food Bank either at the services or on the previous Wednesday morning (10-12) at Yetholm.

Remembrance Sunday will be on the **8th November**, and there will be a retiring collection for the Earl Haig Fund after the church services at Morebattle and Yetholm. Times are:

09.45 – Yetholm Memorial

10.00 – Yetholm Kirk

10.50 – Morebattle Memorial

11.15 – Morebattle Kirk

12.00 – Linton Memorial

With the continued closure of Hownam Kirk due to Covid - 19 restrictions (and the memorial being situated in the church), names of the Hownam fallen will be read out at Morebattle with a separate wreath laid.

Any changes to this schedule will be intimated through notices in our communities. Please note that numbers in the churches are limited to 38 at Yetholm and 26 in Morebattle.

Kelso Food Bank

The Kelso Food Bank is looking for volunteers to help with the distribution of food parcels. During the lockdown period, a number of people who were furloughed had offered to help, but many of them are now back at work, so more volunteers are needed. Volunteers should not belong to one of the vulnerable groups and should be able to give time during daytime hours once a month or so. Anyone interested should contact Colin for more information.

Membership of the Church

If anyone is interested in exploring what it means to become a member of the Church, please contact Colin. Also if anyone is an adherent or is a member of another denomination and wishes to be associated with Cheviot Churches more closely, again contact Colin at revcdj60@gmail.com or 01573 440 539.

BIRDBATH'S GUILTY SIBLINGS

Possibly due to generations of Calvinist ancestors, Rev. Birdbath admits to a pang of guilt as his weekly indulgence approaches: a KitKat (preferably Dark Choc.) after lunch on a Sunday. Despite the wording of some older hymns, and a popular misconception that all Christians are kill-joys anyway, 'guilt' is not something the Bible encourages. Yes, we all share in humanity's collective guilt for many awful things (wars, hunger, refugees drowning at sea to name but a few) and we all have our own little guilty meanness's and nastiness's, but a weekly KitKat is not one of them. Birdbath is therefore distressed when he sees deep guilt written all over the faces of a pair of teenage brothers who inch their way towards his peanut-feeder, checking guiltily over their shoulders that he is not at his window (actually he is hiding behind the curtain), guiltily pretending they are not going anywhere, nonchalantly chatting while their intelligent shifty eyes watch for trouble. Then another little guilty hop, the quick dash to snatch a peanut or two, and Away, cackling triumphantly.

Surely, they cannot have had a Calvinist upbringing in their rowdy chaotic Jackdaw nest? If they only knew, it is why Birdbath bothers to put out peanuts for all God's birds. The little garden birds, who love peanuts, think the Jackdaw siblings are really being rather silly. Birdbath will continue to enjoy his 'guilty' KitKat on Sundays.

Update from Morebattle Community Shop – September 2020

Firstly, we are pleased to welcome Pauline Macgillivray and Roddy Murray working as a job share as our new managers. They have been in post since the beginning of August and have already had a positive impact.

As we emerge from some of the restrictions of the COVID-19 lockdown, we have once again changed our opening hours - these are now 8.00am-5.30pm Monday - Saturday and 8.30am - 2.00pm on Sunday. The Post Office is in the shop on a Monday and Thursday morning 9.00am - 11.30am. The same as elsewhere, we all have to wear facemasks in the shop, but we have also increased the number of customers allowed in the shop to 3 at any one time.

We also want to sincerely thank all our volunteers, both those who have been with us throughout the lockdown period and those who have recently returned, without whom the shop wouldn't be open. If anyone is interested in volunteering in the shop come in and have a chat with Pauline or Roddy.

Also, a big thank you to our garden volunteers, for the planting, grass cutting, storage and painting of garden furniture. Our garden is open for those who would like to have a shop bought coffee, juice, ice cream or a snack outside. It is easy to social distance at one of our three tables.

Pop in and see us, have a look at our Facebook page for regular updates, or if you would like to ask us anything by email info@morebattlecommunityshop.co.uk.

Take care folks.

Moving to high school after months of lockdown

Going to high school is never easy, even with transition days, meeting teachers, knowing where to go and even getting to have a tour and other activities that you would normally participate in on your transition days. Sadly, this year all across the world children who are moving up a step in life had quite a remarkable experience that has never ever happened to any other generation before. Which meant it was a bit hectic. For everyone...

It all started when I got the email from the high school. Of course, it had already started before this by talking on Teams (business and school communication platform) and Outlook (school emailing platform). But this was when it really started. The email I mentioned at the start went to mum and dad's email address, this told us mainly what house I was in, and simple information such as the school hours as well as that there would be further information coming out nearer the start on the school year which was the eleventh of August. Also, the high school's pastoral teacher for my house had meetings with the house that I was in. These were held on Teams. They included the information that I needed to know: how to order my lunch, which stairs to use, the procedure for Covid rules (at least as much as they knew at this point anyway) etc. This made things a bit easier to understand but not extremely easier. After this I had to continue with primary school work until the summer holidays in which dad and mum ordered my school uniform. I went with dad to collect this at Uniformz in Berwick. When I went to collect this with dad there were Covid - 19 measures in place. In the summer holidays not, much could be done due to the Covid - 19 outbreak, though we did get to enjoy a lot of sunny weather. Plus, at the same time I also got my iPad which dad set up. This came from a council worker which came in a van! When it was a week before I started high school. I was making sure everything was ready and all organised.

At this point we started getting more emails just like during the summer holidays, about where I was to enter on the first day and information about my bus pass.

My bus pass arrived in the post.

The night before school started, I went through everything to make sure it was all ready and that night I lay in bed thinking about the next day... worrying.... panicking.... being excited...glad to be able to see my friends again.... happyish.

I went to sleep that night, and, in the morning, I got ready for school. I had that first day photo before school in the morning with my siblings. Then

took the first step out of the house with my bag and coat on. I walked across the village green and waited at the bus stop.

I was really worried but then I met loads of people I knew, and they were greeting me. I was so happy now but still had that aspect of nervousness and worry.

And when I walked off the bus that night, I felt a flush of relief as I had made it through the first day.

4 weeks later...

I have settled in much more and have become used to the way of life at the high school. However, there are still changes to get used to and I still have those little moments of nervousness.

This is just my story,

There will be many more, thousands, maybe millions. But we have all made it and the virus is not over. It has not finished. We must stick to rules, keep those in high risk categories safe as well as ourselves and others.

Keep your hopes up, keep setting goals. Stick together.

Stay safe

And together we can beat Covid - 19

I would like to say a big thank you to Susan Stewart and anybody else from the Cheviot magazine that chose me to write this article.

By Caitlin Butler

S1 student Kelso High School

Age: 12

Lockdown Thoughts

This ought to be the busiest time of my year. Under normal circumstances I would have been in Edinburgh for three weeks, interviewing authors at the International Book Festival, and then away to Wigtown for their book festival. As it is, I seem to have mislaid a month or two. On one hand, I really miss the buzz and chaos and fizz of it all – I would usually interview twenty authors in Edinburgh and thirty in Wigtown, and would hear about or be told about books I didn't know – on the other, there has been a certain loveliness about just being quiet for a while. I made me realise I'm always torn between being a hermit and a dandy.

But I did do some work for the festivals, and it was a passing strange experience. For Edinburgh I did one Zoom meeting, which would have

been impossible otherwise: a German author and his Los Angeles based translator. The book was Daniel Kehlmann's *Tyll*, translated by Ross Benjamin, who has done an admirable job given the amount of wordplay and punning in the story of a clown and rogue who reveals hypocrisies. Then I went to Edinburgh to record two sessions, one with Maggie O'Farrell about her novel, *Hamnet*—ironically—about plague, Shakespeare and the death of his son, which has just won the Woman's Prize for Fiction, and another with Michel Faber for his new novel *D*, a brilliant mash-up of Dickens, Alice in Wonderland, Brexit and the importance of being different. Faber's previous novel, *The Book of Strange New Things*, is perhaps the most serious work about religion I've read in a long while. It was a delight to speak with both of them face to face and find out about the hows, whys and what nexts of their work. Maggie, for example, revealed that she couldn't start her novel until her son was older than Shakespeare's son, out of "superstition which I don't believe in", and Michel said he'd actually started the novel over twenty years ago. But.

But. I don't mind if this seems cowardly, but I really did not like being in Edinburgh. The staff were wonderful, but social distancing doesn't mean coming up to mike me up. I have put enough of them on in my time. The streets were busier than I anticipated, with groups of youths trying and more often than not failing to get into pubs and clubs. I normally feel quite blasé about being in town, and yet I felt jittery and jangled. On the way back home, I tried to think through my emotions about it all.

The first thing is, I decided, that fear is not only natural, but good. We are all programmed with a standard set of options: fight or flight. I prefer flight. If one is fearful, one is also careful. I don't like wearing masks or washing my hands four times a day, but the alternative is rather worse. God tells us not to be afraid, and that is true. But not being reckless is also a virtue. I thought again about how Jesus is very cautious at the beginning of his ministry, telling the apostles not to speak of these things, and how he becomes bolder as the narrative unfolds. Let us be, at this time, full of care as well as careful.

Stuart Kelly.

From In Memoriam AHH by Tennyson

Strong Son of God, immortal Love,
Whom we, that have not seen thy face,
By faith, and faith alone, embrace,
Believing where we cannot prove;

Thine are these orbs of light and shade;
Thou madest Life in man and brute;
Thou madest Death; and lo, thy foot
Is on the skull which thou hast made.

Thou wilt not leave us in the dust:
Thou madest man, he knows not why,
He thinks he was not made to die;
And thou hast made him: thou art just.

Thou seemest human and divine,
The highest, holiest manhood, thou.
Our wills are ours; we know not how;
Our wills are ours, to make them thine.

Our little systems have their day;
They have their day and cease to be:
They are but broken lights of thee,
And thou, O Lord, art more than they.

We have but faith: we cannot know;
For knowledge is of things we see
And yet we trust it comes from thee,
A beam in darkness: let it grow.

Let knowledge grow from more to more,
But more of reverence in us dwell;
That mind and soul, according well,
May make one music as before,

But vaster. We are fools and slight;
We mock thee when we do not fear:
But help thy foolish ones to bear;
Help thy vain worlds to bear thy light.

Forgive what seem'd my sin in me;
What seem'd my worth since I began;
For merit lives from man to man,
And not from man, O Lord, to thee.

Christian Aid Update

Transform is the news magazine published by the Scottish Bible Society and this summer I received only one copy of an extra edition telling of their work during the Coronavirus pandemic. Much of the work has gone online but they are still able to distribute Bibles and literature in many places. There are stories from Egypt, Costa Rica, Syria and Moldova. Also, in the Gulf states there are many migrant workers who make up half the population, are from many countries from poor backgrounds and live and work in horrific conditions and many are Christians. Teluga is a language spoken by around 1.5 million Indian workers and for them the Bible Society has produced a booklet in written, PDF on WhatsApp and in audio form (as many are illiterate). It is called God's Karuna. Karuna means mercy in Teluga. 2 Timothy 2:9 reminds us that "the word of God is not chained". Mercy indeed.

Crossreach has sent out the order forms for Christmas cards and calendars and virtual gifts. Many of us has purchased their attractive calendars in previous years and you can still do so through shop.crossreach.org.uk.

Christian Aid has issued two appeals. One is a general Autumn appeal and the other for the crisis in Lebanon following the dreadful explosion there. Christian Aid has partners in Beirut who were quickly able to give emergency assistance and give continuing support to people. Our partners don't have to wait for outside aid to arrive as they are there in place and know what is most needed and often have emergency stores and have money released for local purchasing.

The UN Climate Change Conference (hereafter called CoP26) due to take place in Glasgow in November is now planned for November 2021. The Church of Scotland through the climate change officer Adrian Shaw has issued an explanatory briefing which gives suggestions of how we might become involved as congregations and individuals with connecting websites. Adrian was the speaker on one of the **Eco-congregation** zoom meetings I attended and was to visit Yetholm Guild. I hope to get this briefing circulated at some point but meanwhile will be happy to supply a

copy. Throughout the Summer Zoom meetings/talks/workshops on various environmental topics have proved most interesting and informative. These are topics that will not go away.

Wauchope Hall Yetholm.

The Hall Committee met recently by Zoom and agreement was made to reopen for limited groups. Ballet classes will resume in the coming weeks along with Bowling and Badminton. The History Society will meet in the Wauchope Hall for the remainder of this year with a limited programme – details below

Tuesday October 6th 2020 - Dinah Iredale on 'The Bondagers-Farmworkers of Northumberland and South East Scotland'.

Tuesday November 3rd - Piers Dixon on the 'Dormount Hope' (Hownam) deer trap & hunting forests in medieval Scotland.

Tuesday December 1st - David Welsh on the Anglo-Scottish Border Line.

Covid restrictions mean that there will be a limited number of seats available in the Wauchope Hall and that attendees will have to wear a face-mask. Because of this, places will have to be booked - **if you would like to hear the first of these talks by Dinah Iredale please could you let us know, either by email (click [HERE](#)) or by telephoning Elizabeth Watson on (01573) 420 602.** Places will be given on a first-come-first-served basis.

It is a great pity that we can't make use of our own building as work on transforming it into Yetholm's Heritage Centre has been making steady progress. We have installed a new display cabinet, with two new fire-proof archive cabinets in situ on the stage.

We are also in the process of organising **two events:**

- An exhibition called 'Life in Our Valleys 1920s-1960s' which will take place in the Mission Hall - dates and times to be announced.
- A geological walk and talk by Ian Kille in the local area, again details will be shared with you shortly.

Schools Update

Bubbles, Bubbles, Everywhere!

Today (Friday 11th September) marks exactly a month since pupils and staff returned to school life after lockdown and the summer holidays. What a quick month it has been!

The biggest change to school when I asked the pupils was the notion of bubbles. We are having to operate in bubbles at the advice of Scottish Borders Council to help reduce any risk of cross-contamination as well as minimise the impact on classes and our schools should the worst happen and any of our staff or pupils end up testing positive. It is a real shame that some friends cannot play together the same way as normal but hopefully by being safe and sensible now means we can get back to how we like things all the sooner.

In their class bubbles children have all started to focus on their new topics and focus of learning.

Morebattle Primary

Primary 1/2s are learning all about themselves (bodies, senses, similarities and differences) and have created a super display so far of life-size versions of themselves next to their baby photos.



In Primary 3/4/5 we are exploring two different areas- a more scientific look at bodies and body systems; and also learning about Ancient Egypt. Our Primary 6/7 class have settled back into school life and already delivered their speeches for the House Captain and Prefect responsibilities. They will also be learning about body systems and cells in their science

work and studying the Highland Clearances through a novel study of “The Desperate Journey”.

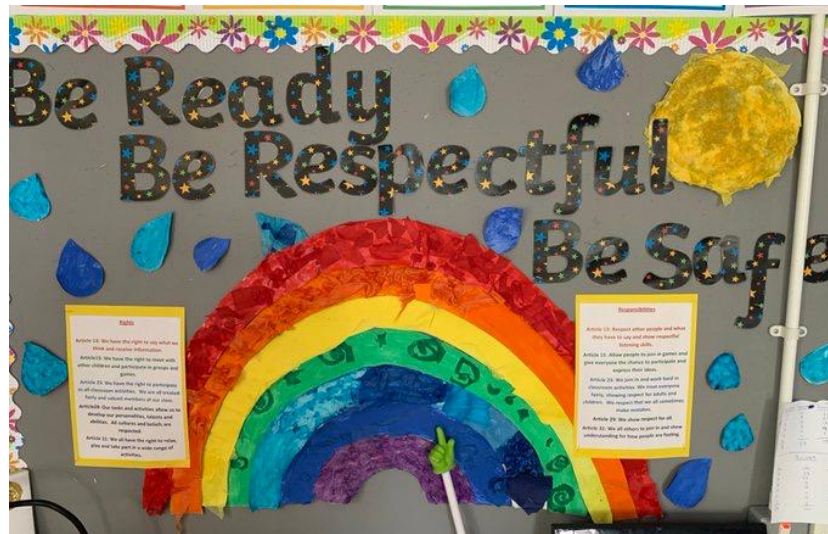


Yetholm Primary

Mrs McNee and Primary 1-4 have decided to focus their learning on oceans and the different habitats and life that is supported there. There are lots of stories to help with this and so far, the children have read – “The Rainbow Fish” and “Tiddler” which they all seemed to really enjoy.



In Primary 5 -7 took time at the start of the term to create their class charter which focusses on the three rules and values across the schools: Be Ready, Be Respectful and Be Safe. They are going on to begin a topic on World War Two which will run until November to include Armistice Day.



Paddington's Postcards

Since joining the team something I feel very strongly about is Global Citizenship and any members of our communities who follow our school Facebook pages will have seen throughout lockdown that we continued to post video assemblies. I am doing this through the UNICEF project called Paddington's Postcards which is a great stimulus- it takes our loveable friend Paddington Bear and follows him on his adventures to different countries around the world. He writes postcards to the school each month detailing interesting facts, and outlining what life is like for children in that country to allow us to compare and contrast life there with our own in Morebattle and Yetholm. Paddington's next adventure is to Mongolia so to extend this learning to our community here are a couple of questions for you to research the answers to (if you don't already know!)

1. What is the official language spoken in Mongolia?
2. What is the capital city called?
3. Many of the people live nomadic lifestyles but what is the special name given to the large tents that they live in whilst travelling?

UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2020 – Good News!!!



As many of you may have already heard, our application for Stage 2 funding from the Scottish Land Fund has been successful. We have been awarded a grant of £114,000. We are delighted with the decision of the Scottish Land Fund to support the community buy-out project for our village shop. This is the first, and most important, step in our fund-raising effort, and it will open the way to securing the further funding we need in order to acquire, repair, re-fit and recapitalise the shop enterprise and maintain it in being for future years as a vital centre of village life.

The next key step towards the acquisition of the shop is to proceed with the Public Offering of shares in the Community Benefit Society, and an announcement will be made very soon regarding the timing and all other important details of this process.



TREASURER'S REPORT

The accounts for 2019 have finally been audited and passed by our accountants and the Kirk Session.

2019 was quite a difficult year financially with our income being down by £3000 to a total of £75858. Fortunately, our expenditure was also down to £76981 giving us an overall deficit of £1123. Clearly we cannot continue to have year on year deficits. By and large the congregations give very generously in terms of offerings so I would suggest that while we must find ways of raising more money the main emphasis should be on cutting costs. This problem is replicated all across the Church of Scotland so we are likely to see a reorganisation of Presbyteries nationally and a reorganisation of Parishes locally.

2020 is likely to be even more difficult in terms of income. We normally raise about £4000 in fund raising but this year we have been unable to hold our usual sponsored walk, coffee mornings, garden fete etc so need to find some other way of raising funds. The suggestion from the Ways and Means committee and backed by the Kirk Session is that we simply have an appeal during October with members perhaps making a donation in line with what they would normally have given at our usual fund raisers. Members could do this by placing their donation in a separate envelope and handing it to your local elder, the minister or the treasurer or putting it into the offering plate on a Sunday. Whatever you can manage will be most welcome.

Brian Kelly
Treasurer

The editorial team would like to thank all of you who have contributed articles, photographs and information for this edition of The Cheviot.

At the present time all events and groups remain in limbo. Hopefully the Halls in our areas will be able to reopen soon and activities will resume when it is safe to do so.

Deadline

Please submit articles (including photographs) for the next edition of The Cheviot to a member of the editorial team by 22nd November 2020.

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Register

Deaths: Frances Rodgers, Philip Thorns, Jimmy Mosscrop, John Moffat and Bert Walker.

The Great Yetholm Book Exchange Lockdown 2020.

Boxes are in bus shelters in Town and Kirk Yetholm. Just one book at a time please as storage is limited.

For all ages and interests – just donate and borrow at your leisure.

Yetholm Youth Hall

The Hall received a grant during lockdown and the kitchen in the Hall is being refurbished with new units. The hope is that it will reopen in the next month or so with some activities.

Cheviot Churches Christmas Cards

These will go on sale from mid October and will be available in Yetholm and Morebattle shops and also from Rae Redpath and Carol Butler.

There are four in a packet with pictures of Churches and are £2.50 each pack or two for £4.

Autumn Facts

People born in Autumn live longer

A study in the [Journal of Aging Research](#) found that babies born during the autumn months are more likely to live to 100 than those born during the rest of the year. Their study found that 30 % of US centenarians born during 1880-1895 were born in the autumn months.

A date for your diary - 24 September 2303

Generally speaking, the autumn equinox always falls on either 22 or 23 September, but not quite always.

Because the Gregorian calendar is not quite in perfect symmetry with the Earth's orbit, the autumn equinox will very occasionally fall on September 24. This last happened in 1931 and will next happen in 2303.

The days get shorter

The word equinox comes from the Latin *equi* (meaning equal) and *nox* (meaning night) accounting for the equinox marking the time when day and night are of equal length.

We often notice the nights begin to draw in from this point as after the autumn equinox, the nights are longer than the days, until this is reversed at the spring equinox.

Autumn used to be called “harvest”

Until about 1500, autumn was just called “harvest.” The full moon closest to the autumn equinox is known as a harvest moon. Before cities electrified, the bright night of the harvest moon was essential for farmers harvesting their late-year crops.

The Greeks gave autumn a great origin story.

While scientists tell us that fall occurs when the Earth tilts away from the Sun, the ancient Greeks had a much cooler explanation. According to Greek legend, the season is caused by Persephone's return to the underworld, where she rules as Hades' queen. Her mother, Demeter, the goddess of fertility and harvest, is so upset that she allows the planet's crops to wither—until Persephone's return in the spring.

Birds spend most of the Autumn migrating.

Whether traveling from one state to another, from North America to South America (Swainson's Hawk, 14,000 miles), or from the North Pole to the South Pole (Arctic Tern, 44,000 miles), many birds spend this season traveling to mating grounds or finding food.

FUND RAISING in ‘Lockdown’??

After frantically cleaning the house for about two weeks I knew I needed to slow down as this situation could be with us for some time.

The garden got so much more attention giving us lots of pleasure.

I love sewing so started by making a few ‘Masks’ for sale in our Community Shop, they soon sold out. From my intensive stash of cottons, I continued into August making more with the Sick Children’s Charity in mind – no village coffee morning this year.

Into September, with ‘Face covering’ now becoming mandatory the demand is now for even more - Sales this month will be for MacMillan Nurses.

Now where did I put that Halloween material??

Our ‘Ladies who knit for Charity’ have had needles clicking judging by the amount of wool they are going through. We are unable to gather or send off any of the finished articles but when the time comes, we will have so much work to show for all our time in isolation.

My friend Mary Pringle, while taking her daily exercise decided to put a coin in a jar for every time she walked round the field behind her house. The result is Mary was able to give a generous token to all the care workers and nurses who live in the village.

As we are not able to hold our Fund-raising Coffee Mornings Mary is now busy churning out batches of her infamous Shortbread biscuits selling to all who miss them from the sales Table

Mary’s daughter Marian has put her skills in X stitch into producing a variety of lovely Christmas Cards again for Sick Children’s Hospital

We do miss the contact with so many others but hopefully that will improve into the New Year.

Stay Safe and enjoy your hobbies.
Helen Cessford

This year the Church of Scotland will take an unprecedented step when—amid the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic—the 2020 General Assembly will convene remotely during the evening of Friday 2 October and all day on Saturday 3 October.

In previous years some 800 people would be converging on the Assembly Hall in Edinburgh. This year the Commissioners, Youth Representatives and Corresponding Members will take part remotely—from congregations and presbyteries around the country and indeed the world.

Only a small number of people will be in the Assembly Hall: those running the proceedings, those reporting to the Assembly and those livestreaming and recording the event.

Rev Dr George Whyte, Principal Clerk to the Church said:

“We are really pleased to be holding the General Assembly of 2020 when earlier in the year it seemed we could not meet. The use of technology, while not without its challenges, will help us make the decisions that are needed now to guide what we do in the coming months.

“Given that this is a new way of working for everyone involved we ask for grace and patience as we explore what technology can do for us.”

Important decisions will be made

Of necessity, the 2020 General Assembly will be much shorter than usual and there won't be the same valuable opportunities to network, socialise and enjoy one another's company. We will not have a Lord High Commissioner although the Queen will write to the Assembly expressing her support and encouragement.

Nevertheless, there will be prayer and worship led by the Moderator and the Commissioners will be making important decisions which need to be made now so that the Church can move forward. Under consideration will be reports from the Assembly Trustees, the Faith Impact Forum and the Faith Nurture Forum.

Debate will range from church finance to the Church's engagement with the pressing issues facing our nation and the global community.

This year too, the discussions, the voting and the amendments will all be done online.

Commissioners and Youth Representatives will sign-in through the Church of Scotland website to a new Assembly Hub, where they can ask questions and put forward amendments and new ideas.

Corresponding Members will also be able to sign into the Assembly Hub through the website. Training sessions to ensure everyone can participate effectively will be held in advance of the Assembly

Everyone is invited to watch

We invite everyone—wherever you are – to join in and watch the livestream here on the Church of Scotland website or Facebook page. The Friday session will run from 7pm to around 9pm and the Saturday session will run from 9.15am to approximately 5pm. On Saturday there will be coffee and lunch breaks.

Wauchope Hall, Town Yetholm Cleaner required based in or near Town Yetholm, Kelso

The Management Committee of the Wauchope Hall, a village hall in Town Yetholm, near Kelso, wishes to engage a self-employed person as a cleaner.

Pay Rate: £10 per hour. Hours flexible, amounting (by mutual agreement) to a total of 3 hours every fortnight to fit in with the Hall's programme of activities which are planned to begin in mid-September. The appointment will be for 6 months in the first instance.

The work will involve cleaning throughout the Hall, its kitchen, stage, and toilets, adhering to high levels of health and safety, including current requirements to ensure the Hall meets the strict standards necessary to protect the public at this time. In summary the job will entail:

Sweeping and vacuuming the main hall, entrance lobby, stage and kitchen corridor;

Cleaning of kitchen sinks and work surfaces;

Emptying of bins and replacing of bin liners;

Steam cleaning the kitchen and lavatory floors;

Cleaning of sinks and WCs;

Checking of toilet rolls, hand towels, soap, and urinal blocks, all to be replenished as required;

Test fire alarm(s).

PPE and cleaning equipment will be provided.

Further details and applications to Peter Snell, petersnell@gmail.com or 01573 420499

Yetholm Floral Gateway Update September 2020

Well, here we are experiencing the golden light of September and all the various hues that the countryside and hedgerows have to offer. These views around the parish will have sustained folk somewhat during this strange summer.

On the FGG front, we managed to complete our summer bedding planting and have continued to maintain all of our sites, whether it be The Wildlife Area, The Bowmont Picnic area or the Yetholm village beds, borders and troughs.

As autumn approaches, we hope to plant some horse chestnut trees kindly donated by a Morebattle resident and also several oak trees, once suitable locations have been found [probably the NE end of the recreation field area - with YCC, SBC and the landowner's permission and in the wildlife area along the line of the hedgerow planted by the schoolchildren in recent years.]

We have been lucky enough to recruit a new volunteer to help especially with the Wildlife Area who is considerably younger and fitter than most of the FGG team. He has already given stalwart help scything and raking the wildflower meadow. Wildflowers thrive in areas where the soil is poor, otherwise over vigorous grasses choke the wildflowers. For this reason, we scythe our meadow each Autumn and rake off the grass – a big and backbreaking job. Future plans for the area include building up the dam that holds back the Goat (the drainage channel) in order to create a longer-lasting pool by the bridge. Our new recruit is particularly knowledgeable about birds, so we hope to use his expertise with the children when the Covid threat allows.

Sadly, we have had to cancel the proposed coffee morning in October and hope to rearrange this when the Covid situation improves. Behind the scenes, the bus shelters in the village have become a focus for book and plant exchanges which has been very beneficial during the lockdown.

We are always keen to welcome new members to our team, no experience is required, just enthusiasm! Phone Kate on 01573 420522 or speak to any member of the team who you see wielding a trowel, fork or scythe. You would be made very welcome.



Tell me not here, it needs not saying,
What tune the enchantress plays
In aftermaths of soft September
Or under blanching mays,
For she and I were long acquainted
And I knew all her ways.

On russet floors, by waters idle,
The pine lets fall its cone;
The cuckoo shouts all day at nothing
In leafy dells alone;
And traveller's joy beguiles in autumn
Hearts that have lost their own.

On acres of the seeded grasses
The changing burnish heaves;
Or marshalled under moons of harvest
Stand still all night the sheaves;
Or beeches strip in storms for winter
And stain the wind with leaves.

Possess, as I possessed a season,
The countries I resign,
Where over elmy plains the highway
Would mount the hills and shine,
And full of shade the pillared forest
Would murmur and be mine.

For nature, heartless, witless nature,
Will neither care nor know
What stranger's feet may find the meadow
And trespass there and go,
Nor ask amid the dews of morning
If they are mine or no.

A E Housman 1859-1936

Weekly service update

The podcast of the weekly service can be accessed on the website.
A video of service from Yetholm Church is posted on the website
(www.cheviotchurches.org) or Gordon McNally's YouTube page by
early afternoon each Sunday.

Cheviot Churches Elders and Districts

Leslie Thomson	West of Morebattle, Eckford and Crailing and various outlying.
Jenny Flannigan	Main Street, Heughhead and Renwick Gardens Morebattle.
George Lees	Mainsfield Avenue, Morebattle Mains and Whitton.
Anne Brown	Kale Valley and Hownam.
Brian Kelly	Linton
Trish Gentry	Bowmont Valley.
Graeme Watson	Woodbank Road, Braeside Road, Cheviot Road.
Pippa Emerson	Grafton Road to Mission, Grafton Bank, Main St From Old Manse to Vennel before shop.
John Thompson	Morebattle Road/Main Street to White Swan inc Cheviot Place and The Crescent to Vennel after Shop.
Susan Stewart	Deanfield Place, Court, Road and Bank. Back Lane and Dairy Wood.
Diane Gittus	Romany House to Yewtree Road, Lane and Bank, Grafton Corner to Mission Hall, Duncanhaugh and Hayhope.
Tom Tokely/ Stuart Kelly	Main Street, Yetholm from butcher – School, Dow Brae, Venchen, Mindrum, Howtel, Downham and Wideopen.
Carol Butler	Kirk Yetholm Village and Halterburn.
Arthur Bates	The Yett, Shotton, Yetholm Mains and Harelaw.
Ann Harvey	Hoselaw, Cherrytrees, Lochside, Lochside farms and cottages, Old Graden, Graden, Hoselaw.
Simon Oldham	Mainhouse, Bankhead and Linton Hill.
David Lang	Teapot Street and Bank. Thimble Lane.
Jimmy Fleming	Kelso (part)
Alan Calvert	Kelso (part)
Margaret McTavish Postal.	

**Church Services – Yetholm and Morebattle only at present time.
Please see notices for opening times for private prayer and reflection.**

Yetholm every Sunday at 10.00 a.m.

Morebattle every Sunday at 11.15 a.m. except
1st Sunday when we meet at **Linton**.

Hownam is now irregular. Please check notices.

Hoselaw is open for private devotion at all times and hosts occasional services.
Prayer Service will be held in Linton Church at 6.30pm. All Welcome.

Cheviot Churches: Church of Scotland (Charity No SC003023)

Minister:

Rev. Colin Johnston
The Manse (formerly The Old Police House)
Main Street, Morebattle, TD5 8QG
Phone No. 07492705275 or 01573440539
Email revcdj60@gmail.com

Session Clerk:

Susan Stewart, 22 The Yett Kirk Yetholm, Kelso TD5 8PL
Tel: 01573420231 Email: j.stewart134@btinternet.com

Treasurer:

Brian Kelly, The Haven, 5 Morebattle Road, Town Yetholm, Kelso TD5 8RL
Tel: 01573 420221 E mail: bjkelly@uwclub.net

Safeguarding Co-Ordinator:

Heather Freeland – Cook 01573 420480

Role Keeper:

Pippa Emerson 01573420279

Committee Convenors:

Mission and Outreach: Elizabeth Watson 01573 420602
Children and Youth Ministry Team: Graeme Watson 01573 420602
Ways and Means with Stewardship: Rae Redpath 01573 420451
Worship Committee: Rev. Colin Johnston 01573 440539

www.cheviotchurches.org
