

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

# CHEVIOT



Winter 2020

## Prayer Corner



### THE CHRISTMAS TREE

Lord, we thank you for this beautiful tree, with all its ornaments,  
some collected over many years, each with its own significance.  
We thank you for the twinkling lights that remind us  
of that star that brought people to your stable,  
and the light which only you can bring into our lives.  
We thank you for the gifts around the tree,  
but at the same time  
we remember those less fortunate than us.  
Most of all, we thank you that you are  
the greatest gift,  
and you are here for everyone.  
**Amen.**

For many of us, celebrating Christmas means a packed church, beautiful music, joyous singing, meeting with friends and families, sharing meals together and more, much more – all things that may be difficult, if not impossible, in this very challenging year.

This year offers an opportunity to re-think and re-imagine many of our long-standing Christmas traditions. On one hand, we share a strong desire to continue the Christmas traditions we know and love. On the other, we can create new approaches to celebrating these holidays arising from our pandemic-caused limitations. Developing ways to do both will help make this year special.

And so, we pray that the true meaning of Christmas will become refreshingly clear as we remember that the baby born in poverty and obscurity in a manger in Bethlehem was in fact Emmanuel, “God with us”. His coming was foretold by the Prophets of old, witnessed with great rejoicing by the Shepherds, and worshipped by the Wise Men from the east.

It has been said the wise men worshiped Jesus, and may I suggest they still do! We rejoice in the certain knowledge that God is still with us! And in spite of these challenging times we draw consolation and comfort from God’s promises to “never leave or forsake us.

O come, all ye faithful  
Joyful and triumphant  
O come ye, o come ye to Bethlehem  
Come and behold Him  
Born the King of Angels!

O come, let us adore Him, Christ the Lord.

### MOREBATTLE ARMISTICE SERVICE 2020

Again because of Covid 19 restrictions we were unable to hold a Service of Remembrance and the laying of the wreath at the War Memorial. However, we were allowed to hold the Service of Remembrance in the Church where the two minutes silence was observed. A Poppy Wreath was laid at the Memorial in the Church by Jenny Flannigan. The Wreath was then taken to the Village War Memorial for a Private Ceremony. Some of the Morebattle Ladies Knitting Group knitted poppies which were attached to a display at the Village War Memorial which were admired by all.

## Cheviot Christmas Letter 2020

Dear Friends,

Who would ever have imagined it! I am sure when we started the lockdown in March, we would never have thought that we would still be living with all the various restrictions at the end of the year. As a community and as a Church we have had to adapt to so many new ways of doing things. It has been difficult, and sometimes we have been frustrated by the restrictions (such as not being able to meet at the war memorials on Remembrance Sunday), but I have been tremendously impressed by how resilient everyone in the community has been over this time. We have been fortunate that there have been few instances of Covid in our area and we have been able to get on with our lives quietly.

But imagine if the restrictions had been in place during that first Christmas:

- Bethlehem would have been in lockdown, and Mary and Joseph would have found it difficult to travel there, as it may not have been an approved travel corridor.
- If they had somehow managed to travel, they may have been luckier in getting a room in the inn: there would be plenty, as many holiday bookings would have been cancelled.
- While Mary and Joseph would have their own social bubble, the guidance on outdoor gatherings may well have prevented the shepherds (key workers) from coming to adore the new-born baby. Social distancing would just be too difficult in a cowshed.
- The angels would have no doubt been in quarantine after their long flight from heaven, but then they would have been unable to sing anyway because of government guidelines.
- The Magi being part of the Sage advisory group would not even contemplate following any star.

Thank goodness it wasn't like that. However, we will be affected, and Christmas this year will be quite different. As I write this in mid-November, it is still uncertain what restrictions will be in place over Christmas, but certainly social distancing will still be there, which will affect our Christmas services. There will sadly be no carol singing, and our traditional Watchnight services at Hownam and Linton will not take place. However, there will be a Christmas Eve service at Morebattle at 6.30pm, while the Christmas Day service this year will be in Yetholm at 11am. Both

are joint services, but please be aware that numbers are very limited in both places. Look at the notice boards for more details.

The message of Christmas is, however, very much one of hope out of adversity and light in the darkness, which hits a chord with us today. In the cold, harsh conditions of a Palestinian winter, a baby was born; in the territory of a jealous king Herod who would suffer no rivals, the baby survived and grew up to be the Saviour of the World, who still offers peace and hope, light and grace today in all the darkness we face.

Christmas is also about giving. It was Winston Churchill who said that we make a living by what we earn but make a life by what we give. The things which matter – love, relationships, connection, trust – increase the more they are shared. So, let us be generous this Christmas, not least with the many who do not have – those struggling, the homeless, those whom we can help through international charities like Christian Aid.

The message of the angels was of Good News, peace on earth and goodwill to all. We have had the good news of a vaccine which will be available soon and which offers some hope for the new year. However, it will all take time. I hope we learn the lessons of this lockdown period and are able to show a generosity of spirit and kindness of action to all around this Christmas.

Amid all the uncertainty of these times, may the light and peace and welcome of Christmas will be in your hearts,

Colin

.....  
**One of my favourite Christmas poems is this one called BC/AD**

*This was the moment when Before  
Turned into After, and the future's  
Uninvented timekeepers presented arms.*

*This was the moment when nothing  
Happened. Only dull peace  
Sprawled boringly over the earth.*

*This was the moment when even energetic Romans  
Could find nothing better to do  
Than counting heads in remote provinces.*

*And this was the moment  
When a few farm workers and three  
Members of an obscure Persian sect*

Walked haphazard by starlight straight  
Into the kingdom of heaven.

**U A Fanthorpe**, from [Christmas Poems](#) (Enitharmon, 2002)

### Prayer

Beckoning God –  
Who called the rich to travel towards poverty,  
The wise to embrace your folly,  
The powerful to know their own frailty;  
Who gave to strangers  
A sense of homecoming in an alien land  
And to stargazers  
True light and vision as they bowed to earth –  
We lay ourselves open to your signs for us.  
Stir us with holy discontent over a world  
Which gives its gifts to those  
Who have plenty already  
Whose talents are obvious  
Whose power is recognised;  
And help us  
Both to share our resources with those who have little  
And to receive with humility the gifts they bring to us.  
Rise within us, like a star,  
And make us restless,  
Till we journey forth  
To seek our rest in you.

Kate Compston (In 'Bread for Tomorrow'. Ed Janet Morley)

### **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](mailto:revcdj60@gmail.com) or 01573 440 539.

## Reflection

2020—a challenging year:

Brexit,  
Coronavirus,  
Black Lives Matter.

2020—a life-changing year:

confusing twists or turns,  
passing through “the valley of the shadow of death” reaching the point of  
no return.

2020—an attentive year:

watching and waiting,  
watching and lamenting,  
watching and reaching out.

2020—a year of the Lord:

God is around us,  
God is with us,  
God is in us.

2021—an unknown year:

BUT God is the past,  
God is the presence,  
God is the future, and he still cares for us all.

## Christmas Services

Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December – ‘*Blue Christmas*’ Service at Yetholm Kirk  
11am

Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> December – Service of readings and music. Yetholm  
10am/ Morebattle 11.15am

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Eve service – 6.30pm Morebattle

Friday 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day service - 11am Yetholm

Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> – Services at Yetholm (10am) and Morebattle (11.15am)

*Please note that numbers will be limited to 28 (Morebattle) and 40  
(Yetholm)*

*A special Christmas video and podcast will also be posted on the church  
website <https://www.cheviotchurches.org/>*

## BIRDBATH & WILBERFORCE

Birdbath was delighted recently to welcome back to his nut-feeder a bird he had not seen there for many months. Wilberforce is a very handsome Woodpecker (and knows it) – all black and white and red – and enjoys peanuts so much that previously he refused to let the little well-behaved birds have a turn. On his last visit this led to a heated reprimand from Birdbath, and umbrage taken by Wilberforce. All is now forgiven, and Birdbath has installed a second nuttery so that the wee birds can feed happily while Wilberforce is busy on the other. Now however Birdbath has a dilemma. As his readers will know, it is his custom to put out a Christmas treat for all his birds. Suet, raisins, crumbled Hob-Nobs – he enjoys being Good King Wenceslas on 25<sup>th</sup>, and they joyfully chirrup carols as they respond with gusto. But Woodpeckers spurn all that stuff and are strictly nut birds. Birdbath would love to give him some little Yuletide token of affection: BUT WHAT? Suggestions would be welcome. Maybe a drop of cooking-brandy on the peanuts? Birdbath would be the first to agree that *people* should be our primary commitment at Christmas, but he hopes we will not forget our feathered friends. Happy Christmas to them too?

## **Cheviot Youth CHRISTMAS APPEAL**

### **A Cheviot Youth Christmas**

Cheviot Youth understands that the festive season can be a difficult time for many with extra food costs, the buying of presents for the children and no school meals to help out. So, Cheviot Youth have decided to launch this Christmas Appeal and working with a team of helpers are now raising funds to provide assistance with the buying of food and presents this Christmas.

We are asking you to help contribute to a wonderful Christmas for all in our local community by donating whatever you can to this our Christmas 2020 Appeal GoFundMe page. Alternatively, you can send a cheque made payable to Cheviot Youth to Cheviot Youth Christmas, The Planet, Abbotseat Road, Kelso TD5 7SL.

May we thank you now for your support and generosity and take this opportunity to wish you and your nearest and dearest a very Happy Christmas.

## A Tribute to Yetholm

It's wonderful to walk through the woodland just beyond my new home in Town Yetholm. Being amongst trees, especially at this colourful time of year, fills me with admiration and happiness. How I have missed them and can it really be a year...October 2019.... since I first arrived in the Borders? What an extraordinary slice of luck brought me here!

During my ramblings through the local countryside, I often reflect on how my new life started here..... it all began as I was having a coffee and idly watching a television, in my local garage in Shetland. It's a service provided for bored clients awaiting the completion of paperwork. The programme on the TV, at the time, was entitled 'Escape to the Country' - it featured Kelso. I suddenly took an interest when images appeared of the attractive cobbled streets and buildings in the Market town. Then the river and beautiful surrounding countryside were featured. My house in Shetland was already on the market, but I'd made no decisions about where I wanted to live. Why not begin my search in Kelso I thought?

Unfortunately, my house in Shetland took more than a year to sell. It was a renovated croft house in a scenic but remote location. The building required constant, expensive maintenance due to the adverse climate. These facts meant it held little appeal for any residents of Shetland wishing to relocate elsewhere in the islands.

I'd made the decision to leave Shetland, after nearly 10 years, whilst I was sitting on a deserted beach in Costa Rica in March 2018. I realised how relaxed and contented I felt, just at that moment, far away from home and I didn't relish the thought of returning. I had always intended to end my days in Shetland after moving there from Devon in 2009. Much taken with the islands' wonderful wildness, isolation and beauty, plus the wildlife photographic opportunities, I was convinced I would be happy. I loved 'island life' having lived and worked for years as a teacher on islands overseas. I was completely content in Shetland for several years.... but perhaps it was the thought of reaching the 'last chapter' in my life, age – wise, which made me restless and wish for a change? Also disturbing new, invasive developments on the mainland island, close to where I lived, made me even more unsettled.

Initially I convinced myself that I wanted to live in a highly organised Retirement Village in Banchory...close to lively Aberdeen and also the Cairngorms which would fulfil my passion for hiking and photography. However, on further reflection, I would have to live **without** a garden...what **WAS** I thinking? I wasn't ready for such a scheme.

But then I had a dilemma, where **did** I want to move to in Scotland? I definitely sought midge free countryside and hills to walk in, but a priority was somewhere with footpaths or tracks. I was beginning to find it arduous, rather than a pleasure, to struggle across untamed moorland covered in knee high heather and blanket bog. Then a friend broke her ankle whilst walking alone in the hills. She fell down a rabbit hole, hidden under the heather, in an area with no mobile phone signal. She was lucky to be located eventually and rescued by quadbike. I began to feel apprehensive out by myself on these hills with only the narrow sheep tracks (gaets) to follow as paths. These 'gaets' often took one across loose scree and perilous cliff faces for Shetland sheep behave more like mountain goats.

I wanted to sell my house first, before looking for a new abode. The plan was to bank the money, put my furniture into storage in Shetland and leave all my indoor plants with friends. Then, take the overnight ferry to Aberdeen with the car and a few belongings and become a 'gypsy' for a while. Starting in Kelso, I could explore the Borders at leisure. Just before I left Shetland, I met a lady from Kelso who had just moved to the islands with her husband. I told her about my plans and asked her if she could advise me on areas to avoid in the Borders? She mentioned several names including 'Yetholm'. 'Why not Yetholm?' I queried. 'It's full of witches' she cautioned 'and it will be very bad for you if they happen to take 'agin' you!'

Everything happened in a rush as I took my leave of Shetland, the completion date for the sale of my house having been postponed **three** times, Finally, I just got on the ferry and left my Solicitor to sort everything out. The only thing **confirmed** as I boarded the boat was my week's stay at the Border Hotel in Kirk Yetholm. I had selected this Hotel without much research. It was just outside Kelso and had vacancies for that week. The manager, Julie, had been very understanding of my predicament and good enough to keep changing my arrival date without demur. It was only later that I realised The Border Hotel was in Yetholm, the very place I had been told to avoid!

I arrived, in the dark, on a Friday night, exhausted from the long journey from Shetland and further agitated by hours marooned in the car in a traffic jam on the Edinburgh by-pass. I headed for the welcome relief of the only open door I could see at The Border Hotel. It was the Bar. I stood meekly for a while, overwhelmed by a sea of vociferous country-clad gentlemen all clamouring loudly for a beer from the poor solitary chap behind the Bar. It was not a good beginning.

But after a comfortable night's sleep, I emerged and looked out of the corridor window outside my room. There was a close-up panorama of

glorious rolling hills, fields with sheep and woodland, vivid in Autumn colours in the sunshine. It took my breath away.

Yetholm has continued 'to take my breath away'. Two days after my arrival, I just knew THIS was where I wanted to live. It felt like 'home'

The Church in Kirk Yetholm has become important to me as I've spent many years away from a caring community. Encouraged by some American visitors at The Border Hotel, I attended Church with them on Sunday morning. I've found the open, genuine welcome from Colin, the Minister, and members of the congregation such a revelation after the rigours of a Catholic Convent education starting in the 1950's. Back then, the Catholic teaching was, in my experience, based on fear and the need for complete obedience. The Nuns' warnings about the dire consequences of committing a 'Mortal Sin' scared me as a young child. Now there's an immediate bond with anyone I meet who's had a Convent education and an instant rapport with any author describing her Convent school days. But despite the negative, I did love school.

In both Yetholm villages, I have been welcomed with such kind interest by the residents and have also received a great deal of generous practical help. For example, by explaining my situation to several of the other parishioners at the end of the Service on that first Sunday I was taken 'under their wing'. Through them, I not only 'found' a cottage to rent for the Winter, so I could stay in Yetholm, but also, ultimately, my new home and continued friendship.

In some inexplicable way, I feel that something has 'guided' me to Yetholm. Could it be just 'luck' that I've been able to buy a lovely house in a beautiful area, complete with a garden... **and** a superb view.... a house I **immediately** knew I wanted at first sight.

It's hard to believe that all the success I've had and the contentment I now feel in my life has come by 'chance'... just due to the random selection I made of The Border Hotel as a place to recuperate, then my introduction to the Church and the warm welcome from Yetholm.

There was a mysterious (but kind and solicitous) 'Being' about whom the Nuns taught me at the Convent – she's my life-long, omni-present 'Guardian Angel'. I wonder perhaps...could 'She' too have had a hand in my current good fortune?

With grateful thanks to Yetholm.

Cecilia James

## Borders Talking Newspaper



Just a wee note about one of the most loved Borders charities: the Borders Talking Newspaper. We've been going since 1993, sending out 90 mins plus of local news, on a weekly basis and we have never yet missed a single week! This is available to anybody who finds newsprint impossible to read or who cannot hold up a book. It comes free, and we always make sure new listeners can manage to access it.

There are usually 70 volunteers who take it in turns to prepare some 60 articles from the papers (the Southern and the Berwickshire), to read in threes, to do the recording, the duplicating, the circulating and finally unpacking the free-post returned wallets.

At the moment, we are relying heavily on people with equipment that can record and send the material to the office. The rota and all the circulation and much else is currently being done by Wendy Moss, our part-time Organiser in Duns. Our technical wizard Tom Ingoldsby over in Galashiels is making extra magazine articles to entertain our listeners, who number about 200.

There are leaflets (yellow) in the shop in Morebattle and I'll ask Wendy to send some to Yetholm. Give her a ring if you have trouble reading, or if any of your friends and family have. She is on: 01361889 211 (freephone). The website is [office@btn.org.uk](mailto:office@btn.org.uk)  
Or ring me, Matilda Hall, on 440 687: I'd be happy to help.

### **Seasonal musings from Primside.**

On October 1<sup>st</sup> I noticed several things. Sainsbury's was stocking mince pies; the Sony Christmas channel had started up and adverts for expensive toys had started to pepper the adverts, soon to be followed by foodie ones. Also, that day I have to confess that my Christmas order from The Leprosy Mission arrived – well I like to get the next year's diary in good time and indeed had a date to enter the next day. The other stuff, including the Advent Calendar, got taken upstairs and I note it will soon be time to try and remember exactly where. I like the TLM diary because the week starts on a Sunday and for me Sunday will always be the first day of the week.

As a child, although obviously there were preparations to be made and presents to be got and posted (to catch the mail carrying boats for some), Christmas never seem to get going until a few days before **The Day**. Then it got really frantic with a big church to decorate including a huge tree that arrived courtesy of my Godfather on a low loader from a Welsh forest. The joint carol service of Guides (Silent Night), Brownies (Little Jesus sweetly sleep) Cubs and Scouts (memory fails me) and probably the Sea Cadets and ATC as well, would take place in our church and we were off and up and running. Christmas Eve was for decorating our own tree and chilly lounge, (only used in Winter for special occasions and probably just getting warmed up by Twelfth Night). I remember one Christmas spent on the camp bed there (to save carrying coal upstairs) with measles and having the church choir singing beyond the French windows. Christmas was a working day for father (and in later years for me too). We were allowed to empty our stockings first thing, but other gifts had to wait until the Queen had finished speaking on the wireless. I always hoped for book tokens rather than money “to be spent on something useful”.

In Galloway days the two Sunday Schools would celebrate jointly. The minister wanted real candles on the tree. We leaders stood quietly by with discreet buckets of sand and water. The Southwick Church Hall was damp and the carefully made paper chains would sag and need shortening until the caretaker switched the heating on too early and they would dry and snap and need lengthening. I think Christmas is always a bit of a balancing act. This year will be even more so, and I feel for families struggling against demands they cannot meet. I feel so blessed to be where and how I am.

Advent will keep me busy enough once I have chosen which daily readings to follow, worked out where I can hang my Jesse Tree ornaments, (Brie is sure to think olive wood is edible), and checked out all the on-line stuff including the video Advent calendar on the Eco-congregation site, (with the real chocs from the TLM one).

Today gifts can be carried through the air in hours all across the world and greetings sent instantly with little physical effort. Yet the fuss and palaver seems to start earlier each year. I am no kill joy but this year of all years when so many are grieving and distressed, I want to remember why it is we do all this ‘Christmas stuff’. After the waiting and preparation of Advent will I be ready to welcome the Christ Child anew and to remember that Christmas begins with Christ.

**Time to browse.** As we enter the season of Advent various websites offer materials for worship and reflection and some offer opportunity to buy virtual gifts (or just donate) and to join in events. These include Christian Aid, Traidcraft, Church of Scotland (including the Guild), Crossreach and Eco-congregation Scotland. On one of these short dull Winter days, it is worth having a browse just by entering the name of the organisation into your search engine, follow the links and see where it leads you. Some will take you to environmental issues and information, important whatever your faith and with a year to think about and prepare for COP26 now to be held in November 2021. It seems as if on-line is going to be an option for a while if you do have the means, so be adventurous and enjoy and be challenged.

### **Give a bee-hive or a chicken to someone this Christmas!**

Stuck for ideas as to what to give someone who seems to have everything. Why not give a cow or plant an olive tree? Christmas is a time for giving, but also a time to think of others less fortunate than ourselves. A number of charities have combined these thoughts by offering different options of sending much needed gifts to people across the world who need it most. These can be:

- Providing medicine or blankets or emergency supplies.
- Support for trauma or for a women's shelter
- Providing books or sending someone to school for a year.
- Planting an olive tree
- Providing animals like a cow or goat or chicken, which will help families to survive.
- The list is endless, and these alternative gifts can range from £10 to £100s of pounds.

Charities which offer Alternative gifts include: Embrace the Middle East:

<https://shop.embraceme.org/collections/alternative-gifts-1>

Christian Aid: <https://charity-gifts.christianaid.org.uk/>

Traidcraft: <https://www.traidcraftshop.co.uk/gifts/by-category/charity-gifts>

### **Visit from the Guild ex-Convener**

In September last year Yetholm played host to the Guild Convener, Marion MacIntyre and her husband Tom, and there was a crowded Kirk, with more chairs being squeezed in for her truly inspiring sermon, with a good representation from other Guilds outwit Yetholm. So, it was quite a contrast when they returned at the end of October to a very quiet, spaced-out church service!

Marion, who is now no longer the Guild Convener, had come back to Yetholm in order to present Margaret Rustad with the ‘Convener’s Challenge’ shield for her winning story of ‘The Journey’, which was printed in an earlier edition of *The Cheviot*. The shield sat at the front on the Communion Table, as it couldn’t be handed over during the service, due to the arcane rituals which we must now observe. However, with a sunny forecast for mid-morning, the plan was to have a photo-opportunity afterwards, with Marion seeming to have just passed the shield to Margaret. This ended up taking place huddled in the porch, as the rain and wind did their finest – but there is a very happy photograph in the Guild newsletter online, if anyone wants to see it.

The shield is now in the hands of Blair’s in Kelso, and the inscription will read, “Roxburgh Guilds Together 2019”. In the meantime, Tom and Marion are looking to move to a new house from Shetland and have been looking at properties in and around Edinburgh and have even looked at a property in the Borders. We wish them every blessing in their quest.

### **Peacocks and Pomegranates!**

The Monday afternoon Craft Group has not been meeting since Covid 19 spread through the UK, but its strapline is ‘Use Your Talents’, and this we have been doing in various ways in the ensuing months. At the moment when we had to stop coming together, we were contemplating the completion of a tapestry/canvas work started by the late Francine LaFontaine Smith, a companion to the other piece of work which we’d completed, and which was the prize in a draw at the coffee-morning in Yetholm Youth Hall in February.

We would like to thank everybody who responded to our plea for tapestry wools, printed in the Easter edition of *The Cheviot*. People turned up at my door, or thrust bags at me as I left church, and one kind soul even sent some through the post! Eventually there was enough wool of all the many shades needed for the picture to be stitched, and it is now almost ready for the next stage of being stretched and then backed, to hopefully become a very attractive cushion.

Our aim in doing this was to raise funds for Cheviot Churches by selling tickets for a draw, as we did with 'Flying Fishes'. We'll have to work out the logistics, since we are now operating in a much more circumscribed manner than when we finished the last cushion. However, it is hoped that we will be able to see this project through and that we can raise much-needed funds and enrich someone's home when he or she wins this beautiful piece of work. The colours are lovely and rich, and the design, of two male peacocks trailing their gorgeous tails through boughs of leaves and pomegranates, is very striking.

On behalf of the Craft Group,  
Margaret Rustad

### **Morebattle Recreation Ground**

Since our last update the access path and new boundary Timber fence has been installed from the Hall to the Field.

A new grass cutter has been purchased through the Fallago Grant and now the field is looking in good condition although it could do with being rolled. Due to Covid restrictions Grant Funding for the Archaeological Dig was suspended.

However we have now applied to SBC Community Fund, Cheviot Area and hope to hear end of November. If we are successful and get the go ahead to engage Clyde Archaeology to carry out the work we will keep everyone informed via newsletter and notice in village shop.

This has been a long and arduous project and the committee have been working away behind the scenes and overcome many challenges. Hopefully this will come to fruition soon and all being well we hope the next stage will be applying for Grant Funding to actually install the play parks, trim track, community gardens, orchard and level playing area.

Unfortunately we have not been able to hold any fund raising events this year due to Covid however we still need funds for maintenance and some match funding for any other grants we apply for, hopefully 2021 will allow us to fund raise.

We have also been unable to hold our AGM this year but hope to have one when restrictions are lifted and look forward to your help and support with the Dig and also taking this project forward.

Catherine Mabon

(Secretary)

Kalewater Community Company.

### **Fun and Fundraising coming up in Cheviot Churches!**

At a recent meeting of the Ways and Means Committee it was decided to hold the following events over the coming months –

December – there will be an anagram quiz in village shops in Yetholm and Morebattle for all to take part in. Entry is £1 and please return to village shops when complete. There will be cash prize for the winner!

Virtual Scavenger Hunt for all the family and friends. This is purely a fun event which will be held on Zoom on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> December at 7pm. Posters will go up around the villages or you can contact Susan Stewart on [j.stewart134@btinternet.com](mailto:j.stewart134@btinternet.com) for the link.

January 2021- Bingo Night for all which will also take place by Zoom on Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> January at 7pm. Bingo books will go on sale in the village shops in January and to take part please contact Susan Stewart on [j.stewart134@btinternet.com](mailto:j.stewart134@btinternet.com) for the link.

### **STARTING 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR OF UNIVERSITY DURING COVID 19**

After an endless summer I could not wait to finally start my University experience. I had so many expectations and had heard so many stories of what it would be like, however, going to University during Covid 19 was going to make this a very different experience. The first week was great, meeting my flat mates, making new friends and generally having fun. However, when the studying started it was not quite how I imagined it would be. It was quite hard settling into a new course with absolutely no face-to-face contact with my lecturers or other staff members. Instead of sitting in a lecture hall, I sit at a computer screen in my room. Luckily I have met some people on my course and we help each other. At night we are monitored by the university welfare team to make sure we are not having parties and breaking any Covid rules. To begin with they left us little food parcels once a week as a thank you for putting up with this difficult time. Although so far, it's not been the experience, I thought it would be, we are making the best of it and still able to have fun and it won't be forever.

Emma Thomson

## **STARTING 1<sup>ST</sup> YEAR AT KELSO HIGH SCHOOL DURING COVID 19**

On my first day of high school, I was so excited, but also a bit nervous. I was so long since I had seen my friends and because of lockdown I hadn't had my transition days before the summer. When we arrived, the teachers were waiting for us and we were put into our class bubbles. I felt very lucky because I was with 3 good friends from primary school. The teachers were really nice and looked after us, because of Covid 19 we were not allowed to have S6 buddies like S1's normally do. Luckily we are allowed to mix with other S1's outside at lunchtime and I have made lots of new friends. I am now used to the routine. I feel sad that we can't have our S1 trip and Christmas Social this year, but I am happy to be with my friends and I am enjoying high school.

Jenny Thomson

### **The Weekly Prayer Group.**

The prayer group has continued to connect since March this year by our weekly email: and we always include YOU in our prayers, as we remember our church community, our local communities and our world. The email goes out every Tuesday morning and, if possible, we try to all pray at 1 p.m. (the usual time when we could meet together in church) which is a nice way to "share" in prayer. However, if this isn't convenient, we can use the email at any time.

We would be delighted if you could spare a short time to also join with us (no commitment at all), or if you have someone or something you would like us to pray about, please contact Kathleen.

Email [akbates@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:akbates@hotmail.co.uk)

Phone 01573 420 259

### **Interesting Winter Facts**

#### **The coldest temperature recorded in winter**

The coldest temperature ever recorded during a UK winter was -27.2 °C, which has been recorded 3 times. It was twice recorded in the village of Braemar, on 11 February 1895 and again on 10 January 1982, and once in Altnaharra on 30 December 1995. Both sites are in the Scottish Highlands.

## The winter of 1963

The winter of 1963 is one of the coldest on record and the coldest since 1740. Temperatures consistently reached lower than - 20 °C with blizzards, snowdrifts and even the sea freezing around the coast.

The severe cold began just before Christmas in 1962 as a high pressure system sat to the northeast of the UK for much of the winter, dragging cold polar winds over the UK.

On 29 and 30 December, a **blizzard** struck the UK with snowdrifts up to 6 metres deep. Snow continued to fall frequently and until early March 1963, much of the UK remained covered in snow.

### Wet snow vs. dry snow

Ever wondered why sometimes snow sticks together and sometimes it's powdery and loose? The reason for this lies in the snowflake's journey as it falls through the atmosphere.

Snowflakes that fall through a dry, cool atmosphere will be small and powdery and won't stick together. We call this **dry snow** - it's ideal for skiing, but not for building a snowman.

The snowflakes that form **wet snow** will have fallen through temperatures slightly warmer than 0 °C. As they fall, the snowflakes melt slightly around the edges and stick together to form large, heavy flakes. These stick together easily and are the best for a snowball fight and making snowmen.

## Reindeer vision

Some reindeer living above the Arctic Circle live in complete darkness for several weeks of the year.

To adapt to this, a small area of tissue behind the retina called the *tapetum lucidum* changes colour from a gold colour in summer months to blue in winter. This allows the reindeer's eyes to detect ultraviolet light and to see in the dark.

### **Yetholm History Society – soldiering on.**

Yetholm History Society has managed so far this Autumn, in spite of COVID, to organize two talks and an exhibition. We have been able to use the Wauchope Hall rather than our own smaller Mission Hall. This has allowed us to seat up to 28 members of the Society, all socially distanced and wearing masks (couples are allowed to sit together in a bubble). We have heard two highly informative talks, well-illustrated with slides. Dinah Iredale spoke on the bondager system that was widely used to hire female agricultural labourers in the Northumberland and Borders area up to the 1930s. Dinah has researched this topic for many years and written a book, *Bondagers: The History of Women Farmworkers in Northumberland and South East Scotland*, on the topic. She was able to include among her slides some rare glass negatives of farm work and bondagers, recently discovered in a Northumberland farmer's barn.

Our second talk was by another expert in his field, Piers Dixon, an archaeologist, formerly with Historic Environment Scotland, who has written extensively on medieval sites in this area. His subject for our talk were a series of extensive turf banks that walkers in the hills beyond Hownam and Buchtrig may have noticed. These turn out to be the remnants of an extensive deer trap in which aristocrats from per-Norman times exploited the landscape of the hills and valleys in order to kill deer for sport. Piers agreed to have his talk video-ed, so another advantage of being a member of Yetholm History Society, is access to this talk, with its slides, online.

Yetholm History Society kicked off this Autumn season with a magnificent exhibition on 'Life in the Bowmont, Kale and College Valleys, 1900 -1970'. This exhibition is the result of years of work by Dorothy Sharpe who has tried to talk to as many as possible of those who lived and worked in the valleys in the first part of the twentieth century. Their memories, testimonies and photographs form the basis of an exceptional collection of material which Dorothy has given to Yetholm History Society's archives. This is an on-going project and we urge anyone who can add to these memories and photographs to get in touch with Dorothy via Yetholm History Society. The exhibition was due to be on display during Festival Week this year but had to be cancelled due to COVID. It is intended that much of the material will again be on display for the Society's exhibition for next Festival Week, allowing it to reach a wider audience and to be displayed for longer.

We are due to hold host one more socially-distanced talk in the Wauchope Hall before Christmas, and we are optimistic we will be able to continue holding regular socially-distanced meetings in the Wauchope Hall in the New Year until we can return safely to our own newly-

refurbished Mission Hall. As those of you who visited our exhibition will have seen, the Mission Hall now has a disabled access with a fine new ramp. Inside the carpet is replaced, our new secure archive cupboards are installed, and we have new comfortable seating, all waiting to be used.

For anyone interested in joining the Society, or who has material and memories to share with Dorothy Sharpe, please email via our website: [yetholmhistorysociety.weebly.com](http://yetholmhistorysociety.weebly.com) - or phone Elizabeth Watson (01573 420602).



Over the Summer break there was much excitement for our Primary 6/7 pupils as they received their Inspire Learning iPads.

There were rumours that Primary 5s might also get one each and we were pleasantly surprised to discover that all Primary 4/5 pupils would get them in October. We are now getting used to using this technology to enhance learning and teaching as our pupils will tell you in their own words below.

#### **What is good and bad about Our iPads by Sophia R**

What is good about our iPads is that we can go on our iPads and it doesn't take ages to log in, unlike our laptops. You can just open it and put your thumb on the home button and you're in. Another good thing is that we can download apps on an app called self service and it can restrict the apps to keep us safe. Our iPads have lots of fun apps like book creator where you can make books about your spelling or topic or anything really which is really fun. You also have Teams and Outlook where you can Email your homework to your teachers or ask them questions. I think our iPads are going to help us with our learning because it gives us lots of facilities to use for different things that we are learning and the teachers can watch you so you don't do anything you're not meant to do.

What is bad about our iPads is that if something doesn't work like word document you couldn't write a story but if you wrote it in your jotter then it would work all the time. Another bad thing is if you are on it too much then you're staring at a screen all day and your eyes could get sore.

### My iPad by James T

I love my iPad because it helps me with my learning. The main thing that I like is Sketches School because it helps me draw. If I did not have Post It note, I would forget many things. I also like Kahoot! Because it have lots of fun Quizzes and I love it. Teams is good because we can FaceTime and get work from it.

### Ipads at Yetholm Primary School by Liam, Katie, Isaac, Asha and Sophia

Our iPad are really helpful because you can access more things and get them much quicker than on our old laptops. Writing is more fun on the iPad. We like to use our iPad for spelling, homework, drawing and learning about topic, which is World War II just now. We love doing Kahoot quizzes and using it to make amazing drawings. We can share our work really easily with our teachers but when we are in school they can watch what we are doing. We don't like that but they do. We are now using an app called Seesaw to share work that we are proud of with our parents too. Learning using the ipads is great.

These are some of the pictures that we have created using Sketches School:





## FUNDRAISING UPDATE - NOVEMBER 23, 2020

### **GREAT NEWS!**

We are still processing the most recent subscription/donation forms, but we are delighted to announce that our fundraising campaign has achieved a total in excess of **£145,000**, (subject to tidying up loose ends and doing a bank reconciliation). **This means that we have sufficient funds for the project to go forward!** In the meantime, it's still not too late to apply for shares or to donate.

We will of course provide another update with the final total and a breakdown between the share subscription and donation amounts, but we wanted to share this exciting news with everyone at the earliest opportunity.

Our immediate task now is to push forward with negotiations with Roy and Barbara on the formal contract for the purchase of the shop premises and its business.

This result has unquestionably shown the strength of our community spirit and how much we value our shop as a core element of Yetholm. Well done everybody - stay tuned for more updates!



## **MOREBATTLE & DISTRICT**

### **Poppy Collection 2020**

As you all know, the presence of COVID19 has created many obstacles this year.

Due to frequently changing Government guidelines and furthermore, updates from Poppy Scotland, the final decision was taken to discontinue door to door collections.

Having issued only two collection boxes, one to the village Community Shop the other to Templehall Hotel (7 boxes less than normal). The amazing total for 2020 was £802, only a few pounds less than last year's closing amount.

I would like to thank all who kindly donated so generously. A special thank you to Helen Cessford and Jane Horton for their creativity in making many face coverings and donating the proceeds from sales, also the Church for donating the retiring collection on Armistice Sunday.

Ann Girvan

Area Organiser



### **MOREBATTLE HALLOWEEN 2020**

This year because of Covid 19 restrictions Guisers were unable to go out around the Village Trick or Treating.

Jen O'Mara along with the Festival Committee had the idea of a Halloween House Trail.

She invited everyone to take part as a bit of fun to either carving a pumpkin, decorating your front window or accessorising your front garden with a spooky theme.

A great response took up the challenge including the Nursery and Village Shop. Everyone went to a great deal of effort with their creativity and imagination for a brilliant display.

A notice was put in the Village Shop of the participating houses to allow all to have a wander and enjoy everyone's efforts.

A big thanks to Jen for all her organisation.

## **St Cuthbert's Coffee Stop**

Greetings All as we hurtle towards Christmas! We here at St Cuthbert's Coffee Stop would like to take this opportunity to bring you an update of life in our world.

We like everyone took a hit with the Covid-19 pandemic. It has been an unusual year to say the least. However we did manage to open from mid July until the end of September, welcoming in walkers from all over the UK. There were predictably not many from overseas, though one or two North Americans seemed to have taken the opportunity to enjoy walking in our fair land.

The restoration work has continued and we now have some lovely new windows on the western side, a new section of floor and of course the ramp that is visible from the road. So little by little we venture on. Sometimes it seems frustratingly slow, and yet I am often reminded of the Israelites in the desert. They were only ever given enough manna for the day at hand. Those who collected more found that it was only ever sufficient for that day. (Exodus 16:18). This is a journey of trust and faith, which I suspect was also the journey of the community that built the St Aidan's church in the first place. They had been worshipping outdoors for over 100 years before they ever had this beautiful church to gather in. Many of our visitors feel a sense of calm and peace when they enter into St Cuthbert's Coffee Stop, and I think that the prayers and faithfulness of the original congregation together with our intentions to return it to a house of God contributes to that feeling.

So we continue, in faith and trust, to create a beautiful place for God and for those on the Way. The journey can be long and hard, and along with other churches between Melrose and Lindisfarne, we seek to offer rest for legs and soul.

May Advent be a time of nourishment for you, and a time of anticipation as our God makes himself vulnerable as the Christ-child.

God Bless you All.

Margaret and the St Cuthbert's Coffee Stop Team

## **On Christmas morning**

It's just gone 10.30 in the morning, God,  
But some of us have been up since the crack of dawn...  
Excitement is not a sleep-inducing essence.  
Santa's come and gone –  
He's such a good guy, one of your best ideas.  
Our living room's strewn with paper,  
The turkey's on,  
And Uncle Oscar from Auchtermuchty  
Is having a long lie in our guest room.  
Christmas.

Thank you for all you've given to us;  
Not the stuff, but the people:  
Their love,  
Their dreams,  
The possibilities that weave their way  
Into our days.  
Christmas.

Tell us ...  
Tell us again about forgiveness that frees,  
About love that is boundless,  
About peace that passes understanding.

Christmas –  
The gift of you that introduces us  
To each other.  
Amen

*Sally Foster-Fulton 'Hope was heard singing'*

## **The Great Yetholm Book Exchange Lockdown 2020.**

Boxes are outside shop in Town Yetholm and Kirk Yetholm bus shelter.  
Just one book at a time please as storage is limited.  
For all ages and interests – just donate and borrow at your leisure.

## **GOD APPROACHES**

Climate-change Advent,  
Dreich rather than cold,  
Wind in the trees and round the houses,  
Ditches full of murky water,  
Rare glimpses of a silvery sun.

And still God approaches,  
Wherever we are,  
However we're feeling,  
whatever the season.  
Bringing warmth  
and hope and promises,  
and surprises yet to come.

Ruth Burgess (from *Winter*)

### **A Creed**

We believe in god the maker,  
Who created heaven and earth,  
Star-maker, singer, source of life.

We believe in Jesus the storyteller,  
Who walked the roads of galilee, befriender, questioner, source of truth.

We believe in the holy spirit,  
Who is as close to us as our heartbeat, challenger, comforter, source of  
joy.

We believe that god is in our midst,  
Calling us to care for one another  
And to work for justice and peace.

We look for the light of god to shine  
On us and in us  
Through all the adventures  
Of our nights and days.  
Amen

Ruth Burgess

**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. The Halls in our areas are slowly and carefully reopening for limited activities – contact your local Hall for further information.**

### **Deadline**

**Please submit articles (including photographs) for the next edition of The Cheviot to a member of the editorial team by 21/03/21**

**[j.stewart134@btinternet.com](mailto:j.stewart134@btinternet.com), [johnmabon431@btinternet.com](mailto:johnmabon431@btinternet.com)  
[anne.scottbrown@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.scottbrown@btinternet.com)**

### **Register**

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**Deaths: Chris Cameron**

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### **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.

### **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](http://www.cheviotchurches.org)) or Gordon McNally's YouTube page by early afternoon each Sunday.

### **Poppy Collection – Yetholm**

Poppy Collection total for Yetholm District is £555.00, including £151.00 Church retiral offering.

During this difficult time, grateful thanks to all who allowed collecting tins in their premises and to members of the public for their kind donations.

The Church of Scotland is looking to hear from people 16 and older throughout the Church about their experiences of faith and church during the coronavirus pandemic.

As a Church we recognise that the Covid 19 pandemic has affected us all. We feel it is important that as a Church we listen to one another's experiences and share what we have learnt from this difficult and challenging time.

To help us do this, the Church of Scotland's trustees are initiating a Listening Project. We want to hear from all kinds of people aged 16 and older from across the Church, people of different generations, living in different circumstances in every corner of the country.

During this season of extraordinary challenges and unparalleled opportunities, this project will enable us to share our experiences; to hear one another's perspectives and, in doing so, develop a richer and more complete understanding of what has been happening and what we should be learning.

Regardless of your connection or involvement with the Church, we would love to hear from you. We want to hear from people of different generations and from all corners of the country

By taking some time to reflect and consider, it is hoped that everyone who participates will benefit personally as well as contribute to an important shared venture.

The Church of Scotland Listening Project has been carefully designed to ensure that you can share your experiences and insights with confidence, fully assured that your confidentiality will be carefully guarded.

Participation is via an online form, but if you would like to arrange for someone to help you, please call the following number and leave a brief message: 07966 286617. Likewise, if you know others who would like to be involved, but who are unable to complete the online form, please encourage them to call that number. A team of trained facilitators is available to enable people to complete the form over the phone. Access to the internet or familiarity with IT should not be a barrier to anyone making their contribution.

Please share the word among anyone who has any connection with the Church of Scotland and encourage them to share their unique contribution.

For further details and to participate in the Church of Scotland Listening Project, please view the Listening Project Submissions form at [churchofscotland.org.uk](http://churchofscotland.org.uk)



## **And finally!!**

The Four Stages of Life

1. You believe in Santa Claus.
2. You don't believe in Santa Claus.
3. You are Santa Claus.
4. You look like Santa Claus.

Anon

## **Cheviot Churches Elders and Districts**

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

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## **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](mailto:revcdj60@gmail.com)

### **Session Clerk:**

Susan Stewart, 22 The Yett Kirk Yetholm, Kelso TD5 8PL  
Tel: 01573420231 Email: [j.stewart134@btinternet.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.cheviotchurches.org)

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