

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

CHEVIOT



Welcome to our Church

Summer 2021



Prayer Corner

**Loving God, Creator of all times and places,
we thank you for the gift of summertime,
the days of light, warmth, and leisure.**

**Thank you for the beauty that surrounds us everywhere we look:
the multi-coloured flowers,
the deep blue of the sky,
the tranquil surface of lakes,
the laughter of children at play,
people strolling in the park,
families gathered around picnic tables and
the increased time to spend with family and friends.**

**As we open our eyes and ears to the landscape of nature and people,
open our hearts to receive all as a gift.**

Give us that insight to see you as the Divine Artist.

**Help us to realise and appreciate that you are labouring
to keep all in existence.**

And warm our souls with the awareness of your presence.

**Let all the gifts we enjoy this summer
deepen our awareness of your love
so that we may share this with others and enjoy
a summertime of re-creation.**

Amen



From the Manse

It is amazing who you meet! We are fortunate to have a number of people pass through our communities, including many walkers. It can be pleasant to pass the time of day with them, and many have commented on the warmth of our welcome. In chatting, it is always surprising how often we can make connections. This is something I have noticed in my time abroad – the world is a very small place, and you can always find something, whether people or places, that we have in common. A few weeks ago, I happened to meet two young men, resting in the shade in Morebattle. It transpired that they were studying for the Catholic priesthood and, as part of their training, they were making a pilgrimage from Lindisfarne to Iona on foot. However, they were doing it without any money and with no phones – they had to rely on the hospitality of strangers. It was a big act of faith, especially in these Covid times when people are more wary of those they don't know. I am glad to say that they were welcomed in both Yetholm and Morebattle, given meals and places to pitch their tents. It was fascinating to meet them, and I was reminded again of the importance of offering hospitality. In the Bible we are encouraged to be hospitable, as in doing so we might entertain angels unawares! Certainly Jesus was often given meals and shelter, and we are called to be welcoming and open in our dealings with all we encounter.

I made my own pilgrimage of sorts at the end of April, when I walked round the 5 churches in the parish, going from Hownam to Morebattle to Linton to Hoselaw and finally to Yetholm. It was part of the Kiltwalk scheme, by which the Hunter Foundation generously topped up the total by 50%. Over £2,300 was raised for church funds, and could I express my heartfelt gratitude to all who sponsored me. Fortunately the weather was good, the roads quiet and the scenery stunning – and only one blister!

As you may be aware, I spent several years in the Holy Land, and I have been very upset by the recent conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, especially in Gaza, which I visited on several occasions. The media tends to concentrate on the extremists (on both sides) and their views, but many people in that troubled part of the world are committed to living together in peace. As Church of Scotland, we have three establishments in the Holy land (a hotel, a guesthouse and a school), and in all three we deliberately have people of different faith communities working together in harmony as a model for the way forward.

I have always been tremendously humbled by so many good people who are determined to build bridges across the various cultures and religious traditions. One such group is the Tent of Nations outside Bethlehem, and

as you enter it, there is a sign, saying ‘We refuse to be enemies’. Over the years extremists have cut down their precious olive trees and have sought to take their land, but the family still refuse to retaliate. It is Jesus’ turning the other cheek in action.

I have been enjoying the long summer days and, after the frost, the sudden explosion of colour in the gardens. This will be another different summer, with many of our holiday plans having to be altered, as we continue to live with restrictions. We do thank God that we have, so far, been able to live quietly, and we hope that slowly but surely everything will begin to open up again. At church it has been a joy to be able to sing again, albeit behind our masks. Enjoy your summer!

God’s richest blessings
Colin

After Colin’s Kiltwalk, he received a card with the words:

*Put on the armour of God
-the Boots of Endurance
-the Kilt of Faithfulness
-the Rucksack of Righteousness,
Carrying only the bottle of the Water of Life
And the Map that marks our Destiny.*

(St Paul’s letter to the Galoshes Chap 1 v5, adapted from the New Scottish Borders Version)



Before and after the Kiltwalk 2021

Edinburgh Direct Aid

Thanks to everyone who contributed clothes, shoes and toiletries for EDA. Colin took them to the warehouse in Leith, and they will be put in a container and shipped out to Lebanon, where they will be given to Syrian refugees (both in Lebanon and in the Idlib Province of Syria). Lebanon has given shelter to many refugees, but is notoriously unstable, both politically and also economically.

Edinburgh Direct Aid is completely run by volunteers and has been working with the most vulnerable since 1992, when it was set up to respond to the crisis in the Balkans. One of our members, Peter Boyd, later drove trucks with much-needed supplies to places like Sarajevo and Kosovo. The remit was extended to include assistance to those in need as a result of war or natural disaster, and more recently the focus has been on Syrian refugees. The aims are:

- to deliver material aid directly to those in need;
- to bring to them also the comfort of the friendship of our volunteers;
- to raise the awareness of our members, donors and supporters at home through communication of the experiences of our volunteers working abroad.

We will continue to support EDA, and if anyone has good quality clothing (or educational material/ toiletries), please do contact Colin at the manse.

St Cuthbert's Coffee-Stop

The Coffee-Stop is situated at St Aidan's Church in Morebattle and is an ideal place for coffee and cake or for a soup and sandwich lunch. There are lots of interesting cards and local crafts too. We are always looking for **volunteers** to help, so if you have some free time, please speak to Margaret Pederson.

Birdbath's Green Space

Although he does not always relish the sweat of mowing (and he recently had to take 10 bags of mossy thatch to the Tip after scarification, as well as 3 fat bags of grass) Rev. Birdbath does love his lawn. He is saddened to see so many domestic lawns nowadays replaced by soulless paving, gravel, decking or even tarmac. He delights to watch birds running around on his lawn, pecking for worms for their chicks, a pair of young rabbits helpfully trimming the long grass at the edge, and at one time

(alas no longer) young NZ relatives and his former students camping out on it. Lawns are green, growing (if sometimes too fast!) and part of our God-given natural environment. In many Churches which observe the 'Liturgical Colours', the hangings, Table-frontal and clerical vestments are Green in the long weeks of what the Church calls 'Ordinary Time' between Pentecost (Red, just past) and Advent (Violet, far ahead in November). They are months of green growth, as we hear again of Jesus welcoming strangers, teaching, healing, affirming sinners, feeding hungry crowds, consoling and rejoicing with friends, and leading us towards what He calls the Kingdom of Heaven, which surely has a huge lawn of glorious green grass? A tarmac Heaven sounds a ghastly place.

Letter received anonymously re the Spring Edition of The Cheviot

13/4/21

Dear Editorial Team

This is a publication that is paid for out of "Church Funds", which we, the congregations pay for. There is far too much about the area and/or local community as distinct from the church, and a large part of the Easter edition doesn't mention God's name at all!!

This requires to be put right.

Is this enlarged magazine bringing any more people to church? Is it doing "charities" any more good than previously? Are these "remote" articles of any real interest so that recipients of supposedly a "church magazine" read it cover to cover?

I doubt it.

Perhaps you should publish this letter in your next edition and reduce the total content to 16pp max, and invite some comments?

Name and address held in the interests of lack of time and real inclination to enter into argument.

Response to above letter from Cheviot Editorial Team

I, Stuart Kelly, am writing this on behalf of the team that puts together *The Cheviot* magazine in response to the anonymous correspondence which, as requested, we have published. The letter caused a deal of consternation and grief to the volunteers who bring about the magazine out of love, duty and a hope to pass on information about the Church and its work.

First and foremost, it is important to stress that *The Cheviot* comes *from* the Church, rather than being *for* the Church. Elders

deliver copies to every home in our parish, regardless of whether the people are regular attenders. As such, it is an aspect of mission.

Secondly, looking at the previous issue, I would like to point out that 25 of the 36 pages mention God, religion and the life of the Church. The fact we have articles about the life of the community is because the Church is part of the community.

Thirdly, I think it is important that there are pieces about, for example, the schools or the village shops. It means that people might read the “secular” parts and be curious enough to read the more clearly religious parts. It is a form of evangelism. Jesus himself called the first apostles by referring to their day-to-day concerns and careers when he said “Come, and I will make you fishers of men”.

Finally, I would like to extend an invitation to whoever wrote the letter, if the person is still vexed about the content of *The Cheviot* to contribute to the next issue.

Fairtrade

The Church of Scotland in general, and Cheviot Churches in particular, support the work of the Fairtrade Foundation. This organisation oversees a system of certification that ensures ethical standards are met in the production and supply of traded products and ingredients. For farmers and workers, Fairtrade means workers’ rights, safer working conditions and fairer pay. For shoppers it means high quality, ethically produced products. Fairtrade products sometimes cost slightly more than goods from other producers but what you are paying for is the peace of mind of knowing that no one has been exploited and impoverished to provide consumer goods for you.

Yetholm Church used to have a stall selling one particular brand of Fairtrade goods, called Traidcraft. This organization nearly folded a year ago, but it has survived and is again selling fairly traded goods from all over the world. Traidcraft is a charitable foundation as well as a distributor, and works long-term with producers, particularly in Third World countries, to develop local co-operatives and help them market their products. Items they sell include dried fruits, chocolate, coffee, tea, rice, and honey, as well as craft items. They also sell washing-up and clothes-washing liquids, in large containers, made with sustainably-grown palm oil. Traidcraft products are available for sale online. Check out their catalogue of delicious foods and ethically made clothes and gifts

at www.traidcraftshop.co.uk. There is no postage charged for orders over £50.

Yetholm History Society

Despite COVID, Yetholm History Society managed to rescue most of its season of talks. We heard about the Bondager system of female farm labour; about the identification of an extraordinary early medieval deer trap in the hills beyond Buchtrig; about the origins of the Border Line in the Eastern Borders; the mathematical genius Mary Somerville, born in Jedburgh, and, finally, the discovery, by local historians in Ancrum, of the oldest surviving wooden footings of a medieval bridge. Talks were held, when allowed, in the Wauchope Hall, but latterly, over Zoom. The Society is deeply grateful to the speakers and to Susan Stewart who facilitated the Zoom meetings.

The talk by eminent archaeologist Dr Piers Dixon on the Dormount Hope deer trap, which extends for kilometres in the hills beyond Buchtrig was followed up by an outing on Saturday 12th June in which YHS members joined a group from Peebles Archaeological Society for a guided walk around the deer-trap, led by Dr Dixon. The weather was glorious and the deer-trap itself fascinating. The stone and earth dyke is huge, completely surrounding Dormount Hope. Who could have constructed such a massive and costly structure? If you want to hear more about the trap, go to Yetholm History Society's website and visit the blog page for June 2021. The blog has a link to a video of Dr Dixon's talk.

The final event of this season was an exhibition in our refurbished Mission Hall – 'Life on a Cheviot Hill Farm 1911-1947' based on the surviving diaries of two brothers, George and Jim Storie, who shepherded at Cocklawfoot before World War 2. We were delighted to welcome visitors back to the Mission Hall. Over 200 people came and most gave enthusiastic feedback. As well as using the diaries, the exhibition drew on some of the research and visual material collected for last year's exhibition on hill-farming life in the College, Bowmont and Kale valleys. COVID lockdowns forced us to delay and then curtail that exhibition, but we hope to find ways of showing at least some of the material on future occasions, perhaps at Yetholm Shepherds' Show.

The permanent interpretative panels that will transform our Mission Hall into Yetholm Heritage Centre should be delivered in the coming week. Three of the panels will be placed in Yetholm Kirk and show the long history of the kirk in Yetholm alongside some surviving stones from the twelfth century building. Hopefully visitors to the new Heritage Centre will be inspired to walk across the Haugh and look around the church. All

being well, we shall hope to open the Mission Hall, with its panels, to visitors, at least for restricted periods, at some point over the summer.

If you are interested in becoming a member of Yetholm History Society, please contact the Society via our website. Membership is only £6.00 – for six or more talks a year. A real bargain!

Every week, the leaders of the various church denominations in Scotland issue a prayer to be read on Sunday evenings at 7pm. Many of us light a candle at the same time. Here is one of the recent prayers:

*Lord of the winds and of the sea,
Be with us today
As we turn to You and listen for Your voice.
Whether in the midst of quiet or of storm,
Speak to the depths of who we are.
Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

*Lord of the winds and of the sea,
Be with us today
As we leave behind that which is past
And face the challenges of this day:
Speak Your word to us in this present moment.
Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

*Lord of the winds and of the sea,
Be with us today
As we sense the depth of the challenges we face
And fear that we shall soon be o'erwhelmed:
Speak to us in the still, small voice of calm.
Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

*Lord of the winds and of the sea,
Be with us today
As You have been with us
In all the days that the storm has raged:
Speak the words that calm the storm and cease the rage.
Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer.*

*Lord of the winds and of the sea,
Be with us today
As we hear the words You have spoken
And know the peace of Your presence renewed:
Speak the words that inspire faith and reassure us of Your abiding
presence.
Lord, in Your mercy,
Hear our prayer*



“Oh the places you’ll go!” Dr Seuss

As we end another academic year and wish our Primary 7’s all the best for their future beyond Yetholm Primary School it is the perfect time to reflect on the journey so far- what has come before and what will come next. For all our pupils, families and staff this year has had challenges- well done and thank you from me.

Primary 7 Activity Week

We had a brilliant activity week for our Primary 7’s recently. This was because they did not get to go on their residential trip to Kingswood as planned.

On Monday we baked with Miss Thomson, then we played Nerf Wars in the afternoon. Lorna Esson from Active Schools came to help with this. It was fun although we really wanted to shoot the teachers (but we weren’t allowed!)

On Tuesday the whole class walked up Staerough, got time in the Wildlife Area on the way back and then had a fun afternoon with the rest of the school in the park where we got ice cream.

Wednesday morning saw us mountain biking in the morning. This was just for Primary 7 which was nice.

Our most special day was Thursday where we got a full outdoor day at Linton. We built dens, explored the ruins of Clifton House, had a picnic lunch, campfire with marshmallows and even had a big water fight / slip and slide. It was our highlight!

On Friday we had Sports Day with the whole school. It was a good way to end the week. We are excited to find out who the Sports Champions are this year, especially because we didn’t have any last year.



What a year! I can't believe we are at the point again of sending Primary 7's off to high school; welcoming in our new Primary 1 pupils (and managing to enjoy a few weeks of putting our feet up and laptops off!)

Primary 7 Activity Week

Due to missing out on their residential, Primary 7 (and at times the rest of the class due to our composite classes) enjoyed a fun-filled activity week in and around the school environment. We started on Monday with an outdoor day up at Hownam Grange; on Tuesday the class went orienteering in Bowmont Forest, enjoyed a picnic and then walked back to school; Wednesday they went hill walking (before returning for our whole school afternoon together with games and icecream); on Thursday they spent the morning mountain biking before Sports Day; and then on Friday they had an arts and crafts morning. What a delight it was! The children were praised in the community for their respect and manners

which is one rewarding hear as a Luckily the opportunity memories quality time way to finish time with us.



of the most things you can teacher. pupils had this to make and spend together as a the last bit of



Dreams of Tomorrow
By Bowmont's stream in Staerough's vale

There lies a place so fair
A place that haunts my waking hours
With thoughts that hurt me sair
Sweet Yetholm! How I love that name
With all my kin folks there
Set like a jewel in Cheviot's range
What exactly is there

My thoughts will never cease to stary
Right up that burn sae fine
Past Attonburn and Cliftoncote
In that sweet land o'mine
And should I roam a thousand miles
In any foreign clime
No manmade beauty can ere dim
Those memories of mine

For dear old Scotland calls her sons
Wherever they may be
And kindly thoughts of our dear land
Go fleeting over the sea
Oh hear my humble wish today
With reverence I pray
Restore this weary world to peace
And let us home to stay

And never more I'll leave that land
Of hills and burbling streams
Of love and folks beyond compare
That meet me now in dreams
The simple joys that once I knew
I'll relish more and more
The family ties that tug me now
In that land that I adore.

**Author unknown – found in the belongings of the late Francis
Christie of Yetholm**

FGG Yetholm News Spring/Summer 2021

Well, summer has arrived and we have been planning behind the scenes. Sadly, it was not possible to hold the plant sale again this year but we hope to resurrect it for May 2022. At this moment, we are not sure if we will be having a coffee morning in the autumn.

However, we can report that all our sites continue to be maintained and managed. The picnic area continues to be strimmed regularly and the hazel trees have been partially coppiced and some wild flower areas have been sown. Do go and sit for a while, it is a tranquil spot.

The Morebattle Oak trees are really well established now and each year we note their progress. The horse chestnuts donated by a Morebattle villager have been planted on the perimeter of the Playing field at the far end and should get established over the next few years.

COVID limitations on meeting, even outdoors, have meant that some winter maintenance work on the School's Wildlife Area did not go ahead. Work postponed till next Autumn/Winter includes hedge trimming and repairs to the small dam that slows the flow along The Goat (the drainage channel that runs through the Wildlife Area). We aim to encourage the water to form a temporary pool in the Spring to encourage frogs to spawn. Work continues on the wild-flower meadow. We were thankfully joined by a new volunteer last Autumn who helped with the backbreaking work of scything and raking the meadow. Without this work the ground would be too rich and the grass too thick for wildflowers to survive. We sowed yellow rattle again to help impoverish the grass. We have also planted various wildflowers as plug plants and will hope to see these gain strength in the coming years. This Spring, for the first time, there have been ox-eye daisies, one field geranium has flowered, birds foot trefoil, beloved by bees have thrived, and we have had a riot of greater stichwort. Our apple trees, planted two years ago, have been damaged by a deer, but they are all alive, although, unlike last year, they have very few apples. The cold winds and drought when they were in flower must have prevented pollination. No doubt next year will bring a better harvest.

As for the regular tub/trough and bed floral displays, we have decided to go down the hybrid route of permanent planting and some summer annuals along with our regular wall flower display. You will have noticed that other villages and the local towns have adopted this approach. The reasoning is two- fold. It cuts down on a lot of wasteful watering which the permanent plants should not require and maintenance is also reduced. We plan to have year- round foliage/colour and also are encouraging bees and pollinating insects with our choice of plants. It may look rather plain initially but we are sure that it will mature into a colourful picture in the future.

If you are interested in getting involved with our small group, please contact any of the team as you see us out and about or phone Kate Moses on 01573420522. You would be made very welcome.

Cherrytrees Garden Yetholm Open Afternoon

12 - 3 pm Sunday 18th July 2021

Space available to bring your own picnic

£4 entry for adults, under 18 free,

Proceeds to Cheviot Churches and Space to Grow - Garden Project at Huntlyburn, Borders General Hospital.



Time again for your regular update from the community shop board. Hopefully many of you have been out enjoying the recent sunshine and good weather. With the relaxing of restrictions, its very nice to see the return of cyclists, walkers and holiday makers to the shop, the village and the area in general. It's lovely to see everything blooming. The shop continues to thrive.

Seasonal availability is resulting in more local produce, in particular fruit and veg. Its anticipated that this should increase over the next few months as we look forward to the return of local honey and blueberries among other produce. The range of produce is constantly under review and constantly expanding so do pop in an have a browse.

The final refrigeration set up has allowed the introduction of a number of new ranges and brands, including Arran ice creams, ready for the Summer. The new drinks chiller in the front of the shop allows us to have a range of chilled alcoholic drinks, including pre-mixed cocktails which are proving popular with people.

Improvements to the shop itself have continued with plans for new flooring in place as well as a redecoration. The back garden area is being used regularly by both locals and visitors and provides a lovely area (weather permitting) for a chat, a chill and a chance to enjoy the sunshine.

Cyclists and others have been taking advantage of the ability to refill their water bottles. It is an excellent thing to have the ability to offer not least to promote reduction in use of plastic bottles.

The opening hours of the shop have been slightly extended with opening until 5.30pm Wednesday to Saturday.

As always, the shop couldn't be so successful without the very passionate management team and volunteers and we thank them for their continuing efforts. Please do pop in and have a browse and a chat.

If anyone has any comments or suggestions, please speak to any member of the board or email morebattlecommunityshop@gmail.com

MOREBATTLE IN BLOOM

Morebattle in Bloom held a very successful Plant Sale in the Village Hall adhering to all Covid 19 Regulations. Many varieties of bedding plants, hanging baskets etc. were on display and everyone was enthusiastic to purchase. Committee members have been busy planting the Containers, Flower Beds and Hanging Baskets around the Village for everyone to enjoy the Colourful Blooms. Sadly, the Scotland's SBC Floral Gateway competition will not be held this year again owing to Covid.

Catherine Mabon

MOREBATTLE INSTITUTE

Morebattle Institute held their AGM recently abiding with Covid 19 Regulations. There are a few changes to the Committee as both Mary Pringle and Gilbert Elliot tendered their resignations as Office Bearers but are remaining on the Committee. Mary has been Treasurer/Booking Secretary for 35 years and Gilbert has been Chairman for 15 years and Vice Chairman before that. A presentation was made to Mary and Gilbert as a token of appreciation for all their work involved with the Institute.

New Committee is:

Chairman - Alan Thomson,

Vice Chairman - Ann Banks

Secretary/Treasurer - Catherine Mabon

Committee – Grace Cessford, Gilbert Elliot, Jenny Flannigan, Maria Flannigan, Julie Johnstone, Mary Pringle, Sandra Redhead and Dick Warren.

Catherine Mabon has taken over as Treasurer and Booking Secretary. The Institute at the moment is allowed to open for Small Meetings/Events seating 12 Socially Distanced. If anyone wishes to book, please contact Catherine Mabon 01573440329.

Matters discussed were Upgrading the Kitchen and a New Roof. Quotes will be obtained.

Catherine Mabon
Secretary

Church of Scotland Guild – Whose we are and whom we serve



Greetings to our brothers and sisters from your friends in the Guild. Not too many brothers, though that may change as it has done elsewhere. The report was given to The Assembly by our National Convener Mabel Wallace. Our Moderator stated that the response to the comments showed plainly the value of the work of the Guild which came across clearly

A lady, moving to a new area twenty years ago, stated that joining the Guild had changed her life completely, deepening her faith while opening her eyes to inadequacies and injustices at home and around the world. She urged all members of congregations to find it in their hearts to become involved in their Guild adding that many people, mainly Sessions and sometimes even ministers, knew little of the work done. (Happily, this does not apply in our situation.)

A gentleman congratulated the Guild for work done locally, nationally, and beyond. He was in awe of the amount raised for projects (£551,434) accentuating the impact that this made on the Church of Scotland's mission in the world.

Giving thanks for the responses our convenor stated that, during this unusual year, the Guild had risen to the challenge. "We are the Guild. That is just what we do."

Although praise indeed was given, we must not rest on our laurels. We must be mindful of the words of our outgoing Moderator that there is much work still to be done.

LOOK FORWARD IN FAITH

Annual Gathering 2021

We are disappointed to have to let you know that the Annual Gathering planned for the Caird Hall on Saturday 4 September has had to be cancelled. The National Council felt that, with the current restrictions remaining in place for a further four weeks, it is impossible to plan a Gathering in Dundee. However, it has been agreed to hold an in-person Annual Gathering in the Assembly Hall where we will be able to have approx 100 people, including representatives from each Guilds Together group. We are currently in dialogue with the technical staff to ensure that you will be able to join us from the comfort of your own home. Further details will be sent to all Guilds in July but please save the date!

Register

Deaths: Francis Christie, Mary Laidlaw, Doug Leitch, Ella Robertson

Summer Fun Facts

Height of summer

Did you know that on a hot day in Paris, the Eiffel Tower grows taller?

The tower is constructed from iron and when this is warmed it expands, causing the structure to grow by up to 17 cm.



Update – June 2021

We are pleased that we have overcome most of the challenges we faced during the settling-in period and are now working to deliver on the main objectives contained in our Social Enterprise Plan.

We reported in our last bulletin that we had made our formal application to take over the Post Office branch, and we are now glad to confirm that our application has been accepted. The official Date of Transfer will be fixed in accordance with the internal Post Office processes, including on-site attendance of an officer for final audit and training purposes. In the meantime, our Post Office counter will continue to operate as at present. The Post Office are keen for us to promote the full range of services available, and we'll have more to say on this in due course.

Many of you will have noticed the introduction of our first volunteers working alongside the staff. This is an important step forward in our business plan and it will also enable us to adapt our shop hours to cater to the anticipated increased summer trade. We extend our thanks to this first group of volunteers, but also repeat our call to others who are willing to offer some of their time as we need more people to develop a robust roster to call upon.

We will continue to review both our pricing and selection of stock. We have seen an encouraging initial response to the first of the changes that we have made, and this will remain an important and ongoing focus for the management team.

The initial urgent repairs to the roof and chimney have been completed. We will soon be able to submit our planning application for the internal and external refurbishment and refit of the shop. The anticipated time that this process will take, along with a desire to minimise disruption to the shop during the busier tourist season, means that the decant of the shop to temporary premises for the duration of the work will not occur until the end of summer/beginning of autumn at the earliest. Please bear with us as we work to make the shop the best it can be for all of us.

Finally, Janice Gillies's last day as shop manager was Sunday June 13.

We would like once again to thank Janice not only for her service, but also her invaluable assistance as the shop has transitioned to community ownership. We are delighted that Janice has agreed to continue to be available to us as we move forward and develop our new management arrangements.

SUPPORT YOUR SHOP – SUPPORT YOUR COMMUNITY!

Lands' End to John O'Groats Challenge

Shauna the daughter of the late Dorothy Halliday from Morebattle, is walking solo from Land's End to John O' Groats, in memory of her mother, to raise money for Macmillan Cancer Research. On Saturday the 19th of June, she had arrived in Yorkshire, having covered 651 miles since she set out on 27th April.

She will include part of St Cuthbert's walk, planning to come through Yetholm and Morebattle towards the end of July. We hope to be able to arrange some kind of reception for her, as allowed, or some might like to walk a short distance with her. We will announce final details on Sunday the 4th of July in our Churches and in our local shops. Please make this remarkable journey known and if you can support this most worthy cause, it will be very much appreciated.

(Kathleen Bates)

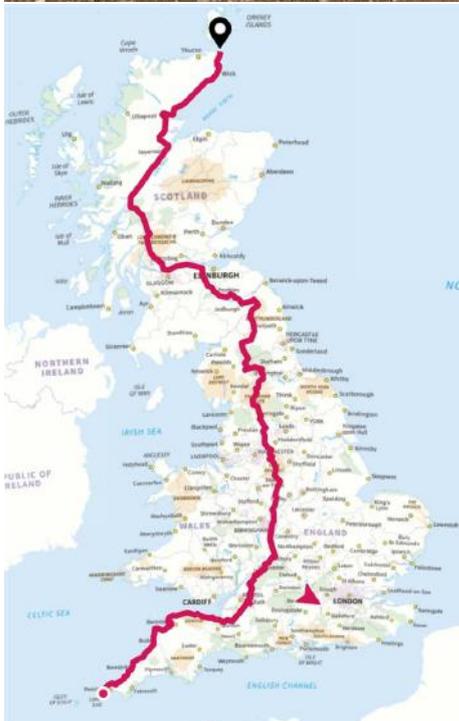
On April 27th I set off walking from Lands' End, destination John O'Groats. Over the course of about 4 months, I hope to walk from the furthest southwest point of the British mainland to the furthest northeast. The shortest possible distance is 874 miles - however, I am most definitely not going by the most direct route! As I am not planning on doing this again, I am using this opportunity to walk all the routes on my wish list - so I walked up the north coast of Cornwall and Devon on the Southwest Coast Path, then completed the Cotswold Way, and as I write this, I am in the Pennines. Soon I will be heading northeast to the Northumberland coast, walking up the coast path before joining the St Cuthbert's Way and passing through Kirk Yetholm and Morebattle, hopefully around 6th July.

From there I will head over the Southern Uplands towards Edinburgh, along the canals towards Glasgow, then the West Highland Way and the Great Glen Way before the final stretch from Inverness to the top. The full distance is likely to be about 1300 miles.

I am raising money in memory of my lovely mum, Dot Halliday. When mum was ill, we received incredible support from Macmillan Cancer Support, and this is just a small way of saying thank you. If you can help, donations can be made at

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Shalna-Lejog

Thank you, Shauna.



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 Friday 24th September

**j.stewart134@btinternet.com, johnmabon431@btinternet.com
anne.scottbrown@btinternet.com**



A ‘GEAN’ – what is that?

A gean is a wild cherry tree (prunus avius for Latin lovers). It is indigenous to Northumberland and the Borders, grows to a height of 30 feet and has beautiful white blossom in the spring.

We thought it would be good to have some kind of memorial to those who died during the pandemic – both from the villages and surrounding area, and those who are known to us. Nearly everyone knows someone affected by Covid or the fallout from it.

To that end, we have kindly been given permission by James Wauchope to plant some trees on the small area of grassland adjacent to the cemetery on Morebattle Road in Yetholm. The wild cherry will be central and surrounded by a grove of birches – small to start with, but should look good in 5 years or so, rabbits permitting.... Planting will be done in October, and if you would like to help – please let me know. The Kirk Session is currently exploring the planting of similar trees in Hownam, Linton and Morebattle. It is hoped to have some kind of blessing/dedication around the beginning of November (All Saints and Remembrance Days) to which families and friends and anyone who would like to come can do so. More details later.

Pippa Emerson

Beirhope Alpacas – Our journey so far



Celebrating our 4th birthday on the 10th June it's hard to believe how far we have come given all of the challenges we have faced here at Beirhope Alpacas. Its been quite a journey so far but one we wouldn't swap for the world.

Moving to the Kale Valley into the former Roxburgh Estate property back in 2016 we had no idea what we planned to do beyond move in one day. Instantly we fell in love with our crumbling, quirky smallholding; the stone barns, the house and the small but wonderful patch of land. Not coming from a farming background and not having very much land posed many challenges for us. Knowing we were too big to do 'nothing' but not big enough to do 'something' we headed to the glamping show in search of yurts etc. Instead I returned with 5 Alpacas – as you do! A chance

encounter with these quirky animals has changed our lives forever and we began our alpaca adventure back in 2017 with no real clue as to how it would work.

Today we have a herd of 23 alpacas and counting, welcome visitors to meet or trek with our friendly alpacas, offer gift vouchers and sell our very own Alpaca yarn and some blended yarns using our neighbours' wool too. With our new venture – wild camping or as we call it 'campacas' Beirhope is never dull!

Its an absolute pleasure to go to work each day. The Kale Valley is just beautiful boasting some of the most spectacular views towards the Cheviots, the Eildons and beyond. Our visitors never fail to be wowed by both the views and the alpacas. They seem to make going for a walk even more exciting and fun and let's face it there aren't really many alpacas hiding in the Cheviots!

Covid -19 has been an incredibly stressful time for many. Worrying at times if as a business we could survive a global pandemic was the most stressful experience. Closing in first lockdown was scary but second time around it was soul destroying. Thankfully as an outdoor activity we have been incredibly lucky to be able to open when we did and welcome smaller numbers of people. Achieving the industry accreditation of 'Good to Go' shows we have taken all of the necessary safety measures around COVID in order to offer a safe experience for our visitors. And we have had the opportunity to do things a little differently and meet people by the power of Zoom. Farm tours and Meet alpacas have all been possible via the world wide web (and Borderlink our Wifi provider!!).

In May we were delighted to support Dementia Awareness week offering visits to those living with Dementia and their carers. The joy this brought to people after such a long time of restrictions was fantastic and certainly made us smile just as much as our visitors. Thank you to everyone who supported the raffle; £222 was raised for the Borders Branch of Alzheimers Scotland.

So as we head into the school holidays we are looking forward to welcoming visitors from near and far to meet or walk with our fantastic team of Alpacas. Why not get in touch and book your visit this summer – visit our website to book online at www.beirhope.co.uk or email us: beirhopealpacas@gmail.com

Photography Competition

Thanks to all who took part in this competition. Thanks also to John Stobart who spent a large amount of time organising this for us.

Winners were – Simon Oldham (Adult), Caitlin Butler, Abi Butler
Well done to all.

What, How and When?

Covidly, it's impossible to know just what's going to happen next, or when, but like other local choirs, the Yetholm Village Choir has plans to restart as soon as possible. In fact, as soon as Wednesday, September 1st.

But most importantly, we shall need official permission to be able to sing together again, without masks, and without the two metre distance rule, as there are 60-odd of us, but no buildings remotely big enough.

So, what can we do meanwhile? The answer is to hope, to pray, to agitate and to annoy our elected representatives as often as possible. If football crowds can now do what football crowds do, then it doesn't make a lot of sense to continue to impoverish the lives of two million singers in the UK.

Members of the choir will be contacted when there is good news. If you'd like to join us (we're a very friendly lot) look out for our posters and news in the press, or contact Geoffrey Emerson on 01573 420279.

Some words on religion

Ever since I was a schoolboy, studying Latin and Greek (and also Sanskrit through the kindness of a chemistry teacher who realised I had a pathological aversion to PE), I have been fascinated by etymology. It is almost like the secret history of words, and knowing where a word comes from is useful in knowing how to use it, and what it might truly mean.

So what does "religion" mean as we trace it back through time? There are two major schools of thought. One derives from the Roman orator Cicero, who thought it came from *re-legere*, meaning to "go through again in reading or thought" – metaphorically, he takes this to mean "to choose carefully". But St Augustine proposes a different origin. For him it was *re-ligo*. *Ligo* means to bind, so *re-ligo* means to bind back together or to reconnect. My favourite use of the Latin *religi* comes from Pliny the Elder who wrote "The elephant is the largest of them all, and in intelligence approaches the nearest to man... it has a religious aspect also for the stars, and a veneration for the sun and moon".

Which of these is correct? I don't know, cannot ever know and fundamentally don't care. They are both useful as ways of thinking about religion. Words are tools, and we all know we need more than one: you can't mow the lawn with a screwdriver.

Before the pandemic I did a lot of leading worship in various churches. At present, I am able to go out again, to Hawick Burnfoot, to Ale and Teviot and hopefully to the many other places I was privileged enough to take services in the long-lost 2019. I think it was nigh-on twenty different congregations across our area and even forthwith. It was a very useful learning experience. I found nothing but welcome, sincerity and a true commitment to acknowledging that each and every one of us is loved by God. I also found that some churches don't have smallest rooms!

The Church is facing dramatic change. So what do we do? In my experience of going around different churches, I come back to religion. We go through again in reading or thought. Often, we don't know our Bible well enough, and I am as guilty of that as the next person. The Bible isn't a mine with a single seam of gold. It is all of value, even the parts that are confusing, enigmatic or just boring. Having to prepare sermons meant reading the verses of the week, and then thinking "what do I think?" The thing is, the Spirit always made me think something new. But we also have to reconnect and bind back together. By that I mean we need to reconnect to our communities who do not yet know the love of God – though the number of funerals does give some credence to the old adage about there being no atheists on the battlefield. But we also have to bind back together, to share resources and talents, the way the earliest apostles did.

Be in no doubt. There will be fewer ministers and churches will close. But if we consider carefully, read the Bible prayerfully and remember to work together, there is a future. It will not be easy moving forward, but the Church is the anvil that has worn out many hammers. At a recent meeting we were asked for the qualities in a candidate for a Church position we were looking for, and I – or rather I was told by something higher – said "care, courage, charisma". That is the real essence of religion.

Stuart Kelly

And finally –

Just a reminder to all in our parishes that the editorial team are more than happy to receive articles from all members and groups in our community. This includes Yetholm, Morebattle, Linton, Hownam and Hoselaw and everywhere in between! So please don't be shy.

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

Roll 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