

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

CHEVIOT



Autumn 2021



Prayer Corner

“While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease” ([Genesis 8:22](#)).

Gracious and loving Lord, thank you for the seasons we can count on, find routine in, and that will never cease while the earth remains. As we enter into autumn, when the cooler winds drift in and the days grow shorter, draw us closer to you. Let us feel your warm and loving presence. May we imagine ourselves in your arms, close to your heart, surrounded by your light, and find comfort in your consistency when the world around us seems to be constantly changing. Thank you for your loving kindness that engulfs us and your light that drives the darkness away. We praise you for being a God who loves us and takes care of us. We are grateful you are with us in all circumstances and seasons.

(Pamela Plamer)

Amen.



From the Manse

Dear Friends,

Whenever I was in Africa or the Middle East, I used to shake out my shoes in case there was anything nasty, like a scorpion, lurking there. I didn't think I would need to do anything like that here in the Cheviots. I was wrong! The other evening a wasp had taken refuge in my slipper, and when I slid my foot in, it stung me. It was the first time I had been stung for a long time, and it really was quite painful. However, in my pain I was still conscious that the wasp had died, and I felt a sadness about that, as it had simply been defending itself.

Autumn is a time of transience and decay. There is a flourish of colour, as the leaves on trees turn gold and tan, red and orange. The fields have been yellow, as hay has been cut, though some still remain green with vegetables still to be harvested. In our gardens, our flowers start to fade for another year. All the time we are conscious of the nights lengthening, as we look out heavier jumpers and jackets. Summer is over.

We are incredibly fortunate to live in this part of the world with the beauty of hills and valleys of God's creation around us, with birds still lingering on till they fly away to warmer climes. And yet, we are aware of extremes of temperature all over the world, including here in the Borders. What we used to call 'climate change' has become the 'climate emergency', with dire predictions for our environment. At the beginning of November, the leaders of the world will gather at Glasgow for the COP26 meeting (COP stands for 'Conference of the Parties') to decide on collective action to reduce emissions and save the planet. We recently held a Climate Sunday service to focus on this.

We marvel at our world of waterfalls and canyons, butterflies and lobsters, of elephants and kangaroos – and even wasps, but so much of our wildlife faces decline and even extinction. We are called to take action. One of my friends at College wrote a meditation, delighting in God's creation, but also hearing:

*'the cries of pain and wails of lament
From creatures with nowhere to live and nothing to eat;
From animals choked by plastics
We have produced and carelessly discarded;
From the last living survivors of species
About to disappear and be no more.*

*God, some of it is our fault, but not all.
Some, if not all, is within our power to change.
Help us today, as we celebrate all that is,
To catch a vision of what yet might be,
And work with you to make that vision real'.*

Mary Henderson in 'Autumn' (Wild Goose/ Iona books)

We lament the state of our planet, but each of us in our small way can make a difference and help to alter the face of our world. Jesus delighted in the countryside around him, using it as settings in his parables. Let us tend wisely our world, over which God made us stewards.

Rev. Colin

Hownam and Linton Kirks

Hownam and Linton churches are now officially re-opened. Presbytery inspected both towards the end of August and gave the go-ahead to hold services, though subject to the various Covid restrictions. We hope to reopen Hoselaw Chapel in due course. However, all our church buildings will sadly have to remain locked for the time being, unless some activity is going on. Hopefully the time will come when they will be open again throughout the week, but that is still some time away. There will be the service at Linton on the 1st Sunday of each month at 11.15am. We also hope to hold services at both Hownam and Linton to remember those who have passed away over this pandemic period.

Celtic rune of hospitality

We saw a stranger yesterday.
We put food in the eating place,
drink in the drinking place,
music in the listening place.
And in the sacred name of the triune God,
she blessed us and our house,
our cattle and our dear ones.

As the lark says in her song:
Often, often, often goes the Christ in the stranger's guise
Thank you, God, for the colour of tomatoes and beetroot,
for the different colours and shapes and fragrances of flowers,
for grubby potatoes and funny-shaped carrots –
for the goodness of the earth itself.

Thank you, God, for the taste of apples from the tree –
of blackberries picked straight from the hedgerow;
for the glossiness of conkers and acorns ...
Thank you, God, for the smell of baking cakes and real coffee.
For the smell of woodsmoke and damp leaves;
and for the lights of home on a dark evening.

Thank you, God, for the kiss of a dog's wet nose and for the purring
contentedness of a cat.

For all of these ordinary wonderful things – thank you, God. May we
never forget to give thanks to you, Maker and Giver of all. Amen.

Richard Sharples

Rainbow litany

*When the rainbow appears in the clouds, I will see it and remember the
everlasting covenant between me and all living beings on earth. That is
the sign of the promise which I am making to all living beings. (Genesis
9:16–17)*

Let us remember the sign of your promise, the diversity built into the
very fabric of your creation, the colours of our lives, of our creativity, of
our hope in you.

Green is the colour of the earth after rain. Let it be for us a sign of growth
and new life

Yellow is the colour of the harvest corn. Let it be for us a sign of
sufficiency and sharing.

Red is the colour of wild berries. Let it be for us a sign of suffering and
courage.

Orange is the colour of pumpkin and spices and squash. Let it be for us a
sign of gift and rejoicing.

Blue is the colour of the sky above us and the sea around us. Let it be for
us a symbol of power and peace.

Violet is the colour of the small flowers clinging to mountain rock. Let it
be for us a sign of kindness and care.

Purple is the colour of the night just before dawn. Let it be for us a sign
of our longing and our hope in Christ.

Kathy Galloway

Lands' End to John O' Groats Challenge



Congratulations to Shauna who completed her epic walk from Lands End to John O' Groats on the 30th August 2021. (As reported in the summer edition of the Cheviot magazine).

Shauna counted up some of the statistics from her adventure, and here they are:

1314 miles walked over 96 days, average of 13.7 miles per day

2.97 million steps! That's nearly 31,000 per day

Over 125,000 calories burned. I clearly managed to replace most of these (possibly with ice cream) as I have only lost about half a stone in weight. But that was never my focus.

About 128,000 feet climbed.

74 different hotels, B&Bs and AirBnB's stayed in.

Amount raised for Macmillan Cancer Support: £7,126 plus £1,263 Gift Aid! This is almost 3 times the amount I set as a target, and I cannot thank you all enough for your generosity.

Amount raised for Cancer Research UK: £6,237 plus £1,130 Gift Aid! Now, I need to explain this. As you may know, I worked for RBS / NatWest for 11 years. And there is a lovely Facebook group for current and ex-staff members, and amongst other things, they raise money for Cancer Research. I have been posting my daily updates in that group too, and in return I have had tremendous support, and lots of donations to CRUK.

I have been overwhelmed by all your messages since I completed my challenge, I have read them all, thank you for all your kind words xxx

And lots of people have asked what I will do next! Well apart from re-enter the real world and find a job, I am going to be doing some running (at least until the Reading Half Marathon in November - I need some motivation to retain this level of fitness); I am planning to walk the Chilterns Way in sections over the winter (and will do some posts here) and - I am going to do some writing. Not sure whether it will ever see the light of day, but I have enjoyed doing my daily updates and you seem to have enjoyed reading them, so I want to write some more. Will keep you posted! More updates will follow over the next few days as I reflect on the last few months, in the meantime, again I say thank you so much for your support xxx (Shauna)

It is still possible to give to Shauna's just giving page which would be greatly appreciated. www.justgiving.com/fundraising/Shauga-Lejog

BIRDBATH'S HARVEST

After three consecutive years when they were rubbish, Birdbath will be giving joyful Harvest Thanks for his sensational 2021 crop of runner-beans. Other gardeners report the same success; and despite bestowing them on friends and neighbours and freezing bags of them, Birdbath cannot keep pace. He favours a brand called 'Lady Di', which have almost no 'string', and are very tender when cooked. Years ago, at a church in Kelso he told the punters one Sunday morning that if they were bored by his sermon they could work out 18-down in The Times weekend crossword: *Athletic vegetable. 6.4.* When the Offering was later brought up to the altar there were at least a dozen slips of paper amongst the cash, all saying 'Runner Bean'. Obviously, his sermon had failed to grip. Toothsome and healthy though they are, beyond boiling or steaming, plus some margarine and freshly-ground black pepper, there is not a lot to be done with a runner-bean? Suggestions for more exciting ways of serving them would be welcome.

A thank you letter

May I suggest you start a “letters to the editor” section? I want to write for two reasons: as a response to the anonymous letter in the last edition, and to celebrate the life of my beloved husband of fifty years on the first anniversary of his death.

One of the things that helped me through this last winter and lockdown was singing. It was a good thing to do if I was feeling sad and lonely, so I was looking for things to sing and I found Duruflé’s motet “Ubi caritas” on YouTube. (Ubi caritas et amor, Deus ibi est - Where charity and love are, there God is.) Although he was a composer writing in the twentieth century, Duruflé loved the simplicity of Gregorian chant, and this motet is based on one. Beautiful music, lovely words: I found I could sing that first phrase of the alto line on which it starts and then just improvise on those words as a kind of mantra - which was a bit of a surprise, and a surprisingly fun thing to do.



I regard myself as fortunate in a number of ways. I was able to recognise, very early on, the first symptoms of the Alzheimer’s Disease Philip suffered from long before it was apparent to him or anyone else. I made the decision to retire and thought it would be good for us both to be living in a village community again, so Philip and I moved back to the beautiful Scottish Borders - and here I still am. This letter is also a thank you to all those in this community who have touched our lives, who still touch mine, in so many little ways. The people who stopped and talked to Philip as he walked from here, down to the river and beyond. The people who stop and

speak to me as I walk or cycle around here, or as I work in my front garden. It is valued and appreciated. It has been a challenging time in which to cope with widowhood. And a thank you too, for the Cheviot - the magazine for this parish. Philip always liked to read it. He was curious about everything and liked to know what was going on. I enjoy reading many of the articles and it reinforces the sense of being part of a community. I have always marvelled that the Church not only produces and prints it, but then delivers it to every household in this parish. Thank you.



Well, for about five years we enjoyed a wonderful retirement and many long walks and bike rides. If we cycled to Cocklawburn and walked up to the Pennine Way, I always loved dropping back down on the Scottish side of the border; just hills and sheep, the Border countryside spread out before us. And then, after Philip's "official" diagnosis we were able to discuss the future, and how we would cope with whatever lay ahead - in particular, not wasting the precious time we had left together by allowing ourselves to get depressed. I remember one occasion when I was helping him fasten his high vis vest in a windy spot when he smiled at me and said

“soon I shall be completely helpless”. I replied, “if you carry on smiling, and letting me help you, all will be well”. That is what he did. And all was well. So, this is a small tribute to the wonderful man he was, that he was able to accept things as they were, and indeed as they progressed, and we were able to continue making the most of our life together, sharing jokes and laughter. Despite all the difficulties, I still think that in many ways those last ten years were the best.

The various support staff who visited us from time to time told us they liked coming to our house because we were, they said, the only people who laughed at our difficulties. For example, when Philip was trying to show the occupational therapist how he got himself onto a bed, and the manoeuvre failed, he found it absurd and would collapse in laughter - and you know how infectious laughter is. Well, he carried on making jokes and smiling to within two or three days of his death. And we were all able to smile and enjoy a joke at his funeral, when Geoffrey played “The Great Escape” outside the Wauchope Hall afterwards - the one bit of his funeral Philip really wouldn’t want to have missed.



A lovely, lovely man, and a caring community is all anyone could hope for. Ubi caritas et amor, deus ibi est.

Ann Thorns



Thanks to amazing supporters like you, we have reached a final total of £1,312,585, including £656,292 of match funding from the UK government, to help people on the front line stand strong in the face of climate change. In Issa's village they don't ask: 'Is climate change real?' They ask: 'How will we feed our families now that the floods have destroyed our farms?' Issa remembers a time when it wasn't like this. 'When I was growing up, these changes had not happened. Back then the seasons went through without any problem. People here knew exactly what to do because the weather was stable.' **(Excerpt from a Traidcraft letter.)**

*The certainty of his childhood is long gone. Climate change means that the region's once predictable weather is now erratic, and harvests have suffered. An unpredictable cycle of floods and droughts has meant that farming in his community barely survives. During flash floods last rainy season some of the villagers lost their animals and their houses were destroyed. Climate change is happening right now, and it is hitting the most vulnerable the hardest. Thanks to this money, Issa's village can now receive training in climate-resilient agriculture, forest protection and invest in tech, such as solar panels. With all this, delivered through Traidcraft teams in Tanzania, **The Regenerators can take that first step towards** making sure that communities can stand strong in the face of the changing climate.*

Anne Brown.

Hownam and Morebattle Church of Scotland Guild.

At long last, we are delighted to be able to make plans to enjoy the fellowship so much missed in the two previous years. Although, strictly speaking, we have no office bearers as we have missed two annual meetings, the old team decided to go ahead and arrange the first two meetings. These will be 'in house' rather than having speakers from other areas. We are blessed in having so many able speakers in our local communities who are willing to spend time with us at our gatherings. We hope to have Colin and Debbie with us in October and November to start exploring our new theme, 'Look Forward in Faith' which is very relevant in these times when we perhaps look forward in dread of radical changes in our churches. Life will be rather different in our Guild as only 'vertical refreshments' are permitted. We are advised to bring our own cups and any biscuits that we might wish to consume. This is reminiscent of the time when visitors to the village were amused by notices for whist drives – 'Tea provided. Bring own eats.' (This did not apply in the case of the Hostess Whist when the best tea services, complete with sandwich ashets – a Scots word possibly a mispronunciation of assiettes. Three tier cake stands along with silver teapots and water jugs were carefully laid out on embroidered tablecloths. Remember those days?) It will be cups in hand for the moment. Anne Brown.

We will continue to look forward in faith as we remember
'Whose we are and Whom we serve'
Memories of happier times. Christmas dinner 2019 at The Temple.



A sustainable planet: The circular economy; in other words repair, reuse, recycle and avoid landfill and unnecessary use of limited resources. The BBC has the popular ‘**The Repair Shop**’; Kelso has a **Men’s Shed** and Selkirk has the very popular ‘**The General Store**’. Through one of the monthly meetings of the Eco-Congregation Scotland Selkirk group I recently heard quite a lot about the latter. It is not quite the same as the BBC programme but the stories of the Blue Bunny and the POW dog whose tail had stopped wagging were touching. (It was lovely to see a picture of the dog rolling down Selkirk High Street, tail going nineteen to the dozen). But usually, it is more mundane articles that go to the store for repair. Sue Briggs and friends opened at the end of April in premises in the middle of Selkirk and it is a community interest company – a business with a heart. Run by volunteers and paid staff it has a 90% success rate and their mantra is “if you can get it over the doorstep, they will look at it and fix it if they can – (if not please take it away!). A mobile service is in the plan for the future. Most popular items submitted are clothes, garden tools, vacuum cleaners, lamps and radios. A similar set up in Glasgow does 60 repairs a month, The General Store does 100. I did say it was popular. It is important to note that electrical items can be PAT tested before return. Repairs are not free but the saving in cost to the environment is a crucial element. A web site is on the way but meanwhile contact can be made through generalstoreselkirk@gmail.com and the meeting can be seen on YouTube, and I have the link.

This Zoom session was one of many I have attended over the last months relating to climate change through the Eco-Congregation network and related organisations covering many topics including food waste, making clothes last longer, how we heat our homes, transport etc. and how our neighbours at home and worldwide are having their lives disrupted. All this is in the lead up to COP26 in November. **The Young Christian Climate Network** are being very proactive to the extent of taking to their feet. In June at the end of the G7 meeting they began a relay walk to end in Glasgow on 31st October. The walk from Newcastle to Berwick is from 7th - 14th October (including Holy Island) and then on up the coast. They are carrying a boat and would welcome our support if only to cheer them on. These youngsters are fighting for their future. You can get all the details on their website yccn/uk.

The harvest appeal from Christian Aid features Malawi and you can donate through the CA/Scotland website. Meanwhile the ladies from Kenya have relayed their thanks for our contribution of £1,634 from Christian Aid week. Links for Christian Aid and Eco-Congregation are on the Cheviot churches website.

Trish Gentry

Climate Emergency.

A new report by the International Federation of the Red Cross found that, over the past decade, 83 per cent of all disasters were caused by the extreme weather and climate-related events like floods, storms, and heatwaves. Globally, these disasters have killed more than 410,000 million, and affected a staggering 1.7 billion people. Of the 2,850 disasters triggered by natural hazards, the most frequent were floods. At this current rate, 147 million people will be at risk of flooding by 2030. If we act now, we may prevent some of these disasters before they happen. Many of those who survive continue to suffer from lack of food. We have been consistently warned of this situation for many years.

“The world has enough for everyone’s need but not enough for everyone’s greed.” Mahatma Gandhi.

Climate Crisis.

People in Madagascar are on the verge of starvation with malnutrition more than doubling in the past few months. 1.5 million people are in need emergency assistance as they suffer from a serious food crisis. Unprecedented droughts in recent years destroyed most of the crops in areas once green and arable. Lack of rain, and sandstorms have left the land covered in dust. The south of the country is now experiencing the worst drought for over forty years. Since they depend entirely on local agriculture to produce home grown food, many people have died. Some have walked for miles hoping for help from the World Food Programme whose work has been greatly disrupted during the pandemic. Those less able have existed for months on a diet of insects and cactus leaves with little water available. Pictures of children show wasted limbs and extended stomachs. The U.N. Food Agency says that without immediate aid a whole generation will be lost.

Climate Fact

Trees and forests are known as ‘carbon sinks’, because they store carbon dioxide as they grow. When humans cut down rainforests or they are destroyed by wildfires, large amounts of carbon dioxide are released into the atmosphere. This contributes to the greenhouse effect and increases the concentration of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, contributing further to global warming.

I have invited our newly appointed Positive Press team at Yetholm School to provide an article for this edition of the Cheviot magazine. They decided to update you on the ethos and life of the school just now. As part of this they interviewed some pupils to gather their ideas and opinions.

Mr Wilson

Yetholm Primary School News **Positive Press Team: Emily and Emily**

Achievements



Lucy—>

From P7 Rachel won the Yetholm Gymkhana six bar.

Lucy from P7 won the Yetholm Gymkhana handy pony and working hunter

<—Rachel



P1-4 class have been busy adding and subtracting to 10, 100 or 1000 and they made stories on Book Creator. Their topic is also on Percy the Park Keeper, the book series and tv show. Also, they have drawn and painted pictures of foxes and owls for their topic.

ELC made Big Ben with building blocks, played with trains, made banana muffins, threw stones in the river and tried to catch fish and Eden from Nursery is the helper of the week!

The nursery has been learning how to wash their hands thoroughly, step by step. They also got active by going on a walk through a wheat field. Then they made courgette soup, followed by them harvesting potatoes. They ground up some wheat grains and made flour to make their own bread.

P5-7 have been learning about climate change with Keep Scotland Beautiful to do with their topic. P5-7s have been doing committee

meetings and the Eco Committee have been doing an environmental review on the school, hoping to make Yetholm Primary School more natural and Eco friendly. The House Captains and the Senior Pupils have been thinking of games to play in the playground. The Junior Janitors have been weeding the chicken coop and preparing for the chickens to come back. The Pupil Council are organising events for the school and the JRSOs have been planning competitions.

This has been Yetholm Primary School's news for the month, and we hope you enjoyed it.

Celebrating the 70th British National Ploughing Championships and Country Festival 2021

Mindrum Mill Northumberland

By kind permission of D Harvey & Son

9 – 10th October 9 – 5pm on both days

Trade Stands

Agricultural Machinery Demonstrations

Vintage Tractor Displays

Steam ploughing Engines at Work

Admission £12

Children over 5 £1

Free Car Parking



Great Scot!



Gordon McNally, perhaps better known to Cheviot Churches most recently as the person behind the camera on a Sunday morning, had just clambered out of the garden pond at Rosebank in Town Yetholm, where he had been cleaning out duck weed, when the call came. Gordon was told he'd just landed the biggest Rotary job of all.

The Chairman of the Nominating Committee for Rotary International President was at the other end of the line from her home in South Carolina, USA to invite him to serve as the

President of Rotary International, the world's largest humanitarian organisation, and to be the leader and inspiration to 1.4 million members of Rotary, in over 200 countries and geographical areas, across the globe. Gordon will be only the second Scot to serve as President of Rotary International in its one hundred- and sixteen-year history and, is he is proud to tell anyone who will listen – the first Borderer!

The whole selection process was conducted with a seventeen-strong committee via Zoom over several days during the first week in August. It was a grueling task.

“It was a tough experience, especially for someone like myself who, previously, had not been in front of a formal interview panel other than for a Saturday job in Safeways in Edinburgh when I was about 16!” reflected Gordon.

A graduate of dental surgery at the University of Dundee, Gordon owned and operated his own dental practice in Edinburgh until his retirement which led to Heather, our current Church Organist at Yetholm, and he fulfilling a long-term plan to live in the Borders when they moved to Yetholm in 2017.

A Rotary member since 1984, Gordon has previously been President and Vice President of Rotary International in Great Britain and Ireland where he has held a number of other posts. He has also been very active internationally, serving as a Director of Rotary International and acting as the Chair of its 2018 International Convention in Toronto, Canada, which was attended by over 25,000 delegates.

He will become Rotary International President on 1 July 2023, but, already, the preparation has begun. In normal times, he and Heather would be spending some time just now at Rotary International's Head Office just outside Chicago. Instead, he is spending several hours each day “Zooming”

there, and to other parts of the world, as he speaks to Rotary Clubs and events at all times of the day and night from the comfort of home!

Whilst acknowledging the great responsibility that comes with the role, Gordon is also relishing the great opportunities that it will provide. Over many years, he has had a special interest in Rotary's campaign to eradicate Polio from the world; a campaign that has seen the incidence of the disease reduce from 365,000 cases a year, 30 years ago, to 2 cases worldwide so far in 2021. He is also keen to see Rotary Clubs modernise and reflect society and business as it is today.

On the assumption that international travel opens up again, Gordon and Heather will be based in Chicago for two years from next summer and will spend much of the second of these two years travelling the world, meeting Rotarians and promoting the organization. His diary is already filling up, with trips to Brazil, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Canada, Australia, Singapore and a number of US States already planned.

A great believer in the maxim, that "A Day Away from Yetholm is a Day Wasted", Gordon and Heather have every intention of returning home as often as possible, but they realise a lot of their visits may have to be on a virtual basis!

Podcast and Videos – a thank you

As the videos of Church services have now ceased, may I take this opportunity to say

A VERY BIG THANK YOU!

I am sure I speak for a great many others in wishing to record my warm appreciation of Colin, Heather and Gordon.

There has undoubtedly been a vast amount of work involved in preparing broadcasts for Sunday services throughout this pandemic. It has been of great comfort to those of us at home, to be able to participate in the services, whether by listening to the podcasts, watching the videos, or indeed, both. To take part in prayers, sing hymns (without masks!) and listen to the sermons has been a great joy. In the beginning, there were readers from home too, who also gave their time.....thank you, one and all, most sincerely.

Margaret McTavish

Welcome Back to What's On in our Community

September

Saturday 25th – MacMillan Coffee Morning in the Institute at 10.30 am

Tuesday 28th – National Theatre “Romeo and Juliet” 7 pm in Wauchope Hall. Tickets £12. Contact Susan Stewart to reserve seats.

Thursday 30th “The Beloved Dr” with John Nichol 7.30 pm in Wauchope Hall. Tickets £10. Contact Susan Stewart to reserve seats. Proceeds to Cheviot Churches. Refreshments on sale.

October

Tuesday 5th – Yetholm History Society at 7.30 pm in Wauchope Hall. Talk by Alison Sheridan – Amazing Story of Scotland's Neolithic Jade Axe Heads.

Saturday 9th – Guide Dogs for the Blind Coffee Morning in the Village Hall at 10.30 am

Film Night in Wauchope Hall – “Judy” (12) at 7 pm. Entry £6.

Wednesday 13th – Morebattle SWI Beirhope Alpacas talk by Lynne in Village Hall at 7.15 pm.

Tuesday 20th – Kalewater Community Council Meeting in the Institute at 7 pm

November

Tuesday 2nd – Yetholm History Society at 7.30 pm in Wauchope Hall. Talk by David McLean - A Runaway Slave in Duns.

Thursday 4th – Bingo Night at 7 pm in Wauchope Hall. Proceeds to Yetholm Festival Week.

Saturday 6th - Film Night in Wauchope Hall at 7 pm. “Military Wives” (12A). Entry £6.

Wednesday 9th – Morebattle SWI Beetle and AGM in Institute at 7.15 pm

Tuesday 17th – Kalewater Community Council at 7 pm in Institute.

Regular Events

Morebattle Lunch Club meets every Wednesday at 12.00 pm in Institute.

Light Exercise Class every Wednesday 10.30 –11.30 am in Village Hall.

Morebattle Bowling Club every Friday at 6 pm in Village Hall.

Church Diary

September

Sunday 25th – Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10 am
Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15 am

October

Sunday 3rd – Morning Service Yetholm Church 10 am
Morning Service Linton Kirk 11.15 am
Thursday 7th - Morebattle Guild in the Institute at 2.00 pm. Rev Colin Johnston – Talk on this year's theme.
Sunday 10th - Joint Harvest Service Yetholm Church 10 am
Sunday 17th - Joint Communion Service Morebattle Church 11.15 am
Sunday 24th - Guild Service Yetholm Church 10 am
Morning Service Morebattle Church 11.15 am
Tuesday 26th - Yetholm Guild in Church at 2 pm
Sunday 31st - Morning Service Yetholm Church 10 am
Morning Service Morebattle Church 11.15 am

November

Tuesday 2nd – Memorial Service and Tree planting 11am Morebattle and 2pm at Yetholm.
Thursday 4th – Morebattle Guild in the Institute at 2.00 pm. Debbie Brown.

National Giving Day

The Church of Scotland has initiated a National Giving Day, the aim of which is to offer congregations an opportunity to reflect deeply on God's loving presence with us during these challenging times and to express our appreciation and gratitude through giving generously ourselves.

Jim Wallace, the Moderator, cites the example of Martin Rinkart, a 17th century Lutheran pastor during the Thirty Years War. His town was besieged but it also suffered famine, pestilence, and plague. It's said that at one point Rinkart was conducting 40 to 50 funerals a day! He lived, but his wife died and yet he wrote for his family a hymn of thanksgiving which 400 years later we continue to sing: 'Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices.... The Moderator says, 'when we reflect what we've been through during the last 18 months of pandemic it's worth bearing in mind Rinkart's call for us to give thanks.'

At Cheviot Churches we will mark this Day on Sunday 3rd October with services at Yetholm and Linton. All monies given on that day will remain in the congregation for local projects. Special envelopes will be issued for this purpose.

Harvest

The farmers have been busy in their fields, bringing in the harvest. At church we celebrate God's wonderful creation and the fruits of the earth. We will have two united services, and it will be good, after all this time, to be able to come together with all our friends in the other churches. All are welcome. There will be a retiring collection (in cash or in kind) for the Kelso Foodbank. The services will be as follows:

3rd October – 10 am - Yetholm National Giving Day

11.15 am - Linton Harvest (and National Giving Day)

10th October – 11 am - Joint Harvest Thanksgiving Yetholm Kirk

17th October – 11 am - Joint Harvest Communion Morebattle Kirk

Memorial Trees/ All Saints

Many families and individuals have gone through difficult times over this pandemic, including loss of loved ones. It has been especially difficult when funerals had of necessity to be very small. On Sunday 31st October, which is the day before All Saints Day, we will read out the names of those known to us who have died since the beginning of the Pandemic.

We are also planning to plant a tree. This has already been planned in Yetholm (and Pippa has written about it), and we are still discussing with the Council about Morebattle, Hownam and Linton. We plan to have a short service at Morebattle at 11am and Yetholm Cemetery at 2 pm on All Souls Day, 2nd November. We will arrange times for similar services at Hownam and Linton around this time once we finalise the details, and these will be advertised.

Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday will be held on the 14th November this year. It was disrupted last year because of Covid, but we hope that the services at the war memorials will go ahead this year. Watch for details in the church announcements and on the various noticeboards.

ORGANIST NEEDED

The post of organist at Yetholm Kirk will shortly become vacant. This would be for weekly services on a Sunday morning at 10am and also for occasional services such as funerals and weddings. Anyone who is a competent pianist would be able to play this organ.

If you are interested, please get in touch either with Rev. Colin or with Susan Stewart, our Session Clerk, at 420321 or j.stewart134@btinternet.com, who will be able to let you know about terms and conditions.

Life and Work Sunday

Life and Work: The Magazine of the Church of Scotland

If there is one individual who can be said to have shaped the Church of Scotland of the 20th century, it is probably the minister and theologian Archibald Charteris (1835-1908).

Charteris, Moderator of the General Assembly in 1892, was instrumental in the founding of the Guild, restoring the office of Deaconess in the Church, and helping to establish the national social care initiative that would evolve into the Social Care Council (CrossReach).

And in amongst all that, he found time to start a magazine.

Charteris, and his Committee on Christian Life and Work, identified that there was a demand for a distinctively Scottish Christian magazine for ministers to circulate in their parishes, complaining that the many English publications were ‘very nearly unintelligible to the untravelled Scot’.

The General Assembly of May 1878 was persuaded, and eight months later Life and Work was born.

Later editors would recall that the new publication faced scepticism and even ridicule from elements of the Church establishment but, distributed through the parish churches with a supplement for local news, Life and Work quickly became part of the furniture and - with the exception of a two-month break because of a printer’s strike in 1959 – it has published monthly ever since.

Typically, Charteris handed over the editorship and moved on to his next project after a year, but by then he had established the template that in many ways remains to this day: news of the Church at local, national and international level, commentary on the key issues of the day from a Scottish Christian perspective, spiritual guidance and Bible study, interviews and profiles of key figures within the Church.

At the union with the United Free Church of Scotland in 1929, the churches’ magazines merged too, becoming ‘Life and Work: the Record of the Church of Scotland’. Colour started to appear on the covers of the 1950s, and the magazine eventually went full colour in 1996.

With the editor answerable only to the General Assembly for the content of the magazine, Life and Work has never been a conventional ‘in-house’ publication or the mouthpiece of the Church hierarchy. Instead, it has

been positioned as a critical friend: always wanting the best for the organisation, but free to publish negative opinion or to stray outside the official line.

With the coming of the internet it moved online, firstly on Facebook and Twitter and then with the launch of www.lifeandwork.org, which offers up-to-date news, exclusive features and extracts from the magazine. You can now also read the whole magazine in digital form.

But however you choose to read, Life and Work remains an essential news source and platform for discussion for the whole Church.

Life and Work – an appreciation

Within the Church of Scotland it is easy to be proud of the fact that we are Presbyterian, when actually, many of us, whether we are aware of it or not, are in fact Congregationalist! For most of the time our focus is on our congregation, our minister and our building. There is nothing wrong with taking the local seriously. Indeed if we don't the danger is that we become spectators rather than participants. But we shouldn't stop there. We can be immeasurably enriched as we learn more about other churches, their stories, insights and experience. We can support them in prayer and other ways when they face challenges. We can learn from them and be inspired by them as they take opportunities to do new things or things in a new way.

One of the best ways of learning about the churches that make up the Church of Scotland is by reading Life & Work. Monthly through the post or electronically, and more frequently on social media, it helps its readers to feel part of something bigger than the local church. The articles range over a number of areas. We can read reports on what has been going on or briefings about what is going to happen soon. We are given cameos on places and people within our church or who have taken their faith into the

public arena. Issues are discussed and insights given on aspects of the faith. The letters from the reader's page reminds us how seriously people take their faith and how passionately they feel about it.

I have found over the years that it has enlarged my understanding of the Church I am glad to serve. It is given me material to reflect on that shows the width of our Church. There has been a warmth in it which has meant that I have felt included "as part of the family." It has helped me keep in touch. It has made me not only part of a Church of Scotland congregation but part of the Church of Scotland.

Very Rev Colin A M Sinclair

Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, 2019

Contact Jill Mooney in Yetholm or Mary Pringle in Morebattle if you would like to subscribe to Life and Work.

Register

Baptisms: Poppy Holly Murrion Freeland-Cook, Patrick William Flintoft.

Marriage: Anna Ramsay and Alasdair Turnbull

Deaths: Simon Fraser, Helen Deans, Sheila Little

Autumn Trivia

Babies born during the Autumn months are more likely to live to 100 than those born during the rest of the year.

"Mists and mellow fruitfulness"

The famous Keats quotation from his poem "To Autumn", was inspired by a walk in the water meadows behind Winchester College – a walk he only took to escape the racket of his landlady's daughter practising her violin!



Refurbishment plans and temporary relocation – We have been working with an architectural technician, and others, to refine our plans for the refurbishment and refit prior to submitting our planning application. A particular issue we have been giving much thought to is the improvement of the pavement area directly in front of the shop. We now anticipate that the work will take place early in 2022, with a temporary relocation of the shop during the work period. In the meantime, we have made some minor upgrades to the existing lighting to improve the appearance of the shop interior.

Annual General Meeting - We will need to hold our first AGM for shareholders in the next few months, and we will be announcing the arrangements for this in due course.

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 continue to 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 19th November
j.stewart134@btinternet.com, johnmabon431@btinternet.com
anne.scottbrown@btinternet.com

Toast Club

At the present time we are still unable to resume the Toast Club in Yetholm School. However, we are supplying the school with fruit as an option until this popular early morning group can restart.

Noticing little things

Stuart Kelly

When I was asked to lead worship away from Cheviot Churches this month, I did what I always do. I read the readings and thought “What don’t I get here?” In the passage from Mark 7:27, there is a specific reference to the events occurring at the city of Caesarea Philippi, and I wondered if there was something significant.

The obvious thing is that this city has been renamed to honour Caesar. Jesus has been interacting more with Gentiles in the previous verses. But there is more to it than that. Caesarea Philippi used to be called Paneas, because it had a shrine to the god Pan. This is unusual. Pan was usually worshipped in groves and woods and rural places. He was lecherous, mischievous and sarcastic. The word “pan” in Greek means everything, which is why we talk about pandemics. It’s also the root of the word panic – if you stirred Pan from his slumbers, he would shriek and terrify.

So Jesus is in a place where the pagan religions are at their height. Where else to accede to Peter’s recognition that he is the Christ? But Pan is a dangerous figure, and almost immediately Peter rebukes Jesus and Jesus really rebukes Peter: “get behind me Satan!” Pan was always depicted as a creature with horns and cloven feet. That seems somehow hovering in the back of the narrative. Moreover, Plutarch the Greek historian tells a story in “The Obsolescence of Oracles” that a sailor is told by a “divine voice”, during the reign of Tiberius, that when he reaches shore he must say “Tell them, Thamus, the great god Pan is dead”. Christian interpreters have often associated this with the passing of the pagan gods.

Peter’s temptation was that in this most pagan of places, he thought Jesus had chosen to strike at the occupying empire. But when Jesus lays out explicitly the fate of the Messiah, it disconcerts Peter. It’s supposed to be these nasty satyrs and complacent Pharisees that are to suffer.

Jesus fulfilled everything – he was a new Pan and better Pan. But Pan lingers. Many early 20th century writers had a neo-pagan obsession with the horned god of the woods. It took one of my favourite writers, J M Barrie, to change all that. Pan, of course, is Peter Pan, the boy who wouldn’t grow up and who thought death would be “an awfully big adventure”. Christ did grow up, and knew differently about death. And, as far as my theological studies have led me, I have no evidence that Jesus believed in fairies. Demons yes, Tinkerbells no.

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.
Vacant	Romany House to Yewtree Road, Lane and Bank, Grafton Corner to Mission Hall, Duncanhaugh and Hayhope.
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)
Debbie Brown	Postal.

Church Services

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)

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The Manse (formerly The Old Police House)
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Email revcdj60@gmail.com

Session Clerk:

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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