

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

# CHEVIOT



Autumn 2022



## **Prayer Corner**



### **Prayer for a rich harvest**

Lord Jesus,  
Like a sower you scatter seed  
To bring about a harvest,  
Spreading the seed of love, kindness, and truth.  
You water the seed with your grace  
And warm it with your compassion.  
May that seed germinate and take root in us.  
Nurtured by your Spirit may it grow  
To a rich harvest of lives that delight in your truth,  
That show love in word and action  
And that care for all with whom we share this earth. Amen

### **From the Manse**

The French have a saying, ‘Plus ca change, plus c’est la meme chose’ – the more things change, the more they stay the same. While this is often the case, I think we have witnessed some significant changes recently, not least with the death of the Queen. Although 96 years old, the Queen’s death still came as a shock, and it certainly marks the end of an era. In her lifetime

she had witnessed so many momentous events, from the 2<sup>nd</sup> World War to astronauts walking on the moon to the internet age. Though while she had a Twitter account, she was more at home giving tea to Paddington Bear or consulting James Bond about a skydive! Her death has brought an outpouring of grief unparalleled in recent times – because she was so respected by everyone, whether Royalist or not. The fact that her funeral was attended by so many world leaders and watched by millions around the globe is testament to this.

As a 21-year-old woman she had pledged herself to a life of service, and she never wavered in this. It is amazing to think that she continued to live out that life of service and duty right until her death. In this she was strongly motivated by her Christian faith. In Christmas messages, she mentioned how she looked to Jesus for inspiration, and she rarely missed a Sunday service. In fact, at Balmoral she entertained visiting preachers for the weekend, comfortable to discuss the affairs of the Church. Her death will inevitably leave a void, as the deaths of all loved ones do, but Charles III has shown himself ready to engage with those in government and beyond and to take the monarchy in a new direction.

There are changes afoot in the Church of Scotland too. This has been rather a fraught summer, as presbyteries the length of Scotland have been involved in producing plans to see how best to engage in mission with reduced resources. In our Jedburgh Presbytery, which encompasses the Hawick, Jedburgh and Kelso areas, the proposed number of ministers for the future is 5.5, so congregations will have to be linked or united with others. In the Plan, Cheviot Churches will retain our identity, but be linked with Kelso Old and Sprouston on my retirement. Buildings have also been looked at with an emphasis on ‘well-equipped spaces in the right places’, and many church buildings throughout the country are vulnerable to closure, especially, though not exclusively, those without water or toilets. Linton and Hownam are in this category, though the Plan agreed in September states that building ‘be disposed of by June 2027’. In Linton’s case, we hope the Linton Trust will in time take over the building. All congregations in our presbytery have been affected and are having to make sacrifices. No-one is happy, but we have had to face the reality of falling numbers and ageing congregations.

Another change within the Church is that from January 2023, the three Border presbyteries and the presbytery of Lothian will unite to form the Presbytery of Lothian and Borders. We are still not sure of a lot of the details, but a fulltime Presbytery Clerk has been appointed, Rev Norman Smith, who was minister in Granton Parish Church, Edinburgh, who starts in his role this October.

While we will have to adjust to these many changes (and a new PM as well!), it has been good to see several events start again after the Pandemic, such as the Ridings, the Morebattle Flower Show, and the Yetholm Shepherd Show. Also, it has been good to see the tractors and combine harvesters out in the fields, gathering in the harvest. Technology has changed over the years, but still we come each year with a sense of thankfulness for God's goodness to us. That kind of thing never changes. Neither does the sense of service that the late Queen so embodied.

Peace and Blessings

Colin

### **Presbytery Plan**

Like many other denominations, the Church of Scotland has been faced with falling numbers and decreasing finances; the Covid Pandemic has exacerbated this. The number of applicants coming forward to be ministers of Word and Sacrament has also been declining. All presbyteries have therefore been required to bring out a Plan by the end of 2022 to show how we will best engage with mission in our area. The number of ministry posts allocated to the Jedburgh Presbytery area is 5.5. This has obviously been very challenging for the Presbytery, and it was agreed to have 2.5 ministerial posts in the Hawick area; 1 in Jedburgh area; and 2 in the Kelso area (when Colin arrived at Cheviot, there were 4 ministers in Kelso area, and there are presently 3). Obviously sacrifices will have to be made all over the presbytery, as congregations are linked and united under the draft proposals. Furthermore, property surveys have been carried out with the emphasis on 'well-equipped spaces in the right places', and several buildings have been earmarked for closure. These are mainly, but not exclusively, buildings where there are no regular weekly services and where facilities such as toilets/ running water are lacking.

For the Kelso area, the Plan proposed a Kelso North grouping, whereby Kelso North and Ednam and Kelso Country Churches be united, and a Kelso South grouping, whereby Cheviot Churches be linked with Kelso Old & Sprouston. Under the plan, the buildings at Makerston, Ednam, Sprouston, Hownam and Linton would be on the B list, which means that they should be 'disposed of' by June 2027.

The Presbytery met in September to discuss the Plan, and Jedburgh Old & Trinity was full, as there was a lot of concern especially over closures. However, the Presbytery voted to accept the Plan, with some minor amendments, so it will now go to Edinburgh for final approval.

### **For Cheviot Churches the Plan means:**

- Cheviot Churches will be linked with Kelso Old & Sprouston when Colin retires. While we would retain our Cheviot Churches name and identity, we would certainly be seeking to work closely together with Kelso Old and Sprouston (KOSP).
- When the linkage comes into effect, the minister would be unable to take all the services. Worship leaders would be more to the fore.
- Linton and Hownam be classified 'B', which means that they will in time be closed. However, we will seek to keep them open as long as possible, and it is also hoped that a Trust could take at least Linton over, whereby services/ weddings/ funerals would still be held there. It is hoped to hold meetings in both communities to discuss the way forward.
- Hoselaw Chapel is not affected by these proposals, as it is not under the oversight of the Presbytery.
- The Manse of the linked charge will be the present manse in Morebattle.
- NB This plan is reviewed every year, so there may be changes. We cannot be complacent.

### **The Kiltwalk**

It was an early start on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September to catch the (surprisingly busy) first train to Edinburgh, so that I could reach Murrayfield in time to set off on the Kiltwalk. I was tackling the 'Big Stroll', which was about 13 and a half miles. It was quite a festival atmosphere, as thousands of walkers started off to raise funds for charity. The Hunter Foundation has pledged to increase by 50% everything raised and estimated that £2 million would be raised for the various charities.

The temperature was fortunately quite cool, which made good conditions for walking, as we made our way along walkways and old railway lines to Newhaven and then along the shore to Silverknowes, before heading south again to Murrayfield. This was an eye-opener, as I had not been aware of how much Granton had been developed in recent years. There were a few 'pit stops' on the way, sponsored by Lidl, and you pick up fruit, water, and chocolate bars to help you on your way. Everyone was incredibly friendly

and chatted away, whether they knew you or not. I discovered that I wasn't as incognito as I thought when someone asked if I was Colin! It turned out to be Elspeth Ewan's daughter.

It was a great day, and I was impressed by how many young people were involved in raising funds for charity. I was surprised to reach the Finishing line with no blisters and in a time of just under 5 hours and was delighted to be presented with a medal (everyone got one!). I hope to have raised over £2000 for church funds. A VERY BIG THANK YOU to all who donated. It is very much appreciated.

Colin

### **Help for the Ukrainian community**

Kelso Churches together has been conscious of the growing number of Ukrainian refugees in the Kelso area and is exploring ways to offer assistance. There are plans to hold a weekly café, where refugees can meet up with one another and share their experiences. There would be more practical help in providing English language and conversation classes. There will also be volunteers ready to befriend a family, perhaps going for a walk or providing a meal or a trip to the coast. There will be a meeting to finalise details, but if anyone else is interested, please do get in touch with Colin or with Anna Rodwell.

### **Harvest**

It has been good to see the tractors and combines in the fields bringing in the harvest. As a church, Harvest Thanksgiving is always one of our big festivals, and at Cheviot we have an extended Harvest season:

2<sup>nd</sup> October – Harvest at Linton at 11.15am. The church is always beautifully decorated, as we celebrate God's good creation.

9<sup>th</sup> October – There will only be one joint service at 11am at Yetholm Kirk, as we celebrate the Harvest and then enjoy LUNCH afterwards. It is always a lovely atmosphere as we share in fellowship.

16<sup>th</sup> October – Harvest Communion. Again, there will only be one joint service at 11am at Morebattle Kirk, as we come together to celebrate our harvest and to share together in the Lord's Supper.

Please feel free to come along to all, or any, of our services.

## **Birdbath's Harvest Thoughts**

“A sort of gulpy, gurgly, ploppy, squishy, wofflesome sound, like a thousand eager men drinking soup in a foreign restaurant.” That was the sound that delighted P.G. Wodehouse's dreamy Lord Emsworth, as the latter listened to his beloved Empress of Blandings (three times Silver Medallist in the Fat Pigs class in the local agricultural Show) as she took a light snack at bedtime, hoisting yet more calories into her already balloon-like frame. It was the same sound that attracted Birdbath's attention, as he recently paused by the gate of a field where a large flock of sheep were grazing. He had forgotten just how much noise a flock can make, chomping happily, heads down, when undisturbed by humans or their dogs. After the months of drought, the grass had begun to green-up again, and it struck Birdbath that animals and birds must be inwardly grateful for Nature's bounty in the Autumn? The Psalms are full of references to “the lions, seeking their food from God”, the “sheep and oxen grazing upon a thousand hills”, and the birds of the air enjoying their share of the grain left for them in the fields. Rather than disturb the harvest sounds from nearby, Birdbath took a different path home, adding his inward thanks to a generous Creator, and thinking about his own forthcoming supper. As the “ploppy, squishy, wofflesome” sound echoed from the field, he was also uncomfortably aware that those sheep were luckier than many human communities with no Harvest to celebrate.

## **Yetholm Village Choir**

The Yetholm Village Choir gave a successful summer concert in St Andrew's Church, Kelso on Sunday July 3rd. It was a very happy evening, although tinged with some regret as it was the last under the leadership of Geoffrey Emerson, conductor for the past eleven years.

The choir will resume activities at 10.30 am on Wednesday, August 31st, still in the church - in Kirk Yetholm - until the Youth Hall is again available.

As always, new members will be made very welcome (there are no auditions). If you can't read music, helpful CDs and learning lines are issued free. The choir currently numbers over 40 singers and sings a wide variety of music. Singing has been proved scientifically to be GOOD for you in many ways -

mentally, physically, spiritually, socially, etc. Need I go on? Why don't you give it a try!

The new conductor will be Marion Scammel, who has recently come to live nearby.

She has had years of experience, having taught in Aberdeen and at Gordonstoun, and most recently conducted a large choir in Banff. Geoffrey says he's sure that she will suit the choir very well.



### **‘He who would true valour see.’**

The suggestion was made that readers of the *Cheviot* might like to name their favourite hymn and write a word or two about why they like it. This is a first attempt to carry this suggestion out in the hope that it may inspire others.

The hymn I have chosen is John Bunyan's 'To be a Pilgrim' which is Hymn 535 in the *Church Hymnary*. The first verse will be familiar to most people, as will the tune which was adapted by Ralph Vaughan Williams from an English folk tune 'Our captain calls all hands on board:'

Who would true valour see,  
Let him come hither;  
One here will constant be,

Come wind, come weather  
There's no discouragement  
Shall make him once relent  
His first avowed intent  
To be a pilgrim.

The rousing music perfectly suits the stoutness of the words which are in traditional ballad meter. They come from John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress* which tells the story of Christian life as a journey beset by temptations and obstacles. This song is sung by a character called Valiant. Perhaps unfittingly, we sang this hymn at our marriage service. I am particularly pleased that the Church of Scotland keeps Bunyan's original words in verse 3:

Hobgoblin, nor foul fiend,  
Can daunt his spirit;  
He knows he at the end  
Shall life inherit.  
Then fancies fly away,  
He'll fear not what men say,  
He'll labour night and day  
To be a pilgrim.

The references to hobgoblin and foul fiend pay homage to two of Bunyan's great inspirations, the poets Edmund Spenser and William Shakespeare, who used the terms to describe the bogeys that prey on any one of us. I think the terms give Bunyan's hymn a memorable and dramatic vividness.

## **Book review**

**Riders on the Storm by Alastair McIntosh.** ISBN 973-1-78027-639-7  
I was tempted into buying this book after hearing the author speak at the annual meeting of Eco-Congregations Scotland earlier this year and was not disappointed with my purchase. The subtitle is 'The climate crisis and the survival of being' and was updated in 2021 to include comments on the pandemic. It is a summary of current knowledge on based on scientific evidence and impeccably researched.

It does not blind with science but considers personal experiences from places as far apart as his native Isle of Lewis and the tropical islands of Indonesia. This is the book to read to help understand the climate crisis and here I quote from the cover description "offers a powerful vision for

humanity that weaves together science, politics, psychology and spirituality.”

It is not a difficult read but needs time to digest. I ordered the book through the very tempting 20 Storey shop in Kelso, and it arrived within 24 hours!

The new session of Zoom meetings ‘**Let’s talk about the climate emergency**’ from Eco-Congregation is now under way and will cover such topics as Think before you buy, Eating for a greener world, Responsible Consumption, Travel and Refugees. The easiest way to get full information is by clicking on the icon on the church web pages and following the links. The format of meetings is very simple and mostly consists of looking at simple questions on the topic and sharing our views and suggestions in friendly chat groups.

**The 6 Rs** – not necessarily in order of importance: - **Reduce, Recycle, Reuse, Recover, Repair and Refuse**. Selkirk Parish Church has produced an updated useful zero waste leaflet about what and where unwanted materials can be taken if they can’t be put in the council recycling. There are places closer than Selkirk for some of the items, but it would be possible to organise a local collection of other items to be transported onwards. Leaflets will be left in the churches and possibly elsewhere to help you do your bit for the environment and possibly save money too.

**Stop press!** In a previous edition of The Cheviot, I wrote about the General Store in Selkirk. It opened in April 2021 and on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September the board outside announced that 2,629 items had been repaired and PAT tested if necessary. In the Parish Church Hall recycling was well to the fore with 2 competitions: The Denim Challenge and any other recycled material made into a useful item. Some of the entries were very impressive.

**The Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution** was founded in 1897 in recognition of the agricultural depression at the time. RASBI is still going strong – some of you may have read the article in the September edition of Life and Work. Leaflets giving more information about the help and advice they can give will be available from the church and if you were lucky Oink, Moo and Baa can/could be met at Yetholm Shepherds’ Show. Ours is a rural



parish with the villages surrounded by working farms and where sometimes life can be lonely and difficult.



**Holy Island Retreat.** A day away on Lindisfarne is planned for Saturday October 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The St Cuthbert's Centre is booked for a day of quiet fellowship and reflection with plenty of free time to enjoy this special place. Numbers will be restricted by the size of the centre, but anyone is welcome to join us. The day will start with meeting at 09.00am outside Yetholm Kirk to share transport and we will leave the island in the late afternoon following the receding tide. Final arrangements for travel and meals (usually provided by those attending) will be made once numbers are confirmed. There will be a small charge towards the cost of the centre. For more information and to obtain a place please contact Trish Gentry, preferably giving her a written email address and phone number for ease of communication by October 9<sup>th</sup> but an earlier indication of interest would be appreciated to help with later practicalities.



**Yetholm and Morebattle Guilds** will be resuming meetings in October.

The Church of Scotland Guild is a national organisation with branches all over Scotland – and beyond. We meet for fellowship and to learn about the wider work of the church and raise funds for a variety of projects at home and abroad. Speakers from the projects makes for an interesting meeting and can be eye-opening. Meetings are open to everyone, and you will be made very welcome.

Yetholm meets on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month and Morebattle the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday but look out for details on village notice boards and the church website and share the information with your neighbours!

## **Dates for diary**

### **October**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>** – National Theatre Live – “Jack Absolute Flies Again”  
7pm in Wauchope Hall. Tickets £12 at door.

**Saturday 8<sup>th</sup>** – Film Night Wauchope Hall at 7pm. “Death on the Nile”  
(12) Entry £6 at door.

**Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup>** – Scottish Opera 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Tour Wauchope Hall at  
7.30pm. Tickets on sale online at

<https://www.scottishopera.org.uk/shows/opera-highlights-202223/>

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>** – Morebattle SWI Musical Evening – Barney &  
Friends in Institute at 7.15pm. Competition 3 Homemade Sausage Rolls

**Saturday 15<sup>th</sup>** – Guide Dogs for the Blind Coffee Morning in the Village  
Hall at 10.30am

**Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup>** – Kalewater Community Council Meeting in the Institute at  
7pm

**Friday 21<sup>st</sup>** – Borders Youth Theatre presents Folk Tales including  
Linton Worm in Village Hall at 7.30pm.

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>** – Yetholm and District Community Council at 7pm in  
Yetholm Church.

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>** – Berwick Male Voice Choir at 7.30pm in Yetholm  
Church. Entry by donation. Refreshments on sale.

### **November**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>** – National Theatre Live – The Seagull at 7pm in  
Wauchope Hall. Entry £12 at door.

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>** - Craft Fair in Morebattle Village Hall 10am to 4pm –  
Teas, Craft Stalls, Raffle.

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>** – Film Night in Wauchope Hall at 7pm. “Operation  
Mincemeat”(12). Entry £6 at door.

**Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup>** – Morebattle SWI Search & Rescue and AGM in  
Institute at 7.15pm. Competition Photo of Favourite View

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup>** – Bingo Night in Morebattle Village Hall at 7pm in aid of  
Cheviot Churches.

**Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup>** – Kalewater Community Council at 7pm in Institute.

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>** – Craft Fair in Border Hotel 1.30 – 6pm. Proceeds to  
Cheviot Churches.

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>** – Family Ceildh in Wauchope Hall at 7pm.

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup>** – Yetholm and District Community Council at 7pm. Venue  
TBC

**Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup>** – A Christmas Carol at 7.30pm in Wauchope Hall.  
Tickets £10. Contact Susan Stewart to book tickets.

## **December**

**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Film Night in Wauchope Hall at 7pm. “West Side Story” (12). Entry £6 at door.

Morebattle Lunch Club meets every Tuesday at 12.00pm in Institute.  
Light Exercise Class every Wednesday 10.30 –11.30am in Village Hall.  
Morebattle Bowling Club every Friday at 6pm in Village Hall.

## **Church Diary**

### **October**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> - Morebattle Guild in the Institute at 2.00pm. Rev C Johnston – Wee Seeds Big Trees.

Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> – Joint Service in Yetholm Church at 11am. Harvest Lunch after service.

Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> – Joint Communion Service in Morebattle Church at 11am.

Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> – Worship Committee meet in Yetholm Church.

Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> – Guild Sunday Service in Yetholm Church at 10am.

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> – Yetholm Guild at 2pm in Yetholm Church.

Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> – Ways and Means committee meet at 7.30pm in Yetholm Church.

### **November**

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Morebattle Guild in the Institute at 2.00pm. Malawi Fruits.

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> – Session Meeting at 7pm in Morebattle Church.

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> – Yetholm Guild at 2pm in Yetholm Church

**Coffee in Yetholm Church is back! – every Tuesday from 10.30 – 12noon. All Welcome**





The recent loss of Queen Elizabeth has been upsetting and sad, sometimes very beautiful, certainly contemplative. A loss that affects all of us in our community in different ways.

As Autumn arrives and winter approaches, we have introduced the Autumn/Winter opening hours, which are Monday-Thursday 8am-3.30pm, Friday 8am-5.30pm, Saturday 8am -2.00pm, Sunday 9am -12.30pm.

The shop has a few changes under way at present. A range of locally crafted gifts has been displayed and this will increase in the run up to Christmas and beyond. A range of seasonal essentials (including hot water bottles) are now for sale and some seasonal novelties. We are trialling the sale of bottled milk on a limited basis in conjunction with Daren Bruce our regular supplier in another bid to reduce packaging waste.

The shop is always grateful for donations of saleable fruit and veg., and we would like to thank everyone who has contributed their home grown produce so far this year, be it rhubarb, leeks, carrots, apples, plums and much more.

The shop exists in great part due to the time freely donated by our merry band of volunteers, and again a huge thank you to them, for all their hard work during a very busy summer.

Anyone who would like to discuss joining us and helping for a few hours each week is welcome to pop in at any time and talk to any member of the team.

Finally, a big thank you to managers Pauline and Roddy, Volunteer Co-Ordinator Emma, and our Board.

## **Garden Challenge**

Having previously opened our Garden to the public for a village fundraiser we were quite happy to do so again only this time the request was from Scottish Gardens Charity Scheme

We were informed to expect between six or sixty visitors. At the end of the day, we recorded One Hundred and Two. from as far afield as Derbyshire, Cumbernauld, Portobello, Livingstone, and all parts in between.

It was rewarding to have so many like-minded visitors enjoying our wee corner while all sharing our love of gardening

Many villagers opened their gardens showing an appealing range of colourful gardens to visit from formal and informal, large, and small, looked after by enthusiastic gardeners.

After a friendly walk round our village visitors enjoyed afternoon tea supplied by the ladies of our 'Morebattle in Bloom' committee.

All our hard work paid off, raising money for Charity on such an enjoyable day.

**Helen Cessford**



**Berwick Male Voice Choir**

**Yetholm Church**

**Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at 7.30pm**

**Refreshments on sale**

**Entry by Donation**

**All proceeds to Cheviot Churches**

## **Music and Movement for Toddlers – every Thursday morning in Yetholm Church from 10 – 12noon**

- Fun and friendly music classes for babies and toddlers.
- Each class includes favourite nursery rhymes and songs, musical instruments, props, pictures, toys, and puppets, as well as live music.
- Classes are very relaxed, and new-borns are welcome as soon as you feel ready.
- There is always an educational element to classes - it's never too early to start your little one off on their musical journey!
- Tea, coffee, and biscuits at the end!



### **NEWS FROM YETHOLM COMMUNITY SHOP**

It's been a very busy summer for our staff and volunteers – how quickly time passes! Thanks to the Youth Hall Supporters Association, we have been able to continue operating while the renovation work takes place at the shop, and the Youth Hall has provided an excellent temporary home for us. We hope that you had an opportunity to visit our stall in the Craft Tent at the Yetholm Border Shepherds' Show, and sample some of our delicious bread, wines, and cheeses. A reminder that we have now moved to our seasonal opening hours: Monday to Thursday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Sunday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The Post Office counter hours will remain unchanged at this time.

The remainder of the year promises to be equally busy and very exciting for us; watch for news about our plans for the move back into our newly refurbished premises, and the launch of our new website - just in time to get ready for the Christmas season which will soon be upon us. We are looking forward to welcoming everyone to the 'new' shop soon. As always, the management committee would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff and volunteers for their hard work, as well as our customers for their continued support. We are always on the lookout for more volunteers, so if you can spare a little time to help the shop, we'd love to hear from you.

Theatre Tours International in association with Maverick Theatre Company presents **A CHRISTMAS CAROL**

Performed by **Guy Masterson**

Adapted & Directed by **Nick Hennegan** From the text by **Charles Dickens** Original Music by **Robb Williams**

**DICKENS' MYSTICAL CHRISTMAS FABLE BROUGHT TO LIFE - THE PERFECT CHRISTMAS TREAT!**

Olivier Award winner, Guy Masterson, veteran of many smash hit solo works such as *Under Milk Wood*, *Animal Farm* and *Shylock*, now presents Dickens' classic festive fable. Famed for bringing multiple characters to vivid life, Masterson gives us Scrooge, Marley, the Fezziwigs, the Cratchits, Tiny Tim et al in a riveting, performance that will dazzle, enchant, and linger long in the memory. Guaranteed to get you into the Christmas Spirit - in many more ways than one!

**"Masterson's production is an understated warning and a celebration of the hope for humankind. A Christmas Carol for our time." (Public Review - 27/11/17)**

**"Just when you thought you'd seen enough Christmas Carols to guide you to your grave, along comes one of the best yet!" (BBC Radio 01/12/17)**

**"Quite simply spellbinding!" (ReviewSphere)**

Coming to Wauchope Hall Town Yetholm on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30pm.

Book Early to avoid disappointment!

Contact Susan Stewart on [j.stewart134@btinternet.com](mailto:j.stewart134@btinternet.com) or call 01573420231 to reserve seats.

Tickets £10. No Concessions



**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 18<sup>th</sup> November. 2022**

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

### **Register**

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**Baptism:**

**Wedding: Suzanne Fleming and Grant Shiells, Rachel Stone, and Leo Wasley**

**Deaths: Lesley Dick, John Thompson, Shirley Borin, Ruth Tokely, Moira Breeze**

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**I have recently had the task of helping to go through the paperwork and photos of the late Audrey Gibson. I found this story, one of many she had written, that not only gives us an insight into the history of teddy bears but a glimpse of why Audrey loved bears so much.**

### **Teddy Bears and Me**

First – a confession. I am a teddy bear collector or an arctophile. An arctophile you will find in the dictionary is a lover of teddy bears. I collect them as others collect stamps, coins, bottle tops, records, or butterflies' wings!

Since I retired ten years ago, I have become an even more avid collector and have found that the world of the teddy bear is not only interesting but very extensive, there are books magazines, and many makers of teddy bears throughout the country.

### **How did the Teddy Bear get his name?**

We can thank the 26<sup>th</sup> President of the United States Theodore or Teddy Roosevelt for giving the Teddy Bear his name.

In November 1902, this popular, family man took a four-day break from politics to attend a bear hunt in Mississippi. The President was “unlucky”, and his only chance of a kill was a bear cub cornered and tied to a tree. He refused to shoot it!

The incident was illustrated in the Washington Post by the political cartoonist, Clifford K Berryman. Through Berryman, the little bear came to symbolise the President and featured in many of the artists subsequent cartoons. Within a year the cartoon bear had been transformed into a toy for children – the teddy bear.



### **Margaret Steiff**

At the same time jointed plush bears were being developed in Germany by a family business headed by Margaret Steiff.

Margaret Had contracted polio as a child and was wheelchair bound, but she was an expert seamstress, making children’s clothes and later toys. At first the Steiff bears were unsuccessful, until the Leipzig Fair in 1903 when an American toy buyer bought 3000 teddy bears.

During 1903 to 1908 (the Bear Years) the factory produced 975,00 bears annually – a phenomenal figure never since repeated!

### **Winnie the Pooh**

Winnie the Pooh is probably the most well-known fictional bear in the world. Millions of copies of the book bearing his name have been sold since it was first published in 1926. It was subsequently translated into 2 languages including Latin and Esperanto. Rather surprisingly there is a street in Poland named after him.

Winnie the Pooh started life as real teddy bear bought from the famous London store Harrods, in 1921, by Dorothy Milne wife of the author, Alan Alexander Milne for their son, Christopher Robin’s first birthday. The bear possibly came from the factory of J.K. Farnell, as they made bears exclusively for Harrods at that time.

Winnie the Pooh's original name was "Edward Bear", and his name was later changed to "Winnie the Pooh". The name Winnie came from an American black bear in London Zoo. Pooh was the name of Christopher Robin's favourite swan.

### **Paddington Bear**

Paddington Bear from darkest Peru, with his penchant for marmalade, his duffel coat, and his numerous attempts as a kindly but accident-prone foreigner, trying to understand the British way of life has universal appeal. He shot to fame in 1958, when Michael Bond's book "A Bear Called Paddington" was published. The book was a resounding success. So, from 1960 onwards Michael Bond's stories were published in the United States and translated into numerous languages. In Japan, Paddington features on the credit card of the Mitsui Bank.

It was the animated puppet series, originally shown on British Television in 1975 that contributed to the bears wider following. This was sold to nearly every country in the world and was an international success.

His books are used abroad to help teach English customs and expressions – as "elevenses" British colloquial term for a mid-morning snack.

### **Rupert Bear**

Rupert Bear was created by Mary Tourtel, a children's book illustrator. Her husband was editor on the "Daily Express" who had been looking for a comic strip to rival those of other newspapers and Rupert Bear ended the search.

For thirty years, from 1935, his adventures appeared in the newspaper, and from 1936 the Rupert annuals appeared.

### **The Working Bear**

Teddy Roosevelt's bear began life as a mascot and the tradition continues today, with teddy bears lending their support to political, sporting, and charitable causes. Rupert Bear, for example, is used to promote a charity that helps people suffering from muscular dystrophy and Paddington Bear has a club that contributes to the British Charity "Action Research for the Crippled Child".

There is no doubt that over the years the teddy bear has assumed an important role as a universal comforter and a symbol of friendship and security.

I can only remember one teddy from my Edinburgh childhood, and he was a large golden-brown fellow bought for me by my mother when I was convalescing. I can picture that scene quite clearly, although it is more than sixty years ago. I suppose we do all love our teddy bears and they are such a comfort to us all.

What is the secret of the teddy bears instant success and enduring popularity? Very simply they are irresistible even those who have had their fur loved off or their paws injured.

I like the story about the lady who didn't know if her new husband would understand, about her teddy bear, who'd been sharing her bed since she was four. However, they had a long talk, and her husband discovered some things about Teddy she didn't know – like some nights Teddy would rather watch TV all night in the living room.

Best I like the testimony of a cleaning lady – As a cleaner I have a set standard by which I judge a new employer. I consider them civilised if there is a cat on the sofa and a teddy bear on the bed!

**Our Guild item is rather different to that intended for this edition.**

**A tribute to our Queen Elizabeth.**

In a golden coach, there's a heart of gold  
Driving through old London town  
With the sweetest Queen the world's ever seen  
Wearing her golden crown.

There were two verses to this song that we sang at the time. Each ended with the same two lines:

In a golden coach, there's a heart of gold  
That belongs to you and me.

That was as true on the day of her final journey on the State Gun Carriage, drawn by members of the Royal Navy, as it was on her first journey in the golden coach. She has devoted her life to the service of her God and her people. Our Guild Sunday service was due to take place on Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>. All four hymns that had been chosen could have been sung by Her Majesty, as she has fulfilled every promise made in them. She died, as she would have wished, having fulfilled the vow that she made on that day so long ago to the very end of her time on earth. She was a shining example, to people of all faiths and none, of the way that we should lead our lives. Although she was not a member of our Guild, she has held true to our principles, to express our faith in worship, prayers, and action as we acknowledge:

Whose we are and Whom we serve.

**Anne Brown, on behalf of the members of our Guild.**



On Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September we were all very excited about the Tour of Britain bike tour coming through both of our villages.

At Morebattle we had the sprint finish right outside the front entrance of the school. We went outside just before lunchtime to get ready. We had made posters and flags and banners. Mrs Wauchope and Mrs Bryce even managed to attach a bike to the railings which we had decorated with a pretend Oscar Onley on! We the first 6 or so cyclists went by it was exciting- the police cars and camera crews were probably almost as noisy as us.

When the rest of the cyclists came through just after they were going really fast and flew past us in a flash. They were followed by all their team cars which had loads of spare bikes on the top. It was amazing to watch. Afterwards ELC and P1/2 were riding their own bikes and scooters in the playground.



The Tour of Britain bike race came through our village at lunchtime on Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September. We had an early lunch so that we were ready to go and watch. Some of us had made big posters to hold and the younger class and nursery made streamers to wave.

Before the bikes arrived there was a lot of cheering when the police and commentator parked beside us. They kept asking us to cheer louder and louder- then they said we were the loudest.

The bikes zoomed past us and then round the corner heading for Kelso. We had watched some of it on ITV4 in the morning to track where they were. I found it exciting that our village was part of it all, part of history!



In our last submission to the Cheviot magazine prior to the summer holidays, we spoke about how we celebrated the Jubilee in school. As part of the celebrations our Bara Gadgi Alex and Bara Manushi Poppy brought gifts for each child in the school- a commemorative teddy for the children in nursery and a commemorative ruler with a timeline on it. These very kind and generous gifts were appreciated and whilst we thanked Alex, Poppy and Fiona (on behalf of the Festival Committee) in person at the time, and on our Facebook page that day, we realise that people in the community might not have seen this. Our article last time focussed on the day we celebrated in school and forgot to account for this element which timed with the start of Festival Week. On behalf to Yetholm Primary School I would like to send apologies to the Festival Week Committee and again thank them for both their hard work in ensuring Festival Week is an ongoing success but also for the thoughtful gifts earlier this year (made all the more special now given Queen Elizabeth's recent passing).

### **A teacher's tale.**

Many of you will be familiar with this quote by Jerome K Jerome: **"I like work; it fascinates me. I can sit and look at it for hours."**

I feel that way too these days. Substitute 'words' for 'work' and that would also apply. Children too are fascinated by words given the opportunity to 'play around' with them. Poetry writing sessions invariably ended in many groups of lines, each ending in a rhyming word. Let's consider Haiku. Although there are set rules, many versions published tend not to obey them to the letter. I was rather lenient with the children's attempts as the emphasis was on enjoyment. (It also helped them to understand syllables although they were not aware of that.)

This one was a particular favourite - written by a child of five.  
Wriggly, squiggly dots.

Dodgy, darty through the reeds,  
Wee tadpole tots.

Not a sentence in sight, but the inevitable rhyme did duly appear. That one was awarded the medal of the day.

I did allow Scots word as I became aware that Lallans Scots was fast disappearing from everyday use. An English teacher (as one Born in England) was with us in school. One break time a wee lassie was in floods of tears at what we used to call Piece Time. She came to tell me

“Ma Teacher telt me ah wisnae dookin’ for aipples last night an’ ah wus.”  
When I assured her that it would not happen again, she ran off to play quite happily, with a plaster on her knee - to account for the tears.

The ensuing conversation with the teacher was rather more difficult. More recently I have noticed that I must translate some of the words I use for the benefit of my grandsons.

So begins the lesson for today. I would like you, if you would so oblige, to test your Scot’s word power. I will choose a few of the words that were in common use when we were very young. This is not a competition. Entries are not required. No prizes will be awarded. I will list a few words and ask whether your meaning will match mine. Answers will appear next time of my definitions. Morebattle version. Other localities may differ. Those born and bred around here may have a slight advantage. This is a personal exercise. Please ‘Have a Go, Joe’ Some of you may remember that programme on the wireless.

Your starter for ten: ahint, oxter, drumlie, coupit or couped, dookers, ken, trauchled, goonie, fair puggled, mingin.

**Anne Brown**

### **Henry Francis – who?**

So here is a question: what connects George VI, Field Marshal Kitchener, General Charles Gordon and Edith Cavell, the nurse shot by the Germans? The answer isn’t patriotic prowess, but something much simpler. They all had the words of Henry Francis Lyte at their funeral; or in the case of Cavell, on her lips as the rifles were raised. You may not know much about Lyte, but you know his words, almost instinctively. “Abide with me, fast falls the eventide”.

Lyte was born very close to this parish, in Ednam, in 1793, son of a “ne’er do well” who left his wife once he had secured a place for his sons in Ulster, while his wife departed to London. He studied at Trinity College, Dublin, and although reading theology, idly, had a moment of note. On attending a priest’s death bed he was exhorted to take St Paul more significantly. Thereafter he began “to preach in another manner”, and regretted having dismissed some colleagues as “enthusiastic rhapsodists”, took their more emotive style to heart. In his later career as a minister in England, he instituted some things we might remember, such as Sunday School picnics (“the Annual Treat”) and did the kind of thing that Victorian vicars did – fly fishing, discovering human remains in a cave, amassing his library and enlarging his church. He was “unusually handsome”, which is a strange adjective. I wonder what being “usually handsome” might be. He was a contrary figure, opposing Catholic Emancipation and supporting the end of the slave trade.

The past is often more complex than we would like it to be.

He died in Nice in 1847, aged just 54. Apparently, his last words were “Peace! Joy!” Lyte’s biographer called his most famous hymn “a dull tune”, though we sing it to a different one.

But we still sing it. And we, too often, have not been able to sing it together over the past years. Hymns are a tangible link to the “cloud of witnesses” who have gone before, said the same words and sung the same songs and there is a reverence in that as well as familiarity. It was only after his death that his last book was published, entitled *Remains*. He does remain. We should be glad that this son of the Borders is inscribed on the hearts of sports fans, grievers, churchgoers and those who have never heard of him. (There is a small plaque on the bridge in Ednam: take time to give it a gesture).

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide  
The darkness deepens Lord, with me abide  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee  
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee  
In life, in death, o Lord, abide with me  
Abide with me, abide with me

## **Cheviot Churches Elders and Districts**

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

**Church Services – Yetholm, Linton and Morebattle.**  
**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 always open for private devotion and hosts occasional services.  
Prayer Service will be held in Linton Church at 6.30pm. All Welcome.

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## **Cheviot Churches: Church of Scotland (Charity No SC003023)**

### **Minister:**

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

### **Session Clerk:**

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

### **Treasurer:**

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

### **Safeguarding Co-Ordinator:**

Heather Freeland – Cook 01573 420480

### **Roll Keeper:**

Pippa Emerson 01573420279

### **Committee Convenors:**

**Mission and Outreach:** Vacant

**Children and Youth Ministry Team:** Graeme Watson 01573 420602

**Ways and Means with Stewardship:** Rae Redpath 01573 420451

**Worship Committee:** Rev. Colin Johnston 01573 440539

[www.cheviotchurches.org](http://www.cheviotchurches.org)

## **We'd like your ideas please!**

The Yetholm & District Community Council (CC) are inviting ideas from the community as to how we might best employ the legacy so kindly provided by the late Miss Deans, of some £113,000 which she has entrusted to the CC for the purpose of benefitting the community.

In terms of the use of the legacy, this is not about “spending” the money; rather it is about *investing* in the community for its present and future benefit. The CC are therefore looking to retain a proportion in capital reserve, as well as investing in community resources in the nearer future, providing facilities which will not only benefit the community, but where possible, will also act as on-going fund-raisers to help in securing future projects and maintaining reserves.

In putting forward your ideas, please therefore consider the broader potential benefit for the community. For example: across age ranges, community interest groups, improved or new facilities and revenue generation ideas, rather than suggestions focussed around more personal / individual interests. For practical reasons, a cut-off date is needed, therefore:

**Please note that the closing date for the submitting of ideas will be  
[midnight on the 25th of November 2022](#)**

**Please send in your ideas either by email to:**

**[yetholmlegacy@gmail.com](mailto:yetholmlegacy@gmail.com)**

**OR**

**In writing via a sealed envelope marked “CC Ideas” at the  
Community Shop**

**OR**

**By phone to Heather Freeland-Cook on 01573420480. Leave a  
message and your call will be returned.**

**Please also note that ideas posted on Facebook or other media, will  
not be considered**

**Many thanks to all - we look forward to hearing from you!**