

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

# CHEVIOT



Summer 2023



## **Prayer Corner**

### Summertime

Father God, may we make our homes places of relaxation, joy, love, peace, and safety.

May we be generous and considerate, not thinking only about ourselves, but helping others enjoy the blessings of the summertime.

Lord God, Creator of all things, guide our steps and strengthen our hearts during these months of summer.

Grant us refreshment of mind and body.

May we constantly strive to make a meaningful difference in the lives of our loved ones and in the world around us as we enjoy the warm days of summer. Amen.



## **From the Manse**

Dear Friends,

It has been wonderful to enjoy the warm and sunny weather of early summer. I just hope that it lasts for the school holidays. It has also been good weather to enjoy the various riding events of the summer so far. At Yetholm we had the Kirkin' of the Bari Manushi and Bari Gadgi at the start of the festival Week, and it was good to welcome people from Berwick, Coldstream, Duns and Selkirk who had come to support their friends. Later that week many others joined in the ride to Stob Stanes. The following week, the Kelso Laddie and the Jed Callant met at Morebattle. With the Jedburgh riders coming from the West and the Kelso riders from the East, it can look like a face-off to the casual visitor, but of course, they meet, shake hands and dance an eightsome reel and each one calls on the crowd to cheer their friend.

We have rich traditions in the Borders, and while there can be traditional rivalries between towns, there is also a good spirit of co-operation and support. If only it were the case throughout the world. We are conscious of the war in Ukraine, and so Ukrainian tennis players, for example, will not shake hands with their Russian counterparts, and we can perhaps understand why, though it is still sad. The anniversary of Windrush reminds us of how difficult it was for people from the Caribbean and elsewhere to integrate in Britain in the 1950s and 1960s. Another flashpoint is the Middle East where Israelis and Palestinians clash. At the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland this year there was a guest from Palestine, Daoud Nasser. His family have farmed near Bethlehem for centuries and crucially have the title deeds to their farm. Now they are surrounded by Israeli settlements, and sadly some of the settlers try to intimidate the Nassers to leave by burning their olive trees. However, the Nassers now call their farm 'the Tent of Nations' and have volunteers from many countries staying to help to farm the land. They refuse to be intimidated and have a stone at the entrance to the farm with the words, 'We refuse to be enemies'. When the olive trees are destroyed, they simply plant others.

If only we learned how to live alongside one another without judging according to skin colour or religion or nationality. We are all made in God's image and precious in God's sight.

I hope you all enjoy the summer and, for those going off on holiday, travel well and appreciate new people and cultures.

Peace and Blessings

*Colin*

## **Lord High Commissioner**

We were privileged to host the Lord High Commissioner, Lord Patrick Hodge, and his entourage at Yetholm in May. He is the King's representative in Scotland during the General Assembly Week, staying in Holyrood Palace and attending various functions. However, he also visits a number of projects, and with his chaplain being a keen walker along pilgrim routes, he duly came to visit our St Cuthbert's way group, which is ecumenical and cross-border. Time was short, but we walked along the Bowmont

water, round the back into Kirk Yetholm and along to the Kirk, where he and his wife met representatives from the Morebattle and Yetholm communities, as well as congregation members. He obviously enjoyed his visit, as in his closing speech at the Assembly he made reference to it: 'I enjoyed our all-too-short walk at Kirk Yetholm along the pilgrim route which runs from Melrose to Lindisfarne. I was struck by the enthusiasm of the local community, including the school children, for their local saint, St Cuthbert. The walk caused me to wonder whether we might continue to learn from the spiritual practices and traditions within our shared Christian faith. Walking with friends or strangers on routes on which others have walked between ancient centres of holiness, contemplating, and rejoicing in the landscape, which is God's creation, may be a way of finding an inner peace'.

### **Walk in the Eildons**

Following on from what the Lord High Commissioner's said in his closing remarks (see above), there is an opportunity to walk the first stretch of the St Cuthbert's Way from Melrose to St Boswell's, over the Eildon's and visiting Bowden Kirk enroute. This will take place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August. This is organised by our new Lothian and Borders presbytery as a way to get to know one another. There will be a service to finish, which some of the less energetic may want to attend, but details will follow.

### **Kiltwalk 2023**

Colin plans to walk the Kiltwalk again on 17th September. It will be a 15 mile walk from Portobello along the Forth to Silverknowes and then to the finish at Murrayfield. This year he will raise funds for Christian Aid. Sponsorship details nearer the time.

### **Church Dates for Diary**

**July 30<sup>th</sup>** – Evening Communion at Hownam at 6pm

**August 20<sup>th</sup>** – Songs of Praise at Kirk Yetholm at 6pm.

**August 27<sup>th</sup>** – Evening Communion at Hoselaw Chapel at 6pm (Revd. Ian Clark)

**September 10<sup>th</sup>** – KCT Songs of Praise in Square at 2pm.

**September 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Presbytery Conference on 5 Marks of Mission at Jedburgh.

**September 30<sup>th</sup>** – Presbytery Conference on Worship at Longniddry

**October 1<sup>st</sup>** – Harvest at Linton 11.15am

**October 8<sup>th</sup>** – United Harvest Communion at Yetholm Kirk at 11am.

**October 15<sup>th</sup>** – United Harvest service at Morebattle Kirk at 11am with lunch.

## **BIRDBATH'S UNWELCOME VISITOR**

Rev. Birdbath was trying to concentrate at his desk when all hell seemed to break loose in the garden. Looking out, he saw a large and sinister Magpie sitting on the fence, apparently weighing up its chances of finding a nest to rob of its eggs, or better still a family of newly-hatched fledglings to enjoy for dinner. Most garden birds take a roundabout route to their nests with food for their chicks, to baffle predators, but Magpies are notoriously sharp and ruthless. Birdbath's birds were not putting up with this, and got together to mob the

predator, led by a trio of Starlings hurling rude squawks, and the Magpie flew off to the wood across the valley. Birdbath found himself pondering on its (by human standards) evil intentions but telling himself that the bird was just programmed by its genes as a link in the vast and complex food-chain of Nature for millennia and was not morally responsible for the distress and heartache it would inflict on bereaved avian parents when it ate their offspring. Birdbath was in good company. The same questions, at a human level, nonplussed St Paul, and 300 years later that most luminous of early Christian theologians, St Augustine of Hippo. "Why," the latter agonised, "had he and his young pals robbed a private Orchard of

apples, when they were kids, though they knew perfectly well it was wrong, and he did not even like apples or want one?" He blamed it on what he called Original Sin, and theologians have been fiercely arguing about it down to the present day.

## **Simpson's Memory Box Appeal**

SiMBA is a charity registered in Scotland, yet their services reach across the UK and Ireland. They exist to support families and those close to them whose baby has died at any stage of pregnancy or around the time of birth. They support anyone who has lost a baby at any gestation, no matter how recent, or how long ago the loss was. They do this through the delivery of our core services, providing support to families in a way that is meaningful for them and reaches them wherever they are on their journey after the loss of their baby.

SiMBA started by gifting Memory Boxes and due to the increasing awareness of their service, the demand for these has never been greater. They donate these to maternity and gynaecology wards, neonatal units, and hospices so that families can, where possible, create memories of precious time spent together. As part of the memory boxes SiMBA rely on volunteers to knit or crochet beautiful memory teddies, blankets, and butterflies.

If this is something that you'd like to help with there is a link to the patterns or you can contact Heather Thomson 07816 095 770 for a paper copy.

<https://www.simbacharity.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer/knitting/>

## **A day in May**

Who made the skylark?

Singing away up there, as I cycle up the hill?

Who clothed the hedgerows in white blossom?

Who made these ancient oaks on either side of the road,

Which make me feel

As if I'm in a cathedral,

Where their branches merge overhead.

And who made this oak tree?

This one just here, with these long, golden catkins

Catching the afternoon sunshine,

And so low down I can see them, really close, as I never have before.

I do not know how to pray,

But I do know how to look around me in wonder;

How to marvel at the light, and the colours,

In the sky, the clouds, the hills, the fields, the trees, the hedgerows;

How to stop and look closely at a snowy globe of dandelion seeds:

How to admire the bristly parachute of filaments

Which will keep each seed afloat as long as the wind will carry it.

I know how to cycle slowly through the afternoon sunshine.

And be held in awe by the beauty, the complexity, the amazing design.

Of life around me,

How to treasure each moment

Of simply being,

While I can.

With acknowledgements of my debt to Mary Oliver's poem, The Summer Day which

I discovered echoed my own thoughts, and I have borrowed her format to express them.



P.S on dandelion seeds:

Now you may well regard these as a great nuisance, but I will try to convince you to admire and be astonished by the design which makes them so successful. Each parachute-like seed head consists of about 100 filaments and is about 90% empty space. (Experiments in wind tunnels show 100 to be the optimal number; evolution just worked that out differently.) The arrangement of filaments is such that the air flow produces a kind of air bubble in which the air pressure is lower, and this keeps the seed afloat and also prevents it, the air bubble, from being dragged away. It can carry a single seed 30 km or more.

Now how clever is that?

**Ann Thorns**

### **Quiet Garden Movement at Wellgate, Morebattle.**

A reminder that Wellgate Garden is open to visitors for peace and contemplation on Fridays and Sundays. A walled garden, stretching down to the graveyard, self-contained and usually very quiet, there are four benches for sitting in and contemplating.

To give you idea of what other make of this scheme, I decided to quote from three of the Trustees, taking their words from the most recent newsletter called Quiet Places. "Meditation is such an important part of one's Christian life, so that I am delighted that Quiet Gardens now exists ... to encourage us towards a more prayerful and thoughtful faith", writes Professor Sir Gillian Prance, the Patron. Another says "I love to open up inspiring spaces in which you can make soulful connections. The Quiet Garden Movement has been gently cultivating and tending an organic network of set-aside, sensitively curated spaces in which anyone can come, without agenda, to be still. And to be restored. And to be enlivened. Last "A garden can be strong medicine to nurture and shape the soul. Gardens have a way of seeping into your soul, and you find yourself enjoying the air and watching for miracles. In a hurried and distracted world, we need garden sanctuaries, places that ground us. We need Quiet Gardens". There are, incidentally, 260 gardens worldwide.



The fact that it is the old manse garden means that it is also available for wedding photographs: one of the benches has wheels so you can choose your background.

It certainly has a structure but also it has many weeds. Half the veg garden is used by friends. Like most Scottish gardens it is perhaps best in spring - as I write the red poppies are blazing and the tall blue irises are making their point. Come and see for yourself: if I am here, I am always willing to welcome people and make cups of tea and coffee. But if I'm not, remember the garden is still there for you. It is round the corner from the shop and next to the church grounds.

**Matilda Hall.**

### **Calling all NHS hearing aid users...**

Drop-in re-tubing sessions are back! The NHS has sub-contracted the drop-in sessions to the Royal National Institute for the Deaf, - so on your first visit, you will be given a form to fill in to allow them to keep your data. Otherwise, the service is much as before and now happens on the second Tuesday of the month at Kelso Health Centre between 10-12. There are posters on both village notice boards about other drop-in sessions around the borders if that is more convenient.

When we have got established again, I'll hope to have a session in Yetholm later in the year.

Reception at Kelso HC is still the first port of call for batteries, as I currently don't have a stock.

**Pippa Emerson**

**Thank you** to all who helped in any way to raise funds for **Christian Aid** using the envelope collection in May: to those who delivered the envelopes, the village shops for being collecting points but most of all to those who gave so generously. The total collected in cash or by cheque was £835.15 and of course you may have given in one of the many other ways available these days. An extra thank you to those who are able to gift aid and took the trouble to fill in the slip with your donation. This is valuable additional income to help with the wonderful work the organisation does through the partners in supporting communities in so many places where life is made difficult by climate change, natural and man-made disasters. If you were able to meet any of the people, you have helped they would thank you with tears in their eyes.

Remember that you can donate any time of year and not just during one week in May.

**Trish Gentry**



The most recent copy of the **Country Way** magazine has just landed. Subtitled 'Life and Faith in Rural Britain' this publication is always an interesting read and there is usually a spare copy left in Yetholm Church. This edition has article relevant to the area covered by Cheviot Churches; pilgrimage – something very much being actively developed; rural homelessness and housing difficulties – often hidden and with extra problems given our sparse public transport situation and rising car ownership costs; combating the climate crisis in our own neighbourhood with useful links. Topically as we recently witnessed a group visiting Yetholm on the way to Appleby Horse Fair there is an article about understanding the Traveller Community.

**Trish Gentry**

### **Short report on finance for 2022 as approved by our auditors and passed by the Kirk Session.**

Total income, including assets, was £72791 down by £18702. The majority of this was because in 2021 we received £16500 in legacies.

Total expenditure £77735 including liabilities was up by £17120. The bulk of this was made by the following increases: organists fees up by £2281, heat and light up by £3450 (no oil purchased for Yetholm in 2022), church fabric up by £1451, manse grounds up by £1100, equipment and repairs up by £1360, Organ and music expenses up by £2637 (purchase of new music system). An overall total of £12282. The other £5000 was made up of minor increases as shown in the accounts.

Overall, we had a deficit of £4944 when assets and liabilities are factored in.

In short for 2023 we need to find an extra £5000 in income or reduce our expenditure by that amount or a bit of both, to balance the books on a year-by-year basis. I anticipate quite a lot of fabric expenditure in 2023. Work needs done on all the church roofs, The manse, and the Beadles cottage. Also, the clock tower requires about £7000 worth of work. Much of this can be claimed from the central fabric fund but obviously we would benefit from a rise in our income.

As we approach the proposed linkage with Kelso Old and Sprouston it is vital that we can show that we are financially viable so every increase in donations no matter how small is essential.

**Kelso Churches Together**

**Borders Union Show. 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> July.**

**Why not come along to the Church Marquee to find a welcome chair for a brief rest? Enjoy a drink of juice, or tea and biscuits. Maybe even a wee blether with old and new friends.**

**All are welcome.**

## **Book Review:**

### **‘Cuddy’ – by Benjamin Myers**

Ben Myers – author of *‘The Gallows Pole’* currently adapted for TV – brings us this wonderful, evocative, and experimental re-telling of the story St Cuthbert or ‘Cuddy’ as he became known. Myers takes a non-traditional approach, which incorporates poetry, prose, play, diary, and real historical accounts, separated into four Books. In Book I we journey with the *‘haliwerfolk’* – the folk of the holy man as they flee Viking invaders in search for a sacred place of safety and security for Cuddy – eventually arriving at *‘Dunholme’*. Book II brings us forward to 1346 – a mighty Cathedral has risen around the bend in the river, but the age is fraught with brutality and war with the Scots. We then move to the early 19<sup>th</sup> Century where an account of the excavation of St Cuthbert’s tomb (based on an actual event that took place), brings a disturbing spiritual encounter for our storyteller. Finally in Book IV, we enter the present-day world of ‘Daft Lad’, struggling to care for his dying mother whilst working on a zero hour contract to support stone masons working on the central tower of the cathedral.

The book also brings the reader to an ‘Interlude’, using the format of a short, scripted play, to describe in harrowing detail, how the Cathedral was used as a prison for 3000 Scots, during the period of Oliver Cromwell. Myers also intersperses his novel with several pages of references to historical accounts and academic research into Cuthbert and the construction of Durham and its Cathedral, providing useful context to our story. The power of this novel is the *sense* of Cuthbert, how he has weaved a thread into the existence of a Cathedral city and its people, spiritually and practically, for almost a thousand years. Anyone who has not visited the mighty Norman building that stands over the River Wear will I hope to take the opportunity to do so, though I suspect many have viewed the City from the vantage of the railway....

*‘As we pull out of the station through the dusk and fog, there, lighting up, is Durham...dog chasing its own cropped tail, University, Cathedral, Gaol’* (Durham by Tony Harrison).

**Andrew Hay**

## **Craft Group**

Please note the craft group in Yetholm Church will not run in July and August. They will resume on Monday September 4<sup>th</sup> at 2pm. All are welcome.

## **Yetholm Festival 2023**

What a week!!!

When planning for Festival week, there are several unknowns - How will Angus and Gemma get on – after all, we are putting 2 people together for a week who barely know each other.

What would the weather be like? Would it hamper outdoor activities?

Would the community come and support the Festival?

The sun shone, the Principals smiled, local residents came and supported the activities, and then it's over until next time.

We consider what activities we have had in the past, how well they are attended, where they will be held. We often try to change and swap activities every few years, this year was no exception.

The week was discussed, planned, and with the support of local businesses each hosting activities for us, we were confident that Festival week provided something for everyone. We specifically like to ensure we have activities for the children. This year was no different with 9 activities for them to join in with. The Village Lunch was organised by a new team, and thanks must go to them and the wonderful bakers who helped and provided cakes etc for the event.

Whilst the Committee concentrate on the planning of activities, we have no control over the weather. It was fabulous to be taking part in outdoor activities without a raincoat on or an umbrella in hand, but the sunny weather brought additional concerns.

- The Children's Rounders was completed with boxes of ice-lollies in the freezer to cool them down.

The Stob Stanes ride-out had additional measures put in place to ensure the safety and health of the horses during the extreme heat.

- Regular conversations with the Chief Marshall were had regarding the route for the ride-out and the provision of water for riders and horses. A slight change in route – walking the horses down the river and not just across it, would cool the horses. All of these plans were publicised to provide visiting riders with information and what they could expect. I was later told that there were 15 sashed Principals at the ride-out – amazing support from our neighbouring towns.

There isn't space for an update on every activity, but one which deserves a mention is the Family afternoon on the final Saturday. There were running races for the children, target golf, a huge inflatable assault course (which was very popular), traditional egg throwing and then the Tug-of-war. Special mention must be made for the "anchor person" during one

round of Tug –o-war, it was none other than Dot Lee. With a huge rope wrapped around her, and her stick in her hand she stood firm, and knew exactly when to let go so she didn't get pulled over and injured. An incredible lady.

Angus and Gemma hold your heads high – you carried out your duties within the week with enthusiasm, a sense of duty, and quite often a drink in your hand. You have acted as hosts to the many visiting Principals, some with us for the first time, and you made them all welcome. You have encouraged the community to take part in activities from the youngsters to the not so young.



**Tractor Run Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July. Leaving Kirk Yetholm Haugh at 11am and returning at approx. 2pm. Afternoon Teas and Raffle. All Proceeds to Friends of Kelso Hospital.**

## **Dates for diary**

### **July**

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup>** - Open Gardens in Morebattle 1pm - 5pm Maps & Teas in the Institute

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup>** – Yetholm Festival Week “Greeting” Meeting at 7.30pm in Youth Hall

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup>**– Morebattle Senior Citizens Trip to Dobbies, Edinburgh leaving top of Village 1pm

**Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup>** – Cheviot Churches Coffee Morning at 10.30am in Wauchope Hall.

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

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Kalewater Community Company - Recreation Ground Coffee Morning in Village Hall at 10.30am

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>** - John Lamont & Rachael Hamilton Summer Surgery Tour in the Institute 4.15pm to 4.45pm

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup>** - EJD Forestry Drop-in Event re Proposed Woodland Creation at Linton Burnfoot in Morebattle Village Hall 3-7pm

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

### **August**

**Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> - Friday 11<sup>th</sup>** – Morebattle Festival Week (various events)

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>** – Morebattle Games at The Tofts at 1pm

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

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup>** – Bingo Night at 7pm in Wauchope Hall. Proceeds to Borders Water Rescue.

**Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup>** – Yetholm and District Community Council at 7pm in Youth Hall.

### **September**

**Monday 4<sup>th</sup>** – Yetholm Festival Week Meeting at 7.30pm in Youth Hall

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup>** – Film Nights resume in Wauchope Hall at 7pm with “The Fabelmans” (12). Entry £6 at door

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup>** – National Theatre Live Screening at 7pm in Wauchope Hall. Entry £12 at door. Title TBC.

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>**– Morebattle SWI in the Institute at 7.15pm – Visitors Night. Amanda Barnes – Cherrytrees Flower Garden - Competition - Hand-tied Posy of Flowers & Floral Photograph.

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup>** – Morebattle Flower Show in Village Hall doors open 3pm.

**Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup>** – Kalewater Community Council in the Institute at 7pm

**Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup>** - Yetholm and District Community Council at 7pm in Youth Hall.

Singing Mamas every Monday in the Institute 10.30am

Morebattle Tea Club meets every Tuesday at 2.00pm – 3.00pm in Institute.

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

Fitness Class every Sunday 6.30pm in Village Hall

Camera Club 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of each month 7pm in the Institute.

**Coffee at Yetholm Church every Tuesday from 10 30 – 12noon. All very welcome**



The shop continues to welcome local customers and visitors to the village, with an increased number of walkers on both the St Cuthbert's Way and the Scottish National Trail this year, some taking time to enjoy a coffee or soft drink sitting either at the front of the shop or in our garden at the back. To record the range of nationalities of our many visitors, we have initiated a Visitors Book, which already has entries from, USA, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, Germany, The Netherlands, Israel, and Sweden. All customers are welcome to browse through the comments in the book at any time.

We are starting to see the rate of price increase on basic grocery goods slow with some seasonal fruit and veg falling in price. We will continue to use a wide range of sources to keep our prices as affordable as possible within the necessity of keeping the shop profitable and sustainable over the long term. Energy costs have also gone up for the shop, as they have for everyone else, but the Board has been very active in seeking out the most competitive rates for our energy bills and management and volunteers are actively reducing usage wherever possible.

The shop has a constantly changing range of locally made gifts and sustainable products available and we welcome everyone to take the time to browse and see what we have in stock.

We would like to thank all our customers for their continued support and will always welcome new customers visiting us for the first time, whether they live locally or are passing through.

As always, a huge thank you to our marvelous team of volunteers, without whom, the shop could not succeed in the way it has.

If anyone wishes to volunteer or knows a youngster looking for work experience during the Summer holidays, please point them our way.

**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 by Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September.**

**[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: Imogen Claire Fraser**

**Deaths: Isabel Cockburn, Helen Wallace, Hugh Thomson, Mary Beattie.**

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#### **The Kaleidoscopic Kale Water**

Through windlestaes, by banks and braes, high in the Cheviot Hills,  
The birth of infant waters trickle through gullies, as babbling rills.  
From source, one of which being Hawkwillow burn,  
She gathers momentum with each twist and turn.

Reaching the haughs below Hindhope farm,  
These surroundings have a rustic, magical charm.  
Her fledgling stream cleansing, refreshing and pure,  
Beneath Roman's road remnants at camp Pennymuir.

By Towford, her glidings giggle and bumble,  
For mile after mile, relentlessly tumble.  
In bright sunshine, the leaves of a beech sapling glisten,  
To witness the tranquil perfection – just listen!

At Swanlaws, horn-crowned blackface tups lie,  
While sweet-singing skylarks serenade in the sky.  
On down by Philogar and Chatto Linn weir,  
Where salmon leap high in waters gin clear.

Those gorgeous bars of silver, a truly magnificent sight,  
The annual spectacle and miracle, the diligent angler's delight.  
High above this hallowed haven, a hovering Kestrel calls,  
Announcing its unmistakable presence over the effervescent falls.

In sight of ancient, tilled terraces below Hownam Mains,  
The flushing flow almost appears to laugh like drains.  
Determined to forge forth, a passage undeniably bold,  
On warm days and cold, passing sheep pen and fold.

Below Heavyside brig, an aquatic dipper dives,  
Fearlessly gathering fare for offspring to thrive.  
Onwards to Hownam Grange deep washing pool,  
Where a quick summer's day dip is reviving and cool.

During long balmy days, a profusion of mayfly hatch,  
Hungry brown trout rise, taking the succulent catch.  
In the shadows and sanctity of the sacred Gateshaw Braes,  
The revitalising river, so deserved of reverential praise.

Awoken from the sleepy slumber and chilly winter gloom,  
A golden burst of primrose gold, with brilliant bluebells bloom,  
Overlooking the historic route, known here as Pikin' stanes,  
The majestic waters chuckle, passing butter-bright bushes of broom.

Above, Corbet Tower stands over St Cuthbert's way crossing,  
Whilst the radiant river below, is endlessly pitching and tossing.  
Skirting the site of Morebattle Games, where the athletes display their  
feet of flames,  
At the games field here at Morebattle Tofts, the winners triumphantly  
hold their trophies aloft.



Master catcher, Grey Heron, stands guard on a moss-covered stone,  
Patrolling for hours endless, saint patient and alone.  
Thereafter her course follows the legendary Linton Worm's lair,  
With unfaltering force and mellifluous flair.

For ethereal beauty, this land has no equal,  
Just wait for the morn, for the swashbuckling sequel.  
At Cowbog, the song thrush and chaffinch harmoniously trill,  
As greylag geese flock to the fallow at Caverton Mill.

Ploughing a furrow by fertile fields of Mosstower,  
By day and by night, this river shows implacable power.  
Spellbinding scenes, nature's brushstrokes effortlessly etch,  
The intrepid quest continues, approaching the penultimate stretch.

Displaying a natural splendour, when in raging, rapturous spate,  
She cascades inexorably on, on to her gloriously ultimate fate.  
Mission almost accomplished, and alas, journey nearly complete,  
The land she so tenderly cares for, now replenished and replete.

With this ageless, great river's epic story now told,  
Like the evolution of autumn leaves, turn from green to gold,  
From humble beginnings in the high hills of Cheviot,  
Gracefully winding her way to Kalemouth, and into the tumultuous  
Teviot.

**Ewan Girvan**



### **Yetholm Community Shop**

The recent spell of hot and sultry weather, followed by the events of Yetholm Festival Week, have been marvelous for sales of ice-cream and

soft drinks, but now with the arrival of more temperate conditions we are hoping to settle into the steadier pattern of summer trading.

Of course, we expect to continue to welcome the flow of visitors to the villages, on foot and on wheels, and for them we have our modest range of Yetholm-branded memento items, as well as locally produced all-natural artisan soaps and wax melts.

These relative luxuries don't however distract us from our basic mission as a community hub and provider of news and chat as well as grocery staples and newspapers to the residents of our villages and the surrounding area. We continue to minimise so far as we can the effects of inflation and suppliers' price rises which – we hope – will soon begin to ease, but at the moment this is an ongoing challenge.

In the meantime, visitors and regulars alike are savouring the aroma and taste of the freshly-ground coffee from our new Rijo machine, a distinct improvement on our previous hot drinks offering.

As always, we are grateful for the support not only of our customers, but also of all those who work in the shop or for it behind the scenes – particularly over the summer period when staff and volunteers are asked to go the extra mile to cover for their colleagues' absence on well-deserved holiday breaks.

This should not however discourage anyone who feels they'd like to join our ranks!

There is plenty of scope for customising tasks and time-commitments to suit personal circumstances.

Please just contact Louisa on [manageryetholmshop@gmail.com](mailto:manageryetholmshop@gmail.com), or any of the Management Committee members.



The Sorries return to Wauchope Hall Town Yetholm on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October at 7.30pm. Tickets £12. Contact Susan Stewart on [j.stewart134@btinternet.com](mailto:j.stewart134@btinternet.com) to reserve seats. Refreshments on sale and all proceeds to Cheviot Churches.



### **Evie Leonard Games Queen 2023**

### **MOREBATTLE FESTIVAL WEEK 2023**

**Sunday 6th August—Saturday 12th August**

**Sunday 6th**

#### **Official Opening of Morebattle Festival Week - 1pm**

The Sashing of the Games Queen gather at the Village Green, outside the Institute

The Games Queen and Piper will lead a pro- cession to the School Playing Field

#### **Family Fun Day and Car Boot Sale**

Welly Throwing, Tombola, Lucky Dip, Bouncy Castle, Tug-O-War, and many other Attractions

Refreshments throughout the afternoon Including Ice-Cream

**Pool Competition—7pm £2 Village Hall - Entries on the night**

**Family Bingo 6pm Adults £1, Children 50p - Village Hall**

**Cream Tea, Sales Table and Raffle—2pm Village Hall - £3.50**

**Pet Show – 6.30pm - various classes Recreation Ground**

## **Children's Treasure Hunt 2pm Camera Club Exhibition**

The Institute 2-4pm, 5-7pm. Entry by donation

## **Fancy Dress—6.30pm**

School Playing Field (village Hall if wet weather) Classes: Children 7 yrs and under, Children 8-16yrs, Children Group 0-16yrs, Individual Adult Mixed Groups 2 and more. Trophy for Overall Winner

## **Parade through Village—7pm**

## **Family Disco—7.30pm**

Village Hall (Bring your own Refreshments)

## **Presentation of Trophies and Prizes- 8pm Morebattle Games—1pm**

Morebattle Tofts

## **Duck Race—During Games**

Ducks are available to purchase at events during week, in the shop from Sunday 6th and at the Games.

## **Rogues in the Garden**

For Festival Week there will be a competition to spot rogue items in participating gardens. There will be a prize for spotting the rogues and a prize for the most original rogues!

Please sign up on the sheet in the Village Shop by 3rd August to participate and put the rogues in your garden by 6th August.

Spot the Rogues competition sheets will be available from Festival events and the Shop during the week. 20p to enter.

Please return your sheets to Jen or the village shop by the evening of 10th August

Winners will be announced at Disco.

## **News from our Schools**

As we draw towards the end of another academic year it is always that perfect time within the “busy-ness” of everything else going on around you

and the apparently never-ending deadlines, to reflect on some of the achievements of the year and consider the way in which we celebrate those together.

This year both schools have seen success in our outdoor learning- gaining recognised awards from the Woodland Trust. This helps to inform a wider awareness of learning about sustainability and fostering a sense of who we are and what makes us unique. In both our villages the rurality is key! Educating our young people about the uses of the land and the way we nurture and look after it will hopefully be a lesson that is carried within them for years to come. We've carried out litter picks, created bird feeders, adapted wildflower beds (Yetholm) and allotments beds (Morebattle).

We have also had numerous sporting successes- taking part in netball, basketball, cross country, rugby, and hockey festivals. Individually we have had pupils participating in running, football, judo, eventing, cricket, and tennis to name a few. Following years of not being able to, we made the decision to offer swimming lessons to all our upper primary pupils. Both schools took pupils out to line the streets of our villages as the Tour of Britain cycle race came through. All fantastic ways to stay healthy and active which we strive for.

Expressive arts are an area close to my heart as many of you will know. This year each school put on a fantastic Christmas show. We entered Christmas card design competitions (with Evie coming in 2<sup>nd</sup> place across the Borders). Pupils decorated sheep for the Royal Highland Show. Again, individually, we have had pupils on stage for dance shows and for bigger theatre productions. We also managed to offer all children the experience of watching Guy Masterton's showing of "A Christmas Carol" as well as our older classes the opportunity to attend KAOS' production of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang. Our ukulele group (Yetholm) and our Chanter group (Morebattle) are preparing for their end of year performances as we speak! Our Scottish Heritage focus saw pupils writing speeches, reciting poetry, and delivery presentations of research in front of their audience. We are eagerly awaiting the announcement of the winners of our creative writing competitions.

Maths is perhaps harder to find recognition to share with you all- however the success of our young people is clear when you watch them. That said, our young people took an enterprising attitude and raising £900 for charity. It is easy to forget that these things are just from the previous 11 months! One of the end of year highlights for parents still remains our annual school Sports Day. This year we were blessed with good weather (with the need for sun cream and hats a welcome change to jumpers and umbrellas!) Both schools welcomed family and friends along. Whilst some may feel the public focus hard, we cannot lose the importance of the competitive aspect.

I was at the finish line and loved seeing those races where things were not necessarily “predictable”- the egg and spoon being a test of co-ordination or the tug of war being more about teamwork.

I am looking forward to Prize Giving where we will come together to recognise the effort, progress and achievements made by our pupils across the year...and then a welcome chance to press the rest button and prepare again for the next new year ahead.

**Mr. Jamie Wilson (Headteacher)**



**Cheviot Churches hope to organise a family Sponsored Walk on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> September – please keep the date free and further information will follow. Thank you.**

## **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>John Thompson</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:** Melanie Eve 07807 148496

**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

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