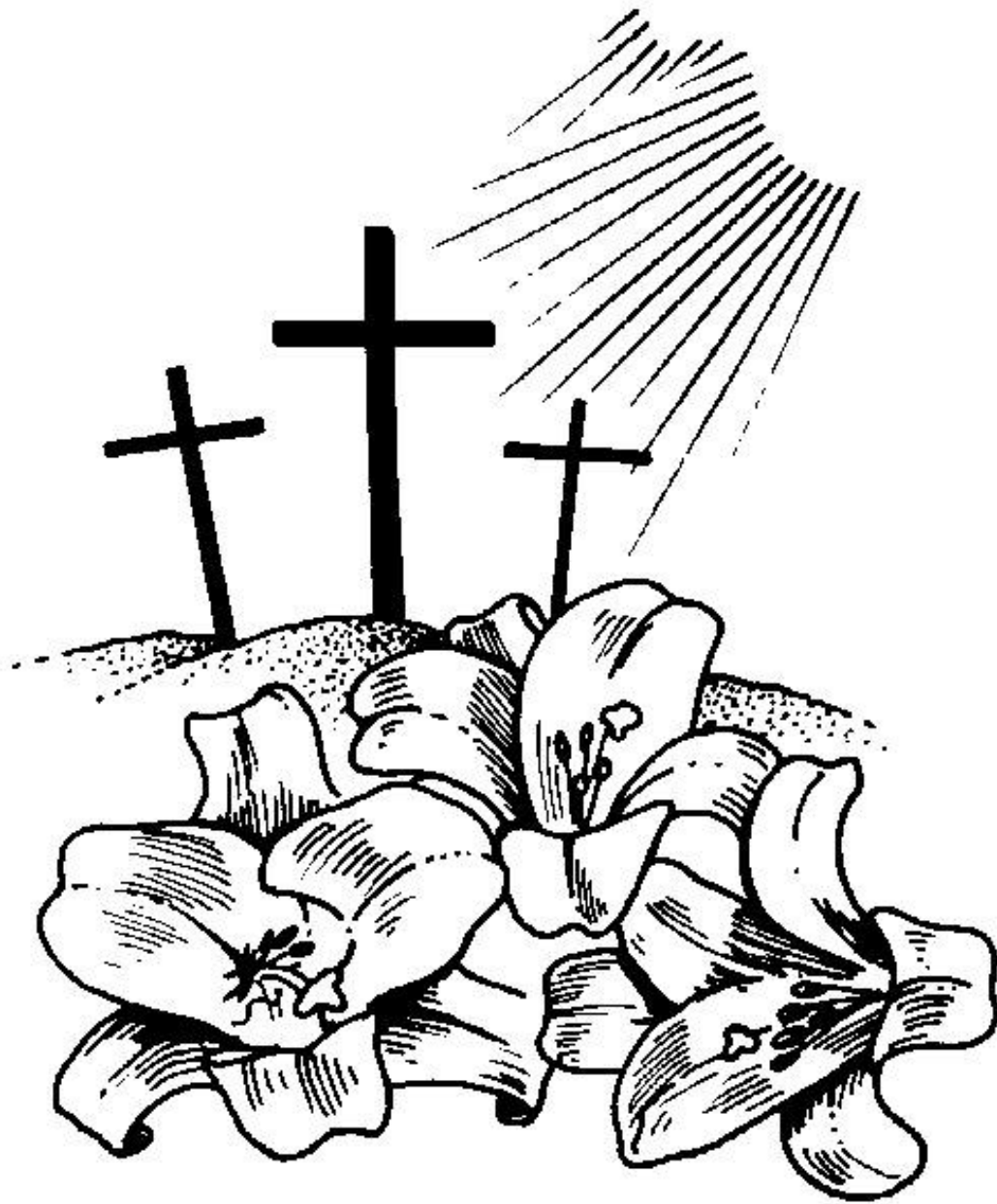


The Magazine for the Parish of Cheviot Churches: Church  
of Scotland

# CHEVIOT



Spring 2024



## **Prayer Corner**

### **An Easter Prayer**



As we greet the signs in nature around us of Spring once again regaling us in bloom, In the songs of returning birds and fields soon to be planted, we give you praise for an even greater sign of new life: the resurrection of your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, that we especially celebrate at this time.

The sadness and despair of his death has given way to the bright promise of immortality,

For the Resurrection is our guarantee that justice will triumph over treason, Light will overcome darkness, and love will conquer death.

As we celebrate we also dare to ask for your grace that we may live the promise given to us, by imitating the life of Jesus in reaching out to the poor, and marginalized, as we strive to be neighbour to all those we meet. Amen

### **Letter from the Manse**

Did you give up anything for Lent? Some give up chocolate or wine. A friend in the Orthodox Church who is a great meat-eater has a vegan diet for the 40 days of Lent.

Nowadays there are events like Dry January, but Christians have been doing this for centuries and for a slightly longer period than a month! I have been trying to do something positive for Lent and every morning before going straight to my desk, I have been going out for a walk, giving myself some space to contemplate God's wonderful creation. Fortunately, most days have been dry, and it has been so good to observe the Spring flowers breaking through the ground and trees beginning to bud and even blossom. In my walks I have yet to see lambs, but as I drive around the parish, I have noticed the lambing has started. All signs of new life.

Lent is a time of self-discipline, corresponding to the forty days Jesus spent in the wilderness, and for Christians is a time to prepare for Holy Week and Easter, which is all about newness of life. Sometimes in Holy Week we go straight from the celebration of Jesus' entry into Jerusalem and the waving of palm branches on Palm Sunday to the joy of Easter Day and miss what happens in-between, and this year more than ever, that is important to hear.

I don't know about you, but I sometimes find it difficult to watch the news these days. The war in Ukraine continues to cause misery and shows no sign of ending. The Middle East is an absolute nightmare and, having lived for several years in the Holy Land and visited Gaza on numerous occasions, I know people on all sides of the conflict and feel torn apart and really quite bereft. In the Book of Lamentations in the Bible, there is a phrase, 'Is it nothing to you, all ye who pass by?' We see so much suffering and can feel a helplessness. It is a time when it seems so many people in the world are going to extremes. However, I always find comfort in knowing that there are still those in the Middle East, and indeed elsewhere, who speak out against injustice and who work for peace to prevail.

In Holy Week we walk with Jesus in the way of the cross. We share his suffering of being betrayed by one friend and denied by another friend. We witness his arrest and trial, his humiliation and torture and his lonely walk carrying the cross to Calvary, where he is executed by painful crucifixion. As such, he is able to speak to all who suffer pain, rejection and even death itself.

But as Christians, we believe it didn't end there, but on the third day, the tomb was found empty, and the whisper became a shout that Jesus was raised from the dead. It was God's massive Yes to Jesus and to humanity, and we celebrate that triumph of life over death, of good over evil, for at Easter the power of fear and despair are defeated, and we can dare to hope again.

Have a wonderful Easter – and feel very welcome to drop into any of our services.

*Colin*

## Easter Services

You are warmly invited to come to the following services:

Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> March – Palm Sunday

10.00 – Yetholm

11.15 – Morebattle

*Palm crosses from Tanzania will be given out.*

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March

Kelso Churches Together Service

10.30 - St Andrew's Kelso.

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March

7pm – Maundy Thursday Service at Linton (including Holy Communion)

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> March (Good Friday)

2-5pm – Good Friday Meditation at Hoselaw Chapel

(Come for a short time or for the whole 3 hours!)

Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> March (Easter Day)

9am – Easter Communion (Morebattle)

11am – Easter Family Service (Yetholm)

The Gardener's Hymn – Anon

All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small; All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

But what we never mention, though gardeners know it is true, when he made the goodies, He made the baddies too.

*Refrain:* All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small; All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

All things spray and swatable, Disasters great and small, all things paraquatable, The Lord God made them all.

The greenfly on the roses, the maggots in the peas, Manure that fills our noses, He gave us all of these.

*Refrain:* All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small; All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

The fungus on the goose-gogs, the club root on the greens, the slugs that eat the lettuce, and chew the aubergines.

*Refrain:* All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small; All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

The drought that kills the fuchsia's, The frost that nips the buds, The rain that drowns the seedlings, The blight that hits the spuds.

*Refrain:* All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small; All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

The midges and mosquitoes, the nettles and the weeds, The pigeons in the greenstuff, The sparrows in the seeds.

*Refrain:* All things bright and beautiful, all creatures great and small; All things wise and wonderful, the Lord God made them all.

The fly that gets the carrots, The wasp that eats the plums, how black the gardener's outlook, though green may be his thumbs.

But still, we gardeners labour Midst vegetables and flowers, and pray what hits our neighbours Will somehow bypass ours.



The Templehall Hotel has been for sale for some time with no successful bid. Concerns among local residents that the 300-year-old Inn may not continue as a village pub and may be bought by somebody who intends to run a Bed and Breakfast only or try to convert it to a dwelling house has led to discussion of a possible community buy-out. A small group of locals circulated a survey during January to gauge interest in the idea with 136 returned out of 300 or so delivered. The vast majority of returned surveys were in favour of the bid and a public meeting was held on 20th January with 71 locals in attendance. At this meeting, it was decided to form a Steering Group from those who had volunteered for this, and this group is now looking at options and the process involved with a view to report back to the Community in March. Updates are available

on Facebook page 'Community Pub Morebattle' with paper copies of important notifications in Morebattle Shop window.

## **Morebattle Tea Club**

At our first meeting in December, we were joined by 15 pupils and two members of Staff from our village school. It was a delight to have the children. With all of us having name tabs on we were soon all chatting on first name terms of Christmas's past and present. Yes, paper chains are still a favourite craft today. One of our ladies had brought along a China doll which had adorned her Christmas tree for many years, another showed her hand knitted socks which were hung up for Santa all these years ago.

One of our members asked a group of little ones if the Minister visited the school. They looked at each other and agreed NO. She turned to her friend and said she was sure Colin called in at the school, quickly they replied, oh yes Colin comes regularly.

First names!

Then, the children, with great confidence, jumped up on stage and sang a jolly Christmas song with us all joining in - happy memories.

After sharing biscuits Tea and juice it was time for our visitors to don their safety vests and head off back to school, as they waved goodbye, asking when they could come again.

**Helen Cessford**

## **On becoming an octogenarian**

Dear reader, this little poem seemed to write itself in an effortless kind of way on my eightieth birthday - just a bit of fun - and then a friend suggested I share it with you here. Why do that, I think.... but poem first:

I've arrived.

When my age was ten times three  
I had the illusion I was me.

When my age was ten times four  
I think I thought so even more.

When my age was ten times five  
I knew for sure I was alive.

When my age was ten times six  
I learned some new and awesome tricks.

When my age was ten times seven

I lived in a golden light filled heaven.

But now I've arrived at ten times eight.  
It's no big deal, nor yet too late.

With acknowledgements to A. A. Milne  
for THE END OF NOW WE ARE SIX.

Since my husband Philip died in that first year of the pandemic, one of the things I have enjoyed is reading about the creation of life, and the processes of maintaining life and of its inevitable decay. I am fascinated by and in awe of it all, especially this thing we call consciousness, and the illusions created for us by what goes on in our brains, so I am indebted in the first place to Anil Seth for "Being You".

I have come to realise that we can't really take the credit - or indeed the blame - for the path our lives take. So much is the result of the random occurrences, good luck, bad luck, that come our way. We didn't get to choose any of the circumstances of our birth or upbringing, after all. Due to a random set of things which happened in my life, I was extraordinarily lucky to make the transition from teaching advanced level physics to would-be doctors and engineers, to teaching eleven-year-old children from a deprived background to read. It was an amazing experience and one I really loved which I hope has been helping to prevent even more serious overcrowding of our prisons and enabling them to do something useful with their lives. They didn't get the good and lucky start I did.

There followed on from that, the wonderful ten years of retirement, I spent with Philip before he died. I owe him an enormous debt of gratitude.

The last big thank you is to Pema Chodron for her many wise and sometimes beautiful words which have helped me so much in the last few years. In particular for "How to meditate", the rereading of which has been helping me to understand how better to meet whatever arises, the ups and the downs and sometimes difficult emotions of this brief and wonderful life. I am sure that I will need this skill more and more in this my ninth decade and feel very blessed to be able, for now at least, to carry on learning.

**Ann Thorns**

## **Appreciating Tim Keller**

Rev Dr Tim J Keller, 1950- 2023.

Tim Keller was a significant Minister of religion, an author and lecturer. If you've ever wondered about the existence of a God, you may have read his book, *The Reason for God*, with its clever logical guidance on a belief in God, in a sceptical world full of greed, cruelty and bad luck. *The Meaning of Marriage* was another best seller and drew on his life experience of marriage to his beloved Kathy. I came across his writing in *My Rock My Refuge*, a daily contemplation for the Psalms. Kathy was a writing partner in many of his works, and clearly his help in life.

Dr Keller's biggest achievement was not as an author or speaker, but as a pastor. He is famous for founding the Redeemer Presbyterian church in New York; indeed, the church now has three sites, and a huge training programme to bring a Christian influence to key cities across the world. He attracted loads of young professional people to church, a demographic that has surprised many Christians who look at their empty pews and wonder what went all wrong. Keller has been lauded as a man that could reach people with the word of God in a secular society.

What was his secret of success? Well, you can see for yourselves, if you Google and stream his ministry talks. It's all there on the Web, for free. I think he really knew his Old Testament text well; so well he could translate it into our modern understanding. He used allegories of modern films to help us access the old, old stories, and understand covenants and ancient technical concepts. He drew on modern scholars of psychology and sociology to draw parallels with the modern day, treating his audience as educated, thoughtful and maybe seeking a dimension in life where money did not meet human needs. He had the sassiness of a New Yorker when arguing his case cogently, entertainingly, and overused the word 'radical' when describing concepts that kept you engaged.

His endings always landed with Jesus, and the power of Christianity. He spoke intimately about Jesus because he was his friend. His talks always left you knowing that we all have a mission in this modern day, a moral mission to love and forbear with others, and ourselves.





## **Birdbath's Nieces**

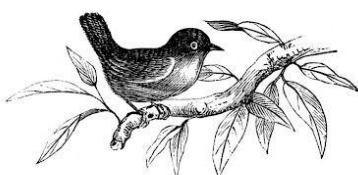
For many years readers of The Cheviot have been entertained and prompted to think wider and deeper by the Rev Birdbath's regular column in this magazine. His observations on the habits of his garden's avian population, delightful in themselves, have made us look beyond the garden fence for meaningful insights. So it was with sadness that his nieces accosted him after Church one morning when they discovered that he was intending to bring this literary feature to an end. "I don't think anyone is reading it anymore," he said, with his usual shy smile.

His nieces are not content to leave it at that – and maybe there are other readers who would miss Birdbath's gentle but astute comments? Please contact the Editor if you think he should continue! In the meantime, one of his nieces has been led to put fingers to keyboard with a seasonal thought or two, culled from her own garden at the other end of the village.

Jackdaws are noisy, untidy, and inclined to squabble among themselves – but they are endearing in many ways, particularly if you've grown acquainted with them for over forty years. Just now they are back as couples, inspecting their holes in the old walnut tree which they used last year, and the year before that.... And before that.... They are hopping or crawling inside, getting rid of rubbish, and generally improving the facilities; the next step will be bringing twigs for the inspection of the entire community. "Ah, yes," says a neighbour, "We had a twig like that last year – a very good design." Finally, the frenetic activity will cease, as the eggs are laid, and the serious business of the spring ensues.

Last year everything went to plan as hatching, feeding, and fledging duly took place. But to our distress, one morning we found dying babies and juveniles lying under the tree, and this was repeated on many other mornings. What was happening? Who was attacking these birds, who have been our neighbours for decades? It appeared that magpies had moved into the vicinity, and they had decided to eradicate the competition. There is plenty of room and there are plenty of trees for all to use, but there was ruthless destruction, and few jackdaw families succeeded in raising their entire clutch. Magpies are further up the pecking order....

How anxious we are that this spring will be a better one! Will the magpies return and destroy the hopes and future of our scruffy black and grey neighbours? It's in the nature of magpies to act like this – we call it instinct. They don't make a moral choice – unlike their human counterparts who can act with the same ruthlessness on a much larger scale in their quest for domination.



## **All in the April Evening**

We are practicing the hymn All in an April Evening in the Morebattle choir, based on a poem by Katharine Tynan. A lovely hymn by Hugh S. Robertson providing us with an inspired Lenten reflection.

### **Sheep and Lambs**

All in the April evening  
April airs were abroad;  
The sheep with their little lambs  
Pass'd me by on the road.

Up in the blue, blue mountains  
Dewy pastures are sweet:  
Rest for the little bodies,  
Rest for the little feet.

The sheep with their little lambs  
Pass'd me by on the road;  
All in the April evening  
I thought on the Lamb of God.

All in the April evening,  
April airs were abroad;  
I saw the sheep with their lambs,  
And thought on the Lamb of God.

The poem becomes a hymn through the music of Hugh S. Robertson. Robertson was a Scott who ran the family undertaker's business, and therefore he must have thought a lot about death. He was a Fabian Socialist who spent his spare time making music and was self-taught. He led and performed with several Glasgow choirs.

Tynan was a prolific writer producing more than a hundred novels, many short stories, and several poetry books. Born in Dublin and having received a Catholic education, she mediated much upon; her faith in her works, her feminism and her two sons who served in World War One. This poem experiences for us the metaphor of Jesus Christ, lamb of God.

She sets up a country scene of lambs in the field, something timeless and infinitely inspiring. It's always a beautiful sight to see the new lambs with their mother in spring. Small white gangs of gangly legs springing up and gambling down slopes, bleating solitary lambs seeking succour from their mam, the very freshness of new life sparkling against the greenest of spring grass. These tiny creatures face the end of winter weather in heavy downpours and chilling winds, before winter departs this quarter of the year.

Tynan doesn't think OF the Lamb of God, she thinks ON the Lamb of God. The metaphor brings us a Jesus who is as vulnerable as he is promising. We are urged to consider his body, as we would the wee lamb's little feet and hungry mouth. We see the joy at life embodied, and yet know that the time for lamb chops is round the corner. Or maybe this is a sacrificial lamb that once grown is slaughtered and roasted with bitter herbs. Something for our easter visitors or for the Jews at Passover. These comparisons tumble over and over, entwining biblical references with our everyday senses.

A climax is reached by contrasting the blue hills of earth with the green hill where Jesus was hung on a cross and tortured to death. Our blue hills are sweet pastures, and our April weather brings a gentle and fresh spring, as we start looking forward to life after winter.

## **M.Eve**

### **A day away on Holy Island.**

The St Cuthbert's Centre on Lindisfarne has been booked for 20<sup>th</sup> April for a retreat day. All are welcome to join in this day for some worship together, a shared lunch and finishing with a communion service. We will be on the island when it is closed by the tides, but it will be safe to cross the causeway mid-morning and again late afternoon. Our timetable will be to meet at Yetholm church by 9 a.m. to share transport so you can still join us if you don't have your own transport. Return would be probably after 5p.m.

Much of the day would be for you to enjoy the island as you wish. The centre has toilets and a small kitchen area and is right in the village. There will be a small charge, the amount depending on numbers (a maximum of 20/25).

If you are interested in joining the day on this special island, please contact Trish Gentry – 01573 420 580 and give your contact details - for more information. There will also be fliers in the churches.

Easter is early this year, but it means there is more time to think about **Christian Aid Week** in May (12<sup>th</sup>- 18<sup>th</sup>) and to come up with some fund-raising ideas or just to consider delivering some donation envelopes in your neighbourhood – no need to collect. At a recent meeting we were told of the work of Christian Aid partners in Burundi which is the country in focus this year and is the second poorest country in Africa. We also heard about the ongoing work of partners in Ukraine and in many other countries. In Burundi the work is about climate adaptation and resilience, gender justice, peace building and conflict resolution. The nearest kilt walk this year is in Edinburgh on 15<sup>th</sup> September but there also ideas for 70 somethings in 7 days – Kms as individuals or collectively? - cakes made? - trees planted? Whatever you can suggest. There will be resources for schools involving artwork. I'll keep you posted when I have more information or check out the Christian Aid website.

There was also an interesting on-line meeting through Presbytery with eco-congregations in Lothian and Borders. Fair trade was a topic to the fore (we need to work on this), recycling hints, but of most interest was hearing from two very active groups about their activities. Please note that the members of both groups were not necessarily church members but concerned people happy to chip in to help with environmental issues and activities. These ranged from tree planting and food larders to something as simple as a litter pick. It is not all high-end scientific stuff – just simple things helping out and meeting over coffee to exchange ideas. We already have a forum for the latter with our Coffee @ Kirk in Yetholm on Tuesday mornings when all kinds of things might be discussed.

**Trish Gentry**

**Guild matters:** When Yetholm group of the Church of Scotland Guild closed I decided to join as an individual and that way ensure I still got all the news from head office and from other Guilds around the country. That was how I came to learn of the Borders mini gathering in Earlston church in early March.

I did not regret the journey although I was only able to stay for the morning session. It was a joy to meet old friends and new from across the Borders – the Gala ladies remembered coming to live streaming's of the National Gathering in Yetholm Kirk.

Earlston had also removed their pews, so we had a large flexible but cosy space with clear windows looking out over the damp countryside. The first session introduced the new theme for 2024-2027 which is titled “**Let us build a house**”. The Guild is always up to date and is mindful of the many changes taking place regarding the loss of buildings and amalgamation of congregations and seeks ways as to how we can still be a strong church on strong foundations.

The second session proved that Guild members have fun as our tables were loaded with coloured pipe cleaners, glow sticks and coloured paper, string, and ribbon. Colouring pens and something to colour in. This was less a workshop and more play school. These objects were to help us with an indoor prayer walk and it was very thought provoking. I was sorry when after my lunch with more chat I had to leave for another meeting but with a bag of ideas to hopefully share sometime.

**Or newish to the area?** You may not be aware that Kelso hosts a very active **u3a** which has 39 different groups ranging from the very active to stately afternoon tea and if you don't see a group that appeals you will be helped to find like-minded folk to start your own. You can find out more online at Four Border Abbeys u3a and find some company in the things you like to do because the u3a is for the retired but not retiring.

### **Morebattle Recreation Ground**

#### **UPDATE ON PROGRESS OF RECREATION GROUND**

Unfortunately, it took so long to get quotations from Civil Engineers & Quantity Surveyors for the Groundworks and the eventual cost was so large we would have needed Grants just to send out tenders. We have now decided to take a different approach and do the work in phases starting with the entrance and paths.

We have employed the services of Stuart Bryce Contractors to reposition the gates and make a vehicle access road into the field. We have also accepted a quote from Stuart to install a new path round the perimeter of the field, which will be wheelchair/pushchair friendly. This we hope to fund ourselves leaving us able to proceed with the playpark via Grants this year.

We will be having some fundraising events and look forward to your support, so we can keep this project moving forward.

**Catherine Mabon**

**Secretary**

**Kalewater Community Company**

**It has, as always, been a very busy term in school. I am proud every day of the hard work and participation I see from our pupils. In particular, this term has seen a few important sporting events on which 2 of our pupils have written about for your entertainment.**

**Mr Jamie Wilson, Head Teacher**

### **Small School Basketball Tournament**

Lena, Morebattle Primary School

When we arrived at the basketball tournament there was a time for preparation and discussion. Then we went straight into the games. There were two games going on at once and three pools. We didn't do well the first and last games. Although, we did quite well in our two middle games. When all the games were over, there were three teams that had made it to the final, one from each pool. The setup was made so that Pool A winner played Pool B Winner, then Pool B winner played Pool C winner. Finally, Pool C winner played Pool A winner. That determined the winner. We didn't progress to a final but were pleased with how we played. Altogether, it was a fun day, and we can't wait for our next basketball tournament.

### **Kelso Cluster Cross Country**

Logan, Morebattle Primary School

When we first got there, we saw loads of people! Soon after we saw all of the Primary 6 boys' race first. Then it was the Primary 6 girls, Ellie and Paige- represented Morebattle really well in this. Then we were next, P7 boys. All of the Primary 7 boys lined up and boom we all set off. It was a very tiring journey, but we all managed to cross the line. Arran came 4<sup>th</sup> overall. Callum, Henry and I ran well too. Once we had finished the race it was time for the Primary 7 girls. We cheered on Lena and one after another, they came round the corner and then it was all done. When we had finished all the races we went back onto the bus and came back to the school.

### **Recipe Book – Volume 3**

It is over 50 years since the first Yett Recipe Book was published thanks to the idea of the late Mrs Peat. In the 90's volume two was produced and at a recent Ways and Means Meeting we have all agreed it is time for volume three!!

To that end we are asking you our readers to send us your favourite recipes for inclusion in this new publication which we plan to have ready to be sold at Yetholm Show in October and also as a Christmas gift for 2024!

Please send any recipes to [j.stewart134@btinternet.com](mailto:j.stewart134@btinternet.com)

# Morebattle

## Community Shop

Morebattle Community Shop has had a very busy winter spell both in terms of business and in terms of improvements. We also celebrated 5 years in community ownership with a prize draw and 5 lucky winners received a £10 voucher to spend in the shop. A big thank you to everyone who has helped the shop reach this milestone in such good shape for the future.

December was the busiest month the shop has had since it was bought by the community, with our late Thursday opening being very popular during the lead up to the festive period.

Improvements have continued to the building itself with solar panels being fitted to the roof in December. Early indications suggest this will have a major effect on reducing electricity used, helping to lower our carbon footprint and electricity bills.

The shop has also had a new awning fitted with the shop name and colour scheme on prominent display. This will shield the interior from the sun, provide some rain shelter for folk sitting at the front tables and locals waiting for a bus, it will also let passing vehicles know we are there. We are delighted with the effect of this addition to the shop, and we have had very positive feedback from customers.

We are looking forward now to more coffee mornings and other local activities as Spring returns and to welcoming our many walking, cycling and biker visitors.

### **Dates for diary**

#### **March**

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Quiz Night in Plough at 8pm. Proceeds to Seniors Christmas Supper.

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> – National Theatre Screening – The Motive and the Cue at 7pm in Wauchope Hall. Entry £12 at door.

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> – Bingo Night in Morebattle Village Hall at 7pm – Proceeds towards Morebattle Recreation Ground New Path.

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> – Yetholm Community Council meet at 7pm in Youth Hall.

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> – Morebattle Horticultural Society AGM in Morebattle Institute at 7pm.

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> – Morebattle & Hownam Guild Coffee Morning in Morebattle Institute at 10.30am.

## **April**

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> – Yetholm Festival Week Meeting at 7.30pm in Youth Hall.  
Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Morebattle SWI meets in Institute at 7.15pm – Susan Holmes – Miniature Dolls House. Competitions Miniature Flower Arrangement & Unusual Toy.  
Friday 12<sup>th</sup> – Bingo Night in Wauchope Hall at 7pm. Proceeds to Macmillan.  
Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> – Morebattle Village Hall Coffee Morning at 10.30am in Morebattle Village Hall.  
Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> - Kalewater Community Council Meeting at 7pm in Morebattle Institute.  
Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> – National Theatre Live Screening of Nye at 7pm In Wauchope Hall. Entry £12 at door.  
Sunday 28<sup>th</sup> – Yetholm Village Choir Concert in St Andrews Church Kelso at 5pm.  
Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> – Yetholm Community Council meet at 7pm in Youth Hall.

## **May**

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Installation of Yetholm Principals at 7pm in Wauchope Hall.  
Monday 6<sup>th</sup> – Yetholm Festival week Meeting in Youth Hall at 7.30pm.  
Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> – Morebattle SWI meets in Institute at 7.15pm – Marilyn McColl - One Pot Cookery. Competitions – Jar of Jam & Fancy Biscuit Tin.  
Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> – Coffee Morning in Institute at 10.30am in aid of Parkinson's  
Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> - Kalewater Community Council Meeting at 7pm in Institute.  
Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> – National Theatre Screening at 7pm in Wauchope Hall. Title to be confirmed. Entry £12 at door.  
Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> – Bad Apple Theatre Company present “The Regalettes” Live Theatre Show in Wauchope Hall at 7.30pm. Tickets £14 see Yetholm Online site for further information.

## **June**

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> – Yetholm Festival week Meeting at 7.30pm in Youth Hall.  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> – Morebattle Institute Coffee Morning at 10.30am in Institute.  
Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> – Yetholm Festival Week all week until Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> inc. See programme for all events.  
Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> – Morebattle SWI – Annual Summer Outing.  
Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> - Kalewater Community Council Meeting at 7pm in Institute

Singing Mamas every Monday in the Institute at 2.30pm.  
Tea Club every Tuesday in the Institute at 2pm.

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

Camera Club in Institute on 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every Month at 7pm.

### **Church Diary**

Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> March – Morebattle & Hownam Guild Coffee Morning in Institute at 10.30am

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> April – Morebattle & Hownam Guild AGM in the Institute at 2pm.

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

**The editorial team would like to thank all of you who have contributed articles, photographs, and information for this edition of The Cheviot.**

### **Deadline**

**Please submit articles (including photographs) for the next edition of The Cheviot to a member of the editorial by 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2024**

**[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: Rory Jamie Gilchrist**

**Weddings:**

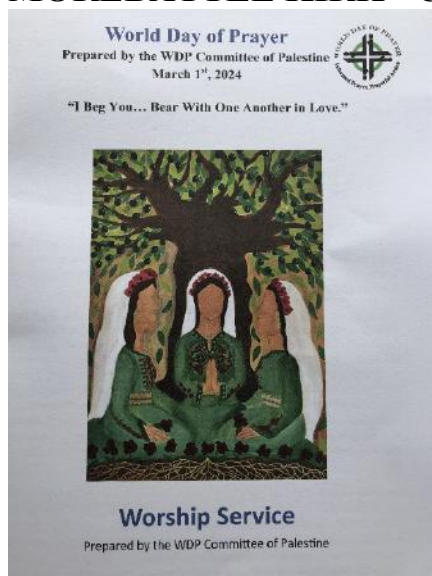
**Deaths: Patrick Griffin, Jean Hutcheon, Denis Wilson, Jack Thomson.**

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**Save the Date – Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> June at 2pm Edinburgh Gilbert and Sullivan Society will return to Yetholm Church for an afternoon concert. More detail nearer the time.**



## WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE - 1st March 2024 held in MOREBATTLE KIRK - Cheviot Churches.



The annual World Day of Prayer service this year on Friday 1st March was organised and beautifully led by Morebattle Guild. We all found the service immensely moving. It had been prepared by an ecumenical group of Christian Palestinian women, from The West Bank, Gaza, and Israel, long before the present war began.

Their theme was, “I Beg You... Bear With One Another in Love,” based on Ephesians ch 4 vs 1-7. We considered and prayed about bearing with each other in love, despite all difficulties and oppression, uniting in prayers for peace, justice, and freedom for all. Our Minister, Rev. Colin Johnston gave a most interesting and personal contribution, having lived, and served in the Middle East for a number of years. We concluded with refreshments, collecting £130 for 2 charity projects in Palestine.

### WEEKLY CHURCH PRAYER SERVICE

Our weekly Prayer Service continues each Tuesday afternoon. At the moment, we meet in Yetholm at 1:30 pm. for just half an hour and are always very happy to warmly welcome visitors or new friends. Usually, we spend some quiet, reflective time with a thought for the day. We include in our prayers all those who live in our parish, especially those who are ill, who are mourning or who are going through a difficult time. If you have any prayer requests in confidence, then please either complete one of the sealed forms found in each parish church, speak to our Minister, Rev. Colin Johnston, or to myself.

**Kathleen Bates (Prayer Secretary) Tel 01573 420259**

## TRAVELS WITH THE ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT

I have a feeling I left you with a long travel period ahead of us – I can't tell you everything we've done, that would take a book, but let me share some more highlights. Spain and Portugal were lovely in the late autumn, but France was wonderful. In addition to seeing Rotary projects there, we were able to attend two matches in the Rugby World Cup –one in Paris and one in Toulouse. All of you, who know us, will know just how exciting that was for us – especially as one match was Scotland v Ireland!

We left there for Nassau in the Bahamas, then the US, before heading to the East to Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, and Mongolia. Arriving by air to Ulaanbaatar was spectacular – the wastes of snow, with nothing interrupting the snow except for the occasional ger (the tent homes we better known as yurts) with smoke coming through a hole in the centre of the roof. As a child, I always wanted to see Mongolia – it was always in books as the place so far away, it was the end of the earth. There was always an explorer who came from or went to, Outer Mongolia. The country is magical, with the warmest, friendliest people we have come across in our travels. Their smiles are infectious, and they laugh a lot. They are a young people – the average age is 28 – but very poor. People are abandoning their traditional nomadic lifestyle for the city, but there are few jobs for them, so the need for Rotary's help is great. There are 3 million people in the country – half of those in Ulaanbaatar, so moving around is difficult (it was -25C in November and would drop to approximately -60C in the height of winter) and settlements are very far apart. Rotarians travel for many hours to deliver school materials, medical help, building equipment and other projects to help their own folk. In addition, they still support overseas projects as all Rotary Clubs do.

Immediate contrast – next stop Hong Kong, with its 2.7 million people, and its wealth. A visit to the Jockey Club reinforced the difference, seeing the world's most valuable racehorse, and the world-famous drug testing labs at the Racecourse.

From the east, it was onward to Argentina, Mexico, the COP26 in Dubai, Taiwan and finally India before getting home for 5 days at Christmas! We did have a marvelous visit to the Krishna Temple in Bangalore, where the Swami blessed us and taught us about their festivals and the different followers of Krishna.

Our next visit was to Pasadena in California, for the annual Rose Parade. 35 million folks across the States watch the parade – it's a bit of a ritual on New Year's Day. This year the theme was Celebrating a World of Music – Rotary linked it with one of our main emphases of Clean Water, and our float represented 'Singing in the Rain', with upturned umbrellas and ducks dancing along keyboards. Every inch of the float must be decorated with

flowers or other natural products (seed husks, rice flour or bark), and overall, more than 500,000 roses are used – 18 million flowers in total. Floats are in preparation for almost a year, and as soon as its over, next year’s designs are already on the drawing board!

Back to India, then a few days in Sri Lanka – with two days R&R on a tea plantation high in the mountains. We visited Thomas Lipton’s first tea factory – wonderful Victorian over-engineering means it still works as it did the day it was opened, with the same machinery. Tea from picking to packing as it was in 1870. Home for a Peace Conference in London, then on to Serbia and Germany.

As I write, Gordon is in Manila, and we will meet up at the weekend for Commonwealth Week – watch for us in Westminster Abbey! From there, to seven countries in Africa..... wish us luck!



## **Tara Curlewis**

In February we were visited by Tara Curlewis, who has just taken on the twin role of minister of St Andrew's Church in Rome and Ecumenical Officer for the World Communion of Reformed Churches (WCRC). As minister of the Church of Scotland St Andrew's, she has an international congregation with members from many countries and backgrounds (and only a handful of Scots!), while her role as ecumenical officer involves a close working relationship with the Vatican.

Tara is Australian and has been heavily involved in ecumenical and interfaith work. Before she became a minister, she was a geologist, and she was very excited to come to an area associated with James Hutton, 'father of modern geology'.

She is partnered with Lothian & Borders Presbytery and came to the Manse in Morebattle for a pot-luck lunch to chat about her work. After a meeting at Kelso North Church, she was able to chat about geology with Ned and Steph in Town Yetholm. She was also able to visit some of our church buildings. We look forward to developing our link with Tara, and I am sure that if anyone is in Rome, she would be glad if they dropped by St Andrew's.



## Morebattle and Lemmie - Twins or Partners?

What is the difference? We tend to think of twins being similar, if not almost identical.

Partners are typically different in all sorts of ways but need to be well matched.

When it comes to people, you don't have any influence on who your twin is, but choosing a partner is something of a challenge, perhaps because there is a lot of choice.

Morebattle and Lemmie; do we strive to be twins or partners? We have some similarities: both are villages, both closely linked to a market town, and we are not that far from a major city. While community life in our villages is of great importance as are our traditions and history, how this is manifested seems to be very different.

Those of us from Lemmie who were lucky enough to come to Morebattle in September 2022 were thrilled and fascinated by the village, the countryside, the sense of the community and the people we met. We would like to find out more about life in your village and we would also love to welcome visitors from Morebattle to Lemmie and to be able return the wonderful hospitality we enjoyed in the Borders. We would like to be good partners, and this seems more and more important in the uncertain world we all are sharing with its wars, violence and changing climate.



One of our young farmers is adapting the challenge of climate change by pursuing agroforestry and has recently planted 156 walnut and 75 oleaster trees in one of his fields. It is still possible to plant traditional crops between the rows of trees but the area available is reduced and there are limits to size of machinery that can be used for harvesting. The trees serve to protect the soil and crops from extreme weather conditions, helping to avoid erosion while improving the supply of nutrients and water and the roots reinforce the structure of the soil. The trees, and in particular the oleasters, provide an attractive environment for birds, insects and small animals thus supporting biodiversity.

This is just one point of interest in Lemmie that we would be delighted to show to visitors from Morebattle and there are many more ideas we can suggest. Hannover, for example, has some fine museums and gardens or

pubs and clubs, so please us know what would interest you and we can suggest a programme, including the other attractions here in north Germany. And there are plenty of homes and beds for our partners in Lemmie.

Interested? Please contact me [stephen.martin@htp-tel.de](mailto:stephen.martin@htp-tel.de) or +49 170 635 1845 (WhatsApp)

## **Morebattle and Yetholm Playgroup**

2024 marks the 50th anniversary of Morebattle and Yetholm Playgroup.

An event will be arranged in the spring, early summer to celebrate and mark the occasion.

Morag, Louise and Heather are very proud of the group which continues to run twice weekly within Morebattle School.

It is a charity organisation which relies heavily on fundraising and grant support.

Watch out for further details of the event.

We are grateful for the community support and spirit around playgroup, and we hope it will continue long into the future.



## **Cheviot Churches Elders and Districts**

<b>Leslie Thomson</b>	West of Morebattle, Eckford and Crailing.
<b>Keith Cleland/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 Stobart</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/Rae Redpath</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
<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:**

Vacant – appointment pending.

### **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)