

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

CHEVIOT



Spring 2020



Prayer Corner

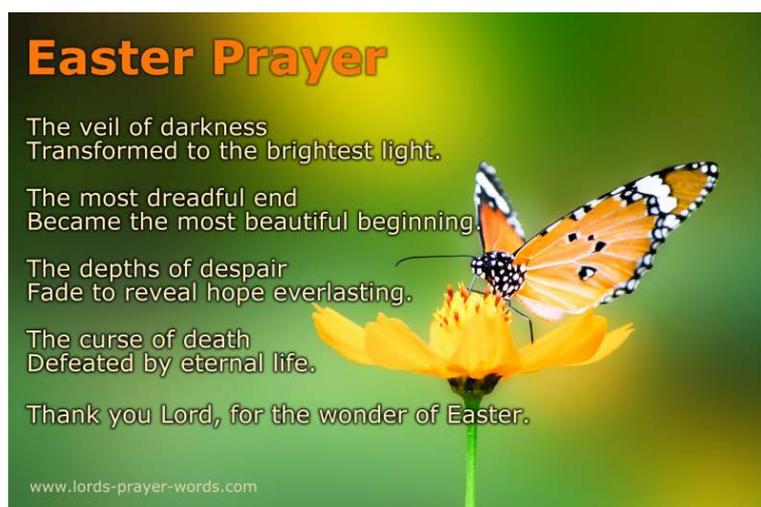
Easter 2020 Spring

The great gift of Easter is hope - Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake."

Basil C Hume, (1923-1999) Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster.

Prayer for an Easter Morning

Lord we lift our hearts to you. As the dawn breaks, may we carry the unity we share into every moment knowing that we are one with the risen Christ. Lord, we lift our eyes to you. As the sun rises, may this moment stay with us, reminding us to look for the beautiful colours of promise in your world. Lord, we lift our prayers to you. As the dew air falls, may we breathe this morning in and know that like the earth, you sustain us, keep us and work within us always. And so, we lift our voices to you. We celebrate the greatest day in history, when Jesus rose from death, defeated darkness and bathed the world in stunning resurrection light. May we ever live to praise you! Amen



Easter is a movable feast - in Western Christianity Easter Sunday can be celebrated as early as 22nd March and as late as 25th April on any given year.

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

There was a cartoon in the 'i' newspaper a few weeks ago, featuring the Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse, War, Pestilence, Famine and Death. They had a list with '2020' at the top, and listed were Bush Fires, Syria, Floods and the Coronavirus, all with big ticks against them. 2020 has certainly not started well, and as I write this, a lot of sporting and cultural events have been cancelled, and holiday plans put in disarray, all because of the Covid-19.

Every day is bringing fresh advice for how best to tackle the pandemic, and there is obviously a deep concern for the most vulnerable in our society. Further precautions will be put in place, and the next few months are going to be difficult. However, since moving into our Cheviot area, I have been struck by the real sense of community. People help and support and look out for one another, and as measures are put in place to help people remain as healthy as possible and as some of us self-isolate, it is important to keep looking outwards and continue to offer support, whether it is keeping in touch by phone or social media or by doing something practical. I was struck by this prayer from the United Church of Canada:

'When fear makes it hard to breathe, and anxiety seems to be the order of the day, slow us down, God; help us to reach out with our hearts, when we can't touch with our hands; help us to be socially connected, when we have to be socially distant; help us to love as perfectly as we can, knowing that 'perfect love casts out all fear'

Fear and anxiety can overwhelm us, but again and again in Scripture we read the words, 'Do not be afraid'. I find looking out my window helps to keep things in perspective. I look across to the hills and give thanks that we live in such a stunning part of the world, while in my garden birds are searching for food, and the cherry tree and the forsythia are already in blossom. It is also a joy to see some lambs in the field, though I know it will be April before many farms start their lambing. It is all a reminder that Spring is here.

Spring means Easter, and this year Holy Week runs from the 5th -12th of April. It is a time when we run through a whole range of emotions, from the celebratory entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday to the intimate

washing of the feet and sharing of the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday; from the depths of despair, when we hold vigil on Good Friday and meditate on the Cross to the whisper which became a resounding shout on Easter Day, 'He is risen; the Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia!'

We do not know what lies ahead of us with this virus, but we do know that we are an Easter People for whom death has been swallowed up in victory through the resurrection of Jesus from the death. Easter means we can face whatever comes our way with hope, for we believe we are in the hands of a loving God. Everyone is very welcome to come along to any of our services, and I do wish everyone a very happy Easter.

Peace & Blessings
Colin

STOP PRESS

The Chinese say, 'Ask not to live in interesting times'. I know what they mean. In the few days since I wrote my article above, the Coronavirus situation has become greatly worsened. As a friend wrote to me this morning, 'Like you and everyone else, my life has been cancelled'.

Church services are now suspended until further notice and so indeed are all other church activities. The churches will remain open in the meantime for prayer, but that might change at any moment. Please do not enter any church if you are coughing or sneezing or running a temperature.

The next few months will be challenging ones, but I firmly believe that we are all in the hands of God.

In the meantime, if anyone needs any help or even just wants to chat, please do get in touch with me. As I mentioned in my article, we are strong communities and I trust we can get through this together. We look forward to the day when we the church bells will ring and we can all meet together.

I am holding everyone in prayer.

Colin

P.S. Cheviot Photo

I was visiting Egypt last autumn, just a couple of months after coming to Cheviot Churches. I was returning to the metro after having had lunch with a friend in one of the suburbs in Cairo, when to my surprise I turned the corner and saw this shop called CHEVIOT. Sadly I didn't have time to ask if there was any connection to this part of the world, but it was quite an upmarket shop selling leather bags (NOT woolen as you might expect!).



Membership of the Church

If anyone is interested in exploring what it means to becoming a member of the Church, please contact Colin. Also if anyone is an adherent or is a member of another denomination and wishes to be associated with Cheviot Churches more closely, again contact Colin at revcdj60@gmail.com or 01573 440 539.

BIRDBATH'S FUCHSIA

At the risk of sounding banal, Birdbath has to admit that he is always astonished at the way Nature wakes up annually after the cold dark months of winter. On one of the balmy sunny days in early March (they did not last long) he decided to spring-clean his garage, and dragged out from a gloomy recess the pot containing the stump of his favourite Fuchsia. As usual last October he had cut it down, trimmed back the root and loosely earthed it up in a container, shoved it away before a frost could get at it, and forgotten all about it. Birdbath apologised profusely to the Fuchsia – he has always felt quite comfortable chatting to plants, and there are Royal precedents for doing so – but was startled to hear a little voice saying ‘It’s OK; I wondered when you would be along; if you look closely you will see I already have some tiny green shoots; now just give me a drink of water and let me sit in the sun for a little while; we plants

call it our “Easter Moment” but you probably wouldn’t understand?’ Easter! Birdbath felt humbled. Nature, as we know sadly only too well this year, can make some terrible errors and frighten us with nasties, but the mystery of New Life reasserts itself. It will do so again, as always, very early on a Spring morning, in a Garden, and the Disciples found it was true.

THE REVEREND JOE BROWN (1927 - 2019)

When Joe left school at 16 he was already an accomplished piper and enjoyed swimming, singing and rugby, but he had no academic qualifications. He was determined to be a farmer, and it was while grubbing turnips with a horse on his cousin’s farm in Perthshire that, as he later rather ruefully recalled, he suddenly realised that God was ‘insisting’ that he become a Minister and would not take No for an answer. For this he would need a Degree, and he managed to pass the entrance exam and enrol at Edinburgh University. However, having twice failed an exam in his 2nd Year, under the rules applying at that time he was conscripted into the army and served with the Royal Scots in the pipe band for a year, mostly in Italy. On his return to the University he obtained his MA and went on to New College. As part of his training for ministry he served various ‘placements’, and it was while assisting in a parish in Skye that he met a Gaelic-speaking District Nurse, Lena, who later became his wife.

In 1954 Joe was ordained in Warrender Parish Church, where he had worshipped as a child with his family, and where he himself had been a Deacon. His ordination was to the Chaplaincy of the Cameron Highlanders. He was with his men in Korea and Aden (now largely ‘forgotten’ wars), and although there were humorous memories and some happy moments which he often recounted, he was haunted to the end of his life by things he had seen and shared in those three years. In just one year in Korea he conducted the funerals of some 50 men he had known. Six years of ministry followed in the parish of Kilbrandon and Kilchattan in Argyll, to which he was inducted in 1957, and where he could at last set up home with Lena. Lena’s Gaelic was an asset, and we are told that on some Sundays he led worship on the islands of Seil and Luing, a couple of cottages, sometimes a castle, and Kilbrandon kirk. He and Lena had many stories to tell, and he is still remembered with affection.

Joe and Lena moved to a very different charge at Musselburgh in 1963, by this time with Logan and Rosemary in tow. St Ninian’s was a busy

post-war housing-estate with a nominal congregation of a thousand and some 350 kids in the Sunday School, and the church was very much at the heart of the community. Quite by chance the present writer was chatting a few years ago to an Edinburgh cabbie who, it turned out, had been deeply influenced as a youngster by Joe's ministry there, and had later been ordained as an Elder.

For us in Cheviot Churches the best was yet to come. In 1967 Joe embarked on 24-years as Minister of Yetholm and Morebattle with Hownam (Linton was added in 1974) as a devoted pastor and one of the last clergy in Scotland to farm his own glebe. He was equally at home both on a tractor and on his horse Cedar. (The latter on one occasion in Civic Week refused to do the annual Stob-Stanes Ride-Out and insisted on returning to his stable at the Manse with the Minister on board: luckily Joe, an accomplished lifelong horseman, saw the joke, though it took him many years to live it down.) It was above all as a pastor that Joe excelled and will be remembered. He knew the secret of just 'being there' for people, alongside them whether in joy or sorrow, laughter or tears. There are many (the present writer among them) who remember his quiet wisdom at times of difficulty, his words of heartfelt simple common-sense from the pulpit, the fun of games of tug-of-war with children in church, his open-air summer-evening services in a field behind Hoselaw Chapel (on one occasion a cow joined the semi-circle and contributed joyfully to the hymns), and above all his infectious love of the hills and valleys and communities and farms scattered among them. Some of this was reflected in the popular radio and TV programmes which Joe made, and in the lectures he was asked to give on Rural Ministry to Divinity students. In 1986 he was Chaplain to the Royal Highland Show at Ingilston.

After retirement in 1991 Joe and Lena moved to Chesters, where he helped to look after the parishes of Southdean and Hobkirk, and was much in demand across the Borders. Back in Kelso in 1999 Lena died. There, later, he was married to Debbie Ogden, known already to many of us as a deeply respected teacher at Morebattle. As Joe said to the present writer on the eve of the wedding: "I'm the luckiest laddie in the world!" Those who knew them, as Debbie devotedly cared for Joe in years of increasing infirmity, will wholeheartedly agree.

Rev. Ian Clark

Thank you Joe

(written for the retirement of the Rev. Joe Brown Yetholm)

Ah never went that much tae church,
So maybe ahm nae judge like,
But gie me mair like Mr Broom,
An maybe ah'll change ma mind like.

A gentle man, a Christian man,
A man wi' sic a heart like,
That preached a sermon without words
Of faith and love and care like.

He never asked had I a Kirk,
Or sect or clan or code like,
He left the dogma in the mirk,
An sought the life in me like.

It's true ahm no that different now,
Than when ah met him first like,
Ahm older, aye, and so is he,
But ahm never much in church like.

But maybe ah've learned a thing or two,
About masel an him like,
The pulpit doesn't make the man,
The pew is much the same like.

It's aye oot there amang the folk,
The message is loud and clear like,
So thank you, Joe, ah'll have you know,
We'll miss the man the maist like.

A.L.E

Using Our Talents

Most readers of 'The Cheviot' will be aware that on Monday afternoons a group of people stagger in to Yetholm Kirk bearing bags, boxes, frames and holdalls, to spend the next two hours stitching, drawing, knitting and chatting, enjoying a cuppa, and generally putting the world right. Yes, we're the 'Use Your Talents' Group (or, as my daughter put it, the

‘Crafternooners’). Easter chicks, coat-hanger covers, patchwork, garments, needlepoint, cross-stitch, mending you name it!

One of our projects this winter was to complete a beautiful tapestry begun by the late Francine Lafontaine-Smith, who lived in Yetholm and worshipped with us until illness claimed her and, sadly, she died during the winter. Members of the group finished stitching the tapestry and made it into a cushion which was then raffled (of course! This is Yetholm!). We made posters, and The Village Shop kindly sold tickets at £1 each; we made £80, which was passed on to the proceeds of the recent Coffee Morning in the Youth Hall. The winner of the cushion thought it was too beautiful to keep to herself, so you can now see it in Yetholm Kirk in the Prayer Corner, where everyone may enjoy it: ‘Flying Fishes’ frolic over a colourful background.

Francine left another unfinished tapestry which we would now like to finish for another Church fundraiser, but this time there are no tapestry wools with it, so we are looking for leftover, lost or forgotten wools in the back of your drawers – if you’ll never use them, please could we have them? We are especially looking for turquoise of various shades and moss/olive greens. The picture is of peacocks and pomegranates on a mossy green background.

Maybe this article will inspire you to come and join us! If you do have unused tapestry wools, why not come along and use them yourself, in company with a happy band of crafters?

Offerings of tapestry wools may be left in the kitchen at Yetholm Kirk, or you can contact Margaret Rustad on 420313 or mmrustad@gmail.com, and I can arrange to pick them up.

We look forward to being overwhelmed with a welter of wools!

Margaret Rustad

Due to the ongoing Coronavirus Outbreak and the evolving situation the Craft Club will not meet in the coming weeks. Notice will be posted online and in press when it resumes.

What I Did On My Holy-days

Stuart Kelly

Some of you may have noticed that I have not been at Cheviot Churches as regularly as I once was. It isn’t that I have reneged on the promise I made when I became an Elder to “show an example of regular attendance”, but that I have been asked to go and lead worship in various churches around our Presbytery (and once in Wigtown). It’s been a challenging and enlightening experience. I’ve been to Teviothead and

Hawick Wilton, Cavers and Hawick Trinity, Denholm, Minto, Southdean, Hobkirk, Ruberslaw, Hawick Burnfoot, Crailing, Lilliesleaf, Ancrum and will soon be off to Kelso North and Ednam. So what have I learned?

Firstly, it is terrifying. My “day job” often involves being on a public stage interviewing authors, from Ian Rankin to Hilary Mantel and from *Game of Thrones* author George RR Martin to Dame A S Byatt, as well as poets, historians, scientists, memoirists, philosophers, artists, celebrity chefs and musicians. I’ve always said if you’re not a little anxious, then you won’t do well. But getting into a pulpit is a wholly different form of frightening, because you have to get it right. There’s no wriggle-room for mistakes.

Secondly, each and every church has its own particular traditions. Usually, there will be a helpful person to talk you through beforehand what their usual service is like. Normally, I’ll know in advance whether they use CH4 or CH3 or even a digital device for the hymns. But is it four hymns or five? Are there readers for the scripture, or do I do it? Is there a doxology after the offering? Do they prefer benediction or saying the grace together? On one instance, when I announced the uplift of the offering, two people walked out of the church and I thought “well I didn’t think I was that bad”. But – I didn’t realise they left their offerings on a plate just in the porch as they came in and then brought it forward. Is there a vestry? Are there vestry prayers? Should I bring a bottle of water? Most importantly – is there a loo? (Answer: in some places, no).

Finally, I have been genuinely moved by how unfailingly warm a welcome I have received in each and every one of the churches to which I’ve been sent, or invited. They even seemed happy when I came back. And you get to know them, which makes it easier when I have to ask if there anyone in the community for whom there should be special prayers – whether it’s illness, or bereavement, or becoming a grandparent for the first time.

As we go forward into a somewhat uncertain future, I don’t think the local differences will disappear, though they might evolve. If congregations do amalgamate or have joint services more often, it’s actually a chance to make new friends. So if you don’t see me in Church, it’s not that I’ve self-isolated, but that I am away trying to share my experience of God among others. As I’ve said before, I am a practising Christian, and one day I hope to get good at it.

Did you know?

Baby birds learn to sing during Spring. Although they are born with the ability to sing, they must learn the specific songs of their species. They often learn their songs within two months of being born.

Morebattle Recreation Ground

Here is an update on the Recreation Ground. No work can be carried out with regards to levelling etc of the actual field until the Archaeological Survey has been completed.

Access gates have been fitted at the Templehall Car Park entrance. Clyde Archaeology undertook a Geophysical survey in September assisted by the school children and some members of the public. The results found linear features which will need to be investigated further by means of an Archaeological dig. This will entail opening up 4-5 evaluation trenches across the linear features at the northern end of the site. We are in the process of applying for Grant Funding, when successful we will let everyone know and anyone interested can attend and help with this.

Meanwhile we have planted trees and hedging around the boundary supplied by Woodland Trust Community Scheme.

We have been successful in gaining Grant Funding from the National Lottery to upgrade the path along the side of the Village Hall and install a new path across the strip of land at Templehall Garden for pedestrian and wheelchair access. This work will be carried out in due course.

Catherine Mabon (Secretary)
Kalewater Community Company



Come in and join our team.

Morebattle Community Shop is looking for additional volunteers to join its existing team. Volunteers at the shop perform a vital task in extending the opening hours and services to allow the shop to be sustainable in the long term, for the benefit of the village, the surrounding community and the many visitors who visit this area each year. The shop provides a great selection of essential provisions for local residents as well as a wide range of options to suit most dietary needs. There is also an excellent range of special treats to buy as presents or to treat yourself.

Morebattle Community Shop is also an important social hub and a focus for community activities, providing a vital lifeline of support and friendship for many. Volunteering to help in the shop, even for a few

hours each week, is a great way to get to know people, help the local community, and to obtain training and experience in the workplace.

It's also great fun!

If you have a few hours to spare during the week or at weekends then why not come into the shop, pick up a volunteer form, have a chat with existing volunteers and staff, and see if it's for you.

The shop is open Monday – Friday 8.00am – 5.00pm, Saturday 8.00am – 4.00pm and Sunday 8am- 3.00pm.



Windfall Fund Update 2020

The Morebattle and Yetholm Windfall Fund raised £1033 from last year's harvest despite a number of challenges. A big thank you to everyone who helped in any way, shape or form. This brings the total raised by our activities in the first 3 years to £4,008

The Committee met at the start of February and allocated £883 to various local groups who had applied for a share of the funds raised. The organisations helped were -

Both Primary Schools, The Yetholm Sports Pavilion, The Yetholm Youth Hall, The St Cuthbert's Coffee Stop, The Morebattle and Yetholm Playgroup and The Yetholm Nursery. A further sum of £150 was set aside pending further information from one applicant before a final decision is made.

There is some time before the next harvest but the Windfall Committee is already busy looking into improved ways of turning our waste apples into cash to support local organisations in both Yetholm and Morebattle and the surrounding area. Regular updates will appear on Facebook and on posters in both shops and the hotels.

If you would like to get involved in any way please contact the committee via FB or Roddy Murray at simplyroddy@hotmail.co.uk



Village Lunches

Village lunches continue to be successful both socially and financially by raising over £1000 per year for local and national charities. This would not be possible without the support of the Wauchope Hall Management team and the many willing volunteers from the community. However, we do need to recruit some younger people willing to help with organising the event. There is a large pool of volunteers to call on for soup, sandwiches and to set up and serve but we need individuals willing to bring it together on the day as we have had a few resignations as the team is getting older or less able. The male members of the team are invaluable and as we all do, enjoy making these lunches something to which the community can look forward. We welcome suggestions for charities or groups to benefit.

If you feel you could contribute please get in touch with the co-ordinators Shirley Lowndes 420520 or Carole Dixon 420333.

I have been involved since the early days of the Village Lunch started in 1991 by Anna Gray and Maxine Begg and found it was a great way to get to know people, especially newcomers.

Everyone is welcome, so if you haven't been, give it a try -- £4 for soup, sandwiches, tea/coffee and on special occasions a biscuit!

Sheena Sangster

Environmental concerns. Please remember that Cheviot Churches is an Eco-Congregation Scotland encouraging folk to live in a sustainable way and that we are also a Fair Trade church and should look out for the logo on products that we buy especially for use at church functions.

Recycling boxes remain in Yetholm and Morebattle church buildings for various items. Plastic milk bottle tops are collected now from these boxes by Kelso Rotary and used stamps from Morebattle church for Crossreach – the social care arm of the Church of Scotland. Jewellery, watches, currency, including coins, and mobile phones are welcome as are cameras and game consoles etc. There should be a leaflet with or near the boxes with a list of do's and don'ts. These items are collected up and sent for

recycling. Please do not use the boxes for materials recyclable by the Regional council. With the development of a Greener Yetholm group there is likely to be opportunities for disposing of other items and please support this group and the efforts of the primary schools. And please can any one take old spectacles? I seem to have an accumulation!

Christian Aid. Sadly due to the current health crisis there will be no House to House collections this May. That does not mean you can't donate by other means. The Christian Aid website will tell you how. This week is one of the major fundraisers and so will be a big miss especially since all other fund raising efforts will also be cancelled. Perhaps when things are back to normal we can organise something. Please remember that even with our own troubles our Christian Aid partners and all the many folk they support are very much in the high risk category.

Update News on the Yetholm Village Shop – March 2020



Yetholm Village Shop

The Community Drop-in on February 24 was well attended and many ideas shared, despite the poor weather. Business consultant Hazel Allan is currently completing the Business Plan. Further community consultation will follow, but the timing and format for this will be dictated to a great extent by the restrictions of the Covid-19 "Coronavirus" response.

In order to complete a robust application to the Scottish Land Fund with the greatest likelihood of a favourable response, we will now be looking to make our application by the deadline of June 12. This would anticipate a response from SLF by the end of August.

Due to the continuing uncertainty around the developing Coronavirus situation, we should caution that delays outwith our control could affect proposed timelines. That said, we would hope to hold a further

community consultation in May. This will be a key milepost, as we will need to demonstrate not only strong support from the community to the concept of a new plan for the shop, but also the ability to raise the significant additional funds beyond those which we will hope to receive from SLF.

We should also take this opportunity to emphasise that in these unprecedented times, our Village Shop has demonstrated the pivotal role it plays in our community; not only as a convenient retail location, but also as hub of community information and support.

Finally, we wish to acknowledge the significant and valued contribution of John Stobart, who has stepped down from the management committee for personal reasons. Our sincere thanks to you John for all your hard work.

For further information, or if you wish to get involved, please contact:

Alastair Hirst – alastair.hirst@yahoo.com t: 01573 420214

Susan Stewart - j.stewart134@btinternet.com t: 01573 420231

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Kay Greenhorn – kaygreenhorn@hotmail.com t: 01573 420560

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 team by Friday 12th June

j.stewart134@btinternet.com, johnmabon431@btinternet.com

anne.scottbrown@btinternet.com

More Spring facts

Spring fever is a real syndrome. When the temperature rises during the warm spell after a long winter, there is a dilation of the blood vessels so blood can be carried to the body surface where heat can be lost quickly. People experience an energetic feeling when this happens.



A Life Illumined

Andrew Richardson Blythe and the Yetholm Kirk Windows

In 1855, at the age of four, Andrew Blythe was shot by his cousin (also called Andrew Blythe), who had picked up a loaded gun. In a way Andrew was lucky, another baby who was present in the cottage in Kirk Yetholm, was killed. He was lucky in another way – incapacitated by the amputation of his arm (without anesthetic) he, like Robert Gray, the ‘Yetholm Poet’, was led to take up a career that involved study, rather than physical activity. He became a teacher just over the border, at the remote school at Windyhaugh, in the upper-Coquet valley. He worked there for almost 50 years, retiring back to Yetholm in 1919. The outline of Andrew’s life is known by most people in Yetholm – along with the fact that the Bells which ring out over the Haugh were given by him, as well as the beautiful stained-glass windows inside the kirk. It was these that first stimulated me to find out more about him and it quickly became apparent that there was a lot more to find out. He was one of three illegitimate children, born to a niece of King Charles Blythe. Unlike the situation with many illegitimate children in that period, the name of his father is discoverable – his mother, Mary, took out a paternity order against Thomas Richardson, carter, of Kirk Yetholm (who was already married, with several children).

Both his mother and grandparents were on the Yetholm poor-roll and their cottage in Kirk Yetholm was so wretched that it was demolished as soon as they died. Andrew attended the school for gypsies set up by the Rev John Baird. Clearly diligent and intelligent, he must have represented exactly what the Rev Baird aimed to achieve – assimilation into the mainstream community, escape from a life of indigence and petty theft (which was the fate of his cousin – the boy who shot him). Put that way he risks sounding dull, but that is clearly not the case.

He was much respected by the shepherds whose children he taught and liked by the children themselves. He was sober and hard-working (unlike Robert Gray), but also had a cheerful disposition and a sense of fun (despite being, like me, an elder of the kirk!)

If you want to find out more look out for my book *A Life Illumined*, now on sale in shops in Yetholm or at the back of Yetholm kirk. I also write about the windows in the kirk, which he paid for.

They turn out to have been designed by William Wilson (1905-72), the foremost Scottish stained-glass artist in the twentieth century. All money raised from the sale of the book (which costs just £5) will go to Cheviot Churches.

Coronavirus (Covid - 19) advice and help from our communities Morebattle

As we are sure everyone is aware, things out there are changing day to day, we would like to be a community that is prepared and ready to help our most vulnerable. If you feel that you could help with possible future deliveries of food and groceries or are able to check on people around the area or can do anything which may assist the people of Morebattle village and area then please leave your name and number at the Community shop.

Many thanks.



Yetholm

Hello! If you are self isolating, we can help.

Our name is – Yetholm Resilience Group

**We can be contacted through Yetholm Shop (420366) or online at :
yetholmonline.org or on Facebook page Yetholm Resilience Group.**

We can help with

Picking up shopping or posting mail.

A friendly phone call or urgent supplies.

Just drop us a message and we will do our best to help (for free!)

Coronavirus is contagious. Please take every precaution to ensure you are spreading only kindness. Avoid physical contact (2m/3 steps distance). Wash your hands regularly. Any items will be left on your doorstep.

Eck at the Butchers in Yetholm is also willing to help and will deliver it out in both villages if required. He suggested that orders should be put in on Tuesday for a Thursday delivery.

What's On

In every issue, we will feature news and upcoming events from around the parishes. Email your items to a member of the editorial team (page 15)

Please note many of these events may be postponed or cancelled due to Coronavirus Outbreak. Please see Local Press and Noticeboards for updates.

Coffee at the Kirk is held on the first Wednesday of each month (October to April then weekly in May - September) from 10.30am to 12 noon in Yetholm Church.

There is a play area for children. Everyone is welcome, especially newcomers and visitors to the area.

Badminton every Monday at 7pm Village Hall Morebattle.

Morebattle Lunch Club meets in the Institute each Tuesday from 12 noon for lunch and a chat. All Welcome.

Light Exercise Class every Wednesday, 10.30am to 11.30am in Morebattle Village Hall. All Welcome.

Morebattle Camera Club meets first Wednesday of each month in the Institute at 7pm.

Scrabble Club in Youth Hall every Wednesday 2 – 4pm.

Youth Club in Youth Hall every Wednesday from 6pm.

Scottish Country Dance every Thursday in Youth Hall 2 – 4pm.

Art Class every Friday in Youth Hall 10 – 12noon.

Use Your Talents Craft Group will meet every week from September 2nd on a Monday afternoon in Yetholm Church from 2 – 4pm. All are welcome. £2 per session. **Postponed at present time.**

Toast Club on Monday, Wednesday and Friday mornings from 8 – 9 am in Yetholm School. We have a separate fund to purchase bread, butter and juice and donations to support this worthwhile service are always welcome.

Yetholm Village Choir meets every Wednesday in Youth Hall Town Yetholm from 10.30 – 11.30am. New members always welcome.

Postponed at present time.

Bowling every Friday at 7pm in Morebattle Village Hall.

Bowling every Friday and Monday in Wauchope Hall, Town Yetholm.
Afternoon and evening sessions. **Finished for Season**

Badminton every Tuesday in Wauchope Hall Town Yetholm at 1.30pm.

April

Wednesday 8th Morebattle SWI meets in Institute at 7.15pm – Story of “Winfield Bear” – Mrs. Eileen Orr – Competitions Dyed Egg & Favourite Pen.

Saturday 11th Morebattle Village Hall Coffee Morning at 10.30am in Village Hall.

Saturday 11th Morebattle Village Hall Music evening with “The Boyds” – Acoustic Mac & Bowie Music. 7.30pm in Village Hall. Tickets from John Mabon, 01573440329. Price £8.

Tuesday 21st Kalewater Community Council Meeting at 7pm in Morebattle Institute

Saturday 25th Equestrian Vaulting Coffee Morning in Morebattle Institute at 10.30am

May

Saturday 2nd Blood Bikes Coffee Morning in Morebattle Institute at 10.30am.

Wednesday 13th Morebattle SWI meets in Institute at 7.15pm – Beirhope Alpacas - Lynne Jobs Competitions – Homemade Liqueur & Small Animal Ornament and Lucky Syllabus Number.

Tuesday 19th Kalewater Community Council Meeting at 7pm in Institute.

Saturday 23rd Plant Sale in Morebattle Institute at 10.30am

Saturday 30th Morebattle Fishing Coffee Morning at 10.30am in Institute.

June

Wednesday 10th Morebattle SWI – Annual Summer Outing.

Saturday 13th Morebattle Institute Coffee Morning at 10.30am in Institute.

Tuesday 16th Kalewater Community Council Meeting at 7pm in Institute

All Events in Yetholm have been cancelled at this time.

Register

Baptism: Duncan O'Mara.

Deaths: Joseph Brown, Elizabeth Forster, Isabel Paterson, Mary Abbot, Violet Hobbs, Mary Watson, Bert Redpath, Netta Harvey

Church Diary 2020

March

Saturday 28th Morebattle Guild Coffee Morning in the Institute at 10.30am. **This event is cancelled.**

All Services and events are suspended during the Coronavirus outbreak.

The Churches will remain open as usual in daylight hours but please use hand sanitizer or wash your hands when entering building.

Thank you for your co-operation and understanding during this difficult time.

Report from Session Clerk

Since taking on this role at the beginning of the year the Session has met twice and although we have discussed many things the most obvious one at the present time is the Coronavirus outbreak. As I hope you will have seen earlier in the magazine all Services and events have been suspended for the foreseeable future. Can we ask that if you are able to give your weekly offering by Direct Debit or Standing Order that you give this some consideration please.

The Session appointed a new safe-guarding co-ordinator – Mrs Heather Freeland-Cook and we welcome her to this role. Pippa Emerson has taken over as role keeper in the Church and we are most grateful to Diane Gittus who has carried out this post for many years.

The Yetholm Church Clock has been repaired, in that it now chimes every quarter, but seems to have stopped chiming on the hour!! This is in hand and hopefully will be resolved very soon.

Rev. Johnston has met with the new headteacher at the Primary Schools and has arranged a couple of assemblies with them.

A new Lectionary Bible was dedicated at Yetholm Church in memory of Will Lumsden and the new plaque at Morebattle Church is now in place and was also dedicated in February.

Susan Stewart

Easter Fun Facts

More than 1.5 million Cadbury Crème Eggs are made every day.

Around 90 million chocolate bunnies are sold for Easter and a surprising 76% of people eat the ears first!

New clothes for Easter used to be considered good luck.

One in five children say they have made themselves ill eating too much chocolate at Easter.

Received from a recent visitor to Yetholm

Dear people of Yetholm,

It feels like a marvellous, radiant dream to me now. I spent a truly wonderful week (2nd - 9th March), staying in Brian and Anne's beautiful, cosy wee nest, perched on Pennine Way, with a sublime view over Bowmont Valley, privileged to witness the changing light over the land and, just before sunset, the huge flocks of crows and wood pigeons flying home to roost in the thick forest of pines behind the house. I was charmed by the Dutch chimes from the church.

I honestly CAN'T sing the praises of your warm, welcoming part of our planet enough, but I'll give it a go:

-- the glorious walk up and over to Halterburn, stopping to talk to the friendly black and white Highland pony, my nearest neighbour and wee pal

-- the equally glorious walks down to Bowmont Water ... the weather was so warm and sunny one day down at the Haughs that I could lie down by the side of the full, fast-flowing water and just breathe it all in

-- the field of happy, gambolling lambs and watchful ewes down behind Yetholm Church

-- the fantastic butcher's, where I had a fine big blether with Alex

-- the shop at Town Yetholm, where I got one of the most delicious wedges of Victoria sponge to take back to my wee nest

-- the Border Hotel ... my, what a warm welcome, with a roaring fire and a comforting Sunday roast

-- and the very fine church and fascinating churchyard at Kirk Yetholm

And that brings me to the people:

I remember some of your names...Diane, Arthur, Sheena, Susan, Dorothy, the Reverend Colin, Heather, Dot, Maxine. You all welcomed me with open arms and warm hearts to your coffee morning and to your vibrant evening service for World Prayer Day. Funny, I will always associate the flame lily, the national flower of Zimbabwe, on glorious display in the church that evening, with Yetholm! You told me I could go into the church any time and make myself a cup of tea. I did...twice! That was so very kind of you. We shared stories and laughter...and cakes, three of my favourite things!

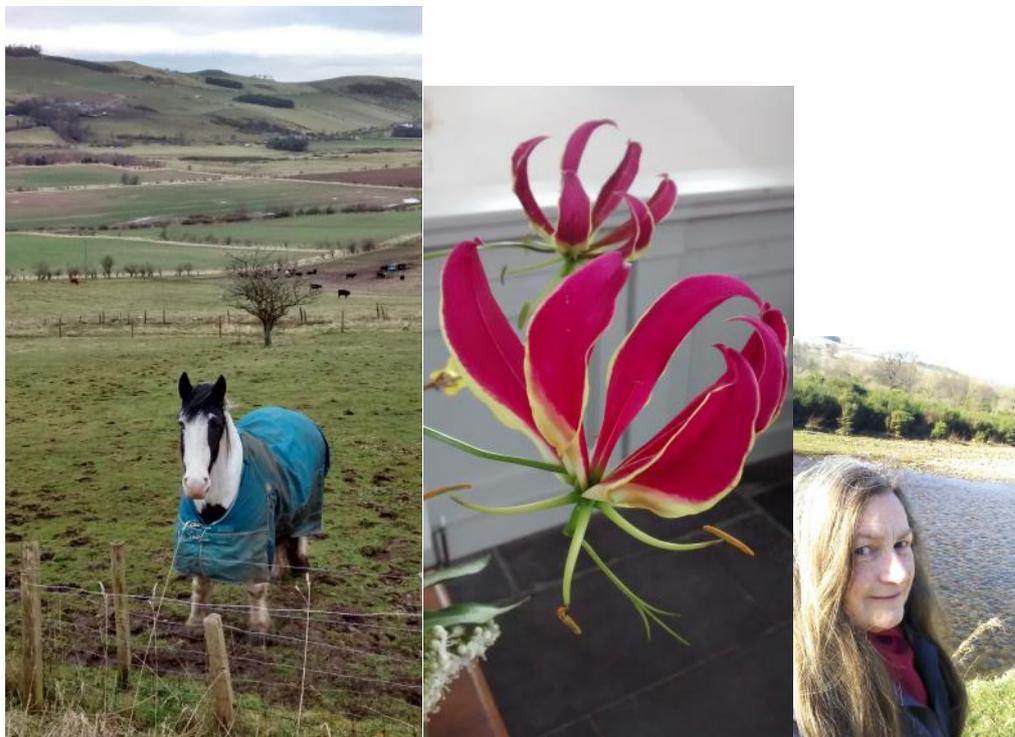
I came to Yetholm for peace and solitude, walks and nature, contemplation, and a wee writing retreat. I was privileged to receive all

of that in abundance. But I received more...much more...the warm welcome and love of every person I met. I am so grateful to you. There will always be a special place in my heart and soul for you and for bonny Yetholm. You are in my thoughts over this period of uncertainty, and whenever we get the all-clear, I will come back to Yetholm for another week.

Yetholm is a healing place, much more, much finer, much more precious than a dream. It's real.

With love,

Beth



Due to the extra pressure on the schools at the present time with the Coronavirus Outbreak the news this time has been taken from the school newsletters.

Edinburgh Castle Trip

On Thursday 5th March Primary 1-7 went on a whole school trip to Edinburgh Castle as part of the Scotland's heritage topics that have been

taking place. The kids had a great time and spoke about all the exciting things that they had seen whilst there. Primary 1-4 were very excited to tell Mr Wilson about finding one of Finn's relations in the museum!



Parent Council

The Parent Council are pleased to announce that they have managed to secure a slot at Kelso Races to do the afternoon teas. This is likely to be a very popular event and is usually well supported by those in attendance at the Races. To make this successful they need your support- either on the day to help serve or, if you are unable to help out by providing either your time, you could provide some baked goods or indeed a small donation to help buy all the ingredients needed. Anyone interested should contact Heather Thomson.

World Book Day 2020

Thank you to all those who helped us celebrate World Book Day this year- we had a book swap and lots of different activities throughout the week. The children seemed to find it quite amusing that all the staff dressed up too!



Global Citizenship

This month Paddington wrote to us from Madagascar. In assembly we worked together to find both Scotland and Madagascar on a map. He told us quite a few facts about the country...did you know that this is the only country where lemurs are found in the wild? Or that rice is the most grown food there? One girl wrote with Paddington to explain that she hadn't had a varied diet and had eaten only rice for too long when she was young which had stopped her from growing up big and tall like some of her friends. If you find out anything else at home Mr Wilson has a big book for assembly and he'd love it if the children could pop things in that they find out, I'm already pleased to see the facts that P5-7 found relating to Jordan, the last country Paddington visited.



Farmhouse Breakfast Competition

A very big congratulations to Ms Schmidt and Primary 1-3 who were taking part in the Farmhouse Breakfast competition this year. They have been selected as finalists from all the schools who took part and are now in with a chance to be overall winners. The results will be announced at the prize giving ceremony due to take place in the Council Chambers on Friday 13th March - fingers crossed!

Primary 1-3

The children were so excited to share their learning with me when I asked them what's been happening in their classroom. As part of their World

Book Day activities they were sewing bookmarks using thread and binka- these look great. Some people told me about pieces of writing they having been creating based on the story “The Day the Crayons Quit!” The best thing was writing using coloured pencils. When I was in I was lucky to be part of a maths lesson and saw some great division skills from Primary 2/3 and excellent subtraction from Primary 1 who were using lots of different things to help keep them right.

Primary 3-5

Over the last month we were finishing our Scottish animals topic which we really enjoyed. This week we reused some old plastic bottles to try and grow different vegetables in- peppers, lettuce, cherry tomatoes and courgettes are just some of them. We have also been learning how to write persuasively, we started a piece of work entitled “Save the Rhinos”.

Primary 6/7

Since the last newsletter we have still been learning about World War 2 but recently we learned about the Blitz and we designed propaganda posters. Most of us are taking part in the Curling playdowns- we are excited about this, we really want to do well!

World Book Day 2020

Thank you to all those who helped us celebrate World Book Day this year- we had fun throughout the week, a book swap, a quiz as well as dressing up on Thursday (P6/7) and Friday (ELC-P5)



GREENER YETHOLM UPDATE

The embryonic Greener Yetholm group has had a couple of meetings this year, looking at ideas for activities to improve our environment and to help spread the message about what is needed to prevent further damaging climate change.

Our aims are: *To raise awareness about the current climate emergency; to encourage and support those in the community who want to make changes; to take steps to improve the local environment and to move towards more sustainable lifestyles.*

Amongst plans for this year are collecting discarded plastic tree guards from around the riverside area, caring for newly-planted saplings, trialling a ‘compost-buddies’ scheme, and letter-writing to politicians. We hope to support the school’s eco-committee in extending recycling and to have a stall at one or two local events. We will be setting up a Facebook page to share information. If you are interested in getting involved you can email us on greeneryetholm@gmail.com

When this is over,
may we never again
take for granted
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at the store
Conversations with neighbors
A crowded theatre
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine checkup
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.

When this ends,
may we find
that we have become
more like the people
we wanted to be
we were called to be
we hoped to be
and may we stay
that way—better
for each other
because of the worst.

LAURA KELLY FANUCCI

Cheviot Churches Elders and Districts

Leslie Thomson	West of Morebattle, Eckford and Crailing and various outlying.
Jenny Flannigan	Main Street, Heughhead and Renwick Gardens Morebattle.
George Lees	Mainsfield Avenue, Morebattle Mains and Whitton.
Anne Brown	Kale Valley and Hownam.
Brian Kelly	Linton.
Trish Gentry	Bowmont Valley.
Graeme Watson	Woodbank Road, Braeside Road, Cheviot Road.
Pippa Emerson	Grafton Road to Mission, Grafton Bank, Main St From Old Manse to Vennel before shop.
John Thompson	Morebattle Road/Main Street to White Swan inc Cheviot Place and The Crescent to Vennel after Shop.
Susan Stewart	Deanfield Place, Court, Road and Bank. Back Lane and Dairy Wood.
Diane Gittus	Romany House to Yewtree Road, Lane and Bank, Grafton Corner to Mission Hall, Duncanhaugh and Hayhope.
Tom Tokely and Stuart Kelly	Main Street, Yetholm from butcher – School, Dow Brae.
Carol Butler	Kirk Yetholm Village and Halterburn.
Arthur Bates	The Yett, Shotton, Yetholm Mains and Harelaw.
Ann Harvey	Hoselaw, Cherrytrees, Lochside, Lochside farms and cottages, Old Graden, Graden, Hoselaw. Venchen, Mindrum, Howtel, Downham, Wideopen
Simon Oldham	Mainhouse, Bankhead and Linton Hill.
David Lang	Teapot Street and Bank. Thimble Lane.
Jimmy Fleming	Kelso (part)
Alan Calvert	Kelso (part)
Margaret McTavish	Postal.

Church Services – All suspended at present time.

Yetholm every Sunday at 10.00 a.m.

Morebattle every Sunday at 11.15 a.m. except
1st Sunday when we meet at **Linton**.

Hownam is now irregular. Please check notices.

Hoselaw is open for private devotion at all times and hosts occasional services.

Prayer Service will be held in Linton Church at 6.30pm. All Welcome.

Cheviot Churches: Church of Scotland (Charity No SC003023)

Minister

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Safeguarding Co-ordinator:

Heather Freeland – Cook 01573 420480

Role Keeper:

Pippa Emerson 01573420279

Committee Convenors:

Mission and Outreach: Elizabeth Watson 01573420602

Children and Youth Ministry Team: Graeme Watson 01573 420602

Ways and Means with Stewardship: Rae Redpath 01573420451

Worship Committee: Rev. Colin Johnston 01573 440539

www.cheviotchurches.org
