

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

CHEVIOT



Winter 2018



Prayer Corner

Poem for Christmas

If you look for me at Christmas,
you won't need a special star;
I'm no longer just in Bethlehem,
I'm right there where you are.
You may not be aware of Me
amid the celebrations.
You'll have to look beyond the stores
and all the decorations.
But if you take a moment
from your list of things to do,
and listen to your heart, you'll find
I'm waiting there for you.
You're the one I want to be with,
you're the reason that I came,
and you'll find Me in the stillness,
as I'm whispering your name.



Prayers for New Year 2018

God as this new year dawns,
May we take time to see the newness you are giving birth to.
May we not be blinded by the darkness that consumes our world,
Or consumed by the fear that paralyzes our actions.

May we remember,
That out of winter's darkness you bring forth light,
That out of winter's death you give birth to new life.
May we remember,
That which has been dormant will spring to life,
That which has been pruned will sprout new strength.
May we remember,
You are the light by which we see,
You are the fountain that gives us life.
God as this new year emerges,
May we give birth to that which honours you,
May we bring to life that which allows your goodness to shine,
May we give fresh expression to your eternal world,
And in the depths of our hearts may we cry,
Your kingdom come,
Your will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven. Amen

BIRDBATH'S CHRISTMAS CARD

In November Birdbath made his way as usual to an Edinburgh church which hosts a huge display of Christmas cards for 'Good Causes'. His self-imposed rule is that the cards must all be the same, for his entire circle of family and friends; that the 'Cause' must be one he supports; and that the chosen card must be equally suitable for all. He finds it extraordinarily stressful. The card must not be flippant or 'cute', and it must express the central message of Christmas (that baby, 'God-with-us', delivered in an out-building) without being cloyingly 'religious', though that is a word Birdbath dislikes. No distractions! No partridges in pear-trees, no Santa's and prancing reindeer, no folksy yule-logs or beakers of mulled wine, though a curious robin may be allowed to perch at the window and look in, along with the animals to whom the stable belonged. He wants discreetly to challenge his friends and family with *Questions*: 'peace on earth?' (you must be joking?), refugees, asylum-seekers, the homeless crowding in behind the Shepherds long before the likes of us get a look in? (what cheek?), a vulnerable helpless Infant who is the human face of the God who created the entire cosmos yet unaccountably loves each one of us? (now pull the other one?). Actually Birdbath returned home with a rather cheery traditional card which just appealed to him and certainly does none of all that high-minded stuff above: there is even a reindeer and a Santa. He hopes it will give pleasure, just as he enjoys and appreciates all the cards he receives, whatever is on them. **HAPPY CHRISTMAS!**

From the Interim Moderator

The Cheviot—Dec 2018

Once again it's time for articles for 'The Cheviot' and once again it took a note from Susan, who is very patient with me, to remind me to produce something. Susan must spend quite a bit of time waiting if there are others like me—and it's really no excuse to say I don't know where the time goes these days. In November, I always think it's too early to start preparing for Christmas, but suddenly December comes and the pressure is on – just like articles for 'The Cheviot!' In Church life too, this is a time of waiting and preparation, as we get ready to celebrate Christ's Birth. In all the bustle of writing cards and wrapping presents---never mind planning menus and shopping—it is very easy to forget what it's all about! The Jews had waited and prepared for the coming of a Messiah, but in spite of their faith and solemn rituals they did not recognise him when he came,

So what about us? Do we have preconceived notions about Christmas and all that it means; do we just stick to these without thought or do we allow ourselves time to think about what happened? The enormity of this event for Christians and all who wonder about its significance in the Church and in the world surely means we need to spend some time considering these happenings. As we approach the New Year, can we take a look back with honesty at our lives and then, look forward with expectation that we do not go forward alone, but the love and compassion of the Babe in the Manger, goes with us every step of the way. As tiny Tim said in the Christmas Carol—"God bless us, every one!"

Christmas Letter From our Locum – Elizabeth Findlay

Warm greetings to you all.

I would like to say a very big thank you for the warm welcome I have received in all your churches. Cheviot churches are all very busy and it's wonderful to see that the Lord's work is being done in many ways, with your Kirk Session leading the way and making sure you are all getting your proper attention.

I am looking forward to sharing your services in December on our Advent Journey for this little babe who came into the world to bring peace to all; and then into a New Year together. This is a busy time for

everyone, so please take care, don't be rushing here and there needlessly. Look out for one another, but I know that you do that already. Never hesitate to contact me if you are concerned about someone or if I can help in any way.

I will be with you all on Christmas Day at our Joint Service in Yetholm, and please if you have a Christmas Jumper, let's see it on that day, and let us remember, that Love came down at Christmas.

I wish each and every one of you a Happy Christmas, and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Every blessing.

Elizabeth.



The Yetholm Village Choir will present a programme of Christmas words and music in Yetholm Parish Church on Sunday December 16th at 7.30pm.

The choir, under its conductor Geoffrey Emerson, will be supported by the Yetholm Colliery Band and speakers Catherine (Kate) Fish and Arthur Bates, with in all over 70 performers.

The Morebattle and Yetholm Windfall Fund

The Windfall Fund benefitted greatly from both the bumper harvest this year and the large number of people who volunteered to help pick, pack or transport apples. As a result we picked and delivered 10,666kg in total; a tremendous result. A huge thanks to everyone who helped in any way or let us take their apples. A special thanks to the many, many anonymous people who picked their own apples and placed them in one of the collection boxes. As I write this piece we already have over £800 in the bank from sales and we are hoping once all the bottles of cider and apple juice are sold we should have over £2500 available to distribute to local organisations in Yetholm and Morebattle.

Application forms for groups to apply for a share of the fund will be available from early December onwards from both shops or via the Fund's Facebook page and the committee will meet in late January to allocate funds. In the meantime if you would like to help the Windfall Fund, please buy and enjoy apple juice from either Yetholm or Morebattle Village Shop or cider available from The Templehall Hotel, The Border Hotel and Yetholm Village Shop.

Morebattle Primary School



Our Outdoor Learning Day Archaeological Dig

This block our positive press team is Angus, Martin and Jennifer. They met to share all the latest news from Morebattle. We welcome three new children to Morebattle – Libby, Henry and Philip – we hope they feel very welcome and enjoy life and learning in our school.

They feel it is important to celebrate the children who have begun to learn either the violin or cello this school year. Well done to Keira, Martha, Jennifer, Megan and Mary for taking on this new challenge.

Learning continues to thrive. P5-7 have been learning about data handling, including how to make bar, line and pie charts. P3-4 are learning about life as a Roman. They were particularly enthusiastic about their archaeological dig in which they uncovered Roman remains, using tools such as paintbrushes, clay tools and spoons. They then studied and drew the artefacts, leading on to drama and story writing based around this. P1-2 have been finding out about life in the polar regions. They can be seen roaming the school in fur-lined hats, parka jackets and enormous boots as they learn what it takes to survive in these landscapes. Angus was keen to point out that on outdoor learning day, he and a friend plotted a 1km route through the playground, using a trundle wheel to measure, which his friends and classmates then trekked! Martin pointed out what hard-workers we have in school, regardless of whether the subject is their favourite, or not.

All the children are continuing their learning on 'Building Resilience'. We have talked a lot about how to 'Keep Connected' with our friends and family – our back up teams, in order to keep good mental health and get through the tough times.

We are excited that the school will be joined very shortly by Miss Ferguson, working with our P5-7 class. The children from the Rights Respecting committee were involved in interviewing her – she is a popular choice and will be an asset to our school. We also welcome Miss Stewart who is working with us on a Wednesday, in a variety of classes, allowing staff planning and preparations time out of the classroom.

Our Junior Janitors, led ably by Malachy, are out and about putting up our bird feeders and filling them regularly with seeds and peanuts, to help our feathered friends make it through the winter.

We have had busy time with events recently. Thank you to the Parent Council for a great Halloween afternoon. P1/2 enjoyed their learning around road safety as they experienced a great magic show on the subject, along with our friends in other local schools. Children have taken part in both rugby and hockey festivals and are now looking ahead to a Remembrance Commemorative football game with Yetholm Primary School. After that it will be all hands to the deck as we prepare for the Christmas Show.

Yetholm Primary School



On our Outdoor Learning Day Walk

Our positive press team of Caitlin, Archie G, Sophia R, Jessica, Liam and Murray, met to share all the latest news from Yetholm.

They told us about achievements of the children. Of course, there were many! The special highlights included Rachel passing her Level 8 swimming and now working towards her 8+. Jessica is making great progress in her pony riding and Tamara gained the most sponsorship of the whole school for our keep fit session with the Olympic Judo gold medallist, Gemma Gibbons-Burton. Ethan excelled in his mathletics work, completing lots of modules to a high standard. At the Shepherds' Show we had many winners, including James in the 'Largest Tattie'

section! Our wonderful school chickens even won 1st place for the quality of their eggs.

The team also shared examples of great learning. They were enthusiastic about Outdoor learning day, particularly about how they learned how to use compass to navigate in the outdoors. The whole school went for a country walk, with special mention to Ellie in P1 who showed huge determination. The children say “She was a star, with her little legs” – she never moaned or complained, but instead showed great resilience! Another little star was Michael in P1, who was stung by a wasp, but showed great bravery and a positive attitude. The school visited the wildlife area and undertook ‘team weeding’ in our allotment, helping prepare the ground for the next planting.

School news that is big in the children’s minds are the arrival of a wormery in Primary 1/2, allowing the children to see how the worms help aerate the soil, remove dead leaves and live day-to-day. P5-7 are currently considering a class pet, evaluating which animal might be most appropriate and what care it would need. We welcome Mrs Welch to support PE for the next few weeks whilst our own Mrs Rhodes is in Nepal, working to support a family she knows there. We look forward to hearing more about this on her return, as we look to broaden our learning about cultural diversity.

Special events have obviously had a big impact on the learners in the positive press team. They are keen to share their fun at the recent Halloween party, particularly the games they played. Thanks to the Parent Council for organising this. We had a more reflective and quiet approach to Remembrance in school. Mr Reid delivered a presentation about World War 1 and we are following this with a commemorative football match between Yetholm and Morebattle, reflecting the events of Christmas 1914 when soldiers on both sides called a truce and met in ‘No-Man’s Land’ to play a game of football, share stories and show mutual respect and peace. We held ‘Walk to School Week’ in October, encouraging healthy ways of getting to school. Along with this, our Junior Road Safety Officers, Emma and Caitlin launched competitions to promote safety on and around our roads. Next on the agenda is our Christmas Show, to be held in the Wauchope Hall on Tuesday 11th and Thursday 13th. This year the children are working on ‘Cinderella Rockafella’ and it is sure to be a great hit!

“How do you eat yours?” That was the question in a certain egg-shaped confectionery advert. The implication being that there is no right way to do it, but rather it’s about how you best experience the egg.

How do you pray?

Perhaps you haven’t really thought about it too much. Perhaps it’s now hard to concentrate because you’re thinking about chocolate, but regardless of appetite, past experiences, how we wrap it up or try to explain it, prayer can be rather confusing. It can often be a mystery. It can at times seem like a chore. It can even be a blessed relief.

So then, how *do* you pray?

Are you a morning person? Do you greet the sunrise with thanks and praise to our God? Do you utter hopeful words and try and live them throughout the day to come? Are you more spontaneous? Do you respond to life with a ‘breath prayer’, off the cuff, as life makes you dance to its tune and in each moment you seek the steadying hand of our Creator and Sustainer?

Perhaps you find yourself needing space. Like a free-diver coming up for air after plumbing the depths. Maybe you carve out some time in your day to be still and know the presence of God. You may prefer to reflect on your day in the presence of God, as was the practice of Ignatius of Loyola, who gave us the daily examen – a way of praying that helps us recognise God’s presence in the midst of the day just lived.

The practice of prayer is part of the lifeblood of our faith. We may find ourselves in the darkest of circumstances, when prayer is the only thing that we can turn to for comfort. We might see prayer as that thing we do together on a Sunday, or as the words said on our behalf by a minister or worship leader. Maybe it is the one thing that keeps us going, those times when we can just let God know how we are feeling. It might even be that thing that happens by accident or that we’re unaware of until, looking back on a time of quiet, perhaps with a cup of tea or watching the world go by from our living room window, we realise that in the stillness, God was there the whole time.

Whatever your habit or preference may not really matter. What is important is that we are having the conversation, that we are opening ourselves up to God in whatever moment we can manage, that in some way prayer is part of our life. Prayer may be a constant companion on the journey, or a friend that visits once in a while, to bring comfort and solace. It may be something deeper, more mysterious that is largely left unspoken, something felt, yearned for, grieved over or something long-forgotten brought to mind.

How we pray then, is not the most important thing, but rather that the experience of prayer and the encounter with God is recognised. That our faith is tended and our relationship with God is nurtured, in precious moments. No fancy wrapping is needed and it may not always taste sweet but, in the midst of life, listening for and opening our hearts to God is indeed food for the soul.

Resourcing Worship Team, Mission & Discipleship Council

Holy Land 2018

28 people set off on a grey Sunday from Kelso to spend 10 days in the Holy Land. The trip was organised by Prebendary and Mrs King from St Andrew's Kelso and McCabe Tours, a family firm that has been taking people there for over 40 years.

Throughout, we had a guide, Isam, - a Palestinian Catholic; a driver, Jawad - a Greek orthodox Christian, and a wonderful bus - the Nazarene Express, - £250,000 of Mercedes finest that could turn on a sixpence and breathed in going through narrow streets.

Isam was on a mission to make sure we missed nothing, and knew the history and religious significance of each site, but could also tell us about population, agriculture and what it is like to be a Palestinian in Israel today. He was the complete shepherd, - keeping the group together, directing traffic, seeing us through checkpoints, making sure that 'Mr Bob' and the rest of us had enough breaks for coffee and easing our way everywhere.

We started on the Mount of Olives, descended to Gethsemane and saw at first hand that Jerusalem has nearly reached tourist saturation point. We shuffled in queues at nearly all the main sites, the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem probably the worst. Wherever we went and however early, there were nearly always 10-20 other buses in the car park. We got used to it.

The Wailing Wall was wonderfully solid, and I was able to reach out and put a hand on it. Although women are separated from men, we could stand on benches and look over to see boys carrying the huge scrolls to the rabbi for their bar-mitzvahs. As well as the phylacteries on their heads, they wear one on the left arm tied with seven turns of leather strap, - the word of God is on their head and in their hearts.

We went all the way up the Via Dolorosa stopping at quite a few of the Stations of the Cross - No 6 where Veronica wipes the face of Jesus stands out, a tiny chapel, and oasis of peace amid the crowds. The administration of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre can really only be described as 'bonkers'. Six denominations share in the

running of the inside and one outside – Egyptian Copts. So, on Sunday morning we arrived at 6am to find Armenian Orthodox chanting away at the back of the tomb, whilst Franciscans were having a much abbreviated Mass at the front. Immediately they finished, they have to clear everything away, including the benches, and clean everything for the next lot. Christian unity has some way to go....

We floated in the Dead Sea with a backdrop of Jordan hills, we went up in the cable car to Fort Masada in the desert (quite scary), visited Qu'mran (Dead Sea Scrolls) and the River Jordan. You drive down through a recently cleared minefield (!) and in the very brown and muddy river there was a group of Russian Orthodox being dunked three times and a black African group from Birmingham singing gospel songs whilst some of their members were baptised. About 50 yards away the same thing was happening on the Jordanian side. The border runs down the middle of the river and two armed teenagers were keeping a watchful eye. It was unexpected and very joyful.

For the second half of the trip we stayed in Tiberias, in a hotel overhanging the Sea of Galilee, which is just beautiful, although we did have a dramatic storm one night. Thunder, lightning, wind and torrential rain – you could understand how frightened the disciples must have been. Anne and I were not tempted to try walking on water...

The hotel had an 'invigorating' pool – swimming after dark was a new experience and first thing in the morning, the sun coming up over the Golan Heights was a wonderful sight.

The church count racked up – Cana, Capernaum, Mount of Transfiguration, Church of the Annunciation x 2, Loaves and Fishes, Mount of Beatitudes, the site where Jesus healed Peter's mother in law, and perhaps my favourite, Mensa Christi – the rock where Jesus baked fish for the disciples' breakfast after the resurrection. The rock is there under the altar, and the sea should come right up to the church, but global warming and irrigation are shrinking the Sea, and there is now quite a beach.

There were two inspirational people in particular that we met. One is Edmund who runs a hospital in Bethlehem. There are no social security or pension arrangements in Palestine, and everything is done by donations. He was given a parcel of land by Leonard Cheshire way back, and has built a hospital bit by bit. They only have water 4 hours a day. Permits are required for everything. Many people in Bethlehem have never travelled to Jerusalem (10 miles down the road) and now the Separation Wall makes life even harder.

The Jewish settlements now entirely surround Bethlehem and are enlarging year on year.

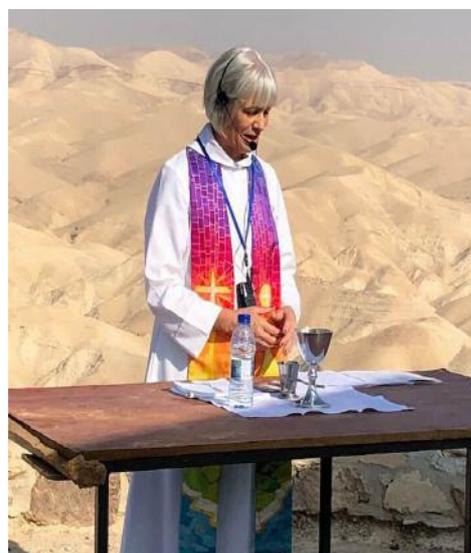
We also met Jawha who runs the Jeer al Amal (Generation of Hope) school in Bethany. She has 230 children between 4 and 18, some of whom board – five to a room. It is beautifully clean and tidy, but then they don't have any possessions. She never has enough money, and sometimes the staff don't get paid, or maintenance and renovation projects have to be put on hold.

What comes across is their total lack of bitterness and their amazing trust that God will provide. If you would like to read more about them, follow the links below. Anne Kerr is going to organise a fund raising concert in the spring and those of us who were on the pilgrimage hope to tell the stories of what we have seen.

Pippa Emerson and Anne Kerr (learner pilgrims)

Links: Jeer al Amal : www.jeelalamal.org

Bethlehem Arab Centre for Rehabilitation : www.basr.org



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

Keframa High School, Uganda

(Update)

Dear Friends

As some of you may know, our family became involved in the set-up of a charity ‘Keframa School Build’ after visiting Keframa, near Lira, in northern Uganda two years ago.

We were introduced to the existing school by some friends in our local church in Nottinghamshire. Our eldest daughter, with long University holidays, went out to teach that summer, and we followed to meet the family involved.

The remarkable Kezzy family had begun a secondary school in some very dilapidated buildings on their family land. With almost no state secondary education in the area at the time, and so many families devastated from years of abuse by the LRA rebels they had seen a real need for promising young people to continue their education. They had a tiny amount of support from a church in Nottinghamshire, and we were amazed at how much they could do with so little, but also saw how the buildings were not going to last.

Our main drive to become involved was the commitment and dedication not just of the family, but of the students themselves. They were so grateful for the opportunity they were getting, but also so determined to be ‘agents of change’ within their communities.

We were humbled and inspired and so, with a small group of friends, purchased some land beside the existing school and began the charity ‘Keframa School Build’. Our aim is to build a new school to eventually provide secondary education for 500 students. Our initial priority was creating a safe place in the existing buildings and so the first part of our plan was to dramatically improve the current classrooms, which will be converted to dormitories once the school is built.

With the support of many friends and family, our team set about raising £200,000 to begin the build. It was a tall order and steep learning curve, but we are so excited that we got there and began clearing the land in September.

The building has not been without challenges but is on time and on target for “phase one”.

Two of our small team had been out to Uganda in April, where they were able to meet with, and receive great support from EMI, who are an international engineering charity and this past month three more trustees have been in Keframa, assisting with the finances and key decisions to be

made. Our youngest daughter, also now with long Uni holidays, also visited Uganda this summer looking at educational initiatives and potential partnerships. We will be visiting again in February, hopefully as the new build is almost complete.

Our next task is to raise funds to build the remainder of the school including dormitories so that the whole school can be on one site. The current school may then have the potential to become a primary school, some way off, but we are on a great journey and are believing for huge changes in the lives of these amazing people.

Our daughter commented after her time teaching there, that but for geography, she could be a student in Uganda, the same drive to learn but with poor opportunities. Her ambition (and ours) is to change that!

We are so grateful to the many friends in Kirk Yetholm and surrounding areas who generously supported a coffee morning earlier this year. We wouldn't be where we are today, without you!

Please do look at our website and follow us on Facebook and Instagram to continue with us on our journey.

Blessings to you all

The Hall Family

(Tom, Sarah, Lois, Esther)



Morebattle Community Shop Update November 2018

A lot has happened since the Morebattle Village Shop Steering Committee was formed in the Spring of 2017 following a very packed village hall meeting to look into the idea of setting up a Community Shop. Anne Brown, the present owner, had taken the decision that she was unable to continue and wanted the shop to continue and be run by the Community for the benefit of the Community.

A survey was carried out in the Kalewater Community and the results demonstrated overwhelming support for a Community Shop. With the assistance of the Plunkett Foundation we were successful in gaining Stage 1 Funding from the Big Lottery and Scottish Land Fund to further develop the project. A consultant came on board to prepare a business plan and help us apply for Stage 2 funding in order to purchase the shop. In the meantime Morebattle Community Shop Ltd, a Community Benefit Society was set up to take on the shop and keep the Post Office.

By August 2018 we had heard our application had been successful again and this would cover 95% of the building purchase costs. Further monies needed to be raised by the Community through share ownership to pay for the balance of the building cost, repairs, fixtures, stock - generally to get the shop up and running. A Community Share Offer Brochure and Pledge Forms were produced. Our target was to raise £50,000. By the deadline of 13 October 2018 over £62,000 had in fact been pledged; an amazing result. In the light of this tremendous support from the Community, the Committee voted in favour of purchasing the shop on behalf of the Community and accepting the SLF Funding.

Presently we are in the process of collecting all monies pledged in order to proceed with the purchase.

It's not too late to become a Shareholder in Morebattle Community Shop. Brochures and Pledge Forms can still be picked up in the shop or downloaded from our website www.morebattlecommunityshop.co.uk or email us at info@morebattlecommunityshop.co.uk for further information.

Cool Club – Christmas Special

Cheviot Churches run an after-school club for children in Yetholm on Wednesdays. This last term the club met in the second half of term in the run up to Christmas. We played games and spent a bit of time each session looking at the Christmas story – yes, Christmas is about getting presents, but there's also something bigger and more meaningful going on. We looked at the story partly using quite a vivid film called *The Nativity Story*. The film uses real actors and Joseph and Mary are presented as rather scruffy peasants! This year, as well, we are looking forward to seeing a wonderful new Christmas film called *The Star*. This is an animated film made in 2017 which tells the Christmas story from the perspective of the animals involved, in particular a donkey named Bo. Everyone is very welcome to come along and watch – children of all ages from 5 to 85. The film will be shown at Yetholm church at 6pm on Tuesday 11th December

Deadline

Please submit articles (including photographs) for the next edition of The Cheviot to a member of the editorial team by 18th March 2019
j.stewart134@btinternet.com, johnmabon431@btinternet.com
anne.scottbrown@btinternet.com

Christmas (I)

After all pleasures as I rid one day,
My horse and I, both tir'd, bodie and minde,
With full crie of affections, quite astray,
I took up in the next inne I could finde,

There when I came, whom found I but my deare,
My dearest Lord, expecting till the grief
Of pleasures brought me to him, readie there
To be all passengers most sweet relief?

O Thou, whose glorious, yet contracted light,
Wrapt in night's mantle, stole into a manger;
Since my dark soul and brutish is thy right,
To Man of all beasts be not thou a stranger:

Furnish & deck my soul, that thou mayst have
A better lodging than a rack or grave.

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 16)

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

Traidcraft orders can be placed and 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.

Use Your Talents Craft Group will meet every week from October 1st on a Monday afternoon in Yetholm Church from 2 – 4pm. All are welcome. £2 per session.

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.

Bowling every Friday at 7pm in Morebattle Village Hall.

Bowling every Friday and Monday in Wauchope Hall, Town Yetholm. Afternoon and evening sessions.

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

Unfortunately due to declining membership Yetholm S.W.I will no longer meet in 2019. However this group may resume in the future if an interest is shown.

December

Tuesday 11th Yetholm School Panto at 1.30pm in Wauchope Hall.
Wednesday 12th Morebattle SWI Christmas Meal at Teviot Smokery at 7.15pm.
Thursday 13th Yetholm School Panto at 6.30pm in Wauchope Hall.
Tuesday 18th Morebattle Lunch Club Christmas Lunch at Templehall 12 for 12.30pm.
Tuesday 18th Kalewater Community Council Meeting in Institute at 7pm.
Wednesday 12th Quiz Night in Plough Hotel. Proceeds to Hay Farm Heavy Horse Centre.
Sunday 31st Auld Year's Night Party in Morebattle Village Hall 8pm-12.30am.

January

Wednesday 9th Morebattle SWI meets in Institute at 7.15pm – Talk on Police Work with Gill Harrop. Competitions 3 Pieces Tray Bake – Christmas Tree Decoration.
Wednesday 9th Quiz Night in Plough Hotel. Proceeds to Macmillan.
Saturday 12th Film Night in Wauchope Hall at 7pm. “Victoria and Abdul”(PG).
Monday 14th Yetholm Festival Week Meeting at 7.30pm in Youth Hall.
Tuesday 15th Kalewater Community Council Meeting at 7pm in Institute.
Tuesday 15th National Theatre Live Screening “The Tragedy of King Richard the Second” in Wauchope Hall at 7pm.
Thursday 17th Village Lunch in Wauchope Hall at 12noon. Proceeds to Yetholm Pavilion.
Saturday 26th Charity Coffee Morning in Institute at 10.30am.
Tuesday 29th Yetholm Community Council meet at 7pm in Youth Hall.
Thursday 31st National Theatre Live Screening “ I’m Not Running” in Wauchope Hall at 7pm.

February

Monday 4th Yetholm Festival Week Meeting at 7.30pm in Youth Hall.
Saturday 9th Morebattle Games Coffee Morning in Village Hall at 10.30am.
Saturday 9th Yetholm Film Night at 7pm in Wauchope Hall. “All The Money In The World” (15).
Wednesday 13th Morebattle SWI meets in Institute at 7.15pm – Pete Jameson “Holiday Photos”. Competitions 2 Decorated Biscuits – Holiday Snap.
Friday 15th Yetholm Village Panto at 7.30pm in Wauchope Hall.
Saturday 16th Yetholm Village Panto at 7.30pm in Wauchope Hall.
Tuesday 19th Kalewater Community Council Meeting at 7pm in Institute.

Tuesday 26th Yetholm Community Council at 7pm in Youth Hall.

March

Monday 4th Yetholm Festival Week Meeting at 7.30pm in Youth Hall.

Saturday 9th Morebattle In Bloom Coffee Morning at 10.30am in Institute.

Saturday 9th Yetholm FilmNight at 7pm in Wauchope Hall. “Their Finest” (12A).

Wednesday 13th Morebattle SWI meets in Institute at 7.15pm – Miss Caroline Penman, Liberty Star Trading. Competitions Bowl of Bulbs – Prettiest Scarf.

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

Thursday 21st Village Lunch at 12noon in Wauchope Hall. Proceeds to Citizens Advice Bureau.

Thursday 21st National Theatre Live Screening - production to be confirmed.

KIRK SESSION REPORT

Manses.

The latest news on the sale of the old manse as of 28th November is that the sale of the prospective buyers own property is progressing and it is hoped that the completion of the sale will take place in December 2018.

A small group has been appointed to look for a new manse but they cannot progress with this until the sale of the old manse is completed.

The Kirk Session expressed its thanks to the members of the Nominating Committee for producing an updated version of the Parish Profile and Minister’s Profile and thanks to Graeme Watson this can be viewed on the Church website.

The harvest lunch held in Morebattle raised £160 and this was passed on to the charity Social Bite, a charity for the homeless which was recommended by the Moderator of the Church of Scotland.

Apart from routine business the most important item for the Kirk Session related to questions set for the Session by Presbytery. These were as follows:-

Being aware of the challenge to membership and ministerial numbers, what would the church look like in your area if you had to share a minister or ministry with your neighbours?

Prepare examples of what changes would be needed to bring your vision to reality and be prepared to share them with your neighbouring congregations at a future joint Kirk Session in your area. What work

could be done jointly, what cannot? What are your strengths, and even your weaknesses?

At the meeting held on 20th November these questions were discussed at length in small groups and each group submitted their conclusions verbally and in writing to the Session Clerk who was tasked with formulating a report to Presbytery. This report will be formally presented at the next Kirk Session in January.

Christmas Services.

December 23rd services at Yetholm and Morebattle at the usual times and conducted by Mrs Elizabeth Findlay.

December 24th an evening service will be conducted at Hownam at 6.30 p.m. and at Linton at 11.30 p.m. Both of these will be services of lessons and carols and conducted by members of the Kirk Session.

December 25th there will be a joint service held in Yetholm at 10.00 a.m and conducted by Mrs Elizabeth Findlay

At the end of each of these services there will be a retiral offering uplifted to be given to Crossreach.

Brian Kelly

Acting Session Clerk.

The following article featured in the November issue of The Bridge and it is very relevant to our halls in Yetholm and Morebattle.

What Does The Village Hall Mean to Your Community?

95 village and community halls serve the rural communities of the Scottish Borders and their role is ever more important. For many years, they have provided a venue for activities run by other small local groups, and a focus for social get – togethers, which all keep our people fitter and healthier and better connected, and our communities alive and more resilient. Now, working with the local authority, many have been identified as Emergency Centres for use during extended power cuts or bad weather, linked to their local Resilient Community Group. Salt bins, sandbags and sheds with snow shovels have joined the long list of equipment stored at each hall!! Where there is no local school, they are also the venue for Community Council meetings and Polling Stations. Local MPs and MSPs use them for their Surgery Tours, to meet constituents.

Local ownership of community assets is not a new idea, and has worked well over many years; most of the village halls in the Scottish Borders are owned by their community. Managed by volunteers, rural village and community halls all provide a focal point for activities in their community at a time when other services such as schools, shops and even

some churches have closed down. Well known as venues for toddler groups, the Rural, and sports and fitness groups, village hall activities have changed with the times and now include lunch clubs, library cafes (to coincide with library bys visit) and film clubs, helping to combat social isolation. Along with arts and music events, dances, dinners and quiz nights, these activities bring people together in our often widespread communities.

Hall committees have to deal with a myriad of legalities before they can even open their doors. The Hall must comply with Health and Safety, be properly insured and licenced for the activities that will take place there. These costs never go down! Water charges exemption is available for charities, but has to be applied for every year.

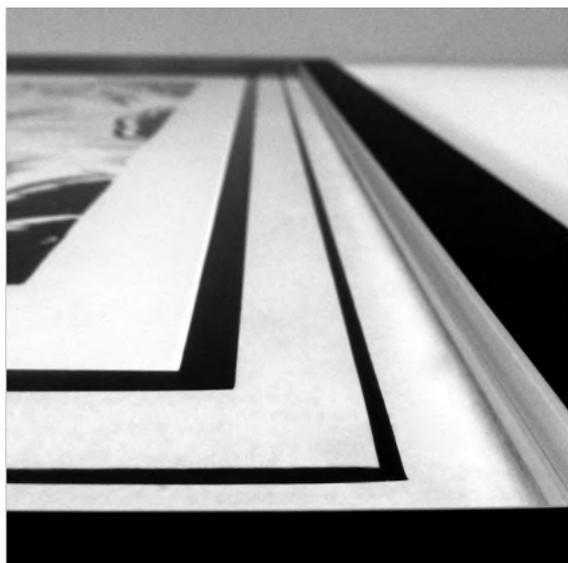
As with any property, village halls require constant maintenance. As local needs change, Halls have undergone a range of improvements: adaptations to make them accessible for all, extensions to increase storage or activity space, better kitchens and toilets, new equipment' insulation to keep costs down, reduce CO2 emissions and provide a warm and welcoming space for community activities.

Federations of Village and Community Halls were formed n the 1970s, bringing the Halls together on a local basis, and they continue today. The Berwickshire, Central Borders, Peebleshire and Roxburgh Federation of Village and Community Halls enable networking by the 95 rural Halls in membership, and are supported by B.A.V.S and The Bridge. We assist them to administer their grant schemes and help organise regular meetings for their members to share and learn from each other, bringing in speakers on topics relevant to the Halls and their communities and helping them stay up to date with legislation governing these highly valued community assets. Scottish Borders Council has recognised the invaluable role of village halls in the community and has continued to support them with an annual grant made through their Federations, distributed on the basis of the number of halls and the rural population figures.

As well as supporting them through the Federations, B.A.V.S and The Bridge also provide development support for individual Village Halls, helping committees to source project funding for improvements. Together, we work towards keeping all our village and community halls sustainable into the future as centres of rural services in the heart of our rural communities.



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Register

Baptisms: Lucy Grace Fleming.

Marriages: Claire McHaffie to Andrew Pike.

Denise Dodson to Kevin Adamson.

Deaths: Jeannie McNulty, Annette James, Pat Rogers.

Church Diary 2018/2019

December

Thursday 6th Morebattle Guild Christmas Meal.

Sunday 9th Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am

Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.

Tuesday 11th Yetholm Guild Christmas Event in Yetholm Church 6pm.

“The Star” – Christmas Film for all the family.

Sunday 16th Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.

Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.

Yetholm Village Choir Christmas Concert in Yetholm Church at 7.30pm. Retiring Collection will be taken.

Thursday 20th Yetholm School Christmas Service at 9.15am in Yetholm Church. All Welcome.

Sunday 23rd Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.

Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.

Monday 24th Carols and Readings Hownam Church 6.30pm.

Watchnight Service at Linton Church 11.30pm.

Tuesday 25th Christmas Day Service Yetholm Church 10am.

Sunday 30th Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.
Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.

January

Sunday 6th Morning Worship Linton Church 11.15am. This will be a joint service with refreshments afterwards.
Wednesday 8th Coffee in Yetholm Church 10.30 – 12noon.
Thursday 10th Morebattle Guild in the Institute at 2.00pm.
Prebendary Bob King – The Holy Land.
Sunday 13th Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.
Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.
Monday 14th Use Your Talents Craft Club resumes weekly in Yetholm Church at 2pm.
Sunday 20th Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.
Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.
Tuesday 22nd Yetholm Guild meet at 2. 30pm in Yetholm Church.
Talk by Gordon and Heather McNally – Hope and Homes for Children.

February

Sunday 3rd Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.
Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.
Wednesday 6th Coffee in Yetholm Church 10.30 – 12noon.
Thursday 7th Morebattle Guild in the Institute at 2.00pm – Liz Findlay.
Sunday 10th Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.
Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am
Sunday 17th Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.
Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.
Thursday 21st Mission and Outreach Committee meet at 2pm in Yetholm Church.
Tuesday 26th Yetholm Guild meet at 2.30pm in Yetholm Church.
Talk by Brian McBride – Change the Ending. Mission and Aviation Fellowship.

March

Friday 1st World Day of Prayer in Morebattle Church at 7pm.
Sunday 3rd Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.
Morning Worship Motrebattle Church 11.15am.
Wednesday 6th Coffee in Yetholm Church 10.30 – 12noon.
Thursday 7th Morebattle Guild in the Institute at 2.00pm – Bob King
Sunday 10th Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.
Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.

- Sunday 17th Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.
Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.
- Sunday 24th Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.
Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.
- Tuesday 26th Yetholm Guild A.G.M followed by music with Pippa and friends at 2.30pm in Yetholm Church.
- Saturday 30th Morebattle Guild Coffee Morning in the Institute at 10.30am.
- Sunday 31st Mothering Sunday Yetholm Church 10am.
Mothering Sunday Motebattle Church 11.15am.

Collection for Refugees.

Amanda Barnes is helping collect for Refugees in Calais. If anyone had anything could they call 07905 885739. They are particularly needing - blankets, sleeping bags, male clothes particularly smaller sizes, tents and phones.

DECEMBER 2018

1. GIVE SOMEONE A HUG OR COMPLIMENT	2. LET SOMEONE IN FRONT OF YOU IN LINE	3. BUY A FRIEND OR COLLEAGUE COFFEE	4. HOLD THE DOOR OPEN FOR SOMEONE	5. GIVE A FRIEND OR LOVED ONE YOUR FULL ATTENTION
6. DONATE A CHRISTMAS PRESENT TO A CHARITY	7. TELL A JOKE TO MAKE SOMEONE SMILE	8. DO SOMETHING KIND FOR YOURSELF	9. HIDE A HAPPY NOTE FOR SOMEONE TO FIND	10. DONATE UNWANTED BOOKS TO CHARITY
11. TAPE SOME MONEY ON A VENDING MACHINE	12. SMILE AT A STRANGER OR 2, OR 15	13. GET IN TOUCH WITH AN OLD FRIEND OR RELATIVE	14. LET A CAR IN FRONT OF YOU IN TRAFFIC	15. WRITE OR SEND A THANK YOU NOTE TO SOMEONE
16. SMILE AND THANK SOMEONE WHO SERVES YOU	17. TELL SOMEONE YOU LOVE THEM	18. PAY FOR A STRANGER'S COFFEE	19. OFFER TO HELP SOMEONE	20. FEED ANIMALS (BIRDS, DEER, ETC.)
21. DONATE UNWANTED CLOTHES TO CHARITY	22. DO SOMETHING UNEXPECTED FOR SOMEONE	23. GIVE A TREAT TO YOUR POSTAL CARRIER	24. DO SOMETHING KIND FOR YOURSELF	25. REFLECT AND RECORD HOW MUCH JOY THIS SEASON BROUGHT YOU

ADVENT OF KINDNESS



CHRISTMAS



Social Bite has no private shareholders. No private profit motive. Just an unrelenting motivation to tackle homelessness in Scotland. Below are some of the projects we are investing in:

Food Provision and Engagement Programmes for Homeless People

We distribute over 100,000 items of food and hot drinks every year to Scotland's most vulnerable people. Homeless customers are invited into our chain of sandwich shops to enjoy our handmade food and tasty coffee throughout the day. We also open up in the evenings for a series of "Social Suppers" events. These include "Women's only" nights for homeless women, and nights for refugees. We also run a joint venture restaurant called Vesta Restaurant and Bar, which opens exclusively to people experiencing homelessness every Monday afternoon for a free sit-down two-course meal.

Christmas Dinners and Presents for Homeless People

Every year we open up our shops on Christmas Day for homeless people to come and get a Christmas dinner and some loving company. Our friends at itison.com run a major fundraising campaign that helps to fund our free food provision on Christmas Day and throughout the year. We also give out an abundance of presents to homeless children, families and individuals at Christmas.

The Social Bite Village

We are now embarking on a project to provide an accommodation model for homeless people, creating an alternative to the sub-standard and ineffective temporary accommodation solutions that currently exist. The Social Bite Village is a project that combines an innovative housing model, using vacant council owned land, along with a supported community environment. The project is entirely geared at breaking the cycle of homelessness and giving residents pathways into employment and permanent housing. This is a project run in partnership with an incredible charity called the Cyrenians.

For further information contact info@social-bite.co.uk

Cheviot Churches Elders and Districts Autumn 2018

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.
Dot Halliday	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	Main Street, Yetholm from butcher – School, Dow Brae, Venchen, Mindrum, Howtel, Downham and Wideopen.
Carol Butler	Kirk Yetholm Village and Halterburn.
Arthur Bates	The Yett, Shotton, Yetholm Mains and Harelaw.
Ann Harvey	Hoselaw, Cherrytrees, Lochside, Lochside farms and cottages, Old Graden, Graden, Hoselaw.
Simon Oldham	Mainhouse, Bankhead and Linton Hill.
David Lang	Teapot Street and Bank. Thimble Lane.
Jimmy Fleming	Kelso (part)
Alan Calvert	Kelso (part)
Margaret McTavish	Postal.

Church Services (Normal)

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 from 30th October until 18th December, the midweek prayer
service will be held in Morebattle Church at 6.30pm.

From 8th January until 26th March 2019 services will be in Yetholm at 6.30pm.

Everyone is welcome to any of our services.

Cheviot Churches: Church of Scotland (Charity No SC003023)

Interim Moderator:

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Kelso TD5 7NY
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Locum:

Liz Findlay
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Treasurer:

Brian Kelly, The Haven, 5 Morebattle Road, Town Yetholm, Kelso TD5 8RL
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Safeguarding Co-Ordinator:

Dot Halliday
Tel: 01573440220

Role Keeper:

Diane Gittus Tel: 01573 420524

Committee Convenors:

Mission and Outreach: Diane Gittus 01573 420524

Children and Youth Ministry Team: Graeme Watson 01573 420602

Ways and Means with Stewardship: Amanda Barnes 01573 420660

www.cheviotchurches.org
