

The Magazine for the Parish of Cheviot Churches

# CHEVIOT



Spring 2026



## Prayer Corner

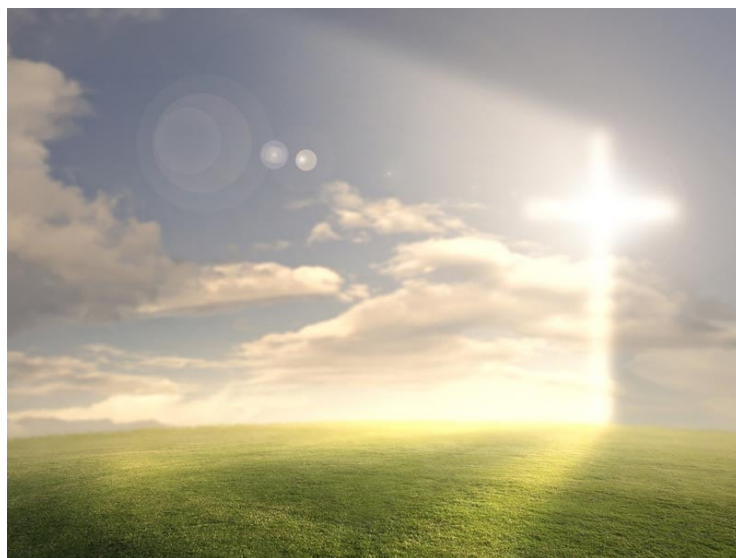
### Prayer for Easter Joy

The resurrection of Jesus brings incomparable joy to all who believe. This prayer celebrates the victory over death, reminding us of the hope, peace, and eternal life Christ offers. Joy comes from understanding God's love and experiencing His presence in every moment. We are encouraged to let this joy overflow into our lives, touching families, communities, and even strangers with gratitude and hope. Easter joy is not fleeting; it is grounded in the assurance of salvation, the power of Christ's resurrection, and the promise of life everlasting with God.

**“Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!” – Philippians 4:4**

### Prayer

**Lord Jesus**, fill my heart with the joy of Your resurrection. Let Your victory over death inspire hope, peace, and gratitude in every area of my life. May Your joy overflow into my words, actions, and relationships, drawing others closer to You. Help me to rejoice always, trusting in Your love, grace, and eternal promises. Let the celebration of this Easter renew my spirit and strengthen my faith, so that I may share Your light and joy with everyone I encounter. **Amen.**



## **Letter from the Manse**

I recently listened to a webcast from Christian Aid, and Stewart Gillon, who is the Church of Scotland minister in Jerusalem and Tiberias, was speaking about how he was planting fruit trees near Bethlehem – olive, apricot. It was an action of hope, for the trees would grow and bear fruit and feed the community around. Sadly, some settlers in the West Bank have cut down trees and disrupted the olive harvest, but people from all the different communities – Jewish, Moslem, Christian and others – had come together to plant again, while trying to address the problem underlying it. Our Lent Study group at church has started a course on ‘Acts of Hope’, looking at passages from the book of Acts and seeing how we can put our faith and hope into action. As one theologian says, *‘Hope is not waiting for something to happen. We create hope through our actions’*.

After a cold winter with lots of ‘bad news’ on a national and global level to add to our gloom, it is good to see the spring flowers breaking through the hard soil to point to the new life that Spring brings. In the Church we have been preparing ourselves through Lent for the events of Holy Week and Easter, a precious time for us.

At a time when we are hearing so many stories of the abuse of power and privilege while innocents suffer, we follow the last week of Jesus’ earthly life, when he continued to choose the way of service and self-sacrifice and was tortured and executed on the cross at Calvary. As Christians we believe that it wasn’t the last word, but that Jesus was raised from the dead on Easter morning.

At Cheviot Churches, we have a range of services including the three-hour meditation at Hoselaw on Good Friday afternoon – you can pop in for a few minutes or for the whole time! On Easter morning we will have an early communion in the manse garden in Morebattle (if the weather holds) with our main Easter day service at Yetholm. The following Sunday we have a united service along with our friends from Kelso Old & Sprouston at Morebattle Kirk at 11am. Feel free to come to any of our services. You will be made most welcome.

On a personal note, I have announced my retirement at the end of August. By that stage I will have been ordained for over 40 years, while I will have been minister at Cheviot Churches for 7 years. Both are good biblical numbers, and I feel it is an appropriate time to retire. However, I will still be around till the end of the summer, and we have several things planned in the church over the next few months.

Have a blessed Easter

Colin

**Holy Week Services**

Sunday, 29<sup>th</sup> March – Palm Sunday services at Morebattle Kirk (Stuart Kelly) and Yetholm Kirk (Rev Colin), both at 10am

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> April – Kelso Churches Together Walk of Witness. Meet in Square at 1pm to proceed round the Kelso churches, carrying a cross.

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April – Maundy Thursday service at Linton Kirk at 6pm, including communion and Tenebrae

Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April – Good Friday meditations at Hoselaw Chapel from 2pm – 5pm. Meditations on the hour and half-hour. This reflects the three hours that Jesus was on the cross.

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April, Easter Day.

8.30am - Informal communion in manse garden (weather permitting).

10am – Easter Day service.

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**St Cuthbert’s Way**

A group of army chaplains will be walking the St Cuthbert’s way and will stay overnight at Yetholm on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> May. They will hold a short service in the early evening and speak a little on chaplaincy in the armed forces. Details nearer the time.

The annual St Cuthbert’s Day walk at Old Melrose is on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March at 2pm. The following day, 21<sup>st</sup> March, there is a walk from Wooler to St Cuthbert’s Cave. Details from Rev Colin.

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**Joint Services**

Cheviot Churches is now linked with Kelso Old & Sprouston and we seek to do things together. There will be joint services on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> April at Morebattle (11am) and on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> May at Yetholm (11am).

We also hold evening communions:

26<sup>th</sup> April (Kelso Old), 31<sup>st</sup> May (Linton), 28<sup>th</sup> June (Hoselaw), 26<sup>th</sup> July (Sprouston) and 30<sup>th</sup> August (Linton).

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**Lebanon Link**

We are looking forward to forging a link with the Presbyterian church (National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon) in Tripoli in the North of Lebanon, where Rola Sleiman is minister. She was the first woman ordained in the Arab world.

## Kimberley and Flints Fundraising Walk

Hey, I'm Kimberley, and together with my dog Flint, I'll be walking just over 75 miles this April from Morebattle to the University of Glasgow to raise funds for three sisters who are currently trapped in Gaza.

Hadeel, Heba and Malak have each been offered a place at the University of Glasgow this September. Hadeel is a nurse, Heba teaches English to secondary school students, and Malak teaches Arabic to young children. They are already contributing so much to their communities, and this walk is about helping them continue their education and move towards safer and more stable futures.

We are trying to raise over £100,000 to cover tuition fees, accommodation, living costs and the practical expenses needed to help them travel safely and begin their studies. Every contribution, no matter how small, makes a difference.

If you would like to donate, you can do so via the following link:

<https://gofund.me/a96912c31>

Donation buckets are also available locally at The Plough Inn in Yetholm, the Yetholm Deli, and Paws and Pebbles in Jedburgh. If you prefer, you can contact me at [info@spaceandtimecounselling.co.uk](mailto:info@spaceandtimecounselling.co.uk) to arrange another way to contribute. There are also forms in Morebattle Community Shop.

I would also warmly welcome anyone who might like to host a coffee morning or small fundraising event locally. In a small rural community, every little effort really matters.

Thank you so much for taking the time to read this and for any support, in whatever form it takes.

Kimberley & Flint 🐾



## **The Cheviot Hills greet Mount Lebanon**

In the 19<sup>th</sup> century under the Ottoman Empire the Presbyterian Church USA, assisted by some Ministers from the Church of Scotland, founded what is now 'ESSL' – the Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon ('Evangelical' is synonymous with 'Presbyterian'). In 2016 Earlston Church formed an informal partnership with Tripoli Evangelical Church in Lebanon to promote 'mutual prayer and support'. Since Lebanon's subsequent collapse into bankruptcy, more than twenty individuals from Earlston and elsewhere in the Borders have subscribed to a relief fund which has remitted more than \$50,000 in 4 years -- \$30 pays for just a month's Panadol, and all other medical treatment for the elderly is virtually unaffordable.

Tripoli lies in the poorest province in Lebanon and is 95% Sunni Muslim. The Minister of Tripoli Church, Rev Rola Sleiman (pronounced 'Roola'), has told us that without these remittances Tripoli Church would have ceased to exist by now. Even more remarkable, sometimes about 10% of those attending her church on Sundays are Sunni Muslim. This is because she is so popular with all religions and denominations -- In 2017 she was the first woman in the Middle East to be ordained and has visited the Borders (and the General Assembly) several times. One of the Muslim mums told us that Rola's church is 'the only place in Tripoli where we experience love and security.'

For a year or so our Mission and Outreach team and Rev Rola have been exploring routes for Cheviot Churches to join the other Borderers in their ever-strengthening relationship, and it hasn't been easy. The London government has banned travel to Lebanon because it's still under bombardment from Isreal; funding from 121 George Street has become uncertain; and our Lebanese colleagues can barely afford Panadol, let alone airfares.

However, we appear to have lift-off. We had hoped to take a Cheviot group to Cyprus in May to meet Rola on safe ground, but it transpired that no subsidy is available for Cyprus. So on May 17th a representative from Earlston and another from Cheviot are meeting Rola in Cyprus to map out a programme for the next few years; and then, provided that the gnomes of Whitehall deliver a visa (which has been a problem in the past), Rola and her organist, Jack Kahkedjian, will visit the Borders for a fortnight from August 11. Their visit will be part-funded by the Church of Scotland's Faithshare scheme.

When here they will preach, meet all interested churches individually, and present the programme we shall have previously mapped out in Cyprus in May. As well as integrating Cheviot Churches into the existing scenario, we are hoping to create a relationship between Kelso and Earlston High Schools and Tripoli Evangelical School. The latter is managed by Rola's sister, and Earlston HS has already agreed in principle.

In the Middle East the Way of the Lord is sometimes full of potholes; but at last, it may stretch smoothly between Mount Lebanon and the Cheviot Hills. Stand by to greet the travellers.

### **Tom Burnham**

**Coldingham Priory.** Plans are under way for the Cheviot Churches retreat day on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> May. This day is open to anyone wishing to come. The Priory is a lovely historic building set in an attractive village close to the coast. It has good facilities within the building. We will be joined in the morning by Peter Woods the Lothian and Borders Presbytery Mission Officer who will be walking some of the pilgrim route Forth to Farne Way during Lent. Transport to Coldingham will be shared so don't hang back if you are a non-driver. We eat and worship together during the day closing with communion and with free time after lunch though a fun exercise (voluntary) is also a possibility. I do not yet have any information about costs, but it is not likely to be high. From Easter there will be forms in the churches with more details asking for information from those wishing to attend to assist in the final arrangements regarding food and transport. Meanwhile if you have any questions or suggestions please contact me as I will be visiting Coldingham to do some more research and any queries - sooner rather than later - can be better answered.

Trish Gentry 01573 420580.

**Christian Aid.** Since nobody came forward to take this on there will be no envelope delivery in May this year. However, there have been offers for fundraising events and the first of these was a coffee morning in Morebattle which raised over £540, a splendid amount. Keep a look out for future efforts and remember that there are many ways to donate.

Information about the organisation and what it does can be found from the website. The stories there are interesting and heart-warming and I know from meeting some of the partners just what our support means.

Just put Christian Aid Scotland into your search engine and follow the various links.



Welcome to the first article from the new Management Committee of Yetholm Community Shop.

As many of you know the previous committee stood down at the AGM in December and the new Committee are now in place. They are Janice Gillies, Susan Stewart, Corrinne Gillie and Paul Freeland Cook.

We have been busy behind the scenes getting to know all the systems and processes required to run the shop on a day-to-day basis.

We are extremely grateful to the many people who have wished us well and have offered a huge amount of advice and support on a multitude of issues.

In the last month we have taken onto the shop team our previous postie Anne – Marie and she is a welcome addition to the shop team.

We have met with the volunteers and potential new volunteers and have had meetings with the shop manager as to how to develop our lovely community shop.

Another new feature is the sending out of a monthly newsletter to our shareholders and then posting this on the village noticeboards and Facebook for the community as a whole informing them of what we have been doing.

One of our biggest issues has without doubt been the change of banking signatories but as I write this, I can confirm that today (Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Feb) I have had notice from one of the banks involved that they have received the paperwork – progress!!

We are looking forward to a busy Spring and Summer in the shop and are always willing to listen to any suggestions, thoughts or comments you may have to enhance our shop as we move forward. Please let us know of any products that you would like us to stock and we will investigate how and if we can source them for you.

We live in an ever changing and challenging environment, and we sincerely hope that we can meet some if not all of the challenges ahead.

Finally, may we take this opportunity to thank the retiring committee for the time and effort they have put into bringing our community shop into existence. We now hope and plan in beginning a new phase in the life of the shop.

Susan, Janice, Paul and Corrinne.

## **MOREBATLE RECREATION GROUND UPDATE**

Over the last year we installed the Path around the perimeter which has been well received and much used. Fruit Trees have been planted, hedging plants have been donated and planted to fill in gaps around the field.

We applied for several Grants for the Playground which unfortunately were unsuccessful.

Solicitors have finally completed Registering the Strip of Land donated from the Templehall.

The late Marie France Taylor a well-known local resident and a supporter of the Recreation Ground left a legacy towards the ongoing work of the Field. We have installed A Memorial Bench in her memory.

### **Grants & Funding**

We received a Grant from Charity Begins at Home towards the Path.

We held a very successful Strawberry Tea, Craft Fair and received Donations from Local Residents and from Overseas.

We have a Just Giving crowdfunding page (if anyone would like to donate details are on the Morebattle Recreation Facebook Page)

### **Future Plans**

Continue to apply for Grants for the Playpark.

Purchase & Erect Goal Posts, Picnic Benches, Fruit Bushes.

Ongoing Fundraising.

Suggestion of Community Garden & Polyunnel - Public Meeting will be held early March

### **Catherine Mabon**

### **Dates for your diary**

#### **March**

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>** – Morebattle in Bloom Coffee Morning in Institute at 10.30am

**Saturday 7<sup>th</sup>** – Film Screening of “Mr. Burton” (12A) at 7pm in Wauchope Hall. Entry £6 at door.

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>** - Morebattle SWI meets in Institute at 7.15pm - Lynn Harper – Talk on First Aid & CPR, Competitions Horse Ornament & Home-Made First Aid Kit.

**Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup>** – Quiz Night at Plough Hotel at 8pm. Proceeds to Tiny Ticklers.

**Saturday 14<sup>th</sup>** – Film Screening of “The Penguin Lessons” at 2pm in Wauchope Hall. Entry £6 on door. **Please note this is a matinee.**

**Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup>** - Kalewater Community Council Meeting at 7pm in Morebattle Institute.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>** – Cheviot Churches Guild Coffee Morning in Morebattle Institute at 10.30am.

**Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>** – Film Screening of “The Ballad of Wallis Island “(12) at 2pm in Wauchope Hall. Entry £6 at door. **Please note this is a matinee.**

**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup>** \_ Quiz Night at Plough Hotel at 8pm. Proceeds to Borders Children’s Charity.

**Friday 27<sup>th</sup>** – Bingo Night in Wauchope Hall at 7pm. Proceeds to Yetholm Pavilion.

**Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup>** – Yetholm Community Council meet at 7pm in Youth Hall.

### **April**

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>** – Morebattle SWI meets in Institute at 7.15pm – Sarah Walker – Gentle Keep Fit. Competitions Unusual Water Bottle & Individual Salad.

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>** – Quiz Night at Plough Hotel at 8pm. Proceeds to Beltane Event.

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>** – Book Event at Yetholm Church. Further detail TBC

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>** – Morebattle Village Hall Coffee Morning at 10.30am in Morebattle Village Hall.

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>** – Morebattle in Bloom AGM in Morebattle Institute at 7pm

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>** – National Theatre Screening of “All My Sons” at 7pm in Wauchope Hall. Entry £12 at door.

**Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>** - Kalewater Community Council Meeting at 7pm in Morebattle Institute

**Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Quiz Night in Plough Hotel at 8pm. Proceeds to Borders Search and Rescue.

**Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup>** – Yetholm Community Council meet at 7pm in Youth Hall.

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup>** – Wauchope Hall AGM at 7pm in Hall.

### **May**

**Friday 1<sup>st</sup>** – Installation of 2026 Bari Gadgi and Bari Manushi at 7pm in Wauchope Hall.

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>** – Morebattle SWI meets in Institute at 7.15pm – Gordon McNally - International Rotary President. Competitions – Key Ring from Travels & Handwritten Travel Tip.

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

**Friday 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Bingo Night in Wauchope Hall at 7pm. Proceeds to Macmillan.

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>** – Morebattle in Bloom Plant Sale in Morebattle Village Hall 10-12pm

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

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup>** – National Theatre Screening of “The Playboy of the Western World at 7pm in Wauchope Hall. Entry £12 at door.

**Saturday 30<sup>th</sup>**– Coffee Morning in Aid of MS in Morebattle Institute at 10.30am

## **June**

**Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>** – Yetholm Festival Week. See noticeboards and Facebook for events.

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup>** – Morebattle SWI – Annual Summer Outing

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>**– Morebattle Institute Coffee Morning at 10.30am in Institute

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>** - Kalewater Community Council Meeting at 7pm in Institute

## **Regular Activities in Morebattle and Hownam**

HIIT Exercise Class every Sunday in Morebattle Village Hall at 6.30pm

Badminton every Monday in Morebattle Village Hall at 7pm

Tea Club every Tuesday in the Institute at 2pm.

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

Pilates every Thursday in Morebattle Village Hall at 7pm

Towford Rural meet on the first Tuesday of each month.

Bowling Every Wednesday in Hownam Hall at 7.30pm.

## **Church Diary**

**Saturday 21st March** – Cheviot Churches Guild Coffee Morning in Institute at 10.30am

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> April** – Cheviot Churches Guild AGM in the Institute at 2pm

## **Regular Activities in Yetholm**

Eddies’ Gentle Exercise Class every Monday in Youth Hall 11 – 12noon. (closed January 12<sup>th</sup>).

Indoor Bowls every Monday in Wauchope Hall 2 – 5pm. New members always welcome.

Craft Group meet every Monday in Yetholm Church from 2 – 4pm.

Coffee in Yetholm Church every Tuesday from 10.30 – 12noon. All Welcome.

Yetholm Community Lunch every Tuesday 11.45 – 1.30  
Badminton every Tuesday in Wauchope Hall 1.30 – 3pm.  
Eddies' Fitness every Tuesday in Wauchope Hall 6.30 – 7.30pm.  
Yetholm Village Choir in Youth Hall every Wednesday from 10.30 –  
12noon. New members welcome.  
Scrabble every Wednesday in Youth Hall 2 – 4pm.  
Scottish Country Dancing every Thursday in Youth Hall 2 – 4pm.  
Penny's Art Class every Friday in Youth Hall 10 – 12noon.

**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 21<sup>st</sup> June 2026**  
**[j.stewart134@btinternet.com](mailto:j.stewart134@btinternet.com), [johnmabon431@btinternet.com](mailto:johnmabon431@btinternet.com)**

### **Register**

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**Wedding:**

**Baptism:**

**Deaths: Anne Brown, Donald McKenzie.**

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### **Early Spring at Yetholm Yewtree Allotments**

As I write this, in late February, any passer-by happening to glance over the allotment wall could be forgiven for thinking that not much is happening. No green shoots, no blossom, the only crops still in the ground a few brassicas and leeks (looking tired now, but still very good to eat). But linger a little while and the chances are that you will glimpse one of the early bird gardeners, as they start to prepare their plots for the season ahead. Each mild, dry day is an opportunity for weeding, removing dead foliage, and spreading compost or other organic matter on the soil, while paths between beds can be topped up with woodchip, bark or shredded fruit canes.

Soon it will be time to sow the first broad beans, and green manures such as phacelia or clover to cover and nourish the soil. Here in the Borders, our main sowing season arrives a little later than the seed packets would have

you believe. I learnt this in my first season on the plot, happily following instructions to sow beetroot in March... Well, that did not work out as promised, but a later sowing in May certainly did.

By the time this edition of *The Cheviot* comes out, those plot holders intending to grow potatoes will have set their seed tubers out to 'chit'. In six weeks or so these will be sprouting thick shoots in shades of white, pink and green, depending on variety, and will be ready to plant out. Many of our members buy their seed potatoes from the Borders Organic Gardeners (BOG) Potato Day held at Springwood in Kelso on the first Sunday in March. That event is also a great opportunity to buy shallot sets, which can be planted immediately.

Of course, not all our members are of the early bird variety! Some are too busy, or need longer, brighter, warmer days to pull them back to the plot. That is absolutely fine, and by the end of the season we will all be in more or less the same place.

Our membership has grown this year, but we usually have plots available, with the possibility of smaller, 'starter' plots for those daunted by the idea of a larger space. So if you think the allotment life might be for you, or even if you are just curious and would like to know more about the YYAA, please do get in touch by emailing [yetholmallotments@gmail.com](mailto:yetholmallotments@gmail.com)

**Ann Marie Wareham**  
**Secretary, YYAA**

### **'Out of the gloom....'**

Ms. Birdbath Snr is not very switched on, when it comes to remembering to use her hearing aids, which lead a very cosy life in a pouch inside her handbag most of the time.

However, one day in early February she had actually fitted her 'hearings' and they were working beautifully. So, when she tottered out of the Co-op with her wonky trolley in the dismal dusk of yet another drizzly day, she was astounded to hear a song thrush singing for all its worth beyond the carpark, defying the rain. It was too dark to spot the tree and the bird, but, nevertheless, there it was, lifting her spirits with its spontaneous beauty. She drove home in a very different mood from the subdued, pessimistic one of her journeys into Kelso earlier that day.

She was probably not alone in having trudged through those dreary days of January and February – even though other parts of the UK were much worse off in terms of weather and daylight. Even the Birdbath household pet, who loves the great outdoors, was spending most of the day on her

favourite Peppa Pig blanket on Ms. Birdbath's bed. Muddy boots and damp anoraks spread a miasma of misery in entrance halls and cloakrooms countrywide. But that thrush was enough to awake a sense in this scribbler that there might be something more to find, concealed under wet leaves and in puddles.

Where did those snowdrops come from? Were those hellebores lurking in the border? A determined scraping away of dead leaves revealed some neglected daffodil shoots, rather yellowish until lighter days have greened them up. There are crocuses and hazel catkins on the by-pass!

At the risk of sounding like 'Patience Strong at her strongest', there are unmistakable signs that we have turned a corner, and there are sights and sounds to raise the spirit. The days are getting longer and lighter! Let's carry on squelching through the mud, occasionally raising our eyes from the potholes and puddles to look at blossom and birds. After all, one person's mud is another person's happiness – to quote Flanders & Swann's Hippopotamus:

'Mud, mud, glorious mud! Nothing quite like it for cooling the blood! So, follow me, follow! Down to the hollow! And there let us wallow in GLORIOUS mud!'

The Book of Job says: 'How great is God – beyond our understanding.... He draws up the drops of water, which distil as rain to the streams; the clouds pour down their moisture and abundant showers fall on the human race.... Now no-one can look at the sun, bright as it is in the skies after the wind has swept them clean'.

### Yetholm News

It has been a really busy term here at Yetholm so far. We have welcomed new staff, Mrs. Elliott and Miss Mulvie. We have also said a very fond farewell to Mrs. Luke who left us after 23 years at Yetholm, where she made a huge difference to many children and families over the years. We wish her a very happy retirement. We had a great team of 4 pupils who travelled to Kelso High School to represent the school in the Kelso Area Rotary Quiz. Idris, Callie, Isabelle and Chloe did a fantastic job with some very tricky questions.



On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of March our very own Idris went down to Broomlands Primary in Kelso to take part in the P6 boys Cross country race for the whole of Kelso. He was amazing and came 3<sup>rd</sup> place!

## Morebattle News

This last term has seen us say goodbye to some staff who have been part of the Morebattle team from between 10 and 25 years. We said farewell to Mrs. Thomson, Mrs. Wauchope and Mrs. Maxwell. We wish them all a very happy retirement after supporting our young people and families for all these years.

We were so proud of our team of 4 who represented the school in the Annual Rotary Club Primary School Quiz for the Kelso Area. Martha, Ahria, Iona and Elsie. They did a fantastic job and won 1<sup>st</sup> place! They will now go onto the Scottish borders round on the 14<sup>th</sup> at Council Head Quarters.

On March the 2<sup>nd</sup> we sent 7 pupils to the Cross-Country Race down at Broomlands. In each category there were many participants and we did incredibly well. In the P6 girls Isla placed 7<sup>th</sup> overall. In the P6 boys Hamish came 2<sup>nd</sup> and only just missed out on 1<sup>st</sup>. In the P7 boys Heath placed 5<sup>th</sup> and in the P7 Girls we held an impressive 2<sup>nd</sup> place for Martha, 3<sup>rd</sup> place for Iona, 4<sup>th</sup> place for Peggy and 5<sup>th</sup> place for Elsie. An amazing achievement for our school!



Spring seems to be dragging its heels this year! The snowdrops are out, but it would be good to see the end of the persistent drizzle, grey skies and wind which seem to have discouraged the walkers. Despite the weather, it has been a steady start of the year for the shop. The new stocks of fresh meat and pies for Denholm Butchers are proving popular, as are the new supplies of local tablet and jams.

You may notice some new young faces behind the till particularly at weekends. They are local teenagers who are taking the opportunity to gain work experience, with some using it to contribute to their Duke of Edinburgh Awards. We are also looking for new volunteers to join our team particularly to give us extra support through the busy summer months. Do please pop into the shop or contact us through our website or Facebook page if interested, you would be very welcome.

The big news for the shop is that we have taken on the lease for the Butcher's Shop. One of the issues that the Board has been discussing for quite some time was the lack of storage and effective office workspace in the shop itself. We had considered the possibility of adding an extension but were well aware that this would be costly and extremely disruptive. So, when we became aware in mid-October that the lease was still available this seemed an excellent and cost-effective opportunity to solve our space problems and bring the Butcher's Shop under the village's community enterprise umbrella.

We have a three-year lease but intend to seek funding as soon as possible to allow us to buy the premises, and we have made preliminary approaches to the South of Scotland Enterprise and to the Scottish Land Fund.

Over and above our storage needs, we do have surplus space which we are hoping to open as either an artist's community workshop or as a gallery showcasing local artists' and crafters' wares. We want to use the space to add something new and interesting for the village and for our visitors. We hope to bring you more news on this within the next few weeks.

## **The Buddha on my mantelpiece**

I want to tell you about the Buddha sitting on my mantelpiece. He comes from Vietnam, where he was crafted from a piece of wood. He is sitting on a traditional lotus pedestal, with a strong back and open-heart posture, and he is smiling with his eyes, which are closed. I will tell you how I know this. Try sitting with a good posture, close your eyes, and imagine your eyes are smiling. Notice what that feels like. That is how he looks.

So now I will tell you why he is sitting there. I read a story about a young man who dreamed he saw the Buddha, sitting meditating, and witnessed an arrow shot at the Buddha so that it pierced his chest. The young man was very distressed, but the Buddha just continued calmly sitting there, very slowly growing bigger, and bigger, and bigger until the arrow in his chest was no more than a small mark on the surface.

A while ago, I made a new friend. It was a friendship I valued. This was a few years after my husband died, and for a while, I couldn't believe how happy I was. But then a misunderstanding caused this friend to become very angry and very shortly afterwards break off her friendship with me. I felt, afterwards, I understood her reaction to her anger, knowing the circumstances in which she herself has been a victim of anger - with much more difficult consequences to deal with. What I didn't know soon enough, at the time, was what I needed to do to preserve the friendship. I thought if I explained, she would understand. It seemed such a simple thing to me. But I was wrong. By the time I learned and understood what I should have done - namely offer an immediate and complete apology - it was already too late. (It was, incidentally, a very steep learning curve in understanding some of the problems of modern i.e. not face-to-face communication.)

However, I did know how to deal with the pain of the loss - be like that Buddha - as best as I could: put my hand over my heart, where it hurt, acknowledge the pain, the loss, allow myself to feel the hurt but not be overwhelmed by it. It's a bit difficult to describe acknowledge it but don't

be defined by it. With time, the hurt diminished, until it was no longer there.

So that is why the Buddha sits there, smiling with his closed eyes, teaching only suffering and the cessation of suffering - to remind me of the story and how it helped me. He might only be a piece of wood, but his presence is very calming, nonetheless.

I have been reading Marina Cantacuzino's "The forgiveness project" and thinking about the story of an Aboriginal pastor from the Stolen Generation of Aboriginals who says when he has to deal with racist acts from people who don't even know they are being racist, he has to walk away and deal with his rage and anger by saying to himself "OK Ray, forgive that person." He says if he didn't forgive, then the pain of the past would always be present.

### **Ann Thorns**



# Linton Kirk Heritage Appeal



## **Linton Kirk – an update on plans to save the church.**

We're making good progress with our plans to purchase Linton Kirk and to secure its future as a place of worship, important family celebrations and local events.

From our previous posts, you'll recall we have been given exclusive bidder status by Church of Scotland General Trustees which means we can buy the church and prevent it going on the open market if we can raise the agreed purchase price (£35,000).

Our provisional date for purchase was originally set for early April. This may be extended if necessary, and a specific date hasn't been confirmed yet.

At Linton Kirk Heritage Appeal (LKHA), we've been busy preparing our fundraising campaign, researching background details for Linton Kirk and engaging with Church of Scotland to agree formal Heads of Terms for the purchase. We've also been speaking to other community groups who have saved their local church in a similar way.

We're currently engaged with General Trustees on the question of access and car-parking space which needs more clarity, but otherwise most of the ingredients of the purchase are now in place with just fundraising to complete.

Our sincere thanks to all of you who have generously supported our fundraising campaign. We distributed some leaflets during Christmas and

New Year services at Linton, and these have been left in the other Cheviot Churches and the village shops.

I'm pleased to share that we have now launched our public Crowdfunder campaign, and you may see some local publicity associated with that. We're also writing to some of the families who have an historic association with the Kirk building. With just a month to reach our target, we welcome any support you can help us with. The target amount for the online appeal has been set at £30,000.

For those who would still like to support us, a reminder that you can make a donation directly to the LKHA appeal using the account details on the leaflets which are in the local churches and shops, or you can visit our Crowdfunder page at:

<https://crowdfunder.co.uk/p/linton-kirk-heritage-appeal>

You can also read more about Linton Kirk, and our plans to open its doors for visitors and anyone with an interest in the history and heritage of this special place, on our new website:

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

For those who made it along to a starlit watchnight service at Linton Kirk on Christmas Eve, you'll understand the special place Linton Kirk has in the hearts of so many of us and we look forward to celebrating its 900-year anniversary in 2027 with you, if we're successful with this venture.

### **Simon Oldham**

Treasurer

Linton Kirk Heritage Appeal

Registered charity no.: SC007952

Admin@lintonkirk.org



## **Kelso Swift Project 2026**

Swifts have been about for many years, but are 60% down in numbers, due to nest site loss and declining insect populations.

We can help with the former, see below.

They nest in the eaves of older buildings, but modern construction and renovation precludes that.

As a result, they have nowhere to go!

In 2024, 50 boxes were successfully erected in Duns, hoping to return its former reputation, as ‘the town of the screaming skies’.

In 2025, 102 more were erected in Chirnside and Coldstream.

We propose to erect 100 more this year in Kelso.

Your help is needed with sightings of swifts and potential box locations so, we can build out from existing populations.

Your assistance is urgently required for: -

Canvassing with leaflet drops from February onwards

Painting in Duns Men’s Shed in March

Help with box erection in April

Monitoring calling devices May/August.

Can you help in any way with any of the above sections of the project?

Can you offer a 2 storey eaves or gable, preferably N or E facing and around 5 metres high?

Can you find £25 only, to sponsor a box or indeed multiple boxes for these birds returning from Africa?

Please contact Gordon Stirrat, group leader: 2, Printonan, Duns TD11 3HX

01890 880208 or 07719 584820 or [gordonstirrat@btinternet.com](mailto:gordonstirrat@btinternet.com)

Payment for donations and box sponsorship is very easy. By cash or cheque

or direct into Bank of Scotland: James G Stirrat 80-18-66 00179571



## **High Street Deli Yetholm**

What a busy time at the Deli, with Valentine's Day, Mother's Day, and Easter all following in quick succession, and all deserve special treats made by our lovely bakers.

This year we will have Mother's Day afternoon tea boxes to order, making it easy to treat your mum (or yourself).

Our pies and cakes are very popular and not to forget our range of curries and samosas. Ready to tickle your tastebuds.

Why not pop in for a panini, build your own baguette and see our menu for hot food and specials. Our very popular fresh pizzas and chicken burgers sell out quickly and can be ordered for collection.

We are always trying new pie fillings, breakfast pies, cheeseburger pies and curry pies being some of the most recent. Which would be your favourite?

Not to forget our fresh baked bread and morning rolls, all sell out quickly. Pick up some groceries when you're around and maybe wine or beer to complement your food.

Don't forget to try Lancashire Crisps, made on the farm from their potatoes. Really popular in the Borders too!

## **Cheviot Churches Elders and Districts**

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

**Church Services – Yetholm, Linton and Morebattle**  
**Please see notices for opening times for private prayer and reflection.**

**Yetholm** every Sunday at 10.00 a.m.

**Morebattle** every Sunday at 10.00am. except  
1st Sunday when we meet at **Linton**.

**Hoselaw** is always open for private devotion and hosts occasional services.  
The Tuesday Weekly Prayer Service is now regular following the Coffee Morning  
at **YETHOLM** Kirk. Please give any prayer requests to Rev. Colin or Kathleen  
Bates. Everyone will be made very welcome.

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

**Minister:**

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

**Session Clerk:**

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

**Treasurer:**

Simon Oldham  
Mainhouse Farm Cottages, Kelso TD5 8AA  
Tel: 01573440770 Email: [simonoldham@freeuk.com](mailto:simonoldham@freeuk.com)

**Safeguarding Co-Ordinator:**

Vacant – appointment pending

**Roll Keeper:**

Pippa Emerson 01573420279

**Committee Convenors:**

**Mission and Outreach:** Melanie Eve 07807148496  
**Children and Youth Ministry Team:** Graeme Watson 01573 420602  
**Ways and Means with Stewardship:** Ann Harvey 07789885395  
**Worship Committee:** Rev. Colin Johnston 01573 440539

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