

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

CHEVIOT



Winter 2019

Prayer Corner



Robert Louis Stevenson's beautiful Christmas prayer encourages readers to reflect on the true meaning of Christmas.

A Christmas Prayer

By Robert Louis Stevenson

Loving Father,
help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.
Close the door of hate
and open the door of love all over the world.
Let kindness come with every gift
and good desires with every greeting.
Deliver us from evil by the blessing
which Christ brings,
and teach us to be merry with clear hearts.
May the Christmas morning
make us happy to be thy children,
and Christmas evening bring us to our beds
with grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven,
for Jesus' sake. Amen.



Prayer for the New Year 2020

We ask that you will make all things new, in our hearts, in our minds, in our lives, for this coming year. We pray for a fresh understanding of your coming into our world so long ago. Keep your words of truth planted firm within us, and help us to keep focused on what is pure and right. Give us the power to be obedient to your word and help us to demonstrate our love for you by being kind and loving to all we meet this year. Amen.



Birdbath's Christmas Party

There is no shame in having a bit of a blow-out at Christmas, provided (and it's a big ask) we are happy to share it with others and ensure that no-one is left hungry or lonely or uninvited.

The Bible is full of rather surprising imagery of the "Kingdom of God" as an outrageously rowdy party to which all are welcome; and if we believe that at Christmas God comes among us as a helpless baby to share our human life, what is not to celebrate in that?

Rev. Birdbath's feathered friends deserted him all summer, leaving nuts and crumbs and fat balls untouched as they enjoyed Nature's plenty; but with the first frosts they began to return, tapping on his window, pointing to empty bird feeders and dropping hints about toast crusts. Little do they know that actually, sentimental old fool that he is, he has already bought them a Christmas treat. It will be mixed with a little oatmeal, crumbs and a sprinkling of dried fruit, and offered on the bird table just when the days are at their shortest and darkest and most dismal for little birds.

It is s**t, courtesy of a company called A***a. Can you guess?

Birdbath will use any left overs on Boxing Day to make a d*****g, which will be his treat, when the birds have had their party.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS!

Cheviot Christmas Letter

Dear Friends,

Days are now darkening, and the weather is getting decidedly nippy. After 25 years of living in hot countries, I am trying to get my head round central heating and thermostats and where best to buy electric blankets. It is, however, wonderful to wrap up well and enjoy the night sky and the crisp frosty mornings.

I feel I have settled well into the manse and enjoy being part of the communities in our parish. I am very much looking forward to my first Christmas here. There will be a number of different services and activities taking place, starting on Advent Sunday (1st December) with Carols round the Tree in Morebattle Institute to the Christmas Eve services in Hownam (6.30pm) and Linton (11.30pm). These will capture something of the mystery and magic of Christmas, when families and friends come together. It will culminate in our short family service on Christmas Day at Morebattle Church at 11.15am. There is a more modern carol, 'Come and join the celebration: it's a very special day...Jesus Christ is born today!', and Christmas is certainly a time when we celebrate the birth of Christ in Bethlehem. Needless to say, everyone is very welcome to attend any of our services, the full list of which is published elsewhere in the Cheviot and on the notice boards in the villages.

However, there are always those who find Christmas a difficult time, perhaps because of bereavement or other reasons. As Cheviot churches we are invited to join our friends at St Andrew's Kelso for their Blue Christmas service on Thursday 19th December.

But then the Christmas story is not the cosy, sentimental story we often think. It is a story of a long, hard journey of a heavily pregnant woman to Bethlehem and birth in a cold draughty stable. It is also the story of the massacre of the innocents by Herod's troops, and the flight of the holy family to Egypt as refugees to escape Herod's wrath. The aftermath of Christmas is really quite scary, but also speaks to us very much today.

I spent almost 3 years in Egypt, where the Egyptian Church very much stressed Egypt's role in providing a safe space for the holy family. There I became involved in a refugee project called StARS, which provided help, counselling, education and legal advice to over 26,000 refugees. The refugees were from Syria, Sudan and Yemen, from Ethiopia and Eritrea and many other places, but all ended up in Cairo and found in StARS a safe and welcoming place. StARS was based at St Andrew's Church Cairo, but opened its doors to people of all faith communities and none. I was very proud of the work that took place there, especially

among the unaccompanied youth, as it provided so much hope in difficult situations.

I wish you all a happy and blessed Christmas. But amid all the festivities and joy of the season, let us remember those who do not share our joy, from the homeless of our cities to refugees who have left everything familiar to make dangerous journeys to a foreign land and as we celebrate at this special time, let us not forget the reason for our festivity – the birth of the child in a manger!

Wishing you Peace and Joy at Christmas

Colin

Coffee at the Kirk

This will be held on the following dates: 8th January, 5th February, 4th March and 1st April in 2020. All are welcome at Yetholm Church from 10.30 to 12 noon.



Looking ahead to Easter 2020

In preparation for Easter 2020 the Ecumenical LENT discussion course will commence on WEDNESDAY the 4th MARCH - 2020.

The 5 session York course entitled Superstar written by Rev David Welbourne will meet in various homes and be led by Rev Colin Johnston of Cheviot Churches. The times are 10.30 am until 12 noon.

The dates for your diary :- Wednesday 4th March, 11th, 18th, 25th, and 1st April 2020. The course booklet costs £4.00 and is available from Arthur Bates 01573 420259 together with details of the venues.

KELSO ROTARY CLUB – serving the community

Anyone passing Kelso Abbey on the evening of 24th October would have noticed something rather strange. The usual floodlighting had changed and was, for one night only, purple! This was the fault of none other than the Rotary Club of Kelso. For nearly 35 years, Rotary Clubs all over the world have been working to eradicate polio, and the Kelso Club is no different. But although the purple light, signifying the purple ink painted on a child's finger when they are vaccinated, is a very public sign that the Club is very much alive and kicking in Kelso, a lot of what we do is less obvious to the town in general. During this past month, we have held two of our many school events – the Young Chef competition and the Young Musician competition.

The Cooking event takes the form of a Masterchef type tournament with each competitor having an hour and a half to prepare, cook and serve a two course meal. On a limited budget (kindly donated by Sainsbury's) they must do everything under the watchful eyes – and probing questions - of the judges, this year being the head chefs from the Border Hotel and the Cross Keys Hotel. All of the participants received their own Rotary Chef apron, courtesy of the Cross Keys, who also donated the winners white apron and toque. Our winner goes on to a Borders area final in Hawick, and then (fingers crossed) to the South of Scotland final later in the year.

The musicians all performed to a small audience of Rotarians and our two judges – Ann Kerr and Gwen Mabon. Instruments included a trombone, a guitar, xylophone, piano, violin and drum kit. A good standard was presented by all the students, although at different stages in their musical learning, and the judges chose a young classical guitarist to go forward to the Borders area final in Selkirk. The winners received gift vouchers to be spent as they wish. Once again, we were very grateful for the people in the community who give their time to us as judges for our events – without their help we couldn't do all we do.

More events are planned for the year involving both Kelso High School and all the feeder primary schools, including Yetholm and Morebattle. We support Technology students, Business Studies with a weekend residential course, Young Artists, Writers and Photographers. For the Primary schools only we also have our schools quiz and of course, our Schools Day for all P5s across the Borders which we run in partnership with the Border Union and is a mini Highland Show just for them – a wonderful, educative day for all (including many of the adults!).

But it's not all about the youngsters in our community. In Rotary, like everywhere else, we are aware of the effects of dementia on an aging population. We are working with Alzheimer Scotland to help them get their Dementia Friends courses out into the Kelso area. We provide the venue and let people know about the short training exercises, and Alzheimer Scotland provides the trainers. Our aim is to make Kelso and the surrounding area fully dementia friendly. Local shops, businesses and organisations are all welcome to send representatives along to a convenient 45minute talk – if you would like to join one of the free sessions, just contact Heather McInally on 07840 904707 or email kelsorotaryfb@gmail.com.

Later in the year I will let you know more about our activities in the Rotary Club of Kelso, but anyone who would like to know more about the work of Rotary International both at home and abroad don't hesitate to get in touch, or join us at our weekly meetings in the Cross Keys Hotel on a Thursday evening at 5.30 for a meal at 6pm.

The National Guild Convenor's Visit, October 13th 2019

These days it isn't unusual to come into Yetholm Kirk on a Sunday morning to be met with a friendly buzz of welcome – but when extra chairs are being set out, that is a really good sign! Since this was to be a joint service, it was lovely to have so many folks from Morebattle and Linton already seated, but then we could see Guild members from other parts of the presbytery and beyond, who had made much longer journeys in order to be with us for the visit of Marian Macintyre, the National Convenor of the Church of Scotland Guild.

Marian and her husband Tom are well known to Colin, who was able to give us an enthusiastic introduction to his old friends before taking his seat in the body of the kirk, handing the service over to the Guild. Marian then shared with us episodes from her life as a Christian; since our current theme for the session is 'One Journey – Many Roads: Companions on the Way', her personal journey and the people who helped her on her walk of faith made for a very relevant talk. What made it even more vivid was that she illustrated the different chapters of her story with songs – from 'Jesus wants me for a Sunbeam' to 'Brother, Sister, let me serve you'. Marian's clear, true voice brought out the truths and messages of these varied songs, sung a capella, in a fresh way which we won't easily forget.

Relaxing afterwards in the time-honoured way of scones, cakes, coffee and tea, Tom and Marian told us they had been very struck by the warmth of the welcome they had received and the friendship reaching out to them from the congregation. So thank you, Tom and Marian, for fitting us in on your hectic journey around the South of Scotland and North of England (where they were seeing family) – and thank you, everybody in the congregation, for that warm, loving welcome. And a special thanks to those who baked and brewed in the kitchen, and to Susan, whose original idea it was to take advantage of the space in Marian's diary and invite her to Cheviot Churches.

Margaret Rustad



Love Actually

Every Boxing Day people across the land resolve that next Christmas will be different. In January, when the bills arrive, they promise that next Christmas will be simpler, less indulgent and cheaper. According to Money Supermarket, almost 10% of people will still be paying for Christmas well into next year. Perhaps next year, by refusing to conform to every tradition and everyone's expectations, we will recapture the wonder, the magic and the awe of Christmas and 'remember what it's all about'.

November magazines include articles on how to approach Christmas – 'Twenty Six Ways to Simplify Christmas'; or 'Five Reasons Why I'm Not Simplifying Christmas'. There are some radical work-saving, stress-busting, money-saving strategies out there. One woman recommends leaving the Christmas tree fully decorated all year. Hers has been in the corner of the sitting room, festooned in tinsel, baubles, lights and all, for *sixteen* years. It's true. For most of the year it is wrapped in sheets with the reminder, 'Do not open until December'.

Perhaps, after all, even on Christmas Day, reflecting on how simple or how lavish it has been is to miss the point. Maybe, as we approach Christmas, we do not need a to-do-list and a credit card so much as a Grinch-like revelation:

'Then the Grinch thought of something he hadn't before!
What if Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store?
What if Christmas ... perhaps ... means a little bit more!
(Dr Seuss, *How the Grinch Stole Christmas!*)

A German proverb goes: 'The main thing is that the main thing remains the main thing'. That seems a pretty good definition of simplicity to me: recognising the extraneous and superfluous for what it is and focusing on 'the main thing'. Authentic simplicity has to be an inward reality before it bears the fruit of an outward lifestyle. Attempts to create the outer beauty without the inner actuality are doomed to legalism and frustration. 'The main thing' is to recognise the significance of that first Christmas, the Nativity. The birth of Jesus Christ was marked by astonishing simplicity. The highpoint of history, the climax of eternity, was not marked with grandeur, pomp and pageant. Rather, a pregnant teenager had no option but to deliver her child in the stark and smelly surroundings of a stable, the only warmth provided by the body heat of sheltering animals. The first visitors were shepherds, who were considered the lowest of the low. Jesus, the Bible tells us, did not come with majesty and opulence, but 'full of grace and truth', to reveal God – a God who is love – and to bridge the gap between us and that lavishly loving God.

Christmas is ultimately about love ... actually. As Christina Rossetti's carol puts it, 'Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love divine; Love was born at Christmas.' Perhaps, as we make our plans, we should be less concerned with how simple or extravagant our Christmas will be. Perhaps the touchstone of all that we do should be love: and how we respond to the extravagant love of God and how we love those around us.

Mission & Discipleship Church Without Walls Team

Church Support of Young Families

Karen has two young children and goes to a weekly Toddler Group run by her local church. She says, 'I've lived here for most of my life and never really felt part of the community until coming to this group. It's very friendly and welcoming here, with a nice atmosphere. I have made good friends and value the support and encouragement I get.'

Susanne says, 'Going to the local Toddler Group is an opportunity to get out of the house, meet others and have a hot drink. It is also a link to the church and an opportunity to ask questions and explore things spiritually.'

What are the issues faced by young families in your area? What provision and support is available to them? Engaging with families and children in their earliest years is a significant response to local need. 52% of the UK's under-5s attend a church-based toddler group. Toddler groups strengthen and support parents to care for their children. Adults and children stay together as they take part in a range of play, music, story and craft activities and parenting support and relationships are built. Parenting young children can be an exhausting and isolating time; greater numbers of young families may have no family support nearby and mental illness among parents of young children is increasing. Support and unconditional friendship and a safe place to go with their children can provide a lifeline. This is all the more needed following reductions in local authority provision.

Churches that have an outward focus and make connections with needs in their community make a significant impact on the lives of many individuals but also see the life and service of their church growing and deepening. Through understanding and responding to the needs of young families through intentional loving, sharing, praying, and serving, these groups can have a great impact on the lives of both parents and children.

The toddler group may be a person's first contact with a church or a place where they might reconnect with church, leading on to deeper connections with faith and the church: baptism, Messy Church, bible studies, parenting and marriage courses, food bank provision, etc.

There is a direct connection between the experiences of early childhood and subsequent adult flourishing. Where children have a good foundation in their early years, building roots of security, identity and wellbeing, educational attainment and even brain development is strengthened and improved. The single most important factor influencing a child's intellectual and social development is the quality of parenting and care they receive. It is very encouraging to see what a contribution churches are making to support parents and young children through their support of families and young children.

Visit www.churchofscotland.org.uk for more information and ideas about church work with toddler groups.

Mission & Discipleship - Congregational Learning Team

Update News on the Yetholm Village Shop – November 2019



We would like to thank everyone for their continued interest and input on this important project.

Here's what has been happening since the last update bulletin.

What is the status of the survey?

The survey questionnaire was delivered to every household in the village and surrounding area. We had an overwhelming response to the survey, with 226 completed questionnaires being returned. This represents a response rate of over 45%, which is very high and extremely encouraging. Thank you to everyone who completed a questionnaire and to our team of volunteers who distributed them. Congratulations to Nancy Buglass whose name was drawn as the lucky prizewinner of a bottle of vintage port!

What happens next?

The questionnaire responses are being analysed, which is taking a little longer than expected due to the high number of surveys that were returned. This information will be shared with the community as soon as it is available.

What progress has been made with the application for a preliminary grant from Scottish Land Fund?

Since the last bulletin, a Request for Proposal (RFP) has been issued to a number of firms to undertake the valuation of the premises and a structural survey. We have also issued another RFP to choose a consultant to assist in developing a business plan for the shop in the future. This is a requirement of the SLF in order for us to apply for Stage 1 “technical funding “. Responses have been received and we will be submitting our application for a Stage 1 grant by November 8. We anticipate a response to our application by mid-December.

Where can I find more information on this project, or get answers to my questions?

There has been a high level of interest expressed by many in the community, so we want to make sure that there are multiple channels of communication to keep everyone updated.

Information will be posted on the Facebook pages of both the Village Shop and Yetholm – What’s on visitor guide, as well as on Yetholm Online. We also plan to use the bulletin boards at the shop and other local merchants, and provide articles for publication in The Cheviot.

Will we need to add more people to the Steering Group?

As this project evolves we will undoubtedly be looking for additional skills and resources, and we would again like to thank all those who have already expressed a willingness to help. In this regard, we have asked Kay Greenhorn and Neil McIntyre (both residents of Town Yetholm) to join the group and they are both actively participating in a number of our current activities.

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

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

John Stobart – jstobart.home@googlemail.com t: 01573 420531

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

Graeme Wallace – graemwme@icloud.com t: 01573 420677

Neil McIntyre – ngmcintyre@hotmail.com t: 01573 420560

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



Poppy Appeal

Once more the Poppy Appeal has come and gone.

On behalf of Poppy Scotland thanks to all those who donated so generously to the Yetholm and District Poppy Appeal, amount raised £864.

Grateful thanks to all volunteers who gave their time selling poppies door to door where the bulk of the money is raised ,to businesses for allowing collecting tins in their premises and to Harry Sangster for his immaculate accounting .

A very special thank you to the children of Yetholm Primary School for the striking poppy paintings on display in Yetholm Parish Church on Remembrance Sunday, admired and commented upon.

From Poppy Scotland:

“Money raised from the Scottish Poppy Appeal and Poppy Scotland’s year-round fundraising enables us to deliver support to members of the Armed Forces in Scotland by providing tailored funding and assistance.

The charity also funds services in advice, employment, housing, mental health, mobility and respite.”

Carol Butler

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 20th March 2020

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

anne.scottbrown@btinternet.com

‘THE BIG CLIMATE CONVERSATION’ IN YETHOLM

In summer the Scottish Government published a document called The Big Climate Conversation to get the public’s views on the climate emergency and what actions they should take to reduce Scotland’s carbon emissions. We in Greener Yetholm decided to run this workshop in the village, to enable the people of Yetholm to have their say and their opinions represented to government. After a trial run of the information pack with 9 people, we ran two sessions in the Youth Hall, attended by 28 in total. The participants in each session were divided into 2 groups for the discussion; and it was interesting to see very similar concerns arising from each group.

The first part covered worries about climate change, the term ‘climate emergency’ and targets for net-zero carbon emissions. Most people saw the situation as very serious, a huge threat to our existence, requiring a big change in how we live, although a few were less sure and some felt that China, India and the USA had more responsibility. There was concern that targets to reach net-zero were too modest and scepticism about politicians’ willingness or abilities to achieve them, but most agreed that we would need huge changes in individual and societal attitudes in order to succeed.

The next two activities looked at a number of changes that experts have suggested Scotland will need to adopt in order to reach net-zero emissions by 2045 and the actions to achieve it. These included flying less, reducing meat consumption, improving home energy efficiency, greater use of renewable energy and electric cars, improving town planning to prioritise public transport, walking and cycling, phasing out North Sea oil and gas extraction, building more off-shore wind turbines, incentivising tree planting, and creating a ‘circular economy’ ie manufacturers must make products that can be repaired and easily recycled; with a bigger market for second hand and refurbished goods.

Many participants were already taking positive measures, like reducing car journeys, eating less meat and more local produce, improving home insulation, reducing heat and energy consumption, recycling, planting trees, renouncing flying or paying carbon offsets. Some had been keen to install double-glazing and solar panels, but had been thwarted by ‘conservation area’ regulations, whereby the aesthetics of the building had taken priority. One person highlighted problems with current tree planting incentives, with small farmers unable to get help planting woods on marginal land, yet big mono-cultural schemes get government funding.

There was a variety of opinions on what the Scottish government should be doing to mitigate climate change, with some agreeing that you should

pay more if you fly more, we should have more offshore wind-turbines, phase out oil and gas extraction and increase tree planting. There were strong feelings that food miles should be considered, even taxed; and that building standards and housing stock should be improved, with planners needing to change their attitudes in conservation areas. Most agreed that we need to adopt a circular economy to reduce waste and climate emissions; and that big investment and technological advances were needed to reduce transport and home heating emissions to zero.

Overall people felt that we need to learn from best practice in other countries and to have a proper joined-up strategy to link all these issues, which incoming governments and politicians cannot just change. It was suggested that climate impact assessments should be part of every local and national government decision. There was acceptance that a huge amount of public education is needed to understand and change behaviours, as well as some incentives and an element of compulsion.

The outcome of the discussions were summarised and 3 feedback forms submitted to the Climate Change Division of the Scottish Government. We sent copies to our local Councillor Simon Mountford, who is sharing the comments with his colleagues in Scottish Borders Council. A big thank you to everyone who gave up their time to take part.

Lesley Blackthorn
lesleyblackthorn@gmail.com

Carols Round the Christmas Tree



Sunday 1st December – Carol Singing round the tree and Switching on Christmas Lights in Institute Grounds at 6.30pm with refreshments to follow in Institute.

A Festival of Nine Lessons & Carols
The Yetholm Village Choir
Sunday December 22nd at 7 pm in Yetholm Parish Church
Admission Free
Information : Geoffrey Emerson 01 573 420 279

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 12)

Coffee at the Kirk is held on the first Wednesday of each month (October to April) 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. No meeting 23rd and 30th December.

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.

December

Sunday 1st Carol Singing in the Institute and Switching on Christmas Lights at 6.30pm with refreshments to follow.

Wednesday 4th Quiz Night in Plough Hotel at 8pm. Proceeds to Kelso Amateur Operatic Society (K.A.O.S).

Thursday 5th Bingo Night in Wauchope Hall at 7pm. Proceeds to Festival Week.

Saturday 7th Clic Sergeant Coffee Morning in the Institute at 10.30am.

Saturday 7th Yetholm School P.T.A Coffee Morning in Youth Hall from 10 – 2pm. Santa Claus will make a visit!!

Saturday 7th Film Night in Wauchope Hall Yetholm at 7pm. “Stan and Ollie”(PG). Entry £6 at door.

Monday 9th Hearing Aid Clinic Wauchope Hall 10 – 11am.

Wednesday 11th Morebattle SWI meets in the Institute at 7.15pm – Festive Fair Taste & Swap.

Saturday 14th Coffee Morning in Border Hotel 10 – 11.30am. Proceeds to M.S Society.

Sunday 15th Morebattle Childrens Party in the Institute at 3pm.

Tuesday 17th Morebattle Lunch Club Christmas Lunch at Templehall 12 for 12.30pm.

Tuesday 17th Kalewater Community Council Meet in Institute at 7pm.

Wednesday 18th Quiz Night in Plough Hotel at 8pm. Proceeds to Wauchope Hall.

Sunday 31st Auld Year’s Night Party in Morebattle Village Hall 8pm-12.30am.

January

Monday 6th Yetholm Festival Meeting in Youth Hall at 7.30pm.

Wednesday 8th Morebattle SWI meets in the Institute - Speaker to be confirmed. Competitions Slice Xmas Cake and Small Make up Bag.

Wednesday 8th Quiz Night in Plough Hotel at 8pm. Proceeds to Macmillan and Rotary.

Saturday 11th Film Night in Wauchope Hall at 7pm. “ Red Joan”(12A). Entry £6 at door.

Thursday 16th Village Lunch in Wauchope Hall at 12 noon. Proceeds to Yetholm School.

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

Wednesday 22nd Quiz Night in Plough Hotel at 8pm. Proceeds to Festival Week.

Saturday 25th Charity Coffee Morning in Institute at 10.30am.

Tuesday 28th Yetholm Community Council meet at 7pm in Youth Hall.

February

Saturday 1st Border Worthies Burns Supper in Border Hotel at 7.30pm. Please contact Susan Stewart to book a ticket.

Monday 3rd Yetholm Festival Meeting in Youth Hall at 7.30pm.

Tuesday 4th Yetholm History Society in Mission Hall at 7.30pm. Graeme Watson – Criminal Spirits – Smuggling in Yetholm and the Borders.

Wednesday 5th Quiz Night in Plough Hotel at 8pm. Proceeds to Cheviot Churches.

Saturday 8th Morebattle Games Coffee Morning in Village Hall at 10.30am.

Saturday 8th Film Night in Wauchope Hall at 7pm. “Can You Ever Forgive Me”(15). Tickets £6 at door.

Wednesday 12th Morebattle SWI meets in Institute at 7.15pm – Travels to the Great Wall of China with Will Roberts. Competitions Photo of Historic Monument and Holiday Souvenir.

Friday 14th Yetholm Village Panto at 7.30pm in Wauchope Hall.

Saturday 15th Yetholm Village Panto at 7.30pm in Wauchope Hall.

Tuesday 18th Kalewater Community Council Meeting at 7pm in Institute.

Wednesday 19th Quiz Night in Plough Hotel at 8pm. Proceeds to Bowmont Theatre.

Thursday 20th National Theatre Live Screening of “Cyrano de Bergerac” at 7pm in Wauchope Hall. Tickets £12 at door.

Monday 24th Pancake Event in Youth Hall from 10.30am. Proceeds to Macmillan and Rotary.

Tuesday 25th Yetholm Community Council at 7pm in Youth Hall.

Saturday 29th Festival Week Race Night in Wauchope Hall at 7.30pm.

March

Monday 2nd Yetholm Festival Meeting in Youth Hall at 7.30pm.

Tuesday 3rd Yetholm History Society at 7.30pm in Mission Hall. John Home Robertson – The discovery and reinstatement of the Paxton Water Wheel.

Wednesday 4th Hearing Aid Clinic in Wauchope Hall from 2 – 3pm.

Wednesday 4th Quiz Night in Plough Hotel at 8pm. Proceeds to Yetholm Shepherds Show.

Saturday 7th Morebattle In Bloom Coffee Morning at 10.30am in Institute.

Saturday 7th Film Night in Wauchope Hall at 7pm. “Swimming with Men”(12A). Entry £6 at door.

Wednesday 11th Morebattle SWI meets in Institute at 7.15pm – Laura Fleming – Make Up Demonstration. Competitions Individual Fruit Salad and Small Cream Jug.

Tuesday 17th Kalewater Community Council Meeting at 7pm in Institute.

Wednesday 18th Quiz Night in Plough Hotel at 8pm. Proceeds to Borders Pet Rescue.

Thursday 19th Village Lunch in Wauchope Hall from 12noon. Proceeds to Alzheimers Scotland.

Saturday 28th Film Night in Wauchope Hall at 7pm. “Wild Rose” (15). Entry £6 at door.

Tuesday 31st Yetholm Community Council at 7pm in Youth Hall.

Register

**Deaths: Russell Wight, Francine Smith, Irene Waite,
Dot Halliday, Tucker Hay, Dick Grey.**

Church Diary 2019/20

December

Sunday 1st Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.

Morning Worship Linton Church 11.15am.

Wednesday 4th Coffee in Yetholm Church 10.30 – 12noon.

Thursday 5th Morebattle Guild Lunch in Templehall 12 for 12.30pm.

Sunday 8th Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.

Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.

Roxburghshire Guilds Together Christmas Celebration.

Kelso North 2.30pm.

Tuesday 10th Yetholm Guild in Yetholm Church 2.30pm. Nativity Scenes and their History. Mince Pies and Refreshments.

Sunday 15th Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.

Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.

Sunday 22nd Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.

Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.

Yetholm Village Choir Christmas Concert Yetholm Church 7pm.

Tuesday 24th Carol Service Hownam Church 6.30pm.

Watchnight Service Linton Church 11.30pm.

Wednesday 25th Joint Service Morebattle Church 11.15am.

Sunday 29th Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.

Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.

January 2020

Sunday 5th Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.

Morning Worship Linton Church 11.15am.

Wednesday 8th Coffee in Yetholm Church 10.30 – 12noon.

Thursday 9th Morebattle Guild in the Institute at 2.00pm – Our Life with our Daughter – Prebendary Bob King.

Sunday 12th Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.

Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.

Sunday 19th Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.

Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.

Tuesday 21st Yetholm Guild at 2.30pm in Yetholm Church. Kevin Simpson - Malawi Fruits.

Sunday 26th Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.

Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.

February

Sunday 2nd Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.

Morning Worship Linton Church 11.15am.

Thursday 6th Morebattle Guild in the Institute at 2.00pm – A Traveller's Tale – Rev. Colin Johnston.

Sunday 9th Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.

Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.

Sunday 16th Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.

Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.

Sunday 23rd Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.

Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.

Tuesday 25th Yetholm Guild at 2.30pm in Yetholm Church. Kathleen and Arthur Bates – Oberammergau 2010.

March

Sunday 1st Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.

Morning Worship Linton Church 11.15am.

Wednesday 4th Coffee in Yetholm Church 10.30 – 12noon.

Thursday 5th Morebattle Guild in the Institute at 2.00pm – Women in the Prison System – Susan di Lorenzo.

Friday 6th World Day of Prayer in Yetholm Church.

Sunday 8th Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.

Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.

Sunday 15th Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.

Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.

Sunday 22nd Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.

Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.

Tuesday 24th Yetholm Guild at 2.30pm in Yetholm Church. A.G.M followed by talk from Rev. Colin Johnston.

Sunday 29th Morning Worship Yetholm Church 10am.

Morning Worship Morebattle Church 11.15am.

Saturday 28th Morebattle Guild Coffee Morning in the Institute at 10.30am.



The Panto in Yetholm has taken place for more years than I care to remember. This village based take on the traditional Panto was the brain child of the late Alastair Turnbull and many people have taken part over the years. To enable this to continue we need your help both on and off the stage. If you feel that you would like to help in any way please get in touch with Susan Stewart (420231) by 14th December at the very latest. We rehearse on Wednesday evenings and Sunday afternoons from the beginning of January until the performance on Friday 14th and Saturday 15th February in the Wauchope Hall.

You don't have to live in Yetholm to take part, you just have to be willing and able to commit to rehearsals and the performances.

Please help us keep this fun filled village event in the calendar.

Susan Stewart

Did you know ???

According to tradition, you should eat one mince pie on each of the 12 days of Christmas to bring good luck.

It's technically illegal to eat mince pies on Christmas Day in England. In the 17th Century, Oliver Cromwell banned Christmas pudding, mince pies and anything to do with gluttony. The law has never been rescinded.

For a Christmas to be officially declared as "white" a single snowflake needs to be observed falling in the 24 hours of 25th December on the rooftop of the Met office HQ in London.



Probably our biggest news this term is that news that Mr Lindsay is leaving us to become head teacher at Broomlands Primary School. We are really, really going to miss him but hope that he enjoys his new job. Broomlands are very lucky!

In other news, our Pupil Council held a dress down day in aid of My Name's Daddie Weir Foundation and held a competition to guess how many sweets were in the jar. We raised a brilliant £100 for this great cause!

Primary 5 have recently set up a new healthy tuck shop in the school. They have been learning how to run a business. It has been a great success and been much enjoyed by the staff and the children. Well done Healthy 5's!

In our classes...P5-7 have been learning about decimals and how to add and subtract decimals to 3 decimal places. They have been exploring how light travels and designing experiments to show their understanding. They have also been investigating the new James Webb Telescope.

P1-5 have also been learning about space, they have been learning about all the different planets in our Solar System and have made some fantastic art to show off their learning. The class are also busy beavering away making some amazing products for their enterprise project.

The nursery have been very busy learning about how to stay safe in and around school. They even had a special visit from the police who talked to them about what to do when they feel unsafe.

The whole school are very busy preparing for our production of Nativity Nightmares.

The JRSO's held a Be Bright Be Seen day to raise awareness of how important it is to be seen when travelling on foot, bike or horse during these dark winter nights. The children competed in a fantastic catwalk to show off their brightest clothes.

A massive welcome to our new nursery. The children and staff have settled into the school and are having lots of fun exploring their new environment. It has been a great addition to our school.

Yetholm Primary School Press Group Autumn 2019



The biggest and the saddest recent news for us is the news that Mr Lindsay is leaving us to be the head teacher at Broomlands Primary School. We wish Mr Lindsay the best of luck in his new job.

We are proud to announce that that one of our P7s has successfully become the Scottish Champion in Minimoto. What a great achievement! Well done Troy!

In our classes...In Nursery our focus has been on 'People who Help us.' We had a really interesting visit to Kelso Fire Station and PC Tait-Logan came to visit us. We are also building a relationship with our friends along at Morebattle who have been to visit us.

This term P1/2/3 are learning about day/night and light/dark through two great stories, 'Owl Babies' and 'The Owl who was Afraid of the Dark.' P3/4/5 have been learning about sound and vibration and within that they have been learning about how sound travels and how you hear. They have also been learning about light and shadow.

P6/7 have been learning about Space. So far they have learned about the moon, the sun, the planets and the first moon landing.

The whole school are also busy practising our school Pantomime, which is Aladdin Trouble.

A couple of weeks ago PC Tait-Logan came to our assembly and talked about road safety and how to stay safe in Winter and Autumn. We also had a visit from Fire and Rescue about bonfire night.

Recently we got a treat from a drama school from Edinburgh who put on a fantastic pantomime, 'Beauty and the Beast.' This was all thanks to our Parent Council.

On Sunday 10th November all the house captains and prefects went to represent the school at the Remembrance Service at the War Memorial in Kelso. Then, on Monday 11th November, two of our Primary 7s represented Morebattle Primary School at Kelso High School's Remembrance Service.

Morebattle Primary School Press Group – Autumn 2019

The Burning Babe

BY ROBERT SOUTHWELL SJ

As I in hoary winter's night stood shivering in the snow,
Surpris'd I was with sudden heat which made my heart to glow;
And lifting up a fearful eye to view what fire was near,
A pretty Babe all burning bright did in the air appear;
Who, scorched with excessive heat, such floods of tears did shed
As though his floods should quench his flames which with his tears were
fed.

"Alas!" quoth he, "but newly born, in fiery heats I fry,
Yet none approach to warm their hearts or feel my fire but I!
My faultless breast the furnace is, the fuel wounding thorns,
Love is the fire, and sighs the smoke, the ashes shame and scorns;
The fuel Justice layeth on, and Mercy blows the coals,
The metal in this furnace wrought are men's defiled souls,
For which, as now on fire I am to work them to their good,
So will I melt into a bath to wash them in my blood."
With this he vanish'd out of sight and swiftly shrunk away,
And straight I called unto mind that it was Christmas day.

*How lovely 'tis to take this time
To greet our dearest friends,
To wish them health and happiness
Before the old year ends.*

*Darkness comes late afternoon
And winter lies ahead,
But friendship is a glowing fire
When all seems cold and dead.*

*Just as in some vacant barn,
Unnoticed in the night,
The whole of human history turns,
So we, too, make things right.*

*We must keep alive the flame
Though darkness grip the Earth;
For in the love we find in friends
Is our chance for rebirth.*

Nicholas Gordon

Commission of Assembly takes first steps to radical change

Published on

21 November, 2019 on Church of Scotland website

The Commission of Assembly has approved the first steps toward radical change in the Church of Scotland.

Meeting in Edinburgh on 21 November at the Assembly Hall in Edinburgh, commissioners gave their support to a report from the Assembly Trustees recommending the merger of the four central councils into two new agencies.

They are provisionally named the 'Faith Nurture Forum' - a merger of the Ministries Council and the Mission and Discipleship Council--and the 'Faith Impact Forum', a merger of the Church and Society Council and the World Mission Council.

The new bodies will be made up of a convener, a vice-convener and 13 members, considerably smaller than the existing councils. They will begin work on 1 January 2020.

The names of the two agencies may change, although a proposal to rename them there and then was rejected. Members of the four existing councils were thanked and discharged.

Very Rev Dr John Chalmers, convener of the Assembly Trustees, said: "We have to understand and embrace the fact that change may be the only constant.

"As we have crept closer to this first and very modest change in our structure, it has become increasingly clear that while everyone wants change; mostly, people want change on their own terms.

"Each of us has to be the change we want to see in our Church.

"And we need to adopt a new way of working – a way that is more effective, more efficient and more targeted on the growth of the local Church."

Radical change agenda

Calling on the Church to embrace cultural change, Dr Chalmers said staff should be empowered to deliver the work they were skilled to do without micromanagement.

He added that staff should take steps to work across departments as a "unified workforce supporting one another" in order to deliver the work of the General Assembly.

The first task of the new agencies will be to take a detailed look at the work currently being done and make recommendations for the future.

This will include what work should be discontinued, what should continue and what might better be devolved to Presbyteries.

The 2019 General Assembly instructed the Trustees to achieve a

reduction in central administration costs of 20%-30%.

At the same time the structure of Presbyteries are undergoing reforms with the goal of reducing the number from 45 to around 12.

That work is already underway and overtures on Presbytery mergers are expected to go to the 2020 General Assembly.

Commissioners posed questions

Commissioners questioned several areas of the report including a provision that bars ministerial development staff and associate ministers, as employees, from serving on the new bodies.

In response, Dr Chalmers said that concerns about conflicts of interest in the current structure had driven the decision, an argument that was accepted.

The place of the Theological Forum, the Ecumenical Officer and the Interfaith Officer in the management structure was also discussed.

The Assembly Trustees recommend that while these committees should continue to report separately to the General Assembly, they should no longer be managed in the Principal Clerk's office.

Dr Chalmers said: "We are recommending that while the Ecumenical Relations Committee and the Theological Forum will continue to report separately to the General Assembly they should, for efficiency of administration sit within the Faith Nurture Department and that Interfaith should sit within the Faith Impact Forum, where it will also find the source of its policy direction."

He explained that the plan had been extensively discussed by the Trustees with input from each of the committees, and was the only matter which had been subject to a vote. Commissioners approved the plan.

The Commission also discussed the importance of devolving responsibilities to Presbyteries, although that work cannot be completed until Presbytery reforms are in place.

"The overall priority is that the centre must serve the local," Dr Chalmers said.

"For the first time the administration of the central agencies of the Church all fall under the management of a Chief Officer so that there will be no licence for work to be done in separate silos and at least twice a year these Forums and the Assembly Trustees, the Ecumenical Relations Committee, the Theological Forum and others who may be involved in the consolidation of our work or in the reforming of our structures will meet on the same day, sharing their work and learning from one another."

KIRK SESSION REPORT – Winter 2019

We are pleased to report that the plaque showing the roll of Ministers who have served Morebattle Church is now on display in the church and that the money left over has been used to purchase large print copies of CH4

Thanks to the very generous donations of the congregations at the Harvest services Kelso Fund Bank has received a large number of fund items plus a cheque for £200.

A new photocopier has been purchased and located in the Institute in Morebattle. The old copier will be relocated to Yetholm Church.

Colin has agreed to provide home communion to those members of the congregation unable to attend communion services. If you know anyone who would want this please contact Colin or your elder.

I am very pleased to announce that Susan Stewart will take on the role of Session Clerk as from 1st January 2020. We wish her well in this role.

The new church notice boards can now be completed and installed.

It has been drawn to our attention that if we wish to continue to provide food etc then we need people to undertake a food hygiene course. These courses are available on-line and Presbytery are also proposing to run them. Anyone interested should contact Brian Kelly.

A very good and enjoyable concert was given by The Berwick Male Voice Choir and the sum of around £500 was raised for church funds.

A Craft fair will be held in the Border Hotel on 27th November with any money raised to go to church funds. Donations of nibbles and raffle prizes would be appreciated and should be given to Susan Stewart.

The Session agreed to go ahead with advertising the facilities available in the church as a way of raising revenue, and the booklet produced by the sub-committee looking into this was approved..

Alzheimer Scotland is to provide, through the support of Kelso Rotary, courses on Dementia awareness. Several elders expressed an interest in these courses. The Mission and Outreach committee have been asked to try to arrange a suitable date.

A proposal was made to consider lunchtime meetings. These would take the form of a light lunch followed by a Singalong. The Session thought this was a good idea and agreed to pursue it.



Did you know that on the Christian Aid website there is a page where you can support Christian Aid's work by giving a variety of life changing gifts from cute animals and skills training to mobile clinics. Go to charity-gifts.christianaid.org.uk for further information.

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.
Vacant	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 will be held in Morebattle Church at 1.30pm. All Welcome.

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

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Tel: 01573 420221 E mail: bjkelly@uwclub.net

Safeguarding Co-ordinator:

Vacant

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

Worship Committee: Arthur Bates 01573420259

www.cheviotchurches.org
