The twin villages of Town Yetholm and Kirk Yetholm are called the ‘Gateway to the Cheviots’, and there are hills all around dotted with sheep from the hill farms. They stand astride the Bowmont Water, connected by a bridge, a reminder of the connections made in our lives. Take time to remember how Jesus is our bridge between earth and heaven.

 Yetholm is on the Border, and there is a history of reiving and smuggling, but nowadays most cross-border activities are more benign. The St Cuthbert’s Way goes along the Haugh, bypassing Town Yetholm but do take time to walk through. The village shop is on the Green, and the Old Mission Hall which is the base for the local History Society is well signposted. It is open during the day and offering a fascinating insight into life in Yetholm and the Bowmont valley.

In Kirk Yetholm you will come to the parish kirk. It is constructed of grey whinstane, but full of light inside. It is open during the day, so pop in, help yourself to some coffee in the kitchen and enjoy the exhibition of the history of the church upstairs or sit in the church enjoying the stained glass.

Walk along to the Green and you will pass thatched cottages. Outside the Border Hotel is a pile of boots, discarded by walkers who have finished the Pennine Way. Think of Jesus and the disciples walking the hill country of Palestine or of the many migrants today travelling in hope of a better life.

Up from the hotel, you will pass the Gypsy Palace. There is a long history of gypsies in Yetholm, and some Romany words are still used. In the late Victorian era tourists would even come to Yetholm to visit Queen Esther. As you pass, pray for all who are discriminated against or held in suspicion because they are different.

God speed as you leave Yetholm. May the road rise up to greet you, may the wind always be at your back, may the sun shine warm upon your face, the rain fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of God’s hand.