

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

# CHEVIOT



Summer 2024



**Prayer Corner**



**Prayer Corner**

Lord God, Creator of all things,  
guide our steps and strengthen our hearts  
during these months of summer holidays.  
May we make our homes places of relaxation,  
joy, love, peace and safety.  
May we be generous and considerate,  
not thinking only about ourselves,  
but helping others enjoy the blessings of the summertime.  
Grant us refreshment of mind and body.  
May we constantly strive to make a meaningful difference  
in the lives of our loved ones and in the world around us  
as we enjoy the warm days of summertime. Amen

## Letter from the Manse

Dear Friends,

Every morning, I receive an email with a 'Thought for the Day', and this morning the thought included this sentence: '*Crossroads are places where we must make decisions and choose which route to take*'. Being on the St Cuthbert's Way we are used to walkers passing through our communities, and often as they walk, they have to make decisions about the way to go. Usually there are signposts to keep them right, but occasionally they have to make the choice between left or right. Robert Frost in his poem encouraged us to take 'the road less travelled', which is always appealing, though for the St Cuthbert's Way, the most travelled route is perhaps the best if we want to reach Holy Island!

Wherever we are in our journey in life, may we take the path that is right for us and for those with whom we travel.

I like this prayer:

*Journeying with you, brother Jesus,  
Is to journey with your friends.  
To meet and travel a while together,  
then part at the crossroads,  
knowing you are with us all.*

In our lives we can be blessed with friendships, but there are times when we move in different directions, but always thankful for what has been. During the Spring we have had several groups passing through and interacting with our Church community, and that is always a joy. It is amazing how often we can find things or places or people in common. But then we part and go our separate ways.

At Cheviot Churches we are at a crossroads, and our new companions on our journey will be Kelso Old & Sprouston. As part of the Presbytery Plan, we are to be linked with them. In May we enjoyed a successful get-together with some of their elders and spouses, and through the autumn and winter we will be working towards making the linkage a reality. It will inevitably mean some changes, but we look forward to the closer relationship with Kelso Old & Sprouston.

Have a wonderful summer. I will leave you with a verse from Jeremiah 6:16:

*Thus says the LORD: “Stand by the crossroad and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is; and walk in it and find rest for your souls.*

Peace & grace  
Colin

### **Summer Services**

We will depart from the lectionary readings this summer to focus on a summer theme:

### **‘Summer Holiday Brochure’**

#### **July**

14<sup>th</sup> – Acts 9:1-19 Road Trip

21<sup>st</sup> – Acts 10: 9-43 Foodie Holiday

28<sup>th</sup> – 1 Corinthians 9: 24-27 Sporting Break (Olympics)

#### **August**

4<sup>th</sup> – Acts 16: 1-10 – Exploring new places

11<sup>th</sup> - Acts 17: 16-28 Cultural Tour

18<sup>th</sup> – Acts 21: 1-16 Cruising the Med

25<sup>th</sup> – Acts 28: 1-10 On the beach

On the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> of August, we will hold a Songs of Praise in the grounds of the Institute in Morebattle. Come along and join in your favourite hymns.

**Time for Thanks:** this is to all those who delivered envelopes during Christian Aid Week and to those who gave so generously. The grand total from the envelopes was £867.25 (plus a sixpence and one Belgian franc) and £15 from the paper quiz. Burundi was the featured country this year, but Christian Aid works with partners in many countries helping to build sustainable communities and giving vital support when natural disasters strike.

The Church of Scotland Guild has announced the latest and probably final totals from the recent set of six projects. Considering the intervention of Covid the amount raised was £459,730.09 over the slightly extended 3-year period. The new projects have also been announced – just four for the next 3 years.

Operation Hope Egypt will work with Release International: a VOICE for persecuted Christians based in Upper Egypt.

Bibles for Bairns is a project by the Scottish Bible Society and if a parent registers with them their child will receive scripture materials on their birthday up until 5 years old when they will be sent a Children's Bible.

Playful Beginnings is an effort by Crossreach (the social care arm of the Church of Scotland) to give children the best possible start in life, working with the Sunflower Project in Edinburgh and the Daisy Chain in Glasgow. Finally, The Bear Necessities sets out to plant a church in a residential community of 30,000 people in Bulgaria and will include provision for serving food and medical assistance. (This one has a lovely cheeky logo).

Not an official project but worthy of mention is Prospects across Scotland which aims to make churches and congregations more accessible and understandable to people with learning difficulties and is commended by a former Guild National Convenor who had discovered the group when it was an earlier Guild Project. Like the Projects, PAS is delighted to provide speakers.

## **Trish Gentry**



Summer has arrived. This year has seen a larger number of walkers than usual. Most are walking the St Cuthbert's Way. An increasing number are doing longer walks such as The Scottish National Trail or even Lands' End to John O'Groats. The higher profile of the shop, aided by the installation of our lovely new awning, has attracted an increasing number of delivery drivers, tradesmen working in the area, and passing tourists alike. This has not only helped the business figures, but we like to think we provide a cheery and welcome stop over for them all.

A number of new volunteers have come forward, from new arrivals to the village, who have found it a great way to get to know the people of Morebattle and its surrounding area. Additionally, we have continued to welcome younger High School pupils as volunteers to allow them to gain work experience and build up their confidence.

Our AGM for our shareholders will be on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 7pm in the Institute Hall. If you are a shareholder, we would be delighted to see you.

As ever, a big thank you to our hard-working Managers and volunteers: without you the community shop would not be the successful, thriving business it is today.



Cheviot Churches are compiling a new recipe book for our community. The original Cheviot recipe book was produced 50 years ago and the follow up was 30 years ago.

Do you have any recipes you would be willing to share in the third edition?

Please send any recipes or cooking anecdotes you would like to be included to Susan Stewart on [j.stewart134@btinternet.com](mailto:j.stewart134@btinternet.com) or hand in to Yetholm or Morebattle Shop by the end of July.

We hope to have it ready to go on sale at the Yetholm Show on 5<sup>th</sup> October so please get in touch!!

**Save the Date!!**

**Cheviot Churches Sponsored Walk on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> September.  
Route and final details will be announced nearer the time.  
All ages and abilities welcome.**





## Ukraine Trip

This is a picture of us both and the Ford Ranger just before we set off for the 1584 miles drive from Cherrytrees to Lviv!



As a result of donations, we managed to fill it full of spades, micro spades, tyres, jerry cans, long arm wrenches, socket headsets, tool sets, welding wire, sealant gun, high pressure hose, jump leads, hats, military clothing, hygiene equipment, nut sand bolts, angle grinder and James' pride and joy was the plasma cutting machine!



We crossed over from Newcastle to Amsterdam and met some of our fellow conveyors - and then having left the ferry at about 11 am the next day after a very good night's sleep on board, we drove the 11 hours to our hotel in Katy Wrocklawskie in Poland. There we met with the other 27 vehicles and all the drivers and co drivers. What a great gang there were of all ages and all stages. The bar was full when we arrived at 11 pm and remained full until the early hours!

The next day we headed off in convoy to the border with Ukraine. Another long day as it took around 4 hours to get us all through the Border and then on at speed with a police escort to the middle of Lviv. We arrived at the Hotel Leopolis at around 8 pm - more vodka shots awaited us and another night of lively chat!



Top - assembled at Ukrainian border.

Blue lighted convoy for the last 100km





The following morning, we handed over the vehicles to the military and they are incredibly grateful.





We had a day in Lviv which is a UNESCO world heritage city and very beautiful and that might be why there are so few missile attacks! Should it be needed our bomb shelter was the best in the city as it's currently operating as the hotel underground spa - complete with bar!

Lviv is Ukraine's sixth city. Its population is only 800,000 although swelled by internal refugees.

It is however Ukraine's cultural and religious capital, with 1000 years of pan - European history.

Its location determined by geography. Hills above a swamp allowed a defensive position. It was a key trading post on the old Silk Road. The river Dnister links Lviv to the Black Sea in the East and the river Poltva links Lviv to the Baltic in the West. Both are navigable.

A great many denominations built churches and worshiped here. There are 97 churches: Greek Orthodox, Roman Catholic, Armenians, Jews and Muslims.

As a reminder, after Ukraine was annexed as part of the USSR the Russians closed all the churches. The main Cathedral was used as a warehouse for all the books and some of the personal belongings of those households who fled the communist regime or who were sent to Siberia.



The main Catholic Church was converted in a museum of atheism!

Another historical reminder more people died in Ukraine in Soviet induced starvation in 1933 than Jews murdered in the whole of the Holocaust.

True freedom for Ukrainians has only come since 1991.



Walking the streets you could be in any other mid - European city - it reminded us of Prague. But below the surface a strange mixture of people going about their ordinary business is interspersed with a constant reminder of what is going on.

Men in combat fatigues punctuate those strolling the streets, many arm in arm with partners, some with crutches. Lviv has the largest military hospital in Ukraine.

The cathedral is full of easels supporting the photographs of 1000s of local soldiers who have given their lives.

All the tram drivers are women. The churches windows boarded up to protect from shrapnel. Our City guide intersperses his tour chat with the stories of his friends who have been killed on the front line. You can detect the emotion in his voice, and he quickly moves on.

What really brings it home is those everyday conversations with soldiers and others that inevitably turn to their own life expectancy; to going back to the front; to wanting to defend their freedom whatever the cost to them and their families.

When you hear that directly it feels that this war is very close and that they are fighting our war as much as theirs.

The formal handover ceremony the vehicles to the Ukrainian military was moving. Whoever you speak to whether it's the Mayor or the head of the Ukrainian air defence, who formally thanked us for the vehicles and accompanying kit, or just people in the street - there is an overwhelming sense of gratitude and how much these seemingly small contributions make to their effort.

Each truck supports one mobile unit. Whether it be air defence, mine clearance, ammunition supply or medical evacuation. A conservative estimate is that each vehicle saves 10 lives. 300 have been delivered to date. That's 3000 more places around the Xmas dinner table that might not have been there otherwise.

But before that the day started with a trip to the main Lviv cemetery.







This picture you see here of new graves was half the size this time last year.

And this is only for Lviv's hero soldiers - those who died doing something special.

This represents just 1% of the city's total war dead.

Flags and flowers aside what makes it so much more poignant is that all the graves have a colour photograph of the soldier that died.



You will note the single grave photographed was of young man killed on 26th February- The week we were there.  
4 to 5 are added each day.



To the side you see excavations to double the size of the burial space. This means exhuming and relocating Russian soldiers' graves from WW2.

You can't help to feel the emotion. Each grave has a bench so that family can sit alongside their loved ones. We were there in the early morning and a steady stream of young and old were filing in to pay their respects and tend.

They talk about fighting for every inch of ground. They talk about victory one day.

But behind the scenes the prognosis is very precarious.

This year will be very different to last year - very much more difficult and costly. The reason - lack of ammunition.

We spoke to one special services soldier who said, "we send up our drones, we can see the enemy- we know their positions but sometimes that's all we can do."

They still remain convinced they can win. We are convinced they must win.

## **James and Amanda Barnes**

### **On grace**

Dear reader,

There is an untyped exclamation mark after that title, as I find myself surprised to be writing about it. When I really heard that word, for the first time, and in a non-liturgical setting, I went to my Oxford dictionary (a little luxury on my phone) to see how it was defined - the free and unmerited bestowal of blessings.



March is my favourite month, because of the light in the sky, but this March has not been kind to cyclists, weatherwise - often cold, or wet, or windy of any combination of those. But one afternoon, the sun came out and there I was, cycling down the Bowmont again - my default ride. (There are many different ways to do it, with five bridges to cross or not to cross both there

and back.) That first line of my poem - not my words, but their author says she feels honoured by my use of them - was running through my head, and I was thinking how lucky I was to be somewhere so lovely while my husband nearly four years under the ground is being taken back into the earth and my penfriend on death row is incarcerated in an 8 x 6 foot box without anything you could call a window. I truly do feel blessed.

### **Cycling down the Bowmont one afternoon in March**

Grace, upon grace, upon grace;  
Those words running through my head:  
My life, my freedom, my health;  
How blessed I am  
That clear, clear blue of the sky;  
The light and the dark in the clouds;  
The warm sunshine of spring;  
How blessed I am.

The trees, hedgerows, and fields;  
The first wild cherry in bloom;  
These Border hills. the quiet roads;  
How blessed I am.

I'll leave the final words to my penfriend: "I was sitting here recalling a passage in the poem you wrote, Grace, upon grace, upon grace. How beautiful the words, especially the meaning, undeserved favour."

**Ann Thorns**

#### **Yetholm History Society**

##### **The Archives – An Everyday Story of Country Folk**

Every Tuesday morning for the last few years a group of YHS members have met at the Heritage Centre (aka The Mission Hall) to sort out boxes, files, folders and envelopes into different topics and categories, place them in acid-free conservation-grade pockets and boxes and assign them a catalogue number. We initially did this under the guidance of Elizabeth Heale Watson, whose wise and sweet presence we miss still.

Having laboured at this task since before Covid struck, we are glad to announce that we have worked through our backlog of Club Minutes, photographs, memoirs, newspaper cuttings and random correspondence, a

considerable amount of which had been compiled by the late Bill Rae. And now we are looking at each other, wondering how we will be able to justify the happy hours of chatting over coffee, reminiscing as each item triggers memories, or puzzling over a cryptic, undated and untitled, tantalising little snippet.

We're therefore taking this opportunity to ask for more! We are sure that people in Yetholm have all sorts of memorabilia stashed away in cupboards which throw light on village life over the past decades. You may be thinking of throwing away things which are actually of value in telling the history of our village – however trivial they may seem at first glance. Defunct clubs and societies all kept Minutes and accounts, and the Yetholm History Society is ideally placed to take care of these documents and artifacts, with dedicated storage and acquired experience. Rather than discarding faded and frayed pages from an old exercise book, please let us read them, so that we can add to the rich picture of how earlier generations lived their lives in this place. This also applies to audio recordings, and we welcome people getting in touch who'd like to contribute in this way. Every summer we try to mount an exhibition with a local theme, and the precious items which you give us could well be part of that. We catalogue things in order to be able to access them, so nothing will be hidden away at the back of a cupboard, never to see the daylight again – we love to use them, refer to them and proudly display where relevant.

No monarchs (as far as we know) are buried here, and no great battles (just the odd skirmish?) fought in our streets, but the past isn't just important for those reasons. The 'everyday story of country folk' is at the heart of what we do, preserving it for the future, that coming generations might learn of the endurance, humour, courage and enterprise of earlier inhabitants.

The Society includes in its purpose a strong community dimension and seeks to involve local people in the preservation of the heritage of our area through collecting, archiving and exhibiting materials that embody the life of our part of the world. Through donating items in response to this request you can be part of that community dimension.

Through the summer months the Heritage Centre is open every day from 10am until late afternoon, and items may be brought there, but if you prefer the security of placing things in someone's hands, please contact a member of the Board. Contact numbers are available on the Notice Board at the Centre, or you might like to waylay a member whilst out shopping..... David Hutchinson, Graeme Watson, Monica Smale, Dorothy Sharpe, Jean Hirst, John Stobart, Alex Davidson, Catherine Ross & Margaret Rustad will all be delighted, albeit a tad surprised, to be loaded with carrier bags bulging with surprises from your attic, garage or garden shed.

**Margaret Rustad**

### **Birdbath's nieces write:**

It's official! The Birdbaths are Batty - and have a licence to prove it! Earlier this spring we had to repair a roof, but before we could even start getting estimates for the work, we were told that an ecologist would need to make a report about the number of pipistrelles thought to be in a possible maternity roost at the time when the work would be taking place. There followed a tense time lining up builders able to come at the right moment, the licence allowing them to operate, and the weather allowing tarpaulins to be lifted and work to be carried out in a conservation area. New bat boxes are now affixed to our trees and the work was done in time to fulfil all the necessary conditions.

And all for the sake of some tiny creatures little understood by most of us, the subject of sinister legends and superstitions! But the more we learnt about bats as we embarked on our quest, the more amazed we were by their fascinating lives and their capacity to survive extreme conditions and successfully rear their babies. Little flapping miracles, they make us feel privileged to offer them sanctuary.

The smallest creatures we're likely to have to watch in our garden, they make an invaluable contribution to insect control as they swoop over the mosquitoes on a summer evening. 'Do not despise the day of small things', wrote a prophet thousands of years ago. We certainly don't, and in Birdbath's garden we will continue to rejoice in their presence, as our hearts soar with them through the warm twilight evenings.

**This summer we look forward to the Olympic Games to be held in Paris celebrating 100 years since the famous Scot Eric Liddell won the gold medal in the 400 meters race in Paris 1924.**

We hope that as you read through the range of information and stories about Eric that you will really enjoy the experience. As you explore Eric's life you will find a man who was and continues to be a superb example of someone who lived out the Olympic ideals while



upholding the Olympic motto, “Citius, Altius, Fortius” which means, ‘Swifter, Higher, Stronger’, throughout his life.

The first Olympic Games are reputed to have taken place on the fields of Olympia in 776 B.C when Hercules challenged his four brothers to race before the gods of Ancient Greece. From this point on they were held every four years for nearly 1,200 years. People and scholars travelled from all over the ancient world to attend the games and while they were happening there was peace throughout Greece. This was referred to as the “Olympic Peace”. These ancient games were ended by the Roman Emperor Theodosius in 393 A.D.

In 1870, German archaeologists excavated some wonderful statues that had been sculpted and set in the sacred ground of Olympia in the time of the classical games. These finds so inspired Baron Pierre De Coubertin that he decided to revive the games. This idea was very well received and the first of the Modern Olympics took place in Athens two years later commencing 6th April 1896.

The olive branch, which was the highest prize and honour awarded to the young athletes of the classical games, was replaced by gold, silver and bronze medals. The original Olympic ideals of noble competition, sport, peace, culture and education remain at the heart of the games. It was hoped the sportsmen (and latterly, women), who participated in the games would live lives that demonstrated these ideals all of the time.

On its website the International Olympic Committee, writing about the Olympic Movement states,

“It is a philosophy of life, exalting and combining in a balanced whole the qualities of body, will and mind.”

It goes on to say,

“The goal of the Olympic Movement is to contribute to building a peaceful and better world by educating youth through sport practiced without discrimination of any kind, in a spirit of friendship, solidarity and fair play.”

George Washington (1732 – 1799), the first president of the United States, said, ‘Observe good faith and peace with all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all.





At the 1924 Paris Olympics, when the motto “Citius, Altius, Fortius” was first used, Eric Liddell won a bronze medal in the 200m and then even greater glory by winning gold in the 400m. Eric went on, however, to embody the Olympic ideals by the way that he lived his life.

You will read all about him:

- Shaking hands with other competitors prior to races.
- Coming alongside competitors who were being shunned because they were different.
- Teaching children in school.
- Acting as a coach or a referee.
- Working with very poor people.
- Rescuing victims of war.

At the core of his life Eric believed that God was his saviour, friend and companion and that everything he did should give God pleasure. As a runner he was the fastest and had achieved the highest glory, and as a Christian he found that his greatest strength came from God. It was because of this strength that he was able:

- to be parted from his family for long periods of time.
- to smuggle money to Chinese people who were living in parts of China occupied by the Japanese army.
- to teach people about “loving your enemy” while they were all imprisoned in a Japanese internment camp.

As we all look towards the Paris Olympics in 2024 it is our hope and prayer that young people throughout the world will find inspiration, friendship and peace running hand in hand.

*I love the moment in the film Chariots of Fire when Eric Liddell says, 'When I run, I feel his pleasure.'*

*The Greek word for 'peace' takes on the meaning of the Hebrew word 'shalom'. It means far more than an absence of hostility. It means 'completeness', 'soundness', 'well-being', 'every kind of blessing and good'. It means harmony and concord between people. It means spiritual well-being.*

*I Samuel 2 v 30 ... "Those who honour me, I will honour." It is said this verse of scripture was handed to Eric just before the 400-metre race by fellow competitor American Jackson Scholz.*

**Arthur Bates.**

### **This Felt Like a Gift**

I went to a friend's funeral recently. Always a sad event and made sadder when the person is even younger than you are. We had worshiped at the same church and enjoyed singing hymns. Every hymn she'd picked for her funeral was a memory of joy together. This one became special somehow.

Such love, pure as the whitest snow.  
Such love weeps for the shame I know.  
Such love, paying the debt I owe.  
O Jesus, such love.

Such love, stilling my restlessness.  
Such love, filling my emptiness.  
Such love, showing me holiness.  
O Jesus, such love.

Such love, springs from eternity.  
Such love, streaming through history.  
Such love, fountain of life to me.  
O Jesus, such love.

As the congregation of her family and many of her friends sang this my voice cut through. Powerful, clear and able to do some of the high notes! Something about the words and the song became special. It felt like I had made a gift of this song to her, and to her family. It was a special moment, shared.

As I sang the last lines, the resonance of "fountain of life to me, O Jesus such love" was both bitter and sweet, hopeful and hopeless, a comfort in

the moment that would last a long while. I began to wonder why she had picked this hymn. What work was it doing that the other hymns had not done?

The love of my Lord is the essence was the first hymn and Walk in the light was last. This hymn is by contrast is not a hymn of actions and activity, but the lines give us metaphors, creating a collage around a personal relationship with Jesus. Something deeper, more personal and yet with mystery.

## **Melanie Eve.**

### **Dates for diary**

#### **July**

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> – MSP Surgery Tour in the Institute 10.45-11.15

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Morebattle Community Shop AGM in the Institute at 7pm.

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> – Cheviot Churches Coffee Morning in Wauchope Hall at 10.30am. All Welcome.

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> – Morebattle Senior Citizens Trip to Dunbar, leaving top of Village 1pm.

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

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> – Kalewater Community Company - Recreation Ground Coffee Morning in Village Hall at 10.30am.

Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> – Kelso Laddie Day Rideout to Yetholm.

Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> – Yetholm and District Community Council at 7pm in Youth Hall.

#### **August**

Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> - Friday 9<sup>th</sup> – Morebattle Festival Week (various events)

Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> – Morebattle Games at The Tofts at 1pm

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> – Kalewater Community Council in the Institute at 7pm.

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> – Yetholm and District Community Council at 7pm in Youth Hall.

Saturday 31<sup>st</sup> – Comedy Night in Wauchope Hall at 7.30pm. Further detail TBC.

#### **September**

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> – Film Nights resume in Wauchope Hall at 7pm. Entry remains at £6. Film – Anatomy of a Fall (15)

Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> – Morebattle SWI 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration at Cross Keys, Kelso.

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> – National Theatre Screening in Wauchope Hall at 7pm.  
Production TBC. Entry £12.

Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> – Morebattle Tattie Day – Big 6 Competition & Tattie in  
Bucket Competition.

Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> – Kalewater Community Council in the Institute at 7pm.

Friday 20<sup>th</sup> – Bingo Night at 7pm in Wauchope Hall. Proceeds to  
Yetholm Christmas Trees.

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> – Morebattle Flower Show in Village Hall doors open 3pm.

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> – Yetholm and District Community Council meet at 7pm in  
Youth Hall.

Friday 27<sup>th</sup> – Hot Trod Theatre Company with John Nichol with  
production of El Duglas at 7.30pm in Wauchope Hall. Entry £10. Contact  
Susan Stewart to book tickets.

Singing Mamas every Monday in the Institute at 2.30pm.

Tea Club every Tuesday in the Institute at 2pm.

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

Camera Club in Institute on 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of every Month at 7pm.

**Coffee at Yetholm Church every Tuesday from 10 30 – 12noon. All  
very welcome.**

**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 by Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>  
September.**

**[j.stewart134@btinternet.com](mailto:j.stewart134@btinternet.com), [johnmabon431@btinternet.com](mailto:johnmabon431@btinternet.com)  
[anne.scottbrown@btinternet.com](mailto:anne.scottbrown@btinternet.com)**

#### **Register**

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**Baptism:**

**Weddings:**

**Deaths: Michael Gamble, Tom Tokely, Margaret Smailes, Caroline  
Lang, Margaret Clarke.**

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## Playgroup celebrates 50 years

There was a golden celebration at Morebattell and Yetholm Playgroup as it marked its 50th anniversary recently. Play leaders, Heather Freeland-Cook and Louise Borthwick, along with Morag Thomson, who left

this year after serving 16 years at the play group, marked the occasion by asking the community to paint stones with their initials and the year they attended. Along with their happy little hikers, they walked 8 miles

from Morebattell to Yetholm over St Cuthbert's Way leaving a trail of 80 stones. Their efforts raised over £1,150 for the playgroup which is self-funded. A party was held at the Plough Hotel, where old photos were displayed.



**Thanks to Southern Reporter for this article.**



## A Busy Term for Morebattle and Yetholm Primary Schools



### Visitors

Both schools have been fortunate to have had visitors to school enhancing our learning. The Glasgow Science Lab came and ran two workshops, 'Go Oxygen go,' and 'Body Vision.' They brought along exhibitions from the Glasgow Science Centre which gave the children an active and engaging experience.

Yetholm P1-3 welcomed Generation Science who led an interactive workshop called 'Ready Teddy Go.' The children explored the fundamentals of forces with two special teddy puppets called Isaac and Newton.

### Trips

We started this term with the P7 residential, joining other P7 children from Ednam and Sprouston Primary Schools at Robinwood. Our P7s had three busy and adventurous days that will hopefully be remembered for a lifetime.

As part of their World War 2 topic, Yetholm P4-7 pupils went to Coldstream to Walk this Way, Coldstream Museum and concluded their trip with a visit to the park.

The children were able to share their learning in a class assembly too.

Morebattle P5-7 are busy preparing for trips to learn more about the Romans and P3-4 have farm trips in the diaries. The last week of term, both schools are planning trips whole school trips with Morebattle heading to Bowhill and Yetholm off to Spittal.



## Transition

As we prepare our ELC children from P1 and our Primary 7s for S1 an important element of this term is transition activities. As well as a residential there are various activities arranged for our P7s to get together with other P7s and build relationships. This photo is our P7s at the Transition rugby. Towards the end of term their transition visits will end with 3 days at Kelso High



School. We wish all our P7s the very best of luck.

ELC visits have also begun for children in both schools. Our planned activities should ensure that all the children meet most of the staff and get a range of experiences in their future classes ahead of their move into P1 in August.

## *Coffee Morning*

*Everyone Welcome*



Cheviot Churches

Coffee Morning on Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> July at 10.30am in Wauchope Hall  
Town Yetholm.

Raffle

Home Baking

Books

And much more!!

Entry by Donation

All Welcome

**SEE THIS IN WAUCHOPE HALL ON FRIDAY 27<sup>th</sup> SEPTEMBER at 7.30pm**



**HotTrod Theatre Company** combines the talents of **John Nichol** (*actor/writer/storyteller*) and **Iain Fraser** (*fiddler/composer*) to bring to life tales of history, mystery, and heroism. John's unique delivery and many and varied

characterisations, and Iain's ingenious musical interpretations, lend atmosphere, depth and authenticity to their performance. Al Pattullo completes the dramatic effect with his sensitive and imaginative lighting design.

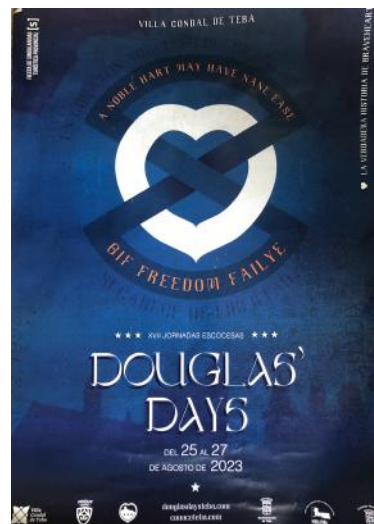


***El Duglas*** is a colourful and forthright account of the life of Sir James Douglas, often known as 'The Black Douglas'. Music plays an integral part in the tale, which is occasionally delivered in rhyme, in the style of the old Border ballads. The storyteller is none other than Robert the Bruce.



Why ***El Duglas***? After Bruce died, he charged his friend, Sir James Douglas to carry his heart to Jerusalem, to be presented at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. On his way to the Holy Land, Douglas was, however, asked to assist King Alfonso XI of Castile in recapturing the Castle of the Stars near the Andalucian town of Teba, then held by the Saracens. Sadly, Douglas was killed during the Battle of Teba (1330). Every year, in Teba, an event (*Douglas Days*) is held in honour of the heroic deeds of 'the Good Sir James'. Sir James Douglas was Bruce's ablest

lieutenant and the most professional soldier of his day, whose menacing resourcefulness and outright genius undoubtedly led to victory in the first Scottish War of Independence.





## Yetholm Festival 2024

And in the blink of an eye, Yetholm Festival Week 2024 is over. But what a fabulous week we had. Fraser and Rosie (Bari Gadgi and Bari Manushi respectively) have completed their festival week admirably.

After months of planning the calendar of events and activities, allocating Convenors to them, and introducing a new activity for the younger members of the community (the Lead Rein ride), as a committee our work was done.

The week started with a visit to Yetholm Primary Sports Day, including taking part in relay races. Our principals have joined in with playing Darts, Le Boule, Dominoes, Bowling, Quoits, and Pool. They have mingled at the festival lunch, played Bingo, tested their knowledge in the Quiz, and helped at the duck race and Family afternoon.

The key highlights must include:

- The Kirkin where Duns, Coldstream and Berwick Principals attended along with 9 Yetholm Ex-Principals.
- The Lead Rein ride with 28 ponies and young riders, along with many followers on foot, enjoying the beautiful countryside we live in.
- The Stobs Stanes ride-out. Who doesn't enjoy seeing the cavalcade walking round Town Yetholm or returning to Kirk Yetholm.
- The Festival Dance – where the youngsters (and not so young) celebrate the end of another very successful Festival Week.

To Fraser and Rosie, you have carried out your duties within the villages with enthusiasm, good humour and commitment. The festival committee wish you well for the remaining Border Festival events which you are taking part in.

Safe oot, Safe in.

**Fiona Thompson**



# LIFE AND WORK

THE MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND



JULY 2024  
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and much more all for £3.50

### **Beyond Chariots of Fire**

Jackie Macadam reports on the 100th anniversary of Eric Liddell's Olympic gold.

### **Assembly 2024**

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### **The Scottish Parliament's First Home**

25th anniversary of the reopening of the Church of Scotland Assembly Hall.

### **Our Presbyteries**

The Presbytery of Fife

### **Thinking 'Outside the Box'**

The Rev Scott Rennie introduces a new series reflecting on the work of the General Trustees

### **Uncomfortable Truths**

Elijah Obinna and Mirella Yandoli consider the lessons of an ecumenical pilgrimage to Jamaica, confronting the legacy of slavery.

### **Regulars Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer**

The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church Bible Study by the Very Rev Dr Colin Sinclair My Church: Margaret Brusasco-Mackenzie of St Andrew's Church, Brussels Youth: Young Adult Volunteer Lydia Chon

**Plus:** official update from the Assembly Trustees, readers' pictures, news, letters, reviews and puzzles – all for £3.50. Visit [www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe](http://www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe) or speak to your church's Life and Work co-ordinator

## **Henry Francis – who?**

So here is a question: what connects George VI, Field Marshal Kitchener, General Charles Gordon and Edith Cavell, the nurse shot by the Germans? The answer isn't patriotic prowess, but something much simpler. They all had the words of Henry Francis Lyte at their funeral; or in the case of Cavell, on her lips as the rifles were raised. You may not know much about Lyte, but you know his words, almost instinctively. "Abide with me, fast falls the eventide".

Lyte was born very close to this parish, in Ednam, in 1793, son of a "ne'er do well" who left his wife once he had secured a place for his sons in Ulster, while his wife departed to London. He studied at Trinity College, Dublin, and although reading theology, idly, had a moment of note. On attending a priest's death bed, he was exhorted to take St Paul more significantly. Thereafter he began "to preach in another manner", and regretted having dismissed some colleagues as "enthusiastic rhapsodists", took their more emotive style to heart.



In his later career as a minister in England, he instituted some things we might remember, such as Sunday School picnics (“the Annual Treat”) and did the kind of thing that Victorian vicars did – fly fishing, discovering human remains in a cave, amassing his library and enlarging his church. He was “unusually handsome”, which is a strange adjective. I wonder what being “usually handsome” might be. He was a contrary figure, opposing Catholic Emancipation and supporting the end of the slave trade. The past is often more complex than we would like it to be.

He died in Nice in 1847, aged just 54. Apparently, his last words were “Peace! Joy!” Lyte’s biographer called his most famous hymn “a dull tune”, though we sing it to a different one.

But we still sing it. And we, too often, have not been able to sing it together over the past years. Hymns are a tangible link to the “cloud of witnesses” who have gone before, said the same words and sung the same songs and there is a reverence in that as well as familiarity. It was only after his death that his last book was published, entitled *Remains*. He does remain. We should be glad that this son of the Borders is inscribed on the hearts of sports fans, grievers, churchgoers and those who have never heard of him. (There is a small plaque on the bridge in Ednam: take time to give it a gesture).



## **Cheviot Churches Elders and Districts**

<b>Leslie Thomson</b>	West of Morebattle, Eckford and Crailing.
<b>Keith Cleland/Jenny Flannigan</b>	Main Street, Heughhead and Renwick Gardens Morebattle.
<b>George Lees</b>	Mainsfield Avenue, Morebattle Mains and Whitton.
<b>Anne Brown</b>	Kale Valley and Hownam.
<b>Brian Kelly</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 11.15 a.m. except  
1st Sunday when we meet at **Linton**.

**Hownam** is now irregular. Please check notices.

**Linton and Hoselaw** are always open for private devotion and host occasional services.

The Tuesday Prayer Service held weekly is open to all and everyone will be most welcome (see the church notices or web site for details) For Prayer requests and enquiries contact Kathleen Bates 01573 420259.

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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:**

Brian Kelly, The Haven, 5 Morebattle Road, Town Yetholm, Kelso TD5 8RL  
Tel: 01573 420221 E mail: [bjkelly@uwclub.net](mailto:bjkelly@uwclub.net)

### **Safeguarding Co-Ordinator:**

Vacant – appointment pending.

### **Roll Keeper:**

Pippa Emerson 01573420279

### **Committee Convenors:**

**Mission and Outreach:** Melanie Eve 07807 148496

**Children and Youth Ministry Team:** Graeme Watson 01573 420602

**Ways and Means with Stewardship:** Rae Redpath 01573 420451

**Worship Committee:** Rev. Colin Johnston 01573 440539

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