

# Yester Bolton & Saltoun



## Parish Newsletter

December 2022

Have you seen any of this year's Christmas TV ads yet? From French and Saunders to Kevin the Carrot, many old favourites can be seen in them. And while they advertise their respective shops' wonderful Christmas offers: wreaths and baubles, festive clothing, and above all, the seasonal food and drink on offer, some of them look at more serious topics this year. They appear to take into account that for many people this year, Christmas won't be an easy period, that the cost-of-living crisis might make it more difficult this year to splash out quite as much, to light up all those sparkly lamps, to provide a stunning Christmas buffet. There are some that feature somewhat more modest displays, while others highlight causes such as fostering, and animal shelters.

It's a bit ironic really, don't you think, that Christmas has become something that foremost seems to be about the decorations, the lights, the clothing and the food – not to forget the presents – when it all really started in a small stable, among farm animals, and with people who didn't have party clothes. If we trust the age-old stories, there nevertheless were some sparkles, as the angels descended amidst the starlight, there was celebration as the shepherds arrived to see that miracle, and there were presents, too, brought by Wise Men from the East. That's what Christmas comes down to – parents welcoming a new-born baby, a community coming together across the divides of background, homeland or means, and new hope for the world. God coming into the world, God showing the world the extravagance of love in becoming human, and love outshining everything else – that is what Christmas is about.

Jesus was born in a time of unrest, a time of uncertainty and conflict. Mary and Joseph had their struggles, before Jesus was born, and afterwards, too, when they were forced to flee to Egypt to keep their baby safe. And yet, their love overcame all the difficulties, and in their little baby the world would find new hope: the hope that no matter how dark times might be, new light will shine through, a new beginning is always possible.

Whether you believe in the stories of the shepherds, angels and the Wise Men or not, I wish us all this Advent and Christmas time that we can find light – literally and metaphorically – that we will hold on to hope, and that we'll celebrate love: God's love for the world, the love we share with our communities and our families and friends, the love that holds everything together.

All good wishes,

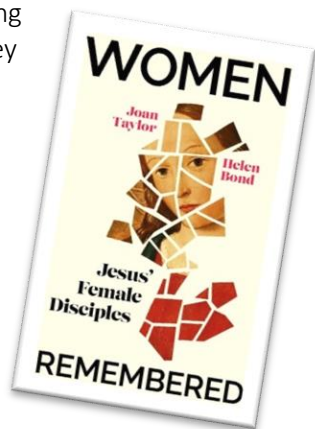
Anikó

## Advent and Christmas

We hope to see you at any or all of our Advent and Christmas services. You can find all the details on the poster at in this newsletter (next to the Crossword). By popular request, we again have an Advent Calendar with something new to discover each day from 1st to 24th December, on our websites. If you can't access the Calendar online, please speak to Anikó or Paul, and we can provide it for you on DVD.

## Exploring the Bible, and what it can mean for us today

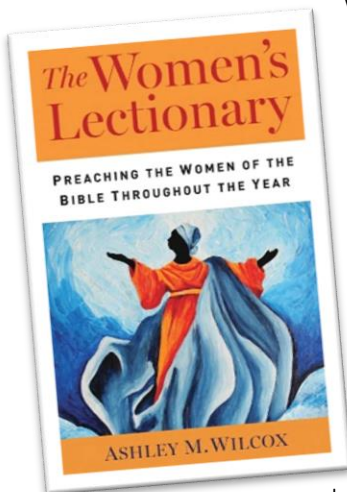
... That's what we're trying to do in our services each week – finding meaning for our everyday lives in these century-old stories, many of which were handed down by storytelling for long periods before they were ever written down, and translated and re-translated into the versions we have available to us today. As you may know, the majority of churches follow a prescribed schedule of Bible readings, with many using the three-year cycle of the Revised Common



Lectionary. This schedule lists Bible passages for each Sunday of the year over a three-year period, and covers many – though not all – parts of the Bible. Each of its three years focusses on one of the so-called synoptic gospels, that is the gospels according to Matthew, Mark and Luke, with John's Gospel featuring periodically in-between. The lectionary cycle begins with the new church year, starting on the first Sunday of Advent. For this coming year, we'll again largely follow the lectionary, and will consider the stories particularly through a focus on the women we meet in them.

Two recent publications, Ashley Wilcox' *The Women's Lectionary* and Joan Taylor's and Helen Bond's (*New Testament Professor at New College Edinburgh*) *Women Remembered* will be valuable resources for our explorations. If you have any questions or would like to hear

more, please speak to Anikó.



## Winter help

With rising energy costs and food prices, we know that times aren't easy. There are some resources for support we can access; for instance, we've just been offered a gift of electric blankets for people over 65 who could use them this coming winter. If you would be, or know of someone who is interested in hearing more about what support is available, or could make use of one of the blankets, please confidentially get in touch with Anikó.

## Taking part

If you would like to come along to services and other events, but find it difficult to get there and would appreciate a lift, please contact us and we'll arrange appropriate links. If you can't come along to church on a Sunday, recordings of our services are available on the worship pages of our websites and our youtube channel. Sound recordings are available, too, if you can't access them online. And if you like coming along to church but have difficulty hearing, we can provide you with a script of the service – simply speak to Anikó.

## Service coffees and teas

We hope to restart (following the pandemic) sharing coffees and teas, and having a chat, after our Sunday services. This will only be possible if there are enough people who can help with preparing the drinks and serving tables, offering some baked goods, serving the drinks, and tidying up afterwards, particularly at Yester Church. If you would be able to help with this, please contact Alison Mill Irving. Thank you!

## Friday Club

We've had lots of fun at Friday Club! We've enjoyed getting to know each other better, sung songs and



played games. Each time, we also say thank you to God for things we're happy about, and ask God to care for the things we worry about. With stories, peg dolls and crafts, we've learned about Jesus and his life – meeting his first disciples, welcoming children, feeding lots of people, caring for one another. We're just about to think about Advent and the Nativity story, too. Join us fortnightly on Friday afternoons, 2pm-3.30 in the Session Rooms in East Saltoun. There's also softplay for younger

children, and coffees and teas for parents, grandparents and carers. We meet again on 9 Dec, 6 and 20 Jan, 3 and 24 Feb, 10 and 24 Mar, 21 April and 5 and 19 May (please note gaps in February and April due to school holidays!)



## The future of our church buildings

The Presbytery Plan for our area will be finalised very soon, and on 1st January, the current Lothian Presbytery (which covers all Church of Scotland congregations in East and Midlothian) will join together with the Presbyteries of Jedburgh, Duns and Melrose & Peebles to form the new Presbytery of Lothian & Borders. The new Presbytery Clerk will be the Rev Norman Smith, formerly minister of Granton Church in Edinburgh and a past Convener of the national Mission & Discipleship Council, and, as it happens, the son-in-law of our own Paul Sales.

As you know, the restructuring is much needed to respond to the reducing membership numbers, lower income, and decreasing numbers of ministers. With smaller congregations and less income, it simply is no longer sustainable to maintain the number of church buildings across Scotland. Every congregation maintains their own buildings, so when the membership and income of a congregation reduce, it isn't always possible to maintain a church building. In our case, we currently have four church buildings, as well as small halls in East Saltoun and Humbie. In consultation with Presbytery, decisions were made to continue the use of Yester Church and the Session Rooms in East Saltoun. Presbytery also recommended that we close Bolton Church, although it is hoped that it can be retained for future use by the community. A decision about Saltoun Church and Humbie Church with the Stables will be made very soon. This is a very difficult process, in which the elders have participated and engaged with Presbytery for the past year, and I would like to invite you to hold them in your prayers during this tough time. Closing church buildings is not easy – and nobody makes such a decision lightly. There are so many emotional links, so many memories attached to 'our' church. Like moving out of a much-loved family home, it's hard to leave such attachments behind, but sometimes, such change is unavoidable. Our connections, our congregation and the friendships and support in it continue, as well as the memories.

I sincerely hope and pray that you will give the new arrangements, which will come into place gradually, a chance. We all are the church in Humbie, Yester, Bolton and Saltoun – and our church and its connections go beyond buildings. The pandemic time with its lockdowns showed this, when we couldn't physically meet together but connected and supported each other nonetheless. And think about how often you would travel across the parish to visit a specific shop or café, to attend a community event, an exercise class or a film night. In a similar way, I hope you'll consider travelling to a church service or event. If you have any worries about transport, please speak to me or an elder, and we'll arrange appropriate transport links. We don't want anybody to miss out because of longer journeys.

When Yester, Bolton and Saltoun first united into one parish in 2015, it took a while for us to get to know each other, and to become friends. It took time for us to get used to having one service moving around between Gifford, Bolton and Saltoun. The result is beautiful however: a good congregation on Sunday morning, many friends across the area, learning from and supporting each other – not to mention the beautiful singing that comes with a larger congregation. At some point in the new year, our currently linked congregations of Humbie and of Yester Bolton and Saltoun will unite into one single parish. We already have joint services together every fortnight, and appreciate coming together.

Whatever the decisions about the future of our buildings will be: they won't be implemented suddenly, and we'll have a grace period to introduce them and together work out how to shape the future of our church community. Change is never easy, but I would invite and encourage you to give it a chance: when Jesus lived among us, he did not have the one church building he attended, and since his days, the church has always been changing and adapting. Please come with us through the changes ahead, and help us to shape and to be the church we want to be, in order to love and to serve God and our community.

*Anikó Schütz Bradwell*

**Crossword answers** Across 1. blue 4. humble 7. barber 8. Noel 9. carry 10. found 12. carol 14. Slade 17. agog 19. awaken 20. alcove 21. palm **Down** 2. llama 3. embargo 4. hark 5. men 6. lie in 11. oil lamp 13. angel 15. dwell 16. babe 18. goo

## Our Church Family

Please join us for our  
**DROP IN COFFEE MORNINGS**

Come for a chat  
over a cup of tea  
or coffee



10.30am-12noon

Wed, 9 Nov, Yester Church

Tue, 29 Nov, Session Rooms East Saltoun

Wed, 14 Dec, Yester Church

Wed, 11 Jan, Yester Church

Tue, 24 Jan, Session Rooms East Saltoun

Wed, 8 Feb, Yester Church

Tue, 28 Feb, Session Rooms East Saltoun

Yester, Bolton and Saltoun Church  
Charity No SC015414



Next foodbank collections: 4 December 2022 and 5 March 2023

Wedding	24 September 2022	Laura Cress and Romilly Mason, of Drem, at Yester Church
Deaths	19 September 2022	Margaret Evans, of Skedsbush
	30 October 2022	Gwynne Evans, of Skedsbush
	6 November 2022	George Patterson, of North Berwick

### Correction

In the previous newsletter we announced the death of Patricia Sales on 16 August 2022. Patricia lived in Bolton, not Gifford as was printed. Apologies, especially to Patricia's family and friends, for this error.

Minister	Anikó Schütz Bradwell	01620 811193 07936 042191	AnikoSB@churchofscotland.org.uk
The minister's time off is: Friday afternoons and Saturdays.			
Session Clerk	John Macfarlane	01875 341311	jmacfarlane9@btinternet.com
Depute Session Clerk	Wendy Ferguson	01620 811069	wendyferguson.wf@gmail.com
Depute Session Clerk	Paul Sales	01620 811260	paulsales457@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Finlay Marshall	01620 810310	fmarshall542@gmail.com
Deputy Treasurer	Wendy Ferguson	01620 811069	wendyferguson.wf@gmail.com
Gift Aid Treasurer	Paul Sales	01620 811260	paulsales457@btinternet.com
Fabric Convener	Ian Jameson	07803 893970	dianjameson@aol.com
Sunday Club	Jenny Riddell	07905 135975	keith.mains@hotmail.co.uk
	Jackie McCreery	01620 810131	jackie@yesterfarmdairies.co.uk
Flower rota (Yester)	Sylvia Anderson	01620 810678	jimsylvia@scoraig.net
	Jean Peat	01620 810358	jeanpeat@hotmail.co.uk
Flower rota (Bolton)	Claire Gobourn	01875 340692	gobourn@globalnet.co.uk
Flower rota (Saltoun)	Morag Swan	01875 340477	billandmoragswan@yahoo.co.uk
Prayer Group	Morag Swan	01875 340477	billandmoragswan@yahoo.co.uk
Newsletter	David Bradwell	01620 811193	djbradwell@gmail.com
Safeguarding and Health & Safety	Ian Jameson	07803 893970	dianjameson@aol.com
Website/Social media	Cressida Douglas-Miller	07789 931737	cressida@thehopestate.com



## Church Services December 2022 – March 2023

Our Sunday services are usually held at 10am, in Yester Church on the first and third Sundays, in Bolton Church on the second and in Saltoun Church on the fourth Sunday of the month. The fortnightly services in Bolton and Saltoun Church are held jointly with our friends at Humbie Church. Services at Yester Church are livestreamed on the Church website and YouTube channel, and remain available later. Services at Bolton and Saltoun Church (where we don't have internet) are recorded and made available later on Sunday. Sound recordings on CD are available on request.

December	4	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Sunday Club Lessons and Carols
	11	Bolton	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	18	Yester Humbie	10am 4pm	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Nativity Service Blue Christmas Service
	24	Yester	11.30pm	Worship team	Watchnight
	25	Saltoun	10.30am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Christmas Day
January	1	Yester	10.30am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	New Year's Day
	8	Bolton	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	15	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Holy Communion
	22	Saltoun	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	29	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
February	5	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Sunday Club
	12	Bolton	10am	Tbc	
	19	Yester	10am	Tbc	
	26	Saltoun	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
March	5	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Sunday Club
	12	Bolton	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	19	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Holy Communion
	26	Saltoun	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	

**Deadline for next newsletter: Thursday 16 February 2023**



The Church of Scotland

[yesterboltonsaltounchurch.org](http://yesterboltonsaltounchurch.org)

Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/YesterBoltonSaltounChurch](https://facebook.com/YesterBoltonSaltounChurch)

Watch services on YouTube – search for Humbie lw Yester Bolton Saltoun Church

Follow us on Instagram [instagram.com/yesterboltonsaltounchurch](https://instagram.com/yesterboltonsaltounchurch) and Twitter @YBS\_Church

Yester, Bolton and Saltoun Parish Church (Church of Scotland) Scottish Charity No SC015414.

Church Copyright Licence Nos 2163827 / 2163803

# Yester Bolton and Saltoun Church

## ADVENT 2022

27 Nov	10am	Saltoun Church	1 Advent Sunday
4 Dec	10am	Yester Church	2 Advent Sunday with Lessons and Carols
11 Dec	10am	Bolton Church	3 Advent Sunday
18 Dec	10am	Yester Church	4 Advent Sunday with the Nativity
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Yester Church	Watchnight Service
Christmas Day	10.30am	Saltoun Church	Christmas Service
1 Jan	10.30am	Yester Church	New Year's Service
Service of Remembering (Blue Christmas)			Humbie Church
Service of Remembering (Blue Christmas)			4pm

Enjoy our Advent Calendar every day at  
[yesterboltonsaltounchurch.org/advent-calendar](http://yesterboltonsaltounchurch.org/advent-calendar)

Scottish Charity Number SC015414

### Across

- Elvis had this kind of Christmas (4)
- These shepherds watched their flocks in Bethlehem's plains by night (6)
- He cuts hair (6)
- Angels sang about the first one (4)
- "Little donkey...Mary safely on her way" (5)
- The shepherds went to the stable and...Jesus in the manger (5)
- A Christmas song (5)
- This group sings "Merry Christmas Everybody" every Christmas (5)
- Very eager to see or here something (4)
- Come out of sleep (6)
- A recessed part of the room (6)
- Dates grow on this tree (4)

### Down

- A member of the camel family (5)
- An official ban on trade (7)
- The herald angels sing this! (4)
- Three wise ones (3)
- They used the manger for Jesus to ... (3,2)
- In the stable, there would be light by an ... (3,4)
- Gabriel was one (5)
- Live in (5)
- They saw the...lying in the manger (4)
- Sticky stuff (3)

Crossword No. 7 set by Margaret

1	2		3		4		5		6	
7							8			
9						10	11			
12	13					14			15	
						16				
17			18		19					
20							21			