

Yester Bolton & Saltoun



Parish Newsletter

June 2019

Dear friends,

Recently, I spent a couple of days back around New College, for a conference with many colleagues of ministers and readers, and with inspiring and challenging speakers, thinking about the rather elaborate and yet, for us, weekly topic of preaching. Preaching, exploring the word of God and its significance for us today, is what we are called to do – of course besides all the administration, the planning, coordinating, the meetings, the writing, and the pastoral encounters we have. One factor of my office that I love is that no day is like the next – there are visits to people who are unwell, coffee mornings, school assemblies, committee meetings, encounters with baptism families and wedding couples, discussions about life and love and God and the world, all among the more administrative tasks.

As you receive this newsletter, I'll be back again at New College as a Commissioner at this year's General Assembly, together with Finlay, who this year is representing our two Kirk Sessions. I must admit that I rather enjoy the Assembly – not only the chance to catch up with old friends, but also the opportunity to discuss and engage in the Church's business. Of course, it can sometimes seem as if these discussions on the Mound don't have very much to do with the every-day life in our parishes, and yet, they steer and guide how that every-day life looks across the country – through sharing the views from Elders, Deacons and Ministers from all over the country and beyond, and through making decisions together.

The Assembly also looks at the wider work of the church; work that is done on behalf of the Church of Scotland in wide areas of life, such as Responding to Climate Change, engagement with Christians and other religions across the globe, help for refugees, care for people living with illness and frailty, alongside that of creating resources for worship and witness, and support for our work in the parishes. Nevertheless, for a number of years it has been discussed that the current model of governance of the Church of Scotland is not sustainable for much longer, and we will be discussing a proposal for structural change – including a new trustee body and a reduction of the number of different Councils (currently there are six: Council of Assembly, Ministries, Mission and Discipleship, Church and Society, World Mission, and Social Care, alongside a number of Committees), to start reducing the administrative costs within the central organisation of the Church by 20%-30%.

In the parishes, we also need to look at how we can remain sustainable in structure as well as in our service and witness. The Church as we know it might be changing – but then it has been changing its shape for 2,000 years now, as we respond to the changes in the world around us. One motto of the Church of Scotland is *ecclesia reformata semper reformanda* – 'the Reformed Church must always be reforming'. And while it might be a bit scary to go out in the unknown, it is also an exciting opportunity. In the Iona Community, of which I am a member, we always affirm that we 'seek new ways to touch the lives of all'. A different way of celebrating the new life that we have proclaimed at Easter, and an affirmation that God goes with us as we walk out into the future.

Have a good summer, Anikó

Worship Group

Would you like to get involved with leading prayers in our services, be part of the worship team who leads Sunday services every few months, and the planning and leading of our six-weekly Evening Services? If you'd like to hear more about any of these, please speak to Anikó.

Why Gardens Matter

Jim Paterson

Professor Joanna Paterson, aka Joanna Geyer-Kordesch, a member of the YB&S congregation, will be “in conversation” with Dr Donald Smith at the Scottish Storytelling Centre in the High Street Edinburgh on Friday 31 May at 2 pm. The topic of conversation will be “Why Gardens Matter” Joanna’s book which will be published by Luath Press in July.

The book describes the role of gardens in promoting wellbeing through the ages and the part they have played personally in recovering from and compensating for the effects of a serious stroke including re-learning water colour painting for the book illustrations. The conversation is to show through Joanna’s experience of researching, writing and illustrating the book, how disabled people and their carers can deal with sudden and crippling disability. All interested are welcome to attend. Further details are available on the Scottish Storytelling Centre website.

Smarties challenge

Margaret Wyllie

Many thanks to all who have filled their empty Smarties packets with 20 pences – or even, in some cases, £1 coins. Thanks to your generosity, we have collected over £700 and there are still a few packets to come in. As previously agreed, 20% of the total will be donated to Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees. We hope you also enjoyed eating your Smarties!

New Scots Holidays

We would like to participate in the pilot of a holiday hosting programme for refugees called New Scots Holidays, organised by Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees. This is part of a wider New Scots Integration Programme with the Scottish Refugee Council and which is part funded by the European Union Asylum, Migration and Integration Fund.

The programme would allow us to welcome a refugee (or a small group or family of refugees) into our parishes for a short break, to offer them some rest and recreation. While we already have an offer for accommodation, we are looking for one person or a family to act as 'host' or 'buddy' for our guest(s), and for some offer to invite them for a meal or an activity while they are staying in our parish. If we receive offers for both, the programme would be likely to take place in August or September. If you would be interested in hearing more, please contact Anikó.

Church Choir

Cressida Douglas-Miller

We’ve been having a thoroughly enjoyable time at choir practice with our brave new choir master, Malcolm. He keeps us all on our toes – absolutely no slacking - and makes us all giggle with his comments and entertaining stories. He has been encouraging us to sing out more (I hope you notice the difference!) and has been teaching us to sing in parts. As well as practising the hymns for the Sunday services we’ve been learning a rather beautiful Schubert anthem as well as some Spirituals. It’s all great fun and low key and we love new members so please come and join us at Yester, 4pm on Tuesdays.

Burnet Library

Margaret Wyllie

The Burnet Library, dating back to 1657, is one of the oldest and largest private libraries in Scotland. It was a bequest from Norman Leslie, who had been tutor to Sir Robert Fletcher and his brother before leaving to be minister of Gordon in Berwickshire. Leslie left 139 books for the use of the minister in Saltoun.

Gilbert Burnet was minister in Saltoun from 1665-1669 and later became Bishop of Salisbury. Burnet added substantially to the library and left a trust fund, part of which was to be used to maintain and further increase the collection. Many of the books bear the inscription of Andrew Fletcher, ‘the Patriot’, or of his uncle, Lord Milton, the distinguished Scottish judge.

The library covers a wide range of subjects but is particularly strong in contemporary material by and about Bishop Burnet. There is also rare Covenanting and Presbyterian literature, a rare edition of Foxe’s Book of Martyrs, scarce editions of English classics and early editions of works by James Boswell, David Hume and Adam Smith, as well as tracts and pamphlets by Francis Bacon and Daniel Defoe. When the Saltoun manse was sold in 1977 the collection, then amounting to over 2000 volumes, was transferred to the National Library of Scotland. Now, many years later, the books have finally been catalogued and are once again available to anyone wishing to refer to them. They can be consulted on request in the Special Collections Reading Room.

Shoebox Appeal

Alison Mill Irving

A wee reminder to remind anyone buying new summer sandals to save the box for the next Shoebox Appeal. These boxes are usually a better size than the large ones for winter boots.



At our Messy Church in May in Gifford Village Hall, we explored the story of the Good Samaritan. We decorated boxes in which we put notes with acts of kindness, to remind us of the kind things we can do every day, we also learned to sew felt pouches with little emergency

help items - tissues, plasters, torches, snacks, we decorated biscuits shaped like people who all had different colours but tasted just the same - to remind us that even if we look different, inside we're all the same, and we had a look at a map of the world to think about the areas who need an extra hand of help and support. We also had a table where we could test how brave we were, by putting our hands into boxes without knowing what was inside - and which gave us lots of shrieks - because sometimes, in order to help someone, we need to be brave. While the bigger kids did all these activities, the smaller ones had fun in the baby and toddler corner. We then listened to the story of the Good Samaritan, learned a new song, and then shared lasagne and fruit.



The Mark Three Sleeper

Finlay Marshall spotted a recent newspaper story about the upgrade to the Caledonian Sleeper overnight train service from Scotland to London. In the article there was a comment regarding the last time the trains were upgraded in the 1980s. At that time the reason for the upgrade was for new safety requirements following a fire on the other sleeper service (between Cornwall and London). It was reported that passengers lamented the loss of chamber pots and hooks for pocket watches, leading to the late Sir William Fraser (as he was identified in the article, but known to us as Kerr Fraser) writing a poem, The Mark Three Sleeper:-

Maist every Monday evenin' I gae headin' south by train,
And early Friday mornin' I'm at Waverley again.
Aye, I'm thirled tae the sleepers – but of late there's been a change:
The brand new travellin' bedroom is tae me a wee thing strange.
Noo its all hygenic plastic – but they've made an awfu' botch.
For it hisna got a potty or a place to hing your watch.

I dinna like the Shuttle: they treat ye a'like sheep:
I canna use the buses though I'm told they're fine and cheap.
I much prefer tae spend the night relaxin' in a train:
Ye snib the door, an there ye are, just quietly on ye rain,
Or gaithered wi a frien' or twa tae hae a wee debauch,
And yet – there's no a potty or a place to hing your watch.

In yon auld, shoogly sleepers I've been bobbin like a cork
I could tell the bridge at Selby or the points just north of York,
I could hear on noisy rattle on the bridge across the Tyne.
But noo...the sole disturbance is the air-conditioner's whine.
Ye still get Schweppe's water tae dilute your glass of Scotch,
But ye dinna get a potty or a place to hing your watch.

Coffee Mornings

Twice a month (one the second Tuesday and the fourth Wednesday) we have drop-in Coffee Mornings in East Saltoun and Yester: an opportunity for a chat over a lovely cup of tea and coffee, and delicious baking.

These coffee mornings are coordinated by Alison and Janet, and we are looking for volunteers to take charge of the mornings once in a while. There are sign-up sheets for the upcoming months at each coffee morning, so if you could help, please add your name – of course you could also work as a team. Thank you!

Coffee Morning Dates

Yester 12 Jun	Saltoun 25 Jun
Yester 10 Jul	Saltoun 23 Jul
Yester 14 Aug	Saltoun 27 Aug

Holiday Club

We are offering a taster Holiday Club this summer, from 6 to 8 August, 9.30am-12.30pm, at the Humbie Kirk Stables, for children of primary school age. We are now taking bookings, and booking forms can be found in the churches and on our website.

Parish Register

Deaths	3 March 2019	Isobel Edgar, Gifford
	11 March 2019	Allan Steven, Bolton
	13 April 2019	Ian McNaughton, Spilmersford, Pencaitland

Minister	Anikó Schütz Bradwell	01620 811193	ASchuetzBradwell@churchofscotland.org.uk
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Gift Aid Treasurer (Yester)	Wendy Ferguson	01620 811069	wendyferguson.wf@gmail.com
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Fabric Convener	Bill Swan	01875 340477	billandmoragswan@yahoo.co.uk
Deputy Fabric Convener	Ian Jameson	07803 893970	dianjameson@aol.com
Sunday Club (Yester)	Jackie McCreery Wendy Ferguson	01620 810131 01620 811069	jackie@yesterfarmdairies.co.uk wendyferguson.wf@gmail.com
Sunday Club (Bolton and Saltoun)	Jenny Riddell Ian Jameson	07905 135975 07803 893970	keith.mains@hotmail.co.uk dianjameson@aol.com
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Deadline for next newsletter: Wednesday 14 August 2019

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