

Yester Bolton & Saltoun



Parish Newsletter

June 2021

I hope this finds you well. I'm writing this in the week of the General Assembly – the annual meeting of elders, deacons and ministers from across Scotland, which debates and determines the direction of the Church of Scotland. This year an elder has become Moderator: as former Deputy First Minister of Scotland, the Rt Hon Lord Wallace of Tankerness QC, better known as Jim Wallace, is no stranger to public life, and has begun his year-long role of ambassador for the Church of Scotland by leading us through a mostly online Assembly with humour, wisdom and graciousness. Prince William, the Duke of Cambridge and Earl of Strathearn, served as the Lord High Commissioner to the Assembly, and addressed it in a moving speech during the opening session. In the same session, the outgoing Moderator, the Very Rev Dr Martin Fair, who has become a familiar face through his pastoral service to congregations during this past year, delivered a prophetic address, pertinent to where we find ourselves. He said:

“For as long as I’m a part of the Church of Scotland and have a voice within it, I’ll call on it to announce - and to be - ‘good news to the poor, liberty to the captives, sight to the blind’ - to be present with the down-trodden and the marginalised and the oppressed and, as scripture has it, ‘the least of these.’ Why? Because that’s what Jesus was about and I’ve no interest in being part of anything which isn’t primarily focussed on making real today that which Jesus set in motion. [...]”

Many big topics were discussed during the Assembly, and you might be pleased to hear that there was extensive quoting of our own John Burleigh’s father, who was the Moderator in 1960, and Professor of Church History and Dean of New College.

The issues debated include the disinvestment of Church funds from fossil fuel companies; an urging of congregations to engage with resources around Violence against Women, as domestic abuse cases have risen starkly during the pandemic; a further step towards permitting ministers to conduct weddings for same-sex couples – something the Kirk Session will need to discuss over the coming months, as it is now sent to congregations under the Barrier Act; and, of course, the much-needed restructuring of parishes and Presbyteries. This process, which is now underway, will see the 45 Presbyteries in Scotland that existed in 2019 merge into nine over the next few years to make governance and local support easier. (There are also three additional Presbyteries outwith Scotland: England, International, and Jerusalem.) Our current Presbytery is Lothian, which covers the geography of the East Lothian and Midlothian council areas. It looks set to join the new Presbytery of South East Scotland from 2023. This will cover Edinburgh, the Lothians and the Borders.

Conversations are now beginning on future parish groupings, too. When we did our consultation last year, some of you were asking why change was necessary: this is due both to the reduced numbers of congregation members and income, but also to the decreasing number of ministers: roughly, for every new minister being ordained or joining the Church of Scotland, two are retiring, so that there won’t be enough ministers for all current parishes across Scotland. The parish groupings will rely more on lay ministry, both in pastoral care and worship leading, and also on Ministry Development Staff – employed, but non-ordained parish assistants. This will be a process which we can shape and influence: there is no ‘one size fits all’ model, and any changes will only come into effect when there is a vacancy arising.

(continued on next page...)

(Minister's letter...) Our conversations will primarily focus on the churches in Haddington and surroundings, as we already work in close partnership with one another. Of course, change can be difficult and cause a lot of anxiety. I would urge you to speak to me if you have any questions or particular concerns. We do know that the Church, since the days of Jesus and the early disciples, has changed a lot – always guided by the Holy Spirit. After all, the Church of Scotland (which itself only came into being in 1560 – which seems a long time ago, but is of course only a quarter of the time since the days of Jesus) has always subscribed to being *reformata semper reformanda*: reformed, and always reforming.

Besides the obvious church structures, there are many other ways in which we are involved in the life in our parishes, and the upcoming changes will reflect this somewhat. As long as God goes with us, I'm not overly concerned, and we do have a promise of this: 'Remember, I am with you always, to the end of time' (Matthew ch 28 vs 20). In that spirit, I wish you a good summer – and as ever, please do get in touch if you'd like a chat or any other support.

Anikó

Would you like to help lead worship?

With restrictions easing, our services can become a bit more creative again. If you would like to participate in leading worship by leading our prayers, all age addresses or – for those who have completed the worship leadership training provided by Presbytery – would be interested in preaching a sermon, please contact Anikó. We are grateful to our singers delighting us in a couple of services – and, once we move into Level 1 – congregational singing will once more be possible (at current guidance, this should be from 7 June).

Holy Communion and After Service coffees

We know that many of you are looking forward to celebrating Holy Communion again in person, and to chatting over a cup of tea or coffee and some delicious cake after a service. Both are, regrettably, not yet practicable for us at this time, as there are strict regulations around both, which in our buildings cannot be safely put into action. We will do so as soon as we can – in the meantime, if you would like to have another celebration of Holy Communion in an online service, please indicate this to Anikó or the Session Clerk team, and we will make arrangements for it. As for socialising over coffee or tea, perhaps you would like to join us at one of the outdoor coffee mornings?

National Cream Tea Day – 26 June 2021

Who doesn't like a Cream Tea? A lovely light scone, dripping with delicious jam and topped with whipped cream, washed down with a cup of your favourite tea.

Why not indulge this summer and invite six friends to your garden to catch up and enjoy a cream tea, while at the same time raise funds for the church! Anyone can get involved.

To take part all you need to do is:

- ✓ Choose a date to suit you on or around the 26th June
- ✓ Invite 6 friends to your garden
- ✓ Provide a cream tea for everyone
- ✓ Ask guests to pay £5 each
- ✓ If you would like to provide a full afternoon tea with sandwiches and cake as well (and perhaps a glass of Prosecco) this would be £10 per person.



Image by [jamstraightuk](#) from [Pixabay](#)

Hopefully this will provide a simple sociable way to raise funds in these difficult times. Enjoy!

P.S. Any money raised should be handed in to Finlay Marshall or John Macfarlane.

‘Making good’ ...or just a little bit better.

I would like to introduce you to a friend of mine. I first met Anderson de Lima through a fellow Saltoun school family, both were very involved with North Leith Baptist Church. Anderson is a painter and living as we do in a house without a right-angle Anderson was a Godsend! ‘Making good’ was needed everywhere and over the past 15 or so years Anderson had worked his magic over most of the house; he’s also taught my kids to pay football like Pelé and for a long time there was a list of Portuguese vocabulary pinned to the fridge!



Why am I telling you this in the church newsletter? Well, Anderson may have lived in East Lothian for nearly 20 years but his family home is in Brazil, the state of Goias in the Midwest. In March this year Anderson’s nephew died of Covid, aged 27. Fit, healthy but living in a community where lockdown is impossible. For many ‘going to work’ means putting food on the table, and the economy is so poor that staying home is simply not an option.

Losing his nephew has been the catalyst for Anderson to set up a very low key, but highly effective fundraising initiative. Funds are sent to his family in Brazil to buy food parcels for the local community which will enable people to stay at home and slow the rate of transmission of the virus. Coordinated by his mother Darly, and in collaboration with her local church, the food parcels are being distributed directly to the families most in

need. The pictures give a flavour of the immediacy, necessity and practicality of this venture. Anderson contacted me mid-March and by mid-April over 90 food parcels have been received.

This may be a problem on a global scale. One might say we cannot ‘make good’, but we can go some way to making it just a little bit better. If anyone would like to help supply food parcels to Goias then please get in touch with me. Email is best keith.mains@hotmail.co.uk or call 07905 135975 and leave a message and I’ll return your call.

Many thanks – the Riddell Family



Drop in Coffee Mornings

Won’t it be lovely to get these going again to give us an opportunity to catch up after the months with limited contact? At first we will have to meet outdoors to satisfy all the Covid requirements while having room for anyone who would like to come.

We have also had to make some adjustments to the usual days to accommodate holidays, so the Saltoun dates are Tuesdays - 22 June, 6 July and 10 August, 10.30-12noon, behind the Fletcher Hall, and for Yester we plan to start on 17 June (Thursday), 7 July (Wednesday) and 18 August (Wednesday) also 10.30-12 noon. Aniko has very kindly offered the use of the manse garden for the Yester dates.

As we will have to keep contact details and keep an eye on the numbers (12 people from 12 households) we will ask you to let us know if you plan to be there. Please see the posters for further information.

- **Saltoun - contact Janet on 01875 340152**
- **Yester – contact Alison on 01620 810404, or email alisonmi@yahoo.com**

Our Church Family

Margaret Watson's grandson Cameron, aged 19, was diagnosed with stage 2 melanoma in March this year. After having a mole on his calf removed in January, the biopsy results came back positive which meant Cameron needed a further operation and he couldn't return to his much loved football with Stenhousemuir Football Club.

Cameron decided to do some fund raising and raise awareness for skin cancer as his consultant had told him this was very rare for someone so young. He got in touch with Melanoma UK charity and started a fundraising page. This involved him climbing Ben Lomond and raising just under £8,000 for Melanoma UK. He had a fantastic response from his fundraising which was key to keeping him positive during the wait for his second operation and then a further wait for the biopsy results to see if the cancer had spread to his lymph nodes. He did interviews with local papers and social media journalists and then a podcast with Melanoma UK.

He was delighted to share with all this month that the biopsy results on his lymph nodes came back negative so no further treatment was needed. He will get 3 monthly skin checks from now on. He is very grateful to everyone he has shared this with and all their support, especially his friend Harry who was the one to get him to check the mole on this leg. He will continue to raise skin cancer awareness, keep in touch with Melanoma UK and is so pleased to be returning to Stenhousemuir Football Club in June. To support Cameron's fundraising see

<https://justgiving.com/crowdfunding/camerongraham>

Baptisms, Marriages and Deaths

There are no new items to report on since the last newsletter.

A floral tribute

Jean Peat wants to thank everyone who has put their name down for the arranging flowers in Yester Church; they are greatly appreciated by everyone who has been able to attend an in-person service. There are still dates available in August, September, October and December if anyone else would like to add their name. Please phone Jean on 810358 to arrange a date that suits best. There is also a list in Yester Church.

Minister	Anikó Schütz Bradwell	01620 811193	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 Thomson		
Gift Aid Treasurer	Paul Sales	01620 811260	paulsales457@btinternet.com
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	01620 810131	jackie@yesterfarmdairies.co.uk
	Wendy Ferguson	01620 811069	wendyferguson.wf@gmail.com
Sunday Club (Bolton and Saltoun)	Jenny Riddell	07905 135975	keith.mains@hotmail.co.uk
	Ian Jameson	07803 893970	dianjameson@aol.com
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
Website/Social media	Cressida Douglas-Miller	07789 931737	cressida@thehopesestate.com

Deadline for next newsletter: Wednesday 11 August 2021



Church Services June – September 2021

We are now, gladly, returned to our church buildings for in-person services. These are now held **at the earlier time of 10am**, and are subject to Government Covid guidance, which can change. Please check the Church website and notice boards for updates. Restrictions, including the wearing of facemasks and the recording of contact details need to continue for the time being. If you would like to attend an in-person service, contact Paul Sales **by Friday evening** for each service. Telephone: 01620 811260 email: paulsales457@btinternet.com, text: 07827226135.

The in-person services are recorded and available online later that day on the Church website and YouTube channel. Audio recordings of all Sunday services are available on CD. The services at Yester Church are livestreamed on the YouTube channel, too. Once the social distancing restrictions are eased, and we therefore can accommodate a greater number of people in the buildings, the Bolton and Saltoun services will be held jointly, with our friends from Humble joining us in-person.

June	6	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	13	Bolton	10am	The Rev Jim Black	
	20	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	27	Saltoun	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
July	4	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	11	Bolton	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	18	Yester	10am	John Macfarlane and Jenny Riddell	
	25	Saltoun	10am	The Rev Jim Black	
August	1	Yester	10am	Cressida Douglas-Miller and Paul Sales	
	8	Bolton	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	15	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	22	Saltoun	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	29	Humble	11.30am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Joint service (5 th Sunday)
September	5	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	12	Bolton	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	19	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	26	Saltoun	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	



Yester, Bolton and Saltoun Church DROP-IN COFFEE MORNINGS ... AL FRESCO

Due to the ongoing restrictions, our coffee mornings will take place outdoors over the summer.



Image by Thorsten Frenzel from Pixabay

Come and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee and a chat.

Thur, 17 June, in the Manse garden, Gifford

Tue, 22 June, in the Fletcher Hall garden, East Saltoun

Tue, 6 July, in the Fletcher Hall garden, East Saltoun

Wed, 7 July, in the Manse garden, Gifford

Tue, 10 August, in the Fletcher Hall garden, East Saltoun

Wed, 18 August in the Manse garden, Gifford

**EVERYBODY IS WELCOME,
BUT BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL!**

from 10.30am
to 12 noon

Please call Alison for the Gifford dates, and Janet for the Saltoun ones. Thank you!