

Yester Bolton & Saltoun



Parish Newsletter

June 2023

How adventurous are you when it comes to food? Do you like trying new things, new recipes, foods you've not had before? Or are you a bit more careful, preferring to stick to what you know? We see quite a bit of this at the Manse, when the five-year-old is very suspicious of trying a tiny spoonful of something new, to eventually decide that it's really quite delicious (well, sometimes at least).

It can be challenging to be presented with new things, things we haven't encountered before and that are, to some degree, unknown – we can't know in advance what a new food will taste like, for instance. Will we like it or won't we? There's no way of knowing, unless we try it.

The world seems to be constantly changing, and we are facing new challenges all the time. I'm sure you don't need me to give you examples, you'll all know plenty of such instances yourself. And along with the changes in the world, and in our society, the church is facing changes, too. Some would argue that we have waited far too long before facing the reality of our situation, before addressing the challenges with which we have struggled for decades now. We have finally woken up to the fact that the church needs to change in order to continue serving our communities, in order to still effectively live out God's love in the world. Some of the adjustments that are now taking place can look scary to us, too, where we feel like we are losing something we treasure. However, we are already well into a new way of being church. With new activities and events, we are now in touch with many more people in our community.

The changes can help us to serve our communities better. Please come along with us into this new phase of church life, please give the changes a chance, so that we can continue to be a positive Christian presence here in our parish for a long time to come. As ever, if you would like a chat or any other support, contact me or one of the elders. Have a good summer, Anikó

Young Church

Over this past school year, we've had lots of fun at Friday Club. Our last date before the summer holidays will be Friday, 16th June.

From the end of August, we'll have different age groups: a fortnightly Juniors Friday Club for pre-school children from age 2 with parents and carers, and a fortnightly Primary Friday Club for children in P1-4, where parents and carers are not required to stay.

We'll also have a Youth Club for young people in P5-S2, meeting monthly, with a view to a summer trip next year. For dates and venues, please keep an eye on our websites and social media, or sign up to our family enews by giving your email address to Anikó.

Choir

The church choir is open to all who are interested. It is led and conducted by Malcolm Christine. The choir prepare the hymns for the Sunday services, and often sing anthems or sung blessings in the joint services in Bolton and Saltoun. Rehearsals are on Wednesdays at 3pm in Bolton Church, and all are welcome to come along!

Yester sound system

Thanks to a very generous donation, the sound system in Yester Church has recently been completely updated. This should enable us all to enjoy the much-improved sound quality, both in the building and in the service recordings. Everything can be adjusted digitally now, so we also won't need to run down to the vestry in the middle of a service to change sound levels. Our heartfelt thanks to the very kind donor!

East Lothian Foodbank

Here is what they write in their latest report:

We recognise how difficult times are right now, which is why we really appreciate all and any support you are able to offer. Together, we can ensure help is here for everyone who needs it in East Lothian, whilst we also collectively work towards a more just future where no one needs our food bank to get by.

On Wednesday 26 April 2023, we released our stats on the number of emergency food supplies that East Lothian Foodbank provided within our local community between April 2022 and March 2023. The alarming new figures reveal that we have provided 12,341 emergency food supplies to people who couldn't afford the essentials in our community over the last year – and 4,491 of these went to children. This represents a 44% increase on the previous year. Across the country, the support offered last year represents the most parcels food banks in our network have ever distributed in a single year and represents a 37% increase compared to last year, and more than double the amount distributed by food banks in the same period five years ago.

This isn't right and we can't allow this to go on.

Together, with food banks across the Trussell Trust network, we are calling for MPs across the UK to support a social security system that guarantees our essentials, by making sure that the basic rate of Universal Credit is at

Our next collection of donations for the foodbank is on 25th June. If you'd like to help, please bring your donations to church that Sunday or contact Arthur or Anikó to arrange an uplift. Thanks so much!

Please don't lose sight of the needs of the people of Ukraine

As many of you know Andrew Gobourn, from West Saltoun, has an old British Army friend who lives in South East Poland called Franta Geisler. Despite his advanced years, Franta has been incredibly active in providing support to Ukrainian refugees; giving his time, energy and personal cash, thankfully supported by donations from some members of our church here in East Lothian and from elsewhere. In the last newsletter Franta was working with a local church near Lviv, in the very west of Ukraine, to build four or more small wooden framed buildings to provide desperately needed accommodation for displaced people during the harsh Ukrainian winter. The four small houses are now complete and three are occupied the fourth just needs the bathroom to be completed. However, there is still a desperate need for further support for a new project of repairing houses in previously occupied areas to make them habitable for the families who simply exist there.

These people need help and any donation would be immediately put to good use and can be sent directly to Franta's UK account to help those in need. Frantisek Geisler / 070246 / 43354089
Thank you.

least enough to afford the essentials we all need to live. You can write to your MP, too (more info on the Foodbank website).

No one should need the support of our food bank because everyone in our local community should be able to live lives free from hardship and poverty. That's why your support is needed now more than ever.

As we navigate these challenging times and do our utmost to meet the increasing need for our services, your support means everything to us. If you can, please donate any of the following food or toiletries:

*Tinned soup
Tinned fruit
Tinned potatoes
Long-life fruit juice
Rice pudding or custard
Pasta sauce*

You can also download the BanktheFood app to keep up to date with our shortages while you are shopping.

If you're able to make a financial donation you can do so in a variety of ways. Don't forget we can claim Gift Aid on donations, and you can fill in a our Gift Aid form to increase your donation by 25%. Thank you. There are also plenty of volunteering opportunities with the foodbank. Thank you for all that you're doing.



Introducing members of our Church: Margaret Bryce

Who are you? Margaret Jean Bryce

Where do you live, and how long have you lived there?

I've lived in Park Road in Gifford for about 12 years. I already knew Gifford a little bit, because over the years my family used to come and visit my cousin Jean (Peat) and her mum in Duns Road, and latterly Jean and her late husband Jack.

Where were you born? I'm a Dundonian, and apart from a short spell in Edinburgh, my teaching career was spent in schools in and around Dundee. After retiring, I lived in Perthshire.

What fills your days? Gardening, walking most days, meeting friends and family, sewing and knitting, crosswords and other puzzles.

Do you have any pets? Sadly, not anymore. I had a Border Collie when I came to Gifford and she helped me explore the surrounding countryside – and get to know other dog owners.

What does it mean to you to be part of the Church?

Apart from appreciating being part of the congregation in Yester, it is good to have the opportunity to make new friends with others from Bolton, Saltoun and Humble, and join in services in the other churches.

What do you enjoy doing? Walking (I don't do hills though!), decorating (I prefer wallpapering – I'm not as



keen on painting), investigating local cafes and garden centres, and theatre visits.

If you could live anywhere but here, where would it be?

Anywhere in Scotland, but near the sea.

Please tell us three of your favourite: hymns

At the name of Jesus (458), Christ be our light (543), and for Christmas (though not really a hymn) – All Bells in Paradise by John Rutter.

Bible verses or passages

John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.

Psalms 118:24 This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.

The parable of the Good Samaritan

bands/singers/ composers

I still have my Cliff Richard fan club badge from 60+ years ago!

My specialist subject would be mostly 60s/70s music

I like John Williams film music

books/ authors

I prefer non-fiction these days, especially biographies and autobiographies, ranging from Billy Connolly to Judi Dench

foods

Roast chicken – or most chicken dishes, teriyaki salmon, most curries (medium!)

Forest Church

At the end of April, we had our first Forest Church of the year, this time in Humble Kirk Wood. Despite the somewhat changeable weather, we had a lovely walk, helped each other and climbed down to and crossed the river (twice).

Rather than gathering in one spot for prayer, reflection and activity, as we did last August in the Gifford Community Woodland, this time we had a reflective walk, stopping at various points for reflections and prayer. We thought, among other themes, about the necessity to gain perspective and see the bigger picture (looking down to the waterfall) and also about the need to challenge injustice, in pondering the witch hunt of Nether Keith.

Our next Forest Church events are on Sunday, 25th June at 2pm in Strawberry Wood East Saltoun (if possible, please park at the Fletcher Hall) and Sunday, 27th August at 2pm (venue tbc). As always, please wear weather-appropriate clothing and shoes with ankle support and bring a walking stick if you use one. All ages are welcome, as are well-behaved dogs on a lead.



Getting to know each other

In preparing the union of our two congregations, we want to offer opportunities to meet and get to know each other. There are coffees and teas available after the joint services in Saltoun Church on 25th June and 27th August. We'll also have a joint outdoor service, followed by a shared lunch, on Sunday, 23rd July at Keith Mains, West Saltoun. Apart from our regular joint services in Bolton Church on the second and in Saltoun Church on the fourth Sunday of the month – both at 10am, we'll also have a joint service in Humble Church on 30th July at 11.30am.

A date for your diary: Church Garden Fete Saturday 17th June 2023

Gifford Manse Garden 2-4:30pm

Please join us for live music, fun and games for adults and children a raffle, tombola, produce stalls and other refreshments, along with a cream tea in Aniko and David's beautiful Manse garden. Do bring your friends and relations along for the outing! £4 entrance includes cream tea; children under 12 free. Musical entertainment will be provided by the Yester School Band, Sam Hancock and Thistlehurst.

We would be grateful for donations of baking and produce on the day.

We are also looking for: Empty screw top wine bottles (or full bottles of wine!), tombola prizes, plants: in advance to Claire Gobourn, Liz McDougal or Aniko, please.

We will put up gazebos on the afternoon of Friday 16th June, so please come and help if you can. Do let Liz or Claire know in advance if you have a gazebo we can borrow, please. Tables and chairs will arrive on Saturday morning, so please help with the setting up if you are around. If you would like to help in some capacity on the afternoon, and have not already been asked to do so, please do let Claire, Liz or Aniko know!



Coffee Mornings

We have fortnightly drop-in Coffee Mornings, on the second Wednesday of the month in Yester Church – though in June and August we are moving them outdoors into the Manse garden in Gifford, weather permitting - and now on the fourth Wednesday of the month in the Session Rooms in East Saltoun. They usually take place from 10.30-12noon, and all are warmly invited for a chat over cup of tea or coffee and lovely baking.

New elders

On Sunday, 23rd April, we ordained Janet Banks and Margaret Bryce as new elders. We are very pleased to welcome them on the Kirk Session now. We know both of them well, as they are already very actively involved in the life of our church, not least at the regular coffee mornings and after coffee teas. You can read more about Margaret elsewhere in this newsletter.

Baptisms	7 May 2023	Myles Andrew, Harley Moon and Bradley Stuart William, children of Leanne Bathgate and William Cooper, Haddington
	28 May 2023	Clementine Rose, daughter of Jessica and Hugh Cope, Gifford
Wedding	15 April 2023	Yasmin Scott and Abby Davidson, Edinburgh, conducted by the Rev Tom Gordon
Death	9 March 2023	George Fulton, East Saltoun

Minister	Anikó Schütz Bradwell	01620 811193 07936 042191	AnikoSB@churchofscotland.org.uk
The minister's time off is usually Saturdays and Mondays.			
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@outlook.com
Prayer Group	Morag Swan	01875 340477	billandmoragswan@outlook.com
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@thehopesestate.com



Church Services June – September 2023

Services are usually held at 10am. Video recordings are available on our website, and sound recordings on request. If you find it difficult to get to a service, please contact us and we can arrange transport.

June	4	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Sunday Club
	11	Bolton	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	18	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
		Saltoun	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Coffee/tea after service
	25	Strawberry Wood, East Saltoun	2pm	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Forest Church
July	2	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	9	Bolton	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	16	Yester	10am	The Rev Leslie Morrison	Holy Communion Coffee/tea after service
	23	Keith Mains, West Saltoun	Tbc	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Outdoor service, followed by shared lunch
	30	Humbie	11.30am	The Rev Jim Black	
August	6	Yester	10am	The Rev Jim Black	
	13	Bolton	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	20	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	27	Saltoun Bolton	10am 2pm	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Coffee/tea after service Forest Church
Sept	3	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Sunday Club
	10	Bolton	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Holy Communion
	17	Yester	10am	Tbc	Coffee/tea after service
	24	Saltoun	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	

Deadline for next newsletter: Tuesday 15 August 2023



The Church of Scotland

yesterboltonsaltounchurch.org

Facebook facebook.com/YesterBoltonSaltounChurch, YouTube – search for Humbie lw Yester Bolton Saltoun Church

Instagram instagram.com/yesterboltonsaltounchurch and Twitter @YBS_Church

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Across: 7. Alaska 8. allows 9. bear 10. entirely 11. mindfulness 14. red hot poker 18. woodland 19. boon
20. adjust 21. rustic
Down: 1. sleep in 2. Tsar 3. gâteau 4. hasten 5. affresco 6. dwelt 12. dreadful 13. aerobic 15. Hearts 16. Tudors
17. woods 19. Bush

Please join us for our
DROP IN COFFEE MORNINGS



Come for a chat
 over a cup of tea
 or coffee
10.30am-12noon

Wed, 14 June, Manse Garden, Gifford*
 Wed, 28 June, Session Rooms East Saltoun
 Wed, 12 July, Yester Church
 Wed, 26 July, Session Rooms East Saltoun
 Wed, 16 Aug, Manse Garden, Gifford*
 Wed, 23 Aug, Session Rooms East Saltoun
 Wed, 13 Sept, Yester Church
 Wed, 27 Sept, Session Rooms East Saltoun

*weather permitting, otherwise Yester Church
*Please note that the Saltoun dates are now
 on Wednesdays, too.*

Yester, Bolton and Saltoun Church

Scottish Charity No SC015414

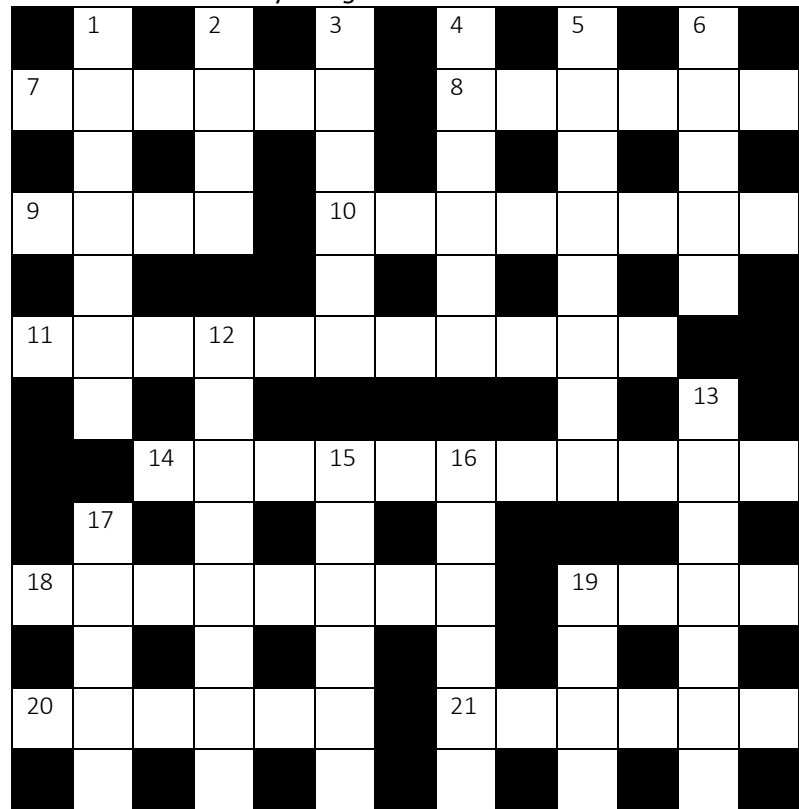
Across

- 7. The 49th US State (6)
- 8. Permits (6)
- 9. Creature made of metal seen at Dunbar (4)
- 10. Completely (8)
- 11. A technique you can learn, enabling you to become more self-aware and feel calmer and less stressed (11)
- 14. Common name for the plant Kniphofia (3,3,5)
- 18. It is pleasant walking in Gifford Community ___ (8)
- 19. Something that is helpful or beneficial (4)
- 20. Alter or move slightly (6)
- 21. Rural (6)

Down

- 1. This is what you do when you don't waken up when you should! (5,2)
- 2. Supreme ruler in Russia (4)
- 3. A rich or fancy cake (6)
- 4. Speed up (6)
- 5. In the open air (8)
- 6. "I dreamt I ___ in Marble Halls (5)
- 12. Awful; terrible (8)
- 13. The kind of exercise that can increase your breathing and heartrate (7)
- 15. Football team based in Edinburgh (6)
- 16. The royal family (5 monarchs) who ruled for 118 years (6)
- 17. Tiger in the forests? (5)
- 18. Surname of the 41st and 43rd US presidents (4)

Crossword No. 9 set by Margaret



The future of our church

When was the last time you have been to church, or engaged with any church groups or events?

This isn't a loaded question: simply an explanation of why churches in the Western world are in the situation in which we now find ourselves.

Many of us do so very frequently and committedly, in various ways, but if you think back to the past, numbers are much lower than they used to be. Since the 1970s, church attendance and membership have steadily decreased, which has resulted in lower income – so less capital to work with - and fewer ministers, too. It's not all gloom of course, the Church of Scotland remains one of the biggest membership organisations in the country, providing an incredible amount of social care and community support – it's just that relative to where Scotland was a generation or two ago, the reality we face is different and presents new challenges.

As you know, we have been discussing the future of our church for some years now, and we're now coming to a point where significant changes will take place, in addition to our changed way of working that has gradually developed over the past couple of years.

Over the past four years, the Church of Scotland has been undergoing a restructuring at all levels, to respond to the reality of our situation: with smaller congregations, fewer ministers, and less income. The restructuring aims to help us serve our communities in the best possible way with the resources that are available, so that we may continue to serve God as parish churches. Thank you for all you have done to engage with this process in such a constructive way – first and foremost our elders, and all the members and friends of our congregations.

We are holding two community meetings to discuss what the changes mean for us in particular:

- ❖ Thursday 8 June at 7.30pm in the Fletcher Hall in East Saltoun,
- ❖ Thursday 15 June in Humble Village Hall.

Please come along to one of the meetings if you can.

Here is a summary:

Our two linked congregations of Humble and Yester Bolton and Saltoun will unite, hopefully on 1st January 2024. This means that instead of two Kirk Sessions having separate meetings, separate accounts, separate set ups for administrative items like safeguarding, health & safety and property, we will have one Kirk Session, where all current elders will come together. We are hoping that much of the work can be done through teams working on the different topics.

We are proposing the new name of 'Lammermuir Parish' for the united church. In due course, the current congregation of Morham & Garvald will come into this parish, too. (This will happen when their minister decides to leave.)

The ministry provision for the united parish will remain at one full-time position while I remain in post. When there's a vacancy, the allocation will be reduced to 0.5 FTE. Eventually, it is hoped that there can be a parish grouping with the then-united Haddington Church, which could reduce the administrative burden on a future minister significantly, making a 0.5 position somewhat more feasible.

We know that because of our reduced congregation size and income, we are no longer able to maintain all our buildings as Church of Scotland properties. This is a situation faced by congregations across the country and across denominations.

It is very hard to close a building to which we have emotional connections and which carries so many memories for us.

Unfortunately we are not in a position where we can afford all of them, so have come to the decision that in due course, Bolton and Saltoun Churches will be decommissioned as Church of Scotland buildings. However, we are

actively pursuing options that we hope will retain the church buildings for the local communities, including their future availability for family services such as weddings and funerals.

Yester Church and the Session Rooms in East Saltoun will remain, and Humbie Church and Stables are under a three-year-review. These decisions have not been made lightly, and the elders have shown much concern and diligence in determining our options.

We are proposing to hold one Sunday service for the united parish. We will invite views on the pattern of service venues and the timing of this service at the congregational meetings in June.

Yester Church is very much at the centre of the community and will continue to host community groups as well as services. To support this, some of the pews will be removed over the summer and replaced with chairs, to add to both comfort and flexibility in the use of the building.

In contrast, Humbie Church is beautifully situated in a secluded and peaceful spot, while providing ample parking opportunities to enable transport there. We hope to establish a programme of retreat days there, as well as themed fairs. Current ideas for the latter include flower arranging, choirs, and crafts such as knitting and crocheting – all part of our church life – and we would invite groups from the area to join us for displays and workshops. Additionally, we hope to establish a programme of concerts and exhibitions at Humbie Church, as well as using it more frequently as a wedding venue.

We have already begun a new way of being church. In addition to our Sunday services, and regular activities such as our fortnightly community coffee mornings, we hold a fortnightly children's group and monthly Sunday Club for children; we have Forest Church; our services are joined online by between twenty and thirty people every week in addition to our lively congregation of 40-50 people in the church buildings (especially for joint services!); we have connected more with our communities through various initiatives during and beyond the lockdowns; we have successfully applied for a community support grant to help our communities in this cost-of-living crisis; we regularly support the local foodbank and other charity appeals through the generous donations of our community.

All of the proposals for the union and future mission have been discussed by a working group made up of four elders each from Humbie and Yester Bolton and Saltoun Churches, and subsequently discussed by the Kirk Sessions.

Please help us as we face the changes: it can be difficult to navigate a new situation, and we all want the best for our church and our area, to serve God and express God's love in the best possible way.

This is new for all of us, and we would ask you to help us and give the changes a chance. Only together can we shape our church life.

In the wider church, Presbyteries, the regional bodies that oversee and bring together Church of Scotland congregations in each area, have been uniting – down from previously 46 to 10, to use the available resources more efficiently. We are now part of the new Presbytery of Lothian and Borders – uniting the previous Presbyteries of Lothian, Duns, Melrose & Peebles, and Jedburgh. The union took place on 1st January of this year, and so far, the work and mutual support have been fantastic, with many plans for joint up working. We are very pleased that the new fulltime Presbytery Clerk is the Rev Norman Smith, son-in-law of Paul Sales, and that the newly appointed Presbytery administrator comes from our parish – Caroline Kirk, whom many of us will know.

The Church of Scotland central offices have already been restructured, with a significant reduction of staffing numbers, reducing the overall cost of the work done there, while still enabling the support of the church across the country, and our national and international projects.

If you have questions or concerns, please speak to me, or any of the elders.

Thank you,

Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell