

Yester Bolton & Saltoun



Parish Newsletter

March 2019

Dear friends,

Finally, the days are getting longer, the evenings lighter. Spring seems just around the corner – personally, I can't wait; I've had enough of the cold and dark and grey days. To help Spring along, I have already been sowing some flower seeds. It's early yet, but some of them will need quite a bit of time and pampering before they are ready to be put in the garden beds. For me, there are few things as hopeful as seeds – those tiny little globes, some hardly visible to the eye, with so much potential in them: to grow into vegetables and flowers and trees, even. What they carry is no guarantee, it is potential – there is no certainty that they will grow. In order to do so, they'll need what Jesus already lists in one of his parables: fertile soil, otherwise their potential might never come to flourish. They'll also need sunshine and warmth and rain and nourishment; some will need more nurturing than others in order to grow.

In our lives, we can also grow seeds in a different sense: we can plant seeds of inspiration, of hope, of kindness. In the ways we live our lives, in the ways we relate to others, we can choose to be critical, careless, cynical, overly cautious – or we can choose to be encouraging, constructive, positive and hopeful. Looking at the world around us, there is much to worry about – but we have the potential to make changes to the little patch of the world that surrounds us, through the choices we make. Every smile, every encouraging word, every kind gesture can seem like very little to us, but could be the seed of hope that someone needs right at that moment. Every choice we make for good: in how we live our lives, in how we relate to other people and our surroundings, can sow a seed for positive change. Those seeds need nurturing, too – they might be nourished through encouragement, through the companionship of others going a similar way with us, through the hope that our faith can offer us in our trust in God.

Flowers release their seeds at the completion of their lives; the seeds then disappear in the dark soil, and only then can they realise their potential to release new plants, new life. As we move into the time of Lent, we remember that Jesus had to die before he could rise to new life, before he could offer us a chance for new life, for new beginnings, too. In our lives, God invites us to become co-creators: not only of our gardens, but of kindness, love and peace in the world.

Anikó

Prayer Group

The Prayer Group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month at 10am in the Session Rooms in East Saltoun. Everyone is welcome to join in, for a one-off visit or regularly. If you would like the group to include a prayer for a specific situation, please either write down a few details on a piece of paper and leave it in a prayer box in any of our churches, or give them to Morag. Every prayer request will be treated confidentially.

Songs of Praise

On Sunday 26 May our morning service will be a Songs of Praise service. If you would like to nominate a favourite hymn to be included, please write it down and give it to Anikó by Sunday 12 May.



There's a lot about water in the Bible. Literally and figuratively it crops up again and again and so it became the theme for our recent Messy Church. 'The living water'

is a difficult concept for our children however we did look at the various 'states' of water and applied that to Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We explored the properties of water, floating, sinking, dilution, capillary action in various fun ways. No one actually got too wet but we did play a game which involved crossing the Red Sea by answering questions on how we protect the water in our world. It was a great afternoon with a very important message culminating in song, story and supper for all.

Our next Messy Church will take place on Sunday 12 May from 4-6pm at Gifford Village Hall. We hope to see you there!

Best wishes, The Messy Church Team



Holiday Club

Worship Group

Would you like to be part of the team that every few months prepares and leads a Sunday service? And/ or would you like to help plan and lead the (sometimes more reflective, sometimes more creative) Evening services that we offer every six weeks? And/ or do you play an instrument, and would like to contribute to our services with your music on occasion? If you're interested to hear more about any of these, please speak to Anikó.

A further worship leadership course is also on offer through Presbytery, on Wednesday evenings between March and April. For more info, please contact Alastair

Following requests from families in our parishes, we are looking forward to offering a taster Holiday Club this summer. It will run for three mornings between 6 and 8 August, in Humbie Church and the adjacent Stables, with a limited number of places for primary school-aged children. Bookings will open on 29 April, on a 'first come first served' basis.

Nativity service

On 23 Dec, Saltoun Church nearly burst at its seams, as more than 25 children gathered to participate in our Nativity play. Here are a few photos.



Gift Aid

6th April 2019 – probably not the first date that comes to mind in this year, but it is a notable day in the life of a Chancellor of the Exchequer, being the first day of the new tax year. Now that same Chancellor has money to give to the church, and it is in the form of Gift Aid. True to say that the money came from tax payers in the first place, so we may as well quite legitimately have some of it back.

I would like to call 6th April - GA Day, because gift aid is such an important element in the overall income of our churches. During 2018 the total gift aid claimed on weekly giving amounted to £8,215, a substantial portion of our total income. What my spreadsheets show (see what I did there) is a trend of falling claims over the years, note that in 2017 we received £9,489.

Our cash reserves that fund the day to day expenditure have also been falling and I would like to ask if there are any givers who do pay tax and currently donate weekly into the “open plate” at our church services. Will you consider taking up Free Will Offering envelopes or a regular Standing Order and sign up to Gift Aid via a simple declaration form. It will add 25% to the value of your own giving, and help to boost the gift aid income from the “open plate”.

To explain that last comment about the “open plate”, part of the money we claim comes under the Gift Aid Small Donations Scheme. That scheme allows us to claim gift aid on “open plate” giving, and other small donations, of up to a total of £8,000 in a tax year. This gives us up to £2,000 in gift aid. We are now at the point where the “open plate” giving is exceeding £8,000 in a tax year, which means that we cannot claim on the amount above £8,000. We will probably not be able to claim for £300 of gift aid this year.

If we can divert some giving from the “open plate” into Free Will Offering envelopes/Standing Order then we will automatically increase our overall gift aid income from the same amount of giving.

General Assembly

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland takes place in Edinburgh from Saturday 18 until Friday 24 May. Commissioners to the General Assembly are appointed on a rota basis, and this year is our turn to be represented. Anikó will therefore attend as a Commissioner along with one of our Elders. Volunteers are also being sought to assist with the stewarding throughout the week, as well as to help serve teas and coffees. The only requirement for stewarding is a moderate level of fitness (for standing and escorting people up and down stairs). Please let us know if you would like to offer your services as a Steward this year.

Alastair Wyllie

Wendy Ferguson and I can provide Envelope sets/Bank details and help and advise on any queries, our contact details are included in the list at the end of this newsletter.

GA Day can be a day for us all to consider and review our giving, and contribute willingly towards the church’s income.

“How can I repay the Lord for all His goodness to me”
Psalm 116:12

Paul Sales
Joint Gift Aid Treasurer

Saltoun War Memorial

To mark the recent centenary of the First World War armistice, Rhona Wilson, a resident of East Saltoun, has researched the lives of those residents of Saltoun parish who died in the conflict and whose names are read out each year on Remembrance Sunday in Saltoun or Bolton. The research commemorates them and gives an insight into their lives – where they lived and worked, as well as information about their families. The booklet also provides details about the war memorial window and its inauguration in 1921 (in the Fletcher Aisle). Rhona’s researches include the details of a further two men who for some reason are not listed among the War Dead from WW1 on the brass plaque below the memorial window but whose names are included in the list of names read out on each Remembrance Sunday.

A copy of this latest research can be viewed inside Saltoun Kirk, near the War Memorial. Copies of the Saltoun War Memorial booklet are also available at The Bothy, our local shop in the village (where copies can also be bought of A History of Saltoun and the Fletcher Family). Both publications provide a fascinating insight into the lives of previous generations in the Saltoun area.

Alastair Wyllie

Knitting Knews

The Gifford Knitting Group meets on a Thursday afternoon from 2-3.30pm in the Church Meeting Room. (Access by the back door). We have a mixture of people who have a church connection and some who don't and we are always glad to welcome new members.

What you choose to knit is entirely up to you, but we all enjoy the company and seeing what other people are making. Recently some of us have been making fingerless gloves at the request of the Fisherman's Mission while others are working for different charities or on personal projects.

We are grateful for the donations of wool we have received, which we always use for items for charity. We have recently been able to pass on some wool which we could not use to the Hub in Haddington where it will be put to good use.

The Knot Knits group of Fair Isle knitters meet every Wednesday evening in Saltoun Session Room, and anyone who would like to come along and try their hand will be made very welcome. Tuition is provided for beginners, as well as help for anyone else who just gets stuck! (Tea, coffee, wine and home-baking are also provided.)

The Knot Knits' next fundraiser, in aid of a defibrillator for East Saltoun, is a Quiz Night on Saturday 30 March at 7.30pm in the Fletcher Hall, East Saltoun. There will be a light supper and a bar. If you like quizzing and enjoy a good night out in convivial company, then come along with a team of 4 and see if you can beat the quizmaster! Don't worry if you don't have a complete team – just come along anyway and everyone will be accommodated.

Tickets, price £5, are available from any of the Knot Knitters or from The Bothy in East Saltoun.



Only Smarties have the answer...

Remember when Smarties came in a stiff cardboard tube with a plastic cap that you could pop? As is the way with progress, the new Smartie container is a thin hexagonal shape with a cardboard flap at the end. But the good news is that they still contain Smarties and, even more importantly, you can still stack 20p coins inside them.

If you're giving up chocolate for Lent, here is the perfect opportunity for a last-minute mini chocolate binge. And the bonus is that you can also give something for Lent, ie save up your 20p pieces in the empty tube and hand it in when it's full, in time for Easter if you can - or later if you need a bit longer to complete your collection.

Each tube should take about £12 and, as well as raising money for church funds, it's intended to donate 20% of the proceeds to Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees. This Church of Scotland project is involved in a lot of community work, such as its Weekend Club, where refugees meet up with Scottish folks for social activities.

Contact Liz McDougal or Margaret Wyllie to collect a tube – or you can provide your own if you prefer. Happy eating – and giving!

Help required

We are looking for helpers for a few different tasks:

- (1) For a volunteer to coordinate the organists' rota: this requires liaising with our organists roughly three times a year, to confirm the dates when they are playing at our services.
- (2) For a few people who could help occasionally with small practical tasks, for example the folding of service sheets.
- (3) For people who would be happy to occasionally act as church officers (opening up the church, switching on lights and sound, making sure the church is ready for the service), for Sunday services (Yester) and for wedding, funeral and school services (all churches).

If you would like to hear more about any of these, please speak to Anikó.

Coffee Mornings

Our drop-in Coffee Mornings continue twice monthly in Yester (2nd Wednesday) and East Saltoun (4th Tuesday), and provide space for a chat over a lovely cup of tea and coffee, and delicious goodies. All very welcome!

Alison and Janet are coordinating these coffee mornings, and we are also 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 – this is of course also possible to do in teams. Thank you!

Coffee Morning Dates

Yester 13 Mar	Saltoun 26 Mar
Yester 10 Apr	Saltoun 23 Apr
Yester 8 May	Saltoun 28 May

Parish Register

Baptisms	6 December 2018 3 February 2019	Alice Elizabeth Clark, daughter of Jessica and Andrew Clark, Bolton Angus Douglas Laidlaw, son of Lucy and Alan Laidlaw, Gifford
Deaths	21 November 2018 4 February 2018	Anthony Burnet, East Saltoun Iris Stenhouse, North Berwick (formerly Pencaitland and East Saltoun)

Minister	Anikó Schütz Bradwell	01620 811193	ASchuetzBradwell@churchofscotland.org.uk
Session Clerk	Alastair Wyllie	01875 340424	ajw.upfield@gmail.com
Treasurer	Finlay Marshall	01620 810310	fmarshall542@gmail.com
Deputy Treasurer	John Macfarlane	01875 341311	jmacfarlane9@btinternet.com
Gift Aid Treasurer (Yester)	Wendy Ferguson	01620 811069	wendyferguson.wf@gmail.com
Gift Aid Treasurer (Bolton and Saltoun)	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 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
Flower rota (Yester)	Sylvia Anderson Jean Peat	01620 810678 01620 810358	jimsylvia@scoraig.net 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/Facebook	Anikó Schütz Bradwell	01620 811193	ASchuetzBradwell@churchofscotland.org.uk

Deadline for next newsletter: Wednesday 15 May 2019

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