

Yester Bolton & Saltoun



Parish Newsletter

November 2020

I hope very much that you are well and healthy. Many of us have not met in a very long time, and, as it looks right now, it might yet be a while before gatherings as we used to know will be possible again. Despite the strange time in which we find ourselves, I have been encouraged and inspired by the huge outpouring of kindness and community spirit across the parish: the dedicated support systems in all the villages, with so many volunteers helping others who were, or still are, confined to their homes; the old and new connections forged between neighbours and friends; a rediscovery of just how important our relationships with each other are. Many of us have also gained a new appreciation of how vulnerable we all are, and of how lucky we are to live in such a beautiful part of the world.

Among the things upholding me at this time are the conversations with many of you, on the phone, by video call, or often – masked – in front of a shop or café, as well as near-weekly online get-togethers with my colleagues from across East Lothian and often further afield, in which we can discuss ideas and experiences, build better relationships with each other, and offer one another support, encouragement and mutual accountability. I also enjoy watching the changing seasons in our garden and the woods around us: really enjoying nature, and what it offers us, throughout the year.

With colourful autumn leaves falling, we are already looking towards Advent time. Traditionally, the weeks of Advent are shaped by the themes of peace, hope, joy and love. For many of us, these themes seem to be far from our minds, in the current circumstances. And yet, in small – and some bigger – ways, we can find them even in this unusual time. I see love in the way we can reach out to one another, care for each other, at this time seemingly more than ever before. I see joy in the way our son encounters the world: excited at pretty much everything he sees or hears or feels. I find hope in the creativity we all show in trying out new ways to do things. And I find peace in the faith that we're not alone: that God is with us, even in this strange time, even through the restrictions and the loneliness and isolation and pain. As we approach Advent, we look to the promise of Emmanuel, God with us, again: even at the strangest and most difficult of times.

Please stay in touch – and if you'd like any support, or would like to have a coffee via zoom, please give me a call!

Anikó

Remembrance Sunday

Due to the current situation, we sadly won't be able to gather as a whole community around the War Memorials this Remembrance Sunday. Instead, if restrictions permit, Acts of Remembrance this year will be held in Gifford and Bolton, but in-person participation will be limited to those directly involved in the services.

Thanks to the generous assistance of Lothian Broadband, the services will be filmed, with the Gifford one livestreamed on 8 November at 11am, at [facebook.com/yesterboltonsaltounchurch](https://www.facebook.com/yesterboltonsaltounchurch) (no facebook account needed to watch), and available afterwards on our website. We hope you'll be understanding of these restrictions, which are in line with Scottish Government and East Lothian Council guidelines, and in place to keep us all safe.

Responding to Covid-19

Update and news from Gifford Community Council

“Love thy neighbour” is oft spoken, but the last seven months have shown this love and support in action in Gifford and surround thanks to a network of volunteers willing to put words into deeds.

With lockdown looming in March, Gifford Community Council’s Single Point of Contact Adam White, and Deputy Wendy Ferguson met to begin to put their resilience plan into action. From the start Yester Church and its Minister, Aniko, were important parts of the group. Former Chairperson of Gifford Community Council, Jo Allen, also played a key role.

Step one was to assemble a group of volunteers able to offer practical support to the most vulnerable in our community – those who were being advised to shield due to existing health conditions, or those who were having to self-isolate due to Covid-19. A request for people to come forward was swiftly answered by over 70 people willing to help friends, neighbours and strangers alike. Over the next few months volunteers collected shopping and prescriptions, walked dogs and provided vital support all in a safe and confidential way.

As well as practical tasks, the Community Council was acutely aware of other issues that lockdown was highlighting – social isolation and potential food insecurity. ‘Soup and a Smile’ was launched delivering hot soup, a buttered roll and a scone to a number of households where there is an older resident on their own, or one providing care services for another. This service continues and has been joined by a monthly ‘fish and chips Friday’. A network of volunteers deliver the food as well as a friendly word each Tuesday. All services are free of charge and funding was secured. A number of additional items were also delivered – from East Lothian Couriers to hand sanitiser from Glenkinchie Distillery, cakes from the Co-op and tea and chutney from Edinburgh Preserves as a result of a Christian Aid donation.

A Gifford Pantry was established in the Village Hall offering a range of food staples for any person who felt that they needed it – either because they were not confident accessing shops for health reasons, or because they were experiencing financial hardship. Funding was secured for the initiative, which was based on a similar model in Dirleton. Unfortunately and despite a feeling that there were people in the village who would benefit from it, the Pantry was not used and closed after three months with all surplus donated to the East Lothian Food Bank who also work within the village.

Towards the end of the summer holidays children’s art packs were developed and shared with families in receipt of free school meals and more widely within the village area. These were developed by two younger members of our community with a range of craft and art activities all imaginatively packaged.

While the resilience network stood down on 31 July, Soup and a Smile and Fish and Chip Fridays continue, and the Community Council continues to monitor the local and national guidance. We are very grateful to everyone who participated in the network in whatever way, and proved that Gifford is a caring community.

Update and news from Buffy Neilson Saltoun Community Association

We are so proud of our little community. Everyone came together to help one another. We had about 20 volunteers willing to help out. We did pharmacy visits, shopped amongst other things. Our group is still open should anyone need anything. Massive thank you to everyone that has given up their time go help others. We are truly humbled.

Church service arrangements during Covid restrictions

Our Minister and Kirk Session discussed and agreed a mix of services in church and online for September and October that has worked well given the restrictions. It has provided the opportunity for members of the congregation who don't have internet to worship together.

Notwithstanding any changes to the Covid-19 regulations, the pattern of services for the weeks up to early January will continue as before. A full list of dates of Sunday and midweek services is available at the back of this newsletter, and on our website.

Current safety rules limit the number of people and households attending. Our property conveners have identified the number of seating positions in each church and we list below the maximum number of people for each of the churches, helping to show why we opted to use Yester for Sunday services, as this is the largest space.

YESTER: 38 SALTOUN: 29 BOLTON: 19

Test and Protect is a requirement for church services and that is why we use a "telephone ahead" system to record name and contact numbers. This reduces the need for recording details at the church door and helps the stewards when allocating seating.

For future services (except the Blue Christmas which does not need to be booked) please contact me by Friday evening for each Sunday service, and by the evening prior to weekday services.

Telephone: 01620 811260 email: paulsales457@btinternet.com, text: 07827226135.

Audio CDs are available for all Sunday services – simply call me if you would like to receive one. All services are also online – on our website and YouTube channel.

The Kirk Session has also decided to celebrate Holy Communion in the pre-recorded (video) services only, simply to ensure everyone's safety. Currently, we celebrate Holy Communion in these services on the last Sunday or the month – if you would like to participate simply have some bread and wine ready when you join in with the video or audio service.

God willing, we will all meet again.

Paul Sales

Stewarding and Reading

Not everybody is currently able to attend in-person services, so numbers in our welcome team and on our readers' list are somewhat diminished. If you would like to help with stewarding at some of our in-person services – taking names at the door, and guiding people to available seats – or read the lessons during a service, please contact John MacFarlane, who would very much like to hear from you.

Foodbank Donations – Thank You

Thank you so much for supporting the East Lothian Foodbank again, and to Arthur, for coordinating it all. We've been able to deliver 124.5 kg of donations of food and toiletries, as well as some generous financial contributions, to help people in need at this time. Thank you all very much!

Presbytery Plan Update

Readers will recall that just before the start of the Covid shutdown, a proposed new Presbytery Plan had been issued which could potentially have serious implications for the future of YBS and Humbie parishes, and responses from congregations about these proposed plans had been invited. Following this, a consultation meeting among the Kirk Session and members and wider community had been planned but the Covid restrictions made this impossible.

This has now been conducted by an online survey, and we're very grateful to all who participated. The results have been incorporated in a draft response to be approved by the Kirk Session at their November meeting before being issued to Presbytery.

In view of the Covid situation, Presbytery has suspended its original timetable and has not yet issued a new schedule: but it has confirmed that consultations will be held with all affected parishes, such as our own and Humbie, before finalising its proposals and seeking formal approval for them.

In the case of ourselves and Humbie, the five yearly Local Church Review (a consultation between Presbytery and the Kirk Session and congregation which sets out a record of the current life and witness of the parish) has also to be completed and considered by Presbytery before any decisions are taken: this will ensure that an accurate and up to date picture of our congregations is available as the basis of any decision making. It has been agreed with Presbytery that this process really requires meetings in person, and so the timetable has been put on hold meantime.

So no decision affecting our parish will be taken by Presbytery until the Local Church Review has been completed and considered by Presbytery and a new timetable for completion of consultations is issued. In any case, no decision would come into effect until such time as there is a vacancy again.

John Macfarlane

Humbie, Saltoun and Bolton Community Council

With the passing of Al Beck and Derek Smith, the Community Council has also lost two long standing members. We would like to encourage new volunteers to fill the vacancies, so that the enthusiasm and community spirit shown by Al and Derek continues.

The Humbie, East & West Saltoun and Bolton Community Council represents these villages and surrounding area. The Community Council has a right to be consulted in planning applications in the area and as necessary represents local opinions. The group acts as a forum for community issues and organises relevant community meetings, including hustings for local candidates prior to parliamentary general elections.

The Community Council also provides small grants for local projects and always welcomes new suggestions. It is linked to East Lothian Council, the Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership and contributes to various ad hoc local consultations. The regular, usually monthly, meetings provide an additional link to the Local Councillors of the Haddington and Lammermuir ward.

The Community Council membership is drawn from volunteer representatives of each of the villages. Additional community-minded contributors are always welcome!

More details of what the Community Council does can be found on our website <https://humbiesaltounboltoncommunitycouncil.com> and anyone who is interested should contact the Chairperson, Rosemary Greenhill at humbiesaltounboltoncc@gmail.com.

Iain Galloway

Joyce McIntosh

3 December 1949 – 9 May 2020

Joyce McIntosh, who sadly died earlier this year, was a much-loved member of our congregation and resident of East Saltoun. It was a sign of everyone's respect for her that the village street was lined with people, including a piper, as her funeral cortege left for the crematorium.



Joyce's family has lived in or around Saltoun for generations and she was an integral part of village and church life. She was one of our first female church elders, a stalwart of the Tithe Byre, a caring and well-liked assistant in the local Primary School, a key participant in the Playgroup and Summer Playschemes, an active supporter of the Gifford Horti, and much, much more. Her passing has had a huge impact on very many people.

Her gardening skills and knowledge ensured that, whatever Joyce sowed, every seed grew and over the years her plant stall has been a major fundraiser at church garden parties. She was our 'go to' for gardening advice and always generous with her time and plants. Many people have one of her plants in their gardens – a lovely reminder of her in the years ahead.

Like her mother before her, Joyce was a skilful – and speedy – knitter and there must be hundreds of babies locally, and even some around the world, who have been kept warm by her beautiful baby clothes.

But Joyce's first care was always for her family and her only regret that she would miss watching her grandchildren grow up. They can be assured of our love and support. Joyce was an amazing lady and will be sorely missed.

It has been decided to mark her importance to the community by erecting a bench in her memory. This is very much a whole community project, supported by her family. The wood has been sourced from local woodland; it is being made by our village carpenter and our village builder has offered to install it. Thanks to the generosity of those involved, the total cost will be very modest. Several people have already indicated that they would like to make a contribution and donations can be handed in to The Bothy. Any surplus money will be passed to the family to distribute as they feel appropriate.

Margaret Wyllie

Our Church Family

Thank you to retiring elders

Over the past months, both Mary Renton and Dorothea Davies have taken the decision to retire from active eldership. We are very grateful for their service on the Kirk Session, and all the work they have done in the background over many years. Here's to a happy retirement!

Staying Connected

In addition to this newsletter and our website (yesterboltonsaltounchurch.org), which is updated regularly, we send out a weekly news email, and have a youtube channel and facebook, twitter and Instagram accounts. If you use any of these channels, please 'like' and 'follow' us, and so find out about upcoming services and events.

Due to the restrictions, all baptisms and weddings planned for this year have been postponed.

Deaths

10 February	George Cunningham, Haddington
11 February	Jean Heawood, formerly Gifford
9 May	Joyce McIntosh, East Saltoun
14 July	Iain Campbell, East Saltoun
31 August	Sandy Hogg, Longyester
14 October	Gillian Arnott, Gifford

Advent and Christmas plans



Blythswood Christmas Shoeboxes

We would like to once again support the Blythswood Care Shoebox Appeal, which is going ahead as usual this year, although we have to make a few adaptations to the way we deal with the boxes. Any donation would be very much appreciated.

As we cannot hand out the leaflets, we are asking those who can to print a copy themselves for their own or friends' boxes. If you do not have a leaflet, please write a list of the items in your box and include it with your donation of £3 to cover transport costs. Should you be unable to get hold of a shoebox, a drawstring bag is also acceptable provided it is not plastic.

We will collect the boxes at our services until 1 November, to be ready for the Blythswood lorry when it comes to East Lothian. If you will not be at church at any of the services, you can also drop a box off at Yester Church on Friday, 30 October, between 9 and 11am, or you can contact us to arrange a pick up from your home. If you are unable to fill a box this year and would prefer to make a donation, that would be very welcome, too. Thank you very much for your support!

Alison Mill Irving

Advent Music

While we currently can't sing together in our service in the churches, we can do so in our online services. For some of our Advent services - especially the Lessons and Carols service, and our Nativity service, we would like to form a virtual choir. If you would like to join in, please contact us by 10 November.

A different Nativity

This year, we'll have a very different kind of Nativity. We're planning to film all actors individually (or in family groups), to make sure we're all safe, and then put it all together into our very own Nativity movie, which will premiere as part of our Nativity service on 20 December. Costumes, props and technical help are of course available. If you would like to participate, please contact us by 10 November. If you would like to receive a DVD of the service, please also let us know.

Messy Church: Advent Craft Bag

We'll be handing out Messy Church craft bags for Advent to children in the parish. If you would like to receive one for your children or grandchildren, please let us know.

Journeying through Advent

During December, keep an eye on the windows of the Session Rooms in East Saltoun and Lewis & Clark's Coffee Shop in Gifford, for some surprises...

Online Advent Calendar

We thought it would be fun to make an online virtual advent calendar this December. It could be watched each day, being festive, informative, thought provoking, biblical, musical, or amusing, or all of these to give some seasonal spirit during the build up to Christmas.

Those who are unable to watch online could be given a DVD or similar so they can join in.

With this in mind, we are looking for 24 volunteers from across the parishes to make a single 5-minute video clip, that could be collaborated into the daily advent calendar. Technical advice would be offered, and we could even film you on your doorstep if necessary!

It can be of their own chosen content and we would collaborate the pieces so they were in a sensible sequence of topics over the month. We have some wonderful footage of past nativity plays to share amongst other things too!

So if you have a favourite Christmas recipe to demonstrate or a Christmas song to sing, a poem to recite or story to tell, or perhaps a Christmas flower arrangement or decoration idea to share, please get in touch by email, to state your interest and suggestion to: Family.gobourn@gmail.com or phone Anikó, by 10 November 2020.

If you would like to receive a DVD, or a printed transcription of the Advent Calendar, please also let us know. Many thanks in advance for your involvement! Claire Gobourn and Liz McDougal

Minister	Anikó Schütz Bradwell	01620 811193	ASchuetzBradwell@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	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	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	Anikó Schütz Bradwell	01620 811193	ASchuetzBradwell@churchofscotland.org.uk

Deadline for next newsletter: Wednesday 10 February 2021

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yesterboltonsaltounchurch.org

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Watch services on YouTube – search for Humble Iw Yester Bolton Saltoun Church

Follow us on Instagram instagram.com/yesterboltonsaltounchurch and Twitter @YBS_Church



The Church of Scotland

Church Services November 2020 – January 2021

If you would like to attend an in-person service, contact Paul Sales by Friday evening for each Sunday service, and by the evening prior to weekday services. Telephone: 01620 811260 email: paulsales457@btinternet.com, text: 07827226135.

In-person Sunday services are recorded and will be available online later that day on the Church website and YouTube channel. Online services are pre-recorded and will be available to view from Sunday morning on the Church website and YouTube channel. Audio recordings of all Sunday services are available on CD.

All in-person services are subject to Covid guidance and restrictions, which can change. Please check the Church website and notice boards for updates.

November	1	Yester	11am		The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	8	Bolton Yester	11am Act of Remembrance at the War Memorials		The Rev Jim Black The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	In-person participation strictly limited. Livestream from Yester at facebook.com/yesterboltonsaltoun church Recordings will be available on the website
	11	Saltoun	12noon Midweek service		The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	15	Online			The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	22	Online			The Rev Leslie Morrison	A recording of the Humbie service will be available later on Sunday.
	25	Bolton	12noon Midweek service		The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	29	Online	First Sunday of Advent		The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Holy Communion
December	6	Yester	11am Second Sunday of Advent		The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	9	Saltoun	12noon Midweek service		The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	13	Online	Lessons & Carols Third Sunday of Advent		The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	20	Online	Nativity service Fourth Sunday of Advent		The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	20	Yester	4pm Blue Christmas		The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	24	Saltoun	11.30pm Watchnight service		The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	25	Online	Christmas Day service		The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	27	Online			The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Holy Communion
January	3	Yester	11am		The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	10	Online			The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	13	Saltoun	12 noon Midweek service		The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	17	Online			The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	A recording of the Humbie service will be available later on Sunday.
	24	Online			The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	27	Bolton	12 noon Midweek service		The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	31	Online			The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Holy Communion

Please see our website and the church notice boards for information about the services in February 2021. We will make decisions about these in January, depending on the ongoing situation.