

# Yester Bolton & Saltoun



## Parish Newsletter

December 2021

Is it just me, or does this year seem to have flown by? Well, here we are again at Advent time. While I really am a summer kind of person – the warmer and sunnier the better, really – I do like the time of Advent very much. Everything is getting cosy, the twinkling lights and candles come out, the fires are lit, there's time to curl up in a warm home (with some delicious treats, if we're lucky), and of course, there's the anticipation and joy in waiting for Christmas. For many of us, this has not been an easy year, many have still faced much isolation, many have struggled with their health. Advent and Christmas won't make that magically better: but they do offer us light, hope and love. At Christmas, we celebrate love coming into the world, and the hope that this brings. Remembering that even in the most challenging times, there is love in the world, there is compassion and kindness, can really be a light in the darkness and chill of midwinter.

Advent is a time of waiting, or preparing for this celebration. With lighting one more candle each week we mark the weeks, with opening the doors of our Advent Calendars even the days in the countdown to Christmas. I hope that during this Advent, we all will have opportunities to enjoy this time of waiting, and to use it not only in the frantic getting ready of food and decorations, card-writing and present-wrapping, but also for taking moments to become still, to stop and take stock, to look at the things that are good in our lives, to think about what we hope for this Christmas, to simply be – and to enjoy this lovely time.

There's much happening in our church and community – I hope you enjoy reading about it. As ever, if you would like a chat or any other support, please contact me – I look forward to hearing from you.

Wishing you an Advent full of joy and wonder,  
Anikó

### Holy Communion

As you know, over the past 20 months or so, we've been able to only celebrate Holy Communion in online services, because the layout of our buildings makes it difficult to do so safely in person. We are glad to now have found a way to do so again: on Sunday, 16 January, all are invited to a Communion service in Yester Church. It will look a bit different from before, and include individually prepacked bread and wine. Environmentally speaking, this isn't ideal, but a compromise to allow us to share Holy Communion together in the same space, and we'll make sure that all packaging is properly recycled.

### Messy Church

After the success of our Advent and Easter craft bags over the past year, we have just distributed Autumn craft bags to children across the parish, including kits to make owl magnets and rainbow baskets, learning about taking care of our environment through engaging with windmill and seascape crafts, and of course, there were biscuits to decorate – this time a Harvest field and flower. We hope to be able to meet for a Messy Church event again in spring – please see our website and social media for updates, or ask to be added to our children's email list.

## Looking to the future

The restructuring of the Church of Scotland, which we have described in our previous newsletters, is continuing. Our Kirk Session has now had a meeting with representatives of Presbytery, discussing future options for Yester, Bolton and Saltoun Church.

Presbytery is looking at the whole area of East and Midlothian in 'clusters' – all congregations around a central town. Our congregation, along with its linked congregation of Humbie, is part of the Haddington Cluster – so our discussions centre on options for this area, which currently includes five congregations, three fulltime ministers, and eight church buildings. The future allocation for the cluster will consist of 1.5 FTE ministry posts, and we are currently discussing the different options for the organisation of the Church in our area, i.e. whether any of these congregations will form unions or a parish grouping, and how many of the buildings can be retained as Church of Scotland buildings.

The reduction is of course reflecting the long and ongoing decrease in membership, income, and ministry numbers, and it is hoped that in concentrating our resources we will be better able to serve our area with our services, pastoral and social care. It is important to note that while the plan will be shaped over the next year, any changes will only come into effect when a vacancy arises. Change can be difficult, and we would urge you to speak to Anikó if you have any questions or particular concerns.

## Stamps

The first Penny Black stamp is expected to fetch £6m at auction! Even if you don't own such a treasure, your stamps are still worth collecting.

Email hasn't yet completely overtaken Christmas cards. Please cut your stamps off and leave them in any of our churches in the boxes provided. They are then sold in aid of charity.

With grateful thanks to Charlie Cook for collecting them and sending them on. If it's easier, Charlie would be happy to pick your stamps up from you – just call him on 01875 340653.

## Filming services

We are continuing to film our church services and to make them available online for those who can't be there in person. If you would be interested in joining our (currently very small) team of videographers, please speak to Anikó – we would very much appreciate more help, and training will be provided.

## Advent Calendar

We are offering an Advent Calendar each day in Advent again this year, with contributions from many people in our parish. Discover what's behind each 'door', each day from 1 December, at [yesterboltonsaltouchurch.org/advent-calendar-2021](http://yesterboltonsaltouchurch.org/advent-calendar-2021). DVDs with all contributions are available on request for those who can't access it online.

## East Lothian Foodbank

Thank you so much for your ongoing support for the East Lothian Foodbank. We have just heard from them that in October, they sadly saw an increase in the need for their help, with more households with children referred, nearly half of referrals due to low income, and an increase in referrals due to benefit changes or delays. They handed out more than 6000kg of food and other products, and we're glad we could contribute a little to these donations. [Our next collection for the foodbank will be held on 6 February.](#)

## Ongoing Covid restrictions

Some of you have asked why we still have to keep covid restrictions, such as wearing facemasks, in church. You can find a short video on our website at [yesterboltonsaltouchurch.org](http://yesterboltonsaltouchurch.org), in which Prof Jason Leitch addresses faith groups and explains where we're at.

### Crossword answers:

<p><b>Across</b> 1. Amen 3. Chubbier 9. Uniform 10. Niffy 11. Thanksgiving 13. Nerine 15. Slayer 17. Stage manager 20. Diana 21. Relearn 22. Take silk 23. Cede <b>Down</b> 1. Abutting 2. Erica 4. Homage 5. Benevolently 6. Infancy 7. Rays 8. Looking glass 12. Pre-rinse 14. Rat Pack 16. Amoral 18. Grace 19. Edit</p>
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# Overcoming the Odds

Cressida Douglas-Miller



At the end of October, I set off down to London to visit an art exhibition showing works by my friend Amy Izat. Amy lost part of her sight in 2014 when she collapsed from a brain haemorrhage which was caused by a rare condition called arteriovenous malformation (AVM) and her work, along with other partially-sighted artists, was on display at an exhibition called "Windows of the Soul" at the Lumen Church in London.



Amy's work showed a series of intricate and beautiful birds which she had drawn complete and then had given an eraser to a trusted friend who removed the central part of the image - the part which she can no longer see. For each picture, she gave a description of what each bird meant to her and why she had drawn that particular bird. This is what she wrote about her drawing of Puffins:

*"Their commitment to family and their attempt to make a safe, content home are two of these graceful looking birds' main attractions. It is their devotion towards family, their thoughtfulness and their fidelity that makes these birds truly heroic and an emblem of faithfulness. It is holding on to faith in difficult times with the support of loved ones that keeps you going through even the darkest hours. Van Gogh once said, "love many things, for therein lies the true strength, and whosoever loves much performs much, and can accomplish much, and what is done in love is done".*

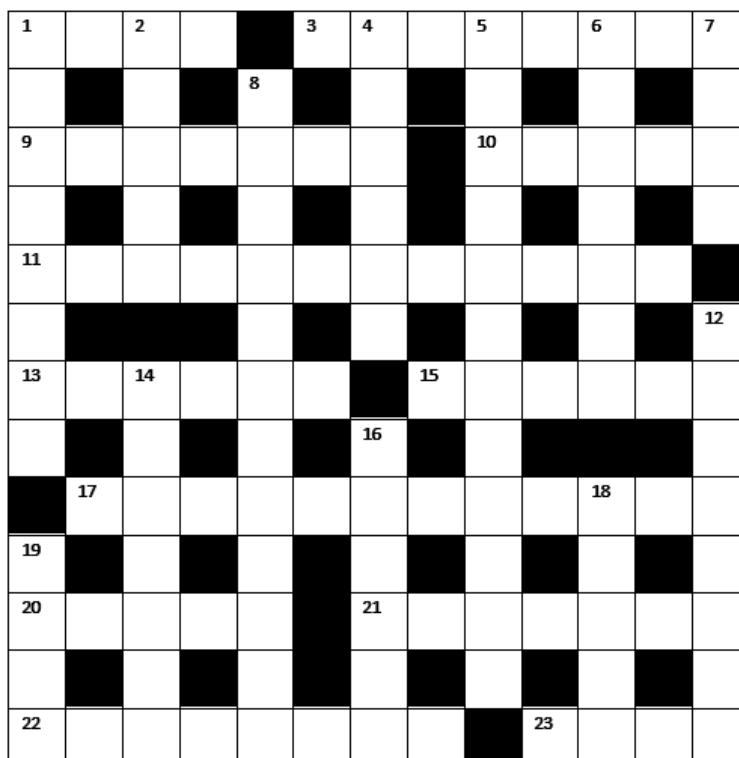
I found it incredibly powerful looking at the amazing works by these extraordinary artists who refused to be bowed by such challenging circumstances and had overcome huge odds to produce beautiful and interesting work. The exhibition was wonderfully inspiring and well worth the visit. Amy's website is [www.amyizat.co.uk](http://www.amyizat.co.uk)

## Across

1. Said at the end of prayers (4)
3. A little bit fatter (8)
9. Police officers and soldiers wear this (7)
10. Having an unpleasant smell (5)
11. Celebrated on Nov 25 in USA (12)
13. Perennial plant, flowering late summer and autumn, with pink flowers (6)
15. Buffy was one (6)
17. A person who works in the theatre (5,7)
20. Roman Goddess of hunting (5)
21. Find out about something again (7)
22. Barristers are said to do this when they become a Queen's Counsel (4,4)
23. Surrender; give up

## Down

1. Adjoining; being beside something (8)
2. Another name for winter heather (5)
4. Pay public respect (6)
5. Kindly (12)
6. Early childhood (7)
7. Beams of light (4)
8. A mirror (7,5)
12. Some people do this before putting plates in the dishwasher (8)
14. Frank Sinatra and Dean Martin were part of this group (3,4)
16. Having no moral principles (6)
18. Said before a meal (5)
19. Prepare, modify or condense written text (4)



Crossword No. 3 set by Margaret

## Christmas Craft Fair & Santa's Grotto Sunday 5 December

Saltoun Community Association, along with the Knot Knits group, are holding a Christmas Craft Fair in the Fletcher Hall, East Saltoun, on Sunday 5 December from 11am until 3pm. An exciting range of goods will be on offer, including beautifully knitted apparel, hand-crafted jewellery, original artworks and a selection from the village children. Entrance tickets (on the door): £3 per adult and £1 per child (including cake and refreshments).

From 12pm children will also be able to visit Santa's Grotto in the nearby Church Session Rooms. Time-slot tickets (£1, including a small gift) can be obtained on the day at the Craft Fair.

Come along and pick up a locally made gift or two in time for the last post!

## Our Church Family

Baptisms	3 October 2021	Alexander (Sandy) Carnwarth, son of Eileen and Andrew Carnwarth, of Gifford
	21 November 2021	Harry Hogg, son of Emma and John Hogg, of Longyester
New Members		Eileen and Andrew Carnwarth, of Gifford
Deaths	13 November 2021	Sir Alexander (Sandy) Boswell KCB CBE DL, of Gifford

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	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@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: Friday 12 February 2022**



The Church of Scotland

[yesterboltonsaltounchurch.org](http://yesterboltonsaltounchurch.org)

Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/YesterBoltonSaltounChurch](https://facebook.com/YesterBoltonSaltounChurch)

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

Follow us on Instagram [instagram.com/yesterboltonsaltounchurch](https://instagram.com/yesterboltonsaltounchurch) and Twitter @YBS\_Church

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## Church Services December 2021 – March 2022

Our Sunday services continue in-person at 10am, with services usually held in Yester Church on the first and third Sundays, in Bolton Church on the second and in Saltoun Church on the fourth Sunday of the month. The fortnightly services in Bolton and Saltoun Church are held jointly with our friends at Humbie Church.

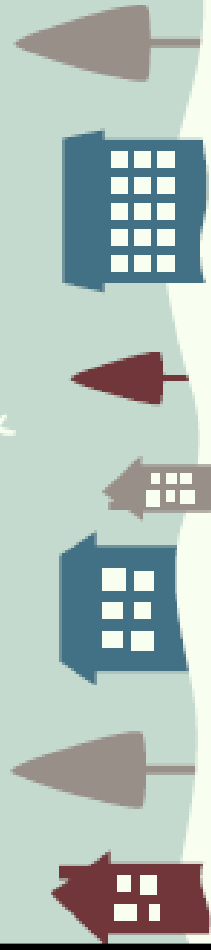
We continue to follow Scottish Government Covid guidance, which can change: please check the Church website and notice boards for updates. Restrictions, including the wearing of facemasks and the recording of contact details need to continue for the time being.

Services at Yester Church are livestreamed on the Church website and YouTube channel, and remain available later. Services at Bolton and Saltoun Church (where we don't have internet) are recorded and made available later on Sunday. Sound recordings on CD are available on request.

December	5	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Lessons and Carols
	12	Bolton	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	19	Yester Saltoun	10am 4pm	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Nativity service Service of Remembering
	24	Bolton	11.30pm	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Watchnight
	25	Yester	10.30am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Joint Christmas Day service
	26	Saltoun	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Joint Boxing Day service with Humbie
January	2	Humbie	11.30am	The Rev Leslie Morrison	Joint New Year service with Humbie
	9	Bolton	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	16	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Holy Communion
	23	Saltoun	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	30	Humbie	11.30am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Joint service with Humbie, teas and coffees from 11am
February	6	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Foodbank collection
	13	Bolton	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	20	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Baptism
	27	Saltoun	10am	tba	
March	6	Yester	10am	tba	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday of Lent
	13	Bolton	10am	tba	
	20	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	27	Saltoun	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	

# Gifford's Christmas 2021

- CHRISTMAS LIGHTS SWITCH ON  
FRIDAY 3RD DECEMBER- 6PM
- CHRISTMAS POST  
BRING YOUR LOCAL XMAS CARDS TO  
LANterne ROUGE FROM  
MONDAY 13TH DEC-SATURDAY 18TH DEC  
TO BE DELIVERED (20P PER CARD)  
PROCEEDS GO TO ST COLUMBA'S HOSPICE
- CAROLS ROUND THE TREE  
THURSDAY 23RD DECEMBER- 6.30PM



# Yester, Bolton and Saltoun Church ADVENT 2021

28 Nov	10am	Saltoun Church	1 Advent Sunday
5 Dec	10am	Yester Church	2 Advent Sunday with Lessons and Carols
12 Dec	10am	Bolton Church	3 Advent Sunday
19 Dec	10am	Yester Church	4 Advent Sunday with Nativity Play
	4pm	Saltoun Church	Service of Remembering (Blue Christmas)
Christmas Eve	11.30pm	Bolton Church	Watchnight Service
Christmas Day	10.30am	Yester Church	Christmas Day Service
Boxing Day	10am	Saltoun Church	Boxing Day Service
2 Jan	11.30am	Humbie Church	New Year's Service

Enjoy our Advent Calendar every day at  
[yesterboltonsaltounchurch.org/advent-calendar-2021](http://yesterboltonsaltounchurch.org/advent-calendar-2021)  
(DVDs are available on request to those unable to access it online).

All services are subject to Scottish Government Covid regulations. Please wear  
facemasks to all services (except under 5s and medical exemptions).