

Yester Bolton & Saltoun



Parish Newsletter

March 2022

As I'm writing, the weather outside my study window changes by the minute: bright sunshine followed by dark clouds and near-torrential downpours, and five minutes later we're back to blue skies. It is not unlike what we are going through at the moment, a bit of a rollercoaster of experiences, expectations and challenges.

We are not quite sure yet if an end to the serious difficulties caused by Covid is in sight, if we can adjust and learn to live with the virus without any more serious variants emerging, so that all of us, including all who are more vulnerable, can resume a somewhat more normal life.

The current restructuring of the Church of Scotland, at national, Presbytery and parish level, presents its own challenges – many changes to adjust to, many discussions to be had. There are of course fears about what this will look like for us, but also exciting opportunities to make the Church more fit for purpose in an ever-changing society, so that we can live God's love and serve our communities in the most appropriate ways.

Many in our community have lost loved ones over the past two years, many of us have lost friends. Many of us are currently living with illness and are awaiting or undergoing treatment at the moment. In all the pain, in all the struggles, we see friends and family, we see our community rallying round and offering support, care and love.

For a recent service, I have reflected on the Southern African philosophy of *ubuntu* – which translates roughly as 'I am because we are', a belief that there is a universal bond of sharing which connects all of humanity, that we are defined as individuals in our belonging to a community. As we go through the ups and downs of life, of the current situation, we know we are not alone: we can share the sadness and worries as well as the joy and excitement, and stand alongside each other. And as we support one another and face challenges together, we know that God is by our side, too, that we are always, in our joy and in our pain, held safely, valued and loved, in God's hand.

Anikó

Easter celebrations

As we're looking forward to celebrating Easter this year back in church, I want to set you a challenge for the next few weeks of Lent: if you wish, please make a butterfly, and bring it along to the Easter service. The butterfly can be made from any material: crafted from paper, knitted, baked ... Simply be creative with it. If you would like to participate but won't be at the Easter service, you can still make a butterfly and either bring it to church or the manse before Easter, or send us a picture of it – both documented with your name, please. We hope to exhibit all contributions after Easter.

During Holy Week, we will have evening services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, both at 7.30pm, to which all are very welcome. On Easter Sunday, 17 April, we will have a family service at 10am in Yester Church, with an Easter Egg hunt for the children.

Church life news

Holy Communion

In January, we celebrated Holy Communion together in church for the first time in nearly two years, using prefilled individual cups and wafers. While this is different to how we have celebrated the sacrament in the past, it allows us to come together in Communion while keeping everyone safe. We will celebrate Holy Communion again, in the same way, in our Sunday services on 20 March and 15 May. All are welcome to join in: if you participate in the service from home, through our recording and livestream, please have some bread and wine or juice ready to join in.

Sunday Club

We're having great fun at Sunday Club – every first Sunday of the month, during the 10am service at Yester Church. It is for children of pre-school and primary school age, and our team of helpers has recently also had a few more additions (all PVG checked). During Sunday Club, we enjoy a snack and explore the Bible story that we heard in the service through crafts and games. Please just come along – no need to pre-register. And on Easter Sunday, we'll have a family service for all ages, with a special surprise for the children, so we hope you can join us!

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.

Covid guidance

While it looks like we might finally get closer to an end to the difficult, and often heartbreaking, challenges that Covid-19 has presented to us all, we still need to make sure that we protect one another, and especially the most vulnerable among us. It is a simple thing we can do to follow what we are called to: to love our neighbours as we love ourselves. At the time of writing, it is still a legal requirement for facemasks to be worn in church (with the exception of children under the age of 12, and those with medical exemptions). The Kirk Session has decided, for the time being, to continue keeping a 1m distance between households for Sunday services and keeping an attendance register (which is held confidentially for three weeks) to enable contact tracing if required. As this might change as the situation evolves, please follow Government updates. We are also keeping our website updated with any changes to the guidance.

Church Flowers

Thanks to everyone who has provided flowers over the past year. There are lots of dates still available for 2022 and it is a lovely way to remember a loved one or celebrate something important to you. If anyone would like to do this please contact Jean Peat on 01620 810358 (for Yester), Claire Gobourn 01875 340692 (for Bolton) or Morag Swan 01875 340477 (for Saltoun).

AGM

The Reports and Accounts for 2021 have been approved by the Kirk Session in February, and will be presented to the congregation in an AGM on Sunday 27 March, after the service in Saltoun Church.

Parish restructuring update

As you know, conversations about the future structure of the church are currently ongoing. The proposals for our area are in line with all of Lothian Presbytery, and indeed the whole of the Church of Scotland, taking account of the general decrease in congregation members, income, and number of ministers available to serve the Church across the country. For us, that means that we are in conversation with our neighbours across the Haddington area – St Mary's and Haddington West as well as Morham and Garvald. Currently, there are three full time ministers working in these parishes – the Rev Alison McDonald, the Rev John Vischer, and our own minister, the Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell. The congregations are worshipping in eight different buildings. In due course, the ministry allocation for the area will be reduced to 1.5 full time equivalent. We are also currently considering the use of our buildings, to enable us to provide the best ongoing service and mission in our area while using our resources as best as we can. Presbytery is keen that agreements are finalised by the end of this year, with a draft plan coming to Presbytery in April. Changes will only come into place when a vacancy arises, or with the full agreement of the ministers and Kirk Sessions involved. As we continue these conversations, we are very grateful for the commitment and dedication of our members, and foremost our elders, who serve in so many varied ways. We have seen this commitment in kindness of word and action, as well as in the offering of financial resources alongside that of time and talents. As we move forward, we depend not only on God's grace, but also on the continued commitment of all our members, and of those considering becoming members of our church, in our service to one another and in continuing as a congregation of God's church in our area. If you have particular concerns in relation to these questions, please speak to Anikó or any of the elders. Kirk Session meetings are also always open to all.

Social news

Humbie Coffee Morning

Our friends at Humbie Church will hold their Coffee Morning on Saturday, 26 March, 10.30am-11.30am in the Village Hall in Humbie, and all are warmly invited.

Drop in coffee mornings

Please join us for a drop-in coffee morning, for a chat over a cup of tea or coffee 10.30am-12noon
 Wednesday 9 March, Yester Church

Tuesday 22 March, East Saltoun Session Rooms

Rooms

Wednesday 13 April, Yester Church

Tuesday 26 April, East Saltoun Session Rooms

Wednesday 11 May, Yester Church

Tuesday 24 May, East Saltoun Session Rooms



Yester, Bolton & Saltoun Church Platinum Jubilee Garden Party

Saturday 4 June 2022

Date for your diary!



You, your friends and relations, young and old, are all warmly invited to join us, 2.00-4.30pm on Saturday 4th June in The Manse garden, Tweeddale Avenue, Gifford for the Yester, Bolton & Saltoun Church Jubilee Garden Party, to celebrate our community and the Queen's 70th Jubilee.

Cream teas, raffle, tombola, Pimms, ice-cream, children's games, cakes and candy and so much more...

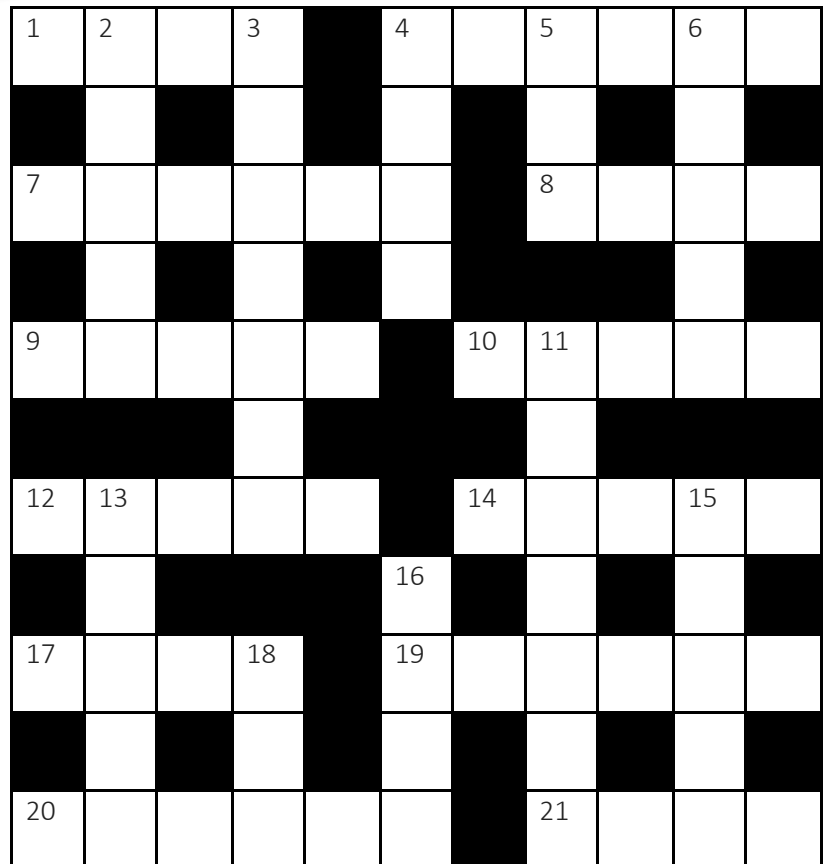
Do join us, dress red, white and blue optional!

Across

- 1. 2nd letter of the Greek alphabet (4)
- 4. They mend things in this tv shop (6)
- 7. Clear sand from the sea bed (6)
- 8. Alexander's a smart one (4)
- 9. Aromatic culinary herb (5)
- 10. A deep chasm (6)
- 12. Great pain (5)
- 14. Loathe (5)
- 17. Dowdy (4)
- 19. "Rocky's" surname (6)
- 20. Scottish children (6)
- 21. Cyrano's prominent feature (4)

Down

- 2. Our planet (5)
- 3. Stomach (7)
- 4. Ridges of rock or coral in the sea (4)
- 5. Small green vegetable (3)
- 6. Notions or concepts (5)
- 11. A World Heritage site in Iraq (7)
- 13. Irish police (6)
- 15. Double reed woodwind instruments (5)
- 16. Long-legged wading bird (4)
- 18. Exclude, prevent (3)



Crossword No. 4 set by Margaret

Community news

Foodbank

Thank you so much for all donations of goods and money for our recent appeal for the East Lothian Foodbank. They report that last December was their busiest month to date, so every donation is very much appreciated. We will have the next collection for the Foodbank on Sunday, 8 May.

Gifford Lunch Club and Good Companions

Jane Steven has asked us to let you know that both of these are starting up again. New members are always welcome. If you are interested in hearing more, please contact Adam and Sue White (01620 810298) in the first instance.

The Gifford Lunch Club meets monthly on the second Monday of the month from 12-2pm in the Tweeddale Arms, for soup, sandwiches, cake and coffee or tea for £6. The first meeting is March 14th.

The Good Companions is a social club for older and disabled people and people who live on their own. It meets in the Sports Club/ Bowling Club on the third Wednesday of every month from 2-4pm. Members meet and either socialize, play dominoes, scrabble or other games, all of which are hotly contested, or enjoy the chat and tea. Everyone pays £1 and there is always a raffle. The first meeting is on Wednesday March 23rd.

COVID: We do not know what the covid regulations will be but for their safety we suggest everyone having an antigen/ lateral flow test within 24 hours of coming to the group. As with all events, people should not attend if they feel unwell or have been told to isolate.

Weekly email

If you would like to receive our weekly news email with information about the service and any upcoming events, please let Anikó know.

Fletcher Hall, East Saltoun – an update

Users of the village hall and grounds will know that the hall building is in need of replacement and that this requires a huge effort in planning and fund-raising. To enable us to make progress, we are changing the legal status of Saltoun Community Association (SCA), the charity that manages and operates the facilities on behalf of the community.

However, legal ownership of the property remains with successors to the three original property trustees who were named in our 60 year-old constitution (a Deed of Trust). Anikó is one of the current property trustees. This is no longer an appropriate arrangement and makes it much more difficult to attract external funding or access to grants. We have therefore set up a new charity with incorporated status.

A Charity Reorganisation will allow us to transfer the legal title and the funds in the bank account from the old charity to the new one. Once the asset transfers are completed, the old charity will be removed from the Charity Register and the role of the external property trustees will end. We are required to have approval for these changes from residents of Saltoun Parish before we proceed further. A public meeting will be held in the Fletcher Hall at 7.30pm on Tuesday 15 March, for residents to vote on a special resolution to proceed with the reorganisation process.

In a separate development, SCA has taken over the redundant telephone kiosk in East Saltoun. Local fundraising, including contributions from the Knot Knits group and by Haddington & Lammermuir Area Partnership, has enabled the kiosk to be refurbished and defibrillator equipment purchased. We hope to have the defibrillator in use very soon.

Alastair Wyllie
Chair, Saltoun Community Association

Crossword answers Across 1. beta 4. repair 7. dredge 8. Alec 9. thyme 10. abyss 12. agony 14. abhor 17. drab 19. Balboa 20. bairs 21. nose Down 2. earth 3. abdomen 4. reef 5. pea 6. ideas 11. Babylon 13. Garda 15. oboes 16. ibis 18. bar
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Our Church Family

Baptisms	20 February 2022	Alexander Hogg, son of Miranda and James Hogg, of Longyester
Deaths	25 November 2021	Beryl Mackinnon, of Haddington (formerly Skedsbush)
	19 December 2021	Helen Duff, of Gifford
	21 December 2021	Pippa Watson, of Haddington

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 Ferguson	01620 811069	wendyferguson.wf@gmail.com
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
Safeguarding and Health & Safety	Ian Jameson	07803 893970	dianjameson@aol.com
Website/Social media	Cressida Douglas-Miller	07789 931737	cressida@thehopesestate.com

Please join us for our DROP IN COFFEE MORNINGS

Come for a chat
over a cup of tea
or coffee



10.30am-12noon

Wed, 12 Jan, Yester Church
Tue, 25 Jan, Session Rooms East Saltoun
Wed, 9 Feb, Yester Church
Tue, 22 Feb, Session Rooms East Saltoun
Wed, 9 Mar, Yester Church
Tue, 22 Mar, Session Rooms East Saltoun
Wed, 13 Apr, Yester Church
Tue, 26 Apr, Session Rooms East Saltoun

Yester, Bolton and Saltoun Church
Scottish Charity No SC015414



Church Services March - June 2022

Our Sunday services are usually held at 10am, 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 Humble Church. 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. We continue to follow Scottish Government Covid guidance, which can change: please check the Church website and notice boards for updates. At the time of publication, restrictions - including the wearing of facemasks and the recording of contact details - need to continue for the time being. Thank you for your continued understanding and cooperation.

March	6	Yester	10am	Worship Team	1 st Sunday of Lent Sunday Club
	13	Bolton	10am	The Rev Leslie Morrison	
	20	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Holy Communion
	27	Saltoun	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	AGM following service
April	3	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Sunday Club
	10	Bolton	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Palm Sunday
	14	Humble	7.30pm	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Maundy Thursday
	15	Saltoun	7.30pm	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Good Friday
	17	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Easter Sunday Sunday Club
	24	Saltoun	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
May	1	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Sunday Club
	8	Bolton	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	15	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Holy Communion
	22	Saltoun	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	29	Humble	11.30am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Joint service with Humble Baptism
June	5	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Pentecost Platinum Jubilee
	12	Bolton	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	19	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	26	Saltoun	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	

Deadline for next newsletter: Thursday 19 May 2022

