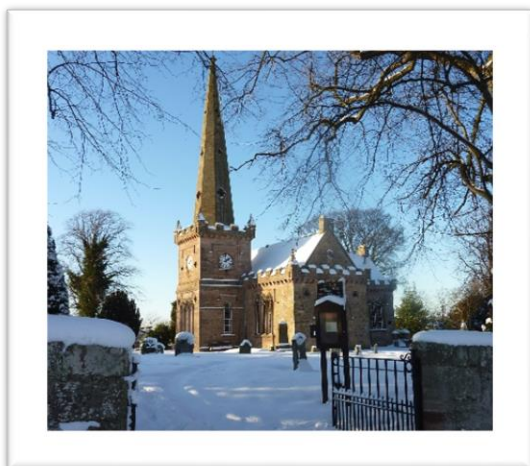


Lammermuir Parish Newsletter March 2024



Lammermuir Parish Church
Church of Scotland
Scottish Charity Number: SC015414
www.lammermuirchurch.org

Facebook facebook.com/LammermuirChurch
YouTube – search for 'Lammermuir Church'
Instagram instagram.com/lammermuirchurch

Next newsletter deadline: 16 May 2024



The Church of Scotland

Minister's Letter

As I'm writing this, I'm sitting on a train through a frosty landscape. It's a chilly morning, after some more spring-like weather – and despite the cold this morning, we can see signs of spring just around the corner. There are the snowdrops, crocuses and aconites in our gardens and woods, even the daffodils are beginning to emerge from the ground. And the days are finally again longer, and brighter. Each morning and each evening we are getting more daylight than we have had for months. And with these later winter days, hoping for spring, we have also begun the time of Lent. This period marks the six weeks – or more accurately, 40 days (if you discount the Sundays) – before Easter. It can offer us an opportunity to look for signs of new life in ourselves, just as we can see in our gardens at this time of year. If you – like me – find new years resolutions too hard to begin right in the darkest time of the year, Lent might offer us a different chance: to examine where we are at, what is good in our life, and what we would like to or need to change.

The Church of Scotland has now for some time been in a period of such testing, where we have been and are exploring what still works, what we want to expand, and where we need to make changes, so that we can continue to serve God as best as we can in our local communities. Change is hardly ever easy, but it sometimes is necessary, to enable the continuation and renewal of life. And we see plenty of new life in our church: in our newly united congregation, in the many groups and activities happening each week, in the baptisms and weddings we celebrate.

Traditionally, Lent has been a time of lamentation, of repentance – commemorating the 40 days that Jesus spent fasting in the desert, being tempted by evil, before beginning his ministry. In the past – and still for many today – fasting has been a large part of observing Lent, with the giving up, for instance, of meat, dairy or alcohol, partly to remember the fasting of Jesus, and partly to make ourselves more aware of the many things we take for granted in our lives.

And as well as giving something up, Lent can be about beginning something: perhaps making time each day to consciously give thanks, perhaps beginning something that makes us happy, perhaps making a donation or begin volunteering with a cause close to our heart: making a positive change.

It's important for each of us to have times when we are not only kept busy fulfilling our daily tasks – but when we take time to stop, to examine what we're doing, to determine if we're happy with the way our daily life looks – or whether we want or need to make changes. For Christians, Lent – like Advent – offers such opportunities to examine our faith, our relationship with God, our way of living out our faith, too.

Whether we take this opportunity on a personal or an institutional level, this time of year when the first signs of spring appear in nature can be a good time to find new life in all manner of things – whether we're giving something up, whether we're beginning something new, or whether we decide that we are already very happy with the way our life looks. Have a good spring.

Our Church Family

New members Fiona and Peter Misselbrook, of How Knowe, Gifford, have joined our congregation in the autumn.

Baptisms 28 January 2024, Indira Margaret Henderson, daughter of Alyssa and Neil Henderson, Prestonpans

25 February 2024, Maggie Elizabeth Charlotte Innes, daughter of Alison McDougal and Graham Innes, West Saltoun

Deaths 30 December 2023, Amy Booth, formerly of Bolton

4 January 2024, Rodney Blair, Tweeddale Crescent, Gifford

4 January 2024, David Shearer, Yestermains, Gifford

Contacts

We have about 25 active elders, and many others who are involved in organising various aspects of our church life. Here are the main contacts – and we're very happy to put you in touch with others if you have specific questions.

Minister	Anikó Schütz Bradwell	01620 811193 07936 042191	AnikoSB@churchofscotland.org.uk
<i>The minister's time off is usually Saturdays and Mondays.</i>			
Session Clerks	John Macfarlane Alex Campbell	01875 341311 07876 347135	jmacfarlane9@btinternet.com amg.campbell@gmail.com
Depute Session Clerk & Gift Aid Treasurer	Paul Sales	01620 811260	paulsales457@btinternet.com
Treasurer	Wendy Ferguson	01620 11069	wendyferguson.wf@gmail.com
Safeguarding	Ian Jameson	07803 93970	dianjameson@aol.com
Newsletter	David Bradwell	01620 811193	djbradwell@gmail.com
Website and social media	Cressida Douglas-Miller	07789 931737	cressida@thehopesestate.com

Bolton Church Update

Since our last Newsletter in December, when the decision to cease services in Bolton church was reported, the Church of Scotland agreed to allow time for any community interest in a future use for the church to be explored before the property is marketed for sale.

A period of 6 months “grace” was suggested for interest to be explored, and if any transpired, a legal entity to be set up for negotiations to take place with the General Trustees of the Church of Scotland, who own the building. Services will continue to be held on a rota basis with our other churches during this time.

A small group of residents has been monitoring the decision by the church to dispose of the building, knowing that there is a desire by the church to see it used as a local resource. With time being limited, in early January Bolton residents were invited either by email or by leafletting, to meetings on two dates in January.

Useful discussions took place among those able to attend, noting that this is an opportunity to obtain a larger building for use by the community, which has grown considerably in numbers during recent years.

The costs of renovating and converting the building, as well as identifying and developing future uses and funding sources for the building do need further exploration. Some funding sources include National Churches Trust, Historic Scotland, National Trust Scotland, National Lottery, and there is the Burns family connection.

To become involved in developing/supporting this initiative, please contact by email blegacyc@gmail.com

Paul Sales

Across
1. at a stroke 8. wrong 9. prone 10. sett 12. Yester 14. Humble 15. Adam
18. shoes 19. Elegy 21. Lammermuir

Down
1. two 2. sage 4. rapier 5. knotted 6. owns 7. peer 11. tombola 13. dim
sum 14. hast 16. mayor 17. deer 20. emu

Help save Saltoun Church!

People of Saltoun – our beautiful church will go on the open market to be sold in June 2024, unless there is a plan to do something else with it.



I would love to see the church remain with the community if possible – I was married there, so were my parents (as many of you will know, my mum was very involved with the church) so I have a sentimental attachment to it & I'm sure lots of you will be the same. I'm not sure what the options are but a few people have expressed interest in continued use of the space for the community – potentially something similar to Humbie Hub. If you'd be interested in being part of a group to help build a business case, look at options and finding financial backing, it would be great to have your support.

Please let me know if you'd like to be involved or if you have any ideas on how to help!

Kerry McIntosh

07933614230

Macca_70@hotmail.com

Lantern Group Quiet Morning

The Lantern Group will lead a Quiet Morning in Holy Trinity Church, Haddington, on Saturday 13th April with the theme 'Hope Springs Eternal' (with a Zoom repeat on 27th).

More information from janet.mckinnell@btinternet.com

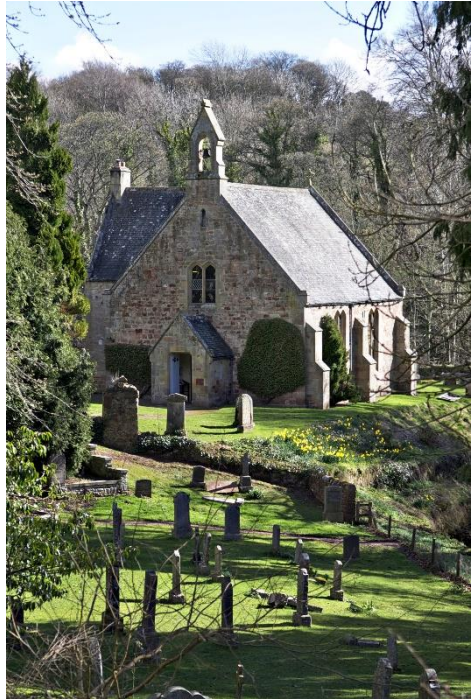
Church Choir

We have a church choir who prepare the hymns for our Sunday services and learn new pieces of music, which they then introduce to us. Usually, rehearsals take place on Wednesday afternoons in Bolton Church. New members are very welcome!

Please speak to Paul Sales for more information.

Humbie Kirk building future

As you know, within the restructuring process for our parish, it was agreed to have a review of our continued use of the Humbie Kirk building and the Stables after three years. This means that there are now just under three years to determine whether the buildings are beneficial to our ministry across the parish. It has been fantastic already to see a much bigger congregation at the now monthly services held in Humbie Kirk, through the participation of the former YBS congregation. And – as ever – the Nativity service was a wonderful occasion. However, there is so much more that the building could be used for, to benefit our life as a church congregation.



What are your ideas? What do you think could happen there? What would you be excited to explore?

There are already some suggestions: using the Kirk as a concert venue, for instance, and the extension of its use for weddings. We'd like to start a retreat programme there, too, making use of the beauty of its surroundings. Some of this depends on refurbishing works in the Stables, and necessary repairs in the Kirk itself, so will have to wait a while. Other ideas have been for a schedule of festivals and workshops, for instance for flower arranging, for crafts, and for choirs.

All of these need people to take them forward. If you would like to be involved and explore any of these, or other ideas, please get in touch.

Union service

On Sunday, 4th February, we celebrated the union of Yester Bolton and Saltoun Church and Humbie Church to Lammermuir Church. This means that we are now working as one united congregation across the whole parish area – with one Kirk Session, in which all elders come together. We bring our resources together and so all benefit from each other's skills and experience, and we share the administrative burden. When Yester Church and Bolton and Saltoun Church united into one congregation in 2015, we saw a beautiful merging into one community – in services as well as socially. We very much hope that we'll have a similar experience now, so even if you didn't use to travel to services beyond your own village church, please give it a try – it really is lovely to celebrate services (and sing) with a bigger congregation. John Macfarlane and Alex Campbell continue to work together as Co-Session Clerks, supported by Paul Sales as Depute Clerk and Wendy Ferguson as Treasurer. The union service was celebrated by the Very Rev Dr Susan Brown, moderator of the Presbytery of Lothian and Borders, supported by the Rev Norman Smith, Presbytery Clerk.



We are deeply grateful for the long service of Finlay Marshall as Treasurer of Yester Bolton and Saltoun Church, and Margo Hodge as Treasurer of Humbie Church, and for their continued support of Wendy as she takes on the role of Treasurer. We also express our profound thanks to George Pate and Max Ward, who have now retired from active eldership, and to Janice Dagg who has retired from editing the Humbie Church newsletter.

Transport to church

If you would like to attend services or other church events, like the drop-in coffee mornings, and would like some help in getting there, please contact Anikó or one of the elders, and we'll arrange for lifts.

Equally, if you could offer a lift to someone in your area to services and events, please let us know.

Humbie Kirk Nativity

The Christmas Eve Family Service at Humbie Kirk at 4pm was attended by nearly 300 people. Several generations of families came along and enjoyed the story of Christmas. The Christmas choir, soloists, trumpet player and organist all excelled themselves.

The nativity was beautifully performed by local children, with many angels, kings and shepherds joining in. Thanks to everyone who makes this happen every year, from car parking to making mulled wine. And not to forget Fagan the pony (or should we say the donkey).

A fantastic total of £1,230 was collected on the night for Maggie's, Edinburgh.



Drop-in coffee mornings

Our drop-in coffee mornings take place twice a month – in Yester Church on the second Wednesday, and in the Session Rooms in East Saltoun of the fourth Tuesday of the month. We meet for a chat over coffee and tea and delicious home baking, and everyone is invited to join us. See next page for dates.

Youth group

We now have a youth group for older kids in P5-S2. We meet usually on Friday evenings to chat about relevant topics, to share food and play games. We'll meet again on 23rd February and 15th March. Get in touch to hear more.

Please join us for our
DROP IN COFFEE MORNINGS



Come for a chat
over a cup of tea
or coffee

10.30am-12noon

Wed, 13 Dec, Yester Church

Wed, 10 Jan, Yester Church

Tue, 23 Jan, Session Rooms East Saltoun

Wed, 14 Feb, Yester Church

Tue, 27 Feb, Session Rooms East Saltoun

Wed, 13 Mar, Yester Church

Tue, 26 Mar, Session Rooms East Saltoun

Wed, 10 Apr, Yester Church

Lammermuir Church

Scottish Charity No SC015414

Join us at our Friday Club!

At Friday Club, we explore Bible stories and our big questions through play, crafts, storytelling and songs, in age-appropriate ways. We're meeting usually on Friday afternoons from 2pm to 3pm, with breaks for East Lothian school holidays.



We meet in two groups: a monthly one for pre-school children from age 2, with their parents or carers (and younger siblings welcome), and a fortnightly one for children in primary 1-4 who may be dropped off.

The pre-school group meets in the Session Rooms in East Saltoun on the following Fridays: 15th March, 20th April, 17th May and 22nd June.

The P1-4 group meets in Yester Church in Gifford on these Fridays: 8th and 22nd Mar, 27th April, 11th and 31st May and 15th June.

We suggest a contribution of £3 per session per child, or £5 per session per family. However, this is a suggestion only and all children are very welcome!

Humbie Coffee Morning 16th March

Come and join us for our Coffee Morning on 16 March. Delicious home baking included with your tea and coffee. Fill your freezer from Lynne's Home Baking table. At the plant stall Mike will be on hand to answer any plant or gardening questions. Richard's Bric-a-brac stall is looking for items to sell, clearing out – we will take it. (Margo 07931359242). Try your luck at the Tombola and raffle. There is an Easter Hamper in the Hub; guess the rabbit's birthday and "Mrs Pin Cushion" is up for raffle.

This year we have two invited stalls; Humbie Hookers, Crochet and Knitting Group who will be selling items they have made, (this group meets in the village hall every Tuesday at 10.30 am). And REMAP 'The biggest disability charity you have never heard of'. They make specially designed items for people to give them better mobility. They are having a fun fund raising stall. Look forward to seeing you all there.

HUMBIE LW YESTER BOLTON SALTOUN CHURCH



Friday Club



Exploring Bible stories and our big questions
through play, storytelling, songs and crafts

Pre-school children
from age 2, with parents or carers

monthly 2-3pm in the Session Rooms
Main Street, East Saltoun

Children in P1-4

fortnightly 2-3pm
in Yester Church
Gifford



Suggested contribution:
£3 per child or £5 for siblings

Please check our websites for dates

humbiechurch.org
yesterboltonsaltounchurch.org

YOUTH GROUP

for all in P5-S2

We meet for
chats, food
and games



Please check our websites for details

humbiechurch.org
yesterboltonsaltounchurch.org

Fun Bridge afternoon with Tea

Wednesday 20th March 2024 - 2pm Gifford Village Hall

Tables and chairs provided - Bidding boxes available - *Bring your own cards*

Access to hall from 1:30pm - Raffle at entrance - Afternoon tea served at half time
Finish time 5pm - Funds raised for newly formed Lammermuir Parish church

Limited availability due to space - Tables allocated on first come first served basis

To apply for a table of 4 players at a cost of £60 - (£15 per head including full tea)
Please e-mail Claire Gobourn family.gobourn@gmail.com

Lammermuir Church Garden Party

Saturday 8th June 2024 2.00-
4.30pm

The Manse Garden, Tweeddale
Ave, Gifford

Please note in your diaries to bring
friends and family to the Church
Garden Party helping raise funds
for the new parish of
Lammermuir.



Cream teas are included in the entrance fee of £5 (children under 12 free)
There will be a magnificent raffle, tombola, children's games, plant stall, home
produce and even more fun with live music too!

If you can help in anyway, on the day, or supplying tombola or raffle prizes,
plants or home baking!

Please contact:

Claire Gobourn family.gobourn@gmail.com

Or Liz McDougal elizabeth.mcdougal@icloud.com



Humbie Kirk

Coffee morning



Saturday 16th March
Humbie village hall

10:30 - 12:00

Entry £3.50* (children free)

Stalls include

Home Baking * Tombola * Raffle * Plant Stall

Bric-a-brac * Crochet Hookers * Remap

*Includes Tea/Coffee and delicious home baking

part of the Lammermuir Church

How can you help the Church with your giving?

“If you are eager to give, God will accept your gift on the basis of what you have to give.....” 2 Cor 8:12.

Following the union of our churches, here is a reminder of the different ways you can provide financial support.

1. Free Will Offering envelopes.

Free Will Offering envelopes are useful for people who like to set aside a contribution every week and can be placed in the collections at any of our Lammermuir churches. We now pool all our financial resources.

2. Standing Orders

Standing Orders are a good way of ensuring that you can contribute if you are not able to attend on a regular basis, and this method does reduce administration.

3. Open plate collections

Cash or cheque donations can be placed in the collection plates, boxes or bags on the day of any service.

Gift Aid

The Government operates a scheme called Gift Aid that allows charities, such as our Church, to claim basic rate tax (currently 25%) on every pound donated. So if you donated £100 to the church, it means that you'll actually be giving £125 as we claim £25 back from the tax authorities.

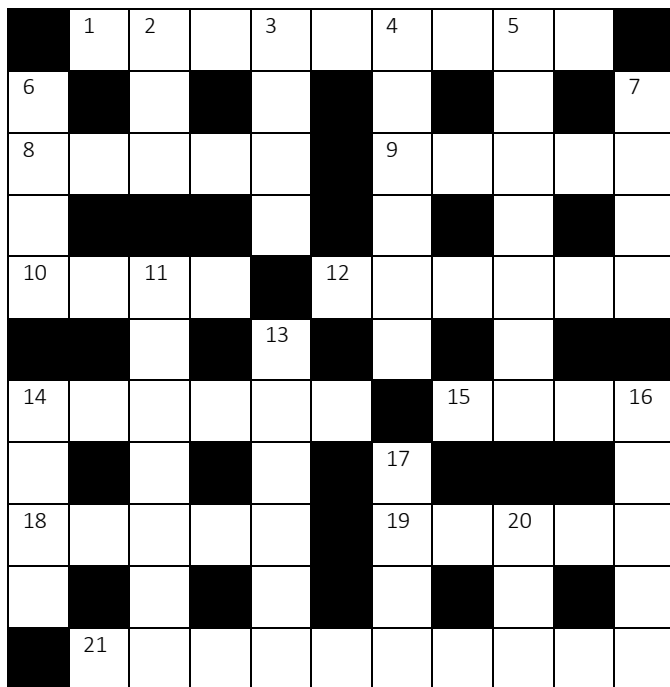
There is no minimum contribution required, no amount has to be promised and there is no fixed term during which contributions must be made. All that is required is that the donor must pay UK income tax or capital gains tax, at least equal to the amount of tax being reclaimed, and give their offering or donation through offering envelopes, by bank standing order or by cheque to establish the necessary audit trail.

Paul Sales (tel: 07827 226135) and Wendy Ferguson (tel:01620 811069) can provide further details and any envelopes, standing order forms or Gift Aid forms required.

This could also be an opportunity to review your giving, complete Gift Aid forms if you are eligible and haven't done so, and help ensure that our ministry is well resourced.

Thank You.

Lammermuir Crossword No.1



Across

1. Happening suddenly; in one go (2,1,6)

8. Erroneous (5)

9. Liable to lie face down (5)

10. A badger's den (4)

12. One of our parish churches (building dates back to 1708) (6)

14. One of our parish churches (building dates back to 1800) (6)

15. First man (4)

18. In the Wizard of Oz, Dorothy had red ones (5)

19. Thomas Gray wrote "___ in a Country Churchyard" (5)

21. The name of our new united parish (10)

Down

2. Twee is the Dutch word for number ___ (3)

3. A clever herb? (4)

4. A sword used by one of the Musketeers (6)

5. Macramé uses ___ string or twine (7)

6. Possesses (4)

7. A person of equal standing with another in a group (4)

11. You might win something at this stall at the church garden party (7)

13. Something you might order at a Chinese restaurant (3,3)

14. Old-fashioned form of the word "have" (4)

16. Elected Chief Executive of a town or city in England (5)

17. Muntjac and Roe are types of these (4)

20. Second-tallest living bird (3)

Sunday Services take place at 10am, led by the Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell (unless noted below). Streaming or recording available, check on the website for details www.lammermuirchurch.org

MARCH

3	Humbie	Coffee and tea after service
10	Yester	Sunday Club
17	Bolton	Coffee and tea after service
24	Yester	Communion
28	Saltoun 7pm	Maundy Thursday
29	Bolton 7pm	Good Friday
31	Humbie	Easter Sunday
	Yester	Sunday Club Led by the Worship Team

APRIL

7	Humbie	Led by Rev Leslie Morrison. Coffee and tea after service
14	Yester	Led by the Worship Team. Sunday Club
21	Saltoun	Coffee and tea after service
28	Yester	

MAY

5	Humbie	Coffee and tea after service
12	Yester	Sunday Club
19	Bolton	Pentecost. Coffee and tea after service
26	Yester	Baptism

JUNE

2	Humbie	Coffee and tea after service
9	Yester	Sunday Club
16	Saltoun	Coffee and tea after service
23	Yester	
30	Yester	