

# Yester & Bolton Saltoun



## PARISH NEWS

### *Spring 2016*

The Manse  
Tweeddale Avenue  
Gifford, EH41 4QN

How time flies by... the year is already well underway; in the fields and in our gardens we can see signs of new life: the colour of the spring flowers, the buds on the trees, the young lambs jumping about. I love this time of year – full of colour, warmed by the rays of sunshine, full of promise and hope. In this season after Easter, we celebrate the new life witnessed in the resurrection – after the darkness of winter, new life is coming.

New life in our parishes too: over the coming weeks and months, we'll celebrate a number of weddings and baptisms. We'll also celebrate our church life at our Garden Fête at the end of May – and hopefully many of you can join in.

May also sees the annual meeting of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, where many of its decisions and agenda-setting take place. And we'll also mark Christian Aid Week that month, in which we particularly support the work of this great charity. Two of our elders are participating in the sponsored crossing of the Forth Road Bridge for this cause – and of course, you can sponsor them!

Over the summer, we'll have a joint service each Sunday at 11.30am, alternating between Bolton and Yester Church (while Saltoun Church is still closed for repairs), helping us to come together as one bigger congregation each week. And one more reason to celebrate: we've now got a church website (at [www.yesterboltonsaltouchurch.org](http://www.yesterboltonsaltouchurch.org)) – have a look for yourself!

I'm looking forward to summer and to being out and about, and hopefully meeting many of you. If there's anything you'd like to discuss, if I can help you in any way or if you simply would like to meet for a chat, please be in touch.

Have a great summer!

*Anikó*

## CHANGE TO OUR SERVICE TIMES

To reflect the union between Yester and Bolton & Saltoun, and to enable Anikó to lead more services in both our parish and at Humble Church, the Kirk Session has decided that during the summer months of June, July and August, we will hold joint services each week – at present alternating between Bolton and Yester (while Saltoun Kirk is closed for repairs). All of these services will take place at 11.30am. This will allow Anikó to see all the congregations more regularly, as well as providing more continuity in the preaching, and it will of course mean that we gather as one bigger congregation – which is always good for the singing!

On the last Sunday of the month, there will be an opportunity to meet together for coffees and teas before the service, from 10.45am – please make sure to mark these dates in your calendar!

We will also hold our communion services jointly – on the first Sunday of May, July, September, November, January and March. In the alternating months, we will have an informal celebration of communion after the end of the regular service.

If you find it difficult to get to another village to attend a service, transport will be provided – if you would like a lift from Gifford to Bolton, please be at Hogg's Corner at 11.15am on a Sunday morning; if you require a lift to Gifford from Saltoun or Bolton, please call Anikó on 01620 811193, to arrange.

Towards the end of the summer, we will gather opinions and decide how to go forward.

We will also introduce regular midweek services (following on from those held in Lent) – more details will be provided soon.

03

## KIRK SESSION NEWS

After 17 years of service as Session Clerk at Yester and latterly Depute Session Clerk for the united parish, Alison Mill Irving has decided to stand down from that office. She remains an Elder and continues to work very hard in many different ways. The Kirk Session would like to express their warm and sincere gratitude to Alison for her dedication and hard work, and we're very glad that she is remaining on the Session.

In February, we also ordained four new Elders – Cressida Douglas-Miller, Wendy Ferguson, Elizabeth McDougal and Arthur McLeod. We are very pleased to welcome them to the Kirk Session.

The next meetings of the Kirk Session will take place on 10 May and 9 August, at 7pm, in Yester Church. As these are open meetings, all are welcome to attend.

## SUNDAY CLUB / MESSY CHURCH

- or Life with the Lions

Along with Humble, we held another very successful Messy Church event in the Fletcher Hall, East Saltoun on Sunday 28 February. The kids (and grown-ups) had a great time learning more about the story of Daniel and the Lions' Den through crafts, stories and song. It was lovely to see some new faces as well as Messy regulars. We are hoping to get a programme of Messy Church events put together for the coming year. Please check our facebook page and website for news.



*making lions*

Our Sunday Clubs continue to run each week in school term time. We had a soggy Easter Egg hunt in Yester churchyard on Easter Sunday and pieced together the Easter Story at the same time. We would love to have more young faces at church so please let your relatives and neighbours know about Sunday Club. It's very informal and fun for the kids ... and a time for grown-ups to have an hour's peace on a Sunday morning! Saltoun is at 10am and Yester at 11.30am (but see separate page for details of June – August service times). Again, please check facebook for updates or contact [yesterchurch@gmail.com](mailto:yesterchurch@gmail.com) (Yester Club) or Jenny [keith.mains@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:keith.mains@hotmail.co.uk) (Bolton & Saltoun Club) for information.

*Jackie McCreery*

## NEWS FROM SIERRA LEONE

*Bolton resident and church member, Karen Garrott, works in healthcare in Sierra Leone. Here is her latest email updating us on the situation there.*

I'm not sure how you would term my work . . . when I came out to Sierra Leone it was to make a difference. Am I making a difference? Well yes, I think you can say the organisation is (*mariestopes Sierra Leone*, part of *mariestopes international*). The reality in this country is that we reach thousands of women every year who have attempted to abort their babies and have almost died and we become the 'fixers' in order to save that woman's life. Furthermore, we are actually more about family planning, ensuring that a child (often as young as 10 years old), whilst she may not be able to fight off cultural and religious beliefs, can at least have the chance of a more robust future - one where she won't become pregnant as a matter of course but can actually stay at school. For those for whom it's too late and who are already mothers by the age of 13, we can at least educate them on spacing their children and going back to school.

Life here is not easy: during the dry season, from October onwards, I have spent half the month with no running water . . . and as some of you may know I was medivacced out of the country last August after taking very ill, probably the result of a bacterial infection contacted through the water.

Come July, I will have been here for three years. I miss my family and friends dreadfully but thank God for his constant eye over me. The Ebola outbreak was tiring and I missed even shaking hands with people; you trusted no one, not even your colleagues.

There is a strong faith here in Sierra Leone, be it Christian or Muslim and we all support one another and offer dual respect for our different faiths. My Country Director as well as the majority of our staff are Christians and we do what we do because of our faith and belief in God.

I'd love to find a way of feeling more connected to my church back home because each day I find myself in need of prayer and support.

On the real plus side, this country has beautiful beaches and I often take myself off to one of the more remote beaches for some quiet time and reflection.

Give my love to everyone.

God bless  
Karen

[www.yesterboltonsaltouchurch.org](http://www.yesterboltonsaltouchurch.org)

We now have a church website. Have a look at [www.yesterboltonsaltouchurch.org](http://www.yesterboltonsaltouchurch.org) to see photos from our church life and read about the history of our churches and our activities – and, of course, to find out about our news. We hope you'll like it!

## FROM THE PRAYER GROUP

Now the joy of celebrating Christ's Resurrection has passed, we are facing the troubles of this world which cause us sorrow, but those who are the victims of war and terrorist attacks face so much more grief and hardship. Let us be thankful for this lovely, peaceful part of God's creation and take hope from these words:

*In the dark days of our lives  
Give us your light,  
The light of your love;  
The light of Christ, The Light of the World,  
That we will know your peace,  
Experience your love  
And be confident in the hope of our faith.*

from *The Gate of the Year* by Minnie Louise Haskin

*Morag Swan*



## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

The group met recently to plan events for the next few months. This year, Anikó and David have kindly offered to host the Summer Garden Party in the Manse garden (or in Gifford Village Hall if wet), on Sunday 29 May from 2 to 4.30pm.

There will be a planning meeting for this in the Session Rooms in East Saltoun on Tuesday 3 May at 7pm. We need lots of volunteers – if you'd like to help or can contribute (eg baking, raffle prize), please contact Claire Gobourn on 01875 340692 or at [gobourn@globalnet.co.uk](mailto:gobourn@globalnet.co.uk).

Other events are in the pipeline - watch this space for further details!



## SALTOUN CEILING UPDATE

Following advice from the Church of Scotland General Trustees, we recently invited two independent conservation-approved architects to inspect Saltoun Kirk. Following their advice, we have decided not simply to repair the damaged areas, but to carry out a full inspection of the whole ceiling, to ensure we avoid similar accidents in the future. Of course this will take some time, and we will also need to start fundraising for the repair work – but it does mean that, once the work has been carried out, the church building will be safe for worship once more. Thank you very much for your support and your patience!



## STAMPS & POSTCARDS

Jenny Gardner, of Inglisfield Cottage, has very kindly offered to take on the task of sorting these and passing them on to the relevant charity. Used stamps and postcards can be left in the tin in the lobby at Bolton Kirk, or in the box outside Jenny's home (at the foot of the hill on the opposite side of the road from Bolton Muir).

## DROP IN FOR A COFFEE . . . to Yester Kirk

on Wednesdays – 11 May, 8 June, 13 July, 10 August  
from 10.30am to 12 noon

*EVERYBODY WELCOME*

---

### PARISH REGISTER

Deaths      15.01.16    Bill Shiels, Gifford  
                 08.02.16    Ian Purves, East Saltoun  
                 08.03.16    Jock Laing, Gifford

Minister	Anikó Schuetz Bradwell	01620 811193	aschuetzbradwell@churchofscotland.org.uk	
Session Clerk	Alastair Wyllie	01875 340424	ajw.upfield@gmail.com	
Treasurer	Finlay Marshall	01620 810229	finlaymarshall@giffordvale.wanadoo.co.uk	
Deputy Treasurer	John Macfarlane	01875 341311	jmacfarlane9@btinternet.com	
Gift Aid Treasurer Yester B&S	Wendy Ferguson Paul Sales	01620 811069 01620 811260	wendyferguson.wf@gmail.com paulsales457@btinternet.com	
Fabric Convenor	Bill Swan	01875 340477	billandmoragswan@yahoo.co.uk	
Deputy Fabric Convenor	Eric Glendinning	01620 810220	ericglendinning@btinternet.com	
Organists	Bolton Saltoun	Sheila Clark Hugh Main	01620 810346 0131 669 4320	shuggiem@hotmail.co.uk
Sunday Club	Yester B&S	Jackie McCreery Jenny Riddell Ian Jameson	01620 810131 07905 135975 07803 893970	jackie@yesterfarmdairies.co.uk keith.mains@hotmail.co.uk dianjameson@aol.com
Flower rota	Yester  Bolton Saltoun	Sylvia Anderson Jean Peat Claire Gobourn Morag Swan	01620 810678 01620 810358 01875 340692 01875 340477	jimsylvia@scoraig.net jeanpeat@hotmail.co.uk gobourn@globalnet.co.uk billandmoragswan@yahoo.co.uk
Prayer Group		Morag Swan	01875 340477	billandmoragswan@yahoo.co.uk
Newsletter		Margaret Wyllie	01875 340424	mw.upfield@icloud.com



<https://www.facebook.com/YesterParishChurch>

[www.yesterboltonsaltouchurch.org](http://www.yesterboltonsaltouchurch.org)

Yester, Bolton & Saltoun Parish Church (Church of Scotland) Scottish Charity No SC015414  
Church Copyright Licence Nos 2163827 / 2163803