

Yester Bolton & Saltoun



Parish Newsletter May 2018

Dear friends,

One of my favourite verses in the hymnbook is in the Pentecost hymn 582:

The world, in sheer amazement
the truth must now declare:
that men, who once were cowards,
are brave beyond compare:
and tongues, which could not utter
their faith in Jesus' name,
defy all persecution
his glory to proclaim!

By the time you receive this Newsletter, the season of Pentecost will be upon us. It's not as widely recognised as Christmas or Easter, but for Christians, Pentecost is the day on which we commemorate the coming of the Holy Spirit on the early followers of Jesus. Before the events of the first Pentecost, which came a few weeks after Jesus' death and resurrection, there were followers of Jesus, but no movement that could be meaningfully called "the church." The disciples had gone into hiding, having run away from the horror that had overtaken Jesus. But Pentecost is the day on which the whole scene changed. Men and women became brave, the disciples became the church. Pentecost is the church's birthday.

Thus at Pentecost we celebrate God among us. God's spirit is poured out on us and in our generation we take up the challenge to proclaim God's message to dream dreams, and to catch the vision of God's kingdom come on earth.

And so we will celebrate Pentecost together. A couple of weeks after that my time at Yester, Bolton and Saltoun will be done. The time seems to have flown. Of course, that is down to the quality of the congregation here - warm, faithful, thoughtful people. I am very grateful for this experience - for Anikó's invitation to be locum during her maternity leave in the first place, and to all of you for your great kindness.

So may you, Pentecost people, continue on the journey. With the admirable ministry of Anikó, and your own love and enthusiasm, the journey will be ever more fruitful among the communities of this lovely part of East Lothian.

With every blessing

John

JOHN R SMITH, Locum Minister

Messy Church News



Messy Church took place on 15th April. Yester Village Hall looked very colourful as we looked at Spring, New Beginnings and all things related to Easter. As well as the usual arts and crafts we also had a visit from two fairly new born lambs and a couple of hens who kindly produced two eggs for us. The Easter story is one of highs and lows or more accurately lows and then highs; we all had a good think about the difficulties, confusion and ultimately exhilaration experienced by the disciples all those years ago and how we can relate that to our lives now.



We have capacity for more children but we also want Messy Church to be of interest to all generations. It's a fun afternoon with plenty to do for children and adults alike. I think we've been very centred on exciting children's activities so that we've maybe forgotten to emphasise that the fellowship, and informal style of 'church' is for everyone not just the children. So it would be lovely to see a few more folk pop in and see what we're all about.

We'll keep you updated about further dates in due course!

The Messy Church Team



East Lothian Foodbank

In 2017 East Lothian Foodbank were able to offer more than 2,000 three-day emergency food parcels, helping 4,228 people in East Lothian, including many families with children. East Lothian Foodbank anticipate an increase in demand over the school summer holiday period, and so would be very grateful for our support in the coming weeks.

The three church buildings (in Bolton, Saltoun and Yester Church) will have donation boxes throughout May and June.

The most requested items are long-life juice, long-life milk, and tins of meat and vegetables. For more information about the collections contact Elizabeth Hunter. East Lothian Foodbank are online at www.eastlothian.foodbank.org.uk

Garden Party – 17 June

Plans are being finalised for this year's Yester, Bolton & Saltoun Garden Party, which will take place on Sunday 17 June from 2.00-4.30pm at Broadwood in Gifford (Edinburgh Road). Entrance will be £4, which includes a cream tea. Children get in free! Music-Tombola-Games-Plant Stall-Ice Cream-Cakes-Raffle – fun for all the family!



Heart and Soul

Heart and Soul is the Church of Scotland festival that takes place in Edinburgh's Princes Street Gardens each May to celebrate the life of the Church. Heart and Soul takes place in the same week as the Kirk's General Assembly. This year Heart and Soul events take place on Saturday 19 and Sunday 20 May.

As part of the Year of Young People a special youth event will take place from 6.30pm at the Ross Theatre in Princes Street Gardens. Powerpoint Scotland, a Christian music group will be joined by LZ7, a multi-award winning Christian EDM group (all LZ7 tracks are available for download and through most streaming services (Spotify, Apple Music etc.).

On Sunday 20 May from 1pm the main Heart and Soul Festival takes over Princes Street Gardens West (from the Mound to St Cuthbert's), with dozens of activities,



exhibitors and events taking place throughout the afternoon, concluding with public worship at the Ross Theatre at 5.00pm. Highlights include a celebration of the 50th anniversary since the Church of Scotland agreed to ordain women to the ministry, plus Christian broadcasters Sally Magnusson and Hugh Pym in conversation, and the Moderator of the National Youth Assembly Robin Downie discussing issues with the youngest MSP at Holyrood and Church of Scotland Elder, Ross Greer.

Heart and Soul is free and open to members of the public; it is family-friendly and there are plenty of places to stop for refreshments and is handy for the city centre. So why not come along, or if you can't make it this year, maybe think if it is something you would like to plan to be at in 2019.

For information see www.heartandsoul.org.uk

Heart & Soul 2018
Celebrating the life of the Church

Together We Pray

Many of us pray in different ways. Some find it easier to pray in church. Others might find being in the open air more helpful. Some people find connection when they pray with others. Some prefer to be alone. Some people are confident about what they think about prayer and their relationship with God. Some people don't really know what they believe or have struggle to think about why or how to pray. Whether we are comfortable with praying or if sometimes it can feel awkward, a new programme from the Church of Scotland's Mission and Discipleship Council has been set up to help everyone think better about prayer, leading up to a National Day of Prayer to be held on 3 November 2018. The programme is called *Together We Pray* and there are lots of free resources on the Church of Scotland Website including videos, articles and suggestions for words to pray to get you into a regular rhythm of personal and collectover prayer at www.churchofscotland.org.uk/connect/together_we_pray

**Rejoice always,
pray without ceasing,
give thanks in all circumstances;**
for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)



The Church of Scotland

yesterboltonsaltounchurch.org

And find us on Facebook at facebook.com/YesterParishChurch

Drop in for a coffee!

Everyone is welcome at the coffee mornings:
in Yester Church on the 2nd Wednesday of each month
and Saltoun Session Rooms on the 4th Tuesday
From 10.30-12.00 noon

Coffee Morning Dates

Yester 13 June	Saltoun 26 June
Yester 11 July	Saltoun 24 July
Yester 8 August	Saltoun 28 August
Yester 12 Sept	Saltoun 25 Sept

Parish Register

Baptisms	1 April 2018	Amira and Royal, children of Carrie and Royal John, Gifford
Deaths	19 February 2018	Stella Arnott, Gifford
	15 March 2018	William Thomson, Gifford
	8 April 2018	Patricia York, Haddington
	20 April 2018	Sandy Boggan, Haddington

Moderator	Sandy Horsburgh	0131 653 3318	ahorsburgh@churchofscotland.org.uk
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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
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Sunday Club (Bolton and Saltoun)	Jenny Riddell	07905 135975	keith.mains@hotmail.co.uk
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