

Yester Bolton & Saltoun



PARISH NEWS

September 2017

The Manse
Tweeddale Avenue
Gifford EH41 4QN

I can hardly believe that the schools are back already and that autumn is around the corner. Whatever you have done this summer, I hope you have found some rest and relaxation. However, the summer has brought not only holidays for many of us, but also more events causing some uncertainty. We have seen a surprise General Election in June and a start to the Brexit negotiations, and also attacks of violence and terror in Manchester, London and, most recently, Barcelona, as well as elsewhere in the world, and the tragedy of the fire at Grenfell Tower. While political negotiations are taking place, we have seen real human tragedy in these events, and I'm sure all our hearts go out to their victims.

As we worry about the danger of terrorist threats and uncertainties in the wider world, we can be encouraged by an example of Jesus' advice to the disciples in times of worry: he asked them to consider the lilies in the field, how they grew despite the worry and lack of clarity the world was facing. That advice might be seen as escapist – turning a blind eye to the needs of the world and hoping that worries will go away. But Jesus ended his phrase by reminding the disciples to seek also the kingdom of God. Seeking the kingdom of God meant – and means – actively working towards fulfilling God's word: sharing, healing, seeking understanding, forgiving, loving; ways of life that are not always easy and yet, if we all lived by these values, the things we worry about would be much less of a threat.

We have seen such an outpouring of kindness, generosity and support in the aftermath of the tragedies listed above, of people reaching out to strangers simply to help where help was needed. And here in the parish, we see examples of this, too: for instance, in the great support for our Foodbank collection at the start of the summer holidays (dates for future collections will be announced in due course), and in church members starting to work with some of the refugee families who have arrived in Haddington. None of us will be able to change the whole world by ourselves but every one of us, as individuals or together with others, can make a little difference to the world around us, by sharing our hope, our joy, our kindness and our generosity.

And there's much to be hopeful and joyful about, too: in the start of a new school year, with all the hopes that brings; in the excellent progress of the work in Saltoun Church, which we hope to reopen later in the year, and in the generous donations given to help with this work; in the celebrations of the life of our community in our Garden Party, the Whisky Tasting, the Musical Evening, and in the weddings and baptisms we have celebrated over the summer.

On a personal note, as you'll read later on in this newsletter, I'll be taking time off with our baby – planning to be on Maternity Leave from late October until early summer next year - insofar as these things can be planned! I look forward to seeing you all once I'm back.

All the best,
Anikó

MATERNITY COVER

All being well, Anikó expects to be on Maternity Leave from 30 October and is currently planning to be back in post from late May 2018. During her absence, Rev Sandy Horsburgh, of St Nicholas Buccleuch Church in Dalkeith, will be Interim Moderator – chairing Kirk Session meetings and, with the Elders, being responsible for any matters of church governance. You might remember him from Anikó's ordination service.

Rev John Smith, a retired United Reformed Church minister, will be the Locum Minister. He'll be taking care of pastoral matters and most of the Sunday services, on a part-time basis. John retired from Morningside United Church, where he was Anikó's minister, in 2013, and many of us met him when he 'preached in' Anikó on her first service here in the parish.



We're delighted to say that our next Messy Church will be in Gifford Village Hall from 4-6pm on Sunday 1 October. ALL WELCOME!

CHILDREN'S CLUB DATES (3.30-4.30pm):

05 Sept	Session Rooms, East Saltoun
19 Sept	Humbie Village Hall
03 Oct	Yester Kirk
31 Oct	Session Rooms, East Saltoun
14 Nov	Humbie Village Hall
28 Nov	Yester Kirk

Jenny, Ian, Jackie and Wendy



CEILING REPAIR

The work on the ceiling repair in Saltoun Kirk has now been substantially completed, well ahead of schedule. Some cleaning remains to be finished and then the church will again be open for worship in the near future.

Thanks to the incredible generosity of supporters from both near and far, we are close to reaching the target sum for the repairs, with more donations still coming in. This has been a huge undertaking and it is heartening that so many have given so freely.



LONG SERVICE

Certificates have been presented to elders Sandra Chalmers, Frank Fiddes and Alison Mill Irving in recognition of their many years of service to the church. Each has been an elder for 30 years and we are all extremely grateful to them for devoting so much time to further the work of our church in the community.



COMMUNION WINE

Following discussion at the recent Kirk Session meeting, the Elders felt that it would be more inclusive to offer non-alcoholic communion wine during our communion services. If you have any questions about this, please speak to the minister.



FOODBANK

Rather than having the collection boxes out all the time, it's been agreed that we'll have three or four dedicated collection dates during the year. These will be announced at services.



SONGS OF PRAISE

There'll be a special Songs of Praise service
on 29 October

Please submit any hymn requests to Anikó
by Sunday 15 October

PRAYER CORNER

*We plough the fields and scatter
The good seed on the land;
But it is fed and watered
By God's almighty hand*

At this time of harvest when the combine harvesters are busy in the fields, let us be thankful for the fact that we shall have a harvest when other parts of the world are in desperate need of food as a result of drought, or people are having to leave their homes because of war or persecution.

We are indeed richly blessed to live in this peaceful and lovely countryside. Thanks be to God.

Morag Swan



GARDEN PARTY

The Garden Party was again a huge success, thanks to the combined efforts of the whole joint community. Huge thanks to Anikó and David for once again allowing the Manse Garden to be a perfect venue, enabling easy access for buggies and those less able to walk, as well as being within easy walking distance for many.

The early date meant that we were lucky with the weather, which tried its hardest to blow us off course, especially where gazebos are concerned! Despite a brief shower spirits were high, helped by the minister's husband David's accomplished band, *The Canonmills Quintet* - and John's Pimms Bar!



Christine and Janet provided "the best" cream tea for the masses, and the tea ladies were rushed off their feet (note, more help needed for next year!).

Children showed design and flair in their creation of models and paintings of the joint churches; choosing the medallists was hard!

A gazebo dedicated to Saltoun Church Ceiling Fund was boosted by Jeannie and May's many hampers that were drawn that day. Plants as ever provided by Joyce and Helen flew off the tables, bought by garden enthusiasts. The 'Bring and Buy' cakes and produce sold out fast, as did the 'Water into Wine' challenge. The tombola was a roaring success, with sackfuls of prizes - and sackfuls of numbered corks confusing the punters! The raffle was supported by many local businesses and individuals supplying prizes, and large numbers of tickets were sold for the cause. Games organised by Messy Church brought out the competitive spirit, and golf, schoolen and bowling added to the fun.

A little more sun would have seen more ice cream eaten, but we're not complaining - it was a wonderful afternoon, only to be outdone by next year's!

Thanks for all the support and generosity from those helping and attending.

Claire Gobourn



HADDINGTON PLAYERS

We are again grateful to Gifford Horticultural Society for the use of their marquee following the end of their annual Flower Show. This year we were well entertained by the Haddington Players. The fizz, strawberries and cream added to the relaxed atmosphere - which saw the evening finish with one member of the audience indulging in an enthusiastic cancan!



WHISKY TASTING

Huge thanks are due to Alex Hogg for arranging this excellent fundraiser and to his son, David, who works in the industry and who shared his passion for Scotland's national drink with us. This is the third such tasting we've enjoyed as a church social event and they never fail to generate goodwill and funds in equal measure! The evening raised over £900 for the Saltoun Kirk Ceiling Appeal Fund.



SAVE THE DATE!

YBS CEILIDH

in aid of Saltoun Kirk Ceiling Repair

SATURDAY 25 NOVEMBER

Fletcher Hall, East Saltoun

Live music from

The Occasionals



more details to follow

DROP IN FOR A COFFEE . . . at Yester Kirk or Saltoun Session Rooms

on Wednesdays in Yester – 13 September, 11 October, 8 November
and Tuesdays in East Saltoun – 26 September, 24 October, 28 November

from 10.30am to 12 noon

EVERYBODY WELCOME

PARISH REGISTER

Baptisms	04.06.17	Archie, son of Pauline and Gary Ford, Kidlaw
	18.06.17	Atholl, son of Nicola and Duncan Davidson, Newlands
Marriages	10.06.17	Jessica Card and Andrew Clark, in Bolton
	17.06.17	Rachel Carr and Callum Mark, in Yester
	05.08.17	Sophie Fulton and Douglas Bailey, in Bolton
Deaths	26.05.17	Debbie Smith, West Saltoun
	29.06.17	Jim Fairgrieve, Tranent (formerly Haddington)
	28.07.17	Bob Vance, Dunbar (formerly Gifford)

Minister	Anikó Schuetz Bradwell	01620 811193	aschuetzbradwell@churchofscotland.org.uk
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