

Yester Bolton & Saltoun



Parish Newsletter

December 2023

The nights are frosty, the leaves are falling, and we're close to Advent again. It's a dark time – not only due to the short daylight hours, but looking at the world: the climate emergency; wars in Ukraine and Gaza, Syria and Ethiopia, to name but a few; more people than ever struggling in our own communities with the rise in living costs. And yet we're going into this time of excitement, this time of anticipation and celebration, year after year, no matter what else is happening in the world.

Advent itself is a time of preparation: and not just in the sense of writing cards and wrapping presents, of planning the meals and decorating the house: but a time to look inwards, and to prepare ourselves to celebrate again that God is in the world. 'Prepare the way of God, make God's paths straight!' – that's how Mark's gospel begins, with John the Baptist trying to tell the people of his time to get ready for Jesus. Despite Jesus being born some 2,000 odd years ago in a small shelter in Bethlehem – so close to the fighting today – God is still in the world today, God's presence is surrounding us.

And today it is up to us to prepare a way for God: to allow God to have a place in our life, to let the teaching and example of God guide us in how we live, in who we are. The Advent weeks are usually shaped by the themes of hope, peace, love and joy. And despite our worries about the state of the world, and the personal stresses and struggles which we might be facing, too, I'm sure we all can find examples of hope, peace, love and joy in our lives, too. And we can choose to make them a focus for us: not everything is bright and happy, not even in Advent and at Christmas: but we can choose to live with hope, to pursue peace, to be loving and to bring a joyful approach to every day.

Have a good winter, Anikó

Advent

Please join in with our Advent services! On 10th December, we'll have Lessons and Carols - if you play an instrument and would like to accompany the singing, or if you'd like to read one of the Lessons, please let us know asap. Our Nativity services is on 17th December, and all children are invited to join in.

A Service of Remembering takes place at 4pm on 17th December, for all who have lost loved ones and miss them especially at Advent time. At Christmas, we'll have a morning service on Christmas Eve at 10am, then Watchnight at Bolton Church at 11.30pm, and a Christmas Day family service at 10.30am. You are warmly invited, and we hope to see you at any or all of them.

Advent Bible Study

This year, we'll offer an Advent Bible Study, based on material prepared by the Rev Robin Hill, minister in Gladsmuir and Longniddry.

We'll meet on Wednesday, 29th Nov; Thursdays, 7th and 14th Dec, and Tuesday, 19th Dec, each at 1pm. If you would like to participate, please get in touch for more details.

Buildings update

At the congregational meeting of Yester Bolton and Saltoun Church, we also regretfully agreed the decommissioning of Bolton and Saltoun Churches. The process now lies with the General Trustees and the Law Department of the Church of Scotland, and is likely to take some months. We are working with community groups both in Bolton and Saltoun who are interested in purchasing the buildings for continued community use, which we very much hope will be feasible.

We will continue to use Saltoun and Bolton Churches for services until they are decommissioned (and hopefully on occasion thereafter).

Meantime, with the buildings that we're retaining, our next priorities are the repairs in the Stables at Humber (following a substantial leak followed by a ceiling collapse) and the removal of pews and update to the heating system in Yester Church, to make the building more accessible and versatile.

Union

Both congregations have now held congregational meetings, where they have affirmed the decision to unite to form the new Lammermuir Parish. Legally, we'll become this new parish on 1st January 2024. We will celebrate the union and our coming together in a service with participation from Presbytery on Sunday, 4th February, 10am in Yester Church.

Please also look out for our websites and social media pages, which will change from the existing ones to Lammermuir Parish ones.

Friday Club

This term, we've covered the story of Moses at Friday Club, with both age groups, as well as thinking about Remembrance and getting ready for Christmas.

The P1-4 group continues to meet fortnightly on Fridays at 2-3pm in Yester Church (1st and 15th Dec, and starting again from 19th Jan; all dates on our website).

The pre-school group is now meeting monthly in the Session Rooms (8th Dec, 12th Jan, 9th Feb, 15th Mar). We are considering moving the time to 3-4pm, so if that would suit your family better, please let us know.

Opportunities to be involved

It's wonderful that we can meet weekly to worship together. In addition to our services, there are many other opportunities to participate in our church life: you could join the choir (meeting every Wednesday at 3pm in Bolton Church), come along to our Coffee Mornings, become one of our readers, join the welcome team or worship team.

You could help with offering after-service coffees or help with the coffee mornings. You could join the Knitting Groups or add your name to the flower rota. If you have ideas or would like to hear more about any of these, please get in touch.

Youth Group

We are now also meeting with a youth group for older kids in P5-S2, and had a good evening together in November: discussing Remembrance, enjoying pizza and playing board games together. We'll meet again on 1st December, 23rd February and 15th March. If you have children in that age group who would be interested in participating, please get in touch for more details.

Social Events in East Saltoun

There will be an opportunity to kick off the Festive Season at the Saltoun Winter Social, to be held at Fletcher Hall, East Saltoun on Sunday 3 December from 2.00 until 4.30pm. Teas, coffees and festive-themed home baking will be available (entry by donation), along with mulled wine, prosecco, raffle, children's activities and a selection of children's crafts to raise money for good causes. Pencaitland Community Choir will join us for some carol singing throughout the afternoon.

Looking forward to the New Year, we will be holding a Burns' Ceilidh Evening on Friday 19 January, also at Fletcher Hall, from 7.30pm, with music provided once again by Alex Hodgson and his band. Tickets will be on sale in due course.

Alastair Wyllie
Chair - Saltoun Community Association SCIO

Across 1. bed 3. journey 6. feast 8. good 9. of old 13. ice cream 14. Christmas 17. taxi
Down 1. bangles 2. donkey 4. pew 5. trod 7. taffeta 8. glory 10. magi 11. diet 12. east 15. mare
16. sack

Our Church Family

Introducing members of our Church

Who are you? Finlay Marshall

Where do you live, and how long have you lived there?

On the Haddington Road, Gifford for the past 41 years.

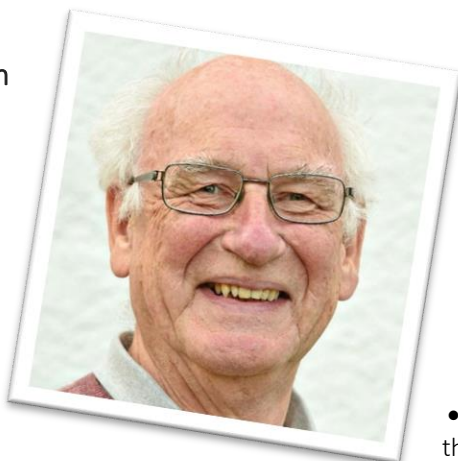
Where were you born? Edinburgh (SMMP) just in time to be taken abroad to Persia where my father was working.

What fills your days? Reading the newspaper, making a coordinated attempt at the cryptic crossword, playing golf and serious effort developing the different bridge systems I play with various partners. In the winter months, June and I attend concerts, the theatre and until recently Scottish Country Dance Balls. In the summer, any spare time is spent with June in the garden provided the temperature is high enough, and the weather is dry. Until I developed what I hope to be long covid – the alternative diagnosis is a rather serious complaint – time was also spent practising and then playing the bagpipes.

What does it mean to you to be part of the Church?

It is pleasant being able to take an hour off and in the presence of others enjoy mental stimulus. I was particularly grateful for the emotional support provided by being part of the “church” when my father died suddenly at a far too young age.

What do you enjoy doing? Being in the company of congenial people.



If you could live anywhere but here, where would it be?

I have always felt strangely at home in East Lothian in general, and Gifford in particular. It might be convenient to live elsewhere, but not, I feel, enjoyable.

Please tell us three of your favourite:

- **hymns.** “Abide with Me” and “The day thou gavest, Lord, is ended”, the third one, my most favourite is no longer in the hymn book, and, on investigation, being last seen in CH3. It is TH Gill’s masterpiece, “Lord in the fullness of my might”. No list would be complete without Psalm 100, of course.
- **Bible verses or passages.** Isaiah Ch43 v 1b, Isaiah Ch40 v 31 and Romans ch 8 v 35-39.
- **bands/ singers/ composers.** The aria “I know that my Redeemer liveth” from Handel’s Messiah, his Coronation Anthem “Zadok the Priest” and arguably the greatest Overture written, that to the opera Tannhäuser by Richard Wagner
- **books/ authors.** Clyde Love’s “Bridge Squeezes Complete” and the Rev Donald Caskie’s autobiography “The Tartan Pimpernel”. Currently, I am reading author Mick Herron.
- **foods.** Steak Tartare, a blue fillet, and most recently a chicken dall that I cooked myself from a Gousto recipe.

Deaths 2 September 2023 Elizabeth Hunter, Gifford
 4 November 2023 Audrey Moge, Gifford

Minister	Anikó Schütz Bradwell	01620 811193 07936 042191	AnikoSB@churchofscotland.org.uk
The minister’s time off is usually Saturdays and Mondays.			
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	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@outlook.com
Prayer Group	Morag Swan	01875 340477	billandmoragswan@outlook.com
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

Humbie Iw Yester Bolton and Saltoun Church ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS 2023

3 Dec	10am	Humbie Church	1st Advent Service
10 Dec	10am	Yester Church	2nd Advent Service with Lessons and Carols
	10am	Saltoun Church	3rd Advent Service with the Nativity
17 Dec	4pm	Bolton Church	Service of Remembering (Blue Christmas)
23 Dec	6.30pm	outside Yester Church	Carols around the Christmas Tree
	10am	Yester Church	4th Advent Service
Christmas Eve	4pm	Humbie Church	Nativity Service
	11.30pm	Bolton Church Humbie Church	Watchnight Services
Christmas Day	10.30am	Yester Church	Christmas Service

More details at
yesterboltonsaltouchurch.org and humbiechurch.org

Advent study group 29 Nov, 7, 14 + 19 Dec 1pm
Get in touch for more details.



Church Services December 2023 – March 2024

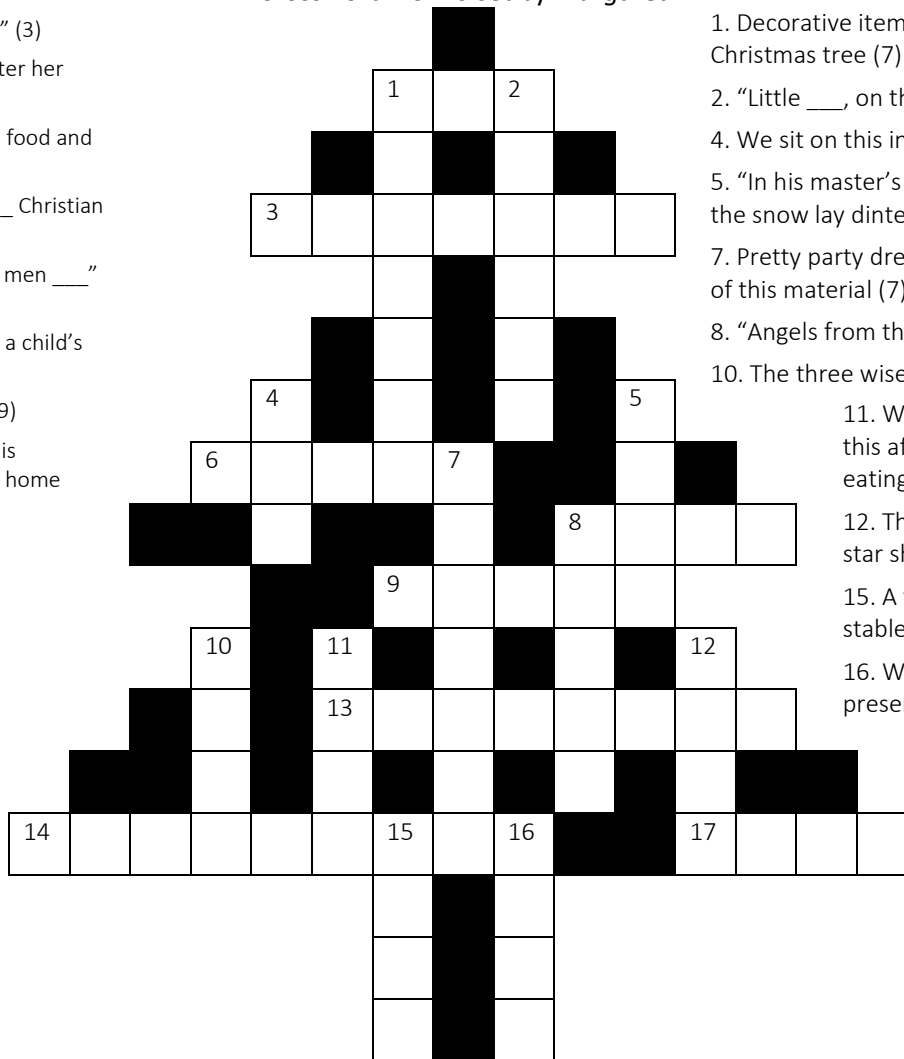
Services are usually held at 10am. Video recordings are available on our website, and sound recordings on request. If you find it difficult to get to a service, please contact us and we can arrange transport.

December	3	Humbie	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Advent 1 Coffee/tea
	10	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Advent 2 Lessons and Carols
		Saltoun	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Advent 3 – Nativity Coffee/tea
	17				Service of Remembering (Blue Christmas)
		Bolton	4pm	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
		Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Advent 4 Christmas Eve
	24	Humbie	4pm	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Nativity service
		Bolton	11.30pm	Worship Team	Watchnight
		Humbie	11.30pm	Worship Team	Watchnight
	25	Yester	10.30am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Christmas Day
	31	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
January	7	Humbie	10am	Tbc	Coffee/tea
	14	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Sunday Club
	21	Saltoun	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Holy communion
	28	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Baptism Coffee/tea
February	4	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Union service Coffee/tea Sunday Club
	11	Humbie	10am	Tbc	
	18	Saltoun	10am	Tbc	Coffee/tea
	25	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Baptism
March	3	Humbie	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Coffee/tea
	10	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Sunday Club
	17	Bolton	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Coffee/tea
	24	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	

Across

- 1. "No crib for a ___" (3)
- 2. Mary was tired after her long ___ (7)
- 6. A word for festive food and drink (5)
- 8. In Dulci Jubilo "___ Christian men rejoice" (4)
- 9. "As with gladness men ___" (2,3)
- 13. Jelly's partner at a child's party (3,5)
- 14. December 25th (9)
- 17. You may have this transport to get you home after a party (4)

Crossword No. 10 set by Margaret



Down

- 1. Decorative items to hang on the Christmas tree (7)
- 2. "Little ___, on the dusty road" (6)
- 4. We sit on this in church (3)
- 5. "In his master's steps he ___ where the snow lay dinted" (4)
- 7. Pretty party dresses might be made of this material (7)
- 8. "Angels from the realms of ___" (5)
- 10. The three wise men (4)
- 11. We may have to do this after all the festive eating and drinking (4)
- 12. The shepherds saw a star shining in the ___ (4)
- 15. A female horse in the stable (4)
- 16. What Santa keeps his presents in (4)

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 Feb, Yester Church
- Tue, 26 Mar, Session Rooms East Saltoun
- Wed, 10 Apr, Yester Church

Yester, Bolton and Saltoun Church

Scottish Charity No SC015414



The Church of Scotland

yesterboltonsaltounchurch.org

**Deadline for next newsletter:
Thursday 15 February 2024**

Facebook facebook.com/YesterBoltonSaltounChurch

YouTube – search for Humble lw Yester Bolton Saltoun Church

Instagram instagram.com/yesterboltonsaltounchurch and

Twitter/X @YBS_Church

Yester, Bolton and Saltoun Parish Church (Church of Scotland)

Scottish Charity No SC015414

Church Copyright Licence Nos 2163827 / 2163803