

Yester Bolton & Saltoun



Parish Newsletter

September 2023

Have you had a good summer? Have you been resting or rather been quite busy, or a mixture of the two? In any case, I hope it has been relaxing and invigorating for you. And now we're in Harvest time already. It's a good time of year to take stock, and to give thanks. Of course, we do that in our Harvest Thanksgiving services, and I think it can be beneficial for each of us to every so often stop and think about what we are thankful for as individuals, too. We all know there is much to worry about in the world, and for many of us, there are concerns in our personal lives, too. Many of us are very busy, and so taking reflective moments can feel like an indulgence.

Nevertheless, it's good to remind ourselves that besides the worries and concerns there is much that is good – be that in experiences we make, in the blessings with which we are gifted, in the relationships in our lives, in the moments that make us smile. Taking a moment to remind ourselves of these, and consciously giving thanks for them can help us feel more appreciative, and in turn, happier too.



It's often the little moments that are the most beautiful, the ones in which we can feel truly content and happy. And besides our individual moments, we are lucky to live in a peaceful part of the world, with access to healthcare and education for all, with a good social system, with personal freedom. We can see our food literally grow around us – that's what we usually focus on in our Harvest services. And besides this, there is so much else to be grateful for, too. This autumn, let's count our blessings, and give thanks – and perhaps that will in turn inspire and encourage us to share our blessings.

Have a good autumn. Anikó

Songs of Praise

At the first of our new joint services, on Sunday 1st October in Humble Church, we'll have a Songs of Praise service. If you'd like any hymns included, please give them to Anikó by 20th September. We'll try to incorporate as many as possible.

Any that cannot be included on this occasion will instead feature in other services over the coming weeks. We'll also have an envelope by the church doors where you can leave hymn requests, and we'll do our best to feature them in upcoming services.

Advent Bible Study

The Rev Robin Hill, well-known to many of us as minister at Gladsmuir and Longniddry, and one of the regular facilitators of the Worship Leadership course provided by Presbytery, has recently spent his study leave in preparing an Advent Bible study for the use of the wider church.

We'll use his material and offer four sessions in Advent (and there will be material provided for personal reflections both for Christmas and Epiphany). If you would like to participate, please tell Anikó by 10th October, so that we can find dates and times that work for everyone who would like to take part. Thank you.

Future of our church: from the Minister

Our upcoming union with Humble Church

Thank you to all who engaged so constructively at Kirk Session and congregational meetings held in June, about our upcoming union. This is an update on where we are at.

Services

From 1st October, we will have one Sunday service every week between both congregations. We have decided to move to one rather than two regular services, as we found at the union of YBS that a real coming together of the two congregations only began when we started getting to know each other through weekly joint services and events. Transport links can be arranged for anyone with worries about travelling to Humble Church: and anyone happy to provide lifts from any of the villages to Humble services should please let the Session Clerk team know, so that we can arrange for pairings. We will, for the time being, use all four church buildings, and there will continue to be separate local services for special seasons and events, such as Harvest, Remembrance, Christmas and Easter.

Buildings

The decommissioning of Bolton Church in due course was decided in the meetings of the Kirk Sessions with representatives from Presbytery in 2022, and duly included in the Presbytery Mission Plan. The Kirk Session agreed at its August meeting to get the sale process under way.

The union committee are now recommending the decommissioning of Saltoun Church, and this decision has been confirmed by the Kirk Session at its August meeting. It now needs to be ratified by a congregational meeting, to be held after the Sunday service on 24th September. All members of YBS Church (ie everyone who is formally on the membership roll, either by Profession of Faith or having transferred from a different congregation) and adherents (all who frequently worship with us and aren't full members) will be authorised to vote.

After this vote, the General Trustees will be informed of our decisions, which will set the selling process in motion for both buildings. We are very fortunate in that we have already received expressions of interest from local groups to purchase both Bolton and Saltoun buildings, with a commitment to maintain them for community use, and ensure their continued availability for family services such as weddings and funerals. We can offer some guidance as to what is required to make an offer to buy the buildings, so if there are other interested parties, they should get in touch as soon as possible. The General Trustees are likely to offer a grace period of around six months to local groups to finalise their offers, before the buildings would be placed on the open market if no local solution proves feasible. The whole process is likely to take six to nine months, and we will of course give plenty of notice before the decommissioning and closing services for both buildings.

Let me say again that none of these decisions and recommendations comes lightly or without due consideration: no Minister or elder sets out to close church buildings. However we are, with our reducing membership numbers, attendance at services, and income no longer able to maintain all church buildings. If we continue as we have done, we will only continue to manage further decline, rather than being able to find new areas of growth, as we have done for the past couple of years.

As mentioned above, Bolton and Saltoun Churches will continue to be used until they are decommissioned, and thereafter we will use Yester Church for the majority of Sunday services, with one monthly Sunday service at Humble Church.

Rather than duplicating what we do between different buildings, as has happened in the past, we will use our buildings in a complementary way: each being used to its strengths. Yester Church, at the heart of the Gifford community, as well as the Session Rooms in East Saltoun, will continue being used for regular activities during the week. If there is sufficient local interest and support, we hope it may be possible to develop the Session Rooms buildings further for the benefit of the community.

We are aiming to promote Humble Church with the refurbished Stables (thanks to a very generous donation dedicated to this purpose) more as a venue for weddings, concerts and exhibitions. Additionally, we are planning to establish a retreat programme at Humble Church, open to the wider church and others who are interested, and a programme of events on different topics. All of these aim to promote engagement with the church and with different aspects of faith, and will generate some much-needed income.

Administration

The name for our united parish that has been proposed by our Kirk Sessions, and which found great approval in the congregational meetings, is 'Lammermuir Parish Church'.

The Session Clerks have drafted our Basis of Union, which has been approved by the Kirk Sessions on 29th August. Again, this Basis of union will need to be ratified in our congregational meeting on 24th September, where full members and adherents of our congregation (as defined above) will each have a vote. It will then be presented to Presbytery for approval, so that the union can take place on 1st January. This date was chosen mostly for administrative reasons ie accounting, OSCR etc.

All elders of both Kirk Sessions will be entitled to serve on the united Kirk Session. As office bearers, we propose to continue working with a team for the time being: having two Co-Session Clerks, namely John Macfarlane and Alex Campbell, the current respective Session Clerks, supported by Paul Sales and Wendy Fergusson, as at present.

Finlay Marshall and Margo Hodge, treasurer at Humble, have both indicated that the union would provide a welcome opportunity for them to retire from their office as treasurers. A future finance team is therefore required!

Property matters will continue to be managed by Ian Jameson, Sandy Wilson and Bill Swan, supported by Paul Sales. Other working groups will continue to work on issues as required.

We have already begun to combine our web presence, so at some point, you'll find all the information on just one account rather than two per platform (currently, and for the past few years, Cressida has very kindly been on top of the websites and Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and Youtube accounts for both congregations).

The future

With the discussions on the Mission Plan, it had already been decided that in due course, after their minister would leave, the congregation of Morham and Garvald would become part of the Lammermuir Parish. Their current situation makes it necessary that this union take place significantly earlier than anticipated. Our union committee will now take up conversations with representatives from Morham and Garvald, and we are anticipating that the union with that congregation may take place next spring. Both of the church buildings in Morham and Garvald will be sold, while the Stables there will remain for future use. We will extend our ministry work to the villages, and the elders of the congregation will be invited to join the Lammermuir Parish Kirk Session.

In conclusion

While change is rarely easy, we know it is inevitable, and the plans that have emerged over the past year or so give us many exciting and encouraging opportunities to be a church that serves God and our communities in the best possible way. We have a strong congregation, where everyone has a part to play and where we can find not only the benefits of a shared faith and way of life, but also friendship and support. Already, with our changed way of working, we are connecting with a larger number of people than we have done for years, and we pray that we will all be able to face the changes with confidence, give thanks for what has been, and trust in God as we move forward.

Presbytery News

Since January, we are part of the new Presbytery of Lothian and Borders (encompassing the previous Presbyteries of Lothian, Jedburgh, Melrose and Peebles, and Duns). The current Moderator is the Very Rev Susan Brown, whom some of you know well, and the Presbytery Clerk is the Rev Norman Smith, one of the current Assembly Trustees and formerly of Granton Parish Church.

The new Presbytery is certainly very active, with many working groups operating (Anikó is part of the Mission Committee) and various events - for the wider church - in the planning. There have been a number of online

seminars already, eg on youth work and grant applications, with more to come.

As all congregations are aligning with the Mission Plan, a number of unions are coming into place over August and September.

A couple of autumn conferences are currently being planned, and everyone is welcome to attend. These will take place on Friday, 22nd September in Jedburgh, with a focus on the Five Marks of Mission, and on Saturday, 30th September in Longniddry, focussing on Music, Mission and Worship. If you'd like to hear more or register for either or both of these, please speak to the Session Clerks.

Join us at our Friday Club!

From this summer, we have two Friday Club groups: one for pre-school children from age 2, with their parents or carers (and younger siblings welcome), and one for children in primary 1-4 who may be dropped off.

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 fortnightly on Friday afternoons from 2pm to 3pm, with breaks for East Lothian school holidays.

The pre-school group meets in the Session Rooms in East Saltoun on the following Fridays: 1st and 29th Sept, 13th and 27th Oct, 10th and 24th Nov and 8th and 22nd Dec.

The P1-4 group meets in Yester Church in Gifford on these Fridays: 25th Aug, 8th and 22nd Sept, 6th Oct, 3rd and 17th Nov and 1st and 15th Dec.

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!

We really hope to see many of you there, and it would help us if you could let us know in advance of any allergies, and dietary and mobility requirements your children might have.

And if you would like to occasionally help with the Club - preparing a snack, helping with crafts etc - please get in touch. This could also be a volunteering opportunity for your older children, for instance in pursuing a Duke of Edinburgh award.

We are looking to source some additional materials and games for the children's groups who meet at Friday Club. Pre-loved items would be very gratefully received.

We are particularly looking for

- interlocking foam mats
- a play parachute
- wooden building bricks and vehicles
- duplo bricks
- giant jenga or similar games.

If you might be able and like to help us in this endeavour, please let us know.

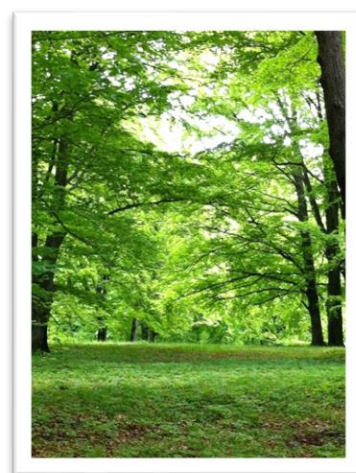
Opportunities to be involved

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. We also hope that the Prayer Group and the Bible Study and Discussion Group can start up again. Perhaps you'd like to start something new altogether? If you have ideas or would like to hear more about any of these, please get in touch.

Reflective walks

We've had two refreshing sessions of Forest Church this summer (with one needing to be cancelled due to the weather), and will continue with sessions next spring and summer. However, as many who participated found it a positive experience to enjoy a walk in nature together, we'll schedule a few reflective walks around the parish. These will be announced (depending on weather forecast...) in intimations at services and in our weekly news email.



Witherspoon descendants return to Gifford

In August, some of us welcomed Rodney and Victoria Witherspoon from Indiana, US, to Gifford. Rodney is a direct descendant of James Witherspoon IV, the son of the Rev James Witherspoon III who was minister in Gifford from his ordination in 1720 to his death in 1759.

Rodney and Victoria have long been looking forward to their visit to Scotland, and after spending time with us were continuing their travels to the West Coast.



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**

fortnightly 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

Our Church Family

Introducing members of our Church

Who are you?

Janet Banks

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

I have lived in East Saltoun for 53 years.

Where were you born?

Ormiston.

What fills your days?

Shopping, walking, gardening.

Do you have any pets?

A dog Betsy, a thirteen year old black Labrador.

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

I enjoy the services and meeting people for a chat and doing the coffee mornings.

What do you enjoy doing?

Knitting, listening to music, and dancing.



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

Nova Scotia Canada.

Please tell us some of your favourite:

hymns

Immortal invisible
Let us build a house
O come all ye faithful

Bible verses or passages

Luke 2 verses 8 to 14

bands/singers/ composers

Country music
Alison Kraus Vince Gill and Roy Orbison

books/ authors

Murder mystery books Dan Brown and Kathy Reichs

foods

I like most foods but enjoy fish and chips and ice cream.

Baptism	28 May 2023	Clementine Rose Cope, daughter of Jessica and Hugh Cope, Gifford
Weddings	16 June 2023	Rebecca Johnston and Harry Hamilton, Garvald, at Yester Church
	23 June 2023	Nicole Meng-Schneider and Markus Schneider, Edinburgh, at Saltoun Church
	29 July 2023	Amanda Macfarlane and Alex Nixon-Moss, West Saltoun, at Cranstoun Church
	29 July 2023	Alyson Paul and Ross Gamble, North Berwick, at Bolton Church, conducted by the Rev Mary Haddow
Death	8 June 2023	Margaret Maslowski, formerly of 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
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Deputy Treasurer	Wendy Ferguson	01620 811069	wendyferguson.wf@gmail.com
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Fabric Convener	Ian Jameson	07803 893970	dianjameson@aol.com
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	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
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Safeguarding and Health & Safety	Ian Jameson	07803 893970	dianjameson@aol.com
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The Church of Scotland

yesterboltonsalttounchurch.org

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Church Services September – December 2023

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.

September	3	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
	10	Bolton	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Holy Communion Sunday Club
	17	Yester	10am	Worship Team	Coffee/tea after service
	24	Saltoun	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Holy Baptism Congregational Meeting after service
October	1	Humbie	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Songs of Praise, Coffee/tea after service
	8	Yester Humbie	10am 10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell The Rev Jim Black	Sunday Club Harvest Thanksgiving
	15	Yester	10am	The Rev Leslie Morrison	
	22	Saltoun	10am	Worship Team	Coffee/tea after service
	29	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	
November	5	Humbie	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Holy Communion Coffee/tea after service
	12	Humbie Yester Saltoun	10.50am 10.50am 10.50am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell The Rev Norman Smith The Rev Leslie Morrison	Remembrance Sunday
	19	Bolton	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Coffee/tea after service
	26	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Christ the King Sunday
December	3	Humbie	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Advent 1 Coffee/tea after service
	10	Yester	10am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Advent 2 Lessons and Carols
	17	Saltoun Bolton	10am 4pm	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Advent 3 – Nativity Coffee/tea after service Blue Christmas
	24	Yester Humbie Bolton Humbie	10am 4pm 11.30pm 11.30pm	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell Worship Team Worship Team	Advent 4 - Christmas Eve Nativity Watchnight Watchnight
	25	Yester	10.30am	The Rev Anikó Schütz Bradwell	Christmas Day
	31	Yester	10am	Worship Team	New Years' Eve

Deadline for next newsletter: Wednesday 15 November 2023

Across: 8. roomier 9. liked 10. bakes 11. bawbees 12. carol service 16. all-inclusive 20. faux pas 23. reign
24. Rishi 25. opulent **Down:** 1. bribe 2. cocktail 3. fiasco 4. crab 5. flower 6. skye 7. Odyssey 13. Sol
14. invoices 15. eas fire 17. nakin 18. Shroud 19. Unitv 21. Ursa 22. smoe

Thank you!

For many years, Ian Jameson has diligently printed our newsletters, collated and them and got them ready for distribution to the elders, who in turn bring them to you. After retiring his trusted printer, he has now stepped back from this task, and we would like to thank him profoundly for his help over all this time.

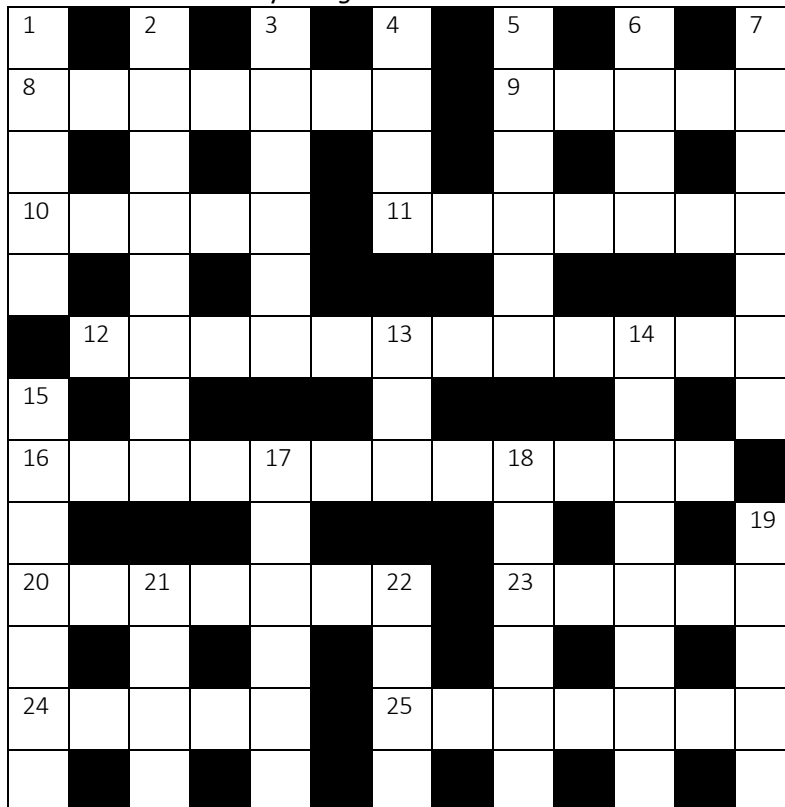
Across

8. More spacious (7)
9. Found agreeable (5)
10. Marry Berry does this (5)
11. Old Scottish coins worth 6 pennies (7)
12. This usually takes place in church round about Christmas (5,7)
16. A holiday package, with flights, accommodation and meals
20. An embarrassing social blunder (4,3)
23. Queen Elizabeth's ___ was from 1952 to 2022 (5)
24. UK Prime Minister's first name (5)
25. Luxurious, sumptuous (7)

Down

1. An inducement; payoff (5)
2. Pina Colada, mojito, martini etc. (8)
3. Catastrophe; complete failure (6)
4. Zodiac symbol of Cancer (4)
5. Blossom; bloom
6. Portree is found on this island (4)
7. The ____, an epic poem by Homer (7)
13. Roman Sun God (3)
14. These list all goods supplied, and what the buyer owes for them (8)
15. An appliance which heats homes (3,4)
17. A serviette (6)
18. P.D. James wrote "___ for a Nightingale (6)
19. The 5th of 7 Mitford children, born 1914 (5)
21. Latin word meaning "bear" (4)
22. A type of air pollution (4)

Crossword No. 9 set by Margaret



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 Sept, Yester Church
- Wed, 27 Sept, Session Rooms East Saltoun
- Wed, 11 Oct, Yester Church
- Wed, 25 Oct, Session Rooms East Saltoun
- Wed, 8 Nov, Yester Church
- Wed, 22 Nov, Session Rooms East Saltoun
- Wed, 13 Dec, Yester Church
- Wed, 10 Jan, Yester Church
- Wed, 24 Jan, Session Rooms East Saltoun

Yester, Bolton and Saltoun Church

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