



Abbey Church News

November 2016

Abbey Church,
116 High Street, (at Church Road)
North Berwick
Church Office: 01620 892800
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Minister: Rev. Dr David J Graham, BSc, BD
01620 890800

Pastoral Assistant: Bob Kane



Remembrance Sunday
13th November

**All Sunday Morning Worship at
10.30am.**

Come along. All welcome.



Dear Friends,

November is the month of Remembrance. This year it's on Sunday 13th when we hold our Remembrance service.

The church calendar this month also includes a Sunday for the Reign of Christ (20th) when we remember that 'Christ is King', and Advent Sunday (27th) when we look forward to Christ's first coming at Christmas, and his second coming yet to be, in power and in glory.

For many children, November may mean different things: there is Hallowe'en which introduces the month, and the night of 5th for fireworks. Both of these have very old religious roots. Thankfully, the controversies and wars which led to the gunpowder plot are long consigned to history. But remembering the saints on 1st November and the fallen on 11th and 13th should never be forgotten.

It's sometimes said that we don't make enough of All Saints Day (November 1st). That may be so. But do we make enough of Advent, and especially the anticipation of the return of Christ? It's the hope of the prayer 'Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is in heaven'.

This year, we have seen many tragic events in the world. Many of these things are ongoing stories involving much human suffering. But the Advent hope - our hope as Christians - is that evil will not have the last word, sin will not triumph, suffering will not endure. Rather, Christ is King and he already reigns, and God will put all his enemies under his feet, including the 'last enemy' which is death.

Your Minister,
David

Sunday Services

During January and February, we'll be looking at Rowan Williams' new book, 'Being Disciples'. This will form the themes of the Sunday sermons, and also the study group.

Copies of the book will be available on Sundays or c/o the Church Office.

Congratulations to our Elder, **Robert Burgon** for 40 years as Abbey organist. He has also been installed as the Upper Warden of the London Guild, the Worshipful Company of Plumbers. This is in anticipation of the 'top job' as Master next year.



And also **congratulations** to our Session Clerk, **Sally Penman**, who has been appointed as Deputy Head Teacher at Law Primary School.

Hospital Visits

The Minister is happy to visit church members who are in hospital. For reasons of confidentiality, any request for a visit should please come from the person themselves, a close family member or next of kin. Please also pass on the ward number, as this is not available to Ministers. This information can be given directly to the Minister 890800 or via the Church Office (892800, open 3 mornings a week or please leave a message). Thank you

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit any articles/information for the December/January issue by Tuesday 15th November.

ABBAY GUILD - Continuing the theme 'GO IN JOY'

By the time you read this we'll already have had 2 meetings.

On 4th October, despite several members being on holiday, 30 of us had a delicious meal - a variety of home-made soups and a great choice of desserts followed by coffee/tea, shortbread and tablet. Jacqueline (our trainee Reader) then gave us a very interesting and thought-provoking answer to the question '**What is JOY**'. This was a truly **joyful** start to the 2016-17 Session.

On 18th October we joined St Andrew Blackadder Guild members to learn more about one of the Guild Projects that NB Guilds have agreed to support this Session - '**Care for the Family**'. We were encouraged to pray, raise awareness, fundraise and even get involved with their very worthwhile and successful project '**Let's stick together**'.

We're now looking forward to listening to **Christine Wight** on **1st November at 7.30pm** when she will be telling us about the **joy** she gets from walking the **Pilgrims Way to Santiago de Compostela**.

On **15th November at 2.30pm** our fellowship will focus on making things for the **Christmas Fair on Saturday 3rd December**. **Sheila Burgon** has been busy choosing and collecting things which, when assembled by willing attendees (requiring no sewing, baking or artistic expertise), will result in very useful, attractive and popular sale items. All participants need to do is follow Sheila's very simple, clear instructions and be amazed!

A **joint** meeting will be held in Abbey Church Old Hall on **29th Nov at 7.30pm** when St Andrew Blackadder Guild members will join us to hear **James Savile** from **Dept for International Development** talk on the topic '**Ending World Poverty**'. This should be very interesting.

All are welcome to come to one or more of these meetings.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

(might mean you buy fewer Christmas cards this year)

As mentioned above, Abbey Guild is organising another **Christmas Fair for 3rd Dec** to raise funds for our chosen Guild Charities - further details later.

On that same day we are planning to encourage children to come along to help Milne Brodie complete the decoration of a **Giant Christmas Card**. Inside the card will be the greeting **Happy Christmas to all my friends at Abbey** and members of the congregation will then be invited to sign the card (with a donation for the privilege!) on the Sundays leading up to Christmas. All money raised will be donated to **Leprosy Mission** and to another appropriate deserving charity chosen by David Graham in December.

Life and Work

Please let Liz Harrison know by 23rd November if you would like to subscribe to Life and Work magazine next year.

There are many interesting articles in the magazine and the annual subscription of £27.36 for 12 issues is a bargain compared to the price of other magazines.

Abbey Church Morning Tea Rota



6th November	Sarah Kerr	
13th November	Isobel Hardie	Fiona Gibson
20th November	Mary Graham	Dorothy Kirkpatrick
27th November	Irene Nichol	Sheila McCubbing

Donations of biscuits to accompany the teas and coffees would be appreciated.

**Comments - Abbey Church (All Funds)-9Months to 30
September 2016**

General

The surplus for the quarter is £602 versus a budget deficit of £970.

Income

Offerings - Open plate and 'blue envelopes' are slightly less than the budget.

(Note - If you are tax payer and wish the Abbey to recover the tax paid by yourself please would you pick up a gift-aid form from the office or ask Phil for one.)

Miscellaneous - The Abbey has been very fortunate to receive donations to cover the loudspeakers and the audio visual system. These are/will be included in the miscellaneous heading.

Legacies - Two have been received. One from Mrs Moira Main and other from Mrs Nancy Joyce Strachan-Melville. A third large legacy was received in October from Mrs Dorothy Robinson, this will be shown in the fourth quarter accounts.

Expenditure

Premises Costs - The electric and gas bills have been charged based on estimates. Readings will probably be taken in late December. The costs of painting the fence will be included in the fourth quarter accounts.

Office Expenses - These include photocopier repairs, the photocopier is now over five years old and it is proving to be expensive. The running costs of this photocopier are shared with Dirleton Kirk. The future of the photocopier is being reviewed.

Miscellaneous - These include £2,000 spent on upgrading the sound system in the Sanctuary. The costs of upgrading the audio visual system will be included in the fourth quarter accounts.

If you have any questions please ask.

Stuart Ainslie
18 October 2016

Your Finance Team

1	Income-Gift-aid	Phil Spencer
	Income-Hall Rentals	Ronald Ironside
2	Payment of bills	Janice Cobb
3	Accounting—OSCR, periodic accounts and	Stuart Ainslie
4	Church of Scotland	

Income (All Funds)	Annual Budget	Budget to 30 Sep	Actual to 30 Sep	Variance
Offerings	67,000	53,247	52,809	(438)
Tax reclaim	16,000	12,000	12,241	241
Miscellaneous	8,750	3,561	2,664	(897)
Premises income	11,000	8,250	8,148	(102)
Investment income	4,200	2,700	2,563	(137)
Legacies	-	-	2,000	2,000
Dirleton	6,000	4,500	4,500	-
	<u>112,950</u>	<u>84,258</u>	<u>84,925</u>	<u>667</u>
Total Income				
Expenditure (All Funds)				
Church of Scotland payments	54,431	41,010	40,989	21
Pastoral Expenses	7,500	5,623	4,800	823
Other Salaries	23,053	17,203	17,716	(513)
Premises costs	17,746	13,175	11,239	1,936
Church Office Expenses	5,000	3,748	3,755	(7)
Investments	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	5,220	4,469	5,824	(1,355)
	<u>112,950</u>	<u>85,228</u>	<u>84,323</u>	<u>905</u>
Total Expenditure				
Budgeted for year	<u>0</u>			
Deficit budget for nine months		<u>(970)</u>		
Surplus for nine			<u>602</u>	
Positive Variance				<u>1,572</u>

Regal - November Meeting

Fortunately, most of us do not know the inside of a courtroom and, in the circumstances, it will be most interesting to listen to Keith Stewart, QC, as he describes how he spends his day in the High Court of Justiciary or the Court of Session. On Thursday, 10th November Keith will tell us about some of the more interesting challenges that a QC faces in his day. In addition, Keith will tell us how he charms the judge and jury with his charismatic talk in pursuing the case for his client.



After the meeting we sit down to a soup and sandwich lunch prepared by the ladies of Abbey Church. Our meetings are open to all ladies and gentlemen of North Berwick and the surrounding villages. Please come along, meet friends and listen to a side of life that most of us know little about.

I am sure that Keith's talk will be most interesting to all of us and I look forward to seeing you on Thursday, 10th November at 12 noon.

Ian Aitken

Bethany

We now have dates for Bethany for 2016/2017. Thursday 1st December South Leith Baptist Church, 21st December Central Hall Tollcross, 18th February and 25th March 2017 both at YMCA, Acorn Centre Leith.

Before Christmas, we usually make up 50 gift bags with toiletries, sweeties, socks, hats etc. Nearer the time we will be appealing for donations of these along with warm sweaters and jackets (used but in good clean condition) along with clean sleeping bags and blankets (no duvets). There will be a short meeting after Church on Sunday 6th November for anyone willing to go and to discuss the rotas or speak to Joyce in the office or Dorothy

Below are some quotes from last year's Care Shelter.

"Thank you for being an angel to me."

"Thank you for keeping us safe."

"You look after us so well, you're genuine."

"This is more than I expected"

"Thanks for showing me respect."

"You never give up on us, do you?"

"God bless you in the work you are doing."

"I love you all. May God give you strength for the night."

"Is this the hotel life saver?"

"What you do is amazing."

"I feel safe."

"Thank you for listening properly."

"I get bullied on the streets; I don't get bullied here."

Host

Offer your hand for international friendship! Welcome an adult international student into your home this Christmas and make the world a little friendlier. Adult international students in the UK face a lonely holiday on a university campus, and would love to spend a few days with you, learning about British culture, experiencing Christmas festivities, and telling you about their own country. Hosting is a voluntary position suitable for all ages and is also available throughout the year with HOST, a charity set up in 1987. To find out more, please visit www.hostuk.org or call 020 7739 6292.

This is the letter which is being taken by Ronald Ironside to Kalimpong, as he represents us at their Anniversary celebrations.

**To the Minister and congregation of Macfarlane Memorial Church
and Pastorate, Kalimpong, Church of North India**

Dear Pastor Samuel, Christian brothers & sisters,

It is with great joy that we send our good wishes and the Lord's blessing to you all as you celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the congregation on 1st November 2016.

As your twinned congregations in Scotland, we feel a sense of humility and privilege when we think of the faith and sacrifice of the first Scottish missionaries to the hills of North India, including the Revd. William Macfarlane. He was at a missionary meeting in Glasgow in 1865 when the question was asked 'Who will go?' Macfarlane stood up and replied 'Here am I, send me Lord'. Within 5 years he was in North India.

The world has changed a lot since 1891, but we still need people like him who will respond to the gospel call, and take the good news to places where Christ is not yet named, not only in India but nowadays also in many parts of Scotland!

Your recent 126th Annual Convention had the theme 'Great is Thy Faithfulness'.

We would like to echo the words of that hymn in asking God's richest blessing on all you do in His name:

*Pardon for sin and a peace that endureth,
Thine own dear presence to cheer and to guide;
Strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow,
Blessings all mine, with ten thousand beside!
Great is Thy faithfulness, great is Thy faithfulness.
Morning by Morning new mercies I see;
All I have needed Thy hand hath provided—
Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me!*

Your faith and service is testimony to God's faithfulness. May He bless you in His service now and in the future.

Abbey Church
Prayer for November



Dear Friends in Christ,

November is the month when we really shine for a time and sparkle—all because of Guy Fawkes! It would be better if we had Jesus in our hearts—then we would really shine all the time—all over the world. Wouldn't that be wonderful? Let's pray.

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for your wonderful love, who came to earth, was crucified, and rose again—that we who believed, might live with you forever more. There's so much darkness and gloom just now—worldwide. Help us to share the love of Jesus that many lights will shine. If only those who don't know the Lord would accept him; what a wonderful world this would be. Help us Father to Shine, Shine, Shine and brighten up our lives. Please Lord, let peace spread throughout all lands. Let children be born into a peaceful world—thank you. We give praise to You for every good gift—too numerous to mention! Help us not to stray when life is tough, but let us continue to sing your praises. Please bless our minister and our pastoral assistant, their loved ones, and all connected to Dirleton Kirk and Abbey Church.

Help those who are ill and all who care for them. May people be aware of your presence, when they feel sad or lonely. Comfort all who are grieving, lift them up, let them know you are with them. They are not alone. Thank you God—always.

Amen

Betty Hawthorn (Prayer Secretary)


Church Register

Funerals

September 10th Irene Brown (Vancouver)
September 29th John Campbell, Craigleith View
October 20th Joan Cochrane, Abbey Home

Jesus said 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'

Flower List

Date	Donor	Arranger	
6th November	Mrs Lorna Ferry Mrs Caroline Danks	Isobel Hardie	
13th November	Mrs M A Crawford	Margaret Ann Crawford	
20th November	Mrs I Hardie	Isobel Hardie	
27th November	Mrs M Whytock Mrs H Wilson	Dorothy Kirkpatrick Sadie Young	

Creche Duty

6th November	Lorna Robson	Sarah Kerr
13th November	Ann Bell	Rose Leslie
20th November	Joan Lunn	Caitriana Spencer
27th November	Margaret Lawson	Janice Cobb

If anyone would be willing to go on crèche duty please contact Dorothy Kirkpatrick

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Abbey Church, North Berwick (Church of Scotland)
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