



Abbey Church News **September, 2017**

Abbey Church,
116 High Street, (at Church Road)
North Berwick
Church Office: 01620 892800
abbeychurch@btconnect.com

Minister: Rev. Dr David J Graham, BSc, BD

Pastoral Assistant: Bob Kane

**All Sunday Morning Worship at
10.30am (Until 11.30)**

Come along. All welcome.

Dear Friends,

Here is the letter I sent to Joyce Strachan last month:

Dear Joyce,

On behalf of the Kirk Sessions and congregations of Dirleton and Abbey, I'd like to thank you very sincerely for your sterling work in the Church Office over the past 18 years. You have been a stalwart and indispensable part of what we do as churches (and a very hard act for anyone to follow!).

When I came as Minister there was a vacancy in the Office. It wasn't difficult to fill it, because you came very well recommended. You quickly fitted into the work required, mastered the changing technology and machinery, and even a move from the manse 'annex' (a rather grand word for the cold and draughty out-house it really was!) to the Church premises.

All your work for the church has been done unstintingly, going the 'second mile'. At times that was because our equipment let you down! But you always made sure that the work was done, even last week when voluntary 'overtime' was given to make sure the newsletters and intimations were ready on time.

In addition to your work for the church, you've given your time and skills to help and support local community groups and work overseas, both in the Office and outwith office hours. Many charities, good causes and organisations are very grateful for that. Your local knowledge of the town and of the congregation have been an added extra to what you've done for the church.

As well as thanking you warmly, we wish you well as you step down from the Office (I'm not saying 'retiring' because I know you'll continue to be active in church and in many other areas of town life). Best wishes in all of that, and may good health continue to be yours.

Your friend & Minister,

David



Forthcoming Church Services

On 31st October 1517, Martin Luther nailed a document to the church door in Wittenberg, where he was a priest and Doctor of Theology. These became known as the 95 Theses, and it sparked off the European Reformation.

This Autumn, we'll be looking at a modern version of these, the '*95 Missional Theses*' which are the marks of the mission of today's church. Don't panic, this is not a series of 95 sermons, nor even a series of very long ones! It's broken into 5 easily digestible parts, and these will be out Sunday themes later in September and into October:

Proclaim the Good News of the Kingdom
Teach, baptise & nurture new believers
Respond to human need by loving service
Transform unjust structures of society
Safeguard the integrity of creation

This series of 5 will have an interlude on 1st October for our Harvest service, and 8th October when we have our annual Guild dedication service.

Just before that, we welcome two visiting preachers: Rev Tom Gordon, previously Chaplain at the Marie Curie Hospice, and Rev Christine Clark, previously Minister of Aberlady & Gullane, and now Chaplain at the Borders General Hospital.

And that, friends, takes us into December. The nights are fair drawing in, and it will soon be Chr***mas (don't mention that word yet) even though I already saw cards in shops last month

Office Administrator

Welcome to our new Office Administrator, Paola Burrows. The new office opening hours are Tuesday to Friday 10 am until 1pm.

REGAL

The 2016/17 session for Regal has been an outstanding year. When Regal started some 10 plus years ago I was happy if there was an audience of 10. Now, I can expect some 30 ladies and gentlemen to turn up for the meetings.



North Berwick harbour

The task is to seek interesting speakers who will captivate the audience and keep them spellbound for 45 minutes; after which the speakers will take questions. It is challenging to find speakers who know their subject well and can articulate it to the audience.

For the forthcoming year I have managed to bring together a diverse and fascinating set of speakers.

Ken Williamson is a train enthusiast and he has agreed to talk to us on Thursday, 12th October on "British Trains: Past and Present". Over the past 150 years British trains have gone through many transformations and Ken will narrate some of these fascinating changes.

'We all associate Christmas time with Christmas trees, Christmas cards and snow - although snow tends to be a thing of the past. On 14th December Bob Kane will provide us with interesting tales of "Unusual Christmases" that have coloured his life. We will also cut our Christmas cake after lunch.

January tends to be a cold and dreary month; however, it is the time to look forward to summer and out-door pursuits. Ailsa Fortune has published a book "Par for the Ladies". This book tells the extraordinary story of women who golfed at North Berwick and how they helped to create this fashionable town that had golf at its centre. Ailsa has kindly offered to speak to us about her book on Thursday, 11th January 2018.

The well known and local photographer, Ian Goodall, has published a book of old North Berwick postcards. Ian will talk to us on Thursday, 8th February on "From North Berwick with Love" This will be a most interesting talk and will bring back many memories for the older people of North Berwick.

Spring comes around March and it seems very appropriate for Stan da Prato to speak to us on "Biblical Plants and Award Winning Pallets". Every year Stan provides Abbey Church with a most colourful pallet that sits outside the church's front door.

In June we will have our summer outing. The Scottish Parliament seems to be in the news frequently during the year; consequently, it seems appropriate that on Thursday, 14 June 2018 we go into Edinburgh and visit the Scottish Parliament in their chambers.

After our winter meetings we sit down to a soup and sandwich lunch which has been kindly prepared by the ladies of the church. At the end of lunch a plate is passed round to enable people to make a contribution. During 2016 we collected over £500 and this was split between North Berwick Beach Wheelchairs, North Berwick Volunteer Car Scheme, North Berwick Day Centre and North Berwick in Bloom. The ladies who prepare lunch very generously donate both their time and the food.

Regal contd.

The full syllabus for the forthcoming year is shown below. I do hope you can come along to our meetings. They are open to all ladies and gentlemen of North Berwick and the surrounding villages.

2017

12 October	British trains: Past and Present	Ken Williamson
9 November	The South African Boer War	Bill McClure
14 December	Unexpected Christmases	Bob Kane

2018

11 January	Par for the Ladies	Ailsa Fortune
8 February	From North Berwick with Love	Ian Goodall
8 March	Biblical Plants and Award Winning Pallets	Stan da Prato
14 June	Summer Outing - The Scottish Parliament	

Super Sunday Club

The Super Sunday Club started back on 20th August and will be meeting every Sunday from now until Christmas. All children age 4 and over will be made very welcome. We have a brilliant team of leaders and helpers all set to make Sundays very special for the children.

Our BBQ was a big success and the sun shone! Everyone (nearly!) joined in with rounders afterwards and great fun was had by all. Another similar event is being planned so look out for details very soon

Eileen McColl



Your local Messy Church is held at St. Andrew Blackadder Church once a month, from 4-6pm, usually held on the first Sunday of the month.

Our aim is to explore Christianity through an informal, activity based,

friendly all-age atmosphere where everybody is welcome. The first hour is spent exploring the Bible-based theme through a variety of crafts and fun activities, with tea, coffee and biscuits and the chance to chat and get to know people. Children can move through the activities at their own pace, and we try and plan crafts and activities that will engage both our smallest attenders and older children. After this we go down to the chapel to pull the story and theme together during an informal worship time, with stories, songs/music and prayer. At about 5.30pm we head back upstairs to have a meal - high chairs and child-size portions available J

It's noisy, messy and above all, fun!

We'd love to see you - why not pop in one month and find out what it's all about? We would also love to hear from you if you're interested in joining our team, either as one of those running a craft/activity, as a member of the kitchen team or as one of our fabulous Messy Angels who help with the clearing up!

Our next dates are 3rd September, 1st October, 5th November and 3rd December 2017, 4-6pm.

Feel free to email us at messychurch@standrewblackadder.org.uk or check out our FB page

ABBEY CHURCH - NORTH BERWICK				
BUDGET v ACTUAL AT 30 JUN 2017				
ALL FUNDS				
Income (All Funds)	Annual Budget	Budget to 30 Jun	Actual to 30 Jun	Variance
Offerings	65,000	32,500	33,861	1,361
Tax reclaim	16,000	8,000	8,889	889
Miscellaneous	10,500	5,250	9,263	4,013
Premises income	9,000	5,000	5,221	221
Investment income	5,400	2,700	2,886	186
Legacies	25,121	25,121	25,121	-
Dirleton	6,000	3,000	3,000	-
Total Income	137,021	81,571	88,241	6,670
Expenditure (All Funds)				
Church of Scotland payments	53,574	27,111	27,097	14
Pastoral Expenses	7,988	4,743	4,659	84
Other Salaries	25,200	12,400	12,294	106
Premises costs	18,440	8,321	9,294	(973)
Church Office Expenses	2,500	1,249	1,526	(277)
Investments	-	-	-	-
New Building	25,718	718	3,516	(2,798)
Miscellaneous	3,601	554	4,693	(4,139)
Total Expenditure	137,021	55,096	63,079	(7,983)
Budgeted for year 2017	0			
Budget for six months		26,475		
Surplus for six months			25,162	
Negative Variance	8			(1,313)

Comments - Abbey Church (All Funds)-6Months to 30June 2017

General

The surplus for the quarter was £25,162 including the receipt of £25,121 in legacies.

Income

Offerings -These are ahead of budget and ahead of the amount received last year.

(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 income includes an unexpected donation of £4,000 for Nimbong.

Expenditure

Premises costs are ahead of budget by £973, these costs include energy charges. These charges are based on estimated readings and will be updated later on in the year.

Church Office expenses include substantial photocopier repair costs. A decision will have to be made about a replacement photocopier. The new building project is proceeding and £3,516 has been spent on architect's fees.

Miscellaneous costs include an amount of £4,000 sent to Kalimpong to help the Nimbong project.

If you have any questions please ask.

Stuart Ainslie
11 August 2017

Your Finance Team

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

The Guild

SATURDAY 2nd SEPTEMBER

The Streaming of Dundee's Annual Guild Gathering is being held in Abbey Church Sanctuary on Saturday 2nd September. All are welcome to arrive from 10am onwards. Coffee, tea and biscuits will be served until the streaming, which will include a celebration of the 130th Anniversary of The Guild, begins at 10.30am.

In the morning The Moderator of the General Assembly of The Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Derek Browning, who attended North Berwick High School, will be giving his 'Thoughts on the Year of Office' and the guest speaker in the afternoon will be Dr Pam Cairns (author and retired GP).

During the lunch-time break all will be welcome to stay and eat their own packed lunches or go to a nearby cafe. The afternoon session will finish between 3pm and 4pm.

Tea and coffee will be provided as required and all will be welcome to attend for as long or as short a time as is suitable.

Three more dates for your diary:-

WEDNESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER at 7.30pm: An invitation from Longniddry Guild to their first meeting at which Rev Bill Wishart their Assistant Minister will speak on a Visit to the Holy Land.

SUNDAY 8th OCTOBER: The Annual Guild Dedication will take place at the morning service.

TUESDAY 10th OCTOBER: The first meeting of 2017-18 Session—Rev Dr David Graham will introduce the new theme 'GO IN LOVE' at 7.30pm in the Old Hall.

ALL WELCOME

Bethany

(Notice from Bethany)

"The induction evening will this year be on Tuesday 3rd October at 7.30pm at South Leith Baptist Church, Casselbank Street (just off Leith Walk). We suggest that one volunteer from each team attends this meeting to hear an update on any changes this year, run through some of the practicalities of volunteering and ask any questions you may have"

Any Abbey Church/Dirleton Kirk members who would like to go because they are volunteers or would like to know more about volunteering please attend this meeting.

MILK BOTTLE TOPS COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who has collected milk bottle tops over the past five years. We have sent 120 large black bin bags full to Polymers at St Boswells where they are chipped and turned into sheathing for fibre optic cables.

With another 12 bags waiting to go, I have decided to call it a day. No more sorting, checking, washing and drying after the end of September, so bring what you have to the church or give to a friend to bring before then.

Proceeds from the sale are divided between Marie Curie and Macmillan Nurses for the benefit of patients suffering from cancer.

Your help has been much appreciated.

If you feel that this is something you might be willing to take on, I should be happy to discuss the possibly with you.

With sincere thanks for your amazing effort.

Eleanor Main

HARVEST APPEAL 2017- COINS FOR COMPASSION

In recent years, the Abbey and Dirleton congregations have collected loose change during the month of September with a view to supporting our harvest appeal. In the past we have sent a cow to Africa, supported gardening projects in North India and helped to rebuild properties destroyed by an earthquake in Nepal.

This year, we have decided to support a Christian charity called Compassion, who say "*The first few years of a child's life are vital to their development and through our Child Survival Programme we can reach the most vulnerable children even before they have been born.*

In partnership with the local church, we provide antenatal care for vulnerable mothers. Ensure children are vaccinated against deadly diseases and give mothers the skills they need to earn a living.

Together, we give children the very best possible start in life and ensure their mothers are well equipped to care for them.

Everyday a shocking 17,000 children under the age of five die, most from completely preventable causes.

It's heart-breaking that often the simplest of interventions like basic healthcare, hygiene and sanitation, vaccinations, nutritious food and safe water could have prevented these deaths....."

Compassion provide Mentoring, Critical Medical Resources, Baby and Toddler Supplies, Emotional Support, Basic Nutrition and Spiritual Guidance

Using the theme "Coins for Compassion", we hope that our offerings will help to make a real difference to the people supported by the charity. Donations can be Gift Aided which will allow the funds provided to the charity to be boosted by the Government. While any coins (or indeed notes and cheques) are welcomed, this year's harvest services (on Sunday 1 October 2017) take place just a couple of weeks before the old style pound coins cease to be legal tender. What a fantastic opportunity to put these coins to good use!

Pop-Up Music for Nimbong School

During August we had half an hour of music at lunchtime in Abbey. There was a great variety on offer, from jazz piano to solo vocalists. Proceeds from the donations are going to Nimbong School, the 'daughter' school of SUMI School in Kalimpong. Nimbong is a very remote area, and this is the first secondary school to open there.

Many thanks to Pat Coxhead for organising this for the second year in a row, and to all our performers for giving their time and talents.

Heart and Soul Swing Band Service

Once again the Abbey team spirit swung into action with people volunteering to hand out leaflets, steward, count money, digital projection, bring people along and generally spread the good news about the Service. Enough people came along to fill the Church and thoroughly enjoy an evening of praise and fun. The Swing Band were terrific as always and their enthusiasm was infectious. The grand sum of £1,505 was raised on the night for the Church of Scotland HIV Programme. The band are absolutely delighted and said this is the largest amount they have ever raised on one night.

Thank you to everyone for making it a very special Service.

David McColl

Summer Afternoon Teas

Once again Abbey Church held afternoon teas in the new hall during five Sundays in July. We were very successful making £1212 which will go to local charities. (Still to be allocated but we will let you know). A very big thank you to all the helpers and bakers and, of course, everyone who came along to support us.

Pastoral Visits

The Minister and Pastoral Assistant are happy to visit church members who are in ill, either at home or in hospital. If in hospital, please also pass on the ward number, as this is not available to Ministers. This information should be given to the Minister or via the Church Office (892800). Thank you.

Newsletters

The next newsletter will be a joint one for Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk. It will cover October and November. Thereafter the new joint newsletters will be every two months.

The deadline for the next issue is Monday 11th September.

Abbey Church Morning Tea Rota



3rd September	Fiona Gibson	Isobel Hardie
10th September	Dorothy Kirkpatrick	Mary Graham
17th September	Sheila McCubbing	Irene Nichol
24th September	Richard Bell	Ann Bell

Abbey Church Creche Duty

3rd September	Mandy Vance	Sadie Young
10th September	Sarah Kerr	Carol Stobie
17th September	Ann Bell	Rose Leslie
24th September	Joan Lunn	Caitriana Spencer

Abbey Church Prayers—September



Dear Friends in Christ,

Can't believe we're heading into Autumn! Let us Pray.

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for Jesus, your beloved son. He came into the world that we who believed in him might be saved. We pray many others are seeking him and pray they will find him too. Bless our Minister, Dr. Graham, our Pastoral Assistant, Mr Bob Kane and their families. Bless too all connected to both Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk. Bless all our children as they return to school and those beginning school, college or University. Please keep them safe from all who would harm them or entice them into evil ways. Strengthen those who teach them, at every stage. Bless all who are seeking medical help and all who help them—from chief consultants to those who serve that welcome cup of tea.

Lord, you must be weary, seeing the state of the world. What a mess we have made of it. Help us to help those who are thirsty and hungry and those who have plenty; those who are homeless and those who have not one home but several houses; those who live peaceful lives and those who live in fear, day and night. We beg of you God to help those who rule others to realize peace and love are the answers. We pray that peace and love will surge all over the world, from one person to another. What a wonderful world it would be.

Please heal the sick, care for the carers, uplift the depressed and be there for the lonely and those who are grieving. Thank you God in Jesus' Name. Amen

Betty Hawthorn (Prayer Secretary)

From one season to another it's wonderful to know that God is

Church Register

Baptism

2nd July Ben Patrick Davies, Moffat Place

Funerals

30th June Helen (Lena) Bald, East Linton

28th July Sarah (Sally) Bruce, East Linton

31st July Robert Duncan Longniddry

8th August Elizabeth Anne Henderson, Fidra Road

21st August Bill Miller, Couper Avenue

Jesus said 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'

Flower List

Date	Donor	Arranger
3rd Sept	Mrs G Scott	Gwen Scott
10th Sept	Mrs A Bell	Ann Bell
17th Sept	Mrs S McCubbing	Sheila McCubbing
24th Sept	Mrs M Griffiths	Ann Bell
	Mrs C Manning	

Abbeychurch.org.uk

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Abbey Church, North Berwick (Church of Scotland)
Scottish Charity No. SCO 04761—CCL51436