

Flower Lists



March

2nd Mrs Maureen Sharpe
9th Mrs Cobb
16th Mrs A Stewart
23rd Mrs C Aitken
30th Mrs Alison Bell

April

6th Mrs Jean Donald
13th Mrs H Mackenzie
20th Mrs M Gilchrist &
Mrs Mary Graham
27th Mrs V Young

CHURCH REGISTER

Funerals *we give thanks for the life and service of*

Nov 20th George Longmuir, Beach Road
Nov 28th Vera Grimwood, Astley House
Dec 5th Constance Kiddie Doig, Carberry Care Home
Dec 10th Isabella Robson Spalding, Fidra House
Dec 12th Margaret Thomson, Couper Avenue
Dec 13th John (Ian) Laurence Riddle, Craigleith View
Janu 14th Margaret McGee, Fidra House
Janu 8th Michael Douglas Hutton, Law Road
Feb 7th Agnes (Nancy) Stewart, Astley House
Feb 11th Isabella Durie, Ben Sayers Park

Visit our Blog - dirletonabbey.blogspot.com

Abbey Church, North Berwick (Church of Scotland)
Scottish Charity No. SC004761
CCL51436

*The picture on the front cover is an image of the
glass doors of Abbey Church.*

**Please note that Abbey evening services resume on
2nd March (at 6pm), until the summer**



Abbey Church News MARCH 2014

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

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

Pastoral Assistant: Bob Kane

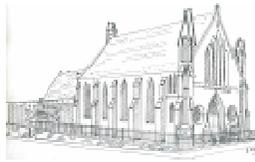
Sunday Morning Worship
at 10.30am.

All welcome

Evening services resume
at 6pm on Sunday 2nd March,
until the summer.
Come along.

Holy Week
Monday 14 April to
Easter Sunday
on 20 April





Dear Friends,

It's a season of anniversaries and celebrations!

First, Mary, Lucy and I would like to thank you for marking our 15th anniversary with you in December, and for the very kind gift. It's been a time of growing, of learning together, and of friendships, for all of which we're grateful.

October this year will also see *25 years of the linkage* of Abbey and Dirleton congregations. The success of this has been the different strengths which each congregation brings to the linkage. It's been a harmonious association, in which both congregations co-operate well, but can also work independently in their own parishes.

The start of the linkage was marked by a special service, and we hope to mark the anniversary this year.

Not unrelated to this is a process which we're undergoing at the moment. *'Local Church Review'* has replaced the previous 'Presbytery 5-yearly Visit'. Apart from the facts & figures, we're also asked to tell the story of our congregation, including *'the celebrations, the struggles, the dreams. Where have you seen God at work? What encourages you in congregational life? What concerns you? What do your worship attendance, leadership structures, buildings and finance say about you? What story do they tell to the outside observer? How is the spiritual life of the people of this congregation being deepened? What biblical passages or themes shape the life of the congregation?'* We'll try to answer this on your behalf. But they are questions which we might all benefit from asking.

Your minister,
David

PRAYER TIME FOR MARCH

Dear Friends in Christ,

March already?

Let's MARCH on, in Jesus' footsteps. Let's pray.

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for the many gifts you lavish upon us - especially Jesus, your son, our saviour. Thank you for the gift of faith and the gift of prayer - the power and privilege of prayer. Help us to use them wisely.

Bless our minister, Dr Graham, and our pastoral assistant, Mr Bob Kane. Strengthen them as they do your work and bless their loved ones too.

Lord, bless the congregations of Abbey and Dirleton Churches. Keep our young people safe from harm, and keep our children safe. Thank you for the environment we live in, and for the peace to enjoy it.

Father we pray for peace in this world. So many folks live in fear and in terror. Help the leaders of all the countries to see that fighting doesn't get them anywhere. Turn them around to seek peace. May peace come to all your people worldwide.

We ask you to heal the sick - in body, mind and spirit. Care for the carers. Draw near to those who are sad or lonely and comfort those who mourn.

Thank you.

In Jesus' precious name.

Amen

Betty Hawthorn (Prayer Secretary)



Let us march on, knowing we are in God's care

"Your Heart's Desire?"

A morning of prayerful reflection

On Saturday 22nd March at 10.30 am to 1.30pm in Holy Trinity Church,

Haddington. The programme will be led by

members of the Lantern Group, who share a common interest in the Ignatian way of prayer and spiritual development. It's helpful if you let us know you plan to come by emailing:

jstein@handselpress.org.uk or contact Abbey Church Office.

Tea, coffee, soft drink available from 10.15 a.m. We will stop for lunch at 1.00pm - please bring your own picnic lunch or share with friends. Refreshments provided. Offering to defray costs.



Why Believe - Library Project

A number of books have been given to East Lothian Libraries by the Mission and Discipleship Council as part of a wider initiative. These books are available to all, on request. Titles include - Matters of Life and Death by John Wyatt; Mere Christianity by C. S. Lewis; Hidden Power of the Electronic Culture by Brian McLaren ; God's Undertaker by John Lennox.

CLAN Gathering

2 to 5 May 2014

This is an event where Christians Link in unity from Across our Nation. All ages, All church families, Gathering together. It's a powerful combination. See -

<http://www.clangathering.org.uk/clan2014.php>



Future services

	Morning Services	Evening: Jesus says 'I am . . .'
March 2 nd	Jesus is Light	Before Abraham
March 9 th Lent	Jesus is Life All-age service	Bread
March 16 th	Jesus is A Servant Abbey Communion	Light
March 23 rd	Jesus is Abandoned	A Gate
March 30 th	Jesus is On Trial	A Shepherd Communion

We next celebrate Holy Communion on 16th March at 10.30am. All welcome.

Stated Annual Meeting - 27th April

The Stated Annual Meeting of Abbey Church will take place after morning worship on Sunday 27th April (around 11.30am). Please stay, and hear about what's happening in your church.

Pastoral Note

If you know someone would like a visit while in hospital, please pass on the ward number to the Minister. The Admissions Desk is *not allowed* to give out ward numbers.

Bible Groaners

What kind of man was Boaz before he married?

Ruth-less.

What do they call ministers in Europe?

German Shepherds.

Who was the greatest financier in the Bible?

Noah. He was floating his stock while everyone else was in liquidation.

What kind of cars are in the Bible?

Jehovah drove Adam and Eve out of the Garden in a Fury.

David's Triumph was heard throughout the land. Honda, because the apostles were all in one Accord.

What reason did Adam give to his children as to why he no longer lived in Eden? *Your mother ate us out of house and home.*

What's the phone number of the Garden of Eden?

ADAM-8-1-2.

Who broke the most laws in the Bible?

Moses. He broke all 10 commandments at once.



Fairtrade Fortnight 2014

Fairtrade Fortnight 2014 (24th Feb to 9th March) marks the launch of a very special campaign that aims to transform the banana industry to ensure that those at the sharp end of the supply chain, the struggling banana farmers (like Foncho) and workers get a fair deal.

Cheap bananas are threatening the farmers' futures. You can get involved in several ways - e.g. sign the Fairtrade petition to ask the Government to intervene to end unfair supermarket pricing practices; buy only Fairtrade bananas; etc.

For more info, please see website -

<http://foncho.fairtrade.org.uk/about/about-the-campaign/>

Together we can make bananas fair.



SUNDAY TEAS ROTA

	Morning
23rd Feb	Liz Harrison & Sarah Kerr
2nd March	Catherine Andrew & Jasmine Reavely
9th March	Helen Mackenzie & Fiona Gibson
16th March	Isobel Hardie & Dorothy Kirkpatrick
23rd March	Ann Gardner & Sheila McCubbing
30th March	Ann & Richard Bell
6th April	Mary Graham & Sheila Skinner



Details of Evening Rota not available at date of printing. Please look out for notice. Thank you.

WANTED - Biscuits!

Our supply of biscuits is running low. Your extra biscuits and/or donations would be much appreciated. Many thanks.



Mothering Sunday - 30 March

Remember Mothering Sunday on 30th March - the fourth Sunday in Lent. Although Mothering Sunday is a special day for mothers, we need to remember mums everyday - and not take them for granted. And, it's not just mums.

Don't forget Grandmothers, Nans and others who are like a mother to you.

If you can, say Thank You.



Getting to know you better. . . .

Many thanks to Michael Weaver for this month's contribution -

1. How did you come to worship in Abbey Church?

I am undertaking a six month assessed placement at Abbey and Dirleton under the mentorship of David Graham, having completed an eight week placement this summer, with the intention of training for Ministry in the Kirk.

2. Which hymns stop you in your tracks?

Be Still for the Presence of the Lord - the opening two lines are so evocative of a daily ideal relationship with God and the tune resonates deeply with me.

3. What would you like to see the Church of Scotland do better?

Recruitment of potential ministers - the process, although rigorous as it should be, is too regimented with little flexibility for the many varied circumstances of candidates. At least that has been my experience thus far.

4. What music are you listening to at present?

Jamie Cullum - 'Momentum'. I saw him recently at the Usher Hall with my wife and son. A great concert and I also did a reflective act of worship on one of his songs, 'All at Sea', earlier this year.

5. Which books are by your bedside?

Under the Unpredictable Plant - Eugene Paterson, which I am reading for discussion with David. My Bible (NIV) and my journal.

6. Which church building has made the biggest impact on you?

Dunbar Parish Church - it is what occurs inside the building that is significant, and this is where I can pinpoint the confirmation of my call to ministry.

7. If heaven's a restaurant, what's on the menu?

Course Ardennes Pate, red onion marmalade and melba toast;
Confit du Canard, Lyonnaise potatoes and fresh asparagus;
Bitter orange chocolate mousse and vanilla tuille.

(continued next month)

Session Matters Although the Kirk Session hasn't met for a usual business meeting since November, the work of the Committees continues! The Resources Committee is working on the new website which will be a great way to keep the rest of the world updated on what is happening at Abbey Church. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, the Nurture Committee has been looking at the responses to the survey about contact from district elders. As a result we have re-organised some of the districts and some of you may have a new elder. We will let you know about this before the next Communion Sunday, 16th March. Some people have chosen to keep in touch by e-mail or a note through the door, but they will still have an elder as a point of contact with the church. We know that circumstances can change and it was heartening to see from the positive comments in the survey that members know they can always get visits or other help if they need it. The World Church Committee organised the Gift Day service on 2 Feb with Willie McPherson of the Vine Trust. Many thanks to those who helped with the Personal Search Week at the High School, organised by Inspire. At our annual joint meeting with Dirleton Kirk Session we had an excellent presentation from Graham Duffin, who is leading the team from Presbytery who will conduct our Local Church Review this year. We are busy preparing the background information for the Presbytery team, to tell them about the life and work of our congregation. They will be meeting with the Kirk Session and others over the next few months to talk about the challenges and opportunities for us over the next five years. Jim Stewart has decided to retire from the Kirk Session. We have always valued his contribution through his preaching and his involvement as a link with house groups and we are glad to see him able to worship more often with us at the morning service now that he is taking a break from his work with Haddington West Church. The next Kirk Session meeting is on Monday 3rd March and, as always, you are welcome to come⁵ along. *Sally Penman*

GUILD MATTERS

With all thoughts of Christmas indulgences well behind, we started the meetings remembering the sights, the sounds and the smells of North Berwick High Street of yester years. From the Station to Quality Street, with a few diversions in between, Rutherford Elliot engaged our senses as he relived the walk through the eyes of a young lad. Needless to say, no reference did he make to the more feminine interest in ladies dress shops! Our friends from St Andrew Blackadder Guild joined us to make this a lively start to the new session.

Blythswood Care benefited from the proceeds of the Carol Concert, led by the "North Berwick Sings" choir. Their repertoire of old carols and songs was quite delightful and entertaining. At the beginning of February, we were guests of St Andrew Blackadder Guild when Faith Brennan reported on her visits to Ghana and Kenya where she represented TEARFUND at a Conference. She emphasised that it was of more benefit to work with reliable Christian partners on the ground there to ascertain what tools people needed to be able to grow food for their families, how to cultivate the land more efficiently and thereby to produce surplus crops which they could sell to help their children get a better education, eventually bringing both themselves and their families out of poverty.

Tues 4th March: 7.30pm Out of Africa - into Malta. Rev Robin Hill will talk on our project. At Abbey, joint meeting.

Fri 7th March: 3pm at St. Andrew Blackadder, World Day of Prayer

Tues 18th March: 7.30pm In the footsteps of St Paul, Bill Miller

Tues March 25th: 7.30pm AGM

Wed 9th April: Outing to Liberton Guild's Daffodil Tea with entertainment.

Eleanor Main



Shrove Tuesday - 4 March

Shrove Tuesday - also known as Pancake Day - is the day before Ash Wednesday (5 March), the first day of Lent. It is celebrated by making pancakes - a last feast before Lent.



Lent

"Lent is not about going round with a long face because I'm not eating all my favourite foods; it's about finding more time to reflect, pray, study the Bible and be there for others; so that we become spiritually leaner and fitter, ready to celebrate resurrection life with Jesus Christ on Easter Day."

Archbishop of York, see <http://www.archbishopofyork.org/articles.php/625/bbc-radio-2-pause-for-thought>

"In contrast to the festivities of Pancake Day, Lent is a time of sober contemplation and fasting where we reflect on God's

sacrificial love for us. That may not immediately sound like a great thing to you, but actually having a time for peace and reflection is very important in our busy lives.

In our daily lives we should think about other people, and not just constantly focus on ourselves and our own needs. Lent is a time when the Church puts the spotlight on our human condition and in these difficult times there are many around us who need our love and support. Let us all care deeply about every single person. Let us listen to people and pray for whatever is going on in their lives. I think it is important that we meet people wherever they are. That might mean going out into the local shopping centre, or the hospital, or sharing time with people getting their lives back on track.

Everybody goes through difficult times and sometimes we need someone to be there to listen. God values everyone and is always there to offer support for all. And what's more, prayer works!"

Archbishop of York



World Day of Prayer - 7 March 2014

This year we celebrate World Day of Prayer on 7 March at 3pm in St Andrew Blackadder. Theme is Egypt: Streams in the Desert. All welcome.



Bethany Big Sleepout 2013 - Fri 22 March

Spend a night under the stars to help homeless people.

So what exactly is the Big Sleepout? Simple, it's a homelessness fundraising event. Here's how it works... You give up your bed for the night and come and sleep out under the stars (or cardboard) at our central location. The money you raise when friends and family sponsor you for the night makes it possible for Bethany to offer practical help to homeless people to help them overcome the challenges in their lives and become more settled. I won't lie to you, it's a challenging event but a very rewarding one. To find out more about this year's Big Sleepout, please download the **information sheet** from the website. If you want to take part, you must register beforehand. If you can't take part this year but would like to support the event, please make a donation to sleep in your own bed!

<http://www.bethanychristiantrust.com/?p=5935>

Scottish Charity Number SC003783



*Seek God's guidance in all that you do.
Help us to listen and act as God directs*

My Poppy Poem

Sell a poppy, buy a poppy, wear a poppy.

My poppy may be crumpled,
my poppy may be crushed,
but I shall wear it proudly
that moment we're all hushed.

The poppy may be simple,
the poppy may be plain,
but it helps me to remember
that they didn't die in vain.

The poppy may be frail,
the poppy may be small,
but at the same time it's powerful
and represents them all.

I'd like to thank the soldiers,
I'd like to thank the rest,
For fighting for this country
and making it its best.

Of course I respect those
who lost their lives
but fought so hard for us,
but let's also thank those
who did come home
and never made a fuss.

Sell a poppy, buy a poppy, wear a poppy

by Kerra Mowat

*(read at the Remembrance Service last year,
and reproduced here with her kind permission)*



Abbey Flower Team

Calling all existing and budding flower arrangers. Please join us for afternoon tea on Thursday 27th February at 3.00pm in the New Hall for a chat about Abbey Church flowers. Anyone willing to arrange a vase, deliver or donate the flowers is most welcome. All and any help would be appreciated.



Inspire

Many thanks for the gift of £1,000 from the Abbey congregation towards the costs of the Personal Search Week in the High School. This was a wonderful opportunity to help young people think through very important relationships with family, friends and God within the broader school curriculum. We had the support of musicians and actors with a lot of experience in how to relate to young people in school. May I say that the willingness of the Abbey congregation to host rehearsals and performances of the school play has been greatly appreciated by the High School. There was an interesting review of the High School in the Tatler which made special mention on the school's strength in basketball and drama which, you will immediately recognize, as the contributions of Jay Lennartson and Shiona to the school's activities. Above everything else, thank you for your prayers. Please pass to the congregation our gratitude for their support. With warmest regards
Peter Kimber
 Secretary to North Berwick Christian Youth Trust
 Scottish Charity No. SCO 37664



ABBEY CHURCH CRECHE DUTY



23 rd February	Mandy Vance	Carol Stobie
2 nd March	Sadie Young	Sue Paterson
9 th March	Kirsty Walker	Sandra Baron
16 th March	Andrina Wright	Ann Gardner
23 rd March	Eleanor Main	Sarah Kerr
30 th March	Lorna Robson	Mary Graham
6 th April	Ann Bell	Rose Leslie
13 th April	Dorothy Kirkpatrick	Joan Lunn

Please Note. If you are unable to undertake your week on duty, please swap duties or notify Dorothy Kirkpatrick or Joyce at the office 89 2800. If you wish the list to be e-mailed to you, please e-mail Dorothy. (The above rota is the original version, and does not show any changes agreed subsequently.)

Blythswood Care - Truck Collection Days

The Round South truck will be at the Co-op car park (formerly Somerfield) between **1.45pm & 2.15pm on Wednesday 5th March and 9th April.** Please help by donating goods. For more information, please contact the Church Office. Many thanks.

[Blythswood Care Charity No. SC021848]



Remember -

Clocks go forward one hour on Sunday 30th March, the start of British Summer Time.



Bishop Kivengere Girls' School - 40 years

40 years ago, when Uganda was under the regime of Idi Amin, girls finished their education at primary school. Bishop Festo and Canon Merab Kivengere felt strongly that girls ought to be given an equal opportunity. On 28 April 1974, they founded the Bishop Kivengere Girls' School in Muyebe, near Kabale, for secondary education.

Miss Elizabeth Traill, whom we know, was invited to be the first headmistress. The school started with 40 girls chosen from 450 applicants, after individual interviews.

The school continues to give a high standard of education to almost 500 girls and has a very strong Christian ethos. Many of the girls come to Faith in Jesus Christ and His teaching, during their time at school. Of the 40 pioneer girls many now hold professional careers of influence within Uganda.

This year the school will celebrate these past 40 years, with a service of Thanksgiving in Muyebe and a reunion of many of the 'old' girls in Kampala. There will also be an 'open day' at the school. An invitation to join in these celebrations is extended to all who support the school. It is hoped to have a UK celebration more locally, sometime in the summer.

To recognise this milestone the school has plans to build a multi-purpose Assembly Hall to accommodate all the girls for morning worship, and other school events. A fund has been set up to this end. Should you wish to make a thanksgiving contribution to this fund, please contact Margaret Ann Crawford, (Hon.Treas.) for the Bishop Kivengere Girls' School Muyebe Trust.

Through the Harvest Thanksgiving service over £1200 was donated for the new water tank at the school. I am pleased to say that the Muyebe community have taken this project on board and work has commenced. The new piping should reach the school by April.

Thanks Be to God, our Great Provider.

Eco Congregation Scotland - Fracking, 17 March

On Monday 17th March, Abbey Church is hosting a meeting of Eco-Congregation Scotland on the subject of Fracking. Our guest speaker is Dr Adrian Shaw, Climate Change Officer of the Church of Scotland. Please come along. Coffee/tea from 7pm, meeting starts at 7.30pm. All welcome.

Fracking: sensible solution or disastrous development?

2013 saw the initial development of fracking in the UK. Reviled by some as a dangerous and unnecessary prolongation of gas as an energy source and an environmental hazard, it has been strongly supported by others, including the UK Government, as a useful source of cheap gas for future decades. The furious debate and demonstrations it has sparked off have not been conclusive or very enlightening and facts about fracking in the UK seem hard to come by. Yet this an important debate and, along with other controversies such as wind energy and nuclear power, is central to the future of our energy use and how we respond to climate change. How can we reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and address fuel poverty? These are big questions but ones that eco-congregations should now think about.

Eco-Congregation Scotland - Annual Gathering

Eco-Congregation Scotland Annual Gathering is on 29th March, 10am to 3.15pm at St Aloysius College, Glasgow.

Please see website for details - <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/news/register-now-for-our-annual-gathering-on-29th-march/>



Your next Abbey newsletter - Easter

Abbey Newsletters will be available on 30th March. Articles need to be submitted a fortnight before the publication date. (So articles by 16th March please. Thank you)

Bethany Care Shelter

Abbey will be providing meals at the Care Shelter three times in the coming weeks (25th February, 20th and 31st March). Donations of basic toiletries, new warm socks, underpants, hats, scarves and gloves and warm sweaters and jackets in good condition would be much appreciated. Please contact Dorothy Kirkpatrick or hand into the church office. Thank you.



REGAL - 13 March at 12 noon

The speaker at the REGAL meeting on Thursday, 13 March will be Ian Aitken talking on "The SOE and their clandestine activities during WWII". Ian has been researching his family history and has found that his father's young brother, Alan Aitken, was a WWII pilot flying the Halifax and Short Stirling bombers from RAF Tempsford. This was Churchill's secret aerodrome based some 30 miles north of London and was 'disowned' by the regular RAF personnel who did not approve of the activities being done by squadrons 138 and 161. The SOE was charged with the task of creating as much disruption and sabotage as possible behind enemy lines. Ian will talk about the work done by the SOE and give examples of their exploits. Come along. Soup & sandwich lunch follows.

General Assembly 2014 - 17th May

Stewards needed—can you help? The 2014 Assembly starts on the morning of Saturday 17 May and continues until the following Friday (the 23rd). Individual stewards aren't on duty the whole time; rather they operate on a shift system. Stewarding can be done by ANY member of ANY congregation. You don't have to be an elder and you certainly wouldn't be asked to serve without being provided with a very good idea of what's required of you. If you can help, please contact Joyce in the Church Office. Thank you.

Earth Hour 2014 - Sat 29th March, 8.30pm

Eco Congregation Scotland is working with WWF Scotland to encourage churches around Scotland to mark Earth Hour 2014. Lights will be switched off for an hour (where safe to do so) at 8.30pm on Saturday 29th March as a show of concern for the environment. <http://www.ecocongregationscotland.org/materials/earth-hour-for-churches/>



Faith in Older People Lecture - 11 March

Faith in Older People are holding the annual Malcolm Goldsmith Lecture - 'Dying Well and why it matters' on Tuesday 11 March at 2.00pm, at the Roxburghe Hotel, Edinburgh. Tickets for the lecture cost £10 and this includes tea/coffee and cake served after the lecture. The lecture will be given by Rabbi Baroness Neuberger DBE, who is a member of the European Council of Religious Leaders - Religions for Peace. She was also appointed to chair a review of the Liverpool Care Pathway for Dying Patients, which was published in July 2013. **Bookings by 24 Feb.** To book, visit faithinolderpeople.org.uk/



Abbey Christmas Offerings - Thank you

Our Christmas 2013 offerings benefit Edinburgh Direct Aid (Charity No. SC021007) and the East Lothian Food Bank (Charity No SC043523). The total raised was £1,086 - split equally between the two charities. That's an amazing amount, and our thanks go to all who contributed by donation, prayer, lending a hand etc. Thank you.

<http://eastlothian.foodbank.org.uk/>
<http://www.edinburghdirectaid.org/>