

Flower Lists

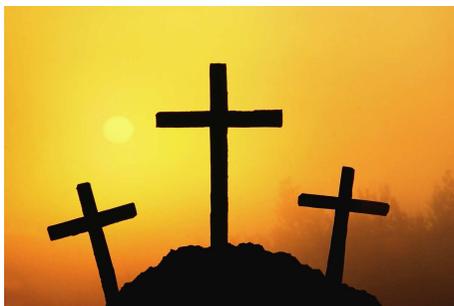


April	May
6th Mrs J Donald	4th Mrs C Hill & Mrs M MacLean
13th Mrs H Mackenzie	11th Mrs E Harrison
20th Mrs M Gilchrist & Mrs M Graham	18th Mrs M Robertson
27th Mrs I Brodie & Mrs V Young	25th Mrs S Burgon

CHURCH REGISTER

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

March 4th Nigel Padget, Highfield Road
March 18th Bruce Riddell, Craigleith Avenue



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.*



Abbey Church News EASTER 2014

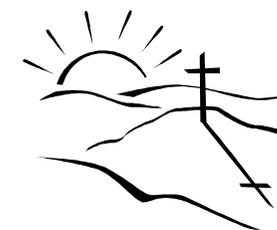
Abbey Church, 116 High Street, North Berwick
Church Office: 01620 892800
abbeychurch@btconnect.com
Minister: Rev. Dr David J Graham

Pastoral Assistant: Bob Kane

Sunday Morning Worship
at 10.30am.
All welcome

Evening service at 6pm
until the summer.
Come along.

**Celebrate with us
the surprise,
and the glory,
of Easter**





HOLY WEEK SERVICES

at 7.30pm, unless otherwise stated.

All welcome.

- Monday 14th April - St Baldreds Episcopal Church
- Tuesday 15th April - Abbey Church
- Wed 16th April - Our Lady Star of the Sea
(Stations of the Cross)
- Thursday 17th April - Abbey Church (Joint Communion,
with St Andrew Blackadder congregation)
- Friday 18th April - Abbey Church, Good Friday Service

On Sunday 20th April, Easter Sunday, in addition to our usual Morning Worship at 10.30am, there will be an outdoor service at **8am** at the 'Haugh' car park (on the hill at the far end of the East Bay, past the Glen Golf Club), followed by breakfast in Abbey Hall. Join us to celebrate the resurrection!

PRAYER TIME FOR EASTER

Dear Friends in Christ,

Hasn't it been lovely to look out the window and see the sun shine? I know it gives me a boost and I look forward, not just to more sunny days but to warmer days ahead. Hope you're all able to enjoy the sunshine, including looking out through the window! Let's thank God for every day.

Heavenly Father,

We thank you for all the seasons. Somehow Spring seems special. We give thanks for sunny days. Thanks too for the wonder as we watch tiny shoots spring up out of the dark earth. Then the joy as the flowers burst open, letting us marvel at the beautiful shapes and colours. Thank you most of all for sending Jesus to live, die, be entombed then rise again - that we all can have eternal life. What wonderful love! Help us to share this love— spread this love all around - that many more will know of it and accept it. Bless Dr Graham and Mr Bob Kane in their work for you. Bless their loved ones too. Bless Abbey and Dirleton congregations. May the children appreciate that Easter is not just about eating chocolate eggs. Help us teach them of the glory that we feel as we acknowledge Jesus' death on the cross, the rolling away of the huge stone, and the privilege of knowing Jesus did this for us all. Thank you Lord. We pray for all who are still restoring their homes & businesses after the floods. We remember the people in Syria, and all the other places, where wars dominate their lands. Lord, open the eyes of those in responsible positions. Help them to see peace is what is needed. Bless the sick - in body, mind & spirit. Care for those who nurse them. Uplift the sad and lonely ones among us. Comfort those who mourn. May they all be aware of your presence and your love daily. Amen

Betty Hawthorn (Prayer Secretary)

May we all give thanks to God for all his goodness. May we enjoy the spring flowers and the lambs playing in the fields.



Prayers for Holy Week

This year's ACTS Easter Resource was prepared by a team from The Salvation Army, Jack in USA, Christine and David from Australia and Jacqueline and Alan Dixon from Scotland. The theme is based on making choices. The daily prayers are set out below. For the full text, please see website - <http://www.acts-scotland.org/>

Palm Sunday Prayer: Thank you Jesus that riding into Jerusalem that day you chose to identify, not with the proud and mighty, but with the meek and lowly - you chose to identify with me. Help me in my daily living to follow your example

Monday Prayer: Lord give me the courage to choose to respond out of my values, not react out of my emotions

Tuesday Prayer: Father God, may I be extravagant in my love to you. I want to offer you my dearest and best

Wednesday Prayer: Father God, cleanse my heart of selfishness and prideful thoughts; incline my heart and mind to faithful obedience; teach me your will.

Thursday Prayer: When life seems to be full of uncertainties and we question and doubt, help us to remember that you are there and you are still in control. When things work out well - help us to rejoice that you are there and you are still in control!

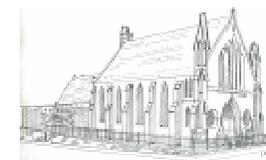
Friday Prayer: Thank you for choosing the nails. Thank you because in my darkest hours, in my times of pain and grief - you understand - you feel the hurt with me.

Saturday Prayer: Lord, You know that today, I am full of love, - but how can I say what the years will prove - so turn these moments of faith into years of grace?

Easter Sunday Prayer: I AM the resurrection and the life; He who believes in Me will live, even though he dies.....

(John 11.25)

Lord help me to rejoice in this!



Dear Friends,

The Church of England recently published the results of a study of church growth in their denomination. I found it very challenging reading, and many of the points apply equally well in the Church of Scotland. One of the issues highlighted is the shortage of ministers.

"Many churches are not nurturing vocations. The fact that only one third put forward candidates for ordination in the past decade is noteworthy." I would say it's also worrying! I don't know what the equivalent figure is for Scotland, but I guess it would be far smaller. To my knowledge, Abbey & Dirleton have not had a 'home-grown' candidate for ministry for well over a generation.

Recruitment and training for Ministry in the Kirk is at an all-time low. That has a knock-on effect in long vacancies, and people from other congregations having to help them out. There are at least three of our own congregation doing that at in other congregations the moment.

However, one of the saving graces of the situation down south is the way they are utilising lay workers. Many congregations and church groups are led by people who are not ordained, and sometimes have no formal training. Our traditional outlook may gasp at this, but the fact is that it is working! In England, that is. And what of us 'up north'? We need to play catch-up! Schemes like Locally Ordained Ministry are developing, but will have to play a much larger role in church life in the future. And of course they need people who are called to serve.

Your minister,

David

PS You can find the report at churchgrowthresearch.org.uk. If you can't access this, I would be happy to provide a copy.

Sunday Services

Until Easter (April 20th), our morning services will continue with passages from John's gospel.

From Easter to Pentecost (June 1st) we will look at the early church in Acts and Paul's letters.

Over the summer, the Commandments will occupy our thoughts.

Easter Sunday 20th April: 8am outdoor service at the 'Haugh' car park (on the hill at the far end of the East Bay, past the Glen Golf Club), followed by breakfast in Abbey Hall. Join us to celebrate the resurrection!

The Abbey evening services will study Jesus saying 'I am'. Evening services stop for the summer at the end of May, but please note these special events:

Sunday 11th May: United Service for Christian Aid Week, in Dirleton Kirk at 6pm.

Sunday 18th May: 'Heart & Soul' event in Princes Street Gardens (from 1pm - 6pm), no evening service that day.

Sunday 22nd June: United Service for Christian Unity, in St Baldred's Church at 6pm.

We look forward to seeing you at any of these services.

Pastoral Note

If you know someone would like a visit while in hospital, please pass on the ward number to the Minister. Hospitals are not allowed to give out ward numbers, even to ministers! Thank you.

Stated Annual Meeting - 27th April

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



SUNDAY TEAS ROTA



	<i>Morning</i>	<i>Evening</i>
6th April	Mary Graham & Sheila Skinner	Eleanor Main & Bob Kane
13th April	Morna McClure & Eileen McColl	Mary Graham & Zandra Main
20th April	Cath Hill & Sadie Young	Isabel Smith & Nancy Chisholm
27th April	Liz Harrison & Sarah Kerr	Janet Raeburn & Liz Harrison
4th May	Catherine Andrew & Jasmine Reavely	John & Rosemary Evans
11th May	Helen Mackenzie & Fiona Gibson	No Evening Service
18th May	Isobel Hardie & Dorothy Kirkpatrick	No Evening Service
25th May	Ann Gardner & Sheila McCubbing	Margaret Ann & Lyle Crawford
1st June	Ann & Richard Bell	No Evening Service

Your next Abbey newsletter - May

Abbey Newsletters are issued on the last Sunday of May. Articles need to be submitted a fortnight before the publication date. (Issue date of 25 May - articles by 11 May please. Thank you.)

Getting to know you better. . . . (cont'd)

Our thanks again to Mike Weaver for this months contribution -

8. Favourite bible story, and why?

The parable of the return of the prodigal son (Lk 15:11-32) - it has some personal relevance in my life. Also Matthew 22:34-40 because it reminds me of how I should strive to live always.

9. Inspirational figure from history, and from cinema?

Abraham Lincoln - an leader with foresight, vision and determination to succeed. Also, always a source of wonderful quotes such as 'Am I not destroying my enemies when I make friends of them?' and 'Sir, my concern is not whether God is on our side; my greatest concern is to be on God's side, for God is always right.'
Stephen Speilberg - perhaps not so much the person but some of the films he has been involved with, especially Schindler's List and Saving Private Ryan.

10. Which part of Abbey Church life would you like to be involved with more?

Prayer - this is the fuel that fires the engine of the Church.

11. Who is your literary superhero (author or character)?

Tom Clancy - always provides a great read to lose oneself in, and a sad loss to the literary world.

12. Whose blogs or newspaper columns do you read on a regular basis?

My friends James and Lee who are on a trip down through Africa and on to Sri Lanka with end destination of India - great blog!

13. You have three shots on heaven's jukebox. Which tunes do you play?

Afterglow - Genesis

All at Sea - Jamie Cullum

Mary's Place - Bruce Springsteen



Session Matters The Kirk Session met at the beginning of March for normal business. Now that we have Committees covering the different areas of work in the congregation, much of the work goes on inbetween Kirk Session meetings. For example, the Resources Committee are spear-heading the work on the new website, helped by representatives from each committee. We look forward to the website being ready to "go live" in a few weeks' time! It will be updated regularly with new information. At the end of last year, the church was very fortunate to receive legacies from Mrs Goodall and Miss Muir. The Kirk Session will be considering how best to use these funds in the future. The Worship Committee recommended that the Evening Service on 18th May be cancelled to allow people to attend the Heart and Soul afternoon in Princes Street Gardens. The Outreach committee has agreed a new leaflet to be delivered to all the new homes in Gilsland Grange, which is in our parish. The work of Inspire is growing and we noted that the Trust is looking to increase the hours for the youth worker, and possibly add a new assistant to develop music and worship. The Annual Report will be ready for the congregation to read at the beginning of April, with the Annual Meeting planned for 27th April. This Report will show what Abbey has done throughout the year for our members, for the local community and further afield. October will see the 25th anniversary of the linkage of Abbey and Dirleton congregations. A joint working group has been set up to look at how to commemorate this occasion. If you have any ideas to contribute, please let me know! Abbey's Church of Scotland Ministry in Mission contribution for 2014/15 has been calculated as £50,653 which is about £4,000 up on last year. This covers the cost of our Minister and contributes to the costs of Ministers in other churches, as well as Mission projects within the Church of Scotland.

The Kirk Session next meets on 31st March with Graham Duffin and the Local Church Review team from Presbytery. *Sally Penman*

Lent Reflections - What Lent means to me

Andrew Kimmitt, member Coldsides Parish, Dundee

There is nothing comfortable about lent but, despite that, I love it. Perhaps because it isn't a fixed date, I find that Shrove Tuesday sneaks up on me, and suddenly I'm thrust into the season of reflection and repentance. Just as the Spirit suddenly led Jesus into the wilderness, I find that lent very quickly reminds me of my inability to provide for myself and my ultimate reliance on God's graceful providence.

From that starting point, with realignment of internal priorities, lent takes me on a spiritual journey of reflection and discovery. In years past it has been a good time to heal and repair, or to reflect on my place in life, or to discern the first steps on future paths. I am comforted, enlightened and sustained by God during lent, during my prayer, my reading, and especially when I allow myself to explore the silence of my spiritual wild places. Inevitably lent takes us to join Jesus and his disciples for the drama of passover time in Jerusalem. From the triumph of Palm Sunday to the tense and anxious celebration of the last supper, where the disciples, offered bread and wine, are yet to experience the horror and learn the hope of Jesus offering his body and blood.

The Lenten journey is one of preparation: we prepare to journey with Jesus to the cross. We journey to Golgotha not because Jesus needs our help or accompaniment, not because we have anything we can offer, and not because we could ever hope to take his place. We walk that path because, as God-With-Us, Jesus Christ set foot in our world, and it is our calling as the Church to receive and learn of a God determined to be Love for us.

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2014/lent_reflections

Puzzle Page - Jesus is Alive!

On Good Friday, Jesus was crucified, dead and buried. The next day was the Sabbath, and Mary couldn't go to the tomb where Jesus was buried as people were not allowed to travel or work on that day. So, early on Sunday morning, Mary went to the tomb. She got a huge surprise as the stone had been moved from the front of the cave. Mary was very upset as she thought someone had stolen the body of Jesus. She ran to tell Peter. Peter and John hurried to the tomb. Only the cloths that Jesus had been wrapped in lay there. Peter and John went away, puzzled. But Mary stayed at the tomb. Suddenly, someone was near her. Mary thought it must be the gardener, and she asked him if he knew what had happened to the body of Jesus. But when he said her name, 'Mary', she recognised his voice. She knew it was Jesus. Jesus is not dead. Jesus is alive.

How many butterflies can you find in the picture of Mary at the tomb? © 365 Activities for Kids



"The Rugged Pathway" - 3 May

An East Lothian Pilgrimage from St Mary's Haddington to St Mary's Whitekirk on Saturday 3rd May 2014. Total distance is 15 miles/24km approx. Times below are also approx. The walk may be accessed at the following points:

1. St Mary's Parish Church Haddington. Registration from 9.15am Service at 9.45am (5.5ml/9km to)
2. Athelstaneford Parish Church, Picnic Lunch (bring your own) at 12.00 noon, and toilet (all in village hall) (6.5ml/10km to)
3. Prestonkirk East Linton, Tea/Coffee/toilet 2.30pm (3ml/5km to)
4. St Mary's Parish Church Whitekirk, tea/coffee, closing service 4.30pm

Only the final stage (approx. 2 miles) is wheelchair accessible.

Well behaved dogs will be welcome but must be kept on a short lead out of consideration for other pilgrims. Registration forms are available on St Mary's website www.stmaryskirk.co.uk or contact the Church Office. Please return forms by 12th April 2014, indicating at which point you wish to join the walk



Independence Referendum

The Church of Scotland launched 'Imagining Scotland's Future: Our Vision'. This report is based on the views of over 900 people who attended 32 community events run by the Kirk as an alternative national debate on the referendum. The events were held right across Scotland over the past 12 months. See more at: http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2014/

Lent - A Word A Day

For the remainder of Lent, look at the word for the day - and think about what it means in your life.

30 March	-	Tired	10 April	-	Father
31 March	-	Friends	11 April	-	Trust
1 April	-	Broken	12 April	-	Obedience
2 April	-	Healing	13 April	-	Humility
3 April	-	Empty	14 April	-	Separated
4 April	-	Full	15 April	-	Alone
5 April	-	Generosity	16 April	-	Rejected
6 April	-	Preparation	17 April	-	Cup
7 April	-	Temptation	18 April	-	Sacrifice
8 April	-	Conflict	19 April	-	Darkness
9 April	-	Son	20 April	-	Triumph

General Assembly 2014

The General Assembly of the Church of Scotland opens on Saturday 17th May, and closes on Friday 23rd May.

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/about_us/general_assembly

Heart & Soul 2014 - Sunday 18th May 2014

In Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh. A celebration for the whole Church. This year's theme for Heart and Soul is "Hands Across The World" and it aims to celebrate the life of the church through the lens of its international heritage, relationships and partners. Put the date in your diary, go along, and find out more! <http://www.heartandsoul2014.org.uk/>





ABBAY CHURCH CRECHE DUTY

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 subsequent agreed changes.)

Dementia Friendly North Berwick - 22 April

10am-12noon or 7pm-9pm on Tuesday 22 April 2014 in the Hope Rooms, 34 Forth Street, North Berwick.

Living with Dementia can be lonely and challenging, but we can all help make lives better with a little bit of understanding and a helping hand. A Dementia Friendly North Berwick is a place where people with dementia and their families and friends feel welcome, safe and cared for. If you are interested please drop in to the Hope Rooms. **Everyone can help!**

Bring your ideas, your creativity and your friends to help shape a Dementia Friendly North Berwick. To book your place call 01620 893056 or: <http://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dementia-friendly-north-berwick-tickets-10329571025>

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 9th April & 7 May**. Please help by donating goods. For more information, please contact the Church Office. Many thanks.



Gethsemane Prayer

Jesus, our brother,
once you knelt sleepless
in the darkness of a garden
alone
and wept and prayed,
sweating, bleeding,
with the pain of powerlessness
with the strain of waiting.
An angel offered you strength -
But it was a bitter cup.

We pray for all
who wake tonight
waiting, agonising,
anxious and afraid,
while others sleep:
for those who sweat,
and bleed, and weep alone.
If it is not possible
for their cup to be taken away -
then may they know your presence
kneeling at their side
Amen

Jan Sutch Pickard
Lent & Easter Readings from Iona,
© Wild Goose Publications



Photo from Church of Scotland website

Wanted!

An enthusiastic gardener (or two) to maintain the church's flower beds over the spring and summer. You will have a free hand over how you want to develop the garden and you can make it as maintenance-free as you like (as long as it involves some living plants!)

Duties will involve:

Planning and planting up for the summer

Watering (we hope!)

Weeding (if necessary)

Enquiries to Sally Penman



Keep collecting used stamps!

Please save your used stamps and place them in the container at the entrance to the Church. (At least 1/4 inch should be left around the stamp.) Thank you to those who then trim the stamps, and arrange an uplift. The stamps are sold, to benefit good causes. Thank you to everyone involved.

Vision Aid Overseas - any old spectacles?

Do you have old spectacles lying around gathering dust? No use to you, but too good to throw in the tip. Well, you can put them to good use. VAO runs a nationwide spectacle collection scheme which operates to raise money for VAO and ensure spectacles are recycled in an environmentally friendly way.

The Rotary Club of North Berwick is co-operating with VAO to collect old spectacles for this very worthwhile project. Please hand in your old spectacles to the Church Office; alternatively North Berwick Opticians or Alice Stevenson will accept them. Thank you.



Vine Trust Info Evening - Wed 9th April, 7.30pm

To find out more about Vine Trust and how you can make a significant difference to some of the poorest communities in Tanzania and Peru, come along to an information evening on Wed 9th April from 7.30pm at the Abbey Church, North Berwick. You'll hear about the different aspects of Vine Trust's work, including updates on the *Jubilee Hope* and *Amazon Hope* medical ships, and have the opportunity to join a North Berwick 'work party' to Tanzania in 2015 or 2016 to build homes for orphans and vulnerable children. For more information about Vine Trust, visit www.vinetrust.org

The Sweet Sorrows Concert - Friday 11 April

Abbey Church, at 7.30pm on Friday 11 April. The Sweet Sorrows are husband & wife team, Sammy and Kylie Horner. Bringing Celtic charm and edge together with soft harmonies to create the very best in acoustic Celtic/Americana-roots music. Entry £5. Come along.

Hadley Court Singers - Haydn's Creation

Saturday 5 April at 7.30pm in St Mary's Parish Church, Haddington. Haydn's Creation interlaced with works by Whitacre, Vaughan Williams & Gjeilo. Featuring film projections exploring a sensory response to the Creation by people on the Autistic Spectrum and with mental health problems. Tickets £10 (under 16s free).

East Lothian Foodbank

The Foodbank currently has a particular shortage of small bags of sugar, Fruit juice, Long life milk, tinned fruit, rice pudding (tinned), mashed potato powder, tinned or microwaveable sponge puddings and in particular tinned meat products, mince, stewing steak, tinned pies etc. If you can help by donating any of these items, please leave them in the Church Office. Thank you.



The Edinburgh Passion - Saturday 19 April

An Easter Play Production on Sat 19th April at 2pm in West Princes Street Gardens, Edinburgh. Free and non-ticketed performance. An open air promenade theatre production set in a modern context (with moderate scenes of violence). Please note, there is no seating—and come prepared for inclement weather.
(SC 035933) www.easterplay.org



The Real Easter Egg

The Real Easter Egg tells the Easter story, gives money to charity and is Fairtrade. This year, there are 3 to choose from - including 'Original' at £3.99. This includes a new illustrated 24 page Easter story book, a high quality milk chocolate egg, a bag of buttons. A donation is made to Traidcraft Exchange. (Also available - Sharing Box at £19.99, and Special Edition at £9.99.)
See www.realeasteregg.co.uk



May we find the road that leads to life;
may we take the turns that bring right relationships;
may we pause to accompany others on the way;
and may we journey with God through Lent,
and long for the horizon and dawn.

Prayer for Starters for Sunday 9th March 2014

http://www.churchofscotland.org.uk/news_and_events/news/2014/lent-a-season-for-making-changes

CHRISTIAN AID

FORTH ROAD BRIDGE SPONSORED WALK

SATURDAY 26 APRIL 2014, 2PM - 5PM

How would you like a free day out with lovely biscuits and juice included? Christian Aid are holding their annual sponsored walk over the Forth Road Bridge on 26 April. The walk is approx one and a half miles each way and is a very happy occasion with hundreds of walkers taking part from Churches north and south of the Bridge. We are hoping to have an Abbey Team of Walkers taking part. Please 'phone David McColl on 01620 894679 if you are interested in taking part. All monies raised will go towards Christian Aids projects in Malawi, India Egypt and Colombia. If, for any reason, you are unable to do the walk yourself, perhaps you would like to sponsor someone? This can be either a straight donation or an amount per crossing. Again, please contact David McColl who will be delighted to take your money! Alternatively, you can pay direct to Christian Aid on www.justgiving.com/david-mccoll
Christian Aid - registered charity 1105851

Christian Aid Week - 13th to 19th May

Give people a future without fear. Watch out for more information on the activities for Christian Aid Week.

Commonwealth Games 2014

The route of the Scottish leg of the Queen's Baton Relay has been revealed. The baton will arrive in Edinburgh on 14 June and is due to travel through East Lothian on 17 June. Watch out for more info on the route, timings etc.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-26576556>

<http://morethangold2014.org.uk/>

