

## Flower List



Date	Donor	Arranger
1st November	Mrs S Skinner Jennifer Gilchrist	Sheila Skinner
8th November	Mrs M A Crawford	Margaret Ann Crawford
15th November	Mrs Lorna Ferry Mrs Caroline Danks	Isobel Hardie
22nd November	Mrs I Hardie	Isobel Hardie
29th November	Mrs M Whytock Miss H Wilson	Dorothy Kirkpatrick

## Church Register

### Funerals

25 <sup>th</sup> September	Helen Clark, Kingston
1 <sup>st</sup> October	Rita Keddie, Lord President Road
2 <sup>nd</sup> October	Lindsay Young, Lammermuir House (previously Abbey Home and Dirleton Court)

*Jesus said 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'*

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



## Abbey Church News November 2015

Abbey Church, 116 High Street, North  
Berwick  
Church Office: 01620 892800  
[abbeychurch@btconnect.com](mailto:abbeychurch@btconnect.com)

Minister: Rev. Dr David J Graham, BSc, BD  
01620 840878

Pastoral Assistant: Bob Kane

**Sunday Morning Worship at 10.30am.**

**Come along. All welcome.**

Dear Friends,

I've been reading the latest report on the state of Christianity in Scotland. It's sobering stuff. Church attendance and Bible reading are at an all-time low. Many people's perception of Christianity are quite negative.

The report is called 'Transforming Scotland'. I wonder how we can do that?

In a recent article, James Emery White asks, "What six things could a church do that would bring about renewal and growth?" Here is his list:

1. **Simplify your structures** - give decisions into the hands of those with responsibility, ie let leaders lead.
2. **Use young people.** You attract who you see, and most churches are growing old.
3. **Become more contemporary** in music and graphics, decor, topics, website and signs. It's 2015!
4. **Stop preaching,** and start communicating. There's a difference.
5. **Shift the outreach focus** from the already convinced to those who are not. Don't preach to the converted; it's called the Great Commission.
6. **Prioritize your children's ministry** with money, staff, space and resources. Children's ministry is your most important ministry for outreach and growth.

*Why don't churches act on these items?* White offers this sad but accurate conclusion: They don't want to change. Change is an essential for a dynamic, growing church, and it starts with people who are willing to be change agents.

Your minister,  
David

## Prayers for November



Dear Friends in Christ,

Autumn is really here—Leaves keep falling from the trees—others change colour. Things don't stay the same—just like life! We give thanks to God that He never changes.

He always stays the same. Aren't we lucky?

Heavenly Father,

How grateful we are that no matter what, you are always there for us, listening to our prayers and answering them, when you feel it's right, and in ways that are right for us. Thank you.

Bless all connected to Abbey Church. May newcomers respond to warm fellowship, and want to be part of it. Open the hearts and minds of leaders all over the world and let there be peace! We pray for all who live in fear. May they draw close to You.

We specially remember two dates in November—the 5th, Guy Fawkes night AND most of all—the 11th, Remembering all those who died in the World Wars, also those who were injured, some for life. We remember the ones who came home, changed for ever. We remember too that many others are still giving their lives that we may live in peace. Bless them and their loved ones. In Jesus' name,

Amen

Betty Hawthorn (Prayer Secretary)



## OPEN DAY and AGM

Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November, 12pm to 4pm

At our premises, the Old Library, 3 Civic Square, Tranent

Come along to our Open Day to see where we are, how we work, hear about our vision, meet our staff, Trustees and volunteers and celebrate everything that we have done to help alleviate food poverty in East Lothian

All volunteers are especially welcome to attend our **AGM**, which will close the day at **3.00pm**

- East Lothian Foodbank has been helping local people in crisis for 3 years
- We have helped over 2600 people across the county during the year
- We hope there won't always be the need for a Foodbank, but we are here for now
- We are developing, adding fresh ingredients to our food parcels and running cookery courses with Roots & Fruits
- We rely on our fantastic team of volunteers and the generosity of local people and we want to thank them all!



LOTTERY FUNDED

East Lothian Foodbank, 3 Civic Square, Tranent,  
East Lothian, EH33 1LH

## Sunday Services

**November 8<sup>th</sup>** is *Remembrance Sunday* with parade of organisations at Abbey. War memorial Remembrance in Dirleton at 10.45am, and North Berwick at 12 noon.

**Saturday November 21<sup>st</sup>** (4.00p.m. For 4.30) switching on the Christmas lights outside Abbey Church

### Evening services

Although we no longer have regular evening services, there are occasional Abbey services on Sundays at 6pm. Some of these will include communion. Future dates:

**8<sup>th</sup> November** 'The Cross', a celebration of the life of Billy Graham, at his 97<sup>th</sup> birthday.

**13<sup>th</sup> December** service for bereaved people

**14<sup>th</sup> February** (the start of Lent)

**Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> March** is the joint Maundy Thursday communion, in Abbey at 7.30pm

**15<sup>th</sup> May** (Pentecost Sunday)

### Christmas is coming!

We have our traditional services, as well as some new things this year: The Guild's Christmas Tree Festival (10<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> December), and an all-age Nativity Service on Christmas Sunday (20<sup>th</sup>). Full details in the next newsletter and on our website & Facebook page.

## Abbey Guild

**Nov 3** Quaker Tapestry Illustrated Talk at 2.30p.m. In Abbey Hall

### Guild Week Nov 15–21

**Nov 17** How the Guild began—John Charteris - This is a joint meeting at 2.30p.m. in Abbey Hall

### Dates for your diary

**Dec 5** Christmas Fair and Teas. 2— 4p.m. (Christmas Gifts Home Baking, books)

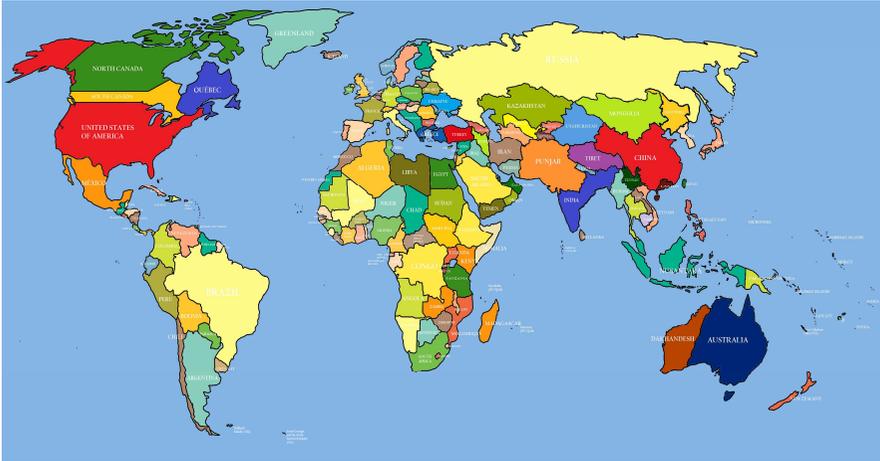
**Dec 8** Christmas lunch—(Glen Golf Club)

If you would like a lift to any Guild Meeting please speak to Liz Harrison or Joyce at the Office.

Everyone is always welcome to our meetings.

## Regal- November Meeting

For many years Peter Kimber worked in a voluntary capacity with Scripture Union (SU) in Scotland. Latterly he became Chief Executive of SU in England and Wales, and this meant moving his family to Milton Keynes.



Peter is a very enthusiastic and engaging speaker and his talk "Around the world with Scripture Union", will be very interesting and informative. Although based down south, Peter travelled around the world on SU business and visited such diverse countries as Bolivia, Malaysia and New Zealand, to mention three of the many.

Our meetings are open to all people of North Berwick and the surrounding villages. At the October meeting it was delightful to have some ladies at our talk. After the meeting we sit down to a soup and sandwich lunch prepared by the ladies of Abbey Church.

I look forward to seeing you on Thursday, 12th November at 12 noon.

*Ian M Aitken*

## Contd.

Atheism and Christianity are belief systems but they can't both be right. For Christians, everything centres on the person of Jesus and his death and Resurrection. Yes, beyond the grave there is judgment but there is also salvation where there is repentance and faith. At funeral services I include the words, "Without God there is nothing to hope for; with God there is nothing to fear." At the graveside we hear the words of Jesus, "I am the resurrection and I am life; (s)he who believes in me, even if (s)he die, yet shall (s)he live."

Christians have a unique Gospel centred in the death and Resurrection of Jesus. Let's share it boldly.

Peter Kimber

## Transport to Church

Many people are given a lift to church on a Sunday on a regular basis. However, we are proposing to set up, in addition, a car-lift scheme to help those in our congregation who have a problem in attending whether it be a 'one-off' occasion or something more regular. There are many reasons why a lift may be needed and no-one should feel isolated because of a lack of transport.

Obviously, we must have a list of willing drivers before we put this scheme into operation. Volunteers should not feel that this is committing them to be involved every week. If we have a sufficient number, the scheme will not be onerous for anyone, nor will it commit one to a regular rota.

Once we have a list of drivers, we can put the plan into operation. Please think about this and, if able to participate, phone Sadie Young

Further details of the organisation of this will follow.

Nurture Committee

### Thoughts from Peter Kimber

For the past 18 months I have been an absentee from Dirleton, working as the Locum Minister for the three parishes of Yester, Saltoun and Humbie. If all goes well a permanent appointment will be made soon, so I have been reflecting on one aspect of the work: funerals.

At the first funeral I took, the daughter of the deceased asked, "Where is my father now?" One answer was to say, "He is upstairs waiting for the undertaker," but he wasn't. His body was there but the father she knew and loved was not. The physical systems of his body had stopped working but the essential person was not there. It struck me that when I drive my car home, I turn off the engine: it stops, but I never ask where the car has gone. The engine has stopped but the car is still there. But when a person's "engine" has stopped we naturally say "where have they gone?" The real person is not there though the body remains.

Atheism is a fairly recent belief system which assumes that the physical, material world is all there is. For an atheist, that young woman's question had no meaning: cars and human bodies are just machines. For most of us that is absurd. For Hindus, beyond death lies re-incarnation; for Muslims there is some kind of punishment or reward beyond the grave; for the Animist the spirits of the ancestors are all around the living.

But why believe in life after death? At the simplest level we cry out for justice because human justice in this life is so inadequate and incomplete? As ten million people died in gas chambers a terrible cry for justice must have gone up every day while that crime continued. Was the death of Hitler and his colleagues an adequate response? Was that what they deserved? If the deaths of Hitler and Mother Teresa end in mere nothingness it violates our natural desire for justice, and indeed it makes the whole of life meaningless. The Old Testament answer was "Shall not the judge of all the earth do right?" St Paul's answer was that "we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ."

### Super Sunday Club

On Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> October (which happens to be Bible Sunday) all the children of the Super Sunday Club are to be presented with a Bible in Church. The Bible in question is a super duper one and one that will appeal to children of all ages. It takes the form of daily readings with exciting titles such as - Frogs, frogs, frogs; A gobbling snake; Rahab hides spies; Scary Goliath; Trees Walking and many more. The Bible is full of pictures and the children (with parents encouragement) will be asked to read at least one story each week in preparation for the next Super Sunday Club.

We are continuing to use the Scripture Union material and this includes story appropriate games and activities. Our Young Leaders, Holly and Mia, are doing a sterling job in organising games and some craft items. The children are also learning the Lord's prayer off by heart. Between now and Christmas, we will be making some beautiful Christmas baubles to decorate the Church as well as rehearsing for the Nativity service on 20<sup>th</sup> December. We are all looking forward to having the children from Dirleton Sunday School joining us for a party before Christmas.

Please keep on praying for more families and children to join us.  
Eileen McColl

### Abbey Church Creche Duty

Sunday 1st November	Mgt Lawson	Janice Cobb
Sunday 8th November	Mandy Vance	Carol Stobie
Sunday 15th November	Sadie Young	Sue Paterson
Sunday 22nd November	Kirsty Baron	Sandra Baron
Sunday 29th November	Norma Goodlad	Dorothy Kirkpatrick

### Swiss Gospel Choir

If you ordered and paid for a CD of the Swiss Gospel Choir and have not received it please speak to Joyce at the Office

# BLESSING OUR COMMUNITY

MERCY, JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

CO-HOSTS

ROC  
SCOTLAND

LOTHIAN  
PRESBYTERY  
CONGREGATIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
TEAM

WEDNESDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER 2015,  
9.30AM-4PM

ST ANDREWS HIGH CHURCH,  
MUSSELBURGH, EH21 7EA  
(PARKING AND ENTRY FROM  
MILLHILL)

## KEYNOTE SPEAKER

REV DR MARTIN JOHNSTONE,  
SECRETARY OF CHURCH &  
SOCIETY COUNCIL



## FURTHER INFORMATION FROM:

CHRIS KNIGHTS, CHURCH AND  
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WORKER  
REVCHRISKNIGHTS@GMAIL.COM  
07583 495598

DIANE MCWILLIAM,  
REDEEMING OUR COMMUNITIES  
DIANEMCWILLIAM@ROC.UK.COM  
07709 531549

**COST: £10 INCLUDING REFRESHMENTS AND LUNCH**

**SIGN UP ON EVENTBRITE:**  
[ROC.UK.COM/MUSSELBURGH](http://ROC.UK.COM/MUSSELBURGH)

## Abbey Church Morning Tea Rota



1st Nov	Sadie Young	Liz Harrison
8th Nov	Eileen Mccoll	Morna McClure
15th Nov	Catherine Andrew	Jasmine Reavely
22 Nov	Fiona Gibson	Helen McKenzie
29th Nov		Sarah Kerr

### Host

Room at the inn? Charity HOST is seeking friendly people who could volunteer to offer an invitation to adult international students for a day, weekend, or four days at Christmas. Learn about other cultures, welcome a guest far from home, and make the world a little friendlier! To be put in touch with your local organiser, visit [www.hostuk.org](http://www.hostuk.org) or call 020 7739 6292

### Ecclesiastical Clangers!

Here are a few cuttings from other church publications!

Irving B and Jessie C were married on October 24th in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

Don't let worry kill you off—let the Church help.

### Large Print

If you have any problem reading this Newsletter a large print version is available. Please ask Joyce at the Church Office to supply one.