



## **Abbey Church News** **June 2016**

Abbey Church, 116 High Street, North Berwick  
Church Office: 01620 892800  
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Minister: Rev. Dr David J Graham, BSc, BD  
01620 840878  
Pastoral Assistant: Bob Kane

**The services in June are on the theme of  
'Prayer'**

June 5th Luke 18:1-8 (Your kingdom come)

June 12th Michael Weaver

June 19th Luke 11:5-13 (our daily bread)  
Abbey communion

June 26th Luke 18:9-14 (forgive our sins)  
All age worship

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

**Come along. All welcome.**

*(This month, I have asked Jacqueline Waugh, our Reader in training, to introduce herself to you. DJG)*



I live in Haddington but I was brought up in Gladsmuir, I have very happy memories of the village and of the church life there. I was in the Junior and Senior choirs which met before the morning service. I came right through Sunday School and Bible Class, I became a member when I was sixteen. The Sunday School was held in the village hall and the Bible class in the kitchen of the manse.

We moved to Haddington in 1976 and eventually I joined the West Church. I made many new friends through the Young Women's Group and the Guild. I became a Sunday School teacher and later an elder.

Later, I became very interested in becoming a Reader in the Church of Scotland. This involved an enquirers weekend. I became attached to Athelstaneford & Whitekirk Church, and spent six months learning from the minister there. When all agreed that I would like to continue, I met with members of the Ministries Council. I was so pleased when they accepted me for the training, and then the real work began! It is a challenge to do the essays, exams and the work involved within the church, but I know I am not on my own. The first thing in all the lessons we learn; is to pray and ask our Lord and Saviour for guidance and strength to do what we need to do, and I believe that this is what we all need to do in our daily lives. We know that God is with us, always leading and guiding us: all we have to do is ask and it shall be given. Let this be the first thing we all do every day, to gather the strength to do our daily tasks. With God in our hearts we will certainly be sustained in our every efforts.

May I take this time to say thank you to David and the Kirk Session, for agreeing to let me become one of your visitor members for the summer months. I have already been made most welcome and look forward to enjoying our time together.

Kind Regards to you all,  
Jacqueline

### **Sunday Services**

During the summer, our readings will be from Second Corinthians, with themes including 'forgiveness', 'consolation', 'generosity' and 'reconciliation'.

On Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July, we will celebrate 'Sea Sunday'

### **Syrian Crisis**

On the 21st April Susan Ralston came to Abbey with several other members of the Crossroads Church in Edinburgh to share their experiences as helpers at a transit centre for refugees in Serbia in February. Several organisations such as Red Cross and Medecin Sans Frontieres had come together to make this possible. Their duties included handing out clothes and other necessities as well as being safety personnel and construction workers for the site.

We were told that the refugees had been on the move for 10 to 14 days and that the dormitory accommodation probably provided the first beds they had slept in since leaving Turkey. Tales were told of family losses, pictures shown of bombed homes. One volunteer said he felt humbled by the dignity of the refugees when he was left 'in charge' of a dormitory of about 200 people. Wi-fi was available for the first time in days but the incongruity of this when there was only one tap for tooth brushing seemed surreal. We heard of a little girl playing peek-a-boo with a lady volunteer then coming out of the shadows to see pictures of puppies and kittens. The little girl hugged her new friend and seemed unwilling ever to let go.

There were many other stories to tell. After one week the volunteers returned home, exhausted.

What of the refugees? When will they reach their destination? Where is their destination? Will they ever be able to return home?

## On the Lighter Side

*Cuttings from other Church Magazines!*

- 1 The cost for attending the Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.
- 2 Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again,' giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.
- 3 For those of you have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
4. At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be 'What is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

## 17<sup>TH</sup> Century Nun's Prayer

Lord, Thou knowest better than I know myself, that I am growing older and will someday be old. Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion. Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs. Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.

Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details; give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace enough to enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken. Keep me reasonably sweet; I do not want to be a Saint - some of them are so hard to live with - but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil.

Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected places, and talents in unexpected people. And give me, O Lord, the grace to tell them so.

Amen

## Regal - Summer Outing

Regal's summer outing will take place on Thursday, 23rd June - the same day as the EU Referendum - it will be the ideal way to relax after making that momentous decision on how to vote.

Cruising on the canal is very popular and the boats are in high demand and consequently it was not possible for us to get our original preferred date - please note the revised date is Thursday, 23rd June.

Our numbers are restricted to 24 and there are only a few places left; so please get in touch with me either by phone or email (890070 or im.aitken@btinternet.com) to reserve your place.



We will  
own way  
Ratho  
leaving  
Church at  
We intend

make our  
by car to  
Bridge  
Abbey  
11.30 am.  
to sit down

for lunch in the Ratho Bridge Inn around 1.00 pm with the canal trip leaving at 3.00 pm. One boat will do a 1½ hour trip and the other a 2½ hour trip..

The cost of the canal trip is £10 which goes to the charity "Seagull Trust" and the cost of the lunch will be dependent on your choice of food.

The two canal boats are modern and cater for disabled people with a lift to get people to and from the boat. There are toilets on board and the staff will provide us with tea, coffee and biscuits during the trip.

I will be writing to you nearer the time with directions to Ratho Bridge. We will have several cars available and those who do not wish to drive will be welcome to join others.

*Ian M Aitken*

<b>ABBAY CHURCH - NORTH BERWICK</b>				
<b>BUDGET v ACTUAL AT 31 MAR 2016</b>				
<b>ALL FUNDS</b>				
	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Budget to 31 Mar</b>	<b>Actual to 31 Mar</b>	<b>Variance</b>
<b>Income</b>				
Offerings	67,000	16,748	16,847	99
Tax reclaim	16,000	4,000	3,782	(218)
Miscellaneous	8,750	2,185	1,991	(194)
Premises income	11,000	2,750	2,413	(337)
Investment income	4,200	600	591	(9)
Legacies	-	-	-	-
Dirleton	6,000	1,500	1,500	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>112,950</b>	<b>27,783</b>	<b>27,124</b>	<b>(659)</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Church of Scotland payments	54,431	13,420	13,420	-
Pastoral Expenses	6,500	1,623	1,370	253
Other Salaries	23,053	5,400	5,839	(439)
Premises costs	18,246	4,040	3,194	846
Church Office Expenses	5,000	1,248	1,704	(456)
Investments	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	5,720	1,004	701	303
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>112,950</b>	<b>26,735</b>	<b>26,228</b>	<b>507</b>
<b>Surplus of Expenditure over Income</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1,048</b>	<b>896</b>	<b>(152)</b>
<b>Notes</b>				
Only bank and cash shown				
SA Ainslie - 18/05/2016				

## **Comments - Abbey Church (All Funds)-3Months to 31March 2016**

### **General**

The surplus for the quarter is £896 versus a budget surplus of £1,048.

### **Income**

Offerings -Open plate and 'blue envelopes' are more than the 2016 budget but less than the prior year first quarter figures.

*(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 Joyce in the office or ask Phil for one.)*

### **Expenditure**

Church Office expenses 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.

Miscellaneous expenses are below budget but in May 2016 over £2,000 was spent on upgrading the sound system in the Sanctuary.

If you have any questions please ask.

Stuart Ainslie  
20 May2016

Your Finance Team

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

### Morning Tea Rota



5th June	Dorothy Kirkpatrick Mary Graham
12th June	Sheila McCubbing Irene Nichol
19th June	Richard Bell Ann Bell
26th June	Sadie Young Liz Harrison

### Summer Afternoon Teas

It's this time of year again and this year Abbey has five Sundays in July, 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st. St. Baldred's will be doing teas again in August. As Dorothy will be away in France for a special family holiday she will only be able to organise the first two so we urgently need people to help organise, bake, serve etc. for the other three Sundays. As usual the money raised will go to local and Church charities. Please speak to Dorothy Kirkpatrick or phone 89 2074 or contact Joyce at the Church office

### Newsletter Deadline

Please submit any articles/information for the July/August issue by Tuesday 14th June



## **Bethany Report**

In an email from Bethany Care Shelter, thanking churches for their hard work cooking, for use of halls, for financial and material aid and for 'giving of yourselves in loving and showing kindness to those using the Care Shelter', Cameron Black said 'This year has been our busiest to date. Almost 40% more demand than last year which had been our previous busiest ever year. It is terrible that the demand is so high. On average you guys helped 48 people a night!' (A total of 9072). Gifts of 200 sleeping bags etc mean they have enough for next year.

Examples given of life changing experiences included one of a young man, rescued on the darkest of nights after being thrown out by his parents on Christmas Eve. He now has his own accommodation, a job and a whole new life which includes attending church. Other examples were of help given to people with drink problems, who are now in the Bethany Christian Centre—happy and sober.

A couple of Team Leaders written observations were also sent. Extracts from them are as follows:-

A new Team leader wrote 'I was overwhelmed by the way the people using our service treated each other with grace and compassion.' eg giving up their beds when space was limited and saying 'serve them before me' when food was short.

Another leader wrote of the last night of the Shelter when guests showed genuine appreciation for the love shown to them by the staff team. A group photo was taken and one guest said 'That's our family photograph'. As well as appreciative comments a card was produced by the guests which read 'For the best people we know.' When people were in bed the last night was closed when 'The Team Leader led a silent room in prayer. Thanking God for each life in the room. Thanking Him for the Shelter. The guests sat and lay in their beds each one seemingly deeply touched. Some with hands open and faces uplifted with tears on their cheeks in an overflow of thankfulness.

The lights went out and the staff team sat silently in the dark..... Something very special had been experienced by everyone there. A moment when heaven was known in a room of people who had been brought together by situations tumbling beyond their control.'

## Report on Inspire



For at least the past fifty years the numbers of teenagers attending church has steadily declined. This is not the place to look at the reasons: the important thing is to find solutions. Inspire started nine years ago with the agreement of four churches who decided they needed a youth worker so what has been achieved?

The numbers of young people with whom Shiona is in direct weekly contact is exceptional. Every week she holds two lunchtime meetings where the Christian faith is explained and shared in ways that are suitable for young people. She has a separate discipleship group after school, and the school play gives her weekly contact with more than thirty young people in whose development she plays a significant part.

But why are these young people not joining our churches? Perhaps the question ought to be "Why have young people been leaving the church for the past fifty years?" Social changes, such as recreational shopping, Sunday sport and sceptical influences in the media have all played their part, but Jesus' last words to his disciples were, "Go into all the world and make disciples". He did not say, "Sit in church and wait for disciples to come in." Young people need God but for most of them church is an alien place for old people. It is hard for congregations which have been faithfully worshipping Sunday by Sunday, doing their best to serve their communities, to see congregations dwindling.

If they don't come to church, what happens to Shiona's young people when they leave school? Many of them have come to faith; others have a good understanding of what it means to be a disciple of Jesus. The parable of the sower suggests that they will develop in different ways. Many will become committed church members; others will serve God in other ways. We cannot control these things but we believe, in the words of St Paul, "That God who has begun a good work in them will bring it to fruition" in his own way.

Peter Kimber

**Praying Across North Berwick in**  
**June**



Dear Friends in Christ,

Let's hope for sunnier—but warmer—days to come. We are thankful for the drier days, recently, though more heat would be lovely. Let's pray.

Heavenly Father,

Many thanks for all the wonderful gifts you freely give us, and the help given, when needed. Bless all working in the health services, especially those with Jesus in their hearts and a smile on their faces. Bless our Minister, Dr. Graham, our Pastoral Assistant, Bob Kane and all their loved ones.

We ask you also to bless all connected to Dirleton and Abbey Churches, from the babies to the eldest.

We bring Christian Aid Week Events to Your attention, praying they will be well supported, to make life easier for those in need. Lord please let there be peace—worldwide. How wonderful that would be.

Thank you, Amen

Betty Hawthorn (Prayer Secretary)

Hi there—Let's hope we need a good supply of Sun Cream.. Whatever, just enjoy each day.

## Flower List



Date	Donor	Arranger
5th June patrick	Mrs Z Main	Dorothy Kirk-
12th June	Mrs S Ramsay	Sylvia Ramsay
19th June	Mrs I Nichol	Irene Nichol
26th June	Mrs D Guy	Doreen Guy

## Creche Duty

5th June	Ann Bell	Rose Leslie
12th June	Joan Lunn	Catriana Spencer
19th June	Mgt Lawson	Janice Cobb
26th June	Mandy Vance	Carol Stobie

## Church Register

### Funerals

4<sup>th</sup> May      Jan Hetherington, Highfield Road

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

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