



Abbey Church News

December 2016/January 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.**

Come along. All welcome.

Sunday Services

The Christmas church services are listed in the newsletter. The primary schools also come to church on their last day of term, Thursday 22nd Law Primary to Abbey Church at 10am, Dirleton Primary to the Kirk at 2pm. You're welcome to join them then.

During January and February, we'll be looking at Rowan Williams' new book, 'Being Disciples'. This will form the themes of the Sunday sermons, and also the study group. The topics are 'Faith, hope and love', 'forgiveness', 'holiness', 'faith in society', and 'life in the Spirit'. Copies of the book will be available on Sundays or c/o the Church Office.

Super Sunday Club

Some of our children and parents went along to join the Dirleton Sunday School recently to go on an exciting Ramble led by the Country Ranger. A great time was had by all and the lovely snacks in the Hall afterwards went down a treat. Many thanks to Margaret from Dirleton for organising this.

The Christmas build up will be starting soon with the children beginning to rehearse for the Nativity Service on 18th December. If you have any grandchildren who would like to take part in this, please just bring them along on the day and they can join in the fun. We are always on the lookout for extra sheep and fairies!

We are planning a Christmas party for 11th December and have invited the children from Dirleton Sunday School to join us. Last year's party was a very happy time and we hope this year will be even better. Again, if you know of any children who would like to join us, please let one of us know and we will give you the details.

Please keep on praying that more families will come along to join us at the Super Sunday Club

Mary Graham & Eileen McColl

From Margaret Anne Crawford

I have received a lovely letter of thanks from Rt Rev Bishop George Bagamuhunda, who is the Diocesan Bishop of Kigezi, in Uganda. I share it with you, as it is a thank you to you....

"This letter comes to express gratitude and appreciation from the Diocese of Kigezi for the love and support you have continued to express in the different acts of kindness you have done in favour of our people especially as you supported Rugarama Hospital and the Bishop Kivengere Girls School Muyebe communities.

I would like you to know that your labour in the Lord over these many years has not been in vain and that your reward is with our faithful master who will reward you according to His riches in glory.

*You have supported **Rugarama Hospital** in sending hearing-aid equipment and knitted clothes for premature babies. We thank God for you and your friends, especially the elderly ladies that have stood with you in knitting and putting together items that you have sent to the hospital to help the poor in our community.*

*Miss Liz Traill gives several accounts of how the Abbey Church of Scotland have supported her in different ways, especially in her work and ministry at the **Bishop Kivengere Girls School** in Muyebe supporting the school water project.*

We always thank God for you and pray that He continues to bless you abundantly."

Helen Steiner Rice writes...

Give lavishly! Live Abundantly

The more you give, the more you get-

The more you laugh, the less you fret-

The more you do unselfishly, the more you live abundantly.....

The more of everything you share,

The more you'll always have to spare-

The more you love, the more you'll find that life is good and friends are kind...

For only what we give away, enriches us from day to day.

Bethany

Our first two evenings for catering for the Bethany Care Shelter are Thursday 1st and Wednesday 21st December.

In previous years, just before Christmas, we have supplied gift bags with toiletries, warm socks etc. and sweets. Last year we issued 50 bags but sadly we have been asked to cater for 65 this year so yet again the number of homeless has increased. We are appealing for donations of warm socks, hats, gloves, scarves and some underpants (all new) along with toiletries for men and also some for women. Also warm jackets, sweaters, sleeping bags and blankets (no duvets) in clean good condition. As it takes a considerable time to make up the bags, could donations please be handed into the office or contact Dorothy Kirkpatrick by Sunday 18th December.

Nominations Sought **Community Award for Volunteers**

The North Berwick and District Association of Churches is seeking nominations for the annual award that is made to individuals or organisations that carry out voluntary work in Aberlady, Gullane, Dirleton, North Berwick, Athelstaneford and surrounding areas.

The Association recognises the huge difference volunteers make to our community and the award goes some way to thanking them and acknowledging the time and effort they have made to helping others. So if you think you know someone or an organisation that deserves an award for the voluntary work, please contact Michael Black by the end of December at m.w.black@btinternet.com or telephone 01620 842835. You do not need to be a member of a Church to make a nomination or receive the award.

Thanks from the Organist

It was a huge surprise when the Minister referred to my 40 years as Abbey Organist towards the end of the service on 6 November 2016 and I would like to record my sincere thanks to him for his kind words and the lovely certificate which had been signed by David and Sally. The magnificent cake which was wheeled into church was greatly appreciated by the family and friends. The real "icing on the cake" however was when "my" choir performed a beautiful unaccompanied rendition of the blessing. I will never forget the warmth of the applause which came from the congregation that morning.

Although 40 years might seem like a long time, I can honestly say that it doesn't seem so long ago (in the days when I had hair) that my predecessor, the late Miss Ella Cowley, showed me the workings of the then pipe organ a few years before her eventual retirement. It has been a privilege to have been able to serve Abbey through the ministry of music. I would like to pay tribute to our loyal and supportive choir who sing an introit and lead our congregational praise almost every Sunday. It is increasingly rare for congregations to be able to sustain a regular choir and Abbey is so fortunate to have their support. I really enjoy the role as organist—and have always done so—and hope that my fingers (and feet) might permit me to serve for some time to come.

Robert D Burgon

Hospital Visits

The Minister is happy to visit church members who are in hospital. For reasons of confidentiality, any request for a visit should please come from the person themselves, a close family member or next of kin. Please also pass on the ward number, as this is not available to Ministers. This information can be given directly to the Minister or via the Church Office (892800, open 3 mornings a week or please leave a message). Thank you

ABBAY CHURCH GUILD

CHRISTMAS FAIR

SATURDAY 3 DECEMBER

Noon to 4pm

in Church Hall

SOUP, TEA/COFFEE

HOME BAKING, JAMS & CHUTNEYS

GUILD CRAFTS, CHRISTMAS GIFTS

ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN

FREE ENTRY

ABBEY GUILD - As we approach CHRISTMAS

As you already know Abbey Guild members are busy organising a **Christmas Fair** for **Saturday 3rd December** from **12noon until 4pm** and we hope to see many members of the congregation and their friends there. There will be several stalls in the Old Hall - home bakery, jams and chutneys, Christmas gifts, hand-painted ceramics, bric a brac and the special items made by Guild members on their craft afternoon!

In the New Hall, soup, tea, coffee, juice and Christmas fare will be served and **activities will be available for children attending.**

Any donations for stalls and/or teas/coffees will be gratefully received from 10am onwards on 3rd Dec.

Money raised will be given to this year's Guild Charities - 'Care for the Family' and 'Caring for Mother Earth in Bolivia (Christian Aid)'.

One of the activities for the children will be the decoration of the **GIANT CHRISTMAS CARD** which will be signed by all interested members of the congregation on the Sundays leading up to Christmas - wishing

'A Happy Christmas to all my friends at Abbey'.

All money donated to this will be shared between Leprosy Mission and The Grassmarket Community Project in Edinburgh which offers a mixture of education programmes and drop-in services aimed at developing people's self worth, social network and skills.

On **Tuesday 13th December** you will be very welcome to join us at **2.30pm** for **Christmas Songs of Praise**. Hopefully it will include your favourite Christmas Carol. Thereafter we'll have mince pies and shortbread with our tea/coffee in the Old Hall.

Regal - December Meeting

Christmas is coming round again - it seems to arrive more quickly every year and now, it is less than a month away. Every year Regal enters into the Christmas spirit and 2016 will be no different.

This year David Graham, our minister, is going to lead our festivities with a medley of Christmas songs. He proposes to guide us on a tour of Christmas carols - both old and new - from various parts of the world. Robert Burgon will be providing the music.



At our November meeting we had a most interesting and stimulating talk from Keith Stewart, QC. There was a record attendance of some 30 people and consequently we had donations totalling £135.

At the meeting I asked for suggestions on the charities which should benefit from our donations. The suggestions were North Berwick Beach Wheelchairs, The North Berwick Volunteer Car Scheme, The North Berwick Day Centre and North Berwick in Bloom. It is anticipated that we will be in the position to give each of these four charities £130.

After the meeting we sit down to a soup and sandwich lunch prepared by the ladies of Abbey Church. Our meetings are open to all ladies and gentlemen of North Berwick and the surrounding villages..

David's musical talents will prove to be a most enjoyable introduction to the Christmas festivities of North Berwick. Please come along, meet friends and join in the Christmas festivities - the more the merrier and the heartier the singing.

I look forward to seeing you on Thursday, 8th December at 12 noon.

Ian M Aitken

Regal - January 2017



As there is no issue in January of Abbey News I thought I should give you advance notice of Regal's meeting on Thursday, 12 January.

Howard Andrew is one of the few people who have climbed all the Munros in Scotland. At our meeting Howard will describe to us the challenges, risks and dangers involved in climbing some of the more dangerous mountains. This is bound to be a very exciting and heart stopping talk illuminated with photographs.

Consequently, please make a note in your new 2017 diary of the date - Thursday, 12th January 2017 at 12 noon.

Ian M Aitken

Hadley Court Christmas Concert

Hadley Court Singers are giving a Christmas Carol concert in Abbey Church on Saturday 10th December commencing at 7:30 PM.



Do get yourself into the Christmas Spirit by coming along to hear beautiful carols, both old and new!

Tickets from Clare Aitken or at the door.

KALIMPONG

I have just returned from Kalimpong. It was my fourth visit so I know the leaders of our twinned congregation quite well; despite this they always surprise me.



The purpose of my visit was to be at the service to mark the 125th Anniversary of the Macfarlane Memorial Church. There are two congregations in Kalimpong, now sharing the church building. The Pastorate with whom we are twinned and are part of the Church of North India, and the other a continuing Presbyterian congregation who are part of a break away twenty five years ago. The service on 1 November was a joint service with the two congregations worshipping together for only the second time. The surprise was that the breakaways are the larger congregation.

The service was memorable and I considered it an honour to be present. The Church was full with others standing outside, it was conducted entirely in Nepali, other than my contribution (I had an interpreter). The service was led by the senior minister from the Presbyterian congregation and Pastor Samuel, who preached at Dirleton on their 400th Anniversary, gave the sermon. I was unable to understand much of what was said, over two hours, but the depth of feeling was clear. The reaction to the message from the Moderator of The General Assembly, which I was asked to read out, was surprising. The elders of the Presbyterian side all thanked me for bringing the message. I was also asked to read the message from our minister on behalf of our linked congregations.

The other major event in my program was a visit to Nimbong School. I was most impressed with the progress they have made since they opened less than two years ago. I attended a major assembly and they insisted that I meet with parents and staff .

Each of these events would justify a much more detailed report and I may write one. The present intention is to have an evening meeting on Sunday 4th December at 7.30 to describe them to those who have visited Kalimpong and to others who are interested.

Ronald Ironside

Abbey Church
Prayer for December/January



Dear Friends in Christ,

LOVE came down at Christmas— Jesus' birthday. What a glorious day. Wouldn't it be wonderful if people, young and old, all over the world, would recognise this? Let's pray.

Dear Lord,

Thank you for offering, to all people, forgiveness of sins, pardoning all and salvation to those accepting Jesus into their hearts. How wonderful that would be. Help us to spread this news all over the world. Let more and more folk recognise the true meaning of Christmas. Yes, we all enjoy the Christmas cards and gifts and excitement, no matter what age we are. Wouldn't it be great if our lives centred on Jesus who sacrificed his life—that we—yes, you and I, might be saved? Praise and Glory be to You Lord.

Next year Father, it would be wonderful if peace came to all—worldwide. Forgive us God that there is so much hatred keeping wars going in so many countries. Children grow up never knowing true peace and love. We hope and trust that leaders' hearts will change, allowing peace and love to spread all over the world.

May many people open their hearts to Jesus. What a change there would be. We pray this will happen. In Jesus' precious name.

Betty Hawthorn (Prayer Secretary)

May God bless you and yours this Christmas and in the New Year.

Church Register

Funerals

27th October David Salisbury, Ben Sayers Park
3rd November Tom McGregor, Tantallon Terrace

Jesus said 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'

Flower List

	Donor	Arranger
4th Dec	Mrs Dorothy Kirkpatrick	Dorothy Kirkpatrick
11th Dec	Dr J Walinck	Jean Walinck
8th Jan	Mrs Sadie Young)	Margaret Ann Crawford +
15th Jan	Mrs E Crowe &) Mrs A McCulloch)	Jeanette Calloway
22nd Jan	Abbey Home)	-do-
29th Jan	Mrs Sally Penman)	



Abbey Church Morning Tea Rota

4th Dec	Ann Bell	Richard Bell
11th Dec	Sadie Young	Liz Harrison
18th Dec	Eileen McColl	Morna McClure
8th Jan	Catherine Andrew	Isabel Smith
15th Jan	Sarah Kerr	
22nd Jan	Fiona Gibson	Isobel Hardie
29th Jan	Dorothy Kirkpatrick	Mary Graham



Abbey Church Creche Duty

4th Dec	Mandy Vance	Dorothy Kirkpatrick
11th Dec	Sadie Young	Sue Paterson
18th Dec	Sarah Kerr	Carol Stobie
8th Jan	Ann Bell	Rose Leslie
15th Jan	Joan Lunn	Catriana Spencer
22nd Jan	Mgt. Lawson	Janet Cobb

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Abbey Church, North Berwick (Church of Scotland)
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