

### Abbey Church Morning Tea Rota

7th May	Eileen Mccoll	Morna McClure
14th May	Fiona Gibson	Isobel Hardie
21st May	Dorothy Kirkpatrick	Mary Graham
28th May	Sheila McCubbing	Irene Nichol

### Flower List

	<u>Donor</u>	<u>Arranger</u>	
7th May	Mrs C Hill		
	Mrs M Maclean	Margaret Mac-	
14th May	Mrs E Harrison	Dorothy Kirkpatrick	
		Sadie Young	
21st May	Mrs M Robertson	- do -	
26th May	Mrs S Burgon	- do—	

### Abbey Church Crèche Duty

7th May	Sarah Kerr	Carol Stobie
14th May	Ann Bell	Rose Leslie
21st May	Joan Lunn	Caitriana Spencer
28th May	Mgt Lawson	Janice Cobb

If anyone would be willing to go on crèche duty please contact Dorothy Kirkpatrick

Abbeychurch.org.uk  
Like us on Facebook: Abbey & Dirleton  
And Twitter:DirletonAbbey

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



## **Abbey Church News May 2017**

Abbey Church,  
116 High Street, (at Church Road)  
North Berwick EH39 4HE

Church Office: open Tuesday, Thursday  
and Friday mornings  
[abbeychurch@btconnect.com](mailto:abbeychurch@btconnect.com)

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

Pastoral Assistant: Bob Kane

**Sunday Worship at 10.30am.  
(Until 11.30)**

**Come along. All welcome.**

Dear Friends,

The latest survey of Church attendance in Scotland has been published. It shows some interesting trends:

Most church-goers attend on a weekly basis, almost half of them attending the same Church for over 20 years, and more people are attending services during the week.

The rate of decline in attendance has slowed significantly, partly due to immigrants and the growth of Pentecostal churches. Some denominations and areas have even seen encouraging signs of growth.

Almost twice the number of people attend church as go to the cinema.

In a secular and consumer culture, the Church has to compete for people's time and loyalty. Sundays offer so many other things to do, and getting continuity in attendance is not easy. However, the Church is also developing new initiatives:

Pioneer Ministries working in areas such as farming communities, the arts, student groups, the inner-city and new housing developments (the last of these initiatives is in East Lothian).

The 'Path of Renewal' initiative, with 40 congregations engaging with today's world in new ways.

This survey was published at Easter, a very timely reminder that the Church is not about statistics, but a person- risen, real, and alive. The future is bright, the future is Christ-shaped.

Please pray for Robert Burgon, Gregor Penman, Keith Stewart and myself at the General Assembly this month.

Your Minister,  
David



## Prayers for May

Dear Friends in Christ,

Let's hope the month of May brings sunshine into our lives and joy into our hearts. Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,

The celebrations are over—don't let the reason for celebrating Easter leave our hearts. Never let us forget that Jesus suffered so much that we sinners might be saved. Thank You.

Bless Dr. Graham and Mr Bob Kane and their loved ones, and encourage them in all they do in your name. Bless the young and young at heart, belonging to Abbey Church and Dirlerton Kirk. Please keep our young ones safe from all that would harm them. We trust the money raised through 'World Mission Fund Day' will be put to good use. During April/May many people raise funds for Christian Aid Week. Bless their efforts Lord, and may many good people respond making lots of monies for all those in need. Father, many people are crying out for help because of dreadful wars, famine, lack of clean water, medical aid and homes. Guide us Lord on how to use the funds raised in the most suitable ways. Bless those working in far off lands and keep them safe. Thank You.

Father, we are so blessed in knowing you, and wish many others worldwide would be willing to get to know You. What a different world it would be.

Bless the sick and all who care for them. Uplift the lonely and downhearted. May they be aware of your presence. Draw near to those mourning and comfort them. We ask these things in Jesus' precious Name. Amen

Betty Hawthorn (Prayer Secretary)

May the month of May help enable you to reach out to others.



### John's Story

*Tim, one of the Bethany volunteers, was asked to spend some time talking with John Rodgers, former Director of Operations and now Director of Income Generation. He has been part of the Bethany story for 30 years. Extracts from his report follow*

On the wall in John's office are the words from John 13 which speaks about Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. Washing the feet of those who society may deem less worthy is a theme that runs powerfully through John's life.

John still remembers sleeping rough in Princes Street Gardens in Edinburgh with just two bags of possessions. He says 'no-one should have to sleep rough.'

His journey began at Bethany Christian Centre in 1987 and he recalls the compassion shown to him as he fought addiction. He in turn, is now dedicated to helping others who have fallen on hard times. As he says 'Losing a job, relationship breakdown, defaulting on a mortgage—homelessness is now a six week away reality for too many.'

Giving hope to those who feel hopeless remains the fundamental commitment of Bethany Christian trust and John is a walking testimony to that commitment.

### Can you help at North Berwick Day Centre

Volunteers are urgently needed. There are lots of ways to volunteer from helping serve teas and coffees to the really important role of chatting with our members.

Volunteers also play an important part in assisting people to and from their own front door, and on and off the bus.

Every volunteer makes a real difference to our members' lives. Whatever your experience or skills, if you are interested in volunteering on a regular or an occasional basis please contact the Day Centre by phone, (890906) the website or e-mail [info@nbdaycentre.org.uk](mailto:info@nbdaycentre.org.uk) or just pop in to find out more.

### Church Services This Month

May 7th	'Believe and be baptised' 6pm Communion Services
May 14th	'Live in harmony' Ordination of elders
May 21st	Guest preacher Rev Jan Gillies (General Assembly Sunday)
May 28th	'One in Christ'

### 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

### Stamps

Crossreach have sent a card thanking all at Abbey Church for the '**Huge Stamp donation**' We sent over 10 kilos. Crossreach say this will 'raise funds to really impact vulnerable people around Scotland'

### Newsletter Deadline

Please submit any articles/information for the June issue by Tuesday 17th May. Thank you.

## Regal - Summer Outing

How do you like your water- still, sparkling or brown with some froth on top?

To find the answer I have arranged for Regal's summer outing to be a private tour of Belhaven Brewery, Dunbar on Thursday, 8th June.

Belhaven - or "Beautiful harbour" - nestles among the rolling barley fields of the beautiful East Lothian coast. For nearly 300 years, they have brewed in the same location using only the finest local barley and hops.

The brewery was established in 1719. It is Scotland's oldest working brewery. With abundant local barley, fine water from the brewery well and access to markets up and down the coast, Belhaven was and, still is, the perfect place for a brewery. Now it also makes many craft beers.



### ***Bottling Plant in a Brewery***

Our tour will start at 10.00 am and last approximately one and a half hours. We are being given a special concession rate of £5 per person and this includes sampling many of their beers at the end of the tour - so if you wish to sample some of the beers, please arrange a lift with someone who is TT.

After the tour we will adjourn to a local hostelry for lunch ((this has still to be arranged).

I will provide further and fuller details nearer the time.

*Ian Aitken*

and takes them to the venue but on several occasions they were queuing up outside so this wasn't necessary.

A team of 6 goes up 4 ladies and 2 men. This year we had several new helpers which was nice so that was 30 people involved. Also others were willing but not required. We leave about 6.00pm and are not back until almost midnight. We cook from scratch for health and hygiene reasons, usually mince and potatoes, vegetables, vegetarian pasta, puddings, yoghurt, fresh fruit, tea/coffee, biscuits and sweeties. We also leave food for breakfast as everyone has to leave by 7.30am to go back out onto the streets.

Before Christmas we took up 60 gift bags with new socks, hats etc. toiletries and sweeties. Also warm clothing, sleeping bags and blankets in good condition. These are very much appreciated so many thanks to everyone for their generous donations. A big thank you also to those who quietly give money each time, everyone who volunteers and Anderson the butcher who generously donate the mince.

Please pray for the unfortunate people who would be sleeping rough if it was not for the Care Shelter and Bethany staff who do such a wonderful job.

### Super Sunday Club

Everyone is talking about all the new houses being built and now occupied in and around North Berwick. By all accounts, the restaurants are getting busier by the minute! Wouldn't it be great if Abbey Church could say the same? The Super Sunday Club would love to have lots of the new children coming along - but **what can you do to help?**

It would be great if you would pick up a couple of the leaflets from around the Church and give them to anyone with children who has recently moved to our area. A smiling personal approach is always better....and coupled with prayer..... who knows what may happen!

Hope you will give it a try!



### 2017 North Berwick and District Association of Churches Community Award

Janet Anderson is the winner of this year's Community Award. The presentation was made at the Holy Week service at St Andrew Blackadder on Tuesday 11th April.

Chairman of the Panel, Michael Black, paid tribute to Janet not only for her music but also for her kindness and generosity of spirit that she gives so willingly to all she does. From Gullane Church she does an incredible job running the senior choir providing lovely anthems and concerts that have done so much to raise funds for Gullane Village Hall, Aberlady Church Tower, Bethany Trust and many other worthwhile causes. Janet also runs the junior choir where the village children learn about music as well as spiritual and moral welfare. Last year a performance of David and Goliath by twelve children raised funds for the Day Centre.

The village also benefited from two pantomimes put on by Janet as well as a production of Joseph and his Technicolor Dreamcoat involving sixty-five children and a host of other volunteers. Janet has also just stepped down from running the Church Sunday Club for the last six years.

In conclusion Michael said that Janet had a gift that she shared with great humility for the benefit of others and quoting from her nomination said 'Janet enriches the lives of so many people, our community would not be the same without her'.

The Reverend Neil Dougal from St Andrew Blackadder presented Janet with an engraved Rose Bowl.

**Easter at Abbey**  
*They said it with flowers*



**CHRISTIAN AID WEEK**

**14 -20 MAY 2017**

**SUNDAY, 14 MAY** United Service Our Lady Star of the Sea, at 6.00 pm. Everyone Welcome.

**TUESDAY, 16 MAY** Cheese and Wine Our Lady Star of the Sea Hall at 7.00 pm. All welcome. £6 Tickets or pay at the door 07967 973 627

**WEDNESDAY 17 MAY** Coffee Morning in Dirleton Church Hall 10.30am-12 noon a Bring a friend and enjoy some lovely home baking. £3 per person or 50p per child

**FRIDAY, 19 MAY** Quiz Night in Hope Rooms at 7.30 pm. £5 per head ; £20 per table To book a table telephone Patsy at 01620850562

**SATURDAY, 20 MAY** Coffee Morning in Hope Rooms, 10-12 noon. Baking, Bric-a-Brac and Raffle. Display of Children's Art Work. £2.50 per person

**Abbey Guild Summer Outing on 7th June/17**

The last day for booking your place on this outing is **SUNDAY 7th MAY**. We are going to **BIGGAR** to see 'SINBAD THE SAILOR' at **PURVES PUPPET THEATRE**. Leaving Abbey Church in cars at 10.30am, we aim to arrive at the theatre by 12.15 for lunch followed at 1.30pm by the Puppet Show. The total cost for lunch, gratuity and show is £20.

All interested please inform Liz Harrison or Irene Brodie **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE**.

As usual, **ALL WILL BE VERY WELCOME**

**Bethany**

This year Abbey, with help from Dirleton and other churches catered on 5 occasions for the Bethany Care Shelter in various church venues in Edinburgh. Sadly the numbers have increased again this year and we were asked to supply meals for 50. The average number was 47 (many from Eastern Europe) with meals also being taken to people outside. Usually a bus collects people