



Abbey Church News **July/August 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 (Until 11.30)**

Come along. All welcome.

Dear Friends,

Last month, the General Assembly issued a national call to prayer. For many people, this was the highlight of the week - a spiritual challenge. It was in these terms:



"The General Assembly issue a call to the Church of Scotland to pray that God will do a fresh work among us as God's people and instruct Presbyteries and Kirk Sessions to consider how best to respond to this call"

After recent elections and the referenda, the Church has also joined with partner churches—Baptist Union, the Methodist Church and the United Reformed Church— to issue this prayer:

Lord of all

Amid the uncertainty of these results

We thank you for the democracy we have in this country.

We ask that you grant all those who have been elected the wisdom and compassion needed to govern.

May this become a society in which all people are enabled to flourish and live life in all its fullness.

Help us to play our part in building that society,

By holding those elected to account and by working with them towards the common good.

And Lord, today as always we pray for justice;

Justice in the here and now and justice in our shared future-Oceans of justice.

Amen

I invite you to join with the national church in this call to prayer for our nation and our church.

Your Minister,
David

Super Sunday Club

Super Sunday Club officially stops for the school holidays and our prize giving on 25th June will be our last meeting until 20th August. However, if your children come along to Church any Sunday in between, there will be craft materials available for them to use during the service.

An exciting BBQ is planned for Saturday 1 July for all children,

parents and leaders to end our session. If you have not already put your name down, please contact me for details. Great food, great games and great company - don't miss it!

Eileen McColl

Pastoral Visits

The Minister and Pastoral Assistant are happy to visit church members who are in ill, either at home or in hospital. If in hospital, please also pass on the ward number, as this is not available to Ministers. This information should be given to the Minister (890800) or via the Church Office (892800). Thank you.

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit any articles/information for the September newsletter by Tuesday 15th August

Regal - Our Summer Outing

This year our summer outing took us to Belhaven Brewery in Dunbar. Although we were a small group in number we had a very enjoyable time together. Fortunately our trip to the brewery was an indoor event and we did not suffer from the dreadful rain.

Our tour guide, Tom, was a fount of knowledge and he started off by explaining that beer has been brewed on the same site for the past 298 years. Belhaven Brewery was owned and run by the same family for the first 250 years. The Belhaven beers and lagers are world famous and are exported to Australia, New Zealand, Russia, Canada and the USA as well as all the European countries.



A happy group in the Belhaven hospitality room

At the end of the tour we were taken to the hospitality room where we were invited to sample any of their brews. Unfortunately our drivers were restricted to Coca Cola! Afterwards we adjourned to the Pine Marten restaurant for a most enjoyable lunch.

Ian M Aitken

Christian Aid Week

14th to 21st May this year saw a week of frantic activity as once again North Berwick rose to the task of fundraising for Christian Aid. This was the 60th anniversary of Christian Aid week - first launched in 1957- and the theme this year was in support of refugees.

The North Berwick Christian Aid committee is delighted to announce the draft total for sums raised for Christian Aid week 2017 is £10684. To the many willing helpers and contributors, our grateful thanks for once again doing what you do so well and with such grace and humour.

Creche Duty

| | | |
|-------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 2nd July | Joan Lunn | Catriana Spencer |
| 9th July | Mgt. Lawson | Janice Cobb |
| 16th July | Mandy Vance | Dorothy Kirkpatrick |
| 30th July | Sarah Kerr | Carol Stobie |
| 6th August | Ann Bell | Rose Leslie |
| 13th August | Joan Lunn | Catriana Spencer |
| 20th August | Mgt. Lawson | Janice Cobb |

Several have retired from the crèche rota and we could do with some more helpers. It is only every 6 weeks or so and if there are no babies or younger children just stay in Church as usual. If willing to help, please speak to Dorothy or tel. 89 2074 or e-mail dorothyk43@me.com

General Assembly, May 2017 - a summary

The Assembly met with Rev Derek Browning as the new Moderator, and HRH Princess Anne the Princess Royal as Her Majesty's Lord High Commissioner.

The **Scottish Bible Society** launched a series of BibleWorld books to be used in schools in place of the mobile exhibition which had been withdrawn after many years.

The **Council of Assembly** issued a Call to Prayer to the whole Church. It also reported on the fall in congregational income, which will continue over future years. Serious financial challenges need to be faced by the Kirk.

The **World Mission Council** gave its report, leaning heavily on the central theme of women in Ministry.

A Joint Report on the **Balfour Declaration** Centenary, to consider how to mark the promise by HM Government to support a Jewish homeland in Palestine, led to lively debate.

The **Social Care Council** reported financial pressures, and changes being made regarding the occupational requirement for all staff to have a Christian faith.

The **Panel on Review & Reform** reminded us that even if we could recruit an extra 200 ministers to plug the current shortage, we would not be able to pay for them.

The **Church and Society Council** reported on the Manchester bombing, reflecting on how our Muslim friends will be feeling and encouraged us to extend the hand of friendship to them. Other topics for discussion were EU nationals under Brexit, UK nationals living in the EU, and Refugees and Asylum Seekers.

The **Guild** celebrated 130 years. A Joint Report with the **National Youth Assembly** spoke of good inter-generational work and gave a challenge to the Church, reflecting on the missing generations between Youth and Senior members.

The **Iona Community Board** made a call for support for refurbishment work at Iona Abbey and the Macleod Centre.

The **Ecumenical Relations Committee** began with marking the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation, reminding us of the motto: *ecclesia reformata, semper reformanda*, a reformed Church always being reformed.

The **Ministries Council** promised legislation for 'Hub-style' Ministry. The new Ascend support and education programme and website for Ministries was launched. There were pleas for the Church to grapple with the crisis of the shortage of Ministers. The centrality of preaching in the Church was affirmed, as was the need for greater 'resilience' among ministers and congregations. Ministerial deployment and Presbytery Planning are likely to be the most critical issues from this Assembly.

The work of **Forces Chaplains** is greatly valued, but there is a serious shortage of Church of Scotland Chaplains in the services.

The **Mission & Discipleship Council** reported that while the overall picture was one of decline, there were still people discovering faith and growing in faith all over the Church. This tied in with a new Sharing Faith resource. The theory and practice of children taking communion is to be examined afresh. The National Youth Assembly is to have a major review of its work and future.

The report of the **National Youth Assembly** had some discussion of Gender Justice and Mental Health issues.

The **Theological Forum** is to consider what might need to be addressed in any new legislation for ministers to perform same-sex marriages. The Ecumenical Relations Committee is also to invite comment on this from our ecumenical partners in other denominations. The Forum was urged to do more work on reconciliation on this issue in the Church of Scotland and beyond

.General Assembly summary contd.

The Assembly had some high points and encouraging moments. Yet it also illustrated divisions within the Kirk on some issues, not least theology and sexuality. And the Kirk faces huge challenges on buildings, finance and ministries. The Call to Prayer issued at the start of the week was even more necessary by the end of it.

We were well represented this year by the Minister, Keith Stewart, Robert Burgon and Gregor Penman. If you'd like to know more, please ask any of them.

MUSICAL MEMORIES OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY 2017

Although I had heard from others that the music at the General Assembly was "special", it wasn't until I attended on Saturday 20 May 2017 as a first-time Commissioner that I appreciated exactly how special it was to join with around 800 other voices in singing God's praises.

Every morning started with a service of worship and the daily papers helpfully included the melody of each item of praise (which assisted with the less familiar items). Led by a precentor (with organ accompaniment usually for the final item of praise each day), the Assembly Hall resounded time and time again. Metrical psalms and Scottish paraphrases were in evidence each day although there were also more modern hymns and worship songs. During Communion on the Monday morning (which was attended by the Princess Royal), we sang Psalm 24 verses 7-10, better known as "Ye gates, lift up your heads on high", and I suspect that this has been a feature of Assembly Communion for many years.

Heart and Soul Swing Band Service - Sunday 13th
August 6pm - 7pm

After the success of last year's Swing Band Service, we are delighted that the Swing Band have agreed to make a return visit to Abbey Church this summer. Last year, £1,235 was raised for the Church of Scotland HIV programme with the collection at the service. Put the date in your diary now and come along early on the night to be sure of a seat. Bring your friends.

Tuesday evening saw the Assembly Hall packed with members of the Guild and some Commissioners for "The Guild Big Sing" and we sang items which had topped a poll of Guild members (all familiar to us in Abbey).

My only previous experience of the General Assembly was a couple of years when I attended the Friday morning session to hear the report of the Church of Scotland Investors Trust (of which I am a trustee). I bumped into former Abbey elder Brian Porteous that morning (when he was attending his first Assembly) and had noted that he sang with the Assembly Choir (which consisted of volunteer Commissioners and a few staff from 121 George Street). This prompted me to respond to the invitation to join this year's choir, which rehearsed at the lunch breaks on Wednesday and Thursday and then once again before the service started on Friday morning. It was great to see Gregor Penman (who was attending as the Presbytery of Lothian's youth representative) in the choir (and I believe he was probably the youngest singer there). We were conducted by Rev Colin Renwick, Minister of Dunblane Cathedral and we sang a modern setting of "There is a Balm in Gilead" by Lloyd Larson. Feedback suggests that it went down quite well.

In addition to the singing, I met several people involved in music in their churches (including an organist from Shetland and an Aberdeenshire Minister who sometimes plays when his church is without an organist).

I have many happy memories of General Assembly 2017 but my musical memories are amongst the best.

Robert Burgon

ABBAY CHURCH, HIGH ST. NORTH BERWICK
SUNDAY 13th AUGUST 6pm - 7pm
Come along for some foot tapping
Worship

Heart Soul swing band



Free entry. Collection will be taken for the Church of Scotland HIV programme.
Kindly sponsored by Soho Youth.

Kirk Session News

The Kirk Session is delighted to have two new elders: Linda Scott and Yolanda Strachan. Both have been active in our congregation over the last few years in different ways: on door duty, attending Bible Study, organising the Guild, helping with Christian Aid, as well as being regular attenders at Sunday morning worship. Having new elders means that we will be reviewing our elders' districts to make sure that those who want to have visits from an elder continue to do so. I know that many of you are happy to receive church news and support in other ways. We will let you know after the summer whether your Church Elder has changed.

We are looking forward to the improvements to our Old Hall, including removing the stage and partitioning the Gallery so that it can be used as an independent room, as well as adding an extra meeting room at the side.

The Kirk Session has also been looking at how we manage while Robert and Sheila Burgon are away in London for a year, including investigating digital organ accompaniments, as used by other churches.

Our other main item of news is that Joyce Strachan is retiring after over 18 years as Church Administrator. Many of us can't remember a time when Joyce wasn't the main point of contact for the Church Office and it will be a big change for us all. The role of the Administrator has grown and we are looking for someone to fill that role. Please pray for your Kirk Session, that in all these changes we are guided by the Holy Spirit and that we continue to flourish as a congregation.

Sally Penman

VACANCY
CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

We are looking for someone to run the Church Office on behalf of Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk. The job is for 12 hours a week, days to be negotiated but at least 3 days a week. You need to have good planning and organising skills so that you can manage Hall Bookings; good interpersonal skills so that you can handle enquiries about church activities; be skilled in IT, so that you can work with various applications, including documents such as newsletters, as well as being willing to learn new skills such as website administration. You need to be ready to use your own initiative and be ready for the unexpected.

If you are interested in applying please contact Sally Penman for a Job Description.

ADVANCE NOTICE- SAVE THOSE OLD POUND
COINS

Harvest Thanksgiving will be celebrated on Sunday 1 October 2017 and once again members of the congregation will be invited to save coins in the weeks leading up to that service to support a charitable cause.

While coins (or notes) of any denomination will be appreciated, this year's service takes place only two weeks before the old-style pound coins cease to be legal tender. We would be particularly pleased to receive donations of old style pound coins to support this year's Harvest Appeal, further details of which will be announced in August.

GUILD SUMMER OUTING TO BIGGAR on
WEDNESDAY 7th JUNE 2017



Nineteen of us were very fortunate to be able to travel to Biggar in dry, fine weather - able to admire the countryside at it's best. On arrival around 12noon we were warmly welcomed by Ian Purves who directed us through an attractive garden and picnic area to his conservatory restaurant which is attached to Biggar Puppet Theatre. Once we had stopped admiring the many small puppets on view, we were served very tasty soup, sandwiches, cakes and tea/coffee. Jill Purves then took those interested to see her recently constructed Japanese Garden.

At 1.30pm it was time for the puppet show!! The theatre itself is a converted Victorian coach house, designed by Ian in 1985 to give the feel of a Victorian toy theatre. The company is very up-to-date, however, and now include special animated effects to bring their spectacular shows to life and all puppets, scenery and scripts are made by the Purves Team.

Our show was called 'Sinbad the Sailor' with background music of Rimsky-Korsakov's Scheherazade which was very effective. Although some of us were secretly unsure that we would enjoy the experience I think all were amazed at how professional it was. Several are planning to return with grandchildren to see a children's show in the near future.

We all thoroughly enjoyed our 'day out'.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

As you may remember, St Andrew Blackadder Guild members organised a joint meeting for the **streaming of The Annual Guild Gathering from Dundee**. This year Abbey Guild members will be hosting it in Abbey Church Sanctuary.

This joint meeting will take place on **Saturday 2nd September** and there will be further information in the August intimations.

SUMMER AFTERNOON TEAS -2017

We will once again be serving summer afternoon teas from 2.30pm - 4.30pm on Sundays in July in the New Hall. Help is needed and anyone willing to organise a Sunday, assist with serving, washing dishes, collecting money, setting up and clearing up (especially men) and of course baking would be very much appreciated and welcomed. Please contact Dorothy Kirkpatrick telephone 89 2074, e-mail - dorothyk43@me.com Please, please come along and support us and enjoy delicious home baking. We look forward to seeing you. As in previous years, St. Baldred's Church will be using the hall for their summer teas in August. Again this year the money raised will be given to local and church charities. **Help Still needed.**

Abbey Church Morning Tea Rota

| | | |
|-------------|------------------|---------------------|
| 2nd July | Morna McClure | Eileen McColl |
| 9th July | Isobel Hardie | Fiona Gibson |
| 16th July | Mary Graham | Dorothy Kirkpatrick |
| 23rd July | Irene Nichol | Sheila McCubbing |
| 30th July | Ann Bell | Richard Bell |
| 6th August | Catherine Andrew | Irene Brodie |
| 13th August | Sadie Young | Liz Harrison |
| 20th August | Sarah Kerr | Isabel Smith |
| 27th August | Eileen McColl | Morna McClure |



Abbey Church



Praying Across North Berwick, July and August

Dear Friends in Christ,
What a pleasure it is, waking up each day, rain or shine, and see the beauty all around. How fortunate we are. Let us pray.

Dear Lord,
Words cannot express the gratitude we feel, to be living as we are. Help us to show you, by living our lives, as you would have us. Thank you Lord. Thank you too, for the measure of health, give to each one of us.

Bless Dr Graham and Mr Bob Kane and their families. Bless too all members and friends, young and old, of Abbey and Dirleton Churches. We pray that all who attended the General Assembly have come home with revived spirits, happy to pass on to us what they gained at the Assembly

We pray again Lord, that peace will come to your people, all over the world. Please God, let good overcome evil. We pray for all who were caught up in Manchester and London, in the atrocities. Bless all those injured—those killed and their loved ones.

Lord, when the school holidays arrive please let our children take great care when they are out 'exploring'. Don't let them be foolish and take risks, when they know they shouldn't. Help those who are ill, and care for all who watch over them. Uplift those who are downhearted and draw near to the lonely. Thank You.

In the name of Jesus our Saviour. Amen.

Betty Hawthorn (Prayer Secretary)

Should the weather be miserable in the coming weeks—don't let it affect us—Keep Smiling.

Church Register

Blessing

11th June Juliette Thomson, Dundas Avenue

Funerals

Betty Henry, Cirencester (previously Law Road)

2nd June James Penman, Abbey Home (previously
Sainthill Court)

13th June Betty Small, Fidra House (previously Abbey
Court)

Jesus said 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'

Flower List

| Date | Donor | Arranger |
|----------------------------|--------------------|--|
| 2nd July son dry | Mrs D Guy | Morag Robert- Katriona Hen- Nancy Chisholm |
| 9th July | Mrs S Cowan | - do - |
| 16th July | Miss J Raeburn | - do - |
| 23rd July | Mrs N Chisholm | - do - |
| 30th July | Miss C Watt | - do - |
| 6th August | Jennifer Gilchrist | Elma Danks |
| 13th August | Mrs M Stewart | Elma Danks Violet Lamont |
| 20th August | Mrs F Hutchison | Mrs F Hutchison |
| 27th August | Miss D Danks | Elma Danks Violet Lamont |



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

