



**Come and Join Us
this Christmas
at Abbey Church, North Berwick
and Dirleton Kirk**

Dear Dirleton & Abbey Friends,

We're living in times of uncertainty. A General Election has been announced, and by the time you read this, we may have a new government. Our links with Europe may depend on the result. Who knows what the future holds?

The time of Jesus' birth was also a time of uncertainty, and great unrest. Israel was governed by Rome, albeit with their own puppet king, Herod. Some accepted this, others wanted their independence again, by any means possible. Jesus wasn't uncritical of corrupt leaders, but he came to show a different way. Not the Kingdom of Herod, nor of Rome, but the Kingdom of God, where He reigns supreme in our hearts, lives, and world.

The manner of Jesus' birth spoke volumes about that: not in a palace but a shed; not of noble birth but from humble origins; not with princes but with shepherds. Yet the signs were there to see: descended from King David, announced by angels, and worshipped by kings. The uncertainties of world politics were eclipsed by the promise of a saviour.

In all the change and chance of world events, the reign of God is the one thing which never changes. And it all started with a baby in a manger.

Have a happy and blessed Christmas.
Your minister,
David



**Abbey Church
and
Dirleton Kirk News
October/November 2019**

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

**Sunday Morning Worship
at**

**9.30 am (until 10.20)
Dirleton Kirk**

**10.30am (Until 11.30)
Abbey Church**

**Come along. All welcome.
Wednesdays 10am**

**Half Hour Prayer Service
Dirleton**

The Revd Milton Cashman: an appreciation.

The dearly loved former Minister of Dirleton and Abbey died on 29th October, aged 86.

Born in Ireland and educated at Trinity College, Dublin, his first career was in industry in England, India, then in Galashiels. A call to the Ministry in his 40's led him to train at New College.

In 1985 he came as Minister of Abbey, and in due time also of Dirleton which was in deferred linkage. He ministered here until 1998.

Milton and Margaret were very much a team ministry, which included their preaching, pastoral care and hospitality. The Guild, and overseas mission, were also very close to their hearts.

Milton's great passion was for the gospel, and his life was lived for that. He laid a good foundation for the work which has followed in our parishes, because in St Paul's words 'No-one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ' (1st Corinthians 3:11).

An uplifting service of thanksgiving for his life was held in Galashiels, attended by a large congregation of people from far and near.

Our thanks for his life and ministry, and our prayers, are with Margaret, their sons and family.

WALT - Women Are Learning Together

A big thank you to everyone who has supported WALT since it started. It has been a great privilege to study a selection of interesting biblical Old Testament women together.

Our final date for 2019 is **Monday 9th December** where we will have a short study on "**Mary**" followed by time to chat together and enjoy some Christmas eats.

To start our 2020 studies we will meet on the following dates and look at Courageous Women in the New Testament:-

20th January - Anna, Luke 2:21-38

3rd February - The Samaritan Woman, John 4:1-42

17th February - Lydia, Acts 16:11-40

Tea and coffee are available from 2:00. Our study starts at 2:15 and finishes by 3:15.

Please feel free to join us at any time so that we can grow together and encourage each other in our faith.

Sheila Burgon



Explore Life Faith Meaning

Abbey Church is running an Alpha course starting on Sunday 12th January at 6pm in the church hall. We would particularly like to invite people who have never done Alpha before. Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. It is equally suitable for those of some faith and those of none and with no church background.

Alpha takes place across a series of sessions with a Saturday in the middle. Each session includes a light supper, a short film and a discussion at the end where you can share your thoughts. If at any point you decide Alpha isn't for you, that's not a problem. There's no pressure and no follow up. If you have never been to an Alpha course - come. If you know of someone who might be interested but doesn't come to church, why not suggest they come? This course is a new updated version. Please could you register with the church office if you are coming, for catering purposes.

COURSE DATES - 12th January - 22nd March
Sunday evenings, 6.00 - 8.15 pm

DURATION - 11 weeks

COST - Free (donation towards food)



Blythswood Christmas Shoebox Appeal

At the end of October Blythswood Care collected 125 filled shoeboxes and £156 in cash, in lieu of a filled box

A special thank you to all the 'box-fillers' from Abbey and Dirleton Churches and to everyone who helped in many ways to make it possible to give so many underprivileged children and adults a special gift, knowing that people care.

Abbey Church mugs will be available for sale before Christmas, £6 each. Please see Isabel Smith for more details



ORIGIN SCOTLAND PRESENTS

Christmas

WITH

J. JOHN

IN ASSOCIATION WITH TEARFUND

**AN EVENING OF CAROLS
AND CHRISTMAS MUSIC
WITH
ORIGIN SCOTLAND
& FRIENDS**

**7.30PM SAT 07 DEC
USHER HALL EDINBURGH**

**FREE
TICKETS**

**FROM 0131 541 0117 OR ONLINE AT
WWW.ORIGINSCOTLAND.ORG**

tearfund



Origin Scotland are offering us a wonderful opportunity to engage the communities around our churches by inviting us along to a fantastic carol concert at the Usher Hall with a world class speaker.

The event will be a **carol service**, with **Christmas music** performed by the **Origin band, singers and orchestra**, and we will have a short presentation from **Tearfund** as well, emphasising our need to care for those less fortunate in the world.



"We encourage you to grab this opportunity with both hands, and hope and pray it will be a blessing to your congregation and help you reach your community for Christ. "

Yours in the Lord Jesus,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Colin Peckham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Colin Peckham
Ministry Leader
on behalf of the team at Origin Scotland

Bubblegum & Fluff

On Monday 9th December, we are running workshops for primary 5 pupils at Law Primary about the first Christmas. The premise is that if you drop your bubblegum under your bed and you find it months later covered in fluff (as you do!), the original flavour is still there under the fluff. Its the same with Christmas. We may have added on lots of traditions, but underneath it all the real flavour of Jesus is still there. Its a great opportunity to meet the pupils and share why Christians still celebrate Christmas today. If you would like to come on the team to help with crafts and sharing the nativity story, or have any questions please just let Hazel know. Your prayers would be appreciated for the practicalities of the day and for the children to engage well. Many thanks.



Welcome to Scone Café - Abbey Church's crucial contribution to Community Connections

It all started with Dorothy, as many things do. "I want to help your project," she told me. "I'll make scones and coffee, and you invite people. We'll have it in the small hall. "

We started in late summer, on Mondays 1-3pm in the small hall, with the kind agreement and help of David and Paola for our free let. That's an enormous Abbey contribution in kind to North Berwick Coastal Community Connections, the new Area Partnership-funded project tackling social isolation and connecting people into local activities.

Every Monday afternoon, we welcome new folk and regulars, play cards, eat Dorothy's legendary scones and talk about all sorts of things. Last week Eddie played the small pipes for us. This week we made gift soaps for Christmas. In a couple of weeks we're doing Strength and Balance tasters for folk who've had falls and want to regain physical confidence. (These bits are all optional extras - you can stick to the scones if you prefer!)

What's come out of it? With some coaxing and chumming, Scone Folk have now signed up for Golden Zumba classes; enjoyed free pasta and a movie matinee with NB Movies/Stepping Out at the community centre; sung, played or danced about at the Trad Music night downstairs at the Masonic Hall; relished a three-course Intergenerational Meal cooked by kids at the

Youth Project; visited the Teenage Kicks exhibition at the museum (get there before it ends on 24 Nov!); started sampling the Beacon lunch at Blackadder on a Thursday; taken part in our Compassionate Communities meeting and Making Memories workshop; joined a community ceilidh band; accessed the Upswing depression peer support group, the Cancer Support Group, the Stroke Club and other community-based wellbeing initiatives.

Two-thirds of my current 33 'clients' were referred to me by community members, from neighbours to librarians to shopkeepers - the rest by GPs through my Monday morning drop-ins at the Health Centre (10-30-11.30). I meet them to find out what their story is and what they'd like to access. Many start attending Scone Café to rebuild confidence after some years of feeling isolated through illness, loss of mobility, bereavement, family breakup, addiction, house move, poverty, depression and anxiety - among other causes. I always tell them that feeling isolated can happen to any of us - including me. If they are not ready for that and feel unable to come out, we face a more complex challenge. I can clearly see the need for a befriending project in this area.

We're also working on a bid to become one of Scotland's four specially-supported Compassionate Communities, maximising our response to bereavement, grief and terminal illness, under the Health and Well Being Association which manages this project and gained our

funding.

Volunteers like Dorothy (ok, there's nobody like Dorothy!) and Community Connectors willing to chum people into their groups and activities, walk dogs or help us on the Scone Café rota, are crucial to the project's success.

Could you help once a month? Or at holiday times like Christmas, when I need to take a break but many of our folk still need the company?

Current Area Partnership funding ends in April. Want to see it continue to grow? Help us find funding and we promise we will! Talk to me soon if you'd like to get involved in any way - catch me at Abbey services, call, email or just drop in for a scone. You know what Dorothy's scones are like - you won't regret it.

Carol Stobie, Project Officer



Nbc-communityconnections@outlook.com

07940 203380

(Mon, Tues, Thurs)

Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk Prayers

December 2019 and January 2020

Dear friends in Christ,

Well, Christmas is almost upon us! Are you caught up in the hustle and bustle of shopping—or are you, like me, quietly excited looking forward to celebrating our Lord's birthday? Let's pray.

We give thanks for your wonderful gift—your son, Jesus— who came to save us from all our sins. We humbly give you thanks, especially at this time of year. Bless us all Father. We bring before you all who haven't yet acknowledged Jesus as their saviour, may they realise what's missing from their lives and ask his forgiveness. May we all be given good health to enjoy the coming festivities. May children, and the young at heart, enjoy the parties and carol singing etc. We remember those who are sad, poor and lonely at these times, may we help them, whatever way we can.

Bless our minister, Dr Graham and our pastoral assistant, Mr Bob Kane and all their loved ones. Bless all taking part in the special services at Christmas and as we welcome in the New Year. Bless our Queen, during these difficult times, and all she stands for.

We pray for the right decisions to be made in politics, that the right people will be elected to rule in parliament, and the correct decisions will be made concerning our future. Help us all Lord as we enter into 2020. Guide us and grant us peace in these difficult times, as always. Thank you.

In Jesus' precious name.

Amen

Betty Hawthorn

Prayer Secretary

May I take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you - and those you love - a happy, healthy Christmas and every blessing in 2020



ABBAY CHURCH - NORTH BERWICK**BUDGET v ACTUAL AT 30 SEP 2019****ALL FUNDS**

Income (All Funds)	Annual Budget	Budget to 30 Sep	Actual to 30 Sep	Variance
Offerings	69,000	51,749	48,179	(3,570)
Tax reclaim	16,000	12,000	11,853	(147)
Miscellaneous	13,800	10,050	8,186	(1,864)
Premises income	16,000	12,000	11,214	(786)
Investment income	5,000	2,800	3,452	652
Legacies	-	-	3,285	3,285
Dirleton	6,000	4,500	4,500	-
Total Income	125,800	93,099	90,669	(2,430)
Expenditure (All Funds)				
Church of Scotland payments	56,266	42,199	42,967	(768)
Pastoral Expenses	11,700	8,774	7,181	1,593
Other Salaries	46,275	34,770	34,602	168
Premises costs	21,784	15,858	14,811	1,047
Church Office Expenses	3,500	2,625	2,390	235
Investments	-	-	-	-
New Building	2,000	2,000	1,894	106
Miscellaneous	9,500	7,127	6,831	296
Total Expenditure	151,025	113,353	110,676	2,677
Budget for year 2019	(25,225)			
Budget for Nine months		(20,254)		
Deficit for Nine months			(20,007)	
Variance				247

Abbey Church (All Funds) - Nine Months to 30 September 2019

General

The deficit for nine months was £20,007. These costs were financed by using funds received in past years.

Income

Offerings - In total these are less than both the budget and the amount received last year. The offerings received in the bank by standing order and the 'blue envelope' are less than budget and last year. However, the open plate giving is greater than budget and last year.

(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 the office or ask Phil for one.)

Miscellaneous income includes income from the Gospel Choir and Dynamic Kirk.

Shown in legacies is a tax recovery, this legacy was received two years ago.

Expenditure

Pastoral costs include expenditure relating to youth work. More costs will be coming through in the next quarter.

Built in to the budget for premises costs are amounts to cover the maintenance backlog for both the Church and the Manse. It is anticipated that these amounts will be spent as the maintenance programme picks up.

Miscellaneous expenses include the costs of the Gospel Choir and Dynamic Kirk.

If you have any questions please ask.

Stuart Ainslie

11 November 2019

Dirleton Kirk Session Clerk

Thanks to those of you who got in touch to express your views in relation to the proposals being made for the War Memorial green and the surrounding environment. These will be given due prominence in the consideration by the Kirk Session of what response to make. Of course, anyone is entitled to comment upon these proposals: and you need not restrict yourselves to communicating via the Kirk Session, in making your thoughts known.

Remembrance Sunday

The village gathered around the War Memorial on Sunday 10th November in order to mark the sacrifice of life made in the first World War and in every conflict since. Bob Kane's address was a poignant reminder that it is not only on the battlefield that war takes lives: many combatants are left with emotional and mental wounds which may never heal, or heal only imperfectly, and such wounds will affect the lives of those around them.

Thanks, Bob, for bringing new light upon our collective act of memory and worship. As always, the use of technology to further devotion carries with it risk: and well done to Bob for first devising the innovation of having the last post played from his car stereo, and then remaining calm, when this was thwarted by his car having gone into 'energy saver' mode, and then sorting the matter out!

Remembrance was marked by the erection of an arch

over the churchyard gate, festooned with poppies. A week before, the Sunday Club had foraged in the wood beside the church, under Jean Waddell's supervision, and along with willow twigs this was used to construct the arch. The poppies were made from red fairy cake cases and wooden lolly sticks. These were made by the Sunday Club and by the schoolchildren at Dirleton Primary. Thanks very much to Mr. Moodie the headteacher and to Pamela Smith for helping with this. Each of the schoolchildren in the school made a poppy, and address labels bearing messages were attached. The older children wrote personal messages of gratitude; the younger ones had written, or had written for them, 'lest we forget'.

Special thanks are also due to Hannah Lawley (the Sunday Club's reigning 'star baker') for devising and producing poppy seed muffins, iced in red to resemble poppies, for distribution among those present; and to Irene Urquhart, for arranging with the North Berwick museum to have a 'memory box' of wartime items available. We examined the uniforms, the gas mask, the equipment, the photographs and the documents, and



perhaps felt closer to those who experienced world war directly.

I remembered being a boy and standing around our War Memorial: and thought how in those days, very many of those present had fought in one or other of the world wars; all of us younger ones had relatives who had experienced world war directly. Now some of the labels written by the schoolchildren bore expressions like "thanks great great great great grandfather". We will honour the sacrifice of all who fought, if we strive to bring home the nature of war to this generation; and to make the act of remembrance immediate to them.

Keith Stewart

Bethany Christian Trust



A team from Abbey catered for the Bethany Care Shelter on Friday, 8th November. There have been problems with Planning for the permanent venue at Diadem at Stenhouse so the venue was at Georgie Church. The team served chilli and other hot food and drinks for 45 though we were asked to cater for 60.

A big thank you to all who went up to help.

Christmas Time

It's a busy time of year with all our groups getting ready for our Christmas fun and activities. Here are some dates for your diary:

Super Sunday Club:

Christmas party - Saturday 14th Dec 2-4pm Abbey Church Hall

Lots of fun planned with games, party food, a Christmas quiz and a Christmas Karaoke!

Little Nippers

Christmas party - Thursday 12th December 10-11.30am Abbey Church Hall.

Abbey Gospel Choir

Christmas Shows-

Wednesday 11th December 7.30- 8.30pm

Sunday 15th December 6.30 - 7.30pm

Come and join us for an hour of uplifting music! Tickets available from the church office.



Iona

Isle of Mist, Mystery and Messiah

(A pilgrimage to Columba's Isle)

On a cold and wet October morn a strange white bus made its stealthy rounds of the respectable streets of North Berwick picking up assorted folk and making off with them to the far, far west - next stop Canada. Known to the Celts as a "thin place". Even today the distance between Heaven and Earth, between ourselves and our God feels very thin indeed on Iona.

As we made our way west the weather improved and by our first stop at a place ironically named DRIP (now better known as Dobbies) it was now a fine crisp, dry day.

We were to stay on Mull - comfort is all at a certain age. The crossing was as calm as I have ever seen it and in bright sunshine in the last week of October!

Some of our group fell into conversation with two young women from Switzerland; it turned out that they were staying at our hotel. I was informed next morning that they were also invited to come with us to Iona. I could see the headlines "Kirk group kidnaps tourists and forces them to attend religious service". In fact not only were they



willing, both were blessed with fantastic voices and sung a wee piece for us after our service at the Abbey. All in all we had a very happy and informative time. Spiritually too. We all left feeling our faith had been strengthened.

Iona was as ever a very thought provoking place. The mixture of a beautiful place, the history of worship and witness, and the tale of the Iona community and its work combine to restore the soul and renew faith.

If you ever get the chance, do go, you will not regret it.

My thanks to all who came this time. It was a joy to lead you.

Bob Kane



Christmas Joy

John answered, "Anyone who has two shirts should share with the one who has none, and anyone who has food should do the same."
Luke 3:11 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



Y	L	Z	V	M	G	D	J	S	R	B	H	C	N	Q	U	W	E	X	A	O	F	T	P	I	K
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

1. 22-10-16-25-23 _____
2. 10-21-21-23 _____
3. 23-10-18-18 _____
4. 23-17-21 _____
5. 9-12-25-10-23-9 _____
6. 9-12-20-10-18 _____
7. 14-21-14-18 _____
8. 22-21-21-7 _____

NONE SHIRTS	ROOT SHARE	FRUIT TWO	FOOD TREE
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Abbey Church Creche Duty Rota

1st Dec	Sarah Kerr	Carol Stobie
8th Dec	Anne Bell	Rose Leslie
15th Dec	Joan Lunn	Caitriana Spencer
22nd Dec	Margaret Lawson	Janice Cobb
29th Dec	Dorothy Kirkpatrick	Sadie Young
5th Jan	Sarah Kerr	Carol Stobie
12th Jan	Rose Leslie	Anne Bell
19th Jan	Joan Lunn	Caitriana Spencer
26th Jan	Margaret Lawson	Janice Cobb



Abbey Church Morning Tea Rota

1st December	Sarah Kerr	
8th December	Katrina Hendry	Dorothy Kirkpatrick
15th December	Morna McClure	Sadie Young
22nd December	Irene Nichol	Sheila McCubbing
29th December	Robina Brown	Irene Brodie
5th January	Catherine Andrew	Isabel Smith
12th January	Jean Mackay	Isobel Hardie
19th January	Pat McKie	Fiona Gibson
26th January	Margaret Scott	Mary Graham



Abbey Church Flower Rota

Date	Donor	Arranger
1st December	Mrs M Whytock	Dorothy Kirkpatrick Sadie Young
8th December	Mrs D Kirkpatrick	Dorothy Kirkpatrick
15th December	Dr J Walnick	Jean Walnick
5th January	Mrs S Young	Sadie Young
12th January	Mrs D Marsh	Anne Bell
19th January	The Abbey Home	Jeanette Calloway Frances Fallmyr
26th January	Mrs S Penman	Jeanette Calloway Frances Fallmyr



Going Bananas @ Christmas!

The weather outside may be frightful.... but we'll be tropical at the Going Bananas afternoon on Sunday 8th December from 2.30pm-5pm. This is a follow up to our Going Bananas holiday club in the summer, but anyone from P1 to P6 can come and join the fun as we find out why the shepherds were going bananas for God. We'll have a mix of games, crafts, songs, and exploring the Bible together.



**Going Bananas
@ Christmas**

2.30-5pm

Sunday 8th December 2019

at Abbey Church, 116 High Street, North Berwick

Run by the churches of North Berwick & Dirleton in partnership with

 **SU Scotland**

Registered in Scotland as a charity (no.SC011222) and as a company limited by guarantee (no.SC54297).

Church Register

Baptisms

8.9.19 Robert McElhinney

8.12.19 Rafferty William Dobson Mark

Funerals

7.10.19 Neil McDermott

31.10.19 Janet Forsyth

6.11.19 Frederick Espener

11.11.19 Alexander Thomson

12.11.19 Patrick Hamilton Cashman

Pastoral Visits

The Minister and Pastoral Assistant are happy to visit church members who are ill, either at home or in hospital. This information should be given to the Minister (890800) or via the Church Office (892800). Thank you.

For pastoral visiting, it would also be helpful to have a **mobile number**, the number of a next of kin, and your 'Sunday' name- hospitals use your official name, and it can be confusing when visiting if you're known by something different! And the ward number too, please.

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

Church Office: 01620 892800

abbeychurch@abbeychurch.co.uk

*Office open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
10am until 1pm*

Keep in touch!

Email is an easy way to keep in touch, and let people know about what's happening locally and in the wider church. If you use email, please send your address to the Church Office.

Newsletters

The next newsletter will cover *February and March 2020*. The deadline for submitting articles is *Tuesday 14th January 2020*. Please send to Abbey Church Office.

Abbeychurch.org.uk

Like us on Facebook: Abbey Church, North Berwick & Dirleton Kirk
And Twitter:DirletonAbbey



Abbey Church, North Berwick (Church of Scotland)
Scottish Charity No. SC0 04761—CCL51436

What's on at Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk Christmas 2019

Sunday 1st December

6.00pm **Service for bereaved people at Abbey**

Tuesday 3rd

2.30pm **Abbey Guild Carol Service**



Sunday 8th

10.30am **Morning Service at Abbey
with Holy Communion**

Wednesday 11th

7.30pm **Abbey Gospel Choir Christmas Show**

Thursday 12th

10.00am **Little Nippers Christmas Party**

Saturday 14th

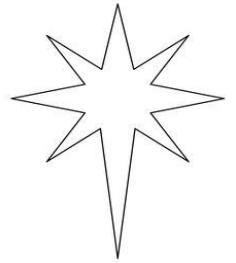
2.00pm **Super Sunday Club Christmas Party**

Sunday 15th

9.30am Nativity Play service at Dirleton

10.30am Nativity Play service at Abbey

6.30pm Abbey Gospel Choir Christmas Show



Thursday 19th

**6.00pm Meet at Abbey for Carol Singing at
residential homes**

Tuesday 24th Christmas Eve

4.30pm Family Christmas Eve service at Abbey

**11.30pm Watchnight Service at Dirleton Kirk
(coffee in kirk hall from 11pm)**

Wednesday 25th Christmas Day

10.30am Family Christmas Day service at Abbey

Sunday 29th

10.30am Joint Morning Service at Dirleton Kirk

Sunday morning Services remain as normal throughout:

9.30am at Dirleton

10.30am at Abbey