



**Abbey Church
and
Dirleton Kirk News
April/May 2020**

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

**All church services currently
suspended due to COVID-19**

Come along. All welcome.

**Wednesdays 10am
Half Hour Prayer Service
Dirleton**

Dear Dirleton & Abbey Friends,

In the light of the coronavirus pandemic, we are following the advice issued by the Government, the NHS, and the Church. This is changing on an almost daily basis, and I'm sure you are keeping up to date with it.

If there are changes which affect us eg regarding holding church services or other meetings, this will be forwarded to you by email, and by the link on the church website. Please let people without access to email know about this.

The Church of Scotland advice is on the central church website, where there is also a prayer from the Moderator: <https://www.churchofscotland.org.uk>

I'm sure we will all keep an eye on people who are likely to be isolated or vulnerable, and do what we can to help them in a responsible way. Our prayers are especially with them.

In the 1630s, Europe was devastated by plague and the aftermath of the 30 Years War. In the midst of this, pastor Martin Rinkart was able to write one of the most inspiring and hopeful of hymns. I hope we can still all thank God today as we face the challenge of this modern 'plague', and know that God will keep us, guide us, and free us:

Your minister,
David

Now thank we all our God,
with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done,
in Whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms
has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love,
and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God
through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts
and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace,
and guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills,
in this world and the next!

All praise and thanks to God
the Father now be given;
The Son and Him Who reigns
with Them in highest Heaven;
The one eternal God,
whom earth and Heaven adore;
For thus it was, is now,
and shall be evermore.



Just before going to print, it was announced that church services and other gatherings are cancelled for the immediate future. I am planning to send regular information and devotional materials by email. **Please send your email address if we do not have it.** Keep an eye on our church website and facebook page too, for any news. I hope you all keep well, and free of illness.

David

Monsignor Brian Halloran

It was with great sadness and shock that we heard of the sudden death of Fr Brian Halloran, of Our Lady Star of the Sea, on 1st March. After missionary work overseas, and University work as a chaplain, he was a faithful parish priest and part of our local Fraternal and Association of Churches. He recently celebrated the 60th anniversary of his ordination. Our prayers are for his congregation in their loss.

Keep in touch!

We hope your Elder has been able to visit you with your newsletter as usual, but as the newsletter goes to print we have no way of knowing what the health restrictions will be because of the virus epidemic. If this has not been possible please accept our apologies and prayers that you escape it.

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.

Foodbank

Cindy Hess Kasper in Our Daily Bread writes ' You don't have to feed the five thousand. You just have to bring your loaves and fishes'.

Please everyone spare a thought for families who are depending on East Lothian Foodbank at this difficult time especially given the shortages we are seeing in our local shops. If you need something, chances are so does someone else and the more we can share what we have, the more resilient our community will be. Nutrition doesn't have to be expensive - it just needs us all to bring something, however inconsequential, to the table of others.

Thank you.



ABBEY KIRK SESSION MATTERS

I am privileged to have been invited to serve as Session Clerk in Abbey Church. Our grateful thanks go to my immediate predecessor, Sally Penman, for the way in which she carried out her duties in such a diligent way for almost 10 years. I can't also help thinking about the others who have gone before me during my 37 years (I think) as a member of the Abbey Church Kirk Session. I have many good examples to follow.

At the Session meeting on 3 February 2020, I took the "de fideli" oath and promised to undertake the duties of Session Clerk "faithfully". In accepting the role, I quoted a few words which I had found on the Church of Scotland website which are based on Philipians 2 and suggest that being an office bearer in a local congregation:

- Is a call to service not promotion
- Is a privilege not a prize
- Confers responsibility not power
- Is a task for a season not a right for life.

I plan to keep these words close to my desk to guide me in the role as Session Clerk.

At our meeting on 3 February 2020, among the items discussed were:

A report from our Young People's Worker, Hazel Gray, on her recent participation in a training course on "Pioneer Ministry and Fresh Expressions". It is generally believed that churches need to consider new ways

of worshipping and Hazel gave examples of recent initiatives including a "Forest Church" which is, at it sounds, a gathering in a forest. The messages from this training will be considered further by our Outreach Committee.

A recommendation from the Worship Committee that we should reintroduce name badges for those on duty at Sunday services. While we strive to provide a warm welcome to the many visitors who join us in worship, it is felt that "putting a name to a face" would enhance this welcome. This recommendation was approved, and you should all see evidence of the new badges very soon. I am grateful to Milne Brodie for his help in designing and procuring the badges.

Sincere thanks were recorded to Dorothy Kirkpatrick who is stepping down as coordinator of both our Summer Teas programme and the provision of Bethany Meals. Dorothy has worked tirelessly in these (and many other) areas of our congregational life and I wrote to her after the meeting, expressing the Kirk Session's gratitude.

The Kirk Session met after the morning service on 1 March 2020 when:

We considered and approved the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2019.

These will be presented at the Annual Congregational Meeting on 29 March which we hope will be attended by as many as possible.

We agreed to provide funding to support an initiative

led by Ormiston Church to advertise the "Try Praying" scheme on East Coast Buses travelling around East Lothian in April. This is a scheme, which has already met with success, aimed at people who are not religious and don't go to church. Leaflets about "Try Praying" are available in the church.

Our next Kirk Session meeting will take place on Monday 30 March 2020 and a report of that will appear in the next Newsletter.

*Robert Burgon,
Session Clerk,
Abbey Church*

WALT (Women Are Learning Together)

It's amazing to think that since WALT started we have looked at the lives of 14 extraordinary Biblical women and reflected on what we can learn from them to apply to ourselves in 2020.

The plan for April to June is to look at the Book of Ruth in the Old Testament and then focus on Mary, Martha and Dorcas in the New Testament.

All going to plan, the dates after Easter will be: - 20th April, 4th and 18th May, plus 1st and 15th June.

Specific details can be found in the weekly intimations in church or online.

Come and join us so that we can explore these women's lives together.

Sheila Burgon

Little Nippers started off 2020 with a new leader and a little helper. Kathryn Robertson and her 3 year old daughter, Miriam, from Dunbar, are delighted to be helping with the group. They welcome mums, childminders, dad's, nannies and grandparents each week.



The children and babies enjoy playing together, sharing snack and singing at the end. Old MacDonald and Wind the Bobbin up are some favourites. Trains, cars and the slide are among the favourite toys, and some of the older toddlers love colouring and stickers. Kathryn says "It's so important for families to have somewhere to go where they know they'll get a warm welcome and a hot drink, and a chance to chat while their children play. Little Nippers is a lovely group, and encourages plenty of conversation in a relaxed setting. "



The group are very fortunate to have a super team of helpers who cheerfully prepare snack and teas and coffees as well as welcoming people on the door. It's a great way to get know different people from North Berwick and outlying villages, and make connections with local people. Little Nippers is a friendly and welcoming group, and much appreciated by the families who come along.

Presbytery

The new Presbytery Plan was issued in February. It contains sweeping changes in the pattern of churches and ministry. This is in line with the policy of the General Assembly, and will affect all other Presbyteries in a similar way.

For our own area, the Plan is for one less Minister, and will 'Unite the two North Berwick Churches, maintaining the link with Dirleton, or North Berwick Abbey & Dirleton to enter Guardianship with an Ordained Local Minister or Lay Pastor'.

At this stage, nothing is said about the future of our buildings as places of worship.

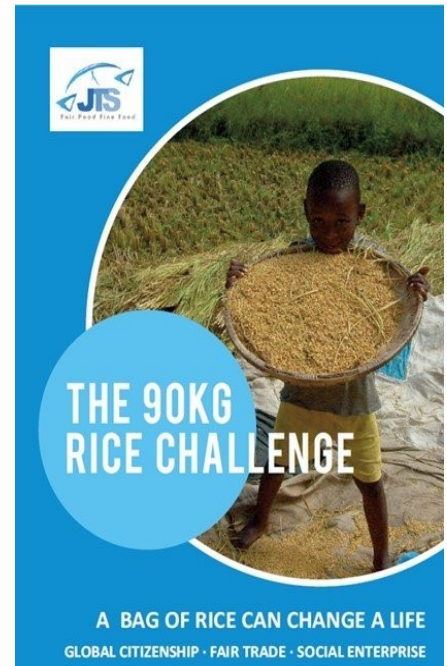
In addition to this, we will soon be having a Local Church Review. This is a sort of 'health check' which Presbyteries conduct about every five years.

The timing and precise outcome of this is still to be determined. Perhaps the thing to keep in mind is that the church is God's people; it is not a building or particular place, no matter how dear they are to us.

This all comes in the wake of huge changes in society around us. And also in the - largely - failure of the church's mission in the past two generations. The church began in mission, and unless we keep that central to all we do, we fail the great Commission: 'Go, and make disciples . . . '

Fairtrade Rice Challenge

Well, we did it folks! - we sold 90kg of Fairtrade rice in record time, all down to your support and generosity. The cost of the rice is paid to Fairtrade in advance ; a total of £363 is now helping rice farmers in Malawi and the wonderful spice producers in Eswatini (former Swaziland).



This is just such a great piece of general knowledge that we had to get it into the newsletter!) Sums raised over and above the set contribution to Fairtrade will be directed to the Harvest appeal.

Thank you once again for all your support.

Abbey Church (All Funds) Year to 31 December 2019

General

The deficit for the year was £21,692, financed by using funds received in past years. As the Abbey employed a Family and a Youth worker in 2019 a deficit was expected.

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 council tax recovery, the legacy it relates to was received two years ago.

Expenditure

Pastoral costs include expenditure relating to youth work.

The budget for premises costs included amounts to cover building maintenance. This work will now be carried out in 2020.

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

If you have any questions please ask.

Stuart Ainslie

12 March 2020

Your Finance Team

1 Income - Gift-aid

Phil Spencer

Income - Hall Rentals

Paola Burrows

2 Payment of bills

Janice Cobb

3 Payroll

David Aston

4 Accounting - OSCR, periodic accounts and Church of Scotland

Stuart Ainslie

Actual - v - Budget - Year to 31st December 2019

Income (All Funds)	Annual Budget	Actual to 31 Dec	Variance
Offerings	69,000	62,432	(6,568)
Tax reclaim	16,000	15,750	(250)
Miscellaneous	13,800	16,790	2,990
Premises income	16,000	16,758	758
Investment income	5,000	5,829	829
Legacies	0	3,285	3,285
Dirleton	6,000	6,000	0
Total Income	125,800	126,844	1,044

Expenditure (All Funds)			
Church of Scotland payments	56,266	57,034	(768)
Pastoral Expenses	11,700	9,909	1,791
Other Salaries	46,275	46,601	(326)
Premises costs	21,784	18,964	2,820
Church Office Expenses	3,500	3,845	(345)
Investments	-	-	-
New Building	2,000	1,894	106
Miscellaneous	9,500	10,289	(789)
Total Expenditure	151,025	148,536	2,489

Budget for year 2019	<u><u>(25,225)</u></u>
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Deficit for Year	<u><u>(21,692)</u></u>
Positive Variance	<u><u>3,533</u></u>

Dirleton Session Clerk's Newsletter notes

We are in the midst of a Lent like no other in our lifetimes. You will be aware that public worship in the Church of Scotland has been suspended for the time being, and all sorts of restrictions on movement and activity, inconceivable even in wartime, have been imposed. At the time of writing this I do not know whether it will be possible to have a newsletter assembled- it doesn't look like we will be able to distribute paper copies as we would normally.

In times of emergency it is the instinct of Christians to come together to help one another, and to help all people: but so much of the practical and spiritual aid we might expect to give we are told we should not give, lest we risk spreading the virus further. What would normally think about doing to help others? Call on neighbours, and those of whom we know who might be particularly in need of company or support in these circumstances? We mustn't, lest we spread the virus- and, perhaps, spread it to someone less able to withstand it. Organise some social event, indoors or outdoors, to bring people together? This is such a bad idea that the Government has awarded itself power to disperse such meetings. Cook some food, bake a cake, and make a gift of it to someone? Again, the danger of contagion through touch is such as to discourage us from doing these ordinary, kindly things.

What then are we to do? Can I implore all of us to stay in contact, by e-mail, text or telephone; to pass on news (in a responsible way) and good wishes, and

thoughts and reflections on these unprecedented events. David our Minister is providing devotional material by e-mail and via the joint congregations' website www.abbeychurch.co.uk . The internet has a great deal of footage and resources to encourage us in worship, as we can't meet together- and it is being accessed more and more. On Sunday 22nd March the Archbishop of Canterbury conducted *Sunday Worship* from a crypt chapel in Lambeth Palace (available for a month via BBC Sounds) in which the music was provided by four singers singing from the church of St. Martin's -in-the-fields; and I learned that St. Martin's posted material for that Sunday, which by the end of the day had already been viewed a thousand times. To put that figure into perspective, they would have 850 worshippers at their Watchnight Service on Christmas eve.

But above all can I urge you all to remember your prayers? Earlier this year we marked the week of Prayer for Christian Unity with services and gatherings organised by the different groups of Christians in the area. I was able to go along to the sung service of Choral Evensong at St. Baldred's, which prompted me to reflect that while disunity among Christians is lamentable, it has nonetheless allowed for the expression of different forms of worship, each equally sincere, each in its way beautiful: for example, the solemn majesty of the Episcopal Church liturgy, the raw power of chanted metrical psalms, the intense stillness of Quaker contemplation. But prayer truly unites all of us. Irrespective of the form in which our communal worship takes, God knows what is in our innermost hearts, and however much at times we struggle to see any connection between what we pray for, and what we see happening around us, Christians trust that He hears us in

prayer and answers us- even where it can seem to our imperfect understanding that no answer is given at all.

I have seen the Church of Scotland described as an 'intensely practical' one: and while the writer sought to convey admiration for the way in which we respond to problems by rolling up our sleeves and trying to work out the urgings of the Holy Spirit in the world, there is sometimes a sense that we are as a result prone to giving insufficient regard to the call to prayer; that we emphasise the 'Martha' part of Christian duties, at the expense of the 'Mary' part. Many of us will already be giving such practical assistance in the community as we can, and are standing ready to do more, if and when matters get more serious. We will shortly be contacting members to advise as to how to maintain our levels of giving- a 'virtual collection plate' for the vital work of the Kirk at home and abroad. But let's not ever forget that we are called to acknowledge God in prayer and to put before him our burdens in prayer, and to have confidence that He will ease them.

If you are unable to leave the house, if you feel hemmed in, consider these words in the poem *To Althea, from prison*, by the 17th Century poet and courtier Richard Lovelace. Imprisoned during the civil wars, Lovelace played with the idea that being in love and being in prison are in some ways the same, and in a conclusion as religious as it is 'romantic', memorably pointed out that to be confined is to be given an opportunity to contemplate, and to pray: our place of imprisonment can become our 'hermitage', not a prison but a place of seclusion from the world, which can distract us from God.

*Stone walls do not a prison make,
Nor iron bars a cage;
Minds innocent and quiet take
That for an hermitage;
If I have freedom in my love,
And in my soul am free,
Angels alone, that soar above,
Enjoy such liberty.*

Since the last newsletter we have learned of the death of May Turbyne. In our prayers, we can acknowledge her witness and service among us at Dirleton and beyond, over many years.

Keith Stewart

March 2020



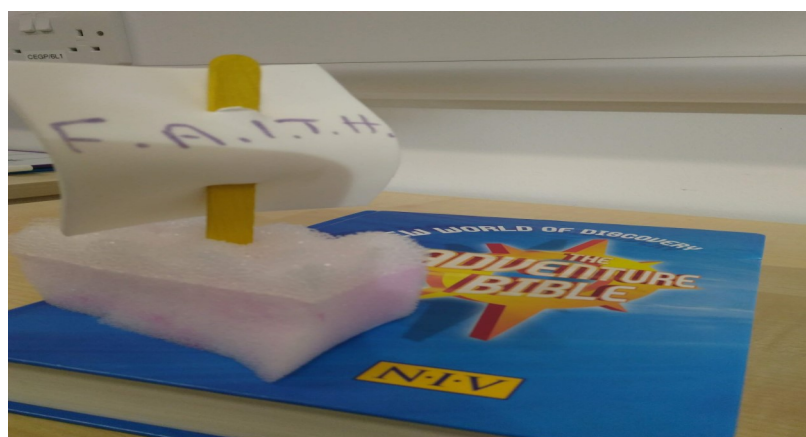
BEe Club @ Law Primary

BEe Club is the name of the SU group that's been running in Law Primary for over a year. BEe stands for Bible Explorers, and we've invited P3,4 and 5 pupils along on Thursday lunchtimes to do just that - explore what the Bible has to say to us today. We've been learning about Jesus as we share Bible stories through drama, storytelling and film clips, and opening the Bible to get to know our way around. We play games, make crafts, sometimes sing songs, and discuss their questions about God - and wow, do they have questions!

After looking at the baptism of Jesus, one pupil said they 'got' the Jesus and God bits, but what about the third bit (I.e. the holy spirit)? Nothing like explaining the trinity over lunch!

Another week, I was asked "You know how Jesus is living in heaven, can he still do miracles from there?" I love their questions, and we try as best as we can to help them find answers.

The photo below shows our FAITH boat after learning about Jesus calming the storm - they learnt that FAITH can stand for 'Forever Always I Trust In Him'. Not a bad thing to remember!



Going Bananas at Easter!

On Saturday 14th March we went bananas as we explored the first Easter together. We had lots of games and fun as we heard the Easter story, and thought through the different emotions the disciples must have felt. We also met Mary Magdalene who travelled through the timeshed to tell us that Jesus is alive - she saw him! We had 20 children registered for the day, which is great, and an amazing team.



We look forward to a week of summer holiday club fun from 27th - 31st July. If you'd like to join the team, please let me know - ha-zel.abbeychurch@hotmail.com. Please let families know to save the date - more information will be available soon.

The photos are Rotten and Ripe welcoming the children, our lovely completed cross craft, and Mary Magdalene sharing her story.



School Update from Hazel Gray (Youth Worker)

It has been a busy term at Law Primary. However, with the current situation with the Covid 19 virus, unfortunately these groups will all have to stop until further notice.

- The Parent's Room has been busy and I'm thankful to an amazing group of volunteers who have been providing a warm, welcoming place for parents and carers to wait for their children. We will restart once schools return.
- The SU group has been great fun with P3, P4, and P5 children coming along to explore the Bible together through games, crafts, drama and storytelling (see separate article). Again, we hope to restart when the schools return.
- The Voice Project has continued to meet for singing after school. We have a P4-6 group at 3.30pm-4.15pm, and then P7-S2 group from 4.15-5pm. I have set up a Facebook group for the member's parents (the children are mostly too young to be on Facebook) so that we can continue singing even from a distance. I will post videos for the children - and their families - to sing along to.
- Seasons for Growth is an 8 week programme for children who have experienced loss. We meet in school on a weekly basis but have had to fit three sessions into one week before the schools stop. Our current group is P4/5s but it was hoped to offer it to other stages once this programme ends. We hope to restart when the schools return.

Easter Code is an RME session for P5s as a follow up to the Christmas workshops called Bubblegum 'n' Fluff. This was due to take place in the church on the

23rd March, but unfortunately has had to be cancelled. I made up packs for the children to take home which included some information on the Easter story, a craft activity and a word search. (The word search is below if you would like to try it!)

Please continue to pray for the children and families during this time of uncertainty, and that we as a church can find ways to continue to be a blessing to them.

Please pray for parents and carers as they work out how best to help their children.

Please pray for the school staff and those in education who have difficult decisions to make.

Easter Word Search

You will find the following words in the grid. They may go up, down, backwards or diagonally!

Betrayed	Cross	Jesus	Risen
Bread	Died	Judas	Roman
Chicks	Easter	Mary	Stone
Chocolate	Eggs	Pilate	Tomb
Communion			Wine

C	S	D	E	Y	A	R	T	E	B
H	R	U	H	G	R	E	R	E	M
O	I	O	S	I	G	A	O	S	O
C	W	D	S	E	R	S	M	I	T
O	I	E	S	S	J	T	A	S	E
L	N	I	N	U	I	E	N	K	E
A	E	D	D	N	D	R	E	C	N
T	D	A	E	R	B	E	D	I	O
E	S	E	T	A	L	I	P	H	T
N	O	I	N	U	M	M	O	C	S

The letters left over make a sentence that is said by Christians at their Easter services.

_____!

Abbey and Dirleton Kirk Prayers
April and May 2020

Dear friends in Christ

Normally, at this time of year, we rejoice at the coming of Easter. We give thanks to God for sending his son, Jesus, who died and rose again that we might live! What can we say or do then the world is in such a turmoil? Let us pray.

Father God,

As always, in a crisis, we turn to you — who else could we turn to? Lord, all over the world people are turning their thoughts and prayers to you. No matter what their religion (or any) they profess to have. Please, Lord let people realise that buying in bulk may help them, but harm others. Bless all involved in the NHS professions — doctors, nurses etc. Give them the strength to cope with the situations they may face. Bless all ministers, pastoral assistants, carers etc, who are doing their best to help people in their areas. Help those who are stuck indoors because they are elderly or in ill health. May their families, friends and neighbours all rally round to help one another. Father God, we do not know how long this epidemic will last, but we beg of you, please bring us safely through it. Thank you.

In Jesus' precious name. Amen

Betty Hawthorn
Prayer Secretary

May God be with us all during these trying times

Abbey Church Creche Duty Rota

5th April	Margaret Lawson	Janice Cobb
12th April	Dorothy Kirkpatrick	Sadie Young
19th April	Sarah Kerr	
26th April	Bel Hardie	Rose Leslie
3rd May	Joan Lunn	Caitriana Spencer
10th May	Margaret Lawson	Janice Cobb
17th May	Dorothy Kirkpatrick	Sadie Young
24th May	Sarah Kerr	
31st May	Rose Leslie	Bel Hardie



Abbey Church Morning Tea Rota

5th April	Mary Graham	Margaret Scott
12th April		
19th April	Susan Ainslie	Sarah Kerr
26th April	Katrina Hendry	Dorothy Kirkpatrick
3rd May	Morna McClure	Sadie Young
10th May	Irene Nichol	Sheila McCubbing
17th May	Robina Brown	Irene Brodie
24th May	Catherine Andrew	Isabel Smith
31st May	Jean MacKay	Isobel Hardie



Abbey Church Flower Rota

Date	Donor	Arranger
5th April	Mrs J Donald	Irene Brodie
12th April	Mrs H Mackenzie Mrs M Graham	Fiona Hutchison
19th April	Mrs J Griffiths	Joan Griffiths
26th April	Mrs V Young Mrs I Brodie	Irene Brodie
3rd May	Mrs C Hill Mrs M MacLean	
10th May		Dorothy Kirkpatrick Sadie Young
17th May	Mrs F Fallmyr	Frances Fallmyr
24th May	Mrs S Burgon	Sadie Young Dorothy Kirkpatrick
31st May	Miss I Smith	Isobel Smith



Please have a look at our website

<https://www.abbeychurch.org.uk/>

To get information of all the events organised by
Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk.

Sunday Services, prayer meetings, bible classes, The
Guild, REGAL, WALT, Alpha, Little Nippers, The Voice
Project, to mention but a few.

We have many other groups using our church halls,
The Gospel Choir, the Scone café, Christian fellowship
men's breakfast, physiotherapy plus, yoga classes,
pilates classes, Jo jingles, fitness classes, The drama
Mill, the Artisan Fair, the brownies, North Berwick
Photographic group, dance classes.

If you are interested in hiring our halls on a regular
basis or for a 'one off' event please get in touch with
Abbey Church office on 01620 892800 or
abbeychurch@abbeychurch.co.uk



Church Register

Weddings

Eric Simmons and Roza Nicolson

Funerals

24.1.20 May Turbyne

04.2.20 James Stewart

18.3.20 Elizabeth Harrison

23.3.20 Beryl Young

27.3.20 John Aston

26.3.20 Daniel Gilvray

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*

Newsletters

*The next newsletter will cover June and July 2020.
The deadline for submitting articles is Tuesday 19th
May 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