



Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk News

June/July 2020

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

**Sunday Morning Worship and Dirleton Wednesday
Prayer Service**

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

Our services are available by email, on our website,
Facebook page, and YouTube channel (see back page
for details).

Printed copies of the words are also available, please
let the Church Office know if you would like to
receive these.



Dear Dirleton & Abbey Friends,

When I wrote for the last newsletter, we were entering unknown territory. Who would have guessed that several months later, we'd still be in 'lockdown'.

The pandemic is dreadful. When we read that 'God works all things together for good' (Romans 8:28) we may wonder how that can be true, in the current crisis?

And yet there are many stories of care, support, neighbourliness, and self-sacrifice. Perhaps we've also learned to pray more, to be creative, to value the quiet moments of our lives, of our towns, our roads and less pollution. Having to spend more time together, or being alone, can be a challenge, but one we can rise to.

There have also been unexpected blessings. Media reports say that a quarter of adults in the UK have watched a religious service since the lockdown began, including a third of 18-30 year olds. A fifth of these people have never gone to church before. One in 20 people have started praying. In one case, 6,000 people phoned a prayer hotline in its first 48 hours.

The *Church Times* reports that Christian doctors and nurses say their faith has helped them through the fear, anxiety, and physical toil of working on the front-line NHS. Many have prayed, and asked for prayers, for patients' healing and for staff to cope with the challenges.

The virus has brought a lot of sadness and suffering. But in it all, we trust that God will indeed "work all things out for the good." May it be so for you and your loved ones.

Your minister,
David

A new normal

Every normal was once new....
it did not arrive, but came to be.
Time and tide, call and creativity,
all played their part in where we arrived -
in this life in God which we called normal.
And what of Christ, our hope, our strength -
whose normal, once, was family life,
learning carpenter's ways?
Did he welcome his call and challenge,
this change to all he knew?
Did he also feel loss, longing for the familiar,
even while bringing life?
And one day our new normal, (still becoming)
will also bring new hope - new ways to be.
Things will change again and always,
for life and faith never stand still.
God is making all things new.
Even what is normal....

Lezley Stewart, Secretary for Recruitment and Support, Church of Scotland

Our Summer Sunday services are based on 'By The Way, Getting Serious about Following Jesus' by Derek Vreeland. This book is also used for our Monday afternoon Study Group.

An ancient legend tells of a traveller who met Fear and Plague, who were heading for London where they intended to kill everyone. The traveller asked Plague whether he would do all the killing. "No" Plague replied, "I will kill only a few hundred people. My friend Fear will kill the rest".

BEATITUDES

FOR A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

BLESSED ARE THOSE
WHO STAY INDOORS



FOR THEY HAVE
PROTECTED OTHERS

BLESSED ARE THE
UNEMPLOYED AND THE
SELF-EMPLOYED



FOR THEIR NEED OF
GOD IS GREAT

BLESSED ARE THE
CORNER SHOPKEEPERS



FOR THEY ARE THE
PURVEYORS OF SCARCE
THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE DELIVERY
DRIVERS AND THE POSTAL
WORKERS



FOR THEY ARE THE
BRINGERS OF ESSENTIAL
THINGS

BLESSED ARE THE HOSPITAL
WORKERS, THE AMBULANCE CREWS,
THE DOCTORS, THE NURSES, THE CARE
ASSISTANTS, AND THE CLEANERS



FOR THEY STAND BETWEEN US AND
THE GRAVE, AND THE KINGDOM OF
HEAVEN IS SURELY THEIRS

BLESSED ARE THE
CHECKOUT WORKERS



FOR THEY HAVE PATIENCE AND
FORTITUDE IN THE FACE OF
OVERWORK AND FRUSTRATION

BLESSED ARE THE
REFUSE COLLECTORS



FOR THEY WILL SEE
GOD DESPITE THE
MOUNTAINS OF WASTE

BLESSED ARE THE
TEACHERS



FOR THEY REMAIN
STEADFAST AND
CONSTANT IN
DISTURBING TIMES

BLESSED ARE THE CHURCH
WORKERS, THE DEACONS,
PRIESTS AND BISHOPS



FOR THEY ARE A COMFORTING
PRESENCE IN A HURTING
WORLD AS THEY CONTINUE TO
SIGNPOST TOWARDS GOD

BLESSED ARE THE SINGLE
PARENTS.



FOR THEY ARE COPING
ALONE WITH THEIR
RESPONSIBILITIES AND
THERE IS NO RESPIRE

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO
ARE ALONE.



FOR THEY ARE CHILDREN OF
GOD AND WITH HIM THEY
WILL NEVER BE LONELY

BLESSED ARE THE
BEREAVED.



FOR WHOM THE WORST HAS
ALREADY HAPPENED, THEY
SHALL BE COMFORTED

BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO
ARE ISOLATED WITH THEIR
ABUSERS



FOR ONE DAY-WE PRAY-
THEY WILL KNOW SAFETY

BLESSED ARE ALL DURING THIS TIME WHO HAVE PURE HEARTS;
ALL WHO STILL HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JUSTICE; ALL WHO
WORK FOR PEACE AND WHO MODEL MERCY



MAY YOU KNOW COMFORT, MAY YOU KNOW CALM, AND MAY THE
GRACE OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, AND THE LOVE OF GOD, AND
THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, BE WITH US ALL. AMEN

ABBEY KIRK SESSION MATTERS

When I wrote my first report for the last newsletter after my appointment as Session Clerk in February, little did I know that the role would change so much in a matter of days. The Covid 19 lockdown has affected all of our lives and it has had a major impact on the worshipping life of the Abbey Church congregation.

Although physical meetings might not be possible under present circumstances, your Kirk Session has been busy in the intervening weeks.

Our Minister and the Session Clerks of Abbey and Dirleton along with our Pastoral Assistant and Administrator are having weekly Zoom meetings at which we discuss relevant issues relating to the two congregations.

Where possible, elders with districts have been in touch with the members in those districts, to try to ensure that their needs are being met and that they have access to the service information which our Minister, David, has been producing week by week. It has been encouraging to hear that most people contacted appear to be keeping well and managing to adapt to the restrictions which have been placed on us.

The normal business of the Kirk Session has continued, and we have now held two successful meetings using Zoom- on 18 April and on 18 May 2020. These meetings were "attended" by more elders than most actual meetings. For example, one of our elders, Richard Bell, has been in the USA for some time and was

able to participate in the first of these meetings. In between meetings, some decisions have also been taken by email- and once again, there has been an excellent response to these emails.

The business at these virtual meetings has included:

- Some staffing issues- the Kirk Session is extremely grateful to Paola, our Administrator and Hazel, our Young People's Worker, both of whom have been able to adapt their normal pattern of work during lockdown. For other staff, it was not feasible for them to continue to carry out their normal work and the decision was taken to put them on furlough (on full pay) from 1 May. This enables the church to recover some of their salary costs from Government. We look forward to the day when all our staff will be able to return to carry out their work on our behalf.
- A report on the audit of our safeguarding arrangements for those working with young people and vulnerable adults. The appropriate reports were submitted to Presbytery within the required timescale and the Session expresses its gratitude to Caitriana Spencer, our Safeguarding Coordinator, for all the work she does in this connection.
- A review of our activity during lockdown- including the services which are being emailed (or in some cases posted) to members of the congregation. We know that these are greatly appreciated by many.

- Plans for an online bible study.
- Proposals for new ways in which our church can support the work of Bethany Christian Trust.
- A report from Hazel Gray on various online activities which she is now conducting with young people, including The Voice Project, Super Sunday Club and a new initiative for older teenagers, called Feast. The Kirk Session greatly appreciates the innovative work which Hazel has done to adapt to the current circumstances.

• Although we anticipate that it will be some time before we can return to anything like "normal" activities, we continue to monitor the situation and will take steps to adapt when the Scottish Government announces that it is safe to do so.

Our next Kirk Session meeting will take place, again by Zoom, on Monday 15 June 2020 and a report of that will appear in the next Newsletter.

Robert Burgon, Session Clerk, Abbey Church



Dirleton Session Clerk's Newsletter notes

Easter 2020 has come, and is going, without us having had the chance to mark it in the most precious and familiar ways. We had no singing of Ride on in Majesty on Palm Sunday; or of When I survey the Wondrous Cross on Good Friday. We did not come together as a congregation to mark the joyous events of the Resurrection. We thought at first that churches, like other public buildings, could remain open, provided that 'social distancing' measures were maintained; but the guidance changed, and the churches have been closed, even for private prayer.

Palm Sunday



We are all doing our best to respond in innovative ways to the restrictions imposed on us. Shortened Sunday worship is posted online; David conducted a service of Communion from Dirleton. Hazel Gray led a virtual 'prayer walk' through North Berwick, and conducts the Sunday Club via computer. As personal contact has

been restricted, we have been quick to learn, under pressure of necessity, how to work with communications technology. Video-conferencing and phone calls, till recently things of which many of us had barely heard, have become commonplace. And the response to this new 'streamed', electronic, mission, has been really encouraging, in terms of the numbers of people accessing the material remotely. Crisis always prompts reflection on things more profound and serious than those on which we sometimes allow our focus to rest. If the coronavirus prompts more people to consider their relationship with Jesus, and to enquire thoughtfully and seriously about Christianity, then at least some good will have come of it.

We are hoping to follow Abbey in conducting a Kirk Session meeting by way of video conferencing, demonstrating that the practical business of Dirleton parish continues.

The need for prayer, for comfort, and for assisting one another, has not been so great for years; and it is ironic that in the course of a public emergency, we are barred from doing the very things that foster these—public worship together, and meeting with neighbours and friends. Just as the work of the church among its members continues, so does the work of the Church of Scotland nationally, and globally. Our plate collections help support the vast social care and pastoral undertakings of the Kirk, which apart from all its other functions is Scotland's largest charity: I urge all of us to think on how we can help to continue to support that work with our contributions. Many of you make regular financial contributions by way of standing order: to those who do not, our treasurer will be happy to receive contributions by cheque. The relevant details are

posted on the Abbey website and on the noticeboard at the church, but here they are again:-

For standing orders & bank transfers: Royal Bank of Scotland Sort code :- 83 26 02 A/C no. 00136739. David Kirkpatrick the treasurer will receive cheques etc sent to him at 7, The Glebe, Dirleton EH39 5FB.

All of us will have had different experiences of 'Lockdown'. At different times it may have seemed an imposition, or a welcome opportunity to do things other than work. But it is important for us to continue in supporting our all our neighbours in whatever

ways we can; and of course 'neighbours' is used in the Christian sense. That support sometimes may not seem as 'real' as we would like to make it: but it is valuable nonetheless. As Eastertide comes to its close in these strange circumstances, we all hope it will not be too long before we can meet once again together.

Keith Stewart, Session Clerk, Dirleton Kirk

Feeling anxious, depressed or just a bit down? Phone ELHSCP's CWIC Mental Health Support line on 01620 642 963 Monday to Friday 09.00 to 16.00 to talk and get help and advice. More at <https://bit.ly/2AJ5Ba6>



Happy Days



A little reminder of our wonderful summer afternoon teas from last July, which unfortunately will not be an event this year. We will be back in summer 2021!

Christian Aid Week

In absence of our usual frenetic week of events in May to raise funds for Christian aid, please do consider making a direct donation to Christian Aid by sending a text by mobile phone to 70020 and typing the message HELP followed by the amount you wish to donate. For example, Help 5 means you are donating £5.

Your donations will be very gratefully received.



Abbey Church (All Funds)

3 Months to 31 March 2020

General

The deficit for the quarter was £2,947, financed by using funds received in past years. As the Abbey employed a Youth worker in 2019 a deficit was expected. With the COVID-19 pandemic income will be very much reduced.

It is impossible to predict what the effect will be on the Abbey's financial position, but it is difficult to see how the budget deficit will be not be exceeded!

Income

There will be no Open Plate income as long as the Church is closed. Standing Orders have increased.

(Note - If you are tax payer and wish the Abbey to recover the tax paid by yourself please would you ask for a gift-aid form by phoning the office or ask Phil for one. Alternatively, both the gift-aid and the standing order form are available from the Abbey Church website)

The Halls are currently closed, therefore there will be no Halls income as long as the lock-down continues

Expenditure

It is not thought that there will many savings in expenditure.

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

If you have any questions please ask.

Stuart Ainslie

May 2020

Actual - v - Budget - Quarter to 31st March 2020

Income (All Funds)	Annual Budget	Budget to 31 Mar	Actual to 31 Mar	Variance
Offerings	68,000	17,000	17,679	679
Tax reclaim	16,000	4,000	3,689	(311)
Miscellaneous	9,900	1,575	396	(1,179)
Premises income	18,000	4,500	4,939	439
Investment income	5,650	1,410	387	(1,023)
Legacies	0	0	0	0
Dirleton	6,000	1,500	1,500	0
	123,550	29,985	28,590	(1,395)
Total Income				
Expenditure (All Funds)	Annual Budget	Budget to 31 Mar	Actual to 31 Mar	Variance
Church of Scotland payments	57,168	14,292	14,291	1
Pastoral Expenses	10,350	2,586	1,923	663
Other Salaries	44,580	9,909	9,758	151
Premises costs	19,461	4,484	2,301	2,183
Church Office Ex-penses	4,500	1,125	964	161
Investments	-	-	-	-
New Building	600	600	432	168
Miscellaneous	5,615	678	1,868	(1,190)
	142,274	33,674	31,537	2,137
Total Expenditure				
Budget for year 2020	(18,724)			
Budget for period		(3,689)		
Deficit for Period			(2,947)	
Positive Variance				742

Abbey and Dirleton Kirk Prayers June and July 2020

Dear friends in Christ, during these difficult times, it is really important to bring our thoughts and prayers before our Lord.

Let's pray:

Heavenly Father,
thank you that no matter what's happening across the world, we know you are with us, and know we can always turn to you. We ask you to comfort all the people who have lost or will lose loved ones. Help those who are suffering from this awful virus. Bless those who are caring for them whether in hospitals, hospices, care homes or at home. Please let those doing these jobs be provided with all the safety items they need to protect them.

For all the medical staff,
office staff, domestic staff,
and many volunteers, we ask
you to watch over them all.
Bless those in institutions
who cannot have visitors
during these times. Uplift
them, we pray. Help those
who love them to cope.
Likewise, help those in
difficult situations living
alone, feeling very down,
families living in high-rise
flats, trying to keep young
ones entertained. Thank you for those who can go out
into our gardens and still keep safe.



May all people realise how important it is to stay in as much as possible, keep their distance when they are out, and wash their hands often. Thank you Father. Bless those whose jobs are in jeopardy, those who are struggling financially, and all businesses which are in lockdown, large and small. Give the rulers of our nations the wisdom needed, guide them we pray, that they will make the right decisions, thank you.

We realise, during this crisis, how dependent we are on one another- thank you for all the carers. We pray you will strengthen us all until this pandemic is over.

Thank you in Jesus' precious name. Amen.

Betty Hawthorn
Prayer Secretary

Try Praying

As you know we have a couple of perspex boxes with Try Praying booklets in them on the railings at Abbey church for people to help themselves to. What you may not know is that individual Christians across the UK have been putting these boxes on their own garden fences with booklets for people to help themselves to.

One such person went to check on his box and found an envelope with the following message:



'Just wanted to say a big Thank you for the booklet. Trypraying. This has been a real help to me these past couple of days. A small thing like putting these where people like me can find them, means so much and you will never know just how much. Thanks again and I will keep praying.'

Tearfund commissioned a survey of 2100 people by Savanta ComRes between 24th and 27th April. 5 per-cent of respondents said that they had started to pray during lockdown having not prayed before. Multiplied across the UK, that's over 3 million people. And why not? For all the immense human tragedy it's at times like this when people seek answers in the living God.

As you probably know, Trypraying is a simple seven day prayer guide for people who are not religious. It helps them pray about something that's important to them and leads them to trust Christ with their lives.

If you get a Perspex box and put a few copies in, someone may take one and discover God at work in their lives and you will have been part of that.

<https://thereishope.co.uk/product/perspex-boxes/>

Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.

1 Peter 3:15



Children & Youth Work

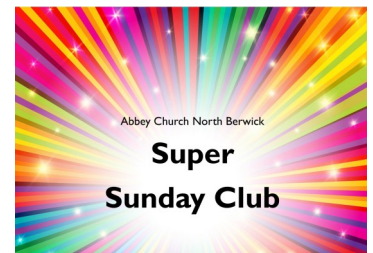
With lockdown in place, it has been difficult not meeting up with people. However, we have managed to move a few of the regular activities we run for children and young people so that we can continue to engage with them online.

The Voice Project.

Although we can't sing together in person, the Voice Project is continuing to meet online. We have a Zoom meeting every Thursday where we catch up, warm up our voices and sing some songs. The time delay causes an issue, so we are all on mute - therefore we can sing at the top of our voices! It's been great to see each other's cheery faces and keep in touch. If you know anyone P5-S3 who would like to join us, please email Hazel.

Super Sunday Club.

I have been recording videos to put on Facebook and the church website for Super Sunday Club, and are trialling running it on Zoom some Sundays. It's good to see each other and have the chance to chat together as we play games, sing songs, and explore the Bible. If you know of children who would like to join the Zoom meetings, please email Hazel.



Feast

This is a new youth group for S4-S6 age group, and we were about to start meeting in person when lockdown began. The aim was to cook food, eat, and open

the Bible together. We are now meeting on Zoom on a Friday afternoon, alternating between that and Equip which is an SU Scotland run event on Zoom too. Unfortunately, we've had to miss out the food element for now, but hopefully we can reinstate that down the line. If you know of anyone who would be interested in joining in, please email Hazel.



Holiday Club

We had a fun day at Easter holiday club on 14th March, but sadly we will not be able to run a holiday club in person this summer due to the continuing advice around the virus. We are looking at ways we can still provide some activities for children, maybe some sort of online venture. We will keep you updated on this.

Duty Rotas

All Duty Rotas have been suspended during the lockdown but we would like to thank everyone who helps in the smooth and efficient running of our services.

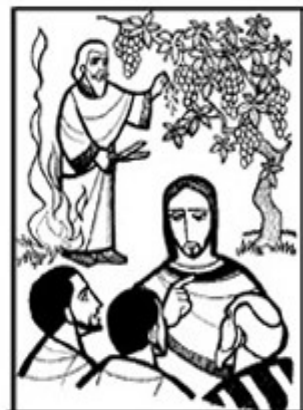
The flower team, the creche, Super Sunday Club, Sunday services, the projection team, the Sunday teas, we couldn't do without you.



I Am the Vine

"I am the vine: you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.,"
John 15:5 (NIV)

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



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

- 4-16-23-20 _____
- 19-12-9-20 _____
- 24-16-7-9-14-17-20-6 _____
- 16-20-22-7-12-9 _____
- 24-20-7-16 _____
- 5-16-23-12-4 _____
- 1-7-16-15-20-9-20-16 _____
- 2-16-23-9-20-6 _____

GARDENER	BRANCHES	TRUE	VINE
PRUNES	REMAIN	BEAR	FRUIT

Getting to know our Session Clerks

There are so many people who are doing so much to help in our churches that it is almost impossible to name them all, however as a starting point we thought we would introduce our Session Clerks, both past and present. A few questions were put to them about themselves and their roll in both Abbey and Dirleton Churches.

Former Kirk Session Clerks



Sally Penman
Abbey Church



Hilda Kimber
Dirleton Kirk

Tell us a little about you and your family

Sally — I am married with three children, all now grown up. I am Depute Headteacher at Law Primary School, and previously worked as a civil servant in New Zealand and England, having studied Economics at University. I was brought up in Leeds in England, and then lived in New Zealand from 1976 to 1992, came back for a "working holiday" and met my Scottish husband, Bruce, when we were working together in Hampshire. We were both made redundant in 1999 and decided to move to Scotland to be near his parents, who lived in North Berwick. At the time we had two wee

boys (Gregor and Bobby) and were expecting a third baby (who turned out to be Alison).

Hilda — I'm Glasgow born, lived in the Highlands for years then moved to the Central Belt. I trained in Home Economics and taught then lectured in Glasgow until I married Peter in 1967. We have two married sons - one in Edinburgh with four children, one in London with two. I chose to become a Christian when I was very young as I feared the Lord would return and I would be left behind while my family were wafted off to heaven. Since then I have confirmed my faith and belief many times. Since our marriage we have lived in at least 10 houses in different places and made many friends. We have no plans to move again.

How did you first become involved with Abbey Church?

Sally — When we moved to North Berwick in June 20 years ago with a very young family, I wanted to find a church where I could worship with my children (my husband is not a church-goer) to re-establish my own church-going. I had worshipped in a variety of church settings so wasn't committed to any particular denomination. I tried my nearest church on the first Sunday and then went to Abbey the following week, where I felt at home. An Alpha course was starting after the summer, which I joined. During the course I realised that I wanted to be more committed to the Christian faith and my daughter Alison was born halfway through the course. I have lasting memories of taking her along to subsequent evenings and having her cradled by some of the leaders of the course including

John Evans and the late John Campbell. During the next few years we had lots of young families join the church and I organised the creche (up to 12 children some weeks, can you believe!) and helped with Summer Holiday Clubs. I joined the Congregational Board, then was invited to become an Elder.

Hilda — Dirleton Kirk was a 3 minute walk from our home in Dirleton and having met the Minister and congregation we saw no good reason to look at any other church.

When did you serve as Kirk Session Clerk?

Sally — I took over as Session Clerk in 2010 and I served until December 2019.

Hilda — 2007-2013 approximately

What did you see as the role of Session Clerk?

Sally — Looking back, I didn't do enough in a pastoral role; I relied on other elders to do that. I saw my job as managing what was going on in the church, and setting up the current Committee structure took up a lot of time in my first couple of years. I think it was worth it, as we involved other members of the congregation in the various Committees which reported into the Kirk Session. The intention was that the Kirk Session would have more time to spend on discussing spiritual matters. I think we made a start on that and I would hope that this would continue.

Hilda — I didn't know anything about Session Clerking when I took on the role but I quickly picked up that I

should try to lighten the load for the Minister, be a bridge between him and the congregation and see that practical affairs in the Kirk ran smoothly.

What was the most challenging thing about being a Kirk Session Clerk?

Sally — Finding time to meet with the Minister when we were both so busy! The other main issue that keeps coming up is the need to find a way of opening up Christ's church to new people while maintaining the traditions of existing church-goers. Also there is a feeling that as Session Clerk you have a responsibility to make sure that everything happens as it should. You are in danger of forgetting that it isn't up to us, it's up to God.

Hilda — I came into the role just as the sale of the Glebe land was being negotiated and church property was being sold and bought. I had no experience of this kind of thing and felt out of my depth. Fortunately, there were much more highly skilled people on the Kirk Session who stepped in to help. That was the scariest time.

What was the most rewarding thing about being a Kirk Session Clerk?

Sally — I think the best thing was becoming more aware of everything that was going on in the church. I was constantly amazed at how many different people were involved on a regular basis with all the activities and events. In terms of stewardship, Abbey Church

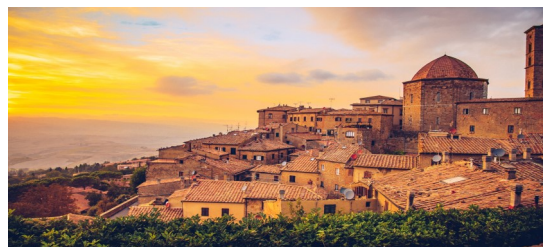
has a great record of people giving their time and talents to the service of the church in many different ways, some unseen. I am glad that during my time as Session Clerk we agreed to employ people to work with families and young people. We had spent lots of money on building work, but this was a way to make a commitment to using our money for people who could engage with others and build faith.

Hilda — It was always a pleasure working with David and the congregation and eventually, when I felt I knew roughly what I was meant to be doing, I did enjoy trying to keep the Kirk running smoothly. I was hugely enriched by contact with all the Kirk members.

If you could spend a month every year anywhere but Scotland, where would it be and why?

Sally — I love Scotland and it feels like my spiritual home, but I am half-Kiwi and would love to be able to go back to New Zealand every year to spend time with my family there and my friends, particularly some special people I got to know through my choral singing and the Wellington Cathedral Choir.

Hilda — Probably Tuscany - sunshine, scenery and history. And pasta.



Any advice for the current Kirk Session Clerk?

Sally — Try to make time to meet with the Minister

each month, so that you can be the go-between link for Minister and Kirk Session. There is so much going on at Abbey that the Minister should not have to respond to everything.

Hilda — I was not good at delegating and got a bit overloaded, so I'd say - delegate clearly and keep the Minister hassle-free!

Current Kirk Session Clerks



Robert Burgon
Abbey Church



Keith Douglas Stewart
Dirleton Kirk

Tell us a little about you and your family.

Robert — In addition to being Session Clerk, I have been the organist in Abbey Church since 1976. Having worked for just two organisations for 38 years in my entire career, I retired in 2016 and am now enjoying the next phase in my life. I have been married to Sheila for almost 40 years and we have two grown

-up children and one 15 month-old granddaughter.

Keith — My wife Amanda and I married in 2000. We have two children, Douglas and Iona. Douglas has finished at school and has a place at Glasgow University in the autumn, to read computing science. Iona's schooling continues- she goes into fifth year and is currently getting her lessons via computer.

How did you first become involved with Abbey Church/Dirleton Kirk?

Robert — I have been involved with Abbey Church from a very early age and attended Sunday, School, Bible Class, Youth Fellowship before becoming a communicant member in my late teenage years. I have been an elder for about 37 years.

Keith — We moved to Dirleton in 1968 or 1969, before I started my schooling. Dad was proprietor of the Castle Inn, Dirleton. We worshipped at Dirleton from moving in, and I went to Sunday School and grew up in the church. Mr. Fraser was the Minister as I was growing up, and Mrs. Fraser tells me she remembers calling on us at home when we moved into the village. Mr. Fraser confirmed me and admitted me into the Kirk in my teens.

When did you become Kirk Session Clerk?

Robert — Very recently- on 3 February 2020.

Keith — 2012

What do you see as the role of Session Clerk?

Robert — Although the job description might imply that Session Clerks simply prepare agendas and minutes for Kirk Session meetings, in reality, there is a little more to the role (as I am quickly finding out). I think Session Clerks have to work closely with (and support) the Minister in taking forward the mission of their congregation. Much of the work will be done by other elders and by members of the congregation and I see my role as helping to coordinate and encourage. The role is an opportunity to serve the church and one which I look forward to carrying out.

Keith — Trying to assist the Minister as best I can; helping in worship; trying to assist the excellent and conscientious work done by members of the Kirk Session in maintaining the fabric of the church and the congregation. Serving God.

Has it been different to your expectations and why?

Robert — As I am only about 3 months into the role it is possibly a little early to respond to this although my answer to the next question indicates that there are aspects to the role which I could not have anticipated when I was first asked to consider becoming the Session Clerk.

Keith — Considered objectively, the administrative burden is light, but it is nonetheless heavier than I find I deal with comfortably. The show is kept on the road only by the promptings, assistance and advice of my two illustrious predecessors, Irene Urquhart and

Hilda Kimber, and members of the K.S. and the congregation. And indeed from the Abbey Office!

How has this current pandemic affected your role?

Robert — The Coronavirus pandemic has changed most things in most of our lives and that is certainly true of my role as Session Clerk. Very rapidly, the church has had to adapt to the new scenario in which our doors are closed, physical worship isn't possible and we simply can't enjoy the fellowship which is such an important part of our involvement in the church. However, it has been good to see how quickly our congregation has responded to the new situation. Our services online are appreciated by members of the congregation (and indeed many others) and I know that elders and church members are in regular contact with others in the congregation, to ensure that they are all coping and that any needs are met. The Kirk Session has quickly adopted new technology and we have now had two well-attended Kirk Session meetings by Zoom. Such meetings permit the business of the Session to continue and also allow us to plan for the future.

Keith — It has made me think more about the work of the church beyond our meeting together to worship.

What would you like to achieve for your church in the future?

Robert — Abbey Church has an ambitious Strategy for the 2020s which sees our congregation growing in its faith and in every aspect of its ministry. If I can assist in any way in achieving this agenda, then I will be happy.

Keith — I should like to see a strengthening of the links between the church and the school, and other bodies and groups in the parish.

If you could spend a month every year anywhere but Scotland, where would it be and why?

Robert — That is a really hard question to answer. Having experienced several weeks of lockdown in a rainless and sunny North Berwick, it is tempting to say that there is no place like home. A return to more normal Scottish weather conditions might change my perspective. If I were able to spend a month somewhere else, it would be somewhere where the weather was almost guaranteed to be warm (not too warm) and sunny and somewhere near the sea.



Keith — Only one...it's such a difficult question- like being asked what my favourite food is! for natural beauty and for sake of happy holiday memories I could go easily with Eskdale, or Northumberland, or the Yorkshire Dales, or Pembrokeshire, or north Devon, or north Cornwall. But as I am restricted to one place only I'm going for Oxford, for memories, and physical beauty in town and countryside. You've got to throw in a reader's ticket for various of the libraries though.



How would you like the parish members to describe you at the end of your term as Kirk session Clerk?

Robert — I hope that I will be seen as having carried out my duties faithfully (in accordance with the oath I took at the Session meeting on 3 February), with appropriate good humour and an ability to listen to the views of others.

Keith — 'He was not perhaps quite the disaster he might have been'.

Many thanks to our Session Clerks, past and present, for your part in our journey with Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk.





During the 'lockdown', Mary has been busy making face masks. It started small scale with hand-sewing, and soon became more of a cottage industry!

Now ably assisted by Morna, they have also raised money for Christian Aid thanks to the generous donations of people who received one, currently about £450.

Thanks to Linda for sourcing the elastic, and to people who gave fabric- Susan, Sheila, Rose, Jean, Katrina, Pam, and Robina.

Let's all follow the example of Moses
(Exodus 34 v.33-35)!



Hello to all my friends in Dirleton and Abbey. I am missing having the chance to come and visit you. but I have been watching on line, so it feels like a wee visit though, not quite the same as meeting with you all face to face. I thoroughly enjoyed the walk around service it was superb as was listening to Lucy singing and Robert playing the lovely music. Everybody who has taken part have made the service a joy to watch and listen to.

It is certainly a strange time I find it really weird on a Sunday morning not having to get a move on and get ready to go to church. I am looking forward to when we can get back to worship together in person. John our minister in West church has been putting devotions on line daily and they have been a comfort. He is now on Study Leave for three months, I am doing the Sunday service and we have a team to do the daily devotions.

It was interesting to see a little notice on Facebook it was the devil saying to the minister. Well now you are well and truly finished now I have managed to empty and shut down all your churches. Oh No said the minister, the buildings may be closed but there are thousands more Christians watching on line. It was a very small piece notice but what a big message. Much as we like to be in the church building we have been very fortunate that we now have the extra option of worshipping in our own homes, we may be separate physically, but thanks to all who have taken time to record readings and sing hymns and preach a message bringing us together in mind and spirit. It has been interesting watching the services from other churches

from all around us and the Songs of Praise etc. on a Sunday have had their viewer ratings up by a good, strong percentage.

There is such a lot of upset and worry and confusion just now but I do pray that we will get through this with the love and care that people are sharing. It has brought about a feeling of togetherness amongst neighbours, it's always uplifting when I am out on a Thursday evening seeing most of the neighbours out applauding the work of the essential workers who have kept the necessary care ongoing for all who need it.

I will be keeping you all in my prayers and sending you all cyber hugs to enfold to in my love but most of in the eternal love of God.

Love to you all

Jacqueline Waugh

PS found this as I was looking up a funny quote. Just thought it has even more relevance now more than ev-



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

Funerals

.4.20 Joy Wright
2.4.20 Dr Ian Robertson
3.4.20 Dr Duncan Weir
9.4.20 Andrew Thorburn
17.4.20 Murray Ancell
20.5.20 Ingeborg Millar
4.6.20 Doreen Egan
Hope Letters

Pastoral Visits

The Minister and Pastoral Assistant are happy to make contact with 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, as it can be confusing when making contact 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 August/September 2020. The deadline for submitting articles is Tuesday 14th July 2020. Please send to Abbey Church Office.

Abbeychurch.org.uk

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



Abbey Church, North Berwick (Church of Scotland)

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