



Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk News

August/September 2020

Minister: Rev. Dr David J Graham, BSc, BD
Sunday Morning Worship and Dirleton Wednesday
Prayer Service

Our First Sunday service following lockdown is expected to take place on 16 August 2020 - please check our website for details to follow.

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,

A few weeks ago, we had one of those long-lasting sea fogs, which is one of the downsides of living here. The dreaded haar (is that how you spell it? I'm never sure). After a few warm - even hot - sunny days, the combination of warm land and cold sea produce fog.

During those rather dreich and chilly days, I couldn't help but compare it with the experience we've all been going through recently, with Covid, lockdown etc.

Fog makes us slow down. The past few months have put the brakes on a lot of travel, holidays, and the normal activities of life. Restrictions are everywhere.

Fog reminds us that we are creatures who are subject to the laws of nature, and not above them. The virus has reminded us that we're mortal, not invincible.

Fog can remind us what life is like for people whose everyday lives are restricted by issues of health, disability, or poverty. We've become so accustomed to making our own decisions in life, and having almost unlimited freedom of choice. But for the majority of people in today's world, they do not have the privileges which we do. We're in a temporary setback, they have to live with it always.

The sea haar may last a few days, but we know it will lift- eventually. Perhaps not as quickly as we wish, but patience and perseverance are the key words. And when it does, we pray that our lives will not only return to exactly what they were before, but will be lived in a better way, more aware of our human vulnerability, but also of the power of love to change things for the better.

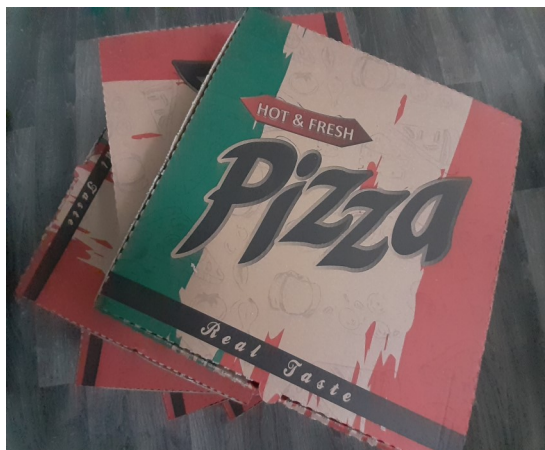
Your minister,
David

FEAST

Our new youth group for S4-S6 age group was about to start when Lockdown began! We moved onto Zoom and have been meeting weekly since then. Once a fortnight, we attended Zoom meetings for Equip, a youth event run by SU Scotland with speakers and Bible study. Young people from all over the Lothians have been coming to this, with between 50 and 70 present. We're able to meet in small groups though for chat. On alternative weeks, we meet as our own wee group on Zoom. We have just completed a Bible study on Philippians, and are starting a 5 week study on Psalms over the summer. To mark the end of the school term, we ordered pizzas from The Big Blu in Dunbar. They make the pizzas, then deliver them to be finished off in the oven for 7 minutes. I took the delivery of all the pizzas, then delivered to individuals - for some, this was the first time I'd met them in person! The following week, we made chocolate mug cakes for dessert. Both were very delicious. It has been great to meet up weekly online, but we're looking forward to meeting again in person, and eating together our first altogether FEAST.

Hazel Gray

Young People's Worker





Try Praying - Try it and Buy it

Do you know someone who would benefit from reading a Try Praying booklet? If you click the link: <http://thereishope.co.uk/try-it-and-buy-it/> it will take you to a page on the Try Praying - website where you can read the trypraying booklet online.

From there you can also order a booklet to be sent through the post either to a friend or to yourself. They will do the posting!

This is an opportunity for you to bring hope to someone. It's a way to share your faith. You can send a message to a friend or a relative along with the booklet. It may help them in their life and, crucially, help them begin a relationship with Jesus. Please check it out and think about who would benefit from receiving a copy through the post or reading it on-line.



Abbey Church (All Funds) - 6 Months to 30 June 2020

General

The deficit for the half year was £24,650, financed by using funds received in past years. As the Abbey employed a Youth Worker in 2019 a deficit was expected, additionally some stonework repairs were carried out. With the COVID-19 pandemic income is very much reduced.

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

Income

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

(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!

In the quarter some investments were sold, these relate to the Samaritan Fund where the expenditure exceeds the income.

Expenditure

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

The Abbey has claimed furlough income on some staff. The staff, however, are being paid their full salary.

Premises costs include the stonework repairs and the front and back of the Church. Additionally work was carried out at the manse.

If you have any questions please ask.

Stuart Ainslie

13 July 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 - Six Months to 30th June 2020

Income (All Funds)	Annual Budget	Budget to 30 June	Actual to 30 June	Variance
Offerings	68,000	34,000	31,798	(2,202)
Tax reclaim	16,000	8,000	7,020	(980)
Miscellaneous	9,900	3,150	873	(2,277)
Premises income	18,000	9,000	5,828	(3,172)
Investment income	5,650	2,820	3,073	253
Sale of Investment	0	0	1,000	1,000
Dirleton	6,000	3,000	3,000	0
Total Income	123,550	59,970	52,592	(7,378)

Expenditure (All Funds)	Annual Budget	Budget to 30 June	Actual to 30 June	Variance
Church of Scotland payments	57,168	29,384	29,272	112
Pastoral Expenses	10,350	5,174	6,669	(1,495)
Other Salaries	44,580	20,259	17,557	2,702
Premises costs	19,461	8,758	19,904	(11,146)
Church Office Expenses	4,500	2,249	1,536	713
Investments	-	-	-	-
New Building	600	600	432	168
Miscellaneous	5,615	2,304	1,872	432
	142,274	68,728	77,242	(8,514)
Total Expenditure				

Budget for year 2020	<u>(18,724)</u>
-----------------------------	-----------------

Budget for period	<u>(8,758)</u>
--------------------------	----------------

Deficit for Period	<u>(24,650)</u>
---------------------------	-----------------

Negative Variance	<u>(15,892)</u>
--------------------------	-----------------

Summer Fruits Holiday Club

As we are unable to meet up in person, our joint churches holiday club has had to adapt, but it is still happening this summer!

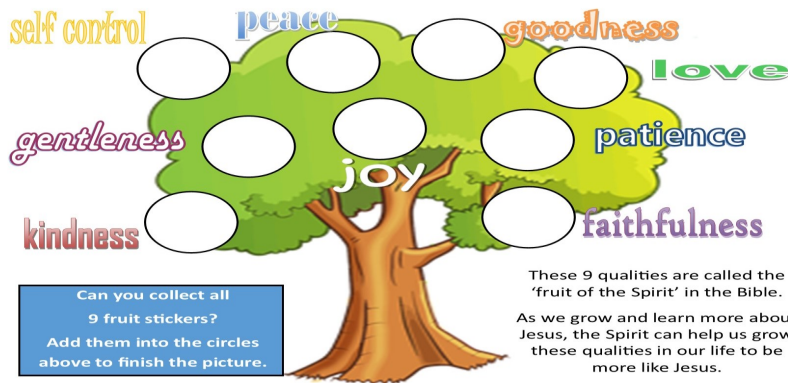
Our Super Sunday Club is currently joining in with the holiday club over the summer.

Each Thursday over the six weeks of the holidays, two videos are being posted on our YouTube Channel and our Facebook page. One is a storytelling video, and the other is an introduction to the themes for the week.

We've asked families to sign up, and they are sent a weekly email with the links to the videos and other resources. We then have a team who deliver an activity bag to their door. In the bag, there is a smaller bag of crafts (see photos for the contents and results of week 1's puppet making), some activity sheets, a challenge for the week, a 'Fruits of the Spirit' sticker card, and a wee treat (a lollipop or fruit smoothie contents, etc.)



The overall theme is fruits of the spirit, and each week we explore an account of Jesus and how that shows us one of the nine fruits of the spirit. (see attached photo).



We have 45 children signed up, and its been lovely to visit the families to drop off the bags each week. We've had some positive feedback from parents too, the activity bags are being well received.

Its not how we would have chosen to run holiday club, but God is still at work in this new way, and we're thankful to Him that we have this opportunity. Your prayers are greatly appreciated.

Hazel Gray

Young People's Worker



Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk Prayers
August and September 2020

Dear friends in Christ,

what can we say in these difficult times? Thank you to God for keeping us safe! I know I've been one of many who have been shielded I'm so looking forward to being able to meet up with family and friends. I know I am grateful to God for giving me your patience to cope during this lockdown.

Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, many thanks for keeping us safe and bringing us through many weeks of social distancing. Blessed abundantly all in the NHS: doctors, nurses, porters, clinical and domestic staff who have kept going helping all who through necessity have been kept in hospitals, hospices, and nursing homes. Those who have cared for loved ones at home (like my husband Jim). Thank you for each and everyone thank you for giving them the strength to face each day help them to continue. Bless all the pharmacists and delivery drivers, all who have kept the food shops open, all the volunteers who go out of their way to help others. We pray that the great spirit that's keeping folk going will continue with your help. Thank you Father.

Let us continue to praise God and trust in him.

We ask all these things in Jesus' precious name.

Amen

Betty Hawthorn
Prayer Secretary

ABBEY KIRK SESSION MATTERS

The unusual conditions facing us all have continued, pretty much unchanged, since my report in the last Newsletter. As I write, there are encouraging signs that the virus seems to be diminishing in Scotland (although, sadly, the condition in many other parts of the world remains extremely worrying). We pray for a continued suppression here in Scotland and also for the church in the countries which continue to be most affected, thinking particularly of our friends in Kalimpong (who, like us, have had to resort to online services and meetings). Our congregational life continues in so many (virtual) ways ranging from our well-viewed Sunday services, through a weekly discussion group, a Zoom prayer meeting and, currently, a North Berwick Churches Summer Holiday Club which is being led by our Young People's Worker, Hazel Gray. 46 primary-age children are accessing the weekly online videos and receiving a delivery of a bag of crafts and worksheets.



Our most recent Kirk Session meeting (the third using Zoom) took place on 15 June 2020 when we considered, among other things, our response to a draft Presbytery plan which seeks to reduce the number of worshipping congregations in our area - our response challenges the thinking behind that plan.

The Kirk Session is delighted to report that Mrs

Kathryn Robertson has been appointed as Little Nippers Coordinator for our highly popular sessions for pre-school children and their carers. Kathryn did some initial work with this group prior to lockdown and we look forward to welcoming her and the Little Nippers back when it is safe and appropriate to do so.

Just over a year ago, Abbey Church adopted an ambitious Vision for the 2020s plan - details of which were reported in a previous Newsletter. That plan contained a number of targets for the first year and these were reviewed by the Kirk Session at its meeting. Excellent progress has been made in several areas including:

Creating opportunities for more participation in Bible-based small groups

The new group for women, "Women Are Learning Together" (WALT) started in September 2019 and quickly attracted a group of between 12- 18 at its fortnightly meetings which focussed on women of faith in the Bible.

A group studied Discipleship Explored as a follow-up to our Alpha course and we also arranged discussions on Max Lucado's "Conversations in Luke".

During lockdown, a Monday afternoon discussion group on Zoom has been attended by around 15 participants.

Alpha course

Up to 40 people participated in an Alpha course during summer 2019 and one person joined Abbey

Church by profession of faith as a result. This was followed by a smaller, but still useful, Alpha course during the winter, although this had to pause during lockdown.

Run a Summer Holiday Club for primary-aged children

A very happy week of activities in the Abbey Church and halls took place in summer 2019 with leaders from 5 different churches in North Berwick and Dirleton. 40 children registered for this. There were follow-up events before Christmas and Easter.

As mentioned above, this year's Summer Holiday Club is being organised online.

Improve our links with Law Primary School

Abbey's Young People's Worker, Hazel Gray, has carried out a number of weekly activities in conjunction with Law Primary School, including a lunchtime SU group and the Voice singing project. Hazel also coordinates a cross-church initiative to provide hospitality for a Parents' Room which is used by up to 35 people as a warm space to wait between school and nursery pick-ups. Our Easter Code and Bubble Gum and Fluff programme for Christmas were well received by the P5 children and their teachers. A group of children reflected on what they had learned in a school Christmas service.

Develop the prayer life of the congregation

Abbey has supported the Try Praying and Thy Kingdom Come initiatives, particularly during lockdown with encouraging results.

A 24-hour prayer initiative for our young people was arranged by Hazel Gray.

A weekly Sunday evening prayer meeting has been established on Zoom during lockdown.

PRAYER MEETING

In reviewing the progress in the first year of our plan for the decade, the Kirk Session was encouraged to see that so much had been achieved. The next stage in the process of developing our Vision for the 2020s is to build on what has already been done and to identify targets for the year ahead. The world in which we live has become a rather different place from the one we knew when the Vision statement was first agreed, and this will need to be considered carefully as we plan for the year ahead.

The Kirk Session has been planning for the day when we can reopen our doors for worship and other activities. At the time of the last meeting, we agreed that Alasdair Kerr (who does excellent work in helping us to maintain our properties) would lead on the project to plan for reopening. Our cleaners and caretaker, Cathy and Juan Luis, were brought out of furlough on 1 July and are working hard to get the sanctuary and halls

ready for us to use.

Our next Kirk Session meeting will take place, again by Zoom, on Monday 20 July 2020 and a report of that will appear in the next Newsletter.

*Robert Burgon,
Session Clerk, Abbey Church*

World Church and Eco-congregation

Hello all,

Did you know that Abbey Church is a designated eco congregation? With that in mind World Church would like to ingather stories and pictures of all the good things that have happened to our environment during the extended period of lockdown as a result of Covid-19. We have see the pictures of the goats wandering through the town centre in Wales and of thriving wild-flower verges. We would welcome any such stories or pictures for a small booklet we are hoping to curate and print for our members.

Please send in your stories and pictures to
abbeychurch@abbeychurch.co.uk
and let's create a beautiful memory together.

Thank you
Yolanda
World Church Committee



LINDISFARNE

A place of holiness and howling winds, virtue and Vikings and of peace and pondering.

This is the time of year that we had planned a fresh attempt at a Joint Kirk trip to Lindisfarne.

As I think of this I recall a visit I made years ago .It was a day of sun and showers and it was an autumnal Tuesday. I was walking back into the village from the castle road, when I was hailed by name by a voice though familiar I could not place, what's more I had come to escape and to think, the day had been chosen as it would be quiet, all in all I was not best pleased.

I turned and had to smile for it was Eck, of all people, I had not seen him since my basic training after which we went to our different units, totally lost touch. I was struck by how much older he had become, how the muscle was turning to flab, the hair to grey, then I remembered the face that had stared out of the mirror as I shaved and started to laugh, for I was no better myself, simply balding rather than greying.

We smiled, shook hands and asked all the obvious questions, and being old soldiers agreed to meet for a pint at the end of the day.

Eck was from a very different church background to me, but we had both been drawn to this Holy Isle to wrestle with our Angels and perhaps doubts, perchance hopes.

Lindisfarne is that kind of place, whether half

deserted or packed with tourists. Humanity has pondered here for a very long time.

For thousands of years the folk of Lindisfarne have strived to sustain life from sea and soil. Location is all and the island was regarded as a Holy place long before the coming of the Celtic monks with Adin in 634.



Later came a local Celtic abbot and bishop Cuthbert, later still the Vikings. Being Vikings they kept raiding and as we all know if you dip the cookie jar too often it stops being filled, the community of monks moved with their gospels and saintly relics to Durham .

By 1093 the Viking issue was gone, and a Benedictine house was established. It lasted till one Henry Tudor, for reasons of his own, declared an English Church. This meant dissolution for the Benedictine monks of Lindisfarne.

Through all this and much more Holy Isle was still a place of boats and plough, sheep and pilgrims. The Parish Church served all who came, the current parish church of St Mary is worth the visit on its own.

So why not come and join us when we are released from lockdown? A day of fellowship and fresh air, food and hopefully some fun too. As well as education

and enlightenment, nature as well as nurture!

As for Eck and I, well that's a tale for a different time suffice to say, we went to our homes that evening renewed, revived and refreshed!

In more ways than one.

Take care and watch this space.....BOB KANE

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal 2020

At this time Blythswood is unsure of arrangements for this years' Appeal due to Covid 19. They hope to have more information in August. In the meantime they hope to be able to continue the Project but transporting the boxes abroad may present problems even in November.

They realise that empty shoe boxes may be in short supply. We would be grateful if people could keep empty boxes in case the appeal goes ahead. Further details will be intimated as soon as we have them.



Dirleton Session Clerk's Newsletter notes July 2020

Christians spend a lot of time in anticipation of coming things. Lent anticipates Easter, and Advent anticipates Christmas; we live our lives in anticipation of Christ's coming again. And, months after the unprecedented restriction on our liberties to gather together, whether in churches, schools, shops, pubs, sports fields, we are seeing these restrictions starting to ease. And as we contemplate the reopening of the church, hopefully we feel something of the same quickening in anticipation of a return to the familiar. And we all must hope that the last few months have allowed us to look to new ways of expressing our faith.

We have, indeed, been obliged to look to new ways of connecting, and staying in touch with one another. We will all be trying to preserve what has been good in lockdown, and carry it forward into the rest of our lives. For example, while services of public worship on Sundays and on Wednesdays have not been taking place, with video conferencing technology, and the dedication of the minister, of Robert Burgon, Lucy Graham and Jim Dickson in providing music, and the willingness of others to record prayers, readings and interviews, we have been able to access services of worship through the internet at any time. And, if we recognise that some people will continue, for good reason, to avoid public spaces and contact for a bit longer, we can anticipate that by continuing to record services- even once we've returned to worshipping in church- we can broaden our reach, and permit people unable to come to church to participate.

We are grateful for the work which our members have carried out, not only in and for the church over the past few months, but in the wider world as well. When we consider the ways in which some of our friends have been called to serve the community- for example as pharmacist, or doctor, or schoolteacher helping children to learn without school- we reflect with gratitude on the hard work and dedication of so many people in keeping us all going during the extraordinary times which we have been through.

But now it may be that the night is far spent and the day is at hand...Lynsey Ritchie has been in the Kirk administering a 'deep clean'; hand sanitizer and signage is deployed; all in anticipation of a resumption of use of the Kirk in the near future. It may be that by the time you are reading this, we have been permitted to reopen the Kirk and assemble again. All sorts of groups have been prevented from meeting and using the hall- we think in particular of Dirleton Playgroup- and we hope that it will be possible to resume the use of the hall before too long.

Along with the regular work of the church and the hall, other tasks have been suspended. Cammie Anderson has kept the churchyard looking beautiful, and I'm sure it has been a source of cheer to all who have visited; but the works by the Council to remodel the road, and kerbs, by the War Memorial and outside the hall have been held up. Just recently the JCB and the site hut have reappeared, and this may indicate that the work is about to resume. The work is intended to improve the parking surfaces along the boundary wall with Archerfield, provide proper kerbs to protect the

grass on the green and outside the hall, and sort out the drainage problems at the north end of the War Memorial green, which have caused problems from time to time. We have managed to have an electronic Kirk Session meeting, and, whether we meet in person or in the form of a video conference, we will consider and vote on the matter of the other proposals for the appearance of the surroundings of the green, the hall and the Kirk, which are such an important part of the village to residents and visitors alike.

Keith Stewart

14th July 2020



Getting to know our Pastoral Assistant

This newsletter I thought a few questions posed at Abbey and Dirleton larger than life Pastoral Assistant, Bob Kane, would be an interesting interview. The problem was getting him to stay in one place for more than 10 minutes, another busy member of our churches.



Tell us a little about yourself.

I was born in Glasgow and adopted by a wonderful couple as a baby, it's a lottery, but I got lucky, as they say, TWICE ! Belinda (just to annoy her mother I sometimes joke) married me.

I spent my early years and misspent youth in West Lothian and attended West Calder High by the light of the glistening BING.

Your past career wasn't perhaps as 'sedate' as your current profession. Are you able to tell us a little about that?

Well I had wanted to do medicine but I was told by one of those teachers not to kid myself, my marks were not good enough. he only thought of Edinburgh or

Glasgow, no mention of first degree of English options, so if any young folk get told that, check it out!

So I did what a lot of my family had done when not sure what next, joined up in the Army for a while.

I was airborne, so lots of free flights to interesting places! I picked up a good many transferable life skills and a lot more non-transferable and bad habits!

After the army it was Uni and divinity, then probation as a minister, not in any other way honest!

Having being deeply affected by my placements at the Royal Edinburgh during my training, I found myself working for the kirk as a manager and practitioner with its social work agency (now called crossreach) with the parish locums thrown in.

How did you get involved with Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk?

I had had some heart problems which had involved both bypass and later procedures and was obliged to take medical retirement. To be fair, I had by then given all I could in that role and for some time had wondered what God might have in store for me.

After the Doctors told me that I could work part time, I was sniffing around the few PT ministry jobs. I was offered the then vacant post of Pastoral assistant in 2008 to both my and Belinda's relief, not least for we had grown to love North Berwick and Dirleton since moving to the area in 1988.

During this lockdown your job of pastoral care must have thrown up some interesting challenges. How have you overcome those?

It is so hard in sickness and bereavement to distance visit folk and phone calls are not always the whole answer. I am now an authority on garden furniture, at my size one has to be, not all are built for my girlish figure. I feel I am developing a lifelong aversion to Zoom but it has been such a useful tool.

Do you feel that, as we come out of lockdown, you have experienced some positive outcome in the way you have been looking after our members?

Yes for sure I have been very impressed with folk's kindness to one another, the care and indeed love shown and the concern expressed for David's and my own wellbeing. I took one funeral where the flexibility and mutual support of everyone concerned was in the circumstances quite amazing.

It has also been fascinating just how we have been forced to think and do in different ways in worship prayer and study.

How does Bob Kane look after his own pastoral care, how do you relax and re-energise yourself?

I am lucky to work with and for David (we phone e-mail and support each other) and share a sense of humour, not all in ministry have that. I am also v lucky in my diverse group of friends a few still in the job, local and at some



distance. Cooking, reading and music are my hobbies. I do and will enjoy a glass of wine and after all this time, Belinda has not yet tried to kill me.

Finally, where is your favourite holiday destination if you couldn't say Scotland?

We love to travel, but of all the places over all the years it would have to be Crete

Get away from the resorts and the real Crete with its history, beauty and wondrous people

Is a joy to both the eye and the soul?



Many thanks Bob, as Abby and Dirleton's Pastoral Assistant you help us to feel safe and comfortable with your caring, compassionate and always upbeat style.

Rotas

As we go to print, no rotas have been prepared yet for the period August/September. We continue to thank everyone who has helped in the past and who will help in the future with the smooth operation of our church services.



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

June 9th Blair Nugent
July 9th William Thomson
July 16th Douglas Barbour
July 21st Berkley Crawford
July 23rd Louise Laughland

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 *October/November 2020*. The deadline for submitting articles is *Tuesday 15th September 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)

Scottish Charity No. SC0 04761—CCL51436