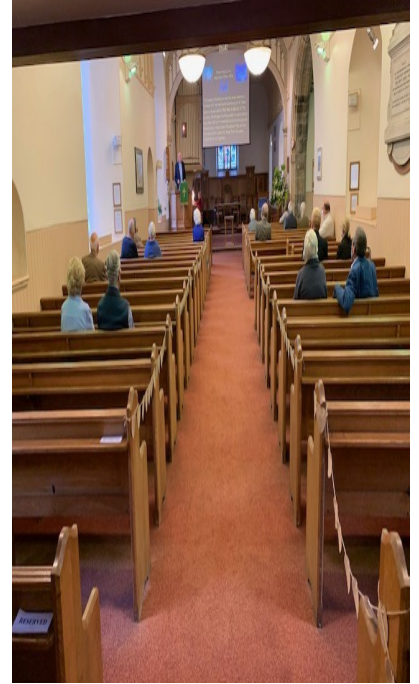




**Abbey Church  
and  
Dirleton Kirk News  
October/November  
2020**

**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 welcome**

**Book through Abbey Church Office**

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

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,

In 1872, the famous American evangelist D L Moody preached in North Berwick. Moody was the 'Billy Graham' of his day, and to have him preach here must have been a great experience. I haven't come across an account of the occasion, but I know that in a strange way it was connected with the writing of a gospel hymn:

*When peace like a river attendeth my way  
When sorrows like sea billows roll  
Whatever my lot, Thou hast taught me to say  
It is well, it is well with my soul*

Horatio Spafford, was a successful lawyer in Chicago. In 1871 he lost most of his investments in the great Chicago Fire, then their 4 year-old son died of scarlet fever.

His friend D. L. Moody was to preach in Britain, so they decided to travel to hear him, and also have a holiday. Due to last-minute business pressures, his wife Anna and their four girls had to travel before he did. Crossing the Atlantic, another ship accidentally rammed their liner, and it sank in minutes. Anna was rescued on a floating plank of wood, but all four daughters had drowned.

Spafford immediately left home to bring his wife back. On the crossing, the captain told him they had reached the spot where his daughters had perished. He later wrote "We passed over the spot where she went down, in mid-ocean, the waters three miles deep. But I do not think of our dear ones there. They are safe, the dear

lambs." As he passed over the spot, Spafford wrote the hymn "It Is Well with My Soul."

In these days of pandemic, isolation and even loss, it might be easy to give up hope and lose faith. But Spafford's example reminds us that whatever our lot, Christ tells us that 'it is well with our soul'.

Here is the hymn sung by a choir from Nashville:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?time\\_continue=14&v=nDIJz6zzHNU&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=14&v=nDIJz6zzHNU&feature=emb_logo)

Or, if you prefer a more traditional version:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zY5o9mP22V0>

Your minister,  
David

Our Sunday service themes this autumn are based on five short and often overlooked books of the Bible. Sometimes referred to as the 'Five Scrolls' ('Megilloth' in Hebrew), the little books of books of Ruth, Esther, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs and Lamentations have struggled to be recognised against the 'giants' such as Isaiah, Genesis or Psalms. They have recently been called 'The Forgotten Books of the Bible'. Yet they have a message as relevant for us today as any other books. Refugees, ethnic cleansing, sexuality, genocide, finding meaning in a confusing world - these are just some of their themes.



## ABBEY KIRK SESSION

While it might seem that not much has changed since my report in our last Newsletter, we made a significant step forward as a worshipping community when Abbey Church reopened for worship on 16 August 2020, following 21 Sundays on which our doors remained closed.



As a result of the hard work of our cleaners and caretaker, Cathy and Juan Luis and the excellent project management skills of Alasdair Kerr, the building has been deep cleaned and the seating in the sanctuary has been carefully reconfigured to ensure appropriate social distancing and hygiene requirements are met. We appreciate the efforts too, of the army of door duty volunteers who help to ensure that we maintain the requirements of being open. We might have to wear face coverings and we may not be able to sing, but I believe that our Minister, David, and our Pastoral Assistant, Bob, have led us in meaningful acts of worship, which I know are appreciated by those who have attended. Our numbers are limited and as a result we have implemented a booking system. So far, we have not had to turn anyone away and it has been good, every Sunday so far, to welcome visitors.



As I write this, the new Scottish Rule of Six has been implemented for us all and a large part of the population is prohibited from visiting any other home. We really appreciate the exemption which has been granted to places of worship and we pray, as the country strives to see an end to the Covid 19 pandemic, that this exemption will remain in place.

Meetings of the Kirk Session meeting using Zoom took place on 20 July and 24 August 2020. The main business at the first of these meetings was discussion on the arrangements we needed to make to enable to allow us to reopen for worship. At the August meeting, we reviewed the first two services which had taken place and also discussed the way in which we might manage hall lettings, within the requirements of both the Scottish Government and the Church of Scotland. Unfortunately, it was decided that the provision of Holy Communion would be difficult to manage under the current restrictions and our planned service in September has therefore been postponed.

Although the service on 27 September will still have a harvest theme, we have also postponed the planned collection of coins for our chosen charity, Bees Abroad, until 2021.



## Youth Work

Hazel Gray, our Young People's Worker has seen all of the work which she previously carried out in Law Primary School curtailed, as external visitors are not permitted in the building. However, Hazel has continued to be busy with her weekly recordings for Super Sunday Club. They are accessible on the church website and I encourage people of all ages to have a look at them- I can assure you that they will brighten your day. As a follow-up to this year's highly successful virtual Summer Holiday Club, Hazel organised a Treasure Hunt around North Berwick churches for the afternoon of Sunday 6 September 2020. It was one of those really warm and sunny afternoons which pleased the volunteers, some of whom had dressed up as characters from the Bible stories featured in the Summer Holiday Club. Hazel has also started a new group for older teenagers- "Feast". Although the original intention had been that the group would meet for bible study and food (hence the name), most of the meetings so far have had to be via Zoom- although they have also had a successful walk up the Law followed by fish and chips on the Elcho Green. We pray for Hazel as she continues to lead our work with young people.

## World Church

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Church of North India in November 2020, our World Church Committee is preparing a video to be sent to our friends in our twinned church in Kalimpong.

## New Member

The Kirk Session is pleased to welcome Mrs Ann McCarter to our membership. Ann joins us from her previous church, Canongate Kirk, in Edinburgh. Both she and her late husband spent many years supporting the Church of Scotland in senior roles nationally and we are very pleased to have her with us.

Our next Kirk Session meeting will take place, again by Zoom, on Monday 5 October 2020 and a report of that will appear in the next Newsletter.

Robert Burgon,  
Session Clerk,  
Abbey Church





## Dirleton Kirk Session

In the last newsletter, writing in relation to the suspension of congregational worship as a result of the Covid-19 epidemic, I quoted- with perhaps too much optimism- that 'the night is far spent, and the day is at hand'. Well, months later, we are about to recommence our Sunday services, and by the time this newsletter is in your hands, 20th September 2020 may have come and gone, and we will be gathering again on Sunday mornings to come together in worship- at least until the next time this revolutionary act is deemed too dangerous to the public welfare to be allowed to continue.

We have been able to gather over the last few weeks for our 10am Wednesday services of prayer, though in the church itself and not in the hall: and I trust our prayers have been no less heartfelt for the wearing of masks, and the presence of hand sanitizer, and the exhortations to sit at least two metres apart; or from the absence of singing, and music, and tea and biscuits afterwards. Thinking back to the experience of first attending church as a boy, I find a certain nostalgia in sitting again on bare pews, unmediated by cushions, these having been removed so as not to require disinfecting after every service!



The experience of attending church on Sundays will be strange. We will be expected to reserve our places; to remember our masks (a particular problem for some of us- I got to Dirleton last Wednesday without mine, and so had to participate in prayers with a t-shirt wrapped around my head in lieu of a mask); to give forth our



praise without song; to sustain one another, without being able to gather informally afterwards. It would be premature to pass comment upon the response to the virus of the civic authorities, and the attitude adopted by the Church of Scotland: and so I will confine myself to reflecting that such inconveniences and obstacles as we have faced since March, collectively as a congregation and as a community, are scarcely to be compared with the examples of suffering set forth in the Bible, or the terrors and persecutions endured in many parts of the world by Christians in our own time.

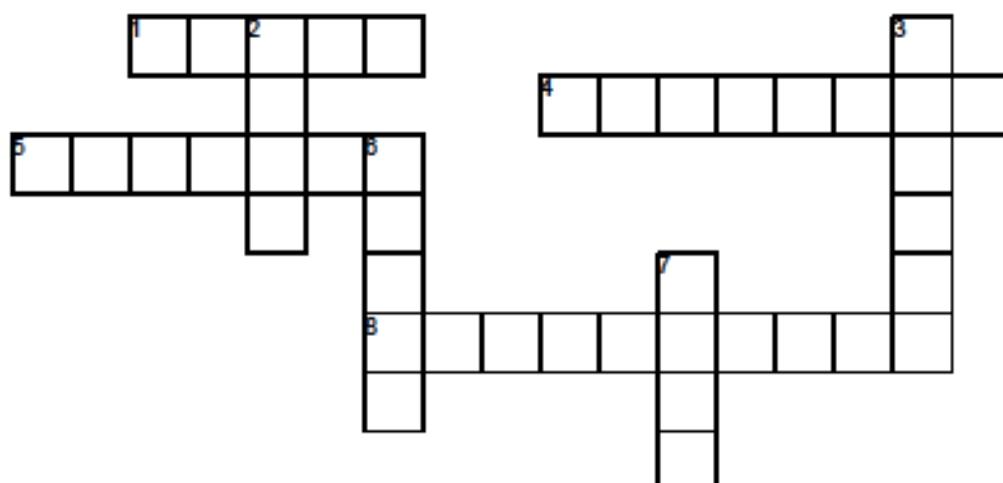
The Church of Scotland forbade the use of church halls for much of the last few months. The Kirk Session has decided to permit the Dirleton Playgroup to resume its activities in the hall, to the exclusion of other users. We felt that the Playgroup uses the hall most often of all our regular users; and that it is particularly desirable that this service, important as it is to families and community life in Dirleton, should resume as quickly as possible. Such are the complications arising from the requirements to clean thoroughly after use, that the Playgroup is the sole user of the hall at the moment. We apologize to other users and thank them for their patience. And we offer thanks to the tireless and meticulous Lynsey Ritchie for her thorough cleansing of the premises, necessary so as to permit such resumption of ordinary use of our buildings as we have been permitted. I am also pleased to report that work continues on the renovation of the church organ, and I express our thanks to our craftsman Jamie Lightoller; to Jim Dickson, our organist, for his thoughtful assistance in the process; and to David Kirkpatrick, our treasurer, for his supervision.

Keith Stewart, Session Clerk, Dirleton Kirk

# The Lord's Prayer



After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)



## HORIZONTAL

1. A baked food made from flour.
4. Holy, sacred, worthy of our praise.
5. To remove the blame for doing something wrong.
8. The desire to do something that is bad.

## VERTICAL

2. Something that is wicked, wrong, or bad.
3. The place where God is.
6. The planet where we live.
7. A word by which a person, place, or thing is known.

EVIL  
EARTH

HALLOWED  
FORGIVE

HEAVEN  
BREAD

TEMPTATION  
NAME

## Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal 2020

Blythswood is going ahead with the Shoe Box Appeal 2020. In these difficult times many who have provided gifts in the past will find it much more difficult to do so this year. Indeed, for many months it has been impossible to obtain empty shoe boxes. However, we can provide some covered boxes, available from Abbey and Dirleton churches from the beginning of October. A leaflet will be inside each box and extra leaflets will be available in church. Blythswood have announced that if shoe boxes are not available they will accept gifts in a drawstring bag. The last collecting date will be around the end of October. If desired, in lieu of a box, a donation can be made to help with the cost of transporting the gifts abroad. The need, of course, is even greater this year because of the global pandemic. Simple gifts can be invaluable to families in need, and a blessing to those who receive them.

Bel Hardie

On behalf of the World  
Mission Committee.





During the Covid 19 pandemic Donald Skinner has been walking laps of the garden at Fidra House to raise vital funds for the North Berwick Stroke Club and Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland.

Staff also joined the challenge by racking up kilometres on foot and Donald and the other residents were matching every kilometre completed with a lap of the garden. The residents, who began their challenge in July, have clocked up a whopping 2000 laps They have been keeping a tally chalked up on the side of the building to keep track.

If you want to help Donald please go to the website

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/fidrahouse>





## Abbey Guild

Under the present circumstances it is very difficult to predict when the Guild will be able to meet again. However the following dates have been pencilled in for 2021 and only time will tell whether or not this will be feasible.

January 12th and 26th

February 9th and 23rd

March 9th, 16th and 23rd



If the situation changes I will be in touch.

Meanwhile take care.

Sheila Burgon

## Abbey Church Mugs

It is nearly 16 years since we started using our Abbey Church mugs. During that time, several have been broken or chipped. These have now been replaced, and I can therefore offer the remainder of the order for sale, just in time for Christmas gifts!!

They are fine bone white china with a print of the Church in navy and cost £6 each or two for £11.

Isabel Smith



## Feast



Feast youth group has continued to meet over the summer holidays. We have been studying some of the Psalms and learning about taking things to God in the good times and the tough times. We have now moved onto a study in the book of Acts. We did manage to meet up in person at the end of the holidays. We had a lovely walk up North Berwick Law followed by some chips by the beach. It was great to see each other in person, some of the group had only seen each other on Zoom meetings before.

Now that school and college have returned, we have moved our meetings to a Wednesday evening. If you know anyone in S4-S6 age group who would like to join us, they would be most welcome, please just get in touch.

Hazel Gray  
Young People's Worker  
Abbey Church  
North Berwick



## Summer Holiday Club

Thank you to all who prayed for our holiday club this summer. It wasn't how we had envisaged it, but the team adapted quickly to reaching out to families through videos, a weekly email, and delivering activity bags. The feedback was really positive, with families appreciative about the range of activities we put together. A huge thank you to the team who packed bags, delivered the bags, created fun crafts, told Bible stories online, and shared about the Bible stories on video. Over the 6 weeks, we reached 46 children each week.



On the first Sunday in September, you may have seen some strangely dressed people outside the church, and wondered why there were chalk drawings around. We ran a Hunt the Leader Activity trail for families to take part in. We ensured it was socially distanced and one household at a time followed the chalk trails round three churches to find 5 of the Bible characters they heard about over the summer. It was lovely to see the families again, and a great opportunity to keep in touch. We hope to do more outdoor activities over the coming months.







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Hazel Gray  
Young People's Worker  
Abbey Church  
North Berwick

## WALT (Women Are Learning Together)

Ladies, it is so unfortunate that we can't meet up to learn and share together. The book of Ruth is waiting in the wings for us.

In the meantime I plan to send out short studies on some of the women we haven't looked at so far so if anyone else would like to be added to our existing email list then please contact me.

If you would like to have a chat over a cuppa using Zoom then you can let me know and I can organise that but I'm aware that some of you don't like to use this facility.

I look forward to the time when we can meet together in person. If it is possible in 2021, I plan to start on the 18th of January.

Every blessing.

Sheila Burgon



# Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk Prayers

## October and November 2020

Dear friends in Christ,

Whoever thought Spring and Summer would pass by the way they have? We're now into autumn and that dreadful virus is still prevalent. Let us pray.

Dear Lord God,

Thank you for keeping us safe and continue to help us during this pandemic. Sustain each and every one of us as we go about our daily tasks. Whether we are struggling with our jobs, raising a family, anxious about paying our mortgage/rent or have health problems. Help the elderly and those living on their own, who may be finding this a rather lonely time—Bless us all Lord. Forgive our weaknesses and strengthen our faith in you. Thank you that we can still find ways (if rather difficult) to worship you. Bless those who arrange the services and those who attend them. Help those who are unable to attend. Let them pray to you, by themselves or with others, in person or on the phone, etc, always giving thanks for your goodness to us and keeping us safe. Thank you Lord.

In Jesus' precious name.

Amen

Betty Hawthorn  
Prayer Secretary

May you know God's presence,  
keeping you safe

you're safe not because of the  
absence of danger,  
but because of the  
presence of God.



For those who are not

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](mailto:abbeychurch@abbeychurch.co.uk)



## Church Register

### Weddings

21.8.20 Ralph Willens and Marjory Gifford

### Funerals

27.6.20 Colonel Patrick T.S. Bowlby

21.7.20 Berkeley Crawford

23.7.20 Louise Laughland

10.8.20 Alfred Gill

20.8.20 Rachel Purves

28.8.20 Georgina Moggie

3.9.20 Robert Turnbull

10.9.20 Karen Brown

### 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](mailto:abbeychurch@abbeychurch.co.uk)

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

### **Newsletters**

The next newsletter will cover December 2020/ January 2021. The deadline for submitting articles is Tuesday 17th November 2020. Please send to Abbey Church Office.

[Abbeychurch.org.uk](http://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