



Abbey Church

and

Dirleton Kirk News

February/March 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**

Come along. All welcome.

Wednesdays 10am

**Half Hour Prayer Service
Dirleton**

Dear Dirleton & Abbey Friends,

Did you make any resolutions at new year? Here are some questions to ask as we move into a new decade. I hope you find this helpful in 2020.

Your minister,
David

1. What can you celebrate from 2019?

Most of us don't celebrate enough. Too often, we concentrate on problems or simply just don't take time to reflect on what's gone well.

Make a list of moments and milestones you can celebrate and take some time to thank God.

2. What have you learned in 2019?

Taking time to pause and reflect on what you are learning is a habit that can pay big dividends.

What have you learned about God? Yourself? What have you learned through mistakes? Even failure can be your friend if you learn from it.

3. Who should you thank?

Make a list of people who have helped, blessed, prayed, encouraged, sacrificed, and stood by you.

Write them a thank you note.

4. What's essential in 2020?

What will matter most? What is actually critical?

Ask input from God and trusted friends on what is essential. Take time to live these out.

5. What's holding you back?

Hebrews 12:1 says, 'let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles.' It could

be your mindset, too small a vision of God, fears, a team that isn't aligned, lack of focus, or not having clear priorities.

Formulate a plan to eliminate it.

6. What will you do to get sharper in 2020?

The growing complexity and speed of change in our world means we need to keep learning, growing and developing ourselves.

What steps can you take to invest in your development? Maybe a mentor, a coach, a course, or a conference?

This last thought is the most important. As always, the best thing you can do in 2020 is to "**fix your eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith**" (Hebrews 12:2).

(taken from Arrow Leadership)

Families Worker

After 18 months of working with our church families and children, Julie Loporto is stepping down from this role. Many thanks to Julie - and the support she had from her family - for all she has done in that time. Julie was able to build on the groups which were already in Abbey, and also start some new ones.

We'll be continuing the work she has been doing, although some of it in slightly different ways from previously. The Gospel Choir will continue as an independent group under Julie's leadership.

Session Clerk

At the end of last year, Sally Penman retired as Abbey Session Clerk, a job she has done for almost 10 years. In addition to that, she has been a member of our choir and chair and member of several other committees. She has also attended church conferences, and training events on leading worship, as well as having a very responsible job at Law Primary School. We're very grateful that Sally has managed to keep so many 'balls in the air' for the church and the community.



When a Minister is training, they are told to tell a very big lie- which is this: when you ask someone to volunteer for a job in church, you tell them it won't be for long, and there's really nothing to it! I don't remember if I said that to Sally 10 years ago, but if I did, nothing could be farther from the truth. The Clerk to the Kirk Session has an administrative and planning role which is essential to the smooth running of any church.

Happy 'retirement' from this particular job, Sally. A little bird tells us that you've already volunteered for other jobs around the church. 'They won't be for long, and there's nothing to them!' I'm delighted to say that Robert Burgon is taking over as Session Clerk. Once again, it proves that if you want a job well done, ask a busy person. Robert, it won't be for long, and there's nothing to it!

Future Church Services

At our morning services, we'll be following the life and ministry of Jesus from Mark's gospel.

Service themes and readings are planned several weeks ahead, please ask the Office if you'd like a preview, perhaps to read the passage in advance.

Each week's order of service and intimations are posted on the website on a Friday - another way to have a sneak preview!

Bible Study

A series of 4 Bible Studies is meeting every 2 weeks on a Monday evening at 8pm in the small Meeting Room (off the large hall). We'll be looking at the letter of First Peter. The theme is 'Confidence in a Complex World.'

February 10th - confident in the gospel

February 24th confident in identity

March 9th confident in the world

March 23rd confident in relationships

.. which almost brings us to Easter! The series will conclude with two other evenings after Easter. More details in the weekly intimations.



Abbey Session Clerk Signing Off

On the face of it, compiling the Annual Report does not normally strike me as something which is going to inspire and encourage. But as I started putting together my last Annual Report as Session Clerk, I looked at all the activities which Abbey Church has been involved in over the last year and I felt a great sense that God is working through us here in North Berwick.

The Annual Report gives a wonderful opportunity to see in one place all the things that are happening at Abbey. I'm not going to tell you about them here - I recommend that you read the Annual Report once it's published in March, either by reading a copy at church or by reading it on the website. I hope you are as amazed and uplifted as I am by what we do in various ways to live out the Gospel by worshipping, helping in our community, telling people about Jesus and showing people that Christians care.

I have also been looking back over my last ten years as Session Clerk and what has happened during that time. We now have a Unitary Constitution - it may not mean a lot to you, but we have Committees involving elders and other members of the congregation focussing and making decisions on specific aspects of church life which makes our Kirk Session meetings more effective in concentrating on the most important matters.

We have welcomed 12 new elders to our Kirk Session, bringing new ideas and enthusiasm to our discussions.

During the last ten years we have also improved the facilities in our Sanctuary and our Halls to make our worship more flexible and to make our Halls more adaptable so that they can be used by many community groups throughout the year. We have brought our systems up-to-date with new contracts for all our employees, and new job descriptions to make sure that everyone knows what is expected of them and to make sure that we know how to support them.

The Kirk Session decided to take on new employees to work with Families and Young People, sharing Christian values and building faith, and Julie and Hazel introduced many new initiatives such as Dynamic Kirk and Christian activities at the Primary School. We are sorry that Julie has now decided to step down as Families Worker and we are looking at how we continue the church activities that she was working with.

We have undertaken more joint working with other churches in the town, as well as Dirleton Kirk, to be able to offer opportunities for sharing our faith, for example through the Summer Holiday Club and the Law Primary Parents' Room. We have had discussions with them about even more ways we can share our beliefs and values with our community as a united body of Christ's church.

I am so grateful for all the support I have had over the last ten years from all the elders who have been part of the Kirk Session during that time, from the congregation, from all our hard-working staff, and

from our Minister, David.

I feel that God still has plans for me, at the school and as an Elder of His church, and I ask for your prayers to support me in whatever that entails. We know that Robert Burgon will be a wonderful Session Clerk, looking after the congregation and the Kirk Session and I look forward to continuing as an Elder on the Kirk Session.

Sally Penman



The permanent venue for the Bethany Care Shelter in Diadem at Stenhouse is now up and running and numbers are still high, around 65 each night.

A group from Abbey and Dirleton catered last October and are catering again on 2nd March and 8th April. We are in the process of organising the teams usually 4 ladies and 2 men including drivers.

This is a very worthwhile service we provide, so please pray for the unfortunate people who have no safe place or warm bed to go to.

Funds are a little low so any small donation would be much appreciated if it could be given into the office or to Dorothy Kirkpatrick.

Edinburgh Royal Choral Union

A group of 18 Abbey members and friends enjoyed a real treat on Thursday 2 January 2020 when we made (the now traditional) visit to the New Year performance of Handel's Messiah in Edinburgh's Usher Hall. Distinguished conductor Jane Glover brought new life to this well-loved piece of music and all agreed that we had witnessed something very special. The resounding standing ovation suggested that we weren't the only ones to think so.

The Edinburgh Royal Choral Union's next production will be of Sir John Stainer's Crucifixion which will be performed in St Cuthbert's Church, Edinburgh on Sunday 15 March 2020 at 6pm. If there is interest from members of the congregation, I plan to put together a group to attend this concert. Please let me know by Sunday 16 February 2020 and I will try to arrange a block of tickets.

Robert Burgon



ABBHEY GUILD NEEDS YOU.



Abbey Guild is looking for new committee members urgently. We are almost at the AGM (March) and we don't know if we will be able to carry on as we don't have a full committee. We also need a convenor to head the guild. This incurs leading the meetings and committee meetings and being the contact name for 121 George st. There are a lot of guild members who are willing to lead meetings so you wouldn't have to do all the meetings. If you think you can help please contact a member of the guild or Linda Scott—01620 893400.



REGAL

13th February, The Challenge of Creating Maps

12th March, Saving the Elgin Marbles, the Local Connection.

You are welcome to join us at 12 noon in Abbey large hall for these 2 fascinating presentations and a light lunch.

Dirleton Session Clerk

We celebrated Advent and Christmas in busy fashion. On Sunday 15th December, we had the kids of the Sunday Club presenting dramatised readings of a Nativity story, presented in the context of Biblical history from the Creation onward. The children entered into the spirit with their customary energy and enthusiasm, and contributed as always to that quickening sense of anticipation which is always a part of Advent, with the weekly lighting of Advent candles marking our progress in the spiritual journey towards the Manger.

The church was decorated beautifully. Thank you to the Flower Team for a marvellous combining of lights and decorations throughout. As an innovation, they gave us a splendid display illustrating the Twelve Days of Christmas, located on the Communion table, worked in lights and decorations placed inside old wine bottles. One of my predecessors as Session Clerk confided in me, at least semi-jokingly, that she was concerned lest the Minister might query the presence of wine bottles on the altar...I suppose, where else but on the communion table would we expect to find wine in church? Anyway, John 2, 1-11.

Our thanks are due once again to the Archerfield estate for its donation of a magnificent Christmas tree, and to Neil and Tracy Walkingshaw for putting it up in the usual place to command the admiration of all.

On Christmas Eve we held the Watchnight Service, as always a jewel of light in the darkness as midnight

approaches, and a joyful congregation made up of people from Dirleton and North Berwick, and visitors from far and near (one family from the USA joining us). Lucy Graham sang beautifully, and thanks as well to those whose work in the kitchen cheered everyone who attended, with mince pies and stollen, coffee and mulled wine to put heart into those gathering for worship. It is also good to note that we rang the bell at midnight, as is the tradition, and our thanks are due to Gordon Symon and Richard Allinson for their work last year in arranging the necessary repairs to allow the bell to be sounded again.

Our final collective service of worship for 2019 was held on Sunday 29th December, with the Abbey congregation joining us at Dirleton to bid farewell to the old year, and look forward to the new. During the service prayers were said to re-dedicate the church organ, approaching the end of a refurbishment funded generously and anonymously by a donor. As this process reaches completion, we have heard almost by the week new and thrilling musical effects as the work of renewal expands the range of the instrument. Our thanks are due to David Kirkpatrick for his superintendence of the work, and to Jamie Lightoller who is carrying out the works.



No-one who has been in the church during the week could doubt that these works are significant, with giant pipes dismantled and laid out on the floor, and a ladder extending up into the void above the keyboard.

Immediately after the prayers for rededication, we marked the contribution of another to whom our warmest thanks are due- Jim Dickson, whose lively, thoughtful and scholarly contribution to our music has been inspiring us in worship. The Minister called Jim from his organ stool to present himself before the congregation, when he was arraigned, and 'convicted', on a series of 'charges' specifying his uplifting effect on the congregation by music and conversation. In light of his youth, Jim's sentence was to hold the post of organist at Dirleton for as long as he should choose. Nan and others of Jim's family were present, and joined us later for an informal lunch in his honour at the Open Arms.

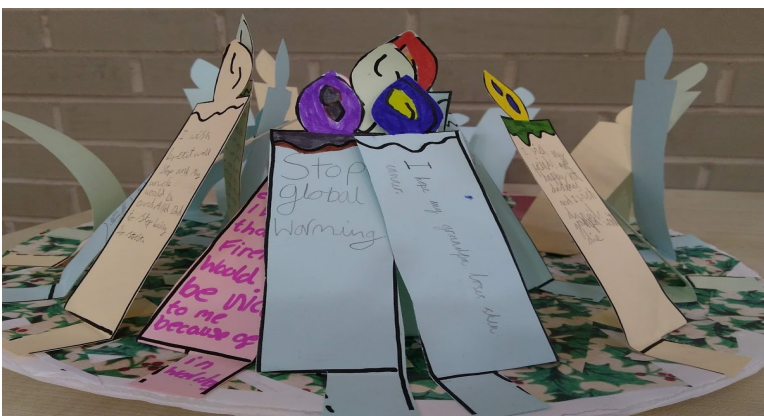
So Christmas passed away, but, as the Minister reminded us, the work of Christmas- love, joy and service - begins anew, as we pass into 2020, in the season of Epiphany. There will be much to do, including progress with necessary work on the church tower. I look forward to working with you all as the year progresses.

Keith Stewart

In December, a team of willing volunteers from the churches presented Bubblegum 'n' Fluff to the P5 classes at Law Primary. We shared the meaning of Christmas for Christians through puppets, songs, crafts, quizzes and a time of reflection. The children engaged well as they heard about Jesus' birth and how Christians believe he came to bring light into a dark world. The children took that theme and presented it at their end of term service. Below are some photos of the candle reflection that they took part in as they thought what their hope or prayer would be for light in a situation, a visit from the Nutty Professor and the puppets in action.

A huge thank you to the amazing team who worked with the children, and were willing to lead crafts, engage in discussions, and join in with the fun and reflections. If you would be interested in being part of the Easter Code, a workshop looking at the first Easter, then please get in touch with Hazel.

Hazel Gray
Young People's Worker
Abbey Church



A Picture to Colour



I want to follow Jesus. He is God's Son.

WALT - Women Are Learning Together

2:15 - 3:15 every second Monday

in Abbey Large Hall

Our focus is Women of the New Testament and I hope you can join us so that we can grow in faith together. A cup of tea/coffee is available from 2:00.

The meetings for February and March are as follows:-

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

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

2nd March- Sapphira, Acts 4:32-5:11

16th March - Mary Magdalene

30th March - Mary, Mother of Jesus continued from December

Looking forward to seeing you!

Sheila Burgon



Abbey and Dirleton Kirk Prayers February and March 2020

Dear friends in Christ

By the time you read this we'll be well and truly 'back in the old routine!' Let's pray.

Heavenly Father

Thank you for all the joy we've shared with one another throughout the festive season. Thank you for the 'reason for the season', your beloved son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. We give thanks for bringing us safely through the strange changes in the weather. We remember those whose lives have been dramatically changed through floods, fires, earthquakes and all the other disasters, worldwide. We pray for those who have lost loved ones, those whose homes and livelihoods have been wiped out. And pray that those in authority will move quickly to assist them.

Bless the congregations of Abbey and Dirleton churches, our minister, Rev Dr Graham, our pastoral assistant Mr Bob Kane and all whom they love. Bless those who are ill/housebound and strengthen those who care for them. We remember too those who are mourning, comfort them and uplift those who are sad and lonely. Thank you Lord. We ask these things in Jesus' precious name.

Amen

Betty Hawthorn
(Prayer Secretary)



As we go forward into this new year let us be grateful for all God's goodness to us.



The Voice Project had a busy term leading up to Christmas. They sang at a school assembly, where they helped share the message of Christmas by singing 'Christmas This Year' by Christian artist Toby-Mac, and a sign language version of 'It Must Be Love' by Labi Siffre. Later in the month, they sang some Christmas songs and carols outside Abbey Church, with family and friends encouraging them and then joining together for some hot chocolate in the hall after.

The Voice Project continues to meet at Law Primary after school on a Thursday, 3.30-4.15pm for P4-6, and 4.15-5pm for P7-S2. All are welcome to come and join the fun.



Abbey Church Creche Duty Rota

2nd Feb	Dorothy Kirkpatrick	Sadie Young
9th Feb	Sarah Kerr	Carol Stobie
16th Feb	Anne Bell	Rose Lesle
23rd Feb	Joan Lunn	Caitriana Spencer
1st March	Margaret Lawson	Janice Cobb
8th March	Dorothy Kirkpatrick	Sadie Young
15th March	Sarah Kerr	
22nd March	Rose Leslie	Bel Hardie
29th March	Joan Lunn	Caitriana Spencer

There are some vacancies in the Crèche list due to people retiring or moving on to other Church duties. Please contact the Church office or Dorothy at dorothyk43@me.com if you would like to join the rota.

Abbey Church Morning Tea Rota

9th February	Sarah Kerr	
16th February	Katrina Hendry	Robina Brown
23rd February	Morna McClure	Sadie Young
1st March	Irene Nichol	Sheila McCubbing
8th March	Dorothy Kirkpatrick	Irene Brodie
15th March	Catherine Andrew	Isabel Smith
22nd March	Jean Mackay	Isobel Hardie
29th March	Pat McKie	Fiona Gibson



Abbey Church Flower Rota

Date	Donor	Arranger
2nd February	Miss D Adams	Dorothy Kirkpatrick Elma Danks
9th February	Mrs A Jardine	Dorothy Kirkpatrick Elma Danks
16th February	Mrs V Lamont	Violet Lamont Elma Danks
23rd February	Mrs S Young	Sadie Young
1st March	Mrs M Sharpe	Clare Aitken Irene Nichol
8th March	Mrs J Cobb	Clare Aitken Irene Nichol
15th March	Ms K Campbell	Kate Campbell
22nd March	Mrs C Aitken	Clare Aitken Irene Nichol
29th March	Mrs A Bell	Alison Bell Irene Nichol



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

Wedding

20.12.19 Peter Letters and Alison Pope

Funerals

3.12.19 Isabella Liddle

5.12.19 Flora Munro

9.12.19 William Scott

12.12.19 Mina Henderson

17.12.19 David Young

20.12.19 Kenneth Hodges

16.1.20 Margaret Malcolm

23.1.20 Jean Somerville

Pastoral Visits

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

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

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

Church Office: 01620 892800

abbeychurch@abbeychurch.co.uk

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

Keep in touch!

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

Newsletters

The next newsletter will *cover April and May 2020.*
The deadline for submitting articles is *Tuesday 17th March 2020.* Please send to Abbey Church Office.

Abbeychurch.org.uk

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And Twitter:DirletonAbbey



Abbey Church, North Berwick (Church of Scotland)

Scottish Charity No. SC0 04761—CCL51436