



Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk News

August/September 2022

Minister:

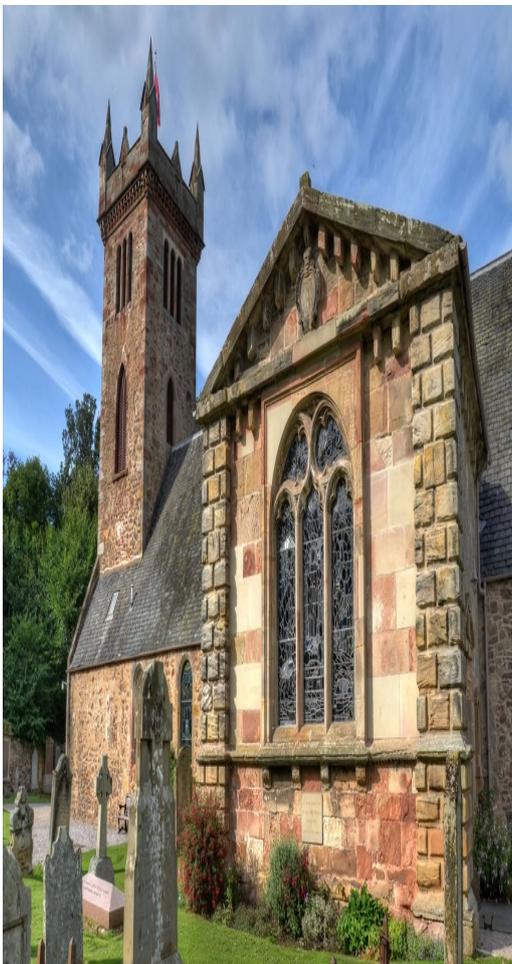
**Rev. Dr David J Graham,
BSc, BD**

**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**

This month's Pastoral Letter is from Jeanette Wilson, Candidate for the Ministry, who has been serving her 10-week placement with us this summer.

To my church family in Dirleton and Abbey,

Doesn't time fly! I can't believe that I only have a few weeks left with you all. What appeared at the start as a significant amount of time has passed by quickly. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time getting to know you all and being involved in ministry, in all its forms. I want to thank each of you for your welcome, hospitality and above all your prayers as I have been here. It has been an enriching time for me and hopefully for you while I have been among you. One of the practises that is encouraged while training, is the art of reflection. Spending time looking back, whether minutes, hours, days or longer and evaluating what has been good and learning lessons from what hasn't gone so well. This is not a practise that comes easily to me, but I have come to realise its usefulness in my progress. There will be much to reflect upon and take with me into my future ministry. We are in a period of change in the Church of Scotland and some of these changes are difficult and not what we would have chosen for ourselves. At this point it is easy to look back and linger on how things were, like Haggai 2:3, declaring that 'it is not like it used to be.' Let us use our reflection on the past to spur us forward knowing that the Lord will be with us as we enter new opportunities for mission and worship. Like Paul, "one thing we do: forgetting what is

behind and straining toward what is ahead, we press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called us heavenward in Christ Jesus." Philippians 3:13-14

With continued love and prayers for you all,

Jeanette

Candidate for Ministry.



WALT (Women Are Learning Together)

Our Women's Bible Study Group is planned to restart on Monday, 5th September at 2:00 in the small hall. The focus will be the Old Testament book of Daniel. We will explore the historical background to the book, learn about the life of Daniel and his friends plus discuss the relevance of some of the issues to our lives today.

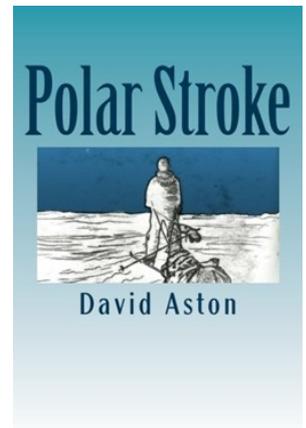
Hot drinks will be available from 1:45 and all women are warmly invited to join our relaxed study group so that we can learn together.

Sheila Burgon

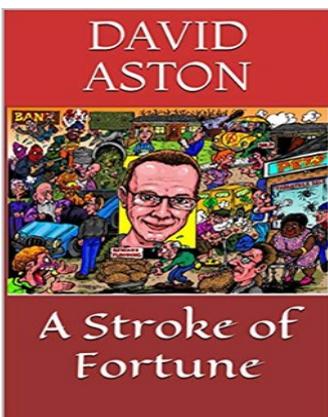
I wanna be a paperback writer' (*The Beatles*)

Did you know there are some very gifted authors in our congregation? Following on from last month's book reviews, this month we feature David Aston's two books, both based on personal experience.

Polar Stroke is an autobiography. The first half is about David's epic trek to the North Pole despite having nothing that said anything about him being able to complete such a trip. The second half begins the much more difficult task of how he is over coming dealing with a stroke and a brain injury.



A Stroke of Fortune. David's first book showed how writing had the desirable qualities of being able to do what you can and then just stop. As a result of this he decided to write his second book and first novel. This book is about a stroke victim who has all the problems around having a stroke, but whereas stroke survivors find all the results of a stroke bad he as part of his recovery has developed magical powers.



Slowly he discovers this, and to start with he chooses a campaign against all of his neighbours who have all decided to take advantage of a less able individual. Each one of them will be inflicted with only a touch of his problems. He realises this is selfish and decides a better method of choosing who should

be inflicted.

Thank you for your donation!

Thank you so much for your donation of £3616.77.

It's amazing what we can achieve when we stand together. Thank you for being part of our caring, generous community this Christian Aid Week.

By donating today, you're making a stand with grandmothers like Janet, from Zimbabwe, and turning hunger into hope—thank you!

Your kind gifts will fill families like hers with hope and may also be used to help others in the greatest need too.

For the first time in a generation, global hunger and poverty are rising. Covid-19, conflict, and the climate crisis are pushing more of our global neighbours into a struggle for survival.

With you by their side, women like Janet will be empowered to provide food—and hope—for their families.

That's why, at this crucial time, your generosity and the hope this brings are lifesaving.

Yours sincerely,
Sophie Brightwell
Christian Aid Week Team
Christian Aid



Abbey Kirk Session

Robert Burgon



It was so good to celebrate Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee with tea and cakes in the sanctuary on the afternoon of Thursday 2 June 2022. In advance of the day, those behind the initiative had really no idea how many people to expect. Invitations had been issued to everyone attending the Dirleton and Abbey services the previous Sunday and there was one poster outside the church. It is reckoned that more than 200 people (from all over the world) joined us at this event and there was a real "buzz" in the church throughout the afternoon. The windows had been decorated with lovely floral displays and with photos of the Queen. This might have been the first time that such an event had been held in the church (as opposed to one of our halls), but it worked well, and our sincere thanks go to the small band of willing bakers and helpers who made this event such a success.

The summer months also bring visitors to the town, and we rejoice when some of them decide to join us for Sunday worship. One Florida-based family worshipped with us on four consecutive Sundays in June/July, and we pray that they have returned home with a positive view of their experience with us. We are also opening the church for visitors as often as possible during the week and it is encouraging to review the Visitors' Book.

On one single day recently, there were entries from people whose home is in Mexico City, Catalonia, Belgium, North Lanarkshire, and Musselburgh. One entry in the Comments column simply says "Peace, perfect peace". So many church doors remain closed, other than for a couple of hours on a Sunday, and we trust that those who drop-in, will indeed find Abbey Church a source of peace in what is otherwise a busy High Street and a busy and troubled world.



This summer is proving to be a busy time for Abbey Church. The Summer Holiday Club activities, led by Hazel Gray, with the involvement of other churches in the area, will take place week commencing 25 July. Another initiative, led by Hazel, will see meals being served to families in the church hall on Thursday evenings for 5 weeks commencing 21 July. Then from 4-7 August, the sanctuary and both halls will see what promises to be an amazing Cherished Clothes exhibition organised by a small team under the leadership of Yolanda Strachan, Convenor of our World Church Committee. We look forward to the success of all these events.

During David Graham's ministry at Dirleton and Abbey we have been fortunate to have had a number of candidates, preparing for ministry, spending a placement with us. Members have been particularly pleased to

welcome Jeanette Wilson (from Eyemouth) for a 10-week placement this summer. Jeanette has involved herself in many aspects of our congregational life and worship and we extend our prayerful good wishes to her as she returns to her studies in the next stage of her preparation. In these times when the Church of Scotland is struggling to meet the needs of its congregations with enough ministers, it is encouraging to see someone who is (relatively) young, setting out on their journey in ministry and we pray that more people like Jeanette will come forward in the coming years.

The Abbey Kirk Session was saddened to learn of the death of one of our dear Elders, Sarah Kerr, after a period of illness. Sarah was well-liked and respected by all those who came into contact with her, and we will miss her very much. Our thoughts and prayers go to her husband, Alasdair, their sons, Stewart and Euan and the rest of the family (including baby Archie, who brought so much pleasure to Sarah in her last few months).

The Abbey Kirk Session meets again on 15 August 2022 and a report from that meeting will appear in the next Newsletter.

Situations Vacant – Abbey Church

Like so many churches, Abbey Church relies on a large band of willing volunteers to support the work which we do with our congregation and our community. From time to time, vacancies arise, often when people who have been carrying out a role for some time decide to "retire" or to focus their time on other activities. We are currently looking for people to fill the following vacant posts:

SAFEGUARDING COORDINATOR

It is essential that our procedures for working with young people and vulnerable adults are kept up to date. This includes maintaining our Safeguarding Congregational Register and arranging appropriate training for our staff and volunteers (the training is delivered by others).

If you are interested in this area of work, or possibly have experience of it in another organisation or congregation, would you consider becoming our Safeguarding Coordinator? Training would be provided, together with a handover from our current Coordinator, Caitriana Spencer. Please contact Robert Burgon either directly or through the church office if you would like to discuss this role.

RESOURCES COMMITTEE MEMBERS

The Resources Committee is responsible for overseeing the Abbey Church finances and ensuring that our buildings, including the Manse, are kept in good order.

The Committee meets a few times each year, with appropriate work being undertaken between meetings. If you have an interest in finances or in property maintenance and would like to use these skills to support your church, please contact the Convenor of the Resources Committee, Sally Penman either directly or through the church office.

Harvest Thanksgiving 2022

Our Harvest Thanksgiving services this year will take place on Sunday 2 October. The focus of our services will be work being carried out by our twin congregation MacFarlane Memorial Church, Kalimpong, North India in the area of horticulture involving young people. There will be an opportunity to donate towards this work for this year's harvest offerings. Further information will be issued nearer the time.



TAG - (Tuesday Afternoon Group)

When this newsletter comes out the new syllabus for TAG will be being put together. The dates for the year have been decided so you can pop them into your diaries.

27th September,

11th & 25th October,

8th & 22nd November,

6th December,

10th & 24th January,

7th & 21st February,

7th & 21st March.



To begin with we will have an informal get-together on 27th September and on 11th October we welcome our own "Dr Jean", (Dr Jean Walinck) who was North Berwick's first woman doctor and she has many tales to tell.

Our meetings start at 2:00pm, unless otherwise stated, and will be held in Abbey large hall. Both men and women are welcome to attend. The syllabus for the year will be available in September.

TAG Support Group

Abbey Church (All Funds)
Quarter to 30th June 2022

General

Receipts exceeded payments by £4,986. This is much better than budget. The budget was set to allow for the employment of a youth worker and many other expenses.

Income

The congregation has been very generous and income from Standing Orders remain much higher than in previous years. (Note - If you are a 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).

Premises income reflects the increased use of our halls. We are very grateful, Liz Harrison's estate paid Abbey a further sum of £17,831. In 2020 we received a first amount of £20,000.

Expenditure

The savings on premises costs reflect the reduction in maintenance during lock-down periods. There is a backlog of maintenance which should be tackled later in 2022.

If you have any questions please ask.

Stuart Ainslie
19th July 2022

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

ABBAY CHURCH—NORTH BERWICK

BUDGET V ACTUAL AT 30 JUNE 2022—ALL FUNDS

Income (All Funds)	Annual Budget to Budget	30 Jun	Actual to 30 Jun	Variance
Offerings	62,700	31,349	30,225	(1,124)
Tax reclaim	16,000	8,000	7,105	(895)
Miscellaneous	8,000	4,001	8	(3,993)
Premises income	10,000	4,999	7,001	2,002
Investment income	3,750	2,400	2,194	(206)
Legacies	-	-	17,831	17,831
Sale of Investments	-	-	-	-
Dirleton	6,000	3,000	3,000	-
Total Income	106,450	53,749	67,364	13,615
Expenditure (All Funds)	Annual Budget to Budget	30 Jun	Actual to 30 Jun	Variance
Church of Scotland payments	52,506	26,553	26,572	(19)
Pastoral Expenses	15,200	4,849	6,207	(1,358)
Other Salaries	39,145	19,426	19,711	(285)
Premises costs	18,420	12,197	7,216	4,981
Church Office Expenses	4,200	2,100	1,619	481
Investments	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	7,560	3,012	1,053	1,959
Total Expenditure	137,031	68,137	62,378	5,759
Budget for 2022	(30,581)			
Budget for 2nd quarter 2022		(14,388)		
Expenditure in excess of income			4,986	
Positive Variance				19,374

ABBEY CHURCH

'Cherished Clothing'

Exhibition

Thursday 4th to Sunday 7th August
10am - 4pm

In today's world of fast fashion, Cherished Clothing is a celebration of dearly loved garments, which have been treasured, repurposed or redesigned.

Each exhibit tells a story, bringing the garment to life and offering insight to decades of social history.

In addition to our three exhibition halls there will be a SPINNING demonstration, using local fleeces, on the Thursday, Friday and Saturday, from 2 – 4pm and a small sale of work based on eco friendly and /or natural materials



ENTRY IS FREE

Voluntary donations are invited in aid of



The Tea-pot Trust



Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk Prayer
August & September 2022

Dear friends in Christ,

Sorry I missed the last prayer, you may know I've been in the Abbey/hospital section for a wee while, so please forgive me. I'll do better in future!

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for taking care of each and every one of us during this summer time. Thank you for keeping us safe during the summer holidays and continue to watch over us as we prepare to return to our places of learning ie our Churches, Sunday Schools, Primary and Secondary Schools, Colleges and Universities. Also those attending night classes to enable us to upgrade our places of work to support our families. Thank you Lord.

Bless all who have been ill recently and pray your healing hand will touch them and restore them to their health once again. Bless all the carers. Those caring for them at home, in hospitals or nursing homes and give them the knowledge and skills they require. Bless each and every one, young folk and the ones who are a little older.

Uplift all who are rather down at this time and uplift them. Bless all teachers whether at schools, Sunday

schools or churches and give them the knowledge they require.

Thank you Lord.

We remember too those who are in poor places and those who are at war. Keep them safe.

In Jesus' precious name

Betty Hawthorn

Prayer Secretary

Breakfast Club @ Law Primary

This is a new initiative we hope to start when the schools return in August. The idea is to provide some breakfast and a check in with pupils who would benefit from this. Not all children come to school having had breakfast. Not all pupils find it easy to fit into school

Breakfast Club will run every Thursday morning in school and open to a small number of pupils (6-8) referred by school staff. It will run 8am-9am.

Can you help? We need volunteers to be on a rota to serve breakfast (cereal and toast) and build up a relationship with the children by listening, encouraging and maybe playing some table top games. All volunteers will need to complete a school PVG to work with

If you'd like to find out more, please contact Hazel
hazel.abbeychurch@hotmail.com

Abbey Church Flower Rota

You may have noticed that after covid we are now back having fresh flowers in Church. Thank you to everyone who donates, arranges and delivers the flowers, it is very much enjoyed and appreciated. Here is the list for the next few weeks.

DATE	DONOR	ARRANGER
7 August	Susan Ainslie	Kate Campbell Susan Ainslie
14 August	Kate Campbell	Kate Campbell Susan Ainslie
21 August	Dorothy Danks	Kate Campbell Susan Ainslie
28 August	Linda Scott	Kate Campbell
4 September	Anne Bell	Anne Bell
11 September	Sheila McCubbing	Sheila McCubbing
18 September	Maureen Griffiths Chris Manning	Sheila McCubbing
25 September	Morna McClure	Morna McClure



Please have a look at our website

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

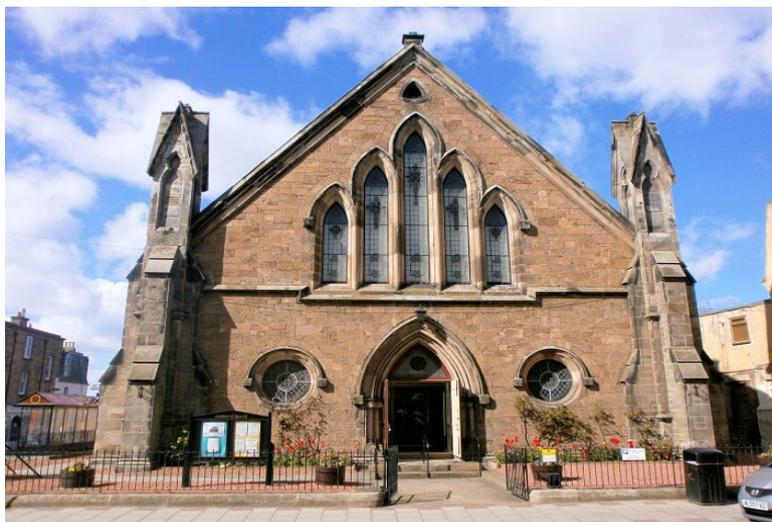
To get information of all the events organised by
Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk.

Sunday Services, prayer meetings, bible classes, TAG
REGAL, WALT, Alpha, Little Nippers, The Voice Pro-
ject, to mention but a few.

We have many other groups using our church halls,
Physiotherapy Plus, pilates classes, Jo Jingles, fitness
classes, The Drama Mill, The Brownies, Dunedin Dance,
Freedom and Form.

**Hall Hire is limited in line with current government
Covid-19 restrictions**

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



Church Register

Weddings

9.7.22 Charles Clarence-Smith and Morag Ainslie
9.7.22 Connor Currie and Nicola Bogue
22.7.22 Stuart Low and Rebecca Elder
30.7.22 Niall Mackle and Marliese Perks

Wedding Blessing

12.6.22 Anne & Dermot McKeown (30th anniversary)

Funerals

14.6.22 John Mathers
23.6.22 Mary Stewart
5.7.22 Elizabeth Russell
6.7.22 William Henderson
7.7.22 Sarah Kerr
21.7.22 Brian McGuire

New Members

Florence Buchan
Ralph Willens

Pastoral Visits

The Minister and Pastoral Assistant are happy to make contact with church members by request. This information should be given to the Minister (890800) or via the Church Office (892800). Please note that for privacy reasons, any request must come from the person, or from a family member. It would also be helpful to have a mobile number, and the number of the person's next of kin.

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 and November 2022, The deadline for submitting articles is Tuesday 13th September 2022. 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. SCO 04761—CCL51436