



**Come along
All welcome**

**Abbey Church
and
Dirleton Kirk News
October/November 2024**

**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**

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

Dear Friends,

I hope you've been enjoying the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness'. We've had some beautiful Autumn days I hope it's not as sung by a famous duo:

'Bleak September's mist and mud is enough to chill the blood. Then October adds a gale: wind and slush and rain and hail. Dark November brings the fog, should not do it to a dog!'

We've just had our services on the theme of 'creation time', which culminated in our Harvest Service, a Harvest Supper and our support for the charity Ripple Effect. The idea of a ripple is a powerful image. A small thing which has a much wider and bigger effect. It's a good metaphor for the gospel. Jesus told his disciples that, with the help of the Holy Spirit, it would spread from their 'back yard' to every corner of the earth. May it be so!

October will see a short series from Mark's gospel. November 10th is Remembrance Sunday, when Abbey will be hosting the North Berwick town service and parade. November 24th is 'Christ the King' Sunday, and the following week we're into Advent, with readings from the Old Testament prophecies and the Nativity story in Luke's Gospel. Christmas is coming! But there will be one more newsletter before then, with more details of the Christmas services. We look forward to welcoming you to any or all of them.

Your minister,

David



Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

Our shoeboxes will be collected on Wednesday, 30th October, the last Sunday for dropping them into the church will be the 27th.

All our filled shoeboxes will go to Ukraine and other eastern European countries where they are so gladly received.

It is easy to choose gifts for people who have so little and are so grateful for any little gift which seems so luxurious when you are living in poverty. Shampoo, shaving foam, gloves, make up, stationery, sweeties, household utensils and tools are all examples of items that would be so well received.

Wrapped shoeboxes will be available at the church for you to take away and fill.



Footprints in the Sand

One night a man had a dream. He dreamed he was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life.

For each scene, he noticed two sets of footprints in the sand; one belonged to him, and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene of his life flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand.

He noticed that many times along the path of his life,

there was only one set of footprints.

He also noticed that it happened at the very lowest and saddest times in his life.

This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow

you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed

that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand

why when I needed you most, you would leave me."

The Lord replied: "My precious, precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you."

Many of you might know this poem and have been encouraged by its uplifting message. For this reason, it was the inspiration for the footprint images on the church's small hall windows during North Berwick's Window Wanderland (October 1-8) when various images are displayed in homes, shops and offices around the town. Our display was both a demonstration of faith to passers-by and a reminder of the times Jesus has carried us through difficulties in the past and continues to do so today.



Abbey Kirk Session

Robert Burgon



In the last Newsletter, I talked about waiting for summer to arrive. Here we are, in mid-September, and some of us might wonder whether "summer" as we used to know it ever arrived. During our celebration of Creation Time in our services in September, we were reminded of the wonderful gifts which God has given us in creation and the responsibility which we all have for caring for those gifts. There is no doubt that weather patterns are changing and the impact of the climate crisis is becoming all too evident in many parts of the world. At our Harvest Thanksgiving services we will have the opportunity to support the work of Ripple Effect, a charity which is working hard to help villagers in several African countries to adapt their approach to growing and harvesting to combat the effects of this crisis. With the focus on "poverty-busting pineapples" (thank you David for explaining that they grow on the ground, contrary to what many of us thought) we will have much to think about. The situation facing these people puts our moans and groans about wet summers into perspective.

It was with huge sadness that we took our last monthly service in the Abbey Home at the beginning of July and heard of the complete closure of the facility just a few weeks later. Abbey Church has been leading services there for at least 58 years and probably for even longer. I first played the piano at such a service, led by our Youth Fellowship, in 1966. During those years, many residents and staff have been blessed by the

presence and support of folk from the church. We have also got to know many of the residents as extended members of our church family. We continue to hold services at Fidra House and Astley House (now on the first Sunday of each month) and have been pleased to see some our friends from Abbey Home now happily settled in their new home.

Members of the Abbey congregation might have noticed brighter and clearer images on the screen in church recently. A new projection system and larger screen have now been installed and this plays an important role in our regular worship. Many thanks are due to Andrew Cobb and Richard Bell for their assistance in bringing this project to a conclusion.

It is now 79 years since the end of World War II and this year there have been events marking the 80th anniversary of some significant events in the final year of the War. The town Remembrance Service will take place this year in Abbey Church on Sunday 10 November at 10.30am when we will be joined by members of uniformed organisations in North Berwick. Sadly, the importance of these annual commemorations is heightened when we continue to see, throughout the world, that lessons do not appear to have been learned from events such as the two World Wars in the 20th century.



The next meeting of the Abbey Kirk Session will take place on Monday 4 November 2024.



TAG

By the time this newsletter reaches you Tuesday Afternoon Group will have started the new session with a Harvest Lunch and a quiz on the theme of apples!

The meetings we can look forward to sharing fellowship at are as follows: -

October

8th - 'Fresh Start' - Sylvia MacFarlane

Fresh Start is an Edinburgh charity which helps people who have experienced homelessness set up their new home through the provision of goods and services.

22nd - A visit to North Berwick Museum

Please meet at the museum which is situated above the library in East Road at 1:55.

November

5th - 'Rock or Sand' - Rev. Dr D J Graham

Our minister will share his thoughts on this intriguing topic.

19th - 'Myra's Wells' - Liz Martin

This charity provides life-saving water wells in Burkina Faso which is one of the poorest countries in West Africa.

December

3rd - 'Nativity Characters' in words and music

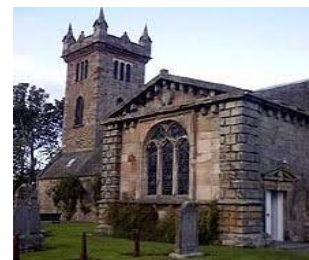
This year a collection will be taken at each meeting and charity representatives will be given the collection at the end of the afternoon.

TAG meets fortnightly at 2:00 in Abbey large hall. The meetings usually last for approximately an hour and end with tea/coffee. All are welcome and syllabi are available in the church vestibule if you are interested.

Sheila Burgon

Dirleton Kirk Session

Keith Stewart



The Session Clerk apologises for the absence of a note in this edition of the newsletter, and will provide a longer piece in the next one.

THE SCONE CAFE

**2.00 - 3.30PM
THE ABBEY CHURCH,
NORTH BERWICK**

**JOIN US FOR A SCONE
AND A BLETHER**

FREE ENTRY, ALL WELCOME



Community Connections
North Berwick Coastal

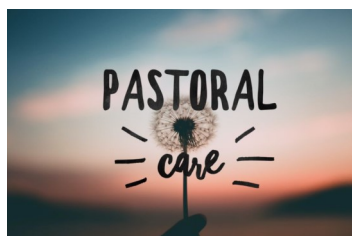
A Pastoral Care Bereavement Training programme on a balmy September evening might seem like a sombre prospect. The session led by Rev. Tom Gordon on September 18th turned out to be anything but. Twelve church elders and members attended. Coffee and biscuits at the start of the session gave everyone the chance for preliminary informal chat, as well as refreshment.

The main session began with a seemingly simple exercise: to think of a time when we have lost something, an object that is important to us. In pairs, we discussed where the loss happened; the context of the loss; why the item lost was important. Our reflections were surprisingly complex and led into a group session on the implications of our losses and the feelings they engendered.

This activity provided an opportunity to engage with each member of the group, to listen attentively and respect the emotion each was entrusting to us, sometimes making themselves vulnerable in the process. Emotional intensity was peppered with plenty of laughter. The willingness to be frank sometimes engendered hilarity, but never the kind that might humiliate.

I'm already looking forward to the next of three sessions in total. Exploring our own human reactions to loss of any kind, even the comparatively trivial, is helpful preparation for offering sensitive support to those who suffer the far more devastating loss of bereavement.

Jackie Ley



Abbey Church Flower Rota

DATE	DONOR	ARRANGER
6 October	Florence Buchan	Florence Buchan
13 October	Linda McLean	Elma Danks Irene Brodie
20 October	Joan Lunn	Elma Danks Irene Brodie
27 October	Jennifer Gilchrist	Elma Danks Irene Brodie
3 November	Fiona Hutchison	Fiona Hutchison
10 November Armistice	Lorna Ferry Caroline Danks	Anne Bell Richard Bell
17 November	Bel Hardie	Bel Hardie
24 November	Marjorie Whytock	Dorothy Kirkpatrick



Abbey Church Sunday Tea Rota

DATE	
6 October	Mary Graham & Rose Leslie
13 October	Ann Bell & A N Other
20 October	Linda McLean & Bel Hardie
27 October	Sadie Young & A N Other
3 November	Isobel Smith & Florence Buchan
10 November	Katrina Hendry & Irene Nichol
17 November	Fiona Gibson & A N Other
24 November	Mary Graham & Rose Leslie



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,
to mention but a few.

We have many other groups using our church halls,
Pilates classes, Jo Jingles, Conexus Tuition, The Drama
Mill, The Brownies, Dunedin Dance, Freedom and Form,
Interoception Yoga, JKA Bass Rock Karate, Kundalini
Yoga, Dirleton Playgroup, Wild Tide Yoga, The Scone
Café.

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

15.8.24 Ann Burns

29.8.24 Lindsay Anderson

30.8.24 Ellen Armstrong

3.10.24 Donald Cameron

Pastoral Visits

The Minister and Pastoral Assistant are happy to contact church members if requested. In the first instance, please contact the Minister (892410) or the Church Office (892800). For privacy reasons, any request for a pastoral visit should come from the individual or a family member.

It would also be helpful to have a mobile number, and the details 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 Hours are Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
10am until 1pm*

Working remotely Wednesday and Thursday

Newsletters

The next newsletter will cover December 2024 and January 2025. The deadline for submitting articles is Wednesday 20th November. 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