



Abbey Church News **September 2016**

Abbey Church, 116 High Street,
North Berwick
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Minister: Rev. Dr David J Graham, BSc, BD
01620 892800

Pastoral Assistant: Bob Kane

**All Sunday Morning Worship at
10.30am.**

Come along. All welcome.

Dear friends,



The news headlines over recent weeks have resembled something of a horror story. Although much of this is in far-off places, we cannot but be affected by what we see and hear: 'no man is an island' etc.

For Christians, it also makes us wonder why a loving God would allow such things to happen.

For me, it reminds us of the 'heart of darkness' which is often so evident in our world. The whole story of the Bible is about that very thing, the paradise lost because of sin, and then regained in Jesus Christ.

The pains of the world also give us an opportunity to show Christian love and compassion. Our Sea Sunday service in July was a chance to help 'those in peril on the sea', and the people who help and rescue them. Our Sunday afternoon teas in July gave a small financial boost to several local good causes. The August lunchtime piano performances helped support Mary's Meals, which feeds the world's poorest school children. Our Harvest project in September this year will help rebuild homes devastated by last year's earthquake in Nepal. And we're already collecting shoe-boxes for the shoebox appeal at Christmas (yes, I know it's too early to mention it, but never too early to collect the shoe-boxes!).

All of which reminds us of Paul's words: 'never grow tired of doing good' (Galatians 6:9).

Your Minister,

David

Sunday Services

We conclude our series from 2nd Corinthians, then we have some special services to follow.



September 11th	'Trials & Tribulations' Abbey Communion
September 18th	'Thorn in the flesh'
September 25th Harvest	'Let us build a house' Abbey Guild dedication
October 2nd	The Moderator will preach at St Andrew Blackadder at 10.30am
October 9th	Stewardship, Crossreach & Social Care Sunday

Our Harvest theme this year is 'Let us build a house', a Church of Scotland sponsored project to help rebuild homes after the devastating Nepal earthquake last year. Collecting boxes shaped like little houses will be available for coins & notes.

As part of his visit to our Presbytery, on Sunday 2nd September the Moderator, Russell Barr, will preach at a special service in St Andrew Blackadder. You're warmly invited to join this service. The 9.30am service at Dirlerton will take place as normal.

The services during the rest of October will be for Stewardship Month.

Hospital Visits

The Minister is happy to visit church members who are in hospital. For reasons of confidentiality, any request for a visit should please come from the person themselves, a close family member or next of kin. Please also pass on the ward number, as this is not available to Ministers. This information can be given directly to the Minister or via the Church Office (892800, open 3 mornings a week or please leave a message). Thank you

The following letter has been received from Mrs M Heavenor whose husband The Reverend Dr Stanley Heavenor was minister of Abbey Church from 1956 to 1964

Thank You Abbey

Taking stock of our life-journey as we creep inexorably into senior years, whether still in good health or in illness we realise, on that interesting journey, our lives have been intertwined with family, with friends and even short acquaintances who have meant something special to us.

Family and friends have been something very special indeed and, as I look back they have meant more to me than I can describe adequately. They, especially my own family, Fiona and David, my four grandchildren and now one great Canadian grandson, have the most dear place in my heart.

Abbey Church has a very special place. I recall, with happiness the eight years we spent in Abbey, and living in the Abbey Manse which Fiona and David recall with great affection.

In the nineteen years, without my beloved Stanley, when I've lived in North Berwick again, I have loved membership with those we knew in the years 1956 - 1964, and got to know so many other wonderful people. I want to thank you all for your prayers for me on these last years of illness. God has answered them in so many ways. God bless you all.

Prayers have also been said for me, all through these years of illness in Crieff where Stanley was minister for almost 22 years. I have had contact with friends there ever since he retired in 1987.

Also, I am remembered in prayer very regularly, in Webster Memorial Church, in Kingston, Jamaica, where we were missionaries for five years before coming to Abbey. In May 2011, at the age of 86, I had the great privilege of being invited back to the church, to celebrate an important anniversary - the building of the new church in our time there. I was given the most amazing welcome, all expenses paid, and saw many 'old friends' again.

I had the honour of speaking to the congregation of 1500 people, for fifteen minutes, at a morning service, on the history of the building of that new church. I also unveiled a gallery of all the ministers since that time, including Stanley. It was seen on one of the screens during a second service.

My thanks again for all your love and prayers. God bless Abbey, and the continuing ministry of David Graham.

Margaret M Heavenor

REGAL

Once again Regal has had an outstanding year with a variety of interesting and thought-provoking speakers. We finished the year with a trip on the Union Canal on Thursday, 23rd June - Referendum Day - a day never to be forgotten.



Some of our members on the Union Canal

For the forthcoming year I have managed to bring together a diverse and fascinating set of speakers.

Our first talk will be on Thursday, 13th October when Alistair MacNeill will talk on the part that the radio has played in his life. Naturally, he has called his talk "Wireless in my Life". It will be of interest to hear about life before TV.

Keith Stewart, QC will put us on trial when he describes how he spends his day in the Court of Session. He will tell us about some of the more interesting challenges that a QC faces. In addition, he will comment on some of the more remarkable cases and tell us how he manages to charm the judge and jury with his charismatic talk. Please make a note of this date in your diary—Thursday, 10th November.

Christmas is always a jolly time and this year our minister, David Graham, will provide us with a "Christmas Medley" of songs and music that depict the Christmas scene. This is the day, Thursday, 8th December, that our Christmas cake will be cut.

Although it may be January, cold and snow will not deter Howard Andrew from relating tales from the Scottish hills and mountains on Thursday, 12th January. Consequently, Howard has entitled his talk "Climbing the Munros" and he asks us to guess the minimum height for a mountain to be called a Munro and the number of Munros in Scotland.

It seems a little early in the year for fishing. Nevertheless, on Thursday, 9th February Martin Wilson will give us a talk on "Salmon Netting on the West Coast." This is a contentious topic throughout the North Atlantic and no more so than around the West Coast.

Our season culminates on Thursday, 9th of March with Robert Burgon talking about the Livery Companies of London and the role they play in modern society. In addition, Robert will provide us with details of his own livery company - The Worshipful Company of Plumbers - one of the most ancient livery companies in the city of London.

In June we will have our summer outing. As yet no destination has been arranged however, it will follow our usual pattern of a visit followed by lunch or vice versa.

After our winter meetings we sit down to a soup and sandwich lunch that has been prepared by the ladies of the church. At the end of lunch a plate is passed round to enable people to make a contribution towards their lunch. Last year we collected over £400; this money was split between Abbey Guild, Mary's Meals, North Berwick Stroke Club and Inspire (North Berwick Churches youth group.) The ladies who prepare lunch very kindly donate both their time and the food.

The full syllabus for the forthcoming year is shown below. I do hope you can come along to our meetings. Each is held on the second Thursday of the month commencing at 12 noon and is open to all ladies and gentlemen of North Berwick and the surrounding villages.

2016

13 October	Wireless in my Life	Alistair MacNeill
10 November	A day in the life of a QC	Keith Stewart
8 December	A Christmas Medley	David Graham

2017

12 January	Climbing the Munros	Howard Andrew
9 February	Salmon Netting on the West Coast	Martin Wilson
9 March	The Livery Companies of London	Robert Burgon
22 June	Summer Outing	

Ian M Aitken

Pop-up Piano Performances

Thanks to everyone who played at lunchtimes and others who helped organize this, especially Pat Coxhead whose idea it was.

Money raised at these performances will benefit Mary's Meals.

Swing Band Service

Many thanks to everyone who helped in any way to make the Swing Band Service such an enjoyable evening. The Heart and Soul Swing Band were brilliant and the whole Service was one of friendly, uplifting worship. The fantastic sum of £1,335.00 including gift aid was raised for the Church of Scotland HIV Programme. By an amazing coincidence, an HIV Nurse from Trinidad was at the morning Service at Abbey and she came back with her friend from London to join us at the Swing Band Service. David Graham gave her a most warm welcome and a recognition of the important work she is involved in.

Let us give thanks for all these amazing and touching "coincidences". The Band of 17 went home ecstatic! The Congregation of 230 went home happy and uplifted - what more could we ask for?

Super Sunday Club

The Super Sunday Club has restarted and as always, we hope you will invite any children known to you to come along and join in the fun. At the request of the children, we will continue to have holiday club type of activities in the hall during the school holidays in September and October.

We have a great team of leaders and our young leaders - Holly and Mia - will be helping out once again. Scripture Union material has been purchased and it is excellent at providing a good base for our activities.

Please continue to pray that more children and families will come along to worship at our Church.

North Berwick Stroke Club

Do you have a couple of hours to spare on a Tuesday afternoon? North Berwick Stroke Club are looking for volunteers. For more information please contact Carol Anderson at CHSS on 07760 765325 or email her at Carol.anderson@chss.org.uk

Comments - Abbey Church (All Funds)-6Months to 30 June 2016

General

The surplus for the quarter is £863 versus a budget deficit of £1,126.

Income

Offerings -Open plate and 'blue envelopes' are less than the 2016 budget but more than the prior year six months figure.

(Note - If you are tax payer and wish the Abbey to recover the tax paid by yourself please would you pick up a gift-aid form from the office or ask Phil for one.)

A legacy was received from Mrs Moira Main.

Expenditure

Church Office expenses include photo copier repairs, the photocopier is now over five years old and it is proving to be expensive. The running costs of this photocopier are shared with Dirleton Kirk.

Premises costs include the expenses incurred in pest control in the kitchen.

Miscellaneous expenses are below budget but in May 2016 over £2,000 was spent on upgrading the sound system in the Sanctuary.

If you have any questions please ask.

Stuart Ainslie
14 August 2016

Your Finance Team

1	Income—Gift-aid	Phil Spencer
	Income-Hall Rentals	Ronald Ironside
2	Payment of bills	Janice Cobb
3	Accounting-OSCR, periodic accounts And Church of Scotland	Stuart Ainslie



	Annual Budget	Budget to 30 Jun	Actual to 30 Jun	Vari- ance
Income				
Offerings	67,000	34,498	34,066	(432)
Tax reclaim	16,000	8,000	8,219	219
Miscellaneous	8,750	3,372	3,079	(293)
Premises income	11,000	5,500	5,659	159
Investment income	4,200	2,300	2,176	(124)
Legacies	-	-	1,000	1,000
Dirleton	6,000	3,000	3,000	0
	<u>112,950</u>	<u>56,670</u>	<u>57,199</u>	<u>529</u>
Total Income				
Expenditure				
Church of Scotland payments	54,431	27,590	27,569	21
Pastoral Expenses	7,500	3,748	3,280	468
Other Salaries	23,053	11,353	11,885	(532)
Premises costs	17,746	8,608	7,619	989
Church Office Expenses	5,000	2,498	2,190	308
Investments	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	5,220	3,999	3,793	206
	<u>112,950</u>	<u>57,796</u>	<u>56,336</u>	<u>1,460</u>
Total Expenditure				
Budget for the year 2016	<u>0</u>			
Phased budget for six months		<u>(1,126)</u>		
			<u>863</u>	
Surplus for six months				<u>1,989</u>
Positive Variance				<u>1,989</u>

ANNUAL GATHERING 2016 on 3rd September....without travelling to Dundee

This event for many is the highlight of their Guild year! 2000 members and special guests gather together in the Caird Hall, Dundee to celebrate the life and work of the Guild. The theme for this year's Annual Gathering ties in with the Guild's theme for 2016-17 Session - "**GO IN JOY**" and it promises to be an uplifting, inspiring day of singing, learning and fellowship. The main speaker this year will be **Sally Magnusson** who will be sharing a little about her mother Mamie's involvement with the Guild, her battle with dementia and what led Sally to found her charity "Playlist for Life".

If you would like to know more about the Guild and be part of this Gathering, **without travelling to Dundee**, you are invited to join North Berwick Guild members in St Andrew Blackadder Church anytime **between 10am and 3pm on Saturday 3rd September**. With the use of modern technology, the whole event can be viewed live. You and your friends will be able to watch it together, join in the singing and generally feel part of the event.

If you are interested, just turn up when it suits you - with a packed lunch if you plan to be there during the lunch-time break.



■ **GO IN JOY** is the theme for the 2016-17 Session of the Church of
■ Scotland Guild.

■ An interesting and varied programme has been arranged for the Abbey
■ Guild on this theme full details of which can be found on the Abbey
■ Church Website and on the Guild Notice Board in the corridor leading
■ down to the New Hall.

■ The first meeting will be on **Tuesday 4th October at 7pm** when the
■ committee members look forward to welcoming all members and friends
■ to "**A JOYFUL first evening**" which will include a Soup and Pudding
■ meal (hence the slightly earlier start).

■ The other October meeting has been arranged as a joint meeting in St
■ Andrew Blackadder Church Hall on **Tuesday 18th at 2.30pm**, the topic
■ being "Car for the Family" which is one of the Guild Projects that
■ North Berwick Guilds will be supporting this Session.

■ **ALL WILL BE MADE VERY WELCOME ON 4th OCTOBER OR ON
■ ANY OTHER OF THE GUILD MEETING DATES**

Abbey Church
Prayer for September



Dear Friends in Christ,

Let us come together, praising God, with hearts full of love and thanksgiving. Let's pray.

Lord God, We come before You with grateful hearts, trying to express our thankfulness to You. Thank You most of all for sending Jesus Christ into this world, to save us all from sin and death. Let us know this and accept Jesus into our hearts—free from sin and full of love. Help us to spread the wonderful news to others, for we know You want all to be saved. Thank You.

Bless all worldwide—and bring peace to this restless world. Bless our Minister and our Pastoral Assistant, their loved ones and all involved in Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk. Grant us all good health, enabling us to come together and worship You. Lord, heal those who are ill and those who care for them. Uplift the sad and lonely and bless those seeking Your comfort. Be with all our children, starting Nursery Schools, right through to colleges and universities—keep them safe from all harm and let us show them how to live as Christians.

In Jesus' Precious Name, Amen

Betty Hawthorn (Prayer Secretary)

May you know He is with you, no matter who or where you are.

Blythswood Christmas Shoebox Appeal (2016)

It's that time again! Although the Shoebox Appeal is not quite upon us yet (filled boxes will be collected by Blythswood early in November), we are preparing to cover the boxes with Christmas wrapping paper. There will be an early 'Boxing Day' to cover the empty shoe boxes on Tuesday 27 September at 2.00p.m. In Abbey New Hall. Some Guild members and volunteers do this each year, but anyone with a spare hour that afternoon would be very welcome to help. (If you have spare Christmas paper and sellotape please bring them along).

You can pick up a covered show box any time after 27 September. Details of requested and suggested items will be in the leaflets included in the next newsletter.

The boxes bring so much happiness to many people in Europe and Asia who receive them. Thank you for your support.

Church Register

Funerals

29th July Mary Walker, Norfolk (Royal Apartments)
9th August George Russell, Williamstone Court

Jesus said 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'

Flower List

Date	Donor	Arranger
4 th Sept	Mrs A Bell	Ann Bell
11 th Sept	Mrs A Stainbank Mrs E Small	Dorothy Kirkpatrick
18 th Sept.	Mrs M Griffiths	Ann Bell
25 th Sept.	Ms Morna McClure	Morna McClure



Creche Duty

4 th Sept	Sadie Young	Sue Paterson
11 th Sept	Norma Goodlad	Carol Stobie
18 th Sept	Lorna Robson	Sarah Kerr
25 th Sept	Ann Bell	Rose Leslie

Abbey Church Morning Tea Rota

4 th Sept	Catherine Andrew	Jasmine Reavely
11 th Sept	Isabel Smith	Sarah Kerr
18 th Sept	Fiona Gibson	Isabel Hardie
25 th Sept	Dorothy Kirkpatrick	Mary Graham



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Abbey Church, North Berwick (Church of Scotland)
Scottish Charity No. SCO 04761—CCL51436