



Abbey Church News

February 2017

Abbey Church,
116 High Street, (at Church Road)
North Berwick
Church Office: 01620 892800
abbeychurch@btconnect.com

Minister: Rev. Dr David J Graham, BSc, BD

Pastoral Assistant: Bob Kane

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

Come along. All welcome.

Dear Friends,

This new year has already seen a lot of big changes in national and international politics: a different relationship with Europe, and changes of leaders overseas. And these are only the ones we know of, who can tell what other surprises 2017 will bring?



Change can bring anxiety and even downright fear. It's often nice to have the comfort of stability, and to feel that things will stay the same for us. But that's seldom the reality of life. I remember once hearing a preacher quote the saying 'constant change is here to stay'. Like many great quotes, we don't know who first said this, but it's no less true for that.

In the church too, change is an ever-present feature. At the moment our presbytery (and the church nationally) is wrestling with issues of how to resource its mission, particularly with decreasing numbers of ministers. This year it's our turn to attend the General Assembly in May, so no doubt I will hear a lot more about that when I'm there. Change may be afoot!

However, in Abbey we're also looking towards positive changes. We're looking forward (as well as upwards of course!). We are blessed with the generosity of our congregation, and we want to use that to expand our mission, our worship, and our activities: 'watch this space'!

The changes we work and pray for are not those of decline or introspection, but ones which put our current Sunday theme into action: Being disciples. And that means following Jesus, which is the biggest change we can ever make in our lives.

Your Minister,

David

Church services

During February we'll continue our series on 'Being Disciples', concluding on 19th. On Sunday 26th we have an all-age service for the start of Fairtrade Fortnight.

Looking ahead, March 5th is World Church Sunday (and also the start of Lent, Easter is later this year), and March 26th is the Abbey annual congregational meeting after the morning service.

Open Meeting of the Kirk Session

All are welcome to attend the above meeting on Monday 6th February at 7p.m. A simple communion will be followed by '*Working with children and Young people*' presented by Ewen Glen (recently appointed Presbytery Family and Youth Development Worker).

Lost Property

There are a number of items that have been left in Abbey church and halls including jackets, gloves, umbrellas and glasses! Please look and see if you have lost anything or speak to Joyce at the office.

Any items not reclaimed by 14th February will be given to charity.

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

Regal - February Meeting

There was a time when salmon was a great delicacy and it was difficult to obtain. However, nowadays salmon is very plentiful and most of what we eat comes from fish farms around the Scottish coastline and further afield.

Nevertheless for many people, salmon fishing either with a net or line is a great hobby and they can spend hours sitting patiently waiting for "the catch".

On Thursday, 9th February Martin Wilson will relate some of his personal experiences whilst pursuing his hobby of salmon fishing. The photograph shows Martin's favourite spot for salmon fishing - Loch Feochan - on the Dunach Estate.



After the meeting we sit down to a soup and sandwich lunch prepared by the ladies of Abbey Church. Our meetings are open to all ladies and gentlemen of North Berwick and the surrounding villages. Please come along, meet friends and listen to a side of life that most of us know little about.

I am sure that Martin's talk will be most interesting to all of us and I look forward to seeing you on Thursday, 9th February at 12 noon.

Ian M Aitken

Healing

The Revd Mike Endicott is returning to East Lothian. Mike has had many years in the healing ministry and has had many remarkable results and seen many miracles. Mike founded The Well Centre in south Wales as a place of ministry. He spends his life in prayer, ministry, teaching and the encouragement of others throughout the UK and internationally. He passionately believes that Jesus heals today and his remarkable ministry bears the fruit of this.

***Friday 10th March - An open meeting on Healing 7.30pm
Ormiston Parish church - all welcome***

***Saturday 11th March - Day Conference for those who would like to learn to pray for the sick and the injured 10am - 4pm
Registration from 9am, Bring your own lunch***

For more information contact Rev David W Torrance, Abbey Church

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit any articles/information for the March newsletter by Tuesday 14th February.

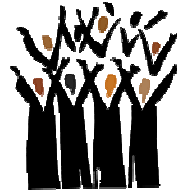
North Berwick Stroke Club

Volunteers wanted

If you have a few hours to spare on a Tuesday afternoon and would like to know more about becoming a volunteer, please contact Kate Campbell.



GO IN JOY



The first Guild Meeting in 2017 was certainly on the theme **GO IN JOY**. It was called 'It's Magic' and the speaker Rev Andrew Don very cleverly used his expertise in performing magic tricks to emphasise various aspects of the Christian faith

By the time you are reading this we will also have had a talk from Tommy Steel regarding the work he does in the Woodworking Section of The Grassmarket Community Project for which supporters of the Guild Giant Christmas Card raised £100. Thank you to all who contributed.

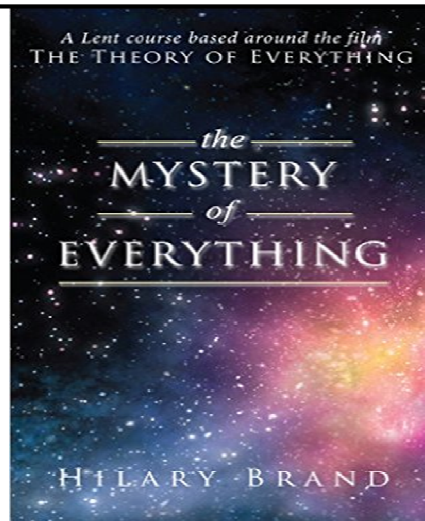
In February we will begin by holding Services in Abbey and Fidra Care Homes on **5th Feb at 3pm**. We hope that fellowship there will spread a little joy to the residents.

On **7th February at 7.30pm** there will be a joint meeting in Abbey - a speaker from Christian Aid will be telling us about '**Caring for Mother Earth in Bolivia**', a project to supply solar-powered ovens. This is the 2nd Guild Project that North Berwick Guilds are supporting this session.

On **21st February at 7pm** Rev Dr David Graham will be speaking to us about **The Steps of St Paul**. He had hoped to take a party to Greece to see some of the actual places on Paul's journey but unfortunately this had to be cancelled. We are therefore very fortunate to be having an illustrated talk about this instead. To get us in the right mood and to try to imagine that we're actually there we will precede the talk with a Greek meal.

If you are interested in coming to this please inform Linda Scott or any other member of The Guild Committee **no later than 14th February** to ensure that we have enough moussaka etc.

ALL WILL BE MADE VERY WELCOME AT ANY OF THE ABOVE MEETINGS



**Association of Churches Lent
Study Group 2017**

**Based around the film 'The
Theory of Everything'**

**5 sessions, starting 7th March,
2017**

**Tuesdays, 2pm to 3.30pm in Room One,
St.Andrews Blackadder, North Berwick.**

All Welcome

For further details ring Margaret McSorley
01620 842547

Abbey Church Crèche Duty

5th February	Sadie Young	Sue Paterson
12th February	Sarah Kerr	Carol Stobie
19th February	Ann Bell	Rose Leslie
26th February	Joan Lunn	Caitriana Spencer

If anyone would be willing to go on crèche duty please contact Dorothy Kirkpatrick .

Abbey Church Morning Tea Rota

5th February	Sheila McCubbing	Irene Nichol
12th February	Richard Bell	Ann Bell
19th February	Liz Harrison	Sadie Young
26th February	Sarah Kerr	



Learn Confernces 2017

Pastoral Care Conference 24th June 2017

For more information about this conference contact the organiser
Suzi Farrang
sfarrant@churchofscotland.org.uk



Community of Faith Conference

For more information about this conference contact the organiser
Hongsuk Um
hum@churchofscotland.org.uk

www.thelanterngroup.org

The Hands of God



Loving God

Loving Self

Loving Others

A quiet morning for reflection

Saturday 25th February 2017
10.15 am to 1.30 pm

(Registration from 10.00am: ending with sharing lunch at 1.00pm)

Holy Trinity Church
Church Street, Haddington

The programme will be led by members of the Lantern Group,
who share a common interest in the Ignatian way
of prayer and spiritual development.

Donations welcomed to defray expenses.

It's helpful if you let us know you plan to come.
Please phone 01620 824896 or email: jstein@handselpress.org.uk

Chalmers Lectures 2017

WATCH ONLINE

Reforming the Kirk

— the future of the Church of Scotland

Rev Dr Doug Gay

Lecturer In Practical Theology, Principal of Trinity College, University of Glasgow

FEBRUARY 1st, 8th and 15th, 2017 • 6.30pm • St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh

In this series of three lectures, Glasgow-based Practical Theologian and Kirk Minister Doug Gay offers a candid, forthright and bold analysis of the state of the Church of Scotland and the choices facing it.

LECTURE 1

WED 1st FEBRUARY

Walls Without Church?

The first lecture explores 'what just happened?' tracing the decline of the Kirk as a national institution since the 1960s.

LECTURE 2

WED 8th FEBRUARY

Call And Response

The second lecture explores the relationship between the church's understanding of its own calling and its response.

LECTURE 3

WED 15th FEBRUARY

Grand Designs

The final lecture makes the case for radical structural reform of the Church of Scotland over the next decade.



Doug describes the lectures as 'hard thinking done with a soft heart' and 'radical thinking offered in a cautious spirit'. He hopes the lectures will both contribute to a broader understanding of the state of the Kirk across Scotland and the international reformed community and to a creative and productive conversation about reform within the Kirk.



The Church of Scotland

FREE to attend, or WATCH online:
www.churchofscotland.org.uk

Abbey Church
February Prayers



Dear Friends in Christ,

I can hardly believe Christmas and New Year are over and, by the time you read this we'll have also celebrated Robbie Burns' birthday too. Let's pray.

Heavenly Father,

Thank you for each and every wonderful gift you lovingly gave us in the past year. Help us to be worthy of your kindness to us all. In the year ahead, let us share what we have with those less fortunate—those who live near us and those of your people who are living in war torn countries, those seeking refuge far from home, and those souls living in extreme poverty. Lord, we praise you, we worship you. Let us show our gratitude to others and let us share Your goodness and love with them. We pray that we will encourage others to turn around and give their lives to you.

We pray for all doctors, nurses and the many others trying to keep our NHS going. Strengthen and encourage them, especially during these difficult times. We bring before you the patients, both in hospitals, care homes and the many being cared for at home. Comfort those who have lost loved ones. Help those who are struggling to cope and uplift those who are lonely. Bless Dr Graham, Mr Bob Kane and all their loved ones. Bless the people of both Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk. Keep our young people safe from all that would harm them and help us to guide them along the way.

Thank you for sending your beloved son, our Saviour Jesus Christ, that we might be saved.

In Jesus' name. Amen

Betty Hawthorn, Prayer Secretary

May our Lord bless you and those you love in the coming year.

Church Register

Baptism

15th January Pippa Sophia Loporto

Funerals

29th November Margaret Heavenor, York Road

6th December Isobel Simpson, Fidra House

14th December Helen Forsyth, Astley House

20th December Sarah Fearon, Fidra House

21st December Primrose Lockhart, Astley House

6th January Averil Scott, Bristol

Jesus said 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'

Flower List



	Donor	Arranger
5th Feb	Misses D & G Adams	Violet Lamont Elma Danks
12th Feb	Mrs A Jardine	- do -
19th Feb	Mrs M Britee	- do -
26th Feb	Mrs M Gordon	- do -

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And Twitter:DirletonAbbey



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