



Abbey Church News

April 2017

Abbey Church,
116 High Street, (at Church Road)
North Berwick EH39 4HE

Church Office: Church Office: open
Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings .
01620 892800

abbeychurch@btconnect.com

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

Pastoral Assistant: Bob Kane



**Sunday Worship at 10.30am.
(Until 11.30)**

Details of Easter Services (page 3)

Come along. All welcome.

Dear Friends,



This time of year sees the Annual Meeting of our congregation. In days gone past it was the occasion to elect members to our Board, and to approve the accounts. Changes in church law and the law of the land mean that these functions are no longer necessary.

However, the Annual Meeting still serves a useful function. It's a chance to hear reports from the organisations in our church, and look ahead to the coming church year. I wonder what it will hold?

I think it will be a challenging year, not only for our congregation but also for the National Church. I will share more of that with you after May, when I've attended the General Assembly with our representative Elder, Robert Burgon.

Locally, we also face change and challenge in our congregation. I'm aware that over the past year we have lost many fine members of the congregation, and that natural process is bound to continue. On a Sunday morning, I look out to gaps in the seats, where once sat faithful members of our church. We miss them, and the sad fact is that we cannot and do not seem to be able to replace them.

Later this year, our Presbytery will address some of these issues. But more important are the words of Jesus: 'The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest to send out workers into his harvest field.'

Your Minister,

David

Church services this month

Easter falls in the middle of April this year, and the holy Week services are as follows:

Monday 10th St Adrian's, Gullane
Tuesday 11th St Andrew Blackadder
Wednesday 12th Our Lady Star of the Sea
Thursday 13th St Andrew Blackadder (joint communion)
Friday 14th Abbey Good Friday service

All these are at 7.30pm, and are open to everyone.

On **Easter Sunday**, we have our open-air service at 'The Haugh' (car park and viewpoint at the far end of the East Bay) followed by a simple breakfast in Abbey Hall. The morning services are then at the usual times.

Pastoral Visits

The Minister and Pastoral Assistant are happy to visit church members who are ill, either at home or in hospital. If in hospital, please also pass on the ward number, as this is not available to Ministers. This information should be given to the Minister or via the Church Office (892800). Thank you.

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit any articles/letters/information for the May Newsletter by Tuesday 18th April.

CLEOPATRA

Reading Shakespeare's Antony and Cleopatra in the small hours of the night does nothing to induce sleep. In a couple of hours you will know enough about the rise of Imperial Rome and the greatest love story of antiquity to keep you entertained, but you won't sleep. Here is "losing all for love" at its best; reckless passion; war and rivalry; exotic oriental settings, high stakes betting and two flawed people losing everything with a wrong throw of the dice. Here is love and suicide on the grandest scale.

Hollywood threw cascades of dollars at creating a modern telling of Cleopatra's story and in the process began the opulent, destructive love affair of the much-married, diamond-encrusted Elizabeth Taylor and the Welsh boy with the dark, honey-coloured voice. Their love affair was equally destructive, ending not with a suicidal bang but more of decadent whisper. What the ancient and modern stories have in common is what happens next when you have everything. Where do you go from the top of the power and wealth pyramid?

As often happens when you read Shakespeare a single passage; maybe just a line or two sticks in the mind, like a snatch of song that plays repetitively. Cleopatra picks up the asp whose poisonous bite will take her away from the wreckage of the battle of Actium where her panic-stricken flight destroyed Antony's hopes of winning the supreme prize of the Roman Empire. With her life and love in catastrophic ruin she says to her maid,

"Give me my robe; put on my crown.
I have immortal longings in me."

Great art takes a particular incident in order to say something of universal truth. My young grandsons want to be super-heroes; everyone wants to be famous for 15 minutes at least. In some form we all have immortal longings. If we are indeed "the outcome of a fortuitous collocation of atoms" why should we have immortal longings? Human history hangs between Eden and the New Jerusalem; between Paradise Lost and Paradise regained. We are not just clever monkeys. Only fallen people made in the image of God hunger for immortality and thank God that is what He has planned for us.

And this is eternal life: that you may know the one true God and Jesus Christ whom he has sent."

But the robe and crown we are talking about were not what Cleopatra had in mind but a mocking, purple robe and a crown of thorns.

Peter Kimber

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ELECTIONS
PUBLIC HUSTINGS
QUESTION THE CANDIDATES**

St Andrew Blackadder Church
North Berwick (entering from St Andrew Street)
Thursday 20 April 2017 7.30pm
Chairman: Peter Kimber

Please submit questions no later than 15 April by email to nbhustings2017@gmail.com or to Abbey Church office, Church Road, or St Andrew Blackadder Church office, St Andrew Street, both North Berwick.

You are invited to
**THE CAMPBELLS
and Guests**

Music

Pipes, Saxophone, Song, Accordion,
Clarsach, Guitar

Thursday April 6th 2017, 7.30pm
no admission fee
collection for
Musicians and Macmillan Nurses

DIRLETON KIRK
East Lothian EH39 5EL

A talented family of musicians from Skye with strong East Lothian connections.

A hugely musical evening is guaranteed, from traditional singing to classical guitar, from flamenco to some good old Jimmy Shand tunes!

Màiri recently graduated from Berklee School of Music in Boston where she specialised in clàrsach.

Steaphanaidh is at the Royal Northern College of Music, studying Classical Harp. A Gold Medallist for singing at the Royal National Mod; she also plays the saxophone.

Brìghde is a piper and won the BBC Radio 2 Young Folk Award at the Royal Albert Hall, 2016.

Ciorstaidh-Sarah is studying accordion, piano and clàrsach at St Mary's Music School.

Eòsaph is a guitarist, drummer and piper.
They also sing in Gaelic, solo and in harmony.

Regal

We have now come to the end of the spring session of meetings for Regal. I am delighted to say that we frequently have 20 or more members at each meeting.

In January, Howard Andrew informed us that there are 282 Munros in Scotland; to be classified as a Munro a hill must be over 3000 feet. After that Howard explained some of the challenges and dangers that he has encountered when climbing the Munros. In February Martin Wilson explained some of the intricacies of salmon netting and thereafter he described some of his favourite places for catching this wonderful fish. He said there is no comparison in taste between that of a wild salmon and one that has been farmed. At our last meeting Robert Burgon talked to us about the Livery Companies of London; their original purpose was to maintain high standards of work within each craft and trade. Nowadays most of the companies tend to be charitable organisations although it is still the Liverymen of London who vote for and elect the Sheriffs and Lord Mayor of the City.



I must thank the ladies who very kindly prepare the soups and a variety of sandwiches for these lunches; finally, they provide very appetising cakes to broaden our waistlines. These ladies provide all the food out of their own pocket without any recompense. This in itself is a very generous gift to the members of Regal. Thank you for your generosity.

As you know, a plate is passed round at the end of lunch and this year we have collected £328 over these three meetings.

Our next meeting will be our summer outing. I have had many excellent suggestions and am in the process of evaluating them. Watch this space!

Ian M Aitken

Used Postage Stamps

Donations of stamps are gratefully received and can be handed into the office. However, the ladies who have been trimming the stamps recently have pointed out that many of the stamps have had to be discarded because they have been badly cut through the perforations.

When they have been trimmed the stamps should have no more than 1cm of the envelope left around each stamp but should not be trimmed too close so that the perforations remain intact.

Thank you.

ABBHEY CHURCH - NORTH BERWICK

BUDGET v ACTUAL AT 31 Dec 2016

ALL FUNDS

| Income (All Funds) | Annual Budget | Actual to 31 Dec | Variance |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Offerings | 67,000 | 70,489 | 3,489 |
| Tax reclaim | 16,000 | 17,518 | 1,518 |
| Miscellaneous | 8,750 | 13,973 | 5,223 |
| Premises income | 11,000 | 10,606 | (394) |
| Investment income | 4,200 | 4,391 | 191 |
| Legacies | - | 102,000 | 102,000 |
| Dirleton | 6,000 | 6,000 | - |
| Total Income | 112,950 | 224,977 | 112,027 |
| | | | |
| Expenditure (All Funds) | | | |
| Church of Scotland payments | 54,431 | 54,410 | 21 |
| Pastoral Expenses | 7,500 | 7,286 | 214 |
| Other Salaries | 23,053 | 23,516 | (463) |
| Premises costs | 17,746 | 16,941 | 805 |
| Church Office Expenses | 5,000 | 4,036 | 964 |
| Investments | - | 49,998 | (49,998) |
| Miscellaneous | 5,220 | 21,617 | (16,397) |
| Total Expenditure | 112,950 | 177,804 | (64,854) |
| | | | |
| Budgeted for year 2016 | 0 | | |
| | | | |
| Surplus for year | | 47,173 | |
| Positive Variance | | | 47,173 |

**Comments - Abbey Church (All Funds)-12Months to 31
December 2016**

General

The surplus for the year was £47,173 including the receipt of £102,000 in legacies and £49,998 was invested in the Church of Scotland Investors Growth Fund.

The result includes in the Good Samaritan Fund where the expenditure was greater than its income by £2,255. The Good Samaritan Fund provides the finance to fund the pastoral assistant. This fund is supported by a few members of the congregation, more contributors welcome!

The Kalimpong fund is in deficit of £130.

Income

Offerings -These are ahead of budget and slightly ahead of the amount received last year.

(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.)

Miscellaneous income includes donations to cover the new sound and audio visual systems.

Legacies - Three have been received. One from Mrs Moira Main, a second from Mrs Nancy Joyce Strachan-Melville and a third from Mrs Dorothy Robinson.

Expenditure

Church Office Expenses -These include photocopier 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. It has been agreed that we will keep the photocopier until more repairs are needed!

Accounts comments contd.

Miscellaneous - These include the costs of upgrading the audio-visual and sound systems in the Sanctuary.

If you have any questions please ask.

Stuart Ainslie
10 March 2017

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 |



"The Rugged Pathway"
An East Lothian Pilgrimage

From St Mary's Haddington to St Mary's Whitekirk
On Saturday 6th May 2017

Total distance is 12 miles approx.

Times below are also approx.

The walk may be accessed at the following points:

1. **St Mary's Parish Church Haddington,**
Registration from 9.15am Service at 9.45am (4.24ml/6.82km to)
2. **Athelstaneford Parish Church,** Then Village Hall Toilet/ Picnic
Lunch (bring your own) 12.00 noon (Approx.) (4.64ml/7.48km to)
3. **Prestonkirk East Linton,** Tea/Coffee/toilet 2.30pm (Approx.)
3ml to)
4. St Mary's Parish Church Whitekirk, tea/coffee, closing service
4.00pm

Only the final stage (approx. 2 miles) is wheelchair accessible

Well behaved dogs will be welcome but must be kept on a short lead
out of consideration for other pilgrims.

Recommendations for Safeguarding Children on the Pilgrimage

Parents & Guardians are responsible for the children in their care. For
their safety on the main roads please keep all children to the edge &
do not wander into the middle of the road due to oncoming traffic.
Can all children please stay behind the leading Stewards- Thank You

Registration forms are available from **Abbey Church office** or on St
Mary's website www.stmaryskirk.co.uk or by emailing [Emily Armatage -
david.armatage@talk21.com](mailto:Emily.Armatage-david.armatage@talk21.com) or by telephone - 01620 822520/
07814154244 and must be returned by 20th April 2017, indicating at
which point you wish to join the walk

Registration fee Adults £5.00 - Children free (under 16yrs
accompanied by adult) to be sent with registration form to
Wendy Wilson - 16 St Margaret's Road, North Berwick, East Lothian
EH39 4PJ

East Lothian Aid for Refugees are desperate for donations of:

Good quality clothes for men, women and children
Sturdy shoes, boots and wellies
Blankets and sleeping bags
Camping gear
Mobile phones and chargers

Donations can be dropped of at any of Enjoy Leisure pools in
East Lothian—(North Berwick, Dunbar, Haddington, Tranent
and Musselburgh)

Abbey Church Morning Tea Rota



| | | |
|------------|------------------|------------------|
| 2nd April | Irene Nichol | Sheila McCubbing |
| 9th April | Ann Bell | Richard Bell |
| 16th April | Sadie Young | Liz Harrison |
| 23rd April | Sarah Kerr | |
| 30th April | Catherine Andrew | Isabel Smith |

Abbey Church Crèche Duty

| | | |
|------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 2nd April | Ann Bell | Rose Leslie |
| 9th April | Joan Lunn | Caitriana Spencer |
| 16th April | Mgt. Lawson | Janice Cobb |
| 23rd April | Mandy Vance | Dorothy Kirkpatrick |
| 30th April | Sadie Young | Sue Paterson |

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

Abbey Church April Prayers



Dear Friends in Christ,

At this time of year, during Lent, we automatically turn our thoughts to Easter, when Jesus gave his life for us, and rose again. Let us praise the Lord —let's pray.

Heavenly Father, Thank you for loving us, so much that you sent your Son to live, die and rise again, overcoming sin and death. He made it possible that we, who are sinners, can ask Him into our lives, and be forgiven.

We give thanks that our country is at peace and that we have plenty of water and food, unlike people, of different nations, who are at war with one another. Their situation is awful. They badly need food, water, clothing and safe places to live. Lord, it's not just people from peaceful places who should help in different ways, it's also the ruling forces all over the world who should help, by giving goods, and bringing peace to your wonderful world.

Thank you Lord for all your goodness to us. Bless our Minister, Dr. David Graham and his Pastoral Assistant, Mr Bob Kane. Grant them good health and strength to carry on your work. Bless all their loved ones and all members of Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk.

Bless our young people and the children and save them from all that would harm them. Thank you. Heal those who are sick, at home or in hospital, and strengthen those who care for them. Bless those who are lonely or depressed. May they know that you are always with them. God, please comfort those who are grieving, whether their loss is recent or some time ago . Grant them peace in their hearts and minds.

Lord, we look ahead to Easter with grateful hearts. Thank you in Jesus' Precious Name. Amen

Betty Hawthorn (Prayer Secretary)

May lent be a special time to you and your loved ones.

Church Register

Funerals

March 3rd Major John MacCallum, South Hamilton Road
March 10th Isabelle Walker, Muirfield Home
March 14th Michael Elder, Macnair Avenue
March 22nd Margaret Britee, Bank Street

Jesus said 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'

Flower List



| | Donor | Arranger |
|------------|--|-----------------|
| 2nd April | Mrs Alison Bell | Alison Bell |
| 9th April | Mrs J Donald | Jean Donald |
| 16th April | Mrs H MacKenzie Mrs M Graham (Easter) | Doreen Guy |
| 23rd April | Mrs P Scott | Doreen Guy |
| 30th April | Mrs V Young Mrs I Brodie | Irene Brodie |

Abbeychurch.org.uk
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And Twitter:DirletonAbbey



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