

THURSDAY 21s

**6.00PM Meet at Church for Carol Singing at
Nursing Homes and Tigh Mhor**



SUNDAY 24th CHRISTMAS EVE

9.30am Morning Service at Dirleton

10.30am Morning service at Abbey

**4.30pm Family Christmas Eve Service at Ab-
bey**



11.30pm Watchnight Candlelit Service in Dirleton

(Coffee in Church Hall from 11pm)



MONDAY 25th CHRISTMAS DAY

**10.30am All-age Christmas Day Service at Abbey (45
minutes)**

SUNDAY 31st

10.30am Joint Morning Service at Dirleton



The Minister, Kirk Sessions and Congregations
will be pleased to welcome you
to these services and events

Peace on Earth

Abbey Church, North Berwick
and Dirleton Kirk

*Warmly
invite you
to join us*

this

CHRISTMAS

Peace on Earth

Fake News or Good News?

Every year, Collins the publisher nominates a 'word of the year', which will appear in the next edition of their dictionary. Previous winners have been 'brexit', 'binge-watch' (when you overdose on TV), and 'photobomb'. This year the word of the year is 'fake news'.

The publisher defines it as 'false, often sensational, information disseminated under the guise of news reporting'. They also say that it has helped to undermine public trust in news reporting. We have heard it used by everyone from politicians to pundits, sometimes even to dismiss something which is uncomfortable or inconvenient.

If the phrase had been around at the time of Jesus' birth, I suspect that some people would have used it to describe the events in Bethlehem. Some people might have called that fake news because they didn't believe the amazing events which had happened. Others would brand it as fake because they didn't want to believe it: the implications would shake up their world and undermine their wealth or power-base.

I expect there are people today who react in the same way to the Christmas message: they don't believe it, or just don't want to.

The Bible has another word to describe Jesus' birth: 'Good News'. It's also the word for 'gospel', which is often paired with another word as 'Gospel Truth'. It's no fake news, it's good news.

Will you believe it?

Your friend & Minister,

David



ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON AT ABBEY CHURCH AND DIRLETON KIRK

DECEMBER 2017



SUNDAY 3th

9.30am Morning Service at Dirleton

10.30am Morning Service at Abbey

6.00pm Service at Abbey for bereaved people—
remembering loved ones

SUNDAY 10th

9.30am Morning Service at Dirleton

10.30am Morning Service at Abbey

Celebration of Holy Communion at Abbey Morning Service



SUNDAY 17th CHRISTMAS SUNDAY

9.30am Nativity Play Service at Dirleton

10.30am Nativity Play Service at Abbey

6.00pm Concert of Christmas music and carols at Dirleton



TUESDAY 19th

2.00pm Guild Christmas Carol Service

with 'North Berwick Sings' Choir



Pastoral Visits

The Minister and Pastoral Assistant are happy to visit church members who are in 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 (890800) or via the Church Office (892800). Thank you.

Newsletters

The next newsletter will cover February and March 2018. The deadline for submitting articles is Tuesday 9th January 2018. Please send to Abbey Church Office.

If you would prefer to have your copy of the Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk newsletter emailed to you please inform your district Elder or the Abbey Church Office.

Abbeychurch.org.uk

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And Twitter:DirletonAbbey



Abbey Church, North Berwick (Church of Scotland)

Scottish Charity No. SC0 04761—CCL51436



Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk News Christmas 2017

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**

GUILD CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Two Carol Services have been organised and all are welcome to attend both or either.

The first will be on **Monday 4th Dec at 7.30pm** in Chalmers Memorial Church, Port Seton. Organised by Presbyterial Council, as well as carols and readings there will be an address from Rev Erica Wishart and an offering for Muirfield Riding Therapy.

The second will be Abbey Guild's Annual Carol Service on **Tuesday 19th Dec at 2pm**. This year 'North Berwick Sings' Choir will be taking part and we'll finish our fellowship for 2017 with tea/coffee, mince pies and shortbread in the Old Hall.

GUILD EVENTS in 2018 - ALL WELCOME

The first meeting in 2018 will be a talk entitled '**Volunteering with RNLI**' on **Tuesday 9th Jan at 2.30pm** which will be preceded by a **Fish and Chips Lunch at 1.30pm** - should be very interesting and enjoyable!

Thereafter we'll have a variety of interesting speakers as detailed in the Syllabus which is displayed on The Guild Board in the Church corridor.



Church Register

Baptisms

8th October Lochlan John McNaughton

29th October Tessa Eleanor Anna Stewart

Weddings

12th October Mark Paris and Jessica Blake

28th October Sandy Turnbull and Claire Glew

Funerals

23rd September David McNeill, Stirling (previously Chapelhill)

28th September Betty Henry, Cirencester (previously Craighleith View)

7th October Morag Robertson, Tantallon Terrace

12th October Eileen Fyfe, Dornoch (previously North Berwick)

16th October Margaret Garbutt, Abbey Home (previously Abbey Crescent)

26th October Bob Lockhart, Belhaven Hospital (Astley House, previously Craighleith Avenue)

20th October Irene Thomson, Ibris Place

31st October Alistair Fergusson, Gylers Road

3rd November May Turner, Tranent Care Home (previously Lochbridge Road)

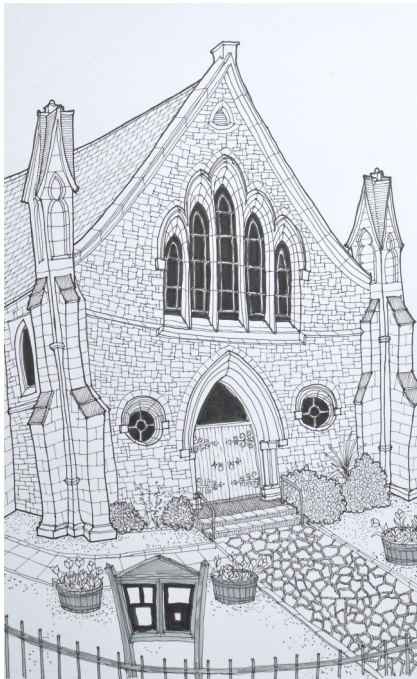
8th November John Turbyne, Dirleton

People and Places

We're pleased that **Michael Weaver** has been called as Minister of Gillespie Memorial Church in Dunfermline. Mike did part of his ministry training with us. The date of his ordination & induction is still to be announced.

Another former trainee with us, **Malcolm Lyon**, recently moved to be Minister of St Michael's Inveresk Church in Musselburgh.

Every blessing to both of them in their new ministries.



How one verse of the Bible shaped the history of Scotland.

“The Bereans ..examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.” Acts 17: 11

As we all know, printed Bibles, accessible to all who could read, were the key to the Reformation, whose 500th anniversary we celebrate this year. John Knox and the Reformers believed that Biblically literate congregations were the best guard against the abuses of the medieval church and early in its history Dirleton Kirk had a perfect example of that process in action.

In 1612 the Kirk was opened and the existing Minister from Gullane, Andrew Makghie, retained the Gullane manse but moved to the new building, complaining to parliament that an allowance should have been paid for the additional cost of shoe repairs. When he died the Bishop installed John Trotter in the charge but the Biblically literate congregation complained that “he profaned the Lord’s Day and vented opinions smacking of Poperie,” whereupon they locked the church doors against him and demanded that he be replaced with John Makghie, the son of the deceased Andrew.

It is no accident that Dirleton Kirk had a school and a Dominie’s house hard by the church gates. Biblically literate congregations needed literate children, and although it was not until 1697 that an education act required every parish to have a school, it was certainly the case that Scotland had a far higher degree of literacy than other European countries and this in turn fed “lads o’ pairts” into the four Scottish universities at a time when England had only two. And it is not fanciful to believe that the habit of checking on the minister fed into the intellectual upheaval of the Scottish Enlightenment with such

great names as David Hume, Adam Smith, John Playfair and James Hutton.

But where does our Bible verse fit into this story? The Greek town of Berea not only gave a sympathetic hearing to the preaching of Paul and Silas but they also checked the validity of the message by closely reading their Scriptures and that custom became a feature of Scottish churches until within living memory. Dr Fawcett in his book "The Cambuslang Revival" quoted how there was a rustle of pages every time a minister referred to a verse of Scripture as the congregation checked that he was "sound".

If there was a down side to this critical attitude to ministers it may be to blame for the Scottish weakness for controversy and division between Auld Lights and New Lights; between established Church and a selection of Free Churches. Fortunately many of these division became reconciled a generation or two later as the children of the disputants took a more tolerant view of their parents' disagreements.

Peter Kimber



Abbey Church Morning Tea Rota December and January

| | | |
|---------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 3rd December | Sarah Kerr | Isabel Smith |
| 10th December | Sadie Young | Liz Harrison |
| 17th December | Eileen McColl | Morna McClure |
| 24th December | Fiona Gibson | Isobel Hardie |
| 31st December | Dorothy Kirkpatrick | Mary Graham |
| 7th January | Sheila McCubbing | Irene Nichol |
| 14th January | Richard Bell | Ann Bell |
| 21st January | Irene Brodie | Catherine Andrew |
| 28th January | Isabel Smith | Sarah Kerr |

Abbey Church Creche Duty Rota December and January

| | | |
|---------------|-----------------|------------------|
| 3rd December | Anne Bell | Rose Leslie |
| 10th December | Joan Lunn | Catriana Spencer |
| 17th December | Margaret Lawson | Janice Cobb |
| 7th January | Margaret Lawson | Janice Cobb |
| 14th January | Mandy Vance | Sadie Young |
| 21st January | Sarah Kerr | Carol Stobie |

Abbey Church Flower Rota December and January

| Date | Donor | Arranger |
|---------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 3rd December | Miss H Wilson Mrs M Whytock | Dorothy Kirkpatrick |
| 10th December | Dorothy Kirkpatrick Communion | Dorothy Kirkpatrick |
| 17th December | Jean Walink | Jean Walink |
| 7th January | Sadie Young | Sadie Young |
| 14th January | E Crowe A McCulloch | Ann Bell |
| 21st January | The Abbey Home | Jeanette Calloway Frances Fallmyr |
| 28th January | Sally Penman | Jeanette Calloway Frances Fallmyr |



GIANT CHRISTMAS CARD

Look out nearer Christmas again this year for the Giant Christmas Card, decorated by members of the Super Sunday Club, which you can use to send Christmas Greetings to all your friends in Abbey, and instead of spending on individual cards, give donations which will be added to the Christmas service collections, and split between Bethany and Kalimpong.



SLEEP IN THE PARK

Saturday 9th December 'Sleep in the Park', Princes Street Gardens. An event to raise funds and awareness for homelessness. 9000 people are expected to do the sleepout, with an evening of celebrity live music and speakers. Half of our Christmas offerings will also go to this great cause.

HARVEST COLLECTION

Harvest Collection for Compassion Child Survival Programme. The totals so far are £1715 from Abbey and £350 from Dirleton, with some still to come. Thanks to everyone who gave so generously.

**ABBEY CHURCH –
NORTH BERWICK**

**BUDGET v ACTUAL
AT 30 SEPT 2017**

ALL FUNDS

| Income (All Funds) | Annual Budget | Budget to 30 Sep | Actual to 30 Sep | Variance |
|--------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Offerings | 65,000 | 48,750 | 50,495 | 1,745 |
| Tax reclaim | 16,000 | 12,000 | 13,205 | 1,205 |
| Miscellaneous | 10,500 | 7,875 | 11,979 | 4,104 |
| Premises income | 9,000 | 7,000 | 8,352 | 1,352 |
| Investment income | 5,400 | 3,350 | 3,572 | 222 |
| Legacies | 25,121 | 25,121 | 25,121 | - |
| Dirleton | 6,000 | 4,500 | 4,500 | - |
| Total Income | 137,021 | 108,596 | 117,224 | 8,628 |
| Expenditure (All Funds) | | | | |
| Church of Scotland payments | 53,574 | 40,342 | 40,328 | 14 |
| Pastoral Expenses | 7,988 | 7,115 | 6,676 | 439 |
| Other Salaries | 25,200 | 18,800 | 19,008 | (208) |
| Premises costs | 18,440 | 12,313 | 14,918 | (2,605) |
| Church Office Expenses | 2,500 | 1,874 | 3,520 | (1,646) |
| Investments | - | - | - | - |
| New Building | 25,718 | 718 | 4,646 | (3,928) |
| Miscellaneous | 3,601 | 1,825 | 4,982 | (3,157) |
| Total Expenditure | 137,021 | 82,987 | 94,078 | (11,091) |
| Budgeted for year 2017 | 0 | | | |
| Budget for nine months | | 25,609 | | |
| Surplus for nine months | | | 23,146 | |
| negative variance | | | | (2,463) |



Vocations Information Day – Saturday 10th February 2018

The next Vocations Information Day will take place on **Saturday 10th February 2018** at The Conforti Institute, Coatbridge.

The fresh voices of young adults - setting out in the early days of their professional ministries in the Church – are resonating through the Church of Scotland. In every kind of Christian community people are asking big and exciting questions about their own vocation, and being amazed by the answers they find.

In 2014 the Church had begun to dream a dream of training 30 ministers per year, more than twice the average over the previous five years. In 2015, even with the campaign launch part of the way through the year, we recruited 31 new candidates, 21 of them for the full-time Ministry of Word and Sacrament, an increase of 50% on recent years. We're both thankful and ambitious, determined to build on that success and to find more Church members who may be inspired by those who have already said 'Is it me, Lord?' and willing to ask that question of themselves.

By helping us to commend the Vocations Information Day, the vital and immensely useful first step for everyone sensing a calling, you can begin to ask your members 'Is it you?', and maybe you'll have the thrill of hearing someone answer 'Well, maybe...' It would be a great boost to the work we do within the Ministries Council, and a wonderful gift to the Church's ministry. Please help us to convey our enthusiasm for the growth we're beginning to see!

PRAYERS—DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Dear Friends in Christ

We seem to be rushing forward, soon it will be that exciting time of year, Christmas, followed shortly after by New Year. I love Christmas, don't you? Shop windows are lit up, Carols are heard and most people have 'super smiles' on their faces, don't you? Let us pray.

Heavenly Father,

You know what we are like heading for Christmas, that wonderful time of year. Most people start writing cards and buying gifts to exchange with family and friends. We go on decorating homes, shops and putting bright shining lights upon the street lights. Then we buy in the food we need for that special Christmas dinner. What a great time! Some souls are poor and even homeless, but we're ok, got everything we need! Have we lost the real Christmas spirit? I do hope you have room for that wonderful chosen guest - Jesus. He'll stay for ever if you want him to, that includes the New Year festivities too. We ask Jesus to remain in our hearts and guide us all the days ahead.

Lord, please bless our Minister, Dr Graham, our Pastoral Assistant, Mr Bob Kane and their loved ones. Also the congregations of both our Churches. Keep old and young safe, especially in these dark nights. Heal the sick and those who care for them. May those who are sad or lonely be aware that you are with them. Comfort those who mourn. Let us see how we can help those in need. Help us become good neighbours, from one country to another, spreading your love and peace, worldwide.

We ask these things in Jesus' name. Amen

Betty Hawthorn (Prayer Secretary)

May God's love shine on you at Christmas and in the coming year.

Comments – Abbey Church (All Funds) – 9 Months to 30 September 2017

General

The surplus for 9 months was £23,146 including the receipt of £25,121 in legacies.

Income

Offerings – These are ahead of budget and 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 an unexpected donation of £4,000 for Nimbong and £1,600 from lunch time pop-up music.

Expenditure

Premises costs are ahead of budget by £2,605, Electricity charges include a large prior year adjustment. Additionally £1,659 was spent on repairing the windows above the back door on to Forth Street.

Church Office expenses include substantial photocopier repair costs. A decision will have to be made about a replacement photocopier. In the third quarter a new pc was purchased at a cost of £900 including installation and software.

The new building project is proceeding and £4,646 has been spent on architect's and engineer's fees.

Miscellaneous costs include an amount of £4,000 sent to Kalimpong to help the Nimbong project.

If you have any questions please ask.

Stuart Ainslie

30 October 2017

REGAL - December

We tend to associate snowflakes, turkey, Christmas trees and Santa Claus with Christmas. However, if you live in the southern hemisphere in places such as New Zealand, Australia or South Africa, Christmas is associated with glorious warm weather – people sunbathe on Bondi Beach, or swim with dolphins in the Bay of Islands, New Zealand or walk along the promenade licking an ice cream in Camps Bay, South Africa.



These are some of the pleasures and fun aspects of Christmas. Unfortunately for many people, Christmas is very different. People have been driven from their houses on account of war and others by partitions whilst others live in refugee camps.

On Thursday 14th December Bob Kane will relate some of the "Unexpected Christmases" he has experienced. I know that Bob will recount some interesting and amusing tales of the Christmases that he has spent in different parts of the world.

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 an aspect of life that we know little about.

Recital of Music for Advent, Sunday 17th December 2017, 6pm.

The season of Advent is now at hand. We have arranged a recital of music for Advent, to be performed by Ross Gubby and other musicians. Ross is an organ scholar at York University and played for us earlier this year on Sunday. The recital will take place on Sunday 17th December 2017, at 6pm. Admission is free but there will be Collection plates at the doors for our Christmas charities. Refreshments will be supplied afterwards in the hall. Ross has drafted a programme of music for Advent, and there will be the opportunity for us to sing, as we approach Christmas.

Christmas services

The Watchnight service will take place at 11.30 pm at Dirleton, and again, refreshments will be served in the Hall beforehand. On Christmas day there will be another joint service, in Abbey Church. Details elsewhere in this newsletter.

We will be having a joint morning service with Abbey on New Year's Eve, Hogmanay, 31st December 2017. We look forward to joining with our friends to celebrate the Christmas season and to look ahead to 2018. There will be tea and coffee in the Hall **before** the joint service.



Dirleton Kirk

Session Clerk's Notes

Remembrance Sunday: and after our service of worship, when David reflected on Christ's teaching on the subject of turning the other cheek, and going the extra mile, we assembled at the War Memorial. The names of those who fell in the World Wars were read out; wreaths were laid; and, in addition to laying the wreath on behalf of the Kirk, the Sunday Club children 'planted' the poppies which they had made that morning from clay and wire, and painted red and black.

Bob Kane led us in remembering the sacrifice made by previous generations, and reminded us that the stresses of conflict are borne by those who have served in many conflicts since 1945; and also that combat stress may affect someone all of a sudden, being triggered even years after the event.

This year, as in previous years, some people have said publicly- ostentatiously, perhaps- that they refuse to wear a poppy, citing various justifications including that the poppy, somehow, 'glorifies war'. Bob spoke about the significance of the sacrifice made by those who have died in conflict: it is through that sacrifice that our institutions survived, and that as a result, we enjoy the liberty of not wearing a poppy should we choose not to wear a poppy.

As we mark Remembrance Sunday, we call to mind that sacrifice is at the heart of Christianity, and reflect on the sacrifices that others made for us.

Bob also referred to John Turbyne who died a short time ago, after many years' constant witness among us and faithful service as beadle and elder, to whom it had fallen for many years to read the names on the war memorial. And, so close in time to the season of All Saints, we remember all those who have gone on ahead of us.

Keith Stewart

REGAL - January

Ailsa Fortune researched and wrote the history of ladies playing golf at North Berwick. Initially they played over the original ladies links – we now know this as the children's course.



The North Berwick Ladies Club was established in 1888 and, for the first few years, the committee consisted solely of men. Ailsa looks at the woman who came to North Berwick – from the noble ladies to politicians' wives and industrialists' daughters. Golf has helped put North Berwick on the map and nowadays the West Links is considered to be one of the best golf courses in Scotland.

This talk will be very interesting to both golfers and non golfers.

Ian M Aitken

What's new in Abbey Church?

Little Nippers

As often happens, things have come full circle and Abbey members are now organising the Little Nipper meetings on Thursday mornings. Little Nippers was started up many years ago by Church members and once again, we have the opportunity of being involved.

Little Nippers meets in the New Hall on Thursdays 10 - 11.30am and is for Mums/Dads/Carers and their children 0-3years. They receive a very warm welcome from Abbey and Dirleton people when they arrive and then it is play time with the toys, a lovely cup of coffee and a chocolate biscuit for the adults and a snack of breadsticks, raisins and fresh fruit for the children. The morning is finished off with a sing song led by Julie and accompanied by the children playing musical instruments and then the goodbye song. Thereafter, it is time for the children to go home for a sleep and let their Mums/carers have a well earned rest!

If you are interested in helping with this worthwhile work, please let me know. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know our local Mums/carers and their children.

Julie Loporto



who haven't necessarily been mentioned by name, but make a big contribution to the life of the congregation. I know I'll end up missing someone out, but we are so fortunate to have so many teams of people who welcome people to church on Sunday, help with tea and coffee after church, work with our young people, organise the Guild and Regal, distribute newsletters, provide and distribute beautiful flowers, visit our members, help at the Care Home services, provide and serve Bethany meals, give to the Foodbank, host house groups, provide for the Sunday Afternoon Teas and pray for our congregation and our world.

Sally Penman

CARETAKER AND CLEANER REQUIRED

We are looking for a person or a couple to look after our church and halls in North Berwick.

Requirements

Good organisational skills to manage and carry out setting up for events.

Willingness to be trained in setting up and using audio-visual equipment.

Knowledge of health and safety and fire safety regulations.

Knowledge of health and hygiene regulations.

Basic maintenance skills, Hardworking and reliable.

Availability for setting up and cleaning following events at various times of day.

Good communication skills for liaison with the Church Office and Hall Users.

For more details, please contact Sally Penman or Richard Bell.

We are looking forward to starting the next phase of developing our building to meet the needs of our congregation and community. Starting at the end of November, there will be construction of a new creche/meeting room at the side of the Old Hall, as well as refurbishment of the hall itself, including removing the stage, installing new audio-visual equipment and enlarging the space in the corridor by the back stairs. This has been made possible through a legacy from Mrs Dorothy Robinson and the Kirk Session has agreed to rename the old hall the Robinson Hall. Richard Bell is leading this project and we thank him for all his work.

The Kirk Session was very sorry to receive the resignation of Zandra Main as an active member of the Kirk Session. She has served the congregation in so many ways over the years, including her role as a caring pastoral elder and host of a House Group and we will miss her input to Kirk Session discussions.

We are also sorry to say farewell to Trevor and Helen Turner who have been our Caretaker and Cleaner for the last eleven months. They are moving to Dunfermline for family reasons. We are advertising for their replacements, but they will be a hard act to follow. If you know of anyone who may be interested in one or other of the positions, please let Richard Bell or Sally Penman know.

During this year we have been very glad to welcome Yolanda Strachan and Linda Scott as new Elders. As you will know, after many years of service to the Church Office, Joyce Strachan retired and Paola Burrows is now the Administrator, working an extra morning on Wednesdays, so the Church Office is open from Tuesday to Friday 10am-1pm.

At the end of another busy year, I would like to thank all those

What's new in Abbey Church?

Pizza/Volleyball

This meeting for teenagers started up a couple of months ago and meets monthly on Saturday evenings in Abbey Church. It was primarily aimed at the teens and their friends connected to Abbey and Dirleton Churches and it is already starting to grow. Pizza, Chinese and Indian food have been on offer and this provides the energy for a very noisy game of volleyball. We have a several adults from Abbey and Dirleton helping with the games and the food and a big part of the evening involves talking and building up relationships with each other. Our two young leaders Holly and Mia have done a great job in promoting these meetings.

This evening is a brilliant opportunity to meet with and connect with our local teenagers. If you are interested in helping, please let me know.

Julie Loporto

Super Sunday Club



The excitement is building up for Christmas! The children have been asked to decorate the Giant Christmas card for the congregation and then it will be time to start on our Nativity play. In between, we have our Christmas party to look forward to when we will hopefully be joined by the children and leaders from Dirleton. We hope to see many of you at the Nativity Service on 17th December and if you will have grandchildren with you that day, please let me know and they can join in with the play. We have vacancies for lots of sheep and shepherds!

Julie Loporto



BETHANY CARE CHRISTIAN TRUST

An Individual's story

On the opening night of the Care Shelter this winter the first of the staff team turned up at the church to be greeted by a familiar face; Sally. Sally had used the shelter for the previous three winters and was well known to the staff. Emotions were mixed; on one hand the staff member was pleased to see her but on the other, there was disappointment that she was back at the shelter again. But something was different about Sally. She looked good. And she was smiling! After greetings were exchanged Sally explained that she had come along tonight to say hello and to tell the staff how she was getting on – she didn't need to stay for the night. Wonderful! She thanked the staff for all their help and said the shelter and its staff were amazing.

Very few people stay at the shelter for more than half the nights of the winter season but last year Sally had stayed every night except one. On the last morning, as the shelter closed for the summer, Sally had hugged the staff team goodbye, in tears because she didn't know where she was going to stay that night and she was scared. The staff had tried their best to reassure her, themselves unsure where she would end up that night and they resolved to pray that she'd be safe.

The Care Shelter was the only place Sally felt safe. She didn't engage with other services, even those that visited the shelter on a weekly basis. Crisis Skylight had known who Sally was for some time but she had never been willing to engage with them. Last winter Sally started to tentatively engage, having attended one of their classes. Soon afterwards they were able to help her apply for benefits and accompanied her to the job centre and to the council to apply for temporary accommodation. She got a bank account and started volunteering through a placement arranged by the job centre to build her CV.

Sally was so pleased to tell the Care Shelter staff that she is now in a B&B and not having to stay at the Care Shelter. She had a big smile on her face as she announced that her PVG clearance had just come back and she would start work in a care home the next day. The staff were delighted for her and were hugely encouraged by this remarkable transformation. What a great way to start off the 2017/18 winter season!

Prayer

Here are some prayer points for the Care Shelter:

For each person that comes to the shelter; all of whom are God's children and He loves them very much.

For those individuals who are struggling with addictions and are somewhere along the path of seeking help, whether waiting to move into Teen Challenge, having applied to Bethany Christian Centre but not yet made it along to an interview, those who desperately want the help but there's some barrier in the way and those people who haven't yet got to the point where they are ready to deal with their addiction. We know individuals in all these situations – please pray for each of them that God would lead them to help and that the chains of addiction would be broken.

For those who don't get a space at the shelter, that they would be safe during the night. And that solutions would be found so that no one has to spend the night on the street.

For the staff team – that they would continue to grow into their new roles and feel God's presence each night as they serve Him. For wisdom, discernment and a closeness with God.

Thanks to those of you who have cooked or provided a venue for the shelter in the past and to all of you who are involved this winter. You're such an important part of the shelter – not just because the service wouldn't exist as it is without you all but also in the way that you interact with those who come along to stay. The conversations you have each night mean so much to people and do have an impact

Beds



One last thing, Bethany is very short of single beds at the moment so if you happen to have any that you're looking to get rid of, please consider donating them. You can do this by calling 0131 561 8903 to arrange collection. Beds are given along with other items of furniture to people who have moved into new tenancies and don't have the resources to furnish the place themselves.