



**Abbey Church
and
Dirleton Kirk News
April/ May 2018**

**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**



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

Church Office: 01620 892800

abbeychurch@abbeychurch.co.uk

*Office open Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
10am until 1pm*

Dirleton Kirk,
Dirleton Kirk, Manse Road,

Holy Week Services (all at 7.30pm)

Monday 26 th March	St Baldred's
Tuesday 27 th March	Gullane Parish Church (followed by the Association of Churches' Community Award)
Wednesday 28 th March	Our Lady Star of the Sea (Stations of the Cross)
Thursday 29 th March	Joint Communion in Abbey
Friday 30 th March	Abbey Good Friday Service

Easter Sunday, 1st April, will start with the open-air service at the 'Haugh' car park (East Bay) at 8.00am, followed by breakfast in Abbey Hall.

Dear Abbey & Dirleton Friends

Our Kirk Sessions were recently given a presentation from the Presbytery Forward Planning group about the new Presbytery Plan. This is still work in progress but ought to be finalised later this year.

The plan is being revised because of the drastic reduction in the number of ministers over the next few years. We are not recruiting enough, we're not keeping enough, and we're losing a lot, many because of retirement. In the next 5 years there will only be 2/3 of the Ministers needed to fill charge, and Lothian Presbytery will have to reduce its ministers by 1/3.

But the church of Jesus Christ is not about Ministers! It's about people, and about building the kingdom. Jesus promised 'I will build my church'

We are building the church. For example, our weekly 'little nippers' and monthly youth club groups are drawing in young people and parents. Our Sunday Club is an enthusiastic group of children & teenagers. And in Abbey we've just completed work to extend and upgrade our halls, providing better space for the very young as well as older people and groups (this building work is thanks to the generosity of the late Dorothy & Hugh Robinson, who were faithful members of Abbey).

We're in the season of Easter, the time of resurrection to new life. I didn't finish the quote from Jesus: 'I will build my church, and even death will not overcome it'.

Your Minister,
David

David McLean, an appreciation



On Sunday 4th February, our dear Elder and former Session Clerk passed into glory. Not only was this a great loss for Linda and her family, and for the Abbey Church, but also for the wider Church in Scotland.

David grew in faith as a young man in Ayrshire, and served in congregations there, in Glasgow, and for the past 35 years in Abbey. As an Elder and Session Clerk, as a Reader, and as a member of the Church of Scotland Assembly Council, he discharged all his duties with diligence, thoughtfulness and graciousness.

In his professional working life, David quickly moved up to management and executive positions in the Glasgow Savings Bank (later the TSB), and Standard Life. He was a valued colleague, who always had the interests of the customers at heart.

David meeting Linda (on his first day at work in the Bank) was providential, and their 52 years of marriage was a match made in heaven. Our thoughts and prayers are with her and the family. Our gratitude is to the Lord that we were privileged to know him.

Year of Young People

April Theme - Equality and Discrimination

Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute. Proverbs 31:8

What does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God. Micah 6:8

Action

What forms of discrimination do your young people face?

What areas do your young people want to discuss and think more about?

Are there peace and justice initiatives or campaigns to get involved with?

With the terrible events that have happened in the world over the past few years, how can we support young people to challenge all forms of prejudice and discrimination and engage with others in peace building?

The National Youth Assembly in 2017 explored inter-faith work. How might your young people explore this? Do young people have their own ideas?

Do your children and young people have other ideas?



Prayer

Dear God,

We pray for all those in our world suffering from racism, sexism and religious discrimination.

For the individuals who are silenced for expressing their beliefs.

For the people who feel marginalized within society.

Please help them remain positive despite physical and psychological strife.

Help them to forgive those who persecute them or who fail to treat them with respect.

Forgive us, Lord, if we consciously or unconsciously share in the conditions or in a system that perpetuates injustice.

Please enlighten all Your disciples that discrimination does not only come in the form of lowering others but it demonstrates itself in the process of granting of privileges to select groups of people as well.

Guide lawmakers and those at the head of government make decisions that grant all individuals equal status under the law.

Amen.

Year of Young People
May Theme - Participation and Influence

I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full. John 10:10

Suzi Farrant (Mission & Discipleship Council Children & Young People's Development Worker):

'The God I believe in is a God of abundance not of deficit. A God with whom there is always more, a God of hope, a God who desires to see us grow and have life in all its fullness. When we recognise all that God has done and is doing for us we begin to join in, following the Spirits leading, willingly sharing such abundance with others, regardless of age.

Starting from a place of abundance helps us to notice the stories of children who have found love within our church communities, the stories of young people being released from pain and given hope, the stories of adults whose faith has been inspired by the questions and thoughts of children.

Hearing these stories leads us to yearn for more and to being more willing to change what we are doing so that we are in step with the Spirit, leading others to join the party too.'

Action

Give young people the chance to influence decisions that affect their lives

How are young people involved in decisions in the church? How can this be developed?

How can young people be more involved in the Kirk Session?

Ask children and young people what they want to do in the groups they attend.

How are young people involved in decisions at Presbytery and national level - can they attend National Youth Assembly or become a General Assembly Youth Rep?

Can young people share a video of something they are proud of or some challenges they want to share with the wider church?

To further develop your relationship with your children and young people, find out if any young people or children participate in the decision-making within their school. Are they members of the Pupil Council? Eco Committee? Or any equivalent? Celebrate these achievements with your young people.

REGAL

Our last sessional meeting was held in March. We sat enchanted as we listened to Stan da Prato telling us about the challenges he faces when he prepares and makes his pallet gardens. During his talk he showed some photographs of the pallet garden in the process of being created. The gardeners, amongst the audience, picked up many useful tips on how to improve their own gardens

Once completed, the pallet garden is entered into Scottish gardening competitions and Stan's garden usually wins a gold medal. Then the pallet garden is transported to Abbey church where it enhances the entrance to the church for the next few months.



Our summer outing will be the next time that we meet. From the syllabus you will see that it is planned that we go to the Scottish parliament and meet our local MP, Mr Ian Gray. Mr Gray is heavily involved with Parliamentary & committee work and constituency matters, however a date has been confirmed as Wednesday, 27th June. In the meantime I hope you enjoy the spring weather.

Ian M Aitken



GO IN LOVE



By the time you read this the Guild Theme 'Go in Love' will have been completed and, at the AGM in March, a new Guild Committee will have been set up to organise and run the 2018-19 Session.

You can look forward to the new **STRATEGY** "One Journey, Many Roads" with **THEMES** "Seeking the Way", "Companions on the Way" and "The Extra Mile"

In the months April- September, however, look out for news of a **FILM OUTING** and a **SUMMER OUTING**. Details for these will be in a forthcoming newsletter or Sunday intimation.

The only definite date for the near future is for "**THE BIG SING**" on **TUESDAY 22nd MAY** (Part of Church of Scotland **GENERAL ASSEMBLY**) - in Edinburgh Assembly Hall at 7pm.

If you would like to attend, contact Linda Scott for a ticket (we usually travel by train).

The Year of Young People 2018

The Scottish Government has dedicated this year to young people and we as the Church of Scotland have dedicated ourselves to our young people. I believe each and every one of us can, in our own way, sign up to the promises made at the special service on 28th January. We may not all meet our young people in person every week and we may not be directly involved in their Christian education, but we can get to know their names and pray for them, and through our example we can help them to grow in their relationship with God.

We will be trying new things throughout the year to make sure that we fully involve young people in the life of our church. We have already introduced some new songs, chosen by them, to make them feel at home. Their drama input into services is already fantastic!

As we go through this year, be reminded that we said to our young people that we want to:

GET TO KNOW YOU
LISTEN TO YOU
SHARE FAITH WITH YOU
PRAY WITH AND FOR YOU
INVOLVE YOU
HELP KEEP YOU SAFE
HELP DEVELOP YOUR GIFTS
ENABLE YOU TO GROW IN YOUR RELATIONSHIP
WITH GOD

Sally Penman

Dirleton Kirk Session Clerk

Sunday 4th March may have been the first day in the recent freeze when a thaw was noticed in the air; when the fine powdery snow which had fallen in the previous week, its texture so unusual in Dirleton, took on the far more familiar quality of slush; but we thought it better not to risk convening for worship in the Kirk, but to gather instead in the Hall. The gravel on the paths between the gate and the doors of the Kirk make them difficult to sweep. So, with thanks to those responsible for sweeping the shorter paved path from the road to the door of the hall, we met in the hall instead of in the Kirk.

The Church of Scotland, like every other organisation in the country, had circulated warnings calling for caution in the conditions: a matter of 'Is your Service of Worship really necessary?' rather than 'Is your Journey really necessary'. We concluded that it was: but in the light of the decision not to meet in the Kirk, we stood down the organist, Philip Boon, from his duties. There being no keyboard in the Hall, we faced the challenge of singing hymns unaccompanied.

David told us about arriving to take a service in a church in the Highlands when a student, and being advised- there and then- that the practice there was for unaccompanied singing. "Who leads the singing?" was his question, and back came the answer: "You". That unnerving experience stood him in good stead; gathered together, in the comparatively confined space of the hall, we contrived to make a reasonable

sound, and no-one held back out of embarrassment about their quavery high notes or inability to sound the deep notes.

I was reminded again of the words of the great composer and musician William Byrd, written in the 16th Century: "since singing is so good a thing, I wish all men would learn to sing". We missed our organ accompaniment, but there was something in the experience of singing unaccompanied that made me wish we could do it more often.

A last flurry of thick snow fell towards the end of our worship, but the snow was beginning to disappear, and things were starting their return to normal (except for those who had to use the train service to Edinburgh that week...). The experience of singing unaccompanied, without an organ, made us think of different aspects of our worship, and reflect on the pleasure to be taken- on occasion- from singing hymns in that way. The experience of the snows, and how people responded- the greater concern for neighbours, the offers to make journeys to the shops, the sharing, the collective efforts to clear roads and pavements- these things prompted me to wonder if it would be a good thing if the so-called 'Beast from the East' were to return for a few days every year, to remind us of the way in which we are called on to show the same love for our neighbours as we show for ourselves.

Keith Stewart

13th March 2018

Dirleton Kirk Communion Service
will be held on Sunday 15th April
with a special collection for Christian Aid



North Berwick Stroke Club
(Affiliated to Chest Heart & Stroke Scotland)
Require
Group Support Volunteer(s)

The North Berwick Stroke Club provides social interaction including games, activities, speakers, entertainers and outings for people of all ages who have had a stroke. The Group support volunteer role is varied - everything from helping with refreshments to assisting with games, activities and outings as well as helping with ideas for future programmes.

We meet on Tuesday afternoons for 2 hours (2.30 - 4.30) in the Community Centre.

If you think you may be able to help please contact
Kate Campbell tel 895691
or ka.campbell@tiscali.co.uk.

Shoe Box Appeal



'Wilkie's' (North Berwick), our main provider of empty shoe boxes, has informed me that now they have to sell their shoes with the box in case the shoes have to be returned. I would be grateful if anyone purchasing shoes could keep the empty boxes, or bring them to church, as I can store them in my garage until the appeal in November.

Many thanks

Bel Hardie

Plastic milk carton tops



Thank you for everyone who has been collecting these for charity. Unfortunately we can't take any more in the meantime. We will let you know if this changes.

ABBAY CHURCH — NORTH BERWICK

BUDGET v's ACTUAL AT 31st Dec 2017

ALL FUNDS

Income (All Funds)	Annual Budget	Actual to 31 Dec	Variance
Offerings	65,000	69,998	4,998
Tax reclaim	16,000	17,561	1,561
Miscellaneous	10,500	17,614	7,114
Premises income	9,000	14,032	5,032
Investment income	5,400	5,989	589
Legacies	25,121	26,121	1,000
Dirleton	6,000	6,000	-
Total Income	137,021	157,315	20,294
Expenditure (All Funds)			
Church of Scotland payments	53,574	53,559	15
Pastoral Expenses	7,988	9,253	(1,265)
Other Salaries	25,200	25,386	(186)
Premises costs	18,440	18,695	(255)
Church Office Expenses	2,500	4,871	(2,371)
New Building	25,718	18,086	7,632
Miscellaneous	3,601	14,335	(10,734)
Total Expenditure	137,021	144,185	(7,164)
Budgeted for year 2017	-		
Surplus for year		13,130	
positive variance			13,130

Comments - Abbey Church (All Funds) - Year to 31 December 2017

General

The surplus for the year was £13,130 including the receipt of £26,121 in legacies and expenditure on the Seminar Room of £18,086.

Income

Offerings - These are ahead of budget and ahead of the amount received last year. Included in the offerings line is regular gift days, these are shown in the figure of £69,998.

(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.

Premises income is £5,032 ahead of budget reflecting the increased use of our halls.

Expenditure

Church Office expenses include substantial photocopier repair costs. A decision has been made about a replacement photocopier. In the first quarter of 2018 a photocopier was taken lease.

The new building project is proceeding and £18,086 has been spent on professional fees and the foundations of the building.

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
12 March 2018

Your Finance Team

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

Door Duty Officers and Readers

Date	Duty Office Bearers	Reader
April 1 st Easter Sunday	Mrs S Burgon Miss L Scott Mrs Y Strachan	Mr R Burgon
8th	Mr B McClure Mrs M McClure Miss M Burgon	Miss M Burgon
15th	Mr R Nichol Mrs I Nichol Mr P Spencer	Mr P Spencer
22nd	Miss I Smith Mr W Leslie Mrs R Leslie	Mr Eric Simmons
29th	Mr M Brodie Mrs I Brodie Mrs C Aitken	Mrs C Aitken
May 6th	Mr S Young Mrs S Young Mr R Ironside	Mr R Ironside
13th	Mr A Cobb Mrs J Cobb Mr D McAdam	Mr J Evans
20th	Mrs L Harrison Mrs D Kirkpatrick Mrs S Penman	Mrs S Penman
27th	Mrs M Graham Mrs E Danks Mrs F Gibson	Ms C Stobie

Abbey Church Flower Rota April—May

Date	Donor	Arranger
1st April	Mrs Alison Bell Mrs Mary Graham	Alison Bell Irene Nichol
8th April	Mrs J Donald	Irene Brodie
15th April	Mrs H MacKenzie	Fiona Hutchison
22nd April	P Scott	Morna McClure
29th April	Mrs V Young Mrs I Brodie	Irene Brodie
6th May	Mrs C Hill Mrs M MacLean	Margaret McLean
13th May	Mrs E Harrison	Dorothy Kirkpatrick Sadie Young
20th May	Mrs M Robertson	Dorothy Kirkpatrick Sadie Young
27th May	Mrs S Burgon	Dorothy Kirkpatrick Sadie Young

Abbey Church Morning Tea Rota



1 st April	Sadie Young	Morna McClure
8 th April	Fiona Gibson	Isobel Hardie
15 th April	Dorothy Kirkpatrick	Mary Graham
22 nd April	Sarah Kerr	
29 th April	Sheila McCubbing	Irene Nichol
6 th May	Richard Bell	Ann Bell
13 th May	Irene Brodie	Liz Harrison
20 th May	Isabel Smith	Catherine Andrew
27 th May	Morna McClure	Sadie Young

Abbey Church Creche Rota

8 th April	Ann Bell	Rose Leslie
15 th April	Joan Lunn	Caitriana Spencer
22 nd April	Mgt. Lawson	Janice Cobb
29 th April	Dorothy Kirkpatrick	Sadie Young
6 th May	Sarah Kerr	Carol Stobie
13 th May	Ann Bell	Rose Leslie
20 th May	Joan Lunn	Caitriana Spencer

Prayer - April and May

I do hope you were all able to rejoice, celebrating Easter. What a wonderful time in the Christian calendar. Let us pray

Dear Lord,

It was a wonderful time being able to praise your name over Easter. We were so grateful, singing your praises and offering prayers of thanksgiving. Giving your life, for each of us, and rising from the dead, that we might be saved—what a wonderful Saviour! Forgive us Father should we stop singing and praising you. Where would we be without you? May we keep on praising your Holy Name.

This wonderful world, which you created, must make you so sad/angry. What a dreadful place we have made it. Forgive us Lord. Please let peace reign—world wide. May food and clean water be available to us all. Show us how we can share with all the poor souls in need. We pray that those who donate will be assured that it all goes towards those who need it. Thank you. Let peace go out to all your children.

Strengthen those who go out to foreign shores—spreading good news. Help those who are ill and those who care for them. May the lonely/sad realise you are always with them, comfort those who grieve and uplift them. Thank you. In Jesus' precious name.

Betty Hawthorn (prayer secretary)



After the severe weather, let us welcome spring with all the beautiful, colourful flowers coming into bloom.

Church Register

Baptisms

28.1.18 Rory Hairsine, Repton

18.2.18 Felicity Henderson, Aberlady

Blessing

11.3.18 Catriona Robson, Longniddry

Funerals

12th January Godfrey Boyle, Forth Street

19th January Muriel Bruce, Drummohr House

22nd January Robin Carlyle, Fidra Road

22nd January Margaret Young, Belhaven Hospital

24th January Keith Drysdale, Astley Ainslie Hospital

25th January Margaret Hyndford, Astley House

25th January Kay Stokeld, Fidra Home

26th January John Jardine, Williamstone Court

1st February Helga Dougal, Fidra House

6th February Tom Danks, Sainthill Court

7th February Margaret Bain, Erskine Home

7th February Sheelagh Mackenzie, Astley House

14th February Bob Heawood, Arkwright Court

15th February Margaret Wiseman, Westerdunes Park

16th February A. David McLean, Duff Court

14th March Barry Pomfret, Westerdunes Park

16th March Matthew Watt, Haddington

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 (890800) or via the Church Office (892800). Thank you.

Newsletters

The next newsletter will cover *June and July 2018*. The deadline for submitting articles is *Tuesday 15th May 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. SCO 04761—CCL51436