



**Abbey Church  
and**

**Dirleton Kirk News**

**August/September 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**



Dear Abbey & Dirleton Friends

Someone once sang a song about 'Teamwork'. In scripture, the church is always described as a 'team', whether we think of it as God's family, or Christ's body with many parts.

Our Abbey 'team' has recently had some changes and additions, and we're blessed to have them on board.

Julie Loporto is our new Families Worker (part-time). She and her family (all three generations!) are well known in the congregation, and she has already been doing great things with our families, from toddlers to teenagers. She'll still be doing this, and also starting new things, some of which have already begun. Watch this space for even more.

Hazel Gray starts soon as our Young People's Worker (also part-time). She has many years' experience working for Scripture Union, and as well as being involved in our weekday activities, she'll be making wider links with young people in our parish, local schools and other youth organisations.

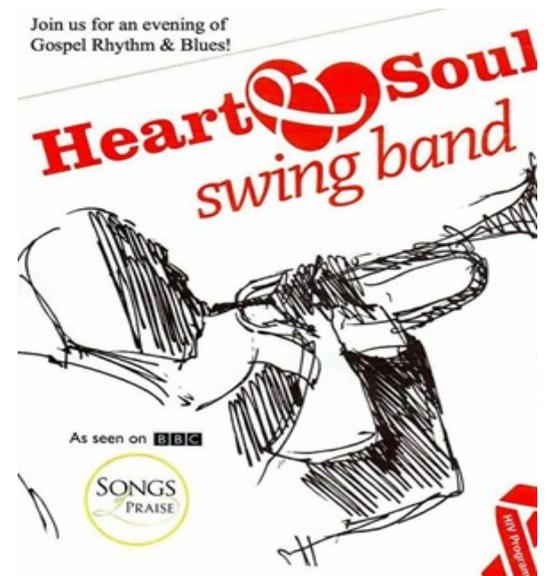
We wish both of them every blessing.

And these are just our newly employed people. What would we do without everyone else? I'm thinking about you! - the 'volunteers' who keep the wheels turning. Read 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12 and see how we all matter. And maybe read on through chapter 13 too!

Your Minister,  
David

Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> August at 6pm  
Abbey hosts the ever-popular  
**Heart & Soul Swing Band** for  
a lively jazz-style service to  
round off the Fringe by the  
Sea week.

Come early to get a seat!



**Music at Midday.** A varied programme of music and song, every day at Abbey Church from 6th -31st August (except Sundays), 12 noon - 12.30pm. Donations to Jessie's Fund, a charity which helps children with complex needs or serious illness to communicate using music. Pop in for half an hour, or less if you are busy!

Calling all Teenagers!

**Powerpoint** is Scotland's largest intercity church youth event in Edinburgh, Glasgow and Aberdeen. It unites teenagers from different churches & backgrounds and is a great opportunity for young people to learn about Jesus and unite in worship with their friends. More information at [powerpointscotland.com](http://powerpointscotland.com) or their Facebook page.

## Jacqueline Waugh

On Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm in Haddington West Church, Jacqueline will be set apart by Presbytery as a Reader of the Church of Scotland. We hope a number of our own congregation will be there to support her.

This is the culmination of several years' study and training, and the beginning of her ministry as a preacher and pastor in our Presbytery. We wish her every blessing.

## Worth pondering . . .

*Thom Rainer of 'Lifeway' writes:*

'We call it the death spiral. There are clear signs evident in many churches on the precipice of closing. If a church has four or more of these signs present, it is likely in deep trouble.

- Attendance is in steady decline. Offerings may decline more slowly as the "remnant" gives more to keep the church going. Few or no conversions.
- The church does not look like its local community. The community knows little or nothing about the church, and vice-versa.
- The congregation is mostly senior adults.
- The focus is on the past, not the future; conversations are about "the good old days."
- Members are more concerned about their own

preferences than reaching people with the gospel.

- The budget is inward-focused. Most funds are to keep the lights on or meet the needs of members, few for ministry and missions.
- There are 'sacred cows'. Members insist on holding tightly to those things God wants us to hold loosely.
- Change is met with resistance. With the choice to change or die, by their actions or lack of actions is the choice to die.

Churches with these signs have three choices:

1. They can embark on a process of change and revitalization.
2. They can close the doors and re-open with a new name, a new vision, and some new people.
3. The third choice is to do nothing. Of course, that is the choice to die.'



Year of Young People  
August Theme - Education

Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. Deuteronomy 11:19

### **Action**

What involvement and support can your church give local schools - both staff and pupils?

How can you further develop and strengthen your relationship with local schools?

How can young people you work with support others in their schools?

Project idea: Anti-bullying campaign in partnership with schools.

Activity idea: Online safety discussion.

How can you best support the young people within your church at exam time?

How can you support young people in transitions from primary to secondary schools or secondary to work/university?

### **Prayer**

Heavenly Father,

Help us to remember that we are all different in our understanding and their learning.

But we share a common bond with one another, we are loved by You for our uniqueness and individuality.

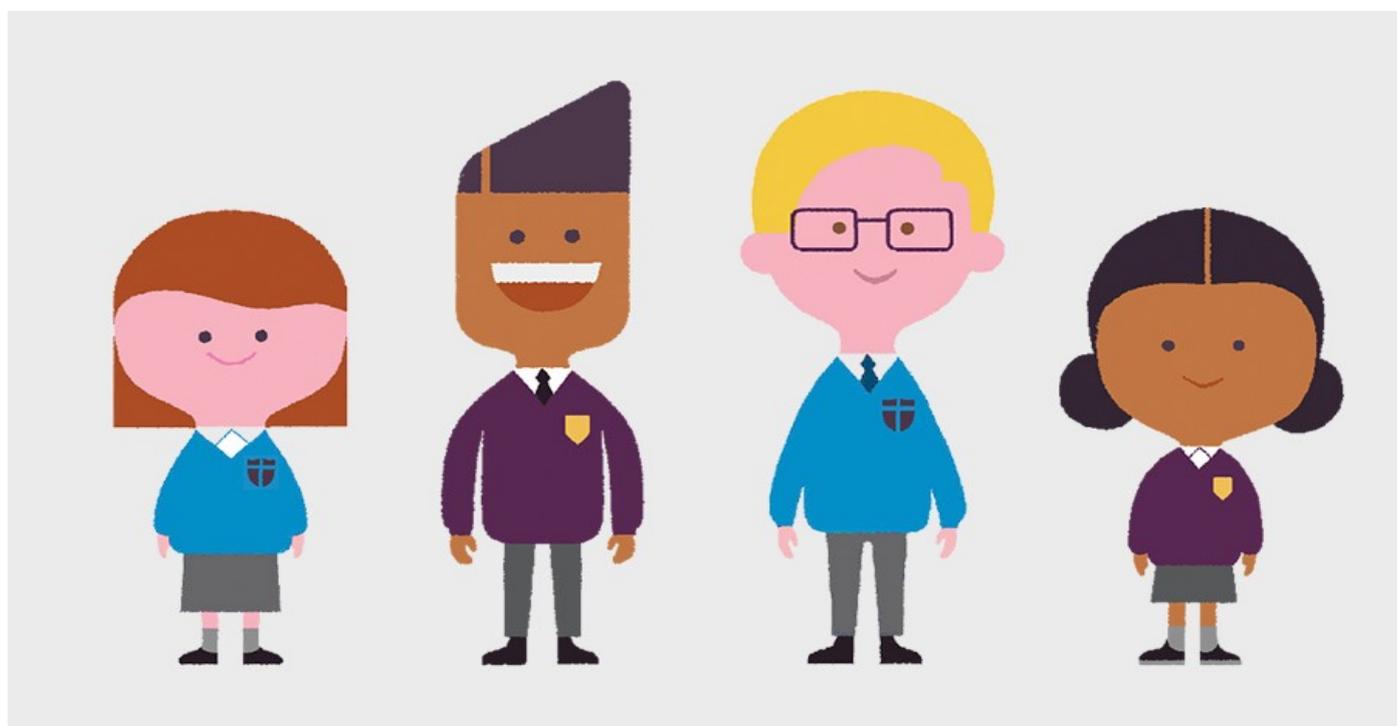
We pray for all the children who do not have the privilege of a free education or a school to go to due to war

or due to poverty.

May we all walk in God's light of compassion and understanding so that one day we can teach the next generation the very nature of God himself.

Help our children to use the knowledge and guidance they receive at school to have the ability to show patience and kindness to those slower to learn than themselves and give them the understanding to realise that God entrusted us all with different talents and abilities.

Amen



## Year of Young People

### September Theme - Global Justice

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Matthew 25:35-40

Boys' Brigade companies across Scotland are being encouraged to get involved to support the work of St Andrew's Refugee Service in Cairo. Money raised will be used to build outdoor play facilities for refugee children and young people, which provides a safe and inclusive space for displaced people to come together as a community.

In the previous fundraising appeal, BB members took part in the 'Climate Conscious' Project which raised £10,000 to support environmental efforts in Bangladeshi villages.

### **Action**

How can young people build up their communities and make the world a better place?

Encourage children and young people to put their faith into action, love into service and hope into justice.

Get involved in fundraising or a campaign such as Children in Need, Christian Aid Week or Souper Sunday.

What service or mission opportunities might there be in your area?

Share the children's discoveries with the church; what campaigns or issues are they interested in?

Do your children and young people have other ideas?

## Prayer from the 'Searchers' group, Kirkton

Loving Father, we as young people feel a great sorrow for our youth. We have grown up hearing about acts of violence in countries far away from us. But now sadly, we hear too often stories from our own country. We pray for those affected by acts of terrorism at times when they should be enjoying themselves and feeling safe.

We pray for those who will now never grow up. Those who will never have the opportunity to go to university, work or have a family of their own. Those who have had their childhood taken away from them, we ask you to surround us all with your love and protection.

Amen



## Regal - Our Summer Outing

How often do we vote for our MSP in Scotland? Where do they work and do they have a pleasant working environment?

The only way to answer these and other questions about our MSP was to visit him in his office. So, on Wednesday, 27th June 16 members of Regal had a most interesting visit to the Scottish Parliament in Holyrood.



We met our local MSP, Mr Iain Gray, and he gave us a conducted tour round the Parliamentary buildings which included a visit to the debating chamber. After the tour Iain spent 30 minutes answering all our questions about the life and work of an MSP.

It was an informative, fascinating and, above all, a very enjoyable day that we will long remember.

*Ian M Aitken*



## Abbey Guild OUTLOOK

Now that the syllabus for the next session of the Guild has been assembled, we took time out to visit the New Palace Centre in Greenlaw for our summer outing, only an hour's drive away. We were welcomed by Larry McGuire, resident organist there. Nineteen ladies and one gentleman were thrilled at the programme of music the master of the keys sent out sent out of an enormous theatre organ (80 years old by all accounts- the organ, not the musician). Amazingly, even the xylophone, glockenspiel, drums and triangle arranged on the walls some distance away danced to the command from the organ!

After a scrumptious afternoon tea, served silver service, we were invited to join in singing many of the old songs familiar to us, accompanied on the organ by Larry.

The centre is the property of the Scottish Theatre Preservation Society. Scheduled concerts, Tea Dances and Silent Films are regular features. Want to visit or take a group? [www.stops.org](http://www.stops.org) or [www.nptohc.co.uk](http://www.nptohc.co.uk), telephone, 01361 810759

## Dirleton Kirk Session Clerk

### Collection

I received notification from the Church of Scotland that the linked charges of Abbey and Dirleton contributed £92,872 via the collection plate over the last year; with Dirleton's share of that sum amounting to £38,145. This is a significant sum, and thank you all for efforts and your generosity.

The value of your giving is put in proportion by the further information provided that the two parishes between us more than covered the full cost of our ministry: in fact, our joint contribution amounted to twice the 2018 cost of providing a parish minister.

16.5% of the collection contribution is devoted to Mission costs- which include education and outreach, missionary work abroad, and the extensive provision of social care which the Kirk undertakes at home.

The Church of Scotland is Scotland's largest and most active charity. There can be something ostentatious about giving to charity- and Jesus spoke about this, when he talked about the Pharisee who would make a show of his donations, as he would make a show of his prayers and his fasting- the outward show of religious observance, rather than the self-effacing, inward manifestation of charity, which is to say the love that Jesus taught us to show to our neighbour. The sum of our personal giving can seem small- we will always tend

to underplay the value of our own contribution, when set against news of some great and valuable charitable donation by a wealthy individual to some worthy cause. Whatever we have given, we are always conscious that we could have given more; and it perhaps does us no harm to reflect on what our giving has cost us, and compare it with what it will provide for those whom the Kirk uses it to help.

Giving by way of the collection plate is not showy, it is not an ostentatious demonstration of our goodness: but the figure accumulated over the year shows how effective our regular giving is. In particular it shows how small increases, here and there, can mount up. So I would urge us all to think about adding to our collection giving, even a little now and again. Even part of the small change in the pocket or in the tray on the dresser, now and again, over a year, becomes significant. The Kirk will find some good purpose to which to apply that 20p coin found down the back of the sofa. And on Sunday, the elders counting the collection and taking it to the bank are just as happy counting £1.01 as they are counting £1!

Bell.

Our church bell has been silenced- temporarily. Inspection of the Kirk has revealed that some work needs to be done on it. Over the past couple of years we have got the Sunday School children to ring it, during term time, and I hope the energy which they bring to the job, pulling on the rope with all their weight and enjoying the reciprocal lift as the bell swings back- has not contributed to the problem! Thanks to Gordon

Symon and Richard Allison for identifying this in their diligent consideration of the fabric of the Kirk.

Sunday School play- postponed.

On the subject of the Sunday School, much of our work over the last few months has looked at the events immediately following the Resurrection, and the appearance of the Risen Jesus to the disciples on the road to Emmaus, and afterwards. The kids have been preparing a short play on this theme. The final school term is always a very busy one and, with the children having commitments and trips away, so that we had difficulty in bringing them all together to rehearse and perform, we decided to postpone the performance till after the summer.

Flower festival

Everyone who visited the Kirk over the Flower Festival will have appreciated the hard work, imagination and creativity demonstrated by our flower team. Another example of giving- of time and talent- for a good cause: not only beautifying the church, but in tandem with the excellent teas offered at the church hall. also bringing in revenue for the RNLI.

Organ

Our long-serving organist, Mrs. Rena Clapperton, died earlier this year. Her music helped us in worship, and was the backdrop to the significant moments in many lives: weddings, funerals, and Christenings. Many times have people paused on the way out of church on a Sunday to say that they recognised a particular air, or loved to hear the way in which a hymn tune was played.

I am very grateful to all who have stepped in to play for us since Rena retired. The Minister has said that he once, as a trainee, had to lead a congregation as 'precentor', laying out the vocal music line by line, with no accompaniment: and while I am sure he would do brilliantly well, we have not been left without music from one of our keyboards! I have become aware that our Ingram pipe organ is something increasingly rare in church music, certainly in our presbytery. Jim Dickson has been playing regularly for us, and has identified a number of matters with the organ where repairs are desirable (and indeed necessary). We hope to be able to put all these in place soon.

Keith Stewart  
17<sup>th</sup> July 2018

Our New Facebook Page



Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk have a new Facebook page! If you are on Facebook please "like" our page so we can keep you regularly updated with all our news and events.

Find us on Facebook "Abbey Church, North Berwick & Dirleton Kirk"

## RISE

A lot of fun was had during our last meet-up in June. We had a great time having a dance off with the game Just Dance where the girls and boy(!) showed off their dance skills....and believe me, it's harder than it looks, so much fun and hilarity was witnessed! Indian food was the choice of the night so this fuelled the energy for everyone's dancing. Our next meet-up on the 28th July will be on the beach with some beach games planned. Our August meeting will be on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

RISE is on for high school aged teens so if you have any teenagers in your family who would like to come along please let us know.

Julie Loporto



## Little Nippers

The Little Nippers Toddler Group is still proving to be very popular with many families in North Berwick. As we have a break during the school holidays we decided to have a "Little Nippers Summer Sausage Sizzle" in July as many of the families were keen to have a catch up over the summer. We held this in the old hall and it turned out to be a fantastic afternoon where many families came and enjoyed some food and drinks while the kids had a play.

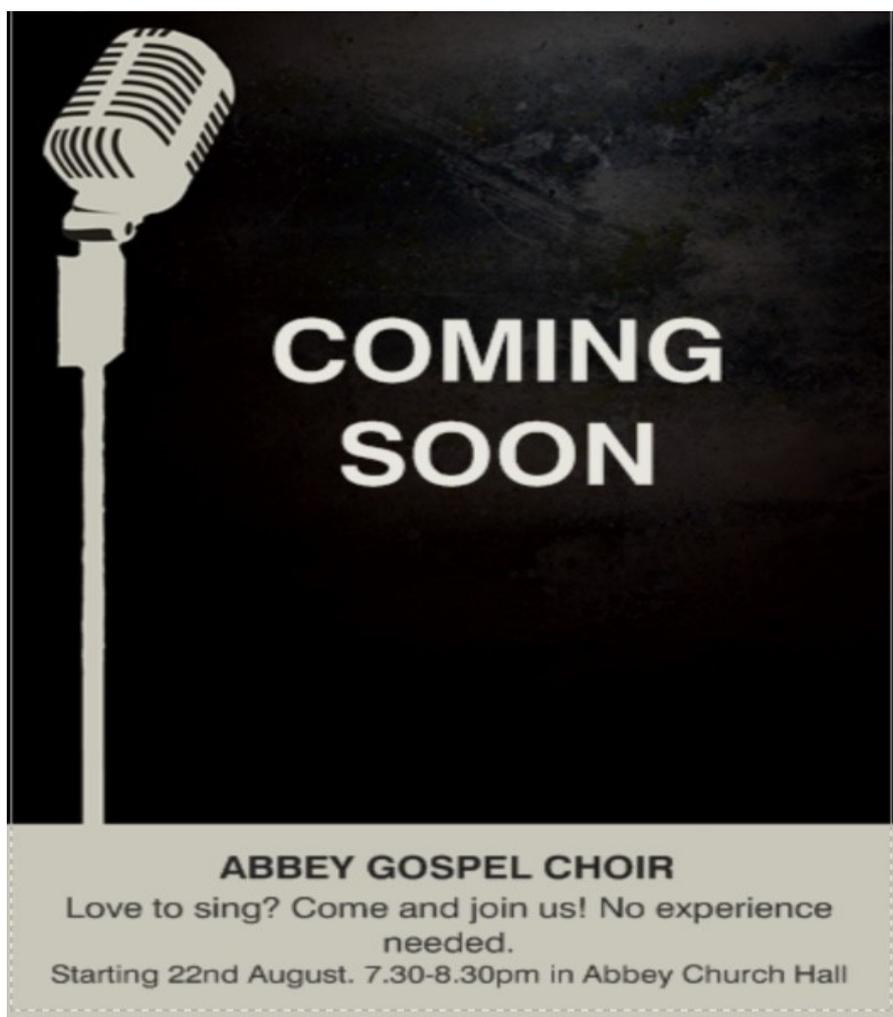
Little Nippers starts back on the 16<sup>th</sup> August and will be on every Thursday 10.00-11.30am during term time. We are always on the lookout for any willing helpers so even if you have an occasional half hour to spare to help on the door or with the teas and coffees then please let me know.

Julie Loporto

## Abbey Amateur Gospel Choir

Ever fancied being part of a Gospel Choir? Well now is your chance! Abbey Church is starting up a community amateur Gospel Choir and we are keen to have anyone join us who loves to sing (whether they can or not). We will be singing well-known songs from many genres including pop, soul and gospel. No experience needed. All that is required is enthusiasm and the desire to be part of something fun and exciting. Come along, have a laugh, make new friends and enjoy yourself! Starting on 22<sup>nd</sup> August and will be held every Wednesday 7.30-8.30pm.

Julie Loporto





Bethany  
Christian  
Trust

## Bethany Care Shelter

We had another very successful winter at the Care Shelter; providing 8,260 bed spaces and welcoming 722 individuals over the 28 weeks of service provision. It is such a privilege to be able to show God's love to all these people and to care for them and treat them well. **Thank you for being involved in this incredible effort!**

Planning has been underway for some time for the next winter season. Thanks to the generosity of one donor we are going to be able to extend the length of the Care Shelter by four weeks in line with the presenting need. **So the Care Shelter will open on Monday 24 September 2018 and run for 32 weeks until the night of Sunday 5 May 2019.** It's not good that so many people need to stay at the Care Shelter but that is the situation at the moment and we're thankful that we are able to meet that need for an extra four weeks next winter. The donation that allowed this expansion was very much an answer to prayer and we're most grateful to God for His provision.

Thank you once again for your involvement with the Care Shelter - you're contributing to a service that really does change people's lives. To close, here are a few comments that were said by Care Shelter guests this past winter:

"I like it here, people show me respect and look after me through the night."

"I really appreciate all that you have done for me, you guys chat, listen, encourage, support, love. And you do all this and expect nothing back in return."

"This has made a huge difference to me, thank you."

Kind regards,

Ruth Longmuir  
Care Shelter manager



*Thank you*

If you think you would like to get involved with Bethany care and the wonderful work they do, please contact Dorothy Kirkpatrick at Abbey Church.

## August /September Prayer

Dear friends in Christ,  
Thanks be to God for the lovely summer weather. Let's hope we have more sunny days before the schools go back again! Let's pray.



Lord God,  
Many thanks for all your goodness to us especially your gift of your son, Jesus, who came that we might be saved. Thank you for keeping us all well and bringing us all safely home, no matter whether we were abroad, closer to home, or even still to go away yet.  
Bless all who helped out at the Sunday Afternoon Teas. No doubt the money will be put to good use. As will the money gained from the concert given by the Hadley Court Singers. Thank you too, for all who are helping by opening and closing of the church during weekdays allowing people to visit inside the church for quiet times or prayer.  
Bless our Queen and all in authority as a decision is made over Brexit. Please Lord, guide them all in this, that it will be the right one.  
Bless Lucy who had to have surgery whilst she was over in Germany. Thank you that all went well and she is back singing once more. Lord, bless all who are ill at home or in hospital and all who are caring for them. Bless those who are lonely, may they know your presence is always with them. And bless all who are in mourning — may you comfort them. Thank you in Jesus' name. Amen

Betty Hawthorn (Prayer Secretary)

Let us give thanks to God for keeping us safe throughout the holidays, and let us pray he will, in the future.

## Abbey Church Morning Tea Rota

5 August	Dorothy Kirkpatrick	Mary Graham
12 August	Sheila McCubbing	Irene Nichol
19 August	Sarah Kerr	
26 August	Richard Bell	Ann Bell
2 Sept	Irene Brodie	Liz Harrison
9 Sept	Isabel Smith	Catherine Andrew
16 Sept	Morna McClure	Sadie Young
23 Sept	Isobel Hardie	Fiona Gibson
30 Sept	Mary Graham	Dorothy Kirkpatrick



## Abbey Church Flower Rota

Date	Donor	Arranger
5 August		Elma Danks
12 August	Mary Stewart	Elma Danks Violet Lamont
19 August	Kate Campbell	Kate Campbell
26 August	Dorothy Danks	Elma Danks
2 Sept	Linda Scott	D Kirkpatrick Linda Scott
9 Sept	Anne Bell	Anne Bell
16 Sept	S McCubbing	S McCubbing
23 Sept	Maureen Griffiths Christine Manning	Anne Bell
30 Sept	Morna McClure	Morna McClure



# Church Register

## Funerals

6.7.18 Fred Smith  
12.7.18 Ian Phillips  
16.7.18 Ewart Pirie

## Weddings

2.6.18 James Wilson and Kerry Henderson  
4.8.18 Ben Jesty and Justine Collie

## 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.

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

Church Office: 01620 892800

[abbeychurch@abbeychurch.co.uk](mailto:abbeychurch@abbeychurch.co.uk)

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

## Newsletters

The next newsletter will *cover October and November 2018. The deadline for submitting articles is Tuesday 18th September 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

Abbeychurch.org.uk

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And Twitter:DirletonAbbey



Abbey Church, North Berwick (Church of Scotland)

Scottish Charity No. SCO 04761—CCL51436