



**Abbey Church
and
Dirleton Kirk News
April/May 2023**

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**



Dear Abbey and Dirleton friends,

It seems to be a time of anniversaries just now, and not all are happy ones. It's a year since the invasion of Ukraine, three years since the covid pandemic lockdown, 20 years since the war in Iraq and 30 years since an IRA bombing. The world has never been the same since any of these things happened. Ireland still seeks that elusive harmony, Iraq is a very troubled part of the world, covid is still around us, and war continues in Ukraine.

After Jesus entered Jerusalem for the last time on 'Palm Sunday', he warned of troubles to come: 'wars and rumours of wars', persecution, families betraying each other, false messiahs; and that would just be the start! His words have never been more true.

But Jesus also spoke words of hope and reassurance. He promised the gift of the Holy Spirit to help us, and said that 'whoever stands firm to the end will be saved'. In our world of turmoil and uncertainty, we hold on to those words in faith. As Easter approaches, we also remember that the cross, the empty tomb and his resurrection are the proof of that. Easter is a season of hope. It invites us to look forward in faith. I hope this Easter is a time of hope for you, when you will know the presence of the risen Lord, and the strength of the Holy Spirit.

Your Minister,

David

Holy Week Services in April (all at 7.30pm)

Monday 3rd St Adrian's, Gullane

Tuesday 4th Aberlady Church

Wednesday 5th Our Lady Star of the Sea

Thursday 6th Abbey Communion

Friday 7th St Andrew Blackadder



Easter Sunday 9th April: 8am open-air service near the anchor behind Abbey Church, followed by breakfast in the church hall.

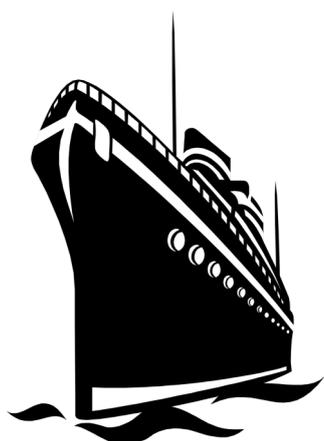
Pastoral Care

We're planning some get-togethers to chat about pastoral care and share some resources (it will NOT be a place for individuals to be discussed!). This is for anyone interested in the pastoral care we offer as a congregation, so feel free to come and invite others. We hope to have a visiting practitioner to lead some of these sessions. Keep an eye on the intimations!

Covid has a lot to answer for. A notice outside a church read:

'There is only one Priest available for confession today, so it will end at exactly 5.30pm. Make your confession direct to the point and confess only your own sins. No need to explain why you did it. Thank you.'

We're delighted that Jane Edwards, the Curate at St Baldred's, will be ordained to the Scottish Episcopal ministry. The service is in St Baldred's Church on Saturday 22nd April at 11am, and all are welcome. Jane helps lead 'Muddy Church', is completing her PhD, as well as having two young boys. We wish her every blessing in her ministry.



SET SAIL WITH REGAL

SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCH

ALL WELCOME

The next meeting of REGAL will be on either 13th or 20th April in Abbey large hall at noon. Please keep an eye on the intimations for more details.

Christian Aid

This year Dirleton and Abbey Church World Church Committee are holding a quiz night to raise funds for Christian Aid.



Please join us at Abbey Church, big hall, on Friday 14th April at 7pm.

Tickets cost £5 per person and we are inviting teams of up to 6 people per table.

We will be serving a light supper but invite you to bring along your own drinks.

Tickets can be reserved by emailing Yolanda Strachan on Yolstrachan@gmail.com or by contacting Yolanda Strachan at Abbey Church and Liz Keddie at Dirleton Church in person.

This is a cash only event and we would appreciate payment in advance where possible in order to better gauge numbers for catering for the supper.



Dirleton Kirk



You are warmly invited to join us for
Holy Communion
on Easter Sunday 9th April
at 9.30am

There will be an opportunity to contribute to a Special Offering for Ukraine at our Communion Service on Easter Sunday. Please use the prepared envelopes for this cause which will be available in Church every Sunday until Easter.

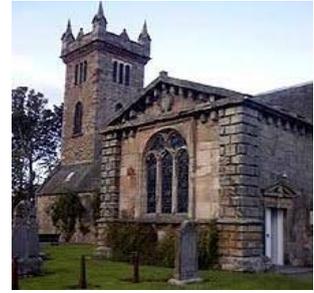
King Charles 111 Coronation Teas

Abbey Church Kirk Session invites you all to join us in the Sanctuary at Abbey Church on Monday 8th May from 2pm - 4pm for coffee/tea and homebaking. We are celebrating the coronation of King Charles 111. There is no charge for this event however cash donations will be gratefully received in aid of East Lothian Foodbank and Christian Aid.



Dirleton Kirk Session

Keith Stewart



We lost our Church Beadle, Nicol McNicoll. Nicol was a faithful servant to Dirleton Kirk for many years, and a familiar face around the village. For so many years he would attend faithfully at Sunday worship to perform his duties. The prohibition on public activity which came with the Covid pandemic brought a suspension of regular, formal worship, and, suffering from declining health, Nicol did not resume his duties when that prohibition was lifted.

Nicol was a boy at Dirleton Primary School when I started there as a four year old pupil. In those days he was distinguished by his greater physical strength, which allowed him, at playtime, to lift other children off the ground; to send the 'Witch's Hat'- the huge, heavy, terrifying old roundabout at the swing park, built out of heavy steel and wood- spinning furiously and crashing from side to side, to shrieks of delight from the cargo of children clutching on for dear life. Or to send us whizzing down the chute at such speed that we would fly off the end and land in a heap. But that strength was never seen to hurt or to intimidate: Nicol's was ever a gentle spirit. When he left school he went on to work for many years at Fenton Barns, travelling there and back daily from Dirleton. He drew

great comfort from being a member of the village community, from being known around the place- serving in the Kirk, sitting in his place in the public bar of the Castle Inn, walking the green enjoying the exercise and the weather. We all mourn him and offer our prayers and good wishes to the McNicoll family.



The Kirk Session met on Wednesday 14th February, and among other matters heard an explanation of the rate of progress in the application for funds to assist in carrying out renovation works on the fabric of the church, and about the split pipe which led to the water emerging from below the ground outside the church hall, which at some point may make it desirable to replace, rather than repair, the pipework to the church and hall. The Treasurer reported that, as we emerge from the pandemic restrictions, our income from hall lets and from weddings held in the Kirk is increasing.

We have for many years been able to enjoy visiting the Kirk at any time, because the door at the Archerfield Aisle was on an automatic lock. This is something which is appreciated greatly, and remarked upon, by our many visitors. This access has been interrupted recently as the lock has been malfunctioning: the company which installed the alarm is attempting to source a necessary replacement part- so bear with us.

Abbey Kirk Session

Robert Burgon



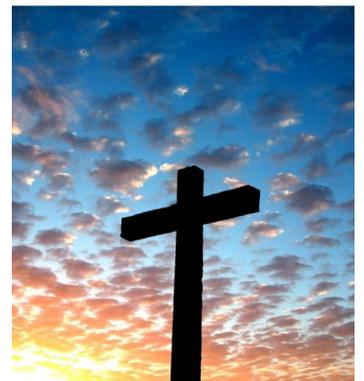
As well as being a time when some people decide to “give up” something for the 40 days of Lent, this season of the Christian calendar is also a time for reflection and in writing this, I am reminded that it is now three years since we experienced the first Covid lockdown and the serious impact which that had on the lives of so many and on the work of the church.

At our Kirk Session meeting in February, we reviewed the Abbey Church Vision Statement for the decade of the 2020s. Despite the lockdowns, we have seen encouraging progress in several aspects of the life and witness of the congregation and have achieved some of the goals set out in the original paper in 2019. The updated Vision Statement is contained in the Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022 which was approved by the Kirk Session on 12 March 2023 and presented to the congregation at the Annual Congregational Meeting on 26 March 2023. I encourage all members and adherents to read through that report (which is available on the church website).

One of the encouraging signs we have seen in church recently has been the attendance of a number of babies (some of whom get their first experience of

worship within the first few weeks of life), toddlers and older children. The Kirk Session has already agreed that one of our priorities should be to re-establish the Sunday morning creche and a review is also being undertaken of the way in which we manage our work with young people and families generally. In the meantime, the monthly Muddy Church events have recommenced, under the leadership of individuals from Abbey Church, St Andrew Blackadder, and St Baldred's.

As we return to something like pre-pandemic normality, it was good to see the first of our monthly services in care homes in our parish in February and March being so well-supported by members. The reaction of the residents in The Abbey Home and Fidra House (who include several members of the congregation) demonstrated how important these short times of worship are to them. We look forward to continuing to hold these services and the services in Astley House will recommence on Easter Sunday.



Following the very generous response to the East Lothian Foodbank Jingle Bags appeal before Christmas, we decided to provide further support prior to Easter and once again, many donations of food (including Easter Eggs) have been received.

Looking ahead, plans are well advanced for the Quiz Night in aid of Christian Aid ((something which before 2020 was an annual event) which will take place in the Abbey Hall on Friday 14 April 2023. Arrangements are also in hand for teas and coffees on Monday 8 May 2023 to mark the Coronation of King Charles III. A similar event to mark Her Late Majesty's 70 years on the throne took place in June 2022 and it was felt appropriate to do something similar on this special occasion. There will be no charge for attendance but donations to support the work of Christian Aid and the East Lothian Foodbank will be welcomed.

Other than being advised that the Mission Review Panel has now been asked to consider our request that the decisions of the Presbytery of Lothian affecting the future ministry in our parish should be reviewed, we have no further information on this issue. The Panel has been given up to three months in which to consider the matter.

I wish you all every blessing for the remaining period of Lent, for Holy Week and for the Easter weekend when we will have the opportunity to celebrate Christ's resurrection from the cross for our sakes.

The next meeting of the Kirk Session will take place on 27 March 2023.

Connections Getting Stronger

Did you know that Abbey Church has played a crucial role in the development of a unique local charity called North Berwick Coastal Community Connections? Launched in April 2019 by the North Berwick Coastal Health and Well Being Association, with initial Area Partnership funding, our task was always to tackle loneliness and social isolation in the area.

That summer we started the legendary Scone Cafe gatherings, thanks to Dorothy Kirkpatrick's brilliant idea, her incredible scones and Abbey Church's generous free let of the small hall from that time onwards. Our work is to connect anyone (18+) into community activities they'd like to take part in. Referrals come from health professionals, friends, family, anyone in the community - including church members.



In 2020 we swiftly reworked our services in response to Covid, retrained and introduced 1:1 Befriending and Buddy Walking, which continue to help those who've lost social or physical confidence and need support before they are ready to access group situations again. For nearly two years I was sole member of staff, but

then we gained Lottery, North Berwick Trust and other funding. Now there are five part time staff and over 40 highly-valued volunteers, including several Abbey Church members who contribute greatly. We have worked with over 150 clients, reintroduced the legendary Scone Café from last year, plus group walks, our Community Connections newsletter, the Compassionate Neighbours project (working with those facing end of life) and the new Stronger Connections mental well-being awareness project partnership.

Everyone is welcome to the Scone Café in the Small Hall on Wednesday afternoons (2-3.30) - Dorothy's scones are still the star attraction. We're dog friendly, free but donations welcome, friendly and relaxed. We might play the odd game, have a visiting speaker or music at times and are open to your ideas. Drop by and join us, or bring a neighbour you think might enjoy it.

If you'd like to explore joining our friendly Community Connections volunteer team (we're flexible about time commitment and are all ages!), take a look at the role descriptions and application form here. <https://www.nbc-communityconnections.org/volunteer-form/>

Our greatest need is for Buddy Walkers to help folk on our waiting list, following a short training course to set you



up. The next available Walk Leader training is on Thursday 27th April, 9.30am-1pm on Zoom (more details on request) Soon we will also be offering our core in-house NBCCC volunteer training again.

This is a charity to be proud of, and Abbey Church's support to us is a tremendous example of practical Christianity in action. We can't thank you all enough.

To sign up for our monthly newsletter and stay in the loop about this and other local activities, please contact me or our Editor, Ruth at newsletter@nbc-communityconnections.org Carol Stobie, Project Manager Nbc-communityconnections@outlook.com 07940 203380 (Tues-Thur)



WALT - Women Are Learning Together

At our March meeting we investigated the life of Dorcas in the book of Acts chapter 9. She is only mentioned in a few verses and yet we found that this special lady had so much to teach us. She was the only individual woman in the Bible to be referred to as a disciple. We discussed what it means to be a 'disciple' of Jesus and looked at the references in the scriptures about 'good works'. Dorcas used her gift of sewing to help widows and poor folk in her community and as she met with these people she provided not only for their physical needs but their spiritual needs as she shared her faith too. She was highly respected and when she died, her friends sent for Peter, who through the power of Jesus, brought her back to life.

To this day, Dorcas is remembered all over the world as there are many Dorcas Societies providing help to vulnerable and impoverished people. If you Google 'Dorcas Societies' you can find out more information. Everyone of us has been given gifts, skills, talents by God and no matter how insignificant we may think they are, we should use them and give thanks to God for them.

Monday 3rd April - Priscilla (Acts 18:1-4 and 18-28) and Easter tea

Monday 1st May- Titus (Titus chapters 1-3)

All monthly meetings are held in Abbey small hall at 2:00pm. Hot drinks are available from 1:45. All women will be made most welcome.

Sheila Burgon

Abbey Church (All Funds)

Year to 31st December 2022

General

Payments exceeded receipts by £794. This is much better than budget. The budget was set to allow for the employment of a youth worker and many other expenses.

Income

Miscellaneous income covers things like the Harvest Thanksgiving, Kalimpong and Cherished Clothing.

Premises income reflects the increased use of our halls.

We are very grateful to Liz Harrison's estate they paid Abbey a further sum of £17,831. In 2020 we received a first instalment of £20,000.

(Note - If you are a tax payer and wish the Abbey to recover the tax paid by yourself please would you ask for a gift-aid form by phoning the office or ask Phil for one. Alternatively, both the gift-aid and the standing order form are available from the Abbey Church website).

Expenditure

The savings on premises costs reflect the reduction in maintenance.

If you have any questions please ask.

Stuart Ainslie

16th March 2023

Your Finance Team

1 Income - Gift-aid, Phil Spencer

Income - Hall Rentals, Paola Burrows

2 Payment of bills, Janice Cobb

3 Payroll, David Aston

4 Accounting - OSCR, periodic accounts
and Church of Scotland, Stuart Ainslie

Abbey Church—North Berwick
BUDGET v ACTUAL AT 31 DECEMBER 2022
ALL FUNDS

Income (All Funds)	Annual Budget	Actual to 31 Dec	Variance
Offerings	62,700	60,602	(2,098)
Tax reclaim	16,000	14,132	(1,868)
Miscellaneous	8,000	9,428	1,428
Premises income	10,000	15,992	5,992
Investment income	3,750	3,718	(32)
Legacies		17,831	17,831
Sale of Investments	-	-	-
Dirleton	6,000	6,000	-
Total Income	106,450	127,703	21,253
Expenditure (All Funds)	Annual Budget	Actual to 31 Dec	Variance
Church of Scotland payments	52,506	52,525	(19)
Pastoral Expenses	15,200	13,093	2,107
Other Salaries	39,145	38,412	733
Premises costs	18,420	14,747	3,673
Church Office Expenses	4,200	4,177	23
Investments	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	7,560	5,543	2,017
Total Expenditure	137,031	128,497	8,534
Budget for 2022	(30,581)		
Expenditure in excess of income		(794)	
Positive Variance			29,787



I took over from Kathryn as lead volunteer organiser of the Little Nippers in November and am getting to know the lovely group of children and their mums, dads, grandparents and carers who come along, although I still don't remember everyone's name! The group of children play happily together with a varied range of super toys that cover the ages of all the children, while the mums, dads, grandparents and carers have a chat with a cup of tea/coffee. The snack time is popular and it is lovely to see the children sit together to enjoy this. Each session is rounded off with a sing-a-long which the children love and I especially enjoy the little bag of objects that the children use to select our songs along with the musical instruments. Our session may just have finished by the time you read this but we will start back after the Easter holidays and run to the end of June when I look forward to welcoming new faces and regulars.

Karen Murray



Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk Prayer

April & May 2023

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is time for more celebrations — Easter, Christian Aid Week and, of course, the coronation of King Charles! So many things to thank God for -

Let's pray.

Heavenly Father, we have so many things to thank you for. First, we thank you for Easter for sending your beloved son into the world so that we sinners, through Jesus' life and resurrection, can indeed be saved.



So thank you for Jesus. We give you thanks too, that we can help others during Christian Aid week. We are so fortunate that you have blessed us so much that most of us are in a position where we can share some clothing etc and cash which will go to helping others not so fortunate. Help those in authority to use these things wisely. Thank you God we are in the position to do so with willing hearts.

Lord, we bring before you the coming coronation of King Charles. We pray he'll keep well together with Camilla. Bless all those who are busy with all the massive arrangements and pray they will go well. Thank you God.

We give thanks for our minister, Rev. Dr. David Graham, his pastoral assistant, Bob Kane, bless them

together with their families. We bring before you all our members, especially those who are ill and those caring for them. We remember all the NHS staff, the fire fighters and all who risk their 'ives helping others. We ask these thanks in Jesus' precious name.

Amen

Betty Hawthorn
Prayer Secretary

Sunday morning Creche



It has been encouraging to see a number of babies and toddlers joining our Sunday morning services (with their parents/grandparents) in recent months. While it is lovely to have them in church and they are always welcome, the Kirk Session believes that this is the time to reintroduce a creche facility during the time of morning worship.

We plan to arrange a rota of volunteers for the creche. The more people there are willing to do this, the less often will individuals be asked to do creche duty.

Did you previously volunteer for the creche and, if so, would you be willing to do this again? If you have never assisted at creche previously, would you consider putting your name forward to support this work?

If you are interested in helping, could you please, in the first instance, contact either Mary Graham or Rose Leslie (the Abbey Safeguarding Coordinators).

Abbey Church Flower Rota

DATE	DONOR	ARRANGER
2 April	Clare Aitken	Clare Aitken
9 April Easter	Jean Donald Mary Graham	The Flower Team
16 April	Helen MacKenzie	Elma Danks Irene Brodie
23 April	Joan Griffiths	Joan Griffiths
30 April	Val Young Irene Brodie	Elma Danks Irene Brodie
7 May	Cath Hill Margaret McLean	Dorothy Kirkpatrick
14 May	Donald McCulloch	Frances Fallmyr Olive Curran
21 May	Frances Fallmyr	Frances Fallmyr Olive Curran
28 May	Sheila Burgon	Isabel Smith



Please have a look at our website

<https://www.abbeychurch.org.uk/>

To get information of all the events organised by
Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk.

Sunday Services, prayer meetings, bible classes, TAG
REGAL, WALT, Alpha, Little Nippers, The Voice Pro-
ject, to mention but a few.

We have many other groups using our church halls,
Physiotherapy Plus, pilates classes, Jo Jingles, fitness
classes, The Drama Mill, The Brownies, Dunedin Dance,
Freedom and Form.

If you are interested in hiring our halls on a regular
basis or for a 'one off' event please get in touch with
Abbey Church office on 01620 892800 or
abbeychurch@abbeychurch.co.uk



Church Register

Weddings

2.4.23 Adam Newall and Kathryn Winstanley

Funerals

17.2.22 David Grubb

28.2.23 David Howieson

1.3.23 Elizabeth Burnet

14.3.23 Nicol McNicoll

23.3.23 Patricia Burton

Pastoral Visits

The Minister and Pastoral Assistant are happy to contact church members if requested. In the first instance, please contact the Minister (892410) or the Church Office (892800). For privacy reasons, any request for a pastoral visit should come from the individual or a family member.

It would also be helpful to have a mobile number, and the details of the person's next of kin.

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

Church Office: 01620 892800

abbeychurch@abbeychurch.co.uk

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

Working remotely Wednesday and Thursday

Newsletters

The next newsletter will cover June and July, The deadline for submitting articles is Tuesday 16th May 2023. Please send to Abbey Church Office.

Abbeychurch.org.uk

Like us on Facebook: Abbey Church, North Berwick & Dirleton Kirk



Abbey Church, North Berwick (Church of Scotland)

Scottish Charity No. SCO 04761—CCL51436