



**Abbey Church
and
Dirleton Kirk News
June/July 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**

**Dirleton
Wednesdays 10am Half
Hour Prayer Service**



Dear Abbey and Dirleton friends,

Jeanette Wilson, who did a summer placement with us last year, sends us this update on her training.

As I write this, my initial phase of training is almost complete. Time has flown by. I have completed two years part time study at New College, even though at times it has felt like full time! In my final term, I had two modules this term: Christian Ethics, where we looked at topics ranging from poverty, the environment, truth and migration and borders. These are all important subjects to consider as we navigate living as Christians in our fallen world. The other module was Mission in Contemporary Scotland. Most of the small class were Church of Scotland candidates for ministry. While it is an academic program, I have enjoyed the discussions and hearing the desire for God to move in our land. It has increased my desire to share the Gospel in my ministry, both now as I train and looking forward to where God will lead me. I had one remaining assignment and an exam to complete in May.

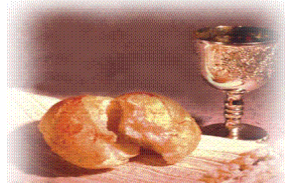
I am also coming to the end of my third placement at Greenlaw Parish Church. It has been a great opportunity to minister to the small congregation there but also get involved with the work the Rev Dr Susan Brown has been doing by creating an online resource for worship. Each week, as well as doing in person worship, the same service is videoed as individual elements and placed

online beforehand for the use of churches that maybe do not have a minister. They don't have to use the whole service but can cherry pick what they need whether in video form or just as scripts that can be adapted as people wish: prayers, reflections, songs. It has been a lesson in being organised and having everything ready several days before the in-person service. Each of my placements have been so profitable, shaping me into the person God wants to serve the church as a minister. I also pray that I have been a blessing to the churches in my placements.

I have my annual review in June and then I will begin my probation, probably in July/August. This is a 15 month period where I work full time with a church. At the end of that time, I hopefully will be able to look for a charge to commence my ministry. Following prayer and discussions with the Training team, I am hoping to do my probation with Rev Nelu Balaj at Livingston Old parish. This will mean relocating for the year. Please pray for me as I look for accommodation and settle into a new church and area. I am more sure than ever that God is leading me by the right path and pray that I would continue to be moulded by him for the ministry ahead. I pray that I might take the aroma of Christ with me to all that I would minister. Thank you again for your continuing prayers.

Yours in Christ,
Jeanette

Dirleton Kirk



We are delighted to confirm that £600 was raised at the Easter Sunday Communion Special Collection for Ukraine. Many thanks to all.

King Charles 111 Coronation Teas

Grateful thanks are expressed to the large number of people who assisted in making Monday's Coronation Teas such a success. The event was very successful due to the efforts of those who planned, those who decorated the sanctuary, those who baked and those who helped on the day. It is believed that teas were served to almost 200 people and the warm fellowship experienced was commented on by many. A total of almost £1100 was raised from donations and this will be split equally between Christian Aid and the East Lothian Foodbank.



Abbey Kirk Session

Robert Burgon



There have been several encouraging signs of hope in the life of the Abbey congregation over the last two months, not least in the numbers who joined us in our worship around Easter. Our joint Good Friday service with St Andrew Blackadder was well supported. On Easter Saturday, there was an amazing response to the Muddy Church kite making and flying event at North Berwick Country Park and it was so good to get positive reactions from the parents who brought their children along- on a lovely, sunny Saturday morning with just enough wind to allow the kites to fly. Muddy Church is an initiative which was first created by our Youth Worker, Hazel Gray, but is now led by a team of three, one each from Abbey, St Andrew Blackadder and St Baldred's churches. We celebrated the start of Easter Sunday morning with a larger than usual attendance at our 8.00am open air service on Elcho Green, followed by breakfast in the church hall and then a joyous service in church in which a large congregation celebrated the resurrection of our Lord.



On Friday 14 April, our Christian Aid Quiz took place in the church hall and proved to be a happy, fun-filled evening, with some of us getting some of the right answers! The event raised over £400 for Christian Aid.

After the magnificent Coronation Service in Westminster Abbey on Saturday 6 May, we marked the occasion by opening the Abbey sanctuary on the afternoon of Monday 8 May for Coronation Teas. A large team of volunteers supported this in so many ways- from planning, publicity, decorating the sanctuary (which was transformed into a café for the afternoon) to baking, serving and washing dishes. Organising an event like this is always prone to uncertainty. Will we have enough volunteers? Will the weather be too good or too bad for people to be out on the High Street? Will there be enough baking? Needless to say, any misgivings were swiftly dispelled. Every seat was filled within 20 minutes of opening the doors and we estimate that nearly 200 people came in during the two-hour event. It was a happy time of fellowship with many visitors joining us. Donations given on the afternoon totalled almost £1,100 which will be shared equally between Christian Aid and the East Lothian Foodbank.



On a less-positive note, we were advised in early May that the Mission Review Panel of the Church of Scotland had rejected our request that the decisions of the former Presbytery of Lothian relating to future ministry in Abbey and Dirleton should be reconsidered by the Presbytery. While, not entirely unexpected

(the review was limited to a number of technical issues), this decision comes as a disappointment after a process which has been going on for more than three years. The message which came with the decision reminded us that Presbytery Plans are, in due course, to be subject to annual review and development and we are encouraged to engage with the new Presbytery in that process.

While the Abbey and Dirleton Kirk Sessions will not have the opportunity to discuss this outcome until a meeting in June, my feeling is that we have been called to share the message of the Gospel with those in our congregation and community and our response should be to continue the excellent work which our Minister, David, is carrying out. Although we may question the logic and equity behind the Presbytery's decision that we can do that work effectively with an allocation of 0.25 of a full-time equivalent whenever our current minister decides to retire or move on. I believe that we should pray for strength and God's guidance as we seek to fulfil the vision of our congregation for the 2020s which is "Growing in faith, in our prayer life and in our confidence in sharing the good news of the Gospel and growing in number in every aspect of our ministry."



Although I know that I am repeating myself, I would like all members of the congregation to remember that there is NO proposal to close either Abbey or Dirleton churches. I know that rumours about such closure have been circulating for some time, but they are simply not true and need to be challenged. We have a job to do. Let us all get on and do it!



DIRLETON CHURCH FLOWERS

As you sit in church, how many times do your eyes rest on the Church Flowers ?

With me, the answer is - A lot of the time.

There is something both calming and reassuring about the beauty of the flowers and the unbelievable colours and scents.

In most churches there is a happy band of volunteers who take it in turns to help out with the display.

If you'd like to take part and perhaps commemorate a date that is special to you then please get in touch with me.

You don't have to be a flower arranger. Yes, there is a pedestal if that's what you would like to do, but there are other areas - a window sill and the Communion Table- where a vase of flowers is perfect.

Email Leila Aitken at studio@leilaaitken.co.uk or phone 01620 892025



The Great Glen Green Welly Garden Show



A fun-filled week of activities run by the churches of North Berwick

Monday 24th—Friday 28th July 2023

A week full of Bible based activities run by the churches of North Berwick and SU Scotland. There are no cost for activities.

Just finished P1-P5?

Come to our outdoor holiday club: Monday to Friday
10am-12 noon at the Lodge Grounds, North Berwick.



Please book online at <https://form.jotform.com/231174764291357>

Just finished P5-P7?

Come to our indoor holiday club: Tues, Thurs and Fri
2-4pm at St Andrew Blackadder Church hall.



Please book online at <https://form.jotform.com/231175405844354>

Just finished P7-S6?

Come to our youth nights: Monday to Friday,
7-9pm at St Andrew Blackadder Church Hall.



Please book online at <https://form.jotform.com/231175449593363>

More information from nbchurchesholidayclub@gmail.com
or follow us on Facebook: NB-Churches-Holiday-Club

Abbey Church (All Funds)
Quarter to 31st March 2023

General

Receipts exceeded payments by £631. This is much better than budget.

Income

Premises income is very much below budget. It is hoped that that receipts will be catch up with budget during the year! We are very grateful to the Andrews family for the receipt of £1,000 shown in legacies.

(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

Premises costs are currently below budget. The costs of the basement flood are collected in a suspense account, on receipt of an insurance payment the balance will be included in Premises costs. Additional to this there are some substantial bills outstanding!

With Church Office expenses an updated photocopier has been ordered. As this is leased it should not have a dramatic effect on Church Office expenses.

If you have any questions please ask.

Stuart Ainslie

May 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 MARCH 2023

ALL FUNDS

Income (All Funds)	Annual Budget	Budget to 31 Mar	Actual to 31 Mar	Variance
Offerings	62,000	15,498	17,373	1,875
Tax reclaim	14,000	3,500	4,100	600
Miscellaneous	7,000	1,251	-	(1,251)
Premises income	18,000	4,500	2,418	(2,082)
Investment income	4,200	1,050	367	(683)
Legacies	-	-	1,090	1,090
Sale of Investments	-	-	-	-
Dirleton	6,000	1,500	1,500	-
Total Income	111,200	27,299	26,848	(451)

Expenditure (All Funds)	Annual Budget	Budget to 31 Mar	Actual to 31 Mar	Variance
Church of Scotland payments	46,223	12,153	12,153	-
Pastoral Expenses	11,950	2,986	1,721	1,265
Other Salaries	33,360	8,286	8,326	(40)
Premises costs	22,677	4,889	2,443	2,446
Church Office Expenses	4,360	1,090	1,324	(234)
Investments	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	7,430	532	250	282
Total Expenditure	126,000	29,936	26,217	3,719

Budget for 2023 (14,800)

Budget for 1st quarter 2023 (2,637)

Income in excess of expenditure	<u><u>631</u></u>	
Positive Variance		<u><u>3,268</u></u>

Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk Prayer
June & July 2023

Dear Father God,

We have so much to thank you for including Pentecost which marks the gift of the Holy Spirit.

We thank you that all went well for the Coronation of King Charles III.

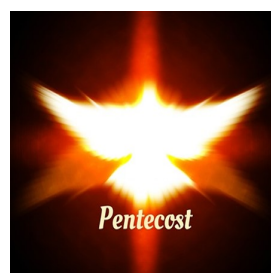
We pray that you will safeguard pupils going forward in their education. Keep them safe during the Summer holidays and enable them to look forward to restarting at the beginning of the new term. Bless all pupils, their parents, and teachers during the summer months.

Keep us safe and free from all illness, likewise, bless all who are ill whether at home or in hospital and strengthen those who care for them. Restore them to their health and strength once more.

Bless our Minister, David, his wife, Mary, and all who attend our churches. We ask your blessing on all people of Abbey and Dirleton churches and keep safe all visiting these places throughout the summer months.

Thank you, Lord,
Amen.

Betty Hawthorn
Prayer Secretary



Abbey Church Flower Rota

DATE	DONOR	ARRANGER
4 June	Zandra Main	Isabel Smith
11 June	Isabel Smith	Isabel Smith
18 June	Irene Nichol	Irene Nichol
25 June	Nancy Chisholm	Dorothy Kirkpatrick
2 July	John Guy	Katrina Hendry
9 July	Janet Raeburn	Joan Griffith
16 July	Joan Griffith	Joan Griffith
23 July	Gwen Scott	Gwen Scott
30 July	Jennifer Gilchrist	Katrina Hendry



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, Interoception Yoga, The Scone
Café.

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

Baptisms

21.5.23 Henrietta Lockhart Hunter

28.5.23 Oran Bugler Hodges

Memorial Service

20.5.23 Anna Valentin

New Members at Dirleton Kirk

Thomas Drysdale

Carol Drysdale

Toi Tze Tse

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 August and September
The deadline for submitting articles is Tuesday 18th
July 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. SC0 04761—CCL51436