



**Abbey Church  
and  
Dirleton Kirk News**

**October/November 2022**

**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 and Dirleton friends,

Jeremiah said 'The harvest is past, the summer is ended'. As we journey through autumn and prepare for the winter season, our thoughts and prayers are for a safe and healthy time for our friends and loved ones. War and pandemic are still in the news, as is the cost of living. Our churches and community are working hard to help, with everything from foodbanks to 'warm places' this winter. Perhaps you also have a good idea what practical things can be done to help others?

Thank, you for your generosity in supporting our Harvest Appeal for Kalimpong. It will enable families and small groups to earn a living by growing and selling flowers and fruit. Every blessing to them.

Please keep our work with children and young people specially in your prayers. Grateful thanks go to Hazel Gray, our Family Worker, who is leaving at the end of the year to concentrate on other things. This will leave a big gap in what we do in the church, school and community. We seek God's wisdom for the future of that work.

Kathryn, who has led our 'Little Nippers' toddler group for a couple of years, has also left to do other things. We thank her for her commitment on Thursday mornings. We have a temporary rota meantime, and hope to get someone to lead it soon, but if you can help by joining the rota, please do. It's always a happy and enjoyable morning.

Your Minister,

*David*

## Summer Holiday Club

Thanks for all your support and prayers for the joint churches holiday club this summer. If you passed through the Lodge Grounds, you would have heard



the laughter and singing as we had fun as Epic Explorers finding out who Jesus was, what he did and how we can follow him. We had almost

50 children and young people join us for mornings in the Lodge grounds (P1-P5s), afternoons at St Andrew Blackadder church hall (P5-P7s), and evenings in and around North Berwick (secondary age). We had a great opportunity to share the good news of Jesus

with all age groups, from P1 to S6. We had a great team all week who really gave their time, talents and shared their passion



for Jesus. There were a lot of tired muscles after moving the gazebos into place, but it was all worth it to see the children and young people have fun.

Hazel Gray



## Abbey Kirk Session

Robert Burgon



The doors of Abbey Church have continued to be open most days and we have been pleased to welcome so many visitors both from the UK and from overseas. It is always encouraging to read the notes of appreciation which are entered into the Visitors' Book recognising that an open church offers a place for reflection and prayer. This became all the more significant following the death of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II on 8 September 2022 and many of the entries after that sad event pay tribute to her long life of devotion, service, and faith as well as offering prayers for King Charles III and the responsibilities which he has now assumed. Our thoughts and prayers are with him and other members of the Royal Family at this time of loss and new beginnings.

This year's Harvest Thanksgiving service will be celebrated on Sunday 2 October. The service will be preceded by a Harvest Supper in our hall the previous evening. For many years, we have adopted a charity to support with our harvest offerings. We have sent cows to Africa, supported water and sanitation projects, and assisted with a bee keeping project in Uganda. It has been some time since we raised harvest funds to support our twinned congregation in Kalimpong, India. This

year, our harvest offerings will be used to provide families in that area with fruit plants to enable them to grow fruit either for their own use or for sale (which would give them much-needed income).

Autumn traditionally sees the start of a new session in the life of our church organisations. WALT (the monthly bible study for women) started in early September and will continue to meet on the first Monday of the coming months. TAG (Tuesday Afternoon Group - affiliated to the Church of Scotland Guild) recommenced on 27 September and usually meets every fortnight. Both groups are well attended and are always pleased to welcome new members.

Our Little Nippers groups for pre-school children and their parents/carers recommenced in late-August when the new school term started. We were sad to say farewell to Kathryn Robertson who has been leader of this group since early 2020. Kathryn has led and developed this group during her time with us and we wish her well as she takes up new employment nearer her home in Dunbar. We hope to appoint a new leader shortly and, in the meantime, volunteers will lead the group. The session on 29 September will include a short Pram Service on the theme of harvest.



After a short break in the summer, our monthly Muddy Church restarted in late August with a well-attended gathering on the west beach.

In addition to the recommencement of our church organisations, we have also seen the start of new sessions for many organisations who use our buildings. There are very few days when our facilities are not in use, and it is good to report that such good use is being made of the facilities.

At the Kirk Session meeting on 15 August 2022, tribute was paid to our late elder Sarah Kerr and another longstanding and faithful member, Brian Maguire, both of whom are sorely missed in the life and work of Abbey Church. We considered reports from the Presbytery of Lothian meetings and from each of our Committees (Resources, Worship, World Church, Nurture and Outreach).

The Abbey Kirk Session meets again on 3 October 2022 and a report from that meeting will appear in the next Newsletter.

## Little Nippers

It was my last session at Little Nippers on Thursday 15th September. I've been running the group since January 2020. It's been a funny 2 and a half years, with two lockdowns and many restrictions. However, I would say that relationships between families



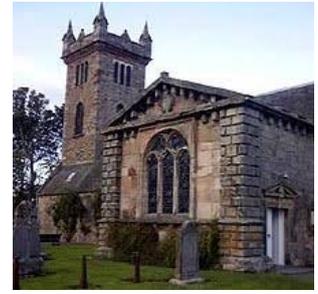
have blossomed and there's always a lovely, chatty vibe. The children love coming and the snack time and singing time are particular favourites. I'll miss the parents, carers and grandparents I've got to know but am confident that the group will continue to thrive with its super group of volunteers who welcome everyone and serve tea/coffee.

Here's us singing sleeping bunnies and a picture of 'The Famous Five' with Rev David, five grandparents who really look forward to seeing each other each week!

Kathryn Robertson



## Dirleton Kirk Session Keith Stewart



It was a great honour and privilege for me to attend the State Funeral of Her Majesty the Queen. I thought of myself as representing Dirleton and Abbey at what was the largest event in the history of broadcast media, which was watched by an astonishing four billion people.

I was advised to travel to London on Saturday 17th, in order to avoid congestion on the public transport networks arising out of the funeral, and on Sunday afternoon I walked into Westminster to watch preparations being carried out. I saw the queue of people to pay their last respects in Westminster Hall, as it snaked around the South Bank of the Thames, over Lambeth Bridge, through Victoria Park and into the Houses of Parliament; huge crowds on Parliament Square and up and down Whitehall, policed by officers drawn from all over the country; and the flags of the world's countries flying behind Horse Guards Parade.

On the day of the funeral, I was in the Abbey by 9am, and so I missed seeing at first hand the extraordinarily moving scenes of the procession bringing the coffin. Nor could I see the members of the Royal Family as

they took their places, though from my position in the North Transept I was able to see the coffin, draped in the vividly coloured standard, itself bearing the glittering Crown, orb and sceptre. But the Crowned heads entered from the same door and walked past, and I had a good view of the pulpit, and hence the Archbishop of Canterbury when he preached the funeral sermon; while the magnificent music, the spectacle, and the surroundings, were all alike inspiring.

The sermon, the prayers, and the readings; the music, and the hymns, all laid a huge emphasis on resurrection; that we will meet again, as the Archbishop preached, quoting Her Majesty, herself quoting the words of the song by Dame Vera Lynn; that Death is swallowed up in victory. There was space for sadness at the passing of a beloved Sovereign- but in the forefront was the Christian virtue of hope.

It was also heartening to see the participation in the ceremony of all the main Christian denominations, and the presence, united in honouring the Queen, of representatives of other Faiths.

Some of the aspects of the occasion which will have been less remarked upon: the wonderful strangeness of the sound of pipe music, such as we heard inside the Abbey as the procession approached; and the

sonorous boom of the bell tolling ninety six times, once for each year of the late Queen's life. Later in the afternoon, the Westminster Abbey Company of Ringers were to ring the bells, fully muffled, in a peal of Stedman Caters, comprising 5,096 changes: I regret that I was not present to hear it, because such a peal is a magnificent sound indeed.

These notes are compiled ahead of the next meeting of the Dirlerton Kirk Session, and I will not touch on the matters to be discussed: except to reiterate that, whatever gossip or speculation may be in circulation, there are no plans in any quarter to sell the Church Hall; and that, on the contrary, we have received confirmation from Presbytery that it is not to be sold.

My thanks to all involved in the replacement of the projector screen in the church.

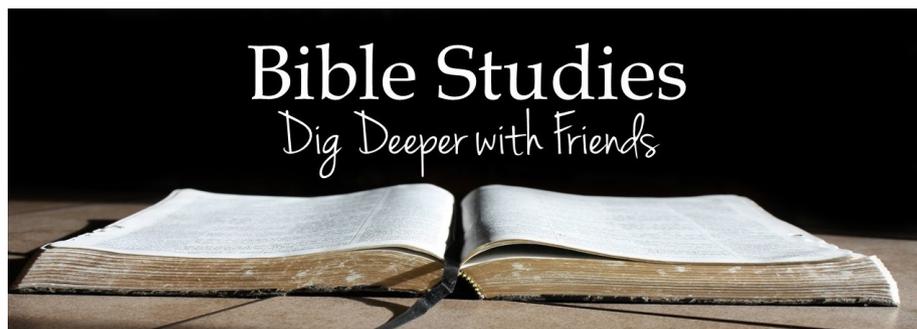


## WALT - Women Are Learning Together

Isn't it amazing that when we study the Bible we always find out something we weren't aware of before? In September and October we explored the first six chapters of the book of Daniel and found out that there is more to this book than lions in a den and writing on a wall. Daniel has made us think about how we cope with confrontation when our biblical values are challenged. We learned that Daniel conducted himself with tact and diplomacy when dealing with King Nebuchadnezzar. Daniel and his three friends confidently trusted that God would guide and support them through life's struggles.

WALT meets on the first Monday of every month in the small hall at 2:00.

Sheila Burgon



Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk Prayer  
October & November 2022

Dear friends in Christ,

I can hardly believe it's that time again, Yes, it's prayer time for the church magazine! So it's time again to put on my thinking cap, Let's pray!

Heavenly Father

Thank you for bringing us through the long summer holidays. Thank you for giving us the health and strength over the break and please stay with us all in the days ahead, the old folk, young and all those in between. Encourage us all, as the church activities begin the new sessions. We know it's difficult to put aside football and dancing lessons and go instead to attend grown-up Church and Sunday School. Help us to attend these meetings, for men and women, and let us gain more of the truth.

Please heal those who are ill, in body, mind or spirit, and uplift and care for all who care for them, at home or in hospitals or homes. Bless all your people and may they respond, willingly, to you.

We ask these things in Jesus' precious name.

Amen

Betty Hawthorn

Prayer Secretary

## Blytheswood Shoe Box Appeal 2022

The shoe box appeal is going ahead as usual this year. Covered shoe boxes will be available in Abbey and Dirleton churches from the end of September/beginning October.



Blytheswood collection date is Wednesday 26th October so please have your boxes in the church by Sunday 23rd October.

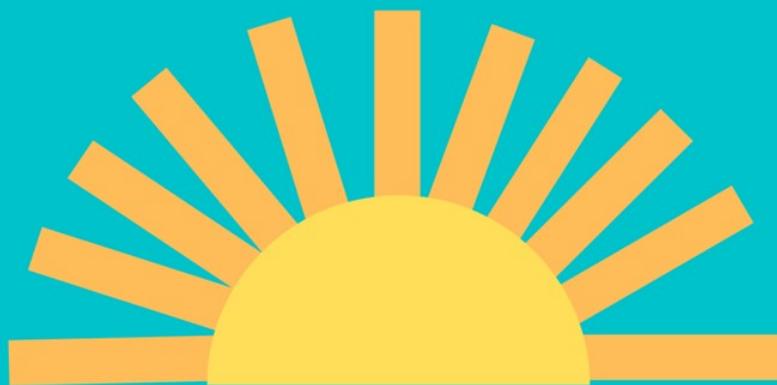
The boxes will be distributed in several Eastern European countries, including Ukraine this year. The great need for this help continues, to bring hope to many poor and needy families.

If you are unable to fill a box a donation towards transport costs would be much appreciated by Blytheswood



## Breakfast Club at Law Primary

Thanks to those who have already given their names to help at the new Breakfast Club at Law Primary. This is a chance to support a small group of pupils at the primary school with some cereal and toast, some board games and to have a wee chat. If you would like to be on the rota, or just want to know a bit more, please let Hazel know - [hazel.abbeychurch@hotmail.com](mailto:hazel.abbeychurch@hotmail.com) We hope to start soon, once school PVGs are in place.



### Thursday Breakfast Club

Start the day with food, chat and games  
from 8.15 - 9am @ The Lighthouse Room,  
Law Primary



## Tuesday Afternoon Group



### October

11th at 2:00pm - 'My Life as a GP' - Dr. Jean Walinck

25th at 2:00pm - 'Wee seeds, big trees' - Rev. Dr. D. Graham

### November

1st at 2:30pm - 'Jane Haining, A Life of Love and Courage' - Mary Miller at St. Andrew Blackadder

8th at 2:00 - 'Sophie Hayes Foundation' - Yolanda Strachan

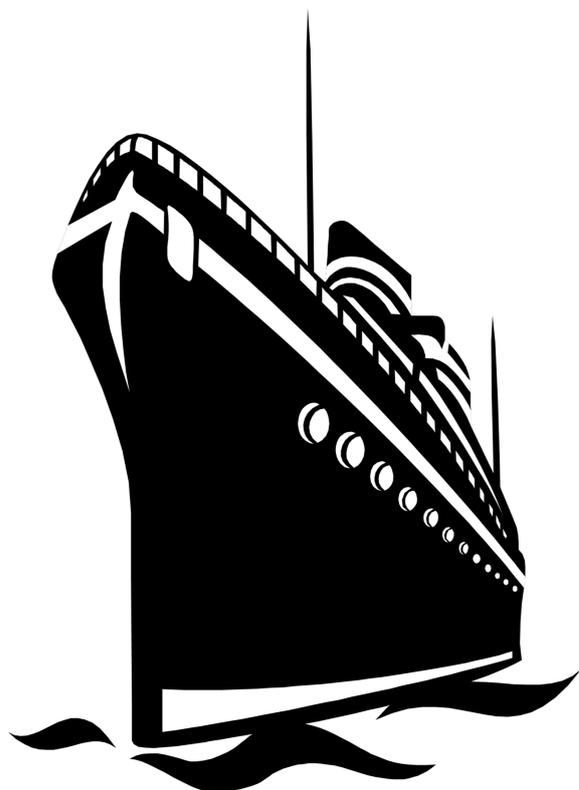
22nd at 2:00 'Blether with BEAT' (Beat eating disorders) - Joint project meeting at Abbey

29th at 2:30 'Empathy International' (Combatting child trafficking)

Rev. Janice Andrews at St. Andrew Blackadder

All men and women are warmly invited to come along to any of our meetings. Abbey meetings start at 2 o'clock and tea/coffee is served about 3 o'clock for those who wish to stay.

# ***SET SAIL WITH REGAL***



Every month  
In Abbey Hall  
At 12 midday

SOUP AND SANDWICH LUNCH

**ALL WELCOME**

*Re-launches in October,  
DON'T MISS THE BOAT!*

***20th October, Rev E Gilchrist will give a presentation about his past as a reporter and editor of local borders papers.***

## Abbey Church Flower Rota

DATE	DONOR	ARRANGER
2 October	Yolanda Strachan	Elma Danks Irene Brodie
9 October	Maureen Purves	
16 October	Linda McLean	
23 October	Joan Lunn	
30 October	Jennifer Gilchrist	
13 November Armistice	Lorna Ferry Caroline Danks	Isabel Hardie Anne & Richard Bell
20 November	Isabel Hardie	Isabel Hardie
27 November	Marjorie Whytock	Dorothy Kirkpatrick



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.

**Hall Hire is limited in line with current government  
Covid-19 restrictions**

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



## Church Register

### Baptisms

28.8.22 Rory Thomas Kinsella

28.8.22 Henry Peter Kinsella

2.10.22 Archie Kerr

### Weddings

6.8.22 Andrew Davidson and Louise Reid

3.9.22 Jonathan Wardell and Stephanie Wilson

### Funerals

1.8.22 Robert Henderson Dodds

11.8.22 Hilda McDougall

30.8.22 Robert Hilton

5.9.22 Patricia (Patsy) Brown

6.9.22 James MacBrayne

22.9.22 Bryan Wardman

7.10.22 Elizabeth Miller

## Pastoral Visits

The Minister and Pastoral Assistant are happy to make contact with church members by request. This information should be given to the Minister (890800) or via the Church Office (892800). Please note that for privacy reasons, any request must come from the person, or from a family member. It would also be helpful to have a mobile number, and the number 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](mailto:abbeychurch@abbeychurch.co.uk)

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

## Newsletters

The next newsletter will cover December 2022 and January 2023, The deadline for submitting articles is Tuesday 15th November 2022. Please send to Abbey Church Office.

[Abbeychurch.org.uk](http://Abbeychurch.org.uk)

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Abbey Church, North Berwick (Church of Scotland)

Scottish Charity No. SCO 04761—CCL51436