

Abbey Library

A small library of Christian books is now open for borrowing. It's in the Old Hall at Abbey Church (you can't miss it, on the back wall).

Please just jot down what you borrow in the notebook there. There are no fines, and no time limit; just return them when you've finished with them.

Flower List

Date	Donor's Name	Arranger
1st Mar	Mrs M Sharpe	Clare Aitken, Irene Nichol
8th Mar	Mrs Cobb	- do -
15th Mar	Mrs A Stewart	-do -
22 Mar	Mrs C Aitken	- do -
29 Mar	Mrs A Bell	Alison Bell
5th April	Mrs J Donald	Jean Donald
	Mrs M Graham	

Church Register

Funerals

16 th November	Catherine Taylor, Astley House
12 th December	J. Fred Campbell, Lochbridge Road
16 th December	Alex Moffat, Fidra House
17 th December	John F. Dow, Tigh Mohr
18 th December	Margaret Findlay, Lord President Road
23 rd December	Bernice Tait, High Street
7 th January	Pearl Hilbert, Astley House
9 th January	Mary Gordon, Fidra House
12 th January	Gillian Moffat, Brentwood Court
14 th January	Emma Ellis, Pattle Court
22 nd January	Rutherford Elliot, Victoria Road
21st February	Isabella Armour, Muirfield Home
25th February	J. Ross Stewart, Fidra House

Jesus said 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'

Abbey Church, North Berwick (Church of Scotland)
Scottish Charity No. SC004761—CCL51436

Abbey Church News March 2015

Abbey Church, 116 High Street, North Berwick

Church Office: 01620 892800

abbeychurch@btconnect.com

Minister: Rev. Dr David J Graham BSc BD PhD

Pastoral Assistant: Bob Kane 07971 075185

Sunday Morning Worship at 10.30am.

Sunday Evening Service at 6.00pm

Come along. All welcome.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

at 7.30pm, unless otherwise
stated.

All welcome.



Monday 30th March: St Adrian's Gul-lane (with presentation of Churches' Community Award)

Tuesday 31st March: Dirleton Kirk

Wednesday 1st April: Our Lady Star of the Sea

Thursday 2nd April: Joint Communion,
St Andrew Blackadder

Friday 3rd April: Abbey Good Friday service

On **Easter Sunday** we start the day with our 8am open-air service at the 'Haugh' Car Park (far end of the East Bay), followed by breakfast in Abbey Hall, then services at the usual times of Dirleton 9.30, Abbey 10.30 and 6pm





Dear Friends,

People often mark Lent by giving something up, but what if it could be more than that? What if Lent was a preparation for *a lifetime of generosity?*

Our Lent theme this year looks at God's generosity to us, drawing ideas from the miracles in John's gospel.

Some people just want Jesus in their lives to get Him to do things for them, but Jesus died for us so that we can experience His deep generosity and live deeply generous lives for and with Him. It is much more than just about what Jesus can do; it is about us changing to become more like Him. It is about us becoming deeply generous as we transform to His likeness.

Some of the topics we'll cover are *being generous with our will and purpose, being generous with our words and actions, generosity with our possessions, and being generous with our hearts and our faith.*

The Lent group meets on Wednesday evenings at 7.30pm in the Abbey Hall.

Alongside that, we're taking on the '**40 Acts Challenge**' which asks us to do one generous thing each of the 40 days of Lent. Some of the challenges for young people (of all ages!) are:

- Thank someone you don't know e.g. bus driver or local shopkeeper
- Make some Easter cards and send or deliver them.
- Send emails, texts, or cards to 5 people you haven't spoken to in a while to find out how they are.

These are just a few. You can find out more at 40acts.org.uk.

Maybe this will make Lent a positive experience not just for us, but also for others, and be a real preparation for Easter!

Your minister,

David

Prayers

During recent weeks prayers have been said at morning services by members of the congregation. The following Prayers of Intercession were recently led by two children, Mia and Finlay.

We pray for people in our congregation who have lost their loved ones.

(Response) God of love, hear our prayer

For people we know who have injured themselves or they are suffering from an illness, Or who are feeling sad or lonely. *(Response)*

We pray for those who aren't being treated well by others at school.

Help us to help them get over that. *(Response)*

Please help people across the world to try and recover from tragedy over their lives. *(Response)*

Help us find ways to cure the sicknesses people suffer *(Response)*

Help us learn to treat your animals much better than we treat them now *(Response)*

We ask you to help us make things fairer between rich and poor *(Response)*

And please help us stop people being racist. *(Response)*

We pray for people whose countries are suffering with floods or other disasters, who have lost their families or their homes. Help them find the strength to rebuild their lives. *(Response)*

We pray you can help us to find the courage to stand up to people who are being greedy, selfish or bullying towards others, and show them there is a better way *(Response)*

Help us to see that others are not as lucky as we are, and make us brave enough to stand up for them *(Response)*

Help us respond to the needs of other people who are struggling, and to find words to say to them *(Response)*

We pray for ways to make our lives more like you want them to be *(Response)*

Help us to forgive when people have hurt us and find a way to build friendships whenever we can. *(Response)*

We pray for ways to be kinder to others than we sometimes are *(Response)*

And we ask you to help us find courage to face all the problems we need to face and make things better. *(Response)*

*If young people will not go to church,
then the Church must go to young people.*



North Berwick Christian Youth Trust

January 2015

Dear Friends

Now that Christmas and New Year celebrations are past we have a hiatus in our activities because Shiona has just had an operation which, we hope, will enable her to return after convalescence to her normal round of activities. This gives the Trustees a chance to look backwards and forwards and plan accordingly.

The strategy the Trustees are developing is along these lines:

1. **Contact:** Through her work in the school, Shiona makes contact with lots of young people.
2. **Explore:** The lunchtime groups in school give young people a place to explore faith.
3. **Commit:** At the appropriate point, young people are encouraged to commit their lives to Jesus Christ.
4. **Discipleship:** Follow Further, after school and out with school is a place where young people discover what it means to live as disciples of Jesus.
5. **Worship:** Young people are encouraged to gather together, to worship

God and give visible expression to their faith.

Steps 1 to 4 are in place. It is our intention to develop step 5 in 2015.

The vision is that young people will meet together on Friday afternoons. For three weeks they will work with a passage of scripture and consider how to convey what it says through music and drama. On the fourth Friday they will lead a worship event for their peers.

In Shiona we have someone who can both provide overall leadership and facilitate the drama. What we lack is a musician. So we seek your prayers for the appointment of a musician who will be able to work with the young people on Friday afternoons.

Peter Kimber (Secretary)

North Berwick Christian Youth Trust: Scottish Charity No. SCO 37664
Office: 9, Muirfield Grove, Gullane,

Join us in a year-long journey through the Bible and faith: *'We make the road by walking'*. Alternating between our morning and evening services, there are Bible readings used in Church, at Bible Study and House Groups, and for personal devotion.

The weekly readings for the next month are:

March 1st *Matthew 5:17-48*

March 8th *Matthew 6:1-18*

March 15th *Matthew 6:19-7:12*

March 22nd *Matthew 7:13-29*

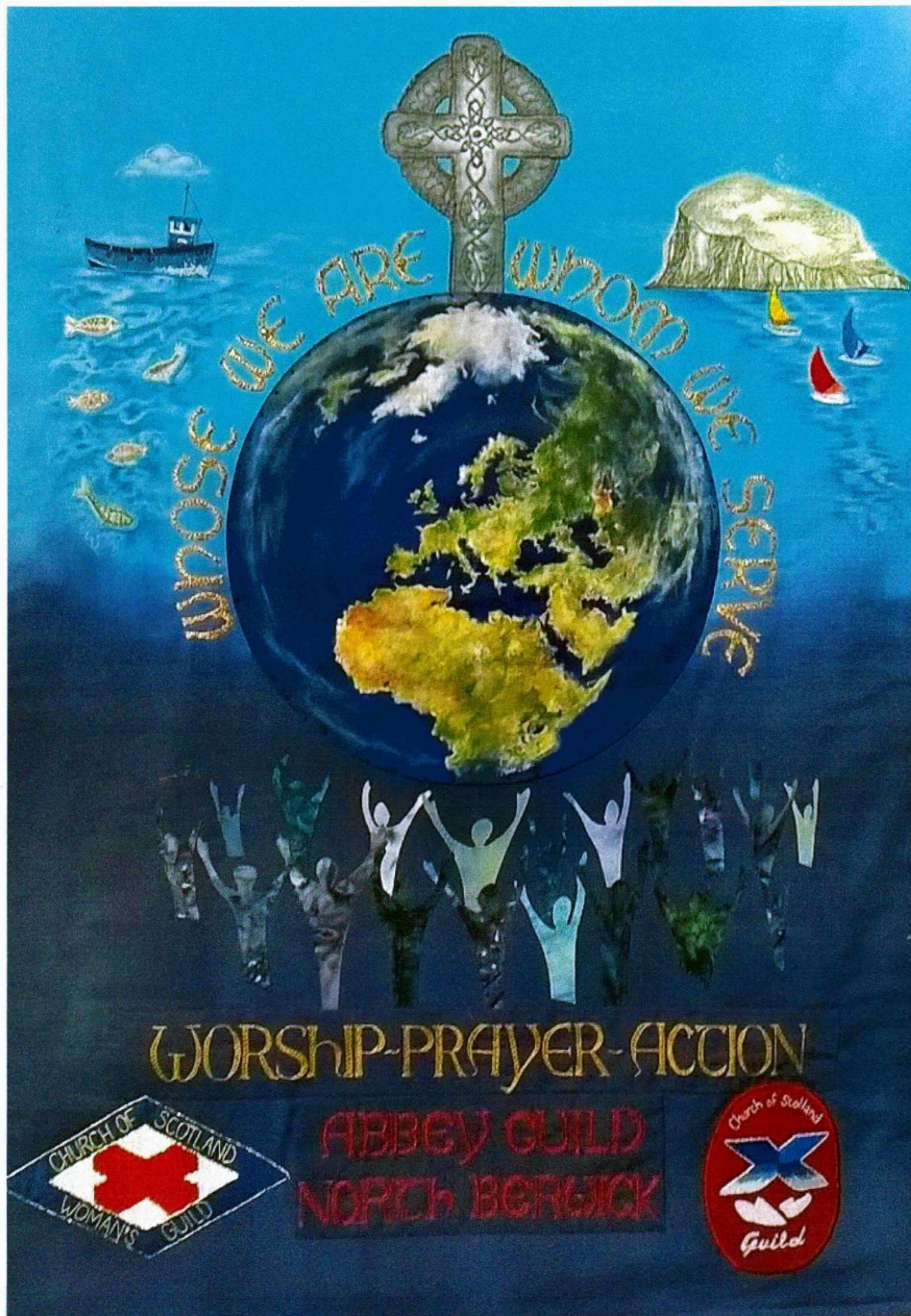
March 29th *Zechariah 9:9-10; Psalm 122; Luke 19:29-46*

April 5th *(Easter) Ezekiel 37:1-14; Luke 24:1-32; Colossians 1:9-29*

Sunday Services

Our morning services consider some of Jesus' teaching. Our evenings continue with 'We make the road by walking'. Evening services resume from March-May.

	Morning	Evening
1 st March Fairtrade Sunday	Workers in the Vineyard	A New Path to Aliveness
8 th March	Wedding Reception	Your Secret Life
15 th March	Rev Ian Bird	Visiting Preacher
22 nd March	Judgment	The Choice is Yours
29 th March Palm Sunday	Clearing the temple All-age worship	Peace March Communion



Abbey Church Super Sunday Club

The Super Sunday Club is proving very popular with the children who come along.

We have a full team of excellent leaders and are using Scripture Union material which provides a good base for each week's activities. The newly acquired parachute is proving very popular! Our aim is to teach the children some of the Bible stories while having fun through games and craft.

Unfortunately, the number of children coming along continues to be very low and we hope and pray that some of our Church families will come backand maybe even bring their friends!

A warm welcome awaits old friends and new!

The Super Sunday Club meets every Sunday during school terms.

Mary Graham & Eileen McColl

Abbey Church Creche Duty

Sunday 1st March	Ann Gardner, Joan Lunn
Sunday 8th March	Dorothy Kirkpatrick, Caitriana Spencer
Sunday 15th March	Mgt. Lawson Janice Cobb
Sunday 22nd March	Mandy Vance, Carol Stobie
Sunday 29th March	Sadie Young, Sue Paterson
Sunday 5th April	Norma Goodlad, Dorothy Kirkpatrick

Please Note. If you are unable to undertake your week on duty, please swap duties or notify Dorothy Kirkpatrick or Joyce at the office

. If you wish the list to be e-mailed to you, please e-mail Dorothy dorothyk43@me.com

World Mission

A letter received from Dr. Gilbert A. Mateeka of Rugarama Hospital thanks the ladies of Abbey Church for the knitted goods and thanks Mrs Margaret Ann Crawford for co-ordinating their safe delivery by Miss Liz Traill.

In a letter of greeting from Rev. Canon Guster Bashalja he thanks us for our support of the Muyebe gravity flow scheme. He is also full of praise for Miss Traill and her work.

Regal March Meeting

The Sea Bird Centre was opened in 2000. In the last 15 years it has become world-famous on account of the cameras situated on the Bass Rock and the Isle of May; there are also cameras on Fidra. With these cameras we have live coverage of puffins, gulls and guillemots laying their eggs and feeding their young - we see the action as it happens.

Liz Thom, a trustee of the Sea Bird Centre will be our guest speaker at the March meeting of Regal and I know that she will be happy to answer all our questions.

This will be a very interesting meeting and all ladies and gentlemen are most welcome. After the meeting we will sit down to a soup and sandwich lunch prepared by ladies of the church.

I look forward to seeing you on Thursday, 12th March at 12 noon.

Ian M Aitken

Christian Aid Forth Bridge Cross Sponsored Walk

Saturday 25 April is the date of this year's Bridge Cross for Christian Aid. It would be great to have a group going from Abbey Church to help raise loads of money for a great cause. If you would like to come along, please drop me an email or give me a 'phone - mail@davidmccoll.plus.com or

I will be delighted to give you further details. I can't promise that it will be a hot sunny day but I can promise an afternoon of good chat and an experience you will never forget! Look forward to hearing from you.

David McColl

General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

16 - 22 May 2015 - Can you help?

Stewards play a very important role in ensuring that many of the backup services, in support of the General Assembly, operate in a highly efficient, welcoming and friendly manner. Throughout the week of the GA some 300 Stewards help to cover over 1,000 different duties. Each shift generally lasts for about 2 hours and it is up to each Steward how often they wish to help. If you think you might like to help us, please get in touch for more information. Your help would be greatly appreciated. It is an important job but one which is usually enjoyed very much. To entice you further, free tea, coffee and biscuits are on supply!

For further details, please drop me an email or telephone -
David McColl

Church of Scotland Guild Banner

A banner to commemorate 125 years of the National Church of Scotland Guild was designed and made by Jeanette Callaway for the Abbey Church, North Berwick. A mixed media piece of work, the fabric was hand dyed and painted, machine and hand embroidered and appliquéd. Members of the congregation helped with the embroidering and appliquéd.

The Cross on top of the Globe represents the source of all life power, a reminder of Christ and the dedication to worship, fellowship and service.

The Guild logo - 'Whose we are and whom we serve' encompasses the Globe.

The figures - in various colours with arms upheld towards the cross, represent supporting the growth of the Kingdom through the aim of the Guild. They are also symbolic of fellowship and of offering our lives 'up' to God through WORSHIP, PRAYER AND ACTION.

The Church of Scotland Guild logos - past and present, are in the bottom left and right hand corners. The top left and right corners of the banner display a *fishing boat* and the *Bass Rock* surrounded by Gannets and sailing boats, all of which are associated with North Berwick.

Abbey Guild

- | | |
|----------------|--|
| March 3 | Mary's Meals (Guild Project)
John Helliwell 2.30 p.m.
Joint meeting in Abbey |
| 6 | World Day of Prayer 3p.m.
Our Lady Star of The Sea |
| 10 | Mad March Hare Auction and Lunch
12 Noon—2p.m. |
| 17 | AGM 2.30 p.m. |
| 30 | Outing to Newhaven Guild for Afternoon Tea |

East Lothian Foodbank

The East Lothian Foodbank Manager, Peter Dicker, and two of the Trustees, Abigail Morrison and Graeme Bettison, talked to a meeting at Abbey Church on February 2nd to outline the charity's work and answer questions about its operation. The meeting was organised by the Kirk Sessions of Abbey and Dirleton and a number of people from surrounding Churches and beyond also attended.

Bill McClure, convener of Abbey's World Church committee, explained the reason for the meeting- some members had wondered why a food bank was actually *needed* in East Lothian and had questioned how the donation process operated.

The Foodbank representatives answered a range of questions, reassuring those who attended that the need for the aid was vital - whilst hoping it would not have to become a permanently provided service in the future. They explained how individuals and families are referred to them for support by social work and other professional agencies and outlined the process involved in collecting, sorting and distributing food donations across the county, helped by many volunteers. The vast majority of recipients receive only one food parcel, when their financial situation is at its worst, and most of those receiving parcels are families. Basic recipes - how to make stovies for example - were now being included in food boxes to help inexperienced applicants and the team reported that on one occasion, they'd been presented with two bags of supplies by a former client who'd been helped over a temporary financial "hump" and wanted to thank the group for the emergency help she'd received.

The Foodbank team distributed an information leaflet showing that Abbey and Dirleton Churches are the second largest single donor in East Lothian, having collected 700kg of supplies between April and December last year. This was equivalent to £1,169 in cash terms and represented 1,167 meals supplied to about 90 people for at least 3 days each. In addition to this, the Churches provide vital support during the bi-annual Tesco collections.



Bethany Meals



An observation from one of the volunteers at a recent meal for homeless people in

Edinburgh One recipient sang a burst of '*It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas*' at the impressive spread, and another expressed his gratitude in Polish, bowing to the ladies first, then kissing their hand in gratitude at the end of the meal. . .Humbling and moving.

Regal- Donations

After our soup and sandwich lunch at the Regal meetings a plate is passed round for donations as a token of our appreciation for the lunch prepared by ladies of the church. During 2014 £400 was collected. The members agreed that this money should be split evenly and donated to North Berwick Day Centre, Leuchie House, Inspire (the North Berwick Youth Group) and Christians in Syria (through Christian Aid). Letters of appreciation have been received from these four organisations.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Anne Bell, Bel Hardie, Catherine Andrews, Clare Aitken, Doreen Guy, Dorothy Kirkpatrick, Joyce Strachan, Morna McClure and Sadie Young for making the delicious soups and sandwiches for our lunches. All the members thoroughly enjoy the lunches and the occasions provide an excellent opportunity for us to socialise and chat - thank you.

Ian M Aitken