



Abbey Church News December 2015

Abbey Church, 116 High Street, North Berwick
Church Office: 01620 892800
abbeychurch@btconnect.com

Minister: Rev. Dr David J Graham, BSc, BD
01620 840878

Pastoral Assistant: Bob Kane

Sunday Morning Worship at 10.30am.
Come along.

*Prior to Morning Worship, there is a short
gathering for prayer in the New Hall from
10.00am to 10.15am.*

All welcome.



Sunday Projection

As we approach the end of the year, I thought it would be an appropriate time to write a short piece about the projection of all the worship material on Sunday mornings.

Earlier this year, I took it upon myself to provide a short session after a morning service to give members of the congregation the opportunity to have a look behind the scenes at the work we do on the laptop each Sunday morning. I was delighted with the turnout, and the feedback I received afterwards was all very positive. At the time, we had a team of four people - Richard, Phil, Ron and myself, all working on a rotational basis. So roughly once a month we would each take a turn at "the controls". There were times though when it did get a bit tricky to provide cover, particularly during holiday periods. It was for that reason that I was keen to expand the team, and I was delighted when Robbie came forward after the session to learn more. He has since been fully integrated into the rota, and with his expertise we are now able to project live footage of some services onto the screen via a camera mounted on the balcony. This provides anyone sitting up there with a better view of proceedings.

I'm sure you will agree that what we do really enhances our time of worship, particularly when it comes to singing. Our voices are projected more when looking up at the screen as opposed to down at the books. Also, the other material that is used such as pictures for the children and video clips add greatly to the overall experience. However, we are aware that occasionally the choice of colours and background can be slightly problematic for some. If you have any comments on that, or any other aspect, please speak to whoever is on duty after the service, and we will ensure that the issue is rectified appropriately for the next time.

My thanks go to all those in our team for doing such a great job. Particular thanks to Richard and the Minister, who put together the material each week. I'm very grateful to you all.

Andrew Cobb

P.S. I would be happy to schedule in another session for anyone who missed the last one. If you are interested, just let me know.

Abbey Guild

December is going to be a busy month for The Guild members. They are having 2 fundraisers for the Guild Projects - "Street Pastors" and "Feed the Minds" - and they hope that you and your friends will support them enthusiastically.

Saturday 5th December Christmas Fair and Teas 2pm-4pm

The FAIR in the OLD HALL will include HOME BAKING, HAND PAINTED CERAMICS, BOOKS and a variety of GIFTS which could help you complete your Christmas shopping. Entry will be free.

TEAS and Christmas FARE will be served in the NEW HALL.

Thursday 10th—Saturday 12 December Christmas Tree Festival

The Sanctuary will be open each day from 10am-8pm to allow you to admire a variety of attractive Christmas trees, decorated by various Church and associated groups. There will also be background Christmas music and several live choral and instrumental performances which we hope you will enjoy. A printed programme is now available.

Entry will be free but we trust that you will be happy to give us a generous donation.

OTHER IMPORTANT DATES

Tuesday 15th December Guild Annual Christmas Carol Service at 2.30pm in The Sanctuary. OCTAVE (a choir from Joppa) will be singing for us. As usual ALL ARE WELCOME

Tuesday 5th January 2016: 'Footsteps of the Saints' by Bill Miller at 2.30pm

Tuesday 19th January 2016: 'History of Nairns Factory + Scottish Music at 7.30pm

Toilet Twinning

The recent Harvest fundraising for the Toilet Twinning project raised £2,300. Thanks to all who contributed.

Pilgrimage tour to Greece

The Minister is planning a pilgrimage tour to Greece in September 2016. Please contact him for details

Abbey Church – North Berwick
Financial Report – 9 Months to 30 September 2015

Offerings	70,000	52,498
Tax reclaim	16,500	12,375
Miscellaneous	9,500	7,252
Premises income	11,000	8,250
Investment income	4,100	2,150
Legacies	-	-
Dirleton	6,000	4,500
Total Income	117,100	87,025
Expenditure		
Church of Scotland payments		
Pastoral Expenses	56,577	42,611
Other Salaries	11,950	8,962
Premises costs	22,000	16,499
Church Office Expenses	16,672	12,688
Investments	2,950	2,212
Miscellaneous	-	-
Total Expenditure	6,951	4,656
	117,100	87,628
Surplus of Expenditure over Income		
	-	(603)

**Comments - Abbey Church
9 Months to 30 September 2015**

General

The deficit for the first 9 months of 2015 is £1,423 versus a budget deficit of £603.

Income

Offerings - Open plate and 'blue envelopes' continue to decline. It is interesting to note that offerings for the nine months are down on last year by £910.

(Note - If you are tax payer and wish the Abbey to recover the tax paid by yourself please would you pick up a gift-aid form from Joyce in the office or ask Phil for one.)

Expenditure

Pastoral expenses are well below budget.

During the summer a large amount of decoration was undertaken the cost of this is included in the actual. In October further premises repairs were undertaken.

If you have any questions please ask.
Stuart Ainslie
2 November 2015

Your Finance Team

1	Income—Gift-aid	Phil Spencer
	Income—Hall Rentals	Ronald Ironside
2	Payment of bills	Janice Cobb
3	Accounting—OSCR, periodic accounts and Church of Scotland	Stuart Ainslie

Regal- December Meeting

In the run-up to Christmas, Regal always likes to enter into the spirit of the festivities. This year we are very fortunate to have The Real Eightsome singing Christmas music for us - do come along to hear some beautiful carols and perhaps red noses and jingle bells will feature too! As the church will be decorated for the Guild's Christmas Tree Festival, our meeting will take place in the Church, with lunch in the hall afterwards. This is a chance to see the trees and enjoy the Seasonal Melodies on Thursday, 10th December at 12 noon.



Since there is no issue of Abbey News in January I'm giving you advance notice of that meeting .

John Guy and a number of aeroplane enthusiasts have spent many hours building a full scale flying replica of a World War I Sopwith 1½ Strutter, bi-plane. The group are nearing the end of this mammoth task and they hope to fly the plane early in 2016. On Thursday, 14th January John will tell us about the challenges that faced the group in undertaking this mammoth task.



© R N Denton 1998

After the meeting we sit down to a soup and sandwich lunch prepared by the ladies of Abbey Church. Our meetings are open to all ladies and gentlemen of North Berwick and the surrounding villages. Please come along and meet friends.

I look forward to seeing you on Thursday, 10th December at 12 noon.

Ian M Aitken

East Lothian Foodbank have asked for assistance to help handing out shopping lists and to collect donated items at Tesco North Berwick. This is a joint activity with North Berwick Rotary and St Andrew Blackadder.



The time slots we need help in staffing are on Saturday December 5th either 09.00 - 10.45 or 10.45 - 12.30 or 15.30 -17.00. If you can help please sign up on the sheet at the back of the church or talk to Richard Bell (0781 238 1283). Many thanks in advance for your kind assistance.



Super Sunday Club

The children were all delighted to receive the Bibles from the Church and hopefully they will be read for many years to come. The Christmas baubles are well in hand and four children so far have managed to learn the Lord's Prayer (and receive their prize!).

The Big Thing now is the Nativity Service on 20th December and there will be special invitations available for this service. Please pick a few up to give out to any family, friends and neighbours who do not normally come to Church. In amongst the frenzy of planning and shopping, let us all work together to bring the real meaning of Christmas to others. *Eileen McColl*

Worship Matters CAROL SINGING

Advent can be a hectic time for many people with the seemingly endless lists of writing cards, buying and wrapping presents and decorating trees. That is quite apart from all of the church activities which take place at this important time in the church's calendar. It might seem that there are just not enough hours to do everything which must be done.

There is one group of people in our town who really appreciate a couple of hours of our time in the period before Christmas and those are the residents in three care homes and one sheltered housing complex who look forward to the annual visit from the Abbey Church carol singers.

This year, our carol singing will take place on **Thursday 17 December 2015**. We will start the evening at Fidra House, Dirleton Avenue at 6.00pm and after a short period of carol singing, readings and prayer, we move to Astley House, the Abbey and finally to Tigh Mhor in the High Street. The evening normally ends around 8.15pm.

Most years we have a group of 15-20 people participating (and many have done so for as long as they can remember) but we can always do with more. The residents love to get visitors and enjoy singing the well-known carols. If you haven't assisted with this exercise in the past, what about joining us this year? People of all ages are welcome and the residents particularly like to see children. If you have children, what about coming along as a family?

Many people just love this time of year—family and friends get together, exchange gifts, cards and hugs! Sadly, many are sad, lonely, no-one to share Jesus' birth. Help us to share in our celebrations as we rejoice and celebrate our Saviour's birth. Let us pray.



Dear Heavenly Father,
Let us keep Jesus at Christmas, and we pray He will stay with us forever. We pray all children become enriched as they learn 'the Spirit of Christmas'. All is given in the Bible. We pray that the Christmas boxes will bring joy to all who receive one.

Bless Dr Graham and Mr Bob Kane and all whom they love and all whose lives are uplifted by their visits. We bring before you our organist, Mr Robert Burgon and the glorious music he plays each Sunday. Thanks too to all who supply, arrange and deliver flowers to those unable to attend church, also those who run our Super Sunday Club and all children's events. I bring too our church secretary, Joyce Strachan, who works away and who deserves a mention. Lord, I could go on and on, but You know all the others who help keep Abbey Church 'sure and steadfast' - Bless them all.

Let us remember that the glamour and glitz soon disappears, but, the best gift, LOVE, lasts forever. Jesus is always with us, and helps us through life. Thank you.

Betty Hawthorn (Prayer Secretary)

Jim and I wish you all a blessed, Peaceful Christmas, and a Happy, healthy New Year. May God be with you and all whom you love.



One of our guest organists, David Brown, wrote these lovely words and set them to music as part of The Flying Aspidistras' concert on 13th December.

When Christmas Comes

When Christmas comes
will Christ be there?
Or shall we find the manger bare,
At stable door no homeless pair,
Because they fear we do not care
When Christmas comes?

When Christmas comes
will shepherds hear
no song of angels ringing clear?
No joyful tidings of good cheer,
No news that our Messiah is near,
When Christmas comes.

When Christmas comes,
will wise men say,
"We saw no star to point the way,
No child is born,
So we'll delay our journey,
And await the day
When Christmas comes."

When Christmas comes,
What shall we see?
A merry meal and children's glee,
With gifts galore beneath the tree,
But is that all it's meant to be,
When Christmas comes?

When Christmas comes,
For come it will.
What can we do to show we still
Remember what the feast is for?
To mark the birth of Christ
but something more
When Christmas comes.



For in His life
He showed the way
To help our neighbour day by day.
And in His death
Revealed the love
That comes to us
From God above

And that is why
Each Christian must
Revere Him all year long, not just
When Christmas comes.



Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

Once again we have had a wonderful response to the Shoe Box Appeal. One hundred and sixty four filled boxes were uplifted on Tuesday 10th November to be checked (Customs regulations) and then dispatched to Eastern Europe and Asia in time for Christmas. Thank you to Abbey and Dirleton congregations for their most generous support.

Bethany

We provided a meal for the Bethany Care Shelter in Edinburgh on Sunday 25th October for over 50 homeless people. *The photo 'remains of the day' shows all that was left.*



The Shelter is running for 4 extra weeks this winter and the numbers are the highest ever at the beginning of the season. Abbey has a team going at the beginning of December and again just before Christmas on the 22nd when we will be making up gift bags with toiletries, a sweetie, socks etc. We would appreciate donations of NEW warm socks, hats, scarves and gloves. Also warm sweaters and jackets in good condition. (handed into the Church office). We will be going again twice next year.

Nominations Sought for Community Award for Volunteers

The North Berwick and District Association of Churches is seeking nominations for the annual award that is made to individuals or organisations that carry out voluntary work in Aberlady, Gullane Dirleton, North Berwick and surrounding areas. The Association recognises the huge difference volunteers make to our community and the award goes some way to thanking them and acknowledging the time and effort they have made to helping others. So if you think you know someone or an organisation that deserves an award for their voluntary work, please contact Michael Black by the end of December at m.w.black@btinternet.com or telephone 01620 842835.

You do not need to be a member of a Church to make a nomination or receive the award.


Flower List

Date	Donor	Arranger
6 Dec	Dorothy Kirkpatrick	D Kirkpatrick and Sadie
Young		
13 Dec.	Mrs M Burgon and Dr. J Walinck	Jean Walinck
3 Jan	Mrs Sadie Young	Margaret Ann Crawford and Jeanette Galloway (January)
10 Jan	Mrs E Crowe	
	Mrs A McCulloch	
17 Jan	The Abbey House	
24 Jan	Mrs Sally Penman	
31 Jan	Misses D and G Adams	



Morning Tea Rota

6 Dec.	Dorothy Kirkpatrick	Isobel Hardie
13 Dec.	Sheila McCubbing	Irene Nichol
20 Dec.	Richard Bell	Ann Bell
27 Dec.	Mary Graham	Sheila Skinner

	 <u>Creche Duty</u>	
6 Dec.	Lorna Robson	Sarah Kerr
13 Dec.	Ann Bell	Rose Leslie
20 Dec.	Joan Lunn	Catriana Spencer
27 Dec.	Mgt Lawson	Janice Cobb

Church Register

Funerals

24th October David Bryson, Fidra House
14th November Moira Main, Craigleith View

Jesus said 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'

*Abbey Church, North Berwick (Church of Scotland)
Scottish Charity No. SCO 04761-CCL51436*