



## **Abbey Church News**

**March 2017**

Abbey Church,  
116 High Street, (at Church Road)  
North Berwick EH39 4HE

Church Office: open Tuesday, Thursday  
and Friday mornings . 01620 892800  
[abbeychurch@btconnect.com](mailto:abbeychurch@btconnect.com)

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

Pastoral Assistant: Bob Kane

**Sunday Worship at 10.30am.**  
**(Until 11.30)**

**Come along. All welcome.**

Dear Friends,

As Lent begins on March 1<sup>st</sup> this year, I invite you to join our Christian friends in India in a special Lent 'fast'. More details will be available with the weekly intimations.

Your Minister,

David



*Dear brothers and Sisters,*

*Forty days of Lent is often understood corresponding to the forty days that Jesus had spent in the wilderness, fasting and praying, before He began His public ministry.*

*Therefore, the churches all over the world observe these days of Lent as a time to reflect on God's purpose for our life as well as to repent, abstain and reorient our lives to accomplish God's will. I challenge all of you to go a step forward and deeper by initiating a 'Carbon Fast', in order to reduce the actions which damage God's Creation.*

*Carbon dioxide produced by human activity is causing global warming which in turn is effecting climate change. A carbon fast is a challenge to us to look at our daily actions, to reflect on how they impact on the environment. It challenges us to take some small steps for a more sustainable world. In the process we may come to rediscover a different relationship with God, with His Creation and with one another.*

*May we take up the challenge to walk the path less travelled, to restore more of your creation than we destroy. Help us to act with love and care for all that you have created.*

*Most Rev. Thomas K Oommen, Moderator, Church of South India:*

## Sunday Church Services

*March 5<sup>th</sup>* is World Church Sunday, when we welcome Mrs Reenie Sherriffs from the Christian Agency Tear Fund, to tell us about their current projects.

*March 19<sup>th</sup>* is Abbey communion, and after the morning service on *Sunday March 26<sup>th</sup>* we have the AGM of the congregation.

For advance notice, this year Easter Sunday is April 16<sup>th</sup>.

## 'Sharing Faith'

This is the title of a new, exciting series of four discussion topics from the Mission & Discipleship Council of the Kirk. Here's what it says about itself:

*'When it comes to sharing faith, lots of Christians' first thought is of a bold preacher, confidently proclaiming carefully crafted words that have taken a lifetime of learning to prepare. It doesn't always have to be like that. Sharing Faith is a new four-week course designed for groups in churches to explore how we can each convey, to those closest to us, the difference that following Jesus makes in our lives . . .*

*Throughout the four sessions - with a combination of Bible study, group discussions, activities, and prayer - we'll explore practical things we can do to help share our faith better.'*

Come and join us for 4 Wednesday evenings, starting on 8<sup>th</sup> March at 7.30pm in the Abbey hall. Here are the topics, which should intrigue you!

|                        |                   |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 8 <sup>th</sup> March  | 'God and You'     |
| 5 <sup>th</sup> March  | 'God and Me'      |
| 22 <sup>nd</sup> March | 'You and Me'      |
| 29 <sup>th</sup> March | 'God, You and Me' |

## Regal - March Meeting

The livery companies of the City of London's ancient and modern trade associations and guilds are all styled the "Worshipful Company of..." their respective craft, trade or profession. London's livery companies play a significant part in City life. For example, only liverymen are eligible to vote in the annual election of the Lord Mayor of London, the Sheriffs and various other City civic offices.

On Thursday, 9th March Robert Burgon will tell us about the history of one or two livery companies. In addition he will tell us about some of their unusual duties.



### *City liverymen participating in the Lord Mayor's show*

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, meet friends and hear about these ancient trades and guild companies in London. .

I am sure that Robert's talk will be most interesting to all of us and I look forward to seeing you on Thursday, 9th March at 12 noon.

*Ian M Aitken*

### Super Sunday Club

Thanks are due to everyone who helped in any way with the Nativity play in December. The children did a fantastic job of bringing the Christmas story to us and we have received lots of positive and complimentary comments about it. We certainly couldn't have done it without the help of many people in the congregation....so THANK YOU VERY MUCH! How will we ever forget seeing our Pastoral Minister playing the part of Caesar, or Jacqueline hidden under the huge shepherd's hat? Not to mention the Heavenly Choir singing so beautifully.....and Robert holding the whole thing together with his lovely playing... including making appropriate "knocking on doors" noises! The effect of the new super lighting organised by Richard and Phil added something really special to the whole service.

Some of the children from Dirleton Sunday School joined us for our Christmas party and great fun was had by all. We hope there will be many more joint events in this coming year.

The Super Sunday Club is on every week up until at least Easter and will always welcome children whether they come regularly or just for an occasional week. The children have been busy preparing a quiz on all things to do with Abbey Church and by the time you are reading this, the lucky winner will have received their fabulous prize! The children have also been busy practising a sketch for the All Age Service on 26 February, which will help us to understand why it is that Cocoa Farmers in the Dominican Republic are struggling to make ends meet while sales of chocolate in the UK exceed £4 million. Where does all the money go?

Please keep on praying for our children that they will feel welcome at Abbey and that more children will come along.



## GO IN JOY



The meetings in March will bring another *Guild Session* to an end once more but be on the lookout for news of a **Film Outing** and a **Summer Outing** details of which will be in a forthcoming newsletter or Sunday intimation.

Meantime there's still time to join in *Guild Fellowship* on the following days:-

On **Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March** some of our *Guild* members will be taking part in the **World Day of Prayer** in **St Baldred's Church** at **3pm**. Please support this if you can.

On **Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March** there will be a **Joint** meeting in **St Andrew Blackadder** at **2.30pm**. The topic will be **Joy in Service (Salvation Army)** by Major **Christine Bailey**.

On **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> March** the *Presbyterian Council* will be having it's **Spring Rally & AGM** at **7.30pm** in **Haddington West Church** - speaker, **Neil Bain**, talking about **The Christian Police Association**.

On **Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March** we'll be having **Abbey Guild AGM** at **7.30pm** in **Old Hall** followed by a selection of **joyful music** by **Des Bathgate** which will bring our session of **GO IN JOY** to a happy end.

\*\*\*\*\*Watch this space for extra events \*\*\*\*\*

ALL WILL BE MADE VERY WELCOME AT ANY OF THE  
ABOVE MEETINGS

## Milk Bottle Tops Collection

Thank you to everyone who collects milk bottle tops.

In the past years we have sent 100 large black bin bags full to Polymers at St Boswells where they are chipped and turned into sheathing for fibre optic cables. A tonne is a lot of bottle tops, but raises £150; it takes 1.5 million tops to make a tonne.

What we, together with Church Guilds and churches in Edinburgh and the Borders collect, produces funds which are split between the Marie Curie and Macmillan Nurses to help patients suffering from cancer make life a bit easier.

We do appreciate the time and effort you take, but would like to remind you that only the Milk Bottle Tops which have a little triangle with '2' or '4' on the inside are suitable for chipping. All tops must be clean and checked for triangles and any rogues removed.

If you collect from other sources, please give them a copy of this paper. Keep them coming, It is also good for the environment.



### Kalimpong and Nimbong School

About 1870, Kalimpong was a small illiterate community in the extreme north east of India on a road that led to China and to the eastern Himalayas.

It came to the attention of Scottish Missionaries, ministers, doctors and teachers and over the next thirty years they achieved a great deal. They acquired a large site on the hill above Kalimpong village and established on it a range of facilities including:

The Guthrie Memorial Hospital (now run by the Government)  
SUMI (Scottish Universities Mission Institute) now the largest boys' school in north east India, A girls secondary school and supporting primary schools.

And MacFarlane Memorial Church with which we are twinned.

They all operate on parts of the original site, now owned by the Church of North India.

In 2011 when Sumi was celebrating its 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary, they decided to do for one of the outlying areas what the Scottish Missionaries did for them and build a new secondary school.

They selected the village of Nimbong which is in an area with a population of around 5,000. It has a few small primary schools but no secondary education. The nearest secondary is 4 hours walk away. The roads are little more than tracks in places and there is no public transport. The choice of site was helped by it being owned by the Church of North India, being close to a church established 100 years ago.

I visited the site at the end of 2012 when there was just a cleared flat area. In the summer of 2015 the school, with the ground floor almost completed, opened with about 50 pupils. I visited again in October 2016 and found a lively school with about 140 pupils. It is expected that in the school year just started the numbers will rise to over 200.

To cope with this further work is required, the upstairs classrooms must be created, new drainage is required and the water supply has to be improved. They plan what they need and trust that the resources will be found. One of the completed room has been paid for by the local farmers association. They would like to name the next room the '*Abbey and Dirleton Room*'.

During my visit there was a presentation done by some of the pupils. They all wear a simple school uniform and many were busy organising the activities. I saw two choirs and a group of girls doing Nepali dancing. The reason for school uniform is that without it many would have nothing to wear. I also met some of the parents who are all most excited about the development and some told me (via an interpreter) that they had never had any chance of education).

I met nearly all of the staff. The headmistress has a degree in biology and is married to the pastor of a group of rural churches which he has to visit on foot. She initially had to walk for 4 hours to get to the school but now has transport for part of the way. She is supported by 7 other staff who cover the normal key areas. They are young enthusiastic and pass this enthusiasm to their pupils. There is however a problem in that teachers' salaries in most schools are met by the government but only after the school has been approved; this could take two years. At present the staff are receiving about 30% of their proper salaries. I hope that they will all stay.

The potential for this school to bring new hope and opportunity to a very poor area is huge. I hope that we will help our friends in Kalimpong to achieve this objective and the opportunity to do this is available through the World Mission Appeal.

*Ronald Ironside*

### **North Berwick Malawi Project**

We wish to thank all who contributed to the Coffee Morning and the general fund raising. The Coffee Morning was a great success and this, along with extremely generous donations, resulted in £2,324.40 being transferred to the Kauma village bank account on 1 February.

Ian & Liz Craigie  
Barbara Clark

### **Abbey Church Morning Tea Rota**

|            |               |                     |
|------------|---------------|---------------------|
| 5th March  | Isabel Smith  | Catherine Andrew    |
| 12th March | Morna McClure | Eileen McColl       |
| 19th March | Isobel Hardie | Fiona Gibson        |
| 26th March | Mary Graham   | Dorothy Kirkpatrick |

### **Hospital Visits**

The Minister is happy to visit church members who are in hospital. For reasons of confidentiality, any request for a visit should please come from the person themselves, a close family member or next of kin. Please also pass on the ward number, as this is not available to Ministers. This information can be given directly to the Minister or via the Church Office (892800, open 3 mornings a week or please leave a message).

Thank you

### **Newsletter Deadline**

Please submit any articles/information for the April Newsletter by Tuesday 14th March

## Abbey Church March Prayers



Dear Friends in Christ,

As we approach March, it brings us thoughts of Spring! Spring brings hope, better weather, snowdrops, crocus and lots of beautiful flowers. These help to lift us up, and we look forward to getting outside more. A new season—We have much to be thankful for— let's pray!

Dear Lord,

We give thanks for the different seasons in each year. During Spring we look forward to Easter, when we celebrate the occasion when Jesus rose from the grave. We give thanks that Jesus was prepared to give his life for us all (yes, even you and me). Then the miracle Lord, that he rose from the grave—praise God! Thank you for Jesus, the most wonderful gift of all. We pray many people, all over the world will realise their need of Him, and turn to Him, gratefully. We thank you that our country is at peace. We pray that peace will come to all people whose country is at war. We pray clean water, food and shelter will reach all who need these vital items. Help us, who have so much, to help those in need, as best we can.

Bless Dr. Graham and Mr Bob Kane and their loved ones. Give them strength and wisdom to continue doing their work for you. Grant them good health and good health to all belonging to Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk. Bless the children and young people of our town and surrounding villages. We hope they will give their lives to You and live accordingly. Lord, we pray you will heal the sick, at home or in hospital, strengthen those who care for them. Comfort those who are grieving, whose hearts are in need of your special, healing touch. May the lonely realise they are never alone, that you are always with them to uplift them, Thank you.

We pray these thing in Jesus' Precious Name Amen.

Betty Hawthorn (Prayer Secretary)

May we march on as Christians in March, and may others see this and want to live like us

## Church Register

### **Funerals**

January 18<sup>th</sup>, Alexander ('Sandy') Ruxton Struth, Edinburgh  
Erskine Home  
January 27<sup>th</sup>, Dorothy Scott, Dirleton Avenue  
February 13<sup>th</sup> Anna Robb, Hilton Lodge (Craigleith View)  
February 22<sup>nd</sup> Robert ('Ronnie') Archibald, Lamb Court  
February 20<sup>th</sup> Sheila Skinner, Abbey Court

*Jesus said 'I am the Resurrection and the Life'*

### Flower List



|            | <b>Donor</b>  | <b>Arranger</b>              |
|------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| 5th March  | Mrs M Sharpe  | Clare Aitken<br>Irene Nichol |
| 12th March | Mrs J Cobb    | - do -                       |
| 19th March | Ms K Campbell | Kate Campbell                |
| 26th March | Mrs C Aitken  | Clare Aitken<br>Irene Nichol |

### Abbey Church Crèche Duty

|            |             |                     |
|------------|-------------|---------------------|
| 5th March  | Mgt Lawson  | Janice Cobb         |
| 12th March | Mandy Vance | Dorothy Kirkpatrick |
| 19th March | Sadie Young | Sue Paterson        |
| 26th March | Sarah Kerr  | Carol Stobie        |

If anyone would be willing to go on crèche duty please contact Dorothy Kirkpatrick

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