



Abbey Church

and

Dirleton Kirk News

February/March 19

**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

Dear Abbey & Dirleton Friends,

As I'm typing this, the Westminster Government is voting about the details of 'Brexit'. By the time you read this, it may or may not have been decided.

Whatever your own views, you will probably agree that this has been a time of uncertainty in our country. What will the future look like, whether within or outside the EU?

In our morning services we're following Luke's gospel. Of all the Biblical writers, he has a grasp of history, and above all of God being in control of events. But Luke the historian is also Luke the theologian; the great drama of salvation is played out on the stage of world and local events. As Tony Campolo said: 'I've seen the end of the story, and God wins!'

Jesus reminds us of the importance of loving our neighbours. This command goes right back to the Old Testament laws, and has been fundamental to our faith ever since. The man who asked Jesus 'who is my neighbour?' was answered with the story of the Good Samaritan, and then told to go and act in the same way. At the last service of 2018, I read the poem by Minnie Haskins (also quoted by the King at Christmas 1939): 'I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.

And he replied: Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way.'

Your Minister,
David

REGAL - February

Robert Burgon has previously spoken to us about the charitable work of the Worshipful Companies in the City of London.

It is wonderful to have Robert back with us after his year in London- the church organ sounds so much better.

He has had the honour of being the Master of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers. On Thursday, 14 February Robert has kindly agreed to tell us a few of the incredible experiences he has had as Master.

During his year Robert has had an insight into the inner workings of the City of London and it will be interesting for us to learn how this unique part of London operates.



The picture shows the City of London Freeman (men and women of the Worshipful Companies) exercising their right to take their sheep across London Bridge without being charged a toll.

It is a great honour to be invited to become a Freeman of the City. As it is a sign of recognition of a lifetime of achievement in a particular field.

Regal - March

In the longer days of spring, our thoughts turn to sunnier days and holidays. Consequently it seems very appropriate that on Thursday, 14 March Ian Goodall should speak to us about his recent exotic European holiday. He has called his talk "Our Balkan Rail Experience".



Ian and his wife, Sheila, travelled by train across Europe. Their furthestmost easterly point was Istanbul. Thereafter, they returned to Scotland by way of Athens, Zagreb, Sarajevo, Ljubljana and Venice; this included an overnight train from Sofia in Bulgaria.

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, meet friends and enjoy good food and fellowship.

Ian M Aitken

THE VOICE PROJECT

North Berwick



The Voice Project launches in North Berwick on Thursday 31st January. It will run from 4.15-5.15pm in Abbey Church Hall, for anyone in P5-S2. There are no auditions, no cost, and limited places so spread the word!

The Voice Project exists to enable people to find their voice and be part of a singing community. We believe that every person has a God-given voice, which, when found and released, can promote physical, emotional and spiritual well-being, increase a sense of self-confidence and, when joined with others' voices, can provide opportunities for connection and community.

Do you know any P5s-S2s who would like to come along? Booking forms will be available from the church and hopefully through schools.

Would you consider coming as an adult helper, either every week or on a rota basis? The role of an adult helper is either to motivate others by joining in with the singing, or to help encourage in a supporting role such as taking the register, or preparing juice and biscuits. As we are working with under 16's, we would need to organise a church PVG if you don't already have one.

For more information, please just get in touch - Hazel.abbeychurch@hotmail.com or telephone the office and I will get back to you.

Hazel Gray



Abbey Guild OUTLOOK

Before Dr Macfadyen's illustrated talk on the work of the World Health Organisation in the West Pacific island of Vanuatu, many would not be familiar with its geographical place on the world map, yet only the next day I read of a tsunami warning issued for the islands of New Caledonia and Vanuatu after an earthquake struck the area. Fortunately Vanuatu was not greatly affected this time.

The First Presbyterian Church of Scotland sent a young minister to Tanna in 1868. The church still stands proud of its origins.

The Christmas lunch at the Glen Golf Club was greatly enjoyed by the Guild as was our Carol Service at which Robert and Sheila Burgon enthralled us with an amazing reflection of their year spent in London as Master and Mistress of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers. They have made many new friends and visited numerous places as well as helping to ensure education and encouragement for good apprenticeship plumbers and safe water for all.

Following the Fish and Chip lunch (always welcome when the turkey has gone), we moved on to discover ways to consider the year's theme of "Seeking the Way" in drama and song. Great fun!

The next meeting's speaker will be Ken Reid, our local representative for R.N.I.B. entitled "Looking Back - Looking Forward - Beyond Sight Loss".

February 3rd The Guild will lead the services in Abbey and Fidra Care Homes. 3pm & 3.45pm.

All are welcome

February 5th St Andrew Blackadder Guild will join us for the Project "Faith in Young People" -

John Sharpe of the Boys' Brigade will speak.

February 19th Rev Sheena Orr, Prison Chaplain will speak of her work in Prisons.

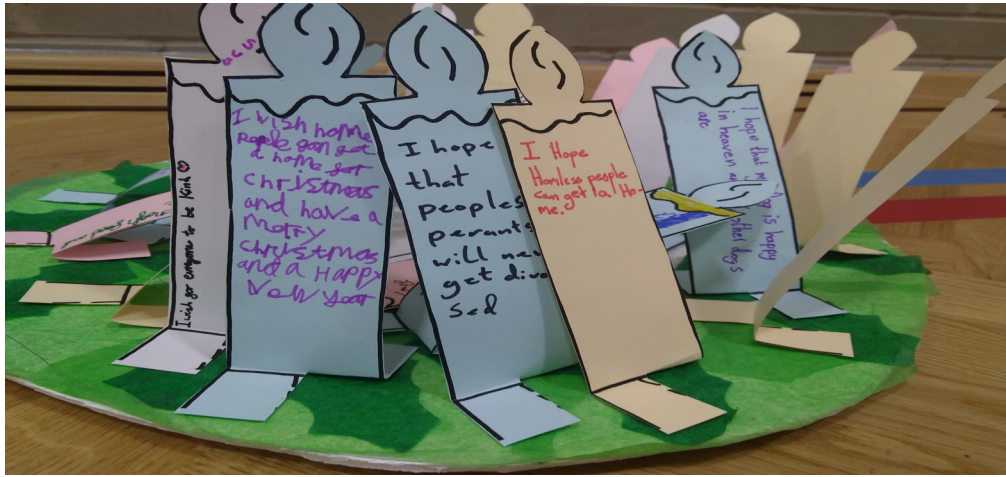
March 5th Abbey Guild is invited to join St.A.B. Guild to hear Iain Gray MSP speak on

"One Journey, Many Roads". Please note time 2.30pm

March 19th A.G.M

We have been sad to lose 6 very faithful and supportive members during the last two years, and pray for new members to join our friendly and happy Guild.

Free membership is offered to new members for the first two years.



On 6th December, a team of us from Abbey Church, and some friends from Dunbar churches, ran two sessions of **Bubblegum 'n' Fluff** for the whole of P5 at Law Primary. The event uses puppets, song, quizzes, crafts and storytelling to go back to the flavour of Christmas. It was great to have the opportunity to present a variety of activities to help them think through the meaning of Christmas and why Christians celebrate it today.

I received some lovely letters from the pupils thanking the team for all their hard work, and for explaining the meaning of Christmas to them:

"Thank you for coming in to teach us about the Christmas story. I really enjoyed learning about it..."

"It was great because now I know what Christmas is all about..."

"I liked it when we made the tealights...."

The photos attached show the Nutty Professor helping the children think about presents, the tealight holders which children decorated and took home as a reminder that



Christians believe Jesus is the light of the world, and some reflection candles that children could write their hopes for others.

Thank you to all who helped on the day. It was lovely to look round the room and see the children so engaged in the activities.

The good news is that the Easter Code is a follow on resource to help children understand Easter. We have a provisional date of 1st April to share this with the P5s. Please let me know if you would be interested in helping on the team.

Many thanks,

Hazel Gray

hazel.abbeychurch@hotmail.com)



Christmas Charities

The Christmas story speaks of discomfort, hardship, uncertainty, fear: these are the realities against which the great message of Hope is delivered.

A Promise is fulfilled, and redemption is on hand, in the unlikely form of a newly born baby.

Signs of this great wonder are given to unlikely people. Not to the uneasy, insecure, impulsive ruler brooding in his palace, but to a party of travellers who have come from abroad, having interpreted the meaning of a star. Not to the learned of the land, to the experts in history and the Law, but to working men, putting in a night shift in the cold fields above a little town.

And the response to this event is brutal, and shocking- young children and babies murdered, and messengers sent from God- to Joseph, warning of the imminent danger from the government of the day; and to the Magi, warning them against telling that government of what they had found, of the prophecies fulfilled. So, for Joseph and Mary, exile was the price of survival: and for each of the Magi, a clandestine return, to wherever it was that they called home, was necessary, if they were to avoid betraying the baby to whom they had given their gifts.

Perhaps the shepherds- hearing of the dreadful murders committed in order to try to kill the baby they had worshipped in the stable- had cause to be thankful that they were nondescript, people of little importance, who might not be thought worth questioning.

These frightening and upsetting matters are as much a part of Christmas as the joy and wonder- as the excellent dramatic interlude performed in the Kirk during worship on the last Sunday in Advent reminded us (thanks all!).

But such is the joy of Christmas that we celebrate, hugely: with food and drink, and greetings and fellowship, and gifts, and lights, and decorations. We relish our comfort and our good fortune, and for most of us, to dwell on those parts of the events of Christmas which relate to terror and hardship is to bring to mind our own good fortune, and to feel a little shudder as we compare the comforts we enjoy, with the hardships which they experienced.

None of this is intended to suggest that there is anything wrong in relishing warmth and comfort, or feasting, let alone in celebration. But it is a good way of reminding ourselves that terror, and danger, and hardship, and uncertainty remain among us. This Christmas, as usual, we took up a collection on behalf of charities working both at home and abroad; and I want to take this opportunity to provide you with a bit more information about those charities and their work. As we gave our service of worship over Christmas, by our giving we were doing something to combat those evils, just as Jesus, the baby in the manger who escaped from King Herod's envy, teaches us we should.

The Bible has much to say about slavery. The people of Israel were slaves in Egypt, and were led out of their slavery by Moses, and protected by God. Jesus teaches us that we are, each of us, made in the image

of God the Father, and that every one of us is loved equally by him, as a father loves his child. We are taught that to love our neighbour as we love ourselves is the greatest of the commandments, only excepting that we should love God: and, if that is the case, then how can we treat other people as commodities to be bought, sold and abused, rather than our brothers and sisters?

The **International Justice Mission** is a charity which works against slavery in the contemporary world. Our children study the Atlantic slave trade at school, and it is to be hoped that their curriculum will reflect the pivotal role of the Christian faith in defeating that evil trade. If it does not, then we as a church should not be shy about proclaiming that what motivated William Wilberforce to combat slavery, and others before and after him, was his Christianity. But given that the evils of the Atlantic slave trade looms so strongly in our culture today, it is possible to ignore the fact that slavery is still with us, and its contemporary manifestations are no less evil than what we fought and defeated in the past.

Slavery today can take the form of children and adults abducted into sexual degradation, or forced to work without pay, and subject to beatings and emotional abuse. Slaves in the past were sometimes chained; modern slaves may find themselves bound by



shackles equally real, through being lonely, frightened for themselves and those whom they love, far from home and in foreign countries where the law seems to offer them little protection from their abusers.

International Justice Mission is a Christian organisation, which was founded in 1997. It has offices in Africa, Latin America, South Asia and Southeast Asia, as well as in the UK, USA, Canada, Holland, Germany and Australia. It estimates that there are more than forty million people in the world who are enslaved, and that one in four of the victims of slavery are children. It estimates that human trafficking generates one hundred and fifty billion dollars a year. IJM works to rescue the victims of slavery, and to offer assistance to police and prosecuting authorities in those parts of the world where slavery is prevalent.

You can find more details of IJM and its work, and indeed make a further donation, at www.ijm.org.

Here at home, some churches in Edinburgh were moved to try to assist those sleeping rough in our prosperous capital. They were prompted by the discovery that young people were sleeping rough in the grounds of St. Cuthbert's church. **Rock Trust** was founded in 1991, and last year supported around four hundred homeless young people. It deals not only with the vital work of providing food and shelter for those sleeping rough (something with which some of our congregation have been active in doing for some time); but also- through mentoring, and advice- it attempts to identify those at risk of homelessness, and to prevent them from becoming homeless in the first place. Loneliness, precarious mental health, poverty, abusive relationships within the home, sudden unexpected events- all of these can

play a part in propelling people into homelessness, a condition of life which robs us of security.

Rock Trust believes that homelessness is more than just rooflessness: it is the absence of what so many of us have been especially cherishing over the Christmas period- love and security, a place in which to feel safe and to express our own love for God and for those around us.

For those who wish to find out more, or indeed to donate further, Rock Trust is based at 55 Albany Street, Edinburgh, EH1 3QY: its website is www.rocktrust.org.

rock trust

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

...Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

(Matt. 26, vv. 37-40)

The Minister

As recorded in the last newsletter, 10th December 2018 was the twentieth anniversary of David's induction as Minister. We marked the occasion with a presentation during worship on Sunday 9th December. And here is a photo!



My thanks once again to those responsible for making the arrangements to show our love and thanks to David (and Mary) for all their hard work over the years.

Keith Stewart

15th January 2019

Christmas Collection

A fantastic amount was raised by our congregation for our 2 chosen charities for Christmas.

Abbey Church £1,072.09, Dirleton Kirk £900

This was split evenly between International Justice Mission and The Rock Trust.

Many thanks to all.

North Berwick Stroke Club seeks Volunteers

The North Berwick Stroke Club was run for many years by Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland however, it is now an independent charity with the usual committee office-bearers e.g. Treasurer, Secretary, Chairman (all volunteers). Although under the auspices of the CHSS, the club is run solely by the Volunteers, with input from members who have all suffered Strokes.

The usual format is one hour of 'entertainment' provided either by a guest speaker/musician or by games/quizzes. Tea and biscuits is usually provided about 3.30p.m. and then everyone plays dominoes or has a chat (Sometimes both)

Occasionally outings are arranged . Eg Christmas lunch/ to pantomime/trip on canal barge etc.

Could you help? If you would like to know more about being a volunteer please contact Kate Campbell or give your name to the Church Office and someone will contact you.

If you or someone you know has had a Stroke and would maybe like to come to the Club please contact us.

Abbey Gospel Choir

Abbey Gospel Choir has started back after the Christmas break and is happy to welcome more new members! The Christmas shows were both sell-out performances and were greatly enjoyed by everyone who came along to watch. We are delighted that we managed to raise £1,800 from ticket sales and very kind donations which was split between the two charities Social Bite and Reon's Fund.

We also raised £230 from fund raising in the choir for Alzheimer's Scotland. Thank you to everyone who came along and showed their support.



A little witticism—please accept in the spirit it is intended if you are of a particular profession.

An engineer dies and reports to the Pearly Gates. St Peter checks his records and, not seeing his name there, accidentally sends him to Hell.

It doesn't take long before the engineer becomes dissatisfied with the level of comfort in Hell. He soon begins to design and build improvements.

Shortly thereafter Hell has air conditioning, flush toilets and escalators. Needless to say he is very popular.

One day God calls Satan and says "So how are things in Hell?"

Satan replies "Things are going great. We've got air conditioning, flush toilets, escalators, showers and there's no telling what this chap is going to come up with next."

"What!" God exclaims. "You've got an engineer? That's a mistake — he should never have been sent to Hell. Send him to me."

"Not a chance, " Satan replies. "I like having an engineer here and I'm keeping him."

God insists "Send him back or I'll sue."

Satan laughs uproariously and answers "Yeah, right. And where are you going to get a lawyer?"

Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk Prayers

February and March 19

Dear Friends in Christ,

Well, we're well into the New Year now! Wonder what lies ahead for each of us? Whatever, isn't it great to know that Father God will be with us, guiding us all the way? Let us pray.

Lord,

Thank you for taking care of, and loving, each and every one of us. Thank you for the gift of faith — open to all who ask forgiveness through Jesus, your son, our Saviour. Thank you Father for all the monies and gifts raised for the charities, sponsored by our churches. Bless all who gave so willingly and bless those whose lives will be enriched, even a little, by what they receive. May peace come to all.

Bless our minister, Dr Graham and our pastoral assistant, Mr Bob Kane and all their loved ones. Bless our congregations and all who lead the organisations. We bring before you those who are ill, in body, mind or spirit. Strengthen and encourage all who care for them, whether they are at home, nursing homes or hospitals. Thank you Lord.

In Jesus' precious name. Amen

May God bless you throughout the year ahead with good health and happiness

Betty Hawthorn - Prayer Secretary

Abbey Church Creche Duty Rota

3rd February	Joan Lunn	Caitriana Spencer
10th February	Margaret Lawson	Janice Cobb
17th February	Dorothy Kirkpatrick	Sadie Young
24th February	Sarah Kerr	Carol Stobie
3rd March	Ann Bell	Rose Leslie
10th March	Joan Lunn	Caitriana Spencer
17th March	Margaret Lawson	Janice Cobb
24th March	Dorothy Kirkpatrick	Sadie Young
31st March	Sarah Kerr	Carol Stobie



Abbey Church Morning Tea Rota

3rd February	Irene Nichol	Sheila McCubbing
10th February	Ann Bell	Richard Bell
17th February	Liz Harrison	Irene Brodie
24th February	Catherine Andrew	Isabel Smith
3rd March	Sadie Young	Morna McClure
10th March	Fiona Gibson	Isobel Hardie
17th March	Dorothy Kirkpatrick	Mary Graham
24th March	Sarah Kerr	
31st March	Sheila McCubbing	Irene Nichol



Abbey Church Flower Rota

Date	Donor	Arranger
3rd February	Miss D Adams	Elma Danks Dorothy Kirkpatrick
10th February	Mrs A Jardine	Elma Danks Dorothy Kirkpatrick
17th February	Mrs V Lamont	Violet Lamont Elma Danks
24th February	Mrs S Young	Sadie Young
3rd March	Mrs M Sharpe	Claire Aitken Irene Nichol
10th March	Mrs J Cobb	Claire Aitken Irene Nichol
17th March	Ms K Campbell	Kate Campbell
24th March	Mrs C Aitken	Claire Aitken Irene Nichol
31st March	Mrs A Bell	Alison Bell Irene Nichol



Church Register

Funerals

26.11.18 Charles William Bruce
6.12.18 James Findlay
13.12.18 Thomas Clapperton
17.12.18 Kay Gilbert
21.12.18 Joyce Will
3.1.19 Graeme Collin
8.1.19 Jaye Hietink
11.1.19 Gladys Daniels
11.1.19 Catherine Watt
21.1.19 Helen Wilson
22.1.19 Beatrice Marie Robertson
24.1.19 Margaret Gilford

Baptism

30.12.18 Elliot Finn Maplesden

Pastoral Visits

The Minister and Pastoral Assistant are happy to visit church members who are ill, either at home or in hospital. If in hospital, please also pass on the ward number, as this is not available to Ministers. This information should be given to the Minister (890800) or via the Church Office (892800). Thank you.

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

Church Office: 01620 892800

abbeychurch@abbeychurch.co.uk

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

Newsletters

*The next newsletter will cover April and May 2019.
The deadline for submitting articles is Tuesday 19th
March 2019. Please send to Abbey Church Office.*

If you would prefer to have your copy of the Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk newsletter emailed to you please inform your district Elder or the Abbey Church Office.

Abbeychurch.org.uk

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Abbey Church, North Berwick (Church of Scotland)

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