



**Abbey Church
and
Dirleton Kirk News
April/May 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,

When I was young, I don't remember hearing very much about Lent in church. It was something which 'other' churches did. We focussed more on the resurrection at Easter. Over the years, I have learned a lot from the season of Lent, and the ancient church practices which often accompany it.

Sometimes the ancient practices of the church are called 'disciplines'. Forty years ago, Richard Foster wrote an influential book called 'Celebration of Discipline'. Nowadays, we live in a world where we value freedom of choice rather than control, and discipline is often seen as something to be avoided, and certainly not celebrated!

The church has had something of a re-discovery of what Jeremiah called the 'ancient paths'. These paths have strengthened Christians in their faith for centuries, and they continue to do so today.

In the book, Foster introduces us to the ancient Christian practices: the 'inward' ones of prayer, fasting, meditation, & study; the 'outward' ones of simplicity, solitude, submission, & service; and the communal ones of confession, worship, guidance, and celebration.

We could do a lot worse than re-discover these for ourselves during this period of Lent and Easter. They have strengthened Christians for centuries, and still do today.

Your Minister,
David

United & Joint Services for Holy Week. All at 7.30pm

Monday 15th April,

St Adrian's, Gullane

Tuesday 16th April,

Abbey Church

followed by presentation of the Association of
Churches Community Award

Wednesday 17th April,

Our Lady Star of the Sea
Stations of the Cross

Thursday 18th April,

St Andrew Blackadder
Joint Communion Service

Friday 19th April,

Abbey Church
Good Friday service

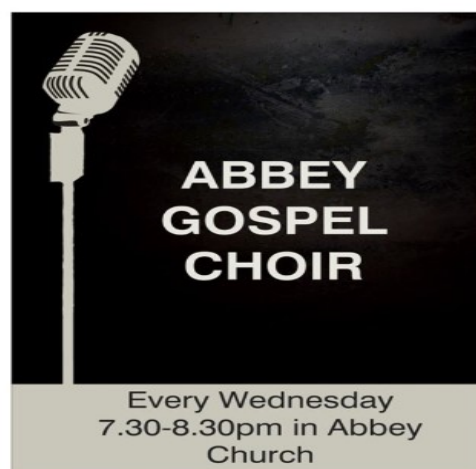


Abbey Gospel Choir

Abbey Gospel Choir is still proving to be a popular way to spend a Wednesday evening.

We now have over 140 members and we are still growing! Each choir practice is full of fun and laughter and we have a great time each week singing uplifting songs. We have an exciting few months ahead with a few big events happening. We were absolutely thrilled to be asked to sing at the Heart and Soul event in Princes Street Gardens on the 19th May!

We will also be taking part in North Berwick's Fringe by The Sea programme this summer putting on a show in Abbey Church on the 11th August. With a few other small performances thrown in along the way it's a busy but very exciting time!





Dynamic Kirk

Over the past few months we have been delighted to welcome many new families at Dynamic Kirk. Everyone has a great time with the various activities on offer from dancing with Just Dance, games and crafts. It provides a relaxed atmosphere for families and friends to come together for some fun and fellowship. Our next Dynamic Kirk is on May 26th, then on June 23rd.

Rise

We had lots of fun at our last meet up. We had 16 teens there and they all had a great time! We started the night with lasagne and ice-cream, followed by a lively debate, then some Just Dance and sports. Our next meet up is on Saturday 27th April. If you have any teens in your family that would like to come along then contact Julie at julie.abbeychurch@hotmail.com



The Guild has been blessed with an abundance of excellent speakers this year.

Our local representative Ken Reid was an inspiration to all with his talk on what has been done in 150 years of R.N.I.B.'s existence and how much he has been helped during his long term of sight loss. He now plans to participate in a sponsored walk in the Dundee Kilt Walk on 19th August to raise funds for a book for the Talking Book Library in celebration of his 60th birthday. Ken has started a sponsor page where he hopes to raise £2500. If you would like to sponsor Ken the internet site at <https://dundeekiltwalk2019.everydayhero.com/uk/ken> will give you the opportunity to do so.

This being the Scottish Year of Young People, it was befitting that we should choose for our Guild Project to support the work of the Boys' Brigade. We were fortunate indeed that the world C.E.O of the B.B.s lives in Dunbar and was able to demonstrate to us how the programme has modernised and expanded.

So far, £16156 has been raised in Scotland for the Boys' Brigade and £15318 for our second Project, the Free to Live Trust. Next year, along with St.A.B. Guild we shall choose another two Projects to support.

For the majority of people, the work of the Prison Chaplain is unknown. We were glad to learn how the inmates are invited to come to 'church' and thereby may find hope in Jesus Christ.

The Rev Sheena Orr was grateful of our interest and will donate our gift to her to a prison in Kenya.

We joined St.A.B. Guild to hear of the many roads that led our MSP, Iain Gray into politics which fitted perfectly to our Theme for this year, "Seeking the Way". Our thanks go to St.A.B. for arranging a most edifying and enjoyable afternoon.

All that remains is the AGM. With faith and hope, the next OUTLOOK will announce the new committee and information about a Summer Outing.

With sincere thanks to all who have worked hard to support the Guild and the Projects during the year.

Busy People

Do you find it difficult to find time to read the Bible? Perhaps you don't even know where your Bible is! Help is at hand. If you have access to the internet, simply click on the Abbey Church website, scroll down the first page and click on "Daily Prayer and Reading". The content changes daily. If you don't have access to the internet, this is a good thing to pass on to people who do. You will be amazed at the response.



REGAL

For the first three of Regal's meetings in 2019 we have had a diverse selection of talks ranging from Bob Kane's Lost Resolutions to Ian Goodall's exciting rail journey from North Berwick to Istanbul and back through different countries. Between these we had Robert Burgon telling us about his experiences of being Master of the Worshipful Company of Plumbers.

The number of people attending our meetings is now always in the 20s. Consequently, after lunch when we pass round the basket there are donations of more than £100; at the end of the year this means we gift over £600 to charities of our choice.

The next time that we meet will be for our summer outing on Thursday, 13th June.



Following up suggestions made at the last meeting I plan that we visit the Royal yacht Britannia which is now based in Leith. The yacht is open all day and I would suggest that we board her at 11.00 am; thereafter we will adjourn for lunch in one of the adjacent restaurants in Ocean terminal.

In the meantime I hope that you enjoy some spring weather and manage a little relaxation in the sun.

Ian M Aitken



You are invited

Abbey Church is running an Alpha course starting on Sunday 28th April at 6pm in the church hall. Alpha is a series of interactive sessions that freely explore the basics of the Christian faith. It is equally suitable for those of some faith and those of none and with no church background.

Alpha takes place across a series of sessions with the option of a day away in the middle. Each session includes food, a short film and a discussion at the end where you can share your thoughts. If at any point you decide Alpha isn't for you, that's not a problem. There's no pressure, no follow up and no charge. If you have never been to an Alpha course - come, if you have been a long time ago then this course is a new updated version come and bring a friend. If you are already a Christian Alpha will help you to explain your Christian faith to those around you. Alpha is for everyone. Please could you let the church office know if you are coming, for catering purposes.

COURSE DATES - 28 April - 30 June 2019

Sunday evenings, 6.00 - 8.15 pm

DURATION - 10 weeks

COST - Free (£5 suggested donation towards food)

This article was seen in 'Our Daily Bread' published by Resources for Biblical Communication.

'WHO WILL DO THE WORK?'

The following letter, which speaks for itself, was circulated in a large congregation.

Our church membership	1400
Non-resident members	75
Balance left to do the work	1325

Elderly who've done their share	25
Balance left to do the work	1300

Sick and shut ins	25
Balance left to do the work	1300

Members who do not give	350
Christmas and Easter members	300
Balance left to do the work	625

Members who are over worked	300
Balance left to do the work	325

Members with alibis	200
Balance left to do the work	125

Members too busy with other things	123
Balance left to do the work	2

Just you and me friend and you had better get busy because it's too much for me

The article finished with these lines by an anonymous writer:

The church is made up of two kinds of folk,

No matter how you and I view it -

**The ones who just talk about what should be done, and
those who get busy and do it.**

North Berwick & District Association of Churches

A presentation on 'Fresh Start' was given by Carrie-Ann Scougall, it's new business manager.

Since 1999 help has been given to the homeless through practical support.

'Recycling First' at Macmerry sends a van to North Berwick once a week to help
admin@freshstartweb.org.uk is the contact.

World Day of Prayer was on March 1st at Our Lady Start of the Sea.

Christian Aid Service will be led by the Christian Fellowship on May 12th At Abbey Church.

World Homeless day Service will be on October 12th.

St Adrian's, Gullane is to have a children's church once a month.

Abbey Church has employed two youth workers. They work with Law primary staff. Hazel Gray has started a parent room initiative from 3-4pm. She is planning a holiday club with help from churches.

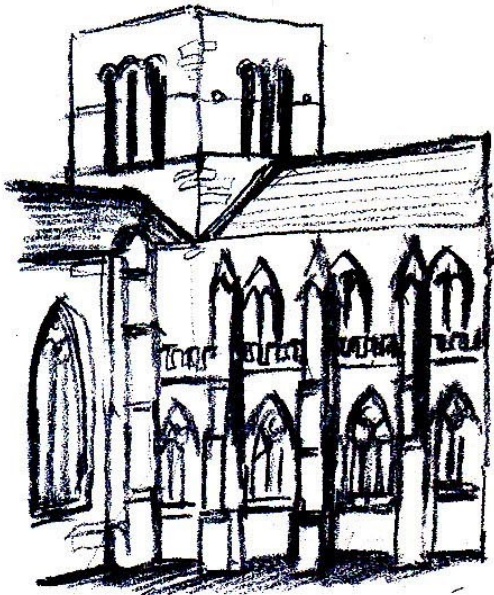
The food bank received 20,000 kilos of food over Christmas.

Report by Nancy Steel

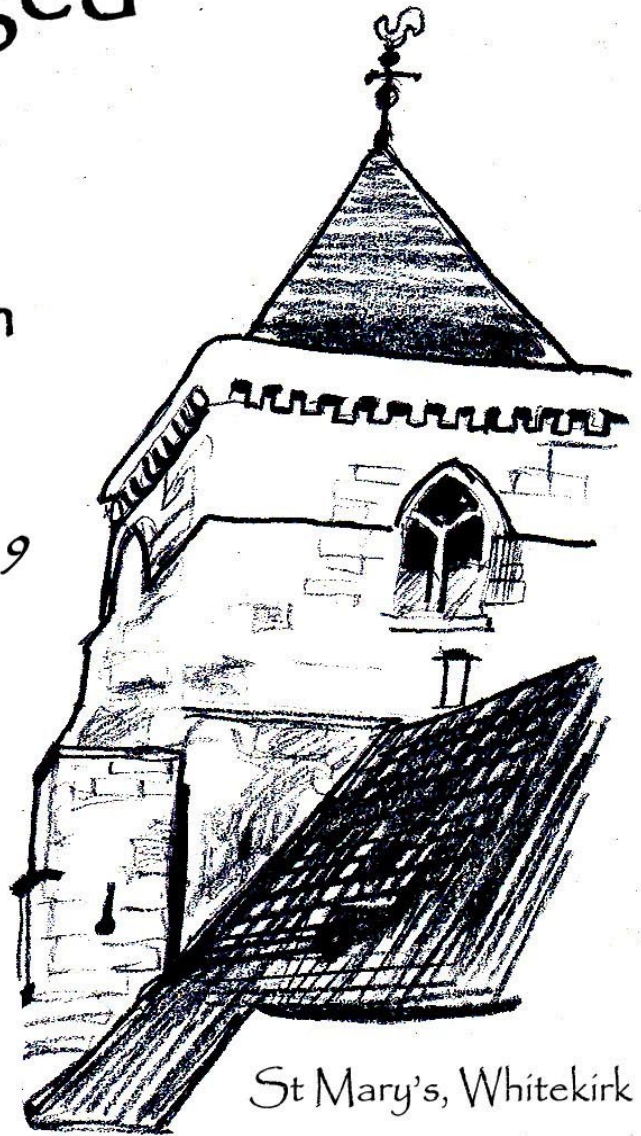
'The Rugged Pathway' -

An East Lothian Pilgrimage

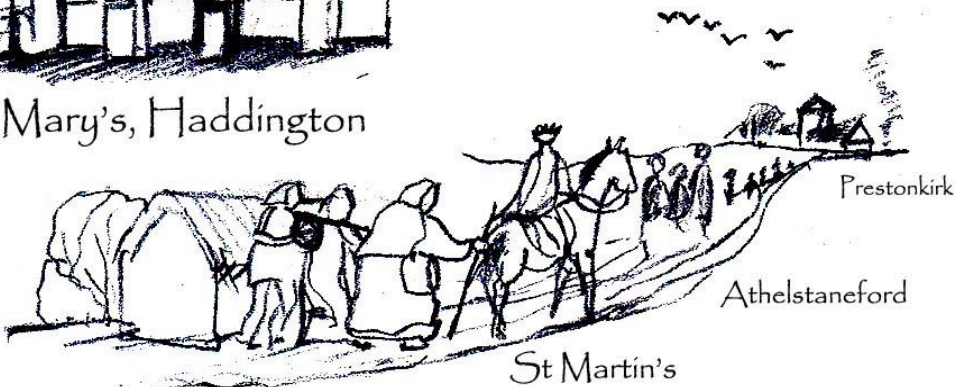
Saturday 4th May 2019



St Mary's, Haddington



St Mary's, Whitekirk



Athelstaneford

Prestonkirk

St Martin's

For information on how to register, please contact Emily Armatage,
david.armatage@talk21.com or 01620 822520

pictures by Stewart Carruthers

Music at Dirleton

We welcome Jim Dickson into the post of organist at Dirleton Kirk. He was among those organists who helped on an occasional basis after the retirement of Rena Clapperton, and we have greatly appreciated the beauty of his playing, and his enthusiasm. As well as playing for us at Sunday worship, and for other occasions such as weddings, Jim is taking a very active role in the repair and preservation of our organ, consulting with Jamie Lightoller on what requires to be done.

Jim was trained and employed for nineteen years as a Design Draughtsman of Heavy Power Transformers. He then branched off into music, obtaining a Licentiate in Organ Performance L.T.C.L. then adding an L.T.C.L. C. M. T. in teaching, and a teaching diploma. He took up a Principal Teachers Post at Ross High School, Tranent, serving there for nineteen years before moving to Mary Erskine's and Stewart's Melville for his remaining working years. Throughout that time he played organ, playing for eight Churches- most recently Holy Trinity, Haddington. He tells us that he has served as a church organist- mainly with the Church of Scotland and also with the Scottish Episcopal Church- for a total of sixty eight years!

We are delighted that Jim has been prepared to make the commitment to help us in our worship, driving a fair distance on Sundays alone, as well as helping with the organ and offering guidance and encouragement to musicians among us.

Psalm 98, verse 4: Make a joyful noise unto the Lord, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

Visiting preacher

Dr. Todd Still holds the post of Charles J. and Eleanor McLerran DeLancey Dean, and of William M. Hinson Professor of Christian Scriptures, at Baylor University in Texas. Earlier this year he was visiting Scotland as the William Barclay Distinguished Visiting Fellow at Trinity College, University of Glasgow, and, as an old friend of David and Mary, was able to come to preach to us. We heard him preach a thoughtful and inspiring sermon on the subject of pessimism, and how there is no room for it in the Christian faith. Thanks Todd, for your words of encouragement, faith and reassurance, in the face of all the challenges which the world is always presenting to us.

Fresh Start

One of the charities which we assisted over Christmas was the Rock Trust, which works with homeless people in Edinburgh. Continuing that theme, the Association of Churches in North Berwick heard recently from another charity carrying out similar work. Fresh Start's aims and objectives are to enable people who have been homeless to resettle in the community; to provide volunteering opportunities that offer practical and emotional support; to help its clients develop their skills; and to involve church members and the wider community in its work to end homelessness.

Fresh Start can be contacted via the website, <admin@freshstartweb.org.uk>; or by telephone, 0131 476 7741. They appreciate donations; they have a warehouse at Macmerry, but will also arrange for donations to be collected.

Thanks

We acknowledge the contribution to our life and work of two of our members. Peter Kimber, has stood down from active eldership after many years' service. Belinda Chalmers has also stood down from duty, having been especially prominent in the flower team, where her professional eye has helped us appreciate the beauty of creation in innovative and inspiring ways. Thanks both, for your work so far, as we continue on the road together.

Communion at Dirleton Kirk

We issue a warm welcome to everyone to join us round the Lord's table for Communion on Sunday 21st April. The special collection taken will be given to the Twinning Fund, which maintains our links with our twinned church at Kalimpong in North India.

Keith Stewart

Dirleton Kirk

You are warmly invited to Holy Communion at 9.30
on 21st April



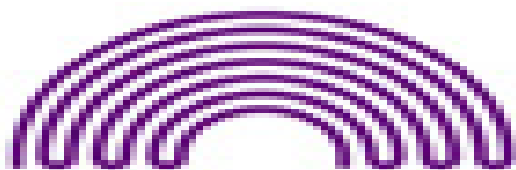
Our special offering is for
'The Twinning Fund'

Bethany

Abbey and Dirleton are catering again for the Bethany Care Shelter on 6th April and 2nd May at Stenhouse Church at the west side of Edinburgh. This has been a permanent venue since the end of 2018 and beds and shower facilities are provided as well as a hot meal and breakfast. The users are picked up by mini bus at the foot of Lothian Road and taken back into town the next morning. This service is organised by volunteers.

The maximum capacity is seventy five and the numbers have been very high again. Ruth from Bethany said there were 82 one night. Everyone deserves a safe warm bed at night so please remember these homeless people in your prayers.

If you are able to go on either of these dates please contact Dorothy Kirkpatrick. We need 2 drivers including 2 men and 4 ladies.



Bethany
Christian
Trust

Visit from Lithuania.

You may remember the excitement when the Berlin wall came down and people from both sides of the barrier between East and West crumbled. As the old "cold war" was ending, people separated for decades could meet and learn about one another and work together.

Two women, from Belarus and Czechoslovakia, made a request to the Ecumenical Forum of European Women for training to help set up new community projects to deal with people in need in their countries. We drafted a training project, based on a new Scottish programme for business schools in Ukraine and Poland. Women were very eager to learn how to establish and run new initiatives. They faced teenagers living in railway stations, elderly people whose pensions could buy only bread for a month, and children, whose parents no longer had work or subsidised housing, were found living in basements and sewers during Moscow winters. These women knew what they wanted to do in their communities, and we created the "Lydia Project" to encourage them and introduce them to non-governmental organisations.

After raising funds, the first two-stage programme began in 1995-6. For three weeks women from all over Eastern Europe came to Chelakovice, near Prague. We encouraged practice in English, learning by acting out many social situations, planning events together and pricing them with local costs to create budgets, sharing the social problems each was familiar with and planning clear project proposals for meeting the needs of vulnerable people. Everyone was inspired by the hope and plans involved, helping one another and learning that many of the participants shared situations across the region.

A year later, the same group of women came to Scotland, arriving bedraggled and wet on buses from London, which they had assumed was near! Friends offered to meet these buses, to help use computers at the university lab, to drive women to visit many local community projects, to dance Scottish dances and to watch the fireworks at the end of the Edinburgh Festival. Each participant visited a parish in Scotland, explaining their hopes for their new projects in public and bravely sharing plans.

One programme led to another, and the Lydia Project was invited to the Balkan countries, gathering in central Bulgaria in an Eastern Orthodox monastery run by two elderly nuns. Another group from the Baltic countries met in Lithuania and Janina Galkauskaitė, who had been a participant in the first programme, organised everything in her town of Vilnius. In 2000, all former groups met in Poland to share the work they were doing. Each one was inspired by the ideas and projects of the others. Mutual inspiration and support was giving further hope and ideas. As one Bulgarian said: "At first I thought my project would happen. Now I am not so sure, but now I have ten ideas for projects in my head!"

Women from around the Black Sea met in the north-eastern mountains of Romania and visited Transylvania, too. We went to Iona for part of the Scottish programme, with many drivers helping the group to reach Oban or return to the Gillis Centre, which was our Scottish home when in Edinburgh.

Once different groups had developed a variety of projects in their countries, we planned peer-learning exchange programmes, which happened in Albania, in Lithuania and Latvia, as well as in Armenia and Transylvania.

When the Church of Scotland Guild chose the Lydia Project as one of its projects for 2006-2009, participants came from all of Central and Eastern Europe to Poland to plan joint, international programmes to deal with similar problems. "Children not for Sale" dealt with the trafficking of children from Moldova, Belarus and other countries. "Never Too Late to Learn" ran programmes for working with elderly people in Transylvania and in Armenia. A Ukrainian helped her friends across the Black Sea run a summer camp for very impoverished and street children in Georgia.

As people became more familiar with the possibilities of community projects and non-governmental organisations, they were able to show supporters and workers how they worked and after 25 years the Lydia Project drew to a close. It was a wonderful opportunity to learn about other people and to share in their dreams and programmes. There are many stories to tell, and Janina Galkauskaite is going to share some of them with us when she is here at the end of April/early May. Do come and hear her at the Guild meeting.

**2:00 - 4:00 pm on Tuesday, April 30th
at Abbey Church, North Berwick.**



Summer Holiday Club

Summer holiday club is an exciting opportunity to help children to find out more about Jesus and what it means to follow him. School holidays are a fantastic time to engage with children and young people in our community. Holiday Club provides a fun, engaging, active programme that presents key stories from the Bible, introducing the Christian faith.

This summer we will be launching a holiday club in North Berwick for children. It is a joint churches venture under the umbrella of SU Scotland. **It will run Monday to Friday the week of 22nd July.** More information will be available soon, but please let people know this date. We will need help with lots of different roles during the week - prayer, food, drama, music, crafts, games..... and lots more.

If you are interested in helping in any way, please get in touch with Hazel - tel. 077870 849737 or hazel.abbeychurch@hotmail.com

Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk Prayers

April and May 2019

Dear friends in Christ

Easter comes bringing joy to all Christians—worldwide, let us give thanks to God, let's pray.

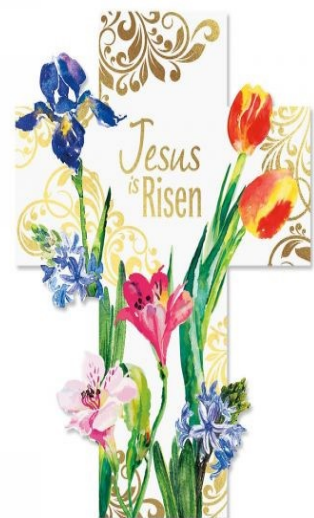
Eternal Father, by whose power our Lord Jesus Christ was raised from the dead, with the whole company of your people in heaven and on earth we rejoice and give thanks that he who was dead is alive again and lives for evermore; that he is now and always, and that nothing can part us from your love in Him; that He has opened the way to your kingdom and brought us the gift of eternal life. All glory, praise and thanksgiving, all worship, honour and love be your almighty and everlasting God in time and for all eternity.

Bless our minister, Rev Dr Graham, our pastoral assistant, Mr Bob Kane and all their loved ones. Bless too, the congregations of both Dirleton and Abbey Churches and all who are ill and all who care for them.

In Jesus' precious name. Amen

Betty Hawthorn

Prayer Secretary



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

Members of the Worship Committee work with the Minister to plan special services (especially at Christmas, Easter and Harvest) and also consider any issues which relate to the worship in our congregation.

At its last meeting (held on 29 January 2019) the issues discussed by the Committee included:

- The physical condition of our church hymn books and bibles.
- In recognition that not everyone who worships with us may be familiar with the words of the Lord's Prayer, the Committee accepted a suggestion from the Kirk Session that these words should be printed in the weekly notices and projected on the screen.
- The reintroduction of a rota for people to lead prayers of intercessions.
- The problems which some members have in seeing the words on the screen when printed against certain colour backgrounds.
- Services for Holy Week and Christian Aid Week.

The Committee would like to add one or two new members. We meet 3 or 4 times a year for one hour- so the time commitment isn't huge. If you are interested in any aspect of worship and would like to join us, please speak to me after a service or email me on

RDBurgon@aol.com

Robert D Burgon, Convenor

Our Lent Appeal



As we approach a time of joyful celebration in the Church calendar we ask if you might consider doing something for international relations...making a small but significant contribution towards greater understanding worldwide.

HOST's mission is to give a welcome to international students in British homes for friendship and cultural exchange. Our volunteer hosts can offer hospitality for one day (daytime only) or three days and two nights at the weekend.

Please consider becoming one of our volunteer hosts. We operate all year round and would very much welcome you to join us.

More information can be found on our website: www.hostuk.org

Or email us on: info@hostuk.org

Or telephone us on: **020 7739 6292**



Abbey Church Creche Duty Rota

7th April	Anne Bell	Rose Leslie
14th April	Joan Lunn	Caitriana Spencer
21st April	Dorothy Kirkpatrick	Sadie Young
28th April	Sarah Kerr	Carol Stobie
5th May	Anne Bell	Rose Leslie
12th May	Joan Lunn	Caitriana Spencer
19th May	Margaret Lawson	Janice Cobb
26th May	Dorothy Kirkpatrick	Sadie Young



Abbey Church Morning Tea Rota

7th April	Richard Bell	Anne Bell
14th April	Irene Brodie	Liz Harrison
21st April	Isabel Smith	Catherine Andrew
28th April	Morna McClure	Sadie Young
5th May	Isobel Hardie	Fiona Gibson
12th May	Mary Graham	Dorothy Kirkpatrick
19th May	Sarah Kerr	
26th May	Irene Nichol	Sheila McCubbing



Abbey Church Flower Rota

Date	Donor	Arranger
7th April	Mrs J Donald	Irene Brodie
14th April	Mrs H MacKenzie	Fiona Hutchison
21st April	Mrs J Griffiths Mrs M Graham	Joan Griffiths
28th April	Mrs V Young Mrs I Brodie	Irene Brodie
5th May	Mrs C Hill Mrs M MacLean	Margaret MacLean
12th May	Mrs E Harrison	Dorothy Kirkpatrick Sadie Young
19th May	Mrs F Fallmyr	Francis Fallmyr
26th May	Mrs S Burgon	Dorothy Kirkpatrick Sadie Young

April
SHOWERS
BRING
May
FLOWERS



Church Register

Funerals

1.2.19 Muriel Halkett
1.2.19 Stella Hay
12.2.19 Eliza Crowe
19.2.19 Liliias McNicoll
22.2.19 Elaine Campbell
25.3.19 Ian Harris

Wedding

15.3.19 Nicholas Palmer and Nicola Jenkins

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 June and July 2019. The deadline for submitting articles is Tuesday 14th May 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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And Twitter:DirletonAbbey



Abbey Church, North Berwick (Church of Scotland)

Scottish Charity No. SCO 04761—CCL51436