



## **Abbey Church and**

**Dirleton Kirk News  
August/September 2023**

**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**

**Dirleton  
Wednesdays 10am Half  
Hour Prayer Service**



Dear Friends,

Two of the most important things which a church can provide are worship and pastoral care.

With that in mind, there will soon be some opportunities for local training in looking after people's spiritual needs, and also in taking part in or leading worship. On two Monday evenings in the Autumn, we're fortunate to have the services of Jacqui Lindsay to lead us in some training in pastoral Care. She is a qualified counsellor, and the Pastoral Assistant at Morningside Parish Church.

The dates are Monday 25<sup>th</sup> September, and Monday 9<sup>th</sup> October, both starting at 6.30pm. To help plan the evenings, anyone wishing to attend will be expected to come to both nights, and to have booked a place (numbers are limited). If you'd like to come, please let the Minister or the Office know. There will also be an email about it nearer the time, to which you can reply, but it will be 'first come, first served'.

Regarding worship, the minister is preparing some informal afternoon meetings for anyone who is already involved, or would like to be, in leading worship. This might range from doing the reading in church, leading the prayers, speaking at a Care Home service, or conducting a full church service. Dates and details will follow.

We believe in the 'priesthood of all believers', in other words that we all have a part to play in Christ's church. Let's pray that we can motivate and mobilise each other in that.

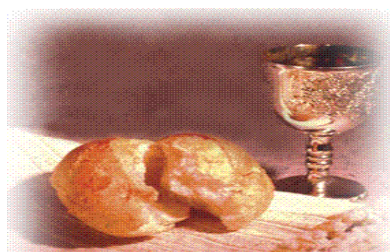
Worship, and pastoral care. 'But what about mission?' I hear you say! Yes, that is also vital. 'The Church exists by mission as a fire exists by burning'. But I believe that if we are a worshipping congregation ('in Spirit and in truth'), and a caring family ('who is my neighbour?'), then our mission will quite naturally emerge from that.

Your minister,  
David

## Church services

Our morning services continue looking at 'Stories Jesus Told' (the parables) until the end of August, then we'll start a new theme.

On Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> August we have an evening communion service in Abbey at 6pm.



Hello everyone,

The World Church Committee is badly in need of some fresh input and momentum. Would you PLEASE consider joining our committee?

The committee meets perhaps three times a year and over the last few years we have raised awareness and small sums for initiatives such as Christian Aid, Eco church (through our awareness raising Cherished Clothing initiative), The Sophie Hayes Foundation( anti human trafficking and slavery) and The Teapot Trust (providing Art Therapy for children with life limiting medical conditions). In reality the work of the World Church committee is just a small fraction of Abbey and Dirleton churches response to world need. Our congregations have also enhanced communications with our twinning partners in Kalimpong, raised contributions for the Foodbank, participated annually in the Blythwood shoebox appeal and the Harvest appeal, and supported Rotary fundraising for crises in Ukraine, Syria and Türkiye amongst others.

With climate change and political and economic instabilities, there is surely plenty of opportunity for us to be finding ways of helping people in need both home and abroad.

We would love to have you join us.

If you would like to know more please reach out to any of our current committee: Yolanda Strachan, Dorothy Kirkpatrick , Janice Cobb, Ronald Ironside and in Dirleton Kirk, Liz Keddie.

## Abbey Kirk Session

### Robert Burgon



We are fortunate that it has been possible to welcome visitors from all over the world into our churches seven days a week during the summer months and it is heartening to read the messages and comments which many of them leave in our visitors' books. So often the comment is along the lines that people are pleasantly surprised to find churches with an open door. Others mention words like "peace," "calm" and "serenity" to describe our places of worship. Sadly, throughout our land, too many church doors are being closed, never to open again for either worship or for visitors. Long may Abbey and Dirleton continue to welcome visitors, both to our services of worship and at other times.

Speaking of visitors, it was good to welcome back Jeanette Wilson on one Sunday recently (with her Mum, Moira) and to hear about what she has been doing over the year since her placement with our congregations. It is encouraging to see (relatively) young people like Jeanette on their journey to full-time ministry and we give her our blessings for the next stage of her preparation which will be at Livingston Old Church (a place where Rev David Torrance ministered early in his career).

As we have been enjoying some good sunshine in recent weeks, our thoughts turn to our Harvest Festival on the weekend of 30 September/1 October when we will give God thanks for the harvest (which we pray will have benefitted from the sunshine and showers). This year, our harvest offerings will be directed towards the work of the charity Mary's Meals in Zambia. Although too many families suffer from food poverty in this country, the situation in many other countries, like Zambia, is even worse and the knock-on effect on children and their health and education can be devastating. Mary's Meals tell us that it costs them only £19.15 to feed a child for every day of the school year and we trust that through the generosity of our congregations we will be able to help them feed a large number of children in the year ahead. Cardboard collection boxes for loose change will be available in church from end-August and donations by cheque and in notes would also be very welcome. It is hoped that we might be able to welcome a speaker from Mary's Meals at our morning services on 1 October. All will be very welcome at the Harvest Supper in the Abbey Church hall on the evening of Saturday 30 September 2023. Details will be provided in the intimations nearer the time.

A visitor to a joint meeting of the Abbey and Dirleton Kirk Sessions meeting on 26 June commented that the

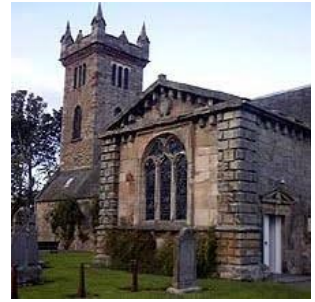


most valuable time of any church service is the 10-minutes immediately after the worship service concludes. His meaning was simply that if visitors come to church and leave without anyone having spoken to them, they might be unlikely to return. Members of our Kirk Sessions recognise that our two congregations have always been seen as welcoming, whether before or after services, at the coffee time or when meeting people outside of church activities. This goes a long way to explaining why both churches have recently seen an increase in the number of people who return regularly after their first visit-and we pray that no visitor will ever leave our churches with the feeling that their presence was not appreciated by others who came to church for the same purpose- to worship God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit in the fellowship of other believers.

The Abbey Young People's Worker, Hazel Gray, left us at the end of June to focus her time on other work and commitments. Hazel has been part of our staff team since 2018. We appreciate all of the work which she has carried out on our behalf and wish her well in all that she does in the future. The Abbey Kirk Session has agreed that we should recruit someone else to develop our work with young people and families and the recruitment process is expected to start in the near future.

## Dirleton Kirk Session

Keith Stewart



Our thanks to all involved in carrying out the annual inspection of the fabric of the Kirk and its buildings. There are some who appear to consider that the need to maintain beautiful and historic buildings, to preserve serene interior spaces as places of worship and contemplation, are in a sense distractions from the active role of the church in the contemporary world. Of course it is easy to ponder the cost of upkeep of buildings such as ours, and consider what might be done with the money by way of alleviating poverty, or caring for the sick- activities central to, and in the forefront of, the mission of God's church in the world. But these are not the only tasks of the church, serving as it does a Kingdom which is not of this world. Jesus told a rich young man that he should, in order to get eternal life, as well as obeying the commandments, sell his possessions and give to the poor. But He also reproached those of his disciples who were indignant at the woman who anointed Him at Bethany with a very expensive perfume, which, they said, might have been turned instead into money, and that money given to the poor. The woman's action is seen as prefiguring Jesus' imminent death on the cross: but it was in itself a



beautiful action, beyond criticism.

The time, energy, and money laid out on our church buildings might be dedicated instead to the charitable purposes of treating poverty and disease: these are aspects of the church's mission, but not the whole of that mission. When we are in church, during formal worship or at other times, we can find beauty, peace, uplift; we can be challenged- by the embodiment of the faith shown by others, to be found in stone, in stained glass and carved wood, in music, in continuity- to strive all the harder for the accomplishment of our mission, in whatever ways we can make a difference.



We were all saddened to hear of the death of John Gray, a faithful elder of Dirleton Kirk for many years. Just as we have missed him from among us during his illness, so we will continue to miss his kindly and good humoured presence. Everyone will have their own fond memories of John, of his jokes, of service to the Kirk Session, of the many acts of kindness which he performed so frequently. We send our love and prayers to Denise and to all the Gray family.



Tuesday Afternoon Group meet from the end of September until Easter. Meetings are fortnightly and start at 2pm in Abbey large hall unless stated otherwise. Meetings last about an hour with tea and fellowship at the end. Speakers talk on a variety of topics, and anyone can come along to one, several or all meetings. TAG supports the Church of Scotland's Guild three-year Project Plan.

The first few meetings of our new syllabus are as follows:

### September

19th 2:00pm Starchild Uganda - "Finding the light in every child" Joint Project Meeting at St Andrew Blackadder

26th 12:30pm "Say Cheese!" - Ploughman's Lunch and Quiz

### October

3rd 2:00pm Vine Trust - Joint Project Meeting at St. Andrew Blackadder

10th 2:00pm MAF - Mission Aviation Fellowship

"Say Cheese" is an informal get-together over a light Lunch to catch up with each other. Why don't you come along and give us a try!

St. Andrew Blackadder are host to two Project meetings. Starchild Uganda was carried forward from last year. The project addresses the challenges of stigma and myths related to intellectual and physical disability in Uganda.



VineTrust

The Vine Trust- "Kazunzu Village of Hope" will enable volunteers to provide medical, home-building and care support to communities living in severe poverty in Tanzania and Peru.

# Abbey Church (All Funds)

## Quarter to 30th June 2023

### General

Receipts exceeded payments by £500. This is much better than budget.

### Income

We are very grateful to the Andrews family for the receipt of £1,000 shown in legacies.

(Note - If you are a tax payer and wish the Abbey to recover the tax paid by yourself please would you ask for a gift-aid form by phoning the office or ask Phil for one. Alternatively, both the gift-aid and the standing order form are available from the Abbey Church website).

### Expenditure

Premises costs are currently below budget. The costs of the basement flood are collected in a suspense account, on receipt of an insurance payment the balance will be included in Premises costs. Additional to this there are some substantial bills outstanding!

With Church Office expenses an updated photocopier has been ordered. As this is leased it should not have a dramatic effect on Church Office expenses. If you have any questions please ask.

### Your Finance Team

1 Income - Gift-aid	Phil Spencer
Income - Hall Rentals	Paola Burrows
2 Payment of bills	Janice Cobb
3 Payroll	David Aston
4 Accounting - OSCR, periodic accounts and Church of Scotland	Stuart Ainslie

Abby Church—North Berwick  
Budget v Actual at 30 June 2023  
All Funds

<b>Income (All Funds)</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Budget to 30 June</b>	<b>Actual to 30 June</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Offerings	62,000	30,998	33,443	2,445
Tax reclaim	14,000	7,000	7,958	958
Miscellaneous	7,000	2,500	948	(1,552)
Premises income	18,000	9,000	8,547	(453)
Investment income	4,200	2,100	2,917	817
Legacies	-	-	1,090	1,090
Sale of Investments	-	-	-	-
Dirleton	6,000	3,000	3,000	-
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>111,200</b>	<b>54,598</b>	<b>57,903</b>	<b>3,305</b>
<b>Expenditure (All Funds)</b>	<b>Annual Budget</b>	<b>Budget to 30 June</b>	<b>Actual to 30 June</b>	<b>Variance</b>
Church of Scotland payments	46,223	23,510	23,510	-
Pastoral Expenses	11,950	5,973	4,376	1,597
Other Salaries	33,360	16,644	17,301	(657)
Premises costs	22,677	10,957	8,310	2,647
Church Office Expenses	4,360	2,180	2,296	(116)
Investments	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	7,430	1,327	1,610	(283)
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>126,000</b>	<b>60,591</b>	<b>57,403</b>	<b>3,188</b>
<b>Budget for 2023</b>	<b>(14,800)</b>			
<b>Budget for 2nd quarter 2023</b>		<b>(5,993)</b>		
<b>Income in excess of expenditure</b>			<b>500</b>	
<b>Positive Variance</b>				<b>6,493</b>

## WALT

**Women Are Learning Together** restarts on Monday, 4th September in Abbey small hall. This group takes the form of an informal women's Bible study where we explore and discuss our thoughts on characters or topics in the Old and New Testaments and look at their relevance to our lives today. We meet on the first Monday of every month at 2:00pm. Hot drinks are available from 1:45.

The theme for the next few months is "Come Dine with Jesus". The study on the 4th September is entitled "Mass Catering" and we will look at the Feeding of the 4000 and 5000. This can be found in the following books in the New Testament.

### Feeding of the 4000

Matthew 15:32-39

Mark 8:1-9

### Feeding of the 5000

Matthew 14 :13-21

Mark 6:31-44

Luke 9 :12-17

John 6:1-14

All women are warmly invited to join us.



# Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk Prayer

## August & September 2023

We bring to you Lord all children returning to school, others beginning school (which can be quite an ordeal for some), some beginning high school and others progressing to university and college.

We pray for the different organisations starting up after a summer break. We pray for all those who attend, whether they have been before or will attend for the first time, that they will be made to feel welcome wherever they go. We pray too that those who are regular attenders at events will be encouraged to provide a warm welcome to anyone who is attending for the first time. We know, Lord, what it can mean to be a newcomer, so we pray for lots of happy welcoming faces.

We pray too for those attending church for the first time, that they will be welcomed into the fellowship. Help us, with your strength, Lord, to be welcomers wherever we may be and whoever we meet.

We ask these things in Jesus' precious name.

Betty Hawthorn  
Prayer Secretary



## Abbey Church Flower Rota

DATE	DONOR	ARRANGER
6 August	Susan Ainslie	Susan Ainslie Kate Campbell
13 August	Kate Campbell	Susan Ainslie Kate Campbell
20 August	Dorothy Danks	Susan Ainslie Kate Campbell
27 August	Linda Scott	Susan Ainslie Kate Campbell
3 Sept	Ann Bell	Ann Bell
10 Sept	Sheila McCubbing	Sheila McCubbing
17 Sept	Maureen Griffiths Chris Manning	Sheila McCubbing
24 Sept	Morna McClure	Morna McClure



## Abbey Church Sunday Tea Rota

DATE	
6 August	Rose Leslie & Mary Graham
13 August	Bel Hardie & Linda McLean
20 August	Susan Ainslie
27 August	Isabel Smith & Sadie Young
3 September	Katrina Hendry
10 September	Irene Nichol & Ann Bell
17 September	Fiona Gibson
24 September	Rose Leslie & Mary Graham



Please have a look at our website

<https://www.abbeychurch.org.uk/>

To get information of all the events organised by  
Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk.

Sunday Services, prayer meetings, bible classes, TAG  
REGAL, WALT, Alpha, Little Nippers, The Voice Pro-  
ject, to mention but a few.

We have many other groups using our church halls,  
Physiotherapy Plus, pilates classes, Jo Jingles, fitness  
classes, The Drama Mill, The Brownies, Dunedin Dance,  
Freedom and Form, Interoception Yoga, The Scone  
Café.

If you are interested in hiring our halls on a regular  
basis or for a 'one off' event please get in touch with  
Abbey Church office on 01620 892800 or  
[abbeychurch@abbeychurch.co.uk](mailto:abbeychurch@abbeychurch.co.uk)



## Church Register

### Baptisms

18.6.23 Finlay Malcolm Oliver

### Weddings

1.7.23 Callum Hayter & Sarah McEwan

15.7.23 Christopher Martin & Jillian McNicoll

### Funerals

5.6.23 Tom Scott

7.8.23 John Rennie Gray

## Pastoral Visits

The Minister and Pastoral Assistant are happy to contact church members if requested. In the first instance, please contact the Minister (892410) or the Church Office (892800). For privacy reasons, any request for a pastoral visit should come from the individual or a family member.

It would also be helpful to have a mobile number, and the details of the person's next of kin.

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

Church Office: 01620 892800

[abbeychurch@abbeychurch.co.uk](mailto:abbeychurch@abbeychurch.co.uk)

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

*Working remotely Wednesday and Thursday*

### **Newsletters**

The next newsletter will cover October and November 2023. The deadline for submitting articles is Tuesday 19th September 2023. Please send to Abbey Church Office.

[Abbeychurch.org.uk](http://Abbeychurch.org.uk)

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Abbey Church, North Berwick (Church of Scotland)

Scottish Charity No. SC0 04761—CCL51436