

ABBEY CHURCH, NORTH BERWICK and DIRLETON KIRK

*Warmly
invite you
to join us
this*



Christmas
Peace on Earth

Dear Friends,

Christmas is coming. In fact, it seems to be coming earlier every year! Even at the beginning of November there were decorations and Christmas goods in the shops, accompanied by Christmas music of course, just to make sure we're all getting into 'the Christmas spirit'.

For many shops, businesses and restaurants, this time of year is a vital one for their sales and profits. We value the service they provide, and hope that our local ones have a busy season.

Yet it always seems a little strange that this time of shopping and eating began with the story of someone born in a borrowed stable, who had to make do with an animal's feeding trough for his bed. I wonder what He thinks of all our festive indulgence?

In today's world, we're fortunate if we can spend our time and money to enjoy Christmas in our own home, with our family and friends. Many people aren't able to do that because of war and suffering. Spare a thought for them this Christmas. And please support our special Christmas offerings for 'Fresh Start' and the World Vision Middle East Humanitarian appeal. You can do this at the Christmas services, or our Giant Christmas Card in Abbey.

And may we all know the Prince of Peace in our lives, and pray for Him to be known in our world.

Have a blessed Christmas.

Your minister,

David



**Come along
All welcome**



**Abbey Church
and
Dirleton Kirk News
December 24/January 25**

**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**

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

Abbey Kirk Session

Robert Burgon



Abbey Church was packed, almost to capacity, for the town's Remembrance Service on Sunday 10 November 2024. It was good to see so many representatives of the community and uniformed organisations joining with us in this event (which we host every second year). perspective.

As mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter, sincere thanks are extended to Karen and Iain Murray for their tireless leadership of our Little Nippers group for more than two years. We wish them a good retirement and look forward to appointing a new Coordinator to take over leadership of this group in the New Year.

Thanks are also due to Bel Hardie, who has stepped back from her role in leading our annual shoebox appeal for Blysthwood, something which she has done for several years. This year's appeal saw even more shoeboxes being donated by Abbey members and friends of the congregation (along with a financial contribution towards their distribution costs).

As we approach the season of Advent and Christmas, we look forward to a number of special services. We have had an annual service remembering loved ones in early December and invitations are extended to families who have experienced a bereavement in the previous year or two. This year's service will take place on Sunday 1 December 2024 at 6.00pm and all are welcome.

This Christmas we will have two joint services with the Dirleton Kirk congregation. On Sunday 22 December 2024 the service will take place in Abbey at 10.30am and the following Sunday, 29 December 2024, we will meet in Dirleton Kirk, also at 10.30am.

Each year, we select two charities, one home-based and one overseas, as recipients of our offerings at the special Christmas services on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day (as well as the proceeds of the giant Christmas card which has once again been produced by Milne Brodie). This year's home charity will be Fresh Start- an Edinburgh charity which helps those who have been homeless and are moving into their own accommodation with essential equipment and other practical support. This charity recently made a moving presentation at a meeting of TAG. In recognition of the tragic events which continue in the Middle East, it has been decided that the overseas charity this year will be World Vision through the DEC Middle East Humanitarian Appeal.



The next meeting of the Abbey Kirk Session will take place on Monday 3 February 2025.

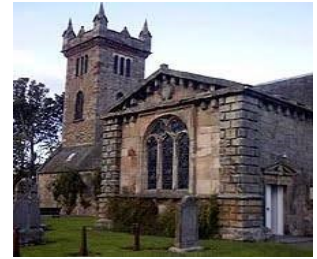
On behalf of the Abbey Church Kirk Session, I wish all members of the Abbey Church family peace and blessings for Christmas and for 2025.



Peace and Blessings

Dirleton Kirk Session

Keith Stewart



We have been given consent by the General Trustees to put in an application for grant funding in order to fund repairs to the church tower. Gordon Symon, our fabric convenor, has worked very hard in liaising with the General Trustees in order to arrive at a position where we can take this important step towards carrying out these works.

The main door of the church was closed for a couple of weeks in September after it was feared that parts of the fabric had worked loose and fallen in the vicinity of the door. Investigations demonstrated that this was not the case, but it was a useful reminder of the desirability of maintaining the condition of the tower. If any more confirmation of that might be needed, we might look at the persisting difficulties with access to Dirleton Castle.

oOo

Lily and Alba fashioned a scarecrow for the Kirk, as part of the Dirleton Scarecrow trail, in October. Having made a straw Minister, and last year a straw Angel, this year it was a straw Good Shepherd, along with a straw lamb. Thanks to Margaret McPhail for helping to co-ordinate efforts, purchasing materials, and guiding young hands with scissors, glue and felt. And thanks too to the others who could not resist assisting with stuffing straw into bags in the hall after worship. Some splendid skills were displayed, such as Prof. Keith Cornwell's mastery of the use of duck tape. "How else do you think we keep vintage cars held together?",

observed Keith, as he gave the straw Shepherd form and solidity.

oOo

After many years of faithful service, Jim Dickson has taken the decision to step back from playing the organ at Sunday worship on a regular basis. Jim has made a great sacrifice to play for us, in terms of time travelling to and from home on Sundays and during the week, when he would attend to prepare music for us. He has also been invaluable in overseeing work to maintain, repair, and even to augment, the organ in the Kirk. As recently as October, he learned of the availability of 'stops', for which space is available on the fabric of our organ, from another instrument at Craigmillar Parish Church; and as a result of this we will be able to fit a Viola De Gamba (which sounds like an oboe) and a Celeste (which gives a string sound). It would be sad to think that these will be fitted after Jim had ceased altogether to play for us on Sundays: but happily Jim will continue to play at Dirleton, though on an occasional basis.



We have all enjoyed Jim's skill as an organist, exploring all the effects which the instrument can produce, varying subtly and perceptively the tone of his playing to reflect the words of different verses of hymns of praise. After the dedication of offerings on Sunday, our practice is to have a period of prayer and

reflection, accompanied by music from the organ. The Minister has often spoken for all of us in his appreciation for the thoughtful and skilful tapestry which Jim has woven out of threads of musical influences arising out of the themes of our worship, our readings from Scripture on the day, from the seasons themselves. Jim has never flinched in the face of a challenge, such as the efforts which he made to present a challenging piece of contemporary organ music, played at the Coronation, in a manner pleasing to Dirleton ears! Perhaps the clearest demonstration of our appreciation for Jim has been shown after the close of our worship, when he has played music as a 'recessional' for us leaving the church- when the Minister, on his way to Abbey, has frequently identified the music being performed ("He's playing Bach...") and regretted greatly having to leave- and in fact no-one in the congregation would ever leave, until Jim had brought the piece which he had selected, practiced and performed, to its close. I would tell him that he would have to perform a second recessional, because nobody left during the first!

We shall all miss Jim's company in our continuing fellowship on Sundays in the church hall, and his conversation on music and indeed any other topic of conversation. We do not so much wish him the best for the future, but rather look forward to our next meeting: and in that regard, I am delighted to be able to report that Jim is to play the organ on Sunday 29th December, at the joint service to be held at Dirleton at 10.30 am. Psalm 150, verse 4: Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

oOo

In Princes Street in Edinburgh this week, to catch a 'bus, and noticing the installation of the 'Christmas' market- a fortnight before the commencement of Advent- I felt a bit querulous. And now I have to conclude this newsletter note, written in mid-November, with best wishes for Christmas! It feels very premature! But the familiar quickenings and excitements are starting to be felt, and so keep an eye on the Intimations for news of Christmas services. And thanks very much in advance to the Wemyss and March estate, for supplying our Christmas tree, and to Tracy Walkingshaw, who organizes this, and with Neil puts the tree up and decorates it, and thus does so much to let us feel that anticipation build in us as we approach one of the great feasts of the Christian year. A Happy Christmas, then, from me, but in the first instance a Happy Advent, in the course of which period of waiting and preparation I look forward to seeing you.



Happy Christmas

TWINNING PROGRAMME

Diocese of Eastern Himalaya

Church of North India



=====

Dated: 8th. October, 2024.

1. Ms. Carol Finlay,

Congregational Engagement, Faith Action,
Church of Scotland.

2. Mr. Bill Stevenson,

Presbytery Twinning Co – Ordinator,

Lothian & Borders Presbytery,
Church of Scotland.

Cc Rt. Rev. Roshan Thapa, Rev. Samuel Lepcha, Rev. Dr. David
Graham, Robin Hamilton, Margaret Ann Crawford, Mr. Hugh
Trevor, N.R. Pradhan.

Dear Carol and Bill,

Warm greetings from the Diocese of Eastern Himalaya,
Church of North India!!

Trust this finds you both in the best of Health !! And both of
you back home abit settled after your visits to Africa.

I thought of sharing this email sometime back, I did send a
whatsapp message to Carol with a few tit bit points. I suddenly
realised that we had started our Twinning Programme with
Lothian Presbytery, Church of Scotland, now Lothian & Bor-
ders Presbytery in the year 2000. Next year it's going to be

the Silver Jubilee of our Twinning Programme.

As we take this twinning journey; and heading to celebrate 25 years, and the wonderful experience we have had with our friends in Scotland; I thought of sharing some of my wild ideas , if we could take our Twinning Programme to the next level with such activities to make it a little bit more interesting and exciting!!

1. Silver Jubilee Celebrations of our Twinning Programme:

From my side some ideas as food for thought!!

(i) Publish a 25 yrs. Silver Jubilee Twinning Souvenir

(ii) Update & sign our Twinning Agreement for next 5 // 25 yrs.!!

(iii) The two of you, though Bill is coming this coming November; along with the current Moderator, COS could visit us next year to sign the Agreement here in our Diocese.

(iv) A group from our Diocese could also visit the Presbytery & some friends from the Presbytery could visit us.

(v) Can we start some scholarship prog. for underprivileged, tribal & deserving meritorious students for education & skill development??

Maybe, Bill could motivate friends at the Presbytery & Carol, with friends in partner organisations & Church of Scotland could also pool in resources!!

2. Support for Theological Studies: We have youth in our Diocese who would like to undertake theological studies and become Presbyters and work in our Diocese. If provisions for

scholarship could be explored.

3. Exchange of church congregation members from the Diocese & from the Presbytery annually: If possible, to start from this year itself. If you could inform us the number we could send annually to Scotland, and also those coming from the Presbytery, we could plan accordingly to start identifying suitable people to be sent from our Diocese.

4. Youth Exchange programme: For the youth in both our Diocese & Presbytery to know more about our locations and culture; a special initiative should be made for annual exchange visit to both sides. This will create better goodwill and understanding among the youth and to know more about the wonderful mission work of the people more than a century ago by Scottish missionaries and the Diocese still nurturing those mission works.

5. Twinning of schools: We have 12 (twelve) schools in our Diocese and 8(eight) – SUMI, Girls Higher Secondary School & Dr. Graham's Homes, in Kalimpong. Turnbull Higher Secondary School and Nepali Girls' Secondary School in Darjeeling, Scot Mission Girls School in Kurseong, Mahakalguri Mission Boys High School & Mahakalguri Girls High School in Eastern Duars, all established by the Scottish missionaries. Some of them have celebrated their centenary. And SUMI & Kalimpong Girls Higher Secondary School have already celebrated their 125 years.

Next year, 2025, Dr. Graham's Homes will be celebrating their 125th. Anniversary. Hence, twinning of schools will involve the younger generation to continue this wonderful legacy of contact and goodwill between Church of Scotland, The Presbytery of Lothian & Borders and our Diocese of Eastern Himalaya and Church of North India.

6. Exposure visits for sustainable livelihood activities: Our rural farming communities and even some livelihood activities in our semi urban & urban towns; Since a major part of our Diocese are rural villages; it would be wonderful and interesting if our farming communities and even other profession could be given exposures visits to Scotland. Such exposure visits will create positive signals and energise the target group people to work with more enthusiasm. Kindly explore this issue of concern.

7. Exposure visit for Teacher: Can we have exposure teaching visits for the teachers?? It will break their monotonous teaching life and they can get energized in their teaching careers. Earlier, gap teachers used to come to Dr. Graham's homes and Scottish Universities Mission Institution (SUMI), Kalimpong from Scotland half a century back. During my visit to Scotland maybe in 2011 or was it 2019? We did talk about such a programme/ !!?? Can we initiate this in right earnest??

8. A befitting Project to mark the Silver Jubilee of our Twinning Programme: Can we do a nice project befitting 25 yrs. of our Twinning Programme?? I have been motivating friends, in

our Diocese and likeminded friends in our Diocese and in Scotland for the dire need of establishing a College. Especially with 12(twelve) schools in our Diocese besides other Board examination schools. Bill, Carol and Robin Hamilton, I have been talking about this project for a while!! Robin has also done some scouting!!

You all, have any better ideas!!

Would appreciate your feedback & valuable suggestions as we are on the threshold of celebrating our Twinning Programme Silver Jubilee Celebrations!

Bill, if you could also please share with all the twinned churches in the Presbytery regarding the above issues and get some positive response it will be great!!

With warm regards and our prayerful thoughts and good wishes to you both, to all our friends in the Church of Scotland, all our partners in His Service in Scotland, all our twinned churches and to friends in 121, George Street, not forgetting Elizabeth and also Rev. Dr. David Graham & our friends at Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk, North Berwick , Robin at Belhaven, Rev. Mark Wilson, and Mr. Hugh Trevor and Margaret Ann at St. Andrew's Blackadder, Rev. Alison Macdonald,... The list seems endless.....!!!!

Looking forward to hearing from you all.

Miku.

**Dr. M. S. Foning, M. Sc.(Ag.); Ph.D. (Agri.) – Horticulture,
Church of North India.**

Harvest giving - Asante!

A total of just over £2,123 was raised by Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk during the recent Harvest Services and Harvest Supper in support of the charity, The Ripple Effect, who were also able to collect additional Gift Aid income from all qualifying donations.

To quote Ripple Effect in their appreciation email to us: "Asante!" That's Swahili for thank you.

The charity also said: "Your generosity has helped families in Burundi to improve their crop yields, farmers in Kenya to tackle drought, children in Zambia to attend school, women in Uganda to set up small businesses, marginalised farmers in Rwanda to feel included and empowered, women in Ethiopia to earn from their land...and much, much more!"

Little Donkey

In addition, if you'd like to do more for Ripple Effect as part of your Christmas celebrations, you could always invest in a donkey which would be appropriate for the Festive Season and hugely valuable to one of the charity's farming families.

There is a 'Little Donkey Gift Card' listed on the 'Buy Gifts' page of the charity's website, along with the following explanation:

"Donkeys are treasured farming companions, helping families get their produce to market. Training in all as-

families get their produce to market. Training in all aspects of donkey welfare is vital, including feeding and sheltering, appropriate harnessing, and proper loading. A healthy and happy donkey means more fruit and vegetables can be sold at market, providing a vital income for medicine and school fees.

Check out the website: <https://rippleeffect.org/>



LITTLE NIPPERS



Thursday mornings during school term time sees the large hall at Abbey Church resounding with the happy noise of toddlers playing and their parents, grandparents and carers chatting over tea, coffee and chocolate biscuits.

Abbey's successful Little Nippers has operated for a number of years now and continues to attract new families and children (as previous participants graduate to nursery and then to school).

For more than two years, Abbey members (and Kirsten Swindells' parents), Karen and Iain Murray have led Little Nippers. They have decided to retire from this role at the end of the current term and we extend sincere thanks to them for all that they have done to support this group.

Interviews for a new Little Nippers Coordinator will take place shortly and it is hoped to appoint a new leader who will take up their post in January 2025.

The Coordinator is supported by a team of volunteers who assist by welcoming those attending, making and serving the refreshments and chatting to the adults who attend. If we can add to our list of volunteers, individuals might only be required for duty on one or two sessions each term. As one of the team of volunteers, I always enjoy my stints at Little Nippers, which I believe is a really valuable service offered by Abbey Church to the local community.

If YOU would like to join the rota of volunteers, please let either me or Rose Leslie know.

Robert Burgon

Comments – Abbey Church (All Funds)

Nine Months to 30th September 2024

General

Payments exceeded receipts by £16,319. The budget being £14,136.

Income

Offering support was less than budget. This has a consequential effect on Gift-aid recoveries.

Premises income is well below budget, hopefully this will improve in the last quarter of the year.

In September we received £2,000 legacy from the estate of David Murdoch Reid. In October we received £20,000 from the estate of Ann Tollan Morrison, this will show in the next quarter's accounts.

During the year Dirleton reviewed the monthly amount they were paying for joint costs and increased this amount from £500 to £600 per month.

(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

Church of Scotland payments are less than budget due to the budget being overstated.

The savings on premises costs reflect the problems we have had with our energy supplier. The effect of this will be seen over the next few months. Additionally some maintenance works are outstanding at both the Church and the Manse. Miscellaneous contains the cost of the new projector, and screen, being £9,444.

If you have any questions please ask

ABBEY CHURCH - NORTH BERWICK**BUDGET v ACTUAL 30 SEP 2024****ALL FUNDS**

Income (All Funds)	Annual Budget	Budget to 30 Sep	Actual to 30 Sep	Variance
Offerings	67,600	50,699	45,755	(4,944)
Tax reclaim	16,000	12,000	10,971	(1,029)
Miscellaneous	3,000	500	1,455	955
Premises income	20,000	15,000	11,862	(3,138)
Investment income	5,200	3,600	4,071	471
Legacies	-	-	2,000	2,000
Sale of Investments	-	-	-	-
Dirleton	6,000	4,500	4,900	400
Total Income	117,800	86,299	81,014	(5,285)

Expenditure (All Funds)	Annual Budget	Budget to 30 Sep	Actual to 30 Sep	Variance
Church of Scotland payments	50,698	38,341	34,044	4,297
Pastoral Expenses	12,800	9,199	7,453	1,746
Other Salaries	34,623	25,800	25,203	597
Premises costs	29,393	20,993	14,621	6,372
Church Office Expenses	4,300	3,250	3,782	(532)
Investments	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	5,000	2,852	12,230	(9,378)
Total Expenditure	136,814	100,435	97,333	3,102

Budget for 2024	(19,014)
------------------------	-----------------

Budget for 9 months to 30 September 2024	(14,136)
---	-----------------

Expenditure in excess of income	(16,319)	
Negative Variance		(2,183)

Abbey Finance Team

Income - Gift-aid	Phil Spencer
Income - Hall Rentals	Paola Burrows
Payment of bills	Janice Cobb
Payroll	David Aston resigned end of October 2024
Accounting - OSCR, periodic accounts and Church of Scotland	Stuart Ainslie

Abbey and Dirleton Congregational Lunch

All our members are welcome to attend our congregational lunch on Sunday 2nd February, 12 for 12.30pm at the Glen Golf Club.

£17 for 2 courses

£21 for 3 courses

With tea/coffee included

It is pay on the day but please let Paola, in the office, know if you wish to attend.



TAG



In late September we started Tuesday Afternoon Group with a Harvest Lunch and a quiz on the theme of apples!

In October we learned about the work of Fresh Start in Edinburgh. Bethany provides the homes, and Fresh Start helps with furnishings, cookers, cooking equipment etc. An offering of £102 was collected at our meeting.

We are delighted to learn that the Session have agreed that this charity will be the 'at home' focus of our Christmas offerings this year.

We had a very interesting visit to North Berwick Museum where some members managed to spot themselves in school photos!

Our minister, David opened our minds to the meaning behind 'Christ is made the sure foundation' and if you haven't heard about the charity Myra's Wells then I suggest you google it to find out the interesting story behind it and how it is helping to provide clean water in Burkina Faso in West Africa.

The next meetings we can look forward to are as follows: -

December

3rd - '**Nativity Characters**' in words and music

Robert and Sheila Burgon

10th - **Christmas Lunch** at 12:30 at The Glen Golf Club for those who have booked.

January

14th - '**Off the Beaten Track**' in Borneo and Thailand

Sarah Barlow

28th - '**Aquabox**'

Jim Hettrick

TAG meets fortnightly at 2:00pm in Abbey large hall and all are welcome.

The Christmas Cheer Team

It's that time of the year again when we launch the Christmas Cheer initiative at [North Berwick Community Centre](#)

If you are a family or individual who will struggle with the cost of Christmas, please contact your local Community Contact, School, Nursery, Health Visitor etc. who can refer you.

We will once again be operating our Angel Tree in partnership with the Rotary Club of North Berwick.

If you would like to buy a Christmas gift for a local child affected by the cost of living crisis or an isolated adult, the Angel Tree will provide you with information of specific items wished for from their Santa lists. You can take a physical tag from the tree, or if you can't get in to the Centre, please contact the Centre for a list of gifts needed.

Tags will be available on the tree from Wednesday 27th November. Please return the gifts to North Berwick Community Centre by Friday 13th December. We will make sure Santa gets them in time for Christmas day!

The Christmas Cheer Team
North Berwick Community Centre
8 Law Road
North Berwick EH39 4PN
Tel: 01620 893056

BETHANY WELCOME CENTRE

APPEAL 2024/2025



The Edinburgh-based Christian charity, Bethany Christian Trust, has once again launched its "Buy a Bed" campaign to assist those sleeping rough on the freezing cold streets of our capital city.

For 30 weeks from 2 October 2024, the Bethany Rapid Re-accommodation Welcome Centre will provide those in need with individual en-suite rooms, three meals a day and 24-hour specialist support to enable them to move on to more suitable housing.

In the period from October 2023 to May 2024:

- 787 individuals stayed in the Centre;

- 89% of those who stayed said they'd otherwise be staying rough;

- 24,500+ meals were provided;

- 99% of known outcomes were positive:

- 70 people stayed with Bethany on average each day.

Bethany welcome practical and financial support from churches and their members. Could you consider supporting the campaign, either by making a donation or by giving someone an ethical gift which will support the Buy a Bed campaign? A gift of £25 can help towards the cost of supporting someone to stay for a night at the Welcome Centre.

Further details can be found at:

www.bethanychristiantrust.com/donations/buy-a-bed/

Abbey Church Flower Rota

DATE	DONOR	ARRANGER
1 December	Dorothy Kirkpatrick	Dorothy Kirkpatrick
8 December	Jean Walinck	Frances Fallmyr Olive Curran
15 December	Flower Team to decorate for Christmas	



Abbey Church Sunday Tea Rota

DATE	
1 December	Ann Bell & A N Other
8 December	Linda McLean & Bel Hardie
15 December	Sadie Young & A N Other
22 December	Isobel Smith & Florence Buchan
5 January 2025	Fiona Gibson & A N Other
12 January	Mary Graham & Rose Leslie
19 January	Ann Bell & A N Other
26 January	Linda McLean & Bel Hardie



Street Pastors

Helping a young woman, found unconscious on an Edinburgh street late one night, and a young man discovered in a semi-conscious state, lying among the bins outside a city hotel, are two of the more dramatic incidents encountered by Street Pastors in the Capital in recent weeks.

In both cases the people involved were helped back onto their feet, one via a hospital ward and the other by way of a bit of time and support.

Joining a recent Street Pastors' meeting in Musselburgh to explore the potential for a group of volunteers to be formed in East Lothian was a real eye-opener. The meeting was run by Ben Leathes, Chief Inspector of Police for East Lothian, a committed church member who believes a lot of valuable street work and evangelism can be achieved by the local Police and churches working together, including setting up an East Lothian Street Pastors group.

The Musselburgh meeting drew more than 20 representatives from local churches, including both the Abbey and Dirleton. Presentations were given by Chief Inspector Leathes and Brian Donaldson, Management Group Chair, Edinburgh Street Pastors. There was also an extensive question and answer session.

Brian explained that Edinburgh Street Pastors have been listening, caring and helping on the streets of Scotland's capital since 2009. Starting with support from just four churches and a handful of volunteers, there are now 35 churches engaged in the work and over 55 volunteers. Patrols go out on Friday and Saturday nights carrying tea, coffee, blankets, and bibles.

Volunteers are all Christians and make no excuse for their faith in Christ. They don't go out to preach, however, but to care, help, and listen to those they encounter while on patrol. There are many stories to tell, helping people who have drunk too much or have taken drugs, comforting a suicidal person for an hour or so and signposting where to get professional help, guiding a homeless person to their next meal. There are also countless examples of people wanting to be prayed with or to discuss what life is really all about.

When they'd finished, Brian and Ben were asked if this sort of group was really needed in East Lothian. Absolutely, they said. Maybe not until 4am, as often happens in Edinburgh, but most definitely at key times and during special events across the region.

Brian was also asked if being a Street Pastor is safe. He said he'd seen almost no worrying incidents in all his years on Edinburgh's streets, adding that the most recent Street Pastor to retire had only done so when he reached the age of 84. He also stressed that Street Pastors were fully trained before heading out on a patrol and were always in close contact with the local police officers.

Setting up a Street Pastors group in East Lothian needs operational support from 4 churches, ideally from differing denominations, to set up as a charity. This will need a board of Trustees from the supporting churches along with a management team. The initial costs involved in setting up such a group would be covered by funding from Police Scotland.

For further information visit: <https://streetpastors.org/locations/edinburgh/>

We commend this to your thoughts and prayers - David Graham, Ian Lennock & Colin Ley

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,
to mention but a few.

We have many other groups using our church halls,
Pilates classes, Jo Jingles, Conexus Tuition, The Drama
Mill, The Brownies, Dunedin Dance, Freedom and Form,
Interoception Yoga, JKA Bass Rock Karate, Kundalini
Yoga, Dirleton Playgroup, Wild Tide 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



Church Register

Wedding

16.11.24 Euan Brown and Emily Grewcock

Funerals

11.10.24 Catherine Greenwood

4.11.24 William McClure

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

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

Working remotely Wednesday and Thursday

Newsletters

The next newsletter will cover February and March 2024. The deadline for submitting articles is Tuesday 14th January 2025. Please send to Abbey Church Office.

Abbeychurch.org.uk

Like us on Facebook: Abbey Church, North Berwick & Dirleton Kirk



Abbey Church, North Berwick (Church of Scotland)

Scottish Charity No. SC0 04761—CCL51436

ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS SEASON

AT ABBEY CHURCH AND DIRLETON KIRK

December 2024

Sunday 1st

6.00pm Remembering Our Loved ones

**A Special Service at Abbey Church as Christmas approaches,
for anyone bereaved**

Saturday 7th

**3.00pm Treasure Hunt and Carol Singing for families
At North Berwick Country Park**

Sunday 8th

10.30am Abbey Communion

Tuesday 17th

6.00pm Carol Singing at Fidra House

Thursday 19th

10.00am Little Nippers Pram Service at Abbey

Friday 20th

10.30am Law Primary Christmas Service at Abbey

**11.30am Dirleton Primary Christmas Service at
Dirleton**

Sunday 22nd

**10.30am Joint Abbey & Dirleton Nativity Service at
Abbey Church**

Tuesday 24th Christmas Eve

4.30pm All Age Christmas Eve Service at Abbey

**11.30pm Watchnight Service at Dirleton Kirk
(coffee in the Kirk Hall from 11pm)**

Wednesday 25th CHRISTMAS DAY

10.30am Christmas Day Service at Abbey

Sunday 29th

10.30am Joint Dirleton & Abbey Service at Dirleton



*The Minister, Kirk Sessions
and Congregations will be pleased to
welcome you to our services and events*

Peace on Earth