



Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk News

June/July 2024

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

Come along All welcome



Dear Friends,

I'm writing this at the start of the General Assembly. I won't be attending, since I'm not a commissioner this time (that joy only comes along every few years). I haven't read all 228 pages of this year's 'blue book' reports yet, but I have skimmed some of them. The impression I get is that these are very challenging times - but we didn't really need a huge tome to tell us that, I think we knew it already.

Looking at some of the numbers (the Assembly seems to love statistics), as a linked charge Dirleton & Abbey are above average in many of the numbers, including our attendance and giving. We're also well above average in the number of baptisms, weddings and funerals; many churches have none or perhaps only one or two in a year. It's a privilege to be able to offer the services of the church to so many people and their families, but it's also a lot of work and pressure on the ministry. Many of these are often also for people who are not in the congregation, but as a parish ministry that's the service we offer, although it can be a difficult balancing act not to neglect the congregation at the same time.

The theme of this year's Assembly is '*Building Together*', with a text from 'Thessalonians 5:11' (it should say *First Thessalonians!*):

'Therefore encourage one another and build each other up, just as in fact you are doing'

Let us pray that their deliberations will be encouraging, and edifying for us all.

Your minister,

David

Future Church Services

During the month of June, we'll be looking at the Lord's Prayer, with the overall theme 'Lord, teach us to pray' (which is what the disciples asked Jesus before he taught them his prayer).

The specific themes will be

June 2nd *'Father in Heaven'*

June 9th *'God's Kingdom and God's Will'*

June 16th *'Give us . . . '*

June 23rd *'Forgive us . . . '*

June 30th *'Deliver us . . . '*

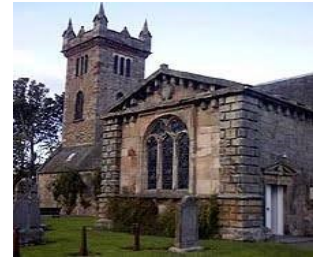
The new North Berwick lifeboat will be commissioned on Saturday 6th July. The following day, Sunday 7th, we will celebrate 'Sea Sunday' at a joint service in Abbey Church at 10.30am.

The Summer service theme will be 'Sinning like a Christian, a look at the 'seven deadly sins'. So if you hear that the Minister is working on the seven deadly sins, you'll understand why!



Dirleton Kirk Session

Keith Stewart



We had an excellent coffee morning at the Church Hall to contribute to Christian Aid week, and thanks are due to those from both congregations who helped set the hall up, ingathered the funds at the door, served the masses, and who baked such tempting delicacies, in such quantity for the hungry and thirsty of the two parishes and beyond. Not since the Sunday School's last edition of *Great Dirleton Bake-off* has such a splendid, waistline-busting spread been assembled in the hall. I wish it might have been possible for me to have sampled everything prepared!

We rendered further assistance to the work of Christian Aid with our special gift offering envelopes at Communion.

Christian Aid is active in 29 countries, in Africa, Asia, South America, the Caribbean, the Middle East- working by responding to emergencies and also on projects to bear fruit in the longer term. It is a movement of people, churches, and local organizations. It helps to train people and equip them with skills in which to prosper, helping the disadvantaged, and spreading prosperity; it fosters development in societies, in material

terms, and in social terms as well; it is informed by scripture and guided by prayer.

At the Kirk Session meeting on 3rd April, we heard of the progress being made to obtain funding for works on the church tower. As I write this, rain is lashing down outside as it has been for much of the past week in what has felt like an unusually cool and wet May- so it is good to reflect on the swift and efficient replacement of the boiler in the Kirk, which has recently been carried out. We also heard at the meeting that, encouragingly, our number is increasing- we are a growing congregation. We will not perish with cold as we await the arrival of summer!



Abbey Kirk Session

Robert Burgon



Easter Sunday is always a special day in the church calendar and it was indeed special for Abbey Church this year. We started with what was been the largest ever attendance (around 70) at our 0800am service on Elcho Green (in an unusually sunny and dry morning which was preceded and followed by more of these rainy days which have been a feature of this year so far). This was followed by a happy time of fellowship over breakfast in the large hall. At the 1030am morning service, we had the privilege of sharing in the ordination and admission of our six new elders- Colin and Jackie Ley, Tom and Judy Lockhart-Hunter, Irene Nichol, and Kirsten Swindells. We give thanks for the willingness of these members of our congregation to join the Kirk Session and look forward to working with them as they share the responsibilities of our church.

Those worshipping with us over Lent and subsequently will have been aware of artistic displays which have appeared, initially on the hymn boards and later on the windows around the sanctuary. The first message related to Lent and was followed by one reminding us all of the message of Easter- the risen Lord Jesus Christ. A later display referred to "Thy Kingdom Come," a

global ecumenical prayer movement. Starting on Ascension Day (9 May) and running until Pentecost Sunday (19 May) the campaign encourages prayer during those days and the displays in church included QR codes which visitors could scan with their mobile phones to receive more information and prayer suggestions. We are grateful to one of our new elders, Colin Ley, for arranging these displays and for sharing his artistic talents with us and with all who visit the sanctuary. We also thank the members of the young people of Super Sunday Club who added some illustrations to Colin's Easter artwork.

At a time when so many people all over the world seem to be suffering, the work of Christian Aid has possibly never been more relevant.



North Berwick has a long history of providing financial support to this charity by raising funds during the annual Christian Aid Week (this year running from 12-19 May). A small, but extremely enthusiastic group from Abbey and Dirleton churches arranged a number of events to support this work including a Coffee Morning in Dirleton Church Hall and a Quiz Night in the Abbey Hall. With other events including another Coffee Morning arranged by St Andrew Blackadder and a Musical Soiree in St

Baldred's Church it is hoped that these combined efforts will have led to a substantial amount being raised. (Details will be provided in a subsequent Newsletter).

I have agreed to participate (as an additional elder from our Presbytery) at this year's General Assembly. Although I have attended part of several General Assemblies (as a trustee and currently Chair of the Church of Scotland Investors Trust), it has been a number of years since I was a Commissioner and after reading the papers (over 200 pages), I attended over the week commencing Saturday 18 May. New Moderator, Rt Rev Dr Shaw Paterson of Strathaven was installed on the first day and followed the theme of "Building Together" during the week. The King's representative this year (the Lord High Commissioner) was the Duke of Edinburgh, Prince Edward and it was good to see him and the Duchess of Edinburgh in that role. The Archbishop of Canterbury joined the royal party on the final day and addressed the Assembly. I pray that the message which comes out of this year's General Assembly, as reported in the press and TV, will be one which demonstrates that our national church is alive and has hope for its future.



TAG and WALT



Tuesday Afternoon Group

At the AGM our funds were allocated as follows: -
Guild Pioneers Project "Chocolate Heaven" - £260.00
Leuchie House - £50
Abbey Church - £175
The closing bank balance for the year is £76.39

Throughout the year we donated £180 to Pick-Ups for Peace for Ukraine and £166 to Blythswood.

Members hoped this group would be able to continue for one more year. So, if you have any ideas for future meetings please speak to Sheila.

Women Are Learning Together

We continue to focus on the theme "Jesus on Gardening". In May we looked at "Growth". Although some of the passages were familiar there is always something to learn. We looked at four parables to do with seeds and reflected on the meanings and relevance for our lives today.

In June we will look at the "Workforce" by investigating a) Shortage of Labour (Matthew 9:37-38), Recruitment and Pay (Matthew 20:1-16), Family Firm

(Matthew 21:28-32) and Tenant Farmers (Mark 12:1-12).

We will have a summer recess and complete the gardening theme in September by looking at Gardening Problems!

Thank You

Very many thanks for the beautiful flowers and North Berwick vouchers which were given to me on behalf of both groups. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness and generosity.

I wish to thank you for your loyalty and support at WALT and TAG as it wouldn't be possible without your help and regular attendance.



Sheila Burgon

A Day of Prayer for Blythswood Care:

Wednesday 12th June

Prayer is essential to every part of the ongoing work of Blythswood Care. We have a prayer diary with a point for prayer for every day of the year (the PDF for the current diary is attached). If you don't already get Blythswood prayer updates, and if you'd like to, then please get in touch with me. The printed copy is posted three times a year or we have a fortnightly email update.

Blythswood's Big Book Event:

June 24th – July 13th

Running for 3 weeks across our shops in Scotland and Northern Ireland, there will be a Big Book Event that's not to be missed. There will be lots of books available for bargain prices across our shops, including a lot of great Christian books. From inspiring testimonies of Blythswood's project partners to quality Bible commentaries, to great books to encourage you in your walk with Jesus, there's something for everyone. Find your nearest Blythswood shop online.



Comments - Abbey Church (All Funds)

Quarter to 31st March 2024

General

Payments exceeded receipts by £5,669.

Income

It is hoped that premises income, although a bit below budget, should catch up later this year.

(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

The huge budgeted deficit is caused by energy costs. A new energy contract has been negotiated on the Abbey's behalf by the CofS. In line with British energy costs this should be twice the old contract price.

There has been a great deal of discussion with CofS and E-on, our new supplier, about the huge increase of costs, hopefully this will be resolved soon and the amount charged to the Abbey reduced!

If you have any questions please ask.

Stuart Ainslie

Your Finance Team

Income - Gift-aid

Income - Hall Rentals

Payment of bills

Payroll

Accounting - OSCR, periodic accounts and Church of Scotland

Phil Spencer

Paola Burrows

Janice Cobb

David Aston

Stuart Ainslie

Abbey Church North Berwick, Budget V Actual at 31 March 2024

All Funds

Income (All Funds)	Annual Budget	Budget to 31 Mar	Actual to 31 Mar	Variance
Offerings	67,600	16,899	15,517	(1,382)
Tax reclaim	16,000	4,000	3,835	(165)
Miscellaneous	3,000	200	162	(38)
Premises income	20,000	5,000	3,997	(1,003)
Investment income	5,200	400	440	40
Legacies	-	-	-	-
Sale of Investments	-	-	-	-
Dirleton	6,000	1,500	1,500	-
Total Income	117,800	27,999	25,451	(2,548)

Expenditure (All Funds)	Annual Budget	Budget to 31 Mar	Actual to 31 Mar	Variance
Church of Scotland payments	50,698	12,356	12,356	-
Pastoral Expenses	12,800	2,449	2,693	(244)
Other Salaries	34,126	8,154	8,151	3
Premises costs	29,393	5,385	5,462	(77)
Church Office Expenses	4,300	1,150	1,531	(381)
Investments	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	5,000	952	927	25
Total Expenditure	136,317	30,446	31,120	(674)

Budget for 2024 (18,517)

Budget for 1st quarter 2024 (2,447)

Income in excess of expenditure (5,669)

Negative Variance (3,222)

ROTA FOR OPENING AND CLOSING ABBEY CHURCH

We like to open the church for visitors between the months of April and September. An open church is always seen as a positive sign in what can be a busy High Street and we would like to be able to continue doing this in 2024. Over the years we have had many appreciative comments written in the Visitors' Book and we know from this how much people like to come into an open church.

This requires a rota of people who might be able, on occasion, to open the front doors (any time before around 1000am) and close the doors (sometime after 4.00pm). It isn't a difficult thing to do (and a briefing will be provided to all volunteers).

If you are able to help in the coming weeks, please add your name to the rota which is on the table at the front of Abbey Church.



GOOD NEWS FROM A FAR COUNTRY
The 50th Anniversary of the founding of
Bishop Kivengere Girls' School Muyebe
on 28.04.1974

It is wonderful but humbling to be able to look back over 50 years of girls' education at this small school set on a hill in South-West Uganda and to give thanks to God for His guidance, protection, provision and blessing in so many ways. Our churches in North Berwick, Dirleton and Gullane have played a significant part in the growth and development of the school and I must thank you all for your warm, generous support and for your prayers. The story began in 1974 when I was teaching Geography under CMS at Kigezi High School, Kabale. My home base was in Gullane with my parents who belonged to St Adrian's Scottish Episcopal Church. That big boarding school had 500 boys and only 100 girls and you can imagine the problems we had! The girls were at a disadvantage in class where they were afraid to speak and ask questions. Our Bishop Festo Kivengere with his wife Merab saw the need throughout the Diocese of Kigezi and had a dream from God of starting a new secondary boarding school for girls. Somehow He led them to ask me to be the founding Headmistress, working with them in setting it up! It was the time of the fearsome dictator Idi Amin and we had only a few buildings on site at Muyebe, nothing else. One of the pastors said to me, "It doesn't matter how many zero's you have, no teachers, no books, no desks, no chairs....Make Jesus your No. 1 and you are millionaires!" In faith that God would provide, we began the task and our church in Gullane took up the project, along with my other link

churches and groups in Scotland. I came on leave in autumn 1974 and shared the vision. Back in Uganda we worked day by day, the basics were wonderfully provided and we received more than 450 applications for the 40 places in Senior One, so we conducted interviews. The school actually opened on April 1st 1975 when the first girls arrived. I worked at Muyebe until 1986 when my father had had a severe stroke and I came home to care for my parents. After the death of my dear father, my mother and I moved to North Berwick and joined St Baldred's church and found many new friends in the other churches and community. Although I had other work and study to do, my heart held a special place for the school. Kind friends from here have joined me in supporting it most generously. In 2000 AD we set up a Trust Fund. In 2001 AD Mrs Margaret Ann Crawford became our Hon. Treasurer and served for 18 years. We are so grateful to her and to Lyle for backing her up. Other friends have served as Trustees. The present Hon. Treasurer is Elaine Hutchison, known to St Andrew Blackadder people. Ten years ago our churches were engaged in the Muyebe Water Project to replace the existing big water tank on school land and to supply piped water to five zones of villages on the hillside. Much gratitude was expressed.



The full story of God's provision over the five decades under six Heads is told in the Jubilee booklet being printed in Uganda. We hope a few copies will be available for you to see. Today the school is thriving with over 330 girls and a big team of teachers, mostly

part-time, adequate facilities and a great Christian spirit. Our motto "Tuhwerane" (Let us help one another) chosen by the pioneer class in 1975 has shaped us as a learning community. Our results in public exams have been very good and more than 20 girls in Senior Six in each of the past few years have qualified for university education. In this country we have a team of Trustees of the U.K. Fund with an experienced Hon. Treasurer. This is the juncture for helping the school to manage its own finances and they have set up a charitable Foundation in Uganda to which gifts from outside may be sent in future. The U.K. Trust will continue to send out the money which we have in hand for our Assistance Fund and two Scholarships which have helped hundreds of girls over the years. We are so grateful for all the support given. When those funds are exhausted in about 5 years' time, the Trust will close down but no doubt Muyebe will still have a place in many hearts and continuing gifts to support the girls will flow there.

Now it is time to celebrate! On April 28th this year a special Foundation Day event is planned, drums will resound and there will be singing and energetic Kikiga dancing! It is hoped that the Minister of Education, Mrs Janet Museveni, and the Prime Minister, Robinah Nabbanja, two leading ladies in Uganda, will be in attendance. We can join in prayer thanking God for the past and laying the future before Him. The hymn "Lord for the years your love has kept and guided...we bring our thanks today" may be on our lips.

Liz Traill

(Written in early April)

Abbey Church Flower Rota

DATE	DONOR	ARRANGER
2 June	Frances Fallmyr	Frances Fallmyr Olive Curran
9 June	Isabel Smith	Isabel Smith
16 June	Irene Nichol	Irene Nichol
23 June	Nancy Chisholm	Florence Buchan
30 June	Katrina Hendry	Katrina Hendry
7 July	Janet Raeburn	Joan Griffith
14 July	Joan Griffith	Sheila McCubbing
21 July	Fiona Gibson	Bel Hardie
28 July	Jennifer Gilchrist	Katrina Hendry



Abbey Church Sunday Tea Rota

DATE	
2 June	Susan Ainslie & A N Other
9 June	Isobel Smith & Sadie Young
16 June	Katrina Hendry & Irene Nichol
23 June	Fiona Gibson & A N Other
30 June	Mary Graham & Rose Leslie
7 July	Anne Bell & A N Other
14 July	Linda McLean & Bel Hardie
21 July	Susan Ainslie & A N Other
28 July	Isabel Smith & Sadie Young



The Lord's Prayer



After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen. Matthew 6:9-13 (KJV)

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- ___ 1. Holy, sacred, worthy of praise
A. hallowed B. forgive C. teach D. evil
- ___ 2. To remove the blame for doing wrong
A. pray B. sin C. forgive D. teach
- ___ 3. A country whose ruler is a king or queen
A. earth B. evil C. heaven D. kingdom
- ___ 4. The planet where we live
A. Saturn B. Mars C. Earth D. Venus
- ___ 5. Something bad; wicked
A. pray B. evil C. heaven D. hallowed
- ___ 6. A baked food made from flour
A. fruit B. vegetables C. bread D. salad
- ___ 7. To speak to God with praise, confession, asking, or thanksgiving
A. pray B. forgive C. kingdom D. temptation
- ___ 8. To instruct someone on how to do something
A. pray B. forgive C. evil D. teach
- ___ 9. The place where God is
A. evil B. heaven C. sin D. teach
- ___ 10. To break God's laws
A. sin B. pray C. teach D. forgive



The Lord's Prayer



Our Father, who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy Name.
Thy kingdom come.
Thy will be done,
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever.

Amen.



Coloring & Activity Pages by: Bible-Printables.com

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,
Little Artists, pilates classes, Jo Jingles, fitness clas-
ses, 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



Church Register

Baptisms

12.5.24 Archie George Michie

12.5.24 Rory Ross Michie

9.6.24 Nicholas Andrew Ian Mitchell

Weddings

18.5.24 Abigail Martin and Hayes van der Berg

Funerals

17.4.24 Mary Hope Binnie

14.5.24 Isobel McDermott

14.5.24 Denis Carr

23.5.24 Chirsty Cameron

27.5.24 Ewan Burnett

28.5.24 John Dickson

28.5.24 Mary Pyle

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 August and September 2024. The deadline for submitting articles is Tuesday 16th July 2024. Please send to Abbey Church Office.

Abbeychurch.org.uk

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Abbey Church, North Berwick (Church of Scotland)

Scottish Charity No. SC0 04761—CCL51436