



Abbey Church and Dirleton Kirk News

April/May 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,
Easter is a time with a message of life and hope. It's always lovely that it also coincides with Spring, when the world around us is bursting into the buds, blossoms and colours of new life. At least, that's true for us in the Northern Hemisphere. I wonder what it's like to celebrate it elsewhere, in the Autumn? No Spring flowers, Easter chicks or bunnies. But presumably there is still chocolate!

There's an old saying which dates from about 300 years before Christ, 'While I breathe, I hope', which became '*Where there's life, there's hope*' in English translation. But the original quotation goes on to say: '*and only the dead have none*'. Although this was not originally a Christian saying, as you can guess from its antiquity, it does sum up the Christian message, especially at Easter. Life means hope.

The death of Jesus must have dashed the hopes of the disciples, hopes of a Messiah who would change everything. The two people on the Road to Emmaus said to their (as yet unknown) companion '*We had hoped that he was the one who would redeem us*'. But soon, Jesus was revealed to them, their eyes were opened and their hearts on fire. His resurrection had brought those hopes back to life.

Our world needs hope, and the resurrection life of Jesus. May this Easter bring it to you in abundance.

Your minister,

David

Future Church Services

In the weeks after Easter, we'll be looking at the life and growth of the Early Church. What can we learn from them?

Easter Services

24 March **Palm Sunday**: 9.30am - Dirleton Kirk,
10.30am - Abbey Church

25 March: 7.30pm - St Baldred's

26 March: 7.30pm - Abbey Church (led by NB Chris-
tian Fellowship)

27 March: 7.30pm - Our Lady Star of the Sea

28 March **Maundy Thursday**: 7.30pm - Joint St An-
drew Blackadder Communion

29 March **Good Friday**: 7.30pm - Joint Abbey Church

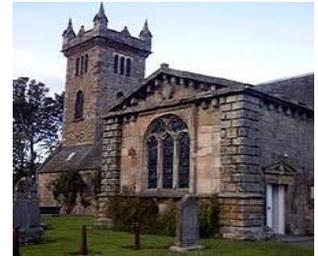
30 March: 10.30am - Muddy Church Kite Making and
Flying, NB Country Park

31 March **Easter Sunday**: 8.00am - Early morning ser-
vice on Elcho Green (near the anchor) followed by an
informal breakfast in Abbey large hall, 9.30am - Dir-
leton Kirk, 10.30am - Abbey Church



Dirleton Kirk Session

Keith Stewart



We spent a few weeks worshipping in the Church Hall after Christmas, after the boiler malfunctioned so that the Kirk was unheated. We all adapted to different routines- setting out the chairs in the hall and arranging the hymn books on them, instead of arranging flowers and ringing the bell on Sunday morning; then unfolding the tables and sitting down to our coffee and biscuits. We sat down in fellowship together in the very place in which we had been worshipping in fellowship a minute before.

Special thanks are due to those who provided the music during our brief period away from the kirk and the organ- to Jim Dickson, of course, and to Marion Goodfellow and Philip Boon, who had to adapt to the different acoustics and the different sounds of the electric keyboards which they used, as compared with the church organ. I understand that sometimes, in the church itself, it can be difficult for the organist to hear the singing above the magnificent range of the refurbished organ- it would have been a very different experience to play in the hall, in that more restricted space, with the congregation no more than a couple of feet away. While not being a musician myself, I

understand that all sorts of factors may work to change the sound of our singing- not just that our proximity one to another in the hall meant that in some way we encouraged one another to sing out. The smaller dimensions of the hall, as compared with the church, even the absence of a carpet, which has something of a deadening effect on sounds, would together change the sound of our worship.

I enjoyed this interlude of worship in the hall- without wanting for a moment to suggest that I am not delighted that we have been able to return to the church for our services of worship on Sunday- far less that we should move from church to hall more often. The hall already plays an important part in our work as a congregation, not only in our service to the community as a facility for the use of different groups, or for that fellowship after worship, but as the place where we meet for midweek prayers. But I think it is good from time to time to worship in different ways and different places: we are offered new perspectives on the way in which that worship takes place, as we experience the different elements of prayer, preaching and music in different surroundings. My impression is that most of us who were at one or more of the Sundays in the hall would agree.

We are all very grateful to Gordon Symon the fabric

convenor for arranging for repairs to be carried out promptly and efficiently to the boiler, and hence allowing our return to the kirk. Within a very short space of time, new matters arose- ventilation in the boiler room; a radiator failing to work, a leak in the roof of the vestry- I suppose it is part of our stewardship of such an old and precious building, that there should be always be some new thing requiring attention.

I had my own different perspectives on the church a few Saturdays ago, when Richard Allison and I spent a pleasant morning scrambling up and down the ladder to remove moss, grit, and other debris from those of the gutters which we could reach. It is always fascinating to look at the church buildings from angles which we cannot normally see; and to get a different view of the snowdrops in the churchyard, as Winter gives way to Spring.



Abbey Kirk Session

Robert Burgon



After the dark (and often cold and wet) days of winter, I am always encouraged as the hours of daylight lengthen and we move into Spring and look forward to Summer. Lent falls within this period and I believe that during this time of reflection, it is good to look around us and to witness the beauty of God's creation and the signs of hope which appear in our gardens and the surrounding landscape.

This Lent, Abbey Church has much to give thanks for and there are encouraging signs of hope for the future. Following consideration by the Kirk Session and individual discussions, no fewer than six of our members have agreed to become Elders and be appointed to the Kirk Session. Colin and Jackie Ley, Tom and Judy Lockhart-Hunter, Irene Nicol and Kirsten Swindells will be ordained as elders and admitted to the Kirk Session during the morning service on Easter Sunday- 31 March 2024. We give thanks for their commitment and look forward to receiving their support in their new roles in the months and years ahead.

Our Annual Congregational Meeting took place on Sunday 24 March 2024 when the Annual Report and

Accounts for the year ended 31 December 2024 (which had previously approved by the Kirk Session) were presented. Although the accounts show a small deficit of £5,603, this was planned and actually smaller than had been budgeted. Income, principally through our offerings, tax recovered on Gift Aid, and income for the use of our premises all increased and our expenditure was lower than in the previous year. The value of our investments increased after two challenging years in global stockmarkets. The accounts also show the extent of the Abbey congregation's generosity to external charities. If you have not done so, I encourage everyone to look at the Annual Report and Accounts on the church website (which has recently been refreshed with many thanks to Iain Murray).

We concluded our second series of joint Bible studies with friends from St Baldred's Episcopal Church towards the end of March. Good numbers attended and we enjoyed fellowship with people from another congregation whom many of us did not know well.

This Newsletter should be distributed around Easter and this year we look forward to recognising this important event in the Church Calendar in a series of services during Holy Week and a Muddy Church kite-making and flying event on Easter Saturday. On Easter Sunday morning we will gather together for our

traditional outdoor service at 8.00am on Elcho Green followed by breakfast in the Abbey Church Hall and our service at 10.30am (which will include the ordination of new elders mentioned above). Full details of the Easter services are contained in the invitation cards in church (and in the container on the front railings).

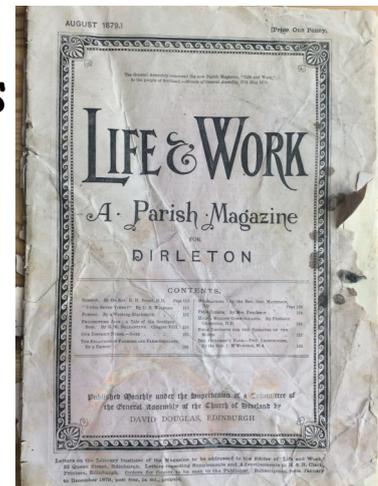
Over the months between Easter and Harvest we like to open the sanctuary for visitors. In previous years it has been good to see the comments of appreciation in our Visitors' Book from a truly international range of visitors. To do this we need a number of volunteers to be willing to open and close the church and I would encourage you all to consider the appeal for volunteers which appears elsewhere in this Newsletter.



Time Travel by Bob Kane with thanks to John

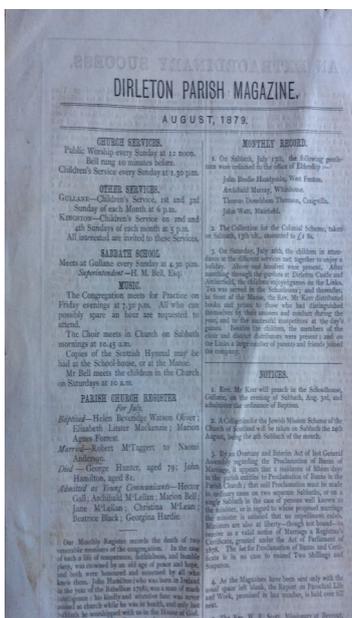
I dearly hope that there are some who read this who will remember old fashioned lino and if so, you may also recall that instead of expensive under felt, as it was then called, most folks would cover the floor with newspaper or old periodicals. This meant that on moving house or eventually lifting old lino the papers were discovered. Of course, work stops and pictures and especially adverts are examined, followed by a moment of whimsical remembrance or perhaps a time of blank amazement. A kind of domestic archaeology - Kirkcaldy we have a lot to thank you for.

I had a similar experience a short time back on visiting one of our elders at Dirleton. Mid conversation he produced a very old copy of Life & Work August 1879 no less. The print is tiny but there is a "Banner" from the General Assembly of May that year commending this new magazine to the PEOPLE of Scotland.



There is a page for local info at Dirleton - minister, service times, who's who and activities.

There are adverts for cures, pills, ointments and potions for just about every possible ailment or conditionthere are robe makers, organ and piano suppliers and an advert for Grays of George Street for their new Gas Cooking Apparatus.



The articles are a window on the times and I will, in the form of the day, give a by line.

A long and worthy sermon by the Rev RH Story

A meditation from the Rev G Matheson

Philosopher Jack a tale of the South Seas by RM Ballantyne

Poetry by a working Blacksmith (not bad stuff)

The relationships between farmers and farm servants by a Farmer

A travelogue of life in Cyprus by a Mrs Ferguson

Half a million communicants by Prof Charteris

Bible thoughts for the month

And a Children's Page

Reading this was like flying back in time and enabled me to avoid domestic duties for a while.

I hope to find a way to preserve this gem so that it can be read by anyone.

Check the floors - you never know!



ABBAY CHURCH CHOIR

It is relatively unusual these days for churches to be able to sustain a regular choir at Sunday services and Abbey Church is grateful that we have consistently been able to have a small choir leading the praise at our services for many years.

Our numbers are quite small and there is always room for more. At present, we meet for a short practice prior to the start of morning worship when we rehearse the hymns for that morning. With a few more members, we might be able to revert to singing introits and other choral items as a contribution to our worship.

If you enjoy singing, wouldn't mind sitting on the raised platform at the front of the church and would like to assist by becoming a member of the choir, I would love to hear from you.

Robert Burgon

(Organist and Choirmaster)



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.



Comments - Abbey Church (All Funds)

Year to 31st December 2023

General

Payments exceeded receipts by £5,603. This is much better than budget.

Income

Continued offering support means that we have exceeded budget. This has a consequential effect on Gift-aid recoveries.

Premises income reflects the increasing use of our halls.

We are very grateful to Mrs Andrew's estate for an amount of £1,000.

(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 savings on premises costs reflect the reduction in expected maintenance.

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

ABBHEY CHURCH - NORTH BERWICK

BUDGET v ACTUAL AT 31 DECEMBER 2023

ALL FUNDS

Income (All Funds)	Annual Budget	Actual to 31 Dec	Variance
Offerings	62,000	64,907	2,907
Tax reclaim	14,000	15,373	1,373
Miscellaneous	7,000	3,354	(3,646)
Premises income	18,000	17,659	(341)
Investment income	4,200	4,969	769
Legacies	-	1,090	1,090
Sale of Investments	-	-	-
Dirleton	6,000	6,000	-
Total Income	111,200	113,352	2,152

Expenditure (All Funds)	Annual Budget	Actual to 31 Dec	Variance
Church of Scotland payments	46,223	46,223	-
Pastoral Expenses	11,950	11,596	354
Other Salaries	33,360	33,818	(458)
Premises costs	22,677	16,041	6,636
Church Office Expenses	4,360	4,476	(116)
Investments	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	7,430	6,801	629
Total Expenditure	126,000	118,955	7,045

Budget for 2023

(14,800)

Expenditure in excess of income

(5,603)

Positive Variance

9,197

WALT - Women Are Learning Together

Our March study looked at the lives of Andrew and Peter. Disciples, brothers but completely different personalities. Both were loyal followers of Jesus, but they served him in different ways.

Andrew was a humble leader who was content to be in the background. He was more concerned about bringing people to Jesus than about who got the credit or who was in charge.

Peter is often remembered as being a dominant leader, hasty in word and action, irritable and capable of anger, especially when provoked or threatened and yet he was also bold, eager and courageous. He learned from his life experiences and was willing to change and turn his weaknesses into strengths.

This study demonstrated to us that God uses all types of personalities to proclaim the Good News!





Our next set of studies come under the topic of **"Jesus on Gardening"**. The four studies planned are entitled "Bearing Fruit", "Growth", "Workforce" and "Problems".

Monday 8th April (Change of date)

"Bearing Fruit" - "I am the true Vine..."

John 15:1-6

A Tree and its Fruit,

Luke 6:43-45 & Matthew 7:15-20

Fruit Trees - Productivity,

Luke 13:6-9

Monday 6th May

"Growth" - The Parable of the Growing Seed,

Mark 4:26-29

Mustard Seeds,

Matthew 13:31-32, Mark 4:30-34 &

Luke 13:18-19

When a seed dies,

John:24

WALT meets at 2:00 in Abbey small hall and hot drinks are available beforehand.

All women are welcome.

Abbey Church Flower Rota

DATE	DONOR	ARRANGER
7 April	Jean Donald	Elma Danks Irene Brodie
14 April	Helen Mackenzie	Elma Danks Irene Brodie
21 April	Joan Griffith	Joan Griffith
28 April	Val Young Irene Brodie	Elma Danks Irene Brodie
5 May	Cath Hill Margaret McLean	Frances Fallmyr Olive Curran
12 May	AN Other	Dorothy Kirkpatrick
19 May	Zandra Main	Joan Griffith
26 May	Sheila Burgon	Isabel Smith



Abbey Church Sunday Tea Rota

DATE	
7 April	Linda McLean & Bel Hardie
14 April	Susan Ainslie & A N Other
21 April	Isobel Smith & Sadie Young
28 April	Katrina Hendry & Irene Nichol
5 May	Fiona Gibson & A N Other
12 May	Mary Graham & Rose Leslie
19 May	Anne Bell & A N Other
26 May	Linda McLean & Bel Hardie



Easter Sunrise Surprise

He is not here; he has risen! Luke 24:6a (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 24:1-12 (NIV).



Y L X Y P K W G P R X I F L W
D B A R H V N E S P I C E S K
P W V S L I P U E F Z S Z U T
A R W A N U S V T K Q A E F N
G D O R C K T Z O W T J O N A
Y R O L T Q O K M B O D Y L Z
G M O W L D N E B S S T B Q J
Y D B U G E E V N R T H K E Z
W L Z O N Q D U L T W H J M T
F O I Q W D J U F O E R X S C
R R M V R E M E M B E R R S I
J D I E I U D P R E C I E P K
G F E G N N N B D D F C G D O
O D D A H S G C Q A A I X I V
L A T F D T M P J F Y Z T F L

living

women

faces

morning

tomb

first

stone

week

rolled

spices

entered

body

risen

away

ground

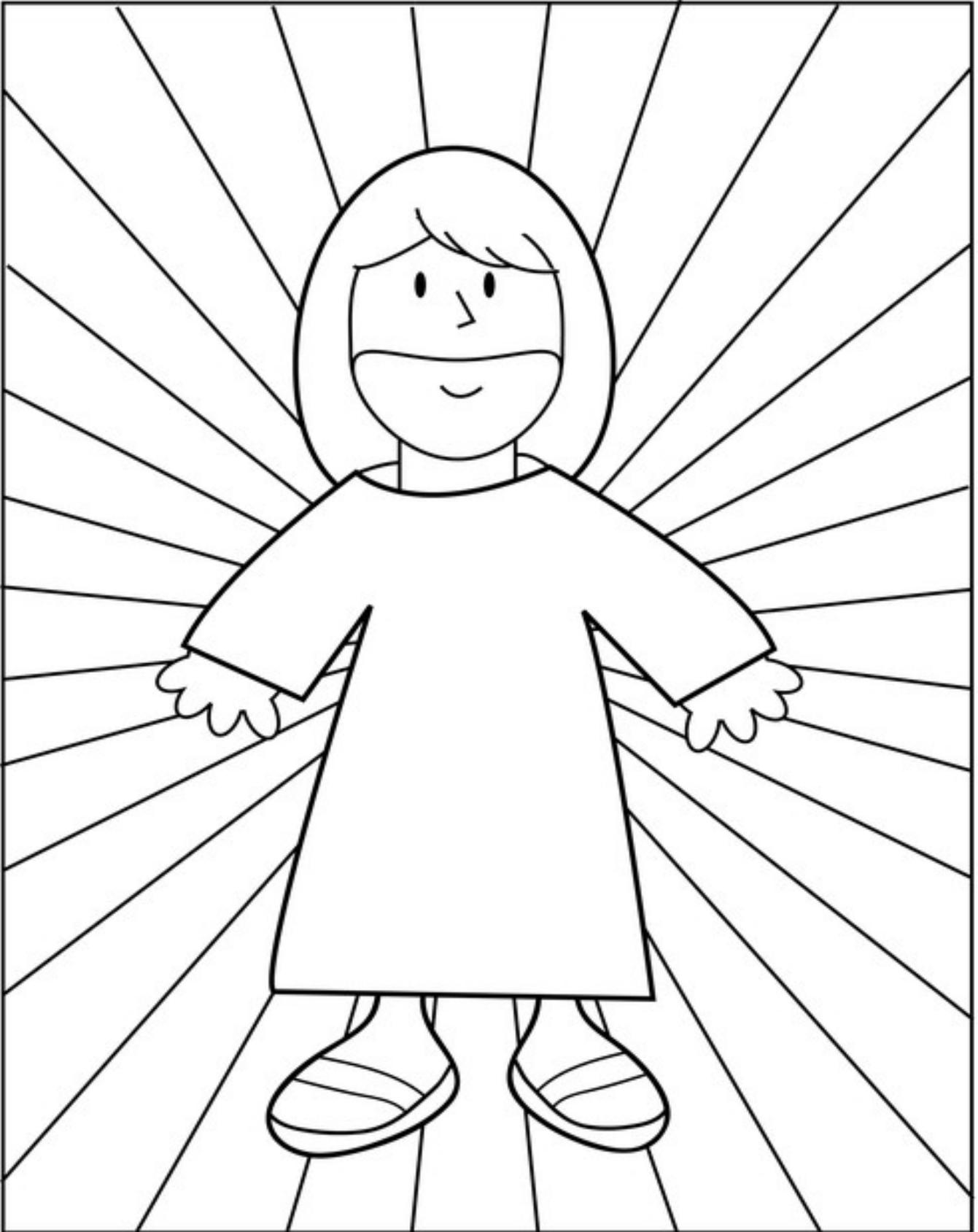
fright

dead

bowed

remember

day



Walking in the Light
For our younger members to colour

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

17.3.24 Daisy Dawn Kyle

24.3.24 Lillian Harper McCluskey Fedo

Funerals

26.2.24 Rev. James Ross Ewen Campbell

27.2.24 Barbara Harris (Thanksgiving Service)

28.2.24 Mary Dow

13.3.24 Elizabeth Marjory Robertson

20.3.24 Bethan Rogers

22.3.24 Richard Thomas Heafield

2.4.24 Ann Tollan Morrison

3.4.24 Betty Hawthorn

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 June and July 2024.
The deadline for submitting articles is Tuesday 14th
May 2024. 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. SCO 04761—CCL51436