



**Abbey Church
and**

**Dirleton Kirk News
June/July 2021**

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.

Pre booking still required

Wednesdays 10am

**Half Hour Prayer Service
Dirleton**

Dear Dirleton & Abbey Friends,

By the time you read this, the General Assembly will be over. It's our turn to attend this year, and Robert Burgon, Mary and myself will be commissioners, and we already have the reports which will be presented and debated (over 300 pages of them). Like last year it will be held electronically, so of course we'll miss the usual meetings and social interaction, but we pray that the work of the Assembly will be positive and successful. This year there will be a lot of discussion about Presbytery plans and restructuring, and the allocation of ministers. Our Presbytery may become a mega-Presbytery of 'South East Scotland' covering Edinburgh, the Lothians and Borders. In Abbey & Dirleton we're in discussion with our local grouping of Aberlady, Gullane and St Andrew Blackadder about what this will mean for the future, since the allocation for our area will probably be one full-time minister. I'm conducting a wedding in Whitekirk in May, and it may well be an historic occasion as the last service to be held there since the 12th century- an accolade I don't really welcome!

All of this will mean a big culture change in the way we perceive church. For one thing it will mean less dependence on ordained Ministers, for no matter how often we say that we believe in 'the priesthood of all believers', we don't often practise what we preach.

But beyond that, the focus of the Assembly and also our focus as a local church must be on mission. One sobering fact in the reports is that the 'average' church had no-one join by profession of faith last year, and the biggest congregations on average had just one new

member. Covid and lockdown didn't prevent new people coming to faith, it's just that almost no-one did in the national Kirk. Unless we see it as all of our task to share the gospel in creative ways, and go out with the gospel to where people are, they will never come to worship God. Your prayers are valued.

Your Minister,
David

Jim Hawthorn - an appreciation

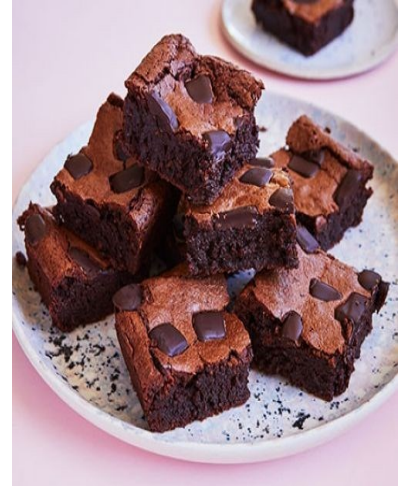
With Jim's death we have lost not only an Elder and friend, but a faithful Church Officer. After moving here with Betty and their two boys from North Lanarkshire, Jim soon took up the duties of 'Beadle' at Abbey, a role he fulfilled with great commitment over many years. He would go down to the church late on a Saturday night to check the heating was OK, and that saved us from many a cold Sunday morning! From early on a Sunday morning, he looked after the church and also the Minister, making sure he had a glass of water, and that the batteries in the microphone were charged etc. He also stayed at church long after the service was over, to make sure everything was ready for the next week. There was always time for a story with a bit of 'Glasgow humour' in it. And of course his country music skills and knowledge were legendary.



Our prayers are with Betty, Gary & Jim at this time.

Dirleton Kirk
Keith Stewart
Kirk Session Clerk

The Sunday School 'Bake-off' was one of the most popular of the Sunday School's activities before the covid shutdown. From an original idea by Margaret and Hayley (since adopted, I believe, into a television format) the kids produced cakes and buns, demonstrating startling technical ability, which were then sold off- to members of the congregation, who burst out of the church at the conclusion of the service, tummies rumbling, to sample the wares in the church hall, the proceeds of sale being devoted to Christian Aid. No such collective endeavour this year, of course, but all are encouraged to produce baking for this worthiest of causes. Please liaise with Liz Keddie if you would like to help out.



Chafing though covid restrictions continue to be, we have to remember how badly the virus has struck others; and so we in Dirleton and Abbey are especially concerned to learn that Dr. Miku Foning, pastor of our twinned church in Kalimpong, was hospitalised as a result of contracting the virus. We will all pray for his continuing recovery.

Contemplating writing things about 'restrictions starting to ease' and 'light at the end of the tunnel', I feel as though I might have written the same things at any

time since March 2020. As we respond to more and more prescriptions as to how worship is to be carried on, my sincere thanks are due to Anne Carswell, who continues to show apparently inexhaustible patience in interpreting the guidelines and instructions, and taking the lead in how we might best worship in a manner which will comply with the directives passed down to us.

Christian Aid Bake Sale
Saturday 5th June 10.00-12.00
Abbey Church Grounds

Donations of baking, jam, tablet etc. needed for the bake sale on Saturday 5th June. Everything must be securely wrapped and priced. Please contact Dorothy (email - dorothyk43@me.com) if able to help. Baking can be handed in on the morning of the sale from 9.00am.





North Berwick
and District
Christian Aid

PHOTO COMPETITION

Theme:
"Life after
Lockdown"

**Open to
all ages!**

Note new date
Closes
31 May
June
Prizes!



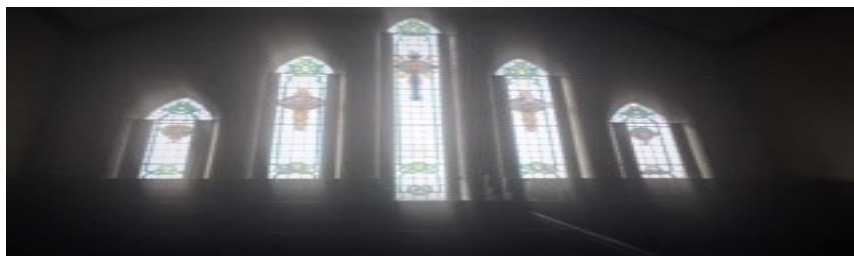
For full details, T&C, visit:
[www.facebook.com/
christianaidnorthberwick](https://www.facebook.com/christianaidnorthberwick)
or scan this QR code



Abbey Church
Robert Burgon
Kirk Session Clerk

It was so good to be able to resume live worship in Abbey Church before Easter and we give thanks that the measures which had been taken to limit and reduce the spread of Covid 19 had enabled this to be done. Although we had enjoyed the Zoom services which had been arranged since Christmas, the return to the sanctuary allowed us to experience more of that sense of being together in communal worship (even although the 2-metre social distancing, mask-wearing and no singing rules still apply). Recognising that not all of our congregation is able to join us in these live services, they continue to be recorded and posted on our website and transcripts of services are posted to those without internet access.

With the removal of the limit of 50 people who could attend any service of worship, the seating in church has been reconfigured and we are now able to seat 56 comfortably and this number will increase again shortly when we reopen the balcony. We will be pleased to welcome more members and indeed visitors to our services in the months ahead.



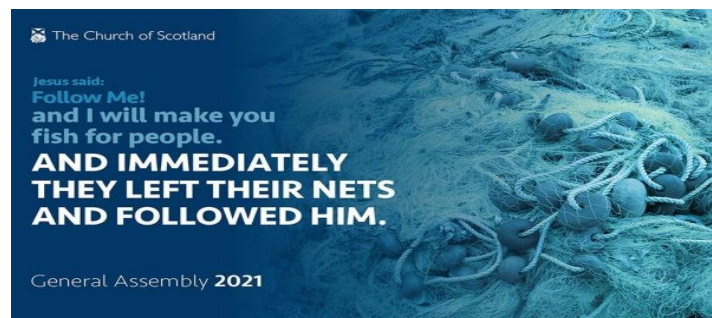
The meeting of the Kirk Session which took place on 12 April started with a time of reflection and thanksgiving for the life of our dear fellow elder, Church Officer and friend, Jim Hawthorn, whose sudden death had shocked all who held him dear. Jim had given dedicated service to Abbey Church for many years, and he will be missed. Our prayers are extended to Betty and their sons Gary and Jim.

The Kirk Session received reports from our Resources, Outreach and World Church Committees. The Outreach Committee reported on the success of the Easter Holiday Club activity bags which had been distributed and the ongoing interest in the Try Praying booklets which are available from a dispenser outside the church. Plans are now well advanced for Summer Holiday Club which is to be arranged in an outdoors setting. The World Church Committee reported on an exciting range of activities which had been planned to support Christian Aid Week.

We are delighted to report that our Little Nippers group, under the leadership of Coordinator Kathryn Robertson, resumed meetings in early May (after a gap of more than a year). This group which enables parents and carers of pre-school children to meet (with the children) and is greatly appreciated by those who attend. Several other groups who are users of our church halls have also resumed their activities which

enables our premises to be used almost every day of the week.

As I write, three representatives of Abbey (our Minister, Mary Graham and myself) are preparing to attend this year's General Assembly (which will take place online commencing on Saturday 22 May 2021). The Church of Scotland faces a number of challenges including reductions in membership and income and a predicted shortage of ordained ministers in the next few years. The Assembly will consider proposals to address these issues, while maintaining and seeking to develop the mission of our national church. The outcome of these deliberations could have an impact on all of us and we pray that the future will be planned carefully and sensitively.



The next Kirk Session meeting will take place, again by Zoom, on Monday 7 June 2021. The meeting will commence with a presentation by representatives of the Presbytery of Lothian to discuss plans for future ministry in this area (which could be affected by decisions taken at the General Assembly). We will be joined by the Dirleton Kirk Session for that item of business.

Little Nippers

Little Nippers started back on Thursday, 6th May. Under the watchful eye of Kathryn Robertson. It's been really good to welcome adults and under 5's and some toddlers who have never been to a group as they've been closed for 14 months!!



Children and their parents/carers have really appreciated being able to meet other people and encourage their children to play with other children. It's been a fun atmosphere and so good to see lots of little ones dashing around! Some families have only moved to North Berwick during lockdown so it's lovely to see them meeting new people.

Kathryn chats to families at the group and helps connect them with each other. There is a weekly helper who is invaluable in greeting people at the door, checking they are booked in and serving snacks tea and coffee. Please contact Sheila Burgon if you think you can help.



We are following government guidance on how to operate safely. We are allowed ten adults, plus Kathryn and the helper. Parents/carers can book a space by emailing Kathryn, abbeylittlenippers@gmail.com on the Tuesday prior to the Thursday session. It is very popular but we are trying to ensure that everyone gets a turn at coming along. As restrictions ease we will be able to welcome more adults.

Terms and Conditions.

I can tell by the manner of the request, whether the editor of this much beloved chronical *wishes* or *wants* or *requires!* copy for the forthcoming newsletter. But I know my place.

It puts me in mind of my first ever contract from "The Kirk's HQ at 121 George Street "

It started "As a servant of the board you shall in all respects....."

Today some decades on, words such as colleague, team member, valued contribution etc. would rear their heads and actually be meant what's more.

I once found a document in the records of our church listing the names of the session members not by years served nor by office held but by profession, occupation, service and rank held in the recent First World War. And I am sure you can guess the order.

Honestly did any of that matter in such a roll of Session; surely all equal in their service now?

And yes, at that time all were Men.

We live in a different age in the same world but in a different culture. Today in preparation for a service I was reading once again the Roaring 20s (as I like to call them) in Exodus starting with the 10 commandments

and then dealing with all manner of things; the weft and weave of life indeed. Laws on slave/servant contract and treatment, possibly shocking to us now but for their time liberal and progressive (you really did not want to be a slave in Assyria) marriage laws, stock management, justice and the right way to do rites.

That said those chapters dealt with the issues within the culture, the service conditions for life as God's folk made sense to them there and then.

Life is easier now *for most*, but some of our cherished ways and why-fores need looked at again and it is just that that the Assembly is trying to do as I write this.

I hope we as willing servants might give whatever they bring to us a look over with a more generous heart and mind than I did with that Dickensian contract.

Take care

Bob



Super Sunday Club

We are delighted that Super Sunday Club is able to re-start in person. We plan to run fortnightly until the summer at the church hall. Children can be dropped off at the hall just before the service starts, and be collected at the end of the service, approximately 11.15pm. Please book a space by email-ing hazel.abbeychurch@hotmail.com We will meet on Sunday 23rd May, Sunday 6th June and Sunday 20th June.

We would like to have an informal picnic on the last Sunday of the school term - 27th June from 12 noon. Some of the leaders will head to the Lodge grounds, near the play park at the top of the grounds, just to the left of the community centre entrance. This is not an organised event but just a chance to have some fellowship after a difficult year, celebrate the start of the summer, play, and enjoy some time together. Please bring your own food and picnic blankets. This is an informal gathering, so we will just see you there if you are able - and come prepared for the weather!

After the summer, we are hoping to run Sunday Club regularly but need more volunteers to come onto the rota to help. If you enjoy spend time with young people, and would like to share Jesus with them, help them grow in their faith and have fun, please let me know. If we can get enough people, it might be only a once every two months commitment.

Many thanks,
Hazel



Jungle Adventure is a new holiday club written by SU Scotland for running outdoors. We hope to run this in North Berwick during the week of 26th July, Monday to Friday 10am-12 noon for primary age. We also hope to have some youth nights for older primary and early secondary. Numbers will have to be kept small under Covid regulations, but we are looking forward to having a fun week engaging with God outdoors.

Alongside this, we are planning to keep the Activity Bags running and hope families will continue to sign up for our holiday club in a bag which can be used with the whole family at a time that suits them. If you know of any families who would enjoy this, please let me know and we can add them to our list. Over Easter, we handed out over 60 bags and we would love to see this grow.

If you would be interested in being part of the team for either the Jungle Adventure outdoors club or helping create and deliver that activity bags, please do get in touch. Those involved in Jungle Adventure will need to sign up to be a SU Volunteer so we would need to know asap.

We hope this summer will be packed full of fun activities to help families engage with God and with his creation. We value your prayers for all the practical organising and for the engagement with families.

Feast

Our Feast youth group has continued to meet throughout both lockdowns on Zoom, but it has been great to meet outside in person. Some of the young people had not met each other in real life before! We've enjoyed some walks and some food together, and conversations about God. If you know anyone S4-S6 who would like to join us, please let me know.

Hazel Gray
Young People's Worker
Abbey Church
North Berwick



Comments - Abbey Church (All Funds)

Quarter to 31st March 2021

General

Payments exceeded receipts by £438.

Income

There was very little Open Plate income but income from Standing Orders remains much higher than previously.

(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).

The Halls have also been closed for the bulk of the quarter but it is encouraging to note that several of our regular users are restarting at the end of April following the easing of the Covid 19 restrictions.

Expenditure

The Church of Scotland has substantially reduced the amount paid to them for 2021, these amounts cover the costs of running the Church of Scotland including Ministers' salaries, this payment is called Ministry and Mission.

The Abbey continues to claim furlough income on some staff. The staff, however, are being paid their full salary.

If you have any questions please ask.

Stuart Ainslie

Income - Gift-aid

Phil Spencer

Income - Hall Rentals

Paola Burrows

Payment of bills

Janice Cobb

Payroll

David Aston

Accounting - OSCR, periodic accounts and Church of Scotland

Stuart Ainslie

Abbey Church – North Berwick
Budget V Actual at 31 March 2021
All Funds

Income (All Funds)	Annual Budget	Budget to 31 Mar	Actual to 31 Mar	Variance
Offerings	68,000	13,999	16,497	2,498
Tax reclaim	15,000	3,750	3,715	(35)
Miscellaneous	7,000	601	1,777	1,176
Premises income	5,000	700	789	89
Investment income	4,000	400	293	(107)
Legacies	-	-	-	-
Sale of Investment	-	-	-	-
Dirleton	6,000	1,500	1,500	-
Total Income	105,000	20,950	24,571	3,621
Expenditure (All Funds)	Annual Budget	Budget to 31 Mar	Actual to 31 Mar	Variance
Church of Scotland payments	46,404	11,601	11,601	-
Pastoral Expenses	19,300	4,875	1,486	3,389
Other Salaries	35,101	8,774	8,055	719
Premises costs	20,013	2,613	2,492	121
Church Office Ex-penses	3,750	937	1,045	(108)
Investments	-	-	-	-
Miscellaneous	5,704	579	330	249
Total Expenditure	130,272	29,379	25,009	4,370
Budget for 2021	<u>(25,272)</u>			
Budget for 1st quarter 2021		<u>(8,429)</u>		
Expenditure in excess of income			<u>(438)</u>	
Variance				<u>7,991</u>

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, The Guild, REGAL, WALT, Alpha, Little Nippers, The Voice Project, to mention but a few.

We have many other groups using our church halls, The Gospel Choir, the Scone café, Christian fellowship men's breakfast, physiotherapy plus, yoga classes, pilates classes, Jo jingles, fitness classes, The drama Mill, the Artisan Fair, the brownies, North Berwick Photographic group, dance classes.

**Hall Hire is limited in line with current government
Covid-19 restrictions**

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

Weddings

22.5.21 Niall Grant and Eve Hartley

29.5.21 Ross Michie and Lauren Wilson

Funerals

13.4.21 Jim Hawthorn

27.4.21 Jennifer McMillan

30.4.21 Elizabeth Ann Kynoch

Pastoral Visits

The Minister and Pastoral Assistant are happy to make contact with church members who are ill, either at home or in hospital. This information should be given to the Minister (890800) or via the Church Office (892800). Thank you.

For pastoral visiting, it would also be helpful to have a **mobile number**, the number of a next of kin, and your 'Sunday' name- hospitals use your official name, as it can be confusing when making contact if you're known by something different! And the ward number too, please.

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

Church Office: 01620 892800

abbeychurch@abbeychurch.co.uk

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

Newsletters

The next newsletter will cover August/September 2021. The deadline for submitting articles is Tuesday 13th July 2021. 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