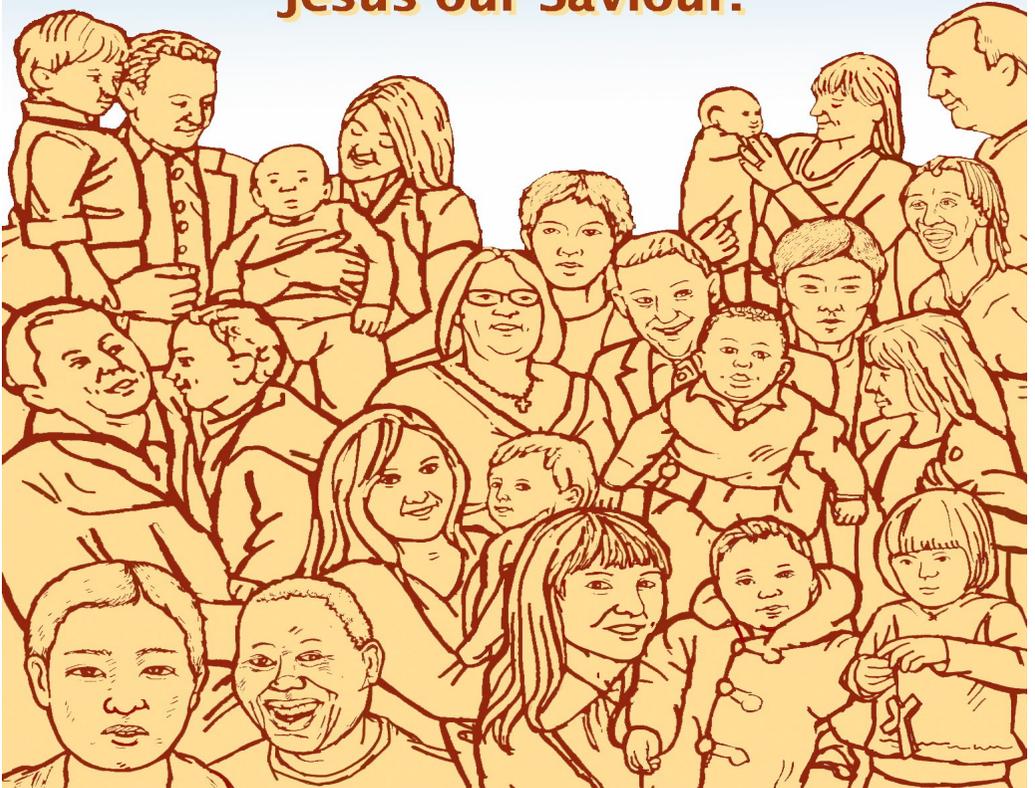


Kaleidoscope 153

St Andrew Blackadder Parish Church Magazine

July 2022

**Father God,
as you made us in your image,
may we see you in all those we meet
and serve you in all that we do,
in the power of the Holy Spirit
and in the name of
Jesus our Saviour.**



A Message from Neil

Lots of people are feeling under pressure at the moment. Maybe you are one of them.

In a recent newspaper article Josh Glancy gives a flavour of why this might be.

*“Is anything working at the moment? Not if you need a passport in the next three months or a driving licence in a hurry, nor if you fancy a well-earned trip abroad after two years of pandemic restrictions. Not if you gambled on taking the train for a June staycation, and certainly not if you hope for a petty burglary to be tackled by the police. Getting an appointment with the GP is a longshot, and those visiting A&E are advised to take camping provisions for their stay. Meanwhile, thanks in part to the war in Ukraine, petrol has hit £2 a litre and inflation is nudging towards 10 per cent.” **

If you feel under pressure and fearful for the future, it's not surprising.

In our Sunday services recently, we've been reading Jesus' message to seven churches. They're found in the first three chapters of Revelation, the last book in the Bible. These churches were all experiencing pressure. The followers of Jesus who heard these words were like us. They were living under constant and sustained pressure.

The root cause of their pressure was different from what we face, but their experience was similar to ours. These were followers of Jesus who were finding life difficult and wearing. They were being ground down by events. They were fearful for the future.

When we're under pressure we pray. And if we're honest, what we want most, is for God to wave a magic wand. We pray and then go to bed. We'll sleep soundly and, in the morning, discover the war in Ukraine is over because Russian forces have withdrawn. Overnight the price of fuel plummets and soon pounds are knocked off our grocery bills. At the same time the government gets its act together and finds effective solutions to all the other ills blighting our country.

We dream of a miracle like this. And so did the Christians in the seven churches in Revelation. Like us, they longed for God to take away the pressure they faced.

And God didn't do it then. I'm not expecting him to do it today either.

Instead, Jesus reassured them and commissioned them.

Jesus assured them that God is in control. "I am the Alpha and the Omega" says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty" (Revelation 1:8).

God has not left the building.

While God delegates authority for life on earth to humans he does this without abdicating responsibility. God remains involved. God sees. God knows. Ultimately God remains in control. Jesus says the past, the present and the future is held in God's hands. Rather than giving into despair, Jesus urged these churches to trust.

Then Jesus commissioned them. For example, to the church in Smyrna, he said, "Be faithful, even to the point of death, and I will give you life as the victor's crown" (Revelation 2:10).

Under pressure these Christians longed to escape; Jesus told them to model an alternative. These Christians dreamt of paradise; Jesus called them to be beacons of hope.

The same assurance and commission comes to us in St Andrew Blackadder in 2022. Life may be difficult, and we may well feel under pressure. However, we know that God is our refuge and our strength so we will not give into fear (Psalm 46:1, 2). In the circumstances it is not surprising that we long to escape. Yet we hear Jesus calling us to be living examples of the hope that he brings. Humbly, yet boldly, we demonstrate that following Jesus makes a tangible difference when times are tough. By living this hope we show there is an alternative to fear, cynicism and despair.

* “Why is nothing working in broken Britain?” Josh Glancy, *The Sunday Times*, 12/6/22, p 19.

Prayer

Almighty God
help us, in the core of our beings,
to believe that,
in this confusing world we live in,
you remain in control and have not left the building.
Help us to trust that,
behind the scenes,
you work through individuals and institutions,
prompting and directing.

Help us, in the midst of our fear,
to hold fast to the hope we have in Jesus,
and to allow that to colour every aspect of our lives
so we shine like beacons
amidst the darkness of fear and despair.
AMEN.

Neil

Spring Harvest Snapshot

About 25 of us headed down to Skegness in April this year, our ages ranging from 10 to 50++++ The theme was Restore, Renew, Rebuild, and the teaching was based on the book of Nehemiah.

On our return many folk ask us “How was Spring Harvest?” It is so hard to answer that question on the spot, but for those who would like to know, here are a few initial highlights:

“I enjoyed seeing and spending time with some of our StAB family, the amazing worship leaders, the buzz of energy rippling throughout, and this year’s theme which seemed remarkably in line with so much of what we are doing here in NB. I can’t wait to see what next year’s SH brings!” “So many highlights—seeing the kids grow in faith, love and confidence, the awesome and uplifting worship, thought- provoking speakers, and above all I loved growing as our own church family and with our Christian family across the UK”

“A feast for body, soul and spirit” “Inclusive” “The pool was amazing” “Welcoming and kindness” “So encouraging” “We had a wonderful time. The best part for me was being with our church family and the support we have had” “The messages were powerful” “So lovely to worship with all the generations” “A chance to spend time together as church families” “Love being together as a church family” “A time of blessing” “Hung out with some cool people” “Going to the restaurant on the first day” “All of us bowling, chatting and laughing ”

“The best part of the whole experience for me was joining with our church family and thousands of other Christians in celebration of our Lord in worship songs, bible teaching, interesting talks and free time to breathe, all made for a perfect five days away.” *If you fancy joining in next year, drop Stacy an email:*

stacycathcart@yahoo.co.uk *Financial help may be available.*

Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week took place from 15 to 21 May 2022, but we spread our local activities over a fortnight. On Sunday 15th May at 6pm, the Rev. Simon Metzner from St Baldred's led the United Service for Christian Aid at St Andrew Blackadder. There was a dual theme of God's compassion for the poor, and of our duty to call for climate justice. Members of most of the town's churches took part, reading prayers and Bible passages and introducing hymns. Ian and I read a Prayer of Lamentation which asked the church to do more to raise the profile of the poor in society. The offering came to £424.

On Saturday 21st May from 10am to 12 noon, a Christian Aid Bake Sale was held at Abbey Church. There were cakes, scones, tablet, home-made jam and marmalade. Plans for outside stalls had to be changed because of the high winds, so we set up tables in the Abbey's New Hall. (Some hardy souls braved the cold and directed people indoors.) We were grateful that many customers put in generous donations, offering a £10 or £20 note and taking away only one or two bags of cakes or tablet. Everything had been sold by 11.40am, so we had to finish early! I guarded the Donations Bucket and helped to count and bank the money afterwards. With an additional £250 cheque, the Bake Sale raised £1198.80. The final event was the Christian Aid Instant Raffle at Dirleton Market on the Green. This was on Sunday 29th May from 11am to 3pm. I spent several weeks going up and down the High Street, requesting and collecting prizes and then sending thank-you letters. Thirty-three local businesses and several individuals kindly donated prizes—including 14 gift vouchers, two hoodies, three pictures, three handbags, five scarves, six boxes of chocolates and eight bottles of wine! In total we had 82 posh prizes and another 82 tiny bags of sweets. We sold 540 tickets, some of them discounted towards the end. The total amount raised was £623.66, so some customers must have made substantial donations.

We are very grateful to the organisers of Dirleton Market for waiving the booking fee and afterwards giving £50 to Christian Aid. With other donations, including £500 from The Beacon, £3,616.77 will be the total available to send to Christian Aid.

The Christian Aid Committee is “ageing out” and now only has three members: Yolanda Strachan of Abbey Church, plus Ian and Jean McAulay. *We would be most grateful for volunteers to help with next year’s events.*

Jean McAulay

Would you like to prepare the Church Magazine

The current Editor is growing old and it is time to hand over to a younger person. This can be an immediate change, or a phased change where help and assistance can be given to anyone who wishes to think about being the editor.

There is a great team who proof read, print, fold the magazine and issue it for delivery by willing folk.

The magazine takes about 6 hours to prepare over 3 or 4 days. There is input from Neil and Julie, and front pages come from www.parishpump.co.uk, some articles also come from there.

If you would like to know more, please let Julie know or contact Derek Brown by Kaleidoscope email.

St Andrew Blackadder Church of Scotland North Berwick
Scottish Charity SC0006421

Sundays at St Andrew Blackadder

Morning Worship 9.30am – 10.10am

This is a traditional and reflective service. Tea and coffee are available afterwards.

Worship for all ages 10.30am – 11.40am

This is our main service including Christian teaching for both adults and children. All meet at the beginning, then the young people go off to KLASH and YF. There is a crèche available from 10.30 for babies and toddlers. There is a multimedia presentation and CH4, Mission Praise and some traditional songs. Tea and coffee, juice and biscuits are available afterwards.

Sunday Activities

| WHEN | WHAT | WHERE | CONTACT |
|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| | | | |
| Every Sunday | KLASH Ages 3 to 12 | Chapel | Stacy Cathcart |
| Every Sunday | YF Ages 13 to 18 | Room 2 | Paul Cathcart and Mary Leckie |

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Church Away Weekend

On the weekend of the 10th to 12th June we had a Church Away Weekend at Scoughall SU Camp.

In all there were more than 100 folk who attended at different times over the weekend. On Friday evening there were 86. On Saturday there were 88, and on Sunday there were 97.

The Kitchen Staff fed us very well over the whole weekend, and we were led in scripture by Andy Bathgate who talked to us four times. Using John chapters 13 to 16 he focused us on Serving, Trusting, Following and Knowing Jesus. Ian McAulay helped us in the songs we sang, most new to us, by subtitling the projected worship videos.

On our free time, some played games, some risked the Zip Wire, and some walked to the beach, while some sat and talked.

The younger folk had a great time exploring the games. The older folk had a great time listening to the talks and discussing the questions given.

A huge **thank you** to all who helped in the organisation and feeding of those attending. Also **thank you** to Derek Braid for taking photographs (available in printed version of Kaleidoscope)

St Andrew Blackadder Church of Scotland North Berwick
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Regular Activities

| WHEN | WHAT | WHERE | CONTACT |
|--|---|--------|---|
| Mondays 10.00 to 11.00am | Prayers | Room 1 | Fiona MacLean |
| Mondays 7.30 to 10.00pm | Table Tennis Club | Hall | Jack Hamilton northberwicktt@gmail.com |
| Tuesdays 1.30 to 2.30 pm | Seniors' Table Tennis Club | Hall | Patricia Hay 893437 |
| Tuesdays 9.30 to 11.30am | Little Angels Kids gather for fun while their carers enjoy a cup of tea or coffee & a chat | Chapel | Geraldine Woolley 01875 871219 |
| Thursdays 11.00 — 1.00pm (soup from 11.30am) | THE BEACON Come and enjoy a bowl of soup, home baking, a chat and good company | Hall | Elaine Martin 892859 07790121742 |
| Thursdays 1.00—1.20pm | THE BEACON SERVICE This short service is relaxed and intimate | Chapel | Ann Cubitt 894859 |

Deaths:-

Vera Murray

Helen Webb

Are you camping this summer? Here are some helpful hints...

~ When using a public campground, a tuba placed outside your tent will keep the spaces on either side vacant.

~ You can duplicate the warmth of a down-filled bedroll by climbing into a plastic garbage bag filled with several geese.

~ Take this simple test to see if you qualify for solo camping: shine a torch into one ear. If the beam shines out the other ear, do not go into the woods alone.

~ A two-man pup tent does not include two men or a pup.

~ A potato baked in the coals for one hour makes an excellent side dish. A potato baked in the coals for three hours makes an excellent hockey puck.

~ The sight of a bald eagle has thrilled campers for generations. The sight of a bald man, however, does absolutely nothing for the eagle.

Baptism

A couple took their five-year-old young daughter to church. During the service, the minister conducted the baptism of a tiny infant. The little girl watched in wonder as he held the baby, said solemn words, then poured water over its head, and then carefully wiped it dry. Finally, she turned to her father. "Daddy, why is he brainwashing that baby?"

Special Events During July & August 2022

| WHEN | WHAT | WHERE |
|---|--|------------------------------|
| 25th—29th July | Holiday Club NBChurchesholiday- club@gmail.com | Various Locations & Times |
| 11, 12, 13 August 10—5pm | Young Carers Art Show | Front Vestibule & Chapel |
| 28th August 9.30 & 10.30am services | Communion | Sanctuary |

St Andrew Blackadder Church of Scotland North Berwick
Scottish Charity SC0006421

St Andrew Blackadder Parish Church

St Andrew Street, North Berwick, EH39 4NU.

Minister: Rev. Dr. Neil Dougall

email to : ndougall@churchofscotland.org.uk.

Church Office Administrator, and Roll Keeper :

Julie Scanlon t. 01620 895233

email to: admin@standrewblackadder.org.uk

Office open Monday to Friday from 9 am to 12 noon.

Church Web Administrator

Ewan Bell t. 01620 861296

email to : webmaster@standrewblackadder.org.uk

Web Site: www.standrewblackadder.org.uk

Communion Services

St Andrew Blackadder Parish Church usually celebrates Communion as follows:

The last Sunday of February, May, August, and November, at 9.30am and 10.30am.

Beacon Communion Service is on a Thursday near to the Sunday.

Monday 18th July is the August/September Edition - DEADLINE.

Please send articles for consideration by
email to: kaleidoscope@standrewblackadder.org.uk

Or write to the Editor at the church office address or phone
Derek Brown t. 01620 895290

This is an invitation to anyone in the church who likes singing and/or can play an instrument, whether you are new to the congregation or not.

Now Covid is over, we are looking to build up the Music Groups for the Sunday morning 10.30 service again.

As you know, there are several Music Groups who lead the singing on a Sunday morning. Some have just singers, some have just instruments and some have both, so there are plenty of opportunities for everyone to join in. The commitment is not huge, as each group is used usually less than once a month.

Most groups rehearse at 9.30 before the service and, for those who can make it, I often have an afternoon rehearsal during the week. Obviously to sing in tune would be a great help, and we can usually accommodate most levels of instrumental playing.

If you would like to be a part of a group, could you email me in the first instance, and I will slot you into the group best suited for you depending on whether you prefer to sing or to play an instrument. It would be really good to get back to our pre-lockdown numbers of people taking part to enhance the music on a Sunday morning, so please feel very welcome to contact me.

My name is Marion Goodfellow and I am in the church directory as Music Co-ordinator along with Isabel Aitken.

My email is..... **mariongoodfellow@hotmail.com**

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| <p>St Andrew Blackadder Church of Scotland North Berwick Scottish Charity SC0006421</p> |
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The Beacon Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

A big thank you to Gertrude and her team for pulling out all the stops to ensure that the customers at The Beacon on 2nd June were able to enjoy a Jubilee extravaganza!

The team wholeheartedly embraced the event, from decorating the hall with bunting and flags, to jubilee-themed cake decorations, napkins and plates, and even wearing red, white & blue outfits and crowns! There was a wonderful atmosphere in the hall, which was enhanced by the gentle background music – a mix of songs spanning the decades of the Queen's reign. On leaving, customers were treated to a goodie bag containing a mix of old fashioned sweets. It was fantastic to see so many people relaxed and enjoying the celebrations.

The proceeds from the day, which amounted to £278.10, are being donated to The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme

Ukraine Games Night

On Saturday 28th May the Youth Fellowship held a Games Night as a fundraiser for Ukraine. Many people of all ages attended, and a total of over £1,800 was raised. The evening started with a quiz in the hall, and this was followed by the different teams moving, in a rota, to other parts of the building to compete in other challenges.