

Messages from Malawi

James Chirwa first wrote on receipt of the Coffee Morning money, "We are so proud and thank God for the support. We hope little by little we'll finish the block but now we have the start-up money and will be updating you how the building will be progressing."

And then thanks to a generous donation which has covered the shortfall to meet the budgeted US\$ 8,333, James again wrote.

"We are so excited that finally the total has been reached. I thank you all for working so hard and God bless you all. Will send pictures of every step we are taking."

A marvellous result with thanks to all who contributed.

Ian & Liz Craigie

Barbara Clark



Kaleidoscope 150

St Andrew Blackadder Parish Church Magazine

April 2022



A Message from Neil

Every Easter we recount the incredible events of Jesus' death and resurrection. When Jesus died on the cross, it seemed that evil had won. When we see pictures of Ukraine being invaded by Russia, we too wonder if evil has won.

Three days later God raised Jesus from the dead. That day changed history. The first disciples, and we ourselves, now know that good is greater than evil. One day God will triumph.

In 2022, however, many of us aren't altogether sure about this. Questions and doubts fill our minds. That's why I want to share a story from Ukraine. Peter Kimber, a resident of Dirleton who has led worship on occasions in St Andrew Blackadder, sent it to me. It begins in the early 1990's, not long after the fall of the Iron Curtain.

When I first went to Ukraine I had \$10,000 tucked into my socks. I was not trying to cheat the immigration people, but it was a sensible way to avoid the attentions of the mafia. Four other friends had the same amount in their socks. What was the money for? It would buy a building and a piece of land for a Scripture Union outdoor centre, similar to facilities in Scotland, where thousands of young people have had great holidays and have learnt something of God's love for them. Since that first visit, more than 10,000 young people have enjoyed and benefited from the facilities at Vorzel, which is not far from Kyiv, and, as I write, being bombarded by Russian guns.

On the Sunday following our arrival, Grigori took us to church – a Baptist Church in the city centre. It was certainly not what I was expecting. We had great difficulty finding seats because the place was packed. There were over four hundred people and the singing was overwhelming.

PCR tests are a fact of life for most of us at the moment. As a biologist who was doing this procedure long before most people had heard of it, I take secret delight in people's use of the acronym. Let me open the laboratory door and share the wonders it conceals.

The swab that you, or someone else, pokes down your throat and up your nose goes into a tube containing a little liquid. That liquid is then heated or mixed with a chemical to kill any live virus particles, then purified to get rid of every part of the virus except RNA.

The test is actually RT-PCR, the first step being Reverse Transcription by an enzyme that converts any RNA present into DNA. Multiple copies of that DNA are then made using the Polymerase Chain Reaction. Reverse transcription produced one half of a DNA helix, like one side of an unzipped zip. The enzyme DNA Polymerase is a little like the zipper, except as well as zipping up it also manufactures the other half of the zip using DNA subunits that have been added to the tube. This process works because a bit like a zip, the two sides of the DNA helix are mirror images of each other. If that new helix is unzipped, DNA polymerase can then make a new strand on both sides.

The beauty of PCR is in its simplicity. Multiple rounds of heating (which melts the DNA helix strands apart) and cooling (which allows the enzyme to make new DNA) produce more and more mirror-image DNA strands.

Scientists often have stories to tell about the wonders they study, or make use of, in the lab. Sadly, if this particular process works it means that there was probably COVID-19 in the sample, and someone may be about to become quite ill.

Do you live with similar tensions in your own life? Perhaps you sell a fantastic product that most people in the world can't afford. Maybe you love taking care of people, but your role only exists because others live with great physical or mental challenges.

For the Psalmists, a relationship with God was forged in the confusing space where the struggles of life mingled with praise for creation and trust in Him. How can we learn from these inspired ancient writers, celebrating the wonders we experience in our day-to-day lives while also lamenting the world's brokenness, praying for healing and justice?

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Two donkeys were walking the streets of Jerusalem. One said: "Just a few days ago I came down that hill carrying Jesus, and the people were all singing and shouting and throwing down their cloaks and palms for me to walk on. But today they don't even recognise me."

The other donkey replied: "That is how it is, my friend. Without Jesus, none of us amounts to much."

Easter Prayer 2022

Dear Almighty, All-powerful Father God,

You brought light and hope out of darkness and despair. You brought life out of death when you raised Jesus that first Easter Day. Thank you that the tomb is forever empty and that Jesus is forever alive!

No matter what is going on, no matter how little we understand, help us to hold on to the Easter truth – Jesus is risen! He is alive today and in Him we can put our trust, completely and confidently.

Because of Jesus, death is defeated. Because of Jesus, the best is yet to be. Love wins! Hallelujah! We praise you, Lord, in Jesus name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

St Andrew Blackadder Church of Scotland North Berwick
Scottish Charity SC0006421

My friend, Grigori, was a Baptist Minister. He supervised a group of other churches in the area, as his father had done before him. Grigori was born in one of Stalin's forced labour camps. His parents had been sentenced to ten years in one of them. Their crime? They were Baptists!

In due course Stalin died, Grigori's parents were released and they went back to church as before.

Grigori is still alive and preaching the Gospel as his father did before him and as his son Timothy now does. I have had no contact with him since the beginning of the Russian invasion. I just know that when the Russian invasion has passed, as it will, Grigori, or his son, or someone else, will take his place, and once again young people will go to Vorzel to have a lot of fun and learn about Jesus. When I hear from Grigori I know what he will say, "Pray for us. Dictators come and go but God's word is forever. Young people need God – and so do Dictators."

Easter is a gold-plated promise. God has won and evil is defeated. The end result is not in doubt. Easter, however, is not a timetable. We do not know when this will happen. Easter is an invitation to follow Grigori's example. We trust Jesus and we follow Jesus. We follow Jesus by sharing his love in word and deed.

On the day of Pentecost Peter said, "God raised Jesus from the dead, freeing him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him" (Acts 2:24).

Prayer

Almighty God,
through the mighty resurrection of Jesus
you have defeated the power of death.
You have broken the grip of evil
and you have shown that goodness will triumph.
Help us as we wait for the day when you transform all things.
Give us hope in the darkness,
faith in your promises,
and patience for the waiting.
May our lives be signs of your coming age,
our actions expressions of your healing love,
and our words point to the source of life – Jesus Christ.
In whose name we pray. AMEN.

Neil

This month begins with one of the world's oldest and most famous amateur sporting events: The Boat Race.

First raced in 1829 by crews from Oxford and Cambridge Universities, it is considered the epitome of amateur sport, and each year attracts more than 250,000 spectators to the banks of the Thames, as well as many millions more on television.

The Boat Race is raced along what is called the Championship Course, which is over 4.25 miles of tidal Thames in West London, between Putney and Mortlake. This year will see the 167th Men's Boat Race and the 76th Women's Boat Race.

Canon Paul Hardingham considers what the Resurrection achieved.

Christian Basics: What about the Resurrection?

As we celebrate another Easter, what is the significance of Jesus' resurrection for us? As Paul writes, *'if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins'* (1 Cor 15:17). What does the New Testament affirm about the resurrection?

It affirms that Jesus' death on the cross was not a defeat but a **victory** over sin, death and Satan, in which we share. *'But God raised Him from the dead, freeing Him from the agony of death, because it was impossible for death to keep its hold on Him'* (Acts 2:24).

It points to our own **bodily resurrection** after death, *'The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable'* (1 Cor 15: 42).

It guarantees the **forgiveness** of our sins, *'if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins'* (1 Cor 15:17).

It ensures that we can know the reality of His **risen life** today, *'just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life'* (Rom 6:4).

The story is told of Russia under the Communist regime. A member of the Communist Party addressed a packed audience at length, seeking to discredit the resurrection of Christ. At the end an Orthodox priest rose and asked if he might reply. He was warned that he only had five minutes. *'Five seconds is all I need!'* He turned to the audience and gave the traditional Easter greeting: *'Christ is risen!'* Back with a deafening roar came the traditional reply: *'He is risen indeed!'*



On 6th March at Messy Church our theme was The Parable of the Sower. We planted seeds, made birds and flowers and wrote prayers to give to God on our Prayer Tree. There are many families who prefer to get active, so we have an area downstairs for playing ball games and air hockey, for example. This area is frequented by young members of our Church and what a great job they do of demonstrating their love of Christ through play. Messy Church is a magnificent example of Growing Young and building our next generation of members. We enjoyed singing songs and listening to the story of the Parable of the Sower in Church, and then wiped our plates clean with sausages, mash and veg. There were 48 people in attendance. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers who ensure that Messy Church remains so vibrant and enjoyable. If you know of any friends or neighbours who might like to give it a go, please encourage them to come along.

Alison Singleton
Part of the Messy Church Leadership Team

St Andrew Blackadder Church of Scotland North Berwick
Scottish Charity SC0006421

The Guild



Despite the Covid restrictions our Guild has continued to meet as planned, either in person or on YouTube, for the entire Guild session. We have enjoyed being together to chat, share news and do normal Guild activities.

Our Christmas lunch was cancelled due to Covid rules but, undeterred, we plan to have our lunch on **Tuesday 22 March**, not a Christmas lunch but I'm sure it will be every bit as enjoyable.

Our **AGM** is scheduled to take place on **29 March** and will be closed with a contribution from Isobel Skeldon, who will give a talk about her life, her town and her God, so our Guild will conclude on a note of faith, which is what the Guild is all about.

We plan to hold a **Daffodil Tea on Saturday 9 April between 10.30am and 12.30pm in the Chapel**, with all money raised going to support our Guild projects – UNIDA: Hear our Voice, and Home for Good: A Home for Every Child. Please do come along to support us and enjoy a cuppa and delicious home baking.

Everyone is most welcome to attend any or all of the meetings.

Best wishes from the Guild

St Andrew Blackadder Church of Scotland North Berwick
Scottish Charity SC0006421

Open Doors

Before Covid restrictions it was the practice at St Andrew Blackadder to have the High Street doors open to allow visitors to drop in. This needed a rota of volunteers to cover 2 hour slots,

10.00am to 12 noon and 2.00 – 4.00pm.

The intention was to give a friendly welcome but not necessarily to show folk round unless requested. The church is open when Julie is in the office 9.00 – 12.00 on weekdays, and the Beacon covers Thursday afternoons, but there is an extra slot needed **on Saturdays from:**

10.00am -12.00 noon.

This has been an enjoyable outreach to the community and now could be another opportunity in Growing Young. Some people were happy to do the duty on their own, with a book or knitting when things were quiet, others took their stint as a chance to share lunch or coffee with a partner or friend. If there are sufficient volunteers the duty could be once in a month, but some were happy to make this a fortnightly or even weekly practice.

We are keen to launch this again now that Covid restrictions have eased somewhat, so we are looking for volunteers to fill the rota.

For further information please contact Barbara Clark (details in the Church Directory) or leave names with Julie at the office.

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 11th April is the May 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

Special Events During April 2022

When	What	Where
Sunday 3rd 4.00-6.00pm	Messy Church	Hall, Sanctuary & Chapel
Friday 8th 7.15-9.00pm	Youth Night	Hall, Chapel & Room 2
Saturday 9th 10.30am-12.30pm	Guild Daffodil Tea	Chapel & Front Vestibule
Monday 11th 7.30pm	Holy Week Joint Service	St Baldred's
Tuesday 12th 7.30pm	Holy Week Joint Service	St Andrew Blackadder Sanctuary
Wednesday 13th 7.30pm	Holy Week Joint Service	Our Lady Star of the Sea
Thursday 14th 2pm	Celebration of Life Jan Tweedie	Sanctuary
Thursday 14th 7.30pm	Maundy Thursday Service	Sanctuary
Friday 15th 7.30pm	Good Friday Joint Service	Abbey Church

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Beacon Services

Our Beacon Services resumed **each Thursday at 1.00pm in the Chapel** as soon as Covid rules allowed. Although numbers at times have been less than usual, they have been appreciated very much by those who have attended.

The Services are intimate and relaxed and last for 20 minutes. Many folk enjoy lunch at the Beacon before coming down to the Chapel for the service. Others come in from the High Street, both regulars and visitors alike.

For those who find the business of getting up, ready and out to church for 10.30am a challenge, a Lunchtime Service is a blessing, and for those who find that a service lasting an hour is a bit of a trial, this little service fits the bill.

We are fortunate to have members of our congregation who are willing to lead us in worship. There are 15 contributors, so although the format of the services is similar each week, each one brings their own personality and personal faith to the service.

Neil comes to celebrate Communion with us, and he also comes on high days and holidays such as Christmas and Easter, which is always very special.

So do consider coming along to worship with us. You will find a very warm welcome.

Christian Aid Quiz

The new Christian Aid Quiz takes its inspiration from April Fool's Day. An old meaning of "fool" was "comedian", so the answers to this month's quiz are all the names of comedians. To download a quiz, visit: www.standrewblackadder.org.uk, hover on "Groups & Activities" and click on "Christian Aid Quizzes". If you can afford it, please donate £1 to Christian Aid via their website. Thank you for your support.

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	An opportunity to pray about anything with members of the Badged Prayer Team		After the 10.30 service at the front of the Sanctuary
Every Sunday	KLASH Ages 3 to 12 Faith with fun	Chapel	Stacy Cathcart
Every Sunday	YF Ages 13 to 18	Room 2	Paul Cathcart and Mary Leckie

What are the facilities at Scoughall?

The photographs in this brochure will give you an idea of what is available at Scoughall. Apart from the building with kitchen and dining room and toilets and young people's accommodation, there is a large sports hall with a number of table tennis tables and two pool tables. Then there is private access to the beach which stretches all the way to Tynninghame in one direction and Seacliff in the other. There is an aerial zip wire, adventure playground and mega trampoline. There is a volley ball court and football field. We plan to have a bonfire and BBQ on Saturday evening followed by a Ceilidh in the sports hall. There are more pictures of Scoughall on the notice board.

Who is the speaker for the weekend?

Andy Bathgate was CEO of SU Scotland, serving faithfully for 19 years. He had previously trained as a Geography teacher, but instead ended up for 20 years supporting Christian Unions in Scotland's universities and colleges. He is married to Alyson, they stay in Edinburgh and together they have a busy family life as well as working with Street Pastors and a local Foodbank with Edinburgh City Mission.

What are the plans for youth and children?

More details to follow on the programme for the members of the Youth Group, Klash and Trash. We invite all the young people in our church to come and spend the weekend at Scoughall – it is a perfect place for them to enjoy themselves.



Booking Form – 10-12 June 2022

Yes! - I want to book in for the Church weekend at Scoughall

Names

Names of Child/Young people

Age of Child/Young people

Email

Phone

Allergies

Please fill in the details above, tear off the sheet, and return it with a cheque to the church office in an envelope addressed to: Derek Brown – Booking Secretary for Church W/E at Scoughall. Alternatively email your booking details to: dereksheila@outlook.com. BACS details for payment will be sent.

Cost: We are suggesting a contribution to help with the cost of all the meals and the hire of the site at Scoughall of £25/adult for the whole weekend and £10/child or young person. The price includes the sleepover for young people.



Regular Activities

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	CONTACT
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 11.30—1.30pm	THE BEACON Come and enjoy a bowl of soup, home baking, a chat and good company	Hall	Gertrude McFarlane 895493
Thursdays 1.00—1.20pm	THE BEACON SERVICE This short service is relaxed and intimate	Chapel	Ann Cubitt 894859

Welcome to new members		
Hugh Dennison	Helen Dennison	Ann Howat
Robert Baird	Marina Baird	Laura Carruth
	Gillian Bissoonauth	

Church Weekend

Friday 10th June—Sunday 12th June 2022

At *St Andrew Blackadder* we long for everyone to wake up each morning, and stand amazed at who Jesus is and what he has done for us. We long to help each other to get involved in what God is doing to restore our world!

We have planned a Church Weekend away at the Scoughall SU Residential site on the beach just outside North Berwick from 10-12 June with the specific aims of helping every member of the church to get to know each other, build relationships across the ages, and find a freshness in their daily walk with the Lord Jesus.

We would like to encourage absolutely everyone — whether new to St Andrew Blackadder or if you have been a member for years — to book these dates in your diary and come. After two years of Covid restrictions, we believe we need to provide opportunities within the Church to form relationships with other Christians and to help one another get equipped to serve the Lord Jesus.

Rather than go away and stay in a Centre or hotel for this church weekend, we plan to spend together Friday to Sunday at Scoughall and simply return home in the evenings to stay in our own beds! Members of the Youth Group will be staying overnight for a “sleep-over” using the new cabins that have just been installed.

We are very fortunate to have Andy Bathgate (ex CEO of SU Scotland) as our speaker for the weekend. He will give a series of talks aimed at refreshing our faith in Jesus and reminding us that we are all called to have an impact on our needy world.



The programme for the weekend

This is just a summary of the details for the weekend so that you have an idea of what is happening and when.

Friday

6.00pm Registration and welcome
6.30pm Supper together
8.00pm **First Talk – Amazed by Jesus** – Speaker: Andy Bathgate
9.15pm Adults return home — young people stay at Scoughall in dormitories and Cabins

Saturday

9.30am Coffee and gathering together
10.00am **Second Talk – Andy Bathgate** - followed by discussion in groups
11.15am Coffee and cake
Walk, games, chat —a range of activities planned for adults/youth
12.30pm Lunch
2.00pm A wide range of games and expeditions and activities available
4.15pm Tea and coffee available
4.30pm Seminars + Messy Church beach outing
5.30pm BBQ Supper
7.00pm Ceilidh
9.30pm Adults return home

Sunday

10.00am **Service & Talk – Andy Bathgate** — followed by discussion in groups
11.15am Coffee and cakes
Walk, games, activities, chatting
1.00pm Lunch
2.00pm **Fourth Talk – Andy Bathgate**
3.00pm Everyone returns home