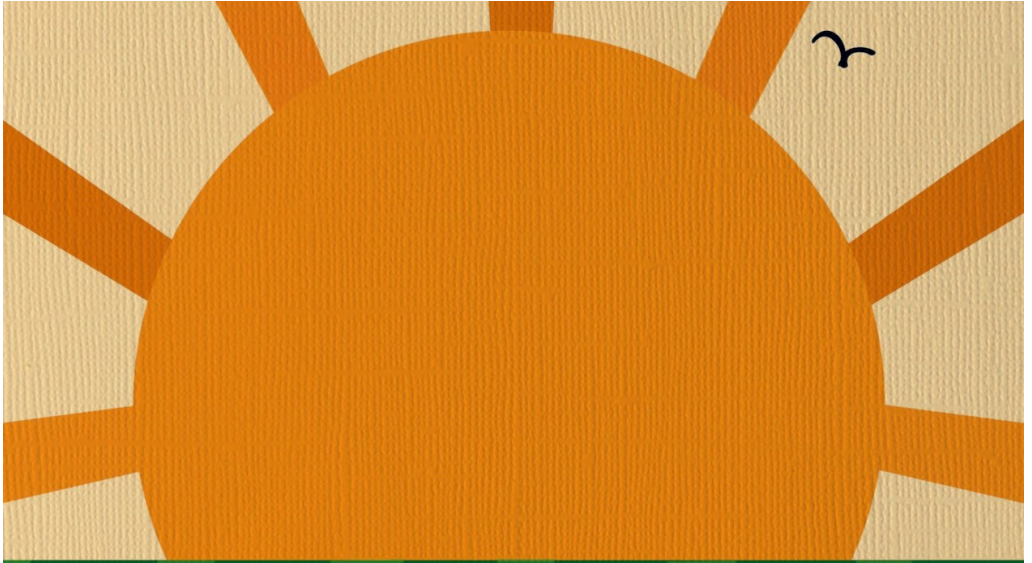


Kaleidoscope 158

St Andrew Blackadder Parish Church Magazine

Autumn 2023 September, October, November



*Your mercies are new every morning;
great is your
faithfulness*

Lamentations 3:22-23

A Message from Neil

I have three dwarf fruit trees in the garden – an apple, a pear and a plum. At this time of year when harvest is happening all over East Lothian, I have my own little harvest. The plum ripens first, then the pear and finally the apple. In a good year I will enjoy fresh fruit from the garden at breakfast for three whole months.

Not every year is a good year. Sometimes there is little fruit or even no fruit at all. Fortunately, my father-in-law is a very experienced gardener. With his assistance I have learnt the importance of pruning. The secret to good fruit trees turns out to be pruning. Left to themselves the trees will become woody and bushy. Most of the life force will go into creating wood for branches. But, cut back in the right way, that same life force will be directed into producing fruit. A small well-tended bush will produce more fruit than a much larger leafier tree will.

It seems back to front. The *obvious* way forward is to leave the tree free to grow. Cutting to create growth seems like folly. Yet every gardener learns sooner or later the importance of pruning.

The same is true when it comes to the church. Jesus said, *'I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful'* (John 15:1,2).

The church in Scotland is going through a period of rationalisation. Some congregations are merging. Some are closing altogether. Some are exploring a future without a minister. For all involved it is very difficult. This kind of change is very painful.

And that, I think, is the problem. Since pruning is painful, necessary regular pruning has been avoided. Unfruitful branches have been spared the secateurs year after year. Wanting to spare people pain, unfortunately, has not resulted in fruit, just a bigger fruitless bush. Eventually the only option left is the tree surgeon's saw.

The change the church is experiencing is shaking people's faith. They wonder, does the church in Scotland have a future?

I'm sure it does. Jesus prunes the church because he is committed to it. His careful care will ensure it has a fruitful future. So please join me in praying that God will revive, restore and renew the church in our country. We pray this not because we're concerned with the church's reputation. We pray this because a vital, vibrant church will bring healing, blessing and hope to the people and communities of our land.

'I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing' (John 15:5).

Prayer

**Restore, O Lord, the honour of Your name,
In works of sovereign power
Come shake the earth again;
That all may see and come with reverent fear
To the living God, whose kingdom shall outlast the years.**

**Restore, O Lord, in all the earth Your fame,
And in our time revive
The church that bears Your name.
And in Your anger, Lord, remember mercy,
O living God, whose mercy shall outlast the years.**

(Graham Kendrick)

Neil

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Hugh & Margaret Trevor

We, Hugh and Margaret Trevor, who have been members of St Andrew Blackadder for many years, were missionaries in Japan for over 30 years (1960-1996). We have been asked to tell that part of our story.

Education and medical work, which formed part of missionary work in many countries, were never needed in Japan because they had their own very adequate systems. Hearing about Jesus and learning to follow Him is, and always has been, their greatest need, and our greatest task. Actually, teaching Japanese about God (rather than Jesus) comes first, for in Shinto, their traditional religion, there are 80 million gods – the sun, the moon, the emperor, foxes, any famous person – all are gods. How Jacob experienced God in his dream at Bethel, and how Naaman found healing from his leprosy through the God of Israel rather than through the religion of his own country, are stories from the Bible we teach early on to show what God is like and how human beings can experience him.

Doing Bible studies with them we found to be the best way to help Japanese to faith. The story of Martha and Mary in Luke's Gospel was one of the first we did with the ladies. They easily saw themselves as being like Martha, very busy with household matters, irritated with other people, like Martha was with Mary. Another Bible story (this time for the men) was that of the rich farmer who when he had a good harvest, congratulated himself on being set for life, only to be called 'a fool' by God because he was going to die and his material possessions would be of no help. It was showing that the Bible is relevant to their lives that drew Japanese to believing in the God of the Bible.

How did we go about all this? First, we were designated by our missionary society to a town or an area with no church. Then we rented a house and produced a leaflet introducing ourselves. Then we visited the 5 houses around us (one on either side and the three in front) as all Japanese would do when moving into a new area, introducing ourselves. We would rent a meeting room if available where we could teach English classes – primary school and junior high school in the late afternoon, and beginner level and intermediate level in the evening. The money we received from teaching English would pay the rent of the meeting place, which would then be available for Sunday church-type meetings.

We would widen the area of our introductory visiting, to all the houses in what we saw as 'our area'. In early years (the late 1960s and 1970s) the Moody Fact and Faith films were very popular and we could sometimes show them in schools. Every summer in those early years, when the towns were developing, we would put up a tent in a number of locations and have a 5-day tent mission with a visiting Japanese evangelist. Later when life was more sophisticated, we would have classical music concerts with Christian instrumentalists, who would give their testimony in a part of the programme. Always at such meetings we would hand out questionnaires inviting people to either attend church or to study the Bible. (It was the second response that we specially valued.)

Christmas is a great opportunity in Japan. The festival is well-known and Christmas cakes are in great demand. Explaining the real meaning of Christmas was our theme. We would give out leaflets galore, hold every possible type of Christmas meeting at cooking classes, English classes, special meetings. Many people would come and be impressed by the message. Sad to say, New Year comes only a week later, New Year being the time when Japanese all get dressed in their finery and attend Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples, and the message of Christmas is apt to get forgotten.

Our society's policy was to be 5 years on the field (a term of service), followed by a year at home, part of which was holiday, most of which would be visiting churches to tell of our experiences. So we had 6 terms of service altogether, the first of which was learning the language and gaining experience. Our aim was to start a new church in each of our terms of service, handing over to a Japanese pastor when there were about 20 or more members. The first two of those terms were a success, and the churches formed are still functioning 50 years later. Those two were in the northern island, Hokkaido, where land for a building was relatively cheap to buy. Of the four churches in the south of Japan which we started, only one has survived. For the others, partly it was the very high cost of land, which made it impossible for a small group of Christians to buy. We still keep in touch with many of those who became Christians and are attending other churches.

Of our 4 children, the oldest and youngest were both born in Japan, with the middle two being born when we were back in Scotland. All attended the primary school run by our mission in Japan, but came back to Britain for their secondary schooling.

That is our story! God is good.





Holiday Camp 2023 July 24th-28th

This year I went as a spy to the Children's Holiday Camp July 24th-28th – The Great Glen Green Welly Garden Show, to see just what goes on with the children of North Berwick.

How would the Holiday Camp leaders succeed in teaching the children about Christianity? What would be the best approach? Would there be problems with keeping order? What special activities would there be to engage their interest?

I learned that the children were to be divided into three groups: Primary 1-5 at 10-12am in the mornings all week, under Hazel Gray; Primary 6-7 in the afternoons on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday only, under Stacy Cathcart; and Seniors in the evenings at 7pm with Andrew Duncan. I chose to help in the afternoons, as it was only three days and I'm not good at getting up for a 9 o'clock start. I could just about cope with a 1.30pm start for this group, which meant setting up and prayers before the children started to arrive.

Primary 1-5 were to be in the Lodge Grounds, organised into 4 groups and under 4 gazebos in case of rain, and were to be taught that God had started humans off with a perfect world but man had messed it up, so then God had sent Jesus. This divided into the 5 days. It was very organised, but the gazebos, blankets etc had to be dismantled and stored in a garage each night and set up again in the morning.

But what about the 9-11year olds who didn't want to be taught or sing choruses, but wanted games, ice cream sundaes and pizzas and a very short Jesus bit? On the first Monday morning, I came down to Church prayers and then on to the Lodge to get the atmosphere of the Camp.

I had offered to help starting Tuesday afternoon and was assured I would not be needed for games, as they had two teenagers doing their Duke of Edinburgh's Award who would be available to help. I was asked if I could do something with the children to do with plants and maybe potting up something. That was right up my street, and I'd spent some weeks working out what I could devise from my garden. Much prayer went into that. Would they co-operate or would it be something of a free-for-all?

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Stacy was in charge with Paul, and Lesli and Gordon were there on hand, plus the two teenagers and Andrew. Also Hazel on the Tuesday, Bruce Lockhart from SU with his wonderful Circus equipment on the Thursday, and Derek Harley with Bruce on the Friday; plus me helping with enrolling or in the kitchen or simply welcoming back parents at the end.

The children were brilliant. They obviously knew most of the games and their various rules, and played hard most of the time, changing games and venues until they were exhausted. Then with encouragement, they listened to what they were told about the next session or event, and within a short time on each day learned to work as a team. A short Christian message was spoken to them each day.

On Thursday Bruce Lockhart from SU brought circus equipment for them to try out, teaching them to juggle or walk on stilts or other balancing equipment. They had a go at working with a parachute. The first team held up the parachute around the perimeter, rolled it up till it was straight, and then each one bent down on command, then raised it up together and on the command of "let go" saw it rise right to the ceiling of the hall.

On Friday there were obstacles for Stacy and the team. Someone had hired the hall and kitchen for a wedding celebration Ceilidh, so we had to be out of the kitchen and cleared away by 3.30pm. They had planned to make pizzas. How would they do that? Two of them had to be gluten-free and that day 14 children had turned up – 4 new ones that day! To my amazement they all decorated their own pizzas and recognised their own even after it had been in the oven. They went out into the garden to eat them. The kitchen was cleaned up and cleared in time.

When I had seen Hazel at the Commissioning Service on the Sunday evening beforehand, someone had come to the service but stated she no longer could help as she was now an octogenarian. Hazel's remark was simply, "Moses started his work for God at eighty."

So much prayer went into that week by all concerned and many others, and it was obvious to us who were involved. Thank you to all of you. Keep praying for the children and those working with them, they are the next generation of the Church!

Mary Brown

Christian Aid

The North Berwick Churches have a long tradition of supporting the work of Christian Aid, and the ways of doing this have changed over the years. For many years the area churches got together with one church leading the fundraising efforts each year, organising and allocating the various fundraising events. In the early 2000's this became difficult, and it was decided that a town committee would take the lead with representatives from each of the churches. The fundraising activities were shared, with each church group finding more volunteers to share the load.

This worked for many years but when it proved difficult to form a committee it was agreed that each church would simply organise whatever activity suited them, to continue the annual focus on Christian Aid with other fundraising spread throughout the year – remember how we all taxed our brains with Ian and Jean McAulay's quizzes!

The charitable needs throughout the world have changed dramatically now. There are many universal charities, and we are alerted to global disasters and able to respond immediately by payment direct to central fundraising. We could not have foreseen the desperate need for foodbanks in the UK.

Christian Aid accept that the old ways of fundraising are no longer relevant and are looking to new ways of supporting this important work. Christian Aid's belief that poverty can be ended is based on their understanding of scripture and the work of a creative, loving God, and all that they do is rooted in that.

It is therefore essential that churches share in that belief and find ways of keeping the focus alive throughout the UK. This year St Andrew Blackadder contributed with the Hunger Lunch, the United Service, envelope collection, a generous donation from the Beacon, and a Coffee Morning. Abbey and Dirleton organised a Quiz and Christian Aid shared in their Coronation Teas.

St Andrew Blackadder needs help to keep our input going forward. The aforementioned were what we managed in 2023. The Hunger Lunches have their own team as does the Beacon. The United Service is allocated per the North Berwick & District Association of Churches rota, and it is unlikely to be our turn for another 3 or 4 years.

What are we looking for:

- A person or persons to lead with Christian Aid fundraising in St Andrew Blackadder – maybe just one event in 2024 for now. The hall has been booked for a possible Coffee Morning on 18 May 2024, which is the end of Christian Aid Week.
- Maybe another who might take on the ordering of Christian Aid envelopes for the churches.

Whoever finds that this is an area of mission for them will find that there is a tremendous warmth and support for Christian Aid. I am happy to share further information should you be interested.

Barbara Clark (details in church directory)

Hymns from Laodicea

The Laodicean church is described in Revelation as being 'lukewarm'. So, if the Laodiceans were to have a hymnal, here are some of the hymns it might contain:

Precious Lord, Take My Finger

Sit Up, Sit Up for Jesus

Spirit of the Living God, Fall Somewhere Near Me

Take My Life and Let Me Be

The Guild

Although we have not been meeting recently, our Speaker Secretary has been very busy organising our programme for the forthcoming Session. Please note that all of our Tuesday meetings will now commence at **2pm** in order to ensure we can arrive and depart in good lighting. Our programme for the coming months is set out below.

9 September (10.30am - 2.30pm)	Live streaming of National Guild Annual Gathering in St Andrew Blackadder
12 September (2.00-4.00pm)	Wrap shoeboxes in Christmas paper for Blythswood Care
19 September	Michaela Foster Marsh (Starchild Uganda) (Joint with Abbey in St Andrew Blackadder)
3 October	Robert Alexander (Vine Trust: Kazunzu Village of Hope) (Joint with Abbey in St Andrew Blackadder)
17 October	Alan Nisbet (Pickups for Peace)
31 October	Karen Gillon (Guild National Convener)
14 November	Claire Masson (Save the Children)

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21 November	Ruth Box (Pioneers: Chocolate Heaven) (Joint with Abbey in Abbey)
28 November	Tony Cooper (Transformers established in 1904)
12 December 12.30 for 1pm	Guild Christmas Lunch at the Glen Golf Club, Tantallon Terrace, North Berwick EH39 4LE

Other dates for your diary are set out below:-

- 17 September Guild Sunday
- 19 November Guild Soup and Pudding Lunch – replaces that month's Hunger Lunch. Proceeds will go to the Guild Projects: Vine Trust and Pioneers

We look forward to welcoming you at meetings, but please bear in mind that they will all commence at **2pm**.

Helen Dennison



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The Blythswood Shoebox Appeal

Last year 89,000 gift boxes were sent to Eastern Europe in time for Christmas. This month we launch the 2023 appeal, so it's time to look out your average-sized shoeboxes ready for the Guild to cover with Christmas paper. Your boxes can be dropped off at the Church Office.

The shoeboxes bring such joy to children and adults who are facing poverty, illness or disability. This appeal gives us an opportunity to show that we care. It is a way to celebrate Christmas by giving a gift to someone unknown to us.

Blythswood provide a Bible Story book for children, a Christian leaflet for teenagers, or a calendar with Bible verses for adults, and these are added to our boxes. They go to schools, hospitals, orphanages, care homes and households in very low income areas.

Small practical items fill the boxes, the kind of things that we all take for granted. See the enclosed leaflet to find out what is most needed. The most important are items of clothing for very cold winter weather – scarves, hats, gloves and socks. Every box should contain these.

Boxes, already covered, will be placed at both front and rear entrances of the Church, and there is a checklist inside to help with your purchasing.

We hope to exceed last year's response when our church gifted 120 boxes. Can you fill a box? Filling a box can be quite expensive so why not "buddy up" with a friend and fill a box together? Or maybe you could contribute "shoebox fillers" by adding your small gift to the large container in the rear vestibule where there will be a helpful list of "fillers". A team of "Santa's helpers" will fill boxes with your donations.

Packing all the items into your box is great fun, and you have the added pleasure of knowing that you are giving happiness, at Christmas, to someone who has nothing and who will appreciate your gift more than you can ever know.

Thank you.

Ann Cubitt

The Beacon Service Team

The Beacon Service takes place every Thursday at 1pm in the Chapel. A faithful group of regular attenders come along, plus holidaymakers and passers-by. Folk come from as far away as Longniddry and Musselburgh, and there is a family atmosphere because everyone has come to know each other well. For many of the people who come, this is church and they appreciate it.

We have 16 members of the congregation who lead worship, and Neil comes to celebrate Communion with us four times a year and usually comes before Christmas as well.

We all have a faith to proclaim! Could you express your faith by leading one of these short services?

Although there is a format for the services, everyone does it differently and this means that there is a variety of styles. Some speak about a favourite verse of scripture, a Bible story or a Psalm. Others tell of an event or an experience that has shaped their faith, or a difficult time in their lives when their faith has carried them through. Hearing someone share their personal experience of their faith journey is both encouraging and uplifting.

An all-member ministry means that every Christian is called to minister to others, and we can serve in many ways. Might you feel that leading worship at a Beacon Service is a way for **you**, something **you** can do?

Come along on a Thursday and join us for the Service, pray about it and if you feel that God is calling you to serve in this way, have a chat with me. It would be great to have you join the Beacon Service Team.

Ann Cubitt

Sundays at St Andrew Blackadder

Morning Worship 9.30am – 10.10am

This is a traditional and reflective service. It was created to meet the needs of those who find the bustle and background noise of the all-age worship a trial rather than a delight. 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 children go off to Junior Church. There is a crèche available from 10.30 for babies and toddlers. There is a multimedia presentation and CH4 songs.

Sunday Activities

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	CONTACT
Every Sunday	Junior Church Ages 3 to 12 Faith with fun	Chapel	Stacy Cathcart
Every Sunday	YF Ages 13 to 18	Room 2	Paul Cathcart and Mary Leckie

Regular Activities

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE	CONTACT
Mondays 7.30 to 10.00pm	Table Tennis Club	Hall	northberwicktt@gmail.com
Tuesdays 1.30 to 2.30pm	Seniors' Table Tennis Club	Hall	Patricia Hay
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
Thursdays 11.00am to 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
Thursdays 1.00 to 1.30pm	THE BEACON SERVICE This short service is relaxed and intimate	Chapel	Ann Cubitt
Tuesdays 2.00pm	The Guild We have a speaker and enjoy worship, fellowship and coffee.	Chapel and Front Vestibule	Ann Braid
Tuesdays (term time) 3.30 to 6.00pm	Warhammer Club	Room 1	Andrew Duncan
2nd Sunday of the month 12.00pm	Hunger Lunch	Hall	Jane Murdoch

Special Events in September, October & November 2023

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
Sun 3 Sept, 1 Oct, 5 Nov 4pm - 6pm	Messy Church	Hall, Sanctuary
Fri 1, 29 Sept 13, 27 Oct 10, 24 Nov	Youth Night 7pm - 9pm	Hall
Fri 1, 29 Sept 13, 27 Oct 10, 24 Nov	Parent Space 9am - 11am	Chapel, Front Vestibule & Creche
Sat 9 Sept 10.30am - 2.30pm	Guild Annual Meeting—Live Stream	Chapel
Fri 15 Sept 7pm - 9pm	Day Centre Concert	Sanctuary
Saturday 30 Sept 10am - 12pm	Macmillan Coffee Morning	Hall
Sat 30 Sept 10am - 11.30am	Sustainability North Berwick	Chapel
Sat 4 Nov Time tbc	Rotary "Shine" Concert	Sanctuary
Sat 11 Nov 10am - 2pm	East Lothian Food & Drink and Makers Market	Hall & Chapel
Sat 18 Nov 7.15pm	Opera East	Sanctuary
Sun 19 Nov 12pm	Guild Soup & Pudding Lunch	Hall

St Andrew Blackadder Parish Church

St Andrew Street, North Berwick, EH39 4NU

Minister

Rev. Dr. Neil Dougall

Email: ndougall@churchofscotland.org.uk

Church Office Administrator, and Roll Keeper

Julie Scanlon

Tel. 01620 895233

Email: admin@standrewblackadder.org.uk

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

Web Site: www.standrewblackadder.org.uk

Messy Church

Alison Singleton

Email: messychurch@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 13th NOVEMBER is the Winter 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
Kirstin Entwistle tel. 01620 894933

The Sustainability Disadvantaged Action Group

Two key parts of Christ's charge to us as a church is to look after God's creation and to care for those in need. Those who have the least are most often those most affected by climate change and yet least equipped to do anything about it. This working party aims, firstly, to identify areas where we as individuals and as a congregation can help and then, secondly, to take action to ensure that that help is given.

The United Nations Brundtland Commission defined sustainability as “meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.”

So what are we looking at? What can we do to help those in need here in East Lothian and abroad contribute to safeguarding creation?

Well, this is where you come in! We have some ideas – working with sustainable charities here and in Malawi – and we would welcome more. We would also love to get practical ideas for action and offers of help to carry them out.

Some of our ideas so far include:

- seeing if we can assist in the work of Zero Waste and local repair charities,
- training in repair, re-use and recycling,
- promoting sustainable charities, currently with a focus on Malawi.

We would like to offer more than just financial support, and so we will be looking at advocacy, training and education, mentoring and information services as well.

What do you think? What would you do?

If you would like more information then please contact one of our number:

Keith Murdoch, Jane Murdoch, Ann Cubitt, Jean McAulay, Mike Millar,
Helen Millar, Robert Galbraith

(Our contact details are in the Church Directory)