

Kaleidoscope 163

St Andrew Blackadder Parish Church Magazine

Winter 2024 December, January, February



Hope for a broken world

A Message from Neil

In October I went on an epic cycling journey from the south to the north of Spain. I did it because of a recommendation. Five years ago I'd read a short article in a cycling magazine by Rob Ainsley. In it he described this journey and offered a few practical suggestions. My immediate reaction was, "I want to do that." This year I fulfilled that ambition. I loved it and I'm very grateful for Rob's recommendation.

We all give and receive recommendations. Sometimes a recommendation is of no interest. Sometimes we give it a try and decide it's not for us. Sometimes we discover something that changes our lives.

When Jesus was born his first visitors were shepherds. They arrived because angels recommended it. *"Today, in the town of David a saviour has been born to you."* We hear the shepherds discussing that recommendation. *The shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened."* They decided to give it a try. After the shepherds left Jesus, they recommended him to everyone they met. *"When they had seen him, they spread the word"* (Luke 2:8-20).

Ever since, the first job the church has is to recommend Jesus. We have discovered the life there is in Jesus. It has transformed our lives and so we pass on this recommendation. What others do with the recommendation is entirely up to them. That's their responsibility. Ours is to let them know about the possibility.

Turning this simple idea into reality requires thought and prayer. There are so many ways this can be done. Some are good and some not so good. Some are effective and some less so.

That's why, every few years, St Andrew Blackadder Church reviews its priorities. We ask God to show us what to focus on, and then concentrate on these things. For the last few years the big idea has been *Growing Young*. It's had an impact on the congregation in many ways – for example The Church Weekend Away and ParentSpace came out of it. And we will continue to work on the key ideas behind *Growing Young*.

At the same time the Kirk Session has decided it is time, once again, to ask the question, *Where are we going? What does God want our priorities to be? How does God want us to participate in his mission?*

The focus will be a Kirk Session Away Day on March 1 2025.

I wonder if you could you play your part in this by doing three things.

First, please pray. Divine direction rather than human brilliance is the key to this exercise. So please join me in praying that God will direct and lead us.

Second, by thinking. The kind of questions the Kirk Session is asking are:

- We can't do everything, so what should we focus on?
- Has the time come to stop any existing ministry? If not, how do we sustain these?
- What is the DNA of St Andrew Blackadder and how should that be expressed in 2025?
- What is happening in North Berwick and how does God want us to address this?
- Who are the people God has given us and what do they feel called to?
- How do you sense God wants us to answer these questions?

Third, by sharing. As you ask these questions and talk about them with others, maybe you will sense the Holy Spirit saying something. If so, please write a brief note and give it to Niki McKenzie or hand it in to the church office.

The Kirk Session Away Day is some months away. Before that is Christmas, which is a great opportunity to do what the shepherds did – to recommend Jesus. The **Nativity Service** on 15 December at 10.30am and the **Carol Service** on 22 December at 7.00pm are very accessible. Who could you invite to come with you?

Prayer

Loving God

you sent angels

so shepherds could hear the news of Jesus' birth

and you used those shepherds

to pass on the recommendation.

Today you ask me to do what the shepherds did,

to share what I've discovered about Jesus.

Help me to do this wisely and appropriately

and make me a channel

so others can discover the life there is in Jesus.

Lead our church into 2025 and beyond;

point the Kirk Session in your direction;

help it to work out

what your priorities for St Andrew Blackadder are:

through Jesus Christ our Lord

AMEN.

Neil

30 Years of The Beacon

On 12th October 2024, The Beacon celebrated its 30th Anniversary by having a lunch at The Glen Golf Club, North Berwick for 65 past and present volunteers. The Beacon provides lunches at St Andrew Blackadder Church, North Berwick every Thursday. All proceeds are distributed to charity.

Jenny Kellock, current Chair, spoke to the assembled volunteers and said:-

“It’s great to see you all here today to celebrate 30 years of The Beacon, and the past 30 years have only been possible because of all of you and your commitment and hard work. There are others unable to join with us today and many who are no longer with us, who we fondly remember and pay tribute to. A special mention for Jean Hutchison, who is no longer with us, who together with Janet Raeburn had the vision of The Beacon.

“In the Guild committee minutes of 1994 at the beginning of the session, Janet, the then president, suggested that as an outreach, while giving a service to some of our own lonely folk, we should have an open door for the community and serve a simple lunch on a regular basis. As the theme for the year was ‘Let your light shine’ it should be called The Beacon. This idea was met with great enthusiasm. Within two years The Beacon was a church organisation in its own right.

“You will have many memories to share over lunch.”

Elaine Martin spoke to the assembled volunteers and read the poem overleaf, which was written by Barbara Montgomery and read at the celebration lunch at the 10th Anniversary in 2004.

'Twas in the year of ninety-four
When Jean and Janet wanted sore
To find a cause to suit us all
That would bring folks to our Hall.

They thought and spoke and thought some more,
And helping others was to the fore.
So carefully they made a plan.
That's how The Beacon first began.

To the Guild they went with joyful heart
And asked the ladies to play their part.
Then they in turn thought and thought,
And soon with fervour they were caught.

The plans were laid, and teams were formed,
The soup was made, the plates were warmed,
With sandwiches tempting, baking galore.
Soon people came hurrying through the door.

The tables set were bright and gay.
The customers sat and had their say.
They liked what this Beacon had to offer,
And willingly paid into its coffer.

And so, my friends, we're here today
To remember, give thanks and tributes pay
For work well done, which is the reason
For the amazing success of The Beacon.

Written by Barbara Montgomery

(See Beacon Photos on back page)

St Andrew Blackadder Church of Scotland North Berwick
Scottish Charity SC0006421

The Rectory
St James the Least



My dear Nephew Darren

So, you are excited about being invited to plan your first Carol Service. The dangers involved are only slightly less than being invited to judge the best cake made by the Ladies' Group. You seem to have no idea of the lifelong offence you will inevitably cause. In decades to come when you will either be a seasoned old clergyman – or more likely a double glazing salesman – you will be remembered as “the Curate who offended Mrs Smith.”

First, you have to decide which groups are going to be represented to give the readings. If the Brownies were asked last year, then it has to be the Cubs this time. But don't forget that every third year, the Boys' Brigade must be asked, or they will take their revenge and get their flag tangled in the nave chandelier come Remembrance Sunday. If someone represents the choir, then over a four-year period, all four-voice parts must be called on – and if the organist isn't asked on the fifth year, then all hymns subsequently will be played at double speed and with one verse missing. Should one person have been invited to read for two successive years, then their annual appearance thereafter will be taken as an inalienable right for the rest of their lifetime – and probably longer than that. To drop them may well invoke legal proceedings.

Then there is the batting order to be considered. Someone from the Church Council will take it as a deliberate slight if they are placed lower in the order than a representative of the Men's Fellowship, and no self-respecting bell ringer would voluntarily follow a brass cleaner.

If you do not specify where they should read from and how the readings should end, then a form of ecclesiastical inflation will happen. If the first reader speaks from the chancel step, the next one will go to the lectern; after the sanctuary and pulpit have been utilised, the final reader will probably ask you to move so he can take your place.

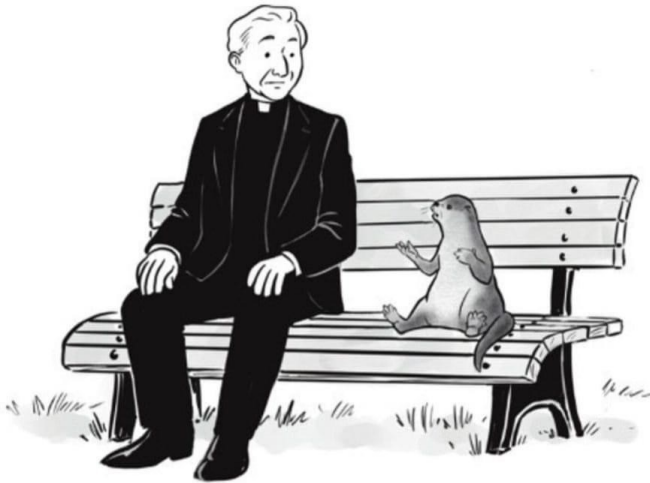
The variations on “Here endeth”, “This is the Word of the Lord”, and “Thanks be to God”, are endless and will increase in length as the Service progresses. The final reader will probably end with a lengthy exegesis on what he thinks the passage means, correcting whatever you said in your sermon.

I once made the mistake of not telling all readers which Bible translation to use. One, an Old Testament expert, therefore decided to read in Hebrew. Not to be outdone, another read her Gospel passage in Greek – apologising beforehand that it may not be a perfect rendering, as she was spontaneously translating it from the English. And some say Christians are not competitive.

You have two alternatives: either repeat last year’s Service without any alteration, saying that it could not be improved, or design your own – and then take Christmas off.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace (Courtesy of Parish Pump)



“No, I’m pretty sure it’s do unto others as you would have others to do unto you.”

New Year Resolutions

In 2023, 30 million people in the UK made New Year resolutions, with health (28%), money (27%), family (24%) and self-improvement (21%) topping the charts for the most common resolutions. However, surveys suggest that most people lasted seven weeks before giving them up, and 21% only lasted for a month before giving up.

What resolutions can we make that will last beyond January? At the start of a new year, let's remember Paul's words: *"I want to know Christ – yes, to know the power of His resurrection and participation in His sufferings"* Philippians 3:10). Like Paul, our resolution should be to know Christ deeper in this coming year.

"But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus." (Phil 3:13,14). Paul sees following Christ like an athlete running a race in the stadium. As any good runner, we mustn't look back. We cannot live on past successes, get bogged down by past sins and failures, or be bitter over past wrongs we've done, or had done to us!

An athlete strains every muscle to win the race. Like Paul, let's be single-minded in making Jesus our focus during the coming year in everything we do. What practical steps are needed if we are to go deeper in our prayer life and Bible reading? How can we more effectively see Christ working in our workplace and career, or family and children?

In the film *Chariots of Fire*, Eric Liddell says: *"I believe God made me for a purpose, but He also made me fast. And when I run, I feel His pleasure."* In this New Year, let's find our pleasure in the pursuit of knowing Christ better!

(Courtesy of Parish Pump)

Getting to Know our New Elders (Continued)

I have believed in God since 2001 and was baptized in 2005. I am grateful to have come to know God at a young age. Life becomes more complicated as we grow older, but knowing God early on has made it simple and direct for me. God's word has touched me deeply.

In 2021, my family and I moved from Hong Kong to Scotland. We were blessed to finally settle down in North Berwick after a summer-long search. Starting a new life in Scotland has been challenging for us, especially understanding and adapting to cultural differences. Joining a local church was even more difficult than we had imagined. Attending services and singing hymns in a second language made me feel distanced from God. However, God showed His mercy during these difficult moments. Language has never been a barrier to God's love. He sent us angels who took care of us and made us feel that we are welcomed in North Berwick. Instead, God reassured us that we are in the right place and that everything is prepared for us.

One of my favourite verses, which always cheers me up and reminds me of God's grace, is:

“But he said to me, ‘My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness’ Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weakness, so that Christ's power may rest on me.” (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

After settling down in the church for some time, I am glad that we can contribute and help out. The most amazing part is that we can use our mother tongue to serve God's mission and welcome people from Asia. Initially, language was our biggest barrier, but God showed us that we can still be with Him and help others despite our weaknesses.

Being an elder is not a title I feel fully capable of, but I strive to do my best to contribute. I live by a simple rule: I must not turn down any opportunity to work with God. I cannot know God's plan by guessing or planning on my own. I can only let go of my control and let God lead me. Looking back, I can see the path He has guided me through.

Gary Wong

I became a Christian when I attended a Billy Graham event at Pittodrie football stadium in 1991. I was 9 years old and I was with my mum who also gave her life to the Lord that day.

Throughout school I was passionate about my faith. I went to church, Christian youth groups, school SU group, and I loved going on SU camp to Arran every summer. For my S1 talk about myself, I brought my bible and spoke to my class about my faith. None of this made me very popular at school, but it gave me the best possible foundation for my life. Although I was bullied at school, I found refuge, hope and joy among my Christian friends and I always felt God's love and support.

During my university years and through my twenties, I drifted from church. My faith in God always remained strong but I went my own way for a time, relying on my own understanding of life and following my own plans. It took me a while to realise that this was not the path to happiness and fulfilment in my life. When I found my way back, it was clear to me that, although I may have wandered off, God had gone nowhere, he was there all along, waiting for me and inviting me to "come home". Matt West's lyrics "Oh the overwhelming, never ending reckless love of God, it chases me down, fights till I'm found, leaves the 99" have always resonated with me when I look back at that part of my life.

I returned to church in Kirkliston when I was expecting my first child. It felt like the best kind of homecoming, and during my time there I became a member of the Church of Scotland and became involved in a group for parents and children called "Little Coffee Stop".

When we were considering moving to North Berwick we came down to visit one Sunday, and we came along to Messy Church at SABAC with our 2-year-old and newborn sons. We received such a lovely welcome and it was a joy to come back several months (a pandemic and a lockdown!) later when we had moved to North Berwick.

It has been a privilege and pleasure to become a part of the church family here. I love seeing all the different ways that God is working through the wonderful people in this church.

In terms of my personal journey, I have enjoyed working with Helen Nelson and a wonderful team of people to set up and run ParentSpace. It has also been a privilege to become an Elder, and I look forward to contributing to the life and work of the church through the Kirk Session.

Sally-Anne Anderson

Scotlands People Website

The moment the Church of Scotland defied King Charles I is among a vast number of historical documents now available to view on the Scotlands People website. (www.ScotlandsPeople.gov.uk)

As part of a wider release of almost 4,000 volumes of church court records, National Records of Scotland (NRS) has added papers from the church's governing court, the General Assembly, for the first time.

This includes the minutes of the meeting held in Glasgow in November 1638 when delegates representing Scotland rejected the monarch's rules for worship.

NRS archivist Jessica Evershed said: "The 1638 meeting of the General Assembly is a turning point in Scottish history.

"It sees the ministers disobey the King to remove the bishops and the new common prayer book he had introduced.

"As part of the wider Covenanters' movement, this led to 50 years of war and upheaval.

"This is just one item among the church court records available on Scotlands People. The latest release includes approximately 300,000 digitised images of mostly handwritten historical records dating from the 1500s to 1900.

"These records are a treasure trove for professional historians and amateurs working on their family tree. The records of local church courts contain details of parish work such as grants for the poor, mediating family disputes, payments for services and issuing punishments for minor offences."

The Rev. Fiona Smith, Principal Clerk of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, said: “I am delighted that National Records of Scotland are making further Church of Scotland records available in a digitised format, providing a unique window into the history of Scotland itself, as well as aspects of daily life in our parishes, unfolding over the course of hundreds of years.”

[ScotlandsPeople](#) is run by National Records of Scotland. It offers access to a wide range of official records including births, deaths, marriages and census records from the 16th century to modern times. Modern records are restricted but older records can be searched free of charge and viewed online on payment of a fee. Church Court records are among those available to search and view free of charge.

Christmas Carols

One night as Christmas approached, some friends decided to go carol singing. A man answered the door of one house, and gasped as they launched into the opening lines of the first carol. Within half a minute, he looked stricken. Soon tears were welling up in his eyes. The carollers sang and sang, and the man looked very moved by what he heard. One caroller ventured: “I understand – our singing reminds you of your happy childhood Christmases.”

The man looked at her with misery in his eyes. “No,” he whispered back. “It’s just that I am a musician!”

Macmillan Coffee Morning

“Joan, Katie and I have each had experience of living with and losing a loved one to cancer, as have many others within the community, and for that reason we wanted to raise awareness of and support Macmillan Cancer Support. The charity provides much needed aid, advice and support to thousands of families every day.

“The three of us had several meetings to plan and organise the day. We had to think about advertising, catering, and ensuring that we had enough people available on the day to enable everything to run smoothly.

“On the day, there were nine of us serving tea, coffee and cake to approximately 80 people and generally helping to keep things running smoothly. However, over the week before there were many other people involved baking for us. Without the help and support of everyone involved the day would not have been the success that it was.

“It was a relatively early start for us yesterday to make sure that we were ready to open the doors at 10am, and by the time we were cleared up around 1.30pm we were ready to enjoy a well-earned cup of coffee ourselves. The morning flew past, and it was lovely to see so many people chatting and enjoying themselves while at the same time being incredibly generous. To date the amazing sum raised is £1,245.”

Elaine Martin

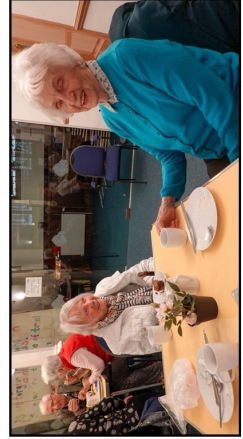
St Andrew Blackadder Church of Scotland North Berwick
Scottish Charity SC0006421



St Andrew Blackadder
Parish Church

Macmillan Coffee Morning Saturday 28th September 2024

Elaine, Joan and Katie held a Coffee Morning which was very well supported and £1,245 was raised for Macmillan Cancer Support.



Pictures and Montage by Derek Braid

The Guild

An enjoyable time was had when the members visited the Coastal Communities Museum on 1st October. The museum is now closed until April 2025, but it is well worth a visit next year when the volunteer staff will give you a warm welcome.

We had an interesting talk by Rev. Mary Haddow about the national Guild's theme for the next 3 years: Sure Foundations.

Our latest speaker was the Rev. Douglas Nicol who talked about his adventures travelling by train in stages: from Tweedbank to Beijing, and across Australia and Canada.

If you wish to join us on our journey, our programme for the first few months of 2025 is set out below:-

7 January	Desert Island Discs
21 January	Burns entertainment – Bryan Ross
4 February	Getting to know you: Ewan, Gary and Pav
18 February	Work of Community Connections – Nicky Parker and team
25 February	CrossReach* – Playful Beginnings Joint Meeting in Abbey Church
4 March	Bibles for Bairns* – Adrian Armstrong Joint Meeting with Abbey but in our Chapel
18 March	The Cyrenians – Ewan Aitken (CEO)
1 April	Entertainment from East Lothian Fiddlers Followed by Guild AGM

Other dates for your diary are set out below:-

2 December Lothians Guilds Together Christmas Carol service at Chalmers Memorial Church, Port Seton at 2pm.

7 March World Day of Prayer at St Baldred's Church at 3pm.

10 March Lothians Guilds Together AGM followed by an address by the new Moderator of Edinburgh and West Lothian Presbytery, at St Anne's Church, Corstorphine, Edinburgh at 2pm.

** The two Guild Projects for which we are currently fundraising.*

Please, do come and join us at our meetings which start at **2pm** and you will receive a warm welcome.

Helen Dennison, Guild Secretary



Guild visit to the Museum on 1st October. Janette Simpson looking at the exhibits.



Rev. Mary Haddow speaking to the Guild on 15th October about “Sure Foundations”



Rev. Douglas Nicol speaking to the Guild on 29th October about “Round the World by Train”

Support Bethany Christian Trust through your Christmas Trees

Belhaven Church have partnered with Bethany.

If you are able to collect your tree from Belhaven Church in

Dunbar on Saturday 14th December, this could be a win-win for you.

Place your order at <https://www.caringchristmastrees.com/ordering>



Christmas Shopping

It was Christmas and the judge was in a benign mood as he asked the prisoner what he was charged with. "Doing my Christmas shopping early," replied the man.

"Why, that's no offence," said the judge. "How early were you doing it?"

"Before the store opened," replied the defendant.

My Adventures as a Patient of Room 7, Ward 220, ERI for 16 days

I felt it might be interesting to share with you my adventures as an inpatient in the ERI. I was somewhat apprehensive about going into hospital as the last time I did so it was a private hospital in a private room all to myself. However, by the end of my unexpected, prolonged stay, I felt that it was where God wanted me to be at the time, where I was able to interact with 15 ladies I would not otherwise have met.

After my operation I joined 3 other ladies in Room 7 and soon got to know their personalities and why they were there. I was in Bed 3 throughout my stay. I will refer to the others by their Bed number.

In Bed 1 was a lady in her 80s who had had a second hip replacement. She went home with her daughter the day following my arrival. She lived alone and far from her daughter who was concerned about her mother. This patient was fiercely independent and we felt she would cope well.

In Bed 4 was a lady in her 60s who was a theatre sister in the paediatric section. She had had a knee replacement and was due to go home. We missed her as her nursing knowledge helped us to decide when it was appropriate for us to press our buzzers for assistance. She lived alone but her sister travelled from Liverpool to the ERI to pick her up. We were all kept up to date as to where she was on her journey, and were all enormously relieved when she arrived safely, but also sad to see the patient leave us to cope in her absence.

In Bed 2 was a lady in her 60s whom I had met on the morning of the operation while we waited to go down to theatre. She was a real live-wire and kept us laughing a lot. We all agreed that laughter was the best medicine. She had her first knee replacement but needed the other knee done too but wasn't sure that she would go ahead as she suffered from chronic pain. She needed morphine the first night and we were not that impressed when the machine dispensing the painkiller beeped from time to time. Often, she did not awaken but the rest of us suffered from disrupted sleep! She had us all in stitches when on Friday prior to her discharge she told us that she planned to travel home in a taxi and just surprise her husband when she rang the front doorbell. The nursing staff were not pleased with her decision, but she was very determined to go home. She was particularly anxious to do so as Friday was her wedding anniversary and Sunday was her birthday. She did not re-appear so we could only assume she had got home safely despite our concerns that her husband might be out walking their dog!

The next occupant of Bed 1 was a lady in her 80s who had had a second hip replacement.

She arrived from theatre on Friday evening and in no time at all she was up out of bed and on her way to the toilet. She had a very devoted husband who visited that evening and came back the following morning to take her home. We were sad to see her go as she was very kind.

The lady in Bed 4 was in her 50s and had had a hip replacement. She was not a happy person so in some ways we were glad she went home on Friday afternoon.

Bed 1 was then occupied by a lady in her 60s who had had a second knee replacement but frequently left the ward with visitors so she could have a smoke. She had had two hip replacements and the first knee replacement done previously. One operation was at the Royal Jubilee in Clydebank. As like so many of us, she had waited some time for the second knee operation so had got used to walking with one foot on tiptoe, so the physios were working with her to correct that to ensure she walked correctly in future. She went home with a family member on Monday.

The next lady in Bed 4 was a widow in her 80s who had had a knee replacement. She was very independent; so much so that she told the occupational therapist that she did not need anything to help her at home. However, the therapist, who hailed from Cumbria, was not deterred. She told her she would ask her questions to find out what if anything she needed. By answering the questions, the therapist had quickly sorted her out with a wheeled trolley, a long-handled shoehorn and a picker/helping hand. You had to admire the therapist's approach to the patient such that she did not give up and thought only of the patient – I really do hope she is remunerated appropriately, being such a people person. She went home on Monday evening.

Bed 1 was then occupied by a lady for her second hip replacement who had had some trouble following her first. She is known to a member of our congregation who had worked with her at Leuchie House. Her husband has an unusual name for Drift – The Tin Can Café! She too went home on Monday with her husband

Bed 2 saw a lady in her 50s for her second hip replacement. Naturally she recovered quickly and went home on Tuesday the day after her operation. She had recently moved house from Edinburgh to Fife and was hoping to be able to do some voluntary work to enable her to meet people in her new location, which had to accommodate her husband's motorbike collection.

Bed 4 then saw the arrival of a lady with a prosthetic limb. She had had an operation in March to stretch the stump which was not successful so had to come back again.

She was a lovely, happy person but frustrated when post-operatively the stump stubbornly refused to deflate and she was not able to go home until Sunday afternoon. I am still in touch with her via text.

The lady in her 70s in Bed 1 had had a hip replacement but knew she would require 2 new knees in the future. She too was a little upset as she thought she would get home quickly but the operation had not been as straightforward as they had expected. Her husband and son visited her regularly and ensured that her mobile was always fully charged. Once, my husband forgot to charge mine and her son kindly rescued me. She went home on Monday after lunch.

The lady in Bed 2 was very recently widowed and was also diabetic. She had had her second hip replacement. She woke us all up one night as she thought her husband was at the bottom of her bed. She had incredibly elegant legs and really cared for her looks. Every night she put her hair in rollers and covered her head with a net and then removed them and combed her hair out each morning. Her son came to take her home on Tuesday afternoon. I keep in touch with her by text as we wanted to know how her husband's funeral went on 26th September. It went well despite her son suffering from a nosebleed just as he got up to give a eulogy. She seems to have returned happily to her flat in a retirement block where she has many friends.

I was at that point feeling sorry for myself as I was left in the room on my own. However, on Tuesday evening another lady arrived in Bed 2. She was in her 60s and had a hip reversion. She had had the first replacement some 20 or 30 years earlier and it now needed to be replaced. She was told that the original one had shifted so the operation proved trickier than expected. I was not particularly pleased as she too needed morphine and the same beeping throughout the night occurred. However, she was contrite and ordered her husband to bring in croissants for us the following morning from a new patisserie called Patina Bakery. The croissant was enormous but very much French in style and totally delicious.

She was somewhat high maintenance as she insisted on washing her face and using her electric toothbrush and Waterpik flosser (both battery powered) each evening before she went to sleep. Also, as I was able to have my first shower in two weeks on 11th September, she insisted the following morning that she get one too! I was more fortunate as the care assistant came with me into the shower/wet room, but my roommate was abandoned while she showered and returned to the room somewhat shell-shocked.

The next lady in Bed 4 arrived mid-morning on Wednesday having had a partial knee replacement. She was in her 50s and reminded me slightly of how I felt following my first left knee replacement in November 2009. She was slightly apprehensive but when I left was managing to walk around with only a stick. She had recently moved house to a flat on the fourth floor with no lift. I do hope she is coping as I would have found that quite difficult.

My final companion was a lady in her 50s who had had a knee replacement. She was not able to get out of bed on the night of her operation, but the following morning was able to move around with a crutch. She was a special needs teaching assistant and explained to us how hard her working day had been during Covid. They had had to deal with children with special needs as well as vulnerable children. It did help put things somewhat in a different light.

Then on Thursday 12th September, I was allowed to go home but not quite how I had expected. I was wearing a knee brace as well as a special dressing with a pump attached to it. The pump and accompanying reservoir were inside a canvas bag with a strap I could wear crossbody. The nurses called it my "Gucci handbag".

The longer I stayed, the more useful I was as I would tell the newcomers about the routine of a day in the room – observations (blood pressure, pulse and temperature); drugs dispensing; when physios and occupational therapists came to the ward, mealtimes; visiting rules; staff changeover times (7 am and 7 pm) such that no buzzer would be answered around those times. It amused me greatly that just before I left to go home, the remaining three ladies had a discussion about what they would do as I was leaving them bereft of my knowledge. The teaching assistant said: "I know, we will just do or say what Helen would have said or done".

I think I learned that we can feel God's presence especially in tough times. I also became aware that being somewhat rigid about timings, etc rather than being spontaneous can lighten the mood greatly. Also, where people live (whether affluent or not) does not make them different from me, and all sorts can show kindness to others in many ways.

I hope I have entertained you with some of my inpatient experiences. I certainly felt I experienced hospitality as well as being able to give it to others. I would encourage you to go out and do the same wherever God leads you. I should also like to thank you for your prayers and continuing to pray. May God bless you richly.

Helen Dennison

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	An opportunity to pray about anything with members of the Prayer Team	Church at Pulpit	Badged Team Members
Every Sunday	Junior Church Ages 3 to 12 Faith with fun	Chapel	Stacy Cathcart
Every Sunday	YF Ages 13 to 18	Room 2	Andrew Duncan 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
Mondays (term time) 3.30 to 6.00pm	Board Games Club	Chapel	Andrew Duncan
2nd Sunday of the month 12.00pm	Hunger Lunch	Hall	Jane Murdoch
Every second Friday (term time) 9.00 to 11.00am	Parent Space A place to connect for parents, crèche provided	Room 2 & Chapel	Helen Nelson & Sally Anderson
Every second Friday (term time) 7.00 to 9.00pm	Youth Night	Hall	Andrew Duncan

Special Events Dec, Jan & Feb

WHEN	WHAT	WHERE
Sun 1 Dec Sun 2 Feb	Messy Church 4pm—6pm	Hall, Sanctuary
Sat 14 Dec 3pm & 7pm	Gospel Choir Christmas Concerts	Sanctuary
Sun 15 Dec 3pm & 7pm	Sister Sister Choir Christmas Concerts	Sanctuary
Sun 15 Dec Sun 22 Dec Tue 24 Dec Wed 25 Dec Sun 29 Dec Sun 5 Jan	<p><u>Christmas Services</u></p> <p>The Nativity Service 10.30am Carol Service 7.00pm All Age Worship 7.00pm Christmas Service 10.30am All Age Worship 10.30am Morning Worship 9.30am All Age Worship 10.30am</p>	Sanctuary
Monday 30 Dec (NOT Thursday)	Beacon Christmas Lunch 11am—1pm	Hall
Sat 25 January	Malawi Coffee Morning 10am—12pm	Hall
Sat 18 Jan Sat 22 Feb	Sustainability North Berwick Climate Cafe 10am—12pm	Hall
Sunday 26 Jan Sunday 23 Feb	Winter Concert Series 7pm—9pm	Sanctuary

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 9am 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 10th FEBRUARY is the Spring 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

Beacon 30th Anniversary

Saturday 12th October 2024

The 30th Anniversary was celebrated by a lunch at The Glen for 65 past and present volunteers. There was a special presentation to Janet Raeburn, one of the original founders.



Pictures and Montage by Derek Braid