St Andrew's Wallace Green & Lowick
Church of Scotland, Berwick-Upon-Tweed
(Registered Scottish Charity No. SC00867)

Spring 2020

Minister	Rev Dr Adam Hood	01289 332 787
Session Clerk	Miss Rita Inglis	01289 307 421
Treasurer	Mr Brian Tait	01361 882 897
Organist	Miss Rena Telfer	01289 302 080
Choir	Miss Rena Telfer	01289 302 080
Church Flowers	Miss Rita Inglis	01289 307 421
Churches Together	Miss Rena Telfer	01289 302 080
Discussion Group	Revd Adam Hood	01289 332 787
Gift Aid	Mr Alan Irving	01289 308 741
Investments	Mrs Sarah Weatherburn	01289 298 579
Kirk News	Rev Dr Adam Hood	01289 332 787
Keep Fit	Mrs Susan Jordan	01289 306 144
Life & Work	Mrs Anne McQueen	07526223274
New Horizons	Revd Dr Adam Hood	01289 332 787
Pastoral Care	Mrs Betty Mathieson	01289 308 686
Presbytery	Miss Rita Inglis	01289 307 421
Property	Mr Chris Budzynski	01289 305 303
Safeguarding	Mr Dale Hall	01289 308 944
Sunday/Youth Club	Mrs Jo Simpson	01890 818 098
Walking Group	Mrs Grace Tait	01361 882 897
Website	Mrs Allison Longbone	01289 302 249
Work Party	Ms Evelyn Mavin	01289 306 089

KIRK SESSION SUB COMMITTEES

FINANCE

Lead: Mr Brian Tait

FABRIC

Lead: Mr Chris Budzynski

PASTORAL

Lead: Revd Dr Adam Hood

MISSION AND NURTURE

Lead: Rev Dr Adam Hood

ELDERS

Alan Aitchison, Karen Aitchison, James Armstrong; Linda Bankier; Shena Burgon; Dale Hall; Fiona Hall; Rita Inglis; Alan Irving; Neil Jordan; Gordon Learmonth; Bryon Longbone; Betty Mathieson; Louise Newton; Brian Tait; Grace Tait; Sarah Weatherburn

Holy Communion

Holy Communion will be celebrated on Sunday 8th March, when we gather at 11am in Wallace Green. After the service of Communion there will, as usual, be a retiral offering for a charitable cause, on this occasion the North Northumberland Air Ambulance. (AH)

Minister's Letter

Dear Friends,

We will soon enter the season of Lent, when we turn our thoughts to preparing for the celebration of Easter and of the new life we find in Christ. It's always good at this time of the year to set aside a moment to pause and think about how we will get ready for this most special celebration of the church's year. It took the early church some hundreds of years before it began to mark Christmas. From the very beginning, however, Easter was at the centre of Christian worship for, as St Paul noted, if Christ is not risen then our faith is in vain. The message of the risen Christ is one of encouragement for us personally and for our communities. It reminds us that death and darkness never have the last word, and that by God's grace new life may burst forth just at the point where it seems that all hope has gone. Your friend, Adam

The Revd Bob Higham

It was sad to hear recently of Bob's passing after a year of growing weakness. There have been and will be tributes paid to Bob in many different contexts, for he was a man with a wide range of interests, not least his walking and singing. It is, however, apt to pay tribute here to Bob's contribution to our congregation over many years. In retirement Bob was locum twice in Berwick during ministerial vacancies and beyond this he frequently conducted worship, spoke at meetings, sang in our choir and participated generally in our life together. His lovely bass voice, steadfastness in faith and cheerfulness will be missed by many. As we approach Easter, we commend Bob to share in the eternal life of the risen Christ. (AH)

Church Register:

Deaths

(*denotes communicant member)

Elizabeth Cochrane, 17.9.19

George Simmons, 7.10.19*

Margaret Wilson, 15.10.19*

James Rowan, 28.10.19

Jean Fair, 5.11.19*

Kenneth Fairbairn, 6.11.19

Elizabeth Brown, 9.11.19

Alec Bookless, 18.12.19*

Walter Scott, 5.1.20

Christine Waite, 12.1.20*

Marjorie Thompson, 21.1.20*

John Hall, 22.1.20*

Bob Higham, 30.1.20*

Dates for your diary

8th Mar	Holy Communion@11am, SAWG
11th Mar	Mission & Nurture Committee@7pm
15th Mar	Faith, Fun, Friendship & Food@4-6pm, Session Room
26th Mar	Lent Lunch@12-1pm followed by short talk, SAWG
28th Mar	Annual Church Spring Clean@10-12
29th Mar	Congregational AGM after morning service
9th Apr	Maundy Thursday Communion@7pm, Session Room
10th Apr	Churches Together Good Friday March of Witness@10.45am
10th Apr	Good Friday Worship@7pm
12th Apr	Easter Beach Service@8am, Spittal Beach
12th Apr	Easter Worship@11am
14th Apr	Presbytery meeting to discuss Presbytery Plan@7pm, Duns
30th Apr	Finance Committee@6pm
9th May	VE Day Concert@2pm, SAWG
11th May	Kirk Session@7pm

Thanks to all contributors and to Shena, for arranging distribution and to Terry, for advertising. Thanks also to our sponsors.

Church Membership

If you are interested in becoming a member of the congregation, please have a word with Adam who will be glad to explain what's involved. All enquiries welcome.

An Update from your Treasurer

2019 is now well and truly behind us, but we are still in the process of tying up our finances for the year and will be considering them at the Congregational Annual Meeting which takes place after worship on Sunday 29th March. Please do come along if you can. The total offerings from the congregation in 2019 was very similar to the figure of the previous year. This headline is slightly disappointing. but when all circumstances are considered there are many positives to take forward. Whilst our congregational roll actually grew marginally, nevertheless we said goodbye to valued members during 2019. Our regular giving is the most important income we have and I thank you all for your superb generosity and support. Please can I just ask that, whatever method of giving you use, you periodically review your commitment to see if a little extra might be given. Please also let me congratulate everyone on the support given to fundraising events held during the year. Your support of the coffee mornings, Gift Day and Christmas Fayre was truly amazing. The income raised from the Gift Day and Fayre surpassed the figures of the previous year. Thank you. Our Achilles heel as always is our level of expenditure. A prudent approach was applied to general expenditure during 2019, but it was not enough to stop us from having a deficit of £6155. We have had to use reserves accumulated over twenty years ago to finance this shortfall.

Our biggest items of expenditure are our contribution to Ministry and Mission, which part pays for ministry and supports the wider work of the Kirk, and the upkeep of our building. The outlook for 2020 is slightly improved by a reduction in our Ministry and Mission costs, but nevertheless it will be a continued struggle to break even and your support is essential.
Please can I wish you a very happy Spring when green shoots and blossom appear after the long winter. Let us all pray that our finances show the same growth and our position improves. (Brian Tait)

Standing Orders

The Kirk Session are keen to remind members that one way of supporting the church is through taking out a standing order, which ensures continuity of income and ease of planning. If anyone would like to take out a standing order for the church, please have a word with Brian Tait or the Minister, who will be able to let you have the form needed. (AH)

Building Lets

Our buildings are available for let, and anyone interested should contact Allison Longbone. (AH)

Lent Lunches

Churches Together in Berwick are once again running Lent Lunches. These include a sandwich lunch between 12-1pm, thereafter followed by a short talk from 1-1.20pm on a set theme. The arrangements are as follows: 27th Feb, Baptist Church; 5th March, URC; 12th March, Scremerston; 19th March, Tweedmouth; 26th March, SAWG; 2nd April, Salvation Army; 9th April, TBC. Monies raised from the lunches goes to Christian Aid. All welcome. (AH)

News Update

Presbytery

The Church of Scotland are looking at changes in the future as we come to terms with falling Church membership and a short-fall in the number of ministers. In 2023 we will be told by the central church organisation how many ministers our Presbytery will be allocated and it is anticipated it will be less than we have currently. Also, in 2025 the Presbytery structure will change and it is expected Duns will have to merge into a Borders Presbytery, probably also including parts of East Lothian/Lothian. As a result of these changes the Presbytery is looking at forming a new plan for its future. The plan being discussed at present moves away from Hub Ministry (this is what we have at present where we have Duns and District or Coldstream and District – one major centre with satellites of smaller Churches) to team ministry. It is suggested this will be more flexible. The plan envisages that any new ministry appointment will be engaged as part of a ministerial team, rather than being specific to a particular charge or area. The team ministry would be supported by a salaried secretary who would be the single point of contact when the pastoral needs of a minister are required. There are too many church buildings for our needs throughout Scotland and buildings are not always fit for purpose – poor heating systems and lack of flexibility due to pews in the sanctuary area. The plan will encourage expenditure to make the buildings more user- friendly. The ministers would reside in one of the Prime Centres – Duns, Coldstream, Chirnside, Eyemouth and perhaps Berwick. Berwick, because it's in England, may be considered a special case, with the agreement of Edinburgh. If such agreement is not forthcoming and the allocation of ministers to Duns Presbytery is 4 or less, then we would have to be included in one of the other areas – probably Eyemouth.

The plan as proposed accepts that fundamentally we have too many buildings largely historically based. With a decreasing number of available ministers this position can no longer be sustained. It accepts the need to concentrate our limited resources to areas of greatest population – called 'Prime Centres'. Pastoral care would be shared throughout the Presbytery by the ministry team with assistance from retired ministers and others and the destiny of congregations will largely lie in their own hands. Congregations will require training to allow them to look after themselves.

There is expected to be two area meetings to discuss this plan in more detail next month and an open Presbytery meeting for all on April 14th @7pm in Duns Church. Please come along if you can and if you can't then feel free to let me know of your thoughts so we can put them before the Presbytery. (Rita)

VE Day Commemoration

VE or Victory in Europe Day commemorates the Allies accepting the surrender of Nazi Germany in the Second World War. The May Day Bank Holiday this year has moved from Monday 4 May to Friday 8 May to mark the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, to enable people to pay tribute to those who served in one of the most significant events in our country's history and to form part of a three-day weekend of commemorative events.

To mark this event, we will be holding a **VE Day Concert** on Saturday 9th May 2-4pm, with the Berwick Concert Band and the U3A singers. It will be very much like the sing-a-long to the War Songs we held to commemorate the centenary of the ending of WW1 two years ago and which proved to be very popular and a lot of fun. Tickets for the concert (which will be on sale shortly) will be £5 per person and will cover refreshments (tea and cake!). The proceeds will be split between the Band and the Church.

Do come along and support this event, enjoy a good sing, listen to the band and commemorate this important date in our history. (Rita)

Fundraising 2019

Coffee Mornings – A big thankyou once again to all who helped out with the coffee mornings, especially to Robert for his wonderful scones, Kate for all the amazing baking and much in-demand marmalade and to Betty and Karen who have served and washed dishes for every coffee morning of the year. Their help is very much appreciated. If you can help in anyway then please have a chat to me – you don't have to offer for every morning and it can be anything from helping set up, dismantling, dish washing or baking - every little helps. The coffee mornings have been as successful as ever and raised a marvellous total of £2112. They are very enjoyable mornings with plenty of chat as people catch up with old friends and have a good rummage at the bric-a-brac (plenty to choose from this year as some people have started their spring cleaning early!). By the time you get this we will have had the first event of the season with Pancake Tuesday. I hope you made it, but if you didn't do come along to the next one on Saturday 18th April.

Christmas Fayre – Once again a big thank you to all who helped . We broke all records once again and for the first time broke the £2000 barrier raising an amazing £2,331 due in no small measure to the work party and friends who raised a staggering £1190. It was a tiring but wonderfully happy morning with plenty of chat, munching and laughter. One gentleman from Chirnside was delighted at the number of Christmas presents he had managed to buy and celebrated with several cups of coffee and at least two of Robert's scones. We will be doing it all again on Saturday 28th November so put it in your diary now and come along.

Postal Service – Once again Shena and friends ran the postal sorting office for this annual event. While the number of cards continues to decrease, mainly due to the decreasing number of cards that people send, this service offered a valuable community service and raised £777 – no mean feat. A big thank you to all who helped sort and to those who delivered the cards (in all weathers!) around the area. As well as a fund raiser this is a vital service to our community as postal costs continue to rise so it is an important service. We will be needing more sorters and posties this year, so we will be asking around for help nearer the time.

Haggis Hunt – 2019 saw our first ever "Great Cheviot Haggis Hunt" and what a fun day it turned out to be. The sun shone and the teams and individuals turned out for a jog (some fit youngsters) or stroll (everyone else) around our beautiful town. Speed was a lot less important than the brain power required to answer the clues – most were easy, some less so, with the odd fiendish one to separate the sheep from the goats! Everyone enjoyed themselves and hoped we would do it again so they could bring some of their work mates or friends along. The winner received a beautiful glass trophy and the rare "Silver Haggis". Big thanks to all the Haggis Committee for their hard work and especially to Bryon as it was his very odd imagination that came up with this idea. And if you didn't enter in 2019 then please do so in 2020 when it will happen all over again, we look forward to you seeing you!

None of these events or the many other events that happen over the years can take place without a willing group of volunteers who turn up and help out. We are very grateful for your support and hard work and the money raised is a vital contribution to Church funds. As well as raising money, however, it is also a time for us all to get together and have fun, a chat and share friendship.

If you haven't attended or helped before why not give it a try and if you want to get involved you will be made very welcome. If you can't help physically then just come along and support us and lets make 2020 another great year. (Rita)

New Horizons

We have had some enjoyable meetings recently with attendances remaining good, with a usual attendance of between 20-25. In December we gathered to watch a seasonal film, *A Christmas Miracle.* January saw us enjoying some Scottish culture. We were greeted at the door by Keith playing the bagpipes and thereafter we shared some tea, along with Scottish foods - including Lillian's shortbread and then we listened to poems, songs, musical items, and readings. We also sang together some well-known Burns' songs. In February, we welcomed back Canon Christopher Smith, who spoke about his ministerial experiences. We have still a few meetings prior to our outing in June, beginning with an Easter themed afternoon on the 17th March and a visit from the Eclectica Music Group on the 21st April. As always, everyone is welcome to all or any of the meetings. (AH)

Faith Discussion Group

This group meets in the Session Room@6.30-7.30pm every fortnight to chat about our faith, the Bible and Christian traditions. The group is very informal and usually begins with a cuppa. Future meetings planned are on: 4th & 18th March and 1st & 8th April when we will be discussing chapters from David Ford's book, *The Shape of* Living. All are very welcome, please just turn up or have a word with the Minister if you wish more information. (AH)

World War 2 War Memorials Project

As a part of the VE Day Commemoration we want to update the information we have on our War Memorials. Two years ago, we looked at our WW1 war memorials and researched the people listed on them. We have now started to do the same with the WW2 war memorials. In addition to this research, we would like to hear from all with memories of the War, who would like to tell their story.

To do this I am looking for volunteers. I need people who are willing to tell their story of this time and I need people who are willing to collect this information. You don't need to have a dramatic story to tell, just what everyday living was like for you and your family and if you have some photos as well that would be brilliant. Don't worry about having to write anything down, that's what the volunteers are for, we will type and record your story, we just need you to tell it to us.

Anyone interested, in any way, please speak to or contact Rita.

Easter Sunday Morning Service@8am

For many years, in fact from being a teenager, I have enjoyed going to an early Easter Day service. Whether it was held in a little Baptist Church; in a quarry along the back road to Abbotsford; on the cliffs at Eyemouth playing a guitar with the snow swirling around us; walking up Halidon Hill and then having a bacon roll; playing a keyboard up Halidon Hill; standing on Meg's Mount; or latterly meeting on Spittal Beach, each one has been special and a fitting start to a day remembering the resurrection of our Lord and Saviour.

For the past 2 years St Andrew's Wallace Green has joined with Berwick United Reformed Church to hold a service at 8.00am on Spittal Beach followed by breakfast in the URC (St Paul's) church. This has been attended by people from a number of local churches, by people walking on the beach and by at least one holiday maker who much appreciated the opportunity for some unexpected Christian fellowship.
Last year's was made special by a beautiful driftwood cross created by the Kirkcaldy family - with special thanks to Logan.

Do come and join us this year, and then stay on for breakfast at the URC, before heading to church. If you need transport please contact me and I'll see what I can do to get you there. (Rena)

Youth Update

Youth club has continued to meet on the first Friday evening of each month. Since October our activities have included: pie making, UV face and hair painting (in the dark!), a 'lucky dip' film night, needle felting and, this month, learning some belly dancing! We will continue on until the summer when we will have a break.

One of our young folk is starting work and so won't be coming along very often, so please think of him and any other young people who you know who are starting their first job.
I made a visit to Lowick First School in November to do the Godly Play 'Remembrance' story. The story included a minutes silence and all the children did this very respectfully. Their creative responses showed that they had really taken in what the story was about. The session was in support of their visit the following week to the village Cenotaph and helped with the underpinning knowledge.
A new 'quiet space' has been set up in the front left part of the church building. This area has some materials that are always available, and others that I bring each week and then take away again to use for other things. So far, the space has successfully been used 4 times. There is always a Godly Play story available and the children are free to interact with the materials in however they feel led, rather than there being a formal 'lesson'. This gives the children space to further their understanding in their own way. Having a dedicated space within the main church means that parents can stay a part of the service whilst their children are exploring with their own spirit. (Jo)

Church Flowers

Flowers in the church look lovely, but don't come free. We have a calendar at the main door and in the Session Room, which allows those who wish to cover the cost of flowers on a week that is special to them, marking a particular date. All we ask is a donation between £10 and £20 to cover the cost. Moreover, the flower ladies are always looking for anyone who would like to help with the floral arrangements, which don't need to be elaborate, a vase of flowers is lovely. If you can help in any way, please have a word with Rita.

Stamp Appeal

One of our on-going commitments at SAWG is to support the **Kirk Stamp Appeal**, which has been running for more than 50 years. Each year a specific project is identified and congregations are asked to donate used stamps, which are then sold and the proceeds are passed on to the designated project. Recently, more than £2500 has been raised for the chosen projects.

This year the appeal is supporting the **Women's Development Centre in Kandy, Sri Lanka,** which runs a project to support women who have been subjected to rape or sexual violence. The WDC gives these women somewhere to stay, and supports them in caring for their children, helps them return to education if they wish, and trains them in skills they can use to make a living when they leave. The WDC has a social enterprise and café where the women can work and sell their handmade products. The team at WDC care for and heal girls who are vulnerable and often discarded by their families. It is impossible not to be moved by what they do. Help support them by collecting used stamps which are then sold on.

Please do keep used stamps and pop them into the collecting box at the back of the church, situated near the PA system controls. If you would like to know more about the project please see: www.churchofscotland.org.uk/stamps

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Church Website

We have a church website - http://sawg.org.uk - which is a rich source of information about the congregation, including details of all that is going on in the church. We also have a church Facebook page - why not take a look and 'like it'.