Kirk News

St Andrew's Wallace Green & Lowick

August 2022

Church of Scotland, Berwick-upon-Tweed

(Registered Scottish Charity No SC00867)

Minister	Rev Dr Adam Hood	01289 332787
Session Clerk	Miss Rita Inglis	01289 307421
Treasurer	Mr Brian Tait	01361 882897
Organist	Miss Rena Telfer	01289 302080
Choir	Miss Rena Telfer	01289 302080
Church Flowers	Miss Rita Inglis	01289 307421
Churches Together	Miss Rena Telfer	01289 302080
Gift Aid	Mr Alan Irving	01289 308741
Investments	Mrs Sarah Weatherburn	01289 298579
Kirk News	Mrs Joan Montgomery	01289 763151
Keep Fit	Mrs Susan Jordan	01289 306144
Life & Work	Mrs Anne McQueen	07526 223274
New Horizons	Rev Dr Adam Hood	01289 332787
Pastoral Care	Mrs Betty Mathieson	01289 308686
Presbytery	Miss Rita Inglis	01289 307421
Property	Mr Chris Budzynski	01289 305303
Safeguarding	Mr Dale Hall	01289 308944
Walking Group	Mrs Grace Tait	01361 882897
Website	Mrs Allison Longbone	01289 302249
Work Party	Ms Evelyn Mavin	01289 306086

Kirk Session Sub Committees

Finance
Lead: Mr Brian Tait

Fabric
Lead: Mr Chris Budzynski

Pastoral
Lead: Rev Dr Adam Hood

Mission and Nurture
Lead: Rev Dr Adam Hood

Elders
Alan Aitchison, Karen Aitchison, Linda Bankier, Dale Hall, Fiona Hall, Rita Inglis, Alan Irving, Neil Jordan, Bryon Longbone, Louise Newton, Joan Reed, Brian Tait, Grace Tait, Sarah Weatherburn.

Holy Communion

We will be celebrating Holy Communion on Sunday September 11th at 11am. All welcome.

After the service there will be a **retiral offering** for the Ukraine Humanitarian Appeal, which helps provide food, water, shelter, healthcare and protection to the many millions affected by the war.

New Communicant Members

Terri Bearhope by profession of faith
Beth Sapi by resolution of the Kirk Session

Deaths

(*denotes communicant member)
William McCormick 23.6.22
Lilian Moffat 08.7. 22*

Minister's Letter

Joan has asked folks to write on the theme of 'On our own doorstep', so I thought I would muse for a little on what lies on my doorstep. We've been living in Berwick for almost 10 years now and for all of that time we've enjoyed the privilege of living in the kirk manse, which lies on the hill behind the North Road cemetery. This, of course, is a relatively new house; the former church manse is a large 19th century self-detached on Wellington Terrace with stunning views of the Tweed estuary. I must confess that I have sometimes had twinges of regret that we didn't get to enjoy that house. Dr Cairns, who was the first minister to stay on Wellington Terrace, had his study looking out into the river and another former minister used to begin his day by walking along the pier. These images have a romantic appeal. On the other hand, the old manse, I'm told, was difficult to keep warm, and I can't imagine the cost of keeping such a barn of a place, so I am very grateful to be living in the modern,

purpose-built and comfortable house that you've provided. The house itself evokes many thoughts. I remember, for instance, the stories of how the house was bought and who had a role in designing it and I'm grateful. Each morning, come rain or shine, I throw open a window and gaze out on the garden. Sometimes, the scene is grey and unremarkable, but at other times I have delighted in seeing a beautiful sunrise, a multitude of birds or even a hedgehog making its way home. On one occasion, we counted the birds in the garden over a period of 120 minutes, and there were far more and a far greater variety of species than we could ever have imagined: sparrows, robins, starlings, finches, tits, blackbirds, gulls, crows and even a woodpecker hidden high up in the trees. And then there are the insects and flora. I'm not, I confess, an avid gardener and the limit of my aspiration is usually to keep the grass short and the weeds down, yet year after year colourful flowers appear, roses, lavender and all the rest and I am thankful for whoever planted and nurtured these flowers that we continue to enjoy. In the end of the day, of course, the true value of a house is as a home and it is the thought of the happy times enjoyed here and the circle of folks who've passed through the doors that are the final and best reasons for appreciating was has been 'on my own doorstep' for all of these years. Incidentally, I've just learned that the origin of 'manse' is the latin word 'mansus' (from which the word mansion comes), which just means 'dwelling'.

Your friend,

Adam

Coping with Covid

We are not now asking members of the congregation to wear masks. However, because there is still a real risk of catching covid, we encourage folk to remain vigilant, trying to avoid close contact where possible and making use of the gel that is available in church. Also, please do continue to wear a mask if you so wish.

For your calendar

Tuesday 6th September	Keep Fit resumes
Friday 16th September	Open Church, 2-4pm, as part of the Heritage Open Day
Saturday 17th September	Open Church 10am-4pm
Sunday 11th September	Holy Communion at 11am
Sunday 9th October	Harvest Thanksgiving at 11am – with collection of items and money for Berwick Foodbank

Streaming

Since early on this year, we have been streaming our services online week by week. This means that with some basic equipment, a laptop, PC, ipad or smart phone, people who are not able to join us in person can participate in our worship from the comfort of their homes. It is simply a matter of clicking on the link that you can find on our website – sawg.org.uk If you have any questions about how to access the services do have a word with me.

The streaming of services has been possible due to a grant from the Presbytery. Thanks, also, to Nathan and Tony for overseeing the weekly filming. We are always on the look-out for further people to assist with running this service. Please have a word with me if you can help. (AH)

New Horizons

We had a lovely end to last session's programme with a visit in June to Floors Castle. We really enjoyed touring the fabulous castle, and the weather was kind to us – the rain stopped long enough for us to see around the gardens!

The first meeting of New Horizons this session will take place on Tuesday Oct 11th at 2pm in the Session Room. All welcome.

Cakes Galore

During May/June we were treated to two special cakes in church. On 27th / 28th May we marked the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, often thought of as the birthday of the Church. On the Saturday afternoon, an all-age group enjoyed exploring this theme through craft work and also by making and eating food!

Then on the Sunday, the church was decorated with bunting, as we marked the Queen's Jubilee and celebrated Pentecost in our worship, which ended with the cutting and eating of a wonderful cake produced by Robert

On June 19th, we celebrated Holy Communion, which was the occasion for the second of our cakes to make an appearance. This was a really special Sunday! It was 163 years to the day since the church building had been opened. We shared communion and received two new communicant members, Terri and Beth. Moreover, one of our congregation, Ian, was 90. We couldn't let that pass without another of Robert's cakes and a rendition of 'Happy Birthday'. In case your wondering – Ian worked for the SMT bus company!

Dates for your Diary

Heritage Open Days

We will be participating in The Heritage Open Days again this year and the Church will be open 2-4pm on Friday 16th September and 17th September. If anyone would like to participate in welcoming folk and helping with refreshments on the Saturday, then please speak to me. Linda Bankier will be there on the Saturday to give a talk. This will be very interesting, so anyone who is interested, please come along.

Coffee Morning Delivery Service

You are continuing to support our delivery service very well and I am delighted to report that, apart from eating a huge number of scones and cakes you have also raised an extremely impressive £1200 for Church funds.

A very big thanks to all the bakers and deliverers, without whom this could not happen.

Concert

We are hoping to hold a concert in aid of the Christian Aid Ukraine Appeal on Sunday 25th September 3-5pm. The concert will be by the Northumberland and Borders Concert Band and more details will follow in due course.

Time to think about Christmas

Christmas Fayre

After being blown away last November it is hoped we will be having our Christmas Fayre on Saturday 26th November – so put it into your diary now!

Angels and Stars

We will be distributing our knitted angels and stars at Christmas time again this year. As we slip into the darker Autumn nights it's time to get those knitting needles out. I have plenty patterns and wool available for all those who need them and I am very happy to help with any sewing up or any advice needed.

Please remember that these simple gifts will be given to the children at the Big Sing, to residents in the Tweed View, to our own Congregation and distributed round the town to all. To those who receive them they are a reminder that they are remembered and what Christmas is truly about.

Christmas Card Competition

Autumn is almost upon us, so it's that time again! A time for you all to put your creative caps on and produce a Christmas card for the Annual Christmas Fayre. The cards raise £80-100 each year and are also distributed to the whole congregation, please have a go! You can paint, draw, collage, applique or computer generate; any medium at all. Please produce your card on any size of paper up to a maximum of A4 size (8.5"x11.5"). Please hand it to me with your name attached.

If you feel like having a go but would like some support or materials or just have-a-go in company then come along to the craft group, when we will all be having a go.
Just think! You could be sending out your own personal Christmas cards this year. If you have youngsters at home or grandchildren then let them to have a go. A home-made is so much nicer that a shop-bought card (and cheaper) and ALL proceeds go to Charity…… our Church.

Craft, Cake and Chat

The C,C and C group is on holiday at present but will start again in September when the summer is over. At present we have 10-15 people attending all doing g a variety of things. While many are sticking to their knitting, we hope to try out some new crafts in the Autumn months. It is a great time for chat and cake whilst doing craft, so if you are free once a fortnight on a Friday afternoon and fancy something different, please come along – no prior experience necessary.

Any queries at all about any of the above, please contact me.

Easy Fund Raising

Thank you to everyone for raising donations for St Andrews Wallace Green Church with #easyfundraising! If you haven't signed up yet, it's easy and completely FREE. 7,100 shops and sites will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to do your everyday online shopping - at no extra cost to you! Every donation you raise makes a difference to us so please sign up & share today.
https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/standrewswgc/?invite=4K2L3L%26referral-campaign=c2s%26utm_campaign=admin-trigger%26utm_content=srt

Rita Inglis

On our own Doorstep

Very often speed is valued over slowness – we rush around, we send texts when we are talking to others, we send emails while eating and we try to get as much as possible accomplished in as short a time as possible. Sometimes we need to slow down, savour what we are eating, listen carefully to our friends and family and really look at the beauty of our surroundings as we move through the day.
Let us cultivate slowness and connect meaningfully to what is under our nose and on our very own doorstep.

I don't think then of the misery, but of the beauty that still remains. My advice is, "Go outside, to the fields, enjoy nature and the sunshine. Go out and try to recapture happiness. Think of all the beauty that's still left in and around you and be happy!"
Anne Frank

Some thoughts about gratitude

First thing in the morning……. feed the birds, give the dog his chewy stick, then it's time for breakfast. The pigeons await falling bird seed and do me the favour of cleaning the gutters while they wait.

What I am most grateful for is the kindness and friendship of near neighbours. I thank the Lord for such folk. One friend calls every weekend for a chat and to help me understand the workings of the internet.

Finally, I am thankful that the next-door neighbour is too deaf to hear our dog barking all the time that I am out.
Praise the Lord for good neighbours.

Sheila Ritchie

A couple of months ago I heard a radio programme in which the speaker was sharing how she had altered her 'start to the day' routine. Instead of getting up 'just in time' to start the chores of living in a robotic way, she committed to getting up an hour earlier each day for some personal space before the daily list of tasks kicked in.
During this time, she would break the hour into 3 x 20-minute slots.

20 minutes for reflection (meditation, prayer, thinking) 20 minutes for gentle exercise and 20 minutes for learning.

Sometime later, she found that following this early morning routine, she was more alert throughout the day and that she had increased energy – in all, she was feeling much better and more positive about

herself. In this covid era, her experience appealed to me and being an early bird, I thought I would give it a try.

It is still quite early days for me, however, here's what I have learned so far.

An early morning coffee in the garden is such a joy – I have enjoyed watching how the various plants change so swiftly in the growing season. I observe the birds feed and listen to their joyful singing in the woods adjacent to where I live. I enjoy watching the tall trees in the wood behind move majestically in the early morning breeze.

On my 20 minute morning walks, I have seen the rowan trees gradually produce a resplendent crop of the reddest berries I have ever seen. A few weeks earlier, I watched cherries open on wild trees – previously, I had only passively seen these evolve, if at all!

I firmly believe that I now arrive at work a calmer, more positive person. There is no immunity from the inevitable challenges that each day brings. However, I feel better equipped to deal with them, whatever comes my way.

Thank you to BBC 'Early Morning Sunday' and in particular, to that inspirational, thought-provoking speaker (I never did catch her name) who shared the 20/20/20 start to the day. It is not a panacea for ills, and I'm still trying (some would say 'very trying'), however I'm feeling cautiously optimistic of making further progress in my more productive start to most days.

One last thought – as I write this, we are facing one of the hottest days of the summer – that one hour earlier rise means I can enjoy the coolest part of the day which is another blessing.

Bill Chalmers

A Pedalling Pilgrimage

"Blessed are those whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on pilgrimage" (Psalm 84:5)

At the beginning of August a young couple were passing through Berwick and came to church on Sunday morning. They were on a cycling tour from John O'Groats to Land's End. By the time you read this they will have finished the tour and be safely home in Manchester.

"So, what has been 'on my doorstep' during this cycling adventure? Without wanting to bore you with a complete itinerary, our route has taken in the windswept majesty of the Highlands, the urban bustle of Inverness and Edinburgh and the golden pastures of the Scottish Borders. And yet, magnificent as these places were and are, I don't think they have been 'on my doorstep' exactly. That phrase suggests something that's been with me the whole time, that I might take for granted. 'Under my nose', so to speak. Like….. the handlebars of my bicycle.

Having said I didn't want to bore you with an itinerary, I'm afraid I must run the risk of boring you with an inventory: an inventory of the

cycling gear that has been quite literally, under my nose for the last nine days (and more by the time of printing).

1. The Handlebars Themselves

You might think you know handlebars: those straight bits at the front of a bicycle that you hold on to. Think again. When I picked up my bike from a gentleman named Harry (via that estimable online second-hand shop known as Gumtree), I was greeted by something a little bit like a pair of squashed elephant ears. As it turns out, Harry had converted the handlebars to make the bike more suited to touring, as the curved bars provide more positions to move your hands around during a long ride. And suited to touring it has proven. I have never seen another set of handlebars like it. I would never have thought of it myself. But, I am deeply grateful for Harry and his ingenuity.

2. The Bar Tape

For those of you who are not cycling afficionados (well done for reading this far, by the way!) bar tape wraps around the handlebars to provide cushioning – and aesthetics, if you are so inclined. My bar tape is a light tan in colour, to match the saddle and I watched a YouTube tutorial shortly before our tour to learn how to put it on. The right-hand side has a wonky patch because I did it first. But the left side is a jolly smooth piece of work if I do say so myself. I'm rather pleased with it.

3. The Water Bottle Holder

If we are speaking of things that are 'under my nose', the water bottle holder is approximately in line with my right nostril. The bottle on the frame holds water, the bottle on the handlebars holds Palmer Homebrew: squash with added sugar and salt, mixed up by one of us each morning. This second bottle holder was recommended by our friend in a local bike shop in Manchester as a

good idea for longer rides. Again, I would not have thought of it on my own and he is right.

4. The Bell

Having been a child and then got bigger (as children tend to do), I have cycled a few bikes in my lifetime and rung a few bells to alert unwitting pedestrians or sheep, of my approach. Alas, most of these bicycle bells have only given off a solitary 'ping'! but I had always admired the 'ring ringgggg' of my mother's bicycle bell, which seemed to me both a more cheerful and a more noble sound. Imagine my delight when my wife gave me a silver bicycle bell that produces the most cheerful and most noble 'ring rinnnnnnggggg' that I have ever heard.

Psalm 84, verse 5 (quoted above) speaks of those "whose hearts are set on pilgrimage", of God's people who travel through life as a sacred journey. Embarking on this cycling tour has felt like something of a pilgrimage for my wife and me: travelling from one end of our homeland to the other and praying for it. Having chance encounters with fellow Christians, cyclists and spiritual seekers; praising God for what he has made in the landscape and creatures around us.

As I reflect on what has been 'right under my nose' during this pedalling pilgrimage, I find myself considering life's journeys too and what commonalities there might be.

Perhaps you, like me, have benefitted from the creativity or work of others – like Harry converting the handlebars on the bike that became mine. Perhaps you, like me, have learned things, tried things, got things a little wonky on your journeys through life – like my experiment with bar tape, but ended up with something to be proud of? Perhaps others have shared wisdom with you that has shaped your own pilgrimage, like our friends in the bike shop recommending the second bottle holder. Perhaps you have simply

been given gifts that bring you joy; a talent, a beloved place, a silver bicycle bell……

More importantly than any of these things, though, I have been struck in the last few days by the essential sociability of pilgrimage. It was ever thus, ancient and medieval pilgrims travelled in groups for safety and Chaucer's Canterbury Tales is essentially a fictitious storytelling contest within one such motley band. I have already mentioned they have not been 'on my doorstep' during this cycling tour. So, who has been? My wife, with her cheerful planning and patient kindness and our Lord Jesus, the maker of Highlands and Caller of all pilgrims.

Perhaps you, like me, occasionally (too rarely) look up from all the bits and bobs and equipment and clutter of life, to realise it's the people 'on our own doorstep' who are the greatest gifts of all.

Even better than a silver bicycle bell that goes, 'ring rinnnggggg'."

Dominic Palmer

Life moves forward, there is no denying it, but sometimes you only fully appreciate what you have when it has gone. twenty years ago, Ray and I moved north from Hampshire in the deep south of England. We were looking for somewhere which enjoyed a more measured pace. We drove up through Northumberland and explored many places on the way, but none felt quite right. We came into Berwick from the Ord Road and my heart sang. Somehow, we knew that this was the place we were meant to be next, and so it happened. For fifteen years we continued to explore with Benji (our dog), very quickly becoming part of both the church and wider communities and made many friends.

In 2017 circumstances changed and we had to move, finishing up on the other side of the country in Ayrshire, which wasn't in the plan! We have no regrets, it was necessary, but a big part of our hearts remain in the Northeast of England and the Scottish Borders. As I look out of my window, across the Clyde to Arran and, on a good day, Argyll, I am glad we are still by the sea, despite the noisy seagulls, but sometimes miss the wide-open vistas of the North Sea from the Walls or Scremerston Beach, with the hint of Holy Island to the south.

Thank goodness for the many photographers who are happy to share their talents on social media and who keep these memories alive. Some of our friends have moved away, some have passed on, but they were all instrumental in bringing joy to us both.

In these challenging times, in the church, in our country and across the world, every day when I wake, I will tussle over what the day will bring. I really appreciate what we have but can still look back and

appreciate wonderful memories. I can only recommend that each one of us takes a deep breath and thanks God for what we have today because we never know what tomorrow will bring.

Bea Nicholson

How well do you know Berwick-upon-Tweed?

We all feel we know our town and know it well. I venture to suggest that many of us don't.

If we simply opened our eyes from time to time and looked more carefully, we would discover many things.

Below are descriptions of 10 things to be found in Berwick. Do you know where these can be found?

Have some fun looking for them! There is a prize for the winner of a free cup of tea or coffee after any Sunday service of your choice.

1. What academic facility started its life where the Baptist Church is now?

2. Have you noticed the large dragonfly on a building? Again, it's not far from the Church.

3. Could you find Campbell's Stables?

4. Where is the installation, 'This Endless Sea' being exhibited?

5. Where is the Urban Sanitary Authority's sign?

6. Within the last few years, Berwick has gained a large mural. Where?

7. Every year, a beautiful sunflower display can be found near the Church. Where?

8. One building displays its own seaside beach scene. Where is it?

9. Where can you see a zebra in the town?

10. More mature members may recall, Plant a Tree in'73 and since then, tree planting has become a big thing. Where would you find the tree for William and Catherine?

In case of a tiebreak:

- Great Britain had Hanoverian kings. Where can you see, near to the Church, the symbol of The Electors of Hanover?

The answers are towards the back of the magazine.

Thanks to Allison Longbone for this excellent quiz.

A tranquil week on Lindisfarne – on my doorstep

I recently spent a week on Holy Island and it was lovely to soak up the atmosphere when all the crowds went back to the mainland. It was surprisingly quiet and you could walk around and only meet half-a-dozen people.
I didn't spend time in the Priory or visiting the castle because they were so crowded. I enjoyed walking when it was quiet in the morning and late afternoon.
It was good to go to go and share worship on the Sunday with many others, in a crowded church and be reminded of the island's Christian heritage and how it is still a place of pilgrimage and retreat.

Rena Telfer

I marvel at and feel blessed for the allotment I have on The Walls.
I was allocated my allotment immediately before the first lockdown which I feel was my salvation. I could focus on preparing the soil, sowing, planting, growing and be out in the fresh air. Having suffered with mental health issues in the past, this was of enormous benefit to me. When my daughters were growing up, the Church and my faith were my safety net.

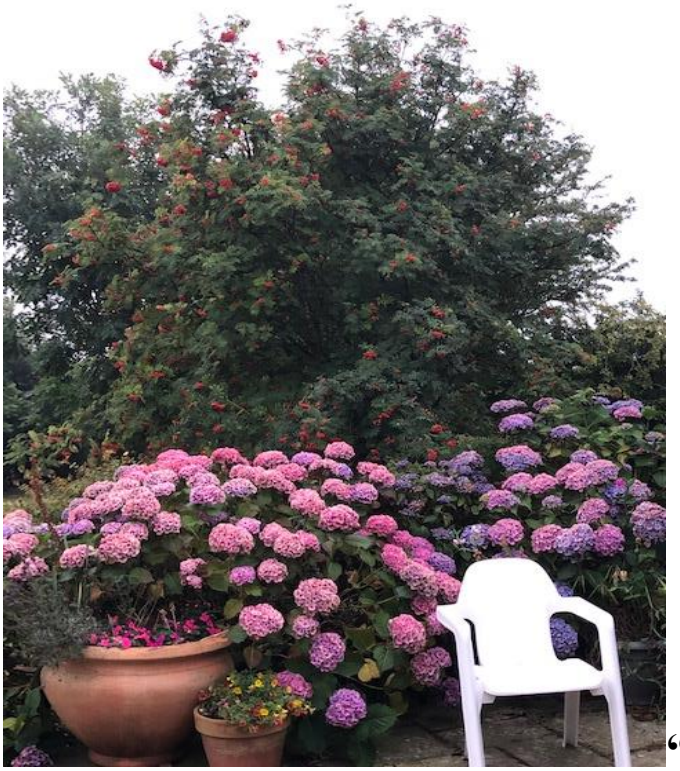
I love chatting to other allotment holders, sharing their gardening experience and tips and being part of their lives.

I often sit down on my own allotment and those around me and think how wonderful Nature is. When it was very dry during the blackbird nesting time, I often found blackbirds coming really close to me. The worms had disappeared very deep into the soil, so I dug a deep hole for them to be able to find a tasty worm. I currently have a friendly robin who comes to visit and feast on grubs and worms. God has indeed given us a wonderful world. When we nurture our world, we reap enormous benefits.

On that note, I do not believe in the use of chemicals and pesticides – I sow green manure at the end of the growing season. I harvest seaweed during the winter/spring (when I am not disturbing marine life living in the seaweed) and I am growing a pot of nettles to make a lovely liquid feed. God has provided us with the means to preserve the balance of Nature.

It gives me great pleasure to share the fruits of my labours with church members, my neighbours and Northern Soul on West Street.

Joan Reed



“Morning has broken”

Hymn 467 – “Morning has broken like the first morning, blackbird has spoken, like the first bird……”

Every morning my first task is to throw open the bedroom curtains to give thanks to the new day. Most days I am welcomed by at least one blackbird hopping over the grass in search of breakfast.

This dry spell does not appear to be pleasing the birds very much. However, I am reminded of Matthew 6:25, “Therefore, I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink….”
When I observe my Rowan tree and the birds eating the berries already – much sooner than in previous years!

Despite climate change, God is catering for the birds and if we trust, the same will be true for us. I feel sure the grass will grow again and turn green – but so will the weeds!

Maureen Kirkaldy

This Endless Sea

This Endless Sea is a new installation by local artist Chloë Smith. It is a film and soundscape about grief, housed in a coastal shelter.

The film is shown on 6 screens and lasts 15 minutes on a continuous loop.

It is an intimate experience for one or two people (or a family) at a time.

The work creates a space for people to gently reflect on their own experiences of grief and loss.

It is open Wednesday – Sunday 11am-4pm until Sunday 11 September. It is in the Pier Road car park (near the Books by the Sea box).

As part of This Endless Sea, Chloë is hosting a series of Grief Cafes in Northern Soul Kitchen, 17 West Street (6pm-7.30pm) on August 30th and September 27th. No booking is necessary.

www.ThisEndlessSea.co.uk

Berwick and the Sea

Berwick's past, present and future is inextricably linked to the sea and the River Tweed. This could be as a port, shipbuilding, fishing for salmon and now tourism. It developed because of its geographic location at the mouth of the Tweed.

Our everyday life is affected by the sea. Who amongst us has not seen the haar rolling in with the incoming tide?

At one time, Berwick was a principal port for Scotland. Exports of wool through Berwick happened a long time before Berwick changed from Scotland to England. The pantiles on the roofs of Berwick remind us of the story of international trade.

Ship building may no longer take place and salmon fishing may be more for the tourists but there are now boat trips from the Quay and the movement of grain from the Dock. A small seaport at Tweedmouth facilitates the import and export of goods but provides no passenger services. However, there is talk of cruise ships sending

their passengers to Berwick. The port is protected by a long breakwater (pier) built in the 19th century, at the end of which is a red and white lighthouse. Completed in 1826, the 13 metre (43 feet) tower emits a white light every 5 seconds from a window looking out to sea.

Berwick has provided many seafarers in many guises, the most famous is probably Paul Henry GM who was awarded the George Medal posthumously for his incredibly brave and selfless action on RFA Sir Galahad during the Falklands War. The coast of Northumberland is famous for its long sandy beaches and St Abb's Head just over the Border and up the coast is spectacular for its cliffs and seabirds.

RNLI – Royal National Lifeboat Institute

"The RNLI is the charity that saves at sea. Providing a lifeboat service, lifeguards and safety education. Like generations of selfless lifesavers before them, today's volunteer crew members are ready to rescue around the clock, all powered by passion, talent and kindness. The charity's founder, Sir William Hillary, vowed that 'with courage, nothing is impossible'. His vision of forming a rescue service funded by voluntary donations became a reality in 1824 and, almost 200

years on, the charity has saved more than 142,500 lives. Everyone who gives their time or support to the RNLI is a lifesaver."

Berwick upon Tweed Lifeboat Station operates both an all-weather and inshore boats. The Station is situated on the Carr Rock, Spittal Road on the south side of the Tweed. The Station was established in 1835 and it is now one of a few stations where boats are slip-way launched. Since it was established, the Berwick crews have been awarded nine awards for gallantry.

Earlier this month we had the pleasure of talking to Mr Kevin Knox, Deputy Second Coxswain and Water Safety Officer.

Kevin's interest was piqued at an Open Day and he volunteered as a result. He has been a member of the Berwick lifeboat crew for over 27 years. He is currently a Deputy Second Coxswain which means that he stands in for the full-time coxswain one weekend a month. When the full-time coxswain is available, Kevin goes to sea as a crew member. He is clearly passionate about this work and he stressed that everyone sees the other crew members as friends/family and it is essential that they work closely as a team.

He is doing more and more in his role of Water Safety Officer. He is in the process of going to all schools in the area and giving educational talks. He is not saying "Don't do it". Instead, he is educating children to think for themselves and be aware of the risks. He also gives talks to local community organisations. The RNLI have a programme that covers from 3 to 18 years of age. There were 190 deaths round the UK last year and the RNLI have a stated aim of reducing this number.

Berwick is a relatively quiet station with around 16 calls a year. Crew members are called out by pager and the average response time when the boats are launched are 3-4 minutes for the In-Shore boat and 6-7 minutes for the All-Weather Boat. Call outs can be for anything from paddle boards to yachts in difficulty. The Pandemic made training

much harder even though the RNLI still responded to people in difficulty at sea.

There is no doubt that Lifeboats around the UK and Berwick's Lifeboats in particular have saved lives. We rely upon the bravery of these selfless volunteers.

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A final thought from Di Higham……..

I must have been one of those annoying children who are always asking, "but why"? It is a habbit that has persisted and I recommend it.
Whose idea was it to put the letter 's' in the word lisp? If money doesn't grow on trees why do banks have branches? Why can't emus run backwards? Why do round pizzas come in square boxes? If the temperature is zero outside today and it's going to be twice as cold tomorrow, how cold will it be? Zero or zero to the power of two? We know the speed of light, but what is the speed of darkness? Why are dalmations born without spots?
I could go on …… but, what an amazing world we live in.

Do you think science has the answers to everything? Here's a story about two students. One was a brilliant research student. The research student said, "I'm glad I live in the 21st Century and I don't have to believe all that guff that they used to; that stuff about creeds and rules. I have passed my exams, I can beat anyone in an argument and I base my answers on reason alone."
The other student buried his head in his hands and said, "God, teach me what life is about. I am ignorant and confused".

So which student would eventually learn more than the other?

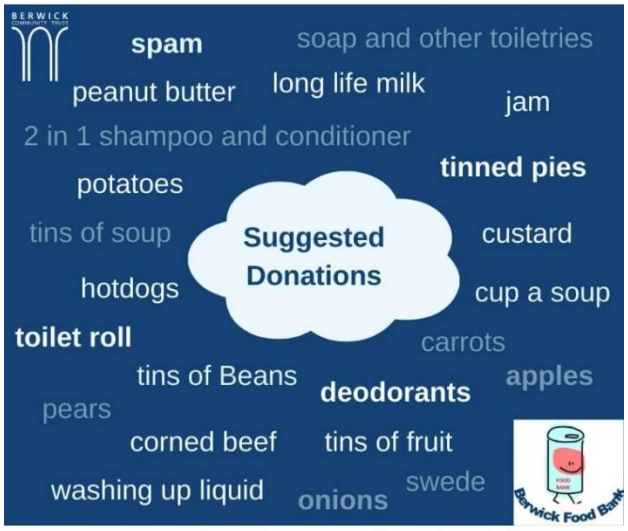
I'll keep asking that question because God's word says, "*seek and you will find."*
What a promise!

The Answers to Allison's Quiz:

1. Berwick's first Grammar School.
2. Behind Greaves West & Ayre. It's on a wall at the back of College Place.
3. Foul Ford.
4. Pier Road Carpark (there until 11 September).
5. The former Borough Council Building next to the Church.
6. Gable end of a house at the top end of Ravensdowne.
7. Bottom of Chapel Street, almost into Church Street.
8. Opposite the sunflowers (Old Trinity Hall).
9. In the new ice-cream shop on Church Street (Willy Bonkers).
10. Far end of the main car park, close to the Hospice Shop.

- Tie Break: The main Coat of Arms above The Barracks is in 4 quadrants. The bottom right has a D sort-of shape in the centre which is the symbol of the Electors of Hanover.

Berwick Food Bank – some suggestions for donations.



Berwick Festivals

Open Gardens
2 July

Berwick Food, Beer & Fringe Festival
2 - 4 September

Heritage Open Days
9 - 18 September

Berwick Music Series
23 September - 23 October

Berwick Literary Festival
13 - 16 October

Berwick Film & Media Arts Festival
3 - 5 March 2023

2022

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Back Pain
Neck Pain
Trapped Nerves
Sports Injuries
Most Joint Problems

Notes from the Editor

Today, I shall certainly end my day with gratitude.

I feel thankful for all of you who have contributed so openly and honestly for this edition of The Kirk News.

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