

Church Register

Baptism:

Jesus said "Let the children come to me and do not hinder them"

Zak Andrew Smith

son of Simon & Heather Smith.

Marriages:

Love always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres. Love never fails. And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.

Kevin Borland and Lauren Gibson

Deaths:

"The Lord's my shepherd I'll not want"

Ronnie McGinnis

Victory Park

Church Office

Janette Robertson will be in the Office – Tuesday 10.00 am – 12 noon & Friday 9.00 am – 1.00 pm. All items for the Pew Leaflet should be given to Janette, or posted through the office door. Please note that articles for inclusion in the Sunday Pew Leaflet must be with Janette no later than 11.00 am on the preceding Friday.

Contact details:

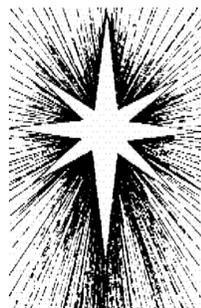
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EDITOR'S NOTE:

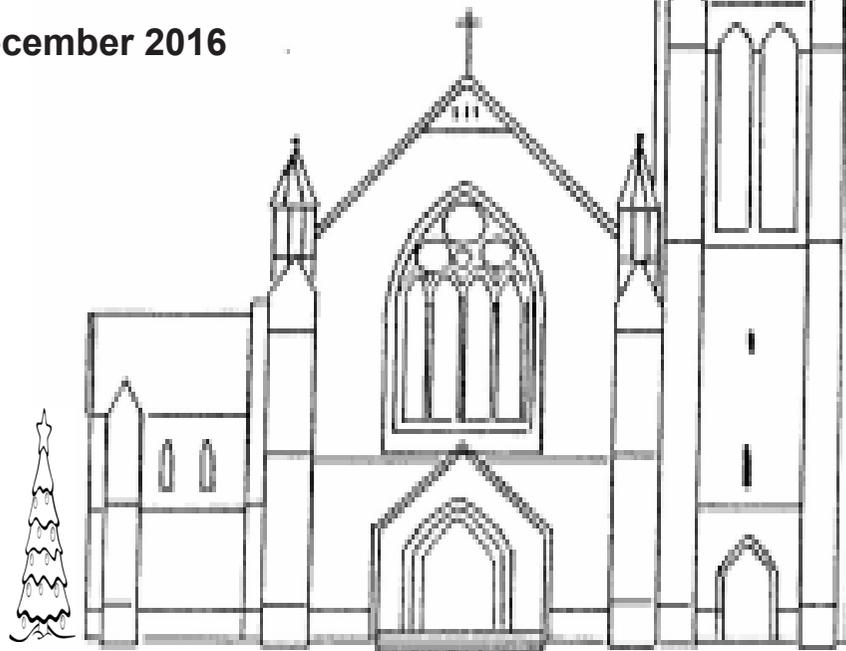
All articles for the January 2017 issue of the Church Magazine should be given to the Editor by Sunday 8th January 2017



The Church of Scotland

The North Star

December 2016



Girvan North Parish Church

Girvan North Parish Church Charity No. SC007347

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Blythswood Care

We have resumed our collection for Blythswood, so please bring any of the following donations, and they will be taken up to their shop in Prestwick.

Please mark your boxes/bags with the following appropriate label(s):

**BRB = Bric-a-Brac C = Clothes D = Dishes F = Food
G = Glass items M = Medical T = Toys = Books**

Stamps

Please bring along used stamps and place them in the box in the vestibule at the church building.

They are sent to World Mission at '121' who benefit in the region of £2,000 + per annum.

Please leave about one quarter of an inch around the stamp when you cut it off the envelope.

Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

Well done to everyone who filled shoeboxes. Our total was 172, 21 more than last year, which in the current climate is great. Thank you to everyone, including Milestone who donated boxes too and thank you to those of you who gave money to assist with postage. There will be a lot of Happy Faces when they receive their box. Thank you all so much.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year to One and All,

We are in the beginning of the season of Advent, a time of preparation, a time of anticipating the coming again of the Messiah, a time of great expectation. But exactly what is it that we anticipate? What are we getting ready for? What do we expect to happen?

Sometimes we learn best from our children. There is an old story about a man who punished his 3-year-old daughter for wasting a roll of gold wrapping paper. Money was tight, and he became infuriated when the child tried to decorate a box to put under the Christmas tree. Nevertheless, the little girl brought the gift to her father the next morning and said, "This is for you, Daddy." The father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction once he realized the gift was for him. He opened the gift, but his anger flared again when he found that the box was empty. He yelled at her, "Don't you know that when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside of it?" The little girl looked up at him with tears in her eyes and said, "Oh, Daddy it's not empty. I blew kisses into the box. All for you, Daddy." The father was crushed. He put his arms around his little girl, and he begged her forgiveness. He kept that gold box by his bed for years. Whenever he was discouraged, he would take out an imaginary kiss and remember the love of the child who had put it there.

The advent season reminds us of the "Good News" we have been given for in a very real sense, each of us has been given a gold box filled with unconditional love and kisses from God. Through the sacrifice of Jesus, God's "one and only Son," we have access to eternal life. While there are those times when it seems as if He has left us to make it on our own, and there are those times when it appears as if we cannot go any further in life, there is no more precious possession anyone could hold than the gold box filled with the love of God. That is the good News we find told of in Advent and wrapped up for us in the gift of Jesus Christ. Christmas is a wonderful gift and as Chuck Swindoll, minister & author once said,

"Christmas scratches the itch of grace deep within us."

We see this in the speaking of the angels that first Christmas and to us now. We discover in the good news of the gospels, an old man, a teenager, an ordinary carpenter, and some lowly people who were touched by God's heavenly host. In the Good News we can read of Zechariah's response, which was one of unbelief. The old priest, whose turn had come by lot to serve in the temple dared question the Almighty (in hearing the angelic announcement he would become a father, that Elizabeth would bear a son): "How can I be sure of this?" In answer, God enforced an eloquent silence on Zechariah . . . And, when at last Elizabeth's nine months were complete, the first words Zechariah spoke were praise to God. The Good News is: God hears us!

The young virgin teenager also heard the angel's voice and felt the warmth of God's grace pour over her. **"You have found favour with God!" (Luke 1:30b.)** Mary questioned God, too, but hers was a query of logistics, not unbelief. **"And Mary said to the angel, "How will this be, since I am a virgin?" (Lk 1:34).** The reply? **"The Holy Spirit will come upon you . . ." (Lk 1:35)** And Mary affirmed the "great things" God had done for her!

The Good News is: God is pleased with us! Jesus made it so! Is there something difficult that God is asking you to do or be right now? The angel's message to Joseph, a carpenter, will comfort you. **"Do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife." (Mt 1:20)** Though confused and scared, Joseph heard the angel's cry, **"YOU CAN!"** We too can find help in all things, at all times, having all we need.

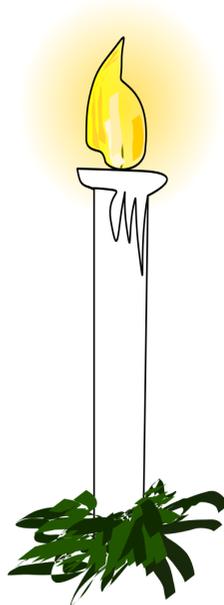
The good news is: God walks with us, enabling us as we go.

The long awaited one, the King of Kings, the expected Messiah sent his envoy to the lowliness of people. The call was clear. **"Do not be afraid! I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people . . . A Savior has been born to you; he is Christ**

the Lord . . . You will find (Him) . . .” (Lk. 2:10-12) There is “good news of great joy” for all the people! That is the message of advent that culminates in God’s touch of grace coming in unexpected times, ways, and places. He might just surprise you this Christmas!

May you have a truly joy filled Christmas and blessed New Year,

Pastor Richard & Margie



Crèche Rota

4 th December	Lorraine Reid, Leslie Forbes
11 th December	Margaret Nicol, Rhone MacKinnon
18 th December	Lauren Borland, Diane Irvine
25 th December	Yuna McLeod, Michelle Scobie
1 st January 2017	Wilma Armstrong, Fiona McCutcheon

If anyone is interested in helping out on a Sunday morning, Diane, would be delighted to hear from you – contact details are given below.

We are grateful to those members of our fellowship who voluntarily give of their time to staff our Crèche on Sunday mornings. Please remember that if you cannot do your duty one Sunday it is vital that you arrange a replacement with somebody else who is already on the Crèche rota.

We wish to take this opportunity to remind members that the Crèche is available every Sunday for children under 3 years of age.

Diane Irvine is the Crèche co-coordinator, her contact details are:

5 Trowier Road, Girvan Tel: 710524 Wells1969@hotmail.co.uk

Recognizing Jesus

An old shoe cobbler who dreamed one Christmas Eve that Jesus would come to visit him the next day. The dream was so real that he was convinced it would come true.

So the next morning he got up and went out and cut green boughs and decorated his little cobbler shop and got all ready for Jesus to come and visit. He was so sure that Jesus was going to come that he just sat down and waited for Him.

The hours passed and Jesus didn't come. But an old man came. He came inside for a moment to get warm out of the winter cold. As the cobbler talked with him he noticed the holes in the old man's shoes, so he reached up on the shelf and got him a new pair of shoes. He made sure they fit and that his socks were dry and sent him on his way.

Still he waited. But Jesus didn't come. An old woman came. A woman who hadn't had a decent meal in two days. They sat and visited for a while, and then he prepared some food for her to eat. He gave her a nourishing meal and sent her on her way.

Then he sat down again to wait for Jesus. But Jesus still didn't come.

Then he heard a little boy crying out in front of his shop. He went out and talked with the boy, and discovered that the boy had been separated from his parents and didn't know how to get home. So he put on his coat, took the boy by the hand and led him home.

When he came back to his little shoe shop it was almost dark and the streets were emptied of people. And then in a moment of despair he lifted his voice to heaven and said, "Oh Lord Jesus, why didn't you come?"

And then in a moment of silence he seemed to hear a voice saying, "Oh shoe cobbler, lift up your heart. I kept my word. Three times I knocked at your friendly door. Three times my shadow fell across your floor. I was the man with the bruised feet. I was the woman you gave to eat. I was the boy on the homeless street."

Jesus had come. The cobbler just didn't realize it.

Church Calendar

Sunday	4 th December	Morning Worship	Rev Richard Moffat
Sunday	11 th December	Morning Worship	Rev. Richard Moffat
Sunday	18 th December	Morning Worship	Rev. Richard Moffat
Sunday	18 th December	Candles Carols & Communion	Rev. Richard Moffat
Saturday	24 th December	Watchnight Service	[6.30 pm] Rev. Richard Moffat [Carols from 11.30]
Sunday	25th December	Christmas Day Service	Rev. Richard Moffat
Sunday	1st January 2017	New Year's Day Service	Rev. Richard Moffat

[All services begin at 11.00 am unless indicated]

Sunday	11 th December	Rotary Songs of Praise	Doors open 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm start
		All proceeds will be shared between Invergarven School and Quarriers Home Life	

Malawi

Team Malawi are delighted with the response to our appeal for items for school, including notebooks, pencils, pencil cases, etc. We recently sent another two boxes with all these items and knitted garments.

We also recently send some money from our Malawi Fund to help our brothers and sisters buy much needed food, after the disastrous floods and drought. We received these pictures of the food items and the Christians during the distribution exercise. Davie expressed their appreciation of this kind gesture and prays that God should bless us even more.

Your generosity is much appreciated. Thank you so very much!



'Twas the Fight Before Christmas

By Tony Cooke and David Beebe

'Twas the fight before Christmas and all through the house,
Not a creature was peaceful not even my spouse.
The bills were strung out on our table with dread,
In hopes that our checkbook would not be in the red.
The children were fussing and throwing a fit,
When Billy came screaming and cried, "I've been bit."
And Momma with her skillet, and I with the remote,
She said, "You change one more channel and I'll grab your throat."
When on the TV there arose such a clatter,
I sat up on the couch to see what was the matter.
When what to my wondering eyes should appear,
The cable was out, it was my worst fear.
"The Cowboys, the Celtics, the Raiders, the Knicks,
Without the sports channel I'd soon need a fix!"
And then in the midst of my grievous sorrow,
I remembered the times I had promised, "tomorrow..."
"Not now, my children, but at some soon time,
Dad will play with you, and things will be fine."
Now under conviction, I looked at my wife,
Where was my kindness? Why all the strife?
My heart quickly softened; I now saw my task,
Some love and attention was all they had asked.
I gathered my family and called them by name,
And told them with God's help I'd not be the same.
We'll keep Christ in Christmas and honor His plan.
No more fights before Christmas—on that we will stand.
My children's eyes twinkled; they squealed with delight.
My wife gladly nodded; she knew I was right.
It was the fight before Christmas, but God's love had come through,
And just like He does, He made all things new

Women's Group News

Our annual Christmas gathering will be held in the Manse on Monday, 19th December at 7.00 pm, and I look forward to seeing you all then.

Our next study is going to be "Toward More Glorious Praise" by Dr. Jack Hayford, the writer of the great favourite "Majesty". Further details about the study and the dates of our meetings, to be announced in the January newsletter.

If you have not been part of the group and think you might like to join our fellowship, please come along and get to know us on 19th December. You will find us a fun and friendly bunch!

Margie

Wednesday Break Service

Why not come along to our mid-week service in the hall on a Wednesday at 10.30 am. We are currently working our way through the Gospel of St. Luke, picking out the parables. Our stories this month have been warnings from Chapters 12 and 13 of spiritual life being more important than material life. What Jesus told the people of Israel 2000 years ago applies to us in our more affluent age.

Richard, Eric, Stuart and Anne take turns at leading worship – Kathleen picks our songs of praise.

It's less formal than a Sunday – you don't need to dress up – a willing heart to learn more is all you have to bring. We finish with tea/coffee and chit-chat. We look forward to seeing you.

We will continue our meetings until 21st December, then return on 11th January 2017.

Choir

The Choir practices re-commenced on Thursday 1st September at 7.15 pm in the Memorial Chapel. Anyone wishing to join us, please come along. You will be made most welcome.

Sunday School

Over the past month we have been learning more about Jesus' love. We have heard the stories of Zacchaeus, the tax collector; what happened when King Hezekiah put his trust in God and the story of the rich man who was told by Jesus he would have to give up all his riches. We made some funny pictures of camels as Jesus said it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than it is for a rich person to enter the Kingdom of God! We are now going to be hearing about the Christmas Story over the next few weeks.

Christmas Fayre

The total amount raised at the Church Fayre on Saturday 19th November was £1,565.00. This was a fantastic amount and we would all like to say a big thanks to all who donated articles and money, etc., and who also gave of their time to make this event such a success. We also thank everyone who came along and supported the event.

Agnes Gibson

Flower Calendar 2017

The Flower Calendar for 2017 will be in the Church Vestibule in early December for those who wish to put their names against specific dates. The flowers in Church are very much appreciated by the Congregation and by those members who receive them after the Service. Sincere thanks are also due to all the ladies who arrange the flowers and to the ladies and gentlemen who deliver them. Thank you all.

Agnes Gibson

Prayer Topics

1. The Leprosy Mission – Chad

Leprosy reaction causes stigma and rejection in Chadian society. Unfortunately many patients do not come forward until the reaction is quite advanced by which point irreversible disability may have developed. Please pray for sufficient skills and interest of health workers to tackle early leprosy reactions with adequate treatment and advice.

Chad is hampered by terrorist attacks. The population is scared and often unprotected. Please pray for peace and safety in this huge country when security measures sometimes fail and people are at risk.

2. Mission Aviation Fellowship – South & Central America

Remember the nation of Brazil, host to the 2016 Olympic Games. Indigenous Yanomami people from the Maraula River listened intently for several days and nights as the creation and redemption stories unfolded in their own tone. Praise God that Asas de Socorro was able to fly pastors and elders from Yanomami villages to share their faith.

Our Haiti programme has struggled with pilot numbers this year. “It is when our team seems lean and we are stretched thin, that we lean into Jesus and seek Him and His Kingdom” writes Chief of Maintenance, John Munsell. Pray for more staff to serve Haiti and across the MAF world and for energy for those holding the fort.

The Zika virus is spreading across Haiti and South and Central America. Pray for an end to this terrible disease and ask for God’s protection over our personnel – particularly those with young families.

3 Open Doors – Tanzania

Pastor Kachila was brutally murdered by Muslim extremists in 2013. Three years on, no-one has been brought to justice for his murder and his wife Jane Roza is struggling to support their 11 children. Ask God to comfort the family and bless the business Open Doors has helped Jane Roza to start so that she can generate an income.

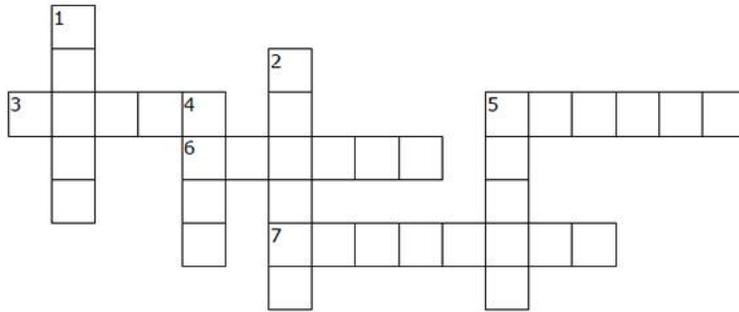
4 Remember before God all for whom this Christmastime will hold little cause for rejoicing: the recently bereaved, the terminally ill, the injured, the homeless, prisoners, broken families and those who are persecuted because of their faith – all who anticipate the future with fear and despair. Pray that God will open their eyes to see that He is “the God of all grace,” love, hope and a new beginning. Ask Him to comfort and give peace, deliverance from fear and a certain hope to the hopeless.

Wherever the wonderful story of the Child in the manger is proclaimed worldwide, pray that many people will come to an understanding, for the first time, that the Saviour of the world came to bring each one of them salvation and eternal life. Pray for Watchnight and Candle light Services asking that people who only attend Church on such occasions may be awakened by the Holy Spirit to realise their need of God and may experience a deep hunger for Him. As children enact Nativity Plays, ask God to bring the Christmas story alive for them and change their lives forever.

Uphold Pastor Richard as he prepares for many services at this very busy time of year. Ask for good health, wisdom, strength and great joy for him and Margie in all their ministry here. Pray for each one of us that love, patience and thoughtfulness may be what dominates our daily living, showing forth the beauty of our Lord and Saviour, Immanuel, to others.

“Who is He in yonder stall
At whose feet the sheperds fall?
‘Tis the Lord, o wondrous story!
‘Tis the Lord, the King of glory.
At His feet we humbly fall.
Crown Him, crown Him, Lord of all.”

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

3. Images and emotions that occur while you are sleeping
5. The earthly father of Jesus
6. To be filled with fear
7. A name that means "God is with us"

DOWN

1. To become husband and wife
2. A young unmarried woman
4. The mother of Jesus
5. The Son of God

AFRAID	MARY	MARRY	DREAM
JESUS	IMMANUEL	JOSEPH	VIRGIN



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Children's Magazine

Jesus Is Coming to Town

Matthew 1:18-25

Word Search Puzzle

F J U X J M Q I M M A N U E L
 E I U D E R C B Y O N C Q Y Z
 T P Q J S G D J A L A H S B W
 O S N O U T R K O A M I X V Q
 C D X K S E E X S N E L Q R V
 P D V I T D A D L G K D B B U
 I T R O K B M V V E O K V X I
 F H M A R Y J T P L C N Z H Z
 C U I K V I O M F Y V B T H A
 Z J R H U S B A N D U R P T N
 S O N Y G B E R G D I E N I T
 A F R A I D V R K B S S G L K
 F C J T F H F Y C O Q R Q P Z
 E W U X H G Q N J Z I T W E K
 N J I E V B Q J Y V S Z N J I

CHRIST	MARRY	SON	CHILD	BIRTH
JESUS	AFRAID	NAME	JOSEPH	DREAM
VIRGIN	ANGEL	IMMANUEL	HUSBAND	MARY

Girvan North Parish Church,
12 Montgomerie St.,
Girvan.

Coloring Page



"She will give birth to a son, and you are to give him the name Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins."
Matthew 18:21 (NIV)

Decoder Puzzle

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.

N	J	O	F	E	V	P	B	I	M	Q	R	W	L	S	Z	U	T	H	A	D	C	K	X	G	Y
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

- 15-3-1 _____
- 6-9-12-25-9-1 _____
- 2-3-15-5-7-19 _____
- 8-9-12-18-19 _____
- 10-5-15-15-9-20-19 _____
- 2-5-15-17-15 _____
- 10-20-12-26 _____
- 19-17-15-8-20-1-21 _____
- 20-1-25-5-14 _____
- 13-9-4-5 _____

JESUS	BIRTH	VIRGIN	ANGEL	MESSIAH
WIFE	MARY	SON	HUSBAND	JOSEPH

