

Church Register

Deaths:

“The Lord’s my shepherd I’ll not want”

Mrs Roberta McDowall

Mr Charles Funai

Mrs Jean McMillan

Kirk Care

Ainslie Manor

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:

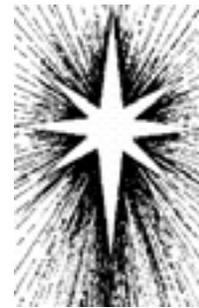
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EDITOR’S NOTE:

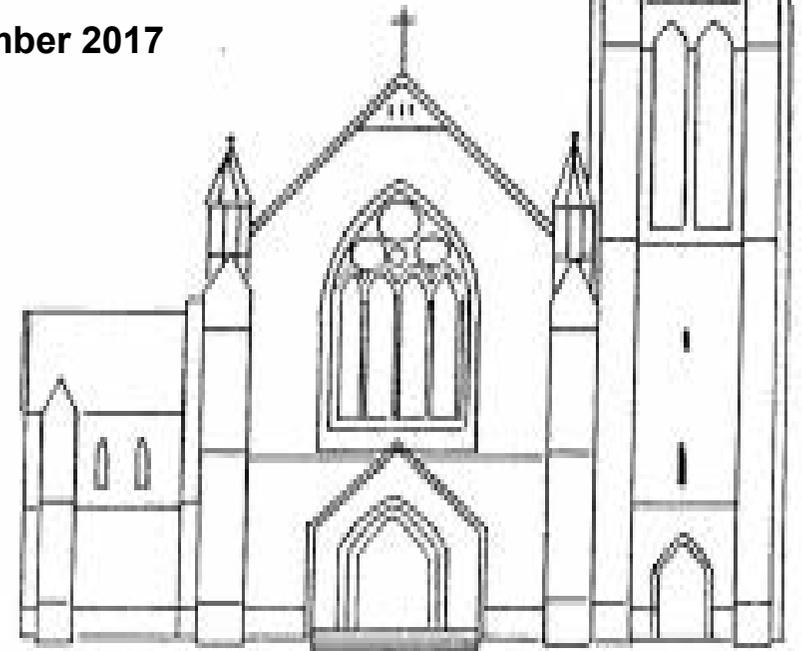
All articles for the December 2017 issue of the Church Magazine should be given to the Editor by Sunday November 24th 2017



The Church of Scotland

The North Star

November 2017



Girvan North Parish Church

Girvan North Parish Church Charity No. SC007347

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F.W.O. CONVENER:

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CHURCH Tel. 712672

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.

Computer Inkjet Cartridges

Used computer inkjet cartridges continue to be handed in in good numbers in response to the Kirk Session's decision to collect used computer inkjet cartridges and send them off to either The Leprosy Mission (Scotland) or to CHAS. The Leprosy Mission (Scotland) can take only three particular makes but other makes can be sent via the Rotary Club of Girvan to CHAS.

The church will send off the ones to TLM (Scotland) while the rest will be taken to Rotary for them to send to CHAS.

A box will be found each Sunday in the vestibule of the church building into which you may place your used cartridges. Please keep them coming!

Grace & Peace to you all,

October 31st is celebrated by many as “Halloween.” However, it is properly called “All Saints Eve,” and the 31st of October 2017 is also the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation from which the Protestant movement was born. To help us understand this I am including the following article which explains what the Reformation was all about:

“A single event on a single day changed the world. It was October 31, 1517. Brother Martin, a monk and a scholar, had struggled for years with his church, the church in Rome. He had been greatly disturbed by an unprecedented indulgence sale. The story has all the makings of a Hollywood blockbuster. Let’s meet the cast.

First, there is the young bishop, too young by church laws, Albert of Mainz. Not only was he bishop over two bishoprics, he desired an additional archbishopric over Mainz. This too was against church laws. So Albert appealed to the Pope in Rome, Leo X. From the De Medici family, Leo X greedily allowed his tastes to exceed his financial resources. Enter the artists and sculptors, Raphael and Michelangelo.

When Albert of Mainz appealed for a papal dispensation, Leo X was ready to deal. Albert, with the papal blessing, would sell indulgences for past, present, and future sins. All of this sickened the monk, Martin Luther. Can we buy our way into heaven? Luther had to speak out.

But why October 31? November 1 held a special place in the church calendar as All Soul’s Day. On November 1, 1517, a massive exhibit of newly acquired relics would be on display at Wittenberg, Luther’s home city. Pilgrims would come from all over, genuflect before the relics, and take hundreds, if not thousands, of years off time in purgatory. Luther’s soul grew even more vexed. None of this seemed right.

Martin Luther, a scholar, took quill in hand, dipped it in his inkwell and penned his 95 Theses on October 31, 1517. These were intended to spark a debate, to stir some soul-searching among his fellow brothers in the church. The 95 Theses sparked far more than a debate. The 95 Theses also revealed the church was far beyond rehabilitation. It needed a reformation. The church, and the world, would never be the same.

One of Luther’s 95 Theses simply declares, “The Church’s true treasure is the gospel of Jesus Christ.” That alone is the meaning of Reformation Day. The church had lost sight of the gospel because it had long ago papered over the pages of God’s Word with layer upon layer of tradition. Tradition always brings about systems of works, of earning your way back to God. It was true of the Pharisees, and it was true of medieval Roman Catholicism. Didn’t Christ Himself say, “My yoke is easy and my burden is light?” Reformation Day celebrates the joyful beauty of the liberating gospel of Jesus Christ.

What is Reformation Day? It is the day the light of the gospel broke forth out of darkness. It was the day that began the Protestant Reformation. It was a day that led to Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox, and many other Reformers helping the church find its way back to God’s Word as the only authority for faith and life and leading the church back to the glorious doctrines of justification by grace alone through faith alone in Christ alone. It kindled the fires of missionary endeavors, it led to hymn writing and congregational singing, and it led to the centrality of the sermon and preaching for the people of God. It is the celebration of a theological, ecclesiastical, and cultural transformation.” Rev. Dr. Stephen Nichols, Reformation College, Ligonier Ministries, Blog, October 31, 2017.

The church today, I think, is also in need of reform for we have forgotten that central to what we believe and what we must share is the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ who alone can transform the heart. So let us be thankful for our past and for individuals like Luther, Calvin and Knox who established the church on the solid foundation of the Five Solas. These great mottos of the Reformers are Sola Fide,

justification by faith alone; Sola Scriptura, the authority of the Scriptures alone; Soli Deo Gloria, to God alone the glory; Solus Christus, salvation through Christ alone; and Sola Gratia, salvation by grace alone.

In essence what they taught was that the gospel is only fully understood when we come to grasp what Luther did that the gospel is about the reality that we are saved by grace alone, not by grace plus merit, not by faith plus works, and not by Christ's righteousness plus our own righteousness. As the Rev. Dr. R. C. Sproul said: "If we do not embrace sola gratia, salvation by grace alone, we really do not embrace sola fide, justification by faith alone, because the faith by which we are justified is the gracious gift of God (Eph. 2:8), not something that we produce out of our own sinful flesh."

Let us remember the reformation and give thanks for it and at the same time remember our duty and our obligation, to keep the light of the gospel at the center of all we do.

Happy Reformation Day,

Pastor Richard

Funny

A kindergarten teacher was walking around observing her classroom of children while they were drawing pictures. As she got to one girl who was working diligently, she asked what the drawing was.

The girl replied, "I'm drawing God."

The teacher paused and said, "But no one knows what God looks like."

Without looking up from her drawing, the girl replied, "They will in a minute."

New Unitary Constitution

In the last month good progress has been made with our plans to change from the Model Constitution (Kirk Session and Congregational Board) to the Unitary Constitution (Kirk Session and Action Teams). Elders and Board members have studied the remits of the 5 new Action Teams and have selected the team where they feel their interests and talents can be best used. A list of the members in each of the new teams has been distributed to elders and Board members along with a guidance policy document. These will be discussed and finalised at our next joint Session/ Board meeting on Tuesday 7th November with a view to starting to operate with the new constitution on January 1st 2018. This change is being encouraged by the Church of Scotland. **There will be an Extraordinary Congregational meeting during the church service on Sunday 19th November to seek approval of this change.**

Please pray for our minister, elders and board members as they plan this new chapter of our congregation's life.

Church Flowers

Each week a faithful band of ladies take turns at making floral arrangements and posies to adorn our church on Sunday mornings. After the service the flowers are taken out to members of our congregation. Can you help by letting me know the names of anyone who should get flowers?

Eg.

- A home where there has been a bereavement.
- Someone who is housebound, in hospital, ill at home or anxiously awaiting results of hospital tests.
- Someone who deserves a "thank you" or in need of a "boost"

Please let me know by phoning 713059. If you don't tell me, I might not hear about it!

Thank you. Margaret Benson

Church Calendar

Sunday`	5 th November	Morning Worship	Rev Jim Guthrie
Sunday	12 th November	Morning Worship	Rev. Richard Moffat
Sunday	19 th November	Morning Worship	Rev. Richard Moffat
Sunday	26 th November	Morning Worship	Rev. Richard Moffat
Sunday	3 rd December	Morning Worship	Rev. Richard Moffat

[All services begin at 11.00 am unless indicated]

Tuesday	7 th November	Kirk Session/ Congregational Board Meeting	[7.00 pm]
Sunday	19 th November	Special General Meeting	During Morning Worship

BLYTHSWOOD SHOE BOX APPEAL

Please collect your box and leaflet from the Memorial Chapel. Please note that boxes should be brought to Church by **Sunday 12 November**.

Christmas Fayre

Our Christmas Fayre will be held on Saturday 18th November 2017, 10.30 am – 1.00 pm. We will have various stalls including Homebaking, Handicrafts, Christmas Gifts – Cards – Calendars, Jewellery, Toys, Books. Tickets cost £2.00 and includes Tearoom.

The Session Room will be open on Friday 17th November from 7.00 – 8.00 pm to receive donations.



Wedding Cake Verse

A couple were arranging for their wedding, and asked the bakery to inscribe the wedding cake with “1 John 4:18” which reads “There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear”..;The bakery evidently lost, smudged or otherwise misread the noted reference and beautifully inscribed on the cake “John 4:18” . . .

“for you have had five husbands, and the man you have now is not your husband”

Crèche Rota

5 th November	Lorraine Reid, Leslie Forbes
12 th November	Margaret Nicol, Rhona MacKinnon
19 th November	Lauren Borland, Diane Irvine
26 th November	Yuna McLeod, Michelle Scobie
3 rd December	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

Church Roll

In order to keep our church records up to date, please let your elder or the Roll Keeper, Billy Benson know if you are changing address. Thank you.

Funny

Centuries ago, God came down, went to the Germans and said, "I have Commandments that will help you live better lives."

The Germans ask, "What are Commandments?"

And the Lord says, "Rules for living."

"Can you give us an example?"

God says, "Thou shalt not kill."

"Not kill? We're not interested."

So God went to the Italians and said, "I have Commandments..."

The Italians wanted an example and the Lord said, "Thou shalt not steal."

"Not steal? We're not interested."

Next the Lord went to the French saying, "I have Commandments..."

The French wanted an example and the Lord said, "Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife."

And the French were not interested.

God then went to the Jews and said, "I have Commandments..."

"Commandments," said the Jews, "How much are they?"

"They're free."

"We'll take 10."

November Quiz

More Ayrshire towns and villages. Do you know them?

- 1 Ailsa Craig is in this parish
- 2 Curling stones made here
- 3 Sweet Afton flows here
- 4 It has a Galleon
- 5 Sir Alexander Fleming born here
- 6 Boots and farm machinery were made here
- 7 Viking battle fought here
- 8 Gregg Water flows here
- 9 It has a Black Bull
- 10 Same name as Indian city
- 11 Bill Shankly born here
- 12 Has a Marymass Fair
- 13 World War 11 airfield
- 14 Robert Burns went to school here.....
- 15 Inventor of gas lighting born here

Answers in December North Star.

Enjoy!

JARS OF GRACE

This year our Jars of Grace are to support the BUYMSH APPEAL. "BUYMSH APPEAL was formed to build a new 21st Century holiday house in Ayrshire for children, young people and their families suffering with Cancer and other life altering illnesses in the UK – to provide a vital haven in Scotland for families to enjoy important times together and share memories."

Labels are available in the Church.

Soup and Sweet Lunch

Thank you to all who contributed to the lunch both food wise and in practical help. Those who attended enjoyed a tasty and satisfying meal while £250.50 was raised for Church funds.

Wednesday Break Service

Why not come along and hear more of how the Bible tells us to live in communion with God.

We have finished our journey through Mark's Gospel looking at the miracles. Now we read from Galatians 5: 22 – The Fruit of the Spirit. Over the next few weeks there will be plenty of love, joy, peace and patience flowing from our little group.

Come and listen to what Richard, Eric, Stuart and Anne have to say on this subject.

Our service begins at 10.30 am in the small hall and lasts about half an hour with tea/coffee to follow.

Prayer Topics November 2017

1. The Leprosy Mission – South Korean

TLM Korea Jesus Hospital cares for more than 400 aged people affected by leprosy and disability and their families each year, thorough out-clinics in leprosy villages around Daegu district. Pray that they can develop good relationships with their villages enabling them to visit in the local church once per month. Most people affected by leprosy in South Korea are elderly. Pray that those cared for by TLM Korea will have peace and security for the rest of their days.

2. Mission Aviation Fellowship – South Sudan

Maria Alfons of True Light Ministries frequently flies with MAF in and out of Mundri, where she runs an orphanage and medical centre. Give thanks for ministries like Maria's that magnify the Father, heart of God and defend the weak and the fatherless. The ongoing national conflict is now causing violent clashes between the Dinkar and Luosin – two once friendly tribes. In Deed and Truth Ministries, which recently had its first baptism, reports the number of displaced people is increasing and the situation is now desperate. Please Pray

3. Open Doors - Qatar

Under Qatar's strict Walabi Islam, converting from Islam to any other religion carries the death penalty. Seen as apostates, Christian believers from a Muslim background (BMBs) are at serious risk if they openly practise their faith. Outward symbols of Christianity are banned as is evangelism. Around 80% of the population are migrant workers, predominantly from poorer countries. Though expat or migrant Christians are granted some freedom to worship, if caught evangelising to Muslims, they could be arrested and deported. Migrant workers are often treated as slaves. Pray that Christians will be able to show the love of Christ to their employers. Pray that Christian converts would have boldness and discernment to share their faith with Muslim family

members. Pray also that BMBs would find ways to be disciple and have fellowship with other believers.

4. In these chaotic times pray for peace among the nations and guidance for those seeking to promote peace. Pray for all refugees. Give thanks for the many aid workers trying to bring relief to those in dire situations. Ask God to protect them from violence, keep them safe as they travel and give them good health and wisdom as they provide for the needy.

Pray for vacant churches throughout the country and for Interim Moderators and Locums who take on these duties as well as the work in their own parishes. Give thanks for them and for retired ministers who help out in this way. Pray that God would show us how to meet the challenge of these times and ask that He would call more workers into His vineyard and help us find ways to interest more people to come and worship with us and realise their need of God. Remember Pastor Richard and Margie and their family with their need of prayer, support and encouragement. Thank God for our freedom to come together for fellowship and worship whenever we wish. Pray for those who have no such freedom.

Choir

The Choir practises resumed on **Thursday 31st August** in the Memorial Chapel at 7.15 pm. Anyone interested in joining us will be most welcome.

The Wee Quiz

Here are the answers to the October Quiz. Hope you enjoyed it.

1Muirkirk 2 Stevenston 3 Auchinleck 4 Colmonell 5 Kirkmichael 6 Prestwick 7 Skelmorlie 8 Hurlford 9 Maidens 10 Symington 11 Dalmellington 12 Dunure 13 Pinwherry 14 Ochiltree 15 Ballantrae