

The Church  
of Scotland

The  
North  
Star

### 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.

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**April 2018**



**Girvan North Parish Church**

**Girvan North Parish Church Charity No. SC007347**

#### ***EDITOR'S NOTE:***

All articles for the May 2018 issue of the Church Magazine should be given to the Editor by Sunday 29th April 2018

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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!

## Greetings to you all in the name of the Risen Lord Jesus Christ!

Rush Limbaugh is a talk show host. "On one show he took the position that the current generation of young adults, those in their 20's, are, for the most part, a bunch of whiners. He said that while they are constantly whining and moaning about the difficulty of their lives in fact, when compared to the hardships faced by their grandparents' generation, they've actually got it easy. Their grandparents had endured truly devastating events like The Great Depression and WWII. The current crop of young adults, he concluded, don't have a clue about real hardship. Once Rush had finished his monologue a self-professed member of this younger generation of adults called in to offer a different perspective. Bright and extremely articulate, the 23 year-old caller said that, while The Great Depression and WWII certainly created terrible hardships for the people who faced them that he, nonetheless, believed his generation faced an even greater hardship. Limbaugh asked, "And what exactly would that be?" The caller said, "The loss of hope." He said that his experience indicated that many of today's young adults had simply stopped believing that things were going to get better. They didn't expect to live as well as their parents had lived. They weren't expecting a brighter future. They have simply given up hope."

Peter tells us in 1 Peter 1 verses 3 and 4: **"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! According to his great mercy, he has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled, and unfading, kept in heaven for you..."** The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2016).

The younger generation and, in fact, all of us need to be reminded that real, true hope is found only in Jesus Christ. The message Peter gives us in these verses is about the hope we need and the realization of it in the resurrection. The great truth we celebrate this Easter season is that the resurrection teaches us that this world matters

and from that we can draw hope. The reality is that the injustices, the pains, the sufferings we encounter will not last forever as the worst evil ever perpetrated against one man resulted in the victory over death and sin. The resurrection announces the "Good News" that, in Christ, healing, justice, and love have won. The Easter message gives us hope precisely because, as the great preacher and theologian N.T. Wright says: "In a world where injustice, violence and degradation are endemic, God is not prepared to tolerate such things—and that we will work and plan, with all the energy of God, to implement the victory of Jesus over them all."

Hope is founded on the righteousness of the Lord Jesus Christ, it is founded on the grace of God and on the promise of the heavenly Father who promised salvation to all who believe, **"For by grace you have been saved through faith. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God, not a result of works, so that no one may boast."** Eph 2:8-9 The Holy Bible: English Standard Version. (2016). Let us encourage one another remembering that God is not a God of "ifs" and "buts" rather He is the God of "shalls" and "wills."

May you and you families have a blessed Easter season.

Pastor Richard & Margie

## **REPORT FROM SESSION CLERK TO ANNUAL STATED MEETING**

At last year's Annual Stated Meeting, I reported that our Congregation Roll continued to decline. Unfortunately, it still continues to decline.

The Membership Statistics for 2017 show that our membership is now down to 599 which is not a good sign and the level of attendances at Communion Services is less than 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the membership.

Having covered the bad news – it is time to move to the positive. As you all know (or should know), we have now moved to operating under the Model Constitution with effect from 1st January 2018. During last year, this presented the Kirk Session with many challenges. We knew what these were and decided to form a Steering Group that could plan the way forward, look at what we could apply to our Church and recommend a course of action to the Kirk Session. The Steering Group was comprised of Richard Moffat, Margaret Benson, Robert Jess, Eric Mackinnon and myself.

This group got through a huge amount of work and looking at where we are now, did an excellent job but I have to single out Margaret Benson as the driving force. She kept us all on track, typed numerous sheets of paper and finally produced the draft Guidance Document that set out the way ahead. Once the Steering Group had discussed and approved this document (with little in the way of changes) the Kirk Session and then the Congregation, gave approval and we all made the change to the new Model Constitution.

I want to thank Margaret most sincerely for all her hard work – we would have had great difficulty achieving what we did without her efforts.

So where are we now? Well here is where I think we are:

All the Action Teams are up & running and working to fulfill their remits. Obviously some things take longer than others but I am aware of more events being planned, safeguarding training taking place, closer ties with Sunday School, more people receiving pastoral visits, liaison with our youth

organizations and improvements coming in how we welcome visitors & how we worship among a lot of other things.

Working under the new Constitution is much different to what we did before, in the past we had a Congregation Board with Elected Members. These elected members were all members of the congregation but not Elders. When we changed to the new Constitution, all the Elected Members were asked to join an Action Team. Without exception, everyone did and I thank all of those people.

I thank the Kirk Session for their support and their hard work in their Elders Districts. This Church could not function without the elders giving their time to care for their Districts and for their work in the new action teams, so my thanks for that and my encouragement to keep up the good work.

On your behalf, I would also like to thank Anne Johnston for her invaluable work in keeping the church & halls etc. in good order. My thanks also go to our Minister – Rev. Richard Moffat – who continues to lead and inspire us Sunday by Sunday. His task is at times thankless but I know that he has a very busy life and workload with the many funerals, the pastoral work, hospital visits, preparation of sermons and more. The fact that he is Interim Moderator for Maybole and Crosshill Parish Churches is an added complication in his life and now and again also affects the life of this Congregation. Thank you Richard and please carry on being our inspiration. Finally I would briefly mention the way forward as the Kirk Session and I see it.

Firstly, we intend overhauling the Elders Districts. Over the years, as Elders have retired, passed away or moved out of the town, the Districts have been taken over by other Elders or amalgamated with other Districts such that now we have something of a geographical mess. A complete review of the Districts will be done which means that you may have a new Elder. If you do, please welcome him or her into your home.

Secondly, the Kirk Session has resolved to appoint new Elders. Nominations will be sought from the members and Nomination Forms will be available in the Vestibule within the next couple of weeks. Please give this your earnest consideration and nominate who you consider are worthy and have the ability to take on this

important work.

Finally my thanks to you – our loyal and supportive congregation.

Thank you for being in Church Sunday by Sunday, for supporting all of the fundraising things that we do & supporting our young people when they do their own bit of fundraising. All of this is much appreciated.

Thank you all very, very much.

Ron Gibson

Session Clerk

## **News from the Pastoral Care Action Team**

### **Safeguarding**

Church of Scotland Safeguarding checks of our team members have all been cleared.

### **Pastoral Care Visits**

The Pastoral Care Team members will start their visits around Easter time and every month thereafter. Daffodils and Easter cards will be delivered at the first visit. We are indebted to Mandy McGlaughlan for making the Easter cards and to the Church Flower Fund for their donation to buy the daffodils.

During March our minister, with assistance from the district elders, has conducted 10 Home Communion and several other home visits. Please phone Margaret Benson 713059 or the Manse 713203 if you would like the minister to visit you.

Elders and members of the congregation have also been giving us important information about members who are ill, members celebrating special birthdays or anniversaries. We have been sending out cards to them or flowers after Sunday Services.

Please keep this information coming. It is very helpful.

## **Crèche Rota**

1 <sup>st</sup> April	Yuna McLeod, Michelle Scobie
8 <sup>th</sup> April	Wilma Armstrong, Fiona McCutcheon
15 <sup>th</sup> April	Arlene McGarragle, Susan Brown
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Lorraine Reid, Leslie Forbes
29 <sup>th</sup> April	Margaret Nicol, Rhona MacKinnon

**It is essential that 2 people are on duty in the crèche at all times. If you are unable to attend please arrange a substitute.**

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](mailto:Wells1969@hotmail.co.uk)

## Church Calendar

Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> April	Easter Sunday	Rev. Richard Moffat
Sunday	8 <sup>th</sup> April	Morning Worship	Rev. Richard Moffat
Sunday	15 <sup>th</sup> April	Morning Worship	Rev. Richard Moffat
Sunday	22 <sup>nd</sup> April	Morning Worship	Rev. Richard Moffat
Sunday	29 <sup>th</sup> April	Morning Worship	Rev. Richard Moffat

**[All services begin at 11.00 am unless indicated]**

## Hallelujah! Christ Arose! (Margaret Cagle)

Furry bunnies and Easter eggs are for children to have fun, But will they hear the story of God's holy resurrected Son?

Baskets and chocolate bunnies may also enter the Easter scenes, But let's make sure the children know what Easter really means.

Christ Jesus died for our sins, but that's not the end of the story. He arose from the dead and the grave before He soon went back to Glory.

The Easter season is a good time to let Jesus' light shine through. Tell others that He died for us, and that He was resurrected too.

Yes, the Savior died for everyone. This is what I have already said, But praise God! and hallelujah! he also rose up from the dead!

May God bless us all at Easter. It is a happy time of the year, when we celebrate the Resurrection of our precious Savior so dear.

## Book of Remembrance

The Book of Remembrance from the Memorial Chapel is presently being updated by Mr Ian McKenzie. We are indebted to Ian for doing this work for us. If you would like the name of a loved one recorded in the Book of Remembrance, please contact Violet Connor 712144 with the details.

## Jars of Grace

Thanks to everyone who donated to our Jars of Grace Appeal. £386.82 was sent to the BUYMSH APPEAL which 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.”

An enthusiastic band of BUYMSH volunteers has helped raise £250,000 since the closure of the Malcolm Sargent House in Prestwick two years ago. The exciting news is that this charity, with the help of an interest free loan, has acquired Whiteleys Farm near Alloway .This is a 30 acre plot with two four-bed properties, a granary building and stable block.

Initially they will have the farm's two houses in operation, but the potential is there to develop over time. It will have outdoor recreational spaces and there are plans to provide five star assisted catering properties. Re-named the Whiteleys Retreat, it will offer animal and holistic therapy to kids with cancer and life altering illnesses. The first families will be able to use Whiteleys Retreat by this summer.

Maxine Allan, CEO of the volunteer group BUYMSH, said: “The fund-raising doesn't stop here as we need local support more than ever now to help pay back our interest free loan, renovate the initial two houses and create outdoor recreational spaces – all for this summer.”

## **April Wee Quiz**

The answer to each clue is the name of a bird. Enjoy!

- 1 Opposite of slow
- 2 Constantly eats.
- 3 Famous brand of whisky
- 4 Shows this animal is happy!
- 5 24 found in the pie!
- 6 Messenger.
- 7 Goes down throat.
- 8 This cat is not sleeping!
- 9 Lives in Berkley Square
- 10 Do you get up with this in the morning?

## **Answers to March Wee Quiz**

1 thumb 2 chest 3 foot 4 funny bone..5 finger  
6 calf 7nails 8 belly 9 hamstring 10 spine

## **Quiz Closing date Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April**

Completed Quiz sheets should be sent to Billy Benson, 1 Rodney Drive by Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> April.

Thanks to all those who bought or sold sheets. £300 has been raised so far with more money still to come in. Final total, name of winner and correct answers will be in the May North Star.

I hope you enjoyed the quiz.

## **The Wednesday Break**

Come and join us for our short mid week service in the small hall at 10.30 am.

For Lent we are looking at some Psalms concerning how we should worship. The Psalms express the whole range of human feeling and experience from darkest depression to exuberant joy. They can be used as prayers and inspiration to hymn writers. Particularly Psalms 115 – 118 were read during the Passover meal finishing with Psalm 136, known as the Great Hallelujah.

If you cannot make a Sunday Service join our fellowship led in turn by Richard, Eric, Stuart, Anne and Kathleen – we would love to meet you and chat over a cup of tea.

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Girvan Girls' Brigade**

As part of our 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration, we are looking for any donations for upcycling of duvet covers, curtains, flat caps and tankards. Poor condition is perfect! We are also looking for unwanted cardboard. Many thanks in advance

## **Prayer Topics April 2018**

### **1. The Leprosy Mission - Mozambique**

The Iphiro Yohoolo project works to integrate children affected by leprosy in schools and prevent school drop-out due to early marriages or stigma. Pray for new partners to help sustain and develop this project benefitting more than 200 children. One of TLM Mozambique's challenges for 2018 is to reach villages that are further afield in the province of Cabo Delgado. Pray that the Leprosy Control Services (under the responsibility of Mr Amindo Jorge) will achieve this goal in good partnership with the provincial Health Department.

### **2. Mission Aviation Fellowship - Chad**

Becki Dillingham asks us to pray for wisdom to prioritise her busy work schedule as Pilot and Flight Operations Manager, so she can also balance work and family time with her husband Matt and children Bethan (6) and Luke (1). It's hard to imagine but temperatures in Chad can exceed 40°C in April. Lift up our families, staff and our partners as they battle the heat in remote areas. Ask God to give them an extra measure of energy and grace.

### **3. Open Doors - Azerbaijan**

The government monitors religious groups closely and imposes restrictive legislation. Officially Azerbaijan is secular and religion is tolerated. However, very little information gets out of the country – a sign that Christians are facing intense government pressure. Surveillance is so high that Christians do not know whom to trust. Many end up isolated and alone. Local authorities and police raid religious meetings, detaining believers and confiscating religious materials. Believers from Muslim backgrounds face persecution from their family, community and local imams. Open Doors strengthens the persecuted church in Central Asia through literature distribution, training, medical care, relief aid and socioeconomic development projects. Pray that Christians would know whom to trust and have the courage to share the

Gospel. Pray for strength and comfort for secret believers and those ostracised by their family. Ask that new Bibles and study materials would reach Christians who have had theirs confiscated in church raids.

**4** In this “year of young people” let us commit all students at colleges and universities to God. Ask Him to help them to be diligent in their studies and strong to resist the temptation to neglect their work for an entertaining social life. Pray that they will learn skills that will be useful in their own lives and to the community. Pray for any who are homesick and find college life difficult. Pray for their tutors that they may be faithful and approachable and provide their students with an honest and honourable role model they can safely follow.

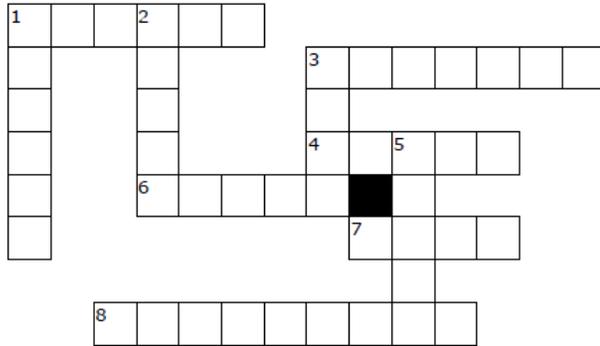
Give thanks for our Sunday School, for Pauline and her teachers. Uphold them as they share with their pupils the truths of God's Word and the love of Jesus. Pray that even at this early stage in their lives they may be captivated by the realization that they are special to God and dearly loved by Him and that they may open their hearts to Him now.

Pray for the Pastoral Care Team and Pastor Richard as they work together to assess and meet the spiritual needs of the whole congregation. Pray that as we all study the Word and spend time in earnest prayer, the more our knowledge of and love for our Saviour and Lord will grow and our lives will reflect His glory and bring honour to His Name.

## **Choir**

We meet each Thursday in the Memorial Chapel at 7.15 pm. Anyone interested in joining us will be most welcome.

# Crossword Puzzle



## ACROSS

1. To be filled with fear
3. The first or early part of a day
4. To return from death
6. To have nothing inside
7. A place where someone is buried; another name for grave
8. Having been put to death on a cross

## DOWN

1. Messengers from heaven
2. Not dead
3. The name of the woman who discovered Jesus' empty tomb
5. What was used to cover the entrance to Jesus' tomb

ALIVE	MORNING	EMPTY	AFRAID	ANGELS
TOMB	MARY	CRUCIFIED	RISEN	STONE



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# Children's Newsletter

## The Resurrection

Mark 16:1-8  
John 20:1-19

## Word Search Puzzle

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

AFRAID	BODY	FIRST	DAY	CRUCIFIED
RISEN	MARY	TOMB	SPICES	ROLLED
SUNRISE	JESUS	WEEK	ANOINT	STONE

Girvan North Parish Church  
Girvan, S. Ayrshire

# Coloring Page



Jesus Is Alive!

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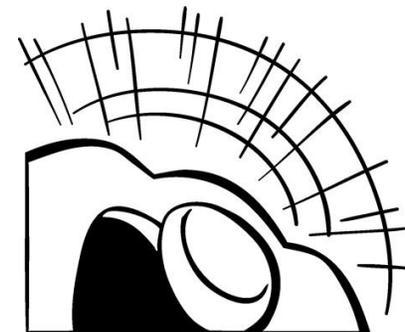
# Decoder Puzzle

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

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

- 14-5-16-7-12 \_\_\_\_\_
- 1-2-9 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8-4-4-22 \_\_\_\_\_
- 12-19-20-23 \_\_\_\_\_
- 16-19-18-18-4-1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 7-12-19-25-4 \_\_\_\_\_
- 2-14-16-2-5-1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 17-4-7-3-7 \_\_\_\_\_
- 13-16-3-13-5-14-5-4-1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 16-5-7-4-25 \_\_\_\_\_

ROLLED	WEEK	RISEN	DAY	AFRAID
FIRST	CRUCIFIED	TOMB	JESUS	STONE



HE IS NOT HERE! HE IS RISEN!