

Church Register

Deaths

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

Mr Harry Pearce	formerly Penkill Road
Mrs Irene Thompson	Vicarton Street
Ms Suzanne Bonner	Bay Terrace
Mr Bill Hodge	Rodney Drive
Mrs Martha McFarlane	Troweir Road
Mrs Betty McCrindle	Hillcrest (formerly Eastburn Drive)



Church Office

Church Secretary: Janette Robertson will be in the office – **Tues. 10.00 am – 12 noon & Frid. 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.**

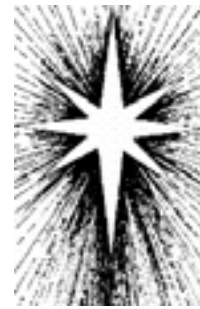
Contact details: Telephone: 712672
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Girvan North Parish Church

EDITOR'S NOTE:

All articles for the January 2020 issue of the Church Magazine should be given to the Editor by Sunday 5th January 2020



The Church of Scotland

The North Star

December 2019



Girvan North Parish Church

Girvan North Parish Church Charity No. SC007347

CHURCH OFFICIALS

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ROLL KEEPER:

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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.

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!

December Newsletter for Girvan North.

Dear friends, In the town of Nazareth, around 2,000 years ago, there was a young woman called Mary. She was engaged to be married to a carpenter named Joseph. One day an angel appeared to say she had been chosen to have a special baby. It would be God's son, and he would be called Jesus. Soon after the angel told them this news, Mary and Joseph married. Mary was heavily pregnant, and Joseph and Mary were told they must go on a long journey to Bethlehem, Joseph's hometown. Sadly, there was no room at every inn they went to, as it was full of people who were paying their taxes. One kindly innkeeper allowed them to stay in their stable. It was there Mary gave birth to Jesus. Shepherds on the hillside overlooking Bethlehem were told the Good News of Jesus' birth. The shepherds arrived and worshipped baby Jesus. Then the Magi, or Wise Men, worshipped the Christ child, each bearing gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. They followed a star which guided them to Bethlehem where baby Jesus lay. King Herod said he wanted to worship him too but secretly wanted to kill him. The Christmas nativity is probably one of the most recognisable elements of the Christmas period. They generally contain baby Jesus in a manger, Mary, Joseph, the shepherds, angels, various stable animals, and sometimes the Three Wise Men.

St. Francis of Assisi created the first nativity scene in 1223 to promote what Christmas should truly mean for us, and why Jesus Christ should be worshipped. It is difficult now to imagine a time when a nativity scene does not occupy a prominent role in a church, in a house, or in a play at this time of year.

Most nativity scenes took place in a stable or in a cave. Whilst Jesus may have been born there, it is just as likely that Jesus was born in the lower level of a home, amongst animals who were brought in for the night. The angelic involvement took place on the hillside with the shepherds rather than the angels hovering over the stable where Jesus lay. Also the Three Wise Men who often feature in the nativity did not see Jesus on the night of his birth. They instead saw Jesus when he was around two years old. Despite these differences nothing can take

us away from the importance of this nativity scene.

The most significant message for any nativity scene is what is communicated to the world. As the sins of humankind needed a perfect sacrifice to be laid before God, our heavenly Father sent his own Son, Jesus Christ, to live amongst us as a human being who would also die a human death. It was a tragically painful death which that child of Mary would ultimately suffer on the Cross, but this human child was also a Divine being and so would rise again. Every person who believed in this would be forgiven of all sin and promised eternal life.

This is the purpose of the nativity story. It focusses our mind on the Christ child rather than on ourselves. Christ's birth can help to redeem a broken world, can help reconcile those who were previously irreconcilable, can help to end all wars, and can help each of us have a fresh start. Everything that has happened before is in the past, but it is what is happening today, and in the future, that matters so much more.

Best wishes, **Glenn**.

News from the Kirk Session

The Session met together on 12th November. As ever there was much to be talked about and we'd like to highlight just a few items.

- We discussed and expressed our appreciation for all the work that Glenn is doing for us and offered him any help that he needed.
- We listened to reports from various people and groups – eg Presbytery, the Treasurer, the Fabric Committee and the various Action Teams.
- The Session decided to have a Service of Nine Lessons and Carols at 6.30pm on Sunday 15th December and Glenn will take this service. We hope you will all come along and join in this very traditional way of celebrating Christmas.
- We continue to discuss the vacancy and how we prepare to take forward the proposals for the churches in the Girvan area.

Crèche Rota

3 rd November	Margaret Nicol, Rhona MacKinnon
10 th November	Diane Irvine, Michelle Scobie
17 th November	Wilma Armstrong, Fiona McCutcheon
24 th November	Arlene McGarragle, Susan Brown
1 st December	Isla Johnstone, Leslie Forbes

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



Season's Greetings

A Merry Christmas to All.
May God's blessings surround and keep you in the Year ahead.
With best wishes from Norma Logan.

Please accept these greetings of the season, as I won't be able to send out my cards this year.

Baby & Toddler Group

We meet every Tuesday in Term Time in the small hall from 9.30 until 11.00 am. Our numbers remain steady and we had the pleasure of meeting our newest baby recently. Rea is of course beautiful and we look forward to watching her develop. It was lovely to have our liaison Elders come to visit us also. Our last day before Christmas is 17th December and we will return on 7th January 2020.

We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Mandy McGlaughlan

Centre Group

Centre Group meets on first and third Wednesdays of each month at 7.00 pm in the church lounge. A warm welcome is extended to all.

The Grand Piano

The first few rows of pews have been removed from the south chancel of the church to accommodate the grand piano which was so generously gifted to us by our organist, Marie. Because of very strict Church of Scotland regulations governing any major changes inside church buildings, it was taken quite some time to arrange this. However, it is now in its rightful place and we very much look forward to hearing Marie playing it for us very soon.

Flowers in Church

The 2020 calendar will soon be available in the Church Vestibule for those wishing to put their name against a date that has a special meaning to them.

We thank all those who have donated flowers or given a donation towards the cost of the flowers this past year. The flowers are very much appreciated by all those who receive them each Sunday after morning worship and thanks are due to those members who deliver them.

A special thanks must also go to the ladies who arrange the flowers. Unfortunately May Robertson is unable to continue and we thank her most sincerely for her years of service.

We would appreciate more help. You don't need to be a flower arranger, just someone who appreciates and loves flowers. It would mean committing to 2 consecutive weeks, about 4 times a year. Anyone interested, please contact Agnes Gibson (479206). Thank you!

Christmas Fayre

The magnificent total of £1257 was raised at the Christmas Fayre on Saturday 16th November.

A very big thank you to all who supported this venture and helped in any way.

The total cost of the hampers was £81.65 and the winners were Jillian Nelson and Heather Martin.

Treasurer's Report

At the last Kirk session meeting on 12th November, I reported on the Income and Expenditure for September and October as follows:-

September Income	£4567.97	September Expenditure	£8457.64
October Income	£4446.00	October Expenditure	£2666.55

Expenditure in September was higher due to the quarterly payments for telephone, gas and electricity and the quarterly salary payments to church officer, organist and secretary.

We have recently updated our photocopier with a newer model. We have managed to negotiate a cheaper annual rental cost and a reduction in copying costs.

A couple in our congregation have kindly offered to buy new chairs for the church lounge. The Kirk Session unanimously agreed to accept this very generous offer.

As I look back over the income for 2019 I would like to thank those members who give so generously to the Church in different ways.

- Some members put cash in the offering plate
- Some faithfully fill their Free Will Offering envelope each week
- Some others have set up a Bank Standing Order allowing their offering to be transferred automatically into the Church Account each month
- Others prefer to give their donation through an annual cheque.

All these offerings are very gratefully received. I am also grateful to our tax paying members who have signed a Gift Aid form allowing us to claim back Income tax from the Inland Revenue at no extra cost to the member. Approximately £9000 has been reclaimed so far this year. Our accounts are also greatly helped by money raised at Fundraising Events, a total of £4371 so far this year. Sincere thanks to all members and friends who support these events.

Please continue to give as generously as you can so that we can continue God's work here in Girvan.

Margaret Benson, Treasurer.

Church Calendar

Sunday	1 st December	Morning Worship	Mr Glenn Ronald
Sunday	8 th December	Morning Worship	The Worship Team
Sunday	15 th December	Morning Worship	Mr Glenn Ronald
Sunday	22 nd December	Morning Worship	Mr Glenn Ronald
Sunday	29 th December	Morning Worship	Mr Glenn Ronald

[All services begin at 11.00 am unless indicated]

Sunday	8 th December	Rotary Songs of Praise 6.30 pm
Sunday	15 th December	Service of Nine Lessons & Carols 6.30 pm

Wednesday Break

We finish on 18th December before our Christmas break, resuming on Wednesday 15th January 2020 to continue our series of talks from Rachel Hickson's Pathway of Peace.

Our usual team of Stuart, Eric, Kathleen and Anne are there to greet you. Join us for tea/coffee after our short service every Wednesday at 10.30 am.

The 12 Days of Christmas

Day 1 (25th December): Christmas Day - celebrating the Birth of Jesus **Day 2** (26th December also known as Boxing Day): St Stephen's Day. He was the first Christian martyr (someone who dies for their faith). It's also the day when the Christmas Carol 'Good King Wenceslas' takes place. **Day 3** (27th December): St John the Apostle (One of Jesus's Disciples and friends)**Day 4** (28th December): The Feast of the Holy Innocents - when people remember the baby boys which King Herod killed when he was trying to find and kill the Baby Jesus. **Day 5** (29th December): St Thomas Becket. He was Archbishop of Canterbury in the 12th century and was murdered on 29th December 1170 for challenging the King's authority over the Church. **Day 6** (30th December): St Egwin of Worcester. **Day 7** (31st December): New Year's Eve (known as Hogmanay in Scotland). Pope Sylvester I is traditionally celebrated on this day. He was one of the earliest popes (in the 4th Century). In many central and eastern European countries (including Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Czechia, Germany, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Luxembourg, Poland, Slovakia, Switzerland and Slovenia) New Year's Eve is still sometimes called 'Silvester'. In the UK, New Year's Eve was a traditional day for 'games' and sporting competitions. Archery was a very popular sport and during the middle ages it was the law that it had to be practised by all men between ages 17-60 on Sunday after Church! This was so the King had lots of very good archers ready in case he need to go to war! **Day 8** (1st January): 1st January - Mary, the Mother of Jesus **Day 9** (2nd January): St. Basil the Great and St. Gregory Nazianzen, two important 4th century Christians. **Day 10** (3rd January): Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus. This remembers when Jesus was officially 'named' in the Jewish Temple. It's celebrated by different churches on a wide number of different dates! **Day 11** (4th January): St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, the first American saint, who lived in the 18th and 19th centuries. In the past it also celebrated the feast of Saint Simon Stylites (who lives on a small platform on the top of a pillar for 37 years!). **Day 12** (5th January also known as Epiphany Eve): St. John Neumann who was the first Bishop in American. He lived in the 19th century.

Hints on Pronunciation

I take it you already know
Of though and bough and cough and dough?
Others may stumble, but not you
On hiccough, thorough, laugh and through.
Well done! And now you wish, perhaps,
To learn of less familiar traps.

Beware of heard, a dreadful word
That looks like bread and sounds like bird.
And dead: it's said like bed, not bead
For goodness sake don't call it "deed"!
Watch out for meat, and great and threat,
(They rhyme with suite and straight and debt)

A moth is not a mother in mother,
Nor both in bother, broth in brother,
And here is not a match for there,
Nor dear and bear for bear and pear,
And then there's dose and rose and lose
Just look these up and goose choose.

And cork and work, and card and ward,
And font and front and word and sword,
And do and go, and thwart and cart
Come, come, I've hardly made a start!
A dreadful language? Man alive
I'd mastered it when I was 5.

Nativity Plays and Cribs

Christmas is the celebration of the birth of Jesus. The word nativity comes from the latin word 'natal' which means birth (and is also where we get the word 'native' from).

It is traditional in the UK for Primary (Elementary) schools to perform Nativity Play for the parents and local people associated with the school. The Nativity Play recreates the scene of Jesus' Birth and tells of how Mary and Joseph were visited by the Shepherds and Wise Men. The parts of Mary, Joseph, the Shepherds and the Wise Men are played by children. If the school is attached to a Church, the play often takes place in the Church. Sunday Schools in Churches also sometimes put on Nativity Plays.

In the past, it was common for live animals including an ox and donkey and other farm animals (but not pigs) to be used in the plays. Sometimes they still are, but it is now more common for children to dress up as the animals in costumes or to have animal props.

The first Nativity Play was not performed by Children in the UK, but in a cave by Monks in Italy! St. Francis of Assisi and his followers acted in the first play in 1223 to remind the local population that Jesus was born for them, as he was born into a poor family like theirs and not to a rich family.

St. Francis told the part of each character in the story himself using wooden figures in the play. After a couple of years, the play had become so popular that real people played the parts of the characters in the story. Songs were sung by the people taking part and they became what we call Christmas carols today!

Now cribs are used in Churches all over the world and even in some homes to remind people of the story. Sometimes religious pictures and statues are called icons. Some Catholic and Orthodox Christians have icons of Mary and the baby Jesus in their homes.

Prayer Topics December 2019

1. The Leprosy Mission – Bangladesh

Pray for self-help group members in Dhaka that receive training in such skills as book keeping, ulcer care, net-working and vocations. Pray that with these skills they can build up and support their groups, increase group income and gain access to livelihood opportunities as well as contacts that help them advocate their rights.

2. Mission Aviation Fellowship – Arnhem Land

The country has a tropical monsoon climate with we season – which lasts from October to March – currently affecting our pilots' ability to fly. Please pray for their safety, as thunder storms can be a real challenge. Pray for wisdom, understanding and patient perseverance for those currently translating the Bible into indigenous languages. Pray also for evangelist James Marawili whose desire is to share Christ's love with his fellow aboriginal Australians. Many depend upon MAF aircraft to deliver people like James to towns such as Garrthalala.

3. Open Doors – Iraq

Give thanks for the success of several youth gatherings in Bartella, Caramles and Ankawa, which were attended by thousands of young people. Ask the Lord to give young Iraqi Christians the courage and faith to stay in Iraq so that the light of the church is not extinguished.

Thousands of Yazidis are still unable to return to their homes in Sinjar from where I.S. ousted them in 2014. Many live in tents in desperate conditions. Ask the Lord to provide a way for them to go home and pray that many will find a lasting home in Him.

4. The angels brought a message of hope and joy to the world on the first Christmas. Pray that God would enable us to experience its reality in this world of war, violence, hatred and bloodshed. Pray that militant

extremists will be prevented from carrying out their fiendish plans to cause havoc and untold misery at this special season. Remember all people for whom this will be a particularly difficult time – the bereaved, the lonely, the homeless, all refugees and prisoners. In the midst of all our busyness, pray that we may take time to be still and marvel once again at the wondrous fact of the Lord of the universe leaving the glory of Heaven to come and dwell with us on earth to reveal to us the Father's love.

Pray for the forthcoming election and its outcome, that agreement might be reached by all parties as a way forward.

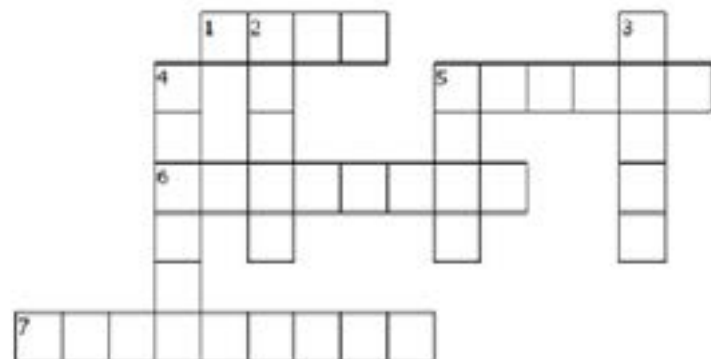
Pray for the ongoing decisions to be made about our churches here that the results may be acceptable to everyone and that we may consider each other. Ask for the Lord's blessing on all Christmas services and pray that we may have new and deeper thoughts insights into the Gospel story of Christmas and that God may be praised and magnified in all things.



The Birth of Jesus

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (KJV)

Puzzle is based on Luke 2:1-20



ACROSS

1. An infant or very young child
5. The place where Mary laid the baby Jesus
6. A person who takes care of sheep
7. The city where Jesus was born

DOWN

2. Heavenly being that told the shepherds about Jesus' birth
3. The savior of the world
4. The earthly father of Jesus
5. The mother of Jesus

JOSEPH	ANGEL	BETHLEHEM	BABY
MARY	SHEPHERD	JESUS	MANGER

The Birth of Jesus

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (KJV)

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



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

1. 8-11-2-20-13-5 _____
2. 4-10-26-6 _____
3. 19-20-21-5-1-20-5-20-4 _____
4. 19-10-19-6 _____
5. 19-11-26-7 _____
6. 4-10-7-9-20-26 _____
7. 10-7-9-20-1 _____
8. 2-5-20-13-5-20-26-25-2 _____
9. 2-10-23-17-11-26 _____
10. 4-20-2-2-17-10-5 _____

SHEPHERDS	BETHLEHEM	BABY	MESSIAH	JOSEPH
SAVIOR	MANGER	BORN	MARY	ANGEL

The Birth of Jesus

And she brought forth her firstborn son, and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn. Luke 2:7 (KJV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 2:1-20



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

SAVIOR	CENSUS	MARY	MANGER	BORN
CAESAR	SON	JOSEPH	MESSIAH	ROOM
CHILD	SHEPHERDS	ANGEL	BETHLEHEM	BABY

Colouring Page



Let's sing about Jesus' birth!