

## Church Register

### Deaths

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

Mrs Margaret Gardner	Gregg Place
Rosemary Davidson	formerly Glendoune Street
Mr George Stevens	Troweir Road
Alexandria Eaglesham	Hillcrest
Mrs Nan McHugh	formerly Birch Terrace

## Church Office

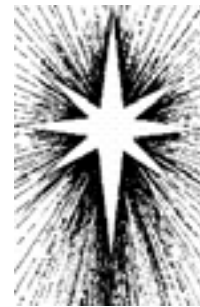
Church Secretary: Janette Robertson will be in the office – **Tues. 10.00 am – 12 noon & Frid. 9.00 am – 1.00 pm.** All items for the Pew Leaflet should be given to Janette, or posted through the office door. Please note that articles for inclusion in the Sunday Pew Leaflet must be with Janette **no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

**Contact details:** Telephone: 712672  
Email: [churchoffice12@btconnect.com](mailto:churchoffice12@btconnect.com)  
[www.girvannorthparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.girvannorthparishchurch.org.uk)  
Girvan North Parish Church



### **EDITOR’S NOTE:**

All articles for the February 2020 issue of the Church Magazine should be given to the Editor by Sunday 26th January 2020



# The Church of Scotland

# The North Star

January 2020



**Girvan North Parish Church**

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

## **CHURCH OFFICIALS**

### **INTERIM MODERATOR:**

Rev. Ian Stirling The Manse Kirkoswald. KA19 8HZ . Tel: 01655 760352

### **LOCUM:**

Mr. Glenn Ronald 188 Prestwick Road Ayr. KA8 8NP. Tel: 01292 286861

### **SESSION TEAM LEADER:**

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### **TREASURER:**

Mrs. Margaret Benson 1 Rodney Drive, Tel: 713059

### **ROLL KEEPER:**

Mr. Billy Benson 1 Rodney Drive, Tel: 713059

### **SESSION TEAM MEMBERS:**

Mr Ian Fitzsimmons 15 Smith Crescent, Tel: 712667

Mrs Louise Lindsay 53 Vicarton Street, Tel: 07963341733

Mrs Sandra Smith 69 Hawthorn Drive, Tel: 714816

### **CHURCH OFFICER:**

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### **ORGANIST:**

Mrs. Marie Mortimer Gowlands Cottage, Barrhill, Tel: 821294

### **CHURCH SECRETARY AND MAGAZINE EDITOR:**

Mrs Janette Robertson 78 Bourtreehall, Tel: 715195

### **HALL CONVENER:**

Mrs Anne Johnston 9 The Avenue, Tel: 07478222904

(Keys & practical arrangements)

Mrs Janette Robertson 78 Bourtreehall, Tel: 715195 (Bookings)

### **GIFT AID CONVENER:**

Mrs Joyce Mills 21 North Park Avenue, Tel: 712050

### **SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR:**

Mrs Margaret Nicol, 52 The Avenue, Tel: 714044

### **MAGAZINE CONVENER:**

Mrs Irene Tyson 3 Kirkpatrick Street, Tel : 713590

Mrs Barbara Warren 35 Sycamore Drive, Tel : 714960

### **F.W.O. CONVENER:**

Mrs. Agnes Gibson 7 Young Street, Tel: 479206

**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!

## **January Newsletter for Girvan North.**

**Dear friends**, Robert Burns, an 18<sup>th</sup> Century poet, is also a poet of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. He speaks to us as eloquently today, as he did to his audience in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century. His views about religion are timeless. Shortly before he died, Burns celebrated the activities of the Covenanters who refused to change the way they worshipped. Rather than seen simply as fanatical, by some, Burns saw these misunderstood people as folk who wanted to worship in the way they chose to do so. We should identify with these sentiments and practice them ourselves. I believe that Burns was equally misunderstood by the many who only saw what they wanted to see in him. Burns' genius was difficult to capture - that is the nature of genius.

Also, in the 1790s Burns wrote sympathetically about Winifred Maxwell-Constable and her Catholic faith. Earlier Burns wrote compassionately about Mary Queen of Scots, the Catholic Stuart Queen. So, Burns was drawn towards the marginalised in society then. Just like Jesus was. He realised there was not simply one way of revealing your Christian faith. Hopefully this is just like us. Burns wrote positively about the Presbyterian faith and was sympathetic to women. Burns understood that human nature was always changing. Burns was ahead of his time. Are we able to adapt to an uncertain future? Can we use Burns' poetry to assist us in difficult times?

We see the prophet Job frequently in Burns' writings: there is a lot of self-pity as he cannot understand the suffering he faces whilst God is apparently not listening. We often feel the same. Burns also laments the suffering of others. I am sure as Christians we do too. In Holy Willie's Prayer Burns criticises poor human behaviour. Burns was not anti-religious, he just fought against fanaticism, as we should do. Burns believed in forgiveness in our weakness, and unconditional love. God will forgive us and love us unconditionally as believers.

A great many want to judge Burns' morality or his immorality. It is very difficult to make this judgment accurately with someone from a different era. It was even difficult for Burns' contemporaries, as Burns was a very enigmatic individual. You peeled off a layer and another layer was instantly revealed. Rather than judging the man we should judge

him through his work. If we do this, we begin to understand his genius and his connection to us in our own time. His message is a timeless one. Often in church we become distracted from what the Minister is saying as our minds are elsewhere. Burns realised this: we are not stupid but naturally inquisitive individuals. We can see the beauty of our surroundings from the Minister's words. Through Burns' poetry we marvel at the beauty of the world and our own complexity.

Robert Burns, through his poetry, realised we are all flawed but also valued parts of God's creation. He therefore wrote in a religious way. We try to make the biggest impact we possibly can in the limited time we spend on this earth. The best way we can do this is to sympathise with, and love our fellow man and woman, together with all of God's creation. If we achieve this, Robert Burns and Jesus Christ would be very happy as they both cared passionately about our world and the people who inhabit it. "Gie me ae spark o' Nature's fire, that's a' the learning I desire".

**Kind regards, Glenn.**

### **Car Service**

If you come to church by car, do you think you could possibly spare ten minutes or so before and after the service to give a lift to one or two of our elderly/infirm members who are no longer able to come to church without this help? If you are unable to do this on one of your allocated Sundays, it is quite simple to swap with one of the other members of the team. If you would like to help in this way, please contact Margaret Murdoch (tel 714515 or 07944599796) or Jennifer Ramsay (tel 712200 or 07443427155).

### **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.

## Church Calendar

Sunday	12 <sup>th</sup> January	Morning Worship	Mr Glenn Ronald
Sunday	19 <sup>th</sup> January	Morning Worship	Mr Glenn Ronald
Sunday	26 <sup>th</sup> January	Morning Worship	Mr Glenn Ronald
Sunday	2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Morning Worship	Mr Glenn Ronald

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

## Crèche Rota

12 <sup>th</sup> January	Isla Johnston, Leslie Forbes
19 <sup>th</sup> January	Heather Smith, Michelle Scobie
26 <sup>th</sup> January	Wilma Armstrong, Fiona McCutcheon
2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Isla Johnston, 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.**

***Due to retirements, etc., we are very short of volunteers. If you can help, please contact Jennifer Ramsay on 712200.***

## Mission Trip to Malawi

Girvan North has been linked with the Likoma Island Church in Malawi for several years now and many people in our congregation have worked very hard to raise funds to help the congregation there with the various projects they have undertaken and emergencies they have faced during this time. One of our Session Team members, Sandra Smith, has been at the forefront of these efforts and she was delighted to be offered the opportunity to visit Likomo in April 2020 as part of the Mission Team going to Malawi from the Presbytery of Ayr. These visits take place every two years or so and we have also welcomed visitors from Malawi to Girvan North and other churches in South Ayrshire.

Sandra has worked tirelessly to raise the funds to pay for her travel to Likomo and she is extremely grateful to everyone who has given so generously of their money and time to help her in the various activities (the charity shop, quizzes, etc) which have enabled her to do so. She has raised enough to be able also to take a generous cash gift with her to Malawi.

However, there is something else she would be grateful for your help in achieving. She would really like to be able to take a few personal gifts with her for the various host families the Presbytery group will be staying with over there – eg toilet soap, necklaces for the women and ties, pens, etc for the men. She will be meeting many children during the visit and they always appreciate bubbles, balloons, stickers and small gifts. She would also like to take pencils and rulers for the school children. If you would like to help build up a collection of these items, please give them directly to Sandra or you can bring them to church on a Sunday and give them to any of the elders on duty who will pass them on to her.

## Our Action Teams

As it is now two years since we changed the way we organise the running of the church's business, I thought you might like an update on what our five Action Teams have been doing. These teams were set up after the Congregational Board was disbanded when we decided to use the system which most of the churches now use - ie the Unitary Constitution. This means that we only have the Kirk Session to oversee the work of the church so the various teams ensure that, hopefully, nothing gets missed or neglected. The areas of responsibility of the teams are as follows:-

Fundraising Activities & Communication,  
Christian Education & Discipleship, Pastoral Care,  
Worship and Outreach & Mission.

Every month you will find a short article in the magazine about one of the teams which will tell you who the team members are (there have been some changes since the original teams were set up), what they are trying to achieve and how they are hoping to do this. The Session Team (Jennifer, Ian, Louise and Sandra) wants to be open and honest about what is going on in Girvan North and to keep everyone up to date as far as we can. Who knows? Once you hear about what the Teams are doing, you might like to join one of them yourself to give them a hand. You would be made very welcome.

Jennifer

## Sunday School

In the weeks before Christmas we have been busy at Sunday School making Christmas crafts and hearing about the birth of Jesus. We made some angels with toilet roll tubes and with a craft kit using sticky pads and folded paper for wings. On December 7th we went to the local pantomime at Girvan Academy to see The Wizard of Oz. It was great fun! The Sunday School will start back in the New Year after the Christmas break - all children aged from 3 years can come along on a Sunday at 11am.

## Treasurer's Report

*Happy New Year to You All!*

Income and Expenditure for November and December is as follows:-

November Income	£11,033.16
November Expenditure	£6,155.21
December Income	£9247.00
December Expenditure	£10,708.44

December 31<sup>st</sup> is the end of our financial year. I am now preparing the Annual Accounts to go before our Finance Committee later this month. The accounts will then be scrutinised by an independent Examiner before being presented to the Trustees (our elders) at a Kirk Session meeting in March. Members of the congregation will get a copy of the accounts at the Stated Annual Meeting in March. You are very welcome to ask questions at this meeting.

The accounts have to be sent to Ayr Presbytery before 31<sup>st</sup> March for approval. When that approval is given, a copy of the accounts is then sent off to OSCR (Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator).

### **Cheques**

If you make a donation to the church by cheque could you please make it payable to **Girvan North Parish Church of Scotland**. This is the name on our Bank Account and the Bank are beginning to demand that cheques are written in this format. Thank you for your assistance with this.

**Margaret Benson**

## **Prayer Topics January 2020**

### **1. The Leprosy Mission – Tanzania**

The Diocese of Central Tanganyika is planning to run eye and dental clinics and a health training centre at Hombolo Hospital with the help of doctors from two other centres. Part of the income from these initiatives would be channelled to fund Community Health Education Project (CHEP) activities. Pray that these activities would go ahead as planned. Last year CHEP activities were expanded into three other villages that had high numbers of new leprosy cases from 2015 to 2017. The members of the CHEP team travel long distances to cover their monthly mobile clinic timetable, delivering community health education to combat leprosy. Pray for their safe travel every month. Pray too for the trained volunteers implementing many of the programmes activities in their respective villages.

### **2. Mission Aviation Fellowship – Angola**

Praise God for Operations Manager and Pilot Brent Mudde, and his wife Helena who teaches at the international school. They lead a 15 strong MAF team that uses 3 aircraft to serve Angola's people. Uphold their children Siena, Emalyan and Ezequiel.

There is an international pledge to make the world landmine free by 2025 and our partner The Halo Trust is playing a big part in detecting and removing dangerous mines. Pray for their work and the vital way we support them – flying team members to hospital should any injuries occur. Our monthly flights with Dr. Tim Kubacki are proving a vital lifeline for rural communities. Tim runs medical clinics and trains local health staff. Our pilots often help out too by preparing the rooms and praying with the patients. Pray for safe flights and effective Gospel witness.

### **3. Open Doors – North Korea**

North Korea has been number one on the World Watch List since 2002, making it the most dangerous place in the world to be a Christian. Pray that 2020 will be a year of spiritual breakthrough and that God's people may be free to worship Him without fear.

Pray for wisdom for Christian parents who cannot tell their children about Jesus for fear that they will accidentally betray their faith to the authorities. Open Doors estimates there are between 50,000 and 70,000 Christians imprisoned in North Korea's labour camps. Ask God to sustain and strengthen these believers and pray that despite the persecution they face, Jesus' name will be lifted high in the prisons of North Korea.

4. Give thanks to God for all his blessings and mercies throughout the year now ended and ask for His grace and strength for year ahead. As we pray for the persecuted church in other lands, thank God for our freedom to worship Him as whenever we will. Pray for Australians who have lost loved ones and homes in the terrible bush fires. Ask God to send plentiful rain to end the drought there and also in other countries where starvation is imminent because of drought.

As we enter a new situation in the union of our churches, pray for much wisdom and forbearance for our leaders and our office-bearers as they plan for the future. With a new year and a fresh beginning, ask God to give us greater enthusiasm ask in following Him and a deeper love for Him and for others, so that the united church will be spiritually blessed and be a blessing to the whole community and advance the work of God's kingdom here in Girvan.

## **Wednesday Break**

Wednesday Break resumes on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January at 10.30 am in the small hall, when we will welcome our mid-week worshippers back. Please feel free to join us any week. The talks are not long and onerous, together with praise and prayer – a half hour service followed by tea/coffee and a chat. This is an excellent opportunity for quiet reflection if you have missed Sunday worship.

# The Visit of the Magi

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. Matthew 2:11 (NIV)

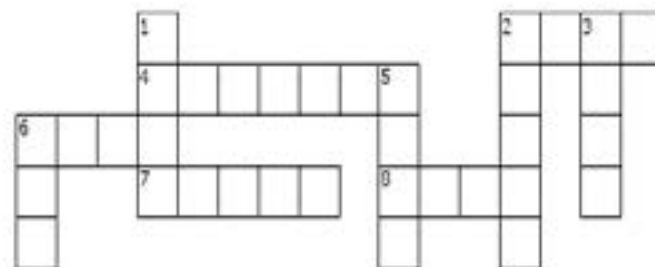
Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- \_\_\_ 1. The wise men who searched for Jesus  
A. Herod B. priests C. myrrh D. Magi
- \_\_\_ 2. To come into existence by birth  
A. die B. born C. rule D. king
- \_\_\_ 3. A male ruler of a country  
A. king B. queen C. prophet D. Magi
- \_\_\_ 4. A twinkling point of light in the night sky  
A. earth B. star C. sun D. moon
- \_\_\_ 5. The direction which is opposite to west  
A. east B. north C. star D. south
- \_\_\_ 6. To kneel or bend the head or body forward as a show of respect  
A. born B. incense C. bow D. east
- \_\_\_ 7. Presents which are given without cost to the one receiving them  
A. jewels B. rewards C. Magi D. gifts
- \_\_\_ 8. A valuable, shiny, yellow metal used to make coins and jewellery  
A. incense B. silver C. gold D. myrrh
- \_\_\_ 9. A substance that is burned to produce a sweet smell  
A. gold B. silver C. wax D. incense
- \_\_\_ 10. A substance with a strong smell which is used in making perfume  
A. gold B. myrrh C. incense D. silver



# The Visit of the Magi

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. Matthew 2:11 (NIV)



## ACROSS

2. The wise men who visited Jesus and Mary and Joseph shortly after Jesus was born
4. A substance that is burned to produce a sweet smell
6. To come into existence by birth
7. Presents which are given without cost to the one receiving them
8. A twinkling point of light in the night sky

## DOWN

1. A male ruler of a country
2. A sticky substance with a strong smell which is used in making perfume
3. A valuable, shiny, yellow metal used to make coins and jewellery
5. The direction which is opposite to west
6. To kneel or bend the head or body forward as a show of respect

MAGI	BOW	STAR	GOLD	KING
GIFTS	EAST	BORN	MYRRH	INCENSE

# The Visit of the Magi

On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold and of incense and of myrrh. Matthew 2:11 (NIV)



The puzzle is based on Matthew 2:1-12 (NIV).

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

PRIESTS	MYRRH	BETHLEHEM	KING	CHRIST
GOD	CHILD	HOUSE	INCENSE	MARY
STAR	MAGI	TEACHERS	WORSHIP	MOTHER
WORSHIPED	EAST	SEARCH	BORN	HEROD