



THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND NORTH PARISH CHURCH

Interim Moderator: Dr James Anderson, Locum: Glenn Ronald



Easter Newsletter

We have the great privilege and freedom to be able to call upon God, wherever we are, individually and corporately, for healing in our nation. We pray for all in leadership at this time, making decisions about the containment of the COVID-19 virus, for those working in health and social care, and especially for the most vulnerable, whether elderly or those with underlying health conditions.

There are already stories being told of wonderful acts of kindness across neighbourhoods. Alongside your prayers, take the opportunity to telephone or email someone who is isolated, buy some additional food for your local foodbank, offer to deliver shopping for an elderly neighbour. We may not be able to touch physically, but we can make connections in so many other ways.

From our Interim Moderator: -

When, on 3 Dec 2019, Rev Dr Ian Stirling added Interim-moderator responsibilities for Girvan South, Dailly and Barr to those he already held for Girvan North, he did so with the best of motives. He wanted to help and encourage the churches towards a union. His stipulation was that he must be able to service all four congregations through one elders' meeting. This was an ambitious and unorthodox approach that had limited success. Many elders (and board members) felt that the everyday issues of church management were not getting the attention they deserved.

I am aware that some people saw this approach as a 'coming together' of the congregations, but the fact is that the strategy contributed to Ian's resignation on health grounds. It was not a sustainable approach

On 3 March, the Presbytery of Ayr appointed Rev Edgar Ogston Interim-moderator of Girvan South, Dailly and Barr, and me as Interim-moderator of Girvan North. We were not bound by what our predecessor had done, and agreed at an early stage that we would return to the normal practice of the interim-moderator looking after the congregation(s) for which he had been given responsibility.

This does not indicate a weakening in our resolve to bring about a union – there is no alternative! But with two interim-moderators in place we can pursue that goal against a background of normal church governance. There will be joint meetings in the future, but they will have a particular purpose and a more relaxed character.

The Kirk Session met on Monday 16th March but on an early intervention it was decided that in view of the Covid-19 advice it was not appropriate to meet, and the meeting was terminated. There is, however, important business to discuss, and we must hold a Kirk Session meeting as soon as it is safe to do so.

In the change over you lost two members and the leader of your Session Team. This is the source of regret and I know that their hard work was greatly appreciated, together with their commitment to a union. However the church needs a Session Clerk, and the names of possible candidates should be mentioned to me or to Ian Fitzsimmons, to be passed on to the your nominating committee. It is imperative that a session clerk is found so that the church can be fully functional.

The position of Glenn Ronald remains unaltered. He is your locum and will continue to preach, visit and conduct funerals, subject to Covid-19 restrictions. The only difference is that I will provide back-up when Glenn is unavailable. I know that Glenn's work is widely appreciated and you are extremely fortunate to have him as your locum.

It is impossible to know for how long the restrictions will deprive us of church services and social gatherings. However it is in challenging times like these that the church is often at its best, and I hope that not-physical links (e-mail, facebook etc, even telephone) will be developed between members, which will ensure that we survive intact.

In the meantime, Glenn will provide a worship audio-file and we will provide an electronic letter, which you are invited to distribute widely.

With every blessing
Jim Anderson

From Our Locum

Dear friends, it is 6am at a garden tomb on Sunday, April 5th, AD33. Some women will anoint the body of their Saviour, Jesus of Nazareth. They are so upset by what has happened. They saw Jesus' body removed from the Cross after his cruel Crucifixion by Roman soldiers. They will finish preparing Jesus' body for burial. The women are coming so early as they do not want to alert the authorities. They know they must convince the Roman soldiers to unseal the tomb to let them enter. They are completely shocked by the sight they see: the soldiers are unconscious, the seal is broken, the stone has been rolled away, and Jesus' body has gone. Where is he? Has Jesus really risen from the grave?

What is the evidence? Pilate would have placed 16 soldiers around Jesus' grave. There would be 4 soldiers on active duty, and these soldiers would change every 4 hours. The penalty for falling asleep for these soldiers was death. They had to stay awake. How could anyone steal the body in these circumstances?

Also, the stone was sealed into the tomb. Only 3 or 4 men could move it. The penalty for moving that stone was death. No one therefore would risk stealing the body.

Also, why were the graveclothes folded so neatly? Graverobbers would have taken the body as it was, or they would have taken the body and thrown the graveclothes aside. Jesus would pass through the graveclothes when he rose from the grave. Then there was the empty tomb. Jesus' body was gone. It had not been stolen as Jesus had risen from the grave.

Then there were the resurrection appearances: Mary, Peter, Cleopas and his companion on the Road to Emmaus, the other disciples, Paul on the Road to Damascus, and many more would witness that Jesus had risen from the grave. Also, the disciple's initial reluctance to believe Jesus had risen from the grave gives further evidence of the Resurrection. From frightened, fearful individuals, they became spirited evangelists who shouted that Jesus had risen from the grave. What happened to Jesus' body? His body has never been found, and never will be found as it has not been buried! Jesus Christ is risen!

Some sceptics suggest Jesus did not die on the Cross, he merely fainted. Somehow, he unwrapped his shroud, rolled the stone away, incapacitated the soldiers, and then appeared in good health as he met Mary and the other disciples. Somehow, Jesus survived being beaten, crucified, with a spear thrust into his side. The soldiers did not break Jesus' legs since they believed he was already dead. He was. Others suggest the disciples went to the wrong tomb, but they would realise their mistake in the morning; yet others suggest his body was stolen, but how would they get passed the guards? Still others believe the disciples hallucinated, convincing themselves he had risen. But the disciples did not initially expect Jesus to rise. To be a Christian we must believe in the Resurrection. The Resurrection gives us hope in the face of death. A further reason to believe! The Resurrection hope enables us to get through these uncertain times and gives us the strength to continue because we believe.

Best wishes, Glenn.

From Ian Fitzsimmons (session team member)

I hope the entire congregation are well. Just to let you all know that if anybody needs help or information, or who to contact please let me know.

My contact details are.

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ian.fitzsimmons@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Mobile. 07850056785.

Phone. 712667.

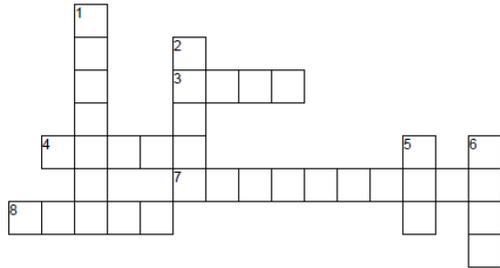
At the moment nothing is happening with the session team and if anybody is wanting to join the team please let me know.

Yours Ian Fitzsimmons, The session team.

God bless, keep safe and keep praying

Charity N°: SC007347

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 3. A place where someone is buried
- 4. "He is not here; he has _____, just as he said." Matthew 28:6
- 7. A shaking or trembling of the the earth
- 8. A heavenly being that serves as a messenger for God

DOWN

- 1. The first or early part of a day
- 2. A hard solid substance found in the ground which is often used for building
- 5. A period of twenty-four hours
- 6. A period of seven days

STONE	MORNING	WEEK	EARTHQUAKE
RISEN	ANGEL	DAY	TOMB



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Children's Worship Bulletin

An Easter Surprise

Matthew 28:1-10

Word Search Puzzle

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

TOMB	ANGEL	RISEN	RISEN	STONE
SHOOK	WEEK	FIRST	DAWN	HEAVEN
EARTHQUAKE	ROLLED	JESUS	AFRAID	DAY

Your Church Name Here

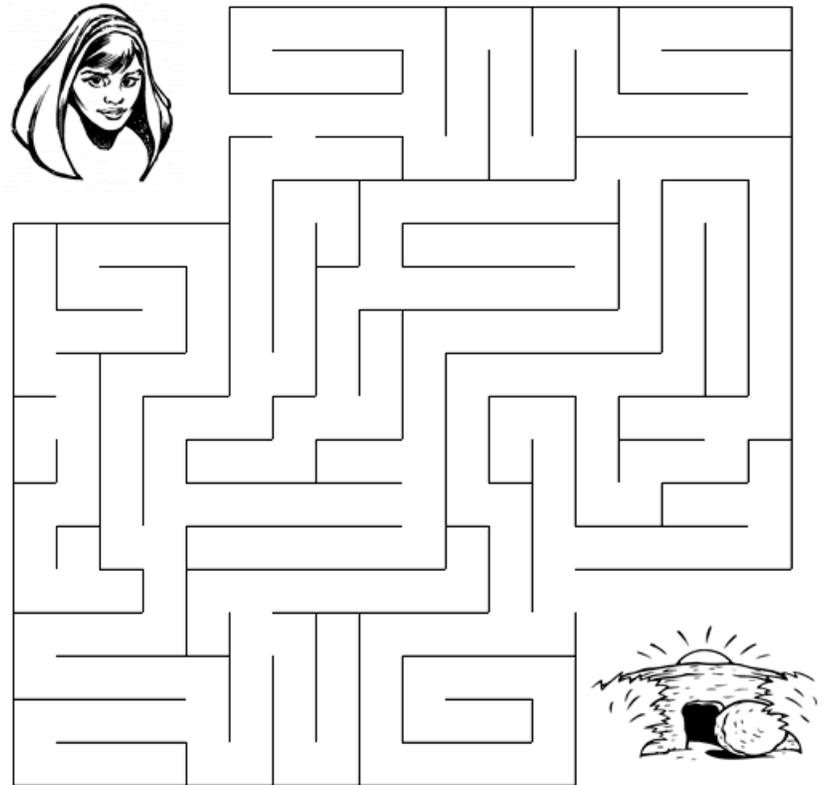
Coloring Page

Maze Puzzle



HE IS NOT HERE! HE IS RISEN!

Can you find the way to the empty tomb?



"He is not here; he has risen, just as he said.
Come and see the place where he lay."
Matthew 28:6 (NIV)