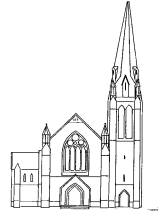




THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND NORTH PARISH CHURCH, GIRVAN Ayrshire.



July Newsletter for Girvan North from our Locum Glen Ronald

Dear friends, I know there is not usually a Newsletter during July and August, but we live in very strange times so must stay in touch regularly to support one another. I hope you are all well and have enjoyed my online Services. I did this to provide a sense of continuity after it was decided churches must close their doors to the public. I look forward to it being safe for Worship to resume properly again.

It has just been announced that Churches will hopefully soon be resuming Worship, and as your Locum for the last 15 months I will certainly be there when this happens. It will be lovely to see you all after such a long time apart. I know this period has been difficult for everyone – myself included – but it has been used as a time for reflection to decide where our priorities lie. Family and friends are always uppermost in our minds and seeing them even at a distance has encouraged us all. It has been lovely for Wanda and myself to see her mother once again after such a long time apart. We were all socially distancing of course. It will be good for businesses to open their doors again just as it will be good for their customers to frequent them. As the lockdown eases, everyone must play their part in gradually getting back to what they once did but doing so in a safe and responsible way.

Yes, churches will be different now. There will be social distancing but that should not be a problem for us as we have plenty of space in Girvan North Parish Church. We will be worshipping God in the way we have always done, just as we have been doing at home during lockdown. Our faith has helped us get through these difficult times. During lockdown we have all reflected about events happening in our own lives. God has been guiding our path, and he has certainly been guiding my path as well as your path. I have recently been unsuccessful in an interview for Ordained Local Ministry. Everything happens for a reason and sometimes that reason cannot be understood without a period of reflection. Sometimes we are too close to the events in our lives to be objective about them. It is only after reflecting about them that we realise why they have happened. Sometimes a decision which has been taken against us turns out to be a “blessing in disguise” and allows us to focus on the areas of Ministry that we are best at, and which would most greatly assist the congregation as well. I am very happy to remain in Girvan doing a job that I love.

We rarely thank God for the hardships we face in our lives. Although we happily praise God for His goodness, we are less likely to thank God when we endure suffering. Scottish preacher George Matheson faced that problem too. He understood he was not as willing to thank God when things went wrong as when things went right. When he began losing his eyesight he changed his view on this matter. Matheson prayed about it. He had never thanked God for his “thorn” but had thanked God thousands of times for his “roses”. Matheson was looking forward to a time when he would be

rewarded for his cross, but he never thought of his cross as a blessing now. Matheson wanted God to teach him the value of his “thorn”.

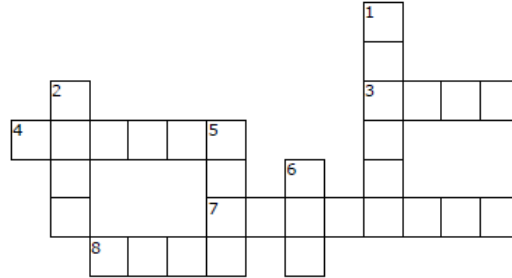
When we examine our blessings we should also think of the hardships we face in life. We find God uses our hardships more than our blessings for our own spiritual growth. Through our hardships we discover God’s grace is sufficient. We turn to God and His strength strengthens us in our weakness. When we are weak we are strong.

Let us consider the example of Joseph in Genesis. First, his brothers sold him into slavery when he recalled some dreams that made it seem that he would rule over them. Then even after he gained promotion through working for a man like Potiphar, Potiphar’s wife falsely claimed that Joseph slept with her. This accusation placed Joseph in prison. From having everything Joseph then seemed to have nothing.

This however became a “blessing in disguise” for Joseph. Through working very hard and showing good character, Joseph impressed the prison guard and other prisoners. Joseph met Pharaoh to become his dream interpreter. Pharaoh’s strange dream was correctly interpreted as being seven years of famine to follow. Pharaoh promoted Joseph, making sure his people stored the harvest to feed them in the lean years. Many lives were saved, including Joseph’s brothers, who sold him into slavery in the first place. Joseph’s “blessing in disguise” meant that when he was weak he was strong. God strengthens us in our weakness. Please stay safe everyone.

Kind regards, Glenn.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

3. Gave something to someone else in return for money
4. A male parent
7. Men or boys with the same parents as another person
8. To have strong feelings of affection for another person

DOWN

1. Son of Jacob who had a coat of many colors
2. To dislike someone or something very much
5. A long, loose-fitting piece of clothing
6. A male offspring

LOVE	FATHER	JOSEPH	SOLD
BROTHERS	SON	HATE	ROBE



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Joseph and His Brothers

Genesis 37:1-4, 12-28

Word Search

Puzzle

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

LAND	MERCHANTS	LOVED	JOSEPH	CANAAN
HATED	GRAZE	OLD	BORN	ROBE
SONS	JACOB	BROTHERS	SILVER	CHILDREN
EGYPT	KILL	FLOCKS	FATHER	SOLD

Coloring Page



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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.

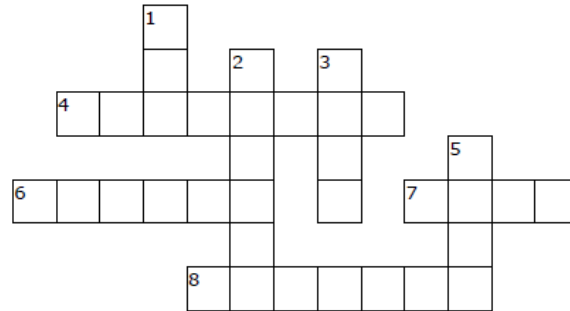
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
F	E	N	G	Q	O	M	S	K	V	P	I	U	W	J	A	D	R	X	Y	Z	T	B	C	L	H

1. 8-6-25-17 _____
2. 17-18-2-16-7-2-18 _____
3. 9-12-25-25 _____
4. 18-6-23-2 _____
5. 25-6-10-2-17 _____
6. 8-12-25-10-2-18 _____
7. 15-6-8-2-11-26 _____
8. 23-18-6-22-26-2-18-8 _____
9. 15-16-24-6-23 _____
10. 8-22-18-12-11-11-2-17 _____

DREAMER	LOVED	SILVER	STRIPPED	KILL
BROTHERS	SOLD	JACOB	JOSEPH	ROBE



Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

4. The youngest brother of Joseph
6. He was sold into slavery by his brothers
7. To shed tears
8. A male with the same parents as someone else

DOWN

1. A male human child
2. A male parent
3. The act of touching someone with your lips
5. A period of 365 days

JOSEPH	KISS	FATHER	BENJAMIN
WEEP	SON	YEAR	BROTHER



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Joseph & His Brothers, Part 2

Genesis 45:1-15

*Word Search
Puzzle*

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

YEARS	FAMINE	LIVING	BENJAMIN	BROTHER
SON	FATHER	JOSEPH	EGYPT	ANGRY
KISSED	WEEPING	LAND	EMBRACE	PHARAOH

Coloring Page



Joseph said to his brothers, "I am Joseph!
Is my father still living?"
Genesis 45:3

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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.

Q	N	A	E	F	I	L	P	V	R	K	D	Y	Z	U	H	B	W	G	J	T	S	O	M	C	X
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. 20-23-22-4-8-16 _____
2. 8-16-3-10-3-23-16 _____
3. 4-19-13-8-21 _____
4. 5-3-24-6-2-4 _____
5. 18-4-4-8 _____
6. 11-6-22-22 _____
7. 4-24-17-10-3-25-4 _____
8. 17-10-23-21-16-4-10 _____

KISS	PHARAOH	WEEP	BROTHER
EMBRACE	EGYPT	JOSEPH	FAMINE

