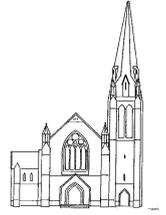




THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND NORTH PARISH CHURCH, GIRVAN AYRSHIRE.



September Newsletter for Girvan North.

Dear friends, can we relate to the Parable of the Lost Son in Luke's Gospel? I am sure we are all lost at times. How are we found, and how does God re-enter our lives again? Many of us have brothers, or maybe we are that brother, or sister, who wanted something immediately. Possibly we, or our sibling, wanted money to see the world properly? This cannot be achieved without hard work, and the prodigal, or wasteful son, will not do that. He wants all the money now. Is that what we want?

What happens then? The prodigal son's father trusts his son to spend the money wisely. Instead, he spends the money very unwisely, frittering it all away. Do we recognise that behaviour in ourselves, in our siblings, or in someone we know? How would we feel if we lost everything and felt we had nowhere to turn? We would certainly feel embarrassed. How then could we face our father after everything he did for us? Would we, like the prodigal son, find a job which gave us little money? Would we, like the prodigal son, become so desperate that we ate the food meant for the animals we were looking after? How could things get any worse than that?

Would this be the point when we felt we must return to our father on earth, and our father in heaven? The prodigal son felt he could only return as a servant and not as a proper son. The prodigal son is shocked when he is embraced; his father still loves him. Would we feel that we could still return to God? Hopefully, we would return for that loving embrace as it is never too late to return to our father on earth or our Father in heaven. God would certainly be celebrating our return just as the father did in the Parable of the Prodigal Son. His son had returned home.

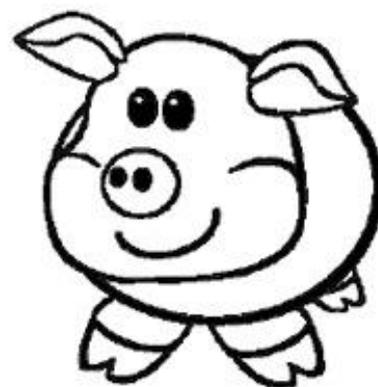
Can we relate to the elder brother of the prodigal son? Is he like us? If we saw our younger brother being forgiven for wasting the family fortune, how would we feel? Would we be angry at our brother, and our father? However, the father was willing to forgive his son despite losing a considerable amount of money; the elder brother had his fortune intact but was still unforgiving. Maybe the elder brother was jealous? Did he want to do what the prodigal son had done, but his moment had passed? Has our moment passed, or do we feel our moment has still to come?

Were the brothers ever reconciled? We must draw our own conclusions. Did the elder brother join in the festivities, or return to the field an embittered man? Are we like the elder brother? Do we still have long-standing issues with family members which are unresolved? It is never too late to address them. It is never too late to return to God. It is never too late to join in fellowship within the church, or within the Girvan community. Meeting with others takes us away from ourselves and helps those around us.

Many of us will be doing this now. Many of us will have met prodigal sons and daughters who just want to be held and forgiven. They are possibly members of our own family or members of someone else's family. To feel human once again all we may need is a smile, a few words of comfort, or a warm embrace from another. Then these lost sons and daughters of God will return to his welcoming arms again. Stay safe and secure in the knowledge that God loves you.

Best wishes, Glenn

The Parable of the Lost Son



Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let's have a feast and celebrate. For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.' So they began to celebrate. Luke 15:23-24 (NIV)

The puzzle is based on Luke 15:11-32 (NIV).

H I R E D N D M Y E S T A T E
 C W Y Y E X W R E W N M G I O
 Q O H B E O T E G E E B Q D H
 F T M J N N P M P Q T A B A F
 S A S P U O T S Y N C F L P W
 T T T O A S D T L Z A Z G T R
 A O C H O S R T W P I G S G H
 R I O L E E S C F E O M N F N
 V M E K P R A I O P F I E E X
 I K S O S I X O O D R R K A F
 N Q R O K R E G D N F E T S O
 G P A R N F X Z O D Q E S T U
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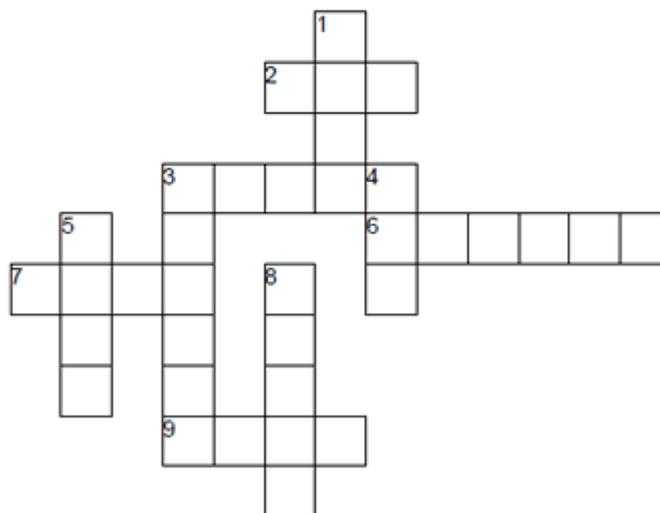
WEALTH	ESTATE	COUNTRY	PIGS	FOOD
COMPASSION	HIRED	FOUND	FEED	RING
CELEBRATE	STARVING	PROPERTY	FEAST	SONS
KISSED	FATHER	STOMACH	SPENT	LOST

The Parable of the Lost Son



So he returned home to his father. And while he was still a long way off, his father saw him coming. Filled with love and compassion, he ran to his son, embraced him, and kissed him. Luke 15:20 (NLT)

The puzzle is based on Luke 15:11-32



ACROSS

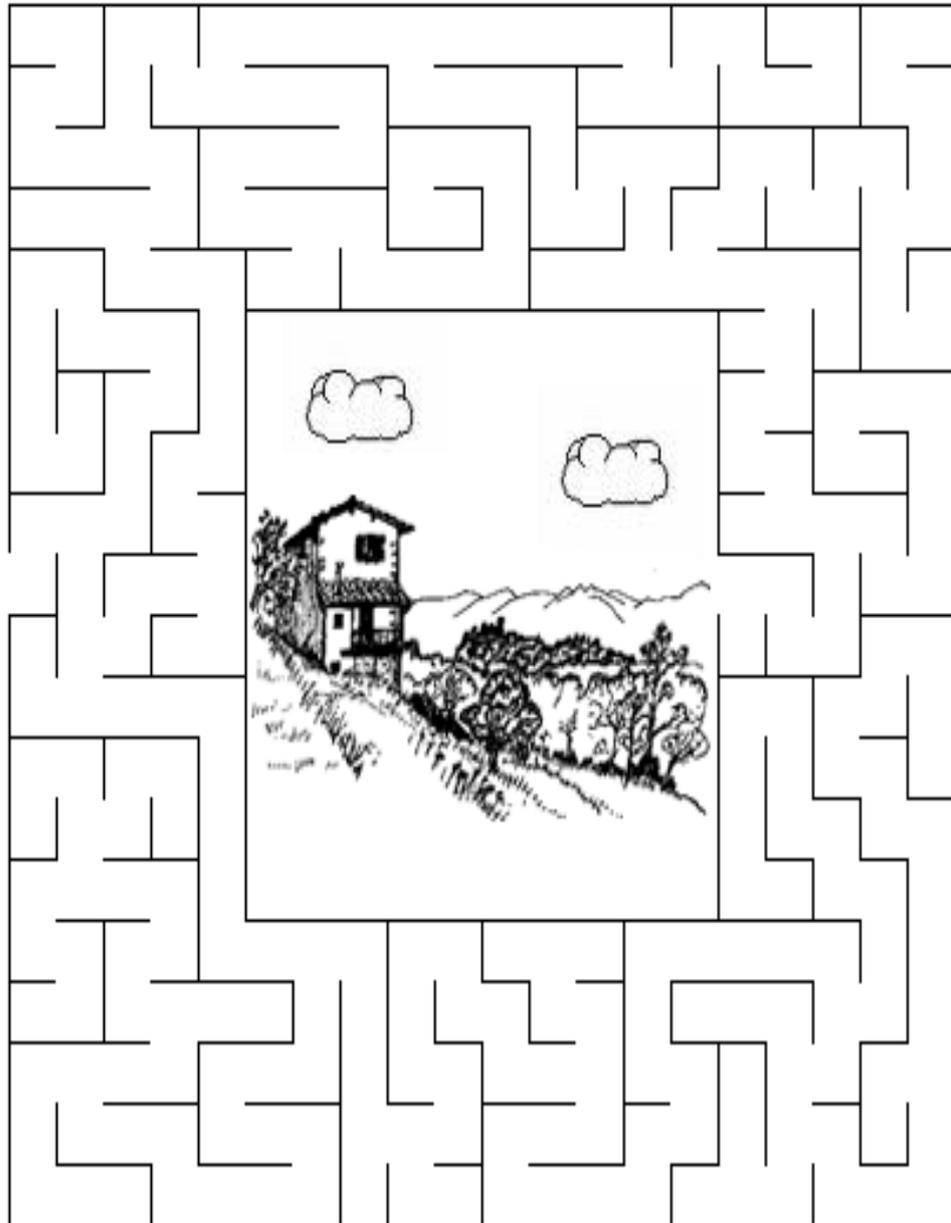
2. Farm animals with pink, brown, or black skin, short legs, and a flat nose.
3. A large special meal to celebrate something or honor someone.
6. A large amount of money and other valuable possessions.
7. To not be able to be found. (I _____ my dog.)
9. A piece of jewelry, generally made of precious metal and worn on the finger.

DOWN

1. To touch or press your lips against another person as a greeting or to express love.
3. A male parent.
4. The number that is equal to one plus one.
5. Your male children.
8. When something which was lost has been relocated. (I _____ my dog).

TWO	KISS	RING	WEALTH	FATHER
FEAST	FOUND	LOST	PIG	SONS

Help the Prodigal Son find his way home.



The Parable of the Lost Son Luke 15:11-32