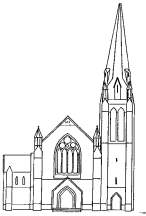




# THE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND NORTH PARISH CHURCH, GIRVAN Ayrshire.



**Interim Moderator - Dr James Anderson  
Locum - Glenn Ronald**

## **Additional October Newsletter**

### **Kirk Session News**

At a Zoom meeting on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> October our Kirk Session agreed a union of Girvan North and Girvan South linked with Dailly and Barr. Girvan South have not yet agreed to this plan but discussions are ongoing. It is clear that there will be no full time minister in Girvan without a union.

Parish Groupings are being asked to consider the missional needs of their area and then conclude what resources are needed. i.e. minister, ordained local minister, mission development staff, reader, etc.

This plan has to be ready to place before the Presbytery Mission Group in May 2021.

In the meantime I will continue as interim–moderator and Glenn Ronald as locum and we look for your continued support.

With every blessing.

**Jim Anderson.**

## **Dear friends,**

As St. Paul said in Romans: “Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer”.

I hope you are all managing well at this time. I am really happy the church has opened once again after closing for so long. I thank everyone who has come over the last seven Sundays and welcome anyone coming in the future. Everything has worked so well. My thanks go to Stuart Kilpatrick, and his team, who made all this possible. Around 30 people are coming every week who follow the guidelines, so I thank all our Elders welcoming them at the door, our cleaning staff, our Church Officer Anne Johnstone, our Session Team Leader Ian Fitzsimmons, and our Organist/Pianists Marie Mortimer and Lorna Mearns. I thank Margaret Benson for her enthusiasm in her Treasury role, the congregation for their generosity, Matthew Scobie for his IT skills and for fulfilling his Presbytery role, and Janette Robertson for everything she has done over the years in the Office. My thanks go to Interim Moderator Jim Anderson too. I thank everyone’s generosity at Harvest Thanksgiving when all our donations went to the Milestone Foodbank. A very good cause. Our Armistice Service will be on November 8th. An online version will be available too.

I am very pleased the online Services seem to be working for so many of you. Many people cannot attend the church at the moment or are not yet ready to come back. I am sure these online Services are attracting new people every week who enjoy singing the hymns along with me. I enjoy recording them and it is never a chore for me to do. Even if I stopped recording these Services there is certainly no guarantee we would get any more attenders. In any case we have a limited capacity. So the status quo seems to be working well for everyone. Please get in touch with me if you have any hymn suggestions or get in touch with Marie or Lorna if you want something played in the church during Worship.

I am coming to the end of my Theology Degree in the next couple of months, so I thank you for understanding that I will not be able to telephone as many people as I would like to do at the moment. Any of you can, of course, contact me at any time, and I will continue all my pastoral duties as before.

This pandemic that the world has been experiencing during most of 2020 has been a challenging time for everyone. However the Girvan community is such a strong and faithful community and has been spared so much of what other places have unfortunately experienced. Everyone who has a strong faith or who finds the Lord, prays frequently, reads their Bible daily, and reaches out to family, friends, neighbours and strangers, will emerge from this period a lot stronger than they were when they entered it.

Let me end with these inspirational words from the former American President Franklin Delano Roosevelt: “We have always held to the hope, the belief, the conviction, that there is a better life, a better world beyond the horizon”.

**Best wishes, Glenn. (Girvan North Locum).**

## **From the Session Team**

I hope everybody is keeping safe and well. The Church Services are going on every Sunday, they are well attended with the amount of congregation that we are allowed due to restrictions.

Funerals are allowed in the Church again, also there will not be a Remembrance Parade this year instead there will be a short service outside at the church at the war memorial with social distancing in place.

There will be very little in the church this Christmas there will be the usual Sunday Service before Christmas but it won't be the same.

A Zoom Session meeting will be held on Monday 9th, November 2020 at 7pm and if anybody would like anything added to the agenda please let me know.

God bless and keep safe.

**Yours Ian Fitzsimmons.**

The Session team.

## **Church Sunday Services**

Sunday Services at Girvan North restarted on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August. All government and Church of Scotland safety measures are in place. I.e. 2 metre social distance markings inside and outside church, hand sanitiser provided, names and phone numbers recorded, church cleaned between services, one way system in place, We enter by the front door and leave either by Session room door or by ramp door depending on which side of the church we are sitting. There are offering boxes on the table at door instead of the offering plates being passed around.

Glenn Ronald conducts the service with prayers, Bible readings and a sermon. We are not allowed to sing hymns but Marie Mortimer or Lorna Mearns have been playing some lovely pieces of music during the service either on the organ or the piano. You can let them know if there is a favourite piece of music you would like played.

There have been 30-40 people attending each Sunday and the service lasts around 30/35 minutes. If you do not yet feel able to come along, Glenn is continuing his service each Sunday at 11am on the Girvan North website and Facebook page.

## **The Effect of Coronavirus on our Church Finances**

### **An Appeal for Donations**

During lockdown our faithful members continued to give their offerings to Girvan North by cheques, Bank Standing Orders and Freewill Offering envelopes. Thank you for doing this and bringing in over 80% of our usual offerings.

Unfortunately we have lost over £13,000 in revenue because of other activities being stopped. We have had no cash in the Sunday Open Plate, no hall lets, no donations for North Star or from Wednesday Break, no weddings or funerals and no fundraising events. This loss of income looks likely to continue for some time to come so our losses will only become greater.

During a normal church year, members willingly buy coffee morning tickets, concert tickets and quizzes. They buy from our stalls at the Spring and Christmas Fayres. They generously give donations for North Star and for putting flowers in church each Sunday.

I am appealing to all members this month to consider how much they would normally give in these various ways. I suggest that members put an equivalent amount in an envelope marked "Fundraising Donation" and place in the Offering Box on the vestibule table at the church. Alternately you can send your donation to me at 1 Rodney Drive.

Please give as generously as you are able to help offset this huge loss of income.

God bless you all and keep you safe during these difficult times.

**Margaret Benson**

**Church Treasurer**

### **Quiz**

We have not had a quiz this year because of Coronavirus. I am attaching a free quiz which I hope will keep you busy for an hour or two during these difficult times. Enjoy!

Please feel free to copy it for your friends.

**The answer to each clue has a wheel or wheels.**

- 1 Part of a bride's dress .....
- 2 A receptacle for diamonds or hearts .....
- 3 Spins to win .....
- 4 An advertising film extract .....
- 5 Found in fat rucksack .....
- 6 Town in Cumbria .....
- 7 This Grampa strikes regularly .....
- 8 It carries your bag to the green .....
- 9 Sharp knives follow a big wave .....
- 10 Sam's vehicle .....
- 11 A fish goes onto ship .....
- 12 Chocolate bar and smoothing tool .....
- 13 A religious pamphlet...or .....
- 14 Ramp round .....
- 15 Shopping or tea .....
- 16 Is it's load first or second class? .....
- 17 An "i" in the capital .....
- 18 Spur on this seat .....
- 19 Racing, sports or classic .....
- 20 Two coins .....
- 21 Mini or omni .....
- 22 I follow levy .....
- 23 Posture or a clock .....
- 24 Hay stack and Sandie ... ..
- 25 MALELWRIT .....
- 26 TEDWUHERLENL .....
- 27 PEMOTEOMSRUCU .....
- 28 WECIENHIMNSGA .....
- 29 MENBLACUA .....
- 30 BLARKYBEWA .....

**Please return to Margaret Benson, 1 Rodney Drive, Girvan by 30<sup>th</sup> November 2020. Hope you enjoy!**

**Name** .....

**Address** .....

## **The Crossreach Christmas Catalogue**

The Crossreach Christmas Catalogue has arrived. If anyone would like to see a copy & order cards, calendars, etc., please contact Jennifer Ramsay on 712200 or 07443427155 as soon as possible.

### **Prayer Topics**

#### **1 The Leprosy Mission - South Nepal**

Give thanks to God for the Chairman Mr Allun Cho and all TLM Korea's board members and staff. Pray for wisdom and health as they undertake leprosy work in Jesus Hospital and nursing home for the elderly.

#### **2 Mission Aviation Fellowship - South Sudan**

Uphold in prayer the work of every village in South Sudan. The NGO supports communities by installing water pumps and distributing solar powered radios so that people can hear Gospel broadcasts in their own language.

#### **3 Open Doors - India**

Pastor Daniel was attacked by Hindu extremists because of his faith. He was so badly beaten that he had to be sent to intensive care. Thankfully he has now been discharged from the hospital and is doing well. Please pray for his complete healing.

**4** Give thanks to God for all His mercies to us at this strange time and praise Him for the good things that have come out of it - the kindness and helpfulness in the time of need. Human wisdom is totally inadequate in the present situation, so ask God for His wisdom for all our leaders in government, in medicine and science. Pray for those who have lost their jobs or about to lose them that a way may be found to support each one and their families. Pray for students, for strength and sustaining of all NHS workers, for carers, for healing of those who are ill and comfort for those who have lost loved ones.

Give thanks for churches again open. Pray for Glenn as he leads the worship week by week, Marie and Lorna as they provide beautiful music for our services, our duty elders and those who clean the church each week. Give thanks for them all and their faithful service. Pray for the Presbytery in decisions to be made regarding the future of the churches.

Pray that we may remain faithful in the Lord's service, sensitive to the Holy Spirit's prompting, depending on His enabling and growing in love for the Lord and one another.