



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



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

## **November Newsletter**

**Dear Friends,**

I love the story of Martha and Mary that features in the Gospel of Luke. Martha and Mary are so different, aren't they? Martha was the lady who was so busy in the kitchen getting the meal ready for Jesus, their esteemed guest. She was very house proud like a lot of us are in Girvan, I am sure. Mary on the other hand was very quiet, sitting at Jesus' feet and listening to His every word. Martha wanted Mary to help her in the kitchen. Jesus and Mary wanted Martha to join them, but Martha was too busy to simply "do nothing." Was she doing nothing though? Jesus thought Mary was doing "the better thing" and Martha would not get Mary's help in the kitchen. Who do we support in this parable? Do we prefer the devotion of Mary or the dutifulness of Martha? Are we able to do both, or do we try to do too much and do neither?

It is interesting when Jesus told Martha that Mary was doing the better thing. In traditional Palestinian households during that time, and I am sure today, hospitality was a very big thing. So, saying to Martha that her hospitality should be postponed must have been a difficult thing for Martha to accept. Are we like Martha? Do we make ourselves so busy that we are unable to see what is happening around us? Jesus wanted Martha beside him, just as Mary was, so they could listen together to Jesus' stories. Jesus was going to the Cross very soon and he wanted to spend some quality time with his friends. Martha could not understand Jesus' attitude. She was productive whilst Mary was inactive, yet it was Martha who was criticised.

We all know the "Martha's" and "Marys" of this world. Many exist in the church. I greatly appreciate the Girvan North congregation for all they do for their church, doing their duties as Elders, as Team Leaders, and as Office-Bearers. Without these talented people the church could simply not function. I am dependent on them. I appreciate all the Worship Group did at "Wednesday Break" and when they participated in Worship. Not only are these people so busy, like Martha, they have their time to reflect, their time to pray, and their time for quietness, just like the time Mary had with Jesus. We all need that quietness too, particularly at this difficult time, and as we remember the sacrifice of so many service personnel during times of war.

If we are constantly busy, we miss what is happening around us and we do not have any time for reflection – a vital element of any Ministry. We need that quiet time for the Lord. If, on the other hand, we are constantly reflecting, there is the possibility that nothing will be done in our home, in our community, or in our world. The secret then is to get the work/life balance right, which is certainly a skill. In this 24/7 society where everything is moving so quickly, we must take time to reflect and remember the sacrifice of so many army, air and naval personnel who gave their lives for us, at such a young age, frequently, for our freedom. Remembrance Sunday is such an important

event which must never pass without mention. Jesus Christ made the ultimate sacrifice for us on the Cross for all our sins. We are eternally grateful for everything he has done for us, and it is through our faith in Him that we demonstrate our love. This was what Mary was showing when Jesus was a guest in her house but sadly Martha was too busy to notice. We must never be too busy for Jesus. If we give him the time He deserves, we will all find the peace which we undoubtedly seek. **Best wishes, Glenn.**

**From Ian Fitzsimmons The  
Session Team.**

Hope you are all keeping well.

Christmas will not be the same this year in Girvan North Church this year there will be only be one service this year on Sunday 20th December at 11am.

Marie Mortimer is taking a break from playing the organ on a Sunday. Hoping Bob and yourself keep safe and all the best for the Festive season. Thanks to Lorna Mearns for playing on a Sunday.

There was a Zoom meeting of the Kirk Session on Monday 9th November. When the minutes are ready I will try and get a copy to the Elders that do not have Email.

The Attendance at the Church on a Sunday is remaining steady at between 30 and 40. Hoping the rest of the Congregation are enjoying are enjoying Glenn's Services that are online.

In case there is no newsletter in December may I wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a happy New Year, It will be different this year.

God Bless and keep safe.  
From Ian Fitzsimmons  
The Session Team.

# Veterans & Remembrance Day

"The soldier, above all other people, prays for peace, for he must suffer and bear the deepest wounds and scars of war." - Douglas MacArthur

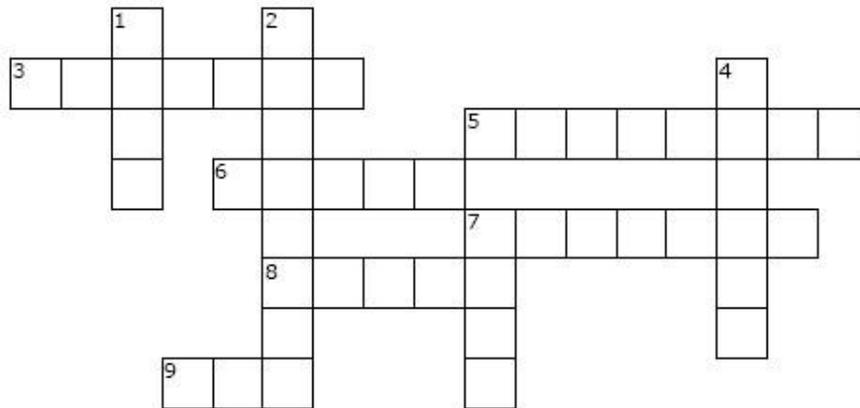
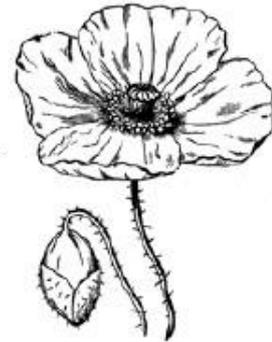


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MEMORIAL	CELEBRATE	WAR	PATRIOT	ARMISTICE
PEACE	PARADE	SOLDIERS	BRAVE	HEROES
MEDALS	VETERANS	POPPY	REMEMBER	WORLD
HONOR	PRIDE	HOLIDAY	NOVEMBER	MILITARY

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## ACROSS

3. Someone who fights when there is a war
5. Relating to the armed forces
6. A period free from war or violence
7. A day for celebration when many people stay home from work or school
8. To show no fear in times of danger
9. Fighting between two or more countries

## DOWN

1. A piece of cloth with a special color and pattern used to represent a country
2. To keep something or someone in your memory
4. a large number of people marching, walking, or riding in vehicles, usually as part of a celebration
7. A person who performs bravely in battle

peace	holiday	hero	brave	flag
military	parade	soldier	remember	war

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