



Church Office

Church Secretary: Janette Robertson will be in the office – **Tues. 10.00 am – 12 noon & Frid. 9.00 am – 1.00 pm.** All items for the Pew Leaflet should be given to Janette, or posted through the office door. Please note that articles for inclusion in the Sunday Pew Leaflet must be with Janette **no later than 11.00 am on the preceding Friday.**

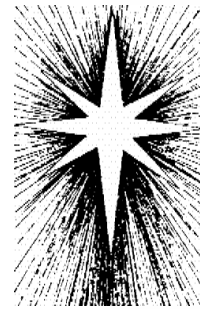
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Girvan North Parish Church

EDITOR'S NOTE:

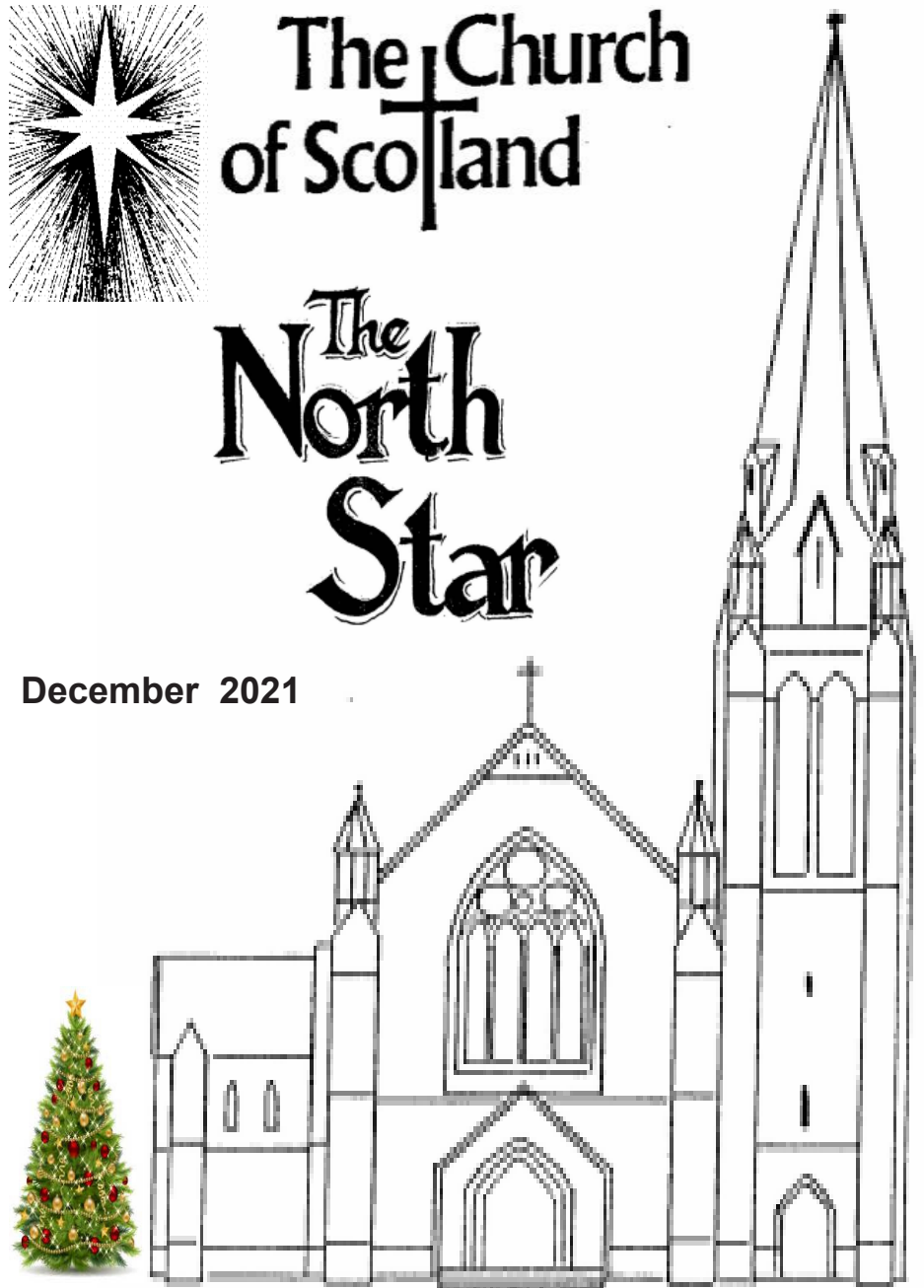
All articles for the January 2022 issue of the Church Magazine should be given to the Editor by Sunday 9th January 2022



The Church of Scotland

The North Star

December 2021



Girvan North Parish Church

Girvan North Parish Church Charity No. SC007347

Blythswood Care

We have resumed our collection for Blythswood, so please bring any of the following donations, and they will be taken up to their shop in Prestwick.

Please mark your boxes/bags with the following appropriate label(s):

**BRB = Bric-a-Brac C = Clothes D = Dishes F = Food
G = Glass items M = Medical T = Toys = Books**

Stamps

Please bring along used stamps and place them in the box in the vestibule at the church building.

They are sent to World Mission at '121' who benefit in the region of £2,000 + per annum.

Please leave about one quarter of an inch around the stamp when you cut it off the envelope.

Computer Inkjet Cartridges

Used computer inkjet cartridges continue to be handed in in good numbers in response to the Kirk Session's decision to collect used computer inkjet cartridges and send them off to either The Leprosy Mission (Scotland) or to CHAS. The Leprosy Mission (Scotland) can take only three particular makes but other makes can be sent via the Rotary Club of Girvan to CHAS.

The church will send off the ones to TLM (Scotland) while the rest will be taken to Rotary for them to send to CHAS.

A box will be found each Sunday in the vestibule of the church building into which you may place your used cartridges. Please keep them coming!

December Newsletter for Girvan North.

Dear friends, Jesus could do anything and we just need to believe this to be true. This is made very clear throughout His parables. One of the most famous was Jesus calming the storm. A terrible storm broke out when Jesus was in a boat with His disciples crossing to the other side of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus was sleeping and the disciples wanted Him to save them as they thought they were going to drown. Jesus was perfectly calm, and He rebuked His disciples asking why they had so little faith, and why they were so fearful. The wind and waves were immediately calmed, and the disciples were amazed that even the wind and waves obeyed Jesus.

Should the disciples have been so amazed? They surely must have been aware of what Jesus was capable of doing. Where was their faith? Jesus depended on His disciples, and at times they let Him down. He needed their support, and at times it was not there. Jesus was preparing His disciples for what lay ahead for them. When Jesus went to the Cross, had risen, and returned to His Father in heaven, it was the disciples who would have to replace Him to spread the Gospel message to others, bringing more people to Christ. So, their lack of faith then was a little worrying.

The disciples however were a work in progress, just as we are a work in progress. Our faith, I am sure, does not start strong but gets stronger during our busy lives. This is due to the influence our families have on our faith, those Christian friends around us, the books that we read, and how we lead our lives today.

What I love about this parable is the calmness of Jesus throughout it all despite the storm which was going on around Him on the Sea of Galilee. He knew everything would be fine, and the disciples would do too if they just had faith. This parable tells us that having faith is not a straightforward thing to have. It is something we must all work at, and eventually it will come. We need faith especially during this pandemic. All of us encounter storms in life, some minor ones, and a few major

ones. Having a faith is the best way to deal with these storms. The disciples should have possessed a stronger faith. It only dawned on them afterwards that Jesus had these miraculous powers. It would have been so much better if they had realised this beforehand. Time and time again we are asked to call on our faith to help us deal with the problems we regularly face in life. If we are ever unaware what Jesus can do for us, all we need to do is glance at the parables of Jesus to realise what can be achieved.

It is so much more difficult to get through life if we do not have a faith. The wonderful thing is that it is never too late to develop one. However, that process can only start from within. Even if your parents had a faith, your friends had a faith and you regularly read the Bible and go to church, it is only you who can make that change. As we welcome the birth of Jesus Christ on Christmas Day, and the impact He has made in our world, our faith will naturally get stronger. There are so many church services celebrating this happy event and sharing this Good News message with everyone. This is a time for people to come together, forgetting about what divides us, and celebrating what we have in common. We have so much to be grateful for.
Best wishes, Glenn.

Christmas Eve Service

There will be a Christmas Eve Service in the North Parish Church as **7.00 pm**. Please note the time.

The Kirk Session would like to wish the congregation a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



A Listening Christmas Always

A few years after I left my secondary school in Manchester, I was invited to help out with the school's Christmas Fair and I decided to have a go at being Father Christmas. I had recently grown my first full beard and thought that I would enter into the role by rubbing flour into my growth. Though I say it myself, I looked rather splendid and certainly I attracted lots of custom.

I was enjoying myself enormously, bringing a sense of magic to so many young children, but I was mystified by one young boy who paid for a second visit and then astonishingly for a third. The presents on offer were really pretty pitiful, so I asked him why he was coming to see me so often. He answered simply: "I just love talking to you."

It was then that I realised that, in many households, parents do not encourage their children to talk and really listen to them. This was a lesson that I have taken with me throughout my life. So, at home, at work, socially, always encourage family, friends, colleagues to talk about themselves and their feelings – and really listen.

Christmas Quotes

"The one thing women don't want to find in their stockings on Christmas morning is their husband." – Joan Rivers

"One of the most glorious messes in the world is the mess created in the living room on Christmas day. Don't clean it up too quickly." – Andy Rooney

"Nothing's as mean as giving a little child something useful for Christmas." – Kin Hubbard

"Santa Claus has the right idea – visit people only once a year." – Victor Borge

"Christmas, here again. Let us raise a loving cup; Peace on earth, goodwill to men, and make them do the washing up." – Wendy Cope

Committee by the South Carrick Convenor.

On 18 Nov Mission Committee recommended Plan B, which will taken to Presbytery on 7 Dec 21.

Rev E J Ogston, Interim Moderator, Girvan South, Dailly & Barr
Dr J C Anderson, Interim Moderator, Girvan North

Flower Calendar 2022

I would like to thank those who provided the flowers in church these last few months. Having fresh flowers in church again after lockdown were much appreciated.

The 2022 Calendar will be available in the Vestibule during December. I suggest if you want a particular date you write your name in early.

Thank You, Agnes Gibson



F.W.O. Envelopes

The F.W.O. Envelopes for 2022 will be delivered during December. We would like to thank all those who choose to use the method to make their contribution to the Church. If anyone would like to receive a set of envelopes please contact Agnes Gibson Tel: 479206.

Presbytery Plan Progress

In May 2021 the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland passed the Presbytery Mission Plan Act 2021. This had the effect of erasing all Presbytery Missions Plans throughout Scotland and requiring each Presbytery to produce a new plan to be approved by Edinburgh by 31 Dec 2022. In setting up the plan the Faith Nurture Forum set the number of stipendiary minister posts for Ayr Presbytery as 20.

The Mission Committee of Ayr Presbytery appointed a small team to construct an Ayr Presbytery Mission Plan (Working Draft 1.1). This was presented to and approved by the Presbytery on 10 Aug 21.

The Plan used the four old Mission Focus Group areas. A number of salaried posts were allocated to each area together with a Plan A and Plan B which suggested how the posts could be used. A group could offer a further Plan for consideration which met the missional objectives, but if a group failed to agree on a plan by 1 Nov 2021 then Mission Committee would apply a plan based on Plan A.

South Mission Focus Group held a preliminary meeting on 1st September at which it was clear that the Group broke naturally into a North Carrick Group based on Maybole and a South Carrick Group based on Girvan.

For South Carrick, **Plan A** proposed that Ballantrae/Barr/Dailly/GirvanNorth/Girvan South/St Colmon unite to form a team ministry, with options for rural parishes (eg Dailly, Barr, St Colmon) becoming Local Mission Churches (LMC). **Plan B** proposed that Girvan North/Girvan South/Dailly/Barr unite, with Dailly and Barr becoming LMCs. In addition Ballantrae and St Colmon were to unite (currently they are linked).

After the meeting on 1st Sept representatives took the proposals to their respective Sessions for discussion. On 28th Sept the representatives came together again to discover if there was a common way forward.

Girvan South/Girvan North/Dailly/Barr found it difficult to prefer Plan A as against B. These churches took the view that they would accept the decision made by Ballantrae and St Colmon. Unfortunately Ballantrae and St Colmon did not agree – Ballantrae was strongly in favour of Plan B and St Colmon favoured Plan A. Without unanimity the decision will be referred to the Mission

Fundraising Appeal October 2021

Thanks to everyone who has handed in donations in response to our Fundraising Appeal. To date £1940 has been handed in and I have claimed back another £415 Gift Aid tax making a total of £2355. This is a wonderful response.

This appeal was part of the Church of Scotland's National Giving Day taking place across Scotland. The objective was to help churches recoup income lost due to the Pandemic and loss of fundraising events. All money raised by us has gone into our General Fund and has helped some way to make up for not having Coffee Mornings, Fayres, Concerts etc. However, it does not make up for the fellowship we have missed at these events.

Thank you all for your generosity and support during this difficult year. It is much appreciated by me and the members of the Kirk Session. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a safe, healthy 2022. God Bless.

Margaret Benson, Treasurer.

Baby and Toddler Group

We have continued to welcome little people in these strange times including a corps of regulars. As we approach the Christmas season, and a new variant is making itself known, sessions are now suspended until 1st February 2022 to keep everyone safe.

Merry Christmas and a better New Year to you all.

Prayer Topics for December

1. Leprosy Mission – Nepal

Pray for the protection of Anandaban Hospital from natural disasters i.e. floods and landslides. Pray for recovery from the massive funding crisis caused by Covid-19 when our local income dropped significantly for several months. Pray for the safety of Anandaban Hospital's kitchen staff and drivers. Pray too for the smooth operation of the hospital work and for the staff who are living in the hospital compound. There are also patients staying in hospital for a long time. Please pray for their inner healing.

2. Open Doors – China and Iran

Keep praying for imprisoned Uyghur pastor Alimjan Yimit, his wife Gulnur and their two sons as they spend a 13th Christmas apart. Alimjan's 15 year sentence is due to come to an end in 2023. Pray for an early release. Pray for families who are separated this Christmas because one or both parents are in prison for their faith. Pray especially for the children of these believers that God will comfort them and restore their parents to them.

3. Mission Aviation Fellowship.

Praise God that all people are created equal in His sight. Pray for all those who haven't been treated equally, including refugees in South Sudan and Uganda, the victims of violence in Myanmar and the D.R.C. and any others you may have heard about. Pray for African Inland Church (A.I.C.) missionaries Eddie and Rachel Anderson. M.A.F. flew tables to be used in a new centre, for outcast and abused women, called Village of Hope. Pray for equality in Kenya where so often women are treated as second class citizens and are at risk of suffering mental, physical and emotional hard from men.

4. With the current refugee crisis ever escalating pray that a solution may be found, so that people fleeing for their lives from countries where

war and violence are the norm, may be able to find a place to settle and call "home."

Continue to pray that God will bring an end to Covid-19 and that the new variant will not spread worldwide. Ask God to heal those infected and to strengthen and refresh those caring for them. Pray again for Wanda's healing and a Christmas blessing for her and for Glenn.

Pray for God's comfort and peace for all for whom this Christmas will hold poignant memories. Remember those in poverty and ask that their needs will be supplied.

Give thanks for the wonder of the amazing love of God, Creator of the universe, coming to earth as a helpless baby, born in a lowly stable with a manger for His cradle, that we might receive His salvation and eternal life. Pray that we may rejoice and worship the Lord in humility with deep gratitude and that our Christmas services will bring great glory to our King of kings.

