

The Church  
of Scotland

The  
North  
Star

### 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.**

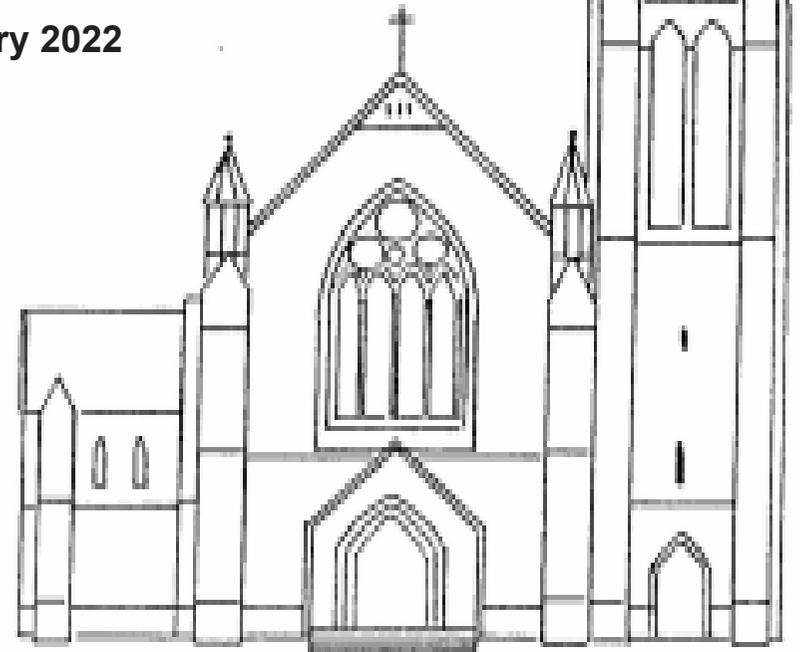
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 Girvan North Parish Church

#### ***EDITOR'S NOTE:***

All articles for the February 2022 issue of the Church Magazine should be given to the Editor by Sunday 30th January 2022

January 2022



Girvan North Parish Church

Girvan North Parish Church Charity No. SC007347

## Hedgehogs

Hello, I'm a volunteer at 2 local rescues and a Hedgehog Champion with the British Hedgehog Preservation Society/Peoples' Trust for Endangered Species.

How long is it since you last saw a hedgehog? The UK has lost a third of its population since 2000, and their numbers are declining as fast as tigers in the wild. They are now officially classed as vulnerable to extinction in the IUCN's Red List for British Mammals. There are many reasons and it's sad to think that, for future generations, such a fate would make this lovely, prickly God's creature only a character in storybooks. Here are some simple tips to help them.

1. Link your garden with a Hedgehog Highway. Hedgehogs travel between 1-2 km a night searching for food and a mate. Leaving a small gap in your fence the size of a CD case will let hedgehogs through but be too small for pets. BHPT/PTES sell snazzy little recyclable Hedgehog Highway signs, for a few pounds. Ask your neighbours to do the same!
2. Create a wild corner in your garden so they can snuffle around for insects.
3. Tidy up netting and litter which can trap hedgehogs due to their spines. Even rubber bands dropped by the postie can become embedded in their skin, causing a slow, painful death.
4. Put out food and water. You can supplement their diet with wet dog or cat food (preferably not fish based). No bread, milk or mealworms, which are all extremely bad for them. For those who are into simple DIY you can make a feeding station to stop other animals having a free supper - details on the BHPS website/YouTube
5. Stop using chemicals especially slug pellets. Hedgehogs are a gardener's best friend as they eat slugs as well as many other beasties which would otherwise be devouring your prize flowers and vegetables
6. Check before mowing or strimming. Hedgehogs often sleep in long grass or hedges during daytime and won't run away if they hear a mower, resulting in horrific injuries or death. Use gloves to move a single hog to safety. If there's a family, call the BHPS

for advice on 01584 890801, the SSPCA on 0300 999 999 or Google to find your local Hedgehog Rescue.

7. Be careful with bonfires or simply burning leaves. Piles of debris are irresistible to a hedgehog looking for somewhere to hibernate or nest – build it on the day of burning to avoid a tragic end, or if you have to build it before then check carefully with a pole or broom, not a spade or fork. They are usually in the centre.
8. Make a home for hedgehogs. A log pile is one of the best features for encouraging all kinds of wildlife, and easy to make. It will encourage insects and provide nesting opportunities all year around. Alternatively, you can make your own hedgehog house – download instructions from the BHPS website.
9. Keep an eye out for hedgehogs when driving at night, & let it get over the road safely if you see one. If you see it too late try to steer so it will pass under the middle of the car where it is least likely to be harmed.
10. Make your pond safe. Hedgehogs are adept swimmers but if they can't climb out of steep-sided ponds or pools they will drown. Use a pile of large stones or piece of wood to create a simple ramp.
11. Record hedgehog sightings, including dead ones, on The Big Hedgehog Map website. This is important in building up a picture of where they are most active & how we can encourage local populations. A hedgehog seen during the day is usually in need of help & you should contact one of the organisations above. If you'd like to do more, you can become a Hedgehog Champion by registering on the Hedgehog Street website, where you can find lots of resources to make your gardens, neighbourhood and Parish, hedgehog-friendly zones.

***Moira Grant  
Falkirk***

## January Newsletter for Girvan North.

**Dear friends,** it is another year. Hopefully, a better one than the last one was, and a better year than the year before. The pandemic has forced us all to reassess our lives, I believe, for the better. People now more readily look out for each other rather than look out for themselves. Whether as volunteers administering vaccines and booster shots, or NHS workers sacrificing so much of themselves to care for their patients, or all of us reaching out to the stranger. Each of us has reassessed our lives, focussing on what makes us better people. We do this as we learn to live with the virus. It is a “new normal” most of us have accepted.

None of us are perfect, but if we realise this we can become better people, or at least try to be. What will 2022 be like? Where has the time gone? For portions of last year, and the year before, we have put our lives on hold. So many of us could not attend funerals; weddings and baptisms were postponed; we could not see our family and our friends; the economy has suffered, there was the problem of loneliness; there was the fear of getting the virus or giving it to others; there was the frustration of not getting appointments; and there was the loss of our independence. We thought we were through the worst of this, and then a new variant, “Omicron”, appeared..... Is 2022 going to be any different? I believe so, even with new variants emerging. We have the vaccine; the “boosters”; brilliant scientists who will modify the vaccine, if necessary, to any new variants emerging; a generally more understanding and compliant public who accept the restrictions placed upon them, which have eased over time; and more people wanting to get vaccinated.

We still need more people to come forward. We do of course have many who share conspiracy theories, but that is all they are: simplistic theories with no basis in truth. We also have the Church. Our faith hopefully has remained strong whilst we have been under so much stress. Girvan North Parish Church has been so fortunate to have such a talented group of Elders who serve it so well, and a

generous congregation who have given so much of their time, talents, and money towards it. We have a lot to be thankful for. Our saviour is our faith. For many of us, it has grown, and many of us without a faith, now have one. God and Jesus Christ’s involvement in all of our lives is now seen very positively. The power of prayer is vital as well. Yes, we have been led by science during this pandemic, but many scientists have a strong faith, such as Jason Leitch, the National Clinical Director, and it is this faith and science which underpins all of their work. So please let us praise the scientists who have developed the vaccine, who thankfully advise the Government, and who have convinced most of us that caution is very good practice. At the same time, let us also praise the Church for leading Worship, for bringing people together, for feeding the hungry, for generously giving to many charities, and for convincing their congregations that hope remains.

Hope banishes the fears many might have. Before the vaccine was developed, many were fearful. Some genuinely feared for the future as we lived through extraordinary times, with many suffering. Hopefully 2022 represents a fresh start for us all. New Resolutions must be kept. It must be less about what we want, and more about what God and our neighbour wants. We have so much to look forward to during 2022.

**Kind regards, Glenn.**

## Church Security

Following the break in at the Church a few weeks ago and for increased security reasons, please ask permission from the Kirk Session or an office bearer before borrowing or removing any item from the church premises.

Thank you.

## 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

The Rotary Club of Girvan closed down at the end of 2021. Used inkjet cartridges will now only be collected in aid of the Leprosy Mission Scotland. It needs three particular makes for this purpose. Hewlett Packard (HP), Lexmark and Dell.

The Church will post them off. Please continue handing in the three names makes for all cartridges, into the box at the front door vestibule.

Many thanks for all cartridges previously given. TLM Scotland play a part in the exceptional work of caring and curing the dreaded disease of leprosy. **Thank You – Norma Logan**

## Blythswood Care

The Blythswood Charity Shop in Prestwick has closed, with no guarantee of opening in the area in the near future.

We will no longer be able to collect unwanted or unused donations from the congregation.

This should not affect the Shoe Box Appeal, as a special uplift is made every year.

## Treasurer's Report

I am presently busy completing the 2021 Accounts. The accounts will then be presented to the Kirk Session for their approval and will also be checked by an independent examiner. The accounts are then sent to Ayr Presbytery, to the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh and to OSCR (Office of Scottish Charity Regulator). Copies of the 2021 Accounts will be available to church members in due course.

On looking at the Accounts, my initial reaction is that 2021 has been a better year financially for Girvan North than 2020 despite the church being closed for 12 weeks January – March 2020. This improved position is mainly due to the following:-

- Our faithful members continuing to give generously and I thank them most sincerely for that.
- The amount of tax I have been able to reclaim from the Inland Revenue from members who have signed up to Gift Aid.
- A decrease in our expenditure. Two years ago the Kirk Session decided to only spend on essential repairs/ maintenance until the Church of Scotland had decided whether Girvan North or Girvan South Parish Church was to be retained after the Union of the churches. Hence the drop in our expenditure.

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Of our 486 members there are many who do not contribute anything to the work and upkeep of our church. I appeal to them at this time to support Girvan North in one of the following ways:-

- By using weekly Freewill Offering Envelopes
- By setting up a monthly bank standing order.
- By making a donation, either in cash or by cheque, payable to Girvan North Parish Church of Scotland.

I wish you all a very happy, healthy safe 2022.

God Bless,

**Margaret Benson, Church Treasurer.**

## The Smartest

A doctor, a lawyer, a little boy and a priest were out for a Sunday afternoon flight on a small private plane. Suddenly, the plane developed engine trouble. In spite of the best efforts of the pilot, the plane started to go down. Finally, the pilot grabbed a parachute, yelled to the passengers that they had better jump, and then he bailed out.

Unfortunately, there were only three parachutes remaining. The doctor grabbed one and said "I'm a doctor, I save lives, so I must live," and jumped out.

The lawyer then said, "I'm a lawyer and lawyers are the smartest people in the world. I deserve to live." He also grabbed a parachute and jumped.

The priest looked at the little boy and said, "My son, I've lived a long and full life. You are young and have your whole life ahead of you. Take the last parachute and live in peace."

The little boy handed the parachute back to the priest and said, "Not to worry, Father. The 'smartest man in the world' just took off with my back pack."

## A CAT GOES TO HEAVEN

A cat dies and goes to Heaven. God meets him at the gate and says, 'you have been a good cat all of these years. Anything you desire is yours, all you have to do is ask.' The cat says, 'Well, I lived all my life with a poor family on a farm and had to sleep on hardwood floors.' God says, 'Say no more.' And instantly, a fluffy pillow appears.

A few days later, 6 mice are killed in a tragic accident and they go to Heaven. God meets them at the gate with the same offer that He made the cat. The mice said, 'All our lives we've had to run. Cats, dogs and even women with brooms have chased us. If we could only have a pair of roller skates, we wouldn't have to run anymore.' God says, 'Say no more.' And instantly, each mouse is fitted with a beautiful pair of tiny roller skates.

About a week later, God decides to check and see how the cat is doing. The cat is sound asleep on his new pillow. God gently wakes him and asks, 'How are you doing? Are you happy here?' The cat yawns and stretches and says, 'Oh, I've never been happier in my life. And those Meals on Wheels you've been sending over are the best!'

## Prayer Topics January

### 1. The Leprosy Mission – Myanmar

Pray for the TLM Myanmar prosthesis, orthotics and orthopaedic shoes team and mobile workshops as they continue production and services for people affected by leprosy and people with disabilities. Pray for the successful completion of the workshop building and the installation of the machines and equipment. Pray that the inclusive Advisory Team can promote technical capacity and share their experiences with other partner organisations.

### 2. Open Doors – North Korea

In 2020 North Korea closed its border to try to keep out Covid. Although borders have partially reopened, the situation remains desperate with over half of North Koreans only able to eat one meal a day. Dissatisfaction with Kim Jong-Un is mounting among officials. Ask God to intervene to save people from starvation and raise up just and righteous leaders for the nation.

### 3. Mission Aviation Fellowship

MAF seeks to bring about change in Christ's name. This means serving those who means serving those who acknowledge Him and those who don't. MAF seeks to help all those in need, regardless of belief. Pray for our teams in Bangladesh, Myanmar, Timor-Leste and other non-Christian majority countries. Pray for the medical safari teams MAF flies in Tanzania which bring healing to isolated communities. Health gives people the freedom to work, look after their families and live free from pain

4. Give thanks for the blessings of the past year and pray for people for whom it was a particularly hard time. Remember all workers under severe stress because of the pandemic. Ask that an answer may be found to the continuing spread and mutations of the virus.

Pray for new enthusiasm for the work of the church worldwide in 2022, to meet the need of all people for God. Let each of us pray for a new desire for a deeper knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, a greater love for Him and for His Word, a sense of His presence and power in our daily living and a real burden to see others coming into a personal relationship with God. To Him be all the glory!

### Ladies Afternoon Badminton Club

We had hoped to start on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022, but with this new variant sessions are now suspended until Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2022 to keep everyone safe.

Best wishes to all for a safe and healthy New Year 2022.

Nancy Stewart

### GIVE ME A BREAK

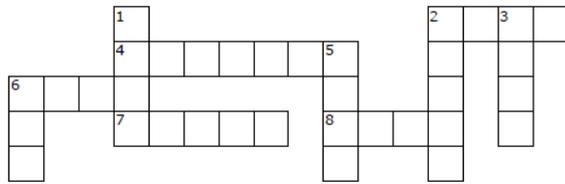
An atheist was spending a quiet day fishing when suddenly his boat was attacked by the Loch Ness monster. In one easy flip, the beast tossed him and his boat high into the air. Then it opened its mouth to swallow both.

As the man sailed head over heels, he cried out, 'Oh, my God! Help me!'

At once, the ferocious attack scene froze in place, and as the atheist hung in mid-air, a booming voice came down from the clouds, 'I thought you didn't believe in Me!'

Come on God, give me a break!!' the man pleaded. 'Two minutes ago I didn't believe in the Loch Ness monster either!'

# Crossword Puzzle



## ACROSS

2. The wise men who visited Jesus and Mary and Joseph shortly after Jesus was born
4. A substance that is burned to produce a sweet smell
6. To come into existence by birth
7. Presents which are given without cost to the one receiving them
8. A twinkling point of light in the night sky

## DOWN

1. A male ruler of a country
2. A sticky substance with a strong smell which is used in making perfume
3. A valuable, shiny, yellow metal used to make coins and jewellery
5. The direction which is opposite to west
6. To kneel or bend the head or body forward as a show of respect

|       |      |      |       |         |
|-------|------|------|-------|---------|
| MAGI  | BOW  | STAR | GOLD  | KING    |
| GIFTS | EAST | BORN | MYRRH | INCENSE |



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# Children's Worship Bulletin

## The Wise Men Seek Jesus

Matthew 2:1-12

## Word Search

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

|           |       |           |         |        |
|-----------|-------|-----------|---------|--------|
| PRIESTS   | MYRRH | BETHLEHEM | KING    | CHRIST |
| GOD       | CHILD | HOUSE     | INCENSE | MARY   |
| STAR      | MAGI  | TEACHERS  | WORSHIP | MOTHER |
| WORSHIPED | EAST  | SEARCH    | BORN    | HEROD  |

Church Name  
Address  
City

# Multiple Choice

# Color Me!

Choose the word that best matches the definition.

- \_\_\_ 1. The wise men who searched for Jesus  
A. Herod B. priests C. myrrh D. Magi
- \_\_\_ 2. To come into existence by birth  
A. die B. born C. rule D. king
- \_\_\_ 3. A male ruler of a country  
A. king B. queen C. prophet D. Magi
- \_\_\_ 4. A twinkling point of light in the night sky  
A. earth B. star C. sun D. moon
- \_\_\_ 5. The direction which is opposite to west  
A. east B. north C. star D. south
- \_\_\_ 6. To kneel or bend the head or body forward as a show of respect  
A. born B. incense C. bow D. east
- \_\_\_ 7. Presents which are given without cost to the one receiving them  
A. jewels B. rewards C. Magi D. gifts
- \_\_\_ 8. A valuable, shiny, yellow metal used to make coins and jewellery  
A. incense B. silver C. gold D. myrrh
- \_\_\_ 9. A substance that is burned to produce a sweet smell  
A. gold B. silver C. wax D. incense
- \_\_\_ 10. A substance with a strong smell which is used in making perfume  
A. gold B. myrrh C. incense D. silver



**The Magi bring gifts**

