


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.**

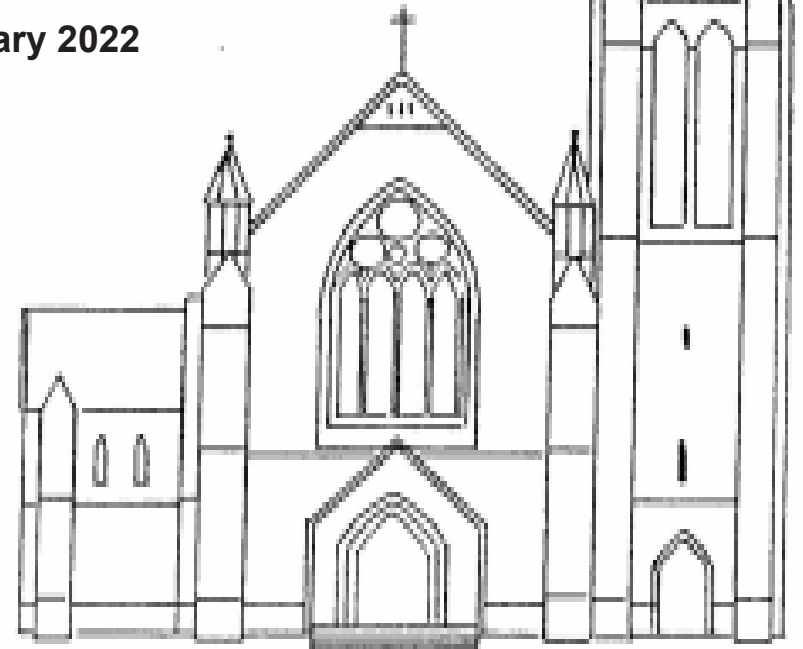
Contact details: Telephone: 712672
Email: churchoffice12@btconnect.com
www.girvannorthparishchurch.org.uk

 Girvan North Parish Church

EDITOR'S NOTE:

All articles for the March 2022 issue of the Church Magazine should be given to the Editor by Sunday 27th February 2022

February 2022



Girvan North Parish Church

Girvan North Parish Church Charity No. SC007347

Time for another Quiz!

The answer to each clue is a musical instrument.

Correct answers will be in March North Star.

- 1 A flower
.....
- 2 Sounds like signs
.....
- 3 Nothing follows a prisoner's room
.....
- 4 Cook the books
.....
- 5 May be isosceles or acute
.....
- 6 Useful container for ice cream
.....
- 7 Found under the toilet
.....
- 8 Do motorists use this in Paris?
.....
- 9 One way to catch a fish
.....
- 10 The tongue
.....
- 11 Video, tape or cassette.....
.....
- 12 Proceeds of crime
.....
- 13 "Blimey! English!" exclaimed the Frenchman
.....

- 14 One and two hundred in mint
.....
- 15 Can't decide? --Swap 4 for 26
.....
- 16 Reserve smoking devices
.....
- 17 Cheap blow
.....
- 18 Sounds untruthful
.....
- 19 Hidden in urban job!
.....
- 20 One way to beat your opponent's card!
.....

Anagrams

- 21 MRAIBUTOEN
.....
- 22 PEKINGCELLOS
.....
- 23 BEDSABLOUS
.....
- 24 OCRODICAN
.....
- 25 RYUDHGDRYU
.....

Enjoy!

February Newsletter for Girvan North.

The Woman at the Well - (John 4:4-26).

Dear friends, Jesus and His disciples were travelling north, from Jerusalem to Galilee, taking the quickest route through Samaria. Jesus was exhausted, and thirsty, and sat by Jacob's Well whilst His disciples visited the village of Sychar, half a mile away, for food. It was midday, the hottest part of the day, and a Samaritan woman visited the well at this strange time, to draw water.

In His meeting with the woman at the well, Jesus broke three Jewish customs. First, He spoke to **a woman**. Second, He spoke to **a Samaritan woman**. Third, He asked the woman to get Him some water using **her** cup, making Him **unclean**. Jesus' behaviour shocked the woman at the well.

Jesus then told the woman He could give her the "living water", so she would never thirst again. This "living water" was the eternal life only Jesus could provide. The Samaritan woman did not immediately understand Jesus, believing He could save her returning to the well for more water. Jesus' message was far more profound than that.

Although Jesus and the woman had never met, He still knew she had married five times before, and was now with a man who was not her husband. The woman recognised Him as a prophet and told Him the Samaritans had worshipped on Mount Gerizim, but the Jews had said it should be Jerusalem. Jesus replied, **where** you worship is less important than **how** you worship – "in the Spirit and in truth." Yes, the Jews would be saved, but the Samaritans would soon be saved too. She believed the coming Messiah would explain everything. Jesus said He was already here – she was speaking to Him! The woman thought about the meaning of her meeting with Jesus, as the disciples returned, after our passage concludes. They too would be shocked that Jesus had spoken to a Samaritan woman.

However, this Samaritan woman was spreading the Word that Jesus was the Christ. The disciples would harvest the souls which the prophets and John the Baptist had sown. The Samaritans believed in Jesus not just because they **heard** the Word, but because they had **seen it** themselves. We only have the power of the Gospel message to convince others to be future disciples of Christ. We need to impress everyone with our message of hope.

The Samaritans were a mixed-race people who married the Assyrians in the past. The Jews hated this cultural mixing, the Samaritans having their own bible and their temple of worship on Mount Gerizim. The woman drew water from the well at the hottest part of the day, rather than in the cooler morning, or evening, because she was shunned by the other women for her immorality. Despite this, Jesus accepted her for who she was, and so should we. By furthering His mission to the Samaritans Jesus made it clear He was not just ministering to the Jews. This mission was continued by His disciples once Jesus was gone. It is a lesson to us all to minister to everyone no matter who they are, or what they have done. Although Jesus was rejected by those in power, it was the outcasts that accepted Him as Messiah.

Has much changed today after this pandemic? Those who have lost so much know that they will never lose Jesus Christ. He will never abandon us if we never abandon Him.

Our natural reaction is to judge everyone through our own prejudices, explicitly or implicitly expressed. Sometimes we do not realise we hold these views until it is pointed out by others. Jesus loved everyone no matter their past, and no matter their future. So, we must treat everyone the same, as worthy recipients of this Gospel message of hope.

Best wishes, Glenn.

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.

Visually Impaired Group:

If anyone with a sight impairment would like to come to the Girvan and District Visually Impaired Person's Group, you will be made very welcome. They meet every Thursday between 1pm and 3pm in the Carrick Buildings Learning Centre, in Henrietta Street.

Please contact Mrs Jillian Nelson, the Group's Secretary, if you are interested in coming. (Telephone: 01465 871221)

Funny

Muldoon lived alone in the Irish countryside with only a pet dog for company. One day the dog died, and Muldoon went to the parish priest and asked, "Father, me dog is dead. Could ya' be saying' a mass for the poor creature?"

Father Patrick replied, "I'm afraid not; we cannot have services for an animal in the church. But there are some Baptists down the lane, and there's no tellin' what they believe. Maybe they'll do something for the creature."

Muldoon said, "I'll go right away Father. Do ya' think \$5,000 is enough to donate to them for the service?"

Father Patrick exclaimed, "Sweet Mary, Mother of Jesus! Why did ya' not tell me the dog was Catholic?"

Food Bank

The retiring offering at our joint Girvan North and Girvan South Christmas Eve Service raised £300 for the Food Bank at Milestone Christian Fellowship. Rev Adam Oellermann has acknowledged our donation with this lovely letter.

“Thank you so much for your donation cheque to the Food Bank from the joint Christmas Eve Service. It was a real blessing and encouragement to be reminded of the support and the prayers of the South and North Parish Churches, especially over a very busy time for the Food Bank. I would be most grateful if you could pass along our warmest thanks to all involved.

I am grateful for your thoughtfulness and care in thinking of us. As I am aware of the radical reorganisation of Church of Scotland presbytery and parish structures nationwide, the North Parish and South Parish Churches here in Girvan have been very much in my prayers of late. It is such a joy to know that your thoughts and prayers (and practical actions!) are likewise with us.

We are truly blessed to enjoy such harmony among the churches in Girvan.

Every blessing to you and your congregation

Rev Adam Ollermann

Treasurer's Report

Since I became Church Treasurer in July 2019 there have been only 9 months when our church attendances and church offerings have not been affected by lockdowns or Covid restrictions. Throughout all these difficult months, members have supported our church with their offerings and donations. On behalf of the Kirk Session I send our sincere thanks.

As we look forward to a more normal 2022, hopefully we will see many of our members returning to Sunday Services. On Sunday 6th February we will have hospitality and fellowship again in the big hall after each Sunday Service. It would also be good to be able to sing without masks and hopefully we will be able to do that soon too. We look forward to welcoming you back in the near future because we have missed you.

Kirk Session

There will be a Session Meeting on Monday 21st February at 7.00 pm in the Lesser Hall.

Prayer Topics February

1. The Leprosy Mission – Nigeria

For over 5 years, Green Worship has supported an education project for children in leprosy affected communities through TLM Nigeria. Please pray for God's continuous blessings on the children and Green Worship.

2. Mission Aviation Fellowship

God's timing is perfect. How amazing it is that more than 20,000 copies of His Word in Chadian Arabic, printed in China, arrived in Chad just before the country encountered political challenges! Pray that the arrival of these Bibles will bring peace to the hearts and minds of those who read them. May they be strengthened by the arrival of God's Word in their own language. May they also be an agent of connection and revelation as they share God's love with their neighbours.

3. Open Doors - Afghanistan

Living in such a hostile environment has made fear and anxiety a constant companion for Afghan locals. Aside from the relentless violence and threats of extremist attacks, secret believers face much higher stakes. Their faith in Jesus alone can have them killed. Pray for secret believers to find rest in Christ. Pray that they will surrender their worries to Jesus and fully entrust their future to Him.

4. Pray for underprivileged people needing care, the disabled, the sick, the mentally ill, the frail elderly and those with addictions that all may be able to access the care they need. Give thanks for carers and charities who aid these people. Pray for God's comfort and strength for those recently bereaved.

Pray for the politicians that they would concentrate on crucial issues and the situation in Ukraine and Russia instead of arguing and bringing accusations against each other. May they make wise decisions which will benefit the country.

Uphold Glenn and Wanda. Pray for our church presbyteries as they seek God's answers to the Church's needs in these turbulent times. Pray that people who were unable to attend services in the earlier stages of the pandemic will return now and that there will be a new spirit of hope and anticipation in our worship as we look to the Lord to do great things in our midst.