

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.**

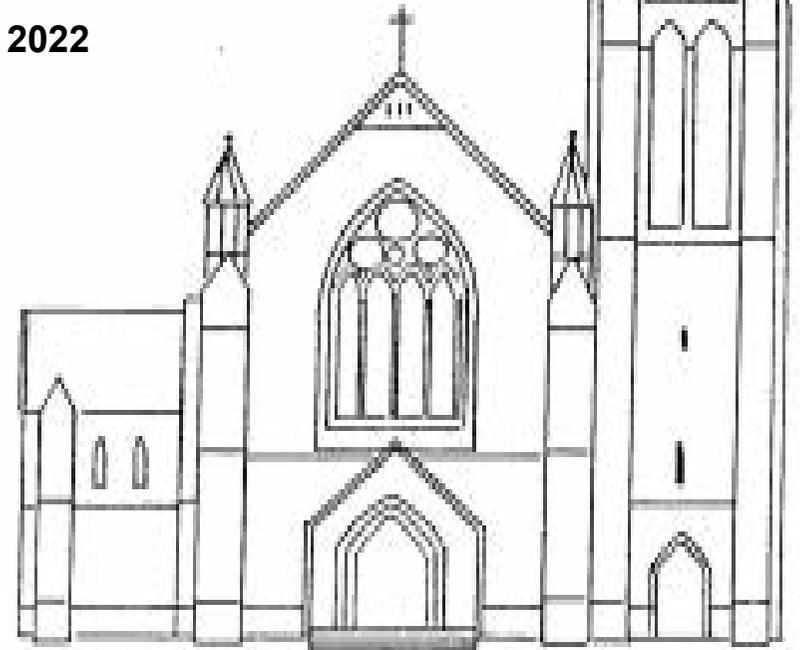
Contact details: Telephone: 712672
Email: churchoffice12@btconnect.com
www.girvannorthparishchurch.org.uk

 Girvan North Parish Church

EDITOR'S NOTE:

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

March 2022



Girvan North Parish Church

Girvan North Parish Church Charity No. SC007347

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.

A preacher was completing a temperance sermon.

With great expression he said, "If I had all the beer in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river!" The congregation nodded their approval.

With even greater emphasis he added, "And if I had all the wine in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river, too!" The people clapped and were saying "Amen." And then finally, he concluded, "And if I had all the whiskey in the world, I'd take it and throw it into the river!"

As he sat down, the song leader then stood up quite cautiously and announced, "For our closing song, let us sing Hymn #365: "Shall We Gather at the River."

Paint

The church was badly in need of a coat of paint. So the pastor decided he'd do the job himself. But all he had was one bucket of paint.

So he got a bunch of buckets and some water, and he thinned the paint enough to cover the entire church. Then he spent all day painting. That night it rained—very hard—and washed all the paint off. The pastor was quite discouraged and asked God, 'Why...why God, did you let it rain and wash off all my hard work?'

To which God thundered his reply, 'Repaint! Repaint! And thin no more!'

Pancakes

A pastor's wife was preparing pancakes for her young sons. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their Mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. If Jesus were sitting here, He would say, "Let my brother have the first pancake. I can wait." The oldest boy turned to his younger brother and said, "You be Jesus.

March Newsletter for Girvan North.

Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead – (John 11: 1 - 45).

Dear friends, Jesus conducted many miracles throughout the Gospels. There were thirty-seven in total. John's Gospel contains the fewest number of miracles recorded. There are only eight mentioned. We have Jesus turning water into wine – (2:1-11); Jesus healing an Official's son – (4: 43-54); Jesus healing an invalid at Bethsaida – (5:1-15); Jesus feeding the 5,000 – (6:1-15); Jesus walking on the water – (6:16-21); Jesus healing a man born blind – (9:1-12); Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead – (11:1-45); and the second miraculous catch of fish – (21:4-11). This contrasts with Matthew's twenty-two miracles; Mark's twenty miracles; and Luke's twenty-one miracles. I would say that Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead was the most impressive miracle which Jesus performed. Only someone with such extraordinary powers could achieve this miraculous feat. Let me now examine this miracle in more detail to understand the context of this story.

From this passage in John's Gospel, (11:1-45), we learn that Lazarus was from Bethany and was very unwell. He was the brother of Mary and Martha. Mary was the same lady who poured perfume on Jesus' feet and wiped them with her hair. From this passage we learn that Jesus was a friend of the family. Despite this, Jesus waited a further two days before returning to Judea. The question was: why would He do this if He was a friend? The answer appears to be that Jesus knew that He was able to restore Lazarus to life again. The disciples worried that Jesus' intention to return to Judea put everyone's life in jeopardy. Jesus and His disciples were speaking at cross purposes. Jesus was speaking about raising Lazarus from the dead but His disciples thought Lazarus was merely sleeping. It was only Thomas who wanted to risk his life for Jesus.

When Jesus returned to Bethany, Martha was quite indignant as she failed to understand why Jesus came so late. Martha believed that Lazarus would still be alive if Jesus arrived in Bethany much sooner. However, her faith in God meant that everything was not yet lost. Martha speaks about Lazarus rising in the resurrection on the last day; Jesus speaks about Him being the "resurrection and the life". Believing in Jesus means that an individual will live even though they die and will experience eternal life. The question is, of course: "Do we believe this"?

Martha certainly believed this and hopefully we all believe this too. Martha then told Mary of Jesus' arrival and now it was Mary's turn to speak to Jesus. Although Mary falls at Jesus' feet, she still is upset that Jesus' late arrival has resulted in her brother's death. Jesus is visibly upset by her anguish and Jesus weeps. Some of the Jewish bystanders can see how much Jesus loved Lazarus but there were still some who could not understand how Jesus could allow such a close friend to die. Are we, like the crowd, unable to accept Jesus' complete divinity? Martha still had reservations that Jesus could restore Lazarus to life again when Jesus asks for the stone to be removed from the cave entrance. Martha was more concerned with the physical condition of the brother she had lost rather than the brother Jesus would restore to life again. Jesus questions Martha on her apparent lack of faith. Would our faith be any better? Jesus then speaks with God to demonstrate His divinity. Jesus commanded Lazarus to come out of the tomb and told the crowd to remove Lazarus' grave clothes. Jesus managed to convince the crowd, and all of us, of His divinity. They, and we, should have known that anyway.

What can we learn from this amazing miracle? The first thing we can say is that Jesus can achieve anything He wants to do. This includes raising someone from the dead. Yes, we can see that Jesus upset Mary and Martha by not returning to Bethany sooner; maybe we would react similarly. This would however show that our faith, like Mary's and Martha's, was not as certain as it should have been. Even Jesus' trusted disciples, as well as the crowd, did not seem to understand the extent of Jesus' powers. Most of the disciples and some of the crowd were too inward-looking. Are we? Would we similarly act in a more selfish rather than a more selfless way? Who would have thought that it would have been "doubting Thomas", of all people, who would show such courage? Even when Jesus was in the process of raising Lazarus to life, Martha could only think of the Lazarus who died rather than the Lazarus who would be raised to life. It is always better to have faith in what Jesus can do before He demonstrates these powers for all of us to see. Tim Keller expresses it perfectly: "Jesus' miracles are not just a challenge to our minds but a promise to our hearts".

Best wishes, Glenn.

March Quiz

The answer to each clue is a Book of the Bible.

- 1 Occupation
- 2 1,2,3,4,5
- 3 Found in court
- 4 Divisions of a play
- 5 Hidden in nicest herb!
- 6 1960s Rock Band
- 7 Spot or stain
- 8 Records of events
- 9 Do they belong to Samuel?
- 10 Henry and George
- 11 10,21,4,5
- 12 Mass departure
- 13 eg Practice makes perfect
- 14 Disclosure
- 15 Found in a mosaic!
- 16 Caesar and Hadrian
- 17 Weeping and wailing
- 18 MAHEHNIE (Anag)
- 19 HIPSLIPNAIP (Anag)
- 20 MONSOONOFLOGOS (Anag)

Enjoy!

Treasurer's Report

The Receipts and Payments Account for 2021 was circulated to elders for scrutiny prior to the Kirk Session meeting on Monday 21st February where the accounts were unanimously approved.

These accounts will be presented to the congregation at the Stated Annual Meeting on Sunday 20th March. There will be an opportunity for members to ask questions.

During the months of January and February our income was £12,128.26 which included £3021.86 of reclaimed Gift Aid tax. Our expenditure for these two months was £8473.11 which included £2972.70 sent to Edinburgh for Ministries and Mission.

Care For the Mother-in-law

A man, his wife and his mother-in-law went on vacation to the Holy Land. While they were there, the mother-in-law passed away.

The undertaker told them, 'You can have her shipped home for £5000, or you can bury her here in the Holy Land for £150.'

The man thought about it and told him he would just have her shipped home. The undertaker asked, 'Why would you spend £5000 to ship your mother-in-law home, when it would be wonderful to have her buried here and spend only £150?'

The man replied, 'a man died here 2000 years ago, was buried here, and three days later he rose from the dead.

I just can't take that chance.'

Kirk Session News

At the Kirk Session meeting on 21st February, the following business was discussed and agreed:-

- Girvan North and Girvan South Kirk Sessions have decided that the manse of Girvan North at 36 The Avenue should be used for incoming minister.
- Mr Derek McWilliam would be asked to continue keeping the manse garden in order from April to October.
- Salaries of Church Officer, Secretary and Organists would be increased from 1st April by 4.2% in line with the increase in the Living Wage.
- Niall Mearns would be asked to tune the grand piano and 2 further pianos.
- The Interim Moderator presented 2 documents. Mission Plan and Basis of Union. These were fully discussed and approved.
- The next Kirk Session meeting was arranged for Monday 14th March at 7.00 pm.
- The Stated Annual Meeting for the congregation was arranged for Sunday 20th March at 11.00 am.
- The next Service of Holy Communion will be held on Sunday 26th June 2022.

Missing the Church Service Church or Golf?

Father Lewis woke up Sunday morning and realizing it was an exceptionally

beautiful and sunny early spring day, decided he just had to play golf. So... he told the Associate Pastor that he was feeling sick and persuaded him to say Mass for him that day.

As soon as the Associate Pastor left the room, Father Lewis headed out of town to a golf course about forty miles away.

This way he knew he wouldn't accidentally meet anyone he knew from his parish. Setting up on the first tee, he was alone. After all, it was Sunday morning and everyone else was in church!

At about this time, Saint Peter leaned over to the Lord while looking down from the heavens and exclaimed, "You're not going to let him get away with this, are you?"

The Lord sighed, and said, "No, I guess not."

Just then Father Lewis hit the ball and it shot straight towards the pin, dropping just short of it, rolled up and fell into the hole.

IT WAS A 430 YARD HOLE-in-ONE!

St. Peter was astonished. He looked at the Lord and asked, "Why did you let him do that?"

The Lord smiled and replied, "Who's he going to tell?"

Prayer Topics March

1. The Leprosy Mission – Nepal

The HEAL Nepal project targets the successful integration of lymphatic filarasis and leprosy services. Pray for continued success for HEAL Nepal. Also pray for the successful training of health workers, medical officers and female community health volunteers, as well as skin camps in HEAL Nepal districts.

2. Mission Aviation Fellowship

Praise God for MAF's Head Guard who's been producing crutches for mission hospitals for eight years. Zam Moise says : "First I buy the wood, the tools and the glue. Sometimes, when I'm making an order, the other MAF guards help me with varnishing and sanding the wood". Pray that many Guardians will benefit from Zam's valuable self-taught ministry.

The devastating effect of Chad's war with neighbouring Libya remains in the form of unexploded ordnance. Please pray for the work of Mines Advisory Group. Their personnel, aided by MAF flights, are clearing explosives in the Harignala minefield.

3. Open Doors - Yemen

Yemen is suffering from one of the greatest humanitarian crises in the world – but Christians are even more vulnerable because relief is distributed by local Muslim leaders who often deliberately neglect anybody suspect of not being a devout Muslim. Pray for secret Christians who live under constant threat because of their faith, that they may receive courage, wisdom and boldness.

4. Pray for the people of Ukraine. Ask God to strengthen their forces so that they will be able to withstand the Russian forces and bring the war swiftly to an end. Remember the Afghan people too, suffering

under the Taliban rule.

Pray for wisdom for our government as they make new laws and change existing ones, some of which are totally opposed to God's standards and laws for daily living. May they not be passed and be seen for what they really are, the work of the Evil One. Pray that the Church will have more power in our own communities and that we may be prepared to stand up and speak out against all evil.

Give thanks to God and pray for all our office bearers in the Church. Pray for Marie and Lorna at the organ, Heather in the Sunday School, Janette in the office, Anne as she looks after the church, the flower ladies, the tea and coffee team, those who run the sound system and last, but not least, Glenn, as he conducts the worship each week. Pray for all members of our congregation that our Christian living might be acceptable and honourable to our God, Who is worthy of all our praises.

Answers to Quiz in February North Star.

Musical Instruments.

1 Viola 2 Cymbals 3 Cello 4 Fiddle 5 Triangle

6 Cornet 7 Panpipes 8 French Horn 9 Castanet

10 Mouth Organ 11 Recorder 12 Lute

13 Cor Anglais 14 Piccolo 15 Zither 16 Bagpipes

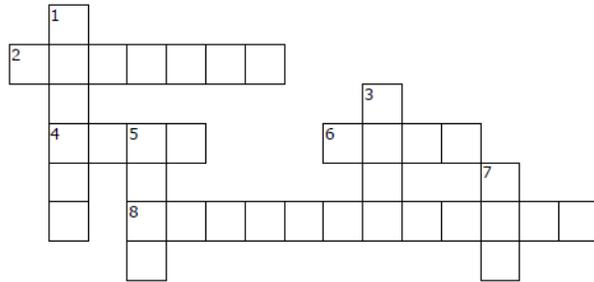
17 Penny Whistle 18 Lyre 19 Banjo 20 Trumpet

21 Tambourine 22 Glockenspiel

23 Double Bass 24 Accordion 25 Hurdy Gurdy

Hope you enjoyed!

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

2. A man that Jesus raised from the dead
4. A place where someone is buried
6. To be physically ill; not well or healthy
8. Rising from the dead or returning to life

DOWN

1. One of Lazarus' two sisters
3. To be alive or have life
5. Woman who poured perfume on Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair
7. To stop living

TOMB LIVE	MARTHA RESURRECTION	DIE LAZARUS	MARY SICK
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Children's Worship Bulletin

Jesus Raises Lazarus

John 11:1-45

Word Search

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

MARY	WAKE	SICK	LAZARUS	BROTHER
JESUS	STONE	DISCIPLES	LIFE	BELIEVE
PRAYED	WEEPING	GLORY	MARTHA	RISE
ENTRANCE	LOVE	DEATH	TOMB	SLEEP

Your Church Name
City or Town

Multiple Choice

Choose the word that best fits the definition and put the letter in the blank beside the number.

- ___ 1. To be physically ill; not well or healthy
A. tomb B. asleep C. alive D. sick
- ___ 2. To stop living
A. die B. live C. sleep D. resurrection
- ___ 3. To be alive or have life
A. live B. sleep C. sick D. die
- ___ 4. A man that Jesus raised from the dead
A. Mary B. Lazarus C. Martha D. John
- ___ 5. Woman who poured perfume on Jesus and wiped his feet with her hair
A. Lazarus B. Martha C. Mary D. tomb
- ___ 6. One of Lazarus' two sisters
A. Lazarus B. Martha C. Deborah D. Elizabeth
- ___ 7. A place where someone is buried
A. bed B. live C. die D. tomb
- ___ 8. Rising from the dead or returning to life
A. die B. resurrection C. sick D. asleep



Coloring Page



Jesus Raises Lazarus