

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  
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 Girvan North Parish Church

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

All articles for the May 2022 issue of the Church Magazine should be given to the Editor by Sunday 24th April 2022

**April 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.

## April Newsletter for Girvan North.

**Dear friends,** the events which are being broadcast to us daily in Ukraine, are some of the most upsetting sights I, and I am sure all of you, have ever witnessed. I scarcely thought it was possible that humanity could behave in such an inhumane manner to one another. We do not want to watch these awful scenes but feel compelled to do so. Consequently we feel powerless, and our hearts cry out to all these innocent Ukrainians who are being subjected to this brutal and unwarranted assault on their lives, and on their freedom. However we are not completely powerless. Many of us have contributed money, clothes, toiletries, and so much more, to help our European brothers and sisters. Many of us have given up our bedrooms to Ukrainian refugees who might soon become extended members of our own families. Many of us have voiced our opposition to the war on social media, a freedom which has been denied to so many Russians citizens. We have recently seen how repressive the authorities have been and how frightened their citizens are. Many brave Russian citizens have shown extraordinary bravery despite the constant dangers that they face.

What more then can we do? We are already imposing crippling sanctions on Russia. This appears to be badly damaging the Russian economy but it is also severely increasing our own living costs. Maybe this is a price that we are willing to pay. Short term pain for long term gain. We are also dispensing with unnecessary bureaucracy to allow more refugees into the country. It should be less about form-filling and more about helping a fellow citizen in distress. Could we enforce a “no fly zone”? There are arguments on both sides. An argument for a “no fly zone” is that we are already in a third world war and waiting would only increase the number of casualties. An argument against a “no fly zone” could mean that we would be propelled into a third world war with the associated dangers of a chemical, biological and/or nuclear attack, and the many, many, more casualties that would result. These are stark choices. If a NATO country is accidentally or deliberately targeted by Russia

the full force of NATO will be levelled against Russia. Surely Russia would not want this. NATO has far superior numbers. As Christians, these are very difficult questions to answer. As Christians we tend to look for diplomatic solutions rather than militaristic solutions to address these problems. Yes, I realise that certain militaristic leaders only respect strength rather than appeasement, but that is where the severe sanctions will start biting. Such leaders will not have the money which is needed to invade other territories. We have to watch we do not constantly “up the ante” because where will it all end? Sometimes the aggressor is not behaving rationally. How can we know how an irrational person will ultimately respond? We don't, and we don't want to test that response.

The question which I have heard from many people I have spoken to is: where is God in all of this? How could God allow this to happen? How could He allow innocent men, women and children to be killed and to be maimed? However the Ukrainians are performing a lot better than expected, they have truth on their side, and the individual(s) who made these dreadful decisions to go to war will ultimately be accountable for their actions. There will be a price to pay. Good always overcomes evil and light always overcomes darkness. Possibly not immediately but the truth will be revealed in the end.

We are fortunate that we have our faith to cope with a situation which seems to be dictated by evil. Jesus is the individual we must be guided by and His sayings are what we must hold on to. Let me quote Matthew 11:28: “Come to me, all who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light”.

Many of us will be turning daily to our Bibles to draw comfort from these profound readings. Our faith will protect our mental and physical wellbeing. As we approach Holy Week, on April 10<sup>th</sup>- April 16<sup>th</sup>, and Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday, we think of the ultimate sacrifice which Jesus made on that Cross.

The Ukrainians are making extraordinary sacrifices on a daily basis to keep the citizens of Europe free of dictatorship. We must do everything we can to assist them just as we must do everything we can to turn more people to Christ. As we do this, democracy will always win over dictatorship; good will always win over evil; truth will always win over deception; and eternal life will always win over death.

Kind regards, Glenn.

### **Notes from the Kirk Session**

The online Services are now finished. The Service on a Sunday morning will be streamed live. Hopefully everyone enjoys them – thanks to Glenn for doing the services over the past two years and Matthew for putting them on the Website.

Pauline Rattray is the new Session Clerk and Ian Fitzsimmons is staying as an assistant. We all wish Pauline well in her new position, our prayers are with you

The Manses have been inspected by the Presbytery.

There will be no Holy Week Services this year, unless someone decides to organise one. I hope you all have a special Easter Break.

God Bless you all – Ian Fitzsimmons.

### **Answers to the Quiz in the March North Star (Books of the Bible)**

1 Job 2 Numbers 3 Judges 4 Acts 5 Esther 6 Genesis 7 Mark 8 Chronicles 9 Psalms 10 Kings 11 Jude 12 Exodus 13 Proverbs 14 Revelation 15 Amos 16 Romans 17 Lamentations 18 Nehemiah 19 Philipians 20 Song of Solomon.

### **What Price a Sermon?What Price a Sermon?**

One Easter Sunday the Reverend Jones announced to his congregation, 'My good people, I have here in my hands three sermons..... A £100 sermon that lasts five minutes A £50 sermon that lasts fifteen minutes And a £20 sermon that lasts a full hour.

Now, we'll take the collection and see which one I'll deliver.'

### **A Prayer for Easter Sunday**

Young Ernie and his family were invited to have Easter Sunday lunch at his grandmother's house in Monkey's Eyebrow, Arizona. USA. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Ernie received his plate he started eating straight away. 'Ernie, wait until we say grace,' demanded his father.'I don't have to,' the five year old replied.

'Of course you do, Ernest,' his mother insisted rather forcefully. 'We always say a prayer before eating at our house.'

'That's at our house,' Ernie explained, 'but this is Grandma's house, and she knows how to cook.'

### **Quotes Suitable for Grace on Easter Sunday**

Easter Peace: It does not mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work. It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart. - Author unknown

Easter spells out beauty, the rare beauty of new life. S.D. Gordon

Never look down on anybody unless you're helping him up. - Jesse Jackson

I ask not for a lighter burden, but for broader shoulders. - Jewish Proverb

At the end of the day, love and compassion will win. - Terry Waite

## Who Won

From Friday's tragedy and terror to Sunday's redeeming cry,  
The world has discovered that Christ is real, with evidence man can't deny.  
Truly He's risen, just as He promised, sitting at God's right hand;  
We have the privilege of calling Him Saviour if we obey His command.

But oh, so costly was this venture, it brought such agony and pain,  
Hatred filled the hearts of leaders; somehow their laws they must maintain.  
If He won the crowd's devotion, if they followed in His train,  
They would lose prestige and power, they could would not allow His gain!

Make an example of this rebel, the arm of the law must rule supreme;  
This young intruder's no exception, we'll end this young man's crazy scheme.  
But death will never be the ruler - God had initiated a plan,  
Created after the downfall of Adam, Satan must never have rule over man!

Christ gives us choices, we have an option; sin's penalty paid that we might go free,  
God is the author, Christ the Redeemer, nothing can change this eternal decree.

Pharisees tried, thought they had killed Him, yet Jesus rose triumphantly.

He is still Ruler, fully in power, great interceder for you and for me.

**Poet: Greta Zwaan, © 2019**

## Treasurer's Report

During 2021 I was able to claim back £13, 016 tax on Gift Aid donations. If you are a UK tax payer I would encourage you to sign a Gift Aid form, available from Joyce Mills (Tel 712050).

You do not need to promise a certain amount, or do anything except sign the form confirming you are a UK tax payer. I can then claim back 25p on every £1 you give to the church. This makes a huge difference to our income each year.

Many members are now giving their offering by monthly Bank Standing Order. If you would like to start doing this, please get in touch with me and I will give you the Bank Account details for Girvan North.

During the first quarter of 2022 our income was £16267.51 and our expenditure £15,991.98.

Thank you for your continued support.

## Quiz in aid of Ukraine Appeal

I have a quiz circulating entitled "Items used in kitchen" All proceeds will go to the Ukraine Appeal. Copies of the quiz can be bought from elders, church members and from a few shops in the town. Please support this appeal for much needed funds for Ukraine. If you could sell some copies of the quiz to friends and family, please contact me. Closing date is 23rd April.

Error Clue 18 should read "dish" instead of "dog". Sorry! I will disregard this answer when choosing a winner.

Thanks for your support.

Margaret Benson. (713059)

## **Stated Annual Meeting      Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

The Stated Annual Meeting of Girvan North was held on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> March during the church Service. The Interim Moderator Dr James Anderson opened the meeting with prayer followed by an update on what had been happening during last 2 years. During lockdown, the business of the church had continued. Our locum Mr Glenn Ronald had kept in touch with members via telephone, had conducted funerals and recorded week services online. Ian Fitzsimmons, Stuart Kilpatrick and Margaret Benson were thanked for their work during lockdown. Thanks to Matthew Scobie, the Kirk Session had held meetings by Zoom until October 2021 when elders had started to meet again face to face.

The major event for Girvan North was that in May 2020 the General Assembly had passed to Presbytery Mission Act in response to the shortage of Ministers and the falling of church membership. This act suspended all vacancies and instructed Presbyteries to construct new Mission Plans with a reduced number of ministers. A Mission Committee looked at options for the South Carrick area and on 28/9/21 Plan B was agreed, viz Girvan North, Girvan South, Dailly and Barr to unite. Also Ballantrae and St Colmon's to unite with 2 ministers in South Carrick, one being in Girvan. On 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 the Presbytery agreed this plan. The four sessions agreed a joint mission plan and a draft basis of union and this has gone to the Presbytery Mission Committee.

Dr Anderson commented that it might seem that not much was happening but we had been caught only by Covid restrictions but by the introduction of the National Mission Plan Exercise.

Since there is no minister in any of the four churches the Kirk Sessions are anxious to move forward as quickly as they can. The Presbytery Property Committee will advise us which church building to use.

We are as far advanced as we can be at this stage and are eager to implicate the united charge as soon as possible.

Dr Anderson announced that at the Kirk Session meeting on Monday

14<sup>th</sup> March the nomination of Pauline Rattray as Session Clerk was unanimously agreed. Dr Anderson had administered the Oath de Fideli and he asked members to support Pauline in her roll of service to the church.

The treasurer Mrs Margaret Benson gave the Treasurer's Report for 2021. This showed an increase in income from £65,456 in 2020 to £68,881 in 2021. The Fundraising Appeal in October 2021 had raised £2,524. Expenditure had decreased from £69,662 in 2020 to £66,310 in 2021. This was mainly due to Church of Scotland decreasing our contributions fr Ministries and Mission by £7,745 due to the Pandemic. Reserves were up from £123,457 to £129,523.

The Finance Committee had drawn up a budget for 2022. Due to increases in fuel costs, increase to our Ministries and Mission contributions and increases in salaries, they anticipate a deficit of £7,500 in 2022. The Treasurer thanked Joyce Mills, our Gift Aid Convenor, Agnes Gibson for organising the Free Will Offering envelopes, Irene Tyson and the Finance Committee for their support. Also the elders who count the offerings each Sunday morning and the Bankers for banking the money. Margaret thanked members for their continued support through very difficult times.

Questions from members were invited but there were no questions forthcoming.

## **Interim Moderator's Report.**

From Girvan North Church Annual Meeting, held on Sunday 20 Feb 2022 at 11 am. After constituting with prayer, the Interim-moderator said - The Annual meeting has taken different forms over the years; we have had to adapt to changes of one kind or another. Today we shall hold a short meeting to comply with our constitution - I shall give a brief report as Interim-moderator and Mrs Benson will present the Accounts.

I was appointed Interim-moderator of Girvan North by the Presbytery of Ayr on 4 March 2020. Almost immediately we were plunged into the Covid restrictions, which included the closure of churches. With the help of Matthew Scobie the Session organised Zoom meetings and these continued until Oct 21 when we returned to face to face meetings. Under the co-ordination of Stuart Kilpatrick arrangements were made to re-open the church on 20 Aug 2020 and since then we have gradually moved to a more normal pattern of church activities.

I do not want to dwell on this difficult period but it is important to say that the business of the church continued during the lock-down. Our locum, Glenn Ronald, kept in touch with members, provided a streamed Sunday service and conducted funerals under difficult conditions. We are grateful to him and to other individuals, especially Ian Fitzsimmons, Margaret Benson, and Stuart Kilpatrick who made that possible. The Treasurer is very grateful to those who continued to give during the lock-down.

The major event of the year was the decision of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland in May 2021 to pass the Presbyteries Mission Plan Act. This was a response to the national shortage of

ministers, the falling church membership and the declining financial health of the church. The effect of this Act was to suspend all vacancies throughout Scotland and require Presbyteries to construct new Mission Plans with a reduced number of ministers.

Through the Mission Committee our Presbytery constructed a Plan that offered options to areas. We are in the South Carrick area. Out of a meeting of representatives on 28 Sept 21 it emerged that Plan B was preferred. That is, that Girvan South, Girvan North, Dailly and Barr should unite, and that Ballantrae and St Colmon should unite. Resulting in two ministers in South Carrick, one being in Girvan. On 7 Dec 21 the Presbytery agreed its Mission Plan. Since then the Sessions of Girvan South, Girvan North, Dailly and Barr have agreed a Joint Mission Plan and a draft Basis of Union. These have been sent to the Mission Committee. Since there is no minister in post in any of the four churches, we are anxious to move forward as soon as the Presbytery begins the implementation phase. Part of that implementation involves the Presbytery Property Committee advising us which church building to use in Girvan.

Sometimes it may seem that nothing much is happening in our vacancy, but given the we have been caught up in Covid restrictions and a national Mission Plan exercise, we are as far advanced as we could be, and eager to implement the united charge as soon as possible. Finally, I am pleased to report that at the Session Meeting on Monday last we received a nomination for the post of Session Clerk, the Session unanimously agreed, I administered the Oath de fidei, making Pauline Rattray our new Session Clerk. Ian Fitzsimmons will remain as Assistant, and I hope that you will help and support Pauline in her new role of service in the church.

The accounts were presented by Mrs Benson and duly received.

## Prayer Topics April

### **1. The Leprosy Mission – India**

Livelihood training and opportunities have been a gateway for people affected by leprosy and disability to attain self-sufficiency and an improvement of their standard of living. Pray for the growth and sustainability of our livelihood work. Pray for God's guidance and strength for the more than 800 leprosy champions identified and trained by TLM Trust India so far. Pray that they will continue to advocate for people affected by leprosy and disability in their community.

### **2. Open Doors - China**

Julia is a Buddhist background believer. Her community frequently cuts off her water and electricity because of her faith. Their hostility also makes it hard for other believers to visit her. But she hasn't given up. "Nothing could stop me from worshipping God. Jesus Christ is enough for me!" Pray that Julia will remain steadfast in her faith.

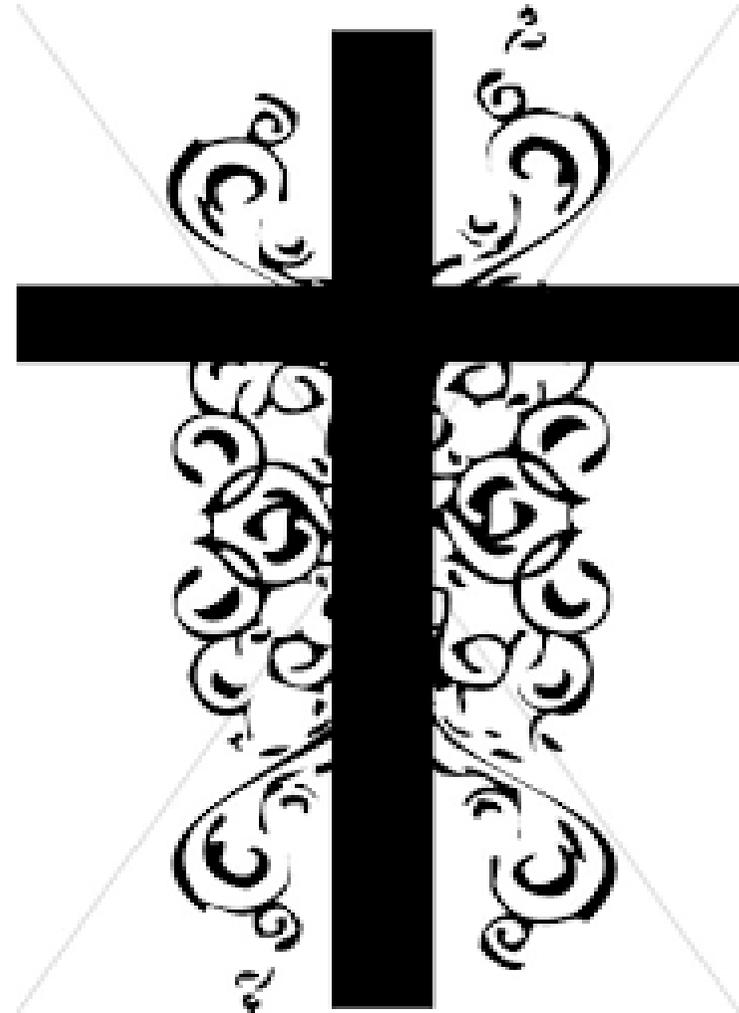
### **3. Mission Aviation Fellowship**

Praise God for our MAF staff overseas and those in our offices in the U.K. Pray that each would know His strength and joy for the challenges each day inevitably brings. Pray for good relationships between MAF personnel who come from different countries and very different cultures. The chance for misunderstanding is real, so pray for much grace and patience for all. Please pray for MAF pilot Alastair Youren and his wife Anna and 3 children who live in Juba, South Sudan. The country's capital city is not an easy place to make a home, so please pray for great supportive relationships within the team and opportunities for refreshment.

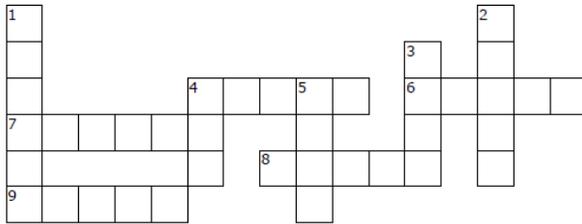
**4** Pray for people who have lost their jobs and are struggling to make ends meet. Pray for strength for all N.H.S workers and carers especially those under the greatest pressure. Thank God for their faithful service to the community.

Continue to pray for our church situation that we might soon be able to apply for a minister. Uphold Glenn and remember Wanda as she battles ill health.

Give thanks for the appointment of our new Session Clerk and pray for Pauline in her new role. Pray that as Easter draws near we may approach it humbly and with anticipation, remembering the cost to God of our salvation. Give thanks for that ultimate sacrifice on the Cross which demonstrates the depth of God's love for each one of us. Rejoice and give thanks for Christ's glorious Resurrection.



# Crossword Puzzle



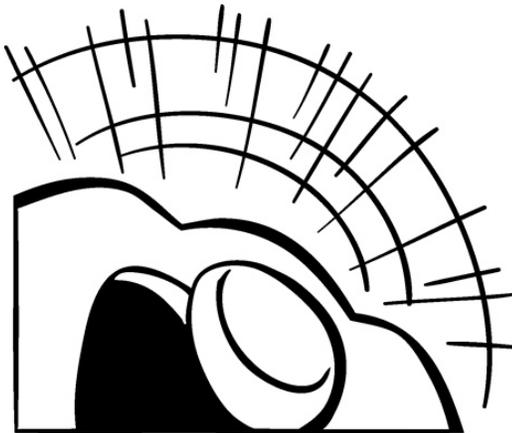
## ACROSS

4. A piece of fabric made by weaving cotton, wool, or other fibers
6. Not dead
7. The day we celebrate Jesus' resurrection
8. To have nothing inside
9. What was used to cover the entrance to Jesus' tomb

## DOWN

1. Messengers from heaven
2. The color of snow; the opposite of black
3. The woman who found the stone rolled away from Jesus' tomb
4. To produce tears; to weep
5. A grave or a room where someone is buried

EMPTY	ANGELS	EASTER	CLOTH	WHITE
STONE	ALIVE	TOMB	CRY	MARY



**HE IS NOT HERE! HE IS RISEN!**

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# Children's Worship Bulletin

**He is Risen!**

## Word Search

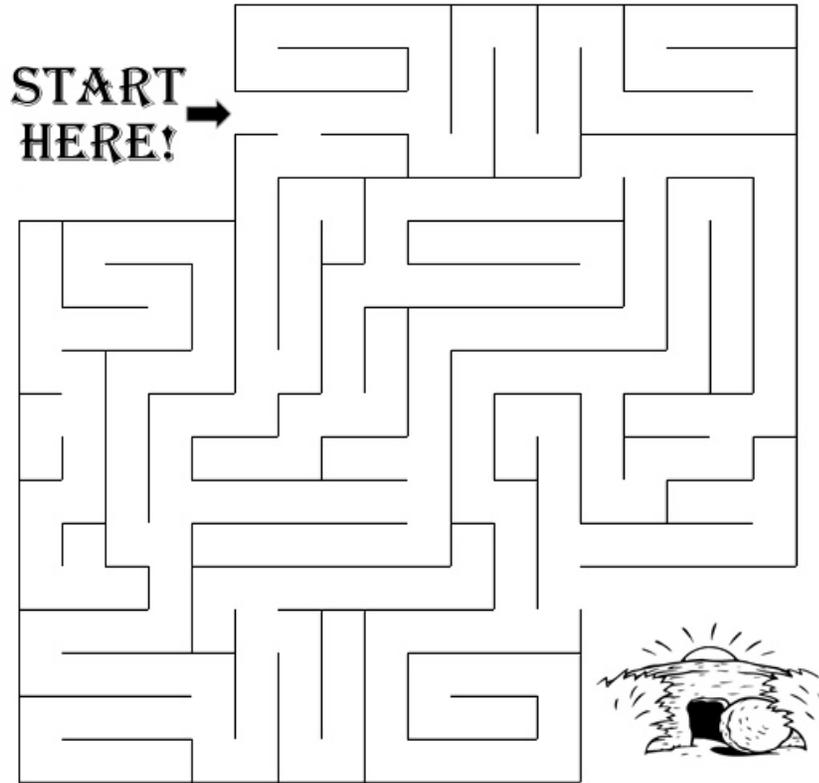
A G K Y T Q S P I C E S X E F  
 A R D T T C G H R J T V H N F  
 F O F R G N D E Y O G W Y T R  
 B U Z J I C C H E P L V V E I  
 W N W V C N T B W X S L R R G  
 G D I D E C V R S O D T E E H  
 B L P S S C Y V E R M A O D T  
 R H I E B R D B B M S E Y N G  
 Y R G D Z B G D A C E F N N E  
 I F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

BOWED	FACES	GROUND	MORNING	RISEN
WOMEN	WEEK	FRIGHT	STONE	LIVING
ROLLED	FIRST	REMEMBER	DAY	DEAD
TOMB	AWAY	SPICES	ENTERED	BODY

**Your Church Name Here**  
Anytown, Anywhere

# Maze Puzzle

Can you find your way to the empty grave?



# Color Me!



He is not here! He has risen!

