

Church Register

Deaths

"The Lord's my shepherd I'll not want"

Mr Hugh Milroy	Malin Court
Mrs Dorothy Bulloch	Hillcrest
Mrs Marjorie McCallum	Trust Housing

Church Office

Janette Robertson will be in the office – **Tues. 10.00 am – 12 noon & Friday. 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

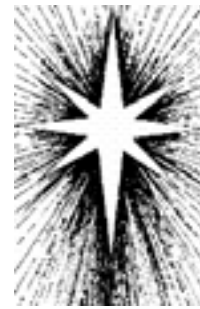
Email: churchoffice12@btconnect.com

Church Website: www.girvannorthparishchurch.org.uk

<https://www.facebook.com/Girvannorthparishchurch>

EDITOR'S NOTE:

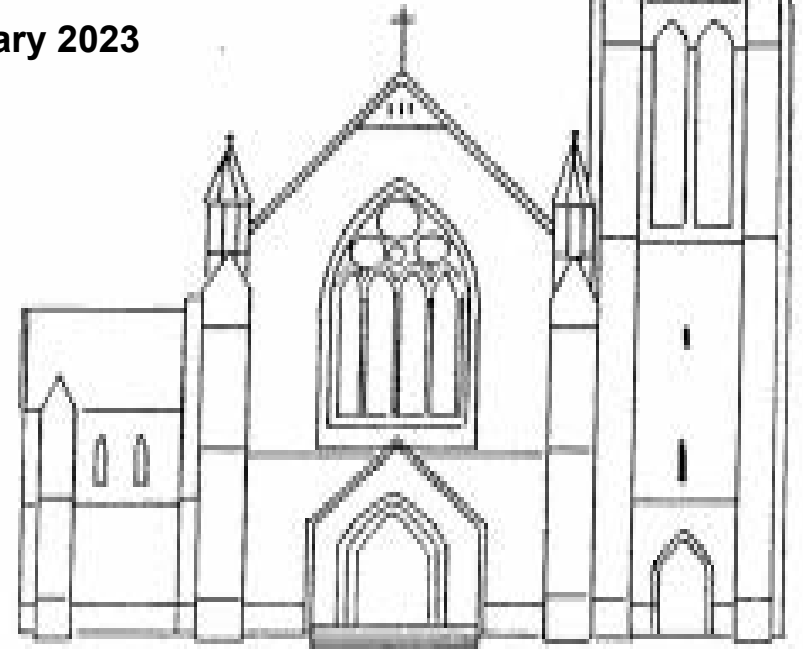
All articles for the March 2023 issue of the Church Magazine should be given to the Editor by Sunday 26th February 2023



The Church
of Scotland

The
North
Star

February 2023



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.

February Newsletter for Girvan North.

Dear friends,

It was a difficult time over the Christmas period for my wife, Wanda, and I. Maybe you all had similar experiences? We both tested positive for Covid like so many other people did. I thought I had managed to avoid this frustrating viral condition, but there was a dawning realisation that it was a very difficult viral condition to avoid. It was frustrating that we both tested positive for such a lengthy time, particularly during the Christmas period; it was frustrating that Wanda could not exchange presents with her mother; and it was frustrating that I could not conduct Worship, or could not assist families by conducting funerals. On the other hand, by testing positive with Covid we knew that we had to isolate ourselves from others to protect the wider community; it was a wonderful moment on Saturday, the 7th of January, that Wanda finally managed to exchange presents with her mother; and I was very fortunate that I had a talented Worship Group, Session Clerk, Church Officer, Kirk Session, and Interim Moderator, to ensure that the “show would go on”. As it always must go on, particularly during the Christmas period.

As we returned to better physical health, we were made aware of our own vulnerability. It had taken years for me to feel confident enough not to need to use my mask in the supermarket. Through testing positive with Covid, I had taken “my eye off the ball” by thinking that I was safer than I actually was. So, when I am now in a supermarket, which is not very often, I always wear my mask. What I did notice was that there were still not that many people wearing masks, although that number is slowly increasing. So, to avoid the generally unpleasant feeling of wearing a mask, as my breathing has unfortunately been affected by Covid, as many folks have experienced, I have now returned to ordering food and toiletries online. Maybe you are doing the same? What I am trying to say is that Covid is something we will always have to deal with. Thankfully, like so many other people, I have had my booster shots for Covid and Flu, I am generally cautious by nature, and I test regularly. So, although it is a very free society, as it should

always be, and people can behave in any legal, and moral way, that they choose to behave, I would encourage everyone to get boosted, if they have not already done so, remain cautious, and test regularly. We should now turn to the Government’s role in all of this. The Government should make Lateral Flow Tests free for everyone to use. Although this is undoubtedly a financially more expensive option for a Government with less money at their disposal to do, it is something that should be considered as people are not prepared to pay for their Lateral Flow Tests. Consequently, the Covid numbers are increasing because people do not know, or do not care, that they are positive. This simple measure has to change so we can better manage this ongoing pandemic. The Government’s role is also to solve the problems of our NHS system, and our social care system. Why do ambulances take so long to reach a patient’s address when the patient could have suffered a stroke or a heart attack? Why then does it take such a long time to get the patient into the hospital? How many people have died as a result? I am not for a moment saying that this is the paramedics’ fault, just in the same way that I am not saying that this is the doctors’, or the nurses’, fault. The fault lies with our decision-makers. However, bureaucracy has to be considerably reduced in the NHS. These people are not administrators, they are clinicians. Let us turn to the question that there is nowhere for the patients to go as our Social Care Service is also in crisis. Are there though nowhere for the patients to go? What about the Nightingale Hospitals? Why can they not be used? Why were they built in the first place? Surely, they were built to care for patients! This has been conveniently forgotten about. I feel very sad as I write this Newsletter, as it does not have to be like this. We deserve a much better NHS because the employees who work in this Service deserve a much better NHS. Nurses and Doctors are leaving this profession for “pastures new”, at an alarming rate, as their pay and their working conditions does not make it worthwhile from them to stay in their jobs. These good people are considering strike action. They have had enough of this situation just as we all have had enough of this situation. It is up to our decision-makers to do something about it, and to do something about it, quickly! Thankfully we have our faith to help us in these troubling times. As difficult as this situation becomes, it will be nothing compared to what Jesus had suffered on the Cross. We have not experienced

the betrayal that He had experienced; we have not experienced the denial that He had experienced; and we have not experienced the rejection that He had experienced. Despite all of that betrayal, denial and rejection experienced, Jesus was willing to suffer for the sins of humanity. Jesus will return to be with us again only when this society becomes a much more caring place, where our loving citizens are not languishing in ambulances, or in hospital trolleys, as there are no beds available for them in the hospital to be moved to! Hopefully action can be taken, and hopefully that action can be taken very soon indeed! I will leave my discussion on the state of the roads in South Ayrshire for another time! You might imagine my thoughts on that matter if you heard what happened to me recently. (A puncture – like so many other unfortunate motorists have experienced)!

Best wishes, Glenn.

Jars of Grace

Many thanks to all who contributed to the Jars of Grace. To those who collected their loose change over the last few months, for those who helped with the count and Billy Benson who helped with the banking my grateful thanks.

The sum of £434.25 has been collected at present, which will be sent to Nursery Court in due course.

Thanks once again,
Eric and the Mission and Outreach Team

The Cracked Pot

A water bearer in India had two large pots, each hung on the ends of a pole that he carried across his neck. One of the pots had a crack in it, while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

At the end of the long walk from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the bearer delivering only one and a half pots full of water to his house.

Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments, perfect for which it was made. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection and miserable that it was able to accomplish only half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be a bitter failure, it spoke to the water bearer one day by the stream. "I am ashamed of myself, and I want to apologize to you. I have been able to deliver only half my load because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house. Because of my flaws, you have to do all of this work, and you don't get full value from your efforts," the pot said.

The bearer said to the pot, "Did you notice that there were flowers on your side of the path but not on the other pot's side? That's because I have always known about your flaw, and I planted flower seeds on your side of the path. Every day while we walk back, you've watered them. For two years, I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house."

Notes from the Kirk Session

There is something reassuring about returning to our normal routine after what may have been a busy time for some of us over Christmas and New Year. All our organisations are up and running again after the Christmas break.

The Kirk Session is delighted to hear that the amended Presbytery Mission Plan for the old Presbytery of Ayr has now been accepted. We look forward to our Girvan Churches uniting and in particular our joint Communion Service on 3 March. The new Presbytery of the South West is fully established and has a busy diary of business.

You may notice an advert in this month's North Star raising awareness of the South Carrick Befrienders Project. There are training opportunities available now and if you happen to know of anyone who might wish to find out more about this project, please pass the information on - there are contact details on the advert. Our own church now has a new media player fitted to future proof our sound system and excellent sound can now be produced to enhance our services.

We are fortunate to have a team of 6 volunteer **Bible Readers** who share our Bible reading from the lectern during the Sunday morning service. Of course it would be super to have a few more volunteer Bible Readers. It's really not a demanding task and at present means we each read the Church Bible Reading, once every 6 weeks only. Please could I ask you to consider if you would be willing to join the Bible Readers Team. I can assure you there will be a warm welcome! Just contact Stuart Kilpatrick from the Worship Team or Pauline.

Church Diary

Wed 8 Feb Kirk Session
Sun 19 Feb Foodbank Uplift
Sun 26 Feb Foodbank Uplift
Sun 5 March Joint Communion (Girvan South 11am)

Kindest Regards
Pauline

Session Clerks Spotlight February 2023

Our Boys Brigade is Thriving!

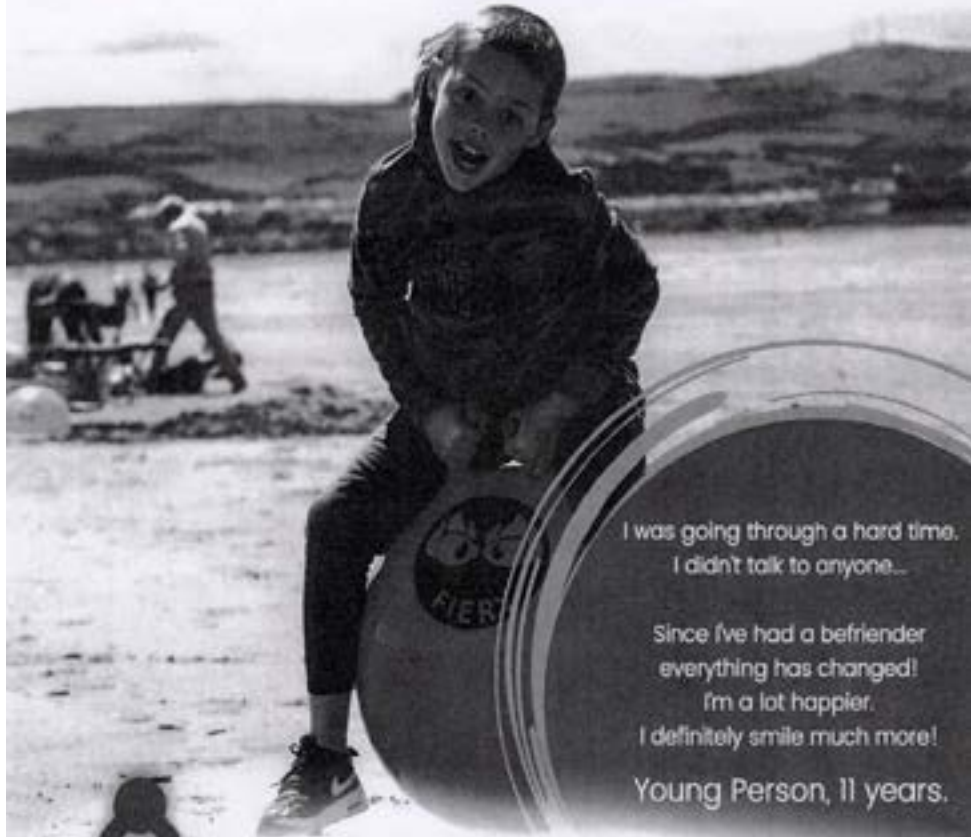
Under the leadership of Carrie McClymont and Cooper McClymont, the number of boys attending on Sunday night has grown to around 20.

The Anchor Boys and Junior Section meet together on Sunday evenings, term time, at 6pm until 7pm. The Company Section meets 7pm until 8.30pm. All sections enjoy a range of activities including a mixture of team games and individual challenges in a fun setting. Any enquiries are welcome. Contact Carrie on 01465 715608 for further details.



VOLUNTEER WITH US

A Befriender is an adult volunteer who provides one to one support for a socially isolated young person aged 8 - 18. This will involve meeting fortnightly for a few hours, sharing activities and time together to make a real difference to the young person's life.



I was going through a hard time.
I didn't talk to anyone...

Since I've had a befriender
everything has changed!
I'm a lot happier.
I definitely smile much more!

Young Person, 11 years.



SOUTH AYRSHIRE BEFRIENDING PROJECT

Are you ready to make a difference?
Use the QR Code to fill in an application or
contact us via our Website:
www.bfriend.org.uk or phone 01292 264000



“Do this in remembrance of me”
**Joint Girvan North and South Parish
Church’s Holy Communion**

Invitation to Communion

We will be celebrating Holy Communion
at the South Parish Church on
Sunday the 5th March 2023 at 11am



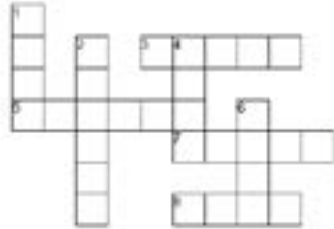
All are welcome and look forward to seeing you there.

Treasurer’s Report

The 2022 Accounts are now complete and have been checked by our Finance Committee.

They will now be presented to the Kirk Session on Wednesday 8th February before going to an independent examiner. Copies of the accounts will be available to members in March.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 3. The Son of God.
- 5. One of the four extremities of the hand, other than the thumb.
- 7. To use the voice to say words or converse with someone.
- 6. To say, or to give information to someone.

DOWN

- 1. Unable to hear.
- 2. The fleshy part inside the mouth used in tasting and in speech.
- 4. The two organs on each side of the head which people use to hear.
- 6. To make someone healthy again.

SPEAK	HEAL	TONGUE	TELL
JESUS	FINGER	DEAF	EARS



Copyright © Sermons4Kids, Inc.
May be reproduced for Ministry Use

Children's Worship Bulletin

Jesus Heals a Deaf Man

Mark 7:31-37

Word Search Puzzle

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

JESUS	DEAF	SPEECH	TOUCHED	HEALED
FINGERS	SIGHED	SPIT	TONGUE	HEAVEN
OPENED	MAN	SPEAK	EARS	FREED

Your Church Name Here
Anytown, USA

Prayer Topics for February

1. Leprosy Mission – Sri Lanka

Pray for those affected by leprosy and other diseases, as many essential medicines have become scarce and expensive, acquiring them has become quite difficult. Please pray for communities where people affected by leprosy hope to gain a greater awareness and understanding of this disease and the available treatment. Please also pray for a shift in mindset amongst communities and for increased compassion toward those diagnosed with leprosy.

2. Mission Aviation Fellowship

At Kalongo Hospital, Uganda surgeon Kisa Priscilla told Pilot Dave Forney that they see more than 370 patients a day – providing care for just about everything you can imagine. Pray that everyone who is ill or injured will receive the treatment they need. Kalongo is the only hospital in the region.

3. Open Doors – North Korea

North Korea's dictatorial regime, led by Kim Jong-un, is showing no signs of softening, but nothing is impossible for God. Pray for God's supernatural intervention in the leadership of the nation and for an end to the continuous persecution of Christians and others in North Korea.

4. As the war in Ukraine drags on, ask God to lay a burden on our hearts to pray earnestly for a decisive end to the senseless and wicked killing of so many innocent people. With God nothing is impossible! So pray on for a total defeat of the Russian forces and protection for neighbouring countries. Pray for healing for the injured and comfort for those who have lost loved ones.

Pray for our government to find answers which are mutually agreeable to both sides and affordable in the current strikes.

Pray for all the ongoing church activities and those who lead them:-

Sunday services, Wednesday Break, Kirk Session meetings, Boys' Brigade and the Sunday School with Heather. Pray that more people would be encouraged to come and join in our worship and fellowship. Remember Glenn as he leads our services, conducts funerals and connects with members of the congregation.

Girvan Food Bank

For many people in Girvan, February is a difficult month with heating bills and the extra costs of Christmas to be paid.

This year, especially with the extra costs of the Cost of Living Crisis, many people in our town will be struggling financially. The Outreach and Mission Team feel it would be a good time to help with the problem by having a collection for the Food Bank.

If you would like to help, boxes will be at the Vestibule of the Church on 2 Sundays – 19th and 26th where you put your donation of **NON PERISHABLE FOOD**. We are sure, that as in the past, the Congregation will be generous.

Many thanks

The Outreach and Mission Team.