

Church Register

Deaths

“The Lord’s my shepherd I’ll not want”

Mrs Ann Gibson Torcy Drive

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

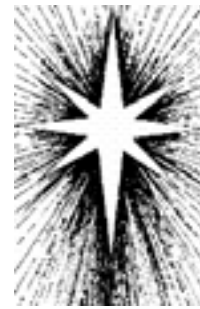
Email: churchoffice12@btconnect.com

Church Website: www.girvannorthparishchurch.org.uk

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

EDITOR’S NOTE:

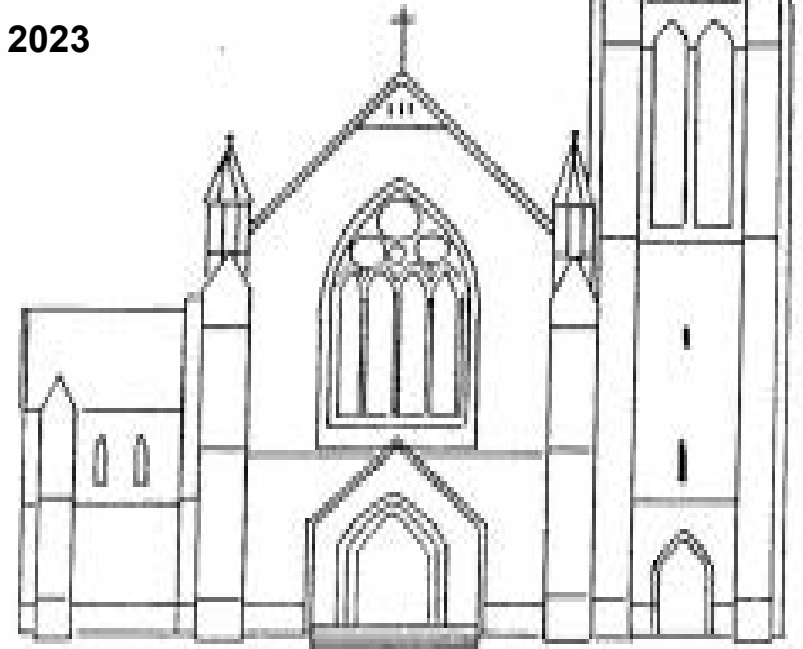
All articles for the April 2023 issue of the Church Magazine should be given to the Editor by Sunday 26th March 2023



The Church
of Scotland

The
North
Star

March 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.

March Newsletter for Girvan North.

Dear friends, it must be awful when a family member or friend goes missing for any length of time, and there are not any clues to their whereabouts. As I start to write this Newsletter in early February, the leading news story is the inexplicable disappearance of Nicola Bulley. Nicola was a friendly 45 year old Mortgage Adviser with a happy family life. The mother of two from Inskip, Lancashire, was walking her dog after dropping her two daughters at school. She then vanished and has left no trace to her whereabouts. Her mobile phone and the harness for her dog were found on a bench. The distraught animal was found by another dog walker close to the scene on the riverbank. Nicola was a strong swimmer although there are some tidal stretches on the river. There is only one pathway of the area which is not covered by CCTV cameras. This would have exited on to a busy road. It was “rush hour” when Nicola went missing. Someone must have seen something if Nicola had emerged on that pathway.

Someone goes missing in the United Kingdom every 90 seconds, and 180,000 people go missing every year. The majority are found in the first 24 to 48 hours. It is very rare to have received the media coverage that Nicola Bulley has received. Lancashire Police, so far, do not believe any crime was committed, and think that she fell into the water, and it was a missing person inquiry.

Nicola’s social media footprint would be analysed by Officers in the search for her,

so a more complete picture can be created, not just about what was known of Nicola in public, but what was known of Nicola in private.

Each of us leaves a digital

footprint not only in terms of our mobile phone usage, but also in terms of any money

we withdraw from our account, for example. It is very unusual for anyone to disappear without trace, but it can happen, and has happened, in the past. The downside of a case like this is the unfortunate and unhelpful speculation by some, on social media, even by members of the Lancashire Police Force themselves, which can deeply distress the family, as can people visiting the scene, hampering the police investigation. The case must be evidence-led and pursued thoroughly.

We can only imagine how Nicola’s family, work colleagues, and friends, are dealing with this dreadful event. Her details had to be kept in the media spotlight to jog the memory of any potential witness, but there is also a danger that people so desperate to help the police solve the case, generate “empathy sightings” which can hamper any police investigation that cannot be allowed to be side-tracked.

As we think of our own individual family circumstances, and what it must be like when a loved one goes missing for any length of time, our thoughts and prayers go out to their families, colleagues, and friends. If we have a faith we turn to God, and to Jesus, for support; if we do not, we turn to each other for support.

It is the uncertainty that we all find so upsetting. If only we knew what had happened, we could process everything properly. That uncertainty has ended in a very dramatic, and upsetting manner, this evening. Tragically, weeks after I had started writing down these words in my monthly Newsletter, a body has been discovered in the river Wyre. The body of Nicola Wooley has now been formally identified. As I write these last few sentences, I write them with a very heavy heart. I did not know Nicola Bulley personally, but I felt like I did know her, just as we all felt that we did know her. This is not the time to examine the way the Lancashire Police Force handled this extremely upsetting investigation. That examination is for another time, and for other people to do. Lessons though have to be learned regarding if, and when, police reveal sensitive details of any case, and the consequences of making these very important revelations, public. This dreadful case has been agonising for Nicola’s family, colleagues, and friends, and all our thoughts and prayers go out to them as they finally lay Nicola to rest.

Best wishes, Glenn.

Lent.

During Lent we read from Matthew's Gospel - Matthew 4: 1-11. Here, Jesus is tested by Satan in the wilderness as He prepares for His Ministry on earth. This period of temptation, Jesus went through, represents the Lenten experience before Easter. Jesus was tempted with food, tempted not to pray in a God-centred way, and tempted with riches. He resisted all these temptations, just as we must all resist these temptations too. Lent is a time of fasting, prayer, and charitable giving. A time of repentance. In such a way we respect Christ's life in the 40 days before Easter.

This is a time between Ash Wednesday and Easter as observed by a variety of denominations. The day before Ash Wednesday is known as Shrove Tuesday, or "Fat Tuesday", a time of confession and indulgence before the fasting begins. Not everyone who observes Lent observes this strict period of self-denial. Although Lent is popularly known as a period of fasting, there are many more ways to renew ourselves during this spiritual period. The word "Lent" comes from the Old English word "Lencten", meaning "Springtime", or "Spring", and from the West Germanic word "langitaz", meaning "long-days", or "the lengthening of the day". Lent is a period of repentance. It is not necessarily a shameful period but an understanding that sin takes us away from God, and the sacrifice that He made for us. He sacrificed Himself in this way so He could be reunited with us again. Each of us must recognise our own sinfulness, and our need to change to be more like Jesus, and to be more like God.

We should not confuse Lent with New Year when we resolve to live a better life. Lent is a time when we think of the sacrifice that Jesus made for us on the Cross. Resolutions are a time when we focus on self; Lent is a time when we focus on Christ. So on Good Friday we might want to walk the 14 Stations of the Cross. Some people may do that, or they may attend a Service. If we observe Lent we become closer to God, and to Jesus. Giving up chocolate for Lent does not guarantee His love, or our salvation, but loving ourselves impedes us properly loving God, and Jesus. So,

during this period of Lent we should worship God, read our Bible, and pray, more regularly. Observing Lent in this way is the blessing we will receive rather than any additional rewards which we might expect to get. However in saying this, Christians have found the problems which they encounter in their daily lives have been remedied through observing Lent. We should also look at our motivations whilst observing Lent: any small sacrifice we make "should not be worn as a badge of honour". Any sacrifice that we make demonstrates our humility and also shows our closeness to God and to Jesus. Lent is a time when we can identify with anyone who daily has to live a simpler life. When the Lenten period ends we may want to continue these more disciplined practices, and many will do exactly that.

Best wishes, Glenn.

My First Home Wedding

I had only been in the ministry for a short time, pastoring a small church in a little town. I had only done one church wedding and it had gone pretty smooth. I was kind of over confident to say the least. However, this was my first experience in performing a home wedding. They lived in a really big town and this was years before GPS. It didn't help that I couldn't find their house. The house was totally filled. I started the ceremony as the bride was coming down from upstairs. As she ascended, everyone began to hum, "Here Comes the Bride!" This totally shook me up as this was their only music. I started my part of the ceremony. There was a lot of giggling and talking going on, so I loudly began the Vows: "Will you John, have Sharon to be your lawfully wedded husband?" Peals of laughter broke out! All eyes were on me! I looked up and said, "I just done that on purpose to get your attention. The rest of the day was a blur!!!

Session Clerk Spotlight 2

Session Clerk Spotlight 1

South Carrick Churches together (SCCT)

South Carrick Churches Together has recently been reconstituted after the enforced break during the Covid Restrictions. Representatives of our local partner churches met with Rev James Anderson chairing the meeting and our Secretary Jillian Nelson keeping us all on track. Girvan North was identified as the host church for this year.

The following plans were made for joint services throughout the year:

1. World Day of Prayer – Girvan North Friday 3 March 3pm. We are looking forward to hosting this joint service. Glenn will lead our service and representatives of our partner churches will all be participating in readings
2. Good Friday (Friday 7 April)
Rev Edgar Ogston will lead our joint Stumpy Service at noon.
Rev Theo Corney will lead our Good Friday Service at Girvan North at 7pm.
3. Girvan Harbour Summer Service – Date still to be confirmed.
The Salvation Army will be invited to support this service.
4. Pot Luck Supper – Sun 17 Sept 5pm. All are invited to enjoy fellowship and a meal together at the North Church with donations of food from all the churches being shared together.

We look forward to these opportunities to worship together with other local churches.

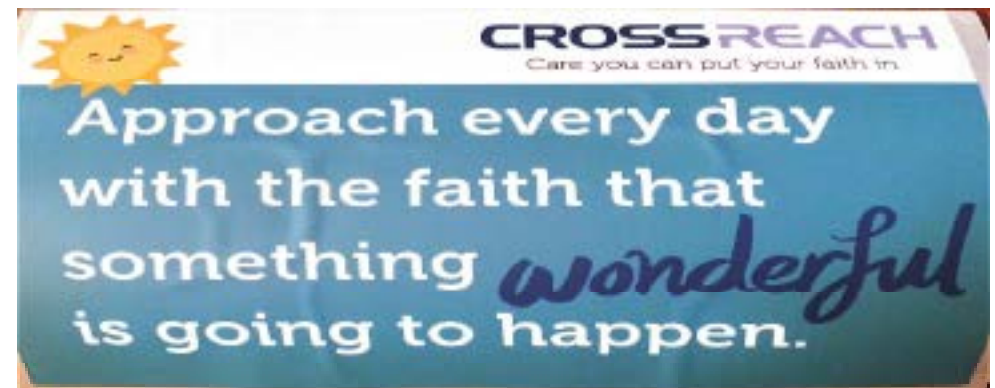
CROSSREACH

CROSSREACH is the Social care arm of the Church of Scotland and delivers a fabulous service to vulnerable adults, families, children and elderly across Scotland. Many of our congregation have generously given to enable the work to continue in the toughest of circumstances.

Over the month of March perhaps we can remember the following CROSSREACH work in our prayers.

1. Threshold Edinburgh – providing housing support and day care Services for adults with learning disabilities
2. Whiteinch Move on Service, Glasgow.- Supporting adults in recovery from substance misuse
3. Children's and Young People's Homes across Scotland
4. Adams House, Johnston- a specialist cares home for 30 older people with dementia.

There will be a folder of resources in the large hall. Feel free to take a magazine home for a read or a prayer diary and return it when you are ready. Please have look at the website to find out more about Crossreach or even to make a purchase at the online shop or give a donation.



Sunday School update:

Recently in Sunday School we have been focussing on Joshua and the spies of Jericho. We learned about brave Rahab who protected the spies from the soldiers and was in turn protected herself.

We have now focussed our learning on Easter with many of us choosing to give up foods and activities that we like for 40 days for Lent.

See us here eating our yummy pancakes:



We meet every Sunday morning from 10:50am until noon and our session dates are as follows:

Term 3 - Sunday 8th January 2023 → Sunday 26th March 2023

Easter holiday - Sunday 2nd April, Sunday 9th April and Sunday 16th April 2023

Term 4 - Sunday 22nd April → Sunday 25th June 2023

New Minister

Recently a large seminar was held for ministers in training. Among the guests were many well-known motivational speakers. One such boldly approached the pulpit and, gathering the entire crowd's attention, said, "The best years of my life were spent in the arms of a woman that wasn't my wife!" The crowd was shocked! He followed up by saying, "And that woman was my mother!" The crowd burst into laughter and he gave his speech, which went over well.

About a week later one of the assistant ministers who had attended the seminar decided to use that joke in what was his first sermon to the congregation. As he shyly approached the pulpit one Sunday, he tried to rehearse the joke in his head. He was notably very nervous and getting to the microphone he said loudly, "The greatest years of my life were spent in the arms of another woman that was not my wife!" His congregation sat shocked.

After standing there for almost 10 seconds the pastor finally blurted out, "...and I can't remember who she was!"

Terri asked her Sunday School class to draw pictures of their favorite bible stories. She was puzzled by Kyle's picture, which showed four people on an airplane. So, she asked him which story it was meant to represent.

"The flight to Egypt," said Kyle.

"I see... And that must be Mary, Joseph, and the Baby Jesus," Ms. Terri said. "But who's the fourth person?"

Kyle explained, "Oh, that's Pontius the Pilot!"

Prayer Topics for March

1. Leprosy Mission – Ethiopia

Please pray that the voices of persons with disability and those affected by leprosy will be amplified and heard by key actors. Please pray for the development of Ethiopia's first Disability Act which the government is producing in collaboration with disability rights activists. Pray that when the act is passed, it will deliver comprehensive civil rights protections to individuals with disabilities.

2. Open Doors - Somalia

If a Christian is discovered in Somalia they face great risk of murder. Violent attacks against Christians are increasing and Islamic militants are intensifying their hunt. Pray that isolated Somali believers will know God's comfort and find ways to grow in their faith. Pray that violent Islamic militants will turn from their evil ways and for God's protection over His church. Ask that Open Doors' partners in the Horn of Africa may receive God's wisdom and strength and their work bear much fruit..

3. Mission Aviation Fellowship

Praise God for MAF Flights which bring new translations of the Bible to remote communities longing to read God's Word. Today let us uphold those involved in translating Scripture, praying for wisdom, accuracy and readability. Because we flew translations to various villages MAF Kalimantan were invited to a dedication ceremony of the Gospel of Luke to celebrate it being translated into five different languages – Punan, Lundayeh, Kenyah Lepo'ke, Bulusu and Agabag. Pray that all who read these translations will come to know the love of God.

4 Praise God and give thanks for people who are willing to stand up for their Christian faith and standards in present-day society, against opposition and in spite of the effect it may have on their future circumstances. Ask God to give them the courage to stand firm. Scripture tells us that God will honour those who honour Him. Pray for God's wisdom in the choice of a new First Minister. Pray for the people of

Turkey and Syria in the aftermath of the dreadful earthquakes. As President Zelenski continues to encourage and support his people, pray for his protection and strength. Ask God to intervene and bring a decisive victory to Ukrainian forces and an end to this brutal war. In this period of Lent, pray that God will teach us how to walk more closely in the footsteps of Christ, that we might be more effective witnesses for Him and those around us may see that we "Have been with Jesus". Ask for a deeper understanding of the full significance of the Cross in our daily lives.

Treasurer's Report

The Receipts and Payments Accounts for 2022 were unanimously approved by the Kirk Session on 8th February and then approved by an independent Examiner. Our thanks to Ken Johnstone for doing this. These accounts will now be presented to the congregation at the Stated Annual Meeting on Sunday 19th March. There will be an opportunity for members to ask questions.

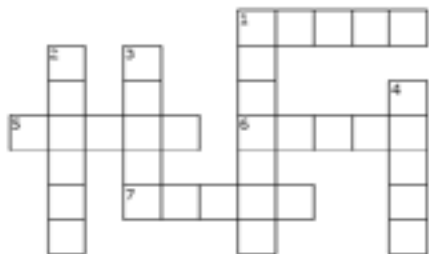
During the months of January and February our income totalled £12,872.25. Our expenditure for these two months was £21,037.85 which included £2,688.70 to Church of Scotland Giving To Grow scheme, £586.21 for Insurance and £2809.71 for Locum's 3 month salary. There were other expenses for gas, electricity, office supplies and printing costs. Our biggest expense was £11,569.20 to Harper for rewiring the Manse. It was good to get this work done while the Manse was empty.

The Bank Balance in the General Account was £60,897.65 at 28/02/2023.

Thank you to our faithful members for their continued support.

Margaret Benson
Treasurer.

Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- The entire Earth and all the places and things on it
- A heavenly being, often shown as a human figure with a halo and wings
- A small rock
- The evil ruler of Hell, and enemy of God

DOWN

- To show a strong feeling of love and respect for God
- To feel a need or desire for food
- A food made of flour and water, shaped into loaves, and baked
- To try to get someone to do wrong

hungry	bread	worship	devil
stone	tempt	angel	world



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Children's Worship Bulletin

The Temptation of Christ

Matthew 4:1-11

Word Search

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R P J L D S T E M P T E D B K
P Q G R H P W E G H J S V W J
V Y O N N H V X W D E A W F E
M L Y R N R F E E N S T S D W
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S B U S K S B O E D S N Y T R
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WORD	WORSHIP	LORD	MOUNTAIN	BOW
TEMPTED	ANGELS	HUNGRY	STONES	SERVE
WORLD	KINGDOMS	BREAD	DESERT	SPLENDOR
DEVIL	FASTING	SATAN	TEMPLE	JESUS

Your Church Name
City or Town