

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

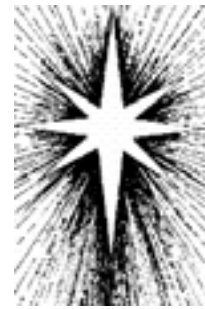
Email: churchoffice12@btconnect.com

Church Website: www.girvannorthparishchurch.org.uk

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

EDITOR'S NOTE:

All articles for the May 2023 issue of the Church Magazine should be given to the Editor by Sunday 30th April 2023



The Church
of Scotland

The
North
Star

April 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.

South Carrick Churches Together (SCCT)

We enjoyed a super service on the World Day of Prayer with lots of participants from our partner churches in both readings and the joint choir.

We are now looking forward to our next joint events. If you are available please come and join us.

Good Friday 7th April

Stumpy Open Air Service (12 noon) - Rev Edgar Ogston)
Evening Service (Girvan North - 7pm) - Rev Theo Corney

Church Diary

Friday 7 April	Stumpy Service 12 noon
Friday 7 April	Evening Service (Girvan North – 7pm)
Sunday 9 April	Easter Sunday
Sunday 16 April	BB Sponsor Day
Tuesday 18 April	Session Meeting
Tuesday 18 April	Afternoon tea

Afternoon Tea

Come and meet friends and enjoy Afternoon Tea in the large hall on Tuesday 18th April at 3.00 pm.

All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you then.

Fundraising Action Team

April Newsletter for Girvan North.

Dear friends, we are quickly approaching Easter. As I had written last month, the Easter season begins with Lent, a time when Christians reflect on, fast, and prepare for Jesus' Resurrection. The season of Lent begins on Ash Wednesday and ends on Holy Saturday. The next day, of course, is Easter Sunday, the euphoric moment when Jesus rose from the grave 2,000 years ago. A lot has happened in these 2,000 years. How has Jesus' Resurrection impacted on our lives today? Has He made a difference to us, or is Easter Sunday just another day? Easter is a time of sacrifice and renewal. A time of new beginnings, and a hopeful future, but also a time when we must recognise the selfless act which Jesus was prepared to do for all of us. After everything Jesus was prepared to do for all of us, what are we prepared to do for Him? Do we have faith in Him, or is our faith like the wind, sometimes strong and sometimes not. According to eyewitnesses, Jesus demonstrated to everyone His power over death. After Jesus was crucified on a Cross, and was buried, He suddenly appeared to others on the third day, on various occasions. Very soon everyone realised that Jesus had risen from the dead. Some people consider this story to be a 2,000 year old legend, others believe it is based on verifiable evidence. If Jesus did not rise from the dead, the foundations of Christianity would quickly crumble. So, let us examine the evidence. Several hundred years before the coming of Christ, Isaiah spoke about a future Messiah who would suffer and die for our sins, but later return to life. From this prophesy in Isaiah 53, Jesus claimed He was the Messiah who would be betrayed, arrested, condemned to death, abused, and murdered. Three days later He would rise from the dead. All of Jesus' teachings were based on Him rising from the dead. If Jesus did not rise from the dead His teachings of forgiving others, and of gaining eternal life, would have no meaning at all. Why would Jesus risk making such an extraordinary statement if it were based on a lie? The devotion which His disciples had previously shown would quickly evaporate. The devotion of Jesus' disciples would only grow stronger. Jesus would be betrayed by Judas Iscariot and then condemned to death in a sham trial led by Pontius Pilate. Jesus suffered on the

Cross for 6 hours and then died at 3 o'clock in the afternoon. Pilate needed to know that Jesus had actually died so a Roman guard thrust a spear into Jesus' side. Jesus, having died, was tightly wrapped in linen and buried in Joseph of Arimathea's tomb. The tomb was sealed by Roman guards who remained at the entrance to keep it secure. The disciples were concerned that they too would meet the same fate as Jesus had met, and hid from sight. These same frightened disciples would somehow be strengthened so that they could bravely share the Christian message first throughout the Mediterranean area, and then across the world. Some critics claim that Jesus did not die on the Cross, but merely lost consciousness. The cool damp air of the tomb revived him. All the eyewitnesses, as well as contemporary and secular historians, consider that Jesus actually died. Other critics consider that Jesus' body was stolen. Could the disciples have stolen His body and then fraudulently claimed that He had risen from the grave? The problem with this theory is that the tomb was owned by Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Sanhedrin Council. The disciples would have been seen. Other critics question whether the disciples may have been hallucinating. Psychologists insist that individuals hallucinate, rather than groups behaving in such a strange manner. Other critics consider that Jesus rising from the grave was legendary rather than evidential. The problem with this theory is that when there are multiple eyewitnesses alive to refute the event, legends do not emerge. A further problem is that legends are spread by oral tradition and are not supported by historical evidence. Yet, the Gospels were written within a generation of Jesus rising from the tomb. This legendary theory does not completely explain the empty tomb or the passionate belief of the disciples that Jesus was still alive. So, having dismissed these criticisms of Jesus' resurrection, let us look at aspects which support the Resurrection. Firstly, there is the prominence of women which conspirators would not have suggested in such a male-dominated society. Jesus was seen by such a wide variety of people that inventing these sightings would be impossible. Why did the initially cowardly disciples develop such courage? Surely, the only answer is that Jesus actually rose from the grave.

Session Clerk Spotlight 2

CROSSREACH

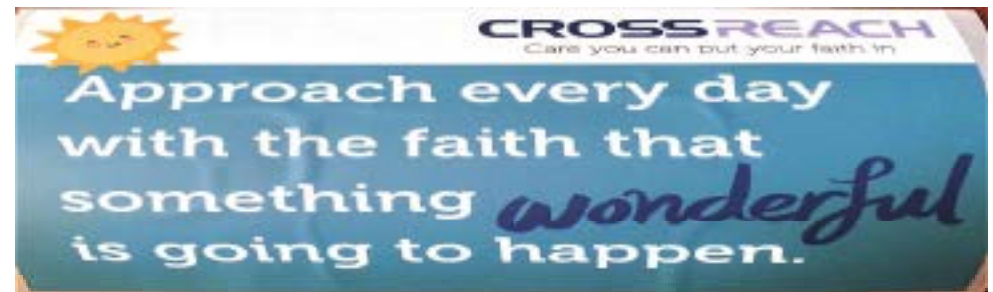
CROSSREACH is the Social Care arm of the Church of Scotland and delivers a fabulous service to vulnerable adults, families, children and elderly across Scotland. Many of our congregation have generously given, in the past, to enable the work to continue in the toughest of circumstances.

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

1. Morlich House, Edinburgh – A Care Home for older ladies
2. Cameron House, Inverness – A Care Home for 30 people in various stages of dementia.
3. Balmedie House, Aberdeen – Residential Accommodation and Day Care centre
4. Crossreach Counselling Services, North and West – Adults, children and young people with mental health challenges.

We remember the dedicated staff in their work in Crossreach Social Care as well as services users across Scotland, with special need of our prayers at this time.

There is a folder of resources in the large hall. Feel free to take a Crossreach magazine home for a read, or a Crossreach 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 to support Crossreach.



Treasurer's Report

During 2022 I was able to claim back £11,061 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 2023 our income was £23,855 which included a very generous donation of £7000. Our expenditure for this quarter was £28,631 which included the cost of rewiring the manse (£11,799). Thank you for your continued support.

Margaret Benson

South Carrick Churches Together (SCCT)

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Good Friday 7th April

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Evening Service (Girvan North- 7pm)- Rev Theo Corney

The disciples would never have responded so positively, and passionately, to a lie. No one in all of history made a greater impression on the world, as Jesus Christ did. Even non-Christians would grudgingly have to acknowledge this indisputable fact. We must therefore thank Jesus for dying for all of our sins – sins of the past, present, and future. We must thank Jesus for the eternal life which we graciously receive because of Him. We must receive Jesus as our Saviour by faith and allow Him to be the Lord of our life. We must allow Jesus to make us the type of person Jesus wants us to be. In this way Jesus will have entered all of our lives. The old has gone and the new has come. Our lives will then have a defining purpose, and the power of Jesus' Holy Spirit will be working through all of us in everything that we do.

Best wishes, Glenn.

Pastoral Care

If anyone would like a member of the Pastoral Care Team to visit them at home for a “wee blether” please contact Glen or myself. Any member of our team would be pleased to see you.

Jimmy Lindsay, Convener

Prayer Topics for April

1. Leprosy Mission – Mozambique

Thank God for the protection of persons affected by leprosy and the infrastructure of the Osornihane Community Centres including our server. The Centres will be spaces for communities to have access to audio-visual education content which addresses various issues including leprosy. The Centres and resources aim to generate community debate. We pray that through this technology we will add value to the communities we are serving..

2. Open Doors – Burkina Faso

Give thanks that security forces have rescued 66 women and children abducted by jihadists in January. Ask God to heal those traumatised by their kidnap and pray for protection for Christians still living under the threat of Islamic insurgency.

3. Mission Aviation Fellowship - Chad

Four years ago, Pastor Justin and his organisation adopted 40,000 unreached people in Goz Beida. Eastern Chad. Pray for God's blessing on this incredible ministry in evangelism. Having trained Chadian missionaries to reach the unreached, Pastor Justin has been able to send two families to live in communities where they can build relationships with their neighbours and run Bible courses. Ask for God's protection for every missionary spreading the Gospel in countries where Islam is the dominant religion.

4 Pray for the leaders of our country, for integrity, wisdom and compassion. Praise God for Easter with its new life and new beginnings. Give thanks for the Cross with the One hanging there in our place, taking the punishment for our sins upon Himself. Pray that the message of the Gospel may reach and bring hope and new life to all people who are crushed and broken and destitute as a result of earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, drought, fires, wars and addictions. Ask God to protect and give wisdom and strength to those He sends to give them the help they need. Pray that we in the Church may play our part in bringing new beginnings to this broken, needy world, so that God's will may be done "on earth as it is in Heaven" and He will receive all the praise and the glory.

Earthquake Appeal for Turkey

At the joint Communion Service on 5th March the magnificent sum of £586 was raised by both churches for the Earthquake Appeal for Turkey and Syria. Many thanks to all who contributed to this great effort.

Afternoon Tea

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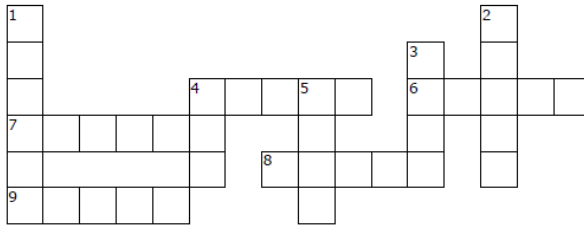
All are welcome and we look forward to seeing you then.

Fundraising Action Team

Girvan Food Bank

The Mission and Outreach Team were delighted with the very generous support of the congregation for the appeal for donations to the Girvan Food Bank on the 19th and 26th of February. We handed over 28 very full bags of groceries and toiletries to Milestone Church which runs the Food Bank in Girvan. At this time of year when money can be very tight it was particularly welcome and Milestone were very grateful for these goods. Thank you once again your continued support.

Crossword Puzzle



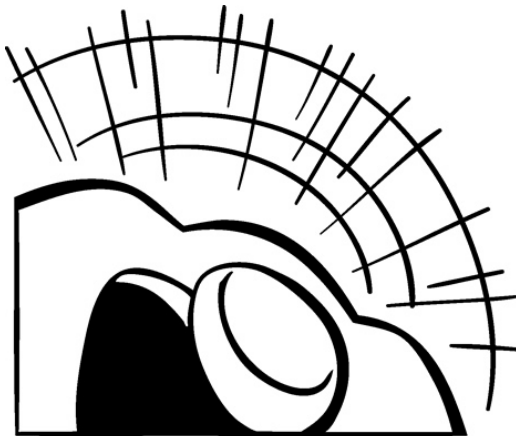
ACROSS

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

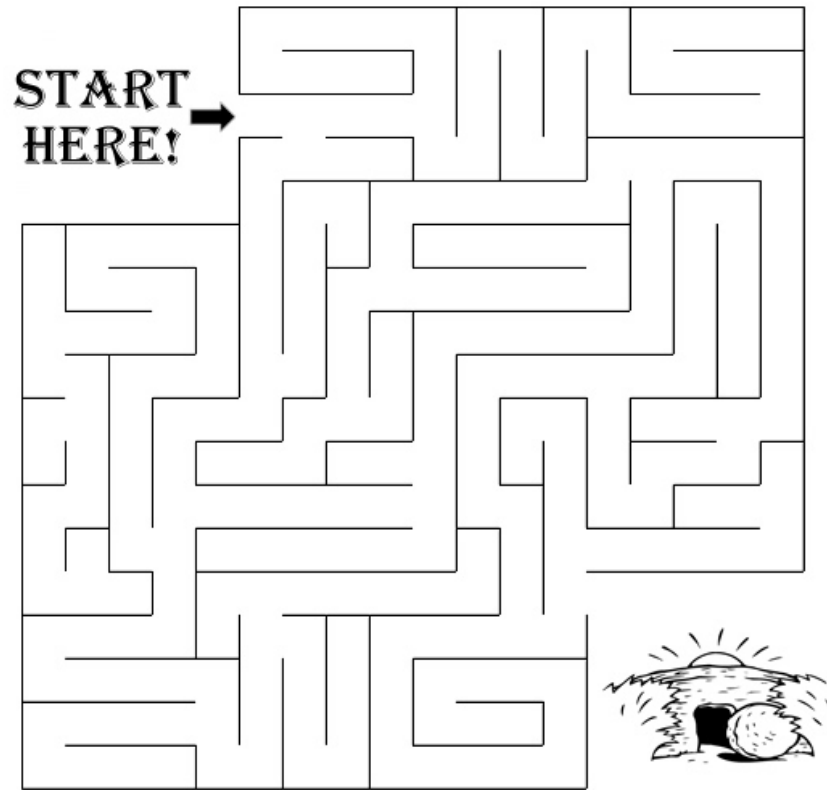
A G K Y T Q S P I C E S X E F
 A R D T T C G H R J T V H N F
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 M Y J A C E A I R O Y V O X R
 H I G D D E Y M M S Q N M U K
 Y T R D S K S Z B H P M B F C

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!

