

The Church
of Scotland

The
North
Star

November 2023



Girvan North Parish Church

Girvan North Parish Church Charity No. SC007347

EDITOR'S NOTE:

All items for the December Magazine should be given to, or posted through the office door, or emailed to the Church Office or, to Matthew no later than Sunday 27th November 2023.

Contact details: Telephone: 712672

Email: churchoffice12@btconnect.com

Email: matthewscobie@btinternet.com

Church Website: www.girvannorthparishchurch.org.uk

If secretarial services are required, please contact Matthew Scobie on 01465 713935 or email matthewscobie@btinternet.com when arrangements will be made.

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**

Crossreach orders

Many thanks to everyone who placed an order for Crossreach Christmas cards or calendars . It's been good to support this charity and over £250 of orders were placed .

Orders can be collected from Pauline from today in the memorial chapel after the morning service .

Pauline



November Newsletter for Girvan North.

Dear friends, as we approach Remembrance Sunday, I would like to write about George Matheson. He probably is best remembered as the writer of “O love that wilt not let me go.” He served as Minister of Innellan Church, and then of St. Bernard’s Church, in Edinburgh. He was practically blind. His life story inspires us all.

On June 6th, 1882, the day his sister got married, his family stayed overnight in Glasgow, whilst George remained in the Manse. George sat alone in the darkness, in his blindness, in emotional turmoil. No one knew the reason for this, but his heart cried out to Christ. These comforting words he quickly wrote down, eased his pain:

O love that wilt not let me go,
I rest my weary soul in Thee;
I give Thee back the life I owe,
That in Thine ocean depths its flow
May richer, fuller be.
O Light that followest all my way,
I yield my flickering torch to Thee;
My heart restores its borrowed ray,
That in Thy sunshine’s blaze its day
May brighter, fairer be.
O Joy that seekest me through pain,
I cannot close my heart to Thee;
I climb the rainbow through the rain,
And feel the promise is not vain,
That morn shall tearless be.
O Cross that liftest up my head,
I dare not ask to fly from thee;
I lay in dust’s life glory dead,
And from the ground their blossoms red
Life that shall endless be.

The poem was finished in less than 5 minutes. The only alteration was line 3 of stanza 3.” I climb” became “I trace.” It was usually so difficult

for George to write lyrics so quickly, but these lyrics came easily to him. He surely received his guidance from God. These verses which George has written, whilst experiencing such terrible pain, became one of the best known hymns in the Church Hymnary.

George was born in 1842 to parents George and Jane Matheson. He was the first of eight children and had the poorest eyesight. He was educated at Glasgow Academy and then Glasgow University. He received his Bachelor’s Degree, in Philosophy, in 1861, and his Master’s Degree in the following year. He wore powerful glasses to read at school, and always would sit next to the light of the window to assist his vision. Although he was never completely blind, he depended on others to get through every day.

George was not easily discouraged, and many who heard him preach did not realise he was blind. George’s sisters helped him overcome the loneliness he felt. His eldest sister helped him around the house, wrote down his dictated Sermons, and assisted him in the Parish he served.

He was Ordained as a Minister by the Presbytery at Sandyford, as an assistant to Dr. McDuff. He had greater responsibility when he was Minister at Innellan. Parishioners did not realise he was blind as he frequently appeared to glance down at his notes. He had actually committed great portions of his Sermon, and Bible references, to memory. He declined a move to London, and in 1886 moved to St. Bernard’s Church in Edinburgh, where he stayed for another 13 years.

He even preached to Queen Victoria about the “patience of Job,” and she was very impressed. She wanted more people to hear it, so, the Sermon was published.

As mentioned, the greatest hymn he wrote was: “O love that wilt not let me go.” He composed this on the night of his sister’s wedding. The sister he so depended on. George would of course be dependent on God, as we all should be. Did George write this hymn due his sister’s marriage, or did he write it due to a past love which did not blossom? Who can tell? More importantly, he wrote these words. Whilst Matheson wrote the words, Dr. Albert Peace wrote the music. A partnership

made in heaven.

We achieve very little by our own efforts, but so much more by giving our lives over to Christ. God's glory should be reflected in all of our lives today. It is not through our "flickering torch" that we are strengthened, but through the blaze of the sun's rays shining upon us. When the rainbow appears after the rain, we feel overjoyed. We are then given eternal hope and eternal life through focussing our attention on the Cross of Christ. George Matheson was a great writer, and preacher, and was someone who succeeded despite the limitations that he faced. He knew who Christ was, just as we should know who Christ is. Our focus on this Remembrance Sunday should be on the Creator who gave us life, rather than just on ourselves. I am sure this hymn inspires so many of our soldiers, naval, and air personnel, who have sacrificed so much of their lives to grant us all our freedom, giving us an eternal peace.

Best wishes, Glenn.

"Do this in remembrance of me"

**Joint Holy Communion Service
Invitation to Communion**

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



All are welcome and look forward to seeing you there.

Session Clerks Spotlight

Fundraising and Activities Team

Afternoon Tea – Tuesday 17th October

We were sure to enjoy the warm welcome at our Afternoon Tea on Tuesday 17th October. The hall was busy with friends enjoying good company, great chatter and of course, lovely sweet treats. We are fortunate to have a team of busy enthusiastic helpers giving their time to make this happen and really appreciated all those who attended and supported the event. While our main aim was to enjoy an opportunity to meet friends and be together, it should be noted that over £200 was raised to support our church funds. Thank you to all.



We look forward to support being as good for our Church Coffee Morning on Saturday 25th November. Mince Pies and Shortbread will be served to get us into the festive mood and there will be a number of stalls including the Home Baking , Gift stall, Books and of course the Christmas Hamper. Tickets available from 22 October from Agnes or any of the Fundraising and Activities Team.



Session Clerks Spotlight

A Giving Church

Of course, as a congregation we have been generous in our giving, both to our own church and to others. Perhaps it's never been more important for us to share what we have.



At present, our church building is in the middle of a big maintenance and repair job and I am sure many of you will have noticed the scaffolding up at the West Window. The area has been made safe after a piece of masonry fell from height. The scaffolding is likely to remain in place until the New Year until the right teams of craftsmen are available to progress the repair. Indeed, it is likely that work will be undertaken to the outside of the West Window at the same time – hopefully to future proof our beautiful West Window. Our givings to our church are always valued but especially right now.

Session Clerks Spotlight

Fancy a cuppa after church on Sunday Mornings?



It's been super to see lots of folk going through to the large hall after church to enjoy a cuppa, a wee chat and fellowship. Visitors have joined us and have regularly commented that they feel welcome and included and isn't that a wonderful comment about our congregation?

Church Diary

| | |
|--|------------|
| Joint Holy Communion (South Parish) | Sun 5 Nov |
| Session Meeting | Tues 7 Nov |
| Joint Remembrance Service (South Parish) | Sun 12 Nov |
| Malawi Christmas Crafts Fundraiser | Sun 19 Nov |
| Christmas Coffee Morning | Sat 25 Nov |
| Malawi Christmas Crafts Fundraiser | Sun 26 Nov |

Prayer Topics for November.

1. The leprosy Mission - Bangladesh.

The "ACTS" Leprosy Project focuses on engaging pastors and church volunteers and members for the leprosy service. Fifteen churches in the Tea Garden are involved in household visits of persons affected by leprosy providing mental health and support referring potential cases of leprosy and supporting advocacy. Please pray for God's guidance as they perform their roles.



2. Open Doors - Ethiopia.

Praise God for the incredible impact of a water well provided by Open Doors partners to support persecuted Christians. If these people we despised, hated, and cast out could give us this free clean water this is an example to us say local Muslims who are among one thousand households using it. Pray that their Behaviour towards Christians will be changed radically because of this.

3. Mission Aviation Fellowship - Tanzania.

Praise God for his faithfulness to our pilots, passengers, and planes in Tanzania since our first in-country flight in 1963. Pray that His countless blessings which include the physical healing and spiritual hope provided by MAF,s life giving programme will continue for many more years to come.

4. With climate change, we hear of unprecedented flooding, earthquakes, fires, etc. Pray for all victims of such disasters as they try to put their lives together again. Almighty God is the only one who can bring peace to warring nations. Pray that He will intervene to stop the senseless, appalling cruelty and violence and disregard for human life currently in the Middle East, Ukraine and elsewhere. Ask God to bring the perpetrators to justice and grant help and healing to the victims. Pray for those involved in our churches November activities and the necessary arrangements. Give thanks and pray for the opportunity

to join with South Parish in worship on two Sundays and ask that the congregations will be drawn closer together as we meet. Thank God for all the work Matthew has done and is doing in the Church secretarial matters. Pray for Glen with the many Funerals to conduct as well as his other work and ask for comfort for all those recently bereaved as well as those in hospital or at home. Praise God for all His blessings and his presence constantly with us.

Session Clerks Spotlight

Mission and Outreach Team

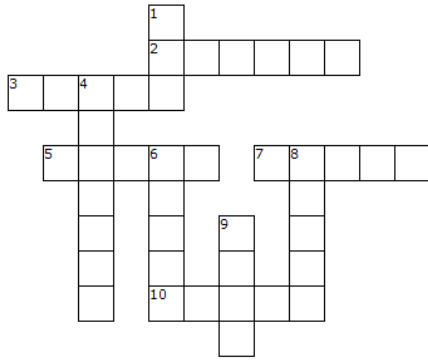
There are always invitations to give to others at our church and our congregation is generous. We are invited to fill a Christmas Shoebox for the Blythwood Shoebox Appeal and many boxes are returned to church already. We are invited to save for our Jars of Grace collection for CAN (New Year return). Of course, many crafters have got the knitting needles out (also crochet, sewing machines etc.).



Your donations for the Christmas Craft Malawi Appeal are much appreciated. Recently, we have been invited to support CROSSREACH by purchasing Christmas cards. Thank you to Xander and Callum who have assisted by taking orders. Thank you to everyone who contributes to any of these charities.



Crossword Puzzle



ACROSS

- 2. To be raised up
- 3. A heavenly servant of God, often pictured as a human with wings
- 5. What we humans use to speak or sing
- 7. The Son of God
- 10. The end of life

DOWN

- 1. Everyone and everything
- 4. To bring praise and honor to God
- 6. A large group of people
- 8. The land surface of the world
- 9. To attract someone or something

| | | | | |
|-------|-------|---------|--------|-------|
| DEATH | ANGEL | VOICE | EARTH | JESUS |
| ALL | DRAW | GLORIFY | LIFTED | CROWD |



Children's Worship Bulletin

The Power of His Love

John 12:28-33

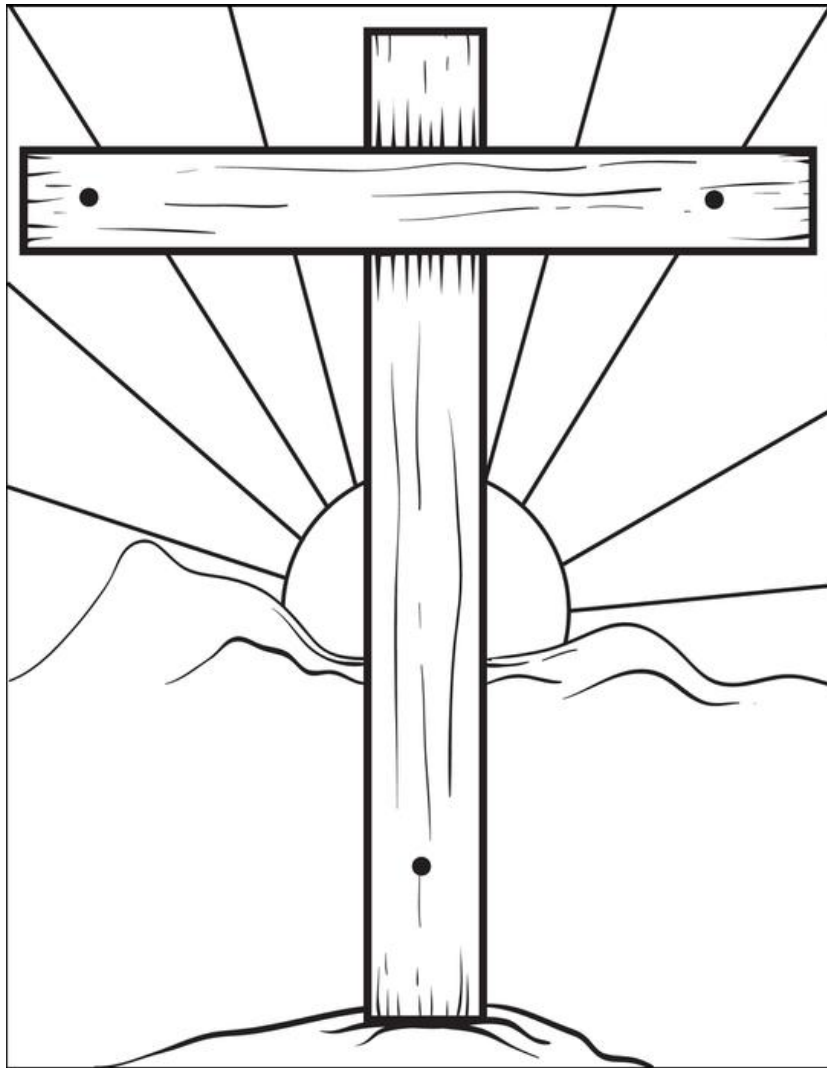
Word Search Puzzle

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

| | | | | |
|-----------|--------|---------|---------|-------|
| WORLD | DIE | TIME | HEARD | CROWD |
| ANGEL | HEAVEN | MYSELF | LIFTED | MEN |
| VOICE | FATHER | GLORIFY | PRINCE | SHOW |
| JUDGEMENT | DRAW | EARTH | THUNDER | NAME |

Your Church Name Here
Anytown, USA

Coloring Page



"And I, when I am lifted up from the earth,
will draw all people to myself."
John 12:32

Multiple Choice

Choose the word that best matches the definition.
Check your answers in John 12:28-33 (NIV)

- ___ 1. Everyone and everything
A. lifted B. angel C. voice D. all
- ___ 2. To be raised up
A. earth B. all C. voice D. lifted
- ___ 3. A heavenly servant of God, often pictured as a human with wings
A. earth B. Jesus C. lifted D. angel
- ___ 4. The end of life
A. all B. death C. voice D. crowd
- ___ 5. To bring praise and honor to God
A. glorify B. death C. earth D. draw
- ___ 6. The land surface of the world
A. earth B. lifted C. draw D. death
- ___ 7. The Son of God
A. Jesus B. Andrew C. Philip D. John
- ___ 8. What we humans use to speak or sing
A. all B. voice C. draw D. lifted
- ___ 9. To attract someone or something
A. voice B. lifted C. draw D. crowd
- ___ 10. A large group of people
A. death B. earth C. crowd D. draw

