

Church Register

Deaths

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

Mrs. Janette Robertson Bourtreehall

Mr. Leslie Milroy Harbour Street

Mr. Robert Dunlop Malin Court Maidens

Mr. Walter Stowers Wheatfield Road

Mr. Ian McGregor The Avenue



EDITOR’S NOTE:

All items for the Spring 2024 Magazine should be given to, or posted through the office door, or emailed to the Church Office or, to Matthew no later than Sunday 25th February 2024

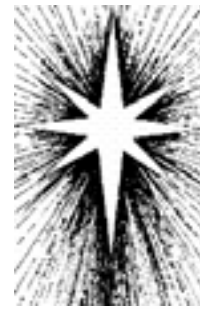
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Church Website: www.girvannorthparishchurch.org.uk

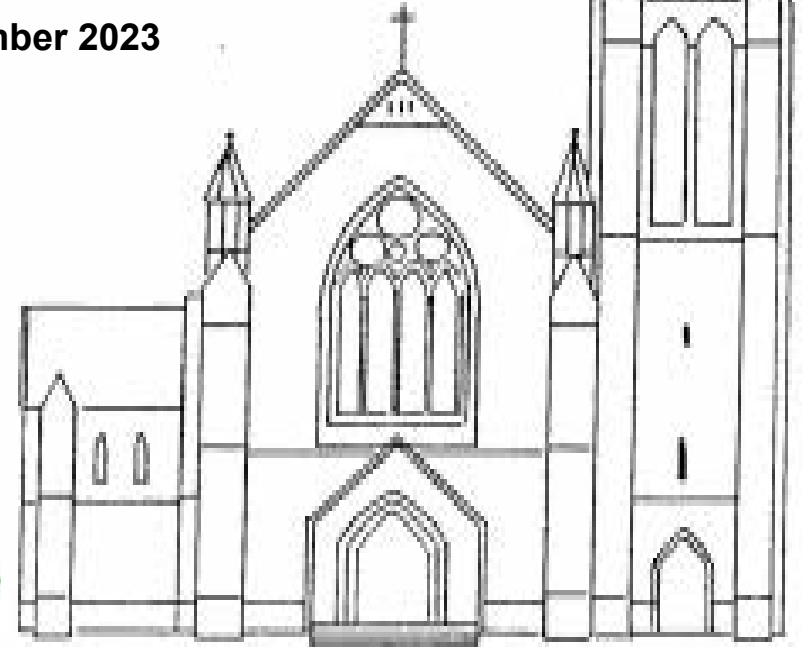
If secretarial services are required, please contact Matthew Scobie on 01465 713935 or email matthewscobie@btinternet.com when arrangements will be made.



The Church of Scotland

The North Star

December 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**



December Newsletter for Girvan North.

Dear friends, “Love came down at Christmas” is a Christmas poem written by Christina Georgina Rossetti, (1830-1894), in 1885. Rossetti was a 19th Century English poet. The hymn details the birth of Jesus Christ and the love that is brought into the world. The hymn stresses that love is what Christmas is all about and the birth of Jesus Christ symbolises God’s love for humanity. The hymn also speaks of the role of angels and the Star of Bethlehem in proclaiming Jesus Christ’s birth. Let me remind you all of the hymn’s beautiful lyrics: “Love came down at Christmas, Love all lovely, Love Divine; Love was born at Christmas, Stars and angels gave the sign. Worship we the Godhead, Love Incarnate, Love Divine; Worship we our Jesus: But wherewith for sacred sign? Love shall be our token, Love be yours, and love be mine, Love to God and all men, Love for plea and gift and sign”. Rossetti came from a family who were all very artistic. She wrote mostly religious poetry and religious books. She suffered poor health from the age of 16. Her strong faith partly came from the strength that she gained from her writing. Gabriele Rossetti, her father, was Professor of Italian at King’s College London. Her brothers Dante Gabriel and William Michael founded the Pre-Raphaelite movement. Her friend was Lewis Carroll, also known as Charles Dodgson, who wrote “Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland”. Her most famous hymns were “In the Bleak Midwinter”, published in 1872 and “Love Came Down at Christmas”, published in 1885. “In the Bleak Midwinter” represents the unwelcome landscape which the Christ child enters. This Christ child also symbolises the “love” which will transform that unwelcoming landscape into a much more beautiful one. Charles Wesley would also use the Christ child to symbolise the “love” in “Love Divine, All Love’s Excelling”. Although Rossetti’s poem was not initially meant to become a hymn, it was championed as such, and became very popular amongst congregational members. Rossetti’s poem is based on Scripture: 1 John 4: 7-11. This passage tells us to love one another as God is love. God sent His Son into the world to pay the price for our sinfulness. Just as

God loved us, we should love one another. So, hopefully we do. The hymn’s simplicity is a reflection of the great talent of Christina Rossetti. To show the power that is love is a way of countering the materialism which is sadly very evident at Christmas. After all, love conquers everything. Showing love ensures that the hungry are fed, the thirsty are given something to drink, the stranger is invited in, the naked are clothed, the sick person is looked after, and the prisoner is visited. At Christmas time we tend to be more generous to others, but surely it is better to show this generosity throughout the Christian year. It is not just through our words, but through our actions that we will be judged, as “actions speak far louder than words”. How do we love like Jesus loved? We must be kind to everyone whom we meet, pray for others, and love our enemies just as we love ourselves, as Christ lives within us all. I hope you all have a lovely time this Christmas. ***Kind regards, Glenn.***

Wednesday break

We meet every Wednesday and small hall at 10:30 am. For 1/2 hour of praise, prayer, and Bible text. Our group (around 16) is made up of cheery, friendly, chatty people.

Over the last three months we have been discussing on the works of artist Hannah Dunnett who has produced a book with twenty-four of her paintings. Each painting is very colourful, with swirls for the wind and water, different coloured patches for fields and hills, views with which we can identify. Into each painting she has woven words of scripture that means something to her in no way does it detract from the picture but enhances it. Each picture can be used as a personal Bible study or can influence our prayer life.

We continue to meet until the 20th of December followed by a break for Christmas, coming together again on 10th January 2024. Feel free to join us and enjoy the fellowship.

Treasurer's Report

As we come to the end of another financial year, I want to thank most sincerely our faithful members who regularly contribute so generously to the work and upkeep of our much-loved church.

As your treasurer, it is my responsibility to keep a watchful eye on our income and expenses and make comment when necessary. I am concerned to see this year that our income is not keeping up with our expenditure. I have taken some time to look at reasons why.

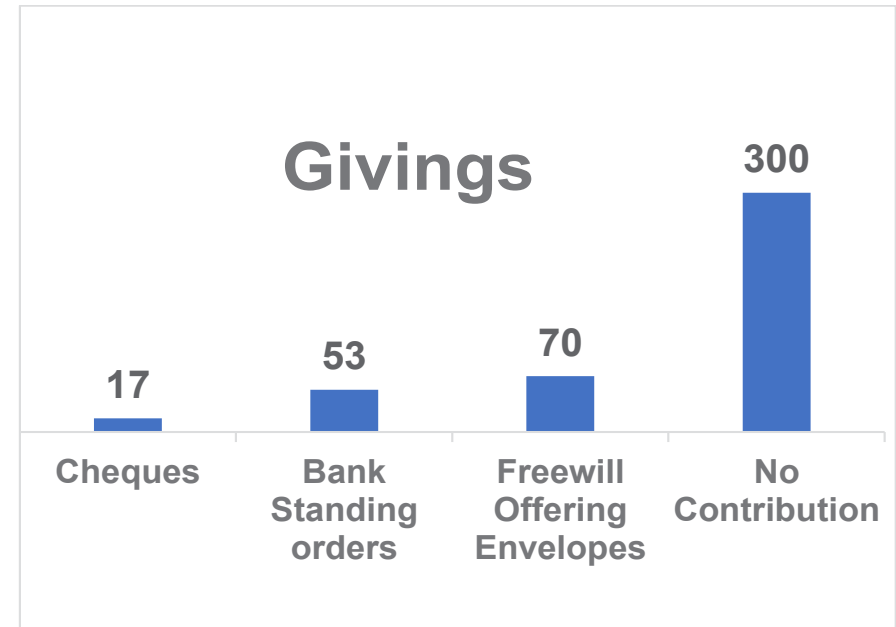
It is sad that income from funerals in our church is one area which has increased this year while very sadly our membership has decreased to 440.

We have 53 members who have Bank Standing Orders with money going into the church account regularly every month. Another 70 members give regularly using Freewill Offering envelopes and 17 give an annual cheque. A small number, including visitors, put their offering in the open plate.

This is a total of only 140 members who contribute to the work and upkeep of our lovely church while 300 members sadly do not contribute anything.

Put another way, our church is being kept going by the generosity of 32% of our members.

Are you one of the 32% or one of the 68%?



As we approach 2024 I appeal to you to start making an offering, either on a regular basis or a one off donation. With your financial help and with God's blessing we can face 2024 with renewed confidence.

I wish you all a very happy Christmas and good health in 2024.

Margaret Benson, Church Treasurer

Session Clerks Spotlight

Remembrance Sunday

It was lovely to see all the uniformed organisations attending our Joint Remembrance Service on Sun 12 November. In particular, it was good to see the boys from 1st Girvan Boys Brigade. They did a great job, carrying the company colours and laying the wreath. Well done to all! **Pauline Session Clerk**



Session Clerks Spotlight

Elders Long Service Awards

It is always a privilege to serve our Church in any way and many of our congregation give of their time and talents. It is wonderful to be part of a caring congregation who work well to support each other. All of these volunteers are much appreciated for what they do, including those who work quietly behind the scenes.

Recently, we enjoyed the opportunity to recognise "Service". Matthew Scobie and Joyce Mills each had 30 years' service as elders on our Kirk Session and Stuart Kilpatrick, Eric Mackinnon, Margaret Grasmom and Betty Dunlop each had given 40 years. In total, that adds up to 220 years' worth of service! Our Interim Moderator, Dr. James Anderson presented certificates at the morning service on Sun 29th October. The certificates were signed by our Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, Rt Rev Sally Foster- Fulton.



Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal

Billy, Margaret, and Irene filled their cars with 151 shoe boxes from the Girvan area and took them to the Blythswood van on Tuesday 31st October 2023. The van was picking up boxes all the way up the coast to be delivered to Fullerton Church in Irvine where a group of volunteers put in a gift of a Bible story or a Biblical text or a calendar with scriptural verses written in the language of destination.

All the boxes from Irvine (seven thousand last year) will be going to Moldova, one of the poorest countries in Europe, bordering Ukraine and the Black Sea. Your boxes will bring joy and excitement to people who have extraordinarily little to be happy about but are so grateful that someone somewhere, has remembered them.

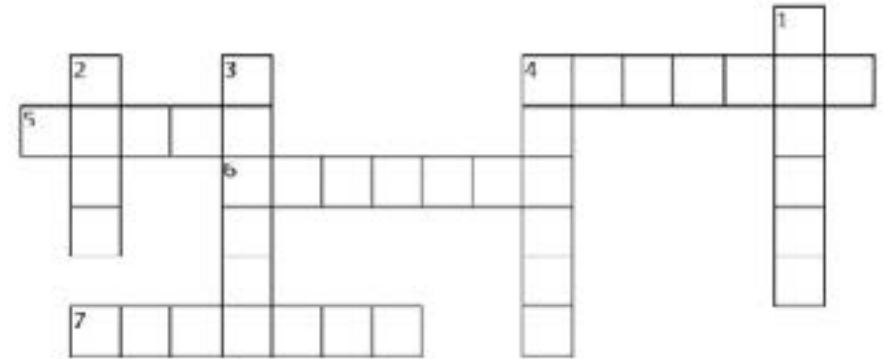
So, thank you to everyone who provided a box or money or a few contents – you have given Christmas a real meaning.



Ready for the Christ of Christmas

In those days John the Baptist came, preaching in the wilderness of Judea and saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." Matthew 3:1 (NIV)

Based on Matthew 3:1-12



ACROSS

4. One who speaks for God, or tells what will happen in the future
5. The sounds that are made when people speak or sing
6. To get ready for something that is going to happen
7. What John did to people in the Jordan River

DOWN

1. An area where there is little rain and not many plants
2. The man who preached that Jesus was coming
3. To be sorry for something bad you have done and make a change
4. To deliver a sermon

VOICE
REPENT

PREPARE
JOHN

DESERT
PREACH

PROPHET
BAPTIZE

Coffee Morning

There was a wonderful attendance at our Coffee Morning on Saturday 25th November. The hall was full of chatter, creating a lovely atmosphere as folk enjoyed their mince pies and shortbread with their tea and coffee.



The baking, gifts and book stalls were all very popular, as were the two competitions. The value of the goods in the hamper was £46.45 and won by Mr Neale Corbett with £46.50 with Mrs May McRobert second with £46.20. The Teddy Bear's birthday was 28th of February and was won by Leyton McLean.



The amazing total of £1017 was raised for church funds. Huge thanks to all those who helped in any way and to all who came along and supported us. Your hard work and your support is very much appreciated.

Session Clerks Spotlight

Session Room Door Upgrade

We have recently been exploring the feasibility of upgrading our Session Room door. The much needed improvement to this access door will include a new outward opening door with a small ramp and railings. Architects have been commissioned to ensure the work is appropriate for our Listed Building and we are delighted that our submitted plans have approval. It is a very exciting project that will benefit many of our members. The project has been partly funded by the generous gift the church received from the Noble family. It will be a lovely tribute to remember the late Peter Noble, who served our church so well and the kind gift is much appreciated.

Pauline

Session Clerk



Advent

Prayer Time.

1. Perhaps you are wondering why you are always being asked to pray for mission Aviation Fellowship, Open Doors, and the Leprosy Mission. In the past we have had visits by representatives from each of these missions. As their wonderful work continues, so does the need over prayers. M.A.F. has an exceptionally good safety record, but many of their pilots fly very hazardous journeys and need prayer for continual protection and well-maintained planes. They often fly emergency flights to distant hospitals with extremely sick or severely injured patients.



2. Open Doors work can be extremely dangerous in countries where to live a Christian life means the risk of persecution or death. O.D. workers provide material, mental and spiritual aid in the form of food, trauma counselling and education all in a gospel background. Pray for open and receptive hearts to God's word.

3. The Leprosy Mission is currently trying to completely eradicate leprosy as they continually carry out research on the progression of this disease. Their self-help groups have remarkable results but are extremely expensive to set up and run. Stigma is still a real problem. For many leprosy sufferers, please pray for all these matters and ask God to bring an end to all conflicts, especially the terrible Israel-Gaza and Ukraine-Russia wars. Please, for all the victims and the bereaved families.

Pray for solution to political problems and for wise and just laws to be made. Pray for people in extreme poverty, the homeless, the sick, the lonely, the addicted the bereaved and for broken homes especially where children are involved. Pray that they would reach out to God in their distress and find him more than adequate and willing to meet their deepest needs.

Give thanks to God's greatest gift to mankind adults and children alike of the Christ Child in the Manger the Saviour of the world. In all our Christmas services and celebrations pray that He may be the centre. May we humbly bow in worship before him with love and great joy.

“Oh come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord.”

Ready for the Christ of Christmas

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Based on Matthew 3:1-12



W	L	U	Z	M	H	V	J	O	J	Q	V	Q	S	U
I	Y	V	S	L	O	G	N	K	M	D	B	H	A	K
K	C	T	X	T	N	M	R	H	K	Y	T	E	X	X
C	I	X	J	T	E	Z	Y	J	T	A	E	S	L	E
P	N	N	Y	Y	A	S	L	P	P	T	R	Z	T	
R	B	M	G	J	W	I	L	D	G	S	U	E	S	Q
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J	W	K	K	R	N	J	C	U	Y	C	T	Q	T	U
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LORD	PREPARE	KINGDOM	JOHN	HAIR
BAPTIZE	STRAIGHT	PATHS	PREACHING	WILD
REPENT	LOCUSTS	HONEY	CAMEL	BELT