

PASTORAL PROFILE FOR

Girvan Valley

Church of Scotland

Charity No SC007347



The Church of Scotland

Girvan is a sea-side town in the West of Scotland, between Ayr and Stranraer. The area is known as South Carrick and as the largest town Girvan is home to many local services including a number of good schools. It has a population of about 6,450.

Girvan Valley Church of Scotland was established on 1st July 2024 by the union of Barr Parish Church, Dailly Parish Church and Girvan South Parish Church, which were previously linked, and Girvan North Parish Church. Of the two churches in Girvan, the South church halls and manse will be sold, and the congregation has consolidated in the old North Church. Dailly Parish Church and Barr Parish Church have been retained as Local Mission Churches.

The total membership is 715 of which 84% reside in Girvan. The Kirk Session numbers around 40 serving elders, including 6 from Dailly and 2 from Barr.

We are looking for a new minister to help us to be the church in the community in terms of the Five Marks of Mission.

The session has decided to “depart”.



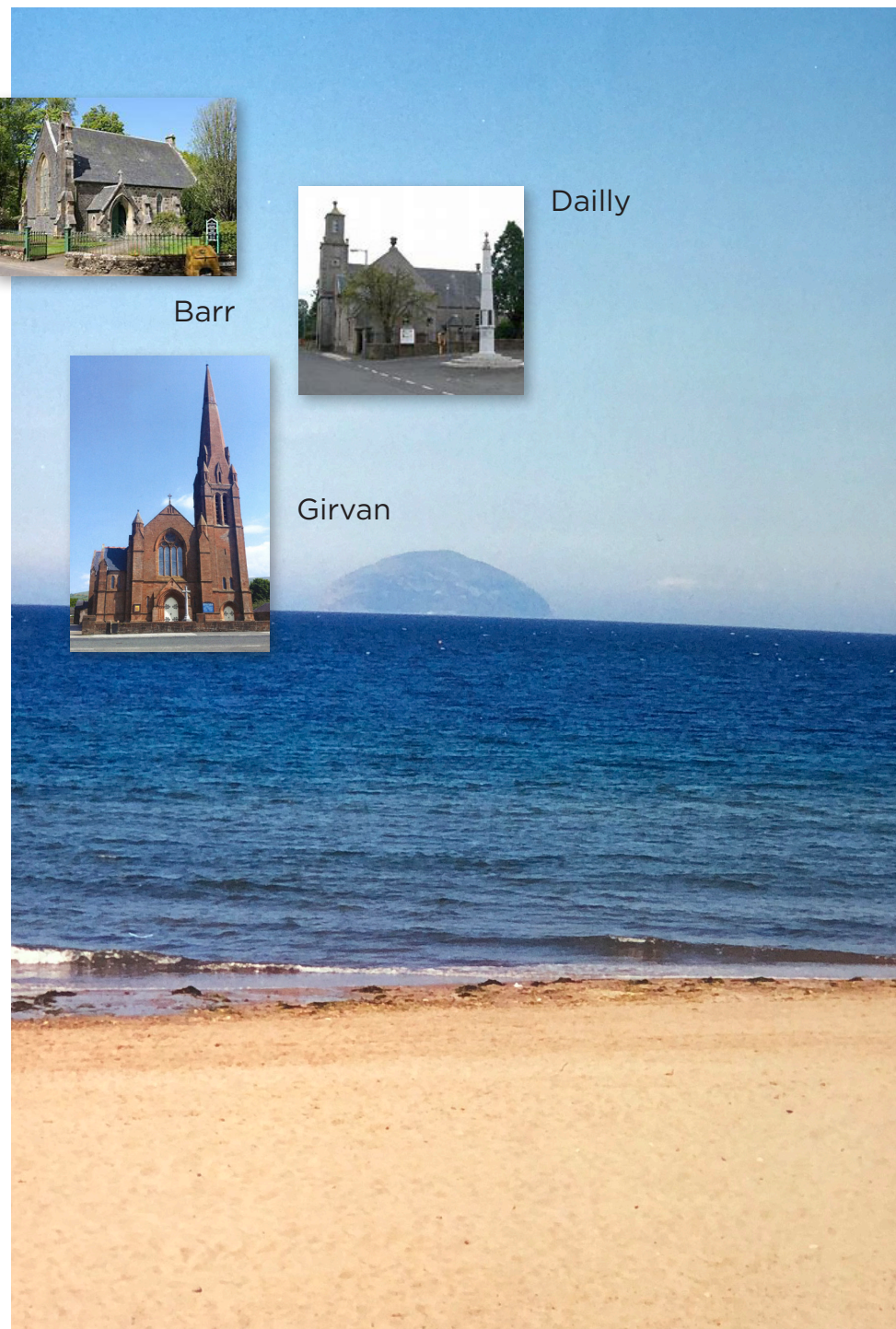
Barr



Dailly



Girvan



1. In Proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom



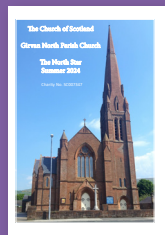
- 70-75% of the population of South Carrick is concentrated in Girvan area. It is important that the presence of the church is clearly and effectively signalled.
- We see mission as being concentrated in Girvan (in the former North Church). Dailly and Barr will operate as Local Mission Churches under the United Session.
- The churches are aware of the elderly average age of the congregation(s). There is an urgent need to bring more children and young men and women into the church. We have a Sunday School that we would like to see bigger. “Messy Church” would also be worth investigating
- We are prepared to explore new formats of being ‘church’ which might appeal to younger people without disaffecting regular worshippers.
- A substantial legacy should allow the Ingram Pipe Organ from the South Church to be relocated in the North (Girvan Valley Church).
- We make use of streaming and our facebook page to make services available to individuals confined to home.

2. In teaching, baptism, and nurturing new believers

- The old system of Elders' Districts has been replaced by a structure that makes better use of elderly serving elders and elders of limited mobility. Part of the structure involves a strong communication network.
- We would expect the minister to attend to terminal illness, bereavement and other life events, leaving elders to provide pastoral support through the Pastoral Care Team.
- Session Committees (called Action Teams) cover different aspects of the life of the church – Fundraising and Activities Team, Christian Education and Discipleship, Pastoral Care Team, Worship Team, Outreach and Mission Team.
- There is currently one retired minister, two readers, and a number of worship leaders and worship team members. Use can be made of them to conduct worship, and enhance and diversify the life of the church.
- At all levels we would hope to provide the best nourishment for each person as he or she advances on their Christian pilgrimage.



3. In responding to human need by loving service



- There is a Boys Brigade company. We want to foster this organisation subject to a continued interest among boys and girls and an availability of leadership.
- We appreciate that the minister would be welcomed in the schools only at the discretion of the head teacher, but we see this as an important opportunity of representing the church and the Christian faith.
- The Milestone Christian Fellowship is the main provider of Food-bank facilities. We support their activities in person and in kind.
- We have a quarterly magazine. We are eager to re-vamp and upgrade the magazine to strengthen communication with members and to reflect and promote church activities and events..
- There are many opportunities within the town to participate in secular activities of social value, and members are quietly active – eg CAN, Quay Zone, Z1, Age Concern, Voluntary Action South Ayrshire etc.
- We have halls that are used for church-based and community purposes.

4. In seeking to transform unjust structures of society, in challenging violence of every kind and pursuing peace and reconciliation

- Girvan has a functioning South Carrick Churches Together, of which we are strong supporters in promoting ecumenism and fighting religious prejudice.
- The North Church was twinned with a church in Malawi and from time to time fund raising events were held in aid of the partner church. This support will continue.
- Interest in religious/ethical problems are of concern to old and young. A successful programme on these topics was run by the South Church some years ago and was well attended. A revival of this programme would allow modern life issues to be examined.
- The North Church had a Wednesday morning service led by members. The South Church had a series of Sundown Services with a wide range of leaders. These services might be combined in the current morning Wednesday Break which gives an opportunity to explore social issues in a worship environment which is not a Sunday.



Likoma CCAP
Church, Bandawe
Presbytery, Malawi

5. In striving to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain and renew the life of the earth



- We will encourage respect for God's creation, and increase understanding of how that relates to the Christian faith.
- The North Church manse has been chosen as the manse for the united congregation, with the option of using the proceeds of the sale of both manses to purchase or build a more eco-friendly manse compliant with the manse schedule.
- The new parish has a number of wind-farms. We will continue to be alert to the balance that must be found between damage to the local environment and sustainable energy.
- We will be alert to potential sources of environmentally friendly 'green' energy for our buildings where it is consistent with financial prudence.
- We will support the retention of community spaces/green spaces that allow the richness and beauty of the natural world to be enjoyed.
- Church members are encouraged to conduct their daily lives with 'green' consciousness.

Barr Local Mission Church

In recent times Barr Church has flourished with new members joining with an average of around 20 adults and children regularly attending. With the influx of members, a new Sunday School has been established and regular craft events have been organised. The worship team has worked hard to maintain the momentum ensuring the coordination of activities. An outdoor noticeboard, church website and social media updates publicise Sunday Services and upcoming events. As a newly titled 'Local Mission Church' within Girvan Valley Church we are working for a wider engagement with the communities we serve, and hope that the proposed changes to the internal lay-out of the church will foster our mission.



Dailly Local Mission Church



Built in 1766 Dailly Parish Church stands in the centre of this former mining village. Both it and the nearby church hall have been recently refurbished. The church has close links with the local primary school. With its seating capacity of 500 it is well used for large funerals. The church has lovely stained-glass windows and an excellent pipe organ.

The village has an active Community Council which, financed by revenue from the renewable energy sources, supports community development projects ranging from a food parlour to youth development. The challenge to the church, which is now a Local Mission Church, is to integrate with the activities of a very close-knit community which prides itself on its friendliness and rich cultural history.

Our small but enthusiastic congregation welcome everyone to join them on our continued journey to bring the Good News about our Saviour Jesus Christ to this and future generations.

Contacts

The Convenor of the Nominating Committee is Mr James Nicol.

The Clerk is Mrs Pauline Rattray, to whom applications should be sent (paulinerattray@gmail.com).

The Interim Moderator is Dr James Anderson, to whom informal enquiries may be made (jc.anderson3@outlook.com).

