

Church Register

Deaths

"The Lord's my shepherd I'll not want"

Mrs Patricia Blair Torcy Drive

EDITOR'S NOTE:

All items for the Summer 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 26th May 2024

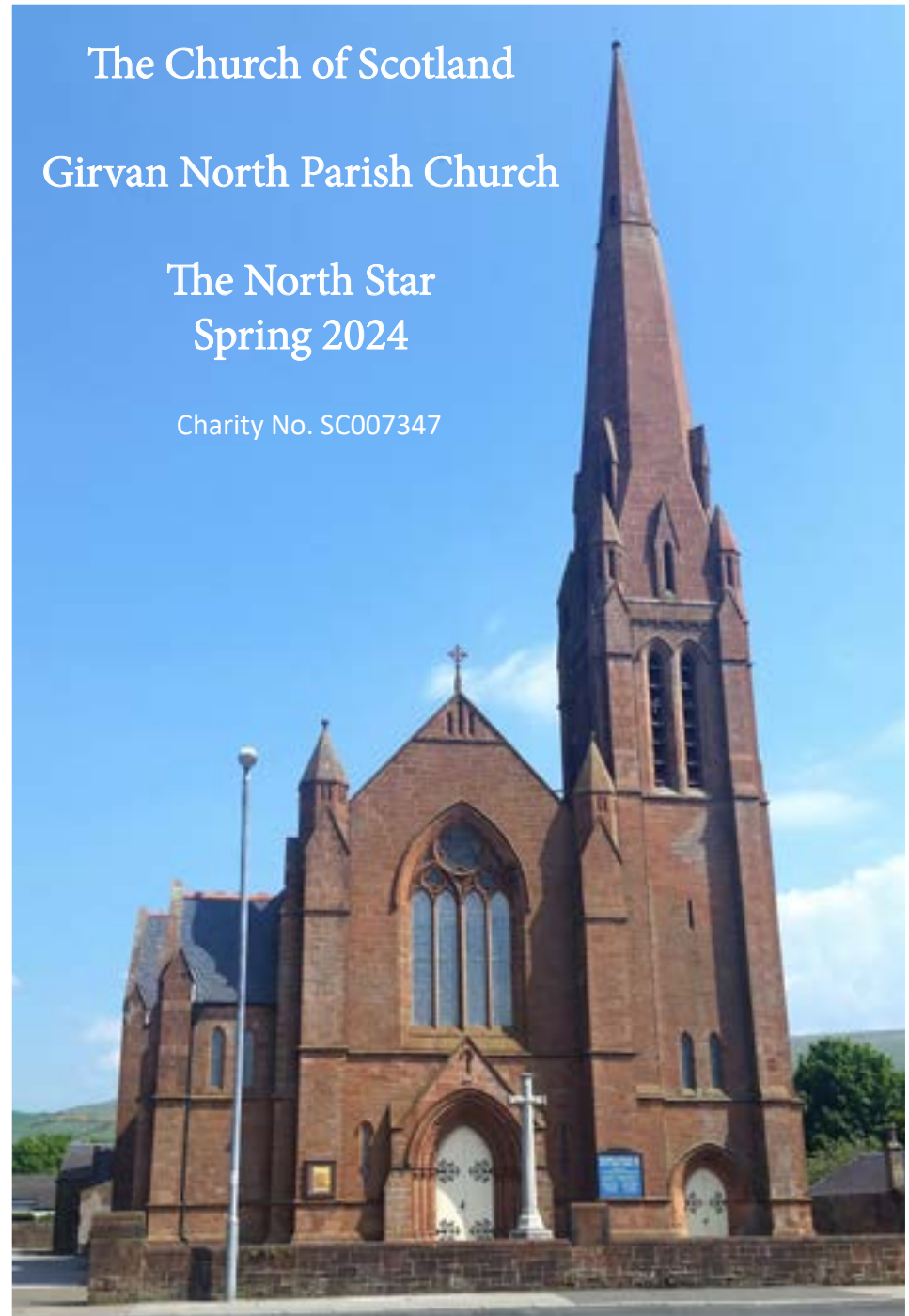
Contact details: Telephone: 712672

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.



CHURCH Tel. 712672

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**

Easter Newsletter - Charles Wesley.

The Carpet Bowling Club.

We meet on Wednesday evenings in the large hall from 6:45pm till 9.00pm from September through to Easter. We currently have 20 members coming from various denominations and ranging in age from fifty upwards, although there is no age limit either way. There is a good mix of male and female. We are a very happy, sociable group enjoying the competition (no previous experience or skill required), the fun and chat, not to mention dipping into the sweetie box. New members will be made most welcome.



Dear friends, Charles Wesley arrived on December 18th, 1707, in Epworth, England. The 18th child, and youngest son, of Reverend Samuel and Mrs. Susannah Wesley. Only ten of their nineteen children survived infancy. His father was a Church of England Priest. Samuel believed in behaving properly, serving God, and challenging parishioners. Samuel was useless with money, however, and jailed for unpaid debts. Later Charles, in his prison Ministry, reflected on his father's mistakes. Charles' mother, Susannah, strongly influenced her bright and methodical sons. We must be self-controlled in our prayer, and study.

Charles, like John, won London school scholarships, and attended Christ Church College, Oxford, financed by brother Samuel. John was Ordained in 1725, leaving to assist his father. Charles was studious, forming the Holy Club, with others. They were methodical, and charitable, like Christ. George Whitefield helped his friend Charles preach outdoors, beginning Methodism. In 1735 Charles was Ordained a Priest. Charles and John travelled to Georgia, meeting Moravian Christians. They shared the Gospel, encountering resistance. They returned home, disillusioned, but were spiritually renewed in May, 1738. Methodism would take God's Word to society, rather than society coming to them. This was successful, despite violent resistance at times.

On horseback journeys, hymns were written, and the gospel shared. The brothers personal and professional lives were tense. Charles' poor health did not help, nor being part of the Church of England. An exhausted Charles died on March 29th, 1788, still within the Church of England. The brothers Methodist legacy lives on. Although declining here, membership grows in Africa, and Eastern Europe. With John, Charles developed Methodism, with hymns shaping modern Christian worship.

Charles wrote around 6,000 hymns, many remaining popular. John wrote a Sermon, and a hymn would be used for illustration. Hymns that continue to be sung enthusiastically during Worship today, Charles wrote

poetry, theology, sermons, and essays, expanding Christian worship, inspiring worshippers today. His faithful, hopeful message, directs our devotional lives. We know these hymns: “And can it be”, “Christ the Lord is risen today”, “Hark the herald angels sing”, “Jesus, lover of my soul”, “Love divine, all loves excelling”, “O for a thousand tongues to sing”, “Rejoice, the Lord is King”, “Soldiers of Christ arise”, and “Ye servants of God”. “Christ the Lord is risen today” moves us profoundly during Lent, and through Christ’s glorious Resurrection on Easter Sunday.
Best wishes, Glenn.

Church Diary

Stated Annual Meeting – Sunday 10th March 2024 at 11.00 am followed by our normal Church Service

Kirk Session Meeting – Monday 18th March 2024 at 7.00pm

Girvan North A.G.M. – Sunday 24th March

SCCT Good Friday Stumpy Service – Friday 29th March 2024 at Noon

SCCT Good Friday Evening Service – Friday 29th March 2024 at 7.00pm at Girvan North Parish Church

Short Easter Prayer

The veil of darkness Transformed to the brightest light.

The most dreadful end Became the most beautiful beginning.

The depths of despair Fade to reveal hope everlasting.

The curse of death Defeated by eternal life.

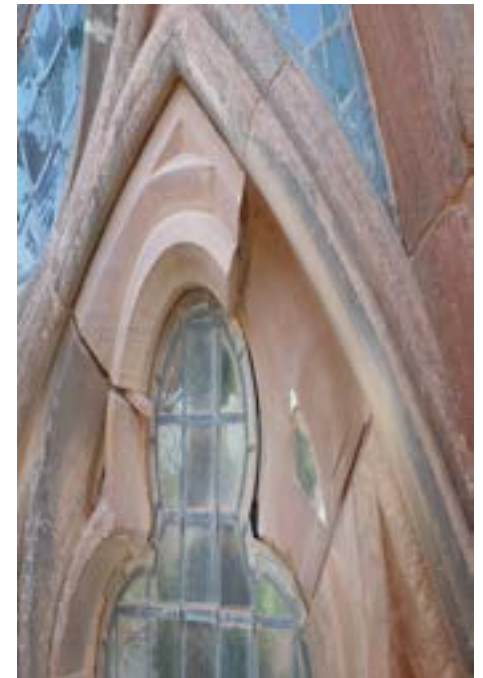
Thank you Lord, for the wonder of Easter

Session Clerks Spotlight

What A Job!

As you are aware, our beautiful West Window sustained damage in Sept 2023, when a significant sized piece of masonry fell from height. In fact, the last time work was completed on the window was 1991, when the stone mullions were repaired. After the recent damage was assessed, 3 main areas of stone replacement were identified. This repair required scaffolding to be erected internally and externally and the services of the stone mason. Some of us will have noticed the brave craftsman up the scaffolding during January and February. You may also have noticed some of the replacement stones stored in the church lounge for safekeeping as the repair project progressed. The final step will be the removal of the stained glass which will be secured and cleaned and will enable the replacement of the new stones. Thankfully this work is close to completion. This essential repair is likely to cost around £20,000.

Pauline, Session Clerk



The progress of the Union.

Significant progress has been made in forming our Union!

On 22 Feb 24, a meeting was called by the three representatives of the Presbytery's Planning Committee responsible for implementing the Presbytery Plan. All four sessions were called to this meeting and at it each church re-affirmed their commitment to the Basis of Union of Barr, Dailly, Girvan South and Girvan North, with Dailly and Barr identified as Local Mission Churches; no one voted against.

The Basis of Union document will now be sent by the Presbytery to Edinburgh to check the legal wording and that it conforms to the Presbytery Plan. When it comes back the representatives of the Presbytery Planning Committee will initiate congregational meetings. Notice will be given on two Sundays prior to the meeting, which will probably happen, for each church at the end of morning worship. We expect this to take place in April.

If congregations are in favour of the Union, this will be communicated to Presbytery, and we anticipate approval of the Union at the June meeting of the Presbytery of the South West.

Approval in June would be the ecclesiastical union. Thereafter each session can operate separately with its respective interim moderator, or the sessions can work as one meeting with both interim moderators present, as the need arises. Planning for amalgamation can begin.

The formal Union is not declared until the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR) approves the name change and the charity number and status. This will occur not less than 6 weeks after the application is submitted to OSCR by Edinburgh. Then the four sessions will cease to exist and there will be one united session of Girvan Valley Church of Scotland. All members of the four constituent churches will automatically become members of the united church.

The formation of the Union signals the beginning of the work to call a minister!

With every Easter blessing.

"Praised be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, he gave us new birth into a living hope which nothing can destroy or spoil or wither." 1 Peter 1:3-4 (REB).

James Anderson, Interim Moderator

Treasurer's Report

The Receipts and Payments Accounts for 2023 were unanimously approved by the Kirk Session on 15th February and are now being examined by an Independent Examiner. These accounts will be presented to the congregation at the Stated Annual Meeting on Sunday 10th March at 11am. A summary of the accounts will be available and there will be an opportunity for members to ask questions.

Our total Income for 2023 was £81,638 while our expenditure was £93,857. A deficit of £14,219.

This deficit was mainly due to the cost of rewiring the Manse. Further expensive work in the church and manse will deplete our reserves further in 2024.

Although we have some reserves in Edinburgh, which we are in the process of withdrawing, these will not cover the costs of the window repair and the new accessible door and ramp at the north side of the church.

Appeal to Members

Our beautiful church was built in 1884, 140 years ago and has weathered many storms. The damage to the lovely west window in October last year was sudden and unexpected. Thankfully no one was injured when some masonry fell into the church. You will have noticed the scaffolding at the front of the church as the essential repairs are being skilfully carried out. The cost of these repairs will be in the region of £20,000. We will have further costs in 2024 when our steeple is due to be checked.

The Kirk Session has decided to make an appeal to ALL MEMBERS to make a one off donation to help pay for this fabric work. You will find an envelope with your March North Star and we ask you to give as generously as you are able to help offset the bills coming in. Please return your donation envelope to any elder or place it in the church offering plate on a Sunday morning. Alternatively you can send it directly to me at 1 Rodney Drive. If applicable, please tick Gift Aid.

All donations will be very welcome and very much appreciated.

Margaret Benson, Treasurer

Update from our twin Church in Malawi.

During 2023 little progress was made on the building of their new church, due to financial difficulties.

With the fundraising they did manage to buy 48 iron sheets which will cover half of the roof. Their wish is this year, they hope to buy iron sheets to finish the roof. After that they have 15 window frames and 4 door frames to purchase.

Life is hard at the moment in Malawi, due to the devaluation of the Kwacha. This has affected the high cost of food items and other goods.

Thank you to all who helped and purchased items at the fundraising we had at the beginning of December. This money will certainly be appreciated in Malawi.

Sandra Smith Outreach and Mission Team



Wednesday Break

“Words of inspiration” by Hannah Dunnett has been our choice of spiritual understanding throughout 23/24. She paints everyday scenes of life we can recognise and chooses Bible verses to bring out extra meaning to her subject.

Visual aspects play a great part in our lives today from news media, laptops, and mobile phones and to be able to focus on a picture can imprint a great greater impression than just words. Some extra pictures have been pinned on one of the notice boards in the large hall. I would invite you to take a closer look.

All this would not be possible, but for Matthew’s I.T. skills he has produced super prints for us to enjoy and used as our personal study.

We have a wonderful group of happy, friendly people who support the Wednesday break at 10:30am in the small hall every week. Our Half hour service is followed by tea, coffee, and a chat. You will find us there throughout Easter until the end of June. **Anne Johnston**

The Stone is Rolled Away

Christ is Risen Very early on Sunday morning the women went to the tomb, carrying the spices they had prepared. They found the stone rolled away from the entrance to the tomb, so they went in; but they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus. They stood there puzzled about this, when suddenly two men in bright shining clothes stood by them. Full of fear, the women bowed down to the ground, as the men said to them, “Why are you looking among the dead for one who is alive? He is not here; he has been raised. Remember what he said to you while he was in Galilee: ‘The Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, be crucified, and three days later rise to life’”.

Luke 24:1-12

The Mission and Outreach Team

This is a summary of the work of Our Team so far for the Session 2023 - 2024.

Our purpose as a team is to organise or oversee some of the Church's activities which in some way help the local community in Girvan and beyond, especially our partner church in Likoma Island in Malawi.

The first item on the calendar was the Harvest Thanksgiving on 24th September led by Janet Arthur and her team of helpers. Thanks to all who generously donated goods which were collected and passed on to Age Concern and the Food Bank run by Milestone Church.

Our annual Shoe Box Appeal was organised by Margaret Murdoch and Irene Tyson with the help of Anne Johnston and Anna McLelland who decorated the Boxes. The magnificent total of 153 boxes were donated from Girvan and over 7000 boxes were shipped from Ayrshire. Many thanks for all who donated to help those in need across Europe at Christmas time.

Crossreach Christmas cards and calendars were sold in the Church to raise funds for the social care arm of the Church of Scotland. £200 was raised. Thanks to Pauline for organising this venture.

The Malawi Craft Table was generously supported by people outwith the Church who gave of their time to produce goods for sale for the Craft Table. The sum of £400 was raised for Malawi, double what we raised last year when we first introduced the Sales Table. Thanks to all involved in this worthwhile project including Xander Smith and Jim Fairbairn. We now have £1234 in the Malawi Fund awaiting to be sent when the people in Likoma when they have a specific need of it.

The Jars of Grace were counted on the 14th of January and a total of £400 was raised for CAN. Thanks to all who filled jars and helped with the count.

We hope to have a collection for the Food Bank in the near future, to sell Easter cards to raise more funds for Crossreach and have an event for Christian Aid Week.

We, as a team, really appreciate all the support we've had from the Congregation over the past year.

The Mission and Outreach Team

South Carrick Churches Together

On Sunday 21st of January we enjoyed a joint Service for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Despite it being a very wild and stormy night, there was a lovely warm welcome to all of us who braved Storm Isha to join with our partner churches and worship together. We met at the Sacred Hearts Church who are hosting this year and Father Benjamin led the service with participants from each church.

We look forward to the World Day of Prayer Service on Friday 1st March at 3pm.

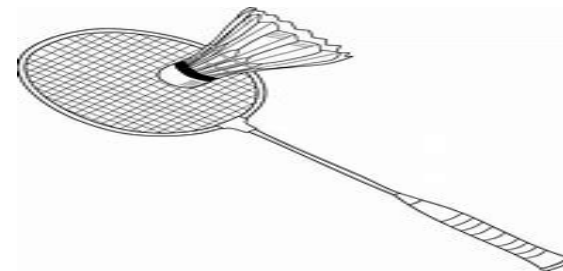
There are two joint services on Good Friday- 29th March. The Stumpy Outdoor Service takes place at 12 noon and the Evening Service is at Girvan North Church at 7pm led by our Locum Minister, Glenn Ronald and with participants from each church.

Everyone can be sure of a warm welcome at these services

Pauline Session Clerk

Ladies Afternoon Badminton Club.

The club meets on a Wednesday afternoon in the Church main Hall from 2:00 PM till 4:00 PM. A break for tea or coffee is "guaranteed". A warm welcome will be given to any ladies interested in joining the Club. **Nancy Stewart.**



Prayer time Easter.

As we prepare for Easter, let us ask God for a deeper understanding of its true meaning. For our lives. Thank God and marvel at the wonderous love which was willing to endure such shame and agonising and suffering and death for each one of us that we might have forgiveness for all our sins and eternal life with him and glory.



Bring to God the suffering of those who are sick or disabled and those who care for them and ask for healing. Pray for those imprisoned by addictions that the Lord would release them. Pray for the abused and the persecuted.

Ask God to provide for those lacking in the basics of daily living: food for the hungry, shelter for the homeless, peace and comfort for the fearful and deliverance from the threat of war and violence. Pray for wisdom for leaders of governments.

Pray for the Church worldwide and for our future locally and for the Easter services and World Day of Prayer.

***“Oh, make me understand it
Help me take it in
what it meant to thee,
The Holy One, to bear away my sin”.***

***“Bearing shame and scoffing rude,
in my place condemned he stood,
sealed my pardon with his blood.
Hallelujah. What a Saviour!”.***

Session Clerks “Who’s Who!”

Zander Smith

We are fortunate to have some enthusiastic young people involved in our church.

Zander is a super young salesman and regularly volunteers to help out. He gives his time and energy and works hard e.g. the Craft Fundraiser for Malawi and at the December Coffee Morning doing the “Guess the Teddy Bears birthday”. Zander can also be seen on occasions as part of the Welcome Team at the door on a Sunday morning and has been known to assist in ringing the church bell.

As one of the older young people, Zander is a super helper in Sunday school which he attends regularly. He also is a valued member of our Boys Brigade and has been part of the Boys Brigade team laying a wreath on Remembrance Sunday.

