

The Church of Scotland  
Girvan North Parish Church

The North Star  
Summer 2024

Charity No. SC007347

***EDITOR'S NOTE:***

All items for the Autumn 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 August 2024

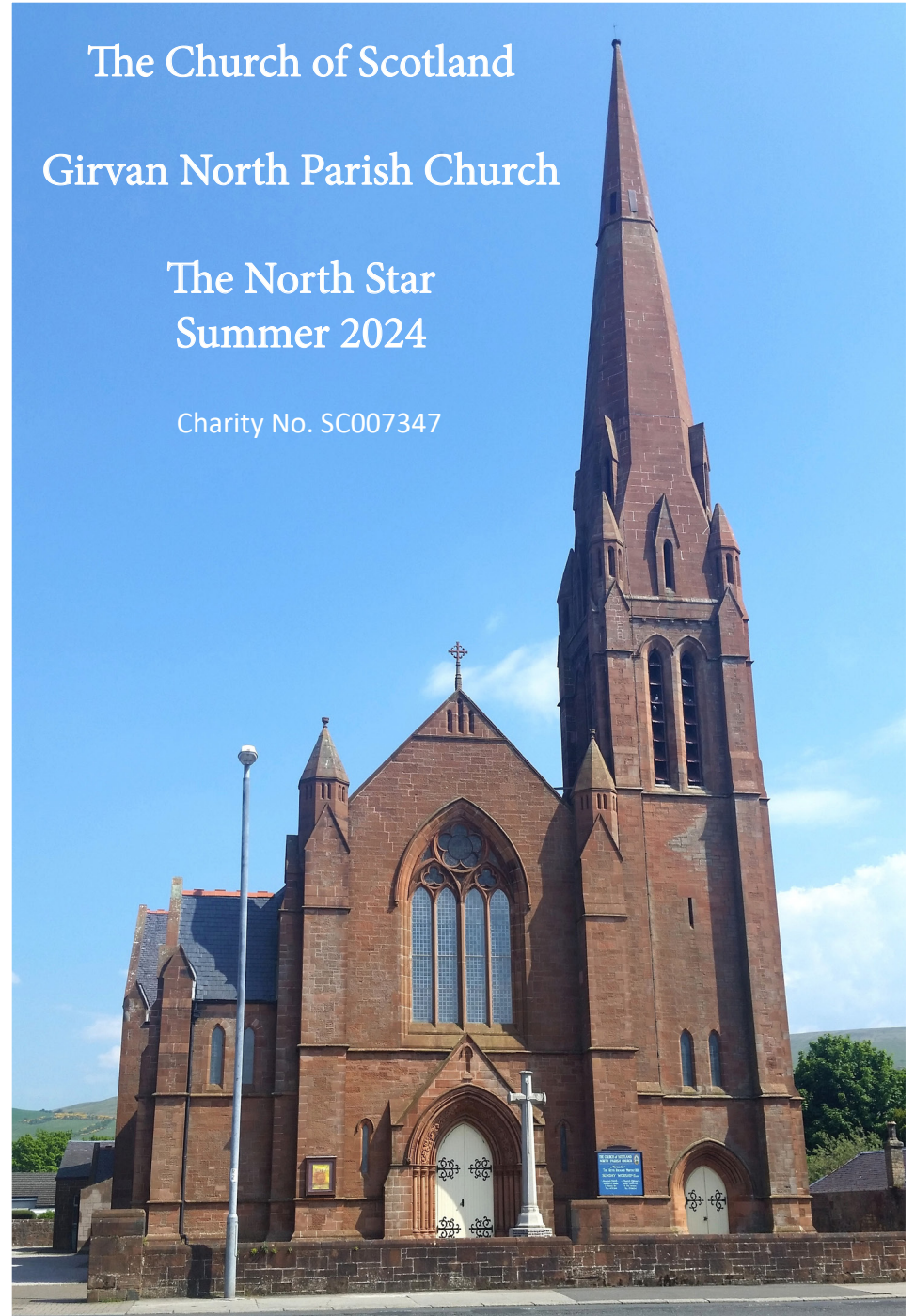
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## **Stamps**



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***

## Summer Newsletter for Girvan North.

**Dear friends**, why do so many of us love gardening? The garden is a work in progress, just as we are all works in progress. Every time we enter our garden some new plant has blossomed; and another has faded. Gardens are always being transformed. Gardeners are much in demand, and good gardeners are “worth their weight in gold.”

Gardens have a proven track record in improving people’s mental health. During the recent pandemic, gardens were great places for people to go into when they had to stay at home. Many people, of course, live in flats and did not have their own garden, or even a communal garden. Instead, these people visited public parks, or an allotment, to protect their mental health. Our public open spaces are as important as our private spaces, particularly during pandemic times.

Gardening not only assists our mental health. It lets us take exercise, it allows us to enjoy the fresh air, it lets us get more sunlight, or Vitamin D, it allows us to be in more pleasing natural environments, it lets us understand that earth and nature are connected, it allows us to see a seed grow into an established plant, it lets us eat the fruit and vegetables that we grow, and allows us to grow herbs which have medical benefits. Gardens, in short, are places for contemplation.

Biblically, Jesus is the true gardener who undoes Adam’s sinful work. Jesus paid the price for Adam’s, and our own sinfulness, and gave back what was lost. The sacrifice Jesus made for us in the garden redeems us all, giving us hope. The hope of eternal life for those of us who are faithful. The garden remains a hopeful place for us all.

**Kind regards, Glenn.**

## Further progress in the Union.

Further to the meeting of all four sessions at which 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, the Basis of Union was sent to Edinburgh to check the legal wording and that the Basis of Union conforms to the Presbytery Plan.

The Presbytery Planning Committee was advised that the Basis of Union was in order, so congregational meetings were organised for 12th May 24, the meetings to be held at the close of morning worship.

In Barr, 16 voted for the Union and 0 against; in Dailly, 4 for, 0 against; in Girvan South, 18 for, 0 against; in Girvan North, 49 for, 0 against. This result will be communicated to Presbytery, and we anticipate approval of the Union at the 15th June 2024 meeting of the Presbytery of the South West.

Approval in June would be the ecclesiastical union. Thereafter both interim moderators remain in place 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, though the Presbytery may nominate an earlier date. When approval is given, 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.

“No one who sets his hand to the plough and then looks back is fit for the kingdom of heaven” Luke 9:62 (REB) We have set our hand to a new way of ‘being church’ in Girvan, by which we hope the church will be strengthened, and more and more people will be brought into its fold. For all, not just of Girvan South, this will involve an element of change that will challenge our faith and loyalty. We must plough this furrow in the belief that more of God’s children may be made fit for the kingdom of heaven.

**With every blessing. James Anderson Interim Moderator**



## Spring Fayre 2024

On a damp morning on Saturday 4 May , an army of willing volunteers descended on our church halls and transformed the place into a welcoming tearoom with a good variety of stalls.....and then perhaps many stood back and wondered if perhaps nobody would come because it was such a damp morning. How wonderful to be proved wrong! It was lovely to welcome so many to the event and many commented that they appreciated the welcome and the opportunity to catch up with friends and enjoy fellowship together.

Tea, coffee, sweet treats and table chat were enjoyed and everyone supported the stalls which were bulging with donations (Books, Games, Jigsaws, Toys, Gifts and tasty Home Baking to take home along with a great selection of home grown Plants. In addition, there was a Guess How many Sweets in the Jar and Guess the Teddy Bears Birthday which "June" was delighted to rehome . It was super to see the church halls so busy and over £1000 was raised on the day.

Thank you very much to all who attended, to all who gave donations and to that willing army of volunteers. Goodness knows how many cups of tea were served!

### ***Fundraising and Activities Team***



## Missing Link Quiz

Thank you to all who participated. The excellent sum of £445 was raised for church funds.

The winners were :-

1<sup>st</sup> Pamela Mills

2<sup>nd</sup> Marion Love

Here are the answers.

- |                              |         |
|------------------------------|---------|
| 1. Dressing/Shop/Bay         | Window  |
| 2. Mother/ Ox/Tied           | Tongue  |
| 3. Parking/Water/Gas         | Meter   |
| 4. Boxing/Leader/Tone        | Ring    |
| 5. Ginger/Knife/Bin          | Bread   |
| 6. Cultured/Necklace/Barley  | Pearl   |
| 7. Full/Magic/Vicious        | Circle  |
| 8. Table/Elbow/Lawn          | Tennis  |
| 9. Cable/Wash/Park           | Car     |
| 10. Garden/Bottle/Mat        | Beer    |
| 11. Class/Rhyme/Slopes       | Nursery |
| 12. Property/Sheep/Cause     | Lost    |
| 13. Minded/Sandwich/Plan     | Open    |
| 14. Grinder/Electronic/Mouth | Organ   |
| 15. Stiff/Block/Sea          | Breeze  |
| 16. Gun/Bean/Road            | Runner  |
| 17. Berry/Brother/Church     | Elder   |
| 18. Relative/Knit/Shave      | Close   |
| 19. Blossom/Brandy/Ripe      | Cherry  |
| 20. Crossing/Spirit/Best     | Level   |
| 21. Pattern/Weeping/Herb     | Willow  |
| 22. Berry/Jet/Smith          | Black   |
| 23. Attention/Life/Wing      | Span    |
| 24. Pickled/Gull/Red         | Herring |
| 25. Egg/Hop/Whisky           | Scotch  |

I had good feedback from folk about this quiz so I hope you enjoyed it ....it was a wee bit different!

## 1st Girvan Boys' Brigade

Our Boys Brigade celebrated their Prize giving on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> May at the morning Service and the boys have had a super year. The Boys Brigade started back in September 2023 and a first project was the construction of individual large paper lanterns to allow the Boys to participate in the Girvan Light Parade. In November 2023, it was great to see the boys participating in the Remembrance Parade with the other uniformed organisations. In December, a Christmas Movie night was enjoyed by all perhaps especially because it involved Pizza and Chips! Starting back in the New Yea, saw the boys participating in a number of annual competitions including the "Super boy". The boys were out and about in March, when they supported the Girvan Spring Clean by joining in the community litter pick. During April 2024, the juniors were out and about yet again for their end of year treat which involved activities at the beach park -and ice cream, of course. The Company Section travelled to Ayr to LA Bowl and Laser Tag. Our thanks go to Leaders Carrie and Cooper, who now have the opportunity to relax a little before forward planning for the new term when we hope to be joined by additional leaders. New boys and oldies will be welcomed back in Sept 2024.



## Treasurer's Report

It has been a busy time since the last North Star went out at Easter. We have had an amazing response to our window Appeal and have banked £9135 and have been able to claim over £1700 gift aid tax, making a total of £11,000. Many thanks to those who gave so generously. This is a tremendous help as the bill for the repair to the west window was £25,800. We have applied to the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme to have over £4000 VAT on this bill refunded and we hope this will be successful.

We have transferred a total of £20,512 from the Consolidated Fabric Fund held in Edinburgh as we have further large bills due for work to make a new door and ramp at the north side of the church and work on the spire.

The excellent funds raised at our Spring Fayre (£1100) and the Missing Link Quiz (£445) have been a very welcome addition to our funds. Thank you all for your continued support. It is much appreciated by the Kirk Session.

## **Toddler Group.**

We have had a lovely year again. As always we have lost a few who have gone to Nursery, but they were swiftly replaced by new little people. There is a lovely core we see every week and a few drop ins. We close for the year on Tuesday the 25th of June and will start again on Tuesday 3rd of September.

**Mandy McLaughlin.**



## Session Clerk's Spotlight

Recently, Yvonne Jack, a local resident, made contact with our treasurer, Margaret Benson, wishing to donate to the church, two pieces of art work by her late husband, Brian Jack.

The first piece is a painting entitled "Demolition" and depicts the demolition of St Andrews Church. The present church became the North Church when we united with St Andrews Church in 1973 and we already have some framed plans of St Andrews hanging in the Session Room.

The second piece is a stained glass window that Brian had completed while at Glasgow School of Art. It had originally been intended for Brian's family church in Overton, West Kilbride which has now closed. Brian had been an elder at the South Church and Yvonne felt that with the churches uniting it would be good for these to be gifted, for all to enjoy.

The Kirk Session was in full agreement that these gifts be accepted, with plans to hang the painting in the Session Room and perhaps display the stained glass behind a light source.

Thank You very much, Yvonne.

***Pauline, Session Clerk***



## Christian Aid Service and Lunch (Wednesday Break)

Eric led us through the Christian Aid service on the 15<sup>th</sup> of May in prayer, praise, and readings, following the life of Aline, the lady on the front of this year envelopes - how she was able to help her family, raise her children, see they were fed and educated. thanks to the initial help from Christian Aid. Not only has she been able to lift herself out of poverty, but she has plans to expand her business in the next five years, so often we don't hear the positive results from charities.

Our small congregation was boosted to 20 that Wednesday. Two more joined us for the Christian Aid lunch. We had a varied selection of soups - Spicy Parsnip, Butternut Squash, Tomato, catering for gluten free and veggies as well as Leek and Potato, Chicken Noodle, and lentil.

A big thank you to all the ladies who provided soup, served, and tidied up, Several people had a second plate of soup - some took a takeaway - and we still managed tea/coffee and biscuits.

We may have had a small gathering but each extra coin that was donated will help an Aline in some other part of the world.

## Wednesday Break.

Our Session for the present time comes to a close on June the 12<sup>th</sup> when we finish with Communion and a light lunch. The folk who come to our weekly meeting are very loyal. Our small gathering can range from 11 to 16 depending on the pressures in life. We are a happy, caring group who would like to grow. The short service is open to all with the expected praise, prayer, and an address. Though no substitute for a Sunday service, the message given is important. We tried to follow a programme but to be more topical at Christmas and Easter. The 24/25 session will begin on Wednesday the 4<sup>th</sup> of September at 10:30 AM in the small hall, a good time for you to begin the journey with us. Sometimes the tea/coffee can last longer than the service.

**Likoma - Malawi**

We recently sent £500 to our twin church in Likoma. This was for cement that they were short of to help with the new church building. They are so grateful for our help, and sent photos with an update on the work.

**Sandra Smith**  
**Outreach and Mission team**



**Ladies Afternoon Badminton Club**

The afternoon club finished on Wednesday 24th of April for the summer break. The session was well attended. Many thanks to all our ladies for their continued support and friendship in the running of the club. The afternoon club starts again on Wednesday 11th of September. Further details will be in the next Church magazine. Have an enjoyable summer. **Sylvia Stewart**

**The Parable of the Sower**

But the one who received the seed that fell on good soil is the man who hears the word and understands it. Matthew 13:23a  
 Based on Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23 (NIV)



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

|        |         |         |        |      |
|--------|---------|---------|--------|------|
| PLANTS | SCORCH  | FARMER  | THORNS | CROP |
| WITHER | BIRDS   | ROOT    | CHOKE  | SOIL |
| FELL   | PARABLE | SCATTER | SEED   | GREW |
| ROCKY  | SHALLOW | GOOD    | SOW    | PATH |



## Who's is in the Pew

Kathleen, a daughter of the manse, started her career in infant teaching in Kirkoswald where she taught for 17 years. Hearing Gods call to teach in a school for missionaries' children in south India, Kathleen obeyed and spent four exciting and challenging years there.

Returning home she took up a post at Dailly primary school where she taught for nine years before retirement.

Throughout the 74 years as a church member, Kathleen sang in the choir, was a Sunday school teacher, deputised for the organist, played the piano for Wednesday Break for many years, served in the congregational board, acted as prayer promoter and was involved with the church magazine. Her hobbies include gardening, knitting, reading and playing the piano.

On recently reaching the age of 90 Kathleen looks back with great gratitude for the Lord's blessing and sustaining without which none of this would be possible and gives thanks for all those with whom she has shared fellowship over the years.



## Prayers

O God, our loving Heavenly Father, we thank you for all you do for us, we thank you for our friends and family, and our church family for all the support they give us. We praise and thank you for all you provide for us - good food, a roof over our heads and the many things that make our life good. We have so much to be thankful for.



We praise your name, that we live in a country where we are free to worship without any restrictions, for the freedoms that we have, thanks to the efforts of our forefathers who sacrificed themselves in the cause of justice and freedom of expression. And yet, we see that our rights are now being threatened by laws that are making it more difficult to live out our beliefs as we would like. We pray for our lawmakers and those in authority over us that they make decisions that are just and equitable for all.

We pray for our National Church at this time of uncertainty. May our leaders be given wisdom to carry out Your desires and the teaching of Christ. We ask that as we head into the union of the Girvan Valley Churches that there will be a desire to make everyone feel valued, welcomed and appreciated, as we carry out the work of Christ together.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, Amen.