

Magazine Name

Thank you to all those who have suggested a new name for our new church magazine .Here are some of the proposals . I'm hoping that if you have a favourite name of these suggestions you might let me know and perhaps we could go ahead with the most popula

Girvan valley - what's happening

Girvsn valley church matters

Girvan valley news

Girvan Valley word

Girvan valley Messenger

Girvan Valley Church - moving forward together

Or perhaps you would prefer no name - just as it is in this issue . What do you think ? Please let Pauline or the church office know your preference . Contact details on the inside page or back page

EDITOR'S NOTE:

All items for the Summer 2025 Magazine should be given to, or posted through the office door, or emailed to the Church Office or, given to Matthew, date to be announced at a later time.

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 OFFICIALS

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**

From the Interim Moderator

I ended my piece in the last untitled newsletter with the expectation that the Electoral Register would be established by 20 Oct 24, and indeed it was. This Register records the names of members of the congregation who can vote in subsequent decisions, including the calling of a minister.

Meanwhile items of value from Givan South church and halls have been distributed to interested parties. The churches at Dailly, Barr, and Colmonell have all been recipients of items of church furniture. In addition, items have been taken up to the new Valley Church. The alert would notice the pulpit fall from the South now in the North – just one of several small signs of union and continuity.

There are still things to do. The flags will be transferred to the Valley Church together with the war memorial. On 3rd Dec 24 the Presbytery agreed that the Ingram Pipe Organ could be relocated in the Valley Church. There are still hurdles to jump but the relocation is making progress.

On 4/5 Oct 24 all the remaining sellable items were collected in the Old Hall for a two-day sale. The proceeds offset the cost of the final clearance which had to be done to designated sites for different waste types. The church, halls and manse are now ready to go on the market.

A congregational meeting was called for 17 Nov 24 when the Nominating Committee was elected – in alphabetical order – Billy Benson, Isobel Bone, Robert Bone, Anne Fisher, Robert Jess, Stuart Kilpatrick, Jimmy Lindsay, Louise Lindsay, Eric Mackinnon, Pat McCracken, Rob Newsham, Jim Nicol, Joan Walker. Pauline Rattray agreed to act as Clerk to the Committee. The committee met with the Vacancy Procedures Committee from the Presbytery; Jim Nicol was appointed convenor of the Nominating Committee and Stuart Kilpatrick as vice-convenor. The way was now clear to advertise the vacancy.

On 13 Jan 25 the vacancy in Girvan Valley Church was posted on the Church of Scotland website, with a link to the Pastoral Profile. We await expressions of interest that might lead to applications.

With every blessing,

James Anderson

Barr Local Mission Church

It is so rewarding to see the plans for Barr Local Mission Church come to fruition. The festive season gave us the perfect opportunity to explore the potential of the newly designed church interior. There was ample space to socialise - particularly for families with young children, it allowed us to be creative with nativity displays and was worked really well for what is becoming a bit of 'tradition' in Barr, a Christingle Service. Held on Christmas Eve, the Christingle service led by Rob Newsham, proved very popular with over 50 people attending. The service included a rendition from the newly formed ukulele group, readings given by Stuart Christine and the Christingle activities delivered by his wife, Georgie and Rev. Beth McDowell. Throughout the evening light refreshments were provided courtesy of Dorothy Stewart, Linda Newsham and Hazel McKinley. It was a momentous occasion enjoyed by all !!



Returning to the regular schedule of Sunday services, the kitchen facilities are proving to be quite an asset with regular after-service refreshments being served. This is having a very positive effect in strengthening fellowship and supporting attendance levels. The Sunday School, which is now being held in the vestry, is in the process of undergoing its own cosmetic uplift with redecoration and the installation of storage cabinets in the coming weeks. Georgie Christine is leading this project which will hopefully promote her good work and encourage more children to attend. This has all been made possible by the strong leadership and guidance of Rev Edgar Ogston who has worked tirelessly with Jean, his wife, to renovate and shape the Barr Local Mission worship team. We now can look forward to the Spring season and what new opportunities lay ahead.



Outreach & Mission Team

This has been a particularly busy year for Girvan Valley Church. The Congregation as usual, were very generous in donating to the Harvest Thanksgiving, and Janet & team organised the distribution of food to Duff St. Kitchen & the Food Bank at Milestone Church.

The Blythswood Shoe Box Appeal collected 151 boxes this year. Thanks once again to Anne, Anna, Irene & Margaret Murdoch for all their hard work. I am sure the boxes would be well received by the people who have very little at Christmas time - that someone is thinking of them.

£250 was raised through the sale of Christmas Cards. This money went Crossreach, the Church of Scotland's Social services arm. Thanks to Pauline for organising this event.

The Malawi Craft Table raised £400 which boosts our Malawi account to £1093.58. Thanks once again, to all the Crafters in the town who donated their time and their talents to this worthwhile cause. The Outreach & Mission team will be contacting the Church in Likoma Island to find the best way to use this money.

An innovation for this year was introduced by Jan McCrorie. It was something that the South Parish Church had been doing for a number of years. A Christmas tree was put in the Vestibule of the Church and it had tags on it. Members of the Church could take a tag which would suggest buying a present for people in Girvan who are unlikely to get a present at Christmas time. The presents were distributed to people in our community and I know that the presents were well received. About 40 presents were donated by the congregation and Jan was delighted by the response.

Because our Giving Calendar has been so busy this year, it was decided to count the Jars of Grace in January.

Once again, many thanks to all those who have contributed in any way to the work of the Church in giving to those who are less fortunate than ourselves. **Outreach & Mission Team**

SAFEGUARDING UPDATE

Disclosure Scotland has intimated that as of April 2025, it is no longer legal to hold a PVG Certificate if the person is no longer in regulated work with children or vulnerable adults.

Girvan Valley Church has been instructed by The Church of Scotland Safeguarding Office to produce an up to date register of current Certificate holders, removing all members who are no longer in an active role within our Church.

On behalf of the Kirk Session we would like to take this opportunity to thank all those, who over the years have given of their time and talent in the Creche, the Sunday School, the Boys' Brigade and the Girls' Brigade.

For clarification this only affects PVG's relating to the Church of Scotland, and does not relate to Certificates connected to work or any other organisation.

Emmaus Window.

Our church has been blessed with four beautiful stained glass windows depicting events in the life of our Lord.

In 1889 the Edinburgh firm of James Ballantyne and Sons were commissioned to design and execute two stained glass windows for the South Transept.

They were donated to the church by Mr Robert Cunningham of Jedburgh in memory of his relatives, Robert, and Thomas McKechnie, who donated an organ to the new church.

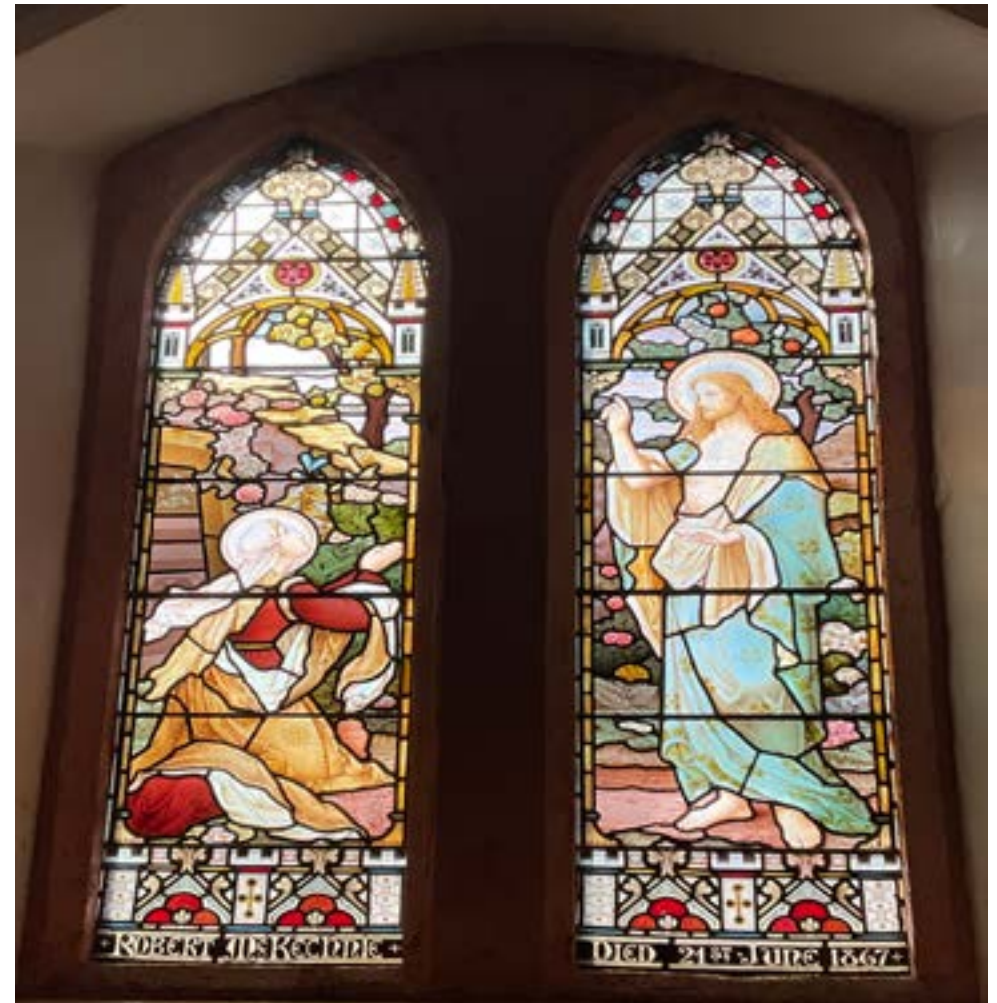
The Window on the right records the simple meal at the House of Emmaus, (Luke: 24, 13-35). We see the first post resurrection communion with Jesus and his two travellers he approached - not his closest friends - but ordinary men dejected and in need of spiritual strength.

Jesus is sitting on the right of the table, hallowed, and cloaked in red, the colour of sacrifice. He is the invited guest, but he becomes the host at the table, giving thanks, blessing the bread, breaking it, and is about to give it to his companions. The cup is beside him. It is at this moment the two men on the left draped in blue and gold, realise who he is, the one crucified in Jerusalem, and within a moment of understanding, Jesus will disappear from their sight.

The table is set simply with a white cloth embroidered with pomegranates at the edges. Their seeds are many and full of juice like red wine. In (Exodus 28: 33 – 34) God orders Moses to put embroidered pomegranates at the bottom of the High Priest's robe.

The top of the window is decorated with grapes and vine leaves, other reminder of the sacrificial blood.

At the bottom right of the window is a bowl of fruit. The purple bowl, the colour of majesty, is inlaid with a white cloth for purity and in and around are nine fruits, including a pineapple with its green spikes resembling a crown. A reminder to us the fruit of the Spirit. (Galatians 5: 22)



Girvan Valley Carpet Bowling Club



Girvan Valley Carpet Bowling Club meets at 7.00 pm on Wednesdays in the large hall, or a little earlier if we can make it to help set the carpets etc up.

We are a non-denominational and group currently have a total membership of 22 with a regular turnout of around 12-18 each week.

It's an evening of good natured competition and fun socialisation, thoroughly enjoyed by all.

The Boys' Brigade.

During December we had a Christmas games and movie night. We were very lucky to receive our dinner by donation from Tonka's Kitchen. We also received the donation of juice and sweets for our movie from the Quay Zone. We enjoyed our night and are really grateful for the donations.

We started back on Sunday 12th of January and we had a visit from our liaison Elder Mr Jess.

Our anchor boys and juniors are learning about space. Company section have been working on puzzles, quizzes and teamwork. We are all looking forward to our Superboy night on the 16th of February.
Cooper and Carrie.



Prayer

Dear Lord. Through Your loving grace we begin to emerge from the uncertain times of Union and Vacancy. We give thanks for both Dr Anderson and Glen - for their guidance and nurturing of both process and people.

Father, we know you have a special plan for our new Church and we pray that the Nomination Committee remains open to your gentle nudging and focus on Your will being done. We pray for discernment, wisdom and humility in bringing Your plan to fruition to the Glory of your Kingdom.



Lord, we hold the future of our church up to You in trust and faith. All glory and honour is yours almighty Father, for ever and ever.
Amen

Girvan Valley Worship Team

The new session of the Wednesday Break begins on Wednesday 5th February and takes place in the small hall starting at 10:30am every Wednesday. This half- hour service provides an opportunity to get together mid-week with praise, prayer and a short address followed by tea/coffee and a chat together. This is an excellent opportunity for quiet reflection if you have missed Sunday Worship. The tea often lasts longer than the service!

We are always happy to welcome new worshippers, please feel free to join us any week

Finally, we are currently looking for someone who would be willing to play the piano for us at this service. If you can help please contact the Session Clerk or any elder.

Sessions Clerk Spotlight

Almost every Sunday somebody comments to me along the lines of "Aren't the flowers in church today beautiful? Of course they are quite correct! These two arrangements just seem to appear on a Sunday Morning. There is an enthusiastic team of talented ladies who take turns to purchase and arrange the flowers ready for Sunday worship. We don't take for granted the work of Agnes Gibson and Anne Herriot, Shona Kyle and Una Jess- occasionally supported by myself too.

This flower ministry is a super example of different teams working together. There is a wonderful team of ladies (members of our Pastoral Care Team), who remove the flowers at the end of our service and deliver an arrangement to congregational members who perhaps would enjoy them at that time. It's wonderful to get feedback and hear that these arrangements last well and are enjoyed for two weeks and more, on occasions.

And of course, we thank all those who donate money to the Flower Calendar, perhaps choosing a date to remember a family member, to give money for the church flowers. We are always happy to hear from anyone who would wish to occasionally arrange the flowers for church or anyone who would wish to contribute by making a money donation to the Flower Calendar.

Thank you to all these volunteers. Pauline

