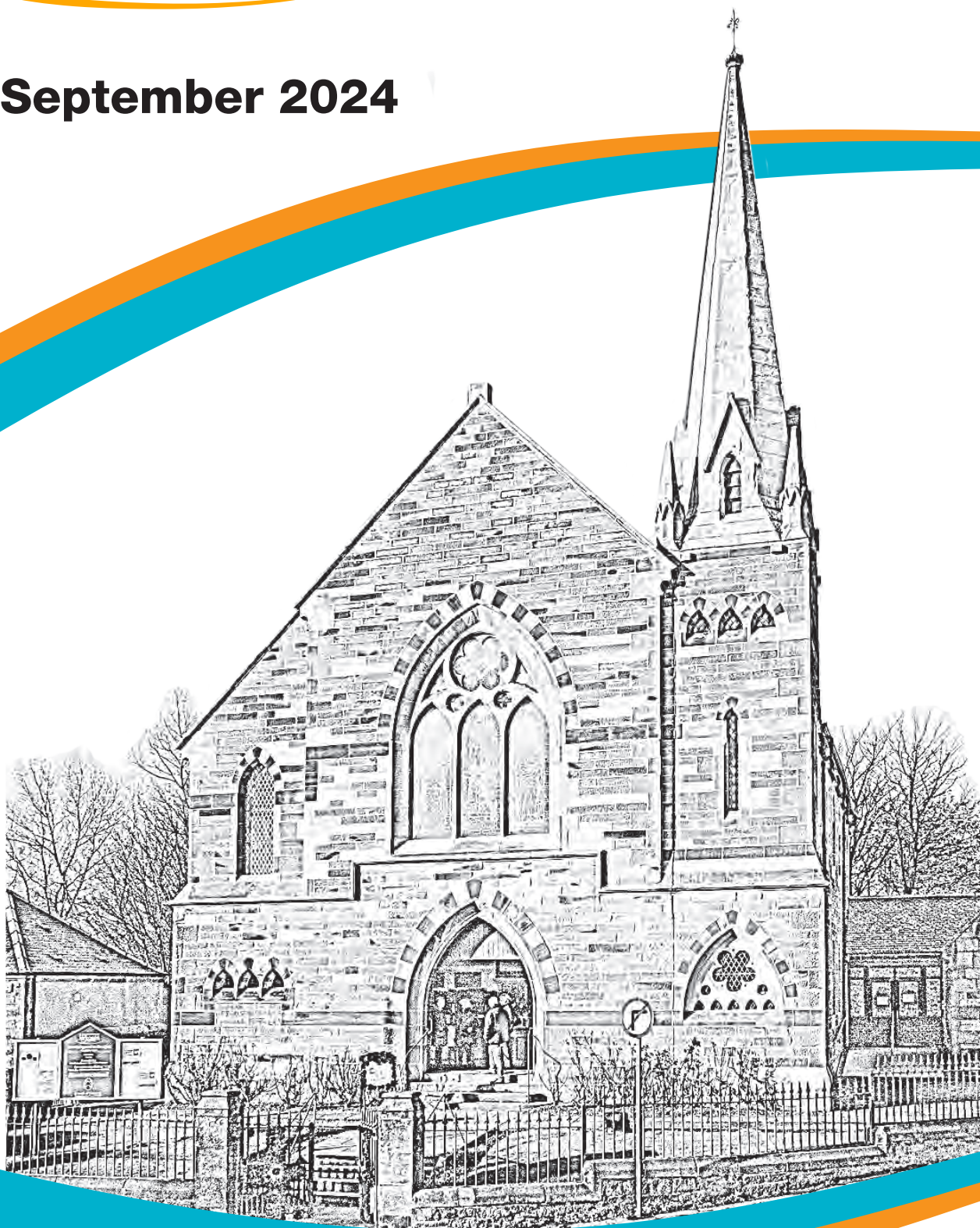


Ardrossan & Saltcoats

KirkgateMessenger

PARISH CHURCH

September 2024



Chapelwell Street
Saltcoats
KA21 5EB

www.kirkgatechurch.org.uk

Registered Scottish Charity: SC023003

Message from our Minister

Dear Kirkgate family,

The past few weeks were refreshing, as can be reflected from the few photos we share of our time in Arran. Thanks once again for your thoughts and gifts for my birthday. God bless you.

As the summer days start to wane and the back-to-school season approaches, I find myself reflecting on the beauty of new beginnings and the second chances that God graciously offers us. Just as the school year marks a fresh start for students and teachers alike, it serves as a poignant reminder of the renewal and redemption that we can find in our faith journey.

As I celebrated my birthday recently, I was reminded of the blessings of starting afresh and the endless opportunities that God provides for us to grow, learn, and develop. As I have already shared last Sunday, I told myself, "I will be a better man, better husband, better dad, the list goes on." After reflecting on all the wishes and possible things I could or want to change, I concluded, ***"One thing I will do, forgetting what is behind I will press on towards knowing Christ."*** (Philippians 3:13-14). Birthdays are not just about marking another year gone by but also about embracing the new chapter that lies ahead, much like the start of a new school year.

Watching my own children embark on their journey towards their new milestones has been a profound experience that has deepened my understanding of second chances and new beginnings. Dropping Dylan off at nursery school and seeing Deuel eagerly preparing for the start of P6 and school have been poignant reminders of the transformative power of starting anew. Just as my two boys were filled with excitement, hope, and curiosity for the adventures that lie ahead, we too as Christians can approach our spiritual journey with a similar sense of anticipation and optimism.

In **Lamentations 3:22-23**, we are reminded of God's steadfast love and mercies that are new every morning. ***"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."*** This passage speaks of how God gives us chances or new beginnings every day. The verses highlight the incredible love of the Lord, emphasizing that we are not consumed by our mistakes, failures or shortcomings. This love of God is the foundational aspect of God's character and is the basis for the forgiveness and second chances he offers us. To think of the fact that God's compassion never fails assures us that no matter how many times we may fall short of his glory his compassion is constant and unwavering.

Psalms 51:10 says, ***"Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me."*** This verse echoes the sentiment of renewal as it calls for a clean heart and a steadfast spirit within us. These verses serve as a source of



Message from our Minister - cont'd...

comfort and inspiration as we navigate the highs and lows of life, knowing that God's grace is ever present to guide us towards a fresh start.

Just as the back-to-school season signals a time of growth, learning, and renewed hope, let us embrace the second chances that God so generously bestows upon us. May we approach each day with a heart full of gratitude and a spirit of resilience, knowing that with God, every ending is a new beginning waiting to unfold. I invite you to join me in this endeavour as we explore the ways in which God's grace transforms our lives and offers us the opportunity to start anew.

Nigel Chikanya

Rev Tichaona Nigel Chikanya

Tel: 01294 683379 Mobile: 07566 278132

Email: NChikanya@churchofscotland.org.uk



Introducing our new Probationer: Katrona Templeton

Allow me to introduce Katrona Templeton, a candidate in training for Ordained Local Ministry (OLM). She resides in Kilmarnock with her husband, Colin, and their two daughters, Freya (9) and Morgan (7), along with their charming menagerie of pets.

Having grown up in the Church of Scotland, Katrona is a dedicated member and elder at the Ayrshire Mission for the Deaf, although she herself is not deaf. She actively participates in worship at her family church, St. Marnock's in Kilmarnock. Katrona's interests and hobbies include membership in the SWI (also known as The Rural), competing in the Scottish Handicraft Competition, enjoying fantasy and sci-fi literature, and guiding as a Rainbow guide leader.

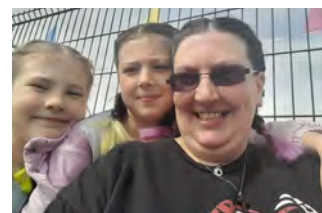
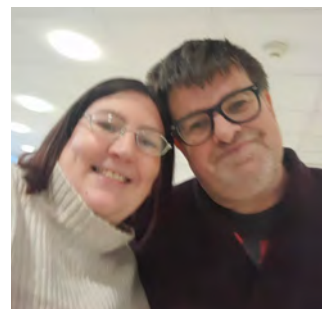
In addition to her placement and studies, Katrona holds two jobs: one as a Breastfeeding supporter for the National Breastfeeding Helpline and the other as a Mission Pioneer in the Reach out Together project under the Presbytery of South West.

In case you wonder why Katrona aspires to become a minister? Through her Mission Pioneer work, she has focused on the inclusion of individuals with additional needs. She holds a fervent passion for ministering to those with disabilities and strongly believes that God has called her to assist in making the church more accessible and welcoming for individuals with disabilities. She seeks to demonstrate to people with disabilities that God embraces and loves them for who they are. As an autistic individual, she leads by example to showcase that disabilities are embraced within the church. It's on her heart to encourage and support individuals with disabilities to discern God's voice and empower them to assume leadership roles within the church.

We are excited to have Katrona join us and look forward to her presence and collaboration throughout this year as she undertakes her probationary placement for the year 2024-2025.

I hope to see you engage with her!

God bless, Nigel



Church Register

FUNERALS:

"In my Father's house are many mansions"

21/6/24	Mrs Mary Hamilton, Arran View Care Home, Saltcoats
24/7/24	Miss Elma Hunter, Hunter Avenue, Ardrossan
6/8/24	Mrs Georgina Gilmour, Fullarton Care Home, Irvine Formerly Kerr Avenue, Saltcoats



NEW MEMBERS:

"We are members one of another" *By Certificate of Transference*

Mrs Audrey Scott, Saltcoats
Mrs Rebecca McLay, Saltcoats
Mrs Agnes Wilkie, Saltcoats
Mr Harry McIlreavy, Saltcoats
Mrs Kathleen McIlreavy, Saltcoats
Mrs Jeanette Mumford, Saltcoats
Mrs June McTavish, Saltcoats
Mrs Lesley Boyle, Saltcoats
Mrs Martha Duff, Saltcoats

From the Editor

It's good to be back to work on the magazine after our little break. We hope you found time for some rest and relaxation despite the unsettled weather.

In this edition you'll find the diary dates to serve as a useful reminder of what's on, articles from the various clubs and committees and forward notice of events to mark in your diary. Lots of requests for volunteering and donating so please take time to consider whether you can help.

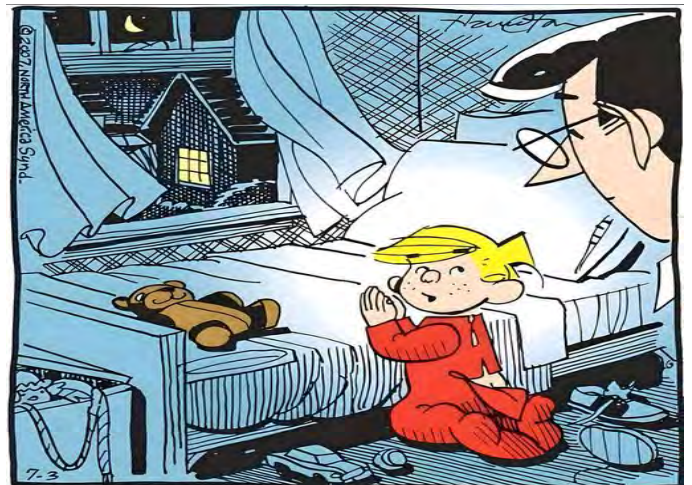
Articles for the next magazine should be ready for **Sunday 29th September** at the very latest please.

Please keep us informed of any special birthdays, anniversaries or any other events that you hear about, they all add to the varied content of your church magazine.

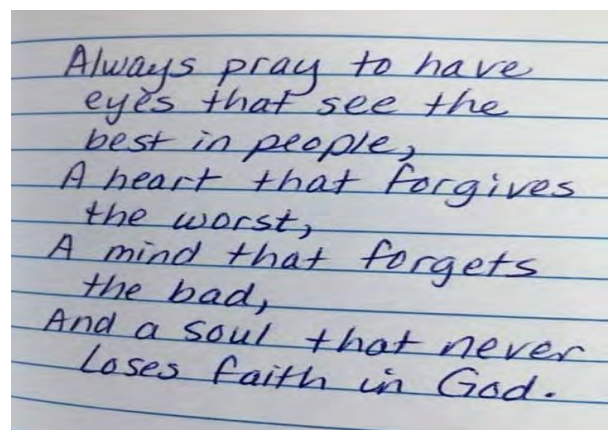
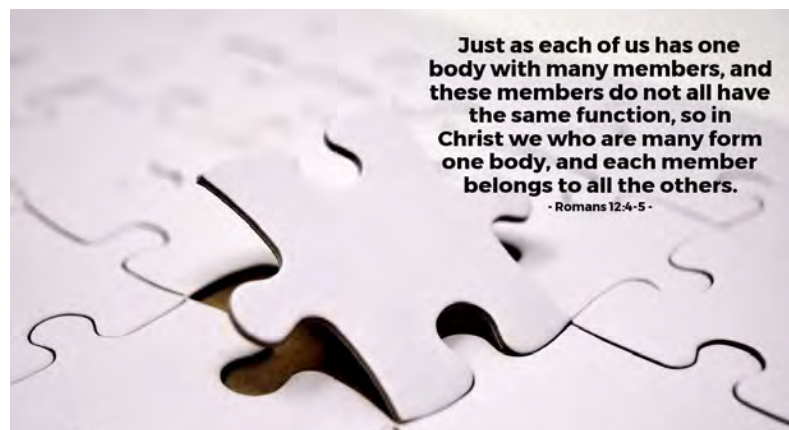
Please feel free to email me at elizabeth.mcmahon@talktalk.net or send a written copy if you don't use a computer.



Elizabeth McMahon, Editor



**"I KEEP THE WINDOW OPEN TILL AFTER MY PRAYERS.
I GET BETTER RECEPTION WITH IT OPEN."**



FOR THOSE WHO FEEL UNLOVED

God of love, we pray for those many people in our world who have been deprived of love, who feel unloved or for whom love has been painful.

Reach their hearts with the love of Christ.

We pray for those for whom love has involved pain - those who have faced the trauma of marriage breakdown, or experienced the collapse of broken friendships, those who have come from broken homes or who have become estranged from family and friends, those whose children have moved away to begin new lives of their own, those who have been bereaved or those who have forced to leave those they count most dear. May the knowledge of your unending love be a constant source of comfort and inspiration.

Touch their hearts with the love of Christ.

We pray for those who find it hard to love – those whose love has been betrayed, those who are scarred by bitter and painful experience, those who have been subjected to abuse, those afraid of showing their true feelings or those oppressed by mental illness.

Touch their hearts with the love of Christ.

Loving God, we bring before you the complex world of human relationships, capable of bringing such joys, so much pleasure yet also so much pain. We thank you for your gift of love and all the love that surrounds us, but help us never to forget those who have lost love or been hurt through it. Restore their faith in what love can do, and help them both to find love and share it.

Touch their hearts with the love of Christ.

Grant to us all the knowledge that your love will never fail, never let us go

Thanks be to God, in Jesus' name.

AMEN

EQUIP KIDS INTERNATIONAL

Equip KIDS International is a grassroots, Canadian organisation that is working to empower children with disabilities and their families in the global south ('developing countries'). Founded in 2001, working primarily in Peru for over 20 years.



Equip KIDS International was started and is run by my niece, Dana, in Toronto, with the help of staff in Peru.

In the autumn I will be selling an easy quiz on Peru costing £1, as part of my fundraising for this worthwhile charity. Small amounts all add up.

Elizabeth Howie

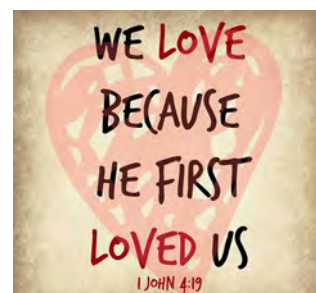
CHRISTMAS FAIR - EARLY APPEAL

Next month there will be a list of stalls to give you time to make, buy, volunteer etc., for our Christmas Fair on Saturday 30th November.

Fiona Liddell organises the jewellery stall and asks please if you could start looking out your jewellery and empty boxes for her as it takes a while to sort through everything.

You can bring them to the church, where she'll pick them up or you can phone **Fiona on 01294 462504** when she will be happy to pick your items up.

Many thanks in anticipation of receiving your items.



Letters of Appreciation

A Huge Thank you

All of a sudden the sun had vanished
We were together, yet so far apart
The outcome so uncertain, days became warped
Prayer proved essential, time almost stopped
Then out of the blue, tranquility reigned
Waves of love from Kirkgate eased our mind
A huge thank you is not quite enough
One needs friends when the going gets rough.

James & Liz Shirley

Thank you very much for the beautiful roses I received following Elma's passing and when I didn't feel so good. They really cheered me up and lasted a long time. Thanks to Eunice and Chrissie for delivering them.

Love, Moira

I just want to say thanks for the kindness I received when I received the beautiful flowers a few Sundays ago which were delivered by Chrissie, her visit and the flowers gave me such pleasure as they were so unexpected. I have so much to be thankful for being part of Kirkgate Church and all the lovely caring people who are the 'church'.

Celia Meney

Thank you for the beautiful flowers I received from the church they were a lovely surprise and very much appreciated

Betty McCracken

Thank you so much for the lovely birthday card sent to me recently which was much appreciated.

Betty Thomson

Congratulations

There have been a few folk celebrating significant birthdays over the summer months, some too shy to have their photograph printed for all to see, others like Mima just had a surprise sprung on her at the Thursday service. We just want to say congratulations to Kathy Coulter, May Watson, Fiona Wright, Mildred Campbell, Eunice McInnes, Ian Martin, Mima McSwan, Evelyn Green, Moira Cooper and Vivien Bruce.

Just remember whatever age, whether 60, 70, 80 or 90 it's just a number and you are all very much young at heart.

Every Blessing to each and everyone of you including those whose birthdays we are unaware of.



Thank you to everyone at Kirkgate for the lovely cards, beautiful flowers and many good wishes received on my big birthday.

A very special thank you to the Thursday morning team for the lovely flowers and the beautiful birthday cake enjoyed by all. Kirkgate is blessed with many good people who love and care for all who enter its doors.

Blessings, Mima

Thanks to the Kirk Session and congregation for the beautiful floral arrangement I received on my special birthday on 8th June. It has been greatly admired by my many visitors. Thanks also for all your cards and good wishes.

I had a wonderful time with my daughter, son-in-law from Canada and grandchildren from down south, a very special time to remember.

I've been so blessed with a loving family and good friends. The church family is a big part of my life, your support means a lot.

God bless you all

Kathy Coulter x

I would like to thank you all for your prayers and support following my recent unfortunate accident. It meant so much to receive flowers from the church, and to get so many messages from you. The congregation at Kirkgate is certainly a caring one.

Vivien Bruce x



What's on in Kirkgate: September & October

REGULAR WEEKLY MEETINGS

Sunday, 10.45 am:	Morning Worship Sunday School
Tuesday, 1.00-4.00pm:	Craft Team
Wednesday, 7.00-8.00pm:	Bible Study
Thursday, 10.30am:	Midweek Service
Thursday, 2.30 & 7.30pm:	Country Dance Club (alternate weeks)
Friday, 12.30-2.00pm:	Care & Share Lunch



MONTHLY MEETINGS

Prayer Meeting	Second Sunday of month after morning worship
Musical Memories	Last Wednesday of month, 2.00pm
Tea & Coffee Fellowship	Last Sunday of month after morning worship

SEPTEMBER 2024

Sunday 1st: 10.45am

Morning Worship

Wednesday 4th: 7.00 - 8.00pm

Bible Study resumes in Kirkgate

Thursday 5th: 10.30am

Midweek Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion

2.30pm

Country Dance Club resumes

7.00pm

Kirk Session

Friday 6th: 7.30pm

Quiz Night - Tickets £6

More info on Page 13

Saturday 7th: 11.00am

Live streaming of Annual Guild Gathering in

Edinburgh - Free - more info on page 17

Sunday 8th: 10.45am

Morning Worship - Sacrament of Holy Communion

Prayer Group after service

Wednesday 25th: 2.00pm

Musical Memories

Sunday 29th: 10.45am

Morning Worship

Tea/Coffee fellowship after morning service

'Messenger' Material required

OCTOBER 2024

Thursday 3rd: 10.30am

Midweek Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion

2.30pm

Country Dancing

Sunday 6th: 10.45am

Morning Worship - Sacrament of Holy Communion

Harvest Thanksgiving

Retiring collection for Argyle Community Shop

Monday 7th: 2.00pm

Guild Opening Service of Dedication & Communion

Sunday 13th: 10.45am

Morning Worship

Prayer Group after service

Friday 18th: 7.30pm

Fashion Show - more info on Page 13

Monday 21st: 2.00pm

Guild - Concert & Afternoon Tea- Tickets £5

More info on page 13

Saturday 26th: 10.00am - 3.00pm

Craft Fair - Free Entrance - More info on Page 13

Sunday 27th: 10.45am

Morning Worship

Tea/Coffee fellowship after morning service

'Messenger' Material required

Wednesday 30th: 2.00pm

Musical Memories

Thursday Service

Every Thursday we continue to welcome people to the morning service and over the summer there has been a couple of visitors but very few.



We can only repeat that if you find yourself free at 10.30am on a Thursday morning please pop in and join us, you will be assured of a warm welcome and a cuppa afterwards.

The Thursday Team

Prayer Group

We continue to meet every second Sunday of the month, normally about 6-9 people attend and we bring our prayers for the world and others.



If you wish us to pray for anyone or anything special please contact me and it will be included or leave your message in the basket on the hallway table.

God, we are always grateful for all the blessings you give us, help us then to show these to those we come in contact with today and always.

Blessings

Margaret Cassidy

Musical Memories

As always the hall is usually packed for this most popular afternoon which is the last Wednesday of the month and starts at 2.00pm until 3.30pm.

In June the amount raised for Marie Curie was the tremendous figure of £375, thanks to everyone for their generosity.

Despite summer holidays July saw another good turnout and as we go to print before the August afternoon, Mary says there will be a small raffle that afternoon with proceeds going to church funds.

Thanks to Mary, John and the team of helpers who bake and serve tea and goodies at half time.

Dates for South Beach Choir at 2.00pm:

September - Wednesday 4th and 18th, October - 2nd and 16th.

Property Report



The Manse

Several repairs have, or are being, completed at the manse. Gary has once again been doing a great job for us especially in the manse kitchen where he is replacing the cupboard doors and work tops. He has also carried out repairs to the decking and other garden issues that arose at the last inspection. The kitchen and one bedroom will be painted soon.

Church

Our gardens have been looking beautiful over the summer months so a big thank you to the team who undertake this work.

Gary repaired a major issue we had in the small hall on the top left hand corner. The floor was found to be wet and then a hole appeared. On inspection dry rot was found below on the joist and Gary replaced the joist and then sourced a very good replacement for the flooring so that it blended in well.

The electrician has started the church work but had to stop due to family issues but hopefully he will return soon and complete the work.

Mima and I completed a health and safety review and one of the results was that the kitchen had to have a locked cupboard to keep cleaning materials in so a hasp and padlock were fitted.

Further painting will be completed later in the year.

Margaret Cassidy, Property Convenor



Treasurer's Report

Balances – as at 31 July 2024 were as follows:

General Account	£22,254
Fabric Account	£5,663



The amount collected by standing order, cheques and plate collection for the summer period was as follows:

Standing Orders - May - £2,942
June - £2,687
July - £3,616

Plate – May - £1,728 – weekly average - £432
June - £2,242 – weekly average - £560
July - £2,416 – weekly average - £483

There have been a number of fabric jobs done recently in the church and manse and we hope to get permission soon to replace the side doors. The process of gaining permission for this size of project from the Presbytery and the Church of Scotland is a lengthy one, especially in the summer. I must admit I would be happier if the balance in the Fabric Account was considerably higher but we do have funds invested at the Church of Scotland which we should be able to access when needed.

Our retiring collection for Christian Aid in May raised £570 and the collection for the Harbour Centre raised £170. These are excellent totals and typical of the generosity of our congregation. There is no retiring collection at the September Communion – our next collection will be the Harvest collection in October for the Argyle Centre Food Service.

I will conclude with my usual appeal for those in the congregation who are not currently on the Gift Aid scheme to consider this option. The financial benefits to the congregation are very significant at no extra cost to the giver. If you would like details of giving via envelopes or Standing Order please let me know.

I would also like to thank those who have increased their givings recently and those who have requested envelopes or taken out Standing Orders.

Thank you - John Stewart, Treasurer

Beetle Drive & Cream Tea - Saturday 8th June

Fantastic total raised
was
£270



A great afternoon of fun and laughter followed by a delicious afternoon tea of scones and strawberry tarts. Thanks to all who participated and helped in any way.

The winner was Pam Martin pictured with the hostess of the afternoon Eunice who was supporting a broken shoulder - but didn't they do well!!

Presbytery Report

Presbytery met on 15th June in Upper Annandale Parish Church in Moffat and was constituted by Rev Alison McBrier the Moderator.

Planning report - several churches in our presbytery have now agreed their unions and dates are set for these to take place over the summer months.

Mission mapping exercises have all taken place now and 8 mission proposals are being looked at and plans to run Learning Communities for Presbytery starting this Autumn to look at these pioneer proposals.

Presbytery are still looking for a Safeguarding trainer in the old Ayr, Irvine and Kilmarnock Presbytery area.

The 2023 accounts will be ready for September meeting.

Presbytery dues will be the same as last year and treasurers should get their information soon.

The guild convenor Mrs Rea Lind gave her yearly report.



Business committee - Rt Rev Dr Shaw Paterson the Moderator of the General Assembly will be visiting this area in Sept 2024 and next March 2025 over two weekend's. During one of his visits he will preach in South Beach House.

I would like to close by saying that after many years I am no longer going to be the presbytery elder and although I have enjoyed most of my time I am happy to pass this seat onto Mary Stewart so watch out for Mary's first report after the September opening meeting.

Thank you for taking the time to read all the reports over the years.

Margaret Cassidy, retiring Presbytery Elder

We thank Margaret for her time as Presbytery Elder attending meetings and writing reports etc., and we send best wishes to Mary Stewart as she embarks on her new position



John Stewart has been involved as a volunteer with the local foodbank for a number of years, collecting donations at Tesco in Irvine and Saltcoats. For some reason or perhaps a number of reasons, donations in general have fallen off dramatically in the last year. This is at a time when demand for foodbank parcels has increased significantly.

If you would like to contribute some items for the foodbank please just bring them to the church – there is a collection box in the hallway or just pass them onto me – I would also be happy to collect any donations (phone me please, **John Stewart 07561 340886**) - I will deliver any donations to the Foodbank HQ in Ardrossan.

Many thanks to all who have contributed to the foodbank box at the church. We would be delighted to receive any further donations of non-perishable food or toiletries. There is always a big demand for long-life milk. All donations welcome – even just one item from this list when you do your shopping will make a difference – once again very many thanks.

HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

Food

UHT milk
Tinned meat (Hotdogs, Meatballs etc.)
Tinned fish
Tinned fruit
Sponge/Rice puddings
Coffee (small jars)
Long-life juice
Pasta sauce
Tinned veg (potatoes, carrots, green beans, tomatoes)
Tinned meals (Spaghetti, Chilli, Chicken or Veg curries)
Tinned soup
Jam and Spreads

Non-food items

Shower gel
Shampoo/conditioner
Deodorant
Toilet rolls
Washing up liquid
Laundry detergent pods

Kirkgate Family

Keeping Connected



*The Church is wherever God's people are seeking
to reach out and touch folk wherever they are.....*

Hello to all,

The hymn "Summer suns are glowing, over land and sea" was regularly sung at our end of primary school year service. The hymn evokes memories of excitement and anticipation at the prospect of 8 weeks of freedom and sunny days stretching (what felt like) endlessly ahead!

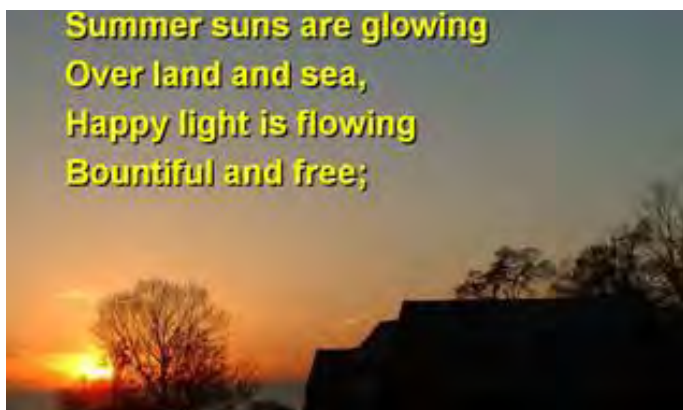
But this year summer suns sadly did not glow here in Saltcoats.

Despite the weather here, hope that summer still provided a break from routine, a chance to relax, recharge ready for Autumn's approach.

Pastoral work continued over the summer break and we intend holding our next meeting soon.

Please feel free to contact the team, phone numbers are on the right.

Every blessing.
Pastoral Care Team



Stamp Appeal

Please remember to continue to save your used stamps.

If you can leave a small border round them that would be great. You can leave them on the table in the hallway and someone will pick them up.

They are a valuable source of income at no extra cost to yourself.



PASTORAL CARE CONTACTS

The Pastoral Team are working very hard behind the scenes. Please keep the team up-to-date with information about people who need pastoral care or support at this difficult time for everyone. Please don't assume they already know - they would rather hear several times over than not at all.

The main contacts for Pastoral Care are:

Mrs Moira Cooper, (01294 468851)
Mrs Jean Hay, (01294 469986)
Mrs Evelyn Green (01294 469706), and
Mrs Jennifer Fox (01294 465947).

Prayer Shawl Ministry



If anybody is interested in starting a Prayer Shawl Ministry, or would like a shawl to give to somebody, please speak to me on a Sunday morning or phone 01294421144 or email smayg@talktalk.net.

Susan Gill

Recycling Old Spectacles

There's been a great response to the recycling of your old specs.

Many thanks, keep looking them out, although there can't be too many still lurking in the drawers.

However it is still ongoing, the box is still in the hallway and we thank the ladies who uplift them for Blythswood.

**RECYCLE
YOUR OLD SPECS/CASES HERE**



Fundraising 2024-25

It seems strange to be writing a report for the next copy of the Messenger in mid August but when Elizabeth asks, one must comply!



After a poor summer we are now looking forward to autumn functions and our next one is another quiz and supper on Friday September 6th, more information on poster on page 11. Tickets are now on sale from any member of the fundraising committee and I would urge you to get yours as soon as possible as this is a fun night and numbers are limited to how many tables we can fit into the hall.

As usual it is bring your own refreshment and glass and supper will be served half way through the evening followed by the raffle. You don't have to be in a team as you can join one on the night, nor do you have to be 'Brain of Britain' as it is a fun night with a great variety of questions compiled by Ron assisted by Moira.

I would also remind you of the next fundraiser the Fashion Show by 'The Dressing Room' which unfortunately, due to unforeseen circumstances the date has had to be changed from Friday October 11th to Friday October 18th. Tickets for that will be on sale nearer the time.

Once again we look forward to your support, without you we wouldn't be able to raise the much needed funds for the Church.

Phyllis Armstrong



2024

Friday September 6th: Quiz Night and Supper

***Friday October 18th:** Fashion Show by The Dressing Room

***Please note change of date**

Saturday October 26th: Craft Fair

Saturday November 30th: Christmas Fair

Saturday December 7th: Christmas Tree Festival

2025

February: Burns Supper (date to be arranged)



Hospital Volunteers, Crosshouse

Our Hospital Volunteers provide a shop, café and ward trolley service in University Hospital Crosshouse.

As well as providing these services, the Hospital Volunteers raise funds to purchase equipment to make our patients' stay in hospital more pleasant.

If you can spare 2 hours a week, not necessarily every week to help we would really appreciate it.

If interested please telephone **Jean on 01563 825153** who will explain the procedure and arrange an application form for you.

Without your help this valuable service for patients and visitors would not be available

What's On - September & October

??

KIRKGATE PARISH CHURCH

??

QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 6th Sept
at 7.30pm
in the church hall



TICKETS: £6
includes half-time
supper and raffle ticket

B.Y.O.B.

Ardrossan & Saltcoats Kirkgate Parish Church of Scotland
Scottish Charity Number - SC023003

Kirkgate Parish Church

Chapelwell Street, Saltcoats

Fashion Show

*in the church and presented by
The Dressing Room,
Hamilton Street, Saltcoats*



Friday 18th Oct at 7.30pm

Tickets: £5

(includes a glass of wine or soft drink on arrival)

Registered Scottish Charity No. SC023003

Ardrossan & Saltcoats
Kirkgate
PARISH CHURCH



Kirkgate Guild presents a

CONCERT
and AFTERNOON TEA

with

THE MIDGIES

A TRIO OF MUSICIANS



Monday 21st October, 2pm

Kirkgate Church Hall, Saltcoats

Tickets: £5



Ardrossan & Saltcoats
Kirkgate
PARISH CHURCH

AUTUMN CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY
26TH OCTOBER
10AM - 3PM

**Kirkgate
Parish Church**
Chapelwell Street
Saltcoats

FREE ADMISSION

Ardrossan & Saltcoats Kirkgate Parish Church of Scotland.
Scottish Charity Number SC023003.



Kirk Session

It doesn't really feel as if we had much of a summer, does it? I think for the most part we have been glad if the rain has stayed away! Anyway, as I write, we are almost into September, and the usual activities will be starting up again.

It is lovely to have so many new people joining us for worship. If you were a member of your previous congregation and you would like to transfer your membership to Kirkgate you should contact Alan Ward, and ask for a certificate of transfer, which should then be given to me. This may not seem very important, but it helps to keep the statistics right, and could also be important if there is ever a vote taking place.

If you would be interested in playing a more active part in the life of our congregation there are many ways to get involved. We have rotas for door duty, flowers, teas and coffees, and cleaning, as well as for reading the lesson on a Sunday and leading the opening prayer of adoration. If you would like to help with any of these activities please speak to me and I will pass your name to the right person. The more people there are on the rota, the less often your turn comes around!

We will be celebrating Communion on Thursday 5th September and Sunday 8th September. There will not be a retiring offering at this time, as we have our

Harvest service on Sunday 6th October, when the funds donated will go to the Argyle Community Shop.



There is a Quiz night and supper on Friday 6th September. This is always a fun evening, and you are welcome to come along with a team or join others when you arrive. For catering purposes you should buy a ticket in advance.

The Craft team have started their meetings on Tuesday afternoons after the summer break, and is always happy to welcome new faces. Please support them by buying cards from the display in the vestibule. If you don't see what you need just ask and they will help you out.

Collection of items for the shoeboxes has already begun. You are invited to bring items to fill the boxes, or to fill your own boxes, or to make a donation of money which will be used to purchase items. Page 15 opposite contains more information. I know that you will hear more about this in the weeks to come, and I also know how generous the congregation is, so I am certain that we will fill a lot of boxes.

The next meeting of the Kirk Session will take place on Thursday 5th September at 7pm.

Vivien Bruce, Session Clerk

The Craft Team

It's hard to imagine that by the time you read this, the group will be back meeting after the summer break. For all our new Church members, the group meets on a Tuesday in the small hall from 2-4.00pm. Seven of us share our hobby to make the cards on sale in the vestibule.



We do a lot of chatting and drinking tea between working, enjoying each other's company. The bonus is that we raise a lot of money for Church Funds. Already, since January we've donated £600.

Anyone thinking of joining us will be made very welcome.

We're having an open afternoon on Tuesday 10th September from 2.00 - 4.00pm.



Anyone interested, especially any new Church members whether you're thinking of joining the group, finding out what we do or just coming along to get to know us over a cup of tea and a chat will be very welcome.

A future event on our calendar which we hope everyone will get involved in will be a Christmas Tree Festival.

More details will follow in the coming months. Once the topic title has been decided we will be asking for lots of volunteers willing to decorate a tree.

At least 24 trees are needed to make a display so we'd like everyone to get involved, either on your own or with friends.



Blythwood Shoebox Appeal 2024



Covering the shoeboxes has been ongoing over the summer months and we are almost ready to start filling them.

Hopefully you've managed to pick up a few bargains over the past few months - your generosity is always overwhelming especially during these difficult times of price increases.

If you require anything uplifted or just wish to donate money, please speak to anyone on duty who will pass on your request.

Uplifting of the boxes is normally first week in November but we will remind you nearer the time so that you can have your boxes here to be dedicated before their onward journey.

To participate in the Shoebox Appeal 2024

1. Cover a shoebox with Christmas paper and fill with the necessary items from the list opposite. These checklists will be available for you to tick off.

OR

2. Pick up a covered box from the church along with a checklist.

OR

3. Donate items as listed, or finance to buy goods which we maybe short of once packing starts, any money left over goes to Blythwood to help with transporting your gifts to mainly Eastern Europe in time for Christmas.

Help is always required to help pack the boxes. If you can spare a few hours over the next couple of months then please volunteer.

Interested in helping please speak to Maureen Hunter.

A helpful reminder that there are some restrictions:- No chocolate, sweets must have forward date later than February 2025, and liquids e.g. shampoo etc., maximum 250-300mls

Here is a link to some good ideas you might like to copy, patterns for various small gifts etc.

<https://linktohope.co.uk/shoebox-appeal-2024>

Checklist

Please ✓ items included and firmly secure this list on your shoebox lid.

Include the essential items highlighted in the red box.

IMPORTANT: PLEASE ONLY INCLUDE NEW ITEMS.

☐ Toothbrush and Toothpaste ☐ Hat, scarf, gloves ☐ Soap ☐ Underwear/ Socks/Tights	☐ Small toy* / gift *small children's toy such as cars, dolls, balls etc. Please only include new shop-bought toys.	☐ Sweets No chocolate or any other food items. No loose sweets, lollies or undated bags of sweets. Best before date no earlier than 31st March next year.
--	---	---

Do not include used or damaged items; war related items such as toy guns or knives or military figures; hand-made or knitted stuffed toys; chocolate or any food other than sweets. Chocolate Eclairs and Chocolate Limes are not allowed; books that are mainly words should not be included.

Toiletries (NO TALCUM POWDER)

- ☐ Shampoo or Shower gel
- ☐ Face cloth/ Moist wipes
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Moisturising Cream
- ☐ Comb/Brush
- ☐ Sanitary Products
- ☐ Shaving foam/Razors

Miscellaneous

- ☐ New Make-up
- ☐ Sewing Equipment
- ☐ Household Candles
- ☐ Screwdrivers/Pliers
- ☐ Kitchen Utensils

Stationery

- ☐ Pens/Pencils/Sharpener
- ☐ Notepads/Colouring books
- ☐ Rulers/Rubbers

Clothes and other Items

(T-shirts/Pyjamas/Jumpers/ Shirts) etc

- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐

Please tick the box next to who the box is for and the age of the female or male you have filled this box for:

 ☐ **Female**  ☐ **Male**

- ☐ Preschool age.....
- ☐ Primary age.....
- ☐ Teenager age.....
- ☐ Adult age.....
- ☐ Elderly age.....



Sponsorship

I'm taking part in an exciting and challenging trek across the Sahara Desert in March next year, in support of the charity CHAS - Children's Hospices Across Scotland. I'll be trekking with my old school friend Lesley Campbell from Saltcoats, who has worked with families who have been supported by this charity along with a local friend in Ealing.



**Children's
Hospice
Association
Scotland**

CHAS is a wonderful charity that provides hospice services for children and young people with life-shortening conditions. No offspring should die before their parent, but it must be even more unbearable if that son or daughter is still a child. CHAS is committed to making sure that no matter how short their time together may be, it is time filled with happiness and fun. This is such a deserving charity and I really want to raise as much money as I can for them.



We have self-funded most of the costs of the trip, which involves flying to Morocco before trekking across ancient dried up river beds, sand dunes and vast sun-baked plains whilst camping each night under the stars in Bedouin tents. The trek will be challenging and physically demanding and I'm not even going to think about the bathroom detail - no shower for several days and a hole in the ground for the loo!

Before the trip however we have committed to raising a further £1,700 each for CHAS.

Thank you for reading this far and for any donations you decide to make: (www.justgiving.com & type in Alison McCulloch) or should you wish, my mum Solveig McCulloch has a sponsorship sheet.



With your support, CHAS can reach more families as they face the toughest challenge of their life.

Alison McCulloch x

Solveig writes for those who do not know her or Alison

Alison is my daughter and as I am not able to participate in physical charity sponsor events any longer, I am hoping to help her as best I can.

She was baptised in the former Erskine Church in 1969 and was a regular attender at Sunday School and as she grew up became an assistant teacher there before leaving home to study for a three year art degree at Aberdeen followed by two years at the Royal College of Art to gain her MA with Distinction. She is now 'Head of Art' at 'Christ the Saviour Primary School', a Church of England School in Ealing, London where she along with other teachers are in charge of 720 children between the ages of 5 to 11 years old who study art.

I hope that you feel you can give some support to her for this demanding challenge and a very worthwhile charity.

The Guild

We start back on Monday 7th October at 2.00pm with a Communion and Dedication service led by Nigel and continue fortnightly until 16th December. The Strategy is "Let Us Build a House" and the Theme for this session "Sure Foundations".



A wee taster of what is to come so you can mark it in your diary, on Monday 21st October at 2.00pm we welcome everyone to an opening concert and afternoon tea, tickets will be £5 and will be on sale in September. See the poster on previous page 13 and notice boards. We're sure it will be a great afternoon and we look forward to your support.

We pray that you will come along and enjoy the fellowship that the Guild has to offer.

Before we start locally, there is the Guild Annual Gathering 2024 which is held on Saturday 7 September 2024, in The Assembly Hall, The Mound, Edinburgh from 11am - 4pm

This is the biggest event of the Guild year, bringing over 1000 Guild members and friends together for a day of worship, celebration and fellowship. We will be joined this year by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland who will share her thoughts on our new theme, we will be joined from guests from Malawi, we will hear from our new project partners and entertainment from Finlay Morse.

However, here in Kirkgate we will be live streaming it in the church from 10.45am, please feel free to bring a packed lunch and come and go as you please. Tea/Coffee will be available.

Also In September, Church of Scotland Guilds will be receiving a delegation from Umanyano (Guild) in Livingstonia Synod, North Malawi. Women's Guild membership there is estimated at 35,000 in 170 congregations across the Northern region. After attending the Annual Meeting in Edinburgh one of the delegates, Mrs Monica Mulengi from Ekwendeni will be in North Ayrshire from 7th to 16th September.

The committee of Guilds Together North Ayrshire are planning to show her around our area, visiting Arran, Millport, Largs and the Three Towns.

A special gathering will be held in Dunn Memorial Hall, **Largs: St. John's Church on Thursday, 12th September at 2.00pm** to let Monica experience some Scottish hospitality and culture. All are invited to attend that day, it would be good if as many people as possible were there.

Everyone was so generous in their support of Ekwendeni Hospital and this would be a good opportunity to build on that contact.

Please let me know if would like to go to the Largs meeting.

Chrissie Baillie

Ayrshire Guilds Together
Support our Partnership with Malawi
Guilds – Together in Christ



Autumn Gathering
(with a Scottish Flavour)
Thursday 12 September 2.00 pm
Dunn Memorial Hall, Largs

Meeting our Malawi Visitors
Scottish Music, Song and Dance
Afternoon Tea

Come and Celebrate!

Online with Kirkgate

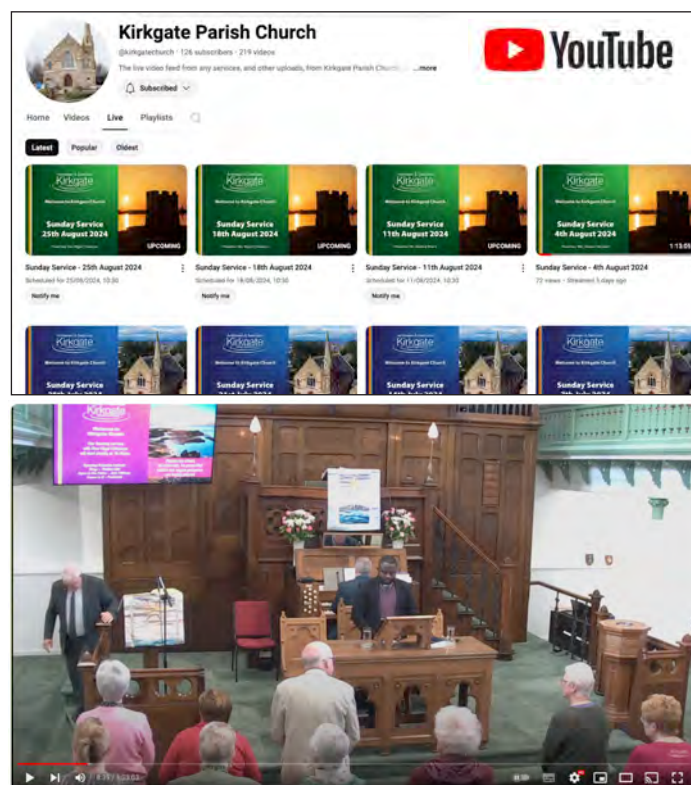
Our **Sunday Service** is held at 10.45am and is also available online live via YouTube at: www.youtube.com/@kirkgatechurch with a recording available shortly afterwards on our website at www.kirkgatechurch.org.uk, Facebook, Twilio phone service and podcasting channels. Other services such as weddings or funerals can be live-streamed on request.

You can subscribe for free to our YouTube channel to get alerts on any new content - we now have 126 subscribers which is great. All past live-streams are online and can be viewed at any time - over 220 videos at present! Our live-streams currently attract between 80-100 views each week on average.

If you'd like to join the 'team' that operates the streaming equipment then please speak to Stuart or Mary and we'll happily show you what's involved.

Please remind anyone who maybe doesn't have access to the internet that our free Twilio phone service (**01294 444201**) is available to them where you can listen to the weekly church service on the phone by dialling the local number above.

Usage of the phone service is still very low so please share that it is available. Every week the church service is split into two parts of approx 30-40 minutes each, which you can select by choosing either Option 1 or 2 on your phone's keypad.



Life & Work: In the Sept. Edition...

Bibles and Buildings

The Guild's new partner projects

A Time to Reflect

The season of Creation Time

30 Years of Fairtrade

In the month of Fairtrade Fortnight, how the movement is celebrating a major anniversary

'The Gospel of Grace'

Emmanuel Murangia, Tearfund Director for Rwanda, on the work of reconciliation after the genocide of the 1990s - and how a 12-year-old's act of forgiveness made him think differently about his faith

Our Presbyteries

The Presbytery of England and the Channel Islands

The Pilgrim Way

The Rev John Carswell describes his experience travelling Scotland's newest pilgrim route.

Regulars

The Moderator says the Church needs to keep reaching out

Worship column by the Rev Roddy Hamilton

Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church

Bible Study by the Very Rev Dr Colin Sinclair

My Church: Stephanie Fraser of Baldernock Parish Church

Plus: official update from the Assembly Trustees, readers' pictures, news, letters, reviews and puzzles - all for £3.50. Visit www.lifeandwork.org/subscribe



Rota Page

SUNDAY DOOR DUTY AND COUNTING ROTA SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

1st September	J. Rainey	F. Liddell	J. Hay
8th September	J. Stewart	D. MacLeod	E. Howie
15th September	M. Cooper	B. McWilliam	M. Hunter
22nd September	E. McInnes	P. Martin	S. Gill
29th September	J. Rainey	E. Green	L. McDougall
6th October	M. Cooper	G. Armstrong	P. Armstrong

Church Door Duty Rota

I will be making up the rota from October till January very soon so if anyone would like to join the rota or be removed can you please let me know as soon as possible.

I will email you or give you a printed copy and it will also be in the October magazine which will be available on 6 October.

Thank you all

Moira Cooper

CHURCH FLOWERS SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

	DONATED BY	DELIVERY
1 September	L. Copland	J. Hay
8 September	A. O'Hanlon	C. Ewing
15 September	I. Passway	E. McInnes
22 September	W. Sneider	J. Rainey
29 September	P. Martin	E. Green
6 October	A O'Hanlon	M Cooper
13 October	M McSwan	M Cassidy
20 October	S McMahon	M Hunter
27 October	M Cooper	E Breakenridge



VACANT DATES

Should you wish to contribute flowers for the sanctuary.

Please speak to

Chrissie Baillie Tel: 01294 463903
for more information



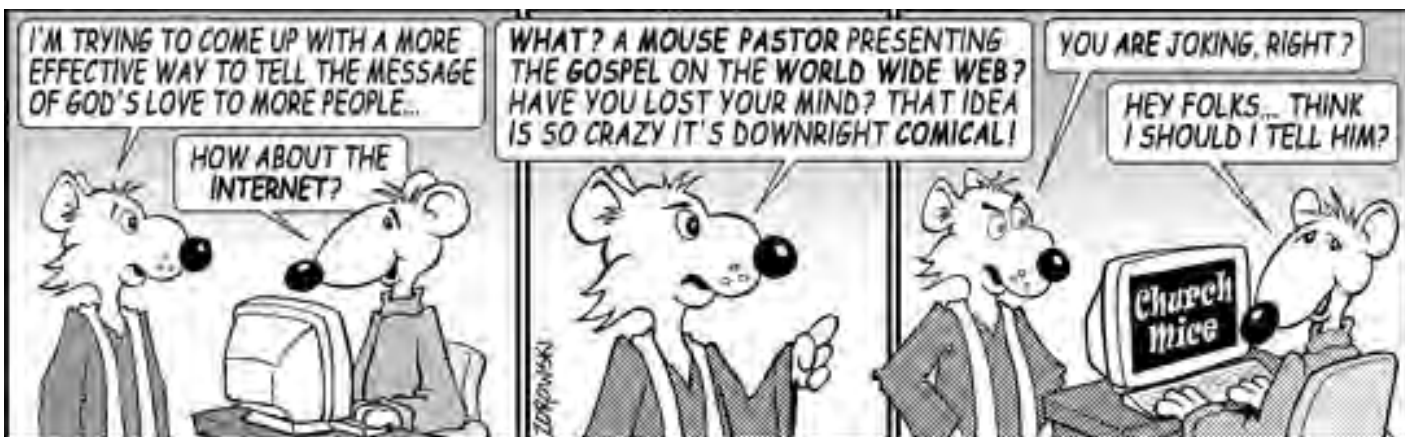
VACANT DATES

23rd March 2025

11th May 2025

More volunteers are also required to distribute the flowers each Sunday.

Please speak to Elizabeth McMahon
who does the delivery rota:
Tel: 01294 464428



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Argyle Community Shop

The summer months have remained busy at the shop.

We are very grateful for the produce that people have donated from their gardens and allotments. Thank you all very much. Thanks too for the donations of money and other goods that we've been given. All of this has a positive impact on the community.



Our partners at North Ayrshire Council have informed us that over the past year £120,000 has been saved in local households. This is comprised of savings on grocery shopping through the Argyle Shop, the Gift Giving projects, return to school haircuts, pre-loved school uniform, winter coats, fun days etc. What a phenomenal amount of money to have saved for local individuals and families!

Best Wishes to Marie (Link Up) who gets married this month. Please pray for good weather as the wedding is in her garden!

With Thanks from All at The Argyle Shop

Online Fundraising

If you make any purchases online, then please consider signing up with [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and making Ardrossan & Saltcoats Kirkgate Parish Church your chosen cause. We currently have 14 supporters who have raised a total of £112.24 to date at no extra cost to themselves.

Turn your daily shopping into everyday magic for us with easyfundraising

You shop, brands donate to us. It won't cost you any extra!

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2 Sign up and search for us

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Care & Share



I hope you've all had a lovely summer but now the children are back at school, the sun is out after Storm Lillian and there's a hint of Autumn in the air. Soup pots are coming out everywhere!

We have been busy over the summer months and have welcomed back some old friends and greeting some new ones. Soup, filled rolls (hot or cold) followed by varying desserts remain the popular choice for lunch.

On 13th September we are being visited by Monica, who is here from Malawi, who wants to gain some insight into what we do on a Friday. We might put something special on the menu that day any suggestions gratefully received.

This month marks our 6th Anniversary! An innocent question from Joan prompted me to calculate roughly what we have provided to those who have come for lunch over the years.

**1 Anniversary dinner (2019),
4 Christmas parties (one missing due to Covid),
approximately 2,500 lunch clubs, over
50,000 rolls and slice and endless
desserts.**

Quite a feat when you reckon it up, and particularly when we are all amateurs.



A huge thanks to all of the Team, past and present, for their hard work and also for all the support we receive. And a massive thank you to all those who come on a Friday. The massive sense of community makes it all worthwhile. Maybe next month I'll calculate how much washing up we've done!!



But in the meantime please keep the Friday Lunch Club in your prayers.

With love and heartfelt thanks.

Pam xx



For your Amusement.....

Name: _____ Date: _____

Harvest Festival
Word Search

DIRECTIONS:
Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

ANNUAL
APPLES
AUTUMN
CELEBRATION
CONTESTS
CORN
CORNUCOPIA
CROPS
FARMER
FEASTING
FESTIVAL
FIELDS
GAMES
HARVEST

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

HAYRIDE
LEAVES
MERRIMENT
MUSIC
OCTOBER
PUMPKINS
REGIONAL
SCARECROW
SEPTEMBER
SQUASH



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Spot the Differences for Jesus and the Children
Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 10 things that are different.



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SEASONS IN LIFE

There was a man who had four sons. He wanted his sons to learn not to judge things too quickly. So he sent them each on a quest, in turn, to go and look at a pear tree that was a great distance away.

The first son went in the winter, the second in the spring, the third in the summer and the youngest son in the autumn.

When they had all gone and come back, he called them together to describe what they had seen.

The first son said that the tree was ugly, bent and twisted.

The second son said no, it was covered with green buds and full of promise.

The third son disagreed, he said it was laden with blossoms that smelled so sweet and looked so beautiful, it was the most graceful things he had ever seen.

The last son disagreed with all of them, he said it was ripe and drooping with fruit, full of life and fulfilment.

The man then explained to his sons that they were all right, because they had each seen but only one season in the tree's life.

He told them that you cannot judge a tree, or a person, by only one season, and that the essence of who they are and the pleasure, joy and love that come from that life can only be measured at the end, when all the seasons are up.

If you give up when it's winter, you will miss the promise of your spring, the beauty of your summer, fulfilment of your autumn.

Don't let the pain of one season destroy the joy of all the rest.

Don't judge life by one difficult season. Persevere through the difficult patches and better times are sure to come some time later.



Who's Who in Kirkgate

Church Address: Chapelwell Street, Saltcoats KA21 5EB. Tel: 01294 472001

POSITION	NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE	EMAIL
Minister	Rev Nigel Chikanya	10 Seafeld Drive, Ardrossan KA22 8NU	Tel: 01294 683379 Mob: 07566 278132	NChikanya@churchofscotland.org.uk
Session Clerk	Vivien Bruce	57 Dockers Gardens, Ardrossan KA22 8GB	01294 605113	sessionclerk@kirkgatechurch.org.uk
Deputy Session Clerk	Mima McSwan	23 Springvale Court Saltcoats KA21 5LY	01294 602410	

POSITION	NAME	ADDRESS	TELEPHONE
Pastoral Care	See magazine article for various contact details		
Organist, Rollkeeper, Data Protection, Website	Stuart McMahon	93 Montfode Drive, Ardrossan KA22 7PH	07588 665191
Treasurer	John Stewart	5 High Road, Saltcoats	01294 464526
Gift Aid Convenor	George Armstrong	46 Whitlees Court, Ardrossan KA22 7PD	01294 466867
Freewill Offering Envelopes	Moirra Cooper	1A Bridgepark, Ardrossan KA22 8BQ	01294 468851
Property Convenor	Margaret Cassidy	3 Eglinton Street, Saltcoats KA21 5DE	01294 605535
Safeguarding Convenors	Christine Ewing	210 Glasgow Street, Ardrossan KA22 8JS	01294 601700
	Elizabeth Howie	93 Argyle Road, Saltcoats KA21 5NE	01294 467881
Magazine Editor	Elizabeth McMahon	8 Kennedy Road, Saltcoats KA21 5NJ	01294 464428
Flower Convenor	Chrissie Baillie	40 Gladstone Road, Saltcoats KA21 5LD	01294 463903
The Guild	Secretary: Vacant		
Prayer Group	Margaret Cassidy	3 Eglinton Street, Saltcoats KA21 5DE	01294 605535
Craft Team	Jean Hay	18 West Doura Avenue, Saltcoats KA21 5NS	01294 469986
Country Dancing	Elizabeth Howie	93 Argyle Road, Saltcoats KA21 5NE	01294 467881

Kirk Session Committees

PASTORAL CARE:

Co-ordinators*: Mrs Evelyn Green

Miss Alison Buick	Mrs Jean Rainey
Mrs Moira Cooper*	Mrs Morag Forsyth
Mrs Jennifer Fox*	(telephone contact elder)
Mrs Maureen Hunter	Co-opted:
Mrs Fiona Liddell	Jean Hay*
Mrs Solveig McCulloch	Anne Aitken
Mrs Elizabeth McCracken	Phyllis Armstrong
Mrs Eunice McInnes	Christine Ewing
Mrs Barbara McWilliam	

PROPERTY:

Convener: Margaret Cassidy

Mrs Vivien Bruce	Mrs Pamela Martin
Mrs Jennifer Fox	Mrs Maureen Hunter
Mrs Annabelle O'Hanlon	

COMMUNICATION:

Co-ordinator: Mr Stuart McMahon

Vivien Bruce. Co-opted: Mrs Elizabeth McMahon

CHURCH & COMMUNITY:

Convener: Mr Andrew Bruce

Mrs Margaret Cassidy	Co-opted:
Mrs Pamela Martin	Mr David Macleod
Mrs Mary Stewart	Ms Fiona Wright

FUNDRAISING & SOCIAL:

Mrs Eunice McInnes	Co-opted:
Mrs Evelyn Green	Mrs Phyllis Armstrong
Mrs Jean Rainey	Mrs Jean Hay
Mrs Fiona Liddell	Mrs Carol Gilmour
	Mrs Alison O'Neill

FINANCE:

Convener: Mr John Stewart

Mrs Moira Cooper
Mrs Jean Rainey
Co-opted: Mr George Armstrong

Church Website: www.kirkgatechurch.org.uk



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☎ 01294 833644
- + 19 Dockhead St, Saltcoats
☎ 01294 463342
- + 41 Hamilton St, Saltcoats
☎ 01294 463524
- + Saltcoats Health Centre
☎ 01294 602134
- + 33 New Street, Stevenston
☎ 01294 464259

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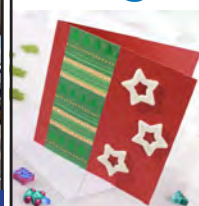
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