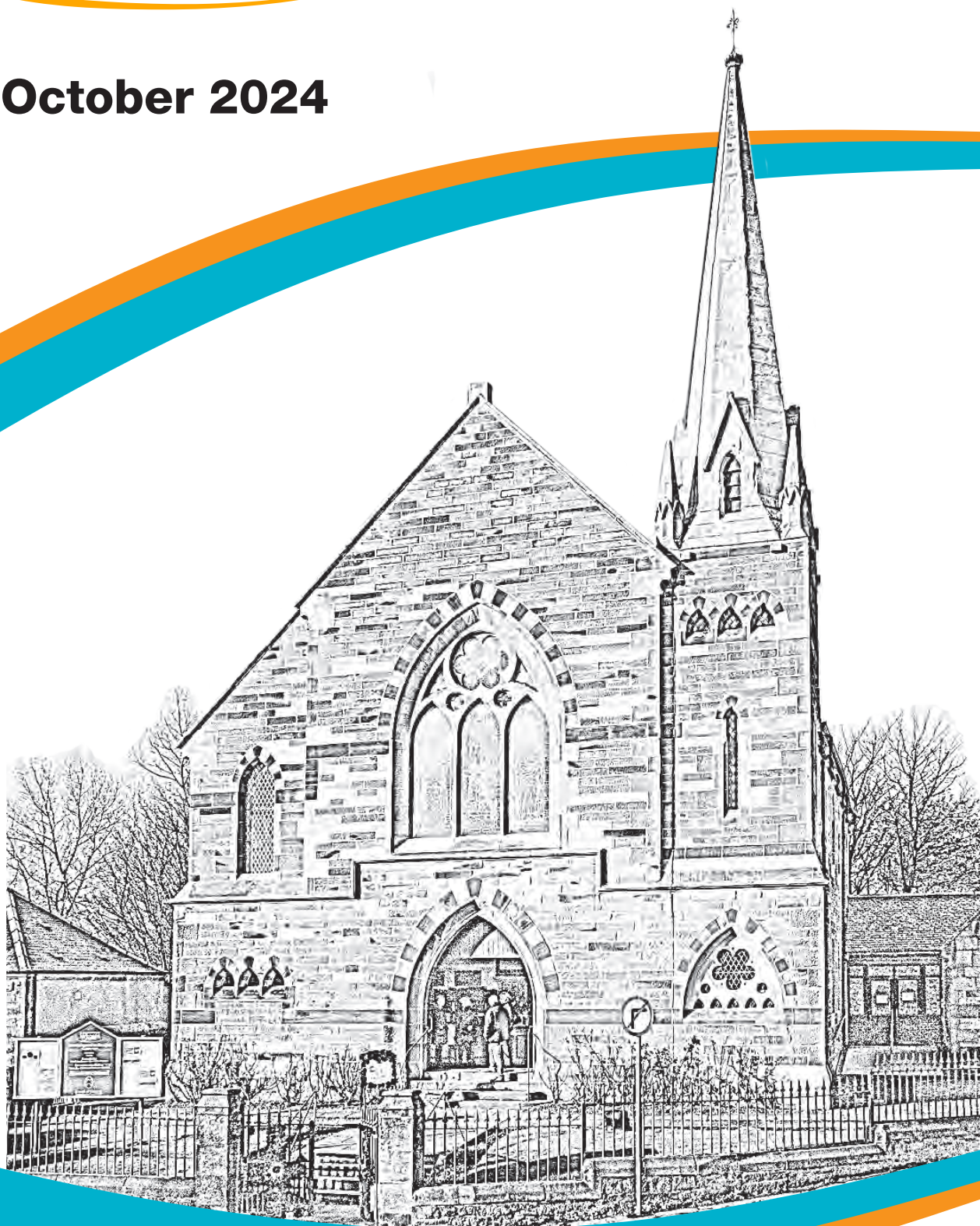


Ardrossan & Saltcoats

Kirkgate **Messenger**

PARISH CHURCH

October 2024



www.kirkgatechurch.org.uk

Chapelwell Street
Saltcoats
KA21 5EB

Registered Scottish Charity: SC023003

Message from our Minister

Dear Kirkgate Family,

As I write this message just a few days before our planning morning, I know many of you may be unsure of what to expect. To provide some clarity, I will be sharing more about the planning morning in our November issue.

I often find myself reflecting on why God called me to serve in these three towns. The invitation was powerful, and I could not resist the call to full-time ministry here. The words that resonate with me are, "Our door is always open - may we welcome you inside?"

In the Old Testament, God commanded the prophet Jonah to enter the heart of Nineveh, the Assyrian city, to deliver a message of blessing to the Gentiles. Despite Nineveh's reputation for ruthlessness and corruption, God offered them a chance to repent and turn to Him. Jonah, however, wished for their destruction instead. In my heart, I seek to bless each of you, and I hope you see me as one of your own—someone eager to join hands with you as we embrace what God is yet to accomplish among us. *"I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing."* - Genesis 12: 2-3

In Genesis 12, God called Abraham and his descendants to be a blessing to all nations. Similarly, the church is called to bless the communities around us. We must consistently bring the hope of the gospel of Jesus Christ to every man, woman, and child in our community. It is disheartening when our communities feel more condemned by the church than blessed. God desires to show mercy, grace, and love to sinners, while the church all too often leans toward condemnation and criticism.

When our hearts are not aligned with God, we inadvertently bring trouble instead of blessing. A church that is not moving in God's will becomes a curse rather than a blessing to its community. Some churches remain stuck in the past, content to bless themselves with their traditions, while becoming increasingly out of touch with the needs of those around them. I encourage you to join me in reflecting: Are we doing enough?

As a church, we are not here to please ourselves; our mission is to please God and share the good news of Jesus Christ with those around us. God's desire is to save sinners, seek the lost, heal the sick, bind up the broken-hearted, and bring hope and freedom to the captives. The question for us is: Are we fulfilling all that God has called us to do? The planning morning has been a valuable starting point for this reflection. I invite you to join us again in the new year as we dedicate time to consider our service to God and our community.



There are countless hurting lives around us that desperately need to hear the gospel - the good news that Jesus loves them. Let us ask God for opportunities to share how Jesus can make a difference in their lives. I am confident that we can do more. Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy.

Stay blessed, and let us continue to explore together.

Your friend and minister,

Nigel Chikanya

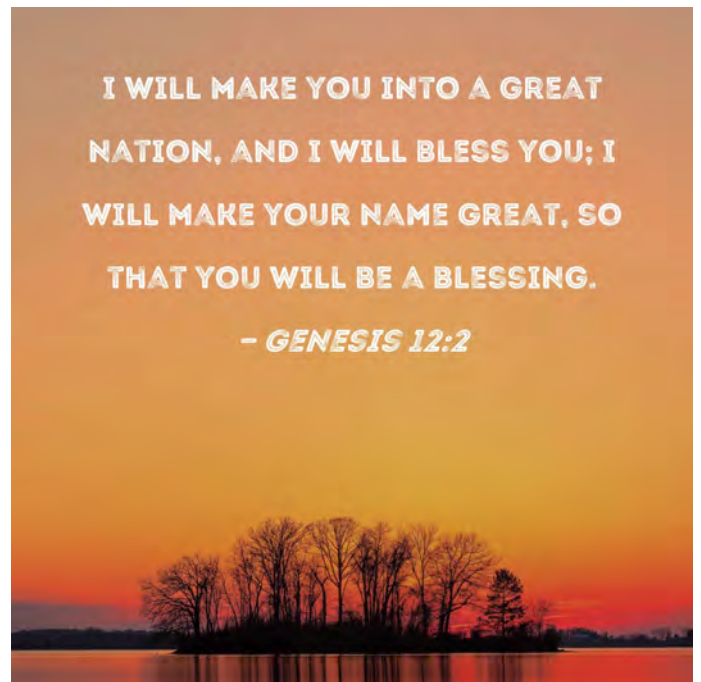
Rev Tichaona Nigel Chikanya

Tel: 01294 683379 Mobile: 07566 278132

Email: NChikanya@churchofscotland.org.uk

**I WILL MAKE YOU INTO A GREAT
NATION, AND I WILL BLESS YOU; I
WILL MAKE YOUR NAME GREAT, SO
THAT YOU WILL BE A BLESSING.**

– GENESIS 12:2



From our Probationer: Katrona Templeton

WHAT IF GOD WAS ONE OF US

In 1995, Joan Osborne released the song "One of Us." The song ponders what would happen if God were one of us, prompting us to consider God as a stranger on the bus, trying to make his way home. This song has been on my mind lately as I have frequently travelled on the bus in the last month.

I want to reflect on a few encounters I recently had on the bus.

The first encounter was with a woman with some additional support needs who wouldn't sit still but bounced about on her toes. She loudly asked about the difference between the Baptist church and the Church of Scotland. While people smiled or pretended to ignore her, I answered her question, leading to a theological discussion about the different beliefs on baptism between the two denominations. We then discussed the similarities between the two denominations, and she wondered why two different churches, who believed in God and Jesus, separated themselves over a few disagreements. This reminded me of **1 Corinthians 1: 10-11** - ***"I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree with one another in what you say and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly united in mind and thought. "My brothers and sisters, some from Chloe's household, have informed me that there are quarrels among you."***

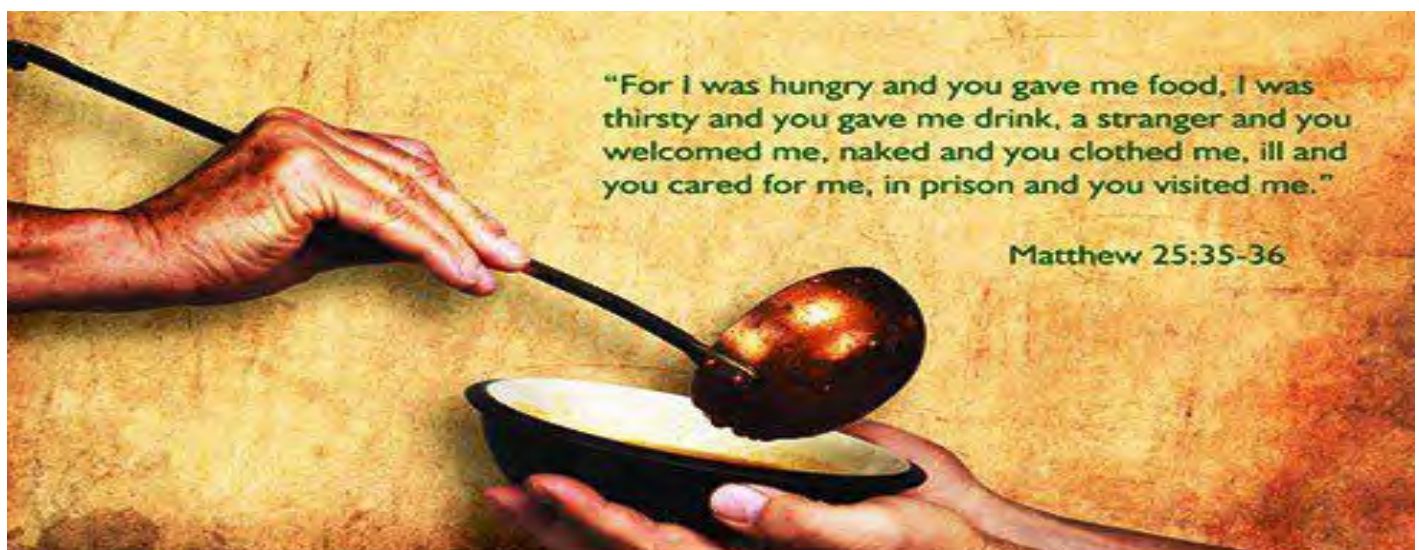
Here was a Christian who wasn't a member of a specific denomination, who loved Christ, and was left wondering about the divisions within Christ's church.

In recent times, with presbytery planning and church amalgamations, there has been a lot of pain and division in our churches. Whether we worship alongside others or are separated by a building, we should always keep in mind that we are one body of Christ's church and should be "perfectly united in mind and thought."

The subsequent encounter ended up being more of a pastoral one. It began with a simple compliment on a woman's socks (they were lovely ones with dinosaurs wearing Christmas hats) and became a conversation about how much she misses her son, who had passed away. She also had various health issues that she dealt with on a day-to-day basis. It was a privilege to sit and listen to her life story and to give her the space to talk. She asked what I did, and I told her about being a probationary minister, which led to a discussion about church and faith.

One simple comment started a 30-minute conversation with Jesus at the heart of it.

We never know where we will encounter the Lord in our day-to-day lives. As it says in **Matthew 25: 35-36** ***"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me."*** Jesus and his people and love are all around us if we open our hearts to them. Just remember God is one of us, just a stranger on the bus, just trying to make His way home.



Church Register

FUNERALS:

"In my Father's house are many mansions"

17/9/24 Mrs Matilda Irvine, High Road, Saltcoats
23/9/24 Mr Tom Reid, Stanley Avenue, Ardrossan
9/10/24 Mrs Evelyn Porter, Caledonia Road,
Saltcoats



From the Editor

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 27th October** 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



Letters of Appreciation

Robert and I would like to thank everyone at Kirkgate for the beautiful flowers and cards sent to us on the occasion of our Golden Wedding Anniversary. We had a lovely afternoon with family.

Joanna and Robert Murray

Colin, Marie, Mari and myself and Bryan would like to say a big thank you to everyone for their support and kindness, flowers, cards and donations received on the recent passing of our mum Millie. They were all very much appreciated.

Lynda McDougall

Many thanks for the lovely card from Kirkgate and thank you to Nigel and Katrona for taking time to visit me while I was in hospital. I also received the church flowers when I got home. The sunflowers cheered me up no end and I appreciate the kindness of such a caring congregation. Kind regards.

Bessie Fry

Many thanks for the beautiful flowers I received from Kirkgate on the occasion of my birthday. I appreciate your very kind gesture. I had a lovely day celebrating with all my family. Kind regards.

Jim Rainey

I would like to thank the church for the lovely flowers I have received a couple of times this year due to different issues. It is so nice to see the flowers on a Sunday morning as they enhance our organ and pulpit area so much and the colour's are just beautiful to look at and then to have them in your house for a couple of weeks is so lovely. Thank you to everyone.

Margaret Cassidy





THOSE FACED BY QUESTIONS OF TRUTH

Living God

We pray for those wrestling with difficult and demanding questions - those facing complex matters of conscience, those struggling with confusing moral decisions, those wrestling with controversial social issues, those coping with challenging concerns. Grant to all in such situations your wisdom, and help them to find the right way forward.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for those who are faced with awkward yet important choices, between good and evil, right and wrong, truth and falsehood, love and hate: between the way of the world and the way of Christ, the way of self and the way of service. Give to all faced with such choices the courage to take your way.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for your Church. Save it from naive fundamentalism, from judgemental attitudes, from dogmatically believing it has the answers to every situation. Grant to your people everywhere the humility to recognise that asking questions is part of faith.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

Living God

We pray for ourselves as day by day we are confronted with the need to choose, sometimes the choice is clear, sometimes confusing, sometimes easy, sometimes hard. But help us, whatever the case, to gladly accept the responsibility of choosing, recognising that it is a privilege of being human.

Lord in your mercy hear our prayer

Help us to decide wisely, seeking your will and responding to your guidance, help us to admit our error when we choose wrongly and be ready to change

Hear our prayer in the name of Christ

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

On page 13 you'll find the advance poster with 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.



Congratulations

There have been a few folk celebrating significant birthdays and anniversaries during September.

Jim Rainey celebrated his 90th on 10th September. Also enjoying a birthday during September were Russell Buyers, Chrissie Baillie and Janette Campbell.

Special Wedding Anniversaries were celebrated by Rona & Robert Clements 55 years, Robert & Joanna Murray 50 years, Pam & Bert Martin 40 years, Moira & Ron Cooper 40 years and George & Wendy Wilson 30 years.

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

If you know of someone celebrating a birthday or anniversary please let us know.

Congratulations and Best Wishes were sent along with flowers to Robert & Joan Murray of St. Andrews Road, Ardrossan who celebrated their Golden Anniversary.

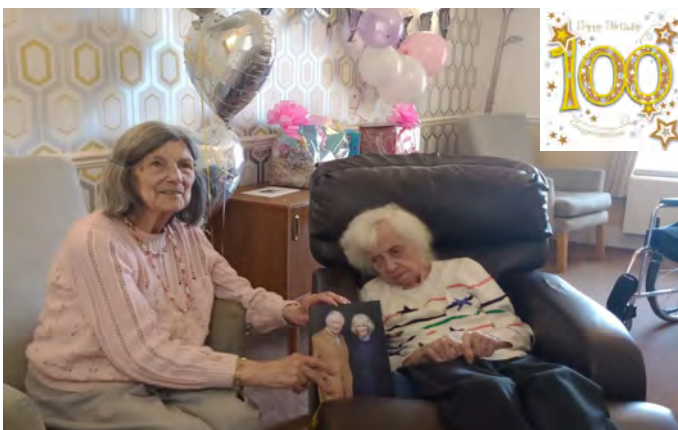
They were married in the North Parish Church by Rev John Robertson on 12th September 1974.

Can you guess who might be presenting the horseshoe?



Congratulations and flowers were also sent from the Kirk Session to Irene Scott, formerly of Mid Dykes Road, Saltcoats who celebrated her 100th birthday in Caledonia Care Home on Sunday 15th September.

She's pictured here with her friend Marjory from Troon also aged 100 later this year. They have been friends since they went to school together at age 5. Every Blessing to them both.



Welcome October

Offer your heart, mind and soul to the Lord

Confess all your mistakes and sins.

Praise God that

Today He will provide and protect you and your loved ones.

Outpouring of His love and grace claim it with thanksgiving

Blessings will overflow through you so you can be a blessing to others too

Every day be grateful that God works in you to

Restore and renew your life for His glory. Amen.

What's on in Kirkgate: October & November

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

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

Wednesday 9th: 7.00 - 9.00pm
Elders Safeguarding

Sunday 13th: 10.45am
Morning Worship
Prayer Group after service

Friday 18th: 7.30pm
Fashion Show - Tickets £5 - **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 - "Hymns of Praise"
Blessing of Blythswood Christmas Shoeboxes
Tea/Coffee fellowship after morning service
'Messenger' Material required

Wednesday 30th: 2.00pm
Musical Memories

NOVEMBER 2024

Sunday 3rd: 10.45am
Morning Worship - Sacrament of Holy Communion

Monday 4th: 2.00pm
Guild - Daniel McNeil on Scouting

Thursday 7th 10.30am
Midweek Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion
7.00pm
Kirk Session
7.30pm
Country Dancing

Sunday 10th: 10.45am
Morning Worship - Remembrance Sunday
Retiring Offering for Poppy Scotland
Prayer Group after service

Sunday 17th: 10.45am
Morning Worship - Sacrament of Baptism
Christmas Gift Service
Tea/Coffee fellowship after morning service

Monday 18th: 2.00pm
Guild - OLM Katrona Templeton

Sunday 24th: 10.45am
Morning Worship
'Messenger' Material required
1.00pm
Saltcoats Christmas Carnival & Santa Grotto

Wednesday 27th: 2.00pm
Musical Memories

Friday 29th: 4.00 - 6.00pm
Hall open for setting up and donations

Saturday 30th: 11.00am - 2.00pm
Christmas Fair

Thursday Service

We continue to hold a short service every Thursday morning. These services are very informal except when Nigel comes along to celebrate Communion.



We all enjoy a cup of tea afterwards. If you would like a particular hymn on a Thursday please speak to John or Mary Stewart or Margaret Cassidy and they will get it added to a service.

So come along we have had a few extra faces recently and it is so encouraging.

The Thursday Team

Prayer Group

As we continue into the winter months it is good to take time for prayer. Please contact me with your requests if you have someone you would like us to pray for or even if you yourself feel down or lonely, sad or angry or just lost, give me your name and we will add a prayer for you.



We are a small group, if you would like to join us you do not have to speak, just sit and pray with us as we have additional prayers. Every second Sunday in the month after the morning service.

Margaret Cassidy

Property Report



The Manse

The manse continues to have a few upgrades and a new dishwasher has recently been purchased and is in place. Some decorating is still to be completed.

Church

Again can I say what a treat it is to come into the church yard and the flowers in the garden and pots are blooming with colours and fragrance. A big thank you to the unseen team that continues to keep this work neat and tidy.

As the various groups are commencing for the winter period can I ask that if you see any particular issues that you contact me and hopefully I can sort them out.

The painter will return over the next few weeks or so for the work to be completed at the front vestibule and front doors. Hopefully we will not be inconvenienced by this.

The electrician will be carrying out PAT testing soon within the church and manse areas. Our floodlights have been upgraded to modern LED lights and are now lighting up the church at night.

We are continuing to look at the side doors and we are now in a position to have these replaced so hopefully this work will be completed sometime in the near future. My thanks to John Stewart for dealing with quotes etc.,

Margaret Cassidy, Property Convenor

Sponsorship

Alison McCulloch is 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. She'll be trekking with an 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.

Solveig her mum, has a sponsor sheet or you can give direct any donations you decide to make to:- (www.justgiving.com & type in Alison McCulloch)

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



**Children's
Hospice
Association
Scotland**

Treasurer's Report

Balances – as at 31 August 2024 were as follows:

General Account - £20,500
Fabric Account - £4,806



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

Standing Orders – £3,183
Plate – £2,004 – average – £501

I am delighted to say that the excess silver/metal items which we asked Great Western Auctions to sell on our behalf raised £825.66 which has been paid into the Fabric Account. Thanks to Musical Memories for their donation of £235 and the Fundraising Team for £458 raised at the Quiz Night.

As you will imagine August is a fairly quiet month financially. There are a number of fabric projects ongoing, including electrical work and new doors for hall entrances.

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.

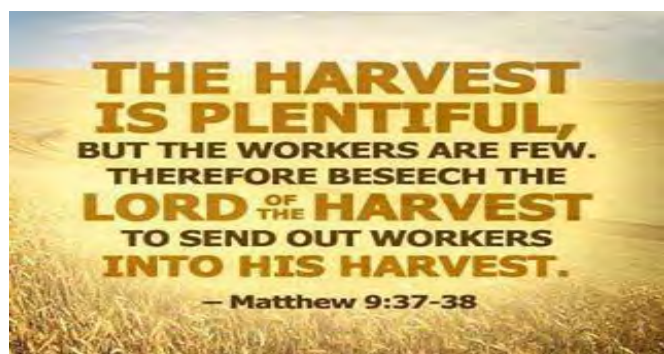
Our Harvest collection on Sunday 6th October will again be a monetary collection for the Argyle Community Shop. For anyone unable to attend church on the 6th of October I will hold it open for a couple of weeks. Many thanks for your support.



The Argyle Community Shop, which is based in Argyle Community Centre, Saltcoats has been operating since November 2021 and is committed to helping the local community of Saltcoats. The Shop gives residents the opportunity to make their money go further by giving them access to good food at a lower cost with its aim being to create a community, for the community, and run by the community.

The Shop is currently run by 6 volunteers and is open every Wednesday from 12.00pm – 4.00pm. It aims to provide good quality produce, which helps to enhance residents' diets and reduce the worry of food poverty and hunger. Given the shop is run by volunteers, it solely relies on external funding and donations.

Thank you - John Stewart, Treasurer



Presbytery Report



Presbytery met on Saturday 14th September in the Howard Centre, Kilmarnock. The meeting opened with a service of worship and communion and the order of business was agreed.

Presbytery were delighted to welcome a visitor from Malawi, (Monica) representing the Women's guild in Malawi. She inspired us with her great faith and spoke of how their numbers are growing so fast. Churches and guild meetings are full and overflowing.

James McNay told us about the work of the Faith Action Team.

There has been a hold up in producing the 2023 presbytery accounts due to the merging of the various regions. It is hoped that they will be published for next meeting. They are also hoping to employ more staff to cope with the workload.

The safeguarding training is continuing as planned in various locations. Kirkgate's is on October 9th at 7.00pm

Two ministers from our presbytery, Rev Jamie Milliken and Rev Neil Urquhart took Study leave from their posts and gave us some information about how they used their 'time out.' Rev Jamie Milliken completed a post Graduate degree.

We had a talk and video from our friends at Scripture Union, encouraging us to make connections at schools.

Pioneers have been appointed to be project leaders for specific purposes:

Alison Muir – Crossing Together (Irvine Towerlands New Plant)

Jill Hendry – The Well (Kilmarnock Hub)

Peter Anderson – 'Thrive' (Stewarton 20's to 40's)

Katrona Templeton – 'Reachout Together' (Access for All-Abilities/Across presbytery)

Stuart Forsyth – 'Digital Parish' (Across presbytery)

Attestation of records will now be done on a regional basis, our region will be Kilmarnock.

Next meeting will be online on Tuesday 3rd December at 7.00p.m.

Mary Stewart, Presbytery Elder

Moderator's Visit to South Beach House

On Sunday 22nd September, Rt Rev Dr Shaw J Paterson, Moderator of Church of Scotland visited Crossreach's South Beach House, Ardrossan, where he met one of our members May Stewart who was delighted to shake hands with him.

He's pictured with Manager Tracy and Deputy Manager Andy presenting one of his specially designed gifts.



Afterwards he travelled to Arran, Millport and spent four days visiting many projects and congregations in the South West Presbytery, mainly in North Ayrshire.

Kirkgate Family

Keeping Connected



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

The small pastoral committee met recently and the full pastoral team are meeting on Monday 30th September, which is after the deadline for articles for this edition of the magazine.

Watch this space next month for a full pastoral update. As always, please feel free to contact us.

Every blessing, The Pastoral Care Team.

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**



AND JESUS TOOK BREAD,
AND GAVE THANKS,
AND BROKE IT,
AND GAVE UNTO THEM,
SAYING, THIS IS MY BODY
WHICH IS GIVEN FOR YOU:
DO THIS IN
REMEMBRANCE OF ME.



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.



Fundraising 2024-25

The next event is the Fashion Show by 'The Dressing Room' which is on Friday October 18th. Tickets for that are now on sale.



On 26th October there will be a Craft Fair, entrance is free, stay and have a snack lunch of a roll/slice/tea/coffee which, understandably there will be a charge for this.

Our biggest fundraiser of the year is the popular Christmas Fair and while it is only October we want to give you plenty time to knit, bake, donate or volunteer to help on Saturday 30th November. More information on the poster on the page opposite.

The following Saturday 7th December there will be the Christmas Tree Festival - this is a free afternoon with only a donation if you decide to have a cup of tea/mince pie. This will be followed by the popular Shoppers' Carol Service at 3.00pm.

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 October 18th: Fashion Show by The Dressing Room

Saturday October 26th: Craft Fair

Saturday November 30th: Christmas Fair

Saturday December 7th: Christmas Tree Festival



2025

February: Burns Supper (date to be arranged)

Quiz Night - Friday 6th September

The winners of the quiz were the team called "Lettuce Win Again" a very apt name since they were the winners last year calling themselves "Lettuce Win"!!

A great night, thanks to all who organised it and helped in any way. We all enjoyed the pie and beans at half time and what a raffle - so many prizes.

The total raised
was the wonderful sum
of £458



What's On - October & November

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.

Ardrossan & Saltcoats
kirkgate
PARISH CHURCH

**Chapelwell Street,
Saltcoats**

CHRISTMAS FAIR

**Saturday
30th November
11.00am - 2.00pm**

All the usual stalls:
Home Bakery • Sweets
Jewellery / Accessories
Toys / Jigsaws • Soft Goods
Books • Bottle Stall •
Bric-a-Brac • Hand Made Cards
TEAROOM

FREE ADMISSION TO CHRISTMAS FAIR
Tearoom Tickets: Adults: £3, Children: £1
(Roll & Sausage extra £2)

Registered Scottish Charity: SC023003

Kirk Session



We were delighted to be able to welcome new faces to our Kirk Session meeting in September. These are people who have transferred their membership to Kirkgate and who were Elders in their previous congregations, namely Harry McIlreavy, Rebecca McLay and Agnes Wilkie. Susan Gill, Lynda McDougall and Kathleen McIlreavy, will also be joining us but were not able to be at our September meeting.

We will be celebrating Communion at our services on Thursday 3rd and Sunday 6th October. Sunday 6th October is also our Harvest service, when we will be collecting monetary donations for the Argyle shop. There's a bit about that under the Treasurer's report. Communion will also be celebrated on Sunday 3rd November and Thursday 7th November, and again on Sunday 1st December and Thursday 5th December.

There will be a safeguarding training for Elders in Kirkgate on Wednesday 9th October from 7.00 – 9.00pm. Attendance at safeguarding training is required every 3-5 years, so most Elders have to do this. As it has been arranged specially for our Kirk Session I would encourage a good attendance.

Stuart has discovered that the organ is 125 years old - it still plays well given it's in need of some restoration work. To celebrate, instead of normal morning worship a 'Hymns of Praise' service on Sunday 27th October at 10.45am is being planned and you can submit a request for your favourite hymn. More information on page 18 and the intimations. A group from the Scottish Historic Organs Trust recently visited some of the local churches to view and play the organs and were very impressed with the condition and tone of our Forster and Andrews organ given its age.



We will once again be hosting the Santa's grottos for the Saltcoats Christmas Carnival. This hugely popular event did not take place last year and we know that it was greatly missed by the community. We will be looking for volunteers to be there during the event, which is on the afternoon of Sunday 24th November.

Our grounds have looked beautiful over the summer months, and our thanks go to all who have worked so hard to keep them looking tidy and colourful.

We continue to accept donations for our shoebox appeal, and our thanks go to all who have helped in any way so far.

The next fundraising event is the very popular fashion show by the Dressing Room in Saltcoats. There is no pressure to buy anything at the show, but it is always good fun, and the church benefits from any sales made. Tickets include a glass of wine or a soft drink and are £5. The fashion show is on Friday 18th October. I look forward to seeing many of you there.

The Guild has its opening meeting on Monday 7th October at 2.00pm, when Nigel will celebrate Communion. All are most welcome to attend. If you haven't been to a meeting before, why not come along and see if you like it? The Guild is also hosting a concert and afternoon tea on Monday 21st October at 2.00pm, when entertainment will be provided by the Midgies. Tickets are £5.

There will be a craft fair here in Kirkgate on Saturday 26th October from 10.00am – 3.00pm. There will be a variety of stalls at this event, and entry is free, so please try to come along and support the crafters. Our own Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 30th November, and the Christmas Tree Festival takes place on Saturday 7th December. A busy and enjoyable time, so please put all these dates in your diary and come along and support whatever and whenever you can.

Next Kirk Session meeting is on Thursday 7th November 7.00 - 9.00pm.

Vivien Bruce, Session Clerk

Blythwood Shoebox Appeal 2024



Due to the prompt response from everyone, we are well ahead with the box packing for Blythwood.

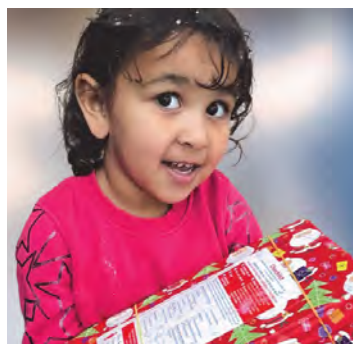
If anyone still wishes to participate would it be possible to do so by the 16th October please?

This would be helpful as there are a lot of activities planned for October and we need to make the small hall available again for their use.

The boxes will be dedicated on Sunday 27th October ready for uplifting for their onward journey in time for Christmas.

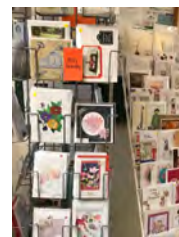
Meantime a huge thank you to everyone for their very generous donations of goods and finance.

The Co-ordinating Team



The Craft Team

We are back in full swing again and are delighted that Elizabeth Breakenridge and Pauline Reid have joined us. They are both in at the deep end working on all things Christmassy!!



Christmas cards are being made by the dozen along with gift tags and money gift wallets, to make sure we have enough stock for our stall at the Craft Fair on Saturday 26th October.

We were also happy when Maureen came along to have tea/cake and a chat on our open day. If you want to buy cards or order special ones you are all welcome to drop in any Tuesday between 1.00pm and 4.00pm. The kettle is always on!!

Ideas for the Craft Fair have been talked about and we have now decided the theme for the Christmas Tree Festival will be 'Christmas favourites from film, stage and books.'

A list of tree titles will be available in the hall vestibule. If you are willing to decorate a tree either on your own or with friends please choose a title and add your name beside it. If you don't have a tree we have some spare ones you can borrow.

The tree festival has become one of the events that the whole congregation gets involved in and we look forward to as many of you as possible joining in.

The event is open to all and entry is free, we only ask for a donation towards tea/coffee/ mince pie.

We all look forward to the Shoppers' Carol Service afterwards at 3.00pm which is always popular and a nice way to round off the day.



North Ayrshire Money Matters

Money Matters provides advice to any resident of North Ayrshire on welfare rights, assistance or representation in relation to benefits. We help health and social care service users and vulnerable people who are facing difficulties with their benefits or tax credits, and particularly:

- People with long term health conditions
- People with cancer
- Parents of disabled children
- Carers
- Kinship carers
- Single people and families in work and on low incomes
- People out of work
- People facing redundancy

We can

- Carry out benefit checks
- Make claims for backdated benefits
- Start new claims for benefits
- Help you to complete complex forms
- Provide appeal representation (where possible)
- Give advice on benefit sanctions
- Provide training
- Appeal Benefits Decision
- Help with sanctions

Macmillan benefit service

We can help people affected by cancer with:

- Applying for benefits and tax credits
- Appeals against benefit decisions
- Fuel costs
- Access to charitable grants
- Costs such as travel to hospital
- Transport concessions (e.g. Blue Badge)
- Advice about debt problems

Services Offered

- Benefits
- Debt Advice
- Welfare Rights

We also currently have Money Matters Projects in North Ayrshire GP's Surgeries, Food Banks and Education.



*Delivering care
together*

CONTACT DETAILS:

Money Matters Advice Line:
01294 310 456

Money Matters Team, HSCP
4th Floor West
Cunninghame House
Irvine, KA12 8EE

Email:
moneymatters@north-ayrshire.gov.uk

Website: **www.nahscp.org/care-support-community/benefits-welfare-rights-and-advice**

Below is a screenshot of other information that's been passed on from a member of the congregation that may be of interest

If anybody knows someone that's doesn't claim pension credits but possibly could and is put off by the long form, I have just been made aware that they can call **0800 99 1234** and DWP will help fill in the claim on the phone. And apparently they are quite helpful. Please make people aware of this if you know anybody that is fearful for this winter.

11:21

*You may like to come along to the Guild on **Monday 2nd December** at 2.00pm when there will be a representative from Money Matters coming along to speak to us about the work they do and the help they can offer.*

The Guild

We start back on Monday 7th October at 2.00pm with a Communion and Dedication service led by Nigel.



Next, on Monday 21st October at 2.00pm we welcome everyone to our concert/afternoon tea which we hope you will support and enjoy a varied selection of music and fun provided by the Midgies. Tickets are £5 and are on sale now.

Dates for your Diary:- All meetings 2.00pm

November:

Monday 4th - Scouting - Daniel McNeil

Monday 18th - OLM Katrona Templeton

Friday 29th - Guild Together North Ayrshire, Advent Gathering, Stevenston Parish Church (Livingstone)

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

Musical Memories

We have been enjoying great attendances at our Musical Memory afternoons and people who come seem to enjoy the singing along with the 'picture' and 'name that tune' quiz time. Most of the questions are easy but there is always a tricky one too.

We had two lovely food hampers to raffle at our August meeting and I am delighted to say that we raised **£235** for church funds, so thanks to everyone for their generosity and support.

One of the ladies visiting from Caledonia Care Home was pleased to win one which I am sure she would share with her companions and the other was won by Margaret Fullarton another regular attender and church member, the hamper was so heavy Gillian offered to carry it for her.

Dates for rest of the year:

October 30th

November 27th

There will be no December Musical Memories.

I continue to go along to South Beach House every 2 weeks:

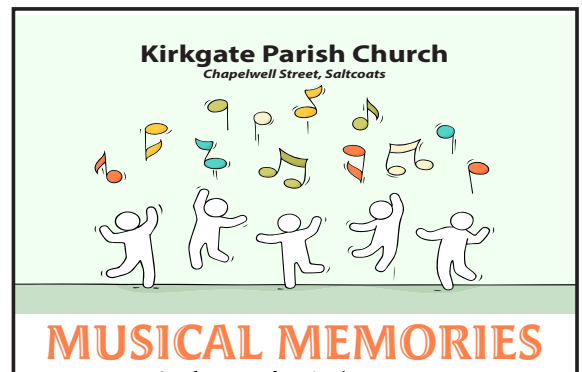
October 2nd, 16th

November 6th and 13th.

Please feel free to come along and help with the singing.

Thank you, Mary

We are so fortunate to have Mary lead us in singing and entertaining us with her many other musical talents playing keyboard, flute, saxophone, ukelele and church organ. Thanks also to her team of helpers for providing a lovely cup tea/coffee and delicious goodies.



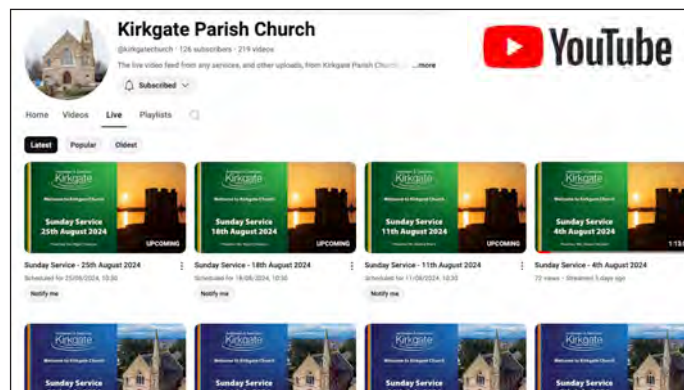
Online with Kirkgate

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 131 subscribers which is great. All past live-streams are online and can be viewed at any time - over 220 videos at present! Our livestreams 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.

Hymns of Praise

To celebrate the 125th Anniversary of our church organ, we're going to hold a 'Hymns of Praise' service on Sunday 27th October at 10.45am and we're looking for your favourite hymns to compile a 'Top 10' list.

If you're at the church the slips are available at the doors to nominate your Top 3 favourites - just put the slips in the collection boxes at the church or hand them to Stuart McMahon by Sunday 13th October please.

Alternatively you can email them to Stuart at requests@kirkgatechurch.org.uk. You can also use this email address to request some additional hymns on an ongoing basis that we can try to include in future services.

Hymns of Praise

Online Fundraising

Ardrossan and Saltcoats Kirkgate Parish Church is registered with Easyfundraising – over 7,000 well-known brands, including M&S, Argos and Tesco, and you can now donate to us for FREE every time you use @easyuk to shop with them. With Christmas looming, then please consider signing up at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ardrossanandsaltcoatskirkgate

We currently have 14 supporters who have raised a total of £112.87 to date at no extra cost to themselves.

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- 2 Sign up and search for Ardrossan & Saltcoats Kirkgate Parish Church
- 3 Your favourite brands donate to us whenever you shop with them

Rota Page

SUNDAY DOOR DUTY AND COUNTING ROTA OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

6th October	M. Cooper	G. Armstrong	P. Armstrong
13th October	J. Stewart	F. Liddell	E. Howie
20th October	E. McInnes	D. MacLeod	J. Hay
27th October	J. Rainey	B. McWilliam	M. Hunter
3rd November	J. Stewart	E. Green	S. Gill
10th November	M. Cooper	P. Martin	L. McDougall
17th November	E. McInnes	P. Armstrong	G. Armstrong
24th November	J. Rainey	F. Liddell	J. Hay



Many thanks to Agnes Wilkie, 07961 941696, Kathleen McIlreavy 07453 676769,
and Rebecca McLay, 07786 144335 for volunteering
to take over the duty of flower wrapping on a Sunday morning.
Please inform them of anyone in need of flowers.

VACANT DATES: 13th April & 11th May 2025

Should you wish to contribute flowers for the sanctuary.

Please speak to Chrissie Baillie Tel: 01294 463903

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

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



CHURCH FLOWERS OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

	DONATED BY	DELIVERY
6 October	A. O'Hanlon	M. Cooper
13 October	M. McSwan	M. Cassidy
20 October	S. McMahon	E. Breakenridge
27 October	M. Cooper	M. Hunter
3 November	A. Buick	J. Hay
10 November	C. Meney	C. Ewing
17 November	S. McCulloch	E. McInnes
24 November	C. Gilmour	J. Rainey

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(See Genesis 4:1-15)

SERIOUSLY CAN? ... YOU ARE NOW DOING
SEASONAL ARRANGEMENTS?

WORDSEARCH - BIBLE AUTHORS

Hidden in this word search are the names of thirty-three different people, who wrote one or more books of the Bible. Can you find them all? Names can be in any direction, backwards, forwards, or diagonally.

Moses	Isaiah	Jonah	Matthew
Joshua	Jeremiah	Micah	Mark
Samuel	Ezekiel	Nahum	Luke
Nathan	Daniel	Habakkuk	John
Jeremiah	Hosea	Zephaniah	Paul
Ezra	Joel	Haggai	James
Mordecai	Amos	Zechariah	Peter
David	Obadiah	Malachi	Jude
Solomon			

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

Our Friday Lunch Club continues each week providing a hearty warming three course lunch. We regularly have new friends coming to join us which reminds us how much our small venture is needed. Recently we have also had some former friends returning to join us for lunch too. It is always lovely to see people coming through the doors.

CAP (Christians Against Poverty) have recently started to join us once a month to offer help with financial issues. This is an amazing group of individuals who are dedicated to helping change lives. Money Matters will be joining us again fortnightly to give help and advice re benefits etc. Turning Point and Housing Support Staff also come some Fridays to give help and support to those in need.

As the weeks pass (rapidly!), we are now looking towards the Festive Season and our annual Christmas Party. The entertainers have confirmed their attendance on 13th December. Santa has not replied yet but hopefully he will be available to come.

A few more of our regular volunteers have had to step down and we thank them for their faithful service. As a result, I appeal to everyone again to consider whether they might be able to offer a few hours a month to enable us to continue to provide this valuable resource.

With love and thanks, Pam xx

Country Dance Club

After our summer break we started dancing again at the beginning of September and as usual we alternate afternoons and evenings.

Billy Gray plays for us once a month and we all enjoy dancing to live music.

Many of us danced over the summer at Summer Dancing in Troon where there is a live band every week.

If you have danced in the past what about coming along on a Thursday. If you have never danced before you could come along to try or I could tell you the best place for beginners to learn the basics.

Elizabeth Howie



HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

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.

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

Life & Work: In the October Edition...

'A multi-faceted and profound relationship'
Africa and the Church of Scotland

Bears and daisy chains
New Guild partner projects

Jane's story
A life transformed by God

Bewilderingly varied
New book on the gifts of ministry

Our Presbyteries
The Presbytery of South West Scotland

Regulars
The Moderator of the General Assembly on Harvest

Worship column by the Rev Roddy Hamilton

Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church

A new series of Bible studies by the Rev Richard Baxter

My Church: David Thompson of Christ Church, Bermuda

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Corrie Douglas-Young of the Church of Scotland communications department

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Letter from Director Samson Chuhu of YWAM, Seamill



Dear Ardrossan and Saltcoats Kirkgate Parish Church,

As we prayed for you this week, we were reminded of how important to God it is to have a people dedicated to Him, committed in worship and in love to the cities and towns he has placed them in. And so we thank God for you!

You are the city set on the mountain and it can not be hidden. Just so let your light shine before others that they may see your good works and glorify the Heavenly Father. - Matthew 5:14-16

We heard the Lord speaking into any discouragement:

So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. Isaiah 41:10

We were reminded that there is always joy in the house of the lord! Raise a hallelujah! Lift your voices in praise!

Lift up your heads, you gates; be lifted up, you ancient doors, that the king of glory may come in. Psalm 24:7

A Prayer for You:

Dear Heavenly Father,
We pray that Kirkgate church would be strengthened to keep with unity and harmony, and to receive the blessing of a tight-knit family in their fellowship and their worship. Strengthen their hands, and encourage their hearts to pursue your kingdom together. Fill their house with your Holy Spirit!

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! ... for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore. Psalm 133, 1-3.

A Song For You: "Though We Are Many"

Though we are many, we are one body,
we who come to share this living bread;
Cup of salvation, shared among all nations,
nourishing us now and evermore.

A Blessing:

We bless you with the unity that this song attests to! May God continue to establish you together in faith, hope, and love into a holy dwelling place for His Spirit and a source of life for your neighbors.

In Jesus' mighty name,
Amen.

Your friends at YWAM Seamill.

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	Moira 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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- 19 Dockhead St, Saltcoats
☎ 01294 463342
- 41 Hamilton St, Saltcoats
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