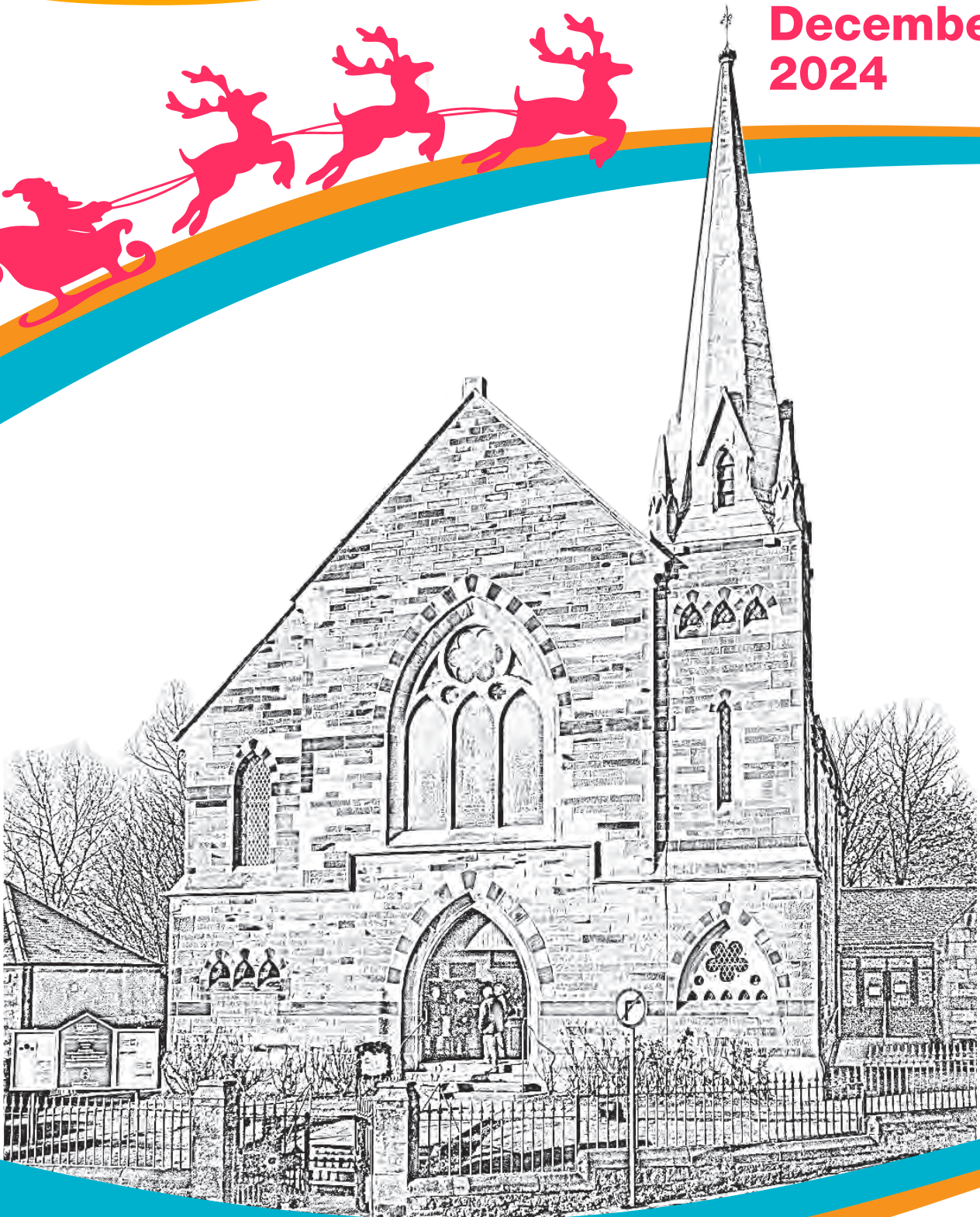


Ardrossan & Saltcoats

KirkgateMessenger

PARISH CHURCH

**December
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 letter, we are about to begin the season of Advent. Advent is a season of hope, anticipation and preparation for the second coming of Christ. At our morning services we will light the Advent candles on each of the four Sundays leading up to Christmas Day. We light them as a prophetic symbol of hope as we look forward to Christmas. The birth narratives of the Gospels of Matthew and Luke speak of the angelic visitations and miraculous conception of Jesus.



As we prepare for Christmas and the celebration of Jesus' birth, we are also reminded that this world is not all there is to reality. There is more to reality than this. Have you ever pondered on the question what else is there to life? I hope this Christmas you will take time to reflect more on the meaning of Christ in your life.

Advent reminds us of God's profound love for His people, a love that is tender and unwavering. Just as a parent cherishes their child, so too does God cherish us. This season celebrates Jesus, the ultimate expression of that love, coming into the world as a vulnerable infant. His birth signifies hope and potential, symbolizing the innocence we all possess as beloved children of God.

This Christmas, I encourage each of you to take time daily to reflect on God's love for you. Engage in prayer, read uplifting messages, and perform acts of kindness that embody the spirit of Christ's coming into the world. Let us prepare our hearts for Him, now and always.

As the year draws to a close, the Chikanya family would like to wish you God's richest Christmas blessing. Thank you for all you have done for the Lord and especially for the Kirkgate Family this past year. It's been such a joy to work alongside you all. May God keep you and your loved ones safe and sound, surrounded by divine love this Christmas.

With Christmas and New Year greetings
Your friend and minister
Nigel Chikanya



Rev Tichaona Nigel Chikanya

Tel: 01294 683379 Mobile: 07566 278132

Email: NChikanya@churchofscotland.org.uk

A Prayer for Peace on Earth

*"Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests."*

Luke 2:14

Lord, in the midst of times of unrest, war and suffering,
please bring your peace on earth.

You are our peace, and through you we can have unity and
harmony in our families, communities, and in our world.

May your peace rule in our hearts this Christmas season.

Amen.



From our Probationer: Katrona Templeton



GEOCACHING AND CHRISTIANITY

After a Thursday service, I had a conversation with a lovely gentleman. We talked about geocaching, an activity I hadn't participated in for a while, which prompted me to think about it again. I pulled out my phone, updated my app, and picked a couple of geocaches to explore on my way to a pastoral visit.

Geocaching is a global treasure-hunting game in which participants use GPS devices or a smartphone app to hide and seek containers known as "geocaches" or "caches." These caches are placed at specific locations marked by coordinates and can be found in urban areas, parks, and wilderness settings. This makes geocaching a versatile and accessible activity for people of all ages.

Geocaches come in various shapes and sizes, ranging from tiny "nano" caches, which can be as small as a pencil eraser, to larger containers like Tupperware boxes. To protect their contents from the elements, geocaches are typically waterproof and durable. Inside each cache, you'll find a logbook where finders can sign their names and record the date they discovered the cache. This allows you to document your find and leave a trace of your adventure.

Larger caches may contain small trade items. The etiquette for trading is to take an item only if you leave something of equal or greater value. Possible items include small toys, trinkets, keychains, or trackables such as travel bugs or geocoins. These trackables are meant to be taken and moved from cache to cache, with their journeys tracked online.

In today's digital age, where endless entertainment options are available, it can be challenging to find activities that engage both the body and the spirit. Geocaching offers an outdoor recreational experience that combines modern technology with the classic excitement of a treasure hunt. It can be enjoyed solo or with friends and family, making it a fantastic way to explore the great outdoors with children.

But what benefits can Christians gain from geocaching? For many Christians, geocaching has evolved into more than just a hobby; it serves as a means to explore their faith, foster community, and appreciate God's creation in a fun and interactive way. Numerous Christian communities have embraced geocaching as an innovative approach to connecting with their faith and with one another.

The geocache at Kirkgate is part of a series created for Advent 2020, which features a trail of caches around a local church in Ayrshire. The app provides a description of the church and its history, including details about its architectural features and a picture of the stained glass windows. This specific church trail is an excellent way for

people to learn about the churches in the area.

Around the world Christians are using geocaches to share the gospel in a variety of different ways:

Some churches and Christian groups have created geocaches with themes based on faith. These might include Bible verses, devotionals, or small tokens encouraging seekers to reflect on their spiritual journey as they search for the cache.

Geocaching can be a fantastic activity for family worship events. By integrating geocaching into church outings or family gatherings, participants can enjoy nature, learn about teamwork, and deepen their faith together. For instance, a church could hide caches around its grounds, with each cache containing a piece of the Easter story or a message about Advent.

Geocaching provides churches with an opportunity to connect with their local communities. By organising geocaching events or creating public caches containing inspirational messages, churches can engage with individuals who might not usually attend services. This approach demonstrates God's love in a non-traditional setting.

Many geocachers take part in "Cache In, Trash Out" (CITO) events where they clean up litter while searching for caches. This practice aligns with Christian principles of stewardship and caring for God's creation. As a result, geocaching becomes an activity that promotes both spiritual growth and environmental awareness.

Geocaching offers a unique and engaging way to explore faith, build community, and appreciate the beauty of God's creation. If you see me searching around walls or on my knees looking under benches, please feel free to say 'Hi!' If you'd like to try geocaching yourself, just let me know, and I'll join you. Even better, let's brainstorm ideas on how we can use geocaching to spread the word in the Saltcoats and Ardrossan area.

Proverbs 2:4-5 (NIV)

"and if you look for it as for silver and search for it as for hidden treasure, then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God."



This verse encourages us to pursue wisdom and understanding with the same enthusiasm and dedication we would use when searching for hidden treasures. It reminds us that the quest for spiritual insight can be just as exciting and rewarding as a treasure hunt.

Church Register

FUNERALS:

"In my Father's house are many mansions"

12/11/24 Mrs Helen Merry, Anderson Drive, Irvine
15/11/24 Mrs Georgie Mitchell, Abbotsford Care Home, Ardrossan
Formerly, Caledonia Road, Ardrossan



ADULT BAPTISM:

"Many of them believed his message and were baptised"

17/11/24 Mrs Fiona Clark Northcote,
Saltcoats

BAPTISM:

"Suffer the little children to come unto me"

17/11/24 Miss Aria Clark Northcote,
Saltcoats



Every Blessing to Aria and mum Fiona after their baptisms on Sunday 17th November. We welcome them along with husband Ewan and the rest of their family into our church family.

NEW MEMBERS:

"We are members one of another"

By Certificate of Transference

Mrs Roseann McLean, Ardrossan

Mr John Kerr, Saltcoats

Mrs Helen Kerr, Saltcoats

Mr Robert Howie, Ardrossan

Mr Stuart Howie, Irvine

Mrs Shona Howie, Irvine

By Profession of Faith/Baptism

Mr Michael Trew, Saltcoats

Mrs Catherine Trew, Saltcoats

Mrs Fiona Clark Northcote, Saltcoats

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 01294 421144 or email smayg@talktalk.net.

Susan Gill

Freewill Offering Envelopes

Envelopes will be available for uplifting from Sunday 1st December



If anyone wishes to start using envelopes or has decided to stop using them please contact me on 468851 or 07429 322770 or email moiracooper98@gmail.com Thank you.

Also anyone whose circumstances have changed regarding Gift Aid please inform George Armstrong, John Stewart or myself.

Merry Christmas, Moira Cooper

Prayer Page

Contributed by Alison Buick

LOVING GOD

You have told us to look forward to a time when your kingdom will come and your will be done...

A time when there will be an end to sin and evil, suffering and sorrow: when all your people will live together in peace and harmony; when Christ will come again in glory.

Come to us now, we pray



LOVING GOD

Forgive us that so often we have lost our sense of expectation, content simply to get by, settling for the way things are, failing to believe you can change our lives or transform the world. Forgive us that we have been too full of our own expectations, believing we know all there is to know, pushing you into little boxes we have made for you, presuming your thoughts and your ways are the same as ours.

Come to us now, we pray

Forgive us that our expectations have been small and limited, tied down by our own limited vision, restricted to our own narrow horizons, shaped by looking at life from an immediate rather than an eternal perspective. Help us through all this season has to say to us, to gain a new sense of expectation and new confidence in the future.

Help us to be open to all you would do among us, and to gladly respond. Help us to catch sight of the wonder of your coming in Christ, and so may we be ready to greet him when he comes again.

Come to us now, we pray, in his name.

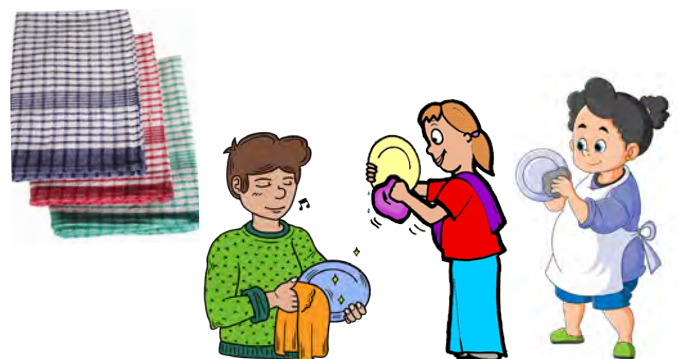
AMEN



Appeal - Unwanted Tea Towels

If anyone has any spare tea towels at home, we'd love to have them. We go through so many on a Friday at Chana Lunch Club and some of the ones we have are so well used they don't dry very well.

We don't want you to go out and buy any, just if you maybe have extras you no longer need.



From the Editor

This magazine takes us through to 2nd February 2025 as we don't print at beginning of January due to the festive holidays.

However, as you will read below, we plan to print the February magazine a week earlier than normal and would like material to be in by **Sunday 19th January** at the latest please and it should contain any dates or information through to 2nd March.

Many thanks to all who donated to the magazine by using our Christmas Greetings offer, as we go to print the sum of £145 has been raised, with a little bit more to come. All of which will go towards the printing costs.

Please feel free to email us at elizabeth.mcmahon@talktalk.net or stuart@md93.co.uk or send a written copy if you don't use a computer.

Elizabeth McMahon, Editor



Messenger Updates

Whilst we are printing extra copies of the Messenger for free uplift at the church, we also post copies out for anyone who wishes one in return for a small donation towards the postage of £1 per issue or just £9 for the whole year.

A reminder slip to renew your postage donation has been included with the postal copies of this magazine. Slips need to be returned by **Sunday 19th January**. Additionally, if you would like to be added on to the postal list, please speak to either Elizabeth or Stuart McMahon by the same date please.

We can also email the magazine out to anyone for whom we have an email address on file. We're aware that we have had quite a few new members who have recently joined us by Certificate of Transference and we don't have full contact details for everyone yet, usually just postal addresses.

We're also conscious that on a Sunday we now have a number of folk in our congregation who are regular attenders but are not members of the congregation, so we don't have any contact details for them. If you

would like to be added to the email (or postal) list then again, pass your email to Elizabeth or Stuart, so that we can keep in touch.

This is also the time of year when we renew our adverts for the year ahead. If you know of a business or individual that might be interested in an advert, then again, please contact Elizabeth or Stuart. Our rates are very reasonable, costing from just £40 per small box for the year. A full width advert is 3 boxes, therefore £120/year. The generous support of our advertisers allows us to publish the magazine free of charge each month.

For logistical reasons (ie Stuart's away again!), the next magazine will be published a week earlier than normal – all being well it will be available for Sunday 26th January - material required by 19th January 2025!



Elizabeth 01294 464428, or Stuart Mobile 07588 665191
or email either of us please at the addresses below.

elizabeth.mcmahon@talktalk.net
or stuart@md93.co.uk

or send a written copy if you don't use a computer.

Kirk Session

I hope that this finds you all in good health and beginning to look forward to Christmas. This is always a busy time of year for us all, and I would encourage you to take note in the diary of the services and events that are taking place.

As I have said a few times, I continue to be absolutely amazed by the generosity of our church family. We have had an excellent response to all our retiring offerings and to the Blythswood Shoebox appeal. Our final request is for Christmas gifts, which should be brought to the service on Sunday 1st December. We work with 'The Night Before Christmas' campaign who make up gift bags to distribute to families and individuals in need. They are happy to accept gifts for all ages and ask that the gifts are left unwrapped as this makes their job easier.

By the time you read this our Christmas Fair will have taken place and we hope that many of you who either helped or just came along and supported support this fundraiser, enjoyed the event.

Communion takes place on Sunday 1st December, which is the first Sunday in Advent. It will also be held on Thursday 5th December.

The Christmas Tree Festival is on Saturday 7th December from 10am, and afterwards there is a Carol Service at 3.00pm which is usually very popular.

On Christmas Day there will be a short half hour service at 10.30am.

Sunday Communion dates for the start of 2025 have been agreed as follows: 2nd February, 2nd March, 6th April and 20th April (Easter Sunday).

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.



Thursday Communion dates will be Thursday 6th February, 6th March, 3rd April and 24th April.

Nigel has been given our permission to apply for study leave. The exact details of what is involved will be shared later if he is given permission by Presbytery.

We are hopeful that our new doors will be installed at the side entrance soon. This should make coming in that way much easier as the lip will be removed. We are also hopeful that a second screen will be installed at the front of the church to make it easier for everyone to see the words of the hymns.

If you have recently joined us from the North Parish or St. Cuthbert's you may not be aware that your 'lines' will have been transferred to Ardrossan Parish Church, unless you requested otherwise. Should you wish to transfer them to Kirkgate you need to ask Rev Alan Ward for the lines to be returned to you, and then they should be given to myself or to Mima. Sometimes people assume that they are members simply because they attend regularly and contribute financially, but unless you are on our roll you do not have the right to vote if this arises.

If you are not a member of the church and would like to know more about becoming one please speak to Nigel.

I would like to finish by wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.

Vivien Bruce, Session Clerk



Treasurer's Report

Balances – as at 17 November 2024 were as follows:

General Account	-	£30,850
Fabric Account	-	£7,948



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

Standing Orders – October - £2,970

Plate - October - £1,672 – Average - £418

Our recent collection for the PoppyScotland Appeal raised £240. This is a small increase on last year and is, once again, a marvellous total. Many thanks to all who contributed.

The very successful Fashion Show raised £780 for church funds. The church also received £448 from the Craft Fair. This is a terrific effort and thanks are due to all concerned. Apart from the financial benefits the efforts of the Fund Raising Committee enhance the social life of our church enormously.

We also received a donation of £150 from the Flower Fund.

By the time you see this report we will be on the verge of our Christmas Fair – hopefully another great success, financially and socially.

The General account above was boosted by the fantastic total of £10,563.30 that we received from HMRC for Gift Aid based on the givings of our congregation. Many thanks are due to George Armstrong for his work with this. If you currently give outside the Gift Aid scheme could I ask you again to consider it if you are eligible. If you would like more information please speak to myself or George.

By the time you read this report our new hall doors should be fitted – and the Fabric total above will be a bit lower. We have received a grant from the Benefact Trust for £3,050 towards the cost of the doors and we are still awaiting a response from The Ferguson Trust to our application for further funding.

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



What's on in Kirkgate: December, January & February

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

DECEMBER 2024

Sunday 1st: 10.45am
Morning Worship - Sacrament of Holy Communion
Christmas Gift Service

Monday 2nd: 2.00pm
Guild - Money Matters

Thursday 5th 10.30am
Midweek Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion
7.30pm
Country Dancing

Saturday 7th: 10.00am
Christmas Tree Festival
3.00pm
Shoppers Carol Service

Sunday 8th: 10.45am
Morning Worship
Prayer Group after service

Wednesday 11th: 2.00 - 3.00pm
Carol singing at Caledonia Care Home

Sunday 15th: 10.45am
Morning Worship

Monday 16th: 2.00pm
Guild - Carols & Readings

Sunday 22nd: 10.45am
Morning Worship - Sunday School Nativity Play

Tuesday 24th - No Chrstmas Eve Service

Wednesday 25th: 10.30am
Short Christmas Day Service

Thursday 26th - No Midweek Service

Sunday 29th: 10.45am
Morning Worship
Tea/Coffee fellowship after morning service

JANUARY 2025

Thursday 2nd: 10.30am
Midweek Service as normal

Sunday 5th: 10.45am
Morning Worship

Thursday 9th: 10.30am
Midweek Service
2.30pm
Country Dance Resumes

Sunday 12th: 10.45am
Morning Worship
Prayer Group after service

Sunday 19th: 10.45am
Morning Worship
***Material Required for 'The Messenger'

Sunday 26th: 10.45am
Morning Worship
Tea/Coffee fellowship after morning service

Wednesday 29th: 2.00pm
Musical Memories

FEBRUARY

Sunday 2nd: 10.45am
Morning Worship - Sacrament of Holy Communion

Thursday 6th 10.30am
Midweek Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion
2.30pm
Country Dance Club

Sunday 9th: 10.45am
Morning Worship
Prayer Group after service

Monday 10th: 2.00pm
The Guild Resumes - Guild Projects Speaker

The Guild

We were pleased to welcome Liz Shirley to come along and play the piano for us at our regular meetings. Liz doesn't read music and plays by ear and did a great job keeping us in tune, she also composed the little poem below which is another passion of hers.



Liz Copland chaired the meeting on Monday 4th November and brought along her grandson Daniel McNeil to speak about his journey through scouting - great to know that there are folk like Daniel still encouraging the next generation to take up scouting.

Katrana our probationer spoke to us on Monday 18th about her journey into the ministry and Vivien chaired this meeting.

It is hoped that many of you will attend the Advent Gathering in Stevenston Parish Church (formerly Livingstone Church) on Friday 29th November at 2.00pm and afterwards enjoy a cup of tea and fellowship with friends from all other guilds in North Ayrshire.

Dates for your Diary: All meetings 2.00pm

November:

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

December:

Monday 2nd - Money Matters

Saturday 7th - Christmas Tree Festival

Monday 16th - Carols & Readings, Mince Pies and £5 Charity Donation instead of a gift.

There are no meetings in January and we start back on Monday 10th February with a speaker from one of the Guild Projects.

We wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and hope to see you all again in 2025.

Poem

I PLAY BY EAR

I have been invited to play the piano
Here's hoping I fulfil expectations
If I happen to play a wrong key
Please don't laugh at me
Just put it down to frustration
Hence, I will try my very best
Because you asked me to appear
Keep in mind my disposition
I presume you are all aware I play by ear!!



Let's play it by ear

Kirkgate Family Keeping Connected



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

The Pastoral Team wish everyone in their pastoral care and all in the Kirkgate family every blessing this Christmas time.



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).

For flower recipients co-ordinator please contact
Mrs Morag Forsyth (01294 463762)

Musical Memories

Over the past months we have enjoyed having the ladies and gentlemen who join us from Caledonia Care home, but our October event was made more special. One of the men who came along had such a great Tenor voice and was happy to sing into the microphone for us.



It's too bad that we won't be meeting in December (but 25th is last Wednesday) so I included one or two Christmas songs in the November play list. (Forgive me if you thought it was too early).

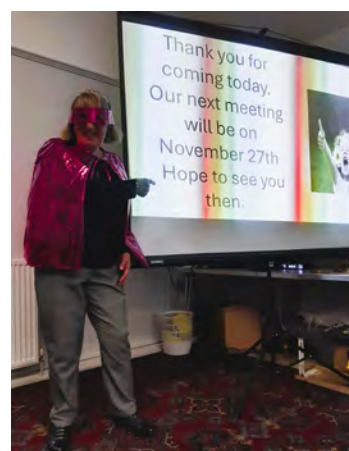
My future dates at South Beach House are:

December, 4th and 18th
January, 8th and 22nd

Next Kirkgate Musical Memories January 29th.
(you can expect a few songs of Robert Burns on the list)

Wishing you all a peaceful Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mary



Mary and her team made sure we all enjoyed Hallowe'en, from dressing up to decorated cakes and sweets for all - Thanks from everyone.

Recycling Old Spectacles

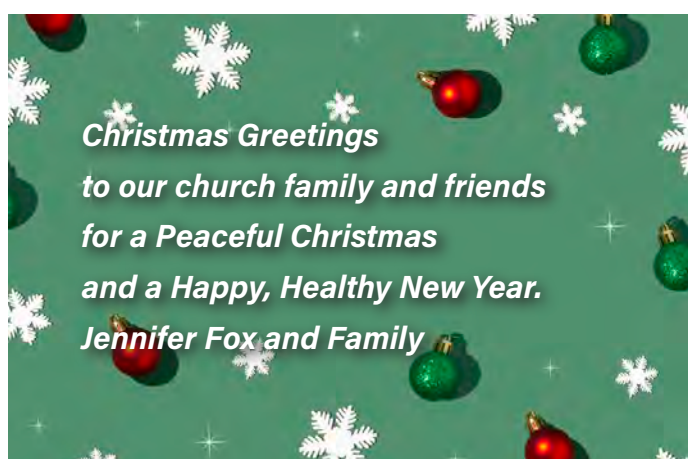
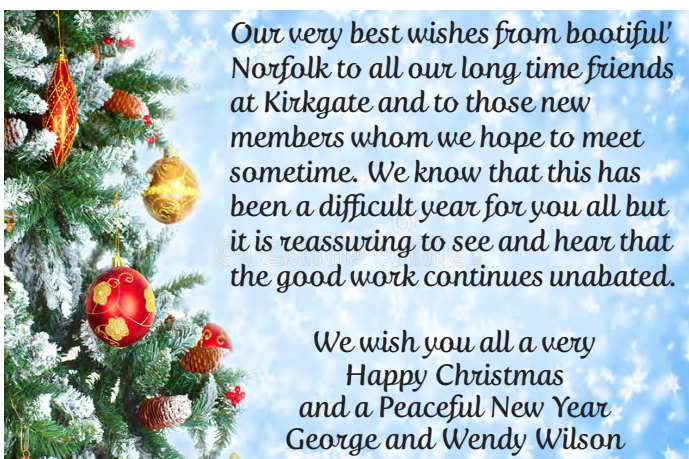
There's still been a great response to the recycling of your old specs.



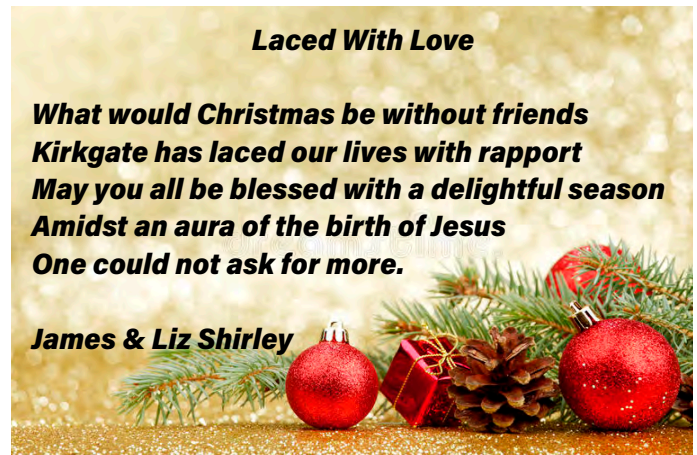
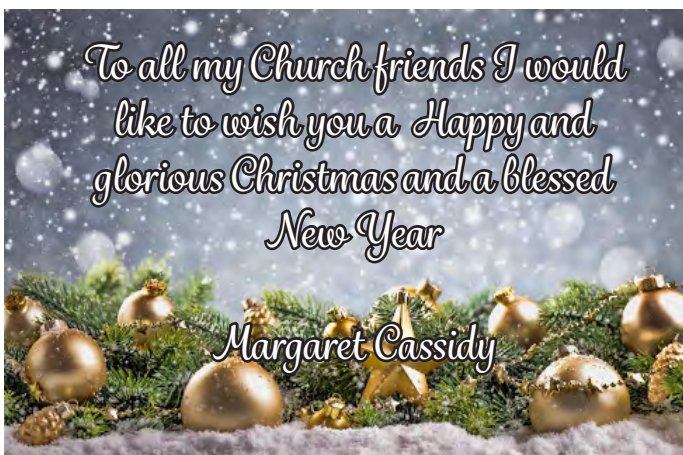
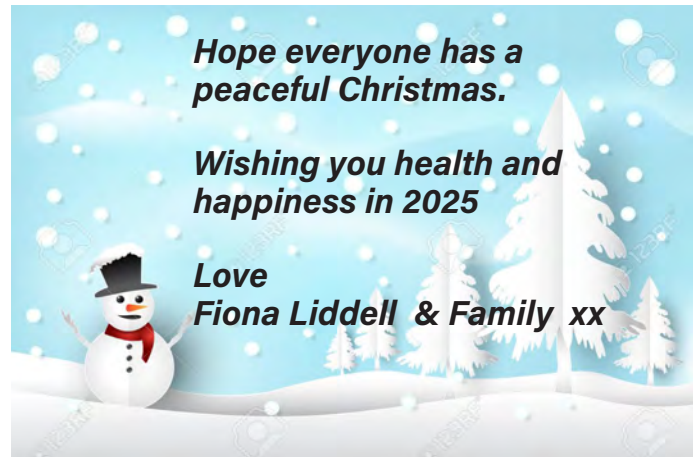
Many thanks, keep looking them out, although there can't be too many still lurking in the drawers.

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

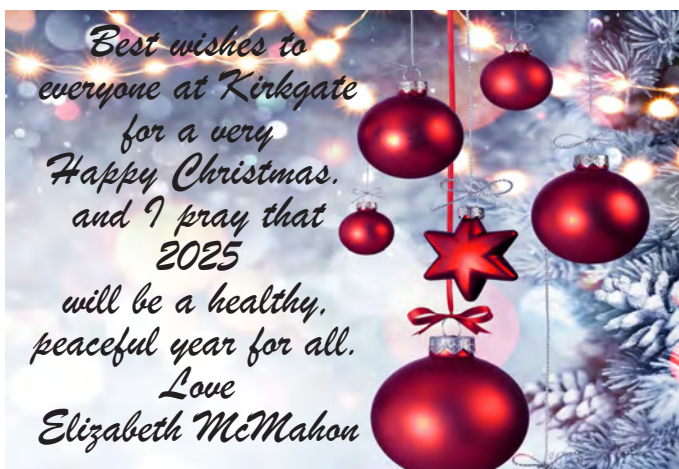
Christmas Greetings



Christmas Greetings



Christmas Greetings



Church and Community

There will be a Christmas concert in the EU Congregational Church in Glasgow Street, Ardrossan on Tuesday 10th December at 7.00pm when children from the local schools are involved.

Our committee will be handing out leaflets in the town on the day of the Christmas Tree Festival to encourage people to come in and see the trees and perhaps stay for the Carol Service at 3.00pm – it's always popular and last year was very well attended. Let's hope it's not as wet as it was last year though!

A group from the church are going to Caledonia Care Home in Sidney Street to sing carols on Wednesday 11th December from 2.00-3.00pm. If you would like to be part of this group please speak to Mary Stewart or Vivien Bruce.



What's On in Kirkgate



Fundraising Update

While Fundraising for 2024 is nearing its end and the committee take a well earned rest, it won't be long until they meet and put on their thinking caps for a programme of events for 2025.

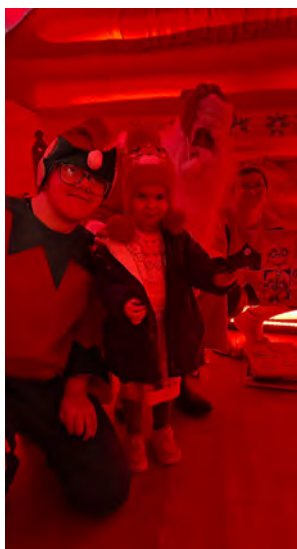
At the moment the proposed Burns Supper towards the end of February is still in the melting pot but hopefully it will all come together to give us another entertaining evening.

Saltcoats Christmas Carnival

On the afternoon of Sunday 24th November, Kirkgate opened its doors to host Santa's Grotto. Along with his elves and other magical characters, there was a free Children's cinema for any who had to wait their turn to see Santa.

The Carnival committee had their own group of volunteers and Kirkgate also provided volunteers to help families navigate their way round the premises.

Thanks to the Carnival committee for a lot of hard work organising such a big event for the community and pleased that we at Kirkgate were able to help.



Thursday Service

We have been encouraged by the amount of people coming to our Thursday Service recently and it has been nice to welcome a few new faces.

There is still loads more room for you to come along and join us so if you find yourself free please pop in, I am sure you will be uplifted by the service then enjoy the tea and chat.

The Thursday Team

Prayer Group

Christmas is a sad time for many people and I think this year there will be a lot of sadness around our world.

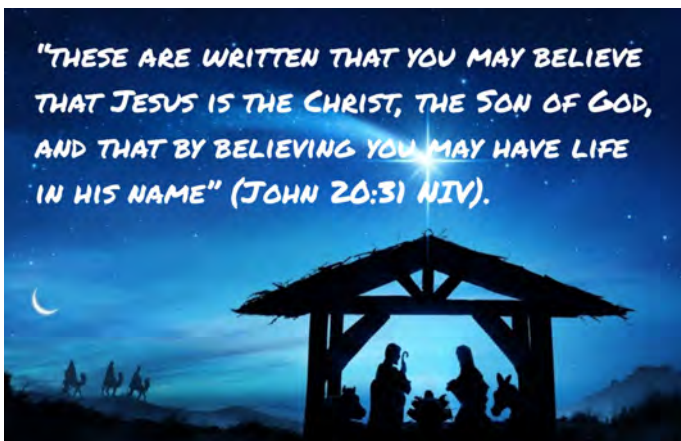


Please remember to pray for those in war torn countries who have lost family, homes, towns in fact everything and have had to flee. Food and medication is a main worry for them constantly and hygiene. We cannot understand all this but can support them through our prayers. Also pray for those in our own area who are spending a first Christmas without a loved one. This is difficult and families can be torn apart with grief so again remember them in your prayers.

Finally pray for yourself and your neighbour that this Christmas brings you peace and relaxation.

Have a blessed Christmas and please come along to our prayer group on the second Sunday of the month

Margaret Cassidy



Property Report

Church

As you read this hopefully our new side doors should be in place making the entrance to the building a little easier for everyone, especially those with impaired walking and wheelchairs.



The electrician has completed the PAT tests and everything is in good working order. He has also repaired the light in the back annex cupboard and he will return to renew the fan in the gents toilets.

The painting is nearly complete at the front vestibule of the church, there are a few things still to be checked and tested and I am seeing to this.

Manse

The kitchen is having a new gas hob and a new sink fitted along with new worktops before being painted.

Also, a downpipe is being repaired.

Margaret Cassidy, Property Convenor

The Shepherd's Story - Spot the 12 Differences



Care & Share



Storm Bert has been rampaging, bringing snow, rain, icy winds and the odd bit of sunshine. He also brought a lot of new friends into the Friday Lunch Club. We had a very busy time, ran out of soup twice and almost ran out of fillings for the rolls! I think over the next few months we will need to increase the catering amounts!!



The December rota has been sent out to the volunteers and we're all looking forward to another busy, happy Christmas Party which is on the 13th. Santa has confirmed, at last.



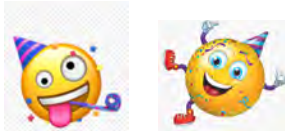
The Elves and entertainers are prepped and ready. Solveig has very kindly been helping to wrap the presents as the Elves are so busy. We have invited some "retired" volunteers to the party and I'm very pleased to say that most of them have accepted. Several new volunteers have joined our happy band.



They were a bit shell shocked but, thankfully, have not been put off.

However, we always welcome anyone who thinks they can help. Come, have lunch, and see if you would like to sign up for the rota.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Healthy Happy New Year.



See you in January for feedback on the party!!

With Love and Every Blessing for 2025

From Pam & Everyone at the Friday Lunch Club xx

The Back Pew – Jeff Larson



After his annual 'ONE NIGHT ROAD TRIP' with more rain, sleet, snow, and gloom of night than a troop of Postal workers experience in a lifetime.. Santa returns home for 364 days of R & R.

Argyle Community Shop

November and December are extremely busy months for everyone at The Argyle Centre.



There are parties, fun days, clothing drives, Gift Giving collections etc. Not to mention funding applications and fund raising ventures to keep us open and supporting the community in 2025.

Membership is now 300 with over 80 people shopping each week.

Thanks to all who have bought raffle tickets. We have been gifted over 50 prizes by individuals and local businesses! The draw will take place on the 2nd December so good luck everyone. Tickets are still available if you hurry. Angela looks on target to raise over £1,000 this year which will go to help fund the shop.

Thanks, as always, for your interest and support.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

From All at The Shop

The Craft Team

The group have been busy making more Christmas cards to replenish the stocks after the Craft Fair.

They'll still be available for sale at the Christmas Fair, the Christmas Tree Festival and in the hallway till Christmas.

Thank you all for your great support over the year and we wish everyone a very Happy Christmas and good New Year.

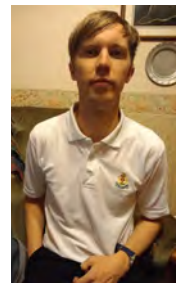


From all of us in the Craft Team.

1st Irvine Boys Brigade

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY AT THE CENOTAPH, LONDON

We at 1st Irvine Boys Brigade at the United Church of Irvine were greatly honoured to be able to represent The Boys Brigade in the remembrance parade at the Cenotaph, London. Six company section boys along with an officer were in the parade along with boys from three other companies across the UK. The other accompanying officers including myself watched from Whitehall and also viewed from Horseguard Parade.



It was a thought provoking experience and boys and officers all found it special and we saw many of the Royal family close up and found the band music moving. We felt really safe with all the security surrounding us including the snipers we spotted on the roofs. This was a first trip to London for some and we managed some sightseeing on the Saturday.

1st Irvine is a very active Company with over 90 boys from age 5 to 18 and 13 officers based in Boutreehill. I have been involved with the Boys Brigade for 23 years and enjoy working with all the groups.

David McFarlane (elder son of Christine & Andy)



EQUIP KIDS INTERNATIONAL

Thank you all who bought my Peru quizzes or gave a donation for my niece's charity.

Equip Kid's International started and run by my niece is a grassroots Canadian organisation that is working to empower children with disabilities and their families in developing countries, mainly Peru.

I was able to send £227, a great total. Dana says a very big "Thank You".

I had a few small prizes and the winners were, Marian Ayre, Galston, Irene McIlwaine, Irvine, Solveig McCulloch, Saltcoats and Elizabeth McMahon, Saltcoats.

Thank You, Elizabeth Howie

PERU QUIZ ANSWERS

Who were living in Peru before the Spaniards arrived? **Inca**
Which of these cities are in Peru? **Arequipa, Cusco, Lima**
Which of these pre Spaniard sites are in Peru? **Machu Picchu, Ollantaytambo**
Where in South America is Peru? **West**
Which Mountains would you find in Peru? **Andes**
What vegetable came from Peru to Scotland? **Potato**
What language is spoken by hill folk in Peru? **Quechua**
A painting of the Last Supper has an unusual food on the table, what is it?
Guinea Pig
What wool would make the most expensive jumper ? **Vicuna**
At mid-day in Peru would you look to see the sun? **North, South**
What is the most popular sport in Peru? **Football**
A steam ship for Lake Titicaca, high in the mountains, was built in the UK.
Where? It is now or was a floating restaurant.
Clyde also Thames which I did not know about.
Which one is the Peruvian flag?



Congratulations

There have been a few folk celebrating birthdays during November including Liz Shirley, Robert Murray, Wendy Wilson and Neil Campbell.

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 special anniversary please let us know.

Letters of Appreciation

Thank you to Rev Nigel Chikanya, Kirk Session and Congregation for the beautiful floral arrangement and card I received on my 90th Birthday. It has been much admired by family and friends. Thank you also for so many lovely cards and good wishes from all my church friends.



Doris Kirkhope

Thank you for all the good wishes, church flowers and cards I received on the death of my brother Robert.

Jennifer Fox



HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS

John Stewart 07561 340886 is happy to collect any donations and deliver to the Foodbank HQ in Ardrossan.

If you would like to contribute some items for the foodbank at any time, there is always a collection box in the hallway at the church.

Many thanks to all who have contributed already. We would be delighted to receive any further donations especially at this time year 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.

Life & Work: In the December Edition...

Christmas

How churches in the midst of conflict or danger are marking Christmas
Lynne McNeil learns about the growth of Christingle service
Seasonal message from the Moderator



Time to Act

As World AIDS Day approaches, Carol Finlay highlights the need for vigilance

Our Presbyteries

Forth Valley and Clydesdale

Letter from the Holy Land

The Rev Dr Stewart Gillan emphasises the need to keep the light shining, 'piercing the darkness together'

A Trusted Friend

Walter Scott and Anira Phipon Lepcha reflect on the life and legacy of Walter's great, great, great aunt, Mary Scott, a missionary in the Eastern Indian Himalayas.

Regulars

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 Rev Richard Baxter
My Church: Connie Anderson of Duror Church, North Argyll

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

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

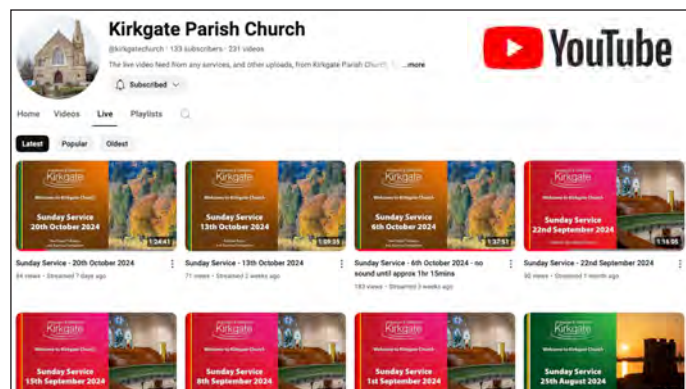
Shower gel
Shampoo/conditioner
Deodorant
Toilet rolls
Washing up liquid
Laundry detergent pods

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 135 subscribers which is great. All past live-streams are online and can be viewed at any time - over 234 videos at present! Our livestreams currently attract between 80-100 views each week on average. Some recent technical issues have hopefully been resolved using the digital equivalent of a hammer! A recording is usually available by mid-afternoon on the Sunday, even if the livestream fails.

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.

Online Fundraising

Please remember to use easyfundraising.org.uk when you do your Christmas shopping. Over 8,000 retailers will donate to Ardrossan and Saltcoats Kirkgate Parish Church at no extra cost to you - so you can raise donations when you buy gifts, decorations, your festive food shopping or anything else! Please sign up and help us raise more.

With Christmas looming, then please consider signing up at www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ardrossanandsaltcoatskirkgate

We currently have 15 supporters who have raised a total of £134.26 to date for Kirkgate at no extra cost to themselves.

easyfundraising

Help us to raise free funds as you shop this Christmas

Every Christmas present you buy is a present for us!

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JOHN LEWIS | currys | H&M | asos | Apple | very



Rota Page

SUNDAY DOOR DUTY AND COUNTING ROTA DECEMBER, JANUARY & FEBRUARY			
1st December	J. Stewart	D. MacLeod	E. Howie
8th December	M. Cooper	B. McWilliam	M. Hunter
15th December	E. McInnes	P. Martin	S. Gill
22nd December	J. Rainey	E. Green	L. McDougall
29th December	J. Stewart	P. Armstrong	G. Armstrong
2025			
5th January	M. Cooper	F. Liddell	J. Hay
12th January	E. McInnes	D. MacLeod	E. Howie
19th January	J. Rainey	B. McWilliam	M. Hunter
26th January	J. Stewart	P. Martin	S. Gill
2nd February	M. Cooper	E. Green	L. McDougall
9th February	E. McInnes	P. Armstrong	G. Armstrong
16th February	J. Rainey	F. Liddell	J. Hay



Pastoral Team member Morag Forsyth 01294 463762
has volunteered to co-ordinate the names of recipients for flowers
and will keep Agnes Wilkie, Kathleen McIlreavy and Rebecca McLay,
informed of those in need as they are now the team
responsible for wrapping flowers for delivery.

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 DECEMBER, JANUARY & FEBRUARY		
	DONATED BY	DELIVERY
1st December	J. Fox	D. MacLeod
8th December	E. Frew	M. Hunter
15th December	Anne Aitken	E. Green
22nd December	POINSETTIAS	No Delivery
29th December	POINSETTIAS	No Delivery
2025		
5th January	C. Baillie	M. Cooper
12th January	A. Hynd	E. McInnes
19th January	C. Ewing	J. Rainey
26th January	M Cassidy	P. Martin
2nd February	W. Marroni	E. Breakenridge
9th February	J. Rainey	M. Cassidy
16th February	D. Kirkhope	C. Ewing

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.



Answers to Elizabeth Howie's
Christmas Quizzes along with
winners, photographs of Christmas
Events will all be in the February
magazine as unfortunately we go to
print before these events happen.
Something to look forward to !!

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 Allison 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



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