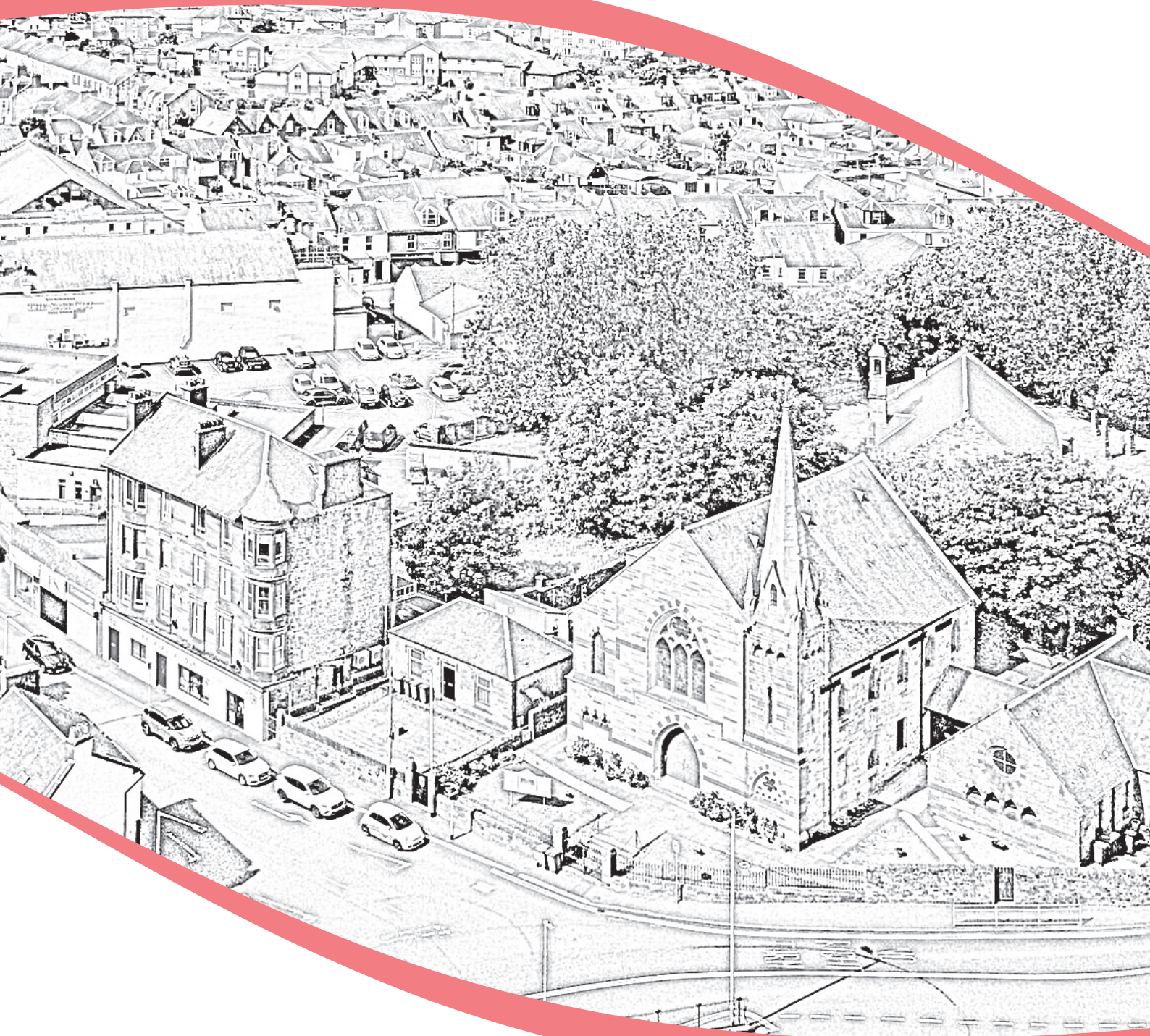


Ardrossan & Saltcoats

KirkgateMessenger

PARISH CHURCH

February 2025



Chapelwell Street,
Saltcoats KA21 5EB
Registered Scottish Charity: SC023003

www.kirkgatechurch.org.uk

Message from our Minister

Dear Kirkgate Family,

As we enter this new year, I find myself reflecting on the profound message in the book of Nahum. It has reignited the question in my mind: does God control history and nature? Through my readings, I am convinced that He does. This season of renewal reminds us of our constant need for God's mercy and justice. Just as Nahum proclaimed God's sovereignty and compassion, we, too, are called to embody these divine attributes in our lives. I look forward to sharing my sermon on Nahum in due time.



This year, I have committed to personal changes, and together, we will navigate shifts as a community. The start of a new year is a wonderful opportunity for us to reset our hearts and minds, seek God's guidance, and embrace the hope that lies ahead. Lamentations 3:22-23 reminds us: *"The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."* These words offer comfort and assurance that each day is a chance to experience God's mercy anew. Let's begin by thanking God every morning for His mercies poured out upon us.

I encourage each of you to carry this hope into your daily lives. As we navigate the joys and challenges this year will bring, let us remember that God is with us, guiding and providing for us. Psalm 27:13-14 reassures us: *"I believe that I shall look upon the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living! Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!"*

In the spirit of connection and community, I am excited to share that I will be visiting more of you throughout the year. Fostering relationships within our congregation is vital, and I look forward to hearing your stories, sharing in your joys, and supporting you in struggles. Together, we can strengthen our bonds and reflect God's love to one another and the world.

As we embark on this journey together, let us keep our eyes fixed on God's promises. May we be vessels of His mercy and justice in our communities, sharing the hope we have in Christ.

Wishing you all a blessed and hopeful new year.

In Christ's love,

Nigel Chikanya



Rev Tichaona Nigel Chikanya

Tel: 01294 683379 Mobile: 07566 278132

Email: NChikanya@churchofscotland.org.uk

Communion at South Beach House



On Wednesday 15th January, Nigel along with Mary for accompaniment and a few of our congregation visited South Beach House to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion.

We thank Liz and Jim Shirley, Sandra Craig, Mima McSwan and Fiona Wright for their support in helping with the singing and we all enjoyed chatting afterwards to the residents.



From our Probationer: Katrona Templeton

A New Year, A New Beginning Greetings.

As the new year unfolds, many of us reflect on the past year. This period is a gentle reminder of how precious God's gift of time truly is. Each new year presents a unique opportunity to look back, appreciate the moments we've experienced, and embrace the present with gratitude. It's also a chance to look ahead with renewed hope for what's to come. This is a time to reset, renew, and recommit ourselves to deepening our walk with God as we navigate our journeys together.

As we take a moment to reflect on the past year together, it's clear that while we've shared joyful moments, we've also faced our fair share of challenges and uncertainties that have weighed heavily on our hearts. In these difficult times, it's important to remember the solace we can find in the unwavering faithfulness of God. The words of Lamentations 3:22-23 resonate deeply: **"Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness."** May these beautiful words offer comfort and hope as we seek the future. Let us always remember that God is by our side; all we need to do is open our hearts to His presence.

As we welcome the new year, let's take a moment to stand in the present and enjoy each day. It's so important to recognise the gratitude we have in our hearts! Remember the wise words from 1 Thessalonians 5:18, where we're encouraged to **"give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus."** This is a poignant reminder that no matter what life brings, there's always something to be grateful for.

Taking a little time to think about what we appreciate can brighten our outlook on life. It helps us see how God's presence touches our lives daily, filling our hearts with joy and peace.

As we dive into this new year, let's commit to practising gratitude together! Sharing this journey can lift us and brighten the days of those around us. Here's to a fantastic year ahead, full of appreciation and good vibes!

The start of a new year feels like a fresh canvas, brimming with endless possibilities and opportunities for growth! As we step into this exciting journey, let's make it a point to embrace every experience that comes our way with open hearts and hopeful spirits while trusting in God's incredible plans for our lives. We can find comfort and encouragement in the powerful words of Jeremiah 29:11: **"For I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord, "plans to bring you prosperity and not harm, plans to give you hope and a bright future."** This verse serves as a reminder to approach the year ahead with optimism and faith in the journey that awaits us.

This year, let us collectively focus on spiritual growth and deepening our relationship with God. We can dedicate time each day to studying His Word, reflecting on its teachings, and seeking a closer connection through prayer. Engaging in prayer is a beautiful practice that allows us to share our thoughts, feelings, and desires with God and to listen for His guidance. We should also prioritise spending time with our friends and family within our faith community, fostering those bonds through shared activities, group worship, or simply enjoying each other's company.

Moreover, let's commit ourselves to serving others in the spirit of love and compassion, just as Jesus taught us in Matthew 20:28: **"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many."** There are countless ways we can reach out to our communities and offer assistance, whether through volunteering, supporting those in need, or even being there for someone struggling. By doing this, we embody the values of kindness and service at our faith's core.

Let's make this year meaningful and transformative, filled with spiritual growth, connection, and a commitment to serving others. Here's to embracing every moment of the journey ahead!

Prayer for the New Year

*Heavenly Father,
We thank You for the gift of a new year. We pray for Your guidance and wisdom as we enter this new season. Help us to reflect on Your faithfulness, embrace each day with gratitude, and look forward with hope and faith. Strengthen our commitment to grow in our walk with You and serve others as You have called us to. May this year be filled with Your blessings, peace, and joy.*

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



Church Register

FUNERALS:

"In my Father's house are many mansions"

17/12/24 Mrs Sarah Murray,
Abbotsford Care Home, Ardrossan

27/12/24 Mr Robert Cuthbert, Saltcoats

10/1/25 Mr Andrew McArthur,
Caledonia Care Home, Saltcoats

21/1/25 Mrs Isabel Grant, Shalom N.H. Dreghorn,
formerly Barnett Court, Saltcoats



MY FIRST CHRISTMAS IN HEAVEN

*I see the countless Christmas trees around the world below.
With tiny lights, like heaven's stars, reflecting on the snow.*

*The sight is so spectacular! Please wipe away that tear,
for I am spending christmas with Jesus Christ ths year.*

*I hear the many Christmas songs that people hold so dear,
But the sounds of music can't compare with the angel choir up here.*

*I have no words to tell you, the joy their voices bring,
For it is beyond description to hear the angels sing.*

*I know how much you miss me. I see the pain inside your heart,
But I am not so far away, we really aren't apart.*

*So be happy for me dear ones; you know I hold you dear,
And be glad I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*

*I send you each a special gift more precious than pure gold,
It was always most important in the stories Jesus told.*

*Please love and keep each other, as my Father said to do,
For I count the blessings of love that He has for you.*

*So have a joyous Christmas and wipe away that tear.
Remember, I'm spending Christmas with Jesus Christ this year.*



Those who follow His star are never lost

*Thanks to Lynda McDougall who wanted to share this poem
sent to her from Rev Alex Noble*

NEW MEMBERS:

"We are members one of another"

By Certificate of Transference

Mrs Eleanor McMeechan, Stevenston

Mr Richard Ramage, Saltcoats

Mrs Ann Gibb, Saltcoats

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal 2024



**An enormous thank
you to everyone
who supported the
Blythswood Shoebox Appeal again.**

Two of our congregation, Eleanor and Sandra help with the packing at the distribution centre over at Fullarton Church, Irvine where our 203 boxes went to start their journey.

They were happy to tell us that In total there were over 7,200 boxes, some folk even work a nightshift to help get them ready for their final journey.

This year 4,000 were sent to Moldova and the remainder to Ukraine.

A truly amazing effort.



COME AND SEE

God we praise you for all those chosen by you to lead women and men, girls and boys to follow you; mothers singing and fathers telling stories.

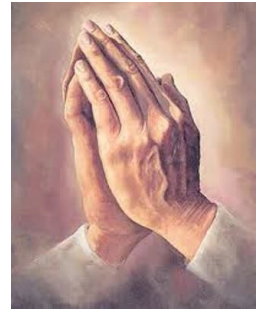
Elders in family and church, living by faith and sharing it; teachers in school and church opening minds to your truth; ministers preaching, caring and challenging, and for everyone who encouraged us to give our lives to you. For all whose love for us revealed your love, we praise you, listening again for your call.

Speak Lord, your servant is listening

Speak again and again to us calling us to deeper commitment. When we are still through the small voice within, speak when life is hectic straight to our hearts. Speak through scripture's printed page, through the voice of the preacher, in word of friend or enemy, in nature's beauty and in art. Speak through television's pictures and through the need that lines someone's face. As you never stop speaking to us may we never stop listening to you and if we need them give us wise friends to interpret your words. When we stand at the crossroads make your purpose plain to us so that the heavens may open and we may be at one with you and with Christ.

Speak Lord, your servant is listening

Amen



"The Weaver"

My life is but a weaving,
between my God and me,
I do not choose the colors,
He worketh steadily,
Oftimes He weaveth sorrow,
and I in foolish pride,
Forget He sees the upper,
and I the underside.
Not till the loom is silent,
and shuttles cease to fly,
Will God unroll the canvas
and explain the reason why.
The dark threads are as needful
in the skillful Weaver's hand,
As the threads of gold and silver
in the pattern He has planned.
~ANONYMOUS

LOVE OF FELLOWMAN

One might express tears of sorrow for each
disastrous event around our universe

Alas, this situation seldom varies

Greed for power poisons the mind

Perception of this dilemma tends to become
scary

However, New Year sparkles an impulse to
reminisce

Days of yore caress the heartstrings

Old Father Time waits for no man

Who would dare challenge his strategic plan

At this moment, let us permit ourselves to
address humanity

Frequently we appear oblivious to caring
support within our existence

Currently there are a multitude of volunteers
out there, who extend genuine assistance

They do not ask for praise, no thanks
required

Love for fellowman keeps them inspired.

Written by Liz Shirley

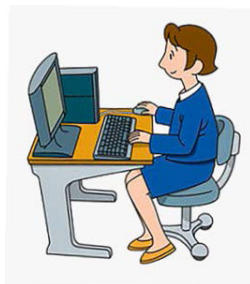
From the Editor

Apologies for the February magazine being printed one week earlier than normal but we hope you will find all the information you require through to beginning of March.

Material for the March issue to be in by **Sunday 23rd February** at the latest please and it should contain information through to 6th April - can't believe I'm writing these dates in January!!

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



A Point of View

As a church we have been very busy since last September with many events providing fun and outreach and often finance.

While all of this deserves thanks for all the planning and execution, I would like to give **'a shout out'** for the generosity of those who constantly wash all the dishes, generally clear up and finally lock up after all events and are therefore the last to get home.

Sincere Thanks to each and everyone of you.

Maureen Hunter



Recycling Old Spectacles

it's amazing how many of you are still finding old spectacles for recycling - keep up the good work.

The box is still in the hallway and we thank the ladies who uplift them and take them over to Irvine where they are gathered for Blythswood.



Life & Work:

In the February Edition...

'More Than We Could Ever Have Hoped'

Churches offering a regular warm space in the depths of winter

Becoming a Christian at 40

A reader's reflection

Stories of Ordinary People

John L Bell talks about his latest book

Connection and Purpose

Continuing the series on Priority Areas work, Neill Saw highlights how churches can provide a welcoming home for people experiencing hardship.

Cultivating Generosity

Stewardship in north-east Scotland

Our Presbyteries

The series finishes with the Presbytery of Jerusalem

'You Should Be Very Proud'

Christian Aid at 80, and the Church of Scotland minister who started it all.

Regulars

The Moderator reflects on how Christians are called to action

The Rev Ruth Kennedy on digital church

Worship column by the Rev Roddy Hamilton

Reflection by the Rev Dr Richard Frazer

Bible study by the Rev Richard Baxter

My Church: Alan Reddie of Gillespie Memorial Church, Dunfermline

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

Jokes

How does Moses make his coffee?

Hebrews it.

How long did Cain dislike his brother?

As long as he was Abel.

What is the best way to study the Bible?

You Luke into it.

Kirk Session

I would like to start by wishing you all a very happy and healthy 2025. I hope that you enjoyed spending time with us over the festive season, and seeing the beautiful trees at the Christmas tree festival, as well as the Sunday school nativity play. It has been most encouraging to have had so many joining us at morning worship.

The organisers of "The Night Before Christmas Campaign" were delighted to receive your gifts to distribute in time for Christmas.

At the beginning of a new year it is good to remind ourselves of the various activities on offer in the church throughout the week. We have our Sunday service at 10.45, the midweek service for 30 minutes at 10.30 on a Thursday, and we also have a Bible Study group for an hour on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. Nigel has indicated his willingness to start a daytime Bible Study group if there are at least two people interested, so please speak to him if this would be of interest to you. There is a time for prayer at the close of our service on the second Sunday in the month. The Guild meets on the second and fourth Monday of the month at 2pm, and the Craft group meets on Tuesday afternoons. There is also Country dancing on Thursday – alternate afternoons and evenings. In addition we have tea and coffee after the service on the last Sunday of the month.

On Fridays in conjunction with CHANA we offer a free lunch to those who come along between 12.30 and 2.00pm. At this time the food bank is also available, and there are people who come along to offer advice about money and other related matters. We offer soup, filled rolls, desserts and fruit, as well as tea and coffee. There are usually around 40 folk who

come along to benefit from this, and to enjoy the fellowship. If you would like to be on the rota for helping with the lunch please speak to Pam Martin.

There are several ways in which you can become more involved with the day-to-day running of our busy week. We are always happy to have new people helping to prepare, serve and wash up when we have tea and coffee. We also have a cleaning rota for the Sanctuary which involves dusting and hoovering. At the moment your 'turn' comes round once every twelve weeks, but with more volunteers it would be less often. We also have a door duty rota, which involves welcoming people at the door, and uplifting and counting the offering. Please let me know if you can help with any of these tasks.

We have had lots of favourable comments about our smart new doors at the side entrance and the emergency exit at the other side, and also about our recently redecorated front vestibule. If you have been to church recently you will have realised that we are using the side door rather than the front door. This is simply to conserve the heat in the building while it is so cold outside.

The Kirk Session will be meeting on Thursday 13th February at 2pm. We are going to try having some meetings during the day and some in the evening.

Sunday Communion dates for the start of 2025 have been agreed as follows: 2 February, 2 March, 6 April and 20 April (Easter Sunday). Thursday Communion dates are 6th February, 6th March, 3rd April and 24th April.

Vivien Bruce, Session Clerk



Church Mice



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Treasurer's Report

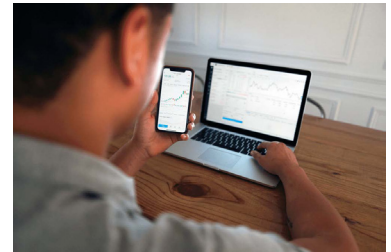
Balances – as at 31 December 2024 were as follows:

General Account - £36,917

Fabric Account - £927

Knoxland £2300

(This fund is included in the General A/C above)



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

Standing Orders – December - £3,888

Plate – December - £2,041 – Average - £408

Once again the Christmas Fair was a fantastic success raising £3,768.94 – this is an unbelievable amount – many thanks to all who helped or contributed in any way and a special thanks to Eunice, Phyllis and the Fund Raising Committee for their hard work.

I would like to thank the church organisations - Country Dancing, Craft Team and Guild – for their continued invaluable support.

Thanks are also due to Elizabeth and Stuart for the work they do in raising funds to finance our excellent magazine through advertising and postage charges.

Some of you will have attended the recent Christmas Carnival in the town – our efforts in providing 2 Santas were much appreciated by the Carnival Committee and they gave us a donation of £350. Many thanks to our legion of volunteers for this event – they were all needed and made it a successful day.

Our Giving to Grow contribution to the Church of Scotland for 2025 which covers 80% of our Ministry costs etc has been raised to £48,218 (approx. £4,822 a month over 10 months). This is an increase of just over £100 a month and is clearly a challenging amount!

A lot of work was done to the Church and Manse over 2024, including the new hall doors – this has clearly left the Fabric A/C somewhat drained – undoubtedly the Session will need to transfer funds into Fabric for 2025. I believe it is hoped to upgrade the kitchen in 2025 – this hopefully will be partly funded by our local funds and a grant, but we will almost certainly have to use some of the funds we currently hold in Edinburgh.

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 by whichever means they use and those who have requested envelopes or taken out Standing Orders.

Thank you - John Stewart, Treasurer

Fundraising Update

Thanks to all who helped in any way to make our year of fundraising a huge success.

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



Unfortunately we are unable to have the proposed Burns Supper as we have been unable to source speakers for it, so if you know of anyone who recites 'Burns' please get in touch with us.

Kirkgate Diary:

JANUARY 2025

Sunday 26th: 10.45am

Morning Worship including Sacrament of Baptism and Admission of New Members.

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 - Speaker - Guild Projects

Thursday 13th: 2.00pm *note change of time

Kirk Session Meeting

Sunday 23rd: 10.45am

Morning Worship

Tea/Coffee fellowship after morning service

Material Required for 'The Messenger'

Monday 24th: 2.00pm

The Guild - Personal Protection

Wednesday 26th: 2.00pm

Musical Memories

MARCH

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

Friday 7th March - Time TBA

World Day of Prayer

St Mary's Chapel, Ardrossan Road, Saltcoats

Sunday 9th: 10.45am

Morning Worship

Prayer Group after service

Monday 10th: 2.00pm

The Guild - Deaconess Isabel Beck

REGULAR WEEKLY MEETINGS

Sunday, 10.45 am:

Morning Worship
Sunday School/Creche

Tuesday, 1.00-4.00pm:

Craft Team

Wednesday, 11am-12 noon

& 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



The Guild

On Friday 29th November, North Ayrshire Guilds Together held their Advent Gathering in Stevenston Parish Church. There was a good attendance of members from all guilds in the area. We took part in a Chrismon Service - a special way of decorating a christmas tree to remind us that Christmas is about Jesus' birth. Everyone enjoyed joining in with the discussion before we put our decorations on the tree. The meeting continued with afternoon tea and a time of fellowship - an enjoyable afternoon.



We closed our Session on Monday 16th December with our popular Carols and Readings, led by Susan Gill and members accompanied by Mary. Soft drinks were served on arrival to help keep the voices in tune and mince pies/tea followed. Instead of a 'Secret Santa' it was decided to donate £5 each to be divided between the 'Argyle Community Shop' and 'The Whiteleys Retreat for Families' who are coming to speak to us in March.

We look forward to seeing you all again in 2025

Dates for your Diary: All meetings start at 2.00pm

February:

Monday 10th - Speaker from one of the Guild Projects

Monday 24th - Personal Protection - Alan Bell

March:

Friday 7th - World Day of Prayer - Time TBA

St. Mary's Chapel, Ardrossan Road, Saltcoats

Monday 10th - Deaconess Isabel Beck

Monday 24th - The Whiteleys Retreat for Families, Ayr



The Back Pew - Jeff Larson



Accepting Jesus into your heart as a child, and believing literally He is in your heart, neither demonstrates a grasp of theology or anatomy.. BUT is the very real start to a life with Christ. THE FAITH OF A CHILD.. **Mark 10:15** PRICELESS!



Kirkgate Pastoral Care



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

The pastoral care team previously issued a questionnaire to everyone on the congregational roll with a view to assess their pastoral needs.

As our numbers have significantly increased since then, we will be issuing a questionnaire in the near future for all our new attendees, and anyone who wishes to update their details.

The details will be intimated and questionnaires will be available over a couple of weeks.

**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).

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry

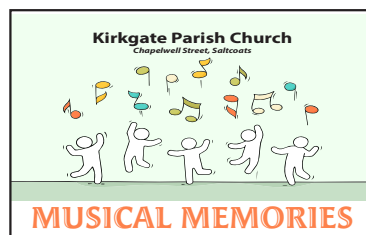


If anybody is interested in starting a Prayer Shawl Ministry, or would like a shawl to give to somebody, please speak to me on a Sunday morning or phone 01294421144 or email smayg@talktalk.net.

Susan Gill

Musical Memories

I'm looking forward to starting up again on Wednesday 29th January at the usual time of 2.00pm.



Hope to see you all there to start off the New Year with a good sing. We will be having a few well known Burns songs to celebrate Burns Day.

February date is Wednesday 26th.

SINGALONG at South Beach House:

February 5th and 19th and all are welcome to come along to help with the singing

**Thank you
Mary**

The Craft Team

The Craft Group have started meeting again from 1.00 - 4.00pm every Tuesday. We now have ten members and are always happy to welcome new people.

We make all the greetings cards on sale in the hallway with profits going to Church funds. If you require a special card please speak to one of the team and we'll do our best to adapt any card or design one if you wish.

We were delighted that so many people joined in the Christmas Tree Festival, their ideas and the effort they put into the decoration of the trees was amazing. Everyone who came along on the Saturday appreciated the varied trees and the Carol service in the afternoon, organised by Andrew and Stuart was really popular. It reminded us all of the real meaning of Christmas. A few photos on page 13.

At the end of December, due to your generous support we were able to donate £600 to Church Funds, making our total donations for 2024 the superb total of £1,200.

We're now thinking about Easter and will be organising a Coffee & Card morning in the Spring. We'll announce the date in the next magazine.



Christmas Quizzes

NURSERY RHYMES

1 DFWTGIASOR	Doctor Foster went to Gloucester in a shower of rain
2 GPPAP	Georgy Porgy Pudding and Pie
3 HDDTCATF	Hey diddle diddle, the cat and the fiddle
4 HDSOAW	Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall
5 IHALNT	I have a little nut tree
6 JAJWUTH	Jack and Jill went up the hill
7 JBNJBQ	Jack be nimble, Jack be quick
8 LBBCBYH	Little boy blue, come blow your horn
9 LBPHLHS	Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep
10 LJHSIAC	Little Jack Horner sat in a corner
11 LMMSOAT	Little Miss Muffet, sat on a tuffet
12 MMQCHDYGG	Mary, Mary quite contrary, how does your garden grow
13 OKCWAMOS	Old King Cole was a merry old soul
14 OMHWTTT	Old Mother Hubbard went to the cupboard
15 PACPACBM	Pat a cake, pat a cake, baker's man
16 PCPCWHYB	Pussy cat, pussy cat where have you been
17 PPHPPC	Pease pudding hot, pease pudding cold
18 RABBOTT	Rock a bye baby on the tree top
19 SASOSAPFOR	Sing a song of sixpence, a pocket full of rye
20 TQOHSMT	The Queen of Hearts she made some tarts
21 TTTTS	Tom, Tom the piper's son
22 TWACM	There was a crooked man
23 TWAOWWLIAS	There was an old woman who lived in a shoe
24 TWOTBGRAR	The wheels on the bus go round and round
25 WWWRTTT	Wee Willie Winkie running through the toon

ANSWERS



SCOTTISH ISLANDS WORDSEARCH

ARRAN	ERISKAY	ROUSAY
BARRA	GIGHA	RUM
BENBECULA	HOY	SANDAY
BRESSAY	INCHCOLM	SEIL
BUTE	INCHKEITH	STAFFA
CANNA	IONA	STROMA
COLL	LISMORE	TIREE
CUMBRAE	MAINLAND	ULVA
EDAY	MUCK	UNST
EIGG	MULL	YELL

Thanks to Elizabeth Howie for compiling the quizzes.

The amount raised was over £211 which went towards the Christmas Fair Total.

Well done to all who completed the 2 quizzes

Thanks to Chrissie Baillie and Kathy Coulter who once organised and donated the hamper.

They would like to thank everyone who bought tickets which raised approx £270

Thanks also to Lynda McDougall for 'Guess Teddy's Birthday' which raised over £109



Nursery Rhymes
Pamela Martin, Ardrossan
Congratulations



Scottish Islands Word Search
Vivien Bruce, Ardrossan
Congratulations



The Luxury Hamper was won by
Nina Fleming, Saltcoats
Congratulations



Box of Chocolates
Margaret O'Hare, Saltcoats
Congratulations

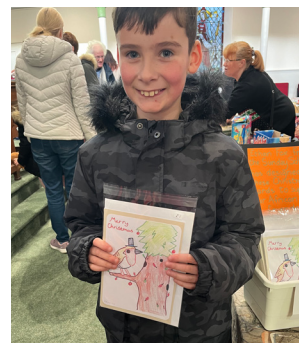


Teddy's Birthday was 17th November
and was won by
Fiona Northcote, Saltcoats
Congratulations

Recent Events

CHRISTMAS FAIR

A very big thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Fair back in November. A record-breaking £3,768 was raised which was an amazing achievement.



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

This year's theme was based around Christmas Favourites from film, stage and books. As always everyone was very creative in interpreting the theme.



Thursday Service

We have had a good number of people attend the Thursday services and it is nice to see more people joining us.



Since heating costs are forever rising it has been decided that over the next few months we will worship in the large hall where tea will also be served, this should help a little towards saving.

The Thursday team

Prayer Group

A reminder that we meet on the second Sunday after morning worship.



We would be pleased to have you come and join us for the short act of prayer.

*Thank you God for everything
The big things and the small
For every good gift comes from God
The giver of them all
Amen.*



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.

Property Report



Church

We had an issue with the toilet drains again but this has now been fixed.

After the installation of the new side door a new light was fitted.

A new light switch was replaced in the gents toilet.

The boilers have been serviced and thankfully no issues found.

Can I ask that if you are in the church that you be aware of the lights in use as there has been an occasion when they were left on overnight.

As you are aware utility bills are increasing for all of us and given the size of the property we heat and light, it's not surprising that the church has rather large bills, so we are trying to bring these down a bit by being vigilant about what we use.

Manse

The work in the manse kitchen is now finished and the painting has been completed. Everything else is up to date.

Margaret Cassidy, Property Convenor

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

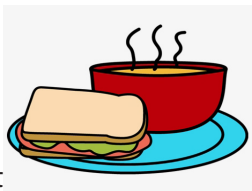
Non-food items

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

Care & Share



I hope you all had a lovely Christmas and New Year. It already seems a long time ago!



We have had a busy time throughout the Festive Season. Looking back to December, we had a great Christmas Party. You might already have heard that we had almost 100 people at the party. Santa provided a gift for everyone and the Elves did a great job distributing them. Thanks to Tommy and Julie for the entertainment and also to David the Magician for keeping us mesmerised. My thanks go to all of the volunteers who worked so hard to make it such a success. I hope you've all recovered now and are looking forward to the next one!!



We've had some dreadful weather recently but the Lunch Club has stayed very busy. I think we have run out of food most weeks this year. Quite a number of new friends have joined us and are enjoying the food and friendship. It is good to see the support being offered to one another. The recent addition of scrambled egg rolls to the menu has been well received!

NHS Dental Services have approached us to offer their support and will hopefully be joining us monthly. Money Matters will attend fortnightly. Smoking Cessation and Housing are also in regular attendance and Turning Point are present most weeks to offer their support.

Thank you very much to all who donated tea towels. They are all putting in sterling service already. We usually have around 40 people having lunch each week so we get through lots of washing up and tea towels!!

As always, thank you for your on-going support and prayers for this valued resource.

Wishing everyone a happy healthy 2025.

Much love, Pam xx



Argyle Community Shop

The numerous ventures over the festive period were a huge success making all the hard work worthwhile.



Angela's raffle raised over £2000, all of which will go towards the running costs of the shop. Thanks to all who bought tickets and congratulations to those who won something nice. Angela also ran several free draws which resulted in some lucky shoppers having extra treats over Christmas time.

Funding applications submitted have been successful and there are now funds in place to keep the shop open over the next year.

It was with great sadness that we heard of the death of John Cello on Christmas Eve. John was a dedicated volunteer in the community and was in Kirkgate with the Mobile Cinema for the Christmas Lights Switch On/Carnival. He will be sorely missed, not least for his frequent lovely cups of tea for the shop volunteers and his help stacking the shelves, fridges and freezers. Our condolences go to John's mum, family and very many friends at his sad passing.

From All at The Shop

NO Harold! Pastor said we should be involved in CHRISTIAN SERVICE not... have CHRISTIAN'S SERVE US!



THEBACKPEN.COM - Jlarson

Letters of Appreciation

Thank you so much to Rev Nigel Chikanya and the Kirkgate Church family for the beautiful bouquet of roses and carnations and the lovely card which I received on Sunday 12th January. Thy were totally unexpected. Thank you for caring and for your kindness.

Jean Lennox



What a lovely surprise to answer the doorbell and be greeted by Jean and a beautifully arranged and presented bouquet of church flowers.

So heartwarming and uplifting to receive the kindness and love from the Kirkgate Family. With love and thanks.

Evelyn Green

Christmas Gifts

A massive thank you to all who contributed to the appeals before Christmas.

The 'Gift Giving Tree' were able to distribute a phenomenal amount of gifts to families struggling at Christmas time.



'The Night Before Christmas Campaign' were very grateful for the generous donations from Kirkgate, pictured here waiting for uplift. and 'The Food Collection' at Tesco Saltcoats received a huge amount of cupboard staples and treats which have been checked and added to the stock for The Argyle Shop.

The generosity of the local community is truly eye opening. Thank you all very much.

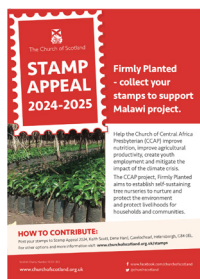
Pam Martin

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.



Connect with Kirkgate

In addition to meeting in person for our Sunday (10.45am) and short midweek Thursday (10.30am) services you can also find us online.



Website:

www.kirkgatechurch.org.uk

Contains our Sunday service, intimations, magazine, church history, contact details.



YouTube

YouTube:

www.youtube.com/kirkgatechurch.org.uk

Watch live or catch up later with all our live broadcasts and some special events (available on request for funerals and weddings). A recording of the Sunday Service is usually available by mid-afternoon on the Sunday in the event of the livestream failing.



Facebook:

www.facebook.com/Kirkgatechurch

Our Sunday Service is usually shared shortly after the service finishes. Also regular posts from our Sunday School activities.



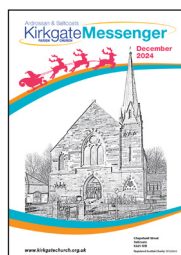
Podcast:

An audio version of our Sunday service is available shortly afterwards on Spotify, Apple Music and other podcast providers.



Telephone: 01294 444201

An audio version of our Sunday service is available shortly afterwards on our free telephone service. The service is usually split in two sections each lasting 30-40 minutes, which you can select from the menu system.



The Messenger is available online and emailed to members for whom we hold an email address. Printed copies are available for free at the church, or it can be posted out for a small donation of £9/year. Thank you to everyone who has renewed their postal donations – a reminder is included with this magazine for those who haven't responded.

Book Review

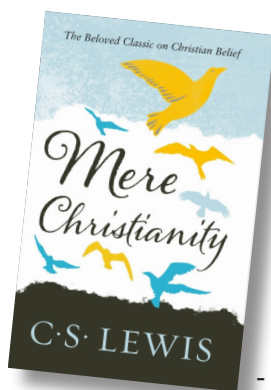
This is the first book review by Seahorse Bookstore in what will be a regular feature this year.

CS Lewis might be our favourite author at Seahorse Bookstore - he is certainly up there among the best and the most popular! There are real geniuses in the world and we would consider him one of those. He has a real talent for communication that reaches both the scholar and the child. Who doesn't know about the Chronicles of Narnia? Who has not heard of Aslan? His breadth is incredible - writing fables set in magical lands and a space trilogy that gathers its own fandom.

But Lewis' non-fiction is also worth reading. He writes with flourish and authority on matters of faith and apologetics. His *Mere Christianity* is the book we wish to highlight in this review.

Mere Christianity is his little book on the teaching that Christians agree on, originally written as broadcast episodes during the war years. The Church is made up of a plethora of traditions and is a real mixed bag of faithful people. As Paul says, The Body is made up of various parts. Using a phrase from the Puritan Richard Baxter as a title, CS Lewis produces a compendium of general Christian thought. That is what makes this book so popular and powerful. Most of us can come together around the teaching of *Mere Christianity*.

One of the most bold claims of the book regards what we make of Jesus. Lewis proffers that there are three options. Jesus may have been a liar - he made bold claims about himself that were simply not true. Or he may have been a lunatic - he was self-deceived and thus claimed to be the Son of God because he was mentally ill. If neither of these are true then the only other option is that Jesus is Lord - as he claimed. And if we accept that, it should have a profound effect on us.



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Mere Christianity,
256 pages, published by
Harper Collins, available
at Seahorse Bookstore,
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Church Rotas



CHURCH FLOWERS

**VACANT DATES: 16 MARCH, 11 MAY,
7 SEPTEMBER & 5 OCTOBER**

	DONATED BY	DELIVERY
2 Feb	W. Marroni	E. Breakenridge
9 Feb	J. Rainey	M. Cassidy
16 Feb	D. Kirkhope	C. Ewing
23 Feb	M. Cannon	D. MacLeod
2 Mar	M. Flinn	M. Hunter

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 co-ordinates the delivery rota - Tel: 01294 464428.

Pastoral Team member Morag Forsyth, Tel: 01294 463762, is co-ordinating 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.



SUNDAY DOOR DUTY & COUNTING ROTA

2 Feb	M. Cooper	E. Green	L. McDougall
9 Feb	E. McInnes	P. Armstrong	G. Armstrong
16 Feb	J. Rainey	F. Liddell	J. Hay
23 Feb	J. Stewart	D. MacLeod	E. Howie
2 Mar	M. Cooper	B. McWilliam	M. Hunter



MONTHLY TEA ROTA

	Organisers
26 Jan	Mary Stewart
23 Feb	Mima McSwan
30 March	VACANT
20 April	VACANT
25 May	Agnes Wilkie
29 June	Vivien Bruce
27 July	VACANT
31 Aug	Maureen Hunter
28 Sept	Margaret Cassidy
26 Oct	Craft Team
30 Nov	Evelyn Green
21 Dec	Elizabeth Howie

Please speak to Mary Stewart, 07907 686229, if you are available to help on any of the vacant dates shown above for our Tea Fellowship after the Sunday Service.

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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19 Dockhead Street, Saltcoats

1 New Street, Dalry

41 Glasgow Street, Ardrossan

6-8 Central Avenue, Ardrossan

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