

Ardrossan & Saltcoats

KirkgateMessenger

PARISH CHURCH

March 2025



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

www.kirkgatechurch.org.uk

Message from our Minister

Dear Kirkgate Family,

February is famously known as the month of love, and I've been doing my best to spread that love by visiting some of our members. I'm pleased to report that since the beginning of the year, I've had the joy of connecting with over 29 households! It's been a wonderful experience getting to know you all better.

In a delightful twist, I've also been supporting my wife in her fundraising efforts for Dementia UK by running 100km throughout this month. As of this writing, she has already surpassed her target of £250! While running alongside her has been a joy, I must admit there were days when I felt utterly broken—both physically and metaphorically. Since she is quite the speedy runner, there were times I found myself trailing behind her, and other times, off on my own while she completed her distance. Let's just say, "brokenness" has taken on a new meaning for me this February!

The Bible often speaks of those who are hurt, mistreated, or rejected as being "broken." Psalm 51:17 beautifully states, *"The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise."* (King James Version) This kind of brokenness can stem from various sources—be it the trials brought on by life, the whispers of gossip, or the harshness of others. But remember, it is precisely this kind of brokenness that Jesus came to heal.

Have you ever felt your heart ache or grieved God repeatedly? Rest assured, God does not despise a broken and contrite heart. When we experience brokenness, we echo the hymn writer's plea: "I need Thee every hour! Oh, how I need Thee!" We are all a bit like wild stallions that need to be "broken." Initially, we may resist God's gentle guidance, but when we finally yield to Him, we become teachable and useful, bringing joy both to Him and to others.

When God allows brokenness in our lives, it's not to keep us in misery over our sins and failures, but rather to lead us toward wholeness and the fullness

of the Holy Spirit. If you have experienced brokenness, I encourage you to seek the face of Jesus for healing. God doesn't want you to live a "broken" life; He desires wholeness, peace, and joy for you.



As Lent approaches, take some time to reflect on what you might want to focus on this season.

I'm excited to announce that we have begun a five-part sermon series on the Book of Acts. Each passage we explore will highlight the continuous growth and spreading of the Christian message, showcasing the increasing number of believers and the strengthening of the early church—primarily through the power of the Holy Spirit and the active preaching of the "Word of God." Here are the upcoming dates and passages for your reading:

23 February: Acts 6:1-7

02 March: Acts 9:19-31

09 March: Acts 12:1-25

16 March: Acts 16:1-10

23 March: Acts 19:1-22

Lastly, it is my heartfelt hope to finish visiting every member of our church by the end of the year—though I do realize that this is more of a wish than a guarantee! On a separate note, I've also been appointed as the Interim Moderator of St. Marnock Parish Church in Kilmarnock. Please join me in prayer as I embark on this new journey with their wonderful community.

Thank you all for your continued support and love. I look forward to our time together in the upcoming weeks!

Warm regards,
Nigel Chikanya

Rev Tichaona Nigel Chikanya

Tel: 01294 683379 Mobile: 07566 278132

Email: NChikanya@churchofscotland.org.uk

Lent



From our Probationer: Katrona Templeton

As we journey through the season of Lent, it is a time for us to reflect on our hearts and lives, acknowledging our shortcomings and seeking God's grace and forgiveness. This season also invites us to recommit ourselves to the teachings of Christ, focusing on acts of compassion, justice, and love.

One of my favourite days of the season is Shrove Tuesday, also known as Pancake Day. Traditionally, this was when people used all the ingredients they couldn't eat before fasting. Today, I would like to share a recipe for pancakes with you.

Start with flour, as it is essential for bread, just like food sustains our bodies. We also need hope, faith, and promises to nurture our souls and minds. Fortunately, the Bible provides a wealth of stories and promises to nourish our spirits. During this time of Lent, take some time to study your Bible and find nourishment for your soul. Remember, you are what you eat!

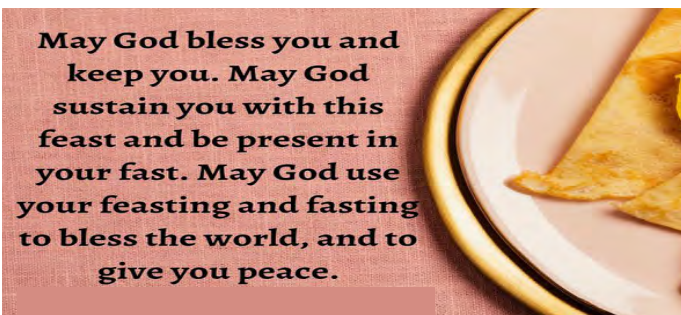
Next, add some milk. In the Bible, milk symbolises purity and truth. During Lent, take time to reflect on your life and pray. Ask yourself: Am I using my gifts for God's glory or my selfish purposes? Am I living my best life? How can I improve in the future? God has given you many skills and abilities; use this time during Lent to consider how best to utilise them.

Next, you will need some eggs. Eggs symbolise new life and God's creations. Take this Lent season to spend time each day connecting with God. God is present all around us - in the flowers, the sunsets,

and all the new life that emerges at this time of year. We need to look for it. A pinch of salt can make all the difference in flavouring food. Salt not only enhances taste but also helps preserve it. Similarly, friends add spice to our lives; they support us through love, loyalty, and trust. As Christians, we must unite, encourage, and help one another. This Lent, take some time to connect with your church family - talk to them and spend time together.

This Lent, let's come together as a church family and make pancakes!

- Dedicate more time to reading the Bible to nourish your soul.
- Reflect on what God desires you to do with the abilities and skills He has given you, whether in church or within the community.
- Set aside a few moments each day to pause and spend time in God's presence.
- Come together as a church family and support one another during difficult and joyful times.



Youth Church

Do you have a passion for guiding and inspiring the next generation? We are inviting all enthusiastic individuals to join our vibrant Youth Church as volunteers. Whether you're an experienced mentor or someone who simply cares, we need your help to create unforgettable experiences for our youth!

We are seeking volunteers to assist on Sunday mornings, with no preparation necessary. Even if you can volunteer just once every few months, it would be a tremendous help.

Why Volunteer?

Make a Difference: Shape the lives of young people positively.

Sustainability: Help ensure the future of the church.

Community: Be part of a supportive and fun team.

Flexibility: Commit to dates and times that suit your schedule.

Join Us: If you're ready to volunteer or want to learn more, contact Savior Chikanya. Let's work together to make every youth session a success!

We can't wait to have you on board!

Katrona



Church Register

BAPTISMS:

"Suffer the little children to come unto me"

26.1.25 Aurora Snoddy, Irvine

26.1.25 Mason Snoddy, Irvine

ADULT BAPTISMS:

"Many of them believed his message and were baptised"

26.1.25 Mrs Martha Ruth McMartin, Saltcoats

26.1.25 Mrs Angela Snoddy, Irvine

When Peter said unto them,
Repent, and be baptized
every one of you in the
name of Jesus Christ
for the remission of sins,
and ye shall receive the
gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 2:38



NEW MEMBERS:

"We are members one of another"

By Profession of Faith

26.1.25 Mr Ethan Snoddy, Irvine

26.1.25 Mr Michael Snoddy (Snr.), Irvine

26.1.25 Mrs Angela Snoddy, Irvine

26.1.25 Mr Michael Snoddy (Jnr.), Irvine

26.1.25 Mrs Martha Ruth McMartin, Saltcoats

26.1.25 Mr Alistair McMartin, Saltcoats

26.1.25 Mrs Nikita Cairns, Saltcoats

26.1.25 Mr John Cairns, Saltcoats

By Transfer Certificate

Mrs Sandra Donald, Ardrossan

Mrs Margaret O'Hare, Saltcoats

Mr John O'Hare, Saltcoats

Mr Alan Brown, Saltcoats

What a wonderful morning on Sunday 26th January when Nigel baptised 2 children and 2 adults and went on to receive them into the church along with the others all pictured below into the Kirkgate family by Profession of Faith.

Left to right: Ethan, Michael Snr., Ruth, Alistair, Nikita, John, Angela holding Aurora with Mason in front, Michael Jnr., and Nigel.

We wish them all every blessing on their journey of faith.



THE EXTRA MILE

Living God

You call us to take up our cross and deny ourselves. You tell us that it is only through losing our lives that we will truly find them. You challenge us through Jesus to go the extra mile, to do more than is asked or expected of us.

Teach us to give as you have given to us in Christ.

Forgive us that we find that so hard, that more often than not we prefer to do as little as possible rather than as much, that we give our help, time, service and money grudgingly rather than cheerfully.

Teach us to give as you have given to us in Christ.

Living God we thank you for those people who are willing to go the extra mile - those among our family and friends, in our fellowship or the wider church, in our society or the world as a whole who give freely of themselves, going beyond the call of duty in the service of others.

Teach us to give as you have given to us in Christ.

Living God we praise you for Jesus Christ - for his readiness to go not just the extra mile but to give his all, identifying himself with our humanity, willingly experiencing suffering and death so that we might discover life in its fullness.

Teach us to give as you have given to us in Christ.

Touch our hearts through all Christ has done, so that we may be more ready to live as his people. Teach us to go beyond people's expectations, and so may people glimpse in us a little of the love we have seen in Christ.

Teach us to give as you have given to us in Christ, for in his name we pray.

Amen

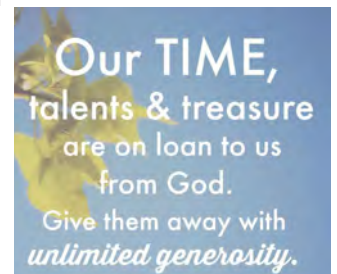
Partnership with YWAM Seamill: The Benton Family

We are excited to highlight the wonderful partnership with Gary and Amanda Benton and their four sons: Taran, Hunter, JJ, and Zack. They are originally from Ohio, USA. As dedicated leaders with YWAM, Gary and Amanda have joined us at Kirkgate, and we are truly grateful to have them worshipping with us at Kirkgate.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to the Benton family for their commitment to serving alongside us at Kirkgate especially on a Sunday. As Christians, we often remind one another to "count our blessings and name them one by one."

As a congregation, we are especially thankful for Gary and Amanda, who have enthusiastically answered our call for help and collaboration in our Children's Ministry.

Nigel



From the Editor

Material for the April issue to be in by Sunday 30th March at the latest please and it should contain information about our Easter Services/ Events and dates through to 4th May.

Many thanks to all who subscribed and paid to have the magazine delivered. As you know with the increasing cost of paper and sundries etc., your postage money along with generous donations raised over £600, so once again a huge thanks to everyone for supporting the costs involved in the printing of the magazine. We also have to thank all the advertisers as well for their continuing support. Their contributions also help towards covering 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



The World Map

A father wanted to read the paper, but was being bothered by his little daughter.



Finally he tore a sheet out of his magazine, on which was printed a map of the world. Tearing it into small pieces, he gave it to her and said, ***"Go into the other room and see if you can put this together."***

A few minutes later, she returned and handed him the map correctly fitted together.

The father was surprised and asked how she had finished so quickly?

"Oh", she said, "on the other side of the paper is a picture of Jesus, When I got Jesus in His place, then the world came out right."

Fundraising 2025-26

The fundraising team met on 28th January and after a lot of discussion have decided on the following events for the coming year. We hope there is something to suit everyone and that you will continue to support us in all our ventures.



On page 13 please see details of four upcoming events note especially the Ragbag collection in April, take advantage of clearing out your drawers and cupboards to make money at no extra expense to yourselves. **Please DO NOT include duvets, pillows, cushions, bric-a-brac, toys, books, suitcases or hold-alls.**

Shoes should be put in a separate bag please. Old towels, bed linen, clothes, curtains whatever you would normally be throwing out are all most acceptable.

2025

Friday March 28th: Quiz Night and Supper - Tickets available soon

Tuesday April 15th: Ragbag collection

Friday April 25th: Fashion Show by The Dressing Room

Saturday May 31st: Afternoon Ceilidh

Saturday June 28th: Afternoon Cream Tea and Beetle Drive

September: To be arranged

Saturday October 25th: Craft Fair

Saturday November 29th: Christmas Fair

Saturday December 6th: Christmas Tree Festival

2026

February: Burns Supper (date to be arranged)



Kirk Session

The Kirk Session met on Thursday 13th February, and had an afternoon meeting for the first time. We were delighted to welcome new members to join us. These are people who have recently transferred their membership from other congregations where they were serving as Elders.



It has been wonderful to see our numbers growing over the past few months. If you have not yet transferred your membership to Kirkgate and would like to do this please speak to me or to Stuart about it.

Our first meeting of the year is when we set dates for Communion services and Kirk Session meetings. Sunday Communions will be held on 2nd March, 6th April, 20th April (Easter Sunday), 4th May, 15th June, 6th July, 7th September, 5th October, 2nd November and 30th November (First Sunday in Advent). Thursday Communions will be 6th March, 3rd April, 17th April, 8th May, 12th June, 3rd July, 4th September, 9th October, 6th November and 4th December.

During Holy Week there will be a short meditation in Ardrossan Parish Church each morning at 11.00am, and we will have services here in Kirkgate on Thursday 17th (Communion) and Friday 18th April, both at 7.00pm.

You have heard that we are planning to upgrade our kitchen, and we are delighted that our retiring offering has raised the grand total of £934. We are very grateful to all who have contributed. We have already received an estimate for the work required, but need to seek a further estimate for work of this amount. We will be keeping you informed when we have more information to share with you. We will of course need to fundraise, and are also looking at the possibility of obtaining grants to help with the cost. If you have any ideas for fundraising please do let us know. The fundraising team have already planned events for the year which we look forward to reading about. The first event coming up is our very popular quiz night on Friday 28th March, this is always a fun evening and we would love to see the hall full. Then on Saturday 5th April we are holding a Daffodil Tea, hopefully you will be able to come along and support both these events and others throughout the year.

If you have been in the sanctuary recently you will have noticed the lovely floral displays which have appeared. Our thanks go to the 'flower fairies' for all their work on these. On a similar note it is lovely to see the crocuses flowering outside the church, and the daffodils are growing quickly too. If you would like to help with keeping our garden tidy please let us know. We have someone who cuts our grass regularly, but the borders and planters are maintained by our members.

Vivien Bruce, Session Clerk

SPONSORSHIP FOR MS SOCIETY

LONDON MARATHON SUNDAY 27TH APRIL 2025

I was fortunate to receive a place in the London Marathon last year but had to withdraw due to injury but thankfully was able to defer until this year.

I am wondering if this happened for a reason as my lovely friend Mhairi has received a charity place this year to run in the London Marathon for the MS Society and I can't believe we get to run this together. Mhairi and I have been running together for about 18 years and we ran our first marathon together in 2015 so this feels very fitting to be doing another 10 years later. So on Sunday 27th April 2025 my friend Mhairi and I will need all the support we can get to raise the promised £2,000 or more.

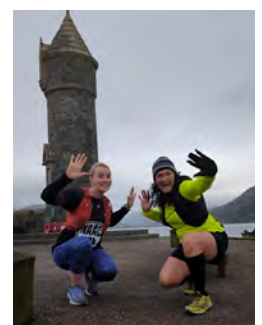
Mhairi has chosen to run for the MS society for 2 reasons, the loss of her brother-in-law to MS in 2024 and for my mum Carol, who you can see here taking part in the

Santa run along the promenade with me pushing her.

I'm joining in the fundraising as it's a charity that means so much to us both and I can't think of much more motivation to get us both round! We are both carrying injuries so will need the push.

There is a Just Giving page and any donations would be greatly appreciated. [MS Society: Mhairi's page](#)

Mum will also have available a sponsor sheet in my name.
Thank you, Cheryl Gilmour



Treasurer's Report

Balances – as at 20 February 2025 were as follows:

General Account - £29,778

Fabric Account - £11,610

Knoxland £2,300

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



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

Standing Orders - January - £3,640

Plate - January - £1,967 - Average - £492

The retiring collection for Fabric A/c, in particular the renovation of the kitchen raised £934 - this is an incredible total - many thanks to all who contributed.

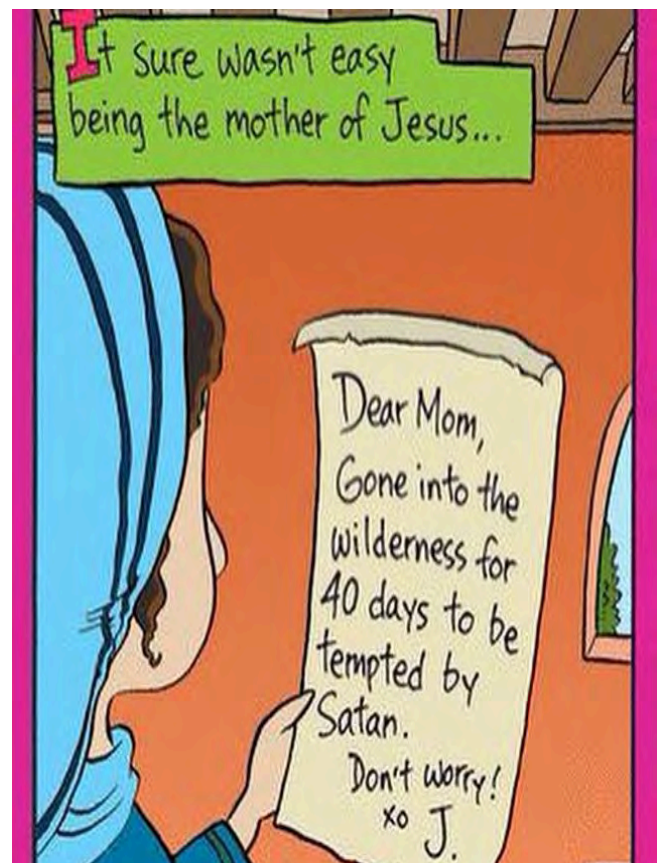
The final accounts for 2024 are with the accountants for preparation and auditing.

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.

To gain the financial benefits of Gift Aid it is necessary for givers to use envelopes or Standing Order – we have to be able to prove the giving if required. Please see Moira Cooper for envelopes and myself for Standing Order details.

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



Kirkgate Diary:

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: 2.00pm

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

Wednesday 12th: 10.00-11.00am

Pastoral Team Committee Meeting

Friday 14th: 2.00pm

Guild Together North Ayrshire

Spring Gathering

Kirkgate Church, Saltcoats - More info on page 10

Saturday 22nd: 10.00 -12 noon

Craft Team Easter Coffee & Cards

Monday 24th: 2.00pm

The Guild - Whiteleys Retreat for Families

Wednesday 26th: 2.00pm

Musical Memories

Friday 28th: 7.00pm

Quiz & Supper Night

Sunday 30th: 10.45am

Morning Worship - Mothering Sunday

Tea/Coffee Fellowship after morning service

Material required for 'The Messenger'

APRIL

Thursday 3rd: 10.30am

Midweek Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion

2.30pm

Country Dance Club

Saturday 5th: 10.00-12 noon

Daffodil Tea

Sunday 6th: 10.45am

Morning Worship - Sacrament of Holy Communion

Monday 7th: 2.00pm

The Guild - Afternoon Tea and Memories

Thursday 10th: 7.30pm

Kirk Session Meeting

Sunday 13th: 10.45am

Palm Sunday Worship

Thursday 17th: 7.00pm

Holy Week Worship - Sacrament of Holy Communion

Friday 18th: 7.00pm

Good Friday Worship

Sunday 20th: 10.45am

Easter Morning Worship

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Tea/Coffee Fellowship after morning service

Sunday 27th: 10.45am

Morning Worship

Material required for 'The Messenger'

Wednesday 30th: 2.00pm

Musical Memories

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

Our opening meeting on 10th February was most interesting. Mr Norman Liddle from the Scottish Bible Society explained about The Project "Bibles for Bairns" which is being supported by the Guild for three years. You'll find a leaflet on the notice board and a brief explanation on page 12.

Dates for your Diary: All meetings start at 2.00pm

March:

Friday 7th - World Day of Prayer - 2.00pm - Tea Afterwards - St. Mary's Chapel, Ardrossan Road, Saltcoats

Monday 10th - Deaconess Isabel Beck

Friday 14th - Guild Together North Ayrshire - Spring Gathering, 2.00pm - Ardrossan & Saltcoats Kirkgate Church. Please read below a letter about this meeting.

Monday 24th - The Whiteleys Retreat for Families, Ayr

April:

Monday 7th - Closing Meeting - Afternoon Tea & Memories

Guilds Together North Ayrshire

Dear Friends in the Guild,

March 2025 already! Christmas and New Year celebrations are fading memories by now but I still remember the happy gathering we had as Guilds Together North Ayrshire in Stevenston Parish Church on 29th November. I wonder if any of you tried the Chrismon Tree with grandchildren and other family members?

One of our last meetings as GTNA is on Friday March 14th in Kirkgate Parish Church, Saltcoats at 2.00pm which includes the Annual Business Meeting and a Mini Songs of Praise. We do hope that as many of you as possible will join the gathering on the day. A warm welcome awaits you. There is some 'homework' involved: Please would one member of each branch send in a favourite hymn with number and source and be prepared to say BRIEFLY why they made this choice. If we are overwhelmed with numbers, we may not be able to have all 10! So please do not be offended if your choice misses selection. Please send in your choice before 26th of February to: Acting Secretary mary.keose@btinternet.com so that the organist has time to source the music.

In 2025 Our Guilds Together, nationally are undergoing big changes and we in North Ayrshire are in the process of uniting with Ayr and District, and Irvine and Kilmarnock Guilds Together. Three members of our leadership team have been working together with the others, preparing for our union this year. We are very keen that all our members can be well informed of changes and to this end there will be a gathering, you might say, 'of union' on Saturday May 3rd in Kilwinning Abbey Hall from 11.00am – 3.30pm. Also, at that meeting there will be representatives from all four of our new Guild Projects. Please put this date in your diary and we do hope as many as possible will be able to attend. A day out of warm fellowship and joy! Teas, coffees and snack will be provided but we ask you to bring a packed lunch. More information nearer the time.

Some more forward planning. This Year's Annual Gathering goes to a new venue. Perth North Church, in Perth (very near rail and bus station) on Saturday 13th September. 11.00am - 4.00pm. The Guild office will be asking each branch for numbers but no tickets will be issued.

Looking forward to seeing many of you on 14th March at Ardrossan & Saltcoats Kirkgate Church.

Every blessing

**Helen Kerr,
Guilds Together North Ayrshire**



Kirkgate Pastoral Care



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

A meeting of the small pastoral committee took place on 23rd January. Discussion focused on the need to offer the opportunity of Pastoral Care to our expanding congregation.

Pastoral questionnaires have been distributed at church each Sunday in February and team members have issued copies to those on their current lists who are unable to attend church. Hopefully the responses will help us identify the needs.

A date was set for a full pastoral team meeting on 12th February. There was an excellent turn out. Nigel opened our meeting with a bible reading and an encouraging, inspiring talk.

We had a full agenda, discussions about future training options for the Team and how best to meet the needs of our expanding, blended multigenerational Kirkgate family.

We will study the responses and comments of the pastoral questionnaires and the team will meet again on 12th March to plan how we best address and meet the stated need.

Meanwhile, the work of the team goes on and I thank all in the team for their time, dedication and commitment to all in their care.

Evelyn Green

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

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)**

The Craft Team

We are all back into the swing of card making and are working towards our Coffee & Card morning.

It will be held in the church hall on Saturday 22nd March from 10.00am till 12 noon.

There will be a variety of Easter cards available as well as our usual greeting cards for every occasion.

We hope as many of you as possible will drop in and enjoy tea, coffee and hot cross buns. This is always a nice relaxing morning with plenty time for a chat with friends old and new, the more the merrier.



Musical Memories

We had a good sing-a-long and memory jogging quiz in February, a few scottish songs to commemorate Burns Day along with the usual favourites and well earned cup of tea/goodies.

**Dates for March:
Wednesday 26th March**

**South Beach House:
Wednesdays 5th and 19th.**

Thanks to Kathleen, Betty and Barbara for coming along to SBH to support the singing.



Observation & Poem

John Kerr who submitted this poem, came across it on a YouTube video of Al Green, the US Congress representative from Texas. In Congress he recited this poem when announcing his intention to start impeachment proceedings against Donald Trump.

This was on the afternoon after Katrina had been preaching on Revelations 7: 9-14 and thought what a good conclusion it was to what she had been saying.

THE COLD WITHIN - James Patrick Kinney

Six humans trapped by happenstance
In bleak and bitter cold.
Each one possessed a stick of wood
Or so the story's told.

Their dying fire in need of logs
The first man held his back
For of the faces round the fire
He noticed one was black.

The next man looking 'cross the way
Saw one not of his church
And couldn't bring himself to give
The fire his stick of birch.

The third one sat in tattered clothes.
He gave his coat a hitch.
Why should his log be put to use
To warm the idle rich?

The rich man just sat back and thought
Of the wealth he had in store
And how to keep what he had earned
From the lazy shiftless poor.

The black man's face bespoke revenge
As the fire passed from his sight.
For all he saw in his stick of wood
Was a chance to spite the white.

The last man of this forlorn group
Did nought except for gain.
Giving only to those who gave
Was how he played the game.

Their logs held tight in death's still hands
Was proof of human sin.
They didn't die from the cold without
They died from the cold within.



The Guild Project: Bibles for Bairns



Reading to young children helps them feel safe and loved. It build self-esteem, grows their vocabulary, and fires their imagination. Reading the Bible can help bring a family together and closer to God.

'*Bibles for Bairns*' offers every baby born in Scotland a free 'Share a Story' toddler Bible on their first birthday. Every birthday after that, until the age of 5, the Scottish Bible Society will send a Bible related gift. On their 5th birthday, they will receive an early reader Bible to take them through their primary school years.

Do you know a child and family who would be blessed by this gift? Please ask the parents or guardians permission before you register the child.

How you can be involved

If you know a baby born in Scotland let their family know about 'Bibles for Bairns' and howto register their child.

Each month a team of volunteers wrap all the gift Bibles and individually write a birthday card to each child. Before each package is posted we pray over them. Could you be a 'Bibles for Bairns' volunteer? Get in touch with:

jen.robertson@scottishbiblesociety.org for more details. Our vision is to offer every child in Scotland a toddler Bible and to stay engaged with them and their family until they are age 5. The cost per child is £50 over the five years they receive these Bible gifts.

We appreciate the support from Guilds all over Scotland to enable this project to continue to succeed and engage with children. Register, volunteer or donate: bible.scot/bfb

How it Works:



Once a child has been signed up, they'll receive the **Share a Story Bible** on their 1st birthday.



On their 2nd, 3rd and 4th birthdays we'll send birthday cards and fun resources to encourage the whole family to keep engaging with the Bible.



On their 5th birthday, they'll be given a children's Bible to start to read themselves and to explore with the adults in the family.



Chapelwell Street, Saltcoats

Kirkgate Craft Team

Easter Coffee & Cards

SATURDAY 22nd MARCH

*10am - 12 noon
in the Church Hall*

*A wide selection
of handmade
Easter cards and
greetings cards
available*

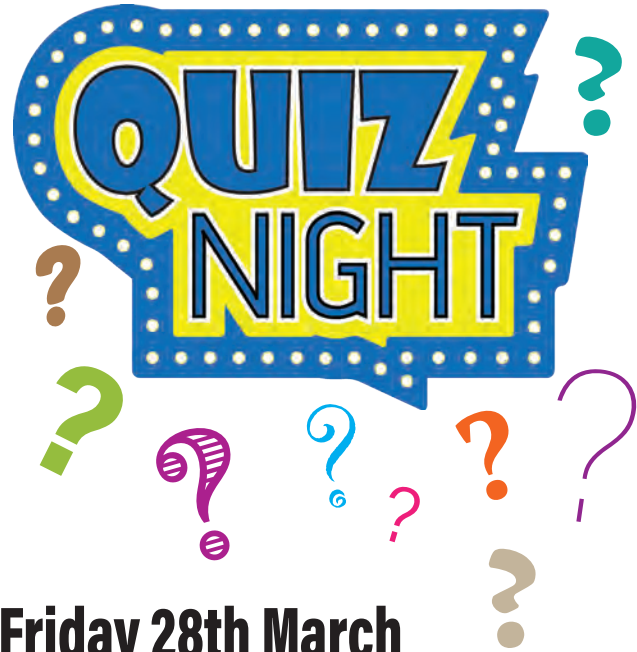


Ardrossan & Saltcoats Kirkgate Parish Church of Scotland
Scottish Charity Number - SC023003

??

KIRKGATE PARISH CHURCH

??



**Friday 28th March
at 7.30pm**
in the church hall



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

B.Y.O.B.

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



DAFFODIL TEA

SATURDAY 5th APRIL

10am - 12 noon
in Kirkgate Church Hall,
Chapelwell Street, Saltcoats

Various Stalls

Tickets: £3

in aid of Kitchen Refurbishment Fund



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



Rag Bag Recycle Uplift 15 April

Spring cleaning time again,
fill those black bags and
make money for Kirkgate
at no extra cost to yourselves.

Black bags will be available soon in the hallway



Thursday Service

The Thursday service continues to grow and it is nice to see so many people come out to join us

We are back in the church again so please come along for some fellowship then tea and biscuits.

The Thursday Team

Prayer Group

It is nice to be asked to pray for members of our congregation and their families at our monthly prayer group.

Please continue to give me the names for prayers.

We meet the second Sunday in the month directly after morning worship.

Feel free to come along and join us.

Margaret Cassidy



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 ___ 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

Manse

A new kitchen sink has been fitted and due to an issue a new cooker hob has also been fitted and both back in full working order.

Church

As you are probably aware we are raising funds to install a new kitchen.

This is a big job as the present kitchen very much needs to be upgraded. The cost for this work will also be large. Due to this we have asked for donations from the congregation and if you have not already donated you still can, there is always someone who will take your money and give it to our treasurer.

We also hope to be holding some fundraising and will notify you when we have arranged things.

Thankfully, The church and manse are sound after the recent storm and we escaped practically unscathed so fingers crossed we have no issues later.

The front doors of the church are open again for access for the Sunday service and the Thursday service is now back in the church.

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



Hasn't the weather been dreadful recently?! A perfect reason to get the soup pot on.



We've had a very busy time at the Lunch Club with over 40 people regularly coming for hot soup and a filled roll followed by Mary's famous (delicious) crumbles. Last week we tried some quality sliced sausage from Bickets which received very positive feedback. It is slightly more expensive but we think it is worth the difference. Maybe we could pray for the butcher to give us a wee concession 🙏

For Valentine's Day we had single red roses on the tables for the ladies and heart chocolates for the gentlemen. Although.... I did spy a few gents leaving with some roses! 🌹❤️

We have been approached by a new service who work with families. They will be joining us on Fridays to offer their support. More information on this after they start.

Exciting news this month is the prospect of a new kitchen. Hopefully it won't be too long before work starts. Just imagine what we might be able to offer in the future We need to get our thinking caps on to help with fundraising. 😄😄

With thanks for your interest and support

Pam Martin xx

Argyle Community Shop

The Shop, on Wednesdays in the Argyle Centre, is as busy as ever. There has been a surge in membership in recent weeks as more local residents have heard about us and have signed up to shop.



A "Pop-Up" Shop event for clothing and household items last Wednesday led to quite a few individuals finding their way round the corridor to our shop.

Back in December there was a Food Collection in Tesco which resulted in a huge amount of donations for which we are very grateful. It is hoped that there might be another such event in the not too distant future. Any donation, no matter how small, makes a massive difference to the stock for the Shop.

Thank you to everyone who has supported the Shop in any way.

From All at the Argyle Community Shop

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:

www.youtube.com/@kirkgatechurch

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.

Letters of Appreciation

I wanted to express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude for the lovely and unexpected bunch of flowers from the pastoral team, which lasted a good two weeks.



Since Elijah and I relocated to Scotland and arrived at Kirkgate Parish Church six months ago, we have been made to feel incredibly welcome. After 20 home viewings and delays in my home sale, we finally moved into our new home mid January, and the flowers took pride of place in the kitchen window.

Warm regards, Deborah Rowe

Thank you so much for the lovely bouquet of flowers I recieved, incidentally on Sunday named 'World Cancer Day.' Thankfully I am now in remission and only left with changes that the strong medicatioins do to you. Once again thank you very much.

Solveig McCulloch

Thank you very much for the beautiful church flowers and the many messages we have received during Bert's period of ill-health. He is improving but moaning that the only mail we get now is hospital appointments! He's able to drive again now so that has cheered him back up.

With love and thanks from Bert and Pam Martin x

Alistair and Ruth McMartin would like to thank everyone at Kirkgate for their warm welcome and good wishes on the special occasion of Alistair's confirmation and Ruth's baptism. We would also like to thank everyone for the lovely flowers which were so beautifully arranged and which we enjoyed for almost three weeks! These were an unexpected and joyful surprise for which we are most grateful.

THANK YOU to all who have prayed for my Grandson, all the good wishes sent via Jennifer Fox my sister and for continuing prayers.

After contracting a lung infection, his heart was working too hard so he was transfered to another special clinic where he was on a machine for 8 days. Thankfully, he is, as of Sunday 16th February, still in intensive care but back in the hospital in his home town and improving each day. He has to learn to breathe unassisted, and also how to feed from the breast or a bottle. We have been overwhelmed by the support we have received, world wide! I would thank you also in the name of the parents of Jesper. We think he may be home at the beginning of April.

**Love to all at Kirkgate,
Angela Ballschmiede (Germany)**

Thank you very much for the lovely flowers I received recently when I was ill. Thanks also to Nigel and the church family for visits and good wishes.

Roseann McLean

Congratulations



The Kirk Session and Congregation sent flowers and cards with their love and congratulations to Anna Donnan of Ardrossan on the occasion of her 90th birthday.

We send ever blessing for her continued good health.

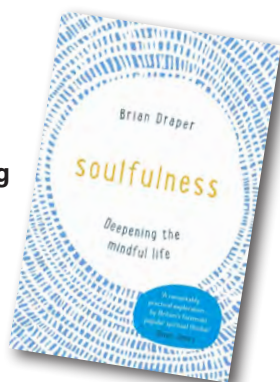
Church Mice



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Book Review

As February ends and Spring begins to spring we start to feel the urge to give up our wintering and stretch our legs. A visit to the beach and a stroll through the woods becomes more appealing.



Brian Draper, an Anglican and a seasoned spiritual thinker, builds on the popular concept of mindfulness, urging readers to move beyond stress reduction toward a richer, more soulful existence. Drawing from his Christian perspective, he blends contemplative practices with practical exercises. Appreciation of nature and its effects upon us, as well as the need to escape from the technological world that so often environs the modern man and woman.

Some of us may fear Yoga and Mindfulness, given that they are often associated with Buddhism rather than Christianity. However, Draper in his *Soulfulness: Deepening the Mindful Life* is a refreshing exploration of living with greater intention and depth as a Christian. His writing is warm and engaging, offering a gentle nudge to slow down and reconnect with what truly matters.

His argument, that non-Christian mindfulness risks becoming a shallow tool in a consumerist world, resonates deeply, and his call to flourish creatively feels both timely and timeless. The book impresses in simplicity, with anecdotes and reflections that invite readers to pause and notice beauty in everyday moments. It is an encouragement to dwell rather than rush through life.

Practical tips, like keeping a gratitude journal, ground lofty ideas in actionable steps. *Soulfulness* is a heartfelt companion for anyone seeking peace and purpose in a hectic world—a quiet reminder that being present is more than a technique; it's a way of being alive.

Many of these mindfulness techniques, rather than being rooted in a foreign religious practice are actually found in stories of the Celtic saints and in the practices of the Church throughout the ages. They are worth reclaiming for our own spiritual growth and good in the 21st Century.

SEAHORSE
BOOKSTORE
(located beside ASDA)

Soulfulness: Deepening the Mindful Life, 272 pages, published by John Murray Press, available at Seahorse Bookstore, Ardrossan. RRP £9.99.

1A Winton Building, Ardrossan KA22 8EA

Tel: 01294 208779 www.seahorsebookstore.com

Open: Tues -Sat 10.30am-2.30pm; Tues/Thurs 6-8pm

Church Rotas



CHURCH FLOWERS

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

	DONATED BY	DELIVERY
2 March	M. Flinn	M. Hunter
9 March	A. Daley & L. Diamond	E. Green
16 March	VACANT	M. Cooper
23 March	J. Mumford	E. McInnes
30 March	M. Darroch	S. Donald
6 April	M. Forsyth	J. Hay

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 Mar	M. Cooper	B. McWilliam	M. Hunter
9 March	E. McInnes	P. Martin	S. Gill
16 March	J. Rainey	E. Green	L. McDougall
23 March	J. Stewart	P. Armstrong	G. Armstrong
30 March	M. Cooper	F. Liddell	J. Hay
6 April	E. McInnes	D. MacLeod	E. Howie



MONTHLY TEA ROTA

	Organisers
30 March	The Guild
20 April	Agnes Wilkie
25 May	Agnes Wilkie
29 June	Vivien Bruce
27 July	Eunice McInnes
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 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
Mr John O'Hare	Mrs Margaret O'Hare

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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