

Ardrossan & Saltcoats

KirkgateMessenger

PARISH CHURCH

April 2025



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

www.kirkgatechurch.org.uk

Message from our Minister

Dear Kirkgate Family,

"And the Spirit of God was moving over the surface of the waters" (Genesis 1:2)

As we gather this Easter, we reflect on the powerful truth revealed in the very first words of Scripture: ***"In the beginning God..."*** These words remind us of God's eternal presence and purpose, which should form the foundation of our lives, our culture, and our community. God created us for Himself, and as Rick Joyner beautifully states, *"If God made us, then we can no longer claim to be the centres of this universe. He is the centre. Jesus is the Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End."*



Over the past weeks, we have pondered the growth of the early church as we explored some key passages from the Book of Acts. It has been inspiring to witness how the Christian message spread, driven by the power of the Holy Spirit and the bold preaching of the Word of God.

This Easter, I invite you all to recommit your hearts to God. At the start of each day, let us seek His face through prayer. In the face of challenges, let us turn to Him first. In every thought and action, let us return to our Creator.

When we place God at the beginning of every situation, we discover the purpose and destiny that He has designed for us. Our lives are not meant to be formless or void; rather, they are to be filled with His light and hope. When we invite Jesus to reign in our hearts, He dispels darkness, confusion, and fear, replacing them with clarity, joy, and meaning. As we read in **Jeremiah 15:19**, ***"If you return, then I will restore you - Before Me you will stand; and if you extract the precious from the worthless, you will become My spokesman."***

I invite you to recall the acts of God in the early church, to remember that "the Holy Spirit was moving." The Holy Spirit is active and ever-present, leading us forward in God's power. When we are filled with the Holy Spirit, we are propelled into a vibrant, purposeful life. As Joyner reminds us, *"The Christian life is never stagnant, but flowing like a river. We have a destination and a work to accomplish with the Lord."*

This Easter, may we celebrate the resurrection and the new beginnings it brings. Let us embrace the movement of the Holy Spirit in our lives and in our church, allowing Him to guide us into the future He has prepared for us.

Wishing you all a blessed and joyful Easter,

Nigel

Rev Tichaona Nigel Chikanya

Tel: 01294 683379 Mobile: 07566 278132

Email: NChikanya@churchofscotland.org.uk



From our Probationer: Katrona Templeton

Peace be with you as we celebrate this joyful Easter season.

Easter is a time for eggs, chocolate and bunnies, but it is also a time for us to reflect on the core of our faith - the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. It is a time of hope, renewal, and triumph. We are reminded of its profound truth in *Matthew 28:6*: "He is not here; He has risen, just as He said. Come and see the place where He lay."

This announcement, made by the angel at the empty tomb, resonates throughout the centuries and proclaims the foundation of our faith: Christ has conquered death. The resurrection is a fulfilled promise and a testament to God's power and love. It assures us that dawn will always arrive no matter how dark the night may seem.

Easter teaches us that the resurrection is not just a historical event but a living reality. Jesus' triumph over the grave gives us hope and strength to face our challenges. In Him, we find the courage to rise from despair, the grace to leave behind our sins, and the promise of eternal life. His victory is ours, and we, too, are made new through Him.

As we journey through this Easter season, remember that the empty tomb symbolises God's ability to transform death into life, sorrow into joy, and despair into hope. May we carry this truth in our hearts and share it with everyone we encounter, bearing witness to the life-changing power of the risen Christ.

Let us rejoice in the truth we find in *Matthew 28:6* and celebrate the gift of Easter with hearts full of gratitude and faith. Christ is risen, and because He lives, we have the assurance of eternal life.

And remember to enjoy those chocolate eggs!

With blessings and love in Christ, Katrona

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



Katrona is organising an Easter Funday on Tuesday 8th April, 2-4 pm. She would like volunteers to help please. Further information can be found on the church Facebook page and website.

FREE

Easter Funday

Tuesday 8th April 2-4 pm

FREE FAMILY FUN

2 - 3.30 pm - crafts, scavenger hunt and biscuit decorating!

3.30 pm - Join us for a sensory agape meal.

Under 12's must be accompanied by an adult

Venue: Kirkgate Parish Church
Chapelwell Street
Saltcoats
KA21 5EB

Ardrossan & Saltcoats
kirkgate
PARISH CHURCH

Church Register

FUNERALS:

"In my Father's house are many mansions"

4/3/25 Mr Alan Brown, Gladstone Road, Saltcoats
5/3/25 Mr James Lennox, Saltcoats
1/4/25 Mrs E Fry, O'Connor Court, Saltcoats



NEW MEMBERS:

"We are members one of another"

By Transfer Certificate:

Mrs E Long, Stevenston
Mr W Long, Stevenston

Maundy Thursday - 17th April

The Assembly of a Daffodil Cross will take place after the short morning service.

We appreciate that a good number of the daffodils will be past their best, but we would hope that you can find enough to donate which will be most welcome whether bought or from your garden.

They can be brought to the church from Palm Sunday 13th onwards when we will keep them cool until the Thursday.

Daffodils when bought at the supermarket in bud can survive without water for several days, then cut the stems and plunge into cold water when required.



From the Editor

Material for the May issue to be in by Sunday 27th April at the latest please and it should contain information and dates through to June.

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



Presbytery of the South West



On Tuesday 4th March at 7.00pm Presbytery of the South West met on line through zoom. Mr. Andrew Morton, moderator, opened the meeting.

Ms Gillian Lynch (elder) was appointed as moderator for session 2025/2026.

Commissioners were elected to attend this year's General Assembly. Katrona Templeton our trainee probationer has been appointed to attend.

Nigel was appointed as Interim Moderator for Kilmarnock: St. Marnock's Church.

Presbytery was given an update on the new web site being created by James Bradford from Sanctus Media. Comments were invited and so far the main objection was the small print. It is hoped that it will be ready to go live in a few months.

Reports were given from all the committees: planning, finance, safeguarding, property, review, merit and mission.

The meeting closed at 8.30pm and next in person meeting is Saturday 14th June at 10.30am in Castlehill Church, Ayr.

Freebie to a Good Home!!

1 x 3 wheeled lightweight folding walking frame, good condition, no seat.
Similar to photo.
Contact Kathy Coulter
01294 464979



Prayer Page

Contributed by Alison Buick

UNDERSTANDING PRAYER

Father God, you have promised that when we pray for something in the name of Christ it will be done. Teach us what that really means – to know and love Jesus so completely that our will and his coincide.

Father we bring you this prayer in the name of Christ

Forgive us when we abuse prayer, looking only to our ends rather than yours. Forgive us when we pray emptily or half-heartedly, and then complain that our prayers seem to go unanswered. Help us to recognise prayer is your gift to us, rather than ours to you, and so we may learn from it more of your purpose, and more about you.

Father we bring you this prayer in the name of Christ

Strengthen our faith, deepen our fellowship, direct our witness. Help us to grow inwardly and outwardly, reaching out to you, to one another, and to all around us.

Father we bring you this prayer in the name of Christ

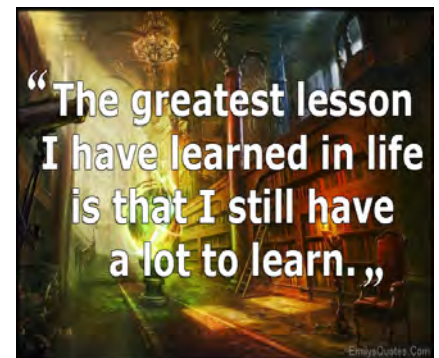
And when we cannot see any answers to our own needs or those of others, when we see only problems that seem beyond us, when we do not know what to pray for, teach us to leave all things in your hands.

We come now, asking not for our will to be done but yours, to the glory of your name.

Father we bring you this prayer in the name of Christ.

AMEN

ENLIGHTENED PERSPECTIVE



Sponsorship for MS Society

LONDON MARATHON SUNDAY 27th APRIL 2025

There's still time to sponsor Carol's daughter Cheryl Gilmour as she prepares to run in the London Marathon.

Her sponsor sheet is in the hallway and if you pay tax then you can tick the box for gift aid enabling MS Society to claim back 25% that's 25p in every pound at no extra cost to yourself. There is also a Just Giving page **MS Society Mhairi's page**. Cheryl and Mhairi have been running together for about 18 years and ran their first marathon in 2015.

Please if you can, support this worthwhile charity.



Letters of Appreciation

Dear Members of Kirkgate Church and Pastoral Care Team. Thank you for the kindness shown to our family on my Dad, Alan Brown's passing. The lovely flowers and cards were much appreciated. Dad would have been so proud and humbled by the kindness shown to us. The church was such a big part of his life. Thank you once again.

Louise Dunlop

Thank you for the lovely flowers and your prayers sent after my husband's accident

Linda, Robert and Ross McManus

Many thanks for the cards, gifts and flowers received on the occasion of my special birthday.

Agnes Wilkie

I would like to say thank you so much for the lovely church flowers I received following my minor facial surgery. This has healed well and I appreciate all the support.

Love Alison Buick

Just a wee note following my receipt of the Church Flowers on 16th March, they are just beautiful. My sincere thanks to that Sunday's flower contributor and the delivery by Moira Cooper.

George Armstrong

Many thanks for the lovely flowers I received for my birthday, a lovely surprise. Again, Kirkgate showing its warmth and kindness to everyone.

Annette Haxton

What a lovely surprise to receive the church flowers at a time when I was feeling under the weather. They were an unexpected pleasure and provided a constant cheery presence in our home for many days. Thank you so much to all at Kirkgate for thinking of me and uplifting me in such a kind and caring way.

Morag Forsyth

Thank you very much for the beautiful church flowers and the many cards and messages we have received since mum's death. The family appreciates all the support we have received during this sad time in our lives.

Jean, Alastair and all the Rainey family

Just an update on our Grandson Jesper. After 8 weeks and 3 days Jesper is home at last! He was allowed to leave the hospital on Wednesday the 26th March. We are letting the young family get together on their own, no hospital staff around anymore, before planning any visits.

I thank you all for your prayers and good wishes in what was a very difficult time.

God bless you all

Angela Ballschmiede, Germany (Jennifer's sister)



Sponsorship Thanks

Hi! Just a wee note to thank everyone for your brilliant support with my Sahara trek. I survived!



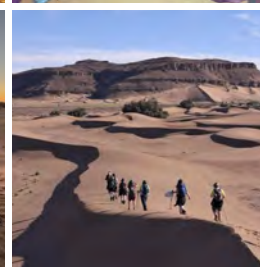
It was an amazing experience which started with thick snow in the Atlas mountains (which I was NOT expecting in my shorts!) to climbing over giant sandunes in the blistering sun! Slept out under the stars on top of a big dune with sunrise yoga in our sleeping bags as too cold to come out and swimming in a cool desert river - a welcome 1st wash in 3 days!

Fought our way through a giant sandstorm on the penultimate day and trekked over dried up river beds & countless sand dunes with the most challenging part of the trip (other than the toilet!), putting tents up in a wild blowing gale with sand swirling everywhere!

So far I've raised £3,750 for the amazing charity, CHAS (Children's hospices across Scotland) of which they are extremely grateful.

Thanks again for your fantastic support.

Alison McCulloch x



Sunday School Corner

Sunday school is growing and lively as usual, so please bear with us! Over the last quarter, one of the lessons we covered was the parable of the sower, which we referred to as the four types of dirt. The children all agreed that it would be difficult for seeds to grow in the rocky soil and among the thorny bushes. Additionally, given how much birds love seeds, those on the path wouldn't stand a chance.

We discussed what the children thought hindered the seeds from growing and why those in the good soil thrived. They shared some wonderful insights, such as the lack of space, rocks disrupting growth, thorns spiking the plants, and seeds being covered by rocks, which prevented sunlight from reaching them. We then talked about the many hindrances we face as children of God.

All children are welcome to join us as we play, learn, and have fun! The finger painted cross was created by the children. We hope some of you will respond to our need for more volunteers. As Sunday school, we will soon begin exploring the faces of Easter.

God bless you!
The Sunday School Team



Congratulations to Dee

I recently published a book titled "Striker Dee, FeDy and the Match".

It focuses on football and features me and Dylan. You can purchase it on Amazon for £8 low quality or directly from Nigel Chikanya for £8 high quality.

Here's a summary of the book: In "Striker Dee, FeDy and the Match,"follow the exciting journey of Dee, the star footballer with dreams as big as the world, and his brother FeDy, the fruit-eating champion, as they navigate the challenges of life in Ardrossan. Join the Sea Snakes team, led by their coach Nigel, as they train hard, play harder, and discover the true power of teamwork, friendship, and family. Get ready for a heart-warming tale filled with laughter, dreams, and the magic of brotherly love on and off the football field.

By Deuel Panashe Chikanya



Huge Thank You

On behalf of all the congregation, a well deserved thank you to the Sunday School children, teachers, craft team and anyone else involved in the presentation of the beautiful gifts presented to everyone on Mothering Sunday. For those at home it was a little dome decorated with a lovely little flower on top and a delicious Ferrero Rocher inside.

We all appreciate the hard work and time that goes into planning these surprise gifts. Once again a huge 'Thank You.' XX



Treasurer's Report

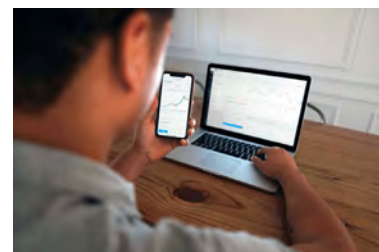
Balances – as at 20 March 2025 were as follows:

General Account - £18,622

Fabric Account - £11,610

Knoxland - £2,764

(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 - February - £3,000

Plate - February - £2,072 – Average £518

Clearly the General Account has fallen significantly since last month – due to the commencement of our payment to the Church of Scotland for Giving to Grow, the installation of the new screens and the monthly cost of Gas and Electricity.

As you will know there are a number of fundraising events planned in the next few months – details elsewhere in the magazine – many thanks to those who are organising these and to you for supporting them. The Daffodil Tea on Saturday 5 April for the kitchen renovation will have a few stalls, including my bric-a-brac stall – please come along and buy something – even if you don't need it!

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 me 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

Life & Work: In the April Edition...

'A Calling Like No Other'

The challenges of rural mission

No Spoilers

Easter Reflection from the Moderator of the General Assembly

Following God's Call

Interview with Steven McLeish, poet, mental health and dyslexia advocate, and new Scotland Head for Leprosy Mission

A Nomadic Ministry

The Joys of Pulpit Supply

'The Hills Are Alive'

The 60th anniversary of The Sound of Music

A Day in the Life

New series focusing on chaplaincy

Regulars

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: Karen Mathers of Prestwick South Parish Church

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



Kirkgate Diary:

APRIL

Thursday 3rd: 10.30am

Midweek Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion

2.30pm

Country Dance Club

Saturday 5th: 10.00-12 noon

Daffodil Tea with various stalls - see page 11

Sunday 6th: 10.45am

Morning Worship - Sacrament of Holy Communion

Monday 7th: 2.00pm

The Guild - Closing Meeting

Afternoon Tea and Memories

Tuesday 8th: 2.00 - 4.00pm

Easter Family Funday - see page 3

Thursday 10th: 7.00pm

Kirk Session Meeting

Sunday 13th: 10.45am

Palm Sunday Worship

Tuesday 15th:

Rag Bag Collection

Thursday 17th: 10.30am

Midweek Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion

Assembly of Daffodil Cross - see page 4

7.00pm

Holy Week Worship - Sacrament of Holy Communion

No Country Dancing

Friday 18th: 7.00pm

Good Friday Worship

Sunday 20th: 10.45am

Easter Morning Worship

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Tea/Coffee Fellowship after morning service

Thursday 24th: 2.00pm

Country Dance Party

Friday 25th: 7.00pm

Fashion Show by The Dressing Room

Sunday 27th: 10.45am

Morning Worship

Material required for 'The Messenger'

Wednesday 30th: 2.00pm

Musical Memories

MAY

Thursday 1st:

No Country Dancing

Sunday 4th: 10.45am

Morning Worship - Sacrament of Holy Communion

Thursday 8th: 10.30am

Midweek Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion

No Country Dancing

Wednesday 14th: 12.30-2.30pm

Pastoral Team

Thursday 15th:

No Country Dancing

Sunday 25th: 10.45am

Morning Worship

Tea/Coffee Fellowship after morning service

Material required for 'The Messenger'

Thursday 22nd: 7.30pm

Country Dancing

Wednesday 28th: 2.00pm

Musical Memories

Thursday 29th: 2.30pm

Country Dancing

Saturday 31st: 2.00-4.30pm

Afternoon Ceilidh for all ages - see page 11

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



Fundraising 2025-26



The first of our fundraising events which took place on Friday 28th was the Quiz and Supper which got us off to a great start raising £480.80. We had a sell out of tickets but unfortunately, for one reason or another, quite a few people were unable to attend. Ron Cooper, as ever, came up with a very varied assortment of questions and was ably assisted by his wife Moira. Thank you to both of them for their hard work and thanks also to the team for taking care of the pie supper and to everyone who provided raffle prizes or helped in any way.



There was a very happy atmosphere in the hall, suggesting everyone had an enjoyable time. The winning team called themselves "Last One Laughing" which you can see below.

May I remind you of the RagBag collection on Tuesday 15th of April. Now is the time to have a clear out of your drawers and cupboards and help raise some more money for the Church. You will be able to bring your bags to Church from next Sunday 6th April.

Please DO NOT include duvets, pillows, cushions, bric-a-brac, toys, books, suitcases or hold-alls.

Our next venture is the Fashion Show by "The Dressing Room" which is on Friday 25th April and tickets for that will be on sale soon.

Once again I thank you all for your support for all of our events.

Phyllis Armstrong

2025

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: Fiddle Concert TBC

Saturday October 25th: Craft Fair

Saturday November 29th: Christmas Fair

Saturday December 6th: Christmas Tree Festival

2026

February: Burns Supper (date to be arranged)



**Winning Team
"Last One Laughing"**



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



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



Kirkgate Parish Church
Chapelwell Street, Saltcoats

Fashion Show

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



Friday 25th April at 7.30pm

Tickets: £5

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

Registered Scottish Charity No. SC023003

The Country Dance Club invites you to an

Afternoon Ceilidh

for all ages



Saturday 31st May 2025

2.00pm – 4.30pm



Live music with Billy and Bruce
in the church hall

Come and join us for an afternoon of dance and music and afternoon tea.
We will have some easy ceilidh dances suitable for all ages including children.
The Country Dance Club will dance some of their favourite dances.
There will be a number of musical items to enjoy.

Tickets: Adults: £5 / Children: £1 / Family: £10



Registered Scottish Charity: SC023003

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 met on Wednesday 12th March to discuss the responses from our recent Pastoral Questionnaire.

The response was very encouraging with a total of 17 new people requesting our attention.

We have assigned new recipients to team members and by the time this goes to print, contact will have been made by your newly assigned pastoral person.

We hope and pray this will be the beginning of new relationships and bonds of friendship.

Plans are in hand for team training in a Dementia Awareness Workshop scheduled for May 14th 12.30-2.30 to inform and support all Team members in our work.

Our thanks to Ruth for researching and organising this event.

As always, thank you for the dedication and time given to our pastoral work by Nigel and all Team members.

Every Blessing,
E. Green and the Pastoral Care Team.

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 07884 957 389 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

Our Easter Coffee & Card morning on 22nd March was a great success, raising £315.25.

It was a lovely friendly chatty time with so many people coming along. Thank you to everyone for your support.

We still have some Easter cards for sale and you'll find them in the hallway. The card display stand is refilled regularly but if you can't find what you're looking for please ask any member of the group and we'll try and make something to suit.

Orders for special personal cards can be taken at any time. The profits from all the cards made and sold at Church by the group go to Church funds so every card you buy adds to the total!!



The Guild

A few of our ladies attended and participated in the World Day of Prayer service in St Mary's on Friday 7th March. This year's program was written by the women of the Cook Islands. The theme/message was "You were made wonderful" - as always an interesting afternoon.

Isabel Beck gave us an insight into how she became a Deaconess which was very interesting on 10th March.

Next was Guilds Together North Ayrshire, Spring Gathering which we hosted on Friday 14th March - about 60 ladies from all the guilds including Arran attended. It took the form of a Songs of Praise and each guild chose a favourite hymn. Thanks to Stuart for playing and keeping us in good voice!! Thanks also to our own ladies who provided the goodies which were enjoyed over the welcome cup of tea.



Who would have thought the outage at Heathrow Airport recently would have affected our guild in Kirkgate. Unfortunately the speaker from the Whiteleys Retreat was on holiday and her plane was cancelled delaying her return in time to come along. The charity did try to get us another speaker but didn't have anyone else available but they are happy to come along later in the year once we discuss our syllabus for 2025/26. We thank Stuart once again for stepping in at a few hours notice with a slide show about 'Ferries of the Northern Isles'.

Our closing meeting for the session is **Monday 7th April** - Afternoon Tea & Memories, we do hope you come along with your photos and perhaps funny stories of times past.

Saturday May 3rd in Kilwinning Abbey Hall is another date to mark in the diary, please read below information about that meeting. You will also read about the Guild Annual Gathering, this year it's being held in Perth. However, as in previous years Kirkgate Guild will be streaming it live for anyone, from any church wishing to join us on **Saturday 13th September**. Further details available nearer the time.

Guilds Together North Ayrshire

Dear Friends in the Guild,

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.

Every blessing

Helen Kerr,
Guilds Together North Ayrshire



Thursday Service

We have had quite a few extra people attending over this past few weeks and it is so nice to see more people attending.

Remember if you find yourself around the church on a Thursday morning pop in at 10.30.

The Thursday Team



Property Report



Firstly can I say a very big thank you to all who have donated so far to our Kitchen Refurbishment Fund, but as you can imagine we have some way to go so don't forget to support our fundraisers over the coming months.

As this goes to print the property group and others are getting ready for our Daffodil Tea on Saturday 5th April 10-12noon.

There will be various stalls - Bric-a-Brac, Baking, Bottle Stall, two Jewellery stalls, Card Stall, two Quizzes are at present on sale and the raffle of a hamper. The church can be open on Friday 4th if stall holders wish to set up early - just give me a shout and I will open the sanctuary where the stalls will be situated otherwise I will be there by 8.30am on the Saturday

All the stalls are looking for donations and will be greatly received, in fact the more the better as we raise more money for a great cause.

Church

We have had the bin area fenced in to hide the bins and I am sure you will agree Gary has done a fabulous job.

A new lock is required on the annex door so that we have two entrances with keys to access the church in the case of an emergency

Manse

We have had the 10-year Electric Performance Certificate completed at the manse

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

Prayer Group

It was nice to see a few extra at our March Prayer Group meeting but still more seats if you wish to join us - every second Sunday in the month after the service.



Spring is a time of new beginnings and seeing the bulbs pop up in the garden is such a lovely thing the colours are so vibrant and flowers standing beautifully tall and straight.

Let's make this spring a time for new beginnings for ourselves as we lift our spirits and renew our faith with the expectation of summer round the corner

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.

Care & Share

This year seems to be flying in! Nights are drawing out, the clocks have changed and we're galloping towards Easter. The weather remains a bit chilly though and our soup pots continue to deliver a bit of warmth.



Around 40 people attend the lunch club each week and we continue to welcome new individuals. We're very grateful to all the support services who join us regularly eg Money Matters, Turning Point, Housing, CAP, Oral Health etc. Their services are very well utilised and much appreciated.

We now have a new venture in association with Neighbourly and The Beith Community Trust. I now collect surplus foodstuffs from Aldi on a Friday morning and this is offered freely to anyone who comes to the lunch club. It's proving very popular and is a great way to support individuals locally. The added bonus is the reduction of food waste.

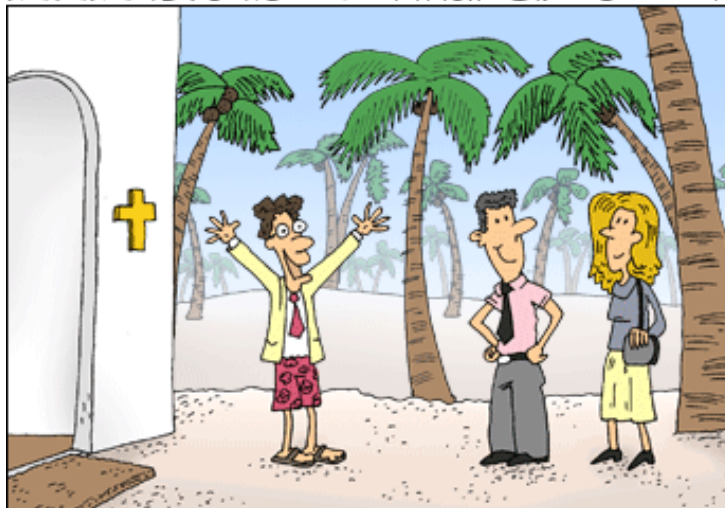
It only remains for me to wish everyone a very Happy Easter. I'm off to contact local supermarkets in an attempt to procure some Easter Eggs.

Love and thanks for all your ongoing support

Pam xx



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ON OUR ISLAND, EVERY SUNDAY IS PALM SUNDAY

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:

[@kirkgatechurch.org.uk](http://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 Kirkgate 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.

Musical Memories

Guest guitarist Ronnie McIntyre from Kilwinning was well received by all when he entertained us last month with a couple of beautiful pieces.

We had an amazing afternoon at our March meeting with a very full attendance. (Come early to get a seat!!)

The singing was tremendous and I think everyone enjoyed the wee Scottish quiz.

We also celebrated the upcoming 100th birthday of one of our regulars. Aileen will celebrate her special birthday on 12th April - she is such an amazing lady.

Our meeting in June will be our fundraiser for Marie Curie and a hamper will be raffled on that day.

Dates for your diary in Kirkgate: April 30th, May 28th, June 25th

**Singalong at South Beach: 9th and 23rd April, 7th and 21st May
All starting at 2p.m.**

Thank you, Mary



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.



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.



Community Event

CUNNINGHAME FLOWER CLUB

Cunninghame Flower Club who used our premises in the past and assisted with a wonderful Flower Festival held here in the former Erskine Church in 1992 are happy to announce that they are celebrating 50 years of flowers, fellowship and fun.

To celebrate this event they are having an afternoon tea and demonstration on Sunday 15th June 2025 in The Waterside Hotel, Seamill at 2.00pm.

Tickets are £25 and available from Sheila Chalmers - ssheatch@aol.com or mobile 07930 919861



Book Review

Why do we sing in Church?
Phillip Magness' Church Music: For the Care of Souls is a refreshing and insightful contribution to the conversation about music in worship.



Drawing from over 30 years as a church musician and missionary, Magness offers a compelling case for the centrality of congregational singing in Christian life. Unlike many works that cater solely to pastors or musicians, this book speaks to all believers, emphasizing that singing is a shared ministry for the care of souls, including its value in evangelism.

Magness roots his argument in Scripture, highlighting over 46 passages that call God's people to sing. He avoids the tired 'worship wars' debate, instead focusing on how music—whether traditional or contemporary—can proclaim Christ's love and foster community. His practical wisdom shines through as he advises on hymn selection, accompaniment, and cultivating a congregation's voice, all while urging leaders to balance theological depth with musical accessibility.

The book's strength lies in its pastoral tone and broad appeal. Magness encourages congregations to embrace their unique talents and traditions, urging pastors to think musically and musicians to think theologically. While grounded in his Lutheran context, his insights transcend denomination, making it valuable for any Christian community seeking to enrich worship.

The book is presented beautifully as a small hardback. At 280 pages, it is concise yet substantial, blending personal anecdotes with biblical exegesis. Church Music is a call to reclaim singing as a profound testimony of faith—a needed reminder in an age of distraction. For anyone involved in worship, it's a wise and inspiring guide.

Hardback, 280 pages, £16.99

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Church Rotas



CHURCH FLOWERS VACANT DATE 16 MARCH

	DONATED BY	DELIVERY
6 April	M. Forsyth	J. Hay
13 April	L. McDougall	P. Martin
20 April	J. Hay	E. Breakenridge
27 April	Susan Gill	M. Cassidy
4 May	W. Sneider	C. Ewing
11 May	P. Martin	D. MacLeod

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

6 April	E. McInnes	D. MacLeod	E. Howie
13 April	J. Rainey	B. McWilliam	M. Hunter
20 April	J. Stewart	P. Martin	S. Gill
27 April	M. Cooper	E. Green	L. McDougall
4 May	E. McInnes	P. Armstrong	G. Armstrong
11 May	J. Rainey	F. Liddell	B. McCracken



MONTHLY TEA ROTA

	Organisers
20 April	Agnes Wilkie
25 May	Agnes Wilkie
29 June	Vivien Bruce
27 July	Maureen Hunter
31 Aug	Eunice McInnes
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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