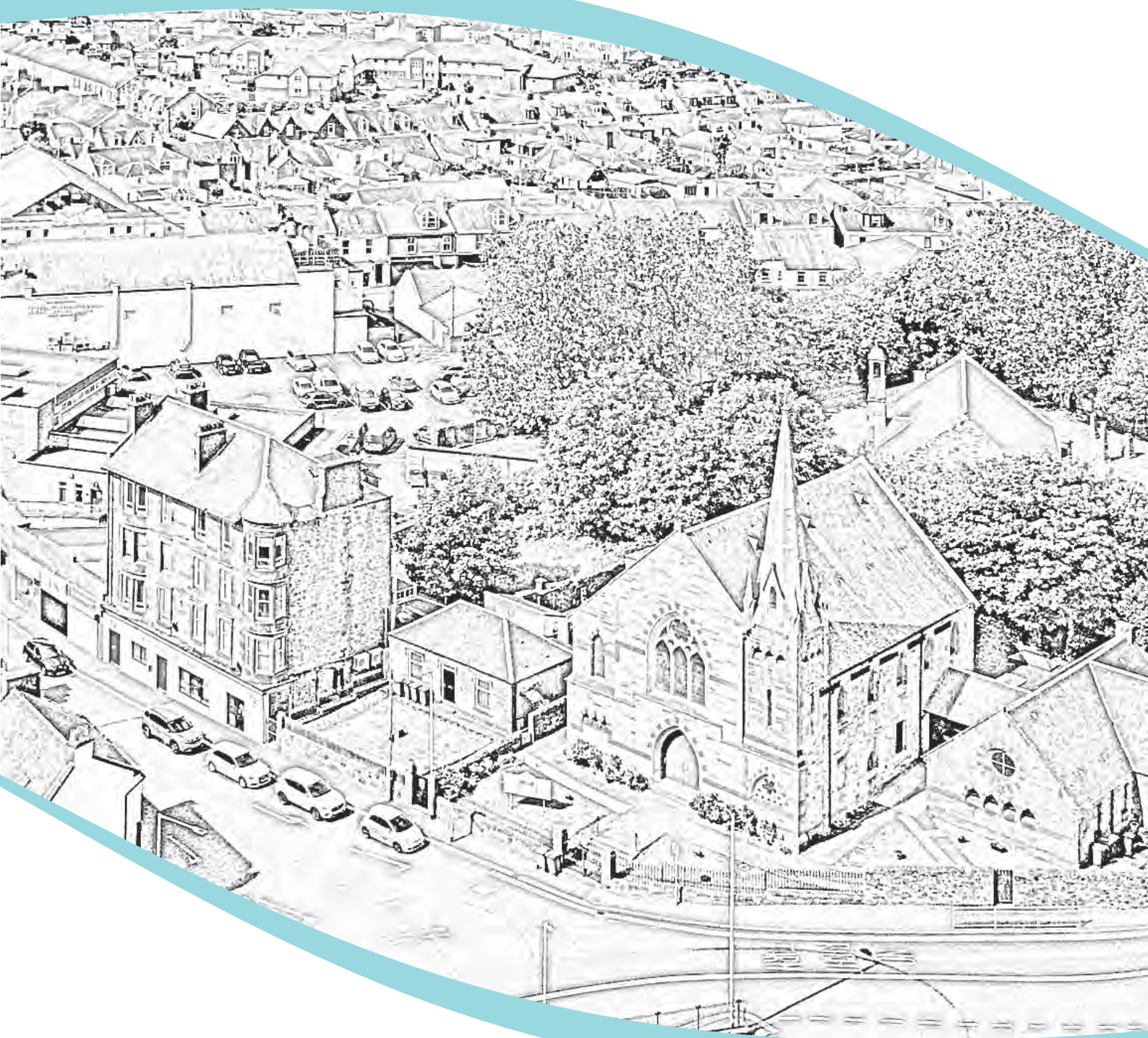


Ardrossan & Saltcoats

KirkgateMessenger

PARISH CHURCH

May 2025



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

www.kirkgatechurch.org.uk

Message from our Minister

Dear Kirkgate Family,

As I sit down to write this article, I am thankful for the privilege I've had to serve behind the scenes at CHANA. This made me think and reflect on how key the things we do behind the scenes. For me there was a quiet joy in knowing that many of the unseen efforts—those moments of preparation and doing what is never seen, things that relate to our Christian walk, prayer, and service—are often felt more than they are seen. It's a reminder that some of the most profound work happens away from the spotlight, in the hidden places where faith is nurtured, and hearts are quietly transformed.

This season, as we prepare to celebrate Ascension Day in May—just after the joyful echoes of Easter—I find myself pondering what Jesus was doing during those days between His resurrection and His ascension. We know from the gospel accounts that He appeared to His disciples, offering peace and reassurance, but I wonder: besides the words recorded for us, what else might He have been saying? What was on His heart as He prepared to return to the Father? And what is He saying to us now in 2025, in our private spaces, in our quiet moments of prayer and reflection?

Behind the scenes, there was a lot going on. Jesus was preparing His followers for a mission that would extend beyond His earthly presence. He was strengthening their faith, reminding them of His love, and commissioning them to carry His message into the world. It's easy to forget that even in those final moments before His departure, Jesus was rooted in love, patience, and hope—values we are called to embody in our daily lives. The words of John,

in **John 21:25** Jesus did many other things as well. If every one of them were written down, I suppose that even the whole world would not have room for the books that would be written.



As we reflect on this sacred season, I invite you to consider your own behind-the-scenes moments. What do you do in the quiet spaces of your life? Perhaps it's prayer, acts of kindness, or simply being present for someone in need. These unseen acts are often the most powerful, shaping us and those around us in ways that are not immediately visible.

Let us remember that our faith journey is not only about the grand moments—like Easter or Ascension—but also about the everyday, behind-the-scenes acts of love and devotion. Just as Jesus was at work behind the scenes, inspiring and preparing His disciples, so too are we called to serve quietly, faithfully, and with love.

May this season inspire us to embrace the hidden moments of our lives, knowing that God is always at work behind the scenes, weaving His grace into the fabric of our everyday existence. And in doing so, may our lives reflect the love, patience, and hope that Jesus exemplified—both in the spotlight and in the quiet shadows.

***With love and blessings,
Nigel Chikanya***

Rev Tichaona Nigel Chikanya

Tel: 01294 683379 Mobile: 07566 278132

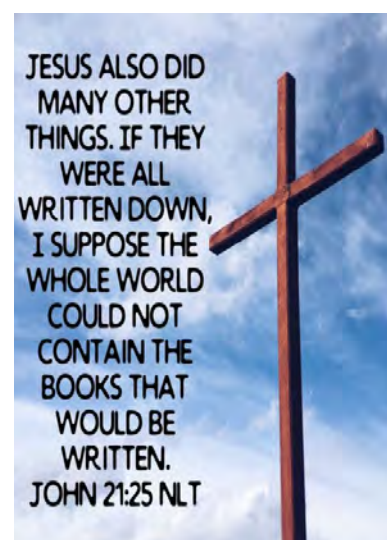
Email: NChikanya@churchofscotland.org.uk

Volunteer in Training

Opposite is our new volunteer at CHANA undertaking training in washing up COS style!

It's going to take a while before he's competent but in the meantime he's almost qualified in this first stage in becoming a good washer-up!!

Pam



From our Probationer: Katrona Templeton

Hi all,

While spring cleaning my bookshelves, I stumbled upon several copies of the Bible, each with its unique charm! My most expensive one is a beautiful leather-bound King James Version, with lovely gold-gilt edges. I also found a small red Bible from the Gideon Society that I received back in school. There's a cherished Bible from my christening and one that features intriguing stereograms—picture puzzles that come to life when viewed just right. One delightful surprise was a copy in Klingon, which always makes me smile despite my inability to read it! And let's not forget my whimsical LEGO Bibles, showcasing scenes crafted with those colourful bricks. The good news bible I received when I moved from Sunday School to Bible Class. While each of these books holds special memories for me, most are in near-perfect condition, having only been opened a handful of times. They sit there on the shelf, a prized collection, gathering dust.

Yet my tatty Bible, with its creased pages and well-worn corners, is truly special to me. It's filled with highlights and notes that capture the moments of my life, the joy and the tears alike. While some may treasure a pristine edition, this cherished, tatty Bible holds priceless meaning and joy for me. It always opens to my favourite passages, making it a

constant source of inspiration and comfort.

Hebrews 4:12 wonderfully tells us that *"the word of God is alive and active, sharper than any double-edged sword."* Embracing this extraordinary wisdom can lead to meaningful life transformation and growth.

How often do you reach for your Bible? If your tatty Bible has gathered dust, it might signal that you are missing God's incredible guidance. Explore the Scriptures and discover the joy, wisdom, and strength waiting for you! The Scriptures are a precious gift from God; they are alive and vibrant, ready to instruct, guide, and nourish our souls. May your Bibles not be neglected but instead become worn from use, marked with notes, folded pages, and prayers whispered over their verses.

God speaks to us through His Word and waits for us to listen. May we dust off our Bibles and find within them the renewal and strength our souls desperately need.

May the Lord bless you and draw you closer to Him through His Word.

Blessings, Katrona



Katrona's Easter Fun Day



On Tuesday 8th of April, we organized an Easter fun day for the children. The activities included Easter egg decorating, stone painting, making biscuit tombs, Easter bingo, and an Easter scavenger hunt. Ten kids attended, and everyone had a great time. Afterwards, we came together for a sensory agape meal, where we experienced the Eucharist using all of our senses. **Katrona**

Church Register

FUNERALS:

"In my Father's house are many mansions"

We record the death of Mr William Marroni, Springvale Court, Saltcoats. This will be a Private Cremation and a Memorial Service will be held in Kirkgate at 10.00am on Monday 2nd June 2025 to which you are all welcome.



NEW MEMBERS:

"We are members one of another"
By Profession of Faith

By Transfer Certificate

Mrs Anne Dailly, Ardrossan
Mrs Isobel Diamond, Saltcoats

Keswick Ayrshire

We'd love you to join us as we gather to worship, pray and learn together as we hear from God at Keswick Ayrshire 2025.

This is not a ticketed event but we recommend you turn up early for a seat.

Doors open 6.30pm - Time 7.30pm- 9.30pm



From the Editor

Material for the June issue to be in by Sunday 31st May at the latest please and it should contain information and dates through to July.

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



Congratulations

Congratulations and best wishes along with flowers and cards were sent from the Kirk Session and Congregation to Mrs Aileen Aitken, Montgomerie Court, Saltcoats on the occasion of her 100th Birthday on 12th April 2025.



Aileen enjoyed celebrating with friends and family at Chechini's and we send her every blessing for her continued good health and enjoyment of life.

QUOTE ON LONGEVITY

The various features and aspects of human life, such as longevity, good health, success, happiness, and so forth, which we consider desirable, are all dependent on kindness and a good heart.

Dalai Lama

Kirk Session

The Kirk Session met on Thursday 10th March, and were pleased to welcome another new Elder who has joined us.



We were absolutely delighted that the Daffodil Tea in April was so well supported, and that it raised such a great total. We had 209 rag bags uplifted on 15th April, which will add to our fundraising effort. We plan to use most of the funds raised this year towards our new kitchen, so please let us know if you have any good ideas.

We will celebrate Communion on Sunday 4th May and Thursday 8th May.

The Annual Stated Meeting of the congregation will be held immediately after the morning service on Sunday 11th May, so please try to stay for that meeting.

Christian Aid Week runs from 11th to 27th May, and envelopes for your donations will be available nearer that week. We will be having a lunch with bread, cheese and grapes on Sunday 18th May, and we hope that most of you will stay for that. The idea is that you donate the cost of your lunch to Christian Aid.

Mary Stewart has been our Presbytery Elder for the past year and has agreed to continue in this role. Mary keeps us informed about matters of interest in the presbytery.

In addition to his duties as Interim Moderator at St. Marnock's Church in Kilmarnock Nigel is also undertaking further studies, with the aim of obtaining a Doctor of Ministry. This will take place over a period of 3 years, and will involve Nigel attending courses, the first of which is in Edinburgh in June. We wish Nigel courage and wisdom as he undertakes this in addition to his normal duties.

Vivien Bruce, Session Clerk

Prayer Page

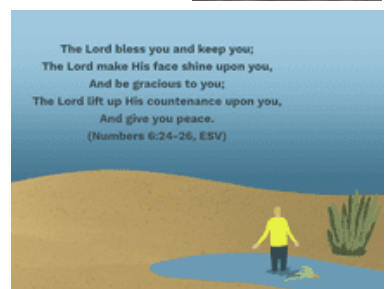
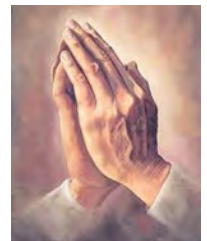
Contributed by Alison Buick

FOR HEALING

Loving God

When people who were ill came to Jesus they expected to be made whole, now with all our pains and anxieties we pray for the blessing of your touch. Our hearts are heavy also with the handicaps and sufferings of others, we pray for them too.

Forgive us for inflicting wounds and diseases on ourselves and on each other by poverty, careless accident, deliberate risk and through the poisons we eat, drink and breathe. Give us strength to break harming habits and commitments to cleanse the earth of pollution. And when our sickness or the earth's seem too much for our weakness remind us that your grace is all we need.



Loving God

We praise you for the gift of healing through nurses, doctors and all who minister to the ill in home, surgery and clinic, hospital ward and theatre. And especially we rejoice that in the Church where your word is heard and obeyed you give new life for old. The praise will be loudest when we meet the needs of those who are so poor that they cannot speak for themselves, people who are chronically sick, mentally or physically handicapped old and frail, giving them the priority in our communities they have in your kingdom. Then there will be a health and wholeness about our life together, which will unite our praise and theirs so that once more, on earth Christ will be glorified.

AMEN

(Taken from 'SAY ONE FOR ME' prayers by Tony Burnham and Graham Cook)

Letters of Appreciation

Thank you to everyone at Kirkgate and especially to Nigel and the Pastoral Care team for all of your prayers, kind wishes, phone calls, emails, card and beautiful flowers, during my recent period of ill health. You lifted my spirits enormously and I am so grateful to God for his amazing love shown through the actions of my church family in Kirkgate.

Ruth McMartin

A huge thank you to the Pastoral Care team and to the lovely lady who delivered the beautiful flowers recently. I was bowled over and taken by surprise but absolutely delighted. It is such a pleasure to be part of such a happy church with a caring congregation.

The flowers are gorgeous.

Thank you all.

Noreena Elwell

I would like to thank everyone in Kirkgate for the card and flowers received on my 90th birthday in February. They were very much appreciated and I am grateful to be remembered. Thanks also to Jean and Moira for visiting and for taking the photograph which was printed in the March magazine.

Every Blessing

Anna Donnan

Thank you for the lovely flowers I received recently.

They were much appreciated,

Wilma Hawthorn.



A huge thank you to all at Kirkgate for the flowers, gifts and cards I received on my 100th birthday. Also, thanks to Musical Memories for the surprise celebration, complete with cake and a card with lots of signatures. The icing on the cake was a surprise visit from Nigel and the two boys!

All much appreciated.

Aileen Aitken

Many thanks to all for the kind thoughts and the lovely flowers I received following the death of my longtime friend.

Chrissie Baillie

I would like to say thanks for the lovely flowers I received on Easter Sunday, also thanks to Elizabeth Breakenridge for delivering them to me.

I would also extend my thanks to Susan Gill for the lovely prayer shawl she knitted for my friend.

Roseann McLean

Life & Work: In the May Edition...

General Assembly 2025

Interview with the Moderator-Designate,

the Rev Rosie Frew

Reports to the Assembly

Assembly Timetable

'We Are All Connected'

Christian Aid Week

Honorary Glaswegians

WW2 bonds between Guernsey and Glasgow

Hope for the Future

Touching Lives in Scotland's Poorest Places

A Day in the Life

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



General Assembly 2025

The 2025 General Assembly will take place from Saturday, 17 May to Thursday 22 May 2025, at the Assembly Hall on the Mound, Edinburgh. The proceedings will also be made available to watch online. Visit the General Assembly 2025 page to find out more about this year's assembly.



As the Church continues to navigate key issues and initiatives, the upcoming 2025 Church of Scotland General Assembly will provide another opportunity for members to shape the future direction of its mission and ministry.

Lord High Commissioner:

His Majesty The King has appointed Lady Elish Angiolini, LT DBE PC KC FRSE, as his personal representative to the 2025 General Assembly. Lady Elish was Scotland's first female Lord Advocate and the first female Lord Clerk Register of Scotland. Lady Elish will address the Assembly at its opening and closing sessions, and undertake a round of official visits in Scotland, usually to Church and social care projects.



Christian Aid Week, 11-17th May 2025

As Christians, we're called to reflect God's love and kindness in all that we do. Whether in our families, communities or in the wider world, our faith is rooted in acts of compassion and grace.



The Bible repeatedly reminds us that love isn't just a feeling but an action -one that calls us to serve, forgive and uplift others. At Christian Aid, we believe in putting our love and faith into action by standing with those in need, just as Jesus taught.

Love and kindness are more than just words -they're ways of living that we must intentionally nurture. As we reflect on these verses, let us ask God to help us be more loving in our actions, words and thoughts. Whether through small acts of kindness, generosity or patience, we can make a difference in the world, one person at a time.

What the Bible says about compassion and helping others:

Galatians 6:9

'So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.'

Matthew 25:35

'For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me.'

Isaiah 58:10

'...If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday.'

Proverbs 19:17

'Whoever is kind to the poor lends to the Lord, and will be repaid in full.'

Hebrews 13:16

'Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.'

Proverbs 3:27

'Do not withhold good from those to whom it is due, when it is in your power to do it.'

Ephesians 2:10

'For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life.'



Treasurer's Report

Balances – as at 20 April 2025 were as follows:

General Account - £20,062

Fabric Account - £13,430

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 – March - £3,403

Plate – March - £2,267 - Average £453

The recent Quiz Night raised a fantastic £481 followed by the Daffodil Tea with a marvellous £1,478. Therefore £1,959 has been paid into the Fabric Account for the Kitchen renovation. Many thanks to all who contributed.

The Friday Lunch Club Chana have contributed £250 to church funds.

The retiring collection at the recent funeral of Bessie Fry raised £406 for the church - many thanks to the family for giving to the church and to all who contributed.

The final accounts for 2024 have been received from the accountant. The Independent Examiner has approved the accounts and they have now been sent to the Presbytery for their approval. This process can take a few months - once Presbytery approval is received the accounts will be sent to OSCR, the Charity Regulator. The congregation will have an opportunity to look at an extract version of the accounts at the ASM on Sunday 11th May and ask questions. Anyone wishing a full copy of the accounts should let me know - I can provide them online or in print.

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

Saltcoats Christmas Carnival 2025



I know that this year seems to be flying in but this is ridiculous!!

Just an advance notice of the Christmas Carnival which will be on Sunday 23 November.

Final details have still to be agreed but basically we will be providing facilities for 2 Santas, a children's Magic Show and a face painting studio. We will require a number of volunteers to supervise these activities so please try to keep that date free. Thanks again to all who helped last year – we look forward to seeing you again this year.

John Stewart/Margaret Cassidy

Kirkgate Diary:

MAY

Thursday 1st: 10.30am

Midweek Service
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

Sunday 11th: 10.45am

Morning Worship
Annual Stated Meeting afterwards
No Prayer Group Meeting

Sunday 11th- 17th: Christian Aid Week

Wednesday 14th: 12.30-2.30pm

Pastoral Team

Thursday 15th: 10.30am

Midweek Service
No Country Dancing

Sunday 18th: 10.45am

Morning Worship
Christian Aid Lunch afterwards

Wednesday 21st: 7.30-9.30pm

Country Dance Branch Meeting

Thursday 22nd: 10.30am

Midweek Service

7.30pm

Country Dancing

Sunday 25th: 10.45am

Morning Worship
Tea/Coffee Fellowship after morning service
Material required for 'The Messenger'

Wednesday 28th: 2.00pm

Musical Memories

Thursday 29th: 10.30am

Midweek Service

2.30pm

Country Dancing

Saturday 31st: 2.00-4.30pm

Afternoon Ceilidh for all ages - see page 11

JUNE

Sunday 1st: 10.45am

Morning Worship

Thursday 5th: 10.30am

Midweek Service

7.00pm

Kirk Session Meeting

Friday 6th: 2.00pm

Ayrshire Guilds Together - Ardrossan Parish Church

Monday 9th: 2.00pm

Kirkgate Guild - Syllabus Discussion

Thursday 12th: 10.30am

Midweek Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 15th: 10.45am

Morning Worship - Sacrament of Holy Communion

Wednesday 25th: 2.00pm

Musical Memories
Fundraising for Marie Curie

Sunday 29th: 10.45am

Morning Worship
Tea/Coffee Fellowship after morning service
Material required for 'The Messenger'

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

Thanks for the great response to the RagBag collection on Tuesday 15th April. An amazing 209 bags were uplifted and we now await the total raised from them.



On Friday 25th of April we hosted another very successful fashion show. Jennifer, as usual, was very entertaining and the models worked extremely hard to display all of the outfits that they wore so a huge thank you to Nikita, Jean, Pam and Eunice The total raised on the night was £519.81 and if you buy anything from The Dressing Room in the next 2 weeks and say you are from Kirkgate Church, Jennifer will donate 10% of the sales to our Church. Remember to say "Kirkgate " as she is supporting several other charities. Thank you and all your friends for your continued support.

The next event on Saturday 31st May is being organised by the Country Dance Club - an Afternoon Ceilidh with live music, demonstrations and afternoon tea. Please read the poster on the next page. In Elizabeth's absence Phyllis has tickets which are now on sale.

Next June 28th and another Saturday afternoon of entertainment in the form of Afternoon Cream Tea and Beetle Drive. Tickets for this are £6 and will be on sale nearer the time.

As we all take a wee break over the summer we can still look forward to the next round of fundraising events starting in September. More information nearer the time on all of them.

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

Phyllis Armstrong

2025

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)

Ardrossan & Saltcoats
Kirkgate
PARISH CHURCH

BEETLE DRIVE and Cream Tea

Sat 28th June

from 2pm

Tickets: £6



Chapelwell Street, Saltcoats

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

**PUT THIS
on YOUR
CALENDAR!**





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

Daffodil Tea

What a wonderful effort on Saturday 9th April when £1478 was raised for the kitchen renovation. The Daffodil Tea grew arms and legs and turned into a mini spring fair with two jewellery stalls, bric-a-brac, bottle and bakery stalls.

Many thanks to all who donated or helped in any way.

The cute rabbit's birthday was 6th May and was won by Gael Meney, Ardrossan and the hamper was won by Christine Ewing, Ardrossan



Kirkgate Pastoral Care



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

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 07884 957 389 or email smayg@talktalk.net.

Susan Gill

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.



The Craft Team

The Craft Group are still meeting every Tuesday from 1.00pm - 4.00pm.

We are happy that our newest members are settling in so well and that their handmade cards are now on sale among the rest on the stands in the hallway. It's always great to have new ideas and more variety for you to choose from.



We are planning to stop for a break in July and August but are happy to take orders for any personal cards for the next few weeks.

Your continued custom is amazing and means that we have been able to donate £600 at the end of April to Church funds.

Thank you all for your support.

Musical Memories

The June afternoon will be our fundraiser for Marie Curie and there will be a hamper to raffle on the day.



Dates for your Diary in Kirkgate: All start at 2.00pm
May 28th, June 25th and July 30th

Singalong at South Beach House: All start at 2.00pm
7th and 21st May, 4th and 18th June and 9th and 23rd July

Mary



The Guild



Our closing meeting for the session was on Monday 7th April, we had 26 attend and we enjoyed an afternoon tea, stories and photographs which brought back many memories. Many thanks to Fiona and the bakers for providing the goodies.

We are having a syllabus discussion on Monday 9th June at 2.00pm when we hope as many of you will attend to help us plan for the session 2025/26 - please mark that date in your diary.

Please note that the venue has been changed for The Guilds Together Ayrshire's Summer Gathering on Friday 6th June. Instead of Shiskine Church, Arran it will now be held at 2.00pm in Ardrossan Parish Church, Stanley Road, Ardrossan

Before those two dates, a very important meeting is on **Saturday May 3rd in Kilwinning Abbey Hall**. Please read below information about that meeting. The united name will then be known as **"Guilds Together Ayrshire"** 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



Guild Malawi Appeal

Dear Friends,

Karen, our General Secretary, has had a request from Monicah from Malawi whom we met last September. Karen had asked her if there were any items that those visiting Malawi in August could take out.

She asks if possible, could she have **ballpoint pens, ladies pants, small bags for carrying things and sports equipment**.

Sorry this is short notice but if any of your Guilds could supply a few things please bring them to the meeting on 3rd May.

Kind regards, Mary Ford

P.S. Since such short notice for the above appeal, the date could be extended to the following week Sunday 10th as there will be folk going to the General Assembly which starts on 17th May and they could transport any further donations to Edinburgh where Karen could pick them up.

Thursday Service

The Thursday Service has been well attended recently and it nice to see some new faces pop along and then join us for coffee afterwards.

The Thursday Team



Property Report

Please can we ask that you do not flush wipes down the toilets and put them in the bins provided.



Once again the toilets have been blocked by flushing wipes down them. Sadly this costs us £120.00 per visit and these visits can be 4 or 5 times a year so it is costly.

If you are a keyholder can you in future as you leave flush all the toilets before locking up.

Thank you, Margaret.

Church

Can I once again say a great big thank you to those who helped raise nearly £1500 at the daffodil tea. It was a great success, some photos on page 7.

Church/Manse

Not a lot has happened since the last report due to everyone being busy over the Easter period.

We do have the attestation of the property records for the church and manse and these are in order ready to be checked over.

Margaret Cassidy, Property Convenor

Prayer Group

The Prayer Group will be cancelled in May due to the ASM after morning worship. However we will meet again in June.



Whilst there is no meeting please continue to pray for all our congregation especially those we do not see very often or those who are ill, remember to pray for our world at these sad times of conflict and war.

Margaret Cassidy, Prayer Leader

Health & Safety Report

Churches and Church Halls are often a vital focal point for congregations and the local community. Our buildings are welcoming, they are also spiritual places and require to be as safe as possible for the people who use them.

The Trustees (Elders) hold the overall responsibility in ensuring that Kirkgate meets its obligations with regard to all aspects of Health & Safety. Risk assessments (General Health & Safety, Fire Prevention and Security) are carried out per annum or as required covering both the internal and external areas of the building and its grounds.

Our aim is to keep everyone safe and if you are aware of any hazard or an item or area that is likely to cause injury to someone then please report the problem to Mima McSwan or Margaret Cassidy.

You may or may not have heard of Martyn's Law – this is a Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill.

It is UK wide legislation that places a requirement on those responsible for certain publicly accessible

locations to consider threat from terrorism and implement appropriate and proportionate mitigation measures.

The Church of Scotland and other places of worship have not been identified as a specific risk however the aim of the legislation is to raise the vigilance around all publicly accessible areas by making them less likely to become easily targeted by those who enter with malicious intent or wish to cause harm.

We would ask that all who enter our building remain vigilant and if you have any doubts no matter how small please raise the point with either myself or any Office Bearer.

Appropriate paperwork on how we deal with any irregularity is available and will be shared among the church groups with a copy placed in the Vestry.

Can I please remind you to, if it possible, always close the side entrance door as you leave.

Mima McSwan

A Poem to Share

The Old Days

We met and married a long time ago
We worked for long hours when wages were low
No TV, no wireless, no bath, times were hard
Just a cold water tap and a walk in the yard.

No holidays abroad, no carpets on floors
We had coal on the fire and we didn't lock doors
Our children arrive, no pill in those days
and we brought them up without State aid.

They were safe going out to play in the park
And old folk could go for a walk in the dark
No Valium, no drugs and no LSD
We cured all our ills with a nice cup of tea.

No vandals, no muggings, there was nothing to rob
We felt we were rich with a couple of bob
People were happier in those far off days
Kinder and caring in so many ways

Milkmen and paperboys would whistle and sing
A night at the pictures was our one mad fling
We all got our share of troubles and strife
But we just had to face it, the pattern of life

Now I'm alone I look back on the years
I don't think of the bad times, the trouble and tears
I remember the blessings, our home and our love
And that we shared them together, I thank God above.

Anonymous

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(See Genesis 19:1-29)

02-25-2003

SOMETIMES I MISS THE OLD TESTAMENT DAYS
WHEN WE COULD SMITE THEM FOR THAT KIND
OF BEHAVIOR

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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.org.uk](http://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](http://www.facebook.com/Kirkgatechurch)

A link to our Sunday Service is
usually published around 10.30am
on Sunday mornings on Facebook.
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:

Due to low usage we have
withdrawn the telephone service
for the time being. Audio versions
of our services are still available as
podcasts as described above.

*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 payable in January.*

Care & Share



I hope everyone had a very happy Easter with plenty of chocolate! A huge thank you to Morrison's and 'Link Up' for the donation of Easter eggs for the lunch club. There were many smiling faces leaving the hall on Good Friday. We were also able to offer a Palm Cross to everyone who attended on the Friday before Palm Sunday.



We've had a busy month with around 40 people enjoying lunch on Fridays. Most weeks we're now offering a second choice of soup. One week we had an added choice of pie and beans after we were given the surplus from the quiz night. Thanks go to the fund raising team for that.

The Aldi donations have been very popular. I might have to put out an appeal for carrier bags for people to take it away.

Following an appeal round the local churches we've been blessed with several new volunteers some of whom have their food hygiene qualification so are able to help with the cooking. This is a big bonus as we had lost some of our cooks recently. However we are always happy to welcome anyone else who would like to help in whatever capacity. The more the merrier!! As this goes to print we are looking forward to a visit from the team from YWAM. More about that next month.

As ever, thank you for your interest and support

With love from Pam and all the Team xx



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.

Argyle Community Shop

A belated Happy Easter. Hopefully you have all been enjoying some chocolate eggs.



The shop is as busy as ever. Some of the volunteers were involved with the Easter Egg Hunt/Fun Day in the Argyle Centre. It was very well attended and the children all left with a large chocolate egg.

Food donations were uplifted from Morrisons recently. These have all been checked and sorted and are making their way on to the shelves in the shop. Thank you to all who have helped in this way.

Money Matters and CAP continue to offer regular help and advice on a Wednesday to anyone in need. Dental Health and Smoking Cessation advice are also available. The Shop is also able to help combat Period Poverty by offering free sanitary products.

The gardeners have been busy around the Argyle Centre. New planters have been built and are now being filled with seeds etc which will hopefully result in more fresh produce being offered in the shop.

Thanks once again for your continuing support

From All at the Shop

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

Bible Word Search: CROSS, TOMB, & RESURRECTION

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

AROSE	ASCENSION	CROSS
CRUCIFIXION	DISCIPLES	EASTER
FORGIVENESS	HEAVEN	JESUS
MAGDALENE	NICODEMUS	REDEMPTION
RESURRECTION	ROMANS	SALVATION
SINS	THORNS	TOMB

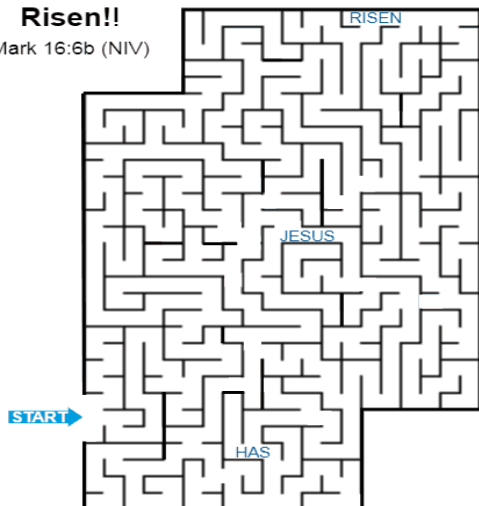
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Jesus Has Risen Word Maze

Find your way from the start of the maze and connect the words from the answer phrase in their correct order.

Jesus Has Risen!!
Mark 16:6b (NIV)



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Church Rotas



CHURCH FLOWERS

VACANT DATES: 2 FEBRUARY, 2 MARCH 2026

	DONATED BY	DELIVERY
4 May	W. Sneider	C. Ewing
11 May	P. Martin	D. MacLeod
18 May	E. Green	M. Hunter
25 May	L. Jack	E. Green
1 June	I. Smith	M. Cooper
8 June	E. McMahon	E. McInnes

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

4 May	E. McInnes	P. Armstrong	G. Armstrong
11 May	J. Rainey	F. Liddell	B. McCracken
18 May	M. Cooper	D. MacLeod	E. Howie
25 May	J. Stewart	B. McWilliam	B. McCracken
1 June	E. McInnes	P. Martin	L. McDougall
8 June	J. Rainey	E. Green	S. Gill



MONTHLY TEA ROTA

	Organisers
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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6-8 Central Avenue, Ardrossan

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