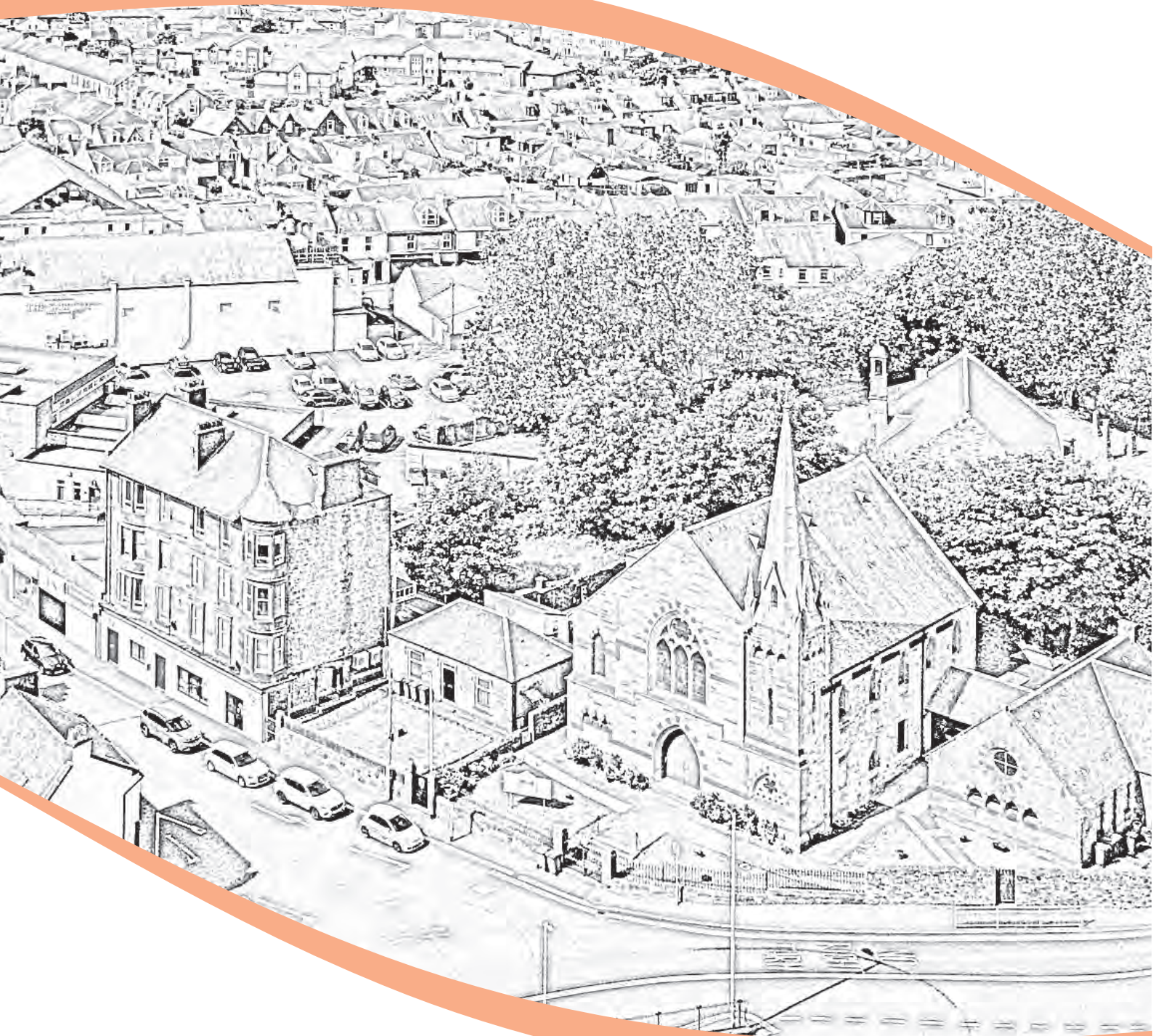


Ardrossan & Saltcoats

KirkgateMessenger

PARISH CHURCH

June 2025



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

www.kirkgatechurch.org.uk

Message from our Minister

Dear Kirkgate Family

As I sit to finalise this letter, the General Assembly of our church for 2025 has just been closed. The theme this year was 'Extravagant Love' based on Ephesians 3:18 which says, ***"so that you, together with all God's people, may have the power to understand how broad and long, how high and deep, is Christ's love."*** The General Assembly raised some vital issues that challenge us to reflect and renew our faith. Among these were the urgent need for greater unity within the church, especially in a time of societal division - using the words of one Convenor, *"I am absolutely convinced there are better and brighter days ahead for our church. But we will only see them if we get up and get going with what God has called us to do."* (Tommy Macneil)

As we approach Pentecost Sunday in June, a celebration of the Holy Spirit's power and presence among us, I want to share some reflections that resonate deeply with our journey of faith.

Have you ever wondered why many in the world seem to thrive without acknowledging God? We see men and women driven by the desire for success - filled with self-importance, arrogance, and pride. They lie, cheat, and deceive their way up the prosperity ladder, often getting away with it. It's a stark reminder of the brokenness and emptiness that can come from turning away from God's truth.

Meanwhile, many Christians find themselves struggling in their walk with Christ. They face fears, doubts, temptations, and wounds. They wrestle with insecurities and anxieties, feeling trapped in a cycle of guilt and inadequacy. Some live with the belief that God is waiting to punish them, rather than embracing His grace and love.

In Psalm 73, we meet a man who openly shares his struggles - his fears and doubts - yet he does not remain there. Instead, he gets real with God, honest about his feelings, and in doing so, he finds renewal. This psalm reminds us that even in our darkest moments, God's goodness remains present, waiting to be revealed.

The psalmist begins with a powerful declaration: ***"Surely God is good!"*** Yet, he admits to moments when darkness clouded his vision - when he nearly lost his foothold, feeling distant from God's love. It was a ***"dark night of the soul,"*** where the reality of a shadow between him and God made Him seem

hidden. But through honest prayer and reflection, he moves from despair to renewal, from discouragement to hope.



In his despair, suddenly his heart is strangely warmed. He is no longer worried about the things of this world but now enters a new dimension in prayer. He comes into the nearer presence of God, declaring, ***"But as for me, it is good to be near God."*** What a dramatic change! From being on the slippery slope of doubt, fear, and intense despair, he now realizes that God has him by the hand: ***"You hold me by my right hand... you guide me with your counsel and afterward you will take me into glory."***

For the Psalmist, God became bigger than all his problems!

Bigger than all my problems, Bigger than all my fears; God is bigger than any mountain that I can or cannot see. Bigger than all my questions, Bigger than anything; God is bigger than any mountain that I can or cannot see. (Words from a Christian song)

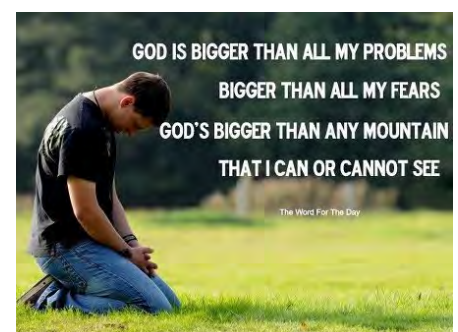
Here is comfort for the tried and tempted Christian: You are continually on His mind; yes, the Lord has you on His heart. But we must also get real with Jesus and allow Him to be on our mind and heart continually. Let Jesus be your refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble!

As we prepare to celebrate Pentecost - when the Spirit was poured out upon the disciples - we are reminded that the Spirit continues to be at work today, guiding us through our struggles and inspiring hope in our hearts.

May this Pentecost be a time when we open ourselves anew to the Holy Spirit's presence, trusting in God's goodness even in challenging times, and embracing the renewal and hope that come from Him.

Your friend and minister,
Nigel

**Rev Tichaona
Nigel Chikanya**
Tel: 01294 683379
Mobile:
07566 278132



From our Probationer: Katrona Templeton

Hello

I'm filled with gratitude as I reflect on my recent experiences at the Scottish Deaf Church conference and the inspiring General Assembly centered around the theme of extravagant love. The incredible communities I've met, especially the Kirkgate Church family, truly uplift me. We are a vibrant church family, connected in love and empowered by our shared faith and God's grace. I'm genuinely excited about the journey ahead and eager to strengthen the wonderful bonds we are creating together.

Community is a vibrant tapestry of togetherness, where we uplift one another, share our joys, and inspire each other. Here, we truly reflect Christ's love, united in purpose, ready to forgive as we've been forgiven, and eager to serve as He inspires us. Together, we can make a meaningful difference.

The Apostle Paul inspires us in Romans 12:10, urging us to ***"Be devoted to one another in love. Honour one another above yourselves."*** This profound call to devotion is essential to our faith. By choosing love and prioritising the well-being of others, we beautifully embody the heart of God. Let's embrace this wonderful opportunity to uplift each other and genuinely make a difference.

As we embark on this journey together, let's embrace the opportunity to uplift someone today. How can we share extravagant love with those who might feel unnoticed? Together, as a church, let's strengthen our commitment to serving each other and our broader community with joy and enthusiasm.

Let's celebrate the incredible role each member plays in our congregation as part of the body of Christ. Every gift, act of service, and moment of kindness enriches our community. Let's uplift one another, pray earnestly for each other, and nurture the love and unity we share. Together, we can achieve so much.

Wishing you abundant blessings and peace - may the Lord's light shine brightly upon you.



Youth Church

Over the past few months, our youth church has sought additional adult volunteers to enrich our community. We have been fortunate to welcome some wonderful new members who have brought fresh energy and perspectives. Still, we are eager to invite even more enthusiastic individuals to join our dynamic team.

There are many ways you can contribute your talents and passions. Whether you enjoy storytelling, singing, or playing a musical instrument, your skills can inspire and engage our youth.

If you prefer a behind-the-scenes role, we would greatly



appreciate having more helping hands on Sunday mornings, simply supporting our activities.

This is a fantastic opportunity for all of us to collaborate and help shape the future of our church, fostering a vibrant and nurturing environment for the next generation. Your involvement will benefit our youth and strengthen our community as we grow together in faith and fellowship. We hope you'll consider joining us on this exciting journey.

Katrona

Sunday School & Tea Time

One of our children was busy explaining his artwork to anyone willing to listen at teatime. Watch out for your grapes - this budding young artist has a keen eye for grapes!

All children are welcome, and we kindly ask for your continued support through prayers and treats.

Sunday School finishes on 29th June which will be a gift day and from 6 July until 10 August the Creche will be running and there will be some games.

We would also like to thank each and every one of you who responded to our call for more teachers and helpers. We are truly grateful for your support.



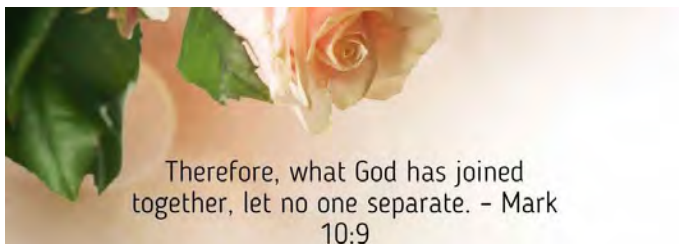
Savior

Church Register

WEDDING:

"Jesus also was invited to the wedding"

24/5/25 Lynda Jack to Jamie Hull



Congratulations and best wishes to Lynda and Jamie on the occasion of their Wedding in Kirkgate. The ceremony was conducted by Rev James McNay of West Kilbride Parish Church and afterwards the reception was held in Saltcoats Town Hall.



NEW MEMBER:

"We are members one of another"

By Transfer Certificate

25/5/25 Mrs Sheila Beveridge, Saltcoats

From the Editor

We take a break from printing in July and August. Material for the September issue to be in by Sunday 31st August at the latest please and it should contain information and dates through to October.

Whether you are at home or away, stay safe and enjoy the summer months.

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

Love and Congratulations along with cards and flowers were sent from the Kirk Session and congregation of Kirkgate to Rodger McBride, Saltcoats on the occasion of his 90th birthday on 1st May and as you can see he enjoyed a visit from Nigel.



As recorded last month Aileen Aitken enjoyed celebrating her 100th birthday on 12th April and wanted to share this photo taken when Nigel visited along with his children Dee and Dylan.



This has been a busy month for celebrations as we also sent Love and Congratulations along with cards and flowers from the Kirk Session and congregation of Kirkgate to mark the 95th birthday of Edith Murchie, Saltcoats on 9 May. Edith enjoyed celebrating her day with her family.

To all of them and others just celebrating a normal birthday or other occasion - we send every blessing for the future.

Prayer Page

Contributed by Alison Buick

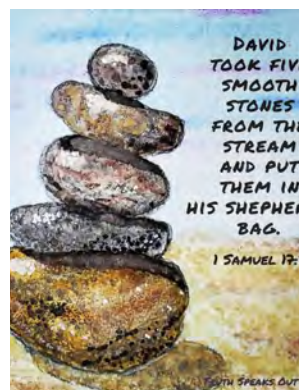
WITH FIVE PEBBLES

Mighty God we praise you that in every age you call girls and women, boys and men to stand up for what is right. We pray for all those who are struggling today against the giants and powers of evil: arm them with your weapons of righteousness.



To those striving to overcome some stubborn illness of body or mind, give endurance.
To those struggling with the temptation to surrender to evil, give purity.
To those opposing the injustice of all exploiters, give knowledge.
To those contending with the opposition of loved ones, give patience.
To those wrestling with the gracelessness of the hard-to-like, give kindness.
To those arguing with the state over human rights, may the Holy Spirit give words.

To those engaging in controversy in politics or the media, give truthful speech.
To those fighting the battles of faith against the clever, give genuine love and to all those who challenge hostile forces in your name, give power.



Mighty God, we pray with confidence for not only were you with David facing Goliath and with Paul in afflictions and hardships but also with Jesus, helpless on the cross. Against him all the powers of evil raged yet, in your power, he triumphed.

In the name of Jesus, we praise you.

AMEN

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

What is Church

**Is it a building? No!.....What is it then?
Even if the building had the most beautiful stained glass windows, under a steeple with a cross on top?
I think we would all agree, nice as that is, there is still something missing.**

We ask ourselves again..... **what is church?**
Is it the pews or even the minister? No!
We may answer it's a gathering place where we all get together.....Is that it?

I would say you're getting close, but hold on, people gather at the Civic Centre for a party or a dance and enjoy themselves - agreed!

So what makes church different?

You may say, "I've got friends there." So has any Club!
Someone once said that going to church does not make you a Christian, anymore than sitting in a garage makes you a car!

Well, you may also say, "I am a good person, I help people, I support good causes and I am an Elder, I sing in the Choir, I'm there every Sunday, I am a Sunday School Teacher and I make the tea!" it's all good. But possibly we are still missing the point! My own experience and testimony of coming to know Jesus as my Personal Saviour, I hope, helps to explain **'What I believe Church is.'**

I went to the local library one night, with a friend, when I was 16 years old. I really needed a change in my life, I was an absolute wreck, because of some bad past experiences. (abused, bullied and rejected). Although I wasn't a great reader, I agreed to go. **I had no idea that something life-changing was about to happen. I found a book by Billy Graham called, "Peace With God" and hid it up my jumper because I didn't want my friend to see it.**



That night, in bed, I read it from cover to cover..... I found the answers that brought me **Peace, God loved me!** He gave his only son to die on the cross in my place. He took all my awfulness and gave me, in exchange, His Righteous **Amazing Grace. (John 3: v16). For God so loved the World that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believes in Him would not perish but have everlasting life.)**

So, **What is church?** Not a gathering of religious people; but **a gathering of forgiven people made in right standing with God through Jesus Christ.**

We love because God loved us first.

David Barclay

Letters of Appreciation

Thank you to everyone at Kirkgate for the lovely flowers and cards I received on my 90th birthday at the beginning of May, also a special thanks to Nigel for his visit and serving me communion on the day of my birthday.

Rodger McBride



A huge thank you to nigel and all at Kirkgate for the lovely flowers and a big thanks to Betty for delivering them. Thanks also to the Pastoral Care Team for keeping in touch by phone, all very much appreciated.

God Bless, much love

Ian McNeillie

Thank you so much for the very special card and the beautiful flower arrangement which arrived for my ninety-fifth Birthday. It was so thoughtful and typical of the love and kindness to be found within Kirkgate Church.

Edith Murchie

Thank you to all at Kirkgate for the beautiful flowers that I received recently. They were much appreciated. Thanks also to Maureen for delivering them to me, it was a lovely surprise.

Barbara McWilliam

Just to say thank you to all my friends at Kirkgate for the beautiful flowers and the many folk concerned about my health. I do appreciate your kindness.

Rebecca McLay

With warmest wishes and a thousand thanks for the lovely flowers given due to my recent illness.

Agnes Wilkie

What a lovely surprise when Stuart arrived in the afternoon with the beautiful bouquet of flowers from the church. I much appreciated the thoughtfulness, being that I could enjoy them before my cataract operation on 28th May. Many thanks to everyone for your kindness.

Elizabeth McMahon

Life & Work: In the June Edition...

Vital Volunteers

The value of the Church's unpaid helpers

Memories of Pope Francis

Former Moderators remember meetings with the late Pontiff

General Assembly 2025

Interview with Lady Angiolini, Lord High Commissioner to the General Assembly. Further summaries of this year's reports.

'God Has Guided My Journey'

Carol Finlay looks back on a 36-year career in the Church, in India, Malawi and Edinburgh

'A Weight of Responsibility'

Jackie Macadam meets the recently-elected Edinburgh MP Dr Scott Arthur

Pillars of Faith

Engaging with visitors at Glasgow Cathedral

A Revival of Grace

Final part of the series focusing on the Church's work in Priority Areas

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

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





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.

The Foodbank also request the urgent need for strong large carrier bags

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

Sponsorship Thanks

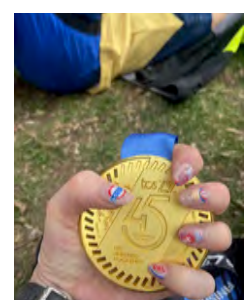
We did it!!!

On the 27th April Mhairi and I completed the London Marathon in support of the MS Society. This has been such a journey and one that we both feel very humbled to have been on. We have raised over £3,800 and are very grateful to have been able to do that for those we love and care about as well as raise awareness of MS. The support and generosity over the past few months has been quite overwhelming.

The heat on the day was brutal but the whole experience was amazing and the sponsorship we received definitely helped to keep our legs moving. I've never ran a race where the fire service were out with their hoses and the marshals were giving out cups of ice! We really could have been doing with some good old Scottish weather!

Thank you very much for all of your sponsorship and kind words of encouragement, it really has meant the world.

Cheryl and Mhairi xx



Treasurer's Report

Balances – as at 13 May 2025 were as follows:

General Account	-	£24,162
Fabric Account	-	£13,430
Knoxland	-	£2,364

(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 – April - £3,427

Plate – April - £2,050 – Average - £512

Yet again in April we had some fantastic fund raising with the Daffodil Tea (£1,959) the Fashion Show - £520 on the night and another £210 for the shop sales. The Rag bag Collection raised £113.50 These were marvellous efforts – thanks to all involved – more fund raising to come – details elsewhere in the magazine.

Thanks are also due to church organisations such as the Craft Group, Country Dancing and Flower Fund who continue to support the church regularly.

The recent lunch for Christian Aid has raised £849 with Gift Aid still to be added - so another excellent support from everyone involved. Unfortunately no-one remembered to take photographs of us all enjoying the bread/cheese along with grapes and a few extra goodies provided by the organising team.

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

Open Air Songs of Praise for Pentecost

Sunday 8th June at 2.00pm - Dasher Memorial Gardens, Ardrossan and if we it will be held in St Peter's across the road

This has become a favourite event over the past few years and usually well attended. Last year due to the warm day the ladies from St. Peter's served us ice cream cones at the finish. So please try and support this if you are able.

Church Mice

Copyright Karl A. Zorowski



Kirkgate Diary:

JUNE

Sunday 1st: 10.45am

Morning Worship

Monday 2nd: 2.30pm

South Beach House Communion Service

Thursday 5th: 10.30am

Midweek Service

7.00pm

Kirk Session Meeting

Friday 6th: 2.00pm

Ayrshire Guilds Together - Ardrossan Parish Church

Sunday 8th: 10.45am

Morning Worship

2.00pm

Open Air Service for Pentecost

at Dasher Memorial, Ardrossan, if wet in St. Peter's

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

Children's Gift Presentation

Tea/Coffee Fellowship after morning service

JULY

Thursday 3rd: 10.30am

Midweek Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 6th: 10.45am

Morning Worship - Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 13th: 10.45am - Morning Worship

Sunday 20th: 10.45am - Morning Worship

Sunday 27th: 10.45am

Morning Worship

Tea/Coffee Fellowship after morning service

Wednesday 30th: 2.00pm

Musical Memories

AUGUST

Sunday 3rd: 10.45am - Morning Worship

Sunday 10th: 10.45am - Morning Worship

Sunday 17th: 10.45am

Morning Worship

Sunday School Resumes

Sunday 24th: 10.45am - Morning Worship

Wednesday 27th: 2.00pm

Musical Memories

Sunday 31st: 10.45am

Morning Worship

Tea/Coffee Fellowship after morning service

Material required for 'The Messenger'

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 4th: 10.30am

Midweek Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion

2.00pm

Kirk Session Meeting

Country Dance Resumes - time to be arrange

Saturday 6th: 2.00 - 4.00pm

Clyde Coast Fiddlers Concert

Sunday 7th: 10.45am

Morning Worship - Sacrament of Holy Communion

REGULAR WEEKLY MEETINGS

Sunday, 10.45 am:

Morning Worship

Creche 6 July-10 August

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 the total raised from them was £113.50. The final total for the Fashion Show held on 25th April is £730.



By the time you read this, the next event on Saturday 31st May will be past - the Country Dance Club said tickets were selling well and they are hoping for a successful afternoon Ceilidh with live music, demonstrations and afternoon tea. Hopefully we will see photos taken in the September magazine.

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

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. the first being another Saturday afternoon 6th September 2.00pm - 4.00pm. See below the poster for the Clyde Coast Fiddlers , tickets are £5 and include tea/coffee at the interval.

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

Phyllis Armstrong

2025

Saturday June 28th: Afternoon Cream Tea and Beetle Drive

Saturday September 6th: Clyde Coast Fiddle Concert

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

Clyde Coast Fiddlers

Saturday 6th September

Kirkgate Church, 2-4pm
Tickets: £5

Tea & Coffee
served
at interval



Scottish Charity Number - SC023003

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal 2025



As this is the last magazine till September a little reminder that in September we start packing boxes for the Blythswood Shoebox Appeal.

It's always a good idea to keep an eye on 'sale' rails for any suitable bargains.

Every box requires the basic in toiletries, soap, toothpaste, toothbrush as well as underwear and warm hat, gloves and scarf.

Any donations of these items would be very welcome. Thank you.

Maureen Hunter & Team

The Craft Team

How quickly the first half of the year has gone past.

The Craft Group have had a busy year so far and now that we have 10 members the amount of cards made every week has increased.



This means there should be plenty for you to choose from over the summer.

We've also been happy to have an order for Wedding invitations and wish the bride and groom to be, Gary and Shirley, congratulations and best wishes as they celebrate their wedding in July.

The group will be taking a break over the school holidays but you still have time to order any special cards before then.

As this is the last magazine until September we hope that the weather stays sunny and warm and you all enjoy yourselves wherever you travel to, near or far.

Thank you once again for all your support.

Musical Memories

Our attendance was slightly down in April but the singing was the best ever. Lots of lovely voices and all enjoying singing together, it was just like one big choir.



We had a few new songs in May... I don't know how to love him, Fields of Barley and Secret Love.

Please remember that our June meeting (on 25th) will be our fundraiser for Marie Curie and will involve a raffle.

Hope you can come along and enjoy exercising your vocal chords!!

Many thanks to Kathleen McIlreavy for coming along to SBH to support the choir.

Please note that Nigel is also holding a Communion Service at South Beach House on Monday 2nd June at 2.30pm and it would good to have some more support for this.

Dates for your Diary in Kirkgate:
All start at 2.00pm
June 25th, July 30th and August 27th

Singalong at South Beach House:
All start at 2.00pm
4th and 18th June, 9th and 23rd July and 6th and 20th August

Thank You, Mary

Memories of WW2

Some of you may remember John McCallum originally North Parish, then New Trinity and lastly High Kirk. John is well but now in Abbotsford Care Home.



Jean Hay visits him and his son alerted her to the fact that his voice has been recorded for a WW2 exhibition playing in the museum until July. He talks about the night a bomber crashed into the sea off Saltcoats harbour and 1 crew member was rescued. It would appear there is also a YouTube video recounting what happened. Sounds like it could be a good listen and watch.

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 14th May 12.30-2.30 in the large hall for a Dementia Awareness Workshop session. Our trainer was Julie Turner, dementia lead training officer at Age Scotland, a charity based in Edinburgh.

Julie travelled by train from Edinburgh and we are indebted to her for this.

Julie was warmly welcomed by the group and joined us sharing in an informal packed lunch with tea and coffee prior to start of workshop. The meeting was very well attended by team members. The format of the workshop was excellent, giving us all the opportunity to contribute and to learn and absorb new information. Julie handled a difficult topic in a very sensitive, informative manner. Information/guidance handbooks were issued to all encapsulating all we had learned. This will be a very well used useful resource for us in our pastoral work and daily lives.

Julie has offered to return in the future for a follow-up workshop.

An excellent speaker, delivering a most informative and enjoyable session. Julie has now sent an email thanking the team for attending/participating in the workshop attaching a follow-up booklet which covers the key points covered in the training and resources from their mood and wellbeing workshops with useful links.

A feedback form is also included in the email which will be distributed to the team in due course. Sincere thanks to Ruth for researching, sourcing and organising this workshop, to Julie for travelling from Edinburgh to deliver the workshop and to the pastoral team members for their time and commitment.

Kirkgate Pastoral Care Team

PASTORAL CARE CONTACTS

The Pastoral Team are working very hard behind the scenes. Please keep the team up-to-date with information about people who need pastoral care or support at this difficult time for everyone. Please don't assume they already know - they would rather hear several times over than not at all.

The main contacts for Pastoral Care are:

***Mrs Moira Cooper, (01294 468851)
Mrs Jean Hay, (01294 469986)
Mrs Evelyn Green (01294 469706), and
Mrs Jennifer Fox (01294 465947).***

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

Prayer Shawl Ministry



If anybody is interested in starting a Prayer Shawl Ministry, or would like a shawl to give to somebody, please speak to me on a Sunday morning or phone 07884 957 389 or email smayg@talktalk.net.

Susan Gill

A PRAYER FOR LOVE

**Heavenly Father,
Thank you for your
endless love and mercy.**

Teach us to love others
as you love us - without
conditions, without
hesitation, and without
fear.

Help us to show kindness
to those in need, to
forgive those who hurt us, and to stand for justice
where there is suffering.

Let our lives reflect your compassion, so that
through us, others may see Your love at work in the
world.

In Jesus' name,

Amen



The Guild

Please note that the venue has been changed for Guilds Together North Ayrshire 's final 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.

We at Kirkgate 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.

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 in the September magazine.

On Saturday May 3rd in Kilwinning Abbey Hall, 'North Ayrshire Guilds Together' held a meeting of union with South and East Ayrshire Guilds. The new combined Guilds Together will now be known as just

'Ayrshire Guilds Together' it was a well attended meeting with Guild members from throughout the County. A number of our members were present and enjoyed a very interesting day. We heard from a representative from each of the new projects - all very worthwhile and deserving.



One of the projects is 'Bear Necessities' and the two ladies, the founders of that charity are based in Alness, Inverness-shire. To avoid them travelling to all individual guilds, it was decided to arrange a visit from them to be held in Mansfield Trinity Church, Kilwinning on Thursday 2nd October at 2.00pm when it is hoped as many of the Guilds from the County will attend.

Since this meeting is before Kirkgate guild resumes I would suggest you also mark the date in your diary as it would be good to have a large attendance.

Guilds Together Ayrshire

This will be the last letter under the name of Guilds Together North Ayrshire, as we are now known as Ayrshire Guilds Together.

However, we have our final Gathering on 6th June 2025 in Ardrossan Parish Church, formerly Ardrossan Park, at 2.00pm. Unfortunately, we had to abandon plans to have the meeting on Arran because of the ongoing ferry difficulties. The good news is that the Rev. Knowledge Zinduru, minister on Arran, will still be our speaker.

Alison Burnett of Arran Guild, will be part of a Guild group visiting Malawi in August and the group would like to take the following with them: Knickers/pants for boys, girls and ladies, along with sportswear and pens.

If you can supply any of these items please bring them to the meeting on the 6th.

Kind regards, Mary Ford

GUILD PROJECTS 2025 - 2027 FIGURES FROM 1/1/25 UNTIL 30/4/25 TOTAL £56,747.40

BEAR NECESSITIES - £10,557.44

Build My Church
(Bulgaria)

RELEASE INTERNATIONAL - £12,128.20

Operation Hope
(Egypt)

SCOTTISH BIBLE SOCIETY - £15,372.26

Bibles for Bairns
(Scotland)

CROSSREACH - £18,689.50

Playful Beginnings
(Scotland)

Thursday Service

We continue to enjoy our Thursday services and afterwards a cuppa so please pop in and join us every Thursday morning at 10.30am you will be made very welcome. We don't take a break over the summer months.

The Thursday Team

Prayer Group

We will continue to meet July August and September every second Sunday in the month.



Meantime over the summer months please pray for our church family especially if you notice people absent it might just be their on holiday and if so a prayer for them is good, but they may well be ill and a prayer is also needed, either way please pray for them.

Margaret Cassidy
Prayer Group co ordinator



A big thank you to those who gifted to our Christian Aid lunch and to those who help serve and clean up.

I was delighted to see so many people enjoy some bread, cheese and grapes along with some sweet treats. At time of printing the amount raised is a fantastic sum of £849 with Gift Aid still to be added

Well done everyone in Kirkgate

Margaret Cassidy
Christian Aid Co-ordinator



Property Report

Church

Vivien, our Session Clerk had to take our books to be attested and I am glad to say everything was correct and in order.



We continue to do the monthly checks etc within the church and keep an eye out for any issues arising

Manse

Vivien and I made our annual visit to the manse where the minister warmly welcomed us and served a hot drink.

Upon inspection we found a few things requiring attention or replacement and I have given Gary a small list of work requiring to be done over the next few months.

Margaret Cassidy, Property Convenor

Country Dance Club

The Country Dance Club has had a good year with good numbers most weeks.



When we dance in the afternoon we often get two folk from Millport but with the Arran ferry sailing from Troon, Marion has not been able to come.

By the time you read this we will have had our afternoon ceilidh. Tickets are going well so we are looking forward to a good afternoon.

We will start dancing again on the first Thursday in September but still to decide if it will be afternoon or evening.

Elizabeth Howie

"From the rising of the sun to its going down the Lord's name is to be praised."

Psalm 113:3



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.



Facebook:

www.facebook.com/Kirkgatechurch

A link to our Sunday Service is usually published around 10.30am on Sunday mornings on Facebook. Also regular posts about our other events and Sunday School activities, along with other Church of Scotland news.



YouTube:

www.youtube.com/@kirkgatechurch

[@kirkgatechurch](https://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. Subscribe to our channel for free to get updates on the latest content.



Podcast:

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

Aerial Photos

We were contacted recently by Graeme Smets, a local photographer who has recently acquired a drone. Graeme, whose late parents were members of the former Erskine Church, has shared several photos of the church with us which are shown below. He also runs the Saltcoats PhotoHub facebook page containing lots of photos and videos of the local area: www.facebook.com/groups/800598390716132



Care & Share



Haven't we had an amazing spell of weather? Unfortunately it looks set to change but hopefully the sunshine will come back soon. No matter the weather though, our soup pots are always on!

I was speaking to one of our new friends last week and telling how long the lunch club has been going (almost seven years). I explained that we used to have some activities available eg dominoes, jigsaws, table football etc but after Covid we didn't restart these things. He encouraged me to start them back and I have said that I will try. So if anyone has any chess sets, dominoes, smallish jigsaws or indeed a table football set that is no longer being used, I'm waiting to hear from you.

We continue to collect surplus food from Aldi on Friday mornings. We have been gifted a lovely variety of foodstuffs which have been very gratefully redistributed.

Last month we were visited by some of the team from YWAM. We had a great time with them. The girls led the devotions with readings, prayers and songs and shared some of their stories. They joined us for lunch and moved round all the tables making a point of speaking to everyone. Thank you very much for joining us and making such a lovely contribution to the day.

We continue to receive support from many services. Turning Point and Money Matters are always kept busy. Next month we have a university research assistant with us who is interviewing individuals about their health outcomes with a view to an improvement in health care provision.

There is not anything special arranged for over the summer months at the moment. We will update you in September of anything exciting that has happened. We hope you all have a fantastic summer time and we'll see you in the Autumn.

I finish as usual with my thanks for all your support and and appeals to join us sometime.

Love and blessings to all

From Pam and All at the Friday Lunch Club xx

Argyle Community Shop

We have just heard that a recent funding application was successful so we are extremely pleased about that. This means we can maintain this community resource into next year. Well done and thank you to those who completed the application.



The shop remains very popular within the community. It is very busy but there is always capacity available for new members. Quite a number of people have recently joined up and are pleasantly surprised at the stock which is available to choose from.

The garden is flourishing and soon the produce will be on offer in the shop. Nothing tastes better than homegrown fruit and veg.

There are a number of summer activities for individuals and families in the Argyle Centre. Keep an eye out for the posters, adventures around the local community and in the weekly newspaper.

Wishing everyone a happy summer break

From the Argyle Shop

Pentecost Word Search

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

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DISCIPLES
EXTRAORDINARY
FIFTIETH
FILLED
FIRE
FIRSTFRUITS
HEAVEN
LANGUAGES



OFFERING
PENTECOST
POWER
PRESENCE
SIGNS
SOUND
SPIRIT
SYMBOLIZED
TONGUES
WIND

Church Rotas



SUNDAY DOOR DUTY & COUNTING ROTA			
1 June	E. McInnes	P. Martin	L. McDougall
8 June	J. Rainey	E. Green	S. Gill
15 June	J. Stewart	M. Hunter	F. Liddell
22 June	M. Cooper	P. Armstrong	G. Armstrong
29 June	E. McInnes	D. MacLeod	E. Howie
6 July	J. Rainey	B. McWilliam	B. McCracken
13 July	J. Stewart	P. Martin	L. McDougall
20 July	M. Cooper	E. Green	S. Gill
27 July	E. McInnes	M. Hunter	F. Liddell
3 August	J. Rainey	P. Armstrong	G. Armstrong
10 August	J. Stewart	D. MacLeod	E. Howie
17 August	M. Cooper	B. McWilliam	B. McCracken
24 August	E. McInnes	P. Martin	S. Gill
31 August	J. Rainey	E. Green	L. McDougall
7 Sept	J. Stewart	M. Hunter	F. Liddell



MONTHLY TEA ROTA	
	Organisers
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

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.



CHURCH FLOWERS		
VACANT DATES: 2 FEBRUARY, 2 MARCH 2026		
	DONATED BY	DELIVERY
1 June	I. Smith	M. Cooper
8 June	E. McMahon	E. McInnes
15 June	D. Kirkhope	S. Donald
22 June	M. Hunter	J. Hay
29 June	J. McTavish	J. O'Hare
6 July	Lynda Jack	E. Breckenridge
13 July	E. Murchie	M. Cassidy
20 July	M. McSwan	C. Ewing
27 July	Susan Gill	D. MacLeod
3 August	E. McInnes	M. Hunter
10 August	M. Watson	E. Green
17 August	E. Dodds	M. Cooper
31 August	L. Copland	E. McInnes
7 Sept	A. Wilkie	S. Donald



Should you wish to contribute flowers for the sanctuary, please speak to Chrissie Baillie, Tel: 01294 463903.

Should you be unable to do your delivery, please contact someone else on the team and try to do a swap to avoid the distribution team having to find someone last minute after the service.

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.

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.

RECYCLE
YOUR OLD SPECS/CASES HERE



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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