

Ardrossan & Saltcoats

KirkgateMessenger

PARISH CHURCH

September 2025



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

www.kirkgatechurch.org.uk

Message from our Minister

Dear Friends,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today, I write with a heart full of gratitude and joy. After six long years of waiting, prayer, and perseverance, I have finally received the news that I have been granted citizenship in this country. It has been a journey marked by patience, paperwork, and sometimes, a draining of both pocket and spirit — but at last, it has led to this moment of celebration. I feel deeply honoured and humbled to belong finally, to be recognised as part of this nation where we live and serve together.

The Bible often speaks to this profound gift of belonging. In Ephesians 2:19, Paul writes: ***“You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also members of his household.”*** These words remind us that citizenship, whether earthly or heavenly, is not merely about legal documents but about relationships, identity, and shared life. To belong is to be known, accepted, and embraced as part of a community.

As I mentioned on my first Sunday back, we recently attended a formal citizenship ceremony as a family, where we stood alongside others to take an oath and pledge allegiance. It was a moving and profound moment. As I raised my hand and spoke the words, I realised the weight of what I was saying — promises of loyalty and faithfulness to a country that had now welcomed me fully. In a way, it was one of the most deliberate commitments I have ever made. Some of you may never have had to do such a thing because you were born into that belonging. But for me, the act of pledging reminded me that belonging comes not only with joy but also with responsibility. It is one thing to be granted citizenship; it is another to vow to live it out faithfully.

This makes me reflect on our belonging in Christ. Have we truly considered the depth of what it means to confess Him as Lord, to declare our allegiance to His Kingdom above all others? Baptism, like that citizenship ceremony, marks us with a new identity, but it also calls us to live with loyalty and commitment every day. How do we live out that allegiance in our work, in our families, in our community life?

I find myself asking: what does it mean to belong? How do we experience the comfort and strength of knowing we are “at home” somewhere?

Belonging gives us roots when life feels uncertain, and it gives us wings when we are called to serve others. For some, belonging comes through family; for others, through community; and for all of us in Christ, it comes through being grafted into God’s people, where no one is excluded, and every member is cherished.

As I reflect on my own journey, I think also of those who may still feel like strangers — in a new place, in a new season of life, or even within the church. How do we, as Christ’s body, ensure that no one feels left outside the circle of belonging? How might we make space for the lonely, the searching, and the weary to know they are truly at home among us?

Above all, I am reminded that our most faithful citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20). Earthly papers and passports may grant us rights and recognition in this world. Still, in Christ, we receive something far greater: adoption into God’s family, an inheritance that cannot perish, and the assurance that we are eternally His.

So, dear friends, let us rejoice in every gift of belonging we experience on earth, but let us also lift our eyes to the greater belonging we share in Christ. In Him, we are no longer strangers or exiles; we are beloved sons and daughters, gathered into one household of faith.

May this truth encourage you wherever you are today — whether you feel at home, or perhaps still searching for where you fit in God’s

kingdom. Remember, in Christ, you are known, accepted, and loved beyond measure. We belong together because we belong to Him.

***With joy and thanksgiving,
Nigel Chikanya***

Rev Tichaona Nigel Chikanya

Tel: 01294 683379 Mobile: 07566 278132

Email: NChikanya@churchofscotland.org.uk



From our Probationer: Katrona Templeton

Dear Kirkgate Church Family,

Grace and peace to you. I can hardly believe that a whole year has passed since I joined you for my probation year. As I prepare for the next chapter of my ministry journey, I find myself reflecting with deep gratitude on the time we've shared. Training with you has been more than an educational experience - it has been a season of growth, discovery, and blessings.



From the first moment I walked through your doors, I was welcomed not merely as a probationer, but as a part of your church family. You opened your hearts, your homes, and your worship to me, and in doing so, made me feel at home. I've learned from your wisdom, been shaped by your stories, and strengthened by your prayers.

I am genuinely grateful for the opportunity to lead worship alongside you, to pray and be prayed for, to meet and talk with your Sunday School, and to grow alongside all of you in both my challenges and triumphs. Thank you for welcoming me into your church with open arms. Thank you for showing me what it means to be a church that embodies Christ's compassion, hospitality, and justice. Your commitment to inclusion, your love for one another, and your faithfulness in both joy and struggle have left a permanent mark on my heart.

As I move onto the next step, I carry with me the lessons and wisdom you've imparted—not just about ministry, but also about community, courage, and the beauty of belonging. I leave you not with goodbye, but with a blessing:

"May the Lord bless you, May the Lord keep you; May the Lord make his face shine on you and give you peace."
(Numbers 6:24-26)

I will continue to pray for you, rejoice in your future, and give thanks for the ways you have shaped me. May you continue to be a place where all are welcome, valued, and empowered to live out the Gospel with boldness and love.

With deep affection and blessings,

Katrona

Farewell Presentation

We have been blessed to have Katrona with us for a year and we are happy that she has passed her final year with flying colours.

To mark the occasion, on behalf of the Kirk Session and Congregation, Vivien presented her with an engraved vase and cheque, then the Sunday School presented her with flowers.

We send Every Blessing to Katrona for her next journey in her walk of faith.



Church Register

FUNERALS:

"In my Father's house are many mansions"

16/6/25 Mr Ian Sutherland, Hill Street, Saltcoats
Officiating minister was Rev James McNay,
of West Kilbride Parish Church

25/6/25 Mrs Martha Duff, The Braes, Saltcoats



NEW ADDRESSES:

Christine Ewing has moved from Glasgow Street, Ardrossan to St. Mary's Place, Saltcoats



Robert & Joan Murray have moved from St. Andrews Road, Ardrossan to Fitzsimmons Wynd, Ardrossan

Janette Campbell is now resident in Abbotsford Care Home, Ardrossan

Life & Work: August 2025 Commemorative Final Edition

The Church of Scotland's 'Little Star'

A short 146-year history of Life & Work

'Our' Magazine

Long-time readers, ministers and a former editor reflect on what Life & Work has meant to them

Endings and Beginnings

The Moderator, the Rt Rev Rosie Frew, bids farewell to the magazine

The Moderator's Gift

An appeal for Christian Aid

Our Churches

Members from Kilwinning, Ochiltree and Rotterdam conclude the series

Plus all the regular features

From the Editor

Welcome back to the September issue, it was good to have a little break from editing duties and I hope you have all enjoyed a safe and healthy summer.

Articles for the October issue to be in by Sunday 28th September at the latest please and it should contain information and dates through to beginning of November.

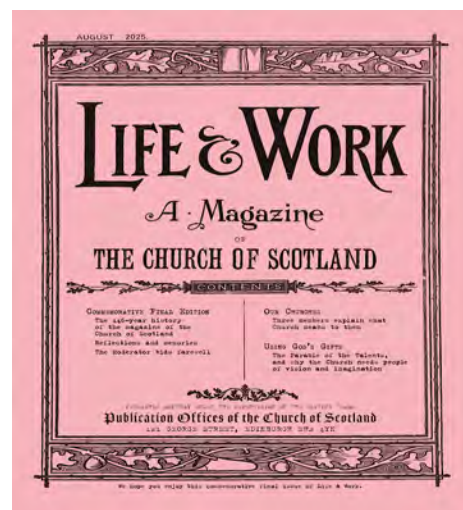
Please feel free to email us at elizabeth.mcmahon@talktalk.net or stuart@md93.co.uk or send a written copy if you don't use a computer.

Elizabeth McMahon, Editor



Congratulations

Flowers, cards and best wishes were sent from the Kirk Session and Congregation to Mrs May Watson, South Beach House, Ardrossan on the occasion of her 95th Birthday which she celebrated on 12 June 2025. We send every blessing to May for her future health and happiness.



This edition is being sent out free to subscribers. Refunds will be issued for incomplete subscriptions. More details and contact information are in the magazine on page 6.

The Life & Work team would like to acknowledge all our readers, co-ordinators, and ministers and magazine editors who have supported the magazine over the years. Thank you all.

Prayer Page

Contributed by Alison Buick

THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD

God, may your light in which the universe was created illumine the chaos of our world today.

May your light which led Israel out of slavery guide the nations into the promised land of peace and plenty.

May your light which has flamed with your presence down the years, be a torch of freedom for the oppressed.

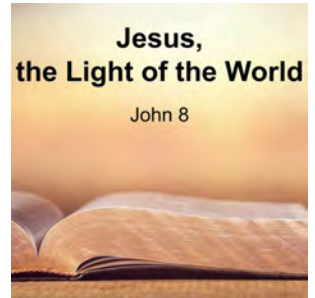
May your light which conquered the night blind all children of darkness with its brightness.

May your light which dazzled our eyes when we first saw you light up the way we must go.

May your light which crowns the ascended Christ shine through the gloom uniting all people in the radiance of his presence and may Christ the light of the world flood the whole of creation with the brilliance of his glory then, now and for ever.

AMEN

Taken from Prayers by Tony Burnham and Graham Cook



REFLECTION

Is anyone happier because you passed his way and does anyone remember that you spoke to him today?

The day is almost over and its toiling time is through, is there anyone who is thinking warm and friendly thoughts of you?

Can you say tonight in parting with the day that's slipping fast that you helped a single person of the many you have passed?

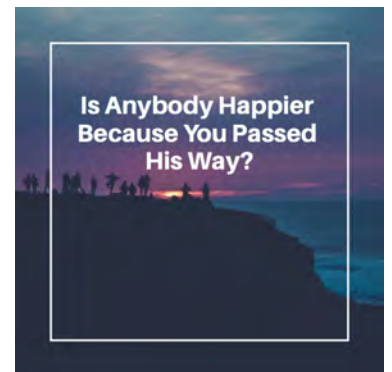
Is a single heart rejoicing over what you did or said: does the man whose hopes were fading now with courage look ahead?

Did you waste the day, or lose it? Was it well or sorely spent?

Did you leave a trail of kindness, or a scar of discontent?

As you close your eyes in slumber, do you think that God will say,

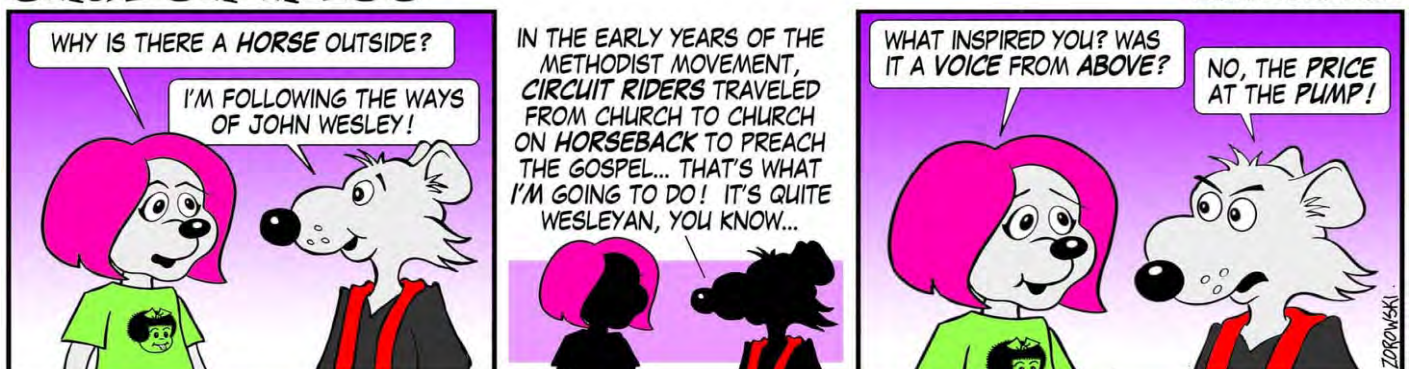
"You have earned one more tomorrow by the work you did today".



Anonymous

Church Mice

Karl Zorowski



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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

Belated Quiz Answers

Apologies from the editor for the delay in publishing the answers to Vivien's quizzes in the June edition. An oversight on my part. However better late than never as I'm sure some of you might still be keen to know if you got them right!!

IT'S FOUND IN THE KITCHEN

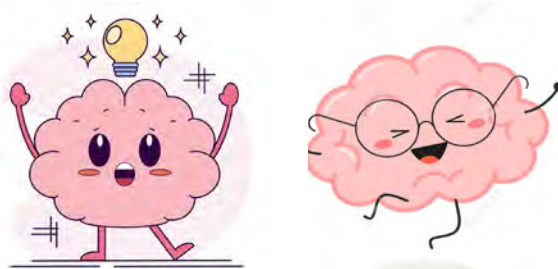
Bowl	Kettle	Sieve
Fork	Knife	Soup ladle
Grater	Microwave	Spatula
GrillHob (x2 well done if you found both)	Oven glove	Tablespoon
	Pastry brush	Tea towel
	Rolling pin	Tin opener
	Saucepan	Toaster
		Whisk

NURSERY RHYMES

- 1 JAJWUTH Jack and Jill went up the hill
- 2 HWGRTMB Here we go round the mulberry bush
- 3 LBBCBUYH Little boy blue come blow (up) your horn
- 4 SSMD See saw Margery Daw
- 5 HDSOAW Humpty Dumpty sat on a wall
- 6 HDD Hickory Dickory Dock or Hey Diddle Diddle
- 7 RRGAA Rain rain go away
- 8 WTBW Wind the bobbin up
- 9 LMMSOAT Little miss Muffet sat on a tuffet
- 10 DDDMSJ Diddle diddle dumpling my son John
- 11 DFWTG Doctor Foster went to Gloucester
- 12 HHDYS Horsey horsey don't you stop
- 13 ILLP I love little pussy
- 14 OKC Old King Cole
- 15 OTTFF One two three four five
- 16 PPTKO Polly put the kettle on
- 17 RACH Ride a cock horse
- 18 IHALNT I had a little nut tree
- 19 LJHSIAC Little Jack Horner sat in a corner
- 20 BBBS Baa baa black sheep
- 21 DDB Ding dong bell
- 22 GGG Goosey goosey gander
- 23 IALT I'm a little teapot
- 24 LBIFD London bridge is falling down
- 25 MPHAD Miss Polly had a dolly

Congratulations to the winners:

*Nursery Rhymes - Mrs Christine McFarlane, Irvine
Wordsearch - Elizabeth McMahon*



Letters of Appreciation

Thank you to everyone at Kirkgate for the beautiful flowers sent to us recently. They were very much appreciated by Tom and myself.

Georgie & Tom Nicholson

A very big thanks for the beautiful flowers from the Kirkgate family. It was very much appreciated. I was so glad that Sarah, my daughter and I were in your thoughts and prayers in the past few months. Sarah and I are both making a good recovery and the future is looking so much brighter for Sarah. God Bless.

Margo & Sarah Smith

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers I received in June after my recent illness and thanks to Jean Hay for delivering them. I enjoyed our chat.

Jeanette Mumford

Robert and I would like to thank all at Kirkgate for the beautiful flowers sent to us in our new home, also to all who sent cards. It is very much appreciated that you are thinking of us.

Robert & Joan Murray

On behalf of all the family, we send our thanks to everyone for the flowers which we all received, and to those who sent cards, presents, made phone calls on the safe arrival of Brodie on 31st July, a wee brother for Darcii. All are doing well.

Elizabeth McMahon

Anna Donnan and family wish to thank everyone at Kirkgate for the lovely flowers and kind wishes they received in July. They were very much appreciated.

A huge thank you to Nigel, the Pastoral Care Team, the flower ladies and our lovely congregation for the beautiful bouquet of roses and lilies I received after a nasty fall in the street; fortunately no serious damage just lots of bruises, cuts and scrapes. I am so grateful and made a quick recovery.

Thank you all.

Noreena Elwell

We wish to take this opportunity to thank the church for the flowers and also the Pastoral Care Team for the deliveries and kind thoughts.

Janette & Neil Campbell

Thank you to all in the Kirkgate family for the beautiful flower arrangement delivered to me on the occasion of my 95th birthday in June. Thank you also for the many cards & good wishes sent, it meant a great deal to me.

May Watson

Many thanks for the lovely flowers and calls I received when I was ill for a few weeks. They really cheered me up. It is so good to realise that someone is thinking of you.

Kind regards

Susan Gill



Presbytery of the South West Report

Presbytery met on 14th June in person at Castlehill Church Ayr. Retiring moderator Andrew Morton gave a brief report on his year as moderator and Mrs Gillian Lynn was invited to take over the chair to begin her year as moderator. Gillian, is an elder at Stoneykirk Parish Church, Dumfries & Galloway and we offered her our prayers and support as she takes up this important role.



It was an encouraging meeting, marked by thoughtful discussion, shared worship, and a renewed sense of purpose, as we continue to move forward as a Church

across the South West of Scotland, serving communities throughout Ayrshire, Dumfries and Galloway, and Carlisle. We gave thanks for all those who contribute to the life of the Presbytery and look ahead with hope and faith in God's leading.

Presbytery is creating a new post for Digital Ministry. The post would be part time 0.6 full time equivalent.

Each Presbytery committee gave their reports and were passed by the meeting.

The property committee's report told us that no fewer than 10 churches and 5 manses were at present up for sale. Such a sad reflection on how things

are changing within our own Presbytery boundary.



The good news is that on Sunday 3rd August the congregation of Ardrossan Parish Church elected their new minister. Rev Dr. Barbara Suchanek Seitz is currently minister of St James Parish Church in Ayr. Her induction is likely to be in September and we send our very warmest of wishes to her from all at Kirkgate.

There will be more news after the September meeting which will be in person in Kilmarnock.

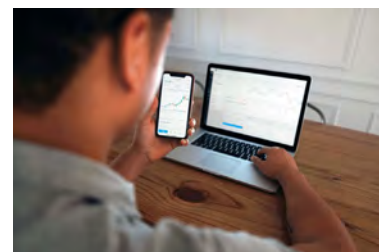
Mary Stewart, Presbytery Elder

Treasurer's Report

Balances – as at 20 August 2025 were as follows:

General Account	-	£15,527
Fabric Account	-	£12,880
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 May - July was as follows:

Standing Orders

May - £2,969	Plate - £1,818	Average - £454
June - £3,550	Plate - £2,062	Average - £412
July - £3,409	Plate - £1,583	Average - £396

Before the summer we had a very successful Ceilidh which raised £240 - see photos on page 17, and a thrilling Beetle Drive which raised £266, sadly no photos were taken - many thanks to the organisers and all who attended these events.

I am also delighted to say that we had a fantastic collection for Christian Aid in May which realised £854 – this is a significant increase on previous years - a terrific response again!

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 as we have to be able to prove the giving if required. Please see Moira Cooper for envelopes and me for Standing Order details.

Thank you - John Stewart, Treasurer

Connect with Kirkgate

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



Website:

www.kirkgatechurch.org.uk

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



YouTube:

www.youtube.com/@kirkgatechurch

Watch live or catch up later with all our live broadcasts and some special events (available on request for funerals and weddings). A recording of the Sunday Service will usually be 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. Thanks to the 171 subscribers we currently have.



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.



Email:

We send a monthly email with a link to a digital version of this magazine to our members and friends for whom we have an email address. Contact messenger@kirkgatechurch.org.uk to be added to our mailing list.



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.

Kirkgate Diary:

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

SEPTEMBER

Thursday 4th: 10.30am
Midweek Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion
2.00pm
Kirk Session Meeting

Saturday 6th: 2.00 - 4.00pm
Fundraising - Clyde Coast Fiddlers Concert
More info on Page 11

Sunday 7th: 10.45am
Morning Worship - Sacrament of Holy Communion

Thursday 11th: 7.30pm
Country Dance Club

Saturday 13th: 10.45am
Live Stream - Guild Annual Gathering in Perth
Free - bring packed lunch - more info on page 15

Wednesday 24th: 2.00pm
Musical Memories - Raffle for Church Funds

Sunday 28th: 10.45am
Morning Worship
Tea/coffee fellowship after morning service
'Messenger' Material required



Lord , help us worship you
with a pure heart and honest spirit.
Remove every distraction, every false motive
and draw us deeper into your presence.
Let our praise be real, our love sincere.
In Jesus' Name
Amen

OCTOBER

Thursday 2nd: 2.30pm
Country Dance Club

Sunday 5th: 10.45am
Harvest Thanksgiving
Sacrament of Holy Communion
Retiring Collection for the Argyle Community Shop

Monday 6th: 2.00pm
Guild Communion and Dedication Service

Thursday 9th: 10.30am
Midweek Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion

Thursday 16th: 7.30pm
RSCDS Meeting

Monday 20th: 2.00pm
Guild Concert & Afternoon Tea - see page 15

Saturday 25th: 10.00am
Fundraising - Craft Fair - More info on Page 11

Sunday 26th: 10.45am
Morning Worship
Tea/coffee fellowship after morning service
'Messenger' Material required

Wednesday 29th: 2.00pm
Musical Memories

READING THE BIBLE TOGETHER

As mentioned last Sunday (31st August), we will begin reading the Bible together at 10:30am, leading into our service at 10:45am. I encourage everyone to come with a spirit of reverence, ready to listen as God speaks to us through His Word.

Our readings for the month of September will be as follows:

7 September – Proverbs 7, Psalm 1, and the beginning of Romans 1
14 September – Proverbs 14, Psalm 2, and continuing in Romans
21 September – Proverbs 21, Psalm 3, and Romans
28 September – Proverbs 28, Psalm 4, and Romans



The Craft Team



The group enjoyed a lovely lunch at Rendezvous in Ardrossan before we finished for the summer break.

We started back on 19th August and are just getting into the swing of things again. We've caught up on each other's news and will be settling down to work on our Christmas stock. We were gifted lots of Christmas materials over the summer, so hopefully you'll see plenty of different ideas for cards this year!!

Hard to imagine that we're talking about Christmas but a few people have already thought about their trees for the Tree Festival. Here are some of the countries already chosen: Germany, Finland, Greece, Spain, Sweden, Trinidad & Tobago.

The theme for 2025 is, '**Christmas Celebrations Around the World**' and for anyone who has just come along to Church this year, everyone is welcome to join in and decorate a tree. You don't even need your own tree, we can supply one. The festival is held at the beginning of Advent with the Church open on a Saturday for all to come and see the display. More information will follow nearer the time.



We've a large range of cards for every occasion which you can browse in the hallway or in the small hall and special personalised cards can be ordered at any time for birthdays or any occasion, just speak to anyone in the group.



Musical Memories

What a great response to our fund raising day in June. We were delighted to be able to send £460 to Marie Curie, and special thanks to everyone for their kind donations. (especially the people who couldn't manage on the day but made their donation anyway).

We are planning a raffle for the September meeting and this time proceeds will go to church funds.

Just like to send a big thank you to the two Betty's and Barbara for coming to South Beach House and helping with the singing along side May Stewart.

The forthcoming dates for Kirkgate: Wednesday Sept 24th

South Beach House: Wednesday 3rd and 17th September

Thank you

Mary



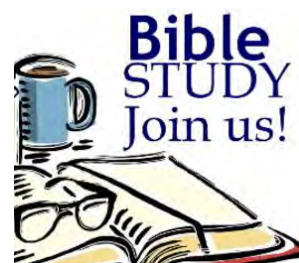
Bible Study

The group meets every Wednesday, 11.00am-12 noon and 7.00-8.00pm and started back on 3rd September.

We have been studying John's gospel, but finished that before stopping for our summer break. We are going to be looking at Romans now.

There are about twelve people in each group, and new members would be most welcome at either one.

We read some verses each week and discuss them together.



Fundraising 2025-26

Once again we had a very successful Beetle Drive and Cream Tea in June which was enjoyed by everyone and raised £266, unfortunately we were all so excited that we forgot to take pictures!!



A huge thanks to the Country Dance Club for their successful Ceilidh on 31st May, it raised £240 and photos can be seen on page 17.

Unless you get the magazine before Sunday the chances are that our next venture, the Fiddle Concert on Saturday 6th September, will be past. However many get the magazine before the publish date so please see poster below for information. Tickets are £5 and still available from any of the fundraising team. Starts at 2.00-4.00pm with refreshments at the half-time interval. We are looking for a good support as they are a very popular group, playing lots of toe tapping tunes.

In October we host the Craft Fair, also see poster below and it may seem a bit early but a reminder that volunteers for the Christmas Fair will be required so please try to help and give your name to one of the Team.

Your support for all of our events is very important to us both socially and financially

Phyllis Armstrong

2025

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)





Clyde Coast Fiddlers

Saturday 6th September
Kirkgate Church, 2-4pm

Tickets: £5

Tea & Coffee served at interval



Scottish Charity Number - SC023003



AUTUMN CRAFT FAIR

SATURDAY 25TH OCTOBER
10AM - 3PM

Kirkgate Parish Church
Chapelwell Street
Saltcoats

FREE ADMISSION



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

Blythswood Shoebox Appeal 2025



Covering the shoeboxes has been ongoing over the summer months with your donations of wrapping paper and we are now about to start packing them.

Please bring along any donations you may have as soon as possible. Monetary donations are also welcome to help purchase items that may be in short supply and any left over money goes towards the cost of transporting the boxes abroad.

It's important to note a few restrictions:-

No liquids above 300mls

No chocolate

Sweets must be dated to March 2026 or after

If you prefer to fill your own box, that is welcome. please use the checklist on the right.

Uplifting of the boxes is normally first week in November but we will remind you nearer the time so that you can have your boxes here in time to be dedicated before their onward journey to mainly Eastern Europe in time for Christmas

Help is always required to help pack the boxes. If you can spare a few hours over the next couple of months then please volunteer. Please speak to Maureen Hunter.

A NOTE FROM BLYTHSWOOD CHARITY

Thank you so much for your continued support for our Shoe Box Appeal. Last year your unwavering support enabled us to send over 85,000 shoeboxes to eight different countries – Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine. From those we deliver these gifts to, thank you so very much.

Since our first Shoe Box Appeal in 1993 we have sent more than 2.8 million boxes – each one different, each one personal, each one an expression of your care and kindness towards a stranger in need.

Filled with small, practical items such as toiletries, stationery, and clothing, the individually-wrapped boxes that have been distributed in schools, hospitals, orphanages and care homes, and to households in very low income communities. Many have gone to people affected by the war in Ukraine. Your boxes bring much joy to those who receive them. Thank you for your kindness and generosity.

CHECKLIST

Please ✓ items included and firmly secure this list on your shoebox lid.
Include the essential items highlighted in the red box.
IMPORTANT: PLEASE ONLY INCLUDE NEW ITEMS.

☐ TOOTHBRUSH & TOOTHPASTE	☐ TOY*/GIFT *small toy for children such as cars, dolls, balls etc. Please only include new shop-bought toys.	☐ SWEETS No chocolate, split multipacks or any other food items. No loose sweets, lollies or undated bags of sweets. Best before date no earlier than 31st March next year.
☐ SOAP		
☐ UNDERWEAR	☐ SCARF, HAT, GLOVES	
☐ SOCKS/TIGHTS		

Do not include used or damaged items; war related items such as toy guns, knives, or military figures; hand-made or knitted stuffed toys; chocolate or any food other than sweets. Chocolate eclairs and chocolate limes are not allowed; books that are mainly words should not be included.

TOILETRIES (No talcum powder)

- ☐ Shampoo or shower gel
- ☐ Face cloth/moist wipes
- ☐ Deodorant
- ☐ Moisturising cream
- ☐ Comb/brush
- ☐ Sanitary products
- ☐ Shaving foam/razors

MISCELLANEOUS

- ☐ New make-up
- ☐ Sewing equipment
- ☐ Household candles
- ☐ Screwdrivers/pliers
- ☐ Kitchen utensils

STATIONERY

- ☐ Pens/pencils/sharpener
- ☐ Notepads/labelling books
- ☐ Rulers/rubbers

CLOTHES and other items

- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐

Please tick the box next to who you have packed your shoebox for

- ☐ MAN
- ☐ BOY (Teen)
- ☐ BOY (8-12) Age
- ☐ BOY (3-7) Age
- ☐ ELDERLY WOMAN
- ☐ WOMAN
- ☐ GIRL (Teen)
- ☐ GIRL (8-12) Age
- ☐ GIRL (3-7) Age



Sunday School

Welcome back from all in the Sunday School!

We hope you all enjoyed a wonderful summer holiday. As a new season begins, let's continue to keep our children in prayer as many of them have started Primary 1, nursery, college, and other new adventures.

Sunday School is now back in full swing, and we're always grateful for anyone who feels called to lend a hand. This year, we're excited to introduce a new group for P5 - P7, which meets in the annexe.

We are always open to fresh ideas, so please don't hesitate to chat with any of our teachers if you'd like to share suggestions or get involved.



Kirkgate Pastoral Care



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

Hello to all in Kirkgate, we hope everyone has enjoyed the recent beautiful summer weather in August and feeling refreshed and recharged after the break.

The Pastoral Care work has been ongoing throughout the summer. The small committee plan to meet soon and then we'll organise a meeting of the full team.

Every blessing from all in Kirkgate Pastoral 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 (07737225943), and
Mrs Jennifer Fox (01294 465947).***

***For flower recipients please contact co-ordinator:
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 gillsusan529@gmail.com

Please note my new email address

Susan Gill

Kirk Session



I am pleased to say that we have had excellent attendance at our services throughout the summer.

Our grounds have been very colourful, and thanks go to all involved in planting, weeding and watering. There is a photo of one of the borders under the property report.

There has also been increased activity on our Facebook page, and I would encourage you to have a look at it if you are on Facebook. You will find a daily prayer and Bible reading along with news from other churches.

Our winter activities are getting underway at the moment. The Craft team has already started meeting, and Bible study groups begin on Wednesday 3rd September; one group meets at 11.00am, and the other at 7.00pm, and both last one hour. Why not come along and give it a try?

We will be celebrating Communion on Thursday 4th September and Sunday 7th September, and then on Sunday 5th October and Thursday 9th October. There will not be a retiring offering in September as we have our Harvest service in October, when the funds donated will go to the Argyle shop.

Collection of items for the shoeboxes has already begun. You are invited to bring items to fill the boxes, or to fill your own boxes, or to make a donation of money which will be used to purchase items. I know that you will hear more about this in the weeks to come, and I also know how generous the congregation is, so I am certain that we will fill a lot of boxes.

You may have noticed that there are new car parking spaces in Chapelwell Street opposite the church. Although parking is restricted to an hour during the day you can park there in the evening or on a Sunday. Please be careful not to park beside the dropped kerb further down the street as this might result in a fine being issued!

The next meeting of the Kirk Session will take place on Thursday 6th November at 2.00pm.

Vivien Bruce, Session Clerk

The Guild

An enjoyable day was had when Guilds Together North Ayrshire held it's final Summer Gathering on Friday 6th June in Ardrossan Parish Church. The speaker was Rev Knowledge Zinduru, the recently inducted minister from Arran.

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, it starts at 10.45am Please bring a packed lunch, Tea/Coffee available and you are free to come and go as your time allows.

We at Kirkgate held an encouraging meeting on 9th June to discuss the syllabus for the session 2025/26. We confirmed the dates for the Autumn Club so that we don't clash, as some of our members also go to it. We had lots of good suggestions and the syllabus is complete. We commence on Monday 6th October at 2.00pm with a Communion and Dedication Service.

We will be selling tickets costing £5 for a concert on Monday 20th October at 2.00pm. A local group called 'HUGS' (Happy Ukulele Group Saltcoats) along with Rev Alan Ward and our own Mary

Stewart will entertain us and the usual tea/goodies will be on offer. We hope that you will all support this event and get us off to a good start.



One of the guild projects is 'Bear Necessities' and the two ladies, who are the founders of the 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. See below a brief word about the charity.



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

All our meetings start at 2.00pm and we look forward to welcoming some new faces. Men, women, young and old!! Please be assured of a warm welcome and chat over the cup of tea.

Bear Necessities

Bear Necessities for Bulgaria is a non-profit fundraising group supporting social and educational projects in a small Bulgarian village.



In 2009, founders Christina & Cathey made a film following a shoebox Christmas gift. During their visit they fell in love with the people and wanted to help them meet their needs. They decided to raise funds and awareness in their local area in Scotland and roped in their friend, Louise. Thanks to the love and support of many people Bear Necessities was born in 2010 and has been raising funds and delivering aid and projects ever since.

The Guild Project "Build My Church" is a project inspired by the work of the tiny Scottish Charity, Bear Necessities for Bulgaria. Thirteen years ago, Bear Necessities began supporting the children of a small, primarily gypsy village in rural Bulgaria to attend school. Currently, Bear Necessities operate a soup kitchen and medical clinic, and provides winter boots to all school aged children in the village. Rumen Ganushev, a local minister is working with the project to plant a church at the centre of the large residential district of the city of Sliven.



The Guild presents
An afternoon of music and entertainment with Hugs:
Happy Ukulele Group
along with **Mary Stewart** and **Alan Ward**



Monday 20th October at 2pm
in the church hall.
Tickets: £5 – includes Afternoon Tea

Registered Scottish Charity: SC023003

Thursday Service

Over the summer we have had about 28 people attending every week.



The Thursday service is more informal with three hymns, two prayers, one reading and a short talk by the leader. We then meet for a further time in the small hall for refreshments and sweet treats along with some some great interaction from the three tables we use, and of course some laughs, so come along on a Thursday and join us at 10.30am.

The Thursday team

Prayer Group

We have continued to meet during the summer and prayed mainly for the state our Lord's world is in.



We have prayed for the end to all wars which in turn has brought homelessness, starvation and death. We have prayed for countries which have had earthquakes, volcanos and floods leaving them homeless and short of food and medicines. We have also prayed for our church and those we have missed either through illness or holidays and we have prayed for the local community.

So if you feel you can attend the prayer group join with us when we meet for a few minutes after the service every second Sunday of the month.

Margaret Cassidy

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

Property Report



Manse

Over the summer we have had the decking inspected and the property team agree it has to be replaced so this will be discussed at the session meeting in September and hopefully it will all be replaced before the winter months.

The manse dining room has been decorated and the hallway and staircase will be painted in October, thanks again to Gary for all this.

Church

As you will have noticed the front door has been painted and it makes a huge difference when you walk up the front steps.

The gardens have been in full bloom so a big thank you goes to those who take time to weed and plant not only the garden but the tubs also.



We have had a meeting regarding the kitchen and the results of this will also be discussed at the September Kirk Session meeting but it is hoped that the kitchen will be started mid January.

Sadly the price is higher than we would care to pay and again I am asking the congregation to dig deep and give a wee something extra towards this, money can be put in an envelope and addressed kitchen funds. Many thanks in advance for this.

The last quarter of the year is always the busiest section regarding the church annual checks so they will all begin soon.

We have some slates off the church and await the roofer to repair these and remove vegetation which is growing in the gutters

Margaret Cassidy
Property Convenor

Country Dance Club - Ceilidh

No one will want a ceilidh in May!!

Well, they did! We had a full hall of all ages including children on the afternoon of Saturday 31st May.

Many got up to dance the ceilidh dances, our Country Dancers danced some of our favourite dances and some were happy to watch.

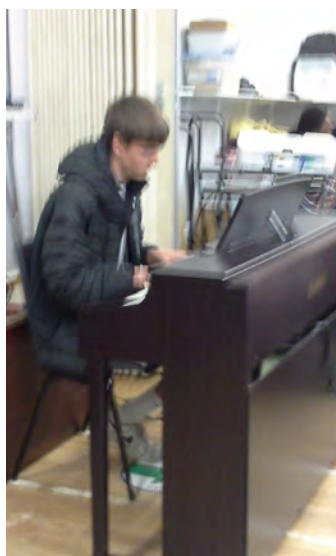
What talent we have at Kirkgate, Ethan on piano and Mary with her flute.

Then we had our wee Highland dancer Lyla and Hannah with her musical item on the ukulele. The afternoon tea was supplied by the Country Dance Club.



What made the afternoon a success was the music with Billy and Bruce. They kept everything going. It was lovely at the end to see almost everyone up in one large circle for "Auld Lang Syne".

Elizabeth Howie



Care & Share



Looking out at the rain pouring down I think Summer is over and Autumn under way. The Lunch Club soup pots have, of course, still been in use offering a choice of soups each week. The surplus food we receive from Aldi has inspired some of the second soup choices eg celery, courgette, tomato. The surplus food "freebies" on offer are very popular and at times have to be rationed to ensure everyone receives something.

Yesterday was our last lunch with Katrona in attendance. Thank you very much Katrona for your support and prayers throughout your time at Kirkgate. Many at the lunch club are grateful for your kind words of comfort. We wish you well in your future calling.

The months flying past ultimately means that Christmas is fast approaching. We are in discussion with the volunteers and entertainers as to the date of the party. It is likely to be the 5th or the 12th December

This month marks the anniversary of the lunch club. It will be 7 years since this joint community outreach project started. Attendances have risen from a few individuals to regular numbers of around 40. Many who come, do so most weeks and we are pleased to welcome new people most weeks too. Please do come along and join us sometime, we look forward to welcoming you.

As usual, I close with my appeal for more volunteers. Please do consider joining our happy group for some Friday food and fun.

Can I also ask you to keep in your prayers those who are experiencing ill health at the moment. Some of our volunteers and attendees are battling serious health issues. We send our love and best wishes for a speedy recovery.

With love and thanks

Pam xx

A word of thanks to all who volunteer at CHANA.

My sister Helen and I went along on Friday and the sandwiches were smashing. The food wasn't just good, it was very good and we intend going back for a great three course meal, all prepared freshly on the premises.

Sandra Craig & Helen Hainey



Argyle Community Shop

The Shop has been busy over the summer months with a wide variety of items available to shoppers. There has been an array of fresh produce available from the Argyle Centre garden and North Ayrshire allotments. Thanks, too, to Tony who has shared vegetables from his garden each week.



On the 30th July there was a ceremony formally dedicating the garden and a memorial bench to John Cello. It is a beautiful peaceful area following all the hard work of the gardening team.

Many activities organised with the support of Link Up took place over the summer. These included family trips to the Ayr Farm Park, back to school haircuts and uniform day. Last week was the Mystery Bus Tour. It turned out not to be much of a mystery as Carol reassured everyone at the start of the trip. She assured all on board that no-one would be left behind in Edinburgh!! Needless to say Carol has taken some stick for that faux pas!

Some of the volunteers have been attending extra training courses eg mental health support and managing energy consumption. This training will help them offer advice and assistance to those who come to the shop.

Thank, as ever, for your interest and support

From All at the Argyle Community Shop

LOVE AND THANKS FROM KATRONA



I want to express my gratitude to the members of Kirkgate.

I genuinely love the vase and the beautiful flowers. Your generosity regarding the cheque deeply moved me.

I have treasured my time at Kirkgate immensely, and the memories made there will stay with me forever.

Church Rotas

SUNDAY DOOR DUTY & COUNTING ROTA			
7 Sept	J. Stewart	M. Hunter	F. Liddell
14 Sept	M. Cooper	G. Armstrong	P. Armstrong
21 Sept	E. McInnes	D. MacLeod	E. Howie
28 Sept	J. Rainey	B. McWilliam	B. McCracken
5 Oct	M. Cooper	P. Martin	E. Green
12 Oct	J. Stewart	S. Gill	L. McDougall



MONTHLY TEA ROTA	
	Organisers
28 Sept	Margaret Cassidy
26 Oct	Craft Team
30 Nov	Evelyn Green
21 Dec	Elizabeth Howie



Online Fundraising

A wee reminder that if you make any purchases online as we approach the end of the year, then please consider signing up with [easyfundraising.org.uk](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk) and making 'Ardrossan & Saltcoats Kirkgate Parish Church' your chosen cause. We currently have 17 supporters who have raised a total of £142.06 to date at no extra cost to themselves.



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for website

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for Ardrossan and
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2

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your cause

3

See retailers donate
whenever you shop

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ardrossanandsaltcoatskirkgate



CHURCH FLOWERS		
VACANT DATES: 2 FEBRUARY, 2 MARCH 2026		
	DONATED BY	DELIVERY
7 Sept	A. Wilkie	S. Donald
14 Sept	I. Passway	J. Hay
21 Sept	W. Sneider	J. O'Hare
28 Sept	P. Martin	E. Breakenridge
5 Oct	S. Gill	M. Cassidy
12 Oct	M. McSwan	C. Ewing



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 the wrapping team informed of those in need.



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.

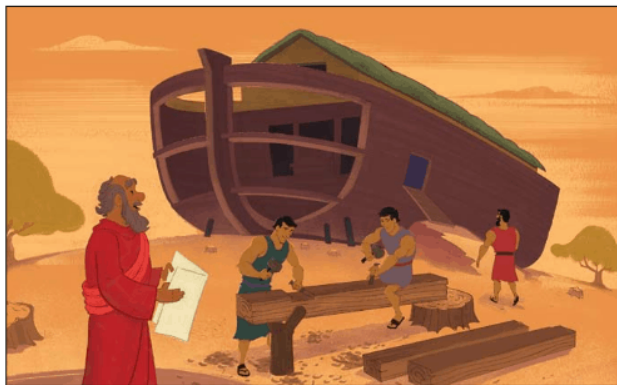
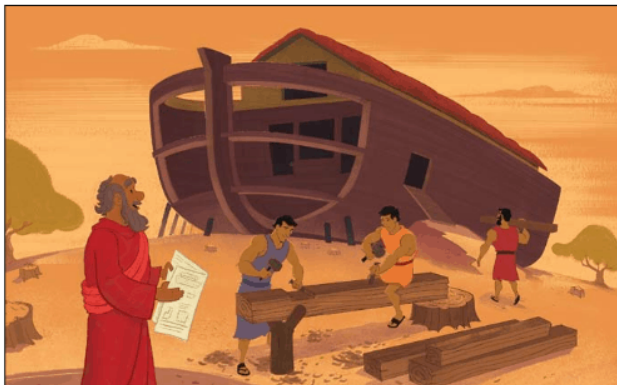
If you can leave a small border round them that would be great. You can leave them on the table in the hallway and someone will pick them up.



They are a valuable source of income at no extra cost to yourself.

Spot the Differences: God Guided Noah

Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 11 things that are different.



September Saints and Feast Days Word Search

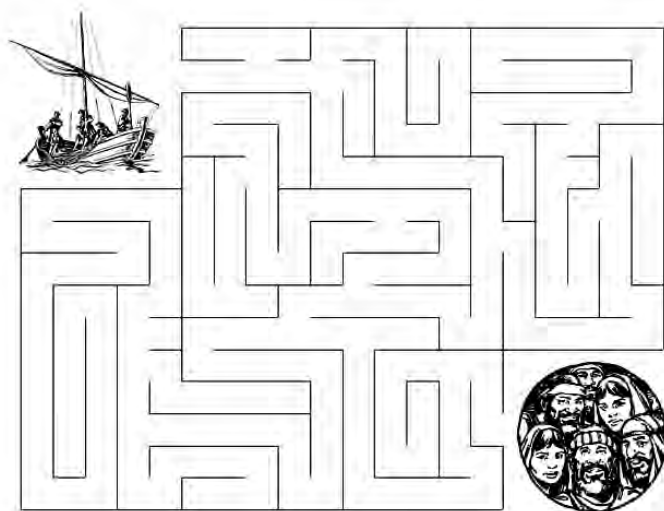


*Directions: Search only for the parts of the saints names or feast days that are in **bold print**.

St. Gregory the Great	St. Cornelius	St. Damian
St. Peter Claver	St. Cyprian	St. Vincent de Paul
Most Holy Name of Mary	St. Andrew Kim Taegon	St. Michael
Exaltation of the Holy Cross	St. Paul Chong Hasang	St. Gabriel
Our Lady of Sorrows	St. Pio of Pietrelcina	St. Raphael
	St. Cosmas	St. Jerome

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Jesus Feeds the Multitude Maze



Help Jesus and the disciples find the way to the crowd.

When Jesus heard what had happened, he withdrew by boat privately to a solitary place. Hearing of this, the crowds followed him on foot from the towns.
Matthew 14:13

Can you help Noah?

Noah needs to finish building his ark before the flood waters come. Can you help him by connecting the dots together and completing his ark?



CHRISTMAS IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER

Saltcoats Christmas Carnival 2025



Just an advance notice of the Saltcoats Christmas Carnival which will be held 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

CHRISTMAS FAIR - EARLY APPEAL

Next month there will be a list of stalls to give you time to make, buy, volunteer etc., for our Christmas Fair on Saturday 29th November.

Fiona Liddell organises the jewellery stall and asks please if you could start looking out your jewellery and empty boxes for her as it takes a while to sort through everything.

You can bring them to the church, where she'll pick them up or you can phone **Fiona on 01294 462504** when she will be happy to pick your items up.

Many thanks in anticipation of receiving your items.



CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

You'll have read on a previous page that the Craft Team have already decided the theme for this year's Christmas Tree Festival .

"Christmas Celebrations Around the World' and It will be staged on Saturday 6th December.

A list will be available soon to sign up to decorate a tree, it can be traditional or contemporary, so thinking caps on and don't be shy to volunteer.

There are always jobs in the tearoom, stewarding and just chatting to folk.

We complete the afternoon with a Shoppers' Carol Service which always popular.



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	Elizabeth McMahon	8 Kennedy Road, Saltcoats KA21 5NJ	01294 464428
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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