

Ardrossan & Saltcoats

KirkgateMessenger

PARISH CHURCH

October 2025



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

www.kirkgatechurch.org.uk

Message from our Minister

Dear Friends, Kirkgate Family

Over the month of September, I have been encouraging us as a church family to spend more time reading the Bible. For some, this has been a refreshing experience; for others, perhaps a more challenging one. That is only natural, but my prayer is that each of us will continue in our own way and in our own space to open the Scriptures and listen for God's voice. The Bible says in Romans 10:17, **"so then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God"**

As I write this letter, autumn has begun to settle in. The mornings are colder now, and the days shorter. It is a season that invites us to reflect, to slow down, and to turn our hearts toward God. For some time, I have been praying for revival—believing that true revival comes as God's people humble themselves, turn to Him, and seek His face in prayer. The Word reminds us:

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

I was reminded recently of Wales, its rolling hills, valleys, and chapels once called the "Land of Revival." In 1904–1905, a mighty move of God swept across that nation, transforming lives and filling churches with prayer and praise. The stories of the Welsh Revival still stir our hearts today. They remind us that God is not finished with His people. Why don't you join me in praying for Revival in Scotland?

The question, of course, arises: "Can God do it again?" I believe the answer is a resounding Yes! Though Scotland today may feel spiritually dry,

the great need of the hour is to pray the tide of God's Spirit back into our land.

Over the coming months, I hope we will reflect together on some of the lessons of the Welsh Revival, not to live in the past, but to let history fuel our prayers for the future. My longing is that we will gain a deeper desire for God to move afresh in our own time, in our own community, and in our own church.

Friends, there are men and women, young and old, slipping into eternity without Christ while much of the church remains asleep.

How we need a true heaven-sent revival - one that awakens our hearts, renews our worship, and drives us to our knees in prayer.

Will you join me in seeking God's face in these days? Together, may we pray for His Spirit to bring refreshing to our church, to our community, and to our nation.

***With every blessing,
Your friend and minister,***

Rev Tichaona Nigel Chikanya

Tel: 01294 683379 Mobile: 07566 278132

Email: NChikanya@churchofscotland.org.uk



**The World Needs
CPR**
Christ, Prayer, & Repentance!



PRAYER FOR TODAY

*Oh, Lord I pray,
for the world today
for all those from You
who have gone astray.*

*May they in humility,
come back to You . . .
and ask for forgiveness
for the evil they do.*

*Oh, Lord I pray,
for the lost today
for all those who choose
to follow the wide way.*

Deborah Ann Belka

*May they turn away,
from their ways wicked
and become to You
fully submitted.*

*Oh, Lord I pray,
for the world today
to seek Your face . . .
without any delay!*

Health & Safety Update

It is important to the Trustees of Kirkgate Parish Church that all who enter our building are aware that their Health & Safety is a priority. We follow the recommendations and regulations issued by or via the Church of Scotland.



At least once a year we undertake three different Risk Assessments
General Health & Safety Risk Assessment

- Fire Risk Assessment
- Security Risk Assessment

If any additional concerns arise, they are assessed and any required actions initiated.

Several updates have taken place recently in the building and they are:

- New push bar doors leading out from the back corridor to the pathway down the side of the church have been installed this year thereby removing the need of a key.
- As no Fire Alarm system is within Kirkgate and at the request of the Kirk Session additional Klaxons/ Air Horns are located as follows:
 - a) on the corridor wall opposite the small hall
 - b) on the side of the small cupboard in the large hall
 - c) final unit is on the shelf in the sanctuary.

In the event of any fire or concern please do not hesitate to use them.

- The fire exit door at the back of the annexe through the large hall has been fitted with a small push lock bar and that removes the need of a key.
- The external doors leading to the hall area etc were removed and replaced with a large single door providing easier access/exit for all.

Security

We ask that you are vigilant at all times and please try to keep the external doors at the Manse Street side of the building closed when possible.

Fire Drill

On the recommendations of the Church of Scotland there is a requirement to carry out a Fire Drill, at least annually, and we intend to do this during the month of October.

The purpose of the Fire Drill is to ensure that all members are familiar with the exit points in the building whether you are in a hall, kitchen, or sanctuary. In addition, it is essential that nominated members of congregation are familiar with their duties.

If you are unsure of the locations of the fire exit doors, please take a moment to look over the building layout located in each of the different areas of the building.

OUR COMMON HUMANITY

Gracious God we thank you for our country – for its history, its traditions, its culture and its abundance of good things. You have given us much to celebrate.

Receive our praise

We thank you for the riches we enjoy as a society – freedom of speech and worship, security through our health service and welfare state, beautiful countryside and thriving towns and cities.

We thank you that we have so much to be grateful for, but we thank you also today for our world – its assortment of nations, and the histories and traditions which are part of them. There are a diversity of countries and continents and languages within them; a fascinating mixture of people, places, cultures with so much to teach us and so much to offer.

We thank you for everything that contributes towards the worldwide community – the insight of different religions and philosophies and the interchange of ideas and the promotion of dialogue concerning global issues, the desire to establish justice and peace among all nations. We thank you that we all have something to receive from the wider world and something to offer it; that our horizons are constantly being stretched and our thinking broadened.

Gracious God

You have given us one world. Help us to live as responsible citizens within it, united together in our common humanity, and bound together in you.

Receive our praise, through Jesus Christ our Lord

AMEN

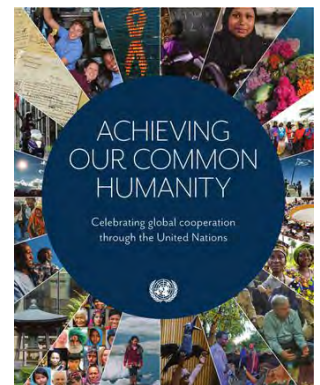
Lord how much juice you can squeeze
from a single grape.

How much water you can draw from a
single well.

How great is a fire you can kindle from a
tiny spark.

How great a tree you can grow from a
single seed.

Our souls get so parched that by ourselves
we cannot love, yet you can draw from us
boundless love for you and for our neighbours



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



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.

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

Church Register

FUNERALS:

"In my Father's house are many mansions"

Mrs Irene Scott, Caledonia Care Home
formerly Mid Dykes Road, Saltcoats



NEW MEMBERS:

"We are members one of another"

By Transfer Certificate

Mr J & Mrs M Campbell, Saltcoats

From the Editor

Lots of information about all our groups and events to be found in this edition.

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



IF.....

You can always be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains,
You can eat the same food everyday and be grateful for it,
You can understand when your loved ones are too busy to give you any time,
You can overlook it when those you love take it out on you,
When, through no fault of your own, something goes wrong,
You can take criticism and blame without resentment,
You can face the world without lies and deceit,
THEN....you are probably the family dog!

Presbytery of the South West Report



Presbytery met on 13th September in the Howard Centre Kilmarnock, and the new moderator Gillian Lynn took the chair.

Presbytery began the meeting with a short time of worship and communion service led by Rev Stephen Ogston.

The moderator welcomed visitors from the Church of Scotland Presbytery Review Team led by their convener Rev Moira McDonald. She told Presbytery that that they were there to help and advise and not just to "check up " on the new Presbytery.

Moderator also welcomed visitors from St Margaret's Dalry. Basis of union has been entered into by Dalry: Trinity and Dalry: St. Margaret's forming Dalry Parish Church and worshipping in the Trinity building from January 2026.

There was lengthy (sometimes heated) discussion re the situation regarding Largs, Fairlie and Cumbrae. A legal issue has arisen and the situation is being further investigated by the Business committee.

The Church of Scotland (in an effort to save money) is going to stop financial support to charges that are vacant but not allowed to call a minister. Up till now the C of S paid pulpit supply but will cease doing this in January 2026. This is going to cause a great deal of hardship for these churches. Presbytery is writing a strong letter of objection to this new ruling.

Dr. Barbara Suchaneck-Seitz was congratulated on her new post in Ardrossan Parish Church. An elder from her church in Ayr: St James spoke warmly about her great service to them over the past nine years and that they will miss her but wish her well in her new post. Barbara replied that her move was bittersweet and that she will hold St James congregation in her heart. Her ordination was held on Thursday 25th September.

Before Presbytery were dismissed we watched a video about mission called 'Vivid Vision '

Next ordinary meeting of Presbytery will be Tuesday 2nd December at 7.00pm on Zoom.

Mary Stewart, Presbytery Elder

Clyde Coast Fiddle Concert - Saturday 6th September



Treasurer's Report

Balances – as at 22 September 2025 were as follows:

General Account	-	£16,362
Fabric Account	-	£ 15,880
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 of August was as follows:

Standing Orders –	August - £2,854	
Plate –	August – £1,883	Average - £471

Obviously the summer period is a relatively quiet time financially. Most expenses continue unabated but things like the cost of gas fall significantly (Electricity remains constant at about £130-£150 a month) but now as the weather gets colder our gas bill will significantly increase. There are also a number of fabric projects in the pipeline but more on that later.

Many thanks are due again to the Fund Raising Committee for the hugely successful Fiddle Orchestra concert which raised £332. A great social, community event.

I will conclude with my usual appeal for those in the congregation who are not currently on the Gift Aid scheme to consider this option. The financial benefits to the congregation are very significant at no extra cost to the giver. If you would like details of giving via envelopes or Standing Order please let me know. To gain the financial benefits of Gift Aid it is necessary for givers to use envelopes or Standing Order – we have to be able to prove the giving if required. Please see Moira Cooper for envelopes and me for Standing Order details.

Thank you - John Stewart, Treasurer

Legacy Giving – ‘Lasting Generosity’

As I am sure you are aware many charities receive a large percentage of their overall funding through gifts in wills eg: two out of three Guide Dogs for the Blind are funded this way.



The Church of Scotland feels that many churches, including ours, do not sufficiently encourage this form of giving. I am fully aware that for some people this is quite a sensitive issue so I am simply bringing it to your attention. The Church of Scotland wish to encourage legacy giving either to the national Church or your own local church. Any gift in a will can be targeted at a specific area of church work eg: Fabric. The Church have produced a leaflet entitled ‘Lasting Generosity’ which I would be happy to obtain for you if you are interested or you could email stewardship@churchofscotland.org.uk for further details.

John Stewart, Treasurer

Saltcoats Christmas Carnival 2025



An advance notice of the Saltcoats Christmas Carnival which will be held in our premises on Sunday 23 November.

Final details have still to be agreed but basically we will be providing facilities for two 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

The Craft Team

CHRISTMAS TREE FESTIVAL

Saturday 6th December

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.

A list is available 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 is always popular.



As always there is 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.



You can also order your personalised Christmas cards or come along and choose from our great selection which will be for sale on our stall at the Christmas Fair.

Musical Memories

We had a lovely turn out in September and everyone joined in well with the songs and the quiz.



The raffle made an amazing £223 and the star prize (hamper) was won by our own Phyllis and George. Thanks to all who helped make this possible. Caledonia Care Home were with us again and they were asking if we can take another group of singers along to the home again this year. I have contacted them and arranged for our wee choir to visit on **Saturday 13th December at 2.00pm**.

See you in the church hall on October 29th - 2.00pm

and at South Beach House on 8th and 22nd October - 2.00pm

**Thank you.
Mary**



INNER LIGHT

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. - 2 CORINTHIANS 4:6 NIV

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

OCTOBER

Thursday 2nd: 2.30pm
Country Dance Club

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

Monday 6th: 2.00pm
Guild Communion and Dedication Service
7.00pm
TBC Safeguarding Meeting

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

Thursday 16th: 7.30pm
Royal Scottish Country Dance Society Meeting

Monday 20th: 2.00pm
Guild Concert & Afternoon Tea - see page 12

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

Sunday 26th: 10.45am
Morning Worship
Dedication of Blythswood Christmas Shoeboxes
Tea/coffee fellowship after morning service
'Messenger' Material required

Wednesday 29th: 2.00pm
Musical Memories



NOVEMBER

Sunday 2nd: 10.45am
Morning Worship - Sacrament of Holy Communion

Monday 3rd: 2.00pm
The Guild - Whiteley's Retreat, Ayr

Thursday 6th: 10.30am
Midweek Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion
2.00pm
Kirk Session Meeting
7.30pm
Country Dance Club

Sunday 9th: 10.45am
Morning Worship - Service of Remembrance
Retiring Collection for Poppy Scotland

Thursday 13th: 7.30pm
Country Dance Business Committee Meeting

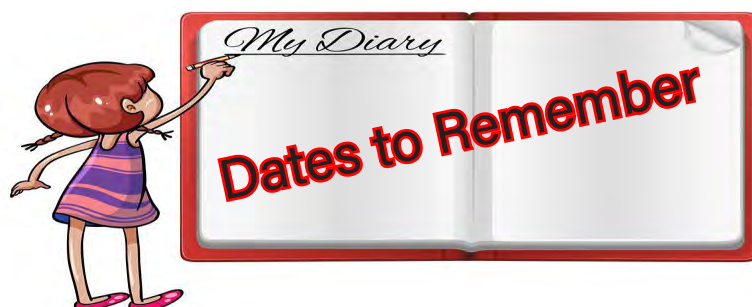
Monday 17th: 2.00pm
The Guild - Sunday Post - Frances Gay

Sunday 23rd: 1.30pm
Saltcoats Christmas Carnival - see page 7

Wednesday 26th: 2.00pm
Musical Memories

Saturday 29th: 11.00am
Christmas Fair - see page 11

Sunday 30th: 10.45am - 1st in Advent
Morning Worship - Sacrament of Holy Communion
Christmas Gift Service
Tea/coffee fellowship after morning service
'Messenger' Material required through to February



Blythswood Shoebox Appeal 2025



Many thanks for the many donations already given and now packed. Anyone still wishing to donate goods, please avoid toothpaste and toothbrushes, as we have enough of them.

There's a shortage in childrens hats and in scarves for all ages. These can be very pricey to buy so here's a challenge - if you can knit even plain - 30 stitches for child or 40 for older - about two and a half length of a standard box, approx 30" Even one would be great.

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 transport ing 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.

Please remember to bring your boxes in time to be dedicated on Sunday 26th October as they get uplifted the following week for 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.

Letters of Appreciation

Thank you for the flowers I received after my short stay in hospital. I would also like to thanks the pastoral team for the lovely card, it was very much appreciated.

Margaret O'Hare



My sincere thanks to all at Kirkgate for the beautiful flowers. They were much appreciated.

Eunice McInnes

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 & TOOTH PASTE	☐ 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

CLOTHES and other items

- ☐
- ☐
- ☐
- ☐

MISCELLANEOUS

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

STATIONERY

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

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



Fundraising 2025-26



We had a lovely afternoon in the Church on Saturday 6th October when we were entertained by 19 musicians from the Clyde Coast Fiddlers. What a talented group they are. The afternoon was well attended and everyone enjoyed a lot of toe tapping music and tea, coffee and goodies at the interval on the Church hall. The concert raised the wonderful sum of £332 - photographs on page 6.

Hopefully you'll be able to join us at the Craft Fair on Saturday 25th October when there will be a variety of stalls from outside crafters. Teas and coffees will be available as well as rolls and sausage. A good chance to pick up an early unique Christmas gift and socialise.

Also an early reminder that volunteers for the Christmas Fair will be required so please try to help and give your name to one of the team as soon as possible.

We are very fortunate to have such good support from our congregation and friends and look forward to this continuing .

Phyllis Armstrong

2025

Saturday October 25th: Craft Fair

Saturday November 29th: Christmas Fair

Saturday December 6th: Christmas Tree Festival

2026

February: Burns Supper (date to be arranged)



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.

**Chapelwell Street,
Saltcoats**

CHRISTMAS FAIR

Saturday 29th November
11.00am - 2.00pm

All the usual stalls:
Home Bakery • Sweets
Jewellery / Accessories
Toys / Jigsaws • Soft Goods
Books • Bottle Stall • Bric-a-Brac •
Hand Made Cards
TEAROOM

FREE ADMISSION TO CHRISTMAS FAIR
Tearoom Tickets: Adults: £3, Children: £1
(Roll & Sausage extra £2)

Registered Scottish Charity: SC023003

Hope to See you at these Events

Kirkgate Pastoral Care



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

The small Pastoral Committee of four met on 10th September. We reviewed pastoral delivery over the summer months; no issues were reported to us and we have decided going forward to have two full team meetings in the church year unless an urgent need arises.

As two of our small group are abroad in the coming weeks, we will arrange the dates on their return.

As always we are contactable on the numbers published in our monthly magazine article.

Every blessing, 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 (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

The Guild



We streamed The Guild Annual Gathering live on Saturday 13th September. It was disappointing that only 2 ladies from Stevenston and 4 of our own with another 2 of our own in the afternoon attended, however we all enjoyed the meeting, the singing and the speakers.



Our regular meetings start on Monday 6th October at 2.00pm with a Communion and Dedication Service.

There are tickets on sale 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.

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 a cup of tea and hope you enjoy the varied syllabus we've planned for 2025/26



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

Kirk Session

The Kirk Session met on Thursday 4th September.

We will be celebrating Communion at our services on Sunday 5th October and Thursday 9th October. Sunday 5th October is also our Harvest service, when we will be collecting monetary donations for the Argyle Community Shop.

Communion will also be celebrated on Sunday 2nd November and Thursday 6th November, and again on Sunday 30th November which is 1st Sunday in Advent and Thursday 4th December. There will be a retiring offering on 9th November for Poppy Scotland.

Our Christmas Gift service will also be held on Sunday 30th November. We have decided that we will once again support the work of 'The Night before Christmas Campaign', a charity based in Annbank, which aims to provide Christmas gifts for children and families in need. Gifts can be for children, teenagers and adults, and should be brought unwrapped to church to be passed on to the charity.

We considered two quotes for our new kitchen, and decided to use Perfect Kitchens in Hamilton Street for the work. Many thanks to all who have already donated to this much-needed project. We are looking into the possibility of sourcing grants towards the cost, but in the meantime we have to apply to Presbytery for permission to carry out the work. We are hopeful that it might be done in January.

There is quite a lot of decking in the back garden at

the manse, and this decking is badly in need of replacement. We have decided to replace the wooden decking with composite decking which we hope will require less maintenance and last longer.

Unfortunately Margaret Cassidy has tendered her resignation as Property Convenor. Margaret has filled this role very competently for 4 years now, and would like a break. I know that we are all very grateful to her for all her hard work, and we must now find a replacement. Margaret has agreed to stay in post until the end of this year, and to help anybody willing to take on the position. If this is something which you think you could perhaps do, please speak to me or to Margaret about what is involved. You do not need to be a member of the Kirk Session to do this.

There will be lots happening as we draw nearer to Christmas, and I am sure that you will hear/read more information about all the events. The first of these is a Craft Fair on Saturday 25th October, and then we will be hosting Santa for the Saltcoats Christmas Carnival on Sunday 23rd November. We will be looking for volunteers to help out on that day, so please let us know if you are available. Our Christmas Fair will be held on Saturday 29th November, and then the Christmas Tree Festival and Shoppers' Carol service is on Saturday 6th December, so there are lots of dates for your diary!

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



Remembrance Sunday 9th November 2025

The Scottish Poppy Appeal is Scotland's largest fundraising campaign.

We provide support for current and former members of the Armed Forces as well as their families. This support, in recognition of their sacrifices and service, is holistic and bespoke.

We have helped countless men, women and families with issues linked to their time in the Armed Forces or with struggles adjusting from military to civilian life. We even help with needs that have arisen long after someone has left the Armed Forces. Whenever, wherever support is needed, we are here.

There will be an opportunity to donate to the Poppy Scotland Appeal at Kirkgate's Service of Remembrance on Sunday 9th November, and our church building will be lit up in red once again for a few weeks.



Thursday Service

We continue to have about 25-30 people attend the short service and time for tea is always enjoyed by those who attend. Please come along and join us you will be more than welcome.

The Thursday Team

Prayer Group

We continue to meet every second Sunday in the month please come and join us.



Thank you God for everything, the big things and the small.

For every good gift comes from God, the giver of them all

Margaret



Property Report

Manse

Not a lot to add this month, just that the painter will be commencing the staircase soon.



At the session meeting it was agreed to replace the outside decking and this will be looked at and decided if it is to be replaced this year or just to make it safe and replace it in the spring when the weather may be better for doing this large area.

Church

Again not a lot happening in the church but the annual checks have begun.

There was a crack in the back wall which we felt was causing some dampness in the kitchen however Gary has repaired this and cleaned/cleared some of the guttering so hopefully that will resolve the issues.

Can I remind you if you see an issue to please contact me or one of the committee like the train announcements say, 'See it, Report it, Fix it' - done.

Margaret Cassidy, Property Convenor

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.



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.



YouTube

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 176 subscribers we currently have.



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.

Care & Share



I can't believe another month passed already! Maybe it's because I've been on two holidays this month. Back to reality now and good old Scottish weather. Thanks to Maureen and all the other volunteers for holding the fort while I was enjoying myself.



The Lunch Club is as busy as ever on Fridays. Unfortunately several of our volunteers have had to step back due to ill-health. We wish them a speedy recovery and look forward to their return. As a result there are a few gaps in the rota now and I would appeal to you to consider offering to help on an occasional Friday. Come and dip a toe into the water and see what you think. We have good food, fun and friendship on offer every week. It just might be what's missing in your life!

The Aldi donations remain a very popular addition. We've had a wide mix of items most of which have been enthusiastically received. Last Friday we were given a child's sleeping bag which I'm sure will find a grateful forever home.

Thank you, as always, for your support and prayers for the Lunch club

With love and blessings
Pam Martin xx

Ardrossan Parish Church

The induction of Rev Barbara Suchanek-Seitz took place in Ardrossan Parish Church on Thursday 25th September 2025.

Pictured opposite are Rev Adri la Grange, Beith: Parish Church (preacher), Mrs Gillian Lynn, Moderator of South West Presbytery and Rev Barbara Suchanek-Seitz.



Kirkgate send our very best wishes and congratulations to Barbara on her induction. We pray that she and her family will soon settle in to their new surroundings and in time we may be able to unite in community events.

Argyle Community Shop

The Shop is busy as usual. We have been enjoying the last of the produce from the garden and allotments, especially the lovely cooking apples.



We have been successful once again with funding applications which will keep us viable well into the new year. There was another very successful food collection at Morrisons last weekend. Thanks to everyone who donated so generously.

Discussions are underway around upcoming events eg Hallowe'en, warm coat event and, of course, Christmas. No doubt there will be lots of great ideas to be put into action.

Thank you for your continued support for this venture.

All at the Argyle Community Shop

Observant?

The centre part of the notice board at the front of the church was badly in need of repair and updating.

How many of you have noticed the lovely, fresh, new one which was installed recently?



Spot the Differences for John Wrote About Love

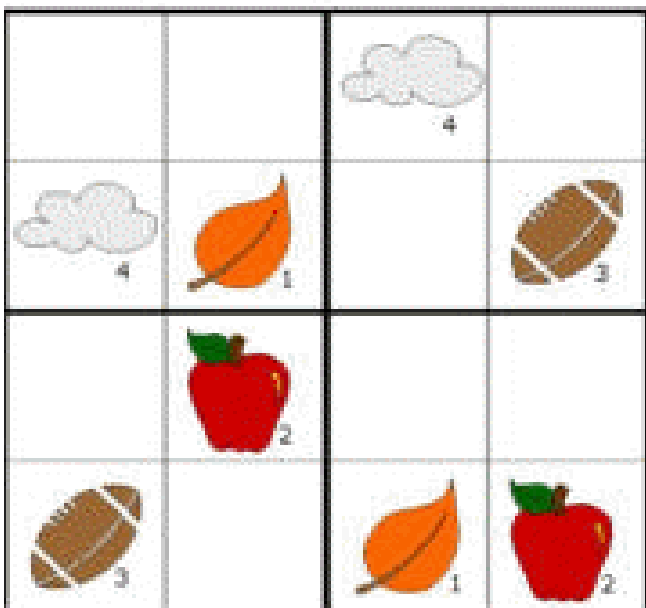
Compare the picture on the top with the picture on bottom. Circle the 12 things that are different.



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Autumn Sudoku



Each row, each column and each of the large four squares should have one of each image. Fill in the blanks!



AUTUMN IS HERE

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



Word list:
ACORN
AUTUMN
CRISP
FALL
HARVEST
JACKET
LEAVES
NUT
RAKE
SWEATER



Church Rotas



SUNDAY DOOR DUTY & COUNTING ROTA			
5 Oct	M. Cooper	P. Martin	E. Green
12 Oct	J. Stewart	S. Gill	L. McDougall
19 Oct	E. McInnes	M. Hunter	F. Liddell
26 Oct	J. Rainey	P. Armstrong	G. Armstrong
2 Nov	J. Stewart	D. MacLeod	E. Howie
9 Nov	M. Cooper	B. McWilliam	B. McCracken



MONTHLY TEA ROTA	
	Organisers
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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CHURCH FLOWERS		
VACANT DATES: 2 FEBRUARY, 2 MARCH 2026		
	DONATED BY	DELIVERY
5 Oct	S. Gill	C. Ewing
12 Oct	M. McSwan	D. MacLeod
19 Oct	S. McMahon	M. Hunter
26 Oct	M. Cooper	E. Green
2 Nov	A. Buick	J. O'Hare
9 Nov	C. Meney	E. McInnes



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 and her distribution team informed of those in need.



It is only a tiny rosebud—
A flower of God's design;
But I cannot unfold the petals
With these clumsy hands of mine.

The secret of unfolding flowers
Is not known to such as I—
The flower God opens so sweetly
In my hands would fade and die.

If I cannot unfold a rosebud
This flower of God's design,
Then how can I think I have wisdom
To unfold this life of mine?

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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41 Glasgow Street, Ardrossan

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