

Ardrossan & Saltcoats

Kirkgate Messenger

PARISH CHURCH

Chapelwell Street
Saltcoats, KA21 5EB

February 2026



Find us online:



www.kirkgatechurch.org.uk

Message from our Minister

Dear Kirkgate Family,

As a new year begins, many of us naturally turn our attention to resolutions, plans, and hopes for the months ahead. January often arrives with an unspoken urgency to improve, to move forward, to make progress quickly. Yet Scripture so often invites us to begin not with speed, but with patience.

This year began rather differently for me. I travelled to Pittsburgh for my studies, grateful for the opportunity and excited for what lay ahead. The journey itself went well, and I arrived safely. Shortly after arriving, however, I became very unwell with a virus that was circulating at the time. Being sick so far from home was deeply unsettling. I felt frustrated, disappointed, and, if I am honest, devastated.

Very early in the year, my first lesson was this, 'be patient with yourself!'

For several days I felt weak and disoriented. Sleep came in short stretches, often filled with unsettling scary dreams that seemed to repeat themselves night after night. I prayed for healing and longed for immediate relief. I took the medication and hoped each morning would be the turning point, but healing came slowly. Much more slowly than I wanted.

In that enforced stillness, the words of James 5:7-8 came to mind :⁷ ***Be patient, then, my friends, until the Lord comes. See how patient farmers are as they wait for their land to produce precious crops. They wait patiently for the autumn and spring rains.*** ⁸ ***You also must be patient. Keep your hopes high, for the day of the Lord's coming is near.***

As James reminds us, patience is not something we are called to admire from a distance, but something we are invited to live into, often in very ordinary and uncomfortable places.

Patience with God

Patience with God is perhaps one of the hardest disciplines of faith. Many of us begin the year carrying prayers that remain unanswered, prayers for clarity, healing, reconciliation, or change. Waiting can feel like silence, and silence can slowly erode trust if we are not careful. Yet biblical patience is not passive resignation; it is an active trust that God is at work even when we cannot yet see the outcome. It asks us to consider whether delays have

made us restless or quietly resentful, or whether we can still place our confidence in God's timing, even when it disrupts our carefully laid plans.



Patience with Ourselves

At the start of a new year, patience with ourselves is especially needed. We are often quick to measure our spiritual lives by progress, achievement, or visible change. When growth feels slow, frustration and self-criticism can easily take hold. Yet God's work in us is rarely instant. Formation takes time. Learning patience with ourselves means allowing room for weakness, accepting that growth often comes through small, unseen steps, and trusting that God is far more gentle with us than we are with ourselves.

Patience with Others

Scripture calls us to ***"bear with one another in love" (Ephesians 4:2)***, and this is where patience becomes deeply relational. Whether in family life, friendships, the workplace, or the life of the church, others will test our patience not always intentionally. Patience with others asks us to listen more carefully, to slow our responses, and to resist the urge to fix or correct too quickly. It invites us to remember that others, like us, are also works in progress under God's grace.

Patience in Change and Uncertainty

Many of us find waiting hardest in seasons of transition. When outcomes are unclear or progress feels slow, the temptation is to rush ahead or try to regain control. Yet patience calls us to faithfulness in the "in-between" spaces of life those times when answers have not yet arrived and direction is still unfolding. In both personal journeys and congregational life, patience helps us trust that God is present not only in arrival, but also in process.

Patience in Suffering or Weariness

There are times when patience is not about waiting for something new, but about enduring what already is. Some carry quiet burdens, illness, grief, exhaustion, or long-standing disappointment. In such seasons, patience is not indifferent endurance or forced positivity. Rather, it is hope-filled perseverance, the belief that God remains near even when relief is delayed, and that weariness does not disqualify us from faithfulness.

Message from our Minister - cont'd

Patience in Faithful Practice

Much of Christian life is shaped not through dramatic moments, but through steady, repeated practices. Patience here asks whether we value consistency over intensity, whether we are willing to show up for prayer, worship, and service even when they feel ordinary. In the Reformed tradition, we trust that God works through the means of grace over time, shaping us quietly through Scripture, sacrament, and community. Patience allows us to believe that small acts of obedience, repeated faithfully, are never wasted.

Patience for God's Kingdom

Finally, patience stretches beyond our own lives to God's wider purposes. We live between promise and fulfilment. We may long to see immediate fruit, in the church, in mission, in our communities, but the Kingdom often grows in hidden ways. Patience helps us resist the need to "arrive" this year, I invite you all to plant seeds, trusting that God will bring the harvest in God's time, even if we do not see it ourselves.

As 2026 unfolds, may we learn to be patient with God's timing, gentle with ourselves, gracious with one another, and faithful in the small, repeated acts of obedience that shape our lives.

And may we do so with hope, confident that the Lord who began a good work in us will, in God's time, bring it to completion.

With love and every blessing,

Nigel

Rev Tichaona Nigel Chikanya

Tel: 01294 683379 Mobile: 07566 278132

Email: NChikanya@churchofscotland.org.uk



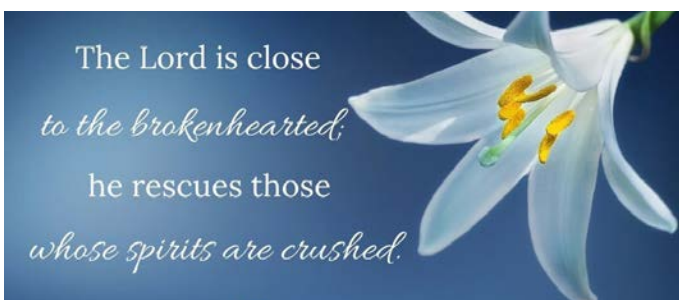
Church Register

FUNERALS:

"In my Father's house are many mansions"

12/12/25 Mrs Mary Ferguson, Saltcoats

20/1/26 Mrs Elizabeth McFall,
Caledonia Care Home, Saltcoats



The Patience Of The Lord

The Lord is ever so patient
Each time we fail Him
He understands we are but flesh
And prone to be tempted by sin

He knows that our hearts desire
Is to become like Jesus Christ
And though at times we miss the mark
He still pours His love inside

For He will never give up on us
When we have fallen short,
But remains so very patient
And our ever-faithful Lord.

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Kirkgate Pastoral Care



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

The steering committee met on the 8th January and on the 12th January along with the rest of the team. Communication was high on the agenda.

Members of the congregation should inform any member of the team about their concerns, and this should then be passed on to the Convener, who will then inform the Minister. The committee would like to co-opt any male member of the congregation to help with visits to the men who have requested a visit from the team.

The whole Pastoral Care Team works away quietly in the background, visiting and phoning the members who have requested these options.

There will be a workshop/training session on Monday 16th March, meeting at 10.30 to start at 11.00am, to keep the team informed about recent developments in ADHD and autism. Please keep all the team in your prayers as they do God's work in the Community.

Susan Gill

PASTORAL CARE CONTACTS

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

The main contacts for Pastoral Care are:

Mrs Susan Gill, (07884 957389)
Mrs Ruth McMartin (01294 602942)
Mrs Evelyn Green (07737 225943)
Mrs Moira Cooper, (01294 468851)
Mrs Jean Hay, (01294 469986) 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

You Have A Part To Play

Each one of God's children has a special part to play, whether it be great or small, we are needed every day

**If your part seems very small,
Don't feel you're insignificant
Don't feel that you can't offer much
And you wouldn't make a difference
Though you're tempted to give up
And let another take your place,
Remember, God gave you your gifts
And you cannot be replaced**

**And these gifts that God has given,
He longs for you to share
You're just as important as anyone,
So don't be in despair
The only one who matters most
Is watching for your part,
With much anticipation
And excitement in His heart**

**So do not disappoint Him
By not taking your cue,
Though you think it unimportant,
This part is made for you
Don't let God walk away
With a disappointed heart
Because you felt so unworthy
Of your very special part**

**The parts that we've been given
Isn't based on size at all,
But rather on the abilities
And the gifting of the Lord
For each part is important
To make the whole thing work,
So do your part with enthusiasm a
And know that you have worth.**

© By M.S.Lowndes

Message from Rev Katrona Templeton, OLM

Dear friends,

It is great to be back worshipping with you all again. I am excited to journey with you on my new ministry adventure.

I find myself reflecting on the quiet yet powerful truth that God is always doing something new. The Christmas season reminds us that God enters our world in unexpected ways. The New Year invites us to notice how God continues that work within us, around us, and through us.



The turning of the calendar does not magically erase our challenges, but it offers us a moment to breathe, reset, and remember that we are held by a God who delights in renewal. Paul's words to the Corinthians echo this promise: ***in Christ, we are made new. Not once, not occasionally, but continually. God's mercies meet us every morning, and His grace accompanies every step we take into the unknown.***

As we begin this year together, I encourage you to embrace the spiritual rhythm of new beginnings:

- Release what has weighed heavily on your heart.
- Receive the peace Christ offers with open hands.
- Renew your commitment to walk in love, justice, and compassion.
- Rejoice in the small signs of God's presence that appear in ordinary days.

You do not step into this year alone. Christ goes before you. Christ walks beside you. Christ strengthens you from within. And as a congregation, we journey together — supporting one another, praying for one another, and shining Christ's light into our community.

May this New Year be a season of holy possibility. May God surprise you with joy, anchor you with hope, and surround you with love that does not fail. And may you discover, again and again, that the One who began a good work in you will be faithful to bring it to completion.

With blessings for every new beginning,

Katrona

From the Editor

With February being such a short month I'm afraid that articles for the March edition have to be in by **Sunday 22nd February** please.

While we think the the shops maybe ahead of themselves with all the Easter eggs on display, I'm sorry to say that I have to ask for any information relating to Easter to be included in the March edition – Palm Sunday being the 29th March and the April magazine deadline also 29th March.

Reminder postage renewal slips are included with this magazine if you've not already sent it back. It costs just £1 per edition (£9/year) to get it posted out to you. Speak to myself or Stuart if you'd like to be added to the list. Thanks also to our advertisers who have generously supported us this year. Please try and support them in return.

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



THE FAMILY OF GOD

Loving God we thank you that we have called us together in this place as part of the great family of your people.

We praise you for the common bond you have given us in Christ - the fact that we gather here as friends, in fellowship with you and one another, and as part of the great company of your people in every time and place.

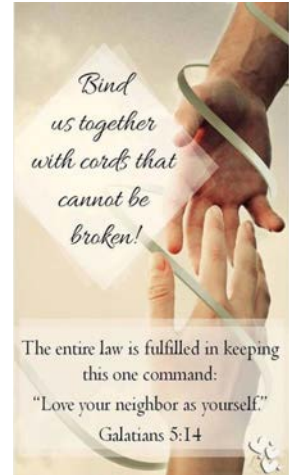
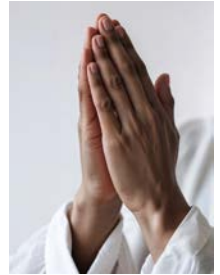
In one faith we have gathered: **Bind us together in love.**

We praise you that through Jesus Christ we have become a chosen race, a holy nation. Your own people, called to proclaim your mighty acts in leading us out of darkness into light. Once we were no people, but you have called us to be the people of God, chosen and precious to you. Once we had not received mercy, but now we have received your mercy in all its wonder. In one faith we have gathered: **Bind us together in love**

Loving God we praise you for your awesome love, so great that while we were yet sinners you gave your Son for us. We praise you for your limitless patience, always forgiving despite our failure to serve you as we should. We praise you for your constant care, watching over us as a father watches over his children.

In one faith we have gathered: **Bind us together in love**

Help us to learn what it means to be your people, to appreciate just how wide and great is the extent of your love. And teach us to show that same love and care in all our dealings with one another. We meet together again as your people and may we be encouraged through being with you and being with one another. So may your family in this church and all represented here, in this town and every place grow and flourish to the glory of your name. In one faith we have gathered: **Bind us together in love, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen**



Health and Safety Report

From time to time the Church of Scotland General Trustees share any concerns that have arisen which could have an impact on any of the church properties.

We have received a Fire Safety Memo which I would like to share with you as follows:

FIRE INCIDENTS 2024-25

Wilful Fire Raising (3)

Contractor Hot Works (2)

Attempted Wilful Fire Attempts (3)

We are asked to note that the majority of these incidents took place in fully occupied and operational church buildings and not exclusively related to closed or unoccupied church properties.

As Trustees and members of Kirkgate we all have a responsibility to ensure that any concerns that arise about our Security, Fire Precautions, or Health & Safety within or outwith the building are reported and dealt with efficiently. If you notice anything that concerns you, please do not hesitate to bring it to the notice of myself or the Property Conveners.

We fulfil the requirements placed on churches to carry out a Health & Safety, Fire and Security Risk Assessments, at least annually or if necessary, as and when required. In addition, we are requested to dispose of any unused/unwanted items/materials that are no longer required and only taking up space.

Mima McSwan



Treasurer's Report

Balances – as at 11 January 2026 were as follows:

General Account	-	£22,521
Fabric Account	-	£22,866

The amount collected by standing order, cheques and plate collection for the period of December was as follows:

Standing Orders – £3,494

Plate – £2,284 - Average - £457

The final total for the Christmas Fair was a fantastic £3,630.05. Many thanks to all involved.

Yet again the church organisations have been tremendously supportive of the church with over £4,000 contributed. This is on top of all the extra fund raising done this year.

Many of you will have attended the Christmas Carnival at the church – it was a great success despite appalling weather. The Carnival organisers made a very generous donation to church funds of £500.

In my last report I mentioned having made numerous grant applications for the kitchen renovation. I am delighted to say that, so far, one of them has been successful with the Benefact Trust (who have supported us before for the new doors) awarding us a grant of £4,700 towards the kitchen work. Hopefully by the time you read this, the work on the kitchen will be completed.

As you know we are required to make a monthly contribution towards the running of the church – 'Giving to Grow' - this payment partly covers our Ministry Cost and contributes towards the operation of the national church. The contribution required of us has been increased from £4,821 a month to £5,361 a month – this monthly increase of approximately £540 is clearly significant and is money we have to find from general income.

On the subject of income I will say more about this later, at the AGM and in the magazine but we do lose significant potential income through the plate – in 2025 Ordinary givings (cash in the plate) was over £8,000 - obviously we cannot claim Gift Aid on this money. This represents close to £2,000 lost in potential income. I realise that some people are not in a position to give by envelope or standing order and may not be eligible for Gift Aid giving but, if it is possible I would ask you to consider giving this way.

If you would like details of giving via envelopes or Standing Order please let me know. To gain the financial benefits of Gift Aid it is necessary for givers to use envelopes or Standing Order – we have to be able to prove the giving, if required. Please see Moira Cooper for envelopes and myself for Standing Order details.

Thank you - John Stewart, Treasurer

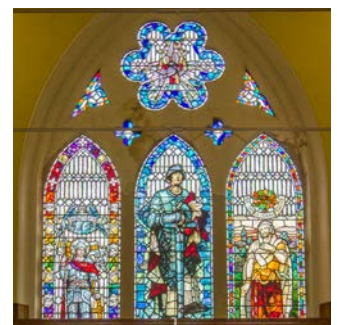
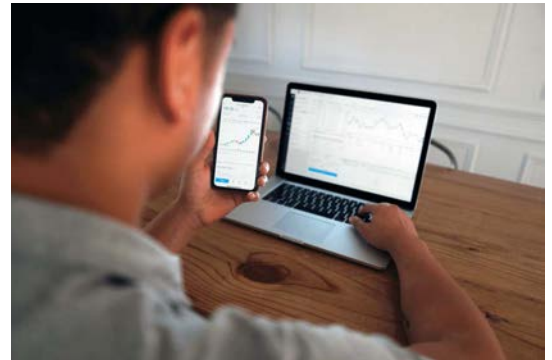
Legacy Giving 'Lasting Generosity'

As I am sure you are aware many charities receive a large percentage of their overall funding through gifts in wills.

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 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



Christmas Tree Festival

The theme for our Christmas Tree Festival held back in December was "Christmas Around the World".

A lot of imagination went in to decorating all the trees which looked lovely. Some photos of them, taken by Alan Pettigrew and Stuart McMahon are shown opposite. The Shoppers' Carol Service afterwards was also very well attended.



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

FEBRUARY

Sunday 1st: 10.45am
Morning Worship - Sacrament of Holy Communion

Tuesday 3rd: 1.00pm
Craft Team Resumes

Thursday 5th: 10.30am
Midweek Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion
2.30pm
Country Dancing Club
7.30pm
Country Dance Branch Meeting

Monday 9th: 2.00pm
The Guild Resumes - Helen Kerr: 'Guild Theme'

Wednesday 11th: 7.30pm
Youth Workers Meeting

Friday 13th: 6.30 for 7.00pm
Fundraising - Burns Supper - Tickets only

Sunday 22nd: 10.45am
Morning Worship
Tea/Coffee fellowship after morning service
Material required for 'The Messenger'

Monday 23rd: 2.00pm
The Guild - Association of Country Women World
Wide - Alison Burnett

Wednesday 25th: 2.00pm
Musical Memories



MARCH

Sunday 1st: 10.45am
Morning Worship - Sacrament of Holy Communion

Thursday 5th: 10.30am
Midweek Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion
2.30pm
Country Dancing Club

Friday 6th: 2.00pm
World Day of Prayer
South Beach Baptist Church, Saltcoats

Monday 9th: 2.00pm
The Guild - Three Towns' Churches - Alan Pettigrew

Saturday 14th: 10.00am - 1.00pm
Elders Retreat - Venue To Be Confirmed

Sunday 15th: 10.45am
Morning Worship - Mothering Sunday

Monday 16th: 10.30am
Paternal Group Workshop

Monday 23rd: 2.00pm
The Guild - Life of Jesus Christ - Susan Gill

Wednesday 25th: 2.00pm
Musical Memories

Sunday 29th: 10.45am
Morning Worship
Tea/Coffee fellowship after morning service
Material required for 'The Messenger'

Psalm 100

Make a joyful noise to the LORD, all the earth!
Serve the LORD with gladness!
Come into his presence with singing!
Know that the LORD, he is God!
It is he who made us, and we are his;
we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.
Enter his gates with thanksgiving,
and his courts with praise!
Give thanks to him; bless his name!
For the LORD is good;
his steadfast love endures forever,
and his faithfulness to all generations.

Letters of Appreciation

My apologies for some of these belated messages. Ed.



The Christmas Fair held in November was amazing. The variety of goods was excellent, a wide range and very reasonably priced. The tearoom was welcoming, relaxing and inviting with a wide choice of home baking to choose from.

As I was making my way home I got a phone call to say I had won the Christmas Hamper - what an end to a lovely day.

Thank you for all the time and effort that was put into making it such a successful day both financially and socially.

Helen Hainey

What an unexpected treat to receive the church flowers recently on a particularly dreich day! They made a beautiful arrangement and certainly brightened up our home.

My thanks in particular to Mary for delivering them, to Nigel for his visit and prayers and to Evelyn for her encouraging messages and supportive pastoral cards, but thank you also to ALL at Kirkgate for thinking of me and uplifting me in such a kind and caring way.

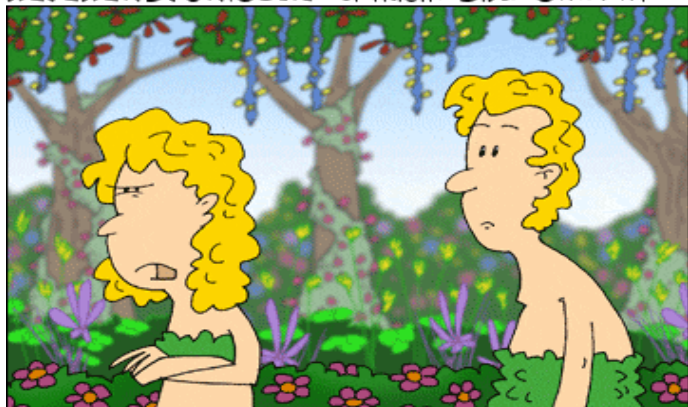
You are very special people.

Morag Forsyth

Thanks to everyone at Kirkgate for the beautiful bouquet of flowers I received. It was a lovely surprise and very much appreciated. Thanks also to Maureen for delivering them.

Isabel Diamond

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I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU FORGET TO GET ME
FLOWERS FOR VALENTINE'S DAY

Letters of Appreciation - Cont'd

I would to thank all at Kirkgate for the beautiful flowers and cards that I received in October. They certainly made my day very special and were much appreciated.

Nina Fleming

We would like to thank the Kirk Session and all at Kirkgate for the beautiful flowers and good wishes sent to us on our Golden Wedding Anniversary on 26th November.

John & Margaret O' Hare

Thank you to all at Kirkgate for the beautiful flowers, lovely cards and letters we received after we sadly lost mum. We really appreciated the support and visits when she was in hospital and afterwards. Thank you also for the amazing amount of £735 which was raised at the funeral service for North Ayrshire Cancer Support Service.

Christine McFarlane and Family

Jean Millar sends her thanks to the Kirk Session and Congregation for the lovely flowers she received recently on the occasion of her 90th Birthday. They were very much appreciated.

Anna Donnan would like to thank the church for the flowers she received before Christmas. They were a lovely surprise and much appreciated.

I am a Christian

When I say, "I am a Christian," I am not shouting that "I am clean living"
I am whispering "I was lost, but now I'm found and forgiven."

When I say, "I am a Christian," I don't speak of this with pride.
I'm confessing that I stumble and need Christ to be my guide.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not trying to be strong.
I'm professing that I am weak and need His strength to carry on.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not bragging of success.
I'm admitting I have failed and need God to clean my mess.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I am not claiming to be perfect.
My flaws are far too visible, but God believes I am worth it.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I still feel the sting of pain.
I have my share of heartaches, so I call upon His name.

When I say, "I am a Christian," I'm not holier than thou.
I'm just a simple sinner who received God's good grace somehow!

Fundraising 2026

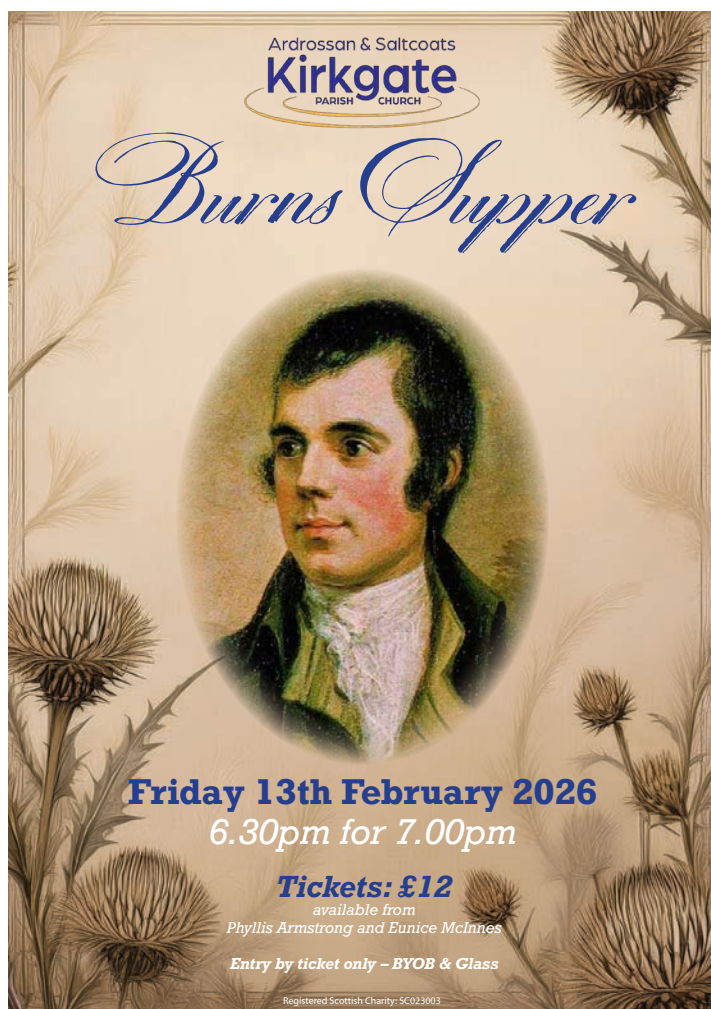


Starting off fundraising events for 2026 is our Burns Supper on Friday 13th February, 6.30 for 7.00pm.

BYOB and glass along for an entertaining evening being provided by a range of very talented people.

Due to space/catering we are limiting numbers to 60 so entry is by ticket only which are available from either Phyllis or Eunice costing £12.

The Committee plan to meet after that to arrange events for the rest of the year.



Craft Group

The Craft Group have enjoyed a welcome break during January after a busy December and another successful year. Starting again on Tuesday 3rd February from 1.00pm-4.00pm. we look forward to meeting each other again and with anyone who'd like to join the group.



The Christmas Tree Festival was a great event and again we were delighted with the response from within the congregation and the community to take part and decorate trees.

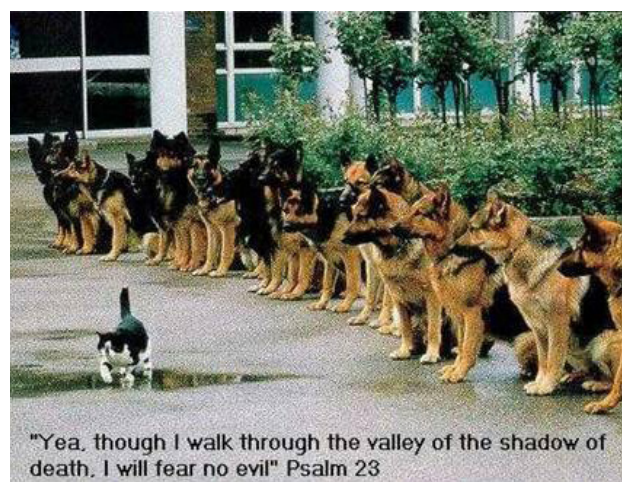
The Shoppers' Carol Service was a full house bringing people together. Our thanks to Nigel and Stuart for a meaningful service with a lovely atmosphere.

At the end of December we donated £850 to Church funds, bringing the total donations for 2025 to £1,750. This amazing total includes proceeds from events held, a Wedding Invitation order and card sales during the year. It is only made possible with the generous support of all our customers. A big thank you to everyone

Amusing

When looking for something recently I came across this amusing photo recently in an old 'Contact' magazine and felt it was worth sharing it again.

Hope you find it as amusing as I did.
Ed.



Care & Share



Happy New Year everyone!

It seems a long time ago now but the Christmas Party was great. More than 60 people attended on the day and we sat down together for a lovely meal. The entertainment was very enjoyable with people joining in with the singing and even some dancing! The gifts from Santa most welcome with lots of smiling faces opening the parcels. Some of those attending indicated that they would like us to open on Boxing Day and 2nd January with 10 people coming for lunch each day.



During the festive period our FoodBank facility was in high demand. It is wonderful to be able to provide this valuable service but very sad that so many are struggling and in need.

The last two Fridays have been a bit of a challenge while the new kitchen is being installed!! No cooking facilities, no water for tea & coffee and no means of washing up. However the volunteers rose to the challenge as always and produced a delicious spread of sandwiches, wraps and Greggs hot sausage rolls. Many thanks to Mary for delivering the apple crumbles hot from her oven right on time for serving dessert. Pray that we are back in the main hall next week with the brand new kitchen fully functioning and ready to serve up the favourite lentil soup and hot filled rolls.

Several attendees now join in with the short reading and prayer before lunch and a couple of people have asked for personal prayers. It is good to be able to meet this need and offer spiritual support.

Please continue to pray for the Lunch Club and all who attend.

With love, Pamela Martin xx

HELPING LOCAL PEOPLE IN CRISIS



John Stewart, 07561 340886, is happy to collect any donations and deliver to the Foodbank HQ in Ardrossan.

If you would like to contribute some items for the foodbank at any time, there is always a collection box in the hallway at the church.

Argyle Community Shop

Happy New Year from all at the Argyle Community Shop. The shop reopened on the 7th January after the short Christmas and New Year break. Shoppers all said they had an enjoyable time over the festive season.



We continue to sign up new members most weeks with membership nearing 350 and 60-70 appointments being filled weekly. The after school club on Wednesdays for parents and children has attracted a number of new members to the shop. The children keep us on our toes!

You might have seen the article in the Ardrossan & Saltcoats Herald last week which reported on Angela's Christmas raffle that raised over £1,700 towards the larger running costs. Well done again Angela!

The Link Up staff are withdrawing from the Shop although they will remain in the background until the end of March and will give support where needed. The Argyle Centre Committee will assume responsibility for the running of the shop. Please pray that the transition goes smoothly and we are able to continue to deliver this vital resource.

As ever, thank you for your continued support

From All at The Shop

Food

UHT milk
Tinned meat (Hotdogs, Meatballs etc.)
Tinned fish
Tinned fruit
Sponge/Rice puddings
Coffee (small jars)
Long-life juice
Pasta sauce
Tinned veg (potatoes, carrots, green beans, tomatoes)
Tinned meals (Spaghetti, Chilli, Chicken or Veg curries)
Tinned soup
Jam and Spreads

Non-food items

Shower gel
Shampoo/conditioner
Deodorant
Toilet rolls
Washing up liquid
Laundry detergent pods

Congratulations - Golden Anniversary

The Kirk Session and congregation sent their love and congratulations along with flowers and cards to John and Margaret O' Hare on the occasion of their Golden Wedding Anniversary.

They were married by the Rev Douglas Lamb in St. Margaret's Church, Dalry on 26th November 1975 and their reception was held in the Commodore Hotel, Ardrossan.

John and Margaret enjoy cruising so they celebrated their 50 years together on a cruise to Madeira.

We wish them both many more happy years together.



Congratulations - 90th Birthdays

The Kirk Session and congregation also sent their love and congratulations along with flowers and cards to three ladies who all celebrated their 90th birthdays in December and January.

Best wishes to Mrs May Stewart, Miss Jean Millar and Mrs Isobel Boyd - we hope you enjoyed your special day and we pray for your continued good health in 2026.



Recycling Old Specs Again

It seemed such a shame that Blythswood could no longer recycle your old specs.



However after making some enquiries with Urquhart's Opticians across from the church I discovered that they are happy to recycle old spectacles.

A box will once again be available for you to drop them off and Sandra or Eleanor will uplift them every so often and take them to Urquhart's or just drop them into the shop yourself.

Ed.

Used Stamps

From February your used stamps will be sent to Marie Curie as the Church of Scotland are discontinuing this scheme.



I am sure you will agree that Marie Curie are an excellent organisation, So please continue to bring along your used stamps.

John Stewart

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:

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 182 subscribers we now 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.

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 and making 'Ardrossan & Saltcoats Kirkgate Parish Church' your chosen cause. We now have 19 supporters who have raised a total of £162.15 to date at no extra cost to themselves.



**Raise regular donations
for Ardrossan and
Saltcoats Kirkgate Pa...
with your weekly food
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How to get involved

1 Download the
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2 Choose us as
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www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ardrossanandsaltcoatskirkgate



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for website

Gift Service

Churches Homeless Action North Ayrshire (CHANA) would like to thank everyone who generously donated gifts in aid of the Night Before Christmas Campaign. In all 91 children, 34 teenagers and 20 adults in North Ayrshire received a gift at Christmas thanks to your generosity. A photo of the gifts donated by Kirkgate is shown above.



Nativity Play

Some photos are shown below from the Sunday School Nativity Play held on Sunday 21 December. Thanks to all who took part and to the Sunday School helpers who brought it all together!



Musical Memories

The attendance at our Hogmanay musical memories surprised the team. We had expected 25-30 would come along for the afternoon but we were delighted when the hall started to fill up. More tables and chairs were put out and we counted more than 60 lovely people.



Everyone was in high spirits (not literally, just happy) especially the two regular gentlemen in the photo and the afternoon highlight was a performance by our beautiful young pipers Leesa and Eilidh. They played all the old favourites including Amazing Grace, Auld Lang Syne, Highland Cathedral. Thank you girls for putting so much into your playing and making everyone smile.

Special thanks are also due to Joanna for supplying lots and lots of ginger wine. We all enjoyed our wee tipple.

Many thanks to Fiona Wright and Lynda McDougall for their support at South Beach House, there's always room for more to help with the singing which the residents just love.

The next dates for us at Kirkgate are: February 25th and March 25th.

Dates for South Beach House singalong: February 18th, March 4th and 18th.

Mary x



The Guild

We are looking forward to the start of our meetings again on Monday 9th February at 2.00pm when Helen Kerr, one of our members, will give us a talk on the guild theme 'Let us Build a House - Living Stones'.



On 23rd February our speaker is Alison Burnett whose topic is 'The Association of Women World Wide' which should be very interesting.

Ayrshire Guilds Together welcome you to their meeting on Wednesday 25th February in the Howard Centre, Kilmarnock at 2.00pm, please read the poster on page 17 for further information.

And the World Day of Prayer is on Friday 6th March at 2.00pm at South Beach Baptist Church, Ardrossan Road, Saltcoats to which all - men and women are invited. The focus is on Nigeria this year.



On Monday 9th March we look forward to hearing from Alan Pettigrew about the history/photographs of the Three Towns' Churches.

We look forward to our 2026 session and invite you to come along - it is open to all men and women and you can enjoy some fellowship at the end with a cup of tea/coffee and a biscuit.



Thursday Service

Some of our people have been absent due to ill health so I hope they see this and know that we are praying for their speedy recovery and return.



We continue to meet at 10.30am every Thursday morning and everyone is very welcome

Many thanks

The Thursday Team

Prayer Group

I have been delighted to receive some requests for prayers and while they have been outwith the group I have still included them in my own prayers.



Please continue to give me prayers for yourself or others as I will be happy to include them.

The prayer group meets in the small hall every second Sunday in the month after the service and please feel assured you would be made most welcome, you don't need to speak just listen and join us.

Many thanks

Margaret Cassidy

Joke

The vicar was told that the organ needed restoration work. So, before the Sunday morning service, he told the organist that he would make an appeal for funds after the notices, and that some music would be appropriate.



Imagine his surprise when, having asked those interested in giving financial support to stand, the organist played the national anthem.

Property Report



Church

Since Margaret's step down from property convenor, Jean Rainey and I have taken on the job in January.

Margaret is still involved and is helping with the kitchen renovation taking place and is still willing to be part of the property group which we are very happy about - so now a shared position to spread the load.

- A risk assessment for the kitchen work has been carried out and circulated to necessary people.
- Church of Scotland Insurance Services were informed regarding the work being carried out within our buildings.
- See below a couple of pictures taken at the start of the kitchen renovation, hopefully by the time you read this it will all be completed and looking great.
- Fire extinguishers have been checked and some out of date ones have been replaced.
- The lightning conductor check has been done for 2026/27.
- The church boilers are due for servicing in January.

Manse

Forthcoming work for the manse includes changing a bedroom light fitting and replacing the back garden decking.

PAT testing is also due in the manse in February.

Mary Stewart - Joint Convenor



Church Rotas

SUNDAY DOOR DUTY & COUNTING ROTA			
1 Feb	M. Cooper	P. Martin	S. Gill
8 Feb	E. McInnes	B. McCracken	B. McWilliam
15 Feb	J. Rainey	L. McDougall	E. Green
22 Feb	J. Stewart	M. Hunter	F. Lidell
1 March	M. Cooper	P. Armstrong	G. Armstrong
8 March	E. McInnes	D. Maceod	E. Howie



CHURCH FLOWERS VACANT DATE:, 2 MARCH 2026



	DONATED BY	DELIVERY
1 Feb	A. Wilkie	M. Cooper
8 Feb	J. Rainey	E. McInnes
15 Feb	D. Kirkhope	S. Donald
22 Feb	M. Cannon	J. Hay
1 March	VACANT	J. O'Hare
8 March	A. Dailly & I. Diamond	E. Breakenridge



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 of Sunday flowers, 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. Contact Elizabeth McMahon 01294 464428 should you wish to volunteer to deliver the flowers or should you wish to retire from this duty as the list is being updated for 2026.

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.



MONTHLY TEA ROTA

	Organisers
22 Feb	Mary Stewart & Vivien Bruce
5 April Easter	Margaret & John O'Hare
26 April	Anne Dailly & Isabel Diamond
31 May	The Guild
28 June	Nikki & John Cairns
26 July	Agnes Wilkie & Team
30 August	The Craft Team
27 September	Evelyn Long
25th October	Eunice McInnes
29 November	PamMartin
20 December	Mima McSwan & Margaret Cassidy

Please note that there is no tea on 29 March as the following week is Easter and a happy day to enjoy the fellowship . Please speak to Mary Stewart should you be unable to fulfill your duty Tel: 464526

Ayrshire Guilds Together

Ayrshire Guilds Together

Spring Gathering

25th February

Howard Centre
Kilmarnock
(KA1 2BT Car Parks nearby)

2.00 - 4.00 pm

'Afternoon Tea'

Music entertainment
by 'Good Question'

Sales stall

Offering for 'Projects'
at the door as you enter

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 Convenors	Jean Rainey	12A Caledonia Road, Saltcoats KA21 5AE	01294 464933
	Mary Stewart	5 High Road, Saltcoats KA21 5RX	01294 464526
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 Susan Gill*

Mrs Moira Cooper*	Mrs Jean Rainey
Mrs Jennifer Fox*	Mrs Morag Forsyth
Mrs Evelyn Green	(telephone contact elder)
Mrs Maureen Hunter	Co-opted:
Mrs Fiona Liddell	Jean Hay*
Mrs Elizabeth McCracken	Anne Aitken
Mrs Eunice McInnes	Phyllis Armstrong
Mrs Ruth McMartin*	Christine Ewing
Mrs Barbara McWilliam	

PROPERTY:

Convenors: Jean Rainey & Mary Stewart

Mrs Vivien Bruce	Mrs Maureen Hunter
Mrs Jennifer Fox	Mrs Margaret O'Hare
Mr John O'Hare	Mrs Margaret Cassidy
Mrs Pamela Martin	

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, Mrs Evelyn Green
Mrs Jean Rainey, Mrs Fiona Liddell

Co-opted:

Mrs Phyllis Armstrong, Mrs Jean Hay
Mrs Carol Gilmour, Mrs Allison O'Neill
Miss Elizabeth Breakenridge

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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