

Ardrossan & Saltcoats

Kirkgate Messenger

PARISH CHURCH

Chapelwell Street
Saltcoats, KA21 5EB

April 2026



Find us online:



www.kirkgatechurch.org.uk

Message from our Minister

Dear Friends,

As we come to Easter, we do so as a congregation that has walked through a difficult season. In recent months, we have felt the weight of loss, saying goodbye to a number of our beloved members. Grief has touched our church family deeply, and many among us carry sorrow that words cannot fully express.

And yet, even in the midst of this, we give thanks to God. Our recent elders' retreat was a gift an opportunity to be renewed, to pray together, to listen, and to be reminded that Christ continues to shepherd His church. We are grateful for the unity, encouragement, and vision that emerged from that time.

We also rejoice in signs of new life among us. We warmly welcome the new members who have joined our congregation. Your presence is a gift to Kirkgate, and we pray that you will find a true home here growing in faith, love, and service. The risen Christ not only calls us by name but also calls us into His mission. May each of you discover and faithfully use the gifts God has given you, for the building up of the church and the glory of His name.

In the same spirit, we give thanks for those who have been called to serve as elders. This is both a privilege and a responsibility. As you step into this calling, we pray that you will take your place with humility, courage, and faithfulness joining with other leaders in guiding and nurturing the life of this congregation. May you lead not out of duty alone, but out of a deep love for Christ and His people, reflecting the servant-hearted leadership of our risen Lord.

Now, as the season of Lent draws to a close, we are invited once again to lift our eyes in hope. Lent has called us to reflection, repentance, and renewed trust in God. My prayer is that we would continue in that posture not only during Lent, but as a way of life learning daily to trust the Lord more deeply.

And it is precisely here that the message of Easter meets us.

In **John 20:1-18**, we encounter Mary Magdalene at the tomb. She comes in grief, in confusion, and in love. She expects to find a body but instead finds an empty tomb. At first, she cannot understand what has happened. Like many of us in times of loss, she sees only what is missing.



How often is that our experience? We stand at our own "tombs" places of grief, disappointment, and uncertainty and struggle to see beyond them.

But the Easter message speaks directly into that space.

The empty tomb is not a sign of absence, but of victory. The grave has not held Jesus. Death has not defeated Him. Christ is risen.

This is not simply a comforting idea—it is the foundation of our faith. If Jesus had remained in the grave, there would be no hope, no salvation, no future beyond death. But because He lives, everything changes.

Mary's story turns on a simple, powerful moment. In her confusion and sorrow, Jesus comes near—but she does not recognise Him. It is only when He calls her by name, "Mary," that everything changes. In that moment, grief turns to joy, confusion to clarity, and despair to hope.

This is the heart of the Easter message: The risen Christ meets us personally.

He meets us in our grief.

He meets us in our questions.

He meets us in our weakness.

And He calls us by name.

For us at Kirkgate, this means that even as we remember those we have lost, we do not grieve without hope. The resurrection assures us that death is not the end. Because Christ lives, those who belong to Him will live also.

It also means that we are not alone. The same Jesus who stood in the garden with Mary walks with us today. He is not distant. He is not absent. He is present — speaking, comforting, leading.

And just as Mary was sent with the message, **"I have seen the Lord,"** so we too are called to live as witnesses to the resurrection. In a world that often feels weighed down by despair, we are people of hope. In a culture marked by uncertainty, we are people who know that Christ is alive.

Message from our Minister - cont'd

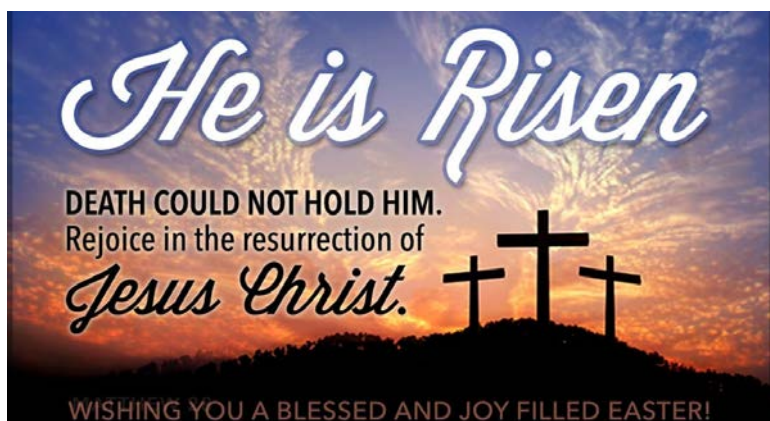
This Easter, then, we are invited to do three simple things:

- **To remember** – that Christ has died for us.
- **To rejoice** – that Christ is risen.
- **To respond** – by trusting Him more deeply and serving Him faithfully in the life of His church.

Therefore, the message of Easter has not changed: ***"He is not here; He has risen!"***

May this truth strengthen you in your grief, renew you in your faith, and fill you with hope for the days ahead. Christ is risen. He is risen indeed.

***With every blessing,
Nigel Chikanya***



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"

- 2/3/26 Mr David Kennedy, Saltcoats
- 16/3/26 Miss Anne Aitken,
Cunninghame Road, Ardrossan
- 18/3/26 Mr Jim Grant
Glebe Street, Saltcoats
- 19/3/26 Mrs Nina Cochrane,
Duddingston Avenue, Kilwinning



NEW MEMBERS:

"We are members one of another"

By Profession of Faith

- 15/3/26 Miss Agnes (Nancy) Thornton
- 15/3/26 Mr Cyril Edonojie
- 15/3/26 Mrs Juliet Edonojie

By Resolution of the Kirk Session

- 21/2/26 Mr David Fidler
- 21/2/26 Mrs Kirsty Fidler
- 21/2/26 Mr Ethan Fidler
- 21/2/26 Miss Lauren Fidler
- 19/3/26 Mrs Deborah Rowe

By Transfer Certificate

- 22/3/26 Mrs Margaret McCluckie

ORDINATION OF NEW ELDERS:

"He gave to each one according to his ability"

- 15/3/26 Mrs Ruth McMartin
- 15/3/26 Mrs Nikita Cairns
- 15/3/26 Mr David MacLeod



Pictured above, left-right:

Congratulations to our three new elders Ruth, Nikita and David. Also our new members Juliet, Cyril, their two children Ivan & Jayden, and Nancy who gave a short heart-warming testimony about her life.

Kirkgate Pastoral Care



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

The Pastoral care team met on Monday 2nd March. John O'Hare and John Kerr were welcomed as they attended their first meeting with us. The PVG clearances have now been received for both and as a result they will be able to visit parishioners in their homes.

If anybody is friendly with someone whom you think may benefit from a visit, please suggest it to them and if they would like to be added to the care list, please let us know. This is in particular reference to (though not solely) male members of the congregation.

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

From the Editor

Articles for the May magazine to be in by Sunday 26th April at the latest please.

If you are not already on the postal list and would like to have a magazine posted out to you, please speak to myself or Stuart.

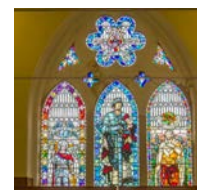
Please feel free to email us at elizabeth.mcmahon@talktalk.net or stuart@md93.co.uk or send a written copy if you don't use a computer.

Elizabeth McMahon,
Editor



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

Prayer Shawl Ministry



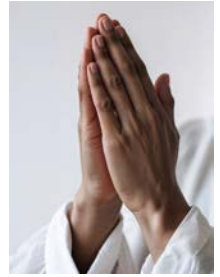
If anybody is interested in starting a Prayer Shawl Ministry, or would like a shawl to give to somebody, please speak to me on a Sunday morning or phone 07884 957 389 or email gillsusan529@gmail.com
Susan Gill

Prayer Page

Contributed by Alison Buick

BREAD THAT KEEPS

"Bread - the staff of life - has always been known as a good source of both energy and nutrition. Besides the energy it provides, bread is 10% protein and is an important source of iron and the B vitamins.



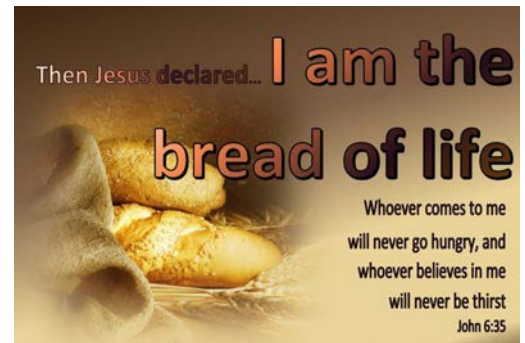
When the Apollo 16 astronauts blasted off to the moon they carried a supply of specially processed bread. The bread was baked and cooled, then passed through a 3,000 degree flame to eliminate surface bacteria and mould. After being sliced by a chlorine-washed and flame-sanitised slicing machine, the loaves were heat sealed in sterile bags and subjected to a low dose of irradiation. The last step was to seal each slice individually in transparent, non-flammable plastic film.

What a terrific amount of processing, expense and time so that the bread could remain fresh for about a year!"

The writer then talks about a better bread, one that will last for ever.

In the Scriptures. Christ likens himself to bread. He is the bread that gives eternal life - not just a daily sustenance which is soon gone.

*The above is based on an excerpt from
"DEVOTIONS FOR QUIET TIME" by Tommy Chupp*



Quotes

Happy are those who.....

Give love rather than demand it and reach out to others rather than expect to be reached out to

Desire to be a friend more than to have friends

Express appreciation rather than expect it

Relieve suffering rather than think only of their own suffering

Pray "God bless others" and think of others' good points, not their failings

Forget themselves in doing deeds that will be remembered



Blythswood Shoebox Appeal 2026



It's that time again when we start thinking about collecting shoeboxes for covering in readiness for the appeal which gathers speed in September.

Please ask around, sometimes neighbours/friends can be a good source as well as the few shoe shops that still exist.

You can cover them yourself or bring to the church perhaps with some wrapping paper where we can cover them in readiness for filling.

Currently there are "end of range" packs of underwear/ socks at half price in some of the supermarkets and as we progress into spring and summer there are sure to be other 'end of winter bargains' - so good hunting.

Maureen Hunter

Bring warmth, joy and hope this Christmas.



Treasurer's Report

Balances – as at 23 March 2026 were as follows:

General Account - £26,954
Fabric Account - £13,238

The amount collected by standing order, cheques and plate collection for the period of February and March (up to 22nd) (plate only) was as follows:

February - Standing Orders – £2,649
Plate – £2,062 Average - £516

March (up to 22nd)
Plate – £1,961 Average - £490 (4 Sundays)

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

Health & Safety

Health & Safety Concerns for Congregations.

Accidents & Injuries in and around various Church Buildings

A Health & Safety memo received from the General Trustees Safe Buildings Team highlighted the following details:

In 2024 – 8 reported accidents/injuries as follows:

- 1 – finger entrapment & fracture caused by a closing door.
- 4 – slips, trips and falls resulting in various fractures.
- 3 – slips, trips and falls resulting in bruising, grazes, and hand injuries.

In 2025 – 7 reported accidents/injuries:

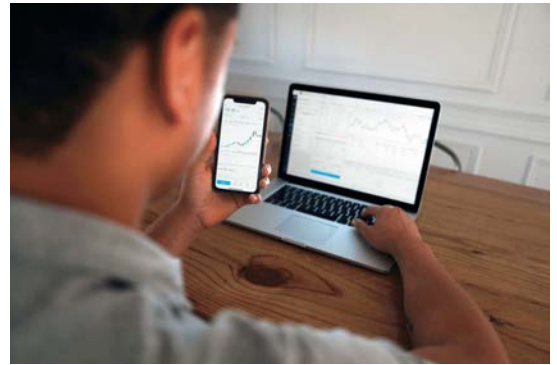
- 1 – gas poisoning incident following a gas leakage at the church.
- 1 – finger entrapment and fracture caused by a hinged foldable chair which was not locked in place.
- 1 – serious back injury following manual handling activities.
- 4 – slips, trips and falls resulting in various fractures and head injuries.

Seven of the above injuries were reported to the Health & Safety Executive due to the severity of the accidents which resulted in bone fractures and hospitalisation of members and visitors.

We accept that accidents can and do happen, but it would be in our interest to try and avoid such situations arising. I know that I raise similar issues each month, but it is important that all members of the congregation make the Health & Safety of all who access our building a priority.

If you see something that could be a hazard – please do not keep it to yourself, raise it with me or the property conveners.

Mima McSwan



Kirk Session

We have enjoyed some glimpses of better weather recently, and it is great to see the blossom and the leaves starting to appear on the trees, as well as the spring colour in the gardens. Let's hope that there is more sunshine ahead!



I am sure that you all enjoyed the service on Sunday 15th March, when Nikita, Ruth and David were ordained as Elders, and Cyril, Juliet and Nancy joined our congregation by Profession of Faith. By Resolution of the Kirk Session we also welcomed the Fidler family from South Africa and Deborah Rowe from Fairlie. It was also good to note one Transfer Certificate this month from Margaret McCluckie.

The Kirk Session held a retreat on the morning of Saturday 14th March in West Kilbride Parish Church, where we were warmly welcomed. During our time together we thought about the different types of people we are. And about how important it is to recognise that not everyone thinks about things in the same way. We spent time in small groups praying for members of our congregation and thinking about the way forward. Our time together ended by sharing food and conversation with one another.

Kirk Session met on Thursday 19th March. Our meetings are always well-attended. Nigel will be on study leave from 8th – 19th June. We will be having tea and coffee after the morning service on Easter Sunday (5th April) and also on the regular last Sunday of the month, 26th April.

The installation of our new kitchen is complete, and it is great to have more cupboard space as well as better areas for working. Gary is going to complete the painting when he can, and then the doors will be put back on.



Elders' Retreat in West Kilbride

Christian Aid week runs this year from 10th – 16th May, and there will be envelopes available on Sundays 3rd and 10th May for your donations. We will be holding a lunch of bread, cheese and grapes on Sunday 17th May, and hope that most of you will be able to come to that. We will hold the Annual Stated Meeting of the congregation after the service on Sunday 24th May, and I would encourage you all to wait behind for that to hear about the life of our congregation.

We are hoping to arrange Heartstart training in the near future. This is emergency life support training so that we know how to help in cases of emergency. There is no cost involved, and it will be held here. Look out for details of this coming soon. We have two fundraising activities coming up, which will be advertised elsewhere. The rag bag collection is taking place on 14th April, and then there is the very popular quiz night on Friday 8th May. You can make up your own team for the quiz or just come along and join with others. It is always a great evening, and nobody takes it too seriously!

We have agreed to hold a memorial service for Jim Grant, who was organist here. It will be a 'Songs of Praise' type of service, and will be held on Thursday 23rd April at the usual time of 10.30am and lasting about 40 minutes. Anyone who wishes to attend will be very welcome.

I would like to finish with a plea to you all to remember to keep us up to date with changes to your address, phone number or email address. You can pass this information to Stuart, who is our roll keeper, or to Mima or myself.

Vivien Bruce, Session Clerk

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/](http://www.youtube.com/@kirkgatechurch)

[@kirkgatechurch](https://www.youtube.com/@kirkgatechurch)

Watch live or catch up later with all our live broadcasts and some special events, if requested, such as 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 189 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 £170.97 to date at no extra cost to themselves.



Raise regular donations for Ardrossan and Saltcoats Kirkgate Pa... with your weekly food shop!



How to get involved

- 1 Download the easyfundraising app
- 2 Choose us as your cause
- 3 See retailers donate whenever you shop



SCAN ME for website

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ardrossanandsaltcoatskirkgate

Jim Grant Memorial Service

I am sure that you are all aware that Jim Grant died recently and that his funeral service took place on Wednesday 18 March at Holmsford Bridge. This service was attended by a number of the Kirkgate family. However the Kirk Session thought it would be appropriate for us to have a Thanksgiving Service in the church in memory of the massive contribution Jim made to the life of our church, mainly, of course, through his music but also as one of the volunteer team who take our Thursday services.



Consequently it was decided to hold a service on **Thursday 23 April at 10.30am** in the church. This will be predominantly a musical occasion with Stuart McMahon playing some of Jim's favourite music and hymns. The service will be no longer than 40 minutes and is of course open to all. The service will be advertised online and other local churches where Jim contributed will be informed.

Obviously our regular Thursday service is open to everyone but we would especially ask you all to come along to pay tribute to Jim, a true gentleman and a marvellous musician. Tea, coffee etc will be served after the service as usual.

Thank you, John Stewart

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 (resumes 22nd Apr)
Thursday, 10.30am:	Midweek Service
Thursday, 2.30 & 7.30pm:	Country Dance Club (alternate weeks)
Friday, 12.30-2.00pm:	Care & Share Lunch

APRIL

Thursday 2nd: 10.30am

Midweek Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion

7.00pm

Holy Week Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion

**** No Country Dancing**

Friday 3rd: 7.00pm

Holy Week Service for Good Friday

Sunday 5th 10.45am

Easter Worship - Sacrament of Holy Communion

Tea/Coffee fellowship after morning service

Thursday 9th: 10.30am

Midweek Service

****No Country Dancing**

Friday 10th: 5.30 - 7.30pm

Youth Group

Sunday 12th: 10.45am

Morning Worship

Prayer Group after morning service

Tuesday 14th:

Rag Bag Collection

Thursday 16th: 10.30am

Midweek Service

**** No Country Dancing**

Monday 20th: 2.00pm

The Guild - AGM, Quiz & Afternoon Tea

Thursday 23rd: 10.30am

Midweek Service - Memorial to Jim Grant

7.30pm

Country Dancing Club resumes

Sunday 26th: 10.45am

Morning Worship

Tea/Coffee fellowship after morning service

Material required for 'The Messenger'

Wednesday 29th: 2.00pm

Musical Memories



MAY

Sunday 3rd: 10.45am

Morning Worship - Sacrament of Holy Communion

Thursday 7th: 10.30am

Midweek Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion

7.30pm

Country Dance Party with Billy Gray

Friday May 8th: 7.30pm

Quiz and Supper - Tickets available soon

Sunday 17th: 10.45am

Morning Worship

Lunch for Christian Aid after morning service

Sunday 24th: 10.45am

Morning Worship

Annual Stated Meeting after morning service

Wednesday 27th: 2.00pm

Musical Memories

Sunday 31st: 10.45am

Morning Worship

Tea/Coffee fellowship after morning service

Material required for 'The Messenger' and should contain dates etc., through to 6th September

Bible Study

Due to Holy Week and school holidays there will be no Bible study (morning or evening) until Wednesday 22nd April.



Congratulations - 95th Birthday

The Kirk Session and congregation sent their love and congratulations along with flowers and cards to Isabel Marr on the occasion of her 95th birthday on Sunday 8th March.

Isabel is resident in Buckedden Care Home, Kilwinning and Jennifer Fox visits her regularly and took this lovely photo of her.

We hope you enjoyed your special day and we pray for your continued good health in 2026.



Presbytery of the South West Report



Presbytery met on Zoom at 7.00 pm on 3rd March 2026. A letter had been received from the Moderator of the General Assembly (Rosie Frew) to all Presbyteries. In it she included a prayer for peace. She highlighted Four Words that appear on the ceremonial mace of Scotland. They are Integrity, Compassion, Justice and Wisdom. She encouraged us all to pray for the forthcoming Scottish Parliamentary elections that all our political leaders will demonstrate these values in their words and decisions.

Some of the discussions on the night were:

- Regarding 'vacant but not in vacancy' where some congregations get no financial support towards pulpit supply but still pay their full 'Giving to Grow' allocation.
- Safeguarding, PVGs will now be valid for 5 years.
- The Presbytery website is now live but still with a few additions to be made. You can find it on 'Presbytery of the South West.' Anyone who would like to submit a photograph to be considered for this can email it to Stephen Ogston, SOgston@churchofscotland.org.uk
- Kirk sessions must produce a Mission Action Plan.

The next full meeting of Presbytery will be on 13th June at 10.30am in Stranraer.

Mary Stewart

YOUR BLOOD

Beautiful saviour and precious Lord,
I thank you for your blood
That flowed that day at Calvary,
A demonstration of your love

For no one has ever loved that much
For their life to be poured out,
But you took upon your beaten body
The death sentence that was ours

We can never fully comprehend
All that you had to endure
You came a sinless, sacrificial Lamb
And offered a life so pure

We read how you were so mistreated,
Rejected with no mercy or love,
But still, you willingly laid down your life
And poured out your life's blood

For it's by your blood, we can be healed,
Forgiven and set free
It was necessary that you died for us
So we may have eternity

© By M.S.Lowndes

Argyle Community Shop

Shop membership is now over 350 with 60-70 individuals shopping each week.



The Link Up project has now finished and the staff have moved on to pastures new. We wish them every success in their future ventures. Many thanks to Carol, Graham and Claire for their hard work in the past few years. Thanks, too, to Brian and Graeme who were responsible for establishing the Shop five years ago. It is a very valuable community resource helping hundreds of individuals and families through hard times.

The work of the Shop continues and we still need all your prayers and support. Perhaps even more as we navigate this under our own steam. There may be some hiccups along the way but with support from North Ayrshire in the background hopefully we can manage to overcome any issues.

**Happy Easter from
All at the Argyle Community Shop**

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.

Food	Non-food items
UHT milk	Shower gel
Tinned meat (Hotdogs, Meatballs etc.)	Shampoo/conditioner
Tinned fish	Deodorant
Tinned fruit	Toilet rolls
Sponge/Rice puddings	Washing up liquid
Coffee (small jars)	Laundry detergent pods
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	

Care & Share



The weather recently has been very variable as I'm sure you are aware. We come in to bright sunshine and back out to pouring rain and fierce hailstones; or vice versa!



It doesn't stop us having fun on a Friday at the lunch club though. There are still some brave souls who come for the hot soup. Last month we had a trial of bacon rolls for a wee change and these proved popular however the rolls and sausage are still the favourite. We are pleased to welcome new friends most weeks although we are missing a few of our former regulars. Pray that they are ok and just got a better offer.

Breaking News: I'm pleased to report that I might have sourced a new hairdresser! She's coming along for lunch next week and hopefully she'll say yes to joining us every 4-6 weeks to deliver some haircuts again.

More News: We've been successful in our recent funding application and will receive a very generous award over the next couple of years. This will be across Kirkgate and Dalry lunch clubs and various other CHANA undertakings.

Some of the monies will go towards the kitchen appliances (watch out for John's smiling face); some for Christmas presents, Easter Eggs etc as well as weekly running costs. Well done Danny and Carol for securing this.

A number of us were privileged to be able to attend Anne Aitken's funeral. It was a wonderful tribute to her life and witness. She was a very willing, eager and helpful much valued member of our team and is sorely missed. Thank you so much for your commitment Anne. And, although she is irreplaceable, there is a gaping hole in the rota which I need to try and fill. Please let me know if you can offer a couple of hours a month to help us continue to deliver this very valuable community resource.

A very Happy Easter to you all and I hope you receive lots of chocolate eggs to enjoy.

**With every blessing,
Pam xx**

Craft Group

We all enjoyed our Coffee & Card morning on Saturday 7th March. It was a lovely relaxed friendly time. Our thanks go to all who donated baking, which was really appreciated and very tasty, and to the generous customers who left donations for the teas and coffees.

Special thanks to Lynda who manned our stall for the whole morning.

The final total raised from card sales and donations was £240.

We've still been making and selling Easter cards since then and due to your continued support will soon be making our first donation of the year to Church Funds.

Our Sunday School children enjoyed, with the help of their teachers, making the bookmarks given out for Mother's Day. Definitely new crafters of the future. Well done!!



Musical Memories

The last Wednesday of every month seems to be the very day when the weather likes to misbehave. Gusty winds, driving rain and generally a day when you get that 'stay at home' feeling. But did it stop you lovely people from coming to sing? Not a bit. Great crowd and wonderful singing.



The raffle raised £168 for the fabric fund and the hamper was won by Eunice McInnes and Christine Ewing won the lovely donkey.



I am trying to get some feedback to find out what songs people enjoy singing and I think this month's winner must be 'Summertime' from Porgy and Bess.

Dates for Kirkgate:

APRIL 29th

MAY 2 7th

JUNE 24th - Our charity afternoon for Marie Curie

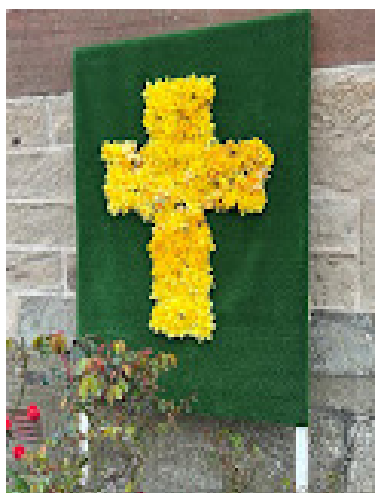
Dates for South Beach House:

APRIL 8th AND 22th

MAY 6th AND 20th

Special thanks to the people who come along to help at SBH, Fiona, Lynda, Barbara and Betty.

See you all next month.
Mary



Happy
Easter

Letters of Appreciation

I would like to thank all at Kirkgate for the beautiful flowers and cards I received recently, wishing me a good recovery. They were all very much appreciated.

Nina Fleming



The McNeillie family would like to thank all at Kirkgate for the lovely flowers kindly delivered by Elizabeth Breakenridge. Ian is now home after six weeks in hospital having had a bad fall and is making very slow but steady progress. Thanks for the the well wishes, cards and visits. Special thanks to Evelyn and the Pastoral Care Team for keeping in touch. Much Love.

Ian, Karen and Lesley

I would like to say thank you to everyone for the church flowers I received recently. They were much appreciated at a time when a young family member in Australia had just received major surgery. It was a worrying time for everyone especially his parents here in Scotland. Pleased to report the news is good.

Alison Buick

We would like to thank all at Kirkgate for the beautiful flowers received by my mother, May Stewart after she broke her arm. She is recovering well and will hopefully have the stookie removed soon.

John and Mary Stewart

A belated thanks to Musical Memories. Many thanks to those involved in organising the January Musical Memories. The extra work involved in setting up the church, due to the kitchen being out of bounds, was greatly appreciated. You know who you all are, as do we, so again many thanks to you all.

Susan Gill

George and I would like to thank all of our Kirkgate friends for the lovely flowers we received recently. They were beautiful and lightened our hearts at a difficult time. Thanks also to Elizabeth Breakenridge for delivering them.

Phyllis & George Armstrong

I would like to thank everyone for their concern after my fall and for the flowers and the lovely card I got from Jennifer. Thanks again

Lynda McDougall

Thank you for the church flowers I received and all the thoughtful words and understanding from everyone after Anne's death. It meant a lot to know that everyone was thinking of me and the whole Craft Team.

Jean Hay

Fundraising 2026



Next on the agenda is the Ragbag collection which will take place on **Tuesday, 14th April**. Please start to fill your bags and deliver to the church after **Sunday 5th April**. (we don't have space to store bags before that). Remember no duvets, cushions or pillows and shoes have to be put in a separate bag. This is another way to raise some money for the Church at no expense to yourself.

Tickets for the quiz and supper will be on sale soon and can be had from any of the fundraising committee. This is a fun night and the questions are generally very varied and not too hard and you are working in a team so come along and join the fun.

Phyllis Armstrong

2026

Tuesday April 14th - Rag Bag

Friday May 8th - Quiz and Supper

Saturday June 13th - Strawberry Tea

September - Clyde Coast Fiddlers (to be arranged)

Friday October 23rd - Fashion Show

Saturday November 28th - Christmas Fair

Mark these Dates
on Your
Calendar

??

KIRKGATE PARISH CHURCH

??



Friday 8th May
at 7.30pm
in the church hall



TICKETS: £6
includes half-time
supper and raffle ticket

B.Y.O.B.

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

Thursday Service

We are a small group and welcome anyone who is out and about on a Thursday morning to come and join us at 10 30am.

You can read on page 8 that there will be a memorial service for Jim Grant on Thursday 23rd April which may last just a little bit longer; Jim was part of our team until he became unwell.

The services are a lot more informal but really enjoyable and of course tea is served at the end.

The Thursday Team

Prayer Group

We continue to meet for additional prayers every second Sunday in the month.

Please feel free to come along and listen or take part or just let it be known if you would like us to pray for you or others

Thanks

Margaret Cassidy

Christian Aid

Christian Aid
We believe in life before death

This year you will find the Christian Aid envelopes on the chairs on the 3rd and 10th May

We also hope that everyone will wait for the Christian Aid lunch of bread and cheese after morning worship on Sunday 17th May.

This Christian Aid Week, 10-16

May 2026 your support could help mothers in Nairobi, Kenya, facing the devastating reality of urban poverty and the daily struggle to feed their children.



Property Report

Church:

The boilers for the halls have been serviced but the large hall requires the system to be flushed out and new radiator valves fitted. We have received a couple of estimates and this will be carried out in the near future.

The kitchen decoration is ongoing and we thank Gary for his attention to this.

A new baby changing unit has been purchased and will be fitted soon.

The Church PAT testing is due to be done this month as well as the annual manse inspection.

Manse:

Andrew, the electrician, has finished the PAT testing at the manse and will repair some lighting as required.

Jean Rainey, Joint Convenor

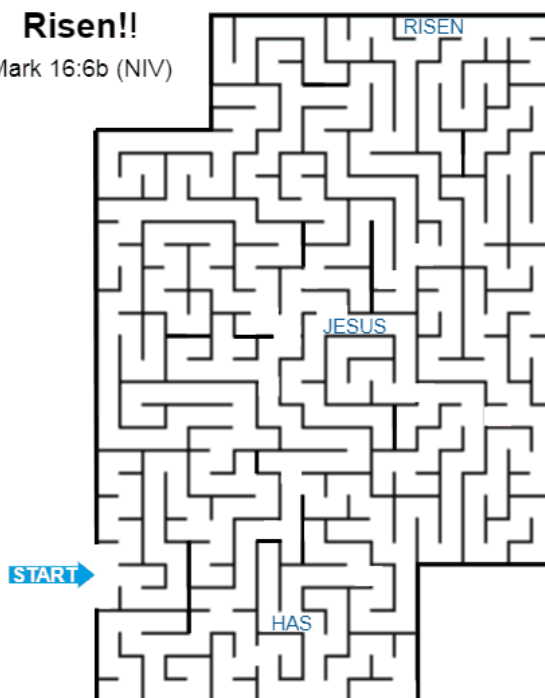


Jesus Has Risen Word Maze

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

Jesus Has Risen!!

Mark 16:6b (NIV)





What is Created to Belong?

- A day conference for anyone who wants to include disabled people in their life and church.
- A chance to celebrate, worship, meet others, reflect and learn.

Who is organising and running it?

- Four church disability inclusion organisations: Prospects Across Scotland, Reachout Together, SPRED Galloway and Through the Roof.
- All of these organisations have websites where you can find out about them.

Where is it?

- The Howard Centre, 5 Portland Road, Kilmarnock, East Ayrshire KA1 2BT. This is a busy, friendly, outreach centre in the heart of Kilmarnock, run by the Church of Scotland but open to all.

How can I book a ticket and find out more?

- By visiting the event listing on Eventbrite or by scanning the QR code on the flyer above. The Eventbrite listing includes some frequently asked questions.
- By following the Created to Belong Facebook page .
- By contacting **Gill Lyth** at gill.lyth@prospectsacrossscotland.org.uk or **Katrina Templeton** at KTempleton@churchofscotland.org.uk

Church Rotas

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



CHURCH FLOWERS VACANT DATE 13 DECEMBER



	DONATED BY	DELIVERY
5 April	M. Forsyth	M. Hunter
12 April	L. McDougall	J. McTavish
19 April	J. Hay	E. Green
26 April	Susan Gill	M. Cooper
3 May	W. Sneider	E. McInnes
10 May	P. Martin	S. Donald
17 May	E. Green	J. Hay



Since you have chosen a date which is relevant to you it will continue to be your date unless you tell Chrissie otherwise.

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 McMahan 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. June McTavish has volunteered to go on to the delivery rota and we hope she will enjoy her new role.

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
5 April Easter	Margaret & John O'Hare
26 April	Anne Dailly & Isabel Diamond
31 May	The Guild
28 June	Nikita & John Cairns
26 July	Agnes Wilkie & Team
30 August	The Craft Team
27 September	Evelyn Long
25th October	Eunice McInnes
29 November	Pam Martin
20 December	Mima McSwan & Margaret Cassidy

Please speak to Mary Stewart should you be unable to fulfill your duty Tel: 464526



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. **Sorry, but they cannot recycle the cases only the 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 now on 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 pop your used stamps into the box in the hallway.

John Stewart

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	31 St Marys Place, Saltcoats KA21 5NY	07815 163292
	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	Phyllis Armstrong
Mrs Eunice McInnes	Christine Ewing
Mrs Ruth McMartin*	
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:

Convenor: 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:

Convenor: Mr John Stewart

Mrs Moira Cooper
Mrs Jean Rainey
Co-opted: Mr George Armstrong

Church Website: www.kirkgatechurch.org.uk



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