

Ardrossan & Saltcoats

Kirkgate Messenger

PARISH CHURCH

Chapelwell Street
Saltcoats, KA21 5EB

May 2026



Find us online:



www.kirkgatechurch.org.uk

Message from our Minister

Dear friends,

“One Piece at a Time: Waiting, Building, and Being Filled”

In the month of May, we journey together toward Pentecost, which we will celebrate on the 24th May 2026, a significant day in the life of the Church, and for us at Kirkgate, also the day of our Annual Stated Meeting. It is a moment that invites both reflection and expectation: reflection on what God has done among us, and expectation for what He is yet to do.

Recently, I had the opportunity to travel up north with my family during the school holidays. It was a change of pace, a different environment, and a chance to rest. Yet, as is often the case, God speaks to us in the quiet, ordinary moments. One such moment came as I watched my younger son, Dylan, working on a 100-piece puzzle.

Dylan loves detail. He approaches things with patience and care, noticing what others might easily overlook. As I observed him, I realised that his approach is very different from mine. Where I might rush or try to force pieces together, he slowed down, studied each piece, and worked methodically. Piece by piece, he built the picture. And in the end, what emerged was something complete and beautiful.

I could not help but reflect on the power of building, of putting something together over time. There is something deeply spiritual in that process. Growth, formation, and even the work of God in our lives rarely happen all at once. Instead, they unfold step by step, piece by piece, often in ways we do not fully understand in the moment.

This took me to the words of Romans, where we are reminded that God is at work in all things for the good of those who love Him (Romans 8:28).



What we see as scattered pieces, moments of joy, struggle, waiting, uncertainty, God sees as part of a greater picture He is forming. Like Dylan with his puzzle, God is patient. He knows where each piece belongs, even when we do not.

Between Easter Sunday and Pentecost, we are reminded that Jesus spent forty days appearing to His disciples. These were not hurried encounters. They were intentional, formative moments, teaching, restoring, preparing. The risen Christ was, in a sense, helping His disciples piece things together. What they had witnessed in the cross and resurrection needed time to settle into their hearts and minds.

And then came the waiting.

After those forty days, Jesus instructed His disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the gift the Father had promised the Holy Spirit. Waiting is not always easy. It can feel like inactivity, like nothing is happening. Yet, in God's economy, waiting is often where the deepest work is done. It is where trust is formed, where dependence grows, where hearts are made ready.

As we approach Pentecost, I find myself returning again and again to a simple prayer: **“Come, Holy Spirit.”** It is a prayer of longing, of openness, of surrender. It is a recognition that all our efforts, plans, and structures important as they are, cannot substitute for the life-giving presence of the Spirit of God.

Pentecost reminds us that the Church is not merely built by human hands. It is brought to life by the Spirit. The same Spirit who descended on the early disciples, filling them with boldness and unity, is the Spirit who continues to work in us today guiding, equipping, and empowering.

As a congregation, we too are being formed piece by piece. Each person, each act of service, each prayer, each conversation is part of what God is building among us. At times, we may not see the full picture. There may be moments of uncertainty, especially as we continue to seek God's guidance for the future. Yet we trust that the One who began a good work in us will carry it on to completion.

Message from our Minister - cont'd

Our Annual Stated Meeting on the 24th of May gives us an opportunity to pause and look at some of those pieces to reflect on where we have been and to discern where God may be leading us. But more than that, it is a moment to recommit ourselves to being a people who depend on the Spirit.

What might it look like for us, as Kirkgate, to wait well? To seek not just activity, but attentiveness to God? To value not just outcomes, but obedience?

Perhaps it begins with small, intentional steps. Like Dylan with his puzzle, we focus on what is in front of us. We give attention to the details of our life together our worship, our care for one another, our witness in the community. We trust that as we are faithful in these things, God is at work, bringing the pieces together in ways that will ultimately reveal His glory.

And so, as Pentecost approaches, may we be a people who pray with expectancy: Come, Holy Spirit fill us again.

Fill us with courage where there is fear. Fill us with unity where there is division. Fill us with vision where there is uncertainty. Fill us with love that reflects the heart of Christ.

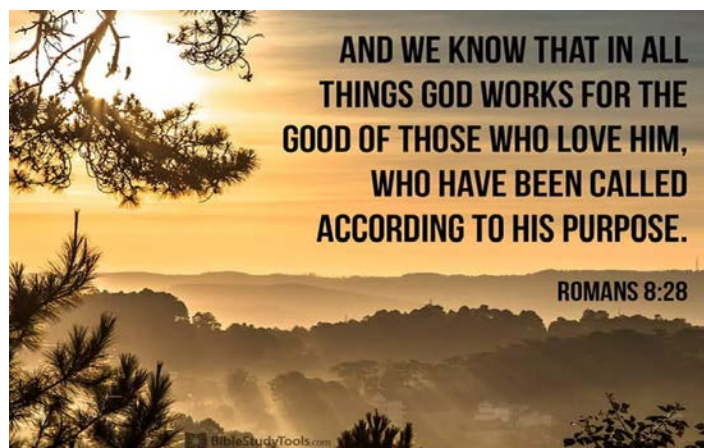
For it is not by our strength, nor by our strategy, but by His Spirit that the Church lives and grows. And in His hands, every piece matters.

*God bless you.
Nigel Chikanya.*

Rev Tichaona Nigel Chikanya

Tel: 01294 683379 Mobile: 07566 278132

Email: NChikanya@churchofscotland.org.uk



Message from Rev Katrona Templeton, OLM

Dear Friends in Christ,



Grace and peace to you in these bright days after Easter. The stone has been rolled away, the tomb stands empty, and the risen Christ walks ahead of us still. Yet if we're honest, the world around us doesn't always feel like Easter morning. Some days feel more like Holy Saturday - quiet, uncertain, waiting for hope to break through.

The season after Easter is a gift. It reminds us that resurrection is not a single moment but a way of life. The disciples didn't grasp it all at once; they recognised Jesus slowly - in the breaking of bread, in a familiar voice speaking their name, in the peace that settled on them behind locked doors. Resurrection came to them gently, patiently, again and again.

I wonder where you have glimpsed resurrection lately. Perhaps in a neighbour's kindness. In the laughter of children. In the courage to keep going. In the beauty of a Scottish spring that refuses to be hurried, even on the dreich days. Christ meets us in all of it.

As a congregation, we are invited to live as Easter people: people who carry hope into weary places, people who choose compassion over cynicism, people who believe that new life is possible even when we cannot yet see it.

This season also calls us to walk with those who are struggling. The risen Christ still bears his wounds; resurrection does not erase pain, but transforms it. So we hold one another tenderly, pray for one another faithfully, and make space for both joy and sorrow in our worship and our daily lives.

May you know the risen Christ beside you on the road, before you in every new step, and within you as quiet strength.

And may our congregation continue to be a place where resurrection is lived out in welcome, in justice, in kindness, and in love.

***With every blessing in this post-Easter season,
Rev. Katrona***

Kirkgate Pastoral Care



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

On Monday, March 30th, Rev. Katrona Templeton led a workshop on Mental Health issues and how to integrate those living with them into Church life. I think most of us did not realise how many recognised mental health issues existed in the community. Katrona urged us to attend an event 'Created to belong' which will take place on Saturday May 23rd at the Howard Centre in Kilmarnock. Evelyn Green gave the vote of thanks at the close of the proceedings.

Another workshop will take place in September. Work to organise this has already started so watch this space.

If you are friendly with someone who would benefit from a visit, please ask if they would like to be added to our Care list and let us know.

The Pastoral Care Team continue to quietly work in the background serving the community. Please keep them in your prayers as they do God's work.

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)

Church Register

FUNERAL:

"In my Father's house are many mansions"

21/4/26 Mr David Hogarth, Sorbie Farm,
Ardrossan

TO COMFORT YOU

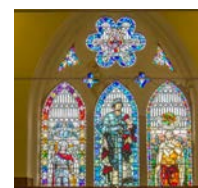


Peace I leave with you; my peace
I give you. I do not give to you as
the world gives. Do not let your
hearts be troubled and do not be
afraid.

John 14:27

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

FOR THOSE WHO FEEL THEY HAVE NO ROOTS

Gracious God,

Lover of the poor, the weak, the vulnerable and the oppressed, we pray for those who feel they have no roots, no identity, no sense of belonging.

Lord in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for those who live as refugees in strange lands, driven from their own homes and country by civil war, oppression, famine, natural disaster.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for those who have been orphaned as children; those who have been adopted and those who long to discover their true parents; those who come from broken homes and are scarred by the trauma of bitter separation; those who have been abused; those who feel unloved and unwanted.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray too for those who are lonely, deprived through age and infirmity, of human companionship or separated from others even when they are with them through fear, mistrust or prejudice.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer

We pray for our society in which so much of the feeling of community has been lost, where a sense of local and national identity has long gone, where ties which once bound families together have been broken, where values, customs and convictions which gave stability have been flouted by those who live only for themselves.

Lord. In your mercy, hear our prayer

Help your church to offer a place of acceptance, welcome and belonging and help those who feel isolated to find in you the true source of their being and the root of their lives.

Lord, in your mercy, hear our prayer, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

AMEN

From the Editor

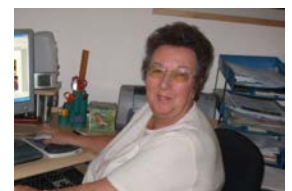
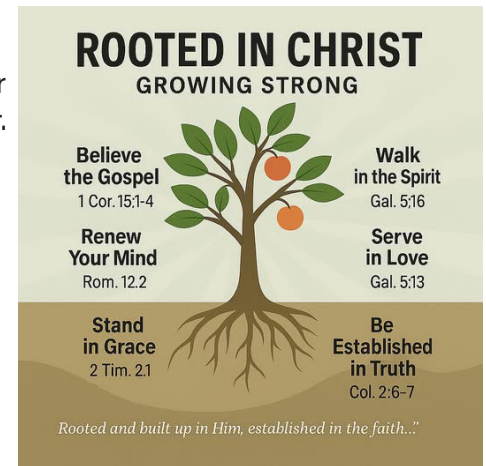
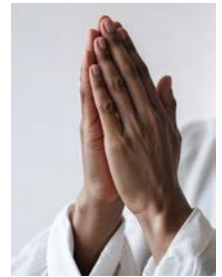
Articles for the June magazine to be in by Sunday 31st May at the latest please.

Since we take a break over July and August any information on events or activities should contain dates through to 13th September, thank you.

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 note my new email address and feel free to email us at elizabethsaltcoats@gmail.com or stuart@md93.co.uk or send me a written copy if you don't use a computer.

Elizabeth McMahon, Editor



Getting to Know our Members: Noreena Elwell

A LIFE IN FULL COLOUR: THE JOURNEY OF A GLOBAL SOUL

Noreena has long held the conviction that life must be lived looking forward. While her past, like many lives, carries its share of complexities and personal trials, she has chosen not to dwell on what might have been. Instead, her story is marked by gratitude - for a life that has been richly textured, deeply varied, and profoundly blessed.

Her journey began with five years of dedicated training at the Western Infirmary in Glasgow, followed by further study at Jordan Hill College. She later pursued a business degree at the University of Zimbabwe, a step that opened new professional pathways. From there, she joined a small hotel chain in the Zambezi Valley and threw herself into the tourist industry with energy and determination. She found deep fulfilment in her work, which offered not only responsibility but also extensive travel. These experiences further shaped her outlook and deepened her appreciation for cultures and people across the world.

Her 45 years in Africa continue to hold a significant place in her heart. Among her many remarkable experiences there was the extraordinary honour of being in the presence of Nelson Mandela in Parliament Square. For Noreena, the moment was imbued with a sense of grace, she speaks of his presence in terms that approach reverence, describing him as a figure whose character transcended ordinary admiration.

She attended Sunday School in her early years a defining spiritual moment came in 1970 at Winchester Cathedral. On a cold December morning, standing alone in the vast stillness of the cathedral, she experienced something unforgettable. As the organ suddenly filled the space with a concerto by Johann Sebastian Bach, a beam of light streamed through the stained glass and seemed to rest upon her. In that moment, she sensed a deep, divine reassurance, an inner voice affirming simply, *"You're okay"* a profound moment. Her favourite Bible passage is the Beatitudes, Matthew 5:3-12

Noreena's life has also been defined by an extraordinary breadth of travel. A true global soul, she has explored regions as diverse as the Gaza Strip, the Sea of Galilee, and the ancient streets of Jerusalem. Her journeys have taken her across continents, to the vibrant cultures of Brazil, Peru, and Mexico, and to the dynamic cities of Singapore and New York.

Even now, those landscapes remain vividly alive in her imagination. As Scripture is read or sermons are preached, she often finds herself mentally walking familiar paths - through Jerusalem, along the Jericho Road, past the Mount of Olives and through the Damascus Gate, her memory as vivid as in 1980.

In 2004, Noreena returned home with very little, navigating a season of uncertainty with resilience, courage and a great deal of help from family, friends and complete strangers. Drawn in initially by what she described as the "friendly" sight of a daffodil cross, she stepped inside our little church on Christian Aid Sunday, a moment she still regards as a meaningful beginning of reconnecting. Over the years, she contributed to church life with cleaning and help with distributing the magazines. Though her hearing has since deteriorated badly making conversation more difficult even with modern aids, she continues to find fellowship in worship and the enduring beauty of hymns such as 'All Things Bright and Beautiful.'

Noreena is deeply appreciative of art, architecture, and the quiet dignity of the natural world. She is a lover of classical music and a gentle guardian of even the smallest creatures, rescuing spiders, describing them as 'royal game' for their vital role in the ecosystem. Her affection for animals remains strong; she still misses her dogs dearly and delights in every opportunity to greet those she encounters, often 'talking to the tail' with warmth and humour. The natural world of plants and animals is the gift God gives us every day.

Her outlook on life is both simple and profound. She encourages others to be kind, to resist bitterness, and to remain determined. Each day, she seeks to learn something new, embracing life as an ongoing gift. Noreena continues to live with a spirit of gratitude and anticipation, always looking toward the next horizon, and always in full colour.



Treasurer's Report

Balances – as at 14 April 2026 were as follows:

General Account - £24,985

Fabric Account - £12,816

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

March - Standing Orders - £4,344

Plate – £2,579 Average - £516

Many thanks to those who contributed to the fundraising at Musical Memories raising £168.

The final accounts for 2025 have been approved by the Independent Examiner and are now with the Presbytery for their approval, prior to submission to OSCR. I will give a report on last year's financial performance at the AGM on Sunday 24th May.

I am having increasing difficulty using cheques in payment for church expenses and invoices – people really don't want them any more. I am planning to close our RBS accounts soon and open a Bank of Scotland account which allows for 2 signatory online payments. This means that all Standing Orders and Direct Debits (In and Out) will automatically be transferred from RBS to the new Bank of Scotland account. This is a common procedure and should be straightforward. Most importantly members with a Standing Order to the church should not require to do anything, the change of receiving account should be automatic.

I will let you know via the intimations precisely when this changeover is happening. If anyone has any concerns over this please just let me know.

It has been very gratifying to see a number of new faces in the church recently – if any of our new people would like details of giving via envelope or Standing Order please speak to me, either at church or via 07561340886. Giving cash via the plate is, of course, very welcome but we do miss out on the benefit of Gift Aid. 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.

Thank you, John Stewart, Treasurer

Sunday School

Through the Eyes of Our Youngest: What Sunday School Means to Us

At Kirkgate Parish Church, our Sunday School is more than just a lesson - it's a place where faith, friendship, and family grow side by side. We recently asked a couple of our young members what they think about their time here, and their answers remind us all why this ministry is so special.



Harper loves the sense of community, sharing:

"I get to see my friends and we learn about Jesus. I like the people in the church and Sunday School - they are nice. We learn kindness and friendship."

For **Grace**, Sunday School is all about the people who make it feel like home:

"I think of friends, family, and the teachers."

It is wonderful to hear that our children value the "kindness" and "nice people" that make Kirkgate such a welcoming place. A huge thank you to our dedicated teachers and the entire congregation for building a space where our children feel so loved and connected!

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.**



Easter Sunday in Bergen, Norway

I am not long back from Norway and the Norwegian Coastal Voyage with my friend Margaret. We sailed from Bergen, all the way up the Norwegian coast, round the top and back again. Apart from Bergen the weather was pretty good with the most sunshine in the north.

We were in Bergen on Easter Sunday and had a morning there before boarding the ship in late afternoon. Margaret had found a church and the Easter service was in a mixture of Norwegian and English so we went there to worship.

On the way in we were each given one daffodil to put on their cross. I have attached a photo of the church and the daffodil cross after the service.

Elizabeth Howie



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.



Christmas Carnival Committee

Apologies for mentioning the word Christmas so early, but it is with sadness that the town's Christmas Carnival Committee has disbanded and at present no one is willing to step up to chair the committee.

As a church who hosted the Santa Grotto we are sad not to be opening the church for this community event.

However, you never know, we might still hope to run the grotto this year but this has still to be discussed with Kirk Session.

Margaret Cassidy

Argyle Community Shop

The Shop has been signing up a lot of new members recently. It's wonderful to be able to offer support but sad that there are so many struggling. NAC procurement have sourced bulk supplies of tinned meats for all the larders. These are very popular and come at a reasonable cost for the Shop finances.



As the weather improves we offer salad packs and snacks which are well received. Gardens are coming to life again and any surplus produce you may have would be very gratefully received. The Argyle Gardening Group are hard at work building new raised beds for vegetables and colourful planters for flowers. This adds a very welcoming feature to the Shop and, fingers crossed, we will receive some of the produce as it ripens.

As always, thanks for your ongoing interest and support.

From All at the Argyle Community Shop 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.

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



Some sunshine at last! But there is still a wee nip in the air so, of course, the soup pot is on. We have been very busy again recently and have welcomed quite a number of new friends to the lunch club. Everyone was delighted to receive an Easter Egg on Good Friday.



The Foodbank outlet has been extremely busy. A big thank you to John for replenishing the 8-10 boxes every week for me. Following the success of the funding bid I can now purchase foodstuffs and pet food to supplement our Foodbank for individuals who just need a wee helping hand.

We're also very pleased to welcome back Derek from Housing who was a huge help to us back in 2018 when the Lunch Club first started. Carol from Community Link Up is joining us most weeks to offer support and advice. Irene, the hairdresser, will start on Friday 8th May. Turning Point are with us most weeks. We're very pleased to welcome several new volunteers who are having a baptism of fire as we've been so busy. They have braced themselves for more and promise to come back.

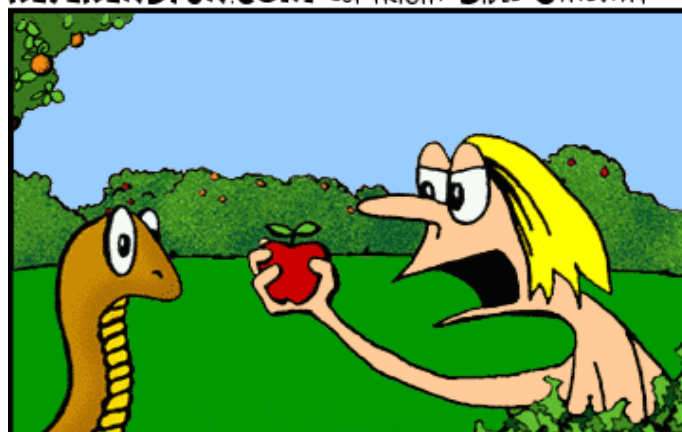
This message comes from Edinburgh Airport as I leave for sunny Athens leaving the lunch club in Maureen's capable hands. Good luck Maureen! And thanks to all the volunteers for their hard work in sometimes challenging circumstances.

See you all, if I come back



With love, Pam xx

REVERENDFUN.COM COPYRIGHT BIBLE GATEWAY



Thanks to Warren (See Genesis 3) 10-08-1998
WAS THIS ORGANICALLY GROWN? AND WHAT ABOUT THE PACKAGING ... IS IT BIODEGRADABLE?

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. We currently have 611 followers.



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 special events, 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 196 subscribers we now have. Will we reach 200 by next month?



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 £174.65 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

www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ardrossanandsaltcoatskirkgate

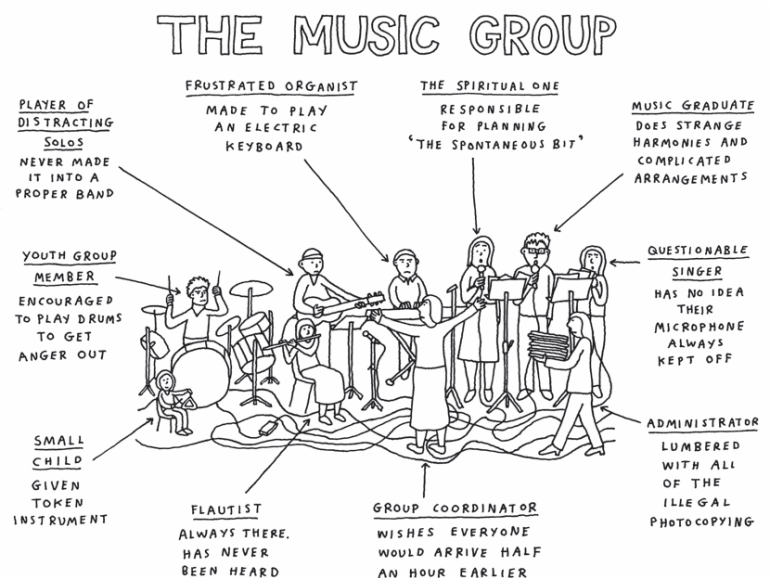


SCAN ME for website

Music Group

We have started a small music / singing group which is currently meeting every 2nd Tuesday at 7pm in the church hall. The hope is that it will allow us to learn some new worship songs and hymns, and eventually, for the group to take part during a Sunday service. If you play an instrument, or just enjoy singing, then you will be most welcome to join the group. You don't have to be able to read music, although it will help.

At present, the next practice dates will be 12th and 26th May, and 9th June at 7pm.



Kirkgate Diary:

REGULAR WEEKLY MEETINGS

Sunday, 10.45 am:	Morning Worship Sunday School/Creche
Tuesday, 1.00-4.00pm:	Craft Team
7.00pm-8.00pm:	Music Group (fortnightly)
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

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 8th: 7.30pm
Quiz and Supper - Tickets sold out

Tuesday 12th: 7.00pm - 8.00pm
Music Group

Sunday 17th: 10.45am
Morning Worship
Lunch for Christian Aid after morning service

Monday 18th: 2.00pm
Guild Syllabus meeting

Thursday 21st: 7.00pm
Kirk Session

Sunday 24th: 10.45am
Morning Worship - Pentecost Sunday
Annual Stated Meeting after morning service

Tuesday 26th: 7.00pm - 8.00pm
Music Group

Wednesday 27th: 2.00pm
Musical Memories

Thursday 28th: 7.30pm
Country Dancing Branch AGM

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



JUNE

Thursday 4th: 10.30am
Midweek Service - Sacrament of Holy Communion

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

Tuesday 9th: 7.00pm - 8.00pm
Music Group

Saturday 13th: 2.00pm - 4.00pm
Fundraising Strawberry Tea

Wednesday 24th: 2.00pm
Musical Memories

Sunday 28th: 10.45am
Morning Worship
Tea/Coffee fellowship after morning service

What is PENTECOST?



PENTECOST comes from the Greek word "Pentecoste" meaning 50th day. Pentecost Sunday is one of the most prominent feast days in the Christian calendar. It is often referred to as the "BIRTHDAY OF THE CHURCH".

It marks the day when the HOLY SPIRIT descended upon the Apostles, who had been living in fear for fifty days following the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Easter Sunday.

On Pentecost, the HOLY SPIRIT came down visibly on the Apostles. He gave them the power to speak in strange tongues to the crowds that came to Jerusalem for that Feast. He also transformed them, from selfish and timid men into giants of courage and faith.

Craft Group

At the beginning of April we were all happy to help Carol celebrate her 70th Birthday. We had a special afternoon tea at the Craft Group with cake, candles and a wee glass or two of non alcoholic bubbly!!

Later in the week we were all treated to a craft party at 5.30pm in Honeybee Cottage in Hamilton Street courtesy of Carol's family. What a fun night it was. Denise at Honeybee showed us step by step how to paint and decorate a plant pot with decoupage. We were all delighted with our efforts and with the pizza and prosecco organised by Cheryl!! Denise runs lots of different classes and if you're looking for a different kind of night out with a group of friends you'll thoroughly enjoy it.

We've still been busy making and selling cards and have just been able to donate £450 to Church funds. Once again thank you to all our faithful customers.

As we will take a break during the summer please give us orders now for any special cards you might need in July and August.



Musical Memories

I have included a few new songs from the 60s for our April musical memories: Georgia Girl recorded by the Seekers, There's a Kind of Hush recorded by Herman's Hermits and Congratulations by Cliff Richards. Suggestions always welcomed.



Dates for Kirkgate:

MAY 27th

JUNE 24th Charity afternoon in aid of Marie Curie

JULY 29th

Dates for South Beach House

MAY 6th and 20th

JUNE 3rd and 17th

Thanks to the people who come along to help out at South Beach House. We had a beautiful communion service there led by Katrona on 1st April.

Thank you,

Mary

Letters of Appreciation

Thank you for the lovely flowers I received. They lifted my spirits greatly. Many thanks to Maureen Hunter for delivering them all the way to Stevenston.

Susan Gill



I would like to thank all at Kirkgate for the lovely flowers and card received after my knee injury and for lots of visits from Betty, Barbara and Lynda. they were all very much appreciated.

Betty Thomson

I would like to thank everyone at Kirkgate for the beautiful flowers I received recently. They were sent at a very difficult time for myself and all at the craft team. They were very much appreciated. Anne will be very sadly missed

Carol Gilmour

Aileen Aitken would like to thank all at Kirkgate for the flowers, cards and best wishes she received on the occasion of her 101st birthday which she celebrated on 12th April



Fundraising 2026



The ragbag appeal was the latest fundraising event we had and we have to wait to see how much we have raised. There was a bit of a mix up and the lad on the van thought he was coming to a shop so he didn't have the lorry with the weighing device. He counted the bags and reckoned about 481 kgs. There were about half the number of bags from the previous year so we await to see how much they will bring in. Thank you all for your help in this venture and I will let you know how much we receive when the cheque arrives.

Our next venture is the Quiz and Supper on Friday 8th May. As this has become a very popular event the tickets almost sell themselves and we have had to disappoint a few people. The moral of that is get your tickets as soon as they go on sale. The committee are already making plans for this and we look forward to a great evening of fun and entertainment.

Into June and on Saturday 13th we are holding a Strawberry Tea - this is a lovely get-together with loads of time to catch up with everyone. Tickets costing £5 will be available soon.

2026

Friday May 8th -
Quiz and Supper

Saturday June 13th - Strawberry Tea - Tickets £5

September 12th - Clyde Coast Fiddlers

Friday October 23rd - Fashion Show

Saturday November 28th - Christmas Fair

Mark these Dates
on Your
Calendar

Phyllis Armstrong

??

KIRKGATE PARISH CHURCH

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QUIZ
NIGHT

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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

Ardrossan & Saltcoats
Kirkgate
PARISH CHURCH

Strawberry Tea

Saturday 13 June
2-4pm

in
Kirkgate Church Hall
Chapelwell Street
Saltcoats

Tickets: £5

Registered Scottish Charity: SC023003

**We Look Forward To Welcoming
You At These Events**



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 **Katrona Templeton** at KTempleton@churchofscotland.org.uk

Motivated From The Heart

We can do all the right things
And be eloquent in what we say,
But if we don't have love in our hearts,
What we do and say is in vain

We can give everything to those in need,
Even sacrifice all our time,
But if we don't have God's love inside,
It's as if our faith is blind

The only motivation we should have
Is God's compassionate heart,
To really have God's mercy and grace
For the many lost in the dark

Touch us again with your love
And a desire for the lost
To show them there is a better way,
To lead them to Jesus cross

So they, too, may be deeply touched
With your saving grace, O Lord,
And know the missing link is you,
The key that unlocks the door

For you have reconciled us, Lord,
Back to our Father above,
To have meaningful relationship
And receive His eternal love

So may our walk be blameless, Lord,
Reflecting who you are
Let nothing we do be in vain,
But be motivated from the heart.

Picture © Fran Hogan www.publicdomainpictures.net
Poem © M.S.Lowndes www.heavensinspirations.com



The Guild

We closed our meetings for this session on Monday 20th April with our AGM. Helen Kerr volunteered to be Communications person, Fiona Wright took over the Treasurer's job and Christine Ewing volunteered to be deputy tea convenor which will be a huge help to Fiona.



This was followed by a light hearted musical Quiz compiled by Stuart, he told us it would be easy but we all had a good laugh at our answers!! Nobody achieved a full score and Pamela won - her score was about 17!! It was an enjoyable afternoon complete with tea and lots of home baking. Many thanks to all who donated the baking and Fiona for organising the serving.

If you have any ideas for next year's syllabus please bring them along to our meeting on **Monday May 18th at 2.00pm** to discuss next session's programme.

We look forward to hearing your suggestions and hopefully get some of them booked before too long.

Thursday Service

What a treat it was for us when we held a special Memorial Service on Thursday 23rd April for Mr Jim Grant.



The service was conducted by our team of volunteers and all the music included pieces that were favourites of Jim's, including an actual recording played by Jim during an organ recital held a few years ago in the church. The number of people who attended was uplifting and hopefully they will return for normal weekly Thursday services.

The Thursday Team

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES...

Casey asked her Sunday School teacher a question: *"If the people of Israel are Israelites, and the people of Canaan are Canaanites, are the people of Paris called Parasites?"*

Dear God: *I am saying my prayers for my brother Billy because he's six months old and he can't do anything but sleep and wet his nappies.*

Dear Lord: *Thank you for the nice day today. You even fooled the TV weather man.*

Prayer Group

We thank the Lord for the amount of people who like to come along to the prayer meeting, now held in the small hall after morning worship on the second Sunday of the month.



Some speak and others just sit and listen and enjoy the quiet time of prayer.

Please feel free to join us or send me prayers you would wish included

Margaret Cassidy

Property Report

Mark Dootson has completed the work on our heating system in the big hall. Hopefully it will be more efficient and effective in the winter weather.



He has also fitted a filter which should help the boiler to last a few more years at least. He even gave us a £50 refund on our bill because he got the filter on special offer, so that was good of him.

A splash back for the sink is on order and Gary has agreed to fit it for us.

He is also going to install a small bannister at the top of the left staircase where there is definitely a health and safety issue.

EEC have serviced the two church boilers and the control panel for the church heating. The bill for this will be over £1, 000... costly but we have no choice but to have the engineers in for this. They have told us we are probably needing to replace the pump and will send an estimate for this. Unfortunately a few leaks have developed in some of the radiators upstairs, we hope to address this with sealant recommended by the engineers.

Andrew has completed the PAT testing at the manse and is returning there to replace some lights. He is also due to do the church PAT testing in the coming months.

Mary Stewart and Jean Rainey

For Your Amusement.....

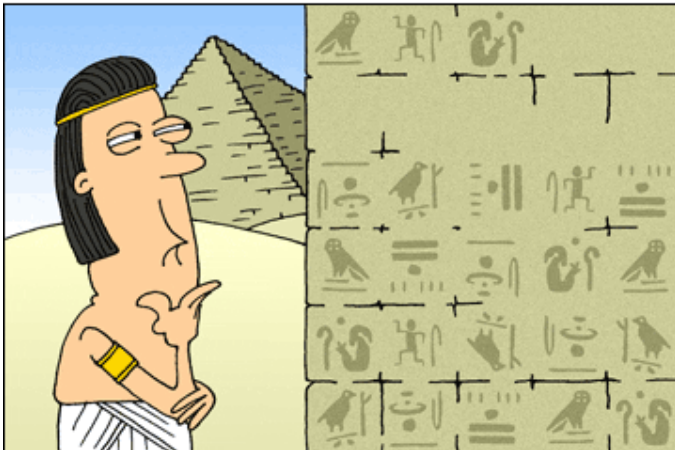
Find 7 differences



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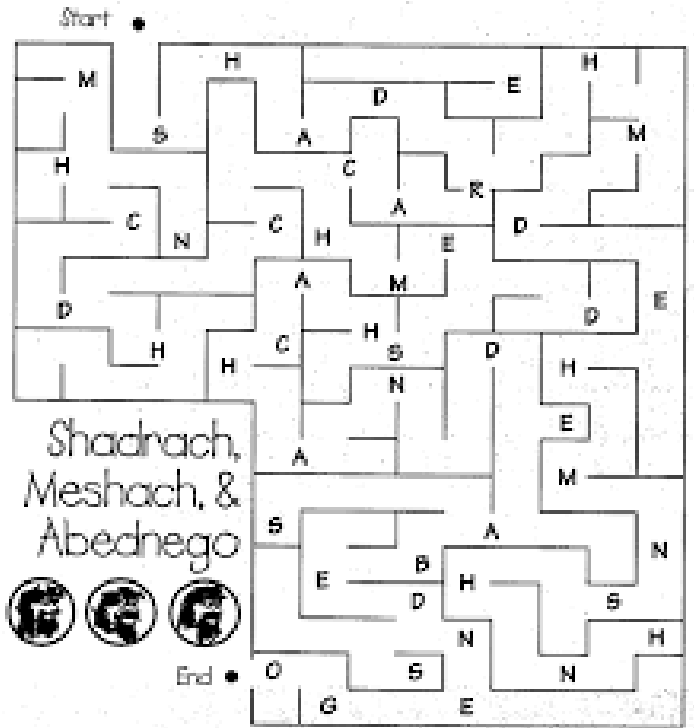
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Thanks to Mikel Rice

08-06-2003

ANCIENT WORD SEARCHES



Pentecost

Find a word

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

pentecost	apostles	baptised	heaven
spirit	tongue	church	flame
Jesus	speak	dove	language
God	fire	wind	



Church Rotas

SUNDAY DOOR DUTY & COUNTING ROTA			
3 May	E. McInnes	B. McCracken	B. McWilliam
10 May	J. Rainey	L. McDougall	E. Green
17 May	J. Stewart	M. Hunter	F. Liddell
24 May	M. Cooper	G. Armstrong	P. Armstrong
31 May	E. McInnes	D. Macleod	E. Howie
7 June	J. Rainey	P. Martin	S. Gill
14 June	J. Stewart	B. McWilliam	B. McCracken



CHURCH FLOWERS VACANT DATE 13 DECEMBER



	DONATED BY	DELIVERY
3 May	W. Sneider	E. McInnes
10 May	P. Martin	S. Donald
17 May	E. Green	J. Hay
24 May	L. Jack	J. O'Hare
31 May	I. Smith	E. Breakenridge
7 June	E. McMahon	M. Cassidy
14 June	D. Kirkhope	C. Ewing



Once you have chosen a date which is relevant to you it will continue to be your date (or the closest one in following years) 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 McMahon 01294 464428 should you wish to volunteer to deliver the flowers or should you wish to retire from this duty.

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
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

The Church is the 'Lily of the Valley'



"I am the rose of Sharon and the lily of the valleys [church]. As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters. I sat down under His [Jesus] shadow with great delight, and His fruit was sweet to my taste. He brought me to the banqueting house, and His [Jesus] banner over me was love." Song of Solomon 2:1-4

Recycling Old Specs Again

Urquhart's Opticians across from the church 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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