

Welcome to GIRVAN METHODIST CHURCH



Girvan Methodist Church

Dalrymple Street
Girvan KA26 9BT

Outgoing Minister: Rev. Joan Pretorius-Lougheed Tel. 01475 722706
Incoming Minister: (September 2007 →) Rev David Hall Tel. 01475 722706

Girvan Methodist Church is located in the main shopping street of Girvan, Dalrymple Street, opposite the Co-op. Services are held each Sunday at 11am. We welcome anyone who cares to worship with us, whether staying in Girvan or just passing through.

For more information see the Girvan website: www.girvan-online.net/

Renovation work started in October 2006. During this time Sunday services were held in the South Parish Church, Henrietta Street. We are grateful to the Minister, Rev Ian McLachlan, and Elders of the South Church for letting us use their building during this time.

Introduction

Girvan Methodist Church is the most southerly Methodist church in Scotland, the next nearest being about 60 miles away. It has an interesting history and many unique features. It has survived even though most others around have closed.

History

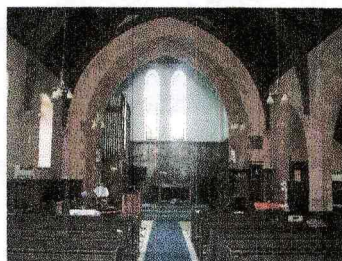
John Wesley visited Girvan twice, once in 1765 and again in 1767. This resulted in the forming of a small Methodist society. The first Methodist Church to be built in Girvan was opened in 1823 at a cost of just over £120. The building is still in existence and is located on the corner of Ailsa Street West and Wilson Street. It is currently a joinery workshop.(see picture below)



Girvan was part of the Ayr Methodist Circuit. Other churches in the Circuit included; Ayr, Kilmarnock, Maybole and Catrine. The Ayr church was built in 1813 and was located at the corner of Fort Street and Charlotte Street. It closed in 1908. The church in Maybole was opened in 1824 but closed in 1897. The Catrine church closed in 1826 and the Kilmarnock church closed in 1870. The Girvan church remains open to this day. About the turn of the 20th century, a decision was made to build a new larger church on the corner of Dalrymple Street and Wesley Road. The stone-laying took place in 1902 and the building, in the 'Arts and Crafts' style, was opened in 1903. The church hall was built in 1926 to a simple design by the Rev. Arthur B. Cannon, the minister at the time.

Following the closure of the Ayr church, Girvan became a single-station circuit known as the Ayrshire Mission until 1938 when it was linked in with Paisley and Barrhead to form the Paisley Mission Circuit. This continued until 1986 when it became a single-station circuit again. This lasted until 2001 when it was linked with Paisley, Barrhead and Greenock to form the Ayrshire and Renfrewshire Circuit, part of the Scottish District of the Methodist Church.

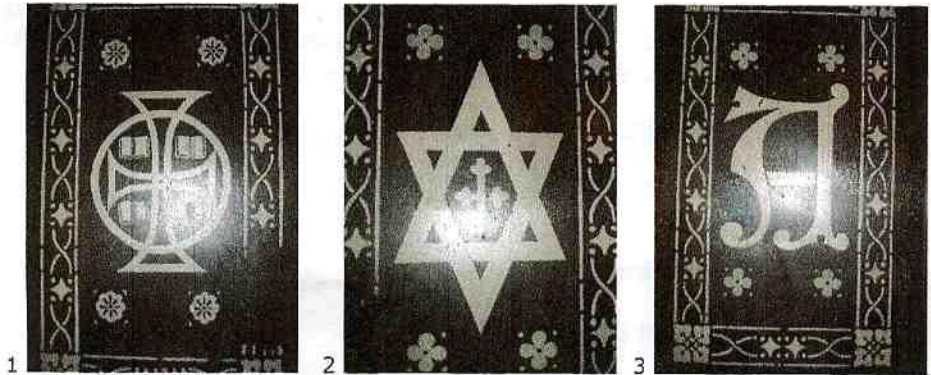
Below are pictures of the Sanctuary; the Communion table and the West window.



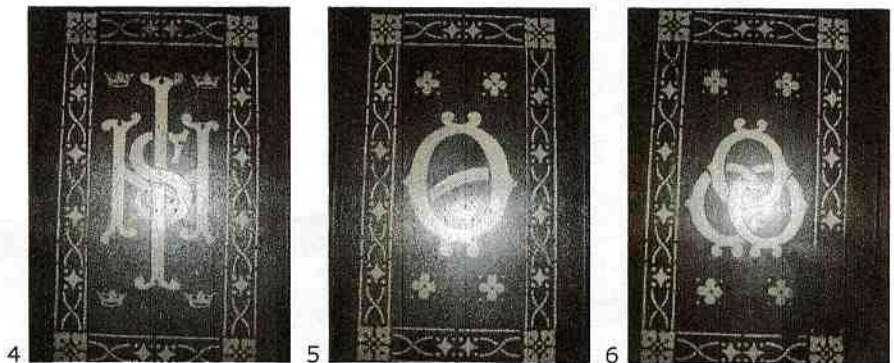
The organ is a 2-manual instrument by Nelson & Co. of Durham and was installed in 1951



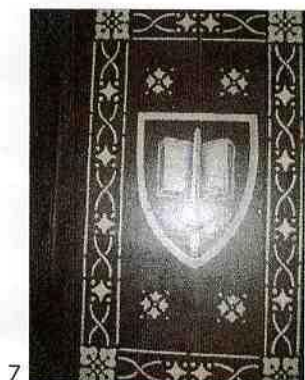
At the east end of the church are a number of panels carrying symbols of theological significance:



1. A representation of the Celtic Cross, symbolising work & prayer – unending lines and the circle convey the universal love of God.
2. The Cross within the Star of David. Christianity out of Judaism (The new is in the old concealed; the old is in the new revealed)
3. The first letter of the Greek alphabet 'Alpha' (omega, the last) Jesus called himself "the Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end."



4. IHS - a monogram from the first three letters of the name *Jesus* in Greek
5. The Greek letter 'Theta' – the first letter of the word *Theos* = 'God' in Greek
6. Three intertwined circles representing the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. One in three and three in one.



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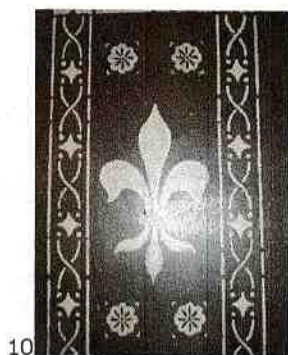


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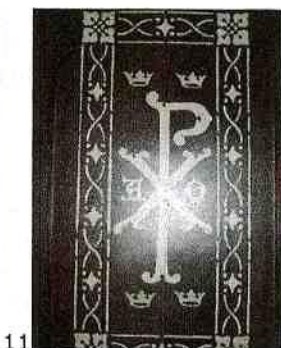


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7. Bible & Sword (see Ephesians 6:17 & Hebrews 4:12)
8. The Cross of St. Andrew, Patron Saint of Scotland
9. The scimitar is thought to be the badge of the Bargany family, on whose land the church was built.



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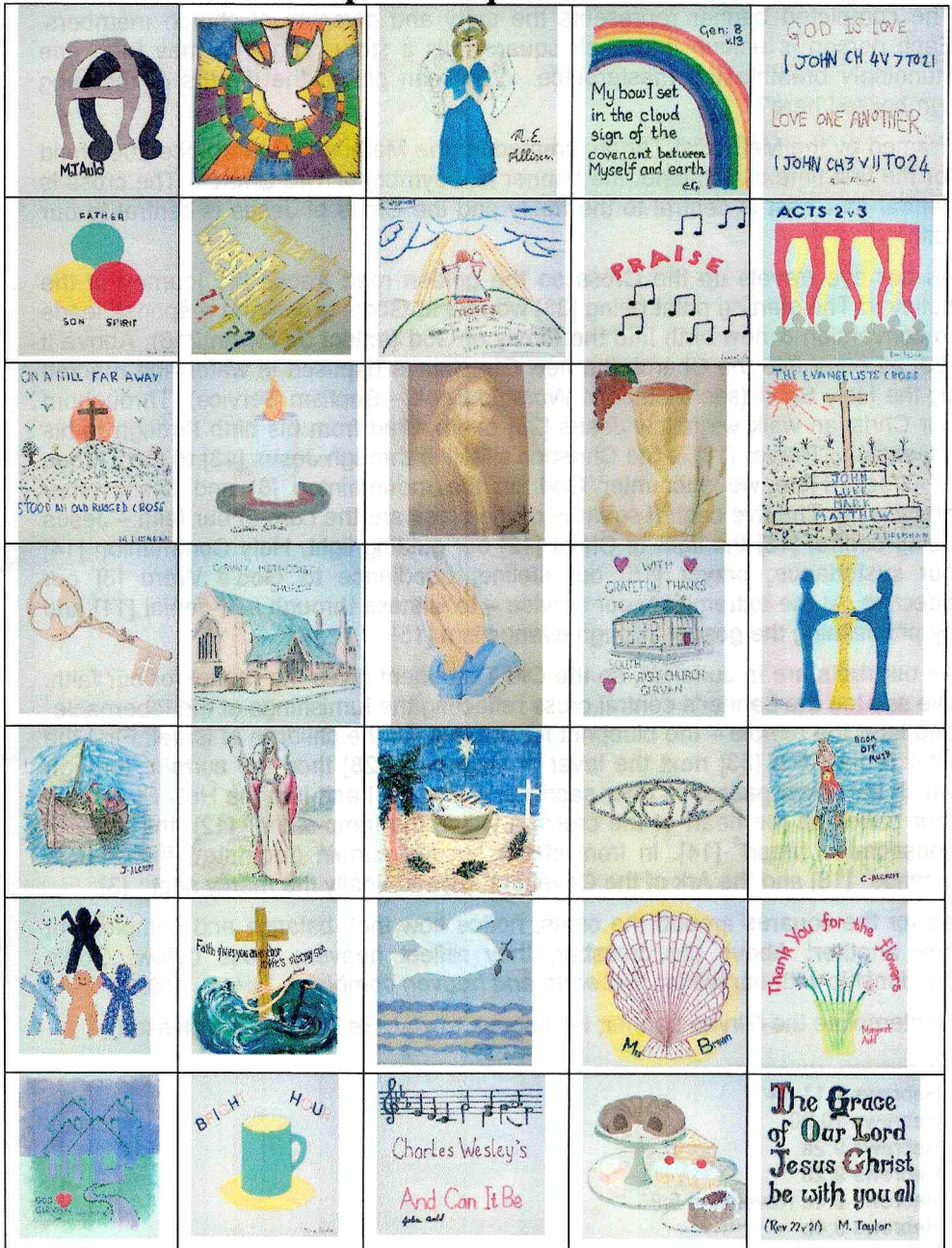
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10. The Fleur-de-Lys, a symbol traditionally used to indicate either the Trinity (Father, Son & Spirit) or the Virgin Mary.
11. Chi-Rho ($\chi\rho$) the first two letters of the word 'Christ' ($\chi\rho\iota\sigma\tau\omicron\varsigma$) in Greek.
12. Scallop Shell – originally found only on beaches in Palestine: it became a badge of Pilgrimage, first to the Holy Land, but later to Compostella in Spain. Later, it was adopted as the badge of Wesley and Methodism.

Girvan Methodist Church Banner – While waiting for the completion of renovation work, every member was asked to decorate a square of calico symbolising what the church means to them. (One member has since passed on but is still represented). The completed banner celebrates the opening of the newly refurbished church. Reading from left to right and down the rows, this is how each was inspired: (see back of brochure for more)

1. Margaret Auld (Jnr.) *Alpha & Omega* Jesus the beginning & the end
2. Jean Galloway *Dove & Facets of light* symbolise the Holy Spirit
3. Mary Allison *Angel*, one of God's ministering spirits
4. Elissa Goldie *Rainbow* a sign of God's Covenant of grace
5. Andrew McNaught *God is love so love others*, Greatest command
6. Beryl Upfold *Father/Son/Spirit*, The tri-unity of the Godhead
7. Margaret Blackwood *"Margaret, lovest thou me?"* she heard God call
8. Catherine McNaught *Moses & the 10 Commandments* Rules for Life
9. Isabel Purdie *Hymns of Praise* are central to our worship
10. Donald Upfold *Pentecost* and the birth of the Church
11. Molly Drennan *The old Rugged Cross* a significant hymn
12. William Allison *Candle* a symbol of Christ, the Light of the World
13. David Upton This *Jesus picture* in many churches, evoke awe
14. Joan & Eric *Communion* with God & the Church universal
15. Jim Drennan *Evangelist's Cross* founded on the four gospels
16. Adam Tulloch *Church Key* access to happiness and fellowship
17. Elsie Young *Girvan Methodist Church*
18. Jennifer Upton *Prayer*, the lifeline to God
19. Margaret Hamilton *South Parish Church* in thanks for her hospitality
20. Dora McBain *A Methodist Logo*
21. James Alcroft *Miracle of the large catch of fish* a call to service
22. Margaret Martin *Jesus, the Good Shepherd* tends his flock
23. Etta Auld *Nativity*, the journey from creation to the cross
24. Margaret Geddes *Ixthos* represents Jesus Christ God and Saviour
25. Cathy Alcroft *The Book of Ruth* tells of faithfulness rewarded
26. William Geddes *People* are the true Church, not the building
27. Margaret Amour *Faith in Christ's Cross is our anchor in adversity*
28. Jean Geddes *Dove, water & olive twig* Holy Spirit, life & peace
29. Betty Brown *Pilgrim's Shell* the Wesley's & Methodist badge
30. Margaret Auld (Snr.) *"Thanks for the flowers"* At-home & remembered
31. Betty Girvan *God loves Girvan*, personal & community grace
32. Mary Purdie *"Happy Hour"* Remembering the friendship
33. John Auld *"And can it be?"* celebrates God's gratuitous love
34. May Tulloch *Cakes* represent the fellowship enjoyed at GMC
35. Mary Taylor *Benediction* (Mary died suddenly on 24/01/07)

The Component Squares in the Banner



Girvan Methodist Church Banner (continued)

The completed banner represents the unity and diversity of church members. Each person is unique and each square tells a story. Together they form one stunningly breathtaking masterpiece. Who can plumb the depths of meaning symbolised here?

Framed by the Methodist Tartan, created for the Methodist Conference 2006 held for the first time in Scotland, the banner is a symbol of The Church. The cross is central as Christ is central to the trinity and the Cross of Jesus is central to our faith.

As our eye travels up the Cross so the golden road traces the journey of the believer: The starting point being [33] wonder at God's grace and response leads to conversion & new birth into the family of God (reflect on Hymn 216). Above it [28] as entry into the Church the new Christian is baptised in water and marked by the Holy Spirit (see Methodist Worship Book – Baptism Service). Throughout our Christian walk we follow Jesus [23] exemplified from his birth through to his ascension. Prayer [18] is the Christian's lifeline through Jesus [13] to the Throne of Grace. Here we encounter God on the mountaintop [8] and finally enter heaven [3]. The five central squares of the cross are the core of our faith – Jesus being central [13] the light of Christ [12] our guiding light; Holy Communion [14] our sustenance; prayer [18] our lifeline; obedience to God's Word [8] our directive. At the extremities, our service – to witness through self-denial [11] and by proclaiming the gospel through evangelism [15]

As our roots are in Judaism, so the Old Testament gives the model for our faith. We see too the banner's central cross reflecting the furnishings of the tabernacle¹ and later the temple – the blueprint for worship for the children of Israel. First the altar of sacrifice [33] next the laver or washbowl [28] then the curtain² through which the priest passes to offer sacrifice to God [23] and into the Holy Place (the four panels at the heart of the cross in which the lamp-stand³ [12]; the table of consecrated bread⁴ [14]. In front of the second curtain (footnote²) the altar of incense⁵ [18] and the Ark of the Covenant⁶ [8] and finally the mercy seat⁷ [3]

As for the squares around the cross, notice how they balance and complement one another! Above the crossbar, they reflect heaven; those below, God's relationship with our world. *"Let earth and heaven combine..."* (Hymn 109:1)

Contemplate the Girvan banner; let it speak to you. Be inspired, be blessed!

¹ Hebrews 9:11-14

² Hebrews 10:20

³ Hebrews 9:2a

⁴ Hebrews 9:2b

⁵ Hebrews 9:4a Revelation 5:8

⁶ Hebrews 9:4b

⁷ Hebrews 9:5

Blessing of Girvan Church's Renovated Building Congregational Leaflet

1. Psalm 100 (HP 868) Read responsively:

O shout to the Lord in triumph all the earth:
Serve the Lord with gladness
And come before his face with songs of joy.

**Know that the Lord he is God:
It is he who has made us and we are his
We are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

Come into his gates with thanksgiving
And into his courts with praise:
Give thanks to him and bless his holy name.

**For the Lord is good
His loving mercy is forever:
His faithfulness through out all generations.**

2. {Hymn HP 1 – All people that on earth do dwell}

**All people that on earth do dwell,
Sing to the Lord with cheerful voice:
Him serve with mirth, his praise forth tell:
Come ye before him and rejoice.**

**The Lord, ye know, is God indeed;
Without our aid he did us make:
We are his folk, he doth us feed;
And for his sheep he doth us take.**

**O enter then his gates with praise;
Approach with praise his courts unto;**

Praise, laud, and bless his name always,
For it is seemly so to do.

For why, the Lord our God is good;
His mercy is for ever sure;
His truth at all times firmly stood,
And shall from age to age endure.

3. {Hymn HP 531 (Tune 788(i) – Lo, God is here, let us adore!}

Lo, God is here, let us adore!
How awe-inspiring is this place!
Let all within us feel his power,
And silent bow before his face;
Who know his power, his grace to prove,
Serve him with fear, with reverence love.

Lo, God is here! Him day and night
The united choirs of angels sing;
To him, enthroned above all height,
Heaven's host their noblest praises bring;
Disdain not, lore, our meaner song,
Who praise thee with a stammering tongue.

Being of beings, may our praise
Thy courts with grateful fragrance fill;
Still may we stand before thy face,
Still hear and do thy sovereign will;
To thee may all our thoughts arise,
Ceaseless, accepted sacrifice.

4. {Hymn HP 260 (refrain) – Jesus is Lord!}

Jesus is Lord! Jesus is Lord!
Praise him with alleluias, for Jesus is Lord!

5. {Hymn HP 515 – The church's one foundation}

The church's one foundation
Is Jesus Christ her Lord;
She is his new creation
By water and the word;
From heaven he came and sought her
To be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her,
And for her life he died.

Elect from every nation,
Yet one o'er all the earth,
Her charter of salvation
One Lord, one faith, one birth;
One holy name she blesses,
Partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses
With every grace endued.

Yet she on earth has union
With God the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion
With those whose rest is won.
O happy ones and holy!
Lord, give us grace that we,
Like them, the meek and lowly,
On high may dwell with thee.

Congregational Responses in Prayers of Intercession:

Lord, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

Lord's Prayer

6. {Hymn HP 746 – One more step along the world I go}

**One more step along the world I go,
One more step along the world I go;
From the old things to the new
Keep me travelling along with you:**

***And it's from the old I travel to the new;
Keep me travelling along with you.***

**Round the corner of the world I turn,
More and more about the world I learn;
All the new things that I see
You'll be looking at along with me:**

**As I travel through the bad and good,
Keep me travelling the way I should;
Where I see no way to go
You'll be telling me the way, I know:**

**Give me courage when the world is rough,
Keep me loving though the world is tough;
Leap and sing in all I do
Keep me travelling along with you:**

**You are older than the world can be,
You are younger than the life in me;
Ever old and ever new
Keep me travelling along with you:**