

# EKO

The Magazine for  
East Kilbride  
Old Parish Church



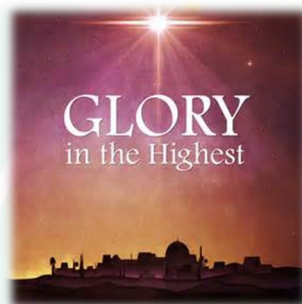
DECEMBER 2024

EDITION 632





## *Church Calendar*



### DECEMBER

Sunday 1st

First Sunday in Advent

With the Coalburn Silver Band

11am

Sunday 8th

Second Sunday in Advent

Morning Worship

11am

Sunday 15th

Third Sunday in Advent

With the Choir:- "Touched by a Child. Touched by a King!"

11am

Sunday 22nd

Fourth Sunday in Advent

All-Age Service

11am

Tuesday 24th

Christingle Service



7pm

Wednesday 25th

Christmas Day Service

10.30am

Sunday 29th

Joint Service in the West Kirk

11am

### JANUARY

Sunday 5th

Morning Worship

11am



## *Flower Calendar*

Sunday 1st December - In memory of Ken Mathieson

Sundays 8th, 15th 22nd & 29th— all with the Flower Fund

If you would like to dedicate the flowers for any specific Sunday,  
please phone Elizabeth Robertson: 01355 243205

# PASTORAL LETTER



Sometimes when we watch the news on the TV or read about it in our newspapers, we might wonder if somewhere, anywhere, there might be GOOD things happening. What good things have you heard about on the news recently? The news that comes to us is forever informing us of BAD things happening, and I am sure you can name many of these in our world right now. But maybe it's always been that way.

Take the year 1809 for example. The international scene was tumultuous. Napoleon was sweeping through Austria; blood was flowing freely. Nobody then cared about babies. But the world was overlooking some terribly significant births. For example, William Gladstone was born that year. He was destined to become a great statesman. That same year, Alfred Tennyson was born to an obscure minister and his wife. The child would one day greatly affect the literary world in a marked manner. On the American continent, in Boston, Edgar Allan Poe began his eventful, albeit tragic, life. It was also in that same year that a physician named Darwin and his wife named their child Charles Robert. And that same year produced the cries of a newborn infant in a rugged log cabin in Hardin County, Kentucky. The baby's name - Abraham Lincoln.

If there had been news broadcasts at that time, I'm certain these words would have been heard: "The destiny of the world is being shaped on an Austrian battlefield today." But history was actually being shaped in the cradles of parents all around the planet. Similarly, everyone thought taxation was the big news—when Jesus was born. But a young Jewish woman cradled the biggest news of all: the birth of the Saviour.

So, in this advent season, as we prepare ourselves for the birth of the Christ Child, let us try to remember that what makes the news today, may be gone tomorrow, but the greatest gift of all, the gift of our Saviour will last for ever.

Yours in love, *Anne Eaton*



## *Christmas Afternoon Tea*

Our friends in the West Kirk have asked us to publicise a Christmas Afternoon Tea in their hall on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> December from 2-4pm. There will be food, refreshments, entertainment and a raffle. Tickets are £5.

*Mary Smith*



## *Wednesday Morning Craft Group*

The Craft Group gets together to create all kinds of 'craft' stuff and to socialise, all for the benefit of our church.

We meet in the lounge from 10am until noon on Wednesdays, weekly.

Please join us if you can. You are all most welcome.

*Jill Cowan*





## Community Link



The Community Link Team will be holding a Gift Day on Sunday 8th December in order that we can purchase Gift Vouchers for Women's Aid. This is an annual event which allows Women's Aid to help mothers who are unable to provide for their children at Christmas time. Any monetary donations will be most welcome. Many thanks!

*Diana Ramsay/Norma Denman* = Joint Convenors.

## THE FLOWER CALENDAR

Some of you may have noticed that, since the pandemic, the Flower Calendar has been hardly used. We're not sure why this is. It used to be difficult for people to find a Sunday to use for the dedication of the flowers. The 'calendar' exists so that members might like to choose a Sunday to dedicate the flowers for a loved one or a friend. In the main the cost of this is borne by the church fund but it is nice when someone gives a donation towards the cost of the flowers. Sometimes someone will want to choose the flowers themselves. This is quite acceptable as long as we know it is happening.

As you enter the church, in the vestibule, there is a box to the right marked "The Flower Fund". Please feel free to leave a donation towards the cost of flowers in the box.

If you wish to add your name to the 'calendar' which appears in the EKO every month, then please phone Elizabeth Robertson 01355 243205 to discuss arrangements. Thank you.

*David Kent*—Editor



# *Iain's Monthly Update*

## Children, Youth & Families Worker Update (Dec 2024)

I was reflecting, as I wrote this article, on our Messy Church sessions. Messy Church has been around in our church now for quite some time and this year we are having two Messy Church sessions in December as we travel through Advent to Christmas Day.

I wish you all a Messy Christmas - sorry that's not right, apologies, that should be a Merry Christmas!

When we think about that first Christmas it really was quite messy. There was no room for Jesus in the Inn, so he had to be born in a manger, in an animal's feeding trough, possibly still containing bits of half-eaten chewed food and mucky messy straw. The stable was probably dirty and smelly – after all animals will be animals.

And what about the shepherds? They were probably grubby, greasy and smelling of wet sheep – but they were the first people to be told about Jesus' birth and be invited to visit baby Jesus.

Mary and Joseph and the Shepherds were ordinary people just like you and me.

Christmas is messy because that is what God intended.

God sent Jesus into our messy world to help us sort out the mess and to have a fresh start.

Let's make sure we remember that **JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON.**

## CHRISTMAS MESSY CHURCH – SUNDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> DECEMBER

Messy Church is for the whole church family – everyone is welcome - we meet in the Glebe St Church Hall from 2-4pm - our next session takes place on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December and is our Messy Christmas Session. Come along for fun, food, arts, crafts, games, quizzes & Bible Teaching - Messy Church is free but donations are welcome to help cover costs.

Please note there is no Messy Church in January – our next Messy Church session will be on Sunday 2nd February 2025 when the theme will be LOVE.

## ALL AGE NATIVITY SERVICE & MESSY CHURCH EXPERIENCE: SUNDAY 22ND DECEMBER

Please see the poster advertising this event elsewhere in this edition of the magazine.

All the children and young people are looking forward to performing their nativity for the congregation during the above service. I hope there will be a good turnout of regular members as well as some family and friends to watch and enjoy our version and interpretation of the nativity.

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PARTY will take place on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> December in the Upper Hall at 11am during the morning service.



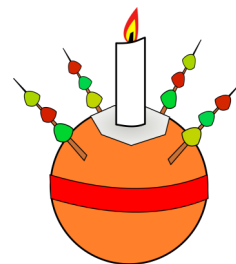
THE SUNDAY SCHOOL CHRISTMAS ADVENT WINDOW in the Church was suggested, designed and decorated by children of our Sunday School and depicts the well-known Christmas carol –

*It Was on A Starry Night*  
*It was on a starry night*  
*When the hills were bright*  
*Earth lay sleeping, sleeping calm and still*  
*Then in a cattle shed*  
*In a manger bed*  
*A boy was born, King of all the world*



Please take time to have a look at the window at the back of the church and take a moment to say “well done” to the children who were involved in this.

Also, we will have a FAMILY CHRISTINGLE SERVICE on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> December in the Church at 7pm again all are welcome.



All our groups and activities will continue as normal up to the week before Christmas and our RESTART DATES after the holidays are –

Sunday School will both restart after the Christmas / New Year break on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> January

The children’s art and crafts group will restart on Thursday 9th January and

The Junior Badminton Group on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January

Sometimes I think that my life hasn’t been positive enough to show or set a good example to others. Maybe the legacy of faith I try to pass on to the children and young people I come into contact with, isn’t a good or positive one – but upon reflection, all I and all the volunteers who help in any of our groups or activities with the young people can do, is ultimately sow seeds in the minds of the younger generation and set a good example and thereafter let God do his work and make that faith grow.



May I say a simple but most sincere 'thank you' to all the wonderful helpers, volunteers, parents but in particular the children and young people who attend all our groups and activities week in week out over the past year – thank you all so much, you really don't know how much your help, support and encouragement means. Without it nothing would be possible – but please remember that with God everything is possible.



May you know of the hope, peace, joy and love of Jesus this Christmas.

I wish everyone a very blessed Christmas and a peaceful New Year.



Thank you to everyone for all the tremendous help, encouragement and support I continue to receive in everything I seek to do for children, young people and families both within our congregation and in the wider community. I really do appreciate it very much.

*Iain* (Youth & Families Worker) mobile 07912 295943 / email iain-shaw18@gmail.com



Hogmanay Ceilidh on (surprise, surprise! ) on Hogmanay. Tickets for this very popular evening are on sale now, in the lower hall after the morning service, but be warned they are selling fast.

Burns Supper is on the 1 Feb 2025, more information will be available shortly.

The Coalburn Silver Band will be with us on 30th May 2025. This is another very popular concert event, enjoyed by everyone who attends.

The Kirk Life Team would like to thank everybody who has supported us over the past year and we wish all readers a very happy Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year.

*Ken Ross* Kirk Life Convener





Our Family Nativity & Messy Church Experience is

ON Sunday 22nd December 2024

FROM 10am-12noon

WHERE - East Kilbride Old Parish Church & Halls

Everyone is welcome especially FAMILIES -All children MUST be accompanied by a responsible adult.

ALL CHILDREN WHO VISIT SANTA WILL RECEIVE A GIFT

PHOTO / SELFIE  
OPPORTUNITIES

ADVENT ARTS &  
CRAFTS ACTIVITIES

VISIT SANTA'S  
GROTTO

TEA ROOM & SNACKS

GIANT NATIVITY  
SCENE

ALL AGE FAMILY  
NATIVITY

NATIVITY  
COSTUMES

Please let Iain know if you plan to attend - email [iain-shaw18@gmail.com](mailto:iain-shaw18@gmail.com) or text 07912295943



## MEN'S ASSOCIATION

**Our meeting last month** on 18<sup>th</sup> November focussed on a remarkable woman, called Elsie Inglis. If you've never heard of her, I strongly urge you to find out about her story. Just go to your laptop, type in "Elsie Inglis" and you'll be amazed at all she accomplished. She was a medical doctor, a qualified surgeon, an activist in the suffragette movement, a teacher and the founder of the Scottish Women's Hospitals.

In the 1914-18 World War, she sent teams of Scottish nurses and doctors to work in France, Belgium, Russia and Serbia. She offered their services to the War Office in Britain, who told her to "Go home and sit still". The French said "merci beaucoup" and her team worked in France from 1915-1919, starting with 100 beds and rising to 600, as they helped with the casualties of offences like the Somme. Her own unit worked in Serbia and there she is remembered with deepest gratitude. At a ceremony in Belgrade in 2015, the President of Serbia said "In Scotland, Elsie Inglis became a doctor – in Serbia she became a saint".

**Our meetings in December** begin on December 2<sup>nd</sup>, when David Kent – and friends – will help us to "Have Fun with Music". And then on December 16<sup>th</sup>, Bob Cossar will help us to have fun (?) with a Quiz. Both meetings will be in the Glebe Street Hall at 2pm. As always, anyone who would like to come because of a special interest the topic, will be most welcome.

The final meeting of the Carpet Bowling Club before Christmas will be on December 9<sup>th</sup>.

*Stewart Smith*





# LEPROSY MISSION

## LEPROSY MISSION – ANANDABAN HOSPITAL

In Nepal, the monsoon rains have been disastrous. There have been floods and landslides in this mountainous country and one of these mud-slides has had a destructive effect on Anandaban Hospital.

In Scotland, we've been supporting the work at the hospital for a good number of years. It is one of the principal research hospitals in the world for understanding leprosy and treating it, and it is the central hospital in Nepal for leprosy sufferers. It would be good if all of us who support the Leprosy Mission could look up on Google "Anandaban Hospital". That gives the full story, with pictures that show the extent of the damage caused by the mud-slide. Please remember in your prayers the staff and patients as they try to cope with the huge tasks confronting them.

*Stewart Smith*

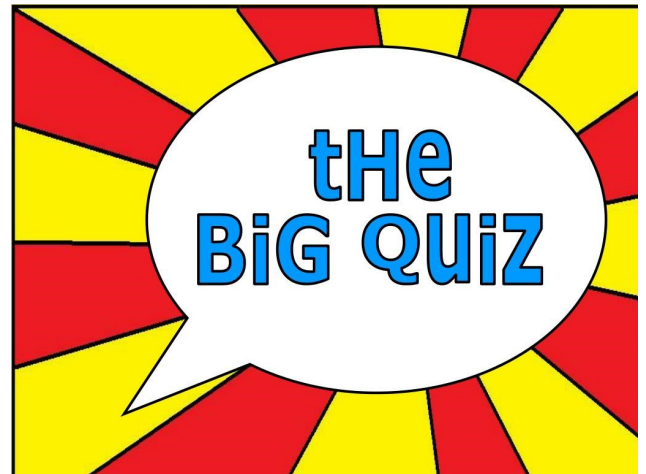


## *The Big Quiz*

A group of members of the West Kirk, Stewartfield and Old Parish have been planning to hold a Big Quiz Night in aid of Tear Fund. This is intended to help the three congregations to get to know each other.

It will be held in the West Kirk on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> January at 7.30pm. The idea is that people will sit 6 to a table, and jointly write down the answers to the quiz questions.

There will be a light supper, BYOB if you wish. There will be a raffle and stalls too. Tickets priced £5 will be available from Mary Smith or Angela Thomas from December 29<sup>th</sup> onwards. Be sure to mark the date and bring your friends.



*Mary Smith*

## *Harvest Appeal*

Thankyou to everyone who responded to the Harvest Appeal. The sum raised was £486.50..This has been divided between Women's Aid and Christian Aid's Gaza Appeal.

*Mary Smith*



# *The Prayer Group*

Catherine Selfridge , Janice Gourlay, Anne Learmonth and Marilyn Ross meet in the Lounge Area after the Church service and invite you to visit/join them in the Prayer Group at any time.

There are Prayer request boxes in the Church Sanctuary - one upstairs at the east side and one downstairs next to the Baptismal Font. Rest assured all Prayer requests will be treated with the utmost respect and discretion. Only first names should be given along with a brief reason for the request, i.e. awaiting treatment, etc.

## **DECEMBER**

1st. Praise the Lord. How good it is to sing praises to our God.

2nd. Lord, when life knocks me down, please help me to get back up. All I need is the strength that comes from you.

3rd. Lord, I may not have everything I want, but I have everything I need, and I am grateful to You for this.

4th. Thank you, Lord, for your word of hope that gives us strength, for your love that makes life meaningful, and for your grace that renews and restores our life.

5th. Father, help us show love to those who betray us, patience with those who criticize us, and compassion for those who are focused on everything that is wrong and are unable to enjoy all that is good.

6th. Heavenly Father, fill us with your Spirit and the spirit of Hope so that we may be strengthened in our daily tasks.

7th. Have mercy Lord, forgive us Lord, restore us Lord. Revive Your church again.

8th. Father, we know that nothing is impossible with you, so we put our faith in you, knowing you can change situations and move mountains, for you are the God of all hope.

9th. Dear Lord, amid my life's chaos and daily challenges I ask for your calming presence. Grant me the serenity to find peace within my heart. Help me to trust you and to let go of my worries and fears.

10th. Although we are weak, Your grace is everything we need.

11th. Heavenly Father as we prepare our hearts for Christmas, bring us closer to each other and to your Son. Give us the grace and strength we need every day.

12th. Lord, help us to respond kindly to people who may frustrate us or irritate us.



- 13th.Calm me Oh Lord, as you stilled the storm. Still, me Oh Lord, the storm. Still, me Oh Lord, keep me from harm.
- 14th.God, we lift all the children to you. Thank you for the joy and excitement they are experiencing this Christmas.
- 15th.God, grant me serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can and the wisdom to know the difference.
- 16th.Father, forgive our lack of faith and restore in us the strength of will for always doing good.
- 17th.Father, help me to see that you are with me You are my hope.
- 18th.Lord, we pray that you continue to bless and protect all children.
- 19th.Heavenly Father, in these days of uncertainty and fear, we pray that each of us might turn to you Lord and receive God's gift of peace.
- 20th.Lord, shine your light on all who are living in darkness caught up in sorrow and strife..
- 21st.Father, help us to remain grateful to you for giving the ultimate gift of Jesus.
- 22nd.Father, be close to those experiencing loneliness or illness this Christmas and give them your peace in their hearts.
- 23rd.Thank you that your Church is a place of refuge and safety in this season for the lonely, the vulnerable and those who seek to get closer to you.
- 24th.Bless every Church and may all who enter feel cared for and appreciated.
- 25th. Father, God, I pray for your peace and joy to fill all hearts today so that people will experience your unfailing love this Christmas. In all my plans today, I ask that you bless my family and friends. Thank you for everything we will eat today.
- 26th.Father, help us to remember that you are in control.
- 27th.O Lord, for everyone giving up their time to support and serve those who come into homeless shelters and the Church this Christmas, we ask that you pour out your blessings on them.
- 28th.Father, we ask for strength as we try to walk in your way.
- 29th.Remind us, Lord, to put listening before speaking.
- 30th.Heavenly Father, we thank you for your Church. Thank you for providing a place for all to come in to and reflect on your loving kindness.
- 31st.We ask that your Holy Spirit lead us in your light during this season because no matter how dark things get in the world, the light of Christ overcomes it all.

January/over

## JANUARY

1st. As the dawn breaks on a new year, let us give thanks for all we hold dear: our health, our family and our friends. Let us release our grudges, our anger, and our pains, for these are nothing but binding chains. Let us live each day in the most loving ways.

2nd. God, we thank you for being with us as we experienced the joys and challenges of last year. You were our strength and tower, Lord, and we know that this year you will continue by our side.

### *History Corner*

**Andrew Stuart 7<sup>th</sup> of Torrance and family.**

The October 2023 EKO magazine featured a brief history of members of the Stuart family who were buried in the mausoleum, situated in the Kirkyard.

The last member of the family to be buried there was **Andrew Stuart** of Craighorn, born 1725, the second son of Archibald Stuart of Torrance and Elizabeth, the daughter of Sir Andrew Myrton of Gogar.

He studied law at Edinburgh and entered the Edinburgh office of his father a prominent writer of the signet and became his partner and successor as law agent to the Hamilton family. In 1770, he was appointed Keeper of the Signet of Scotland - senior officer of the Society of Writers to the Signet, a **private society of Scottish solicitors**, dating back to 1594.

He was also a politician who sat in the House of Commons between 1774 – 1801 representing Lanarkshire as MP from 1774 – 1784 and Weymouth and Melcombe Regis, Dorset 1790 – 1801.

In 1779 he was appointed to the Board of Trade when Lord North was Prime Minister.

He married Margaret, daughter of Sir William Stirling 4<sup>th</sup> Baronet of Ardoch, Perth, on 9<sup>th</sup> October 1790 at Edinburgh and they had four children: Christian Ann born c1791, Archibald Stuart born 9<sup>th</sup> October 1792 died young, Elizabeth and Charlotte.

On the death of his elder brother, Alexander, on 23<sup>rd</sup> March 1796, Andrew inherited the estate of Torrance and on the death of his cousin Sir John Stewart on 18<sup>th</sup> January 1797 inherited Castlemilk. Andrew died in London on 18<sup>th</sup> May 1801.

Margaret remarried at Dundas Castle on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1804 Sir William Johnstone Pultney 3<sup>rd</sup> son of Sir James Johnstone Pultney of Wester Hall. She died at Piccadilly, London, on 1<sup>st</sup> November 1849.

**Christian Ann Stuart 8<sup>th</sup> of Torrance** inherited her father's estate in Kilbride. She remained unmarried and died at Kentish Town, London on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1879, aged 88 years.

**Charlotte Stuart** married at St George's, London, on 10<sup>th</sup> July 1830 Robert Harington youngest son of Sir John Edward Harington, Baronet. Robert died at Crutherland, on 18<sup>th</sup> March 1854. Charlotte died on 11<sup>th</sup> February 1867.

Their children:

**Alexander Stuart Harington**, Rifle Brigade, married on 11<sup>th</sup> December 1875 Elinor daughter of Richard Carmichael Bourne and died 2<sup>nd</sup> September 1878.

**Robert Edward Stuart Harington Stuart of Torrance**, late Captain Rifle Brigade and a Lt Col in the army, was born on 9<sup>th</sup> November 1834 and succeeded to the lands of Torrance. He married on 28<sup>th</sup> April 1863 Louisa Alice daughter of the Hon. Robert Arthur Arundel. His second marriage was to Alice Sydney Madocks, daughter of Henry Robert Madocks and The Hon. Amelia Anne Napier.

"He was a brave soldier with a kind heart and a principal Heritor who was keen and active in parochial matters." He died on 27<sup>th</sup> December 1911.

**Susan Stuart Harington** was born 15<sup>th</sup> November 1831, baptised on 14<sup>th</sup> December 1831 at East Kilbride. She married on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1865 James Davidson, Lt Col Lanark Militia, who died on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1878. Susan died on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> November 1912 in London and buried privately the following Saturday at Crutherland Glen near her childhood home Torrance Lodge.

There is a brass tabletop lectern in the Glebe Street Hall inscribed:



*1912 A.D. In Memoriam M<sup>s</sup> Davidson From Sunday School & Bible Class*

The lectern is still used today by the Women's Guild.

The obituary to Colonel Harrington Stuart features in The East Kilbride Parish Church Magazine February 1912 and his sister Mrs Davidson's obituary is in

the December 1912 Magazine. *Fiona Dawson*

Reference:

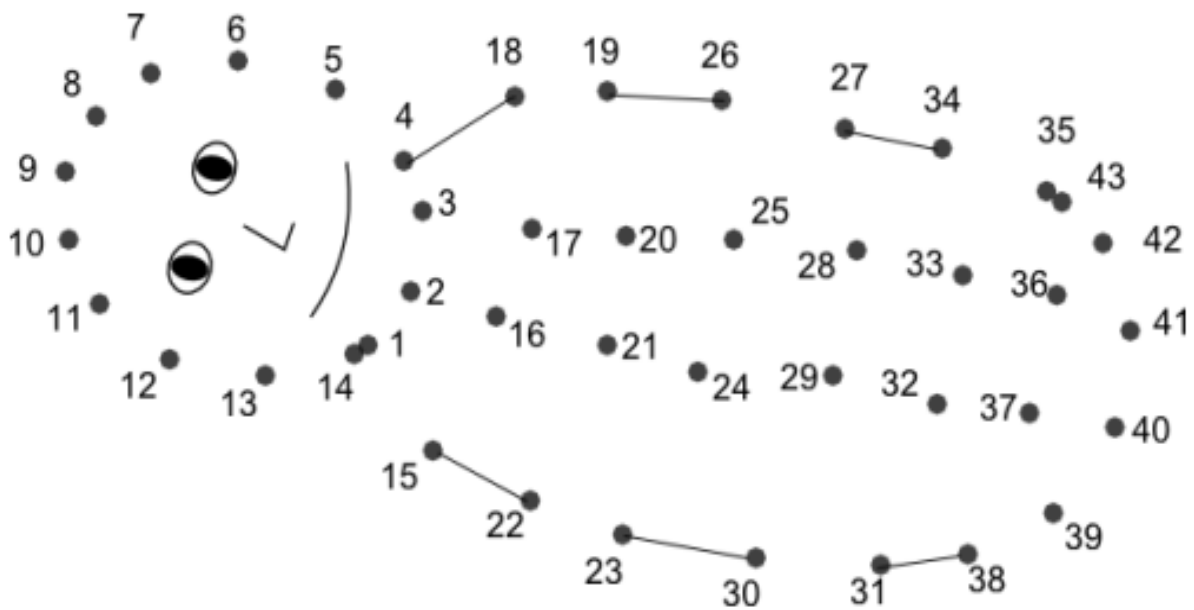
History of Parliament online. East Kilbride Parish Church Magazines 1912.

Stuart of Torrance Family Tree. The Red Book of Scotland, 1600 – 1939. Ancestry. com



## Jesus is Born

Connect the dots to see who was born in Bethlehem.



Finish the story with the words at the right.

M \_\_\_\_\_ and J \_\_\_\_\_ traveled to

B \_\_\_\_\_.

M \_\_\_\_\_ had a baby and named him

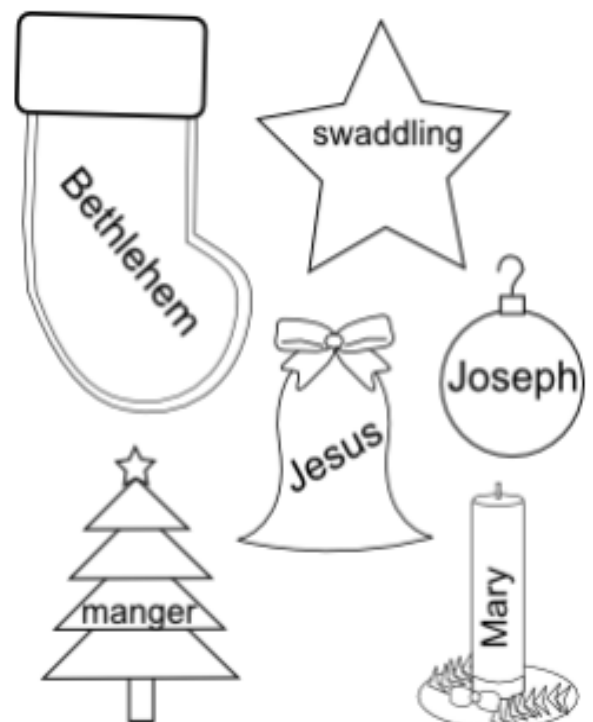
J \_\_\_\_\_. He was God's Son.

She placed J \_\_\_\_\_ in a m \_\_\_\_\_,

which was a place for animals to eat.

He was wrapped in s \_\_\_\_\_

clothes, which were strips of cloth.



# PASTORAL REGISTER

Deaths - *"I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."*

Irene Macdonald

Arthur Meldrum



## EKO Submissions

The dates for submission of material for the January EKO are: for hand/type-written copy **Sunday 22nd December** and the deadline for submitting electronic copy is:-

**Tuesday 24th December**

Thank you. *David Kent* - Editor 01355 237275, 07890 262267 or, [davidkent28@virginmedia.com](mailto:davidkent28@virginmedia.com)



## EAST KILBRIDE OLD PARISH CHURCH

In case of illness and bereavement, would the family please contact the minister immediately and directly.

Rev. Anne Paton will be available for consultation in the vestry after Sunday morning worship. Please arrange such consultation with the door duty team.

East Kilbride Old Parish Church, Church of Scotland, Scottish Charity—

Minister	Rev. Anne Paton BA BD 40 Maxwell Drive. G74 4HJ E-mail address: <a href="mailto:apaton@churchofscotland.org.uk">apaton@churchofscotland.org.uk</a>	Tel. 01355 220732 Mobile 07912295940
Pastoral Assistants:	Rev. Stewart Smith MA BD and Miss Sheena Bell	
Youth & Families Worker	Iain Shaw E-mail: <a href="mailto:iainshaw18@gmail.com">iainshaw18@gmail.com</a>	
Session Clerk	Alistair Walker	
Treasurer	Des Laverty	
Roll Keeper	Robert Cossar	
Gift Aid	Des Laverty	
Church Secretary	Janet Boyce (Hall Letting) Church Halls, 3—5 Montgomery St. Glebe Street Hall	Tel. 279004
Church Office	E-mail Address: <a href="mailto:ekopc.office@btconnect.com">ekopc.office@btconnect.com</a>	
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OR Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/EKOLDPC](http://www.facebook.com/EKOLDPC)