

The background of the entire page is a dark red, textured surface. In the foreground, three red candles are lit. One candle is tall and positioned on the left, with its flame at the top. Two shorter candles are positioned to its right, one in front of the other, also with flames at the top. The light from the candles illuminates the surrounding area, creating a warm, festive atmosphere.

EKO

**Love, Joy and
Hope
this Christmas**

**The Magazine
for
East Kilbride
Old Parish
Church**

DECEMBER 2023

EDITION 622

CHURCH CALENDAR



DECEMBER

Sunday 3rd	First Sunday in Advent—Worship With the Coalburn Band	11am
Sunday 10th	Second Sunday in Advent	11am
Thursday 14th	Community Link's Christmas Service followed by a light lunch in the lower hall at 12.30pm	12 noon
Sunday 17th	Third Sunday in Advent with the church choir singing- <i>'The Splendour of Christmas'</i>	11am
Sunday 24th	'All-age' Service	11am
	Christingle Service	7pm
Monday 25th	Christmas Day Service	10.30am
Sunday 31st	Joint Service with the West Kirk in EKOPC	11am

JANUARY 2024

Sunday 7th	Morning Worship	11am
------------	-----------------	------

FLOWER CALENDAR



DECEMBER

Sunday 3rd	The Flower Fund
Sunday 10th	The Flower Fund
Sunday 17th	The Flower Fund
Sunday 24th	The Flower Fund

If you would like to put your name against a particular Sunday for the Flower Fund, please contact Elizabeth Robertson 01355 243205.

PASTORAL LETTER



This time of year, has always been a birthday season for my family. Growing up, both my parents had birthdays in November and December, as did my sister and I. I now have a brother in law with a birthday in December and a daughter in law with one in November. It can be an expensive month! This year has been particularly special as my mother celebrated her 90th birthday on the same day as I celebrated my 60th. It was a great excuse to gather the extended family and friends together to share good times, and be thankful for each other.

Christmas is also about a birthday, the celebration of the birth of God's precious son Jesus. So many traditions and customs have grown around this season which include the kinds of things we do when it is our own birthday like gather together with friends and family. These are important things and I hope we all have the opportunity to do that in the coming weeks.

The birth of Christ is so much more than that though. His birth, brought light into the darkness of our world. It brought a new way of living where the things this world values are turned on their heads, where the meek will inherit the earth and the peacemakers will be blessed.

The birth of Christ has been celebrated during many dark times down through the centuries, and this Christmas is one of them. Our world is in turmoil and we wonder what we can do to make a difference. Perhaps on our own we can't. However, if we put our trust in the one who came to be the Prince of Peace, if we can put our hope in light shining into the dark places of our world, and if we continue to pray for a better world for us and generations to come, this Christmas we will truly be celebrating the birthday which can change the world.

Yours in love, *Anne Eaton*

WANTED... YES I MEAN YOU OUT THERE !

Before I took up Session Clerk responsibilities three years ago I was only vaguely aware of the extent to which the work of the church was supported by a team comprising many different people, often working quietly behind the scenes, using their time and talents in a multitude of different ways. We have very few salaried posts, the majority of the people are giving their commitment freely through their faith and their love for this church. Having seen this contribution at close quarters over the last few years I am now much more aware of how the life of the congregation depends on many people each playing their part !

The past few years have brought some changes to the range of roles which support our congregation; some through new developments and, sadly, some through the passing of long-service members. We have a need for an infusion of individuals to help share the load by contributing in some modest way across a range of skills and interests.

We would like a member of the congregation, or possibly someone in their family, to volunteer to manage and maintain our Facebook page. This could also cover assistance with maintaining our church website or this might be a separate post depending on the interest expressed in this kind of role.

Next year we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of our church building with various events and activities all of which will need to be publicised and advertised. Someone with graphic design and or marketing skills would be invaluable so yet another opportunity for someone to contribute to the work and mission of our church.

The salaried post of hallkeeper is now vacant and we would like someone

to take responsibility for opening and closing our halls for the various outside organisations which use our halls. The majority of church organisations manage this themselves.

Our present church cleaner has now graduated with a degree following several years of part-time study and will probably leave us fairly soon to take up a fresh challenge. This post is also a part-time salaried position and we would like to recruit someone to replace Daria when she moves on.

We don't go in for time-consuming CVs in the church, no assessment centres nor terrifying job interviews, so anyone interested in any of these roles need only speak to me or the Minister or the Door Duty team and we will take things from there in a friendly way.

Alistair Walker – Session Clerk



THURSDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

During the festive season there will be no Thursday Coffee Mornings on Thursday 28th December and Thursday 4th January. We will return on Thursday 11th January.

Evelyn Brownlie



EKOPC CHRISTMAS CD

We have produced a CD of Christmas Music taken from the recordings made by our church Virtual Choir during the pandemic.

There are sixteen Christmas Hymns/songs on the CD including:



- O Come All Ye Faithful
- Hark! The Herald Angels
- Silent Night
- The First Nowel
- Ding, Dong, Merrily on High etc..



The CD costs £5 and is available now.

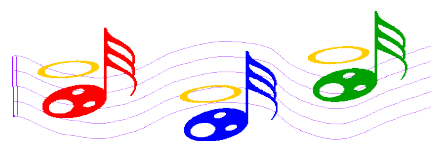
You will be able to buy your copy on Sunday mornings or you can pick up a copy from the church office on Tuesday and Friday mornings. You can also order copies by contacting David Kent and he will arrange delivery.

It will be helpful if you could bring the correct change when you pick up your CD or you will be able to pay by card using the card machine in the church vestibule on Sunday mornings—just choose the ‘Christmas CD’ option.

If you don’t have a CD player but would still like the music, speak with David Kent and he will see if other methods of playing the music are available.

All profits will be going to the church of course.

David Kent



(07890 262267—Email: davidkent28@virginmedia.com)



Hogmanay Ceilidh

Tickets for this years Ceilidh are now on sale in the lower hall after the morning service.

The cost of the tickets is £5 which includes soup and sandwiches.

Entry will be by ticket only (no ticket no entry)

The Ceilidh will start at 8pm and go on until just after midnight

This event is a B.Y.O.B.(Bring your own bottle).

SESTERCENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

As part of the upcoming celebration many events will be taking place next year. Also, on sale after the morning service, will be celebratory Bone China Mugs . These will cost £9.

Burns Supper

The Burns Supper will take place on Saturday 3rd February. Tickets will be available in the new year.

Ken Ross (Kirk Life Convener)

THE CRAFT GROUP

Our Church Craft Group continues to meet weekly in the Lounge Area on Wednesdays from 10am -12 noon.

All arty and crafty people will be made most welcome to join us.

Jill Cowan



THE PRAYER GROUP



Mary Doig, Janice Gourlay, Catherine Selfridge, 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.

THE PRAYER DIARY

DECEMBER

- 1st. Dear Lord, I ask you to help me. I want to be aware of your spirit - leading me in the decisions I take, the conversations I have.
- 2nd. When I make mistakes today, Lord, help me to learn from them and give me the confidence to go on.
- 3rd. Father in heaven, grant me the strength to power through the tasks before me today.
- 4th. Thank you, Lord, for answering my unspoken prayers. You understand everything.
- 5th. Thank you, Father, for all the miracles in life that remind me I'm alive.
- 6th. Thank you, Lord, for always being there and keeping me going when I am tempted to give up.
- 7th. We give thanks, Lord, for all the times we have received support and strength when we needed it.
- 8th. Lord, grant me a cheerful spirit when things don't go my way.
- 9th. Father, help me to distinguish what is an indication of your leading and not something to avoid.
- 10th. In God's presence we are not alone. We join with the whole family of God on earth.
- 11th. Lord our God, we thank you that you work in us and in our lives and that you show us your compassion, no matter what cross we must bear.
- 12th. When God seems to be absent, let us remember that he is watching over us all the time.

- 13th. Today is the beginning of the rest of my life. Keep me ever mindful of what you would have me do, Lord.
- 14th. Lord Jesus, please melt my heart with your love when I am tempted to say unkind words in the heat of the moment. Let me think of those I see as oppressors of myself and others and let me pray for them.
- 15th. Your mercy has seen me through from January to December. For this I say Thank You LORD, in Jesus' name.
- 16th. Help us to welcome strangers and to transfer them into neighbours.
- 17th. Father, when I am tempted to judge others, show me what is in me that is being challenged.
- 18th. Help us to be sensitive to the needs of those around us. Make us willing to offer them what we have, and they need.
- 19th. Thank you, Lord, for the knowledge that I am not alone on my journey through life.
- 20th. Lord Jesus, Master of both light and darkness, send your Holy Spirit upon your preparations for Christmas.
- 21st. Father, help me today to go beyond what people are asking of me.
- 22nd. Thank you, Lord, for being with me at this joyous time.
- 23rd. Heavenly Father, we pray for hope, peace, joy, and love at this time when the earth grows colder, the animals hibernate, and the days become shorter.
- 24th. All I have ever needed is provided by you, Lord, Thank you for your faithfulness.
- 25th. Heavenly Father, in this Holy Season of prayer, song, and laughter, we praise you for the wonders you have sent us.
- 26th. Dear Lord, thank you for allowing me the privilege to share this holiday season with my family, friends, and loved ones.
- 27th. Father, help me to see beyond evil, and to see the needs of the oppressed.
- 28th. Father, as I begin this day, I ask for your strength and guidance. Help me to face the challenges ahead with grace and courage.
- 29th. You, Lord, are consistent and true, may the first decision I make every day be to allow you to lead.
- 30th. Lord Jesus, I thank you that you are with me. Open my ears so that I can hear you more clearly.
- 31st. Today, Lord, I will face choices, but my hope and trust in you is never at risk.

JANUARY

- 1st. As we enter a new year, Lord, let us remember that we are all one, embracing all, and discriminating against none.
- 2nd. Help me to live the way I should each new day and give me wisdom to help a friend in need.
- 3rd. Dear Lord, help me to face this new day and to follow you more closely.
- 4th. Thank you, Lord, for the blessings you have bestowed on my life.
- 5th. Help me to take the time to slow down this morning and relish the joy and wonder of your creation.



CHURCH FLOWERS

Many of you will know that there are new flower arrangements placed in the church every Sunday. Mostly these are paid for from the church Flower Fund. Sometimes people will choose to provide flowers for a certain Sunday.

If you would like to provide the flowers for a particular Sunday and either have your name placed against them that Sunday or dedicate them in memory of someone else, then please contact Elizabeth Robertson on 01355 243205 and make arrangements with her.

Please consider this because we like to see dedications in the Flower Calendar. One final thing, please be sure to contact Elizabeth before the middle of the previous month so it can be entered into the EKO magazine in good time.

Thank you! *David Kent* - Editor

AIN'S MONTHLY UPDATE

The Christmas Advent window in the Church suggested, designed and decorated by children, young people and families depicts “Peace on Earth” as our theme for this year – we simply pray for PEACE, LOVE, JOY and HOPE around the world this Christmas.

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.

Christmas Messy Church Party – Sunday 3rd 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 3rd December and is our Messy Christmas Party. Come along for fun, food, arts, crafts, games, quizzes & Bible Teaching and a visit from a very special guest in a red suit !! Messy Church is free but donations are welcome to help cover costs.



Please note there is no Messy Church session in January - the next Messy Church will be on Sunday 4th February 2024 when the theme will be LOVE.

The Sunday School Christmas Party will take place on Sunday 17th December in the Upper Hall at 11am during the morning service. Any help with catering would be appreciated – sandwiches, home baking etc – If you feel you can help provide anything please speak to Iain Shaw or Jill Cowan any Sunday morning – we need the items delivered to the kitchen in the Lower Hall on the morning of the 17th December.



All Age Family Nativity Service – “Christmas around the World “Sunday 24th December

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.



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 and The Youth Group will both restart after the Christmas / New Year break on Sunday 14th January
- The children's art and crafts group will restart on Thursday 11th January and
- The Junior Badminton Group on Friday 12th January

All at the usual times and in the usual places.

May I say a simple but most sincere thank you to all the wonderful helpers, volunteers and in particular the children and young people who attend all our groups and sessions every week over the past year – thank you all so much, you really don't know how much your help, support and encouragement means to the children we work with but 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.

Jain (Youth & Families Worker) mobile 07912 295943 / email jain-shaw18@gmail.com

Here are a few Christmas quotes and jokes for you to enjoy: -

- 1 Its not what's under the tree that matters, its who's around it.
- 2 Dance like Frosty, shine like Rudolph, give like Santa and love like Jesus.
- 3 Christmas is not about opening presents, it's about opening our hearts and doing a little something extra for someone.
- 4 The Christmas spirit is the spirit of giving and forgiving.
- 5 The best way to see Christmas is through the eyes of a child.

6 Seeing is believing, but sometimes the most real things in the world are the things we can't see.

7 Remember the true spirit of Christmas lies in your heart.

Some Christmas jokes -



Q: What does Santa use to measure?

A: Santimeters!



Q: Where do snowmen go dancing?

A: A snowball!



Q: What does the gingerbread man put on his bed?

A: Cookie sheets!



Q: What do you get if you cross an apple with a Christmas Tree?

A: A pineapple!



Q: Where does a snowman keep his money?

A: In a snowbank!



Q: What do road crews use at the North Pole?

A: Snow cones!



Q: What happens if you eat Christmas decorations?

A: You get tinselitus!



Q: What do you call Santa when he stops moving?

A: Santa Pause



Q: What does an elf study in school?

A: The elfabet



Q: What should you give your parents at Christmas?

A: A list of what you want.



Q: What goes oh, oh, oh?

A: Santa Claus walking backward!



Q: What kind of bug hates Christmas?

A: A humbug!

CREATED BY THE SIMPLE PARENT.COM



William Watt, Parish Church Precentor.

William Watt, a weaver, was born on the 8th September 1791, at West Linton, Peeblesshire, to James and Jean Watt nee Alexander. His father, originally from East Kilbride, worked as a shoemaker, and to entertain his friends, he and his wife wrote verse. The family returned to East Kilbride in 1800, but James soon left his family to join the army.

William was brought up by his grandmother, who was housekeeper to Mr Creighton, the parish schoolmaster, and lived at that time, at Platthorn¹.

(Note: Creighton Grove is named after Mr Creighton).

In winter, William attended school, and, during the summer, became cow-herd with Hugh Montgomery at Letham, in Avondale. It was here that he met the old servant who was to inspire his poem "Kate Darymple" (original spelling). He spent a lot of time reading. It is said he learned the Psalms of David by heart, which he would later put to good use when, as parish church precentor, he led the evening praise, by candlelight.

In 1823, he moved to Rutherglen to begin a musical career in the theatre, singing and playing the flute. While there, he joined the Rutherglen Free Masons. In 1826, he returned to Kilbride, where he gained a reputation as a painter of heraldic devices and Lodge flags. It was while decorating Torrance Castle he met Christian Baillie, the maidservant, whom he married. They had five children: three sons and two daughters.

Around 1831, William founded the Kilbride Instrumental Band and in 1833 was appointed Precentor of the Parish Kirk. The Reverend William Hanna enjoyed choral music which encouraged William to raise the choir to a high standard. However, a section of the congregation disapproved and criticised the minister for being too modern. In 1837, William Hanna was translated to the parish of Skirling in Peeblesshire.

Two books of William Watt's poems and songs were published. The first, in 1835, sold well and an expanded edition followed in 1844. On both occasions, William did not receive any financial benefit.

William Watt died of heart disease in 1859. He was remembered as a kind man. A concert of his songs and poetry was held in the Assembly Rooms to aid his widow. In 1862, a thousand copies of his works were sold at 4/- (20p), and by 1881, Christian was a confectioner. Christian Baillie died 26th March 1883. William, Christian and their two daughters are buried in the Kirkyard.

His home, in a row of weavers' cottages, was demolished to make room for the village playground.

Note: ¹Platthorn was the area which included a farm near St. Bride's Church.

Ref: *"East Kilbride the History of the Parish"* by Thomas Eric Niven

Fiona Dawson

Loaves and Fishes Information:

The Community Link Team would like to tell you how much we and the volunteers at our local Loaves and Fishes appreciate the monetary donations and the super amount of produce and personal items donated each Sunday. This year, up until Sunday 19th November, we have taken 163 bags to the EK Depot... Well Done!

On Saturday 6th November, Diana and Norma attended an Open Day at the EK Depot and we are sure that some of our Church members also came to visit. We had a lovely afternoon there and enjoyed beautiful home baking along with endless top-ups of tea. After this we had a guided tour of the warehouse by a lovely young lady called Danielle who had been volunteering there since she was twelve during school holidays. She is now seventeen. Her mother is also a volunteer.

Danielle explained that all folks requiring food bags were asked for their dietary requirements and any allergies they have, ensuring that all produce was suitable. Loaves and Fishes also has a section named, "Kettle Meals" which consists of Cuppa Soups and Noodles, because many people only have a kettle for cooking!!!

Cash donated is used to buy baby food, nappies and toiletries and cleaning items. To our eyes, the shelves appeared to hold a good supply of tins, packets, etc.. We were told quite quickly that this was not a good supply!

Last year the amount of food available was almost sufficient for their clients' needs but sadly, the numbers required have risen and as we know financial concerns this year have caused the amount of donations to have lessened. Loaves and Fishes are helping as many local people as possible with your continued support. We were also impressed by the number of young people volunteering within the warehouse, many for years having come with their mums and dads and grannies.



Some days we think, "what will I have for breakfast/lunch/tea/dinner. Sometimes we are spoiled for choice but others may have nothing! Thank you for your prayers and help.

Women's Aid Christmas Appeal

Once again the Community Link Group is planning a monetary appeal for Women's Aid on Sunday 10th December. As we approach Christmas we believe it is a time of peace and joy for us all. Sadly this is not true for everyone in our town. Some will need a safe and protected space which Women's Aid will provide with your help. We understand everyone is concerned with personal spending and so many appeals needing your help. Thank you.

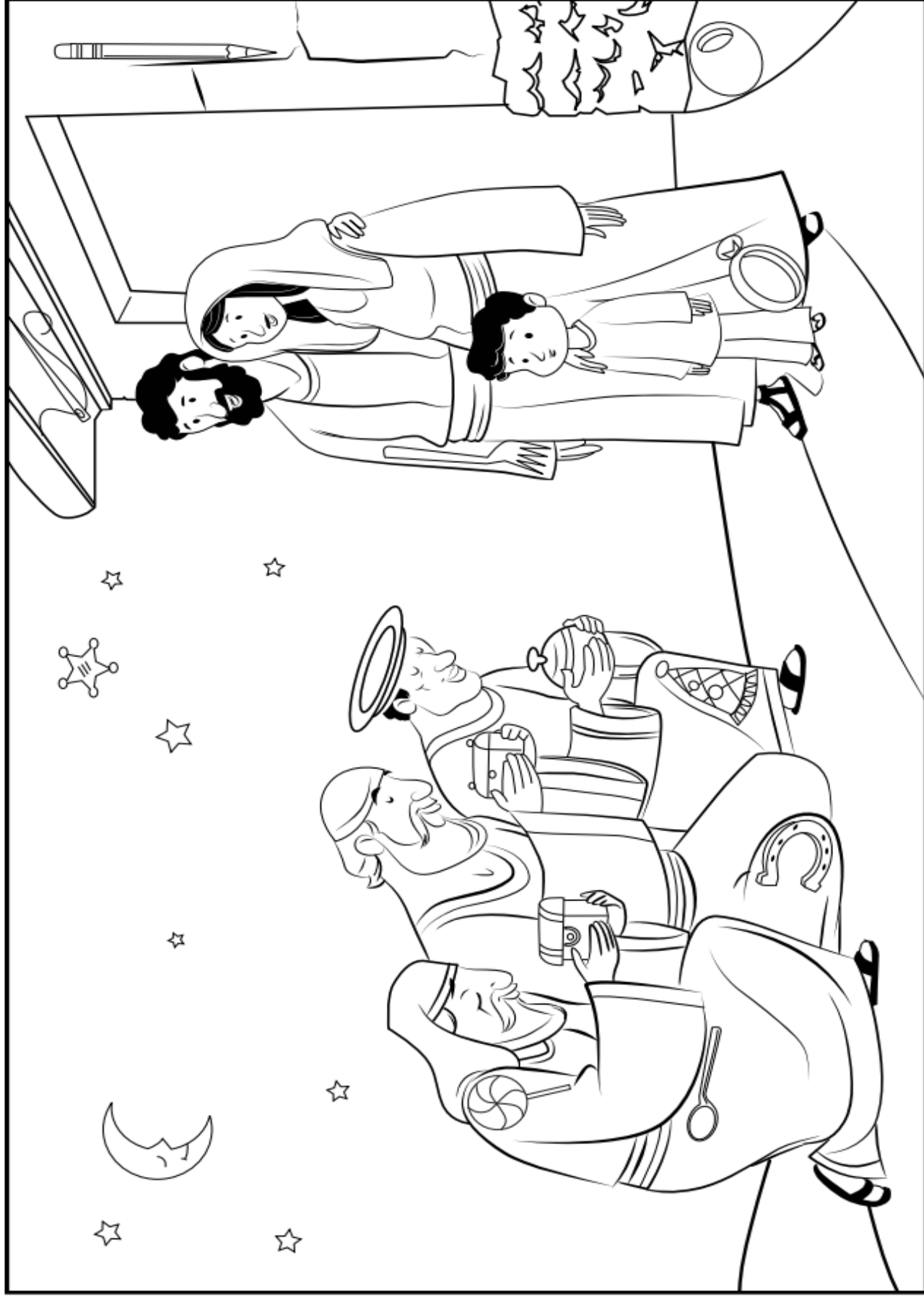
On a lighter note, a date for your diary is:- Thursday 14th December. This will be the Community Link's Christmas Service at 12 noon followed by a light lunch in the lower hall at 12.30pm. Please come along and bring a friend and enjoy good company and even a mince pie.

Diana Ramsay and Norma Lenman

Joint Convenors.

Hidden Pictures for Wise Men Told About Jesus

Find these objects hidden in the picture below: badge, fork, clown hat, horseshoe, lollipop, moon, needle and thread, olive, pencil, plate, ring, spoon.



PASTORAL REGISTER

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

Christine Bayfield

Baptism: *"Let the children come to me."*

Matilda Moira Mulholland



EKO SUBMISSIONS

The dates for submission of material for the January EKO are: for hand/type-written copy **Sunday 24th December** and the deadline for submitting electronic copy is:-

Wednesday 27th December

Thank you. *David Kent* - Editor 01355 237275, 07890 262267 or, 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—SC000609

Minister	Rev. Anne Paton BA BD	Tel. 01355 220732
	40 Maxwell Drive. G74 4HJ	Mobile 07912295940
	E-mail address: apaton@churchofscotland.org.uk	

Pastoral Assistants: **Rev. Stewart Smith MA BD**
and Miss Sheena Bell

Youth & Families Worker **Iain Shaw**
E-mail: iainshaw18@gmail.com

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. Tel. 279004
Glebe Street Hall

Church Office **E-mail Address: ekopc.office@btconnect.com**

Organist **Colin Thomas**

Communications Convenor **Janice Gourlay**

Magazine Editor **David Kent** **07890 262267**
davidkent28@virginmedia.com

E-mail copies of December's EKO magazine are available from:-

ekopcmagazine@gmail.com

Visit the East Kilbride Old Parish Church Website at: www.ekopc.org.uk

OR Facebook page: www.facebook.com/EKOLDPC