

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



DECEMBER 2025

EDITION 643

Church Calendar



DECEMBER

Sunday 7th	Service with the Coalburn Band	11am
Sunday 14th	Cantata 'A PROMISE KEPT'	
	Service with the Church Choir	11am
Thursday 18th	Short Advent Service	12 noon
	followed by lunch	12.30pm
Sunday 21st	All-age Service	11am
Wednesday 24th	'Christingle' Service	7pm
Thursday 25th	Christmas Day Service	10.30am
Sunday 28th	Joint Service with the West Kirk	11am

JANUARY 2026

Sunday 4th	New Year Service	11am
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Flower Calendar

DECEMBER

Sunday 7th	In memory of Ken Mathieson
Sunday 14th	In memory of Bill Macsween
Sundays 21st and 28th	The Flower Fund



Pastoral Letter



Do you feel like the run up to Christmas has been going on forever? We've hardly got over the summer holidays and the shops are beginning to put up their Christmas displays. No sooner has Halloween been celebrated than we're bombarded with the Christmas adverts. (My personal favourite this year is the Aldi one. Will Kevin the carrot actually make it to his wedding?)

It may surprise you to know that the church has actually shortened its Advent season over the centuries. Until the fourth century, and before Christmas itself was officially observed, there was a church season running from November 11 (St. Martin's Day) to January 6 (Epiphany). Unlike the extended consumer season today, however, this was a kind of Winter Lent, 40 days of prayer and fasting, penitence and self-denial in preparation for the baptisms that would take place on Epiphany. I can't see that going down well with the consumer society of today. By the sixth century, the church had begun to celebrate Christmas and re-organized its calendar to accommodate it. The season of Winter Lent was shortened to four weeks and given the name Advent.

I'm sure everyone has their own Advent traditions. One of ours is to have an advent candle which we light every day, watching the numbers burn down as we get

closer to Christmas day. That's the romantic version, the reality being that we frequently forget, then light the candle and go off and do something only to realise that we've burnt four days instead of one. Sadly though, Advent has been transformed from a season of preparing for Christ's birth into a condensed exercise of self-conscious absorption with things and money, grabbing and getting.

I hope you are able to find some time for reflection as we approach Christmas. The Christ child is coming into the world, a world so in need of hope, peace and joy at this time. The birth of a baby in a manger in Bethlehem brings all of us that hope, peace and joy. I wish you all the blessings of Christmas.

Yours in love, *Anne Paton*



Community Link

Community Link will be holding an Appeal on behalf of Women's Aid on Sunday 7th December. This appeal has been very well supported in recent years and we have managed to help Women to give their children Christmas presents and food which they would otherwise not be able to do due to their circumstances

Very Many thanks in advance.

Community Link Christmas Reflection Service/Lunch

Our Christmas Reflection Service and Lunch will be held on Thursday 18th December. Please take time out of your busy schedule and join us for a short time of relaxation, good food and company.

Looking forward to seeing you then.

Norma Penman/Díana Ramsay -

Joint Convenors.



The Guild



The Guild will go for a Christmas Lunch on Wednesday 10th December. The next meeting of the Guild will be on Wednesday 14th January, when the Guest Speaker will be the Rev Anne Paton.



Men's Association

Our next meeting will be on Monday 15th December, when we will engage our vast resources of general knowledge and take part in Bob Cossar's now legend-



ary Christmas Quiz. That will be at 2pm in the Glebe Street Hall. Our first meeting in the New Year will be on Monday 5th January, again at 2pm in the Glebe Street Hall. Our Speaker will be our Chairperson, Mr Jim Ballantyne.

The **Carpet Bowling Club** meets on Monday 8th December, then we have a break, and resume playing on Monday 12th January, all in the Glebe Street Hall at 2pm.



Church in Action

It is encouraging to see that through the use of our halls and rooms, we are as a

Church connecting with the parish around us and helping to strengthen a sense of community and belonging. Here are just some of the ways through which that is happening.

The Tai-Chi Class, the Carpet Bowling Club, the Line Dancing Class, Soccer Evolve training are groups which involve various levels of physical exercise and so are helping to promote health and wellbeing.

The Pensioners Club, the Stroke Club, the Visually Impaired Group, and Enable for people with special needs, all provide companionship, company and support for individuals, relatives and carers, in different but meaningful ways.

Our Rainbows, Brownies and Guides – numbering some 56 girls plus leaders – are engaged in wonderfully imaginative ways with building citizens of the present and the future, both of the country and of the world.

Messy Church, the Art Group and Junior Badminton Club are all making contact with children and adults in welcoming, lively and enjoyable ways.

Almost all these groups meet in our halls every week. It's a good picture, isn't it? And it's only one part of the picture. Another instalment might well appear in the next EKO.

Stewart Smith





The Prayer Group meets in the Lounge Area after the Church service and invite you to visit/join them 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.

Catherine Selfridge, Anne Learmonth; and Janice Gourlay , will be pleased to receive in person, phone or text prayer requests.

DECEMBER

1st. Lord, make me listen more than I speak, appreciate more than I do, and enjoy life more than I have.

2nd. I give thanks, Lord, that I am fortunate enough to have food on my table, clothes to keep me warm and a roof over my head.

3rd. Dear God, please bring peace to my confusion, joy to my sadness, and hope to my heart.

4th. Jesus, build us, strengthen us, and grow our faith. This is YOUR church. You created us. We are Yours. Use this church as YOU will, not as we will.

5th. We pray for healing, for the hostages recently released, and for lasting peace. May our prayers bring light to their darkness.

6th. We pray for your great healing on our land. Shine your face and your blessing over us.

- 7th. Merciful God, teach us to be instruments of your peace, spreading love, kindness, and reconciliation in a world of hunger and unrest.
- 8th. Loving Father, help us to embrace the righteous path and consistently serve You in all we do.
- 9th. Lord, fill our hearts and homes with your presence as we celebrate the gift of Jesus.
- 10th. Father, we pray for those who are struggling – those who are lonely, sick, or grieving.
- 11th. Lord, as we enter this final month, let it be a time of reflection, peace, and joy.
- 12th. Heavenly Father, help us to remember the abundance in our lives and to share it with those in need.
- 13th. God of hope, help us to focus on You this Christmas. Remind us that the gift of Christ is the greatest gift of all.
- 14th. 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.
- 15th. Lord, help me to be present today, to love well and to trust You fully. Give me peace in uncertainty and strength for whatever I face.
- 16th. Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of your Son, Jesus. We are grateful for the love and support He brings.
- 17th. Dear Lord, you have made another beautiful day. You have given this day to me as a gift to enjoy. Thank you for the sun, the clouds, the wind, and the rain.
- 18th. Father God, help us to be a reflection of Your love and grace in a world that often feels dark.
- 19th. Heavenly Father, I know you love me no matter what I do, but I also know that it matters how I live my life.
- 20th. Father God, grant us wisdom, discernment, and understanding in every situation we face, and strengthen us when we are weak.
- 21st. Lord, may our generosity reflect the true spirit of Christmas, bringing joy and blessing to all those around us.
- 22nd. Help me to be present today, to love well and to trust You fully. Give me peace in uncertainty and strength for whatever I face.

- 23rd. Lord, grant me wisdom to make the right choice. Help me to walk according to the wisdom from above and not from the wisdom of this world.
- 24th. Thank you, Lord, for the blessings you have bestowed on my life. You have provided me with more than I could ever have imagined and you have surrounded me with people who always look out for me.
- 25th. Loving Father, help us to remember the birth of Jesus, that we may share in the song of the angels, the gladness of the shepherds, and worship of the wise men.
- 26th. Thank you, Father, for your never-ending patience with me. Help me to be more thoughtful towards others.
- 27th. Heavenly Father, we come before You today seeking Your healing touch. You know every pain we carry, every burden, every hurt hidden in our hearts. Lord, nothing is impossible for You.
- 28th. Lord, please bring peace to my confusion, joy to my sadness and hope to my heart.
- 29th. Lord, inspire me to do my best at all times and to always support others who need help.
- 30th. Father, we ask that You grant us peace in our hearts as we prepare for the new year.
- 31st. Prepare us, Lord, for the New Year. Lift us up and place in our hearts a renewed desire to know and worship you more.

JANUARY

- 1st. I pray for Your blessings over this New Year's Day. May it be filled with joy, as we look forward to the days ahead, and with gratitude for those that have passed.
- 2nd. Thank you so much for the gift of life and for allowing us to see another day. Bless this day with strength to face whatever challenges appear before us.
- 3rd. Heavenly Father, thank You for allowing me to see a brand-new weekend. Today, I surrender my worries, my plans, and my heart into Your loving hands.
- 4th. Lord, as we step into this new year, we thank you for Your faithfulness. We surrender our worries, loved ones. And uncertainties to You, trusting that Your plans are greater than ours.
- 5th. Lord, in all we do, may it be according to Your guidance and accompanied by your strength.
- 6th. God, please grant me wisdom this year. Help me discern where You are leading and what opportunities you have placed in front of me.
- 7th. Father God, guide my steps as I seek to shine Your light wherever I go.



THE DICKIE WINDOW

READING THE WINDOW

Thomas Dickie, Church Elder, died 16th March 1962.

The stained-glass window at the back of the Church was commissioned in his memory. What is the meaning of the window? Here are some pointers, to help us “read” the message in the glass.

Its theme the Resurrection. The basic texts in the New Testament are St Matthew 28: 1-10, St Mark 16:1-12 St Luke 24:1-12, St John 20:1-10.

On the left of the window is a figure clearly meant to be an angel. St Mark refers to a young man, St Luke refers to 2 young men, St John mentions two angels. Only St Matthew mentions one angel, so it seems the maker of the window has gone with the Matthew account. Another clue which confirms that is the fact the angel is sitting down. St Matthew writes: “an angel of the Lord came down, rolled the stone away, and sat on it.” (28:2)

The stained-glass artist has, however, not portrayed a cave-like tomb, with a circular stone which could be “rolled” away. Instead, he has shown what is called a sarcophagus – a hollowed- out stone coffin, with a stone lid. In the window, you can see in the very center the corner of the sarcophagus, with the white linen wrappings hanging over the edge. The angel is sitting on the lid, which projects down into the bottom left-hand corner of the window, and which has a cross carved on it. The angel’s left hand is raised in greeting, reassuring the women, telling them not to be afraid; his right hand is pointing into the empty grave, with the words “he is not here, he has been raised, just as he said”

(28:6).



On the right of the picture stand three women. The woman on the far right is carrying a jar, with the ointments for anointing the dead body of Jesus (as they expected).

Interestingly, St Matthew doesn't mention the ointment at all. The artist has borrowed that detail from St Mark (16:1). There are variations as to the names of the women who went first to the tomb on that first Easter morning. All four Gospel writers include Mary Magdalene.

At the top of the window is another symbol – the depiction of Christ in Glory, a traditional position used by artists for the past 2,000 years (see Philippians 2: 6 – 11). In it, the Risen Christ sits enthroned – the earliest Christian creed was “Christ is Lord”. In his left hand he carries a flag, which is the banner of victory and symbolizes Christ's victory over sin and death. The right hand of Christ is raised in blessing. Behind is the sign of the Cross, and the words “He is risen”.

Photo courtesy of Christine Watt EK Camera Club

Stewart Smith



Tickets for the Hogmanay Ceilidh are now available - price £5.

Request forms for the Burns Supper to be held on 14th February 2026 are also available.

Catherine Selfridge—On behalf of the Kirk Life

Team



17th EK Guides

Guides

17TH EK Guides Update – A Cheerful Christmas Round-Up!

What a lively and joy-filled term we've had with our Guides! Our patrols have really stepped up over the past few months, not only taking part in activities but organising and running them too. It's been wonderful to watch the girls plan their own programme ideas, work together as teams, and lead the fun with confidence. From creative challenges to outdoor skills and everything in between, they've shown real enthusiasm and initiative.

This term also gave us the honour of taking part in the Remembrance Parade and Service. Our Guides represented the unit beautifully, showing maturity, respect, and a real understanding of the importance of the occasion. We were especially proud of Katie and Lucy, who laid the wreath on behalf of Girlguiding. They carried out this duty with such dignity, and it was moving to see our girls standing alongside others in an act of shared remembrance. Moments like this remind us how meaningful it is to be part of something bigger, and how guiding helps build thoughtful, compassionate young people.

As we move into the festive season, our calendar is bursting with excitement. We're especially looking forward to our Christmas Jewellery Party, where the Guides will be designing and creating their own sparkly accessories—perfect for gifting or keeping as treasured handmade memories. Glitter at the ready!

We're also thrilled to have an exclusive Girlguiding screening of Zootropolis 2. It's not every day we get the cinema all to ourselves, and the girls are already buzzing about seeing the new film together. Popcorn, friends, and a bit of movie magic—what better way to celebrate the season?

And of course, no term would be complete without ending on a delicious note:

our annual Christmas Pizza Party! It's always a highlight, filled with laughter, games, music, and enough festive cheer to last us well into the new year.



As we wrap up a fantastic term, we want to wish our whole church family a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful, joy-filled New Year. Thank you for your continued support, prayers, and encouragement. We're so grateful to be part of such a warm and caring community.

With love and festive cheer from all of us at Guides!

Sunday School



We meet weekly in the upper hall. Thank you to everyone who attends or gives their time, talents, commitment to this lovely group.

Since September we have studied/ discussed Creation, the Pattern of the Seasons including Harvest, Peace on earth and our contributions, Jesus loves me, this I know . Our wall displays all of these topics are in the Upper Hall.

Our decoration of the Church window entitled 'Joy to the World' will be visible during Advent. All youngsters are welcome to join us.

Every best wish, *Jill Cowan*.

Wednesday Morning Craft Group

Thank you to everyone supporting this group, as a result, we will have had 3 stalls this year, donated hats to hospital newborns, stitched and sewn various items, knitted and crocheted mats for sale and for donations to good causes, to mention just a few of our projects.

Best wishes, *Jill Cowan*.



Christmas Colour in Word Search

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

nativity

noel

jesus

Mary

saviour

Joseph

angels

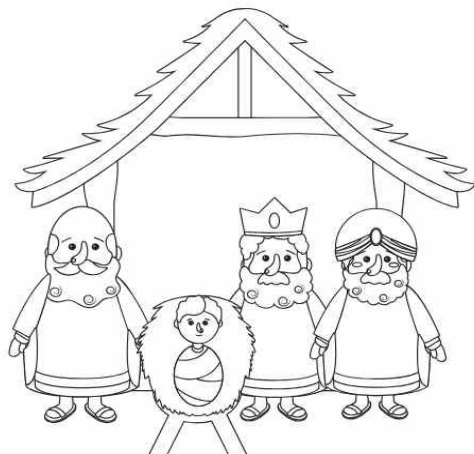
wisemen

manger

God

Bethlehem

love



Pastoral Register

Baptisms: "Let the children come to me."

Charlie Greer McKerracher

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

Kennedy Johnstone (omitted from the November EKO with apologies)

Derek Brownlie

Barrie Herbert

Anne McCord



EKO Submissions

The dates for submission of material for the January EKO are: for hand/
type-written copy **Sunday 21st December** and the deadline for submitting
electronic copy is:- **TUESDAY 23rd DECEMBER**

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

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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

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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	
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