

EKO

The Magazine for
East Kilbride
Old Parish Church

New Life - New Hope



JANUARY 2025

EDITION 633

CHURCH CALENDAR

January 2025

No.	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1			1		2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
26	27	28	29	30	31		

Jan 01 - New Year's Day Jan 28 - Martin Luther King Day

JANUARY

Sunday 5th	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 12th	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 19th	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 26th	Morning Worship	11am

FEBRUARY

Sunday 2nd	Sacrament of Communion	11am
	Short Communion Service	3pm
Thursday 6th	Short Communion Service	12 noon
	Followed by a light lunch	12.30pm



FLOWER CALENDAR

JANUARY

Sunday 5th	In memory of Bill Macsween
Sunday 12th	The Flower Fund
Sunday 19th	The Flower Fund
Sunday 26th	The Flower Fund



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

PASTORAL LETTER



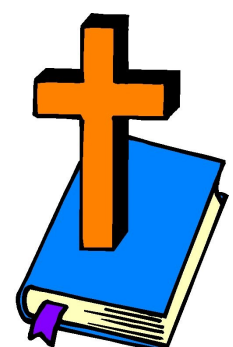
Looking for inspiration for this pastoral letter, I Googled “New Year Messages.” One of the first websites to come up was called “Bloom and Wild” which is actually an online flower shop. This is what they say at the top of their webpage. *“As we welcome in the New Year, finding the right words to share your hopes and wishes with loved ones can make all the difference. Whether you’re looking to bring a smile to someone’s face or express heartfelt sentiments, we’ve curated a collection of messages perfect for every special person in your life. This collection of New Year greetings includes messages for friends, family, colleagues, and partners, helping everyone start the year with joy.”* They then go on to give ten examples of what you might wish the special people in your life.

I don’t think we need a website to guide us in what we wish our nearest and dearest at the start of another New Year. The older I get health gets nearer the top of the list. Happiness is another one. I would also wish them contentment. I would also urge them to know how much they are loved and appreciated. We’re not very good at telling each other that. Lots of examples on the website are about knowing people are loved and accepted just as they are.

We’re coming out of the Christmas season where we’ve celebrated the birth of Jesus, God’s love coming into the world. There can be no greater message of love and acceptance than in the person of Jesus. As the Christmas season fades, and the New Year begins, let’s remember the love and acceptance God gives us all, in the person of Jesus. and importantly, let us share it with our friends and families. *“For I am convinced that there is nothing that can separate us from the love of God, in Christ Jesus our Lord.”* (Romans 8)

I wish you all and happy and blessed New Year.

Anne Paton



IAIN'S MONTHLY UPDATE

As you look back over the last year, I'm sure that you can think of a number of changes that you have experienced in your personal and church life. Change is not always easy, and the harsh fact of life is that change is here to stay, whether we like it or not. Commentators tell us that we are living in a time of "seismic change" where things are moving and changing at a particularly fast rate mainly due to the advances in modern technology.

Christmas gave us that opportunity to return to the familiar unchanging truth and love of God who loved the world so much he gave us Jesus. So, did you embrace the hope, peace, joy and love that Christmas brought? Look forward, in these ever changing and challenging times in our ever-changing world of the unchanging love of God.

I saw two posters outside churches as I travelled from Paisley to East Kilbride during December and I thought I would share them with you – you may of course have seen them as well but as we move out of the advent season let's not forget the true and real significance of these words-

- 1 Christmas begins with CHRIST and
- 2 Jesus is the reason for the season.

We took a risk and tried something a bit different this year for our all-age nativity service on the 4th Sunday in Advent on 22nd December. I hope you enjoyed what we did, and whilst it was different the central message remained the same –

It's was the celebration of the hope, peace, joy and love that came with the birth of Jesus. The angel declared the arrival of Emmanuel, meaning "God with us".

We did a hybrid Christmas experience of Messy Church and the all-age family nativity service rolled into one with an extra at the end of Santa's grotto.

We had a giant inflatable nativity scene outside in the courtyard, various arts, crafts and challenges stationed in the upper hall together with a reflection area where any one could write and post on our tree their hopes, dreams and wishes for the world or something local or for a person or situation known

personally to them this Christmas. We also had an opportunity to dress up as any of the nativity characters and get a selfie in front of the manger scene in the lounge or enjoy a hot drink and mince pie in our tea room in the lower hall provided and staffed by our Community Link team. We then performed our scratch nativity during the morning all age family service and finally gave all children the opportunity after the service to visit Santa in his grotto behind the pulpit and all children who visited Santa received a small gift.

We had around 30 children and young people join us for our Christmas experience, all of whom brought family and friends to join us, which was absolutely wonderful – most of whom don't come to church regularly, if at all, but join us at some point each month attending one of our children and/or family groups or activities. We have built strong relationships with many families and they always support and appreciate all that we do.

May I say how impressed I was with our six readers at the all-age nativity service – some of whom hadn't read in public before, were very apprehensive and nervous but they were magnificent and all did a great job.

There follows some photos from our service in this magazine for you to enjoy.

December always has and will continue to be a busy month – with weekly groups and many Christmas parties planning and preparing for the all-age service as well as the special services like the Christingle family service

It has been my pleasure and privilege to be able to work with all the children, young people and families all year round, sometimes seeing them three times a week, at our different groups and activities and I love seeing them enjoying what they do, becoming more confident and thriving young people. It makes what we do all so worthwhile.

Here are the restart dates for the various groups in 2025 -

Sunday School – **Sunday 12th January at 11am in the Upper Hall**

Messy Church – **There is no session in January – our next session is on Sunday 2nd February from 2-4pm in the Glebe St Church Hall – the theme is Love.**

The Children's Art Group **will restart on Thursday 9th January from 4.30-6pm**

The Junior Badminton Group restarts on **Friday 10th January from 4-5.30pm.**

I also hope to hold another Family & Friends Fun Quiz Night in the Glebe St Church Hall in February – the actual date and more details to follow soon. It would be great to have a team of four-ish from each of the church organisation's as well as family and friends' teams to compete for the magnificent trophy, gold medals and more importantly the bragging rights for a year!!

As I end this update may I say 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 – thank you all so much, your help, support and encouragement which means everything to me and without it nothing would be possible – but please remember that with God everything is possible. I hope and pray we can call upon your services again throughout 2025 (and beyond!)

I hope you had a very blessed Christmas and enjoy a New Year full of hope, peace, joy and love.

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





THE CHURCH MAGAZINE

In January 1896 the first East Kilbride Parish Magazine was published and included the names and addresses of office bearers.

The Minister was The Rev^d William Jack M.A. and there were seven members of the Kirk Session:

Mr Christopher Strang, Shieldburn, Mr Stephen Young, Castleglen, Mr Charles Spalding, Maxwellton, Mr Patrick Graham, Kittochside, Mr James Millar, East Kilbride, Mr John Crawford, Crosshill, Mr Jasper T Thom, session-clerk.

The aim of the magazine was to increase the interest of the congregation in church life. The cost of the magazine was 1/- (5p) per year.

The magazines give a brief but informed insight into various aspects of church life including the church organisations, church finance and a lot of baptisms and marriages.

Of the names listed in the first magazine:

In 1893 the Rev^d William Jack was the first minister to be chosen by the congregation since Rev^d Robert Muir in 1688. Rev^d William Jack retired in 1932.

Mr Christopher Strang, farmer at Shieldburn, died 25th November 1899, aged 74 years. He was an elder for thirty five years. He and his family are buried in the Kirkyard.

Mr Stephen Young, Castleglen, a starch maker, died 26th September 1906, aged 76 years. He was an elder for twenty six years. He and his family are buried in the Kirkyard.

Mr Charles Spalding, Maxwellton, retired headmaster of Maxwellton Endowment School died 15th April 1906, aged 95 years having been elder at Errol and later East Kilbride Parish Church for 69 years. Four of his children are buried in the Kirkyard.

Mr Patrick Graham, farmer, 5th Laird of Kittochside, died 5th April 1916, aged 75 years. He and his family are buried in the Kirkyard.

Mr James Millar, Avondale House, East Kilbride, died 30th August 1903, aged 66 years. James was a merchant in wool manufacture. As well as elder he had been conductor of sacred music at East Kilbride Parish Church. The gold watch he received in 1877 when he retired is still with his family. He and his wife are buried in the Kirkyard,

Mr John Crawford was a farmer at Crosshill, Auldhouse. He retired to Broadlees, in Mearns three months before he died on 16th September 1916, aged 78 years. John Crawford was ordained to his office as elder on 19th September 1880. His first wife Janet Steven and infant daughter Isabella are buried in the Kirkyard.

Mr Jasper T Thom, session-clerk, died at St Andrews on 3rd July 1925. Mr Thom retired as headmaster of East Kilbride School and also as session clerk in 1918 a post he held from 1879. In those days if you were schoolmaster of the Parish school you were also session clerk.

By 1933 the Kirk Session came to the conclusion that instead of a monthly magazine, a supplement every two months (six per year), free of charge, would be sufficient. In December 1933 the Magazine's name was changed to The East Kilbride Old Parish Church Supplement published every second month.

By 1961, due to a large increase in the congregation brought about by the ever increasing new town, the Kirk Session had considered for some time that something had to be done to help bring people closer together to prevent loneliness and isolation. They decided to change the church supplement to a monthly magazine.

The first issue of "The EKO" appeared in October 1961. It was distributed monthly by volunteers in the town area and by post or special arrangement in the country area.

From July to September 1961 there were 11 baptisms, 14 weddings and in September alone there were 42 new members.

The EKO Magazine, now much more colourful and the content more varied, is still enjoyed today, It is thanks to the volunteers of the past and present who have edited and distributed the magazines that have made this possible.

Ref: Church Magazine Archives

Fiona Dawson

CRAFT GROUP

Is your New Year resolution to Craft more often?

We meet weekly from 8th January in the lounge from 10am until noon.

You will be very welcome.

Jill Cowan



KIRK LIFE

THE CHRISTMAS CRAFT FAYRE

We are delighted to report that the sum raised at the Christmas Craft Fayre is in excess of **£2210!** This is a mighty sum and heart-felt thanks go to everyone who had a part in it!

THANK YOU!!!

BURNS SUPPER

The next event will be the Burn's Supper, tickets for this evening will be on sale early in the New Year, the cost of these tickets will be £20 per head.

Note for your diaries:

The Coalburn Silver Band will be entertaining us on the 30th May 2025.

More details will follow!

Ken Ross (Kirk Life Convenor)



JANUARY THE GUILD



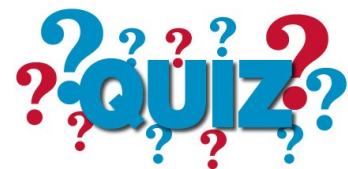
The Guild will meet in the Glebe Street Hall at 2pm on Wednesday 15th January. The speaker then will be our Minister, Anne Paton.

Then on 29th January we will have a Burns' Afternoon with Poetry and Songs. All welcome.

JANUARY THE BIG QUIZ

This will be held on Saturday 18th January at 7pm in the West Kirk. The event is being arranged jointly with Stewartfield, West and Old Parish congregations to help us to get to know each other and to raise funds for Tearfund. Tickets £5 can be obtained from Mary Smith or Angela Thomas.

Mary Smith



JANUARY WORLD LEPROSY DAY

For a good many years now, we have been observing World Leprosy Day, as part of our continuing support for this vital work. The Day concerned is always the last Sunday in January, and so on Sunday 26th, the focus of the Morning Service will be the world-wide work of the Leprosy Mission.

As in past years, Gift Envelopes will be given out at the Service and these can be returned any Sunday throughout February. We can donate also via the key-pad at the front door of the Church, or directly to Des Laverty, the Church Treasurer. The February EKO will have a reminder about this.

Our support for the Leprosy Mission continues to be very strong. In March, we sent £123.25, and most recently, Des was able to send a total of £1,262. Many thanks to everyone, including those who give through the Blue Tubs. These amounts are very encouraging.

Stewart Smith



We start back for the second part of the session on Monday 6th January, when our Chairperson, Jim Ballantyne, will be our Speaker. And then on the 20th, John Campbell's topic is entitled "On the Factory Floor". Looking ahead into February, on Monday 3rd, Ian Douglas will be speaking about his experiences as an Air Training Corps Chaplain.

These meetings all take place in the Glebe Street Hall, starting at 2pm. It has been good to welcome several new members in recent weeks, and a warm welcome is extended to all.

The Carpet Bowling Club resumes on 13th January and again, new members will be most welcome.

Stewart Smith



JANUARY 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.

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.
- 3rd. Lord, please fill me with your Spirit, peace, love, and joy. Help me to love others as you love me and help me to be patient, understanding, consistent and not easily angered.
- 4th. Heavenly Father, thank you for your faithfulness. Your love, and your constant presence in our lives.
- 5th. Lord, guide us through this new year. Help us to love and support each other.
- 6th. Lord, be with all who feel forgotten or unloved.
- 7th. Father, as I embark on this new day, please help me to be patient with myself. Help me to understand that growth and progress take time, and that I may face setbacks and challenges.
- 8th. Lord, we look toward you, our hope, our peace, and our comfort, in this New Year.
- 9th. Be near me, Lord, in my time of weakness and pain; sustain me, that my strength and courage, Lord, will grant me purpose to go forward and not fail.
- 10th. Father, thank you for loving us and help us to live up to that love.
- 11th. Thank you, Lord, for today, a new opportunity to love, give, and be all that you want me to be.

- 12th. As we enter the unknown of the coming year, we ask for your guidance and wisdom.
- 13th. Thank you, Lord, for your continued presence and unfailing love. Strengthen me, Father, so that I may stand firm, knowing that you have never left me and never will.
- 14th. Heavenly Father, fill my heart with joy and gladness and remind me of all the things in my life that I should be thankful for.
- 15th. Strengthen us, Lord, so that we may face the trials that life brings.
- 16th. Illuminate our path with your light so that that we may walk in your ways and choices that align with your will.
- 17th. Lord, thank you for this day. I ask that you guide my thoughts, words, and actions. Please be with me throughout the day and help me navigate whatever comes my way.
- 18th. Forgive all the errors I made yesterday, Father, and let me try again to walk closer in Your way today.
- 19th. Remind us to turn to you, Lord, in times of trouble and to leave our worries at your feet.
- 20th. Lord, grant me purpose to go forward to respond to the promise of opportunities to love and serve.
- 21st. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be pleasing to You O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.
- 22nd. In these times of conflict, Lord, grant wisdom to those in power who are making decisions.
- 23rd. Loving Father, thank you for my life, thank you for my family, thank you for your presence, and experiences of each day.
- 24th. Gracious God we come before you to seek renewal of our minds, our hearts, and our spirits.
- 25th. Heavenly Father, thank You for Your plan for my life today. Help me to grow deep roots in my relationship with you and cause my thoughts to be Your thoughts, so that I will be strong.
- 26th. Dear God, I come before you this morning to thank for all the love you have poured on me. Help me to be more loving, kind and understanding towards others.
- 27th. Lord, bring healing where there is brokenness and reconciliation where there is division.
- 28th. Lord of all my days, grant me the promise of days yet to come, and the thankfulness of past days well used.

29th. Please give me strength and courage, Lord, to get through the joys and challenges and happenings of the day. Thank You for my life and all that I have.

30th. Heavenly Father, we come before You in awe and gratitude for the privilege of praying to You. Thank you for the blessing of prayer, where we can pour out our hearts to You and seek Your guidance and strength.

31st. Father, grant me hope for today that I may walk in your pathway and live in your light.



FEBRUARY

1st. Lord, grant me strength to serve and fulfil my commitment to the task.

2nd. Lord, help me never to forget that "Prayer" is a golden key which should unlock the morning and lock up the evening.

3rd. Thank you for the knowledge that You are always with me.

4th. Lord, grant wisdom to world leaders so that they may understand that peace, rather than war, is best for all nations,

5th. Father God, we lift to you, our loved ones, our communities, and the world.



The Community Link Team would like to thank our Church Family for supporting our appeal for Women's Aid. The wonderful sum of £440 was raised. This was used to purchase gift vouchers for Argos, B&M, Home Bargains and Aldi. Also, some toys, socks and gloves were donated which were very gratefully received.

Also, our support of Loaves and Fishes every week with donations of groceries is invaluable and will continue. As one of the volunteers said recently "I am angry that places like Loaves and Fishes are needed". Unfortunately, they are and are getting busier.

Norma Penman/

Diana Ramsay Joint Convenors.



17TH EK GUIDING UNITS

All our units have been extremely busy over the festive period. We've had lots of fun along the way but we have also taken time to serve our community. So here is a quick trip through what we've been up to.

30th Nov - Church Fayre - our Rainbows and Brownies entertained everyone with the four items they were practicing to sing for the residents at McKillop Gardens. Judging by the round of applause at the end they were a great hit. A huge thank you to Elspeth Shearer for working with the girls they sounded fab. On Fayre day we ran the Chocolate Tombola and quiz supporting our Church Family, who continually support us.

7th Dec - Singing at McKillop Gardens, the girls sang so beautifully and they were delighted when the residents joined in and one lady got up to dance, just magical. The girls gave gifts of hand made cards and potted violas.

Panto Time - in the afternoon we went to see Once Upon A Fairytale, lots of singing, booing and behind you's, they had a ball. The day was made complete when the girls all got on stage to meet the cast and have pictures taken, truly special.

8th Dec - Moana 2 at the cinema. A special viewing for Girlguiding at 9.15am, all units attended Disney at its best, fab music but a good moral story.

I hope you are all staying with me

10th Dec - Christingle Service and Food Bank Collection

EK Community Food Bank was overwhelmed with all your generous donations. They issue four hundred bags of food every week to the EK community

so we hope our donations made a difference this Christmas. Thanks to all our Guiding and Church Families for making this happen and thinking of others in this season of Good Will. We used the Food Bank as our inspiration to decorate a church window with our Giving Tree. Our Christingle Service reminds us all about putting light into the world at the darkest time and Jesus is at the centre of this. Ten of our Rainbows made their promise at this event and shared it with their families.

Phew we are almost there!

Tues 17th Dec - Party Time for all our units. The Rainbows and Brownies had a joint party and The Guides had a Pizza Party, a great time was had by all.

We are now on holiday starting back on Tuesday 14th Jan 2025 and planning for the new term has already begun.

On behalf of the girls and leaders from the 17th EK Guiding Units, Rainbows, Brownies and Guides we wish everyone a very Happy New Year & best wishes for 2025

From, *Emilee, Kay, Jennifer, Caroline, Emma, Liz, Lorraine, Lynne, Ella, Pip, Louise, Mirren, Pauline & Christine*

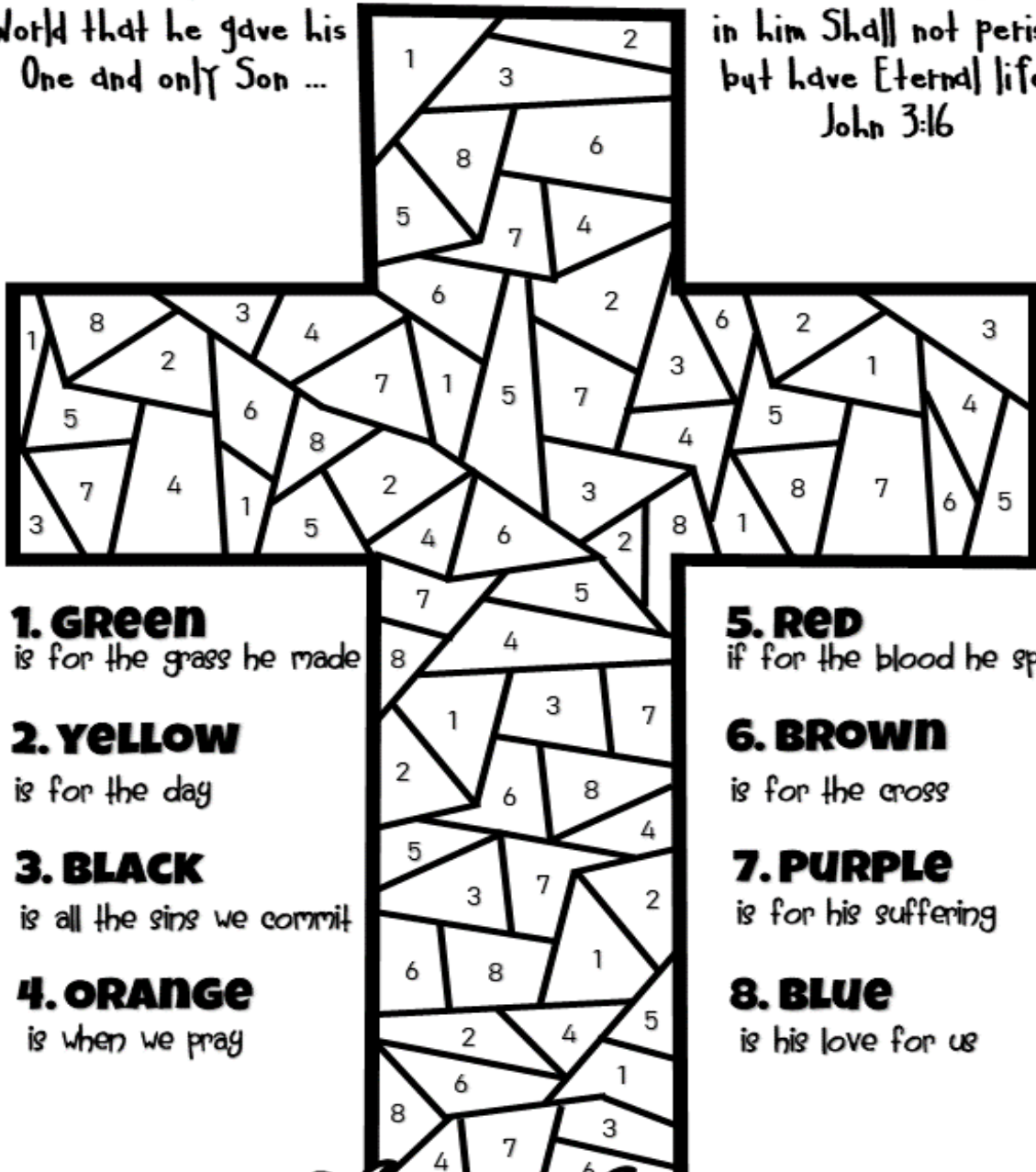




Jesus adds colour to our lives

For God so loved the
World that he gave his
One and only Son ...

That Whoever believes
in him Shall not perish
but have Eternal life.
John 3:16



1. GREEN
is for the grass he made

2. YELLOW
is for the day

3. BLACK
is all the sins we commit

4. ORANGE
is when we pray

5. RED
if for the blood he spilt

6. BROWN
is for the cross

7. PURPLE
is for his suffering

8. BLUE
is his love for us

PASTORAL REGISTER

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

Myra Johnston

Rita MacKechnie



EKO SUBMISSIONS

The dates for submission of material for the February EKO are: for hand/type-written copy **Sunday 19th January** and the deadline for submitting electronic copy is:-

Wednesday 22nd January

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

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Session Clerk	Alistair Walker	
Treasurer	Des Laverty	
Roll Keeper	Robert Cossar	
Gift Aid	Des Laverty	
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