



## Kirkliston Parish Church of Scotland, The Square, Kirkliston NEWSLETTER - December 2013

### DECEMBER ADVENT PROGRAMME

Monday 16 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm	Carol Singing around the community <i>starting at the Sheltered Housing complex at Kirklands Park Gardens</i>
Wednesday 18 <sup>th</sup>	2-5pm 7.00pm	Church open for quiet reflection Commemoration Service - Church <i>For those who have been bereaved</i>
Thursday 19 <sup>th</sup>	9.30am 2-5pm	Primary School Service - Church (in school if weather is bad) Advent Prayer Labyrinth - Church Centre
Sunday 22 <sup>nd</sup>	10.30am 7pm	Sunday Club Nativity Play ("Maybe It's a Baby!") - Church Kirkliston Community Church Carol Service - KCC, Main Street
Tuesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	6.30pm 11.15pm	Christmas Eve Family Service - Church <i>Kirkliston Churches Together - followed by mince pies and Santa in the Square</i> Watch-Night Service - Church
Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Christmas Day All Age Service - Church <i>Bring along one of your presents to let everyone see</i>
Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup>	10.30am	Family Service - Church <i>Looking Back on the Old Year</i>

### **NEWSFLASH - PLEASE NOTE:**

Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> Jan 2014 10.30am New Year - New Service  
*Outlining our vision for 2014 - 'New Wine for New Wine Skins.'*

## PARISH REGISTER

### MARRIAGES

*"Love never gives up; and its faith, hope, and patience never fail."* (1 Corinthians 13:7)

7<sup>th</sup> December 2013

**Faye Evison & Christopher Thompson**  
30 Laing Gardens, Broxburn

### BAPTISMS & BLESSINGS

*"Let the children come to me."* (Luke 18:16)

25<sup>th</sup> August 2013

**Leo Andrew Rivans**  
29 Buie Brae, Kirkliston

29<sup>th</sup> September 2013

**Jack James Hogg**  
13 The Glebe, Kirkliston

### FUNERALS

*"I am the resurrection and the life"* (John 11:25)

3<sup>rd</sup> September 2013

**Aileen Davies**  
6 The Glebe, Kirkliston

11<sup>th</sup> October 2013

**Gladys Heavie**  
27 Toddshill Road, Kirkliston

25<sup>th</sup> October 2013

**Agnes Blain**  
29 Station Road, Kirkliston

7<sup>th</sup> November 2013

**Robert Paton**  
2 Kirklands Park Rigg, Kirkliston

### FLOWER CALENDAR: JANUARY-MARCH 2014

January	5	Vacant
	12	Mrs McConnachie, Maitland Road
	19	Mrs Doig, Stoneyflatts, South Queensferry
	26	Miss Bowmaker, Queensferry Road
February	2	Mrs Brechin, The Square
	9	Women's Rural Institute
	16	Mrs Fairbairn, New Liston
	23	Vacant
March	2	Vacant
	9	Mrs McKay, Winchburgh
	16	Mrs Brown, Allan Park
	23	Mrs Robertson, The Glebe
	30	Vacant



### FLOWER DELIVERY

January:	Mrs E Brown, Mrs L Bird, Mrs G King
February:	Mrs M Buchanan, Mrs K McKay
March:	Mrs J McConnachie, Mrs M Glen

Once again I would like to say thank you to all the helpers, flower arrangers, those who have given to the flower fund and everyone who has offered words of encouragement in the past year. If you can help in any way, whether it is with deliveries, a donation, arranging the flowers or filling any of the vacant Sundays in the next quarter, please give me a phone. The more people who are involved the easier it is for everyone. If you would like to donate to a vase of fresh flowers or a pot plant during December when the Church is decorated for Christmas please let me know.

**Joyce Brooks**

Flower Convenor (0131 333 3710)

## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM YOUR MINISTER

*Mary responded, "I am the Lord's servant, and I am willing to accept whatever he wants. May everything you have said come true." And the angel left. (Luke 1:38)*

Dear Friends

Christmas can be a challenging time for everyone, but may I suggest, it can be especially hard for mothers, seeking out the right presents, writing the cards, shopping lists and cooking, whilst trying not to overspend (or is that just me!)?

After a long day of putting on a wonderful Christmas meal, a mum was standing over the kitchen sink wearily washing the mountain of dirty dishes and pots that were strewn over the surfaces of her kitchen. In the middle of this monumental task, her teenage daughter strolled into the kitchen and saw what her mother was doing. The thoughtful girl said, "*Mum, today's a holiday, you shouldn't be doing that.*" The mother was taken aback by the seeming kindness of her daughter. She put down the dishcloth and began to take off her rubber gloves. A sense of pride overtook her as she thought her little girl was starting to show signs of maturity by helping out with the dishes. Her bubble was burst however, when the teenager said, "*Just do them tomorrow!*"

Christmas is a challenging time for mothers. We mustn't forget that it was a very trying time for the mother involved in the original story. Mary had said "Yes" to Joseph's proposal, and was waiting for the consummation of her marriage on Joseph's return. Mary was probably only about fifteen years old at the time. As she waited, she was visited by an angel and told she was going to become pregnant by the Holy Spirit.

Even though Mary was probably little more than a teenager, she faced this unprecedented task with simple obedience saying, "I am willing". Mary is a great example to us of being willing when God comes to us and asks for our lives and our obedience.

It was Dietrich Bonhoeffer who once said: '*We have become so accustomed to the idea of divine love and of God's coming at Christmas that we no longer feel the shiver of fear that God's coming should arouse in us.*'

Has Christmas and all the hype and sheer hard work that goes into it robbed you of your wonder, awareness and fear of what God has actually done for you? Jesus left his Father's side, gave up all his power and position to become 'one of us' that we might know and see the love of the Father, a babe entrusted to the care of a teenage girl and her husband. 'Love came down at Christmas,' wrote the hymn-writer Christina Rossetti - God's love in all its fullness, revealed in the humility and weakness of a baby born in a stable. However, His coming changed everything and we can live in freedom, forgiveness and fullness because of his coming. The babe in the manger grew up to become the man who endured the shame and suffering of the cross for us.

May God's love come to us afresh this Christmas and may we, like Mary, find ourselves responding to His coming and His call with the words 'I am willing, I give you my life, I will follow you wherever you lead me.'

A blessed and love filled Christmas to you all

### **Maggie**

Love came down at Christmas,  
Love all lovely, love divine;  
Love was born at Christmas;  
Star and angels gave the sign.

Worship we the Godhead,  
Love incarnate, love divine;  
Worship we our Jesus,  
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Love shall be our token;  
Love be yours and love be mine;  
Love to God and to all men,  
Love for plea and gift and sign.

**Christina Rossetti**



## GENESIS PROJECT UPDATE

- We have enjoyed a successful season of assemblies on the themes of Remembrance and Harvest in Kirkliston Primary and Queensferry High schools.
- Scripture Union groups in both QHS and Clifton Hall continue and Dynamite, the after school club in Kirkliston Primary School, has seen record numbers this year consistently around 30 children every week.
- Little Coffee Stop/Songs, Stories and Silliness continues to bless the young families within our community and allow us opportunity to get to know so many of the new faces in our village. Recent projects have included family photo shoots and Christmas card crafts with the hands and feet of the children. Well done Team!
- YAKK Sunday School in the run up to Christmas will be looking at the life and character of King David.
- c.a.b. nights are now dark and cold, but the kids continue to come out in numbers. Seeking to share the love of Jesus while practically engaging with the youngsters is always the focus. More workers are still needed - please speak to Christina or Drew.
- Plans are in the mix to begin parenting classes in the New Year as part of our family outreach. See Drew or Maggie for details.
- We have recently begun "All Ears" a listening service during the Wednesday lunch hour in Kirkliston Primary School. "All Ears" is open to staff, pupils and teachers alike. An opportunity to have a chat with a minister, get something off your chest or just pop in for an encouraging word.

Just a taste of some of the things on the go! Blessings,

*Rev Drew Kuzma*

## MEN'S FELLOWSHIP

The Men's Fellowship has officially met for the first time. The first gathering was a complete success over an amazing breakfast hosted by the Marshalls. We came, we saw, we ate. In between mugs of coffee and seconds of bacon we were able to discuss the many ideas for the Men's Fellowship that were brought to the table. The consensus is that the group would like to enjoy a combination of breakfast gatherings and activities/outings. So initially we are looking at getting together monthly, more specifically the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. So the next Men's Fellowship gathering will take place on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2014 at 9am for breakfast in the Thomas Chalmers Centre. We are asking for a suggested donation of £2 to offset food and coffee costs.

As for possible activities in which to partake, the following list was created whilst under the influence of much bacon and therefore the communicator of this message cannot be held accountable:

Bowling, walking, skiing, snooker, fishing, camping, whisky tasting, wine tasting, beer tasting, karting, shooting, climbing, cycling, retreat weekend.

So if you find any of the above even remotely interesting and you feel a slight shudder of excitement, then please feel free to join us in 2014. If, for whatever reason, you would like more information then please feel free to contact Drew - 07739751690.

*Rev Drew Kuzma*

## COPPER COLLECTION

Thank you to everyone who continues to kindly donate their coppers to charity. £50 has been sent this quarter to Blythswood Care. This is the charity's 20th Anniversary - in that time over 1.6 million shoeboxes have been sent to people in great need overseas. This year, Kirkliston Parish Church sent over 150 shoeboxes - and we have supported this charity for 12 years. It's very easy to put some basic items together and is not difficult to choose gifts for someone who has so little. Things we take for granted can often be luxuries for people living in desperate poverty. The shoeboxes we filled will bring some joy and happiness to someone this Christmas. This year, boxes are destined for Albania, Bulgaria, Hungary, Kosovo, Moldova, Pakistan, Romania, Serbia and Ukraine.

*Muriel Naylor*

## SUNDAY CLUB

This term we have been using the Scripture Union "Mosaic" teaching material and have focussed our lessons in three main sections - "In God's Hands", "Jesus Challenges Us" and "Adventures With God". This has given us a mix of teaching from both Old and New Testaments. We looked at stories from the early chapters of Acts, finding out about how our God communicates; we discovered how God protected David in his early life and we have examined Jesus' parables which confront us with challenges about how we should live. The children have enjoyed a variety of stories and activities - DVDs, acting, playing games, baking, craftwork and singing. We are working towards our Nativity performance on Sunday 22nd December and we really enjoyed our pre-Christmas outing to "Honey Pot Ceramics."

Valerie Edwards is currently having a sabbatical from Sunday Club - we miss her but have been blessed with two new recruits - Kirsteen Marcelin and Heather McPhee. As ever, grateful thanks go to all of the team, to our volunteers and to all who help us in any way. Please continue to pray for the children in our Sunday Club and indeed for all children in the Parish. We would like to wish a very happy and joyful Christmas to all and every blessing throughout 2014.

*Morag, Jane, Liz, Moira, Ella, Kirsteen and Heather*

## YAKK

What's going on with YAKK? Brilliant question! We have been looking at the subject of Love in our teaching times. As a group we have been peeling back what love is not and seeking to follow the biblical definition with a mind to creating a solid teen community that builds up.

We have also been fortunate to have been allowed into some people's homes over the last couple of months. We travelled through to Falkirk to check out Marion's new digs - bless her for all the travel she embarks on week in and week out for us. Marion shared a wee bit of her story and what makes her tick. Dare I say we had a good bit of fun. We were also blessed to crash the Plumb's lovely home where we learned how George and Jane came to be married. We were also given a wee look at a few of the bikes that the Plumbs enjoy and minister with - though I have to say the highlight for me was the police story segment! Thanks again to all those who have permitted us entry and fed us!

*Rev Drew Kuzma*

## THE GUILD

This session, The Guild theme is "A Fellowship to Build" and we had Rev. Drew Kuzma speak about this at our opening meeting. Since then, we have had a variety of meetings ranging from the serious to the lighter-hearted. We have recently had our Guild Rededication Service. As I write this, we are looking forward to an outing to Pitlochry Festival Theatre at the beginning of December to see that Christmas perennial "A Wonderful Life", and we will finish this part of the session with a Christmas Evening. The Guild resumes on Wednesday 8th January 2014 at 7.30 pm.

Just a reminder that The Guild is open to all, male and female, and you are more than welcome to come along to join our meetings. Our Kirkliston motto is "Fun, Fellowship and Friendship" and that is exactly what we experience at each of our meetings. On behalf of The Guild, may I wish you a happy and peaceful Christmas Season.

*Jan Wemyss*

## BADMINTON

Badminton is from 7.45pm onwards in the Church Centre on Friday nights - all ages and stages are welcome. We currently have 8-10 members but not all can come along every week so we are short of players some weeks. Are you interested in a bit of fitness and a bit of fun, or do you know anyone who might be? This is our second year but we need more players if we are to continue. CAN YOU HELP US?

*Joan McConnachie*

## HEALING ROOMS

The Kirkliston Healing Room will open again on Monday 16th January and weekly thereafter at the Newliston Arms from 11.30am -1pm. We offer prayer for healing of physical, emotional and spiritual problems in a relaxed and confidential atmosphere. The Healing room at South Queensferry in the Haven is now closed.

For more information please contact Katie Marshall - 07768 530800

## FUNDRAISING VENTURES



### FROM KIRKY TO KILI

At the end of July this year, I was given the opportunity to join the “It’s good 2 give” charity trek up Kilimanjaro in October. When time allowed, I spent the next two months in “Tiso’s”, “Go Outdoors” or simply stomping around the Pentland Hills in my new boots.

On Friday 4th October our party of 31 “It’s good 2 givers” set off from Machame Gate at the foot of Mount Kilimanjaro, Tanzania along with our wonderful guides and around 30 amazing porters. The first day we walked through tropical forests, seeing Colobus monkeys up in the canopy and a variety of creepy crawlies on the ground. At 3000m we emerged into a rocky, alpine scrubland and from there ascended into the barren, volcanic wastelands of Kilimanjaro.

Each day followed a similar pattern: up at 0530, breakfast in the mess-tent at 0600 then set off at 0700 for around 8 hours of walking. Everything was going well until Monday afternoon (day 4) when one of our group fell and broke her ankle. We made a stretcher from walking poles and sleeping mats and with the

porters were able to take her to the next camp. The helicopter scheduled to meet us had not been able to land because of the weather, so she spent the next 12 hours on a stretcher - carried to the base of the mountain and hospital.

The next morning, we set off from base camp (at 0200) for our summit ascent. Armed with walking poles, head-torches and iPods (Bruce Springsteen for me) we plodded up through the darkness until sunrise at 0530. Amazing views. At nearly 16,000 feet, we were now much higher than anything in Europe or mainland America - and still going up!

From day one, we had all suffered from some degree of altitude sickness. As we approached the summit, it was my turn. Suddenly I had difficulty walking in a straight line, clumsy and wobbly. Our group made it to the very top (19,336 ft). On the way back down we stopped for a rest - and I keeled over. Within seconds there was a porter under each arm and I was being frog-marched back to base camp like a mismatched scrum front-row. William and Moses were my lifesavers!

After a rough night at base camp we were able to descend the following day - job done. 17 of our group of 31 made it to the very top. An amazing experience - just don’t ask me to do it again! With your support, generosity and prayers, by climbing Kilimanjaro I have been able to raise nearly £12,000 for “It’s good 2 give”. Heartfelt thanks from Tabby and from me.

*Graham Lawson*



Company Section of 1<sup>st</sup> Kirkliston Boys’ Brigade sleeping out in George Street

### THE ROCK TRUST

Established in 1991, The Rock Trust works with people between 16-25 who are homeless or risk becoming homeless in the Lothian area. This includes young people who are leaving care or home and those involved in offending, alcohol or drug misuse.

For several years, we have supported this charity at Christmas time - we are reminded in the days and nights of cold weather and frost of the sense of danger, hopelessness and hunger which many young homeless people must face. Our Boys’ Brigade Company Section has attended the “under-21s sponsored sleepout” for several years - and 8 boys and leaders participated this year, sleeping out in George Street on 29<sup>th</sup> November. Grateful thanks to all who have supported them - if you still want to donate, see the Captain, Lindsay Stein.

## FAREWELL TO MERRIDY GRAHAM

Merridy joined Kirkliston Parish Church in 2007 and was an active member until she left our village in September to return home to South Africa, near Johannesburg. She had been in the UK for 18 years and helped her daughter, Valerie, and husband, Jonathan, when they started their family: Ryan (now 18) and Kirsty (16). Merridy felt very blessed to be near to her grandchildren and they forged a strong bond. Merridy went through weeks of uncertainty, loneliness and emotion before making her decision to move back home; however, once she made the decision, she never wavered as she knew it was the path the Lord was guiding her along. Merridy is fortunate to still have her wonderful Mum, sisters Stella and Linda and their husbands in Florida, Johannesburg.

Merridy was a friend to everyone - a genuinely caring person: nothing was ever too much trouble, she had time for everyone. Merridy worked quietly and efficiently on The Guild Committee, The Social Committee, The Congregational Board, Little Coffee Stop and spent some time with the c.a.b. team. All those who know Merridy benefited from her gentle strength of character, her kindness, her infectious warmth, her hugs, her caring, her lemon meringue pie and fruity coconut squares!

The Congregational Lunch for Merridy on 15<sup>th</sup> September was packed with well-wishers, all wanting to say goodbye and to wish Merridy God-speed for the future. In addition to showering her with our love and fondest wishes, the congregation took a collection for Merridy and she left us with £700 to buy a memento of her time in Kirkliston.



Fortunately, Merridy is an avid Facebook user which makes it easy for her to keep in touch with her friends in Scotland and they will enjoy many wonderful photos and messages from her - and envy the weather she is enjoying! Undoubtedly she misses her life and all her friends in Scotland but we have been fortunate to have had her in our Community for 6 years; the time was right for her love and friendship to be shared with others and for them to benefit from her bright, happy example as we all have. We wish you health and happiness Merridy and thank you for the Christian values which you have left with us all. We miss you and will never forget you.

*Jane Edgeler*

## FABRIC REPORT

The position of Fabric Convenor entails being in charge of a committee of 10 church members which in turn keeps the three Church properties in Kirkliston [the Church, Church Centre and the Manse] in good order. I am fortunate that there are excellent electricians, joiners and plumbers in Kirkliston to call on to carry out any repairs.

Last year the major project was the change to the interior of the church. The removal of steps, lowering of the Pulpit and installation of Audio Visual equipment has made the inside of the Church more congregation friendly and gives us a more flexible multi-purpose space. This year, we have had to concentrate on the pathway leading down to the Church Centre. A recent inspection has determined that the path is too steep for wheelchairs to use safely. Our first idea of erecting an extended metal ramp proved to be much too expensive (over £22,000) so we have now moved on to alternative plans. The work will entail making the present path longer in length, likely to be achieved using tarmacadam and cement. At this moment I am waiting on plans being developed by the architect which will be followed by obtaining estimates for consideration by the Fabric Committee, Finance Committee and Congregational Board.

*Charles R Wright*  
Fabric Convenor

## SNIPPETS:

### Hugging - the perfect cure

No moveable parts  
No batteries to wear out  
No periodic check-ups  
Low energy consumption  
High energy yield  
Inflation-proof  
No monthly payments  
No insurance requirements  
Theft proof  
Non-taxable  
Non polluting  
And, of course, fully returnable.  
Hugging is healthy  
It relieves tension  
Combats depression  
Reduces stress  
Improves blood circulation  
It's invigorating  
It's rejuvenating  
It elevates self-esteem  
It generates goodwill  
It has no unpleasant side effects  
It is nothing less than a miracle drug!



“My mind is a garden, my thoughts are the seeds; my harvest will be either flowers or weeds.” -Mel Weldon



## CROSSWORD ANSWERS:

ACROSS: 1 Joseph; 5 Mary; 8 Nazareth; 10 Egypt; 11 Archelaus; 12 Manger; 13 David; 15 Angels; 17 Simeon; 18 Gold; 19 Zacharias; 21 Myrrh; 23 Elizabeth

DOWN: 2 Shepherds; 3 Taxes; 4 Anna; 6 Bethlehem; 7 Swaddling; 9 Gabriel; 14 Wise Men; 15 Augustus; 16 Emmanuel; 20 Roman; 22 Herod

## CHRISTMAS RECIPE:



### MARGARET BRECHIN'S MINCE PIES

10 oz (300g) margarine  
5 oz (150g) caster sugar  
1 egg, beaten  
1 lb (450g) plain flour  
1 jar good quality mincemeat

Cream the margarine and sugar together. Gradually add the egg and then the flour. Knead lightly and wrap in cling film. Put into the fridge overnight.

Grease shallow patty tins. Roll out the pastry cut an equal number of rounds and star shapes. Line the patty tins with rounds of pastry. Spoon the mincemeat into the centre and top each with a pastry star.

Bake at 375°F/190°C for 15 minutes. When cool, dust with icing sugar.

## FOOD DEPOTS

As many of you will know, from April of this year commenced the biggest reform of a number of Welfare Benefits. Unfortunately an increasing number of folks have to decide whether to heat, eat, pay bills or keep a roof over their head. Some of you may have heard people talking about food depots; these are run by the Trussell Trust.

I have a vision for Kirkliston to become involved in this much needed outreach and I know a number of you agree with me in this. We are still at the drawing board - do we have a food store specifically for Kirkliston, do we join with the other rural churches and have it for all of the rural Parishes, or do we become a Trussell Trust food depot?

I know this is not something I can do on my own. If anyone would like to assist me at the outset to bring this vision to fruition please come and speak to me. I may even metaphorically come knocking on your door.

*Karen McKay*



## A FILIPINO CHRISTMAS

This year the Philippines are very much in our thoughts and prayers due to their awful suffering after the devastating typhoon, Haiyan. But did you know that in their country, they would already have been preparing for Christmas? They are a mostly Catholic country, and have the reputation of having the longest Christmas celebrations in the world. Every month ending in “.ber” is considered to be the Christmas season, so carols start in September. On 16th December they hold nine masses, in Night Worship, going to church at 4 am and having breakfast together. On Christmas Eve all the family has a big dinner together after midnight mass: on Christmas Day the tradition is to visit more relatives. The season then goes on into January with the Feast of the Three Kings or Epiphany ('Tatlong Hari') on 6th.

Can we pause a moment and reflect on how many Filipino families will be missing people this year? It is hard to imagine such a loss of life, but harder still to realise how this will be with them every year, from September to January, when loved ones are no longer part of their traditional Christmas worship. Please remember them in your prayers.

The Philippines is one of the countries which benefits from fair trade, having suffered great poverty when sugar and coffee prices collapsed during the 1980s. Fair trade - not free trade - now maintains prices at a fair level for the farmers. This year, they will be affected by loss of harvests and communities with great loss of life will struggle to resume farming. We commend them to God's care, and pray that their faith will strengthen them in their recovery from this massive disaster.



One way of remembering and supporting the Philippines is to lay an extra plate at the Christmas table, leaving it empty, and donating the value of your one meal to one of the charities already out there. Did you know that your £5 or £10 can be worth up to four times more in a poor country? And next time you turn on the tap, remember Oxfam's appeal for the Philippines, where £27 can buy 10 buckets with taps to provide life-giving clean water.

*Paula Roots*

## TRANSPORT TO CHURCH ROTA - December 2013-March 2014

If you would like a lift to church, please contact the person on the rota for that Sunday by 9.00 a.m. If you have any problems or require any more information please contact Ann Denholm on 0131 333 1834.

### December 2013

15th Keith Moss (0133 333 3779)  
22nd Maggie/Gordon McConnachie (0131 333 3123)  
29th Helen McPhee (0131 333 2479)

### January 2014

5th Ann/David Denholm (0131 333 1834)  
12th Anne Reilly (0131 629 1488)  
19th Peter Marsden (0131 333 0799)  
26th Keith Moss (0133 333 3779)

### February 2014

2nd Maggie/Gordon McConnachie (0131 333 3123)  
9th Helen McPhee (0131 333 2479)  
16th Ann/David Denholm (0131 333 1834)  
23rd Anne Reilly (0131 629 1488)

### March 2014

2nd Peter Marsden (0131 333 0799)  
9th Keith Moss (0133 333 3779)  
16th Maggie/Gordon McConnachie (0131 333 3123)  
23rd Helen McPhee (0131 333 2479)  
30th Ann/David Denholm (0131 333 1834)

## FORTH BRIDGE ABSEIL

On 27<sup>th</sup> October, Anne Reilly joined our elite group of members who completed an abseil from the Forth Railway Bridge. Anne's verdict? "Fantastic! The most exhilarating experience I have ever had - I would recommend it to everyone!" Anne raised a wonderful £900 for QCCC. Watch this space for tales of more congregational "leaps of faith" in the very near future!

## NEW ELDERS

On Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2013, five new elders were ordained. We thought that you might like to know a bit more about them:



L-R: Lindsay Stein, Morag Carnall, John McPhee, Jane Plumb, Gordon McConnachie

**Gordon McConnachie** - Originally from Perth, I started my working life in the printing industry, including further education at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art. With my family, I re-located to London and my apprenticeship was transferred to a company in Whitechapel, in the east end of London. This let me witness a different side of life, with alcoholism and poverty being very prevalent at that time.

I studied at “The London College of Printing” which gave me the springboard to advance my career, and for the next 30 years I handled work for many of the big advertising agencies in London, including Saatchi and Saatchi, J Walter Thompson etc.

Changes in the industry resulted in me moving to work for Christies the Auctioneers where I handled some of the most valuable items of jewellery in the world and met many famous celebrities. The highlight of my career came in 1996, when I was responsible for taking the jewellery of Princess Salimah Aga Khan on exhibition to the Far East. This collection was later auctioned for £40,000,000. Had I realised the value, I would definitely have had many sleepless nights!

In 2000 I met my wife, Maggie, and settled happily back in my homeland.

Whilst in London I was a member of Crown Church in Covent Garden. My journey of faith, however, started in St. Leonard’s Parish Church, Perth. Sunday School and Bible Class were the norm, but the biggest influence in my life was the Boys’ Brigade. I will be eternally grateful to the Leaders of the 9<sup>th</sup> Perth Company for the wonderful example they set.

At Kirkliston Parish Church I am involved with the Fabric Committee, Alpha, Alpha Male, and a member of the audio/visual team. I also served as a member of the street ministry ‘c.a.b.’ for 5 years.

In 2010 I had the blessing of healing through prayer from a serious illness. This was a very profound moment in my Christian journey. I consider my ordination as an Elder a great privilege and seek to serve God in my community with all my heart and soul.

**John McPhee** - Heather and I may be new to Kirkliston, but in fact we began our married life in Dechmont while I worked as a junior doctor in Bangour Hospital - so we are not strangers to Edinburgh or West Lothian. We raised our family in Ayrshire at West Kilbride where I was a GP, but in 1999, once the children had left home, we moved to Hartlepool in Teesside when I felt God calling me to work as a hospice doctor. I feel really privileged to have been able to spend my working life doing something I really enjoyed, and I must confess I had some reluctance to leave it! However, retirement has its compensations, including the opportunity to help in the care of a wee grandson who lives nearby. I am gradually exploring the area on my bike, and often get lost...but I always seem to find a way back home!

I grew up in a Christian home in a mining village in Ayrshire, and became a Christian as a teenager before going off to University. Over the years we have experienced a fairly wide range of churches, but have always found that, whatever the worship style, respecting one another helps maintain unity even when we disagree about

how things should be done. I hope I can bring that principle with me as I settle into the role of an elder in the church here in Kirkliston. Please bear with me as I “learn the ropes”!

There seem to be plenty of things to do, and part of my reason for becoming an elder is to encourage our minister as she pursues the vision God has given her for this community. I have always felt that relationships work best in small groups, so it seems appropriate that Heather and I lead a home group. I sing in the Worship Group most weeks, and I’m also part of the Healing Rooms team which, although not a church initiative, includes a number of Kirkliston Parish Church members and meets in the village. I help out occasionally with the c.a.b. team which works with the children on a Friday night.

**Jane Plumb** - I was born and bred in Kirkliston, left when I married and returned approximately 25 years ago. I am blessed to be married to George, my soulmate. We have 4 grown up children and 5 lovely grandchildren. I am happy to be part of a church that has vision for the future.

Faith has always been important in my life and it was such a special day when I was made an Elder at Kirkliston Parish Church. At the induction service we sang the song ‘I will offer up my life’. The words in this song are really close to my heart and my passion is to worship God with my whole life. I love to offer worship when playing the piano and to encourage others to draw close to God in worship but I hope to serve as an Elder in whatever way God has need of me. I aim to grow a little each day in love and faith and to be all that I can be in Him who gives me strength.

**Lindsay Stein** - Born in Elderslie, I grew up in Port Glasgow - a wee industrial town on the Clyde. One of my hobbies was music, and I played trombone and tuba in the school band as well as being Organist & Choirmaster at St Mary’s Episcopal Church in the town for around 6 years from the age of 15. I moved to Edinburgh to study at Heriot Watt University, and never quite made it back to the West again.

When I started work at Uniroyal in Newbridge, I moved to West Lothian and served many years as a Deacon and Worship Leader at Broxburn Baptist Church. It was there that I met my wife, Jane. We have 2 children, Cameron and Emilie-Jane, and we live in Broxburn.

I have been a BB Officer for over 30 years and have been with 1<sup>st</sup> Kirkliston Company since 1989, latterly as Captain. I am also a trustee of The Boys’ Brigade in the UK & Éire, and Adjutant of a national marching band. At Church, I have led worship at Café Church with Jane playing guitar almost since its beginning, and currently lead worship on a Sunday morning - either with the band, or deputising for the Organist. I am also part of the “Techie Team” and have been responsible for producing the words and images that are displayed in all the services.

**Morag Carnall** - Brought up in Newhaven in Edinburgh, I spent time at University in Dundee gaining an MA in English Literature and American Studies. I then attended Fife College of Technology to attain my postgraduate business qualification before heading to London to seek my fame and fortune. After 10 years in the English wilderness, my husband Peter and I moved to Kirkliston in 1997. Daniel was born in 2000 and our family was complete.

God has called me to be involved in several aspects of church life at Kirkliston Parish Church. I am team leader for Sunday Club, one of the c.a.b. team and am Publications Team convenor. I help out with the Manna team and Little Coffee Stop when I can and was until recently involved with Alpha. Outside of church, I work as a Practice Manager in a local health centre and also undertake all of the accounting and administration for my husband’s business.

I love reading and cooking and whilst I spend a lot of time socialising with friends, I also like long walks along the beach with our dog, Cream.

On the day of my ordination as an elder, the hymn I selected was “I the Lord of Sea and Sky”. I love this hymn partly because of its lovely imagery of nature (sea, sky, snow, rain, wind) and the important message that the Lord saves us from deepest sin. He asks us to help Him and do our bit using our talents - and when He calls we should be ready to answer, rather than just assuming someone else will do the necessary. Apart from finding the words inspiring, I adore the tune - and it secures a further place in my heart as it was one of the hymns that Daniel sang last year on “Songs of Praise” with the National Boys’ Choir.

How fast the summer goes. No sooner have we broken up in June, than it's Armistice again! The Company started back in August without one of our staff. Rognvald Lamb had emigrated to Basingstoke, taking Sheila, Thomas, Calum and Kirsty with him. We miss them all, and Rognvald's dry wit!

The Boys have settled back into a routine and are progressing with activities - doing crafts, playing games, learning new skills and having fun. Company Section is embarking on a new programme of awards and activities - inspired by the Boys themselves; and that is showing some promise. We've been visited by the new Battalion Development Officer. And he's been into the Primary School on our behalf. There's still space for more Boys. If you know any that may be interested - particularly those in P7, and S1 - we'd be delighted to see them.

On Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November, we again took part in the Rock Trust's Under-21 sleepout to raise awareness and money for their work with homeless and disadvantaged young people. I can't tell you about the event as it's a secret! Actually, the secret is, I've written this before it happened, but you will be reading it afterwards. If you didn't manage to sponsor us before-hand, but would like to do so, there's still time for a retrospective donation - speak to the Captain!

*Lindsay Stein*  
Captain



### HOGMANAY CEILIDH

Kirkliston Scottish Country Dance Club is running a Hogmanay Ceilidh on Tuesday 31st December 2013 in the Church Centre. This has been an extremely popular event in previous years and tickets are very reasonably priced at £10 which includes supper.

The ceilidh will start at 8pm and from then until Midnight we will dance to Alan Ross' brilliant band. The programme will be varied and have something for everyone, including social dances, games and Scottish Country Dancing. For further information or to reserve your tickets, please contact Suzanne Kidd (01506 854325).

### LOCAL ISSUES - HELEN HOGG GIVES US A PARENT'S VIEWPOINT

Two years ago, expecting our first child, we moved into the village, delighted to have found a safe, friendly place for our children to grow, play, learn and be part of. Our community is made this way by the many people and groups that take the time to enrich their surroundings. I wonder if we realise how many times the environmental group litter-pick in the area or the time taken by the Gala committee in order to provide and sustain a fantastic traditional celebration? For me it was brought home when I faced the difficult walk from my house to a friend's via the 'now recognised' right of way between Path Brae and Manse Road.

The short story is that a disagreement between the Hopetoun Estate and Inverdunning resulted in a piece of land people had used for years being torn up and left strewn with rubble and glass. Heavily pregnant, I had to struggle over this ridiculous ground and, what's more, so did my 18 month old daughter. This led me to realise how important this route was for children to get to school and for people to get to and from the health centre. After much complaining, I decided it wasn't enough to do nothing and set about raising awareness of this rights of way issue with a small Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/rightourway>

I can't say that this has led to a shiny new path - instead what I discovered again through this is that we have an amazing community with people who genuinely care and work hard to solve problems. The community council and local councillors got on the case and plugged away to get Scotways to recognise it as a right of way and also to encourage the ongoing talks between the two concerned parties. At the time this went to print, we have reached a temporary solution but also think we are much closer to a permanent one.

There is an African proverb, "it takes a village to raise a child" and I think that as a parent I see the privilege it is to be in Kirkliston. We all need to play our part whether it is to support a group by going along, volunteering to help at an event, joining a litter pick, caring to ask how someone is and being gracious enough to recognise that others may not hold the same view as you. I count my blessings that I have moved into such a wonderful community with a big heart.

## **c.a.b.**

**In the beginning** - How hard could it be? I love children, enjoy working with them, am quite broad-minded and am reasonably resilient. Kirkliston Parish Church wanted to reach out to the local youth population - so they had a vision, purchased a van and modified it to become a Children's Action Bus (c.a.b.) where youngsters could meet. The seats were removed and Bill Paterson showed his remarkable carpentry skills and fitted storage benches doubling as seats for up to 12 people. The idea was to allow youngsters the opportunity to take part in "inside" activities such as scripture reading, listening to music, puzzle and craft activities or just talking to the c.a.b. team and each other. Outside activities are more active - but kids often gather outside just to talk too.

Our first night out on the c.a.b. was in March 2008. With nervous excitement and not a little trepidation, Gordon drove Liz and Morag in a c.a.b. filled with craft activities, books and games to our first stop in Gateside. Several children walked past, but none came to join us. If we tried to talk to them, they just giggled and ran off. Soon, it was time to move on to the Glebe - surely there would be some interest there? But no - again there were no takers. Trying not to lose heart, we drove on to the final stop at the Leisure Centre. It was getting darker and we were just about to call it a day and leave when a group of kids came up, hopped into the c.a.b. and started talking to us. RESULT!

**5 years on** - It doesn't matter what the weather is like at 7pm on Fridays - pounding rain, blazing sun, flurries of snow, gale-force hurricanes or just pleasant bright nights - the c.a.b. arrives at Gateside to find a group of kids waiting who cheer when they spot us driving round the corner. Pied Piper-like, more children arrive - often far too many to fit into the c.a.b.'s space. Usually there is an activity - perhaps card-making, a craft or some sort of puzzle - on offer inside the c.a.b. Two of the cabbies usually stay outside - partly to control the flow of kids into the c.a.b. and partly to engage in other activities - skipping, playing games ("Tig" and "British Bulldogs" are favourites), badminton, football, rugby, frisbee, even tug-o-war. In general, the kids love it and many appreciate us - one Friday night, a 6-year-old sidled up to me and said "Could you tell Christina something for me? Tell her thanks - the c.a.b. was fab tonight!"

Of course there have been tough times, with extremes of challenging behaviour. Some of the kids have had difficult times in their lives - many love to get our attention - often by being as naughty as they can!

But there is a great need to take Christ's teaching out to as many of these young people as possible and above all to show them that God loves them and cares about them. Church buildings can sometimes be a barrier to children, particularly young teenagers, and the c.a.b. works around this obstacle. We have learnt that we have to "go with the flow" - however carefully you plan a dynamic and action-packed activity to take God's word to these youths ... sometimes they have their own agenda and we just have to be flexible and respond to the activities that they ask to do. We always have "5 minutes" at the beginning of each night to talk about God, tell a bible story or relate a news item to an aspect of biblical teaching. We have also developed rules - if you are inside the c.a.b. you have to respect others and engage in the activity or you will be asked to leave.

Without a doubt sometimes the night is tough. Sometimes I am incredibly weary when I get home, fit only for a hot shower and glass of something soothing. But the sheer joy that these kids get from our presence makes even the harsh times worth it. God cherishes all - He is smiling on the youth of Kirkliston and it is a privilege to go out and show His love.

**Help** - There are now only 6 or 7 people on the c.a.b. team and we desperately need more help! If you could spare the occasional couple of hours on a Friday night, please speak to Christina (0131 333 0333) or Drew (07739 751690) - they'd love to hear from you.

## **LITTLE COFFEE STOP**

It's been a busy year with lots happening for us at the little coffee stop. We have a weekly average of about 38 grown ups and 40 under-fives. In August we were very grateful to receive a grant from Scotmid allowing us to buy new toys and items for the cafe. The little people can now play with new cars, a market and a fabulous kitchen as well as a few other bits and pieces.

On the run up to Christmas we have made our own Christmas cards and salt dough decorations, held mini photo shoots and look forward to a super Christmas party. We give 10% of all the money taken in the cafe to charity - this year we are giving this to Tearfund and its international project work with families suffering in poverty.

If you know of new people to the village or haven't yet brought your under-five in to play, please accept an invitation to join the Mums, Dads, Grandparents and Carers on a Friday morning from 9:45am.

## NEW YEAR - NEW START - NEW SERVICE

*'New wine must be put into fresh wineskins' (Luke 5:38)*

Jesus taught very clearly that the forms of our Christian practice must change. In his parable of the garment and the wineskin (Luke 5:36-39), the garment and the wineskin are the external dress and the container, not the substance of our faith. They represent the religious customs, practices and traditions in which the substance of our faith is packaged. Jesus is stating a fact - the garment needs mending and the wineskin is old! What worked before isn't working anymore. Times change, cultures change, and what worked 20 or 30 years ago may not work today. But what does not change is the object of our faith. 'Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, and today and forever.' (Hebrews 13:8).

'Time honoured faith' and 'long established practices' have blended together and become indistinguishable to many of us. So that when another form of practice is advocated, it has become apparent that the security of the old wineskins rests in the long established practices instead of our time-honoured faith. The reasoning behind this kind of resistance to change is logical: "I came to Christ singing that song or these hymns," "It worked for me. I don't see why it won't work for my children or grandchildren." But we have to ask, "Is it relevant? Does it relate?"

The older generation is the stable force in our churches across the land. They are faithful and mature people, and they represent the financial stability that every church needs. They also, in the main, make up the committees that determine or influence the style of ministry and worship we currently have but they have a tendency to perpetuate practices that are meaningful to them.

Why is it that a good, Bible believing church which faithfully carries out its ministry struggles to attract and hold on to its families and young people, when along the street a contemporary ministry launched just a few short years ago has six times more young people and families in a matter of months, and every blessing to them. In part, I believe it is because this form of ministry relates to the young and their style of music and communication. It caters to their desire for expression and participation. In addition, we have an image problem to address, one where people in our community believe the old church is for older people, the Community Church is for younger people. This simply is not the case, and we do need to address this perception.

If we fail to provide new wineskins, we will be ill equipped to serve the 'new wine' - that is the next generation of believers. We have begun to make changes, but there is more that is needed.

We have completed our pilot year of trying different styles of worship, and offering choices in our morning services, and we have learned a great deal in that time. We have learned that unity is important to us, that we enjoy being a family together for all our differences, and that our preferred style of worship comes second to this. We have been learning about the cost of what it means to truly love one another and respect and appreciate one another as God commands us. We have further learned that our worship is an expression of our love for God, and the right heart to worship is what God is looking for, and that we must worship in Spirit and in truth. There is beauty and grace to be found in the old and the new if it is offered with the right heart.

The Kirk Session has considered all of this, has prayerfully sought the Lord for the way ahead in seeking his will for us as a church, and has unanimously come to the decision that it is time for new wine to go into new wineskins.

We will therefore move forward in the New Year with a **single new service starting at 10.30am and finishing around noon**. This service will incorporate a focus on children's worship; it will include a range of worship and be Holy Spirit led. Space will be given for personal testimony as appropriate and trying new things as well as cherishing the best of our traditions - it will be new territory for *us all* but we will strive to maintain the unity that is ours based on the *unchanging object* of our faith - Jesus.

We will launch a campaign in the New Year aimed at reconnecting those who have lost contact with the Church over the years as well as outreach initiatives to reach those who have never had any contact with church. There will be a Welcome Back to Church Sunday and a personal invite to everyone in our parish to come and see, come and belong to this community of faith.

There are exciting, if challenging, days ahead for us as a church. As we embrace all that God has for us, let us therefore be reminded once again of the words of the apostle Paul who outlined the most excellent way of love, the way of Jesus for us that we might commit ourselves to following it:

*'Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices in the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.'*

*' LOVE NEVER FAILS.'*

Rev Margaret R Lane  
5<sup>th</sup> December 2013

## SOME OF THE PUBLICATION TEAM'S FONDEST MEMORIES OF CHRISTMAS

My fondest and most vivid memory of Christmas was the box of Cox's Orange Pippin apples received every year from my aunt in Sussex. The smell when we opened the box filled the room and will stay in my heart forever! (Maggie McConnachie)

As a little girl, I longed for a doll with blonde curly hair and big blue eyes. Imagine my delight when I opened Santa's present one Christmas to find that's what I got. She was called Angela, and I can remember yet the blue dress she wore to match her blue eyes! (Jan Wemyss)

1963 was my special year - the year I received THE gift to have - a Petite Typewriter! (Rev Maggie Lane)

My favourite memory has to be when I was younger waking up on Christmas morning to find my Christmas stocking filled with two tangerines, a pocket diary and sweets. In those days, the stocking was a real sock - not the bought pillow-case sized ones you get today! As so often, the simple things in life are always the happiest and make the best memories. (David Wynne)

My Christmas memory is about the excitement and anticipation. Putting a mince pie and a wee dram out for Santa and a carrot for Rudolph then hanging one of dad's longest socks up for Santa to fill up! Waking up on Christmas Day and my brother and I waiting for my sisters to wake up because we had to wait until we were all awake before we could go downstairs and open our presents. (Kirsteen Marcelin)

My late mother-in-law loved to tell the tale of how her youngest son crept downstairs one Christmas Day at about 4am and opened every single one of the gifts lying under the tree - not only his own, but also those of his 4 siblings and 7 step-siblings ... he then fell asleep amidst the wrapping paper! (Morag Carnall)

## CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

The minister of an American Presbyterian church tells how the ten-year-olds directed and acted the Christmas story, opening with the scene at the Inn. Joseph and Mary arrived and asked for a room:

Innkeeper: Can't you see the "No Vacancy" sign?  
Joseph: Yes, but can't you see that my wife is expecting a baby any minute?  
Innkeeper: Well, that's not my fault!  
Joseph: According to Gabriel, it's not my fault either!



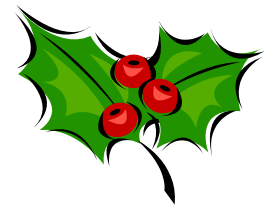
Children's definitions of Christmas:  
Christmas is making a secret present for your Dad at school which is always a calendar.  
Christmas is getting all those cards from people you never sent one to.  
Christmas is when you hug your little brother.  
Christmas is when we receive lots of presents we can't wait to exchange.



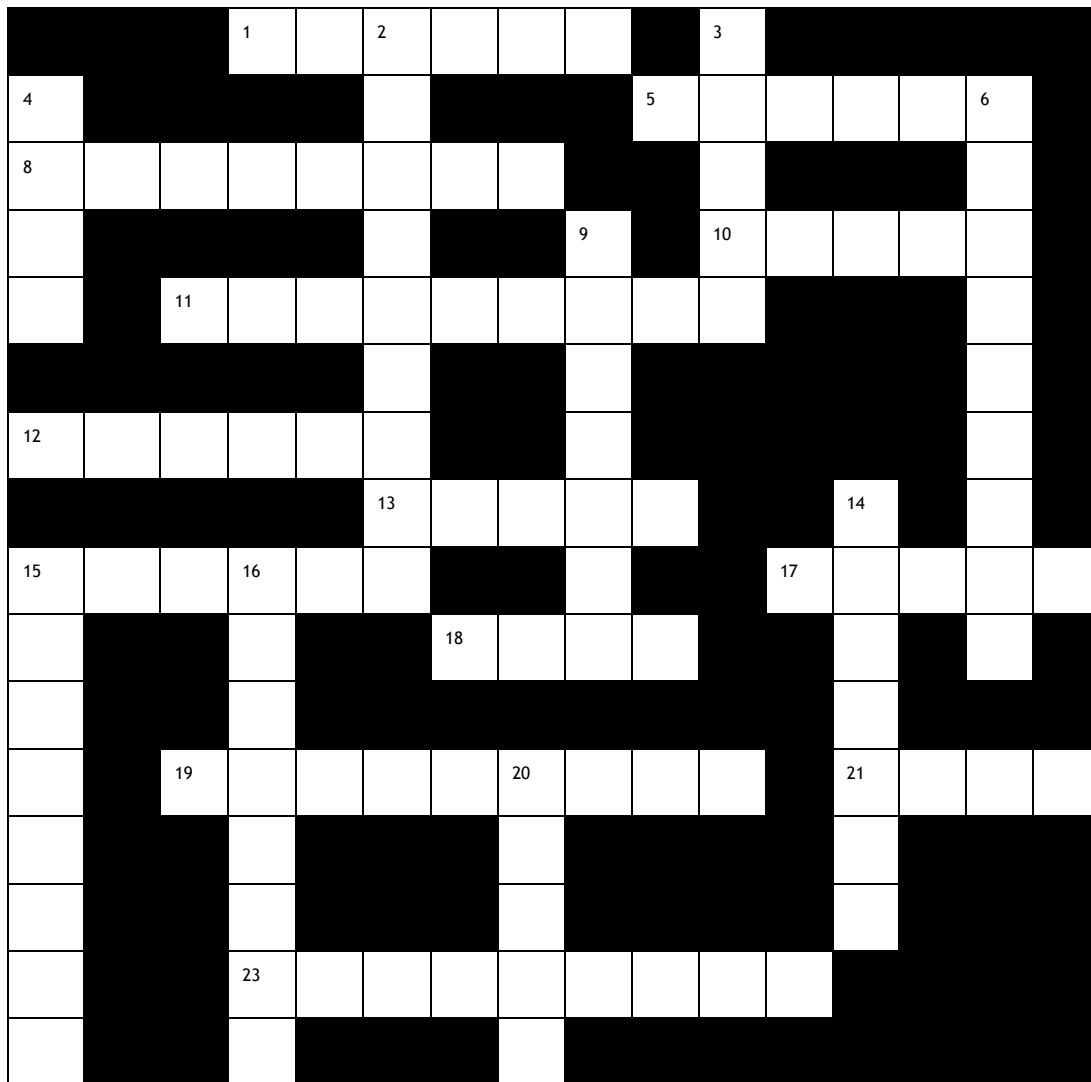
During a classrooms discussion about the Nativity story, one little boy, more honest than most, said, "Everyone always loves baby Jesus but I don't. I love the three wise men because they brought presents."

## KEY CONTACTS

<b>Minister:</b>	Rev. Margaret Lane The Manse, Main Street TEL: 333 3298
<b>Session Clerk:</b>	David Buchanan 21 Allan Park TEL: 333 3393
<b>Clerk To Board, Orders of Service, Newsletter:</b>	Jan Wemyss TEL: 333 4228
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Robert Brechin TEL: 333 3252
<b>Roll Keeper:</b>	Karen McKay TEL: 01506 202125
<b>Gift Aid Convenor:</b>	Brian Hepburn TEL: 333 1656
<b>Organist:</b>	David Denholm TEL: 333 1834
<b>Website:</b>	Morag Carnall TEL: 333 3420
<b>Fabric Convenor:</b>	Charlie Wright TEL: 333 3115
<b>Hall Management:</b>	Gill Davidson TEL: 333 2214



# CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD



**Clues:**

**ACROSS:**

- 1 Jesus' earthly father
- 5 Mother of Jesus
- 8 Where Jesus grew up
- 10 Where Joseph took Jesus & Mary after the Wise Men left Bethlehem
- 11 King of Judea after Herod
- 12 Trough from which cattle feed
- 13 Joseph & Mary were of the lineage of this former king of Israel
- 15 A multitude of these praised God, saying "Glory to God in the highest"
- 17 God had promised him that he would not die before he saw the Christ
- 18 Precious metal: one of the gifts
- 19 Father of John the Baptist
- 21 An aromatic herb: one of the gifts
- 23 Mary's cousin and mother of John the Baptist

**DOWN:**

- 2 Those watching over sheep
- 3 Joseph & Mary went to Bethlehem to pay these
- 4 A widow who served in the temple - she saw Jesus at His dedication
- 6 City where Jesus was born
- 7 Cloth used to wrap babies
- 9 The angel who visited Mary and told her she would have a son
- 14 These came from the East and brought gifts (4, 3)
- 15 Roman Emperor at the time of Jesus' birth
- 16 Name for Jesus meaning "God with us".
- 20 This empire ruled the western world at the time of Jesus' birth
- 22 King of Judea at the time of Jesus' birth

For further information on our services or news go to our church website on: [www.kirkliston-parish-church.org.uk](http://www.kirkliston-parish-church.org.uk)