

St. Machan's News

JESUS: *Love* IN PERSON



CHRISTMAS 2017

From the Editor

The nativity scene with all its characters was in place, as the children (representing angels), gathered around the manger. They sang: 'Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will among men'. Suddenly a small girl on the edge of the crowd, who couldn't see what was going on, shouted out, 'Let Jesus show!'

At Christmas time, we want to let Jesus show, in our churches, communities and lives. We have an amazing message to share: 'in the town of David a Saviour has been born to you; He is the Messiah, the Lord' (Luke 2:10). It was to the shepherds, apart from his parents, that Jesus was first showed.

No doubt these simple shepherds would have no idea of what the names given to Jesus fully meant (ie Saviour, Messiah and Lord). All they needed to know, and all we need to know, is that God has done something unique in coming to earth as a human being. This is good news of great joy for everybody!

After worshipping the child, the shepherds return to their normal routine. However, they would never be the same again! Even though their work and social standing were unchanged, they had a message to share and let Jesus show. Although we don't normally see angels, we have the same good news to share! When Christmas is over and we're back to our normal routines, how will we let Jesus show in our lives?

May God bless you this Christmas.

Fay Allan

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View from the Manse



St. Machan's Parish Church

Dear Friends

It all started when my wife told me about her Facebook Chat on the internet with Christmas Trees at the centre of the debate. I should mention that my wife was chatting to other people and not to trees, although someone once said that Christmas trees can get onto the internet if they 'log' in! One of our family members, who lives in England, had mentioned, "Our Christmas tree is up... and so are all the decorations," and they had included a photograph to prove it!



Now this may not sound unusual or newsworthy if you are reading this letter in the middle of December however this Facebook Chat took place right at the beginning of November and it sparked quite a strong reaction from some of the other people who were part of the discussion. One of my wife's colleagues simply wrote, "Our Christmas tree is up.... in the loft where it belongs and where it's going to stay for at least the next 5 weeks!!!!"



The strength of feeling expressed over when it is appropriate to put up the Christmas tree surprised me as there have always been widely held opinions within families and within our nation over all things 'Christmassy'. We live in a country where you don't have to look too hard to find quite a few Christmas

*"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever!"
(Hebrews 13:8)*

Shops that are open almost 52 weeks of the year – places where you open the door in June and are knocked out by the very strong aroma of cinnamon! We have a Freeview TV channel called 'True Christmas' which has been featuring festive movies since some time in October - I have to confess that I have watched this channel on a number of occasions and so far have failed to see anything which I would recognise as part of the Christmas truth!

All this chat about putting up the Christmas tree kick started my seasonal routine far earlier than normal. All my thoughts about the forthcoming consumption of confectionary: What if I can't get the chocolates out of my Advent Calendar – Foiled again! All my concerns about the changing nature of Christmas dinners: No doubt Christmas dinner will be different after Brexit – No Brussels! All my worries about what fancy clothes to wear when I am out partying: Don't know why I bother as a Christmas tree is better than the St. Machan's Minister as it always looks good - Even with the lights on! All my concerns about the cost of Christmas: I wish my bank would open a cash machine in my Christmas tree – If successful they could expand to other branches!



The pressure of thoughts, worries and concerns all started with my wife's Facebook Chat about the timing of the Christmas tree but they all ended when I remembered an incident which my wife witnessed earlier this year. While out for dinner with her father, she couldn't help but notice an entire section of the restaurant set up for a Christmas event: There was tinsel and paper chains, balloons and crackers, and a tree laden with baubles! A big crowd of family and friends duly arrived and proceeded to thoroughly enjoy a full Christmas dinner of turkey with all the trimmings. Due to their loved ones living in a number of different locations all over the world this was their one opportunity, possibly their only ever chance, to be in one place at the same time... so they chose to celebrate Christmas together in the middle of August!



The outward expressions of Christmas and their timing can be very different for different people but the inward experience of the true Christmas is timeless, the same yesterday and today and forever. ***“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”*** (John 1:14) Jesus was born in Bethlehem: He came to bear the burden of our sins and sorrows so that the hope of heaven might be born in us.

As you decorate your homes with brightness and colour this Christmas may faith in Christ decorate your hearts with His glory, His grace and His truth: These are decorations which don't come down twelve days later for Christ is not just for Christmas!



May the wonder and miracle of Christ be with you and yours this Christmas and forever more!

Yours in Christ

Alastair McKillop

Reflective Poem for Life Today

In this sick world of hatred and violence and sin,
Where men renounce morals and reject discipline,
We stumble in darkness, groping vainly for light.
To distinguish the difference between wrong and right
But Dawn cannot follow this night of despair,
Unless faith lights a candle in all hearts everywhere,
And warmed by the glow our hate melts away,
And love lights the path to a peaceful new day

A Christmas Prayer

Jesus free our spirits from worry and stress
Unburden our minds with your heavenliness
So that on each difficult journey when we stray
Teach us to see your sign to guide us your way
Fill our hearts with your faith and hope
Only when we have you can we truly cope
Rejoice that your divine glow shines clear and bright
You lift our spirits with you radiant light
Oh and as we reap the blessings that you sow
Under your wings we are rich and will continue to grow



S. MacKenzie

Wednesday Morning Prayer and Worship Services

Prayer Service 10.15 am

Worship Service 11am

Tea and fellowship after Prayer Service

Church Mice



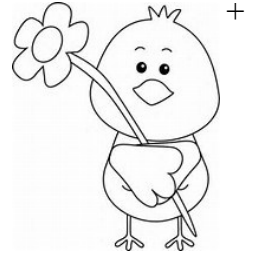
Pancake Morning

MENU	
Pancake (butter / jam)	50p
Pancake (plain)	40p
Coffee cup/mug	60p
Tea	50p
Juice	10p

Fridays 10.00am—12 noon

FLOWER MINISTRY – YOUR HELP IS NEEDED!!

For those of you who diligently read your Church magazine, you will remember that, in last Christmas' edition, our flower convenor, Moira Bruce, indicated she wished to stand down after 30 years of faithful and committed dedicated service in this vitally important role. Having asked for help to take over the role in both the Christmas and the Easter edition of the magazine, regrettably, no one stepped forward. Since this is still the case it has been decided to introduce a rota system which will run along the same lines as all the other rota's, which ensure teas are made, offerings are uplifted, readings are done etc.



For this to happen on each and every one of the 52 Sundays of the year we need lots of assistance, at most, 52 volunteers. Many folks already regularly contribute financially to the flower fund and for that we are very grateful and ask for your continued financial support. However, it is physical, hands on help that is now needed and needed urgently.



The flower ministry is one of the most important pastoral care roles in the life of our Church. I cannot stress just how important it is and how much impact a bunch of flowers can make to someone's life. They bring comfort to the sick, the bereaved, those who are feeling down and finding life tough but also represent a

way of congratulations for a special event – births, birthdays, anniversaries. So many people, over the years, have, through the giving of the flowers, been truly comforted and been so grateful knowing our Church Family have been thinking about and praying for them.

I appreciate not everyone who might want to put flowers into Church will be able to deliver them so the following options are available :-

1. To purchase and arrange the flowers into vases.
PLEASE NOTE, MONEY TO PURCHASE THE FLOWERS WILL BE DELIVERED TO YOU THE WEEK PRIOR TO YOUR DUTY DATE. YOU WILL NOT BE ASKED TO PAY FOR THE FLOWERS PERSONALLY.



2. To deliver the flowers.
3. To do both

Rota sheets have recently been handed out in Church. I do hope everyone has filled in their sheet and returned it to the box in the Guild Room marked "Flower Rota". The cut off date for this was Sunday 12th November, but I will be very happy to accept a few late entries! Please feel free to fill in as many dates as you can manage. Should you wish a date, which is of special significance, i.e. a particular anniversary, please make a note at the side of the rota sheet to that effect to ensure we are aware of it's importance in the event we have several offers for that particular date. The rota sheet handed out is for the first six months of 2018. A sheet for the second half of the year will be distributed early Spring, when it is hoped that everyone who has signed up will be willing to take another turn.

Your help and commitment to this very important role in our Church life is much needed and will be most gratefully welcomed.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda".

Linda Turnbull
Session Clerk



Everychild

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, the following donations have been made.

Concern Worldwide £50, this charity feeds starving children in Sudan.

Mary's Meals £50, this is a Scottish based charity providing meals for schoolchildren abroad

Glasgow Sick Children's Hospital Charity £65, enhancing the care of their young patients.

The total donated this year to various children's charities is £465 What a wonderful achievement!

You have thought of others. You have shown love and compassion and given hope. You have set aside your change and given anonymously. Matthew 6 v 4

Thank you for your support.

God Bless You

Ramsay Gibb



BAPTISM

Harry Stokoe 26/08/2017



Dates for your diary

Sun 3 Dec	11:00 am	Communion & Advent Gift Sunday
Sun 10 Dec	11:00 am	Christmas Bereavement Memorial Service
Sun 17 Dec	11.00 am	Sunday Service
Sun 17 Dec	3.00 pm	McWhirter Home Christmas Service
Sun 24 Dec	11.00 am	Christmas Eve Sunday Fun Club Nativity Family Service
Sun 24 Dec	11:30 pm	Watchnight Service
Sun 31 Dec	11.00am	Christmas Thanksgiving Celebration
Sun 7 Jan	11.00am	New Year Communion Service

WEDDINGS

Agnes Hutton & Scott McLean 19/08/2017
Ann Duncan & Derek Edmonstone 15/09/2017



Men's Club



The club opened Session 2017/18 on Monday 9th October when the speaker was the Rev. Eleanor McMahon who gave an extremely interesting and informative talk on her "Dinner at Holyrood House". She gave an insight into her duties which she had to provide at the General Assembly for the Moderator of the Church of Scotland.

Due to the great success of the Christmas Concert last year, another concert has been arranged for this year on Saturday 9th December at 7.30pm in the church. The entertainment will again be provided by the Stonehouse Male Voice Choir and the Coalburn Silver Intermediate and Junior bands, hopefully the young drummer will be back.



Santa has been contacted and hopefully he will arrive early and not wait till Christmas.

Tickets priced at £5.00, including refreshments, will be available soon.

John McLean
President

Friday Morning Coffee Group

On Friday 29th September, the Coffee Morning Group celebrated 35 years of serving delicious pancakes, tea and coffee in St Machan's church hall. In this time the group has contributed several thousand pounds to the church. But I believe, more importantly, they have fostered fellowship and friendship amongst the helpers and guests.



To celebrate, one of our more recent volunteers, Pauline Field, baked a very special cake and also some lovely cup cakes which were shared with the volunteers and visitors on that day. Above is a picture of the cake and below is a picture of Pauline, with Rev Alastair McKillop and Ann Hynd, cutting the cake.



We would like to thank Pauline again for her magnificent efforts.

If anyone has a couple of hours to spare on one Friday a month and would like to join us in fellowship and fun, Ann Hynd would be delighted to hear from you.

Fay



Somebody sat in Minnie Hyssop's pew

Warning

A local priest and a pastor stood by the side of the road holding up a sign that said, 'The End is Near! Turn yourself around now - before it's too late!' They held up the sign as a car approached.



'Leave us alone, you religious nuts!' yelled the driver as he sped by. A moment later, from around the curve, they heard a big splash. 'Do you think,' ventured the priest, 'we should just put up a sign that says "bridge down" instead?'

THE U IN JESUS

Before **U** were thought of or time had begun,
God stuck **U** in the name of His Son..

And each time **U** pray, you'll see it's true,
You can't spell out Jes**U**s and not include **U**.
You're a pretty big part of His wonderful name,
For **U**, He was born; that's why He came.

And His great love for **U** is the reason He died.
It even takes **U** to spell cr**U**cified.

Isn't it thrilling and splendidly grand
He rose from the dead, with **U** in His plan?

The stones split away, the gold tr**U**mpet blew,
And this word res**U**rrection is spelled with a **U**.

When Jes**U**s left earth at His **U**pward ascension,
He felt there was one thing He just had to mention.

"Go into the world and tell them it's true
That I love them all - Just like I love **U**."

So many great people are spelled with a **U**,
Don't they have a right to know Jes**U**s too?

It all depends now on what **U** will do,
He'd like them to know,
But it all starts with **U**.
Will **YOU** pass it on.



Jesus loves you!

Christian Aid



In response to an appeal from Christian Aid for all churches to help raise money for the victims of the flood disaster, we were able to send £215.25. We have also been able to send £180 from our Harvest collection so many thanks to everyone who contributed.



The flooding in South Asia is the worst for decades. The region is no stranger to heavy rain. Each year, between June and September, monsoon rains sweep across India, Bangladesh and Nepal, but this year the rain came in torrents, overwhelming these countries with floods.

More than a third of low-lying Bangladesh was covered in flood water and across the three nations, more than 40million people have been affected. An estimated 1,200 people lost their lives, many more lost their homes, schools and livelihoods.

Christian Aid has provided hygiene kits, tarpaulin, sheeting and mosquito nets. With the high risk of water borne diseases like cholera, they also distributed chlorine tablets to provide clean drinking water and educate people about hygiene.

Another disaster emergency appeal launched this year was in Sierra Leone where a mudslide swept through an area of Sierra Leone's capital in



August. The mudslide submerged entire communities in the Regent area

of Freetown, killing more than a thousand people.



Christian Aid partners handed out food, clothes, kitchen supplies, soap, disinfectant and other hygiene items. They were able to reach 900 survivors temporarily housed in shelters. The community leader Chief Mohamed Kargbo said “The donation from Christian Aid is a big help. People

were hungry and you provided them with food, you wasted no time.”

Christian Aid’s Country Manager for Sierra Leone, Jeanne Kamara, added: ‘People already living in poverty lost everything they owned. We have been working with our partners in Freetown to get help to those who need it most.’

The charity stated that with funds from the Mudslide Appeal, they hope to reach many more people, including giving young survivors, school materials such as books, bags, uniforms and shoes.

In a statement from the charity they said that the 2014 and 2015 Christmas Appeals are reaping positive results. This is thanks to people like you, and from the UK Government’s Department for International Development which doubled all eligible donations through its UK Aid Match funding initiative.

Every day around 830 women die from preventable causes related to pregnancy and childbirth, 99% of these deaths happen in developing countries. This is one of the scandals of our time. That’s why following the 2014 Christmas Appeal, Christian Aid has been running a three-year maternal health programme in Kenya’s Isiolo County and Malawi’s Karongo District.



From renovating rundown health facilities and setting up clinics in remote areas, to donating medical equipment and training nurses in emergency obstetric care, this work is making a difference to thousands of mothers and babies.

Christian Aid has also provided an ambulance which is able to reach the furthest-away health facilities and tremendous improvements are being realised in that area.



Thanks also to the generous response to the 2015 Appeal, 500 volunteers have been trained to deliver life-saving healthcare to



children in Nigeria. The volunteers have been able to treat around five children a day in Benue State, where infant mortality is rife. They were hoping to train 1,400 volunteers by October and they would be based in very hard to reach communities where there is no access to healthcare.

We can feel quite overwhelmed by the needs of our neighbours in poorer parts of the world but by giving to Christian Aid, we can bring hope to many.

Isobel Cunningham has again made some of her cards which will be on sale at the back of the church from the middle of November and the Christian Aid jar will be there also for anyone who would like to give a donation.

Many thanks for your support this year.
Happy Christmas to you all and best wishes for 2018.

Grace McGhee

Church Humour



Shoe Box Appeal—2017

The total number of boxes collected this year was 94 with cash donations in excess of £400

Many thanks to all who contributed

John Gilroy



The Guild

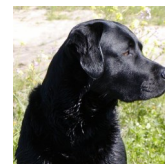


Saturday 9th September greeted us with sunshine. After a week of rain we were blessed with a beautiful day for our outing to Largs.



We arrived in Largs around 12:30 just in time for lunch. It was Viking Week, so there was a lot going on. Craft stalls and entertainment along the promenade and of course some nice shops in the town. Some of the ladies took the ferry to Millport and spent the afternoon there. We then had a lovely meal at the Green Shutter restaurant and returned home around 7:45pm. A great day was had by all.

Our new session started on October 3rd with Mr George Downie bringing us “The Role of the Press,” it was a very interesting evening.



Our next meeting was October 17th and we had a presentation from Guide Dogs for the Blind. Mrs Anne Hamilton, a puppy walker came along with Guide Dog puppy Kiki, a beautiful black labrador. Anne took us through the process of training a guide dog from the age of 8 weeks right through

until they are fully trained at around the age of 2-3years. Kiki stole the hearts of a few of the Guild members including myself.

We have a great programme lined up from now until March 2018, do come along and join us, you will be made most welcome.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a “Happy Christmas” and “Good Health” for the New Year.

Kathryn

FAVOURITE HYMNS?

We all of us love to sing hymns – in the bath; at work; in the Lord’s House. We make a ‘Joyful noise unto the lord’. But do we really think about the words we sing?

We sing ‘Onward Christian Soldiers’

but do we have to be press-ganged into service?

We sing ‘Tell me the old, old story’

but are seldom there to hear it.

We sing ‘take my silver and my gold’

but put our small change in the plate.

We sing ‘O for a thousand tongues’

but fail to use the one we have.

We sing ‘I need thee every hour’

but grumble about spending one in Church.

We sing ‘What a friend we have in Jesus’

but only turn to Him when were in a jam.

We sing ‘I’m not ashamed to own my Lord’

But wouldn’t dream of mentioning it outside the Kirk.

We sing ‘Rise up, O men of God’

And lie in bed till 12 on Sunday mornings.

Funerals: Jesus said:

Let not your heart be troubled: believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you.

John 14:1-2

<u>NAME</u>	<u>AGE</u>	<u>DATE</u>
William Strang	33	06/08/2017
Jean Dixon	81	23/05/2017
Toby Dixon	87	13/08/2017
Rebecca "Bertha" Falconer	81	22/08/2017
Nan McIntosh	86	25/08/2017
Flora Ventura	93	07/09/2017
Margaret Sharp	84	15/09/2017
Emily Lambie	73	18/10/2017
David Kirkland	88	19/10/2017
Jean Russell	86	24/10/2017
David Morrison	84	27/10/2017



**"Then you will
shine among them
like stars in the sky"
(Philippians 2:15)**

-INVITATION-

**Christmas Bereavement Memorial Service
St. Machan's Parish Church
Sunday 10th December at 11:00 a.m.**

*An opportunity to remember loved ones
whose light shines brightly in our hearts!*

**"When they saw the star,
they were overjoyed!"
(Matthew 2:10)**

Prayer to remind us to remember

Lord, At this remembrance time, we remember those who gave their lives in the service and protection of their country, whether many years ago, or in more recent conflicts. We thank you for them and pray for those who loved them.

The death of a loved one, whatever the cause, changes our lives forever and we walk an unchosen path. There are wonderful memories, times to be thankful, but nothing takes away the pain and empty space every day. Thank you, Lord, for understanding our loss. Thank you that when we cry, we know that you cried first, when your friend died. It's all right to cry. It's all right to pour out our pain to you, as we remember...

And Lord, we remember most of all your death on the cross. We thank you that in this remembering we have hope and meaning and confidence because you rose again; you overcame death. If we put our trust in you we shall live with you forever. Lord at our saddest times, help us to remember your victory and the bigger picture!

In Jesus name, Amen.

Property Report

Hello everyone,

I hope you have all enjoyed the summer holidays.



Since the last edition of the magazine we have managed to carry out the following repairs:-Up at the Manse, we have fitted a new extractor fan and shower in the bathroom.

And so to the work completed around the Church since the last edition of the magazine:- The vestibule area is now ready for decoration and we await the contractor.

The fluorescent lights in the hall corridor and small hall have now been repaired / replaced and the radiators in the toilets have been painted.

We have fitted a new outside light at the rear exit door to assist exit in the darker nights.

Cracks in the wall at the rear of the hall have been re-plastered and painted.

No doubt you have heard of our " Safe Buildings Policy " which was created by Jim Reid and our health and safety team. Jim presented the document at a recent meeting of all organisation leaders.

We have now received an official "Health & Safety toolbox folder" from the Church of Scotland, and it can be found in the office for anyone to look at.



Walter Kean and myself attended a recent risk assessment seminar at presbytery and the number of reported accidents highlight just how important risk assessment is.

One thing we must highlight is the possibility of a child falling from the balcony. We are now looking at fitting a balustrade around the balcony.

Meantime, please ensure that any child sitting upstairs is accompanied by an adult and not leaning over.

The accident report book has been relocated on to the wall in the kitchen next to the first aid box. This must be filled in to report any accident minor or otherwise.



We have no reports of any problems up at 2 Marshall street.

And so to our ongoing work.

With reference to the ongoing problems with the roof windows in the main hall, we are still investigating how we can solve the problem of continual drips on a permanent basis.

We are currently preparing a specification which will allow us to invite contractors to quote and also look for grants.

We have visited the glass contractor and we are pleased with the modern equivalent roof panels.

Please remember, if you notice anything around the Church which needs attention, please contact one of the property committee a.s.a.p.. and we will attend to it, and please keep dropping a white fabric envelope in to the plate as this helps to maintain our fabric fund balance. You will find these envelopes scattered around the Church. If you can't see one. Please ask me for one.

And finally, may I wish everyone all God's Blessings for a happy and peaceful Christmas.

John Gilroy Tel: 886935 Mobile: 07956 107883

Camels

In a little girl's Christmas drawing, two of the camels were approaching the inn, over which was pictured a huge star. The third camel and its rider were going directly away from it. 'Why is the third man going in a different direction?' her mother asked.



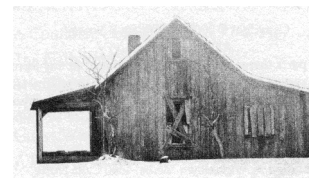
She replied, 'Oh, he's looking for a place to park.'

St Machan's Book Club

The Book Club have had a busy few months reading books of different themes with interesting discussion of each book ensuing. I have listed below the ones we have read so far since September with a short resume of each one. We meet on the first Monday of the month and if you would like to join us please come along. The next meeting will be on the first Monday of February 2018. The next book we will be reading is Killing Floor by Lee Child.



The Shack by William Paul Young



Mackenzie Allen Philips' youngest daughter, Missy, has been abducted during a family vacation, and evidence that she may have been brutally murdered is found in an abandoned shack deep in the Oregon wilderness. Four years later in the midst of his *Great Sadness*, Mack receives a suspicious note, apparently from God, inviting him back to that shack for a weekend.

Against his better judgment, he arrives at the shack on a wintry afternoon and walks back into his darkest nightmare. What he finds there will change Mack's world forever.

In a world where religion seems to grow increasingly irrelevant *The Shack* wrestles with the timeless question, "Where is God in a world so filled with unspeakable pain?" The answers Mack gets will astound you and perhaps transform you as much as it did him. You'll want everyone you know to read this book!

Me Before You by Jojo Moyes

Louisa Clark is an ordinary young woman living an exceedingly ordinary life—steady boyfriend, close family—who has never been farther afield than their tiny village. She takes a badly needed job working for ex-Master of the Universe Will Traynor, who is wheelchair-bound after an accident. Will has always lived a huge life—big deals, extreme sports, worldwide travel—and now he's pretty sure he cannot live the way he is.



Will is acerbic, moody, bossy—but Lou refuses to treat him with kid gloves, and soon his happiness means more to her than she expected. When she learns that Will has shocking plans of his own, she sets out to show him that life is still worth living.

A love story for this generation, *Me Before You* brings to life two people who couldn't have less in common—a heartbreakingly romantic novel that asks, What do you do when making the person you love happy also means breaking your own heart?

The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

Set during World War II in Germany, Markus Zusak's groundbreaking new novel is the story of Liesel Meminger, a foster girl living outside of Munich. Liesel scratches out a meager existence for herself by stealing when she encounters something she can't resist – books. With the help of her accordion-playing foster father, she learns to read and shares her stolen books with her neighbours during bombing raids as well as with the Jewish man hidden in her basement before he is marched to Dachau. This is an unforgettable story about the ability of books to feed the soul.



Remember, remember 31st October

On 31 October 445 BC (according to Jewish tradition), Ezra gathered the people together in Jerusalem, read to them from the Book of the Law, and called them to national repentance. Israel had sinned grievously against God. She had forsaken the God of her fathers and so God had sent judgment.



On 31 October 1517, Martin Luther nailed his 95 theses to a church door in Wittenberg. His first point called the Christians to repentance: "When our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, said 'repent', he called for the entire life of believers to be one of penitence." Luther faced two major challenges: firstly, a Church that had become morally corrupt, spiritually deficient and financially grasping, and, secondly, the real possibility of a Turkish Muslim invasion via central Europe. In the face of these challenges he recognised the importance of the Book of the Law - the Bible - and the need for national repentance.

Luther found himself isolated. There were those on all fronts who disagreed with him. Some German pastors even suggested welcoming Islam, seeing it as less oppressive than their situation under the Church, with its Catholic army under Habsburg rule.

On 31 October 2017, when the 500th anniversary of the Reformation was celebrated, the Church, particularly in the West, is faced with the same challenges that faced Martin Luther. Sadly, the Church of our Lord Jesus Christ is morally complacent, more concerned with social ethics than with the commands of Scripture, spiritually weak to the point of insipidity, and so consumed by materialism that she has lost the reason for her existence. At the same time, Islam now poses a new challenge to the



Church. Theologically coherent, community-centred, with a dynamic spirituality, socially and politically aware, Islam has made considerable progress in re-shaping the West through the presence of its own communities and through the influence of Islamic states with massive finance and energy reserves.

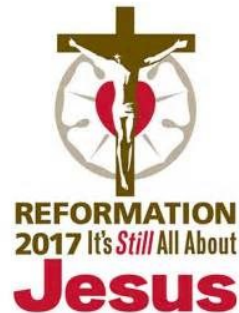


But a third challenge has arisen, one which Martin Luther did not have to face. This can be termed the new civic religion — the secular humanism that is reshaping society and has eroded, if not destroyed, the Judaeo-Christian foundations of society, so that the book of the law is despised and Christianity increasingly abhorred.

Western secular governments, concerned for community cohesion and for national security, are increasingly introducing hate speech legislation, which is gradually eroding religious liberty and fundamental freedoms. Christians, both in the West and in the non-Western world, are faced with growing marginalisation, discrimination and sometimes outright persecution.

The call of Scripture is to stand up in the midst of all this and proudly proclaim that Jesus Christ is Lord; to affirm that we will not be ashamed of the centrality of our faith, the Gospel of Jesus Christ, His word, His message and His life; that we will not be ashamed of His people, whom we will embrace; and that we will look for that judgment day when we will all have to stand before Him, when He will not be ashamed of us and we will hear His words, "Well done, good and faithful servant."

From Barnabus Aid- the Suffering Church



NOT ASHAMED IN THE FINAL JUDGEMENT

Ashamed of You, my God,
I can never be.
Vile sinner though I am,
You made me Your son
And gave me a new name
Written on the palms of Your
hands,
Stamped on Your forehead
Indelibly.
I am Yours and will forever
be.

Ashamed of You, my Jesus,
I can never be.
You purchased my salvation
By Your blood, shed for me.
You called me Your brother
And brought me into Your
family,
Made me Your own.
I am Yours and will forever
be.

Ashamed of Your cross
I will never be.
On that wood of shame,
Accursed, You gave Yourself
for me.
You bought my redemption
When you bore my sins.
How can I be ashamed
Of You, Christ crucified?

Ashamed of Your suffering
people
I will never be.
For they walk the path You
trod,
The path of pain and shame.
Falsely accused, reviled,
condemned,
Faithful unto death,
They gave their all for You,
their Master and King.
How can I be ashamed of
them?

Ashamed of Your Gospel,
Lord,
I will never be.
Your message of hope
That alone can set us free
From the tyranny of sin
This eternal message
Of divine Truth revealed
I will forever proclaim.

Ashamed to be Your servant,
Lord,
I will never be.
To sound forth the Gospel
message,
To serve You
As You saved me
For You came not to be served

But in sacrifice to give.
How can I be ashamed of You?

Ashamed to suffer for Your
Name,

I will never be.

To bear Your marks on my
body

So let it be.

How can I deny Thee, when
Thou didst not deny me?

To boast in You is all I seek

And to suffer for Your sake.

How can I be ashamed of Thee?

Will You be ashamed of me, O Lord,
When I stand before Your throne

On the Judgment Day,

My sins laid bare,

My motives and all thoughts
made plain?

Faithful I pray I will be,

Ever loyal to the unashamed

From Barnabus Aid-
the Suffering Church

The Christmas Message

The date was set in heaven above
When love come down upon this earth,
A stable bare, a bed of straw,
The setting for the Saviour's birth.



Shepherds out upon the hillside
'Watching o'er their flocks by night',
When angels telling of a baby
In splendor, burst upon their sight

Signs were seen in distant lands
With wise men travelling from afar
Having searched the skies at night
Came following His natal star.



As we hear the Christmas message,
If we think these things are true,
We could come to seek this baby
We could be like wise men too.

PARKER PLACE

With winter approaching, we are now arranging an entertainment programme to include one act per month taking us through till May next year.

The one and only **Graham Duncan** gave us a one night stand in September and although I couldn't attend, I am assured by the residents that Graham's jokes are as bad as ever.



Holly Taylor was due to sing in October, but due to a viral infection she couldn't manage. Just as well as I believe many of the residents were also hit with the flu. **Holly** will now sing in January.

The women's guild will be entertaining again in November and I've heard that Graham D will be back with them. (anything for a cup of tea and blow at his flute!!)

And we hope to have a wee Christmas night in. December with wee Nan at the organ.



We are currently looking at getting the kids from the nursery down for an afternoon of fun. This is being headed by Gerry from the Sunday club.

Final dates to be advised

As usual, tea and coffee will be served on each occasion

If anyone would like to become involved in any way, or simply assisting with tea on these nights, please contact John Gilroy 886935 M: 07956 107883. Johngilroy175@sky.com

A FRIEND IN NEED

One day, when I was a freshman in high school, I saw a kid from my class was walking home from school.

His name was Kyle.

It looked like he was carrying all of his books.

I thought to myself, 'Why would anyone bring home all his books on a Friday? He must really be a nerd.'



I had quite a weekend planned (parties and a football game with my friends tomorrow afternoon), so I shrugged my shoulders and went on.

As I was walking, I saw a bunch of kids running toward him.



They ran at him, knocking all his books out of his arms and tripping him so he landed in the dirt. His glasses went flying, and I saw them land in the grass about ten feet from him...

He looked up and I saw this terrible sadness in his eyes. My heart went out to him. So, I jogged over to him as he crawled around looking for his glasses, and I saw a tear in his eye.. As I handed him his glasses, I said, 'Those guys are jerks.' They really should get lives.'

He looked at me and said, 'Hey thanks!' There was a big smile on his face. It was one of those smiles that showed real gratitude.



I helped him pick up his books, and asked him where he lived.

As it turned out, he lived near me, so I asked him why I had never seen him before..

He said he had gone to private school before now.

I would have never hung out with a private school kid before. We talked all the way home, and I carried some of his books. He turned out to be a pretty cool kid.

I asked him if he wanted to play a little football with my friends. He said yes. We hung out all weekend and the more I got to know Kyle, the more I liked him, and my friends thought the same of him.

Monday morning came, and there was Kyle with the huge stack of books again. I stopped him and said, 'Boy, you are gonna really build some serious muscles with this pile of books everyday!' He just laughed and handed me half the books.

Over the next four years, Kyle and I became best friends. When we were seniors we began to think about college. Kyle decided on Georgetown and I was going to Duke. I knew that we would always be friends, that the miles would never be a problem. He was going to be a doctor and I was going for business on a football scholarship..



Kyle was valedictorian of our class. I teased him all the time about being a nerd. He had to prepare a speech for graduation. I was so glad it wasn't me having to get up there and speak



Graduation day, I saw Kyle. He looked great. He was one of those guys that really found himself during high school. He filled out and actually looked good in glasses. He had more dates than I had and all the girls loved him. Boy, sometimes I was jealous! Today was one of those days.

I could see that he was nervous about his speech. So, I smacked him on the back and said, 'Hey, big guy, you'll be great!' He looked at me with one of those looks (the really grateful one) and smiled..... ' Thanks,' he said.

As he started his speech, he cleared his throat, and began 'Graduation is a time to thank those who helped you make it through those tough years. Your parents, your teachers, your siblings, maybe a coach...but mostly your friends....



I am here to tell all of you that being a friend to someone is the best gift you can give them. I am going to tell you a story.'

I just looked at my friend with disbelief as he told the first day we met.

He had planned to kill himself over the weekend. He talked of how he had cleaned out his locker so his Mom wouldn't have to do it later and was carrying his stuff home..



He looked hard at me and gave me a little smile.

'Thankfully, I was saved. My friend saved me from doing the unspeakable..'

I heard the gasp go through the crowd as this handsome, popular boy told us all about his weakest moment. I saw his Mom and dad looking at me and smiling that same grateful smile.

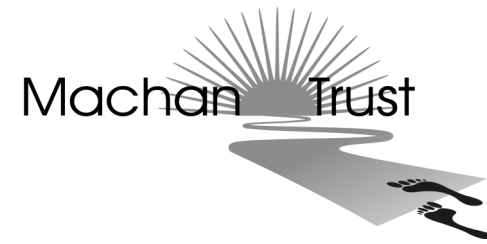


Not until that moment did I realize it's depth. Never underestimate the power of your actions.. With one small gesture you can change a person's life. For better or for worse.

God puts us all in each others lives to impact one another in some way. Look for God in others.

Facebook

Thank the Lord for Facebook. Otherwise I'd have to call 674 people today to tell them I just went Christmas shopping.



Machan Trust – Children Activities

All of our regular term-time clubs have now resumed. We are delivering daily breakfast clubs in Craigbank, Hareleeshill, Netherburn, and St. Mary's primary schools, all of which are well attended. The number of children attending Craigbank each day has increased from 25 to 40 on average since the start of term. This has brought challenges in the level of volunteers required especially as there have been consistently high numbers of volunteers required at each of the other breakfast clubs to support the children too. A good problem to have but more volunteers would be very welcome!



We run two after school clubs at Hareleeshill primary school each week, one for P1-P2, and one for P3-P4 both of which follow our 6 week activity blocks. We also run two after school clubs at Robert Smillie primary school, delivering a science block to P4-P5 children and a storytelling block to P2-P3 children. Our after school clubs for P1-P4 at Craigbank, Netherburn, and St. Mary's primary schools continue to run, and follows our 6 week activity blocks.



After School Clubs

During the October week, we delivered a two day holiday club for P1-P7 with a theme of 'Everyday Heroes' which featured a variety of activities and crafts, first aid and medical talks, police and fire service visits as well as offering breakfast and lunch to over 50 children. Feedback from children and parents was

extremely positive and facebook photos showed the happiness of the children participating.

Machan Trust – Youth Activities

We continue to deliver a youth group for P5-P7 and S1+ in Ashgill, and we have also started to run a new youth group in Stonehouse on a Monday evening for young people in P6+.



This has replaced the girls group in Stonehouse on a Wednesday as a result of listening to feedback from the young people. Our Friday night diversionary group at Hareleeshill sports barn continues to run for young people in P7+.

During the October week, 16 young people in P5+ had the opportunity to attend a week of outdoor activities with ORB which included climbing, skiing, archery, and mountain biking.

Our youth café (Refuel at the Lighthouse) launched on Thursday 26 October and is led by newly recruited young adult sessional workers. We hope this will be a youth café for young people led by young people and ably supported by experienced adult volunteers. The café will run every Thursday and Sunday and the success of this will be monitored and reviewed over the next 6 weeks. Initial numbers have been low however additional promotion will take place to encourage greater participation.



Sandi Allan and Karmen Boyd travelled with 10 young people aged 15 -18 years with Ocean Youth Trust and had the experience of a lifetime spending the October week sailing and learning new life skills. Each person found the experience challenging and given the poor weather, physical tasks and being away from home this was not unexpected. However each person rose to the challenges and has



achieved so much from the opportunity. We are extremely grateful to those who have contributed financially to the shortfall of funding. We await responses from some organisations to our request and hope that the shortfall will be reduced. A presentation evening is being arranged where the young people will share the amazing experience they enjoyed.

Since the summer 2 Saturday Night Weekend Diversionary programmes in partnership with Police Scotland have taken place. The first one provided an opportunity for plain clothes police and the 2nd the police were in uniform. Both ran successfully and allowed engagement with a significant number of teenagers and provided the opportunity to encourage more positive behaviours from the young people and ensure that those who were considered to be unsafe were appropriately supported and/or returned home.

Local Fundraising

Our volunteers have been busy with our local fundraising and have recently raised: £1524 at our Autumn Fayre in Trinity Church, Larkhall on 7 September. This was an amazing amount and thanks are due to all staff, volunteers and the wider community who supported the day. We were delighted that pupils and staff from Glengowan Primary sang and entertained during the day.



On Sunday Oct 1st 3 volunteers (Karmen, Tracey and Iain) and 2 staff members (Jen and Lee) participated in the Great Scottish Run and raised £925.00 sponsorship. Again a fantastic achievement and we greatly appreciate the effort put in by all 5 runners.

The 2 local Boots stores, Simpsons the Opticians and Eathornes Hardware Store in Larkhall have agreed to display our collection tins.

If you or anyone you know would like to donate to the Trust regularly or in one-off donations then there are a number of ways this can be done e.g.

standing order, cheque, text 70070 Mach01 or contact the office on 01698 305674. All donations are gratefully received.

Volunteering is key to making the Machan Trust a success, if you can help with our break-fast groups, lunch groups or after school groups, please call the Volunteer Co-ordinators on 01698 305674/07888655097

WE 
VOLUNTEERS

QUESTIONS THAT HAUNT ME!

How important does a person have to be before they are considered assassinated instead of just murdered?

Once you're in heaven, do you get stuck wearing the clothes you were buried in for eternity?

Why does a round pizza come in a square box?

What disease did cured ham actually have?



How is it that we put man on the moon before we figured out it would be a good idea to put wheels on luggage?

If Jimmy cracks corn and no one cares, why is there a stupid song about him?

Why does Goofy stand erect while Pluto remains on all fours? They're both dogs!

If corn oil is made from corn, and vegetable oil is made from vegetables, what is baby oil made from?



Do the Alphabet song and Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star have the same tune?

Why did you just try singing the two songs above?

Puzzle Corner

1. Each puzzle begins with a blank 9 x 9 grid. A coordinate system—with the letters A through I across the top and the numbers 1 through 9 down the left side—will help you place the "givens," or starter numbers, generated by the Bible trivia questions.
2. For each puzzle, trivia questions will be answered by the numbers 1 through 9. The coordinates with each question (for example, *A1*, *C9*, *H3*) indicate where you should insert that particular answer into the sudoku grid. If you don't know the answer and want to find out from the Bible, references are provided.
3. Once you've inserted the givens into the grid, you can solve the sudoku puzzle. The goal of sudoku is to place the numbers 1 through 9 in each row, each column, and each of nine 3 x 3 minigrids (the shaded areas) within the larger puzzle. Numbers can never be duplicated in a row, column, or 3 x 3 grid—so use your skills of deduction to determine what numbers can or can't go into a particular box.

For F3, B6, G9, C1, E8

What number commandment says, "Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy"? (Exodus 20:8)

For A8, D7, E3, C6

While witnessing the Transfiguration, how many tabernacles did Peter want to build? (Matthew 17:4)

For I3, C2, D6

How many mites did the widow put into the treasury? (Luke 21:2)

For H7, F1, I4

How many verses are in Psalm 150?

For G7, B1, F4, C8

How many kings of Shimron-meron did Joshua smite? (Joshua 2:7, 20)

For C9, G5, D2

How many maidens were given to Esther? (Esther 2:9)

For D4, G1, A5, F9, B8, E2

How many people were on the ark? (Genesis 7:13)

For B5, I6, A2

In the list of the Gadites who joined David, what number was Elzabad? (1 Chronicles 12:8, 12)

For I1, B7, D9

In what year of King Rehoboam's reign did King Shishak of Egypt attack and take treasures of the temple? (1Kings 14:25-26)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1	█	█	█	□	□	□	█	█	█
2	█	█	█	□	□	□	█	█	█
3	█	█	█	□	□	□	█	█	█
4	□	□	□	█	█	█	□	□	□
5	□	□	□	█	█	█	□	□	□
6	□	□	□	█	█	█	□	□	□
7	█	█	█	□	□	□	█	█	█
8	█	█	█	□	□	□	█	█	█
9	█	█	█	□	□	□	█	█	█

The Bible version used in the crosswords is the NIV.

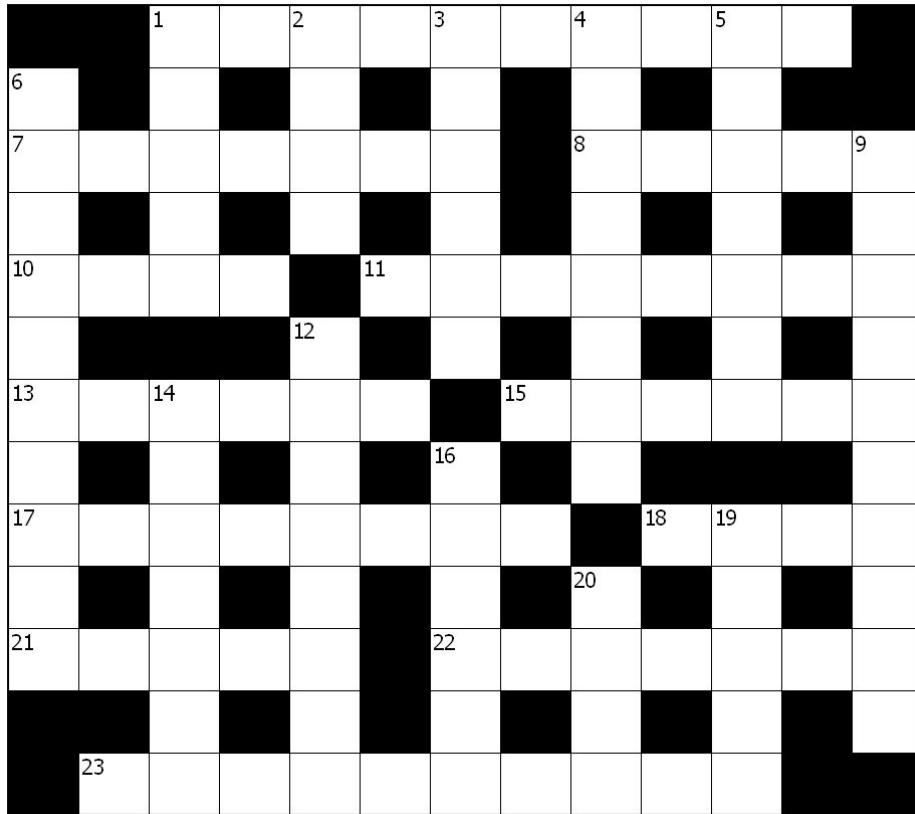
Across

- 1 Provisional meeting place of God and the Jews (Exodus 25:9) (10)
- 7 David's third son, killed when his head got caught in a tree during a battle with his father (2 Samuel 18:14,15) (7)
- 8 They ruled much of the west coast of South America in the 15th and early 16th centuries (5)
- 10 Small deer of European and Asian extraction (4)
- 11 Seized control of (Numbers 21:25) (8)
- 13 Terror (Luke 24:5) (6)
- 15 First World War heroine shot by the Germans in Brussels, Nurse Edith (6)
- 17 Stormy (8)
- 18 A bitter variety of this, together with lamb and unleavened bread, was the Passover menu for anyone unclean (Numbers 9:11) (4)
- 21 Arson (anag.) (5)
- 22 How John Newton described God's grace in his well-known hymn (7)
- 23 Habitation (Isaiah 27:10) (10)

Down

- 1 and see that the Lord is good (Psalm 34:8) (5)
- 2 The wicked man flees though no one pursues, but the righteous are as ... as a lion (Proverbs 28:1) (4)
- 3 One of the exiles, a descendant of Parosh, who married a foreign woman (Ezra 10:25) (6)
- 4 He escaped from Nob when Saul killed the rest of his family and joined David (1 Samuel 22:19,20) (8)
- 5 City and lake in Central Switzerland (7)
- 6 Offer your bodies as living , holy and pleasing to God (Romans 12:1) (10)
- 9 Pouches carried by horses (Genesis 49:14) (10)
- 12 One who accepts government by God (8)
- 14 Aromatic substance commonly used in Jewish ritual (Exodus 30:1) (7)

- 16 He asked Jesus, 'What is truth?' (John 18:38) (6)
- 19 Are (Romans 13:1) (5)
- 20 You are to give him the name Jesus, because he will ... his people



Turkey

It was Christmas Eve in a supermarket and a woman was anxiously picking over the last few remaining turkeys in the hope of finding a large one. In desperation, she called over a shop assistant and said 'Excuse me. Do these turkeys get any bigger?'

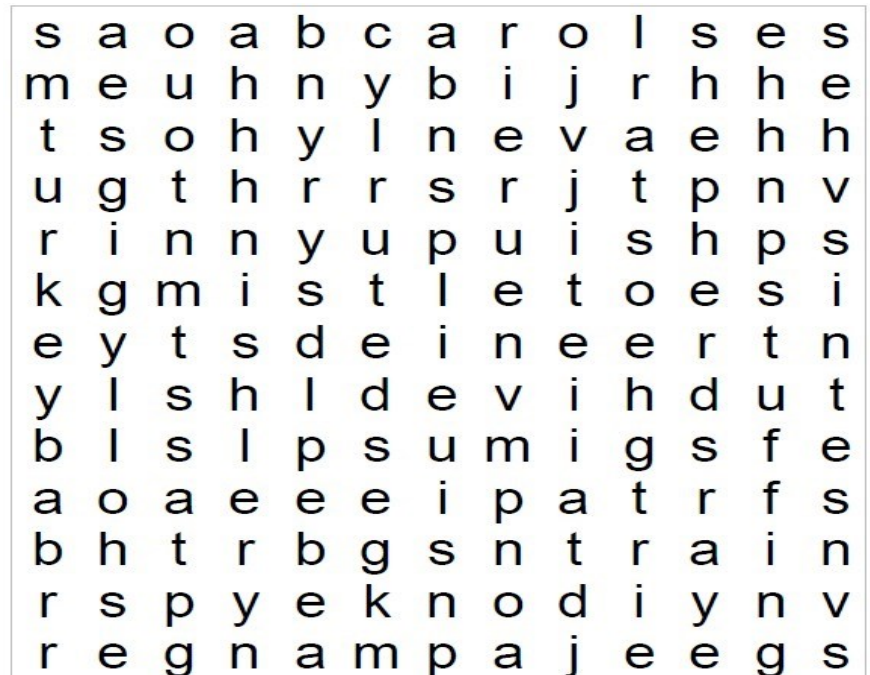


He patiently replied: 'No, sorry, they're all dead.'

Christmas Wordsearch

We're in the countdown to Christmas! Christmas cards, shopping, school nativity plays, carol concerts, ordering the turkey, wrapping presents, bringing home the Christmas tree.... all in preparation for the big day itself! How many Christmas related words can you find in the following word search?

- | | | | |
|-----------|--------|--------------|-----------|
| baby | donkey | joseph | holly |
| tree | sheep | manger | presents |
| Jesus | inn | star | mistletoe |
| nativity | mary | hallelujah | stuffing |
| shepherds | virgin | heavenlyhost | pudding |
| angels | | turkey | carols |



DO YOU KNOW YOUR HYMNS?

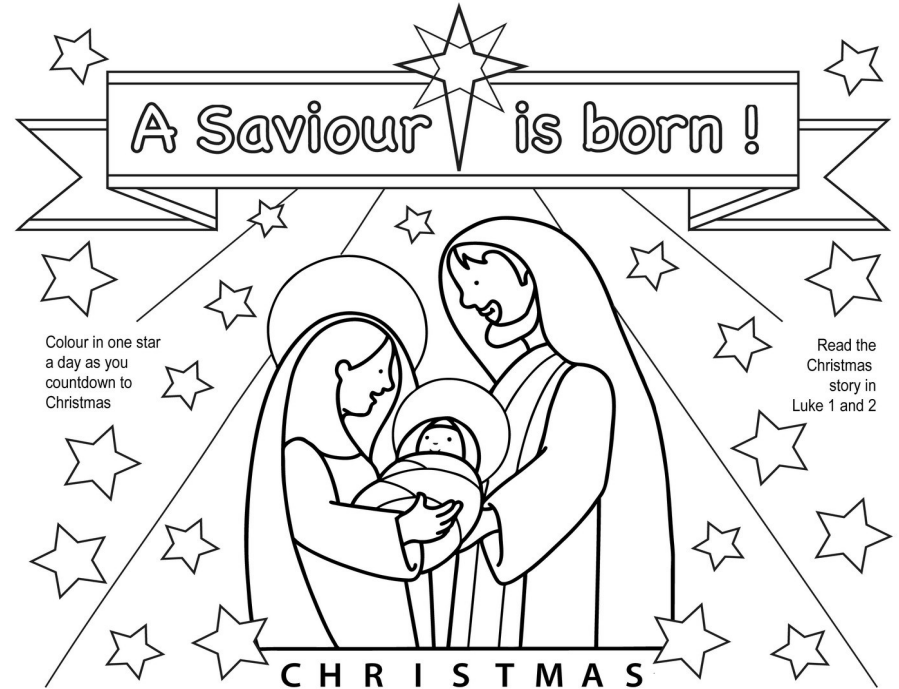
- Dentist's Hymn.....Crown Him with Many Crowns
- Weatherman's Hymn.....There Shall Be Showers of Blessings
- Contractor's Hymn.....The Church's One Foundation
- The Tailor's Hymn.....Holy, Holy, Holy
- The Golfer's Hymn.....There's a Green Hill Far Away
- The Politician's Hymn.....Standing on the Promises!
- Optometrist's Hymn.....Open My Eyes That I Might See
- The **IRS** Agent's Hymn.....I Surrender All
- The Gossip's Hymn.....Pass It On
- The Electrician's Hymn.....Send The Light

AND for those who speed on the highway - a few hymns:

- 55 mph God Will Take Care of You
- 75 mph Nearer My God To Thee
- 85 mph This World Is Not My Home
- 95 mph Lord, I'm Coming Home
- 100 mph Precious Memories

E. Davidson

Children's Pages



Colour in one star
a day as you
countdown to
Christmas


Read the
Christmas
story in
Luke 1 and 2

CHRISTMAS
BABYTHOLYJUDEARTH
BJPEACESONOFLOCKPUS
ROFIELDEGASHEPHERDS
IYONBORNNOZEGMARYAAA
NMRNATOZOAPALIRIVV
GODSCHILDRHLNASOSII
LJESUSHONELIGHTOEDO
OGUARDIBETHLEHEMZSU
RSLSHEEPWHYERLORDOR
YNNANGELSBHEAVENAME


MARY • JOSEPH • NAZARETH • GALILEE • JUDEA • BETHLEHEM • DAVID
HOLY • CHILD • BABY • SON • NAME • JESUS • MANGER • ROOM • INN
SHEPHERDS • FIELD • GUARD • FLOCK • SHEEP • ANGELS • SHONE • BRING
GOOD NEWS • JOY • SAVIOUR • BORN • CHRIST • LORD • LIGHT
PRAISE • GLORY • GOD • PEACE • EARTH • HEAVEN • CHRISTMAS

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The Tale of the **TWO DEBTORS**




JESUS OFTEN TOLD STORIES WITH HIDDEN MEANINGS



ONE WAS ABOUT TWO SERVANTS WHO HAD BORROWED MONEY




THE FIRST HAD BORROWED A MILLION POUNDS FROM THE KING



AND NOW THE KING WANTED HIS MONEY BACK!



BUT THE SERVANT COULDN'T PAY!



THE KING WAS VERY ANGRY INDEED.



BUT THE SERVANT PLEADED SO MUCH, THE KING AGREED TO LET HIM OFF HIS DEBT.



HOWEVER, NO SOONER HAD HE BEEN LET OFF HIS DEBT...



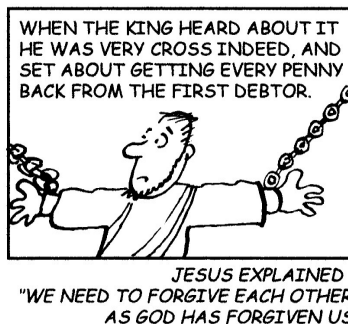
...HE MET A FELLOW SERVANT WHO OWED HIM A FEW PENCE!



THE FIRST SERVANT NEARLY THROTTLED THE SECOND, TRY TO GET HIS MONEY



WHEN THE KING HEARD ABOUT IT HE WAS VERY CROSS INDEED, AND SET ABOUT GETTING EVERY PENNY BACK FROM THE FIRST DEBTOR.



JESUS EXPLAINED - "WE NEED TO FORGIVE EACH OTHER, AS GOD HAS FORGIVEN US."

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What goes red white red white red white?
Santa rolling down a hill.

Puzzle Answers

4,3,2,6,1,7,8,5
Starter numbers in order

	T	A	B	E	R	N	A	C	L	E	
S	A	O	A	B	U						
A	B	S	A	L	O	M	I	N	C	A	S
C	T	D	I	A	E	A					
R	O	E	S	C	A	P	T	U	R	E	D
I				T	H	H	N	D			
F	R	I	G	H	T	C	A	V	E	L	L
I	N	E	P	R							E
C	Y	C	L	S	X	A					
S	O	N	A	R	A	M	A	Z	I	N	G
	S	A	T	V	S	S					
	S	E	T	T	L	E	M	E	N	T	

s	a	o	a	b	e	r	n	a	c	l	e	s
m	e	u	h	n	y	b	i	j	r	h	e	
t	s	o	h	y	l	n	e	v	a	e	h	
u	g	t	h	r	r	s	r	j	t	p	n	v
r	i	n	n	y	u	p	u	i	s	h	p	s
k	g	m	i	s	t	l	e	t	o	e	s	i
e	y	t	s	d	e	i	n	e	r	t	n	
y	l	s	h	l	d	e	v	i	h	d	u	t
b	l	s	l	p	s	u	m	i	g	s	f	e
a	o	a	e	e	i	p	a	t	r	f	s	
b	h	t	r	b	g	s	n	t	r	a	i	n
r	s	p	y	e	k	n	o	d	i	y	n	v
r	e	g	n	a	m	p	a	j	e	e	g	s