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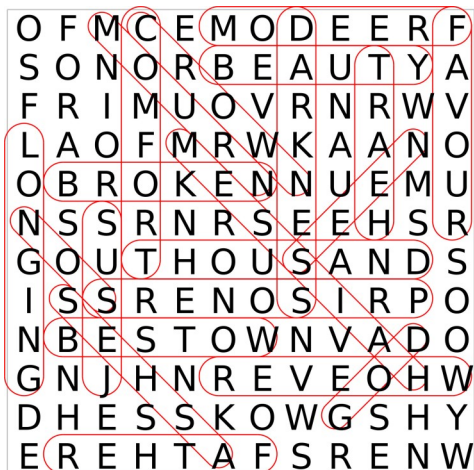
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### Puzzle Answers

Starter numbers in order  
6,9,5,7,3,4,1,2,8

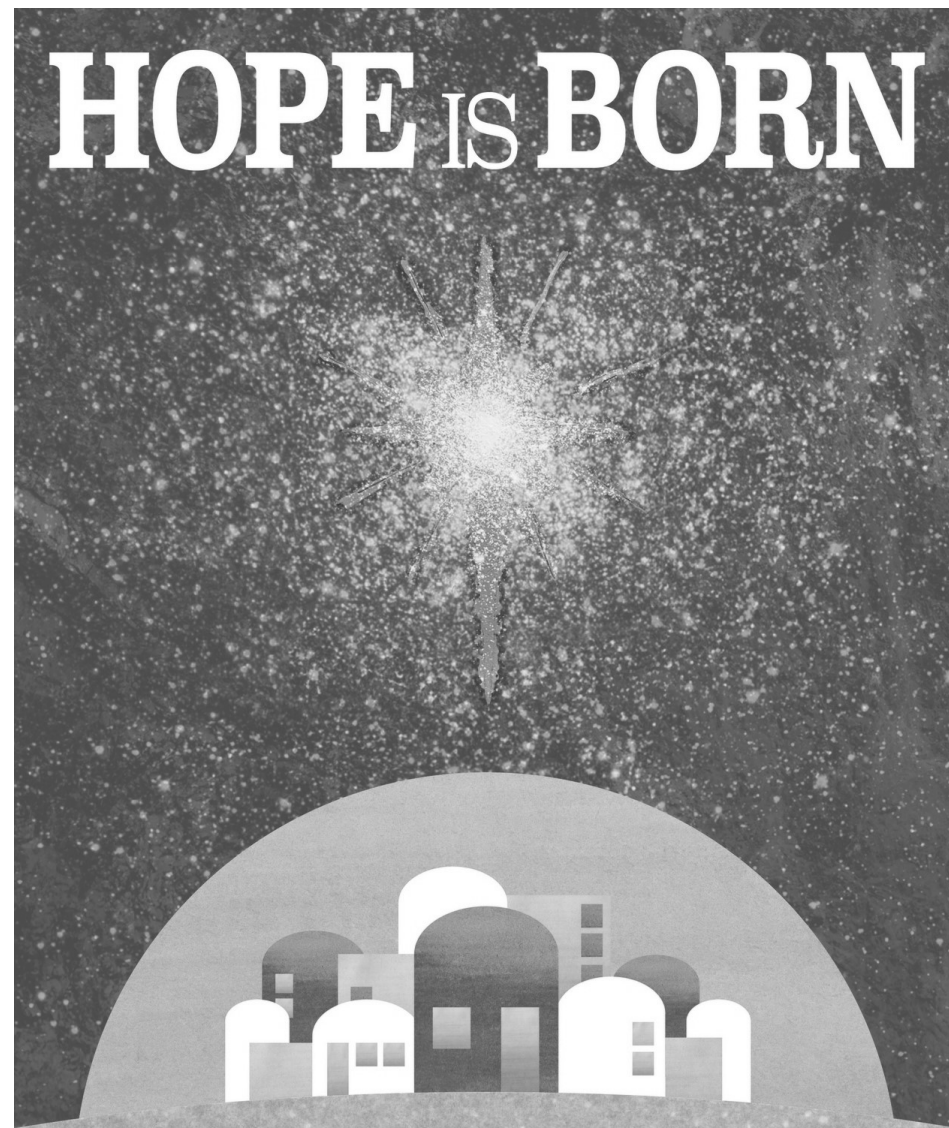


Bagpipes - the best way to terrorise your neighbours  
without getting an ASBO



# St. Machan's News

## HOPE IS BORN



**CHRISTMAS 2019**

# From the Editor

It is often forgotten that Advent is supposed to be a season of fast and reflection before Christmas just as Lent is before Easter. In reality we eat more than usual, we rush about more than usual, and we are in danger of praying less than usual.

We get caught up in the frenetic activities of shopping for presents or food and Party Nights and lose the real meaning of Christmas- God with us.

I hope that everyone will find something in the magazine which will remind them in an enjoyable way of the special gift that is Jesus Christ.

I am again indebted to those who give of their time to provide the reports, articles, prayers and poems which make up this magazine.

For anyone who feels isolated or lonely this winter may I draw your attention to the invitation on page 28.

I would also like to remind you that for those of us whose eyesight is not as good as it used to be, there is the option of a large print magazine or the magazine can be received on a CD. If you feel either of these would be of interest, then, please speak to your elder or to myself.

May God bless you this Christmas.

Fay Allan

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

shepherds  
Christ  
Saviour  
glory  
news  
praising  
hillside  
singing

baby  
message  
night  
carefully  
palace  
flocks  
manger  
good

heard  
sky  
angel  
Bethlehem  
heaven  
Mary  
God  
seen



# Bible Bite

A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in Luke chapter 2 verses 8 to 20

Shepherds were paid to look after the flocks out on the hillside. Uneducated and rough, they were usually avoided, or overlooked.



# View from the Manse



***"For to us a child is born,  
to us a Son is given..."***  
(Isaiah 9:6)

Dear Friends

The TV is full of extra special programmes and the sound of fantastical stories fills the air with promises of a new beginning, a new world, a wonderland full of hopes fulfilled and dreams come true! No, it's not the build up to Christmas, it's election fever and the continuing saga of Brexit! For the first time since 1923 our nation is holding a General Election in December which makes this event a first ever for the vast majority of the population. Will it take over our thoughts and dominate our conversations or will it turn off our wills and leave us looking desperately for a distraction?



At Advent time distractions come in all sorts of shapes and sizes. After bitterly bemoaning the appearance on TV of major Christmas adverts in early November, I recently came home to the Manse to find that two Christmas penguins had taken up residence on the hall table. I thought that this was unusual as you don't normally find Penguins in the UK as they are afraid of Wales! These penguins however were made of wood and were part of a glittery ornament with the words "Sleeps until Christmas" on the front. It held two large cubes covered in numbers that were positioned to show the number "45".

Who would have thought or who could have foreseen just how distracting this Christmas countdown ornament would become, and it was all to



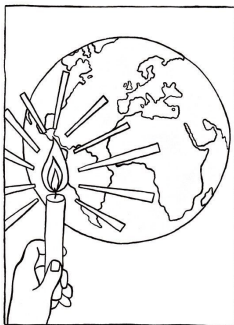


do with the numbers on the two cubes. The sides of one cube had the numbers 0, 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 on them and the other cube had the numbers 0, 1, 2, 4, 7 and 8. I very soon found myself trying to see how two cubes numbered like this might manage to provide a numerical countdown from 25 to 0, from the first day of December to Christmas Day.

After covering several pages of paper with scribbled numbers and scratching my head with complete frustration as I failed to find a number for every day of Advent, my wife simply leaned over and said, "You do realise that the 6 can be turned upside down to make a 9!"

This Christmas there is a very special and true story that truly promises a new beginning, a new world full of hopes and dreams fulfilled. With the birth of Jesus Christ all the numbers add up in a wonderful life changing way: the prophetic promise of a Saviour; the brightest of stars pointing the way; the lowly Bethlehem stable; the baby placed in a manger; the angelic announcements and heavenly choir; the shepherds journeying and rejoicing; the wise men bearing precious gifts; the promise of peace for all!

In the midst of all the distractions it is very easy for us to get our Advent calculations wrong and our Christmas countdown confused, causing us to miss the most important conclusion of all time: Jesus Christ the Saviour of the world!



May Jesus the Prince of Peace and Light of the World be present in your home and in your heart this Christmas!

Yours in Christ  
Alastair McKillop



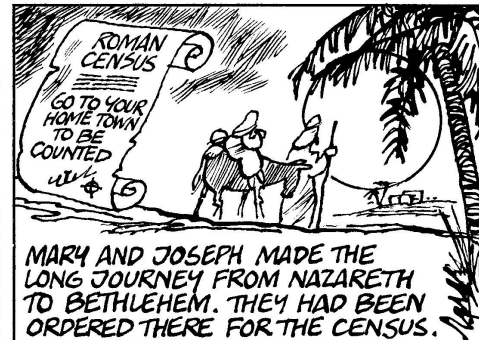
# A Very Special Baby

JESUS WAS BORN ABOUT 2,000 YEARS AGO IN THE SMALL TOWN OF BETHLEHEM, NEAR JERUSALEM.



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD MARY SHE WOULD HAVE A VERY SPECIAL BABY.

...YOU MUST CALL YOUR BABY JESUS



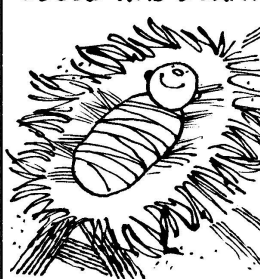
MARY AND JOSEPH MADE THE LONG JOURNEY FROM NAZARETH TO BETHLEHEM. THEY HAD BEEN ORDERED THERE FOR THE CENSUS.

BUT THE TOWN WAS FULL



THE ONLY SHELTER THEY COULD FIND WAS A STABLE...

...WHICH IS WHERE JESUS WAS BORN.



SHEPHERDS IN FIELDS NEARBY RACED TO SEE THE BABY



AN ANGEL HAD TOLD THEM WHERE JESUS HAD BEEN BORN.

WISE MEN CAME FROM THE EAST. THEY TOO WANTED TO SEE JESUS. THEY HAD BEEN GUIDED BY A STAR.



THEY BROUGHT GIFTS OF GOLD, FRANKINCENSE AND MYRRH.

BUT MARY, JOSEPH AND BABY JESUS SOON HAD TO ESCAPE TO EGYPT...



...AS KING HEROD WANTED JESUS DEAD!!



# Children's Pages

Colour in



Read the Christmas story in Luke 1:1 - 2:21

©deborah noble parishpump.co.uk

Dear Child,



The Bathroom Door is Closed!

Please do not stand here and talk, whine, or ask questions.

Wait until I get out.

Yes, it is locked. I want it that way. It is not broken, and I am not trapped.

I know I have left it unlocked, and even open at times, since you were born, because I was afraid some horrible tragedy might occur while I was in there, but it's been ten years and I want some **PRIVACY**.

Do not ask me how long I will be. I will come out when I am done.

Do not bring the phone to the bathroom door.

Do not go running back to the phone yelling "She's on the toilet!"

Do not stick your little fingers under the door and wiggle them. This was funny when you were two.

Do not slide pennies, LEGOs, or notes under the door.

If you have followed me down the hall talking, and are still talking as you face this closed door, please turn around, walk away, and wait for me in another room. I will be glad to listen to you when I am done.

And yes, I still love you,

**MUM**



From A Barrel of Fun Mark  
Stibble, Monarch Books  
Monarch Books

## A Christmas Prayer

Lord, as I enter into the fast-paced season ahead, help me walk slowly and quietly. Let me stop and listen to the angels sing of the greatest news ever told. Let my heart, mind and soul join the chorus. "Glory in the Highest!! The Messiah has been born!"

Among all the bright sparkling lights and cheery holiday tunes, let my spirit travel once again toward Bethlehem to honour and worship Jesus, my King, The Prince of Peace, the Lord of Hosts, Mighty Counsellor, Son of God, the Lamb. All Your love, mercy and power somehow made flesh in the tiny form of a humble baby born in a manger. Let me worship the only one who is worthy to take our sin away and open the gates of all eternity!

*by Daphne Kitching*

From Parish Pump

## Wednesday Morning Prayer and Worship Services

Prayer Service 10.15 am

Worship Service 11am

Tea and fellowship after Prayer Service

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

While out in the town, I saw an elderly couple holding hands while they were walking. As they approached, I commented on how romantic it was.



The man replied, "We have been holding hands when we go out in public for years. I have to. If I let go, she shops."

From Parish Pump



# Christmas Wordsearch

Christmas is nearly here! More than two thousand years ago the Jews were longing for the coming of their Messiah. The Old Testament had promised that when He came, He would preach good news to the poor, bind up the broken hearted, proclaim freedom for the captives and release from darkness for the prisoners, proclaim the year of the Lord's favour, comfort all who mourn and to bestow on His people a crown of beauty instead of ashes. Jesus did all those things. He was and is the Son of God, and whoever has seen Him has seen the Father. Whoever believes in Him will have the best gift of all – His Spirit within them, which gives them eternal life.

Messiah	Favour	Crown	Seen
Broken	Prisoners	Beauty	Father
Heart	Comfort	Ashes	Whoever
Freedom	Mourn	Son	longing
Darkness	Bestow	God	thousand
		Jesus	

A woman was trying hard to get the ketchup to come out of the bottle. During her struggle the phone rang so she asked her four-year old daughter to answer it. "It's the minister, Mum," the child said to her mother.

Then she told her caller: "Mummy can't come to the phone right now. She's hitting the bottle."

From Parish Pump

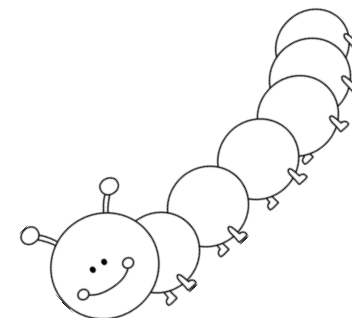


## The Christmas Caterpillar

Sometimes, upon a Christmas day  
I wonder if there's any way  
That Christmas might be quite a treat  
For those who have a few more feet!

I really love my Christmas socks  
That fill, each year, my Christmas box  
O Santa, festive stocking filler,  
I wish I were a caterpillar!

By Nigel Beeton



From Parish Pump

# Pancake Morning

## MENU

Pancake (butter / jam)	50p
Pancake (plain)	40p
Coffee cup/mug	70p
Tea	50p
Juice	10p

Fridays 10.00am—12 noon

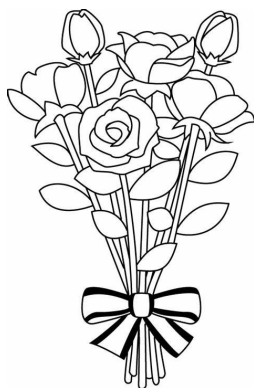


## FLOWER MINISTRY

What a quick year 2019 has been. I can't quite believe it is again time to be thinking about the flower rota for next year.

A blank rota sheet for the first half of 2020 is now on the Notice Board in the Guild Room, where the flowers are arranged. Once again, I am looking for your help in filling up the calendar. I am delighted that, already, quite a number of dates have been filled. I am so very

grateful to those who generously and continuously volunteer to supply and deliver the flowers each Sunday and hope many will continue to do so. We do need more volunteers though - the more there are the better. If you are able to take a turn, even if only for 1 Sunday, then please fill your name on the rota against the Sunday/s of your choice stating your preference as to supplying, delivering or both by using the code letters and to remind you of these, they are as follows: -



### **Codes: -**

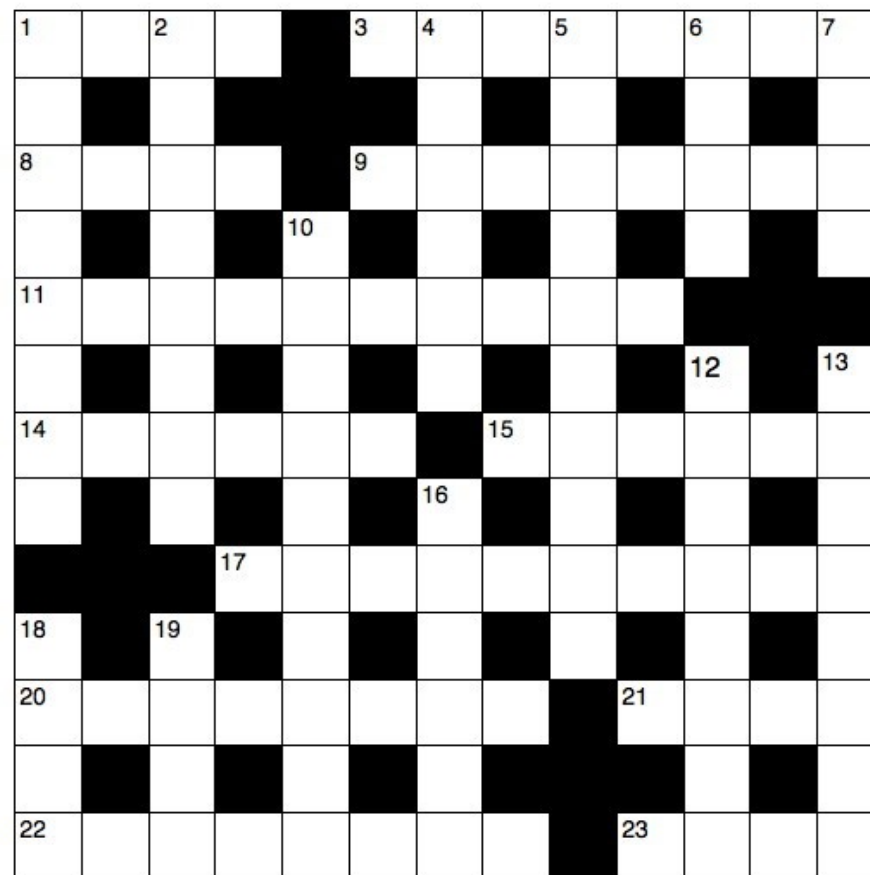
**A** = Arrange flowers into vases, including purchasing the flowers. Please note, money to purchase the flowers will be delivered to you the week prior to your duty date. You will not be asked to pay for the flowers personally.

**B** = Both – arrange and deliver

**D** = Deliver flowers only

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

committed to the Lord all his life' (1 Kings 15:14) (4)  
19 Tribe (Deuteronomy 29:18) (4)



If at first you DO succeed, try not to look astonished!



The Bible version used in the crosswords is the NIV.

### Across

- 1 'The blind receive sight, the — walk' (Luke 7:22) (4)
- 3 Got (Philippians 3:12) (8)
- 8 Leave out (Jeremiah 26:2) (4)
- 9 Castigated for using dishonest scales (Hosea 12:7) (8)
- 11 Weighty (1 John 5:3) (10)
- 14 'Now the serpent was more — than any of the wild animals the Lord God had made' (Genesis 3:1) (6)
- 15 'Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot — God' (Romans 8:8) (6)
- 17 Because Israel lacked one of these, tools had to be sharpened by the Philistines (1 Samuel 13:19) (10)
- 20 In his vision of the two eagles and the vine, this is how Ezekiel described the latter (Ezekiel 17:8) (8)
- 21 Rite (anag.) (4)
- 22 Nine gigs (anag.) (8)
- 23 'The eye cannot say to the — , "I don't need you"' (1 Corinthians 12:21) (4)

### Down

- 1 'Flee for your lives! Don't — — , and don't stop anywhere in the plain!' (Genesis 19:17) (4,4)
- 2 Principal thoroughfare (Numbers 20:19) (4,4)
- 4 'The tax collector... beat his — and said, "God have mercy on me, a sinner"' (Luke 18:13) (6)
- 5 'The zeal of the Lord Almighty will — this' (2 Kings 19:31) (10)
- 6 'The day of the Lord is — for all nations' (Obadiah 15) (4)
- 7 Specified day (Acts 21:26) (4)
- 10 Deadly epidemic (Deuteronomy 32:24) (10)
- 12 Roman Catholic church which has special ceremonial rights (8)
- 13 Tied up (2 Kings 7:10) (8)
- 16 In his speech to the Sanhedrin, Stephen described Moses as 'powerful in speech and — ' (Acts 7:22) (6)
- 18 'Although he did not remove the high places, — heart was fully

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.



If you hear of or are aware of anyone who is ill, in hospital or who just generally might benefit from a bunch of flowers then please speak to whomever is making up the bunches after morning worship and provide the recipient's name and address. Every effort will be made to accommodate all requests.

There are, however, quite a number of folks who, for varying reasons, are unable to physically participate but would like to contribute financially to the flower ministry. If you currently donate financially then please, if possible, do continue to make your donations. If you wish to start making a donation then please drop an envelope into the offering plate and mark on the front "Flower Fund". Please give whenever and whatever you are able and be assured your donation will be very much welcomed and appreciated. Without such donations, there would be no flowers for the volunteers to deliver.

May I wish everyone a very happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

**Linda Turnbull**  
Session Clerk

### Reindeer

What did the reindeer say before launching into his comedy routine?

'This will sleigh you.'

# Everychild

My sincere thanks to everyone who gives to Everychild. You are showing God's Love to children suffering from war, disease, malnourishment, abuse, mental health issues and complex medical conditions. Your kindness has improved the lives of children at local, national and international level. You have enabled the following gifts to be made.

Unicef £50  
 Tabetha Church of Scotland School £50  
 Concern ( Niger Appeal ) £100  
 This gift will be doubled by UK Govt Grant



These gifts bring the total of your donations to £900 for this year. A truly remarkable achievement!

Just think of the children you have helped

The Bible encourages us to be kind and to help others  
 " Let us never tire of doing good, for if we do not slacken our efforts we shall in due time reap our harvest  
 Galatians Ch 6 v 9

Thank you for your caring, kindness and generosity.

God Bless You

Ramsay Gibb

(2 Samuel 21:1)

**For I7, C5, F1, E6, H2**

How many sons did Kohath have? (1 Chronicles 23:12)

**For H1, E7**

Which verse of Psalm 23 begins, "The LORD is my shepherd"?

**For D6, G7, B9, F3, C2**

"Behold, there come ..... woes more hereafter."

(Revelation 9:12)

**For A8, G2, E3**

"..... .about an ..... days after these sayings. . ." (Luke 9:28)

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



# 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 I5, C3, F4, E9

In the list of the Gadites who joined David, what number is Attai?  
(1 Chronicles 12:8, 11)

## For G3, BS, I6, D1

All the days of Methuselah were nine hundred and sixty.....  
(Genesis 5:27)

## For B3, F5, C8

How many damsels did Abigail take with her to go to David?  
(1 Samuel 25:42)

## For H5, A6, C7, F9

How many days was Zimri king of Israel? (1 Kings 16:15)

## For E5, B7

How many years was the famine in the time of David?

# Dates for your diary

Sun 1Dec	11:00am	Communion & Advent Gift Sunday
Sun 8 Dec	11:00am	Sunday Service
Sun 15 Dec	11:00am	Sunday Fun Club Nativity Family Service
Sun 22Dec	11:00am	Sunday Family Service
Tues 24 Dec	7:00pm	Christmas Eve Family Service
Tues 24 Dec	11:30pm	Watchnight Service
Sun 29Dec	11:00am	Christmas Thanksgiving Celebration
Sun 5 Jan	11:00am	New Year Communion Service

## Biscuit

As we were putting out biscuits for Father Christmas on Christmas Eve, one fell on the floor. When I picked it up and placed it back on the plate, my four-year-old was horrified. "You can't do that!" "Don't worry," I assured him. "Father Christmas will never know.

"He shot me a suspicious look. "So, he knows if I've been bad or good, but he doesn't know the biscuit fell on the floor?"

# Men's Club



The Club opened the 2019/20 session on Monday 14th October when the speaker, Mr Bill Hastings, former pastor at Chalmers Church, gave a humorous and interesting talk on his road to the ministry. He also played the mouth organ to illustrate various parts of his talk.



Jim Murdoch, our other speaker in October and club member, gave another magnificent talk on “Bonnie Prince Charlie and Culloden.”

He produced a number of books and artifacts, such as bayonets, rifles, headgear, toy soldiers etc. of that period.

Sadly, Jim has decided to retire from giving such talks. As a club member, he has served the Club well with his variety of topics over the years.

Our St Andrew's Night Concert on Monday 4th November, in conjunction with The Guild proved a great success. Despite the dreadful, miserable wet evening, a good number of brave souls came along and enjoyed a great evening of song and laughter with the group "Luckenbooth".

The concert was held to raise money for church funds and the excellent sum of £445.00 was raised. Many, many thanks to everyone who supported this event.

"Next, I started gathering up the animals but got sued by an animal rights group that objected to me taking along only two of each kind.

"Just when the suit got dismissed, the EPA notified me that I couldn't complete the ark without filling out an environmental impact statement on your 'proposed' flood. They didn't take kindly to the idea that they had no jurisdiction over the Supreme Being.

"Then, the Corps of Engineers wanted a map of the proposed flood plan. I sent them a globe.

"Right now, I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Equal Opportunities Commission over how many minorities I'm supposed to hire.



"The IRS has seized all my assets, claiming that I'm trying to leave the country, and I just got a notice from the state that I owe some kind of use tax.

"Really, I don't think I can finish the ark in less than five years."

With that, the sky cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow arched across the sky. Noah looked up and smiled.

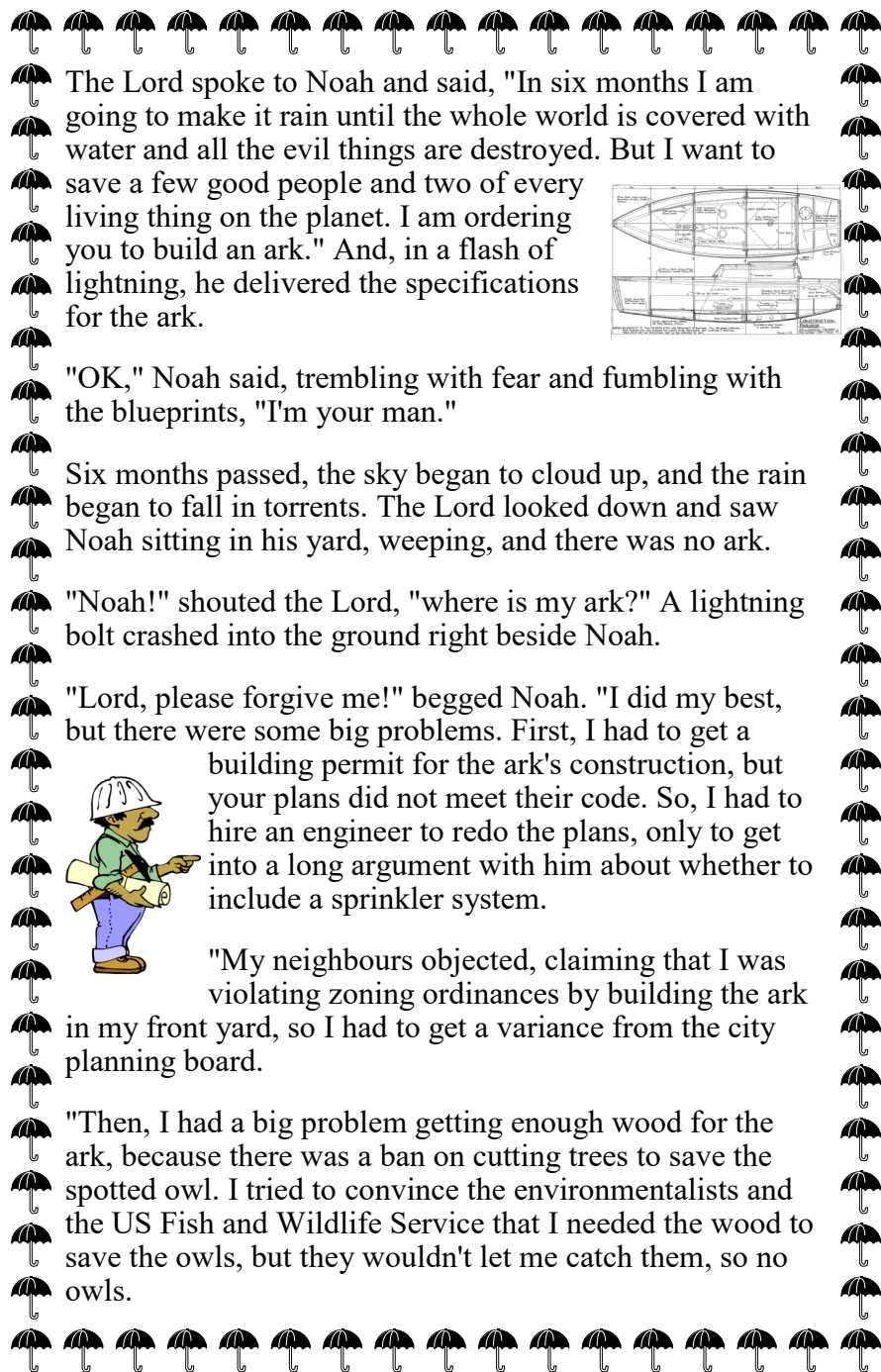
"You mean you're not going to destroy the world?"



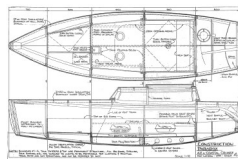
"No," said the Lord. "The government already has."

From A Bundle of Laughs J.John & Mark Stibble, Monarch Books





The Lord spoke to Noah and said, "In six months I am going to make it rain until the whole world is covered with water and all the evil things are destroyed. But I want to save a few good people and two of every living thing on the planet. I am ordering you to build an ark." And, in a flash of lightning, he delivered the specifications for the ark.



"OK," Noah said, trembling with fear and fumbling with the blueprints, "I'm your man."

Six months passed, the sky began to cloud up, and the rain began to fall in torrents. The Lord looked down and saw Noah sitting in his yard, weeping, and there was no ark.

"Noah!" shouted the Lord, "where is my ark?" A lightning bolt crashed into the ground right beside Noah.

"Lord, please forgive me!" begged Noah. "I did my best, but there were some big problems. First, I had to get a building permit for the ark's construction, but your plans did not meet their code. So, I had to hire an engineer to redo the plans, only to get into a long argument with him about whether to include a sprinkler system."



"My neighbours objected, claiming that I was violating zoning ordinances by building the ark in my front yard, so I had to get a variance from the city planning board."

"Then, I had a big problem getting enough wood for the ark, because there was a ban on cutting trees to save the spotted owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists and the US Fish and Wildlife Service that I needed the wood to save the owls, but they wouldn't let me catch them, so no owls."



The Bowls Section started in September and has again proved popular.

From all at the Men's Club, have a merry Christmas and a healthy New Year.

*John McLean*

President

The following ten statements are long-winded versions of great proverbs. Can you tell what they are?

1. Fix something right away or it will get worse.
2. An over-abundance of culinary help is detrimental to the pot's contents.
3. Just because something is shiny, doesn't mean it's a precious metal.
4. That which pleases the eye doesn't go beyond the epidermis.
5. The capital of Italy was constructed over a long period of time.
6. There comes a time when your canine friend is through studying.
7. If you're going to give advice to others, be sure you follow it yourself.
8. Just because you aren't punctual doesn't mean you should quit.
9. If you never try to do anything, you'll never get anything done.
10. It doesn't take long for a person without good sense to be separated from his financial assets!

Answers on page 19

## When God was born

*He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him – John 1:11*

God appeared one night; the world slept on.  
Infant flesh disguised the Holy One,  
announced by angels singing in the sky,  
'Peace on earth and praise to God on high'  
but who turned up?



Shepherds came, star-gazers from the east,  
outcasts, prophets, sinners, lost and least.  
Kings and lawyers saw Him as a threat,  
Creator, Saviour, Prince of Peace and yet  
persecuted, made a refugee,  
condemned to death from birth and forced to flee.

Wonder at the welcome Christ extends:  
He heals, forgives, restores, makes us His  
friends.

As we recall and celebrate His birth  
how are we to live His life on earth?

*By Helen Brocklehurst*



From Parish Pump

When I told my children the story of how the Wise Men brought  
gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh for the infant Jesus, my six-  
year-old daughter was not impressed.

"Mum, a Wise Woman would have brought nappies."



She liked tae look at the toys now and then  
though her grand weans were all grown wummen and  
men.

She saw Jeannie's face all squashed up tae the glass  
and she thocht in her heart, 'Och, the puir little lass  
she shouldnae be out in the streets all alane  
wi' hardly a stitch tae keep out the rain.'



Then Sadie she thocht of anither wee child,  
the one that they said was so meek and mild;  
a bairn so good, so true and so kind .  
thinking of Him Sadie made up her mind.

The shopkeeper lifted the fairy away  
and Jeannie's wee face was filled with dismay.  
but before her eyes could shed even a tear  
she heard, 'Here's a wee present for you, my dear,'



An auld wifie smiled as she gave her the doll.  
Wee Jeannie could hardly believe it at all.  
She'd treasure it dearly, this moment for ever,  
a real Christmas feeling, a gift from a giver.



Submitted by I. Harvie

## Answer?

Politician to aide: "About their charge that  
I'm indecisive – do you think I should  
answer it, or let it go, or answer it in part, or  
what?"



## A Christmas Samaritan: A Festive tale in verse by Alex Gray

(Originally published in Life and Work magazine)

It wis Christmas week and the shops were thrang  
wi' folk buyin' gifts the whole day lang.  
The toy shop wis doin' a richt roarin' trade  
and the gaffer wis pleased at the profit he'd made!



Wee Jeannie stood out in the cold and the rain,  
her nose right up tae the shop's window pane,  
and she gazed at the toys so new and so bright  
at every conceivable thing to delight.



There were robots and Lego and cuddly toys,  
dollies for girls and pop guns for boys,  
dart boards, train sets, remote-controlled cars,  
footballs, Meccano and monsters from Mars.

But wee Jeannie sighed at the best of them all:  
all shiny and tinselly - a real fairy doll.  
Aye, Jeannie might sigh for a dolly like yon  
There'd be nae presents for her on Christmas morn.



WI' her dad in the jyle and six others the feed  
Jeannie's maw wis hard pit tae afford jam and breid.  
Her washed-out wee frock was all shades of greys  
and her hand-me-down shoes had seen better days.

A man and a wumman breenged intae the store  
they'd bought plenty already but still wanted more.  
Stocking fillers and trinkets and all sorts of stuff.  
If their weans didnae get them they'd go in the huff.

A Sunday school teacher was next in the shop;  
She didn't see Jeannie - she'd nae time tae stop.  
A long list of names she held in her hand  
of the children whose grand Christmas party she'd  
planned.  
Then out of the gloom came auld Sadie Brown,  
An old widow wumman, shopping in town.



## Definitions

A chicken crossing the road: poultry in motion.

If you don't pay your exorcist you can get repossessed.

With her marriage she got a new name and a dress.

Show me a piano falling down a mine shaft and I'll show you  
A-flat miner.

When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.

The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine was fully  
recovered.

A grenade fell onto a kitchen floor in France, resulted in  
Linoleum Blownapart.

You are stuck with your debt if you can't budge it.

Local Area Network in Australia: The LAN down under.

He broke into song because he couldn't find the key.

A calendar's days are numbered.

A lot of money is tainted: 'Taint yours, and 'taint mine.

A boiled egg is hard to beat.

He had a photographic memory which was never developed.

A plateau is a high form of flattery.

Those who get too big for their britches will be exposed in the  
end.

When you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.

If you jump off a Paris bridge, you are in Seine.

When she saw her first strands of grey hair, she thought she'd  
dye.

Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead to know basis.

Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

Acupuncture: a jab well done.



The Scottish Bible Society has, since 1809, sought to put the Bible into people's hands and hearts. It works so that all people can have the Bible in a language they understand, a form they can access and at an affordable price, to aid genuine encounters with God.



The Scottish Bible Society is a founder member of the United Bible Societies- 146 Bible Societies at work in some 200 countries worldwide.

The Society distributes Bibles, New Testaments and other scripture-based materials, in a range of media, in Scotland and throughout the world. Our network includes local Action Groups, church representatives and speakers, all helping to spread the Word of God and finance the distribution of the Scriptures at home and overseas.

The **Motherwell Action Group** comprises 6 local churches and organises 2 main annual fundraising events



Our recent annual sponsored "Walk for the Word" round the Strathclyde Park in September was a great success and raised £1451 for Bible Society work in Laos & Cambodia supporting Christians under persecution.

Our next main fundraising event, our annual concert, will take place on Saturday 1st February 2020 in Crosshill Church, Airbles Street, Motherwell at 7pm, when the musical entertainment will be provided by "Studio 32". Tickets are priced £6 and include refreshments.

## 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>
Darren Johnstone	37	14/08/2019
Cathie Lawson	88	01/09/2019
Catherine Paterson	86	08/09/2019
Jim Sweeney	82	11/10/2019

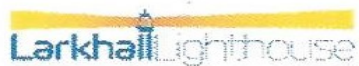


## Why not war?



The history teacher was trying to impress upon her class the advantages of peace and disarmament. "How many of you boys object to war?" she asked. Up went several hands. "And why is that, Charles?" she went on.

"Because wars make history," Charles responded soberly.



We called the joint churches initiative the Lighthouse, because the light of Jesus shines into the dark places and brings hope and new life.

It's warm and friendly and we would be so pleased if you had time to come in for a look around and maybe have a wee cup of tea with us.

You can have a look at the work of local artists we have displayed or find out about activities, events and services in the town.

Or just have a sit down and a wee chat. Look forward to seeing you. We are open Monday to Friday from 10am to 3pm.

Blessings

Nancy Barr



The concert will raise vital funds to support one of the Bible Society's current projects- **"The Bread of Life- Children at Risk" Lima, Peru.**

Tickets will be available in 2020 from Allison Murray.

Allison Murray-Motherwell Action Group

### The Sunshine in Life



There's nobody to stop you friend from dwelling in the shade  
You're free to think depressing thoughts, if that's the way you're made.  
But I suggest before you're done, forsake the shadows- find the Sun!

For every hill you've had to climb, for every stone that's bruised  
your feet  
For all the tears and sweat and grime, for blinding storms and  
burning heat  
Your heart still sings a grateful song, these were the things that made  
you strong!

### Are politicians the oldest profession?

A surgeon, an architect and a politician were arguing as to whose profession was the oldest. Said the surgeon: "Eve was made from Adam's rib, and that surely was a surgical operation."

"Maybe," admitted the architect, "but prior to that, order was created out of chaos, and that was an architectural job."

"But," the politician pointed out in triumph, "somebody had to have created the chaos first!"

On a transatlantic flight, a plane passes through a severe storm. The turbulence is awful, and things go from bad to worse when one wing is struck by lightning.



One woman loses it. Screaming, she wails, "I'm too young to die."

Then she yells, "Well, if I'm going to die, I want minutes on earth to be memorable! Is there ANYONE on this plane who can make me feel like a WOMAN?"

For a moment there is silence. Everyone has forgotten their own peril. They all stare, riveted, at the desperate woman in the front of the plane.

Then a man stands up in the rear of the plane. He is gorgeous, tall, well-built, with reddish-blond hair and hazel eyes. He starts to walk slowly up the aisle, unbuttoning his shirt. .. one button at a time.



No one moves.

He removes his shirt. Muscles ripple across his chest.

He whispers:

**"Iron this."**



From A Barrel of Fun Mark Stibble, Monarch Books

At Christmas friends come and go, but relatives tend to accumulate.

**Fiona Dryburgh** is taking the position of Volunteer Co-ordinator her starting date is early December. Fiona has previously worked for the organisation and we are very pleased to welcome her back.



Smiling is infectious  
You catch it like the flu  
When someone smiled at me today  
I started smiling too  
I walked around the corner  
And someone saw me grin  
When he smiled I realised  
I had passed it on to him  
I thought about the smile  
And then realised its worth  
A single smile like mine  
Could travel round the earth  
So if you feel a smile begin  
Don't leave it undetected  
Start an epidemic  
And get the world infected.

[www.silversurfers.com](http://www.silversurfers.com)





## Chatterbooks

For families with children aged birth to five. We read stories, do a related activity, sing songs, which all encourage early literacy, numeracy and social skills. Again, numbers attending this group are positive.

## Little Worriers

A 3 week programme for families who are concerned that their children are showing signs of being anxious or overly worried. We look at what worries are, and strategies for coping or overcoming this difficulty.

**If you know of anyone who would enjoy any of these groups, please contact Carol Hamilton at the office on 01698 305674**



## Local Fundraising

**We have received word from the Co-op Local Community Fund that we have been allocated £5280.30. This is due to the co-op members who nominated the Machan Trust as their local charity. This is a great amount and we really appreciate everyone who helped raise this fantastic sum.**

If you or anyone you know would like to donate to the Trust regularly or in one-off donations then there are several 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.

## Staffing

In October we held interviews for both vacant position of Project Manager and Volunteer Co-ordinator. We are very pleased to have filled both positions with excellent candidates.

**Carol Morrison** will join us as CEO on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Fiona brings a wealth of experience from a wide range of third sector organisations. We are extremely fortunate that a candidate of her calibre has decided to join the Machan Trust. We hope that you will all have a chance to meet Carol in the near future.

## Answers to Proverbs page 13

1. A stitch in time saves nine.
2. Too many cooks spoil the broth.
3. All that glitters is not gold.
4. Beauty is only skin deep.
5. Rome wasn't built in a day.
6. You can't teach an old dog new tricks.
7. Practice what you preach.
8. Better late than never.
9. Nothing ventured, nothing gained.
10. A fool and his money are soon parted.

Just as I began my Christmas Eve service, the electricity in the church failed. The wardens and I found some candles and placed them around the sanctuary. Then I re-entered the pulpit, shuffled my notes, and muttered, "Now, where was I?"

A hopeful voice called out, "Right near the end!"



## *Shoe Box Appeal—2019*

Many thanks to all who contributed to our annual shoe box appeal. The total number of boxes collected this year was 116 which includes 15 from Machanhill Primary School. The boxes are now being prepared for transport to Eastern Europe. Cash donations total was £384 which altogether has made this years appeal another great success. Many Thanks again

John Gilroy



# The Guild



We started the new session on October 1st. Our first speaker was Major Val Merser, who gave us a whistle stop tour of her career as a Salvation Army Officer working in the social sector of the Army.



Giving Hope Today She and her husband were stationed in various cities across England, Wales and Scotland, from London to Glasgow. In the Army's centres they dealt with alcoholism, drug addiction, the homeless and victims of domestic abuse. Her talk was both interesting and informative. This selfless and rewarding work is still going on today. Major Val and her husband John, are now enjoying a well deserved retirement.

The next meeting on October 15th was one of the Guild projects. "The Boys' Brigade" Faith in Young People.



The **>the adventure begins here**

BB's is a volunteer organisation which provides youth work to the Christian Church. Founded by Sir William Smith in 1883, they provide a space and place where children and young people can learn, grow and discover. Through involvement with the BB, children and young people develop vital soft skills, such as confidence and resilience; they also have the opportunity to make friends, take responsibility and are encouraged to make a real difference in their communities. Importantly,

A Recruitment evening for potential volunteers on Monday September 23<sup>rd</sup> was hosted by Jen and held in St Machans session room from 6.30pm to 9pm. This was promoted through the local school, our Facebook and the local press. We gained 2 new volunteers from this event. Thank you for all who supported this event.



We have had a good response to our appeal for volunteers through Facebook and the Indeed job site. To date we have had 6 applications, all have been interviewed and have completed the relevant paperwork.

We will be hosting our annual Christmas Thank You event for volunteers, partners and staff on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December This will be held in St Machans session room from 3.30pm.

## Some interesting statistics include:

Up to the end of September we have delivered 12315 breakfasts in 2019 and we have spoken to 2029 young people at our lunch clubs. There has been 350 hours of training for volunteers up to the end of September 2019



## Children and Families:

### Celebrating Autumn

During the October School Holiday 3 family days were organised, at St. Machan's Church hall, in Stonehouse ICS and in Netherburn, community Hall. On the Tuesday at St. Machan's Church 6 adults and 18 Children enjoyed Autumn crafts, games and lunch. Although an interest had been shown in the other 2 venues, sadly no families attended.

The other events that are happening during term time for Families are:  
**Glitter & Glue**

Held in the Lighthouse on a Tuesday afternoon, this group paints, creates, does stem activities, have an after school snack and have great fun. The numbers are growing every week which is brilliant.

## Children/Youth Activities:

Below is an update the children and youth ties since the last newsletter.

### Children's work

We have seen very good attendance rates at all of our groups since coming back from the summer holidays. We continue to offer four breakfast clubs each morning, and our lunch and afterschool groups continue to thrive.

### Youth Work

We have increased our youth work hours in Larkhall Academy from 20 to 40 per week. Lee Waugh and Paige Easton carry out school attendance work, facilitate groups, offer 1-1 support and take the lead on the schools Princes Trust work.



We have signed up to 8 sessions with ORB (South Lanarkshire Outdoor Resource Base). Two of the sessions have already taken place, on the 1/11/2019 a group of 12 young people attended an orienteering day. On the 8/11/2019 a further 12 young people went to Callendar Estate, Falkirk to take part in mountain biking. The other 6 days of activities will take place at the start of 2020.

On 5 occasions between August and November in the Larkhall area, we had 2 youth workers engaging with young people on Saturday evenings through our diversionary work. We managed to divert approx. 15 young people to our weekly sports groups through this work.

### Volunteering:



## Work Ac-

highlighting  
work activi-



young people also have an opportunity to explore the Christian faith through their age-related programmes.

The new partnership with the Guild focuses on growing the BB's across Scotland, growing in faith and in community partnership/engagement. Our very own BB Captain, Mr William Gillon (Billy) came along with Warrant Officer Daniel Moore. They gave an interesting and informative presentation. With the support of the Guild, the Brigade would like to see membership increase across Scotland.

Across Scotland, the BB has 1500+ sections meeting in 390 churches- and active in almost every Church of Scotland Presbytery. In 2017, over 400 young people achieved their Queen's Badge, the Brigade's highest youth award and in total carried out over 80,000 hours of youth volunteering in their communities.



The joint St. Andrew's Night Concert with the Men's Club, on November 4th was a great success. "Luckenbooth", a folk group, played a variety of Scottish and folk music. The sum of £445.00 was raised for Church funds.

On the 5th November we showed the Guild Annual Gathering DVD. It gave the Guild members an insight into the good work that's being done both here and abroad, through the Guild projects. We also got to sing along with the 1,000 plus Guild members who attended the gathering. It was a very uplifting evening.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Joyous Christmas and Good Health in the New Year.

Kathryn



## Experience the Joy of Advent

**'Fear not: for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.'** Luke 2:10

Advent starts on the fourth Sunday before Christmas. The word 'Advent' is from the Latin word 'adventus' meaning 'coming'. Sometimes called 'Little Lent', it's a time to prepare our hearts for the future Second Coming, as well as the birth of Christ.

We celebrate the season with advent calendars, candles and evergreen wreaths – symbolising Christ as Light of the world, bringing new and everlasting life.

Here are seven simple tips to help you experience and share the joy of Advent!



1. **Connect with your inner child:** Think back to the time when you were a child, on the simple things that made you happy at Christmas. Focus only on the good and feel the joy of Christmas come flooding back!
2. **Keep it simple:** This year, go for gifts and cards that share the meaning of the season, shop early and stay within your budget.
3. **Be people focused:** Remember the story of Mary and Martha – keep meals simple and allow yourself time and space to focus on enjoying the company of your guests.
4. **Make Room for Jesus:** Take some time at the beginning of each day to read your Bible, meditate on Scripture and pray. Focus on giving thanks to God for His gift of Christ to the world and for all He has done for us.
5. **Me Time:** God wants us to prosper in body, soul and spirit,

so try to eat healthy, don't overindulge, take time for long walks and enjoy the good and simple things in life!

6. **Wear a smile and share the Joy!** Finally, being joyful is a choice, it's not about your circumstances. So, decide to be thankful this season. Wear a smile, act and talk positively, do small things with great love, be on the lookout for opportunities to do good to people. Give to the homeless, visit the sick, or take gifts to lonely neighbours.

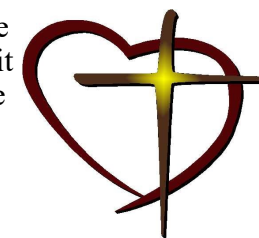


If people ask you about your joy, don't be afraid to share your faith. Simply explain to them that

**'Christ lives in my heart, and He can live in yours too.'**

From Parish Pump

Let us remember that the Christmas heart is a giving heart, a wide-open heart that thinks of others first. The birth of the baby Jesus stands as the most significant event in all history, because it has meant the pouring into a sick world of the healing medicine of love which has transformed all manner of hearts for almost 2000 years....Underneath all the bulging bundles is this beating Christmas heart.



*Helen Keller*