

EKO

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



JANUARY 2026

EDITION 644

CHURCH CALENDAR



JANUARY 2026

Sunday 4th	New Year Service	11am
Sunday 11th	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 18th	Morning Worship	11am
Sunday 25th	Morning Worship	11am

FEBRUARY

Sunday 1st	Morning Worship	11am
------------	-----------------	------



FLOWER CALENDAR

All the flowers for January will be provided through the Flower Fund.

If you would like to dedicated the flowers on someone's behalf or in memory of someone, please contact Elizabeth Robertson on: 01355 243205.



PASTORAL LETTER



In 1922 Howard Carter was completing nearly fifteen years of digging in the famous Valley of the Kings in Egypt. He was hoping to find the royal tomb of Pharaoh Tutankhamen. Having found nothing, his days of digging were coming to an end. Money was running out. Then workers discovered sixteen stairs leading into the earth. Thousands of baskets filled with rocks and sand had to be carried away, but eventually a door was found at the end of a long passageway. Carter drilled a small hole in the door and stuck an iron-testing rod into a dark, blank space. He then inserted a candle into the hole and peered in. As his eyes grew accustomed to the light, details emerged into his view, and he saw strange animals, statues, and everywhere the glint of gold. He wrote of that moment, "For the moment, I was struck dumb with amazement." A partner asked, "Can you see anything?" And Howard Carter's reply was, "Yes, wonderful things."

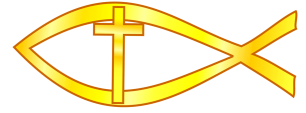
As we begin another New Year, what do you see as you stand at the door and peer in. Do you see wonderful things? Sometimes New Year is a time for reflection and pondering on how the landscape has changed since last New Year, but I'm going to suggest that whatever circumstances we find ourselves in, we can all peer into this New Year and see wonderful things. We are children of God, loved by him so much that he sent his son Jesus to die for us. We are wonderful human beings, so we all deserve wonderful things in this New Year. I hope and pray that you find them.

I wish you all and happy and blessed New Year.

Anne Paton



KIRK LIFE



The team would like to thank everyone for their support during the past year. Your attendance at the various events and your donation of raffle prizes has been very much appreciated.

Unfortunately, due to catering issues and a slow response to the ordering of tickets for the Burns Supper, we have now cancelled the Burns Supper proposed for 14th February.

Best wishes. *Catherine Selfridge*—on behalf of the Kirk Life Team

COMMUNITY LINK



The wonderful sum of £500 was raised for Women's Aid and this was donated to them in the form of Vouchers for Aldis and Home Bargains. They were very gratefully received and once again The Old Parish came up trumps.

Many, many thanks

Norma Penman & Diana Ramsay Community Link.

CRAFT GROUP

We look forward to returning to the lounge weekly on Wednesdays from 10am until noon. You are welcome to join us from January 7th 2026.

Jill Cowan



WORLD LEPROSY DAY

WORLD LEPROSY DAY – 25th January 2026

The Leprosy Mission Great Britain observes World Leprosy Day on the last Sunday in January, which will be January 25th. That will be the theme of our service that morning. Hopefully, gift envelopes will be available with this edition of EKO, but if not, please simply use an ordinary envelope, mark it “Leprosy Mission”, and bring it to a Church service any time from 25th January till the end of February. Donations can also be made by card at the Church’s front door, or direct to the Treasurer, Des Laverty. Contact Des on 07402192610 for details.

The actual World Leprosy Day is January 30th, the anniversary of the death of Mahatma Gandhi, who did much work with leprosy affected people, including the time before there was any cure.

Today the purpose of the Day is three-fold:-

***Raise Awareness.** To educate the public that leprosy is a curable disease and not a curse from God.

***Combat stigma.** To fight discrimination and promote the dignity and rights of people affected by leprosy.

***Promote action.** To encourage global unity in the fight to end leprosy and its related disabilities.

In the Old Parish, we have been very generous in our support of this vital work, inspired by the example of Jesus himself. (Mark 1:40-45)(Luke 17:11-19). Great strides have been made globally, since leprosy itself is now completely curable. But problems remain, and the need for continued support is still real, particularly in the care and cure of children affected by leprosy. We are invited once again to support the work of the Leprosy Mission, both in our giving and in our under-

standing and our prayers. *Stewart Smith*



THE PRAYER GROUP

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

There are Prayer request boxes in the Church Sanctuary - one upstairs at the east side and one downstairs next to the Baptismal Font. Rest assured all Prayer requests will be treated with the utmost respect and discretion. Only first names should be given along with a brief reason for the request, i.e. awaiting treatment, etc.

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

JANUARY

- 1st. I pray for Your blessings over this New Year's Day. May it be filled with joy, as we look forward to the days ahead, and with gratitude for those that have passed.
- 2nd. Thank you so much for the gift of life and for allowing us to see another day. Bless this day with strength to face whatever challenges appear before us.
- 3rd. Heavenly Father, thank You for allowing me to see a brand-new weekend. Today, I surrender my worries, my plans, and my heart into Your loving hands.
- 4th. Lord, as we step into this new year, we thank you for Your faithfulness. We surrender our worries, loved ones. And uncertainties to You, trusting that Your plans are greater than ours.
- 5th. Lord, in all we do, may it be according to Your guidance and accompanied by your strength.
- 6th. God, please grant me wisdom this year. Help me discern where You are leading and what opportunities you have placed in front of me.
- 7th. Father God, guide my steps as I seek to shine Your light wherever I go.
- 8th. Heavenly Father, you have blessed my life, even when my faith was lacking. I pray that this month will be a month of renewal and growth in my life. Lord, continue to build my faith and trust in you.
- 9th. Thank you, Lord, for the knowledge that I am never alone. You are always with me.
- 10th. Lord, continue to guide me throughout this month and to always think of others before myself.
- 11th. Thank you, Lord, for this new day. Prepare me to face any challenges I may encounter.

12th.You, Father, are my only lifeline.

13th.Today, Lord, I put my life in your hands.

14th.I keep my eyes on you, Lord, with you at my right hand, I will not be shaken.

15th.Thank you for holding my hopes, longings and prayers with such gentle care, Lord.

16th.Rescue me, Father, from all who are wicked and deceitful.

17th.Forgive me for rejecting what you say is good in my frantic pursuit of something I think is better.

18th.Lord, remind me that I cannot buy my way into your favour. Help me to understand that I cannot reach you by taking shortcuts through darkness.

19th.Thank you for holding my hopes, longings, and prayers with such great care.

20th.Forgive me, Father, for trying to manipulate circumstances to accomplish my will rather than yours.

21st.Father, help me to let go of all the trivia in my life, and to follow you.

22nd.May I live every day in the awareness that I have everything I need to accomplish whatever you want me to do.

23rd.Father, do not let me face another day focused on regret.

24th.Father, forgive me for thinking of life as a commodity I can give or take in trade for something I would rather have.

25th.Light the fire of love inside of me, Lord, and give me the grace to keep it burning.

26th.Lord, grant me the ability to be a light for others.

27th.Forgive me, Father, for choosing to destroy with words or deeds the good you have chosen to create.

28th.Father, help me to see each person's value through your eyes, not my own.

29th.Lord, be with everyone who is oppressed, unrepresented or unheard.

30th.Father, I have been slow to learn that you are more interested in the "why" of my behaviour than the "what." Help me to focus and acknowledge my weakness.

31st.Lord, be with all who are forgotten, old, and die alone from lack of love.

FEBRUARY/ over



FEBRUARY

1st. Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me.

2nd. Father, grant me purpose to go forward, and to respond to opportunities to love and serve.

3rd. May I look to the Heavens Lord, as a reminder that your love surrounds the whole earth.

4th. Today, Lord, I pray for all who care and give their lives to those who are homeless.

5th. You are my star, Lord, I do not always see You, but I know that you are there.

6th. Lord, lead us, guide us, strengthen us, and protect us as we go through each day.

THE GUILD



The Guild will begin the second half of the winter syllabus on Wednesday 14th January at 2pm in the Glebe Street Hall, when the Guest Speaker will be our Minister, the Rev Anne Paton.

A fortnight later on Wednesday 28th January our Guest Speaker will be Richard Kerr, who will tell us about his life as a Paramedic.

Ladies and gentlemen are invited to come on any day when the topic interests them, and new members will be warmly welcomed to our happy fellowship.

Mary Smith

MEN'S ASSOCIATION



The Men's Association meets for the first time in the New Year on Monday 5th January at 2pm in the Glebe Street Hall. Our Speaker that day will be our President, Mr Jim Ballantyne.

Two weeks later, on Monday 19th January, our Guest Speaker will be Mr Malcolm McIntyre, whose address is entitled "From My Travels". We look forward to hearing from both our Speakers, and to welcoming new members or anyone interested – both gents and ladies – to any of our gatherings.

The Carpet Bowling club resumes on Monday 12th January, also in the Glebe Street Hall, at 2pm. Stewart Smith

17TH EK GUIDING UNITS



Over the months of Nov and Dec the girls have been extremely busy doing what we can to support our community.

On the 29th Nov the Rainbows and Brownies sang at the Christmas Fayre. I know I am a little biased but they were magic. We thank Elspeth Shearer for working with us and making them sound fab. We had to leave the Fayre at 12.00 to whisk the girls away to panto. This year it was The Wizard of Oz by EK Rep and it was wonderful.

Sat 6th Dec it was our pleasure to sing to the residents at McKillop Gardens. This is an annual event and the girls made cards for the Residents and staff. We also gifted some hyacinth bulbs, the girls planted at the beginning of Nov.

Sun 7th Dec, all our units Rainbows, Brownies and Guides had a cinema trip to see Zootropolis 2. It was special Girlguiding viewing at 9.15am so early start for us all but so worth it and the girls loved the badges to mark this event.

Tues 9th Dec - our Rainbow and Brownie Christingle Service. It was wonderful to see so many families on the night as the weather was wild, high winds and rain. It was a lovely service and six Rainbows and two Brownies made their promise, very special. The girls sang two items they had prepared for the fayre just adding a little special extra sparkle to the night.

Tues 16th Dec - it was party night for the Rainbows and Brownies. The Guides had a pizza party the week before. The girls and leaders had a great night with music, fun and games. We are now having a break before we start everything new in 2026.

We would like to thank all our church family for your continued help, support and kindness over 2025. We wish you all health and happiness in 2026.

Please keep all our girls and leaders in your thoughts and prayers best wishes

from 17th EK Guiding Leadership Team, Jennifer, Caroline, Olivia, Claire, Emma, Liz, Lorraine, Ella, Pamela, Louise, Lynne, Gemma, Mirren, Michele & Christine







WORLD NEWS

CARACUS

Cardinal Baltazar Enrique Porras Cardozo, the former Archbishop of Caracas and one of the most prominent figures in the Venezuelan Catholic Church, was prevented from leaving Venezuela for Bogotá, Colombia, on 10 December.

From Bogotá, Cardinal Porras Cardozo was due to fly to Madrid, Spain, and onto Toledo to participate in a ceremony in which he would be appointed the role of Spiritual Protector in the Order of Saint Lazarus in Venezuela. Cardinal Porras Cardozo was accompanied by the Grand Prior of the Order, José Antonio Rodríguez, and his wife, who were permitted to board the plane, however the cardinal himself was prevented from boarding by officials who threatened to arrest him if he insisted on travelling abroad.

NIGERIA (KOGI State)

Thirteen people are now known to have been abducted by armed assailants from the First Evangelical Church Winning All (ECWA) in Aiyetoro Kiri, Kabba-Bunu Local Government Area (LGA) in the Kogi West Senatorial District on 14 December.

The attackers reportedly opened fire as they entered the community, before disrupting the Sunday service with gunshots and abducting the worshippers.

BURMA/MAYANMAR

The Military Council in Myanmar's Kachin State has [reportedly](#) ordered all Christian churches in townships designated for the country's 28 December elections, including Myitkyina, Putao and Tanai, to hold their Christmas celebrations before 20 December to avoid conflict with the elections.

Churches in the state, which has been subject to a blanket internet blackout for over a year, are reportedly complying out of fear, as local sources including a former ward administrator have [warned](#) that celebrating after the deadline could result in arrests under charges of 'disobeying government orders' or 'rebellion'.

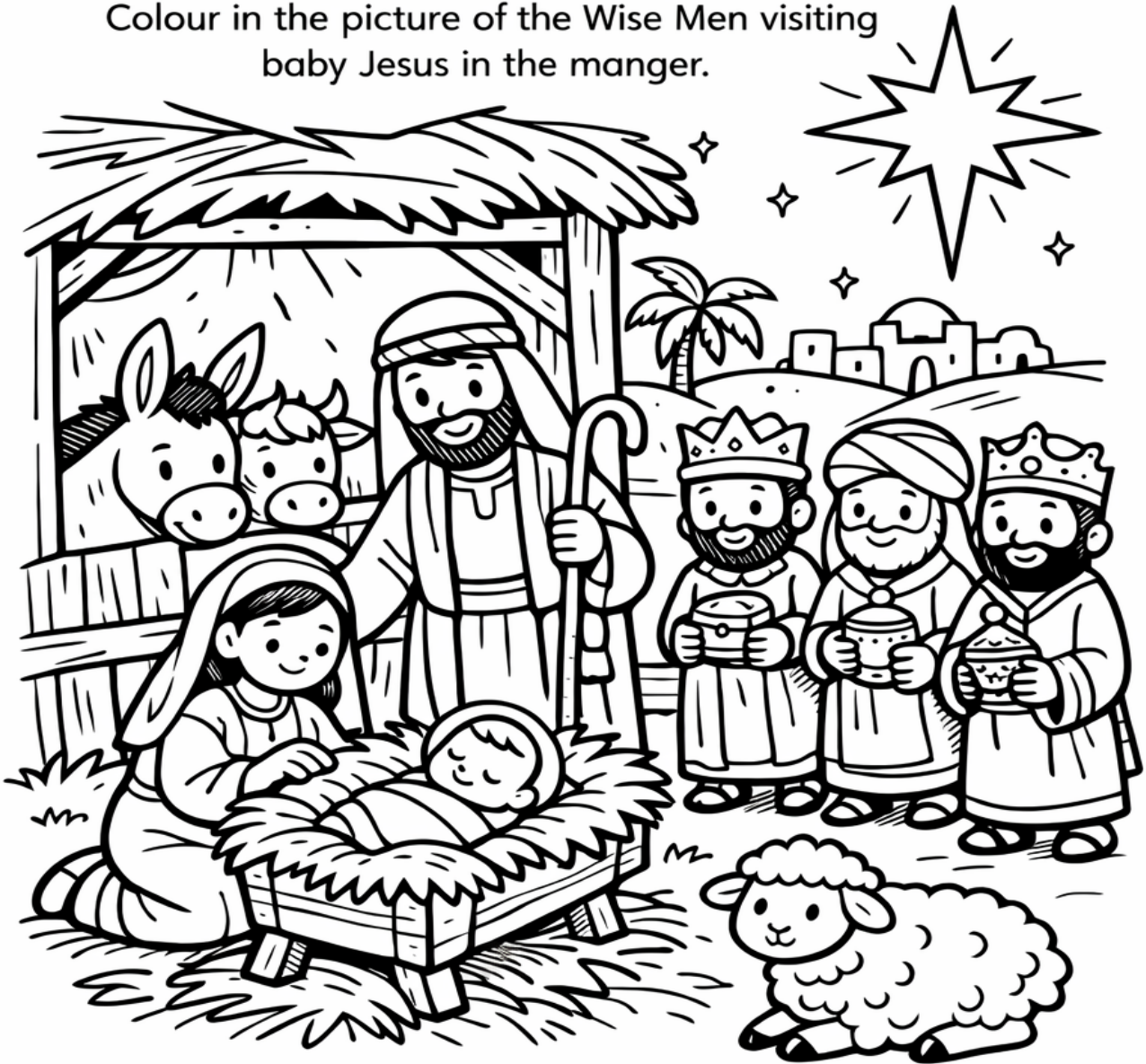
Editor



CHRISTIAN
SOLIDARITY
WORLDWIDE
VOICE FOR THE VOICELESS

The Three Wise Men

Colour in the picture of the Wise Men visiting baby Jesus in the manger.



PASTORAL REGISTER

Deaths “I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”

Rena Silvers

Flora Broderick

Josephine Campbell

Marion Carnachan



EKO SUBMISSIONS

The dates for submission of material for the February EKO are: for hand/type-written copy **Sunday 18th January** and the deadline for submitting electronic copy is:- **Wednesday 21st January**

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

or, davidkent28@virginmedia.com



EAST KILBRIDE OLD PARISH CHURCH

In case of illness and bereavement, would the family please contact the minister immediately and directly.

Rev. Anne Paton will be available for consultation in the vestry after Sunday morning worship. Please arrange such consultation with the door duty team.

East Kilbride Old Parish Church, Church of Scotland, Scottish Charity—SC000609

Minister	Rev. Anne Paton BA BD 40 Maxwell Drive. G74 4HJ E-mail address: apaton@churchofscotland.org.uk	Tel. 01355 220732 Mobile 07912295940
Pastoral Assistants:	Rev. Stewart Smith MA BD and Miss Sheena Bell	
Youth & Families Worker	Position Vacant at present	
Session Clerk	Alistair Walker	
Treasurer	Des Laverty	
Roll Keeper	Robert Cossar	
Gift Aid	Des Laverty	
Church Secretary	Janet Boyce (Hall Letting) Church Halls, 3—5 Montgomery St. Tel. 279004 Glebe Street Hall	
Church Office	E-mail Address: ekopc.office@btconnect.com	
Organist	Colin Thomas	
Communications Convenor	Angela Thomas	
Magazine Editor	David Kent davidkent28@virginmedia.com	07890 262267

E-mail copies of January's EKO magazine are available from:-
ekopcmagazine@gmail.com

Visit the East Kilbride Old Parish Church Website at: www.ekopc.org.uk
OR Facebook page: www.facebook.com/EKOLDPC