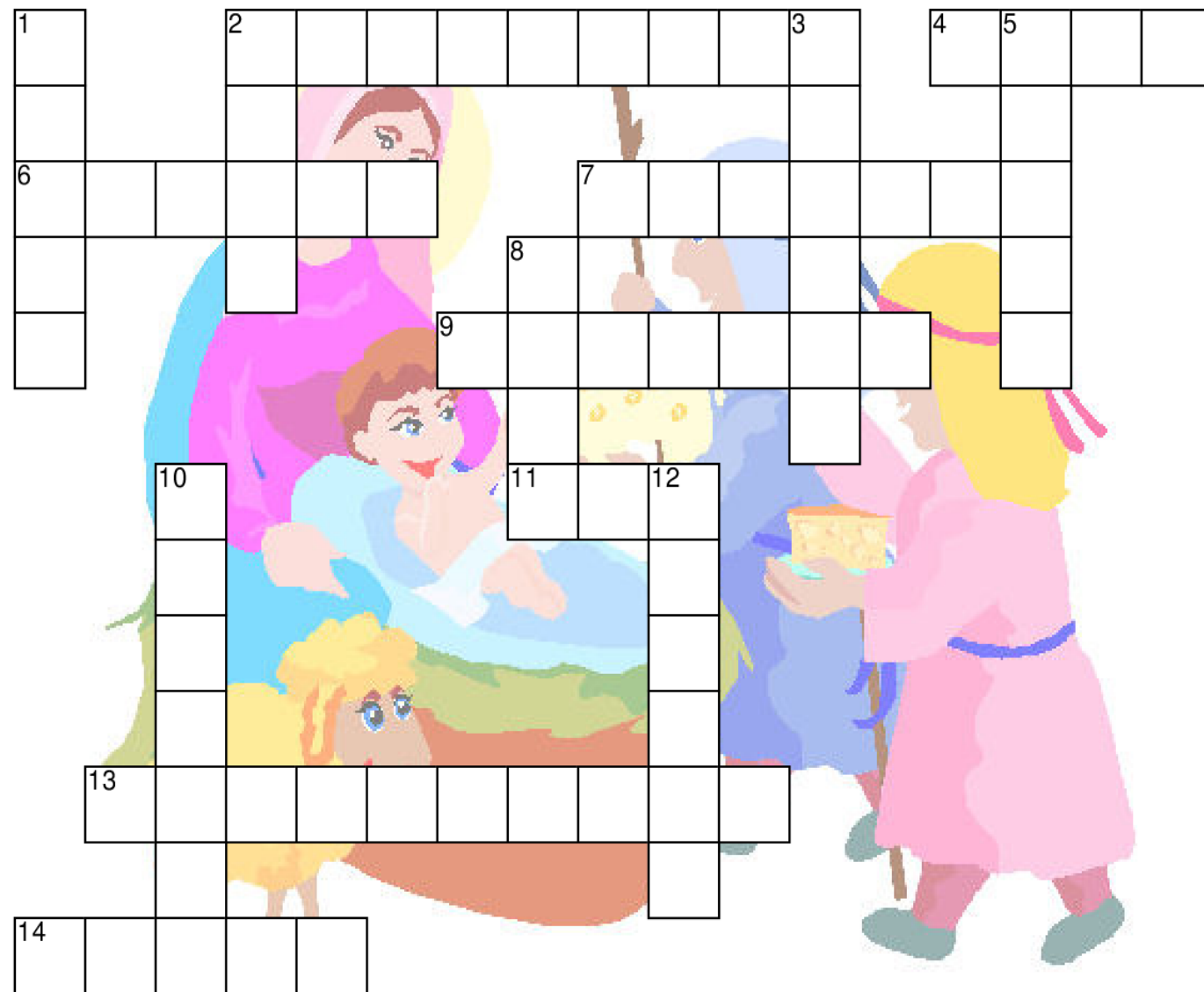


Christmas Nativity



Across

2. The town where Baby Jesus was born.
4. Jesus mother's name.
6. The inn-keeper told Mary that she could stay in the _____ with the animals.
7. There was a _____ star that lead the wise men to Baby Jesus.
9. _____ brought Jesus gifts and travelled far.
11. Baby Jesus was also the son of _____.
13. The wise men _____ baby Jesus.
14. The manger was filled with _____ to make it comfortable for baby Jesus.

Down

1. Mary was told by the angel to call the baby _____.
2. An angel told Mary that she would have a very special _____.
3. Jesus lay in a _____.
5. An _____ told the Shepherds about Jesus birth.
8. Jesus was also known as the newborn _____.
10. Jesus would be our _____.
12. Mary rode on a _____ to find a place to stay.

Merry
Christmas



Christmas Letter from the Manse

With Christmas rapidly approaching, our minds turn from the season of remembrance to the season of joy and celebration. It is a fun time for most people, despite the rush to buy presents, the worry of Christmas planning and the thought of squeezing in all the various commitments in time for the 25th December. Some people openly declare that they don't like Christmas or they don't "do" Christmas. Some even prefer to jet-off to sunnier climates and ignore the whole event. Perhaps for a few, their reason for so doing is not because they have secular objections, or because they are like the character of Scrooge in his novel A Christmas Carol but because Christmas has *grown arms and legs*...

The origin of Christmas was the Roman Catholic Mass of Christ. It was one day to mark the birth of our Saviour. Now it appears that planning for Christmas begins before bonfire night and Halloween – at least in the shops. It is a strange sight to see decorative snow-scenes with carollers outside ancient churches practically in the same aisle as witches masks and pumpkins but that is the strange world in which we live.

Others complain that Christmas has become over-sentimental and that Santa has stolen the show. I'm not so pessimistic. Yes, there's a great deal of slushy sentiment that gets attached to Christmas but most nurseries and schools give more than a nod to the fact that it is about Jesus' birth and how that brings hope to the world.

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Peace at Christmas

I suspect that what we disparagingly call secular society has a greater understanding of Christmas than what we sometimes think. We can get glimpses of that in the generosity of people when they contribute to a Christmas appeal. I'm sure it's the Saviour, not Santa, who turns people's minds away from themselves at this special time of the year.

I even think that there is a place for sentiment at Christmas, if it doesn't get in the way of the story itself. When Joseph headed back to his home town of Bethlehem to register to pay his taxes, I think he may have been a bit sentimental about the matter. As he and Mary made the journey he may have pondered, "Is Bethlehem still the place I remember from way back? Has it changed in any way? Is that old synagogue still standing?" Did he think to himself, "I remember when I used to run around those streets as a boy! Or perhaps he longed for it to stay just the same as he always remembered, while fearing that it may have changed."

So, don't become too despondent, if you have joined the ranks of those who find Christmas more than a little problematic. Look for the special joys that suddenly come when you least expect them. Hold on to them as a treasure and as a gift from God's Holy Spirit. Christmas will not leave you unmoved or unchanged if like Mary, you ponder the wonder of the story and allow it to bless your soul.

A blessed Christmas to you and to your loved-ones.

Andrew Donald.

Glory to God in the highest
and on Earth Peace
Good-will toward men



Peace at Christmas

Treasurer's Report

This being the final magazine of 2016, I would just like to take this opportunity to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Thank you to all the loyal "givers" for your offerings during 2016 and to all those who have responded to various appeals during the year.

Our Easyfundraising initiative has managed to raise over £165 for the Church. This initiative is wonderful as it is absolutely free to us and our supporters. It is a very quick and simple way to raise funds. Our cause is registered for free donations when shopping online. There are over 2,700 online retailers available including Amazon, John Lewis, M&S, Argos, Asda, Tesco, eBay, Ticketmaster, Expedia and many more. All you have to do is buy online. For further information please take a look at our Easyfundraising section on the website or contact the Church Office on 01592 204635.

John Horn, Treasurer

Pastoral Care Team

There is a small but dedicated number of ladies who give service to the church family as pastoral care team visitors. At the moment two of these ladies are free to be assigned to someone who is housebound or in a care home and who would appreciate a church visitor. Please supply name, address and telephone number (if possible) of anyone known to you who falls into this category and every effort will be made to make them feel part of the church family. These visitors give a minimum of a visit once per month. Information to me, please, Margaret Horn, pastoral care co-ordinator.



WE HAVE A NEED YOU MAY BE THE SOLUTION!



VOLUNTEER

Either a regular one day a week commitment (Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday or Friday) or on an ad hoc basis, Café St Clair needs volunteers to serve in its pleasant surroundings. Approximate timings are 11.30am till 2.00pm. Church membership or attendance is not a requirement so please show this to any of your friends who may have sometime to spare. To offer your services or to make further enquiries please contact our CHURCH OFFICE at 01592 204635.



Family Register

Deaths: Jesus said, 'Because I live, you will live also'

Mrs Ella Taylor,
Balgillie, Glenrothes8 August 2016 ,



Brownies

On a cold Friday night in November 20 Brownies, dressed as characters from Roald Dahl books met together for a sleepover. They were working on a Roald Dahl Challenge and the activities included making chocolate truffles, decorating "sprinkles" cakes, and making fox masks and dreamcatchers. Activities over, everyone settled down in their sleeping bags to watch the new BFG film (Big Friendly Giant). Sleep didn't actually come until well after midnight and for some girls it was much later. As you might imagine it was an early start on Saturday morning at about 6.30 am. After breakfast and all the tidying up everyone went home, thankfully for some of us, to a quieter place! I think there might have been some early bedtimes on Saturday night – for Guiders as well as children.



Peace at
Christmas



Flowers

The Flower Team wish to thank all who give donations for flowers which beautify the church each Sunday. The flowers are greatly appreciated by those who receive them.	
September 2016	
4th.	Mr. & Mrs. J. Glencross Mrs. M. Baillie Mrs. A. Leitch
11th.	Mrs. M. Brown
18th.	Mrs. A. Mitchell
25th.	Harvest
October 2016	
2nd.	Mr. & Mrs. J. Horn
9th.	Mr. & Mrs. Conde
16th.	Mrs. J. Page
23rd.	Flower Box
30th.	Mr. & Mrs. E. Cockburn
November 2016	
6th.	Flower Box
13th.	Flower Box
20th.	Mr. D. Todd, Guild
27th.	Mrs. T. Collins

Thank you to all the ladies who arrange the flowers each week and to all who deliver them.

Peace at
Christmas



Family Social Committee

New Year Ball - Saturday, 7 January, 2017

Adults - £18; Youths - £9; Children - £5

Tickets available early December

Names please with £10 deposit (where applicable) to
Anne Scott, Treasurer, FSC as soon as possible.

Saturday Coffee Morning

Our last Coffee Morning for 2016 will be on Saturday 26 November. The teams thank everyone for their support and look forward to seeing them all in the new year on Saturday 14th January. Hope you can join us then.



Messy Church

On a Sunday afternoon once a month over the past year, children, their parents and grandparents have joined together at Pathhead for Messy Church.

We start with a time of hands-on craftwork, connected to the day's Biblical theme, and children and their parents or grandparents are encouraged to take part in them. Recently we have looked at Daniel and how God kept him safe in the Lion's den, and the Valley of the Dry bones - a bit more challenging but fun.

Peace at Christmas

Guild

A warm welcome awaits anyone who wishes to be a Guild member (male or female). So far, thanks to the speaker's secretary, Isabelle Povey, the first half of the guild year has had a good proportion of very interesting talks from people in all walks of life. The session started, as usual, in the form of a fun night – a beetle drive which tested the prowess of the members as artists (aye, right!). The dedication service, conducted by Rev Andrew Donald, concentrated on the necessity for and the power of prayer, delivered in a very personal and thoughtful way and was enjoyed by everyone.

Speakers have ranged from Dr James More, rector of Balwearie High School who took us on a whistle-stop tour around the solar system, to Martin Collins from the Civil Recovery Service and our own Hugh McKenzie giving insight into the work of the Foodbank. We have been entertained by the Gilbert and Sullivan Concert Party and, of course, our own birthday party.

2017 promises to be equally interesting. Without giving too much away – think Cinemas, Barra, Second-hand Furniture, KAOS, Dunfermline Abbey, Crinan Canal. Interested? We resume on January 9th and meet fortnightly in the St Clair Lounge at 7.30 pm on Monday evenings. Hope to see you in 2017.



Peace at Christmas



Christmas Season at Pathhead

Sunday, 4th December 2016

11.00 a.m. UNICEF JARS OF GRACE & GIFT SERVICE

Sunday, 11th December 2016

11.00 a.m. COMMUNION

2.00 p.m. MESSY CHURCH & PATHFINDERS PARTY

Sunday, 18th December 2016

11.00 a.m. PATHFINDERS NATIVITY

Saturday, 24th December 2016

6.30 p.m. FAMILY CHRISTINGLE SERVICE

11.30 p.m. WATCHNIGHT SERVICE

Sunday, 25th December 2016

11.00 a.m. CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE

***You are welcome to join us at any
or all of these Services***



Peace at
Christmas

News from the Guild

Oh, what a night it was
It really was such a night!

The night in question was Monday 24th October when Pathhead Guild celebrated its 120th birthday. As well as our own guild members there were guests from most other guilds in Kirkcaldy Presbytery, two past conveners, Maisie Thomson and Erika Martin, Andrew and Liz Donald, and a sizeable contingent from Lenzie Union, our guild link. (This link is among the longest lasting in the Church of Scotland). Another guest was past national president Linda Young, who presented long service certificates to the following members;

Margaret Glencross
Chris Robertson
Tracey Ann Graham
Elaine Brown

20 + years

Rina MacDonald
Isabel Sharp
Heather Summers

30 + years

Katie Samson
Nan Dick
Emma Brown
Anne Scott
Sheila Westwater

40 + years



Peace at
Christmas

News from the Guild

Ann Mitchell
Lizbeth Winter
Chrissie Hunter

50 + years

The celebration cake was cut by Chrissie Hunter, our oldest member, ably assisted by Tracey-Ann Graham, our youngest member.

Entertainment was provided by Raith Probus Club Band, in which Gordon Suttie, a church and board member, plays accordion and our grateful thanks to Gordon for arranging this. A selection of music for ceilidh dancing and community singing made the whole evening go with a swing, as did the funny stories and jokes told by Willie Stewart obviously the wag of the band and its leader. And all this as a favour to our guild. All in all, it was a night to lift the spirits, such was the feeling of goodwill and fellowship. Thanks to all who contributed to its success.

