

# The Kirk Window

**Knockando, Elchies and Archiestown  
Linked with Rothes**



## Merry Christmas



**December 2023**

Knockando Elchies & Archiestown Parish Church of Scotland. Scottish Charity No: SC014428

Rothes Parish Church of Scotland. Scottish Charity No: SC016116

Church Website: [rothesandknockandochurches.org](http://rothesandknockandochurches.org)

Dear Friends,



The first Sunday of Advent officially begins the Church year and the start of the Christmas season. However, even without the season of Advent we would have known that Christmas is coming because apparently, 'the Christmas countdown began on November the 9th with the release of the annual (and highly anticipated) Christmas advert from John Lewis. This year that advert is about young Teddy who grows what he thinks will be a Christmas tree, which turns out to be a 'Snapper' a Venus Flytrap, a dangerous plant with a benign heart in the ad. All the stores have their adverts and Kevin the carrot in the Aldi ad has been on the go for many years now. This year it begins with the coming of 'William Conker' and after going through various characters from the vegetable aisle, who don't know the

meaning of Christmas, it ends with the lines, 'Only Kevin the carrot understood the true meaning of Christmas and the importance of being good. Christmas is a time when it's sweeter when you share.'



The adverts are great fun to watch and I'm not knocking what has become a grand competition between the different stores to produce a really catchy advert. But I do wonder how many folks will know more about 'Snapper', 'Kevin the carrot' and the other ads than 'the true meaning of Christmas'.

The Gospels tell us that there was no room in the inn and so Jesus was born in a stable where his first crib was a manger filled with the animals' straw. Everyone was busy doing their own thing, the inn was full, perhaps the kitchen and the dining room were going full blast, servants rushing around the tables, amid the chatter and the laughter and the noise of hearty appetites being satisfied. What was one more peasant baby born into the world?

However we are also told that some did come to wonder and worship, the shepherds and later the Wise Men from the east. Folks were given a glimpse behind the ordinary things they saw, who were given an insight beyond what their eyes could see, and their ears hear. Who felt something touch their hearts and stir their spirits so that they knew they were in the presence of something holy and wonderful.

Thankfully for many, Christmas is still a holy time. A time for looking beyond the hustle and bustle, the canned Christmas music, the tinsel, the glitter, the Santa Clauses and the presents to thrill at the greatest gift of all. A time to feel our hearts touched with the wonder of God born on earth, our spirits moved by the Spirit of the God who came to show us his love in the flesh, and whose Spirit still comes to fan into wonder and love hearts open to his coming.

The Aldi advert reminds us that, 'Christmas is a time that's sweeter when you share.' Hallelujah! Let us share the wonder of Jesus' birth with other folks because, 'that is the true meaning of Christmas.'

A Happy and Blessed Christmas to You All,

Morris & Jan.

*Humour.*

*Many years ago, long before mobile phones or telephones, a nativity play was to be performed in the church hall and a country minister went to town to get a banner for the event. Unfortunately, he forgot the measurements, so he sent his wife a telegram asking what size was needed. The telegraph clerk nearly had a fit when the reply came back. It read, 'Unto us a Child is Born—seven foot six by one foot three.'*

## The Christingle Story

Christingles are oranges with a band of red tape around the middle, decorated with dried fruit or sweets, with a candle on the top. Its history can be traced back to a Moravian bishop, Johannes de Watteville, who started the tradition in Germany in 1747 when, during an Advent service he gave each child in the congregation a small candle wrapped in a red ribbon.

This is also where the name Christingle comes from—the German 'Christkindl' means Christ child. The candle and ribbon developed into the Christingle as we know it today and became popular in Europe. It was begun in Britain at Lincoln Cathedral in 1948 and became popular in the latter years of the 20th century.

Each element of a Christingle has a special meaning that helps to tell the Christian story: the orange represents the world, the red ribbon (or tape) symbolises the love and blood of Christ, the four cocktail sticks with sweets and dried fruit represent the four corners of the earth and the fruits of God's creation, and the lit candle represents Jesus Christ, 'the Light of the world' who brings hope to people living in darkness.



As the prophet Isaiah wrote, 'The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness—on them light has shined.' Isaiah 9:2

## The Twelve Days of Christmas.

Dear Friends,

I recall reading an article which posed the question “What is Christmas all about?” We could answer by saying, “Christmas is the Church’s celebration of the birth of God’s Son, Jesus Christ.” But then how do we explain the reindeer, the tinsel, the bright lights, the Christmas trees and the Santas? Our problem is the simple fact that with so many people changing and adapting it for their own use and profit it’s easy to forget what Christmas is really about.

Maybe some words from the prophet Isaiah can help us grasp the wonder of the coming of Jesus into our world.

***For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder, and his name will be called, “Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”***

Perhaps the title Prince of Peace takes us to the heart of what Christmas is all about? What could be more peaceful than that beautiful scene of a holy night with shepherds watching and angels singing and Mary placing the baby in a manger in Bethlehem’s stable? But Christmas is much more than the remembrance of the birth of a baby long ago. Christmas is about God’s plan for peace on this earth.

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Saviour, the greatest gift of all—may hope, peace, joy and love be yours this Christmas and in the coming year.

Ann, your Interim Moderator.

What in the world do leaping lords, French hens, swimming swans and especially a partridge, who won’t come out of the pear tree, have to do with Christmas?

From 1558 until 1829 Roman Catholics were not permitted to practise their faith openly. Someone during that time wrote this carol as a catechism for young Catholics. It has two levels of meaning plus a hidden meaning only to members of the Church. Each element in the carol has a code word for a religious reality, which the children could remember.

*The partridge in the pear tree was Jesus Christ.*

*Two turtle doves, the Old and New Testaments.*

*Three French hens stood for Faith, Hope and Love.*

*Four calling birds, the four Gospels Matthew, Mark, Luke and John.*

*Five gold rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.*

*Six geese a-laying stood for six days of creation.*

*Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit—Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership and Mercy.*

*Eight maids a-milking were the eight Beatitudes.*

*Nine Ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit—Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness and Self Control.*

*Ten Lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.*

*Eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.*

*Twelve drummers drumming symbolised the twelve points of belief in the Apostles’ Creed.*

## PARISH REGISTER

### KNOCKANDO, ELCHIES AND ARCHIESTOWN AND ROTHES

#### BAPTISM

*(The promise is for you...and for your children...),*

**Luca Scott Lambert** baptised 10/09/23 in Knockando Church by Rev. M. Smith

#### NEW MEMBER BY PUBLIC PROFESSION OF FAITH

*(And you shall receive a rich welcome...)*

#### NEW MEMBERS BY CERTIFICATE AND BY RESOLUTION OF KIRK SESSION

*(And you shall receive a rich welcome...)*

#### DISJUNCTIONS

*(May God's blessing surround you each day...)*

#### MARRIAGE

*(Jesus and the disciples were invited to the wedding...)*

#### DEATHS

*(Do not grieve like the rest of mankind who have no hope...)*

**James Stephen** died 20/01/23. Ashes interred on 27/06/23 in Knockando, conducted by Rev. M. Smith

**Robert Walker** died 07/07/23. Funeral Service on 17/07/23 in Knockando, conducted by Rev. M. Smith. Interred Knockando Cemetery.

**John (Ian) Taylor** died 11/07/23. Funeral Service on 20/07/23 in Rothies, followed by the crematorium, conducted by Rev. M. Smith.

## PARISH REGISTER

### KNOCKANDO, ELCHIES AND ARCHIESTOWN AND ROTHES

#### DEATHS (continued)

*(Do not grieve like the rest of mankind who have no hope...)*

**Irene Low** died 19/07/23. Funeral Service on 28/07/23 in Rothies, conducted by Rev. M. Smith. Interred Rothies Cemetery.

**Victoria Dawes** died 08/08/23. Funeral Service on 17/08/23 in Rothies, conducted by Rev. M. Smith. Interred Rothies Cemetery.

**Douglas Milne** died 09/08/23. Funeral Service on 18/08/23 in Rothies, conducted by Rev. M. Smith. Interred Rothies Cemetery.

**Christina Duncan** died 10/08/23. Funeral Service on 21/08/23 in Knockando, conducted by Rev. M. Smith. Interred Knockando Cemetery.

**Rosie Shearer** died 04/09/23. Funeral Service on 14/09/23 in Broadley Crematorium, conducted by Rev. M. Smith.

**Alfie Teunion** died 13/09/23. Funeral Service on 21/06/23 in | Knockando followed by the crematorium, conducted by Rev. M. Smith.

**Michael Thain** died 17/09/23. Funeral service on 04/10/23 in Knockando, followed by the crematorium, conducted by Rev. M. Smith.

**Harold Stuart** died 03/10/23. Funeral service on 24/10/23 in Rothies, conducted by Rev. A. Kimmitt (Aberlour). Interred Rothies Cemetery.

**David McBain** died 13/10/23. Funeral service on 27/10/23 in Rothies, conducted by Rev. A. Kimmitt. Interred Rothies Cemetery.

**Joan Sheppard** died 24/10/23. Funeral service 02/11/23 in Knockando, conducted by Rev. A. Kimmitt. Interred Knockando Cemetery.

# Knockando, Elchies & Archiestown

## Church News

### Sunday Services 10am

Winter 2023 has arrived, and we still await details of our new arrangements in linkage with Aberlour. I hope we can maintain the long established friendships with Rothes Kirk, and hope we can continue to support each other's events. It will also bring new friendships, and opportunities to share with Aberlour in new ways.

We have not yet completed our update of members' records. Although most details have been recorded, we are taking our time before removing people from the roll, where we have not received a return. If you don't remember receiving a form, or mislaid it, but wish to continue membership, please contact any elder to ask for another form.

After a very successful season of Heavenly Pieces, we are now into Winter Warmers time. It is great still to welcome as many people into the church building to enjoy a time of fellowship with so many friends from different parts of Moray, and even beyond. The dedicated service of teams of people, under Isobel Hendry and Elizabeth Brown are what makes these times possible and so special. Thank you all.

## Knockando, Elchies & Archiestown

We are now looking forward to and through Advent to Christmas time when we can again celebrate the birth of our Saviour. Sunday the 3<sup>rd</sup> is the first Sunday in Advent this year. The following week on the 10<sup>th</sup> we have our Star Service with the opportunity to remember people we have lost, and people who are unable to be with us at this special time. The Nativity will be presented by the children and young people of the church on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup>, and a Christingle Service will also take place in Knockando Kirk at 6.30pm.

Pat North

Session Clerk

I wish you all a very happy and meaningful Christmas, and a peaceful New Year.



## Christmas Quiz for Adults

1. In what film is it 'Always winter but never Christmas'?  
a) Elf b) The Snowman c) The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe
2. In which country are children visited by 13 Yule Lads instead of 1 Santa Claus? a) Iceland b) France c) Italy
3. How many days are there between Boxing Day, otherwise known as St Stephen's Day, and New Year's Day (not counting Boxing Day and New Year's Day)?
4. What job did Jesus father, Joseph, do?  
a) Carpet fitter b) Carpenter c) Caterer?
5. How many of Santa's reindeer have names beginning with the letter D
6. In the UK Christmas decorations traditionally stay up for:  
a) 12 days b) 13 days c) 14 days
7. What guided the Three Wise Men to the birthplace of Jesus?
8. What has been given to the people of Britain by the city of Oslo in Norway each year since 1947?
9. Which Christmas carol repeats the lyrics, 'O come let us adore Him'?
10. 'Feliz Navidad' means Happy Christmas in which language?
11. Which popular Christmas song begins with the lyrics, 'Oh the weather outside is frightful but the fire is so delightful...'?
12. What type of cake, beginning with the letter P, is traditionally eaten in Italy at Christmas?
13. Which country is generally credited with starting the Christmas tree tradition?  
a) Finland b) Germany c) Canada

Answers are on page 14

## Rothes Parish Church

### Services of Worship

It is now almost two years since our locum minister The Reverend Morris Smith has looked after our every spiritual well being and needs. It must be encouraging for him to see that numbers worshipping every Sunday are slowly increasing with attendances almost back to pre-covid times.

The recent Service of Remembrance attendance at both War Memorial and Church was extremely well attended with over 100 attending the second part of the service in Church.

### Fabric

#### Church

This year we have had repairs carried out to the Vestry roof when it was damaged by the Local Fire Brigade vehicle.

The original electrical cabling for all heaters under the pews throughout the Church had to be replaced because some were failing and tripping off the heating system and may present a fire risk.

### Hall

The Office copier had come to the end of its lease and a new one has been installed which is 25% cheaper to lease and approximately 40% cheaper to run.

A new laptop was also purchased to enable more flexible working for our Office Administrator Sheila.



## Roths Parish Church .....

### Manse

Due to the manse being vacant the only expenditure was repair to the Gas Boiler when it required a new expansion tank.

### Finance

The Church wishes to extend their grateful thanks to all who supported us throughout the Covid years and continue to generously support us in this difficult cost of living crisis.

### Dennis Malcolm

### Session Clerk



#### Christmas Quiz for Adults—Answers

1. c    2. a    3. 5 days    4. b    5. Three—Dancer, Dasher, Donner    6. a  
7. The Star of Bethlehem    8. Christmas Tree (displayed in Trafalgar Square)  
9. O Come All Ye Faithful    10. Spanish    11.

## CHURCH OF SCOTLAND GUILD ROTHERS



This year we have had a good turn out at both the October meeting and November meeting. Morris, our Locum Minister, was the speaker at our first meeting on **Tuesday 10th October**.

**Tuesday 14th November** Jaki Bird, team leader of The Oaks and Liz Allen, complementary therapist, were the speakers at that meeting.

**Tuesday 12th December** is the Guild Carol Service which is held in the Church Hall at 7pm.

**Tuesday 13th February** Liz Moir of Bellie Church will speak about the Guild's projects. The meeting will be in the Church Hall at 2pm.

**Friday 1st March** is the World Day of Prayer which will be held in the Church Hall at 2pm.

**Tuesday 12th March** is our last meeting when we have a get together, enjoying an afternoon tea/coffee.

**Saturday 13th April** is the Guild coffee morning which is in the Church Hall from 10a.m - 12p.m.

Humour:

***How did Mary and Joseph know that Jesus weighed 7lbs 6oz when he was born?***

***Because they had 'Away in a Manger'!***

## ROTHES KIRK NEWS

### **CRAFT GROUP**



Our church craft group has continued to meet every second Monday and although it is a church group all are welcome. Most of those attending do knitting but some also do crocheting, sewing or painting. October and the first week of November we were busy making up Christmas boxes for Blytheswood.

We have decided that over the winter months we shall knit squares to make into blankets and donate them to local people who are housebound and anyone who feels a blanket would help keep them warm. Also if you know of anyone who would benefit from a blanket please let me know.

Anyone can knit a square at home if they want to and donate it to the craft group either by leaving it in the hall on a Monday morning or I or any member of the craft group can collect it.

The square should be knitted in double knitting and measure 8 inches square. Cast on 35 to 40 stitches and use size 4mm needles (8 in old size). Some DK wools are thinner than others so if you want to add more stitches the please feel free to do so. If you wish to knit or crochet a square but have never knitted or crocheted before come along to our craft group and we will show you what to do.

If you wish to help but don't want to knit/crochet you can always donate unwanted double knitting wool to the group.

By the way this group is open to people from Knockando, Elchies and Archiestown. You are all most welcome.

*Sheila Brumby*

## ROTHES AND KNOCKANDO KIRK NEWS

### **COFFEE MORNINGS – ROTHES KIRK HALL—2023**

Proceeds to Church Funds—Unless otherwise indicated



**Monday Morning Coffee 10.00—12.00**

**Monday morning coffee continues to be very well supported.**

**People enjoy a coffee and scone along with a good old blether. |A good number of people make use of the MConnect bus service, which picks up and drops off at their door.**

**Merry Christmas and best wishes for 2024. Thank you all for your continued support.**

**The Monday morning coffee team.**

**Ethel Duncan, Sandra Bruce and Maureen Grant**

### **Heavenly Pieces - Knockando Church**

A huge thank you to all who baked, served, helped with laundry, or simply came along and supported us throughout the season. We rely on the willingness to keep helping over the long haul to keep this worthwhile event going.



Thank you

Isobel Hendry (Coordinator)

**Winter Warmers** is the last Wednesday of the month (excluding December)



# Nativity Word Search

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



angels  
 Christmas  
 donkey  
 innkeeper  
 Jesus  
 Joseph  
 king  
 manger  
 Mary  
 nativity  
 salvation  
 sheep  
 shepherds  
 star  
 wisemen

## December Dates for your Diary

**Sunday 10th December** Star Sunday at Knockando and  
Rothies

**Tuesday 12th December** Rothies Guild Carol Service in  
Rothies Church Hall at 7pm.

**Sunday 17th December** Nativity at Rothies Church at  
11.30am

**Sunday 17th December** Concert by Sing for Life Choir in  
Rothies Church at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start.

**Sunday 24th December** Nativity at Knockando Church at  
10.00am

**Sunday 24th December** Christingle at Knockando Church  
at 6.30pm. Offering will be for Christian Aid.



Directory		
Interim Moderator	Ann Bowie	01343 821476
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Church Office/Secretary	Sheila Brumby	01340 831497 Email: rotheskirk@gmail.com
Magazine Editor	Sheila Brumby	01340 831497/831588 Email: rotheskirk@gmail.com
Knockando, Elchies and Archiestown		
Session Clerk	Pat North	01340 810687
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Depute Beadle	Keith North	01340 810687
Presbytery Elder	Sean Jones	Email: sjones9638@gmail.com
Treasurer/Gift Aid/ Freewill Offering Convenor	Vacancy	
Safeguarding Officer	Jim Lowe	01340 810830
Property Convenor	Rick Phillips	01343 860460 wellbrae@googlemail.com
Children and Youth Co-ordinator	Meg Lowe	01340 810830
Lay Visitors Co-ordinator	Vacancy	
World Church Representative	Vacancy	
Flowers Convenor	Elizabeth Brown	01340 810443
Roll Keeper	Sean Jones	Email: sjones9638@gmail.com
Cradle Roll, First Aider	Lorna Millsopp	
Organist	Nicola Moss	01807 500270 Email: nico- la@pennines.org
Relief Organist	Helen Nicoll	01340 820565
Rothes		
Session Clerk	Dennis Malcolm JP	01340 831319
Deputy Session Clerk	Celine McDuff-Jones	01340 831956
Beadle	Morag Richardson	01340 831877
Deputy Beadle	Helen Ness	01340 831
Treasurer/Gift Aid and Freewill Offering Convenor	Vacancy	
Presbytery Elder	Sheila Brumby	01340 831588
Safeguarding Officer	Sandra Bruce	01340 831317
Property Convenor	Dennis Malcolm	01340 831319
Sunday School Leader	Karen Murray	
Lay Visitors Co-ordinator	Edith Holmes	01340 521069
World Church Representative	Celine McDuff-Jones	01340 831956
Flowers Convenors	Morag Richardson / Ethel Duncan	01340 831 / 01343 860255
Studio	Richard Jamieson	Email: rjamieson@btopenworld.com
Guild	Celine McDuff-Jones	01340 831956
Organist	Helen Nicoll	01340 820565
Hall Bookings	Sheila Brumby	01340 831497 email: rotheskirk@gmail.com

