

Dear Friends

It has been my joy and privilege to serve the Parish of Latheron throughout this year. We have shared many sad occasions as we've grieved the loss of loved ones and have also celebrated together over special birthdays and anniversaries. It has been a year in which we've tried to live more "normal" lives after COVID19 but for many, life has not been the same. All around us there seems to be nothing but chaos: military conflicts; discontent in many aspects of our society over cost of living crisis; failing businesses and folk struggling to keep warm. None of these problems have an easy fix and at this time of year folk have the added burden of getting ready for Christmas – "that most wonderful time of the year"! Wait – that doesn't sound right! Christmas was never planned or designed to become a burden! Christmas was planned by God to bring hope, love, joy and peace to our world through the birth of Jesus as a child. God could have easily sent Jesus into this world as a warrior fighting for injustice, or as a powerful leader who would change the world with His government but instead, He sent a precious little child to an unwed young mother, into a poor community that was oppressed by the Roman government. Why? God wanted us to know that He shared our life's journey: "God is with us- Immanuel" His very name, Immanuel, has a promise for us. God is with us. God is with you. God is with you at all times, in all circumstances, in all your high and low moments. God is with you in all your tears and in all your joys. Jesus, the Saviour of the world, came as an infant, grew to be a man, died on the cross for our sins, conquered death through His resurrection, and will one day return. So, this promise God is with you covers every detail and every little nuance of your life. You can go into this Christmas season comforted with these words. You can begin a fresh new year clinging to this promise. God is with you through your todays, and He will be with you as you go

into all of your tomorrows. God is with us. This is the reason we can joyfully celebrate that baby born so long ago who came to change the world in His perfect way.

May the God of Christmas be to you the God of every Day

God bless you all

Rev Heather

PRESBYTERY NEWS

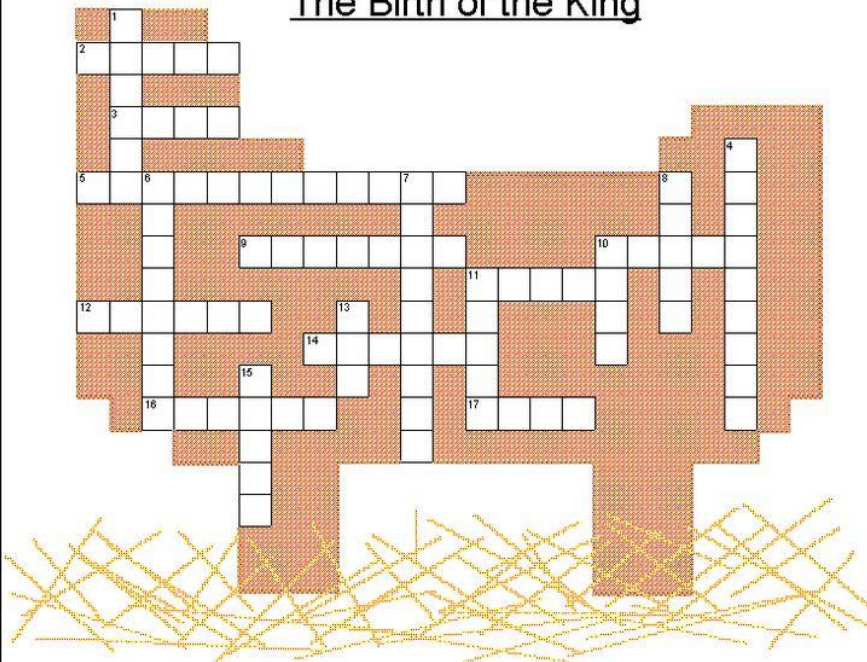
Most of you may be aware that there are big changes happening throughout the Church of Scotland because of a continued shortage of ministers and declining attendances in all areas. Caithness is no exception to this and, in common with other Presbyteries have had to devise a Mission Plan to reflect these changes. In our Presbytery the allocation of full time minister posts has been reduced from 9.1 to 5.5 and we also have to reduce the number of Buildings being used because of the maintenance costs etc. The proposed Plan included a proposal to close Dunbeath Church but the Draft Mission plan is currently suspended as Presbytery voted against the final Draft on 1st December. Discussions now have to take place with Edinburgh to find a way forward. Your prayers would be much appreciated.

CHRISTMAS/NEW YEARSERVICES

Sunday 18 th December	Dunbeath	11.30 am
Saturday 24 th December	Dunbeath	7.00 pm
Sunday 25 th December	Lybster	11.00 am
Sunday 1 st January	Dunbeath	11.00 am

ALL ARE WELCOME

The Birth of the King



Across		Down	
2. Mary and Joseph went to Bethlehem to pay these	12. Mary's husband	1. An open box to hold food for livestock: Mary laid Jesus in one	11. And she shall bring forth a son, and you shall call His name _____
3. A precious metal: one of the gifts from the 3 kings	14. These appeared to shepherds and told them about the birth of Christ	4. The city of His birth	13. He was born in a stable because there was no room here
5. A fragrant gum used to make incense: one of the gifts from the wisemen	16. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a _____, which is Christ the Lord	6. The Roman emperor who taxed everyone	15. We celebrate His _____ at Christmas
9. The 3 kings from the east	17. This led the wisemen to Jesus	7. Angels told these guys about His birth while they were watching their flocks	
10. A pungent tasting herb: A gift from the wisemen		8. The king of Judea when Jesus was born	
11. Bethlehem is here		10. His mother	

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All this took place to fulfil what the Lord had said through the prophet: “The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and they will call him Immanuel—which means, ‘God with us’”

(Matthew 1:22-23 NIV)