Lilsyth Anderson News



December 2019 & January 2020

From the Manse

Christmas is coming!
As I write so is the
General Election. So
the minds of many
people around the
country are being
pulled in two different
directions. For some it
is thoughts of 'who will
I vote for' and at the
same time, 'what do I
need to do to prepare

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given:
and the government shall be upon his shoulder:
and his name shall be called

Wonderful, Counsellor,
the mighty God,
the everlasting Father,
the Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6

for Christmas'. Tension and confusion may well be the result.

Perhaps, in the midst of this and everything else that is going on, it is worth taking a step back to remember a few important things about this special time of year.

First of all, there is the issue of priority. Christmas happens to be the most momentous event in human history as we remember God coming to earth as a child. Elections will come and go, governments will rise and fall but Jesus remains.

Secondly, the really big issue of our time is not Brexit, for or against. It is not whether the NHS, the Union or the Environment needs saving. The really big issue is whether we and those we love are saved for all eternity. No political party can promise that - only Jesus can.

Thirdly, when it comes to who really is in charge we know that 'all authority in heaven and on earth', rests and resides with Jesus. Politicians of every kind would like to have power, but real power belongs to God.

Politics has its place in day to day living. It is important that we think carefully about how we will cast our vote and who we support. However, be careful to keep the main thing as the main thing. Christmas is about Christ, first, foremost and always.

I wish you all peace, hope and joy in this season, but most of all I wish you a living experience of he who is Immanuel – God with Us

Allan

CHRISTMAS BIBLE QUIZ

Tricky Questions Based on the Bible and Our Carols

- 1) What baby was born to a relative of Mary's, about six months before the birth of Jesus?
- 2) What Old Testament prophet predicted the miraculous virgin birth of Christ?
- 3) Which two of the four Gospels make no mention of the birth of Christ?
- 4) Which Christmas carol has been voted the most popular one of all?
- 5) What is the meaning of the name "Jesus"?
- 6) Joseph and Mary lived in the town of Nazareth, far to the north of Bethlehem. What was it that brought them to Bethlehem, just before Christ was born?
- 7) Where does the Bible tell us that Jesus was born on December 25th?
- 8) What carol began in the ancient church as *one single word*? And what was that word?
- 9) Was the Lord Jesus born in a stable?
- 10) When hosts of angels appear to them, announcing Jesus' birth, a carol says the "shepherds' quake at the sight." In what carol is the quoted line found?
- 11) One of our carols begins, "Angels we have heard on high, / Sweetly singing o'er the plains." What did the angels sing at Jesus' birth?
- 12) Since there were likely other babies in Bethlehem at the time what sign did the angel give the shepherds that would enable them to identify the baby Jesus?
- 13) Mary laid her newborn Son in a manger. A carol says Jesus had "no crib for a bed." What is the carol?
- 14) What carol contains the line, "Word of the Father, now in flesh appearing"?
- 15) What carol quotes the angels saying to the shepherds, "All glory be to God on high, / And to the earth be peace"?
- 16) What carol fancifully describes "angels bending near the earth / To touch their harps of gold"?
- 17) What carol says of Jesus' birth, "While mortals sleep, the angels keep / Their watch of wondering love"?
- 18) What carol says of Christ's coming to earth, "Mild He lays His glory by, / Born that man no more may die"?
- 19) What carol begins, "Hark, how all the welkin rings!"
- 20) What carol says to the wise men, "Sages, leave your contemplations, / Brighter visions beam afar"?
- 21) When the wise men arrived in the Holy Land, where did they go first?
- 22) Herod ruled that area for the Romans. What was his reaction when he heard that a new King had been born?
- 23) Who was it that told Herod about an Old Testament prophecy that Israel's Messiah-King would be born in Bethlehem?

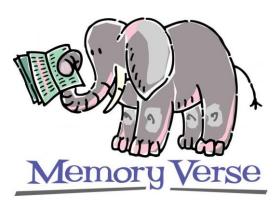


- 24) Herod sent the wise men in search of the Baby. He told them to let him know where to find Him, so he could worship Him too (Matt. 2:8). But what was his real reason for wanting to know where Jesus was?
- 25) What carol tells us, "Then entered in those wise men three, / Full reverently upon the knee"?
- 26) Where did Joseph take Mary and the Baby to protect them from Herod's murderous intentions?
- 27) What is the meaning of the word "Noel," as in the carol line, "Noel, Noel, / Born is the King of Israel"?
- 28) According to the Bible, how many wise men were there?
- 29) As well as being a gift from the wise men, at what other time was "myrrh" associated with Christ?
- 30) Referring to the English custom of ringing church bells on Christmas morning, what carol says, "Then pealed the bells more loud and deep"



Putting Things Right

Christmas is of course, one of the great central themes of the Gospel which we have just been celebrating. Now we need to ask the basic question - why did Jesus have to come? The answer from the Bible is simple - he came because the world was in a mess and there was nothing humanity could do the correct that mess. It had to be done from God's side.



JANUARY

Since only God could right the mess the world was in, we cannot escape the fact that the coming of Christ has to be a miracle. God takes the initiative and in humility comes into the world as a babe. Writing about this towards the end of his life, the Gospel writer John puts it in a wonderful, but philosophic way, by speaking of the "Word". Now that is a special term known to Greeks and Jews alike and meaning the great underlying principle of reason and rational power that underlies all creation. John then goes on to say that this creative power becomes human and in doing so is able to re-create and restore a fallen humanity. In other words, by coming as a babe God is dealing with the mess at its core by total transformation and not merely reforming the situation. This magnificent, and difficult verse from John, says that by a miracle God has done what we could never have done for ourselves and that is why it is so special.

John Ch. 1 vs. 14

"The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth"

FEBRUARY

So again, we have to begin from a question. What was it that Christ did to clear up the mess humanity was in. Well that leads on to yet another question - what was this mess. The Bible tells us that we are in a fallen state because we are in rebellion against God our creator. We are in sin and sin has driven a wedge between God and humanity. So, the coming of Christ into the world has the express purpose of correcting that broken relationship. Christ's coming is to bring us back into fellowship with God and to give us the chance of a new start that we might live as the Children.

2 Corinthians Vs. 18 & 19

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation: that God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them"

MARCH

So, Christ, the divine Son of God has, by a miracle, come into the world as a babe that he might bring God and man back together as one. There is one big thing that has to be dealt with first, however. By our rebellion against God humanity has been guilty of sin. Sin has to be paid for - that usually means by punishment. However, God has other plans that bring hope instead of the fear of continuing failure and defeat and the pain of punishment. He has a plan for forgiveness and restoration. But even this plan still has to face up to the fact that sin has a cost. Now we come to the greatest miracle of all in the Gospel and that is that Christ has taken on himself the cost of our sin. He will bear it and in bearing it will pay a very high and heavy price. That takes us on to Easter which we will think about in the next issue. Sufficient to say here that throughout his ministry he has shown amazing humility and even at the end of his earthly life he is still giving the example of humility to the disciples as here when he engages in this act of foot washing that John tells us about. Surrounded by the disciples he takes the place of a humble servant and kneeling down he washes their feet to take away the dust of the day's journey. Why? Because he is giving them an example, thereby indicating how they must learn to behave and reminding them of the nature of this new kingdom he has come to begin and the standards they must learn to follow. Discipleship is costly. Christ gave his life. Now they must give theirs in love and service.

John Ch.13 vs. 14 & 15

"Now that I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also should wash one another's feet. I have set you an example that you should do as I have done for you"

The Story Behind The Hymn... O Little town of Bethlehem

The text was written by Phillips Brooks (1835–1893), an Episcopal priest, then rector of Church of the Holy Trinity, Philadelphia and later of Trinity Church, Boston. He was inspired by visiting the village of Bethlehem in the Sanjak of Jerusalem in 1865. Three years later, he wrote the poem for his church, and his organist Lewis Redner (1831-1908) added the music. Redner's tune, simply titled "St. Louis", is the tune used most often for this carol in the United States. Redner recounted the story of his composition:



As Christmas of 1868 approached, Mr. Brooks told me that he had written a simple little carol for the Christmas Sunday-school service, and he asked me to write the tune to it. The simple music was written in great haste and under great pressure. We were to practice it on the following Sunday. Mr. Brooks came to me on Friday, and said, 'Redner, have you ground out that music yet to "O Little Town of Bethlehem"? I replied, 'No,' but that he should have it by Sunday. On the Saturday night previous my brain was all confused about the tune. I thought more about my Sunday-school lesson than I did about the music. But I was roused from sleep late in the night hearing an angel-strain whispering in my ear, and seizing a piece of music paper I jotted down the treble of the tune as we now have it, and on Sunday morning before going to church I filled in the harmony. Neither Mr. Brooks nor I ever thought the carol or the music to it would live beyond that Christmas of 1868. In the United Kingdom and the Commonwealth, and sometimes in the U.S. (especially in the Episcopal Church), the English hymn tune "Forest Green" is used instead. "Forest Green" was adapted by Ralph Vaughan Williams from an English folk ballad called "The Ploughboy's Dream"

Born in Boston, Brooks was descended through his father, William Gray Brooks, from the Rev. John Cotton; through his mother, Mary Ann Phillips, he was a great-grandson of Samuel Phillips, Jr., founder of Phillips Academy (Andover, Massachusetts). Three of Brooks' five brothers – Frederic, Arthur and John Cotton – were eventually ordained in the Episcopal Church.

Phillips Brooks prepared for college at the Boston Latin School and graduated from Harvard University in 1855 at the age of 20, where he was elected to the A.D. Club. He worked briefly as a schoolteacher at Boston Latin, but, upon being fired, felt that he had failed miserably. He wrote, "I do not know what will become of me and I do not care much.... I wish I were fifteen years old again. I believe I might become a stunning man: but somehow or other I do not seem in the way to come to much now." In 1856 he began to study for ordination in the Episcopal Church in the Virginia Theological Seminary at Alexandria, Virginia. While a seminarian there, he preached at Sharon Chapel (now All Saints Episcopal Church, Sharon Chapel) in nearby Fairfax County. In 1859 he graduated from Virginia Theological Seminary, was ordained deacon by Bishop William Meade of Virginia, and became rector of the Church of the Advent, Philadelphia. In 1860 he was ordained priest, and in 1862 became rector of the Church of the Holy Trinity, Philadelphia,. During the American Civil War he upheld the cause of the North and opposed slavery, and his sermon on the death of Abraham Lincoln was an eloquent expression of the character of both men. His sermon at Harvard's commemoration of the Civil War dead in 1865 likewise attracted attention nationwide. In 1869 he became rector of Trinity Church, Boston; today, his statue is located on the left exterior of the church. He was consecrated Bishop of Massachusetts in 1891. In 1886, he had declined an election as assistant bishop of Pennsylvania. He was for

many years an overseer and preacher of Harvard University. In 1881 he declined an invitation to be the sole preacher to the university and professor of Christian ethics. On April 30, 1891 he was elected sixth Bishop of Massachusetts, and on the 14 October was consecrated to that office in Trinity Church.

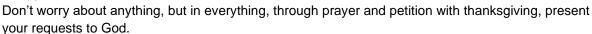
He died unmarried in 1893, after an episcopate of only 15 months. His death was a major event in the history of Boston. One observer reported: "They buried him like a king. Harvard students carried his body on their shoulders. All barriers of denomination were down. Roman Catholics and Unitarians felt that a great man had fallen in Israel." Today, he is probably best known for authoring the Christmas carol "O Little Town of Bethlehem". Brooks also introduced Helen Keller to Christianity.

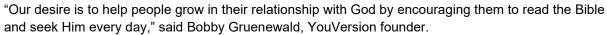
Most Popular Bible Verses In 2019

In 2019, Bible readers were looking for reminders not to worry and comfort from traditional places.

Both YouVersion, the world's most popular Bible app, and Bible Gateway, the most visited Christian website, recently announced their top Bible verses for the year.

Among global YouVersion users, the 2019 verse of the year is Philippians 4:6.





"We're encouraged to see so many people turning to the Bible in response to their worries, remembering what God has done in their lives, and choosing to trust in His faithfulness."

Paul's admonition to the Philippians was the most popular verse in countries ranging from the United States, Jamaica, and France to Kenya, the United Arab Emirates and China.

Other popular verses around the world include Matthew 6:33 (in nations like Thailand, Mexico, Spain, and Vietnam), 2 Timothy 1:7 (Honduras and Panama), Isaiah 40:31 (Puerto Rico), and Psalm 12:7 (Russia).

Among visitors to Bible Gateway in 2019, the top verse was a familiar one: John 3:16. John's recording of Jesus' words to Nicodemus were previously the most popular Bible Gateway verse in 2016 and were second in 2018, behind Jeremiah 29:11.

The top 10 verses of 2019 at Bible Gateway are:

 John 3:16
 Jeremiah 29:11
 Psalm 23:4
 Philippians 4:13

 Romans 8:28
 Romans 12:2
 Psalm 23:6
 Psalm 23:5

Psalm 23:1 Psalm 23:3 Five of the top 10 verses are from Psalm 23.

Philippians 4:6, the top verse from YouVersion, ranks 14th at Bible Gateway.

Bible Gateway also tracks the most searched for words each year. "Love" is the most popular search term in both English and Spanish.

In English, love has consistently been the most searched for word and the top 5 has included, in some order, peace, faith, joy, and hope.



Kilsyth Anderson Parish Church

Afternoon of Prayer

We hope you will be able to be present on the afternoon of Sunday January 12th, 2020, when we shall be committing all our work in the New Year to God. It would be especially appropriate if you could be there for the period when the



organisation you are associated with is being prayed for. The idea is that people will be free to come and go at any time as it suits them best. Even if you come, it will not be necessary for you to pray out loud unless you wish to. Silent prayer can be especially meaningful too. Having prayers prepared and written can also be a help. We are excited about this, for it has proved to be a great success when we have tried it in previous years. Over the years we have had between twenty and thirty people present for at least a short part of the time. Please give it your support.

We will begin with soup being served in the Hall after the morning service before going through to the Church for the prayer-time We will cover all the activities of the church in turn allowing between ten and fifteen minutes to each subject. Some help will be given in that a list of possible topics for thanksgiving or help for each section will be offered. This will also include an outline timetable. These will be distributed on the morning of the 12th. If you are not able to be present but wish a particular prayer to be said on your behalf, these can be handed to the minister and they will be fitted in at the appropriate part of the programme.

The afternoon will be divided into three sections with tea being served between each section. We should finish about 5.30p.m.

Looking forward to seeing you there.

A Christmas Letter from Jesus When you look for me at Christmas, You won't need a special star. I'm no longer just in Bethlehem, I'm right here where you are. You may not be aware of me amid the celebrations. You'll have to look beyond the stores, and all the decorations. But if you take a moment from your list of things to do, To close your eyes and say a prayer, I'm waiting here for you. You're the one I want to be with, You're the reason that I came! And you'll find me in the stillness Where I'm whispering your name.

Scottish Bible Society



The Bible Sunday Collection taken in local churches in September realised £1,528.80 of which £321.10 was

raised from our church. Thanks to all who contributed.

Remembrance Sunday Retiring Offering

The retiring offering on Remembrance Sunday realised £180 to be split between The Scottish Poppy Appeal and Erskine Hospital.



Church Box Money



The recent collection of Church Box money raised over £900 for church funds. Thanks to all who contributed and to the collectors. If you wish a box, please speak to Bill Smith, Convenor.

Christmas Fayre

Over £2,800 was raised at our Christmas Fayre on Saturday, 30th November. Many thanks to all that helped in any way to make the day such a success in raising money for the Fabric Fund.



Cookery Book



The new cookery book is now on sale, priced £3. Many thanks to Rona Dawson for compiling the book, and Anne Lauder for printing. Copies are available on the vestibule table

Long Service awards

On Sunday 29th September, **Mr John Weir** received a certificate to recognise his being an Elder in the Church of Scotland for **50** years.

On Sunday 17th November, **Mr Hugh Service** received a certificate to recognise his being an Elder for **30** years





Diary

Sunday:	Morning worship	11.00am
	Evening worship	6.30pm
Monday:	<u>Ladies Bowling</u>	10.30am
	The Guild	7.30pm
Tuesday:	Girls Brigade:	
	Explorers (P1-P3)	6.00pm
	Juniors & Brigaders (P4 +)	7.00pm
Wednesday:	Bible & Blether	2.00pm
	<u>Praise Group</u>	7.30pm
	Manse Discussion Group	7.30pm
	Boys Brigade:	
	Anchor Boys (P1 -P3)	5.45pm
	Junior Section (P4 -P6)	6.30pm
	Company Section (P7 + Second	dary)7.30pm

Thursday: Mid-week Fellowship

Wyper Hall 7.00pm

Friday: <u>'Drop in Café</u>

Wyper Hall 10.00am - noon

Contact for urgent Pastoral Care

Minister: Rev Dr Allan Vint

Session Clerk: Mrs Elizabeth Strang

Dates For Your Diary

Sunday 22nd Dec: Jam Club Nativity 11.00am

Tuesday 24th Dec: Christmas Eve Service 7.00pm

Sunday 6th Jan: Ronnie Craig 11.00am

Flower List

1st Dec Ann Strang Isobel Tennant 8th Dec 15th Dec Sandra Allan 22nd Dec Jan Bateman 29th Dec Margaret Brown The Boys Brigade 5th Jan 12th Dec Ronnie Swan (Jean Ewen) 19th Dec Jean Chalmers 26th Jan Margaret Laird



DATE	DOOR DUTY	INTIMATIONS
1 ST DEC	H PROVAN/ I ROSS/ B KENNEDY	O BRITTIAN
8 TH DEC	R DAWSON/ A STEVENSON/	B SMITH
15 [™] DEC	A STRANG/ A STRANG/ A McCALLUM	J WEIR
22 ND DEC	H SHAW/ W SHAW/ E MILLAR	C JOHNSTON
29 [™] DEC	E GRAHAM/ O BRITTAIN	D BARROWMAN
5 [™] JAN	M WADDELL/ C WADDELL/ J GILMOUR	M BROWN
12 [™] JAN	A ANDERSON/ T ANDERSON/ A SNEDDON	O BRITTIAN
19 [™] JAN	L ANDERSON/ D ANDERSON/ W LEISHMAN	B SMITH
26 [™] JAN	C McILWAIN/ W McILWAIN/ B REYNOLDS	J WEIR





Our Family

Special Birthdays

Congratulations to Mrs Margaret Mitchell who celebrated her 80th Birthday on the 12th November

Many Happy Returns to Mrs Eileen Weldon who celebrated her 80th Birthday on the 10th December

Congratulations to Mrs Rosina Mitchell who will celebrate her 90th Birthday on the 29th December.

Deaths

October: Miss Isma Henderson, Craig-en Goyne 8th November: Mrs Fanny Pollock. Kingston Flats November: Mr Graham Pringle

With Thanks



I would like to thank the Church for the lovely flowers I received on my "Special Birthday". I would also like to say thank you to Molly & Andrew for delivering them. They were very much appreciated

Aileen Anderson

Thank you so much for the lovely flowers and again for more on the death of my dear nephew, Graham Pringle. It is so nice to know that we are thought of at this sad time

Annie McGinness

We would like to say thank you to the church family for your prayers and kind words of comfort after the sad loss of our son. Special thanks to our minister, Allan Vint for not only officiating at the memorial service, but for the compassion he has shown to our family. For the beautiful flowers delivered by Marion. All is very much appreciated and we are truly grateful.

Irvine & Anne Pringle

Many thanks to everyone for cards, gifts and good wishes. It's lovely to be back home again.

Helen Provan

Quiz answers

1) John the Baptist 2) Isaiah 3) Mark and John 4) "Silent Night" 5) Christ" means Messiah, Redeemer, Emmanuel etc 6) The Roman government decreed that everyone had to go to his or her ancestral hometown to be registered in a census

7) It doesn't. That date of December 25th was chosen for the celebration of Christ's birth several centuries later 8) Back at the beginning of the Middle Ages, on each day during the week before Christmas, there was a church service. What is called an *antiphon* would be sung then, with choral groups answering back and forth "antiphonally." The antiphon anticipating the advent of Christ consisted of a single wordalong, drawn-out "Oh!" Called "The Great O of Advent," it was intended to express a deep sense of longing for the coming of the Saviour. In 1851 this hymn was translated into English and became the carol, "O Come, O Come Emmanuel."

9) A manger is said to be the place the newborn Baby was laid, but there is no mention of a stable **10)** Silent Night **11)** Actually, we are not told that the angels sang at all, though several carols give that impression. The Bible says, "There was...a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and *saying*, 'Glory to God in the highest'

12) The angel said He would be "wrapped in swaddling cloths, lying in a manger" **13)** Away in a Manger **14)** O Come, All Ye Faithful. **15)** While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night. **16)** It Came Upon a Midnight Clear. Though popular, and found in many hymn books, the carol surprisingly says *nothing at all* about the birth of Christ! Even this line about the angels is not true to Scripture. Nothing is said there about harps! **17)** O

Christmas*

is the most beautiful gift

we receive each year because
it is given by

Ged Backland/Hutch 2017

Little Church Mouse

Little Town of Bethlehem **18)** Hark, the Herald Angels Sing

19) That is the original first line of Charles Wesley's carol, "Hark, the Herald Angels Sing!" "Welkin" is an old word for the sky 20) Angels from the Realms of Glory 21) The wise men went to the city of Jerusalem, likely because they expected a "King" to be born in a palace 22) The Bible says, "He was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him" 23) It was the Jewish chief priests and scribes, 24) Herod was hoping to destroy the baby Jesus To be sure he got the right baby, Herod ordered "all the male children who were in Bethlehem and in all its districts, from two years old and under" to be slain **25)** The First Noel. **26)**The family fled to Egypt, where they remained until they learned of the death of Herod **27)** Noel means *birthday*. **28)** We are not told how many wise men there were. 29) During His crucifixion, Jesus was offered a drink of wine mixed with Myrrh was also one of the spices used in the wrapping of Christ's

body at the time of His burial 30) I Heard

the Bells on Christmas Day



			2	1				
		7	3					
	5 3	8						
4	3							
2								8
							7	8
						2	5	
					7	2		
				9	8			

Christian Christmas - Word Jumble

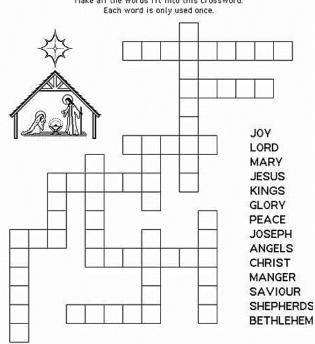
Unscramble the letters using the words from the word bank below.



1. \	VISROA		_ 11. MALEC	
2. 1	NGELA		_ 12. DPREHSEH _	
3. \	YRAM		_ 13. LHEHTEEMB _	
4. (ODNYKE	5	_ 14. REMGNA _	10)
5. 1	SKNG	-	_ 15. RASTW _	
6. I	HEJOPS		_ 16. PEEKNNRIE _	
7.1	NAECDL		_ 17. TSRA	
8. 8	BHTRI		_ 18. YTSPOIHLIR _	
9. /	AVENHE		_ 19. SUJES	
10.	SINAMEW		_ 20. SEDSBLE	
	angel candle Jesus manger Mary	star wiseman camel shepherd Bethlehem	birth donkey Heaven innkeeper Joseph	Savior Holy Spirit straw kings blessed

Christmas Crossword

Make all the words fit into this crossword. Each word is only used once.



A Savior is Born!

20	116						127				
j	1	0	r	a	m	e	ن	е	S	u	S
r	e	W	а	n	P	q	0		u	n	m
l	S	i	t	g	0	V	S	t	×	У	а
S	0	S	h	е	P	h	е	r	d	S	n
а	P	е	1	I	n	i	P	0	0	d	g
V	У	m	a	S	ľ	е	h	q	i	m	e
i	W	е	Z	0	g	m	a	r	У	e	r
i 0	W	e n	z u	o a	g 	m c	a u	r i	y n	e n	r w
					100			- 29	61		
0	1	n	u	а	Ī	С	u	i	n	n	w
o r	l s	n 0	u £	а q	l 0	c u	u b	i u	n a	n 0	w t
o r g	l s r	n 0 0	c c	a q h	 	c u s	u b t	i u a	n a b	n o I	w t e

manger Jesus wise men Mary

Joseph angels shepherds gloria

peace Savior inn stable



Places to find us

FACEBOOK/TWITTER

www.facebook.com/kilsythanderson
Twitter@ Kilsyth Anderson

WEBSITE/INTERNET

www.kilsythandersonchurch.org

If you wish to listen to the morning service again,
it can be found on the church website

CD MINISTRY

A copy of the morning service can be provided.

Please speak to your Pastoral Care visitor

who can arrange for a copy

Items of news, special occasions, etc. for the next Newsletter should be given to Helen Shaw by Sunday 26th January 2020

If I have forgotten an item you gave me, please accept my apologies and let me know for inclusion in the next magazine. Helen x

