

## Prestongrange Church Newsletter

Dear friends, Chris Dixon, who is doing a part-time ministry apprenticeship course which involves Biblical Studies at the Faith Mission College and doing some work with us at the church, writes this article:

A couple of years ago I received a Christmas present which completely blew me away – a new guitar. My guitar at the time had definitely seen better days but I was persevering with it, and I hadn't really thought to ask for a new one. The fact that someone had noticed what I needed and was willing to meet that need from their own generosity was both surprising and humbling. Gift-giving is a big part of most people's Christmas and, although it can become a tedious chore or feel very commercial, giving or receiving a present that will be enjoyed and treasured is something special which brings us right to the heart of what Christmas is about.

Christmas is about a gift, a surprising and humbling gift. A gift given out of the extravagant generosity of Someone who saw our need even when we couldn't see it ourselves. A gift for all people and all generations. The gift of a child, a person, a rescuer, a King, the gift of Jesus.

Jesus is God's gift to the world because He is God's rescue plan for this broken world. As humans we have all rejected God and turned from His ways and the results have been devastating. God wants to restore His world, one person at a time. It is only through Jesus' life, death and resurrection that we can be brought back into a relationship with God and live under His good rule in His world. This is the good news of Christianity; God has not given up on this world but instead God has given His Son for this world.

Jesus' birth blew people away. Wise men came to worship the new King and brought Him gifts. Shepherds praised God and "spread the word" about what they had seen and heard. How do we respond to the gift of Jesus? Do we recognise our need for a Saviour and receive Him with humility and joy? Are we ready to worship Him as King of our lives? Are we sharing what we have seen and heard with those who don't know Him?

I hope you will be blown away by God's generosity this Christmas.

Chris.



**Sun. 19th Dec.**  
**11a.m.** With "pop-up" nativity! (any children present can have a walk on part!).

**Fri. 24th Dec. 6pm.**

**Family celebration of Christmas with lantern bags for the children.**

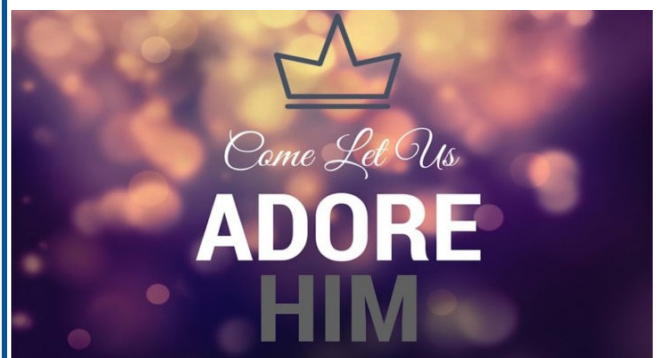


**Christmas Day 10.30– 11.15am**



Children can show us any present they have received.

**Sun. 26th Dec. 10.30am. Welcome to our time of worship and reflection**



[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZaX9yHdsj\\_Y](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZaX9yHdsj_Y)

Paste the link above for a beautiful song.

## Young Sportswoman of the year



### Congratulations to Katie Johnson

Katie, of Edinburgh AC was named Sportscotland Young Sportswoman of the Year.

Katie (at 16 years of age) had already secured the U17 Athlete of the Year this year, which in itself was a wonderful achievement.

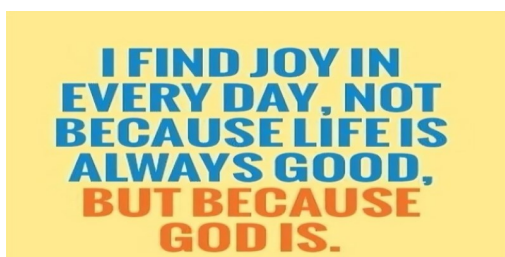
Katie won 800m gold at both U17 and U20 at both the Scottish and English age group championships. She also helped the U20 women set a new Scottish 4x400m record at the Manchester International, where she represented GB at U18 level, and Scotland at U20. Katie also took both the Schools International and UK School Games 800m titles.

Katie, as ever, was self-effacing in receiving her justly deserved accolade. We rejoice with Katie in her success and thank God for her example to others in her attitude and commitment to her athletics.

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### Ministry Apprenticeship

Thanks for all donations to our new ministry apprenticeship fund. We will hopefully be able to pay for Chris's course fees (and expenses) for the 2 years he will be studying at Faith Mission Bible College. Please email Margaret if you would like Gift Aid to be claimed back on any donations you have made to the fund.



### Funerals

Ina Berrick

Cath Curran

We give thanks to God for Ina & Cath . Our sisters in Christ served well and will be sorely missed. We remember their families at this time. \_\_\_\_\_

### Church Finances

We are very grateful for those who continue to support the ministry and service of the church. Up to last month, our annual direct givings were down by about £3,500 compared with last year. We are still an aid receiving church and we are thankful for the contributions of other churches in Scotland given in support of the work in Prestonpans and beyond.

Do let us know if you would like to receive bank details for the church if you would like to regularly give to the work of God through the ministry of Prestongrange Church. Regular giving can be helpfully carried out through a standing order to the church. Contact our treasurer: Margaret Milne for further details: [margaretmilne@gmail.com](mailto:margaretmilne@gmail.com).

### AMAZON SMILE

Amazon has a scheme where for every order you make via the link, a small donation is made to your chosen charity. Prestongrange Church is now in a position to receive donations via the link below. Just click on the link and carry on as normal. It makes no difference to your order or price. Any questions, please contact Margaret. It is very easy to do. [margaretmilne@gmail.com](mailto:margaretmilne@gmail.com)  
<https://smile.amazon.co.uk/ch/SC031191>

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**“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace to those on whom his favour rests.” (Luke 2:14).**

May the Lord's presence and peace be very real to you.

With our warm greetings.

Ken & Moira Donald

**P.S. Phone (813643) for Zoom details for Christmas services (unless you normally receive them).**