

# Kilbride HERALD

*St Bride's—where Faith and Fellowship grow*

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2023



**PARISH OF KILBRIDE : ST BRIDE'S CHURCH**  
**- where Faith and Fellowship grow**

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| <p><b>Organist &amp; Choir Director</b><br/>Timothy Wilson</p> <p><b>Sunday School Superintendent</b><br/>Eleanor Graham: 9334 0000</p>                                                                                | <p><b>The Rector would be grateful<br/>for information about<br/>hospital admissions<br/>and discharges.</b></p>                                     |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p><b>KILBRIDE HERALD</b><br/> <b>Editorial Panel</b><br/>                     Iris McCormick, Ivan Topping,<br/>                     The Rector</p> |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | <p><b>Charity Number: 10 35 70</b></p>                                                                                                               |



## A THOUGHT FOR THE NEW YEAR

The month of January is named after the Roman god Janus, who is depicted with two faces. We may look back to the old year with sadness or regret, but how can we make a fresh start at the beginning of 2023?

The apostle Paul writes 'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (*Philippians 3:13,14*). Firstly, if you want a new start, you need to forget the things which are behind. Paul pictures himself as an athlete running for Christ, yet not looking back. He refused to allow his past sins and failures to define who he was. By God's grace, he no longer saw himself that way. The same can be true of ourselves, as we confess our sins and receive God's forgiveness and new life.

Secondly, we need to focus on the things that lie ahead. The athlete is entirely focused on winning the race and gaining the prize. Like Paul, we have to be single-minded in making Jesus the focus of everything we do. How can we go deeper in our prayer life and Bible reading this year? What will it mean to better serve Christ in our workplace and career, or family and children?

Paul looked forward to the day when he would stand before God, and God will say, 'well done, good and faithful servant'. In light of all that Jesus had done for him, Paul wanted to give his very best to Jesus.

As we stand at the beginning of this New Year, let's ask ourselves, 'What can I do this year that will help me bring glory and honour to God?'



I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year:  
“Give me a light,  
That I may tread safely into the unknown.”  
And he replied:  
“Go out into the darkness,  
And put your hand into the hand of God.  
That shall be to you better than light  
And safer than a known way.”

*From a poem by Minnie Louise Haskins, and famously quoted by King George VI.*



## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL DAY

Holocaust Memorial Day takes place on 27 January each year. It's a time for everyone to pause and remember the millions of people who have been murdered or whose lives have been changed beyond recognition during the Holocaust, Nazi Persecution and in subsequent genocides all over the world.

On HMD we can honour the survivors of these regimes and challenge ourselves to use the lessons of their experience to inform our lives today. 27 January marks the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau, the largest Nazi death camp.

HMD is a time when we seek to learn the lessons of the past and to recognise that genocide does not just take place on its own, it's a steady process which can begin if discrimination, racism and hatred are not checked and prevented.

We're fortunate here in Northern Ireland; we are not at any immediate risk of genocide. However, discrimination has not ended, nor has of the

language of hatred or exclusion. There is still much to do to create a safer future and HMD is an opportunity to start this process.

As HMD does not fall on a Sunday this year, we will remember the victims of the Holocaust on Sunday 29 January at 11.00am



A lot of hard work went into our preparations for Christmas and the New Year; it was a very busy time for a great many people in our parish family.

Thank you to all who worked so hard; it is very much appreciated!

## The Services at St Bride's



### [1] Sunday 1 January Christmas 2

11.00am Holy Communion  
(No Prayers for Healing)

### Friday 6 January Feast of the Epiphany

11.00am Holy Communion

### [2] Sunday 8 January Epiphany 1

11.00am Morning Prayer

### [3] Sunday 15 January Epiphany 2

11.00am Holy Communion

### [4] Sunday 22 January Epiphany 3

11.00am Morning Prayer

### [5] Sunday 29 January Epiphany 4

Holocaust Memorial  
11.00am Morning Prayer

### Wednesday 1 February Feast of St Bride

11.00am Holy Communion

### [1] Sunday 5 February 3rd Sunday before Lent

11.00am Holy Communion

### [2] Sunday 12 February 2nd Sunday before Lent

11.00am Morning Prayer

### [3] Sunday 19 February Sunday next before Lent

11.00am Holy Communion

### Wednesday 22 February ASH WEDNESDAY

11.00am Holy Communion



### [4] Sunday 26 February Lent 1

11.00am Morning Prayer

***See a little notice about Lent  
on page 21.***

## 1st January The Naming of Jesus

It is St Matthew and St Luke who tell the story of how the angel instructed that Mary's baby was to be named Jesus - a common name meaning 'saviour'.

The Church recalls the naming of Jesus on 1 January - eight days after 25 December (by the Jewish way of reckoning days). For in Jewish tradition, the male babies were circumcised and named on their eighth day of life.

For early Christians, the name of Jesus held a special significance.

In Jewish tradition, names expressed aspects of personality. Jesus' name permeated his ministry, and it does so today: we are baptised in the name of Jesus (*Acts 2:38*).

All Christian prayer is through 'Jesus Christ our Lord', and it is 'at the name of Jesus' that one day every knee shall bow. This is the reason we celebrate Holy Communion on 1 January, and not really because it is the beginning of a new year.

## EPIPHANY

**On 6 January we celebrate the Epiphany—the visit of the Wise Men to the child Jesus.**

But who were these wise men? No one knows for sure. St



Matthew calls them 'Magi', and that was the name of an ancient caste of a priestly kind from Persia.

It wasn't until the third century that they were called kings—by a church father, Tertullian. Another church father, Origen, thought that there might have been three of them—to correspond with the gifts given—but such evidence is rather flimsy.

Later Christian interpretation came to understand gold as a symbol of wisdom and wealth, incense as a symbol of worship and sacrifice, and myrrh as a symbol of healing—and even embalming.

Certainly Jesus challenged and set aright the way in which the world handled all three of these things.

## **THE PARISH REGISTER OF GENERAL VESTRYPERSONS**

### **What is a General Vestryperson?**

A parishioner (someone who lives within the parish boundary) or accustomed member (someone who doesn't live within the boundary but attends church) and whose name is on the parish list of General Vestrypersons.

### **How do you become one?**

You fill in a form which the Church Wardens will provide.

### **Can anybody become one?**

No. You must be at least 18 and have subscribed (by recordable means, e.g. Freewill Offering Envelopes) to parish funds in the past year.

### **Why might I want to become one?**

When you register as a General Vestryperson you are entitled to have a say in the business affairs of the parish. The annual business meeting is known as the Easter General Vestry meeting, at which elections to the Select Vestry and other appointments take place.

### **If I go to the meeting can I bring up whatever issues I like?**

No. The General Vestry members elect the Select Vestry and receive the Financial Statement. In our parish they also hear the Rector's Address. Questions on these matters are welcome, but no other business is conducted. Most people find the meeting quite interesting.

### **I think I filled in a form to become a General Vestryperson about ten years ago. Do I still hold this title?**

You might do! In fact, if you still subscribe to parish funds, you probably do! Get the Churchwardens to check if your name is there.

### **When can I register?**

Only during the month of February. An announcement will be made in church, and a notice will be posted on the church door, to tell you when the Register is to be opened and closed.



**If I register, how often am I required to attend meetings?**

There is usually only one meeting per year.

**As far as I know I meet all the requirements—do you think I should register?**

**YES!!!**



*Rector and Councillor warm up with a hot drink after a rather wet Lighting of the Christmas Tree.*

## WORK OF VOLUNTEERS DELAYED DUE TO MILD WEATHER

**A team of willing volunteers arrived at the church early one autumn morning to begin the annual clean-up of the church grounds. The work was a bit later this year, due to the mild weather, which kept the leaves on the trees for longer.**



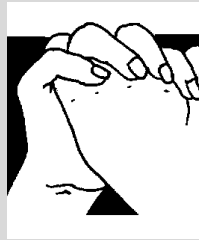
With a poor weather forecast for the afternoon it made sense to get started early and armed with brushes, rakes, shovels and leaf blowers the team worked hard to dispose of the large quantity of dead leaves, beech nuts and other debris that had fallen from the trees in recent weeks. Large builders' bags were filled to maximum capacity and taken to the local green waste depot before being returned to be filled again.

In all, three trips were required and by 2 o'clock the grounds were once again extremely tidy. The workers took a short break in the Parish Hall at 11 o'clock for a well-deserved cup of tea or coffee. Another small team gave the inside of the church a thorough clean and dusting in time for tomorrow's service on the first Sunday of Advent.

The rain forecast thankfully never materialised, although it did become extremely windy, so everyone was able to work without getting wet. The Rector gave his personal thanks to everyone for their hard work before he, together with Bishop George, began the next meeting in the Parish Room for the pilgrims going to the Holy Land.



## **Prayers for our Parish**



*In the past few weeks we've been concentrating a lot on prayer. We invite you to use these next few pages in your daily devotions. There are many prayer topics here—designed to help those who have a genuine desire to pray for our parish and its people.*

*Here is a way in which we can all play a valuable role in God's work. Will you take up the challenge?*

Pray for our parish and all its people, that through our public worship we may be awakened to the wonder of God's love for us.

Pray that more and more of our people may see the necessity of weekly worship in church with their Christian brothers and sisters.

Pray that our worship may constantly undergo renewal, and that it may never become mere ceremonial observance.

Pray for our Rector, who has the cure of souls in the parish, and who requires your prayers in order to adequately perform his role.

Pray for all those who lead the worship, especially the Rector and David Holmes, that through their own preparation for the task, and in the way which they perform it, they may encourage all our people to worship in spirit and in truth.

Pray for those who take lightly our Lord's command to partake of the Sacrament of Holy Communion, and ask that ways may be found to show the importance of participation in this respect.

Pray for Timothy our Organist, and the Choir, that they may always be aware of their high calling, and give of their very best at all times.

Pray that we may be a truly friendly and welcoming parish family, and that no visitor or stranger in church may ever feel alienated or ignored.

Thank God for the spiritual



growth and renewed vision which has gradually come about in our parish, and for the success of every effort to bring us closer to God.

Pray continued spiritual renewal in the life of our parish and all its people, and for the success of every effort to bring us closer to God.

Pray for a willingness to change according to the promptings of the Holy Spirit, in whatever department of parish life that change is required.

Pray for George our Bishop, living in our parish, that he may have strength to manage the daily problems of parishes and people. Pray for his wife Nadine and his children in their daily lives, and in the role to which God has called them all.

Pray for all those who have the care of our young people, especially parents, godparents and guardians. Pray that they may be given strength and motivation to keep the promises made at the baptism of their children, to bring them up in the Christian faith by their prayers, teaching and example.

Pray for the parish Sunday

School, and for teachers Eleanor, Ashley and Angela. Pray that the children may be eager to learn, and the teachers eager to teach the things of God.

Pray for God's guidance as to how he wants our parish to further develop.

Pray that those whom God is calling to work with the young may be open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and offer their services in love and sacrifice.

Pray for Doagh primary School, Kilbride Central Primary School, Tildarg Primary School, the Thompson Primary School, and other schools around the parish, that the family atmosphere may continue, and that teacher-pupil relationships may flourish.

Pray for members of the Select Vestry, elected and appointed to look after the fabric, furnishings and finance of the parish, that they may use the gifts of God to carry out their work to his glory and to the benefit of all people.

Pray for each and every home in our parish, that they may be images of God's kingdom. Ask God's blessing on families—on every man, woman and child, and pray for the maintenance of family life.

Pray for all those struggling with an ever-widening of family problems, that they may have strength and guidance to overcome them.

Ask God's special blessing on those families which are broken and divided, and pray that their members may still be united in the family of our parish.

Remember those who live alone, both senior citizens and younger people, that they too may feel part of the family of God in the Parish of Kilbride, and share the love of a family.

Ask God's continued blessings on the development of the Healing Ministry within our parish family, that more people may realise the important role they can play by praying for those who are ill, especially together in church once a month.

Pray for the sick and suffering; those who are anxious or depressed; the housebound; the lonely; those who mourn the loss of loved ones, those suffering from Coronavirus, and all in special need of God's healing blessings. Pray that they may be granted healing of body, mind and spirit, and the awareness of God's comforting presence at all times.

Pray for all parish volunteer workers, in whatever capacity, that they may perform their function with enthusiasm and cheerfulness, and that we may never take their work for granted.



Thank God for all the faithful souls who have lived, worked and died in our parish, and who have worshipped him in our parish church. Thank him for the founders of St Bride's Church, and for those who allowed our beautiful church to be built.

Thank God for allowing us the privilege of worshipping him and witnessing for him in our parish, and thank him for our fellow-parishioners, and for the sense of fellowship which exists among us.

Pray for the vital work of Environmental Stewardship which exists within the parish, that we may willingly adhere to the principles of our Environmental Policy and encourage others to join the cause.

Thank God for all in Holy Orders who have served our parish in times past, and especially for the Revd Paul Redfern, the Revd Colin Hall-Thompson, the Revd Clyde Irvine, the Revd Roy Cox, and the Revd Bob Raynor, former



rectors of our parish.

Pray for a greater sense of peace in our land, and for an end of hatred and

sectarianism.

Ask God how we, as individuals and as a parish, can best make our contribution permanent and lasting peace, and a greater understanding of our beliefs and cultures.

Ask forgiveness for our part in the bitterness of our society, and pray for the visible unity of the whole Christian Church, which we know to be our Lord's will.

Pray for other churches within our parish; the congregation at Kilbride Presbyterian Church and at Doagh Methodist Church, and the Christian group meeting in the Torrens Hall.

Pray for local councillors, other local leaders, and all who have a voice in the community, that words may never be spoken hastily or without thought.

Pray for the members of the PSNI, that they may always work for a greater sense of trust with the public.

Pray for the members of the security forces, magistrates, and all connected with Law and

Order.

Pray for all MLAs and all who represent our people in public office.

Pray for the love of Christ in the hearts of all our people.

***"We must repent of our prayerlessness and make prayer a priority."***

***- Billy Graham***

### **WHY DO YOU INCLUDE THE SAME PRAYER SUBJECTS IN EVERY EDITION?**

**Because the same people  
need to be prayed for in  
every edition!**

You have the opportunity to pray for whomsoever you want, but Anglicans find that repetitive prayer is a good thing, and people are not forgotten about.

Please keep using our suggested prayer topics over each monthly period, but feel free to use others as well.

# Bible Bite

## A short story from the Bible

It can be read in the Bible in  
Genesis 12:1-9, 17:1-22, 18:1-15, 21:1-7

About 6000 years ago, God told Abram  
and his wife Sarai to leave their home and  
go to a new land that He would give them

|                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>This land will belong to your family, but not yet</p>  <p>But Sarai and I cannot have children</p>                      | <p>and I am changing your names to Abraham and Sarah</p>  <p>'Abraham' means 'Father of many'<br/>'Sarah' means 'Princess'</p> | <p>You and Sarah will have a son, Isaac</p>  <p>We are too old to have children. Ha ha ha!</p> |
| <p>It was noon, and everyone was resting from the heat...</p>  <p>when Abraham saw three men coming to his tents.</p>    | <p>He recognised the Lord</p>  <p>Please stay and have something to eat.</p>                                                  | <p>He ran to tell everyone</p>  <p>Quick, we need a feast cooked for special guests</p>       |
| <p>Sarah was in the tent, listening</p> <p>By this time next year, you will have a son</p>  <p>At our age? Ha ha ha!</p> | <p>Why did Sarah laugh?</p>                                                                                                  | <p>I didn't laugh</p>  <p>Yes, you did.</p>                                                 |
| <p>Soon afterwards...</p>  <p>I'm pregnant!</p>                                                                          | <p>Sarah and Abraham's baby boy was born</p>  <p>I'm so happy, I can't stop laughing</p>                                     | <p>They called him 'Isaac' which means 'laughter'</p>  <p>Ha ha ha! Ha ha ha!</p>            |

# ECO CORNER



## GREENER DRIVING

*Here are some tips for environmentally friendly driving—and also for saving ourselves some money!*

1. Change gear early. It is recommended to change around 2500rpm for a petrol-engine car and 2000rpm for a diesel—which saves revving the engine too hard, reducing emissions and fuel consumption. But do not labour the engine by selecting a higher gear too early—that wastes fuel and increases engine strain.
2. Avoid heavy breaking and sharp acceleration. Try to read the road, anticipating obstacles so that you can avoid these, and accidents!
3. Cut the air con. Use your car's air conditioning system sparingly—it's not often needed in the spring and autumn, and it can knock between one and five mpg off your fuel consumption, usefully reducing CO2 emissions as well. Do run the system occasionally, though—prolonged non-usage can eventually damage the compressor.
4. Get going quickly. Drive away as soon as possible once you've started the engine from cold. It warms up more quickly, reducing consumption, emissions and engine wear. But don't rev the car excessively when it's cold either—that's bad for engine wear (because the cold oil won't be circulating fully), as well as consumption and emissions.
5. Avoid short journeys. Avoid trips of only a few miles.
6. Cruise moderately. Consider your cruising speed on motorways; travelling at 65mph rather than 70 can reduce consumption and emissions by as much as 25%.
7. Check your tyre pressures regularly. Running them uninflated also increases fuel consumption, apart from being dangerous; under-inflated tyres can overheat at speed,



- risking a blow-out.
8. Don't coast in neutral. Coasting in neutral could save you money with old cars fitted with carburettors, but modern fuel-injection systems cut the fuel supply off altogether as you slow to a stop, saving a surprising amount, especially in stop/start driving.

*So there you are. We've annoyed a lot of drivers by telling them how not to drive, but we might also have saved you a few pounds, and it would be a good thing to follow if we're serious about greening our driving and helping to clean the atmosphere.*

## A PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND

with Canon David Humphries  
and the Rt Revd George Davison, Bishop of Exeter

16—26 May

A Spiritual Journey through the Holy Land and the Galilee

**FULLY BOOKED**

## The Grace of Giving

Money can be a sensitive subject in church, especially when it comes to giving.

St Paul describes the support given by the Macedonians to the impoverished Christians in Jerusalem as evidence of the 'grace of giving' (2 Corinthians 8:7).

They were following the example of Jesus: *'For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, so that you through His poverty might become rich'* (9).

How does he describe their giving?

Sacrificial giving: *'Out of the most severe trial, their overflowing joy and extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity'*.

In giving, our first response can be *'How much?'* For Paul, *'rich generosity'* is always a response to the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross. How serious and sacrificial

is our giving?

Regular giving: *'they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability'* (3). The Macedonians were thoughtful in their giving. Is our giving regular and planned, or do we simply put our loose change into the collection plate? How can we give regularly to God's work in our local church and beyond?

Willing giving: *'Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.'* (2 Cor 9:7). It's not often that we find ourselves laughing when putting money on the plate!

Let's prayerfully review our giving (as well as our spending), and ask God to help us to respond appropriately.

God doesn't just want our money; He wants all of our lives: *'they gave themselves first to the Lord and then to us'*.

Is God the sole owner or simply a shareholder in our lives? Let's seek to *'excel in this grace of giving'*!

## **SPECIAL NEIGHBOURS HAVE THEIR CAROL SERVICE AT KILBRIDE**

**For the first time in living memory, the children of Kilbride Primary School held their two Carol Services in St Bride's.**

The boys and girls had worked very hard in preparation for this big event, and the parents were well-represented, both in the church and in the hall for tea after the service.

Education is one very big aspect of our ministry here at Kilbride, with several parishioners on the school's Board of Governors, as well as the Rector. The Rector also has associations with Kilbride Central Primary School and Tildarg Primary School, and we are always looking to further cement our relationships with the other schools which we have within our parish boundary.



## **LIGHTING UP KILBRIDE**

**The switching on of the Christmas Tree Lights took place last month, on an extremely cold Saturday evening.**

We first huddled in a cosy parochial hall for a short service, and were inspired in our worship by Sophie Hartley and Oscar Hunter.

Sophie sang the well-loved "O Holy Night" by Adam, and Oscar illustrated the smooth passage of Advent into Christmas with "O Come, O come Emmanuel".

After the worship we moved out into the dark night, when at the command of Councillor Vera McWilliam, Kilbride was lit up by the lovely Christmas Tree lights.

The mood of the jolly crowd was not even dimmed when a shower of sleet poured down on us, and, with perfect timing, Santa Claus appeared on Kilbride Road on the back of a lorry, his sleigh having temporarily broken down during his test run through the Six Mile

Valley (or so it was rumoured).

Then it was back inside to the heat for hot drinks and mince pies.

Thanks to everyone who took part and worked hard to make the event worthwhile!



## A NOTICE CONCERNING THE SEASON OF LENT

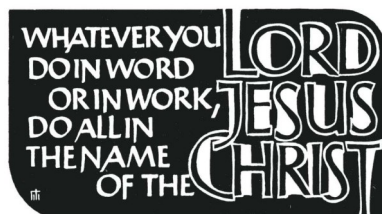
It seems a little early to be thinking about Lent, but as the Herald only comes out every two months, with Lent beginning at the end of February, we need to prepare ourselves a little early, just to make we're not taken unawares.



Parishioners will no doubt remember that in Lent last year we held an experimental series of "Lenten Lunchtime Services" around 12.30pm. During these short Wednesday services we heard a recital of music, a little homily, and then we retired to the parish hall for a light lunch.

Although these were purely experimental, they went quite well and had an excellent attendance, and folk were keen that they should be repeated. So they will be! They will appear in a slightly modified form, and will begin on Wednesday 1 March, which is the Wednesday after Ash Wednesday, and full details will be given in church.

We encourage you to come, or to come again, and to bring your neighbours with you. And remember, you don't have to be a member of the Church of Ireland to attend—we welcome anyone and everyone!



## REMEMBERING LEWIS CARROLL

Creator of “Alice in  
Wonderland”



Just 125 years ago, on 14<sup>th</sup> January 1898, Charles Lutwidge Dodgson, an English author, poet, photographer and mathematician, died of pneumonia. His pen name was Lewis Carroll, and he was best known for *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *Through the Looking Glass* and the poems *Jabberwocky* and *The Hunting of the Snark*.

A brilliantly inventive writer, Carroll was also a deacon in the Church of England, and a firm Christian – some have even claimed that *Alice* is a biblical allegory, with the Cheshire Cat as God. (Carroll was born in Cheshire.)

Carroll was a maths lecturer at Oxford, and Alice Liddell – who provoked the story of Alice – was the daughter of one of his colleagues.

She had two sisters, Lorina and Edith, who were also close to Carroll, a bachelor who remained celibate throughout his life. He was known to be good with children, unsurprisingly for an eldest son with eight younger brothers and sisters – and at one point was invited to entertain two grandchildren of Queen Victoria.

The book *Alice in Wonderland* and its sequel have been subject to huge numbers of unlikely interpretations, ranging from drug use to being the outpouring of migraine aura symptoms. But most people continue to regard them as masterpieces of fantasy literature,



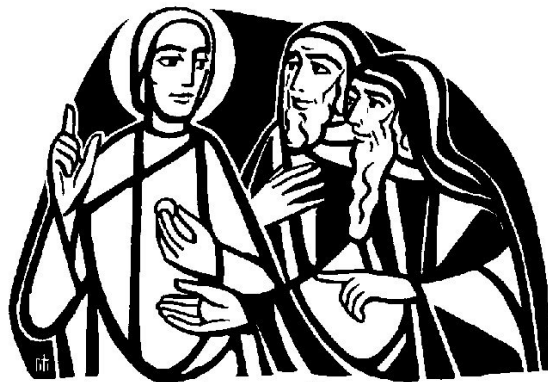
produced by a highly intelligent and sensitive man.

The Alice books might never have seen the light of day, had not novelist Henry Kingsley come across the first version on a visit to the Liddells, and urged Alice's mother to persuade the author to publish it.

Carroll consulted another author — his friend George Macdonald, whose son Greville, aged six, apparently said he

“wished there were 60,000 volumes of it”.

By the time of Carroll's death, the two-volume *Alice* was the most popular children's book in England.



Render, therefore  
to Caesar the things  
that are Caesar's,  
and to God the things  
that are God's



*Epiphany: The Wise Men visit the child Jesus.*

