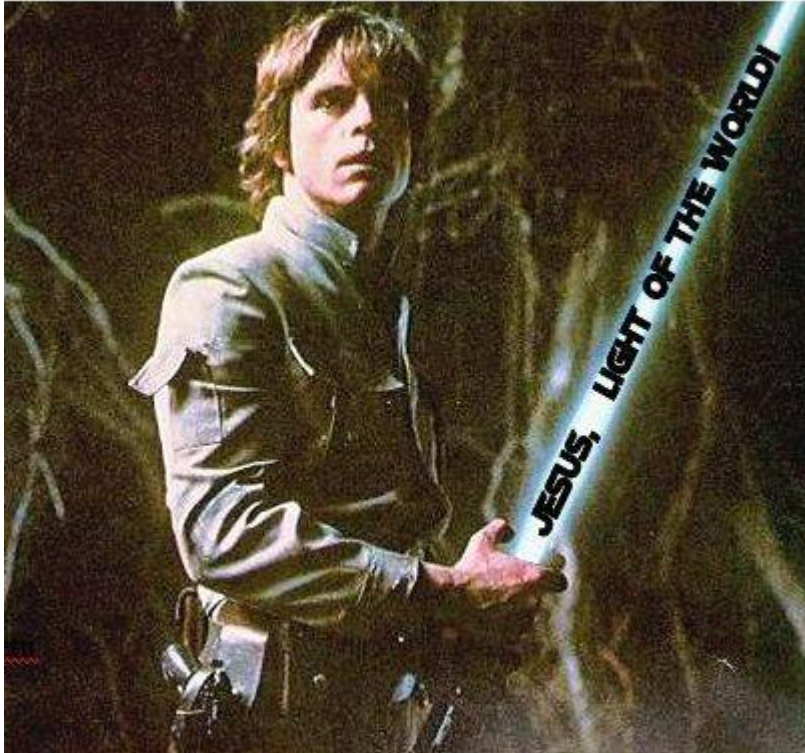


SHOULD WE BE PRAYING FOR THE RETURN OF THE JEDI?



At our **Christmas Eve service** we read the familiar passage from Luke's Gospel:

In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. (This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to their own town to register.

In the 2001 census in Scotland over 65% of respondents recorded their religion as 'Christian'. This would suggest that any claim Scotland might make to being a Christian country could be justified.

However, caution must always be exercised when analysing statistics. Of those 65%, over 2 million (42.4%) claimed to be members of the Church of Scotland - a figure much higher than the Kirk's own records show!

Furthermore, whether genuinely or motivated by mischief, an additional 14, 052 people in Scotland **claimed their religion to be 'Jedi'!** Perhaps our prayer in 2012 should include a prayer for the **'return of the Jedi'** to the fold of Christianity!

At the close of his talk on Christmas Eve Kenneth, our minister, challenged us all to consider how we each would answer the question *What is your religion?* Would the lives we lead, the way we deal with one another justify our giving the answer *'I am a Christian'*?