

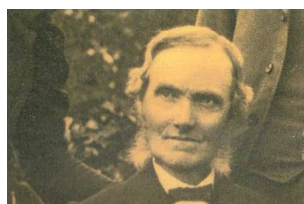


# FOCUS

The Magazine of Busby Parish Church

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'Apart from me, does anybody  
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## Busby Faces Huge Challenge

The Church of Scotland's Glasgow Presbytery, propose to unite Busby Parish Church and Greenbank Church in five years time, with a very real threat of Busby's Church closing. After 182 years, Busby will no longer have a Parish Church. This would be a significant loss for the whole of Busby, not just for Church members.

It's true that people are more important than places but it is the buildings and facilities in a village which provide the opportunity for people to come together and play a significant role in the social fabric of a community. The loss of our Parish Church wouldn't just be that of a place of worship, devastating though that would be. It would also mean the loss of an important contribution towards community life and social well-being in Busby, and another step towards it losing its identity as a village. Our Church hosts an ever popular Mother and Toddler Group for all faiths and none, Brownies, Girl Guides, a "Drop-in Club" for local senior citizens and numerous social events such as the annual Pantomime, Christmas Fayre, Summer Garden Party, Burns Supper, Coffee Mornings and Ceilidh, as well as organizing litter-picking to keep our streets and public places clean, providing pastoral care for the vulnerable and those in need in our community and supporting local food banks and care homes, not to mention offering baptisms, weddings and funerals to local people. As well as all these, our halls host a range of local clubs and classes. Losing all of these would be very damaging to the village.

However, our future is in our own hands and, to secure it, we need to make ours a thriving Church with an active congregation of all ages, playing a central role in the community of Busby for everyone. To do this, we will listen to what people want in the village. We will welcome suggestions for community events to add to those we already run. We are currently investigating the possibility of running a Village Fair, similar to the once successful Busby Gala Day. We intend to develop our facilities so that more people can share in more local activities, bringing them closer together. We especially plan to cater for young people who are the future. We want to know how we can help those in need and how to make Busby Parish Church more welcoming on Sundays, and on every other day. Five years from now we intend to be seen as vital and indispensable to Busby, especially by its residents.



We know this isn't going to be easy and, although we are committed to achieving our plan, we need the full support of everyone in the village.

We need people to tell us what they want in the community and how their local Church can help to make it happen. We must be prepared to make changes. We also need support for our current events and future ones based on the suggestions of local people. We need people to attend these and not simply donate. It's all about taking part and sharing these occasions, and not just about financial support. In the 2011 census, there were 3,917 people in Busby, of whom 38% gave their religion as Church of Scotland. That's 1,488 people! This is the first time we have distributed Focus door-to-door throughout the Parish of Busby in order to reach as many people as possible. If you are one of the 38%, or if you're not but value all that we can do in the community, it's time to play your part. We have five years and we know we can do it. However, the clock is ticking.



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## Message from the Manse

Jerry Eve



As Clarkston Churches Together, once again we're holding a Good Friday Pilgrimage throughout the area. Beginning at 7am in Netherlee Church it culminates at 3pm in Carmunnock Church, stopping off at 7 other churches, including our own, along the way. And this year, I'm pleased once again with the theme which, this time, is artists' impressions of the first Good Friday, when we'll be looking at a different painting, piece of sculpture, or some other form of art, on the hour every hour. There are so many to choose from, and I look forward to seeing the final list – as well as slides of the works themselves. Here's one that might be a possibility – a photograph taken recently by Michelle, part of a floral display in Pollok Estate. If you feel inspired, then maybe you'd like to create something yourself:



## Message from the Session Clerk

Robin Bulmer

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> February, we held our Trustees meeting to receive and approve the annual report and accounts for 2016. Once again I was struck by the number of church 'leaders', referenced therein, who contribute to our Church life and outreach. Notwithstanding that, new blood is always welcomed and indeed required to refresh our spirits. The latter was a key consideration when adopting the Unitary Constitution through which we seek to 'refresh' our church. In matching our capabilities to that constitution we have focussed on Praise (Worship), Pastoral (People), Premises (Property), Payments (Finance), Projects (Outreach and World Mission), Publicity. To complement this structure we have developed a 5-Year plan that calls on all current and emerging new leaders to consider the opportunities to provide their skills, knowledge and experience to aid the work of our Church. Our over-riding aim is to provide a centre of Christian worship and practice at the heart of the community of Busby. We aim to offer a warm welcome to all who we come into contact with us not just through Sunday worship but also through organised group activities both Church and Community based. Please join us and help to keep the Church alive in Busby!

## Announcements

### BEREAVEMENTS

December 2016: Lesley Magnelli, nee Drewery, c/o Oliphant Crescent  
Doris Fairweather, South Road  
January, 2017: Tom Wallace, Woodyett Park

### WEDDING

10<sup>th</sup> February Esther Myrtle McGregor and Iain Macleod Dubrey

## Joint Holy Week Services

Wednesday, 12 <sup>th</sup> April,	7.00pm	Greenbank Church
Thursday, 13 <sup>th</sup> April,	7.00pm	Busby Parish Church (Communion)
Friday, 14 <sup>th</sup> April,	7.00pm	Williamwood Church



# Clarkston Churches Together

## Good Friday Pilgrimage, 14<sup>th</sup> April

7.00am	Netherlee
8.00am	Stamperland
9.00am	St. Aidan's
10.00am	Williamwood (tea/coffee)
11.00am	Greenbank
12.00 noon	St Joseph's (Stations of the cross)
1.15pm	Cartsbridge
2.00pm	Busby
3.00pm	Carmunnock (Hot Cross Buns)

## Sunday School Nativity Play

Christmas saw the Sunday School's Nativity Play in the Church, with the cast displaying boundless enthusiasm and enthralled the watching congregation. As always, the costumes showed real imagination and the hard work of both sets of teachers was very evident.



## Our Choir

Angela Marshall

The choir continues to meet on Tuesday evening, with Allan Morrison at the piano and Rosanne Brackenridge at her music stand directing the proceedings. At the moment we are expanding our repertoire considerably, (as well as using our old favourites!) for all the requirements of our worship ie anthems, introits, accompaniments to prayers and sung Blessings. No chance that we will become stale anyway!

We are delighted to welcome a new member, Douglas Suckle to the Bass section. He has attended Busby Church regularly for a few years along with his brother Norrie. They belong to a musically gifted family, and each has a long association with Brass Band music since childhood, from their association with the Salvation Army. They can sing too! Welcome Douglas! Perhaps you can persuade Norrie to come along as well!

Holy Week and Easter will give us some additional work, but we all enjoy doing what we do to supplement the regular worship in Busby Church. It is most encouraging to have the support of the Congregation, who are regular in giving opinions about our performances- mostly positive as well. Thank you all.

*The Choir's Christmas Concert was a wonderful evening, combining traditional carols with contemporary songs*

