

# Christmas Symbols

Maureen Potter



At Christmas we decorate our houses in different ways according to our taste but we tend to use similar symbols. Most symbols have several legends attached to them. Here are some of them. Christmas colours are mostly red and green but have you ever wondered why? Red is the colour of holly berries and green is the colour of the leaves. Red reminds us of the blood of Christ, and green, the colour of evergreen trees represents the everlasting love of God.

Mistletoe is also green with white berries and is seen as the symbol of love. It dates back to pre-Christian days. It is a parasitic plant which feeds on trees. Some say that is a symbol of our need to feed on God's Word. In Norse mythology it was believed that mistletoe protected life and was a symbol of love –hence kissing under the mistletoe.



Christmas trees were introduced to Britain by Prince Albert, the husband of Queen Victoria. There are several legends pertaining to them mostly rooted in German culture. One of the traditions is attributed to Martin Luther, the leader of the Reformation. One Christmas Eve when walking through some woods close to his home, he was struck by the beauty of the snow shimmering in the moonlight on the branches of the trees. In an effort to re-create the magnificent sight for his family, he cut down the tree, placed it in his home, and decorated it with candles. One of the most popular Christmas carols in Germany is "O Tannenbaum" which translates as "O Christmas Tree!"

Candles and Fairy Lights are popular at Christmas and represent the birth of Jesus, the Light of the World.

Tinsel was first used in Germany in 1610 and was made from real silver. Legend says that when Mary, Joseph and Baby Jesus were fleeing from Herod, they sheltered in a cave. The soldiers were all around them but didn't see the cave because a spider had spun a huge web over the entrance. Tinsel on trees has come to represent the spider's web.

Bells - according to tradition, St. Patrick, in the 5th century, used a bell to gather the Irish people together for the teaching and preaching of God's Word. With time, the bell came to be associated with the Lord's work and to symbolise something sacred. As Christmas is one of the greatest and most joyous of all feasts let the bells ring in celebration.



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# Busby Men

Steve Smith

I have been successful in obtaining the services of a Miss Dorothea Anderson, recommended to me by Myrtle McGregor, to give a talk to our Group on the history of Oman where she served in the Armed Forces Medical Service of that country. Having spoken to her, I can say that her time there sounds fascinating and I trust that you will agree when you hear the talk. She has agreed to speak at our February meeting, which has us fixed for the next three meetings as follows:-

November 28 Ostap Melnick "Lady Lucy Houston"  
January 30 Phillip Cornish "The Queen's Mother-in-Law"  
February 27 Dorothea Anderson "The History of Oman"

Busby Men meet in the White Cart on the last Tuesday in every month at 10.30am.

# The Choir

Angela Marshall

We are going from strength to strength! There has been some 'weeding' in our repertoire to make room for a considerable number of new (to us!) choral pieces which are appropriate for anthems, whilst we are also keeping those which we regularly used before. For this reason we have been learning new items for the whole of the current session thus far!

The morning worship on the first Sunday in December (5th) will again be led by the Choir for the Nine Lessons and Carols Service, using the King James Bible, and our new lectern of course. All the lessons will be read by choir members.

The Christmas concert will be on Sunday Evening, 17th December in the sanctuary at 7.30pm. We are looking forward to being joined again by the Busby Lights, the choir from Busby Primary School, who have been our guests for the past 2 years as well. We hope that many of you will join us.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!

# Busby Guides

Pamela Mill

I am pleased to say that we have had 8 new girls join us since we started back in September. This brings our numbers up to 29 Guides, 3 Young Leaders and 3 Leaders.



Tuesday evenings are always busy and the girls especially enjoy making up plays, cooking, crafts and playing games. We also do badge work from time to time with a favourite being the Chocolate Badge.

On the 1st October over 20 of us attended the Youth Service in Church and many of the Guides took part in the service. Five Guides were involved in the Colour Party and many others read out what the Guide Promise and Law meant to them. They also then described some of the activities we do on Tuesday evenings. Alison Kay who had been the Brown Owl with Busby Brownies was also given a presentation at the service.

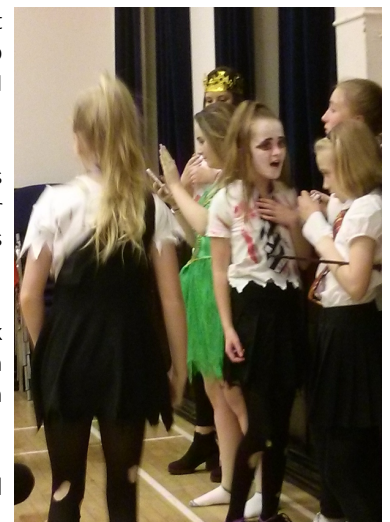
The Guides had had a sleepover in the Church hall on the Saturday evening where they played games, watched a film, enjoyed karaoke, drank hot chocolate and ate cakes. Some girls went to sleep quite easily but many just slept for a few hours. I

think that we all went to bed early on the Sunday evening!

On 24th of October we had our Halloween Party. The girls dressed up in some amazing costumes from a "pig in a blanket" to a Boy Scout. There were several spooky costumes including a number of Zombie schoolgirls! There were prizes for the best costumes and we played several games with the Guides all enjoyed dancing and leaping about.

On Thursday 23rd November there is an East Renfrewshire Guiding event at East Kilbride Ice Rink which we are planning to attend. Between now and Christmas we also hope to spend time on Christmas crafts. We will finish the session with our Christmas Party on either 5th or 12th December.

Any girls, who are between 10 and 14, would be made most welcome, if they want to come and join us on Tuesday evenings. We meet in the Church Hall between 7pm and 9pm.





# Aberdeen Memories Rekindled



Myrtle MacGregor

It's a long time since I was last in Woodside Church, in Aberdeen, or as it was then, Woodside South, and yet when I stepped inside on Sunday 15th April this year, it was as if I was a little girl there again.

It is indeed 55 years since I was last there as bridesmaid to my friend Muriel Howie in the Church where we had attended Sunday school, Brownies, Guides, Youth Fellowship and then become Sunday school teachers, along with Barbara Morrice who was to bring me back again this year to Easter Communion. As I sat down the choir was rehearsing and I remembered so well the warmth of the Church that had welcomed me in, aged nine, after the death of my Father. I had to brush away the tears.

It was to become a great influence on me and the centre of our young lives. How emotional for me to almost feel again the presence of my old maiden Aunts, Ella and Anne Birnie, my Mother and Brother who like me gained great comfort from the welcoming congregation, and the many young folks who made life fun.

As I sat there it was all so familiar and yet different. Something was not quite right. How could I have forgotten the beautiful stained glass window? I did not know until later that when the North and South Churches joined, the window had been taken from the North Church. It looked as if it had always been there. The high up screens instead of hymn books I had not seen before and felt empty handed.

Busby Parish church is very similar but smaller than Woodside. What a good idea to have a social area at the back of their Church. Several pews had been removed so that coffee/tea were easily available after the service and most people stayed behind. The Communion Service was a pleasing mixture of the traditional and the new and I found singing "This is the day of Resurrection" to the tune of "This is the road to Amaryllo" very refreshing.

I was made so very welcome and this helped me go back in time. All so different but so much the same and a morning I shall always remember.



## Christian Aid

Angela Marshall



Since September there have been 3 occasions when funds for Christian Aid have been donated by our Church members and beyond. All the money has been very thankfully received on behalf of the recipients, and distributed as necessary to the troubled areas of the world where the aid is so desperately needed.

Firstly, a hunger lunch after Church on 1<sup>st</sup> October raised £113. Secondly, the regular October sponsored swim at Eastwood Baths on 8th raised £345 Thirdly the soup and pudding lunch after worship on 29th October raised £252.70.

This last amount was donated through the Disaster Emergency Fund, for those refugees from Myanmar who have been forced from their homes and fled to neighbouring Bangladesh, one of the poorest countries in the world. Christian Aid is one of the consortium of British Charities who contribute, and as such all donations to that fund are matched by the UK government. Our donation for that therefore generated an extra £252 for the cause, a worthy sum.

Thank you to all contributors for all your generous support and to all those who made the events happen!

The next event will be the Annual Art Exhibition and Sale in the Carmichael Hall Eastwood on the second Saturday in March 2018. More about that in the next bulletin.

Best wishes for the Festive Season

## Lectern Unveiled in Memory of Jimmy and Marianne Deas

On the 29<sup>th</sup> October, we welcomed Helen and Frank Deas who read The first lessons from a new lectern dedicated in the name of Former Session Clerk Jimmy Deas and his wife Marianne. Jimmy is remembered for his huge contribution to our Church and for the sensitive and diplomatic way he worked with the late Ian Wood in achieving the seamless unification of Busby East and Busby West Churches to form our present Busby Parish Church.

