

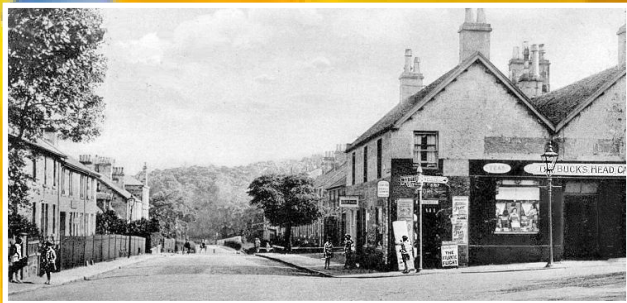
March 2018



FOCUS

The Magazine of Busby Parish Church

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Busby Parish Church GUILD Coffee Morning

in Busby Parish Church Hall

Saturday, 17th March
10.00am until 12.00 noon

Tickets

£2.50 for adults
75p for children

Baking, Books, Gifts
and Plant stalls plus Tombola





FOCUS

The Magazine of
Busby Parish Church

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or left in the Church
Vestibule on Sunday
Mornings

Visit our website at
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Message from the Manse

Jerry Eve



Michelle and myself were saddened to hear of the death of Billy Graham recently. We're both far too young – especially Michelle – to have been at the Kelvin Hall in 1955 to hear him preach as part of the 'All Scotland Crusade'. Throughout the 40 years or so I have now lived in Glasgow, however, I've lost count of the number of people who've told me just how powerful a preacher he was. He preached the Gospel to more people than anyone else ever has. As just two of those, it's no great boast then for either of us to say that 36 years after he first came to Scotland, we did both take the opportunity to go and hear him preach in Celtic Park in 1991.

It was quite a chilly summer's evening. Billy kept his coat on. And yet he managed to warm our hearts. I remember thinking at the time that, as a Southern Baptist, Parkhead seemed an unlikely venue for Billy Graham's evangelism, and yet one of his most endearing qualities was his total lack of sectarianism. He'd taken the trouble to have a word with Tom Winning beforehand, and so that was fine! Michelle and myself travelled there and back on a bus organised by the Roman Catholic congregation that Michelle's father was an active member of, and we all thoroughly enjoyed the time we spent together.



Criticised at times by some of those from his own denomination for his ecumenism, there wasn't a racist bone in Billy Graham's body either. He always repudiated segregation. He refused to travel to South Africa during its apartheid era. And whenever Martin Luther King Jr. was arrested during the 1960s, it was Billy Graham who would bail him out.

Fondly remembered for many years to come, our fondest memory, I think, will be a joke he made that evening in Parkhead as he described the setting, not just as a foretaste of Paradise, but as Paradise itself.



Message from the Session Clerk

Robin Bulmer

These first few months of a new year are a busy time in the administration of the church. Primary among this administration is the production of the annual report and accounts. This is a task that is led by our Treasurer and Ian Norie has done a first class job in this respect. As part of the informal support that Busby Parish Church provides to our friends in Torglen Parish Church I have acted in the capacity of their Treasurer for the past 3 years, drawing on my past experience of that role in Busby. This year a member of our Payments Committee, Steve Smith, has also assisted the latter acting as an Independent Assessor. At the same time 3 of our Kirk Session members, John Lamb, Jim Savage and Allan Morrison have been progressing our long-term feasibility study for optimum use of our buildings in maintaining the Church at the centre of community life. We are truly fortunate to have access to the 'professional' volunteers in our congregation that all of this implies. This fortune extends throughout our committee structure and leadership of our organisations. I'm grateful for the support that all these people bring to our congregation. *"Each one, as a good manager of God's different gifts, must use for the good of others their special gift received from God"* 1-Peter 4:10.

Announcements

WEDDINGS

Thursday 18 January - Alison Brown X Martin Calderwood
(Always be humble and gentle. Be patient with each other, making allowance for each other's faults because of your love. Ephesians 4:2)

BEREAVEMENTS

November
Lizzie Robb, formerly of Stormontfield, Perthshire,
resident of Busby
Douglas Stewart, Clarkston Road
Helen Brown, Easterton Avenue
Betty Turner, Ravenscourt, Thorntonhall
January
Peggy Reid, Ellisland Road

Kwenderana

Maureen Potter

There have not been any meetings of the Kwenderana Partnership Group since November. Carol Finlay, Church of Scotland Twinning & Local Involvement Secretary who was due to lead us through the review process of the partnership had major surgery in December and has still not returned to work. She is doing well and expects to be back at her desk in March and will lead the review at some point in the Spring.

However, despite this hiatus, there has been news from Ekwendeni. On Christmas Morning, I got a text from Anson Singini who visited us in 2006 telling me that his wife Maggie had given birth to a baby boy called Mighty, a wee brother for their daughter Miracle.

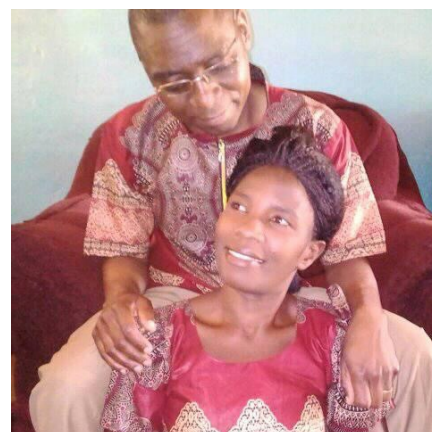
When Anson visited us in September 2006 he was accompanied by Charity Chabinga. Sadly at the very young age of 47, Charity died in January of an asthma attack leaving behind a wife, Mercy, and three daughters, Glory, Faith and Favour. This has caused major financial difficulties for Mercy. The two younger children are being taken care of by their aunt and uncle but Glory is at Ekwendeni Girl's Secondary School which is a fee paying school and Mercy is part way through her teacher training course. With the assistance of the minister at Ekwendeni, I am still investigating the full extent of her financial problems. I have already been offered £150 to help this family pay their fees but I am especially concerned that Mercy finishes her training. Once she becomes fully qualified she will be in a position to support her family and rebuild their lives together.

Over the Christmas period, Kwenderana financed a celebration lunch for the elderly in the Ekwendeni congregations. We normally finance a porridge programme during the school holidays but as people were busy planting this year's harvest, they were unable to carry out

the porridge programme so instead had a great big Sunday School Party for all the children in the area. It has been reported as being very successful.



Mighty Singini



Charity and Mercy Chabinga

Sadly after all the hard work in planting the fields, the rains have stopped and the sun has been excessively warm so there is an acute danger that the harvest could fail causing widespread hardship and famine.

Please pray for:-

- Good rain to save the harvest
- Mercy Chabinga and her family at this difficult time in their lives
- The success of the forthcoming Kwenderana Review.

The Childrens' Party



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