

Update from Doug & Jackie Marshall in Malta

Doug Marshall

In their recent link letter, Doug and Jackie bring us up to date on their personal lives and also in the issues which they face on a daily basis in Malta caring for refugees.



Doug writes: - "A happy new year from Malta! We took a short break over Christmas and headed to Glasgow (to Maureen McCallum's house, one of our members) for some rest and fun, as well as playing in the small snatch of snow that fell. We hope that you entered the new year rested and with hope.

In the run up to Christmas we organised a food bank which constituted a reverse Advent calendar drive; we had done the same in 2016 and had 20 people participate. But during Advent 2017, we were overwhelmed by the support we received. We had hundreds of donations with many schools also participating. It was amazing. We are near the end of January now and we still have not managed to sort through all the donations as of yet as there have been so many (although we are almost there). It is hard to think that just a few months ago the problem was turning people away because we had run out of food and now we have so much that the problem is where to store all the food donations. It is a wonderful problem to have! We were able to give out extra food during Christmas, including Christmas chocolates and cakes to each family. It is Carnival coming up in February and we still have extra chocolate from the food drive which we will be able to give to each family. It was also a great experience to go into the schools and speak to the kids about the work of the food bank and thank them for all the food they had collected."

Since returning to Malta, they have both felt fatigued "by the many seemingly hopeless cases they come across, people waiting on a reticent government, on a continent not doing enough for the "crisis" it is experiencing. The powers that be have felt a threshold is about to be crossed and are retreating, when they should be standing up for refugees and doing far more than they are doing."

"We held the mission Sunday service at St Andrew's Scots Church in Valletta in mid-January. It was a great opportunity for Jacqui to share about the food bank, making the point that even if sometimes people are difficult to deal with, we are not called to just serve the pleasant, compliant and lovable! God knows the stranger better than we ever will and we must know them and Him! I spoke about my role as the English classes' co-ordinator and how (a good) environment and community are necessary for student engagement and learning. I also preached about the imperative of the church to "fish for men" and to see these same people as those who are being used, abused and marginalised.

As adults we see things differently (thankfully) and with maturity the image changes – we are not the only one's fishing for people. Criminal networks fish for people, and once caught and used, are thrown back. When people are desperate they will do anything to survive, making bad decisions on the way. Thank you again for all your prayers and support for us; you are in our prayers.

Doug and Jacqui

The Guild

Irene Morrison

Our Guild session resumed on 18th January but unfortunately the weather had the upper hand when heavy snow forced us to cancel our meeting.

Our Burns Supper, which was held on 1st February, is one of our most popular evenings and this year was no exception. Mrs Shona Park provided an excellent meal of haggis, neeps and tatties; Mr John Lamb gave a most entertaining Immortal Memory; Mrs Rosanne Brackenridge (accompanied by Mrs Peggy Mack) delighted us with a selection of Burns songs and - could this be a first for a Burns Supper - some tunes on their ukuleles. Mr Allan Morrison addressed the haggis and recited The Twa Dogs. I was grateful to Mrs Linda Smith who stepped in at very short notice to chair the proceedings when I was unable to attend.

Our most recent meeting was a real tonic on a dreary February evening when our guest speaker Mr Chris Scott showed clips of favourite television comedy shows. We thoroughly enjoyed watching again some memorable sketches from Michael Crawford, Morecambe & Wise, Only Fools & Horses, Scotch & Wry, Francie & Josie, as well as Rickie Fulton's Rev I M Jolly.

At the time of writing there are just two more talks remaining in our syllabus - one regarding the artists dubbed "The Glasgow Boys", and the other about Templeton's Carpets. As these are both Open Evenings anyone wishing to join us will be made most welcome. Our Spring Coffee Morning will be held on Saturday 17th March between 10am and 12noon when we will have stalls of home baking, books, unused gifts, flowers & plants, and a tombola. We look forward to welcoming everyone then.

Obituaries

Elizabeth Robb by Maureen Potter

ELIZABETH ROBB, better known as Liz passed away in November 2017 in Lindsayfield Lodge, East Kilbride. She was married to Norman for over 70 years - a remarkably long and happy marriage. They lived in Ellisland Road for many years before moving into Hawthorn Court. During their stay in Busby they were devoted members of Busby West and then Busby Parish Church sharing their talents within the church community in a variety of ways.

Liz played piano every week for many years for the Girl's Brigade and at their displays. She also helped with their badge work. She played piano at Guild meetings too and speaking from experience as a former Guild Convener, she gave me excellent advice on hymns to match each night's theme. Nothing was too much trouble for Liz.

Both she and Norman were very caring people who believed in showing their faith through action. In 2011 I went to visit them, at their invitation, to tell them about my trip to Malawi the previous Autumn. I took along my laptop to show them pictures, video clips etc. so they could get a flavour of my visit. They thoroughly enjoyed it and as I was leaving, much to my embarrassment insisted on giving me a generous cheque for Kwenderana funds - so typical of them both! God blessed them with 5 children, grandchildren, great grandchildren and a great, great grandchild. Norman and Liz were so proud of them all. I am sure the family in turn were very proud of Norman and Liz and miss them both but know that they are now together once again.

We will print the winning entry as a card and sell it through the CrossReach Christmas Card & Calendar Collection 2018 catalogue and website. The Winner will receive a certificate and a supply of their winning design as printed Christmas Cards.

Competition Guidelines

- > The card must be an original design
- > Submit your card design on a sheet of paper/card no larger than A3 size
- > Computer generated designs must be original and printed out as a hard copy
- > Avoid textures, 3D effects or metallic colours, which can be difficult to reproduce in print
- > You can suggest a Greeting and/or Bible verse for your design
- > Please enclose an appropriate stamped addressed envelope if you wish your design(s) returned to you

The competition is open to all supporters of CrossReach of any age.



COMPETITION

Design a CrossReach Christmas Card for 2018



Remember to write the name of the person or group who designed the card, age (if age 16 or under) and a contact person's name, address and telephone number on the back of each entry.

While copyright of all entries remains with the entrants, by submitting an entry, each entrant agrees to grant an irrevocable, perpetual and worldwide licence to CrossReach Trading Ltd to use it for the purpose of their Christmas cards and any promotional material connected to that.

Closing date: Tuesday 3rd April 2018

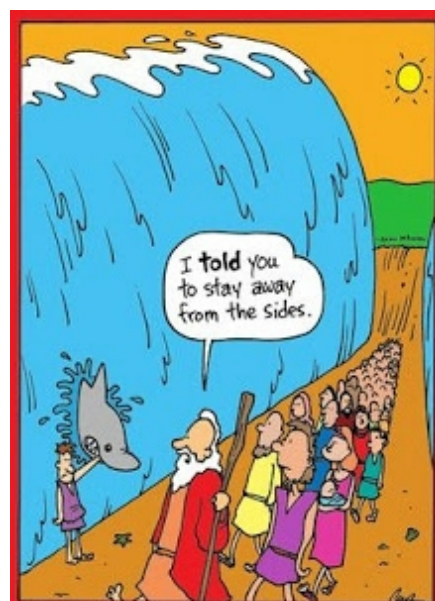
Send your entry to:
Christmas Card Competition
CrossReach, 47 Milton Road East,
Edinburgh EH15 2SR

 **The Church of Scotland**
Social Care Council
Operating as CrossReach, Scottish Charity No SC011353

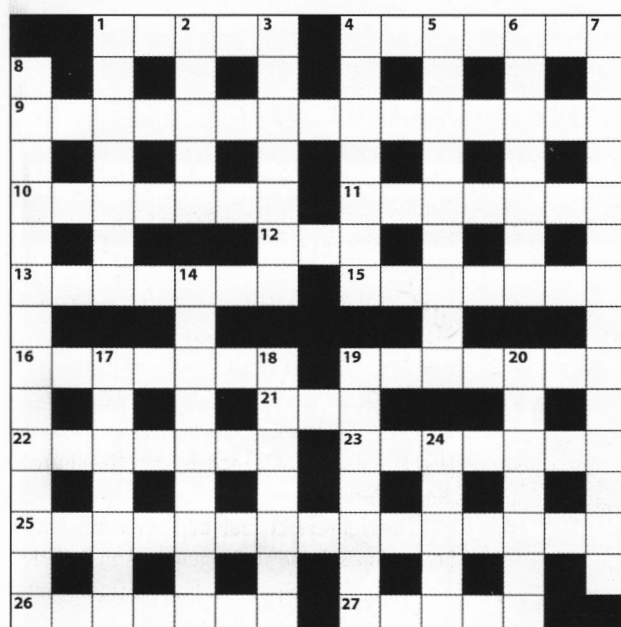
Clarkston
TAXIS
24 Hour Service

644 5588
644 4999

....and finally



March 2018 Crossword – Compiled by Jeannie Hollands



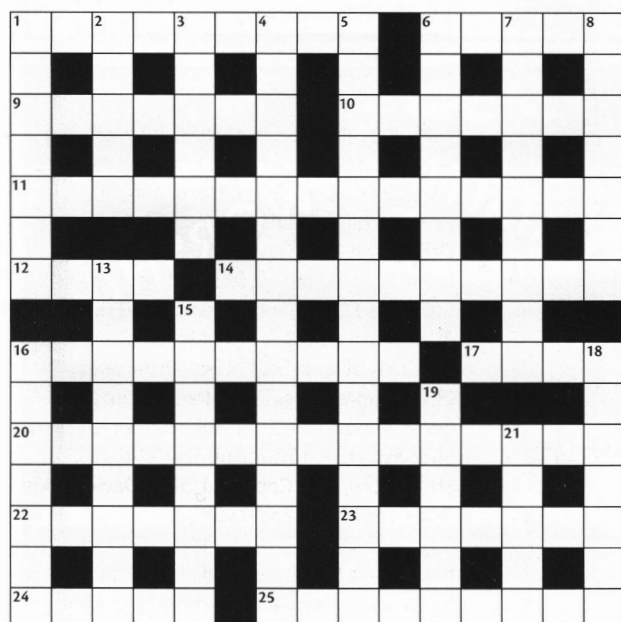
Across

- 1 Ruck (5)
- 4 Kernel (7)
- 9 '_____ is the love, our waking and uprising prove' (hymn) (3,5,7)
- 10 Biblical clothing (7)
- 11 Printing plate (7)
- 12 King of Midian (Numbers 31:8) (3)
- 13 Last Old Testament book (7)
- 15 Dissent (anag.) (7)
- 16 Samson and ____ (7)
- 19 Bicycle manoeuvre (7)
- 21 Self-esteem (3)
- 22 Row of icons on computer screen (7)
- 23 Constable (7)
- 25 'Great is _____, O God my Father' (hymn) (3,12)
- 26 Thomas in the New Testament (7)
- 27 Part of Jesus' crown on Good Friday (5)

Down

- 1 Place where timber is cut (7)
- 2 Theatrical show (5)
- 3 Indian language (7)
- 4 4th Old Testament book (7)
- 5 White Friar (9)
- 6 Pauline letter (7)
- 7 Gesture in the form of a crucifix (4,2,3,5)
- 8 On the spur of the moment (14)
- 14 Principal officiant (9)
- 17 '____, ____ saints, the sight is glorious' (hymn, modern version) (4,3)
- 18 Person receiving under a will (7)
- 19 Lanolin (7)
- 20 Reading-desk (7)
- 24 Leaf of a book (5)

March 2018 Cryptic Crossword – Compiled by Peter Chamberlain



Across

- 1 Go for each secure shaker (6,3)
- 6 Engineers commit offence with synthetic material (5)
- 9 Left rubbish out on a smaller scale (7)
- 10 Self-working vehicle? (7)
- 11 Faith's strict confidence (9,6)
- 12 Some Christmas service (4)
- 14 Violet and Georgia in race deter mining ship's course (10)
- 16 Striking game piece first used to dismiss quickly at cricket (7,3)
- 17 Forms of worship (4)
- 20 Church's stuffy atmosphere? (5,2,8)
- 22 Deity's undiscovered part of ancient Egyptian symbol (3,4)
- 23 Concentrated in the past maybe (7)
- 24 Repeat broadcast about rugby before noon (5)
- 25 Dinner has upset the council (9)

Down

- 1 Worshipful wayfarer (7)
- 2 Penny unravelled tale about part of flower (5)
- 3 European Union record with un known praise (6)
- 4 Private possessions could become palest off-screen (8,7)
- 5 Change of appearance with astronaut firing off (15)
- 6 Rubbish always he's collected in island town (8)
- 7 Give up about 200 fairies (9)
- 8 Painkiller prescribed for nun with hidden energy (7)
- 13 Proprietor of vessel was prisoner-of-war with black eye going round (9)
- 15 Leo appears as string is removed (4,4)
- 16 Baptismal surety? (7)
- 18 Boys removed each name from source of oil (3,4)
- 19 She went round city limits with tribal leader for the tool (6)
- 21 In a sound part of target (5)