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FOCUS

The Magazine of Busby Parish Church



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The Magazine of
Busby Parish Church

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Message from the Manse

Jerry Eve



The poet Ian Duhig in his poem titled *The Passion of the Holly* writes of the miners who were rescued from the San José mine in Chile in 2010 as, “thirty-three candles like Christ’s years, a sign.” I’m sure, therefore, that the number of those rescued from Tham Luang Nang Non cave in Thailand over the summer would not have been lost on him either: Thirteen. Twelve team members (aged 11-17) and their assistant coach (25). Nor would Ian fail to note the fact that one person – 37 year-old Saman – lost his life during the rescue mission. For, although in a completely different part of the world, and a completely different faith tradition (Buddhist rather than Christian), Ian (like many of us) would be hoping that Saman’s family might be consoled to some extent by the coincidence that there were also thirteen people present in the upper room on Maundy Thursday – Jesus and his twelve disciples – and that one person also sacrificed their life then. And to save all the rest!

Once again, as eight years ago in Latin America, it’s another remarkable story. And it’s a story that has spirituality right at its very heart. As, contrary to the notion those of us who were brought up on the 1954 novel *Lord of the Flies* by William Golding might believe to be the case, as dire a situation as any of us can imagine is found to actually bring out the very best in people instead. As, rather than the biguns ignoring the plight of the littluns and fighting among themselves, they all help each other to ‘keep calm and carry on’.

I love that eleven of the boys have nicknames – Titan, Mig, Dom, Pong, Mark, Tern, Bew, Note, Nick, Tee and Night – because this suggests a strong spirit of camaraderie between them all. It was the only one not to have an informal name, Adun, who does speak English, though, and who was therefore able to converse with the two British divers who first discovered the boys 2½ miles from the entrance to the cave nine days after they’d first gone missing.

And I love the fact that the oldest of them, Ake, who’d previously been a Buddhist monk, was able to help the rest of the boys to remain happy (and hopeful of a successful outcome), and that he was able to do so – helped by all the chants and prayers of all the boys’ classmates – by teaching the boys to meditate:

Psalms 95

Come, let us praise the Lord!

Let us sing for joy to God, who protects us!

*2 Let us come before him with thanksgiving
and sing joyful songs of praise.*

*3 For the Lord is a mighty God,
a mighty king over all the gods.*

*4 He rules over the whole earth,
from the deepest caves to the highest hills.*

Amen.



Robin Bulmer

Message from the Session Clerk

With another summer behind us it is time to look forward to our new session that began on Sunday 2nd September. As a member of the Choir I have the joy of facing the congregation and being able to enjoy seeing so many familiar faces and it is always encouraging to see the children back in the Sunday School and to sense the comfort and enjoyment afforded them by the Minister and their Leaders and Helpers. Likewise to be able to acknowledge the faithful presence of members of the Congregation who have contributed in so many ways, either just by being there or by helping to lead worship or to provide refreshment in the hall for a time of fellowship. Returning to Church is a theme for September through which the Kirk Session seeks to not only encourage those members who have for one reason or another lost the ‘habit’ of Sunday worship to engage with us once again to worship God in our community, but also to invite others who do not already have a direct connection with Busby Parish Church, but are known to one or more of our members, to join with us to share the Word of God and the warmth of his People. “If our gift is to speak God’s message, we should do it according to the faith that we have. Whoever shares with others should do it generously; whoever shows kindness should do it cheerfully.” Romans 12:6&8



Tham Luang Nang Non cave in Thailand

Archie Robertson

Jerry Eve

I was interested in the article ‘Birth of the Beautiful Game in Brazil’ in the last edition of Focus. Sadly, Brazil didn’t fare too well in this year’s World Cup; although for those of us whose teams didn’t even qualify, a place in the quarterfinal seems like a major achievement. Reading about local man, Thomas Donohoe, though, and the way he’d organised the first game ever to be played on Brazilian soil, reminded me of another local man who, in more recent times, has made a name for himself on the football field – Archie Robertson.

Born in 1929, and known as a boy for endlessly practising his footballing skills (with a tennis ball) in the playground of Busby Primary, Archie survived childhood polio to go on and be capped five times for his country. This included matches he played during the 1958 World Cup held in Sweden. Joining Clyde in 1947, and concurrently completing a degree in Chemistry, Archie’s career as a player with Clyde spanned 14 seasons, and included two Scottish Cup winners medals.

Retiring as a player (Archie died in 1978 aged 48) in 1963, Archie began his managerial career the following year, and from 1968 – 1973 was back at his old club, Clyde, this time as manager. Continuing to also work, first of all in the scientific branch of the National Coal Board, and later on as a science teacher at Hunter High School in East Kilbride, one of his pupils, Ally McCoist, credits Archie (as the school team’s coach) for his early development as a future Scotland striker himself.



Archie’s most famous goal? Why, it was the equalising one he scored direct from a corner kick in the 88th minute of the Scottish Cup final in 1955, which forced a 1-1 draw with Celtic, Clyde then going on to win the replay against Celtic 1-0.

And here we can see it in all its glory – the look of astonished jubilation in the expressions of Archie’s fellow Clyde players, as well as the anguish on the faces of the Celtic players, whose goalkeeper seems to be seeking some sort of solace in his embrace of a fellow member of his own team!

Announcements

BEREAVEMENTS

- May: Andy Rooney, Newton Mearns
Leslie Mill, South Road
- June: Robert Wright, Church Road
Martin Dick, Waterfoot
Jack Cuthill, Abbey Lodge Care Home East Kilbride (Viaduct Road)
- July: John McVicar, Netherlee

BAPTISM

Sunday 5 August: Rebecca Gillian Christina McClinton (born on 22 October 2017)