

WINTER 2024



the magazine of
BUSBY PARISH CHURCH

FOCUS

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FOCUS

the Magazine of
Busby Parish Church

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MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE



JERRY EVE

Earlier this year, I went along to the 'Glasgow Film Theatre' to watch the film *Frank Capra: Mr America*. It's a documentary about the famous film director, whose most famous film these days is probably *It's a Wonderful Life*. And it got me thinking. First released in 1946, it's set on Christmas Eve, and stars James Stewart as George Bailey. It's brilliantly acted and has a plot the themes of which are perennial. And this is one of the reasons many people choose to watch it every Christmas. You may be one of them.

The more I looked into it, though, the clearer it became to me that the film would not have been nearly so good had Capra not insisted on certain aspects of artistic freedom. You see, the so-called Hays Code was in force at the time in Hollywood. This prohibited filmmakers from depicting criminals who went unpunished. And yet, without this having been true of the villain, Mr Potter, who's named after the Potter's Field in the Bible, bought with Judas's 30 silver coins, the storyline would not have had nearly so much punch.

That Frank Capra, whose own remarkable story is a rags-to-riches one, held out against the Code, is very much to his credit, and our enjoyment, as we're not just entertained by the film, but able to learn over and over each year a very important lesson indeed: that all of our lives (and especially yours) have infinite meaning, and are infinitely valued by God'. If you do get the chance to see *It's a Wonderful Life* this year, then take it.



Merry Christmas.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BEREAVEMENT

(Eternal Rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him.)

October: Colin Meggs, Field Road

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

(All Welcome)

Sunday 15 December, 11am - Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 22 December, 11am - Sunday Club Nativity

Tuesday 24 December, 11.30pm - Watchnight Service
(Mince pies served in the Church Hall from 10.30pm.)



The Brownies have been developing their creative skills this term by earning their painting badge. They have been mixing colours to explore how the colour wheel is made up and using this along with a range of tools to create some spectacular paintings.



We also recently had a movie night where we dressed cosy and watched the first Moana film in preparation for our Christmas trip to see Moana 2. After Christmas we will be focusing on our Take Action Theme award and how the media plays a role in how we can enact change in our communities.

If anyone is interested in joining the waiting list at Busby Brownies, please visit <https://www.girlguiding.org.uk/information-for-parents/register-a-child/>

Best Wishes,

Rebecca - Unit Leader

BUSBY BROWNIES

In our last issue, we reported the wonderful news that Myrtle McGregor had been awarded the British Empire Medal for her services to Christian Aid.

We are now delighted to print a picture of her receiving her reward, presented by the Lord-Lieutenant of East Renfrewshire, Colonel Peter McCartney representing King Charles.

The ceremony was held in the oldest part of Paisley Abbey, the St Mirren Chapel, with most beautiful windows and just room for 10 guests with each of the three award winners.



MYRTLE MCGREGOR BEM



0141 620 3131
mail@ireland-yuill.co.uk



Regular and cosmetic
Dental care for all the family
at our modern, purpose built dental practice in Clarkston

New patients welcome



BUSBY GUIDES

PAMELA MILL

We have had very busy Tuesday evenings since we started back in September and regularly have well over thirty of us in the Church Hall. The Guides have had great fun in the Church grounds, with the parachute we bought with some of the money we received from Bringing Busby Together.



The girls always enjoy playing games and they can get very noisy. These are usually organised by our excellent group of Young Leaders.

We had a successful Halloween Party with a wide range of costumes which made it difficult to choose the best ones.

More recently they enjoyed putting together and decorating gingerbread houses. I was surprised how well they all turned out. They also had fun sewing and decorating Christmas stockings.



The annual East Renfrewshire Skating Event for Guides and Rangers took place on the 21st November at East Kilbride Ice Rink. The Guides had to wear their uniforms but could also wear Christmas themed accessories. The girls had a great time and got badges for taking part in the evening. Some of the Guides are excellent skaters but even the beginners really enjoyed themselves and their skating skills improved.

We regularly do unit meeting activities and skillbuilder badges which are organised by the Guide Association. On the Tuesday nearest Remembrance Sunday, the girls enjoyed finding out how Guides helped other people during the Second World War.

We finish on the 3rd December with our Christmas party. I told them that they could wear what they want for our party, meaning casual clothes or party outfits. One girl asked if they could wear Christmas pyjamas and there were several others decided that's what they would wear for the party. The Guides all bring a small gift and then we have a lucky dip at the end. They tend to get very excited about getting their gift.

Thank you to Lynne and Lynsey for helping every Tuesday. Thanks also to our Young Leaders Cara, Aine, Annie, Gabby and Isla. They all play an important part in organising and running Busby Guides.



SUNDAY CLUB

EVERY SUNDAY FROM 11.00 til 12.00

ALL AGES WELCOME - FROM TODDLERS TO YEAR 12



BUSBY BAKES SPICED APPLE CHUTNEY

SHONA PARK

This chutney was very popular at Sunday Club Christmas fairs in the past.

I thought some of you might like to have a go at making it for yourselves.

It goes very well with your Christmas leftover meats and cheeses but also makes a lovely gift as part of festive Hamper.

WARNING! – This will make your house reek of vinegar for a day or so but it's worth it and gives you an excuse to light a nice Christmas candle to hide the smell!

Merry Christmas to You and Yours
Shona

Method:

1. Peel and slice onions.
2. Peel and crush the garlic.
3. Peel, core and chop apples.
4. Finely chop the ginger.
5. Place ingredients in a large pot. Bring to the boil then simmer for around 40 minutes – 1 hour until thick and pulpy.
6. Whilst the chutney is cooking prepare the jars: Wash thoroughly in hot soapy water, rinse and drain. Place on oven racks, with space between them, and heat at 120 deg. C for 10-15 minutes. Or you can put jars in a large pot of boiling water for 10 minutes and then drain upside down on a clean tea towel and dry in the oven until the ingredients have come together in a soft pulp.
7. Put the chutney into hot jars whilst it is hot and seal either with jar lid or using a waxed disc and jam pot seal.

The chutney should last for at least 6 months if stored in a cool dry place.

Ingredients:

1.5kg apples
500g onions
2 cloves of garlic
100g crystallised ginger
750g sugar
250ml vinegar
¼ tsp cayenne pepper
½ tsp allspice
200g Sultanas (optional)



DESERT ISLAND DISCS

the selection of Steve Smith

As well as being a stalwart of our Choir and the Church in general, Steve has run the Busby Drama Group for many years as well as performing numerous roles throughout his long service to Busby Parish Church

Picture courtesy of BBC Radio 4



1 Everly Brothers - Crying in the Rain

As a teenager in the late fifties, early sixties, this dynamic duo were ever so popular and their wonderful harmonies sent shivers down my spine!

2 John Denver - Country Roads

Having been brought up in the country and worked on farms during the summer school holidays, this song brought back so many memories of a childhood in a wonderful environment.

3 The Beatles - She Loves You

When I worked with the Educational Institute of Scotland in the mid sixties, I took parties of school children to a school in St. Andreasberg, Germany to foster relations between European nations. There we met a gentleman named Rheinovski, who had been a member of the Nazi Party and, if you recall "She Loves You", you will know that is followed by "Yeah, Yeah, Yeah". The children always sang – "Rheinovski, Yeah, Yeah, Yeah"!

4 Dusty Springfield - I Only Want to be with You

Again in the sixties, I was so lucky to play drums with our local group "The Clippers" in Kilmacolm. We were all school chums and we had, as well as myself, two guitarists and this amazing soloist, Colleen, and her fantastic rendition of this song simply blew our minds away!

5 Berliner Philharmoniker - Cavalleria Rusticana Intermezzo by Masagni

The older one gets, the more one appreciates classical music – I do now and this is my all time favourite! Just close your eyes and imagine that you are in Tuscany, with a glass or two of Barolo, and allow the music to transport you there!

6 Bucks Fizz - Making Your Mind Up

My wife, Linda and myself were married in the old East Church on Friday 3rd April 1981 by the late, great Rev. Laurence Whitley. On the Sunday we set off driving to France on our honeymoon and playing on the radio was this song which had won the Eurovision Song Contest the previous evening. Everyone has a personal song – this is ours!

7 Buddy Holly - Everyday

As I was really getting into music in the fifties, this holds a heck of a lot of memories. One of the best and most recognizable songs in rock music history, this track was released on September 20, 1957. Since then, it's earned a spot on the greatest American songs of all time. Unfortunately, Buddy's musical career was cut short when, on tour, the plane he was flying in, crashed and all on board were killed. A great loss to that generation!

8 The New Seekers - I'd Like to Teach the World to Sing

Again a lovely harmonic rendition by a really superb group. It was taken and adapted by the Coca Cola Company as a Jingle entitled "Buy the World a Coke" which I found a trifle embarrassing. However, the original has always stuck in my mind and will remain there, hopefully, for some years to come!

Book - To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

Of all the books I have read, this has made the most impression and has given the most pleasure!

Object Choice - Girl Friday

NEWS FROM THE HOLY LAND

MAUREEN POTTER



The Church of Scotland, Jerusalem

Although the Church of Scotland is based in Edinburgh, it is also connected to other churches in Europe and beyond. Two of these churches are based in what we would call the Holy Land and are in Jerusalem and Tiberias, Galilee. The ministers in these charges are Rev Stewart Gillan and the Rev Muriel Pearson. From time to time they write detailed letters regarding their experiences in that war torn area and these can be found on www.churchofscotland.org.uk. I have chosen a few excerpts from these letters which I hope will be of interest to most people.

Towards the end of September this year, Stewart met with Anton Goodman in the Jerusalem office of Rabbis for Human Rights which is part of the Interfaith March for Human Rights and Peace. Anton is the director of this partnership which works with the three monotheistic faiths, Christianity, Islam and Judaism who all claim Abraham as a common ancestor. Stewart and Anton discussed the impact of the current war and the toll it is taking on those who pray and seek peace as they try to break down the barriers of suspicion and opposition and instead build bridges of peace, compassion and understanding between the different communities. They ask us to pray for peace in that war torn land and remind us of the Aaronic blessing which we sing, 'The Lord bless you and keep you'. They sing that every Sunday morning during worship but use the following words,

"God of Peace in Your Wisdom, give us the Will to seek peace,
God of Peace and of Healing, fill with your peace into every heart."

Muriel unfortunately was travelling along the Jordan Valley Road when she heard the news of the events on October 7th 2023. Her party were advised to return to Tiberias immediately. The hotel there which is part of the Church of Scotland has housed around 100 "guests from the north" who have been evacuated from that area due to Hezbollah rocket attacks. The numbers of "guests" change from time to time because travel is very difficult between Tiberias and Jerusalem as many are not allowed to travel to the West Bank. The toll of death and injury in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian Territories plus the constant anxiety regarding the fate of the hostages is a daily constant in everyone's lives at present.

Muriel is part of an online community called Heart to Heart which encourages people from all three faith communities to discuss, pray, empathise and support those who are trying to find peaceful solutions to the current dreadful situation.

Stewart and Muriel have asked us to pray for all in these battled scarred lands. They sent several prayer points but some are no longer relevant due to recent events. However they ask us to:-

- Pray for all who are bereaved, injured, imprisoned or affected by the war irrespective of the different faiths these people follow,
- Pray for bold support from the international community and for international law to be upheld and strengthened.
- Pray for all aid workers, medics, journalists who are trying to deliver humanitarian aid in difficult situations.

FROM BETHLEHEM TO LIMERICK

JERRY EVE

An angel once came to a girl,
And sent her life into a swirl.
For, though she was unmarried,
She was told that she carried
Not just a poor baby, but Earl.

A shock to the system was this!
She'd not even had her first kiss,
But a kind man called Joe
Said that he'd be her beau,
And make her a Mrs., not Miss.

There then came a solemn decree,
When Mary – she thought, 'Woe is me!
I've to travel so far!
(Joseph, look! What's that star?)
I'll give birth soon, or my name's not Marie!'

When they got there they heard, 'There's no room!'
And this news? Well, it filled them with gloom.
For the babe would be born
Before the next dawn,
And Joe become Dad, *and* a groom.

The tiny wee mite was adored
By his parents. But as for the cord –
Had to borrow a knife.
For there was no midwife!
And no-one around to applaud.

But then shepherds arrived with their sheep.
The sight of the child made them weep.
Though they brought a guitar,
And the lambs all went 'baa',
The baby remained fast asleep.

Three wise men – they came bearing gold.
They wanted to see (and a hold!).
They brought incense and myrrh
For him, Him, and her,
Their hearts warmed although it was cold.

'bove the stable, a strange sound occurred
In the air, but it wasn't a bird:
Was, of angels, a host –
Started singing the most
Breathtaking song ever heard.

And they sang it for all they were worth,
And they sang of the wonderful birth
Of a beautiful boy.
Did someone bring him a toy?
No - something better than that – peace on earth!

Oh, I've forgotten the ox and the ass –
They were there with the babe, lad and lass.
Was an inn-keeper too:
Said, 'hooray!' ('bray' and 'moo'),
As each wished each a 'Happy Christ Mass!'

CROSSWORD

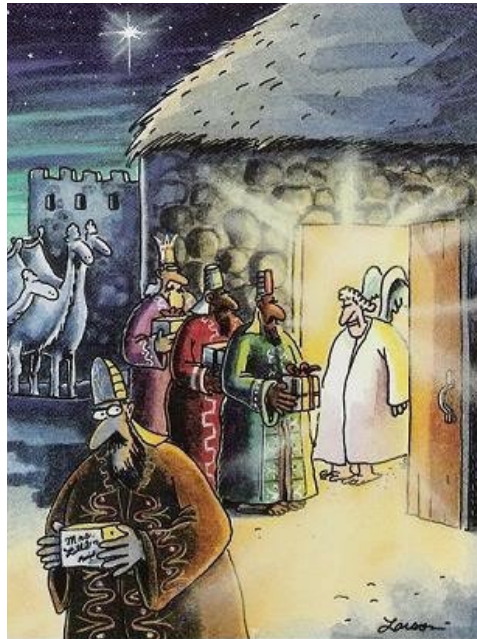
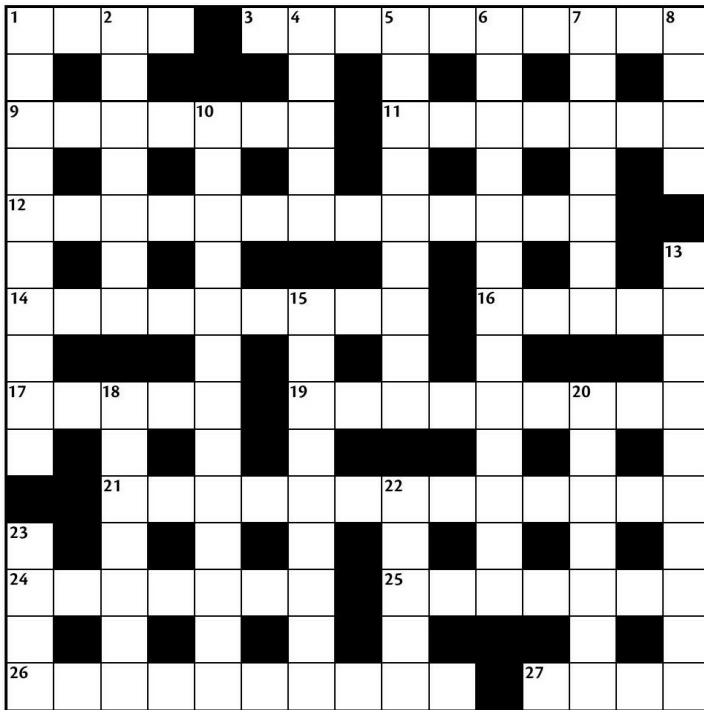
Courtesy of Life & Work Magazine (compiled by Peter Chamberlain)

Across

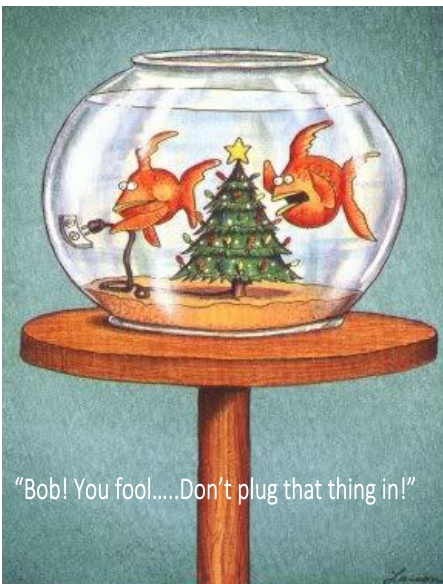
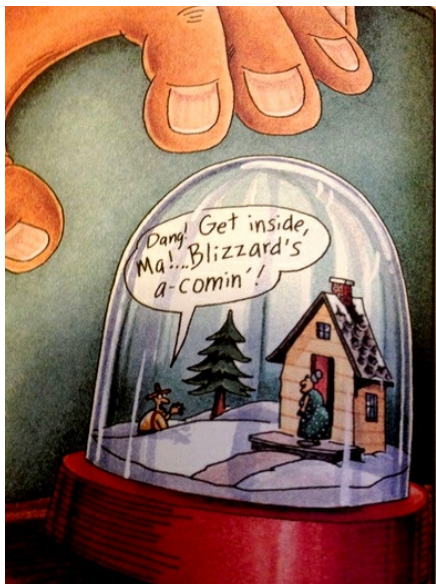
- 1 Reach tailless celestial body (4)
- 3 Excited a sacred lot of priests (10)
- 9 Put pews round that curved upwards (7)
- 11 From pet assorted liquorice (7)
- 12 English college feast (6,7)
- 14 After short time the number included article that's the worse forwear (4-5)
- 16 Jack and I repeatedly followed you, say, at African meeting-place (5)
- 17 Bible said to have come from French city (5)
- 19 Union day lady's outfit (9)
- 21 Primate with energy organising religious gathering (6,7)
- 24 Nudist in the Old Testament? (7)
- 25 Some alumni lot I commented on to do with African river (7)
- 26 Singer song-writer (10)
- 27 Ringer be taking on two learners (4)

Down

- 1 Building the current fashion, natural diatomic scale (6,4)
- 2 Animal must go round boat on the way up (7)
- 4 Arizona detective orold Mexican (5)
- 5 Spare note translated into a different language (9)
- 6 Wavy alloy from biblical city used for making blades (8,5)
- 7 Public transport limitations (7)
- 8 Strip of wood from machine unfinished (4)
- 10 Doctrine of destroying masculine mice (13)
- 13 Left one to curtail arrangement, initially grand inside, of public worship (10)
- 15 Name something done in legal document (5,4)
- 18 A slap-up resort in Sweden (7)
- 20 Pauline writing (7)
- 22 Sign put in front of takeaway (5)
- 23 Carry on playing this instrument? (4)



Unbeknown to most theologians, there was a fourth wise man, who was turned away for bringing a fruitcake.



CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Come 3 Sacerdotal 9 Upswept 11 Pomfret 12 Corpus Christi 14 Moth-eaten 16 Ujiji 17 Douai 19 Troussseau 21 Prayer meeting 24 Adamite 25 Nilotic 26 Psalmist 27 Bell.
DOWN: 1 Church mode 2 Muskrat 4 Aztec 5 Esperanto 6 Damascus steel 7 Termini 8 Lath 10 Ecumenicalism 13 Liturgical 15 Title deed 18 Uppsala 20 Epistle 22 Minus 23 Harp.