



# FOCUS

AUTUMN 2025

the magazine of  
**BUSBY PARISH CHURCH**  
serving the Parish of Busby & Thorntonhall



Celebrating 190 years of  
Christian worship in Busby 1835 - 2025

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**FOCUS**  
the magazine of  
**BUSBY PARISH CHURCH**

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Focus Magazine



# MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE

JERRY EVE

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the film version of The Sound of Music. I remember seeing it a year after it was released in 1965, as I too made that same journey westwards across the Atlantic that the von Trapp family had. As a young family, we were visiting relatives. But I have seen it a number of times since, when I have become increasingly impressed by its strong Christian ethic; as well as by the way Rodgers and Hammerstein, whose roots were largely Jewish, and who were responsible for the music, made every attempt to make it so. Earlier this year, just one of their songs, became an inspiration for the following prayer that was used in Busby Church.

God Bless, Jerry:

Do Re Mi Fa

Thank you for our Busby Choir

So La Ti Do

May they be more lark than crow

Re Mi Fa So

Help them hit notes high and low

La Ti Do Re

May they be more than okay

Mi Fa So La

3 or 4 beats in each bar

Ti Do Re Mi

Always in the proper key

Fa So La Ti

Helping us sing praise to Thee.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Wedding

15th July

Elaine McIlvenney x Kenneth Canale

(Brig o'Doon House Hotel)

### Baptisms

24th August

Ryan Chun Kiu Shum

Bethany Rose Sui Ling Shum

Celine Aurelia Tracey Sui Ming Shum

7th September

Benjamin Oliver James Cunningham

India Rose Amelie Cunningham



## HELP WANTED



Busby Brownies meet every Monday night from 6:30 to 7:45. The Pack is currently full, and there is a waiting list. We are also in need of adult helpers. If you are interested in volunteering, please email [busbybrownies@gmail.com](mailto:busbybrownies@gmail.com) for more details.

# BUSBY QUILTERS

A super bunch of crafty ladies meet to sew and chat. They bring along their latest creations and encourage each other as they work on their latest projects.

Should you be thinking about quilting and enjoy hand sewing, why not consider joining us and be encouraged to continue or indeed start a new hobby.

Busby Quilters meet weekly, on a Wednesday morning between 10am and 12.00 noon At Busby Parish Church

Here are some samples of ongoing projects.



## BUSBY GUIDES

We started back on Tuesday 2nd September and have an almost full unit of 36 girls. We also have several girls on our waiting list.

Back in June we all had a great time at the County Camp at Auchengillan. There were 17 girls from our unit and 2 leaders, Lynne and me. We were all in Clarkston District sub camp with over 300 girls and leaders at the whole camp. When they arrived, the girls had to help pitch the tents. Several of our Guides were excellent at doing this. We then went to a campfire where the Guides enjoyed singing a range of Guide and campfire songs, after which they had a light supper.

The weather forecast didn't sound great and we expected a fair amount of rain, but we were lucky, as there were just a few showers and it didn't dampen the girls' enthusiasm. The midges were definitely a bigger problem than the rain.

Each Guide was given three cards on which there were activities for Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning. They could swap with others if they had an activity that they didn't really want to do. They also had a variety of activities provided in each sub camp, including things like climbing, raft building, archery, kayaking, caving, face painting and swimming in the heated open air swimming pool. They were able to try lots of very adventurous things. As at the last County Camp, the girls really enjoyed the food which was served and prepared in house. There was plenty of it and choices that suited everyone. We were very proud of the excellent behaviour of our Busby Guides.

At present we have 3 leaders and 1 young leader. We have a new leader joining us in September, but she will not be able to attend every Tuesday. So, if there is anyone else interested in helping on Tuesday evenings we would be delighted to have them.

Pamela Mill ( 0141 644 4452)



**FAY McINTYRE**

Blankets for the homeless at the Lodging House Mission.

On Monday 11th August some of the members of the Glasgow Close Knit team went to an exhibition at the Briggait Market on Clydeside in Glasgow to view the completed blankets that have been submitted for LHM in Glasgow. We were lucky to see 450 completed blankets, 5 of which were ours. Wasn't easy to single out the blankets made by us, but we managed to spot at least 4. The target is 850 blankets so keep knitting please. We have until October. Some of the blankets were incredible and we certainly have done our church proud. Many thanks to all our knitters and crocheters.



# BEST WISHES JERRY



On Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of September, After over 27 years, Jerry Eve retired as minister of Busby Parish Church. In a packed Church, filled with Church members, family and friends, Jerry received a presentation from Session Clerk Robin Bulmer along with many tributes, some tearful, as we wished him a long, happy and well-deserved retirement. Among the tributes was a speech by Steve Smith which we have printed below.

When I was Session Clerk many years ago and was speaking at Jerry's Induction Service, I recall saying that I was delighted that, once again, a light was shining in the darkness that had been the Manse for some months.

A light shining in the darkness is what says it all about our Christian lives and they have certainly been enhanced by Jerry's presence over a great number of years!

A lot has happened during that time, not just in Busby Parish Church, but throughout the Church of Scotland. It has not been an easy time and yet, we have been guarded and guided by our Minister and his family.

Church of Scotland statistics say that the majority of young families today do not seem to consider, as a priority, coming to Church, getting married in Church or bringing their children for Baptism in Church. Which is a great pity because they are missing out in a Minister here who excels in Baptisms! As we have seen! Together with Weddings and, well, yes, Funerals also!

I have to say, that we are so very well endowed with our Organisations. Our Guides, Brownies, Rainbows and Boys Brigade troops are nothing short of magnificent and those that assist in their running deserve so much credit! Also, it is wonderful that we have our lovely Sunday Club, so ably helped by Jerry, Roseanne and the lovely mothers and fathers.

We must keep looking for that light that shines in the darkness. It is true that, here in this Church, many changes have taken place over the years. Granted we have a smaller Congregation, but it is one that is constant in its devotion and loyalty. It is ageing, but it is hard working and it has dealt with the many trials and tribulations that have manifested themselves.

The Light of Life and the Word of Life is here in our Bible. It is our way of life, for we have been taught this from our early years in Sunday School, through all the ages of man. And how we joy to hear the readings from it and to take the messages preached by Jerry from it Sunday by Sunday.

Who knows what the next years may hold for this Church. Indeed, this Church may not be here at all if the powers that be ever carry out their Politburo 10 year plan of Union, Merger, Linkage or Cluster. But what we do know, is that this Church stands for so much in this Community. Whether it is totally utilised or not by the Community, it is a beacon of light and hope in what has become the darkness of much of what we see around us today.

We are a loyal and loving Congregation and we work so very hard to maintain our presence here in Busby, despite machinations by others. And we do so by following the teachings of Christ.

To that end we must give grateful thanks to Jerry for all he has done in steering us along the paths of righteousness and giving us the impetus to look after one and other in the true manner of the teaching of Christ.

Thank you, Jerry, for everything you have done for us, I know, that sometimes it has not been easy for you and your family, but you all have kept your light shining and come through the darkness.

We all wish you many happy years of retirement and thank you for all you have done for this Congregation.



Sunday the 7<sup>th</sup> of September saw the end of an era lasting over 27 years with Jerry's retirement. He was inducted as our Minister on the 20<sup>th</sup> of January, 1998. Throughout those years his love of literature, both prose and poetry which he developed at Glasgow University on a sabbatical from our Church, inspired much of his preaching and, along with his photography, his poetry frequently featured in our Sunday worship. He also loves children's books and these also featured in children's addresses to the Sunday Club as examples of a Christian message.

While his political views raised a few eyebrows on occasions, they truly represented his Christian values and nobody could question his sincerity, thoughtfulness and kindness, qualities which contributed significantly to his reputation for being superb at Baptisms, Weddings and Funerals.

Born in Plymouth, his father having been a dentist in the Royal Navy, Jerry spent part of his childhood in Malta and later travelled in the USA. He graduated in computer science from Dundee University, a city with links to his mother's family, and, after a spell working for the Clydesdale Bank, he became involved with the Church of Scotland and entered the ministry.

Able assisted in his ministry by his wife, Michelle, who was our Sunday School leader for a number of years, their seven children swelling the ranks. Together they were regular attendees of the Glasgow Film Theatre and he often referenced films in his sermons to illustrate the message in his sermons. Jerry was involved from the outset with Clarkston Churches Together and Kwenderana. He acted as interim-moderator at Toryglen, Carmunnock and most recently Queen's Park Govanhill and in the first two cases helped forge a lasting relationship between our churches.

His final service on September the 7<sup>th</sup>, in a packed Church, saw him receive a presentation from Robin Bulmer on behalf of the congregation as well as tributes to both him and Michelle from members of the congregation and Sunday Club. The sheer number of well-wishers who attended the service and lunch afterwards in the Church Hall was testimony to the high regard in which Jerry is held and his popularity as a "really nice guy".

We all wish Jerry, Michelle and their family all the best for the future and a very happy and rewarding retirement.

*Pictures, clockwise from top:*

*A very young Jerry and Michelle: Retirement presentation from Robin Bulmer: Tributes from the congregation and Sunday Club: a fabulous spread for the Lunch following the service*



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# BUSBY ARTS FESTIVAL



The second Busby Arts Festival, held on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of September was a huge success with a concert on the Friday and our Art Exhibition, Introducing Stage and Barbecue on the Saturday.



*Claire Hastings accompanied by Adam Sutherland and Sean Gray*



*Claire Hastings*

The Friday night concert, in front of a packed audience, featured amazing young Scottish Folk band Lussa followed by superb singer/songwriter Claire Hastings.

Hailing from Scotland, the USA and England, Lussa delighted the audience with their unique blend of Scottish traditional music which comes from their different backgrounds, with wistful ballads and foot stomping reels. American fiddle player Elisabet, London born guitarist and banjo player Eneko and Scottish keyboards player Bailey were joined by Scottish fiddle player Rowan who stepped in for usual fiddle player Naomi at the last minute and amazed everyone at being able to do so seamlessly, and at short notice. We are delighted to announce that Lussa will be playing at our 190<sup>th</sup> anniversary Ceilidh on the 28<sup>th</sup> of November. Tickets will be available in October.

Headlining the Friday night, Claire Hastings, accompanied by Sean Gray on guitar and Adam Sutherland on fiddle, dazzled the audience with her beautiful voice on a set of traditional Scottish tunes from Robert Burns to the Orkney Isles, as well as her own compositions. Claire is of course no stranger to Busby Arts Festival, having performed last year and we were delighted to have her back again by popular request. During her set, Claire performed a number of songs solo with her ukelele as well as acapella while Sean gave a solo rendition of a song from his native Ayrshire and Adam had the audience spell-bound with an amazing set of reels on his fiddle.

A measure of what a great night it had been was the queue of people at the end of the concert who waited to make a point of telling the volunteers on the door what a brilliant night it had been. They will be hard acts to follow next year.


Saturday saw our Art Exhibition in the Church Hall with exhibits from artists Janetta Kirkland, Anne Porter, Michelle McIntock, Hayley Kennedy, Rosemary Lindsay, Samantha Williams, Susan McMillan, Sally Gallagher, Bill Pye, Sam Blue, Kayleigh McCallum, Cecil Harvey, Jacqui Kiel, Kim Flower and Karyn Hecht.. The very many visitors were obviously impressed by the work on display with a great number of the pictures sold.

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Meanwhile, in the Church Garden, we held our Introducing Stage for young musicians and had the pleasure of being entertained by Freya Mackenzie, Alex Bailey, Ethan Munro and David Whitelaw. They were followed by a series of wonderful performances by the members of Dance Inc. Studios before

our old friend Stuart McDonald performed some classic favourites on his collection of guitars. The afternoon was rounded off with our Prize Draw with some great prizes from Pollok Golf Club, Coco Hair, Kiss and Makeup as well as a whole host of others kindly donated.

Throughout the afternoon, the many kids who had come along were treated to countless fun activities run by Lynne Macgregor while the bar and barbecue did a roaring trade run by Shona Park and Craig McDonald.

We are extremely grateful to the rest of the team who made it such a success, especially Jean Handsides who yet again ran the art exhibition so smoothly, as well as the many volunteers without whose help the festival just wouldn't have been possible. Most of all a sincere thanks to all who attended and made it a very special weekend.

The third Busby Arts Festival is a year away but plans are already afoot and, if this year's success can be repeated, it will be another great weekend, attracting visitors, bringing the whole community together and providing fabulous fun and entertainment for all.



*Freya Mackenzie*



*Alex Bailey*



*Ethan Munro*



*David Whitelaw*



*Stuart McDonald*



*Dance Inc. Studios*







# A HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH AND ITS ORIGINS

## PART TWO - Busby Needs a Church

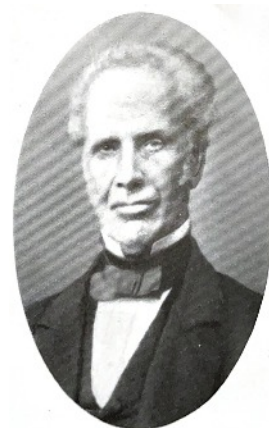
by MAUREEN POTTER

In this, the second part of our Church's history, Maureen covers the period from 1832 to 1865 with the building and early development of our current Church

Prior to 1835, the people of Busby worshipped in Carmunnock, Mearns both Church of Scotland and the East Kilbride Relief Church which objected to the patronage which was prevalent in the Church of Scotland at that time. East Kilbride Relief Church is now known as East Kilbride West Church and is opposite East Kilbride Railway Station. However, services were also held regularly on Sunday evenings at Mr Gemmell's School at the Sheddens with a rota of local ministers preaching, although the most faithful was Rev. William Carswell of Eaglesham.

The cholera outbreak of 1832 meant that worshippers were forbidden to travel outwith their local area. Watchmen were employed to ensure that nobody broke the law! During this time, the spiritual needs of the Busby Community were met by two student ministers, Mr Robert Niven and Mr David T. Jamieson.

In 1835 a petition with 170 signatures was presented to the Secession Presbytery of Glasgow requesting permission to form a congregation in Busby. Permission was granted and the new congregation was constituted by Rev William Carswell, minister of Eaglesham United Secession Church on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1835.



The new congregation formed a committee to obtain ground to build a new church building to house the congregation. Funds needed to be raised to fund this initiative as well. It was decided that a church and a manse was needed and both should be close to where the cholera victims of 1832 had been buried. Once the piece of land was identified the foundation stone was laid in June 1835. Building began and the church building was completed in 1836 at a cost of £930.00. The first service took place on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1836. Much of the money had been raised locally or donated by sister congregations in the Secessionist and the Glasgow Secessionist Presbytery and the first preacher was Rev Dr Mitchell of Wellington Street Church. His sermon was based on Psalm 84 verses 1 – 4. Another service was held in the afternoon led by Rev David T. Jamieson who was the first minister of the church from 1836 until 1842. *The Rev'd William Carswell*



*Busby Parish Church - built in 1836*

The first congregation comprised 98 members, and 51 adherents some of whom came from Dripps or Carmunnock often bringing their Sunday lunch with them so they could attend both services. The local mill families were faithful attendees on a Sunday to both services, morning and evening and their children attended the local Sunday School in the afternoons. Children aged between 9 and 13 worked in the local mills for 9 hours and then attended the local schools led by Mr William Wallace or Mr. Alex Gemmell.

Four elders, William Hunter, John Laidlaw, Alex Veitch and Hugh McMichael were elected. Hugh McMichael also served as the first Session Clerk and Sunday School Superintendent. Mr Jamieson proved to be a very effective minister and soon increased the congregation size despite taking a very hardline on both fornication and drunkenness. Holy Communion was held 3 times a year and each communicant could only take communion if he or she had a communion token issued by the Kirk Session.



The Kirk Session and minister on the 26th October, 1840, decided to organise the church into 5 districts – 3 in Busby and 2 in Carmunnock. Rev. David Jamieson started to target Church of Scotland members in the Carmunnock districts to join his church which annoyed Carmunnock church very much. The elders and minister held regular prayer meetings throughout the districts. Mr. Jamieson left Busby in 1842 and moved to Kilmarnock where he continued to minister until his death in 1875.

Busby by this time was a much larger and more prosperous village so it was an attractive charge to a young minister. In 1842 a weekly coach service had been setup to attend the market in East Kilbride and in 1845 the first horse drawn omnibus service to Glasgow was started.

In 1843, James Crum acquired Busby Cotton mills and one of his first acts was to build a gallery, and stairs to access the gallery, in the new church in time for the ordination of Rev. George Robertson. Mr Crum also built a new school building for Mr. William Wallace whose school was gaining a very good reputation. After Mr. Wallace's death it became known as Mrs. Crum's school.



1832 Map of Busby - Clarkston, Greenbank and the railway line had yet to exist.

During the vacancy prior to Mr. Robertson's arrival, the Kirk Session reorganised the administration of the church with a Preses or Chairman, Mr. Hugh McMichael, Treasurer James Niven and Mr John Gray as Clerk to the Kirk Session. By this time there were 128 members and 61 adherents who were all regular attendees. Mr Robertson's stipend was £100. As there was still no manse, Mr. Robertson spend his full ministry staying with the Crum family.

The Church had moved from being a Secessionist church to become part of the United Association of Churches in Glasgow which had its own Presbytery and Mr. Hugh McMichael became the first Presbytery Elder.

In February 1845 new elders were appointed to the Kirk Session to replace some who had demitted office. Sadly, in the same year, Mr. Robertson who was prone to fainting fits, possibly epilepsy, was found dead in a pond near his parent's home in Stirling. He was only 25.

The third minister Rev James Dick proved to a be a rather controversial figure during his tenure in Busby. He had recently been married in Mearns Parish Church and, as there was no manse, he stayed in New Cathcart which was not ideal and it was decided to build a manse for him to the rear of the church at a cost of £300. This was partly financed by the congregation and partly through loans which were all paid off by 1865.

In 1847 the United Secession and Relief Churches of Scotland united and Busby became known as Busby United Presbyterian Church. As part of this unity the Kirk Session tried to persuade the congregation to make the Thursday prior to Holy Communion a day of fasting and humiliation. However, this was not well received and never caught on. Most of the congregation worked manually so required to be fed to carry out their heavy work.

In 1852 the Carslaw family moved to Busby from Carmunnock. They were already members of the church so found it easy to settle into the community. Over the years, they set up businesses in the village and also were involved in the church in many different ways. They are still connected to the church to this day.



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The mid 1840s was a period of dissent in churches throughout Scotland, nationally in 1843 with the Disruption in the Church of Scotland and in many different ways locally. Busby was no exception. On 12<sup>th</sup> August 1849, the minister read out an instruction to members regarding intoxication and church attendance along with the penalties such as suspension from church membership. This was well received by some who thought Mr Dick was too lenient in his duties but not by others who felt he was too strict! Mr Dick tried recruiting some new elders to the Kirk Session at this time but appears to have been unsuccessful. In 1852 Mr Hugh McMichael the first Session Clerk resigned along with two other elders leaving a Kirk Session of only 2 elders! Needless to say, the Session Clerk's role was not succeeded.

In 1852 Dr John Ross, a prominent figure in the village founded the Busby Penny Savings Bank to encourage saving and thrift amongst the lower classes. It was so successful it was copied by many other local communities, so much so that it became known as the Premier Penny Savings Bank in Scotland.

Eventually in March 1853 Mr. Arthur Watson and Mr John Nimmo agreed to become elders with Mr Watson taking up the role of Presbytery Elder. Towards the end of that year a public accusation was made against the Kirk Session accusing it of being too lax in implementing its disciplinary powers. In retaliation to the accusation, the Rev James Dick on the first Sunday in January 1854 read out a declaration stating the Kirk Session point of view, indicating if disciplinary matters were too enthusiastically implemented there could be a substantial loss of membership from the church and so the Kirk Session had taken a stance of trying to be fair to all church members.



*Rev'd John Taylor*

Mr Dick was still having difficulties trying to add to the membership of the Kirk Session due to intrigue and unrest within the church. Many members still felt that Mr Dick was not firm enough in disciplining his flock. This unrest carried on over a number of years until it was brought out into the open at a Kirk Session meeting on 24<sup>th</sup> March 1862. This meeting was held to discuss a rumour going round the village that two church members were actively trying to set up another church in the village to be part of the Free Church of Scotland and, on the 7<sup>th</sup> of April, 1862, two church members, David Alexander and William Reid, confirmed that the rumour was true.

In August 1862 the congregational dissatisfaction with Rev James Dick came to a head and those who supported a Free Church of Scotland left the Busby Church congregation to form a Free Church of Scotland under the leadership of Alexander Andrews who also began a Sunday School and weekly meetings in James Wilson's new Hall. Many members from the existing Busby Church joined the new church. As a result of this unrest, Rev James Dick was suspended and left Busby in October 1862.



*Busby Free Church (later to become Busby East Church)*

A fourth minister Rev John Taylor was inducted in Busby church in 1863 with a stipend of £135 plus a manse. He repaired much of the damage done by his predecessor and was very successful in attracting wealthy members to Busby Church.

In the meantime, the new Free Church continued to grow and built a church building which was opened for worship in 1865. It was originally called Carmunnock Free Church and had three services every Sunday, at 12noon, 3.00pm. and 6.30p.m. with a Sunday School between the first two services. The first minister was Rev Alex Andrews. It became known as Busby Free Church when another Free Church was opened in Carmunnock.



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Lots of people seem to have apples falling from their trees at this time of year and many are unable to make use of them all. This recipe is a good way to incorporate them. Cooking or dessert apples may be used.

# Toffee Apple Muffins

## Ingredients:

250g SR flour  
2.5ml bicarbonate of soda  
2.5ml mixed spice or cinnamon  
150g soft light brown sugar  
150ml vegetable oil  
2 eggs  
150g apple— prepared weight -  
peeled and grated.  
100g carnation tinned caramel

## Method:

1. Preheat the oven to the required temperature (180°C / Gas No. 4)
2. Place 12 muffin cases into a muffin tray.
3. Sieve the flour, bicarbonate of soda and spice into a large bowl.
4. Add the brown sugar to the flour mixture.
5. Measure the oil into a measuring jug, add the eggs and beat well.
6. Add the apple, oil and egg into the dry ingredients and mix well with a wooden spoon until the mixture is a soft consistency. A little warm water may be added if the mixture is too stiff.
7. Divide the mixture evenly between the muffin cases.
8. Bake for 12-15 minutes until golden brown and springy to the touch.
9. Place the muffins on a cooling rack until cool.
10. Mix the caramel until soft. Drizzle a little on top of each muffin.



Busby Bowling Club has enjoyed a successful 150th Anniversary. From its Opening Day, which was marked by the distinguished presence of the Lady Provost, Mary Montague, the calendar has been filled with special matches and festivities to celebrate the Club's 150th

As the season draws to a close, Busby Bowling Club extends a warm invitation to anyone interested in joining next year—whether you're a seasoned bowler or a complete beginner—a warm welcome awaits. For more information call Robert Frame 07889718220



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# DESERT ISLAND DISCS

## the selection of Jerry Eve

After so many years of ministering to our Parish, Jerry is doubtless looking forward to a long and happy retirement. It seemed only fitting therefore that in this, the last edition of Focus where he is our minister, he should share his musical selection with us.

*Picture courtesy of BBC Radio 4*

1 Dr Hook – The Millionaire. Stranded on a desert island, I think I would most like music that reminded me of my nearest and dearest. And, while there are a number of songs that would remind me of my wife, Michelle, one of the things they all have in common is a sense of humour. Typical among these is this wonderfully joyous – and funny – paean to undeserved prosperity.

2 The Cranberries – Zombie. Our eldest, Stephen, is a bit of a whizz on guitar, and can sometimes be called upon, on special occasions, to wow us with his gift of music. One Christmas Day, just for example, I remember him playing a literally stunning – and by that I mean we could hardly speak afterwards – arrangement of this great song which, every time I now hear it being played, makes me think of him.

3 The Waterboys – Saints and Angels. When Lucy, our eldest daughter, was in her late teens and early twenties, she travelled to Australia for about a year, not just once but twice. We missed her. Something I found helped, though, was listening to this song which, with its refrain, 'May the saints and angels watch over you,' I used to use as a prayer for her safe return. Now married – to William Auld – and with a two-year-old son called Alfie, the second time Lucy arrived back, it was on Christmas Day.

4 Randy Newman – You've Got a Friend in Me. Our daughter, Alice, is also married – to Fraser – and together they have a wee boy too: Ollie, aged almost 4. A huge fan of all the Toy Story films (and this is a song that calls to mind the whole Stern family), I remember a time when, for him, there was only one song worth playing, and this was it – time after time after time after time.

5 The Eagles – Witchy Woman. Our middle child, Becky, took a notion when she was in Primary School to learn guitar; at a time when, for her there only ever seemed to be one song worth playing too. And this was it; one of the stories I really like about this song: that, when they were just starting out, and would be asked to play at parties, this was one of the very few songs the Eagles really knew, and one they therefore used to play over and over again themselves.

6 Green Day – American Idiot. When she was Secondary-school-age, Julie, our youngest daughter, attended Glasgow School of Sport, and it was my job to pick her up on a Tuesday evening after badminton practice. This was one of her favourite songs at the time, and there was hardly a trip home when we didn't listen to it – at almost full volume – as well as to as much of the rest of the album as we'd time for.

7 SpongeBob SquarePants Theme. Matthew is 21 these days, but I remember when he was at Primary School, and we were all in the car, and if there was a lull, he would sometimes yell: "Are ye ready kids?", when we would all reply: "Aye aye Captain," before all singing this theme tune together to what was one of our favourite television programmes at that time.

8 Gerry Cinnamon – Diamonds in the Mud. We do a lot of listening to music in the car in our family, and for a while we did listen to a lot of Gerry Cinnamon songs, including this one about Glasgow, which has the refrain, "Not the best place, but there's diamonds in the mud". One day I was speaking about how true that was, when one of our children asked, "So, who are those diamonds?" My immediate reply was, "Well, there's one there," and it was Robbie, our youngest child.

Book – Sunset Song by Lewis Grassic Gibbon. I love this book, and if I could get the other two as well in the Scots Quair Trilogy (Cloud Howe and Grey Granite), I would happily read all three over and over again, and never tire of just how good they are.

Object – A Ukelele – to play along with all these tunes, and learn a whole lot more.





# TRES AMIGAS

(Sounds better than three friends)

Pamela Mill  
Lynne Macgregor  
& Chris Simpson



by LYNNE MACGREGOR

We joined the local holiday group in April with a coach trip to Northumberland.

Our first impressions of our new friends was that half the luggage compartment was taken up by mobility walkers and scooters.

We wondered what kind of holiday we were going to have. Well, they put us to shame! We don't know where they got all their energy from.

We visited ten different places in five days. Phew!

One of the highlights of the trip was visiting Rosslyn Chapel. I first became aware of the chapel when it was featured in the film The Da Vinci Code and discovered when I was there that the inside of the chapel, aisles and baptistry was portrayed accurately in the film but the sacristy was left to Hollywood's imagination. It was a busy place filled with three large coaches of sightseers but the vast amount of people gave the chapel a great atmosphere.

The architecture outside was only surpassed by the inside - totally amazing stonework. Well worth a visit!

We had an exhausting day out to Beamish - the living museum of the North, which brings the history of the region, from the 1820s to the 1950s, to life through a series of immersive exhibitions across a 350 acre site. Fascinating to see from the 19<sup>th</sup> century a grocery shop, haberdashery, chemist and sweetie shop. Worrying to remember things I recognise from the back of my cupboards - Need a clear-out - But I might use these things sometime.

Then on to the 1950s. Cinema, toyshop, record shop, cafe, fish and chip shop, village hall and green, police station with two adjoining houses from this era. Being transported around the vast site by various trams from different ages.

The most memorable moment from the whole trip was re-living my childhood on the merry-go-round. As you can see, I loved every minute of it.

An unexpected bonus was to get a close look at the Angel of the North. You don't think how it is secured on top of a hill. The foundations are more impressive than the part you see.

Our next visit was to Cragside House and garden. It was transformed from a vale with rocks and trees into a huge formal garden, Pinetum, rock garden and gorge. With rocky crags and tumbling waterfalls they created dramatic scenery. The Victorian couple, the Armstrongs, designed their dream home to be the first place in the world to be lit using hydro electricity and filled with the latest Victorian inventions.

Then on to Alnwick Gardens. It's a contemporary garden set in the heart of Northumberland in 2001. The main attraction is the Grand Cascade. It just looks like a gentle waterfall until it comes to life! Dancing fountains captivate as your attention moves from section to section, culminating in a terrific display from the top of the hill to the bottom.

Those were only five of the spectacular places of interest we visited in Northumberland.

Next year Llandudno - North Wales - Here we come!

*Pictures - clockwise from top:*

*Pamela, Lynne & Chris: Rosslyn Chapel:*

*Lynne having a great time: The Angel of the North: The Grand Cascade: Cragside House*







# CLARKSTON COMMUNITY CHOIR

*Picture courtesy of Richard Scholfield*

## SUSAN AMOUR

How do you practice for a Christmas concert without singing about snow and Santa in September? Last year, Clarkston Community Choir solved this problem by singing songs which had featured in John Lewis Christmas adverts to begin with, before adding some more seasonal songs to our repertoire nearer to December.

We are a group of around 70 – 80 local people who enjoy singing together. There is no audition necessary, just enthusiasm for singing. The choir is accompanied by Catherine Selby who some of you may know as the head of performing arts at Williamwood High School. It is directed by Richard Scholfield, who is a former pupil of Catherine's. He holds a Master of Arts in saxophone performance from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.

Our concert in June was held in Greenbank Church and raised funds for 2 local charities:

SupER Kids – which provides children with additional support needs in East Renfrewshire with weekly clubs and regular family events, for social interaction, independence and learning new skills.

Mearns Kirk Helping Hands – which aims to improve wellbeing and reduce loneliness and isolation for older people in East Renfrewshire.

The choir members are asked to nominate charities to receive funds raised from ticket sales for our concerts. Everyone is then asked to vote for their 2 preferred charities. This ensures that a variety of charities are supported.

The choir meets in Busby Church Hall, Church Road, Busby G76 8EB from 7.30pm to 9.30pm on Wednesdays.

Singing is simple and has a wealth of benefits – from improving posture, to reducing blood pressure and improving mood. If you enjoy singing, why not come along? Everyone welcome!

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A few years' ago I came across this charity and I would like to take this opportunity to tell you more about it.

Friends of the Holy Land is a non-political Christian charity set up in 2009 to support the Christian community in the West Bank, Gaza, Israel and Jordan.

The focus is to provide practical help directly to the most needy and vulnerable Christians through emergency funding and practical projects to create a sustainable future in the Holy Land. This includes projects to retrain adults who have lost their livelihood because of the conflict, young people who need support to give them the skills to obtain work and a future, trauma support and summer camps for young children to allow them to relax and be children.

The charity helps with the cost of medical care which, due to the current conflict, is out of the reach of many Christians. In fact, more elderly people in Gaza have died through lack of medical care, than by the conflict.

The Hamas attacks on the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2023, which led to the war in Gaza, meant that anyone connected with tourism and anyone who had work permits to work in Israel, lost their jobs overnight. Tourism stopped, permits were revoked, and travel became restricted due to roadblocks and attacks. Even when travel is possible, it can take 5 hours to go the same distance as Busby to Glasgow.

Supporters in the UK come from all denominations of the Christian faith. Unlike many large international agencies, this charity works personally, locally and immediately. They know the people they support by name and can get funding to those who need it first.

If you would like to support them or would like to know more about the charity, please see online at [www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk](http://www.friendsoftheholylan.org.uk).



## IT'S A RUBY CELEBRATION FOR COLIN AND LIZ PETERSON

LIZ PETERSON

On our wedding day, the 29<sup>th</sup> of June, 1985, we were married by the Reverend Lawrence Whitley, who told the congregation that I was his first parishioner to become a member of the church and that our wedding would be his last to officiate in Busby.

Being born and bred in Busby, whenever there was a wedding you knew the whole village would turn out for you.



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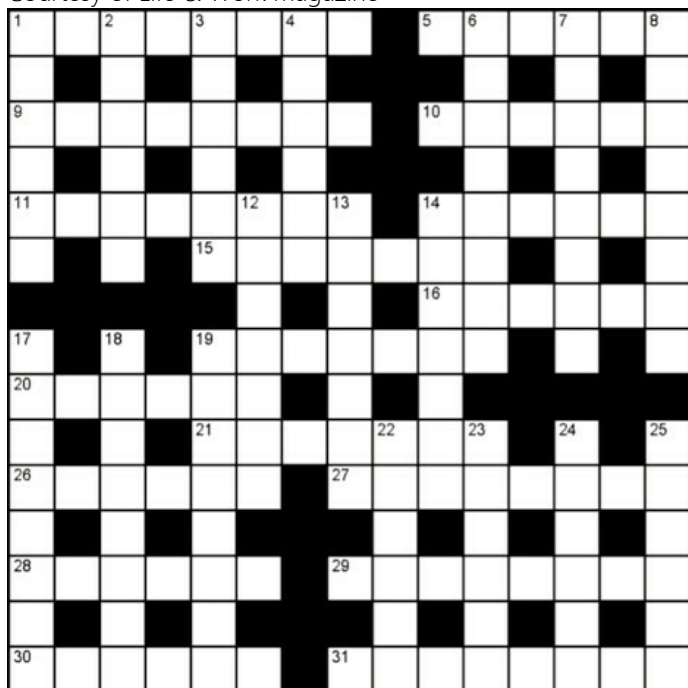
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# CROSSWORD

Courtesy of Life & Work magazine



## Across

- 1 Grace can't sit out before end of Sunday (8)
- 5 From Jamaica, Irish-American whose daughter was healed (6)
- 9 After half-day you intended, say, to have the statue (8)
- 10 Joseph, Rex and Daniel coming from the country (6)
- 11 Passing judgement (8)
- 14 Small Scotch according to tearful person (6)
- 15 Fiddle said knot first and attach again (7)
- 16 Somali coming from pool at Jerusalem (6)
- 19 How one could embark on a career? (2,2,3)
- 20 Bridal ways (6)
- 21 Admonition from present and past (3,4)
- 26 Train for Rugby, say (6)
- 27 Could be mason of Nazareth initially or carpenter (3,2,3)
- 28 Untruth about a divine boy (6)
- 29 Herb and I go to Central American church (8)
- 30 Stumble when fellow has later amendment (6)
- 31 Clergyman at all times appearing in split (8)

## Down

- 1 Samuel's youngster, he was betrayed (6)
- 2 Messenger found one French coin spinning outside (6)
- 3 Swelling appears hesitantly during trip (6)
- 4 Plain part undrained inside (6)
- 6 With this disorder does one only have a slim chance of becoming fat? (8)
- 7 About to open transfer (8)
- 8 Condition made by church council withholding zero foreign capital (8)
- 12 A looser concoction for producing fine spray (7)
- 13 Incredible frosty north, underwear needed! (1-6)
- 14 Learned fellows who came from the east (4,3)
- 17 Low character found on the score (4,4)
- 18 Lops head off lily (8)
- 19 Race is late as a result of it (8)
- 22 Respectful deference of silver found in the house (6)
- 23 Perfect beginner (6)
- 24 Appeal judge in the field (6)
- 25 How Christian soldiers go with advancing motion (6)

## CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Sanctity; 5 Jaius; 9 Monument; 10 Jordan; 11 Obituary; 14 Weeper; 15 Reaffix; 16 Siloam; 19 Go to sea; 20 Aisles; 21 Now then; 26 School; 27 Son of Man; 28 Laddie; 29 Basilica; 30 Father; 31 Reverend  
DOWN: 1 Samson; 2 Nunzio; 3 Tumour; 4 Tundra; 6 Anorexia; 7 Redeploy; 8 Syndrome; 12 Aerosol; 13 Y-fronts; 14 Wise Men; 17 Bass clef; 18 Asphodel; 19 Genocide; 22 Homage; 23 Novice; 24 Umpire; 25 Onward



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- Mary M  
(Daughter of client)



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