

SUMMER 2025



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



FOCUS



THE CLOSE KNIT PROJECT
See page 7



190th ANNIVERSARY
1835-2025

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

CAMPAIGN AGAINST LOCAL BESS Page 4

DESERT ISLAND DISCS Page 5

190th ANNIVERSARY - OUR HISTORY Page 9

BUSBY BAKES Page 11

WISH YOU WERE HERE - BARCELONA Page 14



FOCUS

the magazine of
BUSBY PARISH CHURCH

Published by
Busby Parish Church,
Church Road,
Busby,
Glasgow
G76 8EB

Registered Charity No.
SC016612

Minister:
Rev. Jerry Eve

Session Clerk:
Robin Bulmer

Editor:
John Lamb

Letters and Articles
should be sent to
busbyfocus@btinternet.com

For Advertising,
Please email
busbyfocus@btinternet.com

Visit our website at
busbyparishchurch.org.uk



Like us on Facebook

Cover picture by
Linda Smith



© 2025



MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE

JERRY EVE

I'm always on the lookout for heroes, and one I came across a while ago was Félix Kir (1876-1968), a French Catholic priest and politician. When I discovered who he was, and what he did, I was immediately inspired to write the following ballad. I hope you enjoy it, and I do hope also that it inspires you to 1) want to find out more about Canon Kir, and 2) to have a think about who your heroes are.

God Bless, Jerry:



Canon

White wine and Crème de Cassis – Kir –
Is named after a priest:
The Mayor of Dijon (*Bon Viveur*)
Who dearly loved a feast.

Quite rude to atheists he'd say,
"Though anything but sparse,
It can't be seen, but just like God
I know it's there – my a**e!"

And when the Germans occupied
Dijon – the whole of France –
Though Félix Kir was 63
"I will take every chance

To thwart, to sabotage," he thought,
"Attempts at Nazi rule.
I'll do my best, throughout this war,
To make them look the Fool."

So right away when they arrived
He took an early stand.
Brimful of confidence, he said,
"I cannot shake your hand.

For you're beneath me. If you want
Cooperation – help –
Send someone of a higher rank.
Why, you are just a whelp!"

And so with trademark beret he
'Fought' for the Resistance,
With guile, his personality
A force *par excellence*.

No fan of Vichy governance
"I cannot turn my back,"
He said, "for see, my cassock, cloak,
On both sides it is black."

So whether folks were atheists
Or Communists or Jews
Or Catholics or Protestants
For all he was 'Good News'.

He made sure his parishioners
Had food, and wine to drink,
'Allo 'Allo! He brilliantly
Would con, dupe, hoax, hoodwink.

He saved the local synagogue;
The order came: Destroy!
By then though Kir had said, "I know
A store." – a trick, ruse, ploy.

He managed to help prisoners
Escape – on a huge scale;
About 5,000, but this led
To capture, and to gaol.

Too popular to be condemned
He suffered an attack
While under house arrest about
To eat a quite large snack.

And though he's shot, he did survive
When famously he seized
An opportunity that caused
de Gaulle to not be pleased.

For when the war was at an end
With dog collar and gown
He rode atop a Sherman tank
To liberate the town.

And when peace reigned for many years
He might have had a rest,
Yet no, he then became the Mayor,
Made sure Dijon was best.

He liked to swim – or float – and so
He got Dijon to make
A place for picnics out of town:
An artificial Lake.

And when the Berlin Wall went up,
From West to East, he told
His people, "We should twin our towns,
Make sure this 'war' stays cold."

He made a friend of Nikita
Khrushchev – Do wonders cease?
They visited each other, and
They did so to make Peace.

White wine and Crème de Cassis – Kir –
Is named after a priest:
The Mayor of Dijon (*Bon Viveur*)
Who dearly loved a feast.

WHAT'S ON AT BUSBY PARISH CHURCH

MONDAYS

Badminton	10.00 -11.30am
Brownies	6.30-7.45pm
Drama Group	7.00-9.30pm

TUESDAYS

Art Class	10.00am-12.00
Food Bank	1.00-3.00pm
Art Class	1.00-3.00pm
Rainbows	5.30-6.30pm
Guides	7.00-9.00pm
Choir	7.00-9.00pm

WEDNESDAYS

Quilters	9.30am-12.00
Drop-in Club	10.30am-12.00
Keep Fit	5.30-7.00pm

THURSDAYS

Quilters	9.45am-12.00
Guild (fortnightly)	7.30-9.00pm

FRIDAYS

Rhythm Time	10.00am-12.00
Anchor Boys	6.00-7.45pm
Boys Brigade	7.45-10.00pm

SUNDAYS

Sunday Club	11.00am-12.00
Sunday Worship	11.00am-12.00*

*Followed by teas and coffees in our main hall, all are welcome!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BEREAVEMENTS

"May they rest in peace."

Rev Donald Ross, Cartsbridge Road, Palm Sunday
Joyce Laing, Newton Mearns, Easter Monday

JAMIE'S AMAZING ACHIEVEMENT



Jamie Savage, eldest son of Church members Jim and Mary, at the finishing line of this year's London marathon. He was running for the Lymphoma charity having suffered that cancer 3 years ago. It is also worth noting whilst being 43, he was running with a 70 year old kidney, dad Jim's, having had a transplant 11 years ago. All in all we are really proud of Jamie completing this feat against all odds.

Anyone wishing to sponsor Jamie can do so please using the Just giving platform (jamie savage).



Warmest congratulations to Rena Thomson, a Busby resident all her life, who turned 90 earlier this year.



Care *Tai*lored

To *You*

For more information about our Introductory to Care offer, please get in touch with our Care Specialist, Danielle on:

✉ Danielle.Wisely@sg.homeinstead.co.uk
or
☎ 0345 296 2897



I cannot recommend them highly enough and am very grateful for the care and support they provide.

- Mary M
(Daughter of client)



- Personal Care
- Dementia Care
- Companionship
- Home Help
- Live-in Care
- Specialist Care
- Community Outing





CAMPAIGN AGAINST LOCAL BESS

Did you know that a Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) is being proposed less than a mile from Busby Parish Church?

A BESS site has been proposed and is now in the planning application stages for BESS on greenbelt land only $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile away Busby Parish Church. The Meikle Dripps Farm (Thorntonhall and Busby) site is just $\frac{1}{3}$ of a mile from residential homes in Busby and less than a mile from WilliamWood High school, Bonnyton Care Home, St Joseph's Primary school and University Hospital Hairmyres. The proposed BESS is also less than 0.13 miles (220 Meters) away from residential properties in Thorntonhall

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/in-your-area/lanarkshire/lanarkshire-politicians-visit-thorntonhalls-proposed-34091799>

The Thorntonhall and Busby BESS Group has been established to help a large, and ever-growing group, of Thorntonhall and Busby residents who are far from happy with the actions of Apatura Ltd and their consultant(s) in relation to the proposed BESS at Meikle Dripps Farm.

We wish to explain about the lack of transparency throughout the whole 'consultation/exhibition' process, we call this the "Failure to Consult Accurately"

One of our biggest concerns is the danger of fire and noise. There are no Scottish or British standards for BESS. There are no standards for BESS fire suppression systems. Neither are there standards for BESS battery enclosures. The lack of standards should raise concerns for all residents who may be called upon to lock themselves and their pets indoors, with all their windows closed if a BESS fire occurs. Each 20-foot BESS container, and there will be 108 of them, is a potential point of failure.

Busby and Thorntonhall residents have raised valid concerns about fire safety, the adequacy of noise suppression measures, the accompanying transportation plan including the feasibility of large vehicle movements on narrow roads, and the lack of established standards for BESS safety protocols. Questions regarding the potential environmental impact of a BESS, including the stability of the water table and the local ecology have also been raised, and all of these concerns demand thorough investigation before any development planning should go ahead.

The Busby and Thorntonhall BESS Group have raised these questions and many more with development company Apatura and shared them with all our local councillors, MSP's and MPs. To date we have not received any further clarity from Apatura and have only received a few responses from local councillors, MSP's and MP's.

If you would like to find out more and make your views heard by the Scottish Government, about the BESS and its impact on our communities and countryside please contact bess@thorntonhallbess.com.



Picture courtesy of Google Earth

DESERT ISLAND DISCS

the selection of Marilyn Ross

Marilyn is a stalwart of the Church, serving as an elder and providing help wherever it is needed. She was part of the management team for last year's Arts Festival and is an active member of Busby Bowling Club.

Picture courtesy of BBC Radio 4

1. Perry Como - Catch a Falling Star Coming from a musical family, although I did not inherit the musical gene, our home in the 1950s was filled with live music and singing. This song captured my imagination as I took it literally and spent years gazing at the night sky in the hope of catching a falling star.
2. Scott McKenzie – San Francisco (Be sure to wear some flowers in your hair) Oh the 60s music! From this side of the Pond, I was fascinated by the hippy culture promoting peace, love and freedom. How grown up I felt in my kaftan and beads!
3. Cat Stevens – Morning has broken In the early 1970s I had such a crush on Cat Stevens with his beautiful voice and messianic good looks. This song of hope for the new day was one of my favourites and played endlessly.
4. Bob Marley – No Woman no Cry Just married in 1975, we spent two amazing years in rural Jamaica; an unforgettable experience, living and working in another culture. Bob Marley's reggae music was everywhere, blasting out from rum bars day and night. Sweet memories! A Rastafarian, he actively promoted peace and political unity.
5. Runrig - Loch Lomond We played the Runrig tape constantly while touring Scotland in the 1980s trying to entertain two children in the back who resolutely refused to appreciate Scottish scenery! The Scottish music was a lifesaver.
6. Les Miserables – One Day More My favourite musical, first seen in 1993. The music and the innovative revolving barricades on stage were truly impressive. This song at the end of Act 1 is so powerful when several cast members unite to sing about what the future holds for them, personally and politically.
7. Handel's Messiah – Hallelujah Chorus An Easter anthem, sung in celebration of Jesus' Resurrection. Uplifting to listen to and impossible not to sing along with.
8. Robert Burns – Auld Lang Syne Frequently at Burns Suppers, I love the songs of Robert Burns, especially Auld Lang Syne. Memories of New Year surrounded by family. Now especially poignant since receiving a video of our Canadian granddaughter playing it in a school talent show.

Book – To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee An introduction to the racism and injustices of the American legal system as seen through the eyes of a young girl. Pulitzer Prize winner in 1961 –removed from curriculum in 2020s!

Object – A comprehensive Spanish course On a desert island I would miss my weekly class and this would allow me to continue learning Spanish.

Fun, confidence building, non-competitive dance classes from 2 - 18yrs!



DANCE
INC. STUDIOS
dream. believe. achieve.

www.danceincstudios.uk

SCAN ME
FOR MORE
INFO



The Guides have really enjoyed spending most of our Tuesday evenings out in the Church grounds due to the dry sunny weather. We have played parachute games, had a scavenger hunt and pitched tents. They also seem to enjoy making up their own games and just running about with their friends in the open air. I'm sure that half of Busby must hear us on Tuesday evenings. We plan to have a barbecue, weather permitting, for our last meeting in June.



We head to the County Camp in June and there will be over 300 attending. Some of the leaders, who are involved with organising the food and other activities, will be sleeping in the house at Auchengillan. I'm sure that I will be the oldest leader sleeping in a tent.

Thank you to all the Guides for making Tuesday evenings great fun.



CHURCH FLOWERS

LINDA SMITH

I would like to thank our team of flower arrangers

Pearl Munro, Irene Black and Jane Jarvie who bring their own sense of colour and design to the Church Flowers. Their talents are very much appreciated. I am very grateful for all the help they give me throughout the year.

Thank you also to the congregation for their continued support and donations.



In March this year, Busby Church played host to an afternoon event titled 'Breaking Bread'. A joint Glasgow Presbytery (Community Responsibility Committee) and Christian Aid initiative, this was an opportunity for people to come and meet their 'fairly new' MP, and ask him questions on the topic of Climate Justice. Supported by 'Clarkston and District Christian Aid Committee', and both welcomed and thanked by Glasgow Presbytery's moderator, Rev Jan Mathieson, among the highlights were three short presentations by students involved in Eco- and Rights-Respecting Groups from three local schools: Williamwood High, Carolside and St Joseph's Primaries.

An ecumenical gathering with representation from a range of denominations, Head of 'Christian Aid Scotland', Val Brown, gave a short talk involving some of the young people, who were more than happy to volunteer for what turned out to be quite a messy – but helpful – demonstration involving seed and soil. The 'main event', however – apart from a constant supply of refreshments provided by volunteers from Busby Church – was the time spent by Blair McDougall as he moved from table to table, and chatted with the different groups. The questions themselves ranged from local concerns such as the emptying of litter bins to national ones such as the green component of the UK budget.

And, while this wasn't something that will be repeated – it was a one-off – the overall sense at the end of the day was that Blair was very open to discussing matters of concern, and would welcome such support on these matters as church folk, as well as the community at large, are able to give – for nature and the environment.



THE CLOSE KNIT PROJECT

FAY MCINTYRE

Since my request for knitted or crocheted squares in March, I'm delighted to say we have just completed a blanket for Lodging House Mission as part of Glasgow Presbytery Close Knit Appeal. We have enough squares to do 3 more blankets so if you're still enjoying participating in this worthwhile cause, please continue and bring any squares to church. I would like to thank all members and non-members who have given us so many lovely squares. This has given our team a great selection of colourful work for them to assemble. Hopefully you'll see another 3 blankets in the next edition of Focus. Many thanks for your participation and 'Keep Knitting'.

This project is a contribution to the celebration of Glasgow 850 in which we mark the 850th anniversary of Glasgow becoming a Bishop's Burgh. It takes inspiration from the scripture verse which speaks of hearts being encouraged as they are knit together in love.

The blankets will be displayed on a number of days throughout the year, the first of which is on Sunday 22nd June, weather permitting, at the Drying Green in Glasgow Green, with the finale at the Lodging House Mission Carol Service at East Campbell Street in December. Other venues and dates are currently being finalised.

Thereafter they will be distributed by Lodging House Mission and other partner organisations, to those in need of some winter warmth.

POET'S CORNER

JERRY EVE



In March we had a special guest speaker at our Communion Service, Steven McLeish. As well as the new Scotland Head of Leprosy Mission, Steven is a published performance poet. The talk he gave began with a poem. And I asked him at the time if it might be possible for us to 'pinch' one for our next edition of Focus. Here it is. It's from his excellent 2024 collection, *The Dyslexic Poet*. Thank you, Steven:

Dyslexic Jesus

Jesus never put pen to paper,
Yet he made the biggest impact there ever was – and still is.
He turned logic on its head;
He was creative in his healing and miracles.
He was a storyteller, teaching from amphitheatres.
His thinking was backward and counterculture,
A problem solver and entrepreneurial in spirit,
Always using what he had.
Was Jesus dyslexic?
I don't know, but he sure had the characteristics of one.



FREEMAN'S
BUSBY PHARMACY

**Serving the local
community for over
50 years**

www.freemans.scot/busby

20 Main Street, Busby, Glasgow G76 8DU
Tel: 0141 644 4344



Healthcare / Prescriptions / Advice / Homeopathy



BUSBY IS LITTER PICKING GOOD

IRENE BLACK

Our event took place on Saturday 12th April this year. The weather was kind to us again. We had an even better turnout than last year with 30 willing volunteers from the congregation, along with friends, family and local residents, who turned out on the day. Our Local Councillor, Annette Ireland, also took time to support the event. We are really grateful to all the volunteers who give their time.

All in all, I do think the volume of litter on the pavements was less than it had been last year. Having said that there was still plenty of work to be done. After 2 hours of exceptional effort, over 45 bin bags were collected. The litter included removal of a large, torn bill board poster and 2 requests to clear areas of fly tipping were made for collection by the council.

After the event, the volunteers are generally pleased to see they have made a difference. They also learn to accept there is likely to be more litter by the next morning. I admit it can be a little frustrating but, we can only do what we can do and try to bring the rest of the community with us to have pride in our local area. We have to believe that every little helps. It feels good to make this small contribution to improve our environment in the hope that others might get the message and change their habits. It could be so much worse if we did nothing.

Thanks again to all the litter pickers, the drivers, those who provided the refreshments and the Council for the uplifts, to ensure this event was successful.



Busby Men

OSTAP MELNICK

Busby Men are a friendly group of 20 blokes from Busby and nearby areas, and we'd love for you to join us. We meet at the White Cart Pub on the last Tuesday of each month (September to May) from 10:30 AM to about 12:00 PM—just long enough for a good chat and a cuppa.

We're a speaking club with a twist: half the time, we share presentations with each other—think stories from our careers, hobbies, family history, current events, or whatever's on our minds. The other half, we bring in outside speakers to mix things up. It's all very laid-back—whether you fancy having a go yourself or just kicking back to listen, you'll fit right in.

We're free to visitors (and right now, thanks to a community grant, there's no cost to anyone), so now's the ideal time — just pop along and see if it suits you. We know joining a new group can feel a bit daunting as we get older, but we're an easygoing bunch who enjoy a laugh and good company. New faces are always welcome!

If you'd like to know more contact us at: busbymen@outlook.com or have a look at our syllabus on our Substack blog: busbymen.substack.com

A HISTORY OF OUR CHURCH & ITS ORIGINS

Part One: Busby and the Covenanters

MAUREEN POTTER



At the time of the Reformation John Knox's ambition was to have a church and a school in every parish in Scotland. However, despite there being a settlement beside the River Cart, known as Busby there was not a Busby parish so depending on location people either stayed in Carmunnock, East Kilbride or Mearns Parish! That isn't to say that local people weren't interested in Christianity. Busby was in the heart of Covenanting country in the late 1600s, so much so that a local man by the name of William Warnock was fined £323 Scots pounds because he refused to go to an Episcopal form of worship.

Another prominent Busby Covenanter was mill owner, John Parker who took part in the Pentland Rising which culminated with the Battle of Rullion Green in 1666. The Covenanters lost and many were captured and executed either in Glasgow or Edinburgh. John Parker was executed along with Christopher Strang, Gavin Hamilton and James Hamilton. After execution these men were beheaded and their heads put on spikes in Hamilton as a warning to others. There is a memorial in the East Wall of Hamilton Old Parish Churchyard to the four men known as the Hamilton Martyrs Monument. The inscription on the memorial says: -

At Hamilton
Lie the heads of
JOHN PARKER, GAVIN HAMILTON, JAMES HAMILTON and CHRISTOPHER STRANG
Who suffered at Edinburgh, December 7th, 1666.
Stay, passenger, take notice,
What thou reads,
At Edinburgh lie our bodies,
Our right hand stood at Lanark,
These we want
Because with them we sware,
The Covenant
Renewed.

Captain John Paton of Fenwick a very experienced soldier and Covenanter who led the local men at Rullion Green managed to evade capture but remained a fugitive until 1683 when he was eventually captured and executed aged 80 in Edinburgh in May, 1683.

On Sunday afternoon 26th February, 1978 the late Rev Lawrence Whitley held a special service in Busby East Church to commemorate the local Covenanters. My memory says a sword was carried into the church by Busby East Elder, Mr Dewar Dunlop, one of the many descendants of Captain Paton but according to John McVicar it was John Parker's sword. Can anyone help solve this mystery, please? A number of descendants of both men were present.

For further information, a visit to the Lochgoin Covenanter's Museum on Whitelee Moor is worth a visit.

190th ANNIVERSARY
1835-2025

As we celebrate the 190th anniversary of Busby Parish Church, Maureen Potter looks back, in this and the next few editions of Focus, at the history of our Church and its origins.





HODGKINSON

THE JEWELLERS

2 HILLVIEW DRIVE,
CLARKSTON
G76 7JD
0141 638 8888
hodgkinsonsjewellers@gmail.com
www.hodgkinsonjewellers.co.uk

BROWSE IN OUR LARGE SHOWROOM

All types of jewellery repairs and alterations

Free diamond ring cleaning and checking while you wait

WE BUY GOLD! Call in today for a price



CROSSREACH

Care you can put your faith in

KATIE FLOCKHART - Donor Relations Manager

Hope starts here. Cross Reach is with you, every step of the way

April has been a busy month for CrossReach and many of our services, from Kilt Walk achievements, exciting school trips, to Easter celebrations.

This spring, we look forward to the future. It's important to focus on the good, the successes, and the wonderful moments of light that shine bright even through dark and difficult times.

We were delighted to have 30 registered participants in the Kilt Walk help raise money for CrossReach. Runners braved the long distance walks to help support our services. Special mention to Anne from our Bluebell perinatal mental health service in Glasgow, who was the first female to cross the finish line - what an incredible achievement!



Some of those we support were also able to enjoy football matches. Through partnership with the Scottish Women's Premier League, we were able to offer match tickets to our Children and Families services for a game. It was a great day out for all involved!

We had a wonderful time hosting our first Meet Your Neighbours networking event at the Hilton Doubletree in Strathclyde. It was a great opportunity to connect with some businesses in the area and meet some new people. A big thank you to everyone who supported and partnered with us.

It's a challenging time with significant cuts to funding, the cost of living crisis and more demand for our services than ever. Studies have shown that approximately 1 in 4 people in the UK will experience a mental health problem each year. For many people, the consequences can be devastating. People seeking counselling today are presenting with more trauma and distress than at any other time.

You can change that. Please give to provide counselling support to help people overcome their mental health challenges.

Upcoming events:

Golf Event Join us on Friday 12th September 2025, for a day of friendly competition at the Bruntsfield Links Golf Society, Edinburgh.

Get your tickets at

<https://shop.crossreach.org.uk/crossreach-golf-day/>





CROSSREACH Charity GOLF Tournament

Friday
12th September
10 am

- £200 per golfer
- Teams of 4
- Limited spaces
- Plenty of prizes to be won!

Hosted by the fourth oldest golf club in the world with a non-member waiting list of over 3 years.

Breakfast & lunch provided.

Visit www.crossreach.org.uk/crossreach-golf-day or scan the QR code to secure your place today!




32 Barnton Avenue,
Edinburgh,
EH4 6JH

events@crossreach.org.uk 0131 657 2000

Craving chocolate cake but can't be bothered slaving in a hot kitchen with the oven on during all this recent lovely, hot sunshine we have been experiencing? - then this is the perfect dessert. It can be made in a single portion and only requires a 15ml measuring spoon to measure all the ingredients. Minimum fuss - maximum flavour!

Ingredients

- 45ml self-raising flour
- 30ml caster sugar
- 15ml cocoa powder
- 15ml sunflower or vegetable oil
- 60ml milk
- Chunks of chocolate/ chocolate buttons
- Ice cream or cream to serve

BUSBY BAKES

CHOCOLATE MUG CAKE

SHONA PARK



Method

1. In a mug, mix all the dry ingredients, then add the milk and the oil. Stir well to make sure there is no dry flour at the bottom.

2. Press a few chunks of chocolate into the middle.

3. Microwave for 60-90 seconds. It should be risen but still slightly gooey in the centre.

Enjoy served with ice-cream or cream if you wish.



62 Busby Road, Clarkston
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



£100 OFF
TOOTH
WHITENING

COMMONWEALTH WAR GRAVES COMMISSION

TOUR OF EAST KILBRIDE CEMETERY

IAIN JARVIE



The Commonwealth War Graves Commission commemorates the 1.7 million men and women from the Commonwealth who lost their lives in the two World Wars, ensuring they will never be forgotten.

On Sunday 11th May, a few from Busby Men's Group enjoyed an engaging tour of East Kilbride Cemetery led by Fred Ellsworth, a volunteer for the CWGC, hearing the remarkable stories of some of those who died in the two world wars and are buried there.



Although not connected to the CWGC commemorations, of particular local interest were the stories of John and William Duff, born in Busby, the only sons of William Duff and Ann Mitchell and brothers to Catherine. Their father was a partner in Davis, Duff & Son

Ltd, watch manufacturers, wholesale jewellers, silversmiths and diamond merchants, 12 Gordon Street, Glasgow. The family lived at "Ramleh" on East Kilbride Road

LIEUTENANT WILLIAM DUFF

Lieutenant William Duff served with "D" Company, 7th Battalion Scottish Rifles (Cameronians) and was killed at the age of 23 on Monday 28th June 1915, the first day of the Battle of Gully Ravine in Gallipoli. He is commemorated on a special memorial in Twelve Tree Copse Cemetery.



LIEUTENANT JOHN MITCHELL DUFF

Lieutenant John Mitchell Duff served with the 7th Battalion Scottish Rifles (Cameronians) and died at the age of 32 of malaria on 24th August 1919 in Mandalay, Burma. He is buried in Taukkyan War Cemetery.

THE DUFF MEMORIAL HALL

Built as a memorial to their sons and comprising baths, a library, a reading room and a social room, the Duff Memorial Institute was presented to the village of Busby in 1921.



In all, there are 26 CWGC commemorations in East Kilbride Cemetery, 22 with Commission headstones. Whilst most are in single scattered graves, eight are gathered in one plot, all casualties who subsequently died in Hairmyres Hospital.

If interested in attending other such tours, whilst they are free, they must be booked in advance at www.cwgc.org as and when advertised on the commission's site.



Unveiling a plaque from the Imperial War Museum in memory of the people of Busby who died in both World Wars at the Duff Memorial Hall in 2012

THE CHOIR

ROSEANNE BRACKENRIDGE

Over the past few months the choir has enjoyed bringing to the services anthems ranging from Mozart for Holy Week to Phil Coulter. The latter is now a favourite of ours and perfect for our continued support of the RNLI.

I am very grateful to Allan & the choir members for their help with the Sunday Club performances. It's wonderful that the wee ones have the chance to share with everyone the songs we've been singing every week. The choir are enjoying learning more new items from God Welcomes All, the new supplement to our CH4 hymn book. We hope the congregation are enjoying the anthems which we can then all sing together as new hymns.

Finally, here's something you probably didn't know about the choir.....

Ode to the Sweetie Box

The choir has a sweetie box-
I bet you didn't know.
The contents of it are the best
for singing high and low.

Allan likes a Pandrop-
They're very hard to find.
The 'Sweetie Fairy' brings them in-
That's really very kind.

Linda keeps it safe for us
And holds it up on high.
"Who would like a sweetie?"
"Yes please", is the reply.

So whether you need "sugar free"
Or have an awful cold,
From Polo mints to soothers,
We've sweets for young and old.

We've Vocalzones and Strepsils,
Ricola, Jakemans too,
And when we sing of songs at sea,
A Fisherman's Friend will do!

And if you aren't in the choir
But need a sweetie too,
You'll have to look for Thelma-
She's got more than a few!



CHRISTIAN AID CELEBRATES

MYRTLE MCGREGOR

On the 17th of May this year, Christian Aid celebrated 80 years of work, since it was founded after the end of the Second World War.

The service was held in the beautiful St Giles Cathedral in Edinburgh in the evening. The main speaker was The Rt Honorable John Swinney, First Minister of Scotland, who spoke eloquently about Christian Aid's work world wide over 80 years.

Hymns were in different languages and some strange instruments played, during a lovely evening.

Over 80 decades Christian Aid has supported people of all faiths and none. It was a joy to share in this celebration.

CLAPHAMS
— solicitors —

Local lawyers,
who will deliver you a lifetime of dedicated client care

Speak to one of our solicitors today
call on 0141 620 0800
Or email us lawagents@davidccclapham.co.uk

- Wills and Estates
- Executry
- Power of Attorney
- Guardianship
- Residential Conveyancing
- Commercial Conveyancing
- Divorce and Family Law
- Civil Litigation

WISH YOU WERE HERE

In the first of what will be a regular feature where we invite readers to share their experiences of different destinations, Robbie Eve writes about his recent trip to Barcelona

It all started with a casual chat at home. Kieran, my sister's boyfriend, was over, and I asked, "If you could go on holiday solo anywhere in the world, where would you go?" Without missing a beat, he replied, "Barcelona was really fun." That was all the encouragement I needed. A few hours of scouring the internet for deals, and I had booked my trip.

Arriving at Prestwick airport felt like stepping into a post-apocalyptic movie set. The car park was nearly empty, and the terminal was eerily quiet. I half-expected to find the doors locked. But no, our flight was the only one departing that day, making for a peaceful journey with plenty of elbow room.

Touching down in Barcelona at midnight, I was acutely aware of the city's reputation for pickpockets. As I navigated the streets to my hostel, passing by dubious characters, I clutched my belongings like a contestant on a game show where the prize was "not getting mugged."

The hostel greeted me with a unique aroma—a blend of old socks and mystery. I had booked a twin room for myself, but upon arrival, I discovered a shared room with bunk beds and two unexpected roommates: a hairy-chested Frenchman and another guy who seemed to have a personal vendetta against deodorant. The receptionist's response to my confusion? A shrug and a "What did you expect?" Not exactly the customer service I had hoped for.

Determined to make the best of it, I set out the next morning to explore Park Güell. Without mobile data, I relied on the kindness of the locals for directions. The park's architecture was stunning, though the interior of the gingerbread house left me underwhelmed. It reminded me more of a gingerbread house after a toddler's birthday party than a masterpiece.

Later, I stumbled upon a tapas restaurant. Despite warnings about unfriendly locals, the staff were warm and welcoming, engaging me in conversation and providing excellent service. The food was delightful—each bite a testament to the culinary prowess of the chef.

A solo ride on the cable car to Montjuïc Castle offered panoramic views of the city. At the top, I met Abraim, a fellow solo traveller from London. We explored the castle together and later enjoyed burgers at BACOA, which were both sizable and delicious.

That evening, we attended a concert featuring Matisse and Sadko. Though unfamiliar with their music, the energy of the crowd was infectious. The night ended late, and I returned to the hostel exhausted but content.

The following day, I visited the Barcelona Cathedral. Its intricate design and the view from the rooftop were awe-inspiring. I couldn't help but marvel at the dedication and vision it must have taken to create such a masterpiece.

That evening, I encountered a protest. The atmosphere was tense, with police presence and chants filling the air. Amidst the chaos, a tour group continued their exploration nearby, seemingly unfazed. It was a stark reminder of the city's complexities.

Reflecting on this journey, I realise that stepping out of my comfort zone led to unforgettable experiences and personal growth. It's easy to postpone dreams, waiting for the perfect moment or company. But sometimes, taking that leap of faith alone can lead to the most rewarding adventures. We're not getting any younger, so it's either you act now to do something you've always wanted to do, or grow older wondering *what if?*



BARCELONA
ROBBIE EVE



*Pictures from top: Robbie at Casa Battlo Hostel;
The Gingerbread House in Park Güell;
St Eulalia's Cathedral;
The Montjuïc Castle Cable Car*

JERRY EVE



When I spoke to Neil, Donald's oldest son, on the phone a few days after Donald had died, he explained that for quite a while – about two years – his father had been saying that, when he died, he didn't want any fuss. I do hope Donald wouldn't mind, however, my writing the following words:

I have known Donald as long as I have been minister at Busby Church. When, as a way of welcoming us as a young manse family, Donald and his wife, Effie, invited Michelle and myself and our three children around for Sunday lunch, Donald pushing our two primary school age children around their garden in a wheelbarrow. For someone who at that time would have been in his very late 60s, I remember thinking it was quite a feat. Over the years, Donald has shared a number of stories with me. He told me, for example, of his childhood days playing in and around the Callanish Standing Stones; Donald and Effie keeping a cottage on Scalpay, where they would take their holidays.

Born in the late 20s, and living in the West End of Glasgow during the Second World War, Donald also remembered how, as an active member of the Boys' Brigade, he once turned up to Church early on a Sunday morning to learn that all the windows had been shattered overnight by a bomb. Told in the context of the much more recent pandemic, Donald told me how sad he was that church services were being cancelled when, even during the blitz, it was something that hadn't happened; that morning Donald and his fellow Boys' Brigaders being tasked with removing shards of glass from the hymnbooks.

At around the age of 30 in 1959, Donald became Cathkin and Fernhill Parish Church's first minister. The trick, Donald told me, was to make sure new families were visited almost as soon as they moved into the area. Effie told me, though, that while this meant extremely long days for Donald, there were also lots of extremely busy Baptism Sundays. Later on, working as an Industrial Chaplaincy Organiser, on his retirement in 1994, Donald wrote the definitive book on Industrial Chaplaincy here in Scotland. Titled 'God it's Monday: Some Reflections on the History of Industrial Mission', it was appropriately made available for the very first time on May (or Labour) Day in 1997. In it, Donald charts not just the way he, but a whole team of Industrial Chaplains, were able to put in place a spiritual support system for working people throughout Scotland, which then meant that when there was an incident such as the Piper Alpha disaster in 1988, the Church was extremely well-placed to help. Working in Govan Shipbuilders in the early 70s, for example, yet another good practice Donald told me of was that he always made a point of working closely with his Catholic colleagues to tackle sectarianism, one of them, Father Frank Kennedy, always wearing a blue safety helmet, while Donald's was green.

In his retirement, and as a member of Busby Church, Donald with a beautifully sonorous singing voice, was a very active member of the Busby Parish Church Choir. He would take services, and when in 2012 he lost his beloved Effie far too young, Donald sought to do all he could for those who live alone. Just one of his initiatives at that time was the foundation of a Mens' Group meeting monthly in a local pub. This is a group that is still extremely active to this day.

Survived by his two boys, Neil and Alistair, and their families, it was late on Palm Sunday that Donald himself also made an entrance – in his case into the New Jerusalem. Donald M. Ross, may he rest in peace, Amen.



Chartered Accountants and Business Advisors

T: 0141 644 5486

E: busby@thehansencompany.co.uk

W: www.thehansencompany.co.uk

SC355086

Providing professional and reliable accountancy services tailored to your needs, we support businesses and individuals with expert tax and financial guidance.

Whether you need help with book-keeping, tax returns, or business growth, we're here to assist.

ACROSS

- 1 Lady heard to come before a meal (5)
- 4 I went into curiously uncommon service (9)
- 9 Cutter on excise duty? (7)
- 10 Scholars back to come clean for a day (7)
- 11 Having strong beliefs about Eve with a calling (11)
- 13 Jewel little Margaret returned (3)
- 14 Going down having wrong entry in ship's record (6)
- 15 Pardon me arranging casually to mention someone (4-4)
- 18 Coming round about five past six and at home with gin cocktail (8)
- 20 Offender breaks reins about mid-morning (6)
- 23 Biblical mount (3)
- 24 Bright red plant when forest is on fire? (7,4)
- 25 Several times find Frenchman in a quiver (7)
- 26 Tenacious one taking drug is criminal (7)
- 28 One not in agreement suffering abnormal tiredness (9)
- 29 Country, say, variable part (5)

Down

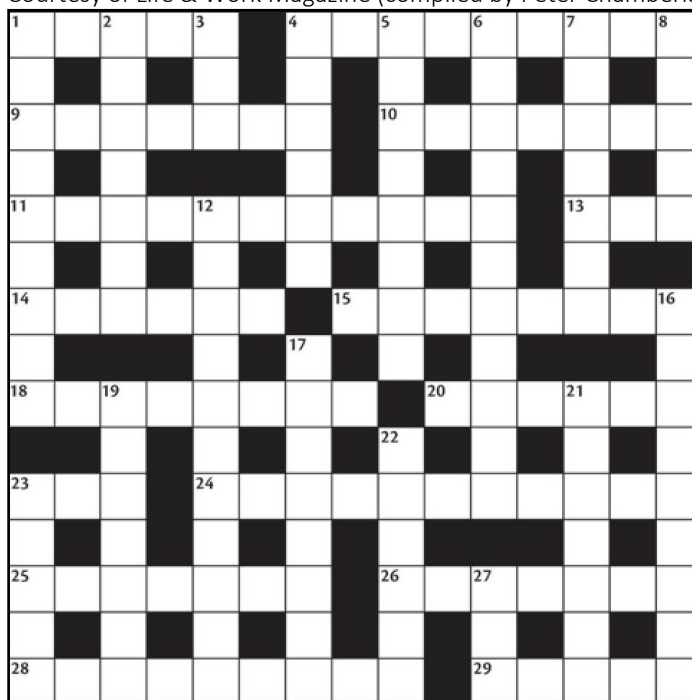
- 1 Hot evangelist (9)
- 2 A bishop features amount owing (7)
- 3 Lady prevented from entering (3)
- 4 Wicked light (6)
- 5 One of a noted band? (8)
- 6 Sceptical about blue vein developing in middle of night (11)
- 7 Look back at this whilst developing hot displeasure (2,5)
- 8 Hebrew prophet in Adana humbled (5)
- 12 Scriptures from Switzerland? (6,5)
- 16 Penny Bridge intended, say, for this to be written on (9)
- 17 Geraint's becoming most annoyed (8)
- 19 Strives personally to include service (7)
- 21 Only slightly indecent when badly behaved (7)
- 22 One of the family in hospital (6)
- 23 A lightweight Edgar performed on stage (5)
- 27 Exploit said sheep (3)

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Grace; 4 Communion; 9 Surgeon; 10 Sabbath; 11 Evangelical; 13 Gem; 14 Losing; 15 Name-drop; 18 Reviving; 20 Sinner; 23 Ass; 24 Burning bush; 25 Tremble; 26 Toughie; 28 Dissenter; 29 Egypt.
 DOWN: 1 Gospelier; 2 Arrears; 3 Eve; 4 Candle; 5 Musician; 6 Unbelieving; 7 In anger; 8 Nahum; 12 Geneva Bible; 16 Parchment; 17 Angriest; 19 Vespers; 21 Naughty; 22 Sister; 23 Acted; 27 Use.

CROSSWORD

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



BUSBY BOWLING CLUB



Busby Bowling Club celebrates its 150th anniversary this year. In April 2025, the Club was refurbished with a grant from East Renfrewshire Renewable Energy Fund. As a key part of the Busby community, it is now an even more attractive venue for events. Interested in playing bowls or renting the hall? Visit our refurbished clubhouse!

Only 5 minutes from Busby

0141 644 4512

**24 HOUR EMERGENCY CALL OUT SERVICE
FOR TYRE REPLACEMENTS**

performancetyrescarmunnock.co.uk



TYRES



MOBILE
TYRE FITTING



PUNCTURE
REPAIRS



WHEEL
BALANCING



CHANGE
OVERS



TPMS



PERFORMANCE
TYRES CARMUNNOCK



**PERFORMANCE
TYRES
CARMUNNOCK**