

LODGING HOUSE MISSION

ROBIN BULMER



On Saturday 15th February a small team of volunteers from Busby Parish Church took their turn on the rota to assist with preparing and serving lunch at the Lodging House Mission on East Campbell Street, Glasgow.

Busby is one of over 20 Church of Scotland congregations, including several from neighbouring churches in the Clarkston area, that provide this voluntary Saturday support on a weekly basis, working alongside other regular volunteers.

This particular Saturday coincided with the arrival of the winter storm 'Dennis' and a large number of 'service users' had come into the mission to take advantage of the shelter and hospitality on offer.

The Lodging House Mission (LHM) has over 100 years experience in helping disadvantaged people get their lives back on the right track. It is a Christian organisation with a mission to provide care and support to those in need regardless of religion, race, ethnicity or gender. With more and more men and women becoming homeless due to the current economic downturn, they have a dedicated team of Support Workers and Volunteers who work together towards one common goal - making a positive difference in people's lives.



The LHM is open daily throughout the week and provides a range of services to its users including: Educational opportunities and recreational activities; Food; Help and support on practical issues including filling in benefit forms, housing applications as well as referrals to other agencies; Showers and toiletries; Hairdressers; and Emergency clothing. Being able to offer fresh clothing is extremely helpful. Donations of practical clothing for men and women are greatly appreciated e.g. warm sweaters, t-shirts, jeans, new underwear, unused socks, and paired footwear (trainers or other sturdy shoes in good condition).

People who are homeless, vulnerable and socially excluded can often face many problems at the same time such as drug and alcohol dependency, involvement in street culture activity, mental health problems, unemployment, relationship problems, financial strains and housing exclusion. This combination of linked problems is known as Multiple Homelessness Exclusion - this is what LHM strives to address. No single sector, charity or organisation can address these issues alone. With many men and women affected by the issues of homelessness in Glasgow, LHM help combat the problem by building relations and working with partner organisations including: Glasgow City Council; The Glasgow Homelessness Network; The Presbytery of Glasgow; Glasgow Simon Community; Glasgow City Mission; John Wheatley College; The Marie Trust; SAMH Connect; and Glasgow East Alcohol Awareness Project (GEAAP). In particular the LHM premises are utilised by the Glasgow City Mission, to provide overnight shelter for up to 40 persons, providing a safe environment for those who need it.

Our team of volunteers from Busby can only imagine what a time of homelessness is like. That so many find themselves in that position in Glasgow is a source of deep regret but through the combined work of these many agencies and volunteers the City of Glasgow strives to address this societal issue. To find out more about the Lodging House Mission and how you can be of assistance visit their website at <https://www.lhm-glasgow.org.uk/what-you-can-do> or join our team of volunteers on a Saturday in the future.



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Dental care for
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Black Forest Brownies

This is a bit of a twist that combines two classic recipes. It's a bit rich and indulgent but we should allow ourselves small treats now and again.

SHONA PARK



METHOD

1. Preheat the oven to 180oC/ gas ???
2. Grease and line a deep 20x30cm baking tray.
3. Beat the eggs in a jug. Roughly chop the chocolate.
4. Melt the butter and beat in the sugar.
5. Gradually beat the eggs into the butter and sugar mixture.
6. Sieve in the flour, cocoa, baking powder and salt. Add the chocolate (and hazelnuts if using) and fold to combine.
7. Swirl in the tin of cherry pie filling. Don't mix fully- you want a kind of ripple effect.
8. Pour in the the prepared tin and bake for 45-50 minutes till set but still slightly squishy.
9. Allow to cool slightly before cutting.

INGREDIENTS

- 150g butter
- 250g caster sugar
- Pinch salt
- 3eggs
- 150g chocolate
- 250g self raising flour
- 30g cocoa
- 2.5ml baking powder
- 1 400g Tin cherry pie filling
- 75g chopped hazelnuts (optional)

EAST RENFREWSHIRE'S CITIZEN OF THE YEAR - EVELYN BAXTER

In December, Evelyn Baxter received the prestigious Citizen of the Year Award 2019 from Provost Jim Fletcher. This award recognises a dedicated volunteer who works tirelessly to improve and enrich the lives of others in the community.

Evelyn (née Corbett) has roots that go way back in Busby which is probably why she is so passionate about the village and its residents. She was born here, was crowned Gala Queen in 1953, married Roy Baxter in Busby West Church in 1965, and has lived most of her life here. Evelyn and Roy have been very active members of Busby Bowling Club for over forty years, serving as Presidents 1989.

Evelyn has served as Secretary on the Busby Community Council for five years. The Baxters and a committee of volunteers were instrumental in setting up the very successful *Busby Memory Lane* over three years ago. This is an initiative aimed at giving opportunities and experiences to older local residents and takes place from 2pm till 4pm every Wednesday afternoon in the Duff Hall. At present over thirty residents regularly attend and enjoy the varied programme. New members are always made most welcome.

The refurbishing and upgrading of Busby's Spider Park is another of Evelyn's successes. She was instrumental in sourcing the necessary funding and organising the celebrations on the Park's reopening. Now this park gives safe, interesting and challenging activities for the children of Busby. In November 2019 the Spider Park received further improvements including a wheelchair accessible roundabout and two recycled picnic tables. Check out Busby Community Council's Facebook page.

Well done Evelyn from everyone in Busby Parish Church!

PICTURES

Top: Evelyn receiving her reward from Provost Jim Fletcher

Bottom: Evelyn as Gala Queen in 1953. Stir any memories? Please share! Write them down and they could be included in the next edition of Focus.



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