

SPRING 2025



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



FOCUS



190th ANNIVERSARY
1835-2025



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FOCUS

the magazine of
BUSBY PARISH CHURCH

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Cover picture:
Our new bell-ringers
by Craig MacDonald



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MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE

JERRY EVE

Every season has its charms. Spring, however, is special - especially in our Church garden for the flowering of our cherry trees which, together with the beautiful daffodils, are very colourful indeed. I like flowers, but what I like most about flowers, I think, is that without them we could not have fruit.

And it's fruit, the Bible teaches, that is most important: But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. (Galatians 5:22-23a),

The fruit serving three main functions:

- 1 to tempt our taste buds, and to be enjoyed,
- 2 to nourish us, and help us grow, and
- 3 to spread the seed - the Word - Good News!

So, do enjoy Spring, but as you do so, look forward to that other season - of 'mellow fruitfulness' as well.

God Bless, Jerry.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISMS

"Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these."

29th December

Georgie Marie Davies (born on 9 July 2019)

Francie Farrell Thomas Davies (born on 20 November 2023)

BEREAVEMENTS

"May they rest in peace."

December

Agnes Chisholm, Riverside Gardens

January

Jean Logan, Riverside Gardens

Raydan Wilson, Bathgate

February

Sandra Mackay, Williamwood House

Mary Murray, East Kilbride



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!

GLASGOW PRESBYTERY

FAY McINTYRE

Still not sure if I'm really up to the job when I recall the elders who have held the position in the many years I've been a member and elder of Busby Church but I'm giving it a go. Interesting time to be at Presbytery with the many changes going on. Churches closing, joining and linking. It's difficult to keep up. My first few meetings were emotional for a few churches who were facing closure. In those cases, however it seemed to me that the decisions had already been made.

There are some success stories which gives us a bit of hope. Churches linking and successfully working together. My last meeting was on Zoom which was much easier than driving to Bishopbriggs. I will endeavour to represent Busby as well as I'm able to.

GOOD FRIDAY PILGRIMAGE

As we do each year, throughout Clarkston, there will once again be a pilgrimage between our different Church buildings, beginning in the morning, and ending at 3pm.

Designed in such a way as to make it possible for 'pilgrims' to walk between venues, the idea is to hold short services in each place of worship, on the hour every hour, throughout the day.

As we go to press, details of when and where are not quite finalised, so do please check with your local Church nearer the time. We look forward to seeing you then.

CALENDAR OF WORSHIP UNTIL EASTER

First Sunday in Lent, 9 March (Communion / Guest Speaker from the Leprosy Mission, Steven McLeish, Scotland Country Head)



Second Sunday in Lent, 16 March

Third Sunday in Lent, 23 March

Fourth Sunday in Lent, 30 March (Mothering Sunday)



Fifth Sunday in Lent, 6 April

Palm Sunday, 13 April



Easter Sunday, 20 April



TEA IN THE AFTERNOON

**BUSBY PARISH CHURCH
GUILD**

SATURDAY 15th MARCH
2.00 - 4.00pm



CAN WE HAVE OUR BRIDGE BACK PLEASE

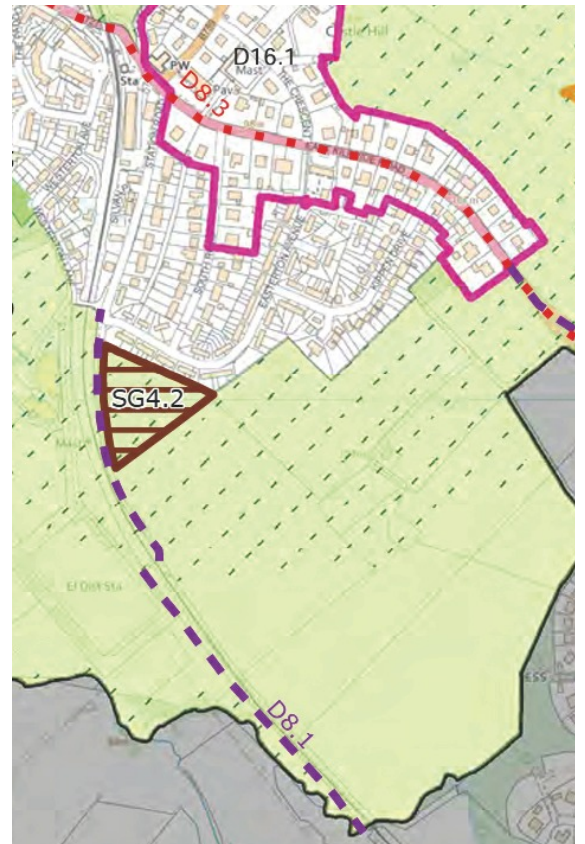
Anger at demolition of bridge despite supposed protection

Busby residents say they want their bridge back after Network Rail demolished a footbridge which they use every day, over the East Kilbride railway line, despite the bridge being part of a "Core Path" which leads from the top of Station Road in Busby to Thorntonhall and beyond, identified in East Renfrewshire Council's Adopted Local Plan which states "The Council will continue to protect, enhance and extend existing and proposed active travel and outdoor access networks including core paths, rights of way, strategic cycle corridors and green networks, shown on the Proposals Map and Schedule 6, and ensure that new development does not adversely impact upon them."

Local people also feel let down after the "Coo bridge" at the top of Station Road was replaced with what they describe as a concrete monstrosity. After several meetings, residents were assured that the bridge would be clad to make it more aesthetically pleasing, similar to one in Thorntonhall, only to be told later that this will now not happen and instead it will be painted, leaving it as a "blank canvas" for graffiti.

No public consultation has taken place for Busby residents yet Clarkston have had opportunities to meet and discuss ideas. A local resident added, "It was also deeply upsetting to find out that one of our local councillors has moved to America and hasn't been helping with our plight but apparently still signs in to East Renfrewshire council meetings to retain his position."

If you would like to join the campaign to replace the demolished footbridge and clad the "Coo Bridge" to restore the visual amenity of the top of Station Road, please join the new Busby Community Council, details of which will be posted online and in the next edition of focus.



The core path shown in purple in the Local Plan, including the now demolished bridge over the railway line.



The replacement "Coo Bridge": now a blank canvas for graffiti



The bridge in Thorntonhall: upgraded with stone

DESERT ISLAND DISCS

the selection of
Lynne Macgregor

As well as being one of our valuable Guide Leaders with 30 years' involvement, Lynne is a long-standing elder in the Church and a member of the Guild whose sense of humour brightens many an occasion

Picture courtesy of BBC Radio 4



- 1 The Supremes - Automatically Sunshine
Spending the school holidays, without a care in the world - listening to the radio - enjoying the long summer days - singing along to the music.
- 2 Jeff Beck - Hi Ho Silver Lining
Anthem of the nightclub where everyone joined in on the dance floor - a great mixer.
- 3 David Essex - Hold Me Close
My first 'pop' concert (where you sat in your seat for the whole night)
- 4 The Osmonds - Crazy Horses
Reliving a mis-spent youth dancing around your handbag at the disco. The first dance routine I learnt for a pop song. Only realising much later of its true meaning: making you aware of the damaging effects of cars on the environment. A great tune to dance to.
- 5 Bing Crosby - White Christmas
Family tradition listening while opening our Christmas presents. It's not Christmas without it.
- 6 Russell Watson - Where My Heart Will Take Me (theme from Star Trek Enterprise)
I'm a Trekkie and I like Russell Watson's voice - What's more to say!
- 7 Camila Cabello - Havana
Every now and again a song just grabs you. This is one of them - Just love it!
- 8 The Oceanaires Big Band (Royal Marines Band) - Anything at all
A mixture of the Royal Marines military sound and Big Band. You can never feel glum when listening to them.

Book - The Da Vinci Code by Dan Brown - Thought provoking - what if?
Object - Memory Foam Pillow - I can sleep anywhere - with it.

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KATIE FLOCKHART - Donor Relations Manager

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For more than 150 years, shown the practical side of our Christian faith by reflecting Christian love to those we support, providing vital care and support to over 28,000 people each year. As one of Scotland's largest and most diverse not-for-profit social care providers, we are deeply rooted in communities, working tirelessly to empower people of all ages to live life to the fullest.

Our unique whole-family approach gives hope to families impacted by mental health struggles, dementia, disabilities, poverty, and homelessness to name a few. We are here for everyone. Our expert services have evolved over time, but their necessity has never diminished. As we look to the future, we do so with optimism and ambition—striving for excellence, driving change, and collaborating with local and national partners to improve support systems in sustainable, cost-effective ways. At the core of everything we do lies love—an unwavering concern for others, rooted in our shared humanity and dignity. We hope that as you read this, you will see that love in action and be inspired to stand with us in our vision for a Scotland where all can thrive. With your support, we are a lifeline for our neighbours, friends, and family, ensuring no one faces their struggles alone.

A New Beginning for Harry



Over the festive season, we shared Harry's story.

Harry is just eight years old. For most of his life, he has known fear, violence, and neglect—within the very home that should have been his sanctuary. For children like Harry, home is not a safe place. The reality of living in the presence of addiction, abuse, or trauma robs children like Harry of security, stability, and

the chance for a fresh start. But there is hope.

Thanks to CrossReach, Harry now has a safe place to live in one of our therapeutic children's homes. Here, he receives the care, stability, and support he so desperately needs. At our Erskine school, he is rediscovering the joy of learning—overcoming the impact of trauma and embracing a brighter future.

Spring is a time of renewal, growth, and new beginnings. For Harry, it represents a fresh start, filled with hope and possibility. Hope blossoms where kindness grows—Cross Reach is here for you, always.

CrossReach is dedicated to enhancing, changing, and saving lives, by providing compassionate support to those living in circumstances or facing challenges no one would ever choose or wish to experience. We stand with families at breaking point, offering a beacon of hope and a place to turn to. Our mission is to uplift the disadvantaged, the hurting, and the forgotten, ensuring they receive the care, support, and opportunities they need to rebuild and thrive.

This spring, you can make a difference.

This spring we are urging as many people as possible to host a spring fundraiser for CrossReach. These fundraisers can be as creative or as imaginative as you'd like from Easter Egg Hunts to bake sales, we want to encourage people to have a little fun and help support the work we do.



Continued on Page 7

Holding a spring fundraiser for Cross Reach not only allows you to raise crucial funds but also fosters a sense of community and excitement. Whether you are organising a small gathering or a large event, the key to success lies in planning, creativity, and

We have pulled together some fundraising packs and some guidance on how to get started on planning your own fundraising event and we're delighted to share these with you for free

Your support will allow us to continue to help those in our care in whatever way they need us.

Grab some friends, family members, members of your church community and help be the change by fundraising for CrossReach.

Join us. Give hope. Be the change.

Email events@crossreach.org.uk to get your free fundraising pack and get involved today.

Cross Reach—here for Scotland, here for you, always.



190th ANNIVERSARY

1835-2025

The 8th of May this year sees the 190th anniversary of the constitution of our Church, the first Church in Busby, in 1835. The building we all now know as Busby Parish Church was opened exactly one year later.

As part of our celebrations of this milestone in our history, we will be publishing stories, memories and pictures of our Church and its role in the life of the community.

We are therefore asking for your stories and memories of the Church, the Village and the Parish over the years, especially old photographs. Maybe you were married in the Church, or perhaps baptised. Did you play in the Church garden on your way to school or did you go to the Sunday School or the Boys Brigade or Girl Guides? Whatever your story, we want to hear it. Please send your stories and/or pictures to busbyfocus@btinternet.com. We can professionally scan any historic photos you have.

Our Church has played a vital role in the life of the village and throughout the Parish in Thorntonhall and beyond for 190 years, and has impacted many lives. Please help us to mark this occasion.

We also have a number of other plans to celebrate our 190th Anniversary which we will be publicising in our next edition in June as well as on our noticeboards outside the Church, in the Main Street and of course on our website and Facebook page.

We look forward to hearing from you!

RAINBOWS

JUNE LAMONT and JOANNE DUNCAN

1st Busby Rainbow Unit started on Tuesday 22nd October and this was due to receiving money from the Busby Community Bid to help start a new unit in the Busby area.

Since starting we now have 8 Rainbows in our Unit and we are delighted to say they have all completed their Promise Badge at a special outdoor service at Greenbank Gardens. We also had our first trip out to the Panto to see Jack and the Beanstalk at Eastwood Theatre for our Christmas party night.

At the moment the Rainbows are working extremely hard on 3 badges: Book Lover, Nature and Friends to Animals. These badges mean they have to complete the following:

- Visiting a Local Library,
- Visiting the Community Garden at Eaglesham
- Caring for a Pet

We are delighted to be a part of the Busby Church Community, who have made us feel extremely welcome.



BUSBY BROWNIES

This term the Busby Brownies have been focusing on the skill of leadership and what it means to be a leader today. We have looked at the qualities of a good leader, where you can be a leader and how to lead an activity. To practise our new skills, the girls created or adapted a game in their sixes and taught them to the rest of the unit. We are excited for the light spring nights to come in so we can make use of our outdoor equipment and the garden.

We are currently looking for a volunteer who would be willing to support the running of our weekly unit meetings and take on an admin role alongside our existing 2 leaders. If you would be interested in this, please register your interest with the Busby Brownies on the Girlguiding website.



BUSBY GUIDES

PAMELA MILL

We continue to have busy Tuesday evenings in Busby Church Hall. We have over 30 girls who are always enthusiastic about all our activities. We regularly complete Unit Meeting Activities which are part of the Girl Guiding programme and we plan to work on several badges between now and the summer. Our Young Leaders usually organise games like wink murder, clock in the tower and ladders, for the first part of the evening. Then we do badge work, craft or cookery activities. Recently they decorated stones and made S'mores which they enjoyed and a few weeks ago they made amplit fudge. It sounds disgusting but they had great fun doing this. You put various ingredients into a small zip bag and then squash it under your arm for five minutes or so. It turns out like chocolate fudge.



The girls are all excited as many of them are going to our County Camp in June at Auchengillan. Unfortunately, some of the girls are going to other events that weekend but there should still be about 18 to 20 of us attending. The theme is Festivals and the Guides will get a chance to try a variety of different outdoor activities. There are instructor led activities like archery, climbing, crate building and raft building as well as animal visits, circus skills and games. There is central catering and last time we were there, the girls all seemed to be delighted with the food choices available to them. The weather was amazing at this camp two years ago and the Guides got a chance to swim in the outdoor swimming pool. We are just hoping the weather is kind to us again.

I really appreciate all the help we get from our Young Leaders and also from Lynne and Lynsey. Thanks also for the support that get from the Guides' parents.



From left, Norrie Suckle, Maggie Barr, Chris Simpson, Linda Smith, Marilyn Ross, Irene Morrison and Pamela Mill. Seven elders who received recognition recently for their long service to the Church.

SUNDAY CLUB NATIVITY



The Sunday Club delighted everyone with their Nativity at Christmas, including a Ukelele accompaniment from Jerry & Robbie Eve, Eva Park and Rosanne Brackenridge

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

(CROSSWORD ON PAGE 19)

22 Moses; 23 Thing; 25 Herb;
 17 Tigh trope; 19 Miracle; 21 Unaten;
 8 Might; 13 Omnipotent; 16 Offertory;
 4 Sash; 5 Protestant; 6 Light; 7 Rabboni;
 DOWN: 1 Presbyter; 2 Provost; 3 Reediness;
 28 Sleight; 29 Bayonne;
 26 Sacrilege; 27 Outdo;
 20 Flung; 22 Marathon; 24 Priest;
 14 Tith; 15 Methodist; 18 Remission;
 10 Spongebag; 11 Bookie; 12 Beetroot;
 ACROSS: 1 Papyrus; 5 Pilgrim; 9 Evoke;

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This is a recipe that one of my pupils developed for their assignment and we were pleasantly surprised with the results! If you don't have almonds you could substitute them for a nut of your choice such as peanuts or cashews.

Ingredients:

- 110g Oats
- 70g Almonds
- 25g Sunflower Seeds
- 35g Dried Apricots or Dates
- 100g Peanut Butter
- 110g Golden Syrup
- 100g milk chocolate
- 100g dark chocolate

Method:

1. Preheat oven to 180°C/Gas 5.
2. Grease and line a 20x20cm baking tin
3. Place greaseproof paper on a baking tray and place oats, almonds and sunflower seeds on the tray but keep them separated.
4. Toast oats, almonds and seeds until golden and toasty for 20 minutes, turning half way through.
5. While oats, almonds and seeds are toasting roughly chop dried apricots or dates
6. In a medium saucepan add peanut butter, golden syrup and melt gently.
7. Take almonds oats and seeds out of the oven and roughly chop the almonds.
8. Stir the nuts, oats and seeds into the peanut butter mixture.
9. Pour mixture into lined baking tin and press down till smooth.
10. Chill for 15 minutes.
11. Melt the chocolate in a microwave in 30 second bursts stirring each time, until smooth.
12. Finally spread chocolate over the mixture.
13. Allow the chocolate to set.
14. Cut into 16 squares



BUSBY DRAMA GROUP

STEVE SMITH

Busby Drama Group would like to thank all those who attended the recent January Supper and Song. Your presence was so much appreciated by all the cast, who worked so hard to produce such a great performance. The Supper was deliciously prepared by Shona Park and all those concerned thank her for all her efforts. •Also to Billy Buchanan for supplying the wines through his business with no charge - he has done this most gracious deed for many years and it is so much appreciated by all concerned. The Group's AGM is on the 24th February, when we will be discussing our future plans.

JERRY EVE

The recent controversy regarding the name of the Gulf of Mexico reminds me of a poem I wrote a few years ago, which I share with you now. It's one that's a bit surreal. The point of it, though, whatever your thoughts on Brexit, which it mentions, is intended to be very similar to that of the motto of the BBC: 'Nation shall speak peace unto nation':

In the wake of Brexit, HMS Belfast has decided to sail down the Thames, through the English Channel (or is it la Manche?) and make for Northern Ireland; Cleopatra's Needle has been seen, first like a tossed caber, and then as a torpedo narrowly missing overcrowded inflatables en route to Africa; and Madame Tussaud's has closed. It's due to re-open sometime before the end of March 2017, somewhere in France.

In the wake of Brexit, the UK Government has advised the Spanish Steps to walk (or jog if they like) to Seville; the Spanish Riding School to trot, or maybe to canter, from Vienna to Barcelona; Lisbon's Museum of the Orient to relocate somewhere east of Finisterre, the end of the world; and Madrid's Museum of the Americas to sail, sink or swim, somewhere west of the Algarve.



THE BRITISH PEOPLE HAVE SPOKEN

In the wake of Brexit, and to avoid confusion, Euro Disney may now have to do the very opposite of 'Get to France'; Berlin's Soviet War Memorial take the long road to Moscow; and Amsterdam's Portuguese Synagogue be dismantled stone by stone and sent back home.

Oh, and if Scotland could have its Yard back please.

BUSBY FOOD BANK

ANN HANSEN

The foodbank has had a busy year. In 2024 we gave out 396 food parcels. Also, due to receipt of a grant from Making Busby Better, we have given out personal care parcels and fresh food parcels, all of which were gratefully received.

We stayed open for Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve and gave out a good number of food parcels and also gave out extra Christmas treats for the children. We are lucky to have a fantastic group of volunteers. Their energy and commitment is tremendous.

We would also like to thank the church for the use of the hall on Tuesdays and the use of the office for storage. It is greatly appreciated.



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WHITENING

BUSBY BOWLING CLUB



As Busby Bowling Club celebrates its 150th, it is a time to reflect on the past. It was founded by a group of passionate bowlers at a cost of £615. The green opened in The Crescent on 1st July 1875. Refreshments consisted of two gallons of spirits, four dozen bottles of beer and two dozen bottles of lemonade. It wasn't until 1974 when the club was successful in obtaining a license that the bar was installed.

During 1991 the original clubhouse was demolished and a new one erected in its place. This has facilitated the many varied functions the club has hosted over the years from charity fundraisers to being a gathering place for celebrations of all kinds. Therefore, beyond the sport itself the club has played a vital role in the social fabric of Busby and surrounding areas. The club has produced many top-class bowlers over the years. In particular a younger member who won the Bowls Scotland Ladies Singles and represented Scotland in Australia. Looking to the future, the club will be modernised during March ready for opening day on 5th April 2025. This has been made possible by receiving a grant from East Renfrewshire Renewable Energy Fund. The Club appreciates the grant from ERREF, especially for our 150th celebrations.

Join the Fun at Busby Bowling Club!

Are you ready to take up a new sport and make new friends? Look no further than Busby Bowling Club!

New Sport, New Fun:

Discover the enjoyment of bowling, a sport for all ages and skill levels.

Beautiful Surroundings: Enjoy our beautiful gardens and peaceful outdoor space.

Upgraded Facilities: Take advantage of our newly refurbished clubhouse.

Join us in our 150th Celebrations!

Join us and celebrate 150 years of bowling in Busby. Become a part of our welcoming community! Whether you're a seasoned bowler or new to the game, Busby Bowling Club has something for everyone. Don't miss out on the fun – sign up now!



This is a great opportunity to be part of the Keep Scotland Beautiful Spring-clean and to spruce up our local area.

If you, or your family and friends, are able to spare two hours to help out, it would really help to improve our local area.

The volunteers usually go out in pairs (or larger groups) to do an allocated street / location in Busby. Wearing waterproofs, sturdy footwear and gloves would be advised. The council provide some litter-pickers but bring your own if you have one. We all meet in the Church hall about 9.30am, leave at 10.00 and back around 12. We hope to offer tea/coffee in the hall afterwards.

Many thanks to all of those who have already agreed to volunteer. However, many hands make light work and, a few more would be much appreciated. If anyone is able to join us on the 12th of April, please get in touch with me directly.

(Email lb.ireneblack@gmail.com Text or WhatsApp 07710217161)

THE GUILD

FAY McINTYRE

On Thursday 16th January the Guild was delighted to welcome Joyce Deans CBE and broadcaster Anna Magnusson. Joyce gave us some vivid recollections of being evacuated from Laurel Bank School in 1939. The whole school was evacuated to a castle and a stately home in Perthshire.

Their days were filled with lessons, tennis, riding bikes and tattie howking which was part of the war effort. She spoke about how food rationing affected them. However, I think they fared better than most with a roast dinner every Sunday. Four of the girls were the daughters of Glasgow butchers so there were plenty of sausages! This was not a story of your average evacuee in Scotland but an interesting perspective on what happened when their school was sent to Perthshire. Joyce has compiled a book including stories from herself and lots of the girls' experiences. She is selling them for £10 a copy with all profit going to different charities. I have a copy if anyone would like to borrow it.



This was followed on the 30th of January by the Guild's traditional Burns Supper. Jerry Eve gave the Immortal Memory while Alan Morrison again astounded everyone with his memory as he first toasted the haggis, after it had been piped into the hall, and then recited Tam O'Shanter. The catering was of the excellent standard we have all now come to expect and the evening was rounded off by community singing.

Two excellent evenings enjoyed by Guild members and visitors alike.



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RAYDAN WILSON



It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Raydan Wilson in January 2025, days after celebrating her 97th birthday.

Raydan, along with her husband Matt, moved to Russell Place in Busby in 1959. Her commitment to her family was paramount. As a neighbour she was popular and respected by all who knew her. An accomplished bowler, Raydan's passion for the sport was evident. She held the esteemed position of Past Lady President and Lady Champion of the Busby Bowling Club, where her skill and sportsmanship were widely respected. Her contributions to the Club and the sport will be cherished by all who had the privilege of playing alongside her. Her Championship photograph was in pride of place in her home. In 2016, Raydan moved to Bathgate to be nearer her daughter Margaret and son-in-law Jamie then three years later she moved into Heatherfield Care Home due to the challenges of dementia.

Raydan was a kind and gentle lady who will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and all who had the pleasure of knowing her.



At the morning service on Communion Sunday, March 9th, we will be welcoming Steven McLeish from the Leprosy Mission. We can look forward to an interesting, informative talk with slides. We will have an after church collection in aid of the Leprosy Mission. The money given will be used to help end leprosy and transform lives around the world. Santosh's story is just one of many!

Santosh is from Southern Nepal and he has faced many challenges due to leprosy. Diagnosed at seven, he has shown great resilience. With support from Anandaban Hospital, he received artificial legs and a new home.

Santosh tried jobs as a delivery person and shop assistant but faced difficulties due to his disability. He now plans to start a milking buffalo business with his mother to generate income.

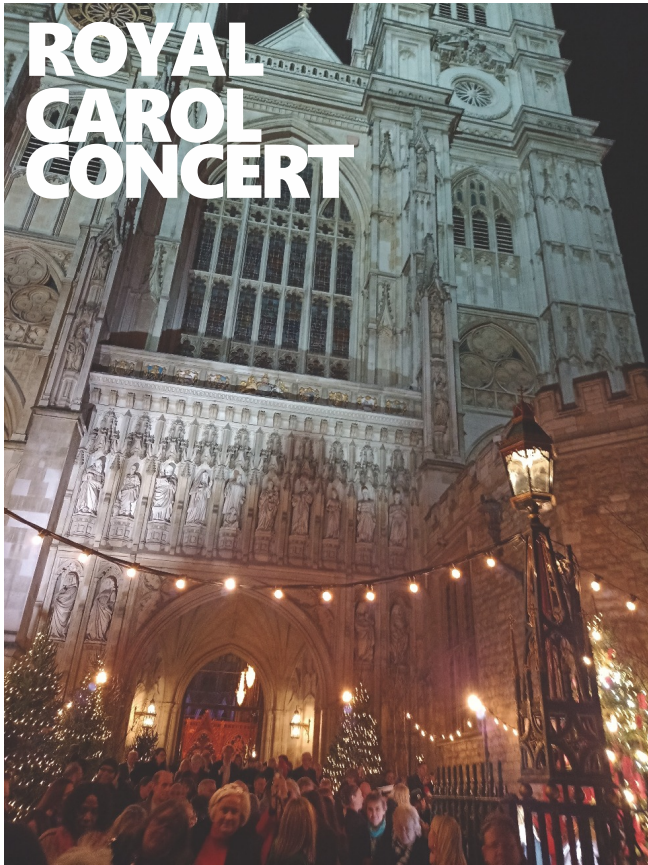
Santosh's marriage to Manju who has cerebral palsy, brought joy with the birth of their daughter. His new motor scooter with stabilisers has given him more independence. He dreams of providing a stable and happy life for his family.



Key Leprosy Facts

- Globally around 200 000 people are diagnosed with leprosy every year.
- There are more than 100 laws that explicitly discriminate against people affected with leprosy.
- Leprosy is reported in 124 countries and 78% of all new cases occur in India, Brazil and Indonesia (2022 data).

Blue boxes are also available if anyone would like one to save their small change for the Leprosy Mission. It all helps.



PAMELA MILL

I was delighted to receive an invitation from the Princess of Wales to the Carol Service in Westminster Abbey. My best friend Pat, who is a Deaconess and lives in Perth, was asked to this event and was told she could bring a friend. I fitted the bill as I'm involved in the community in Busby.

We had an amazing time at the service which was very uplifting. We were delighted to see the Prince and Princess of Wales as well as their three lovely children. There were 1600 people in the congregation from across the UK and the service was about the importance of love and empathy.

The Christmas story was told in readings given by the Prince of Wales and Adam Peaty and Michelle Dockery read Reflections on Empathy and Kindness which she had written for the service. Dancers from the Royal Ballet performed and the Choir of Westminster Abbey sang John Rutter's anthem Colours of Christmas. Other performers included Paloma Faith, Gregory Porter, JP Cooper and Olivia Dean.

It was a once in a lifetime experience and we enjoyed every minute of it.

OUR CHOIR

ROSANNE BRACKENRIDGE

The choir as always, enjoyed their musical input to the church services over Christmas and also to entertaining the Guild at their party. In addition to their own musical input, they were happy to join in with the Sunday Club for the children's led service in December. For the first time we had both young and not so young playing ukuleles in church. What fun everyone had.

We're all looking forward to celebrating Easter soon. The choir with suitable anthems, and the children with songs about Easter and spring chickens.

In addition to using our CH4 hymn books, we now have 'God Welcomes All', a new supplement of hymns and songs. It was published in 2024. We have already dipped into the contents and have found some hymns and blessings which we hope the congregation will enjoy.



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Across

- 1 Surprisingly pays up about mid-afternoon for old writing material (7)
- 5 Penny I left with dour wayfarer (7)
- 9 Call to mind lady who is all right internally (5)
- 10 Hanger-on with slovenly woman had container for toiletries (9)
- 11 Volume that is for turf accountant (6)
- 12 Red source of sugar? (8)
- 14 It will return before the tenth (5)
- 15 Nonconformist's orderliness first (9)
- 18 Pardon lessening term of imprisonment (9)
- 20 Fellow needs breather having been thrown (5)
- 22 Running battle? (8)
- 24 Minister's tripe's cooked (6)
- 26 See garlic had been removed during desecration (9)
- 27 Excel during summer fete (5)
- 28 Cunning variety of leg-hits (7)
- 29 Laurel on northeastern French port (7)

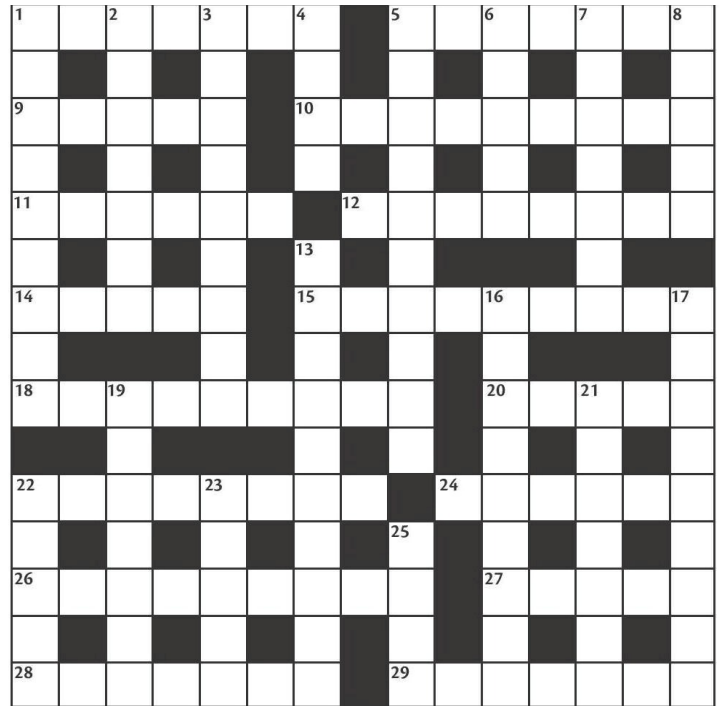
Down

- 1 Elder Perry Best removed (9)
- 2 In favour of having very old good man becoming college head (7)
- 3 Shrill quality of gluttony not starting (9)
- 4 Skinhead remains with frame (4)
- 5 Object to a set of books? Surely not him or her? (10)
- 6 Easy to digest and easy to carry (5)
- 7 Name said by Mary to priest getting on (7)
- 8 May's past physical strength (5)
- 13 Playing not in tempo having unlimited power (10)
- 16 Hold out right-winger with alms (9)
- 17 Upholder of acrobatic exploits (9)
- 19 Unusual claim re supernatural event (7)
- 21 Not having been taken in by consumers (7)
- 22 Old Testament Grandma? (5)
- 23 Thinking family's missing article (5)
- 25 Basil, say had some sherbet (4)

SOLUTION ON PAGE 9

CROSSWORD

Courtesy of Life & Work Magazine



"A cat killer? Is that the face of a cat killer Cat chaser maybe. But hey—who isn't?"



"You wanna have some fun, Fred? Watch ... I'm gonna go over and stare and growl at the closet door."



Knowing how it could change the lives of canines everywhere, the dog scientists struggled diligently to understand the Doorknob Principle.