

SPRING 2024



the magazine of
BUSBY PARISH CHURCH

FOCUS

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FOCUS

the Magazine of
Busby Parish Church

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MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE



JERRY EVE

One of the most difficult poetic forms is the sestina. Dating back to 12th century AD Provence, it doesn't use rhyme, but the words at the ends of the lines in each of the six and a half verses need to be the same, and in a particular order. Here's one I attempted a few years ago called *The Busby Manse*, with which I've included two photographs, one from then, and one from much more recently – both quite different in mood. The neighbours I mention, incidentally, who many of you will know, and who have now moved house, are called Frank and Elma:

The Busby Manse

I am often distracted by the view
From an upstairs window which, on clear days,
Stretches from – in the foreground – a garden;
And then in the middle-distance, Glasgow:
From the grey slates and gutter of the house,
To Ben Lomond, the Campsies, and the sky.



Hopefully, does care about it. Glasgow –
This dear green place – by night each light (each house
By day) complementing this north-west view,
Such that if it were just grass, a garden,
Hedgerows, and fields with cows beneath the sky,
Time spent idly gazing would not be days

Each year. But, whatever season, for days
I have been entranced by smoke from Glasgow
Chimneys rising vertically; the sky
With rainbows, clouds, and planes...but to the house,
And away from trees and trains. The garden
Is needing tended to – and then the view!



Frequently overcast, at dawn the sky,
Sometimes reddened by the sun's oblique view,
Always enchants me before work, the house,
And young children demand attention. Days
When sun's rays bounce off windows in Glasgow,
Sunsets rival colours of a garden

Such as our nearby neighbours', whose garden,
In season, has such a display of sky-
Blue cornflowers and forget-me-nots, Glasgow
Parks department would be proud. You can view
Their efforts – sights and scents – on certain days
When, for charity, they keep open house.

Birds seen from this vantage point include house
Sparrows, but far more common or garden
Are the blue tits, crows, and pigeons. Some days
A kestrel can be spotted in the sky
Which, from its invisible perch and view,
Seems unaware of us, and yet Glasgow,

For days we can be confined to the house,
Or Glasgow City Centre, the garden
Ruled out by a dark sky. So thank you view!



Sunday 24th March , 11am, Busby Parish Church - Palm Sunday

Tuesday 26th March, 7pm, Greenbank Parish Church

Wednesday 27th March, 7pm, Busby Parish Church

Thursday 28th March, 7pm, St Aiden’s Episcopal Church - Maunday Thursday
(Communion)

Friday 29th March, 7pm, Netherlee & Stamperland Parish Church
Good Friday (Choir led Service)

Sunday 31st March, 11am, Busby Parish Church - Easter Sunday

CLARKSTON CHURCHES TOGETHER HOLY WEEK SERVICES

GOOD FRIDAY PILGRIMAGE

Friday 29 March

(short services on the hour every hour, and the option to walk with others between venues):

- 9am Carmunnock Parish Church
- 10am Cartsbridge Evangelical Church
- 11am Busby Parish Church (refreshments)
- 12noon St Joseph’s Catholic Church
- 1pm Greenbank Parish Church
- 2pm St Aidan's Episcopal Church
- 3pm Netherlee & Stamperland Parish Church (hot cross buns)

EVERY WEEK AT BUSBY PARISH CHURCH

MONDAYS	6.30 - 7.45pm - Brownies	7.00 - 9.30pm - Drama Club
TUESDAYS	1.00 - 3.00pm - Food Bank	7.00 - 9.00pm - Guides & Choir
WEDNESDAYS	10.00am - 12.00 Noon - Drop-In Club	1.30 - 2.30pm - Keep Fit
THURSDAYS	7.30 - 9.00pm - Guild	
FRIDAYS	6.30 - 7.45pm - Anchor Boys	7.45 - 10.00pm - BB
SUNDAYS	11.00 - 12.00 noon - Sunday Worship & Sunday Club with tea and coffee afterwards	

DESERT ISLAND DISCS

the selection of Allan Morrison

As well as being our organist every Sunday,
Allan accompanies the Choir.
Inevitably he loves his music and,
when he isn't sitting behind a keyboard,
he is also a keen golfer
and Robert Burns enthusiast

Picture courtesy of BBC Radio 4



1 Summer Set - Acker Bilk

This takes me back to my teens when traditional jazz became very popular. I saw the Paramount Jazz Band in the Kelvin Hall and the first 8 bars of this number inspired me to take up the piano.

2 All That Jazz - Kander & Ebb

As a fan of musicals this high tempo song from "Chicago" reminds me of many happy visits to the theatre & cinema. It also reminds me of the big finish to the Busby Drama Group's last production. Hopefully there is more to come from the Group.

3 At the Castle Gate - Jean Sibelius

Familiar to everyone as the opening music to "The Sky at Night" on BBC TV. Those powerful opening chords make you sit up and listen.

4 One for My Baby - Frank Sinatra

Old Blue Eyes couldn't be left out. An original talent – the last torch singer of the great American song book, sadly missed. Ah, my lost youth!

5 Manhattan - Ella Fitzgerald

I love my Auntie Ella. I saw her in London in 1961 and the atmosphere was electric – what a voice. Like Sinatra she represents a bygone age of popular music.

6 Money for Nothing - Dire Straits

Mark Knopfler at the top of his game, commenting on the unfairness between those with money and the hard-pressed working man. Great guitar plus clever words and a real toe tapper, what's not to love?

7 Tiger Rag - Art Tatum

America has produced many great jazz pianists and, despite being blind, Art is up there with the best. The energy and virtuosity of his "Tiger Rag" are breathtaking.

8 Hallelujah Chorus - Handel

From his Messiah – an inspired choral work. The Chorus is guaranteed to brighten the darkest of days as the music soars heavenwards towards the great Amen.

Book

The World of Jeeves (PG Wodehouse): Lots of short stories and a laugh on every page. The hapless Bertie Wooster gets himself into awkward scrapes (often involving an unwanted fiancée) only to be rescued by Jeeves, his urbane valet.

Object

An 8 iron and an unlimited supply of golf balls.





BUSBY BAKES MINI EGG COOKIES

SHONA PARK

It seems like Easter Eggs appear in the shops as soon as Christmas is over nowadays. Whilst it means the novelty wears off a bit it also gives us longer to enjoy bakes such as this one.

Ingredients

- 125g Butter
- 100g Light Brown Soft Sugar
- 75g White Granulated Sugar
- 1 Egg
- 5ml Vanilla Extract
- 275g Plain Flour
- 25g Cornflour
- 7.5ml Baking Powder
- 2.5ml Bicarbonate of Soda
- 2.5ml Sea Salt
- 100g milk chocolate (chopped or chocolate chips)
- 200g Mini Eggs (chopped)
(I used a mixture of Cadbury and M&M eggs)



Method

- Add the butter, light brown soft sugar and white granulated sugar to a bowl and beat until creamy.
- Add in the egg and vanilla and beat again.
- Add in the plain flour, cornflour baking powder, bicarbonate of soda, and salt and beat until a cookie dough is formed.
- Add in the chopped dairy milk and chopped mini eggs and mix in until they are distributed well in the cookie dough.
- Divide into 12 equal sized balls and flatten slightly.
- Place on a baking tray lined with greaseproof paper. Allow enough room between each one for them to spread out slightly
- Press the whole mini eggs into the dough and put them in the freezer for at least 30 minutes, or in the fridge for an hour or so.
- Whilst the cookie dough is chilling, preheat your oven to 200oC/ Gas 6 or 180oC for fan assisted.
- Bake the cookies in the oven for 12-14 minutes.
- Once baked, allow to firm up slightly on the tray before removing to a cool rack.
- Enjoy with tea, coffee or a glass of milk.
- Chopping the mini eggs can be tricky- try using the side of a large knife or bash them a few at a time in a pestle and mortar.

These are best eaten the day they are made, but can be zapped in the microwave for approx 20 seconds to freshen them up.

Adapted from an original recipe by Jane's Patisserie

SUNDAY CLUB



SHONA PARK

On Saturday 16th November the Sunday Club children and their parents enjoyed a Christmas outing to Starry Nights lights installation at Dean Castle Country Park in Kilmarnock.

We entered the park and were greeted by an illuminated entry way and twinkly music. After a headcount, we then made our way through the castle courtyard where we were entertained by 50s style starlettes singing Christmas classics.

We quickly passed through the festive food area (as we had our own snacks) and made our way through Scotland's longest glittering star tunnel to meet the magical singing trees and then into the beautiful den of the Fenwick fairies. It was quite a mild night but then, to our surprise, it actually started snowing in the woods!

The now snow covered group continued on our way and soon arrived in Whoville where we encountered The Grinch! We didn't hang around for long as he was so mean.

Meandering through the candy cane forest eventually took us to the side of the pond where some geese looked rather bemused at the lolly swirls illuminating the surrounding trees and the sound of the Dance of the Sugarplum fairy from Nutcracker emanating from the waters edge.

Frosty the snowman was the next character we encountered as we found ourselves in the midst of another blizzard, some of the children threw snowballs at poor Frosty.

Towards the end of the trail the children came across a small post box for the North Pole. They managed to find a scrap of paper and Naomi asked all the children what they would like from Santa and composed a tiny group wish list to post.

The trail culminated with an Elf disco which was a highlight for lots of the group.

Lastly, there was a chance for a shot at the shows and even some of the big kids enjoyed a hurl on the ferris wheel.



SUNDAY CLUB

EVERY SUNDAY FROM 11.00 til 12.00
ALL AGES WELCOME - FROM TODDLERS TO YEAR 12

1st BUSBY GUIDES

PAMELA MILL

We are pleased to say that the number of girls in our unit continues to remain high and we have only one place available. A couple of girls left before Christmas but were quickly replaced by two new girls. We regularly have almost 40 at our meetings. They all seem to enjoy their Tuesday evenings in Busby Church Hall.

28 girls and 2 leaders attended a County Skating Event at East Kilbride Ice Rink at the end of November, where several of our girls made their Guide Promise. Some of them clearly skated regularly whilst others had rarely skated in the past. The beginners clearly improved and the more confident girls helped them.

We had an excellent Christmas Party in December which was enjoyed by everyone.

In January, there was an opportunity for girls to go to a Bag a Badge event run by the County. Only two of our Guides attended and had great fun completing the Investigating Badge.

At the beginning of March, 10 of us are going to a screening of En Canto at Eastwood Theatre. This again has been organised by the County. We are looking forward to that.

Thank you to my Assistant Leaders Lynne and Lynsey for all their support and also thanks to Cara and Rebecca my Young Leaders. Its great to have such a committed team.

NEW VOLUNTEERS

As there are now so many Guides, we are looking for adult helpers. We meet between 7 and 9 pm on Tuesday evenings in the Church Hall. Ideally, we would want someone who would like to train as an Assistant Leader, but we would also be happy if they just wanted to be a unit helper.

Please contact me at 644 4452 if you are interested



Looking for a new hobby? New friends?

Busby Bowling Club is set in beautiful, secluded gardens in the Crescent, behind the White Cart. The bowling season opens on 13th April. This historic club has been at the heart of the Busby community since 1875 - big 150th anniversary celebration next year!

Come along and enjoy half price membership of £75 for the first year. All ages welcome...an 83-year-old joined last year! A sport all generations of a family can enjoy together. Competitive, fun and social bowling available. Club bowls available to borrow.

Contact Robert Frame on 07889718220

A NIGHT OF GUITARS

STEWART KELLY (classical guitarist)
with **SOLEA** (flamenco duo)
plus **ALAN TRAIN** (singer/songwriter)

BUSBY PARISH CHURCH presents



TICKETS £10.00
AVAILABLE FROM
BUSBY PHARMACY
OR ONLINE USING THE QR CODE

NEWS FROM MALAWI



MAUREEN POTTER

The container which set off from Dundee arrived in Malawi just before Christmas whilst Anson Singini was sitting his accountancy exams. He asked me if it would be all right to postpone the distribution of clothes until after he had finished his exams and I agreed.



At the beginning of year and with the assistance of his wife, Maggie and the minister at Ngazi, Rev Andrews Bipa, distribution began to the poorest and most needy in Ngazi. At one time Ngazi was part of Ekwendeni Mission but it has been a stand alone parish now for almost 15 years. However as it is close to Ekwendeni many who work in Ekwendeni live in Ngazi as housing is more affordable and more plentiful. Most buy a plot of land then build a house on it! Land is very cheap and available in Ngazi as it is such a poor area.

The clothes were distributed over a few weekends to various groups and families in the area and were very gratefully received. Some of the tops were used for the Sunday School choir so they now have a uniform for singing in church on a Sunday morning and also on other occasions when asked. Anson sent a great number of pictures and you will see from those accompanying this article the delight on the faces of the recipients.

Thanks once again to Alan and Lesley of ALJ Lanark for their generous donations, to the members of Busby Kirk Session who paid the carriage for the goods and to Maggie and Dennis Barr for taking the boxes to the Banana Box Trust in Dundee. Also big thanks to Anson's team in Ngazi for all their hard work.

GUILD TEA IN THE AFTERNOON

You are invited to the Guild Tea in the afternoon on Saturday 16th March between 2.00 pm and 4.00pm. Tickets are £3 and include tea, coffee and goodies at the tables. There will also be a selection of stalls and a raffle. Come along and enjoy a sociable Saturday with friends.

LES DONAGHY

It was great news to hear recently that Les Donaghy, who has preached at Busby Parish Church on many occasions, had been selected as a featured artist by the Glasgow art Club.

Les began his art education at Clydebank High School, under the great printmaker Willie Rodger, who took great delight in telling Les that he'd missed an 'A' in his Higher Art by one mark (Les had 'crashed' the Higher in a year)! After this, art was put on hold for a while until Les took what is now the folio prep course (then Painting and Drawing) at Glasgow School of Art.

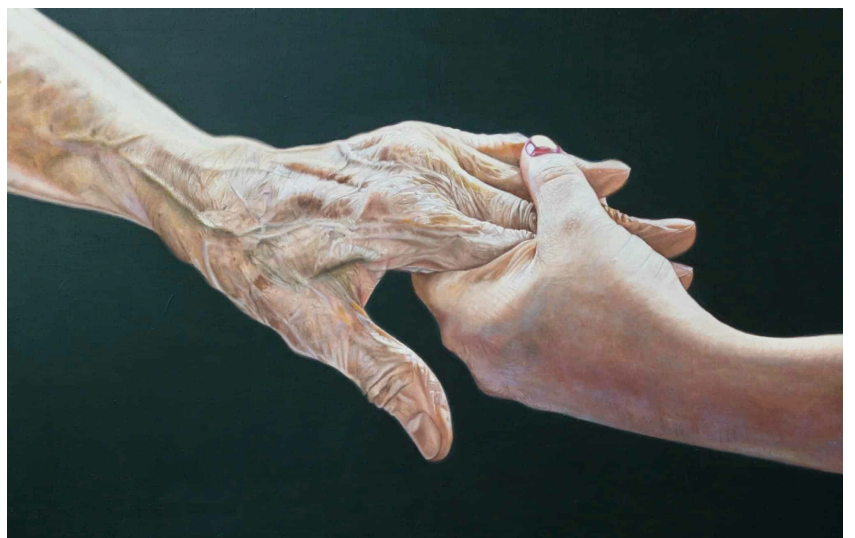
However, things took another turn, and Les was called to the ministry of the Church of Scotland, which meant six years at University. Two parishes and five years in teaching later, Les is medically retired. It takes seven years before he is diagnosed with acromegaly, which leads to brain surgery. During his recovery from the operation, he has the chance to join a painting and drawing class at the local Arts Centre in East Kilbride, and his passion is rekindled.

After a couple of years' catching up on old skills, Les tries his hand at oil painting for the first time, specialising in portraits, to develop the fine skills required. What is almost an obsession with detail ensues, possibly picked up from his days as a concert mandolinist. Following a trusted route, Les enters two local exhibitions, and over the space of a couple of years, wins ALL the prizes in both. He decides he needs to try swimming in a bigger pond.

Les's work has been long-listed for both the BP Portrait Award, and the Royal Society of Portrait Painters' Annual Exhibition. He has had work shown in the Royal Glasgow Institute, the Mall Galleries, the Royal Ulster Academy and the Royal Scottish Academy. Awards have been given to work shown in the Scottish Portrait Awards (Fine Art), and the Scottish Awards in Fine Art.

Les's work hangs in homes around the world. Publicly, work is owned by the City of Glasgow College, Glasgow life, and recently a large piece was commissioned by 602 (Glasgow) Squadron that is on display in Glasgow's City Halls.

Whilst continuing his work in portraiture, Les has turned his hand to other subjects too, most notably a series of paintings of hands, and recent paintings that have a surreal twist. Wait and see!





200 YEARS OF SAVING LIVES AT SEA

JERRY EVE

The RNLI is celebrating its 200th anniversary this year. Having saved 140,000 lives in that time, which works out at 700 a year, or about 2 per day, the organisation has much to celebrate.

Founded initially at a very busy meeting held in London on 4 March 1824, presided over by the then Archbishop of Canterbury, the very first President of the Institution was the then Prime Minister.

With its HQ these days in Poole in Dorset, and close to 240 lifeboat stations dotted around the coast, with some on inland waterways as well, largely unpaid volunteer crews currently go to the aid of around 45 people on average each day of the year.

And so, as a way of marking this historic milestone, we in Busby Parish Church have been asked if we might hold a special Service of Worship. This will take place on Sunday 28 April, beginning at 11 o'clock when, with hymns, readings, prayers, an anthem, stories, and some helpful guidance on water safety, there will also be an opportunity, if people wish, to donate to what is such an extremely worthwhile (and genuinely lifesaving) charitable cause.

As I write, the Order of Service has not yet been prepared, but I suspect when it is that just one of the hymns we shall sing will be one written by William Whiting, who was born the year after the RNLI was founded, to a tune composed by John Bacchus Dykes, who was born the year before. It's called For those in peril on the sea, and its opening verse is as follows:

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm does bind the restless wave,
Who bids the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
O hear us when we cry to Thee
For those in peril on the sea.

**Christian Aid
Clarkston Art Show 2024
CHANGE OF DATE TO
5th & 6th April
Clarkston Halls**



THE GUILD BURNS SUPPER

One of the annual highlights in the Church calendar is the Busby Guild traditional Burns Supper.

The evening started with Faith devotions led by Mrs. Pearl Munro followed swiftly by the haggis entering the hall borne aloft by Steve Smith, piped in by Fraser McKinnon. Once the haggis had been placed on the table, Allan Morrison addressed it in his own inimitable style before inviting everyone to toast the haggis. Toast over, the haggis was piped back into the kitchen to be plated by the catering team led by Shona Park and Craig MacDonald while those in the hall enjoyed a selection of Scottish traditional airs played very ably on the bagpipes by Fraser.

Rev Jerry Eve said the Selkirk Grace and we all tucked into traditional haggis, neeps and tatties washed down by Irn Bru or water, followed by tea or coffee, clootie dumpling, shortbread and tablet. Absolutely delicious as Doreen Harvey said in her vote of thanks to the catering team.

The second part of the evening began by John Lamb giving us his version of the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns and a most interesting interpretation it was. John rounded his speech off by inviting us to toast the Immortal memory of Robert Burns. This was followed by a selection of Burns songs beautifully sung by our own Roseanne Brackenridge accompanied ably by Peggy Mack. During the singing, Allan Morrison slipped quietly out of the hall and returned in the guise of Holy Willie in full costume! He proceeded to recite the poem with such great verve it would have warmed the heart of the Bard himself. The evening was rounded off by community singing of favourite Scots songs, an excellent vote of thanks to all participants by Doreen Harvey and of course the singing of Auld Lang Syne. An excellent evening enjoyed by all.

BUSBY DRAMA GROUP

STEVE SMITH

Following on from the highly successful Supper and Song in January this year, the Group has decided to continue with the same format for January 2025.

There was talk at the time that the Group would be winding up. However, the many accolades received and the pleas to not stop, decided us to keep on going for the sake of the Church and Community. We have another One Act Play, followed by the wonderful Supper so kindly supplied by Shona Park and her brother Craig, who both are so marvellous in assisting with the Sunday Club. We then conclude with Songs from the Musicals, interspersed with some Sixties Music to coincide with the theme of the Play. More information will be forthcoming as the months pass, but, until then, please be advised that the Show will run for three nights on 9th, 10th and 11th January 2025 - Keep a Date Free!

Thank you all for supporting us and for the many kind words of encouragement!



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mail@ireland-yuill.co.uk



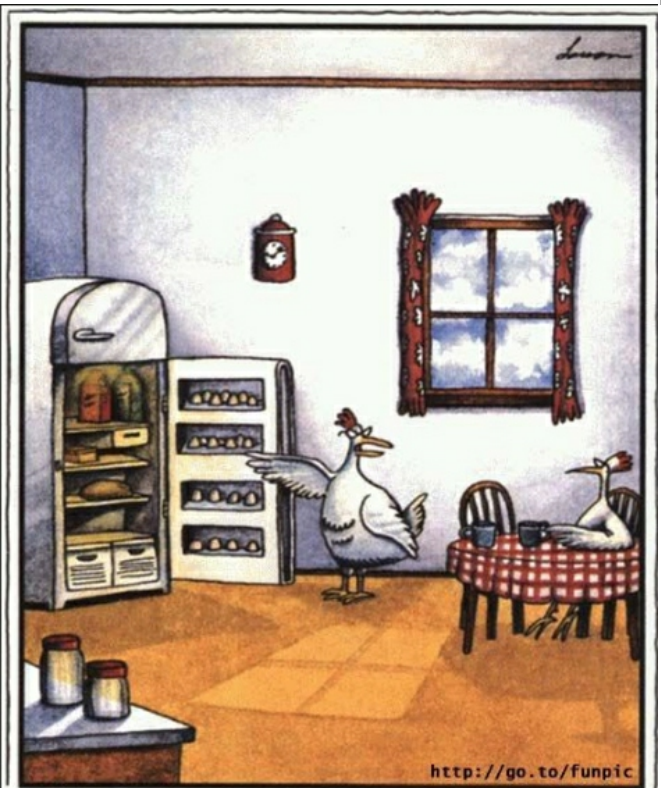
Dental care for
all the family

at our modern, purpose built dental surgery in Clarkston

New private and NHS patients welcome



"OK, OK, you guys have had your chance—the horses want another shot at it."



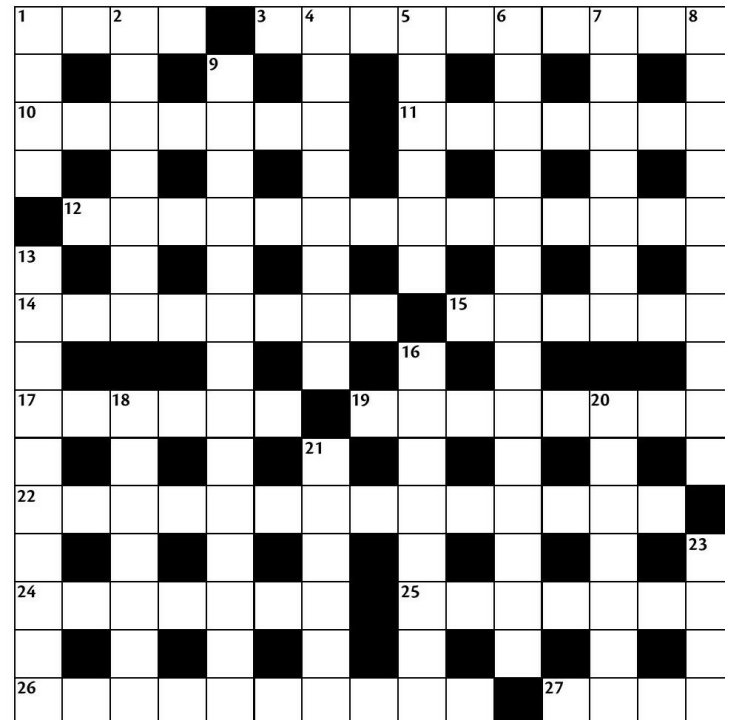
"Well, here's your problem, Marge—if you and Bob really want kids, next time try sittin' on these little guys."

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Joel 3 Altar cloth 10 Iceberg 11 Conceal 12 Simon the Zealot 14 Incident 15 Obeyer 17 Supine 19 Libretto 22 Fundamentalist 24 Obligated 25 Numbers 26 Revelation 27 Tabu
DOWN: 1 Jain 2 Elegiac 4 Lighting 5 Arched 6 Canterbury lamb 7 Overlay 8 Holy terror 9 Recording angel 13 First floor 16 Nintendo 18 Pan-Slav 20 Tessera 21 Re-edit 23 Esau

CROSSWORD

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



ACROSS

- 1 Josephine with the Spanish book (4)
- 3 Collar that replaced covering for holy table (5,5)
- 10 Example of deep freeze? (7)
- 11 Hide once in California (7)
- 12 Fanatical disciple? (5,3,6)
- 14 Event likely to happen (8)
- 15 Decoration you formerly registered initially for dutiful person (6)
- 17 Drink one quarter lying on one's back (6)
- 19 Bert, toil over text of opera (8)
- 22 Taunt fieldsman about being a strict adherent (14)
- 24 Forced to be grateful (7)
- 25 Counts as one book in Bible (7)
- 26 Priest's great joy from last book (10)
- 27 Arrange information, only first half is forbidden (4)

DOWN

- 1 Indian believer from Jamaica at home (4)
- 2 Mournful linesman's mood? (7)
- 4 Getting off in a flash seeing number leaving (8)
- 5 Shrewd journalist went round the bend (6)
- 6 Meat from cathedral city? (10,4)
- 7 Produce too many eggs as cover (7)
- 8 Other lorry vandalised by troublesome child (4,6)
- 9 Codger learning about one supposed to keep a book of misdeeds (9,5)
- 13 Lifts roof right off second storey (5,5)
- 16 Mean, in New Orleans, to have video games console (8)
- 18 Peter, drudge almost representing all of some Eastern European peoples (3-4)
- 20 Lady very long time with piece of mosaic (7)
- 21 Rush item to prepare again (2-4)
- 23 Character in the Bible Saul revealed (4)