

# FOCUS

the Magazine of  
Busby Parish Church

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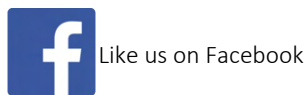
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# MESSAGE FROM THE MANSE



JERRY EVE

Busby is such a good place to live. On the edge of the city, we enjoy the best of both urban and rural amenities. It's also steeped in heritage. Wouldn't it be good, therefore, I often think, if we could have some sort of focus for all of this; and somewhere where stories of people all the way from Thomas Donohoe to Rudolf Hess (and a great many others besides) might be told? Which is why I never fail to be amused by a very early, 2008, Wikipedia web-page entry for Busby, which had the following nonsense. I would love to know who made this up, and why?:

[Busby is home to the Busby Hotel, in whose bar John Milton is said to have been inspired to write Paradise Lost.

The hardy Busby Pony, a distant cousin of the Shetland Pony, has been bred in Busby and surrounding areas for over two centuries. Almost none of the traditional stables remain, but the most famous lives on as The Paddock, a respectable residential estate in the east of Busby. The Busby Pony, which shares some of its famous cousin's characteristics - its long hair and short, stalky build - remains a well-loved (and now rare) favourite at horse and pony shows around the British Isles.]

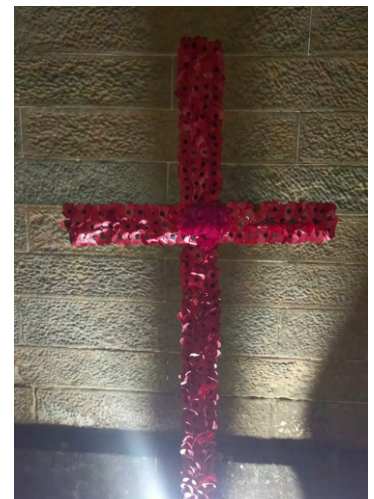
Have a wonderful Christmas.

# REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY

As we do every year, Remembrance Sunday was marked by a service including the laying of our wreath by Alan Rutherford and a bible reading by Councillor Katie Pragnell. Our two minutes' silence was followed by the reading out of the names of all those from our community who gave their lives in the service of their country in the First and Second World Wars.

As usual, the Church was illuminated in red during the week leading up to Remembrance Sunday and a Cross of Poppies was lit up in front of the Church.

Our moving Remembrance Sunday Service is available to watch on our Youtube channel, along with all our other Sunday morning services.



3 December, 11am, First Sunday in Advent, A Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols, led by Busby Church Choir

10 December, 11am, Second Sunday in Advent, Communion

10 December, 2pm, Time to Remember (A service of remembrance for those who have been bereaved)

17 December, 11am. Third Sunday in Advent, Nativity, Led by Busby Church Sunday Club

24 December, 11am, Fourth Sunday in Advent, Family Service

24 December, 11.30pm, Christmas Eve, Watchnight Service (from 10.30pm – Mince Pie Supper)

# ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

## 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	



## THE NIGHT BEFORE THE NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

ROSANNE BRACKENRIDGE

In the run-up to Christmas, on Sunday 17th December, the Sunday Club & Choir are looking forward to singing songs telling of the news of the baby Jesus. We'll be bringing our jingle bells & an assortment of animals!

Steve Smith also has a story to tell us about 'The night before the night before Christmas'.

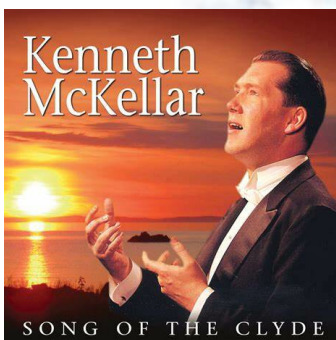
It promises to be a special service and one for all the family, so put it in your diary and don't miss it!

# DESERT ISLAND DISCS

## the selection of Fay McIntyre

Fay has been an integral part of our Church community for many years and is also stalwart of the Church Association.

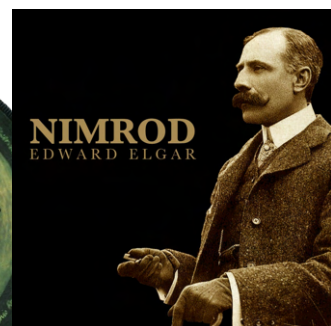
Picture courtesy of BBC Radio 4



1. **Song of the Clyde - Kenneth McKellar.**  
This was my party piece when I was youngish. The Clyde side towns are my spiritual home. Great holiday memories,
2. **When you're Smiling-Louis Armstrong.**  
This was my dad's party piece. His surname was Smylie hence the song choice.
3. **Play Misty For Me - Errol Garner.**  
I love jazz, particularly pianists. Errol Garner not only plays it superbly but he also wrote it.
4. **30's a Dangerous Age Cynthia -Dudley Moore.**  
Another great pianist. I asked a colleague to buy me this record on a payday in 1967 as I couldn't get out of work. He thought I was winding him up. He got it for me though.
5. **Baubles, Bangles and Beads - Frank Sinatra and Carlos Jobim.**  
I love Latin music particularly Bossa Nova and these two are the perfect combination. I could fill a top 20 with their music alone.
6. **Where or When - Frank Sinatra**  
I saw Frank when he came to Ibrox in the 70s. We could only afford one ticket so I went and it was one of the best nights of my life.
7. **Hey Jude - The Beatles**  
I bought this single in 1968. I took it to a party that night and it was the only record we played. We left the arm off the old Dansette record player and it never went off.
8. **Nimrod - Elgar**  
This well known piece of music is also associated with Remembrance services. It is played at the Cenotaph every year. When the Queen's death was announced the Proms were in their final week and were cancelled. But the orchestra played Nimrod and the National anthem.

**Book - Beloved Infidel by Sheila Graham.**  
This was an autobiography by a British journalist who moved to America and fell in love with F. Scott Fitzgerald. A great insight into both their lives.

**Object Choice – A case of Bollinger champagne.**





# BUSBY BAKES PEPPERMINT BARK

**SHONA PARK**

This is not really a recipe as such, more of an idea for a fun Christmas treat. It can be adapted to use different sweets if you fancy.

## Ingredients

400g milk chocolate  
100g white chocolate  
2 tubes of smarties  
12 candy canes  
Christmas sprinkles

1. Line a baking tray with greaseproof paper.
2. Remove the candy canes from their wrappers, place in a food bag and use a rolling pin to break them into small pieces. Don't be too rough- you want to make small pieces, not dust!
3. Melt both the chocolates separately either in the microwave or over a pan of simmering water.
4. Spread the milk chocolate over the tray.
5. Drizzle the white chocolate over the top. (You may find this easier to apply using a piping bag but using a teaspoon works equally well)
6. Use a skewer to swirl the white chocolate into the milk chocolate.
7. Sprinkle over the crushed candy canes, Christmas sprinkles and top with smarties.
8. Allow to set.
9. Break into shards and enjoy!



This can be wrapped in cellophane bags and given as a gift.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Good New Year



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Dental care for  
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# THE GREEK ISLANDS

JERRY EVE

At the height of the holiday season this year, there was a heat wave centred on the Greek island of Rhodes, which lasted for over two weeks. From 17 July through to 2 August, high temperatures led to fires deemed so dangerous that a state of emergency was declared. About 19,000 people were evacuated, including tourists, and a great many incoming flights were cancelled.

As a Manse family, we had contemplated a summer holiday in Greece ourselves, and while we felt for those affected, we were also glad to have settled for a staycation instead. That said, I did buy a Guide Book, and have enjoyed the virtual travel we can all do on our electronic devices these days.

Maybe one day, we'll be able to turn this into an actual tour. And if we do, I think I'd be most keen to visit Greek islands mentioned in the Bible. These include, from north to south:

## SAMOTHRACE (aka Samothraki)

The most northerly of those that are Biblical, this was a place for Paul to stop-over, as in Acts 16 he responds to a plea from people in Greece to cross from Troas (ancient Troy) on one continent, to another. It's also a place, though, where in more recent times a quite magnificent 9' high statue of the Greek god, Nike (minus its head and arms), has been discovered. This can be seen in the Louvre in Paris, the so-called Elgin marbles in the British Museum not the only works of Greek art Greece would love to see repatriated.

## LESBOS

A little after Acts 16, at Acts 20-21, Paul is travelling south along the coast of modern-day Turkey when he stops at five Greek islands. The first of these is Lesbos, which isn't mentioned as such. What we get instead is the name of its capital, Mitylene. Which is interesting, I think, for just as the importance of LGBT+ rights have been on the Churches' agenda in recent times, I do wonder if the author of Acts maybe didn't want to draw too much attention to a place made most famous by the 7<sup>th</sup> century BC poet, Sappho. If true, though, this would be a shame, for Sappho's poetry and song lyrics, much of which are about the love of one woman for another, are sublime.

## CHIOS

The second of the islands Paul stopped at off the coast of Asia Minor on what is sometimes known as his third missionary journey, was Chios. And what's remarkable about this particular trip is that, while there are over 200 Greek islands which are inhabited, quite a number of the nine we are stopping at, have world-famous associations. Chios is no exception. It's that part of Greece with the strongest claim to be where Homer lived. Thought to have been born sometime in the 8<sup>th</sup> century BC, it's Homer who is credited with those most ancient of all written texts, the Iliad and Odyssey.



Statue of Pythagoras



SAMOS

Next stop for Paul was Samos where, although it's much more modern and from the 1980s, there is also a 9' statue – of Pythagoras, the Father of Mathematics, who was born here in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC. It's called Pythagoras points the way.

PATMOS

This is the island John of the Apocalypse was banished to, and where he had a vision he describes in Revelation, the last book of the New Testament. It's possible these days to visit the cave where all this happened. And also to spend some time admiring art treasures collected and put on display in the fortress-like Monastery of St John.

Monastery of St John



COS

Spelt Kos on maps nowadays, this was the fourth stop-over point for Paul as he made his way, ultimately to Jerusalem. And it's the birthplace of yet another famous ancient Greek, Hippocrates, the 5<sup>th</sup> century BC Father of Medicine. It's Hippocrates who is said to be the author of the famous oath that doctors make, which has sometimes been interpreted as, 'Practice two things in your dealings with disease: either help or do not harm.'

RHODES

And so we come to Rhodes itself, and if Patmos is known for its monastery, then Rhodes has something similar in the also fortress-like settlement built in the Old Town by the Knights of a different St John, and John the Baptist. Where, although there are no longer any traces of the over-100' high Colossus of Rhodes that used to bestride the harbour, there have from time to time been plans to raise it once again.



The Tree of Hippocrates



CRETE

Largest of the Greek islands, it was on his final journey, on his way to Rome that the ship Paul was travelling in ran into difficulties off the coast of Crete. Acts 27 tells the tale of how Paul was able to reassure the crew, though. 'Be of good cheer,' he told them, as they then thought better of wintering there, despite finding themselves in a place called Safe Harbours – or Fair Havens. Earlier on, Paul had written a letter to Crete, and to the first Christian Bishop there. It's one of the books of the Bible, and is named after him. It's called Titus.

Crete



CAUDA

Known as Gavdos today, this is an island just to the south of Crete. Which, although small, we read that as the crew abandoned all efforts to steer the ship and simply allowed it to be carried along by the wind, 'we got some shelter when we passed to the south of the little island. It's where the nymph, Calypso, is said to have offered Odysseus the gift of immortality. This final destination for us, though, somewhere we can't help but say a prayer for all those in peril on the sea, and especially those travelling across the Mediterranean in so-called 'small boats'.





# TEA IN THE AFTERNOON

FAY McINTYRE

A very successful event was held on Saturday 18th November with all organisations coming together. Guild, guides, Sunday club, Boy's Brigade, Kirk Session and the Church Association. There was also a Christmas stall, a raffle with 30 prizes including vouchers for local eateries. The star prizes were 2 fabulous hampers, a very heavy Christmas cake and a beautiful quilt. The tearoom was busy all afternoon and at one point every seat was taken. It was a great team effort resulting in £1076.56 being raised for our church. I would also like to thank our church officer John Meek for his support, especially on his day off.

And A Heartfelt Thanks from Carol Bulmer

Our Church here in Busby is trying hard to be a presence in its local area. In order to raise funds for the Church buildings and to enable the ongoing work of the church locally The Church Association set about arranging a November Afternoon Tea. The organisations within the church set up a few stalls with Christmas gifts for sale and a Raffle or two. For the latter I must particularly thank the following, who generously supported us through the donation of vouchers as raffle prizes: Liz and Rick Houston of The Cartvale Bar and Restaurant; Grant, Manager of The White Cart Bar and Restaurant; Alison and Kara, owners of the Rock, Paper and Scissors contemporary hair and nail salon; and Roleen Paterson of The Eglinton Arms, Eaglesham.

This thank you is also a way of promoting not just Busby Parish Church but local business at and near to the heart of your Village Busby. I take this opportunity to raise their profile and remind you of the places for dining and relaxation and of the opportunities for meeting others, that exists on your door-step, right here in Busby.

Best Wishes to all for a Happy Festive Season.



# OUR SUNDIAL

## MYRTLE MCGREGOR

I can't quite believe we moved into our house in Cartsbridge Road over fifty years ago. We have had lovely views to the north, even seeing the mountains of Perthshire on a clear sunny day.

We soon learned that the house had been built in 1932 overlooking a golf course at the back. A few years later the land was sold for housing.

The first owner, we were told, was a mariner, a Captain Craig. He must have been disappointed when everything changed. Several objects left behind in an old garage left hints of the sea. These included a large ship's wheel and some handsome long planks of wood covered in Chinese letters and pictures of plants all laid out in Mother of Pearl. These were discovered much later up in the rafters when my husband Douglas had been looking for wood to mend our boat. Instead, all the neighbours came round to admire these objects of beauty.

It was only last year I looked more closely at our sundial. An attractive thistle shape with a marble layer on top and a Latin inscription.

*VIVE DEO ET VIVES*

To my surprise up came this translation on my computer.

"Live for God and you will have Life"

Underneath it read

"The Motto of the Clan Craig"

Definite proof that it had been Captain Craig who had built our house. I wonder if anyone in Busby remembers him? Was he a member of Busby Church?

I would like to hear more of him. We have so loved his house.



## JERRY EVE

East, west, south, north. Nativity!  
Wherever people live  
They'll tell the tale of Jesus' birth  
In Bethlehem, and give  
Each other gifts, remembering  
The captive, blind and poor;  
Then share the Gospel: "Liberty  
Is what this Season's for."

East, west, south, north. Nativity!  
Whoever people are –  
Age, income, gender, race or faith –  
They'll wish upon a star  
As Magi did, remembering  
The hungry, those in gaol,  
The thirsty, strangers, naked, sick;  
No-one's beyond the pale.

East, west, south, north. Nativity!  
Whatever people do –  
Astronomers or carpenters,  
Inkeepers, me and you –  
With manger scenes, remembering  
The meek, and those who mourn,  
The persecuted; We'll all sing,  
"Thank God that Christ was born."







# BUSBY BROWNIES

The Brownies have had lots of fun the last few weeks celebrating Halloween and Bonfire night. The Brownies dressed up as ghosts, witches, black cats and even ancient Egyptians and enjoyed carving pumpkins and playing party games. The Brownies explored fireworks night with sparklers in the church garden. This was very exciting for the girls as the coloured sparks really intrigued them. We are also planning a cinema trip for a Christmas treat to view the new Disney movie "Wish".

We are delighted to say that we are now at full capacity within Busby Brownies with a total of 24 girls! We are also fortunate to have a wonderful new young leader Eve join our team. She is currently undertaking her Duke of Edinburgh Award and is very popular amongst the girls!

If anyone is interested in joining the waiting list at Busby Brownies, please visit - [Girlguiding | Help all girls know they can do anything | Girlguiding](#)



## 1st BUSBY GUIDES

PAMELA MILL

We are delighted to say that we now have 34 Guides. About 10 girls have joined since the summer. It makes for very busy and noisy Tuesday evenings. The girls enjoy completing skillbuilders and doing unit meeting activities which are part of the Guide programme. They also like playing games and doing crafts. Our Young Leaders Cara and Rebecca are great at organising the games.

We had a successful Halloween Party in October with girls dressed up in a wide range of costumes from Justin Bieber to a pumpkin. They had fun dooking for apples and playing several Halloween based games which Lynne had planned.

They are all looking forward to an Ice Skating evening at East Kilbride. This is organised by East Renfrewshire Girlguiding. We attended last year and the girls thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Between now and Christmas we will be working on Christmas crafts. We finish the year with a Christmas party. The Guides each bring a small gift and we have a lucky dip at the end. They all get very excited about this.

I would like to thank my leaders Lynne, Lynsey, Cara and Rebecca for all their hard work every Tuesday. Finally thank you to the Guides and their parents for their continued support and commitment. I'm sure that we must be the liveliest group that uses the Church hall.

# **BUSBY FOOD BANK**

KRISTINA HANSEN

As the cost of living crisis deepens for all of us, those on the lowest incomes are hit the hardest. Statistics from the Trussell Trust has shown that half of those on universal credits have ran out of food in the last month and simply couldn't afford to buy anymore. The food bank, based at Busby Parish Church, is here to support anyone, in confidence, who needs food. Referrals are done on the spot, with one of our highly trained volunteers so there is no requirement to bring one. We are here to listen, help and even have free tea and coffee if you want to stay and chat, but if you don't, that's ok too.

We have been open one year now and are delighted to be supporting 5-12 families a week from a range of different backgrounds and are firmly establishing ourselves as a core service to the people who need us most within our own community. We have provided 331 food parcels which equates to just over 3 tonnes of food to local families.

We are extremely grateful for the support we have received. Local people have given very generously to the food bank as have our friends at East Renfrewshire Council, Cartsbridge Evangelical Church and especially to St Joseph's Church who have gone above and beyond for us by donating their time, energy and funds to support us.

The team at the food bank are preparing for one of the worst winters yet, and although everyone has been generous we do require continued support in the form of donations, which can be dropped off at the church during the food bank hours (1-3pm on a Tuesday or at The Hansen Company, 28 Field Road, Busby, between the Monday – Thursday 8:30am-5:30pm).

Despite the challenges the food bank face, we have passionate and skilled volunteers who are committed to helping others and enjoy seeing guests every week. We will be open throughout the festive period and are looking forward to welcoming all guests.

# **BUSBY DRAMA GROUP**

STEVE SMITH

Busby Drama Group are delighted to announce that their successful Supper and Song will take place on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup>, Friday, 12<sup>th</sup>, and Saturday 13<sup>th</sup>. January next year.

It will take the usual format of a One Act Play, a Supper of Winter warmers with wines and juices, delicious puddings and teas and coffees with tablet. This will be followed by a continuation of the Play comprising songs from the musicals.

Tickets, priced only £12.00, are now on sale and may be purchased from myself, or by contacting Jackie Murray on 07837 619 358

As this will be the Group's very last production, we do hope that you will be able to join us once again. It has always been a highly successful evening and we thank you for all the support you have given over the years.

Steve Smith 0141 644 3827 07841 777 249

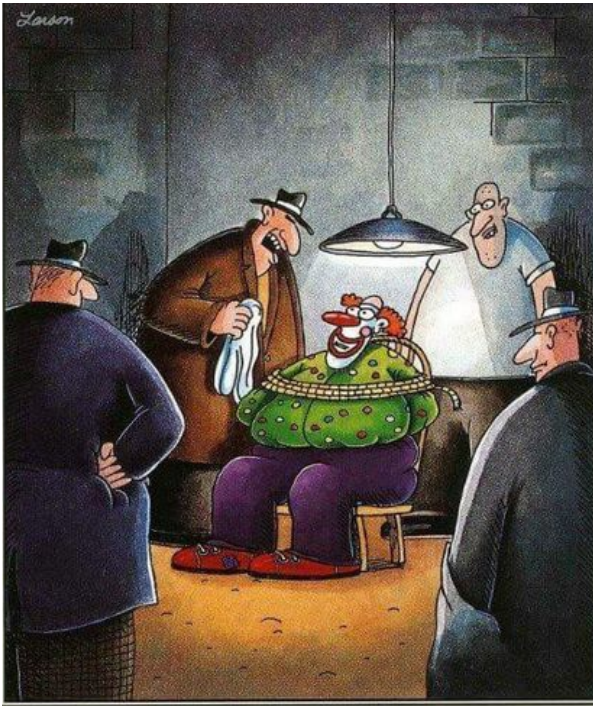
# **BONNYTON CARE HOME**

MAUREEN POTTER

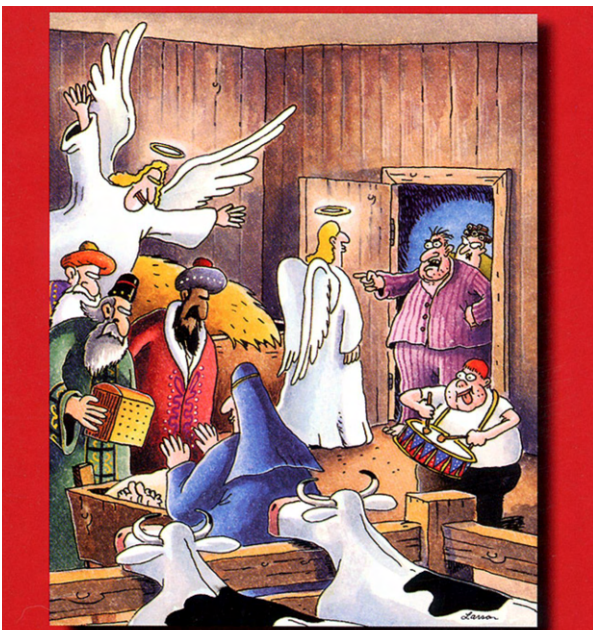
Before the Covid pandemic, Busby and Greenbank Churches used to deliver alternative monthly services of worship to the residents of Bonnyton Care Home so we were delighted to restart services on Remembrance Sunday.

We had a good turnout of residents and although our team was limited to four we still managed to deliver a short worship service once again. This was well received by residents and staff too. It was also so nice to see the recently refurbished care home looking great with happy residents and caring, welcoming staff.

We use a keyboard to help deliver these services and lead the singing but our current one is on its last legs or lost notes so it is a massive challenge to Norrie Suckle our regular accompanist. If anyone has a portable keyboard lying in a loft somewhere doing nothing we would love to have it so we can improve on our services of worship to the residents of Bonnyton Care Home. Please contact me on 07765363822 if you can help,



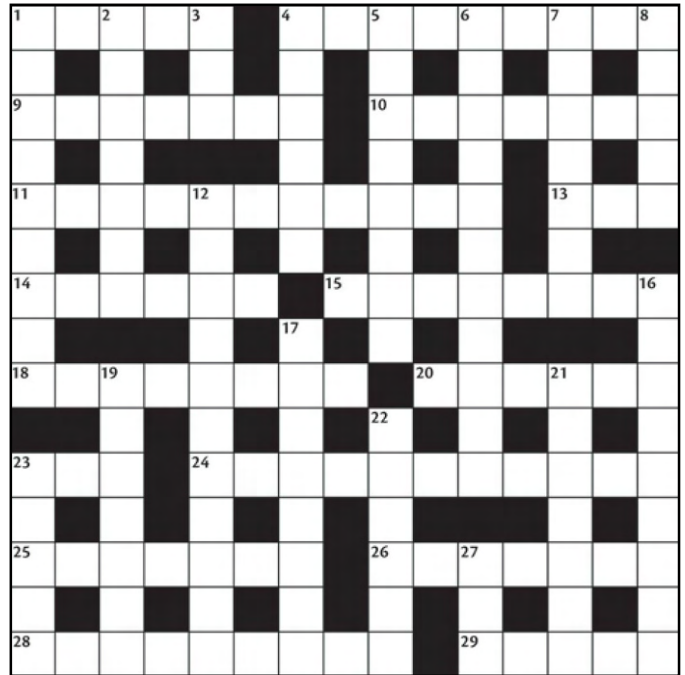
"The first thing I'm gonna do is wipe that smile off your face!"



"Look, buddy, we live next door, and all night long we've been puttin' up with the singing angels, the crying baby, the stinking frankincense, and that big, bright star. But I tell ya, that damn pa-rum-pa-pum-pumming has gotta stop!"

# CROSSWORD

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



## ACROSS

- 1 Two companions going round old city building (6)
- 4 Consecrated land in South Dakota (6)
- 7 Do leave dragoon playing instrument (5)
- 9 Some supreme dynamic cure (6)
- 10 As much as large spoon will hold (8)
- 11 Halt bazaar losing article ordered by one of the Wise Men (9)
- 13 Secretary has arranged title (5)
- 16 The banker rode round greatly depressed (6-7)
- 18 A ring, one of coral (5)
- 19 Nonconformist's way, it's different (9)
- 23 Saving in this ceremonial garment (8)
- 24 Perfect to have meal about four (6)
- 25 Lady had degree from old kingdom (5)
- 26 Hurried to 1 across after time in a sleepy state (6)
- 27 Coming from Latin, you started prayer (6)

## DOWN

- 1 Youngster embraces her child (6)
- 2 Show remorse being locked up for at least the second time (6)
- 3 Coming from hotel, wary about blessed liquid (4,5)
- 4 Slyly derogatory about Denis (5)
- 5 Is unable to include cooker in agreement (8)
- 6 Trouble had arisen, it's a bloomer (6)
- 8 Giant insect? (7,6)
- 12 Religious leader follows Newton in Devon (5)
- 14 He's included, these days, the underworld (5)
- 15 Principal 1 across to see (9)
- 17 Offering former pupil nothing in the French can (8)
- 18 Coming on four consecutive Sundays (6)
- 20 From in Paris, five excluded were pious (6)
- 21 Attempt to become a consumer in contract (6)
- 22 Reluctant losing a few lines (5)

# CROSSWORD SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1 Church, 4 Sacred, 7 Organ, 9 Remedy, 10 Ladleful, 11 Balhazar, 13 Pasha, 16 Broken-hearted, 18 Atoll, 19 Methodist, 23 Vestment, 24 Divine, 25 Sheba, 26 Trance, 27 Litany.  
 DOWN: 1 Cherub, 2 Repent, 3 Holy water, 4 Snide, 5 Covenant, 6 Oblation, 8 Goliath beetle, 12 Abbot, 14 Hades, 15 Cathedral, 17 Dahlia, 8 Goliath beetle, 12 Abbot, 14 Hades, 15 Cathedral, 17 Oblation, 18 Advent, 20 Devout, 21 Treaty, 22 Verse.