

# WORD FROM THE CROSS

May 2026



*'The dawn from heaven will break upon us,  
to shine on those who live in darkness, under the shadow of death,  
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.'*



**The Church of Scotland  
Bearsden Cross Church**

Bearsden Cross Church – Scottish Charity No: SC009082 – Congregation No: 1811



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Cover picture: Dawn at Bearsden Cross Church ©Rev. Dr Graeme R Wilson  
Text: Luke 1: 78-79

Content for the Summer 2026 edition of Word from the Cross should be sent to the editor **no later** than **Friday 22 May 2026.**

Web version of the magazine  
[www.bearsdencross.org](http://www.bearsdencross.org)

## Parish Letter

Dear friends,



©BBC

There are times where a film or television series completely captivates you and ‘The Other Bennet Sister’, which was recently broadcast on the BBC, was such a programme for me. Based on the best-selling novel by Janice Hadlow, ‘The Other Bennet Sister’ returns to the familiar world of Jane Austen’s classic novel ‘Pride and Prejudice’ – a story full of lively characters, sharp wit, and memorable personalities, especially Elizabeth Bennet.

But in ‘The Other Bennet Sister, the focus shifts away from the confident, charming and admired Elizabeth. Away from the quiet and pretty Jane, the flighty Lydia and the impressionable Kitty. Instead, the story centres on Mary Bennet – the quiet one. The one who is often overlooked and who never quite seems to fit in the world of her more sharply drawn sisters. She is present in every scene, and yet often unseen.

Many of us, at times, know what that feels like, because many of us, at some point, have felt like Mary. Not the obvious choice. Not the loudest voice. Not the one people notice first. We can feel as though we are standing slightly to the side – present, but not fully seen.

Mary Bennet reminds me in some ways of another Mary from the Bible – the Mary from the story of Mary of Bethany and Martha of Bethany in Luke 10:38–42. Martha is busy with all that needs to be done, while Mary sits at Jesus’ feet, listening. It is easy to read this as a contrast between action and contemplation, but perhaps it is also a story about

being truly seen. Jesus notices both sisters. He sees Martha's burden and names her anxiety with compassion. He also affirms Mary's desire simply to be present.

In church life, there are many "Marthas" whose faithful service keeps everything going, and many quieter "Marys" whose presence, prayer, and listening often go unseen. Both are needed. Both are valued. Whether we feel like Martha, burdened by responsibility, or like Mary, quietly in the background, Christ knows us by name and welcomes us as we are. And perhaps the church is called to do the same — to notice one another more carefully, especially those who may quietly feel unseen.

Mary Bennet and Mary of Bethany – the quiet 'other' sisters who might ordinarily be overlooked. But both have a vital role to play, and both have a far deeper meaning, purpose and worth than appears on the surface.

In a world that often values the noticeable, the gospel reminds us that every person matters in the sight of God.

*Shalom,*

*Graeme*

### **Linkage with Drumchapel: St Mark's**

Things are continuing to slowly progress with the proposed linkage. The Kirk Session will meet to discern the way forward in the coming month, and will in due course prepare materials for every member to consider. I sincerely hope to be able to provide a more comprehensive update soon, followed by the full details of what is being proposed so that the congregation can determine how to move forward accordingly.

*GRW*

### **Bible Reflections**

Spending a short time each day reading even a short portion of the bible can be helpful for our faith lives. A good habit, but not easy to do with so many other things to do. The Bible Reading Fellowship have produced a quarterly booklet to help folk read a portion of the bible daily, and the church has ordered ten copies to be made available to anyone wishing to make use of them. These books are free! The latest edition covering May to August have now been received and are available on a first come, first served basis, but more copies can be provided if you wish one! Speak to Graeme.

## Joint Summer Services with New Kilpatrick Church



We have decided to continue the practice over the last couple of years of holding joint services with New Kilpatrick Church over the summer weeks. At present we anticipate that there will only be one service at 10.30am each week, though if this changes we will let you know in the next magazine.

The schedule of services will be as follows: -

10.30am            Traditional Morning Service

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>
28 <sup>th</sup> June	New Kilpatrick
5 <sup>th</sup> July	New Kilpatrick
12 <sup>th</sup> July	New Kilpatrick
19 <sup>th</sup> July	New Kilpatrick
26 <sup>th</sup> July	Bearsden Cross
2 <sup>nd</sup> August	Bearsden Cross
9 <sup>th</sup> August	Bearsden Cross
16 <sup>th</sup> August	Bearsden Cross

*Graeme*

## Celebration of Communion

I know that for many of you, myself included, the celebration of the sacrament of Communion is a central part of our faith life and experience – a way of connecting at a deeper level.

We will next **celebrate the sacrament of Communion on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> June at 10.30am and at 4pm.**



## Home Communion

I know that for some of you, getting to church can be difficult or even close to impossible. If that is the case, then the Church can come to you!

I am always willing to bring communion to your home if you wish. I would be accompanied by your Elder, or another, to celebrate the sacrament together with you. This is a way in which to remain connected to the church and its life, even when you are less physically able to do so.



*The Minister's Communion ware – from the shores of the Sea of Galilee*

If you would like to arrange for Home Communion to be brought to you then please contact the Minister on 0141 942 0507 or email him at [gwilson@churchofscotland.org.uk](mailto:gwilson@churchofscotland.org.uk) or contact your Elder.

*Graeme*

## Congregational Board

The Board comprises a mix of elders and non-elders and has primary responsibility for the congregation's financial and property matters. **We have vacancies for non-elders who might be interested in serving the congregation by joining the Board.**

The congregation already has people on the Board who have experience in financial and property matters, but there is no requirement for members to have a financial or property background. We are wanting additional members to provide an oversight and governance function, by asking questions and holding the Board officers to account, to ensure our finances and buildings are kept in good order.

The commitment involved in being a Board member is not onerous, as it meets about six times a year. However, the Board's decisions are vital for the continued operation of the church.

A standard term in office for a non-elder on the Board is three years, at the end of which further terms can be served, if desired.

As part of our vows when joining the church, we agreed to give a fitting proportion of our time, talent, and money to the church. Might joining the Board be a good way to serve the church?



Board members also automatically become trustees of the congregation for the same period. The primary roles of the trustees are the good governance of the congregation and the approval of the Annual Report and Accounts.

Please contact the Minister, Gordon Aitken who is the Clerk to the Board, or me if you would like to know more about the Board and the valuable work that it does.

*Douglas C Thomson*  
*Session Clerk*

## Funday Sunday

Funday Sunday has restarted after the Easter break and with hopefully better weather we will get out into our garden to plant and enjoy all it has to offer. At the same time we will look at some of the bigger stories of the bible, such as Noah's ark and Moses. We will run through until the school summer holidays with our small but committed number of attendees. Anyone interested in joining should contact Anne in the Church Office.

*Anne and Lesley*

## The Church of Scotland Guild

**'WHOSE WE ARE AND WHOM WE SERVE.'**



At its Annual General Meeting, on Monday March 23<sup>rd</sup>. the members of the Guild decided, by twelve votes in favour to one against, that the Bearsden Cross Church Guild should now dissolve and the remaining funds be disbursed to charitable purposes, as outlined by the Church of Scotland Guild offices in Edinburgh.

Remembering all that the Guild stands for, and what it has achieved over the years of its existence, this decision was not taken without a considerable degree of sadness. In view of the advanced age of a majority of the membership, the Guild has found it impossible to find members able to form a committee, and attendance on Monday afternoons, particularly in inclement winter weather, poses an increasing challenge for some. What was therefore the final meeting of the Guild, finished appropriately with the hymn:

Great is thy faithfulness, O God my Father,  
there is no shadow of turning with thee;  
thou changest not, thy compassions they fail not,  
as thou hast been, thou forever will be.  
*Great is thy faithfulness! Great is thy faithfulness!*  
*Morning by morning new mercies I see;*  
*all I have needed thy hand hath provided -*  
*great is thy faithfulness, Lord, unto me.*

## The Phoenix Circle

There is a saying “time flies when you are enjoying yourself “ and I’m sure many members of the Phoenix Circle will agree as we are soon to celebrate **40 years** together in September. 🎉🎂

We intend to mark this very important occasion by enjoying a lunch at a local venue in Bearsden/Milngavie in September. As we meet on a Monday, an obvious date could be either 14th or 21st - perhaps you could pencil these dates in your diary!!

We thought it would be appropriate to give current members advance notice of this and it would be helpful if you could forward your names to me a.s.a.p. to assist in the planning of which venue would be suitable.

Also some past members have moved from the area and if you know of anyone who would be interested in joining us, could you please forward names, addresses, phone numbers or email addresses to me, and I will do my best to contact them.

Thank you

*Senga Dempster*

## Men’s Group

The Men’s Group continues to meet for conversation and company.

Our next gathering will be at Massimo’s Restaurant, New Kirk Road on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm.**

Please let me know if you are interested in coming along so that I can book a table accordingly. Also, please also feel free to just turn up on the night.



Looking forward to seeing you on **Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June at 7pm.**

*Graeme*

## CHURCH FLOWERS

*“ Easter is the time when God turned the inevitability of death into the invincibility of life . “*

Craig D. Lounsbrough



## APRIL FLOWERS

With thanks to Mrs.C. Fisher who kindly left a spray of flowers from John’s funeral on 21/3/26 to be enjoyed on Sunday 22/3/26.

	<b>Provided by:</b>	<b>Arranged by:</b>
5 <sup>th</sup>	EASTER	The Flower Group
12 <sup>th</sup>	In memory of Fiona Thomson	Mags Paterson
19 <sup>th</sup>	In memory of Hamish Henry	Eleanor Sinclair
26 <sup>th</sup>	Dr. Jan Thomson	Gwen Stokes

If you enjoy flowers and would like to join the flower group, please have a chat with either Gwen Stokes or Christine Taggart. Absolutely no previous experience is required. You will be made most welcome. Enjoy this year’s Spring bursting into life.

[Christine Taggart](#)

## COFFEE CONCERTS

Our current Coffee Concert Season ends on a ‘high note’ on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May with a very special charity concert for Christian Aid. We are delighted to welcome back once again vocal students from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland. They will perform a very wide range of arias and ensembles from your favourite operas – “An Hour of Opera Pops”. It is always such a pleasure to hear young, talented artists at the very start of their careers. In addition, it will be a fitting culmination of the fundraising for Christian Aid Week 2026, as all the proceeds from the concert will go to Christian Aid.

Fresh coffee and tea with delicious home baking will be served beforehand from 10.45 am in the church halls, with the recital at 11.30 am in the church. Tickets, minimum donation £15, payable by cash or card (free for accompanied children) will be available at the door. Please join us if you can that morning. We look forward to seeing you then.

[Lyndsay Ross](#)



COFFEE CONCERT  
BEARSDEN CROSS CHURCH  
SATURDAY 16TH MAY 2026  
11.30 A.M.

**SPECIAL CHARITY  
CONCERT – ALL  
PROCEEDS TO  
CHRISTIAN AID**

AN HOUR OF OPERA POPS  
ARIAS AND ENSEMBLES FROM  
FAVOURITE OPERAS  
FEATURING VOCAL STUDENTS FROM  
THE ROYAL CONSERVATOIRE  
SCOTLAND

ADMISSION - MINIMUM DONATION £15.00  
(CHILDREN ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT FREE)  
PAYABLE AT THE DOOR – CARD OR CASH  
COFFEE AND HOME BAKING FROM 10.45 A.M., INCLUDED.

Charity No. SC009082

## Daffodil Afternoon Tea



We enjoyed a wonderful Daffodil Afternoon Tea on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> April, when some 40 folks gathered for cakes and conversation. Café Crème provided us with sausage rolls, sandwiches and a lovely selection of cakes and sweet treats, which were enjoyed by all ... especially the Strawberry Tarts!

There was an Easter/Spring themed Quiz, but rumour has it that the Minister is going to be sacked as Quizmaster if he doesn't make it a bit easier!

Thanks to all those who helped to lay out the hall, serve the tea and clear away afterwards.

I hope to organize further events in due course. Watch this space!

*Graeme*

## TMC

TMC continues to meet on the last Monday of the month in Massimo's for food and fellowship. We also raise money for different charities and recently we sent £45 to the Children's Eye Cancer Trust at the request of one of our members

There is no need to book for Massimo's. Just turn up on the night at 7 for 7:30

*Anne E Henderson*



*“Since 1957, Christian Aid Week has inspired churches like yours to give, act and pray each May in support of global neighbours who are living in poverty.”*

These words, from a Christian Aid circular, made me wonder how much Bearsden North and South Churches and more recently Bearsden Cross Church have raised in those 68 years we’ve been donating. The actual sums have changed as the value of the £ has gone down but there were many more in our congregations in the early days and I suspect the purchasing power of the amounts raised then may have been considerable. Do you remember how 30-40 of us used to do the Erskine Bridge walk each year and try to raise more than the minister? And the plant stall at the Coffee Morning we used to help with that our faithful customers always supported so generously? And the army of volunteers who went round houses for the envelopes again and again? Those were the days!

Well, Christian Aid Week is almost here and already our two valiant walkers, Jim and Diane, will have done the Kiltwalk by the time you read this, and I know that we shall support them as generously as ever. Just check up in the “Events” section of the church website [www.bearsdencross.org](http://www.bearsdencross.org) on how to donate or look out for cans in the church vestibule.

Then, on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May, the last Coffee Concert of this session will be by students at the Conservatoire and all the proceeds will go to Christian Aid. Regulars at the concerts know what a treat we’re in for with the students and we would love it if folk who’ve never been before came this time. If that’s you, please do!

I’ll be flogging the Quiz again this year each Sunday for a month after church and there is a small prize for the winner. Only £2 per try and you never know; you might win, and even if you don’t you can enjoy taxing your wits over it with a friend. And we’ll be taking flyers round the parish inviting donations during the week itself so volunteers will be needed to do so. Please take a bundle and give an hour to help with that.

You’ll be helping Fridah who lives in Dagoretti, a slum suburb of Nairobi, Kenya, where most people earn less than 1\$ per day, and just feeding her family each day is a struggle. I mentioned her in our March magazine and the struggles she has but in the most recent CAW report she is shown growing kale, tomatoes and indigenous vegetables in her tiny vertical garden AND helping other women to do likewise because she believes the help she has had from Christian Aid’s partner Beacon of Hope has come from God, that He is faithful and “gives good things to those who ask him” – and so she wants to help pass on that blessing to others. She inspires her family and neighbours and I think she is inspiring to us too. That’s why I am sure Bearsden Cross will help as much as they ever have done.

As one of the prayers for Christian Aid Week says, “Gracious God, we pray that we may walk worthy of you, and that our faithful actions may bear fruit. May we grow justice and compassion, in our community and around the world. Amen.”

*Katie Thomson*

## Glasgow City Mission



*“If you spend yourselves on behalf of the hungry and satisfy the needs of the oppressed, then your light will rise in the darkness and your night will become like the noonday.”  
(Isaiah 58.10)*

This is the verse that has been chosen by GCM to hold it through this bicentennial year, as it perfectly reflects the ethos that underpins the Mission’s work and ties staff, volunteers, guests and supporters together.

Quite a number of events will be taking place over the month of May to celebrate its 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. There is to be a **conference on 15-16 May**, reflecting on its history and sharing hopes for the future. Before that, **on 14<sup>th</sup> May there will be a civic reception at the City Chambers**, no less, and **on 17<sup>th</sup>, a Celebration Service at Glasgow Cathedral**. Find full details at [www.glasgowcitymission.com](http://www.glasgowcitymission.com) and come along to any of these events that you can manage. You will be made very welcome.

Later in the summer there will be a **Golf Day at The Carrick, Loch Lomond, on 5<sup>th</sup> June** and on **19<sup>th</sup> September there will be the Big Arran Challenge** when you can cycle round the island, climb Goatfell or do both, to raise money for the Mission. Let’s hope the weather’s good that day!

GCM has come a long way from its beginnings, as I found when I did a bit of research into its history. By the 1930s, it had about 20 separate halls, all in the slums and each in the care of an “agent”, where there were Sunday services and all the usual activities of a church for young and old. These halls were very basic but at least welcoming and warm. Maintenance was done by the members though donations from well-wishers helped, especially at Christmas when each hall would host children’s parties with gifts donated by many Glasgow churches and Sunday Schools.

The agents' main work was visitation, to preach the Gospel in their districts but usually also to help with food tickets, coal or clothing, getting medical help for the sick and advising on Old Age Pensions, National Insurance and Public Assistance. Six agents also attended Police or Magistrate Courts each morning to help, especially with first offenders and juveniles and keep them out of Borstal. Glasgow Police even gave a concert in aid of the Mission to thank them for doing this. As well as this, the agents were ready to hang curtains, paint doors and cook meals if necessary, and occasionally rescue their members from their own enthusiasm, e.g. the elderly lady hanging backwards out of her 3<sup>rd</sup> floor flat cleaning the windows!

During WW2, GCM set up a hostel and canteen for HM Forces on leave with nowhere else to stay. It was in Renfield Lane and by 1942 it had given 50,000 people sleeping accommodation and 650,000 meals. Armies of volunteers assisted, some just with donations of an ounce of sugar! For many of the servicemen, it was a home from home and they received a lot of help, support and advice from the staff that they remembered long after the war.

After 1945, even with the Welfare State and NHS, life in the slums was grim but the Mission adapted and maintained its care. However, the halls grew fewer as the slums were demolished and eventually there were only two left, one in Govan which included a nursery for children and still exists as the Child and Family Centre, and the other, the Shieling, in McAlpine Street, round the corner from the present Project Centre in Crimea Street.

Gradually, the Mission acquired some minibuses and it was with them initially in the 1970s that the first steps in what is now the Night Shelter began. Teams went round areas of semi-demolished slums where destitute people were still living, with rugs and flasks of hot food and drink, and also took some to hospital. How many lives they saved is unknown.

Those are just some aspects of how the Mission developed but they do show much the same concerns and effort as are still typical of GCM today. It has been a history of miracles all along, and almost everything offered, of money, time or special gifts, (even such as quilting, on one occasion!) has been gladly used.

We at Bearsden Cross have given all sorts of things over the years (especially Nutella!) so we should be rejoicing with the Mission as it thanks God for blessing its efforts, and dedicating ourselves to helping it yet again in the future. As always, thanks for everything.

*Katie Thomson*

## .....and with continuing success !



Milk Bottle Tops.....they seem relatively insignificant. What do they do ?

Well, they screw into the top of the plastic bottles to keep the milk in the bottle. But what else do they do ?

Surprisingly, they help to fund the cost of training dogs to be Guide Dogs for blind people.

**An immensely important job.**



How does that happen ?

It's all down to you kind people who have now been collecting Milk Bottle Tops for over a year. Collected from the local Coffee shops and individual homes, the Tops are brought to two main collection points in New Kilpatrick and Bearsden Cross churches. From there they are brought to my doorstep. I obtain cardboard boxes from various sources, mainly our local M&S (usually wine boxes !) I then pack the Tops tightly into the boxes, put in a comps slip, seal the boxes, and attach an address label provided by the charity 'Pathfinders' who train the dogs. Next, it's off to the Post Office, hand over to the helpful man behind the counter.....and off the

box goes...no postage required.

That is the last I see of the boxes.

So far, no money has been involved.

The box travels by Royal Mail to 'Pathfinder's' training base. On arrival the Milk Bottle Tops are shredded and sold to a factory in Dumfries who pay for the shredded plastic. The shredded tops are sold by weight. This is the first time on the journey that money is involved. I understand that the price paid can vary depending on demand. The factory then make useful, long use things from the shredded plastic. Articles such as garden fencing (which does not rot), garden furniture, children's lunch boxes, toiletries and so on.

Pathfinders use the money which they receive from the sale of the Milk Bottle Tops to pay for training, feeding and generally preparing the dogs to be wonderful Guide Dogs for

people who have lost their sight.

**THANK YOU** to you **ALL** for your help with this really important task. Every milk bottle top counts. Every single top helps. They all add up to providing wonderful companionship and essential help for men and women who have, sadly, lost their sight.

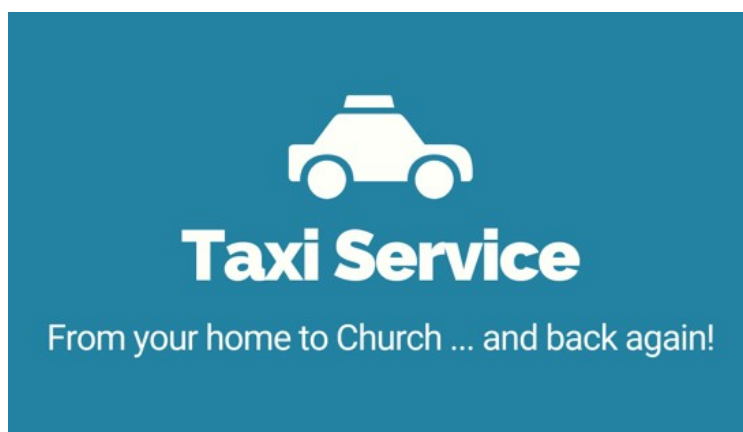
Thank you.

*Joyce B Deans*

*Chairman.*

*Bearsden and Milngavie Macular Support Group.*

## Taxi Service



The Kirk Session has established a free 'Taxi Service' to enable people to come to church who might not otherwise be able to do so due to a lack of transport.

**The 'Taxi Service'** will operate as follows: -

1. Those interested in using the taxi service should contact the Church Office on 0141 942 0507 to register with Church. Leave a message on the answerphone if there is no reply.
2. You will then be given a Password, which is unique for the church account, which is 'Bearsden Cross Church'.
3. Once registered you can then phone Station Taxis on **0141 942 4555** for a taxi to church, giving the account name 'Bearsden Cross Church' and the unique password. This can be pre-booked the previous day, or up until 10am on the Sunday.
4. Return taxis can also be booked for after the service.
5. If there are a couple of folk nearby each other then perhaps taxi sharing might be considered when booking.
6. ***There will be no charge for this service.*** The cost will be borne by the Session Fund, which exists for purposes such as this.

I hope that this service will enable people to get to church who might not otherwise be able to do so, and I look forward to seeing people back in church on a Sunday morning where they belong!

*Graeme*

# Church Register

## Funerals

17.04.26	Mrs Doreen Adams
27.04.26	Dr Alexander (Sandy) Wilkie
30.04.26	Mr Alan Conner
15.05.26	Mrs Mary (Mae) Turkington
Unknown	Mrs Janet (Netta) McKendrick

## Dates for your Diary

<b>April 26</b>	Morning Service	10.30 a.m.
	Bible Class	10.30 a.m.
27	TMC (Massimo's)	7.00 p.m.
<b>May 3</b>	Morning Service	10.30 a.m.
8	"Mind that Song"	2.00 p.m.

## Christian Aid week 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May

<b>10</b>	Morning Service	10.30 a.m.
	Bible Class	10.30 a.m.
	Funday Sunday	10.30 a.m.
13	Congregational Board	7.30 p.m.
15	Messy Church	3.30 p.m.
16	Coffee Concert <i>for Christian Aid</i>	10.45 a.m. for 11.30 a.m.
<b>17</b>	Morning Service	10.30 a.m.
	Bible Class	10.30 a.m.
<b>24</b>	Morning Service	10.30 a.m.
	Funday Sunday	10.30 a.m.
25	TMC (Massimo's)	7.00 p.m.
<b>31</b>	Morning Service	10.30 a.m.
	Bible Class	10.30 a.m.
<b>June 7</b>	Morning Service	10.30 a.m.
	Funday Sunday	10.30 a.m.

## Recordings of the Church Services

An audio recording of each morning service is made, and circulated weekly to those who have expressed an interest in listening, To be added to the distribution, please email [secretary@bearsdencross.org](mailto:secretary@bearsdencross.org).

If you do not have email, we can let you have the recording in any way which suits you, please speak to the Minister or Session Clerk.

*Anne Reid*



*Peter H Grant*

## Submissions to the Magazine

Contributions to the **Summer 2026 edition** of the magazine should be with the editor **no later than Friday 22 May 2026.** Contributions reflecting all aspects of the life of the Church and congregation are welcome, including photographs! It would assist editing if contributions could be prepared in Calibri font, size 14.

Also, please only send photographs that are of sufficient resolution to print clearly. **Do not** send multiple photographs asking the editor to choose (select those **you** would like included and send only those).

All contributions should be sent to: [MagazineEditor@bearsdencross.org](mailto:MagazineEditor@bearsdencross.org)